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Minutes
OF THE
Sixth Annual Session
OF THE
FIRST
STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
Free Will Baptists
OF
California

APRIL 20 - 22, 1949

CONVENED AT

Porterville Free Will Baptist Church

Porterville, California

The next session will be held at Bakersfield, California beginning
Wednesday night after the 3rd Sunday in April, 1950

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FIRST CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

Porterville Church, Porterville, Calif.

April 20 - 22, 1949

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. F. A. McCage, Rt. 2 Box 113, Ceres, Calif.

Ass't. Moderator, Rev. H. E. Dixon, 549 Grove, Arvin, Calif.

Clerk and Treasurer, Bro. Delmer Priest, 124 S. 22nd, Richmond, Calif.

Ass't. Clerk, Rev. O. H. Doss, Kerman, Calif.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. O. H. Doss, (5 years-Chairman) Kerman, Calif.

Rev. F. A. McCage, (4 years) Rt. 2, Box 113, Ceres, Calif.

Rev. H. E. Dixon, (3 years) 549 Grove St., Arvin, Calif.

Rev. Austin Deaton, (2 years-Clerk) 2113 E. Calif., Bakersfield, Calif.

Rev. Earl Jenson, (1 year) Selma, California.

PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday Night Service

Services opened with singing led by Sis. Mary Moore.

Prayer by Eld. Frank Linton.

Rev. W. A. Huddleston, oldest minister present, took charge of services as Moderator was absent.

Sisters Mary Moore and Pat Long sang a special. Then Rev. J. R. Evans took charge of the devotional service.

Eld. J. L. Waltman brought the introductory message. His subject was "Being a Pattern". Scripture Titus 2:7, 1st Tim. 2:12 and Acts 20:28. Everyone enjoyed the message. One soul accepted the Lord.

After song and christian handshake, the pastor Rev. Dean Moore assigned homes to visiting delegates.

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Frank Linton.

Thursday Morning Session

Services opened with singing led by Rev. Noble Barlow.

Moderator, Rev. F. A. McCage read Gal. 6:1-7 for a scripture lesson. Prayer by Rev. O. H. Doss.

Motion carried to enter conference to organize State Association.

Letters were called for, read, accepted and delegates seated as follows: Southern Association, Golden Gate Association and Center Association.

Prayer of consecration by Rev. Earl Jensen and Rev. Austin Deaton.

Officers were elected as follows:

Moderator—Rev. F. A. McCage, Rt. 2, Box 113, Ceres, Calif.

Ass't Moderator—Rev. H. E. Dixon, 549 Grove St., Arvin Calif.

Clerk and Treasurer—Bro. Delmer Priest, 124 So. 22nd, Richmond, Calif.

Ass't Clerk—Rev. O. H. Doss, Kerman, California.

Eleven O'clock Service

Service opened with singing.

Prayer by Rev. Lester Davis.

Rev. Eual Gorman brought the message. His text was Ezek. 22:30, "Stand in the Gap." Rev. Frank Linton concluded the service.

Dismissed By Brother John Wood

Thursday Afternoon Session

Service opened with singing.

Rev. Austin Deaton read Psalms 133 for a scripture lesson.

Prayer by Rev. Dean Moore.

Delegates who arrived late were seated in council.

Moderator continued appointing committees as follows:

Temperance—H. H. Stout, K. R. Adkins, J. Q. Moore, Elizabeth Terry, Mrs. H. E. Dixon, Mrs. D J Rowlett, Nancy Smith.

Obituary—O. H. Ellis, E. O. Lawless, J. A. Roberts, E. W. Burgess, Clifford Giles, Bertha Stout, Jasper Gates, Mrs. W. A. Huddleston.

Publication—Delmer Scroggins, Lorecia McCage, Bertha Evans, E. N. Owens, E. M. Gray.

Finance—Frank Linton, Cecil Morris, Roy McAlister, Doris Henley, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. T. T. Turner.

Sunday School—Roy Wade, Myrtle Rogers, Leota Keister, Maudie Brown, Otis Keister, Delbert Spain, Mrs. C. D. Findley.

Home Mission—J. A. Mize, W. I. Cook, Sylvia Barlow, T. T. Turner, Winston Lawless, O. J. Mount, Rosamond Scantlin.

League—Dean Moore, Noble Barlow, Goldie Jenson, Lorecia McCage, Bertha Evans.

Church Covenant Committee report was read and accepted. (See Covenant).

Executive Board gave oral report which was accepted. Board was dismissed.

Executive Board was elected as follows: O. H. Doss (5 years), F. A. McCage (4 years), H. E. Dixon (3 years), Austin Deaton (2 years), Earl Jenson (1 year).

By-Laws committee report was read and accepted. (See by-laws).

Business Committee report No. 1 and 2 were read and accepted (see reports).

Resolution No. 1 was read and accepted. (See reports).

The next session of the Sate Association was placed with Bakersfield Church. Rev. J. R. Evans will preach the introductory message and Rev. F. A. McCage is the alternate.

Sis. Pearl Davis, Sis. Goldie Jenson, Sis. Sylvia Barlow, Bro. Delmer Priest, Sis. Lorecia McCage, Sis. Ona Deaton, Sis. Cleo Oldaker, Bro. B. A. Nichols were elected delegates to the National Association.

Adjourned until Friday morning.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Pete Connor.

Thursday Night Service

Service opened with singing by congregation. Rev. John Montgomery sang a special, "Gods Radio Phone". Porterville quartet sang "Home Sweet Home" and dedicated it to all visitors. Bro. Sanford Massengale also arranged a quartet.

Bro. Pete Connor conducted the devotional service. One soul was saved after the devotional service.

An offering of \$40.00 was taken followed with a special song by Sis. Cribbs and her daughter.

Rev. O. H. Doss brought the message using for his scripture Mark 10:17-22. His text was "Jesus beholding Him, loved Him." After the good message one soul was saved. Amid much shouting and rejoicing a handshake of appreciation was given Rev. O. H. Doss, Rev. Eual Gorman and Rev. Frank Linton for their messages.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Delmer Scroggins.

Friday Morning Session

Service opened with singing led by Rev. Sanford Massengale. Rev. Joe Mooneyham read Jude for a scripture lesson. Prayer by Rev. Frank Linton.

Moderator read the by laws.

Visitors were invited to sit in council as advisory members. Treasurer's report (1948-49) was read and accepted (see reports).

The executive board reported that Rev. O. H. Doss was chairman and Rev. Austin Deaton clerk of the board.

Pulpit committee reported that Rev. Winston Lawless followed by Rev. L. V. Wood would preach at the night service.

Business committee recommended that the California State Association invite the National Association to California for the 1950 session. The recommendation was accepted and Richmond church was selected for the meeting place if invitation is accepted.

Report of Temperance committee was read, accepted and committee discharged.

Report of Obituary committee was read, accepted and committee discharged. Congregation stood for a moment of silence then Rev. F. A. McCage prayed.

Adjourned until afternoon session.

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. W. I. Cook.

Friday Eleven O'clock Service

Services opened with singing.

Special prayer was prayed for Sis. Watts and others.

Rev. Winston Lawless brought the message. His text was Luke 9:35—"Hear Ye Him." Rev. L. V. Wood concluded the service.

United prayer dismissed the services.

Friday Afternoon Session

Service opened with singing.

Rev. J. R. Evans read the scripture lesson Romans 8:1-9.

Prayer by Rev. Noble Barlow.

Report of Finance committee was read, accepted and committee dismissed. (See reports).

Sis. Noble Barlow reported that she received \$21.31 from Selma church and \$2.90 from the Junior League of Turlock for foreign mission.

Pulpit committee reported that Sis. Silvery would lead the devotional at night service and Bro. Randall Fry followed by Rev. Austin Deaton would preach.

Business committee report number 3 was read and adopted. (See reports).

Resolution No. 2 was read and accepted. (See reports).

Reports of committees on constitution, Sunday School, League, Home Mission, Publication were read and accepted. (See reports).

Resolution No. 3 was read and accepted. (See reports).

Motion carried to have 500 minutes printed.

Motion carried that clerk have a right to make any corrections deemed necessary in the printing of minutes.

Motion carried that the Free Will Baptist of California will not recognize any minister advocating premellenialism as Free Will Baptist Doctrine.

Adjourned until next session Wednesday night after third Sunday in April 1950 at Bakersfield.

Dismissed by Rev. F. A. McCage.

F. A. McCage, Moderator,
Delmer Priest, Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Golden Gate Association meets at Richmond Church, 17th and Lincoln Streets on Thursday night before the first Sunday in April.

Center Association meets at Selma Church, Selma, California on Thursday night before the third Sunday in March.

Southern Association meets at Porterville Church, Porterville, Calif. on Thursday night before the second Sunday in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution No. 1—Be it resolved that each pastor and church help young ministers to meet the qualification of Chapt. 2 (the ministry) Section 1, paragraph 2 of the treatise.

Resolution No. 3—Be it resolved that Porterville church and community be given a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality and kindness.

Business Committee

No. 1—We, the Business Committee, recommend that each sub-ordinate association pay \$35.00 for feeding, \$15.00 for minutes, and \$5.00 for expense.

No. 2—We recommend that the moderator be paid \$15.00 and Clerk \$25.00 for each setting of the association.

No. 3—We recommend to this body that this state association of Free Will Baptists go on record as being unalterably opposed to any further changes, revisions or alterations in the doctrine of our treatise and that henceforth now and for all times to come the treatise as now is shall remain the same.

Temperance

We your committee beg to report as follows; that we abstain from places of worldly amusement and strive to not patronize places that sell intoxicating drinks; that we provide some kind of clean entertainment and social activities for our children and teach them the Kingdom of God first. We believe we should be temperate in all things.

Obituary

We, your obituary committee, report that the Lord has called home in death two from the Center Association and three from the Southern Association during the past year.

Publication

We the publication committee report as follows; we recommend that each church report its progress each month to our Free Will Baptist papers.

Finance

We your committee on finance recommend that this association recognize tithing as the gospel plan of finance giving each church the privilege of working out their own system of support. We also recommend that this body ask each church in the state to take an offering at the last business meeting before the association above the present plan of support for building up a treasury. (Clerk to remind each church).

We also report that Southern, Center and Golden Gate associations paid \$15.00 each for minutes and \$25.00 each for expense, an offering of \$40.00 and balance in treasury of \$52.44 from last year makes at total of ~~\$182.44~~ *212.44*

Sunday School

We recommend that our pastors, deacons and Sunday School teachers cooperate to encourage our youth, for through the activities of our Sunday School, our churches are strengthened. Let us be careful to use Free Will Baptist Literature.

Home Mission

We recommend that each subordinate association clerk send a report of this years Home Mission or Auxiliary work to be printed in this minute and a report each year hereafter. We also recommend that each subordinate association encourage and organize Home Missions or Auxiliaries in each church that does not have one.

League

We, the league committee, recommend that a brief report of league work be printed in these minutes.

Treasurer's Report — (May, 1948 - April, 1949)

I beg to report as follows:

Money in Treasury	\$104.99
Sold Articles of Faith	.95
Paid Out	
500 minutes	\$41.60
Stationery and mailing	2.50
Nat'l Minutes	10.00
Now in Treasury (April, 1949)	\$ 52.44
	<hr/>
	\$105.94

Bertha Evans, Treasurer

CENTER ASSOCIATION

Letter from The Center Association to the State Association of Free Will Baptist when convened with the Free Will Baptist Church at Porterville, California, April 20, 1949.

We sent as delegates, our beloved brethren:

Bro. Bill Robertson
Bro. Cecil Morris
Bro. Clifford Giles
Bro. E. W. Burgess

Sis. Rosmond Scantlin
Bro. Mount.
Bro. Winnie Jordon, Jr.

Alternates:

Bro. Sitten
Sis. Shen
Bro. Henry Scroggins
Sis. Smith

Bro. McAlester
Bro. Ed Humphery
Bro. Claud Wilkerson

Whom we pray will receive to sit with you, and aid you in your Godly deliverations.

State of Religion	good
Members received this year.....	91
Number baptized	30
Number dismissed by letter	18
Number Excluded	20
Number deceased	2
Total membership	491
Number of prayer meetings	6
Number of Sunday schools	6
Average number of pupils	388
Number of Leagues	4
Amount paid pastors	\$7,223.78
Amount for evangelistic work	611.94
Amount for building and repairs	7,023.16
Value of church property	47,000.00
Amount for Foreign Missions	115.05
Amount for Home Missions	453.13
We send for Minutes and Expenses	40.00

Names and addresses of our Ministers

Rev. Lloyd Talley, P. O. Box 171, Orange Cove
Rev. Earl Jenson, P. O. Box 311, Selma, Calif.
Rev. O. H. Doss, Kerman, Calif.

Rev. Delmer Scroggins, P. O. Box 131, Parris, Calif.

Rev. J. R. Evans, Orange Cove, Calif.

Rev. Ray Morris, R. R. 2, Box 222, Selma, Calif.

Rev. Noble Barlow, Selma, Calif.

Rev. Lester Davis, P. O. Box 21, Selma, Calif.

Rev. Sanford Massengale, Selma, Calif.

Rev. J. E. Bridges, Orange Cove, Calif.

Rev. W. I. Cook, R. 1, Box 179, Laton, Calif.

Rev. Emmett Gray, Selma, Calif.

Rev. R. M. Holden, Fresno, Calif.

Done by order of The Center Association assembled in conference, this 18th day of March, 1949.

Moderator, Rev. Earl Jensen, P. O. Box 311, Selma, Calif.

Clerk, Golda Jensen.

GOLDEN GATE ASSOCIATION

To the State Meeting of Free Will Baptist when convened with Porterville Church April 20, 1949. We, the Golden Gate Association of Free Will Baptist send Greetings.

We send as our delegates, Kelly Adkins, Fred Daniels, Brother and Sister Cox, Richard Walts, W. D. Barnes, Dorothy Hamilton, and Betty Rogers, R. B. Elam, Lester Mays, Wiley Gregory, Betty Gregory, Bertha Spurlock, Evelyn Mays, as alternates, whom we pray you will seat with you to aid in your Godly deliberations.

We have four full time churches total membership of 385. Three churches buildings valuation \$49,500.00. Paid pastors \$5,334.00. Have collected during the year \$19,965.00. We have 12 ordained ministers, 5 licensed ministers, and 24 deacons.

We are sending \$15.00 minute fund, \$25.00 for expense money.

George McLain, Moderator

Mae Graham, Clerk

Pete Conner, Treasurer

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION

To the California State Association of Free Will Baptist, when in conference with the Porterville church April 20th, 22nd, 1949. We The Southern Association of Free Will Baptist send as delegates the following persons to assist you in your business for the Lord: Brother Neighbors, Sister Silvey, Brother Heinon, Brother Puett and Sister Terry.

We are sending \$40 to be used for expense and minutes. We wish to report some splendid progress since we first organized last July. The Statistics of our Association are as follows. They were gleaned from the letters to the last Association held at Farmersville.

Total Number of churches	8
Total number of members	400
Number baptized this year	45
Number received this year	122
Number died this Year	3
Total amount paid pastors	\$ 5,422.64
Total paid to evangelists	517.79
Total Amount for foreign Missions	60.49
Total Amount to home missions	36.00
Total Valuation of church Property	47,500.00
Total of building and repair	8,960.95

Rev. Austin Deaton, Moderator.

Dean Moore, Clerk.

MINISTER'S ROLL (Incomplete)

Rev. F. A. McCage, Rt. 2, Box 113, Ceres, California
 Rev. Noble R. Barlow, Fowler, California
 Rev. Lester Davis, P. O. Box 65, Selma, California
 Rev. Truman Huddleston, Box 1123, Merced, California
 Rev. E. M. Gray, Selma, Calif.
 Rev. J. L. Waltman, Box 804, Turlock, California
 Rev. Bill Mise, Parlier, California
 Rev. Dean Moore, 251 Sierra View, Porterville, Calif.
 Rev. Lloyd Talley, Box 171, Orange Cove, California
 Rev. James R. Evans, Orange Cove, California
 Rev. Earl Jenson, P. O. Box 311, Selma, California
 Rev. Lester Davis, P. O. Box 21, Selma, California
 Rev. W. A. Huddleston, P. O. Box 284, Firebaugh, Calif.
 Rev. D. J. Rowlett, P. O. Box 12, Farmersville, Calif.
 Rev. Winston Lawless, P. O. Box 904, Corcoran, California
 Rev. Emmett R. Clagg, 307 Chess Terrance,
 Porterville, California
 Rev. L. V. Wood, 2625 Esmond Ave., Richmond, Calif.
 Rev. Frank Linton, 1210 Tomah, Porterville, California
 Rev. Eual Gorman, Route 1, Box 207, Huntington Beach,
 California
 Rev. W. I. Cook, Route 1, Box 179, Laton, California
 Rev. H. E. Dixon, 549 Grove Street, Arvin, California

STATISTICAL REPORT

Associations	Churches	Ministers	Members	Paid Pastors	Paid Evangelists	Paid for Home Missions	Paid for Foreign Missions	Value of Property
Southern	8		400	\$5,422.64	\$517.79	\$ 36.00	\$ 60.49	\$47,500.00
Center	6	11	491	\$7,223.78	\$611.94	\$453.13	\$115.05	\$47,000.00
Golden Gate	4	12	385	\$5,334.00				\$49,500.00

Rev. Eual Gorman, Route 1, Box 207, Huntington Beach,
California

Rev. W. I. Cook, Route 1, Box 179, Laton, California

Rev. H. E. Dixon, 549 Grove Street, Arvin, California

ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RALLY MINUTES

The First California Association League Rally which convened with the Kerman Church April 17 1949, was called to order by President Arlie Miller. After song service the welcome address was given by Lucy Dickens and response by Delmer Priest.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and accepted.

Treasury report was read and accepted.

Letters from various leagues were read and accepted. Petitionary letter from Modesto League was read and accepted.

Officers were elected as follows:

Sponsor, Rev. O. H. Doss

President, Elvas Priest

Vice Pres., Billy Joe Adkins

Recording Secretary, Wanda Krebbs

Corresponding Sec., Lydeen York

Treasurer, Johnnie Jenkins

League Board:

Richmond League, Bob Mendenez

Porterville League, Lowell Moore

Turlock League, Bud Jenkins

Tulare League, Bobbie Wynn

Orange Cove League, Ward Farrar

Modesto League, Wayman Floyd

Kerman League, Dois McAlister

The following delegates were elected to the National League Convention: Goldie Priest, Dois McAlister and Clinton Wood.

Alternates: Juanita Wood, Bud Jenkins and Arlie Miller.

Motion carried to establish a Youth Camp in California.

Resolution committee was appointed as follows:

Arlie Priest, Richmond

Bud Jenkins, Turlock

Dallas Overstreet, Tulare

Ward Farrar, Orange Cove

Betty Anderson, Porterville

Faith Price, Wintersburg

The next league rally will convene with the Richmond Church, 17th and Lincoln Street, Richmond, on July 17, 1949. Rev. F. A. McCage and Rev. O. H. Doss were elected to preach. Orval Downs was elected to give the response.

The report of the resolution committee was read and accepted as follows:

1. Be it resolved that business session start at 9 o'clock rather than 10 o'clock.

2. Be it resolved that all voting power of the league be seated in the front.

3. Be it resolved that the president have power to appoint all minor committees.

Adjourned until 11 o'clock service.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Eleven o'clock service opened by singing. Prayer by Bro. Gregory. Bro. Jack Dodson brought an inspiring message using Luke 23 as his text. Three souls were saved. Dismissed until afternoon session.

Afternoon session opened by singing. Prayer by Rev. Truman Huddleston.

Program judges were appointed as follows: Bro. John Hall, Bro. R. R. Kemp and Bro. Lee Ramsey.

Programs were presented by Richmond, Modesto, Turlock, Porterville, Tulare and Orange Cove Leagues.

Modesto League received the program and attendance banners.

Adjourned until next league rally. Dismissed by Rev. F. A. McCage.

Elvis Priest, President
Wanda Krebbs, Recording Sec.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.
2. House called to order by the moderator.
3. Letters called for, read and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of delegates.
5. Election of officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Reading rules of order.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New business.
12. Report of committees.
13. Miscellaneous business.

BY-LAWS

1. The Moderator or assistant Moderator or in their absence the oldest minister (in the work) present shall call the Association into conference.

2. Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.
3. Fourteen members from two or more associations shall constitute a quorum. A less number may adjourn until such quorum is present.
4. Visiting brethren are invited to seats as advisory members.
5. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any members and a vote taken.
7. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded.
8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.
9. The Moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit.
10. The ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds majority of members voting.
11. No question from any association shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has first been discussed in its own Association.
12. At each Association arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent devotional exercises each day.
13. The State Association shall have no power to fill vacancies in the delegation from any composite body.

CONSTITUTION

Preamble: From long experience, we the members of the Free Will Baptist Denomination, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as an association of churches and to preserve and maintain correspondence and coordination with us, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better denominational government.

Article 1

This organization shall be known as the State Association of Free Will Baptists of the state of California.

Article 2

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify the work of our churches and associated bodies of this state and to devise and execute measures of expanding our work in the cause of Christ into broader fields.

Article 3

This state association shall consist of delegates duly appointed or elected by the subordinate association they represent and all ordained Free Will Baptist ministers, their wives, all ordained Free Will Baptist deacons and their wives.

Article 4

Representation to the state association is to be by subordinate associations. Each subordinate association shall be entitled to seven delegates to be selected from the laity.

Article 5

The state association shall have the right to settle any and all questions of discipline, doctrine or practice that may properly come before it from any of the bodies composing this organization or act upon an appeal that may be made by any church or individual which is a component part of this body. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the constituent body or bodies making such appeal from the lower to the next higher body.

Article 6

Officers. The officers of this state association shall consist of a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk and assistant clerk and treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the opening of each setting of the state association.

Section 2. Committees as necessary shall be appointed by the moderator unless otherwise provided for and shall hold office until their work is completed or their successors are appointed.

Article 7

The executive board shall be composed of five members. Each member shall be an ordained minister in good standing in the state association and their terms of tenure shall be as follows:

- (1) one for one year
- (1) one for two years
- (1) one for three years
- (1) one for four years
- (1) one for five years.

Succession to office thereafter shall be determined as order requires.

Article 8

The state association shall hold its meetings annually, the date and place to be decided upon at each previous setting of said state association.

Article 9

Should necessity arise which calls and requires immediate action, the State Executive Board shall convene upon call of its chairman and shall take whatever action it deems necessary in the best interest of the cause of Christ. The action however shall not conflict with the purpose and edicts of the Constitution as set forth in the preceding articles.

Article 10

This constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of the state association by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting. All proposed alterations or amendments shall be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God, in this solemn covenant. We promise by His Grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinance of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work. We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bond of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and to seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the churches and the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world.

Articles of Faith

ARTICLE I THE BIBLE

We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

Matt. 22:29; Mark 15:28; John 2:22; John 5:39; John 7:38; Acts 1:16; Acts 8:35; Acts 18:28; Rom. 15:40; Gal. 1:8; Second Tim. 3:16-17; Second Peter 1:12, 20, 21.

ARTICLE II GOD

We believe there are three persons in the God head, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that all things were created by them.

First John 5:7; Gen. 1st and 2nd Chapters; Exo. 20:9-11; Psa. 33:6; Jer. 51:15; John 1:1-3; Acts 14:14-17; First Cor. 8:5, 6; Eph. 3:8-10; Col. 1:9-17; Rev. 4:9-11.

ARTICLE III MAN

We believe that God created Man innocent, but by disobedience he fell into a state of sin and death. His posterity therefore inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to the years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:14-19; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-26; Rom. 5:12-15; First Cor. 15:21, 22; Gal. 3:22; First John 1:10.

ARTICLE IV CHILDREN SAVED

We believe that children are born in a saved state and we must become like unto them if we enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matt. 18:2, 3; Luke 18:16, 17.

ARTICLE V GENERAL ATONEMENT

We believe that Christ died for all and whosoever will may be saved.

Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 24:45-47; John 3:16; First Tim. 2:1-6; Titus 2:11; Heb. 2:9; Second Peter 3:9; First John 2:1, 2; Rev. 22:17.

ARTICLE VI TERMS OF SALVATION

We believe the terms of Salvation are:

1st. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and a hearty renunciation of it.

2nd. Faith, or the unreserved committal of one's self to God through faith in Christ with purpose to love and obey him in all things.

Luke 13:3-5; Luke 14:25-27; Luke 24:45-47; John 3:16; Acts 10:43; Acts 15:8, 9; Acts 16:31; Rom. 5:1, 2; Rom. 10:8-13; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:8, 9; Heb. 11:6.

ARTICLE VII

DIVINE CALL TO THE MINISTRY

We believe that God in his wisdom and goodness displays his power of Grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying his servants by the teaching of the Holy Spirit to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. Yet those who are called are commanded to study to show themselves approved unto God, etc.

John 5:39; John 1:16, 17; Acts 3:22; Acts 13:1-4; Acts 18:27, 28; Acts 20:28; Acts 22:14, 15; Rom. 10:14, 15; Gal. 1:11-23; Second Tim. 2:15; Titus 1:7-9.

ARTICLE VIII

THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church of God, or Christ is the whole body of Christians throughout the world. Matt. 16:18.

Acts 2:46, 47; First Cor. 12:13-20; Eph. 1:22, 23; Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 1:18-24; First Tim. 3:14, 15; Heb. 3:6.

ARTICLE IX

A CHURCH OF GOD

We believe that a Church of God is an organized body of believers in Christ who statedly assemble to worship God and keep the Ordinances of the Gospel according to the scriptures. Matt. 18:15-17.

Matt. 28:18, 20; Acts 8:1; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:23; Rom. 16:1-5; First Cor. 11:12; First Cor. 11:23-28; First Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15, 16; Titus 1:5; First Peter 5:13; Rev. 1:11.

ARTICLE X

ORDINANCES

We believe that Baptism, Communion and feet washing are Gospel Ordinances and should be observed by the people of God.

Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:18, 20; John 13:4-17; Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:41; Acts 8-12; Acts 8:35-38; Acts 9:18; Acts 10:47, 48; Acts 16:33; First Cor. 11:23-26; First Tim. 5:9, 19.

ARTICLE XI

BAPTISM

We believe that immersion is the scriptural mode of baptism.

Matt. 3:5, 6; Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:5-11; John 3:22, 23; Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3, 4.

ARTICLE XII

OPEN COMMUNION

We believe that the Lord's people are one in him therefore should be one at His table.

John 15:5; John 17:11-21; First Cor. 11:23-29; First Cor. 12:13-21; Gal. 3:26-29.

ARTICLE XIII

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

We believe that the Divine Law requires that one day in seven be set apart for the worship of God and that no work of worldly nature should be done on that day. Work of piety, mercy, and necessity excepted.

Mark 16:1, 2; John 20:1, 19, 26; Acts 13:27; Acts 16:13; Acts 20:7; First Cor. 16:1, 2; Rev. 1:10, 11.

ARTICLE XIV

APOSTASY

We believe that only those Christians who through grace and patience endure unto the end have promise of Eternal Salvation:

Ezek 18:24-26; Matt. 10:22; Matt. 24:12, 13; Matt. 24:48-51; Matt. 25:14-30; Mark 13:13; Luke 12:45, 46; John 15:1-6; Rom. 11:21; First Cor. 10:11, 12; First Cor. 15:12; First Thes. 3:4, 5; Heb. 3:1-6; Heb. 6:4-6; Heb. 10:24-30; Second Peter 1:9-11; Second Peter 2:12-16; Second Peter 2:20-22; Rev. 2:10; Rev. 3:5.

ARTICLE XV

RESURRECTION

We believe in the resurrection of all men. They that have done good unto the resurrection of life and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 5:28, 29; Acts 4:1, 2; Acts 17:18; Acts 23:6; Acts 24:14, 15; Acts 26:6-8; First Cor. 15:12, 22; First Thes. 4:15-17; Rev. 20:12-15.

ARTICLE XVI

GENERAL JUDGMENT

We believe that there will be a general or universal judgment when all nations will be gathered before the Judgment Seat of Christ, to be judged according to their works. The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

Eccl. 11:9; Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 12:36, 37; Matt. 13:37-43; Matt. 25:31-46; Mark 9:43-48; John 5:28, 29; Acts 10:42; Acts 17:30, 31; Rom. 14:10-12; Second Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27, 28; Rev. 20:12-15; Rev. 21:7, 8.