

Oregon Association, Salem 1859

The Oregon Assn met at Salem Sept 14/59
at 10 O'clock A.M.

The introductory religious exercises were conducted
by Rev O. Dickinson the moderator of last year.

The Roll being called, the following ministers and
Delegates were found present

Forest Grove Rev E. Walker C. Elles, H. Lyman
Bro W. W. Carter

Oregon City Rev G. H. Atkinson Bro Walter Fish

Portland Rev P. B. Chamberlain Bro J. D. Holman

Salem Rev O. Dickinson, Bro Lemus Brooks

Albany Rev J. Condon, Bro C. C. Godley

Eola Bro E. L. Riggs

Corvallis Rev M. B. Starr, Bro

Dalles Rev W. A. Francis not present

Sand Ridge not represented

The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year

Rev E. Walker, Moderator, O. Dickinson, Clerk

Bro E. L. Riggs of the Chh of Eola here presented the
wish of that Chh to be united with this Association
accepted

A Business Committee

was appointed to receive items of business to
present to the Association Bro Chamberlain
and Lyman ^{Atkinson} that Committee

born on Religious exercises Bro Dickinson, Elles
and Brooks

Voted that Bro W. W. Carter be appointed assistant
Secretary

Voted that the time for hearing Reports of Chhs
be fixed for tomorrow A.M.

Association adjourned to 2 O'clock P.M. after
prayer by Condon

Afternoon Session

Moderator E. Walker in the Chair prayer by Bro Lyman

Reports of Com. & Correspondance were then

called for

Rev H. Lyman read letters from J. K. Young in behalf
of the general Association of New Hampshire and
L. Bodwell of the Association of Kansas
Rev P. B. Chamberlain from Rev S. Clary of Wisconsin
and Rev John Wheeler of Vermont
C. Dickerson from Rev J. W. Reed of Iowa

Rev G. H. Atkinson & L. Gordon were appointed
a Com. to nominate Correspondants to Associations East
The following persons were appointed Com. of Correspondance

Maine - Rev. W. A. Tenney

New Hampshire and Kansas Rev. H. Lyman
Vermont and Wisconsin Rev. P. B. Chamberlain
Massachusetts Rev. C. D. Eells

Connecticut and New York Rev. G. H. Atkinson

Rhode Island - Rev. S. H. Marsh

Minnesota & California Rev. L. Gordon

The Synods of Geneva & Geneva & Western Reserve Rev. H.
H. Spaulding

Noted that the order of business in this Association
shall be as follows (see article 1st By Laws)

Rev. H. Lyman & Bro. W. Fish were appointed
Com on Narrative of the State of the Churches

Rev. M. B. Starr Com. on Benevolent Societies

Rev. G. H. Atkinson Special Com. on Education
Adjourned to 9 1/2 O'clock tomorrow Prayer by
Bro. Carter

Associational Sermon on Chh. Polity by

Rev. G. H. Atkinson was preached in the
Evening at 7 1/2 O'clock.

Friday Morning Session Sept 2nd

After prayer meeting of half an hour Association
was called. order Moderator Rev. E. Walker in
the Chair. Prayer by Bro. Starr.

After Reading of ~~the~~ minutes Reports of Chhs were
called for per order of business designed in
yesterday's minutes.

Bro Stone Reported at length from the Chh at Cowles
Bro Gordon not having a written Report was after some
considerable discussion permitted to report statistically
in writing and to throw in verbally whatever else he felt
to be of interest.

Bros Atkinson & Hotch followed

Rev. S. Leslie of the M. E. Chh here coming in was
invited to sit with us as a Corresponding member

Bros Chamberlain & Holman Reported from the Chh at Dutton
Messrs W. E. Bernard, W. Hargis, W. T. Smith & S. Boyler
were invited to sit as corresponding members.

Adjourned to meet this P. M. at 2 O'clock Prayer by
Rev. S. Leslie

Afternoon Session

Moderator in the Chair, Prayer by Bro Hargis

Reports of the Chhs at Eola, Salem, the Falls and
Forest Grove were given

Rev. S. Bogley of the M. P. Chh was invited to sit as a
Corresponding Member

Report of the Committee on a Religious News Paper
for Oregon was heard and referred back to the Com.

Bros Chamberlain & Atkinson were joined with the
addition of Bro J. D. Holman to that Com.

Report of Committee on Destitution and Supply
was heard and accepted.

Voted that we request the efforts of the Society
to commit the exploring agency for Oregon
and Washington Territory to the Com. on
Destitution and Supply.

Rev. S. Bogley proffered the use of their house
of worship to the Assn on the Sabbath for which
thanks were returned by the Assn.

On motion adjourned to next conference at 10 o'clock

Saturday Morning Session Sept 3^d

Prayer - Untelligible

Association met as per adjournment at 10 O'clock
W. M. Woodruff in the Chair

Prayer by Bro Atkinson
 Com on Institution and Supply for last year was
 reappointed Rev G. H. Atkinson, P. B. Chamberlain
 and Bro D. H. Hoteh.
 The Report of the Com on Education was then
 unanimously passed as follows

Report on Education

Resolved that in the view of this Association the
 establishment of schools under constant
 Religious influence is of vital importance to
 the progress of the Gospel in the land, and we
 recommend the employment of Christian
 teachers, laymen if possible, Ministers if need be
 in our schools; and we earnestly call the
 attention of all our Churches, and of all Christians
 to this subject

Resolved That it is the duty of every teacher to make the
 reading of the Bible one of the religious exercises
 of his school

Resolved That the institution at Forest Grove demands
 the more earnest sympathy and support from
 all our Ministers, Chhs, and Congregations

Committee on Benevolent Societies Report
 the following resolutions which were sustained
 Report

On Benevolent Societies

Resolved That we regard the decision of the ex Committee
 of the A. S. M. Society respecting the late action
 of the Presbytery of Colton to be in strict
 accordance with the established principles of
 Cooperation, and that the Chh Extension
 Committee theory expressed in that action
 of the A. S. Presbyterian Chh is a departure
 from the established plan of Union
 In reference to the A. S. Society your
 Com recommends the reaffirmation of the
 Resolutions of 1858

Burswiss. Com. brought forward a Special Report
in refer to Indian Missions which after some
discussion was laid on the table, till P. M.
voted that the evening preaching be dispensed with,
after prayer ~~the~~ adjourned.

Afternoon Saturday Session

Prayer by Bro. C. J. Smith
An invitation to the Assn to accept the use of the
M. E. Church for the Sabbath Services was read and
accepted and the resolution accepting the offer
of the M. D. Church was reconsidered
the Assn took up the question laid on the table
this evening and after a few emendations adopted it
in the following form.

Indian Missions

Whereas in the providence of God Protestant Missions
under the care of the M. C. S. M. labor faithfully
and with considerable success among the Nez Percé
Spokane & Cayuse Indians for eleven years and
until the massacre of the devoted Dr. Whitman and
family at Waiilatpu and whereas we learn
that many of those Indians still continue to
practice Christian duties, as the observance of
the Holy Sabbath, prayer in their families and
asking a blessing at their meals and in some
cases preaching and religious exhortation and
that they earnestly desire and ask for more
instruction.

Resolved that in the view of this Assn
those Tribes ought to receive further instruction from
Protestant Christian Teachers, and that we recommend
the appointment of Christian teachers, farmers
and mechanics by the Superintendent of Indian
affairs or any authorized agent of the United
Government according to present or future Treaty
stipulations providing them teachers farmers & mechanics

And we further especially recommended the
 appointment of Bro. N. W. Spaulding to be a
 teacher of the day Dress, as they desire and
 as the only person who can continue the translation
 of the Bible into their language ~~and~~ ^{in case of necessity}
 in conveying religious instruction. We recommended
~~and we recommended~~ Bro. Spaulding to accept
 the appointment if made leaving all other
 business to devote himself wholly to this work.
 Resolved that a Com. of three be appointed to
 confer with the Superintendent and secure these
 appointments if possible.

Association expressed its judgment in reference
 to Bro. Ellis going to Wauilatpos in the following
 Resolution Resolved that in the judgment of this Association
 the contemplated purpose of Bro. C. Ellis to
 remove to Wauilatpos to establish a Christian school
 at that place to be called the Whitman Seminary
 in memory of the noble and great work
 and in fulfillment of the benevolent plans of
 the lamented Dr. Whitman and wife, and his
 further purpose to act as a Home Missionary
 in the ~~Walla~~ Walla valley meets our cordial
 approbation and shall receive our earnest
 support.

Resolved that the Moderator and Clerk be authorized
 to appoint any brother who may visit the
 Eastern States, a delegate of this body to any
 Association or ecclesiastical body with which
 we are in correspondence and give a certificate
 accordingly.

Business Com offered the following in reference to
Slavery and

Ministry ~~and~~ reference to Slaveholding Ministers
 Resolved That the ministers of this Association cannot
 consistently invite into their pulpits as ministers
 of Christ persons who are known to be actual
 slave holders or the public advocates of the
 system of American Slavery.

The above resolution after some discussion was laid on
 the table till evening.

Place of next Meeting

Voted that when we adjourn it be to meet at Albany
on the first Thursday of Sept 1860

Adjourned to meet this evening at 7 1/2 o'clock

Saturday Evening Session

Ass^y Called to Order at 7 1/2 o'clock. Prayer by Moderator
Rev. J. H. Marsh was appointed to preach
the next Associational Sermon Rev. P. B. Chavoclain
his substitute

Rev. E. Walker was appointed to preach
the Communion Sermon, Rev. C. Dickinson
his substitute.

Voted that an Abstract of the minutes
be published together with the Associational
minutes.
Voted that the last year's Clerk be associated
with the present Clerk in collating and
printing the minutes.

The Resolution relative to Ministers duty towards
X slave holding Ministers and towards those who
are its advocates was here taken up and
after an evening's discussion, adopted.
Adjourned to Monday Morning at 8 o'clock
Prayer by the Moderator.

Prayer Meeting Sabbath at 7 1/2 o'clock
Communion Sermon by Rev. M. B. Starr
from Philp. 3. 13-14. Subject, The nature
of the High Calling.

Communion Services by Rev. Walker & Ellis
Preaching in the evening by Rev. P. B. Chavoclain
Text Luke 16. 10. Last Clause
Subject

The line of ^{moral} distinction between the two great
Classes of men marked and positive

Monday Morning Session

Ass^y met at 8 o'clock as per adjournment
Moderator in the chair. Prayer by Rev. C. Ellis

A Resolution respecting marrying divorced persons similar to one passed four years ago was passed as follows

Whereas in the opinion of this Association the law of God is above all human laws and whereas Christ expressly designates the one and the only sufficient ground on which persons properly married may be divorced
Resolved

That we regard all divorces whether obtained by judicial process or granted by special act of legislation for any other cause than that which Christ designates as morally null and void and that ministers cannot consistently marry again persons thus divorced

Treatment of an Offender

A Resolution in reference to the treatment of an offender was adopted as follows
Resolved

That in the judgment of this Association it is our duty to apply the Law of Christ Matt 18: 15-17. to every offender in Christian doctrine or duty, and that we have no right to exclude any minister layman or Church from Christian fellowship without such trial.

A Resolution respecting the form of invitations to be given at the Communion Table was presented but after some discussion was laid on the table to hear ^{the Rept of} the Com. on the State of the Chks.

Narrative of the Churches

The chks as a body edifying in the fear of the Lord and the Comfort of the Holy Ghost have been edified, and to some extent fruit multiplied in their numbers and members. Two new Churches have been formed and twelve persons added to one Chk and a smaller number to several others.

While there have been differences of opinion

in some of the Chhs on questions of morals
on the best means of promoting the progress
of pure and undefiled religion, and the way of
dealing with specific evils and, a good degree
of harmony has prevailed in the Churches. The
trials with these difficulties when they have
existed have promoted real Christian love and
have resulted in increased strength and power
of doing good.

The ministers in our Connection
have conscientiously determined to use great
plainness of speech in respect to all evils
and sins prevalent, and while they have endeavored
to do it in the meekness and gentleness of the
Gospel they have wished to do it with all the power
which God has given them. And though
this truly Evangelical Course may have
aroused in some cases the decided opposition
of worldly men and caused some faithful
Christians to falter we believe the permanent
success and triumph of the Gospel will be
thus most surely hastened, even as already
the real strength of the Chh has been promoted.

It appears from the Reports presented
that at Forest Grove a precious revival
of religion season has been enjoyed extending
to the Academy and University resulting in
several conversions and in the addition
of a goodly number to the Chh. But
as a general fact we have to mourn the
absence of special revival influences

We also are called to mourn the too great
engagement of some of the members
in almost every Chh in the speculating
and mere money getting operations. We
eagerly engaged in by worldly men all
over the land, and hence their unfruitfulness
in works of Christian love and mercy, and

Still more deeply perhaps the disposition on the part of a few in the Chh. to give countenance and encouragement to amusements and entertainments regarded by Christians generally as fruitful sources of irreligion and immorality.

But while these things cause sorrow we still rejoice in believing that the Great Head of the Church has been in the midst of us by his guiding purifying strengthening and connecting influences and that the Churches have become better fitted than before to be successful evangelizers in Communities rife with the leaven of infidelity and oppression.

Encouraged by this fact clearly made manifest by the Reports and Spirit of the Association at its present Meeting we would exhort the Chhs as bodies and the individual Members as such to give themselves anew for their work having that trust in the Captain of our Salvation which according to the promise shall renew their strength as the eagles and hoping and praying to see his Salvation during the coming year.

Report accepted and adopted
Adjourned to Meet at 1 1/2 O'Clock P.M.
Prayer by Bro. Atkinson

Monday Afternoon Session

The pastor Rev. E. Walker in the Chair
Prayer by Bro. Hatcher

At 4 P.M. took up the resolution respecting the form of invitation at the Communion table which after discussion was committed to the preacher of the annual sermon and made his subject for the next year.

A Change in the Constitution was proposed and adopted as follows.

Art 1st This Association shall be called the Congregational Association of Oregon

Art 2nd Any Congregational Minister or Church may be a member of the Association by assenting to the Constitution and by-laws

Art 7th The Associated Churches shall be governed according to Congregational usages and controll their own property.

Resolutions in reference to dancing were passed as follows.

Resolved That this Association affectionately urge the Chks in our Connection to shield by every hollowed influence of their Covenant relations, the inexperienced of their membership from the delusive ~~and~~ dangers that often beset the young social gatherings of the young.

Resolved That in our view the practice of dancing whether in the parlor the village tavern or the more public ball room has been and is now so connected with many of the vices of society as to make it our urgent duty to warn our Chks against it.

The Report of the Committee on Hymn Books was accepted and adopted and the Chks recommended to procure the Sabbath Hymn book for their public use when they get new books.

The following Resolution was adopted

Resolved that the thanks of this Association be extended to the families of Salem who have so kindly and hospitably entertained us during the meeting and also to the M. E. Church for the use of their house of worship on the Sabbath.

Minutes were read correct and accepted.
The hour of adjournment having arrived the
Association adjourned after prayer by
Rev. C. Dickinson