

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS,
HELD WITH
Head's Church, Robertson County, Tennessee,
ON
SATURDAY, MONDAY, AND TUESDAY,
October 14, 16, and 17, 1876.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE:
PRINTED AT THE "AMERICAN" BOOK AND JOB ROOMS.
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MINUTES.

The Association met at Head's Church, Robertson County, Tennessee, October 14, 1876.

Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. S. H. LANCASTER, from the Epistle of James, 1st chapter, 25th verse.

The Association was then called by the Rev. W. H. Head, Moderator. A quorum being present it then was organized by electing Rev. S. H. LANCASTER, Moderator, and D. NICHOLS, Clerk.

After praise and prayer by Rev. T. C. COFER, the Delegates were invited to their seats.

Letters were received from the churches and read, as will be found in table.

Then called for Petitionary Letters: Received one from Sinking Spring, Trig County, Kentucky, one from Shady Grove, Montgomery County, Tennessee. Letters were read, and Delegates received into our fellowship and invited to seats.

Then called for Corresponding Letters from Sister Associations: None came forward.

Then appointed a Committee of Arrangements, consisting of Rev. T. C. COFER, J. W. GOWER, and Bro. J. HALLUMS, with the Clerk and Moderator to prepare the unfinished business.

Then appointed a Committee on Sabbath Schools, consisting of Revs. G. W. CARNEY and J. W. GOWER.

Then appointed a Committee on Finance, consisting of Revs. G. R. HEAD, G. W. CARNEY, and Bro. J. R. GOWER.

Then appointed a Committee on Missionary Work, consisting of Bros. H. C. PACE, J. M. ALLBRIGHT, and Rev. W. B. STEWART.

Then appointed a Committee on Obituaries, consisting of Rev. T. C. COFER, and Bro. J. R. GOWER.

Then appointed a Committee on Literature, consisting of Bros. H. C. PACE and A. BOYT.

The Rule on Balloting was suspended for filling the stand on Sunday, and Bros. T. C. COFER and S. H. LANCASTER were appointed to occupy the stand on the Sabbath.

Then after praise and prayer by Rev. G. W. CARNEY, adjourned to meet Monday, October 16th, at 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, October 16, 1876.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with praise and prayer by Rev. S. H. LANCASTER.

Then called for the Report of the Committee on Arrangements, which was read and Committee discharged.

Resolved, That we advise each Church to elect their pastor, prior to holding of the Association, and report in their letter to the Association who they want for their pastor.

Then called for the Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools. Report was read and Committee discharged.

Resolved, That this Association recommend the Free Will Baptist Theological Institute of Reddyville, Indiana, and we would recommend that our churches take steps to assist young men to prepare themselves for the ministry.

Then called for the Report of the Committee on Finance. Report received and Committee discharged.

Resolved, That this Association recommend that each Church elect one or two Stewards, whose duty it shall be to see every member of their respective churches semi-annually and solicit contributions for the support of their pastor, or to be paid out at the disposal of the Clerk.

Resolved, That at least one-fourth of the money collected by the churches shall be set apart as a home-mission fund, said amount to be put in the hands of the Treasurer of the churches, and to be sent up to our next Association, to be disposed of by the Missionary Board. Should there be no missionary preacher in the field, the sum collected shall be divided among our ministers, in proportion to the amount of work done by them.

Then appointed Revs. D. STACKS and G. R. HEAD to occupy the stand, and adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with praise and prayer by Rev. H. C. PACE.

Resolved, That Article 1st, 2d, and 18th of the Constitution was read, and 1st article stricken out and a new one inserted in its place, and 2d article more added to it, and 18th article stricken out and a new one inserted, as will be seen in Constitution.

Then adjourned to meet Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, October 17, 1876.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with praise and prayer by Rev. S. H. LANCASTER.

Then called for the Report of the Missionary Work, which was read and Committee discharged, and report inserted in Minutes.

Resolved, That this Association continue its present Missionary Board for the Eastern Division, Bros. J. DOWLIN, T. B. HARRIS, and J. R. GOWER; for the Western Division, Bros. J. J. PHILLIPS, W. G. MORGAN, and J. H. MORGAN, whose duty it shall be to receive all money, and pay to our ministers in proportion to the amount of work done by them, and take receipts for the same, said distribution to be made at our next Association.

Then called for the Report of the Committee on Literature, which was read and Committee discharged.

Resolved, That we recommend the *Baptist Union*, printed by the Central Free Baptist Association, of New York, believing it to be the best literature our members can read.

Resolved, That this Association recommend to all the churches to organize Sabbath-schools, and to get such literature as will be necessary for the students.

Then called for the Report of the Committee on Obituaries. Report received and Committee discharged.

WAEREAS, It has been the will of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe to remove from among us our much loved Brother Rev. A. ROSE, who was a faithful minister in our Association about 40 years thereof.

Resolved, That this Association deeply mourn his loss, but that our loss is his eternal gain, therefore we humbly and meekly bow to the holy and divine will of God; we will cherish with fond recollection his admonition and works. We also tender our heartfelt sympathies to his bereaved brethren, and friends and relations.

Resolved, That Rev. J. W. GOWER is sustained for withdrawing from the General Association of General Baptists.

Resolved, That we appoint J. R. GOWER, for the purpose of writing the history of the Free Will Bap-

tists of Cumberland Association of Tennessee, and request any one that can give him any information to write and send it to Thomasville postoffice, Tennessee, directed to J. R. GOWER.

Resolved, That we continue our correspondence to our sister Associations, with whom we correspond.

Then appointed Rev. J. W. GOWER to write and bear the letter to Liberty Association, of General Baptists, Indiana, and Rev. H. C. PACE to write and bear the letter to the Cumberland Association of General Baptists, Kentucky, and Rev. G. R. HEAD to write and bear the letter to the Ohio Association of General Baptists, Kentucky, and Bro. T. C. COFER to write and bear the letter to the Ohio Association of General Baptists, Kentucky.

Resolved, That we consider the manufacture, sale, and use, as a beverage, of intoxicating liquors, unbecoming a Christian, and unsafe in a community, and we advise our brethren to use their influence to prevent either.

Resolved, That we continue our ministers' and deacons' meetings; first to be held with Oakland Church, on Saturday before the second Sunday in March, 1877. Second, to be held with Liberty Church, on Saturday before the second Sunday in May, 1877. Third, to be held with Shady Grove Church, on Saturday before the third Sunday in July, 1877.

Then appointed Bros. J. M. ALLBRIGHT and B. JACKSON a Committee of Finance.

Resolved, To continue our postoffice address.

Resolved, That we have our Confession of Faith, and Government, and Rules of Decorum in the Minutes.

Resolved, That Friendship Church be stricken out of our minutes, her members having removed to other churches.

Then appointed a committee to visit New Prospect

Church, and Pleasant Valley Church, to-wit: Rev. H. C. PACE and Bro. W. G. MORGAN.*

Report of the Finance Committee \$21.05, and they were discharged.

Resolved, That D. NICHOLS and J. W. GOWER superintend printing the minutes and distributing the same among the churches.

Resolved, That Rev. S. H. LANCASTER preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Rev. G. R. HEAD alternate.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the brethren and friends in the vicinity of Head's Church for their kind hospitality during the session of the Association.

Resolved, That we adjourn to meet with Old Zion Church, Davidson County, Tennessee, four miles north of Nashville, on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1877, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

REV. S. H. LANCASTER, *Moderator*.

BRO. D. NICHOLS, *Clerk*.

MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY.

Presbytery met Monday morning 9 o'clock.

After praise and prayer by Rev. G. W. CARNEY, the Presbytery organized by appointing Rev. S. H. LANCASTER, Moderator, and Bro. D. NICHOLS, Clerk. Adjourned until Tuesday morning 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, October 17, 1876.

Met Tuesday morning 9 o'clock. Opened with prayer by Rev. S. H. LANCASTER.

Then called for applicants for ordination of the ministry. Bro. H. C. PACE presented himself and was set apart to his work, by laying on of hands by the Presbytery, and prayer by J. W. GOWER.

Then called for applicants for deacons. One presented from Shady Grove Church, Bro. T. BINKLEY, and was accepted and set apart to his work by laying on of hands by the Presbytery, and prayer by Rev. G. R. HEAD.

On motion, adjourned to meet with Old Zion Church, Davidson County, Tennessee, prior to the third Sabbath in October, 1877.

REV. S. H. LANCASTER, *Moderator.*

BRO. D. NICHOLS, *Clerk.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.											By Experience and Baptism.	By Letter.	Recommendation	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Day of Meeting.	Contributions for Minutes.
Liberty.....	W. G. Morgan, J. McCoy and B. Jackson.....											18		2	6	..	1	3	90	2	\$ 3 75
Good Spring.....	J. B. Hallums.....																			4	1 05
Head's.....	W. H. Harris, J. R. Gower and J. T. Harris.....											7	1			1	2	2	119	3	3 00
Bethlehem.....	A. Boyt and D. Nichols.....																			1	2 00
Spring Hill.....	No intelligence.....																				
Rock Spring.....	H. D. Haywood and A. J. Haywood.....											4	1				2	1	75	4	50
Cotton Mills.....	E. Harris.....																		10	2	1 00
New Prospect.....	No intelligence.....																				
Cross Creek.....	" ..																				
Pleasant Valley.....	" ..																				
Oakland.....	H. Carney.....											8	2						68	2	2 05
Charity.....	G. W. Carney.....													1		1			41	2	
Bethel.....	J. M. Albright and W. B. Simmons.....													6		1	1	1	39		1 00
Mount Zion.....	J. T. Newman, E. J. Binkley and I. C. B. Rose.....															1			26	2	50
Piney Grove.....	No intelligence.....																				
Old Zion.....	M. Ayers and L. Abernathy.....											34	2	2					54	3	3 15
Collison Chapel.....	T. C. Morrice and R. A. Bowker.....																		38	2	65
Shady Grove.....	I. Felts and P. Binkley.....																		16	3	1 00
Sinking Spring.....	T. C. Williams.....																		14	4	1 40
Total.....												61	6	10	7	4	6	9	673	34	\$21 05

CONFESSION OF FAITH

OF THE

Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one true and living God, the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY GHOST.

Art. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old Testament are words of Divine Inspiration, given to Abraham's children; and that the New Testament contains the only proper rule for the faith of the Christian Churches.

Art. 3. We believe in the depravity of man, and in man's inability to recover himself from his fallen condition, without a Divine Mediator.

Art. 4. We believe that the LORD JESUS CHRIST, according to the Scriptures, suffered and died upon the Cross, and thereby made a full atonement for every human being; and by his obedient life, satisfactory death, triumphant resurrection and glorious ascension, and ever advocacy at his Father's Throne, hath brought in an everlasting salvation for every sinner that will repent, believe, and obey Him in His Word.

Art. 5. We believe that the faithful Christian will never fall from grace; notwithstanding: we believe in the free moral agency of man, after justification, and that there is a possible danger of falling into sin, and being finally lost.

Art. 6. We believe, according to the Scriptures, Paul's letter to the Hebrews, 6th chapter, 1st to 7th verses, that after a man has been made partaker of the HOLY GHOST, if he shall fall from grace, it is im-

possible ever to renew him again unto repentance, and restore him again into the favor of God.

Art. 7. We believe Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the Saint's feet, are all ordinances ordained and instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ; and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and the proper mode of baptism is immersion, and that it is the duty of all believers to attend to those ordinances.

Art. 8. We believe in the general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

Art. 9. We believe, according to the Scriptures, 1st Corinthians, 11th chapter, 28th verse, that each individual, having been inducted into the Kingdom of Christ by an operative influence of the Holy Ghost, and having faith to exercise the free dictates of his own conscience, is in communion with the Saints.

Art. 10. We believe in the justification of infants by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, in passive state, and thereby adopting them as heirs of His Kingdom.

GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION.

1. Each Church in this Association shall be entitled to one Delegate, and one for every additional twenty-five members or fraction thereof, and such Delegates producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. In the letters from each church shall be expressed their number in good standing, baptized by experience, by letter, by recommendation, restored, dismissed by letter, excluded and dead since their last Association, and the letters from their respective churches state the condition of their Sabbath-schools, the average attendance, and the names of their officers, and the amount of money it has taken to sustain them; said letters shall also state the amount paid to their pastors, and the amount paid for all other purposes.

3. The members of this Association of Free Will Baptists shall possess no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe upon the inherent rights of the churches.

4. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper code of rules, which they are authorized to establish for themselves.

5. They may appoint a Clerk and Moderator from among themselves for the time being.

6. New churches may be received into this Union, who shall petition by letter or delegates, if they have

been regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in the Lord Jesus, and walk according to the Gospel order.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall be in order, and come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by consent.

8. This Association shall furnish each Church with the Minutes of their proceedings, in proportion to the amount of money sent by each Church; and in order to enable the Association to print their Minutes, it is expected that each Church will send up such sums of money as they think proper, and when received, shall be put into the hands of a Trustee appointed for that purpose, and may be disbursed by order of said Association.

9. For the purpose of ordaining Elders and Deacons, there shall be three Ministers' and Deacons' Meetings in each year, consisting of three or more ordained Ministers and Deacons, who shall receive and examine all applicants that may be sent from the Churches composing the Association, and ordain and set them apart to the work—if found competent. And that said Presbytery shall have full power to try all ministers of the order for unchristian conduct, and, on proper testimony, the decision shall be final.

10. No Minister shall be ordained until he can preach and defend the Free Will Baptist doctrine and not until he can fill the requirements in Paul's first letter to Timothy, 3d chapter, from 1st to 8th verse, and this shall be tested before a Presbytery.

11. This Association may exclude from its body any Church that walks disorderly, or teaches heresy.

12. All questions coming before this Association shall be determined by a majority, except excluding Churches, which shall receive the concurrence of two-thirds.

13. A majority of this Association shall be a quorum to do business.

14. The Minutes of this Association shall be read before them, and revised and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and attested by the Clerk.

15. This Association may adjourn to any time and place they may think proper, so as to confine it among the Churches composing the same.

16. Amendments may be made to this form of government at any time, by a majority of the members present composing this Association, and voting in behalf of the amendment.

17. When this Association shall have convened, it is the privilege of all ordained Ministers belonging to the Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists, to sit in counsel with us, and propose resolutions, and vote in admittance coming before this honorable body, as if they were delegated by the Church.

18. That each Minister of our Association, whether ordained or licensed, is required to report to the Association, annually, their labor in the ministry, and the amount of money received from the Churches.

RULES OF DECORUM WHEN IN SESSION.

This Association shall be opened by singing and prayer. Only one person shall speak at a time. All addresses made by members shall be to the Moderator, and the person addressing shall rise to his feet. The Brother shall not be interrupted during his speech by any one except the Moderator, except he violates order. The person thus speaking shall strictly confine himself to the subject in debate, nor cast any personal reflections towards any member of this body who has spoken previously.

No person shall be allowed to speak more than three times on any one subject, without leave of a majority of the Association.

No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speaking.

Members shall use the word "Brother," or "Brethren," in all debates.

No member shall absent himself without leave first from the Association.

The names of the members of this body shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as necessary; provided a call be made by a member of the Association.

No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any time, without leave of the Moderator.

Any member who shall knowingly and wilfully violate any of these rules, shall be reported by the Moderator, and be subject to the censure of the Association.

Adopted in council this Saturday before the first Lord's Day in October, 1867, as a standing decorum, though subject to revision by a majority of the members voting for revision.

POST-OFFICE ADDRESSES.

Rev. T. C. Cofer, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee.

Revs. J. Davis and G. W. Carney, Ashland City, Cheatham County, Tennessee.

Rev. W. H. Head, Pleasant View, Cheatham County, Tennessee.

Revs. G. R. Head and J. W. Gower, Turnersville, Robertson County, Tennessee.

Rev. W. B. Stewart, Thomasville, Cheatham County, Tennessee.

Revs. G. W. Winters and J. Brake, Cumberland Iron Works, Stewart County, Tennessee.

Revs. S. H. Lancaster and H. C. Pace, Bumpus Mills, Stewart County, Tennessee.

Rev. B. J. Turner, Cumberland City, Houston County, Tennessee.

Rev. E. E. Collison, Charlotte, Dickson County, Tennessee.

Revs. H. Parker and W. W. Ford, Bainbridge, Christian County, Kentucky.

Rev. J. A. Allbright, Danielsville, Dickson County, Tennessee.

Bro. H. D. Haywood, Collins' Valley, Montgomery County, Tennessee.

Bro. D. M. Morgan, Dover, Stewart County, Tennessee.

Bro. T. Hazelwood, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee.