

1871

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# MINUTES

OF THE

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SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST SEMINARY

## Red River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, IN LAMAR COUNTY, TEXAS,

*On Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in September, 1871.*

HOUSTON:

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Introductory Sermon delivered by Elder R. C. Buckner, on Saturday at 10 o'clock, A. M., from Isaiah, vi. 8.

After which the house was called to order by Elder R. C. Buckner, former Moderator.

Letters from the different churches presented by their delegates as follows:

*Sylvan Academy.*—Elder W. M. Burke, J. H. L. Bray, N. Rutledge, G. C. Biels.

*Shamrock.*—A. Thompson, H. Duncan, C. C. Crittenden.

*Providence.*—J. D. Williams.

*Paris.*—D. Buckner, R. C. Buckner, A. P. Hatcher, J. Y. Snead.

*Center Point.*—W. E. C. Mayfield:

*Concord*.—Elder T. W. Anderson, H. C. Hill, T. J. Wortham.  
*Mt. Zion*.—D. Lennox, D. Latimer, Thomas Davis, John Wright.

*Friendship*.—Elder J. Finney, R. Ratliff, J. S. Armstrong, W. E. Ratliff.

*Pleasant Grove*.—Elder W. H. S. Perkins, J. W. Moore, J. R. Justiss, J. N. Daniel.

*Shiloh*.—J. M. Wells, C. F. Hathaway, H. Wheeler.

*Hepzibah*.—C. R. Bennett, J. H. Holt, H. White.

*Salem*.—B. Hardison, J. Upchurch, Elder S. H. Walker.

*New Hope*.—Elder D. Wray, J. L. Gunter.

*Clarksville*.—Elders N. Sansing, S. J. Anderson.

*New Bethel*.—Samuel Booth.

Association was organized by the election of Elder R. C. Buckner, Moderator; Elder S. J. Anderson, Clerk; and A. P. Hatcher, Treasurer.

On motion, adjourned for dinner.

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#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association convened by singing, and prayer by Elder P. W. Anderson.

Upon a call for petitionary letters, the following were presented by their delegates, to-wit:

*North Sulphur*.—H. G. Shanks, Geo. Pyland.

*Center Springs*.—R. W. Draper, H. W. Townsend, R. Draper, W. J. Anderson.

*Starkesville*.—W. B. Barnes.

*Cedar Elm*.—M. Locke, Ira Perkins, W. Harman.

*Sulphur Bluff*.—R. W. Billups, P. H. Taylor.

Which churches, with their delegates, were received and the right hand of fellowship extended.

Called for Corresponding Messengers from sister Associations, whereupon brethren A. H. White, R. P. Gardner, and — Perkins presented themselves from Sister Grove

Association, were received (also, Bro. Wm. Justiss, from Salem Association,) and invited to seats in this Body.

On motion, went into an election of Minister to preach a Missionary Sermon on to-morrow (Sabbath) at 10 o'clock, A. M. Elder S. J. Anderson elected.

On motion, the following committees were appointed :

*On Divine Service.*—Pastor and Deacons of Pleasant Grove Church.

*To Write Corresponding Letter.*—N. Sansing, W. E. Ratlife, J. Wright.

*On Education and Denominational Schools.*—J. H. L. Bray, T. H. Taylor and B. Hardison.

*On Ministerial Support.*—D. Buckner, R. W. Draper, D. Lennox.

*On Finance.*—J. Y. Snead, T. J. Wortham, A. P. Hatcher.

*On Sabbath-schools.*—T. W. Anderson, D. Wray, J. Finney.

*On Home Missions.*—S. J. Anderson, R. W. Billups, H. C. Hill.

*On Religious Books and Periodicals.*—W. M. Burke, G. C. Biels, H. Townsend.

*On Temperance.*—W. M. Burke, R. W. Billups, B. Hardison.

On motion, the Constitution of the Association was read.

On motion, the Eighth Article of the Constitution was amended so as to read thus: "The Association shall at each meeting elect by ballot, a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, and shall appoint a Committee consisting of one member from each church, which committee shall constitute a "Missionary Board," for the management of the business of the Association during the recess of its annual meetings, three of which Board shall constitute a quorum.

Committee on Divine Service appointed Bro. R. W. Billups to preach to-night (Saturday), and Bro. D. Buckner on Sabbath at 3 o'clock, P. M.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

Bro. R. W. Billups preached Saturday night from John, xiv.

## SABBATH DAY EXERCISES.

Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock A. M., conducted by Bro. T. W. Anderson.

Missionary sermon at 10 o'clock A. M., by Bro. S. J. Anderson, from the text, Mat. x. 8. Collection after sermon amounted to \$58 70 specie, and \$2 00 currency.

Bro. D. Buckner preached at 2 o'clock P. M. from 2d Cor. vi. 1, 2. Brother. W. M. Burke at night, from Mark ix. 8.

## MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 4th.

Morning session opened with singing and prayer by Bro. Wray.

The Moderator being absent, Bro. Sansing called to the Chair pro tem.

On motion the roll was called and absentees noted.

On motion the regular order of business was suspended and committee appointed to nominate members of the Executive Board, which resulted in the election of the following brethren:

D. Buckner, T. J. Wortham, J. B. Upchurch, D. Wray, J. J. Sivley, J. F. Justiss, J. M. Wells, J. N. Daniels, J. Finney, D. Lennox, J. D. Williams, W. E. C. Mayfield, Geo. Thompson, J. H. L. Bray, A. L. Braine, M. Locke, C. Davis, H. W. Townsend, D. F. Richardson, Samuel Booth.

On motion the regular order of business was resumed.

Went into selection of minister to preach next Introductory Sermon, which resulted in the election of R. W. Billups, and T. W. Anderson, alternate.

Clarksville selected as the place for holding the next annual meeting.

Appointed "Corresponding Messengers" to sister Associations as follows:

*Salem Association*—Brothers W. H. C. Perkins, Jesse Justiss, S. Booth, W. M. Burke, D. Wray.

*Sister Grove Association*—Brothers D. Buckner, R. Maxey, and N. Sansing.

*Rehoboth Association*—R. W. Billups, T. H. Taylor.

*General Association*—D. Buckner, R. C. Buckner, N. Sansing, R. Maxey, R. W. Billups, S. J. Anderson.

Report of Committee on Correspondence read, amended, and adopted.

## REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Your Committee on Correspondence beg leave to report:

That we ever rejoice to welcome, within our midst, brethren of sister Associations; that we would urge a more general correspondence, in order that we may more frequently sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus—learning of each other, advising with each other, on the important subject of Missions; and that we may rejoice together on account of the advancement of the dear Redeemer's kingdom within our midst.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

N. SANSING, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee on Education and Denominational Schools read and adopted.

## REPORT ON EDUCATION AND DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Your committee would recommend to your favorable consideration the following:

That it is our duty to use every means with which God has blessed us, for the advancement of His cause, therefore

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the favorable consideration of the brethren of this Association, Baylor and Waco Universities.

*Resolved*, That the Executive Board be instructed to lay before the various churches their duty of raising funds for the purpose of assisting candidates for the ministry in obtaining an education.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. L. BRAY, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee on Ministerial Support read and adopted.

X REPORT ON MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

Your committee to whom was referred the duty of writing on Ministerial Support, beg leave to report the following :

We are truly sorrow that it becomes necessary to write or say anything on this subject. We would, however, endeavor to stir up the pure minds of the brethren, by way of remembrance, for we regard this subject as plainly taught in the Bible, as the immortality of the soul, "They that preach the gospel shall live of the gospel." No government would send a minister out on any duty without compensating him for his labors. Is it possible that the world deals more justly with their servants than the church with hers? Ministers of the Gospel are the servants of the church sent forth by them as ambassadors for Christ, and should therefore be sustained in proportion to the amount of labor that they perform in the Lord's vineyard. Shall ministers minister to us in spiritual things and not receive our carnal things? No, never. As the priests under the law lived on the things of the Temple; so ministers under the gospel should live on the free donations of their hearers. If churches would support their pastors so that they could give themselves wholly to the work, they would be more spiritually minded themselves, consequently their labors would be more abundantly blessed.

Respectfully submitted,

D. BUCKNER, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee on Sabbath-schools read and adopted.

X REPORT ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath-schools beg leave to report, that we believe this is a divine institution, and is blessed by God to the increase of his cause upon earth. The signal blessings attending it assure us of the fact that it is the imperative duty of every church to establish a Sabbath-school of its own, and that each member is bound by the law of love to his neighbor to engage in some way in promoting its success. We are responsible in a great degree for the faith and practice of the rising generation, hence the great necessity of using all the means for proper and thorough scriptural instruction.

Respectfully submitted,

T. W. ANDERSON, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee on Religious Books and Periodicals read and adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Your Committee on Religious Books and Periodicals beg leave to refer your body to the report of last year, which we again recommend.

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. BURKE, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee on Temperance read and adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee, to whom was referred the subject of Temperance, report :

The cause of Temperance is one which lies near and dear to the heart of every true Christian. There is no sin, so prolific of evil, as intemperance. We regard the manufacture, sale or use of alcoholic stimulants, as a beverage, as wholly inconsistent with and opposed to the purity and spirit which should characterize the child of God. Therefore, we do most earnestly recommend :

1st. That we, as Baptists, do record our most unqualified disapprobation of the manufacture, sale or use, as a beverage, of *any thing* that can intoxicate, by any of our members.

2d. That we think every laudable means should be used to prevent their manufacture, sale or use in our midst.

3d. That we should encourage and bid God-speed to every means, having for its object, the uprooting and overthrow of the Demon Intemperance, and that *every church should be a strict Temperance organization.*

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. BURKE, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee on Finance read and adopted.

RECAPITULATION OF THE REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Received for printing minutes .....	\$50 55
“ From Treasurer.....	17 50
“ For missionary purposes.....	18 00
“ Public collection Sunday .....	60 50
“ Subscription (unpaid).....	3 00

Total.....\$144 55

J. Y. SNEAD, *Chairman.*

Received from the Finance Committee the several sums specified in the above report, September 4, 1871.

A. P. HATCHER, *Treasurer.*

On motion adjourned for dinner.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met, and after reading a portion of Scriptures by the Moderator, Bro. Perkins led in prayer.

On motion the Report of the Executive Board was called for, read and adopted.

#### X REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your Board met soon after the adjournment of the Association last September, and appointed J. D. Chambers missionary to Delta county, paying him \$25 00 specie in advance, he agreeing to take the field for the balance of his support. He was instructed by the Board to act in the capacity of collecting agent as well as missionary.

We also appointed S. J. Anderson missionary and agent for the entire territory of the Association except Delta county, and paid him \$75 00 specie. He was to receive six hundred dollars, depending on the pledges of Clarksville, Concord and other churches, together with such other funds as he might be able to collect on the field.

What their success has been in collecting we know not. We refer you to the reports of the missionaries, for all information respecting their work, and suggest that a synopsis of their reports be appended to this report.

We held ourselves in readiness at all times to meet, in case of dissatisfaction or resignation of missionaries, to do any business required of us. We rejoice to know that more has been done in the missionary work within our bounds than any year since the close of the late war. Let us persevere and not waste time on experiments. Something must be done to raise money for the work. We could profitably have expended more than \$1000 in the past year, but had not the money.

We had on hand at the commencement of the year, \$119 20. Paid S. J. Anderson \$75 00, October 31, 1870; also paid J. D. Chambers \$25 00; paid S. J. Anderson, September 4, 1871, \$9 60; paid J. D. Chambers, September 4, 1871, \$9 60; leaving nothing in the treasury.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. BUCKNER, *Chairman.*

On motion the Reports of the Missionaries was called for, read and adopted.

Condensed report of missionary labor performed by Elder J. D. Chambers during the year ending August, 1871:

Churches constituted, 2; number received, not stated; miles traveled, 3,500; preached sermons, 100, besides Sabbath-school addresses, &c.; sold Bibles and Testaments, 30; distributed tracts, 1,500. All leisure time spent in pastoral visiting. Received from the Executive Board, \$34 60; received from the field, \$10 50; received in pledges, about \$250 00.

Report of missionary labor performed by S. J. Anderson:

Constituted three churches, ordained two deacons, traveled 2757 miles, preached 148 sermons, baptized 61; witnessed baptisms, in connection with my labors, 13; received by letter and relation, 40; total number received in connection with our labors, 114; witnessed about 60 professions. Received from the Board, October 31, 1870, \$75 00; collected from field, \$88 55; received from Board, September 4, 1871, \$82 60; total amount, \$241 15.

#### X HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Home Missions, report: That from personal observation, we find great destitution of the Gospel within the bounds of our Association, which is to us a subject of alarm and deep humiliation. The destitute (and God appears to us in the person of the needy) are stretching forth their hands to us, and raising their voices, calling for the gospel. The question arises, shall we whose minds and hearts are lighted up by the Divine influences of the Gospel of Peace, to them the "Lamp of Light" deny? "Ye are the Light of the World." Light—the effect of the Gospel. Let your light shine, &c. How can we so effectually do this, as by sending the gospel—the efficient cause of that light—to those who sit in darkness. "For how can they believe on Him of whom they have not heard; and how can they hear without a preacher; and how can he preach except he be sent," and how can we send him without the means of support? God's plans are perfect. His law is perfect—therefore His church, founded in his Divine plan and law, is perfect in organism and purpose; consequently the law of Christ points out to her (the church) the way and means of performing every duty. The Apostle, 1st Cor. xvi. 1, 2, lays down the rule in the observance of which, the desired means will be secured, and He will bless us, in blessing others. "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Gala-



tia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you, lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come.' In the judgment of your committee, the field to be occupied will require the undivided labors of four or five *active, efficient* missionaries; and as the harvest is not only ripe, but abundant, and the LABORERS few, your committee would recommend,

1st. That our churches be requested to set apart the first Saturday in October next as a day of fasting and prayer to the Lord of the universe to send forth *laborers* in the field.

2d. That all our ministers at once urge upon their respective churches the duties and importance of the missionary work and the responsibility resting upon them.

3d. That each of our members be requested to set apart the sum of five cents per week (or more as God has prospered them) for the support of Home Missions, which amounts are to be paid in four installments, to-wit: October 1st, January 1st, April 1st, and July 1st.

4th. That the member of the Missionary Board, of each church be required to act as agent for the Board, for the collection and forwarding of all contributions under this head to the Treasurer of said Board.

Respectfully submitted,

S. J. ANDERSON, *Chairman.*

On motion the Clerk was instructed to have printed 400 copies of the minutes of this Association, wherever he can have it done cheapest.

The resolution of Bro. Sansing, appropriating the missionary money to last year's missionary, adopted.

*Resolved*, That the Executive Board be instructed to pay over all the money now in their hands to our missionary, Bro. S. J. Anderson, reserving a sufficiency to pay for printing our minutes.

Vote of thanks tendered the brethren and friends around Pleasant Grove church.

*Resolved*, That we tender our thanks to the brethren and citizens of this community, for the kind hospitality extended to us.

On motion the Treasurer was ordered to turn the missionary money over to the Executive Board, and the money for the minutes over to the Clerk.

Resolution offered by S. J. Anderson, respecting missionary labors, adopted.

*Resolved*, That the ministers of this Association be requested to preach a missionary sermon to their various churches, and at the same time take up collection for domestic missions, and report to the Executive Board at their meeting at Sylvan Academy, on Saturday before the 5th Sabbath in October next.

On motion adjourned to meet with the church in Clarksville on Saturday before the first Sabbath in September, 1872.

R. C. BUCKNER, *Moderator.*

S. J. ANDERSON, *Clerk.*