

*Minutes Book*

MINUTES  
OF THE  
FIRST TRIENNIAL SESSION  
OF THE  
CO-OPERATIVE  
GENERAL  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
FREEWILL BAPTISTS



Held With Philadelphia Church, in Daviess County,  
Missouri, December 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1916,  
and January 1st, 1917



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## PROCEEDINGS.

At 7:30 o'clock, p. m., on Wednesday, December 27, 1916, the proposed Co-operative Association of Freewill Baptists convened with Philadelphia church near Pattonsburg, Mo., in its first triennial session.

Praise by congregation. Rev. C. E. Mann, pastor of Philadelphia church read the 27th Psalm. Prayer by Rev. J. H. Wolfe. Address of welcome delivered by Rev. C. E. Mann. Response by Rev. W. E. Dearmore of Elk Creek, Neb. Introductory sermon by Rev. Ira Waterman of Laclede county, Mo. Text 1st Timothy, 4:11. Adjourned until 8:30 Thursday morning.

### Thursday Morning.

Praise by congregation. Rev. Ira Waterman read the 2nd chapter of Titus and offered prayer.

Rev. J. H. Wolfe called for temporary organization and was elected moderator. Rev. Ira Waterman was elected clerk and Rev. W. E. Dearmore assistant clerk.

As a committee on credentials the following were appointed: Revs. T. C. Ferguson, H. M. McAdams and J. F. Duckworth.

Moderator called for credentials of all delegates who desired to go into the proposed Co-operative General Association of Freewill Baptists. Credentials were presented and placed in the hands of the Committee on Credentials. After an examination the committee reported that the following were entitled to seats: Rev. John H. Wolfe, Rev. W. E. Dearmore, Rev. H. M. McAdams, Rev. Leona Mack, Ellis Reger and M. L. Morse from Nebraska Yearly Meeting; Rev. J. A. Bethel, Rev. S. B. Lewis, Rev. C. E. Mann, Rev. Cora Mann, Rev. G. W. Hensley, Rev. W. H. McKown and Charley Guillman from Northwest Missouri Yearly Meeting; Rev. J. F. Duckworth, James Hardin and P. S. Peterson from Northwest Missouri Yearly Meeting; Rev. T. C. Ferguson and F. L. Parson from Central Western Missouri and Southeastern Kansas Association; Rev. G. S. Lattimer and W. L. Bastow from Northern Kansas; Rev. Ira Waterman from Laclede County Association; Rev. N. J. Breshears from Niangua Association; Rev. R. A. Roberts from Central Brazos Association of Texas, and Rev. R. F. Pittman from North

Carolina State Convention of Freewill Baptists.

After all delegates were seated a motion carried to go into a permanent organization.

Rev. J. H. Wolfe was elected moderator and Rev. J. F. Duckworth assistant; Rev. Ira Waterman, clerk, and W. E. Dearmore, assistant.

As a committee on Constitution and By-Laws, the following were appointed: Rev. J. F. Duckworth, Rev. Ira Waterman, Rev. T. C. Ferguson, Rev. H. M. McAdams and delegate M. L. Morse. Rev. Ira Waterman was appointed chairman of the committee. As a pulpit committee, the following were appointed: Rev. C. E. Mann, Delegate M. L. Morse, Delegate Ellis Reger, Delegate F. L. Parson and W. L. Bastow.

As a Business Committee, the following were appointed: Revs. R. A. Roberts, J. F. Duckworth and H. M. McAdams.

The Pulpit Committee reported that Revs. J. F. Duckworth and H. M. McAdams occupy the pulpit at 11 a. m.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2:30 p. m. Adjourned with prayer by Rev. S. B. Lewis.

### Thursday Afternoon.

Praise by congregation. Prayer by Rev. R. A. Roberts. Committee on Constitution and By-Laws reported and presented a Constitution containing nine articles, and By-Laws containing sixteen articles. Motion carried to take up each article of the Constitution separately. Each article was adopted as read. After each article was adopted, then by a unanimous vote the entire Constitution as a whole was adopted. Motion carried to take up the By-Laws. By-Laws were adopted as read.

Motion carried to elect an Executive Board, consisting of five members in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The following were elected: Revs. J. H. Wolfe, Ira Waterman, T. C. Ferguson, C. E. Mann, and Delegate James Hardin.

Motion carried to take up the matter of purchasing the "New Morning Star." The editor, Rev. S. L. Morris, was called upon to give full particulars concerning the paper. After the explanation was given, it was voted unanimously to purchase the entire printing plant. The purchase was accepted, plant paid for and the "New Morning Star" was turned over to the Association free from any indebtedness.

Pulpit Committee reported that Revs. S. L. Morris



and T. C. Ferguson occupy the pulpit at 7:30 p. m. Motion carried to adjourn until 8:30 Friday morning.

Adjourned with prayer by Rev. C. E. Mann.

#### Friday Morning.

Praise by congregation. Prayer by Rev. J. F. Duckworth. Call for the reading of the minutes of the previous days. Minutes read and approved. Motion carried to adopt the Freewill Baptist Biblical Correspondence School, formerly conducted by Rev. John Wolfe, G. S. Lattimer and J. J. Wood under the auspices of the Nebraska Yearly Meeting and the Missouri State Association.

Motion carried to elect the following faculty for the Correspondence School: Rev. J. H. Wolfe, Pawnee City, Neb.; Rev. G. S. Lattimer, Haddam, Kansas, and Rev. Ira Waterman, Eldridge, Mo.

Motion carried to elect Rev. S. L. Morris as editor of the "New Morning Star," and Rev. J. H. Wolfe, Rev. G. S. Lattimer, Rev. Ira Waterman, Rev. R. F. Pittman and Sister Essie Hearron as associate editors, with an invitation to all Freewill Baptists who feel an interest in the paper to write for it.

Resolved, that we adopt the "New Morning Star," published at Weatherford, Texas, as the official organ of this Association.

Pulpit Committee reported that Revs. R. A. Roberts and W. E. Dearmore occupy the pulpit at 11:00 o'clock, a. m.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2:30 p. m.

Adjourned with prayer by Rev. N. J. Breshears.

#### Friday Afternoon.

Praise by congregation. Prayer was offered by Rev. S. L. Morris.

Resolved, that we adopt the Barbados Islands as our foreign mission field, and Rev. Miss S. A. Esterbrook as our foreign missionary.

Motion carried to adopt the Freewill Baptist Treatise as revised at Harper's Ferry in 1899 as our form of government.

Motion carried to place the printing of the Treatise and other denominational books in the hands of Rev. Ira Waterman.

Pulpit Committee reported that Revs. J. F. Duckworth and N. J. Breshears occupy the pulpit at 7:30 p. m. Motion carried to adjourn until 8:30 a. m. Friday. Ad-

joined with prayer by moderator.

#### Saturday Morning.

Praise by congregation. Prayer by Rev. G. W. Hensley. Minutes of the preceding day read and approved. Motion carried that the "New Morning Star" shall carry the Freewill Baptist church covenant and articles of faith in every issue.

Committee on Credentials made the following report: Resolved that Rev. S. L. Morris, Rev. Z. B. Dally and wife, of Weatherford, Texas, and Rev. J. J. Tatum of Bryan, Texas, be extended a welcome as visitors from their respective Associations. Report adopted.

As a committee on blanks for church ministry and field work the following were appointed: Revs. S. L. Morris, Ira Waterman and R. F. Pittman.

Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. R. F. Pittman occupy the pulpit at 11:00 o'clock a. m. Motion carried to adjourn until 8:30 Saturday morning.

Adjourned with prayer by Rev. N. J. Breshears.

Praise by congregation. Prayer by Rev. H. M. McAdams.

Motion carried to establish a denominational school.

Motion carried to place the matter of the denominational school in the hands of the Executive Board.

Motion carried to give the remainder of the afternoon to Rev. R. F. Pittman of North Carolina.

Resolved, that we recommend all our Sunday schools, wherever practical, to use Freewill Baptist literature published by The Freewill Baptist Printing company of Ayden, North Carolina.

Resolved that we indorse the Ayden Freewill Baptist Seminary of Ayden, North Carolina, also the Freewill Baptist Orphanage of Middlesex, North Carolina.

Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. Miss Leona Mack occupy the pulpit at 7:30 o'clock, on Saturday evening; Rev. G. S. Lattimer and W. H. McKown at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning and Rev. Ira Waterman at 7:30 Sunday evening. Motion carried to adjourn the business part of the work until 8:30 Monday morning.

Adjourned with prayer by R. F. Pittman.

Praise by congregation. For a lesson, the moderator read the first chapter of St. John. Prayer by Rev. R. F. Pittman.

Minutes of Saturday's session read and approved.

Motion carried that we send a representative to the



North Carolina State Convention of Freewill Baptists and that Rev. H. M. McAdams be our representative and Rev. Ira Waterman as alternate.

Motion carried that Rev. Ira Waterman superintend the printing of 1,000 minutes of the Association.

Resolved, that each minister and delegate belonging to this Association call for an offering at his church for the printing of our minutes.

Resolved, that Rev. John H. Wolfe be the president of the proposed denomination school under the vote of this Co-operative Association and that we pledge our support to every requirement to carry this school to success.

Resolved, that we extend to our worthy moderator a rising vote of thanks for his wise and impartial rulings during this session.

In view of the fact that this Co-operative General Association has now finished its business and

Whereas, we feel it the duty of the visiting brethren and sisters to express our thanks to the members of Philadelphia church and community, therefore be it

Resolved, That we offer for them a united prayer and give them a standing vote of thanks for their kindness and hospitality. Signed: Rev. S. L. Morris, G. S. Lattimer and Ira Waterman.

Resolved, that each minister belonging to this Association be requested to take four offerings a year for the following purposes: First, one for publications of various kinds, minutes, books, etc; second, Home Missions; third, Foreign Missions, and fourth, the Denominational School.

Motion carried to have an adjourned session to convene with Northview church, near Tecumseh, Okla., on December 26, 1917, and Rev. S. L. Morris preach the introductory sermon with Rev. C. E. Mann as alternate.

Motion carried that the Executive Board shall have power to change the location of the adjourned session if conditions demand it.

Motion carried that all committees appointed to act only during this session be discharged. Minutes of the entire session read and approved. Motion carried to adjourn to meet in an adjourned session with Northview church near Tecumseh, Oklahoma, at 7:30 o'clock p. m., on Wednesday, December 26, 1917.

Adjourned with prayer by Rev. Ira Waterman.

#### Enrollment of the Association.

John H. Wolfe, Pawnee City, Neb.

T. C. Ferguson, Stockton, Mo.  
Ira Waterman, Eldridge, Mo.  
C. E. Mann, Santa Rosa, Mo.  
J. F. Duckworth, Greentop, Mo.  
R. A. Roberts, Egan, Texas.  
N. J. Beshears, Long Lane, Mo.  
G. W. Hensley, Grant City, Mo.  
W. H. McKown, Carlow, Mo.  
S. L. Morris, Weatherford, Texas.  
H. M. McAdams, Sutton, Neb.  
G. S. Lattimer, Haddam, Kan.  
R. F. Pittman, Lacuma, N. C.  
Leona Mack, Kenesaw, Neb.  
Z. B. Dally, Weatherford, Texas.  
J. J. Tatum, Bryan, Texas.  
J. A. Bethel, St. Joseph, Mo.  
S. B. Lewis, Pattonsburg, Mo.  
W. E. Dearmore, Elk Creek, Neb.  
Cora Mann, Santa Rosa, Mo.  
W. B. Fadely, Weatherby, Mo.

#### Delegates.

Ellis F. Reger, Edgar, Neb.  
M. L. Morse, Denman, Neb.  
Charley Guillman, Pattonsburg, Mo.  
James Hardin, Novinger, Mo.  
P. S. Peterson, Greentop, Mo.  
F. L. Parson, Rose, Kan.  
W. L. Bastow, Haddam, Kan.

#### Officers.

Rev. John H. Wolfe, Pawnee City, Neb., Moderator.  
Rev. J. F. Duckworth, Greentop, Mo., Assistant Moderator.  
Rev. Ira Waterman, Eldridge, Mo., Clerk.  
Rev. W. E. Dearmore, Elk Creek, Neb., Assistant Clerk.  
James Hardin, Novinger, Mo., Treasurer.

#### Executive Board.

Rev. John H. Wolfe, Pawnee City, Neb.  
Rev. T. C. Ferguson, Stockton, Mo.  
Rev. C. E. Mann, Santa Rosa, Mo.  
Rev. Ira Waterman, Eldridge, Mo.  
James Hardin, Novinger, Mo.

#### Field Superintendents.



Rev. H. M. McAdams, Sutton, Neb.  
 Rev. T. C. Ferguson, Stockton, Mo.  
 Rev. Ira Waterman, Eldridge, Mo.

**Editor of "The New Morning Star."**

Rev. S. L. Morris.

**Associate Editors.**

Rev. John H. Wolfe, Pawnee City, Neb.  
 Rev. G. S. Lattimer, Haddam, Kan.  
 Rev. R. F. Pittman, Lacuma, N. C.  
 Rev. Ira Waterman, Eldridge, Mo.  
 Mrs. Essie Hearron, Washington, Okla.

**Freewill Baptist Biblical Correspondent School.**

Rev. John H. Wolfe, Dean.  
 Rev. G. S. Lattimer, Secretary.

**Faculty.**

Rev. John H. Wolfe, Systematic Theology.  
 Rev. G. S. Lattimer, Church History and Evidence of Christianity.  
 Rev. Ira Waterman, Pastoral and Practical Theology.

**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 Savior, 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 bonds of peace; to

be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, 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, support of missions, the success of the Sabbath schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and 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.

**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.

2. **God.**—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the Universe and in Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet one God, infinitely wise and good whom all intelligent creatures are to supremely love, adore and obey.

3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in this 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 an ever present Savior 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 the years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His



incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: First, Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. Second, Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with the purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the domination of sin and becomes a child of God. Third, 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. **Perseverance.** 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 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, Judgment and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

## CONSTITUTION.

### Co-operative General Association of Freewill Baptists.

#### ARTICLE I.

Name.—This organization shall be known as the Co-operative General Association of Freewill Baptists.

#### ARTICLE II.

Object.—The object of this organization shall be to unify the work of the various Associations, Yearly Meetings and other bodies of Freewill Baptists composing the said Co-operative General Association, to devise and execute measures for the extension of Christ's Kingdom in connection with the various bodies herein, or that may hereafter be represented.

#### ARTICLE III.

Composition.—This Association shall be composed of the Nebraska Yearly Meeting of Freewill Baptists, the Missouri State Association of Freewill Baptists, the Northern Kansas Yearly Meeting of Freewill Baptists, the Central Brazos Association of Freewill Baptists of Texas, the North Carolina State Convention of Freewill Baptists, together with all other bodies of the same evangelical faith, believing in the Deity of Jesus Christ, a general atonement, the necessity of regeneration, the immersion of believers as the only Scriptural Baptism, and the Communion of all Christians as may be admitted to this Co-operative General Association by a two-thirds vote at any regular, adjourned or special meeting.

#### ARTICLE IV.

Representation.—Each Association, Yearly Meeting, or other bodies composing this organization shall be entitled to representation by one delegate for the organization, and one delegate additional for each three hundred membership or major portion thereof, together with all ministers who shall be standing members.

#### ARTICLE V.

Discipline.—This Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or usage that may properly come before it from any of the bodies composing said organization of the Co-operative General Association or act upon any appeal that may be made by any body belonging to this Association; said appeal shall have been written and properly signed from the consti-



tuent body or bodies, and its decision shall be final.

#### ARTICLE VI.

Executive Board.—There shall be chosen by ballot from persons in good standing in the Co-operative General Association an Executive Board of five members who shall hold their office until the next regular session or until their successors are elected. To this Board is delegated power to act in behalf of and for the said Co-operative General Association from one regular meeting to another of the said Association; and shall have power to elect such officers as may be deemed best for its own government and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the Co-operative General Association. This Board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body. To this Executive Board is further delegated power to collect funds and employ and superintend such workers for the field as may seem best and the means in hand may warrant.

The Treasurer of the Executive Board shall be the Treasurer of the Co-operative General Association, through whose hands all monies for carrying on the work must pass.

This Executive Board shall keep a correct record of all work done, money raised, meetings held, and make a full and complete report at the next regular meeting of the Co-operative General Association; and shall further receive, hold, manage, use, control or convey any property entrusted to said Association for any purpose, in accordance and only in accordance with the purpose of the donor or donors and in no case to divert it from its original object of which the Executive Board shall be judge. The Chairman and Treasurer of the Executive Board shall sign all deeds, bonds, notes, etc., and other papers by which the said Co-operative General Association is to become legally held.

#### ARTICLE VII.

Time of Meeting.—This Co-operative General Association shall hold its regular meetings every three years, adjourned sessions when conditions demand. Special meetings at the direction of the Executive Board may be called, provided that notice shall have been given in the Denominational Paper which has previously been named as its official organ, and notice sent to each member of the Association, directed to his last known address at least thirty days before the time of holding such meet-

ing. Seven standing members from two or more bodies composing this Association shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

Officers.—The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator and Assistant Moderator; a Clerk and Assistant Clerk, and an Executive Board all nominated and elected by ballot at each regular meeting. Committees, as may be necessary, shall be appointed or elected, holding such office or place on committees until their successors shall have been elected or appointed or otherwise fulfilling their work for which they were appointed or elected.

#### ARTICLE IX.

Power to Amend.—This Constitution may be amended at any regular or adjourned session of the said Co-operative General Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present, provided notice, specifying such article or portion thereof to be amended, shall have been published in the official denominational paper six months previously.

#### BY-LAWS.

1.—The clerk or assistant clerk and in their absence the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference and if a quorum is present the moderator or in his absence the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them are present the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2.—All persons declared by a Committee on Credentials to be duly entitled to a seat in this Association, are hereby made and constituted members of this body and authorized to act in all respects according to the provisions of the constitution and by-laws under which this Association is organized.

3.—It shall be the duty of every Association, Yearly Meeting or other bodies belonging to this Association, to send a letter to every triennial session of this Association reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work and its statistics. Any Association, Yearly Meeting or other bodies belonging to this Association, which shall fail to report itself for two successive sessions may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.



4.—Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and prayer, and close by prayer.

5.—By a two-thirds vote of all members present a ruling of the moderator can be overruled.

6.—This Association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7.—This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8.—Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the Association.

9.—It shall be the duty of all the members of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10.—No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meetings without first obtaining permission from this body.

11.—No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12.—The moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13.—Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14.—The yeas and nays may be taken on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15.—No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes or twice on the same subject without permission of the Association.

16.—These by-laws may be amended at any regular or adjourned session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.