

# MINUTES

OF THE

## FREE WILL BAPTIST

### BETHEL ANNUAL CONFERENCE;

HELD AT

GUM SWAMP MEETING HOUSE;

PITT COUNTY, (N. C.)

ON THE

7TH, 8TH, 9TH, AND 10TH DAYS OF NOVEMBER;

A. D. 1833.

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NEWBERN:

PRINTED BY THOMAS WATSON.

1833.

# MINUTES, &c.



*Thursday, Nov. 7th.*

Agreeably to previous appointment, the Ministers, Messengers, and Delegates, of the Free-will Baptist Churches that compose the Bethel Annual Conference, (in N. C.) assembled at Gum Swamp Meeting House, for General Conference. At 12 o'clock, Elder L. Hartsfield, by vote of last Annual Conference, introduced the Divine Service, and preached the introductory sermon from Matthew 11th c. 6th v :—"And blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me." Conference was then organized by choosing Elder L. Hartsfield Moderator, and brethren Thos. Hood, Clerk, and J. L. Clifton Assistant Clerk.

On motion, brethren Emanuel Jarman and Alfred Moore were appointed a Committee of Finance to receive contributions, settle with the Treasurer and report to the Conference.

On motion, adjourned to Friday morning, 10 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder H. Bond.

*Friday, Nov. 8th.*

Prayer by Elder J. Vause.

On motion, the Elders and Delegates from the Shiloh Conference were received with joy, and invited to sit in council with us.

On motion, the Messengers from the South Carolina Conference, were also received and invited to a seat in conference with us.

On motion, agreed that Elder Jesse Heath, H. Hearn, and brother S. Vines, be a Committee to supply the congregations with preachers during the different sessions of this Conference.

On motion, the letters from the several Churches were handed in by the Delegates, read and accepted, and the most of them were very interesting, showing great increase and gracious revivals,



especially through the labours of the Itinerant Ministry, they gave accounts of reformations which gladdened the Zion of our God and we learn also, that love and unity seem to prevail throughout the churches.

The number of members and contributions were as the following table exhibits:

	By letter,	No. Baptised,	No. Dismissed	No. Excluded,	No. Died,	Members, No.	Contributions,	
							Dls.	Cts.
North East, Duplin County,	3	10	1		2	89	1	00
Probability, do do		10	8	6		66	2	00
Salem, do do							1	00
Beaver Creek, Jones, do							1	50
Luzen Swamp, Lenoir, do		25		8		130	4	00
Wheat Swamp, do do		21	34	6	9	175	4	00
Bethel, do do	3	7		4	1	83	2	00
Sandhill, do do		4		2		61	2	00
Woodenton, do do	5	4	10		1	39	1	00
Stony Creek, Orange, do						19		
Gum Swamp, Pitt, do						84	1	50
Tar River, do do		3	2	2	2	67	1	50
Parker's, do do			3	1	2	40	1	00
Fellows Chappel do do						21	1	00
Little Creek, Greene, do		16	10	1		140	2	00
Grimsley's, do do		9	5	1	1	145	2	00
Hart's, do do		10	1		3	95	1	00
Hookerton, do do	1	15	2	1		109	2	00
Stony Branch, Craven, do	3	7	7		3	51	1	00
Bachelors Creek, do do						25	2	00
Indian Springs, Wayne, do				6	1	63	1	00
Piney Grove, Sampson, do	3	85	30	1		131	3	00
Ten Mile's do do		61			1	59	1	87½
Rowan, do do	4	47				51	1	70
Mill Creek, Johnson, do	4	15				19	1	00
Pleasant Hill, do do		25				25	1	00
Stony Run, Cumberland do		67	15			52	1	50
Quaker M. H., Jones, do		14	3			14		66
Reedy Branch, Pitt, do		13				30	1	00
Hickory Grove, Lenoir, do.					1	27	1	00

26 468 181 38 27 1910 \$47 17½

On motion, a letter from our correspondent Elder Elias Hutchins, at the North, was handed in, read and accepted.

On motion, Brother John Powell, petitioned for the Shiloah Conference to rescind their charter to the Bethel Conference, which was referred to a committee composed of Elders Jesse Heath, H. Hearn, James Moore, J. Vause and brother Sam'l Vines.

On motion, was also referred to the same Committee, the propriety of curtailing the Delegation from the different Churches to the Bethel Conference.

Agreed, that Elder Jesse Heath correspond with Elder Elias Hutchins, relative to the history of the rise and progress of the Free Will Baptist connexion in this State and South Carolina, and advise or contract with him in any way he may think proper.

On motion, Elders L. Hartsfield and R. McNab, made reports of their Itinerancy, which reports were very favourable to the cause of Zion.

On motion by Elder Jesse Heath, agreed that there be four Protracted Meetings at stated places, and Preachers appointed to attend them, each 5th Sunday in the ensuing year.

On motion, Conference adjourned to Saturday morning, 10 o'clock. Prayer by Elder R. Bond.

*Saturday, Nov. 9th.*

Prayer by Elder Thomas Moore.

On motion, the Committee reported that the Shiloah Conference shall be privileged to rescind their charter to the Bethel Conference, and again unite with us:—Also reported, that the delegation of the Bethel Conference be curtailed and restricted to one delegate from each Church. Concurred in.

The Committee of finance reported as follows:

**TREASURY, Dr.**

To balance in the fund last year,	\$65 62
“ Contributions this year,	47 17½
From different Churches for Itinerancy,	14 91

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\$127 70½

**CONTRA, Cr.**

Printing last year's Minutes,	\$15 00
Paid Elder E. Hutchins,	10 00
1-2 quire of Paper, Thos. Hood,	00 15
	\$25 15

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Balance in the fund, \$25 15 102 55½

On motion, by Elder D. Hartsfield, agreed that Elders J. Vause, T. Moore, Wm. McGouns, R. Bond, and Jesse Heath be appointed messengers to the Shiloah Conference, to be held at Brice's Creek, Craven County, to commence Thursday before the 4th Lord's day in November, 1833.

On motion agreed that Pastors of Churches remain members of the churches to which they were first united, until regularly dismissed.

On motion by Elder R. McNab, Resolved, that any Church shall have the right to deal with their respective Pastors for misdemeanors.

Resolved, that the stated terms of holding the Annual and Quarterly meetings in the different Churches composing the Bethel Conference, be again inserted in the minutes for the intelligence of the ministry.

On motion, by Elder James Moore, Resolved, that there be retained in the General Fund twenty-five dollars, and that the balance be appropriated towards the discharge of the claims of the Itinerants; and on motion, the balance of said claims were promptly discharged by the Conference. Voted, that the present plan of Itinerancy be discontinued. Voted, that two thousand copies of these Minutes be printed and distributed among the whole connexion, as usual.

On motion, agreed that Elder J. H. Dixon and brother W. Dixon be appointed to correct the Minutes, and that Elder Jesse Heath prepare a Circular Letter on a subject of his own choice, to be attached to these minutes.

Voted that the next Annual Conference be held at Piney Grove, M. H., Sampson County, and that it commence at 12 o'clock on Thursday before the 2nd Lord's day in Nov. 1834.

Voted that Elder Jesse Heath preach the Introductory Sermon, and on his failure, Elder H. Hearn.

Agreed to adjourn to time and place above mentioned.

After which, Elder Jesse Heath being requested to close the Conference, gave a very solemn and affectionate charge, while his heart seemed to glow with love and gratitude to God, for the harmony and brotherly love that had existed during the session; and he exhorted them with all the tenderness of a father, that they love one another. He then prayed, and Conference rose.

The stage was supplied and the congregations entertained as follows.



Friday Nov. 5th, Elder Wm. McGouns introduced the service, and preached from Luke 17th c. and 26th v.; after which, Elder E. Cobb preached from Matthew 13th c. and 18th v., and Elder John Rasbery concluded by exhortation and prayer.

*Saturday, Nov. 9th.*

Elder J. Vause introduced the service, and preached from Matthew 20th c. and last clause of the 6th v. Elder R. Bond followed from 1st Samuel, 2nd c. and latter clause of the 30th v.; after which, Elder Jeremiah Heath preached from a text not recollected.

*Sunday, Nov. 10th.*

Elder John Rasbery introduced the service by prayer and praise. Elder L. McNab followed, from John 5th v. and latter part of 6th v: "Wilt thou be made whole?" After which Elder L. Hartsfield folowed, from Deut. 30th c. and 19th v: "I call heaven and earth to record this day," &c. Prayer by Elder J. Vause, and all were dismissed. We are happy to add in conclusion, that great interest was felt in this meeting.

Nearly all the Churches were represented; and we sincerely thank God for the happy interview we have had with our brethren and friends. The congregations were very large, and our preachers had much liberty in speaking to a waiting and attentive people. The weather was remarkably pleasant, and the people in the vicinity of the Conference were very charitable and kind. We do hope the Lord will reward them.



### **ELDER'S, MINISTER'S AND PREACHER'S,**

*Belonging to the Bethel Conference, in fellowship.*

Frederick Foville,  
Levi Braxton,  
Jesse Heath,  
Nathaniel Lckhart,  
Jeremiah Hath,  
James Moore,  
Robert Bond,  
Howel Hear,  
Enoch Cobb,  
Jacob Utley,  
Richard Reeves,  
Lewis Hartsfield,

Thomas Moore,  
Jesse Vause,  
John H. Dixon,  
William McGouns,  
David Hartsfield,  
Robert McNab,  
John Rasbery,  
Benjamin Parrott,  
Caleb Spivy,  
Thomas Reaves,  
Bryan H. Gleason,  
Joel Clifton.

## CHURCHES.

North East Duplin County, "  
Probability, "  
Salem, "  
Beaver Creek, Jones, "  
Luzen Swamp, Lenoir, "  
Wheat Swamp, " "  
Bethel, " "  
Sandhill, " "  
Woodenton, " "  
Stony Creek, Orange "  
Gum Swamp, Pitt, "  
Tar River, " "  
Parker's, " "  
Fellow's Chapel, " "  
Little Creek, Greene, "  
Grimsley, " "  
Hart's, " "  
Hookerton, " "  
Stony Branch, Craven, "  
Bachelor's Creek, " "  
Newbern, " "  
Indian Springs, Wayne, "  
Piney Grove, Sampson, "  
Ten Miles, " "  
Roaren, " "  
Mill Creek, Johnston, "  
Pleasant Hill, " "  
Stony Run, Cumberland "  
Quaker M. H. Jones "  
Reedy Branch, Pitt "  
Hickory Grove, Lenoir "

## ANNUAL MEETINGS.

First Lord's Day in August.  
Second ditto in September.  
Third ditto in August.  
Third ditto in August.  
First ditto in October.  
Fourth ditto in October.  
Fourth ditto in September.  
Second ditto in September.  
First ditto in September.  
" " "  
Second ditto in September.  
First ditto in August.  
Third ditto in October.  
First ditto in October.  
Third ditto in October.  
Second ditto in October.  
Fourth ditto in October.  
Third ditto in August.  
" " "  
" " "  
" " "  
Third Lord's Day in Sept.  
First ditto in October.  
Second ditto in October.  
Third ditto in October.  
" " "  
First ditto in October.  
Fourth ditto in August.  
Third ditto in October.  
First ditto in September.  
Second ditto in August.

## QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

First Lord's Day in February, May and Nov.  
Second ditto in December, March and June.  
Third ditto in November, February and May.  
Third ditto in November, February and May.  
First ditto in January, April and July.  
Fourth ditto in January, April and July.  
Fourth ditto in December, March and June.  
Second ditto in March, June and December.  
First ditto in December, March and June.  
" " "  
Second ditto in December, March and June.  
First ditto in November, February and May.  
Third ditto in January, April and July.  
First ditto in January, April and July.  
Third ditto in January, April and July.  
Second ditto in January, April and July.  
Fourth ditto in January, April and July.  
Third ditto in February, May and November.  
Fourth ditto in Feb. May, August and Nov.  
Second ditto in March, June, Sept. and Dec.  
Second ditto in Feb. May, Aug. and Nov.  
Third ditto in March, June and December.  
First ditto in January, April and July.  
Second ditto in January, April and July.  
Third ditto in January, April and July.  
" " "  
" " "  
First ditto in January, April and July.  
Fourth ditto in November, February and May.  
Third ditto in January, April and July.  
First ditto in March, June and December.  
Second ditto in February and November.

*The times of holding the Protracted Meetings the ensuing year, and the Preaches who were appointed to attend them.*

CHURCHES.	TIMES.	PREACHERS.
No. 1. Newbern, Craven County,	Friday before 5th Sunday, Dec.	R. McNab, D. Hartsfield, and J. Heath.
Hart's M.H. Greene County	" " "	W. M'Gouns, J. Utley, H. Hearn, J. H. Dixon
Postoak, Craven County,	" " "	J'h. Heath, R. Bond, J. Powell, J. Rasberry.
Stony Run, Cumberland, do.	" " "	L. Hartsfield, and J. Vause.
No. 2. Indian Springs, Wayne, do	Friday before 5th Sund'y, March	J. Moore, R. McNab, E. Cobb.
Core Creek, Craven, do	" " "	J. Vause, Wm. McGouns, and J. Heath.
Quaker House, Jones, do	" " "	J. Rasberry, R. Bond, and J'h. Heath.
Beaver Creek, do do	" " "	J. H. Dixon, J. Powell, and L. Hartsfield.
No. 3. Tar River, Pitt do	Friday before 5th Sunday, June	J. Moore, W. M'Gouns, D. Hartsfield, J. Dixon
Batchelor Creek, Craven do	" " "	L. Hartsfield, J'h. Heath, J. Powell, J. Heath.
Piney Grove, Sampson do	" " "	E. Cobb, R. McNab, T. Moore,
Reedy Branch, Pitt do	" " "	J. Rasberry, H. Hearn, N. Lockhart, J. Utley.
No. 4. Luzen Swamp, Lenoir do	Friday before 5th Sunday, Aug.	J. Vause, B. Parrott, R. Bond, L. Braxton.
Fellow's Chappel, Pitt do	" " "	R. McNab W. M'Gouns, J'h. Heath, J. Rasberry
Parker M. H. do do	" " "	J. Moore, T. Moore, J. Dixon, J. Utley.
Salem, Duplin do	" " "	D. Hartsfield, J. Heath, L. Hartsfield.



## C I R C U L A R .

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### MY BELOVED CONNEXION :

At the last Annual Conference a vote was passed that I should prepare a Circular to be attached to the Minutes of the present year. It becomes my duty, therefore, and happy privilege, to give you some account of the merciful dealings of God with us as a people, during the last year, and a brief sketch of our present prospects as a Denomination.

Brotherly love marked all the sessions of the Conference, all that good order was kept that becomes the House of God. The Church in general, reported very favorably to the cause of Zion, and the reports from the Itinerant department, were refreshing indeed. In the course of last year, they baptized about three hundred, and constituted five churches in parts where our sentiments were but little known, and the prospect is yet very flattering. Eight churches by letter and delegate, were added to the Conference, and the whole number baptised last year in the Bethel Conference is 468, and we are happy to state that our preaching brethren in general feel a spirit of more engagedness, and have, for the ensuing year, made arrangements for more gospel labours than have heretofore been usual.

Elders R. Bond, and L. Hartsfield, without the promise or stipulated sum, have entered into the Itinerant field on the charity of the connexions and friends, and with all my soul I bid them God speed. From the present encouraging prospects, we hope that a new era is opening, and it is our sincere prayer that we may be enabled to go forth to the work God, filled with holy energy and gospel zeal for the extension of our Redeemer's Kingdom. Dear brethren in gospel bonds, it is very likely that this is the last time that I shall address you through this medium; and as our welfare and prosperity in Zion is a matter of great interest to me, I feel a desire to close my address by way of solemn admonition.

Consider the importance of an agreement in our gospel testimony. We have taken Jesus Christ as our only Prophet, Priest and King—the holy Scriptures as our great body of divinity, and the holy Spirit as the best interpreter. Let us therefore search the scriptures daily, and wherein we lack wisdom, let us ask it of God, and let us be determined to be bible preachers, and preach no doctrine but bible doctrine, and practice no ordi-

naunces but liberdinances. In this way we shall soon come into the unity of the faith an eye to eye. O my brethren, let us all strive earnestly to keep the un of the spirit in the bond of peace. Let us not be carried about with div and strange doctrines; but let us speak the same things, so that a dyi world may be convinced, God's name be glorified, and sinners saved.

Consider, I beseech you, the necessity of humiliation, and the danger of pride. It was a trait in the character of our heavenly Master, that He was meek and lowly; and we are taught by the wisest of men, that it is better to be of humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. Wought, as a connexion, to keep humble, and God will exalt us. Heen has indeed highly prospered us and blessed our feeble labours with markable success in the gospe; and it should serve to humble us. In thir rise of our connexion, there was but a handful; but God prospered the abours, and gave them many souls as seals of their ministry; but we are n become a large connexion, and we must be humble. Stand ye in the wa and see and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk then. Then we shall still prosper; but if we indulge in pride, and strive to popular, and to have the friendship of the world, we must expect the frowns of Heaven; therefore, my dear brethren, let me entreat you to make l things according to the pattern shown us in the mount. Let brotherly love and christian forbearance be exercised in all things with which we are concerned as brethren, and when our prospects are chilled, and things war a gloomy aspect, fly to a throne of grace, for God has said ask and you shall receive. O let us strive for that peace that passeth all understanding but strife, contention, evil speaking, and persecution, let it not be named econeth brethren; for to these things is attached a train of evils, well related to break the peace and make us miserable in time and eternity. O brethren, beware of ev as cause divisions, and turn away from tm, for united we stand and divided we fall, and let us have no strife about who shall be the greatest, but let us be very humble; let us lay at the feet of Jesus that we may be exalted. In a word, my beloved brethren, lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us; and may th great head of the church and the bishop of souls, preside by his holy spi over the whole connexion, and direct us in the path of duty. May we be vored with His gracious presence in all our deliberations and public admistrations, that our meetings may result in his declarative glory, and t good of thousands of our fellow men, is the prayer of your servant and brother in Christ. Farewell.

O may we all ensure  
A lot among the blest,  
And watch a moment to secure  
An everlasting rest.