

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
➤ Cumberland Association ◀
OF
FREE ~ WILL BAPTISTS,
CHURCH OF CHRIST.

HELD WITH BETHLEHEM CHURCH,
Cheatham County, Tenn.,

OCTOBER 16TH, 18TH, AND 19TH, 1886.

NASHVILLE, TENN.:
SOUTHERN METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,
1886.

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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 of Standing Committees.
4. Hearing Reports of Special Committees.

Minutes.

THE Association met with Bethlehem Church, Cheatham County, Tennessee, October 16, 1886. The introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. W. T. Mosely, to a large and appreciative audience.

The Moderator not being present, the Association was called to order by Rev. G. R. Head, and organized (a quorum being present) by electing Rev. G. R. Head Moderator, and Brother J. E. Hudgens Clerk. After praise and prayer by Rev. E. E. Collison, the delegates were invited to seats. Rev. W. H. Head was then appointed Assistant Moderator, and S. W. Patterson Reading Clerk.

Letters were received from the several churches, and read, as will be found in Table of Statistics.

Petitionary Letters were then called for, none being received.

Corresponding Letters were then called for, one being received from the New Union Association of United Baptists.

The appointment of committees being next in order, the following Committees were appointed, to-wit:

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES: Rev. W. B. Stewart, Rev. G. W. Binkley, Bro. T. Watts.

COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE: Rev. W. T. Mosely, Rev. G. W. Binkley, Bro. H. J. Groves.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH POLITY: Bro. W. T. Sanders, Bro. E. F. Miles, Bro. R. R. Gower.

COMMITTEE ON MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Bro. W. H. Head, Bro. W. F. Dunn, Bro. L. G. Curtis.

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONARY WORK: Bro. W. H. Head, Rev. G. W. Binkley, Rev. W. T. Mosely.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS: Bro. S. W. Patterson, Bro. H. J. Groves, Bro. Frank Williams.

The Committee on Public Worship reported that Revs. G. R. Head and W. B. Stewart would fill the pulpit on Sunday and preach the funeral of our deceased brother, W. J. Boyd.

The Association then adjourned to meet Monday morning, Oct. 18, 1886, at 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, Oct. 18, 1886.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer and praise by Rev. J. L. Welch. Rev. J. L. Welch, Rev. George Gibbs, and Rev. — Fowler were invited to sit in council with us. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Letters from sister churches not represented at the previous meeting were called for. One was received from North Nashville Church, but was objected to by the delegates from said church, and on motion the delegates were invited to seats and the letter rejected.

Reports of Standing Committees were then called for, but none received. The reports of Special Committees were called for, and the following reports were received from the various committees, to-wit:

The Committee on Obituaries made the following report, which was received, the resolutions adopted, and the Committee discharged:

We, as an Association, have abundant reason to praise

and glorify God for his goodness and mercy to us. We would return thanks for health and prosperity, yet while we rejoice in our prosperity we would not forget to weep with those who weep, for death has visited us and has taken in its cold embrace our much-loved brother, Rev. J. W. Gower, who but a short while ago was with us, but to-day is reaping his reward in the golden fields of eternal bliss, for he left abundant evidence that he was ready to be offered up. Therefore we would say to his bereaved family and sorrow-stricken brethren, Weep not as those who have no hope, but imitate his example of Christian fidelity, and meet him in that blest land where death cannot enter and where parting is no more.

Rev. W. B. Stewart, *Chairman*.

The Committee on Literature made the following report, which was received, resolutions adopted, and the committee discharged:

Resolved, That we adopt the *Morning Star*, published at Boston, Mass., as our religious organ; also the *Free-will Baptist*, published at Minneapolis, Minn. We also recommend Hillsdale College to any young man who desires a theological education. We would also recommend the *Little Star* and the *Myrtle*, and Lesson Papers published at the Free-will Baptist printing establishment, Boston, Mass., to our Sunday-schools.

Rev. W. T. Mosely, *Chairman*.

The Committee on Church Polity made the following report, which was received, the resolutions adopted, and the committee discharged:

Whereas we, your Committee on Church Polity, find

that there is a great need of system in our Church government, therefore be it

Resolved, That each Church have written in their Church Book the Church Constitution, and that the pastors of churches be required to bring this matter before their respective churches.

W. T. Sanders, *Chairman*.

The Committee on Miscellaneous Business made the following report, which was received, recommendations adopted, and the committee discharged :

We, your Committee on Miscellaneous Business, believing that God's people are one, and that Jesus Christ is the Foundation of the apostles and prophets, and that he is the Head over all things, to the Church also, and believing that it is his will that his children be one, and believing also that the Bible is the only rule of faith and practice for God's people to be governed by, recommend that our people unite with all God's people who believe and practice the same as taught by the Saviour and the apostles, especially if it does not interfere with the title, name, or cause a sacrifice of Church property.

W. H. Head, *Chairman*;

L. G. Curtis,

W. F. Dunn,

Committee.

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 four public collections during the ensuing year, and that said funds so collected be placed in the hands of their respective Church Treasurers

and sent to the annual meeting of the Association and placed in the hands of a Home Mission Board, who shall be appointed by the Moderator of said Association, 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 afore-said; 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 report annually the amount of missionary work done by them; and that funds collected, as above stated, be divided among them in proportion to the amount of missionary work done by them.

W. H. Head, *Chairman*.

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

Resolved, That we recommend the organization of Sabbath-schools in all of our churches where they have not already been organized, and that, whereas, we deem them an auxiliary to the churches, we would recommend that churches foster and encourage their development. We would further recommend that pastors of churches deliver Sabbath-school lectures, and thereby forward the great work.

S. W. Patterson, *Chairman*.

On motion the following resolution was adopted :

Whereas we, the Free-will Baptist Church of Christ, are the same people, and all originated from the same; and

Whereas we have the same platform, preach the same doc-

trine, and practice the same ordinances, and owing to Elder J. L. Welch coming into our midst and our Association and proving this to a demonstration and to our satisfaction; and

Whereas we believe it to be the duty of all Christians who have the same platform, preach the same doctrine, and practice the same ordinances, to unite in name and effort for the building up of Christ's kingdom on earth, therefore

Resolved, That, in order not to sacrifice title, name, neither any Church property, we assume to adopt the name "Free-will Christian Baptist Church of Christ," and thereby show the world that we are one people, and are consolidated in name. This done by an entire voice of the Association, on the 18th day of October, A.D. 1886.

On motion the Association ordered that we continue our correspondence with sister Associations. That Rev. H. C. Pace write and bear the letter to the Liberty Association of General Baptists of Indiana. That Rev. W. T. Mosely write and bear the letter to the Cumberland Association, of Kentucky. That Rev. E. E. Collison write and bear the letter to the Union Association of General Baptists, of Kentucky. That Rev. G. W. Binkley write and bear the letter to the New Union Association of United Baptists, of De Kalb County, Tennessee.

On motion Brothers T. Watts and Frank Williams were appointed to receive contributions for printing Minutes of this Association; reported \$23.75, and Committee discharged.

The Association then adjourned to meet Tuesday morning, Oct. 19, 1886.

TUESDAY, Oct. 19, 1886.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, with Rev. G. R. Head in the chair. Opened with praise and prayer

MINUTES.

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by Rev. W. T. Mosely. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Resolved, That we continue to publish our Confession of Faith, Government, Constitution, and Rules of Decorum in our Minutes.

Resolved, That this Association shall convene at its next session on Saturday prior to the fourth Sunday in October, 1887, at 10 o'clock A M.

On motion the Association ordered that the missionary funds remain in the hands of our present Treasurer, Brother T. Watts.

The Moderator appointed the following-named delegates to the Stone's River Association when convened with Walker's Creek Church, De Kalb County, Tennessee: Rev. G. W. Binkley, Rev. H. C. Pace, and Rev. W. T. Mosely.

Rev. G. W. Binkley was elected to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Association, and Rev. H. C. Pace, alternate.

On motion Brother T. Watts and Brother J. E. Hudgens were appointed to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes of this Association.

The Association tendered a vote of thanks to the brethren and friends in the vicinity of Bethlehem Church for their kind and generous hospitality during the sitting of the Association.

Resolved, That the Ashland Quarterly Meeting be held with Bethlehem Church, Cheatham County, Tennessee, on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1887.

Resolved, That the Dover Quarterly Meeting be held with Liberty Church, Stewart County, Tennessee, on Saturday before the first Sunday in June, 1887.

It was moved that the Association adjourn to meet with Good Spring Church, Cheatham County, Tennessee, located three miles south-east of Pleasant View, on Saturday prior to the fourth Sabbath in October, 1887, at 10 o'clock A.M.

REV. G. R. HEAD, Moderator;

REV. W. H. HEAD, Ass't.

J. E. HUDGENS, Clerk;

S. W. PATTERSON, Ass't.



Minutes of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery convened Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1886, and organized by electing Rev. G. R. Head Moderator, and Brother J. C. Hudgens Clerk.

A petition for the ordination of Brother R. R. Gower was read from Head's Church, Robertson County, Tennessee, and he was ordained deacon of said church by prayer and laying on of hands.

A petition for the ordination of Brother E. F. Miles and Brother E. E. Miles was read from Bethlehem Church, Cheatham County, Tennessee. The Presbytery ordered (by consent of the applicants) that their ordination be postponed until the Quarterly Meeting which meets with Bethlehem Church on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1887.

The Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held with Head's Church, Robertson County, Tennessee, were read, and the committee appointed by said Meeting to investigate the charges preferred against Rev. G. W. Carney reported that they found no proof against him. The Presbytery then appointed a committee of five to receive the testimony against him (Rev. G. W. Carney) and investigate the same, and report their decision to the Presbytery. The Committee consisted of the following-named brethren, to-wit: Rev. H. C.

Pace, Rev. E. E. Collison, Rev. G. W. Binkley, Rev. W. T. Mosely, and Brother S. W. Patterson. The committee made the following report:

We, your committee appointed to receive such testimony as might be brought before us against Rev. G. W. Carney, and investigate the same, beg leave to make the following report: After taking the evidence into consideration, we do hereby find him guilty of unchristian conduct, and do hereby silence him from preaching until he introduces evidence sufficient to overbalance the testimony against him; and we also give him his own time in which to produce his testimony and appoint the time and place for trial: also that he be furnished with a copy of the charges preferred against him.

Signed by the committee.

Rev. G. W. Binkley, *Clerk*.

Having transacted the business before it, the Presbytery adjourned to meet in extra session with Bethlehem Church, Cheatham County, Tennessee, on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1887; and at the close of the next Annual Association, to be held with Good Spring Church, Cheatham County, Tennessee.

REV. G. R. HEAD, Moderator.

J. E. HUDGENS, Clerk.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

OF THE

Cumberland * Association * of * Free-will * Baptists.

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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, ever advocating 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 to 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. ←

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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 appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. In the letter 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 shall 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 it shall be placed in 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 by prayer and laying on of hands; and 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, third chapter, from the first to the eighth 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. ←



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 members voting for revision.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	By Experience.	By Letter.	Recommendation.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total No.	Contributions for Minutes.
Liberty	J. Taylor, J. Cherry, W. Waggoner.	11	..	..	12	..	..	..	65	\$3 90
Good Spring	J. B. Hallums. (NO LETTER.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	1 00
Head's Church	W.J. & J.T. Harris, J.R. Gower, W.H. Head, W.H. Balthrop.	4	..	1	..	..	9	4	161	4 00
Bethlehem	J. Patton, Wm. Robbitt, M. R. Hudgens, E. F. Miles.	12	..	..	..	..	..	1	130	2 50
Spring Hill	No Intelligence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
Rock Spring	W.W., J. T. & B.H. Hagewood, H. J. Groves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114	2 05
Cotton Mills	No Intelligence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..
Cross Creek	No Intelligence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	..
Pleasant Valley	By Letter.	5	..	3	1	1	..	..	39	..
Oakland	Isaac Carney, W. F. Dunn.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	1 30
Charity	B. R. Simpkins, R. S. Demumbra.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	1 00
Bethel	No Intelligence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..
Mount Zion	G. W. Binkley. (NO LETTER.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	..
Collison's Chapel.	No Intelligence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..
Shady Grove	No Intelligence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..
Sinking Spring	No Intelligence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..
Grange	William Meadow.	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	1 50
Friendship	No Intelligence.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..
Old Zion	W N Morgan, J. Henderson, L. G. Curtis	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	67	2 25
Oak Lawn	T Watts, W. H. Nichols.	8	1	2	..	..	..	..	44	2 25
North Nashville	F. Williams, W. T. Trotter, J. K. P. Ehrbridge	15	..	..	..	1	..	1	81	2 00
AMOUNT TOTAL.		2	6	13	2	9	6	1063	\$23.75	

POST-OFFICE ADDRESSES.



Rev. J. L. Welch, Alexandria, De Kalb county, Tenn.

Rev. W. T. Mosely, Bumpus Mills, Stewart county,
Tenn.

Rev. W. H. Head, 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. C. Pace, Bumpus Mills, Stewart county,
Tenn.

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

Rev. J. T. Brake, Erin, Houston county, Tenn.

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

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

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

Brother T. Watts, (*Treasurer*) Pleasant View, Cheat-
ham county, Tenn.

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

Brother R. S. Demumbra, Ashland City, Cheatham
county, Tenn.

Brother J. E. Hudgens, (*Clerk*) Pleasant View, Cheat-
ham county, Tenn.