

Dallas L. Hensler
Temporary Clerk
Sept. 29, 1957

The Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church
Kokomo, Indiana
Brother D.L. Hensler-Clerk

Dear Brethren:

Messengers from the Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, and Faith Missionary Baptist Church met together on Saturday September 28, 1957 at Bethel Church in Indianapolis, Indiana for the purpose of drawing up the following information to send to the churches for forming an association.

There was a motion and second that Brother M.V. Hammock be temporary moderator and Brother D.L. Hensler be temporary clerk.

Approved by those present.

There was a motion and second that we accept the wording of the Siloam Constitution except the following:

In Article 1 - We will have a different name.

In Article 2 - We strike out the last three words "within our bounds"

In Article 4 - We have 6 messengers instead of 3.

In Article 8 - We have our annual meeting on the Friday before the third Sunday at 7:00 P.M. and Saturday and Sunday in September.

In Article 10- We strike out the last six words "in practice as well as theory".

In Article 15- We change the voting of changing the constitution from majority vote to a two-thirds vote of members present.

Also the vote of reception of churches from a unanimous vote to a two-thirds vote of messengers present.

The Constitution will read as follows:

Article 1 - This body shall be known as Bethel Missionary Baptist Association.

Article 2 - This association shall be composed of members duly chosen by regular and orderly Missionary Baptist Churches.

Article 3 - The letters from the churches to the association shall give the number of members in fellowship, received by experience and baptism, received by letter, restored, excommunicated, and dead, since last annual meeting and financial statistics.

Article 4 - Each church shall be entitled to 6 messengers.

Article 5 - This association shall elect annually as officers, a moderator, clerk and treasurer, chosen from their membership whose duties shall be to serve their brethren in their several capacities.

- Article 6 - This association shall never interfere with the independence of any church, or claim any ecclesiastical power or rights of supervision over any of the churches.
- Article 7 - It shall be the object of this association to promote the union of the faith of the gospel with our educational and mission interests.
- Article 8 - This association shall meet annually on Friday at 7 o'clock p.m. before the third Sunday in September, and continue Saturday and Sunday. The meeting to be held at such place as may be agreed upon by the association at its annual sitting.
- Article 9 - Messengers from one-third of the churches shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at any regular meeting.
- Article 10- These meetings shall be missionary.
- Article 11- New churches may be admitted into this association, who shall petition by letter and messengers, and on examination, if found orthodox and orderly may be received and made known by the Moderator's giving the right hand of fellowship to the messenger or messengers present.
- Article 12- The association may exclude from the union any church or churches that are heterodox on principle of disorderly in practice.
- Article 13- No proceedings shall be had against any church except on charges preferred by a sister church, which shall first have followed the direction of Matthew 18:15, in attempting to bring it to repentance.
- Article 14- The association and its sittings may admit any visiting brethren and sisters from sister churches present, to sit with them, who shall have liberty to discuss any question and give their views but not vote except upon subjects of general union.
- Article 15- Any alteration may be made to this constitution at any regular meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.
- Article 16- That all questions arising before this association be decided by a majority vote of the messengers present, except in the reception of churches into our fellowship, and that such reception be by a two-thirds majority vote of messengers present.

There was a motion and second that we accept the rules of decorum of the Siloam Association, which are as follows:

1. The association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the moderator by the appellation of Brother Moderator, and shall, while speaking confine himself to the subject under discussion and shall not be interrupted unless he digress from the subject, and shall in no wise reflect on any other speaker, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state his views without sophistry or criticism.

3. No member shall absent himself from the association without leave of the moderator.
4. No member shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the body. The chairman on each subject shall have an opening speech of ten minutes and two other speeches of five minutes each.
5. Each motion and second shall come under the immediate consideration of the association, unless withdrawn by the one who made it.
6. All members shall conduct themselves in these sessions in a manner conducive to godliness.
7. No member shall address another by any appellation other than that of Brother.
8. On the second day it shall be the duty of the clerk to read the rules of decorum and call the roll of members.
9. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but shall have no vote unless the association be equally divided.
10. Any member violating these rules, or at any time manifesting a spirit contrary to the gospel, shall be reprovved or such other course taken with him as the moderator may think proper, either at his own option or the intimation of any other member.

There was a motion and a second that we accept the articles of faith of New Hampshire that our Baptist Churches abide by, which are as follows:

1. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

2. OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, and infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of the holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the Mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the anointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, and by this dearth made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

5. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemers blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

7. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

8. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession,, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

9. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of men, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

10. OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially, the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

11. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

12. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

13. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his work; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

14. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

15. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

16. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

17. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only is through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

18. OF THE WORLD TO COME

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last Day Christ will descend from heaven, raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place, that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, the righteous to endless joy, and that this judgement will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

There was a motion and second that we accept the church covenant which the churches now have. The covenant is as follows:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, 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 devotions; 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 drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

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 offence, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour 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.

Motion and second to meet at Faith Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday night before the third Sunday in October at 7:00 o'clock and form an Association if the Churches vote to do so.

Motion and second to have each Church bring a name for the Association, agreed upon in their regular business meeting and two-thirds majority decide upon which name to accept.

There was a motion and second to send these minutes to the Churches and to adjourn.

Your Brother in Christ
Dallas L. Hensler-Temporary Clerk
R#1 Box 37
Kokomo, Indiana

As agreed from the meeting September 28, 1957 two names for the association were submitted.

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
BLUE RIVER MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

There was a motion and second that Bro. H.B. Eaton take the vote on the name of the association.

Approved.

There was a motion and second that all business be suspended until after we have prayer and the right hand of fellowship is given to every one present, asking God's blessings upon the churches and everyone present.

Approved.

There was a motion and second that temporary moderator appoint three brethren to take vote on the positions of moderator, clerk and treasurer, to serve the association until the Friday night before the third Sunday in September, 1958.

Approved.

The vote was taken and the following were elected:

MODERATOR:
Eld. H.B. Eaton
1718 N. Lindsay St
Kokomo, IN

Assistant Moderator:
Eld. M.V. Hammock
481 N. Forsythe St
Franklin, IN

CLERK:
Bro. R.H. Carter
801 Wildwood Dr
Kokomo, IN

Assistant Clerk:
Eld. O.R. Cummings
4105 Naomi St
Indianapolis, IN

TREASURER:
Eld. Nolan Long
3117 N. Sherman Dr
Indianapolis, IN

Assistant Treasurer
Eld. Ancel Jones
2861 S. Randolph St
Indianapolis, IN

There was a motion and a second that when one brother is elected for more than one office that the next in line for the lower office be elected to the lower office.

Approved.

There was a motion and second that the moderator appoint three brethren to take vote on the following: A place to meet, who shall preach the introductory sermon, and who shall preach the doctrinal sermon.

Approved.

The vote was taken and the following was selected:

Meeting Place - BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
Introductory sermon: Bro. Robert Carter, (Alternate) Eld. O.R. Cummings
Doctrinal sermon: Eld. W.T. Taylor, (Alternate) Eld. M.V. Hammock

Motion and second that one member from each church present be appointed to advise with the preacher brethren of the churches to further the missionary work in this area, which is much needed.

Approved.

There was a motion and second in allude to the foregoing motion and second, that we, the association, send out a missionary to work in field and we the association support or help to support him as much as possible.

There was a motion and second that we request that the churches name one of their brethren to advise with the preacher brethren of the churches to help them in any way they can to further the missionary work of this area, For the salvation of lost souls.

Approved.

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Meeting with Faith Missionary Baptist Church
Franklin, Indiana
October 19, 1957

As agreed by the brethren present when meeting with Bethel Missionary Baptist Church at Indianapolis, Indiana, Saturday night, September 28, 1957, we met at Faith Missionary Baptist Church at Franklin, Indiana, October 19, 1957.

After singing several good songs and having prayer the session was called to order by the temporary moderator: Brother M.V. Hammock.

There was a motion and second that Brother Robert Carter be elected as temporary Clerk.

Approved.

Minutes of previous session was read by Brother Carter temporary clerk.

There was a motion and second that minutes be accepted as read.

Approved.

Churches and delegate representatives are as follows:

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Delegates present:

Bro. Jack Colson
Eld. L.H. Parker
Eld. O.R. Cummings
Eld. W.T. Taylor

FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
FRANKLIN, INDIANA

Delegates present:

Eld. Ancle Jones
Bro. J.D. Griffin
Bro. Clelland Buster
Eld. M.V. Hammock

NORTH SIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Delegates present:

Bro. Marshall Coker
Bro. Lomaw R. Dillerbay
Eld. Ben R. Taylor
Bro. Bob R. Taylor
Bro. Earl C. Coker

KOKOMO MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
KOKOMO, INDIANA

Delegates present:

Bro. C. Willard Crabtree
Bro. Lloyd Mince
Bro. Everette Ward
Bro. Charlie McFarland
Bro. John Prows
Eld. Floyd Mince

There was a motion and second that we the churches present declare ourselves an association of Missionary Baptist Churches. That we associate together for the mutual help and benefit of all concerned, for the good of the churches, for the work of the kingdom, and the glory of God.

Approved.

The right hand of fellowship was given each other by the delegates that we become an association of churches.

There was a motion and second that delegates from the churches be seated (see list of churches and delegates present).

Approved.

There was a motion and second that we adjourn until regular meeting time which is Friday night before the third Sunday in September at 7:00 P.M. and continuing through Saturday and Sunday.

Signed

Moderator: Eld. Haskel B. Eaton

Clerk: Bro. Robert H. Carter

After we adjourned a collection was taken up among those present and we received thirty two dollars and fifty cents (\$32.50) to use for the needs of the association.

Besides the delegates present to organize the association there was a number of the members for the churches there, too offer their prayers and help in any way they could.

To which we are thankful to the Lord that these children of God wanted to see the Lord's work carried on here and that they would come and help to carry on the Lord's work.

May God's richest blessings rest upon all the churches and every member thereof, and may we all work together for the glory of God, his cause, and kingdom.

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
December 23, 1957

Moderator: Eld. H.B. Eaton, 1718 N. Lindsay St., Kokomo, Indiana

Clerk: Bro. R.H. Carter, 801 Wildwood Dr., Kokomo, Indiana

To: Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church
Kokomo, Indiana

Dear Brethren:

If suitable to all the churches of the association, there will be a meeting of the churches at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, at Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday night before the third Sunday in January at 7:00 o'clock, P.M., January 18, 1958.

This meeting will be to discuss the best ways of carrying out the mission work in this area. If this date is suitable to you please appoint your delegates, if you wish to.

If not, please notify the association clerk that I may contact the other churches, praying that God will bless you in his work.

Your Brother in Christ
Association Clerk
Robert H. Carter