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MINUTES

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OF THE

Fifty-seventh Annual Session

OF THE

Cumberland Association

HELD WITH THE

Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist
Church of Christ

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

SEPTMBER 25, 26, 27, 1937

OFFICERS

Elder Z. W. Hill	Moderator
Elder P. H. Weakley	Assistant Moderator
Elder D. A. Kimbro	Clerk
Elder H. Covington	Assistant Clerk
Brother A. A. Taylor	Treasurer

PROCEEDINGS

FIRST DAY—Morning Session

The Fifty-seventh Annual Session of the Cumberland Association was opened with song, "A Few More Years Shall Roll," by Brother Forest Hill who also offered prayer. Then the Moderator, Elder Hill, sang, "Come On My Brethren In The Lord," and Elder Sidney Dowie prayed. Elder Weakley, the Assistant Moderator sang, "I Was A Wandering Sheep."

Elder Buntin was then introduced and preached the introductory sermon. His text was taken from Isaiah 26:16. He preached a soul-stirring sermon. A collection of \$9.00 was taken. The meeting was then adjourned for council.

Afternoon Session

The Council was called to order by the Moderator, Elder Hill, who sang, "On Jordah's Stormy Bank I Stand." Prayer was offered by Brother E. Floyd. We then proceeded to organize.

The following elections were made: Elder Z. W. Hill, Moderator; Elder P. H. Weakley, Assistant Moderator; Elder D. A. Kimbro, Clerk; Elder H. Covington, Assistant Clerk, and Brother A. A. Taylor, Treasurer. On motion it was agreed that the Moderator appoint all committees. Carried.

The following committees were appointed:

Committee on Correspondence—Elders R. H. Vaughter, D. C. Buntin, J. Elders, D. Butler and Brother W. Hollins.

Committee on Finance—Brothers A. Taylor, Wash Greene, E. Floyd, J. Atkinson, E. Willis, H. Trimble, Will Pruitt, D. Jennings, F. Hill, W. Donaver, W. Hollins, S. H. Hunter, D. Butler and H. Swanson.

Committee on Arrangements—Elders A. Foster, D. A. Kimbro, E. Braden, R. B. Beasley and W. Watkins.

The Committee on Correspondence made the following report: From Indian Creek, Elder W. M. Holman. From Friendship, Elder W. F. Knott.

The Committee on Arrangement made the following arrangements: Saturday night—Elders R. B. Beasley, Willie Watkins and Joe Elders.

Sunday morning at 10 A. M.—Elders R. Jordan, W. F. Knox and W. M. Holman.

Sunday evening at 2:30 P. M.—Elder Sidney Dowie and Elder Z. W. Hill.

Sunday night—Elders Braden, Covington, Foster and Vaughter.

SATURDAY NIGHT

The devotional service was opened with song by Brother Forest Hill and prayer by Bro. Dan Jennings. The Moderator read for the scripture lesson, Isaiah 40, and sang, "Firmly I Stand on Zion's Hill."

Elder Beasley sang, "The Day Is Past and Gone" and chose for his text, St. John 4:29. He preached a wonderful sermon.

After Elder Hill sang, "Come All My Brethren In The Lord," Elder Joe Elders was introduced. He sang, "A Few More Years Shall Roll" and preached from Jonah 3:2. After this sermon the Moderator sang, "God Is Going To Trouble the Water."

Next, Elder Watkins preached from Matthew 28:19. Everyone enjoyed the three sermons.

An offering of \$6.00 was taken. The meeting was adjourned until Sunday morning.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session

Sunday, September 26, 1937.

The meeting was opened with song and prayer. The Assistant Moderator, Elder Weakley, read a Scripture lesson from Psalm 137. Then Brother George Braden sang, "I Wish I Had My Mother Here." Prayer was offered by Brother Roy Ellis.

While a collection of \$20.69 was being raised, selections were sung by Elder Kimbro's choir.

Before the speaker was introduced, Brother Howard Gaines rendered a beautiful solo entitled, "A Better Home."

Elder Z. W. Hill sang, "Come All My Brethren In The Lord" and introduced Elder Knott, the messenger from Friendship Association. He sang, "I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say," and preached from Acts 20:28. Many hearts rejoiced as he preached.

Elder R. Jordan was then introduced and sang, "Grace 'Tis A Charming Sound." He preached a very interesting sermon from Nehemiah 2:7.

After this sermon, Elder Holden from Indian Creek Association preached a soul-stirring sermon from St. John 1:1.

We then adjourned for a twenty minute recess.

SUNDAY—Evening Session

The services were opened with song and prayer by Brother Floyd. Elder Hill's choir sang, while a collection of \$16.10 was being raised.

After this, Elder Sidney Dowie preached a wonderful sermon from Revelation 2:10.

Elder Hill sang, "God Did Not Dread To Undertake" and preached an instructive sermon from Isaiah 40:13, 14.

We then adjourned until Sunday night.

SUNDAY—Night Session

The services were opened with song and prayer by Brother Henry Patrick. The Moderator read the 90th Psalm.

A collection of \$8.04 was taken. Elder Hill's choir sang beautiful selections.

Elder Earl Braden was introduced. He sang, "Must I Be To Judgment Brought?" and chose for his text, Ephesians 2:5.

Elder H. Covington sang, "Dark Was the Night" and preached from John 4:28. He was followed by Elder Foster who sang, "How Can I Sink With Such A Prop?" He preached a wonderful sermon from St. Luke 4:20.

Next, Elder Vaughter sang, "O, That I Knew Some Secret Place." He preached from Solomon 5:3. Many hearts were made to rejoice from these great sermons.

We were dismissed until Monday morning at the house for business.

THIRD DAY—Monday Morning, September 27

The house was called to order by the Moderator, Elder Z. W. Hill.

The devotion was conducted by Elder J. Elders who sang, "Amazing Grace How Sweet The Sound" and offered prayer. Then the Moderator sang, "Lord, Teach Me How To Pray" and made some remarks.

The Scripture lesson was read by Elder D. A. Kimbro. He read Matthew 23.

The letters of the various churches were called for. During the receiving of the letters the question came up as to the receiving of the letters from the churches with Elder Bedford as pastor. During this, it was discovered that he was a member of Green Grove church which had not represented in two years. On motion it was agreed that these letters, except Stones River, were not to be received. All the other letters of the churches were received. One petitionary letter, from Little Bethel, was received and adopted. Elder J. Elders is the pastor.

The letters from the corresponding associations were called for and received. One from Friendship Association by its messenger, Elder Knott. One from Indian Creek Association by its messenger, Elder Holman. Then the messengers and elders were given the right hand of fellowship.

The different committees were called for and made their report.

The Committee on Arrangement made the report that all appointments were filled but Elder Holman's and Elder Foster's appointments were changed for convenience.

The Committee on Finance made the following report:

Received from churches	\$ 137.95
Received from congregation	70.78
Received from Treasurer	5.70

Total\$ 213.43

Expense of the Association

For rent of tent.....	\$ 40.00
Printing of Minutes	16.00
Moderator	30.00
Assistant Moderator	15.00
Clerk	25.00
Assistant Clerk	15.00
Treasurer	4.00
Ice	2.00

Total\$ 141.00

Expenditures

Elder D. A. Kimbro for representing.....	\$ 6.00
Elder R. Vaughter for representing.....	8.00

Elder Knott -----	\$ 4.00
Elder Holman -----	2.00
Elder Kimbro's pianist -----	2.00
Elder Hill's pianist -----	3.00
Sister Dossie Batey -----	1.00
Sister Sophia Hayes -----	1.00
Brother A. Jones -----	1.00
Brother Ben Collier -----	1.00
Brother Ed. Nelson -----	1.00
Elder Hill -----	5.00
Elder Dowie -----	2.00
Elder Buntin -----	2.00
Elder Jordan -----	2.00
Elder Foster -----	2.00
Elder Braden -----	2.00
Elder Vaughter -----	2.00
Elder Elders -----	\$ 2.00
Elder Watkins -----	2.00
Elder Beasley -----	2.00
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Total -----	\$ 53.00
Balance in Treasury -----	

The following were selected to bear letters to the sister associations: To Friendship, Elder A. Foster; To Indian Creek, Elder Z. W. Hill.

On motion it was agreed that every elder was asked to register and pay \$2.50; licensed preachers, \$1.50; and deacons, \$1.00. This was done in order to raise the treasury to help retired elders.

A union meeting was asked to be held at Little Zion. It is to start Saturday before the Third Sunday in July. Elder H. Covington is to conduct the meeting.

On motion by Elder Hill, and seconded by Elder Buntin, the Association will be held at Hill's Tabernacle at Nashville, Tennessee, to convene on Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1938. Elder Watkins to preach the introductory sermon and Elder R. B. Beasley will alternate.

Heartfelt thanks was extended to the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist church and its friends for their hospitality shown while the Association convened in Murfreesboro.

The Moderator and Clerk were empowered to wind up any unfinished business and to look after things hastily done.

We adjourned to meet with the Hill's Tabernacle Primitive Baptist church at Nashville, Tennessee.

After the Association adjourned, Elder Bedford came to Elder Hill and the Elders and Deacons of Cumberland. He, Elder Bedford, agreed to come back to Cumberland regardless to the differences. He stated that he would travel with Cumberland and the churches that he pastored were received into the Association.

ELDER Z. W. HILL, Moderator.

ELDER P. H. WEAKLEY, Assistant Moderator.

ELDER D. A. KIMBRO, Clerk.

ELDER H. COVINGTON, Assistant Clerk.

DEACON A. A. TAYLOR, Treasurer.

ROLL OF ELDERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

- Elder A. M. Bedford, Eagleville, Tennessee, R. R. No. 1, Box 29.
- Elder D. A. Kimbro, 505 S. Highland Avenue, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
- Elder H. Covington, 1229 First Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder P. H. Weakley, 1904 Cartwright St., Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder Z. W. Hill, 1308 South Street, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder R. H. Vaughter, 1616 14th Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder E. A. Braden, 303 11th Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder A. Foster, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder Willie Watkins, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder Jo. S. Elders, Heiman Street, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder D. E. Buntin, 5136 South Parkway, Chicago, Illinois.
- Elder Z. H. Cheatham, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder R. Beasley, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder T. Butler, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Elder H. Bedford, Eagleville, Tennessee, R. 1, Box 29.

ROLL OF LICENTIATES

Brothers C. Mason, S. Armstrong, Joe McCary, S. A. Anderson, G. Knight.

ROLL OF DEAD ELDERS

Elders W. M. Clayton, T. E. Crawley, D. Childress, D. D. McNary, H. Howse, W. M. Scott, C. Childress, K. Lillard, T. E. Blackman, R. Webb, H. Kimbro, Joe Hays, D. Gooch, M. M. Williams, H. Huddleston, J. W. Baty, John Crawley, Men Lawrence, L. Mason, E. Walker.

FORM OF LETTER

We the Churches of Christ of the Primitive Order of Baptists at _____ met in council on the _____ finding ourselves in peace and in full fellowship. We chose our beloved brethren _____ our messengers to bear this epistle of love to you whom we hope you will receive and grant a seat with you in your Godly council. Any favor shown them will be appreciated by us. Dear brethren, we pray that you may have a glorious session and the Holy Spirit will guide you and the dove of peace may hover over you. Pray for us. Since the last Association, received by baptism _____ by letter _____ dismissed _____ by letter _____ restored _____ excluded _____ dead _____ total _____ Meeting day _____ Contribution \$ _____ Pastor _____ Clerk _____

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Cumberland Association of the Primitive Order of Baptists.

Article 2. As an Association is a body formed for the purpose of

obtaining a more general acquaintance with the state of the churches, maintaining a friendly intercourse with each other, giving advice in cases of difficulty, etc., this Association shall therefore exercise no authority over the several churches of which it is composed, but shall regard them as entirely independent; give full credit to their act, and never pass any censure or animadversion thereof.

Article 3. The churches belonging to this Association shall be such as hold the following doctrines, viz: The unity of God; the existence of three equal powers in the Godhead, the just condemnation and total depravity of all mankind by the fall of our first parents; personal and unconditional election of Christ before the foundation of the world; the proper divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ that is, he is the true elect only; the Lord's Supper, a privilege peculiar to baptized believers regularly admitted to the church fellowship; the resurrection of the body (shall at the last day such of the saints as are found alive shall not sleep, but be changed and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies and none other, although with different qualifications which shall be united again to their souls forever; the bodies of the unjust shall by the power of Christ be raised to dishonor;—the bodies of the just by His Spirit unto honor and be made conformable to His own glorious body;) the general judgment, the final happiness of the saints and the misery of the wicked alike interminable, the obligations of every intelligent creature to love God supremely, to believe what God says and practice what God commands; and the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the only complete and infallible rule of faith and practice.

Article 4. Any church desiring to be received into this Association shall make application by letter and give an explicit and satisfactory declaration of her faith and practice; and any church departing from the article of faith expressed in this Constitution, shall be excluded from the privileges of the Association.

Article 5. Each church in this Association shall be entitled to represent herself by these messengers, on producing evidence of their appointment, and it is expected that each church will send a letter to the Association containing the names of the messengers, her number baptized, received, restored, dismissed by letter, excluded, deceased and number belonging to her communion.

Article 6. The Officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, a Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen annually by ballot, and continue in office until after a new election.

Article 7. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the Association during its session, to preserve order, and propose questions and announce decisions, but except on questions of order he shall never speak himself, unless he orders some other member to fill the chair for the time, and then he shall be governed by the same rules and restrictions as other members.

Article 8. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true minute of all the proceedings of the Association, and prepare the same for publication as the Association shall direct.

Article 9. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep charge of

moneys of the Association, to pay the same, or any part thereof, at all times, on the order of the Association which order shall always be furnished him in writing signed by the clerk; to keep an account of all receipts and disbursements, and present it annually for the examination of the Association.

Article 10. Alterations and amendments to this Constitution may be made by majority of the Association whenever they may deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in only one true and living God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rules of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world.

4. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.

5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and power.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by imputed righteousness of Christ.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

8. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the washing of saints' feet are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and true believers are the subject and that the only mode of baptism is immersion.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment.

11. We believe in the punishment of the wicked and that the joys of the righteous shall be eternal.

12. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as are regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of hands of the Presbytery.

13. We believe that none but regular baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Moderator shall fill the chair and preserve order in the Association, which shall be opened and closed by prayer, either by himself or some brother.

2. The privileges and authority of the Moderator shall be respected by all members; yet he shall not be arbitrary in exercising them. He shall decide questions of order and property, but from this decision an appeal, if seconded, may be made to the Association, and the decision of the Association shall be binding on all parties.

3. The Moderator shall vote in no case unless the Association be equally divided, then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall have

the same privilege of speaking as other members providing he calls some other member of the body to the chair.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator. He shall not be interrupted unless he departs from his subject or makes use of personal reflection. He shall not speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association, unless to explain what has not been understood or misrepresented.

5. No member shall vacate his seat without leave of the Moderator.

6. When a question is taken up after allowing time for deliberation, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association, either by yeas or nays, *vivi, voci*, or requiring those in the affirmative to rise from their seats, and if necessary, those in the negative also. The Moderator shall announce his decision before he resumes his seat.

7. Motions and amendments to motions, if seconded, must be considered unless withdrawn. The usual order of deliberative bodies shall be observed in disposing of them by the Association.

8. The list of names of delegates shall be called over and the Constitution and Rules of Decorum, or any part thereof read as often as the Association may direct.

9. The clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates, record the proceedings of the body, and discharge such other duties as the Association may direct.

10. Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and the Clerk before the Association rises.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	NAMES OF MESSENGERS	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Restored	Excluded	Dead	Total	Contribution	Meeting Day	PASTORS
St. Luke.....	A. Taylor, E. Hyde, Felix Claybrooks, Will Pruitt.....	5	1	1	1	---	3	100	\$25.00	4	H. Covington
Mt. Zion.....	H. Tremble, E. W. Willis, J. Brown, G. McAdams.....	4	1	1	---	---	2	150	20.00	2	D. A. Kimbro
Green Grove.....	J. Martin, B. Miller.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	75	---	4	A. M. Bedford
Cedar Grove.....	J. Wallace, H. Doak, H. Haynes.....	---	---	---	---	---	1	40	4.00	3	A. M. Bedford
Ebenezer.....	W. L. Harlins, S. H. Hunter.....	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	A. M. Bedford
Ash Grove.....	Joe Davis, J. Preston.....	4	---	---	---	---	1	57	6.25	4	E. Braden
Shady Grove.....	A. Jones, L. T. Jones.....	1	---	---	---	---	1	35	5.00	1	Z. W. Hill
Antioch.....	D. A. Kimbro.....	1	---	2	---	---	1	32	5.00	1	D. A. Kimbro
Rocky Fork.....	R. B. Beasley.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	12	1.70	2	R. Beasley
St. Peter.....	P. H. Weakley, P. Buchanan.....	3	---	---	---	---	---	23	4.00	3	P. H. Weakley
Stones River.....	D. Butler, A. King.....	1	---	---	---	---	---	15	3.50	1	A. M. Bedford
Mt. Gilead.....	Henderson Randolph, Manuel Bell.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	30	3.00	3	Z. H. Cheatham
Hill's Tabernacle.....	W. Dunevant, F. Hill, Wash Green, J. Atkinson.....	25	4	4	2	---	4	338	40.00	2	Z. W. Hill
Little Zion.....	E. Floyd, J. Keith.....	1	1	---	---	---	2	21	7.75	3	R. H. Vaughter
Braden's Chapel.....	G. Samuel, R. Ellis, A. Swanson.....	4	---	3	---	---	---	37	3.00	3	E. Braden
Foster's Chapel.....	D. Jennings.....	1	1	3	---	---	---	32	6.75	2	A. Foster
Zion's Hill.....	D. C. Buntin.....	1	---	---	---	---	---	14	2.75	1	D. C. Buntin
Little Bethel.....	H. W. Webster.....	2	2	---	---	---	---	5	1.25	1	J. S. Elders