

MINUTES
OF THE
Fifty-Fourth Annual Session
OF THE
CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION,

OF
FREEWILL-CHRISTIAN BAPTISTS,

Held with Hickory Grove Church, Dickson Co.,
Tennessee, Oct. 21, 22 and 23,

1897.

REV. G. V. FREY, Moderator.
J. E. HUDGENS, Clerk, Sycamore, Tennessee.

GENERAL BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,
OWENSVILLE, IND.

MINUTES

Of the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of the Cumberland Association of Freewill-Christian Baptists, held with Hickory Grove Church, Dickson County, Tennessee, October 21, 22 and 23, 1897.

The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Rev. G. V. Frey. Text, Acts 16:30.

Permanent Officers: Rev. G. V. Frey, Moderator; Rev. G. W. Binkley, Assistant Moderator; J. E. Hudgens, Clerk; J. W. Carter Assistant Clerk.

Adjourned to 1:30, p. m., for refreshments.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Devotional services led by Rev. G. V. Frey.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats in council with us: Rev. J. R. Edwards, Owensville, Ind.; Rev. H. M. Ford, Hillsdale, Mich.; Rev. W. H. Frost, Plymouth, N. C.; Rev. Geo. C. Moore, Dickson, Tenn.

Letters received from the various churches, as will be found in the table of statistics, and the names of delegates enrolled.

Petitionary letters called for. Received the following; and invited their delegates to seats: Stony Point, Antioch and Mount Liberty.

The Moderator appointed Rev. G. W. Carney, Rev. G. W. Binkley and B. Murrell a committee on Pulpit Supplies.

Adjourned to 9 a. m., Friday.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. R. Edwards.

Minutes of previous meeting read, corrected and adopted. Corresponding Letter called for. Received verbal reports from Revs. J. R. Edwards, G. W. Binkley, H. M. Ford and W. H. Frost.

The following Committees were appointed; to-wit:

Obituaries—Revs. W. M. Rogers, C. H. Pickle, J. W. Gardner.

Literature—Revs. J. E. Hudgens, A. D. Duncan, J. E. Curtis.

Missionary Work—E. F. Roney, Revs. J. W. Ayers and H. M. Ford.

Sunday School Work—C. E. Stewart, Rev. L. B. Shannon, Rev. J. R. Edwards.

Temperance—Rev. E. F. Miles, Jr., Rev. W. H. Frost, J. N. Harrington.

Finance—J. B. Patton, R. M. Luter, W. B. Maxey.

Devotional Services.

The committee on Devotional Services reported as follows, Rev. J. R. Edwards, Thursday night; Rev. H. M. Ford, Friday, 11; Rev. W. H. Frost, Friday night; Rev. J. E. Hudgens, Friday night, at Colesburg; Rev. W. H. Frost, Saturday at 11, followed by Rev. W. M. Kogers; Rev. A. D. Duncan, Saturday night at Hickory Grove, and Rev. J. E. Hudgens at Dickson Station; Rev. H. M. Ford at Hickory Grove, Sunday at 11 a. m., and Rev. J. W. Carter at night; Rev. J. E. Curtis at Dickson Station, Sunday at 11 a. m., and H. M. Ford Sunday night.—Committee.

Obituaries.

WHEREAS, God in His wisdom has called Rev. W. B. Stewart from labor to reward since our last association, and

WHEREAS, We shall see his face no more in our gatherings, nor hear his voice in our councils; and

WHEREAS, He left evidence that he has gone to the rest that remains to the people of God; therefore be it

Resolved, 1st. That we weep not as those who have no hope, and that we cherish his memory and look forward to a glorious reunion where parting is no more;

2nd. That we, as an association, extend to his family and friends our heart-felt sympathies and condolence, and submit to Him who doeth all things well, knowing that "All things work together for good to them that love God;"

3rd. That we extend our love and sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased brethren and sisters.—Committee.

Literature.

WHEREAS, We have no church paper at present representing the Cumberland Association, therefore be it

Resolved, That we adopt the Freewill Baptist, published at Ayden, N. C. as our church organ until such time as we shall have and support one of our own, and that the Moderator of this association appoint a corresponding secretary to report items of interest to same;

2. That we heartily recommend the Morning Star, Boston, Mass., and the Messenger, Owensville, Ind., and the Free Baptist, Minneapolis, Minn., as reading matter of a healthful character;

3. That we recommend the Sunday-school literature published by the Morning Star Publishing Company, Boston, Mass., as best for use in our Sunday-schools.—Committee.

Missionary Work.

WHEREAS, Our great Commander, and Captain of our salvation, has ordered us to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," therefore,

Resolved, That we recognize the plain duty of this command to give the gospel to all men everywhere, at home and across the seas in foreign lands.

Resolved, That we recognize the duty of *giving* of our means for the support of missionaries in our home land and in foreign lands.

Resolved, That our faithful pastors, who are properly missionaries, should receive a proper support for their services while laboring for our home churches.

Resolved, That especially we recognize the importance of a home missionary for the Cumberland Association, who shall hold special meetings and assist in bringing about better methods and plans, and in organizing and caring for the churches.

Resolved, That we indorse the last resolution under "Missionary Work" found in last year's minutes. (See page 3.)

(The following is the resolution referred to above:)

"That the moderator of this association appoint a home mission board, consisting of three, and that said board organize by electing from their number a chairman, secretary and treasurer, and that said board lay out and supervise the work of said missionary, and that he make quarterly report to said board, and an annual report of his work to this association; and that for his support the pastors of the various churches shall take quarterly collections, beginning in December (March, June and September), and that each member be requested to give at least 5 cents per quarter to said fund. The collections shall be sent at once to the treasurer of said board. That the missionary take collections wherever he may work, and report same to said board. We recommend that the work of said missionary be confined to the bounds of this association. That said missionary be elected by this association."

Rev. A. D; Duncan was elected.

MISSION BOARD.

D. T. Armstrong, Chairman, Nashville, Tenn.

C. E. Stewart, Secretary, Holfpone, "

J. B. Patton, Treasurer, Ashland City, "

Temperance.

WHEREAS, Intemperance is a curse to any nation,

Resolved, That we, the Freewill Baptists, oppose the use of all intoxicants as a beverage; and

Whereas millions are sent to perdition by the use of liquor, we recommend that our ministers and laymen advocate and practice total abstinence from all intoxicants.—Committee.

Finance.

The committee reported \$26.05 collected for printing minutes.

Ministers' Reports.

J. W. Gardner—churches in charge, 1; received into the church, 8; baptized, 4; funerals attended, 2; sermons preached, 70; miles traveled, 439; received, \$9.21.

G. M. Adcock—sermons preached, 60; received into the church, 3; burial services, 2; conversion witnessed, 8; miles traveled, 509; exhortations, 30; money received, \$9.20.

J. W. Ayers—Sermons preached, 19; prayer-meeting talks, 25; burial services, 1; professions witnessed, 4; miles traveled, 110; received, \$5.25.

E. F. Miles, jr.—sermons preached, 18; baptized, 8; received into the church, 6; marriages solemnized, 4; received, \$8.00.

C. H. Pickle—Sermons preached, 200; conversions witnessed, 70; additions to the church, 45; baptized, 50; miles traveled, 5009; received \$150.00.

A. D. Duncan—sermons preached, 63; baptized, 7; funerals attended, 7; couples married, 8; miles travelled, 320; received, \$54.10.

G. N. Frey—Sermons preached, 150; conversions witnessed, 31; received into the church, 29; baptized, 22; marriage ceremonies performed, 2; miles traveled, 900; received, \$80.00:

G. W. Binkley—Sermons preached, 65; received into the churches, 96; baptized, 54; visits 366; prayers in homes, 251; prayer-meetings attended, 36; funerals attended, 23; marriages solemnized, 10; miles traveled, 1258; received, \$155.55.

W. M. Rogers—Sermons preached, 401; conversions witnessed, 44; miles traveled, 6487; received, \$671.69.

L. B. Shannon—Sermons preached, 121, exhortations, 43, received into the church, 5; miles traveled, 1000; received, \$39.35.

J. L. Welch, Home Missionary—Sermons delivered, 58; exhortations, 10; members received, 21; baptized, 9; miles traveled, 1081. Received from treasurer of Mission Board, \$67 45
Received from individuals, - - - - - 12 58

Total on Mission Work, - - - - - \$80 03

Received at Head's church, Aug. 15, 1897, for the church at Whitehouse, - - - - - \$14 00

Received at Bethlehem, August 29, 1897, for same, - - - - - 20 25

Received from H. W. Pentecost, - - - - - 50

Total, - - - - - \$34 75

Paid to C. T. Dowell, - - - - - 34 25

\$ 00

Verbal reports were made by others of a very encouraging nature.

SATURDAY—MORNING SESSION.

Devotional exercises, led by D. T. Armstrong.

A quorum being present, the minutes were read corrected and adopted.

J. E. Curtis, J. E. Hudgens and Tilden Mayo, were appointed to formulate resolutions expressive of the fraternal feeling of this association toward the General Conference of Free Baptists of the north, and the Freewill Baptists of N. C. The committee reported as follows: We, the Freewill Christian Baptists composing the Cumberland Association, send fraternal greeting and Christian salutation to the Free Baptists of the North by the hands of Rev. H. M. Ford, whose presence and council is appreciated by this association. Dear brethren, we desire a more thorough acquaintance, and ask that you continue to send fraternal messengers to our associational meetings. We have appointed Rev. G. W. Binkley as our fraternal messenger, whom we hope will be able to represent us in your General Conference at Ocean Park, Maine. The report was adopted. A similar resolution was addressed to the Freewill Baptists of N. C., which was represented by Rev. W. H. Frost. Rev. J. E. Curtis was appointed to write and bear a letter of fraternal greetings to the same.

Resolutions.

1. That we continue to correspond with our sister associations.

2. That a committee consisting of five deacons be appointed by the Moderator of this association, whose duty it shall be to report any immoralities or irregularities observable in the conduct of the ministerial brethren composing this association, to the presbytery at its first sitting thereafter. The moderator named the following committee: J. H. Mayo, B. Murrell, C. T. Dowell, W. J. Bobbett and J. T. Davidson.

3. That the Stewards of each church in this association be required to meet at the beginning of each quarter of the pastoral year to make arrangements for the support of the pastor of their respective churches. And that at the beginning of each subsequent quarter after the first, the Stewards shall make report to the church of the amount paid for pastoral support and by whom paid.

4. That a committee be appointed which shall formulate a short course of study for our ministers, and that all future candidates for the ministry shall be required to take this course before ordination: J. E. Hudgens, J. W. Gardener and G. W. Carney, were appointed to formulate said course, and

report same to this body at its next sitting for ratification or rejection.

5th. That Revs. J. W. Gardener, A. D. Duncan and L. B. Shannon write and bear letter and fraternal greetings to the Western Division of Stone Association, F. W. C. Baptists.

6th. That Revs. C. H. Pickle and W. M. Rogers write and bear letter and fraternal greetings to the Eastern Division of the Stone Association, F. W. C. Baptists.

7th. That G. W. Binkley, W. M. Rogers, G. W. Carney, S. W. Patterson and J. E. Hudgens represent this association in the General Association at Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 28, 1897.

8th. That G. W. Binkley and J. E. Hudgens write and bear letter and fraternal greetings to Mount Union Association of General Baptists, of Kentucky.

9th. That Rev. G. W. Binkley be corresponding secretary for this year.

10th. That J. E. Hudgens superintend the printing of minutes, and be allowed seven dollars for same.

11th. That Rev. G. W. Binkley preach the Introductory Sermon at next annual association; Rev. W. M. Rogers, alt.

12th. That J. B. Patton be associational Treasurer for this year, and received \$33.36 to be used in liquidating the debt on the church at the White House.

13th. That a vote of thanks be tendered the brethren and friends in the vicinity of Hickory Grove church for their unbounded hospitality extended to us during the sitting of this body.

14th. That we adjourn to meet with Hopewell church, Montgomery County, Tenn., on Thursday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1898, at 10 a. m.

REV. G. V. FREY, Moderator.

J. E. HUDGENS, Clerk.

REV. G. W. BINKLEY, Ass't.

J. W. CARTER, Ass't.

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POST-OFFICE ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS.

J E Hudgens (clerk),	- - - - -	Sycamore, Tenn.
G R Head,	- - - - -	Turnersville, "
G W Binkley, 1508 Polk street,	- - - - -	Nashville, "
A L Welch,	- - - - -	Fredonia, "
J A Albright,	- - - - -	Daniels, "
Thomas Hazlewood,	- - - - -	Jordonia, "
W D Haliburton,	- - - - -	Daniel, "
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 R Demumbran,	- - - - -	Marrowbone, "
W A Brown,	- - - - -	Station C, Nashville, "
L B Shannon,	- - - - -	Bumpus Mills, "
G V Frey,	- - - - -	Bumpus Mills, "
J W Ayers,	- - - - -	Pleasant Valley, "
G W Hunt,	- - - - -	Turnersville, "
J W Carter,	- - - - -	Nashville, "
G W Carney,	- - - - -	Marrowbone, "
W F Presley,	- - - - -	Morney, "
G A Davis,	- - - - -	Bumpus Mills, "
J W Gardener,	- - - - -	Morney, "
A D Duncan, McNary street, 924,	- - - - -	Nashville, "
James Nicholson,	- - - - -	Nashville, "
Sylvester Crow,	- - - - -	Duel, "
S A Myatt,	- - - - -	Dickson, "
J A Chadwick,	- - - - -	Dickson, "
W B Waggoner,	- - - - -	Erin, "

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.

MINUTES OF PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery convened October 23, 1897, 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:

Unfinished business called for. The case of Rev. G. M. Adcock was called, he being present and refusing to teach or practice foot-washing. It was moved that he be respectfully asked to surrender his credentials. The motion prevailed.

New business was called. Petitions were received for the ordination of the following named brethren to the full work of the ministry: J. A. Chadwick, S. A. Myatt, J. W. Carter, S. B. B. Holt and Sylvester Crow.

A committee, consisting of Revs. G. V. Frey, G. W. Carney, A. D. Duncan, C. H. Pickle and J. W. Gardener, was appointed to examine the candidates for ordination. They reported favorable on the petitions of J. A. Chadwick, S. A. Myatt, J. W. Carter and Sylvester Crow, and recommended a course of study for Bro. Holt. The former named brethren were duly ordained by prayer and laying on of hands.

Next business presented was a petition from the General Association of Freewill Baptists, of Middle Tennessee, to receive Rev. W. B. Waggoner as a member of this body. A motion to receive Brother Waggoner into full fellowship prevailed.

No further business appearing, adjourned to meet with the first Ministers, Deacons and Stewards' Meeting, which will convene with Bethel church on Saturday before the 5th Sunday in May, 1898, at 10 a. m.

The second M., D. and S. Meeting will be held with Head's church on Saturday before the 5th Sunday in July, 1898, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

REV. G. W. BINKLEY, Moderator.
REV. E. F. MILES, Jr., Clerk.

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 reneufance, 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 inducted 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 adopting them heirs of his kingdom.

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 inherent 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 are 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 unchristian 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 unchristian 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, 3rd 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 candidates 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 excluding 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 in 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.

The names of the members of this body shall be enrolled by the clerk, and called over as often as necessary, providing 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 willfully 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.

Form of Church Letter to the 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.