

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifteenth Annual Session

OF THE

Indian Bottom Association

OF

Old Regular Baptist Churches

HELD WITH THE

MALLET FORK CHURCH

KNOTT COUNTY, KENTUCKY

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 30, AND OCTOBER 1-2, 1910

ELD. IRA COMBS, Moderator

J. P. ADAMS, Clerk

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Caudill, Carcrossville, Ky.*

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Indian Bottom Association,
SEPTEMBER 30, AND OCTOBER 1-2, 1910.

THE INDIAN BOTTOM ASSOCIATION of old Regular Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ convened with Mallet Fork Church, Knott County, Kentucky, September 30, and October 1-2, 1910. The congregation sang: "Lift Up Your Heads, Immanuel's Friends," and Eld. Willard S. Akers led in the opening prayer. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. D. M. Maggard from Acts xx:28:—"Take heed, therefore," etc.

1. Delegates assembled at the place selected for their work, and, after a song, Eld. D. Adams opened the Association by prayer. The Moderator for last year called for the letters from the churches composing the Association; the letters were handed in, read by the Clerk for last year, and received, and the delegates and alternates seated as shown in the Table of Statistics.

2. On motion of Eld. D. M. Maggard, Eld. Ira Combs was chosen Moderator, and the election of a Clerk was passed till later.

3. Reading of Articles of Faith omitted on motion.

4. Called for letters from newly-constituted churches of the same faith and order, and received letters and delegates from Little Zion Church, Hazard, Ky., and Corinth Church, Viper, Perry County, Ky., the delegates shown in the Table of Statistics being regularly seated.

5. Called for corresponding letters from Sister Associations and received one from New Salem Association, together with file of Minutes, by hand of her messengers, Elders J. S. Gibson, P. N. Caudill, L. D. Mosley, Willard S. Akers and Hiram Hall. The messengers were given the right hand of fellowship and took seats.

6. Called for transient ministers and members, and received A. J. Kelly, T. Stout, and J. P. Adams from churches in this Association, and J. M. Anderson and Eld. D. Adams from New Salem Association, each of whom were given the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator and took seats.

7. On motion, J. P. Adams was chosen Clerk, and S. R. Blair, Assistant Clerk.

8. The Moderator was authorized to make all temporary appointments during this session.

9. Appointed a Committee on Arrangements, consisting of one member from each church so represented, together with the Moderator and Clerk; correspondents and transients invited.

10. Appointed a committee to arrange the ministry for Saturday, consisting of one member from each church so represented, together with the entire delegation of the Mallet Fork Church, which committee reported later on the following arrangements: 1st, J. S. Gibson; 2nd, S. C. Tyree; 3rd, D. Adam; 4th, Scott Burk; 5th, Willard S. Akers.

11. On motion of Eld. D. M. Maggard, we agree to continue correspondence with Union and New Salem Associations, and appointed the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to write the letters.

12. Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY--SATURDAY.

Met pursuant to adjournment; sang, "Brethren, We Have Met Again," and Eld. W. R. Boggs led in prayer.

1. Called the roll and marked the absentees.
2. Called on Committee on Arrangements to report. Bill read, report received and committee discharged.
3. Called again for transients and received Eld. Scott Burk from New Salem Association.
4. The preaching brethren assigned for to-day were allowed to go.
5. Appointed same Committee to arrange the Ministry for Sunday who reported later on the following arrangement:—
1st, Eld. Hiram Hall. 2nd, Eld. Willard S. Akers. 3rd, Eld. L. D. Mosley. 4th, Eld. Ira Combs.
6. Appointed a Committee on Finance consisting of Elder J. D. Caudill, and brethren J. J. Mullins and R. B. Young, who received contributions from the several churches as shown in the Table of Statistics.
7. Called on Treasurer to report who reported the records all complete, the debts all paid, and a small balance in the Treasury, but owing to having left the expense book at home, was unable to make a full report, but reports as follows:

Amount collected and on hand last year	\$.....
Printing Bill	\$13.50
Postage and Registry Fee	\$.....
Total expenditure	<u>\$.....</u>
Balance on hand from last year	\$.....
Amount of contributions this year	<u>\$ 21.55</u>
Total now on hand	<u>\$.....</u>

8. Appointed J. P. Adams Treasurer and to superintend the printing of the Minutes. He will have 1000 copies printed reserve 200 for sister associations, and distribute the remainder, by registered mail, among the several churches in proportion to their several contributions.

9. Called on brethren appointed to write corresponding letters to sister associations, letters read and received, and appointed Elders J. D. Caudill and W. R. Boggs and brethren S. R. Blair and J. P. Adams as messengers to the Union Association to be held with Pine Grove Church, Pike County, Ky., to begin on Friday before the 3rd Saturday in September, 1911, letter in the hands of S. R. Blair. Appointed Elders D. M. Maggard, Ira Combs and W. R. Boggs and brethren Hiram Combs, W. G. Combs, W. P. Cody, S. R. Blair, J. E. Cornett and J. P. Adams as messengers to the New Salem Association to be held with Caney Fork Church, Knott County, Ky., to begin on Friday before the 4th Saturday in September, 1911, letter in the hands of J. P. Adams.

10. Appointed Union Meetings and brethren to attend same as follows.

(1) Clover Fork Church, 1st Saturday and Sunday in July 1911, Elder W. R. Boggs, Elder D. M. Maggard and J. B. Stallard.

(2) Little Zion Church, 1st Saturday and Sunday in August, 1911, Elders J. D. Caudill, D. M. Maggard, W. R. Boggs and Hardin Storm.

(3) Clear Creek Church, 3rd Saturday and Sunday in Aug., 1911; Elders Hardin Slone and Noah Adams.

11. Called on brethren appointed last year to attend Union Meetings and Associations to report, some failures reported and excuses received.

12. Came Elder W. R. Boggs and produced letter and file of minutes from Union Association, the messengers having failed to appear and the letter was heartily received.

13. By agreement, the request of our dear old Father in Israel, Elder James Dixon, now in his 86th year and unable to be present on this occasion, our next Association is to be held with Indian Bottom Church, Letcher Co., Ky., commencing on Friday before the 1st Saturday in Oct., 1911, and pursuant to the arrangement of the committee on arrangement of the Committee on Ministry, Elder James D. Caudill is appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon and Elder W. R. Boggs his alternate.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Clerk may supply any omissions which may have been made by oversight.
2. That our Articles of Faith, Constitution, Rules of Decorum and blank form for letter to the Association be reprinted in our Minutes.
3. That we heartily endorse and approve of the 15th item in the Minutes of Saturday's proceedings of New Salem Association, 1909, and that we, too, urgently request all our churches to use their influence to prevent bribery and all other corruption in political or other elections, and advise our churches to deal with any of their members, according to gospel plan, who are guilty of any such or like offenses, either directly or indirectly.
4. That we hereby extend our humble thanks to the citizens of the community for their extreme kindness and hospitality so lavishly extended to us during this session.
5. That we most heartily thank the officers of the law for the interest shown by them in so vigilantly watching for any cause which might lead to disorder.

Adjourned to the time and place of next session.

That good old hymn, "Come now my dear brethren, I bid you farewell," was then feelingly and tearfully sung, after which the Moderator led in the closing prayer.

Done and signed by order of the Association.

ELDER IRA COMBS, MODERATOR.

J. P. ADAMS, CLERK.

THIRD DAY—SUNDAY.

Assembled at an early hour a large and exceedingly well ordered congregation, for which good order and careful attention we would humble thank first the Lord and secondly the people. Elder Hiram Hall opened with appropriate remarks, and the congregation sang:

"My little flock, I bid adieu;
Our parting is to-day—"

after which he led in prayer. The brethren preached in the following order:—1st, Elder Willard S. Akers from Matt. XVII, 8; "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

2nd. Elder L. D. Mosley, from Eph. IV; 4; "Then is one body and one spirit."

3rd. Elder Ira Combs, from Isa. LV; 1-3; "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters - - - and your souls shall live."

Indeed, we were made to feel that we had a foretaste of heaven; the brethren preached in the spirit of tenderest love; and many were the strong men and women, even on the outskirts of the congregation, not so much as claiming any hope in Christ, who were melted down in tears. God Almighty grant the speedy consummation of the good work seemingly working in many a heart on the occasion. Amid flowing tears, tears of sorrow at having to be parted, but of rejoicing in the hope of meeting in that home beyond the river, that precious old hymn, dear to the heart of every christian,

"MY CHRISTIAN FRIENDS IN BONDS OF LOVE,"

was sung, and surely, never a more devoted band of brethren and sisters, took their leave of each other, feeling that indeed it was good for us to have been there.

Humbly,

THE CLERK.

LETTER FORM.

Date..... We, the Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, now in session at.....church.....County, Ky., send greeting, our Christian love and salutations, to the ministers and messengers that may compose the Indian Bottom Association when convened with the.....church.....County, Ky., to commence on Friday before.....Saturday in.....191... and the two following days: Dear brethren, we are glad that

we can correspond with you, and we have chosen these our beloved brethren to bear this, our letter, to you to-wit:.....
 Dear brethren we ask that you receive our letter and these our brethren to sit with you in your advisory council and in all your Godly deliberations, and may your work be such as the Lord will own at his second coming. We are (comment on the prosperity of the church.) Since our last Association we have received by experience and baptism....., by letter....., by recommendation....., restored..... dismissed by letter....., excluded....., died....., total number at present....., contribution to minute fund sent \$..... done and signed by order of the church, Eld..... Moderator;..... church clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

ADOPTED 1907.

Having, by unanimous voice, changed our organization from an Annual Union Meeting to an Association, we therefore propose to keep the order and rules of an Association, according to the following form of government:

1. The Association shall be called Indian Bottom Association.
2. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by different churches in our Union and duly sent to represent them in the Association, who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for that purpose, and producing letters from their churches certifying to their appointment, shall be entitled to a seat.
3. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their number in full fellowship; those baptised; received by letter, recantation, application; dismissed, excluded and deceased since last Association.
4. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any clerical power over the churches; nor shall they infringe on any of the rights of any of the churches in the Union.

5. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

6. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

7. New churches may be admitted into this Union, who shall petition by letter and by delegates, and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

8. Every church in the Union shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

9. Every query presented by a church to the Association, being first debated in their own church, shall come under the consideration of the Association.

10. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the Association, except it be withdrawn by the party who made it.

11. We think it absolutely necessary that we have an Association fund for defraying the expenses of the same; for the raising of which we think it the duty of each church in the Union to contribute such sums voluntarily as they think proper and send it by their delegates to the Association, and the amount so received shall be deposited with the treasurer who shall be responsible to the Association and pay the same out as the Association may direct.

12. There shall be an Association book kept in which the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by the secretary.

13. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

14. Amendments to this plan of government may be made at any time by a majority of the Union, when it may so desire.

15. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with Minutes of the Association. The best method of effecting same shall be determined by the Association.

16. All matters coming before this Association shall be

decided by will of the majority of the members present, except in receiving and dismissing churches and Associations which shall be by a unanimous vote.

17. The Association shall have power to provide for the general union of the churches and to preserve an inviolable chain of communion among the same, giving the churches all necessary advice in matters of church difficulty, inquire into the cause why any church shall have failed to represent itself at any time in the Association; appropriate the money received to any purpose it may think proper; appoint any member or members, by their consent, to transact any business it may think necessary; withdraw from any church in the Union which may violate any of the rules of the Association or deviated from the orthodox principles of religion; admit any orderly minister of our faith and order to a seat in the Association; and adjourn to any future time or place it may deem convenient.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
3. Only one member shall speak at a time, and shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, when he is about to speak.
4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by anyone except the Moderator, until he is done speaking.
5. He shall strictly adhere to his subject, and in no wise reflect on the preceding speaker but shall define his ideas on the proposition for debate so far as he can.
6. No person shall abruptly absent himself from the Association without leave of same.
7. No person shall rise and speak more than three times on any one subject without permission of the Association.

8. No member of the Association shall have liberty to laugh during the sitting of the same, nor to whisper in time of a public speech.

9. No member shall address another in any other name or term than that of Brother.

10. The Moderator shall not interrupt or prohibit a member from speaking, until he gives his views on the subject, unless he shall have violated the Rules of 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 may require.

12. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as another member, provided the chair be filled, but he shall have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in that event he shall give the casting vote.

13. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly violate any of these rules shall be reprimanded by the Association as it may think proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in the one true and living God; and notwithstanding there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet there is but one in substance, equal in power and glory, not to be divided, and impossible to change in principle or practice.

2. We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are the true written words of God, and were given by inspiration of God, and there is a sufficiency in them contained for our instruction, and they are the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin, and that men sinned since the fall are by Nature the Children of Wrath.

4. We believe in the impotency or inability of men to recover themselves out of the state they are in; therefore, a Savior is absolutely needed.

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

6. We believe in the perseverance of the saints; that through Grace they are born again and adopted into the family of heaven: that they become equal with Jesus Christ in glory and that he will raise them up at the last day.

7. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are Gospel Ordinances, and that true believers are proper subjects, and we admit of none others.

8. We believe that the true mode of baptism is by immersion—to baptize a person by their own consent, back-foremost in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a General Judgment where all will be judged according to their deeds done in the body.

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

11. We believe that washing one another's feet is a commandment of Christ, left on record with his disciples and ought to be practiced by his followers.

12. We believe that no one has a right to administer the Gospel Ordinances but such as are legally called and qualified thereunto.

13. We believe it to be the duty of all church members to attend their church meetings, and that it is the duty of the church to deal with them for neglecting the same.

14. We believe it the duty of all church members to contribute for the support of the church by defraying all reasonable expenses of the same, never neglecting the poor according to their several abilities.

15. We believe that any doctrine that goes to encourage or indulge the people in their sins, or cause them to settle down on anything short of saving faith in Christ for salvation, is erroneous, and all such doctrine will be rejected by us.

16. None of the above named articles shall be so construed as to hold with Particular Election and Reprobation so as to make God partial, directly or indirectly, so as to injure the children of men.

17. No one of the above Articles shall be altered without legal notice and free consent.

CLERKS AND ADDRESSES.

Carr's Fork—S. R. Blair, Pine Top, Kentucky.
Poor Fork—_____, _____, Kentucky.
Big Cowan—C. M. Fields, Mandrake, Kentucky.
Clear Creek—R. B. Young, _____, Kentucky.
Oven Fork—W. C. Mullins, Oven Fork, Kentucky.
Mallet Fork—J. B. Smith, Pine Top, Kentucky.
Big Leatherwood—H. G. Pratt, Cornettsville, Kentucky.
Indian Bottom—W. B. Caudill, Jeremiah, Kentucky.
Clover Fork—H. H. Dixon, Leonard, Kentucky.
Kentucky (Mo.)—W. P. Stamper, Goodloe, Missouri.
Corinth—J. P. Caudill, Viper, Kentucky.
Little Zion—J. E. Cornett, Hazard, Kentucky.
