

The One Hundred Sixty-Seventh Annual Session

October 9-10, 2015



Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church

HUNTINGDON, TENNESSEE

*Southwestern District
Missionary Baptist
Association*

www.swdmba.org

2015 MINUTES
OF THE
**ONE HUNDRED SIXTY SEVENTH
ANNUAL SESSION**
**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT
MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**
HELD WITH
**HUNTINGDON
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**
HUNTINGDON, TENNESSEE
OCTOBER 9-10, 2015
THE NEXT MEETING

to be held with Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church in Benton County, Tennessee, beginning on Friday before the second Sunday in October 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

2016 SERMONS

Introductory Sermon -----	Eld. Arzell Douglas
Alternate -----	Bro. Chris Wallace
Doctrinal Sermon -----	Eld. Scott Carter
Alternate -----	Eld. Jeff Simmons

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church History

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and in honor of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, a group of born again Christians banded together and organized Independent Missionary Baptist Church on May 14, 1950. The organizational sermon was preached by Bro. Hersey Hopper and Bro. Elihu Martin prayed the organizational prayer. Sixteen individuals brought letters of recommendation from sister Baptist Churches and presented themselves for membership to form the new church. Those members elected Robert Noles as Pastor of the church pending his ordination.

The name Independent was chosen because we believe that each individual church is autonomous--self-governing--independent of any other organization.

On February 11, 2001, by action of the Church in regular business session, the name "Independent" was changed to "Huntingdon".

Church Officers

Bro. Lynn Stapleton ----- Pastor
Bro. Ray Smith ----- Clerk
Dr. Lee Carter----- Asst. Clerk
Bro. Harold Webb----- Treasurer
Bro. Tommy Crews ----- Asst. Treasurer

Deacons:

Bro. Tommy Crews
Bro. Steve Edwards
Bro. Thomas Moody
Bro. Donald Parish
Bro. Kenny Rush
Bro. Ray Smith
Bro. Harold Webb
Bro. James Webb
Bro. Mitchell Whitworth

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Order of Business

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2016

- Call Association to Order
- Appoint Committee on Divine/Hospitality Service
- Appoint Finance Committee
- Appoint Topics Committee for 2016 Session
- Appoint Obituary Recorder
- Reading Of the Rules of Decorum
- Call For Reception of Church Letters
- Call for Petitioning Church Letters
- Roll Call of Messengers
- Elect Moderator, Clerk, and Assistants
- Select Host Church for 2017 Session
- Select Brethren to Preach 2017 Annual Sermons
- Introductory Sermon - 11:00 A.M.
- Call for Correspondence
- Call for Report on *What are the duties of messengers representing their church in the association?* (Bro. Andrew Stokes and Bro. Marcus Rickman)
- Call for Report on *When does a church/member depart from the faith?* (Bro. Ronnie Stewart and Bro. Larry Pritchard)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2016

- Roll Call of Messengers
- Call for report of Finance Committee
- Call for report of Obituary Recorder
- Call for report of Historical Committee
- Call for report on *Being an election year, what are the responsibilities as Christians to the election process (involvement) and to the leaders (those in authority) of our country?* (Bro. Trey Crews and Bro. David Leslie)
- Doctrinal Sermon—11:00 A.M.
- Call for Report of the Topics Committee
- Call for the Report on *In a country that has seen less and less acknowledgement (reverence) for God and his Holy Bible, how do we optimize our opportunities to reverse the trend?* (Bro. Lynn Stapleton and Bro. Donald Parish)
- Call for Report from Associational Missionary
- Report from Missionaries
- Call for New Business
- Reading of the *Vote of Thanks*
- Song and parting hand

Elected Officers for 2015-2016

Moderator		<p>Bro. Ray Smith</p> <p>19950 East Main Street Huntingdon, TN 38344 (731) 986-4717</p>	Huntingdon Church
Assistant Moderator		<p>Eld. Andrew Stokes</p> <p>310 Westport Road Huntingdon, TN 38344 (731) 986-3738</p>	Bible Grove Church
Clerk		<p>Eld. Scott Carter</p> <p>400 Chickasaw Drive Huntingdon, TN 38344 (731) 415-1688 cell clerk@swdmmba.org</p>	Shiloh Church
Assistant Clerk		<p>Eld. Clint Sanders</p> <p>76 Farmington Cove Lexington, TN 38351 (731) 695-3194 mtsclint@tds.net</p>	Pleasant Ridge Church
Associational Missionary		<p>Eld. Dennis Lunsford</p> <p>19990 Hwy 22 North Wildersville, TN 38388 (731) 968-2842</p>	New Cross Roads Church

Friday October 9, 2015

On a sunshiny day, we met at Huntingdon Church for our 167th Annual Session of the Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association.

Bro. Ray Smith, moderator, welcomed everyone and asked for all to be in prayer for this session the next two days. He welcomed those from other churches and welcomed the messengers present and hoped we could come together in prayer and worship. He asked Bro. Johnny Carver, McFerrin Church (Wiseman Association), to lead us in prayer.

The moderator then asked Bro. Donnie Hines, McFerrin Church (Wiseman Association), to lead the congregation in singing and asked Bro. Lee Carter, Huntingdon Church, to play the piano. The congregation stood and sang, "I'm Bound for The Kingdom," and "Take My Hand, Precious Lord."

After a few remarks, he read from I John 3:1-3

The Moderator made the following appointments:

Committee on Divine Service and Hospitality:

The Host Committee of Huntingdon Church. He introduced the pastor of Huntingdon Church, Bro. Lynn Stapleton. Bro. Stapleton gave a heart-felt welcome and told how thankful he was to be here today. He introduced the deacon body: Bros. Ray Smith, Kenny Rush, Harold Webb, Tommy Moody, and Tommy Crews.

Finance Committee:

Bro. Johnny Sanders – Bible Grove Church
Bro. Larry Pritchard – Shiloh Church
Bro. Dennis Lunsford – New Cross Roads Church

2015 Topic Committee:

Bro. Clint Sanders (Chairman) – Pleasant Ridge Church
Bro. Randy Thompson – Cross Roads Church
Bro. Lynn Stapleton – Huntingdon Church

Obituary Recorder:

Bro. Bryan Oakes – Bethel Church

The moderator then asked for the clerk to read the *Rules of Decorum*.

Call was made for the reception of Church letters. Call was made for any petitioning church letters, with none coming forth. Roll call of messengers was made. **Motion and second** was made to seat 44 messengers; **motion carried**.

The association then moved in to the election process.

Bro. Ray Smith, Huntingdon Church, was nominated as Moderator. **Motion and second** was made that nominations cease and elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

Bro. Ray Smith assumed the role as the permanent moderator.

Bro. Andrew Stokes, Bible Grove Church, was nominated as Assistant Moderator, and being the only one nominated, a **motion and second** was made to elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

Bro. Scott Carter, Shiloh Church, was nominated as Clerk, and being the only one nominated, a **motion and second** was made to elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

Bro. Clint Sanders, Pleasant Ridge Church, was nominated as Assistant Clerk, and being the only one nominated, a **motion and second** was made to elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

Five Churches requested the Association to meet with them for the 2016 session. A **motion and second** was made to select Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church in Benton County as the host site; **motion carried.**

Bro. Arzell Douglas was nominated to preach the Introductory Sermon, and being the only one nominated, a **motion and second** was made to elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

Bro. Chris Wallace was nominated to be the alternate for the Introductory Sermon, and being the only one nominated, a **motion and second** was made to elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

Bro. Scott Carter was nominated to preach the Doctrinal Sermon and being the only one nominated a **motion and second** was made to elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

Bro. Jeff Simmons was nominated to be the alternate for the Doctrinal Sermon, and being the only one nominated, a **motion and second** was made to elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

With the 11:00 hour near, the moderator asked for a song to be sung while Bro. Trey Crews came to give the introductory sermon. The congregation stood and sang "Won't It Be Wonderful There."

The moderator introduced Bro. Trey Crews as the one selected last year to preach the Introductory Sermon. He told

of knowing Bro. Trey since the day he was born. He told of how Bro. Trey had several generations to attend Huntingdon Church. Bro. Smith told how it reminded him of II Timothy 1:5 and of what a good Christian family Bro. Trey came from. He asked everyone to be in prayer for Bro. Trey as he came to deliver a message from God.

Introductory Sermon

Bro. Trey Crews

Bro. Trey Crews shared how special it was to be here today. After a few opening remarks, he told the title of his sermon was "Zombie Apocalypse." Everyone knows what a zombie is. Earlier when we were voting, it seems like we were a bunch of zombies. His goal this morning was to be uplifting, and more honey than vinegar. We need to be honest with ourselves.



He began with the thought on the body. Bro. Trey read in Matthew 16:18 and told how we are the body of Christ as the church. The scripture states "upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." We know she will struggle, but she will always stand. This does not mean we will not face some causalities, but we will prevail.

He read from Hebrews 2:12 and told how the church had been established and how he was in the midst of them, not a universal body, but a visible body. A doctrine exists about a universal church, and Bro. Trey does not believe in that teaching. The body of Christ is one that is visible and seen today. If the church was an invisible body, then how could they administer the two ordinances?

Bro. Trey read Matthew 18:15 -18 and asked how could someone go to the church if it was invisible. He felt that the churches here today are true churches and have authority. The church is ecclesia, a called out assembly that is local and visible.

He referenced the minutes from last year, and noted how we had 54 additions and 66 losses with a total membership of 2,069. By having 33 baptisms and 66 losses, our churches lost double of what joined our churches. Looking at this data, our churches would become extinct in a little over 60 years. He read those numbers to help us see the urgency of the times we live.

Before we get in a zombie state, we need to check ourselves. Is there a pulse there (and be honest)? Are we in a zombie state-walking dead? He referenced the book The Autopsy of the Dying Church. He told how it talks about a healthy church, symptoms of sickness in the churches, very sick churches, and dying (eternally ill) churches. With God all things are possible, but the problem with the dying churches is the fact they were in denial about the fact they were dying. Before the body gets to the zombie state, we must have check-ups. We need to check the pulse of each of our churches and see if there is a pulse. Our churches do not need to be naïve or hypocritical and just going through the motions of church.

He read from Revelations 3 and talked about three churches of Asia (visible, local bodies). He talked about the church at Sardis and how they were dead. As we check our pulses, his prayer was that we would all find ourselves being like the church of Philadelphia. The church of Smyrna was a church that was suffering. When the church was persecuted and became uncomfortable and out of their comfort zone, then they were on fire and the gospel was spread. The last church, Laodicea church, is the phase of the church we are in today. This was a church that was lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. The scripture states, "I will spue thee out of my mouth." Thinking about the Laodicean church, does this scare you in the day we live in? They were located in a valley with easy travel. In that city was a manufacturer of black wool for clothing, and close by was a school of medicine that was known for eye salve used to heal eye sight. They had lots of traffic, and a wealthy city. Considering these facts about the Laodicean Church and the necessities we have available today, are we lukewarm? We must be born again-be alive and not dead.

Bro. Trey then stated that after you have checked the pulse, you must make a diagnosis and treatment. He read from Proverbs 29:18 and spoke of where there is no vision, the people perish. The church needs to have a vision. What is our vision? What is our purpose? The dying church would be a church that was living in "the good old days." Are we living in what is behind, or what is ahead? We must look forward and not back-finish strong. Our strength is in Jesus and he is our antidote.

He had on his heart that we need to be willing to hold on to sound doctrine, but be willing to change traditions. As his

children, we need to discern the will of God. We often tell ourselves, "This is what I want" instead of saying, "what does God want." Sometimes it feels better to hold on to the things and the devil uses this against us. The true gospel message does not change. The way or how we deliver it, may change. As preachers and pastors, we need to realize the world we live in is getting smarter and smarter. We cannot always stand and deliver the milk of the work, but also the meat to satisfy our members. We must compel them to come in to hear the gospel.

The vision or mission we need to have comes from Matthew 28:19, the Great Commission, and how we are told to go. We must be willing to move and be active. We cannot sit still and be comfortable, we must go. Sometimes, we as Christians do not have a vision. Whose fault is that? We must go, teach all nations, baptize them, and observe all things. This great commission makes us get out of our comfort zone and trust in him; he will be with you always.

Missionary Baptist churches, are you listening? We need to understand that we hold the truth, and we should not be afraid to go out and share it to this world. The Creator is on our side so go ye therefore and sell our product. We must be urgent because Jesus is coming soon. Check your pulse. Are we passionate about the cause? Are we experiencing gradual change, and it is catching us not prepared? Be the church in Philadelphia. Bro. Trey referenced the recent movie "War Room." Our lives should be as in the movie where we enter our "War Room" - closet to be earnest in prayer. We should pray about meaningful things and talk to God.

In John 6:60-69, Jesus was talking about tough topics. The multitude that had been following Jesus only followed him until it got hard. Are you a zombie or walking dead and not really active for the cause of Christ? Are people offended at being called "zombies?" When it gets hard, do our church members just want to move on? Any members today want to go to other churches where the "grass is greener?" Jesus asked the twelve if they too would go away (John 6:67). Don't be like Peter and deny Christ. Stand strong and be like Peter in John 6:68 "Lord, to whom shall we go?" We must check our pulse and have a strong heart. Truth (antidote) is in front of us, and it is Jesus. We must wake up and realize the urgency; he could come any day. Be willing to share our beliefs outwardly in the

community and to all nations but do not forget local mission field. We must examine ourselves. It is good to be a child of God.

Scripture tells us to suffer persecution for His name sake not tradition sake. Our tasks may seem large, but may we always know that God is bigger.

After a few closing remarks, Bro. Trey turned the service back over to the moderator.

The moderator called for a song so we could give the right hand of Christian fellowship to Bro. Trey.

Motion and second was made to dismiss one hour for lunch; **motion carried.** The moderator asked Bro. Billy Moran, Fairview Memorial Church (Siloam Association), to dismiss the morning session and to ask the blessing on the food.

Friday Afternoon

Bro. Smith welcomed everyone back from lunch and asked Bro. Johnny Sanders, Bible Grove Church, to lead us with a song with Bro. Lee Carter, Huntingdon Church, playing the piano. The congregation began the afternoon session by singing "Jesus Hold My Hand." The moderator called on Bro. Ronnie Stewart, Rushing Creek Church, to lead us in prayer.

The moderator opened the afternoon session by reading Colossians 3:12-17.

The moderator asked for a song to take up the annual offering for the Associational Missionary. We stood and sang "Victory In Jesus."

The moderator called for the **Associational Missionary Report**

Bro. Dennis Lunsford told how thankful he was for the messengers putting their confidence in him this past year. He told how he was privileged to visit each association church this past year on more than one occasion. He also told how he was able to visit the Wiseman Association and Siloam Association.

As Associational Missionary, he traveled approximately 4,000 miles and received offerings of approximately \$1,100. He expressed that he did not have any intentions to receive any money for his labors.

Motion and second was made to elect Bro. Dennis Lunsford as the Associational Missionary for another year; **motion carried.**

The moderator gave Bro. Rick Jones an opportunity to speak since he would not be present on Saturday to give a missions report. Since being authorized to begin the work in Jamaica, he told how many present had supported the work in Jamaica. He told how this past summer Craighead Church ordained their first Jamaican pastor. Bro. Jones also told about a young man that had been after him to come to Nassau Bahamas and do a work there. Bro. Jones told how the Lord opened the door this past August. He told about the doors that were opened, and for the desire he has to return to the island soon.

The Clerk read correspondence from the Siloam Association, Wiseman Association, and Big Bear Creek Association. **Motion and second** was made to include these in our minutes; **motion carried.**

Motion and second was made to give the chairman 10 minutes for discussion and the assistant 5 minutes; **motion carried.**

The moderator called for the report on **Characteristics of Effective Church Membership.**

According to our doctrine and faith, the only thing that is required for you to become a church member is to be a baptized believer. Upon giving your personal testimony of salvation, you are baptized by the authority of the local church body to which you are joining. There is much to be said about and a great deal to gain from discussing personal salvation and proper baptism. However, this report is about the characteristics of “effective” church membership. All our churches have a frustratingly large number of people with their names on our books that we would have a difficult time admitting were “effective” members. With that thought, there are also many things that can be discussed on how ‘not’ to be an effective church member. For the sake of brevity and clarity, we will focus on seven traits of an effective church member and what the Bible tells us in that regard.

The first and most obvious characteristic of an effective church member would be regular attendance. In my opinion,

this would be the minimum effort of an effective church member. However, you could also consider it the foundation to which the other traits can rest more firmly. Regular attendance puts the church member right where they need to be in order to be most effective. No company has ever increased its profits by having all its employees stay home from work. No school has ever increased test scores by increasing the absences of the students and teachers. Being in regular attendance makes you a reliable and beneficial part of the church. Where two or three are gathered, He will be in the midst. But, how much more can He accomplish if everybody showed up. There is a great comfort in being reliable. The church needs people there and the most effective church members are on the pew Sunday after Sunday, service after service. The greatest compliment I've ever heard towards a church member was, "She's there every time the doors are open." The benefits to your soul and your relationship with God are innumerable. The benefit to the church of a regularly attending member is truly the foundation of effective church membership. (*Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 18:20*)

The second trait of an effective church member is to actively serve the church. We all have something to contribute. We don't all preach and teach, but we can all say 'amen' and study the Sunday school lesson to be ready to contribute to the class. Saying 'amen' to a Baptist preacher in the pulpit is like siccing a coon dog. Pastors preach harder when they see the congregation is listening and engaged. Teachers are encouraged when they hear feedback and discussion on the topic. Song leaders do a much better job when everyone in the house is lifting their voice to God. There are many other tasks that can be accomplished from a willing church member. Just a handful of good examples are: cleaning the church, taking care of the regular maintenance of the building, sending out sympathy cards, bringing food to church meals, keeping an eye out for people that miss and checking on them, managing the sound system, keeping the parking lot clean, or even just greeting people at the door. An effective church member is willing to do whatever they have the ability to do to serve the church, whether it's a big job or a small one. One of the most powerful things an effective church member can do to bless the church body is help with visitation. Every church has only one pastor. He can't be everywhere and pastors have families, too.

Deacons can help with this, but every member represents the church. An effective church member can run out to the hospital, stop by the home of a widow or pick up the phone just as easily as the next person. How many times has someone complained that their church wasn't doing something when that very person had the ability to do exactly what they wanted to see done? (*1 Corinthians 12:12-29; James 1:25-27*)

The third trait of an effective church member is to help the church grow. There were three thousand souls saved on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit did not look at that as a finish line goal and let the new members just sit back and relax. By the leadership of God, those new members immediately spread the Gospel to their friends, relatives and neighbors. As the Spirit moved, others were touched by the Word of God and "...the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (*Acts 2:47*) An effective church member still seeks to add to the church. They will invite their friends and family to attend and tell them exactly why they would benefit from being there. Sometimes it takes a great deal of courage just to ask someone to come to church. But, the best way to get someone to actually make the effort to come is to give them a great reason to do so. People are more inclined to visit a church that has happy members that can't stop talking about how great it is to be there every Sunday. It's okay to talk about your pastor behind his back, if you're telling your neighbor how great he is. Spread all the gossip you want about how your Sunday school class is the happiest time you experience your whole week. You can be forgiven for bragging about how your church has the best congregational singing that you've ever heard. Pastors come and go. If a person visits a church because of the preacher, what will they do when the Lord carries that man away? Permanent growth in a church comes from effective church members bringing people in and establishing a relationship with them that is lasting. (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

The fourth trait of an effective church member is to represent the church well in the community. Done well, this can be a great benefit to the previous trait of growing the church. We have all heard many times that every member represents the church. The most effective church members live their lives in such a way that it gives the church a wonderful reputation by association. We can discuss at length the teachings of Christ that should govern our behavior and attitude. An effective

church member will seek to live for the Lord, abstain from sinful behavior and let their light so shine before their neighbors that they might be a beacon pointing the sinner to their church. Sadly, one of the main excuses people use to not attend church is the character of the ones that do attend. An effective church member will not be someone's excuse to avoid church. An effective church member will lead a life that causes others to say, "I'd love to sit on a pew with that guy." (*1 Corinthians 5:9-13*)

This next trait may be the least popular to mention. The fifth trait of an effective church member is to contribute to the finances of the church. This is a separate topic on the schedule this year, so there's no need to discuss it in detail. However, it must be noted that an effective church member recognizes the financial need of their church and contributes as much as they possibly can. Tithes and offerings are taught throughout the Old & New Testament. It is obvious that a church must have money to accomplish its work. Not only does the light bill have to be paid, churches have to be ready to fly to the relief of its members and neighbors in need. The only way the church can be equipped financially is with the contributions of its members. In the days after Pentecost when the church was growing rapidly and the Spirit of God was moving unimpeded in the hearts of God's people, they saw clearly that their worldly possessions served the whole of the body of Christ greater than keeping them to themselves. Ananias & Sapphira were church members, too. Their greed destroyed them and they couldn't take their money with them. (*Luke 11:42; Acts 4:31-5:11*)

The sixth trait of an effective church member is to actively participate in the church business meetings. It would seem that this trait would be covered by the first mentioned trait of regular attendance. Unfortunately, some members will faithfully attend every church service except the business meeting. For churches that have their business meeting after morning worship, there are a significant number of members that will get up and leave, but would be happy to stay if there was a meal. If the business meeting is at a separate time, it can be almost impossible to get some to return for it. One of the unique qualities of a Baptist church is that we have a congregational form of government. Every member can vote and every vote matters. The government of our nation was based in part upon the concept of Baptist church government. If there's only a small number of

members that are willing to attend the business meeting, the church is ruled by a committee by default. The most effective members are at the business meeting, staying informed, contributing their helpful opinions, and helping the church to decide matters based on collective wisdom and thoughtful consideration. All too often, business meetings become the most stressful time we spend in church. They don't have to be. An effective member not only interjects their own opinion, but they respect the opinion of their fellow members. Everyone votes their heart and conscience, but if you lose the vote you still support the church and the work trying to be accomplished. The most effective church members can vote differently and still love and respect each other after the votes are counted and the meeting adjourned. How can we ever expect Congress to get along if we can't even cooperate in the Lord's house? (*1 Corinthians 6:11; Matthew 18:15-22*)

The seventh & last trait to discuss may very well be the most important. An effective church member will contribute spiritually to the church. There are many different ways this can be accomplished. An effective church member will be familiar with the doctrine and faith of the church to which they belong. They will hold this faith securely in their heart and be ready to defend it with scripture and truth. An effective church member will not be satisfied with the milk or basic principles of their doctrine. They will seek to grow in God's word and be ready for the strong meat that will nourish them spiritually. Another spiritual contribution that can be made is to be a peaceful and prayerful member full of praise for God. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (*James 5:16*) The member who comes to church praying adds great blessings to the service. An effective church member prays not only for the pastor and church officers, but prays for every member, for the sick & hurting, for the lost and for the glory of God. (*Hebrews 10:23-25; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34*)

All of us can think of someone in our church that fits some or all of these traits. The most notable part of this report, though, is that every one of us is capable of every trait discussed. How much better would our churches be with more effective church members? How far might the Gospel spread if our churches only had more effective members? How much better could our communities be if more believers sought to not just be a member, but to be an effective member of Christ's

church?

Humbly submitted,
Andrew Stokes
Jerry Dodd

The topic **Characteristics of Effective Church Membership** was read, adopted and spoken to by Brothers Andrew Stokes, David Leslie (Bro. Jerry Dodd was unable to help/attend due to health).

The moderator then called for the report on **Financing the Lord's Work**.

Financing the Lord's Work

2015 Southwestern District Association of Missionary Baptist Churches

We, your committee on Financing the Lord's Work are grateful to be attending this, the one hundred sixty seventh session of the Southwestern District Association of Missionary Baptist Churches. Through the years, Financing the Lord's Work has been a topic often repeated. In the beginning years of this association, this subject was repeated from year to year without interruption. And while we may have made modest gains in our understanding of the subject, doubtless it is of great concern to us because of its frequent appearance.

The Barna Research group has been conducting research surveys of Christian trends and activities since 1984. In their recent survey on tithing conducted in 2007 the following statistics were gathered:

84% of all adults (religious or not) contributed to a church or non-profit organization.

Of that 84%, Christians were overwhelmingly the most generous.

Among all born again Christians, only 9% practiced tithing.

Among Evangelicals, 24% were giving tithes.

12% of Conservatives and 11% of Charismatics reported tithing.

It is well known among us, that tithing is a hotly debated biblical doctrine. While some argue that it is only applicable to the Old Testament economy of Judaism, others insist that it is to be practiced by the New Testament Churches of Jesus

Christ. This age old debate will likely never be settled, but it is apparent that the recommended “free-will giving” or “giving as one purposes in his heart” is leaving churches and ministers in want of necessary financial resources.

The record of Israel’s giving to build the Tabernacle is thrilling. Especially when Moses and Aaron asked them to stop giving because they had more than enough to complete the most magnificent tent ever imagined. Equally thrilling, is the record of King David’s provisions for a temple his son, Solomon would later build. In today’s money, David set aside billions of dollars in gold and silver to build the most expensive building for its size ever built. In contrast, it is disturbing that the Old Testament ends with an indictment upon Israel for robbing God. Their captivity in Babylon was because of idolatry, but the seventy year duration was exactly in proportion to their robbing God for four hundred and ninety years of His Sabbath rest.

God in the beginning gave man dominion, oversight over the earth and all that is in it. None would argue that we are to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Jesus tell us to whom much is given much shall be required. The church Jesus built has been entrusted to us in the very same way and to be good stewards we are responsible to preach the word and reach the world. That cannot be accomplished without the generous giving of men and women who have an overflowing gratitude for all that God has done for them.

As Missionary Baptists, we are forced to rely on public schools to educate our young children, and colleges and universities that are increasingly more humanistic, ungodly and wicked for their further education. We have consigned our children’s education to the secular world and subjected them to the influence of the world and wonder why we are losing our youth.

In these two thousand years since Jesus commanded the church to go into all the world and preach the gospel we have not recognized that ministry should be our first and full time priority. Missionary Baptists are between a rock and a hard place because Ministers are reluctant to preach tithing for fear that it appears self serving, and church members fail to practice tithing because they have not been properly taught their responsibility to do it.

While the debate over what is the Scriptural way to fi-

nance the Lord's work continues without agreement, human reason fails to find a more logical and fair way to support the church and the ministry other than tithing. Under this biblical system the rich and poor are on level ground. It is no more difficult for the one who has little to tithe on so little as it is for the one who has so much to tithe on so great a sum. And for those who by faith trust in the Lord to practice tithing, both rich and poor stand as equals in doing their fair share.

Proverbs 3:9 & 10 says, "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." These are Old Testament Scriptures, but their significance and their promises are still valid today.

In the New Testament we read the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:17-19, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" In Luke 6:38 Jesus said, "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure ye mete withal shall it be measured to you again." The Apostle, John said in 1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

In 2 Thess 3:8 the Apostle Paul prided himself for making his own way in the ministry and not being chargeable to any man. But this same faithful servant of God, referring to the ministry said in 1 Cor 9:14, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." Every believer is responsible to support the ministry and we can only imagine what more the ministry and the church could do if more than 24% of the Lord's people believed in and practiced tithing.

The topic **Financing the Lords Work** was read, adopted,

and spoken to by Brothers Lynn Stapleton, Clint Sanders, Ray Smith, Andrew Stokes, and Ronnie Stewart.

With no other business, **motion and second** was made to adjourn until 10:00 a.m. Saturday; **motion carried.**

The moderator then asked for any announcements before asking Bro. Bob Vanderpool, Mt. Lebanon Church (Siloam Association), to dismiss us in prayer.

Saturday, October 10, 2015

In accordance to adjournment on Friday afternoon, we reconvened at 10:00 a.m. to continue the 167th annual session of the Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association. The moderator welcomed everyone back to the second day of the association and hoped that everyone had an enjoyable time so far. In accordance of the Rules of Decorum, we opened the session in prayer led by Bro. Randy Thompson, Cross Roads Church.

The congregation began with singing “In The Sweet Forever” and “I’ll Live On” led by Bro. Harold Eubanks, Huntingdon Church, with Bro. Lee Carter, Huntingdon Church, playing the piano.

Bro. Smith read from I Thessalonians 5:12-24. The moderator took a moment to acknowledge the passing of Bro. Marshall Gurley. Bro. Gurley was often present at our meetings and will be missed by the churches throughout the association.

Roll call of messengers were made. **Motion and second** was made to seat the 43 messengers present; **motion carried.**

Report from the Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee reported collections of the Minute Fund of \$1,991.00, and a Clerk Fund of \$1,055.00 giving a total collected of \$3,046.00. The current balance as of October 10, 2015 is \$4,292.00. **Motion and second** was made to approve this report, release the committee and extend our thanks to them for a job well done; **motion carried.** The offering for our Associational Missionary was announced as \$549.

Report from the Obituary Recorder:

Today we want to pause to remember our sainted dead. Brothers and sisters in Christ with whom we have worshiped and served the Lord together, friends and loved ones who have now outstripped us and gone to their Heavenly rewards.

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

These are our brothers and sisters whose work on earth has ended, their mansion has been completed, and God has called them home to be with Him.

Revelation 14:13 - "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Psalms 116:15 - "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

We seldom view death as being precious - But the psalmist here says that the death of a child of God (a born again believer) is precious in the sight of the Lord.

The death of a child of God is precious to God because all suffering ends

Rev. 21:3,4 - "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Can you imagine - no more : pain, suffering, sorrow, sickness, heart-aches, troubles, tribulations, etc. , for the former things are passed away. Many times we have watched as our friends and loved ones suffer and battle with illness and other heart-aches during their life. And I wonder if God doesn't smile as our friends & loved ones heart beats for the last time here on earth and they draw their first breath in heaven never to suffer any more.

Never to be separated any more from His child - We find in II Cor. 5, that Paul teaches us that to be absent from the

body is to be present with the Lord. And Jesus told the disciples, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

The physical death of a child of God is precious to God. I believe that God Himself treasures the arrival of His own like a loving Father who waits expectantly for the reunion with his child. In heaven there will be no more separation, no more goodbyes that will sting our souls a cause grief.

We read of a place that's called Heaven, It's made for the pure and the free; These truths in God's Word He hath given, How beautiful Heaven must be. In Heaven no drooping nor pining, No wishing for elsewhere to be: God's light is forever there shining, How beautiful Heaven must be.

Winston Churchill wanted his funeral done his way, and at the end of it he had planned a little surprise. After the stately hymns and majestic service at St. Paul's Cathedral, after the benediction, he had arranged for a bugler high in the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral on one side to play "Taps," then, after a pause, a bugler on the other side played "Reveille," the signal of a new day beginning. Churchill's message was that it may be "Good night" here, but it is "Good morning" up there!

Prayerfully Submitted:

Bro. Bryan Oakes

Report from Historical Committee:

Not much to report. The committee is focusing on collecting all the minutes back in.

The moderator called for the report on topic ***Importance of the Family and its Contributions to the Local Church***

The Importance of the Family and Its Contributions to the Local Church

We believe that we see the importance of the family as we look back into the Book of Genesis where God created all things in six days and when He had finished, Gen. 1 : 31 - "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

He didn't say that it was okay, or that it was pretty good, but that it was very good. There seems to be a sense of joy and satisfaction over all of His creation. There was light to divide the darkness, land and water, the plant world, the sun, moon, and stars for signs and seasons, birds of the air and fish of the sea, and the animals upon the land and God said that all was

very good.

But when God looked upon His greatest creation, the creation of man, that was created in the image and likeness of God Himself, He said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (Gen. 2:18). It was the absence of the woman or the family that God saw about His creation that was not good, man would be lonely with no one to share his life. And it was the creation of the woman that brings about completeness to both the man and the woman. They complement each other and one is not complete without the other, thus forming the family.

We also want to state that we believe that the only true family that is recognized or sanctioned by God is a union that joins one man and one woman exclusively married to each other as described in the Holy Scriptures.

The Lord's purpose in instituting the family, would not only satisfy the need for human companionship. God had said that it was not good for man to be alone and by creating an help meet that the two husband and wife could spend their lives together. This would not only satisfy the need for companionship, but would also provide a profound environment that godly children could be raised. God told man to be fruitful and multiply at different times (Gen. 1:28; 8:17; 9:7). This commandments reason is so that God fearing children might be raised up. God's command to the children of Israel in **Deuteronomy 6:1-9** applies as much to us today as it did to them then. Paul also said in Ephesians 6:4 - "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Strong's concordance says **nurture** means: the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body. And the word **admonition** means: exhortation.

Therefore we believe that the Bible teaches us that the family is the best environment for raising children, not only because it provides for the children's protection from harmful influences during their development, but should also provide intense instruction in the way of The Lord. We as parents have an obligation to raise up God fearing children and fathers especially as heads of the household or family will be accountable

for failing to do so. And when we raise up God fearing children it will provide a stabilizing unit for all of society, and especially for the Lord's houses of witness (Israel in the Old Testament; and the church in the New Testament).

The family is a foundational institution. And any society is only as strong as the families that make it up and the same is true for the church, it is only as stable, strong, and godly as the families that make up its body. We believe that we can honestly say as the family or home goes, so goes the church, so goes the community, and so goes the nation. This is the main reason there is such an attack by satan to destroy the basic Biblical teaching of the family.

In our Church Covenant, which is an agreement between saved individuals by which they associate themselves into a local church that sets forth their mutual engagements as members of one body. It is here we find in paragraph 1, first an obligation as individuals - that after being saved by grace thru faith, we are to receive scriptural baptism. Thus entering into covenant with other believers of that local church. Then in paragraph 2, there is the promise as Christians - promising to walk together in Christian love - to strive for the advancement of the church in knowledge, holiness and comfort - to promote its prosperity and spirituality - to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines and to contribute cheerfully and regularly.

Then in paragraph 3, the families obligation as church members is found – To maintain family and secret devotions - to religiously educate our children and to seek the salvation of kindred and acquaintances. In paragraph 4, is the relationship of church members to each other and in paragraph 5, the responsibility of a member when leaving a church.

Heb. 10:25 - "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." It is so important for us to come together for worship, to pray together, to rejoice and to encourage one another, to comfort one another during times of sorrow, sickness and reach out to a lost and dying world with the message of hope. As families and especially Christians we should enjoy and look forward to being together at any and every occasion, especially for church - we need each other. The writer here in Hebrews said, "and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." The

Psalmist also said in Psalm 122:1 - "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."

The Christian home or family, is the most important part of life, of the church and also the community. As we said earlier the spiritual climate of a church is determined by the homes or families that make it up. And we can safely say as the family goes - so goes the church, so goes the community, so goes the state, and so goes the country.

A Christian family is a place where Jesus is the most important part of their lives.

A Christian family is a place where there is love. I Cor. 13

A Christian family is a place where the Bible is of utmost importance.

Maybe the question ought to be - What can we do to strengthen the family? That in turn our churches might flourish and be a light in the community.

We believe that the importance of the family to the church in regard to the older or elderly members is extremely important. Their contribution to the church of their wisdom and knowledge and experience of life and church life and practices (Titus 2:1-6).

We also find the importance of the family in its financial contributions to the Local church. The church depends on the financial support of its members or families. Tithing to the church is not preached or taught as it once was. Incomes are cyclical over the lifetime of members. The generation that grew up understanding the concept of tithing is now older and not making the income they did in their prime. They still "tithed" but the amount has changed. Many of the younger generation don't practice "tithing." The church cannot and will not survive (financially) if this continues. The local church needs each generation to understand the importance of giving to the church in proportion to the Lord's blessings. And we know that there are many scriptures in the Bible on giving to the Lord.

We can also see the importance of the young people, the young families, to the local church. Our churches need the "energy" of young families to contribute to the church. Many of the programs (VBS, Christmas programs, Fall festivals, etc.) and also maintenance issues about the church need the contributions of our younger members to not only bring their families, but to assist and direct or coordinate these activities.

In closing, we believe that the family is of utmost im-

portance to the local church and we need to raise up Christian families that will in turn strengthen our churches. Men, women, boy and girls indoctrinated in the truth, sound in the faith and ready and willing to stand for The Lord. What we are trying to emphasize is that it takes all ages and stages of families to build a successful church. They are all important and all serve unique and important roles depending on whether they are physical and also scriptural responsibilities. Without godly, God fearing children were will our churches be tomorrow? They are the future.

Prayerfully and Humbly Submitted

Elder Bryan Oakes
Elder Truman Hedges
Elder Randy Thompson

The topic ***Importance of the Family and its Contributions to the Local Church*** was read by Bro. Bryan Oakes. **Motion and second** was made to adopt the report; **motion carried.**

With the 11:00 hour approaching, the moderator called for a song. The congregation stood and sang "When We All Get to Heaven," lead by Bro. Harold Eubanks with Bro. Lee Carter on the piano.

Doctrinal Sermon

Bro. Josh Parker

Bro. Josh Parker began by telling about his calling to preach and how we should be willing to move forward. He told about a thought he has had for a few weeks, "What Is the True Gospel?" What is it that made people willing to lay down the sacrifice so we might have what we have today?

He read from II Timothy 4:1-5 and told how we must be living in the last of the last days. We as children of God have the responsibility to carry out this gospel to the world. Jesus paid the price, and that message needs to be shared. Why? Because we are running out of time. Bro. Josh said that the time of his coming is drawing near. The gospel is something that should be exciting us and



driving us to tell others about this glorious gospel. He told how people need to hear the gospel, not our opinions, even if they do not want to hear it.

He read from Matthew 3:1 and Matthew 4:17 and reminded us that this is the same message we need to be preaching today. The world needs to hear “repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” His prayer is that we can all say we are prepared to meet the Lord. A sad truth is that not everyone is prepared to meet the Lord.

Bro. Josh read from I Corinthians 15:1-4 and told how it is the same old story for all of his family, and it is a gospel that is good enough for him. He told about this gospel that pricked his heart as a seven year old boy and about the night the Lord took that burden away. He thanked God for the gospel, and the one that the gospel is about: Jesus. Some may think we can live a good enough life, but there is only one way to get to heaven; you must believe and be saved. Bro. Josh ask, “What sets us apart?” It is, we have believed the gospel and in the one who came to give his life. If it were not for Him, we would not have a hope. He stated that believing in Him is the only way and that the gospel is good enough for all.

He turned and read from Romans 3:23-30 and told how much God had done for Him. He knew that God was real for he feels him in his soul. There is nothing that can take away the blood that covered his sins the moment he believed in the gospel and was saved by God’s grace. The hope we have through Jesus is special and is better than anything the world offers. How wonderful it is for us to lay our heads on our pillow knowing that if we never see the sunrise of another day, everything is ok.

Bro. Josh read from Romans 10:13-15 and told us how all God called preachers have that same desire and struggles of preaching the gospel.

What holds the gospel back? It’s not God, it’s not Jesus...it’s us. What about the times we hesitated and were afraid to do what God would bid us to do? Every church present today is facing the same problems. Lets not be so down-trodden by the problems, but look to the solution. May we put on the armour of salvation and go fighting for our Lord. There is coming a day when our work here will be over.

One day we will be there, why? Because what he has done for us.

Bro. Josh continued by telling of how thankful he was for those who had stood and preached the word that reached a sinner like him. This is the same gospel for the rich and the poor. It is the same gospel for all those on this earth. This gospel is for whosoever will believe. His prayer was that each one present had the same hope that he had. We all must be ready when the time comes and trust in the only true gospel.

He knows what he feels in his heart. Bro. Josh then read from Hebrews 7:22-27 and told how Jesus came once, died once, rose once, and one day he is coming back. Jesus came and offered himself once, and another savior is not coming to offer himself instead. There is only one way and that is through Jesus. This may not be what people want to hear, but we must share the Gospel - the same old story, the same gospel for all. What is the Gospel - Jesus!

After a few closing remarks, he turned the service back over to the moderator.

The moderator told how we enjoyed the message. With a few minutes before the lunch hour, the moderator asked Bro. Bryan Oakes to come speak to the topic he read before the Doctrinal Sermon.

The topic ***Importance of the Family and its Contributions to the Local Church*** was spoken to by Brothers Bryan Oakes, Randy Thompson, Ronnie Stewart, David Leslie, Andrew Stokes, Rufus Chandler, Lee Carter, Ray Smith, Trey Crews (after lunch).

The moderator said we would leave the topic open until after lunch.

Motion and second was made to adjourn one hour for lunch; **motion carried.**

He asked for a song and a fellowship handshake with Bro. Josh.

After the handshake he called on Bro. Donald Parish, Huntingdon Church, to lead us in a dismissal prayer and to bless the food.

Saturday Afternoon

We reconvened after a wonderful meal by singing “Everybody Will Be Happy Over There” and “Jesus Paid It All” lead by Bro. Harold Eubanks, Huntingdon Church, with Bro. Lee Carter, Huntingdon Church, playing the piano. Bro. Smith was thankful for the good lunch that had been prepared. He called the session back to order and called on Bro. Clint Sanders, Pleasant Ridge Church, to lead us in prayer.

The moderator read from Philippians 2:5-11

It was time to resume the topic going on before the lunch hour. **The Importance of the Family and Its Contributions to the Local Church** was spoken to by Brother Trey Crews. **Motion and second** was made to pass the topic; **motion carried.**

The moderator then asked for the topic committee to read a list of the topics for the next session.

2016 Session Topics:

- What are the duties of messengers representing their church in the association; Bro. Andrew Stokes and Bro. Marcus Rickman.
- When does a church and or member depart from the faith; Bro. Ronnie Stewart and Bro. Larry Pritchard.
- Being an election year, what are the responsibilities as Christians to the election process (involvement) and to the leaders (those in authority) of our country; Bro. Trey Crews and Bro. David Leslie
- In a country that has seen less and less acknowledgement (reverence) for God and his Holy Bible, how do we optimize our opportunities to reverse the trend; Bro. Lynn Stapleton and Bro. Donald Parish.

Motion and second was made to adopt these topics; **motion carried.**

The moderator called for the topic **Is Sunday School Still Relevant Today?**

Is Sunday School Still Relevant Today?

Is Sunday School still relevant today? To answer this question briefly is not an easy task. Sunday School is important in the spiritual development of Christians because it provides

time for learning. Sunday School sets the stage for a better understanding; it is a comprehensive way of learning from one another and an opportunity to receive encouragement to live by God's Word. Sunday School is also important because it provides additional opportunities in the fellowship of learning. Visitors, children, and church members can get to know one another better in the smaller setting and therefore will develop friendships that will produce a greater commitment to the Church.

Deuteronomy 6:7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

We see from the commandment of our Lord in the above scripture the need to educate our children in the statutes and ways of our God continually, not just once or twice a week. There has never been a greater need for the increased teaching of the truth of God's Word in our society and especially our churches. How many of us can remember when the Missionary Baptist Church over "there" was a strong vibrant church, only to be now reduced to either a small handful of members in attendance or to have completely left the True Gospel of Jesus Christ? These things did not happen overnight. Generally speaking, it has been a slow decline in the teaching of the true doctrines of scripture. Galatians 6:6 "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." The word *communicate*, according to Strong's Concordance, comes from the Greek word *koinōneō*, which literally means *to share with others*. If we as pastors, preachers, deacons, elders, Sunday School teachers and even lay members do not continue to pass on the truths we were taught by our forefathers who will?

We send our children off to a public school system that teaches things that are contrary to the Bible, (no fault of the teachers, fault lies with our federal government). Now we believe a good education is of great importance. However do we stress a good education for the proper reasons? A Literacy Law passed in 1690 in Connecticut stated:

"This [legislature] observing that... there are many persons unable to read the English tongue and thereby incapable to read the holy Word of God or the good laws of this colony... it is ordered that all parents and masters shall cause their respective children and servants, as they are capable, to be

taught to read distinctly the English tongue."

This law and others like it had as one of its goals the ability for its citizens to be able to read The Bible. Religious education was the focus of many of the early colleges and universities. Even the esteemed Harvard University was originally started with the purpose of training clergy.

In the Lifeway training guide, Missionary Sunday School, David Francis referred to an 1888 speech by Henry Clay Trumbull. In an address at Yale University Divinity School, Trumbull argued that "family education" was indeed stronger where Sunday Schools operated effectively. To prove his point, Trumbull cited surveys indicating that students entering the university from upper class families who did not send their kids to Sunday School were far less literate than students from less fortunate families who attended Sunday School. The implication is that Sunday School was an important and essential partner in one's education in the 19th century and it remains so today.

Sunday School is not just for children. One of the best strategies for training parents is adult Sunday School classes. If we intend to prepare the next generation of children to follow Christ faithfully and advance the cause of the Kingdom, the children will need parents who are well trained for this awesome responsibility. The effective adult Sunday School Class is a place where parents and grandparents can learn and then go apply the word of God in their lives. Adults of all ages will need a good understanding of the Holy Bible to encourage them in victories and in the difficult times.

Is Sunday School Still Relevant? We believe it should be of the greatest importance in any true Christian's life. Can we adequately grow our religious education in just thirty to forty-five minutes a week? We believe not. Some churches have Wednesday and Sunday Night Bible Studies that adds additional time for instruction. Yet these times of instruction by a qualified teacher need to be accompanied with a time of personal study by students of all ages. And yes, our Sunday School teachers should be qualified. A teacher should be able to instill a love for God's Word that they themselves possess. Paul admonished Timothy concerning the qualifications of a bishop (pastor) in 1 Timothy 3 to include not being a "novice" and also being "apt to teach" (skillful in teaching). These qualities should be a part of anyone who teaches the Word of God.

We need to be vigilant in the teaching of God's Word to Christians of all ages in order to build and preserve the truths that we know are real. Our Sunday Schools should be the place we train the generation of today and tomorrow for the work of the church in fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After all, "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 (*complete*), thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

If we sincerely desire to see our churches flourish and be that light to a dark and dying world, we need to ensure that the truth is taught to all those who "do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6

Prayerfully submitted,

Bro. David Leslie

Bro. Chris Wallace

The report **Is Sunday School Still Relevant Today** was read, adopted, spoken to by Brothers David Leslie, Chris Wallace, Randy Thompson, Ronnie Stewart, Tony Umstead, Andrew Stokes, Lee Carter, Trey Crews, Lynn Stapleton, Bill Hargrove, Frank Rickman, Ray Smith, and Jim Dungan.

Bro. Andrew Stokes wanted to give a brief report on behalf of Bro. Khrys Paige. He told how he had been here the last few months, but has since gone home. Bro. Stokes told how the mission had paid off the church building. He told of many obstacles Bro. Khrys is facing there, but of his determination to keep pressing on. Sadly, the mission lost the building. Since returning to Trinidad, the mission had seen five saved the previous night and the Lord is working at the mission.

The moderator then called for new business.

New Business:

None at this time

Bro. Clint Sanders asked if the Associational Missionary needed any help in spreading our information. A letter would be formed that would introduce Bro. Dennis Lunsford to other churches. Bro. Clint Sanders was appointed by the moderator to assist in the effort.

Bro. Andrew Stokes mentioned to everyone about the

association website and encouraged everyone to use it.

The moderator then called for the reading of the vote of thanks.

Vote of Thanks

The Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association, its officers, and the messengers of this association wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Huntingdon Church in Carroll County for serving as host for this session. We last met with you in 2006, and it was a pleasure for us to meet with you once again and enjoy sweet fellowship one with another.

We thank God for Bro. Trey Crews and his message “Zombie Apocalypse” and Bro. Josh Parker for his message “What Is The True Gospel” We were again blessed with ministers of the gospel who follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We pray that God will bless them and their families for their continued work in the ministry.

I once again give thanks to the Topic Committee for their selecting the topics and the ones to prepare/present them. May we use this information for the spiritual growth of us all. Thank you for selecting topics that are food to our souls and that make us stronger in the army of the Lord. We are looking forward to hearing the topics next year.

I thank God for those who serve as the Finance Committee, and the Obituary Recorder, and a special thanks to Bro. Clint Sanders for serving as the assistant clerk. These brethren make the work of the Clerk much easier.

May our Moderator and Assistant Moderator receive many blessings from God for their efforts to serve this association.

Our appreciation is offered to the members and friends of Huntingdon Missionary Church for the food provided both days. The food was delicious as always and the efforts of service did not go unnoticed. Again, we see evidence of Christ’s love for us being shown through the efforts of the Church.

As plans are underway for next year’s sessions, may we all pray God’s will be done with us all, as individual church members, as individual churches and as a united group of churches.

Please begin to pray for Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church as she prepares to host the Association next year.

I anxiously await, if it be God's will, the next session and look forward to meeting with all of you as we gather together at Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church for the 168th annual session on October 7-8, 2016 at 10:00 am ready to receive another blessing from the Lord.

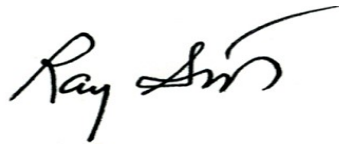
Under His Wings,
Scott Carter, Clerk

Motion and second was made to accept the *Vote of Thanks*; **motion carried.**

Motion and second was made to adjourn until the Friday before the second Sunday in October, 2016; **motion carried.**

The moderator then asked all the ministers present to come up for a fellowship handshake.

We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Charles Connell, New Liberty Church.



Ray Smith, Moderator



Scott Carter, Clerk

Visitors to the 2015 Session

- Bro. and Sis. Larry Martin Higdon
Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Bruceton, TN
- Bro. and Sis. Charles Connell
New Liberty Church, Cedar Grove, TN
- Eld. Billy Moran (Siloam Association)
Fairview Memorial, Bowling Green, KY
- Bro. Wayne Stroud (Siloam Association)
Fairview Memorial, Bowling Green, KY
- Bro. Tony Boyd
Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church, Mixie, TN
- Bro. and Sis. Bob Vanderpool (Siloam Association)
Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church, Alvaton, KY
- Bro. Donnie Hines (Wiseman Association)
McFerrin Missionary Baptist Church, Madison, TN
- Eld. Kenneth Massey (Wiseman Association)
Murfreesboro Missionary Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN
- Eld. Johnny Carver (Wiseman Association)
McFerrin Missionary Baptist Church, Madison, TN
- Eld. and Sis. Rick Jones, Missionary to Jamaica

Messengers for the 167th Annual Session

Bethel:

Friday– Jimmy Allen, Joe Rich, Bryan Oakes

Saturday– Joe Rich, Bryan Oakes

Bible Grove:

Friday– Johnny Sanders, Brian Beecham, Andrew Stokes

Saturday- Johnny Sanders, Melanie Stokes, Andrew Stokes

Caledonia:

Friday– letter only

Saturday– letter only

Center Point:

Friday– Dorothy Abbott, Jenny Moon, Sharon Noles

Saturday- Dorothy Abbott, Jenny Moon, Sharon Noles

Clarksburg:

Friday– Jimmie Hale Jr., LaRue Lindsey

Saturday– LaRue Lindsey

Concord:

Friday–John W. Cole, Rosalind Cole

Saturday– John W. Cole, Dennis Stokes, Josh Parker

Cross Roads:

Friday– Steve Hargrove, Kenny Sherrod, Jim Dungan

Saturday- Steve Hargrove, Kenny Sherrod, Jim Dungan

Huntingdon:

Friday- Lynn Stapleton, Trey Crews, Kenny Rush

Saturday- Lynn Stapleton, Trey Crews, Kenny Rush

Marlsboro:

Friday- letter only

Saturday– letter only

Mixie:

Friday– letter only

Saturday– letter only

New Cross Roads:

Friday– Dennis Lunsford, JoAnn Lunsford

Saturday– Dennis Lunsford, JoAnn Lunsford

New Hope:

Friday– Dale Seagraves, Scott Gallimore

Saturday– Dale Seagraves, Scott Gallimore

New Spring Hill:

Friday– letter only

Saturday– Susan Brown, Laura Hutcherson

Oak Grove :

Friday–Jimmy Wallace, David Leslie, Gennifer Leslie

Saturday–David Leslie, Chris Wallace, Misty Wallace
Old Paths:
 Friday– Vernon Lewelling, Ken Carrington
 Saturday–Vernon Lewelling, Ken Carrington
Pleasant Grove:
 Friday- Chelsey Rickman, Marcus Rickman, Tim Lashlee
 Saturday– Chelsey Rickman, Marcus Rickman, Tim Lashlee
Pleasant Hill:
 Friday- Bill Hargrove, Waymon Umstead, Nita Umstead
 Saturday- Bill Hargrove, Waymon Umstead, Nita Umstead
Pleasant Ridge:
 Friday– Clint Sanders, Kristen Sanders, James Hicks
 Saturday– Clint Sanders, Anthony French, James Hicks
Rushing Creek:
 Friday–Bruce Seaton, Carol Broadway, Ron Stewart
 Saturday– Ron Stewart
Shiloh:
 Friday- Scott Carter, Kim Carter, Larry Pritchard
 Saturday- Scott Carter, Kim Carter, Larry Pritchard
Westport:
 Friday– Brenda Leslie
 Saturday– Brenda Leslie

Financial Statement
2015 Minute Fund

BALANCE OCTOBER 11, 2014----- \$ 3,513.04

EXPENDITURES:

First Bank (lock box) ----- \$ 60.00
 Peterson Printing (printing of minutes) ----- \$ 1,045.00
 National Audio (CD's) ----- \$ 106.18

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Minute Fund 2015 ----- \$ 1,991.00

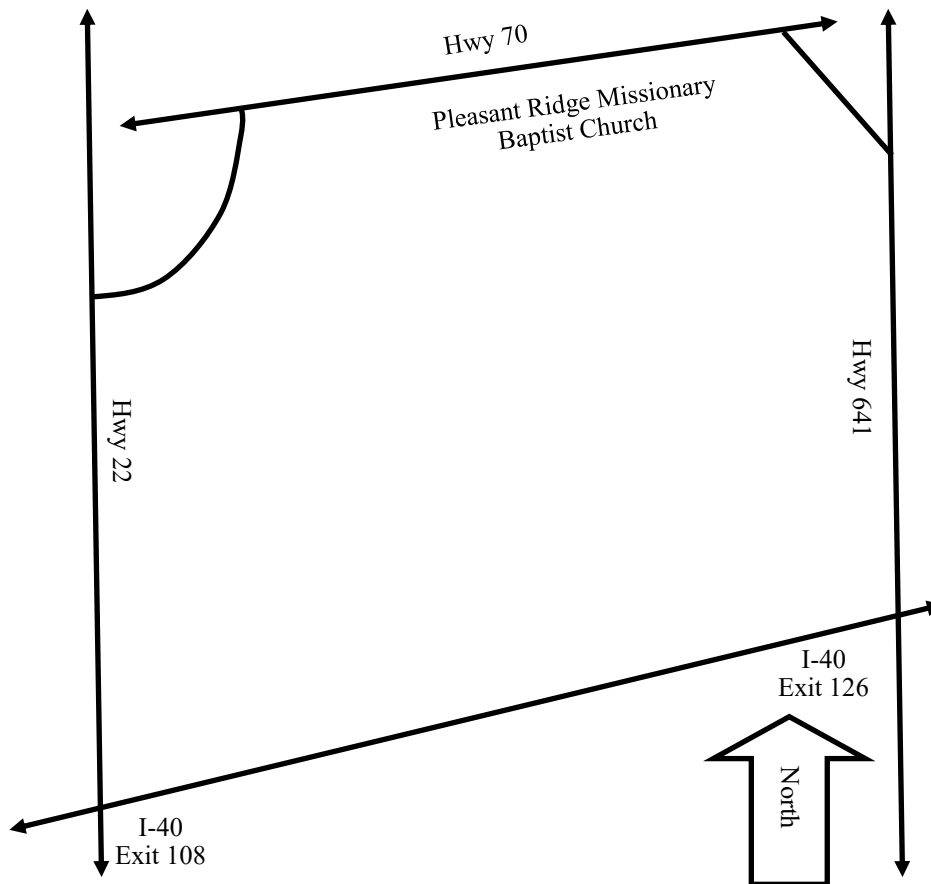
BALANCE OCTOBER 10, 2015----- \$ 4,292.00

Clerk Contributions ----- \$ 1,055.00
 Associational Missionary Offering ----- \$ 549.00

Submitted by:
 Bro. Larry Pritchard – Shiloh Church
 Bro. Dennis Lunsford – New Cross Roads Church
 Bro. Johnny Sanders – Bible Grove Church

Direction to 2016 Session

- ⇒ From I-40, take Exit 126 (Camden) or Exit 108 (Huntingdon).
- ⇒ Upon entering Camden/Huntingdon, take Hwy 70.
- ⇒ The church is located on the South side of the road.
- * ***5745 Hwy 70 W, Camden, TN 38320***



Correspondence

Wiseman Baptist Association

Scott Carter, Clerk
Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association

December 10, 2014

Greetings from the churches of the Wiseman Baptist Association. We pray that the Lord has blessed you richly this past year with many lives being changed by the glorious power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We were greatly blessed by the Lord during our one hundred twenty third annual session, which was held at Three Springs Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Nine churches reported 130 additions in the past year, with 50 being by baptism and a total membership of 1,932.

We would like to extend a warm invitation to you to join us for our one hundred twenty fourth annual session which will begin at 10:00 AM on October 23rd at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church at the corner of Martin Creek Rd and Highway 56 in Bloomington Springs, Tennessee.

Brother Brian Johnson is scheduled to preach the introductory sermon on Friday morning, and Brother David Woodard is scheduled to preach the doctrinal sermon on Saturday morning. Please make your plans to attend.

In Christ's love,

Jeremy Wilson, Clerk
1119 Bennington Place Franklin, KY 42134
(270) 791-0309
jeremywilson@msn.com

BIG BEAR CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

**Keith L. Hood - Clerk
428 Rainbow Drive
Double Springs, AL 35553
(256)318-0589**

December 27, 2014

Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association:

We trust everything is going well with you and your lost are being saved. We also trust God is continuing to bless you.

This past October, we convened for the One Hundred Seventy-Ninth Annual Session with Alva Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. We had 19 churches reporting an increase of 39 with 11 of those being by baptism. We had a decrease of 34 with a total membership of 1,775. We still need to see many souls saved for the Lord.

We are truly thankful for the visitors that were able to be with us. We invite each one to join us for the 180th Annual Session to be held with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Franklin County, Alabama. The church is located east of Russellville, Alabama, on Highway 48. This session will be held October 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2015. The service Saturday morning will begin at 11:00 a.m.

In Christ's love,



Keith L. Hood, Clerk

Johnny Hood - Moderator
11630 County Road 7
Moulton, AL 35650

Billy Myrick - Vice Moderator
202 W. Douglas Street
Sheffield, AL 35660

Siloam Missionary Baptist Association

December 16, 2014

Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association
Brother Scott Carter

Greetings:

With this year drawing to an end, we want to thank the Lord for the good news of souls that were saved and all the blessings He so graciously has given to the churches in your association.

The churches of the Siloam Association met the Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 2014 at Old Union Missionary Baptist Church for its sixty-second annual session. The Lord blessed each time we met with an out-flowing of His spirit. We thank the Lord for all that were saved and those who joined the churches that make up the Siloam Association.

We invite you to come and fellowship with the Siloam Association as we meet for the sixty-third session at Mount Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church located at 3400 Mount Lebanon Church Road Alvaton, KY beginning at 10:00 a.m. Friday October 2, 2015. Elder Todd Fugate is scheduled to preach the introductory sermon Friday morning and Elder Cary Kemp is scheduled to preach the memorial sermon Friday night. Elder Jerry Miller is scheduled to preach the doctrinal sermon Saturday morning.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless all of His churches and that His word will go out to the lost people of this world and many will be saved.

Your Brother in Christ

Elder Roger Carter, Clerk
Siloam Missionary Baptist Association
1434 Alvaton Greenhill Road
Bowling Green, KY 42103
(270)781-7852
carterroger@hotmail.com

Licensed Ministers

Adams, David, Oak Grove -----731-845-6314
 195 Garnertown Lane, Huron, TN 38345

Beecham, Brian, Bible Grove -----731-614-3287
 5555 Darden-Christian Chapel Road, Darden, TN 38328

Hale, Joe, Clarksburg-----731-968-5298
 22790 Hwy 22 N, Yuma, TN 38390

Joyner, John, New Cross Roads -----731-986-9764
 127 5th Avenue, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Rogers, Levi, Oak Grove -----731-602-1877
 1068 Cody Hill Road, Wildersville, TN 38388

Wallace, Chris, Oak Grove -----731-614-0662
 19830 Hwy 104S, Lexington, TN 38351

Ordained Ministers

Allen, Adam, Huntingdon-----731-986-6084
 116 Cedar Tree Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Ambrose, Harvey, Old Paths
 Alaska

Birdwell, Bernice, Pleasant Hill -----731-987-2790
 3130 New Bethel Road, Cedar Grove, TN 38321

Butler, Michael, Clarksburg -----731-733-1583
 88 Cub Creek Hall Road, Parsons, TN 38363

Carter, Scott D., Shiloh-----731-415-1688
 400 Chickasaw Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Chandler, Rufus, Mixie-----731-986-4227
 47 Wendy Lane, Yuma, TN 38390

Crews, Trey, Huntingdon -----731-415-4745
 45 Hwy 22 N, Yuma, TN 38390

Dodd, Jerry, Westport-----731-987-2698
 1600 Griggs Chapel Road, Cedar Grove, TN 38321

Douglas, Arzelle, Cross Roads -----731-584-8027
 587 Crossroads Church Road, Camden, TN 38320

Hale, Jimmie, Jr., Clarksburg-----731-968-5298
 22790 Hwy 22 N, Yuma, TN 38390

Hedges, Truman, Cross Roads-----731-584-7875
 620 Jacqueline Circle, Camden, TN 38320

Hilliard, Billy Joe, Center Point -----731-586-4671
 360 Ellis Road, Buena Vista, TN 38318

Hollingshead, Kevin, Huntingdon-----731-986-0586
 880 Roan Creek Road, Yuma, TN 38390

Holt, Jim, Caledonia -----731-986-9374
 820 Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344
Hopper, Jack, Marlsboro -----731-586-7902
 100 Hemlock, Bruceton, TN 38317
Jones, Greg, Westport -----731-614-5118
 117 Lindsey Lane, Lexington, TN 38351
Leslie, David, Oak Grove -----731-845-3859
 1118 Crazy Doe Road, Lexington, TN 38351
Lunsford, Dennis, New Cross Roads -----731-968-2842
 19990 Hwy. 22 N, Wildersville, TN 38388
McDaniel, Tracy, New Cross Roads -----731-819-3545
 630 Stafford Store Road, Greenfield, TN 38230
Oakes, Bryan, Bethel-----731-986-2347
 955 Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344
Owen, Wendell, Marlsboro -----931-209-4769
 Henry, TN
Parker, Joshua, Concord-----731-614-0379
 32365 Hwy 104S (P.O. Box 232), Reagan, TN 38368
Rayburn, Mitchell, Cross Roads -----731-584-8255
 Camden Healthcare Facility
Rahn, Allan, Bethel-----618-524-9865
 2785 North Avenue, Metropolis, IL 62960
Reynolds, Ryne, Bible Grove-----731-614-2473
 8 Birdsong Lane, Lexington, TN 38351
Sanders, Clint, Pleasant Ridge-----731-695-3194
 76 Farmington Cove, Lexington, TN 38351
Severance, James, Marlsboro -----731-586-3502
 197 Pine Street N, Bruceton, TN 38317
Seville, Ralph, Old Paths
 California
Simmons, Jeff, Pleasant Hill-----731-845-4710
 129 Windy Ridge Lane, Lexington, TN 38351
Stapleton, Lynn, Huntingdon -----731-986-2413
 106 Oak Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344
Stewart, Ron, Rushing Creek -----615-394-0314
 1327 Cedar Drive, Camden, TN 38320
Stokes, Andrew, Bible Grove-----731-986-3738
 310 Westport Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344
Thompson, Randy, Cross Roads -----731-441-1729
 211 Arnold Drive, Camden, TN 38320
Woods, Randall, Old Paths -----731-968-7544
 17180 Natchez Trace Road, Lexington, TN 38351

Church Directory

- BETHEL-** 65 Bethel Church Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344
 P.O. Box 1012, Huntingdon, TN 38344
 PASTOR-Bryan Oakes -----731-986-2347
 955 Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344
 CLERK-Jeff Carter-----731-986-5496
 c/o Bethel Church P.O. Box 1012, Huntingdon, TN 38344
- BIBLE GROVE (Est. 1877)**
 5365 Bible Grove Road, Lexington, TN 38351
 PASTOR– Andrew Stokes -----731-986-3738
 310 Westport Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344
 CLERK-Johnny Sanders -----731-845-3838
 290 Westover Road, Huron, TN 38345
- CALEDONIA-** 9405 Hwy 140, McKenzie, TN 38201
 PASTOR– Jim Holt -----731-986-9374
 820 Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344
 CLERK-Carl Hall -----731-352-3909
 115 Linden Street, McKenzie, TN 38201
- CENTER POINT-** 2225 Rowland Mill Road, Buena Vista, TN 38318
 PASTOR– Michael Hilliard -----731-418-1753
 125 Holcomb Street, Hollow Rock, TN 38342
 CLERK-Jenny Moon-----731-415-9189
 108 Enterprise Street, Bruceton, TN 38317
- CLARKSBURG-**12281 Hwy 424, Clarksburg, TN 38324
 PASTOR-Michael Butler-----731-733-1583
 88 Cub Creek Hall Road, Parsons, TN 38363
 CLERK-Lindsey Cobb -----731-986-2160
 105 Crum Road, Yuma, TN 38390
- CONCORD-** 3275 Westport Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344
 PASTOR– Joshua Parker-----731-614-0379
 32365 Hwy 104S (P.O. Box 232), Reagan, TN 38368
 CLERK-John W. Cole -----731-986-3433
 1840 Westport Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344
- CROSS ROADS**-----731-584-7665
 55 Crossroads Church Road, Camden, TN 38320
 PASTOR– Randy Thompson -----731-441-1729
 211 Arnold Drive, Camden, TN 38320
 CLERK-Todd Kee-----731-441-0885
 3895 Divider and Natchez Trace Road, Camden, TN 38320
- HUNTINGDON**-----731-986-4192
 11110 Lexington Street, Huntingdon, TN 38344

PASTOR-Lynn Stapleton -----731-986-2413
106 Oak Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344
CLERK-Ray Smith-----731-986-4717
19950 East Main St., Huntingdon, TN 38344
MARLSBORO- 25165 State Route 114 N, Hollow Rock, TN 38342
PASTOR-
CLERK-Norma Walker -----731-535-9984
24675 Hwy. 114 N, Hollow Rock, TN 38342
MIXIE- 25860 Hwy 77, Hollow Rock, TN 38342
PASTOR-
CLERK-Amanda Holland-----731-986-4512
565 Chapel Hill Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344
NEW CROSS ROADS-
2110 Long Rock Church Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344
P.O. Box 268, Huntingdon, TN 38344
PASTOR-Tracy McDaniel -----731-819-3545
630 Stafford Store Road, Greenfield, TN 38230
CLERK-Frank Gregg -----731-986-9686
c/o New Cross Roads Church P.O. Box 268, Huntingdon, TN 38344
NEW HOPE- 5315 Hwy 114, Westport, TN 38387
PASTOR-Phillip Gullede -----731-847-7844
2391 Prospect Road, Holladay, TN 38341
CLERK-Wilma Seagraves -----731-418-0756
P.O. Box 186, Huntingdon, TN 38344
NEW SPRING HILL-
145 Springhill Church Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344
PASTOR-Lathan McLean-----731-586-4404
308 Taylor Street, Bruceton, TN 38317
CLERK-Laura Hutcherson-----731-986-4557
6820 Smyrna Road, Westport, TN 38387
OAK GROVE- 105 Oak Grove Church Road, Lexington, TN 38351
PASTOR-David Leslie -----731-845-3859
1118 Crazy Doe Road, Lexington, TN 38351
CLERK-Jimmy Wallace-----731-967-9794
20465 Hwy. 104 S, Lexington, TN 38351
OLD PATHS-10540 Collierville Road, Collierville, TN 38017
PASTOR- Randall Woods -----731-968-7544
17180 Natchez Trace Road, Lexington, TN 38351
CLERK-
PLEASANT GROVE-
Pleasant Grove Church Road, Wildersville, TN 38388
PASTOR-

CLERK-Ernest Wood ----- 731-845-5464
375 Pleasant Grove Church Road, Wildersville, TN 38388

PLEASANT HILL-
1675 Pleasant Hill Church Road, Camden, TN 38320

PASTOR- Jeff Simmons ----- 731-968-1290
129 Windy Ridge Lane, Lexington, TN 38351

CLERK-Brenda Self----- 731-441-3798
450 Blackberry Road, Camden, TN 38320

PLEASANT RIDGE (Est. 1856)
5745 Hwy 70 W, Camden, TN 38320

PASTOR- Clint Sanders ----- 731-695-3194
76 Farmington Cove, Lexington, TN 38351

CLERK-Travis Nance----- 731-586-7637
1640 Bruceton-Vale Road, Bruceton, TN 38317

RUSHING CREEK-
4005 Rushing Creek Church Road, Camden, TN 38320

PASTOR- Ron Stewart ----- 615-394-0314
1327 Cedar Drive, Camden, TN 38320

CLERK-Howard J. Berry ----- 731-584-8258
4268 Reynoldsburg Road, Camden, TN 38320

SHILOH- 15 Shiloh Church Road, Holladay, TN 38341

PASTOR- Scott Carter ----- 731-415-1688
400 Chickasaw Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344

CLERK-Larry Pritchard ----- 731-845-5444
730 Pritchard Road, Wildersville, TN 38388

WESTPORT- 7080 Westport Road, Westport, TN 38387

PASTOR- Greg Jones ----- 731-614-5118
117 Lindsey Lane, Lexington, TN 38351

CLERK-Glynn Williams----- 731-986-5782
335 Westport Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Church E-mail Addresses

Bethel	Bryan Oakes	broboakes@charter.net
Bethel	Jeff Carter	jeffjd@charter.net
Bible Grove	Johnny Sanders	jsanders@firstbankonline.com
Bible Grove	Randy Wood	ranwood@gmail.com
Bible Grove	Andrew Stokes	andrewstokes@att.net
Center Point	Jenny Moon	garykkc@click1.net
Clarksburg	Roger Lindsey	customtoolinc@bellsouth.net
Clarksburg	Lindsey Cobb	ncobb@bellsouth.net
Concord	John W. Cole	johnwcole@charter.net
Concord	Josh Parker	jparker3191@gmail.com
Concord	Dennis Stokes	stokes209825@bellsouth.net
Cross Roads	Todd Kee	tkee@bentoncountycable.net
Cross Roads	Randy Thompson	crpastor@bentoncountycable.net
Cross Roads	Kay Kee	kay@bentoncountycable.net
Huntingdon	Harold Webb	haroldwebb54@gmail.com
Huntingdon	Ray Smith	raysmith72@hotmail.com
Huntingdon	Lynn Stapleton	lynstap@hmhc.org
Mixie	Amanda Holland	amandaleeholland@gmail.com
New Cross Rds	Frank Gregg	fgregg9686@charter.net
New Hope	Scott Gallimore	seg672002@yahoo.com
New Hope	Phillip Gulledge	gulledgephillip@gmail.com
New Hope	Wilma Segraves	waseagraves@gmail.com
New Spring Hill	Susan Brown	susanbrownrn@yahoo.com
Oak Grove	David Leslie	davidgenn@hotmail.com
Oak Grove	Jimmy Wallace	jimmy.wallace@ymail.com
Pleasant Grove	Ernest Wood	woodsmaytag@gmail.com
Pleasant Hill	Brenda Self	bself@hcmc-tn.org
Pleasant Hill	Jeff Simmons	simmonsm720@yahoo.co.uk
Pleasant Ridge	Clint Sanders	mtsclint@tds.net
Pleasant Ridge	Vernon Higdon	vernselectric@gmail.com
Shiloh	Larry Pritchard	larryrp@tds.net
Westport	Glynn Williams	gandlw71@hotmail.com

2016 Summer Revival Schedule

Church	Start Date	Revival Helper	Sunday Starting Time	Mon – Fri Starting Time
Old Paths	06/05/16		5:30 PM	7:00 PM
Pleasant Hill	06/05/16	Clint Ezell	7:00 PM	10:30 AM; 7:00 PM
New Hope	06/12/16		7:30 PM	10:30 AM; 7:30 PM
Shiloh	06/19/16		7:30 PM	10:30 AM; 7:30 PM
Huntingdon	06/26/16	Kenneth Massey	7:30 PM	10:30 AM; 7:30 PM
Pleasant Ridge	06/26/16		6:00 PM	10:30 AM; 7:00 PM
New Cross Roads	07/03/16		6:00 PM	10:30 AM; 7:00 PM
Westport	07/03/16		7:00 PM	10:30 AM; 7:00 PM
Caledonia	07/10/16	Robert Simmons	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Center Point	07/10/16		7:00 PM	7:00 PM
Concord	07/10/16		7:00 PM	10:30 AM; 7:00 PM
Mixie	07/10/16			
Pleasant Grove	07/10/16		7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Bethel	07/17/16		6:00 PM	10:30 AM; 7:30 PM
Bible Grove	07/17/16		7:00 PM	10:30 AM; 7:00 PM
Marlsboro	07/17/16	Philip Halter	6:00 PM	7:00 PM
Cross Roads	07/24/16	Tony Boyd	6:00 PM	10:30 AM; 7:00 PM
Oak Grove	07/24/16		7:30 PM	10:30 AM; 7:30 PM
New Spring Hill	07/24/16		6:00 PM	7:00 PM
Clarksburg	07/24/16		7:00 PM	7:00 PM
Rushing Creek	09/11/16		6:00 PM	7:00 PM

Historical Table

Before 1846, this was part of the Western District Association. The Western District Association was organized in 1822 and is one of the oldest Associations in the state. From this, we go back into North Carolina and West Virginia where they were colonies under England. It was in these colonies that the Baptist patriot, Patrick Henry, defended the Baptist preachers before the colonial officers who were appointed by England, and it was here in these colonies that we find Thomas Jefferson who wrote the Declaration of Independence, making inquiry about the Government of Baptist Churches and Associations that he might get a model after which to assist in forming the Government of the United States. The oldest Baptist Association in the United States is the Philadelphia Association which has done more for Missions than perhaps any other.

<u>DATE AND CHURCH HELD WITH</u>	<u>MODERATOR</u> ----- <u>CLERK</u>
1846-Mt. Comfort, Carroll County-----	E. Autry -----J. P. Arnold
1847- Mt. Pisgah, Henderson County-----	E. Autry -----J. P. Arnold
1848-Ramble Creek, Benton County -----	E. Autry -----B. W. Foster
1849-Pleasant Hill, Benton County -----	E. Autry -----B. W. Foster
1850-Hopewell, Henderson County-----	E. Autry -----J. P. Arnold
1851-New Prospect, Decatur County -----	E. Autry -----J. P. Arnold
1852-Beaver Dam, Benton County-----	E. Autry -----J. P. Arnold
1853-Union, Benton County -----	E. Autry -----J. P. Arnold
1854-Bible Union, Carroll County -----	E. Autry -----J. P. Arnold
1855-Concord, Carroll County-----	M. S. Corbett-----J. P. Arnold
1856-Pleasant Grove, Henderson County -----	E. Autry -----J. P. Arnold
1857-Mt. Comfort, Carroll County-----	M. S. Corbett-----J. P. Arnold
1858-Union, Benton County -----	J. P. Arnold-----W. C. McAuley
1859-Holly Springs, Henderson County -----	J. P. Arnold-----B. W. Foster
1860-Ramble Creek, Benton County -----	J. P. Arnold-----J. P. Doherty
1861-New Prospect, Decatur County -----	J. P. Arnold-----Geo. Hollowell
1862-1864-----	No Association during Civil War
1865-Union, Benton County -----	J. P. Arnold-----W. C. McAuley
1866-Salem, Decatur County-----	J. P. Arnold-----B. W. Foster
1867-Mt. Comfort, Carroll County-----	W. Pugh-----Geo. Hollowell
1868-Ephesus, Carroll County-----	J. P. Arnold-----Geo. Hollowell
1869-Concord, Carroll County-----	J. P. Arnold-----Geo. Hollowell
1870-Chalk Hill, Benton County -----	J. P. Arnold-----G. C. Thomas
1871-New Prospect -----	J. P. Arnold-----G. C. Thomas
1872-Mt. Nebo, Carroll County -----	J. P. Arnold-----Geo. Hollowell
1873-Marlsboro, Carroll County -----	Geo. Hollowell-----G. C. Thomas
1874-New Hope, Carroll County-----	J. H. Park -----G. C. Thomas
1875-Tom's Creek, Perry County-----	J. W. Brewer -----J. F. Rogers
1876-Rushing Creek, Benton County-----	J. Richardson-----J. F. Rogers
1877-Oak Grove, Carroll County-----	J. P. Arnold-----J. F. Rogers
1878-New Prospect -----	J. P. Arnold-----J. F. Rogers
1879-Bethel, Carroll County -----	J. C. Park-----J. F. Rogers
1880-Wildersville, Henderson County -----	J. C. Park-----J. H. Thomas
1881-Ramble Creek-----	J. P. Arnold-----D. J. Allen
1882-Cross Roads, Benton County-----	J. C. Park-----D. J. Allen
1883-Prospect, Carroll County-----	J. C. Park-----D. J. Allen

1884-Sardis Ridge, Decatur County ----- Geo. Hollowell-----D. J. Allen
1885-Concord, Carroll County----- Geo. Hollowell-----C. H. Rogers
1886-Trace Creek, Humphreys County ----- J. C. Park-----D. J. Allen
1887-Liberty, Carroll County ----- J. C. Park-----D. J. Allen
1888-Unity, Benton County ----- J. C. Park-----D. J. Allen
1889-Holly Springs ----- J. F. Rogers-----D. J. Allen
1890-Mt. Nebo, Carroll County ----- J. C. Park-----D. J. Allen
1891-Rushing Creek, Benton County----- E. M. Joyner-----D. J. Allen
1892-New Hope, Carroll County ----- E. M. Joyner-----D. J. Allen
1893-Chalk Level, Benton County ----- E. M. Joyner-----D. J. Allen
1894-Mt. Comfort ----- E. M. Joyner-----C. H. Rogers
1895-Flatwoods, Benton County ----- E. M. Joyner-----D. J. Allen
1896-Marlsboro, Carroll County ----- E. M. Joyner-----D. J. Allen
1897-Bethel, Carroll County ----- E. M. Joyner-----D. J. Allen
1898-Shiloh, Carroll County ----- N. L. Joyner -----D. J. Allen
1899-Pleasant Hill, Benton County ----- W. S. Roney-----C. H. Rogers
1900-Salem, Decatur County----- W. S. Roney-----C. H. Rogers
1901-Chalk Hill, Benton County ----- N. L. Joyner -----C. H. Rogers
1902-Cross Roads, Benton County----- E. Z. Newsom-----C. H. Rogers
1903-New Prospect, Decatur County ----- E. M. Joyner-----C. H. Rogers
1904-Ephesus, Carroll County ----- E. M. Joyner-----C. H. Rogers
1905-Pleasant Grove----- E. M. Joyner-----C. H. Rogers
1906-Ramble Creek----- T. M. Boyd -----C. H. Rogers
1907-Oak Grove, Carroll County----- T. M. Boyd -----C. H. Rogers
1908-Concord, Carroll County----- T. M. Boyd -----C. H. Rogers
1909-Pleasant Ridge ----- T. M. Boyd -----C. H. Rogers
1910-Perryville, Decatur County ----- T. M. Boyd -----C. H. Rogers
1911-Unity, Benton County ----- T. M. Boyd -----D. H. Franks
1912-Chalk Level, Benton County ----- Joe N. Joyner-----D. H. Franks
1913-Holly Springs ----- J. G. Cooper -----D. H. Franks
1914-Mt. Nebo----- J. G. Cooper -----D. H. Franks
1915-Liberty, Carroll County ----- S. W. Joyner-----D. H. Franks
1916-Tom's Creek, Perry County----- J. N. Joyner -----D. H. Franks
1917-Westport, Carroll County ----- T. M. Boyd -----Geo. S. Price
1918-Mt. Pisgah, Carroll County ----- T. M. Boyd -----L. E. Mincey
1919-Cross Roads, Benton County----- J. N. Joyner -----L. E. Mincey
1920-Mt. Comfort, Carroll County----- J. N. Joyner -----C. E. Butler
1921-Ephesus, Carroll County ----- J. N. Joyner -----C. E. Butler
1922-Eva, Benton County ----- J. N. Joyner -----A. H. Franks
1923-Prospect, Carroll County----- J. N. Joyner -----A. H. Franks
1924-Flatwoods, Benton County ----- J. N. Joyner -----A. H. Franks
1925-Bunches Chapel ----- J. N. Joyner -----A. H. Franks
1926-Oak Grove----- J. N. Joyner -----C. V. Cooper
1927-Pleasant Hill----- J. N. Joyner -----C. V. Cooper
1928-Shiloh, Carroll County ----- T. M. Boyd -----C. V. Cooper
1929-Bruceton, Carroll County ----- T. M. Boyd -----C. V. Cooper
1930-New Prospect, Decatur County ----- J. N. Joyner -----W. S. Brinkley
1931-New Hope, Carroll County ----- S. W. Joyner -----W. S. Brinkley
1932-New Liberty, Carroll County----- S. W. Joyner -----W. S. Brinkley
1933-Westport, Carroll County ----- S. W. Joyner -----W. S. Brinkley
1934-Ephesus, Carroll County ----- S. W. Joyner -----W. S. Brinkley
1935-Mt. Comfort, Carroll County----- E. H. Martin -----W. S. Brinkley

1936-Marlsboro, Carroll County ----- S. W. Joyner-----W. S. Brinkley
 1937-Cedar Hill, Decatur County ----- S. W. Joyner-----W. S. Brinkley
 1938-Concord, Carroll County----- S. W. Joyner-----W. S. Brinkley
 1939-Yuma, Carroll County----- S. W. Joyner-----W. S. Brinkley
 1940-Caledonia, Henry County----- S. W. Joyner-----W. S. Brinkley
 1941-Oak Grove, Carroll County----- W. H. Hopper -----W. S. Brinkley
 1942-New Cross Roads, Carroll County ----- W. H. Hopper -----W. S. Brinkley
 1943-New Bethel, Henry County----- W. H. Hopper -----W. S. Brinkley
 1944-Westport, Carroll County----- W. H. Hopper -----W. S. Brinkley
 1945-Marlsboro, Carroll County ----- S. W. Joyner-----W. S. Brinkley
 1946-Mt. Comfort, Carroll County----- E. F. Prince -----W. S. Brinkley
 1947-Pleasant Grove, Henderson County ----- E. F. Prince -----W. S. Brinkley
 1948-Old Union, Benton County ----- E. F. Prince -----W. S. Brinkley
 1949-Cross Roads, Benton County----- E. F. Prince -----T. L. Campbell
 1950-Bible Grove, Henderson County ----- C. F. Carter -----T. L. Campbell
 1951-Republican Grove ----- C. F. Carter -----T. L. Campbell
 1952-Pleasant Hill, Benton County ----- C. F. Carter -----T. L. Campbell
 1953-Ephesus, Carroll County ----- John Hedges-----T. L. Campbell
 1954-Mixie, Carroll County ----- John Hedges-----Ray Smith
 1955-Concord, Carroll County----- John Hedges-----Ray Smith
 1956-Tom's Creek, Perry County----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1957-Independent, Carroll County ----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1958-Bethel, Carroll County ----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1959-Oak Grove, Carroll County----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1960-New Bethel, Henry County----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1961-Center Point, Carroll County----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1962-Caledonia, Henry County----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1963-Old Union, Benton County ----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1964-New Bethel, Henry County----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1965-Rushing Creek, Benton County----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1966-Westport, Carroll County ----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1967-New Prospect, Decatur County ----- T. L. Campbell-----Ray Smith
 1968-Ephesus, Carroll County ----- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1969-Concord, Carroll County----- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1970-New Frank's Chapel, Decatur County --- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1971-Landmark, Shelby County----- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1972-Yuma, Carroll County----- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1973-Pleasant Ridge, Benton County----- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1974-New Cross Roads, Carroll County ----- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1975-Cross Roads, Benton County----- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1976-Second Baptist, Lexington----- C. F. Carter -----Ray Smith
 1977-Bible Grove, Chesterfield----- M. Rayburn-----Ray Smith
 1978-New Bethel, Henry County----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1979-Independent, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1980-Bethel, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1981-Landmark, Shelby County----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1982-Pleasant Hill, Benton County ----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1983-New Prospect, Decatur County ----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1984-Concord, Carroll County----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1985-Oak Grove, Henderson County ----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1986-New Liberty, Carroll County----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1987-Westport, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith

1988-Center Point, Carroll County----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1989-Mixie, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1990-New Cross Roads, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Ray Smith
 1991-Bible Grove, Henderson County ----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 1992-Independent, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 1993-Marlsboro, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 1994-Clarksburg, Carroll County----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 1995-Cross Roads, Benton County----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 1996-Landmark, Shelby County----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 1997-New Hope, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 1998-Shiloh, Carroll County ----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 1999-Concord, Carroll County----- Harold Carver-----Lee Carter
 2000-Bethel, Carroll County ----- Ray Smith -----Lee Carter
 2001-Old Paths, Shelby County ----- A. G. Hayes -----Lee Carter
 2002-Oak Grove, Henderson County ----- A.G. Hayes -----Scott Carter
 2003-New Cross Roads, Carroll County ----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2004-Center Point, Carroll County----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2005-Bible Grove, Henderson County ----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2006- Huntingdon, Carroll County----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2007-Clarksburg, Carroll County----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2008-Oak Grove, Carroll County----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2009- Cross Roads, Benton County----- Johnny Wall-----Scott Carter
 2010- New Hope, Carroll County----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2011- Westport, Carroll County----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2012-Oak Grove, Henderson County ----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2013-Concord, Carroll County----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2014-Bible Grove, Henderson County ----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter
 2015-Huntingdon, Carroll County----- Ray Smith -----Scott Carter

Rules of Decorum

- ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
- ARTICLE 2. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by members present providing nothing be so construed as to prohibit newly constituted churches petitioning for admission from voting.
- ARTICLE 3. The Moderator shall be considered the judge of order, but any messenger not satisfied with his decision may appeal, provided the appeal is made the same day, but at no subsequent term.
- ARTICLE 4. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as other members, so as not to vote, unless his vote be necessary to decide the question. If he arises to speak he shall call another brother to take the chair.
- ARTICLE 5. All questions brought before the Association shall be introduced by motion, and if seconded, shall be opened to discussion, unless withdrawn by the mover or his second. When a subject has been taken up and a reasonable time allowed for discussion, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays and if a call is made it shall be decided by the members rising.
- ARTICLE 6. Any member wishing to speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Only one member shall be allowed to speak at the same time, who shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject or makes personal reflection.
- ARTICLE 7. No person shall speak more than once on any subject until all who wish to speak have an opportunity, nor more than twice upon any subject without permission.
- ARTICLE 8. Every subject introduced for discussion shall be first decided before another shall be offered, unless it be laid over by motion with the consent of the mover and the Association.
- ARTICLE 9. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority vote of the members present, except in the reception of the churches; then a unanimous vote shall be required.
- ARTICLE 10. The names of the members shall be called whenever the Association shall direct, and the absentees marked. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the Moderator.
- ARTICLE 11. The appellation of "brethren" shall be used by the mem-

bers in addressing each other.

ARTICLE 12. Any member violating these rules shall be subject to re-proval by the Moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

ARTICLE 13. Amendments or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority deems it necessary.

ARTICLE 14. It shall be the duty of the Association to appoint a finance committee to keep up with the moneys during the association, to make their report when called upon and to turn the moneys received over to the Clerk.

Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

Constitution

- ARTICLE I. The Association shall be called *Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association*, known as an advisory council.
- ARTICLE II. It shall be composed of such persons as have been duly elected by such church as may belong to this union to represent them in body.
- ARTICLE III. The messengers representing the different churches shall at the opening of the Association present their letters of correspondence which shall state their appointment as messengers, together with the number of members in fellowship, the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excommunicated, restored and dead during the year.
- ARTICLE IV. Every church belonging to this body shall be entitled to three messengers.
- ARTICLE V. Churches of this union failing to represent themselves at one Association will be expected to state reasons for their failure at the next Association, and if any church fails for two consecutive meetings, the Association shall send a committee to inquire into their state.
- ARTICLE VI. New churches may be admitted into this union by signifying their wish by messenger and letter, provided they be deemed orthodox, and are willing to walk in fellowship with us.
- ARTICLE VII. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen at each annual meeting, as soon as the letters from the different churches are read and their member's names enrolled, provided, also that all newly constituted churches petitioning for union with us shall have full right to vote for Moderator and Clerk, and nothing shall be construed as to prohibit them from voting.
- ARTICLE VIII. This Association shall have no power to adopt rules that shall at any time infringe upon the independence and rights of the churches. It shall however be at liberty to advise churches belonging to it, or it may

separate from churches as are known to walk disorderly.

ARTICLE IX. The Association shall have a fund for its expenses, and the churches shall be at liberty to send up such contributions as they may think proper.

ARTICLE X. Any church of this union having a difficulty that she cannot settle may call for help from her sister churches, or may present the case to this body for advice. Such cases must be presented in the letters of correspondence, stating the reason why it had not or could not be decided by the church.

ARTICLE XI. When churches of this union have members supposed to possess ministerial gifts, they may call from two or more churches for the aid of their ordained ministers and deacons to examine the individuals and, if thought advisable, to ordain such member or members to preach the gospel which shall be reported at the next association and entered upon the Minutes.

ARTICLE XII. The minutes of this Association will be read, corrected, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rise. And no Association shall adjourn, unless in extraordinary cases, until it has finished all its business.

ARTICLE XIII. The Clerk shall read the Rules of Decorum on the first day of each Association meeting.

Articles of Faith

1. **We believe** that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God; and the only rule of faith and practice. II Tim. 3:16-17; II Tim. 3:15; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 2:12; Phil. 3:16; I John 4:1.

2. **We believe** that the Scriptures teach that there is but one living and true God; and there are three persons in this one God - the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit; and this Triune God is the only object of religious worship and adoration, and that all worship paid anything less in the name of God is idolatry and abomination in His sight. John 4:24; Ps. 83:18; Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Ps. 147:5; Isa. 6:3; I Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8; Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 10:37; Jer. 2:12-13; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7; John 10:30; John 5:17; John 14:23; John 17:5 & 10; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5.

3. **We believe** that God created man good and happy; that he sinned and fell from that condition; that by the fall he lost his original righteousness and became sinful and depraved; and as a natural consequence, that his posterity by ordinary generations are involved in all the consequences of his fall. Gen. 1:27; Gen. 1:31; Ecc. 7:29; Acts 15:26; Gen. 2:16; Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:15-19; John 3:6; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 8:7; Isa. 53:6; Gen. 6:12; Rom. 3:9-18; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18-32; Rom. 2:1-16; Gal. 3:10; Matt. 20:15; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 3:19; Gal. 3:22.

4. **We believe** that man, by nature, has no power to recover himself from his lost and ruined condition and, unless God Himself had provided a way of Salvation, would have been ruined and miserable forever, because all have sinned. Eph. 2:5; Matt. 18:11; I John 4:10; I Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:11; John 3:16; John 1:1-14; Heb. 4:14; Heb. 12:24; Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9&14; II Cor. 5:21; Isa. 42:21; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 3:21; Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; Rom. 3:21-26; I John 4:10; I John 2:3; I Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 9:13-15; Heb. 1:8; Heb. 1:3; Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; Heb. 7:26; Ps. 89:19; Ps. 45.

5. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, honored law by His personal obedience and made atonement for our sins by His Death; being risen from the dead, is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with Divine perfection, in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Savior. Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Luke 14:17; Rom. 16:26; Mark 1:15; Rom. 1:15-17; John 5:40; Matt. 23:37; Rom. 9:32; Pro. 1:24; Acts 13:46; John 3:19; Matt. 11:20; Luke 19:27; II Thess. 1:8.

6. We believe that fallen man has nothing, and can do nothing, of himself, to recommend him to the favorable notice of the Divine Being, and that all his hopes of pardon, justification, redemption, and sanctification are derived alone from the merits of Christ.

7. We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, is the only Mediator between God and man; that He first became our surety and in the fullness of time our sacrifice, and that the efficacious plea He makes before the throne in our behalf is built upon His own all-adorning sacrifice.

8. We believe the Holy Spirit - the third person in the Trinity - is the great agent in convincing man of his lost and condemned condition, and in making the Gospel plain and acceptable. John 6:44; John 6:65; Acts 16:14; Psalms 34:18; II Cor. 7:10; Acts 9:5; Acts 3:19; Acts 8:22; Luke 15:7

9. We believe that all who are sanctified by the Spirit are freely justified by the righteousness of Christ, which comes to all that believe. I Thess. 4:3; I Thess. 5:23; II Cor. 7:1; II Cor. 13:9; Phil. 3:12-16; John 2:29; Rom. 8:5; Eph. 1:4; Pro. 4:18; II Cor. 3:18; Heb. 6:1; 1I Peter 1:5-8; John 3:6; Phil. 1:9-I 1; Eph. 1:13-14; Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:11-12; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18; II Cor. 13:5; Luke 11:35; Luke 9:23; Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18; Eph. 4:30.

10. We believe that all who are called to be saints through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth shall never finally be lost. John 8:31; I John 2:27-28; I John 3:9; I John 5:18; I John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Ps. 121:3; Ps. 91:11-12; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 1:14; II Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; I John 4:4.

11. We believe that Christian churches are to be formed of believers in Christ who give evidence of a change of heart, and have been properly baptized. I Cor. 1:1-3; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:1 I; Acts 8:1; Acts I 1:31; I Cor. 4:17; I Cor. 14:23; III John 9; I Tim. 3-5; Acts 2:41-42; II Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; I Cor. 5:12-13; I Cor. 11:2; II Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; I Cor. 11:23; Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5:6; II Cor. 2:7; I Cor. 4:11; Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; John 15:12; I John 4:21; John 14:21; I Thess. 4:2; II John 6; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:7; I Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:27; I Cor. 12:14; Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; I Tim. 3; Titus I.

12. We believe that the government of the church is not left in the hands of any one man, or number of men, distinct from the body, but that it is left with the whole church.

13. We believe that the first day of the week, called the Lord's Day, is sanctified or set apart for the public worship of God, and that it is the duty of Christians to abstain from all unnecessary visiting, trifling conversation, and labor, except so much as is devoted to works of necessity and mercy. Acts 20:7; Gen. 2:3; Cor. 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; I Cor. 16:1-2; Ex. 20:8; Rev. I:10; Ps. 118:15,24; Isa. 58:13-14; Isa. 56:2-8; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; Acts 13:44; Lev. 19:30; Ex. 46:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2-3; Ps. 26:8; Ps. 87:3; Heb. 4:3-11.

14. We believe that God has appointed the preaching of the Gospel for the edification of His church and the advancement of His kingdom; that it is the duty of church members to contribute to the support of the ministry as God in His providence may give them ability.

15. **We believe** that God calls men, by His Spirit, to preach the Gospel, and that it is the duty of the individual thus called to study to show himself approved unto God a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16. **We believe** that Jesus Christ has appointed two positive institutions or ordinances to be observed in His church - baptism and the Lord's Supper; that baptism is immersion in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and believers only are capable of rightfully receiving the ordinances, that baptism precedes the Lord's Supper and none but ordained ministers have any right to administer them. Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; John 4:12; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12; Acts 16:32-34; Acts 18:8; Acts 10:47-48; Gal. 3:26-28; Rom 6:4; Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:20-21; Acts 12:16; Acts 2:41-42; I Cor. 11:26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; I Cor. 11:28; I Cor. 5:1-8; I Cor. 10:3-32; I Cor. 11:17-32; John 6:26-71.

17. **We believe** that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust; that the just will rise to everlasting life and the unjust to everlasting shame and contempt.

18. **We believe** that the Gospel with all its obligations, privileges, and blessings, has been committed to the church of whom it is especially enjoined to make known to every creature, while a risen and ascended Savior pledges His presence to the end of the world.

Missions Supported

Rick Jones (<i>Jamaica</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethel • Clarksburg • Concord • New Hope • Cross Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Grove • New Cross Roads • Pleasant Ridge • Shiloh
Eugene Brown (<i>Words of Hope</i>) www.wordsofhope.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Grove • Huntingdon • Cross Roads • Pleasant Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hope • Rushing Creek • Shiloh • Oak Grove
Paul Bryson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Grove 	
Ministerial Alliance, <i>Camden</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasant Hill
Ministerial Alliance, <i>Huntingdon</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntingdon 	
Back to the Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasant Hill
Eric Hammett (<i>Mexico</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center Point 	
African Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Grove 	
St. Jude Children Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlsboro 	
Todd Marks (<i>Peru</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center Point 	
F.U.E.L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Roads 	
Khrys Paige (<i>Trinidad</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Grove • Concord • Westport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixie • Pleasant Ridge • New Hope • Shiloh
Shop With a Cop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlsboro 	
Nueva Vida Missionary Baptist Church (<i>Guatemala</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Grove 	
Carl Perkins Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord 	
Gideon Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlsboro 	
Samaritan's Purse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntingdon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Roads
Kenya Africa Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntingdon • Cross Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rushing Creek

**In Memory of Our Sainted Dead-38
(One Minister and One Deacon)**

Bethel

Sis. Jewell Woodard	03/20/15
Bro. Lloyd Crider	07/31/15

Bible Grove

Sis. Marie Howard	10/30/14
Sis Marline Jowers	03/06/15
Bro. Charles Lee Wood	04/23/15

Center Point

Sis. Della Hilliard Watson	10/26/14
Bro. Eugene Abbott (Minister)	03/15/15

Clarksburg

Sis. Shirley Baker	2015
Bro. Eugene Dodd	2015
Sis. Geneva Gaskins	2014
Sis. Joyce Hale	2015
Sis. Estelee Scates	2014
Bro. Alvin Tucker, Jr.	2015

Concord

Sis. Minnie Jane Simpson	11/01/14
Sis. Vonita Gant	12/02/14
Sis. Cleo Horn	01/01/15
Bro. Timmy Harder	07/08/15
Sis. Rosie Townsend	09/08/15

Cross Roads

Sis. Odell Pierce	11/16/14
Bro. Raymond Medlin	06/06/15
Sis Betty Brown	07/24/15

Huntingdon

Sis. Bernice Lawrence	01/09/15
Sis. Opal Dameron	01/20/15
Bro. Larry Bendel	05/14/15
Bro. James Greer	06/05/15
Sis. Sandra Sue Moody	06/13/15

New Cross Roads

Sis. Gladys Gambill	05/06/15
Sis. Elwanda Campbell	07/10/15

New Hope

Sis. Iris Ellington	10/07/14
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Pleasant Grove

Sis. Muriel Hendrickson	03/15/15
Bro. Robert Tolley	04/06/15
Sis. Gerri Bradfield	07/24/15

Pleasant Hill

Sis. Mildred Phifer	05/21/15
Sis. Polly Johnson	06/13/15
Bro. Gene Cagle (Deacon)	10/04/15

Pleasant Ridge

Sis. Georgia Allen Cole	12/29/14
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Shiloh

Bro. Max Hendrix	08/25/15
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Westport

Bro. Bill Williams	10/30/14
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Sunday School Statistical Table

Church	Superintendent	Teachers & Officers	Enrollment	Expenditures
Bethel	Jimmy Allen	7	60	\$5,930.00
Bible Grove	Randy Wood			
Caledonia		1	8	\$109.00
Center Point	Bill Noles	5	38	
Clarksburg	Roger Lindsey	12	161	
Concord	Keith Trevathan	19	70	\$1,114.00
Cross Roads	Jim Dungan	14	80	\$1,499.48
Huntingdon	Ray Smith	12		\$2,899.24
Marlsboro	Bill Stepp	3	44	\$515.41
Mixie	Johnny Whitworth	12		
New Cross Roads		5		
New Hope	Michael Montgomery	8	15	\$454.23
New Spring Hill	Susan Brown	2		
Oak Grove	Jason Barker	17	97	
Old Paths				
Pleasant Grove	Max Bradfield	9		
Pleasant Hill	Edward Ellis	4	18	
Pleasant Ridge	Anthony French	9	30	\$3,299.38
Rushing Creek	Robert Deaton	5	20	\$1,832.04
Shiloh	Joe Cary	7		\$436.00
Westport	Jerry Singleton	18	38	\$2,107.19
TOTALS		169	679	\$20,195.97

Statistical Table 2015

Church	Baptisms	Additions by Letter	Restorations	Total Additions	Deaths	Losses by Letter	Exclusion	Total Losses	Membership	Lord's Supper	Foot Washing
Bethel	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	165	2	0
Bible Grove	0	2	0	2	3	10	0	13	194	1	0
Caledonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2	0
Center Point	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	85	0	0
Clarksburg	2	2	0	4	6	7	0	13	152	1	0
Concord	5	3	0	8	5	3	0	8	150	2	0
Cross Roads	5	1	0	6	3	3	0	6	199	2	0
Huntingdon	5	6	0	11	5	9	7	21	335	2	0
Marlsboro	3	*4	0	7	1	0	0	1	44	1	0
Mixie	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0		1	1
New Cross Rds.	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	76	2	2
New Hope	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	6	84	1	1
New Spring Hill	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	17	1	0
Oak Grove	4	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	156	1	0
Old Paths	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0		1	1
Pleasant Grove	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	61	1	0
Pleasant Hill	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	4	120	1	0
Pleasant Ridge	2	3	0	5	1	0	0	1	**86	1	1
Rushing Creek	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	76	1	0
Shiloh	2	1	0	3	1	0	0	1		1	0
Westport	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	66	1	0
TOTALS	35	27	0	62	39	40	7	86	1940	26	6

* By Testimony ** 43 Active

Financial Table 2015

Church	Expenditures	Ministrel Help	Mission Support	Minute Fund	Clerk Fund	Grand Total
Bethel	\$22,335.00	\$2,636.00	\$5,819.00	\$150	\$50	\$30,990.00
Bible Grove				\$120	\$75	\$5,530.00
Caledonia	\$6,778.00	\$660.00	\$200.00	\$30	\$10	\$7,678.00
Center Point	\$3,400.78	\$850.00	\$1,172.66	\$50	\$50	\$5,523.44
Clarksburg	\$47,760.49		\$7,467.00	\$150	\$50	\$55,427.49
Concord	\$9,492.00	\$2,253.00	\$3,341.00	\$100	\$50	\$15,236.00
Cross Roads	\$118,792.97	\$2,114.50	\$8,232.00	\$240	\$50	\$129,429.47
Huntingdon	\$361,173.38	\$15,896.00	\$18,000.00	\$200	\$100	\$395,369.38
Marlsboro	\$3,157.54	\$6,400.00	\$1,521.00	\$20	\$20	\$11,118.54
Mixie				\$80	\$25	\$105.00
New Cross Rds.				\$100	\$25	\$125.00
New Hope	\$13,291.86	\$1,760.00	\$8,643.11	\$48	\$50	\$23,792.97
New Spring Hill	\$5,150.21			\$28	\$10	\$5,188.21
Oak Grove				\$140	\$50	\$190.00
Old Paths	\$5,500.00			\$75	\$75	\$5,650.00
Pleasant Grove	\$6,082.00	\$8,582.00		\$100	\$100	\$14,864.00
Pleasant Hill		\$1,372.00	\$1,200.00	\$100	\$25	\$2,697.00
Pleasant Ridge	\$8,000.17	\$1,950.00	\$4,974.00	\$100	\$150	\$15,174.17
Rushing Creek	\$5,121.88	\$865.00	\$3,143.00	\$40	\$20	\$9,189.88
Shiloh	\$7,804.00	\$2,389.00	\$4,216.00	\$80	\$50	\$14,539.00
Westport	\$8,294.00	\$3,773.45	\$827.99	\$60	\$40	\$12,995.44
TOTALS	\$632,134.28	\$51,500.95	\$68,756.76	\$2,011	\$1,075	\$760,812.99

