

MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-Ninth Annual Session

OF THE

ECHECONNEE ASSOCIATION OF PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

Salem Church, Crawford County, Georgia,

September 13th, 14th and 15th, 1907.

....OFFICERS....

ELD. S. T. BENTLEY, Moderator, - - - - - Culloden, Ga.

W. S. BLOODWORTH, Clerk, - - - - - Thomaston, Ga.

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MINUTES.

The Seventy-Ninth Annual Session of the Echeconnee Association of Primitive Baptist was held with Salem Church, Crawford County, Georgia, Sept. 13th, 14th and 15th, 1907.

1st. After prayer, by Elder H. B. Wilkinson of Lot's Creek Association, the Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder J. H. Gresham from the Ocmulga Association, text 15th Chap. 1st Cor.

2nd. After prayer by Elder J. M. Murray of the Upatoie, the Association was organized by the Moderator and W. S. Bloodworth was elected temporary clerk. The letters from the churches were called for and read; and the names of Messengers enrolled.

3rd. Proceeded to permanent organization by the election of a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the election of S. T. Bentley Moderator and W. S. Bloodworth Clerk.

4th. Seventeen Churches having previously withdrawn their fellowships from Sharon and Forsyth Primitive Churches, on a motion being made and duly seconded, these churches were formally dropped from the roll of the churches composing the Echeconnee Association until they set themselves in order.

Ramah and Bethlehem (Upson) Churches having Affiliated and are yet doing so, by the admission of their Messengers present, with these churches after being withdrawn from were, upon motion and second being made, dropped from the roll of churches composing the Echeconnee Association until they set themselves in order.

5th. Appointed Usual Committees:

On Preaching—J. S. McGhee; J. H. B. Butts; H. L. McKinney; Elder I. Grant and J. D. McGhee.

To write Corresponding Letter—W. C. Lewis.

On Contributions and Distribute Corresponding Minutes—J. F. Heard; J. H. Mullins; W. E. Champion; R. E. Wright and J. W. Fielder.

6th. Invited visiting brethren and sisters to seats with us.

7th. Called for correspondence from sister Associations and received as follows:

From the Upatoie—Elder J. M. Murray; W. T. White and J. W. Harp.

From Marietta Old School:—No tidings.

From Primitive Western—Elder B. C. Caldwell.

From the Harmony—Elder W. T. Everett.

From the Primitive Ebenezer—Elder J. A. Taylor.

From the Ocmulga—Elder J. H. Gresham; Elder W. J. Green; T. J. Bazemore; J. W. Newton and J. T. Cannon.

8th. Called for Petitionary Letters.

9th. Appointed brethren J. F. Heard and J. M. Frederick as a Committee to draft a suitable tribute of respect in memory of our deceased brother, and for a number of years, Clerk, H. E. Murray.

Appointed brethren W. J. Heard and W. C. Lewis as a committee to draft a resolution defining the position of this, the Echeconnee Association, on the innovations of the day, such as the use of organs in our worship; protracted meetings and secret orders; to be printed in our minutes.

10th. Adjourned to 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, Sept. 14th, 1907.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder J. A. Taylor of the Primitive Ebenezer.

1st. Called the roll and dispensed with reading decorum.

2nd. Called for further Correspondence from sister Associations and received J. N. Souther from the Primitive Ebenezer and Elder J. E. Battle from the Upatoie.

3rd. Suspended regular order of business to receive visitors from Sister Associations and churches with whom we are not in formal correspondence and received:

From the Yellow River—J. T. Lasseter.

From Flint River—Elder Lee Hawks.

From Lot's Creek—Elder H. B. Wilkison.

4th. Resumed regular order of business and renewed invitation to visiting brethren to seats with us.

5th. Returned correspondence to Sister Associations:

To the Upatoie, to convene with Prosperity Church, Tuesday after 1st Sunday in September 1908, (Conveyance from Rupert station on A. B. and A. R. R.)—Elder J. T. Young; H. J. Brown; W. E. Champion; Elder J. T. Reynolds; G. W. Hall and O. A. Clyatt.

To Marietta Old School, convenes 1st Sunday in October next A package of Minutes.

To the Primitive Western, to convene with the church at Flat Rock on Tuesday after 1st Sunday in October 1907—J. S. McGhee and J. B. Reeves

To the Harmony, to convene with the church at Providence 3 miles south of Plains, Ga. on S. A. L. R. R. and 9 miles from Sumter on Central R. R. on Friday before the second Sunday in October 1907.—Elder S. T. Bentley and Elder J. T. Reynolds.

To the Primitive Ebenezer—To convene with the church at Cool Springs on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September the present month. (Visitors will be met, with conveyance, at Danville on M. D. and S. R. R.)—J. M. Frederick; Elder J. T. Reynolds; J. B. Hunt; W. E. Champion; J. W. Fielder; T. E. Whittle and W. C. Lewis.

To the Ocmulga, To convene with the church at New Hope 6 miles east of Dame's Ferry (on Southern R. R.) on Friday before the second Sunday in September 1908.—J. S. McGhee; J. M. Frederick; T. A. Childs; T. E. Whittle; Elder J. T. Reynolds; J. W. Fielder; and Elder W. J. Heard. Visitors will also be met at Round Oak on M. and N. R. R.

6th. Agreed to return Letter and contributions which were sent up by the churches dropped from roll on yesterday.

7th. Called for contributions sent up by the churches and received for Minutes \$30.90, and for the Ministry \$51.15.

8th. Appointed Union Meetings as follows:—

First: To convene with the church at Barnesville on Friday before the fifth Sunday in May, 1908.

Second to convene with the church at Good Hope on Friday before the fifth Sunday in August, 1908, 6 miles south of Thomaston, Ga., on Central and M. and B. R. R.

9th Appointed the next Session of this body to convene with the church at Pleasant Hill, Houston County, Georgia, 2½ miles south-west of Wellston on, G. S. and F. R. R. Tu-sday after third Sunday in September 1908 and embracing three days.

10th. Agreed to have 2000 copies of these Minutes printed and distributed in the usual manner.

11th. Called for corresponding Letter, which was read and adopted.

12th. Committee appointed to draft a suitable resolution setting forth the position of this, the Echeconnee Association, in regard to the innovations of the day, presented same which was read and adopted; and ordered printed in our minutes.

Received the tribute, presented by committee on life and death of our lamented brother, H. E. Murray, read and adopted same and ordered that it be printed in our minutes and that his family be furnished copy.

13th. Read and adopted Minute; and after prayer by Elder Lee Hanks of the Flint River Association adjourned.

S. T. Bentley Moderator.

W. S. Bloodworth Clerk.

Order of Preaching.

Friday P. M.—Elder J. M. Murray, from the Upatoie Association.

Saturday A. M.—Elder W. T. Everett, from the Harmony Association followed by Elder H. B. Wilkinson, from Lot's Creek Association.

Saturday P. M.—Elder J. A. Monsees from Abbotts Creek association, N. C., followed by Elder J. A. Taylor, from the Ebenezer Association.

Sunday A. M.—Elder J. E. Battle, of the Upatoie Association followed by Elder Lee Hanks, of the Flint River Association.

The Association feels it to be a duty they owe to the brethren and friends of Salem church and to the community, to return thanks through this medium, for their kindness and generous hospitality as manifested to us during the Session of just closed. We will ever remember, with grateful hearts, the many kindnesses extended to us.

Corresponding Letter.

The Echeconnee Association, now in session with Salem Church, Crawford, County, Ga., to her Sister Associations with whom she corresponds, greeting: Beloved in the Lord, through the tender mercies of an all-wise God we have been permitted to hold another session of our body. Seventeen of our churches are represented, and their Messengers report peace in their midst.

Dear brethren our ministers have come to us bearing the gospel truths of Christ and we feel thankful for His Mercies. We desire a continuance of your brotherly correspondence. It is our prayer that God's people be united in the bonds of peace, walking in the footsteps of our Lord and Master. The next session of our body will be held with the church at Pleasant Hill, Houston county Ga., convening on Tuesday after third Sunday in September 1903, when and where we hope to meet you again. Two and one-half miles Southwest of Wellston, G. S. and F. R. R. 16 miles South of Macon, Ga.

Resolution.

Whereas the Primitive Baptist have been greatly disturbed by the introduction of new and unscriptural practices in their worship viz. instrumental music, secret orders and other things of like character, therefore be it resolved that we declare against these measures in our churches together with all others that practice or affiliate with the same.

In Memoriam.

In as much as God, who is too wise to err, has removed by death from our midst our beloved Clerk, brother H. E. Murray, whose life, and Christian fortitude are worthy of the most earnest emulation of the entire brotherhood be it resolved, that this body has lost one of its most worthy, most trusted and most beloved members, while we desire to bow in humble submission to the providential dealings of God with us, we wish to acknowledge our great grief and our inestimable loss. We feel that our loss is brother Murray's eternal gain. Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of our deceased brother and that a page in the minute book of this Association be given to the recording of these resolutions.

J. M. Frederick }
J. F. Heard } Committee.

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 Baptist 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 n 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 God head—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

2nd. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament 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 him self 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 those 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	CLERKS	COUNTIES	POST OFFICES	NAMES OF MESSENGERS	PASTORS	Baptized	Received by Letter	Confession of Faith	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Expelled	Deceased	Total Number	Sabbath Meetings	Money for Minutes	Money for Ministry
Ebenezer.....				Not represented.....		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	3	50	
Good Hope.....	W C Gunn.....	Epson.....	Thomaston.....	G W Hall, I J Mallory.....	B C Caldwell.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	3	50	\$ 1 00
Mt. Carmel.....	J R Bentley.....	Crawford.....	Robley.....	S T Bentley, F W Hammeck, J R Bentley.....	S T Bentley.....	0	3	0	0	16	0	0	50	3	1 00	2 35
Salem.....	Job D McGee.....	Crawford.....	Reberta.....	I Grant, Job D McGee, J S McGee.....	I Grant.....	2	0	0	0	17	0	1	83	2	1 50	2 00
Providence.....	J J Britt.....	Crawford.....	Roberta.....	B A Childs, T A Kendrick, J J Britt.....	S T Bentley.....	1	4	0	0	5	0	2	56	4	1 25	3 00
Fellowship.....	J H M Clyatt.....	Houston.....	Fort Valley.....	J W Tabor, W E Champion, B F Murray.....	w J Heard.....	0	2	0	0	1	0	4	29	2	1 50	1 50
Bethlehem [Bibb].....	F W Williams.....	Bibb.....	Macon.....	J W Grant, J S McGee, J A Moore.....	S T Bentley.....	0	2	0	0	4	0	2	127	4	3 00	5 00
Friendship.....	W S Bloodworth.....	Upson.....	Thomaston.....	J H B Butt, w S Bloodworth, J B Reeves.....	S T Bentley.....	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	40	1	1 00	5 00
Pleasant Hill.....	J D Cherry.....	Houston.....	Dunbar.....	J M Frederick, w L Lewis, w C Lewis.....	w J Heard.....	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	45	1	2 00	3 00
Sardis.....	T M Nash.....	Bibb.....	Macon.....	w J Heard, J F Heard, J w Fielder.....	w J Heard.....	3	11	0	0	2	1	1	72	3	2 00	3 00
Mt. Paran.....	W J Marshall.....	Bibb.....	Lizella.....	R E Wright, H J Brown, J L Marshall.....	w J Green.....	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	60	1	1 50	3 00
Beaver Creek.....	J M Pitts.....	Houston.....	Kathleen.....	J B Hunt.....	J T Reynolds.....	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	20	1	50	1 00
Shiloh.....	T E McCullom.....	Bibb.....	Lizella.....	J T Young, J H Mosely, E L McCollum.....	J T Young.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	22	2	1 00	3 25
Harmony.....	T E Whitte.....	Pike.....	Meansville.....	C w Sullivan, J w Kersey, F B Wilder.....	w J Green.....	1	1	0	0	8	0	0	30	3	1 00	4 00
High Shoals.....	T M Mullins.....	Monroe.....	Goggansville.....	P H Childs, J H Mullins.....		2	0	0	1	0	2		44	2	1 00	3 00
Mt. Calvary.....				Did not represent.....												
Concord.....				Did not represent.....												
Griffin.....	F M Gardner.....	Spalding.....	Griffin.....	L w Allman, G L Hamilton, F M Gardner.....		1	3	0	0	3	16	5	24	2	50	1 75
Emmaus.....	H L Mckenney.....	Upson.....	Thomaston.....	F B Hancock, R L Smith, H L McKenney.....	w J Heard.....	0	2	0	0	8	0	0	65	4	75	2 50
Barnesville.....	H C Dickey.....	Fike.....	Barnesville.....	Represented by Letter.....	S T Bentley.....	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	25	2	1 50	4 00
															50	1 00

If clerks of different churches would be careful to give Post Offices in their letters it would expedite business and save error.

