DUPLICATE MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

STONE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

Held with the Indian Creek Baptist Church, DeKalb County, Ga.,

September 13 AND 15, 1873.

Lawrenceville.-W. G. Akins, W. Weller Webb. Appalachee.-J. W. Langford, J. W. Brooks, W. Palmore, and J. W. Butts. Western .- A. R. Callaway.

Hightower.—P. Blanton and A. S. Tatum. Noonday.—W. H. Campbell.

7. Recognized the presence of brethren J. Barrow and C. M. Irwin, Agent of Foreign Missions.

8. Appointed the following hours for business: meet at 8½ A.M., adjourn at $12\frac{1}{2}$; afternoon session—meet at 2, adjourn at $4\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock.

- 9. The following Committee was appointed on Preaching: J. M. Stillwell, J. Walker, J. B. Hadaway, J. Drake, and R. T. Hull. The Moderator was given until Monday morning to announce the other Committees.
- 10. Read a communication from the minority of the Stone Mountain Church, which was referred to the Committee appointed,

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1. Read the Letters from the Churches.
- 2. Elect a Moderator and Clerk.
- 3. Give an opportunity for Churches to unite with us.
 4. Call for Correspondents from Sister Associations.
- 5. Invite Ministers of our Denomination to seats with us.6. Appoint the following Committees:
- - On Preaching.
 On Finance.
 On Nominations.
 - On Deceased Ministers.
 - On Missions.
 - On Sabbath Schools.
 - On Temperance.
 - On Sacred Scriptures and Denominational Literature at Home,
 - On the State of Religion in our Churches.
- 7. Read any Communication addressed to this Body.
- 8. Invite Addresses from such Agents as may be recognized by the Asso-
- 9. Appoint Correspondents to Sister Associations.
- 10. Elect Delegates to Georgia Baptist Convention.
- 11. Elect Treasurer.
- 12. Appoint General Meetings.
- 13. Appoint the Time and Place of the next Annual Meeting.
- 14. Receive Report of Treasurer.

 15. Call for Reports of Committees in the order of their appointment.
- 16. Miscellaneous Business.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

MINUTES.

INDIAN CREEK, DeKalb County, Georgia, September 13, 1873.

1. The Stone Mountain Baptist Association met with Indian Creek Church, at 11 o'clock. The Introductory Sermon was preached at the stand, by brother J. M. Brittain, from Romans viii. 1; after which, there was an intermission till 2 o'clock.

2. The Association convened at the appointed time, and, the former Moderator being absent, the Clerk called the house to order, and brother J. H. Callaway was called to the chair for organization. After singing, prayer was made by brother A. T. Spalding.

3. Read letters from the churches, and enrolled the names of

delegates.

- 4. Elected brother F. M. Daniel *Moderator*, and T. A. Gibbs *Clerk*. While counting the votes, the Association engaged in devotional exercises.
- 5. Received as constituent members of this body: Pleasant Hill Church, of Rockdale county; Woodville, of DeKalb; Antioch, of Fulton; and Norcross, of Gwinnett—by letter from the Lawrenceville Association.
 - 6. Received correspondents from the following Associations:

Lawrenceville.—W. G. Akins, W. Weaver, T. Carter, J. Harris, and J. W. Webb.

Appalachee.—J. W. Langford, J. W. Brooks, W. Palmore, and J. W. Butts. Western.—A. R. Callaway. Hightower.—P. Blanton and A. S. Tatum.

Noonday.—W. H. Campbell.

- 7. Recognized the presence of brethren J. Barrow and C. M. Irwin, Agent of Foreign Missions.
- 8. Appointed the following hours for business: meet at $8\frac{1}{2}$ A.M., adjourn at $12\frac{1}{2}$; afternoon session—meet at 2, adjourn at $4\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock.
- 9. The following Committee was appointed on Preaching: J. M. Stillwell, J. Walker, J. B. Hadaway, J. Drake, and R. T. Hull. The Moderator was given until Monday morning to announce the other Committees.
- . 10. Read a communication from the minority of the Stone Mountain Church, which was referred to the Committee appointed,

by request of the majority, at the last session of this body, to investigate the action of the Stone Mountain Church. Brethren J. H. Callaway, J. H. Kinnebrew, and G. R. Moor, were appointed to fill the vacancies in said Committee.

11. After singing, prayer was made by brother A. R. Callaway. Adjourned to 81 o'clock Monday.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

12. At 9½ o'clock, brother A. R. Callaway preached at the stand. At 11. W. M. Davis in the house, and A. T. Spalding at the stand, preached on Missions, and a collection taken at both places, amounting to \$70.15.

Brother J. H. Kinnebrew, at 2 o'clock, preached at the stand,

and J. F. Edens in the house.

Monday Morning, September 15th.

13. After singing, brother J. H. Born led in prayer.

14. Called and corrected the roll; also read and corrected the minutes of Saturday.

15. The Church of Pleasant Grove, having united with the Central Association, was stricken from our body.

16. Announced the following Committees:

On Finance.-W. J. Speairs, W. R. Webster, I. H. Smith. On Deceased Ministers.—S. Mayfield, J. F. Edens, J. Nix.

On Nominations.—J. H. Born, J. D. Robinson, J. R. Hadaway.

17. Read a communication from the Female Missionary Society at Convers.

18. Brother J. H. Kinnebrew presented the claims of Kind Words. C. M. Irwin, Agent of Foreign Missions, urged the necessity of sustaining that cause, after which a collection of \$25.70 was taken. Brethren J. Barrow and J. M. Brittain spoke in the interest of Domestic Missions, and collected \$8.15. Brother Seago made some statements in reference to the Orphans' Home, followed by A. T. Spalding and W. M. Davis.

19. Appointed correspondents to the following Associations.

Lawrenceville.—J. Nix, W. F. King, J. M. Stillwell, J. F. Edens. Appalachee.—D. Shaver, T. A. Gibbs.

Fairburn.—G. R. Moor and A. T. Spalding. Flint River.—J. H. James and D. Shaver.

Western.—A. K. Seago, J. H. Callaway, and W. M. Davis.

Georgia.-J. M. Brittain and D. Shaver. Noonday.-H. F. Buchanan, J. M. Brittain, G. R. Moor, W. J. Speairs, A. T. Spalding.

Hightower.—E. W. Warren, T. J. Hightower, A. K. Seago, H. C. Hornady, W. M. Davis, J. H. Kinnebrew, and D. Shaver.

20. Elected brethren D. Shaver, J. M. Brittain, G. R. Moor, J. M. Stillwell, E. W. Warren, F. M. Daniel, A. T. Spalding, J. H. Kinnebrew, W. M. Davis, and A. K. Seago, delegates to the Georgia Baptist Convention.

21. Elected T. A. Gibbs, Treasurer.

22. Arranged general meetings as follows:

First District.-Meet at Third Church in Atlanta, Friday before the fifth Sunday in March. J. M. Brittain and J. H. Born volunteered to attend.

Second District.—Meet at Lithonia, Friday before the fifth Sunday in August.

J. F. Edens and A. T. Spalding agreed to attend.

Third District.—Meet at Macedonia, Friday before the first Sunday in August.

J. F. Edens and F. M. Daniel agreed to attend.

23. The next session of this body will be held with Social Circle Church, commencing on Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1874.

24. Filled the vacancy in Committee on Temperance, with J. M. Brittain; vacancy in Committee on Sacred Scriptures and

Denominational Literature at Home, with W. M. Davis.

25. Heard and adopted the Treasurer's report. [See Appen-

dix A.]

26. Adopted the reports of Committees as follows: on Finance. [see App. B]; on Deceased Ministers, [see App. C]; on Missions, [see App. D.]

27. Resolved, That the Editor of THE INDEX be requested to

publish the report on Missions in that paper.

28. Prayer by J. Barrow. Adjourned to 2 o'clock P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 o'clock.

29. The Association convened. After singing, brother C. M.

Irwin led in prayer.

30. The Committee on Nominations report that brother G. R. Moor preach the next Introductory Sermon—W. M. Davis, alternate; E. W. Warren the Missionary Sermon-A. T. Spalding, alternate. We recommend a Missionary Mass Meeting in connection with the Sabbath School, at 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

31. The report on the State of Religion in our Churches was

heard and adopted. [See App. E.]

32. Adopted the report of the Executive Committee. App. F.]

33. Appointed the following Committees, to report next year:

On Missions.—E. W. Warren, J. M. Stillwell, C. Peeples. On Sabbath Schools.—W. M. Davis, W. M. Janes, T. A. Gibbs.

On Temperance -J. H. Kinnebrew, G. R. Moor, H. F. Buchanan.

On Sacred Scriptures and Denominational Literature at Home.—A. T. Spalding, H. C. Hornady, C. C. White.

On the State of Religion in our Churches.—D. Shaver, W. J. Speairs, J. M.

Brittain.

- 34. Heard and adopted the following reports: On Sabbath Schools, [see App. G.]; on Sacred Scriptures and Denominational Literature at Home, [see App. H.]; on Temperance, [see App. I.]
- 35. Whereas, a balance on brother Cowan's salary as Missionary in our bounds for the past year, remains unpaid, therefore—

Resolved, That those churches which have not yet contributed their full proportion, be requested to send the balance of their contributions promptly to brother T. A. Gibbs, Treasurer of this Association.

- 36. Heard and adopted the report of Committee in reference to the Stone Mountain Church. [See App. J.]
- 37. Brother F. M. Daniel was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee.
- 38. Agreed to divide the Sunday collection equally between Associational, Domestic, and Foreign Missions.
- 39. Resolved, That any orderly member of a church belonging to this body, be authorized to represent us in any Association with which we correspond.
- 40. Authorized the Clerk to have 1,200 copies of these Minutes printed and distributed in the usual way, and retain for his services the amount left of the Associational fund, after paying for printing and other expenses.
- 41. Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the brethren and friends of this community for their generous entertainment of the delegates and visitors, and to S. K. Johnson, Superintendent of the Georgia Railroad, for passing all in attendance for one fare.
- 42. A hymn was sung, the parting hand given, and brother J. Barrow made the closing prayer. After which, the Association adjourned.

F. M. DANIEL, Moderator.

T. A. GIBBS, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

(A). Treasurer's Report. 1872. Sept. 9. Received of Finance Committee						
(B.) On Finance.						
Domestic Missions. Foreign Missions. Indian Missions. Italian Mission. Chinese Mission. Orphans' Home. Stone Mount'n Missions.	_					
Atlanta First. \$19 37 \$19 36 \$19 37 \$25 0 Atlanta Second. \$25 0 Atlanta Third \$5 00 5 00 \$10 0 Bell Street \$\$5 00 \$5 00 \$7 0 Tanner's \$\$14 5 Lithonia \$\$715\$10 00 \$3 6 Covington \$\$10 00 \$\$10 00 Union Grove. \$\$15 00 5 25 Union Grove. \$\$	00000500500.0000					

(C.) On Deceased Ministers.

Considered Ministers are happy to respect taken to take Your Committee on Deceased Ministers are happy to report to the Association, that God, in His goodness and mercy, has not taken a single one of our number away from our fellowship on earth, during the last Associational year. To God be all the praise!

S. MAYFIELD, Chairman. 8 minutes.

(D.) On Missions.

A Report on Missions does not afford space (1) to unfold the principles on which this great work rests; or (2) to recount the history of the labors and triumphs to which these principles have animated the churches, from age to age; or (3) to discuss the rival plans on which it is claimed that the churches may act, in this department, with most effectiveness; or (4) to detail the claims immediately pressing upon us, in order to the best issue of the plan in actual operation. We lay all these points on one side, then, except the last, and say but a few words on that.

Missions are prosecuted by Georgia Baptists, in conjunction with their brethren of the South, through the two Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention. These Boards tell us that, if no debt is to be contracted, if they are to tread no step backward, if their work is to go forward with vigor, they must receive from the churches, before the session of the Convention next May, \$118,000. This may sound like a large sum; but it is only a little less than nine cents each, for the 1,073,740 Baptists of the South. Of these Baptists Georgia claims 143,740—or a fraction over one-seventh of the whole. The Boards, therefore, look to us for, at least, \$16,000—or a fraction less than one-seventh of the amount necessary to carry their work through the year. Is not this equitable?

Now, as an Association, what is our fair proportion of the sum asked from Georgia? Contributions, of course, will come, for the most part, only from the 852 churches connected with our State Convention—as we can expect little from Associations standing aloof from that body, still less from Colored, and nothing at all from Anti-missionary Baptists. To raise among these 852 churches \$16,000, we must secure from each church an average of about \$18.80—or, say, \$1.50 a month. The thirty-one churches of this body, at that rate, will need to contribute an aggregate of \$565; which, distributed among the 3,240 members, makes an average, for each member, of less than seventeen cents—or less than a cent and a half monthly. Cannot the weakest church do as much as this? Cannot almost every church do more? Is not our proportion of the \$118,000 less than our ability requires, and less than our hearts prompt? Can we not do for the Boards—nay, do for ourselves, in the work in which they are simply our instruments and agents-better than they ask? And if we fail to bear our share of this burden, have we not reason to fear lest the Lord should rebuke our want of faithfulness, by the caterpillar, by drought, by excess of rain, by mildew, by rust, by some one of the thousand means through which He scourges His enemies and chastens His children? But we will bear it will we not, brethren?-when we remember the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though He was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might inherit the true, the eternal riches. We will not withhold money from Him who bought us with His blood, and to whom the money belongs, even as we belong to Him; we will not suffer the souls for whom He died, to perish through ignorance of His dying for them, as for us. No, we will not-will we, brethren? D. SHAVER, Chairman,

(E.) On State of Religion in our Churches.

Last year the churches reported contributions to Missions, Sabbath School Board, Orphans' Home, etc., of \$453.40. This year they report, including Sunday collections, \$1,920.25, to which must be added some small collections made in the house on Monday. In 1872, the total number of baptisms reported were 381—in 1873, 248; showing the increase in baptisms less this year than last, 133. Our total membership in 1872, as reported, was 2,984, and in 1873, reported to be 3,240—gain in total membership, 256. From this, however, must be deducted the membership of the four new churches received into our union this year, which will give us the actual net gain. Many of the churches complain of coldness and unfaithfulness. Many others have been graciously refreshed, and precious souls converted unto God. We deeply regret that the work of grace does not seem to have been manifested in all the churches. The increased contributions to benevolence is evidently the result of the work of the Spirit in the hearts of the lovers of Jesus, moving them to consecrate

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their substance to the cause of the Master. Your Committee respectfully suggest that the growth of grace in the churches may be promoted-

1. By reading the Scriptures daily.

2. By secret prayer, prayer in the family, in the prayer-meeting, never forgetting the spread of the Gospel.

3. By laying by in store of our substance, weekly, as the Lord hath prospered us, for the cause of perishing souls. A. K. SEAGO, Chairman.

Report of Executive Committee.

At the last session of our Association, this Committee was instructed to employ a Missionary to labor in our own bounds; and the deacons of the various churches were requested to ascertain what amounts their several churches were willing to give for the above purpose. The deacons never reported to your Committee from a single church. Early in January, we engaged the services of brother James K. Cowan, at \$50 per month—the amount stipulated by the Association—and wrote to all our churches advising them of the fact, and naming the amount it was desirable each should contribute. Very few of the churches ever replied to us, and we are left to presume that they sent the amounts contributed to our Treasurer, or have enclosed them in their letters to this body.

Our Missionary reports as follows: Number of days employed, 180; number of sermons, 156; common school lectures, 4; Sabbath school lectures, 14;

number of families visited, 438.

We are of opinion that the Executive Committee would be more efficient if located more centrally in our territory. E. W. WARREN, Chairman.

On Sabbath Schools. (G.)

Your Committee beg leave to report: We regard the Sunday School work in our bounds as in a good stage of progress. There are 23 schools, containing about 1,700 members in regular attendance. Nine of our churches, however, have no school. While this is, comparatively, a small proportion, it is yet a fact to be deeply deplored. Four schools were recently begun. This fact encourages the hope that other schools may soon be organized. We should strive to have a Sabbath school in every church, and to carry our schools forward to the highest excellence. We commend the "Lesson Papers" and Sunday School Teacher, as aids in our work, and Kind Words for the scholars.

A. T. SPALDING, Chairman.

(H.)On Sacred Scriptures and Denominational Literature at

Your Committee would earnestly recommend THE CHRISTIAN INDEX as a

necessity to every Baptist family in this Association.

The Home and Foreign Journal, the organ of our Boards, we would also recommend to all our churches, as that paper tells us who our missionaries are, where they labor, what they are doing, and what are their needs.

Kind Words, our well-known Sabbath school paper, we heartily recommend W. M. Davis, Chairman.

to all our schools,

(I.)On Temperance.

The Committee on Temperance beg leave to report the following:

Intemperance is one of the most dreadful evils with which our churches are troubled. It is, in the highest degree, inconsistent with the profession of godliness, for members of Christ's body to indulge in the habit of taking intoxicating drink. The cause of Christ will not be advanced by those who lower the standard of piety by reveling in the disgraceful scenes of dissipation. We recommend to the churches composing this Association, a strict adherence to J. M. BRITTAIN, Chairman. faithful discipline.

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(J.) On Stone Mountain Church.

The Committee in the case of difficulty between the Stone Mountain Church, represented in this body, and the members excluded from it, who claim representation here as the Church, beg leave to report:

Where disorder exists, or is alleged to exist in a church, and leads to rival organizations, what are the proper steps of remedy? The first, as we conceive, is, that the organizations brought into conflict should adjust the difficulty "between themselves alone." If this fails, we reach the second step-namely, that the aid of churches in the adjustment of the difficulty, should be sought by the call of a council for that purpose. Only as the third step should the Association take the case in hand. When a council, whether mutual or ex parte, has been duly called and constituted, let the Association conform its action, in the admission or rejection of delegates, to the will of the churches as expressed by the council. This gives the Association the testimony, the judgment, and the authority of churches, as its guide in action toward churches. The essential point in this opinion is, that churches sitting in council should always be interposed between the Association and a church charged with disorder. There are important reasons for this course. 1, A council assembles—as the Association does not-on express invitation, for the adjustment of the difficulty, and there can be no room for cavil as to its advisory power in the case, and its right to act. 2. A council meets-as the Association may not-where both parties reside, and are with reasonable convenience present, where all witnesses are heard, and every fact bearing on the issue fully brought out. 3. A council comes together to attend to that one matter, and can give it a more thorough sifting than is possible on the part of the Association, with the multiplicity of objects dividing its time. 4. When a council has reached a conclusion, it disbands forever; and there is less space for invasions of Church Independency, or for the suspicion of such invasions, than in the case of a body which, like the Association, holds successive sessions year after year. 5. When a case has been adjudicated by churches sitting in council, there is, of course, the strongest guarantee of impartiality and thorough investigation; and hence, Associations are less likely to stand on opposing sides, one admitting the delegates rejected by the other. These advantages, as here presented, abundantly show that it is the wisdom of the Association to act toward churches only after the mature judgment and with the official advice of their sister churches. Your Committee, therefore, respectfully submit the following resolutions:

That the Stone Mountain Church, represented in this body, be recommended and requested to call a council of three members each, from seven churches of

the Association, to investigate the action of that church.

That the members excluded from it, and claiming representation here, as the church, be recommended and requested to present to the council whatever testimony they rely on in the case.

And that we do fraternally exhort both, as we desire ourselves, to abound

yet more and more in love and long-suffering.

D. Shaver, Chairman.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the Churches of Jesus Christ, who have been regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith, have set forth a concise declaration of the faith and order upon which we intend to associate, which is as follows:

1. We believe in one only true God; and that there is a Trinity of persons in the Godhead-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and yet there is not three Gods, but one God.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word

of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam; in the imputation of his sins to his posterity; in the corruption of human nature; and the impotency of man to

recover himself by his own free will and ability.

4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to His people, and in the eternal election of a definite number of the human race to grace and glory; that there was a covenant of grace or redemption made between the Father and the Son, before the world began, in which their salvation is secure, and that they, in particular, are redeemed.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.

6. We believe that all those chosen in Christ will be effectually called, regenerated, converted, sanctified and supported by the Spirit and power of God, so that they shall persevere in grace, and not one of them be finally lost.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and that they only justify us in the sight of men and angels, and are

evidences of our gracious state.

8. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

GOSPEL ORDER.

1, We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons, who have gained a Christian fellowship for each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord, and to one another, and have agreed to keep up a

- godly discipline, agreeable to the rules of the Gospel.

 2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Great Head of the Church, and only Law-giver; and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual; and that the discipline of the Church is intended for the reclaiming of those members who may be disorderly either in faith or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for the glory of God and the peace and unity of the Church.
- 3. We believe that water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the ordinances of the Lord, and are to be continued until His second coming.

4. We believe that true believers in Jesus Christ are the only subjects of Baptism; and that immersion is the mode.

5. We believe that none but regularly baptized church members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

6. We believe that it is the duty of every Heaven-born soul to become a member of the visible Church, to make public profession of his or her faith, to be legally baptized, so as to have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper at every legal opportunity through the whole course of his life.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

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