

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
BIG SPRING ASSOCIATION
OF THE
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

HELD WITH
.CENTER POINT CHURCH

FULTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24,

1921

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

On Thursday evening, September 22, 1921, the Big Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist Churches met with Center Point Church. Rev. John Hargrave preached the introductory sermon, followed by Rev. J. L. Bentley. Text, John 3:16.

Friday Morning

Met at nine o'clock, called to order by Rev. Delbert Davis (Moderator).

The moderator then read the Fourth Chapter of John and offered prayer.

The Constitution was then read.

Letters from the different churches was called for and the following presented.

Letter from Little Flock Church presented by Tom Trivett.

Letter from New Home Church presented by Albert Lankford and Bill Chandler.

Letter from Center Point Church presented by Ben Hutson and O. C. Davis.

Letter from Pleasant Grove Church presented by Wilson Presley.

Letter from Pleasant Flat Church presented by D. M. Byrd and R. W. Partee.

Letters received and read.

Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship and seated in the body.

A call was made for newly organized churches. Received one, to wit: Bay Creek Church, organized October 2, 1920, by Revs. C. T. Davis and Delbert Davis with seventeen members. Curren Davis, the delegate of the new church, was given the right hand of fellowship by the moderator.

Committee on divine services appointed by moderator: Tom Trivett, J. B. Borden, D. M. Byrd, Wilson Presley, Bill Chandler, Martha Davis, committee.

Committee on resolutions appointed: Rev. J. L. Bentley, Ben Hutson, Curren Davis, committee.

Rev. John Hargrave and Rev. Noah Miller were appointed on committee of obituary. Committee consist of three members, viz: E. Trivett, Rev. John Hargrave and Rev. Noah Miller.

Adjourned for eleven o'clock preaching.

At eleven o'clock Rev. C. T. Davis preached, followed by Rev. John Griffith. Lesson read was Psalms 116; text, Psalms 116:14. Services proved to be an inspiration to many.

Evening Session

Met at 2:30 p. m. The moderator read Psalms 23, prayer was offered by Rev. J. L. Bentley.

Minutes of morning session was read,

Call for ministers' report.

The following reported:

Rev. C. T. Davis, Rev. J. L. Bentley, Rev. Delbert Davis, Rev. Noah Miller, Rev. Carl Davis and Rev. J. H. Griffith.

The resolutions committee presented a resolution providing that a committee of three be appointed to inquire into the standing of our ministers.

A motion carried to adopt the resolution and the following were appointed on said committee, viz: Rev. C. T. Davis, Rev. Noah Miller and Rev. J. H. Griffith.

Report of committee on obituary was received and committee retained for the ensuing year. Report was as follows: "We, as a committee on obituary, beg leave to report: We find the Lord has dealt graciously with us, yet He has taken from us our beloved Brothers Ed Bridges and Orphie Hill and Sister Lillie Bridges. We assure their kindred and friends the sympathy and prayers of the association."

Motion prevailed to adjourn to meet Saturday at 8:30 a. m.

On Friday evening at 7:30 Rev. Delbert Davis preached an able sermon. Subject: "Woman's Rights in the Church." He was followed by Rev. R. W. Partee. This service proved to be a grand one, with two renewals and great rejoicing.

Saturday Morning at 8:30

Moderator opened session by reading Psalms 1, prayer was offered by Brother R. W. Partee.

After passing other resolutions (which is recorded later) Rev. Delbert Davis was elected Evangelist for the ensuing year.

Report of executive committee made and received.

Executive committee appointed by moderator, viz: Rev. C. T. Davis, for three years; Brother R. W. Partee, two years; Rev. Noah Miller, one year.

Motion carried to retain the old ordaining council, which consists of three ministers, viz: Rev. J. L. Bentley, Rev. W. P. Sorrell, Rev. C. T. Davis.

Adjourned till 2:30 p. m.

Preaching at eleven by Brother R. W. Partee, followed by Rev. Noah Miller. Subject: "Prodigal Son." This was a good service with rejoicing.

Saturday Evening

At 2:30 p. m. moderator opened session by reading Psalms 130 and prayer.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Moderator, Rev. J. H. Griffith.

Assistant Moderator, Rev. J. L. Bentley.

Clerk, Curren Davis.

Assistant Clerk, O. C. Davis.

After receiving the report of the ministers inquiry committee, and adopting several resolutions (which are contained on another page of these minutes) prayer was offered.

The parting hand was taken, then adjourned. So ending the twenty-seventh annual association.

Note by clerk: On Saturday evening at 7:30, Brother Bill Chandler led the services followed by Rev. Carl Davis. This was another good service with rejoicing.

Sunday morning at eleven o'clock, Rev. C. T. Davis preached

an ordination sermon. After the sermon Brother R. W. Partee was duly ordained to preach the gospel, by laying on of hands and prayer by the presbytery. Rev. W. P. Sorrell (one of the ordaining council) being absent, Rev. J. H. Griffith was appointed in his place to help do this work. May God's blessings rest upon Brother Partee.

Resolutions Adopted

1. Resolved that we appoint a committee of three to inquire into the standing of our ministers.

2. Resolved that we grant the request of Pleasant Flat Church in regard to the ordaining of Brother R. W. Partee and that he be ordained Sunday, September 25, 1921, at the eleven o'clock service.

3. Resolved that this association elect one evangelist for the ensuing year.

4. Resolved that every minister impress the importance of family prayer.

5. Resolved that Sister Mat Jones' credentials shall be and herein is revoked, and that the said Sister Mat Jones' name be dropped from our ministers list, for the cause stated below: Violation of article fifteen of our constitution, which reads as follows: "All ministers shall make a written report of all their ministerial labors."

6. Resolved that each church strive, or continue, to have Sunday school.

7. Resolved that each pastor impress upon each church in his charge the need of taking sacrament and foot washing at least once a year.

8. Resolved that we get in touch with the state association either by letter or delegate.

9. Resolved that each minister spend as much time as he can in the work of building up our cause.

10. Resolved that Rev. C. T. Davis act as corresponding secretary to get in touch with the state association.

11. Resolved that we meet with the Bay Creek Church (Ful-

ton county, Ark.) on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1922, and that Rev. J. L. Bentley preach the introductory sermon, and that Rev. C. T. Davis be his alternate.

12. Resolved that the clerk, Rev. Carl Davis, have 250 minutes printed.

13. Resolved that we express our heartfelt thanks to the good people of this community for their kindness and hospitality to us during our stay with them.

Statistical Report

Churches	Members Received	Baptized	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Membership	Meeting Day	Name of Pastor Last Year	Name of Pastor This Year
Little Flock	5	5	4		22	1		Noah Miller	Noah Miller
New Home	5				1 37	4		C. T. Davis	Carl Davis
Center Point	8	8			60	3		Delbert Davis	J. H. Griffith
Pleasant Grove	7	5			37	2		Carl Davis	C. T. Davis
Pleasant Flat					41			W. P. Sorrell	J. H. Griffith
Bay Creek (new)	34				2 47	4		Delbert Davis	Delbert Davis

Minister's Report

Ministers	Assisted in organizing new churches	Miles traveled	S. S. lecture	Exhortations	Sermons preached	Conversions	Members received	No. baptized	Marriages	Funerals	Money received
C. T. Davis	1	448	4	16	77	26	16	3			\$ 44 24
J. L. Bentley				23	12	5			1	1	
J. H. Griffith		150		4	11				1		
Delbert Davis	1	1079	7	37	133	69	31	39	6	4	82 72
Carl Davis		1100	3	20	98	28				1	51 76
Noah Miller		250		4	13	8	5	5			6 00

Names and Address of Ministers

J. L. Bentley Gamaliel, Ark.
 W. P. Sorrell Amos, Ark.
 C. T. Davis Elizabeth, Ark.
 J. H. Griffith Cotter, Ark.
 Delbert Davis Moody, Mo.
 Carl Davis Elizabeth, Ark.
 Noah Miller Moody, Mo.
 John W. Hargrave Mountain Home, Ark.
 R. W. Partee Amos, Ark.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of ordained and licensed Ministers, Deacons and the Clerks of the different Churches and Delegates who shall be members of the Churches of this Association and shall have power, when quorum is present, to transact all business that comes before it.

ARTICLE 2. This Association shall meet annually on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September.

ARTICLE 3. Each Church shall be entitled to two Delegates in the Association; the Association shall act as advisory, but shall have no ecclesiastic authority over the Churches.

ARTICLE 4. The officers of the Association shall consist of a Moderator and Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, who shall be members of the Association, who shall be elected annually.

ARTICLE 5. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over and lead the transaction of the meeting, to appoint all committees, and to see that order and decorum are preserved by all the members; it shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep an impartial record of the business transacted during the session, and to take charge of the Permanent Records of the Association; the officers of the Association shall continue in office until succeeded by a new election.

ARTICLE 6. It shall be the duty of each church of this Association to send to each annual meeting a letter by its appointed Messengers containing a brief account of its changes during the year and its present condition.

ARTICLE 7. Any Church may be received into this Association on application for admission by its appointed Messengers with a letter of correspondence, provided it is sound in doctrine and orderly in practice, and in token of such reception the Moderator shall extend the right hand of fellowship to its delegates present.

ARTICLE 8. This Association shall at each annual meeting

appoint the time and place for the next annual meeting and the brethren to preach the introductory.

ARTICLE 9. All business shall be done by the members.

ARTICLE 10. The Association shall appoint an Ordaining Council from year to year; provided that in the absence of the Ordaining Council any two ministers or one ordained Minister and one ordained Deacon may act as Ordaining Council, and no person shall be ordained without first examining him upon his moral and efficient character to teach or preach the Gospel.

ARTICLE 11. This Constitution may be altered or changed at any of the annual meetings of the Association.

ARTICLE 12. The Association may expel any Church from its deliberations and withdraw its fellowship from the same for heresy or irregularity in practice.

ARTICLE 13. The Churches composing this Association shall contribute to their Pastors sufficient to reward them for their expense and time spent with them.

ARTICLE 14. This Association shall take care of old worn-out Ministers and their wives or widows; the Association shall have a treasurer who shall pay out of money received to the order of the Association for the purpose contributed.

ARTICLE 15. All Ministers shall make a written report of all their labors during the year.

RULES OF DECORUM.

SECTION 1. Each session shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Moderator or any person he may designate.

SECTION 2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the Moderator.

SECTION 3. All visiting brethren invited to take seats with

us may debate on all questions, but shall not vote on any.

SECTION 4. No discussion shall be except upon motion and second.

SECTION 5. The person speaking shall adhere to the subject in debate and in no wise cast personal reflections on any one who may have previously spoken.

SECTION 6. The person speaking shall not be interrupted by any one, except the Moderator, nor shall the Moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.

SECTION 7. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

SECTION 8. Members shall address each other by the appellation of "Brother" or "Brethern."

SECTION 9. If any members objects to the dicussion of a motion made and seconded, the Moderator shall immediately put the question: "Shall the question be discussed?" If negative, the question shall not be discussed.

SECTION 10. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded on Minutes unless so ordered by a vote at the time.

SECTION 11. If any motion or proposition under discussion contains two or more parts it shall, at the request of any member, be divided and the vote on each part taken separately.

SECTION 12. No member shall laugh or whisper during speaking.

SECTION 13. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

SECTION 14. The names of members shall be enrolled and called when necessary.

SECTION 15. No member shall speak over ten minutes without leave of the Moderator.

SECTION 16. The minutes shall be read and corrected before final adjournment.

SECTION 17. Any member who shall break any of these rules shall be reprov'd by the Moderator according to the direction of the Association.

CONFESSIO^N OF FAITH.

1. We believe in the only true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the written and revealed will of God, and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only rule of Faith and Practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and that by his transgression all of his posterity fell and were made sinners, and we believe that Jesus Christ by the Grace of God, tasted death for every man, through His mediatorial death the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy on all who come to Him on Gospel terms.

4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by faith in Jesus Christ, and that good works are the fruits of faith and follow after justification; that infants and idiots are included in the covenant of God.

5. We believe that he who endureth to the end shall be saved.

6. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general or universal judgment and the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.

7. We believe the visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons, who have obtained relationship with Christ, and fellowship with one another, according to the rule of the Gospel.

8. We believe that Jesus is the great head of the church, and the government is with the body.

9. We believe the true believers are the only fit subjects for baptism, and that immersion is the Gospel mode.

10. We believe that Baptism, Lord's Supper and washing of feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are to be continued until His second coming.

11. We believe that all true believers are fit subjects to commune at the Lord's Table.

12. We believe that the Lord's Day ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God and that no works of a worldly nature ought to be transacted thereon—Works of piety, mercy and necessity excepted.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having given ourselves to God through Jesus Christ, and adopted the foregoing articles as our confession of faith, we now give ourselves to each other by the will of God, and agree to the following Church Covenant.—

1. We solemnly covenant before God, that we will strive by His assisting grace to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice. We covenant and agree, as members of the church and as Christians, to watch over each other in love for mutual upbuilding in Gospel faith, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, to be careful of each other's reputation, to confess our faults one to another, to strengthen the feeble and kindly admonish the erring, and to labor together for the upbuilding of the church and the demonination, and the salvation of sinners.

2. We promise that we will faithfully and constantly maintain secret and family prayer, and religiously instruct those under our care.

3. We covenant and agree to use our influence to sustain the regular public worship of God, contributing according to our ability and circumstances for the support of the ministry and other church expenses among us; that we will be benevolent to the needy, and especially to the poor of our own church.

4. We also promise, that so far as we shall be able, we will attend upon public worship, the social meetings of the church, and report ourselves regularly at the monthly conferences, and that we will walk in all the ordinances of the Lord's house.

5. We covenant and agree that we will abstain from all vain amusements and sinful conformity to the world; that we will not traffic in, use, nor furnish to others, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and that we will sustain the benevolent enterprises of our denomination and the church,—as missions, education, Sabbath School, moral reforms, and all others which tend to the glory of God and welfare of men.

And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may join the glorified around the throne of God, in ascribing blessings and honor and glory and power to Him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb forever. Amen.