
MINUTES OF THE
NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF—

LITTLE RIVER PRIMITIVE
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

Salem Meeting House

JOHNSTON COUNTY, N. C.

SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 1925

ELD. E. F. PEARCE, Moderator
Princeton, N. C.

R. F. SMITH, Clerk
Benson, N. C.

O. S. YOUNG, Assistant Clerk
Angier, N. C.

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Proceedings

First—The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Jesse Barnes from Jer. 8 : 22: “Is there no balm in Gilead? is there no physician there?”

Second—After a short recess the brethren came together, and after prayer by Elder H. H. Goodman, the association was organized by choosing Elder E. F. Pearce Moderator, and R. F. Smith Clerk, who called to his assistance Bro. O. S. Young.

Third—Brethren D. L. Godwin and J. L. Batten were appointed a Committee on Finance.

Fourth—Then invited all corresponding and visiting brethren from sister associations to seats with us. The following elders were chosen to preach today: C. F. Denny, R. H. Boswell and C. B. Hall.

Fifth—Then called for corresponding and visiting brethren and sister associations as follows:

Upper Country Line:

A file of minutes.

Lower Country Line: Elders C. B. Hall and E. C. Oakes, and

Brethren M. G. Markham and J. J. Dupree.

A file of minutes.

Kehukee:

A file of minutes.

White Oak:

A file of minutes.

Abbott's Creek:

A file of minutes.

Mill Branch:

A file of minutes.

Black Creek: Elders J. T. Collier, R. H. Boswell, C. F. Denny and J. T. Williams, and Brethren C. R. Bridges and Lee Pope.

A file of minutes.

Contentnea: Elder G. M. Corbett.

A file of minutes.

Fisher's River:

A file of minutes.

Mayo: Elder H. F. Hutchens.

No minutes.

Seven Mile: Elder L. A. Johnson and Brethren J. G. Turlington and J. W. Stancil.

A file of minutes.

Salem:

A file of minutes.

Roaring River: Elder W. R. Craft.

A file of minutes.

Zion:

Hillabee of Alabama: Elder H. H. Goodman.

Sixth—Then called for letters from churches composing this Association. Letters were handed in, read, and their contents noted in the statistical table. (See table.) All messengers were seated except Fellowship, the church there being divided.

Seventh—Then called for petitionary letters.

None presented.

Eighth—Then appointed corresponding messengers to sister Associations:

Kehukee: Bro. J. P. Temple.

A file of minutes.

Upper Country Line:

A file of minutes.

Lower Country Line: Elder E. C. Jones and Brethren D. L. Godwin, R. F. Smith, J. F. Adams, J. W. Powell and G. W. Stewart.

A file of minutes.

White Oak: Elder E. C. Jones and Bro. J. F. Adams.

A file of minutes.

Contentnea: Brethren J. P. Temple and D. L. Godwin.

A file of minutes.

Mill Branch: Brethren D. L. Godwin, R. F. Smith, J. A. Stephenson and J. F. Adams.

A file of minutes.

Black Creek: Brethren R. D. Langdon, D. L. Godwin, R. F. Smith, F. C. Hamilton, J. P. Temple and J. H. Brady.

A file of minutes.

Seven Mile: Brethren R. D. Langdon, R. D. Ennis, A. H. Dupree, G. M. Stewart and E. C. Pollard.

A file of minutes.

Abbott's Creek:

A file of minutes.

Mayo:

A file of minutes.

Ninth—Then called on brethren appointed last year to sister Associations to report. The brethren generally attended, and those who did not were excused.

Tenth—Agreed that the Committee on Finance take charge

of the minutes from sister Associations and prepare for proper distribution to the churches of the Association.

Eleventh—Agreed that the officers of the Association, together with the Messengers of this Church, be appointed a Committee of Arrangement for the preaching during the sitting of the Association.

Twelfth—Preachers appointed for tomorrow, Saturday: Elders G. M. Corbett, J. T. Collier, L. A. Johnson, W. R. Craft, J. T. Williams and H. H. Goodman.

Thirteenth—Agreed that our next Association be held with the church at Clement, Johnston Co., North Carolina, to begin on Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1926, and that Elder L. H. Stephenson preach the introductory sermon, and that Elder E. F. Pearce be his alternate. Worship to begin at 11 o'clock A. M.

The Association adjourned until Saturday morning at 9 : 30 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Fourteenth—The Association met according to adjournment and was opened by praise and prayer by Elder E. C. Oakes.

Fifteenth—Again called for corresponding and visiting brethren, when the following were reported: Brethren L. A. Wright and J. A. Maness, from Abbott's Creek Association.

Sixteenth—Then called for a report of Finance Committee, which is as follows:

Received from churches this year \$147 10

DISBURSEMENTS.

Clerk's service	\$15 00
For printing and mailing minutes	40 00
Distributed to visiting ministers	92 10
Total	\$147 10
Balance on hand	\$ 00

On motion, report was received and Committee discharged.

Seventeenth—Ordered the Clerk to superintend and transcribe these minutes, and have 1,300 copies printed and distribute them as per the order hereinafter prescribed, and enter a copy of the same on our Association Record.

Eighteenth—Preachers appointed for tomorrow, Sunday, were: Elders E. C. Oakes and H. H. Goodman.

Nineteenth—Agreed to extend thanks to the brethren, sisters, and friends of Salem Church and surrounding community for the kindness shown in supporting the Association during this sitting.

Twentieth—Agreed that the balance of the funds left in the hands of the Finance Committee, after defraying the usual expenses of the Association, be distributed among the ministers from the sister Associations.

Twenty-first—Agreed that all irregular trade or traffic be forbidden within the legal bounds during the sitting of the Association, and that we extend thanks to the officers of the community for their diligence in keeping order.

Twenty-Second—The Clerk of the Association is ordered to give sufficient notice of the time and place of holding the Association, with all necessary information pertaining thereto.

Twenty-Third—On motion, the above proceedings were read and approved, and adjourned until Sunday A. M. at 10 o'clock. Benediction.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 1925.

Twenty-Fifth—Services were opened as per adjournment by Elder E. C. Oakes, followed by Elder H. H. Goodman, then by Elders J. T. Collier and H. F. Hutchens.

Thus ended the services, and after a few remarks by the Moderator, the meeting closed.

ELDER E. F. PEARCE, *Moderator*,
R. F. SMITH, *Clerk*,
O. S. YOUNG, *Assistant Clerk*.

SERVICES

The following ministers preached through the Association:

FRIDAY, 11 O'CLOCK.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder Jesse Barnes, from Jer. 8 : 22.

FRIDAY P. M.

Elder C. B. Hall, Hillsboro, N. C., R. 2, Amos 8 : 1-4.
Elder C. F. Denny, Wilson, N. C., Isaiah 40 : 1, 2.
Elder R. H. Boswell, Wilson, N. C., No special text.

SATURDAY

Elder G. M. Corbett, Greenville, N. C., 2nd Tim. 4th.
Elder J. T. Collier, Micro, N. C., 1st John 1 : 1.
Elder L. A. Johnson, Benson, N. C., R. 2, St. John 1 : 4.

Elder W. R. Craft, Wilbor, N. C., St. John 15 : 1-5.
Elder J. T. Williams, Castalia, N. C., Acts 2 : 37.
Elder H. H. Goodman, Ashland, Ala., Rom. 8 : 29, 30.

SUNDAY

Elder E. C. Oakes, Semore, N. C., 1st John 1 : 3.
Elder H. H. Goodman, Ashland, Ala. (Deliverance).
Elder J. T. Collier, Micro, N. C., Ezek. 18 : 1-3.
Elder H. F. Hutchens, Selma, N. C., 2nd Sam. 23 : 5.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT OF ELDER J. A. T. JONES.

Whereas, on Dec. 21, 1924, it was the pleasure of our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst our much beloved brother, Elder J. A. T. Jones, who was born Dec 21st, A. D. 1842, joined the church at Middle Creek Oct, A. D., 1871, and was ordained to the full functions of the ministry in July, A. D. 1876, by a presbytery composed of Elders James Wilson and A. Partin, and was immediately called into service as pastor of the churches, which service he continued faithfully for nearly fifty years. He was called as assistant clerk of the Little River Primitive Baptist Association in A. D. 1874, and was appointed clerk of same A. D. 1879, and served in this capacity forty years, proving his faithfulness and efficiency in every duty that came to his hands to perform. As a pastor, he was faithful, firm and strong in the Doctrine of God our Savior, and at the time of his death was pastor at Fellowship, Willow Spring, Smithfield, Salem and Middle Creek. He taught school in his community for several years, and served his county in the State Senate.

As an Elder, a citizen, a neighbor, a husband and father, none were more highly respected and esteemed. His companion, Mrs. Elizabeth Barnes Jones, was stricken ill at his burial and survived him only eight days.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, First, That we, the Little River Primitive Baptist Association, desire to bow in humble submission to this dispensation of God's providence, feeling that our loss is his eternal gain, realizing that we can but stand still and know that He is God, and doeth all things well.

Second, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon our minutes, and a copy sent to Zion's Landmark for publication.

Done by act of the Association on Sept., A. D. 1925.

Time and Place of Holding Quarterly Meetings, with Pastors' Names Attached

Bethany—J. T. Collier, pastor, fourth Sunday and Saturday in February, May, August and November.

Bethel—A. D. Johnson, pastor, fourth Sunday, March, June, September and December.

Clement—A. D. Johnson, pastor, second Sunday and Saturday in March, June, September and December.

Hannah's Creek—Xure Lee, pastor, third Sunday and Saturday before, February, May, August and November.

Little Creek—E. F. Pearce, pastor, third Sunday and Saturday before in January, April, July and October.

Middle Creek—E. C. Jones, pastor, second Sunday and Saturday before, February, May, August and November.

Rehoboth—Elder G. W. Stephenson, fourth Sunday and Saturday before, February, May, August and November.

Oak Grove—Elder J. T. Collier, pastor, third Sunday and Saturday before, February, May, August and November.

Raleigh—Elder E. L. Cobb, pastor, third Sunday and Saturday before, February, May, August and November.

Salem—Jesse Barnes, pastor, third Sunday and Saturday before, February, May, August and November.

Sandy Grove—Elder L. H. Stephenson, pastor, third Sunday and Saturday before, March, June, September and December.

Smithfield—Jesse Barnes, pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before, January, April, July and October.

Union—E. F. Pearce, pastor, second Sunday and Saturday before, March, June, September and December.

Willow Springs—C. B. Hall, pastor, fourth Sunday and Saturday before, February, May, August and November.

Mt. Gilead—Elder L. H. Stephenson, pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before, March, June, September and December.

Mt. Zion—W. G. Turner, pastor, second Sunday and Saturday before in January, April, July and October.

Four Oaks—A. D. Johnson, pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before in March, June, September and December.

Cedar Grove—No pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before, February, May, August and November.

Gift Church—R. E. Johnson, pastor, third Sunday and Saturday before in January, April, July and October.

Angier—Elder C. B. Hall, pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before in March, June, September and December.

Cleveland—No pastor, third Sunday and Saturday before in January, April, July and October.

Minutes to Sister Associations.

Mill Branch—M. Mears, Tabor, N. C., 20 copies.

Upper Country Line—Elder J. W. Gilliam, Altamahaw, N. C., 30 copies.

Lower Country Line—J. H. Gooch, Stem, N. C., 25 copies.

Kehukee—Elder B. S. Cowen, Williamston, N. C., 50 copies.

Contentnea—H. L. Brake, Rocky Mount, N. C., 40 copies.

White Oak—Elder Isaac Jones, Maple Hill, N. C., 30 copies.

Abbott's Creek—A. L. Owen, Salisbury, N. C., 20 copies.

Fisher's River—Eld. F. P. Stone, Francisco, N. C., R. 1, 30 copies.

Staunton River—R. L. Dodson, 147 Broad St., Danville, Va., 20 copies.

Mayo—Elder S. B. Dobbins, Claudeville, Va., 20 copies.

Black Creek—Elder E. L. Cobb, Wilson, N. C., 30 copies.

Seven Mile—W. V. Blackman, Bentonville, N. C., 15 copies.

Zion—H. F. Branscomb, Fancy Gap, Va., 15 copies.

Names of Ministers Belonging to the Little River Primitive Baptist Association, and Their Post Office Address

R. E. Johnson, Benson, N. C.

Jesse Barnes, Smithfield, N. C.

E. F. Pearce, Princeton, N. C., R. 1.

L. H. Stephenson, Willow Springs, N. C., R. 1.

G. William Stephenson, Benson, N. C., R. 1.

E. C. Jones, McCullers, N. C., R. 1.

Licentiates

O. S. Young, Angier, N. C.

T. F. Adams, Willow Springs, N. C.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

We, the messengers of the several churches composing the Little River Association, agree, for the satisfaction of our brethren and friends, to publish an abstract of the principles of faith upon which we unite and will endeavor with the help of the Lord to maintain.

1. We believe in the being of God as Almighty, eternal, unchangeable, of infinite wisdom, power, justice, holiness, goodness, mercy and truth, and that this God has revealed Himself in His Word, under the character of Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that Almighty God has made known His mind and will to the children of men in His Word, which Word we believe to be of divine authority and contains all things necessary to be known for the salvation of man. The same is comprehended or contained in the books of the Old and New Testaments.

3. We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, for a purpose of His own glory, did elect a certain number of men and angels to eternal life, and that this election is particular, eternal and unconditional on the creature's part.

4. We believe that when God made man he was good and upright, but by his own transgressions he fell from that good and upright state, and being the head representative of the whole human race, they being his natural offspring, he involved all of them in the same ruined state with himself, and they were partakers of, and exposed to the miseries which sprang from his disobedience.

5. We believe that it is utterly out of the power of man as a fallen creature to keep the law of God perfectly, or to truly repent of his sins, or believe in Christ, except he be drawn by the Holy Spirit.

6. We believe in God's own appointed time and way the elect will be called, justified, pardoned and sanctified, and that it is impossible that they can utterly refuse the call, but shall be willing by divine grace to receive mercy.

7. We believe that justification in the sight of God is only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, received and applied by faith.

8. We believe that those that are called by grace and born again will persevere in holiness and never fall finally away.

10. We believe it to be a duty incumbent on all God's people to walk religiously in all God's works, not in the old covenant way of seeking life and the favor of the Lord by it, but only as a duty from a principle of love.

11. We believe baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances, both belonging to the converted or true believer.

12. We believe that every church is independent in matters of discipline, and that associations, councils and conferences of ministers or churches, are not to impose on the church, the keeping, holding or maintaining any principle or practice contrary to the church's judgment.

13. We believe in the general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, and final judgment.

14. We believe the punishment of the wicked is everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

15. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances unless called and come sunder the imposition of hands by the presbytery.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

1. The association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches in the Little River Association, who shall be members supposed to be the best qualified for that purpose, and those producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment shall be entitled to seats in the association, provided the church is in peace at the time appointment is made.

2. In the letters from the churches shall be expressed the number of members in full fellowship, the number received by experience and baptism, the number received by letter, the number dismissed by letter, and the number excommunicated, and those who died since the last association was held.

3. Members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated The Little River Primitive Baptist Association.

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

5. The association shall have a moderator and clerk, who shall be chosen by members composing it. The moderator to be chosen annually at each association; the clerk to continue in office during his pleasure or the pleasure of the association.

6. New churches may be admitted into the union by a written petition presented by messengers, with letter, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, it may be manifested by the moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

7. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the association, but shall have only three messengers from each church.

8. Every query presented by any messenger in the association shall be read, and before it shall be debated, the moderator shall put it to a vote as to whether or not it shall be debated, and if a majority votes for debating, the query shall be debated; otherwise the query must be withdrawn.

9. Every motion made by any messenger which receives a second shall be considered by the association, unless it be withdrawn by the messenger offering it.

10. The association shall furnish the churches in the union with minutes of its proceedings.

11. We believe it to be absolutely necessary to have a fund for defraying the necessary expenses of the association, and recommend that each church composing it voluntarily contribute such sum as they think proper, and send by their messenger to the association, which money shall be placed in the hands of the clerk, who shall account for the same, and pay it out as directed by the association.

12. The clerk shall have a book wherein shall be recorded the proceedings of each association, as well as a record of the dates of each association, and when associations are held at the different churches in the union, for which he shall receive a yearly compensation.

13. The association shall provide for the general union of churches, and shall preserve inviolably a chain of communion among the same. Shall give churches all necessary advice when called upon to do so; shall inquire into the cause of failure on the part of any church not represented at each association; shall appropriate the money contributed by the church for association fund to any purpose it deems proper; may appoint any member or members by and with their consent to transact any business connected with the association; shall have power to withdraw from any church composing the union which violates the rules of the association or deviates from the orthodox principles of our faith.

14. Visiting brethren may be invited to assist in the association in every way except to vote.

15. Amendments may be made to this form of government at any time by a majority vote.

16. The minutes of the association shall be read and approved and signed by the moderator and clerk before adjournment.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the moderator in beginning his speech.

3. Every brother speaking shall adhere strictly to the subject under consideration, and shall in no way reflect on any other brother.

4. No messenger shall absent himself from the association while in conference, without permission.

5. No messenger shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission from the association.

6. Messengers shall keep strict order while the business of the association is being transacted.

7. No messenger shall be interrupted while speaking unless he violates the rules of the decorum.

8. No messenger shall address another in other term or appellation than the title of brother.

9. The names of the members composing the association shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over as often as the association requires.

10. The moderator shall not speak on any question before the association until all the other members are through speaking, when he may give his views, after which any messenger having a right to speak, may reply to any new matter introduced by the moderator.

11. Any member who shall violate any rules of the association shall be dealt with by the association as it deems proper.

Names of Churches, Clerks and Post Office Address

Bethel, 50 copies, J. B. Hardee, Benson, R. 3.
Bethany, 45 copies, A. Wiggs, Pine Level, N. C.
Clement, 35 copies, W. M. Hobbs, Smithfield, N. C.
Hannah's Creek, 75 copies, J. Willis Creech, Benson, N. C.
Little Creek, 30 copies, J. J. Batten, Smithfield, N. C.
Middle Creek, 30 copies, J. B. Britt, McCullers, N. C., R. No. 1.
Mt. Gilead, 30 copies, J. T. Hinton, Clayton, N. C.
Oak Grove, 25 copies, O. Tingen, Apex, N. C.
Rehoboth, 45 copies, J. C. Barbour, Benson, R. 1.
Raleigh, 40 copies, J. P. Temple, Selma, N. C.
Salem, 45 copies, J. I. Whitley, Wendell, R. 1.
Sandy Grove, 30 copies, Alex Dupree, Willow Springs, N. C., R. 1.
Smithfield, 50 copies, Amos Johnson, Smithfield, R. 1.
Union, 60 copies, J. H. Braddy, Smithfield, N. C.
Willow Springs, 45 copies, T. F. Adams, Willow Springs, N. C.
Mt. Zion, 40 copies, J. G. Smith, Benson.
Four Oaks, 30 copies, E. B. Durham, Four Oaks, N. C.
Cedar Grove, 15 copies, J. W. Powell, Wake Forest, N. C.
Gift, 85 copies, R. O. Stewart, Coats, N. C.
Angier, 40 copies, A. H. Dupree, Angier, N. C.
Cleveland, A. L. Coats, 15 copies, Clayton, R. 1.





