

# **MINUTES**

OF THE

## **State Association**

OF

## **Free Will Baptists**

HELD WITH

**OLD MT. ZION CHURCH**

AT

**Spring Valley, Washington County, Arkansas**

**October 25, 26 and 27, 1913**

## Minutes and Proceedings.

Arkansas State Association of Freewill Baptist convened with Old Mt. Zion church, four miles northeast of Spring Valley, Washington County, on Saturday, 11 a. m., before the fourth Sunday in October, 1913.

Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. R. A. Johnson from Heb. 12:1—"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

After the reading of the first division of Psalms and the singing of a hymn the Moderator called the Association to order at 3:30 p. m.

Secretary being absent the Association chose Bro. Geo. Been as Secretary pro tem.

The Moderator then called for letters from representing Associations and the following responded and their messengers received and seated:

Mt. Olive—Brethren A. J. Phillips, J. H. Bittle.

Arkansas—A. N. Best, J. H. Jones.

Antioch—Bro. R. A. Johnson.

Zion Hope—Bro. A. F. Taylor.

New Mt. Zion—Brethren Matt Smith, A. Fredrick.

Old Mt. Zion—Brethren G. C. Bland, S. G. Moses, W. T. Webb, John Garvin and J. H. Roberts.

Mountain Home—Rev. J. T. Ross.

Cherokee Home Association of General Baptist, of Oklahoma—Bro. J. B. Johnson.

Election—Rev. J. T. Ross was re-elected as Moderator and Bro. Geo. Been elected as Clerk.

### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

Committee on Arrangement of Preaching—Brethren Edd Lawson, J. H. Jones and A. Fredrick.

Committee on Resolutions—Brethren G. C. Bland, A. N. Best and R. A. Johnson.

Committee on Temperance—Brethren J. B. Johnson, J. H. Bittle and A. J. Phillips.

Committee on Sunday School—Brethren A. F. Taylor, W. T. Webb and Matt Smith.

Committee on Obituary—Brethren A. F. Taylor, G. C. Bland and J. H. P. Jones.

Committee on Finance—Brethren A. N. Best, Matt Smith and S. G. Moses.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn until Monday, 8:30 a. m.

Concluded by prayer by Bro. S. G. Moses and congregational singing.

Report of committee on Preaching—That Brethren W. T. Webb and A. J. Phillips preach Saturday night. (Text I King 2:2)—“Be thou strong therefore and shew thyself a Man.”

Sunday at 11 a. m. by Brethren A. N. Best and J. H. P. Jones. Text—“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God”—I John 3:1.

Sunday eve at 3:30 p. m. by Brethren J. H. Bittle and A. F. Taylor. Text—“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of Holiness.”—Isa. 35:8.

Sunday night by Brethren J. T. Ross and J. H. Roberts Text—“Preach the word,”—2nd Tim. 4:2.

Association met Monday at 9 a. m. Called to order by Moderator reading 2 Tim 4, and singing “Amazing Grace.” Then prayer by S. G. Moses.

Rules of order read by Moderator. Then the roll was called by Clerk.

### DISCHARGING OF COMMITTEES

Report of committee on Sabbath School received and committee discharged.

Report of committee on Temperance discussed. Report received and committee discharged.

The Association took an intermission for preaching.

Preaching Monday at 11 a. m. by Brethren J. B. Johnson and G. C. Bland. Text, “Earnestly contend for the Faith Which was Once Delivered to the Saints”—Jude 1:3.

Assembled again at 3 p. m. by singing “Band of Little Angels”, and prayer by Bro. J. H. Roberts.



Report of committee on Obituary received and committee discharged.

Report of committee on Resolutions adopted and committee discharged.

### RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved that we have a blank letter form printed in our Minutes.

2. Resolved that our constitution in last years Minutes be corrected so as to read as the Constitution of State and not a Constitution of District Association.

3. Resolved that we have a Corresponding Secretary and that Bro. A. N. Best officiate.

4. Resolved that we have a revised list of ministers.

5. Resolved that we have the Introductory Sermon preached on Friday night before the fourth Sunday in October at the beginning of Conference.

6. Resolved that the report from the board of the Orphans Home be received and Board discharged.

7. Resolved that our next Association be held with Holman Church, seven miles northeast of Cabin Creek R. R. Station and Lamar P. O., Johnson county, Ark.

8. Resolved that Eld W. T. Webb preach the introductory sermon and that Rev. A. F. Taylor be his alternate.

9. Resolved that the Clerk superintend the printing of our Minutes.

10. Be it Resolved that we extend our sincere thanks to the good people of Mt. Zion Church and vicinity for their kindness and love extended to us while with them, and that the Moderator to-night tell of our gratitude and thanks to them. May God bless them.

11. Resolved that we adjourn to meet with Holman Church on Friday night before the fourth Sunday in October, 1914.

The closing prayer by Eld. R. A. Johnson.

The Lords Supper observed Monday night by Rev. J. T. Ross preaching on the Subject "The Lords Supper." Then Rev. R. A. Johnson officiated in the partaking of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints' feet.

Then the Association took the parting hand while singing

"Sweet By and By" and "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder,  
I'll Be There."

Rev. J. T. Ross, Moderator,  
Waveland, Ark.

Geo. Been, Clerk,  
Spring Valley, Ark.

A. N. Best, Corresponding Sec.,  
Chisimville, Route, 1, Logan County, Ark.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT OF FUNDS SUBSCRIBED.**

Arkansas Association.. . . .	\$ 3.00
Mt. Zion Association.. . . .	3.75
Mt. Olive Association.. . . .	1.50
New Mt. Zion Association.. . . .	.75
Antioch Association.. . . .	1.50
Zion Hope Association.. . . .	1.00
Mt. Home Association.. . . .	1.50
Printing Minutes.. . . .	17.50

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE**

Resolved that intemperance is the cause directly or in indirectly of nine-tenths of all crimes on earth, and that we will not tolerate the drinking of one dram, as liquor drinkers are companions of devils, drinkers of intoxicating liquors are murderers of women, robbers of children and builders of monopoly. We also favor the suspension of any Freewill Baptist Minister or even member that drinks an intoxicant. It shall be in violation of the church and should be dealt with by the same. We also recommend that each minister deliver one or more sermons on Temperance to each Church that they may have in charge.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS**

We realize that the Sabbath School is a religious work and we request the pastors of our churches to urge a Sabbath School in every church for the benefit of our children that it may point them to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world and each make a report of their work work at the Association.

### **REPORT OF ORPHANS HOME BOARD.**

Whereas, the previous session of the Arkansas State Association requested a report of this Board; whereas the town commit-

tee of Branch has taken in hand the land proposition and disposed of same and the Board is ignored in the execution of any deeds or papers of any kind.

Chairman R. A. Johnson,  
A. J. Phillips.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES.

Associations	List of dead
Arkansas.. . . .	not given
Antioch.. . . .	not given
Old Mt. Zion.. . . .	7
Mt. Olive.. . . .	1
Zion Hope.. . . .	5
Mountain Home.. . . .	0
New Mt. Zion.. . . .	3
	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>

These have been called to their home above therefore their labors on earth are ended. So let us all live faithful until we meet them where parting is no more.

#### List of Ministers.

Mt. Olive Association—J. H. Bittle, Ft. Smith, Ark., Route No. 2; S. C. Clark, Bonanza, Ark.; A. J. Phillips, Hackett, Ark., Route No. 1; J. A. Bartlett, Midland, Ark.; O. D. Dugan, Midland Ark.; G. W. Ingram, Mansfield, Ark.; B. J. Slate, Mansfield, Ark.; J. B. Nance, Mansfield, Ark.; Henry Shuman, Mansfield, Ark.; R. J. Ibison, Charleston, Ark.

Arkansas Association—W. M. Mankins, Milltown, Ark.; W. M. Snow, Webb City; W. M. Swift, Webb City; W. R. Goodall, Bluffton, Ark.; O. C. Hunt, Waldron, Ark.; J. S. Lovette, Chismville, Ark.; A. N. Best, Chismville, Ark.; J. M. Wilson, Gravelly, Ark.; Mark Harris, Blackfork, Ark.; J. N. DeArman, Ratcliff, Ark.; I. J. Wilson, Gravelly, Ark.; R. P. Reed, Rover, Ark.

New Mt. Zion.—J. A. Kesner, Kingston, Ark.; J. M. Berden, Delmar, Ark.; W. R. Burnett, Hilltop, Ark.; J. M. Richardson, Copton, Ark.; John Harington, Delmar, Ark.; S. M. McMillon, Delmar, Ark.; W. C. Curnentt, Compton, Ark.; W. C. Watts.

Old Mt. Zion.—J. G. Wilson, Mante, Ark.; G. W. Lynch, Clifty, Ark., Route 1; S. G. Moses, Whitener, Ark.; W. T. Webb,

Spring Valley, Ark., Route 1; John Garvin, Spring Valley, Ark., Route 1; J. H. Roberts, Spring Valley, Ark., Route 1; W. O. Johnson, Sydenham, Ark.; W. S. Copland, Fayetteville, Ark.; K. A. Moses, Huntsville, Ark.; W. P. Capps, Moderator, Mundell, Ark. G. C. Bland, Larue, Ark.; J. S. Turney, Larue, Ark.

### 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. That the State Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different associations in our union, and each association is entitled to five Messengers. All ordained ministers of our faith and order shall be members when present.

2. Letters from the different associations 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 for minute funds.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, to be denominated the State Association of Freewill Baptist, being composed of the Subordinate Associations of the State of Arkansas and the Association to have no power to lord over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power of the Associations reserving the right of withdrawing from any Association becoming disorderly.

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

5. New Associations 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 Associa-



tion shall be discussed in the Association unless it has been thoroughly discussed in their own Association.

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 Associations with the minutes of this Association in proportion to the number of members in each Association, 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 Associations 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 Association to attend, may inquire into the cause.

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

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 contain 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 twice 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 Associations 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.

### 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 4, 5: 22; Acts 20:2.

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 require 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. Rom. 12:4-5; Matt. 18:15, 16, 17.

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; Matt. 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.



## STATE OF ARKANSAS

We, the District Association, known as \_\_\_\_\_  
 Association of Freewill Baptist, to the State Association, when assembled  
 with \_\_\_\_\_ Church,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County, Arkansas.

GREETING: We send Brethern: 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

whom we pray you to receive to sit with you and aid you in your delibera-  
 tions.

We have \_\_\_\_\_ Churches. \_\_\_\_\_ Ministers.

Total Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Amount for Minute Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(The Association Clerk to write the letter)

Done in conference this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1914.

\_\_\_\_\_ Moderator

P. O. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

P. O. \_\_\_\_\_