
MINUTES
OF THE
Sixty-Ninth Annual Session
OF THE
Mates Creek Association
OF THE
OLD REGULAR BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
LOUISA CHURCH
PIKE COUNTY, KY.
SEPTEMBER 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1921.

MINUTES

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. M. Stanley from Acts of the Apostles 20th chapter and 28th verse "Take heed therefore unto your selves, etc."

The messengers then assembled in the School House and were brought to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder H. W. May letters from the several were then read from which the annexed table was prepared.

The association then organized by appointing Elder J. D. Rife Moderator and T. J. Bevins Clerk, Secretary and Treasurer Pocatalico—by a parcel of minutes.

First:—Newly constituted churches called for and none responded.

Second:—Correspondence received as follows:

Pocatlica:—by a parcel of minutes.

Union Association rejected on account of the doctrine they held forth of a non-resurrection.

Third:—Visiting ministers received as follows: J. B. Ramey.

Fourth:—The Moderator to make all temporary appointments.

Fifth:—A member from each church is appointed to arrange the preaching at the stand, who reported for Saturday first H. W. May, second, J. F. Hatfield, third, W. R. Collins, fourth C. Hatfield who preach in order of their names.

Sixth:—Corresponding letters and bearers as follows:

Washington:—To be held with the New Garden Church, Russell Co. Va., Friday before second Sunday in September 1921 Elders J. B. Ramey and W. J. Prater messengers.

Pocatalico:—With the Providence Church, Lincoln Co. Va. to commence Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1921. Elders J. D. Rife and H. W. May messengers.

Three Forks—With the Laurel Grove Church Friday before the fourth Saturday in August 1922. (Wise Co. Va.) J. B. Ramey, W. J. Prater, A. Justice and E. Coleman messengers.

Seventh:—Committee of arrangements as follows: W. J. Pratter, J. F. Hatfield H. W. May with the moderator and clerk visiting ministers and correspondents invited.

Then adjourned till Saturday morning at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The association met pursuant to adjournment and was brought to order by the moderator. Prayer by Elder J. B. Ramey.

First:—Roll called.

Second:—Committee of arrangements reported and were discharged.

Third:—Constitution, rules of decorum and abstract of principles read received and to be printed in these minutes.

Fourth:—C. R. Hopkins, J. B. Ramey were appointed finance committee and reported \$67.28.

Fifth:—Last years appointees reported satisfactory.

Sixth:—Committee on preaching reported for Sunday first, W. M. Stanley, second W. J. Prater and third W. J. May.

Seventh:—Union Meetings appointed as follows:

Louisa, Friday before the second Saturday in August 1922, W. M. Stanley, C. Hatfield and G. H. Coleman attended.

Big Creek, Friday before the third Saturday in August 1922, Elders J. F. Hatfield, W. J. May, J. D. Rife and J. B. Stanley attended.

Pond Creek, Friday before the second Saturday in August 1922, Elders J. F. Hatfield, W. J. May and W. J. Prater attend.

Sardis, Friday before the first Saturday in August 1922, E. Coleman and W. J. Prater attend.

Brushy Fork, Friday before the 4th Saturday in August 1922, J. F. Hatfield, H. W. May, A. J. Blackburn and W. M. Stanley attend.

Peter Creek, Friday before the fourth Saturday in July 1922, J. B. Ramey, W. J. Prater and A. Justice attend.

Sulphur Spring, Friday before the first Saturday in August 1922; H. W. May, J. F. Hatfield and J. D. Rife attend.

Jopa, Friday before the fourth Saturday in August 1922; J. D. Rife, J. B. Ramey and T. J. Bevins attend.

Cedar Grove, Friday before the third Saturday in July 1922; C. Hatfield, G. H. Coleman and W. H. Thacker attend.

Little Union, Friday before the third Saturday in July 1922; J. B. Ramey, H. W. May and T. J. Bevins attend.

Johns Creek, Friday before the first Saturday in July 1922; I. Justice, C. Hatfield and W. R. Collins and W. H. Thacker attend.

Eighth:—Secretary reports work all up.

Ninth:—We, the Mates Creek Association Feel to say that we have dropped correspondence with the Elk Horn Association.

Tenth:—Circular letter called for which was brought forth, read, received and ordered to be printed in these minutes, and that A. J. Blackburn prepare the next.

Eleventh:—The clerk is appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes, 800 in number and distribute them among the churches and he is allowed \$20.00 for his services as clerk, secretary and Treasurer.

Twelfth:—Our next association is appointed with Samaria church Pike Co., Ky. to commence Friday before the first Sabbath in September 1922, and that J. D. Rife preach the introductory sermon and H. W. May his alternate.

Done and signed by the order of the association.

J. D. RIFFE, Moderator.

T. J. BEVINS, Clerk.

Thirteenth:—This association tenders its heartfelt thanks to the brethern and sisters and many friends who so wonderfully entertained the people attending this association. May the Blessings of God lead them here on earth and land them safe in the far beyond.

Closed by prayer by J. B. Ramey.

Then adjourned till our next association.

CLERK.

SABBATH MORNING.

A large and well behaved congregation met in the church house. Prayer and praise by Elder J. D. Rife.

First:—Elder W. M. Stanley preached from Titus, First Chapter 2 Verse. "In hope of eternal life etc."

Second:—W. J. Prater, Luke, First Chapter 50 Verse. "And his mercy are on them that fear Him from generation to generation."

Third, W. J. May, Revelation Ninth Chapter 11 verse. "And I saw Heaven open, etc."

The brethern came filled with the Holy Ghost and preached the good old doctrine: "Salvation by Grace." The children was fed and God glorified.—Amen.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Dear Brethern:—

According to an appointment made last year, it is my duty to address you in the form of a circular letter. For which purpose I will call your attention to a scripture recorded in Second Corinthians, Third Chapter and Fifth verse: "Not that we are sufficient of our selves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God."

So dear brethern we understand that our sufficiency or salvation is both of God for both time and eternity.

Christ who was made of a woman—made under the law to redeem them that were under law. So dear brethren, we understand that He was and is our sufficiency that were under the law and has redeemed them that were under the law to Himself, presented them unto His Father a whole and complete church. And seeing that He hath done all this for us, and as the Scripture says, "Who can lay anything to the charge of Gods elect?" Seeing that it is God that justifies. So dear brethren realizing what God has done so great things for us, it is our duty as much as in us, to live in peace, and work together for the good of this redeemed body of Christ.

W. J. PRATER.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in one true and living God, Who is the Creator, upholder and righteous disposer of all things; and that He is self-existent, independent, omnipotent and eternal.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ existed in His Meditorial Person, as the head and life of His body, the Church, from everlasting.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal, personal and unconditional election; that the elect, or church is and was and shall forever remain, his body and fullness, and their spiritual life is hid with Christ in God.

4. We believe in the doctrine of total depravity of human nature, and that recovery from that condition is wholly and exclusively by the sovereign, free and unmerited Grace of God.

5. We believe the tonement made by Christ was full and complete and exclusive ly for the elect, or heirs of promise.

6. We believe the doctrine of Gods predestination, in every sense as the Bible teaches it.

7. We believe that all the elect vessels of mercy, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the regenerating Power of Gods Grace and shall ultimately enjoy Heaven and immortal glory.

8. We believe there will be a resurrection of the bodies, both of the Just and the Unjust; and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.

9. We believe that babbism and the Lords supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ and the true believers are the subjects and the true mode of babbism is immersion—feet washing and example.

10. We believe the scriptures of the old and new testament, as translated under the reign of King James, are a revelation from God, inspired by the Holy Ghost, and that the new testament is the standard of faith and the only authorized rule of practice to the church of God under the gospel dispensation. We, therefore, consider ourselves solemnly bound by our allegiance to the King of Zion, to reject, disclaim and disfellowship all modern and ancient religious institutions or societies of which we have neither precept nor example in the New Testament.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be called Mates Creek District Old Regular Babbist Association.

Article 2. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that purpose and producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to a seat.

Article 3. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their membership in full fellowship, those babbized received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded and deceased since the last Association.

Article 4. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heirtage, nor shall they have any clerical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of any church in this union.

Article 5. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

Article 6. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Article 7. Newly constituted churches may be admitted into the union; who shall petition by letter and messenger (and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly) shall be received by the Association and manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Article 8. Every church in the union shall be entitled to a representation in the Association.

Article 9. Every query presented by any church to the Association, being first debated in their own church, shall be taken up by the Association.

Article 10. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association except it shall be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Article 11. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association, the best way and method for effecting that purpose shall be at the discretion of future Associations.

Article 12. We think it absolutely necessary that we should have an association fund for defraying the expenses of the same, for the raising and supporting of which we think it is the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums voluntarily as they think proper, and send it by the hands of their messenger to the association, and those moneys thus contributed by the churches and received by the Association shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all moneys received by him and pay out of the same according to the direction of the Association.

Article 13. There shall be an association book kept wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by the Secretary chosen for that purpose, who shall receive a compensation for his trouble.

Article 14.—The minutes of the association shall be read (and corrected if needed be) and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

Article 15. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time by a majority of the union when they

may deem it necessary.

Article 16. The Association shall have power: (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To preserve inviolable a chain communication among the churches. (3) To give the churches necessary advice in matters of church difficulty. (4) To inquire into the cause why the churches fail to represent themselves at any time Association. (5) To appropriate those moneys by the churches contributed for an association fund to any purpose they may think proper. (6) To appoint any member or members by and with their consent, to transact any business they may see necessary. (7) The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of this association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion. (8) To admit any orderly minister of our faith and order to a seat in the Association. (9) The Association shall have power to adjourn themselves to any future place they may think most convenient to the churches of the Association.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
3. Only one member shall speak at a time who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to speak.
4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted by any except the Moderator till he is done speaking.
5. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings and imperfections, but fairly state the case and matters as nearly as he can so as to convey his ideas.
6. No person shall rise and speak more than three times to one subject without liberty from the Association.
7. No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association without liberty obtained from it.
8. No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the Association nor whispering in time of public speech.
9. No member of the Association shall address another in any other term or appellation, but that the title of brother.
10. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member in a speech or prohibit him from speaking till he gives his light on the subject, except they break the rules of the decorum.
11. Names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as many times as the Association may require.

12. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled and he shall have no vote except the Association be equally divided, in that event he shall give the casting vote.

13. Any member who shall willfully violate any of these rules, shall be reproved by the Association as they think proper.

Addresses of Ministers.

W. J. May, Pinson Fork, Ky.
 A. Justice, Fishtrap, Ky.
 H. W. May, Siloan, Ky.
 J. B. Ramey, Fishtrap, Ky.
 A. Hatfield, Ransom, Ky.
 W. S. Weddington, Whitepost, Ky.
 B. Hatfield, Orinoco, Ky.
 G. H. Coleman, Coleman, Ky.
 W. Spence, Myrtle, W. Va.
 J. F. Hatfield, Hatfield, Ky.
 A. Runyon, Lenore, W. Va.
 H. Thacker, Fishtrap, Ky.
 W. M. Stanley, Canada, Ky.
 A. Justice, Fishtrap, Ky.
 C. Hatfield, Hatfield, Ky.
 W. J. Prater, Steel, Ky.
 J. D. Riffe, Ransom, Ky.
 P. Coleman, Steel, Ky.
 W. R. Collins, Zebulon, Ky.

Addresses of Church Clerks.

T. J. Bevins, Sidney, Ky.
 G. M. Stepp, Whitepost, Ky.
 J. Keese, Pizo, Ky.
 C. Hatfield, Hatfield, Ky.
 N. T. Blackburn, Fishtrap, Ky.
 Boyd Farley, Hardy, Ky.
 Lee Evans, Myrtle, W. Va.
 C. R. Hopkins, Williamson, W. Va.
 J. B. Ramey, Fishtrap, Ky.
 W. H. Fuller, Steel, W. Va.
 M. Ball, Pinson Fork, Ky.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	MESENTERS	By Experience	Rec'd by Letter, Bapt	Dismissed by Letter	Restored	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Saturday of Meeting	Contribution
Louisa	James A. Goff, W. H. Thacker, Jeff Thacker, N. T. Blackburn.	2					2	47	2	4.25
Big Creek	W. M. Stanley, T. J. Bevins, A. Blackburn, O. R. Lowe.		2			1	2	36	3	5.00
Pond Creek	J. D. Riffe, G. F. Stanley, Boyd Farley	1					2	26	2	8.00
Sardis	Ira Simpkins							40	1	2.70
Brushy Fork	J. Keese, George Lowe.	1						16	4	3.20
Raccoon	W. R. Collins, W. Worrix						2	28	4	2.55
Peter Creek	Jordan Dotson, G. H. Coleman, J. E. Dotson, Aaron Dotson.	1	1					71	4	6.60
Little Hope	W. J. May, Basil Fields, Martin Ball	2					2	27	1	5.75
Sulphur Spring	A. J. Blackburn, H. M. Smith, Solomon Smith.					2		20	1	2.20
Cedar Fork	Not Represented								2	
Joppa	H. W. May, George Stepp							10	4	4.25
Cedar Grove	I. Justice, Sam May						3	13	3	2.70
Samara	J. F. Hatfield, C. Hatfield, W. M. Smith, A. J. Ball.	2						33	3	9.72
Williamson	C. R. Hopkins			2				10	4	3.35
Little Union	W. J. Prater, E. Coleman							16	3	2.50
Johns Creek	L. McCoy	1	1				1	13	1	4.00
	Churches Total..							406		66.77