

Gift

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT UNION CHAPEL, ONSLOW COUNTY, N. C.

OCTOBER 9—11, 1866.

RALEIGH:

BIBLICAL RECORDER BOOK AND JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1866.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

W. M. KENNEDY, MODERATOR, Magnolia, N. C.
ISHAM ROYAL, CLERK, Warsaw, N. C.
S. J. FAISON, TREASURER, Harrell's Store, N. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

B. OLIVER, Chairman, Mt. Olive.
H. E. CARR, Secretary, Rocky Point.
D. J. Middleton, Warsaw.
J. H. Stevens.
L. Highsmith.
Kedar Vann.
C. P. Moore.

TRUSTEES MINISTERS' RELIEF SOCIETY.

B. OLIVER, President.
D. J. MIDDLETON, Secretary.
D. K. KORNEGAY, Treasurer.
J. H. Stevens,
J. D. Carroll.
J. L. Boykin,
A. M. Faison.

TRUSTEES WARSAW HIGH SCHOOL.

B. Oliver,
A. W. Carlton,
J. D. Carroll,
Lewis Carroll,
J. N. Stallings,
J. W. Swinson,
O. Alderman,
Joel Loftin,
J. W. Taylor,
W. H. Smith,

O. Fennell, Sr.,
S. J. Faison,
J. T. Moore,
A. Guy,
D. J. Middleton,
A. M. Faison,
A. J. Daniel,
W. M. Kennedy,
H. E. Carr,
S. L. Gavin,

C. P. Moore,
T. J. Jerman,
J. E. Carlton,
H. S. Averitt,
D. P. Bland,
Richard Herring,
J. B. Barlow,
J. L. Stewart,
L. Highsmith,
G. S. Best.

PROCEEDINGS.

UNION CHAPEL, Onslow County, }
Tuesday, Oct. 9th, 1866. }

The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. M. Kennedy, from Matt. xxviii: 19, 20.

After a short intermission, the delegates assembled in the house. Owen Fennell, sr., the former Moderator, being absent, Elder W. M. Kennedy was appointed Moderator pro tem., who read 122d Psalm: prayer was offered by Elder J. L. Stewart. Committee on Devotional Exercises was appointed, consisting of Elder J. N. Stallings, and brethren J. P. Cox, Thos. J. Jerman, Emanuel Jerman, B. Oliver and J. M. Wooten.

The list of churches called, a majority being represented, proceeded to organize.

Brethren J. N. Stallings and J. L. Stewart were appointed Assistant Clerks, and brethren Lewis Highsmith, D. J. Middleton and C. P. Moore were appointed a committee of Finance.

The letters were called for and read.

The letters from Bethlehem, Wells' Chapel, Corinth, (Sampson) Warsaw and Concord, were laid on the table. The letter from Falling Creek referred to the Executive Committee. The reading of the letters showed that the church at Lebanon had united with the church at Wells' Chapel, and the church at Smith's Chapel with the church at Prospect. They were ordered to be stricken from the minutes.

On motion, proceeded to the election of officers.

Two tellers were appointed to superintend the election of each officer.

Tellers for Moderator—J. M. Wooten, J. D. Carroll.

Tellers for Clerk—J. S. Devane, S. S. Biddle.

Tellers for Treasurer—J. W. Taylor, J. F. Shine.

Elder W. M. Kennedy was elected Moderator, Isham Royal, re-elected Clerk, and S. J. Faison re-elected Treasurer.

A committee was appointed to report on the spiritual condition of the churches, consisting of J. L. Stewart, J. N. Stallings and S. J. Faison.

The committee on Religious Exercises reported the following, viz:

Prayer meeting at 9 1-2 o'clock to-morrow morning. Association meet at 10. Denominational sermon at 11, by Elder Stewart. Elder McAlpin preach at 1 o'clock, and Elder J. R. Oliver at 3 o'clock.

Brethren B. Oliver, D. J. Middleton and Elder H. R. Kornegay were appointed a committee to prepare an order of business.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, 9 1-2 o'clock. Prayer by brother B. Oliver. Benediction by the Moderator.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 10th, 1866.

Met at 9 1-2 o'clock. Prayer meeting conducted by Elder Barlow, who read 15th Psalm.

At 10 o'clock the Association was called to order by the Moderator, who read 55th chapter of Isaiah.

Roll called. Minutes of yesterday were read and corrected.

The letter from Wilmington was read.

The committee on an order of business, reported the following, which was received and adopted.

1. Organization.
2. Call for Petitionary letters.
3. Reception of Corresponding delegates and visitors.

4. Appointment of Committees.

5. Report of Standing Committees.

6. Ministers' Relief Association.

7. Reports of Special Committees.

8. Motions and resolutions.

9. Miscellaneous business.

10. Report of Treasurer.

11. Adjournment.

The letter from Jacksonville was read.

Visiting and corresponding brethren invited to seats.

On motion, the following committees were appointed:

To Nominate Executive Committee—Elder Hugh McAlpin, and brethren J. S. Devane and J. W. Taylor.

On Obituaries—Elder J. P. Faison, and brethren S. S. Biddle and J. D. Carroll.

To Nominate Trustees of Warsaw High School—Brethren J. M. Wooten, S. J. Faison and L. Highsmith.

Sabbath Schools—Elders Stallings and Barlow, and brethren C. P. Moore, and G. A. Newell.

Religious Publications—Brother S. J. Faison, and Elders G. S. Best and G. W. Hufham.

Ministerial Support—Brethren S. S. Biddle, B. Oliver and J. W. Swinson.

Foreign Missions—Elders H. R. Kornegay and J. R. Oliver, and brother H. G. Barnhill.

To audit account of Treasurer of Association—B. Mathews and Whitney Royall.

To audit account of Treasurer of Executive Committee—J. W. Biddle and F. R. Underwood.

To nominate delegates to Baptist State Convention—H. E. Carr, Matthews Rogers and J. R. Oliver.

To nominate ministers to preach Stated Sermons at next session—G. A. Newell, D. J. Middleton and L. R. Matthews.

On the Letter from Concord—Elder Stallings, and brethren J. W. Taylor and W. R. Simpson.

At 11 o'clock adjourned to hear the denominational

sermon. Elder J. L. Stewart preached a very able and instructive sermon, to an attentive audience, from John iii: 5, and [Mark xvi: 16. "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

After the sermon, met pursuant to adjournment.

Report of Committee to nominate Executive Committee received.

Report B. Oliver, Kedar Vann, H. E. Carr, L. Highsmith, D. J. J. Middleton, J. H. Stevens and C. P. Moore. Adopted.

On motion, the 13th Article of the Constitution amended so as to make the Introductory Sermon a denominational sermon.

The following brethren were appointed a Historical Committee, viz: J. L. Stewart, I. Royal, J. R. Oliver, L. F. Williams, W. M. Kennedy, J. N. Stallings, H. R. Kornegay.

Resolved, That special prayer be offered at the prayer meeting in the morning, for Rev. A. Guy, as requested in the letter from the church at Warsaw.

The Executive Committee reported, and in connexion with their report they submitted a letter from brother Utley, giving a statement of the condition of the churches in the north eastern part of the Association, and asking the aid and advice of the committee. The report was received and adopted, and the letter referred to the Executive Committee.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

DEAR BRETHREN OF THE ASSOCIATION:—Your Committee submit the following as their annual report.

The work in which we have been engaged for the past twenty years, has been prosecuted during the past year, with all the energy and means at our command. The difficulties in our way have been of a very grave character. And yet, as we survey the field of operations, and the results which have been attained, we feel that we have abundant cause to be thankful to our Heavenly Father for his goodness to us, and to be encouraged to press forward in the

good work. During the year we have had four missionaries under our direction, Elders Barlow, Best, Stewart and Oliver. To sustain Elder Barlow at Pleasant Hill, we appropriated fifty dollars, and one dollar and fifty cents per day while actually engaged in preaching at other points. He has preached at Pleasant Hill, Bay M. H., Wards Will, Flavel Hill and Jacksonville, and baptized nineteen during the year. We appropriated fifty dollars to sustain Elder Best at Chingepin, and one hundred dollars to sustain Elder Oliver at Prospect and Smith's Chapel, and one dollar and fifty cents per day while actually engaged in preaching at other points. He has baptized seventeen during the year. To sustain Elder Stewart at Clinton, our appropriation was fifty dollars. He reports five baptized at that point during the year. The points mentioned still need the fostering care of the Association, and we regard them as inviting fields.

Not only from these places, but from almost every part of the Association the "Macedonian cry" comes up, "come over and help us." And indeed, throughout the entire history of our operations, we do not recollect a period when the prospect was more encouraging, or the necessity for increased diligence more urgent. The fields truly are white unto the harvest, and there are laborers ready to enter, if they can be *sustained*. It is at this point we meet the greatest difficulty—the want of means to sustain our missionaries. This want seriously crippled our efforts during the past year, and there is reason to fear may do so more seriously in the future.

We desire to call the attention of the Association earnestly to this matter, and ask you in your wisdom to devise some means for the removal of this apprehension.

We believe there are influences at work now which will induce the churches, in a few years, to take higher missionary ground than has ever marked our history heretofore, or to relapse into a state of indifference, perhaps inactivity. To avert a state so much to be deplored at all times it is of prime importance to leave no means within our power untried.

We desire to call your attention to our interest at Beaufort, and for information upon this matter, we refer you to a letter written by brother Utley from that point, which we herewith transmit, and beg leave to make a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

B. OLIVER, *Chairman*.

The committee to nominate Trustees of Warsaw High School reported. Report received and confirmed. (See first page.)

Report of Ministers' Relief Society deferred until tomorrow.

Report of committee to nominate delegates to Baptist State Convention received and adopted.

Your committee to nominate delegates to Baptist State Convention, submit the following report:

W. M. Young, J. N. Stallings, H. McAlpin, B. Oliver, J. L. Stewart, B. F.

Mitchell, L. F. Williams, W. M. Kennedy, S. J. Faison, I. Royal, O. Alderman, J. P. Faison, L. Highsmith, D. J. Middleton, J. S. Devane.

H. E. CARR, *Chairman*.

Resolved, That any member of this Association, who may attend the Baptist State Convention, be allowed to represent us in said body until the number of delegates to which we are entitled is made up.

Report of committee on Obituaries received and adopted.

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

The committee on Obituaries beg leave to report that it is with regret we have to announce the death of brother T. J. Corbet, who, although a layman, yet in all things pertaining to his duty as a christian, acted a faithful and conspicuous part. He did not hide his light under a bushel, as witness the designation of the members of his church, who, in solemn conference, termed him a shining light. Upon his shoulders rested almost singly the burden of supporting the church at Marshall's Meeting House, and with uncomplaining spirit he bore this yoke until called to his reward above. He was kindly in all his relations of life, as head of family, neighbor, citizen, and demonstrated fully, by a pious walk and godly conversation, that his life was hid with Christ in God. He has left us an example well worthy our praise and imitation.

The above is respectfully submitted.

J. P. FAISON,
S. S. BIDDLE,
J. D. CARROLL.

Committee to nominate ministers for Stated Sermons at next session, reported the following:

Elder W. M. Young to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder G. S. Best alternate.

Elder Hugh McAlpin to preach Missionary Sermon, Elder J. L. Stewart alternate.

The letter from the church at Corinth, Sampson, called up, and a letter of dismissal was granted to it to unite with the Cedar Creek Association.

On motion, miscellaneous business taken up.

The delegates from the church at Bear Marsh petitioned for the next session of the Association to be held there. Agreed to hold the next session with the church at Bear Marsh, Duplin county.

On motion, appointed delegates to sister Associations.

Pamlico—S. S. Biddle, J. W. Biddle, A. D. Cohen, L. Thorne.

Cedar Creek—W. M. Kennedy, H. McAlpin, L. Carroll, J. L. Stewart.

Cape Fear—Isaiah Carroll, J. S. Devane.

Elder J. L. Stewart was appointed to write and send a letter to the Sandy Creek Association.

Resolved, That any member of this Association, who may be present at the meetings of any bodies with which we correspond, be authorized to represent us in said bodies.

Committee on Devotional Exercises reported the following: Prayer meeting at 9 1-2 o'clock in the morning, to be conducted by Elder G. W. Hufham. Preaching at 11 by Elder McAlpin. Missionary sermon at 1 o'clock by Elder Barlow.

On motion, adjourned. Prayer by Elder Barlow. Benediction by the Moderator.

THURSDAY, Oct. 11th, 1866.

Prayer meeting conducted by Elder G. W. Hufham, in which special prayer was offered for Elder A. Guy, who has long been confined on a bed of sickness.

Association convened pursuant to adjournment. After singing, prayer was offered by Elder H. McAlpin. Roll called, minutes of yesterday read.

Report of Committee of Finance received and adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF FINANCE.

	Association fund.	Itinerant fund.
Mt. Holly,	\$ 3 75	\$ 5 05
Moore's Creek,	3 90	6 50
Bethlehem,	2 50	
Marshall's M. H.,	2 00	
Rileys' Creek,	3 25	7 00
Shiloh,	3 25	
Wells' Chapel,	5 00	14 05
Lisbon,	2 00	6 65
Mt. Gilead,	5 00	5 00
New Hope,	4 00	
Boykin's Chapel,	5 00	23 00
White Oak,	2 00	6 00
Beulah,	3 00	13 25
Corinth,	1 50	
Piney Grove,	3 00	6 00
Rowan,	2 50	
Clinton,	3 50	16 20
Canaan,	1 00	
Haw Bluff,	2 00	5 25
Nat Moore Creek,	1 00	
Falling Creek,	2 00	
Bear Marsh,	4 00	Pr'd'gs 32 00
Warsaw,	3 00	
Kenansville,	3 00	
Johnson's,	2 50	6 85
Concord,	2 25	1 95
Beaverdam,	4 00	6 40
Berea,	2 00	3 15
Island Creek,	2 50	1 75
Limestone,	3 00	
Corinth, (Duplin)	1 75	2 00
Antioch,	50	
Prospect,	1 00	
Tuckahoe,	1 00	
Fort Barnwell,	2 00	
Kinston,	2 00	
Jacksonville,	1 00	
Union Chapel,	3 00	12 15
Pleasant Hill,	1 50	
Wilmington,	5 00	Pr'd'gs 50 00
	\$106 15	\$ 148 65

Respectfully submitted,

L. HIGHSMITH,
C. F. MOORE,
D. J. MIDDLETON.

On motion, the committee of Finance directed to pay the funds in their hands to the Treasurer of the Association, and the Treasurer pay to the officers of those objects for which it is designed.

Report on Foreign Missions received and adopted.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee on Foreign Missions submit the following report:

In the absence of definite information, we are unable to state any facts relative to the subject. We who enjoy the gospel of Jesus Christ, ought to feel a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of those benighted beings in heathen lands. While we are not able to contribute much to the cause now, yet we think it necessary to exercise more self-denial, so that our brethren who have labored to spread the truth, may be aided and encouraged in their good work. If nothing else can be done at present, we should at least offer our prayers to God that he would raise up more laborers in our midst, and send forth others to fill the vast field which lies before us. Our pastors should all explain and defend the general cause of Missions, especially encourage the work in our domestic fields, in order that the proper spirit may be aroused, and our duty to those without the gospel faithfully discharged.

Respectfully submitted,

H. KORNEGAY, *Chairman.*

During the consideration of the report on Foreign Missions, a collection was made, amounting to \$21.

The report on Sabbath Schools was read, and after a considerable discussion, adopted.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Sabbath School committee submit the following:

Ordinarily we would not deem it necessary to produce any argument to show the Scripturalness and importance of Sabbath Schools, but taking them as axiomatic, to simply urge the churches to be up and doing, with all their energy, in this matter. The limits of a report forbid that we assign many reasons for them; but because some brethren, who have heretofore acted fully with us, in this, as well as in every other good work, seem to have fallen from their steadfastness, we briefly submit a few: Under the old dispensation, the chosen people of God were expressly commanded to keep continually before their children, the marvelous and gracious dealings of God with them. In their down-sittings and up-risings, continually were they to keep them before their children, that they might fear and serve the Lord. Again, the Scriptures of that era declare, "Train up a child in the way in which he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." This, then, under the Law was expressly enacted; and we submit that the same has been re-enacted in the new dispensation. Our Saviour intended to enforce this duty when he took the little children in his arms and blessed them, and said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." And an inspired Apostle directs, "Bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." It being clearly established, both from the Old and New Testament, that God's people are to keep continually before their children, the dealings of God with them, and to

instruct them in the way, and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, your committee respectfully submit that there can be no better place than the house of worship, and no more appropriate time than the Lord's day, at and upon which the children of God may come together and assist each other in this blessed work. Again, the spirit of the Gospel inculcates this duty. The gospel itself is a system of instruction. Jesus was the great teacher. Ministers are his teachers in a public and official capacity, and every believer, as he has talents committed to him, is a teacher in a private and unofficial capacity. To whom can we then carry our instructions, with more earnestness and affection than to our own children and those of our neighbors? And who better prepared to receive the "glorious gospel of God?" We look upon the Sabbath School as one of the greatest instrumentalities for good in which the christian can engage. Its importance can not be overestimated. The express teachings of the Word of God, and the spirit of the gospel endorse and sustain it. And has not this instrumentality been blessed? How many in this body, how many in our churches, who have been awakened and led to Christ through it? The mystery to us is, how any child of God can refuse to lend a helping hand in this work of the Lord. Much more is it a mystery that any one should oppose an institution which is in accordance with the explicit teachings of God's Word, which carries out the spirit of the gospel, and which God has so abundantly blessed to the salvation of souls. If it has its faults, as undoubtedly it has, as conducted in some places, let them be pointed out and corrected, but let no one, who loves God and the souls of men, throw himself in opposition to it; but on the contrary, let all our dear brethren and sisters, with the spirit of prayer and consecration, come forward and prosecute with energy, this blessed work in all our churches. While your committee is not prepared to submit any perfect plan, by which an interest may be awakened in the work and they rendered more efficient, we would make a few suggestions: We would urge our pastors to look out in their churches some one best qualified, who has a mind to work, to act as Superintendent, and will use his best efforts to organize and carry forward this work. We would respectfully urge that our pastors be present with the schools, and by addresses to the children, and other means encourage and keep up the interest. In the selection of teachers we respectfully suggest that church members be obtained.

Respectfully,

J. N. STALLINGS, *Chairman.*

The following, on ministerial support was received and adopted:

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

Your committee on Ministerial Support, respectfully report that it is a fact generally admitted in our churches, that ministers of the gospel should live of the gospel, and that they are devoting their time and talents to the edification of the church, to the conversion of sinners, and to the visitation of the afflicted. It is the duty of the churches to give liberally of their money and

their means, that the minister and his family may have a comfortable support. It may perhaps be said we admit the principle as stated, but in our present impoverished condition, we have not the money, we can't pay. Then do what you can, as the widow in the gospel, and it will satisfy the ministers and be approved by the Great Head of the church. In a few years, with God's blessing, our churches will be able to do their duty, and in the mean time trust in God's promises, and go forward in obedience to his commands.

S. S. BIDDLE.

The committee to audit the account of the Treasurer of the Executive Committee reported the account correct.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

D. J. Middleton, Treasurer of the Executive Committee, submits the following report:

Dr.

To amount received at Association at Moore's Creek, October, 1865,	\$134 25
" " Rowan,	10 85
" " Wells' Chapel,	19 10
" " Shiloh,	23 85
" " Lebanon,	9 25
" " Bear Marsh,	50 00
" " Moore's Creek,	10 83
" " Island Creek,	22 08
" " Kenansville,	9 95
" " Mt. Holly,	10 27
" " Hallsville,	5 00
" " Mt. Gilead,	10 50
" " Piney Grove,	3 85
" " Johnson's,	3 90
" " Beulah,	5 20
" " Clinton,	4 50
" " Beaverdam,	2 68
" " Riley's Creek,	1 00
" " Wilmington,	25 00
" " From churches at present session,	148 20

\$510 26

Credit by amount to sundry persons,

\$420 58

Balance in hands of Treasurer.

\$89 68

We beg leave to report that we have examined the above account and find it correct.

Respectfully submitted.

COMMITTEE.

The committee to report on the letter from the church at Concord, submitted the following, which was received and adopted.

REPORT ON THE LETTER FROM CONCORD.

Your committee to whom was referred the letter from Concord church, with reference to the attendance of christians upon pic-nics and dancing parties, and participating in them, submit the following: We have seen with deep regret the spirit of worldliness, which has possessed some of the members of a few of our churches in attendance upon these, and participation by others in them. We consider them as utterly opposed to the spirit of the gospel. While the christian is entitled to all rational enjoyment, while he is commanded "to rejoice ever more," "to rejoice with those that do rejoice," it is spiritual rejoicing to which the Scriptures refer, and we are "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." We have no right to sinful pleasures, to lightness and frivolity and levity. The fearful condition of poor sinners "already condemned," should fill every heart with sorrow for them, and instead of encouraging in them worldly-mindedness, which is one of the chief hindrances to their receiving the gospel, they should continually testify against that spirit, and show that we are strangers and pilgrims in the earth, and that we seek a better country, that is a heavenly. Again, the proneness to evil which is inherent in us all, on account of indwelling sin, should warn every one, who desires to glorify God, to absent himself from such places, lest he be tempted to engage in those things which will bring reproach upon the cause of religion and to suffer great spiritual loss. We recommend that our pastors and brethren use all their efforts to promote spirituality amongst our members—one of the chief of which, your committee thinks to be the absenting themselves from such places entirely. And should any participate in the dances of such occasions, we recommend that they be promptly disciplined.

J. N. STALLINGS, *Chairman*.

The committee to audit the account of the Treasurer of Association reported the following, which was received and adopted:

TREASURER OF EASTERN ASSOCIATION'S REPORT.

Treasurer Dr.

October 1865, to Association fund,	\$106 35
" Itinerant fund,	106 30
" Funds for printing Minutes of 1864,	23 60
	<hr/>
	\$236 25

Cr.

October, 1865. Paid D. J. Middleton, Treas. of Ex. Com.	\$106 30
" Paid I. Royal, Clerk fee,	15 00
" Paid I. Royal printing Minutes 1864,	23 60
" Paid I. Royal printing Minutes 1865,	61 40
	<hr/>
	\$236 30

The committee report that the account of the Treasurer is correct.

B. MATHEWS, }
W. ROYAL, } Com.

The committee on Religious Publications reported.
Received and adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS.

The committee on Religious Publications submit, that they feel much embarrassment in referring to this subject, when they reflect how barren, to all human appearances, of the results aimed at, have been previous reports adopted by our body. From the press is exerted an influence, directing and controlling thoughts and forming opinions, second to no other human agency. To make it avail the christian's ends, those products should be supplied to readers which make such impressions as purify and elevate the soul, leading it back to God, its creator. This has been for years, and hence our diffidence in approaching the subject. We can offer nothing new, and therefore must repeat the request to the Elders and brethren to persevere in searching for every avenue of success in circulating pure and sound religious publications of our denomination. We shall refer to only one of these—the BIBLICAL RECORDER—because it is our organ, ably and faithfully conducted, deserving our first patronage, and sincere encouragement. When its circulation shall bring us in that relation to it, that does not mortify us as a denomination, then other publications may be urged upon your kind consideration. Therefore, *Resolved*, That our pastors and brethren make the BIBLICAL RECORDER a subject of consideration at each quarterly conference of their churches, and that they endeavor to secure every possible addition to its list of subscription.

COMMITTEE.

The trustees of the "Ministers' Relief Society reported.
Received and adopted.

MINISTERS' RELIEF SOCIETY.

The trustees of the Ministers' Relief Society, beg leave to report, that in accordance with the act of incorporation, they held a meeting and organized, by electing B. Oliver President, and J. D. Carroll, Vice President, D. K. Kornegay, Treasurer, and D. J. Middleton, Secretary.

We have examined the report of the former Treasurer, and respectfully submit it as a part of our report. As we are the servants of the Association and report to you, we would urge upon the ministers and delegates to bring the claims of this Society before their respective churches, and assist us in raising funds.

Respectfully,

B. OLIVER, *President*.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF MINISTERS' RELIEF SOCIETY.

J. R. Oliver, Treasurer of Ministers' Relief Society in account current.

Amount deposited by former treasurer, C. D. Ellis, in Saving's Bank, \$601 85
An execution Transferred by J. J. Whitehead to C. D. Ellis, former
Treasurer, now in Duplin Superior Court, principal and interest, about

1865. Collected at Piney Grove,	1410 00
" Moore's Creek,	15 75
" Rowan,	12 00
1866. " Island Creek,	11 10
" Shiloh,	8 75
April, note on G. W. & J. D. Hufham, due Oct. 13, 1860,	13 00
Interest on same,	57 75
	20 85

\$2151 05

A note on Isham Royal, for \$26 25, has been taken for a part of the above collections.

CONTRA.

1865. Amount paid for Secretary's book,	\$ 2 75
" " Sister Guy,	10 00
	12 75

SUMMARY.

In Savings bank, doubtful,	\$ 601 85
Execution in Duplin S. Court,	1410 00
Cash on hand,	21 50
I. Royal's note,	26 25
G. W. & J. D. Hufham's note,	57 25
Interest on same,	20 85
	\$2138 30

The committee on Church Letters reported. Received and adopted.

REPORT ON CHURCH LETTERS.

The Committee on Church Letters beg leave to report that an examination of these letters shows that the spiritual condition of the greater number of our churches is encouraging, many of them having been blessed with refreshing showers of Divine grace during the year. The number reported as baptized is 503; Received by letter, 92; restoration, 8; experience, 11; dismissed by letter, 52; excluded, 219; dead, 54; total number of accessions 614; dismissed by letter and otherwise, 325; nett accessions, 288; total number, 4127.

The minutes of last session state the total number of membership 5009—nearly one thousand more than that of the present session. And yet the

letters show an increase of 289. Such discrepancies as this bespeak carelessness on the part of the churches, and we would urge them to be more careful as to the statistics in future.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE.

NOTE.—The discrepancies referred to in this report are caused by several churches, whose statistics are on last year's minutes (taken from previous minutes) not sending any statement of statistics to the session of 1866. See Table No. 1.

CLERK.

On motion, Trustees of Warsaw High School allowed further time to report.

Ordered that the Clerk of the Association be allowed twenty dollars for his services, and that he expend the balance of the Association fund in printing and circulating the minutes.

Resolved, That each pastor, and if there be no pastor, some delegate or other brother, as soon as the minutes are published, bring before his church the resolutions and reports of this body, for their adoption or rejection.

On motion, a standing order of business was adopted for next session. See order of business.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are unanimously tendered to the members of this church and community for their kind and hospitable treatment during our stay in their midst.

Rules of order amended. See Art. 11.

On motion, adjourned to meet at Bear Marsh, Duplin county, on Tuesday, after the first Sabbath in October, 1867. A few parting remarks were made by the Moderator. Prayer and benediction by Moderator.

W. M. KENNEDY, MODERATOR.

ISHAM ROYAL, Clerk.

TABLE NO. 1.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by letter.	Restored.	Rec. by experience.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	No. Whites.	No. Colored.	Total number reported.	Total taken from Minutes of previous year.
1 Wilmington,	New Hanover.	W. R. Simpson.	6	20									
2 Mt. Holly,	"	I. Carroll, T. J. Lee, K. F. Powers.	28	2		3	2	9	141			153	
3 Moore's Creek,	"	C. P. Moore.		2		6	3	2	113			181	
4 Bethlehem,	"	By letter.		1							68		224
5 Marshall's M. H.	"	By letter.	7			1	6		77				
6 Riley's Creek,	"	H. E. Carr.		1		6		2	24		15	92	
7 Shiloh,	"	H. D. Marshburn.				1			60		38	62	
8 Wells' Chapel,	"	L. Highsmith, S. J. Faison.	60	2		4	5	1	126		81	33	
9 Bethel,	Sampson.	Not represented.	40	3	2	1	6	2	183		161	207	
10 Lisbon,	"	By letter.										344	
11 Mt. Gillead,	"	S. Peterson, J. Vann, jr.	34	2		2	2	1					85
12 New Hope,	"	By letter.		1				3	2		6	84	
13 Boykin's Chapel	"	H. McAlpin, W. H. Boykin, B. Mathews.	1			3			106			112	
14 White Oak,	"	H. K. Bennett, W. Royal.	24	5		1	3	5	116		25	141	
15 Brown's M. H.	"	Not represented.	5						134		20	154	
16 Beulah,	"	J. H. Stevens.							94		29	123	
17 Piney Grove,	"	By letter.	15			1	56	2	58		63	121	74
18 Rowan,	"	P. O. Irwin, S. Boone.	17			1			154		23	177	
19 Clinton,	"	J. L. Stewart.	9	1		1		2	80		25	105	
20 Canaan,	"	F. R. Underwood.	5	2		1		1	40		20	60	
21 Mt. Zion,	Bladen.	Not represented.							17		2	19	
22 French's Creek,	"	Not represented.											15
23 Haw Bluff,	"	H. J. Barnhill, A. J. Barnhill.											67
24 N. Moore Creek	"	By letter.	2	4	1	3		1				58	
												33	

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25 Mt. Olive,	Wayne.	Not represented.	11			1			46			46	80
26 Falling Creek,	"	A. Flowers, A. Wiggs,							184			293	
27 Bear Marsh,	Duplin.	B. Oliver, J. S. Devane, J. F. Shine.	10	1		3	93			89			
28 Warsaw,	"	Isham Royal,		2		5	4	4	114	15		129	
29 Johnson's M. H.	"	W. M. Kennedy, G. S. Best.											304
30 Kenansville,	"	D. J. Middleton, J. N. Stallings, G. A. Newell,	18			2	11	8	58	93		151	
31 Beaverdam,	"	J. D. Carroll, J. W. Swinson, M. Rogers.	64	4	1		2	2	160	42		202	
32 Concord,	"	R. J. Strickland, L. R. Mathews, J. W. Taylor.	3	17		2	1	1	79	61		140	
33 Berea,	"	S. Wells, D. H. Murray.				2	7	3	95	8		104	
34 Island Creek,	"	J. Savage, W. Boney.	65	3	1	1	2		126	28		154	
35 Limestone,	"	J. D. Brown.	3	7		2	12	3	136	63		204	
36 Corinth,	"	I. H. Rogers.							46			46	
37 Antioch,	"	H. R. Kornegay.						2	8	3		11	
38 Prospect,	"	By letter.	13	2		1	2	1	40	29		69	
39 Chinquepin,	"	Not represented.											45
40 Piney Grove,	Jones.	Not represented.											43
41 Tuckahoe,	"	J. J. Davis, John Rhodes.	27	2					30	8		38	
42 Newberne,	Craven.	Not represented.											95
43 Brice's Creek,	"	Not represented.											
44 Fort Barnwell,	"	S. S. Biddle, J. W. Biddle.							11			11	
45 Beaufort,	Carterett.	Not represented.											
46 Smyrna,	"	Not represented.											
47 Woodville,	"	Not represented.											
48 Kinston,	Lenoir.	S. E. Loftin.	19						20	31		51	
49 Woodenton,	"	Not represented.											17
50 Union,	"	Not represented.											44
51 Washington,	Beaufort.	Not represented.											84
52 Union Chapel,	Onslow.	J. M. Wooten, J. Marshburn, M. D. Thomas,	2				1		67	9		76	
53 Jacksonville,	"	W. J. Montford.	2				1		12			12	
54 Pleasant Hill,	"	J. B. Barlow.	4	8			1	2	28	5		33	
Sampson, Corinth,	Dismissed.					1			68	1		69	
Total membership, 5,304.			503	92	8	11	52	219	54	2851	1089	4127	1177

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TABLE NO. 2.

CHURCHES,	PASTORS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.	CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
Wilmington,	W. M. Young, Wilmington,	J. W. Collins, Wilmington,
Mt. Holly,	W. M. Kennedy, Magnolia.	B. Carroll, Camera.
Moore's Creek,	"	V. N. Seawell.
Bethlehem,	No pastor.	J. W. Pridgen, Caintuck.
Marshall's M. H.	"	D. J. Corbett,
Riley's Creek,	"	B. G. Larkins.
Shiloh,	J. P. Faison, Harrell's Store.	H. S. Averett, Moore's Creek.
Wells' Chapel,	W. M. Kennedy, Magnolia.	G. W. Highsmith, Harrell's Store.
Lisbon,	J. L. Stewart, Clinton.	R. Herring, Herringsville.
Mt. Gilead,	H. McAlpin, Clinton.	J. Vann, jr., Clinton.
New Hope,	A. Guy, Warsaw.	J. L. Carroll, Six Runs.
Boykin's Chapel,	H. McAlpin, Clinton.	B. Mathews, Clinton.
White Oak,	W. H. Howard, Clinton.	G. W. Bennett, Clinton.
Beulah,	J. L. Stewart, Clinton.	J. M. Millard, Clinton.
Piney Grove, Sampson,	H. McAlpin, Clinton.	R. R. Bell, Piney Grove.
Rowan,	W. H. Howard, Clinton.	T. O. Kelly, Clinton.
Clinton,	J. L. Stewart, Clinton.	G. Clute, Clinton.
Canaan,	J. R. Oliver, Mt. Olive.	T. Underwood, Newton Grove.
Haw Bluff Chapel,	H. P. Brinson.	J. R. Barnhill.
Nat Moore Chapel,	J. M. Register, Whit's Creek.	B. Evans, Black Rock.
Falling Creek,	No pastor.	G. S. Peterson.
Bear Marsh,	J. N. Stallings, Kenansville.	A. S. Davis, Mt. Olive.
Warsaw,	A. Guy, Warsaw.	B. C. Bowden, Warsaw.
Johnson's M. H.,	J. L. Stewart, Clinton.	D. A. Moore, Warsaw.
Kenansville,	J. N. Stallings, Kenansville.	G. A. Newell, Kenansville.
Beaverdam,	A. Guy, Warsaw.	G. W. Carroll, Kenansville.
Concord,	" "	J. W. Taylor, Magnolia.
Berea,	J. P. Faison, Harrell's Store.	R. J. Johnson,

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Island Creek,
Limestone,
Prospect,
Corinth.
Antioch,
Tuckahoe,
Union Chapel,
Jacksonville,
Pleasant Hill,
Kinston,
Fort Barnwell,
Newbern,

G. S. Best, Kenansville.
J. E. King, Kenansville.
J. R. Oliver, Mt. Olive.
J. P. Faison, Harrell's Store.
T. J. Albritton, Mt. Olive.
J. J. Rhodes.
J. N. Stallings, Kenansville.
John B. Barlow, Richlands.
"
L. Thorne, Kinston.
No regular pastor.
A. D. Cohen, Newbern,

S. H. Cavanaugh, Teachey's Depot.
J. T. Carroll, Kenansville.
T. H. Rogers, Magnolia.
J. M. Grady, Mt. Olive.
J. J. Davis, Pink Hill.
M. D. Thomas, Catharine Lake.
J. P. Cox.

Newbern.

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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be denominated and known as the Eastern Association.

ART. 2. The object of this Association shall be the promotion of Christ's Kingdom among men; and the means of accomplishing this shall be in strict conformity to the New Testament.

ART. 3. This Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the churches connected with it, each church being entitled to three delegates.

ART. 4. The delegates from each church shall bear a letter certifying their appointment, and communicating information relative to the state of the church.

ART. 5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be annually chosen from among its members, by ballot, by a majority of the members voting, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected.

ART. 6. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to enforce an observance of the Constitution, preserve order, appoint committees, decide all questions of order, give his opinion on any question under discussion after others have spoken, and give the casting vote in case of a tie.

ART. 7. It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the proceedings of each annual session and superintend their printing and distribution among the churches.

ART. 8. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds sent up by the churches or collected during the session of this body and disburse the same as ordered by the Association. He shall also make to the Association an annual report of the condition of the Treasury.

ART. 9. The Association shall appoint an Executive Committee, consisting of not less than five or more than seven members; which com-

mittee shall have the superintendence of Associational missions and Colportage. They shall have power to disburse all sums paid by the Treasurer of the Association for the objects under their charge, and during intervals between the meetings of this body, to receive and disburse funds for those objects, and to take such steps for their advancement as they shall deem advisable, and shall make an annual report to the Association, of their doings.

ART. 10. The Association shall not maintain fellowship with any of her churches which neglect to preserve gospel order.

ART. 11. The Association may invite visiting and corresponding brethren to seats, and extend to them all the privileges of the body except that of voting.

ART. 12. The annual session of this Association shall commence on Tuesday after the first Lord's day in October, at such place as may be chosen.

ART. 13. By appointment of the Association there shall be an Introductory Sermon, of a denominational character, and a Missionary sermon.

ART. 14. This Constitution may be amended at any annual session, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. On the meeting of the Association, the Moderator of the preceding session shall preside until his successor is known. In case of his absence a chairman *pro tem.* shall be elected.

2. Each session of the Association shall be opened with religious exercises, to be conducted by whomsoever the presiding officer may name.

3. At each daily session, and previous to proceeding to business, the names of the delegates shall be called and the proceedings of the previous daily session read.

4. The members shall observe towards the officers and each other, that courtesy which becomes christians.

5. Any member wishing to speak shall arise and address the presiding officer. He shall confine himself strictly to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

6. No member shall speak more than twice on the same question without permission.

7. All motions seconded shall be definitely stated by the presiding officer before discussion.

8. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

9. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received, except to adjourn, to lay on the table; to amend, or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have preference in the order in which they are stated.

10. After a motion is decided, any member having voted in the majority may move a reconsideration.

11. No member shall absent himself during the session of the Association, without permission of the presiding officer, and no one shall take final leave of absence without the permission of the Association, and if any shall do so the names of such shall be stricken from the roll.

12. All questions, except such as relate to the Constitution, shall be decided by a majority of votes.

13. The Association shall have the right to decide what subjects shall be admitted to its consideration.

14. The rules of order may be altered or amended at any session of the Association by a majority of votes.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1 Organization.

2 Appointment of Committees.

3 Reading of Church Letters.

4 Call for Petitionary Letters.

5 Reception of Corresponding delegates and visitors.

6 The appointment of Corresponding delegates.

7 Report of Standing Committees.

8 Report of Special Committees.

9 Report of Trustees of Ministers' Relief Society.

10 Report of Treasurer.

11 Motions and Resolutions.

12 Miscellaneous Business.

13 Adjournment.

RULES OF DECORUM FOR THE CHURCHES.

1 We will hold at least four conference meetings in year for the transaction of business; also special meetings whenever requisite.

2 The names of the members shall be called at every regular meeting, and there shall be due notice taken of the absence of those who discover a disposition to absent themselves.

3 At every conference the pastor, in right of his office, shall preside as Moderator; and in case of his absence, the conference shall appoint a Moderator *pro tem.*, who shall open conference by devotional exercises, or call on some other brother to do it for him.

4 The Clerk shall keep a Church Book, in which all the proceedings of the conference shall be faithfully transcribed, and at every regular meeting the minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read immediately after the names are called.

5 An invitation shall be given to brethren of our faith and order to sit with us in conference, who shall enjoy all the privileges of the meeting, except that of voting.

6 A door shall be opened for the reception of members; and in any instance, receiving to fellowship shall be by unanimous vote.

7 Every subject for the consideration of conference shall be introduced by a motion, which, when seconded, shall be debatable and acted upon, unless withdrawn by the mover with the consent of the second.

8 Every speaker shall rise and address the Moderator by the appellation of brother, and shall confine his remarks to the subject under debate, and shall not be allowed to speak more than twice on one subject, except by permission from the Moderator.

9 No member shall withdraw from the conference without the permission of the Moderator.

10 It shall be required that in matters of difference between members, before complaint is made to the church, the aggrieved party shall have duly attended to the instructions of our Lord, Matt. 18th chapter,

16th, 17th and 18th verses, and public offences or such as operate against the peace of the church, shall be the subject of discipline.

11 All questions submitted to the conference shall be decided by a majority of votes, except receiving members to fellowship; and any question may be reconsidered upon the motion of any who voted in the affirmative.

12 The Moderator shall propound all questions for vote—shall keep the speakers to the subject under debate—may express his own views, after others are done speaking, and see that these rules are faithfully observed.

13 These Rules of Decorum may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the whole church.

Resolved That this Association recommend the adoption of the foregoing rules to all the churches that comprise this body.

