# PROCEEDINGS

#### OF THE

### THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

#### **OF THE**

## BIG SPRING ASSOCIATION

OF THE

# FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

HELD WITH

## PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH

# BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 7 AND 8,

1925.

# MINUTES OF THE SESSION

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The Big Spring Association of the Freewill Baptist Churches met with the Pleasant Grove Church on November 7th and 8th, 1925, at ten o'clock.

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Was called to order by Moderator, Rev. Carl Davis, and services were opened by song, and prayer by the Moderator.

The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read and the letters from the different churches called for and the following reported.

Little Flock church presented by T. T. Trivitt, Bay Creek church by Sisters Martha Davis and Lou Collins. Center Point church by Bro. J. F. Landrum. New Home church by Bro. Walter Roberts. Hill Top church by Bro. R. W. Partee. Pleasant Grove church by Guy Hargrave and Sister Edna King. Pleasant Flat church by Bro. J. H. Griffith. The letters were read and received and delegates seated and the right hand of fellowship extended.

Brother Walter Roberts presented himself for membership in the association as an ordained minister and was unanimously re-

Committee on a camp

Committee on Literature, Delbert Davis, C. F. Shearer, and C. A. McCormack.

Committee on Sunday School, Martha Davis, Edna King and R. W. Partee.

Guy Hargrave was elected Associational Clerk.

A motion was received to adjourn for 11 o'clock preaching services to meet again at 2 p. m.

Preaching services conducted by Rev. Delbert Davis, prayer by Frank Collins.

Lesson, Genesis 3:1-9.

Text, Genesis 3:9, the last clause, "Where art thou."

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Met at 2 p. m., opened by song, scripture lesson, Psalms 15, and prayer by moderator. Morning minutes read and received. Report of committees called for and the following reported.

Report of the Resolution Committee:

1. Resolved: That the deacons continue to use their best efforts to raise money to help pay their pastors and to help the association pay its preachers to go to destitute places.

2. Resolved: That this association instruct its ministers to expose Darwin's theory of evolution and also warning against its danger.

3. Resolved: That we adopt the Articles of Faith as contained in the Arkansas Freewill Baptist State Minutes.

4. Resolved: That Thursday night before the third Sunday in September be the date for our annual associational meeting.

5. Resolved: That no person be ordained to preach the gospel until after they have been licensed at least one year.

and clerk.

We, the credentials committee, submit our report as follows: We find that we have seven ordained ministers in our association all in good standing, whose names are as follows: Revs. C. T. Davis, Delbert Davis, Carl Davis, J. H. Griffith, R. W. Partee, Noah Miller, and Walter Roberts. J. F. Landrum, Chairman of Committee. Report received and committee released. Report of Obituary Committee:

We, the Committee on Obituary, submit our report as follows: We find that the Lord in His wisdom has taken from us three of our brothers, W. P. Sorrels, J. L. Bentley and R. E. Ball, and three of our sisters, Celia Carder, Peachie Davis and Carrie Nimmo. We mourn their death but we feel that our loss is their gain. We assure their relatives of our prayers and sympathy. R. E. Ball was deacon in Bay Creek church and Elders W. P. Sorrels and J. L. Bentley were two of our pioneer preachers. We miss them in our association and we feel that they were called from their labor to rest.

The report was received and committee released.

C. A. McCormack was appointed on the Executive Committee for a term of three years. The committee is composed of C. T. Davis, R. W. Partee and C. A. McCormack, and reports no work left unfinished so no report to make.

The Committee on Literature reports as follows:

We, the Committee on Literature, submit our report as follows: We find in many homes the wrong kind of literature is being read. We condemn the reading of the various theories of evolution, Russelism, novels, etc. We encourage the reading of good books and literature which tends to elevate mentally and spiritually. Signed, Delbert Davis, Chairman of Committee.

The report received and committee released.

The Sunday School Committee reported as follows:

We, the Committee on Sunday School, submit our report as fol-· lows: Realizing the importance of Sunday school, and that it is in keeping with Christ's teaching, also Solomon said, (Proverbs 22:6) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. We therefore urge ministers an laity to encourage Sunday school work, urging parents to maintain Sunday school in every community, and to take their children every Sunday to same. Statistics show that ninety-eight per cent of all crimes committed is by people who was not reared in Sunday school. Signed, Martha Davis, Chairman of Committee.

Report received and committe released.

The Temperance Committee reported as follows:

We, the Committee on Temperance, submit our report as follows: We highly favor the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. We urge that its violators be punished. We pledge onr support to the prohibition officers. Signed, Mrs. Delbert Davis, Chairman of Committee.

The report received and committee released.

There was two vacancies on the ordaining council caused by the death of Elders J. L. Bentley and W. P. Sorrels, so Rev Delbert Davis and Rev. Noah Miller were appointed in their places. The council consits of Revs. C. T. Davis, Delbert Davis and Noah Miller. The fofllowing officers were elected for the ensuing year: Rev. Delbert Davis, moderator, and Rev. R. W. Partee, assistant moderator. Guy Hargrave, clerk, and Curren Davis, assistant clerk.

Rev. Carl Davis was elected to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. Noah Miller alternate.

The association will meet with the Center Point church, Elizabeth, Fulton county, on Thursday night before the third Sunday in September, 1926.

Minutes read and received.

A motion was made to adjourn to meet as stated above.

The parting hand was taken, prayer offered, and so ended the thirty-first annual session of the association.

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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 of irregularity in practice.

ARTICLE 13. The Churches composing this Association shall a contribute to their Pastors sufficient to reward them for their expenses and time spent with them, for a selection between the selection of the select

ARTICLE 14. This Association shall take care of old and 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 allow their labors during the year. See the sector of allow and the ball of the

ARTICLE 16. A committee of three shall be appointed each year to inquire into the standing of our Ministers.

ARTICLE 17. Each pastor shall impress upon each church in a his charge the need of taking the sacrament and washing of feet at least once a year.

ARTICLE 18. This Association shall take the sacrament and

wash feet with the church it meets with Sunday night after the As-He sociation each year. State of the state of the second state of the state of the

#### RULES OF DECORUM

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

SECTION 2. Only one persoon 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 on 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 "Brethren." a bit for a pathweat for the second secon

SECTION 9. If any member objects to the discussion 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. A compared by the discussed of the 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 is speaking: sector anti-particular to the laugh of the later (the later of the later of the

SECTION 13. No member shall absent himself from the Asso- a ciation without leave. Full and the balls of the strength of the s

SECTION 14. The names of members shall be enrolled and called when necessary. Some little members are described by little of the little state of the state of the

out leave of the Moderator.

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

# ARTICLES OF FAITH

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1. We believe in one true and living God—the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost—and these three are equal in divine essence, power and glory. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7; 1 Cor. 8:6; John 10:30.

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. 2 Tim. 4:2; 2 Tim 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man 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 men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall. 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. 1:27; Gen. 2:16-17; Gen. 3:6; John 3:16-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His death, burial and resurrection purchased our pardon and offers it freely to all men upon the condition 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 all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and beside me there is none else. Rom. 5:6-21; Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Heb. 11:16.

5. We believe that all adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God if they inherit eternal lilfe. John 1:6-14; Titus 3:5; John 3:1-13; Rom. 8:9.

6. We believe that regeneration is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Ghost whereby the penitent sinner receives a new life, becomes a child of God and is disposed to serve Him. As babies require constant food for bodily development, the new born babe in Christ requires spiritual food that he may develop by a gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:5; Ez. 36: 26-27; Titus 3:5; Gal. 5:1-21; Eph.2:10; Rom.8:16; John 1:12-13; Matt. 13:31; Mark 4:26; 1 Peter 2:3.

7. We believe that the doctrine of Santification or Holiness as taught in the Bible applies 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 shall put on incorruption. 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 7:17-25; Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 35:54.

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; Rom. 11:20-21; Heb. 10:26; John 15:2-6.

9. We believe in the justification of infants, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ in a passive state, thereby adopting them heirs of His kingdom. Matt. 19:13-14; 8:10.

10. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful followers who have obtained fellowship with each other and have given themselves to the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep up good discipline according to the rules of the Gospel. Matt. 18:15-20.

11. We believe that the church is the family of God, the redeemed in the aggregate of Adam's race from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things of every nation, kindred, tongue and people. Matt. 16: 18; Acts 2:47; Heb. 12:23; Eph. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:5; 10:17. 12. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and the government is with the body. Eph. 5:23; Col.1:18-21; Matt. 18:17-18.

13. 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. 3:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 1:8-11; Acts 8:38; Rom. 6:16.

14. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the Saint's feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and are to be continued until His second coming. Matt 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5.

15. We believe that only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, have a right to baptism, and those only who have been called of God and have come under the Presbytery of Elders have a right to administer the same. Titus 1:1-16; Mark 16:-16; Matt. 3:8-9; Acts 10:47; 1 Tim. 4:14-16.

16. 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 spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9.

17. We believe that there will be a general 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, and the righteous into eternal happiness. Eccl. 3:17; 11:9; Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Thes. 1:-8-9; Rev.6:12-17; 20:12; 21:8; 14:11; Luke 16:23; 2 Cor. 5:10.

18 We believe that God in His goodness displays power of grace in a greater degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of His blessed words 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. Acts 9:15; 1 Tim. 4:16; 1 Cor. 1: 23; 1 Tim. 1:15-16.

19. We believe in a divine call to the ministry, that the minister should heed the admonition of Paul to Timothy to study the Scriptures, that the church donate of their substance as the Lord prospers them to the support of their pastors, and that ministers may have better opportunities to store their minds with that spiritual food so necesary 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. 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

#### 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 Spirit in the bond of peace, to be careful of each other's reputation, to confess our faults to one another, to strengthen the feeble and kindly admonish the erring, and to labor together for the upbuilding of the church and the denomination, 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 expenses among us, that we will be benevolent to the needy, and especially to the poor or 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 others, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and that we will sustain the benevolent enterprises of our denomination and church—as missions, education, Sabath 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.