

MINUTES

OF THE FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL
SESSION OF THE

TEXAS FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convened With
CAMPBELL HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH, RUSK COUNTY

October 3rd to 6th, 1918

The next session will convene with New Hope
Church, four miles east of Henderson, Texas,
Thursday night before the first
Sunday in October, 1919.

Z. B. DALLY, Moderator T. D. ROSS, Clerk
R. G. DUKE, Treasurer

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FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
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TEXAS FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Forty-first Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association convened with Campbell Hill church, Rusk county, Texas, October 3, 1918.

Rev. A. W. Parker preached the introductory sermon, from Jonah 1:6.

The business session opened at 9 o'clock, Friday morning, October 4.

Rev. J. A. Smith led the devotional service by reading and commenting on the 23rd Psalm.

The body was called to order by the moderator. Not having a quorum, the Association adjourned until 10.30 o'clock.

Reconvened at 11 o'clock. For the purpose of seating the delegates a committee was appointed on representation, consisting of H. W. Watson, A. Clark, A. J. Knight, who found the following entitled to seats:

H. W. Watson, J. C. Minor, V. C. Bennett, M. McFadden, D. V. Watson, Miss Eva Hill, Miss Ada Tompkins, Snyder Tompkins, T. D. Ross, Miss Josie Tompkins, Miss Monnie Morris, Mrs. Fay Alexander, Tim Phillips, B. F. Grounds, C. C. Gibson, A. J. Klutts, J. R. Conley, J. A. Clark, A. J. Knight, R. H. Ferguson, J. N. Wheeler, A. J. Smith, A. W. Parker, R. D. Jimmerson, Mrs. J. E. Clark, E. S. Jameson, C. Gilliam, J. P. Conley, G. L. Anderson, W. A. Silvey.

The following churches were represented: Good Hope, Friendship, Campbell Hill, Stewart Chapel, Harper's Grove, Centre Point, Youngblood, Mt. Olive, New Hope.

Rev. Z. B. Dally was elected moderator.

Pulpit Committee—E. S. Jameson, J. A. Clark, C. A. Smith, H. W. Watson.

Z. B. Dally being named by the committee to preach at 11 o'clock, E. S. Jameson was appointed assistant moderator.

Rev. Z. B. Dally preached from John 15th chapter. Adjourned to 2 o'clock.

The Association convened according to adjournment. Devotional led by Rev. J. N. Wheeler.

Scripture reading, 1st Cor., 3rd chapter.

Minutes of the morning session read and adopted.

Committee on Business—E. S. Jameson, B. F. Grounds, and A. W. Parker.

Committee on Young Peoples' Work—A. W. Parker, J. N. Wheeler, Mrs. Z. B. Dally, Miss Monnie Morris.

Sunday School Committee—B. F. Grounds, E. S. Jameson, Miss Eva Hill.

Committee on Publication and Education—E. S. Jameson, C. Gilliam, and Miss Ada Tompkins.

Committee on Condition of Churches and Standing of the Ministers—H. W. Watson, J. A. Clark, and C. Gilliam.

Committee on Missions—E. S. Jameson, A. W. Parker, J. N. Wheeler, T. D. Ross, A. J. Knight, Mrs. Fay Alexander, Mrs. Dally.

Committee on Location of Next Session—J. N. Wheeler, J. P. Conley, J. C. Minor, Dock Watson.

Committee on Obituaries—D. R. Jimmerson, J. A. Smith, J. R. Conley.

Committee on Finance—A. W. Parker, E. S. Jameson, J. N. Wheeler.

Committee on Obituaries reported as follows:

We, your committee, beg leave to report the following deaths: Bro. Henry Draper of Harper's Grove, Bro. Angus Jimmerson of Good Hope, who died in France from wounds received in action, Bro. Erben McFadden who died in Camp Bowie of pneumonia.

We extend to the bereaved families our sympathy.

D. R. JIMMERSON,

J. A. SMITH,

J. R. CONLEY,

Committee.

The Committee on Pulpit Supply read a partial report. The Association requested the moderator, Z. B. Dally, to address the body on the Sentinel and its needs. He responded with quite a lengthy talk. Adjourned for 8 o'clock preaching service and to 9 o'clock Saturday morning for business session.

The Association was called to order at 9:30 Saturday morning. Devotional service led by Bro. J. R. Conley. Scripture reading, 4th chapter of James.

Minutes of last session read and adopted.

Call for committee reports. None being ready to report, other business was called for.

Rev. Z. B. Dally was placed on the ordaining council to fill the place of Rev. D. J. Dollar, who was absent.

Committee on Young People's Work reported as follows:

We beg to submit the report of last year's committee, which has not been carried out, and reads as follows: "We recommend that some steps be taken to encourage our young people. We ask the body to recommend some steps that will help our young people get their place in some church; talent is being lost, opportunities are being wasted, the churches are suffering and the very soul of the youth is crying out for something to do. Help us."

In order to get the above into action, we add the following: Resolved that we urge each pastor to take up the young people's work with his people at once. Most young people are ready to do their part if they have a leader. If your leader has gone to the army, get another at once, for the cry comes from France, "Keep the home fires burning." To do this we, as young people, must get busy, and not let our churches suffer as they have for the past year.

Resolved, that the moderator of this Association appoint a committee to designate the time and place of a Christian Endeavor rally to be held within the next ninety days, or as soon as possible, this to be done at this meeting if possible, and that we authorize our moderator to secure the services of the General State Secretary of the Christian Endeavor, W. Roy Breg, of Dallas, with his expenses met.

Resolved, that if possible, we have a committee to visit each church in the Association in the interest of Christian Endeavor and this rally.

A. W. PARKER,
MRS. Z. B. DALLY,
MISS MONNIE MORRIS,
J. N. WHEELER,
Committee.

The report was so good the moderator called for a second reading.

The committee was retained to designate the time and place for the Christian Endeavor meeting contained in the report.

The Association voted ten to eight in favor of Good Hope for the place of the meeting.

Rev. D. R. Jimmerson preached at 11 o'clock from Rev. 2:4, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

Adjourned to meet at 1:30 o'clock.

The evening session opened with song, followed with prayer by Bro. J. E. Klutts.

Committee on Missions reported as follows:

In view of the fact that Christ has committed unto

each one of us the Great Commission, "Go ye into all the world," and to all appearances our people are not obeying this command as freely as they should, and in view of the great opportunity and the need of help in the mission field today;

Resolved, that we urge each church to have some plan whereby they may give systematically to missions, and that each church organize and sustain a F. B. W. M. Society and have it in good working order before the next Association, and we recommend that each pastor appoint a president to work up an organization, and in view of the fact that we are behind with Mrs. Holder's salary;

Resolved, that each church be asked to take an offering for this purpose, and send to the State Treasurer, Mrs. Holmes, before the State Association.

Resolved, that each church be urged to raise "that dollar per" as was voted in our last Association, and we recommend that each pastor appoint a committee to take charge of this.

Resolved that the Association give an hour, or more, if necessary, Saturday afternoon of each session for a mission program.

E. S. JAMESON,
A. W. PARKER,
J. N. WHEELER,
T. D. ROSS,
A. J. KNIGHT,
MRS. FAY ALEXANDER,
MRS. Z. B. DALLY,

Committee.

The Committee on Location recommended that the next session of the Association be held with the New Hope church, five miles north of Henderson, Rusk county.

J. N. WHEELER,
J. P. CONLEY,
J. C. MINOR,

Committee.

The Committee on the Standing of the Ministers and Condition of Churches, reported as follows:

We find that all ministers are in good standing and doing good work, but the churches are not working as they should. We recommend that the Association take action on this.

H. W. WATSON,
J. A. CLARK,
C. GILLIAM,

Committee.

A committee was appointed to draft a missionary program for the next session of the Association, to be rendered Saturday afternoon.

The Sunday School Committee reported as follows:

We recommend the organization and maintenance of more Sunday schools, and that each Sunday school contribute to missions each month. Let it be your offering on the regular church service day. We ask that Mrs. Dally give an explanation of somethings she has for the benefit of Sunday schools. We also recommend that each Sunday school send representatives to the State Sunday School Convention and that each Association render a program for the benefit of Sunday schools. We further recommend that this program be turned over to Rev. J. N. Wheeler.

E. S. JAMESON,
B. F. GROUNDS,
MISS EVA HILL,
Committee.

Report of Business Committee:

We recommend that this Association ask each church to make an offering for expense of meeting of State Association. We also suggest that some means be used to raise the necessary expense of the local Association.

A. W. PARKER,
E. S. JAMESON,
Committee.

Report of Committee on Education and Publication:

In as much as our church has undertaken the plan of one dollar per member for education, and as we have not collected all of this, and in as much as some of our young men need the part which is to be derived from this fund, we recommend that each church follow the precedent set forth by Good Hope and take special offerings for education, and in as much as our young brother, J. N. Wheeler, is now offering his life for service and making a sacrifice for the cause of Christ and our church that these offerings go into our treasury to be paid to him on monthly installments. On publication: We recommend the full recognition of the Sentinel, and further recommend that each church has an appointed agent and to become subscribers is as much our bonded duty as the support of a pastor.

E. S. JAMESON,
C. GILLIAM,
Committee.

E. S. Jameson, A. W. Parker and J. N. Wheeler were

appointed to work up an interest in Christian Endeavor work.

Delegates named to State Meeting: D. C. Hughes, W. A. Silvey, C. Gilliam, Miss Ada Tompkins, Miss Eva Hill, W. S. Hill, H. H. Williams, Philip Chamness, J. L. Anderson, B. F. Grounds, W. H. H. Hays, G. T. Birdwell, Mrs. Fay Alexander, J. A. Clark and wife, B. F. Vinson, R. G. Duke, J. L. Ross, Miss Monnie Morris, O. L. Sanders, T. W. Williamson, Miss Fanny May Grigsby, W. A. Adams, Mrs. H. H. Williams.

J. N. Wheeler was appointed to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Association; J. R. Conley, alternate.

Bro. Z. B. Dally was named to extend the thanks of the Association to Campbell Hill community for its kindness.

Proceedings of Saturday night session: .

Ordaining Council reported as follows: We, your ordaining council having examined Rev. J. N. Wheeler, find him worthy of ordination.

Song. Prayer by Rev. J. N. Wheeler. Sermon by Rev. Z. B. Dally, Exodus 20-8-9-10-11.

Sunday, 11 a. m.—Prayer, J. A. Smith.

Ordination sermon, Rev. Z. B. Dally, Job 22, Thes. 5-22, Tim. 2-15.

After sermon, prayer and laying on of hands, E. S. Jamerson.

3 P. M. Sunday—Sermon, J. N. Wheeler, from Daniel 5:22.

We had a very pleasant session of the Association and I trust a very profitable one.

The next session of the Association will convene with New Hope church, five miles north of Henderson, Rusk county, on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1919.

Z. B. DALLY, Moderator.

T. D. ROSS, Clerk.

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—Art. 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 condition of salvation.

Of Baptism—Art. 3. Mode—And Jesus, when he

was baptised, went up straightway out of the water.—Matt. 3:16.

And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised of John in Jordon.—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 sat meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.—Acts 16:32-24.

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 the putting away of 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—Art. 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—Art. 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.

Art. 2. It is not the object of this Association to usurp authority 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.

Art. 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 every fifty and not more than seventy-five members, a church shall be entitled to one more delgate.

Art. 4. Ordained ministers may have seats in the Association and be entitled to privileges of delegates, even when not representing churches. (As amended).

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

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

Art. 7. This Association shall hold its sessions: once every year, at a time and place specified by a preceding session.

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

Art. 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 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 the 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 minutes of the Association.

6th. When a new clerk is appointed, all 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 the door for the reception of members. 4—Call for absentees. 5—For acknowledgments. 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, 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 church. All other persons must join by letter of 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 dealing 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 the into 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?"

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

18th. Members dismissed from the church by letter, who become disorderly, or continue to hold their church 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 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 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 conscience 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 member present at any two successive monthly conferences.

Government and Ordinance.

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. The rules require churches to preserve the form of government and 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 repugnant to the word 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 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 in-

to 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 transgressions, he is to be brought before the brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he 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.

The letter of the Association should contain the following:-

An account of the state of religion.

The safe union in the church.

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

Any requests 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.

