

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CAVE SPRING ASSOCIATION
—OF THE—
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
HELD WITH
BETHANY CHURCH

AUGUST 25, 26, 27, 1921.

OFFICERS:

T. J. DUNKIN, Moderator.

N. COMBS, Assistant Moderator.

J. R. W. HARBISON, Clerk.

J. P. McCULLOUGH, Reading Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS

Cave Spring Association met pursuant to adjournment from Walnut Grove church with Bethany church on August 25, 1921, 4 p. m. Introductory sermon was delivered by elect and alternate Elder John Combs and Rev. W. P. Stogsdill. Text Hebrew 13-1. After divine services clerk called conference in session and T. J. Dunkin was made chairman. A committee was appointed on credentials and report a quorum present. Committee was H. T. Fry, J. Cypret, N. Combs. Association then proceeded to organize by electing T. J. Dunkin, moderator; N. Combs, assistant moderator; J. R. Harbison, clerk; J. P. McCullough, reading clerk. R. T. Hoyt, E. Brewer and J. Cypret were placed on the committee of pulpit affiliations. W. P. Stogsdill and James McGeehee were selected to fill the stand at 8 o'clock p. m., and conference then adjourned for social services and business at 8 a. m. Friday. Prayer by Bro. Cypret.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

Conference convened. Scripture reading, Rom. 10th chapter, prayer by N Combs. By-laws read and minutes of previous association read and approved. Moderator called for letters from various churches and letters from quarterly meeting. Letters were read and received as follows:-

Pleasant Hill church—Delegates: A. M. Hollis, Wm. Arnold; W. E. Ary, alternate.

Cotton Creek—Elmer Fry, Melvin Cockman; J. W. Cypret, alternate.

Bethany—W. B. Williams and Cletus Brewer; S. M. Witson, alternate.

Smyrna Friendship—Arthur Nivens, Mason Watson; Alfred Sifford, alternate.

Piney—W. W. Bennett, J. H. Wheeler; M. Wheeler, alternate.

Bluff Spring—S. P. Scott, J. A. Evans,

Cave Spring—Willie Martin, John Murray; Anson Bates, alternate.

Oak Grove—J. N. Roades, Abner Roades; W. C. Norman, alternate.

Mill Creek—H. Wiseheart, J. S. Whitehead; C. A. Adams, alternate.

Walnut Grove—Lee Farrow, J. F. Eaton; S. S. Eaton, alternate.

Rose Hill—R. G. Beatty, H. F. Young.

Letters from churches named with quarterly meeting. Letters read and received. Right hand of fellowship was extended to all delegates. At 11 o'clock pulpit was supplied by E. E. Winfree and N. Combs. Text of 2nd Hebrew, 2-1. After divine service adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference was again called. Prayer by Bro. J. Hendricks. Business was taken up and the following committees were appointed:

Committee on ordination: Wm. Johnson, W. P. Stogsdill, N. Combs.

Committee on order: J. Combs, E. Brewer, Eklin Brewer.

Committee on examination of ministers: J. Roades, H. T. Fry, J. A. Wheeler.

Committee on corresponding messengers: Rev. T. J. Dunkin, Rev. N. Combs.

Committee on printing makes report for year ending 1921: 400 minutes printed, \$19.50; postage, 50 cents; pay for clerk, \$5.00; total, \$25.00.

The treasurer reported: Money on hands from 1920, \$8.84; money from churches, \$15.35; money in treasury, \$24.19; money paid by treasurer, \$25.00.

Reports of committee on printing and of the treasurer received.

Contributions from various churches to treasurer, \$21.79.

Report of committee on examination of standing of ministers: Report the following ministers worthy of yearly certificates, Revs. N. Combs, John Combs, T. J. Dunkin, H. C. Crace, Milo Stanley, J. R. W. Harbison, J. McGeehee, W. W. Pierce, W. P. Stogsdill, Wm. Johnson, W. C. Norman and V. G. Colvin.

H. T. Fry, J. N. Roades, J. A. Wheeler, Committee.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

In the evening the stand was filled by B. Rodgers and Wm. Johnson. One conversion. Adjourned until 8 a. m. Saturday.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Prayer by E. Hodges. The following ministers make report:

N. Combs, year 1921—Pastored three churches; preached at other places, 20 sermons; traveled 640 miles; witnessed 9 conversions; baptised 8 persons; received 8 members into churches; received as pay, \$117.59.

H. C. Crase—Pastored 4 churches; preached at other places, 15 sermons; traveled 200 miles; received in the churches, 35; baptised, 22; witnessed 40 conversions; received for labor \$60.00; visited 2 churches; visited 2 Sunday schools; prayer meetings attended, 10; homes visited, 30.

J. R. W. Harbison for year 1921—Pastored 3 churches; preached at other places, 17 sermons; traveled 220 miles; witnessed 3 conversions; received for labor, \$26.00; visited 2 churches; days of service, 21; homes visited 20.

W. C. Norman for year 1921—Pastored 1 church; preached at other places 20 sermons; traveled 200 miles; received into churches, 6; witnesses 11 conversions; churches visited, 4; days of service, 6; Sunday schools visited, 7; prayer meetings attended, 3.

T. J. Dunkin for year 1921—Ordained elder for the year 1921; pastored 2 churches; preached at other places, 20 sermons; traveled 150 miles; received into churches, 11; baptised, 9; witnessed 20 conversions; received for my labors, \$54.48; churches visited, 2; days of service, 20; Sunday schools visited, 3; prayer meetings attended, 2; homes visited 10

W. P. Stogsdill for year 1921—Pastored 1 church; preached at other places, 20 sermons; received into church, 1; Baptised, 0; witnessed 7 conversions; received for my labors, \$15.00; churches visited, 1; days of service, 4; Sunday schools visited, 1; prayer meetings attended, 1; homes visited, 0.

Elmer Hodges, licensed minister for year 1921—Pastored no church; preached at other places, 1 sermon; churches visited, 4; Sunday schools visited, 1; prayer meetings attended, 1; homes visited, 0.

T. G. Rutledge, licensed minister for year 1921—Pastored no church; preached at other places, 21 sermons; witnessed 25 conversions; traveled 230 miles; received nothing as pay; homes visited, 7.

Wm. Johnson for year 1921—Pastored 1 church; preach-

ed at other places, 31 sermons; traveled 565 miles; witnessed 6 conversions; received for my labors, \$5.71; churches visited 7; days of service, 20; Sunday schools visited, 4; prayer meetings attended, 0; homes visited, 62.

Committee reported on examination of B. Rodgers for license to preach the gospel. Report worthy of license.

Wm. Johnson, W. P. Stogsdill, N. Combs, Committee.

Conference voted to license B. Rodgers and clerk ordered to write license.

Question No. 1 presented for debate: "Do we as a denomination or body of organized believers endorse or sanction alien baptism or no believers in a church. Or, in other words, will we, as an association, endorse and stand behind our preaching brethren to baptise those who will not join the church or even believe in a visible church.—Henry C. Crase.

Question admitted to debate. Question answered no. and no yeases being present it was voted confirmed no.

Adjourned for preaching 11 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. J. P. McCullough.

The stand was filled by Rev. Hodges, followed by Elder Crase. Text of scripture Rom. 8:33. Then adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Abner Roades. The following resolution was presented, read and adopted:

Be it resolved that we, the Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptists, receive all orthodox baptisms by immersion.—Ralph Hoyt.

Question No. 2—Has the local church the right to license preachers without a council from the quarterly or yearly meeting.—T. J. Dunkin.

Question answered by vote of conference, no.

Unfinished business was taken up. Assessment of churches was called for. A committee was appointed, consisting of H. T. Fry, J. Cypret and A. Roades.

Ordination of deacons was called for as petitioned by Walnut Grove church letter. The ordaining council proceeded to ordain to deacons for Walnut Grove church, James Eaton and J. S. Leatherland.

Report of committee on assessment of churches was presented, read and adopted: "We your committee bed leave to report assessment for printing minutes and other expenses make a levy of 10 cents per member.

H. T. Fry, A. Roades, J. W. Cypret, Committee.

By vote of conference T. G. Rutledge's license was extended three months.

A new order of business was presented and adopted:

1. Organization as prescribed in article 4 of by-laws.
2. Letters from various churches called for.
3. Business taken up, suggested by letters, petitions, and requests answered.
4. Appointment of committees on all subjects appointed.
5. General business.
6. Ministers reports called for.
7. Unfinished business taken up.
8. Reports of committees present.
9. New business.

It was moved to extend our heartfelt thanks to the vicinity of Bethany church for their kindness shown us while among them.

Elder T. J. Dunkin was elected to preach the introductory sermon, Rev. N. Combs alternated.

Pleasant Hill church was set apart for place of next association. Close for preaching at 8 o'clock. Prayer by H. C. Crase. Committee set apart J. R. W. Harbison to fill stand at night. T. G. Richards to follow.

A committee on printing was appointed composed of H. T. Fry, J. R. W. Harbison, J. P. McCullough. Conference then voted to give clerk \$5.00 for services.

SUNDAY SERVICE.

Ordinance of baptism administered. Preaching at 11 o'clock by T. J. Dunkin and W. C. Norman. Text of Scripture, Ecc. 12:13. After a long season of rejoicing conference closed to meet on time and at place before mentioned.

T. J. DUNKIN, Moderator.
N. COMBS, Assistant Moderator.
J. R. W. HARBISON, Clerk.
J. P. McCULLOUGH, Reading Clerk.

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—TEN members shall be required to constitute a quorum to transact any business of this conference. But any less 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 this 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 Denominations." 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 the inspiration of God, and are our infallible 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 Ghost, 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 our ever present Savior and Lord.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—The Scriptures assign the Holy

Spirit all attributes of God. He is the reprovcr, 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 ones soul to Christ as Savior 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 control having power to yield to the influence 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 or believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetrated 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, or 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 to 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 enterprise 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 on the educational and demonstrational enterprise, 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Cave Spring Baptist Association

NAME OF CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS - AND ADDRESSES	Baptism	Recommendation	Lettered	Dismissed by Letter	Died	Total	Sabbath of Meeting
Bethany-----	T. J. Dunkin-----	H. Rodgers, Myrtle, Mo.-----	8	8			1	57	4
Piney-----	Wm. Johnson-----	Paris Wheeler, Couch, Mo.-----	5				42	3	
Mill Creek-----	T. J. Dunkin-----	J. S. Whitehead, Myrtle, Mo.-----	8	1	1		44	2	5
Smyrna-----	Wm. Johnson-----	Ora Sifford, Rt. 3, Alton, Mo.-----							
Norman-----	H. C. Crase-----	N. Blankenship, Rt. 4, Couch-----					26	3	
Pleasant Hill-----	T. J. Dunkin-----	E. F. Hayit, Rt. 2, Thayer, Mo.-----					31	1	
Cotton Creek-----	N. Combs-----	J. W. Cypret, Couch, Mo.-----		3			1	17	
Oak Grove-----	H. C. Crase-----	A. Roades, Couch, Mo.-----					1	87	1
Walnut Grove-----	H. C. Crase-----	A. J. Hall, Elm Store, Ark-----	19	1	1				
* Garfield-----									
* Royal Oak-----									
Cave Spring-----	N. Combs-----	Hallie Norman, Couch, Mo.-----						40	
Bluff Spring-----	T. J. Dunkin-----	S. P. Scott, Myrtle, Mo.-----						14	
Rose Hill-----	J. R. W. Harbison-----	R. G. Beatty, Thayer, Mo.-----						6	

* Not represented.