

MINUTES

OF THE

Shiawassee Baptist Association.

THE Thirty-first annual meeting of the Shiawassee Baptist Association convened with the church in De Witt, Wednesday, June 1, 1870, at 10½ o'clock, A. M.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. G. H. Tolman. Prayer was offered by Rev. H. D. Jordan, of the Methodist church.

The Introductory sermon was then preached by Rev. B. J. Boynton, of Owosso, from Isaiah 43:—“He shall not fail nor be discouraged.”

A collection for the general fund was taken up, amounting to \$9.36.

A Committee appointed to nominate permanent officers, reported as follows:

Moderator—Rev. H. A. Rose.

Clerk—Rev. B. J. Boynton.

Treasurer—Dea. J. O. Palmer.

All of which were elected.

The Moderator announced as committee on Religious Services, as follows: Rev. D. L. Bulis, A. H. Parsons and T. Nelson.

The letter from the church at De Witt, welcoming the Association, was read by the Clerk.

The Committee on Religious Services reported, recommending that we meet at 1½ P. M., and listen to the reading of the letters, and Br. G. H. Hickox preach at 3 o'clock, followed by Br. Tolman, in behalf of Foreign Missions. Adopted. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After singing, the Chair announced:

Committee on Circular Letter—Bros. G. W. Jenks, A. H. Parsons, T. W. Merrill.

Committee on Digest of Letters—Bros. Boynton, Bulis, Parmenter.

The Rules of Order were read by the Chairman.

Visiting brethren were invited to a seat with the Association; accepted by Br. Tolman, Sec. of Foreign Missions; Rev. B. H. Shepard, from Flint River Association; H. D. Jordan, De Witt M. E. Church; Wm. McCarthy, Kalamazoo River Association; J. Gundemer, Jackson Association;—P. C. Dayfoot, Agt. Fenton Seminary.

After the reading of the letters from the churches, Br. Martin led in prayer; listened to a sermon by Br. Hickox; text—Rom. 4:3—“Abraham

believed God, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness ;" sung the hymn "From Greenland's Icy Mountains."

An appeal from Br. Tolman for Foreign Missions, followed. Collection \$18.70.

On motion of the Clerk, voted to add to the Rules of Order Article 13: "These rules may be amended, or any additions made, at any session of the Association, by a two-thirds vote."

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported for the evening Sunday School meeting, 7½ o'clock; five minute speeches by Bros. Hickox, Jenks, Call, Parmenter, and others; Wednesday, at 8½, prayer meeting; at 9, B. ; at 11, preaching by Rev. O. B. Call, followed by a collection for the Publication Society and Home Missions.

EVENING SESSION.

Evening service as appointed.

Prayer by Br. Shepard.

Addresses were made by the Moderator, Hickox, Call, Merrill, Nelson, and others.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

Prayer meeting, with remarks by visiting brethren.

Report of the Committee on Digest of Letters.

The Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

1. That the next annual meeting be at Maple River.
2. That Rev. T. Nelson preach the introductory sermon, and that Rev. O. B. Call be his alternate.
3. That Rev. B. J. Boynton write the circular letter.
4. That Rev. L. Bulis, H. A. Rose, and O. B. Call be our delegates to the Baptist State Convention.
5. That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare a Sunday School Institute at such times and places as may be chosen.

The Committee appointed to arrange for Sunday School Institute were Rev. Hickox, Nelson and Jenks.

The Committee on Circular Letter reported, recommending the acceptance and publication of the same. (See letter.)

Sung "There is a land of pure delight."

Listened to the reading of the Circular Letter; adopted, and ordered to be published.

The Committee on Resolutions reported the following, which were adopted:

1. **RESOLVED**, That there is a great demand for laborers in the ranks of the ministry of our denomination, and, while we recognize the preparation of the heart as from the Lord, we earnestly commend our College and Theological Seminary at Kalamazoo, and the Michigan Baptist Education Society to the cordial support of this Association.
2. **RESOLVED**, That we recommend that a collection be taken as soon as practicable, in each Church for the Education Society, and once during the year in each Sabbath School for the "TORCH LIGHT."
3. **RESOLVED**, That the work of Foreign Missions should receive our earnest prayers and regular contributions.
4. **RESOLVED**, That, since the truth only can make us free indeed, we recommend a more earnest co-operation in each church with the Bible and

Publication Society in its efforts to publish that truth in all the world.

5. RESOLVED, That each church of the Association should support a Baptist Sunday School, and each member should attend as teacher or scholar, and an effort made with each member to secure a pledge of total abstinence from all that intoxicates, and from tobacco.

6. RESOLVED, That it is our conviction that no other aid can render the cause of Temperance a proper and sufficient support; and the churches must act, or see the cause suffer repeated failures.

7. RESOLVED, That THE STANDARD is worthy of the support of the Baptists of the State.

WHEREAS, The American Bible Union have given to the English speaking race a faithful version of the New Testament, removing many objections and errors now existing in the common version; and as they have printed it in several forms, one of which is cheap and adapted to Sabbath schools; therefore,

8. RESOLVED, That we recommend to all our churches, that they supply themselves, and specially and without delay, every Sabbath School under their control with this priceless treasure, that the rising generation may be taught the way of the Lord more perfectly.

9. RESOLVED, That to deny ourselves, as the disciples of Jesus, every useless and expensive luxury, that we may more fully support the cause of Christ, is commendable.

10. RESOLVED, That no church or member can neglect the work of christian beneficence abroad without criminal neglect of our covenant, to "give as the Lord has prospered us, for the support of the Gospel over the world" and a like neglect of the command of Jesus, Go ye into all the world, etc. We therefore recommend in all the churches that collections be taken at least once a year, for our several denominational societies, and an effort be made to secure a contribution from every individual.

11. RESOLVED, That we find no support in the word of God for mixed communion in the Gospel church or in its ministry.

Resolution 11 was ordered printed, and laid on the table until next meeting.

Resolutions of thanks were passed to the families of De Witt for hospitality, and to the choir for excellent music.

Recess of five minutes.

After reading the Scriptures, prayer by Br. Nelson.

Sung "I'm not ashamed to own my Lord."

Sermon by Rev. O. B. Call, text—Matthew 9:37-8—"The Harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few."

Collection taken for the Home Mission and Publication Society, jointly, amounting to \$18.

Br. Dayfoot presented the interests of the Fenton Seminary.

Bros. Nelson and Church were appointed to visit the church at Newark and Newburg; Bros. Jenks and Parmenter to visit the Leroy church.

A Committee on Home and Foreign Missions and systematic beneficence was also appointed.

Listened to parting words from Father Martin and the Moderator.

Adjourned.

DIGEST OF LETTERS.

ANDRIM.—Rejoice in some revival at an out station; backsliders have been reclaimed, and the church is temporally blessed.

BINGHAM.—Feel that they have come short of duty, but sustain a Sunday School, and have had preaching part of the time.

BENGAL AND RILEY.—Have had joys and sorrows; are trusting in God and hoping for better days; have enjoyed the preaching of the Word one half of the time.

BROWN.—Have been re-organized from Burns and Cohoctah, and have changed their name accordingly. Have had no special revival, but covenant meetings are well attended, and have enjoyed the presence of the Holy Spirit.

BATH.—Have had some revivals; a few conversions; are building a house of worship, and ask the prayers of brethren for their success.

CORUNNA.—Are rejoicing in God's mercy. Have had preaching the past year, and though without a pastor at present, are in a prosperous condition.

DEWITT.—With pleasure welcome the brethren to their hearts and homes, and ask the earnest prayers of the body, for the church and the village.

EMERSON.—Have not been prospered, having no pastor since September, but expect to enjoy the labors of Br. W. S. Everest for the coming year.

ITHACA.—Letter failed to come into the Clerk's hands.

LANSING.—Though sometimes feeling the cross heavy, have, with the help of God, continued; have frequently heard from and sympathized with the joys and sorrows of their brethren of other churches. Give the hand of fellowship and love to all the brethren.

LAINGSBURG.—Are united, and hope yet to exert an influence for good. Attentive congregations one half the time.

MAPLE RIVER.—Grateful for temporal and spiritual blessings; shared in revival favors; completed and dedicated an excellent house of worship.

OKEMOS.—Felt the pleasant influence of the Spirit. Are united in love. Completed, dedicated and paid for a new house of worship.

OVID.—After wading through deep waters of affliction, have been made to rejoice in a glorious revival, which has prevailed among all classes.—Baptisms frequent. Prayer meetings deeply interesting.

Owosso.—Praise God for his gracious dealings. Enjoyed a precious revival. Feel encouraged, and find it good to labor where the spirit of the Lord presides.

PERRY.—Hope in darkness. The Lord claiming an exhibition of attachment to the truth by testing their love, faithfulness and stability.

SR. JOHNS.—Salvation of the Lord has been bestowed upon us. Souls saved by passing through trial united. Prospects brightening.

ST. LOUIS.—The Lord has manifested his presence. Precious seasons in prayer meetings; covenant meetings good. Greatly blessed in their pastor. Have purchased a good site for a meeting house.

VERNON.—Have re-called their former pastor. Labor blessed, souls saved, Zion encouraged, hope enlarged. The Gospel truth taking hold of the community, and leading away from old traditions.

WILLIAMSTOWN.—The Head of the church has granted many tokens of love and favor, through His providence and grace. Live in peace, though too little consecrated in property, both in Home and Missionary enterprises.

CIRCULAR LETTER

OF THE

Shilwassee Baptist Association,

TO THE CHURCHES IT COMPRISES.

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS :—The subject of our annual letter to you the present year is “Continuous Meetings,”—a series of meetings of greater or of less continuance.

We shall not make even an effort to exhaust the subject, nor, fully, to discuss any part of it ; but our desire is, to present a few words as points of thought, and would hope, persuasive to action.

The points presented will appear in the following order :

1st.—Are continuous meetings desirable ?

We answer, they certainly are. And we shall assume to believe that no christian doubts the desirableness of such meetings. The suggestion ‘ they are so, if successful,’ would be a very natural one ; but the question of duty, and not of success,—as men count success—is the turning one. We should not tempt God by refusing to work for Him unless He counts out the reward before we begin. Abraham went out at God’s command, not knowing where, and was infinitely blessed. But it cannot be seriously questioned that it is desirable both *to do the work* of a series of meetings, and to gather the fruit of it, and we are all assured before-hand, that our “labor is not in vain, in the Lord.”

2d.—Are such meetings practicable ?

From the history of the past, we would be quite free to answer, they are, fully so. The Jews sacrificed daily, morning and evening, in the Temple ; the Apostles met daily, and so did the early christians, for the worship of God ; and our own best meetings are those which occur daily. It is perfectly practicable to hold daily meetings, at least a portion of the time.

3d.—How often shall such meetings be held ?

We think they should be held, in each church, once a year ; and this, we think, should be the permanent understanding, and the regular yearly practice of every Gospel church. However, we wish to say that we should feel at liberty to defer or omit these yearly meetings. Every farmer has his yearly harvest : he works for it before-hand, and at the season he is pleased to engage in the work of harvesting. And it is just as rational to believe there are some in the society of each church, or in the community, who should be converted to God, and baptized each year. A yearly meeting is open to no objection which would not lie with greater force against holding meetings only once in four or five years. Still, let any church be free to observe the yearly meeting, or not observe it.

4th.—At what season should the series of meetings be held ?

We are inclined to reply, that, in most cases, either in the Fall, or the Winter, or the Spring. But the time must be chosen through prayer, the indications of Providence, and by the circumstances of the people.

The yearly meeting should not pass unobserved ; usually, the “more convenient season” would be found within the time referred to.

5th.—Where shall these meetings be held?

Usually in the place where the church holds its regular meetings.—There are localities, no doubt, where it would be best to hold the yearly meeting at some out-station; but in most instances, these meetings should be held at the head-quarters of the church. It is always desirable to make that point a centre of influence, of strength, and of work.

6th.—How long shall these meetings be continued?

A definite and final answer to that question can only come from the state of things, and the success of the work at the time; and yet, we would presume to say, that, in our judgment, not less than two weeks; more safely we would say three weeks, and this, whatever might be the apparent result.

7th.—The manner of conducting such meetings.

This must depend on the nature of the work to be done, in any place, or at any time. Sometimes nearly all the work will be done in the meetings; at other times, much must be done out of doors, or from house to house.

Any church not having a minister, might be obliged to go on without one at all. In such a case, prayer and exhortation, and such teaching as brethren and sisters might be prepared to give, would include all the resources of the church, and very likely would be all that would be indispensable to a good work.

If a pastor needs aid in a series of meetings, the help of a neighboring pastor, of sound reputation, and good ability, would be the best that could be employed.

In some places, and at some particular times, the service of a professed and accredited Evangelist would be the more effective.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

1st.—In all continuous meetings, out-door work must be done by the membership; and the effect on the people, and the results of the meetings would be much better if *nearly all* the membership could be induced to engage in this part of the work, going from house to house, two together, as Christ sent out the seventy disciples.

2d.—The efforts in these meetings should be faithful, patient, and fearless of men, or of their opinions or remarks. The effort should be free from display, and always persistent and tireless, fully up to the close of the meeting.

3d.—Such yearly meetings should always be preceded by an organized and constant work of preparation, running through all the year previous, in the Sunday Schools, in the prayer meetings, by private conversation, or occasional and judicious distribution of tracts; in all things, however, working silently, not noising abroad what you are doing, but doing and praying as if it were in secret, being assured that God will reward you openly, i. e., that He will show the people what you have been doing for them, or among them, all the while they were sleeping.

But let the church be thoroughly familiar with this steady work of preparation among themselves.

Let us thus “trust in the Lord and do good,” knowing that we have His promise, that we shall dwell in the land, and verily we shall be fed.

NAMES OF MINISTERS

*Residing or Laboring within the Bounds of the Association, with
Postoffice Address.*

NAMES.	ADDRESS.
B. J. BOYNTON, - - - - -	Owosso.
P. C. BASSETT, - - - - -	Ovid.
L. CHURCH, - - - - -	Alma.
D. A. DAVIS, - - - - -	DeWitt.
W. S. EVEREST, - - - - -	Bloomer.
L. B. FISH, - - - - -	Lansing.
G. FOREMAN,* - - - - -	DeWitt.
G. H. HICKON, - - - - -	Lansing.
G. W. JENKS, - - - - -	Howell.
A. B. KINNEY, - - - - -	Williamston.
T. LOWDEN, - - - - -	Glass River.
T. W. MERRILL, - - - - -	Lansing.
J. McLEOD, - - - - -	Laingsburg.
J. MARTIN, - - - - -	Ovid.
O. B. CALL, - - - - -	Vernon.
A. McLEAN, - - - - -	St. Johns.
T. NELSON, - - - - -	Ithaca.
A. H. PARSONS, - - - - -	Lansing.
A. M. PARMENTER, - - - - -	Williamston.
H. A. ROSE, - - - - -	St. Johns.
D. L. BULIS, - - - - -	DeWitt.
GEO. M. REYNOLDS, - - - - -	Corunna.
W. WHITE, - - - - -	Linden.

*Licensed.

RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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

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

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

IV. No person shall speak more than once on any subject, unless by special permission from the Moderator.

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

VI. 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.

VII. The Moderator shall appoint all committees, unless the Association otherwise direct.

VIII. The minutes of the meeting shall be read and corrected before the rising of the Association.

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

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

1ST—The introductory service and organization.

2^D—The Rules of Order read.

3^D—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 :

1. A committee of three on the Circular Letter.

2. A committee of three on Digest of Letters.

3. A committee on Resolutions.

4. A committee of three on Nominations, 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.

13TH—These Rules may be amended, or additions made thereto, at any regular meeting, by a two thirds vote of the Association.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

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 money belongs, and take a receipt therefor.

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

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

Statistical Table.

Churches and Clerks.	Pastors and Delegates.	MEMBERSHIP.					FINANCIAL.								S. S.		
		Baptized.	Other Additions.	Died.	Dismissed.	Expelled.	Present No.	Money for Minutes.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Publication Society.	Bible Union.	Education Society.	Other Objects.	Church Expenses.	Number in S. School.	Teachers.
ALMA,	1869					12											
ANDRIM																	
Judson A. Clough	Rev. T. Lowden, A. P. Sutterby.	4		4		46	\$1 50	\$9 00						\$70 00			
BINGHAM,	Clerk, R. S. Norris, W. Sheldon,					21	1 25	13 00	\$1 10								
J. O. Palmer.	D. Place.																
BENGAL & RILEY,	G. Foreman, Deas. Sturgiss and				1	51	1 00	3 48									
Loren Benton.	Walker, Br. Guidet.																
BYRON,	Rev. G. W. Jenks, William Has	1	3	1		34	2 00	20 00									
M. H. Seeley.	kall																
BATH,	Rev. A. H. Parsons, S. Hays,	1	3	2	3	26	1 00										
Hiram Tooker.	P. June, Clerk.																
CORUNNA,	Clerk.	3	5	5		43	1 60		23 10						80	5	
H. Wiltse.																	
CHESANING,	Dropped.																
DEWITT,	Rev. S. L. Bulis, J. Grinolds, G.	3	12	3	1	2	9	2 00									
Andrew Granger.	Foreman, C. Van Deventer,																
	Clerk.																
EMERSON,	Represented by letter.			1	1	3		2 00									
J. A. Guthrie.																	
ITHACA,	T. Nelson, 1869.					23	1 50										
W. C. Beckwith.																	
LANSING,	Revs. G. H. Hickox, T. W. Merrill	12	7	1	13	158	2 00	50 00	10 00	\$10 00	\$220 00	\$5 00	50 30	\$120 00	100	12	
J. A. Crossman.	and A. H. Parsons, N. Tenny.					8											
LEROY,	Last communication, 1863																
LAINGSBURG,	Rev. J. McLeod, M. Smith, H. Ous	1		3	1	44	1 25										140
Charles McKee.	terhout, J. Place, M. A. Phelps.																
MAPLE RIVER,	Rev. G. M. Reynolds, C. Cook,	7	2	2	2	3	72	2 00	3 50	12 35							
C. Flint.	R. Place, A. P. Greenman.																
NEWARK & NEW HAVEN	No communication since 1869.					21											
NORTH NEWBURG,	No communication since 1869.					22	1 00	5 35									
NORTH STAR,	No communication since 1869.					24											
OVID,	Revs. H. A. Rose and J. Martin;	39	19	1	3	131	3 20	8 45	9 00								100
J. A. Porter.	Bros. Porter, French, Steph-																
	ens, Baker and A. S. Rose.																
OWOSSO,	Rev. B. J. Boynton.	6	9	6	5	79	2 00	7 29	21 50	2 27	1 50	12 92	5 00	1286 00	107	9	
E. E. White.																	
OKEMOS,	Rev. G. H. Hickox, H. S. Pro-			1	2	24	75		2 50	2 65				2494 00	80		
G. C. Young.	ctor, Clerk.																
PERRY,	Rev. J. McLeod, G. Smith, L.			1	2	79	1 25										
H. Roberts.	Brant, H. Purdy.																
St. JOHN'S,	H. S. Gibbons, W. J. Bancroft, H.	30	11	44	1	83	2 00				20 00						75
J. G. Lamb	L. Lamb, D. Holmes, L. Maxam.																
St. LOUIS,	Rev. T. Nelson, S. S. Hastings,			6	1	33	1 50										
P. Case.	Clerk.																
VERNON,	Rev. O. B. Call, G. McLean.	11	2	1	6	1	102	2 40	5 00	32 88	2 00						105 8
J. McLean.																	
WACOUSIA,	Last communication, 1866.					40											
WILLIAMSTON,	Rev. A. M. Parmenter, Dea. R.	7	8	1		57	1 65	1 04	2 40								
J. Pierce	Burchard, George Burchard.							16 30	9 60	16 31			14 10				
	Collections at Association,																
Totals,		121	91	15	94	19	1377	\$34 85	\$136 41	\$135 25	\$33 23	\$241 50	\$17 92	\$139 40	\$4980 00	787	35

Will the Clerks of churches next year use the excellent blank letters furnished by Br. Fish, and make complete reports, and each reader of the minutes be a special committee to put into practical use Resolution 10th?