

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH MINUTES 1850-1851

These minutes of the Salem Baptist Church at Ichepucksassa, Florida were copied & contributed by Kyle S. VanLandingham, P. O. Box 1779, Fort Pierce, Fl. 33450 from an old notebook at Polk County Historical Library in Bartow. The old notebook is believed to have belonged to William R. Hollingsworth, Church clerk of Salem Church. The handwriting matches other available samples of his writing.

A CHURCH COVENANT FOR SALEM CHURCH

We having been constituted as a Church upon a profession of our faith have given our selves to God and to one another individually and collectively with all that we have, and are to live together in Church Capacity keeping up a godly dicipline and to watch over each other for good endeavoring to help each other in evry Godly matter as a Church of Christ.

A Decorum for Salem Church

Art. 1 The regular conference meetings of this Church shall be held on satchurday before the forth sabbath in each month and at such other times as the church may think propper and the conference of this church shall be composed of not less than three ordinary male members of this church all all the Confernces of this church shall be opened and closed by divine worship.

Art. 2 this church shal anuly call some Baptist Minister of this to the Pastoral care of the church for the term of one year

Art. 3 At each conferance meeting of the church ther shal be a moderator appointed if the Pastor is not present who if present shal act as moderator and it shal be the duty of the Moderator to open a door in the Church for the reception of members who it is thought propper to invite visiting Bretheren to seats with us -- consider them selves in good -- at home. to explain and put question and to take votes but shal not vote except the boddy present be equally divided.

Art. 4 In taking the votes on any matter in the church A majority shal rule except cases touching fellowship and thal be unanimous

Art. 5 Each brother in debaiting on any subject in the conferances of this church shal rise from his seat and address the Moderator under the appellation of -- Moderator," and shal not be interrupted while speking unless he departs from the subject in debate.

Art. 6 it is the duty the members of this church to attend the regular meetings monthly the Male members especially and if any male member of the church shall fail to attend the regular monthly meetings of this church for times in succession one or more of the Deacons shal visit such defaulting member Privately and learn the (reasons) of such delinquency and if the (reason is) thought good by the deacons no charges shal be brought against such defaulting brother otherwise the deacons shal cite the defaultin brother to attend the next conferance for the church to judge of the case

Art. 7 This shal be decorum for this church subject to be altered or amended as the Majority of the church may think propper but this church shal have a Clerk who shal keep a fair record of all the Proceeedings of the meetings of confernces of this church and it shal be duty of the Clerk of this church to read the decorum at least quarterly, or any other person insted of the clerk who may be authorised to do so