

MINUTES
OF THE
Fifty-second Annual Session
OF THE
Cumberland : Association
OF
FREEWILL BAPTISTS.

Held With Rock Spring Church, Dickson Co.,
Tenn., Oct. 24, 25, 26,

1895.

REV. G. W. BINKLEY, Mod.

J. E. HUDGENS, Clerk,

GENERAL BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,
OWENSVILLE, IND.

MINUTES

Of the Fifty-second Annual session of Cumberland Association of Freewill Baptists, held with Rock Spring church, Dickson county, Tenn., October 24, 25 and 26, 1895.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. L. Hosale from St. Luke, 12:40.

The association organized by electing Rev. G. W. Binkley, Moderator and Rev. W. B. Stewart, Assistant Moderator, J. E. Hudgins, Clerk and G. V. Frey Assistant Clerk.

Adjourned for refreshments to 1 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotional services led by S. W. Patterson.

Letters were received from the churches and read and statistics recorded. (See statistical table.)

Petionary letters called for and two were received: Beautiful Home and Smith's Grove. Both were received and their delegates invited to seats.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Devotional Exercises—S. W. Patterson, J. B. Patton and L. F. Smith.

Obituaries—J. R. Gower, J. L. Justice and J. H. Mayo.

Literature—J. E. Curtis, W. W. Sterry and J. R. Gower.

Missionary Work—G. T. Harris, L. Hosale and S. H. Milliken.

Sunday Schools—G. W. Denny, C. H. Pickle and G. V. Frey.

Temperance—J. E. Curtis, B. Murrell and William Rogers.

Finance—H. L. Winters, James Williams and J. H. Read.

Miscellany—J. L. Lanier, E. E. Cherry and J. W. Ayers

FRIDAY—FORENOON SESSION

Met at 10 o'clock A. M. Devotional Services led by Rev. W. B. Stewart.

Minutes of previous meeting read, corrected and adopted.

Called for report of Standing committees; received none.

Special committees reported as follows, the reports being adopted and the committees discharged:

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

Rev's G. W. Binkley and J. E. Curtis to occupy the pulpit on Thursday night and Rev's Wm Rogers and W. B. Stewart on Friday at 11 o'clock. A. M., Rev. C. H. Pickle Friday night, Rev. J. L. Welch Saturday at 11 o'clock, A. M., Rev. G. V. Frey Sat. night Rev. William Rogers Sunday at 11 o'clock

Outside appointments: Rev. Wm. Rogers, Shady Grove, Friday night; Rev. G. V. Frey at New Hope school house Friday night; Rev. Wm. Rogers Saturday night at Susan Hage-woods.

OBITUARIES.

WHEREAS, The Divine Ruler and Governor of all things has in wisdom called our well beloved and highly esteemed brother, J. S. Defoe, from labor to reward, and from the thorny paths of life to the shining thoroughfares of glory, therefore be it

Resolved, That we as an association humble ourselves under the afflicting hand of Him who is "too wise to err and too good to do wrong." And while we deeply deplore our loss, we rejoice in the thought that he has reached that country of celestial joy. Be it further

Resolved, That we tender our deepest sympathies to his bereaved wife, mother, sisters and children, and commend them to the Fatherly care of Him who said, "I will be a Father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow;" and that we all imitate his Christian virtues, that we may meet in that sunny clime where we shall part no more. Be it further

Resolved, That we extend our condolence and sympathies to the relatives and friends of all our laymen who have been called to their reward.

LITERATURE.

WHEREAS, We have no church paper published in our midst and

WHEREAS, The Free Baptists are publishing an excellent paper at Phenix, Alabama—the "*Harvest Gleaner*," therefore, be it

Resolved, That we adopt it as our church organ, and that we patronize Free Baptist Literature in our Sunday-schools. That we recommend the "*Morning Star*," published at Boston, Mass. and the MESSENGER, published at Owensville, Ind., to our people, as good, religious papers.

MISSIONARY WORK.

Resolved, That we, as an Association, favor missions, both home and foreign.

Resolved, That the moderator of this Association appoint a home mission Board, consisting of five, at the present sitting of this body. That said Board organize by electing a chairman, secretary and treasurer; and that they be empowered to appoint a home missionary to travel within the bounds of this Association or wherever said board shall see proper to send him, and that he take collections at all suitable times and report to treasurer of said Board amount collected. And the pastors of churches shall raise all the funds possible to support this work, and all funds collected by said pastors shall be placed in the hands of the treasurer of said Board, which shall be used for the support of said missionary. That said Board report amount received and disbursed by them to next sitting of this association, and that he be required to make a report of his work to this body at its next annual sitting.

The moderator appointed the Missionary Board as follows: J R Gower, J H Mayo, T B Harris, J M Walker, Wm Stewart.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Resolved, 1st. That Sunday-schools be organized and kept running in all our churches, and that our ministers use their influence to keep them running throughout the year.

2nd. That it is the imperative duty of our churches to establish and foster them in every possible way.

3rd. That we urge that churches submit a report to the association of the Sunday-school work done by them.

4th. That we use the Free Baptist literature in our Sunday Schools, and that we regard the church as failing to discharge her duty who fails to run a Sunday school.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Resolved, 1st. That we urge the stewards of the various churches to use every available means to secure remunerative salaries for their pastors.

2nd. That it is the duty of our churches to look after and care for the poor and destitute members in all our churches.

TEMPERANCE.

Resolved, 1st. That we, the Cumberland Association of Freewill Baptists, in association assembled, in common with other organizations, demand temperance in all its phases of every member of this entire association; and that we, as a church, use our influence both in precept and example, for the promotion of the temperance cause.

2nd. That we demand that all ministers of this association give special attention to its evils, especially the use of alcohol in any of its forms, because of its damning influence, and demoralizing effects on the human race, and that an unceasing effort be made by them to impress these truths upon their hearers, first by example and secondly by special talks on temperance.

FINANCE.

The committee reported \$27.03 collected for printing minutes of this association.

PASTORAL LABOR.

The committee made the following report: Rev. G. V. Frey, to Olivet and the churches in Stewart county, with Bro. Wallace assistant. Bro. ——— Shannon, Hickory Grove; Bro. ——— Brown, Charity; Bro. ——— Hunt assistant at Head's church; Bro. J. W. Ayers, assistant to Bro. L. Hosale at his various churches; Bro. J. E. Curtis assistant at Cofer's chapel.

REPORTS OF MINISTERS.

Rev. J. L. Welch—sermons 45; exhortations 7; S. S. lectures 1; miles traveled 706; money received \$133.38.

Rev. G. W. Binkley—sermons 83; churches in charge 1; additions 79; restored 4; baptized 47; prayer-meetings attended 43; prayers in private homes 140; visits 264; funerals 5; couples married 4; miles traveled 230; received \$172.00.

Rev. C. H. Pickle—sermons 200; conversions 117; baptized 50; miles traveled 4,000; received \$250.

Rev. Wm. Rogers—sermons 369; conversions 254; miles traveled 3216; received \$602.72.

Rev. J. P. Weyel—sermons 56; S. S. lectures 14; conversions 14; baptized 4; miles traveled 460; received \$5.50.

Rev. E. F. Miles, jr. sermons 24; exhortations 1; conversions 7; baptized 7; additions 7; couples married 2; miles traveled 288; received \$24.00.

Rev. J. Brake—sermons 31; exhortations 7; miles traveled 182; received \$11.72.

Rev. L. Hosale—sermons 200; conversions 150; received into churches 13; baptized 8; miles traveled 1500; received \$300.

Rev. J. E. Hudgens—churches in charge 4; sermons 104; received into churches 49; baptized 46; funerals attended 4; couples married 3; miles traveled 1000; received \$185.00.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That an associational book be purchased with the funds now on hand in which shall be inscribed the Government, Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Resolutions of this association and such other matter as shall be deemed necessary by this body.

2. That the moderator of this association appoint a committee on pastoral labor for the next associational year. That said committee assign pastors to the destitute churches and give each minister a work. The moderator appointed Wm. Rogers, C. H. Pickle, J. L. Welch

3. That we recommend that the churches composing this association from this time on, secure their pastors through their delegates sent to the association, and that the several churches instruct their delegates in regard to the pastor and what they are willing to give him, that there may be a mutual agreement between the church and the pastor selected,

Furthermore, that each church be supplied with a pastor, if possible, and each preacher be assigned a work.

4. That J. E. Hudgens and J. E. Curtis be authorized to procure associational book and transcribe, Constitution Rules of Decorum and such other resolutions as shall be of interest to this body.

5. That said committee be empowered to have the before mentioned constitution printed in said book, and that they sell those books for enough to pay themselves for work and printing.

6. That J. E. Hudgens superintend the printing of minutes and be paid seven dollars for his services.

7. That J. L. Welch be corresponding secretary for this associational year.

8. That the next association be held at Cofer's chapel.

9. That J. E. Hudgens preach the introductory sermon; G. V. Frey, alternate.

(Collected on Home Missions, Oakland \$1.50; Cofer's chapel \$3.00.

10. That we tender a vote of thanks to the brethren and friends in the vicinity of Rock Spring church for their kind care and open-hearted hospitality which they have shown this body during its present sitting.

11. That we adjourn to meet with Cofer's chapel church, Nashville, Tenn., at 10 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1896.

REV. G. W. BINKLEY, Moderator.

REV. W. B. STEWART, Ass't. Moderator.

J. E. HUDGENS, Clerk.

G. V. FREY, Ass't. Clerk.

MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY.

OCT. 26. 1895.

The Presbytery convened on above date, and organized by electing Rev. G. W. Binkley, Moderator, and Rev. E. F. Miles, Jr., Clerk.

After devotional services, proceeded to transact the following business:

Called for a report of the investigating committee appointed at last session: received a verbal report from Bro. E. M. Swenny, in substance that Bro. Hazlewood had agreed to go to work and continue on same.

The moderator appointed the following committee to take evidence in the cases of Bros. Weyel and Pace: S. W. Patterson, W. W. Murrell, R. R. Gower, W. W. Sterry, Jake Chadwick. They reported Bro. Pace guilty of unchristian conduct; and a committee appointed, consisting of Bros. C. C. Caygle, E. M. Swenny, Wm. Sterry, to investigate the character of Bro. J. P. Weyel.

Received recommendations for the ordination of L. B. Shannon, G. V. Frey, J. W. Carter, W. A. Brown, J. E. Curtis and J. W. Ayers, all being present except Bro. J. W. Carter.

The moderator appointed Bro. S. W. Patterson and Rev's J. L. Welch and Wm. Rogers a committee, to examine the before named brethren. They reported them competent and proceeded to ordain them to the full work of the ministry.

That resolution in our Minutes, in reference to the time licentiates and ministers coming from other denominations should serve before ordination, was abolished.

The certificate of G. W. Hunt was read and he received as a member of this body.

Received a recommendation from Mt. Storm church for the ordination of Bro. E. E. Cherry as deacon, who was duly ordained.

The first Ministers' Deacons' and Stewards' meeting be held with Mt. Zion church, Cheatham Co., Tenn., on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in —, 1896, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

The second M., D. and S. meeting to be held with Head's church, Robertson county, Tennessee, on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in —, 1896, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

That the clerk write certificates of ordination for the newly ordained ministers

That we adjourn, to meet with M., D. and S. meetings, and at the close of the next annual association.

REV. G. W. BINKLEY, Mod.

REV. E. F. MILES, JR., Clerk.

P. O. OF MINISTERS.

Rev. J. E. Hudgens (clerk)	Sycamore, Tenn.
" G. R. Head,	Turnersville, "
" G. W. Binkley, 1418, Polk St.	Nashville, "
" W. B. Stewart,	Halfpome, "
" J. L. Welch,	Fredonia, "
" J. A. Albright	Daniel, "
" Thos. Hazlewood,	Jordonia, "
" W. D. Haliburton,	Daniel, "
" J. P. Weyel,	Morney, "
" C. H. Pickle,	Cross Plains, "
" W. M. Rogers,	Office C, Nashville, "
" J. Blake,	Cumberland City, "
" G. M. Adcock,	Dickson, "
" Lawrence Hosale,	Turnersville, "
" J. E. Curtis,	Bordeaux, "
" E. F. Miles, Jr.	Ashland City, "
" S. W. Patterson,	Sobel, "
" R. S. Demumbran,	Marrowbone, "
" J. R. Gower,	Port Royal, "
" W. A. Brown,	Station C, Nashville, "
" L. B. Shannon,	Baggettsville, "
" G. V. Frey,	Orlinda, "
" J. W. Ayers,	Pleasant View, "
" G. W. Hunt,	Turnersville, "
" J. W. Carter,	Nashville, "
Bro. T. Watts, (treasurer)	Pleasant View, "

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.

SECOND DAY.

1. Calling the Roll.
2. Reading minutes of previous meeting.
3. Hearing reports of standing committees.
4. Hearing reports of special committees

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION.

We, the Freewill Christian Baptist church of Christ, at _____ church, _____ county, Tenn., to the Cumberland Association of Freewill Christian Baptist church of Christ, when convened with _____ church, _____ county, Tenn. We have chosen our messengers, to-wit: _____, _____, _____; our statistics are as follows: Received by experience—; by letter—; by recommendation,—; by restoration,—. Dismissed by letter,—; excluded, died,—; total number in fellowship,—; our day of meeting is —; our present pastor is —. This done by order of the church on the _____ day of _____. _____, Moderator.
_____, Clerk.

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GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION

ART. 1. Each church in this association shall be entitled to two delegates and one additional delegate for every additional fifty 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 the number received by experience, letter, recommendation, restoration. Also number dismissed by letter, excluded and died since last association, and the total number enrolled.

3. This association shall possess no power to infringe on the inherit rights of 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, secretary and treasurer from among themselves, and they shall hold their offices until their successors are elected.

6. New churches may be received into the Union, who shall petition by letter or delegate, if they have been regularly organized upon a profession of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and walking according to 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 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 ministers of the gospel, and deacons, who shall come with recommendation from their churches, and to try all ordained members for un-Christian conduct, who have been tried by their churches and found guilty. 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 all ordained members present, and they shall elect a moderator and clerk from among themselves for the time being, who shall hold their offices until their successors are elected. It shall be the duty of said presbytery to examine all applicants for ordination sent up with recommendations from their churches composing this association; if found competent, shall ordain and set them apart for the work by prayer and laying on of hands. Said presbytery shall have full power to try all ordained members for un-Christian conduct, and on proper testimony, their decision shall be valid.

10. It shall be the duty of each minister who shall organize a church, to ordain deacons for the same. It shall be his duty, also, to ordain deacons where a vacancy occurs in his charge.

11. No member shall be ordained until he can fill the requirements in Paul's first letter to Timothy, 3d chapter, and this shall be tested by the Presbytery. Said presbytery shall have full power to propound scriptural questions as they shall see proper, and all conditions shall be required to answer them satisfactorily.

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 excommunicated churches, which shall receive the concurrence of two-thirds.

14. Representatives from five churches shall constitute a quorum to transact business, and no business shall be transacted without a quorum.

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 it 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, voting in behalf of the amendment.

18. When this association shall have convened, it is the privilege of all ordained members belonging to the Cumberland association, of Freewill Baptists, to sit in council with us and propose resolutions, coming before this body as though 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 person shall laugh or whisper in time of public speaking.

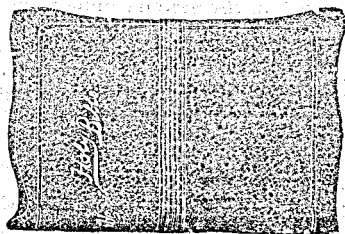
Members shall use the word "brother" or "brethren" in all debates.

No member shall absent himself without leave from the association.

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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 wilfully and knowingly 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ART. 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, ever advocating at his Father's throne, hath brought in an everlasting salvation for every sinner that will repent, believe, and obey 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 Judgement 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, 10th chapter, 16th 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 dictations of his own conscience, is in communion with saints.

ART. 10. We believe in the justification of infants by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, in passive state, and thereby admitting them heirs of his kingdom.

General Baptist Publishing House

OWENSVILLE, IND.

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