

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

WASHINGTON DISTRICT

Primitive Baptist Association ;

CONVENED WITH PILGRIM'S REST CHURCH, BUCHANAN
COUNTY, VA., SEPTEMBER 6TH AND 7TH, 1878.

MECHANICSBURG, VA. :

"SOUTH AND WEST" BOOK AND JOB PRINT.

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MINUTES OF THE
WASHINGTON DISTRICT

Primitive Baptist Association.

FIRST DAY.

Friday, Sept. 6th. 1878- The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder R. M. Ashworth of the Indian Creek Association, from Matt. 28th. Chapter and 19th, 20th, and 21st. verses.

After a short intermission the Association was called to order, by singing and prayer, by Elder A. D. Rakes. The Association was organized by choosing Eld. C. Hopkins, Moderator, and W. P. Linkous, Clerk and Treasurer.

Then proceeded to business in the following order. viz :

1st. Invited visiting brethren to seats in the Association. Elder P. Adkins of Mates Creek, and Elder D. Halsey, and brother M. L. Fletcher of the Pocatalico, accepted the invitation.

2nd. Called for newly constituted churches and received none.

3rd. Called for corresponding letters from sister associations and received the following, viz :

From Elkhorn, a letter by M. H. Lester desiring to open a correspondence with this body which was agreed to. From Stony Creek a letter and minutes, but no messenger. From Mates Creek a letter and minutes by Elder James Williamson and brethren Wm. Goff, and J. Davis.

From the Mountain, a letter and minutes, by Eld. B. E. Caudill, and bro. S. H. Edwards. From the Senter, a letter and minutes, by Elder A. J. Taylor. From the Union, a letter and minutes, by bro. Noah Sykes desiring to renew correspondence with us, which was received.

Eld. R. M. Ashworth asserted his appointment from Indian Creek and was received. — all the above named correspondents received the right hand of fellowship and took seats with the Association.

4th. Appointed one member from each church with the members of Pilgrim's Rest Church, to appoint preachers to occupy the stand during the meeting, who reported for Saturday, Elders Adkins, Halsey, Taylor and Caudill, and for Sunday Elders Taylor, Halsey and Caudill.

5th. Appointed Elds. Wallis and Rakes, and brethren J. J. Sparks, J. T. Howard and J. Thompson, a committee of arrangements; and invite correspondents and transient ministers to sit with them. Then adjourned till Saturday morning 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

Saturday Morning, Sept. 7th. 1878. The Association met according to adjournment: after prayer by Eld. B. E. Caudill, took up the business of the Association in the following order, viz:

1st. Called Messengers names.

2nd. The committee of arrangements reported and was discharged.

3rd. Read the Constitution and rules of decorum.

4th. Appointed correspondents as follows, viz:

Elders Hess, Childress and Rasnic, to Elkhorn, to be held with Elkhorn Church, McDowal Co., W. Va., commencing Friday before 4th. Sunday in Sept. 1878.

Elders Linkous and Childress to Mates Creek, held with Grape Vine Church, Pike Co., Ky., Friday before 1st. Sunday in Sept. 1879.

Elders Wallis and Hankins to the Mountain, held with Piny Creek Church, Alleghany Co., N. C., Friday before 4th. Sunday in Sept. 1878.

Elds. Stinson and Grimsley, to Senter, with North Fork Church, Ashe Co N. C., Friday before 4th. Sunday in Aug. 1879.

Eld. A. D. Rakes and brethren E. Counts, J. H. Deel and J. Anderson, to Union, with Mount Pleasant Church, Buchanan Co., Va., Friday before 3rd. Saturday in Sept. 1878.

Elds. Linkous, Hankins and Childress to Indian Creek, with New River Church, Summers co., W. Va., Friday before the last Sunday in Aug. 1879.

Elds. Hess and Rakes, and bro. J. Thomson, to Stony Creek, with Castles Woods Church Russell Co., Va., Friday before 3rd. Sunday in Aug. 1879.

5th. Appointed Union meetings as follows viz: with St. Clair's Bottom Church, Smyth Co., Va., Saturday before 2nd. Sunday in June 1879.—

Elds. Linkous, Stinson and Grimsley attend. With Rush Creek Church, Washington Co. Va., Saturday before 3d Sunday in June 1879.—Elds.

Linkous, Stinson and Grimsley attend. With Harmony Church, Russell Co., Va., 4th. Saturday in June 1879.—Elds. Rakes, Linkous and Hankins attend.

With Prater Creek, Buchanan Co., Va., 1st. Saturday in Aug. 1879.—Elds. Rakes, Stinson and Hankins attend.

With Mount Pleasant Church, Russell Co., Va., 2nd. Saturday in Aug. 1879.—Elds. Rakes, Stinson and Childress attend.

With Sand Lick Church, Buchanan Co., Va., 4th. Saturday in July 1879.—Elds. Linkous, Grimsley and Stinson attend.

6th. Called on brethren appointed to attend Union meetings and corresponding associations, whose report was received, and the brethren who failed to attend, were excused.

7th. Appointed J. T. Howard, Sr., J. J. Sparks and Griffith, Financial Committee, who reported in contributions from the churches, \$26.11 which was disposed of as follows, viz:

Paid the clerk for his services, \$5.00 To Elds. Wallis and Hopkins, each \$1.50. Distributed to correspondents, \$5.11. Left in the hands of the Treasurer, \$13.00.

8th. Called for corresponding letters, which were read and received.

9th. Called on Eld. Wallis to report concerning Burk's Garden and Laurel Fork churches, who reported, he did not attend, and was excused.

Appointed Elds. Linkous, Stinson and Grimsley to attend those churches and counsel them to dissolve their constitution and give each other letters of dismission, and join other churches, or they will be dropped; and said committee report to next Association.

10th. Called for the circular letter which was read and received, and ordered to be annexed to these minutes, and bro. J. J. Sparks prepare the next.

11th. Resolved, that the clerk have 600 copies of the minutes printed and distributed among the churches.

Resolved, that our next association be held with Tumbling Creek Church Washington Co., Va., to commence Friday before the 2nd. Sunday in Sept. 1879. Eld. J. Hanksin preach the Introductory sermon, in case of failure, J Childress.

Then adjourned to the time and place of our next annual association.

The Association tenders her heartfelt thanks to the citizens of this vicinity, for their kindness and hospitality during the Session.

CHARLES HOPKINS, Moderator.

WM. P. LINKOUS, Clerk.

The stand was daily occupied by those appointed.

On Sabbath, a large congregation met at ten o'clock, Eld. James Williamson opening the services by singing and prayer. Eld. A. J. Taylor, preached from Isaiah 42nd. chap. 1st. ver.: "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace," &c. Eld. D. Halsey from Rev. 15th ch., 3d ver.: "And they sing the song of Moses," &c. Eld. B. E. Caudill from 2d Timothy 4th ch., 7th ver.: "I have fought a good fight." The brethren preached with power and demonstration of the Spirit and we pray the Lord to bless the word to the good of the many who attended the meeting. CLERK.

Names, with Post Office Address, of Ordained Ministers within our bounds.

Charles Hopkins, St. Clair's Bottom, Smyth, Va. Henry Taylor, Saltville, Va. John Wallis, Gap Store, Fawcett, Va. Wm. P. Linkous, Gap Store, Va. Jonathan Hanksin, Gap Store, Va. John T. Stinson, Rose Dale, Russell, Va. Thos. Grimsley, Sword's Creek, Russell, Va. Wm. Hess, Rose Dale, Va. Shadrach Williams, Lebanon, Va. Jesse Childress, Grundy, Buchanan, Va. Aaron D. Kakes, Sand Lick, Va. Carroll Presley, James Kasnic, John Duty, Johnson's Bottom, Buchanan, Va. A. R. Whitaker, Vanderbilt, Union, Tenn.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT, PRIMITIVE BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

TO THE CHURCHES OF WHICH SHE IS COMPOSED, SENDETH GREETING.

Very Dear Bretheren: As it has been our custom to give our views on some portion of the sacred word of God in the form of an annual circular.

In this our epistle we will give you some of our views respecting the church or kingdom of heaven. Now brethren our views as regards the church and all sacred matters must be in harmony with the holy scriptures. We must not try to make the scriptures bend to suit our notions about matters, as some do, for we understand that sacred matters are declared from heaven, and it only remains for us to believe and teach them just as they were delivered. As proof of this the Savior says when he gives the great commission to his apostles: go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (not to preach gospels, but the gospel.) teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, See Gal. 1st. chap. 3d and 9th verses.—But though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say we now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which ye have received, let him be accursed: see 10th verse. For do I now persuade men or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet please men I should not be the servant of Christ.

Lord help us to speak nothing unkind,

But to speak each word in its prime.

Some seem to find other ways to climb.

Lord teach them the true and living way to find.

Again, what is the church composed of? Some say a body of people professing Christianity. But we understand according to the scriptures that she is a body of people in possession of Christianity.

The church is the body of Christ. And the eminent Paul would have the Church to know the true position she occupies. See Eph. 2nd chapter 21 verse. "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord. Mark the language: he does not say buildings and temples, but building and temple. Consequently we must be and teach that the church is but one body. And this body, or church, is not composed of every body of people that says, Lord, Lord! and that proposes to do many great and wonderful works. Therefore the Saviour says to Peter (Matt. 16: 18) "Thou art Peter: upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Mark the language: he does not say my churches, but my church. Eph. 4: 4, 5, 6. There is one body and spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all. See Songs of Solomon, 6: 8, 9, 10 verses. There are three score queens and four score concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my undefiled, is but one, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and the virgins praised her. Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.

It does seem to us, brethren, that the above testimony is enough to establish the fact that there is but one right way, one church, or kingdom

or Zion of God.

The question now arises with great solemnity in our hearts why so many bodies of people (or so-called churches) have been organized, claiming the smiles of God and the approval of his word, when he claims but one organization, and warrants but one.

We see the workings of the different bodies of people are quite different and yet they all claim to be right, all claim to be the dove, the undefiled and the friends of Jesus. But Jesus says, if ye love me, keep my commandments. And if ye do whatsoever I command, then are ye my friends. See 8: 5 Heb. Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things as Moses was admonished of God when he was to make the tabernacle; for see, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed thee in the mount.

Jesus will not accept any order or body of people as his friends, but that one body which is worthy according to the one pattern given: which body desires not to enlarge or make less the pattern, but is satisfied to make all things according thereto. See Acts 28: 22.—For as concerning this sect, it is everywhere spoken against. Again, the Lord says by the prophet Jeremiah, 12: 9, Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her. This language we understand to be figurative of the church and her enemies she has to contend with in this world. The Lord's heritage is unto him as a speckled bird. What is his heritage but his chosen people or church? See Deut. 32: 9. For the Lord's portion is his people, and Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. We understand figures are used to represent and declare facts. Now as the speckled bird figurates the Lord's people, so birds round about must represent some other bodies or sects of people that are against the Lord's people. These sects always have, and will while in the world, make great pretensions to religion.

Who was against or opposed to the church of God in the apostolic age of the world but such religionists as Scribes, Pharisees, Hypocrites. These sects were against the saints of God. Also, and he being delivered by the determinate council and foreknowledge of God, they took and by wicked hands crucified and slew the Lord of Glory. See Ezek. 43: 10. Thou Son of Man! shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their sins, and let them measure the pattern.

Now to that one Zion, one dove, the undefiled, and speckled bird, one flock and one body; one church, one kingdom, by the one Great Spirit, the one gospel gives promises. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12: 32.

Wherefore brethren put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Fight the good fight of faith, be of one mind, be sober and watch unto prayer. Let brotherly love continue. Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

J. T. HOWARD, Sr.

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STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	Time of holding Church meetings.	MESSENGERS' NAMES.	By Baptism.	By Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	Contributions.
Sec. 1. St. Clair's Bot.,	Smyth,	Sat. bef. 2d Su.	C. Hopkins, S. McClure, J. M. Rouse, B. Martin,	8		5			2	40	3 00
Burke's Garden,	Tazewell,	2nd Sunday.									
Rush Creek,	Wash'ton,	Sat. bef. 3d Su.	S. C. Patterson, R. Widener,	11	3			1	1	28	1 40
Tumbling Creek,	"	"	H. Taylor, S. Daniels, W. J. Henderson,					1		4	2 00
Sec. 2 Salem,	Tazewell,	1st Saturday.	W. P. Linkous, J. J. Sparks, A. Sparks, J. R. Sparks,	4				1		10	1 96
Baptist Valley,	"	2nd "	J. Hankins, J. W. Sparks, J. Sizemore,	1						1	20 90
Laurel,	"	2nd "									
Harmony,	Russell,	4th "	J. T. Stinson, T. Grimsley, W. Hess,			2		1	2	15	1 00
New Garden,	"	3rd "	J. Wallis, J. T. Howard, sr., J. T. Howard, jr., J. Thompson, T. Griffith,	5					2	117	3 40
Mount Zion,	"	1st "	W. Lee, J. Cox, Levi Hess,	1							24 00
Reed's Valley,	"	1st "	J. Thompson, E. Counts,				2	1	1	49	1 20
Mt. Pleasant,	"	2nd "	J. L. Boyd, A. M. Grimsley, G. J. Smyth,	1					2	15	65
Sec. 3. Pilgrim's Rest,	Buchanan	4th "	B. W. Cempton, J. Deskins, D. C. Rakes,								67 1 15
Prater Creek,	"	1st "	J. Childress, J. Yates, G. Yates, S. Shortridge,								22 85
Slate Creek,	"	4th "	R. Shortridge, Wm. Looney,								23 1 60
Union,	"	2nd "	E. Lester, W. Stillner, J. Coleman,				4		1	35	3 50
Fand Lick,	"	4th "	A. D. Rakes, J. Rasnic, H. Deel, J. Andersen,	4	6				2	34	1 50
Johnson's Bottom,	"	2nd "	J. C. Presley, W. J. Tiller,	2		3	1	3		28	1 00
				37	11	8	8	9	12	667	2611