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MINUTES
OF THE
UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED WITH THE
FAIRVIEW CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY, GA.,

ON THE
Twelfth and fourteenth days of September,
1846.

1st. THE Introductory Sermon was preached by Brother Wm. H. C. Dodson, from Judges, 7th Chapter and 21st verse :

“And they stood every man in his place round about the camp : and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.”

After twenty minutes intermission, the Delegates assembled in the House ; and after prayer by Brother J. J. Cumbie, read Letters from the Churches and minuted their state, and then organized by electing Brother J. J. CUMBIE, Moderator, and Wm. H. C. Dodson, Clerk.

2d. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us, and also any having petitioning letters to present them.

3d. Called for the Constitution of the Association to be read.

4th. Appointed the following committees, viz : On Business, brethren T. B. Cooper, Jas. M. Hill, J. J. Cumbie, W. H. C. Dodson, and Royal H. Daniel. On Preaching, from the body, brethren J. Waller, Wm. R. Westbrook, J. A. Hood—from the Church, J. Dinger, and J. Akin. On Correspondence, brethren L. Leach, J. Davis, H. Garrard.

5th. After prayer by Brother T. B. Cooper, adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

6th. On the Sabbath, the brethren T. B. Cooper and Royal H. Daniel preached in the order of their names to a large assembly.

7th. Monday morning—met according to adjournment. After prayer by Bro. R. H. Daniel, proceeded to business.

8th. Called for and received the Report of our committees on business and correspondence.

9th. Called for correspondence from our sister Associations, and any wishing to offer correspondence.

10th. Agreed to continue correspondence with the Chattahoochee United As-

sociation: brethren R. H. Daniel, J. Davis, and Thos. D. Bishop, correspondence; Brother James M. Hill to write. Also the Salem United Association: brethren L. Leach and Wm. H. C. Dodson, correspondence; Brother G. Westbrook to write.

11th. Agreed to insert the names of all our Ministers and Preachers in the scale of our Churches; also to allow them the right of membership of the Association, whether they are delegates or not.

12th. Agreed to recommend to the Churches of this Association the propriety of republishing the views of C. White on the Atonement, also on the ninth of Romans, and B. Strickland's views on Christian Liberty.

13th. Took up a request of Fairview Church to investigate the doctrinal views set forth in the Minutes of the Salem United Association in 1843; and after investigating satisfactorily, we did not feel fully prepared to recommend them.

14th. Called for, read and received the Circular Letter.

15th. Appointed Bro. T. B. Cooper to preach the next Introductory Sermon—Bro. J. J. Cumbie his alternate.

16th. Appointed Brother Wm. H. C. Dodson to write a Circular.

17th. Appointed the next meeting of this body with New Hope Church, Fayette county, (12 miles north of Fayetteville,) to meet on Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1847.

18th. Appointed brethren T. B. Cooper and R. H. Daniel to prepare a form of Decorum, to present to our next Association.

19th. Agreed to insert in our Minutes the Sharon Abstract of Principles, instead of the Circular Letter.

20th. Called for contribution for Minutes, and directed the Clerk to have them printed and distributed to the Churches.

21st. After prayer by Brother James M. Hill, adjourned.

J. J. CUMBIE, Moderator.

WM. H. C. DODSON, Clerk.

Corresponding Letters.

To the Chattahoochee United Association:

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD—By the favor of our God, we are permitted to send you our brethren, whose names you will find in our Minutes, as correspondents to visit you at your Association. We are sorry that correspondents from your body did not reach us this year, and hope it may not be the case again. Let us endeavor to concentrate our efforts more and yet more, that the cause of truth may the sooner prevail. Farewell.

To the Salem United Association:

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD—By the favor of our God, we are permitted to send you our brethren, whose names you will find in our Minutes, as correspondents to visit you at your Association. We are sorry that correspondents from your body did not reach us this year, and hope it may not be the case again. Let us endeavor to concentrate our efforts more and yet more, that the cause of truth may the sooner prevail. Farewell.

Abstract Principles, as set forth by the Sharon Convention, 1830.

Inasmuch as most of the Churches have requested a publication of the abstract of principles set forth by the Convention held at Sharon, in December, 1830, we agree, in compliance with their request and in order that our views may be generally known, to publish the same, but wish it distinctly understood that we do not set it forth as a Creed, Confession of Faith, or as a test of religious character, but that we take the word of God as the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, and only Law Giver, and that there are three persons in the God-Head, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God and only rule of Faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

4. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state, in which he is in by nature, by his own strength.

5. We believe in a Covenant between the Father and Son in which all Grace is treasured up, and in the doctrine of Election according to the foreknowledge of God through Sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth according to 1st Peter, 1st chap. 2nd verse, and 2nd Thess. 2nd chap. 13th verse: "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth;" but that Election should not be so construed as to make God the author of sin either directly or indirectly, nor on the other hand do we believe the creature can do any thing meritorious in his salvation.

6. We believe that believers are justified by the righteousness of Christ only, imparted to them and received by faith.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and follow after justification; that they are evidences of faith, and absolutely necessary to justification before men.

8. We believe in a general Judgment, when all shall be judged according to their works; that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

9. We believe that Saints will persevere in Grace to the end of their lives.

10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are standing Ordinances of the Church of Christ, and that immersion only is Baptism, and believers the only proper subjects.

11. We believe that no Minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Lord's House, except such as are called of God, approved by the Churches, and regularly ordained.

12. We believe that men by nature are so morally depraved that they will not come to God for life and salvation, and but for the influence of the Holy Spirit, none would ever come to Him.

13. We hold that it is the command of God to his people, to publish His word and promulgate the Gospel of Christ to all nations, making known to the human family the plan of Redemption through the Atonement of Christ; and we believe it is the duty of every rational descendant of Adam, to whom the Gospel message of reconciliation is addressed, to exercise repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

