

# The Missionary Baptist Association of Texas

(Organizational Meeting—December 14-15, 1950)



*Moderator:*

ELD. J. W. HARPER . . . . . Gallatin, Texas

*Assistant Moderator:*

ELD. A. J. FINDLEY . . . . . Omaha, Texas

*Recording Secretaries:*

DR. ALBERT GARNER, 824 El Paso Street . . . Jacksonville, Texas

ELD. G. F. CRUMLEY, Route 3 . . . . . DeKalb, Texas

*Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer:*

ELD. G. P. ALLEN, 1208 West 10th St. . . . Mt. Pleasant, Texas

*Missionaries:*

ELD. LARRY ROMERO, Box 782 . . . . . Pharr, Texas

ELD. W. B. WALKER . . . . . Huntington, Texas

ELD. J. E. SHERRILL, 2311 Pine Street . . . . Dallas 15, Texas

ELD. R. E. RODGERS, Box 132 . . . . . Carthage, Texas

ELD. R. L. HAMPTON, Box 651 . . . . . Henderson, Texas

ELD. J. W. HARPER . . . . . Gallatin, Texas

**Thursday, December 14—10 A.M.**

**TENTATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF  
MESSENGERS**

Services were called to order by Eld. A. J. Wall, Pastor of the Longview Missionary Baptist Church, the entertaining church. Some 450 people were present. Singing was directed by Eld. J. P. Johnson of Little Rock, Ark. The congregation sang, "Higher Ground" and "How Firm a Foundation," followed by prayer.

Temporary officers were elected by the mass group of Baptists. Elected as Moderator Pro-tem was Eld. J. W. Harper; Assistant Moderator, Eld. O. P. Meador; Recording Clerks, Dr. Albert Garner and Eld. Gerald Crumley.

The Moderator, Eld. J. W. Harper, called Dr. Albert Garner, Clerk of the Constitutional Committee, previously appointed by an assembly of Baptists en masse, to read the Proposed Constitution. Copies of the Proposed Constitution, prefaced by a resolution stating the occasion and need of the assembly, were distributed to members of the assembly.

A motion was made by Dr. A. J. Kirkland, "That we consider the adoption of the Proposed Constitution, and that it be read section by section, and that proposed amendments be considered." The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Moderator ruled that all present were entitled to vote until the Constitution should be adopted, and that after its adoption, only messengers from their churches be allowed to vote.

**READING OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION**

Article I was read. A motion was offered by Eld. V. L. Barr, "That the term 'Constitution' be changed to 'Articles of Agreement.'" Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Eld. V. L. Barr, "That this Association be known as the Missionary Baptist Association of Independent Churches of Texas." Speaking to the motion were Brethren V. L. Barr, J. W. Lovelady, A. J. Kirkland, A. J. Findley, C. N. Glover, Bruce Hibbitt, J. W. Yoes, and L. S. Ballard. At this time the Moderator ruled a suspension of business and discussion until after the preaching hour, it having arrived.

Eld. A. J. Wall was called, after song and prayer, to introduce the speaker, Eld. Garland Allen of Mt. Pleasant, Texas, pastor of Grace Temple Baptist Church. Bro. Allen brought a great message on "The Peculiarities of Baptists," reading II Peter 2:9 as his text.

Eld. A. J. Findley was called to extend the hand of appreciation to Bro. Allen for the message on behalf of the entire congregation. A motion to adjourn until 1:30 p.m. prevailed and announcements followed. Eld. T. R. Vaughn offered the closing prayer.

**Thursday Afternoon—1:30 P.M.**

Eld. J. W. Harper called the meeting to order. Song services were directed by Eld. Steve Montgomery, with the congregation singing "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes," and "Praise Him." Prayer was led by Eld. C. H. McBryde.

Eld. A. J. Wall was called to introduce Mr. R. B. Williamson, Mayor of the City of Longview, who offered the keys of the city to the assembly for its stay.

**READING OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CONTINUED**

Discussion continued on the pending motion to change Article I with the result that the words, "Independent Churches," by agreement of the motion and second, were dropped. Discussing the motion were Eld. V. L. Barr, Eld. A. J. Findley, Eld. Bruce Hibbitt, Eld. A. J. Kirkland and Eld. O. P. Meador. The motion prevailed that Article I be retained as it appears in the Proposed Articles of Agreement.

Article II was read and a motion was made by Eld. G. P. Allen that it be adopted as read. The motion carried.

Article III was read and a motion was made by Eld. G. H. Vaughn that the article be adopted as read. An amendment to the motion was offered that the word "Independent" be inserted after the word "regular" in Section 1. The amendment carried. Article III was then adopted as amended.

Article IV was read and a motion was offered by Eld. V. L. Barr (as a recommendation from the South Harwood Baptist Church) that the article be adopted as read, with the exception that the words, "A servant body of the churches," be stricken from the article. The motion was discussed by Brethren A. E. Paulsel, Bruce Hibbitt, A. J. Kirkland, and Albert Garner. The motion was carried and the article adopted as amended.

Article V was read and a motion was made by Eld. V. L. Barr that the article be adopted as read, except adding between the words, "the" and "sovereignty," the words, "independence and," causing the particular clause to read, "Recognize the independence and sovereignty of every individual church." The motion carried.

Article VI was read and a motion was made by Eld. J. W. Lovelady that it be adopted as read. The motion carried.

Article VIII was read and a motion was offered by Eld. O. W. Leisinger that the article be amended in Section 2 by substituting the words, "a majority of the messengers voting," for the word, "acclamation." The motion carried.

A further amendment to Section 2 was offered by Eld. E. B. Anderson, that the words, "No moderator shall succeed himself more than one year," be added. The motion was discussed by Eld. E. B. Anderson, Eld. O. W. Leisinger, Eld. G. P. Allen, and Eld. J. W. Lovelady. The motion carried. A motion to amend Section 3 to read, "unless otherwise directed by the churches," be added. The motion carried. Article VIII was then adopted in full as amended.

Article IX was read and adopted as read.

Article X was read and a motion was offered by Eld. W. H. Ingram to adopt it as read. The motion was discussed by Elders G. P. Allen, A. J. Wall, Bruce Hibbitt, W. H. Ingram, H. E. Rhodes, V. L. Barr, H. L. McNish, A. J. Kirkland, A. J. Findley, O. P. Meador. A question was asked by Eld. L. S. Ballard. The article was re-read. A motion prevailed to adopt Article X as read.

Article XI was read and a motion by Bro. Trull that it be adopted as read carried.

Article XII was read and a motion was made by Eld. J. W. Hollingsworth to adopt as read. An amendment was offered by Eld. Wilson Garner that the words, "Articles of Agreement," be substituted for "Constitution." Discussing the motion and amendment were Elders A. L. Patterson, A. J. Kirkland, and L. S. Ballard. The amendment carried. Eld. E. M. Baine offered an amendment that the words, "majority vote," be substituted for "two-thirds." Discussing the amendment were Elders D. D. Miller, C. N. Glover, A. J. Kirkland, V. L. Barr, J. D. McClung, L. S. Ballard. Bro. Baine then withdrew his amendment. The original motion to adopt as amended carried. (By common consent the word "assembly" was substituted for "body" in Article XII.)

A motion was offered by Dr. A. J. Kirkland, "That these Articles of Agreement be adopted by this assembly as amended and corrected, and that this assembly refer them to the churches for their adoption." The motion carried, unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn until the time announced by the pastor of the church. Announcements were made.

Words of greeting and commendation were made to the assembly by Dr. L. D. Foreman, Moderator of the Arkansas Baptist Association, and the American Baptist Association, and President of the Missionary Baptist Seminary and Institute of Little Rock, Ark.

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### **Friday Morning Session—10 A.M., December 15, 1950**

Services were opened by singing, "Glory to His Name," and "Blessed Redeemer," directed by Eld. T. C. Jones. Prayer was led by Elder Herbert George.

A discussion of the nature of the assembly was entered by Eld. V. L. Barr, Eld. G. H. Vaughn, Dr. Albert Garner, and Eld. A. J. Wall. A recommendation from the Highway Baptist Church of Huntington was offered by Eld. W. B. Walker.

Eld. V. L. Barr offered a motion, "That we go into the election of all officers for the Messenger Assembly and Association as provided for by the Articles of Agreement." Discussing the motion were Elders King, Ingram, Hibbitt, Paulsel, Kirkland, McClung, Patterson, Barr, Lawson, and Vaughn. The motion carried.

### ELECTION OF PERMANENT OFFICERS

Nominations for Moderator were declared in order and Eld. J. W. Harper was the only nominee. He was elected by unanimous vote of the messengers, after which all visitors were permitted to stand to show their approval.

Nominated for Assistant Moderator were Brethren A. J. Findley and O. P. Meador. Eld. A. J. Findley was elected. A motion prevailed that the vote be made unanimous.

A motion was made by Eld. R. E. Rodgers that business be suspended until after the preaching hour. The motion carried.

Eld. A. J. Wall announced that Eld. Roy M. Reed of Monticello, Ark., had been chosen to bring the message. He was presented to the assembly after the congregation sang "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me." Bro. Reed chose Isa. 9:6 as his text and spoke on the subject, "The Names of Jesus." After an inspirational message, Eld. Jim Corbin extended the hand of appreciation to Bro. Reed for the congregation.

A motion was offered by Eld. A. J. Wall that the clerks be authorized to have the minutes of the meeting printed. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Dr. A. J. Kirkland that the temporary Recording Secretaries, Dr. Albert Garner and Eld. G. F. Crumley, be elected as permanent officers. The motion carried.

A motion prevailed to adjourn until 1:30 p.m. Announcements were made by Eld. W. E. Lee, Eld. V. L. Barr, Dr. L. S. Ballard, Dr. A. J. Kirkland, and Dr. Albert Garner.

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### Friday Afternoon, December 15

Services were opened with the congregation singing "Glory to His Name," "The Kingdom Is Coming," directed by Eld. Roy Reed with Mrs. Brown at the piano. The opening prayer was led by Eld. Roy Pedigo.

Eld. A. J. Wall made a motion, "That we elect a Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer from one of our pastors, and that we pay him enough for the expenses of his work." Discussing the motion were Eld. A. J. Wall and Dr. A. J. Kirkland. The motion carried. Eld. G. P. Allen of Mt. Pleasant, Texas, was nominated and unanimously elected.

There was a call for the names of missionaries recommended by their churches as worthy of support. The following brethren were recommended for full-time work:

Eld. J. E. Sherrill.....Liberty Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas  
 Eld. R. L. Hampton.....Calvary Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas  
 Eld. Larry Romero.....South Harwood Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas  
 Eld. W. B. Walker.....Highway Baptist Church, Huntington, Texas  
 Eld. R. E. Rodgers...Carthage Missionary Bap. Church, Carthage, Tex.

Eld. J. W. Harper was recommended by the Gallatin Baptist Church for part-time missionary work, as her pastor.

Eld. C. H. McBryde offered a motion, "That this Assembly recommend all six of these missionaries to our churches as being worthy of support, the five full-time missionaries to receive undesignated monies from our Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, and that an offering be taken for them now." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Eld. J. W. Lovelady that a place be selected for meeting in 1951. The motion carried.

Dr. A. J. Kirkland made a motion that we meet on Tuesday after the second Sunday in November, 1951, at 10:00 a.m. The motion carried.

An invitation was extended by the Missionary Baptist Church, Corsicana, Texas, that the Messenger Assembly meet with her. A motion, offered by Eld. V. L. Barr that we accept the invitation, carried.

Nominations were declared in order for someone to preach the annual sermon next year. Elected was Eld. A. J. Kirkland, with Eld. Ray Short as alternate.

A motion prevailed that the Assembly hear a report offered to it by Bro. C. F. Walters of Malvern, Ark., Treasurer of the Texarkana Baptist Orphanage, Texarkana, Ark.

The report was read and a motion was made to recommend the support of the Texarkana Baptist Orphanage to our churches, and that this report be received and made a part of the minutes of this session. The motion carried.

A motion prevailed that the Recording Secretaries be paid \$25.00 each for their expenses and services.

A motion prevailed that it be recommended that a Missionary Committee meeting be held Tuesday after the first Sunday in March at 10:00 a.m., with the South Harwood Baptist Church of Dallas.

A motion prevailed to adjourn until the appointed time of meeting with the Missionary Baptist Church of Corsicana, at 10:00 a.m., November 13, 1951.

### RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, That we express, by vote of thanks, our appreciation to the Longview Missionary Baptist Church for the fine entertainment of this historic meeting.



### TEXARKANA BAPTIST ORPHANAGE Texarkana, Arkansas

To All Associations, Both State and Local, and Missionary Baptist Churches in Texas, and TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The expression, "To Whom It May Concern," applies to all churches remaining loyal to the American Baptist Association and in sympathy with the work in all its phases, including aid to Orphanages.

Texarkana Baptist Orphanage, located in Texarkana, Ark., was founded in 1908 and is incorporated under the laws of Arkansas under the general auspices of the State Association of Co-operating Baptist Churches of Arkansas. The name of the corporation is Texarkana Baptist Orphanage. Trustees or directors of this corporation are elected annually for a term of one year, consisting of five members. Election of trustees shall be subject to the approval of the State Association of Co-operating Baptist Churches of Arkansas.

This corporation shall have power to sue and be sued, to buy, hold, and sell property, real and personal, and shall have such other powers as are necessary to carry out the purposes and objects of its organization. It shall also have power to solicit and receive gifts and bequests of money, personal property and real property, to provide for the maintenance of said home. Also, to admit Orphan Children of legal birth into the home.

The affairs and business of this corporation shall be managed by the Board of Trustees, who shall have power to appoint such officers and agents as are necessary for the operation of the Home and give them such authority as may be necessary for the proper conduct and management of the Home for orphan children as provided for by the agreement embodied in Articles of Incorporation.

In my annual report to the State Association of Arkansas Missionary Baptist Churches affiliating with the American Baptist Churches, when convened with Antioch Missionary Baptist Church,

Little Rock, Ark., November 16th and 17th, 1950 (said report designated as "Report of Board of Trustees") shows buildings and other equipment to be in splendid condition. The Home has been made entirely modern and convenient. It is possible now to take care of more orphan children. We only have 13 in the Home at present. It might be possible to care for 35 children.

#### RESOURCES:

Consist of cash in Malvern National Bank, Malvern, Ark.; 8 head hogs suitable to make meat for the Home; 6 head cattle; 1 mule, and 165 head chickens; 1 G.M. truck; household furniture; bedding, and all real estate has a value of around \$30,000.00. Bro. Willie Miller is our present Superintendent, assisted by his wife and a helper.

In my financial report submitted at the State Association Nov. 16-17, 1950, it is shown that as of Oct. 15th, 1950, we had in bank \$2,360.00. The report reflected that although there had been a falling off, in that many churches had withheld support on account of the split in the Baptist ranks—notwithstanding this, the receipts for the fiscal year were more than the previous year. The report states that this is accounted for because many new churches in Arkansas are now supporting the Home. Also, for the fact quite a number of Missionary Baptist churches in Texas and Oklahoma that remain loyal to the ABA gave liberal support.

Another thing I mentioned in my financial report was, "That in my opinion, and I had reasons for the opinion, that many churches in Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana, would gladly and willingly cooperate with the churches in Arkansas in supporting Texarkana Baptist Orphanage at Texarkana, Ark., if assured by the State Association of Arkansas by resolution or vote that orphan children in the states mentioned and in areas supporting the Home would be accepted into the Orphanage at Texarkana, Ark."

After reports referred to above were read and approved, a motion was made and unanimously approved that, "If we accept money from churches of other states, also to accept orphan children from said states in areas that give financial support to Texarkana Baptist Orphanage." NOTE: This action taken by the Arkansas State Association will be shown in minutes of the State Association when printed.

May I emphasize that Texarkana Baptist Orphanage has, through the years since it was founded, served a noble purpose in that of providing a home for orphan children and those made helpless and dependent; I have been a member of the Board of Trustees for 25 years. The present board of trustees: Frank Springer, A. E. Terrell, W. Carl Brown, Oley Rivers, and C. F. Walters.

Respectfully submitted,

C. F. WALTERS,  
Secretary-Treasurer,  
623 E. Mill St., Malvern, Ark.

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Associational Baptists of Texas have been divided, and, we believe that since the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas has departed from the original principals as set forth in her constitution prior to 1948, and,

WHEREAS, many true Associational Baptist Churches desire to work together according to the original principals, and,

WHEREAS, this undersigned committee appointed by a mass meeting of Associational Baptists has been requested to set forth the above said principals, with a view to organizing a state association, we hereby submit and recommend the following constitution:

#### COMMITTEE:

J. W. Harper, Chairman  
Albert Garner, Clerk  
C. H. McBryde  
O. P. Meador

A. J. Findley  
A. J. Kirkland  
Bruce Hibbitt  
Bob Cresswell

**THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS****(Proposed Constitution)**

## ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

## ARTICLE I—NAME

This Association shall be known as The Missionary Baptist Association of Texas.

## ARTICLE II—OBJECT

The object of this Association shall be to awaken a deeper interest in the welfare of the churches, to cultivate a closer fellowship among the churches, and to encourage, and perpetuate the very greatest possible activity in missionary, educational, and benevolent enterprises.

## ARTICLE III—HOW COMPOSED

Section 1. This Association shall be composed of such regular independent Missionary Baptist Churches as may voluntarily choose to co-operate in carrying out the object of this Association.

Section 2. The Messenger Assemblies of this Association shall be composed of messengers elected by the churches composing it.

Section 3. Each church choosing to represent in this Association shall be entitled to three messengers.

Section 4. Each church shall be the sole judge of the qualification of her messengers.

## ARTICLE IV—NATURE

The Messenger Assembly of this Association shall be, in nature, formed as a council in matters pertaining to missionary, educational, and benevolent work.

## ARTICLE V—PRINCIPLES

The Messenger Assembly of this Association shall recognize the freedom of speech as essential to the highest achievement in its work. It shall stand or fall on its own conformity to the truth. It shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority, but it shall, by every precaution, recognize the independence and sovereignty of every individual church. It shall also encourage on the part of the church and the messengers the greatest possible freedom of expression in discussing matters pertaining to its work.

## ARTICLE VI—POWERS

The actions of the Messenger Assembly shall be limited to the work of awakening enthusiasm in missionary, educational, and benevolent enterprises, and receiving and distributing funds for the same.

## ARTICLE VII—FUNDS

Section 1. All funds of this Association shall be raised by voluntary donations secured solely upon the merits of the cause in the interest of which appeals are made for gifts; provided, this is not to prevent the use of any income or any property that may be acquired by donation or by purchase.

Section 2. Distribution of funds shall be authorized by an act of this Messenger Assembly, or by an act of properly authorized committees of this assembly hereinafter provided for; but in no instance shall the assembly or any committee of it use means in violation of the expressed preference of the donor.

## ARTICLE VIII—OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Messenger Assembly shall be a moderator, an assistant moderator, two (2) recording secretaries, and a corresponding secretary-treasurer.

Section 2. All officers of this assembly shall be chosen annually, and shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and the same shall be true of all members of standing committees. All officers shall be elected by a majority of the messengers voting. No moderator shall succeed himself more than one year.

Section 3. The duties of all officers shall be as may be directed by the Messenger Assembly, unless otherwise directed by the churches.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the corresponding secretary-treasurer to take charge of money and valuables not specifically entrusted to someone else and to dispose of same as he may be directed by this Messenger Assembly. He shall make an annual report to this assembly of all monies received and disbursed.

Section 5. The recording secretaries, in addition to keeping the records of this Association, will superintend the printing and distribution of minutes of such regular meetings as the messengers may direct.

## ARTICLE IX—COMMITTEES

Section 1. The missionary committee shall be composed of one representative of each church choosing to be represented. The duty of the committee shall be to meet quarterly, or as directed by the Messenger Assembly, in the interest of all the work. It shall be empowered to fill vacancies of regular offices, between sessions of the Messenger Assembly and to call a special meeting of a Messenger Assembly when needed.

Section 2. The following standing officers of the assembly shall be the trustees of the Association: Namely, the moderator, assistant moderator, two recording secretaries, and secretary-treasurer, subject to the direction of the Messenger Assembly, and they are empowered to act in legal capacity as trustees of this Association.

## ARTICLE X—MISSIONARIES

We hold that the authority for execution of the great commission was given to the New Testament church, and the authority must remain forever with the churches. Therefore, the right and privilege of every church of this Association to endorse, set apart or send out missionaries shall ever be respected. Each church may support missionaries of its own choosing, and the act of one church in sending out missionaries can in no way bind or obligate any other church. The churches shall be free and their support of missionaries shall be voluntary on their part.

## ARTICLE XI—MEETING

The regular meeting of the Church Messengers shall be at such time and place as the assembled messengers may appoint.

## ARTICLE XII—AMENDMENTS

The Messenger Assembly shall have no power to change the Articles of Agreement. Any church desiring a change shall send to the annual meeting a copy of the proposed change; the Messenger Assembly will then submit the proposed change to each co-operating church; if two-thirds of the co-operating churches vote for the change, then the Articles of Agreement shall be amended to conform to the proposed change. Two-thirds of the churches representing in the assembly in the previous year shall be the number in determining the results.