

286.175
G296uni
1853

D'Antignac
20.00

MINUTES

OF THE

UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

Liberty Meeting-House, Pike Co., Ga.,

ON THE

TENTH, TWELFTH & THIRTEENTH DAYS OF

SEPTEMBER,

1853.

GRIFFIN, GA.

J. H. LOGAN & CO., PRINTERS.

1853.

MINUTES.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by brother E. J. ROGERS, from Philippians, 1st chapter, 27th verse: "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ, &c."

1st. The body being organized, read letters from the Churches, and minuted their state.

2d Invited visiting brethren to seats with us. (Brother H. G. Rees sat with us during our session.)

3d. Chose brother T. B. COOPER, Moderator, and W. H. C. DODSON, Clerk.

4th. Called for Correspondence. Received a letter from the Chattahoochee U. B. Association by her delegates, brothers D. J. Apperson and Jas. Hartsfield

5th. Committees: *On Preaching*—From the Church, bros. Jonathan Davis and James Waller; from the body, W. D. Grace, J. L. White and J. Dingler.

On Business—Bros. T. B. Cooper, J. Davis, J. C. R. Lockhart, L. Leach and W. H. C. Dodson.

On Finance—Bros. E. J. Rogers, A. J. Ruffin and J. L. Youngblood.

On Correspondence—John Davis, W. D. Grace and L. Leach.

On the death of Church Members—T. B. Cooper, J. C. R. Lockhart and Dodson.

6th. Adjourned to Monday morning, 8 1-2 o'clock. Prayer by brother J. C. R. Lockhart.

On Sunday brother D. J. Apperson preached, we trust, to Good effect.

MONDAY MORNING, 8 1-2 O'CLOCK.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother L. Leach.

1st. Called the names of delegates.

2d. Received the report of the committee on business.

3d. Read the decorum.

4th. Called for the Circular. The brother appointed last year not being present, brother W. D. Grace was appointed to prepare one.

5th. Called on our agents in the book concern ; heard a verbal report from them, and directed them to continue to act as they may judge best.

6th. Called on brother Grace for his report from the Highwassee Association. He reported a failure on his part.

7th. Received and adopted the report of the Executive Committee. *Appendix A.*

8th. Received and adopted the report of the Financial Committee. *Appendix B.*

9th. Received and adopted the report of the Corresponding Committee. *Appendix C.*

10th. Received and adopted the report of the committee on the death of Church Members. *Appendix D.*

11th. Received and adopted the Circular Letter prepared by brother Grace. *Appendix E.*

12th. Added to our Executive Committee, John Dingler, J. F. Raley and A. Woodham; brother Lockhart released.

13th. We recommend to each church to take up a public collection during the year to purchase books for their ministers from our book agents.

14th. The committee appointed to visit Pleasant Hill Church to enquire into her standing, report favorably, at this time—the church having been restored to order and prosperity.

15th. Appointed our next Association to be held at Mt. Zion meeting house, Talbot county, 8 miles south Double Bridges, on Flint River, on Saturday before the second Sunday in Sep. 1854.

16th. Appointed, brother L. Leach to preach the introductory sermon, brother T. B. Cooper the missionary sermon on Sunday, and brother S. J. Smith to write the Circular.

17th. Appointed T. B. Cooper, J. C. R. Lockhart, W. D. Grace, A. J. Ruffin, E. J. Rogers, correspondents to the Chattahoochee U. B. Association, to meet at Providence meeting house, Muscogee county, Geo., on Saturday before the 3d Sunday in October, 1853. Dodson to write the corresponding letter.

18th. Received and read a letter from W. Jarrell, and directed the Clerk to answer it.

19th. Appointed a Minister's and Deacon's meeting at Pleasant Hill, Upson co., on Thursday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1854.

20th. Adjourned to Tuesday morning 8 1-2 o'clock. Prayer by brother Lockhart.

TUESDAY MORNING, 8 1-2 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother H. G. Rees.

1st. Appointed Cooper, Leach and Dodson to visit the Churches at Corinth, Providence and Bethel, (in Talbot,) to enquire into their standing, and report at our next Association.

2d. We recommend our churches to change their time of choosing their Preachers to the end of the year.

3d. The delegates subscribed fifteen dollars to aid Mt. Pleasant church in sustaining brother A. J. Ruffin, as their Pastor.

4th. To make public the disorder of Asa Robinson, excluded from Bethel Church, Pike county, Geo.

5th. Ordered the Clerk to have 400 copies of these minutes printed, and that he have the amount sent up for Associational purposes for his services.

6th. *Resolved*, that the thanks of this body be tendered to the brethren and friends of this vicinity, for their hospitality to us during our stay.

7th. Adjourned. Prayer by brother J. C. R. Lockhart.

W. H. C. DODSON, Clerk. T. B. COOPER, Moderator.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The United Baptist Association, to the Chattahoochee United Baptist Association, with whom she Corresponds :

DEAR BRETHREN : Through the kindness of our Heavenly Father, we have been again permitted to meet, and receive your letter and delegates ; and truly may we say, the Lord is good to us, in sending us his many mercies to refresh us. The brethren D. J. Apperson and J. Hartsfield, were with us to our profit, and we hope our brethren may be so with you. Visit us and pray for us, that the Lord may increase us more and more in every grace.

W. H. C. DODSON, Clk.

T. B. COOPER, Mod.

APPENDIX.

A

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee beg leave to report as follows :

Paid bro. L. Leach,	\$25 00
In the hands of bro. W. D. Grace,	4 75
In the hands of bro. John Davis,	3 50
Sent up from the Churches,	5 50

Total, \$38 75

We, your Committee, employ bro. J. C. R. Lockhart Colporteur for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN DAVIS, Ch'n.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

B

We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows :

For Minutes,	\$16 75
For Associational purposes,	6 80

Total, \$23 55

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. RUFFIN, Ch'n.

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING COMMITTEE.

C

Your Committee recommend the Association to continue correspondence with the Chattahoochee U. B. Association.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN DAVIS, Ch'n.

Report of the Committee on the death of Church Members.

D

Whereas, it hath pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from among us, our beloved brother, JOHN BUFFINGTON, we bow with reverence to our Father's will; yet we remember his fidelity as a United Baptist, as being one of the first in the reformation among the Baptist in Georgia, and in a good old age falling at his post in the same cause. For many years he filled the office of a Deacon well.

Respectfully submitted,

T. B. COOPER, Ch'n.

E

**CIRCULAR LETTER.
CHURCH POLICY.**

The Church of Jesus Christ sometimes adopts a policy with the hope of securing its prosperity, that is ruinous in its consequences. It costs more than the Church is able or ought to be willing to pay. It comes at the expense of truth and righteousness. It comes from the world and not from Christ. It comes not from heaven, but from earth—not from the great head of the Church, but from Balaam, Jehu and Demas, etc.—Not from the cross of Christ, but from Caesar, Herod and Pilot. Its motto is accommodation, harmony, conscience, liberty, &c., &c., but its work is confusion, mildew and death. It is averse to the spirit of Religion—a dangerous tampering with the fidelity of the Church; such as if persisted in, will sink it into a mere secular organization.—But there is a more excellent way for a Church to pursue. Inquire first for the New Testament policy. Let your enquiry be what is right before God, and when found, let it be your supreme law—applying it in all your movements. Strive for such harmony as flows from the teaching and spirit of Jesus, and be well assured that any other Church harmony is delusive. Use every kind, conciliatory and truly christian measure to win the confidence and aid of those around you. But sooner let your right hand wither and your tongue lose its office, than to begin a course of false accommodation, and expect to prosper in it. If, acting on such principles, the Church cannot live, then let it die, and you had better die with it.

There is a short method by which you may destroy a church, and one by which you may be the means of building up a church. If you wish to destroy a church, cease to act like christians, abandon its prayer meetings, its conferences, its communions and its discipline ; forsake the closet, violate the spirit of religion in your families, cease to love your brethren, prefer your recreations, your friendship and your intercourses in life with the enemies of the cross of Christ ; indulge in all earthly tempers, be obstinate in your backslidings, have no care for the souls of men, be reckless in the use of the tongue ; take no heed to your example and influences, be patronisers and partakers of the cup of devils, join hands with those whose joy it would be to circumvent and crush the church, and take away all rebuke of their sins ; Practice such and similar things and get the church to countenance them, and you need not fear but that the church will speedily be destroyed.

But if you wish to build up the church in the faith of Christ, be christians indeed, act as men of God, fulfill your baptismal vows ; let your religion control your pleasures, your profits and your politics, and not these your religion ; take the Bible for your manual of life, often visit calvary, cherish enlarged christian sympathies ; be patient, watchful, generous, just and self-denying ; think much of poor lost sinners, especially of those around you, bringing them as much as possible under the means of grace by christian kindness ; be interested for yourselves and families, in the Sabbath School, the Missionary, Bible, Tract, and Temperance Societies, with all other benevolent institutions calculated to ameliorate the condition of suffering humanity ; think much of the cross of Christ, and Christ enthroned, of sin, of holiness, of life, of death and of eternity. Finally, walk humbly with God, drink deep from the wells of salvation ; live in love, resist the devil and all his agents, trust not in man whose breath is in his nostrils but rest your reliance on the purpose, grace and faithfulness of God ; continue in doing these things and nothing can harm you, neither the prince of the powers of darkness in his own place, nor all his agencies on earth can harm you ; do these things and you shall never fall. Amen.

Names of Churches, Counties, Clerks and Post Offices.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICES.
Armagedon,	Pike,	Boling Harris,	Zebulon.
Liberty,	"	John Davis,	Griffin.
Fairview,	"	John Dinger,	Drewrysville.
Bethel,	"	B. Harper,	Zebulon.
Friendship,	Taylor,	W. D. Grace,	Daviston.
Damascus,	"	W. W. Pope,	Butler,
Mt. Pleasant,	Newton,	T. J. Hays,	Starrsville.
Mt. Zion,	Talbot,	H. Alsobrooks,	Mt. Zion.
Pleasant Hill	Upson,	F. M. Calhoun,	Zebulon.
Corinth,	"	U. Daniel,	Butler.
Providence,	"	R. Moore,	Thomaston.
Bethel,	Talbot,	A. B. Tomme,	Hall's shop.

Names of Ordained Ministers and Post Office.

NAMES.	POST OFFICES.	COUNTIES.
T. B. Cooper,	Zebulon,	Pike.
J. C. R. Lockhart,	Butler,	Taylor.
E. J. Rogers,	Daviston,	Talbot.
L. Leach,	Drewrysville,	Pike.
R. H. Daniel,	Butler,	Taylor.
A. J. Ruffin,	Pleasant Hill,	Talbot.
W. H. C. Dodson,	Griffin,	Spalding,

LICENTIATES.

J. E. Roper, J. L. Youngblood, G. Hays, T. Lawson.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

Names of Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS. Licentiates in *italics*.
Absentees marked thus.*

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Rec'd by Experience	By voc'r & con. faith	Received by Letter,	Restored,	Dismissed by Letter,	Excluded,	Dead,	Number of Members.	Domestic Missions & Association Funds,	Contribution for Minutes,	Days of Meeting,
Armeddon,	Pike,	John Newel, Noah Wilkinson,	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	31	401	55	1
Liberty,	"	John Davis, Jonathan Davis, W H C Donson,	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	39	502	50	3
Fairview,	"	John Dingle, John Akhn, L LEACH, J L Youngblood,	31	1	4	1	3	1	0	85	003	00	2
Bethel,	"	F Kent, B Harper,* T B COOPER,	18	2	2	0	3	13	0	26	501	50	1
Friendship,	Taylor,	W D Grace, J W Ellis, J C R LOCKHART, F Lawson, E J Roper,	4	0	2	2	0	1	0	48	502	50	1
Damascus,	"	W W Pope, R Davis, G Hays, A M Rhodes,	4	0	3	0	2	0	0	42	501	50	2
Mt. Pleasant,	Newton,	M H Hays,* T J Hays,	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	23	00	65	3
Mount Zion,	Talbot,	J L White, J F Raley, A J RUFFIN,	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	46	502	00	3
Pleasant Hill,	Upsou,	A Woodham, W Waller, E J ROGERS,	3	2	4	0	0	5	0	29	501	50	4
Corinth,	"	(Not represented) Minutes 1852,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	00	00	0
Providence,	"	" " " "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	00	00	0
Bethel,	"	" " " "	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	00	00	0

Recapitulation.—Received by Experience 65; Rec'd by Letter 15; By Voucher and Confession of Faith 5; Restored 3; Dismissed by Letter 24; Excluded 22; Dead 2; Total 411; Association Fund \$6,80; For Minutes \$16,50; Domestic Missions \$4,50.