

MINUTES
OF
SIXTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Cumberland Association,
OF
FREEWILL CHRISTIAN BAPTISTS.

Held with Antioch Church, Dickson County, Tennessee, October
21, 22, 23, 1903.

J. E. HUDGENS, Moderator, Sycamore, Tenn.
G. W. FAMBROUGH, Clerk, Neptune, Tenn.



Sixtieth Annual Meeting.

The Sixtieth Annual Session of the Cumberland Association of Freewill Christian Baptists met with Antioch Church, Dickson County, Tennessee, October 21, 22, 23, 1903, and was called to order by J. E. Hudgens.

Permanent officers: J. E. Hudgens, Moderator; S. W. Patterson, Assistant Moderator; George Fambrough, Clerk; E. T. Miles, Reading Clerk.

Rev. J. E. Hudgens delivered the introductory sermon. Text, "Behold What Manner of Love"—1st John, III chapter, 1st verse.

A motion prevailed to fix the business hours of this session at 9 A. M. to 11 A. M., and then adjourn for devotional services and refreshments. Afternoon session convened at 2 o'clock and adjourn at 4 o'clock.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Body met at 2 P. M. Prayer by Rev. W. D. Haliburton.

Roll call, and a quorum was present. Rules of Decorum read by order of Moderator.

Letters from Churches were called for and received, as will be found in the table of statistics.

Petitionary letters called for and one received from Oak Grove Church, Dickson County, Tenn. Letter held to be given to Committee on Petitions and Requests.

Call was made for corresponding letters. None received.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Devotional Services.—W. R. Swift, J. W. Dean, Ed. Bracey.

Petitions and Requests.—S. W. Patterson, W. M. Rogers, E. F. Miles.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

FIRST DAY.

1. Reading Letters from various churches.
2. Calling for petitionary letters.
3. Calling for corresponding letters from Associations or Churches.
4. Appointment of committees.
5. Adjournment.

SECOND DAY.

1. Calling the roll.
2. Reading the minutes of previous meeting.
3. Hearing reports of standing committees.
4. Hearing reports of special committees.
5. Hearing resolutions.
6. Miscellaneous business.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER.

We, the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ at
Church.....County, Tenn.: To the Cumberland Association of Freewill Christian Baptist Church, 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,....; value of
Church property, \$..... Our day of meeting is..... Our pastor is....
This done by the order of the Church on....day of....day of....190..

.....MODERATOR.

.....CLERK.

Obituaries.—Geo. Harris, Geo. Carney, W. H. Pack.
Literature.—S. A. Myatt, W. D. Haliburton, Wm. Walker.
Missions.—J. W. Winters, S. F. Sheperd, E. C. Bracey.
Temperance.—M. S. Crow, W. M. Brumit, Wilson Patterson.
Sunday-School.—C. E. Stewart, Chairman; G. W. Denny, G. T. Heyer, W. T. Ellis, Mrs. Maggie Defoe.
Finance.—C. E. Brinkley, H. P. Smith, C. R. Farmer.

Motion prevailed for adjournment until Thursday at 9 A. M.

Thursday Morning.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by W. M. Rogers offered. Association called to order by Moderator.

The roll called and a quorum was present.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Report of special committees called and the following reports were received :

Devotional Services.—That the following preach on evening of October 21: J. E. Hudgens at Sylvia, W. M. Rogers at Vanleer, Curg Shannon at Stony Point, M. S. Crow at Antioch. Thursday at 11 o'clock—W. M. Rogers at Antioch. Thursday evening—J. E. Hudgens at Vanleer, W. M. Rogers at Sylvia, E. F. Miles at Buckeye Valley, T. S. Mathis (a Presbyterian) at Antioch. Friday at 11 o'clock—M. S. Crow at Antioch.

COMMITTEE.

Petitions and Requests—Jesus said: "Come unto me all ye that labor." Therefore we recommend that Oak Grove Church be admitted into this Association and that their delegates be seated.

COMMITTEE.

Obituaries—Whereas the last enemy, death, since our last annual association, has visited our ranks and removed our revered and much beloved brother, G. W. Brinkley, to join the "General Assembly of Saints" above, he having died March 21, 1903. Therefore, resolved;

First. That in the death of Bro. Geo. Brinkley the Association has sustained an irreparable loss. That we will miss his saintly presence and wise counsel in our ecclesiastical gatherings and in our Churches; but that we bow submissively to the will of Him who is "too good to do wrong and too wise to err," feeling that our loss is his gain. That we tender to his bereaved relations our heartfelt sympathy and condolence.

Second. That as we find from the reading of the church letters that a number of our lay members have been called from labor to reward, that we tender to their surviving relatives and friends our sincere condolence and point them for comfort and consolation to Him who came to bind up the broken hearted.

COMMITTEE.

Literature—The following was submitted:

First. The Bible is the book of all books, and we urge the systematic study of the same by the ministry, officers and laity of this Association.

Second. That we recommend the Dunn-Butler system of theology as a text book which is second to none, and the reading of ecclesiastical history as much as practicable.

That we adopt the Freewill Baptist, published at Ayden, N. C., as our Church paper, and that we recommend the Morning Star, published at Boston, Mass., and the Freewill Baptist and Messenger as wholesome literature, all of which are imminently worthy of our support.

COMMITTEE.

Missions—Report as follows submitted: That the missionary preacher be instructed to go where he deems it necessary, and preach and do all good in his power for the promotion of God's cause and the salvation of souls, and that he be instructed to take up collections at his points of preaching and report the same to next annual session of Cumberland Association. Also urge Sunday-school and prayer meeting in all our Churches. Rev. W. M. Rogers is elected to this work.

COMMITTEE.

Temperance—Report submitted as follows:

Resolved, That as an Association, we, in common with all Christian denominations, apprized of the baneful effects of liquor traffic on the citizenship of our country morally, intellectually and financially, we oppose the traffic in all of its multitudinous forms and recommend total abstinence for the individual, and that we use our influence to suppress said traffic.

COMMITTEE.

Sunday-Schools—The following report was made and adopted:

Whereas, Sunday-Schools are indispensable factors pertaining to the successful training of the children of our country, who are the hope of our Church and State. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That our pastors and members use every effort in their power to establish and maintain Sunday-Schools in all our Churches. That as loyal men and women we will see that our children attend Sunday-School when practicable. That we insist that our schools use our own literature, and that the schools select their officers from the church and that the superintendent of each school get the best consecrated teachers in his power, as this is considered the most important part of the work, and that each school be requested to make an annual report of their work to this Association.

COMMITTEE.

Finance Committee—The Finance Committee reported \$32.75 collected for the purpose of printing the Minutes of this sitting of the Association.

COMMITTEE.

A motion prevailed to adjourn until 2 p. m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. E. F. Miles.

Quorum present and Association declared open for business.

Report from Cofer's Chapel Sunday-School of 130 pupils was read and received.

MINISTERIAL REPORT.

W. M. ROGERS.—Sermons preached, 312; miles traveled, 4.296; received for services, \$676.58.

CURR SHANNON and BRO. J. W. D. SHANNON.—Churches in charge, 2; conversions, 57; additions to the church 14; baptized 12; sermons preached, 221; miles traveled, 1,000; prayer meetings, 35; marriages, 2; received for services, \$171.78.

C. H. PICKLE, assisted by W. M. BRUMIT.—Churches in charge, 6; conversions, 41; additions to church, 37; baptized, 25; miles traveled, 6,000; sermons preached, 400; funerals, 4; marriages, 3; received for services, \$300.00.

A. D. DUNCAN.—Sermons preached, 19; marriages, 13; miles traveled, 200.

J. W. AYERS.—Sermons preached, 32; exhortations, 9; churches in charge, 1; additions to church, 4; baptized, 4; funeral services, 1; miles traveled, 100; received for services, \$5.00.

M. S. CROW, Home Missionary, received from Harper Valley as pastor, \$2.25; mission money, \$172.95; total, \$185.20.

Other ministers failed to make reports.

Report from J. B. Patterson, Associational Treasurer, was submitted and received as follows:

Paid to G. V. Frey for Disciplines, \$56.60; received for Disciplines from J. E. Hudgens, \$5.00; from L. B. Shannon, 20c.; from G. E. Gower, \$1.60; total, \$6.80. Number of Disciplines printed, 508; sold by G. V. Frey, 19; consigned as follows: Ed. Gower, 14; J. H. Read, 13; S. A. Myatt, 24. G. V. Frey, 69; J. E. Hudgens, 50; total, 189. Leaving a balance of 318 Disciplines now on hand.

C. E. Stewart, Half Pone, Tenn., was elected Treasurer of the Association for the ensuing year.

RESOLUTIONS.

1st. Resolved, That the first article of the Government and Constitution be so amended as to read thus: "Each Church in this Associa-

tion shall be entitled to one delegate, and one additional delegate for every one hundred members or fraction thereof.

2d. Resolved, That we continue to correspond with sister associations.

The Moderator made the following appointments of Corresponding Delegates :

Western Division of the Stone Association—W. F. Presley and J. E. Hudgens.

General Association of General Baptists—C. H. Pickle and W. M. Rogers.

Mt. Union Association of General Baptists of Kentucky—G. W. Carney and M. S. Crow.

Eastern Division of the Stone Association—J. E. Curtis and L. B. Shannon.

Cape Fear Conference of Freewill Baptists of North Carolina--S. A. Myatt and W. A. Brown.

3d. Resolved, That the Clerk of the Association superintend the printing and distribution of 1,000 Minutes, and that he be allowed ten dollars for his services.

4th. Resolved, That it shall be the duty of any preacher being called to the pastoral care of any Church within the bounds of this Association to call the Stewards of said Church to meet at the beginning of the associational year for the purpose of making necessary arrangements for the support of the said pastor of said Church, and at the beginning of each subsequent quarter thereafter, said Stewards shall report to the Church the amount collected and by whom said amount has been paid.

5th. Resolved, That the above resolution be published in the Minutes each succeeding year.

6th. Resolved, That E. M. Free preach the Introductory Sermon at the opening of the next annual session, and that W. M. Rogers be his alternate.

7th. Resolved, That we tender a vote of thanks to the brethren and friends in and around the vicinity of Antioch Church for their kindness and hospitality toward this delegated body during its present sitting.

The Association then adjourned, to meet with Bethlehem Church, Cheatham County, Tenn., four miles west of Ashland City, Tenn., on Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1904, at 10 A. M.

J. E. HUDGENS, MODERATOR
GEORGE FAMBROUGH, CLERK.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND THEIR DELEGATES.

- ANTIOCH—W. R. Swift, J. W. Dean,
BEAUTIFUL HOME—D. C. Neal, J. F. Harris, Wm. Walker.
BETHEL—Geo. Fambrough, Robt. Fambrough, C. E. Stewart,
G. W. Denny, W. I. Barton.
BETHLEHEM—A. H. Hudgens, J. B. Patton, W. F. Sanders, C.
C. Stewart, J. H. Felts.
BRANDON'S CHAPEL—W. W. Wallace, E. E. Cherry.
CHARITY—No intelligence.
COFER'S CHAPEL—Jerry Sullivan, D. T. Armstrong, Fred. Man-
ners.
CROSS ROADS—O. B. Call, A. J. Myatt, J. R. Farmer.
GOOD SPRING—No intelligence.
GREENWOOD—W. T. Dowell, C. T. Dowell.
HARPER VALLEY—W. H. Pack, E. W. Pack.
HEADS—C. R. Farmer, John Lawrence, Sam Shepherd, R. R.
Gower, H. J. Head, J. L. Lawrence.
HICKORY GROVE—J. T. McCorpin, J. K. Olifton, W. M. Murrel.
HURRICAN CHAPEL—A. J. Burgess, James Tunnermus.
HOPEWELL—A. E. Rinehart, Dave Davidson, J. T. Davidson.
INDIAN MOUND—H. P. Smith, C. A. Mooney.
MAPLE VALLEY—A. B. Travis, Turner Mayfield, George Os-
brooks.
MT. LIBERTY—James M. Fields, Monroe Smith.
MT. PLEASANT—J. L. Cagle, R. F. Biggs, C. T. Biggs.
MT. ZION—G. T. Harris, George Carney.
NEW HOPE—A. S. F. Douglass, F. C. Bracey, C. E. Binkley.
OAK GROVE—S. F. Bowker, J. M. Owens.
OAKLAND—No intelligence.
OAK LAWN—W. H. Nichols, W. T. Ellis, Albert Mitchell, W. O.
Maxey, C. W. Bracey.
OLIVET—J. B. Nichols, H. D. Elliott.
PARADISE RIDGE—No intelligence.
PLEASANT GROVE—Henry Pool, H. D. Felts, Theodore Pool.
PLEASANT HILL—C. T. Wallace, G. F. Heyer, H. W. Ralls.
PLEASANT VALLEY—F. A. Hembree, D. A. Hembree, A. Oliver.
ROCK SPRINGS—M. M. Carroll, W. H. Patterson, J. M. Sutton,
V. B. Hagedwood, J. F. Adderhold.
SHADY GROVE—No intelligence.
SMITH'S GROVE—Henry Abney, Wm. Rollins.
STONY POINT—C. W. Waynick, J. E. Williams.
WALNUT GROVE—No intelligence.

MINUTES

—OF—

THE ANNUAL PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery convened at the close of the Association, October 23, 1902.

E. F. Miles was elected Moderator and George Fambrough Clerk.

The Moderator called for unfinished business, under which the committee appointed at the last session of the Presbytery to investigate the unchristian charge made against Bro. J. W. Carter, made their report by letter from J. W. Carter, requesting that his name be dropped from the Presbytery without debate.

NEW BUSINESS.

The following were elected as members of the Ordaining Council: J. E. Hudgens, M. S. Crow, W. M. Rogers, E. F. Miles, S. A. Myatt.

The Ordaing Council reported that they had received one petition from Pleasant Valley Church for the ordination of W. M. Brumit. After due examination they recommended him for ordination. After E. F. Miles read the charge he was duly ordained according to our custom by prayer and laying on of hands.

By request of Bro. S. W. Patterson his name was dropped from the Presbytery, and the Clerk was ordered to write him a letter.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet at the close of the next Annual Association.

E. F. MILES, MODERATOR.
GEO. FAMBROUGH, CLERK.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	POSTOFFICES (All in Tennessee)	By Experience	By Letter	By Recommendation	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Deceased	No. of Members	Value of Church Property	Days of Meeting	Money for Minutes
Antioch.....	Vanleer.....	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	37	\$ 500 00	3	\$1 00
Beautiful Home.....	Pleasant View.....	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	25	.....	3	50
Bethel.....	Half Pone.....	5	3	3	1	1	1	1	103	1000 00	3	2 00
Bethlehem.....	Ashland City.....	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	210	800 00	1	2 65
Brandon's Chapel ..	Bumpus Mills.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	95	1200 00	4	1 00
Charity.....	Marrowbone.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....
Coker's Chapel.....	Nashville.....	2	1	1	1	1	14	5	234	.....	1	4 00
Cross Roads.....	Dickson.....	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	70	.....	3	1 00
Good Springs.....	Joelton R. R. No. 28..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....
Greenwood.....	Cross Plains.....	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	94	.....	3	1 00
Harpeth Valley.....	Deep Springs.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	3	50
Heads.....	Turnersville.....	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	218	900 00	3	2 50
Hickory Grove.....	Dickson.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	36	200 00	3	55
Hopewell.....	Hickory Point.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	64	700 00	3	1 00
Hurricane Chapel.....	Mount Erwin.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20	.....	1	50
Indian Mound.....	Indian Mound.....	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	42	800 00	1	1 00
Maple Valley.....	Heath.....	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	73	.....	4	1 00
Mt. Liberty.....	Stewart.....	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	31	.....	2	50
Mt. Pleasant.....	Morney.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	49	400 00	1	1 00
Mt. Zion.....	Hoffasville.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	69	750 00	3	1 00
New Hope.....	Joelton R. R. 26.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	70	500 00	3	75
Oak Grove.....	Dull.....	33	1	1	1	1	1	1	38	300 00	2	1 10
Oak Lawn.....	Morney.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....
Oakland.....	Pleasant View.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	112	.....	4	1 60
Olivet.....	Port Royal.....	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	38	800 00	1	.....
Paradise Ridge.....	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....
Pleasant Grove.....	Clarksville R. R. No. 2	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	23	.....	2	1 15
Pleasant Hill.....	Bumpus Mills.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	91	800 00	1	1 60
Pleasant Valley.....	Cayce.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	51	.....	1	1 00
Rock Springs.....	Sobel.....	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	251	1000 00	3	1 70
Shady Grove.....	Bettystown.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....
Smith's Grove.....	Ardec.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	.....	1	1 60
Stony Point.....	Batson's Store.....	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	.....	1	75
Walnut Grove.....	Stewart.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

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 His word.

ART. 5. We believe that the faithful Christian will never fall from Grace, notwithstanding that we believe in the free moral agency of man after justification, and 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, VI Chapter, 1st to 7th verses—that after a man has been partaker of the Holy Ghost, if he shall fall from grace, it is impossible to ever 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 saint's 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 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—I Corinthians, X 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 reputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, in a passive state, and thereby adopting them heirs of His kingdom.

GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. Each Church in this Association shall be entitled to one delegate, and one additional delegate for every one hundred members or fraction thereof.

2. In the letter from each church shall be expressed the number received by experience, letter, recommendation and 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 the gospel order.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association except 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 the Association.

9. For the purpose of ordaining ministers of the gospel and deacons who shall come with recommendation from their churches, and try all ordained members for unchristian conduct, 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 the 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 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 of Paul's letter to Timothy—Chapter III—and this shall be tested by Presbytery. Said Presbytery shall have full power to propound scriptural questions as they 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 for the transaction of business, and no business shall be transacted without a quorum.

15. The Minutes of this Association shall be read before them and read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and attested by the Clerk.

16. This Association may adjourn at 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 Free-will 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 made to the Moderator, and the person addressing shall arise 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 reflections 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 a leave of a majority of the Association.

No person shall laugh or whisper in time of public speaking.

No member shall absent himself without leave from the Association. Members shall use the word "brother" or "brethren" in all debates.

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 the revision by a majority of members voting for revision.

