

- I. Introduction.** As Baptists grew in the United States and as the number of their churches increased, they began to be organized into Associations and Conventions.
- II. The Philadelphia Association.** In 1707, the first organization of Baptist churches in the United States was formed.
 - A. The association was formed in Philadelphia (where it got its name) and began with five churches.
 - B. By 1770, the association has grown to thirty-four churches.
- III. The second association of Baptist churches was formed at Charleston, SC in 1752.**
- IV. By the year 1800, there were about forty-eight organized associations in the United States.**
- V. The General Missionary Convention.**
 - A. On May 18, 1814, the first national organization of Baptists was brought into existence.
 - 1. This an attempt to bring all the various associations and churches of the United States into one big organization.
 - 2. This organization was named the General Missionary Convention of the Baptist denomination of America (also known as the Triennial Convention.)
 - B. This organization grew rapidly. It began with thirty-three members present from eleven different states and by 1844, the organization had 460 members from 21 different states.
 - C. This group began an organized missionary effort.
- VI. The Southern Baptist Convention.**
 - A. The question of slavery and the civil war caused a division in the General Missionary Convention (later called the General Baptist Convention) in the year 1845.
 - B. The southern churches and associations from the north and formed the Southern Baptist Convention.
 - 1. The Southern Baptist Convention grew rapidly.
 - 2. In 1845, there were 352,930 members in the Convention which included 130,000 Negroes. However, by 1890, there were 1,280,000 members, all of them white.
 - 3. In 1949, there were 6,761,000 members in 27,285 churches and today there are over 32,000 churches.

VII. The American Baptist Convention.

- A. After the withdrawal of the Southern Baptists in 1845, there was no real effort to the northern Baptists under one organization until 1907 when the Northern Baptist Convention was brought into existence.
- B. In 1950, the organization changed its name to the American Baptist Convention.
- C. There were 7,124 Baptist churches in the convention with 1,583,000 members.

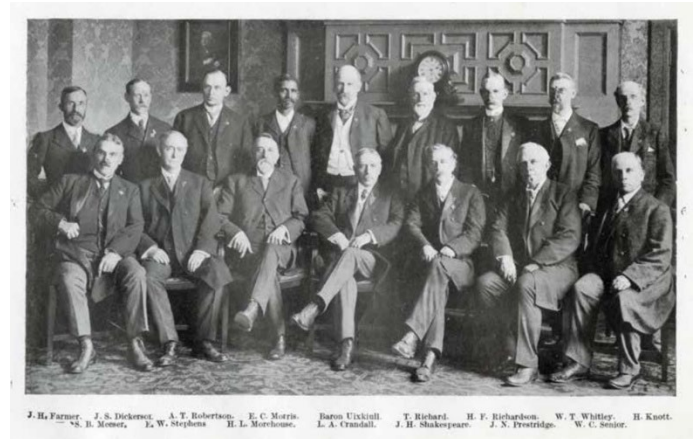
VIII. The Baptist World Alliance.

- A. The Baptist World Alliance organized in 1905, meets every five years, and serves as an advisory board (*to whom?*)
- B. This Alliance is said to have fourteen million members.

Baptist World Alliance's constitution

preamble: *"Whereas, in the providence of God, the time has come when it seems*

fitting more fully to manifest the essential oneness in the Lord Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour of the Churches of the Baptist order and faith throughout the world, and to promote the spirit of fellowship, service and co-operation among them, while recognizing the independence of each particular church and not assuming the functions of any existing organization, it is agreed to form a Baptist World Alliance, extending over every part of the world."



IX. The local churches, conventions, alliances, fellowships, etc.

- A. In the New Testament, the only organization given to carry out God's work is the local, sovereign, independent, local church.
- B. There are many Christians and Baptists churches in the United States now, as there has been in every age, who maintain that any organization of Baptists, other than a church, is extra-scriptural and not consistent with God's Word.
 - 1. **These churches, as loyal churches, have in every age refused to identify themselves with any convention or association.**
 - 2. **These loyal churches believe in doing God's work in God's way.**