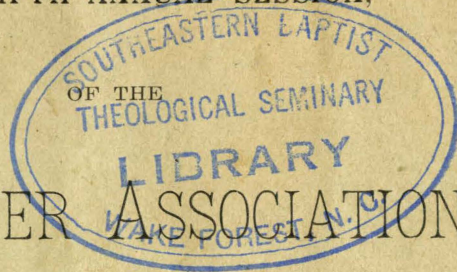


MINUTES

OF THE

NINETY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION,

ELK RIVER ASSOCIATION,



—OF—

PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS.

Held with the Church at Mt. Moriah, Lincoln County, Tennessee,

On September 12th, 13th and 14th,

1902.

SHELBYVILLE, TENN.,

GAZETTE BOOK AND JOB PRINT,

—1902.—

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NINETY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
ELK RIVER ASSOCIATION
OF PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS.

Held with the Church at Mt. Moriah, Lincoln County, Tenn., on Friday
Before the Second Sunday in September, 1902, and two Days
Following.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder W. T. Fergason. Text
Romans v: 20. "Moreover, the law entered that the offense might abound,
etc.

After which the Messengers from the Churches met and were called to
order by the Moderator. Singing. Prayer by Elder Wm. Johnson. The let-
ters from the Churches were called for, and presented by their Messengers.
Letters read and Messengers invited to seats. The Letters showed the
state of the Churches as exhibited in the table.

The Association organized by choosing Elder J. E. Frost, Moderator; El-
der W. A. Cashion, Clerk, and Elder H. C. Hogan, Assistant Clerk.

The Association then proceeded to business as follows:

1. Read the rules of decorum.
2. Called for Petitionary Letters. None.
3. Called for Corresponding Letters from Associations with whom we cor-
respond, with the following result:
 1. Flint River—Messengers, Elders J. W. Bragg, Wm. Johnson and
W. M. Hunter with letter and Minutes.
 2. Cumberland—Messengers, Elders F. M. White, and T. J. Taylor. Bro.
J. C. Taylor with Letter and Minutes.
 3. Mud Creek—Messenger, Elder W. L. Harper with Letter and Min-
utes.
 4. Sequachee Valley—Messenger, Bro. J. C. Raulston, with Letter and
Minutes.
 5. Round Lick—Messenger, Elder D. Phillips, with Letter and Minutes.
 6. Collins River—Messenger, Elder D. H. Cordell, with Letter and Min-
utes.
 7. Fountain Creek—Messenger, Bro. Joel Dodd, with Letter and Min-
utes.

All corresponding brethren invited to seats.

On motion of Elder H. C. Hogan the Association extended to all minis-
ters and brethren, who were not Messengers, a hearty welcome and Christian
greeting, and invited them to seats with us as guests. Elder J. H. Fisher,
of Texas; Elder Archie Brown, of Indiana, and Elder H. F. Agee, of Tennes-
see, were present.

COMMITTEES.

Appointed Bro's G. W. Thompson, R. H. Stephens, and R. M. Koonce, to-
gether with the Moderator and Clerk, a committee to arrange the order of
business for Saturday.

Appointed the Clerk and his assistant a committee on correspondence. On motion the Association agreed to elect, by ballot, the preachers to preach on Saturday, which resulted as follows: Elders D. Phillips, Wm. Johnson and A. J. Willis.

On motion of W. R. Fields the Association requested the Moderator to appoint preachers to preach Friday night. Elders W. L. Harper and W. M. Hunter to preach at the church house, and Elders Archie Brown and T. I. Pettus to preach at Boonville.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet Saturday at 9:00 o'clock, a. m. Prayer by Elder H. F. Agee.

SATURDAY.

The Association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder T. I. Pettus. The Association proceeded to business as follows:

1. Called the roll. A quorum present.
2. Called Committee on arrangements who made the following report: "We, your committee on arrangements, report the order of business as laid down in our former Minutes." Report received and committee discharged.
3. Called on Committee on Correspondence to make their report, who reported letters of correspondence to the following Associations: Report received and committee discharged.
 1. Flint River—Messengers, Elders J. E. Frost, W. A. Cashion, and W. T. Ferguson, and Bro. R. H. Stephens, at Kelley's Creek, Lincoln County, Tennessee; commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1902.
 2. Cumberland—Messengers, Elder J. E. Frost, and Bros. W. R. Fields, H. W. Clark, J. W. Hale and J. G. Frost, at Wilson's Creek, Williamson County, Tennessee; commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1902.
 3. Mud Creek—Messengers, Elder W. A. Cashion and Bro. G. W. Thompson, at Bethel, Madison County, Alabama; commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1902.
 4. Sequachee Valley—Messengers, Elders J. E. Frost, and W. T. Ferguson, and Bros. W. R. Fields, H. W. Clark, J. N. Dunaway and James Cunningham, at Sweeten's Cove, Marion County, Tennessee; commencing on Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1903.
 5. Round Lick—Messengers, Elder J. G. Woodfin, and Bros. W. R. Fields and H. W. Clark, at Friendship, Smith County, Tennessee, ten miles of Carthage; commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in September, 1903.
 6. Collin's River—Messengers, Elders W. T. Ferguson and J. E. Frost, and Bros. W. R. Fields and H. W. Clark, at Mt. Oak, Grundy County, Tennessee, two miles east of Tracy City; commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1903.
 7. Fountain Creek—Messengers, Elder J. E. Frost, and Bros. J. C. Wheeler and J. G. Frost, Unity, Giles County, Tennessee; Commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1903.

SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

- 1st Section—To be held with the Church at Elk River, Friday before the first Sunday in May, 1903; Bro. W. B. Chilton and Elder W. A. Cashion to attend.
- 2nd Section—To be held with the Church at Arbor, Moore County, Tennessee, Friday before the first Sunday in June, 1903; Elders J. E. Frost and W. T. Ferguson, and Bro. T. W. Watkins to attend.
- 3rd Section—To be held with the Church at Union, Friday before the fourth Sunday in May, 1903; Elders J. E. Frost and W. A. Cashion to attend.
- 4th Section—To be held with the Church at Mt. Olivet, Friday before the fifth Sunday in May, 1903; Elder J. E. Frost to attend.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Appointed W. R. Fields and J. H. Landess, a Committee on Finance, who reported received from the Churches this year, \$20.00, to pay for the printing and distributing these Minutes. Report received and Committee discharged.

Requested Elder J. E. Frost to preach the next introductory sermon, and Elder H. C. Hogan, in case of failure.

Appointed the Clerk to superintend the printing and distributing 750 copies of these Minutes. Reserving 150 copies for correspondents, and that he be allowed the remaining funds in his hands after paying for printing and distributing the Minutes for his services.

On motion of G. N. Chapman the Clerk was ordered to have the Constitution, Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum and Government of the Elk River Association printed in the Minutes.

The Association elected the following Elders to preach on Sunday: J. H. Fisher, Archie Brown and J. W. Bragg.

On motion the Association extended to the brethren, sisters and friends its thanks for their kind hospitality during the meeting of the Association.

Minutes read and approved.

The Association adjourned to meet with the Church at Wagners Creek, near Decherd, Franklin County, Tenn., on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1903.

Prayer by Elder J. H. Fisher.

Signed by order of the Association.

W. A. CASHION, Clerk.
H. C. HOGAN, Assistant Clerk.

J. E. FROST, Moderator.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN —OF THE— Elk River Association of Baptists.

Formed the 20th of August, 1808.

On the 10 day of October, 1806, Bro. George Foster settled on the head of Elk River, from the State of Kentucky, and it pleased the Lord to enable him to collect a few Brethren and Sisters together, who were constituted a Church by the name of Hopewell, in the month of May, 1807. In the fall of the same year, Bethel Church, on the south fork of Duck river, was constituted by John Davis, James Walker and George Foster, and shortly afterwards, Bethel Church, by the same ministers, and on the 27th day of March, 1808, the Boiling Fork Church was constituted by Elders John Davis, Isaac Reed and George Foster, which Churches, with the Elk River Church, met together by their delegates at Hopewell meeting house on the 19th day of August, 1808, and after Divine service, the aforesaid delegates having produced their authority from their respective Churches, took seats and their names were enrolled as follows: From Bethlehem Church, David Adams and Aaron Gage. From Bethel, Thomas Crawford and James Walker. From Elk River, George Foster and William Gotcher. From Boiling Fork, John Davis and Henry Russell. Elder David Adams was chosen Moderator, and Bro. George Foster, Clerk. Bros John Adams, Dutton Sweeten, John Lane and Elders John Reed and Isaac Reed, were invited to seats with us. Then proceeded to appoint Elders James Walker, Thomas Crawford and Aaron Gage, with the Moderator and Clerk, as a committee to arrange the business of the present conference, and adjourned till Saturday, 10 o'clock.

SATURDAY, 10 o'clock—Met, and after invoking the Divine blessing on our attempts, proceeded to business.

1st. Brother William Keel invited to a seat.
2d. Elder John Reed appointed to preach to the people.
3d. The arrangement called for. Read and received.
4th. Agreed, as we hope, in the fear of the Lord, to unite and form an Association to be known by the name of "The Elk River Association," on the following principles, in token of which we gave each other the right hand of fellowship, namely:

1st. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are a Trinity of Persons in the Godhead, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and yet that there are not three Gods, but one only.

2d. We believe that 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 fall of Adam, and by his transgression all his posterity fell and were made sinners. We believe in the corruption of human nature, and in the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability.

4th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the Righteousness of Christ, imputed to them, and that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and are evidences of our gracious state.

5th. We believe that the Saints shall persevere in grace and not one of them shall be finally lost.

6th. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general or universal judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

7th. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, who have obtained fellowship with each other, and

have given themselves to the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel.

8th. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the Church, and that the government thereof is with the body.

9th. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of the Gospel, and to be continued till his second coming.

10th. We believe that true believers are the only fit subjects of Baptism, and that immersion is the only gospel mode.

11th. We believe that none but regularly baptised members have a right to commune at the Lord's table.

12th. We believe that the Lord's day ought to be observed, and set apart for the worship of God, and that no work or worldly business ought to be transacted thereon—works of piety, mercy and necessity, only excepted.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2d. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

3d. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time, who shall rise and address the Moderator when he is about to speak.

4th. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any except the Moderator, till he is done speaking.

5th. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings and imperfections, but shall fairly state the case and matter as fairly as he can, so as to convey his light or ideas.

6th. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without leave.

7th. No person shall rise and speak more than three times to a subject without leave from the Association.

8th. No person shall have liberty of laughing or whispering in time of a public speech.

9th. No appellation but that of "Brother" shall be used in the Association.

10th. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member in his speech or prohibit him from speaking till he gives his light on the subject, except he breaks the rules of this decorum.

11th. The names of the several members of this Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association may require.

12th. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but shall have no vote unless the Association be equally divided.

13th. That any member who shall willingly and knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved as the Association may think fit.

14th. Resolved at the County Line meeting house, in September, 1828, that all motions made and seconded be attended to in order, and that no other motion be made till the first be disposed with.

PLAN OR FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE ELK RIVER ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS.

From a long series of experience, we, the Churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptised upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of Churches in order to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and preserve and maintain a correspondence with each in our union, we therefore propose to maintain and keep the orders and rules of an Association according to the following plan or form of government.

ARTICLES.—The Association shall be composed of members chosen from the different 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, and on producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment shall be entitled to a seat.

2nd. In the letters from the different churches in our union shall be expressed their numbers in full fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated and dead since the last Association.

3rd. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to Lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any clerical power over the churches nor shall they impugn any of the internal rights of any church in the union.

4th. The Association, when convened shall be governed and ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

5th. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of members present.

6th. New churches may be admitted into the union who shall petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by this Association, and manifested by the Moderator giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

7th. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

8th. No query shall come into the Association without first being debated in the church from whence it came, when if it still remains a difficulty with the church, it shall be received by the Association. Such queries excepted which concern our union.

9th. Every motion made and seconded shall come under consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

10th. The Association will endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the Association, being furnished money by the churches for that purpose.

11th. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

12th. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the union, when they deem it necessary.

13. The Association shall have power; First, to provide for the general union of the churches; 2nd, to preserve inviolable, a chain of communication amongst the churches; 3rd, to give the churches advice in difficult cases; 4th, to inquire into the cause why churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the Association; 5th, to appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to transact any business which they may see necessary; 6th, the Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of this Association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of Religion; 7th, and to admit any of the distant brethren in the ministry as assistants, if present at the time of their sitting, whom they shall judge necessary; 8th, the Association shall have power to adjourn to such future time and place as they may think most convenient to the churches in the union.

CHURCHES.	SUNDAY		MONTHS		NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	Total Number.	Contributions.	Deceased.	Excluded.	Dismissed by Letter.	Restored.	Received by Letter.	Received by Relation.	Recd by Experience & Bapt.
	FOOT WASHING are observed.	Lord's Supper and	when the	are observed.										
FIRST SECTION.														
Elk River,	1	May and Oct.	J. N. Dunnaway, G. N. Chapman, and James Bramlet.	6	391	50								
Wagoners' Creek,	1	"	Elder J. G. Woodfin, and J. D. Bass.	3	321	00								
Reard's Creek,	2	"	G. W. Thompson, and Gus. Thompson.	5	7	50								
Shiloh,	4	"	Moses Walker, and J. K. Ward.	1	23	1 00								
SECOND SECTION.														
Flat Creek,	4	"	J. F. Womack, J. G. Frost, Geo. Shofer and J. W. Gilliam.	24	75	2 00								
Bethel,	2	"	J. W. Mitchell, J. C. Spencer, and Elder W. A. Cashion.	1	61	1 50								
Arbor,	1	June and Nov.	Eld. J. E. Frost, and W. T. Keller.	4	31	1 50								
THIRD SECTION.														
New Hope,	1	May and Oct.	R. H. Stephens, and W. B. Chilton.	3	34	1 50								
Bethlehem,	3	"	J. C. Wheeler and P. W. Dozier.	1	19	50								
Mt. Pisgah,	1	"	H. W. Clark, W. R. Fields and J. W. Hale.	2	19	1 00								
Union,	4	"	S. W. Fleming, Jessie Broadway, E. W. and Sam Ashby.	34	125	2 50								
FOURTH SECTION.														
Buckeye,	1	"	Eld. W. T. Ferguson, Hiram Parlin, J. Sullivan, and Jas. Cunningham.	2	45	1 50								
Concord,	3	"	J. B. McClure, James Bateman, and Steven Johnson.	5	75	1 50								
Mt. Moriah,	2	"	W. T. Benson, R. M. Koonce, and Charles Weiss.	1	31	1 50								
Corder's X Roads,	3	"	Eld. H. C. Hoggan, I. H. Landress, J. G. Troupe.	2	31	1 50								
Mt. Olive,	2	"			66	1 50								

ORDER OF PREACHING.

Friday.—Elds, T. I. Pettus, Archie Brown and J. H. Fisher.

Saturday.—Elds. D. Phillips, W. M. Johnson and A. J. Willis.

Sunday. Elds. J. W. Bragg, Archie Brown, and J. H. Fisher. The preaching was all done to the honor of God and to the comfort of God's people.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

- Elder J. E. Frost, Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee.
 " B. A. McLain, Fosterville, Rutherford County, Tennessee.
 " W. A. Cashion, Huntland, Franklin County, Tennessee.
 " John Owens, Lois, Moore county, Tennessee.
 " W. T. Furgason, Bellville, Lincoln County, Tennessee.
 " R. H. Bridges, Corders', Lincoln county, Tennessee.
 " H. C. Hogan, Petersburg, Lincoln county, Tennessee.
 " J. G. Woodfin, South Pittsburg, Marion county, Tennessee.
-

LICENTIATES.

- J. W. Spencer, Lynchburg, Moore county, Tennessee.
 W. B. Chilton, Wartrace, Bedford county, Tennessee.
 J. N. Dunaway, Prairie Plains, Coffee county, Tennessee.
 T. W. Watkins, Flat Creek, Bedford county, Tennessee.
-

CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

- Elk River.—J. R. Bramblett, Pelham, Tennessee.
 Wagoner's Creek.—J. K. Champion, Decherd, Tennessee.
 Bean's Creek—G. W. Thompson, Maxwell, "
 Shiloh—George Syler, Smithland, "
 Flat Creek.—J. G. Frost, Shelbyville, "
 Bethel— " "
 Arbor—Mack Edgmon, Fuga, "
 New Hope—H. P. Osborne, Fairfield, "
 Bethlehem—D. A. Kimbro, Haley, "
 Union—J. P. Hale, Christiana, "
 Mt. Pisgah—T. A. Sykes, Poplin's X Road's, "
 Mt. Moriah—R. J. Small, Mulberry, "
 Concord—W. J. Landess, Bellville, "
 Buckeye—I. B. Whitaker, Fayetteville, "
 Corders' X Roads—R. E. Koonce, Renegar, "
 Mt. Olivet—J. H. Landess, Petersburg. "

