

MINUTES

of the

28th Annual Session

of the

CENTER ASSOCIATION

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

of

CALIFORNIA

Harmony Free Will Baptist Church 5372 East Belmont Avenue Fresno, California

May 16 - 17, 1975

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OFFICERS

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Moderator - Nuel Brown 15401 West "E" St., Kerman 93630	846-8228
Assistant Moderator - Vern Gunnels, Jr. 3185 S. Highland, Selma 93662	896-3394
Clerk-Treasurer - Winnie McLain 2303 N. Second St., Fresno 93703	485-9727
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer - Mary Kelton 744 W. Clinton, Fresno 93705	229-0833

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Darwin Kelton	5 years
744 W. Clinton, Fresno 93705	229-0833
Charles Harris	4 years
5025 E. Carmen, Fresno 93727	264-2512
Wade T. Jernigan	3 years
4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-9639
Lonnie L. Rolen	2 years
2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203
Nuel Brown	1 year

15401 West "E" St., Kerman 9	93630	846-8228
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PROCEEDINGS

Theme: "Ministering in Three Worlds" (1 Cor. 9:22b)

The Twenty-Eighth Annual session of the Center Association convened at the Harmony Church, Fresno, California, May 16-17, 1975. The service opened with congregational singing followed with prayer by the Rev. Nuel Brown, Kerman. The Moderator, the Rev. Jack Williams introduced the theme of the Association - "Ministering in Three Worlds" - by reading 1 Cor. 9:22b. The Rev. Bob L. Thomas, Memorial Church, sang "More Than You Will Ever Know." Then the Rev. Dale Vanderburg, Hanford brought the message on "The World of the Perpetual Underdog," using 1 Cor. 15:19. The Moderator read the following resolution to be laid on the table until Saturday session: Be it resolved that Article VII of the constitution be changed by deleting the word "opening" and substituting the word "conclusion." Benediction by the Rev. Duane Colvin, Sanger.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was called to order by the Moderator, the Rev. Jack Williams. The session opened with singing followed with prayer by the Rev. Claudie Hames, Bakersfield. Then the Rev. Lonnie Rolen, Memorial Church, brought the message on "The World of the Autumn Years" using Deuteronomy 34:7.

The welcome was given by the host pastor, the Rev. Charles Harris.

Letters were read and delegates seated from the following churches: Calwa, Clovis, Hanford, Harmony, Kerman, Madera, Memorial, Neighborhood, Orange Cove, Parlier, Sanger and Selma.

Rules of order were read by the assistant moderator, the Rev. Nuel Brown.

The following committees were appointed:

Resolution Vern Gunnels Don Knight Leonard Rial E. A. Magness Finance Ron Briscoe Winnie McLain Gene Fry Baxter Ramsey

Obituary Versie Pearson Twila Colvin

The annual report of the treasurer was read and accepted.

The Rev. Wade Jernigan, president of California Christian College gave a report of the college. The Rev. Vern Gunnels gave a report of Operation Partnership. Rick Vanderburg gave a report of the State Youth Conference. Moderator was given power to appoint the delegates to the State Association. The following were appointed: Don Knight, Gene Grimes, Charlema Burkhart, Jackie Fisher, Odessia Nickell, Stan Gulatto, Richard Smith, Bruce Wood, J. R. Overman, Robert Hoppie, H. L. Black, Norma Dixon, Sandra Jones, Gary Wright, Lorene Miller, Gene Fry, Bill Burgess and the remainder to be appointed at the State Association. The Rev. Darwin Kelton was elected five year member of the executive board. Resolution No. 2 was read and adopted. (See reports.)

Motion carried to elect one speaker for each quarterly meeting and the Friday evening and Saturday morning speaker for the annual session.

Placement of the meetings and speakers were as follows:

First Quarterly Meeting Clovis, Aug. 16, 1975

Second Quarterly Meeting Kerman, Nov. 15, 1975

Third Quarterly Meeting Sanger, Feb. 14, 1976

Annual Session Hanford, May 14-15, 1976 Speaker - Vern Gunnels Alternate - Wade T. Jernigan

Speaker - Dale Vanderburg Alternate - Tip Richardson

Speaker - Charles Harris Alternate - Bob Thomas

Speaker (Fri. night) Jack Williams Alternate - Darwin Kelton Speaker (Sat.) Wade Jernigan Alternate - Darwin Kelton

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

The service opened with singing followed with prayer by the Rev. Jerry Webb.

Stan Gullato sang "I Shall Never Let Go His Hand."

After prayer by Gary Wright, an offering of forty-nine dollars and sixty cents (\$49.60) was received.

Less Scroggins sang "The King Is Coming." The Rev. Nuel Brown brought the message on "The World of the Growing Home" using 1 Cor. 9:22b and Eph. 4:11.

Benediction and blessing on the noon meal was given by the Rev. Bob Thomas.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Reports of Finance Committee, Executive Board and Resolution No. 3 were read and accepted. (See reports.)

The report of the Obituary Committee was read and accepted. (See reports.) After a moment of silent prayer in memory of the deceased, the Rev. Meryl Erickson led in prayer.

Officers were elected as follows: Moderator - Nuel Brown Assistant Moderator - Vern Gunnels, Jr. Clerk-Treasurer - Winnie McLain Assistant Clerk-Treasurer - Mary Kelton

Motion carried that the moderator be paid forty dollars (\$40.00) and the assistant moderator twenty-five (\$25.00) both to be retroactive. Motion carried that the clerk-treasurer be paid fifty dollars (\$50.00) and the assistant clerk-treasurer be paid twenty dollars (\$20.00) both to be retroactive retroactive

Moderator - Jack Williams Clerk - Winnie McLain

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution

- 1. Be it resolved that Article VII of the constitution be changed by deleting the word "opening" and substituting the word "conclusion."
- 2. Be it resolved that the three quarterly meetings consist of a Saturday session only, and that at each session arrangements be made for at least two sermons. The annual session will continue to meet on Friday night and Saturday.
- 3. Be it resolved that all churches support the California Cooperative plan of giving, and that this recommendation be sent to the state association for similar approval.

Finance

We recommend:

- 1. That the feeding fund be \$100.00 for the annual session and \$75.00 for each quarterly meeting.
- 2. That an offering be received at the morning worship hour at each session.
- 3. That \$45.00 per quarter be given to California Christian College.
- 4. That one minute for every six members be printed.
- 6. That the money be disbursed as follows:

	Feeding\$3	25.00
	State Association Dues	
	Minutes 2	50.00
	Printing of Programs	12.00
	Calif. Christian College 1	80.00
	Moderator	10.00
	Assistant Moderator	5.00
	Clerk-Treasurer	25.00
	Assistant Clerk-Treas	10.00
	(See changes in amount paid officers	voted in business session.)
7.	Operation Partnership	50.00

Obituary

We report that God has called the following from our midst: Eula Mann and Frankie Floyd from Calwa; Helen Miller and Mary McCaskill from Kerman; Rufus Payton from Memorial; Mr. McKenzie from Neighborhood.

Executive Board

The board recommends Jimmie Isaak for ordination, J. R. Overman, Jr. for renewal of his license and Timothy Rolen and Richard Smith for license.

CENTER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT May 1, 1974 - May 1, 1975

Cash on Deposit - May 1, 1974

\$ 379.63

Income:		
Church Dues	\$1,160.00	
Offerings	207.06	
Total Income	1,367.06	1,367.06
Total Income and Cash on Deposit		\$1,746.69

Disbursements:

Sources.		
Jack Williams, Moderator	\$ 10.00	
Nuel Brown, Assistant Moderator	5.00	
Winnie McLain, Clerk-Treasurer	25.00	
Mary Kelton, Assistant Clerk	10.00	
Feeding Fund	325.00	
California Christian College	340.00	
State Association Dues	215.00	
Engstrom Letter Company-200 minute	s 183.91	
Selma Church - Refund	5.00	
Memorial Church		
Bulletins, Stencils, Tel.	6.00	
Fresno Bible House - Bulletins	10.60	
U.S. Postal Service - Stamps	4.00	
National Sunday School Dept.		
Letter Forms	1.65	
Total Disbursements	1,141.16	<u>1,141.16</u>
Cash on Deposit - May 1, 1975		<u>\$ 605.53</u>

Winnie McLain, Treasurer

MINISTER'S ROLL

Briscoe, Ron	4832 E. Normal, Fresno 93703	251-0661
Brown, Nuel	15401 West "E" St., Kerman 93630	846-8228
Colvin, Duane	17790 E. Lone Oak Rd., Sanger 93657	787-2728
Eilts, Kenneth	2018 S. Maple, Fresno 93702	485-5187
Erickson, Meryl	1001 Sylmar, Sp. 134, Clovis 93612	299-3203
Freeman, Joy	15191 West "B" St., Kerman 93630	846-8378
Gunnels, Vern, Jr.	3185 S. Highland, Selma 93662	896-3394
Harris, Charles	5025 E. Carmen, Fresno	264-2512
Jernigan, Wade T.	4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-9639
Mooneyham, Joe	2841-151 Fowler Rd., Ceres 95307	
Ramsey, G. B.	1418 Evergreen, Selma 93662	896-5935
Ramsey, Lee	349 S. Shasta, Kerman 93630	846-7679
Rial Leonard	669 - 4th St., Orange Cove 93646	626-4250
Richardson, Tip	600 Welch Drive, Tulare 93274	688-9397

Menaruson, Hp	000 wordin Dirivo, i utare 55274	000-7577
Rolen, Lonnie L.	2913 E. Northdale, Fresno 93726	229-2203
Scroggins, O. D.	, 765 Second St., Parlier 93648	646-2837
Taylor, Bob	3395 E. Garland, Fresno 93726	229-3464
Thomas, Bob	4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-6471
Thurman, Cecil	6077 N. Calaveras, Fresno 93704	439-0542
Vanderburg, Dale	1000 W. Davis, Hanford 93230	584-6758
Williams, Jack L.	4881 E. University Ave., Fresno 93703	251-7234
Winters, Sam	1485 E. Fremont, Fresno 93710	431-2679

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STATISTICAL REPORT

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Churches	Calwa	Clovis	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Madera	Memorial	Neighbor- hood	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	Total
Membership	27	61	32	148	226	77	173	70	20	35	32	75	976
Resident Members	25	56	28	147	132	76	142	47	20		18	67	793
Non-Resident Members	2	5	4	1	94	1	31	23	0		14	8	183
Members Added	13	18	10	47	16	13	21	10	0	3	2	14	1 67
Members Lost	3	0	8	7	1	15	26	4	2		3	0	69
Members Deceased	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Ordained Ministers	2	3	1	2	3	0	8	1	2	5	1	1	29
Licensed Ministers	3	6	1	4	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	36
Deacons	1	6	0	6	4	2	8	1	0	2	2	4	36
Sunday School Enroll.	25	98	80	410	130	50	176	47	17		45	190	1,268
Average Attendance	24	63	70	273	112	50	106	39	17		22	124	900
C.T.S. Enrollment	20	52	35		44	15	93	17					276
Average Attendance	14	44	25		39	15	63	15					215
Woman's Auxiliary Membership	0	15	19		20		25	10			3	14	106
Master's Men Mem.								5					5

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Churches	Calwa	Clovis	Hanford	Harmony	Kerman	Madera	Memorial	Neighbor- hood	Orange Cove	Parlier	Sanger	Selma	Total
Total Giving in the Churches	\$4,905	\$28,098	\$16,596	\$42,179	\$14,589	\$ 7,300	\$38,778	\$ 7,117	\$2,574	<u> </u>	\$ 3,130	\$21,038	\$186,304
Building Fund (Borrowed)	2,000	10,962			1,212	2,400							16,574
Total Income	6,905	39,060	16,596	42,179	15,801	9,700	38,778	7,117	2,574		3,130	21,038	202,878
Spent for Local Causes													
Pastor's Salary	1,300	7,803	6,377	10,477	6,610	2,400	10,536	1,881	780	\$ 1,530	960	5,750	56,404
Other Staff Salaries		560		400	600		2,017					288	3,865
Property, Building, Repai	r 1,667	20,263	2,236	2,736	4,000	447	2,662	2,573		2,075	328	448	39,435
Debt Retirement		3,140		11,583	1,293		6,600						22,616
Miscellaneous	2,893	15,108	4,067	15,226		594	7,715	2,026	113	261	817	7,722	56,542
Total Local Expenditures	5,860	46,874	12,680	40,422	12,503	3,441	29,530	6,480	893	3,866	2,105	14,208	178,862
Spent for Outside Causes													
Cooperative Plan		1,658	1,357				2,569	84					5,668
Foreign Missions		267	434	1,134	547		1,057	67		11			3,517
Home Missions	246	508	468	874	561	28	737	35				732	4,189
Colleges	169	1,140	1,074	1,087	810	750	4,539	134	240	50		1,200	11,193
Other	95			366	2,628		137	85					3,281
Total Outside Expend.	510	3,573	3,333	3,431	4,546	778	9,039	405	240	61		1,932	27,848
Value of all Church Property	40,000	80,000	12,000	125,000	98,000	17,000	175,000	26,200	2,300	20,000	15,000	52,000	662,500

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WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

MINUTES

The Annual Session of the Center Association Woman's Auxilliary Convention met with the Memorial Free Will Baptist Church March 1, 1975, using "Sowing And Reaping In The Land Of The Rising Sun" as the theme. Mrs. June Rolen presided as President.

The convention opened with the congregation singing "Bring Them In" under the direction of Mrs. Janis Williams, with Mrs. Debe Taylor at the piano. Prayer was led by Mrs. Delma Gunnels. Greetings and Devotional was given by Mrs. Geneva Hatcher.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurers Report was read and accepted.

The following committees were appointed by the President:

Resolution	Finance	Registration
Margie Kennedy	Marge Winters	Cheryl Rogers
Donna Hind	Alma Stiggins	Winnifred Black
Lizzie Stiggins	Delma Gunnels	Odessa Nickell
Kay Hampton	Phylis Fite	Paula Gordon
- •	Mary Kelton	

The following were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee: Verna McCullar, Geneva Hatcher, Janis Williams, Lydeen York and

Janice Rolen.

Mrs. Nettie Lou Jernigan was elected to serve as Delegate on the State Convention Nominating Committee.

Committee Reports were read and accepted. (See reports.)

"What Do You Know About Japan?" questions and answers directed by Mrs. Lydeen York.

The congregation sang "The Regions Beyond." Prayer of Dedication for the 1975-76 District Officers was offered by Mrs. Kay Hampton.

Miss Catherine Henry spoke on the topic "A Trip to Japan."

Benediction and blessing on the noon meal offered by Mrs. June Rolen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

- 1. We recommend that our district meetings continue to meet on the first Saturday in March and October.
- 2. We recommend that the Memorial Woman's Auxiliary be given a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. We recommend that each local Auxiliary represent with \$2.00 per member to be paid \$1.00 per member at each convention.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

There were 48 members present, with 3 visitors - total present 51.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We, the Nominating Committee, recommend the following women to serve as District Officers for the next two years:

President	Mrs. June Rolen 2913 E. Northdale Ave., Fresno, 229-2203
Vice President	Mrs. Delma Gunnels 3185 Highland Ave., Selma, 896-3394
Secretary-Treasurer	Mrs. Marjorie Winters 1485 E. Fremont Ave., Fresno, 431-2679
Field Worker	Mrs. Geneva Hatcher 6112 W. Ashlan Ave., Fresno, 485-9292
Mission Study Chairman	Mrs. Mary Kelton 744 W. Clinton Ave., Fresno, 229-0833
Mission Prayer Chairman	Miss Sandi Jones 4750 E. Shields, Apt. C, Fresno, 251-5481
Mission Action Chairman	Mrs. Linda Wells 2042 Wilson Ave Selma 896-5123

Placement of the Convention for the next year is as follows: FIRST CONVENTION

Selma Free Will Baptist Church 3185 Highland Avenue, Selma October 4, 1975

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Memorial Free Will Baptist Church 4141 North Millbrook Ave., Fresno March 6, 1976

Monthly meetings of the local Auxiliaries are as follows:

Clovis	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Kerman	Second Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
Memorial	Second Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
Neighborhood	Third Tuesday	10:00 a.m.
Selma	First Monday	7:00 p.m.
Hanford	First Tuesday	7:00 p.m.

CENTER ASSOCIATION C.T.S. RALLY March 15, 1975

The Center Association CTS Rally convened with the Goshen Free Will Baptist Church on March 15, 1975. The meeting was opened by singing, led by Don Knight, accompanied by Shirley Vanderburg.

Due to the fact that some letters would be late getting to the rally, a motion was made by Tim Rolen to seat the churches who had already sent either a letter or dues to the rally. The motion was carried.

The president, Dan Taylor, appointed the committees as follows:

Finance:	Vicki Jernigan — Memorial Phil Taylor — Memorial Norman Olsen — Clovis
Resolution:	Greg Story – Memorial Randy Vanderburg – Hanford Sandy Olvera – Hanford
Nominating:	Patrita Arellano – Hanford Tim Rolen – Memorial Donnette Olsen – Clovis

Maxine Irvings – Goshen

Minutes and treasurer's report were read and accepted.

Competitive activities were led by Tim Rolen. Contestants from Calwa and Hanford competed in Sword Drill. Hanford was the victor. The Tic Tac Toe activities followed with teams from Clovis and Hanford competing. Hanford was the winner. The meeting was dismissed for a break with prayer by Larry Hampton.

After break, the meeting was called to order by the president. Committee reports were read and then voted on one by one. The nominating committee's report was read and the elected officers are as follows:

President	Randy Vanderburg
Vice President	
Secretary-Treasurer	Vicki Jernigan
Corresponding Secretary	Patrita Arellano
Quiz Leader	Shirley Vanderburg
Pianist	Sandy Taylor
Song Leader	
Sponsors	Mary and Darwin Kelton

Worship service began by singing, "Nothing But the Blood" led by Scott Kelton, accompanied by Greg Story. Rev. Lonnie Rolen, pastor of Memorial Free Will Baptist Church, led in prayer. Congregational singing continued with "Glory to His Name." After the special music by Darwin, Mark and Scott Kelton, Rev. Jack L. Williams, Dean of California Christian College, brought the message. At the close Vicki Jernigan sang "Lead Me Back to Calvary."

The meeting was dismissed in prayer.

Vicki Jernigan, Secretary Randy Vanderburg, President

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE:

From long experience, we, 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 among us, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better denominational government.

ARTICLE I

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

ARTICLE II

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

ARTICLE III

The Center Association shall consist of three delegates duly appointed or elected by the church they represent. Standing delegates shall be Church Clerks and all ordained Free Will Baptist ministers, their wives, and ordained Free Will Baptist deacons, their wives and all unmarried widows of deceased ordained members. Standing delegates must be members of good standing in a local church of Center Association.

ARTICLE IV

Each church shall represent with a letter all of its statistical information called for by this Association and listing all of the delegates representing them by name. Letters are requested to be sent if delegation cannot be present and representation fee cannot be met.

ARTICLE V

The Center 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 churches composing this organization, or act upon an appeal that may be made by any member of a member church who feels he has been unjustly charged. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the person or body making such appeal.

ARTICLE VI

The Center Association shall hold one meeting annually and three meetings quarterly. Dates and places to be selected at annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII

OFFICERS – The officers of the Center Association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the conclusion of each setting of the annual association.

ARTICLE VIII

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD shall be composed of five members. Each member shall be an ordained minister in good standing in the Center 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 eyars
- (1) One for five years

Succession to office thereafter shall be determined as order required.

ARTICLE IX

Should necessity arise which calls for and requires immediate action, the Executive Board of this Association 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 X

The Executive Board will not recommend to license or ordain any minister who does not believe or practice all of our doctrine.

ARTICLE XI

COMMITTEES – 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 XII

There shall be a representative of Sunday School, C.T.S. Convention, Woman's Auxiliary Convention and Masters Men to report quarterly to the Association of the progress of the work.

ARTICLE XIII

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

RULES OF ORDER

1. The Moderator or Assistant Moderator, or in their absence, the oldest minister present shall call the Association to conference.

2. Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.

3. Five members from two or more churches shall constitute a quorum. A less number may adjourn until such time as a quorum is present.

4. Visiting brethren are invited to sit as advisory members.

5. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.

6. If any propositions or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without specail leave of the Moderator.

9. The Moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit.

10. The ruling of the Moderator may be over-ruled by a twothirds majority membership voting.

11. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been discussed at its own church.

12. At each Association arrangement shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent – devotional services – each day.

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 appearance of evil, to abstain from 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."

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We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the scripture, secret prayer, family devotion, and social worship, and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to Grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." We will not forsake 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 to seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and as far as we are able, to promote the success of the church 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, 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 the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday School and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of Peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.