

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY,*
SHIAWASSEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

THE SHIAWASSEE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met with the Baptist Church, at Maple River, pursuant to adjournment, June 3rd, 1863, at 10½ o'clock, A. M.

Reading of Scriptures, and Prayer by Rev. W. White.

Introductory sermon by Rev. W. White, from Acts, 13th chap. 39th verse—Subject, "Justification by faith."

After sermon, the Association was called to order by Rev. O. B. Call, Moderator of last year, and proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

Moderator—Rev. C. A. Lamb.

Clerk—John O. Palmer.

Assistant Clerk—Rev. P. C. Bassett.

Corresponding Secretary—Geo. M. Reynolds.

Treasurer—Dea. E. Cook.

Rev. O. B. Call, Dea. E. Cook and Bro. J. Sowles were appointed a Committee on Religious Service, who reported: 1st, that Rev. E. Weaver preach this afternoon, after the reading of the letters; 2nd, that Rev. W. Tilley preach this evening; 3d, that Rev. S. Barnes preach to-morrow at 10½ o'clock. Report accepted and adopted.

Prayer by Rev. W. G. Smith.

Adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association called to order by the Moderator, pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Rev. J. Booth.

The letters from the churches were then read. (*For statistics see table.*)

The church at Pine River made application to be received as a member of the Association.

Upon motion, it was resolved that said application be referred to a committee, consisting of Rev. O. B. Call, Deas. E. Cook and E. Comstock.

Resolved, That visiting brethren be invited to a seat with us.

Invitation accepted by the following brethren:

Rev. C. Cluts from Grand River Association.

* A mistake of one year has been made in previous reports.

- " E. Weaver " Wayne " "
 " J. Booth, " " " "
 " R. Walker, " " " "
 " S. T. Grow, " Flint river, and delegate from Genesee Congregational Association.
 " S. Barnes, " Ohio.

Bro. John H. Osborn, Lenawee.

Resolved. That Rev. W. G. Smith, of the Old School Presbyterian Church, be invited to a seat with us, and to participate in our deliberations.

Invitation accepted.

The following committees were then appointed:

Committee on Circular Letter—Revs. W. Tilley, O. B. Call and W. White.

Committee on Digest—Revs. P. C. Bassett, C. Weaver and James McLeod.

Committee on Nominations—Dea. E. Cook, Dea. J. Near, Rev. C. Weaver, Bro. R. S. Norris, H. Smith, J. R. Pearsall, J. Sowles, Rev. Wm. S. Everest, Dea. J. Woodhull, Jacob Wiles, E. Pötter, N. H. Robinson, A. Brewer, D. P. Austin, Benj. F. Green, A. Parmerter, Rev. A. B. Kinnee, and W. Rhodes.

Committee on Resolutions—Revs. W. Tilley, O. B. Call and J. Booth.

Suspended business for public worship.

Reading of Scriptures, and Prayer by Rev. E. Weaver.

Prayer by Rev. C. Cluts.

Sermon by Rev. E. Weaver, from Mark, 11th chap., 24th verse—Subject, "The faith of God's elect."

After sermon, a collection was taken up for Foreign Missions, amounting to \$13 46.

Prayer by Rev. T. W. Merrill.

Adjourned to meet in the evening at 7 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, Association called to order by the Moderator.

After a season of social prayer, proceeded to business, when the following delegates to corresponding bodies, were appointed:

Grand River Association—Revs. O. B. Call and C. A. Lamb.

Wayne—Revs. C. A. Lamb and O. B. Call.

Flint River—Revs. O. B. Call and W. White.

Jackson—Revs. T. W. Merrill, A. B. Kinnee and Bro. Joseph Place.

The committees, appointed to visit the several churches that had not sent delegates or letter, for two years, reported.

Which reports were accepted and adopted, and the committees discharged, with the exception of the one to visit Sciota, which was continued another year, and to consist of the following brethren: Revs. O. B. Call, James McLeod and Dea. Josephus Woodhull.

Resolved. That a Committee, consisting of Revs. O. B. Call, W. Tilley and C. A. Lamb be appointed to visit the church at Wacousta.

Suspended business for public worship.

Prayer by Rev. J. Booth.

Preaching by Rev. W. Tilley, from 1st John, 4th chap., 8th verse—Subject, "God is Love."

After sermon, adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. C. A. Lamb.

Thursday Morning, June 4th.

Agreeably to adjournment, Association called to order by the Moderator.
Prayer by Rev. W. S. Everest.

Report of Committees called for.

Committee on Nominations reported: 1st, next meeting of the Association to be held with the Church at Vernon—Introductory sermon by Rev. W. Tilley; Alternate, Rev. C. Weaver; Writer of Circular Letter, Rev. P. C. Bassett: 2nd, that Revs. O. B. Call, W. Tilley and A. B. Kinnee, be our delegates to the next Baptist State Convention. Report accepted and adopted.

Committee on Circular Letter reported:

Whereas, The brother who was appointed last year, to write the Circular Letter, is not present, and no letter has been forwarded by him to the Association, therefore

Resolved, That we dispense with it for the present year.

Report accepted and adopted.

Committee on Resolutions reported the following series, which was accepted, and after some discussion, adopted:

1. *Whereas*, The present armed rebellion against the Government of the United States of America, is unjust and grows directly out of the system of American slavery, which is "the sum of all villainies," therefore

Resolved, That we sympathize with the Government in its present efforts to put down this wicked rebellion, and desire, and will pray that slavery, in the present struggle, may be uprooted and destroyed, and peace, union and harmony be restored within our country.

2. *Whereas*, Sunday Schools and Bible classes are productive of great good in educating the young, and, also in leading many to embrace the Savior, therefore

Resolved, That we most earnestly recommend to the entire membership of the church that they pray and labor to the extent of their ability, for their promotion: 1st, by their personal attendance; 2nd, by taking a part in them as scholars or teachers; 3rd, that they contribute liberally for their support; 4th, that they use their utmost endeavors to bring all the youth and children, within the bounds of the school, under its influence; and be it further

Resolved, That the day preceding the commencement of our next Anniversary, be devoted to the interests of the Sunday School—within the limits of the Association, and that the several schools be invited to send delegates, to represent them in such meeting.

3. *Resolved*, That we cherish unabated confidence and interest in the Foreign and Home Mission enterprise, and earnestly recommend them to the increased prayer and liberality of our churches; and further,

Resolved, That we offer the sincere gratitude of our hearts to Almighty God who has so abundantly smiled upon the labors of the above societies during the past year; that in the midst of the desolations of civil war, and dispensing with the services of agents, the fiscal year of each has closed, leaving a considerable balance in their Treasuries, and inviting us to more extended operations.

4. *Resolved*, That we most earnestly recommend our church to commence at once the systematic contribution to the various objects of benevolence, or the penny a-week plan, as recommended by our State Convention, at its last anniversary.

5. *Resolved*, That we would impress most emphatically upon our churches, that the Domestic Mission, in connection with the Colporteur enterprise, and distribution of religious books, is to be regarded as vitally and especially connected with the prosperity of Zion, in our State, and call for our prayers and liberal contributions.

6. *Whereas*, The Michigan Christian Herald is a necessary means to diffuse intelligence, of our denominational and religious statistics and general news, therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend its cordial support.

Committee on Reception of Churches, reported that they recommend that the church at Pine River be received into the fellowship of the Association. Report accepted and adopted, upon which the right hand of fellowship was given by the Moderator.

Committee on Digest of Letters reported. (*See Digest.*) Report accepted and adopted.

Resolved, That we have a recess of five minutes.

Association came to order for public worship.

Prayer by Rev. James McLeod.

Sermon by Rev. S. Barnes, from Ps. 133—1.

After sermon, a collection was taken up for the benefit of Rev. S. Barnes—amount, \$ 20.

Bro. Palmer offered the following resolutions, which were adopted :

Resolved, That we acknowledge with gratitude, the kindness and hospitality of the brethren and friends of Maple River Church, which we have received from them during the present session ; and we would also acknowledge the interesting services of the choir in our devotions.

Resolved, That the rules of order be read immediately after the organization of the Association.

MONEY REPORTED IN LETTERS.

St. Johns—Dom. Missions, \$ 8 00 ; Ovid—For. Missions, \$ 6 00 ; Bible Union, \$ 7 50 ; Maple River—Miss. Union, \$ 7 00 ; Home Mission, \$ 4 28 ; Bingham—Dom. Mission, \$ 2 00 ; Bible Union, \$ 1 00.

After a few appropriate remarks, and prayer by the Moderator, the Association adjourned, to meet with the church at Vernon, on the first Wednesday of June, 1864, at 10½ o'clock A. M.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

1. *Resolved*, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay over all moneys that are, or may come into his hands, to the several agents to whom said funds belong, and take a receipt therefor.

2. Any member of this Association, whose name is in the minutes, present at the meeting of any other Association, with which we correspond, shall be a delegate to that body.

3. That the Corresponding Secretary be instructed to forward the minutes to each Association, and corresponding body in the State.

DIGEST.

Antrim—Have not represented themselves to the Association, before for three years; have had many trials, the result of unwillingness to walk in the path of duty; came near losing their visibility, but during the winter and spring have been revived; covenant meetings interesting, and prospects good; have a Sabbath School with 100 volumes in Library.

Bengal—Feel encouraged with the prospects of brighter days; at peace among themselves; meetings well attended; a flourishing Sabbath school; enjoy the labors of Eld. C. Weaver; the Lord seems to be in our midst.

Bingham—Deplore their want of interest in the cause of the Redeemer; keep up Sabbath and weekly prayer meetings; have an interesting Sabbath School; preaching by Eld. C. Weaver half of the time.

Chessanting—Are located in a new portion of the country; are few in number, and possess but little of this world's goods; experience inconvenience in securing preaching; Missionary labor would be productive of great good in this region; Eld. Wm. White preaches one-fourth of the time, for the present.

Corvumna—Have much occasion for mourning, but feel that the Lord is on our side, and we shall ultimately prevail; preaching by Eld. O. B. Call, once in two weeks; two candidates for baptism.

De Witt—Have reason for gratitude, that the candlestick has not been removed; that their pastor has been partially restored to health, and can again preach the Word; complain of a want of interest and attendance on the means of grace.

Essex—Early in the year, their pastor, with several of their members entered the army; have a few faithful left, who keep up weekly prayer meetings, and engage in Sabbath Schools; have three Union schools within the bounds of the church; Eld. C. Weaver, pastor.

Ithaca—Complain of a worldly spirit, yet circumstances more encouraging than one year ago; church much scattered; Elder W. S. Everest preaches at different points within its bounds, one-half of the time.

Lansing—Have enjoyed the labors of Eld. C. Johnson during the year, until recently, Eld. Wm. Tilley having become their pastor, and entered upon his duties with every prospect of success. They mourn the loss of one of their number, and sympathize with others who have lost friends in the army; have a Sabbath School, with an average attendance of forty scholars.

Maple River—They have not witnessed the converting power of God as they could wish, yet one young man gave his heart to God, went forward in baptism; but soon left for the west; their prayers go with him; they also mourn the loss of four of their number by death; hope that the loss may be sanctified to the good of the cause of Christ; they have a Sabbath School of eighty scholars, and four Bible classes; Eld. O. B. Call, pastor.

Newark and New Haven—With mingled feelings of joy and grief, they present their letter; not engaged in the cause of their Master as they should be; yet have a few praying souls left; preaching by Eld. W. S. Everest, one half the time.

Ovid—Complain of coldness and want of progress in the cause of Christ, have not enjoyed the special outpourings of the spirit; are at peace among themselves; ask an interest in the prayers of their brethren; are engaged in two Union Sabbath Schools with Bible Classes; Pastor, Elder P. C. Bassett.

Owosso.—Have nothing of importance to communicate; complain of a want of prosperity; have had no regular preaching since the first of January; hope that God in his providence will send them a Pastor; keep up Sabbath meetings, and have an interesting Sabbath School, with an average attendance of eighty-three scholars.

Owosso and Bennington.—Are few in number and weak in influence, but hope in God; have changed their place of meeting; have large and attentive congregations; their Deacon has been taken from them, by the hand of death; preaching by Elder J. McLeod, half of the time.

Perry.—No cheering news to present; complaining of a slumbering spirit while sinners grow bold in sin; but endeavor to maintain the principles of the Gospel; have an attentive congregation and good Sabbath School; Preaching by Elder J. McLeod.

Pine River.—Organized Feb. 8th, 1862, in a newly settled portion of the country; desire to be received into the fellowship of the Association, so that they may have their sympathy and prayers; have preaching on their covenant meeting days, by Eld. Wm. S. Everest.

St. Johns.—Lack a revival spirit; have too great conformity to the world and too little interest in the cause of him who went about doing good; Preaching by Eld. C. A. Lamb.

Vernon.—Deplore the want of vital piety among them; also the condition of our country, but pray that the Rebellion may be put down, and that our future may be more glorious than the past; congregation large; feel the need of a house of worship, preparing to build one; enjoy the labors of Elder O. B. Call, one half of the time, four Union Sabbath Schools within their bounds, they ask our prayers that God may revive his work during the coming year.

Wacousta.—Had nearly lost their visibility; have a few that remember their covenant vows, and hope that the Association will bear with them another year; need an under shepherd. ask our prayers.

Williamston.—No special interest; have to tell the old story of coldness and want of faith; yet the fountain is ever open to Zions needs; have not had a pastor since January, but keep up Sabbath and Covenant meetings.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

CHURCHES, CLERKS, AND POST OFFICES.	PASTORS AND DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Experienced.	By letter.	Unbaptized.	Excluded.	Died.	Pres. Num.	Money for Minutes.
ANTRIM..... J. W. Fuller.	Dea J. Near.	1	2	2	3			42	\$1 50
BENGAL AND RILEY..... M. J. Chase, St. Johns P. O.	Rev. C. Weaver.			3	2			20	50
BINGHAM..... John O. Palmer, St. Johns.	Rev. C. Weaver, R. S. Norris, John O. Palmer.							21	75
CHESANING..... Henry Kinny.	Rev. W. White, Wm. Rhodes, C. Cram.							28	1 00
CORUNNA..... H. Smith.	Rev. O. B. Call, H. Smith, H. Ward, J. L. Smith		1		1			13	50
DE WITT..... J. R. Pearsall.	Dea. J. R. Pearsall.			1	2			52	1 00
ESSEX..... Nathan Ellis.	Rev. C. Weaver, J. Sowles, Wal- ter Kolfe.	1	6	2	2			35	1 00
FULTON.....	Last communication, 1862.							13	
ITHACA..... J. A. Guthrie.	Rev. Wm. S. Everest, Thomas B Lamb.		4	1				61	1 00
LANSING..... J. A. Crossman.	Rev. W. Tilley, Dea. J. Woodhull, Rev. T. W. Merrill, C. W. Blum- burg.	2	7	3	6	1		76	2 00
LEROT.....	Last communication, 1862.							10	
MAPLE RIVER..... H. B. Flint.	Rev. O. B. Call, Deas. E. Cook, H. B. Flint, Br'n. M. R. Reynolds, Geo. M. Reynolds, E. Rose, A. Cooper.	1				4		64	2 00
NEWARK AND NEW HAVEN..... S. Y. Dickinson, Monticello	Rev. Wm. S. Everest, Jacob Wiles.	8	2	1		2		32	80
OVID..... Jacob W. Welter.	Rev. P. C. Bassett, J. W. Welter, N. Herrick, J. D. Gleason, E. Potter.	2						26	1 00
OWOSSO..... E. E. White.	Dea. E. Comstock, P. Hagerman, N. H. Robinson.	2	2	4	1			32	1 00
OWOSSO AND BENNINGTON..... A. Brewer.	Rev. James McLeod, A. Brewer, A. Rose, K. Whyman.					2		10	75
PERRY..... H. A. Roberts, Pittsburgh.	Rev. James McLeod, N. Green, D. P. Austin, O. Flint, H. A. Rob- erts.	1	1	2	1	3		65	2 00
PINE RIVER..... S. S. Hastings.	Rev. Wm. S. Everest.							20	50
ST JOHNS..... E. G. Wellington.	Rev. C. A. Lamb, Ben. F. Green.		8	1	4			25	1 50
VERNON..... Wm. Hendee.	Rev. O. B. Call, Dea. C. Yerkes, P. Sapping, C. L. Kronkite, A. Farmerer, C. Conrad, J. Clark Letter.	2	6	2	1	2		81	2 06
WACUSTA..... James Lyon.			2					40	1 40
WILLIAMPTON..... Wm. Brown.	Rev. A. B. Kinnee, I. C. Brown, Jefferson Pleace, Wm. Brown.		2			2		46	1 50
		20	74	17	14	26		812	\$23 76
Collection of Minutes.....									2 10

Total..... \$25 86

J. O. PALMER, Clerk.

C. A. LAMB, Moderator.

RULES OF ORDER.

1st. In the absence of any of the officers of the Association, others shall be chosen to fill their places *pro tempore*.

2nd. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by nomination or by ballot, as the Association may direct.

3rd. Brethren invited to a seat in the Association may debate on all questions, but vote on none.

4th. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject unless by special permission from the Moderator.

5th. Every proposition submitted to the Association for discussion must be put in the form of a motion, and not debated until seconded.

6th. No motion shall be discussed if such discussion be opposed by a majority of the members present. A motion to suspend business shall always be in order.

7th. The Moderator shall appoint all committees unless the Association otherwise direct.

8th. The Minutes of the meeting shall be read and corrected before the rising of the Association.

9th. At every sitting, business shall be opened and concluded with prayer, under the direction of the Moderator.

10th. The order of business at each annual meeting of the Association, shall be as follows :

1st. The introductory service and organization.

2nd. The Rules of Order read.

3rd. A committee on Religious Services appointed.

4th. Letters from the Churches read.

5th. Applications for admission into the Association received.

6th. The appointment of the following Committees :

1st. A Committee of three on the Circular Letter.

2nd. A Committee of three on Digest of Letters.

3rd. A Committee on Resolutions.

4th. A Committee on Nominations, of one from each Church, which Committee shall designate the place of the next Annual Meeting, the preacher of the Introductory Sermon, the writer of the Circular Letter, and the delegates to the Baptist State Convention.

7th. Communications from Corresponding bodies received.

8th. Reports of Committees called for.

9th. Miscellaneous business.

10th. Reading the Minutes of the Association.

11th. All Churches neglecting to represent themselves to this body for two years in succession, shall be visited by a Committee chosen for that purpose, who shall report at the next annual meeting.

12th. Any article of this order may be suspended for consideration of other business by a vote of the Association.