

MINUTES
— OF THE —
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
— OF THE —
EAST ALABAMA
FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
FIRST FREE WILL
BAPTIST CHURCH
OF OPELIKA, ALABAMA
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th, 1958

OFFICERS

Rev. Walter E. Jones Moderator
1911 Second Ave., Phenix City, Ala.
Rev. Robert (Bobby) Creech Assistant Moderator
Mrs. Dorothy Hendon Clerk

The Next Session will be held with Unity Free Will Baptist Church corner Pine Street, Sylacauga, Alabama, on Saturday before Second Sunday in August, 1959.

EAST ALABAMA FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Order of Business of Quarterly or Yearly Association

1. The body called to order by the Moderator if present, if not the Assistant Moderator if he is present, if not the body may select some other suitable member to act as Moderator.
2. Call for corresponding letters.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
4. Appoint committees.
5. Morning Message.
6. Program by church assigned.
7. Call for committee reports.
8. Call for miscellaneous or new business.
9. Election of officers at yearly association and appointing time and place for quarterly meeting.
10. Adjournment.

ORGANIZATION OF ASSOCIATION

St. James Free Will Baptist Church of Phenix City, Ala. and the First Free Will Baptist Church of Opelika, Ala. met with Unity Free Will Baptist of Sylacauga, Alabama at St. James Church for the purpose of organizing the said churches into a District Association.

The Executive Committee of the Alabama State Association of Free Will Baptist met with the delegates of the respective churches and conducted the organization as follows: 1. Rev. H. A. Pitts served as Moderator. 2. The Rev. Odell Harris of Opelika, Ala. brought the devotional message. 3. The Rev. H. A. Pitts brought the morning message that was enjoyed by all present. Immediately after the morning message we were dismissed for lunch. The Rev. R. P. Ritch offered up thanks to God for the food.

After we had enjoyed the wonderful dinner prepared by St. James Church. We assembled back into the Auditorium at 1:00 P.M. and service continued with Rev. J. J. Staab presenting the Bible. 5. The Rev. R. P. Ritch presented the National Treatise and gave the Charge. 6. He was followed by Rev. W. H. Ryland who led the dedicatory prayer. Then the Organization was named the East Alabama Free Will Baptist Association with its elected officers as follows: 1. Rev. Walter E. Jones, Moderator, St. James Free Will Baptist Church. 2. Rev. Odell Harris, Assistant Moderator of Opelika Free Will Baptist Church. 3. Bro. Charlie Jones, Treasurer of St. James Church. 4. Bro. R. R. Pratt, Clerk of the Opelika Free Will Baptist Church.

Visitors were recognized by the Moderator, Rev. Jones. A move by Rev. Odell Harris and second by Bro. Allen to seat the delegates. It was carried. There was a move and seconded that the First Annual Association of East Alabama Free Will Baptists to be held with First Free Will Baptist Church of Opelika, Ala. on Saturday before the Second Sunday in August 1958. It was voted and carried. A move met with a second that the Quarterly Meetings be held next year with the following: 1. With Unity Church in Sylacauga on Saturday before the second Sunday in December, 1957. 2. With Opelika Church in Opelika on Saturday before the second Sunday in March, 1958. 3. With St. James Church in Phenix City, Ala. on Saturday before the second Sunday in July in 1958. It was voted and carried.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. E. B. Ledlow, Chairman, Bro. W. C. Bush, Bro. Sanford Hale

THE ORDINATION COUNCIL

Rev. Odell Harris, Chairman, Bro. Elvie Warr from St. James; Bro. Gaines Henry from Unity; Bro. J. N. Bramlett from St. James; Bro. Huey Lacy from Opelika.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Executive Committee write By-Laws and present them at first quarterly meeting.

It was voted that Moderator and Assistant Moderator sit in with the Executive Committee in writing up the By-Laws of said association.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

St. James: Rev. Walter E. Jones—1911 Second Ave., Phenix City Alabama, Pastor

Rev. P. E. Knighton, 1610 21st Street, Phenix City, Alabama

Rev. A. T. Byrd, 909 13th Street, Phenix City, Alabama.

Unity: Rev. E. B. Ledlow, 804, West Pine St., Sylacauga, Ala. Pastor

Rev. Donald Grias, Birmingham Highway, Sylacauga, Ala.

First at Opelika: Rev. Robert (Bobby) Creech, Pastor

Moved that each send \$5 each Quarterly Meeting and \$10 to Annual Meeting to cover expense of minutes. \$30.

Received \$10 from each church on this date 7/27/57. \$28 of this was given to Bro. Charlie Jones, treasurer. \$2 to Bro. Pratt for the purchase of a record book.

The devotion and morning speaker for the next Quarterly Meeting and next Association was selected by the delegates from the church where the meeting is to be held and reads as follows:

Date, Devotional, December 1957:

Morning Devotion—Bro. Odell Harris—Message by Bro. Walter Jones.

March, 1958—Bro. A. T. Byrd, Bro. E. B. Ledlow.

June, 1958—Bro. A. T. Byrd—Bro. Ledlow.

Voted and accepted. Moved to give Moderator authority to appoint delegates to State Association: Brethren J. N. Bramlett, Mitchum, Charles Barnett, Brown, Sis. Cora Hearn, Sis. Odell Harris.

Moved and second that clerk give this information to contact and F. W. B. newspaper at Ayden N. C.

Moved by Bro. Odell Harris that we adjourn. Seconded, carried.

Bro. Walter Jones, Moderator

R. R. Pratt, Clerk

Meeting of Executive Committee of East Ala. Assn. Aug. 24, 1957

1. Devotional, Bro. E. B. Ledlow. Reading James 1:1-12.

2. Prayer by Bro. Sanford Hale.

I. We the Executive Committee recommend that By-Laws and Articles of Faith set forth in National Treatise be placed (printed) in our minutes, also Church Covenant.

II. Having adopted the National Treatise we refer you to Constitution contained therein.

III. We recommend that the Church Decorum as set forth by this committee be printed in the minutes.

IV. We recommend that each church furnish the association with statistical report yearly.

V. We recommend that the By-Laws and Articles of Faith set forth by this committee be printed in the minutes.

VI. Moved and second to adjourn.

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

Quarterly Association at Unity Freewill Baptist Church at Sylacauga, Ala.

Opening Prayer: Brother Donald Grice.

Opening Song: There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

Devotional: Rev. Odell Harris.

Moderator: Rev. Walter Jones, called to order the Association.

1. Minutes of Association read by acting clerk (Mary Ann Crance)
No corrections were made.

2. Corresponding letters of St. James, Unity, First Free Will Baptist Church were read. Each letter contained \$5.00 each. Moved, seconded, carried to receive corresponding letters.

3. Visitors wre invited to seats with us.

4. Appointed Business Committee. Brother Duck, Chairman, Unity. Brother U. Z. Hale, First F.W.B., Opelika. Brother Hendon, St. James Phenix City.

5. Appointed Suggestion committee. Brother Donald Grice, Chairman, Unity. Brother Bramlett, St. James, Phenix City. Brother Donnie Askew, Opelika. (First F.W.B.C.)

Morning Message, Rev. Walter Jones. Meeting adjourned for dinner.

Meeting convenes at 1 p.m..

Opening song—Won't It Be Wonderful There.

Scripture read—Rev. Walter Jones, Moderator.

Prayer—Brother Sanford Hale.

Program given by ladies Auxiliary of First Freewill Baptist Church of Opelika. Mission Program.

Woman's Auxiliary Business: 1. Mrs. Sanford Hale, President. Moved and seconded that business be taken care of quarterly.

2. Letters ask for from churches. St. James church did not have a letter. Unitey and First Church had theirs and were read by an auxiliary member.

Voted, seconded, carried.

3. Moved that a fee of \$2.50 or \$5.00 be taken and put in Woman's Auxiliary fund and used as needed. Voted, seconded, carried.

Business Committee recommends that this body give the clerk power to order letter forms as set forth by the National Association.

Moved that we accept and order as needed.

Clerk to send them to each clerk of the association.

Voted, seconded, carried.

Business Committee recommends that quarterly meeting begin at 9:30. Moved that we accept, and seconded. Discussion, opposed, questions called for: Majority voted to stay at 10:00 a.m.

Business Committee recommends that we have a pastor and deacon meeting twice a year: more if needed. Moved and seconded - question - voted - carried. (This applies to all church members).

Business Committee recommends the quarterly meeting be held every second Saturday instead of the first Saturday quarterly. To become effective after yearly association this year. Moved - seconded - question - voted - carried.

Business Committee recommends that treasurer and clerk be combined. Moved - seconded - discussion - carried.

Nomination open for sec. & trea. Sister Hendon nominated and voted for such. Moved that association write letters of thanks to former clerk and treasurer. Accepted.

Business Committee recommends the Unitey, St. James and First Church tithe income of each church to some organization that each church sees fit. Pay to sec. of association.

Moved and seconded. Amendment: local association retain 30% of church income for local missions.

Moved - seconded - discussion - question - voted - carried.

Business of Suggestion Committee called for. None.

Business of Executive Committee: Minutes read by Rev. E. B. Ledlow. Moved that minutes be accepted - seconded - discussion.

question - by-laws and church decorum read by Rev. E. B. Ledlow. Voted - carried.

New Business: Discussion opened by Rev. E. B. Ledlow of the Mission Program in Alex City.

Held Revival - not too successful.

Will have new location and rent will be \$10.00 per month.

Association to back mission work all the way. Accepted.

Moved to dispense of business. Seconded - voted - carried.

(One member to be responsible for rent on church in Alex City for three months.) Bro. J. N. Bramlett gave \$30 for rent.

Motion made that we extend a rising vote of thanks to host church. Carried.

Moved and seconded that meeting adjourn.

Rev. Walter Jones, Moderator

Mrs. Mary Ann Crance, Acting Clerk

Second East Alabama Association quarterly meeting held March 8, 1958 at First Freewill Baptist Church, Opelika, Alabama. Opening song—Jesus Calls Us. Opening Prayer—Sis. Lois Smith. Devotional—Rev. A. T. Byrd. Moderator—Rev. Walter Jones.

1. Moderator invited visiting Bros. to sit with us. None.

2. Corresponding letters of Unity, St. James, and First Freewill Baptist Church, read by Sis. Ledlow and Sis. Scarbrough. Each letter contained \$5.00. Moved to adopt letters and seat delegates, seconded, carried.

3. Appointing committees: Moved that moderator be empowered to appoint various committees, seconded, carried.

1. Finance committee: Bro. Giles, Opelika, Chairman, Bro. Bush, of St. James, Bro. Duck, Unity.

2. Sabbath observance committee: Bro. Ledlow, Unity; Bro. Bramlett, St. James, Bro. Pratt, First Freewill.

3. Suggestion Committee: Bro. Hale, First Freewill, Bro. Barnett, Unity, Bro. Hendon, St. James.

4. Business Committee: Bro. Bradshaw, St. James, Bro. Harris, First Freewill, Bro. Grice, Unity.

Moved to combine Business and Suggestion Committees. Seconded, carried.

Mornig service—message by Rev. Ed Ledlow. Received offering for children's home \$12.80. Meeting adjourned for lunch.

Meeting convenes at 1:00 p.m. Opening song: Kneel at the Cross. Prayer—Rev. A. T. Byrd. Program given by Ladies Auxiliary of St. James Freewill Baptist Church of Phenix City, Ala.

Suggestion committee recommends:

1. That 2 ministers be placed on the ordination board. Moved to appoint Bro. Byrd and Bro. Ledlow to ordination council. Seconded, carried.

2. Recommends to bring Bro. Jackson before ordination council. Moved, seconded, carried.

3. Recommends that moderator appoint with care the members of each committee. Moved to accept recommendation. Seconded, carried.

4. Recommends that delegates be seated in a group during association meetings. Moved, seconded, carried.

Finance Committee: Offering for minutes \$15.00. Offering for children's home \$12.80. Moved to adopt as read. Seconded, carried.

Sabbath observance committees: Recommends that each church of this conference encourage members to attend church services on the Sabbath also to keep it Holy. Moved to adopt report. Seconded, carried.

Ordination Council reports: We recommend that Bro. Jackson be given ordination papers as an ordained deacon in this association, upon receiving letter from his home church. Moved, seconded, carried.

Recommended that this association not consider ordination for any man who does not tithe. Moved, seconded, carried.

Bro. Ledlow reported mission work in Alexander City not successful. Moved - seconded to extend a rising vote of thanks to host church for such wonderful hospitality. Moved and seconded to adjourn meeting until Saturday before the second Sunday of June, 1958.

Rev. Walter Jones, Moderator

Sis. Dorothy Hendon, Clerk-Treasurer

Third East Alabama Association Quarterly meeting held June 7, 1958 at St. James Freewill Baptist Church.

Opening song—He Keeps Me Singing

Opening Prayer—Bro. Harrison Bass

Moderator—Rev. Walter Jones

Devotional—Rev. A. T. Byrd

Welcoming Address—Bro. Jones

Morning message—Bro. Ed. Ledlow

Appointing of various committees:

1. Ladies Auxiliary—Sis. Ledlow, Chairman; Sis. Byrd, Sis. Bass.

2. Temperance Committee: Bro. Bradshaw, Bro. Pratt, Bro. Grice.

3. Suggestion or Business Committee: Bro. Byrd Chairman, Bro. Jackson, Bro. Jackson.

4. Finance Committee: Sis. Harris, Chairman, Sis. Galloway.

Corresponding letters are received from various churches.

Meeting adjourned for lunch.

Minutes read and adopted. Program given by Ladies Auxiliary. Unity Church, Sylacauga, Ala.

Corresponding letters of Unity, St. James and First Freewill read by Bro. Harris. Each letter contained \$5.00. Moved to accept letters as read. Seconded, carried.

Finance report:

Total in treasure	\$82.00
Received for minutes	15.50
Offering for children's home	19.00

116.50

Children's home	25.00
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Balance	\$91.50
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Temperance Committee:

Temperance is one of the Graces. We are taught to add to our lives in 2nd Peter 1:6. It gives power to avoid the appearance of evil. To

abstain from sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world from the sale and use of intoxicating beverages and to preserve our souls unto the coming of our Lord. Moved to accept Temperance committee's report. Seconded, carried.

Suggestion or Business Committee recommends:

1. Each church receive special offering between association meetings for home mission and foreign mission.

Moved to accept, seconded, carried.

2. Recommends to invite visiting ministers to bring messages for quarterly meetings. Moved to accept - seconded - discussion - voted not to accept.

Bro. Byrd nominated to bring devotional at association meeting at Opelika First Freewill Church, Aug. 9, 1958.

Bro. Lambert nominated to bring morning message. Moved to receive offering at conference for visiting minister. Seconded, carried. Committees for Association yearly reports:

1. Ladies Auxiliary—Bro. Ledlow, Unity.

2. League—Bro. Harris, First Freewill

3. Sunday School—Bro. Jones, St. James

Bro. Jones gave a brief report from the children's home and suggested that we receive an offering. Moved to receive offering, seconded, carried.

Offering received \$19.00.

Moved to empower clerk to send check or \$25 (taking \$6 from treasure) to children's home. seconded, carried.

Sis. Giles recommends that each family take children from the home for summer vacations.

Bro. Harris suggested a rising vote of thanks to host church.

Moved to adjourn until Saturday before the second Sunday in August, seconded, carried.

Moderator, Rev. Walter Jones

Clerk, Sis. Dorothy Hendon

East Alabama First Annual Association met August 9, 1958 with First Freewill Baptist Church, Opelika, Ala.

Opening song—Love Lifted Me.

Opening Prayer—Bro. Richard Meade

Moderator—Rev. Walter Jones

Devotional—Rev. A. T. Byrd

Corresponding letters were received from Unity, First Freewill and St. James Freewill Baptist Churches. Letters read by Bro. Harris. Moved to accept letters as read. Seconded, carried.

Appointing Committees:

Finance Committee: Bro. Duck, Chairman, Bro. Hale, Bro. Bramlett.

Business Committee: Bro. Giles, Chairman, Bro. Brown, Bro. Bush, Bro. Gilmore, Bro. Jackson.

Deceased Committee: Sis. Eleanor Moore, Sis. McNeil, Sis. Peggy Warr.

Temperance Committee: Bro. Williams, Bro. Warr, Bro. Byrd.

Inviting visiting Brethren to sit with us—Bro. Lambert and family from children's home, Bro. Meade from Chattahoochee Association and children from children's home.

Welcome by Bro. Harris, Morning message, Bro. Lambert. Meeting adjourned for lunch.

Meeting convenes at 1:30 p.m. Opening song at Calvary. Prayer, Bro. Harris.

An offering of \$30.00 was received for the children's home.. Moved to take \$20.00 from treasure making a total of \$50.00 for children's home. Seconded, carried.

Scripture reading—Rev. Walter Jones. Received yearly reports of Sunday School, League and Ladies Auxiliary. Moved to accept. Seconded, carried.

Finance Report:

Enclosed with each yearly letter from various churches \$10. Total \$30. Moved to accept report. Seconded, carried.

Temperance Committee:

All Christian people should refrain from all ungodly things and places. Acts. 24:25. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient reason, I will call for thee. Moved to accept, seconded, carried.

Business Committee:

Recommends that each church enclose \$5 with their quarterly letters for children's home. Moved to accept. Seconded, carried.

Ordination council recommends that Bro. Charles Allen be given certificate of ordination as Deacon if he can obtain statement from council that ordained him.

Treasurer Report:

Bro. J. N. Bramlett gave this for Mission Rent in Alex City	\$30.00
On hand in treasury	22.00
Paid in from Union Meetings	45.00
Faid in from Association Meeting	30.00
Special Offering for children's home	62.30

Total in treasure	189.30
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Sent to Children's Home	87.80
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Balance in treasure	101.50
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Deceased Committee reports:

First Freewill Baptist, Opelika, Ala.—No deaths

Unity—Sylacauga, Ala.—Sis. Maggie Keller

St. James, Phenix City, Ala.—Bro. Thomas Berry Hestley, 75 yrs. old.

Far beyond this veil of sorrow,

In a land of perfect day;

There will be a glad tomorrow.

Where all cares will pass away.

O! The joy of that glad morning,

When we rise from slumbers sleep;

A crown of life our brow adorning,

Never more we'll sigh or weep.

New Business:

First quarterly meeting, Nov. 1, 1958, St. James Free Will Baptist Church of Phenix City, Alabama.

STATISTICAL TABLE

	Total Membership	Rec'd. by Letter	Rec'd. by Baptism	Rec'd. by Statement	Dismissed	Deceased	Expelled	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Paid Children's Home	Paid Mission	Paid Superannuation	Paid Christian Education	Paid Publications and Literature	Paid Charity	Paid Utilities and All Other Purposes	Buildings and Repairs	Quarterly and Annual Association Fees
First Church at Opelika, Ala..... Pastor-This Year, Rev. Odell Harris; Pastor-Next Year, Rev. Robert Creech Clerk, Kathleen Champion	50	8	11	0	4	0	0	\$2,300	\$ 93	\$124.97	\$.....	\$.....	\$.....	\$ 80.35	\$.....	\$ 25.00	\$1,856.56	\$ 25
St. James Church at Phenix City, Ala... Pastor, Rev. Walter E. Jones Clerk, Mrs. Juanita Erickson	259	2	36	5	4	1	0	2,800	225	490.23	40.00	37.00	0	202.87	50.00	1,308.06	1,144.08	25
Unity Church at Sylacauga, Ala..... Pastor, Rev. E. B. Ledlow Clerk, Joyce Downs Rev. Roy Johnson	105	4	0	0	3	1	0	1,895	140	0	15.54	0	0	0 0	0	0	564.15	25

Second, February, Unity Free Will Baptist Church of Sylacauga, Ala.

Third, May, First Freewill, Opelika.

Annual meeting, Unity, Sylacauga. Election of officers.

Moderator, Rev. Walter Jones.

Assistant Moderator, Bro. Robert Creech.

Clerk, Sis. Dorothy Hendon

Moved to make necessary changes in ordination council at next quarterly meeting, seconded, carried.

Appointing of delegates to State Association, Sis. Minnie Brooks, Sis. Sussie Tyler. Bro. Jones suggested a rising vote of thanks to host church for such wonderful hospitality.

Moderator, Rev. Walter Jones

Clerk, Sis. Dorothy Hendon

August 9th, 1958

COMMITTEE ON LEAGUES

We your committee on Leagues submit the following report.

1. Number of Leagues in Association	3
2. Enrollment of Leagues	123
3. Average Attendance	93
4. Financial Report	taken in \$248.27
A. Spent for Literature	62.00
B. Spent for Charity	14.00
C. Spent for Entertainment	12.06
D. Other Expenditures	125.08

Total Expenditures

Balance in treasure

We recommend greater efforts for better organization of the individual leagues, more emphasis on training of workers in Leagues; also the combined Leagues of this association come together for some kind of social function at least twice yearly and that the Leaders of the Leagues look into the possibility of a yearly League rally.

Miss Nadie Hale, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We your committee wish to make the following report. We have three Sunday Schools and three churches in our association with an enrollment in Sunday Schools of 281, with an average attendance 214. The paid outs for the 3 Sun. Schools \$1,445.84 which is fair. If we will try we can gain many souls for Christ. We find our Sunday Schools with 8 officers, 24 teachers.

It has been said that 64% of Christians come from Sunday School. Let us try to make it even better than that. Let us try to win many souls for Christ this year. Let us read Ezekiel 33:7-9 as we work for Christ.

The Sunday School that will catch a vision and win the lost will move forward, but without a vision you will perish.

St. James Sunday School

Miss Marie Jones, Secretary

COMMITTEE ON LADIES AUXILIARY

Report of the Auxiliary of the East Alabama Association (yearly report) when convened with First Freewill Baptist Church, Opelika, Ala., August 9, 1958.

On Roll	41	Personal Flowers	36
Sick Calls	1482	Phone Calls	100
Hospital Calls	1344	Trays carried	170

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received	\$547.27
Paid Out	513.05

Total combined treasure	\$ 34.22
Song Books	58.00
Gifts	18.75
Given to Charity	207.60
Given on flowers	44.56
Pastor trip to Nat'l. Asso.	7.00
Adjournment.	513.05

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually or as deemed necessary by the Church, or if they prefer they may call a pastor for an indefinite length of time.

2. The pastor shall be moderator of all church conferences, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator, some other suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

3. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to assist the pastor in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

4. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of minutes of the Church.

5. When a new Clerk is appointed, all books, etc., belonging to the Clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

6. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.

7. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows:

1. Prayer (unless divine service has just been conducted). 2. Invite visiting brethren to seat with us. 3. Open doors of the church for reception of members. 4. For acknowledgments. 5. For reference or deferred business. 6. For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the Church. 7. Miscellaneous business. 8. Adjournment.

8. Visiting brethren as helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

9. Any orderly member of the Baptist church who does hold this church in membership, may be received into the Church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some other sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.

10. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

11. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend this trial; provided his residence be known to the church.

12. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be minuted in the church book.

13. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without a good reason shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

14. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil.

15. A vote shall not be taken on any question without a move and a second and in all important questions the votes shall be taken by rising on their feet.

16. No other motion shall be considered while previous motion and second is before the Conference.

17. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to be absent from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request, may be excused by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

18. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

19. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep to the point in debate.

20. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission of the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

21. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some other brother in his stead.

22. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call the speaker to order.

23. It shall be the rule of the Church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the Church.

24. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any.

25. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

26. This Decorum may be amended or altered by the vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

27. Association recommended that this association not consider for ordination any man who does not pay tithes.

28. Any member who is absent from his church for six months shall be placed on inactive roll until he returns and proves himself to satisfaction of the church.

BY-LAWS

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference, and if a quorum is present the moderator or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them is present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to enroll the delegates to the Association, who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the Clerk shall compose the Association. In case of questionable representation, however, the cases under question shall be referred to the credential committee.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this Association to send a letter to every annual session of this Association, reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body belonging to this Association, which shall fail to report itself for two successive sessions, may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present a ruling of the moderator can be over-ruled.

6. This Association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission from the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of all the members of the Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meetings without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. Any one desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

18. Minutes of the Association shall be read and adopted at the end of each session.

19. No preacher shall be ordained unless called to take charge of a church as pastor or for some other good and sufficient reason.

20. Any church desiring the service of the Ordaining Council between conferences bear the expense of the council.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

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

2. **God.** There is one living and true 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 His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the 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 sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit 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 hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior 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 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 take 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 under the Gospel; FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (I Cor. 16:2).

15. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. **Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 all 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 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, and good works, endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

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 Gospel.

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.

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

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