

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION

—OF—

FREE WILL BAPTISTS,

CHURCH OF CHRIST.

—HELD WITH—

Rock Spring Church, Dickson County, Tenn.

OCTOBER 18 and 20, 1884.

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SPRINGFIELD, TENN.:

RECORD PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS,

1884.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

FIRST DAY.

1. Reading Letters from various churches.
 2. Calling for Petitionary Letters.
 3. Calling for Corresponding Letters from sister churches.
 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.

MINUTES.

The Association met with Rock Spring Church, Dickson County, Tenn., October 18, 1884. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. H. C. PACE, from St. John, 3d chapter, and 1st verse: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us."

The Moderator not being present, the Association was called to order by Rev. J. W. GOWER. They then proceeded to elect a Clerk and Moderator for the ensuing year; the result was the election of Rev. G. R. HEAD Moderator, and Rev. J. W. GOWER, Assistant Moderator, and Bro. S. W. PATTERSON, Clerk.

Then called for letters and delegates from the Churches. On motion Bro. SILL CROW was appointed Reading Clerk. The reading of the letters showed that there had been some prosperity among the churches, and that most of the churches were in a healthy condition. (For full report see Table of Statistics.)

The body being now regularly organized, then called for Petitionary Letters: none received.

Then called for Corresponding Letters from sister Associations: received none.

Then appointed the following Committees:

Committee on Sabbath Schools: Rev. W. T. MOSELY, Bro. M. S. CROW and Bro. T. WATTS.

Committee on Finance: Rev. W. B. STUART, Bro. C. C. STUART and Bro. J. A. PATTON.

Committee on Obituaries: Rev. J. W. GOWER, Bro. J. B. HALLUMS and Bro. J. D. WALKER.

Committee on Missionary Work: Rev. J. W. GOWER, Bro. J. M. ALBRIGHT and Rev. H. C. PACE.

Committee on Literature: Rev. H. C. PACE, Bro. W. F. DUNN and T. WATTS.

Committee on Church Polity: Rev. W. B. STUART, Bro. C. N. D. G. WALIS and L. ABERNATHY.

Committee on Miscellaneous Business: Bro. S. W. PATTERSON, Revs. W. T. MOSELY and C. C. STUART.

Committee on Public Worship: Bros. S. W. PATTERSON, N. P. HEYWOOD and J. A. DOTEY.

Moved to adjourn until Monday morning, at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. J. W. GOWER.

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MONDAY, October 20, 1884.

Met pursuant to adjournment, Rev. G. R. HEAD in the Chair. Opened with praise, and prayer by Rev. E. E. COLERSON.

Then called for report of Standing Committee. The Committee not all being present no report was made.

The report of Special Committees was now called for, and the Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following report, which was adopted:

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, seeing the great neglect of our people in the work of Sabbath Schools, would recommend that pastors and deacons be requested to urge

their respective churches to take prompt steps to organize Sunday Schools in every church in the Association, and that they have at least one public collection every month for the same. We would recommend the literature published by the Free Will Baptist Publishing House, at Dover, New Hampshire.

THOMAS WATTS, Chairman of the Committee on Missionary Work, made the following report, which was adopted :

We, your committee on Missionary Work would recommend that this Association take some steps to raise a Home Mission Fund, but owing to the repeated trials and failures, we feel that it is almost useless to offer any resolution in reference to a Home Mission, but seeing the great need of taking prompt steps looking to a Home Mission Fund, therefore we recommend that this Association pass the following resolution, and that pastors be requested to give it their attention :

Resolved, that this Association recommend that pastors having the care of churches, take up at least two public collections during the ensuing year, and that said funds so collected be put in the hands of their respective church treasurers, and sent to the annual meeting of the Association, and put in the hands of a Home Mission Board, to be appointed by the Moderator, or paid out at the discretion of the Association for Home Mission purposes. We further recommend that pastors encourage their churches and Sunday Schools to organize missionary societies, and that funds so collected be disposed of as aforesaid. And be it further resolved that each pastor having the care of churches do all the missionary work outside of

their charge that they can, and that they report to the Association annually the amount of missionary work done by them; and money collected, as above ordered, be divided among them in proportion to the amount of missionary work done by them. Rev. J. W. GOWER, Ch'n.

Committee on Church Polity made the following report, which was adopted:

We, your Committee on Church Polity, find that there is great want of system in church government, therefore we would recommend that each church have written in their church books a compact of principles or church constitution, and that pastors of churches be requested to bring this matter before their churches.

J. A. DOTEY, Chairman.

The Committee on Finance made the following report, which was adopted:

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report that this Association recommend that each church elect two or more Stewards, whose duty it shall be to see every member of their respective churches, at least twice a year, and solicit contributions for the support of their pastors, and to report in their letters to the next Association the amount received by them.

C. C. STUART, Chairman.

The Committee on Obituaries made the following report, which was adopted:

We, as an Association, have abundant reason to praise and glorify the name of God for His goodness to us; but while we would return thanks for health and prosperity, we would not forget to weep with those that weep, for in looking around since we met we find there is at least one vacant pulpit, our Brother, Rev G. W. WINTERS, who was but a short while ago with

us, is to-day reaping his reward. We are glad to know that he left abundant evidence behind that he was prepared to meet his Savior, therefore we have good evidence that Brother WINTERS, to-day is in that

“———Land of pure delight,
Where saints immortal reign.”

Therefore we would say to his sorrow-stricken companion and children and brethren, to “weep not as those who have no hope.”

Rev. J. W. GOWER, Chairman.

The Committee on Literature made the following report, which was adopted :

Resolved, that we adopt as a religious organ, the “Morning Star,” printed at Dover, New Hampshire; also the “Free Baptist,” printed at Minneapolis, Minn. We also recommend Hillsdale College to any young man who desires an education in theology, and Ridgeville College, at Ridgeville, Randolph county, Ind., for a literary education. We would also recommend to our Sunday Schools the Myrtle and Little Star and Lesson Papers, printed at Dover, New Hampshire, Free Will Baptist printing establishment, J. D. STEWART, publisher.

On motion the Committee on Public Services ordered that Rev. G. R. HEAD and Rev. E. E. COLERSON fill the pulpit at 11 o’clock.

On motion adjourned to 1 o’clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment, with Rev. G. R. HEAD in the Chair. Opened with praise, and prayer by Rev. H. C. PACE. On motion the Moderator called on the delegates present for Home Missionary Funds, and received ten

dollars and ten cents from Head's Church, and one dollar from Old Zion Church.

On motion Bro. WATTS was appointed Treasurers for the ensuing year, and the Clerk handed him the above sums, taking his receipt for the same.

Moved that we continue correspondence with sister Associations, and that Rev. G. R. HEAD write and bear letter to the Cumberland Association of General Baptists; and that Rev. G. W. BINKLEY write and bear the letter to the Ohio State Association of Free Baptists; and that Rev. W. B. STUART write and bear letter to the Liberty Association of General Baptists; and that Rev. E. E. COLERSON write and bear letter to New Union Association of General Baptists.

Moved that the Dover Quarterly Meeting be held with Friendship Church, Stewart county, Tenn., on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in June, 1885; and that the Ashland Quarterly Meeting be held with Charity Church, Cheatham county, Tenn., Saturday before the 1st Sunday in May, 1885.

Brethren THOMAS WATTS and N. G. D. WALLIS were appointed to collect money to pay for printing Minutes, and they reported seventeen dollars.

On motion, Rev. E. E. COLERSON was appointed to preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Rev. H. C. PACE appointed alternate.

Moved that Confession of Faith, Rules of Decorum, Government and Constitution be printed in the Minutes.

Moved that Rev. J. W. GOWER, superintend the printing and distributing of the Minutes.

Moved that this Association tender their thanks to the brethren and friends in the vicin-

ity of Rock Spring Church for their kind hospitality during the session of the Association.

Moved that the Association adjourn, to meet with Liberty Church, Stewart county, Tenn., 7 miles north of Dover, Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1885, at 10 o'clock.

G. R. HEAD, Moderator.

J. W. GOWER, Assistant.

S. W. PATTERSON, Clerk.



MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY.

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ROCK SPRING CHURCH, Dickson Co., Tenn. }
October 20, 1884. }

The Presbytery convened and organized by electing Rev. J. W. GOWER Moderator, and Bro. S. W. PATTERSON Clerk.

The Presbytery being duly organized, the Moderator stated that in the letter from Bethel Church, the church had petitioned Bro. HALLIBURTON for ordination, and he was brought before the Presbytery and examined, and declared competent, and was duly set apart to the work of the ministry by prayer and the laying on of hands, and the Moderator and Clerk were authorized to issue his credentials.

Bro. DUNN, of Oakland Church, was also presented, and his ordination was deferred for the present.

Moved that Bro. G. W. CARNEY be silenced as a minister until he proves himself clear of the charges preferred against him, and that the Clerk notify him what the charges are, and that he be notified to meet the Presbytery at Charity Church, Cheatham county, Tenn, on the Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1885, to answer to charges preferred against him.

No other business coming before the Presbytery, adjourned, to meet at Charity Church, Cheatham county, Tenn., on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1885, in extra session, and with Liberty Church, Stewart county, Tenn., at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

J. W. GOWER, Moderator.

S. H. PATTERSON, Clerk.

CONFESSIO*N* OF FAITH

—OF—

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 the words of Divine Inspiration, given to Abraham's children, and that the New Testament contains the only proper rules for the faith of the Christian Churches.

ART. 3. We believe in the depravity of man, and 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 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 it is the duty of all believers to attend these ordinances.

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

ART. 9. We believe, according to the Scriptures, 1st Corrinthians, 11th chapter, 20th 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.

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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 appointments, 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 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 baptised 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 time and place. Said Presbytery shall consist of three or more ordained Elders and Deacons; and 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 ap-

14 *GOVERNMENT and CONSTITUTION.*

plicants that may be sent up with recommendations 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, and for the purpose of trying Ministers for unchristian conduct the Moderator shall have full power to convene said Presbytery in extraordinary session, 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 the 1st to 8th verses, and this shall be tested before a Presbytery.

12. This Association may exclude from its body any church that walks disorderly, or that 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 the members present 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 the 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.

RULES OF DECORUM.

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This Association shall be opened by singing and prayer. Only one person shall speak at a time. All addresses made by the 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 reflection toward 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 willfully 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.

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Rev. J. E. McCauley, Canton, Trigg county, Ky.

Rev. G. N. Lambot, Canton, Trigg county Ky.

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

Rev. W. H. Head and Rev. J. W. Gower, Pleasant View, Cheatham county, Tenn.

Rev. G. R. Head, Turnersville, Robertson county, Tenn.

Rev. G. W. Binkley, Pinnacle, Cheatham county, Tenn.

Rev. W. B. Stuart, Henriretta, Cheatham county Tenn.

Rev. T. C. Cofer, Nashville, Davidson county, Tenn.

Rev. J. H. Lancaster and H. S. Pace, Bumpus Mills, Stewart county, Tenn.

Revs. E. E. Collerson, J. T. Brake and W. T. Moseley, Erin, Houston county, Tenn.

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

Rev. Thomas Hazlewood, Eaton's creek, Davidson county, Tenn.

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

Brother George Murphy, Turnersville, Robertson county, Tenn.

S. W. Patterson, Clerk, South Side, Montgomery county, Tenn.

Brother T. Harris, Cumberland City, Stewart county, Tenn.

Rev. W. L. Halaburton, Erin, Houston county, Tenn.

T. Watts, Treasurer, Pleasant View, Tenn.