

Lowell Martin

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CENTRAL WESTERN MISSOURI
ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1948

Held With
MT. OLIVE (Neola) F. W. B. CHURCH
Near Greenfield, Missouri

Beginning

Wednesday Night, August 18, 1948

The next annual session of this Association will be held with Independence Church near Stockton, Missouri beginning on Tuesday night before the Fourth Sunday in August, 1949.

Eld. Arlie Hoover to preach the Introductory Message;
Eld. Lowell Martin, Alternate.

Eld. Alice Dickey to preach the Introductory sermon of the Ministers' Conference; Eld. Marie Hyatt, Alternate.

CENTRAL WESTERN MISSOURI ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OFFICERS

Moderator	John Bough
Assistant Moderator	Harold Hoover
Clerk-Treasurer	Thora Arbogast
Assistant Clerk	Rosalie Nutting
Statistician	Lloyd Jeffreys

EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION BOARD

Deacon Willie Bowman	1953
Deacon John Bough	1952
Eld. Lloyd T. Jeffreys	1951
Deacon Ottis Martin	1950
Elder Arlie Hoover	1949

CHURCH CLERKS

Hannon	Zola Truskett, Liberal, Mo.
Mt. Olive	Jewell Maberry, Greenfield, Mo.
Independence	A. B. Whistance, Stockton, Mo.
Wagoner	Fay Marshall, Stockton, Mo.
Verdella	Anna Mae Davis, Iantha, Mo.
Hickory Grove	Pauline Warren, Archie, Mo.

CHURCH PASTORS

Hannon	Rev. Cecil Campbell, Wheaton, Mo.
Mt. Olive	Rev. Winford Davis, Monett, Mo.
Independence	Rev. Opal Jeffreys, Lockwood, Mo.
Wagoner	Rev. Cecil Campbell, Wheaton, Mo.
Verdella	Rev. Lowell Martin, Greenfield, Mo.
Hickory Grove	Rev. Alice Dickey, Kansas City, Mo.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday Night Service

The eleventh annual session was called to order on Tuesday night, August 17, 1948 by Rev. Lloyd T. Jeffreys.

Congregational singing and prayer by Bro. Preston Cross.

Message, "The Essential Christ," John 15:5, by Rev. Lowell Martin.

Benediction by Rev. Opal Jeffreys.

Wednesday Morning Session

Congregational singing led by Rev. Lowell Martin.

Prayer by Rev. R. L. Nutting.

Devotional, II Cor. 6, by Rev. Roena Thomas.

House was called to order for business by Bro. John Bough in the absence of both the president and vice president.

Constitution and By-Laws read by Rev. Arlie Hoover.

Officers elected for 1948-49:

President Rev. Lowell Martin

Vice President Rev. Harold Hoover

Secretary-Treasurer Thora Arbogast

Intoductory speaker for message in 1949, Rev. Alice Dickey with Rev. Harie Hyatt as Alternate.

Introduction of topic for discussion, "The Field of the Church", by President.

First topic, "Surveying the field", Rev. R. L. Nutting.

Benedictition by Sis. Arbogast.

Eleven O'clock Service

Congregational singing led by Rev. Lowell Martin.

Message by Rev. B. F. Brown on Rom. 8.

Benediction by Bro. Albert Whistance.

Wednesday Afternoon Session

Congregational singing led by Sis. Mary Wade.

Second topic, "Broadcasting the Seed," Rev. Arlie Hoover.

Third topic, "Invading the Field," by Rev. Roena Thomas.

Fourth topic, "Extending the Field," Rev. Lowell Martin.

An offering of \$8.78 was taken to defray necessary ex-

penses.

Motion carried to give \$3.00 on printing of the minutes.

Motion carried to give \$2.50 on printing of programs for 1949 session.

Motion carried to give officers the privilege of spending the remaining \$3.28 at their discretion as a valid need arises.

Minutes read and approved.

Motion carried to adjourn until call to session by President for further business.

Song, Jesus Saves.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Article 1.

This organization shall be known as the Ministers' Conference of the Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article 2.

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify the Ministry and their work in the Central Western Missouri Association.

Article 3.

The Ministers' Conference shall consist of ordained and licensed ministers in good standing.

Article 4.

Representation to the Ministers' Conference is to be standing delegates of this Association.

Article 5.

A free will offering is to be taken during each session of this Ministers' Conference which is to be used to defray the expense of this organization.

Article 6.

The officers of the Ministers' Conference shall consist of a president, vice president and secretary-treasurer each which shall be elected at the beginning of each regular session.

Section 2 The Program Committee shall be composed of the above officers whose duty it shall be to prepare the program of the Ministers' Conference for the ensuing year.

Article 7.

The Ministers' Conference shall hold its regular ses-

ssion annually during the time of the setting of the Central Western Missouri Association.

Article 8.

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Ministers' Conference by a two-thirds vote of members present.

DISTRICT LEAGUE PROCEEDINGS

The eighth annual session was called to order by Sis. Izola Zellmer in absence of league officers.

Devotional, Psalms 24, by Sis. Nowella Barton.

Motion carried to give every delegate and leaguer voting power.

Officers elected for 1948-49:

President Bro. Preston Cross
Vice President Sis. Izola Zellmer
Secretary-Treasurer Sis. Iva Jones
Thora Arbogast elected Secretary pro tem to take minutes of session.

Field Worker elected for the coming year, Rev. Opal Jeffreys.

Delegate elected to represent at the State League convention in 1949, Bro. Billy Barton.

Written and verbal reports from three district leagues read and accepted.

Motion carried to divide all money coming into the League Treasury giving half to the State Convention and half on the printing of minutes.

Motion carried to charge officers with the responsibility of a program for 1949 session.

Talks on 1948 Youth Encampment by Thora Arbogast.

Discussion of same by others.

Motion carried to adjourn until 1949 session.

League Field Worker's Report

We went to Verdella Free Will Baptist Church September 1, 1947 for the purpose of organizing a league there. Election of officers was held and Sis. Rosalie Nutting elected as President. There were fourteen charter members and Free Will Baptist League Literature was placed in the hands of the organization.

While in a revival effort with the Hickory Grove

Church, I visited their league October 28, 1947. It has been organized for quite some time, and was still carrying on very faithfully with Junior Shipley as President.

On May 2, 1948 I visited Independence League, and they, too, were carrying on faithfully. I was greatly impressed with the large group of young people, and the great opportunity that lies ahead for the church as well as the League. Sis. Novella Barton was at that time President.

Your League Field Worker,
Rev. Opal E. Jeffreys

ASSOCIATIONAL PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday Night Service

The Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists met in its fortieth annual session at the Mt. Olive (Neola) Church, Greenfield, Missouri, August 18, 1948 at 8:00 p.m.

House called to order by Vice President, Rev. Harold Hoover.

Congregational singing led by Rev. Winford Davis.

Prayer by Bro. J. K. Stephens.

Special song numbers by the Highway 39 singing class were rendered and enjoyed very much.

Prayer by Rev. Roena Thomas.

Solo, The Love of God, by Rev. Harold Hoover.

Message, "What if Christ should come to this Community," Luke 19:1-10, by Rev. Opal Jeffreys.

Moderator appointed a Committee on Committees as follows: Arlie Hoover, A. B. Whisance, J. K. Stephens, Lowell Martin and Izola Zellmer.

Benediction by Ed Wade.

Thursday Morning Session

Congregational singing led by Sis. Mary Wade.

Devotional by Rosalie Nutting.

Prayer by Bro. Orville Foger.

House called to order by Clerk, quorum declared present for transaction of business, and Moderator called to chair.

Constitution and By-Laws read by Bro. Joe Cockrell.

Church letters read, received, and delegates seated.

Officers elected for 1948-49:

Moderator Dea. John Bough
Ass't. Moderator Rev. Harold Hoover
Clerk-Treasurer Thora Arbogast
Ass't. Clerk Rosalie Nutting
Statistician Rev. Lloyd T. Jeffreys
Executive Board member, Dea. Willie Bowman.

Motion carried to give Bro. L. C. Wade who is retiring from the Board after many years of valuable service a standing vote of thanks for his untiring efforts in behalf of the cause of the Lord in the Associational work. ..

Report of the Committee on Committees read and accepted.

Motion carried to meet with Independence Church for the 1949 session.

Introductory speaker for 1949 session, Rev. Arlie Hoover, with Rev. Lowell Martin, Alternate.

Motion carried to invite visiting brethren to seats in council.

Delegates elected to represent at State Association: Ruby Smith, Jean Williams, Joe Cockrell, Theo Bough, Ora Maberry, and Charlie Miller.

Motion carried to empower delegates to appoint alternates if necessary.

Motion carried to recommend Thora Arbogast to the State Association as a delegate to the National Association representing the Central Western Association.

Report of Statistician read and accepted.

Letter from Mt. Olive Church read and accepted.

Motion carried to receive report of the Executive Board.

Motion carried to adjourn until call of Moderator.

Eleven O'clock Service

Hymns led by Rev. Lowell Martin.

Prayer by Rev. Lloyd T. Jeffreys.

Message, "Power of the Spirit," Acts 1:1-8, by Rev. Roena Thomas.

Singing and handshake of fellowship.

Thursday Afternoon Session

Congregational singing led by Rev. Winford Davis.

Duet, Dee and Jean Sell.

Devotional by Jean Sell.

Moderator called house to order and business was resumed.

Motion carried to accept report of Obituary Committee.

Motion carried to accept report of the Sunday School Committee.

Motion carried to receive report of Committee on Publications.

Motion carried to receive report of Committee on Ministerial Standing.

Motion carried to accept the report of the Committee on Chirstian Education.

Motion carried to receive report of Business Committee to be adopted item by item.

Motion carried to adopt Item No. 1 of Business Committee.

Motion carried to adopt Item No. 2 of Business Committee.

Motion carried for Moderator of Association temporarily to give time for the President of the Ministers' Conference to call a session in order to comply with Item No. 2 of Business Committee's report.

Motion carried to adopt Item No. 3 of Business Committee.

Motion carried to adopt Item No. 4 of Business Committee.

Motion carried to adopt Item No. 5 of Business Committee.

Standing vote of thanks was given Mt. Olive Church and community for hospitality shown in entertainment of the Association.

Motion carried to receive report of Committee on Foreign Missions.

Motion carried to accept report of Home Mission Committee.

Motion carried to receive report of Temperance Committee.

Motion carried to accept report of League Field Worker to be carried in the minutes with League Proceedings.

Motion carried to charge Clerk with having programs printed according to the new arrangement advanced by the Business Committee and accepted by the Association, and that they be mailed out to each church before their yearly business meeting.

Motion carried to accept minutes with necessary corrections.

Motion carried to adjourn until call of Moderator at the evening service.

Thursday Night Service

Hymn singing led by Sis. Alta Maberry.

Prayer, Rev. Callie Achord.

Message, "Sowing the Gospel," Eccl. 11, by Rev. Winford Davis.

At the conclusion of message an opportunity was given to give to Foreign Mission work, and an offering amounting to \$42.62 was given, also quite a number pledged themselves at an altar of consecration, to the cause of evangelism on foreign fields.

Moderator called for motion for adjournment until 1949 session. Motion carried to adjourn.

Benediction by Bro. Preston Cross.

REPORTS

Christian Education—

Knowing the need of training our children and young people to successfully combat the evils of our day, we wish to recommend:

1. That our churches cooperate with plans as set forth in the Expansion Program of our Free Will Baptist Bible College.

2. That every church within our Association sponsor and encourage a Daily Vacation Bible School.

3. That all our people get back of our Youth Encampment in every way possible, and encourage our youth in attending the camp session each summer.

4. That the Bible be read in every Free Will Baptist home, and that we also make use of the books and booklets prepared by our Free Will Baptist authors as part of our educational program.

Committee:

Mary Wade

Mary Peck

Mary Cross

Temperance—

We, your committee, wish to submit the following report:

1. We recommend that we, as a denomination, discourage the advertising of alcoholic drinks in our local publications.

We recommend that our Sunday School teachers be instructed to make more of Temperance Sunday by stress.

ing the evils of strong drink.

We recommend that as far as possible we refuse to patronize places of business that sell liquor. We consider this to include cafes, restaurants, drug stores, grocery stores, and all others having alcoholic beverages for sale.

4. We request our ministry to devote more messages each year to the subject of intoxicating drinks and their effects.

Committee:

Lloyd T. Jeffreys
O. E. Maberry
Vera Hoover

Ministerial Standing—

We, your committee, wish to report on ministers' standing thus:

We recommend that annual certificates be given the following: R. L. Nutting, C. I. Joy, Lowell Martin, Harold Hoover, Lloyd Jeffreys, Roena Thomas, H. S. Ford, Callie Achord, Alice Dickey, and three Superannuated ministers: Edith Mayfield, J. T. Williams, and C. R. Dick.

Committee:

J. K. Stephens
Otis Martin
Orville Foger
A. B. Whistance
J. E. Cockrell

Home Missions—

We, your committee, believing the work begun in Kansas City presents a field worthy of our cooperation, we wish to submit the following:

1. We recommend that all money coming into the Home Mission Treasury during the ensuing year be contributed quarterly to the support of said work, providing that if the effort fall through, any unspent part of it be returned to the Home Mission Board.

2. We recommend that our churches take up a regular Home Mission offering each month.

Committee:

R. L. Nutting
Mrs. J. E. Cockrell
Mrs. Martha Ricketts

Business—

We, your committee, recommend the following:

1. That the name of Central Western Missouri and Southeastern Kansas Association be changed to Central Western Missouri Association.

2. That at this time we give the President of the Ministers' Conference opportunity to call the conference into business session in order that the articles of their constitution may be altered to comply with this change in name.

3. That the usual order of procedure of the association be changed thus: Introductory Sermon, Tuesday night; appointment of Committee on Committees, Tuesday night; election of officers, Wednesday morning; eleven o'clock, Introductory Message of the Ministers' Conference, Wednesday afternoon; League session, Thursday morning; completion of business of the Association, Thursday Afternoon

4. That the Executive Board be charged with the responsibility of revising section 2 of Article 5 of the Constitution and By-Law 14 in order to remove conflicting statements.

5. We wish to thank the Mt. Olive Church and community for the hospitality shown in entertaining this Association.

Committee: —

J. K. Stephens

IZola Zelmer

Archie Hoover

A. B. Whistance

Lowell Martin

Obituary—

We, your committee, wish to submit the following report:

Since our Heavenly Father has seen fit to call home some of our beloved members, we bow in submission, and extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families of those who have gone from us and point them to the Great Comforter.

Committee:

Lois Davis

Novella Barton

G. E. Wade

Foreign Missions—

We, your committee, submit the following:

1. Due to the increased demands on our National Foreign Mission Treasury, we urge an increase in financial support wherever at all possible.

2. We ask that consideration be given the plan as set forth for the support of our Cuban students.

3. We recommend that special prayer be offered sometime during this Association for all our missionaries, both American and native, and especially for those now on the waters enroute to India.

4. We recommend that each church cooperate fully toward the raising of our state quota, which is \$7,250.00 plus \$180.93 carried over from last year.

Committee:

Mary Wade

Winford Davis

Jean Sell

Sunday School—

We, your committee, wish to submit the following:

1. We recommend that our officers and teachers be consecrated Christians.

2. We recommend that special prayer be made as classes open for study.

3. We recommend that where practical our literature be used, and as far as possible, we live up to the standard of our National Sunday School work.

4. We recommend that our church people, and pastors, attend Sunday School as much as possible.

5. We recommend that all students in the class be encouraged by the teachers to express their own views and ideas.

6. We recommend that teachers of classes for smaller children be prepared to tell Bible stories in connection with the lesson.

Committee:

Ramona Bough

Myrle York

Rosalie Nutting

Publications—

We, as your committee on publication, wish to submit the following report:

1. We recommend that Free Will Baptist Sunday school and League literature be used in all our churches.

2. We recommend that each home support the Gem with subscriptions and with financial help to care for the pressing need for better equipment.

3. We recommend the Free Will Baptist Missionary Review, as subscriptions help support the Foreign Mission program.

4. We recommend that the Bible be read daily in every Free Will Baptist Home, and also good books suggested by the Gem paper.

Committee:

Doyen Glenn

Roena Thomas

Opal Jeffreys

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Roena Thomas—

Due to my physical handicaps, I have been able to do

very little in the ministry the past year, but am trying to be resigned to His will. I have supplied for other pastors two or three times, conducted nine funerals, and performed one marriage ceremony. I have taught a Sunday School class during the past year in my home church. I have received love offerings amounting to \$62.50 for my services rendered.

Lloyd T. Jeffreys—

I have pastored one church, preached 17 sermons, assisted in 2 funerals, traveled 1,339 miles, and received \$71.00.

Arlie Hoover—

I have been inactive in ministerial work, active in Sunday School work, and hope to be of more service in the coming year.

R. L. Nutting—

During the past year I have tried to advance the Lord's work to the best of my ability, but have not had much opportunity to do preaching. I have preached 60 sermons, taught a men's class in Sunday School, been active in prayer services, and traveled about 400 miles.

Callie Achord—

I'm happy to say I have been trying in my weak way to carry the message of the Lord. I have preached at 4 different churches, witnessed the salvation of 6 souls, 2 coming back to the Lord, preached 4 funerals, and have witnessed the blessing of the Lord on our services more than any other time since I've been in the ministry. I haven't held any meetings as my health would not permit that.

Harold Hoover—

I humbly submit this report of my work: I have preached 38 sermons, 1 funeral, conducted several services by means of religious slides, traveled 1300 miles, and received \$185.25. I am expecting to fill appointments 3 Sundays a month the coming year, with no appointment at present for the second Sunday.

Lowell Martin—

I pastored 3 churches, preached 71 sermons, witnessed 4 professions, traveled 2,593 miles, and received \$339.25.

Alice Dickey—

I beg to submit the following report: I pastored 1 church half-time for 8 months, traveled approximately 4,000 miles, brought 44 messages, officiated at 3 funerals,

witnessed 3 conversions, and received \$260.00. I ask an interest in your prayers.

H. S. Ford—

I have preached 114 sermons, witnessed 11 professions, conducted 11 funerals, performed 1 marriage, made many sick calls, received \$529.37 in money and many other gifts, pastored 1 church full time, and the Lord's blessing has rested upon the work in such a way that we have a building almost completed. We have been having services in the building since the Second Sunday in May. We desire an interest in your prayers that we may be faithful to our calling.

C. I. Joy—

We are very thankful for the many blessings God has showered upon us through the past year. We find a very needy field in this state and have done much personal work. We have preached in several churches out here, held one revival at Albany, and have seen ten souls weep their way to the cross. It is very hard to find a building in which to hold services. We have recently moved here to Florence, and feel God has a work for us here. Pray that God may show us His will in opening a work. May God bless you one and all.

FIANCIAL REPORT

Budget Received:

Hannon	\$ 6.50
Mt. Olive	10.00
Independence	4.85
Hickory Grove	4.35
Verdella	7.00
Wagoner	4.00
Total Budget	\$36.70

Clerk Hire:

Hannon	\$ 1.25
Mt. Olive	1.25
Independence	2.00
Hickory Grove	1.50
Verdella	1.25
Wagoner	1.00

Total Clerk Hire	\$ 8.25
Ministers' Conference	\$ 3.00
District League	1.50
Total	\$ 4.50

Total Receipts	\$49.45
Amount brought forward	7.00
Grand Total	\$56.45
Disbursements:	
Half of budget to state Treasurer	\$18.35
Clerk Expenses	8.25
Total Disbursements	\$ 26.60
Balance in Treasury	\$29.85

CONSTITUTION

Article 1

This body shall be known as the Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists, and shall be composed of such consistent, well regulated Free Will Baptist churches as shall from time to time unite with the body and agree to its Constitution.

Article 2

The acting members of this Association shall be such as are chosen by the several churches of which it is composed. Each church being entitled to one delegate, and each church having twenty-five (25) resident members two delegates, and one delegate for each additional twenty-five resident members, or major part thereof, together with all ordained deacons, ordained and licensed ministers, and their companions who are in good standing with the Free Will Baptist Church and church clerks of the several churches composing this Association.

Sec. A resident member shall be a member in good standing who discharges his or her obligations to the church, and who resides near enough to attend church services or who resides at a distance, but discharges his or her obligations to the church, unless feeble minded or invalids. All other members shall be considered non-resident members.

Article 3

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk and Treasurer, all of said officers to be elected annually at the regular session of the Association, and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.

Article 4

This Association shall elect a board of five members, two of them shall be ministers. This board shall be called

the Home Mission and Executive Board of this Association. One member of this board shall be elected to hold office for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for five years. After the first election, one member shall be elected each year and hold office for five years or until his successor is elected. This board shall have charge of the Association when it is not in session.

Sec. 2. The Home Mission Board of this Association shall be Trustees of the Association, and shall have charge of its property.

Article 5

This Association shall meet annually at such time and place as shall meet with the approval of the Association, and it shall be the duty of the churches of which it is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates.

Article 6

This Constitution may be altered or amended by vote at any regular session of the Association, notice of such intended change having been in writing not less than three months before such change shall be voted on to the Executive Board.

BY-LAWS

1. Each annual session of this Association shall be called to order by the Clerk or in his absence, the Assistant Clerk and in his absence, the standing member having seniority in years of service. After the clerk or the one calling the assembly to order, shall declare a quorum, he or she shall call the Moderator to the chair, or in his or her absence the standing member having seniority in years of service.

2. Each session of this Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3. Five (5) delegates from three (3) or more churches shall constitute a quorum to transact business for the Association, but any less number may adjourn from time to time.

4. A member wishing to speak in conference shall arise and address the Moderator, and shall be recognized by him, and shall not be allowed to speak longer than five minutes nor more than twice on the same subject without consent of the conference.

5. New churches may be admitted to this Association by a majority vote of the Association.

6. The yeas and nays may be taken on any question when requested by one-third of the members present.

7. A Committee of five laymembers, delegates present at the Association, shall be elected to look into the standing of the ministry of the Association and shall report to the Association before it adjourns for approval.

8. No one shall be ordained to the ministry in this Association until they have carried minister's license at least one year and must receive a call to pastor some church or be active in evangelistic efforts. The call for ordination must come from the church that called him or her to pastor it or from the church in which he or she holds membership.

9. All committees or a Committee on Committees shall be appointed by the Moderator or Assistant Moderator, unless otherwise provided for by the Association.

10. Whenever practicable, all business of importance coming before the local churches shall be decided by secret ballot, a majority vote shall decide.

11. It shall be the duty of the churches of this Association to collect during the month of July each year, a sum of money not less than ten cents (10c) per member, to comply with the Budget System enacted by the Missouri State Association, and all money collected to be turned over to the Treasurer of this Association who shall send half to the Treasurer of the State Association. It shall be the pastor's duty to see that this budget of ten cents per member is collected and turned in so it will be on hand for associational expenses.

12. It shall be the duty of the ministers and the churches of this Association to try to work in harmony with the Home Mission Board of this Association.

13. A request from the church that a brother or sister be examined for license or ordination to preach the Gospel shall not mean that he or she shall be licensed or ordained, but that a council be appointed to examine him or her and if after examination, the council thinks best, he or she may be licensed or ordained.

14. Each minister belonging to this Association shall be required to make a report in person at least once in every three years. Otherwise his or her name shall be dropped from the minutes.

15. It shall be the duty of each church of this Association to have its pastoral year end with the annual session of the Associationⁿ and to hold its annual business meeting before the Association meets each year.

16. When a church fails to report to the Association, its last report shall be carried in the minutes.

17. All old, afflicted ministers, who so desire, may be enrolled on a superannuated list, and not be required to report to the Association in order to receive an Annual Certificate of Ministerial Standing.

18. It shall be the duty of the ministers belonging to this Association to present their ordination papers to the Clerk that a correct copy can be secured and become a part of our permanent record for a future reference.

19. No one shall be licensed or ordained to preach the gospel who is a user of tobacco.

20. These By-Laws may be amended at any session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES 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.

II Timothy 3:16.

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 Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

I Cor. 8:6; Matt. 28:19.

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.

St. John 1:1-12.

4. The Holy Spirit—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

St. John 16:7,8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:46.

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.

Psalms 22:28; 97:2.

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

(Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

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 through faith.

I John 2: 2.

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 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 dominion of sin and becomes a child of God; 3. Continued faith and obedience until death.

II Cor. 7:10; Pro. 28:13.

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.

I Tim. 2:4

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.

Joshua 24:15.

11. Salvation Free—God desires the salvation of all; the Gospel invites all; and the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

Rev. 22:17.

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

St. John 15:6; II Peter 2:20-22.

13. Gospel Ordinances—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing an or-

dinance teaching humility of universal obligation and to be administered to all true believers.

Mark 16:15; II Cor. 4:5; St. John 13:14.

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 personal communion with God.

Gen. 2:3; Exod. 20:8-11.

15. War—War destroys the lives of the innocent, and is contrary to the New Testament, therefore we are opposed to war.

16. 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 evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

John 5:29; Matt. 25:46.

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 reverence 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 in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ".

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, 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 en-

deavoring to keep the unity of 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 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 and the success of Sunday 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.

STATISTICAL REPORT

	Hickory Grove	Verdella	Mt. Olive	Independence	Wagoner	Hannon
Value of Church Property	\$1,000.00	\$	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Paid Pastor	191.37	495.00	249.87	240.00	380.00	
Paid Evangelist		75.00	54.65	85.00		
Paid for Publications	28.90	25.00	52.00	35.00	70.00	
Paid for Incidentals		40.00	52.75	20.40	162.32	
Paid for Foreign Missions	182.00	350.00	89.05	50.67	60.00	
Paid for Home Missions		125.00			152.38	
Paid for Christian Education	23.40	15.00	83.75			
Paid Orphanage				18.22		
Church Membership	30	104	115	70	110	160
Sunday School Membership		37	40	50	30	60
League Membership		20		14	25	
Prayer Meetings		1		1	1	
Unified Fund				46.74		
Ordained Ministers			4	1	1	
Licensed Ministers			1	1	1	5