

MINUTES

—OF THE—

BETHEL UNION

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY  
Wake Forest, North Carolina

PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

CONVENED WITH THE CHURCH AT

HIGH SHOALS, MONROE COUNTY,

AUGUST 10TH, 1883.

THE MILLS JOB PRINT, GRIFFIN.

# MINUTES

At the Bethel Union of Primitive Baptists, which convened with the church at High Shoals, Monroe county, August 10th 1883, the introductory sermon was preached by Bro. I. C. Nichols. Text: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity;" 1st Cor., xiii chap., 13th verse.

After an intermission of forty minutes the Union meeting was organized. Bro. T. J. Head, Moderator; Bro. Jno. E. Duke, Clerk. Prayer by Bro. W. Z. Gardner.

Called for churches desiring to become members of this Union. The church at Union presented a letter by her messengers; also the church at Concord and the church at New Fellowship. The delegates of said churches came forward and were received by the Moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship.

Appointed the following brethren a committee to arrange divine service during the meeting: Thomas Dumas, T. W. Bloodworth, J. M. Childs, Frederick Gardner, Edgar Childs.

An amendment being proposed to our constitution, was received, read and referred to a committee of brethren, to-wit: Moses Dumas, James W. Childs, J. F. Madden.

The committee on preaching report preaching to commence at ten o'clock by Bro. W. Z. Gardner, followed by Bro. Jno. E. Duke. Afternoon, by Bro. Robert Freeman, followed by Bro. Morris Dumas. Prayer by Bro. Thomas Dumas. Adjourned till 9 o'clock, a. m., to-morrow.

Saturday, August 11. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Robert Freeman. Called for the report of the committee on amendment of constitution; they recommended the adoption of the amendment, which was unanimously agreed to.

Appointed the time for the annual meeting of this body to be on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August. Appointed Brethren T. J. Head and John E. Duke to prepare an expression to be printed in this minute in relation to the death of our beloved brother, Elder E. Dumas. Appointed the next meeting of this body to be with the church at Union, to commence on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1884, five miles east of Barnesville, on Central railroad. Called for contributions and received twelve dollars. Agreed to have one thousand copies of these minutes printed. Prayer by Rev. T. J. Head. Adjourned to time and place above stated.

JOHN E. DUKE, Clerk.

T. J. HEAD, Moderator.

Preaching Sunday forenoon by Bro. T. J. Head, followed by W. Z. Gardner; afternoon by I. C. Nichols, followed by R. Freeman.

Whereas, Divine Providence has seen fit to remove from our midst our beloved brother and father in Israel, Elder E. Dumas, in the death of whom the church has sustained a great loss, and we can say in the language of old, A great man has fallen in Israel; but we feel that our loss is his eternal gain. May the Lord bless and comfort his aged companion and our sister in her affliction, is our prayer, for Christ sake.

## CONSTITUTION.

1st. This Union shall be known as the Bethel Union Meeting, and shall be composed of not more than three messengers from each church composing this Union, who shall bear a letter from their respective churches certifying their appointment, the number baptized during the year preceeding, received by letter, restored, dismissed by letter, excluded or dead; also the total number in fellowship at the time of sending said letter.

2d. All members of the churches composing this Union, known to be in good standing with their churches at the time when assembled, may be invited to seats as correspondents, but none shall be allowed to vote except brethren sent by the churches.

3d. This Union shall have a Moderator and Clerk, to be chosen by the members present, and hold their offices until the next election.

4th. Churches petitioning for membership will be admitted on giving satisfactory evidence of their being of the same faith and order with churches composing this Union.

5th. It shall be the duty and privilege of this Union Meeting to receive and extend correspondence to all Primitive Baptists who may desire such correspondence by manifesting the same.

6th. This Union Meeting shall have no power to advise the churches or to maintain the union of the same by exercise of disciplinary power over them. It is the duty of the churches of this Union to attend to that matter according to the gospel rule as laid down in the 18th chapter of Matthew.

7th. Any church being reported to this Union as being heterodox, either in faith or practice after proper labor bestowed by sister churches, shall be dropped from this Union until such church shall give satisfactory evidence to the complaining churches of her repentance, and shall be so reported to this Union, at which time such church may be again enrolled.

8th. This Union Meeting shall have power to appoint an annual meeting, having an eye to the general good of all the churches composing this Union.

9th. This Union shall have no other articles of faith than that which each church composing this Union has, and which each member composing this body has already endorsed, and to which he is amenable in the church of which he is a member.

10th. We hold as a principle that neither the institutions or the traditions of men are necessary for the development of the church, and are unwarranted by the Scriptures, and hence are forbidden.

## DECORUM.

Article 1. This Union shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Art. 2. The Moderator shall invite visiting ministers and members to seats.

Art. 3. The Moderator shall have the same privilege of speech with any other member of the body, provided his seat be filled; but shall have no vote except there be a tie.

Art 4. The general principles of order as embodied in these words, "Let all things be done decently and in order and unto edifying," will be expected and required of each member or visitor or correspondent.

Art. 5. In harmony with these general principles each brother who speaks on any subject under consideration by the Union Meeting will be expected to rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and he shall not be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject.

Art. 6. The Clerk shall keep a regular record of the proceedings of each Union Meeting by carefully preserving a full file of minutes.

### List of Churches, with Delegates.

High Shoals—J. M. Childs, F. Gardner, Edgar Childs.  
County Line—John E. Duke, W. Z. Gardner, J. W. Willis.  
Mount Pleasant—T. J. Head, R. Freeman, I. C. Nichols.  
Ramah—Not represented. Ebenezer—Not represented.  
Union—T. Dumas, M. Dumas, H. F. Willis.  
Concord—J. M. Madden, J. F. Madden.  
New Fellowship—John McCord.

### Ordained Ministers.

T. J. Head, W. Z. Gardner, John E. Duke, Robert Freeman,  
Moses Dumas, I. C. Nichols.

