

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY—SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
DIBBLE ASSOCIATION
OF
FREEWILL BAPTISTS

Convened with the Hawkins Church,
beginning on Wednesday night before the
second Sunday in September, 1934,

The next Annual Session of the Dibble Association
will be held with the Dibble Church
beginning on Wednesday night
before the Second Sunday
in September, 1935.

OFFICERS

Moderator, Elder L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't. Mod. Elder E. E. Morris, Blanchard, Okla.
Clerk, Birdie Wilson Drennan, Tabler, Okla.
Ass't. Clerk, Shay Richey, Blanchard, Okla.
Treasurer, Jack Hopkins, Blanchard, Okla.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.
2. House called to order by moderator.
3. Letters called for, read and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship given and seating of delegates.
5. Electing of officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Reading of rules of order.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New business.
12. Report of committees.
13. Miscellaneous business.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the moderator or whosoever he may request

2. Ministers present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave of the moderator.

9 All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the association if necessary.

12. At all future sessions of the association arrangement shall be made to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

13. These rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization of the association.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the association.

PROCEEDINGS

Dibble Association of Free Will Baptists met with the Hawkins Church, near Alex, Oklahoma on Wednesday night before the second Sunday in September, 1934.

A large representation was present and a great work was done.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The annual session of the Dibble Association was called together by singing "I'll Sail Away Home Some Sweet Day."

Prayer by Bro. Buster Sparks. Devotional service was conducted by Elder E. E. Morris. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder L. E. Ward, from St. John 2: 5.

Delegates were assigned homes; dismissal was by prayer.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Meeting called to order by singing "Ready for Heaven."

Scripture reading from I Timothy 2: 1 - 8.

Prayer by Elder Clay Richey.

Call was made for letters from the different churches. Letters were read from the Hawkins, Dibble, Bryant, Bridge Creek and Simpson Churches. While singing, the right hand of church and Christian fellowship was extended.

Call was made for petitionary letters. The petitionary letter

from the Freeney Church was read, approved and delegates seated.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moderator: Eld. L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla. Ass't. Moderator: Eld. E. E. Morris, Blanchard, Okla. Clerk: Birdie Wilson Drennan, Tabler, Okla. Ass't. Clerk: Shay Richey, Blanchard, Okla. Treasurer: Jack Hopkins, Blanchard, Okla.

Reading of rules of order by moderator.

The invitation was given to all visiting brethren and sisters.

Elder W. M. Coggins was seated as corresponding delegate from the Center association. While singing the right hand of Church and Christian fellowship was extended.

Appointment of Committees by Moderator.

Divine committee: Brothers Cash Roberts, Bill Ramsey, and Haskell Perrin

Resolution: Brothers Richard Clagg, Gene Russell, Acie Harrell, John Claunch, Frank Hawkins, and George Stevens

Finance: Sisters Geo. Brashera, Carl Smithers, and Bro. Lee Hawkins.

Obituary: Sisters Annie Johnson, Ruth Drennan, and Bro. Frances Jackson.

Sunday School: Brothers W. G. Jarvis and Ike Whitford, and Sister Amy Manning.

Temperance: Sisters Silas Trammel and Will Fields, and Bro. B. J. Peters.

Home Mission: Sisters L. E. Ward and Bill Ramsey, and Brother Sam Pypus.

Thursday has been selected as preachers and deacons' day as a get-together concerning topics to be discussed.

Motion carried that Elder B. C. Munkus give a ten-minute discussion on encouraging the church folks to be regular attendants of church and Sunday School.

Elder Clay Richey was selected by the Divine committee to preach at eleven o'clock A. M.

Motion carried that the business session be dismissed for

the eleven o'clock service. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. R. Clagg.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

After singing "I'll Let the Hallelujahs Roll," our minds were led in prayer by Elder W. M. Coggins. Another song was rendered, followed by a devotional service conducted by Elder L. E. Ward, followed by the preaching service, text: Rev. 6: 17.

Dismissed by prayer by Brother B. J. Peters.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together by singing. Scripture reading: Romans 12. Prayer Brother Arthur Lee. A special song was rendered by Iona and Austell Yandell, children of Elder I. W. Yandell. The song was appreciated by all.

PLAN OF SALVATION DISCUSSED

The following subjects were discussed in 10 minute periods

The Blood.

Elder B. C. Munkus

The Holy Ghost

Elder Clay Richey.

Regeneration

Elder E. E. Morris.

Blessed are the Pure in Heart

Elder J. O. Hudson.

From the Abundance of the Heart the Mouth Speaketh

Elder Arthur Lee

Tongue

Elder W. M. Coggins

The duties of a deacon were discussed by the deacons present. Elder E. E. Morris was selected to preach at 7:30 P. M. Subject: Identity of the Church. Dismissed by prayer.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE

Service opened by singing. Prayer by Brother Gene Russell. A special song was sung by Alice Mae Drennan and H. Jones. Quotations from the Bible were given by the congregation. The Fields quartette, consisting of Virginia, John, and Ray Fields, and Edith Trammell, sang a special song.

Preaching by Elder E. E. Morris. Dismissed by prayer by Elder L. E. Ward.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Associational body was called together by singing. Scripture reading from 1 John third chapter. Prayer by Elder E. E. Morris.

Reading of rules of order. The letters from the Iron Chapel and Atkinson churches were read, approved and delegates seated.

Bro. Arthur Lee and W. L. Nance were selected by the divine committee to preach at the eleven o'clock hour.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

After singing, Sister Nettie Hudson led in prayer. Devotional Service conducted by Brother Sam Pypus. While singing "I Am Bound for the Promised Land" an old fashioned hand shake was in progress and there was great rejoicing. Preaching service was omitted for lack of time. Dismissed by prayer by Elder Frank Lee.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Associational body assembled while singing "While the Years Roll On." Scripture lesson read from St John 21 : 1-17. Prayer by Brother Jack Hopkins.

Motion carried that this association carry over resolutions from the 1932 minutes.

Special song by Iona and Austell Yindell.

The three o'clock address was delivered by Brother Arthur Lee and Brother W.L. Nance.

The eleven o'clock preaching service was omitted as there were so many spiritual testimonies and such great rejoicing that all the time was taken.

Motion carried that the work of the Iron Chapel Quarterly meeting be rejected.

Motion carried that the work of the Bryant Quarterly meeting be accepted, omitting the resolutions.

Motion carried that delegates be elected to the State Association of Oklahoma Free Will Baptists.

Delegates as follows: Bro. Geo. Stevens, Iron Chapel; Brother John Claunch, Bridge Creek; and Bro. Cash Roberts, Dibble.

Motion carried that the treasurer of Association send five dollars by these delegates as minute fund.

Motion carried that this committee keep an account of their expenses and draw them from the Dibble Association treasury.

Motion carried that this body raise funds to help bear the expense of the young preachers to the state Association. \$38.00 was collected. Elder L. E. Ward was selected to preach at 7:30 P. M.

Motion carried to adjourn business until Saturday A. M.

Dismissed by prayer by Brother W. G. Jervis.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

Assembled while singing, "Ride On, God's Careworn Children." Prayer by Bro. Richard Clagg. Devotional service conducted by Elder E. E. Morris. Special song entitled: "They're Singing in Glory Tonight", by Iona and Austell Yandell. The message was delivered by Elder L. E. Ward from Psalms 9:17. Brother Hurshel Drennan of Hawkins was saved during this service, for which we are thankful. Dismissed by prayer by Elder Clay Richey.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Association assembled while singing "Twilight is Stealing." Scripture reading from Psalms 31: 1-4. Prayer by Brother Luther Hudson. Treasurer's report read and approved as follows:—

Treasurer's Report September 8, 1934.

Money received 1934	\$ 35.00
Balance carried over from 1933	<u>100 67</u>
Total	\$135 67
Paid out for 1933	20.00
Paid Association Clerk	5.00
Paid out for expenses to Georgia	10.00
Paid Brother W. M. Coggins	36.00
Paid for State Minutes	<u>5 00</u>
Total paid out	\$ 76.00
Leaving a balance of	\$59 67

Jack Hopkins. Treasurer.

Elder Frank Lee was selected to preach at 11 o'clock.

Report of Ministers read and approved.

Motion carried that we receive a preacher's report whether he be ordained or licensed, if that be mentioned in the report.

A letter was read from our brother in Christ, Bro. Quince Moore, who now resides in California. The letter was highly appreciated as it showed his interest in our Association and in the cause of Christ. The delegation said with uplifted hands that they would remember Bro. Moore in their prayers. Dismissed by prayer by Brother Jack Hopkins.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

After singing, 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus,' the devotional was conducted by Elder E. E. Morris.

A wonderful message was delivered by Elder Frank Lee. The congregation was dismissed by prayer.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song, "I'd Rather Be An Old-Time Christian." Scripture lesson from Psalms 15. Prayer by Sister Maggie Roberts.

Reports of committees read, approved, and committees discharged. Preaching by Elder Clay Richey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTION No. 1. Be it resolved that this Association elect an executive Committee of five members with the Moderator of our Association as Chairman. To this board is delegated power to act in behalf of and for Dibble Association from one meeting to another of the said Association and shall have power to elect such officers as may be deemed best for its own government and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the Dibble Association. The board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body. To this executive board is further delegated power to collect funds and employ and superintend such work for the field as may seem best and the means in hand may warrant. They shall not convey or mortgage any real estate or personal property unless authorized to do so by the Dibble Association. This executive board shall keep a record of all work done, money raised, meetings held and make a full and complete report at the next regular meeting of the Association, and shall further receive, hold, manage, use, control and convey any property entrusted to said Association for any purpose in accordance, and (only in accordance) with the purpose of the donor or donors and in no case to divert it from its original object. The chairman and treasurer of the executive board shall sign all deeds and bonds, notes, etc., and other papers, by which the said Dibble Association is to become legally held. It shall be the duty of the executive board to meet at each regular or adjourning session of the Association and as often as may be necessary. Any member absenting himself from the meeting three times in succession may be dropped from the board and his successor elected. No meeting of the executive board shall be legal unless at least three members are present. All transactions must be favored by

a majority of all members present and a written record shall be made and kept of all transactions. No member of the executive board shall delegate authority to any other member of said board to cast his vote for him for anything. This board will have the power to call the association in conference by notifying each church ten days prior to conference and they will have the authority to change a quarterly meeting or association if the place where said quarterly meeting or association is to meet is not able to care for the meeting and their decision will be final. This must be done in time to notify each church. R. E. Clagg, Chairman.

Executive Committee:—Bros. Ole Dunn, Jack Hopkins, John Claunch, and George Stevens.

RESOLUTION No 2. Be it resolved that our clerk send money for postage and address of each church clerk that the minutes may be mailed out properly. Richard Clagg, Chaiman.

RESOLUTION No 1. (from 1933 minutes) Be it resolved that we, the Dibble Association, authorize our treasurer to give Bro. Coggins the sum of \$3 00 per month, in appreciation for the service he has rendered to our Lord and for the cause of the Free Will Baptists. Committee; J. O. Hudson, W. F. Lee, Lee Hawkins, B. J. Peters, and W. G. Jervis.

FINANCE. We your committee on finance submit the following amount received for minutes: Dibble, \$5 00; Iron Chapel, \$5.00 Hawkins, \$5.00; Shiloh, \$5.00; Bridge Creek \$5.00; Simpson, \$ 00; Atkinson, \$5.00; Freeney, \$5.00. A total of \$35 00. Lee Hawkins. Ch.

HOME MISSION. We your committee on Home Mission believe each church should have an active Home Mission to help support the church, the poor or any one in distress. We are very glad to report that all but one church have active Home Missions. Bridge Creek Church has given Bro. Hudson a quilt. Has earned \$13.76 and spent \$28.11 which leaves a balance at present of \$15.65. Shiloh Church has helped support the ministry and has paid \$14.27 for evangelistic work. Atkinson Church has paid \$5.00 on piano and paid some on support of ministry. Dibble Church has repaired the church-house and paid pastor \$2.00 per month and has helped in evangelistic work. Freeney Church has \$6.00 in treas-

ury and has been organized but 2 weeks Ruby Ramsey, Chm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We your committee on S. S. find that all the churches report good Sunday Schools and recommend we all continue to do our best to carry on this work. W. G. Jervis, Chairman.

OBITUARY:—We your committee on obituary submit the following: Iron Chapel: Sister Mollie Bingham, died July 31, 1934. Husband of Sister Marie Hareth died July 6, 1934. Dibble: Grandma Campbell, mother of Bro. Clay Campbell; little Johnnie Sheppard, grandson of Bro. and Sister Carr Mahurin. Bryant: Husband of Sis. Mittie Jones Bridge Creek: Grandma Taylor, mother of Bro. Geo. Taylor Simpson: Ralph Myers, age 18 years, son of Bro. and Sister Jeff Myers. Hawkins: Sister W. H. Caldwell, died Nov. 20, 1933. Frances Jackson, Chairman.

EMPIRANCE:—We endorse the resolutions in the 1933 minutes which reads as follows: We your committee on temperance, beg to report that we cannot place too high an estimate on this subject. It is our duty to well being in this life. Intemperance is disloyal to the laws of nature and to God. It is an utter disregard to the laws of man and God. It is harmful and can destroy the soul as well as the body. Therefore, we ask that each member abstain from intemperance and that God's children should always lend a helping hand to their fellowman and try to help him to a higher plane. We ask our ministers to preach at least two sermons a year on this subject. We also ask that each Church finding a member indulging in such, require a public statement from same, or else withdraw from him. We heartily endorse the prohibition laws, and will do all in our power to enforce them. B. J. Peters, Chairman.

MINISTER'S REPORTS

Elder W. E. Lee. Sermons preached, 36. Churches pastored, none. Conversions witnessed, 6. Baptized none. Money received, \$3 00. Funerals, none. Marriages performed, 9. Miles traveled, 204.

Elder E. G. Atkinson. Pastored 1 church. Members received in Atkinson Church, 3. Miles traveled, 441. Sermons preached, 75. Money received, \$2.72. Revivals attended, 3. Conversions witnessed 60. Still trusting and praying that I might lead more souls to Christ. Pray for me and my family. May God bless all true workers in His cause is my prayer.

Elde W. L. Nance. Ordained the second Sunday in May. Since then I have held 1 meeting, preached 20 sermons, and witnessed 1 conversion. Pray for me that next year will be more successful.

Elder Arthur Lee: Sermons preached 40. Revivals held, 2 Conversions witnessed, 7. Baptized none. Money received, \$2 00. Miles traveled 324; Funerals preached, one I am praying and asking you to pray for me that I will do better in the future.

Elder Clay Richey: Churches pastored, one, Iron Chapel, sermons preached 132. Conversions witnessed 75; baptized 3. Funerals preached, 1. Marriages performed, 1. Money received, \$86.00. Gifts such as food and clothing valued at \$54 00, total received, \$140 00. Miles traveled unknown. This is my first years work for the Lord and I want to be able to give a better report next year and I desire an interest in your prayers that I might always be where God can use me.

Elder E. E. Morris: Pastored 1 church; held several meetings. Sermons preached, 152; conversions witnessed 79; took into church 29; baptized 23; funerals 4; marriages 5; helped ordain 2 preachers and 1 deacon. Received \$207.45. I desire an interest in the Christian's prayers that my work for the Lord next year may be more successful.

Elder L. E. Ward, Jr: Conversions witnessed, 48; marriages 2 sermons, 52; received \$11.50. Pray for me, that my next year's work will be more successful.

Elder L. E. Ward, Sr. Dibble Church: Sermons, 27; baptized, 4; received into church, 8; Dismissed by letter, 3; received \$88.00 Bridge Creek. sermons, 31; baptized, 2; additions, 5; rec'd. \$35.00 Bryant Church: Sermons, 37; baptized, 3; additions 5; rec'd. \$81 90 Simpson Church: Sermons 17; baptized 2, funerals 18; marriages 7 received \$12.10. money received for marriages, \$6.00 Total sermons 144; received for year, \$239.50 Pray for me that I might do better next year in my work:

Elder J. O. Hudson: sermons, 134; miles traveled, unknown; churches pastored, none; conversions, 33; baptized, 20; organized 1 church; called to pastor the Freney Church for year 1935. Funerals 1; married none. Money received, \$19 00

REPORTS OF LICENSED MINISTERS

Bro. Joe Patc: Sermons 20; conversions 32 I was licensed by

CHURCH REPORTS

Atkinson Church:—Total membership, 51, all in good standing. New members, 15. Baptized, 7; dismissed 1. Good prayer meeting and Sunday School: average no. pupils, 48. Amount paid pastor \$50.00. Amount for evangelistic work, \$16.25. Amount for building and repairs, \$4.10. Amount for incidentals \$1.00. Value of Church property, \$30.00. Active Home Mission. Pastor, Elder W. M. Coggins, Clerk Sarah Atkinson

Brige Creek Church: State of religion, good. Members received this year, 2. Number baptized, 2. Number dismissed, 2. Number died none. Total membership, 124. Good Sunday School. Amount paid pastor, \$35.10. Amount for evangelistic work, \$39.90. Amount for incidentals, \$3.71. Value of Church property, \$1,500.00. Amount included for minutes \$5.00. Pastor, Elder E. E. Morris. Clerk, Roxie Claunch.

Bryant Church: Baptized 5; dismissed none; died none; Total membership 66; good Sunday School, average number pupils 45; paid pastor \$81.90; paid out for evangelistic work \$41.70; amount for minutes \$5.00. Elder L. E. Ward, Pastor. Amy Manning, Clk.

Dibble Church: State of religion, good; new members, 8; baptized, 4; dismissed, 3; total membership, 146; good Sunday School and prayer meeting. Paid pastor \$88.00; evangelistic work \$6.00; for minutes, \$5.00. Eld. L. E. Ward, Pastor. Maggie Roberts, Clerk.

Freeney Church: Total members, 54; organized with 6 members; 4 came by letter and 14 by baptism. Good Sunday School with 35 pupils, active Home Mission. Elder J. O. Hudson, Pastor, Charles Caldiron, Clerk

Hawkins Church: Resident members 22. New members 3, dismissed 2, baptized none, died 1. Good prayer meeting and Sunday School. Paid pastor \$77.13; evangelistic fund, \$18.00; for minutes \$5.00. Eld. Clay Richey, Pastor. Birdie Drennan, Clerk.

Iron Chapel Church; Resident members 45; good Sunday School. Regular church day, 2nd Sat. night and Sunday in each month. Amount for minutes \$5.00. Elder Clay Richey, Pastor. Nettie Hudson, Clerk.

Simpson Church: Total membership 30; new members, 2

number dismissed, 1; died, 1. Good Sunday School and prayer meeting. Amount paid pastor \$12.10. Elder L. E. Ward, Pastor; Bertha Myers, Clerk.

CHURCH CLERKS

Atkinson: Mrs. Sarah Atkinson, Blanchard, Okla.

Bryant: Mrs. Amy Manning, Lindsay, Okla.

Bridge Creek: Roxie Claunch, Blanchard, Okla.

Dibble: Maggie Roberts, Blanchard, Okla.

Freeney: Charles Caldiron, Blanchard, Okla.

Hawkins: Birdie Drennan, Tabler, Okla.

Iron Chapel: Nettie Hudson, Blanchard, Okla.

Simpson: Bertha Myers, Rt. 2, Blanchard, Okla.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla. E. E. Morris, Blanchard, J. O. Hudson Rt. 1, Blanchard; A. V. Lee, Blanchard; W. F. Lee, Rt. 4, Lindsay; B. C. Munkus' Chickasha; L. M. Buckner, Rt. 2, Lindsay; John Nunnally, Rt. 2, Blanchard; E. G. Atkinson, Blanchard; Clay Richey, Rt. 2, Blanchard; L. E. Ward, Jr., Blanchard; W. L. Nance, Blanchard.

The next annual session of the Dibble Association will be held with the Dibble Church at Dibble, beginning on Wednesday night before the second Sunday in September 1935.

First Quarterley meeting, Bryant. Second Quarterly meeting, Hawkins. Third Quarterly meeting, Bridge Creek.

Resolution No. 3 read and approved. It reads thus: We your committee on resolution wish to thank the Hawkins Church for their hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

R. E. Clagg, Chairman.

Elder L. E. Ward, chosen by body to preach the introductory sermon at the next association.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet with the Dibble Church, beginning Wednesday night before the second Sunday in Sept., 1935.

Dismissed while singing, "God Be With you Till We Meet Again."

Elder, L. E. Ward, Moderator
Birdie Drennan, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better Church government.

Art. 1. Membership. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches or Quarterly meeting of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each Church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members, when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. Name. The members thus chosen and convened in the Yearly Meeting or Association of the Church of God, denominatd Free Will Baptist, being composed of the sundry churches in the Dibble Association, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor have any ecclesiastical power over the churches; reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. Letters. Letters from the different churches representing are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration or denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. The churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. Officers. The Association shall have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected at each annual session by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 5. New Churches. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letters and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Mod-

erator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. Questions. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first discussed in its own church.

Art. 7. Motions. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 8. Minutes. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. Clerk. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. Signatures. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the close of the Association.

Art. 11. Amendments. Amendments to this constitution may be made, when necessary, by a majority vote of the members present, notice having been given in writing, and recorded at the last previous session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible, The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. God. There is one true and living God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. Christ. Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in his divine nature truly God, in human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. The Holy Spirit. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all

attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

5. The Government of God. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. The Sinfulness of Man. Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of condemnation. His posterity, therefore inherits a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. The Work of Christ. The Son of God, by his incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. The Terms of Salvation. The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance, or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith, or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. Election. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. Freedom of the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

11. Salvation Free. God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and drink of the water of life freely.

12. Perseverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances. Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated.

14. The Christian Sabbath. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusements

THE LAW OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

By Rev. Wm. Mankin.

The Lord's Supper was instituted for God's people. They all have equal rights to the Supper, and the right is a birthright. "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body." (1Cor.12:13.) This is not water baptism, but spiritual baptism. Again, Christ says "I am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved" John 10: 9. He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way. the same is a thief and a robber" John 10:1 Christ is not water baptism, yet He is "the door." There is but one door and Christ says He is that door, and he that cometh in at that door should have full fellowship and equal rights with all other Christians "Let a man examine himself, and let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup; for he that eateth unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself," not to the church, but to himself. It is a personal matter in judging and eating.

The church that does judge and exclude any of God's people is not in keeping with the instructions given by the church at Corinth. To thus judge and exclude one of the children of God is to offend the child so judged and excluded. Now listen to Christ: "He that offends one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea" Matthew 18. 6; 1 Cor. 10: 30, and 13: 32.

It is contended that they of the same faith and order should be entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper. I admit that Christ is the true faith, and His Church the true order, and that faith is the means by which men belong to the true order. If this is meant by the same faith, we shall not object; we are agreed. As to order, if nothing but Gospel order is meant, very well; but we do not believe that one child of God should dictate just what another should believe or what church he should belong to in order that he may be in the right church, for the visible church is but an organic body of Christians, and placing your name on the church book of the best church on earth does not make you a Christian.

The eunuch that believed and was baptized, what church did he join? Here is faith and here is order. Now we ask if the eun-

uch were to wish to commune with some of the churches, would he be allowed the right? No, he is not of the same faith and order, yet he is admitted into heaven but could not be admitted to a sectarian table. At the Lord's table all his people have a perfect right, be he who he may, and when the supper is set, and all of God's people are not invited, it is not the Lord's but a sectarian supper. So we, being many, are one body in Christ and every one members one of another Rom. 12:5, and the way we become one body is by being baptized into that body, and, of course, this is spiritual baptism. He that gets in by water baptism, the same is a thief and a robber, and when one gets into that body in a legal way he has a right to all the benefits and privileges of that body. "For we, being many, are one bread and one body. 1 Cor. 10: 17 By partaking we exhibit a oneness of that body. Who is meant by "we"? It certainly means all Christians of all ages. "When you come together, tarry one for another, be of one mind. If it had ever been intended by the Savior that the supper should be guarded, as some attempt to guard it, God would have endowed the judges with power to discern the pure from the impure. But the standpoint from which to judge is water baptism, and a legal administration of the same. So, if baptism by immersion and a legal administration this settles the matter, and Christian character is left out, by which some make a woeful mistake; for, after all this precaution, some have been found unworthy of the least of the privileges of the church. To admit immersion to be the only mode of baptism, and a true believer receiving it, is this not all right? Some would answer, "if by a legal administrator, this is all that is wanting." Is it not purely a personal matter? So it is the duty of the preacher to baptize, and of the applicant to be baptized. When this is done, each has performed a personal duty. If I had never been baptized and had to wait until I found one whom I know to be a legal administrator, I would never have been baptized at all, as I cannot know the heart of man. Two acting in concert, one acting in good faith, the other not. Every Christian is responsible for his own acts, and not for another. Simon the sorcerer, "believed and was baptized," and that by a legal administrator, and yet it was discovered that he was not a Christian. So we see that baptism by legal administration does not confer any claim to

Christian rights, as this proves to be a personal matter: for we clearly see that the apostle, inspired as he was, did not discover the evil of Simons heart: neither can we know the heart of man. When we do our duty, it is ours; when an applicant, it is his. So we find that in repentance, faith baptism and Christian duties all are personally accountable to God and not to man. Various are the opinions of men, and the way we account for them is in the capacity of men, for they vary greatly in men, and if we use the capacity God has given us we do not think that we should be eternally condemned for what we cannot help. The church of Christ is divided into many members, but is one spiritual body and Christ is the head; and they should have the same care for each other that the fleshly body has for its members.

Should Christians commune together at the Lord's table?

We have forty eight states in the union. They are equally free and independent states, and yet they are one united, and have one great central point at which to meet and testify that they are free and independent states and yet but one nation. All Christians should have one central point at which to meet and let the world know that they are one. Let that be the Lords table. Christians feel alike if they do not think alike. They can preach together, pray together, sing together and love together, and should they not commune together? And will they not all meet at least in the same holy and happy land together? Then a union and free communion is forced upon us. Christ said at the last supper that he would drink anew in his kingdom. Then all Christians of all ages sit around one communion table in heaven. As we find ourselves assembled around one Lord's table in Heaven, so should it be on earth.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospels.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, good works endeavor to "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and of all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of the educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

