

PROCEEDINGS
ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

JUDSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

BEULAH CHURCH, HENRY COUNTY, ^{Ala} ~~ALABAMA~~.

Commencing October 4, A. D. 1868.

OFFICERS:

L. R. SIMS, MODERATOR.

JAMES R. MORRIS, CLERK.

Memphis:

SOUTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1868.

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PROCEEDINGS

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HELD WITH THE

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Commencing October 4, A.D. 1868:

OFFICERS:

L. R. SIMS, MODERATOR.

JAMES R. MORRIS, CLERK.

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PROCEEDINGS.

SABBATH, October 4, 1868.

The Judson Baptist Association convened for its Eighteenth Annual Session, with the Beulah Church, Henry county. At ten o'clock the delegates assembled in the house, and the body called to order by Brother L. R. Sims, former Moderator, and James R. Morris, former Clerk.

The letters of the churches composing the Association were called for and read.

The Association then proceeded to elect permanent officers to the body, which resulted in the election of Elder L. R. Sims, Moderator, and James R. Morris, Clerk.

On motion, petitionary letters were called for, when letters were presented from Bethlehem and Walnut Grove, requesting admission to this body, which were received; the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

Upon a call for correspondents, no one presenting themselves, the Moderator announced the following committees:

On Preaching—Brethren John T. Davis, J. J. Head, and delegates from Beulah.

On Documents—Brethren A. L. Martin, E. H. Thomas, F. E. Stringer.

On Nomination—Brethren N. Pace, H. G. Peterman, G. T. Roberts.

On Decease of Ministers—Brethren J. M. Poyner, Wesley Williams, T. L. Granberry.

On Finance—Brethren E. H. Thomas, J. V. Dennard, M. V. Capps.

On Sabbath-schools—Brethren J. R. Morris, J. J. Head, Z. Knowles.

Association adjourned for preaching, to meet again at three o'clock p.m. Preaching at the stand by Elder L. R. Sims, at the house by Elder Z. Knowles.

SABBATH, THREE O'CLOCK, P.M.

Prayer by Elder W. Williams. Upon motion, it was resolved to grant a letter of dismission to Rocky Hill Church.

The committees not being ready to report, and there being no other business, the following brethren were appointed correspondents to sister Associations.

NEWTON—Brethren L. R. Sims, A. L. Martin, J. M. Poyner and J. Mendheim.

EUFALA—Brethren L. R. Sims, E. H. Thomas, J. R. Morris.

WEST FLORIDA—Brother Wesley Williams.

Upon motion, adjourned until Monday morning nine o'clock.

MONDAY MORNING, NINE O'CLOCK.

Singing, prayer by Brother James R. Morris.

Called the roll and made necessary corrections.

Report of Executive Committee was called for, read and adopted.

[Appendix A.]

Report of Committee on Decease of Ministers was called for, read and adopted. [Appendix B.]

Report of Committee on Sabbath-schools was called for, read and adopted. [Appendix C.]

Report of Committee on Documents was called for, read and adopted. [Appendix D.]

Report of Committee on Nominations was called for, read and adopted. [Appendix E.]

Report of Committee on Finance was called for, read and adopted. [Appendix F.]

Report of Treasurer adopted. [Appendix G.]

On motion, it was resolved that a committee be appointed to devise some plan whereby we might co-operate with the several Associations around us in forming a General Association. Upon which, a committee was appointed, consisting of Brethren John T. Davis, A. L. Martin, D. Whiddon, Nat Pace and E. H. Thomas. The committee then reported as follows:

WHEREAS, We, as members of the Judson Baptist Association, feel the need of a united effort on the part of our Brethren of South-eastern Alabama and West Florida, in supplying the destitute with the Gospel; and,

WHEREAS, There is a motion to form a General Association, composed of delegates from the various Associations. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Association appoint ten delegates, whose duty it shall be to meet with the delegates from the several Associations at such time and place as may be designated by any one of them.

JOHN T. DAVIS, *Chairman*.

On motion, ten delegates were appointed to meet with the several Associations, consisting of Brethren L. R. Sims, A. L. Martin, D. Whiddon, J. R. Morris, Z. Knowles, J. M. Poyner, J. T. Davis, J. J. Head, N. Pace, Wesley Williams.

Upon motion, it was

Resolved, That we recommend the churches that have pastors to

call them in December instead of September, believing it would be to the mutual interest of the pastor and churches.

Upon motion, it was

Resolved, That the ministers composing this Association, or as many as will volunteer to go, be sent out two by two, each two occupying the space of two weeks, in the destitution.

Upon a call for volunteers the following brethren gave themselves to the work: L. R. Sims, Z. Knowles, D. Whiddon, J. R. Morris, E. M. Knowles, W. Williams, J. M. Poyner, S. J. Knowles, S. Hargroves.

A committee was then appointed, consisting of Brethren N. Pace, Etheridge and H. Davis, who made the following report, designating the month and the preachers who shall occupy the month:

For May—Brethren L. R. Sims and Z. Knowles.

For June—Brethren D. Whiddon and J. R. Morris.

For July—E. M. Knowles and W. Williams.

For August—J. M. Poyner and some volunteer.

For September—S. J. Knowles and S. Hargroves.

Upon motion of Brother J. J. Head, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the brethren and friends of this vicinity for their kindness and hospitalities toward us.

Upon motion, it was

Resolved, That five hundred copies of the minutes be printed, and the Clerk receive twenty-five dollars for his services.

After singing, and extending the parting hand by the delegates, the Association adjourned, to meet with Gordon church on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October next.

L. R. SIMS, *Moderator*.

JAMES R. MORRIS, *Clerk*.

NAMES OF MINISTERS.

ORDAINED.

L. R. Sims,	A. L. Martin,
James S. Parker,	Z. Knowles,
E. M. Knowles,	S. J. Knowles,
M. Bracken,	T. S. Scott,
B. Herndon,	D. Whiddon,
W. A. Cumbia,	J. M. Poyner,
J. Bradley,	S. Hargroves,
W. Williams.	

LICENTIATES.

Thos. N. Knowles,
W. H. Granberry,
E. H. Thomas,
J. R. Morris,
J. T. Hopkins,
Sampson Cox.

APPENDIX.

[A.]

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee report: Find that the Association, at its last session, employed Brethren Z. Knowles and J. M. Poyner to labor as missionaries in the destitute portions of the Association, and it appears, from the reports furnished by the brethren, that Brother J. M. Poyner filled two appointments and preached twice in the destitution, and that Brother Z. Knowles made two tours through the destitution, and preached at various points therein consuming two months, and the balance of the time was engaged in laboring in the churches, and we do recommend that Brother Z. Knowles be paid for his services \$66 66, and that Brother Poyner be paid \$33 33. All of which is respectfully submitted,

A. L. MARTIN, *Chairman.*

[B.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECEASE OF MINISTERS.

The Committee on Decease of Ministers report: After a careful inquiry, find that through a merciful and kind Providence, that all the ministry have been preserved through another year, and still stand upon the walls of Zion, to give the alarm and point sinners to the lamb of God. God will prosper his great work if we but give an earnest heed to it, and the destitution that is now in our land will be no more, and the word of truth will be heard throughout the length and breadth of our land. Let us pray, brethren, for more laborers in the vineyard, that our country may soon be blessed with a faithful and efficient ministry.

J. M. POYNER, *Chairman.*

[C.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sabbath-schools report: That we notice that the churches have not sent up reports regarding their Sabbath-schools, and we do most earnestly recommend that at the next Annual Session of this body, that Saturday night be set apart to hold a Sabbath-school Convention, and that the Superintendent of each Sabbath-school make out a report of the number of teachers, scholars and books on hand, to be read at this Convention. Let each one of us take this matter in hand, and soon may the cheering news come up that every one of our churches has a Sabbath-school, and the children of our country are receiving a Bible education. Work prayerfully, work earnestly, and God will prosper us.

JAS. R. MORRIS, *Chairman.*

[D.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

The Committee on Documents report: * We find a petition from Rocky Hill church for a letter of dismission, which we recommend be granted. Also, petitions from Gordon and Concord churches, that the next session of the body be held with them. We would recommend that the next session be held with the Gordon church.

Respectfully submitted,

A. L. MARTIN, *Chairman.*

[E.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

Committee on Nominations report that they have selected Elder A. L. Martin to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder J. M. Poyner alternate.

NAT PACE, *Chairman.*

[F.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The Committee on Finance report:

Amount received for Minutes.....	\$39 45
“ “ on pledges.....	139 55
“ “ W. H. Waid, by L. R. Sims.....	5 00
“ “ M. V. Capps.....	2 00
Total.....	186 00

We have examined the report of the Treasurer and find it correct.

E. H. THOMAS, *Chairman.*

[G.]

REPORT OF TREASURER.

JAS. R. MORRIS, TREASURER, *In account with Judson Association.*

	CR.	DR.
To Amount received of Finance Committee.....		\$62 70
By Amount paid for Minutes.....	41 35	
By Amount paid Clerk.....	20 00	61 35
Balance.....		1 35

JAS. R. MORRIS, *Treasurer.*

BALANCE DUE ON OLD PLEDGES.

Abbeville.....	\$23 00	Camp Spring.....	\$5 00
Sardis.....	10 00	Beulah.....	8 00
Shiloh.....	10 00	Ebenezer.....	5 00

NEW PLEDGES.

Adoniram.....	\$10 00	Bethlehem.....	\$2 00
Concord.....	10 00	Columbia.....	5 00
Gordon.....	10 00	New Hope.....	5 00
Judson.....	10 00	Oak Bower.....	5 00
Oakey Grove.....	10 00	Pleasant Grove.....	8 00
Pleasant Hill.....	5 00	Pleasant Plains.....	5 00
Shorterville.....	10 00	Sardis.....	5 00
Walnut Grove.....	3 00		

CONSTITUTION.

ART. I. This union shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of the Judson Baptist Association.

ART. II. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in union, in the following ratio: All churches composed of one hundred members and under, shall be allowed two messengers. Those having over one hundred, and not more than one hundred and fifty members, three messengers. Those having over one hundred and fifty and not more than two hundred members, four messengers; and so in gradation—one messenger for every fifty members, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by their churches, before they take their seats.

ART. III. The messengers, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the election of a Moderator and Clerk. These officers shall be chosen, by ballot, at each annual meeting, and continue in office until new ones are elected.

ART. IV. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all matters of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to her by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. She, nevertheless, claims authority over her own members, the messengers of the churches, and, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith, or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the churches united under this Constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Her principal business shall be to promote the glory of God, by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel, and other means in accordance with that gospel. To cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.

ART. V. Newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from other Associations, of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union on their sending up their messengers to an annual meeting with a petition, and by those messengers agreeing to the abstract of principles herewith published.

ART. VI. The churches of this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications specifying the names of the messengers, number in fellowship—baptized—received by letter—dismissed—excluded—restored and dead, since the last session; and all other information which the churches may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. VII. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the churches, and paid over through the Committee on Finance, to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present, annually, for insertion in the minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. VIII. This Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session.

ART. IX. This Association shall not take cognizance of any query sent up from the churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and failed. Nor of any difficulties between churches, unless they have pursued the direc-

tions contained in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them, then the Association shall take such matters into consideration, and act upon them at her discretion.

ART. X. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association, to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. XI. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper rules of decorum, which she is authorized to form, and amend, according to her own views.

ART. XII. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of this body, by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present, provided such alteration or amendment be approved by a majority of the churches.

DECORUM

1. Every query sent to the Association, by any church in this union, shall be read, and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated or not, and if there be a majority for it, shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn, *provided*, always, that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

2. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

3. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject in debate.

4. No person shall speak more than three times upon the same subject, without leave of the body.

5. No member shall abruptly break off or absent himself without leave of the body, and if he so does, he shall be marked as an absentee.

6. The names of the members of this Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the body may require.

7. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided the Chair be filled, but he shall not vote except the body be equally divided.

8. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular record of the proceedings of the body.

9. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the body rises.

10. Amendments may be made to this form of government by two-thirds of the members in session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. Of the Scriptures.

We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction. That it has God for its author—

Salvation for its end—and truth, without any mixture of error, for its motto. That it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and, therefore, it shall remain, to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

2. Of the true God.

That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of Father, Son and Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of Redemption.

3. Of the fall of man.

That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but, by voluntary transgression, fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God—wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and, therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

4. Of the way of salvation.

That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet, without sin, honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death, being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person, the tenderest sympathies, with divine perfections, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

5. Of justification.

That the great Gospel blessing which Christ of his fulness bestows on such as believe in him, is justification—that justification consists in the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness. That it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness. That it brings us into the most blessed state of peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. Of the freeness of salvation.

That the blessing of salvation is made free to all by the gospel—that it is the immediate duty of all to accept it by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

7. Of grace in regeneration.

That, in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again—that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel—that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

8. Of God's purpose in grace.

That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that, being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy. That it encourages the use of means in the highest degree. That it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel, a foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it in regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. Of the perseverance of the saints.

That such only are real believers as endure to the end. That persevering attachment to Christ, is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors. That a special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. Harmony of Law and Gospel.

That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good. And the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man, to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one of the great ends of the Gospel, and of the means of grace, connected with the establishment of the visible church.

11. Of a Gospel Church.

That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of Baptized believers, associated by covenant, in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word. That its only proper officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith, in a crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its purifying power; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of the church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate the dying love of Christ, preceded always by the solemn self-examination.

13. Of the Christian Sabbath.

That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14. Of Civil Government.

That Civil Government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

15. Of the Righteous and Wicked.

That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and wicked, and such only as are justified, through faith in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief, are, in his sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men, both in and after death.

16. Of the world to come.

That the end of this world is approaching—that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave, to final retribution. That a solemn separation will take place—that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy, and that judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

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