

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION

FREE WILL BAPTISTS,

CHURCH OF CHRIST,

—HELD WITH—

Liberty Church, Stewart Co., Tenn.,

OCTOBER 17 and 19, 1885.

SPRINGFIELD, TENN.:
RECORD NEWS AND JOB PRINTING HOUSE.
1885.

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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 Liberty Church, Stewart county, Tenn., on Saturday, October 17th, 1885.

The Moderator not being present, the Association was called to order by Rev. J. W. Gower, and proceeded to elect Clerk and Moderator for the ensuing year. The result was the election of the Rev. J. W. Gower Moderator and Bro. J. E. Hudgens Clerk.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. H. C. Pace, from the 12th chap. and 32 verse of St. John.

Then called for letters and Delegates from the Churches.

On motion Bro. J. H. Nevell was appointed Reading Clerk. The reading of the letters and information from the Churches, showed that most of them were in a healthy condition.

The body being regularly organized, the Moderator called for Petitionary Letters. Received none.

Then called for Corresponding Letters from sister Associations. Received one from Mount Union Association of United Baptists, of DeKalb county, Tenn.

Then appointed the following committees:
Committee on Obituaries—Revs. W. B. Stewart, H. C. Pace, and J. Brake.

On Missionary Work—Rev. H. C. Pace and Bros. T. Watts and J. H. Nevell.

On Literature—Bros. J. J. Phelps, N. G. Wallis, and R. Vick.

On Church Polity—Rev. J. Brake and Bros. J. H. Nevell and T. Watts.

On Miscellaneous Business—Bros. J. B. Patton, W. J. Bobbit, and W. T. Sanders.

On Public Worship—Rev. H. C. Pace, Bros. R. Vick and T. Watts.

Adjourned to meet at 9 A. M. Monday, Oct. 19. Prayer by Rev. W. B. Stewart.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1885.

MORNING SESSION.

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

Then called for reports of standing Committees. There was no report made.

The reports of special Committees were called for. It was then moved to adopt the reports of Committees in last year's Minutes, except the report on obituaries.

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

"Seeing the great neglect of our people in the work of Sabbath Schools, we 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 Boston, Mass."

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

"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 into the hands of their respective Church Treasurers and sent up to the annual meeting of the Association and put in the hands of a Home Mission Board, to be appointed by the Moderator, or to be paid out at the discretion of the Association for Home Mission purposes. We would 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 regular charge that they can, and that they report to the Association annually the amount of missionary work done by them and the money collected as aforesaid be divided among them in proportion to the work done by them. REV. H. C. PACE, Chairman."

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

"We find that there is great want of system in Church government; therefore we would recommend that each Church have written in its Church books a Compact of Principles or Church Constitution, and that Pastors of Churches be requested to bring this matter before their Churches.

"REV. J. BRAKE, Chairman."

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

"Resolved, 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 report in their Letters to the Association the amount collected by them."

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

"We, as an Association, have abundant reason to praise and glorify God for His goodness to us. We would return thanks for health and prosperity. We would not forget to weep with those who weep, for in looking around we find there is at least one vacant seat and one vacant pulpit, to-wit, that of our beloved brother Rev. T. C. Cofer, who was but a short while ago with us. To-day he is reaping his reward—for he left abundant evidence for us to believe that he is to-day enjoying his reward. Therefore, we would say to his bereaved family, brethren and friends weep not, as those who have no hope, but imitate his example of Christian fidelity, that we may meet where parting is no more.

"W. B. STEWART, 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 Boston, Mass., 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, Randolph county, Indiana, for a literary education. We would also recommend to our Sunday Schools the Myrtle and Little Star and lesson papers printed at Boston, Mass., Free Will Baptist printing establishment.

Bro. J. J. PHELPS."

Moved that we continue correspondence with sister Associations, and that Rev. W. B. Stewart write and bear a letter to Cumberland Association of General Baptists. And that J. Brake write and bear a letter to the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists; and that Rev. W.

T. Mosley write and bear a letter to Liberty Association of General Baptists; and that Rev. G. W. Binkley write and bear a letter to Mount Union Association of United Baptists.

Moved that the Dover Quarterly Meeting be held with Liberty Church, Stewart county, Tenn., on Saturday before the first Sabbath in June, 1886; and that the Ashland Quarterly Meeting be held with Head's Chapel, Saturday before the third Sunday in August, 1886.

Bros. T. Watts and N. G. Wallis were appointed to collect money to pay for printing the Minutes, and they reported \$11.65, and were discharged.

Resolved, That the Moderator be appointed delegate to the General Conference, and that he have power to appoint at least two alternates. The Moderator appointed Rev. G. W. Binkley first alternate and Rev. S. D. Bates, of Ohio State Free Will Baptist Association, second alternate.

On motion Rev. J. W. Gower was appointed to write a Circular Letter, to be published with the Minutes.

Rev. J. W. Gower was elected to preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Rev. H. C. Pace was appointed alternate.

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

Moved that Rev. J. W. Gower superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

Moved that this Association tender its thanks to the brethren and friends for their kind hospitality during the sitting of this Association.

Moved to adjourn to meet with Bethlehem Church, Cheatham county, Tenn., four miles west of Ashland City, Saturday before the

MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY.

third Sunday in October, 1886, at 10 o'clock a.m.

J. W. GOWER, Moderator.

J. E. HUDGENS, Clerk.

MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY.

LIBERTY CHURCH, Oct. 19, 1885.

The Presbytery organized by electing Rev. J. W. Gower Moderator and Bro. J. E. Hudgens Clerk.

Bro. W. Sanders was presented to the Presbytery from Bethlehem Church and was duly ordained Deacon of said Church by prayer and laying on of hands.

No other business coming before the Presbytery, it adjourned to meet with Bethlehem Church on the adjournment of the Association.

J. W. GOWER, Moderator.

J. E. HUDGENS, Clerk.



AN ADDRESS TO THE CHURCHES

**That Compose the Cumberland Association
of Free Will Baptists.**

DEAR BRETHERN: At your last annual meeting it was made my duty to write an address to the ministers and members of the Cumberland Association. I feel incompetent, but will do the best I can. Our Association seems to be on a stand-still at this time. We all should renew our energy; both ministers and laity work more for Christ's cause than we have heretofore. The Free Will Baptist cause is growing all over the North and extreme South. We in Middle Tennessee, I fear, are not as religious as we should be, though our cause has met with some success. But where do we find the key to that success? Go to the grave-yard where the old veterans of the cross lie without a stone to mark the place where they rest. They have spent their money and their time to preach the Gospel that sinners might come to Christ. We do not see that zeal among our younger preachers as was with the older ones. Now, brethern, we ought to do more in the future than we have in the past. God has called you to a great work. Will we not have to give an account if we neglect that great work? Now let us discharge

that duty that the Lord has imposed on His ministers.

Now, brethren, we want the cause to prosper in Middle Tennessee as well as elsewhere. Now if both ministry and laity will co-operate—the preacher do his duty in the pulpit and the brethren sustain him—then we will see the good work go on. If every member would give one dollar annually it would fill every pulpit in this Association.

Brethren, we have attached ourselves to the General Conference, as you know, and we should try to prosper with it, as it is a very thriving body at this time, numbering 140,000. If we are as zealous as we ought to be in a few years every Free Will Baptist, South, will become a member of the Conference. We should take and read the Morning Star, which is our principal organ. It will tell you the progress of our cause all over the Conference; will tell us of the Foreign Mission, how many churches in India and China—all over the heathen land.

Now, brethren, I pray that God may unite us all together in love and Christian fellowship.

Your brother in Christ,

J. W. GOWER.



CONFESSION OF FAITH

—OF—

Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one true and living God; the Father, the Son, and 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 Corinthians, 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.

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 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 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 applicants 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 of prayer and laying on of hands, and that said Presbytery shall have 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 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.

all candidates shall be required to answer these questions satisfactorily

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.

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 willingly violate any of these Rules, shall be reported to 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 standing decorum, though subject to revision by a majority of the members voting for revision.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	By Experi	By Letter,	Recom'd'n	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.....	Total No. Members	Contribu- tions to Minutes	-Days Meeting
Liberty	R. Vick, N.G. Wallis.....								45	\$ 3 18	4
Good Spring	No Intelligence.....								28	.....	4
Hend's Chapel.....	J. N. Nevell, J. W. Gower.....	7	1						180	2 00	3
Bethlehem).....	J. E. Hudgens, W. Bobbet, J. Patton, W. Sanders								88	2 00	1
Spring Hill.....	J. J. Phelps.....								5	.....	2
Rock Spring	No Intelligence.....								89	.....	4
Cotton Mills.....	"								13	.....	2
Cross Creek	"								45	.....	2
Pleasant Valley..	J. Brake.....								19	1 00	
Oakland.....	Letter								62	1 50	
Charly.....	No Intelligence.....	9	4						64	.....	
Bethel.....	"								35	.....	
Mount Zion.....	"								43	.....	
Coloson's Chapel	"								20	.....	
Shady Grove.....	"								17	.....	
Sinking Spring..	"								21	25	
Grange.....	"								18	.....	
Friendship	"								12	.....	
Old Zion.....	"								51	.....	
Oaklawn.....	T. Watts.....	1							32	1 75	4
North Nashville. Letter	"	21							60	.....	2

POSTOFFICE ADDRESSES.

Rev. G. W. Carney, Ashland City, Cheatham county, 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. Stewart, Henrietta, Cheatham county, Tenn.

Rev. 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.

Bro. Geo. Murphy, Turnersville, Robertson county, Tenn.

J. E. Hudgens, Clerk.

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

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

T. Watts, Treasurer, Pleasant View, Tenn.

