

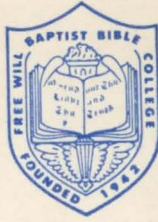
MINUTES
OF THE
Central Texas Free Will
Baptist Association

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION HELD WITH

BRIGHT LIGHT FREE WILL
BAPTIST CHURCH

October 13-16, 1932

The next session will be held with the Plain View Quarterly
Meeting



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

J. L. Edge
Covey Win

Rev. I. J. Blackwelder

Moderator
Moderator

E. C. Mor

Term expires 1934

C. B. Thor

Term expires 1933

J. L. Bounds

Term expires 1935

HOME MISSION BOARD

N. C. Cole

Term expires 1934

J. H. Dowell

Term expires 1933

Dallas Guinn

Term expires 1935

PROCEEDINGS

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Session of the Central Texas Free Will Baptist Association convened October 13, 1932 at Bright Light Free Will Baptist Church.

Thursday Evening—

7:30 Sermon by Rev. J. P. Brown.

Friday Morning—

10:00 a. m. Song led by Rev. E. C. Morris. Devotional by Mrs. Willie Johnson.

Business Period—

J. L. Edge was elected moderator and Covey Windsor Assistant moderator. Moderator was authorized to appoint all session committees.

Program adopted with the necessary changes by vote.

Pulpit Supply Committee—W. J. Lawless, J. P. Gilpin and Clayton Lewis

11:00 a. m. Sermon—Rev. C. B. Thompson.

Noon—Dinner served by the ladies

1:30 p. m. Singing led by J. P. Gilpin. Devotional—Rev. John Swanwick.

1:45 Business Period—

Plainview Quartely meeting letter read and adopted as delegates. Delegates seated with others present seated as delegates. Brazos County Quarterly meeting letter read and adopted, delegates seated with others present seated as delegates.

Nominating Committe and Committee on Committees, acting as Business Committee also, Rev. E. C. Morris, C. F. Goen and Covey Windsor.

Resolution Committee—Rev C. B. Thompson, J. P. Gilpin and K. Kelley.

Home Mission board instructed to collect for the Hopewell Church property and the money to be used as a revolving building fund.

Ministry report read and a committee appointed, C. F. Goen, Covey Windsor and J. P. Gilpin to report their finding to the association.

Next session of the association to be held with the Plainview Quarterly meeting.

Reading—Jesus f Nazareth, Miss Pearl Boswell. A vote of thanks was extended Miss Boswell for this splendid paper.

3:00 p. m. "Our Problems"—Round table discussion. Many good suggestions were offered by the ministers and laymen. If these suggestions are put into practice much good will result.

7:30 p. m. Sermon—Rev. J. L. Bounds

Saturday Morning—

9:30 a. m. Singing led by J. L. Bounds.
Devotional by Rev. J. H. Dowell.

10:00 a. m. Business Period—Reading the reports of Committee on Home Mission was adopted with amendment. Womens Work, Foreign Mission and Evangelism reports were discussed and some corrections were made. (See Reports.)

Motion made to continue the acreage plan for another year. Committee composed of Rev. C. B. Thompson, Rev. E. C. Morris, Rev. J. W. Handy, J. P. Gilpin and Jack Bullard to visit the different churches, explain and create interest in this work.

11:00 a. m. Sermon—Rev. E. C. Morris.
Noon—Dinner served.

1:30 p. m. Singing led by J. P. Gilpin.
Devotional by Mrs. Jack Bullard.

Business Report—Report of the following committees read and adopted, Young People, Sunday School, Condition of Churches, Education, Denomination, Budget and Obituary. (See Reports.)

3:00 p. m. Our Peculiar Task—Rev. E. C. Morris.

Program Committee authorized to recommend country churches help care for convention on designated days. Special committee asked to be given more time on Standing of Ministry to make a more thorough investigation.

Clerk instructed to write Plainview Quarterly Meeting Clerk a letter expressing sympathy in loss of Mrs. Tom Keefer.

Association stood in silent prayer, expressing our sympathy in the loss of our love ones.

Clerk authorized to gather the names of clerks of different churches to be printed in the minutes also our articles of Faith, Constitution, Church Decorum, government and ordinance placed in minutes.

The following ministers made their reports, Rev. J. H. Dowell, Rev. C. B. Thompson, Rev. E. C. Morris, Rev. J. L. Bounds and Rev. John Swanwick.

PLAINVIEW QUARTERLY MEEAING LETTER

Report of the Plainview Quarterly Meeting to the Central Texas Free Will Baptist Association when convened with Bright Light Church, eight miles east of Bryan, Texas.

We send as delegates our beloved Brethern and Sisters with Christian greetings: Mr. Dallas Guinn, Mr. Clayton Lewis, Mr. Robert Poole, L. L. Taylor, J. W. LeFevere, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Robinson, Mrs. Alice Conley, Mrs. Millie Moon, Miss Pearle Boswell and Miss Ozelle Moody. State of Religion, good. We observe Communion quarterly, number receiver this year, 22; number baptised, 14; number dismissed, 1; number died, 3; resident members, 291; non-resident members, 181; Total, 472; condition of choir service good; condition of Sunday School good; average number of pupils 135; officers 12; teachers 15. Womens Missionary Society fair, members 6, christian endeavor moderate, members 55. Amount paid pastor \$757.00 amount paid for evangelistic work \$25.00, for incidentals \$72.04, for foreign mission ———, for mission ———, for education \$72.26, for building and repair ———, charity \$230.00. Valua of church property \$5,700.00. Pastor's name, Rev. C. B. Thompson, address, Bryan, Texas. Other reports, call extended to Rev. E. C. Morris for the ensuing year. Names of ministers, Rev. John Swanwick, Rev. J. L. Bounds. Rev. C. B. Thompson, Rev. J. H. Dowell, Rev. J. L. Payne. We invite the next session of the Central Texas Free Will Baptist Association to meet with the Plainview Quarterly Meeting. Done by order of conference at Plainview Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting. Assembled this 30th day of July, 1932.

Cliffton Adams, Clerk
Rev. C. B. Thompson, Moderator.

BRAZOS COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING LETTER

Report of the Brazos County Quarterly Meeting to the Central Texas Free Will Baptist Association when convened with the Bright Light Church, 8 miles east of Bryan, Texas, we send as delegates our beloved Brethern and Sisters with christian greetings, Mrs. Della Wooten, Mrs. Willie Johnson, Mrs. T. A. Cloud, Mrs. J. L. Edge, Mrs. Walter Johnson, Mrs. E. C. Morris, Mrs. Etta Payne, Mrs. Pat Moore, Mrs. James Lang, Jess Gilpin and Mrs. W. S. Jones. State of religion, fair. We observe communion—some quarterly. Number reclined this year 4, number baptised 3, number dismissed 1, number died 3, resident members 272, non-resident members 115, total 387. Amount paid pastors \$2,134; amount paid for evangelists work \$20.50, for incidentals \$2.50, for foreign mission ———, for home missions \$45.00, for education \$50.00. Amount raised for building and repairs \$318.50.

Budget fund \$25.00. Condition of Sunday School good, average number of pupils 186, officers 9, teachers 20. Conditions of Prayer Meeting good. Womens Missionary Society good, members 28. Value of church property \$15,800. One Free Will Baptist League. Names of ministers, Rev. E. C. Morris, Rev. J. W. Cook, Rev. J. W. Handy. Done by order of conference at Edge Free Baptist Church assembled this 12 day of September, 1932.

J. W. Lawless, Moderator.
C. F. Goen, Clerk.

Realizing we are the only Association in the state that has an indirect representation, the others representing direct from the local church and we felt that we should keep in line with the state work and that, further, that, further, we believe our cause can better be served by the direct plan.

Be it, therefore, resolved, that this association resort to the direct representative plan, and that our churches be informed that they will be expected to select their own delegates, hereafter, and that said delegates be required to bring to the association the statistics and donation from their respective churches.

J. L. Edge.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Delegates to State Convention

Bryan—J. L. Edge, Mr. and Mrs. P. K. Trant and Mrs. Della Wooten.
Bright Light—C. F. Goen, Noah Cole and K. Kelley.
Kurten—W. J. Lawless and wife and Leonard Hearn.
Edge—Pat Moore and wife.
Plainview—Covey Windsor, Ben Wharton and wife.
North Zulch—Mrs. Mm. Stewart, L. L. Jayher and Mrs. J. F. Andress.
Willow Hole—John Payne, Jr., Robert Cheatham and Miss Boswell.
Cross—Gus Robertson and Pat Franklin.
Keith—Mrs. Charlie Conlee and John Rice.
Blue Lake—W. K. O'Brien and John Moody.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Education—Mrs. P. K. Trant, Mrs. J. R. Bullard and T. A. Cloud.
Home Mission—Mrs. Mm. Stuart, Wiley Lefevre and J. L. Bounds.

Foreign Mission—C. B. Thompson, J. W. Handy and J. H. Dowell.
 Evangelism—J. L. Bounds, Mrs. Noah Cole and John Payne, Jr.
 Standing of the Ministry—Emmitt Holland, J. P. Gilpin and J. L. Bounds.
 Obituary—W. J. Lawless, J. L. Payne and C. F. Goen.
 Women's Work—Mrs. C. H. Holmes, Mrs. W. G. Reynolds and Mrs. C. B. Thompson.
 Program—J. L. Bounds, Noah Cole and J. H. Dowell.
 Condition of Churches—W. J. Lawless, J. P. Gilpin and M. B. Easters.
 Sunday School—Jack Boone, C. F. Goen and J. P. Gilpin.
 Budget—J. P. Gilpin, Mrs. Pearl Lang and Mrs. Gus Block.
 Denomination—E. C. Morris, John Swanwick and I. J. Blackwelder.
 Young People—Winnie Clary, Mrs. Charles Williams and Mrs. C. B. Thompson.

J. L. Bounds to take J. L. Edges place on Ordaining Council term to expire 1935. Dallas Guims to take the place of J. L. Bounds on Home Mission Board term to expire 1935.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For 1931 and '32

October 17, 1931 Balance	\$54.27
Collections	
October 14, 32 Kurten Budget	5.00
October 14, 32 Blue Lake Budget	
October 15, 32 Bright Light Budget	5.00
October 15, 32 Willow Hole Budget	2.00
TOTAL	\$71.27
Disbursements	\$35.00
October 15, 32 Balance	\$36.27
April 1st \$5.00 cash and note for \$49.00 on the Hopewell Building.	

J. P. Gilpin

TREASURER'S DISBURSEMENTS

Williams Printing Co., for program and minutes	\$25.00
N. C. Cole, Clerk	10.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$35.00

BUDGET COMMITTEE

We the Committee on the Budget wish to make the following report.

We recommend the following amount for the various churches for association expensqs for the year.

Bryan	\$10.00
Kurten	5.00
Edge	5.00
Bright Light	5.00
Plainview	5.00
North Zulch	7.00
Willow Hole	5.00
Cross	5.00
Keith	4.00
Blue Lake	5.00

J. P. Gilpin.

REPORT OF WOMENS WORK

We your Committee on Womens Work beg to make the following report. There are only two churches in the association that the committee has knowledge of which has any organization for the ladies. Namely, Bryan and North Zulch. In the Bryan Church there are two circles of the ladies society, nineteen members in one and fifteen in the other. Our greatest achievement in these circles has been to assist the church in meeting the current expenses. Realizing the greatest assistance the women can render their church financially and spiritually, we are recommending that the ladies organize Missionary Societies in all the churches and that a uniform report blank prepared to be filled out annually and sent in to the chairman of the womens work committee by the first of October.

Mrs. J. L. Edge
Mrs. W. G. Reynolds
Mrs. C. H. Holmes

STANDING OF THE MINISTRY

We your committee on the Standing of the Ministry submit the following. The ministry is one of the greatest institutions in our land and in the lives of humanity. The people have always accepted and looked to our ministry as real leaders in this life. They are the messengers of the

gospel, their lives and conduct should be such as to reflect glory to their Lord and Master. Realizinz our ministers are under-paid and during these trying times, more especially calls for the very bes. in each one. We have heard of some strife and dissension among our ministers but we earnestly pray that this may be settled and everything work to the betterment of our cause and glory to our Lord and Master.

N. C. Cole
J. P. Gilpin
J. L. Edge

REPORT ON EDUCATION

We your Committee on Education submit the following report, realizing the advantage of our education and further realizing that in our association the degree of education we need in order to go further in the Masters work as we should. We recommend that steps be taken to interest our people in the greater Educational Program.

Mrs. P. K. Trant
Mrs. Jack Boone
Miss Lemma Dowell

COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSION

We your committee on Home Missions submit the following report. We are thankful for the work that is being done but realizinnng this is all important and the harvest is white and laborers are few, we recommend to the State Conference that a state evangelist be placed on the field.

Mrs. J. W. LeFevre
Mrs. W. M. Stewart
Mrs. C. B. Thompson

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM

We your committee on Evangelism wish to report that there has been a considerable amount of Evangelistic work done in this section, principally all of the work being confined to rural districts.

We believe that the time is at hand for our work to be pushed in the cities as it seems that all activities trend there as a center.

We therefore recommend that some plan be formulated to stimulate evangelistic work in the cities and larger towns.

It has been found that most cities and towns in this section have many residents who are Free Will Baptists and we would suggest that an effort be made to organize churches and assemble our scattered membership and thereby arouse a deeper interest in evangelistic effort to build up our denomination.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. T. A. Cloud

Mrs. Jack Bullard

Mrs. Noah Cole.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSION

Realizing but little interest is being taken by our association for Foreign Mission, we your committee beg to offer the following recommendations:

That we ask our pastors to preach at least one sermon during the year to each of his churches on the subject of foreign mission. That we ask our ladies to give more study to foreign missions in their circle meetings. That we create a foreign mission fund with a view of interesting ing. That we create a foreign mission fund with a view of investing such a fund, whenever in the judgement of our leaders that a channel has been opened for such a work.

E. C. Morris

J. H. Dowell

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY

We, your Committee on Obituary, by investigation, report that several of our beloved brethern and sisters have been called to the home beyond. The names of same, W. G. Reynolds, J. E. Hensarling, J. H. Hoiter, Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. Tom Keefer and Mrs. H. T. Todd. These members are greatly missed in our midst more especially J. E. Hensarling who was a great singer and spread the gospel message by his leadership in the song service. We pray that our loss is Heavens gain and ask that this body extend our sympathy to the bereaved families.

W. J. Lawless

C. F. Goen

Rev. J. L. Payne

REPORT OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

We your Investigating Committee beg to make the following report regarding the strife between our ministers: Upon investigation we found that the strife was between Rev. Dowell and Rev. Bounds. Due to certain statements made by Rev. Dowell concerning the character of Rev. Bounds family. Upon further investigation we find the statements made by Rev. Dowell was untrue. Bro. Dowell was called before the Association and acknowledged these rumors and reports to be untrue and further apologized to Bro. Bounds and the Association.

C. W. Windsor

C. F. Goen

J. P. Gilpin

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONDITION OF CHURCHES

We, your committee on the conditions of churches submit the following:

From all the information we are able to get we find all the churches of this association in a very good spiritual condition with a few exceptions where there seems to be a spirit of worldliness and some confusion. Most of the churches have had good revivals this year with some additions. So far as we know they are all orthodox in their teaching. Some of our churches are having to divide their services which makes it impossible for the pastors to give them the time and service that he should.

We therefore recommend that something be done if possible to strengthen the weak churches. We further recommend that the churches give more attention to the church program that we may deliver greater christian fellowship among our churches and do a greater work for our Master.

W. J. Lawless
J. P. Gilpin

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DEMONINATION

Our report this year should be very gratifying to every loyal Free Will Baptist.

As we gleam the news from various sections of our connection, we have observed a greater spirit of optimism for the cause than for some time. Reasons for such encouragement can be summed up as follows:

The spirit of benevolence and generosity has prevailed even in the times of so called depression. Our financial obligations have fairly well been met.

New churches are being established and the membership of the denomination is constantly increasing.

There is in greater evidence a zeal for missions, both home and foreign.

That greater interest in a united denomination is manifested than, probably, ever before.

In view of these encouraging facts, your committee begs to recommend that this association go on record as favoring and cooperating in every progressive move launched by our national, state and local leaders, for the Free Will Baptist Churches, and that we further encourage a spirit of confidence and fellowship among our people.

That we assure our State Convention of our support and prayers in putting forth a church extension program that will mean an enlargement for the denomination in our state.

E. C. Morris
J. Swanwick
J. H. Dowell

REPORT OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

We, your committee on Young People's Work, wish to submit the following report:

In our association we have three young people's organizations. The one at North Zulch is doing good work, especially in the Junior department. The organization at Kieth is to be commended for the most excellent work they are doing. The League in Bryan is in good condition also. The attendance has held up especially good during the summer months.

We are sorry to report that there are only three young people's organizations in our association, and therefore, we heartily recommend that the association endeavor to organize young people's Leagues or Christian Endeavors in all churches where there is none at present.

Respectfully Submitted:

Winnie Clary
Mrs. C. B. Thompson
Marie Andrews

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Sunday School beg to submit the following report.

We have made some investigations on Sunday School work in the bounds of our association and while there are Sunday School in all our churches, and a few well organized and doing a good work. However, there are several that are not showing favorable results. Some are just meeting occasionally, others are cooperating in union Sunday Schools.

We desire to call the attention of our people to the recommendations offered in last years report and endeavor to abide by those recommendations.

We would further recommend that our churches endeavor to have regular Sunday School and that where possible, operate with our own talent and literature.

We further recommend that an associational Sunday School convention be advocated to meet once per year.

Jack Boone
Mrs. Phillips
C. F. Goen

ASSOCIATION CENTRAL TEXAS

The Addresses of Clerks and name of Churches

Church—Bryan, Miss Winnie Clary, Randolph St., Bryan, Texas.
 Church—North Zulch, Clerk, Mrs. Wm. Stewart, North, Zulch.
 Church—Willow Hole, Clerk, J. C. Payne, Jr., North, Zulch.
 Church—Plainviaw, Clerk, Mrs. Emma Walton, Normangee.
 Church—Blue Lage, Clerk, Mrs. Bettie Moody, Piedmont, Texas.
 Church—Cross,, Miss Estell Williams, Iola, Texas.
 Church—Evergreen, Mrs. Willie Moon, Iola, Texas
 Church—Kurten, Clerk, Lenord Hearn, Kurten, Texas.
 Church—Bright Ligh, Clerk, Mrs. Noah C. Cole, Bryan, Texas, Rt. 3.

PASTOR'S REPORT

J. H. Dowell

Sermons preached	4
Funerals conducted	2
Marriages solmized	3

Made several Lectures, helped in one revival, attended all association meetings and encouraged all good movements in our work.

E. C. Morris

Sermons preached	136
Churches pastored	2
Names of same	Bryan and Blue Lake
Revivals held	3
Memers received by Baptism	2
Members received otherwise	1
Amount of salary	\$1,860.00
Collected on same	\$1,864.67
Funerals conducted	4
Marriages solmnized	1
Collected for Foreign Missions	—
Collected for Home Missions	\$65.00
Collected for Education	\$42.00
Collected for other purposes	\$35.00
Collected for incidental expense	\$297.00
Total for all purposes not including salary	\$439.00

Have made 203 visits to the sick and delivered 10 special messages. One League and both churches have Sunday Schools.

C. B. Thompson

Sermons preached	219
Churches pastored	6
Names of Churches—North Zulch, Kurten, Kieth, Edge, Cross and Plain-view.	
Revivals held	5
Members received by Baptism	16
Members received otherwise	8
Amount of salary	\$900.25
Collected on same	\$800.00
Funerals conducted	12
Marriages solemnized	5
Collected for Foreign Missions	
Collected for Home Missions	\$8.00
Collected for Education	\$45.00
Collected for other purposes	\$60.00
Collected for incidental expense	\$52.00
Total for all purposes not including salary	\$165.00

Sermon for the graduating class at Iola grade school, Commencement addressed Willow Hole High School. Two churches have C. E. and six have Sunday Schools.

John Swanwick

I have a small report for the past year, helped the pastors from time to time, preached a few sermons and several lectures. Raised about \$230.00 in relief work.

J. L. Bounds

Sermons preached	207
Churches pastored	4 regular and 1 part time
Names of same—Willow Hole, Bright Light and East Texas.	
Revivals held	5, helped in 1
Members received by Baptism	33
Members received otherwise	11
Amount of salary	\$680.00
Collected on same	\$468.38
Funerals conducted	7
Marriages solemnized	1
Home and Foreign Missions	\$189.00
Collected for Education	\$40.00
Collected for other purposes	\$98.54
Collected for incidental expense	\$45.00
Total for all purposes not including salary	\$372.54

Held four services in the homes of sick, two address at school openings, ordained one preacher and three deacons in my churches. Have one League and all churches have Sunday Schools.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This organization shall be called the Central Texas Free Will Baptist Association and shall be composed of such regular organized and well disciplined Free Baptist Quarterly Meetings conveniently located as may embody themselves under this Constitution.

Article 2 The members of this Association shall consist of delegates from the several Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, every Quarterly Meeting containing five hundred members shall be entitled to one delegate for each additional one hundred members or fractional part thereof. Ministers shall be considered as standing members.

Article 3 The officers of this Association shall be a standing clerk and a standing treasurer and a moderator shall be chosen at every session of the Association with such assistance as may be found necessary.

Article 4 Any regularly organized and well regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting composed of such churches as conform to the usages and adopt the doctrine of the Free Will Baptist denomination as published in the "Treatise on the Faith" and are in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time on application by a vote of this association become a member thereof.

Article 5 This Association shall have power to discipline the Quarterly Meeting of which it is composed and to exclude them for disorderly work, if labor with them proves unsuccessful, but in no case to reverse their discussion or to interfere with their internal regulations.

Article 6 The session of this Association shall begin on Thursday at 7 o'clock p. m. before the regular meeting Sunday with church where held in October of each year at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings composing this Association to represent themselves by delegates, and spiritual standing and statistics by letter at which time the Association shall act on questions and topics as may be referred to them by their respective Quarterly Meetings and transact such other business not contrary to this Constitution, or to the usages of the denomination, as in their judgement may promote the cause of Christ, and the interest of the churches and the Quarterly Meetings within the limits of the Association.

Article 7 This Association shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-laws not contrary to the Constitution which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

Article 8 This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the Association at any session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing and recorded at the last previous session.

BY-LAWS

Article 1 Each session of the Association 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 setting of this Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Article 3 This Association hold correspondence by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies as it may deem advisable.

Article 4 Conference shall set with open doors except when it may go into committee of the whole.

Article 5 Any person not of this conference may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the conference.

Article 6 It shall be the duty of the standing clerk to furnish each session of the Association with a book of records, containing the doing of its previous session.

Article 7 The Conference may determine the time when its daily session convene and close.

Article 8 It shall be the duty of all the members of this Association to be present at the time appointed by each daily session and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

Article 9 No member shall absent himself from conference during its session without first obtaining permission from the conference.

Article 10 Each member wishing to speak in conference shall first address the moderator.

Article 11 No person shall be allowed to speak more than the ten minutes at any one time, nor more than twice on any subject without leave of the conference.

Article 12 No debate shall be allowed on any motion except the same be submitted in writing and seconded by a member of the conference.

Article 13 No whispering shall be allowed in conference without leave of the moderator, but all member shall pay strict attention to the business of conference.

Article 14 No member shall be allowed to nominate more than one person or member on any committee provided the one nominated be elected.

Article 15 The Constitution and By-Laws of this conference shall be read at each session, near its commencement.

ARTICLE OF FAITH

1. The Bible. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. God. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the 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.

3. 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 Saviour and Lord.

4. The Holy Spirit. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. The Work of Christ. The Son of God by his incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. The Terms of Salvation. The conditions of salvation are 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self 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 dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. 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.

10. Freedom of the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. 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.

12. Preserverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances. Baptism, or the immersion 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.

14. 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.

15. Resurrection, Judgement 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 judgement; 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 appearance 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 bond 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 the 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 Sabbath schools, and evangelistic efforts for 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.

