

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

## Primitive Baptist Union Association

HELD WITH

**New Ramah Church**

BERRIEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

October 20, 21, 22, 1923



OFFICERS

ELDER J. W. McMILLAN, Moderator

W. G. AVERA, Clerk

# MINUTES

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Minutes of the proceedings of the sixty-eighth annual session of the Union Association, held with New Ramah Church, Ray City, Berrien County, Georgia, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the third Sunday in October 1923.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Willis P. Hall of the Ochlocknee Association, Text: 1, 2 and 3 verses of the LXI. chapter of the Prophet Isaiah.

After thirty minutes intermission the delegates assembled in the house and were called to order by the Moderator, Elder W. H. Tomlinson.

After singing a hymn, prayer was offered by Elder Aaron A. Knight of the Union.

The Moderator called for correspondence from the sister churches of the Union, which was full.

The Clerk called the roll.

On motion the Association agreed to elect a Moderator and Clerk by ballot which resulted in the election of Elder J. W. McMillan, Moderator and the re-election of W. G. Avera, Clerk.

On motion adopted our same order of business:

I. Read the decorum.

II. The Moderator invited visiting Ministers and Brethren of our faith and order to seats with us, to aid us in our deliberations and to share with us our joys and sorrows.

III. Called for petitionary letters.

IV. The Moderator appointed committees as follows:

First. On Preaching and Finance—Brethren H. L. Lovett, Ben Morris and J. B. Coon with the delegates from this church, A. H. Guthrie and W. L. Register.

Second. On Business—Elder Duncan McCranie, Brethren B. B. Olliff and J. M. Connell with Moderator and Clerk.

Third. On Memorials—Elders W. H. Tomlinson, Aaron A. Knight and Brother J. A. Weaver.

Fourth. On Corresponding Letter—Elder J. L. Harris.

V. On motion the Moderator called for correspondence from the sister Associations and received as follows:

First. From the San Pedro. Minutes by Elder J. M. Jones.

Second. From the Pulaski. Minutes by Brother E. W. McCranie and Elder W. A. Wade.

Third. From the Ochlocknee. By Elder E. R. Rhoden and W. P. Hall and Brother S. W. Avera.

Fourth. From the Suwanee. Minutes by Elder W. R. Rhoden and Brother C. D. Dugger.

Fifth. From the Flint River. Minutes by Elders W. D. Bryant and Brother Randall Davis. Visitors Elder Lester Cole and Brother Lawton Davis.

The business of the first day being completed, on motion, adjourned to meet Monday, 8 o'clock a. m.

Prayer by Elder E. R. Rhoden of the Ochlocknee.

## SECOND DAY—SUNDAY

God in His infinite mercy and kind providence blessed this Association with a beautiful balmy day and the Elders in the order of their names preached with one accord, the power of God, in the salvation of the church, to the comfort and edification of the children of God regardless of affiliation.



### THIRD DAY—MONDAY, OCT. 22, 1923.

The Association met according to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder W. D. Bryant of the Alabama.

Resumed business in regular order.

I. Call the roll.

II. The Moderator renewed the invitation to Ministers and Brethren to seats with us as on Saturday.

III. Correspondents and visitors from the sister Associations were received by the Moderator giving them the right hand of fellowship.

NOTE:—Elder C. A. Clemmons of Tennessee was received as a visitor from the Euharlee Association in North West Georgia, Elder Clemmons preached to the comfort and consolation of God's humble poor.

IV. On motion the Moderator called for committee reports as follows:

First.

#### REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

We, your committee on business beg leave to make the following report:

We have examined corresponding minutes from our sister Associations. We find nothing objectionable in our sister Association.

We recommend the same order of business as last year.

We recommend that the next session of our Association be held with Refuge Church, Atkinson County, Ga., on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the third Sunday in October 1924.

Location described in corresponding letter.

Elder Duncan McCranie, B. B. Olliff, J. M. Connell, and Moderator and Clerk, Committee.

Approved by the Association.

Second.

#### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your committee on finance, received \$105.90 from the churches which we have divided as follows:

To Clerk for 1200 minutes and services \$50.00, balance divided among correspondents from our sister Associations and others as we deem best.

H. L. Lovett, J. B. Coon and Ben Morris, Committee.

Third.

#### CORRESPONDING LETTER:

Ray City Ga., Oct. 20, 21, 22, 1923

The Union Association now holding its 68th session with New Ramah Church, Ray City, Ga., sendeth greetings to her sister Associations with whom she corresponds:

We are pleased to write you that we have been blessed to have a full attendance, and that peace abounds.

For all that have been manifested among us at this time and place in the way of God's love and mercy and power, in wonderfully blessing your ministers to declare his Gospel truths to the comfort and edifying of the brethren and sisters, and of the peace and love and unity of the Spirit abounding among us, we truly hope we are thankful.

Dear Brethren, we hope that with your people "All is well," and that God may be with you till we meet again.

Our next session will be held, the Lord willing, on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the third Sunday in October 1924, with Refuge Church Atkinson County, Ga., situated 1 1-4 miles north of Pearson on the A. C. L. R. R. and 12 miles south of Douglas at the junction

of the A. B. and A. and G. and F. R. R., and 12 miles east of Willacoochee at the junction of the A. C. L. and G. and F. R. R., and also accessible by splendid highways.

Come and be with us, the Lord willing.

J. L. HARRIS, Com.

Approved by the Association.

Fourth.

#### REPORT OF MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

We, your committee on memorials, beg leave to make the following report:

Sacred to the memory of Elder I. A. Wetherington, who departed this life September 4, 1923.

Brother Wetherington was born October 30, 1852.

He was united in marriage with Miss Mary Zeigler, daughter of Brother and Sister J. D. Zeigler, December 3, 1874, by Elder T. W. Stallings.

He united with the Primitive Baptist church at Unity August 27, 1887 and was ordained to the ministry December 31, 1893.

Brother Wetherington ruled well in his home and in the house of God, in both of which he was worthy of emulation, and in the church was worthy of double honor.

Elder Wetherington was elected Moderator of the Union Association at Forrest Grove Church in the year 1903, which office he filled faithfully to the honor and glory of God and to the satisfaction and comfort of the Association. He was re-elected at every session of the Association until 1922 at which time he was dangerously sick. From this sickness he never fully recovered, but he served his churches faithfully until his departure as stated above.

In the death of Elder Wetherington, the churches, the Association and the country at large have suffered a loss rarely ever felt in the death of a citizen. But our loss, great as it is, is not to be compared, we are sure, to his eternal gain in the sweet beyond.

Also our aged and beloved brother and Deacon John D. Boykin, who was called to rest June 8, 1923. Brother Boykin was born January 13, 1848, united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Mt. Paran, January 17, 1880 and was ordained Deacon of Mt. Paran Church January 15, 1898. As a deacon he was devoted to the health of his church and to the welfare of the churches in general. No man ever lived a more worthy, exemplary, Christian life than Brother Boykin.

Our loss is his eternal gain.

Also our dear Brother S. H. Carter was called to his reward September 23, 1923. Brother Carter was born September 20, 1853, and united with the church at Unity, August 25, 1893, and was baptized by Elder T. W. Stallings.

He was ordained deacon of Unity Church, October 29, 1910 which office he filled to the satisfaction of the church until God called him to his eternal home.

To Him who doeth all things well, we bow in humble submission.

And also, sacred to the memory of our beloved Deacon, Brother J. P. Lovett of Spring Hill Church, who fell asleep April 19, 1923. Brother Lovett was born March 19, 1850, and was married to Miss Polly Parrish on the 21st, day of April 1872.

He united with the Primitive Baptist Church at Spring Hill on Saturday before the second Sunday in April 1910, and was ordained deacon in the year 1912.

Brother Lovett had the full scriptural qualifications of a deacon, and no life was ever more worthy of emulation. In his death, Spring Hill Church and its community feel that they have sustained a heavy



loss and the Baptist at large and all upright people mourn his departure, but God who makes no mistakes saw fit to end his labors and we bow in humble submission to His Divine will.

W. H. Tomlinson, A. A. Knight and J. A. Weaver, Committee.  
Fifth.

### REPORT OF PREACHING COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Preaching, beg leave to make the following report.

#### Order of Preaching

Saturday, A. M.—Introductory Sermon by Elder Willis P. Hall of the Ochlocknee Association.

Saturday, P. M.—Elder E. R. Rhoden of the Ochlocknee and Elder L. Johnson of the Flint River, and Brother Noah Sutton of the Union.

Sunday, A. M.—Elder C. A. Clemmons of the Euharlee and Elder W. D. Bryant of the Alabama.

Sunday, P. M.—Elder W. R. Rhoden of the Suwanee and Elder Lester Cole of the Alabama.

Monday, A. M.—Elder J. M. Jones of the San Pedro, Elder O. A. Knight of the Union and Elder H. W. Parrish of the Union.

Closed by the Moderator.

VI. The following correspondents were appointed to our sister Associations:

1. To the Ochlocknee—Elder J. L. Harris and Brother B. B. Olliff.

2. To the Suwanee—Elder H. T. Griner and Brethren H. L. Lovett, S. M. Lewis and G. M. Mobley.

3. To the Alabama—Elder L. M. Guthrie and Brother G. M. Mobley.

4. To the Pulaski—Elder W. H. Tomlinson and Brethren L. L. Register and G. M. Mobley.

5. To the San Pedro—Elder J. W. McMillan and Brethren Ben Morris, T. J. Griffin and W. G. Avera.

6. To the Flint River—Elder J. W. McMillan and Duncan McCranie.

The business of the Association having been transacted in peace, love and harmony and everything done decently and in order. On motion of Brother H. L. Lovett, the Association adjourned to meet, the Lord willing, at time and place described in corresponding letter.

Prayer by Elder Duncan McCranie of the Union.

Elder J. W. McMillan, Moderator.

W. G. Avera, Clerk.

### CARD OF THANKS

In closing the 1923 annual session of the Union Association, held with New Ramah Church, Ray City, Ga., we wish to express our appreciation of the many courtesies and abounding hospitality of the city and surrounding country. Specially do we thank the Clements Brothers for the free use of ample lumber for our purpose, from their mill. May God's blessing rest on all who cared for us.

### OUR SISTER ASSOCIATION

1. The Suwanee convenes with Antioch Church, two miles south of Vero, on the East Coast R. R. in St. Lucie County, Fla., beginning on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September 1924.

2. The Pulaski convenes with New Bethel Church, Wilcox County, Georgia, one mile south of Pitts, on the S. A. L. R. R. commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in October 1924.

3. The San Pedro convenes with Fellowship Church, Madison County Florida, three miles southwest of Sirmons on the South Ga. R. R. beginning on Friday before the first Sunday in October 1924.

As the Ochlocknee, Alabama and Flint River convene after our next session, information as to their situation can be obtained of them at that time and place.

#### ELDERS OF THE UNION AND THEIR POST OFFICES

J. W. McMillan	Ocella
W. H. Tomlinson	Douglas
H. W. Parrish	Sparks
A. A. Knight	Ray City
L. M. Guthrie	Pearson
J. L. Harris	Valdosta
O. A. Knight	Blackshear
Duncan McCranie	Hahira
H. T. Griner	Alapaha
Richard Vickers	Pearson
J. L. Townsend	Kinderlou
R. A. James	Argyle

#### CLERKS OF THE CHURCHES AND THEIR POST OFFICES

Antioch—W. D. Herring, Lake Park, Ga.
Arna—M. L. Alridge, Kirkland
Bethel—W. H. Rives, Edith
Bethany—J. W. Delk, Kirkland
Cat Creek—J. A. Johnson, Hahira
Empire—W. G. Avera, Nashville
Liberty—C. W. Parker, Brookfield
Mt. Olive—O. K. Courson, Stockton
Mt. Paran—J. J. Tucker, Alapaha
Mt. Pleasant—
New Hope—T. J. Griffin, Nashville
New Ramah—G. C. Mikell, Ray City,
New Friendship—Wiley Stalvey, Hahira
Oak Grove—B. B. Olliff, Quitman
Olive Leaf—J. B. Coon, Dupont
Pleasant—J. A. Webb, Nashville
Pleasant Grove—J. J. Hancock, Nashville
Prospect—R. E. Lee, Homerville
Providence—J. D. Register, Valdosta
Ramah—J. C. Cason, Homerville
Refuge—W. I. Fort, Pearson
Salem—T. L. Adams, Adel
Spring Hill—Ira Wetherington, Lenox
Union—J. A. Weaver, Naylor
Unity—N. A. Carter, Naylor
Valley Grove—
Wayfare, Echols—J. F. Parrish, Howell
Wayfare, Coffee—J. G. Lewis, Douglas



## COVENANT

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We, the churches composing this Association, in love to God, for His glory, and for the promotion of His Cause and Kingdom, in love to one another, having fellowship for each other, in Christian bonds, to live together in associate capacity, as true worshippers of God, and in view of the same do hereby adopt the following:

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge to be best qualified for that purpose and upon producing letters from their respective churches they shall be entitled to seats.

2. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the Union Association.

3. In the letters from the different churches of the Association shall be expressed their members in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, recantation, confession of faith, dismissed by letter, excommunicated, and dead since the last Association.

4. The Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor by which she can infringe upon the internal rights of the churches.

5. This Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen annually by the members present (who shall be members of the body) and who shall hold their offices until next election.

6. If any new church or churches desire to be admitted into the Union they shall petition by letter and messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the Moderator giving its messengers the right hand of fellowship.

7. We advise the churches not to send more than two messengers until they shall exceed one hundred members, then a messenger for every fifty after the first hundred.

8. It is the object of the Association to promote the general union of the churches.

9. The Association will recognize the gospel discipline of the churches, and drop from our list any church or churches from which sister churches have withdrawn.

10. The minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

11. Amendments may be made to this form of government by two-thirds of the members present.

12. Any member knowingly and willingly breaking any of these rules shall be reproved by the Association if they think proper.

13. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ELDER J. W. McMILLAN, Moderator.

W. G. AVERA, Clerk.

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## DECORUM

1. Every motion made and seconded shall command the attention of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

2. Every member who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking except he depart from the subject.

3. No member shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

4. No member of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing or whispering while one is speaking, nor cast any reflections on the speaker. The speaker shall adhere strictly to the subject and in no wise reflect upon the person who spoke before him, by making remarks on his imperfections, but shall fairly state the case and matter as he can, so as to give his light or idea.

5. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

6. The several names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called as often as the Association may require.

7. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as another member, provided the chair be filled, and shall not vote, unless the Association be equally divided.

8. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of the proceedings of the Association.

9. To correspond with other Associations of our faith and order.

10. The brethren in the ministry, together with visiting brethren from our sister associations, shall be invited to seats with the Association.

11. The Association shall have the power to adjourn themselves at any time and place they think most convenient to churches and the Union.

ELDER J. W. McMILLAN, Moderator.

W. G. AVERA, Clerk.

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## ABSTRACTS AND PRINCIPLES

### Held by the Primitive Baptists in General to the Confessions of Faith

1. We believe in one true and living God, and that there are three in the God Head, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written 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 impotency to recover himself from the state he is in by his own free will and ability.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost without the aid of the gospel or the efforts of auxiliaries in any particular.

8. We believe that the saints will persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

9. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and the washing of Saints' feet are ordinances of Jesus Christ and that only true believers are subject to these ordinances, and that the only true mode of baptism is by immersion.

10. We believe that the punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous shall be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper who has not been regularly called and come under the imposition of the hand of the Presbytery.

12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

ELDER J. W. McMILLAN, Moderator.

W. G. AVERA, Clerk.



CHURCHES	COUNTIES	MESSENGERS	PASTORS	Baptized	Received by Letter	Restored	Recontation	Confession of Faith	Dis. by Letter	Re-communicated	Dead	Total Members	Contributions	Sab. of Meeting	Month of Annual Meetings
Antioch	Echols	N. S. Hires, W. D. Herring								3		27	2.00	3	Aug.
Arna	Coffee	Ben Morris, M. L. Aldridge	L. M. Guthrie						6	5	2	86	5.00	4	Aug.
Bethel	Echols	W. H. Rives	T. T. Law						1			19	2.50	3	Sept.
Bethany	Clinch	Daniel O'Steen, J. P. Smith	R. Vickers						2		1	29	2.50	3	Aug.
Cat Creek	Lowndes	I. W. Peters, J. L. Harris	J. L. Harris	12	2						1	76	6.50	1	July
Empire	Lanier	J. M. Cook, W. G. Avera	A. A. Knight	2						1	3	70	5.10	4	Sept.
Liberty	Berrien	L. L. Register, H. T. Griner	J. W. McMillan	3	2				3			43	6.74	3	June
Mt. Olive	Lanier	O. K. Courson	R. Vickers							1	1	16	2.00	1	Aug.
Mt. Paran	Berrien	T. T. Tucker, Stephen Roberts	J. W. McMillan			1			1		1	24	2.50	2	July
Mt. Pleasant	Clinch	W. M. Cason	O. A. Knight						3	1	2	14	1.50	2	Nov.
New Hope	Berrien	T. J. Griffin, S. M. Lewis	A. A. Knight	1		1					3	25	2.50	2	Aug.
New Ramah	Berrien	A. H. Guthrie, W. L. Register	A. A. Knight	3					3	1	1	43	4.00	2	June
New Friendship	Lowndes	G. M. Mobley, J. C. Lastinger	J. L. Harris	2					1		3	40	3.50	2	May
Oak Grove	Brooks	B. B. Oliff							3			5	2.00	4	July
Olive Leaf	Clinch	J. B. Coon, E. J. Register			3				1		2	26	2.00	4	Oct.
Pleasant	Berrien	A. A. Knight, Duncan McCranie	A. A. Knight						4		3	99	9.00	3	Sept.
Pleasant Grove	Berrien	J. W. Griffin, J. M. Connell	Duncan McCranie			1			2		1	84	8.00	1	Oct.
Prospect	Clinch	J. R. Morgan, R. E. Lee	R. Vickers									20	1.50	2	Oct.
Providence	Lowndes	J. D. Register, I. G. Touchton		2	6						2	35	4.00	3	April
Ramah	Clinch	M. H. Hilliard, J. A. O'Neal	R. A. James									22	2.00	1	Oct.
Refuge	Atkinson	L. M. Guthrie, W. R. Guthrie	L. M. Guthrie		3					2		55	5.00	2	Sept.
Salem	Cook	H. W. Avera, D. F. Graddy	Duncan McCranie		1				2		2	48	2.55	4	April
Spring Hill	Cook	H. L. Lovett, Ira Wetherington	Duncan McCranie		2				1	1	1	26	3.00	2	Oct.
Union	Lanier	J. A. Weaver, E. J. Carter	W. H. Tomlinson		1						2	47	4.00	2	Sept.
Unity	Lowndes	P. W. Morgan, J. A. Zeigler	J. L. Harris			1			2		8	30	5.01	4	Aug.
Valley Grove	Irwin	J. W. McMillan, M. Griffin	J. W. McMillan						9	1		25	3.50	1	Aug.
Wayfare E.	Echols	J. B. Zeigler, M. E. Cowart				2					3	59	5.00	1	Sept.
Wayfare C.		N. H. Tomlinson, J. W. McKinnon	W. H. Tomlinson	6	4			1		1		22	3.00	1	Oct.