

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
CHURCH OF CHRIST,

HELD WITH
Rock Spring Church. Dickson County, Tenn.,

ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, & 18, 1880.

NASHVILLE, TENN. :
PRINTED AT THE AMERICAN BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
1880

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CHURCH OF CHRIST,

HELD WITH

Rock Spring Church. Dickson County, Tenn.,

ON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, & 18, 1880.

NASHVILLE, TENN. :

PRINTED AT THE AMERICAN BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
1880

MINUTES.

The Association met with Rock Spring Church, Dickson county, Tenn., October 16, 1880

Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. J. W. Gower, from Ephesian's, 2nd chapter, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th verses.

The Association was then called to order by Rev. J. W. Gower as Moderator.

A quorum being present, it was then organized by electing Rev. G. W. Carney, Moderator; and D. Nichols, Secretary.

After praise and prayer by Bro. G. W. Binkley, 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 Friendship, Stewart county, Tenn.; one from Oak Lawn, Cheatham county, Tenn., and one from North Nashville Free Will Church, Davidson county, Tenn.

Letters were read and received into our Fellowship and the Delegates invited to seats.

Then call for corresponding letters and received none.

Then appointed a Committee on Sabbath Schools, consisting of Rev. S. H. Lancaster, Bro. N. C. Cagle and L. Abernathy.

Then appointed a Committee on Finances, consisting of Revs. H. C. Pace, W. B. Stewart and Bro. J. M. Albright.

Then appointed a Committee on Missionary Work, consisting of Rev. J. W. Gower, Bros. H. Simmons and G. W. Binkley.

Then appointed a Committee on Obituaries, consisting of Rev. S. H. Lancaster, Bros. W. J. Boyte and W. R. Span.

Then appointed a Committee on Literature, consisting of Rev. W. B. Stewart, Bros. S. W. Paterson and C. J. Hagerwood.

Then appointed a Committee on Policy, consisting of Revs. H. C. Pace, J. W. Gower and S. H. Lancaster.

Then appointed a Committee on Public Worship, consisting of Bros. S. W. Paterson, J. B. Hagerwood and J. A. Hagerwood.

Then adjourned to meet Monday morning, at 9 o'clock, October 18, 1880.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1880.

Met pursuant to adjournment, opened with praise and prayer by Bro. G. W. Binkley.

Then called for the Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools. Report received, committee discharged, and the following resolutions 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 old Committee on Policy. Discharged, and the new Committee on Policy, consisting of Revs. H. C. Pace, J. W. Gower and S. H. Lancaster, to report at the next annual Association.

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

Resolved, That we recommend that each Church elect two or more Stewards, whose duty it shall be to see every member in their respective churches semi annually, and solicit contributions for the support of their Pastors; and that we request that each Steward see their members and report to the Committee in their letter, at the next Association.

Then called for the Report of the Committee on 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 our Churches nine of our members since our last Association, therefore,

Resolved, That this Association deeply mourn their loss, but that our loss is their eternal gain, therefore, we humbly and meekly bow to the Holy and Divine will of God. We also tender our heartfelt sympathies to their friends and relatives.

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 as a good religious paper, and that every brother should get it and read it. We also recommend Hillsdale College, Indiana, to any young men in the ministry, who wishes a clerical education in theology.

Then adjourned for Divine worship until half past twelve o'clock, Oct. 18th, 1880.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

MONDAY, October 18, 1880.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with praise and prayer by Rev. W. B. Stewart

Then appointed Rev. S. H. Lancaster a Corresponding Secretary, to correspond with all our sister Associations.

Resolved, That we continue the appointment of Bro. J. R. Gower, for the purpose of writing the history of the Free Will Baptist of Cumberland Association of Tennessee, and J. Dowlin and J. W. Gower, to assist him, or any person who can give either of them any information, to write and send it to Thomasville, Montgomery county, Tenn., to J. R. Gower.

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 the Ashland quarterly meeting is to be held at Charity Church, to meet at 10 o'clock on Saturday prior to the first Sabbath

in May, 1881, and that Dover quarterly meeting is to be held with Rock Spring Church, at 10 o'clock on Saturday prior to the third Sabbath in May, 1881.

Then appointed Bros. N. C. Cagle and J. M. Albright, a Financial Committee, which reported \$18.35, and the committee discharged.

Resolved, To continue our postoffice address.

Resolved, That we have confession of faith and government, and order of business, and rules of decorum printed in the minutes.

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

Resolved, That Rev. S. H. Lancaster preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Rev. W. B. Stewart alternate.

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

Resolved, That we adjourn to meet with Grange Church, Davidson county, Tenn., nine miles west of Nashville, and one mile of Cumberland River, on Hyde's Ferry Turnpike road, on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1881, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

REV. G. W. CARNEY, *Moderator*.

D. NICHOLS, *Secretary*.

MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY.

Presbytery convened October 18, 1880. Rev. J. W. Gower was elected Moderator, and Rev. S. H. Lancaster, Clerk.

At the last Presbytery, Thos. Heflin was charged with unchristian conduct, and he was excommunicated from the Church.

And he was again presented to the Presbytery and was restored to full fellowship in the Presbytery.

Bro. G. W. Binkley was then presented for ordination, having answered all questions satisfactorily, he was duly and constitutionally ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands.

Having finished all business before the Presbytery, on motion, adjourned to meet at the close of our next Annual Association.

REV. J. W. GOWER, *Moderator.*

REV. S. H. LANCASTER, *Clerk.*

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, 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, af-

ter 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 unto 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 is the duty of all believers to attend to those ordinances.

ART. 8. We believe in the general judgment, and 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 induced 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. 9. 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, by experience, by letter, by recommendation, restored, dismissed by letter, excluded and dead since their last Association.

3. The members of this Association and 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 Moderator and Secretary and Treasurer from among themselves, and they shall hold their offices until their successors are elected.

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 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 before 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. Adlournment.
-

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, Henrietta, 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.

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

Rev. S. H. Lancaster, Corresponding Secretary, Bumpass Mills, Stewart co., Tenn.