

Information Sheet

R Prosperity Baptist Church (Pulaski County, Mo.).
444 Record book, 1874-1892.
Two folders, photocopies and typescript.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This is the record book of the Prosperity Baptist Church near Crocker in Pulaski County, Missouri. The volume includes minutes of monthly business meetings, membership records, and miscellaneous entries, 1883-1892. Included are minutes of meetings of the Tavern Creek Baptist Church, 1874-1876.

The volume opens with the records of the Tavern Creek Baptist Church, beginning with the minutes of organizational meetings at the Lee Schoolhouse in January 1874 and continuing through 17 March 1876. John R. David and Dabney T. Hudgens were the pastors at Tavern Creek, and James M. Skaggs was the church clerk.

The record book has several pages missing and a gap in the minutes from March 1876 to January 1883. There is no explanation for the missing period. It was during this period, in 1879, that the Prosperity Baptist Church was first organized. The membership rosters indicate that the congregation at Tavern Creek included several individuals who later belonged to the Prosperity Baptist Church. The church at Tavern Creek, a Freewill Baptist Church, may have disbanded to form the Prosperity Baptist Church, which followed the Missionary Baptist articles of faith.

Evidently the first congregation of the Prosperity Baptist Church did not thrive, and there are no records of its earliest meetings. The minutes of the church begin on 14 April 1883, when ten individuals met "to reorganize" the church. During the first meetings after reorganization, S. O. Burks was elected pastor, and John A. J. Lee and Eli N. Vickers were elected deacons. The congregation also voted on the articles of faith and rules of decorum, which were duly entered in the records.

Most of the entries in the volume consist of the minutes of monthly business meetings, which continue through April 1892. Church business generally concerned the appointment of officers, the admittance and dismissal of members, hearings on charges of improper conduct by members, and financial matters. The church was especially active in 1889. In June the congregation approved the acceptance of land offered by J. P. Caldwell as the site of its first church building. In July the church sent delegates to the organizational meeting of the Miller County Baptist Association, and in September the church hosted the annual meeting of the Osage River Baptist Association, to which it belonged. The volume concludes with miscellaneous entries concerning Sunday School meetings, donations to the church, and the ordination of deacons.

r510

8 May 1991

Nellie Stites Wills

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Shelf List

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Folder 1: Record book, 1874-1892 (photocopies)

Folder 2: Record book, 1874-1892 (typescript)

<u>Pages</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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r510 *8 May 1991* *Nellie Stites Wills* *Loaned for photocopying*

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