

MINUTES
OF THE
THE 121ST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
NEW RIVER DISTRICT
PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

Held With the Church at Conners Grove, Floyd County,
Virginia, on Friday, Saturday and Second Sunday, in
September, 1915.

OFFICERS :

Elder P. G. Lester, Moderator, Floyd, Virginia.
Elder F.P.Branscome, Clerk, Laurel Fork, Virginia.

Printed at the
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Laurel Fork, Virginia,
1915

MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICE ADDRESSES.

ELDERS

Amos Dickerson,	.....	Floyd,	Virginia.
Posey G. Lester,	.....	Floyd,	Virginia.
R. M. Mabry,	.....	R. 5, Willis,	Virginia.
D. Smith Webb,	.....	R. 1, Hillsville,	Virginia.
F. P. Branscome,	.....	Laurel Fork,	Virginia.
Joel E. Marshall,	.....	Laurel Fork,	Virginia.
F. C. Reynolds,	.....	Riner,	Virginia.
John M. Phillips,	.....	Indian Valley,	Virginia.
Asa Harris,	.....	Indian Valley,	Virginia.
H. V. Cole,	.....	Simpsons,	Virginia.
J. P. Goad,	.....	R. 2, Hillsville,	Virginia.
C. C. Phibbs,	.....	R. 2, Hillsville,	Virginia.
J. F. Sumner,	.....	Sylvatus,	Virginia.
James M. Dickerson,	.....	R.3, Willis,	Virginia.
T. E. Wilson,	.....	Snowville,	Virginia.
C. I. Hurst,	.....	Hiwassee,	Virginia.
A. D. Vaughn,	.....	R. 4, Willis,	Virginia.
M. M. Horton,	.....	Hillsville,	Virginia.
J. H. Cummings,	.....	Tindall,	Virginia.
L. A. Cummings,	.....	Riner,	Virginia.
R. Price Vass,	.....	Fancy Gap,	Virginia.

LICENTIATES.

J. H. Smith,	.....	Peck,	Virginia.
James Conner,	.....	R. 3, Willis,	Virginia.
J. H. West,	.....	Fosters Falls,	Virginia.
R. L. Spencer,	.....	Fosters Falls,	Virginia.
M. A. Lineberry,	.....	Shorts Creek,	Virginia.
C. M. Turman,	.....	Arcola,	Virginia.
S. L. Moran,	.....	Terrys Fork,	Virginia.

PROCEEDINGS.

The association met pursuant to adjournment, with the church at Conners Grove, Floyd county, Virginia, on

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1915.

1. After praise and prayer by Elder Joel E. Marshall, the introductory sermon was preached by Eld. F. P. Brancome, from Matt. 1:21; "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

2. The messengers, after a recess, met in the house, with prayer by Elder A. B. Philpott, from Pig River Association.

3. Received and read letters from all the churches and seated their messengers as shown in the Statistical Table.

4. Seated correspondents from sister associations as follows: From Indian Creek, Elder Charles Massey; From Pig River, Eld. A. B. Philpott; From Smiths River, Elders Q. D. Weeks, S. A. Thompson, J. D. Cockram and C. A. Viperman; From Mayo, Elder E. M. Barnard; From Zion, Elders C. A. Martin and G. P. Allen.

4. The Moderator appointed Elders R. M. Mabry, Asa Harris, H. V. Cole, Amos Dickerson and J. F. Sumner, to act with Moderator and Clerk as a Committee on Arrangements; Brethren J. N. Akers and J. Henry Cruise a Committee on Finance; Brethren G. B. Mabry, Wilcher Bowman W. R. Surratt, James Conner and D. W. Slusher a committee on Preaching; and Brethren David M. Webb and J. H. Wilson a committee on distribution of minutes from sister associations.

6. The Moderator selected Elder C. A. Martin and Chas. Massey to preach this afternoon.

7. Adjourned till Saturday 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1915.

1. The deliberations were opened with praise and prayer by Elder P. G. Lester.

2. Called the Roll and struck off the names of absentees.

3. The Committee on Arrangements reported and was discharged.

4. The Committee on Preaching reported, for Saturday, Elders G. P. Allen, E. M. Barnard, A. B. Philpott and S. A. Thompson; for Sunday, Elders J. D. Cockram, S. A. Thompson and A. B. Philpott.

5. Correspondents who attended sister associations reported and were discharged.

6. Appointed Correspondents to sister Associations as follows: To Indian Creek, Elders P. G. Lester and J. H. Cummings; To Pig River, Elders P. G. Lester, F. P. Branscome, H. V. Cole, and J. H. Cummings; To Smiths River, Elders P. G. Lester, A. Dickerson, H. V. Cole, J. M. Dickerson, J. H. Cummings and F. C. Reynolds; To Mayo, Elders J. M. Dickerson, F. P. Branscome and A. D. Vaughn; To Fishers River, Elders D. S. Webb and R. P. Vass; To Mountain, Elders D. S. Webb, J. P. Goad and R. P. Vass; To Zion, Eld. J. F. Sumner and J. H. Cruise.

7. Agreed to send a file of minutes to the following sister associations: Indian Creek, Elkhorn, Pig River, Smiths River, Fishers River, Mayo, Zion, Mountain, Senter, Salem, Upper Country Line, Lower Country Line, Kehukee, Contentnea, Black Creek, Staunton River and Abbotts Creek.

8. The Circular Letter, as prepared by Elder P. G. Lester, was ordered printed in these minutes.

9. Elder Asa Harris was appointed to write Circular Letter for next year.

10. The Church at Fellowship reported that, at the request of the church, Elders D. S. Webb, F. P. Branscome, J. D. Vass, J. P. Goad, M. M. Horton and C. C. Phibbs, the pastor, met at Fellowship church on Saturday before the first Sunday in November, 1914, and ordained Brother Robert Price Vass to the full functions of the Gospel Ministry.

11. The Committee on Finance reported :

Received from the churches.....	\$45.70	
Allowed for printing and for postage.....	\$20.00	
Allowed for printing blanks for churches.....	2.50	
Gave to Moderator.....	10.00	
Gave to Clerk.....	10.00	
Bal. in Clerk's hands.....	3.20	
Total	\$45.70	\$45.70

12. Appointed Elders P. G. Lester, Amos Dickerson, J. M. Dickerson, H. V. Cole, J. H. Cummings, L. A. Cummings and F. C. Reynolds to meet with the church at Laurel Creek and ordain to the full functions of the Gospel Ministry Bro. S. L. Moran, if judged qualified.

13. Appointed Elders R. M. Mabry, A. D. Vaughn, F. C. Reynolds, J. F. Sumner, P. G. Lester and F. P. Branscome a presbytery to meet with the church at Charity, to ordain to the full functions of the Gospel Ministry, if judged qualified, Brother R. L. Spencer.

14. Adopted the following suggestion :

With reference to the unpleasantness between Fellowship church, of this association, and Zion Hill church, of Zion association, we feel to say that what we have said can have been but suggestive, as the power to execute is with the churches. Therefore we suggest to the church at Fellowship that she send her grievances, by the hands of faithful brethren, and lay them before the church at Zion Hill, and proceed according to the rule of dealing with individual members. See Matt. 18:15-17.

15. We regret to learn that five of our beloved elders, to-wit: James M. Jennings, Jefferson D. Vass, Charles W. Vaughn, Elijah Nester and Lloyd K. Shockley have moved into the bounds of sister associations, and, therefore, are dropped from our list of elders.

And, also, that Brother J. H. W. Horsley, a licensed minister, has moved into the bounds of a sister association; and Brother D. C. Lawson, a licensed minister, has departed this life; and, therefore, their names are dropped from our list of licensed ministers.

16. Agreed to hold the next session of this association with the church at Pine Grove, Carroll county, Virginia, on Friday, Saturday and second Sunday in September, 1916, and adjourned.

ELDER P. G. LESTER, Mod.

ELD. F. P. BRANSCOME, Clerk.

THE PREACHING.

FRIDAY—1. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder F. P. Branscome, from Matt. 1:21; "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins;" 2. Elder C. A. Martin—used no text; 3. Elder Charles Massey, from Rev. 12:1; "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven;" etc.

SATURDAY—1. Elder G. P. Allen, from 1 John 4:19; "We love him because he first loved us." 2. Elder E. M. Barnard, from 2. Cor. 13:11; "Finally, brethren, farewell." 3. Elder S. A. Thompson, from St. John 3:6; "That which is born of the flesh is flesh;" etc. 4. Elder A. B. Philpott, from 1 Cor. 15:25; "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

SUNDAY—First, after prayer by Elder P. G. Lester, Elder J. D. Cockram, from 1 Cor. 2:16; "But we have the mind of Christ." Second, Elder A. B. Philpott, from Isa. 11:12; "And he shall set up an ensign for the nations." Third, Elder S. A. Thompson, from Acts 9:3; "And as he journeyed," etc.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The New River Primitive Baptist Association, in session with the church at Connors Grove, Floyd County, Virginia, September 10, 11, 12, 1915, sends greetings of fellowship in the Lord to all the sister churches whose messengers we are and to the associations with which we correspond.

DEAR BRETHREN: The custom of sending forth in our minutes what we term a Corresponding Circular Letter was devised by our fathers as a medium through which we communicate with each other in expressions of a spiritual, and we trust mutual, import in things pertaining to life and godliness, that we might be mutually refreshed in the blessed assurance that we are dwelling together in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, being of one heart and mind in all essential respects which readily distinguish us from all other religions and professions in all the world; and, at the same time, mutually identify ourselves, as by the mutual faith of each, as being of the faith once delivered unto the saints, and unto our fathers and unto us their children.

Our fathers thought it good to now and then treat upon some particular theme as growing out of, or deduced from these things which were most surely believed among them, and we feel the same to be good for us, being persuaded in our hearts that it is good if we are found in accord with them, both in their belief and in their manner of declaring it.

While we feel assured that they would not have us claim for them a full and perfect knowledge of the principles of divine truth; yet we might claim for them a confident presumption that we would be found in accord with them in their understanding of the faith of these things, and we can and do assure you that such is the sincere desire of our hearts.

While we know that in the divine order of things our day may be distinctively peculiar to ourselves, and that as our day so shall our strength be, even as we go from strength to strength, yet as we go from company to company, as from the congregation of the fathers to the congregation of the children, we would not depart from the face of the God of our fathers, nor from the sufficiency

of Him whose bow abode in strength, but we would be found as they were, and would have our children found with us and with them earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.

While from an individual standpoint there were differences in opinions and understanding among the fathers as there are sometimes among us. Yet we do not recall an instance where an individual among them endeavored to push his peculiar views as if he would have others conform thereto, nor do we desire that any among us should be of such contrary mind, but sincerely desire that sound discretion, prudence and forbearance might so prevail among us, as they did among our fathers, as that nothing so serious as to effect our fellowship might be allowed to have place in our midst. While our desires should be to apply our hearts unto wisdom, yet we do not desire, if we understand our hearts, to be wise above that which is written; nor would we, through ignorance of the righteousness of God, be found going about to establish our own righteousness, but would humbly submit ourselves unto His righteousness, and in the sufficiency of his grace, and in the blessed persuasion of an abiding faith, we would hold fast the assurance of our hearts, being confident that He which hath begun a good work in us will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.

Our fathers deemed it wise and prudent to formulate what they termed Articles of Faith that we might have in brief form an expression of their understanding of the doctrine of God as set forth in the scriptures of truth, which they regarded as the only rule of and authority for the faith and practice of the church; and though they would not have us regard those expressions, or articles, as being infallible in the truth and fullness of their expressions, yet we regard them as in harmony with the truth as it is revealed, and feel that we are safely sound in the faith when we feel to be comfortably circumscribed by their metes and bounds. If we find ourselves in accord with the purport of these expressions, then we may claim their compilers as our fathers. But if, after a careful examination of ourselves as to what we believe and how we understand the scriptures, we are not fundamentally in accord with them in this or that, just in so much are we not of them, and not worthy

the name we bear as from them.

Our fathers believed salvation to be by grace unto which the children of God were chosen according to the election of grace; and to which they were redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, and to which they were predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, that they might be holy and without blame before him in love. That the purpose, will and pleasure of the Father are yea and amen in his Son Jesus Christ, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, in whom it pleased the Father that all fulness should dwell, and to whom he gave all power in heaven and in earth. That there is no power but of God; that the powers that be are ordained of him; that having all rule, authority and power, all dominion, majesty and might, he formulated his will, purpose and pleasure, with respect to revelation and effects of his grace before the world began. And that in the fulness of time these things were brought to the knowledge of the heirs of promise, through the quickening power of the Spirit, by which they are led into all truth, and are thereby manifested as the sons of God. That in this quickening they are raised up from a state of death in sin, and are brought into a state of life in Christ, and are set forth as the workmanship of God, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God before ordained that they should walk in them.

While they believed that salvation is by grace, not of works, as by the law, yet they believed that as an effect of salvation by grace, to which the elect are chosen, and of the obedience of Jesus Christ, to which the chosen are elected, there is an obedience in the gospel of grace consistent with the gospel of salvation by grace, in which and by virtue of which, those to whom salvation has been brought by the grace of God, and who have been taught by it to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, should be careful to maintain good works. These things our fathers believed and constantly affirmed, and so we believe and would affirm. And we commend them unto you and to the household of faith everywhere, as things which tend to edification and make for peace. None can and do know most surely the

effect of grace but those who are saved by it, and the grace which brings salvation to them shows them how to so live as to demonstrate thereby the fact of salvation by grace and thus show forth the praise of Him who has called them out of darkness into his marvelous light To whom be glory by Jesus Christ in all the churches of the saints. Amen.

We are made glad by the coming of your messengers and your messages of fellowship and love and as long as you can have for us that charity which hides the unworthiness of our sinful nature we hope to visit with you in your solemn assemblies and to have you sit in ours. For peace and enlargement of our beloved Zion let ever pray.

P. G. LESTER, Mod.

F. P. BRANSCOME, Clerk.



NAMES AND ADERESSES OF CHURCH CLERKS.

—o—

Pine Grove, P. C. Spivy,.....	R. 1, Hillsville, Virginia.
Greasy Creek, M. A. Gardner,	Willis, Virginia.
Laurel Fork, J. J. McGrady,.....	Laurel Fork, Virginia.
Charity, R. J. Beasley,.....	Fosters Falls, Virginia.
New Hope, E. B. Harris,.....	Dug Spur, Virginia.
W. O. Grove, H. B. Lester.....	Sowers, Virginia.
Panther Creek, H. Montgomery,.....	Longshoal, Virginia.
Fellowship, M. P. Webb,.....	Hillsville, Virginia.
Laurel Creek, P. Cole,.....	Terrys Fork, Virginia.
Concord, J. Henry Cruise,.....	Snake Creek, Virginia.
Little Flock, J. M. Turman,.....	Willis, Virginia.
Harmony, Floyd Chappell,.....	Woodlawn, Virginia.
Valley View, W. M. Lester,.....	Pilot, Virginia.
Wilson's Grove, H. E. Mayberry,.....	Snowville, Virginia.
Mt. Zion, Z. T. Mabe,.....	Woodlawn, Virginia.
Bethel, Walker Hurst,.....	Hiwassee, Virginia.
Maple Shade, J. P. Marshall,	Meadows of Dan, Virginia.
Reed Island, R. H. Moore,	Hiwassee, Virginia.
Floyd, W. C. Lester,.....	Floyd, Virginia.
Little Vine, P. S. Surratt,.....	Sylvatus, Virginia.
Indian Creek, Wade F. Cox,.....	Indian Valley, Virginia.
Pilgrims Rest, J. R. O'lell,.....	Hiwassee, Virginia.
Conners Grove, D. W. Slusher,.....	Willis, Virginia.



CHURCHES		NAMES OF MESSENGERS											
Pine Grove	C. F. Stone	3	0	0	1	1	1	51	1.54				
Greasy Creek	E. L. Dickerson, J. N. Akers and Harvey Howell	2	0	0	2	0	1	45	1.95				
Laurel Fork	S. B. Bowman, Wilcher Bowman and J. J. McGrady	4	2	2	2	0	1	62	2.00				
Charity	R. L. Spencer, W. E. Surratt and W. R. Spencer	4	6	0	2	0	26	1.50					
New Hope	L. A. Jennings, G. B. Mabry and B. P. McPeak	2	7	0	1	0	125	3.00					
W. O. Grove	A. Dickerson, P. G. Lester, W. W. Thompson and F. W. Slusher	2	3	0	3	0	84	1.50					
Panther Creek	K. M. Stillwell and John Nunn	1	3	0	1	0	22	2.00					
Fellowship	M. P. Webb and David M. Webb	1	5	0	5	0	95	3.10					
Laurel Creek	Eld. H. V. Cole, Eld. J. H. Cummings and S. L. Moran	4	4	0	3	0	163	2.55					
Concord	G. M. Cassell, J. W. Williams and J. Henry Cruise	8	1	0	1	0	56	1.50					
Little Flock	Eld. R. M. Mabry, Eld. A. D. Vaughn, and C. P. & C. G. Vaughn	4	5	7	1	0	32	1.50					
Harmony	Eld. D. S. Webb * and Eld. J. P. Goad *	4	0	0	0	0	77	2.00					
Valley View	Elders F. C. Reynolds and L. A. Cummings	2	0	0	2	0	35	1.50					
Wilson's Grove	Elder J. E. Wilson, * A. W. Dehart and H. E. Mayberry	1	12	0	1	2	88	2.00					
Mt. Zion	Z. T. Mahe	1	1	0	2	1	2	2.00					
Bethel	Elder C. I. Hurst and J. H. Wilson	1	6	0	1	2	1	88	2.00				
Maple Shade	Elders F. P. Branscome, Joel E. Marshall and J. M. Dickerson	2	1	0	2	1	63	2.00					
Reed Island	James L. Marshall	3	0	0	1	2	58	2.00					
Floyd	J. B. Slusher, Joseph Stumpe and W. C. Lester	4	4	0	4	0	71	1.50					
Little Vine	Elder John F. Sumner, W. R. Surratt and Arthur Marshall	2	3	1	1	1	29	2.40					
Indian Creek	Elder J. M. Phillips, Elder Asa Harris and J. C. Hollandsworth	4	1	1	1	1	105	4.00					
Pilgrims Rest	James Conner, D. W. Slusher and J. B. Alderman	2	2	0	1	1	156	1.50					
Conners Grove		4	0	0	0	0	59	1.50					
	* Absentees	21	7	76	11	6	12	2	30	1699	\$45.50		
	Totals												

Contributions
No. in Fellowship
Deceased.
Excluded.
Dis. by Letter.
Restored.
Rec'd by Letter.
Received by Ex.
Licensed Min.
Ordained Min.
Church Meetings