

MINUTES
OF THE
State Association of
Freewill Baptists . . .

HELD WITH
Pine Grove Church in Logan
County, Arkansas,
October 25, 26 & 28, 1912 .

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Minutes and Proceedings

The State Association of Freewill Baptists met with Pine Grove Church in Logan County, Ark., on October 25, 1912, at 7:30 p. m.

House called to order by singing.

Devotional service by Rev. M. A. Whisnant, followed by Rev. A. J. Phillips.

Adjourned to meet on the 26th at 8:30 a. m.

October 26th

8:30 a. m. House called to order by singing.

Prayer by Moderator.

Called for letters from the several Associations, responded to by Antioch.—Delegates, W. F. McGee, L. W. Birkhead, R. A. Johnson.

Arkansas Association—R. L. Hunter, A. N. Best, J. S. Lovette, Jess Thomas, T. W. Stubblefield.

Mountain Home—J. T. Ross, G. S. Rodgers, Lee Sisk, Will Chapple, W. T. B. Walker.

Mt. Olive—A. J. Phillips.

New Mt. Zion—S. M. McMillian, Mat Smith.

Old Mt. Zion—G. C. Bland. Motion to receive L. D. Ray as an advisory member of this Association.

Zion Hope Association—T. M. Dixon, G. D. Byers, Will Cross.

The Association went into the election of officers by electing Rev. J. T. Ross, Moderator, and C. E. Evans, Clerk.

The Moderator read the rules of order, after which the delegates were given the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator.

Appointment of Committees

Committee on Resolutions—G. C. Bland, A. N. Best, A. J. Phillips, with Moderator and Clerk.

Devotional Committee—G. A. Pointer, R. L. Hunter, J. B. Looper.

Committee on Temperance—W. F. McGee, T. F. Dixon, J. A. Starks.

Sunday School Committee—R. L. Sisk, J. A. Tumbleson, G. S. Rodgers.

Finance Committee—Mat Smith, S. M. McMillian, M. A. Whisnant.

Committee on Obituaries—A. J. Phillips, W. F. McGee, A. N. Best.

Motion to adjourn until 2:30 p. m.

2:30 p. m. House called to order by singing, "Am I a Soldier of the Cross."

Scriptural Lesson, 13th Chapter Hebrews.

Prayer by Rev. Sisk.

Song, "A Charge to Keep I Have."

Called for reading of letters of different Associations. Arkansas Association letter received and delegates seated. Letter of Old Mt. Zion Association read, received and delegates seated. Letter of Antioch Association read and delegates seated.

Report of Committees

Temperance Committee report received. Motion to add to this report the report of the Committee of last year.

Report of Temperance Committee

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following:

Whereas; The Temperance question is one of great importance and the use of intoxicating liquors has caused much destruction to the human family, we recommend that this body now assembled urge upon the different Associations to discard the liquor traffic to its fullest extent and to not hold any member who grievously indulges in strong drink. We further believe that men

can be intemperate in many ways besides using strong drink.

We therefore recommend that this Association urge upon its membership to be temperate in all things.

W. F. McGee,
J. A. Starks,
T. M. Dixon,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools received and Committee discharged.

Report of Sabbath School Committee

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, wish to submit as follows:

We recommend that every church should have a Sunday School, for we believe it to be the life of any church and it helps to train the little ones in the way they should go.

An amendment was made to Sunday School report, to-wit: That parents be urged to go with their children instead of sending them.

R. L. Sisk,
J. A. Tumbleson,
G. S. Rogers,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Resolutions. Resolution No. 1: Motion for the Orphans Home Board to enforce Resolution No. 1 adopted at the State Association in 1910.

Resolution No. 1

Be it resolved; That we, the State Association at Pine Grove Church, do hereby sustain the action of the Orphans Home Committee in the election of R. A. Johnson as chairman in place of W. C. Austin at the last meeting in January, 1912.

A. N. Best,
A. J. Phillips,
G. C. Bland,

Committee.

Motion to adjourn until Monday morning at 8:30.

October 28th

Monday, 8:30 a. m. House called to order by singing and prayer.

Scripture Lesson, 5th Chap. 2nd Cor.

Prayer by Bro. G. C. Bland.

Motion to take up business where left off on the 26th.

M. A. Whisnant in Austin's place; J. S. Lovette in Jess Thomas' place; G. C. Bland in J. M. Estell's place; Motion to receive the resignation of Rev. G. C. Bland as a member of the Board of Orphans Home; G. S. Rodgers in J. M. Estell's place; Rev. R. L. Sisk in J. M. Patrick's place. Motion to consider the Board of Orphan's Home now complete in number.

Motion to dispense with the preaching at 11 o'clock and proceed with the Associational work.

Motion to elect a Corresponding Secretary. Geo. W. Burris was elected. Bro. T. M. Dixon was appointed to notify Bro. Burris of his election.

Motion that we drop the Orphans Home.

Motion that this State Association of Freewill Baptists of the State of Arkansas do denounce the action of J. R. Hartley and W. C. Austin regarding the Board of the Orphans Home of Arkansas and in the Freewill Baptist denomination.

Motion that this Orphans Home Board procure the deeds and execute same and make their report at the next State Association.

Motion that this Association donate our Clerk, C. E. Evans, the money donated last year to him for his work.

Motion that the next State Association be held at Mt. Zion Church, Washington Co., Ark., 15 miles from Springdale. Rev. R. A. Johnson to preach the annual sermon, Rev. J. T. Ross, alternate.

Motion for the Moderator to give an expression of thanks for the kindness and the Clerk to draft a resolution to this effect.

Motion to receive the report of Finance Committee.

Report of Finance Committee

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report the following: We find that we have on hand \$7.90 for the printing of Minutes.

M. A. Whisnant,
S. M. McMillian,
Mat Smith,

Committee.

Motion that this Association remove all members of the Board of Orphans Home who are absent, consisting of Elders W. C. Austin, J. R. Hartley, J. M. Estell, Jess Thomas and J. M. Patrick.

Motion for the Clerk to write W. C. Austin to forward the deed in his possession belonging to the Board of the Orphans Home.

Motion to adjourn until Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1913, then to meet with Mt. Zion Church, Washington County, Ark., Springdale being the nearest railroad point.

Prayer by Rev. J. A. Starks.

Funds Subscribed

Arkansas Association,-----	\$1.60
Old Mt. Zion,-----	1.60
New Mt. Zion,-----	1.60
Mountain Home,-----	1.50
Antioch,-----	1.50
Zion Hope,-----to send	.10
Mt. Olive-----to send	

J. A. Starks, 5 cents for Minutes.



Constitution

From a long series of experience, we, the churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, we therefore propose to keep orders and rules of our Association according to the following plan or form of government:

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, and each church is entitled to three Messengers. All ordained ministers of our faith and order shall be members when present.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letter or recommendation, dismissed, excluded, restored, and that have died since last association; and the name of the clerk, moderator, county, postoffice, Sabbath of meeting, and the amount paid pastor.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, to be denominated the Antioch Association of Freewill Baptists, being composed of the churches of parts of Pope, Conway, Yell, Logan and Perry counties, and the Association to have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power of the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

4. The Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, who are to be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

5. New churches may be admitted into the Association by letter or delegates, if found to be orthodox in the faith of the Freewill Baptists, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. No question presented by the delegates of any church shall be discussed in the Association unless it

has been thoroughly discussed in their own church.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it be withdrawn by the members making it.

8. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of this Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being at the discretion of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of minutes.

10. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association closes.

11. The Association shall have a fund for her support, which shall be supplied by voluntary contribution of the churches whose duty it shall be to send it by the hands of the messengers, which money so sent shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer for that purpose, and he shall be accountable to the Association for all money received by him until paid out as they may direct.

12. The Association, in case of failure of any church to attend, may inquire into the cause.

13. It is the duty of the Association to see after the union of the churches.

14. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time when a majority of the members may deem it necessary.

Rules of Order

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer.

2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided.

3. All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be shut off at any time by a majority of the members of the Association.

4. If any proposition or motion under debate con-

tain two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

5. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

6. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the body.

7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

9. At the future sessions of this Association arrangements shall be made so as to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises which shall be equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and that the chair announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

10. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular meeting of the Association.

Order of Business

1. Introductory sermon.

2. Association called to order by Moderator, in his absence the Clerk.

3. Letters from the churches of this Association called for, read and messengers invited to seats.

4. Call for letters from newly organized churches.

5. Corresponding Associations.

6. Right hand of fellowship.

7. Election of permanent officers.

8. Reading Rules of Order and Minutes of last Association by Chair or Clerk.

9. Appointment of following committees: (a) Resolutions, (b) Finance, (c) Arrangement of Preaching, (d) Temperance, (e) Sabbath Schools, (f) Obituary, (g) Condition of Non-represented Churches, (h) Union of Churches.

10. Report of committees appointed at last Association, and other unfinished business.

11. Report of new committees.
 12. New business.
 13. Adjournment.
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Articles of Faith

1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are equal in divine essence, power and glory. Rom. 1:21; I John 5:7.

2. We believe that the scriptures in the Old and New Testaments are the words of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Tim. 4:2; John 10:30.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments, whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the power. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; then he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Gen. 1:31; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ by his death, burial and resurrection purchased our pardon and offers it freely to all mankind upon the principle of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore look unto me and be ye saved of all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else. Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Acts 20:21.

5. We believe that all adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3; Rom. 5:1-13.

6. We believe that regeneration is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit whereby the penitent sinner receives a new life, becomes a child of God and is disposed to serve Him. Hence as babes re-

quire constant food for bodily development, the new born babes in Christ require spiritual food that they may develop by a gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:3-5; Ezek. 36:26-7; Heb. 12:14; Rev. 21:27; Gal. 5:1-21; Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:10; Rom. 8:16; John 1:12; John 5:25-26; James 1:18; II Cor. 5:17; Mustard Seed, Matt. 13:31; Growing Seed, Mark 4:26.

7. We believe that the doctrine of Sanctification or Holiness as taught in the Bible is applicable to the soul or inner man, and to it alone, and that the sanctification of the body will not take place until the resurrection of the dead, when this mortal shall put on immortality and this corruptible body shall put on incorruption. John 3:6; I Cor. 6:11; Phil. 3:21.

8. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace, and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life, for blessed are they that do his commandments that they have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates of the city. Cor. 10:12-13; Rev. 22:14; John 15:2-6; Heb. 10:26.

9. We believe a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women who have obtained fellowship with each other and have given themselves to the Lord and to one another, having agreed to keep up good discipline.

10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church, and the government thereof is with the body. Col. 1:18; Matt. 18:17-18.

11. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to his children and bade them walk therein. Matt. 3:4-16; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11.

12. We believe that God in his goodness displays power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying his servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of his blessed word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us

freely to come and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. I Cor. 1:23; Eph. 3:7; Rev. 22:17.

13. We believe that none have a right to baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none the right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under presbytery of elders. Titus 1:15; Mark 16:16.

14. The soul is immortal, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery according to the moral character here possessed. Eccl. 12:17; Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Matt. 16:22-26; Rev. 6:9.

15. We believe that there will be a general or universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body whether good or bad and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment. Acts 17:21; I Cor. 15:24; Rev. 2:10; II Pet. 3:17, 22, 31 and 32; Acts 7:59; Mat. 10:28; II Cor. 5:8; Luke 22:12; Eccl. 9:10; II Cor. 5:19; Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 25:26; II Thes. 1:8, 10; Rom. 6:29; II Pet. 1:14; Mark 3:43-44; Jude 7; Rev. 14:11 and 21:3, 7, 26; Mark 13:41; Rom. 2:6, 10.

16. We believe it is the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church, when setting forth the Lord's Supper and washing the saints' feet, to invite all Christians, according to the rule of the gospel. I Cor. 1:2-10; Heb. 10:25; II Cor. 11:27-28.

17. We believe in a divine call to the ministry; that the minister shall heed the admonition of Paul to Timothy to study the Scripture; that the churches donate of their substance as the Lord prospers them to the support of their pastors, that said ministers may have better opportunities to store their minds with that spiritual food so necessary to Christian development. To this end we recommend that each church have a finance committee of three to consist of two deacons and a clerk, to collect and store such funds. See 2nd Timothy and 1st Cor. 16:1-2.