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**MINUTES**

OF THE  
*Colored*

**Fifty-eighth Annual Session**

OF THE

**Cumberland Association**

HELD WITH THE

**Hill's Tabernacle Primitive Baptist  
Church of Christ**

**Nashville, Tennessee**

SEPTMBER 24, 25, 26, 1938

**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-eighth Annual Session of the Cumberland Association was called to order by Elder P. H. Weakley who read for a scripture lesson 133rd Psalm. Devotion was conducted by Deacon Trimble who sang "O For a Closer Walk With God." Prayers were offered by Deacon George Samuel and Deacon Preston. Deacon Atkinson sang "The Days Are Past And Gone" and offered prayer.

The Moderator introduced Elder W. M. Watkins who preached the introductory sermon. He sang "Dressed in My Gospel Uniform," and preached a soul-stirring sermon from this text: Behold I lift up my hand to the Gentiles and set my standard for the people. Isaiah 49:22.

Elder Hill sang "On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand," after which Elder Bedford made some remarks.

A collection of \$13.00 was taken. We then adjourned to meet at the house of business.

## Afternoon Session

The Council was called to order by the Moderator, Elder Hill, who sang "And must I Be to Judgment Brought?" Prayer was offered by Elder A. M. Bedford. The Moderator sang "Lord, Teach Me How to Pray." 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. Brother A. A. Taylor, Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees:

Committee on Correspondence—Elders Z. H. Cheatham, E. Braden, D. Buntin, W. Watkins and T. Butler.

Committee on Finance—Brothers A. Taylor, J. Preston, E. Floyd, W. Donevant, P. Buchanan, J. Malone, J. Carpenter, D. Jennings, W. L. Hollins, J. Martin, R. Miller, J. Atkinson, M. Mosley, G. Sumlar.

Committee on Arrangements—Elders A. M. Bedford, Z. W. Hill, R. A. Wright, A. Starnes, P. H. Weakley and Z. Bostic.

The Committee on Arrangements made the following:

Saturday night at the stand at 7:30, Elders D. Buntin, R. Jordan and W. Anderson.

Sunday morning at 10:00 a. m., Elders C. Johnson, A. Foster and Z. Bostic.

Sunday evening at 3:00 p. m., Elders A. M. Bedford, R. Owen and Z. W. Hill.

Sunday night at 7:30 p. m., Elders R. A. Wright, D. A. Kimbro and E. Braden.

The following registered Saturday with their fees.

Paid \$2.50 each: Elders Z. W. Hill, P. H. Weakley, D. Buntin, Joe Elders, A. M. Bedford, H. Bedford, D. A. Kimbro, H. Covington, T. Butler, Z. Cheatham.

Paid \$1.50, each: Elders A. Foster, E. Braden.

Paid \$1.00 each: Deacons L. T. Jones, A. A. Taylor, Claybrookes Pruitt, P. Buchanan, Odom, Webster, D. Jennings, G. Sumlar, W. Hollins, Hall, E. Floyd, J. Malone, Martin, Miller, A. Jones, A. King, B. Collier, D. Greene, M. Mosley, W. Donevant. Progressive Link, \$2.00.

After the enrollment of the Messengers, the Association extended an invitation for new memberships. The following were received: Elders Z. Bostic, E. J. Starnes, R. Wright and W. Anderson.

The Council then adjourned until Monday morning at 8 a. m.

#### Night Session

The devotional service was opened with song and prayer by Brother Floyd. Elder P. H. Weakley read as a scripture lesson Isaiah 40th chapter after which the choir sang "Amazing Grace." Elder Buntin sang "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say," and preached a wonderful sermon.

Elder R. Jordan preached an instructive sermon from Matthew 17:27. Elder W. Anderson preached an inspiring sermon from Isaiah 40:13. These sermons caused many hearts to rejoice.

A collection of \$14.26 was taken. Hill's Tabernacle choirs rendered selections and solos which were enjoyed. We adjourned to meet Sunday morning at 10:00 a. m.

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#### SECOND DAY—Morning Session

The meeting was called to order by Elder Weakley. Deacon Nelson sang "Lord, Teach Me How to Pray" and Deacon J. Malone prayed. Elder Weakley read the scripture lesson from Psalm 90, then Elder Johnson was introduced. He preached a soul-stirring sermon from Jer. 18:2. After his sermon the Moderator sang, "I Promised the Lord That I Would Hold Out."

Then a collection of \$32.15 was taken. Selections were given by Hill's Tabernacle choirs and Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist choir of Murfreesboro. A duet was rendered by Elder Buntin's members from Chicago.

Elder A. Foster sang "On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand." His interesting sermon was taken from St. Luke 23:4. The Moderator then sang, "Come All My Brethren in the Lord" and introduced Elder Z. Bostic who sang "Jerusalem My Happy Home" and preached a great sermon, using for his text Daniel 4:3. After a few remarks from the Moderator we adjourned for a twenty minute recess.

#### Afternoon Session

The house was called to order by the Moderator, Elder Hill. Deacon Martin sang and offered prayer. Then Deacon Gaines sang. The finance committee raised an offering of \$6.72. Hill's Tabernacle choir gave enjoyable selections.

Elder Owen from Chicago River Association was introduced. He sang "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds." He chose for his text Isaiah 35:8. Many hearts were made to rejoice by his great sermon.

Elder A. M. Bedford preached a soul-stirring sermon next, using for his subject, "Christian Education." Then the Moderator sang "Death May Dissolve My Body Now" and made some interesting remarks. We adjourned until night service at 7:30 p. m.

#### Night Session

The service was opened by Deacon J. Atkinson who sang "And Am I Born to Die?" Deacon R. L. Mitchell prayed. Song and prayer were next offered by Deacon G. S. Braden.

The Assistant Moderator, Elder Weakley, read a scripture lesson from Psalm 1. An offering of \$26.15 was raised. Hill's Tabernacle choir gave selections. After this, Elder R. Wright was introduced. He sang "Amazing Grace." He preached a wonderful sermon, choosing for his text Revelation 1:3. He was followed by Elder Kimbro who preached a very instructive sermon from John 17:20:21. After these great sermons we adjourned to meet in council on Monday morning at 8:00 a. m.

### THIRD DAY—Morning Session

The house was called to order by the Moderator, Elder Hill. After the song, "My Heart Within Me Mourns," Elder E. Braden offered prayer. Scripture lesson was read from Isaiah 28. Fines from late members were collected. The letters of the different churches were called for and received. A petitionary letter was offered from Mt. Paran. It was accepted. One was offered by Elder H. Bedford. It was received. Next, Correspondence was called for. The committee made its report. It was received and discharged.

### COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

Committee on Arrangements was called for, made its report, received and discharged.

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Committee on Finance was called for. The following report was received :

From churches .....	\$ 138.25
From congregations .....	96.75
From Treasury .....	11.43
Registration Fees .....	46.00
From Progressive Link .....	2.00
Fines .....	5.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 299.43</b>

#### Expenses

Rent of tent .....	\$ 70.00
Printing of Minutes .....	16.00
Moderator .....	35.00
Assistant Moderator .....	15.00
Clerk .....	25.00
Assistant Clerk .....	15.00
Treasurer .....	5.00
.....	2.70
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 187.70</b>

#### Expenditures

Elder Foster for representing .....	\$ 6.00
Elder Hill for representing .....	15.00
Elder Johnson .....	4.00

Elder Owens .....	\$ 6.00
Widows .....	2.00
Elder H. Bedford .....	2.00
Elder J. S. Elders .....	2.00
Elder W. Watkins .....	2.00
Elder W. Anderson .....	2.00
Elder J. H. Vaughter .....	2.00
Elder A. Foster .....	2.00
Elder Z. Cheatham .....	2.00
Elder Z. Bostic .....	2.00
Elder J. Starnes .....	2.00
Elder E. Braden .....	2.00
Elder T. Butler .....	2.00
Elder R. Wright .....	2.00
Elder Buntin .....	2.00
Elder R. Beasley .....	2.00
Deacon B. Collier .....	2.00
Deacon E. D. Nelson .....	1.00
Finance Committee .....	14.00
Elder Crenshaw .....	10.00
Sanctified Church .....	2.00
Water .....	1.00
Little Zion Church .....	5.00
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Total .....	\$ 97.00
Balance in Treasury .....	17.08

#### UNION MEETINGS

The following union meetings are to be held:

At Anderson Chapel on the third Sunday in April, attended by Elder Hill.

At Braden Tabernacle on the third Sunday in June, attended by Elder Kimbro.

At Mt. Gilead on the fourth Sunday in May, attended by Elder Anderson.

At Ash Grove on the fourth Sunday in July, attended by Elder Bostic.

#### Next Session

On motion it was agreed that we hold our next session of the Cumberland Association with the St. Luke Primitive Baptist church, beginning on Saturday, September 23, 1939. Elder A. M. Bedford is to preach the introductory sermon with Elder E. Braden as alternate.

Messengers to Association: To Friendship, Elder H. Bedford. To Chicago River, Elder A. M. Bedford.

On motion it was agreed that heartfelt thanks be extended to Hill's Tabernacle church and its friends for their hospitality shown while the Association convened in Nashville, also to the pastor and members of Seay's Chapel who allowed us the use of their church.

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 St. Luke Primitive Baptist church at Nashville, Tenn.

- (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. Vaught, 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.
- Elder G. Knight.
- Elder Lee.

ROLL OF LICENTIATES

Brothers C. Mason, S. Armstrong, Joe McCary, S. A. Anderson, S. L. House.

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. Goch, 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.....

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Contribution \$ .....  
 Pastor .....  
 Clerk .....

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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, D. Caruthers, W. Fruit, F. Claybrooks, P. Johnson	3			1		2	100	\$25.00	4	H. Covington
Mt. Zion	Green Sumler	1			1		2	125	20.00	2	D. A. Kimbro
Green Grove	Joe Martin, Robert Miller, A. M. Bedford	3						78	9.25	4	A. M. Bedford
Cedar Grove	A. M. Bedford, H. Haynes, J. W. Miller, A. M. Bedford							65	3.00	3	A. Bedford
Ebenezer	W. L. Hollins, Joe Hollins, S. H. Hunter						1	39	3.00	2	A. Braden
Ash Grove	Joe Davis, Dave Cross							60	6.00	4	E. Braden
Shady Grove	Joe Jones, Will Jones, A. Jones	2						33	5.00	1	Z. W. Hill
Antioch	D. A. Kimbro	1						33	4.00	1	D. Kimbro
Rocky Fork	R. B. Beasley							13	2.00	2	R. Beasley
St. Peter	P. Buchanan, P. H. Weakley	5						30	4.00	2	P. Weakley
Stones River	A. King, Joe King, D. Butler	1						27	4.50	1	A. Bedford
Mt. Gillead	H. Randolph, J. Crawford				1			29	2.50	3	Z. A. Cheatham
Hill's Tabernacle	J. Atkinson, J. Carpenter, J. Preston, W. Donevant	20	1		4	9	5	334	40.00	2	Z. W. Hill
Little Zion	James Keith, J. Wilkinson, R. H. Vaughter	1	1	3	3	16	1	16	2.00	2	E. Braden
Braden Tabernacle	Roy Ellis, Ollie Howse, G. S. Braden	5						65	7.00	2	E. Braden
Foster's Chapel	D. Jennings				1	7		16	4.00	2	R. A. Wright
Zion's Hill	D. C. Runnin							9	2.25	2	D. C. Runnin
Little Bethel	H. W. Webster, J. S. Elders		4					5	1.00	3	J. Elders
Bethlehem	A. Patton, E. Bedford							19	4.75	3	J. Elders
Mt. Parson	J. Malone, E. Floyd, J. Odorn, A. Hall							15	3.75	1	W. M. Anderson
Anderson Chapel	W. M. Anderson	2	1					12		2	W. M. Anderson
Alexander	W. M. Anderson					2		12			