MINUTES

OF A

CONVENTION,

HELD OCTOBER 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH, INCLUSIVE, 1853,

WITH

MOUNT GILLEAD CHURCH,

MONTGOMERY CO., ARK.

ARKADELPHIA, ARK.

PRINTED BY R. L. PEGUES, STATE PRINTER.

1854.

MINUTES.

SATUKDAY, October 8th, 1853.

According to request, preaching by Elder T. Davis, from the 16th vrs., of the 5th chap. of Matt., "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

After a recess, the brethren met in the meeting house, and after prayer and supplication by Elder Wm. Spates, the convention was organised by calling Elder Wm. Spates, to the chair, and appointing Wm. F. Browning, clerk pro tem., when the letters from the different churches composing this convention, were called for, read, and the deligates names enrolled.

The convention then went into an election for Moderator and clerk, when Elder Wm. Spates, was chosen Moderator, and Wm. F. Browning clerk.

The following committees were then appointed, to wit:

To draft a constitution, Elder James Carter, Elder Y. Davis, Jefferson Collier and Thomas Farr.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH.—Elder Y. Davis, John Scott, Benjamin Risenhoover and Thomas J. Evans, and also, the Moderator and clerk were added to said committee.

RULES OF DECORUM.—Thomas Farr, Thomas Phillips, Almorn Guinn and Jas. Abercrumbie.

ON FINANCE.—Thomas Farr and Benjamin Risenhoover.

ON PREACHING.—Benjamin Risenhoover, Jefferson Collier, with the delegates from Mount Gilead church.

ON DOCUMENTS.—Elder Y. Davis, Elder James Carter. Benjamin Risenhoover and William F. Browning.

The committee on preaching, reported Elder Y. Davis to preach at 9 o'clock A. M., and Elder James Carter, at 11 o'clock A. M., and that he preach on missions; at 3 o'clock P. M. Elder Y. Davis; at candle light Elder Wm. Spates.

Adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

SABBATH.

October 9th.

The brethren met, and the ministers in accordance with the appointments occupied the stand. The congregation was large, and manifested much interest in the Word of God, which proves (we hope) the power of God in deed and truth unto the salvation of many immortal souls.

MONDAY MORNING, October 10th.

Met agreeably to appointment. Prayer by Elder J. Carter.

Read the rules of decorum of Red River Association.

Called the roll of delegates, and marked absentees.

Called for the report on constitution, and this being read and adopted, the committee was discharged. [see appendix A.]

Next the report of the commlttee on abstract of faith was called for, reperted an adoption of the Red River Association Abstract, which was agreed to and the committee discharged. [see app. B.]

Called for the report of committee on rules of decorum: which committee recommended the rules of Red River Association, which was agreed to, they were accordingly adopted and the committee discharged. [see app. C.]

The committee on documents reported, and were discharged. [see app. D.]

The committee on finance, reported the following sums, which report was received, and the committee discharged. [see app. E.]

Resolved, That this Association be known by the name of Caddo River Regular Baptist Association, and that said name be affixed to the constitution,

Appointed the first meeting of this Association to be held at Big Fork Church, Polk county, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October next.

Appointed Elder James Carter to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder Wm. Spates his alternate.

Brother Wm. F. Browning was chosen treasurer.

Resolved, That 300 copies of the minutes of this convention be printed, superintended by the clerk, and also by him distributed among the churches; and that $22 70, the amount of funds now in possession of this convention, be applied to that purpose.

A motion was made and seconded, that a committee on destitution be appointed. Unanimously agreed to. The following brethren were appointed as such committee: Elder James Carter, Elder Y. Davis, Dempsy Haithcock, Jefferson Collier and Benj. Risenhoover. Report to come in this evening, at 2 o'clock.

Adjourned until 2, in the afternoon.

Evening session, 2 o'clock.

Call for the report of committee on destitution. Report as follows:

We, the committee on destitution, report, that there are many portions of our beloved country, in the bounds of this association, laboring under great destitution of preachers by our faith and order; and we do most earnestly exhort the friends and brethren generally, to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

Committee discharged.

This convention further agrees, that in view of the extreme destitution of many sections of country, in the bounds of this association, each preacher belonging to this association shall, if within his power, devote one month to the proclamation of God's holy word to the people of those destitute localities, and to make such collections as are freely contributed, and to carry up such sums received by them as itinerent preachers, to the next meeting of this association, to be distributed among said ministers, agreeably to the amount of labor and time of each.

Resolved, unanimously, That the thanks of this convention be tendered to the brethren and friends generally, around about Mount Gilead church, on account of their kind and christian like hospitality, bestowed upon us during the session of this convention.

Adjourned, to meet at Big Fork church, Polk county, as appointed.

Prayer by Brother Wm. F. Browning.

WM. SPATES, *Moderator.*

WM. F. BROWNING, *Clerk.*

APPENDIX.

A.

CONSTITUTION.

Of the Caddo River Regular Baptist Association.

Article 1. The association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

Art, 2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of "The Caddo River Regular Baptist Association," who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our Union, nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall merely be considered as an advisory council, in all matters relative to their internal concerns.

Art. 3. The delegates representing the different churches shall, at the opening of the association, present, each one, his letter of the church to which they belong, which must state their appointment as delegates, the number baptised, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excommunicated, restored, dead, total number in followship.

Art. 4. Every church belonging to this body shall be entitled to three delegates, until they number one hundred members, and then one for each hundred above that number.

Art. 5. Churches of this Union, failing to represent themselves at one association, will be expected to state the reasons for their failure, at the next association.

Art. 6. New churches may be admitted into our Union, by delegates, bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission, by giving their delegates the right hand, in token of Christian fellowship.

Art. 7. The association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend, according to her own views.

Art. 8. The officers of this association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, chosen annually by the suffrages of the delegates present. The moderator's duty shall be, to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the association on all subjects legally introduced. A clerk shall also be chosen, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings of the association. The treasarer shall receive and hold all the moneys paid over to him for the use of the association, subject to her order, and pay them out according to her direction.

Art. 9. The association shall have power to exclude from this body any church that may violate this constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the gospel.

Art. 10. The association shall furnish the churches of her body with the minutes of every session.

Art. 11. Every query sent by a particular church, must be included in her letter, certifying that she bas endeavored to reconcile it, but failed. In such a case the association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

Art. 12. Any church in our Union, having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination. shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches, to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries, in the ordaining of ministers or deacons, or in the constitution of churches, shall be governed by the abstract of faith adopted by this association. Nevertheless, where ministerial aid cannot be obtained conveniently, one minister may ordain a deacon, or constitute a church, with the assistance of a deacon.

Art. 13. The association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contribution of the churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates, and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the association fund, and to dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make, at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

Art. 14. It shall be the duty of the clerk of the association, to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of every session of this association.

Art. 15. The association shall not adjourn any session, until she shall have finished all the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

Art. 16. The minutes of the association shall be read, and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the moderator and clerk, before the association rises.

Art. 17. The association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

Art. 18. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any session of the association, when a majority of the members shall deem it necessary.

B.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH, WITH SCRIPTURE REFERENCES.

Article 1st. We believe in one true and living God, The Father, and the Word, and the Holy Ghost—i. John, 5: 7; John, 1: 1, 2. 3; i. Tim., 3: 16.

2d. We believe that the scriptures comprising the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim,, 3—15, 16; 1 Pet., 21—15; Rom. 4.

3d. We believe in the doctrine of Election, according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father, through sanctification of the spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter, 1, 2.

4th. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, by the fall of Adam, Gen. 3—6, 7; Psalms 57—6; Rom. 5—12, 14.

5th. We believe in man's incapacity by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state which he is in by nature. Isa. 1—5, 7; John 6—44; Eph. 2—1.

6th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Christ only. Jer. 23—6; Rom. 4—22, 24; 1 Cor. 1—30.

7th. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away, Psalms 89—31, 35; Heb. 8—10, 11; John 10—28.

8th. We believe that Baptism and the Lords Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that immersion was the Apostolic mode. Mark 16—15, 16; Acts 2—41, 42; Rom. 6—3, 4, 5, 6, 7; Mat. 20—26; Acts 2—42; 1 Cor. 11—23, 26.

9th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the general judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal. John 5—28, 29; 1 Cor. 15—22, 23; Rev. 20—12, 13, 14, 15.

10th. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the gospel, but one who is regularly baptised, called and come under the imposition of the hands of a presbytesy. Mat. 28—19, 20; 1 Tim. 4—14; Titus 5—10.

11th. We believe that none but regular baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's table. Acts 2—41, 47; chap. 18—8, 11; 1 Cor. 11—23, 24.

12th. We believe that the Lord's day should be observed as a day of rest and religious devotion. Exod. 20—8; Acts 20—7; Rev. 1—10.

C.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Rule 1st. The Association shall be opened by prayer, and closed by prayer.

2d. A Moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

3d. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretional right to call to order at any time.

4th. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association, on the same day, but at no other time.

5th. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise on his feet, and on obtaining permission proceed.

6th. The Moderator when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person or otherwise.

7th. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

8th. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on, or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

9th. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, and the members on the affirmative of the question shall signify the same by rising from their seats, or otherwise; and those on the negative shall retain their seats.

10th. The Moderator shall pronounce the decision of the association.

11th. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

12th. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without permission foom the Association, nor more than once till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through.

13th. The appellation of brother shall be used in the Association, by members in their addresses one to another.

14th. The names of themembers shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

15th. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

16th. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided, he appoint another to his seat during the time, but shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

17th. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator at discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

18th. When any of the foregoing rules may prove derogatory to divine right, they may be expunged, or amended, as a majority may think proper.

D.

We, the committee on documents, beg leave to report, that on examination of a letter from Phillippi Church, Clarke county, by an order of said church, Brother John Dennington was, on the 2d Sabbath in September last, set apart to the work of the ministry, by prayer and laying on of hands of a presbytery, consisting of Elders Wm. T. Hardage and James Carter. Y. DAVIS, *Chairman.*

E.

We, your committee on finance, beg leave to report the following sums, sent by the different churches to this convention, viz:

Phillippi, Clark co., - - - - -	$3 75
Pleasant Grove, Clark co., - - - - -	3 15
Big Fork, Polk co., - - - - -	3 25
Liberty, Montgomery co., - - -	2 00
Mt. Gillead, Montgomery co., - - - -	3 00
From Mt. Ida, Montgomery co., - - -	1 00
Collection taken up on Sabbath, - - -	6 55
Total amount, - - - - -	$22 70

Paid the above into the hands of the treasurer.

THOS. FARR, *Chairman.*

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

Churches.	Counties.	DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Discm'd by letter.	Excommunicated.	Restored.	Dead.	Total in fellowship.	Ministers in charge.	Post Office.	Sabbath meetings.
Big Fork,	Polk,	*Young Davis*, Benjamin Kisenhoover, Amon Guinn, James Abercrumbie.	5	3	2	0	2	0	17	Young Davis,	Panther.	1
Liberty,	Montgomery,	Jefferson Collier, Dempsey Haithcock, Thos. Phillips.	1	4	3	0	0	0	14	Wm. Spates,	Centreville.	4
Mount Gillead,	"	John Scott, John Gilham, Thos Farr.	0	1	1	0	0	0	11	Wm. Spates,	Caddo Cove.	2
Phillippi,	Clark,	Thos J. Evans, James Weaver,* John Sweeten,* Jas. Lambert.*	4	3	0	0	0	0	22	James Carter,	Point Cedar.	2
Pleasant Grove,	"	*Wm. Spates, James Carter*, Wm. F. Browning, A, G. Stewart.*	1	7	2	0	0	0	26	Wm. Spates & Jas. Carter.	Amity.	1

Absentees marked thus (*). Ordained ministers in italtcs.