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MINUTES

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OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

WOOD RIVER

Colored Baptist Association,

HELD AT JACKSONVILLE,

WITH THE

Mt. Emory Church, Morgan County, Illinois.

AUGUST 18, 19, 20 & 21, A. D., 1864.



ALTON, ILLINOIS.

S. V. CROSSMAN & CO., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1864.

Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to extreme blurriness and low contrast. Some faint characters and symbols are visible, but no coherent text can be transcribed.

MINUTES.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 1864, }
11 O'CLOCK, A. M. }

The Ministers and Delegates composing the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Wood River Colored Baptist Association met at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. W. Stewart, from Ephe., 5th chap., 12v—"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour:"—followed by Elder J. H. Magee. All were animated with a good desire to press onward, in the hope of Glory as set forth in the gospel. Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 o'clock, P. M.—met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator being absent, Elder R. D. Baptiste was called to fill the vacancy, *pro tem.* Also Elder J. H. Magee was elected clerk *pro tem.* Prayer by Elder John Livingston, after which the letters from the different Churches were called for and read. They presented the following statistics: (*See Appendix.*)

The Olivet Church of Chicago, presented a letter asking for admission, and made a general exposition of a mistake under which the association had been laboring in reference to her connection with us. It appears that the Church in question had given the person [who represented her in the association last year] no authority whatever.

On motion, *Resolved* to receive the Olivet church of Chicago, as a member in full fellowship; after which a hymn was sung, and the hand of fellowship was extended to Elder R. D. Baptiste, (her representative) and he was welcomed to a seat among us. Adjourned at 3 o'clock to hear a discourse delivered by Elder Henry Bailor, followed by P. S. Breeden, after which business was resumed.

On motion, *Resolved* that we appoint a nominating committee consisting of the following Brethren, viz: Eld. W. W. Stewart, Dea. Yeates, P. S. Breeden, J. Buckner, and Eld. Henry Bailor.

Adjourned at 6 o'clock to listen to a discourse by Eld. J. H. Magee, followed by Eld. John Livingston.

Adjourned by Benediction, to meet at 9 o'clock, A. M.

MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, AUG., 19th, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment; singing and prayer by Eld. R. D. Baptiste.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following brethren were then elected a committee on devotional exercises: Elders W. W. Stewart, A. W. Jackson and B. Henderson.

The nominating committee were called to report the names of the officers for the ensuing year. The following brethren are the officers for the ensuing year:

Elder A. W. JACKSON, Moderator.

Elder J. H. MAGEE, Clerk.

Elder W. W. STEWART, Assistant Clerk.

Elder R. D. BAPTISTE, Corresponding Secretary.

Elder J. H. MAGEE, Recording Secretary.

Dea. CHARLES PITMAN, Treasurer.

The Moderator having been elected, he was kindly invited to the chair; whereupon he arose, and with a few appropriate remarks expressed his feelings of gratitude to the Association for conferring the honor of the Moderatorship on him; and at the same time expressed a regret in view of his incompetency for the task, entrusted to his care.

The following brethren were chosen by the Moderator as the executive committee, viz: Eld. R. D. Baptiste, Dea. John Samuels, David Houston, Wm Swan, Jesse Smith, L. A. Coleman, and J. P. Johnson.

On motion, that the Chair appoint a committee of three on finance, which resulted in the following selection, viz: Eld. R. D. Baptiste, Eld. J. Houston and John Samuels.

On motion, it was resolved to have a committee of three on missions. Therefore it was resolved that Eld. R. D. Baptiste, Elder W. W. Stewart and Elder J. Houston be that committee.

Adjourned at 11 o'clock to hear Elder Samuel Livingston expostulate from the word of God, followed by Elder G. Brents.

Adjourned with Benediction, to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

The house was called to order by the Moderator. A hymn was sung, and Elder John Livingston was called on to address the throne of Grace, after which the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The executive committee reported the following items of business: 1st, an appeal to the Churches of the United States, in behalf of the Piasa Church, (Colored;) was received and ordered to be inserted in the minutes—the contents of which will appear elsewhere.

On motion to adjourn at 3 o'clock, P. M. to hear the Rev.

Mr. R. M. Duling speak from the sacred desk; followed by the Rev. Mr. Wm. Troy, of Windsor, C. W.

Adjourned by Benediction.

At 5 o'clock P. M., business was again resumed as before.

The executive committee reported the following items of business; 2nd, the executive committee recommend that the resolution adopted last session to alter the latter clause of the 5th Article of the Constitution be reconsidered.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the latter clause of the 5th Article of the Constitution remain in its original form.

On motion, it was resolved to adopt the executive committee's report as a whole.

There were quite a number of visiting brethren present, all of whom were invited to a seat, and also to take part in our deliberations. The following brethren accepted the invitation: Elder Wm Troy of Windsor, C. W., Elder R. M. Duling of New Albany, Indiana, Elder John Livingston of the Mount Olive Association, Ill., A. Taylor of St Louis, and others.

On motion, it was resolved to appoint a special committee to investigate the case of Elder T. D. Sunrise, which was presented to the Association last year; the following constitute the investigating committee: Elder R. D. Baptiste, Elder E. S. Woodson, Elder Wm Troy, Elder W. W. Stewart, and Bro. John Samuels.

Adjourned to hear the Rev. Mr. R. D. Baptiste, of Chicago, Ill., who preached the Gospel in its purity. During the exercises many were made to rejoice in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock A. M.

MORNING SESSION.

SATURDAY, AUG., 20th, 9 o'clock A. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, after which Elder E. S. Woodson offered prayer to Almighty God for his guidance during our meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, corrected and adopted.

On motion, it was resolved to have the Rules of Decorum read.

On motion, to have the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, Articles of Faith, and Covenant of the Association printed with the minutes.

The committee on missions reported to the Association as follows:

To the Association.

Your Committee on Missions respectfully submit the following report:

Dear Brethren :

The subject of Missions is one of great importance and intimately connected with the extension and perpetuity of the kingdom of Christ. The great commission given by our Savior, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is still of binding force, and is addressed to us as Christians and Christian ministers as much as it was to the primitive Christians and ministers.

But we especially call the attention of the Association to the work among our brethren in the South, who have been released from the galling chains of slavery, and to the organization of the North-Western and Southern Baptist Convention at St Louis, in June last, for the purpose of more effectually performing that work. That Convention was formed by a large number of Baptists from the different States and Canada, and invites the co-operation and contributions of churches and associations generally to aid them in supplying our brethren in the South, who may be destitute, of missionaries and teachers.

We recommend that Bro. Houston be appointed by the committee on religious services to preach a missionary sermon at 3 o'clock this afternoon, after which a collection be taken for the above named Convention to be applied to missions among the freed-men in the South.

Eld. R. D. BAPTISTE.	}	Committee.
Eld. J. HOUSTON.		
W. W. STEWART.		

On motion, the following named brethren were appointed to represent this Association in the North-Western and Southern Baptist Convention: Elders John Anderson, R. D. Baptiste, J. Houston, E. S. Woodson, and W. W. Stewart.

On motion, to send letter and delegate to the Mt. Olivet Association; and that Elder A. W. Jackson be the delegate.

The Special Committee reported as follows, which was adopted:

To the Association :

Your Committee beg leave to report in the case of Bro. Sunrize, that as the matter in relation to Bro. Sunrize has been attended to by his church, therefore, in the judgment of your committee the Association has no more to do with the matter further than request the report of the labors of Bro. Sunrize as your missionary. Your Committee further suggest that the Association should hear a statement from Bro. Sunrize, as it will, in the judgment of the committee, conciliate the minds of some; not that your committee see that the Association has any authority over the churches or individual numbers, but for the peace of all, we merely suggest this course.

We would also beg to submit the following in relation to the apparent change of the name of Bro. Sunrize that we are assured by Bro. S. that the custom of his nation legally makes the

change; Sunrize being a heathen name, Dana being the rightful Christian name.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. D. BAPTISTE.

S. WOODSON.

W. W. STEWART.

J. SAMUELS.

WM. TROY, *Clerk.*

On motion, to suspend business for five or ten minutes for devotional exercises; during which time Elder Thomas Dana made a statement to us in reference to his history the past year, which statement was cordially received; and while singing the good old hymn "Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love," the hand of fidelity was extended to our beloved brother Elder Thomas Dana. During the exercises above stated, the whole congregation were moved to tears; every heart was melted, while looking to the endless mercy of God, who has said, by the mouth of his holy Apostles, "let brotherly love continue."

The devotional committee reported that Elder John Anderson of Brooklyn, Ill. preach at 11 o'clock A. M.

After the sermon, adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

SATURDAY, 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

The house was called to order by the Moderator. A hymn was sung, after which Elder H. Bailor offered prayer to the throne of Grace.

On motion that the ministers composing this Association report their success in the Gospel the past year; the reports were then received, read and adopted, all of which will appear elsewhere in the minutes.

On motion, that the printing committee revise the old minutes, and adopt all articles and resolutions calculated to promote the best interests of the Association.

The executive committee reported the following items of business: We recommend that the committee appointed last year to call Eld. Thos D. Sunrize from the mission field, be called to report; said committee reported and was discharged; further recommend that the next Annual Meeting of this Association be held with the Springfield Church.

Therefore, *Resolved* to hold the next meeting of this Association with the Springfield Church, to commence on Thursday preceding the third Lord's day in August, 1865, the introductory sermon to be preached by Elder J. H. Magee, with Elder R. D. Baptiste as his alternate.

On motion, *Resolved* to correspond with the general Association of Ill. by minutes.

On motion, that the churches be urged by their pastors and

deacons to be prompt, to pay in 25 cents per member to the Associational fund.

The revising committee have thought best to call the attention of the brethren to the resolutions published in the old minutes, and earnestly desire the brethren to read them at least once a month; for, to our knowledge, meetings have been appointed by the Association that were never attended, simply because *they did not read the minutes.*

First.—Subject, Intemperance. Whereupon the following preamble and resolution were adopted:

WHEREAS, We believe intemperance to be a growing and devastating evil, and WHEREAS, God's Holy word declares that "no drunkard hath eternal life abiding in him," therefore be it

Resolved, That this Association most earnestly advise and beseech, in God's name, that the ministers of its body both preach and practice against it.

Second.—Subject, Instructions to Licentiatees.

WHEREAS, The ministerial office is the most sacred of all offices, as well as the most responsible in its nature; and WHEREAS, God's Word declares that "the Priest's lips should heed knowledge," that those who minister in holy things, should make full proof of their ministry, that their profiting may appear unto all; and WHEREAS, it is indispensable in order to become an acceptable, successful, and able minister of the New Covenant, and be able "rightly to divide the word of truth;" therefore be it

Resolved, That we recommend to the Pastors and Elders of this Association, to pay more attention to their young preachers by way of encouraging and instructing them in the doctrines of divinity, and assisting them to understand both the literal and spiritual meaning of the holy scriptures. And in order that the young ministers may feel their obligation, and apply themselves diligently to work, it is further

Resolved, That they shall attend all the religious business meetings of their churches, both public and private, unless providentially hindered.

Third.—Subject, Washing the Saint's Feet:

WHEREAS, There are differences of opinion among the members of the churches composing this Association in regard to their obligation to obey the Savior in washing one another's feet; and WHEREAS, it is very desirable that all the churches of this body should come in the unity of the spirit to the faithful observance of all the ordinances, institutions, commandments, and injunct ones of our Divine Master, that there may be in truth among us, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism and also one uniform practice, therefore be it

Resolved, That this Association counsel and advise the churches to take up this Cross, and its shame despise. Jesus says "if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. On motion,

Resolved, To take up two collections on the Sabbath, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon.

On motion, *Resolved,* that Elders J. H. Magee and W. W. Stewart, be the printing committee, and that they transcribe and prepare the minutes for the press, and attend to their proper distribution among the churches, and that they have ten dollars for the same.

Resolved, to have six hundred and fifty copies printed.

WHEREAS, our financial system is very deficient, and altogether inadequate to meet the contingent expenses of the Association, and WHEREAS, the Association's debt the ensuing year will be quite heavy; therefore be it

Resolved, That each church shall collect annually, twenty-five cents from each of its members, to create an Associational fund, and send the

same to the annual meetings, by their ministers, delegates, or otherwise: and by no means is this to exonerate the churches from their usual obligations to send a proper amount of money with their letters and delegates for printing the minutes. Now brethren do not forget this, but commence in time.

The following was offered by Elder E. S. Woodson :

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to remove our dear and much beloved (Elder James H. Johnson) from among us. We deeply feel his loss, and grieve because he is not with us: but God be praised, our loss has been his everlasting gain. He has left this world of sin and sorrow to meet the general Association, that will never break up.

Resolved, That this Association tender their most hearty thanks to the hospitable brethren and citizens of Jacksonville, for hospitality shown to us during this session of our Association. May our hearts often be refreshed while remembering the many happy scenes with which we were surrounded, during our sojourn with them. And when friends like leaves seared by autumnal frosts drop from our memory one by one, oh, may we, then, fly back with the speed of thought, to the happy meeting of the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Association.

Resolved. If any Church connected with the Association fail to correspond with this body for two years without a lawful excuse, the same shall be excluded.

Resolved, To tender a vote of thanks to our Methodist brethren for the use of their Church.

On motion, that the Association contribute ten dollars to Eld. John Livingston, who is an old superannuated minister, and has stood the storm of persecution, which beat unrelentingly for years against him alone, as he was contending for the unrestricted liberties that we now enjoy.

On motion to adjourn to hear a missionary discourse by Elder J. Houston, from Mark, 16th chapter and 15th verse, followed by Elder Wm. Troy of Windsor, C. W., after which a collection of \$32 00 was taken for the benefit of the mission under the control of the North-Western and Southern Baptist Convention.

To the Christian Public :

We the brethren of Piasa Church, do hereby solicit aid of the liberal public, to assist us in the erection of a Church; having been deprived of our house of worship by fire, which accident has placed us in destitute circumstances towards rebuilding. Therefore we hope, by the assistance of God and the public, to build again. Now friends of Christ and his good cause, it is to you, we appeal for aid. The building is to be used as a Church and School House that the hundreds of our brethren, who are being freed, may be taught to read and understand the worth of their souls, and the duty they owe to Almighty God—their deliverer. Our pastor (Elder J. H. Magee) is duly authorized and appointed Agent to solicit aid of *all Churches* and friends to the cause, to whom he may apply in the United States. Done by order of Piasa Baptist Church in Macoupin County, and State of Illinois.

JOHN SAMUELS, Deacon.

Elder J. H. MAGEE, Pastor.

Elder W. W. STEWART, Pastor of Alton.

Elder THOMAS DANA, the Indian Missionary.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

Dear Brethren:—Your committee beg leave to submit to you the following report:

Money sent for Minutes.....	\$18,50
Ditto sent for associational fund.....	16,15
Ditto collected for the N. W. and S. Baptist Convention.	32,00
Ditto collected for the Association, on Sabbath.....	34,25
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	\$100,90
Expenses of the Association.....	30,00
Paid to Elder John Livingston,.....	10,00
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Total.....	\$60,90

TREASURER'S REPORT.—*Chas Pitman, Treasurer.*

For the year ending August 18th, 1864.

Collections during the day.....	\$36,10
Money from Churches.....	46,50
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	\$82,60
	52,50
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Amount on hand.....	\$30,10

EXPENSES.

Contingent expenses of the Association.....	\$27,00
Printing Minutes.....	12,00
Pay to the Committee.....	8,00
Postage, &c on Minutes.....	5,00
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Total.....	\$52,50

MINISTERIAL REPORTS.

REPORT ELDER JAS H. MAGEE.

To the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Wood River Association.

Brother Moderator and dear Brethren:

I would offer the following as my report: my labors have been mostly with the two churches over which I have the honor to preside; therefore I feel under obligations to state the manner in which I have spent the year. In September last I was called to the pastorate of Salem Church, at Wood River, and on the 2nd Lord's day in November we commenced a protracted meeting, which lasted three weeks, during which time fifteen or sixteen souls were happily converted to God. Baptized into the fellowship of Salem Church—14, also I baptized 1 at Piasa Church, and two at Antioch, Decatur whole number baptized 17. In addition to the above, I have preached three funeral sermons, administered the Lord's Supper four times, having preached some 60 sermons more or less, travelled six hundred miles. In December last

I was taken sick, which sickness continued three months; at length, through the kind mercy of God, I was restored to health. At the regular meeting of Piasa Church in April last, I was chosen as their pastor for one year; I have attended regularly ever since. I sincerely desire your prayers in my behalf, that I may be more abundantly blessed with the riches of the kingdom of grace.

I am, dear brethren, yours in Christ.

J. H. MAGEE.

I beg leave to offer the following, in compliance with the commission given me to collect funds for the erection of Piasa and Salem Churches. Received as follows:

1st Colored Baptist Church of St Louis.....	\$3,00
2nd Colored Baptist Church of St Louis.....	45,00
Antioch Church of Brooklyn.....	6,70
Springfield Church of Springfield, Ill.....	14,00
Individuals of Springfield.....	5,00
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	\$73,70
Traveling expenses.....	7,30
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Amount delivered to the two Churches.....	66,40

FOR PIASA CHURCH ONLY.

Presbyterian Church of Shipman.....	\$17,80
Dr. Tribue donated.....	6,00
Mrs. G. L. Merewether.....	1,00
Mr. E. Arnold.....	2,00
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Total.....	\$26,80

Yours for the cause of Christ.

J. H. MAGEE.

REPORT OF ELDER W. W. STEWART.

Brother Moderator and dear Brethren:

In common with the rest of my brethren—the clergymen, allow me to submit the following as my report. During the past year my labors have been principally with the Union Church of the City of Alton, of which I have charge. During my labor as her pastor, God has greatly revived his people, and many were brought to a saving knowledge. In addition to my pastoral charge I have visited 14 Churches, preached 110 sermons, baptised 15, attended the burial of 12, preached 6 funeral sermons, administered the Lord's Supper three times, and travelled 650 miles. Dear brethren, I have done what little I could in the cause of Christ, but I hope to do more in the name of our Master the ensuing year. I am your humble servant and fellow laborer in the cause of Christ.

W. W. STEWART.

REPORT OF ELDER J. HOUSTON.

Dear Brethren :—This is my small report that I wish to submit to you. I have done but little in the great field of labor. My labor has been confined to the States of Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin. I have travelled over four thousand five hundred miles, visited 12 churches, preached 61 sermons outside of my charge, administered the Lord's Supper 3 times, grand total of sermons preached 140, baptized 38, administered the Lord's Supper 6 times all told during the past year. I feel that I have done but little for Him who has done so much for me. Pray that I may be more useful in the vineyard of the Lord. Brethren, let us pray that the Lord would send more laborers into the great mission field. Give largely of your means to help the poor suffering sons and daughters of Africa. Let us preach and practise our Lord's gospel that sinners may have life everlasting. I am

Your Brother and fellow laborer,

J. HOUSTON.

REPORT OF ELDER THOS. DANA.

Dear Bro. Moderator and dear Brethren :

In common with the rest of my Bro. ministers I beg leave to submit the following as my report for the year ending August 1st, 1863. During the past year I have travelled 3,000 miles in the mission field, for which I received by contributions the sum of \$200, preached 200 sermons, administered the Lord's Supper 20 times, labored in protracted meeting with 20 different churches, during which times I visited a great number of families. Thus dear brethren, I did what I thought it was my duty to do, and yet I am an unprofitable servant.

Yours in behalf of the cause of Christ.

THOS. DANA.

REPORT OF ELDER E. S. WOODSON.

Bro. Moderator and Brethren :

I have done but little the past year; traveled 3,000 miles, preached 38 sermons, visited 200 families for religious instruction, received by contributions \$21.00. I hope to do more this year.

Yours in Christ,

E. S. WOODSON.

REPORT OF ELDER J. F. BOULDEN OF ST. LOUIS, MO.

Dear Brethren of the Association :

I am sorry to inform you that circumstances, over which I have no control, will prevent me from meeting with you this year, to take part in your deliberations, for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. But I can assure you that my interest for your welfare is none the less, and my earnest prayer is, that God may be with you, and guide you in the way, and that this sitting of your honorable body may be of great benefit to the churches represented, and great credit to yourselves. I hope that the

good news coming up from the different churches may cheer your hearts, and give you renewed vigor to labor on another year.

I have been called to pass through severe affliction of body and mind, since removing my family to the West, two members of it have been removed by death, I do not feel to murmur, but rather to say like Job, "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Pray for me, brethren, for I am,

Your Brother in Christ,

J. F. BOULDEN.

REPORT OF ELDER JOHN ANDERSON.

My dear Brethren :—I have done but little outside of my little charge, but God has blessed me greatly in my little Zion. During the last year many were converted to God. Remember me in your supplications. I am, dear brethren,

Yours for Christ and his Cause,

JOHN ANDERSON.

THE DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Thursday, Aug. 18th, at 11 o'clock A. M., the introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. W. Sewart from Ephesus, 5:1 and 2, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children," &c., followed by Elder J. H. Magee. There was a feeling manifested on the part of the hearers that prefigured the glorious manifestation of God's Holy Spirit in our midst, during our session.

Thursday, at 3 o'clock P. M., Elder H. Bailor preached from 1st John 3:1, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we are called the sons of God," &c., followed by P. S. Breeden. The meeting was one of some interest.

Thursday, at 8 o'clock P. M., Elder J. H. Magee preached from Job 19:25, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the Earth;" followed by Elder John Livingston. He showed great ability in the exposition of the subject, which was nourished by the heavenly gales of gospel grace, and many hearts were made to rejoice in the hope of the first resurrection.

Friday, at 11 o'clock A. M., Elder Samuel Livingston preached from Jer. 8:22, "Is there no balm in Gilead? is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?" followed by Elder G. Brent. This was a very good meeting.

Friday, at 3 o'clock P. M., Elder R. M. Duling preached from Ezekial 33:11, "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked," &c., followed by Elder Wm Troy. This was a meeting of special interest on the part of seeking souls.

Friday, at 8 o'clock P. M., Elder R. D. Baptiste preached

from Isaiah 28 : 16, "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation ; he that believeth shall not make haste;" followed by Elder Wm. Troy. This was a meeting long to be remembered.

Saturday, at 11 o'clock A. M., Elder John Anderson preached from Romans 8 : 3, "For what the Law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his son," &c., followed by Elder John Livingston. Had quite an interesting meeting.

Saturday, at 3 o'clock P. M., Elder J. Houston preached a missionary discourse from Mark 16 : 15, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," followed by Elder Wm. Troy. This was a meeting that invited the attention of the hearers to the great object of missions.

Saturday, at 8 o'clock P. M., Elder Thos Dana preached from John 3 : 16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life;" followed by Elder E. S. Woodson.

This was a discourse delivered with great energy, and it was listened to with marked attention by the entire congregation.

Sunday, at 11 o'clock A. M., Elders Wm Troy and E. S. Woodson preached the funeral sermon of Elder J. R. Anderson deceased, from Psalms 37 : 37, "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright ; for the end of that man is peace." This was one of the most able discourses ever delivered in our Association. It was beautifully elucidated throughout, and it will not soon be forgotten.

Sunday, at 3 o'clock P. M., Elders John Anderson and John Livingston preached the funeral discourse of Elder J. H. John deceased, from St John 11 : 11, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth," &c. This was a subject that engaged the attention of the entire congregation. For the deceased was one who was universally loved as a faithful minister of the Gospel.

Sunday, at 8 o'clock P. M., Elder R. D. Baptiste preached in the Methodist Church, from Col. 3 : 3, "For ye are dead ; and your life is hid with Christ in God," followed by Elder Wm. Troy. This sermon met with many hearty responses from the congregation.

Sunday, at 8 O'clock P. M., Elder W. W. Stewart preached in the Baptist Church, from Rev. 1 : 10, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet ;" followed by Elder J. H. Magee.

This discourse was delivered to a large multitude of people; the house was filled to its utmost capacity, and the yard, and windows were thronged with hearers, all of whom were eager to catch a portion of the sacred word as it was being delivered.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF DECORUM.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1st. This Association shall be called the Association of Colored Brethren of the Baptist Church of Christ, and Friends to Humanity, in Illinois.

Art. 2. The Association shall consist of ministers and delegates; ministers by virtue of their office, delegates by delegated authority from the churches to which they belong.

Art. 3. The Officers of the Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, all to be chosen annually by the Association.

Art. 4. The Annual Association in the district to be held at such time and place as may have been previously appointed.

Art. 5. The Annual Association shall possess authority to adopt all such measures as may be considered best calculated to promote the prosperity of the general union, and advance the Redeemer's Kingdom; to advise and consult on all methods which the churches may at any time present, to receive and drop from its union; but no legislative authority whatever, is by said Association, to be exercised over its Churches.

Art. 6. The Constitution may be amended at any regular Association, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present—notice having been given at a previous Association.

RULES OF DECORUM.

DUTIES OF THE MODERATOR.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside at the Annual Association during its session, enforce its rules, preserve order, reprove any improprieties, decide on points of order, except appeal is made by the Association, by at least two members; have a right to call a member to the Chair, and speak on all subjects, and to examine and correct Minutes.

DUTIES OF THE CLERK.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of the proceedings of the meeting, and at the close of the meeting to hand over to the Recording Secretary a copy of said proceedings.

DUTIES OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to receive and take care of all papers, books, &c., belonging to the Association, to receive communications addressed to the body during its recess, and lay them before the Association, and to be its organ of correspondence in communicating such information as may be called for by individuals or religious bodies.

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to inform each church, through its delegates, or otherwise, what its proportional expense may be for the printing of the Minutes, Circulars, &c., and to urge punctual payment of the same; to note the same charged to each church, what amount is due, and what churches have not their accounts, and what are in arrears, and report the same to the Annual Association.

DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the members of the Association: 1st, to open and close by prayer; 2nd, each member shall have the liberty to speak twice on any one subject, and no more, except liberty be granted by the meeting; 3d, each member, when attempting to speak, shall rise from his seat and in a Scriptural manner address the Association, not wandering from the subject, nor taking advantage of the mistakes of any one who has previously spoken; 4th, no member shall leave the meeting during business, without permission. Strict silence shall be observed during a public speech.

Sec. 6. Any person willingly and knowingly violating either the Constitution, or Rules of Decorum, shall be reprov'd, as the Association may see proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH AND COVENANT.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

Article 1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were written by men, under the influence of Divine Inspiration, and contain a perfect treasure of instruction from God, to guide unto knowledge and practice of the Divine will, and that they reveal the criterion by which all human creeds and actions shall be tried.

OF THE TRUE GOD.

Art. 2. That there is one and only true and living God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who is a spirit holy, just, merciful unchangeable, almighty and omniscient, worthy of our supreme love, adoration and praise.

OF THE TRINITY.

Art 3. That God is revealed in the Scriptures, as existing in

three personal distinctions, the Father, the Son, the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, constituting the one true and living God.

OF MAN.

Art. 4. That God created man holy, and that by his own voluntary transgression, he became a sinner. That mankind are now destitute of holiness, possessed of a sinful nature, given to unholy gratification and the service of Satan, and are exposed to the eternal displeasure of their Maker.

OF SALVATION.

Art. 5. That God, of his own free and sovereign grace, has opened a way of salvation from sin, through Jesus Christ, who, taking upon himself human nature, and laying down his life in our behalf, rendered to the divine law such satisfaction that God may now be just in justifying every one that believeth in Jesus. That Jesus Christ, having risen from the dead, and ascended to the right hand of the majesty on high, as our Mediator, is able to save to the uttermost, all that come to God by him; that through the atonement, salvation is freely offered to all men.

OF REGENERATION.

Art. 6. That in order to enjoy the benefits of Christ's death, in the gift of eternal life, we must be regenerated, or born again. That regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the heart, and is effected by the Holy Spirit, in such a way as to secure our voluntary obedience to the laws of Christ. The evidences of regeneration are the fruit of the Spirit evinced in the temper and conduct.

OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.

Art. 7. That God, according to his own good pleasure, determined to save from the ruins of the fall, a seed who should be to the praise of the glory of His grace. That He effects his gracious purpose by regenerating and saving his people, whom he foreknew, the means being embraced in the purpose. That this doctrine produces humility, encourages to diligence to make our calling sure. That it does not interfere with the free agency of man, nor with the willingness of God to accept every true penitent.

OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS.

Art. 8. That such only, are truly born of God, as continue to the end of life. That a persevering attachment to the gospel is the grand distinction between the truly regenerated and superficial religionist; the children of God being preserved by his favor through faith unto salvation.

OF THE END OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

Art. 9. That there will, at the last day, be a resurrection of the just and unjust. That all shall be assembled before the judgment

seat of Christ, and receive, from him a righteous sentence, according to what each has done; the wicked doomed to everlasting punishment, and the righteous received into eternal life.

OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.

Art. 10. That a gospel church is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant, for the purpose of maintaining the worship of God, the preaching of His word, and the administration of the ordinances appointed by Christ, and to observe all his laws. That, subject to the laws of Christ, each church has authority to receive and discipline its own members, and choose its officers. That its only officers are bishops and deacons, whose qualifications, duties and claims are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

OF BAPTISM.

Art. 11. That christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is a solemn and expressive emblem of the believers, of faith in the Savior, crucified, buried and risen, and is a sacred engagement to walk henceforth in newness of life.

Art. 12. That the Lord's Supper is an institution of Christ, given to the church, by which, such as have been baptized and continued steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and in fellowship, are to commemorate the dying love of Jesus Christ.

OF THE LORD'S DAY.

Art. 13. That the first day of the week, or the Lord's day, is to be observed as the christian Sabbath, by abstaining from secular employment and recreations, and by a devout use of all the means of grace, in private and public, as preparatory to an everlasting rest in heaven.

C O V E N A N T.

Having been, as we humbly trust, by the grace of God, brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, and to give ourselves wholly to Him, we do now solemnly covenant with each other, to walk together in love, according to his new commandment.

We, therefore, in his strength, engage that we will, as members of the body of Christ, exercise a mutual care of each other, to promote the growth of the whole body in christian knowledge, holiness benevolence, zeal and comfort.

That to promote and secure this knowledge, we will maintain the public worship of God, and the ordinances of his house; and that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together in the name of Jesus.

That, according to our ability, we will cheerfully contribute of our property, to relieve the needy, to send the gospel to the destitute, and to maintain a faithful ministration of God's word among ourselves.

That we will faithfully and constantly observe closet and family religion, and endeavor to bring up those under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

That we will walk circumspectly and honestly in the world, abstaining from sinful amusements, and vain conversation, and from the use of intoxicating drinks, and traffic in them as a beverage ; and that we will not provide them as an article of entertainment, or for those in our employ ; and that in all suitable ways we will discourage their use throughout the community. That we will discountenance all oppression of our fellow men, and the withholding of just wages among ourselves and others, as far as our influence may extend.

That we will frequently exhort, if occasion shall require, and admonish one another, in the spirit of meekness, according to Matthew, 18th chapter.

And may the God of Peace cause our peace to abound through faith in Christ, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, preserving us from evil, that we may abound in every good word and work, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord ; to whom be praise, forever and ever. *Amen.*

APPENDIX.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES, PASTORS, AND POST OFFICES.	DELEGATES.	BAPTIZED.	REC'D BY LETTER.		DISM. BY LETTER.		RESTORED.	EXCLUDED.	DIED.	WHOLE NUMBER.	MONEY FOR MIN. UTES.
Union, Eld. W. W. Stewart, Alton, Ill. - -	Eld. W. W. Stewart.	15	19	1	2	1	3	61	\$2.00		
Mt. Emory, Eld. A. W. Jackson, Jacksonv, e, Ill. - - - - -	Wm. Swan, B. Henderson, J. Buckner. A. W. Jackson.	0	0	0	0	2	2	45	1.50		
Springfield, Elder J. Houston, Springfield, Ill. - - - - -	J. Houston, L. A. Coleman, Dea. Yates.	30	9	0	1	4	3	79	2.00		
Bethel, Eld. Thos. Reasoner, Belleville, Ill. - - - - -	Eld. E. S. Woodson, Dea. Chas. Pitman.	1	4	1	1	8	1	30	1.50		
Salem, Eld. J. H. Magee, Upper Alton, Ill. - - - - -	El. J. H. Magee, L. P. Johnson, D. Houston.	14	2	0	3	2	3	61	2.00		
Piasa, Eld. J. H. Magee, Piasa, Ill. - - - - -	Eld. J. H. Magee, Dea. John Samuels. - -	1	0	0	0	2	0	32	2.00		
Antioch, Eld. John Anderson, Brooklyn, Ill. - - - - -	Eld. John Anderson.	10	0	1	0	0	1	33	1.50		
Olivet, Eld. Richard De Baptiste, Chicago, Ill. - - - - -	Eld. R. DeBaptiste.	61	60	10	7	4	5	213	2.00		
Antioch, No Pastor, Decatur Ill. - - - - -	Jesse Smith. - - -	5	4	0	0	0	0	13	1.50		
Mt. Olive, No Pastor, Jerseyville, Ill. - - - - -	P. S. Breeden. - -	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.50		
Racine, No Pastor, Racine, Wisconsin. - - - - -	Eld. J. Houston. - -	7	2	1	0	0	0	20	1.00		
	Total, - - - - -	145	100	14	14	23	18	600	\$18.50		