

Minutes
OF THE
One Hundred Fifth
Annual Session
OF THE
Mates Creek Regular
Primitive Baptist Association
of Jesus Christ

HELD WITH
John's Creek Church
KEMPER, PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
AUGUST 30, 31, SEPTEMBER 1,

1957

Next session to be held with the Big Creek Church at Canada, Pike County, Kentucky, to begin Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1957 at 10 a. m. Elder W. H. Thacker is to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder Frank Wheeler is to be his alternate.

OFFICERS

ELDER W. H. THACKER Moderator
ELDER A. P. JUSTICE Assistant Moderator
BROTHER STEARL HATFIELD Clerk
BROTHER J. E. HATFIELD Assistant Clerk

The Primitive Baptist Publishing House
Elon College, North Carolina

Proceedings

OF THE MATES CREEK DISTRICT PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, HELD WITH JOHN'S CREEK CHURCH, FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 30, 1957.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Frank Wheeler.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Joe Thacker, text, John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word," etc.

Ministers left on the stand for Friday:

1. Elder Mage Cox of the Washington Association.
2. Elder Lovell Adams of the New Liberty Association.
3. Elder Floyd Hall of the Rock Spring Association.
4. Elder Allen Smith of the New Liberty Association.
5. Elder Sam Newsom of the Union Association.

Messengers assembled in the John's Creek Church house and were called to order by the Moderator.

After singing "Amazing Grace," prayer by Elder Kelly Proffitt of the Rock Spring Association. Letters from the several churches were read, and the messengers were seated and their names enrolled.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Association then elected Elder W. H. Thacker as Moderator, Elder A. P. Justice, Assistant Moderator, Brother Stearl Hatfield, Clerk, Secretary, Treasurer, Brother J. E. Hatfield Assistant Clerk.

PROCEEDING OF BUSINESS

1. Newly constituted churches called for and none reported.
2. Abstract of Principles, Rules of Decorum, and Constitution read and ordered to be printed in the Minutes.
3. Messengers appointed last year to visit sister associations reported, and those unable to fill their appointments were excused.
4. Correspondents from sister Associations received and seated as follows:

Washington Association: Elder E. S. Stevens.

Indian Creek: Elder Lowell Lilly.

Union: Elder Sam Newsom with letter and Minutes.

Rock Spring: Elder Kelly Proffitt, Luther Bradley, Floyd Hall.

Senter: Elders W. E. Hester and E. R. Severt.

Fishers River: Elders W. R. Coins and J. H. Keaton.

It was moved and seconded that we take up direct correspondence with the New Liberty Association; their correspondents: Elders Allen Smith and Lovell Adams.

Visting brethren received and seated as follows:

Burning Springs Association: Brother Jack Wheeler.

Washington: Elder Mage Cox.

Indian Creek: Brother Reginald Mann.

Senter: Elder Dewey Roten.

Rock Spring: Brethren Jim Nesbitt, Jack Bryant, Dorris Littleton.

Fishers River: Brethren J. A. Morrison, Vance Jones, George Mitch-

ell, and O. B. Venable.

New Liberty: Elders C. N. Pendleton and Bud Whaling.

Mates Creek's visiting Elders were seated as follows: Elders M. C. Slone, Wallace Chapman and Guy Campbell.

5. The Moderator is to make all temporary arrangements.

6. A messenger from each church together with all the messengers from John's Creek Church was appointed to arrange for the preaching at the stand. They reported for Saturday:

1. Elder Kelly Proffitt of the Rock Spring Association.
2. Elder Jack Wheeler of the Burning Spring Association.
3. Elder C. M. Pendleton of the New Liberty Association.
4. Elder Harold Tipton of the Tenn., and Nolachucky Association.
5. Elder A. A. Miracle of the Powell Valley Association.
6. Elder E. S. Stevens of the Washington Association.

7. Committee to choose messengers to visit sister Associations was appointed as follows:

Elders Teddy R. Ball, Fonso Justice and Frank Wheeler.

They reported as follows:

Washington: Elders A. P. Justice and W. H. Thacker.

Indian Creek: Elders Frank Wheeler and Teddy R. Ball.

Senter: Elders Dan Adkins and J. H. Blackburn.

Union: Elders Joe Slone and M. C. Slone.

Rock Spring: Elders Kit Ratliff, Ostill Smith and Elden Thacker.

Fishers River: Elders Fonso Justice and Monroe Justice.

New Liberty: Elders Joe Thacker and Opie Thacker.

8. Moved and seconded that the Association send Minutes to all the Associations that we are in direct correspondence with.

9. Committee on Arrangements was appointed as follows: Brethren Philip Dotson, Willard Blackburn and C. C. Dotson.

10. Committee on Finance was appointed as follows: Brethren Dan Adkins, Roland Dotson and F. C. Runyon.

Moved and seconded that the Association be adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, August 31, 1957.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder E. S. Stevens of the Washington Association.

1. Roll called and absentees marked.

2. Committee on Arrangements reported the following and were discharged:

1. That the work of the Association be carried on for Saturday in the usual manner.

2. Moved and seconded that the Moderator appoint a Committee of two Elders to visit Little Union Church and make a report back next year. Elders Teddy R. Ball and Anderson Casey were appointed.

3. Moved and seconded that all obituaries be brought in by the letter bearers and be read and approved by the Association before they are printed in the Minutes.

3. Finance Committee reported \$264.81 and was discharged.

4. Committee on Preaching for Sunday reported as follows:

1—Elder Don Lilly; 2—Elder Dewey Roten; 3—Elder Luther Bradley; 4—Elder Lowel Lilly.

5. Union Meetings and their appointees as follows:

Louisa Church meets Friday before the second Saturday in August, 1958. Elders Teddy R. Ball, Frank Wheeler, Joe Thacker and Fonso Justice to attend.

Pond Creek Church meets Friday before the second Saturday in June, 1958. Elders J. H. Blackburn, Dan Adkins, W. H. Thacker, Joe Thacker, Teddy R. Ball and Frank Wheeler to attend.

Big Creek Church meets Friday before the third Saturday in August, 1958. Elders Frank Wheeler, J. H. Blackburn, Joe Slone, Dan Adkins, and W. H. Thacker to attend.

Raccoon Church meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in July, 1958. Elders Guy Campbell, Eli Estep, J. H. Blackburn, Wallace Chapman and Dan Adkins to attend.

Sulphur Spring Church meets Friday before the first Saturday in August, 1958. Elders Teddy R. Ball, Homer Little and Frank Wheeler to attend.

Peter Creek Church meets Friday before the fourth Saturday in June 1958. Elders W. H. Thacker, Teddy R. Ball, Frank Wheeler, Joe Thacker, Dan Adkins and J. H. Blackburn to attend.

Little Hope Church meets Friday before the first Saturday in July, 1958. Elders Druce Justice, W. H. Thacker, John Fuller, Frank Wheeler, Joe Thacker, and Homer Little to attend.

Joppa Church meets the first Saturday in June, 1958. Elders Guy Campbell, Frank Wheeler, Homer Little, and Joe Thacker to attend.

Grapevine Church meets Friday before the third Saturday in July, 1958. Elders Frank Wheeler, W. H. Thacker, Guy Campbell, Wallace Chapman, A. P. Justice, Fonso Justice and Teddy R. Ball to attend.

Samaria Church meets Friday before the third Saturday in June, 1958. Elders W. H. Thacker, A. P. Justice, A. J. Blackburn, Frank Wheeler, Teddy R. Ball, Dan Adkins, and J. H. Blackburn, to attend.

John's Creek Church meets Friday before the second Saturday in July, 1958. Elders J. F. Blackburn, Eli Estep, Teddy R. Ball, Fonso Justice, Homer Little and Dan Adkins to attend.

Calvary Church meets Friday before the first Saturday in June, 1958. Elders Eli Estep, J. H. Blackburn, Teddy R. Ball, Fonso Justice, Guy Campbell, and Elder Floyd Hall invited to attend.

6. Secretary report all work up and cash left on hand \$264.81.

7. Circular Letter called for, read and received to be printed in the Minutes, and that Elder Eli Estep is to prepare the next.

8. Agreed to have 1,600 copies of our Minutes printed, and annex our Constitution, Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum, and the obituaries of Sister Octavia Scott, Sister Rosa Lee Hatfield, Sister Lidia French Rose, Sister Sarah Blackburn, Sister Sallie Blackburn, Sister Mindy Scarburry, Brother Walter Williamson, Brother W. J. Tackett, Brother Hibbard Slone, Sister Bell, and Brother Mat Blackburn.

9. Agreed that the Brother Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and the balance of the funds be left in his hands until the next Association.

10. The finance was disposed of as follows:

Balance left on hand from last year	\$275.43	
Amount received from the churches	264.81	\$540.24
Paid Justice Lumber Company	\$ 27.12	
Paid twelve messengers \$8.00 each	96.00	
Paid for 1956 Minutes	152.00	
Paid the Moderator	15.00	
Paid the Clerk	10.00	
Total Cash paid out	300.12	
Balance cash left on hand	240.12	\$540.24

11. Agreed that our next Association be held with the Big Creek Church at Canada, Pike County, Kentucky, and to begin Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1958 and that Elder W. H. Thacker is to preach the Introductory Sermon, and that Elder Frank Wheeler be his alternate.

The Washington Association meets with the New Garden Church at Honaker, Russell County, Virginia, and will begin Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1958.

The Indian Creek Association meets with the Pipestem Church at Pipe Stem, West Virginia, on State Route No. 20, midway between Princeton and Hinton, West Virginia.

Minutes read and approved, closed by prayer by Elder Fonso Justice, then adjourned until the time of our next Association.

Signed by:

W. H. THACKER, Moderator
A. P. JUSTICE, Assistant Moderator
STEARL HATFIELD, Clerk
J. E. HATFIELD, Assistant Clerk

EVENING MEETINGS

Friday Evening:

The John's Creek Church House: Elders Bud Whaling, Ed Severts, Dewey Roten and Lowell Lilly.

Saturday Evening:

The John's Creek Church House: Elders Ostill Smith, Dan Adkins, Frank Wheeler and Teddy R. Ball.

The Blackberry Church House: Elders E. R. Severt, W. E. Hester, and Dewey Roten.

The Raccoon Church House: Elders Wallace Chapman, J. H. Blackburn, Eli Estepp and Floyd Hall.

Johnny Newsom's Home: Elders Kit Ratliff, Luther Bradley, Sam Newsom, Kelly Proffitt, and Eldon Thacker.

Sister Missouriia Coiemans Home: Elders Dan Adkins, Frank Wheeler, John Fuller and Kit Ratliff.

SUNDAY MORNING, September 1, 1957.

Singing and prayer by Elder Don Lilly of Indian Creek Association. Elders on the stand:

1. Elder Dewey Roten of the Senter Association, no special text.
2. Elder Luther Bradley of the Rock Spring Association, Gal. 2:21: "I do not frustrate the grace of God." etc.
3. Elder Lowell Lilly of the Indian Creek Association, text, Titus

1:1: "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ."

We hope that we are thankful to God for the many blessings that we received during this Association. We want to thank all of our visiting brethren and sisters and the correspondents for their presence and our humble hope is that the God of all grace will give them a mind to come this way again.

—The Clerk

CIRCULAR LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters:—It has fallen my unworthy lot to inform you of a Circular Letter, hoping that the Lord will direct my poor feeble mind. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth and the earth was without form and void, but to my understanding the God of all grace, and said, Let there be light and there was light.

To my understanding, the God of all power stood as a Lamb to be slain for His people, and to my understanding that sweet hope that He gives His little children, keeps His humble poor in the way and poor in heart. To my understanding that you must be born again. When it pleases the Lord to Reveal His Spirit in poor mortal man, the stony heart is gone, and to my understanding that it has been the man under consideration all the way through, and I believe that it is the man that suffers in this world. The same man will enjoy heaven and immortal glory, but I do believe that this body goes down a natural body and raises a spiritual body. So I believe that God's humble poor see their troubles in this world. We find Job 14: 14: If a man dies, shall he live again. All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change comes, so according to the scripture, there is a time to everything. There is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. I believe that this mortal man must die, and this same man will be changed from a natural body to a spiritual body, so it is sown in weakness, but raises in power. I hope that my brethren and sisters can see a few things that I have tried to point out, because there is no power except that of God.

Written by unworthy brother only in hope of living again. Amen.

—Anderson Casey

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

A. J. Blackburn, Ira, Va.	Dan Adkins, Ph. 3903, Huddy, Ky.
W. H. Thacker, McAndrews, Ky.	Wallace Chapman, King, N. C.
M. C. Slone, Fishtrap, Kentucky	Frank Wheeler, Stone, Ky. Ph. 3910
A. P. Justice, Millard, Ky.	George Hunt, Hardy, Ky.
W. E. Thacker, Millard, Ky.	Fonso Justice, Racoon, Ky., Ph.
Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky.	1894-J30
Noah Smith, Coleman, Ky.	W. M. Dotson, Stone, Ky.
Joe Thacker, Canada, Ky.	Hommer Little, McCarr, Ky.
John Fuller, Canada, Ky.	James Earl McIntosh, Hardy Ky.
Charley Holsinger, Pikeville, Ky.	Green Coleman, Millard, Ky.
W. H. Praitier, Williamson, W. Va.	Monroe Justice, Canada, Ky.
Lonnie Warrix, Fishtrap, Ky.	Ostil Smith, Canada, Ky.
Anderson Casey, Coleman, Ky.	V. V. Justice, Fishtrap, Ky.
W. N. Smith, Kemper, Ky.	Plenna B. Justice, 17540 Madison
J. H. Blackburn, New Town, W. Va.	Ave., Lakewood, O.
Joe Slone, Jr., Fishtrap, Ky	Guy Campbell, R.2, Pikeville, Ky.
Kit Ratliff, Philis, Ky.	Eli Estepp, Phelps, Ky.
	Eldon Thacker, Philis, Ky.

LICENTIATES

Williard Dotson, Redjacket, W. Va. John I. Smith, Belfry, Ky.
Clark Owens, Pinsonfork, Ky. Opa Thacker, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Church	Name, Address of Moderator	Communion Meeting
Louisa—Elder A. P. Justice, Millard, Ky.		July, 2nd Saturday
Pond Creek—Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky. ..		June 2nd Saturday
Big Creek—Elder Joe Thacker, Canada, Ky.		June, 3rd Saturday
Raccoon—Elder Fonso Justice, Raccoon, Ky.		June, 4th Saturday
Sulphur Springs—Elder A. J. Blackburn, Ira, Va. ..		July, 1st Saturday
Peter Creek—Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky. June, 4th Saturday		
Little Hope—Elder W. H. Thacker, McAndrews, Ky., July, 1st Saturday		
Joppa—Elder Dan Adkins, McAndrews, Ky.		June, 1st Saturday
Grapevine—Elder J. H. Blackburn, Ira, Va.		July, 3rd Saturday
Samaria—Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky.		July, 3rd Saturday
John's Creek—Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky., July 2nd Saturday		
Calvary—Elder Teddy R. Ball, Coleman, Ky.		June, 1st Saturday

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES

Louisa—Bradley Warrix, Fishtrap, Ky.	125
Pond Creek, F. C. Runyon, Belfry, Ky.	200
Big Creek—M. B. Blackburn, Canada, Kentucky	125
Raccoon—Joe Morris, Raccoon, Ky.	125
Sulphur Spring—J. B. May, Kelsey, Va.	75
Peter Creek—Roland Dotson, Stone, Ky.	125
Little Hope—Dewey Dotson, Pinsonfork, Ky.	75
Joppa—Estill Varney, Hatfield, Ky.	50
Grapevine—Stewart Justice, Fishtrap, Kentucky	50
Samaria—J. E. Hatfield, McCarr, Ky.	200
John's Creek—Noah Smith, Jr., Kemper, Ky.	100
Calvary—Rosco Varney, McAndrews, Kentucky	50

DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES TO CORRESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS

Washington—Leland Street, Stacy, Va.	25
Indian Creek—J. R. Lilly, Box 136, Hinton, W. Va.	25
Union—J. M. Holbrook, Shelby Gap, Kentucky	25
Fisher's River—O. W. Sisk, King, N. C.	25
Senter—W. M. Miller, Clifton, N. C.	25
Rock Spring—Isaac Caudill, Jr., Box 172, Morehead, Ky.	25
New Liberty—Thos. D. Robertson, 802 Kanawha Blvd., W. Charleston, W. Va.	25
To the Clerk, Stearl Hatfield, McCarr, Ky.	100

— OBITUARIES —

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W. J. TACKETT

It is with a sad heart and weakness I attempt to write an obituary of Brother W. J. Tackett. He was born August 27, 1867 and deceased this life February 19, 1957, making his stay on earth 90 years, 5 months, and 23 days. He leaves his loving wife and six children to mourn his loss. We feel sure that our loss is his eternal gain.

The names of his children as follows: Orland Tackett, B. J. Tackett, Goldia Tackett, Edna Reynolds, Lillie Anderson,

Villa Little. He was widely known. He served his community as Justice of the Peace for several years. He was loved by his neighbors and church members. He was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist Church. He joined the Primitive Baptist Church third Saturday in October, 1907. He was baptized by Elder Daniel Roberts. He was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church for fifty years, six months.

Brother Tackett never doubted the good Lord at any time. He knew that God purposed to save His people and would do so regardless of everything. He was a strong believer in the resurrection of the dead bodies from the grave. We miss Brother Tackett, but have a sweet hope of meeting him in a better world where there is no sorrow, or trouble. Written by his brother in hope of eternal glory.

—Daniel Roberts

HIBBARD SLONE

The death angel visited the home of Brother Hibbard Slone, June 22, and conveyed his spirit home to that great fair Beyond. He was born June 9, 1879, and deceased this life June 22, 1957, making his stay on earth 78 years, and 13 days. He was married to Cora Blackburn in the year of 1904 and to this union were born 13 children, seven of whom preceded him in death. He leaves a loving wife, 6 children, (five boys and one girl) 27 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, one sister, four brothers, and a host of friends to mourn their loss.



Brother Hibbard united with the Old Regular Primitive Baptist Church in 1950 and lived up to his confession until death. He was loved by all who knew him, and the family misses Father and we all feel lonesome since he went away. But we hope that our loss is his eternal gain, and that by God's great mercy we shall meet him on that great resurrection day.

Written by Lonnie Warrix.

MRS. LYDIA FRENCH ROSE



Mrs. Lydia French Rose daughter of Daniel Lewis French and Emmaline French was born January 29, 1879 at Stratton, Va. She was married to Henry D. Rose June 13, 1901. To this union were born 7 children. Two children preceded her in death, leaving 5 children: Claude E. Rose, Miamisburg, Ohio, James W. Rose, Leck, Va., George H. Rose, Damascus, Md., Esmon A. Rose, Lisbon, Md., one daughter, Beulah Ramsey, Lookout, Ky., and 35 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren. She professed a hope in the Old Baptist Church in 1902. She was baptised by Elder John Smith.

BROTHER AND SISTER MAT BLACKBURN

It is with sadness but with love to think our beloved sister and brother were called from this cold, world to-wit: Sister Bell Blackburn, born January 31, 1865, departed this life March 16, 1957, 92 years, one month and 16 days. She was baptized October, 1946, second Sunday, by myself, Elder Hibbard Thacker, and lived a faithful member until death.

Brother Matt Blackburn was born October 5, 1864, departed this life September 28, 1956. May the God of all grace bless their children.

Dear children, we are made to feel our loss is gain for them to sleep till Jesus comes again to receive the bride and go Home to live forever.

Written by Dan Adkins, requested by Sister Peachie Blackburn.



WALTER WILLIAMSON



It is with much sadness that we attempt to write the obituary of Walter Williamson. He was born March 5, 1891 at Canada, Ky., and departed this life October 24, 1956, making his stay here on earth 65 years, 7 months, and 19 days. He was the son of James and Rebecca Smith Williamson who preceded him in death and was married to Ida Blackburn Williamson who survives. To this union were born five children, one son and daughter preceded him in death. The surviving children are: Mrs. George Fuller, Mrs. Carl Williamson and Mary M. Williamson, all of Canada, Ky.

Dad united with the Primitive Baptist Church on Sunday, August 26, 1956 and was baptized at Big Creek by Elders Joe Thacker and A. P. Justice. I do believe Dad was a true believer in the Old Baptists, although he was so afflicted in his last days he was unable to

attend church like he would have wished to. He is sadly missed but sweetly remembered, and we feel our loss is his eternal gain, and hope to meet him in the morning of the resurrection.

Written by his wife, Ida Williamson, and daughter, Mary M. Williamson.

SARAH BLACKBURN

It is with a sad heart I try to write the obituary of our step mother, Sarah Blackburn Thacker. She was born Aug. 1, 1906 and died October 1, 1955, making her stay on earth 49 years one month. She was married to John Blackburn, and to this union were born no children, but six step-children, Harold and Grover and Junior of Henley, Va., Charles and Chester of Genton, Mich., Albert Blackburn of Calif., one sister, Myrtle Grabinski one brother, Joe Thacker of Grundy, Va, and mother, of Freeburn, Ky. She joined the Primitive Baptist Church and lived a faithful member until death. Her door was open to God's people. At church time, she took care of people while in bad health. She bore her suffering with patience till God called her away. We miss our dear setp-mother. She was so kind to us and like a real mother to us. We hope while it is our loss it is her great eternal gain.



Written by her step-children.

SALLIE BLACKBURN

Sallie Blackburn a life-long resident of Ball Fork, Ky., who was born October 31, 1858 and deceased February 18, 1957, age 98 years. She was married to J. M. Blackburn and to this union were born two children. She united with the Primitive Baptists Church several years ago, and lived a faithful member until death. She leaves to mourn their loss, two children, one step-son and sixteen grandchildren, and a host of friends. We feel our loss is her eternal gain.

Written by her children.

SISTER ROSA LEE HATFIELD

The obituary of Sister Rosa Lee Hatfield, daughter of John and Charity Runyon Scott of Hardy, Ky. She was born December 17, 1881 and deceased November 25, 1957. She was married in early life to Elbert Hatfield of the Kentucky side of Matewan. She was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church for many years. She is survived by her husband and the following children, Mrs. Selma Scott, Mrs. Dolly Bevins, Mrs. Alice Michial, Mrs. Vivian Glisspy, Douglas Hatfield, Elbert Hatfield, Jr., Jack Hatfield, and Bill Hatfield, and a host of friends and relatives. We feel that our loss is her eternal gain.

Written by Stearl Hatfield.

SISTER OCTAVIA SCOTT



The obituary of Sister Octavia Scott the widow of Melvin Scott. She was born January 17, 1877, deceased January 20, 1957. She united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Old Pond in 1934 and was baptized by Elder W. M. Stanley, in which profession she lived faithfully until death. She leaves 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls, 3 sisters and one brother to mourn their loss, but we feel sure that our loss is her eternal gain. Her funeral was preached in the Old Pond Church house by Elder Teddy R. Ball. The body was laid to rest in the family cemetery to wait until the resurrection morning when Christ shall bid her to rise. May God bless her six children and grandchildren.

Written by Teddy R. Ball.

MINDY SCARBURRY

Mindy Scarburry was born June 29, 1889, making her stay here on earth 69 years. Her husband preceded her in death 15 years ago. She united with the Primitive Baptist Church 30 years ago and was a faithful member as long as she could go. She leaves to mourn their loss 6 children and a host of friends, but we feel that her spirit is with God who gave it, and at all His second coming it will unite with her body again and be taken home to reign with Him in glory.

Written by her children.



ARTICLES OF FAITH

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 existed in His mediatorial Person as the head and life of His body, the church, from everlasting.
3. We believe the doctrine of eternal, personal and unconditional election; that the elect, or church, is and was and shall forever remain His body and fulness, 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 atonement made by Christ was full and complete and exclusively for the elect, or heirs of promise.
6. We believe the doctrine of God's 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 God's grace, and shall ultimately enjoy heaven and immortal glory.
8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the bodies, both of the just and the unjust, and the happiness of the righteous shall be eternal and the punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting.
9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the subjects, and the true mode of baptism is immersion, foot-washing an example.
10. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments 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 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.

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 until 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 matter as nearly as he can as to convey his ideas.
6. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject without liberty obtained 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 the title of "Brother."

10. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member in a speech or prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light on the subject, except they break the Rules of 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 wilfully or knowingly break any of these rules shall be reprovved by the Association as they think proper.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be calld Mates Creek District Primitive Baptist Association.

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 seats.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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 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 messengers to the Association, and those monies 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 monies received by him, and pay out of the same according to the Association.

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 compensation for his trouble.

14. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association arises.

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

16. The Association shall have power: (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To preserve inviolably a chain of 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 in the Association. (5) To appropriate those monies 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 time or place they may think most convenient to the churches of the Association.

