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MINUTES

OF THE
FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
TOWALIGA ASSOCIATION
OF
PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS,

HELD WITH

Bethel Church, Butts County, Ga.,

Sept. 2, 3 and 4, 1893.

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Eph. 1:12-13.

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MILNER, GA:
TOWALIGA MESSENGER PRINT.
1893.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters and enroll messengers' names.
2. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
3. Call for petitionary letters.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
5. Call for correspondence.
6. Appoint a committee to arrange service.
7. Appoint some brother to write Corresponding Letter.
8. Call the roll and read the Decorum.
9. Appoint Correspondents.
10. Appoint Union meetings.
11. Appoint time and place for next Association.
12. Appoint some brother to preach next Introductory Sermon.
13. Appoint some brother to write Circular Letter.
14. Call for Circular Letters.
15. Call for Corresponding Letter.
16. Call for contributions. Say how many minutes shall be printed; fix clerk's compensation.
17. Call for miscellaneous business.
18. Read minutes and adjourn.

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ORDAINED ELDERS.

Washington J. Oxford, Winfred, Jasper Co., Ga.
Ira L. Gunter, McDonough, Henry Co., Ga.
Moses Dumas, Goggansville, Monroe Co., Ga.
Wiley F. Rogers, Commissioner, Wilkinson Co., Ga.
James P. Lyon, Yatesville, Upson Co., Ga.
John Rowe, Butler, Taylor Co., Ga.
William T. Godard, Milner, Pike Co., Ga.
John A. Wright, Zebulon, Pike Co., Ga.
J. G. Huckabay, Tobler, Upson Co., Ga.
S. G. Ratliff, Eula, Ga.
W. R. Nicholas, Screven, Ga.

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LICENTIATES.

Andrew J. Brown, Rocky Ford, Ga.
J. C. Daniel, Astor, Ga.
R. W. Daniel, Rowland, Ga.
L. C. Dickey, Prattsburg, Ga.
Jesse McElroy, Jackson, Ga.
G. W. Thurston, Jackson, Ga.

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MINUTES.

BETHEL CHURCH, BUTTS Co., Ga, Sept. 2nd, 1893.

Elder Lyon having deceased, who was appointed by the 54th Session of this body, to preach the Introductory sermon of the 55th Session, and Elder Rowe who was appointed in case of failure of brother Lyon, being detained at home by sickness, Elder I. L. Gunter delivered the introductory sermon of the 55th Annual Session of the Towaliga Association of Primitive Baptist, from Ephesians 1:12-13.

One hour's intermission.

Messengers and correspondents assembled in the house, while the large congregation retired to the arbor to hear the dear brethren Ball and Harden preach.

- 1st. Singing and prayer by Elder W. H. Harden.
- 2nd. Read letters and recorded messengers' names.
- 3rd. Re-elected I. L. Gunter, Moderator, and W. T. Godard, Clerk.

4th. Called for petitionary letters and received a letter at the hands of the clerk from Liberty Church, of Wayne county. Said letter was read and said church was received into this Union as a component member of the Towaliga Association.

5th. Appointed W. M. Hartley, of Flat Rock, and N. Willingham of Ozias, to unite with Jesse McElroy, B. J. Bennet and S. King, of Bethel, a committee to arrange divine services during the meeting.

6th. Appointed J. G. Huckaby to write corresponding letter.

7th. Called the roll and on motion omitted the reading of the Decorum.

8th. Appointed correspondents to the Little River Association, Brothers S. L. Thompson, T. G. Preston, Jesse McElroy, J. M. Stanley, T. J. Stephens; and Elders I. L. Gunter, J. A. Wright, and J. G. Huckaby Blue Ridge, I. L. Gunter and S. L. Thompson.

9th. Appointed Union meeting 1st District with Concord Church Jasper county, on Friday before fifth Sunday in April 1894. 2nd District with Union Church Friday before fifth Sunday in July 1894.

10th. Adjourned to 8 30 a m Monday.

SUNDAY.

Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock conducted by Elder I. L. Gunter.

Preaching at 10 o'clock by Elder W. T. Godard, followed by Elder W. H. Harden.

Afternoon, preaching by Elder L. M. Ball followed by Elder J. A. Wright.

Monday Sept. 4th, 8.30 a. m.

Met according to adjournment. Singing and prayer by Elder L. M. Ball.

1st. Called the roll.

2d. Renewed the call for correspondents and received Elder L. M. Ball and brother J. M. Watson from the Little River. Elder W. H. Harden accepted a seat as a visitor from the Brushy Creek Union of Primitive Baptist.

3rd. Appointed the Fifty-Sixth Session of this body with Liberty Church, Pike county, Ga., five miles northeast of Milner, on Central railroad, on Saturday before first Sunday in September 1894.

4th. Appointed Elder John Rowe to preach next Introductory and S. G. Ratliff, alternate.

5th. Appointed brother J. W. Derick to write next circular letter, and T. J. Middlebrooks, alternate.

6th. Called for circular letter, prepared by I. L. Gunter, which was read, received and adopted.

7th. Called for corresponding letter, prepared by J. G. Huckaby which was read, received and adopted.

8th. Called for contributions and received for ministers fifty-eight (\$58 80) dollars and eighty cents. For minutes thirty-four (\$34 00) dollars. For Elder W. J. Oxford, special from the churches forty-two (\$42 95) dollars and ninety-five cents. Ordered 1200 copies of these minutes printed and distributed, and the clerk to have balance of minute fund for his services.

9th. Miscellaneus.

Resolved, by brother W. M. Hartley, that we again express our great regret that our highly esteemed brother, Elder W. J. Oxford, is still languishing under the heavy hand of affliction and that our prayers be united to God for grace to resign him to God's holy will.

Resolved, by brother J. M. Stanley, that in the death of Elder J. P. Lyon, the wise dispensation of a just and holy God is acknowledged. That in the decease of brother Lyon this body has lost one of its ablest ministers, but recognize that our loss is his eternal gain. We also tender our sympathy to our sister church (Liberty) in the death of Deacon Cary A. Barron.

Resolved, by brother J. W. Derick, that this body acknowledge its highest order of gratitude to Bethel Church and friends in this community for their kindness and hospitality extended to this body and visitors during this session.

10th. Remarks favoring and commending the Towaliga Messenger, by S. L. Thompson, I. L. Gunter, J. T. Hendon and Elder J. A. Wright.

11th. Read minutes and adjourned, prayer by Moderator.

IRA L. GUNTER, Moderator.

WM. T. GODARD, Clerk.

Preaching Monday morning by Elder W. H. Harden followed by Elder W. F. Rogers. In the evening by Elder S. G. Ratliff.

The religious services throughout was of the most pleasant character.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*Towaliga Association, to her Sister Associations and Brethren with whom
She Corresponds.*

BELOVED OF GOD:—The Lord in His mercy and extended love has permitted us to hold this the Fifty-Fifth Session of this body, in love and harmony. Our churches were well represented and several of them report several additions to their membership, for which we greatly rejoice. We were also made to rejoice at the presence and labors of your correspondents. We desire a continuance of your love and correspondence.

The next session of this body (D. V) will be held with Liberty Church, Pike county, Ga., Saturday before first Sunday in September, 1894, when and where we desire to meet many of your desirable correspondents. We have returned correspondence as set forth in the body of these minutes.

Yours in gospel bonds,

I. L. GUNTER, Moderator.

W. T. GODARD, Clerk.

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CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Towaliga Association of Primitive Baptists to the Churches and Brotherhood of which She is Composed, Together with All who are Called to be Saints, Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

BELOVED BRETHREN:—

We have held this the Fifty-Fifth Session of our body in great peace and love, and send you this our usual epistle of love and exhortation.

We have great reason to thank and adore the name of our covenant-keeping God for His manifold blessings both temporal and spiritual, since we last addressed you. Especially for the great doctrinal and practical unity that seems to abound among our churches and brotherhood. And that we have been as we trust and believe, so mercifully and graciously preserved from Antinomian fatality and hurtful practical ultraisms on the one hand as well as from Arminian sophistry on the other.

We have further reason to be thankful that our peculiar circumstances and surroundings as a body and the persecutions we have been called upon to endure has been so sanctified to us by the spirit of the blessed Master as to lead us to so clear an understanding of the true scriptural principles of church organization, power, function and relation that we may safely challenge a scriptural investigation, both of our doctrine and order as churches of Jesus Christ. We have still further reason to be grateful to the great Head of the Church, that the light of these great principles of gospel truth and order that have hitherto been so vehemently opposed by some brethren and churches of our own name, is breaking forth beyond our own limits and to some extent dispelling the prejudice and opposition hitherto entertained against us.

But while this is true and affords matter for deep and abiding gratitude to God; are we dear brethren as individuals and as churches carrying out these great principles as we should? Are we indi-

vidually and organically, as earnestly endeavoring to perform all our individual and relative duties as professed disciples of Christ, as His word and our responsibilities require? Is it not feared that the Master has somewhat against us on this line?

While our ultraistic brethren are in some instances making void the law of God by their extreme and traditionary notions of orthodoxy and order; and while Arminians are going beyond and adding a multitude of innovations and teachings not only not sustained but positively condemned, by the scriptures; is it not to be feared that we are failing in some measure at least, to come up to the full measure of our duty as required by the word of the Lord?

The scriptures of the Old and New Testament without sophistication and without diminution or addition by way of inference or otherwise, is the all sufficient and only rule of faith and practice. Therein we are to learn not only what we are to believe, but also what we are to do as followers of Christ; and the practical duties required are just as important when performed from proper motives and required to right ends, as the great cardinal doctrines of grace themselves. The gospel as it relates to us is three-fold. Fundamental, experimental and practical. We are saved by grace without works and experience this salvation by the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, but we are thus saved and created in Christ Jesus, unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Hence good works are the fruits of faith and follow after justification, and should be faithfully performed for our good and God's glory.

The Saviour says: "If ye love me keep my commandments" and, "ye are my disciples if ye do whatsoever I command you." And James tells us that "Faith without works is dead being alone," and the Holy Spirit by the apostle exhorts us by the mercies of God that we present our bodies, both individually and organically as churches, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Indeed to present all the gospel precepts laid down for our observance would be to transcribe the greater part of the New Testament. How earnestly then should we search its golden pages, that we may learn to know and be able to do our whole duty; and how devotedly should we consecrate ourselves to the faithful performance of that duty. The great want of the present age is practical godliness on the straight and narrow line of God's word. Suffer us then to exhort you to be, not only professed Christians, but practical ones. Let us not only believe and contend for the doctrine of God, our Saviour, but adorn that doctrine by a godly walk and conversation. If we live in the spirit, let us ever be found endeavoring to walk in the spirit, making straight paths for our feet lest that which is lame be turned out of the way. Let us love one another putting away all bitterness and wrath, and anger and clamour, and evil speaking with all malice, being kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us, ever considering one another to provoke unto love and good works. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all preserverance and supplication that we may be preserved from every snare, and every false way, and that our churches, ministry and brotherhood may be edified and built up and God's great name glorified.

WM. T. GODARD,
Clerk.

IRA. L. GUNTER,
Moderator.

SCALE OF THE CHURCHES.

Number.	CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	POST-OFFICES	MESSENGERS' NAMES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Rec'd on Confession of Faith.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dis'd by Letter.	Dead.	Total.	Oxford Fund	Minute Fund.	Minister's Fund.	Time of Meeting.	PASTORS.
1	Concord.....	Jasper	Winfred.....	S. G. Ratliff, S. L. Thompson, C. M. Falkner	1	1						56	\$ 2 00	\$ 7 00		4	Ratliff
2	Bersheba	Henry	Locust Grove...	I. W. Jinks, F. M. Crumbly, J. W. Welch			1	1			4	47 \$12 70	1 50	3 50		4	Gunter.
3	Friendship.....	Wilkinson	Commissioner...	W. F. Rogers, J. T. Branam, N. E. Mason	4						1	38	2 00	3 00		2	Rogers.
4	Mt. Moriah.....	Newton.....	Ewell.....	J. Luther Hays, W. S. Kirkpatrick, H. J. H. Dobbs								12	1 00	1 00		1	Ratliff.
5	Lebanon.....	Henry	Hampton	J. W. Derick, W. F. Jones, A. Payne					2			36 5 00	1 00	2 00		1	Gunter.
6	Mt. Pisgah.....	Upson	Yatesville.....	T. J. Middlebrooks, J. G. Huckaby	2				2			45	2 00	2 00		3	Ratliff.
7	Mt. Olive.....	Baldwin.....	Milledgeville...	No Letter								33	1 00				
8	Ocmulgee	Jasper.....	Flovilla.....	J. T. Goodman, S. M. Harden							1	10 1 00	1 00	1 00		2	Huckaby.
9	Mt. Nebo.....	Glasscock.....	Mitchell.....	No Letter	4							30	1 00	1 00		4	Rogers.
10	Little Flock	Fayette.....	Fayetteville.....	J. V. Davis, A. G. Preston, T. B. Oglesby	4	3			1			24	1 00	50		4	Wright.
11	Hebron.....	Clayton	Jonesboro.....	J. E. Ratliff, F. J. Brown, N. S. McMullen								28	2 00	1 00		2	Gunter.
12	Sandy Creek...	Butts.....	Flovilla.....	T. J. Preston, S. J. Bennet, T. W. Edgards	2							44	2 00	2 50		1	Godard.
13	Flat Rock	Pike.....	Zebulon.....	J. A. Wright, B. S. Akin, W. M. Hartley	2				1			43	1 75	2 55		3	Wright.
14	Liberty.....	Pike.....	Milner.....	M. B. Spruce, S. L. Akin, J. W. Spruce	7	2				5	1	48	1 50	2 00		4	Wright.
15	Bethel.....	Butts.....	Jackson.....	Jesse McElroy, B. J. Bennet, S. King					1	1	1	31 25	1 00	2 00		3	Huckaby.
16	Ozias.....	Henry	White House....	I. L. Gunter, N. Willingham, H. J. Phillips								80 8 35	1 50	2 00		3	Gunter.
17	Forest.....	Clayton	Astor.....	J. M. Stanley, D. R. Thrasher, T. J. Stepheus	1	1			2	7		67 4 40	2 00			2	Wright.
18	Beulah.....	Spalding	McKibben.....	D. M. Bell, S. N. Apples, S. S. Kendrick	2	1			3			38 1 00	1 00	1 00		1	Wright.
19	Union.....	Monroe.....	Goggansville ..	W. T. Godard, J. F. Taylor, E. B. Taylor	10	5		2	1	2		43 2 30	2 50	5 00		4	Godard.
20	Flint River.....	Upson	Rowland.....	J. B. Brown	1	4	2					60	2 00	3 00		3	Godard.
21	Liberty	Wayne.....	Scriven.....	By Letter	1							7	1 00			4	Thornton
Total.....					35	21	2	3	10	19	10	830	\$41 00	\$31 75	\$42 05		

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3001

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1552
 W. H. Herring
 John W. H. Herring
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