

MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-sixth Annual Session

OF THE

Echeconnee Association

OF PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

Bethlehem Church, Bibb County, Georgia,

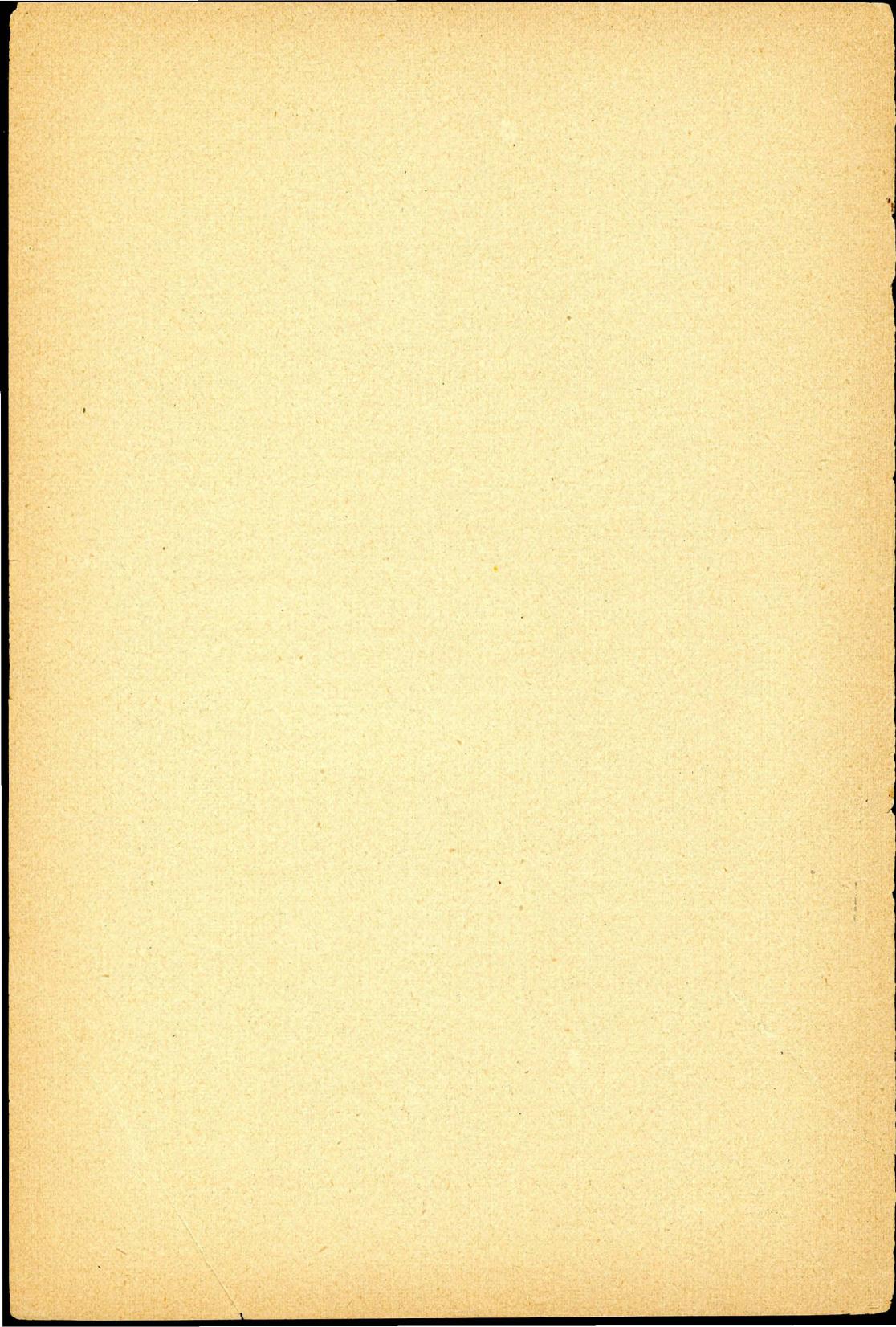
September 16th, 17th and 18th, 1904.

...OFFICERS...

Eld. W. W. CHILDS, Moderator,	-	-	-	Yatesville, Ga.
H. E. MURRAY, Clerk,	-	-	-	Fort Valley, Ga.

COLUMBUS, GA.:

THOS. GILBERT, PRINTER AND MAN'F'G STATIONER,
1904.



MINUTES.

The seventy-sixth annual session of the ECHECONNEE ASSOCIATION OF PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS was held with Bethlehem Church, Bibb county, Ga., September 16th, 17th and 18th, 1904.

1st. After prayer by Eld. D. M. Mathews, of the Yellow River Association, the Introductory Sermon was delivered by Eld. C. H. Anthony, of the Oconee Association. Text, John v. 25.

2d. Eld. W. W. Childs was elected Moderator for the purpose of temporary organization, and after prayer by Eld. J. T. Gardner, of the Pulaski Association, the letters sent up by the churches were called for and read, and the names of messengers enrolled.

3d. Proceeded to organize permanently by the election of a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the election of Eld. W. W. Childs Moderator and H. E. Murray Clerk.

4th. Appointed committees as follows:

On Preaching—J. S. McGee, W. R. Evans, W. J. Brown, T. M. Nash, J. W. Burkner.

On Contributions and to Distribute Corresponding Minutes—N. T. Dumas, W. B. Adams, J. S. McGee, W. C. Lewis and J. B. Reeves.

To Write Corresponding Letter—W. S. Bloodworth and Eld. S. T. Bently.

5th. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

6th. Called for Correspondence from sister Associations, and received—

From the Upatoi—Brethren W. J. Childre and M. J. C. Land.

From the Marietta Old School—No communication.

From the Primitive Western—Elds. B. C. Caldwell and Reese Prather, and Brethren J. A. Chambliss, G. A. Wright, J. G. Brown and J. T. Mann.

From the Harmony—Elds. R. H. Jennings and W. T. Everett, and Bro. J. B. Murray.

From the Ebenezer—Elds. J. T. McArthur and J. A. Taylor, and Brethren J. E. Lord, R. M. Lord, L. L. Hall, J. W. Braswell and R. L. Smith.

From the Pulaski—The Pulaski having at their last session dispensed with formal correspondence, Elds. J. T. Gardner, I. P. Porter and P. G. McDonald were received as visitors.

Suspended the regular order of business to receive visitors

from sister Associations and churches with whom we are not in regular correspondence, and received as follows :

From the Ocmulgee Association—Elds. W. J. Green and J. A. Adams, and Brethren T. J. Bazemore, J. H. Meeks, J. R. Smith, T. J. Branham, J. A. McCowan, E. T. Morton and T. C. Hammack.

From the Oconee—Eld. C. H. Anthony and Bro. G. E. Ivey.

From the Ochlocknee—Eld. T. J. Head.

From the Flint River—Eld. Lee Hanks and Bro. I. C. Stubbs.

From the Upper Canoochee—Eld. B. H. Pearson.

From the Yellow River—Elds. W. W. West, D. M. Mathews and R. L. Cook.

From the Kehukee, of North Carolina—Eld. S. Hassell.

From the Mount Zion, of Texas—Eld. J. H. Fisher.

From the First Association, of Oklahoma—Eld. B. M. Green.

From the New Beulah—Eld. Morgan Brown.

7th. Resumed the regular order of business and called for Petitionary Letters, and received one from the Primitive Baptist Church in Barnesville, Ga., asking to become a member of this body, by Brethren D. L. Caldwell, W. L. Oxford, J. A. Middlebrooks and G. W. Mann. The Letter was read and the church received by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

After prayer by the Moderator, the Association was adjourned until 8:30 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, Sept. 17th, 1904.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. T. J. Head, of the Ochlocknee Association.

1st. Called the roll, and dispensed with reading the Decorum.

2d. Called for further correspondence from Sister Associations, and received from the Ebenezer, Iverson Lord and J. K. P. Hinson; Upatoie, J. N. Hutchinson.

3d. Renewed the invitation to visiting brethren, and received from the Oconee, J. M. Adams; Ocmulgee, Eld. J. H. Gresham and Bro. Dolphus Dunn.

4th. Returned correspondence to Sister Associations:

To the Upatoie—To convene with the church in Butler, Taylor county, Ga., commencing on Tuesday after the first Sunday in September, 1905—Elds. I. Grant, W. W. Childs, S. T. Bently, and Brethren W. H. Smith, F. W. Hammock and R. E. Wright.

To the Marietta Old School—To convene on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1904—Returned Minutes.

To the Primitive Western—To convene with Bethlehem Church, Meriwether county, Ga. (four miles from Warm Springs, on Southern R. R.), on Tuesday before the first Sunday in October, 1904—Eld. W. W. Childs, and Brethren S. J. McDaniel, D. L. Caldwell and J. T. Roberts.

To the Harmony—To convene with the Church at Antioch, Stewart county, Ga. (1½ miles from Louvale, on the Seaboard Air Line R. R.), commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1904—Eld. J. T. Reynolds, and Bro. B. F. Williamson.

To the Primitive Ebenezer—To convene with the Church at Mt. Carmel, Wilkinson county, Ga. (five miles from McIntyre, C. R. R.), commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1904—Eld. J. T. Reynolds, and Bro. J. W. Grant.

5th. Called for contributions sent up by the churches, and received for minutes \$24.75, and for the ministry \$72.00.

6th. Appointed Union Meetings:

1st. With Sharon Church, Monroe county, Ga., commencing on Friday before the fifth Sunday in July, 1905.

2d. With the Church at Barnesville, Pike county, Ga., commencing on Friday before the fifth Sunday in April, 1905.

7th. Appointed the next session of this body to convene with Bethlehem Church, Upson county, Ga., seven miles from Thomaston, Culloden and Yatesville, at our usual time.

8th. Agreed to have 1,500 copies of these minutes printed and distributed in the usual manner.

9th. Called for the Corresponding Letter, which was read and adopted.

10th. Read minutes, and after prayer by Eld. W. W. Childs, adjourned.

ELD. W. W. CHILDS, *Moderator*.

H. E. MURRAY, *Clerk*.

Order of Preaching.

FRIDAY P. M.—Eld. B. M. Green, from the First Association of Oklahoma; 7:30, at Bethlehem Church, Eld. W. W. West, followed by Eld. D. M. Mathews, from the Yellow River; at Fireman's Hall, Eld. Morgan Brown, from the New Beulah Association.

SATURDAY A. M.—Eld. B. H. Pearson, from the Upper Canoochee, followed by Eld. I. P. Porter, from the Pulaski.

SATURDAY P. M.—Eld. J. H. Fisher, from Mt. Zion Association, of Texas, followed by Eld. R. H. Jennings, from the Harmony; 7:00 o'clock, at Bethlehem Church, Eld. W. W. West, followed by Eld. J. H. Gresham, from the Ocmulgee.

SUNDAY A. M.—Eld. S. Hassell, from the Kehukee, of North Carolina, followed by Eld. Lee Hanks, from the Flint River.

SUNDAY P. M.—Eld. J. H. Fisher.

Closed by the Moderator.

Corresponding Letter.

The Echeconnee Association, now in session with Bethlehem Church, Bibb county, Ga., to her sister Associations with whom she corresponds, greeting:

DEAR BRETHREN—Through the mercies of God we are again permitted to hold another session of our body in an associate capacity. Our churches report some prosperity, with peace and love abiding throughout our bounds. We have a number of your correspondents with us, which is very pleasant to us. We desire a continuance of these pleasant relations. We also have quite a number of visitors with whom we are not in direct correspondence. We have a number of God's able ministers with us, who are preaching to us His gospel with great power.

The next session of our body will convene, the Lord willing, with Bethlehem Church, Upson county, Ga., on Friday before the third Sunday in September 1905, when, and where, we hope to renew our existing pleasant relations by a visitation of a goodly number of your correspondents.

W. W. CHILDS, *Moderator.*

H. E. MURRAY, *Clerk.*

The Association agreed to have the following letter, received from Eld. W. C. Cleveland, published in these minutes:

To the Echeconnee Association, Assembled in Macon:

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS IN THE LORD—I had treasured the thought with much anxiety of meeting with you at this time, where I could once more look into your faces and shake your hands, but God wills it otherwise, and I resignedly submit to it. Many have been the times in the last year that my poor life has been despaired of, but thus far the Lord has seen fit to spare it, and I hope yet for his holy service; but should I have gone, or go, it will not be among strangers. By His grace I am willing to live or die. By His manifested love to me, our great enemy death, lies conquered at my feet. What joy this gives none can tell, save he who constantly treads upon the brink of eternity. May the Lord bless and be with you during the meeting, with the further desire, that each of you will remember me in your prayers.

Yours, in love,

WILDE C. CLEVELAND.

Culloden, Ga., September 15th, 1904.

The thanks of the Association are hereby tendered to the brethren and friends of Bethlehem Church, and also to the city authorities, for their kindness and generous hospitality to us during the session of the Association just closed.

The Association, for the love and esteem they have for Eld. Cleveland, asked for a contribution from the brethren, and quickly collected \$51.00 for him, which will be forwarded to him at once.

DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches in our union and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that purpose, producing letters from their churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. In the letters from the churches shall be expressed their members in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, on confession of faith, dismissed, excommunicated and died since last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the ECHECONNEE ASSOCIATION, providing for themselves a Moderator and Clerk, who will serve them during the session; using the pastor of the church where they assemble or choosing one from the body, as they please.

4. As one of the cardinal tenets of faith of the Primitive Baptists is that the Old and New Testaments are our only rule of faith and practice, and as the Bible recognizes no other religious disciplinary power but the Church, we hereby leave all discipline with the Church, where God in His wisdom, mercy, and in honor to His Son, placed it.

5. If new churches desire to be admitted into this union they may petition by letter and delegates, and if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association and manifested by the Moderator giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

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

7. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true record of the proceedings of the Association.

8. The minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

9. Amendments to this form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the union, when they deem it necessary.

10. To correspond with sister Associations of the same faith and order.

11. The Association shall have power to adjourn themselves to any future time or place they may think most convenient to the churches in the union.

12. It is also agreed that nothing shall be so construed in the above as to interfere with the fellowship and communion of the churches or brethren of this union, or with those with whom we may correspond, directly or indirectly; and nothing shall be presented to this body as a query, or question bearing on the same, but shall be considered by the churches, as we believe is directed by the Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe in one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

2d. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3d. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

4th. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

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

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

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

8th. We believe that Saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.

9th. We believe that Baptism, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances. We believe that immersion is baptism.

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

11th. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be eternal, and the joys of the righteous will be everlasting.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. The Introductory Sermon will be delivered.
2. Call for and read letters from the Churches and enroll the names of messengers.
3. Choose a Moderator and Clerk.
4. Appoint Committees as follows:
 - On Preaching.
 - To write Corresponding Letter.
 - On Contributions and to distribute Corresponding Minutes.
5. Invite Visiting Brethren to seats with us.
6. Call for Correspondence from Sister Associations.
7. Call for Petitionary Churches.

SECOND DAY.

1. Call the Roll and read Decorum.
2. Call for further Correspondence from Sister Associations.
3. Renew the invitation to Visiting Brethren to seats with us.
4. Return Correspondence to Sister Associations.
5. Receive Contributions and distribute Corresponding Minutes.
6. Appoint Union Meetings.
7. Appoint the Next Session of this body.
8. Agree on the number of Minutes to have printed.
9. Call for Corresponding Letter.
10. Read Minutes and adjourn.

