

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS,

HELD WITH

Bethel Church, Dickson County, Tenn.,

ON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 1878.

NASHVILLE, TENN.:
PRINTED AT "THE AMERICAN" BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
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MINUTES.

The Association met with Bethel Church, Dickson County, Tenn., October 19th, 1878.

Introductory Sermon was delivered by Rev. G. W. Carney, from the Epistle of Paul to the Romans, 1st chapter, 25th verse.

The Association was then called to order by Rev. E. E. Collison, Moderator.

A quorum being present, it was then organized by electing Rev. G. R. Head Moderator, and D. Nichols Secretary.

After praise and prayer by Rev. E. E. Collison, the Delegates were invited to seats.

Letters were received from the several Churches, and read by the Secretary, as will be found in Table.

Then call for petitionary letters. Received one from Grange, Davidson county, Tenn. Letter was read, and Delegates received into our fellowship, and invited to seats.

Then call for Corresponding letters, and received one from Mount Union Association, of General Baptist, in Tennessee.

Then appointed a Committee of Arrangements, consisting of Revs. W. B. Stewart, G. W. Carney, E. E. Collison, with the Moderator and Secretary.

Then appointed a Committee on Sabbath Schools, consisting of Rev. G. W. Carney, Bros. A. P. Jackson and W. S. Hudgens.

Then appointed a Committee on Finance, consisting of Revs. G. W. Carney and E. E. Collison.

Then appointed a Committee on Missionary Work, consisting of Revs. E. E. Collisin, J. A. Albright, W. B. Stewart.

Then appointed a Committee on Obituaries, consisting of Rev. W. B. Stewart, Bros. A. P. Jackson, Wm. McGee.

Then appointed a Committee on Literature, consisting of Rev. G. W. Carney, Bros. Wm. McGee, W. S. Hudgens.

Then appointed a Committee on Policy, consisting of Revs. E. E. Collison, G. W. Carney, S. H. Lancaster, to report at the next Association.

The rule on balloting was suspended for filling the stand on Sabbath, Revs. G. W. Carney and G. R. Head, to occupy the stand on Sabbath.

Then adjourned to meet half-past 6 o'clock P. M., October 19, 1878.

SATURDAY, October 19, 1878.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with praise and prayer by Rev. G. W. Carney.

Then called for the report of the Committee on Arrangements, which was received and the committee discharged.

Then called for the Committee on Sabbath Schools. Report received, committee discharged, and the following resolution adopted, to wit.:

Resolved, That we deem the Sabbath Schools to be an auxiliary to the Church, and we recommend that every church should organize Sabbath Schools, and that the Pastors of each church encourage the same in their several churches, by delivering Sabbath School lectures.

Then called for the report of the Committee on Finance. Report received and committee discharged, and resolution adopted.

When we think of the great neglect on the part of the members of our churches, and the great destitution in the counsels of the Association, and the indifference to support the pastors, we hardly know what to recommend; though we would recommend that the Pastors having the care of the churches, should instruct them in the duty of giving, so that the doctrines of our Association may be taught and published where it is not now known.

Resolved, That this Association recommend that

each church elect one or more Steward, whose duty it shall be to see every member in their respective churches quarterly, and solicit contributions for the support of their Pastors.

Then called for the report on Literature. Report received and committee discharged. Resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That we recommend the *Baptist Review* to our brethren, and that every one of them should take it, and that our brethren should patronize the Ridgeville Institute, and strive to build up colleges within our midst.

Then called for the report of Obituaries. Report received and the committee discharged, and resolution adopted.

WHEREAS, It has been the will of the Supreme Ruler of the universe to remove from among us our beloved Brother, Rev. J. Turner, in whom we lose a faithful pastor and Christian.

Resolved, That this Association deeply mourn his loss, but 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 recollections his admonition and works. We also tender our heartfelt sympathies to his bereaved brethren and friends and relations.

Then called for the report on Missionary Work. Report received and committee discharged. Resolution adopted.

Resolved, That we suspend the Missionary Board for the present year.

Resolved, That we continue the appointment of Bro. G. R. Gower, for the purpose of writing the history of the Free Will Baptists of Cumberland Association of Tennessee, and J. Dowlin to assist him, and request any one of the Brothers, who can give him information, to write, and send it to Thomasville, Montgomery county, Tennessee, to G. 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, of Indiana. Rev. S. H. Lancaster to write and bear the letter to the Cumberland Association, Kentucky. Rev. G. R. Head to the Union Association, General Baptist, Kentucky. Rev. T. C. Cofer to the Ohio Association of General Baptist, Kentucky, and Rev. E. E. Collison to write and bear the letter to the Mount Union Association of General Baptist, Tennessee. Then appointed Rev. E. E. Collison to visit, or write to Piney Grove church.

That the Ashland Quarterly meeting is to be held at Cotton Mill church, at 10 o'clock on Saturday prior to the fifth Sabbath in June, 1879.

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.

Then appointed Brothers Wm. McGee and W. B. Stewart as a Committee on Finance.

Resolved, To continue our post-office address.

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

Report of the Finance Committee, \$15.00, and they were discharged.

Resolved, That D. Nichols superintend printing the minutes, and distributing the same among the churches.

Resolved, That Rev. T. C. Cofer preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Rev. J. W. Gower alternate.

Resolved. That we tender our thanks to the Brethren and friends, in the vicinity of Bethel Church, for their kind hospitality during the session of the Association.

Resolved, That we adjourn to meet with Bethlehem Church, Cheatham county, Tennessee, four miles northwest of Ashland City, on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1879, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

J. R. HEAD, *Moderator*.

D. NICHOLS, *Secretary*.

MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Organized by choosing Rev. G. W. Carney, Moderator; Brother D. Nichols, Secretary.

Then after praise and prayer by Rev. G. R. Head, adjourned to meet Sunday morning 10 o'clock, A. M.

SUNDAY, October 20, 1878.

Met Sunday morning 10 o'clock. After praise and prayer, by Rev. E. E. Collison, no business came before the Presbytery, then adjourned to meet October, 1879, G. W. CARNEY, Moderator.

D. NICHOLS, Secretary.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.									
	By Experience & Baptism.	By Letter	Recommendat'n	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died	Total.	Day of Meeting	Contributions for Minutes.
Liberty.....								78	2	\$1 35
Good Spring								4	4	
Head's.....								134	3	2 60
Bethlehem.....								102	1	2 00
Spring Hill.....								5	1	
Rock Spring								76	4	
Cotton Mills								18	2	1 00
Cross Creek										
Pleasant Valley										
Oakland										
Charity.....										
Bethel								40	3	1 00
Mount Zion										
Piney Grove.....										
Old Zion.....										
Collison Chapel.....								81	3	3 00
Shady Grove										
Sinking Spring.....								18	3	1 00
Grange.....								10	3	50
.....								18	2	1 65
Total	33	5	1	2	9	5	7	649	15	00

CONFESSIO 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, and 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 impossible ever to renew him again unto repentance, or 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 Saints' 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.

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 elect a Secretary and Moderator from among themselves, who shall be standing.

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 when 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 there shall be an annual Presbytery which shall convene at the close of the Association at the same place. Said Presbytery shall consist of three or more ordained Elders and Deacons, they shall elect a Moderator and clerk from among themselves for the time being; it shall be the duty of said Presbytery to examine all applicants that may be sent up with recommendation from their respective churches composing the Association. If found competent shall ordain and set them apart for the work by prayer and laying on of hands, and that said Presbytery shall have full power to try all ministers and deacons of the order for unchristian conduct, and on proper testimony their decision shall be final.

10. For the purpose of ordaining deacons it shall be the duty of the pastor of the church where a vacancy may occur to call a Presbytery, which shall consist of two or more ordained ministers and deacons, who shall examine every applicant, and if found competent, ordain and set them apart for the work by prayer and laying on of hands.

11. 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 for a Presbytery.

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

13. All questions coming before this Association

shall be determined by a majority, except excluding Churches, which shall receive the concurrence of two-thirds.

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

15. 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.

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

17. 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.

18. 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 council with us, and propose resolutions, and vote in admittance coming before this body as if they were delegated by the Church.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading Letters from the various Churches.
 2. Calling for Petitionary Letters.
 3. Calling for Corresponding Letters from Sister Associations.
 4. Appointment of Committees.
 5. Adjournment.
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SECOND DAY.

1. Calling the Roll.
2. Reading the Minutes.
3. Hearing Reports from Standing Committees.
4. Hearing Reports from Special Committees.

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, 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 Co., Tenn.

Rev. G. W. Carney, Ashland City, Cheatham Co., Tenn.

Revs. W. H. Head, G. R. Head and J. W. Gower, Pleasant View, Cheatham Co., Tenn.

Rev. W. B. Stewart, Thomasville, Cheatham Co., Tenn.

Rev. G. W. Winters, Cumberland Iron Works, Stewart Co., Tenn.

Revs. S. H. Lancaster and H. C. Pace, Bumpass Mills, Stewart Co., Tenn.

Rev. E. E. Collison, Erin, Houston Co., Tenn.

Rev. J. A. Albright, Daniels, Dickson Co., Tenn.

Bro. T. Harris, Cumberland City, Stewart Co., Tenn.

Rev. S. D. Bates, Marion, Ohio.

Secretary of the Association, D. Nichols, Sycamore, Cheatham Co., Tenn.