

MINUTES
OF THE
Thirtieth Annual Session
OF THE
Cave Spring Association
OF THE
Freewill Baptist Churches
HELD WITH
Walnut Grove Church

AUGUST 24, 25, 26 AND 27, 1917.



J. P. McCULLOUGH, Moderator.

N. COMBS, Assistant Moderator.

ABNER S. RHOADES, Clerk.

Minutes of CAVE SPRING ASSOCIATION Freewill Baptists

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 24, 1917.

Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches met with Walnut Grove Church. Was called together by singing by the congregation. Prayer was offered by Eld. E. J. Vaughan. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder N. Combs and Elder E. J. Vaughan. Text, 15th verse of 1st Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, after which the conference was called to order by the clerk, Abner S. Rhoades.

Motion carried that J. P. McCullough act as chairman of the meeting. The chairman appointed a committee to examine credentials on enrolled members of the conference. The committee consisted of Brothers J. R. W. Harbinson, Wm. Johnson and Tom Cockman. The committee reported that there were enough present to organize. The report was received and the committee discharged.

Ministers present: Wm. Johnson, N. Combs, T. J. Dunkin, John Combs, Jas. McGehee, E. J. Vaughan, Milo Stanley, W. C. Norman and J. R. W. Harbinson.

Deacons present: L. W. Cocks, John McCullough, H. T. Young, S. P. Scott and M. Evans.

Delegates present: Tobe Denny, H. M. Watson, Tom Cockman, James Combs, W. H. King, S. P. Scott, N. Blankenship, S. C. Pierce, Rufus Dills, Loice Crews, H. F. Young, Wm Martin, A. Bates, W. J. Hall, W. S. Farrow, Abner S. Rhoades, J. H. Wheeler.

Association proceeded to organize by electing Bro. J. P. McCullough as moderator and re-elected Abner S. Rhoades as associate clerk. Bro. N. Combs was chosen as assistant moderator. The clerk read St. John, 9th chapter. There was singing by the body and prayer by N. Combs. Motion carried that the moderator appoint a committee on pulpit affiliations. Committee consisted of Bro. W. F. Farrow, R. Doren and Jeff Hall. Committee report that Bro. John Combs and Milo Stanley were to preach at 8 o'clock p. m., Friday. Text: last

clause of the 3rd verse of the 22d chapter of Revelations. A motion to adjourn until 8:30 a. m., Saturday morning. Conference closed by singing and prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 25, 1917.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Called together by singing. Prayer was offered by Rev. Tom Dunkin. Bro. J. R. W. Harbinson was elected for three years as one of the executive committee. Visiting brethren and sisters were invited to seats in council as advisory members. Letters called for from the different churches of the eastern and western division of the Cave Spring Association. Those received and read are as follows, with names of delegates:

Smyrna Friendship Church—Delegates, Bro. Tobe Denny, Mason Watson and George Watson.

Shilo Church—Delegates, Bro. Rufus Dills, Tillman George and Sister Lois Crews.

Cave Spring Church—Delegates, Wm. Martin, Anathon Bates and Griffie Barton.

Rose Hill Church—Delegates, H. T. Young and R. G. Batey.

Walnut Grove Church—Delegates, Bro. Lee Farrow, A. J. Hall.

Norman Church—Delegates, Bro. Nathan Blankenship, S. C. Pierce; alternate, Bro. Lee Grooms. Bro. Grooms absent.

Bethany Church—Delegates, Bro. Tom Cockman, James Combs and Henry Rogers. Bro. Rogers absent.

Piney Church—Delegates, Bro. J. H. Wheeler and L. W. Hammond; Bro. J. D. Wheeler, alternate.

Bluff Spring Church—Delegates, Bro. Greeley, S. P. Scott and Bro. M. Evans, alternate.

Oak Grove Church—Delegates, Bro. Abner S. Rhoades, A. G. Bonds; alternate, Bro. J. N. Rhoades, Bro. Bonds and Bro. J. N. Rhoades, absent.

Garfield Church—Delegates, Bro. J. J. Crawford and Alvin Hollis; alternate, H. V. Risner.

Mill Creek Church—Delegates, W. J. Wisehart and L. A. Cross; Bro. L. E. Ramer, alternate.

Cotton Creek Church—Delegates, Bro. Elmer Frey and J. W. Hall; Sister Nannie Frey, alternate.

Quarterly meeting letter of the Eastern division of the Cave Spring Association of the Freewill Baptists. Delegates, R. Dorn, S. P. Scott and Luce Cross. Number of churches represented, six. Some churches report having a good Sunday school and interest in moral questions good. While some do not take the interest they should. H. T. Frey, Quarterly Clerk of the Eastern Division of Cave Spring Association.

Quarterly meeting letter of the Western Division of the Cave Spring Association. Delegates are Bro. John Muse, Griffie Barton and Arthur Nivens. Number of churches represented, seven. Some report having good union Sunday schools and good interest in moral questions, while some have no Sunday Schools. W. C. Norman, Moderator of the Third Quarterly Meeting of the Western Division of the Cave Spring Association. Abner S. Rhoades, Quarterly Clerk.

On motion the letters from the different churches and the two quarterly meeting letters were received. There was singing and the right hand of fellowship was extended.

Report of standing committees called for. On motion the committees called for were tabled until Monday morning, 10 o'clock, August 27, 1917. Motion carried to adjourn until 2 p. m., Saturday, August 25, 1917. Singing by the body, prayer by R. Doran. Bros. Wm. Jackson and E. J. Vaughan to preach at 11 o'clock a. m., Saturday. Text, Mat. 25th chapter and 4th verse.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 25, 1917.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Singing by the body and prayer by S. C. Pierce. On motion the treasurer read his report:

Balance on hands August 1, 1916	\$ 3.43
Paid in by the churches	9.40
Collected by subscription	3.20
Total	\$16.93
Paid out for printing minutes	\$12.00
Postage	1.15
Total expenditures	\$13.15
Leaving a balance of	\$ 3.68

H. T. FREY, Treasurer.

On motion the treasurer's report was received and Bro. Frey stand as treasurer for another year. Unfinished business called for. On motion to receive money for contribution, received \$16.05. On motion, the corresponding secretary make his report.

Secretary's report: Brethren, I beg to report to your honorable body the following: Have written four letters of inquiry, also sent corresponding secretary of Madison county one of our minutes with question of union stated in it, which remains unanswered. Also have one letter from joint secretary, which I will present. Our belief is that a correspondent with other bodies is needed and would be of great advantage to us. Mailing of stationery, 20 cents. The above is cheerfully submitted. J. R. W. HARBINSON, Cor. Secy.

On motion the report of J. R. W. Harbinson be received and hold him as corresponding secretary for the year coming.

On motion the moderator appointed a committee to examine the character of the preachers. Committee appointed was: Bro. Tobe Denney, Tom Cockman, S. C. Pierce, H. T. Frey and Mason Watson. On motion, adjourned until Monday morning 8 o'clock. Singing by the body, prayer by Rev. Milo Stanley. Bro. J. R. W. Harbinson and W. C. Norman to preach at 8 o'clock p. m., Saturday.

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 27, 1917.

Association met Monday morning, August 27, pursuant to adjournment. There was preaching Sunday at 11 a. m. by G. W. Putnam. Text, 1st clause of the 14th verse of the 5th chapter of 2nd Corinthians. Bro. Tom Dunkin was to preach on Sunday night, August 26th, but as it was the Lord's will, the people were filled with the spirit by singing and praying and soluting until the time was used until a late hour in the night, after which Bro. Dunkin expressed himself and said there had been a better sermon preached than he would have been able to preach himself, and came to dismissal.

Business of Monday morning session taken up. Report of ministers called for. Reports as follows:

Report of E. J. Vaughan, ordained minister.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of E. J. Vaughan, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year

1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as moderator for three churches. That in addition to acting as pastor has preached at other places fifteen sermons, has traveled 168 miles, has witnessed 35 conversions, has baptized 14 persons; has received into the churches 28 members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$45.31; has married 3 couple; has preached 3 funerals.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. VAUGHAN.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of T. J. Dunkin, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for one church; that in addition to acting as pastor, has preached at other places 25 sermons; has traveled 88 miles; has witnessed no conversions; has baptized 4 persons; has received into the churches 3 members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$32.30; has married 2 couples.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. DUNKIN.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of Wm. Johnson, licensed minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for no churches; has preached 29 sermons; has traveled 418 miles; has witnessed 13 conversions; has baptized no persons; has received into the church no members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of no dollars; has married no couple.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. JOHNSON.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of Milo Stanley, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches, for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for 1 church; has in addition to

acting as pastor, preached at other places 21 sermons; has traveled 242 miles; has witnessed one conversion; has baptized no persons; has received into the churches no members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$8.75; has married 1 couple.

Respectfully submitted,

MILO STANLEY.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of G. W. Putnam, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for no church; has preached 34 sermons; has witnessed 18 conversions; has baptized no persons; has received into the churches no members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$1.25; has married no couple.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. PUTNAM.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of N. Combs, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for 4 churches; that in addition to acting as pastor, has preached at other places 12 sermons; has traveled 800 miles; has witnessed 22 conversions; has baptized 24 persons; has received into the churches 27 members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$30.50; has married 2 couples.

Respectfully submitted,

N. COMBS.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of H. C. Crase, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for one church; that in addition to acting as pastor has preached at other places 40 sermons; has traveled 300 miles; has witnessed 2 conversions; has baptized no persons; has received into the churches no members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$12.00; has married six couples.

Respectfully submitted,

H. C. CRASE.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of W. C. Norman, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for no churches; has witnessed 9 conversions; has baptized no persons; has received into the churches no members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received no pay; has married one couple.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. NORMAN.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of J. R. W. Harbinson, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for six churches; that in addition to acting as pastor has preached at other places 10 sermons; has traveled 150 miles; has witnessed 10 conversions; has baptized no persons; has received into the churches no members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received no pay; has married no couple.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. W. HARBINSON.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

Report of John Combs, ordained minister, to Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist churches for the year 1917: The undersigned respectfully reports that he has during the past year stood as pastor for one church; that in addition to acting as pastor has preached at other places 30 sermons; has traveled 200 miles; has witnessed 2 conversions; has baptized no persons; has received into the churches no members; has assisted in organizing no new churches; has received pay to the amount of \$6.70; has married no couple.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN COMBS.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

We, your committee on printing submit the following report: Amount paid to West Plains Gazette for printing,

\$12.00; amount paid for postage for distribution of minutes,
\$1.15; total, \$13.15.

J. P. McCULLOUGH,
H. T. FREY,
ABNER S. RHOADES,

Committee.

Report of committee was received.

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

Committee on Missions failed to report on account of two
of the committee being absent.

OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

We your committee on observance of the Sabbath beg
leave to report we find the Sabbath is not kept holy as the
God of heaven intended it should be kept. We find people la-
boring in various ways on the Sabbath. We find that some
people take the Sabbath for a general round up day. Some by
rounding up and salting their stock, others looking after their
fences, others looking after domestic affairs. Last, but not
least, by failing to attend public worship on the Lord's day,
as they should. We request that our ministers try more in
their weakness to stir up the pure minds of the people of our
land in regard to keeping of the Sabbath day holy unto the
Lord. We consider Sabbath breaking one of the greatest
drawbacks in the cause of religion.

H. T. FREY,
J. W. HALL,
ALLEN HUDDLESTON,

Committee.

DOCTRINE AND STATE OF DENOMINATION.

We your committee on doctrine and state of denomination
believe our doctrine is being more fully advocated and denomi-
nation is growing some and getting more on a progressive line.

Cheerfully submitted,

J. R. W. HARBINSON,
N. COMBS,

Committee.

CHARACTER OF PREACHERS.

We your committee on examining the character of preach-

ers of corresponding associations report the following ordained preachers worthy of yearly certificates: E. J. Vaughan, G. W. Puanam, T. J. Dunkin, W. C. Norman, W. P. Stogsdill, Milo Stanley, John Combs, James McGehee, J. R. W. Harbinson, L. S. Brewer, W. W. Pierce, H. C. Crase and N. Combs; also Wm. Johnson, licensed preacher.

H. T. FREY,
TOM COCKMAN,
TOBE DENNY,
S. C. PIERCE,
H. M. WATSON,

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT.

We, your committee on resolutions beg to report as follows: Resolved, that the deacons of the various social churches use more energy in securing support for their pastors and help for the poor of their churches and benevolent causes.

On motion this resolution was adopted.

Resolution No. 2—Resolved, that we by a committee take collections from the various churches of Cave Spring Association for support of evangelist put out, an evangelist whom we shall support by same.

Resolution No. 2 was voted down.

J. R. W. HARBINSON,
MILO STANLEY,

Committee.

On motion the Association held a 5 cent levy per member for the purpose of printing minutes the coming year.

Report of Evangelist H. C. Crase called for, but on account of his absence there was no report made and he was released.

Committees as follows were appointed by the moderator:

Committee on ministry—W. P. Stogsdill, H. C. Crase and N. Combs.

Committee on missions—A. G. Bonds, J. S. Whitehead and Will Williams.

Committee on petitions on request—H. C. Crase, T. J. Dunkin and W. P. Stogsdill.

Committee on observance of the Sabbath—H. T. Frey, J. W. Hall and Allen Huddleston.

Committee on doctrine and state of denomination—Elders J. R. W. Harbinson, H. C. Crase and N. Combs.

Committee on printing—Abner S. Rhoades, J. P. McCullough and H. T. Frey.

Committee on resolutions and requests—H. C. Crase, Milo Stanley and J. S. Whitehead.

Motion carried that we return our heartfelt thanks to the good people of Walnut Grove vicinity for their kindness and hospitality toward us during our stay with them.

On motion the next association commence on Friday evening before the fourth Sunday in August, 1918. By vote the next association is to be held with Norman Church. Introductory sermon to be preached by T. J. Dunkin, and N. Combs elected as alternate. On motion Bro. J. R. W. Harbinson deliver Rev. H. C. Crase his certificate. Motion carried to adjourn until the time and place mentioned above. Preaching at 11 a. m. by T. J. Dunkin and N. Combs. Singing by the body and prayer by Bro. Wm. Johnson.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE 1—Each session of this conference shall be called to order by the standing clerk when present and in his absence by the member having seniority of years.

ARTICLE 2—Each session and adjourned sitting of the conference shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ARTICLE 3—Twenty members shall be required to constitute a quorum and to transact any business of this conference. But any number may adjourn from time to time.

ARTICLE 4—After the opening of each session of this conference a chairman shall be appointed and a committee of not less than three persons shall be chosen to examine credentials for membership in the conference. After the report of this committee and enrollment of members, the conference shall proceed to the election of a moderator, and to the transaction of other business.

ARTICLE 5—At each session of this conference, standing committees shall be appointed on such subjects as the following: "Printing establishments," "Ministry," "Slavery," "Missions," "Moral Reform," "Popery," "Peace," "Church Polity," "Petitions and Requests," "State of Religion," "Observance of the Sabbath," "Doctrine," and "State of Denomination." All petitions and committees on particular subjects shall be referred to appropriate committees. Special committees may be appointed at the pleasure of the conference.

ARTICLE 6—This conference may hold correspondence by message or otherwise, with other religious bodies, as it may deem advisable.

ARTICLE 7—This conference shall sit with open doors except when it may go into committee of the whole.

ARTICLE 8—Any person not a member of this conference may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the conference.

ARTICLE 9—It shall be the duty of the standing clerk to furnish each session of the conference with a book of records containing the doings of its previous session.

ARTICLE 10—The conference may determine the time when its daily sessions shall commence and close.

ARTICLE 11—It shall be the duty of the members of this conference to be present at the time appointed for each daily session and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

ARTICLE 12—No member shall absent himself from conference during its sessions, without first obtaining permission from the conference.

ARTICLE 13—Every member wishing to speak in conference shall first address the moderator.

ARTICLE 14—No person shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes at any one time nor more than twice on any one subject without leave of conference.

ARTICLE 15—No debate shall be allowed on any motion, except the same be submitted in writing and seconded by a member of the conference.

ARTICLE 16—No whispering shall be allowed in conference without leave of the moderator, but all members shall pay strict attention to the business of the conference.

ARTICLE 17—No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee provided the brother nominated be elected.

ARTICLE 18—The yeas and nays may be taken on any question before the conference by request of one-fifth of the members present.

ARTICLE 19—The constitution and by-laws of this conference shall be read at each session, near its commencement.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

THE BIBLE—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are infallable rule of faith and practice.

GOD—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

CHRIST—Christ is God manifest in the flesh, in his divine nature truly God in his human nature truly man: The mediator between God and Man once crucified he is now risen and glorified and is ever present Saviour and Lord.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—The Scriptures assign the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD—God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

THE SINFULNESS OF MAN—Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

THE WORK OF CHRIST—The Son of God by his incarnation, life suffering, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

THE TERMS OF SALVATION—The conditions of salvation are: 1st, Repentance or sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2nd, Faith or the unreserved committal of one's soul to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the domination of sin and becomes a child of God. 3rd, Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

ELECTION—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become his elect.

FREEDOM OF THE WILL—The human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influences of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

SALVATION FREE—God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

PERSEVERANCE—All believers in Christ, who through Grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of salvation.

GOSPEL ORDINANCES—Baptism, or the emersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments, and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities; and for personal communion with God.

RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 the 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 Saviour Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances 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 bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for promotion of the educational and denominational enterprises, the support of the missions, the success of Sabbath schools, the evangelistic effort of the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.