

# *Minutes*

— of the —

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THIRD  
ANNUAL SESSION

— of the —

## **Fishers River Primitive Baptist Association**

— held with —

MITCHELL'S RIVER CHURCH

Surry County, North Carolina

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 8, 9, 10,

### **1955**

1956 session to be held with the church at Mulberry on  
Friday, Saturday and Second Sunday in July, 1956.

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#### **OFFICERS**

ELDER F. P. STONE - Moderator, Rt. 2, Dobson, N. C.  
O. W. SISK - Clerk, ..... King, N. C.

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THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE  
ELON COLLEGE, NORTH CAROLINA

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## *Proceedings*

OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FISHER'S RIVER PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT MITCHELL'S RIVER IN SURRY CO., NORTH CAROLINA, JULY 8, 9, 10, 1955.

FRIDAY MORNING, July 8, 1955

Services were introduced with song and prayer by Elder C. N. Tilson from St. Clairs Bottom Association. Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Will Inman, text Rom. 13:1.

After intermission assembled in Church, and the work of the Association began with song and prayer by Elder James Hill. Then proceeded to business as follows:

1. Called for Association letters from the different churches. They were read and messengers seated by move, second and vote.
2. Elected Elder F. P. Stone, Moderator, O. W. Sisk, Clerk.
3. Called on Brother C. A. Lawson, Elder Ray Rotenizer, and Elder Harry Bowman to preach at the stand.
4. Called for correspondents from sister Associations with response as follows:
  - A. Senter: Brethren Tom Severt, and B. O. Dolinger, correspondents, and Elders G. D. Roten, Edd Davis and Kelly Severt, visitors.
  - B. Roaring River: Brethren J. T. Choate, and W. C. Hall, correspondents, and Brother Troy Miller, visitor.
  - C. St. Clair's Bottom: Elder C. N. Tilson and Brother Wiley Greer, correspondents, Brethren Delmer and Vernie Heath, visitors.
  - D. Washington: Elders J. T. Mabe, M. M. Edwards, Harmon Kiser, and S. S. Walker, correspondents, Elder Lester Barker, visitor.
  - E. Mountain: Elders Leo V. Bagley and Walter Evans, correspondents Elders Edd Douglas, C. B. Kilby and wife, and Bro. M. J. Carr, visitor.
  - F. Mates Creek: Elder Frank Wheeler, correspondent, and Brother Lum Dodson and wife, visitors.
  - Liberty Hill Church (Independent): Elder J. F. Goad, visitor.
  - H. Wade Island Church (Independent): Elder J. D. Spense, visitor.
  - I. Locust Grove Church (Independent): Elder Harry Bowman, visitor.
  - J. Pine Grove Church (Independent): Elder Ray Rotenizer, visitor.
  - K. Oak Grove Church (Independent): Elder Jack Martin, visitor.
5. Called for visitors, and they were added to previous list of correspondents.
6. By move, second, and vote to seat all correspondents and they were received with a hearty welcome.
7. By move, second that the Committee on Arrangements be nominated and elected by a private ballot. Nominees were Elders James Hill, George Berrier, H. B. Thomas, Jesse Collins, J. L. Williams, and Brother Curtis Harbour. Elder Mat Edwards, and Brother Coy Flippin were appointed to hold the election and Elders James Hill, Jess Collins and H. B. Thomas were elected.
8. By move and second that our Moderator appoint all other regular Committees.

A. Committee on Preaching: Coy Flippin, Dillard White, to serve with the Moderators of this church.

B. Committee on Finance: E. C. Harbour and H. E. Johnson. Bro. Johnson not being there on Saturday, Brother Raymond Smith was appointed in his place.

C. Committee on Distribution of Minutes: Brethren Ernest Simmons, and T. M. Simpson.

9. The Committee on Grievances were suggested by Elders F. P. Stone, James Hill, and O. W. Sisk, and approved by the Association as follows: Elders Frank Wheeler, From Mates Creek, Walter Evans from Mountain, G. D. Roten from Senter, C. N. Tilson from St. Clair's Bottom, and W. C. Hall from Roaring River. As Brother Hall could not be present with the Committee, Elder Roten suggested Brother Troy Miller from the same Association.

10. Minutes of the day read and received by move, second and vote.

11. Adjourned to meet Saturday morning at 9:30 for Association work, and 10 o'clock for Preaching service. Dismissed by Elder G. D. Roten.

#### SATURDAY MORNING, July 9, 1955.

Met pursuant to adjournment of yesterday and service was introduced by Elder Edd Davis from Senter Association.

12. Called roll of messengers from the different churches.

13. Called for correspondents and visitors who were not here yesterday and their names were added to Friday's list.

14. Called for report of Committee on Arrangements, and they made the following recommendations:

A. That the Circular Letter presented by Elder F. P. Stone, and written by William Moran in 1869, be printed in our Minutes.

B. That we pay our Moderator and Clerk the same as last year, \$25.00 each.

C. That the Clerk have 1200 copies of the Minutes printed and distributed as usual.

D. That Elder James Hill write the next Circular Letter.

E. That our next session of the Association be held with the church at Mulberry, Surry County, N. C., beginning on Friday before the second Sunday in July, 1956, which will be 6, 7, 8, of July, 1956. This church is located about ten miles west of Dobson, North Carolina.

F. Recommendations were received by move, second and vote.

NOTE: The question in regard to Stuart's Creek Church was discussed by the Committee, but they decided that the decision of the grievance Committee might have some bearing on the subject, so it was left open until after the report of the Grievance Committee was turned in.

15. Called for the report of the Grievance Committee, and they failed to make any report on the matter put before them, because they did not have the authority from their home churches. So this matter was left open until further notice, but the Association agreed by move, second and vote to abide by their decision.

16. By move, second and vote, that one representative from each faction of the aggrieved parties meet with the Committee, and Elder F. P. Stone and Elder James Hill were appointed to serve with them, to give any information that they might need, and it was also mentioned

by someone in the Association, that this Committee make their decision in writing, and sign their names to it, which would have been very essential in a matter like this.

(Note of explanation).

The purpose of this Committee was to decide on the following subject:

A. On July 31, 1954, 28 members of Stuart's Creek Church, who had signed their names on a sheet of paper, claiming to withdraw from the disorder of this Church. Three of these members went to Tom's Creek and twenty to Stoney Creek Church, which makes twenty-three in all out of the twenty-eight names. These members were taken into these churches by an act passed in the Association at State Road in July, 1934, which you will find in Saturday's proceeding, Item No. 11.

B. Did we, (Tom's Creek and Stoney Creek) have a right to receive them, or did we not?

C. Was it illegal to receive them before the Association had taken action?

D. If it was illegal, then what must be done to take care of these loyal members?

17. Called for report from our correspondents who visited sister Associations, and they reported as follows:

A. Senter: Good report, were seated and had a good Association.

B. Roaring River: Same report as above.

C. St. Clair's Bottom: Same report as above.

D. Washington: Same report as above.

E. Mountain: Same report as above.

F. Mates Creek: Same report as above.

Reports received by move and second, and those who did not attend were excused.

18. Appointed correspondents to visit sister Associations as follows:

A. Mountain: Brother W. W. Pruitt and Elder George Berrier.

B. Roaring River: Elders Coy Hawks, Coy Sikes, and George Berrier.

C. St. Clair's Bottom: Elders Will Inman, J. F. Hill, and Brother W. W. Pruitt.

D. Senter: Elder Coy Hawks.

E. Washington: Elders Coy Sikes and Mat Edwards.

F. Mates Creek: Elders H. B. Thomas and Mat Edwards.

19. Called for report of Finance Committee: They reported, received from churches \$272.45, and were discharged by move and second.

20. Minutes read and received by move, second and vote, and thus became the work of the body.

Signed by Elder F. P. Stone, Moderator, and O. W. Sisk, Clerk.

Dismissed by Elder Lester Barker from Washington Association.

21. As the Association, before it rose, did not mention anything about a Resolution of Thanks, therefore as I feel it should be done, I will therefore proceed as best I can, feeling my weakness and inability, but hoping it will be pleasing in the sight of Almighty God to give me a thankful heart.

Great and eternal God, we want to thank you for the many blessings thou hast bestowed on the grand old Fisher's River Association from its earliest dawn down to the present moment of time. We thank thee, O Father of love, and God of mercy, that thou hast been our Shield and Hiding Place in the time of all our storms of trouble, and many heart-aches, and a great Rock in a weary land, and may it be pleasing to thee, to ever keep us as the apple of thine eye, if it can be thy will, O God, continue to guide us in the way of peace, love and union, and that everything that we undertake to do regarding thy kingdom be done

in decency and in order, and as thus saith the Lord.

We also wish to thank the members of the Mitchell's River Church, and all who lent a helping hand in taking care of the Association, and to the congregation for their good behavior and kind attention to our visiting Elders who spoke in our midst.

POSTSCRIPT: After the Association work was over, and the business transactions closed, Elder G. D. Roten (one of the Committee) said he had talked with some of the other Committee elects that were on the grounds Sunday morning, and they had decided to make this suggestion, and hoped that all parties could agree in order to save them the trip back down here.

The suggestion was this: He thought that the act of these two churches in taking these members should stand according to the act passed by the Association in 1934, and for the Association to repeal this act at their next session in 1956, because it destroyed the sovereignty of the churches.

Now dear brethren and sisters, why not consider this a give-and-take proposition and all go on together as one body, forgiving one another for the hurtful things that have been said among all parties concerned and repeal this act which was wrong when passed, and is still wrong. It served well for what it was intended for, but the good brethren, that passed the act surely did not realize that it destroyed the sovereignty of our churches.

Brethren and sisters of Fisher's River Association I, as your poor, little and unworthy Clerk, am not able to give you good people advice, but as for me, if you can put up with a poor worm of the dust as I feel to be and can look over my mistakes, I hope and trust that the good Lord will help me to look over and forgive the parties that have persecuted and poked the finger of scorn at me when I was standing for the things that I thought were right, and still believe that what I stood for in this matter was right according to the Bible, and the sovereignty of the churches. We all make mistakes, so let us watch as well as pray, for by so doing, we can keep these trouble makers out of the way which is the good old way. Let brotherly love continue. Why was that spoken? And to whom was it spoken? I believe that there was someone trying to hinder it, at the time it was spoken, and I believe it is still going on in this day.

So farewell in love, I hope.

By one who loves peace. Your unworthy Clerk.

—O. W. SISK, Clerk

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance brought forward in bank	.....	\$194.17	
Paid out of Treasury for histories	.....	73.00	
Received from churches	.....	272.95	
Total	.....	\$540.12	\$540.12
Paid the Moderator	.....	\$25.00	
Paid the Clerk	.....	25.00	
Gave to visiting Elders	.....	75.00	
Paid for printing	.....	60.00	
Tied up in histories	.....	73.00	
Balance in bank	.....	282.12	
Total	.....	\$540.12	\$540.12

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#### ORDER OF PREACHING

##### Friday Morning:

Elder Will Inman, text John 18:36.

##### Friday Afternoon:

Brother C. A. Lawson, failed to get text.  
Elder Ray Rotenizer, failed to get text.  
Elder Harry Bowman, failed to get text.

##### Saturday Morning:

Elder Harmon Kiser, no special text.  
Elder H. M. Willard, no special text.  
Elder C. N. Tilson, Isa. 53:1.

##### Saturday Afternoon:

Elder Walter Evans, Titus 12 In hope of eternal life, etc.  
Elder Leo V. Bagley, 1 John 9-12, 2 John 1:4, 5.  
Elder Robert Rogers, John 15:5.  
Elder Millard Vaden, John 18:36.

##### Sunday Morning:

Elder Sam Adkins, introduced service with song & prayer.  
Elder G. D. Roten, My people shall be a willing people etc.  
Elder M. M. Edwards, no special text.  
Elder Lester Barker, Gal. 2:16.

##### Sunday Afternoon:

Elder Bell Tucker, Eph. 2:3.  
Elder Edd Davis, Isa 45:16.

#### CIRCULAR LETTER

As I was appointed to prepare the Circular Letter for the 123rd Annual Session of our Association, I am substituting one written by Elder William Moran and approved by the Association at Cody's Creek 1869. He was the father of Elder Alexander Moran and both were messengers from Tom's Creek Church that session. —F. P. Stone

Dear Brethren and Sisters that compose the Fisher's River District Primitive Baptist Association, together with those with whom she corresponds. Dear Brethren, as I was appointed by the Association to present you with a Circular Letter to be annexed to our Minutes, if approved by the Association, I proceed as follows: And call your attention to the 13th chapter and 14th verse left on record by the prophet Hosea, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plague; O grave I will by thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes." For which, dear brethren and sisters, if God will, we will try to give some reasons of the subject before us being introduced. First, we understand that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect thereby, furnished unto all good works. Then we find the prophet here according to divine writ, that he was under the immediate influence of the Holy Spirit when he expressed

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the language of the subject under consideration, having reference no doubt to the great Deity, when he said I will ransom them from the power of the grave, for his work was before him, and his reward was with him. Then we find that he made man, he made of the dust, and he had no life nor action until he breathed the breath of life into him, and then he became a living soul. The body we find was to return to the grave—its mother, dust; but the soul—the Spirit was not to dwell there. We furthermore find that he placed the man in the garden of Eden, and showed him the trees therein and told him that he should have access to all the trees except the one in the midst, which was so called the tree of knowledge, for which if he partook, he should die; but through the subtlety of the serpent he partook and disobeyed the righteous law of his God, and the penalty thereof was death; but will redeem them, saith the eternal council, notwithstanding our earthly head transgressed the law of the great Deity, and all the family fell in ruin. Yea, fell victims to death, to blindness and to the power of the grave. Yet, the great Deity in his divine arrangement has prepared a remedy for his bride because he loved her. Yet this chosen race, before faith came, was kept under the law, shut up to the faith that should afterwards be revealed, and could not see, hear, understand, taste nor feel the riches of the kingdom of grace until God, through his Son, was manifested unto them. Then they could express the language of the man of God, and say, "Draw nigh unto me, and I will tell you what great things the Lord has done for my soul, whereof I am glad; then the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come home to Zion with songs and everlasting crowns upon their heads, and sorrowing and sighing shall flee away."

Then dear brethren, if we are the people that is here described, though we have many doubts and fears, temptations and afflictions, yet, could we adopt the language of the apostle and say as he said, "That I reckon that the sufferings of this present world are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us." Then, if so, our great spiritual head will ransom us from all the power and confinements that we are now subject to. Yea, he will redeem us from death and he will be all its plagues, for his love is stronger than death; then his power, his honor, and all his divine attributes are concentrating in the salvation of his bride, then fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom, fear not all the oppositions and claims that ever have or can be set up against this kingdom. Then he has promised to give you the kingdom, trust him for his word and for his matchless grace.

Dear brethren, we will say in the close of our remarks, may you live in love, pray with and for each other, and may the God of all grace guide and protect you through mortality is the prayer of your unworthy brother until death, farewell.

—WILLIAM MORAN

## CHURCHES AND THEIR PASTORS

Ararat—James F. Hill  
 Boyles Chapel—James F. Hill  
 Chestnut Grove—George Berrier, H. B. Thomas  
 Deep Creek—L. J. Martin  
 Hogan's Creek—F. P. Stone, Jesse Collins.  
 Little Vine—J. M. Edwards  
 Liberty—S. E. Martin  
 Mulberry—F. P. Stone, J. M. Edwards, Coy Hawks  
 Mitchell's River—D. E. Wood, Coy Sikes.  
 Pilot Mountain—Jesse Collins.  
 Pleasant Grove—C. D. Hall.  
 Rock House—M. H. Vaden, Fletcher Beasley  
 Stoney Creek—J. G. Fulk.  
 Sandy Ridge—George Berrier, Coy Hawks  
 Tom's Creek—F. P. Stone.  
 Union—F. P. Stone, Pro tem.  
 Volunteer—Sam Adkins  
 Zion Hill—H. B. Thomas, D. E. Wood

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

George Berrier, Rt. 5, Mount Airy, North Carolina.  
 J. W. Creed, Rt. 1, Ararat, North Carolina.  
 Jesse Collins, Pilot Mountain, North Carolina.  
 J. M. Edwards, Rt. 1, Dobson, North Carolina.  
 J. G. Fulk, Rt. 4, Mount Airy, North Carolina.  
 James F. Hill, Rt. 1, King, N. C.  
 Coy Hawks, 3958 South Dale Avenue, Winston-Salem, N. C.  
 Will Inman, Pilot Mountain, N. C.  
 Coy Sikes, Rt. 3, Mount Airy, N. C.  
 F. P. Stone, Rt. 2, Dobson, North Carolina.  
 H. B. Thomas, 125 East View St., Galax, Virginia.  
 J. L. Williams, Rt. 6, Winston-Salem, N. C.  
 D. E. Wood, Rt. 3, Mount Airy, North Carolina.

## LICENTIATES

G. S. Key, Rt. 1, Carthage, North Carolina.

## DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES

Ararat (C. H.)—J. E. Simmons, Rt. 1, Pilot Mountain, N. C. . . . .	35
Boyles Chapel—E. H. Taylor, Rt. 2, Germantown, N. C. . . . .	60
Chestnut Grove—G. P. Lyons, Mt. Airy, N. C. . . . .	80
Deep Creek (H. S.)—Mrs. Eunice Key, Siloam, N. C. . . . .	40
Hogan's Creek—Carlton Fulk, Siloam, N. C. . . . .	25
Little Vine—S. R. Gillespie, Dobson, N. C. . . . .	100
Liberty—Curtis Harbour, Dobson, N. C. . . . .	30
Mulberry—George White, Rt. 1, Elkin, N. C. . . . .	30
Mitchel's River—Mrs. Fannie Southard, Rt. 1, Dobson, N. C. . . . .	25
Pilot Mountain—J. H. Sheets, Pilot Mountain, N. C. . . . .	30
Pleasant Grove—H. E. Johnson, Box 65, East Bend, N. C. . . . .	35
Rock House—W. R. Coins, Westfield, N. C. . . . .	45
Stoney Creek—Elbert Hunter, Rt. 1, Mount Airy, N. C. . . . .	75

Stuart's Creek—R. W. Moseley, Rt. 1, Mt. Airy, N. C. ....	75
Sandy Ridge—A. M. Hawks, Rt. 5, Box 215, Mt. Airy, N. C. ....	55
Tom's Creek—L. L. Love, Pilot Mountain, N. C. ....	85
Union—O. B. Venable, Rt. 4, Mt. Airy, N. C. ....	85
Volunteer—R. L. Nelson, Pilot Mountain, N. C. ....	75
Zion Hill—W. P. Johnson, Rt. 3, Mount Airy, N. C. ....	35

#### ASSOCIATION MAILING LIST

Mountain: Elder C. B. Kilby, Sparta, N. C. ....	25
Mates Creek: Stearl Hatfield, McCarr, Ky. ....	30
Roaring River: Elder A. T. Whittington, N. Wilkesboro, N. C. ....	15
St. Clair's Bottom: Elder C. N. Tilson, Chilhowie, Va. ....	15
Senter: W. W. Miller, Clifton, N. C. ....	15
Washington: Elder Harmon Kiser, Cleveland, Va. ....	30
Total .....	1150
O. W. Sisk, Association Clerk ..	50
Total .....	1200

#### ARTICLES OF FAITH

##### Article I—Of God and the Holy Trinity.

We believe in one only true and living God, who rules all things after his own will; and that he, who created all things, is infinite in power, wisdom, knowledge and goodness; eternal, immortal, invisible, and unchangeable; and that this God has revealed himself in his word under the character of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that these three bear witness in earth: the water, the spirit and the blood, and that these three agree in one.

##### Article II—Of the Holy Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written word of God, and are a sufficient rule of faith and practice; that they are given by inspiration of God, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; and that they contain all things necessary to be known for the salvation of men and women.

##### Article III—Of the Atonement.

We believe that Christ died and made a complete atonement for all who ever did, does now, or ever will believe on His name; and that all who are finally saved were given to Christ in covenant of the Father before the world was, that they should show forth his praise.

##### Article IV—Of Foreknowledge, Election and Predestination.

We believe that (all) whom God did foreknow he did also predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son; that God elected according to his foreknowledge, through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, all who are finally saved, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that none come to Christ only those whom he loved with an everlasting love, and due time calls to everlasting glory.

##### V—We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

VI—We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will and ability.

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

VIII—We believe that God's elect will be called, converted, regener-

ated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

IX—We believe the saints persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

X—We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of ordinances, and that the true mode of baptism is by immersion.

XI—We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment.

XII—We believe the punishment of the wicked will be eternal, and the joys of the righteous everlasting.

XIII—We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances only such as are regularly called and have come under the imposition of the hands of the presbytery.

#### RULES OF DECORUM

1. The association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. The moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
3. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise from his seat and address the moderator.
4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any, except the moderator, till he is done speaking.
5. He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections; but shall fairly state the case and matter, as nearly as he can, so as to convey his ideas.
6. No person shall abruptly break off, or absent himself from the association, without leave obtained from it.
7. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on one subject, without liberty obtained from the association.
8. No member of the association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor of whispering in time of a public speech.
9. No member of the association shall address another in any other appellation than that of brother.
10. The moderator shall not interrupt any member in his speech, nor prohibit him from speaking till he gives his light on the subject, except he breaks the rules of this decorum.
11. The names of the several members of the association shall be enrolled by the clerk, and called over as often as the association thinks proper.
12. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as other members, provided the chair be filled.
13. Any member who shall wilfully and knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the association as it may think proper.

#### CONSTITUTION

1. The association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, and sent to represent them in the association, who shall be members best qualified for that purpose; and producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats; but no church shall have

more than three representatives in the association.

2. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excommunicated and dead since the last association.

3. The members thus chosen and received shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they use any ecclesiastical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe on any of the churches in the union.

4. The association, when convened, shall be governed and ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

5. The association shall have a moderator and clerk, and who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

6. New churches may be admitted into this association, who 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 the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

7. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the association.

8. Every query presented by any member in the association, shall be received and answered according to the Scriptures.

9. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the association, except it be withdrawn by him who made it.

10. There shall be an association book kept, wherein the proceedings of the association shall be recorded, by the clerk appointed by the association.

11. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the association rises.

12. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time when the association may think proper.

13. We hold no fellowship with any secret order.

14. The association shall have power, (1) To provide for the general union of the churches; (2) To preserve inviolable a chain of communion among the churches; (3) To give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; (4) To enquire into the cause why the churches fail at any time to represent themselves in the association; (5) To appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to transact any business which it sees necessary; (6) To withdraw from any church in this union which shall violate the rules of this association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion; (7) To admit any of our distant brethren into the association, as assistants, who may be present at the time of its sitting. If it shall think necessary; (8) To adjourn themselves to any future time and convenient to the churches in this union.

## COVENANT

We do now in the presence of Almighty God, and in the faith of the gospel, and by the help of divine grace, unreservedly and unitedly give up ourselves to God the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Ghost, to be for Him and no other; freely submitting ourselves to him, to be at his disposal for his glory, taking him as our true guide and only portion, promising by the help of divine grace to watch against sin, temptation, and corruption; and to hold a continual warfare with the same, looking to Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith, and the only hope and surety of his people. Under his covenant of grace, we do now freely and joyfully give ourselves to one another by the will of God, freely covenanting and engaging to and with each other to bear one another's burdens in the gospel, and so fulfill the law of Christ unto obedience, promising to watch over one another in love and to hold communion together in the ordinances of the gospel, submitting ourselves in this, which we trust is a part of his mystical body, according as we shall be directed by his Spirit in his word; and by the help of divine grace to still pray for more light from the Lord, believing that he will further and more gloriously open to us his word and the mysteries of his kingdom,—and to our Lord Jesus Christ, and our only Savior, to whom be glory forever and forever. Amen.

## STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	NAMES OF CHURCH MESSENGERS	Communion Mo.	Sun. of Meeting	Year	Asso. held		Ordained Minis.	Licensed gifts	Rec'd by Baptism	Rec'd by Letter	Restored to Fel.	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Tot. Membership	Contributions
Mulberry .....	Eld. Coy Hawks, G. W. White, Sister Lucy Lowe ..	Aug.	1	1938	1	1	3							2	24	\$16.25
Union .....	T. M. Simpson, S. J. Badgett, O. B. Venable .....	July	4	1939	1		1						2	1	69	17.50
Little Vine .....	J. D. White, J. L. Williams, S. R. Gillespie .....	Aug.	2	1940	3		2							4	97	19.00
Pleasant Grove .....	H. E. Johnson, J. H. Hutchins, J. W. Spencer .....	June	3	1941			3								27	12.50
Rock House .....	W. R. Coins, J. H. Keaton, Will Inman .....	Sept	2	1942	1		4							4	41	8.50
Deep Creek ...	Jesse Key, Coy Flippin, George Murphy .....	Sept	2	1943			2					1	1		24	16.00
Tom's Creek .....	L. L. Love, Y. W. Simmons, Glenn Hunter .....	June	2	1944	1										80	19.00
Zion Hill .....	Eld. H. B. Thomas, W. E. Thomas, W. P. Johnson ..	July	3	1945	2		1						1		30	13.00
Chestnut Grove .....	Eld. Geo. Berrier, Will Berrier, G. P. Lyons .....	Aug.	4	1946	1		3					4	1		73	22.70
Boyles Chapel ...	J. I. Lawson, Eld. J. F. Hill, Marshall Boyles .....	May	1	1947	1		3	1							57	11.50
Sandy Ridge .....	P. L. Hawks, Clever Hawks, Eldridge Hawks .....	Aug.	3	1948					1	1	1	3		1	54	12.00
Ararat .....	J. E. Simmons, W. F. Rodgers, Sherman Shelton ...	May	2	1949			1								25	12.00
Liberty .....	Brady Pilson, Jule Marion, Curtis Harbour .....	Sept	1	1950			2	2							25	7.00
Volunteer .....	O. W. Sisk, W. L. Fulk, Raymond Smith .....	June	4	1951			2				1			2	70	22.00
Stoney Creek ...	E. F. Simmons, J. W. Hunter, W. C. Hiatt .....	June	3	1952	1									1	57	30.00
Hogan's Creek .....	Carlton Fulk, Gene Ashburn, Elah Fulk .....	Aug.	3	1953			1								13	10.25
Pilot Mountain .....	Eld. Jesse Collins, Sam Frye, Ellis Gordon .....	Aug.	1	1954	1		4								19	10.50
Mitchell's River .....	Florence Watson, Fannie Southard, Coy Sikes .....	July	4	1955	1						1			1	13	13.25
Stuarts Creek ..	Not Represented .....															
Totals .....	.....				14	1	33	3	1	3	11	18		788	272.95	