

MINUTES

-OF THE-

THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

-OF THE-

Texas Free Will Baptist
Association

-CONVENED WITH-

Center Point Church, Panola County
October 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1914

The next session will held with the Mt. Olive Church,
ten miles south of Henderson, Rusk Co., Texas,
Thursday night before the first
Sunday in October, 1915

E. S. JAMISON		Moderator
T. D. ROSS		Clerk
R. G. DUKE		Treasurer

Member Texas Mission Board
E. S. Jamison

PROCEEDINGS

The Thirty Seventh Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association convened with the Center Point church, Panola county, four miles east of Tatum, on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1914. The introductory sermon was delivered by D. R. Jamison, after which the body adjourned until Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

After Scripture reading and prayer, retiring moderator, Rev. D. J. Dollar, called the house to order.

Rev. E. S. Jamison was elected moderator.

The following committees were appointed: Pulpit supply, D. J. Dollar, H. W. Watson and S. J. Roe; Sunday School, A. W. Parker, Miss Nannie Jamison and T. W. Smith; Standing of the Ministry, D. V. Watson, A. J. Klutts and J. M. Draper; Condition of Churches, D. J. Dollar, D. R. Jamison and C. B. Thompson; On Temperance, T. W. Smith, W. L. Dunn and J. P. Green; On Finance, E. G. Skelton, P. T. Allen and S. J. Roe; Obituaries, H. C. Dunn, D. R. Jamison and D. V. Watson; Education and Publications, Miss Nannie Jamison, D. J. Dollar and C. B. Thompson; Special Committee, A. W. Parker, Mrs. M. P. Craig and W. A. Simmons.

Churches were represented as follows: Center Point, J. T. Pearson, S. J. Roe and Mrs. M. P. Craig; Tatum, J. W. Kuykendall and Mrs. J. W. Kuykendall; Good Hope, E. G. Skelton and Miss Nannie Jamison; Friendship, W. B. Duke and T. D. Ross; Campbell Hill, H. W. Watson and D. V. Watson; Crystal Farms, J. P. Green, and W. A. Simmons; Harpers Grove, Wm. Hays and J.

M. Draper; Mt. Olive, A. W. Parker; New Hope, P. T. Allen; Dunns Chapel, W. L. Dunn; Stewart Chapel, A. J. Klutts

On motion by D. J. Dollar, the delegates of Crystal Farms church were seated and the right hand of fellowship was extended, together with all the privileges of the body. The body adjourned until 1:30, after preaching by H. C. Dunn.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The association reconvened at 2 o'clock with scripture reading and song, followed with prayer led by C. B. Thompson.

The report of the Committee on the Standing of the Churches was read and received.

Committee on the Standing of the Ministry reported it good, and the report was received.

Committee report on Temperance was read and adopted.

The report on Obituaries was read as follows: We find only one death, that of Sister N. J. Night, who died in June. She joined the church when young and lived a consistent life until death.

The Committee on Temperance submitted the following: We find that there is some intemperance practiced in our ranks and we recommend that every step be taken, both by our pastors and laity, against all intemperance in any form.

T. W. Smith,
W. L. Dunn,
J. P. Green, Committee

We had a lengthy discussion on the subject of What Benefit we Derive from attending the Association, which

was very helpful and encouraging.

After a short recess, the body came together again for business.

Brethren A. J. Klutts of Stewart Chapel and J. P. Green of the Crystal Farms church were ordained deacons of their respective churches.

The committee on Education and Publications reported as follows: Realizing that the church and school are National associates and allies, seeking to impart lessons and truth in fitting the young people for life. We recommend the fullest education to all our young people.

We rejoice that in most instances the teachers in the public schools, by example and precept, give the influence of Christian education to their pupils. We further recognize the need of an educated and cultured ministry. We therefore urge all our ministers to seek the best advantages possible and study to make themselves approved of God in his work.

We recommend the Free Baptist Correspondence course for our ministers, who can't leave home. We further urge that each minister read and study Dunn and Butler Systematic Theology and Free Baptist Encyclopedia, and Ball on Baptism, with any other helps.

We earnestly urge that every member of our church subscribe for and read our paper; for we find that our Free Baptist News has been as great, if not the greatest, factor in getting our forces more fully organized in the Southwest.

Miss Nannie Jamison,
C. B. Thompson,
D. J. Dollar, Committee.

The association voted unanimously for the next session of the association to convene with Mt. Olive church.

ten miles south of Henderson, and near New Salem.

Revs. C. B. Thompson and T. W. Smith were elected delegates to the South Western Convention, the association obligating itself to pay half of the delegates' expenses. Adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Sermon by C. B. Thompson, text Eph. 5:14.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Saturday morning session opened with song followed by the reading of the 1st Psalm and prayer by Rev. H. C. Dunn.

The Sunday School Committee reported as follows: We realize that the Sunday School is a very important organization and we feel the need of more Sunday Schools in our association. Therefore we urge our pastors to do all they can to organize a Sunday School in every church, and that our Sunday Schools select teachers, who have the work at heart and who will plan and devise means to interest the people.

A. W. Parker,
Miss Nannie Jamison,
T. W. Smith, Committee

After a lengthy discussion on the subject of Ways and Means to pay our pastors more liberally, the association adjourned to meet at 1 o'clock p. m. Preaching by Rev. D. R. Jamison, from Exodus 17:13.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The association reconvened as per adjournment. The Committee on Finance reported as follows: We, your committee on finance, find a balance of \$8.35 in the

treasury. We further find \$10.50 on hand for printing minutes, and we urge the clerk to have the minutes printed as soon as possible.

E. G. Skelton,
P. T. Allen,
S. J. Roe, Committee.

Resolved; that each church in the association assess a salary for its pastor and present it to him and leave it to his option as to whether he accepts or not. This salary to be paid quarterly, and further resolved, that if the quarterage is not paid at the end of the first quarter, the contract will be null and void at the option of the pastor. The association voted for this resolution unanimously.

Rev. T. W. Smith was appointed to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the association at Mt. Olive church, ten miles south of Henderson on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1915.

E. S. JAMISON, Moderator,
T. D. ROSS, Clerk,
R. G. DUKE, Treasurer.



ARTICLES OF FAITH

Of God—Article 1. There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in good time.

Of Free Will.—Article 2. We believe that the human will is free, and that all who have heard and have learned of the Father have the ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation.

Of Baptism—Article 3. Mode.—And Jesus, when he was baptised, went up straightway out of the water.--Mat. 3.

And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised of John in Jordan.--Mark 1:9.

Buried with him in baptism, wherein ye are also risen with him through faith of the operation of God who hath raised him from the dead.--Col. 2:12.

We are buried with him in baptism, into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also walk in newness of life, for if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.--Rom. 6:4-5

Subjects.--Go ye therefore and teach all nations.--Matt. 28:19.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptised.--Acts 2:41

And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in the house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptised he and all his straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.---Acts 16:32-34.

If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest.--Acts 8:37-39.

Object--The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us (not putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. --1 Pet. --3:21.

The Lord's Supper--Article 4. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.--1 Cor. 11:28.

This do in remembrance of me.--Luke 22:19.

The Bible.--Article 5 All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.--2 Tim. 3:16.

CONSTITUTION

Constitution amended at regular sessions of the Association.

Article 1--This association shall be known as the Texas Free Will Baptist Association.

Article 2--It is not the object of this Association to usurp au-

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thority over the churches, but to recommend such measures as would promote unity of action among the churches, to harmonize the efforts of the individual churches with one another in the effort to accomplish good and make each other more proficient in their good undertakings for good.

Article 3.—This association shall be composed of delegates from the churches, who shall be selected and sent from the churches composing it, and each church shall be entitled to two delegates, and for over fifty and more than seventy-five members, a church shall be entitled to one more delegate.

Article 4.—Ordained ministers may have seats in the association and be entitled to privileges of delegates, even when not representing churches. [As amended.]

Article 5.—New churches and ministers may be admitted to membership on application when duly accredited. (As amended.)

Article 6.—The standing officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

Article 7.—This Association shall hold its sessions once every year, at a time and place specified by a preceeding session.

Article 8.—The Association shall have the right to dismiss disorderly churches and objectionable members at any of its sessions.

Article 9.—This constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, at any regular meeting of the Association.

CHURCH DECORUM

1st. The church may choose a pastor annually, at the last regular conference in Associational year, or if they prefer, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time, to continue from year to year so long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2nd. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be chosen at any time, but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3rd. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent, or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4th. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the church for the pastor etc., and to distribute the bread and wine, in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5th. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk, and it shall be his duty to do the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the min-

utes of the Association.

6th. When a new clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

7th. When the church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business shall be appointed, whose business it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them, relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

8th. The church shall hold a two-days meeting monthly embracing Saturday and the Lord's day following the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

9th. It shall be the duty of every, male and female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and rules by holy living.

10th. Conferences shall be conducted as follows: 1. Prayer, unless Divine Service has just been concluded, and generally then. 2. Invite visiting brethren to seats. 3. Open a door for the reception of members. 4. Call for absentees. 5. For acknowledgements. 6. For reference of deferred business. 7. For miscellaneous business.

11th. Visiting brethren, as also helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

12th. An orderly member of the Baptist church, which does not hold this church in fellowship, maybe 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 church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

13th. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of members present; but unreasonable objections shall not be valid; and unless withdrawn, the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealings by the church.

14th. When the moderator calls for absentees the clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent for three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

15th. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial; provided his residence is known to the church.

16th. When a witness not a member of this church is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church; "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

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17th. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgements shall be minuted on the church books.

18th. Members dismissed from the church by letter, who become disorderly, or continue to hold their letters without a good reason; shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

19th. 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 former evil conduct.

20th. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a move and second; and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

21st. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

22nd. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from the conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

23rd. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without subject to being called to order by the moderator.

24th. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must arise to their feet and address the moderator and keep to the point in debate.

25th. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion, without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of one be unreasonably long.

26th. When the moderator speaks in debate he nominates some brother as moderator in his stead.

27th. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

28th. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper at least four times a year and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

29th. If the consciences of any are tender on the subject of feet washing in any church; they shall not be molested if they see fit to practice it.

30th. The decorum may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a gospel church or a church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians, constituted and governed

according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That the rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches, and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the establishment of a central or Catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the work of God, subversive of the churches and dangerous to the liberties of men.

4. The gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the scriptures; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government, without suspension or interference, being under Christ, essentially independent and absolute, and that if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction, by delegation or otherwise the assembly then ceases to be a gospel church.

5. That the authority of churches is designed for the perpetuation of true religion of the gospel, and for the preservation of a pure and orderly body of Christians on earth; that it is fully sufficient for the purposes intended, but that it does not extend to the persons, property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

6. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the gospel; that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity and that to prescribe any other requisite of church members is an assumption of authority on the part of the church, and a departure from the plan of the gospel.

7. That the officers of a church are Elders and Deacons; that Elders are also called Bishops or Pastors; that all are equal in rank, though they may perform different functions, since some may be Bishops or Pastors of particular churches, while others may be simply elders, having no pastoral charge.

8. That the authority of the minister of the gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any act which belongs to the authority of the church, such as reception of members into church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church he is no more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression, he is to be brought before the brethren, and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if it were a private person; yet we think it prudent and proper to call in advisory helps, especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

9. That Elders and Deacons may be set apart to their office by ordination, the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery and prayer.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

The letter to the Association should contain the following:

An account of the state of religion.

The state of union in the church.

Condition of the Sabbath school, and the interest manifested in missions.

Any request for the examination of a minister or for the next session of the Association.

Names of delegates.

The number of members received during the year and how received.

The number dismissed.

The number died.

The present number of members.

Amount given for missions.

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