

MINUTES  
OF THE  
**Ninety-Eighth Annual Session**  
OF THE  
**LITTLE RIVER  
PRIMITIVE BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION**

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HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT  
**Bethany Meeting House**  
JOHNSTON COUNTY, N. C.  
**September 23, 24, and 25, 1927**

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

ELDER L. H. STEPHENSON, Clerk, Willow Springs, N. C.

BRO. D. E. YOUNG, Assistant Clerk, Angier, N. C.



## PROCEEDINGS

First—The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. T. Collier, from Isaiah 54-13.

Second—After a short recess the brethren came together and after praise and prayer by Elder F. W. Keen, the Association was organized by choosing Elder E. F. Pearce, Moderator and Elder L. H. Stephenson, Clerk who called to his assistance Bro. D. E. Young.

Third—Appointed Brethren W. F. Young, Obe Tingen and M. B. Pleasant a committee on finance.

Fourth—Invited corresponding and visiting brethren to seats with us. Then appointed Elders R. E. Adams, J. P. Tingle and M. F. Westbrook to preach at the stand today.

Fifth—Called on corresponding and visiting brethren from sister Associations to report:

From, Upper Country Line.

Lower Country Line, Elder C. B. Hall and Brethren H. E. Satterfield, J. D. Dupree and others, a file of Minutes.

Kehukee, Bro. S. J. Lilly, a file of Minutes.

White Oak, Elders R. W. Gurganus, L. E. Bryan, Isaac Jones, and Bro. S. B. Simpson, Zedoc Futrell and others, a file of minutes.

Abbotts Creek,

Mill Branch,

Black Creek, Elders J. W. Gardner, R. E. Adams, J. W. Wyatt, J. T. Collier and Bro. D. A. Thompson, W. H. Burch, and others.

Contentnea, Elders J. P. Tingle, G. M. Corbette, J. S. Corbette.

Fisher's River

Mayo.

Seven Mile, Elders L. A. Johnson, W. G. Turner, P. E. Johnson, Xure Lee, M. F. Westbrook and Bro. N. T. Whitington, and others, a file of Minutes.

Salem, Bro. D. F. Robertson.

Roaring River.

Main Conference, Elder F. W. Keen.

New Mexico, Elder R. I. Greathouse.

Sixth—Called for letters from churches composing this Association.

Letters handed in, Read and contents noted in statistical table, (see Table).

Seventh—Then called for petitionary letters, whereupon The Churches at Four Oaks and Rehoboth came forward with letters acknowledging their error in seceding from us last

year, and begging forgiveness, and to be reinstated with us, and the body as represented by the messengers enrolled from those churches, as shown in the statistical table was received. N. B. That a faction of those as well as the church at Coats. (But Cleveland, Smithfield and Salem as a whole) have been excluded from our fellowship, but are still holding meetings claiming to be the church, but have no fellowship with us. This notice is given for the benefit of sister churches and Associations.

Eighth—Appointed Messengers to corresponding and sister associations.

To Kehukee, Elders E. C. Jones and L. H. Stephenson, and Bro. Obe Tingen, a file of Minutes.

To Upper Country Line, Elder E. C. Jones, and Bro. C. E. Pollard, a file of Minutes.

To Lower Country Line, Elders E. C. Jones, E. F. Pearce and Brethren J. F. Adams, W. F. Young, R. D. Langdon, J. P. Temple, a file of Minutes

To White Oak, Elder E. C. Jones, and Brethren J. M. Whittington, J. F. Adams, R. D. Ennis, M. B. Pleasant, B. F. Young, H. P. Young, a file of Minutes.

To Contentnea, Elders E. F. Pearce, L. H. Stephenson, and Brethren J. H. Brady, G. W. Johnson, a file of Minutes.

To Mill Branch, Bro. J. M. Whittington, a file of Minutes.

To Black Creek, Elders E. C. Jones, L. H. Stephenson and Brethren R. D. Langdon, G. M. Stewart, J. T. Hinton, J. H. Brady and others, a file of Minutes.

To Seven Mile, Elders E. F. Pearce, E. C. Jones and Brethren G. M. Stewart, R. D. Langdon, J. P. Tiner, J. T. Hinton, R. R. Pollard, a file of Minutes.

To Abbotts Creek, Elder E. C. Jones and Brethren J. F. Adams, W. F. Young, a file of Minutes.

To Mayo, a file of Minutes.

Ninth—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 them 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 preaching during the sitting of the Association.

Twelfth—Preachers appointed for tonight at school Auditorium Elders R. I. Greathouse and F. W. Keen. And for to-

morrow A. M. Elders G. M. Corbette, L. E. Bryan, and J. W. Gardner.

Thirteenth—Agreed that our next Association be held with the church at Mt. Zion (Benson) Johnston County, N. C. to begin on Friday before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1928, and that Elder W. G. Turner preach the introductory sermon, and that Elder T. F. Adams be his alternate. Worship to begin at Eleven O'clock.

The association adjourned until Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Praise and Benediction by Elder J. S. Corbette.

#### Saturday Morning.

Fourteenth—The association met according to adjournment and was opened by praise and Prayer by Elder C. B. Hall.

Fifteenth—Again called for corresponding and visiting brethren from sister associations when Elders Isaac Jones, Xure Lee, and P. E. Johnson Reported.

Sixteenth—Called upon the finance Committee to report, and they reported as follows:

Received from Churches this year	\$119.05
Balance in hand	16.65
Total	<u>\$135.70</u>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Clerk's Services	\$ 15.00
Printing Minutes	40.00
To Visiting Ministers	80.70
	<u>\$135.70</u>

On motion, Report was received and committee discharged.

(By Clerk: Found to our credit in First National Bank of Benson more than was known to finance committee \$12.36  
To excess cost of printing Minutes 2.50

Balance in Bank \$ 9.86

Seventeenth—Ordered the Clerk to superintend and transcribe the printing of these Minutes, and have 1300 copies printed and distribute them as per the order hereinafter prescribed, and enter a copy of the same on our Association Record.

Eighteenth—Appointed preachers for tomorrow (Sunday,) Elders R. W. Gurganus, C. B. Hall, W. B. Korney, L. A. Johnson, Joseph Pittman, Isaac Jones, J. W. Gardner, J. S. Corbette, W. G. Turner, R. I. Greathouse.

Nineteenth—Agreed to extend thanks to the brethren,

siters and friends of Bethany Church and surrounding community for the kindness shown in supporting the Association during its 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 visiting ministers.

Twenty-first—Agreed that our present clerk be empowered and is hereby authorized to issue or draw check for the balance of the funds left to our credit by our former clerk.

Twenty-second—Agreed that all irregular trade or traffic be forbidden within legal bounds of the association.

Twenty-third—Agreed that the Moderator, clerk and assistant clerk be appointed a committee to draw suitable resolutions of respect in behalf of our beloved clerk Brother J. Willis Creech.

Twenty-fourth—On motion proceedings were read and approved, adjourned until Sunday morning 10 o'clock. Benediction by Elder W. G. Turner.

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#### **Sunday Morning.**

Met according to adjournment and Services were opened and conducted as shown in table of Services. Thus closed the meeting, which was one of peace and harmony. Excellent weather, and the most largely attended of any session in recent years.

ELDER E. F. PEARCE, Moderator  
ELDER L. H. STEPHENSON, Clerk.  
BRO. D. E. YOUNG, Assistant Clerk.

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#### **SERVICES**

##### **FRIDAY, ELEVEN O'CLOCK A. M.**

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. T. Collier of Micro, N. C. from Isaiah 54-13.

##### **FRIDAY P. M., IN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

Elder R. E. Adams of Wilson, N. C., from Deut. 32-1.

Elder J. P. Tingle of 549, E. Hargette Street, Raleigh, N. C. from Luke 4-18.

Elder M. F. Westbrook of Newton Grove, R. 2, N. C. from Psalms 50-2.

##### **FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7:30 SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

Elder R. I. Greathouse of New Mexico, from 2, Sam. 15-26.

Elder F. W. Keene, of 501 Cleveland Street, Raleigh, N. C., from Zach. 4, 5-9.

SATURDAY MORNING, SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Elder G. M. Corbette, of Greenville, N. C. Clerk failed to get Text.

Elder L. E. Bryan of R. 1. Beulahville, N. C. from James 13, 1-8.

Elder J. W. Gardner of Goldsboro, N. C. from Mark 16, 15.

SATURDAY P. M. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Elder J. S. Corbette, of Greenville, N. C. 2, Cor. 5, 18-21.

Bro. Roy Monk of R. 5, Roxboro, N. C. from Daniel 3, 8-9.

Elder Xure Lee of Dunn, N. C. from, Acts. 8, 35.

Elder J. W. Wyatt of Selma, N. C., from Col. 1, 16-17.

SATURDAY NIGHT AT SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

7:30 O'CLOCK.

Elder P. E. Johnson of R. 3, Four Oaks, N. C. from Psalms 23, 4.

SUNDAY A. M. AT SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Elder R. W. Gurganus of R. 3, Jacksonville, N. C. from Zeph. 3, 12.

Elder W. B. Korney R. 4, Snow Hill, N. C. from St. John 5, 38-39.

SUNDAY A. M. AT THE CHURCH.

Elder L. A. Johnson of R. 3, Benson, N. C. from St. John 21, 15-21.

Bro. Joseph Pittman of Micro, N. C. from Mat. 18, 2-3.

Elder Isaac Jones of Maple Hill, N. C. from St. John 6, 53.

SUNDAY P. M. AT SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Elder J. W. Gardner of Goldsboro, N. C. from Mat. 11,6.

Elder J. S. Corbette of Greenville, N. C. from Psalms 84, 11-12.

SUNDAY P. M. AT CHURCH

Elder W. G. Turner of Dunn, N. C. from St. John. 6, 63.

Elder R. I. Greathouse of New Mexico. Text: Is there not a Cause.

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

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

Bethel—A. L. Holloway, pastor, second Sunday, and Saturday before in March, June, September, December.

Clement—L. H. Stephenson, pastor, second Sunday and

Saturday before in March, June, September and December.

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

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

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

Rehoboth—No pastor, Fourth Sunday and Saturday before in February, May, August and November.

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

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

Fellowship—J. P. Tingle, pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before in February, May, August and November.

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

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

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

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

Four Oaks—No pastor, First Sunday and Saturday before in March, June, September and December.

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

Ceder Grove—J. T. Williams, pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before in February, May, August and November. Not represented.

Gift Church—No pastor, third Sunday, January, April, July, and October.

Angier—No pastor, first Sunday and Saturday before in March, June, September and December.

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**Names of Ministers Belonging to the Little River Primitive Baptist Associaton and their Postoffice Addresses.**

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

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

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

T. F. Adams, Willow Springs, N. C., Route 1.

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**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—Elder E. P. Stone, Francisco, N. C., Route 1, 30 copies.
- Staunton River—R. L. Dodson, 147 Broad Street, 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.

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#### Names of Churches, Clerks and Postoffice Address

- Bethel, 50 copies, D. E. Young, Angier, N. C., Route 1.
- Bethany, 45 copies, A. Wiggs, Pine Level, N. C.
- Clement, 35 copies, Jacob M. Langdon, Four Oaks, N. C.
- Hannah's Creek—65 copies, C. A. Johnson, Benson, N. C. Route 1.
- Little Creek, 30 copies, J. J. Batten, Smithfield, N. C.
- Middle Creek, 40 copies, J. B. Britt, McCullers, N. C., R. 1.
- Mt. Gilead, 30 copies, J. T. Hinton, Clayton, N. C.
- Oak Grove, 30 copies, O. Tingen, Apex, N. C.
- Raleigh, 40 copies, J. P. Temple, Selma, N. C.
- Sandy Grove, 40 copies, Alex Dupree, Willow Springs, R. 1.
- Union, 50 copies, J. H. Brady, Smithfield, N. C.
- Mt. Zion, 30 copies, R. D. Langdon, Benson, N. C.
- Cedar Grove, 15 copies, J. W. Powell, Wake Forest, N. C.
- Gift, 30 copies, W. H. Turlington, Dunn, N. C. Route 3.
- Angier, 50 copies, W. F. Young, Angier, N. C.
- Fellowship, 45 copies, Shepard Langdon, Angier, N. C., R. 1.
- Four Oaks, 25 copies, William Keen, Four Oaks, N. C.
- Rehoboth, 25 copies, J. A. Langdon, Benson, N. C., Route 1.

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#### 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 a 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 Testament.

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.

9. 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 a duty from a principle of love.

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

11. 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.

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

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

14. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances unless called and comes under the imposition of hands by the presbytery.

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### 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 the beginning of his speech.

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

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**Resolution of Respects in Memory of Brother J. Willis Creech.**

Whereas it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst, our highly esteemed and well beloved Brother J. Willis Creech, who served our Association as an excellent clerk for six months.

Therefore be it resolve:

First, That we bow our heads in humble submission to the God of all grace, who doeth all things well.

Second, That his church has lost a faithful brother, the Association an efficient clerk, his community a good neighbor, his family a loving father, our loss his Eternal gain.

Third, That a copy of these resolution be spread on our Association records, a copy inserted in our minutes and a copy sent to the family.

E. F. PEARCE,  
L. H. STEPHENSON,  
D. E. YOUNG, Committee.





