

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Twentieth Annual Session

— OF THE —

Pea River Baptist Association

— HELD WITH —

BETHANY CHURCH,

October 31, and November 1 and 2, 1896.

OFFICERS:

JESSE M. ROWE, Elba, Ala.,	- - - - -	Moderator.
A. J. WISE, JR., Victoria, Ala.,	- - - - -	Clerk and Treasurer.

Next Session will be held with Mt. Pleasant Church at Etta Post Office, South of Enterprise, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in November, 1897.

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TROY, ALA.:
JOHN POST, PRINTER,
1896.



MINUTES.

The Pea River Baptist Association met in its Twentieth Annual Session with Bethany church, on the 31st day of October, and the 1st and 2nd days of November, 1896.

Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. A. B. Metcalf, after which adjourned until 1:30 for refreshments.

The Association re-assembled pursuant adjournment, and was called to order by the former Moderator, J. M. Rowe. Singing and prayer by Eld. J. W. Brooks, after which letters from the several churches composing the body were presented and read by A. J. Wise, Jr., and W. W. Falkner, and delegates' names enrolled as follows:

Shiloh—P. M. Moore, J. H. Helms, W. T. Woodward.

New Home—J. M. Johnson, J. D. B. Harper, W. J. Heath.

Damascus—J. M. Roberts,* Hugh Windham, J. T. Bonner.

Hebron—J. H. Stanton, W. E. Fuller, C. J. Bradley.

Woodland Grove—L. P. Brunson, J. M. Walker, T. J. Plant.

Whitewater—J. M. Rowe, C. R. Tolbot, F. M. Reeves.

New Providence—B. M. Smith, S. R. Wright, John Marsh.

Zion Chapel—W. H. Heard, T. J. Brooks,* G. T. Willis.

Bethany—J. M. Moore, J. L. Corbit, James Sawyer.

Bethlehem—A. J. Wise, Jr., J. S. Williams,* J. D. Atkinson.*

Bluff Springs—J. W. Johnson,* J. L. Johnson,* W. H. Archer.*

Mt. Pleasant—Ambrose Jones, J. D. Wilson, H. S. Nichols.

New Ebenezer—N. B. Fleming, J. R. Spurlin.

Union Grove—Collin Strenght, John Pettus, H. R. Snelgrove.

New Hope—W. J. Mitchel,* J. J. Dismuke,* J. T. Eagerton.*

Elba—R. Harper,* A. B. Metcalf, C. W. Simmons.*

Concord—L. F. Jernigan, C. J. Jernigan.

Clintonville—G. W. Caylor, T. P. Clements, I. N. Heath.

Then proceeded to the election of officers, when the regular order of business was suspended, and Jesse M. Rowe was re-elected Moderator by acclamation, and A. J. Wise, Jr., was re-elected Clerk, who was also elected Treasurer.

Invited visiting ministers to seats in the body.

Called for petitionary letters from churches desiring mem-

bership, when a letter was presented from Clintonville church by her delegates—G. W. Caylor, T. P. Clements and I. N. Heath—which was received and the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association.

The Moderator then appointed a committee on Divine Service, consisting of C. R. Tolbot and H. Windham, together with the delegates from Bethany church. Also the following committees to report during the session, to-wit :

On Missions—A. B. Metcalf, A. J. Wise, Jr., M. A. Helms.

On Finance—Marion Reeves, J. T. Bonner, C. O. Helms.

On Documents—J. W. Kennington, H. S. Nichols, L. P. Brunson.

On Nominations—A. W. Jones, M. A. Helms, Marion Reeves.

On Education—A. J. Wise, Jr., T. P. Clements, L. F. Jernigan.

Called for correspondence, and received—

From Newton Association—P. M. Dowling, W. W. Falkner and C. L. Pellum.

From Sardis Association—A. J. Brooks, J. W. Brooks.

From Haw Ridge Association—John McGee.

Returned correspondence as follows :

To Newton Association—J. M. Rowe, A. B. Metcalf, M. A. Head, B. W. Smith, A. W. Jones.

To Geneva Association—P. M. Moore, H. S. Nichols, J. J. Thames, J. D. Wilson.

To Salem Association—I. J. Johnson, J. H. Stanton, Z. R. Fuller.

To Haw Ridge Association—J. T. Eagerton, J. M. Rowe, L. F. Jernigan, Z. R. Fuller, C. M. Strength.

To Sardis Association—C. O. Helms, J. J. Thames, H. S. Nichols, J. W. Kennington, J. R. Spurlin, W. T. Woodward, J. H. Helms, A. J. Wise, Jr., J. H. Stanton, Z. R. Fuller.

Committee on Divine Service reports preaching at 11 a. m. at the house by J. W. Brooks, and at the stand by W. W. Falkner.

On motion adjourned until 8:30 a. m., Monday, November 2, 1896. Singing and prayer by J. M. Moore.

On Sabbath brethren J. W. Brooks and W. W. Falkner at 11 a. m. At 3 p. m., A. J. Brooks. At 7 p. m., J. M. Tally and W. W. Falkner preached to large and orderly congregations.

Read and adopted report on Sabbath Schools as follows :

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, report as follows: We find from the reports of the letters sent in from the several churches that six out of seventeen have Sabbath Schools all the time, two during summer season; Whitewater the year round; Woodland Grove, Mt. Pleasant, Zion Chapel, Elba, Bethany, New Home, summer season; Shiloh summer

season. Brethren, less than half of our churches have Sabbath Schools. We are sorry to have to make this report. Now, what shall we do? Shall we continue to bury talents given us, or let them shine? So that our children may see our good works let us train them up in the way they should go. God's word says, that he that knoweth the right and doeth it not commits sin. Let us do all in our power to interest our children in the Sabbath School. Brethren, let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, fear God and keep his commandments, for this is our duty; lets do it, let us be faithful, so when God calls us we may hear the welcome plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. MOORE, Ch'n.

MONDAY MORNING, Nov. 2, 1896.

Association re-assembled. Singing and prayer by A. B. Metcalf.

Called roll and marked absentees.

The following is the report of the committee on Temperance, which was read and adopted :

We, your Committee on Temperance, offer the following report : Again we offer you a report on the all important subject of Temperance. While we should live temperate in all things, we will speak only of alcoholic drinks. We are happy and proud to say that all the better classes of people are living away from the evils of strong drink; we only note the blighting effects among the low and vicious. The great danger to us is that our boys may fall into the habit of drinking. We know now of some bright, intelligent youths who carry flasks around in their pockets, and even drink to excess around the church house. Let us condemn it on every occasion and beg God to give us strength to live up to a strictly temperate life, so that our every day walk will not condemn the principles we teach. Strong drink is a curse. Let us pledge ourselves not to sign whiskey petitions. In some localities, even now, the vicious and low are making drunkards of citizens and small boys under the name of cider, bitters, tonics. We have had the statistics given from year to year, both as to quantity and destructions, and all well informed people admit their truthfulness and we will not rehearse them. In conclusion, we recommend that any church who tolerates drunkenness, and on proof of such that the Pea River Association withdraw from such church as being in disorder.

Respectfully,

J. M. TALLY, Ch'n.

Report on Nominations read and adopted as follows :

We, your Committee on Nominations, offer the following report : To preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder J. M. Rowe, his alternate, A. B. Metcalf. For an Executive Committee—A. J. Wise, chairman, J. M. Tally, J. J. Morris, J. R. Spurlin and C. O. Helms.

Respectfully submitted,

M. A. HELMS, Ch'n.

Committee on Missions made the following report, which was read and adopted :

We, your Committee on Missions, offer the following report : We have done nothing for the year 1896, as an Association, but the local efforts have been great. We feel and know that there is need of work in this Association. We endorse the work done by Evangelist S. O. Y. Ray, and only regret that he has not been able to do more for us. We recommend cooperation with the State Mission Board, and we recommend that we employ an evangelist and colporter in the Pea River Asso-

ciation for 1897, and require him to raise his salary, if possible, in his territory, if not to be sustained by the Association. We recommend that the circular letter from Brother Bledsoe be adopted in connection with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. METCALF, Ch'n.

On motion, appointed J. M. Rowe Evangelist and Colporteur of Pea River Association for 1897, after which adjourned for Bro. J. H. Ragister to preach.

Reassembled at 1 p. m. Singing and prayer by A. J. Brooks.

Report on Education was read and adopted as follows :

We, your Committee on Education, offer the following as our report : We feel the necessity of educating our boys and girls and are proud to note the endeavors of the brethren to do this. We recommend Howard College for our boys and the Judson for our girls, and we recommend that every Baptist family subscribe for and read the Alabama Baptist, and further recommend that parents select the reading matter for their children in order to stop off the reading of vile, trashy novels, which have a tendency to poison the mind and fit it for the indwelling of satan. Can we not help the young minister, who is actually called to the ministry, to get an education? I think we can and ought to do so—prepare them for their life work.

Respectfully,

A. J. WISE, JR., Ch'n.

Report of the Executive Committee was read and adopted as follows :

We, your Executive Committee, have held no meeting during the past Associational year. We have had no funds to operate on and no emergency has occurred that required us to meet.

Respectfully,

A. J. WISE, JR., Ch'n.

The report of Committee on Documents was read and adopted as follows :

We find two churches have petitioned for the entertainment of the Association in 1897, viz : Damascus and Mt. Pleasant. We recommend that the next session be held with Mt. Pleasant church, commencing on Saturday before the first Sabbath in November, 1897.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. KENNINGTON, Ch'n.

The report of the Committee on Finance was read and adopted as follows :

We, your Committee on Finance, offer the following Report :

Received for Minutes.....	\$21.35
“ “ State Missions.....	2.45
“ “ Orphanage.....	1.00
“ “ Home Missions.....	3.45
On Pledges, Woodland Grove.....	2.25
Zion Chapel.....	2.50
Mt. Pleasant.....	1.15
J. L. Lewis.....	2.50
Bethlehem.....	5.00
Union Grove.....	2.50
New Ebenezer.....	1.25
Total amount received.....	\$ 44.40

All of which has been turned over to the Treasurer and his receipt taken for the same.

C. O. HELMS, Ch'n.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and that these three are one.
2. We believe that 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 doctrine of eternal and particular election.
4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.
5. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
8. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.
9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and that immersion only is baptism.
10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment.
11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.
11. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.

RULES OF DECORUM.

- RULE 1. The Moderator shall fill the chair and preserve order in the Association, which shall be opened and closed by prayer.
- RULE 2. The privileges and authority of the Moderator shall be respected by all the members; he shall decide all questions of order and propriety.
- RULE 3. The Moderator shall vote in no case, unless there is a tie in the Association, then he shall give the casting vote. He shall have the same privilege of speaking as other members, provided he shall appoint some member to fill the chair.
- RULE 4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator; and keep the subject; and he shall not speak more than twice on the same subject without leave from the chair.
- RULE 5. No member shall leave the body while on business, except by permission from the chair.
- RULE 6. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for deliberation, the Moderator shall take the voice of the body by calling for the yeas and nays.
- RULE 7. All motions in order shall be disposed of by the body, unless withdrawn by him that made it.
- RULE 8. A list of the names of the delegates shall be called and absentees marked.
- RULE 9. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates, and keep a regular record of all the business of the Association.
- RULE 10. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected before the body rise.
- RULE 11. This decorum may be altered, or amended, by two-thirds of this body.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Hear letters from the churches read.
2. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
3. Invite ministering brethren to seats.
4. Call for Petitions from churches desiring to unite.
5. Appoint Committees to report during session, viz:
 - To Arrange Preaching,
 - On Missions,
 - On Finance,
 - On Documents,
 - On Nominations.
6. Call for Correspondence.
7. Return Correspondence.
8. Have Rules and Decorum read.
9. Call roll and mark absentees.
10. Hear reports from committees.
11. Hear Treasurer's report.
12. Hear miscellaneous resolutions.
13. Make arrangements for printing minutes.
14. Correct minutes and adjourn.

Statistics of Pea River Baptist Association, 1896.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS AND POST OFFICES	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES	No. Ordained Ministers	No. Licensed Ministers	Membership Last Reported.	Received by Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Received by Experience	By Restoration.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Present Membership.	Contribution For Minutes.	Contribution For Missions.	Contribution For Orphanage.	Preaching Sabbath.
Bethlehem.....	F. M. Hauser.....	Headland, Ala.	1	1	99	77	24	7	6	2	202	\$ 40	5 00	\$ 2	4		
Bluff Spring.....	J. W. Kennington.....	Clintonville, Ala.	1	1	57	4	3	1	3	2	59	1 00	2 50	2	2		
Bethany.....	J. M. Tally.....	Dott, Ala.	1	1	63	11	2	7	1	2	74	1 20	1 20	3	3		
Clintonville.....	A. B. Metcalf.....	Elba, Ala.	1	1	13	3	3	1	2	2	64	75	1	3	3		
Concord.....	J. M. Moore.....	Annie, Ala.	1	1	5	0	1	8	5	1	12	30	1	1	1		
Damascus.....	A. B. Metcalf.....	Elba, Ala.	1	1	44	38	7	5	1	1	102	1 50	2 20	4	4		
Hebron.....	J. M. Loflin.....	Henderson, Ala.	1	1	45	46	6	1	1	1	102	1 50	1 25	3	3		
Mt. Pleasant.....	J. F. Register.....	Genoa, Ala.	3	3	150	55	20	12	10	4	216	4 00	1 15	3	3		
New Ebenezer.....	C. L. Eiland.....	Bullock, Ala.	1	1	65	2	3	3	16	3	51	90	1 25	1	1		
New Home.....	J. M. Tally.....	Dett, Ala.	1	1	64	9	2	1	5	4	85	1 30	1	1	1		
New Hope.....	W. W. Falkner.....	Charlton, Ala.	1	1	120	13	1	1	12	11	2	110	1 00	75	1	1	
New Providence.....	H. S. Nichols.....	Eta, Ala.	1	1	45	3	1	1	6	2	21	20	1	4	4		
Elba.....	A. B. Metcalf.....	Elba, Ala.	1	1	30	50	12	2	7	1	66	2 00	1	1	1		
Shiloh.....	A. J. Brooks.....	Huggins, Ala.	1	1	26	18	4	2	1	1	45	1 50	3	3	3		
Union Grove.....	J. M. Tally.....	Dott, Ala.	1	1	45	1	6	7	1	1	36	1 10	2 50	3	3		
Woodland Grove.....	J. M. Tally.....	Dott, Ala.	1	1	50	20	2	6	2	1	60	1 00	2 25	25	25		
Whitewater.....	J. M. Rowe.....	Elba, Ala.	1	1	67	58	2	13	1	1	149	1 25	1	1	1		
Zion Chapel.....	J. J. Johnson.....	Rodney, Ala.	1	1	52	9	5	2	3	1	02	90	2 50	4	4		
Totals.....			9	9	1007	413	101	12	52	84	31	161507	\$21 75	\$20 60	1 00	100	

