

*The One Hundred Seventy-Seventh Annual Session*

*October 10-11, 2025*



*Cross Roads Missionary Baptist Church*

CAMDEN, TENNESSEE

*Southwestern District*

*Missionary Baptist*

*Association*

[www.swdmba.org](http://www.swdmba.org)



**2025 MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVENTH  
ANNUAL SESSION**  
**SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
HELD WITH  
**CROSS ROADS  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
CAMDEN, TENNESSEE  
OCTOBER 10-11, 2025

**THE NEXT MEETING**

to be held with Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Henderson County, Tennessee, beginning on Friday before the second Sunday in October 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

**2026 SERMONS**

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Introductory Sermon</b> | ----- Eld. David Leslie |
| <b>Alternate</b>           | ----- Eld. Mark Horton  |
| <b>Doctrinal Sermon</b>    | ----- Eld. Scott Carter |
| <b>Alternate</b>           | ----- Eld. James Keen   |

## **Cross Roads Missionary Baptist Church History**

Cross Roads Missionary Baptist Church is rich in history from every generation. It was first organized on December 3, 1849 by Elijah Autry and David Quinn. Services began in an existing building that also served as Cross Roads School. The church endured many things (including the Civil War), but God brought them through as the members remained faithful and Cross Roads continued to grow. In 1917, the membership moved into their newly constructed church. As time marched on, so did God's children. In October 1931, Sunday School was organized and added to the service. In July of 1934, a choir was built on to the church. That year revival broke out and 21 people joined during the meeting. In August of 1975, the motion was made and passed to build rest rooms in the church. We wonder today how we ever worshipped without such conveniences. Over the years Cross Roads met —Part time for worship, meaning twice a month and other times —Full time. We have been a —Full time church since 1981. That commitment lead to the preached Word affecting more souls that were saved and even more growth in our membership. In May of 1995, the Lord blessed with another new building and Cross Roads held their first service in the building we now call home. This past year we purchased a little over 5 acres of land across from the church in anticipation of what the Lord has yet for us as we continue to grow. We have seen what He has done in our past, we are thankful for what He is doing in the present and we are excited to see what He has in store for Cross Roads future!

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## Order of Business

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2026

- ☐ Call Association to Order
- ☐ Appoint Committee on Divine/Hospitality Service
- ☐ Appoint Finance Committee
- ☐ Appoint Topics Committee for 2026 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 2026 Session
- ☐ Select Brethren to Preach 2026 Annual Sermons
- ☐ Love Offering for Associational Missionary
- ☐ Introductory Sermon - 11:00 A.M.
- ☐ Call for Correspondence
- ☐ Call for Report on *What is the difference between faith and presumption, and how does this distinction impact the counsel we give to seekers?*
- ☐ Call for Report on *In a world that is divided over many things, how can we as Christians better promote and demonstrate unity, as Jesus prayed in John 17:21–23?*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

- ☐ 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 of the Topics Committee
- ☐ Report from Missionaries
- ☐ Doctrinal Sermon - 11:00 A.M.
- ☐ Call for Report on *What is the biblical basis for the assurance of salvation?*
- ☐ Call for Report on *As we seek to discern the voice of God's Spirit, is the presence of the Spirit's fruit (Galatians 5:22–24) an important clue to determining whether the leadership is of the Lord?*
- ☐ Call for New Business
- ☐ Reading of the *Vote of Thanks*
- ☐ Song and parting hand

## Elected Officers for 2025-2026

|                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Moderator</b>                        |  <p><b>Eld. Andrew Stokes</b><br/>             849 Hawkins Creek Rd.<br/>             Huntingdon, TN 38344<br/>             (731) 986-1052<br/> <a href="mailto:andrewstokes@att.net">andrewstokes@att.net</a></p> | Bible Grove Church |
| <b>Assistant Moderator</b>              |  <p><b>Eld. Randy Thompson</b><br/>             211 Arnold Drive,<br/>             Camden, TN 38320<br/>             (731) 441-1729</p>                                                                            | Huntingdon Church  |
| <b>Clerk</b>                            |  <p><b>Eld. Scott Carter</b><br/>             400 Chickasaw Drive<br/>             Huntingdon, TN 38344<br/>             (731) 415-1688<br/> <a href="mailto:clerk@swdmba.org">clerk@swdmba.org</a></p>          | Shiloh Church      |
| <b>Assistant Clerk &amp; Missionary</b> |  <p><b>Eld. Trey Crews</b><br/>             45 Hwy 22 North<br/>             Yuma, TN 38390<br/>             (731) 415-4745</p>                                                                                  | Huntingdon Church  |

Friday October 10, 2025

On a beautiful fall day, we gathered at Cross Roads Missionary Baptist Church for the 177th Annual Session of the Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association. The service began with the congregation singing “Glad Reunion Day” and “The Roll Is Called Up Yonder” led by Bro. Alan Douglas, Cross Roads Church, with Sis. Amy Fitchpatrick, Cross Roads Church, playing the piano.

The temporary moderator, Bro. Andrew Stokes welcomed everyone and told them how wonderful it is to sit together this day. He told of the wonderful occasion we have gathered for. The temporary moderator opened the session with a reading from Ephesians 3:14-21.

He called the association to order and asked Bro. David Leslie, the pastor of Cross Roads Church, to open us in prayer.

The temporary moderator appointed the pastor and deacons of Cross Roads Church as the **Committee of Divine Hospitality**. Bro. David Leslie spoke of the privilege of hosting this year. He asked his deacons to stand and be introduced.

Bro. Stokes then appointed the following:

**Finance Committee:**

Bro. Harold Webb, Huntingdon Church  
Bro. Larry Pritchard, Shiloh Church  
Bro. Jimmy Wallace, Oak Grove Church

**Topics Committee:**

Bro. James Keen  
Bro. Dennis Stokes  
Bro. Jacob Gullledge

**Obituary Recorder:**

Bro. Chris Wallace

The moderator then called on the clerk to read the *Rules of Decorum*.

A call was then made to receive church letters. Afterwards, there was a call for any new churches wishing to join this association.

The moderator then called for a **roll call of messengers**. Roll call was made, and 43 messengers requested to be seated.

We then entered into the election process. The following were nominated and elected by acclamation:

**Moderator:** Bro. Andrew Stokes

**Assistant Moderator:** Bro. Randy Thompson

**Clerk:** Bro. Scott Carter

**Assistant Clerk:** Bro. Trey Crews

Four churches requested the association meet with them for the 2026 session; Cross Roads, Huntingdon, Bible Grove, and Oak Grove churches.

**Motion and second** was made to meet at Oak Grove Church; **motion carried.**

The following were selected to preach the sermons at the next session.

**Introductory Sermon:** Bro. David Leslie

**Alternate Introductory:** Bro. Mark Horton

**Doctrinal Sermon:** Bro. Scott Carter

**Alternate Doctrinal Sermon:** Bro. James Keen

The moderator asked if any visitors were present to stand and be recognized. Bro. Andrew Paige, Manohar Missionary Baptist Church.

The congregation stood and sang “Amazing Grace,” with Bro. Alan Douglas leading the singing and Sis. Amy Fitchpatrick playing the piano. During the song, a love offering was collected for the Associational Missionary.

The time had come for the Introductory Sermon. The moderator introduced the pastor of New Hope Church, Bro. Phillip Gullledge, the one selected at the 2024 session.

### **Introductory Sermon**

Bro. Gullledge opened with gratitude for being in the Lord’s house and urged the congregation to “mind the Lord,” noting that this service belongs to God. He asked the church to pray as he read from Acts 14, acknowledging the customary distinction between an introductory and doctrinal sermon, yet affirming that “the Word of God is doctrine.” He framed the morning’s thought with a simple title: “It’s Still the Same.” God’s truth does not change, he said, even as the world constantly does.

Reading Acts 14:21-28, he highlighted the pattern of the apostles: preaching the gospel, confirming souls, exhorting believers to continue in the faith amid tribulation, ordaining elders, praying with fasting, and then gathering the church to rehearse “all that God had done” and how He opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. He applied this to the Association’s purpose, ministers and churches coming together to report not what we have done, but what God has done. He called for unity of heart and mind in worship, that nothing be done to quench the Spirit, and that the Lord receive all honor and glory.



Emphasizing the changelessness of the gospel, he warned against a “convenient religion.” Citing 1 Kings 12, he recalled Jeroboam’s golden calves in Bethel and Dan—an attempt to make worship easier while departing from God’s way. The work of the Lord often moves us out of our comfort zone, he said; it is not always easy, but God’s way is the right way. He stressed that salvation has always required a blood atonement and always will; anything other than Jesus Christ and Him crucified will not stand in the judgment (Prov. 14:12/16:25).

Turning to Galatians 1:6-10 and 5:7, he warned against “another gospel” and the tendency to add to Christ’s finished work—whether circumcision, baptism, or church membership. Christ alone saves. He quoted John 3:3 to affirm the necessity of the new birth, not outward forms. He then gave a heartfelt personal testimony of conviction, surrender, and the peace that passes understanding, underscoring that the new birth is a real, knowable work of God in the soul.

He contrasted man-pleasing with God-pleasing, urging fidelity to Scripture over the trends of the day, and reminding the church that Jesus was virgin-born, lived sinlessly, died sacrificially, rose victoriously, and fully satisfied the Father. From John 14 he comforted believers with Christ’s promise to prepare a place and return for His people. From 1 Thessalonians 4 he spoke of that coming as a sure consolation, and from 1 Corinthians 2:9 he noted that what God has prepared surpasses imagination.

Bro. Phillip also spoke to the lost, reminding all of Hebrews 9:27 and Proverbs 29:1. Today is the day of salvation. Church rolls, ordinances, and moral efforts cannot save; only the blood of Christ can remove the burden of sin. He illustrated from the thief on the cross (Luke 23) that salvation is by faith in Christ alone, and from Acts 8 (Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch) that God meets the seeking soul with gospel truth.

He closed by citing Jude 3, calling the saints to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints-the same faith we hold today. The gospel has not changed: "It's still the same-Jesus Christ and Him crucified." He asked for a song of invitation, inviting any burdened or uncertain heart to make their calling and election sure in Christ.

We stood and sang "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus." Then he turned the service back over to the moderator.

The saints of God testified to God's goodness and thanked him for the blood he shed to save our souls.

The congregation sang "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There" and "Just Over In The Glory Land" while shaking hands with Bro. Phillip Gullledge and two preachers from New Hope Church, Bro. Danal Wood and Jacob Gullledge.

The moderator then called for a lunch recess.

**Motion and a second** was made to adjourn until 1:15 for lunch; **motion carried.**

The morning session was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Danal Wood, New Hope Church.

## Friday Afternoon

After a wonderful meal provided by the host church, we opened the afternoon session by singing “I’ve Got A Mansion” led by Bro. Alan Douglas, and Sis. Amy Fitchpatrick playing the piano.

The moderator called the afternoon session back to order and asked Bro. Steve Hargrove, Cross Roads Church, to lead us in prayer.

The moderator called for correspondence. Bro. Scott Carter had a letter from the Big Bear Creek Association and Elder Rick Jones. **Motion and second** was made to include these in the minutes; **motion carried**.

The time had come for the topics.

**Motion and second** was made to allow 10 minutes for the Chairman and 5 minutes for all others to speak to the topic; **motion carried**.

The moderator called for the topic on *How can we deliver an uncompromising rebuke in love while simultaneously communicating our willingness to be a help to the sinning brother or sister*

**Topic:** How can we deliver an uncompromising rebuke in love while simultaneously communicating our willingness to be a help to the sinning brother or sister?

The Christian life is a journey marked by fellowship, mutual support, and, at times, the difficult but necessary task of confronting sin within the body of Christ. The Bible calls believers to hold one another accountable, yet this responsibility must be undertaken with a delicate balance of truth and grace. How can we deliver an "uncompromising rebuke" to a sinning brother or sister, one that does not soften the gravity of their transgression, while simultaneously demonstrating "our willingness to help" them find repentance and restoration?

Our goal in this topic is to address the critical aspect of Christian discipleship, using the King James Version of the Bible to provide a

framework for a loving yet firm confrontation, and a path toward healing.

The Bible is clear that Christians are not to ignore sin within their midst. The apostle Paul, in (Galatians 6:1), gives a direct command: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." This verse lays the foundation for our approach. **The goal is not condemnation, but restoration.** However, meekness does not imply weakness. The rebuke, the reprove must be uncompromising, in its clarity and faithfulness to God's Word.

Jesus Himself provides a powerful model in (Matthew 18:15-17). He teaches about how to treat a believer who sins. These were meant for Christians, not unbelievers. Jesus outlines a three-step process:

1. (v. 15) "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." The first step is a private conversation, a loving attempt to win back the straying brother or sister. This personal and confidential approach demonstrates a genuine concern for the individual, not a desire to shame them publicly.
2. (v. 16) "But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." This step introduces a broader circle of accountability, yet it remains within a confidential, private setting. The presence of other mature believers adds weight to the rebuke and ensures that the issue is not a mere misunderstanding.
3. (v. 17) "And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." This final step is a serious and solemn one, reserved for those who are unrepentant and unwilling to be reconciled. It is a last resort, meant to protect the integrity of the church and to jolt the individual into the reality of their rebellion against God and His people. This is a severe form of rebuke, and it is a painful act of love, for it seeks to shock the individual into recognizing the gravity of their sin and

their need for a Savior.

4. While the content of the rebuke must be uncompromising, the spirit in which it is delivered must be one of love and meekness. (Proverbs 27:6) states, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." A true friend, a brother or sister in Christ, is willing to inflict the "wounds" of a truthful confrontation out of love, knowing that the ultimate outcome is healing and spiritual health. This is a stark contrast to the deceitful flattery of an enemy, someone who is not truly your friend, who encourages sin that leads to destruction.

We must also remember our own fallenness. As (Galatians 6:1) reminds us, we are to consider "thyself, lest thou also be tempted." This self-awareness prevents us from approaching the sinning brother or sister with an attitude of superiority or self-righteousness. We see that in the record of (John 8:1-11) concerning "The Adulterous Woman." An example of the judgmental actions of the scribes and Pharisees verses that of Jesus of mercy and grace extended to the woman. We are to come to them as fellow sinners, acknowledging our own need for grace and our reliance on the atoning work of Jesus Christ. This humility communicates genuine care and love for the individual, not a desire to see them fail or be harmed by the path they've taken.

As Christians, our desire must be to offer those who have strayed help.

An uncompromising rebuke that stands alone can be perceived as harsh and judgmental. That is not the impression we want them to have. It is the simultaneous offer of help that transforms confrontation into an act of genuine love. This is where the rebuke moves from mere correction to true discipleship. We must ask ourselves, "How can I help this person?"

#### **This might involve:**

- **Prayer:** We can pray with them and for them, interceding for their repentance and their spiritual strength. (James 5:16) reminds us, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer

of a righteous man availeth much." Jesus has made it possible for us to go directly to God for forgiveness.

- **Accountability:** We can offer to walk alongside them, providing ongoing support and accountability to help them overcome their sin. This can involve regular check-ins, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to pray for their progress. No one must carry their burden or struggle alone.
- **Practical Assistance:** Depending on the nature of the sin, the help needed might be practical. Perhaps the sin is tied to a particular struggle, such as an addiction or a financial difficulty. In such cases, the offer of help might involve connecting them with resources, providing practical support, or simply being a listening ear.
- **This might involve a Reminder of God's Grace:** The rebuke must always be followed by a clear presentation of the Gospel. We must remind the sinning brother or sister that their sin is not greater than the grace of God. We must point them back to the cross of Christ, where forgiveness is freely available. As (1 John 1:9) states, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The rebuke is a call to repentance, and the offer of help is a demonstration of the grace that awaits them when they turn back to God.

Rebuking a fellow church member is a difficult and often painful task, but it is a necessary one for the health of the church and the spiritual well-being of the individual. By following the biblical model, we can deliver an uncompromising rebuke that is rooted in love and delivered with love and meekness. The key to a successful confrontation is not only to point out the sin but also to simultaneously communicate our unwavering willingness to help. When we approach our brothers and sisters with a heart for their restoration, we are truly fulfilling the law of Christ, bearing one another's burdens as recorded in (Galatians 6:2), and by demonstrating the sacrificial love that Jesus first showed to us. We see that in the salvation path.

Prayerfully submitted by

Brother Randy Thompson and Bro. Jacob Gullledge

The topic ***How can we deliver an uncompromising rebuke in love while simultaneously communicating our willingness to be a help to the sinning brother or sister*** was read, adopted, and spoken to by Brothers Randy Thompson, Jacob Gullledge, Andrew Stokes, Mark Horton, and Ronnie Stewart.

The moderator then called for the topic ***Why is our culture having more of an influence on our churches than Jesus Christ? How can we change this course***

Why is culture having more effect on the church than Jesus Christ and how can we change it?

The very first word of this topic, ask why? And we got to look at that, even though it's a small word, we got to look at that and see what it truly means.

Most likely the answer is that we allow culture to have more of an effect than Jesus. The world around us has always been evil, sinful, and depraved. This has also been the driving force of society and the culture of all nations throughout history.

We need to define culture to know how it affects us. Culture encompasses the shared beliefs, values, norms, customs, and behaviors of a group or community. Culture is the mindset and way of life shaped by factors like history, religion, and language.

So we see today that we are no different than our forefathers, who also allowed people in their day and time to persuade and direct them. In 1 Samuel 8, the children of God were persuaded to believe that they needed a king, like all the other nations. And God warned them that it was not going to be what they thought it would be. They wanted an earthly king.

It's dangerous to desire to be like the world. And that's true, amen. We have, with the help of Satan, allowed ourselves to live and act like our society. With the cultural practices that they do, we have conceived, or convinced ourselves rather, that just a little sin won't hurt us, but according to the Apostle Paul, a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:14-18, do not be yoked together with unbelievers. The apostle Paul had seen a lot in his day. In 1 Peter 2:9, Peter in his writing said, we are to be different, noticeable different, a

peculiar people. And how do we do that? In Romans 12 and two. Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that we may prove what is that good and acceptable will of God.

Who in the Bible has had this mindset? In Daniel, in the first chapter, the king tried to brainwash Daniel, but he had the mindset to please God. Daniel would not take the food from the king's table. In Daniel chapter 3, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow to the king's decree. They did not allow the norm of the day to persuade them to follow the world and its culture. They were not affected or changed. And they said, we will not bow.

In our culture, we want everything immediately. Instant gratification. We want good jobs, big houses, expensive vehicles, boats, and vacations. Additionally, we want to be entertained. Sports of all kinds, movies, and activities can lure us away from the Lord.

Jesus, in Matthew 6 and 24, no man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God immanently. This ain't gonna happen. Can't do it. It also says that if you are a friend of the world, you are an enemy of God. And that's in James 4:4-8.

In Isaiah 29:13, wherefore the Lord said, for as much as this people draw near me with their mouth and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart from me. And their fear toward me is taught by the precept of man. Jesus reiterated this message in Matthew 15:8. This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. In order to change, we have to have a change of heart, a change in our mindset, our priorities, and our lifestyle. Everything has to change. And how do we do this? Take ownership. Admit it. We have to own up to our responsibilities through repentance and faith, teaching, live it. If the old and young would practice this, we would have a greater influence on the world and on the church through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We have to let our light shine in order for those around us to see that we are a different people. And in order to have an influence on them, we are in the world, but we are not to be like the world.

Today, one of the greatest distractions invented to hinder the effect of the church on our culture is technology. Like a lot of things introduced in our culture, technology was supposed to make our life eas-

ier and to help us. Technology has improved some parts of our lives, but overuse and misuse are detrimental.

The spirit should always be consulted to rightly divide the word of truth. We should never let anything get in the way of the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

In conclusion, the Bible does not offer a blanket command to avoid all non-believers. Jesus didn't avoid them, but emphasizes the importance of discernment and wisdom in navigating relationships. Christians are called to love and share their faith with everyone while also protecting themselves from negative influences and maintaining a strong foundation in their own faith.

Prayerfully submitted, Elder Mark Horton, Elder Jonathan Vaughn

The topic ***Why is our culture having more of an influence on our churches than Jesus Christ? How can we change this course*** was read, adopted, and spoken to by Brothers Mark Horton, Bro. Jonathan Vaughn, Jimmy Wallace, and David Leslie.

A **motion and second** was made to adjourn until 10:00 tomorrow; **motion carried.**

We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Andrew Paige.

Saturday, October 11, 2025

We began the second day with congregational singing of “When We All Get To Heaven” and “Just A Little Talk With Jesus” led by Bro. Alan Douglas, Cross Roads Church, and Bro. Lee Carter, Huntingdon Church, playing the piano.

The moderator called on Bro. Rick Jones, Missionary to Jamaica, to open us in prayer.

The moderator welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order and read from Romans 8:33-39.

The moderator asked for a roll call of messengers. Roll call was made, with 38 to be seated.

The moderator read the 13 Articles of the Constitution.

The moderator called for the Finance Report. The report was read, and a **motion and second** was made to accept the report; **motion carried.**

The moderator called for the obituary report. Bro. Chris Wallace told how our attitude changes as we age. He told of his thankfulness for the message yesterday and the reminder that death is coming to all of us. He read from 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 and read the list of the members of this association who have gone to their eternal reward. The report was read, and a **motion and second** was made to accept the report; **motion carried.**

The moderator called for a report from the historical committee. Scott Carter gave an update from the historical committee, and that the minutes were continually being put online and the original minutes from the forming of the association are being put in pdf.

Called for topics. Topics were read. **Motion and second** was made to accept the report; **motion carried.**

### **Topics 2026 Session**

1. What is the difference between faith and presumption, and how does this distinction impact the counsel we give to seekers?  
Bro. Randy Thompson and Bro. Stephen King

2. In a world that is divided over many things, how can we as Christians better promote and demonstrate unity, as Jesus prayed in John 17:21–23?

Bro. Mark Horton

3. What is the biblical basis for the assurance of salvation?

Bro. Danal Wood and Bro. Bradley Overman

4. As we seek to discern the voice of God’s Spirit, is the presence of the Spirit’s fruit (Galatians 5:22–24) an important clue to determining whether the leadership is of the Lord?

Bro. Chris Wallace and Bro. Mark Jones

The moderator called for reports from the missionaries. Bro. Dennis Lunsford reported that today is a day many do not want to come to. He told how he was doing this work for the love of God. He read the following report.

Brother Moderator:

In James 5:16 we read, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

As 2025 comes to an end after much prayer and anguish of heart, we close another year of our lives. We feel it is the will of God that we do not ask for re-election to the missionary position any more, but it has been our pleasure to occupy this position for some time. My wife and I love to serve the Lord in all we do. We attended all churches in fellowship one or more times this year. As we step aside to follow God, we ask you to extend a hand of fellowship and bid us Godspeed in our endeavors. We pray a door of utterance will be opened from time to time from our church family. If we may assist you in any way, don’t hesitate to call.

Cell phone: 731-614-8590

Submitted with love & respect,

Bro. Dennis Lunsford

He asked not to be elected to this position any longer. He knew the time would come when his body would not be able to carry the load.

**Motion and second** was made to adopt the report from Bro. Dennis Lunsford and thank him for his years of service in this capacity;

**motion carried.**

The moderator called for a report from missionaries.

Bro. Rick Jones spoke of the church's kindness during his years as a missionary. He referenced the letter included in the minutes. He told how it had been 25 years since the mission work on the island of Jamaica. He told about the many burdens God has placed on him and how God has blessed his labors. He coveted the prayers of the people for the work in Jamaica and in the Bahamas.

Bro. Scott Carter gave a brief report on the Bible Study going on at UT-Martin.

With the 11:00 near, the moderator asked Bro. Alan Douglas to come lead us in a song with Bro. Lee Carter to play the piano.

The moderator introduced the one selected to bring the message, Bro. Ronnie Stewart, Pastor Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

**Doctrinal Sermon**

Bro. Stewart began with humble thanks and asked the congregation's prayers, admitting he is never "calm" in the pulpit though God has given him a burning desire to preach. He recalled the influence of seasoned, "sound" men of God and noted that "sound" (healthy) doctrine builds strong churches.



Reading Jeremiah 6:16, he urged the assembly to "stand...see...and ask for the old paths," then posed his guiding question: What is old-time religion, really? He cautioned that telling people to "contend for the faith once delivered" is unhelpful unless we explain what that faith is in practice.

He illustrated with his personal testimony. Raised in Beckwith amid frequent revivals, he saw many converted. As a small boy, he felt curiosity, not conviction, at the tears, testimonies, and shouts. He stressed the difference: curiosity is not conviction, especially with children. True conviction came to him around age eight; yet his attempts to "get saved" on his own timetable failed until the Holy Spirit dealt with him. Salvation, he said, is God's work in God's time—a mystery. Later, as a teen shaken by a sermon on hell, he tested his experience by the power of conviction and the peace God

gave and found assurance: he had been guided by God's power, not by mere theology or emotion.

Turning to church history and practice, he warned that Satan targets the church, not merely society. Persecution could not destroy it; more harm came when Christianity was civilly enforced, filling churches with unconverted people and heathen practices. He noted later conflicts: the mourner's bench tradition versus decisionism; the rise of movements that downplayed conviction and the Spirit's work, reducing conversion to bare assent, formula, or immediate confession. He also cautioned against a reactionary "old-fashioned" posture that fears any change (buildings, bathrooms, methods) while missing the true issue: the loss of God's power. The real tragedy is not removing a bench but removing the mourner, denying the need for Spirit-wrought mourning over sin.

He emphasized that many groups profess "Christ and Him crucified," and some can even cite our Articles point-by-point, yet still handle the lost wrongly, pressing for decisions and substituting steps and scripts for Spirit conviction. He urged churches to know a man's practice before giving him the pulpit: When a sinner says, "I'm lost," what will he do? Drive him to a formula, or patiently point him to seek the Lord under the Spirit's dealing?

Bro. Stewart returned to Jeremiah 6:16: the "old paths" are not an era, a style, or an equipment list; they are the Spirit-led, Scripture-ruled way—Christ's church preaching repentance and faith, the Spirit convicting, sinners genuinely seeking, and God saving for His own glory. We need not fear change; we must fear only losing God's power. Without the Holy Spirit carrying the Word to the heart, nothing of eternal worth is accomplished.

He closed with love for the brethren and a desire to help advance Christ's Kingdom-teaching, encouraging, and contending for the genuine old-time way: Christ exalted, the Spirit working, sinners convicted, and souls finding rest for their souls in the good way.

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

The moderator asked for a song while we shook hands with Bro. Ronnie Stewart and with Bro. Dennis Lunsford and his wife for their service to our association.

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

We were dismissed by Bro. Johnny McClure, Huntingdon Church.

### Saturday Afternoon

We met after a wonderful meal by the host church, and began by singing “Touring That City” led by Bro. Alan Douglas, Cross Roads Church, and Bro. Lee Carter, Huntingdon Church, playing the piano.

The moderator called us back together and asked Bro. Levi Rogers, Huntingdon Church, to open the afternoon session in prayer.

The moderator read a report about his recent trip to Ghana. **Motion and second** was made to include this correspondence in the minutes; **motion carried.**

The moderator called for the topic *How do we utilize men who do not meet the qualifications of a deacon or pastor to advance the cause of Christ*

**How do we utilize men who do not meet the qualifications of a deacon or pastor to advance the cause of Christ?**

There is a great need for godly men in our churches. As we consider the opportunities for men to serve, the roles of pastor (for ministers) and deacon first come to mind. Both positions are essential for a healthy church and have established scriptural requirements for ordination. What about those men who do not yet or will never meet these qualifications? For some, past sins or providential circumstances may close the door on this opportunity.

Christianity is a religion of redemption. All sin can be forgiven, but some sins result in consequences that endure in this life. At the same time, church is not a display case for perfected saints but a hospital for saved sinners. How do we find a meaningful place of service for men who do not meet the qualifications of deacon or pastor?

## Giving Opportunities to Serve

We must begin with having a biblical mindset in our churches regarding the opportunity for service. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 tells us to make disciples by baptizing those who are saved

and teaching them to observe the commands of Christ. A disciple is one who is both learning about and following Jesus Christ, working to advance His cause. We are also taught in scripture that a church is strengthened by each member of the body serving in love (Ephesians 4:15-16). The church will not be all it could be without each member being given opportunity and encouragement to serve.

Even when one door is closed for service (like ordination), the Lord will open another. We must not stand in the way. Before his second missionary journey, Paul was unwilling to bring along John Mark because of his prior desertion. Year later, he sent for John Mark to come to him because Paul found him *“profitable to me for the ministry.”* (2 Timothy 4:11). *Though Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land because he violated God’s command, he was given the responsibility to prepare Israel to enter (see the Book of Deuteronomy). David was not allowed to build the temple because of his bloody career as a soldier, but he prepared the plans, gathered provisions and charged Solomon to complete the work (1 Chronicles 28). We must not get in the way of the Lord’s desire to use his people, but work with Him to help all His people to serve.*

Many church ministries do not require ordination and may be appropriate based on the individual’s giftings, burden, and the needs of the church. Those with a call to preach can be engaged in evangelism, teaching classes, pulpit supply, prison ministries, nursing home ministries, developing Bible studies or Sunday School literature, online ministries, blogs, podcasts, etc. Some of these ministries mentioned do not require a call to preach, but a dedication to studying, applying and sharing God’s Word. Beyond these ministries, men could serve as greeters, prayer warriors, musicians or song leaders, assist with finances, building projects or maintenance, church security, or acts of benevolence for members in need. Sometimes those who have gone through great struggles of sin are later equipped by God to counsel others who are struggling, comforting other with the comfort the Lord shared with them (2 Corinthians 1:4). Doubtless, there are other examples, but these are provided to provoke thought and expand our horizon of opportunities. Of course, someone with a past sin of theft should probably not be placed in charge of collections, lest it become a temptation. Wisdom should guide us in finding a place of service that will not cause a problem for the individual or create legitimate concerns

amongst the congregation.

## Equipping Men to Serve

The Great Commission call goes beyond creating opportunities for service. It is specifically focused on preparing saints to serve through growing understanding of and obedience to Christ's teachings. All men need to be discipled, regardless of whether they can or will be ordained.

To disciple is to actively engage with another to help them grow in their walk with Christ. To do it like Jesus, we must become personally connected to others, even being willing to walk with them through the messy parts of life. Some men that are unable to be ordained may have disordered lives and carry deep scars that have prevented them from meaningfully engaging in service to God.

They may feel unworthy and unable to do anything in service to God. Even the great apostle Peter initially pushed away from Jesus when He called him to follow. *"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."* (Luke 5:8). *Yet Jesus still called Peter to Himself and walked with him for over three years. During this time, Peter was challenged and grew tremendously. The Lord went on to use this unworthy man in amazing ways. Sometimes people just need encouragement and someone to believe that through Christ, they do not have to be defined by their past.*

We also need to listen. We need to hear their story and understand their perspective. We need to find out where their gifts and burdens lie. Sometimes the Lord might even use us to help them connect the dots and find their "sweet spot" for Christian service. At times, we will identify obstacles to service they are facing. We must equip ourselves to prayerfully help them overcome these challenges, being patient with them, and earning a place in their life through love so that we can speak truth (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Sometimes, time is needed for healing or spiritual growth before thrusting men into an opportunity for service that could be too much,

too fast. The Apostle Paul needed time apart from the larger Christian community after his conversion to process the changes in his life, allow the Christians he once persecuted to accept the changes in him, and to prepare himself for ministry (Galatians 1:15-18). Taking necessary time is not wasting time, it is getting on God's schedule. We must be cautious about how we work with men who may be already hurting.

## Blessings will Come

When we engage in the fulness of Commission work, the Lord will bless. He wants all His people fully engaged in rich and meaningful work. It is important for every member to feel welcome and have a place at the Lord's house. An engaged member is a praying and present member. They feel more invested in the work being done.

Samson killed more Philistines in death than in life after he repented of his fatal sin with Delilah (Judges 16:30). The relationship between David and Bathsheba found its origin in sin. Even after David's repentance, there was a grave consequence, as they lost David's child Bathsheba was carrying. Yet, after marrying David, she became pregnant with Solomon. He was nicknamed "Jedidiah" by Nathan the prophet, which means "beloved of the Lord". (2 Samuel 12:25)

After Paul listed the wicked deeds that do not characterize those who inherit the kingdom, he told the Corinthians, "*And such were some of you...*" (1 Corinthians 1:9-11). *A church is beautiful when the pews are filled with saints that are pictures of redemption. It is even more beautiful when the sin-extinguishing life of Christ fills these individuals and pours forth in acts of love and service, and the body is built up, and Christ is glorified.*

The topic ***How do we utilize men who do not meet the qualifications of a deacon or pastor to advance the cause of Christ*** was read, adopted, and spoken to by Brothers Levi Rogers, Lee Carter, Johnny McClure, and Andrew Stokes.

The moderator called for the topic *Are there any structural changes that can be made to our associational meeting that would enhance our attendance, fellowship and value in our time spent together*

**Are there any structural changes that can be made to our associational meeting that would enhance our attendance, fellowship, and value in our time spent together?**

The Southwestern District Association began in 1846 and first met with Mt. Comfort Missionary Baptist Church in Carroll County Tennessee. Since then, for 179 years the Southwestern District Association has met annually, except during the Civil War in 1862-1864. Since then, 54 different Missionary Baptist Churches have hosted the Southwestern District Association during wars, pandemics and civil unrest.

What is the association of the Missionary Baptist Churches? It is a two-day meeting of all the churches of the Southwestern District Association. We meet for two morning and two afternoon sessions. It is comprised of two sermons and four informational topics covered by men chosen by a committee that covers topics of interest with the intent to provide spiritual nourishment to believers. There is also a meal provided by the host church after both morning sessions in another way to enhance fellowship among all in attendance. The purpose of this gathering is to strengthen one another in fellowship.

This associational meeting is meant to encourage cooperation in matters too large or demands for a single church to undertake. It gives each church an identity with other churches and believers who agree on the doctrines found in the Word of God. It allows for a larger outreach to unbelievers as there have been revivals hosted together in the past. As churches enjoy fellowship together it allows evangelists, pastors and missionaries to preach and spread the gospel. If a sister church finds itself in need of someone to fill the pulpit for worship on Sunday morning or a revival, this gives opportunity to hear various brethren speak. The annual printed minutes of the association allows easy access to contacts and phone numbers of brothers who can assist in matters if the need arises for a helping hand.

We find in Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpeneth iron so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend". "Iron sharpens iron" is a meta-

phor that means people can benefit from each other's company by sharpening each other's intellect, personality, and spirit through interactions like challenging discussions and supportive feedback. Like two pieces of iron rubbing together to become more refined, people can help each other grow, improve, and become better versions of themselves through mutual correction and encouragement. In Ecclesiastes 4:9, it states "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor." This teaches that life is meant to be shared, and that we are stronger, more productive, and more fulfilled when we work together and support each other.

What do both passages of scripture teach us? Both scriptures highlight the value of relationships, especially how people strengthen and benefit from one another.

First, "iron sharpens iron" speaks to friends who are good for each other. How can you be a help for a friend? You can hold each other accountable, through constructive criticism. This constructive criticism can refine or change our thinking. By sharpening each other in our relationships we commit to intentional contact with the intent to help our brothers or sisters in various situations.

In Ecclesiastes chapter four it speaks to how two are better than one by the following: First it speaks to increased reward for their labor, thus increased production. Second, it speaks if a brother falls and if another one is with him, he can help him up or if there is a need a fellow brother can provide whether that is food, water, clothing or shelter, he's there to help. Lastly it speaks to a threefold chord is better than two. In any relationship, God is needed as that third person and with his help in all aspects of relationships it will not be broken.

The local church is the highest authority under God and that authority may not be delegated to any organization established between them. That does not mean that auxiliary organizations may not be established with the consent of the churches in pursuit of specific accomplishments such as fellowship and being a help to one another. The goal of the Southwestern District Association is not to have any authority over the individual churches who make up this association. It is not to endure beyond the purpose for which it was formed nor should they or their goals become more important in the minds of the people than the churches themselves.

What changes could we make at our associational meetings to en-

hance our attendance, fellowship and value?

1. Ask the messengers to go back to their respective churches and ask what they would like to see or be added to the association.
2. Some things to be discussed: Is it held during the best time of year? Should we add a Wednesday Night or Sunday Night service together. If a Wednesday night service, could we use that service to get our hearts and minds ready for Friday and Saturday fellowship? Should it be a Sunday Night Service to conclude the fellowship of the weekend?
3. Should the association (instead of host church) be responsible for financial support of the meals? Would this allow other churches to participate in hosting the association?
4. Should we have opportunities available during the calendar year to come together and discuss subjects which would edify individual churches? For example, discussion on the topic of Sunday School. How can we all share our best practices to further the cause and increase interest in it? Could we encourage ongoing relationship-building meetings between associational leaders and churches (pastor lunches, check-ins, prayer group) year-round, not just at the fall meetings?
5. Instead of topics before the whole congregation, should we have topics and break into smaller groups? The groups could consist of a session of men and one of women. Also, maybe a group specifically for younger adults (18-29). Any other suggestions from each church survey would be welcomed.

The attendance numbers prove that less interest is being shown for our Southwestern District Baptist Association meetings. Look around at the ages of those who are present or who are messengers of their respective churches. How will the next generation carry on the meetings of the Southwestern District Baptist Association in years to come? How can we change the tide and press toward the mark for future generations? The two who are presenting this topic are not experts and claim no authority of the subject matter. Our simple goal is to provoke thought in a positive way to how we can further the cause. I am afraid if we continue to not address concerns, does it show we are content and show a lack of faith?

Respectfully Submitted:  
Brother David Leslie  
Brother Scott Carter

The topic *Are there any structural changes that can be made to our associational meeting that would enhance our attendance, fellowship and value in our time spent together* was read, adopted, and spoken to by Brothers David Leslie, Scott Carter, Andrew Stokes, Steve Hargrove, Lee Carter, Larry Pritchard, Johnny McClure, Harold Webb, Jimmy Wallace, Mark Horton, Dennis Lunsford, and Sis. Brenda Leslie.

**Call for old business.** New Spring Hill was contacted about having to leave the association, and they stated that they only have a handful of members and cannot attend the sessions.

**Call for new business.**

Trey Crews was nominated as the Associational Missionary. Motion and second was made for nominations to cease and to elect by acclamation; **motion carried.**

The time had come for the moderator to ask the clerk to read 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 Cross Roads Church in Benton County for serving as host for this session. Our fellowship is always needed, but this year seemed to be extra special. We last met with you in 2018, 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. Phillip Gullede and his message on “It’s Still The Same” and for Bro. Ronnie Stewart and his sermon “Old Time Religion; What Is It?”. We were once again blessed with ministers being led of the Spirit.

I once again give thanks to the Topic Committee for their selecting the topics and the ones to prepare 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 the association officers. 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 at Cross Roads Missionary Baptist Church for your hospitality. 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 an association.

Please begin to pray for Oak Grove 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 Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church for the 178th annual session on October 09-10, 2026 at 10:00 am ready to receive another blessing from the Lord.

Under His Wings,  
Scott Carter, Clerk

**A motion and second** was made to include in the minutes; **motion carried.**

**A motion and second** was made to adjourn until 10:00 AM October 9, 2026 at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church; **motion carried.**

We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Dennis Stokes, Cross Roads Church.

The moderator asked all the preachers to come up front for the fellowship handshake. The congregation stood and sang "Victory In Jesus."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Stokes".

Bro. Andrew Stokes, Moderator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Carter".

Bro. Scott Carter, Clerk

## **Messengers for the 177th Annual Session**

### **Bethel:**

Friday– Johnny Hawkins, Jeff Carter, Amy Carter

Saturday– Jeff Carter, Amy Carter

### **Bible Grove:**

Friday– Andrew Stokes, Retha Wood, Sherry Woods

Saturday– Andrew Stokes, Retha Wood, Melanie Stokes

### **Center Point:**

Friday– Jonathan Vaughn, Desiree Vaughn, Jenny Moon

Saturday– Jonathan Vaughn, Desiree Vaughn, Jenny Moon

### **Clarksburg:**

Friday– Roger Lindsey, Pam Lindsey

Saturday– Represented by letter

### **Concord:**

Friday– Josh Parker, Dennis Stokes, Rosalind Cole

Saturday– Josh Parker, Dennis Stokes, Jeannine Stokes

### **Cross Roads:**

Friday– Steve Hargrove, Myron Kirk, Jimmy Hicks

Saturday– Steve Hargrove, Myron Kirk, Kenny Hicks

### **Huntingdon:**

Friday– Randy Thompson, Harold Webb, Kenny Rush

Saturday– Randy Thompson, Harold Webb, Kenny Rush

### **Landmark:**

Friday– Wallace Douglas, Ron Stewart

Saturday– Wallace Douglas, Ron Stewart, Kristi Stewart

### **Marlsboro:**

Friday– Did not represent

Saturday– Did not represent

### **Mixie:**

Friday– Represented by letter

Saturday– Represented by letter

### **New Cross Roads:**

Friday– Represented by letter

Saturday– Represented by letter

### **New Hope:**

Friday– Scott Gallimore, Michael Montgomery, Jacob Gullede

Saturday– Scott Gallimore, Michael Montgomery, Jacob Gullede

### **Oak Grove:**

Friday– Jimmy Wallace, Glenn Lewis, Mark Horton

Saturday– Jimmy Wallace, Glenn Lewis, Mark Horton

### **Pleasant Grove:**

Friday– Frank Rickman, Melanie Rickman, Chris Wallace

Saturday– Frank Rickman, Melanie Rickman, Chris Wallace

**Pleasant Hill:**

Friday– Edward Ellis, Perry Cook, Waymon Umstead

Saturday– Edward Ellis, Perry Cook, Waymon Umstead

**Pleasant Ridge:**

Friday– Ann Haskins, Tracy Merrell

Saturday– Judy French

**Rushing Creek:**

Friday–Tony Boyd, Justin Newton, Bruce Seaton

Saturday– Tony Boyd

**Shiloh:**

Friday– Scott Carter, Larry Pritchard, Jerry McDaniel

Saturday– Scott Carter, Larry Pritchard, Jerry McDaniel

**Westport:**

Friday– Brenda Leslie

Saturday– Brenda Leslie

**Financial Statement**  
**2025 Minute Fund**

BALANCE OCTOBER 12, 2024                      \$ 11,931.98

**EXPENDITURES:**

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| First Bank (lock box draft) | \$ 60.00  |
| Stokes Surveying (minutes)  | \$ 800.00 |
| Website                     | \$ 510.84 |

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Minute Fund 2025 | \$ 1,538.00 |
|------------------|-------------|

**BALANCE OCTOBER 11, 2025                      \$ 12,099.14**

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Clerk Contributions               | \$ 1,360.00 |
| Associational Missionary Offering | \$ 1,425.00 |

Submitted by:

Bro. Larry Pritchard, Shiloh Church

Bro. Harold Webb, Huntingdon Church

Bro. Jimmy Wallace, Oak Grove Church

## Correspondence

FROM THE DESK OF MISSIONARY ELDER RICK JONES

Greetings, Brothers & Sisters

I want to thank all of you for your prayers these many months as I have been recovering from MY illness. My heart is touched by how so many blessings can come to one person, as they have for me

While in Jamaica, I spent many lonely days praying for a church to be established on the Missouri side of the Kansas border. For many years, I longed for this prayer to be answered, occasionally pondering whether it would indeed be until, during a visit home to the States, the Lord began to open doors. Following a weekend revival, the Lord impressed upon me to start a mission effort in the town of Pleasanton, Kansas, where my brother and sister-in-law resided. During the first service, my sister-law was saved. In March, during a special weekend service, nine young souls were saved, including some of my grandchildren, great-nieces, a nephew, and a member of the Spurgeon family. Mine Creek was organized with 10 members of my family. Not long after this excellent service, I returned to my work in Jamaica, as well as a few years in Grand Cayman, where I led services with Jamaicans living on the island. With one lost Caymanian saved. Due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan, that mission effort never materialized, I and the Jamaicans were ordered off the island at that time. Following the hurricane, I returned to Jamaica, where I continued preaching, and the Lord blessed, saved souls, and added members. Then the Lord moved in my heart to go to Nassau to help one of the Jamaica church members begin a work on this sister island. I had many experiences sharing my testimony with individuals on the island as well as preaching the gospel to the Bahamians. One of those experiences includes meeting a preacher of a different faith that I had hoped the Lord would make a Missionary Baptist, but when COVID hit, he suddenly died in his sleep. The COVID pandemic continues to hinder work there; however, I have hopes of returning to Nassau in 2026, as well as to Jamaica for revival endeavors and to assist my church members there. Additionally, I have recently begun an extended mission work, preaching live on Facebook, as an outreach to my Jamaican members, those living in Nassau and Grand Cayman, and anyone who logs on and views on Thursday Nights. To the Moderator, Vice Moderator, and association messengers, since becoming acquainted with many of you, you have blessed and honored the Lord's work with your prayers and support. Should you determine that another mission effort is worthy of your support and prayers, I will be eternally grateful for our years of labor together.

Elder Rick Jones

## **BIG BEAR CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

[www.bigbearcreekmba.com](http://www.bigbearcreekmba.com)

**Keith L. Hood – Clerk  
12051 Highway 278  
Double Springs, AL 35553  
(256)318-0589**

April 10, 2025

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 Eighty-Ninth Annual Session with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. We had 15 churches reporting an increase of 40 with 17 of those being by baptism. We had a decrease of 22 with a total membership of 1,309. 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 190<sup>th</sup> Annual Session to be held with Flat Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Lawrence County, Alabama. The church is located east of Moulton, Alabama, just off of Alabama Highway 24. This session will be held October 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2025. The service Saturday morning will begin at 11:00 a.m.

In Christ's love,

*Keith L. Hood*

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

**Ghana Mission Trip Report**  
**to Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association**

**Churches:** Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church – Kumasi, Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church – Bonwire, New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church – Atebubu, Trinity Missionary Baptist Church – Prang, Faith Missionary Baptist Church – Cape Coast

**Missions located in:** Hemang, Ankaase, Onwe, Buipe, Kokofu, Famfour, Bupe, Kumfia, Beposo, Wa, Tamale, Cape, and Amatin

By invitation of Bro. Samuel Sekyere and Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, I was invited to return to Ghana for two weeks in September to lead a Marriage Conference, teach lesson in a Men's Conference for Preachers & Deacons, teach lessons in a Youth Conference, preach sermons on the radio and in church, and participate in an ordination of six deacons. I was there from September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Bro. Randall Woods & Bro. Kevin Slayton had arrived days before me and had participated in a revival at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Bonwire. They also preached at a couple of the mission efforts that were near Kumasi. I was permitted to preach on the radio one day. We traveled to two different schools and brought sermons to children. One of the schools was a private school where Bro. Samuel's grandchildren attended and the other was a public school where Bro. Samuel's daughter is a teacher. The children were wonderfully receptive to the gospel and sang hymns and songs of praise. The school officials were also welcoming and appreciative of our visit.

While Bro. Randall & Bro. Kevin preached at the missions, I was tasked with leading a conference on marriage. The desire for the specific teachings on marriage came from some of the discussions during my lessons two years prior. There were healthy and in-depth questions about the Biblical principles of marriage and an appreciation for the respect given to the Lord's teachings. The churchgoers of Ghana experience the same relationship problems and are plagued with the same sins as our American churches. It seemed beneficial to take the three days afforded to thoroughly review marriage. Then, I was asked to continue the discussion during the Sunday school lesson on Sunday morning. On my first Sunday there, I was also allowed to bring the morning message to Mt. Zion.

The Men's Conference was then held for three nights with a theme of "Brotherly Love". Bro. Randall, Bro. Kevin, and I took

turns with different parts of the lesson and responded to questions along with the scriptural study. There were activities planned for Thursday, but they were cancelled due to the fact the queen of the Kumasi region had passed and that was the day of her funeral. The area was instructed to stay inside, out of respect, so we just rested the whole day.

Beginning Friday, the Youth Conference began with a theme of “The Whole Armor of God”. We took turns again teaching different parts of the theme. We had a revival service on Friday night. Bro. Randall preached and one attendee professed they were saved after the service was over. There had been at least 25 on the altar seeking the Lord. We continued the lessons on Saturday, and I was given the opportunity to preach a revival sermon on Saturday night. About 12 went to the altar with one young woman professing salvation after we had returned home for the night. A third person was also reported to be saved at some point in the services.

Sunday morning, Bro. Kevin preached at Mt. Zion for the day’s service, and the presbytery was formed after for the purpose of ordaining six (6) men as deacons for the benefit of both Mt. Zion and Ebenezer churches. Bro. Samuel moderated and took special care to receive authority from each respective church for their ordained brethren. I was elected to clerk and did my best to serve the Lord. It was an incredibly blessed service in which to participate. After service was over, Bro. Kevin and I returned home.

The people of Ghana were once again profoundly kind, humble, and focused on serving the Lord as sound Missionary Baptists. There is a genuine need for support as the major struggle of the area is economics. There are several trustworthy and genuine church leaders who will properly handle any support received from our American churches. Please join me in praying for the work of the Lord in our sister churches and missions in Ghana, Africa. If you would like to contribute to the work in Ghana, you can send donations to Missionary Baptist Literature, P.O. Box 129, Clarksburg, TN 38324 and note “Ghana Mission Fund” on the check.

Humbly submitted,  
Bro. Andrew Stokes

### Licensed Ministers

**Avery, George**, Clarksburg-----731-414-3198  
 810 Anark Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Gulledge, Jacob**, New Hope -----731-616-1667  
 1979 Prospect Rd, Holladay, TN 38341  
**Hale, Joe**, Clarksburg -----731-968-5298  
 22790 Hwy 22 N, Yuma, TN 38390  
**Jones, Mark**, Pleasant Grove-----731-608-1717  
 488 Palmer Rd. Lexington, TN 38351  
**Joyner, John**, New Cross Roads-----731-986-9764  
 127 5th Avenue, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Overman, Bradley**, New Hope -----731-506-9378  
 526 Maywood Ave, Lexington, TN 38351  
**King, Stephen**, Huntingdon -----731-220-3884  
 977 James Walker Road; Camden, TN; 38320  
**Rogers, Levi**, Huntingdon-----731-602-1877  
 17575 US-412 W; Lexington, TN 38351-6891

### Ordained Ministers

**Allen, Adam**, Huntingdon -----731-415-1739  
 116 Cedar Tree Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Boyd, Tony**, Rushing Creek -----731-243-2693  
 65 West College Street, Henry, TN 38231  
**Butler, Michael**, Pleasant Hill -----731-733-1583  
 17565 Hwy 70, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Carter, Scott D.**, Shiloh -----731-415-1688  
 400 Chickasaw Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Crews, Trey**, Huntingdon-----731-415-4745  
 45 Hwy 22 N, Yuma, TN 38390  
**Dodd, Jerry**, Westport  
 570 Storey Road, Troy, TN 38260  
**Ezell, Clint**, Bethel-----731-845-6421  
 111 Oak Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Gulledge, Phillip**, New Hope -----731-847-7844  
 2391 Prospect Road, Holladay, TN 38341  
**Hedges, Truman**, Cross Roads-----731-584-7875  
 620 Jacqueline Circle, Camden, TN 38320  
**Horton, Mark**, Oak Grove-----615-633-1635  
 7074 Rocky Mound Road, Westmoreland, TN 37186  
**Keen, James**, Huntingdon -----907-317-3486  
 368 Woodland Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344

**Leslie, David**, Cross Roads-----731-845-3859  
 1118 Crazy Doe Road, Lexington, TN 38351  
**Lunsford, Dennis**, New Cross Roads-----731-614-8590  
 19990 Hwy. 22 N, Wildersville, TN 38388  
**McDaniel, Tracy**, New Cross Roads-----731-636-1503  
 630 Stafford Store Road, Greenfield, TN 38230  
**Oakes, Bryan**, Pleasant Ridge -----731-415-8390  
 955 Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Paige, Khristopher**, Pleasant Ridge  
 234-236 Laltoo Trace, Penal, Trinidad West Indies  
**Parker, Joshua**, Concord -----731-614-0379  
 P.O. Box 232, Reagan, TN 38368  
**Rahn, Allan**, Bethel -----618-638-4607  
 2785 North Avenue, Metropolis, IL 62960  
**Singleton, Blake**, Pleasant Grove -----731-415-5752  
**Stewart, Ron**, Landmark -----615-394-0314  
 1327 Cedar Drive, Camden, TN 38320  
**Stokes, Andrew**, Bible Grove -----731-986-1052  
 849 Hawkins Creek Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Thompson, James Randy**, Cross Roads-----731-441-1729  
 211 Arnold Drive, Camden, TN 38320  
**Vaughn, Jonathan**, Center Point-----731-441-0763  
 905 Green Valley Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
**Wallace, Chris**, Pleasant Grove-----731-614-0662  
 19830 Hwy 104 S, Lexington, TN 38351

## Church Directory

**BETHEL**- 65 Bethel Church Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
P.O. Box 1012, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
PASTOR-Clint Ezell-----731-845-6421  
111 Oak Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
CLERK-Jeff Carter-----731-415-7363  
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 -----731-986-1052  
849 Hawkins Creek Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
CLERK-Johnny Sanders -----731-845-3838  
290 Westover Road, Huron, TN 38345

**CENTER POINT**- 2225 Rowland Mill Road, Buena Vista, TN 38318  
PASTOR- Jonathan Vaughn -----731-441-0761  
903 Green Valley Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
CLERK-Jenny Moon-----731-415-3172  
108 Enterprise Street, Bruceton, TN 38317

**CLARKSBURG**-12281 Hwy 424, Clarksburg, TN 38324  
PASTOR-  
CLERK-Josh Milam -----731-415-9268  
350 Wall Cemetery Lane , Yuma TN 38390

**CONCORD (Est. 1846)**- 3275 Westport Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
PASTOR- Joshua Parker-----731-614-0379  
P.O. Box 232, Reagan, TN 38368  
CLERK-Dennis Stokes -----731-343-3649  
850 Hawkins Creek Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344

**CROSS ROADS (Est. 1849)**- -----731-584-7665  
55 Crossroads Church Road, Camden, TN 38320  
PASTOR- David Leslie -----731-845-3859  
1118 Crazy Doe Rd., Lexington, TN 38351  
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- James Keen -----907-317-3486  
368 Woodland Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344  
CLERK-Lee Carter-----731-415-8033  
150 Carter Dr., Huntingdon, TN 38344

**LANDMARK - (Est. 1994)**

The Farms at Bailey Station, 3300 S. Houston Levee Rd., Collerville, TN 38017

PASTOR— Ron Stewart-----615-394-0314

1327 Cedar Drive, Camden, TN 38320

CLERK— Keith Brewer-----901-485-5575

7506 Meadowland Drive Memphis, TN 38133

**MARLSBORO-** 25165 State Route 114 N, Hollow Rock, TN 38342

PASTOR-

CLERK-

**MIXIE- (Est. 1945)** 25860 Hwy 77, Hollow Rock, TN 38342

PASTOR— Matthew Floyd -----731-418-1888

135 Green Valley Road, Huntingdon TN 38344

CLERK-Amanda Holland-----731-415-8822

565 Chapel Hill Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344--

**NEW CROSS ROADS- (Est. 1903)**

2110 Long Rock Church Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344

P.O. Box 268, Huntingdon, TN 38344

PASTOR-Tracy McDaniel -----731-636-1503

630 Stafford Store Road, Greenfield, TN 38230

CLERK-Frank Gregg -----731-694-9315

c/o New Cross Roads Church P.O. 268, Huntingdon, TN 38344

**NEW HOPE (Est. 1870)-** 5315 Hwy 114, Westport, TN 38387

PASTOR-Phillip Gullledge -----731-847-7844

2391 Prospect Road, Holladay, TN 38341

CLERK-Wilma Seagraves -----731-418-0756

P.O. Box 186, Huntingdon, TN 38344

6820 Smyrna Road, Westport, TN 38387

**OAK GROVE-** 105 Oak Grove Church Road, Lexington, TN 38351

PASTOR-Mark Horton -----615-633-1635

7074 Rocky Mound Rd., Westmoreland, TN 37186

CLERK-Jimmy Wallace-----731-967-9794

20465 Hwy. 104 S, Lexington, TN 38351

**PLEASANT GROVE—**

Pleasant Grove Church Road, Wildersville, TN 38388

PASTOR— Chris Wallace -----731-614-0662

19830 Hwy 104 S., Lexington, TN 38351

CLERK-Ernest Wood-----731-845-4590

375 Pleasant Grove Church Road, Wildersville, TN 38388

**PLEASANT HILL-**

1675 Pleasant Hill Church Road, Camden, TN 38320

PASTOR—

CLERK-Brenda Self -----731-441-3798

450 Blackberry Road, Camden, TN 38320

**PLEASANT RIDGE (Est. 1856)**

5745 Hwy 70 W, Camden, TN 38320

PASTOR- Bryan Oakes -----731-415-8390  
955 Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344

CLERK-Mary Oakes-----731-986-2347  
955 Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344

**RUSHING CREEK (EST 1850)–**

4005 Rushing Creek Church Road, Camden, TN 38320

PASTOR– Tony Boyd-----731-243-2693  
65 West College Street, Henry, TN 38231

CLERK-Carol Ann Broadway-----731-584-8567  
4175 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

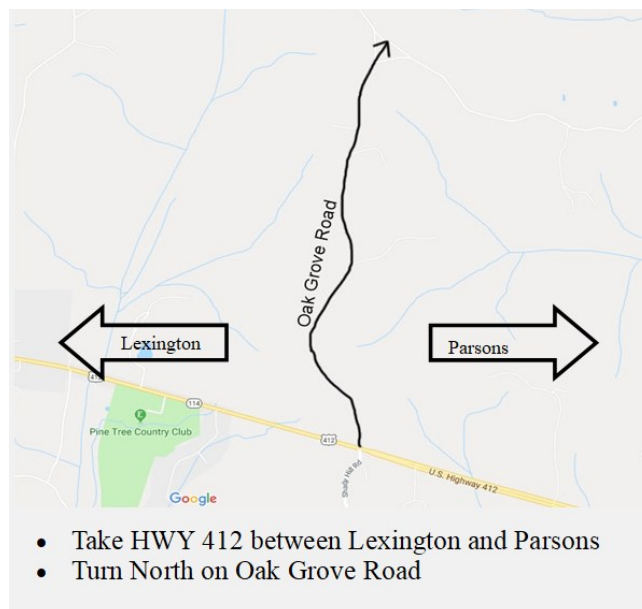
CLERK-Larry Pritchard -----731-845-5444  
730 Pritchard Road, Wildersville, TN 38388

**WESTPORT (EST 1896)- 7080 Westport Road, Westport, TN 38387**

PASTOR–

CLERK-Daphne Hicks -----731-415-3378  
7444 Westport Rd., Westport, TN 38387

**Directions to 2026 Session**



## **2026 Summer Revival Schedule**

|                | Revival<br>Start Date | Revival<br>End Date | Sunday<br>Evening | Weekday<br>Morning<br>Start Time | Weekday<br>Evening | Revival<br>Helper |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Rushing Creek  | May-10                | May-13              | 6:00              |                                  | 7:00               |                   |
| Pleasant Hill  | Jun-7                 | Jun-12              | 6:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               |                   |
| New Hope       | Jun-14                | Jun-19              | 7:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               |                   |
| Shiloh         | Jun-21                | Jun-26              | 7:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               |                   |
| Huntingdon     | Jun-28                | Jul-3               | 7:00              | 10:30                            | 7:30               |                   |
| Pleasant Ridge | Jun-28                | Jul-3               | 6:00              |                                  | 7:00               |                   |
| New Cross Rds  | Jun-28                | Jul-3               | 6:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               |                   |
| Westport       | Jul-5                 | Jul-10              | 7:00              |                                  | 7:00               |                   |
| Concord        | Jul-12                | Jul-17              | 7:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               |                   |
| Cross Roads    | Jul-12                | Jul-17              | 6:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               |                   |
| Mixie          | Jul-12                | Jul-17              | 5:30              |                                  | 7:00               |                   |
| Pleasant Grove | Jul-12                | Jul-17              |                   |                                  |                    |                   |
| Center Point   | Jul-12                | Jul-17              | 6:00              |                                  | 7:00               |                   |
| Bethel         | Jul-19                | Jul-24              | 6:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               | Phillip Gulledege |
| Bible Grove    | Jul-19                | Jul-24              | 7:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               | Scott Carter      |
| Clarksburg     | Jul-26                | Jul-31              |                   |                                  |                    |                   |
| Oak Grove      | Jul-26                | Jul-31              | 6:00              | 10:30                            | 7:00               |                   |
| Landmark       |                       |                     |                   |                                  |                    |                   |
| Marlsboro      |                       |                     |                   |                                  |                    |                   |

## 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        |
| <b>1862-1864-----</b>                       | <b>No Association during Civil War</b> |
| 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 |
| 2016-Pleasant Ridge, Benton County-----   | Ray Smith-----     | Scott Carter |
| 2017-Pleasant Hill, Benton County-----    | Ray Smith-----     | Scott Carter |
| 2018-Cross Roads, Benton County-----      | Ray Smith-----     | Scott Carter |
| 2019-Oak Grove, Henderson County-----     | Ray Smith-----     | Scott Carter |
| 2020-Concord, Carroll County-----         | Ray Smith-----     | Scott Carter |
| 2021-New Hope, Carroll County-----        | Ray Smith-----     | Scott Carter |
| 2022-Shiloh, Carroll County-----          | Ray Smith-----     | Scott Carter |
| 2023-Bible Grove, Henderson County-----   | Andrew Stokes----- | Scott Carter |
| 2024-Huntingdon, Carroll County-----      | Andrew Stokes----- | Scott Carter |
| 2025-Cross Roads, Benton County-----      | Andrew Stokes----- | 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 members in addressing each other.
- ARTICLE 12. Any member violating these rules shall be subject to reproof 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**

**I. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God; and the only rule of faith and practice.** (Proverbs 30:5-6; 2 Samuel 23:2; John 5:38-39; John 12:47-48; Romans 1:16; Romans 3:4; Galatians 1:8-9; Philippians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 1 Peter 4:11; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:1; Revelation 22:18-19)

**II. 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 the 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.** (Exodus 15:11; Exodus 20:3; Psalms 83:18; Psalms 147:5; Isaiah 6:3; Jeremiah 2:12-13; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 10:37; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:30; John 4:24; John 5:17; John 10:30; John 14:23-28; John 15:26; John 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 1:20; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; Philippians 2:5-6; Hebrews 3:4; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 John 5:7; Revelation 1:4-5; Revelation 4:6-8; Revelation 4:11)

**III. 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.** (Genesis 1:27, 31; Genesis 2:16; Genesis 3:6-24; Genesis 6:5-6; Genesis 6:12; Psalms 51:5; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 4:22; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Matthew 20:15; John 3:6; Acts 15:26; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 2:1-16; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 5:12-19; Romans 8:7; Galatians 3:10; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:3)

**IV. 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.** (Psalms 45; Psalms 89:19; Isaiah 42:21; Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 18:11-14; Matthew 20:28; John 1:1-14; John 3:16-18; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:10-26; Romans 4:25; Romans 5:12, 19; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:22; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:5-9; Philippians 2:6-8; Colossians 2:9; Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 1:3,8; Hebrews 2:9,14,18; Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 7:25-26; Hebrews 9:13-15; Hebrews 12:24; 1 John 2:3; 1 John 4:5-10)

**V. 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.** (Proverbs 1:24; Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 11:20; Matthew 23:37; Mark 1:15; Luke 14:17; Luke 19:27; John 3:19; John 5:40; Acts 13:46; Romans 1:15-17; Romans 5:19; Romans 9:32; Romans 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 2:9-10; Hebrews 5:1-10; Hebrews 6:16-20; Hebrews 7:11-28; Revelation 22:17)

**VI. 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.** (Isaiah 64:4-8; Daniel 9:18-19; Zechariah 3:1-5; John 3:36; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Acts 10:42-43; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 John 5:11-12; Revelation 20:15)

**VII. 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.** (Psalms 45:6; Psalms 89:19; Isaiah 53:4-5; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:6-8; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Hebrews 1:3, 8; Hebrews 2:9; Hebrews 2:14; Hebrews 2:18; Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 7:25-26; Hebrews 9:13-28; Hebrews 12:24; 1 John 2:1-3; 1 John 4:10)

**VIII. 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.** (Psalms 34:18; Luke 15:7; John 6:44; John 6:65; John 14:16-18; John 14:25-26; John 15:26-27; John 16:7-14; Acts 3:19; Acts 8:22; Acts 9:4-5; Acts 16:14; Romans 8:16; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 John 2:20)

**IX. We believe that all who are sanctified by the Spirit are freely justified by the righteousness of Christ, which comes to all that believe.** (Proverbs 4:18; Matthew 26:41; Luke 9:23; Luke 11:35; John 3:6; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 8:5-15; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Corinthians 13:5-9; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 1:3-14; Ephesians 4:11-12,30; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 1:9-11; Philippians 2:12-13; Philippians 3:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 6:11; 1 Peter 1:5-8; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:24-29)

**X. 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.** (2 Kings 6:16; Job 17:9; Psalms 16:10-11; Psalms 91:11-12; Psalms 121:3; Psalms 125:1; Jeremiah 32:40; Matthew 6:30-33; Matthew 13:20-21; John 4:14; John 6:66-69; John 8:31; John 13:18; Romans 8:28,35-39; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 1:14; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:19,27-28; 1 John 3:9; 1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:18; Jude 24-25)

**XI. 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.** (Matthew 3:7-17; Matthew 18:15-20; Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15,21; John 15:12; Acts 2:37-38,41-42,47; Acts 8:1,36-38; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; Acts 16:30-33; Acts 19:1-7; Romans 16:17-20; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:11,17; 1 Corinthians 5:6,12-13; 1 Corinthians 11:2,23-26; 1 Corinthians 12:14; 1 Corinthians 14:12; 2 Corinthians 2:7; 2 Corinthians 8:5; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:7; Philippians 1:1,27; 1 Thessalonians 4:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 John 4:21; 2 John 6; 3 John 9)

**XII. 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.** (Matthew 16:16-19; Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; Romans 16:17-20; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 1 Corinthians 5:6, 12-13; 1 Corinthians 11:2, 23; 1 Corinthians 12:14; 1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Corinthians 14:26-33; 2 Corinthians 8:5; Galatians 6:2; Philippians 1:27; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 Timothy 5:21)

**XIII. 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.** (Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:8; Exodus 35:2-3; Leviticus 19:30; Psalms 26:8; Psalms 118:24; Isaiah 56:2-8; Isaiah 58:13-14; Matthew 28:1; Mark 2:27-28; John 20:19-20; Acts 11:26; Acts 13:44; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 4:3-11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Revelation 1:10)

**XIV. 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.** (2 Kings 5:11, 13; Jonah 3:4-5; Psalms 94:11-13; Mark 16:15; Acts 8:31; Acts 11:29-30; Romans 10:13-17; Romans 12:13; Romans 15:25-27; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 21; 1 Corinthians 9:9-14; 2 Corinthians 8:13-15; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 1:13; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Titus 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:25; 1 John 3:17)

**XV. 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.** (1 Samuel 3:4, 10; Acts 13:2-3; Acts 16:10; Acts 20:27; Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:17; 1 Corinthians 1:23-29; 2 Corinthians 4:1-7; 2 Corinthians 6:3-4; Galatians 1:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4; 1 Timothy 4:6; 1 Timothy 4:12-16; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 6:1-2; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 1 Peter 5:1-3; 2 Peter 1:10)

**XVI. 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.** (Matthew 3:5-6; Matthew 26:26-29; Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 3:13-14; Mark 14:22-25; Mark 16:16; Luke 22:14-20; John 3:22-23; John 4:1-3; John 6:26-71; Acts 2:38,41-42; Acts 6:6; Acts 8:12,36-39; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 14:21-23; Acts 16:32-34; Acts 18:8,24-28; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:3-32; 1 Corinthians 11:17-32; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 3:20-21)

**XVII. 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.** (Job 19:25-27; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Daniel 12:1-2; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 13:41-43; Matthew 13:49-50; Matthew 24:30-31; Matthew 24:35-44; Matthew 25:31-33; Matthew 25:46; Luke 14:13-14; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:19; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 3:11-12; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 20:11-12)

**XVIII. 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.** (Proverbs 1:24; Isaiah 55:6-7; Matthew 11:20-24; Matthew 23:37; Matthew 24:14; Mark 1:15; Mark 13:9-11; Mark 16:15; Luke 19:27; John 3:19; John 5:39-40; Acts 13:46; Romans 1:15-17; Romans 9:32-33; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-12; 2 Timothy 1:7-10; Revelation 14:6-7).

## **Missions Supported**

\*addresses available upon request to clerk

|                                                    |                                            |                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rick Jones</b>                                  | • Bethel<br>• Oak Grove                    | • Shiloh<br>• Clarksburg                    |
| <b>Words of Hope</b>                               | • New Hope<br>• Cross Roads                | • Pleasant Hill<br>• Shiloh                 |
| <b>Belize Mission - Monte Shoulders</b>            | • Cross Roads<br>• Oak Grove<br>• Landmark | • Huntingdon<br>• Shiloh<br>• Rushing Creek |
| <b>Ministerial Alliance, Camden</b>                | • Cross Roads                              | • Pleasant Hill                             |
| <b>Back to the Bible</b>                           | • Bethel                                   | • Pleasant Hill                             |
| <b>Todd Marks (Peru)</b>                           | • Center Point                             |                                             |
| <b>Khrys Paige (Trinidad)</b>                      | • Bible Grove<br>• Oak Grove               | • Shiloh<br>• New Hope                      |
| <b>Nueva Missionary Baptist Church (Guatemala)</b> |                                            | • Oak Grove                                 |
| <b>Second Harvest Food Bank</b>                    | • Huntingdon                               |                                             |
| <b>UT Martin Bible Study</b>                       | • Huntingdon                               | • Pleasant Ridge                            |
| <b>Kenya African Fund</b>                          | • Cross Roads<br>• Oak Grove               | • Huntingdon<br>• Shiloh                    |
| <b>Jamaica Mission</b>                             | • Bethel<br>• New Hope<br>• Shiloh         | • Cross Roads<br>• Concord                  |
| <b>Don Curtis, Wells of Salvation</b>              | • Oak Grove                                |                                             |
| <b>F.U.E.L School Lunch Program</b>                | • Cross Roads                              |                                             |
| <b>Carroll Academy</b>                             | • Huntingdon                               |                                             |
| <b>Old Fashioned Gospel Hour</b>                   | • Shiloh                                   |                                             |
| <b>Ghana</b>                                       | • Bethel<br>• Concord<br>• Bible Grove     | • Concord<br>• Westport                     |
| <b>Adult Teen Challenge</b>                        | • Bible Grove                              |                                             |

## In Memory of Our Sainted Dead

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Bethel</b>          | Sis. Janet Baker 11/25/24       |
|                        | Sis. Diane Lankford 06/26/25    |
|                        | Sis. Alba Faye Lomax 06/04/25   |
|                        | Sis. Seta Oxford 09/15/25       |
| <b>Bible Grove</b>     | Bro. O'Neal Jowers 6/14/25      |
|                        | Sis. Robbie Howard 9/25/25      |
| <b>Center Point</b>    | Sis. Betty Jo Allen 12/21/24    |
| <b>Cross Roads</b>     | Sis. Virgie Carver 12/09/24     |
|                        | Bro. David Kee 02/08/25         |
| <b>Huntingdon</b>      | Bro. Charlie Massey 02/09/25    |
|                        | Bro. Andrew Tosh 06/12/25       |
|                        | Sis. Helen Cunningham 07/16/25  |
|                        | Bro. Steve Thomason 05/15/25    |
|                        | Sis. Lessie Mae Carden 07/11/25 |
|                        | Bro. James Wilson 09/05/25      |
| <b>New Cross Roads</b> | Sis. Jewell Grooms 05/16/25     |
|                        | Bro. Billy Baker 08/12/25       |
| <b>New Hope</b>        | Sis. Anna Cary 09/01/25         |
| <b>Pleasant Ridge</b>  | Sis. Marjorie Louise French     |
|                        | Sis. Jo Ann Kee 06/26/2025      |
| <b>Shiloh</b>          | Sis. Peggy Webb 2/5/25          |
|                        | Bro. Chance Carlton 4/3/25      |
|                        | Bro. James Fullerton 3/4/25     |
|                        | Bro. Billy D. Pritchard 6/16/25 |
| <b>Westport</b>        | Sis. Dorothy Ellis 12/24/24     |
|                        | Bro. Anthony Williams 07/13/25  |

## Sunday School Statistical Table 2025

| Church Name     | Sunday School Superintendent | Number of Sunday School Officers & Teachers | Enrollment | Sunday School Expenditures |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Bethel          | Bro. Joe Rich                | 6                                           | 57         | \$7,454.34                 |
| Bible Grove     | Bro. Stuart Milam            | 8                                           |            |                            |
| Center Point    |                              | 2                                           | 30         | \$150.00                   |
| Clarksburg      | Bro. Jeff Reed               | 10                                          |            |                            |
| Concord         | Bro. Alvin Boyd              | 14                                          | 45         |                            |
| Cross Roads     | Bro. Derek Townsend          | 12                                          | 87         | \$2,408.29                 |
| Huntingdon      |                              | 25                                          | 125        | \$3,097.57                 |
| Landmark        | Bro. Keith Brewer            |                                             |            | \$0                        |
| Mixie           |                              |                                             |            |                            |
| New Cross Roads |                              |                                             |            |                            |
| New Hope        | Bro. Scott Gallimore         | 11                                          | 36         | \$415.35                   |
| Oak Grove       | Bro. Ernie Gibson            | 15                                          | 97         | \$0.00                     |
| Pleasant Grove  | Bro. Mark Jones              | 5                                           |            |                            |
| Pleasant Hill   | Bro. Waymon Umstead          | 5                                           | 22         | \$514.00                   |
| Pleasant Ridge  | Bro. Anthony French          | 5                                           | 25         |                            |
| Rushing Creek   | Bro. Justin Newton           | 2                                           | 15         | \$126.00                   |
| Shiloh          | Bro. J.D. Philyaw            | 6                                           |            | \$1,016.30                 |
| Westport        | Bro. James Allen             | 6                                           |            |                            |
| <b>Total</b>    |                              | <b>132</b>                                  | <b>539</b> | <b>\$15,181.85</b>         |

## Statistical Table 2025

| Church Name     | Lord's Supper | Foot Washing | Additions by Baptism | Additions By Letter | Additions By Restoration | Total Additions | Losses By Death | Losses By Letter | Losses By Exclusion | Total Losses | Present Church Membership |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Bethel          | 2             | 0            | 2                    | 2                   | 0                        | 4               | 4               | 0                | 0                   | 4            | 161                       |
| Bible Grove     | 1             | 0            | 1                    | 0                   | 0                        | 1               | 2               | 1                | 0                   | 3            |                           |
| Center Point    | 1             | 0            | 0                    | 1                   | 0                        | 1               | 1               | 1                | 0                   | 2            | 104                       |
| Clarksburg      | 1             | 0            | 4                    | 0                   | 0                        | 4               | 0               | 1                | 0                   | 1            | 118                       |
| Concord         | 2             | 0            |                      |                     |                          | 0               |                 |                  |                     | 0            | 141                       |
| Cross Roads     | 2             | 0            | 0                    | 0                   | 0                        | 0               | 2               | 5                | 0                   | 7            | 176                       |
| Huntingdon      | 2             | 0            | 9                    | 6                   | 2                        | 17              | 6               | 2                | 0                   | 8            | 349                       |
| Landmark        | 1             | 0            | 0                    | 0                   | 0                        | 0               | 0               | 1                | 0                   | 1            | 45                        |
| Mixie           |               |              |                      |                     |                          | 0               |                 |                  |                     |              |                           |
| New Cross Roads | 0             | 0            | 1                    | 0                   | 0                        | 1               | 2               | 0                | 1                   | 3            | 71                        |
| New Hope        | 2             | 0            | 2                    | 5                   | 0                        | 7               | 1               | 0                | 0                   | 1            | 99                        |
| Oak Grove       | 0             | 0            | 3                    | 0                   | 0                        | 3               | 0               | 2                | 0                   | 2            | 154                       |
| Pleasant Grove  | 1             | 0            | 0                    | 0                   | 0                        | 0               | 0               | 1                | 0                   | 1            | 44                        |
| Pleasant Hill   | 1             | 1            | 2                    | 2                   | 0                        | 4               | 0               | 0                | 1                   | 1            | 117                       |
| Pleasant Ridge  | 1             | 0            | 2                    | 0                   | 0                        | 2               | 2               | 0                | 0                   | 2            | 73                        |
| Rushing Creek   | 1             | 0            | 0                    | 0                   | 0                        | 0               | 0               | 0                | 0                   | 0            |                           |
| Shiloh          | 1             | 0            | 0                    | 1                   | 0                        | 1               | 4               | 0                | 0                   | 4            | 35                        |
| Westport        | 1             | 0            | 0                    | 0                   | 0                        | 0               | 2               | 1                | 1                   | 4            | 57                        |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>20</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>26</b>            | <b>17</b>           | <b>2</b>                 | <b>45</b>       | <b>26</b>       | <b>15</b>        | <b>3</b>            | <b>44</b>    | <b>1744</b>               |

## **Financial Table 2025**

| Church          | Minute Fund       | Clerk Fund        | Associational<br>Missionary | Church<br>Expenditures | Ministerial<br>Help and<br>Incidentals | Mission<br>Support | Grand Total         |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Bethel          | \$145.00          | \$50.00           | \$250.00                    | \$62,353.85            | \$1,965.00                             | \$7,151.00         | \$71,914.85         |
| Bible Grove     | \$120             | \$75              |                             |                        |                                        |                    | \$195.00            |
| Center Point    | \$50.00           | \$50.00           | \$0.00                      | \$12,000.00            | \$3,500.00                             | \$430.00           | \$16,030.00         |
| Clarksburg      | \$80.00           | \$50.00           |                             |                        |                                        |                    | \$130.00            |
| Concord         | \$100.00          | \$100.00          | \$125.00                    |                        |                                        |                    | \$325.00            |
| Cross Roads     | \$125.00          | \$50.00           | \$100.00                    | \$135,989.15           | \$400.00                               | \$10,300.00        | \$146,964.15        |
| Huntingdon      | \$200.00          | \$200.00          | \$200.00                    | \$452,928.45           | \$36,570.00                            | \$41,903.42        | \$532,001.87        |
| Landmark        | \$50              | \$100             | \$100                       | \$0                    | \$0                                    | \$500              | \$750.00            |
| Mixie           |                   |                   |                             |                        |                                        |                    | \$0.00              |
| New Cross Roads | \$60.00           | \$25.00           |                             |                        |                                        |                    | \$85.00             |
| New Hope        | \$48.00           | \$50.00           | \$100.00                    | \$22,991.91            | \$3,863.35                             | \$14,754.57        | \$41,807.83         |
| Oak Grove       | \$140.00          | \$50.00           | \$100.00                    | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                                 | \$0.00             | \$290.00            |
| Pleasant Grove  | \$150.00          | \$150.00          | \$100.00                    |                        |                                        |                    | \$400.00            |
| Pleasant Hill   | \$50.00           | \$100.00          | \$50.00                     | \$33,987.00            | \$4,800.00                             | \$1,200.00         | \$40,187.00         |
| Pleasant Ridge  | \$50.00           | \$200.00          |                             | \$14,598.39            | \$1,000.00                             | \$3,881.20         | \$19,729.59         |
| Rushing Creek   | \$30.00           | \$20.00           |                             | \$19,667.63            | \$1,000.00                             | \$6,929.00         | \$27,646.63         |
| Shiloh          | \$80.00           | \$50.00           | \$250.00                    | \$25,778.25            | \$1,050.00                             | \$14,720.00        | \$41,928.25         |
| Westport        | \$60.00           | \$40.00           | \$50.00                     |                        | \$1,300.00                             | \$200.00           | \$1,650.00          |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>\$1,538.00</b> | <b>\$1,360.00</b> | <b>\$1,425.00</b>           |                        |                                        |                    | <b>\$942,035.17</b> |

