

MINUTES
OF THE
Eighty-Third Annual Session
OF THE
CHATTAHOOCHEE
United Free-Will Baptist
ASSOCIATION

CONVENED WITH
MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH
Taylor County, Georgia.

Commencing on Thursday Night Before the First
Sunday in October, 1918.

OFFICERS:

REV. A. J. PARKER, Moderator, - - - - - Mauk, Ga.
REV. W. D. GILL, Clerk, - - - - - Junction City, Ga.

The Next Session Will Meet With Spring Hill, Marion County,
Georgia, Commencing on Thursday Night Before the First
Sunday in October 1919.

HERALD PRINT, BUTLER, GA.
December, 1918

MINUTES

The Eighty-third annual session of the Chattahoochee United Freewill Baptist Association convened with Mt Olive church, Taylor county, Georgia, commencing on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October 1819. The introductory sermon was preached Friday at 11 o'clock a. m. by Rev. J. J. Jones. After an intermission of two hours for refreshments the body was called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. A. J. Parker. Next invited visiting brethren to seats with us in the body. The next business in order was a call for Corresponding Letters and received Letters from fourteen churches in the Association. On motion of the body Revs. J. L. Whitley and H. L. Lumpkin were appointed to read the Letters, which duty they performed and the names of Delegates were enrolled. The body was then permanently organized by electing Rev. A. J. Parker Moderator and Rev. W. D. Gill Clerk. Next called for Petitionary Letters and received letters from Providence church, Muscogee county, and Bethel church, Worth county. Next called for Corresponding Messengers and received Revs. B. O. Brown and J. D. Little from Little River association. Next appointed the various committees. On preaching: Bros. G. B. Windham, T. F. Hendricks, J. M. Youngblood, B. C. Cooper, J. S. Bloodworth. On State of the Churches and Character of the Ministry: John Watson, T. V. Simmons, J. H. Little, W. T. McBride, James Daniel. On Finance: S. N. Little, W. R. Lawhorn, W. M. Shearly, Lula Moore. On Sabbath Schools: Sister Lokie Rogers, G. C. King, A. R. Lawhorn. On Temperance: W. J. Lumpkin, W. T. Lovick, J. H. Burdshaw, J. V. Klusser, R. L. Burnett, J. J. Jones. On motion the body adjourned until Saturday morning at eight-thirty o'clock.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Saturday morning at eight-thirty o'clock the body met according to adjournment after singing and prayer by Rev. S. N. Little.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

ON PREACHING.

Friday at 8 p. m. Rev. J. D. Little to preach and Rev. W. T. Grimsley to follow. Saturday at 11 a. m. Rev. W. M. Shearly to preach, Rev. R. L. Burnett to follow. Saturday at 8 p. m. Rev. E. C. Grimsley to preach, Rev. B. O. Brown to follow. Sunday at 9 a. m. Rev. W. H. Holmes to preach, Rev. W. C. Jones to follow. Sunday at 11 a. m. Rev. A. J. Parker to preach at the church and Rev. W. J. Lumpkin to preach at the school-house.

T. F. HENDRICK, Chairman.

2 Chattahoochee United Freewill Baptist Association

ON TEMPERANCE.

We recommend that our people not only abstain from strong drink, but in every thing and especially with money as many a man will lose his soul through the power of money if he does not use it to the glory of God.

REV. J. V. KLOSSER, Chairman.

ON STATE OF THE CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF THE MINISTRY.

We find all the churches and ministers in good standing. We ask that J. W. Culiver's name be stricken from the roll.

J.H.LITTLE, Chairman.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We find at present a good many Sabbath schools in our churches. We insist that the parents and pastors put forth their best efforts and help carry on more and better Sabbath schools in the Association. We insist that parents don't send their children, but that they go and carry them and help to do more work for God in the future than they ever have in the past.

SISTER LOKIE ROGERS, Chairman.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Appointed Corresponding Messengers to our sister associations as follows: To the Little River, Revs. R. L. Burnett, W. R. Lawhorn; to the Georgia Union, Revs. E. C. Grimsley, A. J. Parker; to the South Georgia, Rev. D. E. Green; to the Martin, Revs. J. J. Jones, A. J. Parker.

Next agreed to have the proceedings of the Union meetings and the Preachers and Deacons' meeting printed in the minutes of this session. Next appointed Revs. A. J. Parker and S. N. Little as delegates to the State convention. Next agreed to have the Circular Letter as read by Rev. W. H. Emerson printed in the minutes of this session.

By motion Rev. A. J. Parker was appointed to write the next Circular Letter to the body. Next agreed that this body meet with Spring Hill church, Marion county, Ga., commencing on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October 1919, the introductory sermon to be preached Friday at 11 o'clock a. m. by Rev W M Shearly, Rev E C Grimsley alternate. Delegates going by railroad will be met at Mauk on the A. B. and A. R. R., and at Geneva Ga., on the Central R. R. on Thursday. By motion the Body adjourned till 2:30 p. m.

ATERNOON SESSION

At 2:30 p. m. the body met according to adjournment singing and prayer by Rev. B. O. Brown. Ordered that the Clerk have 500 copies of the minutes printed and that he be paid \$15.00 for his services. Next agreed to pay the expenses of our Correspondents which was \$14.00. By motion the body returned thanks to the church and community for their kindness and hospitality during our stay with them. After singing and prayer by the Moderator the Association adjourned to meet with Spring Hill church, twelve months hence.

REV. A. J. PARKER, Moderator,
W. D. GILL, Clerk.

OBITUARIES

On the 22nd day of January, 1918, the Lord called Sister Ollie May Smith to the Great Beyond. She was a member of Mount Olive church and a true Christian, and a friend to all. To know her was to love her. Farewell Sister till we meet again.

REV. C. H. MOORE

On the 20th of June, 1918, the death angel visited the home of Bro. John Amersnn and took his wife, Sister Georgia Amerson, to her home on high. She was fifty years old and a member of New Prospect church. She was a true Christian and a loving wife, a kind mother and a friend to all.

REV. C. H. MOORE.

On the morning of July 28th, 1918, the Lord called Sister Linie Posey to her reward. She lived to be 72 years old and a member of New Prospect church, and a true Christian lady, a good mother and a friend to all. Farewell dear Sister till we meet again.

REV. C. H. MOORE.

On August the 1st, 1918 the death angel visited the home of Rev. J. M. Posey and took Brother Posey to the Great Beyond. He was about 66 years of age. Had been a minister of the Gospel for 50 years and a true Christian. Farewell dear Brother till meet again.

REV. C. H. MOORE.

On September 20th, 1918, the death angel came to the home of Brother Turner and claimed his companion. She was about 71 years old and had been a member of New Prospect church for 25 years. She lived a true Christian life. She leaves to mourn her loss a husband and four children. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

REV. C. H. MOORE.

Departed this life on the 21st day of May, 1918, Sister Adline Mathews, at her home at Potterville. She was 61 years old and a member of Mount Olive church. She was a Christian lady and a good mother and a loving wife, and a friend to all, but our loss is Heaven's gain.

A precious one from us is gone,

A voice we love is still;

A place is vacant in her home,

That never can be filled.

REV. C. H. MOORE.

On the night of March 17th, 1918, the death angel visited the home of G. W. Mathews and took Brother Mathews to the Great Beyond. He was a member of Mount Olive church and had been a member for about 25 years. He was 63 years of age. Sleep on dear Brother till we meet again.

REV. C. H. MOORE.

On the morning of July the 1st, 1918, the death angel came to the home of J. J. Blair and claimed Brother Blair for its own. He was a member of Mt. Olive church and a Deacon. He leaves to mourn for him a wife and 15 children and a host of friends. He was 66 years of age.

REV. C. H. MOORE.

4 Chattahoochee United Freewill Baptist Association

Departed this life December 29th, 1917, Sister Mattie Foster. She was born September 9th, 1874, making her stay on earth 43 years, 2 months and 20 days. She leaves a husband and one daughter, one brother and one sister and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her loss. She was a member of New Life church. She made a devoted wife, a loving mother and was loyal to her church. We feel a great loss, yet we feel our loss is Heaven's gain. REV. E. C. GRIMSLEY.

Departed this life March the 22nd, 1918, Sister Emma Ozella Youngblood. She was born October the 1st, 1897, making her days on earth 21 years, 5 months and 22 days. She leaves a husband, mother, four brothers, one sister and a host of friends to mourn their loss. The church feel a great loss, yet we feel our loss is Heaven's gain. She was a member of Bethony church. REV. E. C. GRIMSLEY.

Departed this life February the 19th, 1918, Sister Sallie Watson. She was born August the 15th, 1840. She was a member of Trinity church, Taylor county, Ga. She leaves one daughter and two brothers and a host of friends to mourn her loss, yet we think our loss is Heaven's gain. So farewell Sister until we meet again.

Beneath the tomb our sister sleeps,
While a loving daughter for her weeps;
Yet the name of Jesus we adore,
Till we meet on the other shore.

REV. E. C. GRIMSLEY.

Departed this life January the 6th, 1918 Brother Z. D. Gill. He was a consistant member of Trinity church and lived a devoted Christian life. To know him was to love him. Though he suffered intense pain for two years he bore it with all the fortitude of a Christian. Though the fearful clouds of affliction loomed up before him he feared not for his trust was in God, who had conquered all for His son.

Servant of God well done,
Rest from they loyed employ,
The battle's fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy,
Among the sights that greet our eyes
When we shall wake in paradise
We there will geet our Brother Dear
And with him Canaan's glory share
Will clasp his hand, ah, yes again
And sing with him Heaven's sweet refrain
Will dwell with him in mansions bright
In God's Eternal Home of Light.

CLERK.

PROCEEDINGS OF UNION MEETINGS.

The Union meeting of the Second District met with Trinity church, Taylor county, Ga., commencing on Friday night before the fourth Sunday in July, 1918. The introductory sermon was preached Saturday at 11 o'clock a. m. by Rev. B. F. Green. After an intermission of one hour for refreshments the body was called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. E. C. Grimsley. Next called for Corresponding Letters and received Letters from four churches. By motion Bros. Frank Walles and S. R. Rawhorn were appointed to read the Letters. The body then permanently organized by electing Rev. E. C. Grimsley Moderator and Rev. B. F. Green Clerk. Next appointed the various committees. Next called for Correspondence and received Rev. J. J. Jones and M. E. Gill from the First District. Next appointed Rev. Thomas Grimsley as Correspondent to the First District. By motion it was agreed that this body meet with New Life church, Marion county, Ga., commencing on Friday night before the Third Sunday in July 1919, Rev. E. C. Grimsley to preach the introductory sermon Saturday at 11 a. m. Delegates going by railroad will be met at Mauk, Ga., on Friday.

REV. E. C. GRIMSLEY, Moderator
REV. B. F. GREEN, Clerk

The First District Union meeting convened with Pleasant Hill church, Schley county, Ga., commencing on Friday night before the First Sunday in August, 1918, the introductory sermon was preached Saturday at 11 o'clock a. m. by Rev. J. J. Jones. After an intermission of 90 minutes for refreshments the body was called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. J. J. Jones. The former clerk was present. Next called for Corresponding Letters and received Letters from five church. The body was then permanently organized by electing Rev. J. J. Jones Moderator and Rev. J. M. Culpepper Clerk. Next appointed the various committees. Next called for Correspondence and received Revs. T. Grimsley and B. F. Green from the Second District. Next agreed that this body meet with Turner's Chapel church, Taylor county, Ga., commencing on Friday night before the fourth Sunday in July 1919, Rev. W. R. Lawhorn to preach the introductory sermon Saturday at 11 o'clock a. m., Rev. O. C. Bridges alternate. Delegates will be met at Butler, Ga., on Friday.

REV. J. J. JONES, Moderator
REV. J. M. CULPEPPER, Clerk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

G. D. Perry, Ideal, Ga.; A. R. Lawhorn, Butler, Ga.; James Daniel, Mauk, Ga.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS MEETING.

According to appointment the Ministers and Deacons meeting assembled with Beulah church on Friday night before the Fifth Sunday in March 1918.

Preaching Friday night by Rev. A. J. Parker. Saturday at 11 o'clock Rev. E. C. Grimsley preached the introductory sermon.

Dinner was served on the grounds.

6 Chattahoochee United Freewill Baptist Association

The meeting was called to order by Rev. A. J. Parker, former Moderator.

List of churches called and five churches were represented by ministers and deacons as follows:

Little Bethel—Rev. A. J. Parker, pastor; Ministers, J. J. Jones and D. E. Green; Deacons, G. D. Perry.

Beulah—Rev. J. J. Jones, pastor; Minister, W. R. Lawhorn; Deacons, A. L. Lane and A. R. Lawhorn.

Pleasant Hill—Rev. O. C. Bridges, pastor; Deacons, S. A. Cromer and J. T. Guy.

Trinity—Rev. E. C. Grimsley, pastor; Deacons, A. S. Waller and John Watson.

Turner's Chapel—Deacons, J. H. Dunlap and L. J. Wainwright
Rev. E. C. Grimsley conducted opening service by singing and prayer.

Rev. A. J. Parker was re-elected Moderator and D. E. Green Clerk.

The Moderator appointed a committee on preaching as follows: Brother Alex Waller, Brother A. R. Lawhorn and Brother John Dunlap.

The minutes of the last session were read and the Moderator asked the questions which have been adopted by the preceding session to be asked at each Ministers and Deacons meeting.

QUESTIONS.

1st. What is the spiritual condition of your church If not good why?

2nd. Has your church a pastor? If not why.

3rd. Has your church observed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper regularly? If not, why?

4th. Are there any of the members of your church who are destitute of the necessary comforts of life? If so, what is the cause? Has proper effort been made to relieve them?

6th. Has your church regular prayer meetings?
much has been appropriated to the cause?

5th. How does your church regard the cause of Missions? How

The answers to the foregoing questions show that the spiritual condition in some churches is not as good as we desire. There seems to be a lack of devotion. Some fail to observe the sacrament regularly. The cause seems to be neglect. One church has no pastor because the minister who was chosen was found to be not in good standing. Nothing seems to be done in Mission work. Some churches have no regular prayer meetings. Cause not given.

The committee reported that Rev. D. E. Green preach tonight to be followed by Rev. R. Lawhorn. Sunday at 9 o'clock Rev. J. J. Jones to preach to be followed by Bro. Shep Cromer. Sunday at 11 o'clock Rev. E. C. Grimsley to preach to be followed by Rev. A. J. Parker.

A collection was taken up to aid in printing the minutes of this session in the minutes of the Association. The amount of \$4.00 was raised and \$2.00 paid clerk for services and \$2.00 placed in the Treasury for the Association.

On motion this body requested that these minutes be printed in connection with the minutes of the Association.

The next session of this body will convene with Trinity church

on Friday before the Fifth Sunday in June 1919. Rev. W. R. Lawhorn to preach the introductory sermon on Friday night and business meeting to convene on Saturday at 9 o'clock a. m., Rev. J. J. Jones alternate.

Minutes of the session read and approved.

On motion adjourned to meet at time and place stated.

REV. A. J. PARKER, Moderator

REV. D. E. GREEN, Clerk

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Gateway into the kingdom—"Except a man be born again he cannot enter the kingdom of God."—John 3:3.

Dear Brethren of the old Freewill Baptist Association:

Seeing the great need of the people of our land repenting is why I write on this subject. Now the words of this text are true, and they embody one of the most solemn questions that can come before us. We can afford to be deceived about many things rather than about this one thing. Christ makes it very plain. He says: "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God," much less inherit it. My experience has been this: That if a man is unsound on this doctrine he will be on almost every other fundamental doctrine in the Bible. A true understanding of this subject will help a man to solve a thousand difficulties that he may meet with in the word of God. Things that before seemed very dark and mysterious will become very plain.

"Except a man be born again." Born from above, born of the spirit of God. I ventured to say that that was the most blessed night of all Nicodemus' life to be born again. Because the new way was then opened up to him. The Heavenly way. The way to God.

I think it is scarcely necessary for me to prove that we need to be born again before we are meet for Heaven. I venture to say that there is no candid man but who would say he is not fit for the kingdom of God until he is born of another spirit. The Bible teaches us that man by nature is lost and guilty, and our experience confirms this. We know that the best and holiest man if he turns away from God will very soon fall into sin.

Now, let me say what regeneration is not. It is not going to church. Very often I see people and ask them if they are Christians. Yes, of course I am, at least I think I am. I go to church every Sunday. Oh, but this is not regeneration. Others say: "I am trying to do what is right, am I not a Christian? Is not that a new birth?" No. What has that to do with being born again? There is yet another class, those who have "turned over a new leaf," and think they are regenerated. No, forming a new resolution is not being born again. Nor will being baptized do you any good. Yet you hear people say. "Why, I have been baptized and I was born again when I was baptized." Baptism is all right in its place. But if you put that in the place of regeneration, in the place of the new birth, it is a terrible mistake. You cannot be baptized into the kingdom of God. "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

We all have an Elder Brother there. Nearly two thousand years ago he crossed over, and from the Heavenly shores He is

calling you to Heaven. Let us turn our backs upon the world. Let us give a deaf ear to the world. Let us look to Jesus on the cross and be saved. Then we shall one day see the King in His beauty, and we shall go no more out.

Your brother in Christ,

W. H. EMERSON.

CHURCHES, CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.

Providence, J. M. Tomblin	Columbus, Ga.
New Prospect, A.B. Posey,	Reynolds, Ga.
Spring Hill, W. M. Melton	Mauk, Ga.
Mt. Olive, A.H. Windham	Reynolds, Ga.
New Prospect, W. J. Hurst	Sumner, Ga.
North Highlands, Lucy Lovick	Columbus, Ga.
Beulah, M. E. Gill	Butler, Ga.
Trinity, Buford Watson	Charing, Ga.
New Life, Lee Daniels	Mauk, Ga.
Pleasant Hill, J. W. Brewer	Rupert, Ga.
Turner's Chapel, Grady Rogers	Butler, Ga.
Little Bethel, J. M. Jones	Ideal, Ga.
Bethany, J. L. Cato	Juniper, Ga.
Corinth, J. R. Jordan	Ellaville, Ga.
Friendship, J. R. Baty	Smithville, Ga.
Liberty Chapel, Miss Ethel Bickerstaff	Macon, Ga.
Bethel, E. J. Wade	Warwick, Ga.

MINISTERIAL ROLL

W. M. Sherley,	Macon, Ga.
C. W. Rickerson,	Macon, Ga.
D. E. Green,	Ideal, Ga.
B. F. Green,	Mauk, Ga.
J. J. Jones	Ideal, Ga.
W. J. Lumpkin,	Norwich, Ga.
E. C. Grimsley,	Geneva, Ga.
W. T. Lovick,	3227 Park Ave., Columbus, Ga.
W. D. Gill	Junction City, Ga.
W. H. Emerson,	Butler, Ga.
H. L. Lumpkin,	Norwich, Ga.
A. J. Parker,	Mauk, Ga.
S. N. Little,	Ashburn, Ga.
W. B. Posey,	Reynolds, Ga.
J. V. Klosser,	Reynolds, Ga.
C. H. Moore,	Reynolds, Ga.
J. R. Blair,	Reynolds, Ga.
J. L. Whitley,	Norwich, Ga.
I. F. Quinn,	Geneva, Ga.
R. L. Burnett,	Warwick, Ga.
O. C. Bridges,	Ellaville, Ga.
W. R. Lawhorn,	Butler, Ga.
J. H. Burdeshaw,	145 4th Ave. Phenix City, Ala.

LICENTIATES.

J. M. Culpepper,	Ideal, Ga.
T. Grimsley,	Mauk, Ga.
D. G. Belknap,	Crumps Park, Ga.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION.

Preliminaries. When several believers wish to be organized into a church, they request a council from some sister church. This council or committee (commonly called an arm) examines into the Christian character, doctrine and fellowship of the applicants, and their ability to sustain a church. If the examination is satisfactory, the organization proceeds as follows:

The Bible is presented as the only rule of faith and practice. A church covenant is read and adopted. A prayer of consecration is offered. The hand of fellowship is given. The church then proceeds to elect its officers, which are a clerk, a treasurer, a pastor, and a board of directors, who constitute, with the pastor, a committee to promote order, activity, attendance, and the means of grace, benevolence, and sufficient discipline in the church. Deacons should possess sound piety, good business capacity and large benevolence. They hold office at the pleasure of the church. They assist in baptism and the Lord's Supper, have care of the poor, and conduct religious meetings in the absence of the pastor.

CONSTITUTION.

Resolved, That we form an association upon the principles laid down in the Holy Scriptures, to-wit: Associations appear from Scripture and ecclesiastical history to have been originally formed, not from any positive injunction, either from Christ or His Apostles, but from mere expediency for the purpose of concentrating the efforts of individual churches and bringing them to bear with greater energy upon the subjects designed to be accomplished by those churches. They were also considered as advisory council, and resorted to as such, but never claimed any right of lording it over God's heritage, nor was their advice considered binding on the churches. In a word, associations were wholly dependent on churches, and churches were not dependent upon associations, and notwithstanding the power abrogated to themselves by some modern Baptist associations, we view them as being nowhere preceded by the primitive usages of any self-created bodies.

We, the delegates from our respective churches, being authorized by our churches, to agree to form ourselves into an association, to be known by the name of the Chattahoochee United Free Will Baptist Association, and we promise not to withdraw ourselves from this association without first stating our reasons to the body for such intended withdrawal.

It is proposed by the association, first to promote revivals of religion by camp and protracted meetings. Secondly, to take an active part in Home Missions. It is not intended by this association to discuss queries. It is not the design of this association to interfere in any way with the independence of churches

10 Chattahoochee United Freewill Baptist Association

composing it. It was not intended to establish creeds, rules of discipline, or make any law whatever to bind the churches, but to leave each church to regulate its own affairs.

We, as an association, take the Old and New Testaments as our confession of faith, as relates to the independency.

We believe that a duly organized church consists of a congregation of saints baptized upon a creditable profession of faith in Christ. Christ is the only Christian lawgiver and supreme head of the churches, and the word of God the only infallible rule of faith and practice. Every man has an inalienable right to private judgment in concerns of religion, and an equal right to express his opinion in any way which will not violate the laws of God or the rights of his fellow man.

A church has a right to adopt such measures only as are in accordance with the Word of God, and such are deemed necessary to carry into effect the great system of practice.

The church is the highest ecclesiastical tribunal on earth, from whose decision there is no appeal.

No change, alteration or amendment shall be made to this constitution until such change, alteration or amendment shall have been presented to all the churches composing this association, and when two-thirds of all the churches composing this association shall have adopted or recommended in two of their regular conferences successively such change, alteration or amendment, it shall then become a part and parcel of this constitution.

Read and adopted the above as the constitution of the Chattahoochee United Free Will Baptist Association.

CHURCH DECORUM.

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in the associational year; or, if they prefer, it may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, so long as they may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time; but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of the contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse

or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the association.

7. When a new clerk is appointed, all the books, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

8. When it becomes necessary, a committee of not less than three male members well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

9. The church shall hold a two days meeting monthly, embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.

11. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church according to the covenant (Article 10), shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect, but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

12. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows: 1. Prayer (unless divine service has just been conducted and generally then). 2. Invite visiting brethren to seats. 3. Open the door for the reception of members. 4. Call for absentees. 5. For acknowledgements. 6. For references or deferred business. 7. For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. 8. Miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren, as helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

14. Any orderly member of the Baptist church who does not hold this church in membership, may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.

15. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

16. When the moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church that members have been absent for three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited

12 Chattahoochee United Freewill Baptist Association

verbally or in writing, to attend his trial; provided his residence be known to the church.

18. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined till the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be minuted in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly, or continue to hold their letters without a good reason, shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil.

22. A vote shall not be taken on any question without a move and a second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising on their feet.

23. No other motion shall be considered while a previous motion and second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request, may be excused by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.

26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks he must nominate some brother in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it be necessary to call the speaker to order.

30. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

31. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Feet washing shall be attended to as the church sees proper.

33. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

34. This decorum may be amended or altered by the vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly meetings.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES.

1. We believe that a Gospel Church, or a church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That those rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church as the aggregate or whole-number of Gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in heaven, and of such Christians on earth as are not attached to the visible church, according to the Gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central or catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a devise of earthly ambition repugnant to the Word of God, subservient to the churches and dangerous to the liberty of men.

5. The Gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially, independent and absolute; and that if this right be surrendered to a superintending jurisdiction by delegation or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.

6. That churches may nevertheless, we suppose, meet by delegates, form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up the correspondence; but that the rights and authority of churches being inalienable, or in no wise compromised or hindered by entering into an association, and therefore an association has no authority over churches or individuals, their only power being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity; to promote mutual intercourse, and a concentration of voluntary effort, and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by any individual.

7. That the authority of the churches is designed for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel, and for the preservation of a true and orderly body of Christians on earth; that it is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but that it does not extend to persons, property or the consciences of men in any manner whatever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel; that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of such membership is an assumption of authority on the part of the church and a departure from the Gospel plan.

9. That the officers of a church are elders and deacons; that the elders are also called bishops or pastors; and all the elders are equal in rank, though they may perform different functions—since some may be the bishops or pastors of particu-

14 Chattahoochee United Freewill Baptist Association

lar churches, while others may be simply elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any acts that belong to the authority of the church—such as the reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church, he is no more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he was a private person; yet we think it prudent to call in advisory help, especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's Supper and washing the saints' feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes.

13. That elders and deacons must be set apart to their office by ordination, or the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective offices.

14. No preacher shall be ordained unless called to take charge of a church as pastor, or for some other good and sufficient reason.

ARTICLES OF FAITH AND DOCTRINAL VIEWS

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, the truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore it shall remain with us to the end of time the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard to which all human conduct and opinions conform.—Rev. 13:14; John 5:39.

That there is one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressible glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed in the personal distinction of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.—Ex. 6:3; Psa. 33:18.

3. That man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which men are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly devoid of holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and their own sinful

passions, and therefore are under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.—Gen. 1:27, 2:7, 3:6, 19, 23.

4. That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took upon himself our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his own personal obedience, and made atonement for sin by his death; being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection in every way qualified to be suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Savior.—Eph. 2:5, 5:8, Rom. 7:11.

5. That the Gospel blessings which Christ in his fullness bestows on such as believe in him, is justification. That this justification consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life, upon principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of anything we do, but solely through his own righteousness and atonement, and that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God.—Rom. 8:30, Ezek. 18:28; John 3:14, 16, Rom. 8:17.

6. That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to receive them by a cordial and obedient faith and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner upon earth, but his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.—Mark 16:16, John 17:20; Isa. 20.

7. That in order to be saved we must be regenerated, or obedience to the Gospel; and that its evidence is found in the holy fruits which we bring forth to God.—John 3:3-8, Matt. 3:8-10.

8. That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, it being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, that it comprehends all means with the end; that it is a glorious display of God's goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, unchangeable; born again; that regeneration consists of giving a holy disposition to the mind and is affected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, producing voluntary that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy, that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. That the preserving attachments of true believers to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial possessors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.—Eph. 1:1-2.

10. That the law of God is the eternal, unchangeable rule of his Government; that it is holy, just and good; that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from his love of sin; to deliver him through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one design of the Gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.—Matt. 5:13, Luke 10:13-20, 14:17.

11. That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath; that it should be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation; by the direct observance of all means of grace, both public and private, and preparation for that rest which remains for the children of God.—Ex. 19:8, Heb. 4:9, Thess. 1:7, Psa. 16:9.

12. That civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society, that magistrates are to be prayed for conscientiously, honored and obeyed in all things not contrary to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings on earth.—Ex. 23:7, Acts 23:5, Tim. 5:17.

13. That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as are justified by faith in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God are truly righteous in his esteem, while such as continue in impenitence and in unbelief, are in his sight wicked and under this curse, and this distinction holds good among men both in and after death.—Matt. 25:46; Mark 16:16.

14. That the end of this world is approaching, when Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness, and the wicked to endless punishment, and this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—John 5:25, Matt. 25:34:41:46.

STATISTICAL TABLE

[illegible]

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF UNION MEETINGS.

1. The body called to order by the Moderator if he is present; if not the body may select some suitable member to act as Moderator pro tem.
2. Organize by prayer and call for corresponding letters.
3. Election of Moderator and Clerk.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
5. Appointment of committees.
6. Call for correspondent.
7. Appointment of correspondents.
8. Appoint time and place of holding next session.
9. Call for report of committees.
10. Call for miscellaneous business.
11. Call for reading and adopting minutes.
12. Adjournment.