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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

Florida Baptist Association,

HELD AT

CONCORD, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLA.,

OCTOBER 17, 1867.

Tallahassee :
OFFICE OF THE SENTINEL

1867.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Names of Delegates enrolled.
3. Election of Moderator and Clerk.
4. Call for Correspondents.
5. Invite visiting Brethren to seats with us.
6. Appointment of Committees:
 1. On Preaching.
 2. On Sabbath Schools.
 3. On Missions.
 4. On Deceased Ministers and Deacons.
 5. On Finance.
7. Election of Delegates to State Convention.
8. Unfinished Business.
9. Call for Reports of Committees.
10. Election of Executive Committee.
11. Election of Treasurer.
12. Address by Agents, &c.
13. Appoint Correspondents.
14. Miscellaneous Business.
15. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

CONCORD, FLA., October 17, 1867.

The Florida Baptist Association convened with the Church at Concord, Gadsden Co., Fla. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder B. S. Fuller, from Mark 16 : 15, 16; after which an intermission of one hour was taken.

AFTERNOON.

Association met. Called Elder W. Blewett to the Chair. Called the roll of churches and enrolled delegates' names. Elder W. Blewett was elected Moderator, in the absence of the former Moderator; and Elder C. D. Campbell was elected Clerk. Elder J. Martin accepted a seat as a Correspondent from the Bowen Association.

Committees were appointed as follows :

On Preaching—Elder O. E. McKeown and Brethren W. A. Mann, N. T. Scott, R. Gatlin, and W. H. Scruggs.

On Sabbath Schools—Elder C. Smith and Brethren W. D. Mitchell, and J. D. Turner, Jr.

On Missions—Elder B. S. Fuller and Brethren D. M. Walker, and R. P. Green.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—Elder J. H. Campbell and Brethren Wm. Trussell, and Alex. Bowen.

On Finance—Brethren J. G. Dekle, W. P. McClamma, and S. Forrest.

A question arose as to whether the Association may appoint on Committees, brethren who are present but not regular members of the body, and after considerable discussion it was decided that it may not.

Committee on Preaching report Elder C. Smith to preach to-night; and Elder J. H. Campbell, to-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, to-morrow. Prayer by Elder C. Smith.

FRIDAY, October 18th, 1867.

9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Association met. Prayer by Elder J. Martin.

Roll of Churches was called, and Mt. Besor Church responded.

On motion, a Special Committee was appointed to consider and report on the following query, sent up by the Concord Church, Madison Co., Fla., viz:

Is it proper for Church Members to dance, or attend dancing parties, or allow them in their houses?

That Committee consists of Elder B. S. Fuller, Brother W. H. Scruggs and Brother S. Forrest.

Reports of Committees being called for

The Executive Committee report through Brother B. S. Fuller.

On motion, the name of Brother W. Blewett was attached to the Report as Chairman, *pro tem*.

After a few explanatory remarks from Elder Fuller, and some from Elder J. H. Campbell, expressing thanks to the Association for pecuniary assistance last year, the Report was adopted.

Elder B. S. Fuller proposed the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Moderator appoint a Committee of Three to report to this Body at an early hour, some plan by which our Union Meetings may be more regular and more efficient for good.

On motion, Brother Blewett was made Chairman of that Committee, who appointed Elders C. Smith and C. D. Campbell. Also,

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to report on the propriety of amending the Article of the Constitution which regulates representation in this Body; and if thought advisable to amend, to report a scale or basis of representation.

Adopted, and the Moderator appointed Elders J. H. Campbell, B. S. Fuller, and Brother J. G. Dekle on that Committee.

On motion, the Association adjourned for one hour.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Association met.

The following resolution was proposed by Brother B. S. Fuller, and adopted:

Resolved, That the Clerk have printed 500 copies of the Minutes; and that he distribute them to the Churches, strictly, according to the 8th Article of the Constitution.

Roll of Churches was called, and Mt. Elon responded.

Treasurer's Report was read and adopted.

The following was read and adopted:

Resolved, That the next Session of the Florida Association meet with Liberty Church, Grooverville, Ga., commencing its Session on Saturday before the 3d Lord's Day in October, 1868. Also,

Resolved, That the present Committee on Preaching report to this Association, Ministers who shall preach the Introductory and Missionary Sermons next year, and an alternate for each. Adopted.

The Executive Committee of last year was re-elected as follows:

Elders Cooper, Fuller, Blewett, Manning, and Brethren S. Forest, J. M. Marvin, and W. H. Scruggs.

On motion, Elder B. S. Fuller was re-elected Treasurer. Appointed the following correspondents: To the

Bowen Association.—Elders W. Blewett, J. H. Campbell, A. B. Campbell, and Brother W. D. Mitchell.

West Florida Association.—Elders O. E. McKeown, C. Smith, and C. D. Campbell.

The Amendment proposed by the last Association to the 21 Article of the Constitution was confirmed.

On motion, the Clerk was allowed \$30.00 for his services.

Resolved, That the members of this Association tender their thanks to the brethren and friends of this town and vicinity for the hospitality shown them. Adopted.

On motion, Brother C. Smith was appointed to write the Corresponding Letter.

On motion, the following Delegates to the Florida Baptist Convention were elected, viz:

Elders A. B. Campbell, B. S. Fuller, C. Smith, H. Z. Ardis, J. H. Campbell, O. E. McKeown, Wm. B. Cooper, C. D. Campbell, and Brethren E. E. Barelay, D. M. Walker, B. F. Wardlaw, W. D. Mitchell, N. T. Scott, and S. B. Thomas.

On motion, the following Committee was appointed on the course to be pursued toward colored members, to wit:

J. H. Campbell, D. M. Walker, W. A. Mann, and S. Forrest.

Preaching Committee report Elder B. S. Fuller to preach to-night, and Elder J. H. Campbell, to-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

Adjourned to 9½ o'clock to-morrow. Prayer by the Moderator.

OCTOBER, 19th, 1867.

9½ O'CLOCK, A. M.

Association met. Called to order. Prayer by Elder O. E. McKeown.

A motion prevailed that an opportunity be given to-morrow for special contribution to the support of Elder J. H. Campbell in his mission as State Evangelist, in connection with the collections to be taken up for Foreign and Domestic Missions.

The Corresponding Letter was read and adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was read, and after some discussion adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Missions, was read and adopted.

Preaching Committee report Elder O. E. McKeown to preach this afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

The Report of the Committee on Union Meetings, was read and adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Queries, was read and adopted.

On motion, it was determined that the collection to be taken up to-morrow, be equally divided between the Foreign and Domestic Boards of Missions.

On motion, the Associational Fund was committed to the Executive Committee to be disposed of as they shall deem best. Adjourned.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Association met.

The Report of the Committee on Finance, was read and adopted.

Leave of absence was granted to several members.

The Report of the Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, was read and adopted.

The Report of the Committee on Amendment to the Constitution, was read and adopted.

Preaching Committee report Brother J. Martin to preach to-night.

The Clerk was instructed to receive the collection to-morrow, owing to the absence of the Treasurer.

The Association then adjourned to meet as before mentioned.

(After the adjournment the Moderator, on consultation with brethren to carry out the recommendation of the Sunday School Committee, appointed the following brethren a Sunday School Board, to-wit: W. F. Cook, O. E. McKeown, R. F. Stubbs, N. T. Scott, and C. D. Campbell.)

SUNDAY.

The Word was preached to large and attentive congregations, it is hoped with much benefit. A collection was taken up for Foreign and Domestic Missions amounting to \$11.05. Besides this there was a special contribution of ——— to the support of Elder J. H. Campbell; and also \$5.00 to Foreign Missions.

The following brethren were reported to preach the Introductory and Missionary Sermons next year.

Introductory.—C. D. Campbell; alternate A. M. Manning.
Missionary.—H. Z. Ardis; alternate O. E. McKeown.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

To the Association, &c., in Correspondence with us, the Florida Baptist Association sendeth Christian Salutation:

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST: It is with unfeigned sorrow that we announce the fact that during our present Session, we have had the pleasure of the company and the benefit of the counsel of but one Correspondent from our Sister Associations. We had hoped to meet many of our brethren from various Associations, whom we love in the Lord, and to have held sweet counsel with them. But this has been denied us by your absence from our midst, and we do hope and ask that we may see many of your faces at our next Annual Meeting. God has been gracious to us during the past year by removing by death but few from our midst and in adding to some of the churches the saved. Brethren pray that the ensuing year may be remarkable for increased faithfulness on our part, and abundant blessings from our Father. May the Head of the Church bless your every effort to advance His cause upon earth, and may your souls prosper. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

LIST OF MINISTERS.

H. Z. Ardis, Madison, Fla.
W. Blewett, Thomasville, Ga.
G. W. Bostick, Sopchoppy, Fla.
A. B. Campbell, Thomasville, Ga.
C. D. Campbell, Quincy, Fla.
J. H. Campbell, Thomasville, Ga.
W. W. Childers, Tallahassee, Fla.
W. B. Cooper, Junction, Fla.
B. S. Fuller, Monticello, Fla.
W. H. Goldwire, Valdosta, Ga.

J. M. Gray, Thomasville, Ga.
W. H. Jordan, ———, ———
Jno. B. Lacy, Glasgow, Ga.
Robt. Levy, Tallahassee, Fla.
H. S. Linton, Monticello, Fla.
A. M. Manning, Monticello, Fla.
O. E. McKeown, Quincy, Fla.
J. J. Polhill, ———, ———
R. F. Stubbs, Quincy, Fla.
R. H. Shackelford, Monticello, Fla.

LICENTIATES.

W. S. Bevel, Sopchoppy, Fla.
W. F. Cook, Quincy, Fla.

T. W. Terrell, Duncanville, Ga.

W. BLEWETT, Moderator.

CHAS. D. CAMPBELL, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

Report of the Executive Committee.

BRETHREN: Your Executive Committee beg leave to submit the following Report:

Your Committee met immediately after the adjournment of the former Association to act upon a resolution which was adopted, dividing the Associational Fund between Elders J. H. Campbell, J. S. Baker, and J. B. Lacy, Ministers of the Association.

Your Committee resolved, in consequence of the services of Elder J. H. Campbell, to pay to him the sum of \$150.00; the balance (after paying expenses of publishing the Minutes) to be equally divided between Elders Baker and Lacy. And the Treasurer was instructed to carry out this action.

At a subsequent meeting held in Monticello on Friday before the 2d Sabbath in October, 1867, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted by your Committee:

WHEREAS, There are within the bounds of this Association Ministers who have spent most of their lives in the Master's cause, and by reason of infirmity and age are unable to make

a support for themselves and families, and now in their old age are probably in need of the necessities of life.

Therefore, your Committee would respectfully suggest to the Association the propriety of recommending to the churches composing it, to make special contributions for the support of these superannuated servants of Christ, and so designate in their church letters or otherwise.

And this Committee agree to urge upon the churches of which they are members, or have the ministerial care, the duty of aiding in the support of the aged and infirm servants of Christ, within the bounds of this Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. BLEWETT, Chairman *pro tem*.

Report on Sabbath Schools.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools with unavailing regret have to report but little increase of effort on the part of our denomination to secure the aid of these valuable auxiliaries, in advancing the cause of our Redeemer's Kingdom on earth. There seems to be an unaccountable apathy existing among the churches in reference to this subject. While other denominations with much less truth on their side, but far more zeal, are earnestly alive, and actively engaged in establishing and successfully prosecuting these nurseries of the church, we, who as a denomination have nothing to lose, but everything to gain by teaching the whole truth as it is revealed, are satisfied to stand by and see our children drawn under the influence of those societies whose teachings and principles, if they should become universal, would blot from the face of the earth Believer's Baptism. We are satisfied that our children, with their minds plastic for the mould, should receive religious impressions from teachers who are known to hold doctrines which we believe to be contrary to the truth, or permit them to attend so-called Union Schools, where the leading distinctive tenets of our churches are carefully avoid-

ed or ignored. Brethren, these things ought not so to be. Are not the churches, which acquiesce in this state of affairs, shamefully neglectful of this great privilege, and criminally derelict in discharging this sacred obligation to God, His Christ, and the youth entrusted to our care.

From the letters, and other sources, we learn there are nine Sabbath Schools in operation in our Associational limits, under the principal care of Baptists—three of which have been organized during the past year, by the efficient and energetic efforts of Brother W. F. Cook. Let every brother present at this Association go home and do likewise; and then the Committee on Sabbath Schools will have a pleasant task and not a painful duty to perform next year in preparing a Report.

It has been suggested by Brother Cook, to the Committee, that it recommend the appointment of a Sabbath School Board to whom shall be referred this interesting matter, and who shall devise such means as shall best promote the end desired to be accomplished.

C. SMITH, Chairman.

Report on Missions.

Your Committee feel somewhat embarrassed in presenting this Report, from the fact that as an Association we have done comparatively nothing in that department of christian labor; but we trust and believe that the Spirit of Missions still exist in our midst; and we yet believe that when our present political and financial calamities be overpast, we shall resume the great work of preaching the Gospel to every creature. As christians we cannot but feel that the obligation rests upon us to the extent of our ability—an obligation commensurate with the worth of the immortal soul—and in so far as we fail to come up to our obligation in this matter, in the same proportion we are recreant to the great trust and duty that Christ has enjoined upon us.

Your Committee report that the finances of the Associa-

tion forbid any extended effort in the home field, where at this time Missionary labor is so much needed. There never has been a time, during our associational existence, when faithful Missionary labor was more needed than at present.

We are grateful to know that the Rev. J. H. Campbell has become a resident within our bounds, and we regard him as a sound, able, and faithful minister of Jesus Christ; and as the Georgia Baptist Convention has recognized him as their Evangelist, and recommend him to the liberality of their churches in Georgia, we would also recommend him as an Evangelist and an aged minister of Christ to the liberality of the churches within our bounds, and we hope that the churches who have during the past year, or who may during the present year be blessed with his labors, will not forget that the laborer is worthy of his hire. And further, that this Association recognize his presence with us as an Evangelist, and take such measures in reference thereto, as they, in their wisdom, may deem proper.

In regard to Missions, generally, we are happy to state that the Foreign and Domestic Boards still hold a place in the hearts and affections of Southern Baptists, and are receiving as liberal support perhaps, (considering the crippled condition of our finances) as at any period of their existence. We most cordially extend to them our christian sympathy, and will, as far as in us lieth, grant them our material aid.

We would most earnestly appeal to the churches, through their ministers, to make more strenuous efforts to sustain Missions, both at home and abroad. We will recommend that some uniform system of contributing to these great objects be established, and carried out in all our churches.

E. S. FULLER, Chairman.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons.

The Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons report, that we have cause for gratitude to God that he has preserv-

ed the lives of all the ministers connected with the churches of this Body during the past associational year. Of the deacons, two have died, Brother Wm. Brooks, of Concord Church, Madison county, and Brother P. E. Love, of Thomasville Church. They were both good men, and having filled the office of a deacon well, they had purchased to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith. They died in peace, and we have strong confidence that their souls are at rest in Heaven.

J. H. CAMPBELL, Chairman.

Treasurer's Report.

Your Treasurer submits the following Report for the current year, 1867:

B. S. FULLER, Treasurer,

In account with the Florida Baptist Association, *Dr.*

Oct. 20th,	To cash by hand of W. B. Lacy, Agent	
	D. M. B., - - - - -	\$ 43.21
Oct. 20th,	To cash by collections on Sunday, - - -	32.30
" "	" " " " hand of Financial Committee, - - -	301.85
" "	" " " " unknown hand, - - - - -	10.00
" "	" " " " hand W. W. Keep for Jack-sonville, - - - - -	23.00
		<hr/>
		\$410.36

CONTRA.

Cr.

Oct. 20th,	By cash paid W. B. Lacy, Agent, &c.,	\$ 43.21
" "	" " " " W. W. Keep for Jack'ville, - - -	23.00
Dec. 1st,	" " " " J. H. Campbell, - - - - -	150.00
" 24th,	" " " " J. B. Lacy, - - - - -	47.00
1867	" " " " C. D. Campbell, - - - - -	141.00
		<hr/>
		\$404.21

In hand, - - - - - \$6.15

B. S. FULLER, Treasurer.

Financial Committee's Report.

The Committee on Finance report :

The amounts sent up by the churches are as follows :

Associational Fund, - - - - -	\$185.75
Minute Fund, - - - - -	53.00
Foreign Missions, - - - - -	10.00
Domestic Missions, - - - - -	5.00
Superannuated Ministers, - - - - -	5.00
J. B. Lacy, - - - - -	1.00
J. S. Baker, - - - - -	6.00
	<hr/>
	\$205.75

J. G. DEKLE, Chairman.

On Union Meetings.

Your Committee appointed on this subject recommend the following arrangement: That the Association be divided into three Districts—the first, to be composed of churches West of the Ockolockonce River, including Lake Jackson and Mt. Elon on the East side of said river—the second, to be composed of churches between the Ockolockonee and Aucilla Rivers, including Liberty and Summerhill Churches East of Aucilla—the third, to be composed of churches East of the Aucilla. This Association would earnestly recommend and urge upon the churches composing these Districts, the importance of sending messengers to the Union Meetings, to be held as follows:

In the 1st District, at Providence Church, on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in March, 1868.

In the Second, at Friendship Church, at the same time.

And in the Third, at Madison, and at the same time.

This Association would also suggest to the several Districts the importance of reviving that order of exercises which contributed so much to the interest of these meetings in years long past, before any questions of strife sprung up among us.

the causes of which we are happy to know have passed away, and no reason now exists to prevent the happiest harmony in the deliberations of Union Meetings.

W. BLEWETT, Chairman.

On Dancing.

Your Committee to whom was referred the query from the Concord Church (is it proper for church members to dance, or attend dancing parties, or allow them in their houses?) would say, *No*.

B. S. FULLER, Chairman.

On Colored Members.

The Committee appointed to suggest the proper course to be pursued by the churches toward their colored members, who may be refractory or disorderly, report :

That we recommend the following :

1st, That the principles of Gospel discipline make no distinction on account of race or color.

2d, That a wholesome and faithful discipline is necessary to the very existence of the churches.

3rd, That it is the duty of colored members to attend the stated appointments of the churches made for them, and if any neglect or refuse to do so, *after due notice*, the churches will be justified in relieving themselves of responsibility, by excluding them from their fellowship.

The Committee are pained to learn that many of the colored members are guilty of disorderly conduct, in what are ostensibly religious meetings, by engaging in "bodily exercises," and other things calculated to injure their own morals, to disturb the neighborhoods in which such meetings are held to late hours of the night, and to bring great dishonor on the cause of Christ. We recommend that such members be faithfully warned by the churches, and if they continue refractory, that they be promptly excluded.

J. H. CAMPBELL, Chairman.

On Amendment to the Constitution.

The Committee on Amendment to the Constitution recommend that in the 2d Art., after the words, "not to exceed two members from each church," for the first fifty, the following clause be inserted: "And an additional delegate for every twenty-five white members after the first fifty, and that the white membership of the churches alone shall be represented in this Association."

J. H. CAMPBELL, Chairman.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	POST OFFICES.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	BAPTIZED.	RECD BY LETTER.	RESTORED.	DISM BY LETTER.	EXCLUDED.	DEAD.	WHITES.	BLACKS.	TOTAL.	CONFIRMED.
Acklawhaw...	Quincy, Fla.		R. Gatlin, E. J. Rudd,*		6	2	0	0	7	2	38	142	17
Enon...	Tallahassee, Fla.		None.		0	0	1	2	1	46	104	150	11
Aucilla...	Monticello, Fla.	O. E. McKeown.	W. J. Mann, Alex. Bowen,		0	0	1	2	1	30	50	80	13
Concordia...	Concord, Fla.	Wm. H. Godwire.	J. A. Beatty,* S. P. Mays,		0	0	6	0	0	79	65	144	20
Concord...	Madison, Fla.	W. B. Cooper,	G. Scurry,* W. H. Scruggs,		0	0	0	0	0	65	43	108	2
Eber ezet...	Monticello, Fla.	W. Blewett.	None.		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Friendship...	Monticello, Fla.	W. W. Bostick,	S. Forrest, J. D. Turner, Jr.,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Harmony...	Monticello, Fla.	W. W. Bostick,	D. M. Walker, W. J. Carroll,*		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Hopewell...	Madison, Fla.	W. Blewett,	None.		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Indian Springs...	No. 2 Pen. & G. R. R., Fla.	W. Blewett,	S. Sills, H. C. Billingsly,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Lake Jackson...	Tallahassee, Fla.	O. E. McKeown.	Joiner,* G. Johnson,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Liberty...	No. 17 A. & G. R. R., Ga.	W. Blewett,	W. Blewett, C. D. Groover,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Madison...	Madison, Fla.	H. Z. Ardie,	H. Z. Ardie,* C. Smith,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Mt. Bezon...	Sopchoppy, Fla.		J. M. Revel, J. Harrel,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Mt. Elon...	Sopchoppy, Fla.		J. M. Revel, H. Anderson,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Monticello...	Monticello, Fla.		B. S. Fuller, J. M. Clarke,*		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
New Hope...	Thomasville, Fla.		J. S. Finkle, C. M. Powell,*		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Oak Grove...	Thomasville, Fla.		J. Geo. Dinkle, Jno. Pope,*		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Olive...	Monticello, Fla.		Geo. Hines, Jno. Pope,*		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Providence...	Quincy, Fla.		H. Moncrief,* A. M. Manning,*		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Pine Grove...	Madison, Fla.		R. P. Green, W. Trussell,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Pinhaloway...	Sandy Ford, Fla.		None.		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Quincy...	Quincy, Fla.	C. D. Campbell,	J. W. Posten, C. D. Campbell,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Sabbath...	Sandy Ford, Fla.	W. B. Cooper,	E. E. Barclay,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Summer Hill...	Thomasville, Ga.	A. B. Campbell,	W. P. McClamma, J. R. Evans,*		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Thomasville...	Thomasville, Ga.	A. B. Campbell,	W. D. Mitchell, W. J. Parnell,		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0
Valdosta...	Valdosta, Ga.		None.		0	0	0	0	0	31	4	35	0