

MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST AND SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST
OF THE
UNITED STATES

HELD IN
NASHVILLE, TENN., MAY 26-28, 1921.
MARSHALL, N. C., MAY 25-27, 1922.

OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

REV. J. L. WELCH, President.....Nashville, N. C.
Rev. D. W. ALEXANDER, Vice-President.....Bethel, N. C.
Rev. E. C. MORRIS, Recording Secretary.....Kinston, N. C.
REV. J. E. HODGINS, Treasurer.....Garnsey, Ala.
REV. NEAL H. PARRISH, Field Secretary.....Hahira, Ga.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.
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PROCEEDINGS.

On Thursday, May 26, 1921, a delegation of Free Will Baptist from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina, met with Cofer's Chapel church, in Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of entering into a national organization.

After praise and prayer, Rev. J. L. Welch, the local pastor, extended to the delegation a hearty welcome, also stated the purpose of the meeting, and his desire to see the work a great success.

After receiving a telegram informing those present that other delegates were on the way, there was an agreement to wait for their arrival before entering into the organization.

After a very interesting sermon delivered by Rev. Neal H. Parrish, of Georgia, the meeting was called off for dinner.

Thursday Evening.

At 2:00 P. M. the meeting was called together by the local pastor, and after praise and prayer, there was an informal discussion upon the importance of the Free Will Baptist being united throughout the United States. Rev. Neal H. Parrish, of Georgia, told about the conditions of the church in his state, and the kind of organization they would enter. Several of the brethren of Tennessee expressed their desire to be united with loyal Free Will Baptist in a national organization.

At 8:00 P. M. Rev. R. V. Self, of Asheville, N. C., preached a powerful sermon. At the close of the service many souls accepted Christ and united with the church.

Friday Morning.

At 9:30 A. M. the brethren met, and after praise and prayer, there was a motion made to proceed with a temporary organization. Rev. J. L. Welch, of Nashville, Tenn., was elected President, and Rev. E. C. Morris, of Kinston, N. C., was elected Recording Secretary.

On motion, there be a committee of three to examine the credentials of the various delegates, and report to this body. The president appointed the following: J. W. Alford, G. W. Fambrough and J. E. Hodgins.

The above named committee made report on credentials and same was adopted. (See report).

On motion, all visiting brethren be invited to sit in council with us.

On motion, there be a committee of five appointed to draft a Constitution and By-Laws, by which this organization shall be governed. The president appointed J. W. Alford, Neal H. Parrish, J. E. Hodgins, J. C. Moye and G. W. Fambrough, committee on constitution.

On motion, there be no business session in the afternoon, and the time be given to the committee on constitution for their work.

There was a sermon preached at eleven o'clock by E. C. Morris, of North Carolina, then the meeting was called off until Saturday morning at 9:30.

Saturday Morning.

The meeting met as per adjournment.

After praise and prayer, the president declared the meeting open for business.

The constitution committee made their report, and same was accepted, and constitution adopted. (See Constitution).

On motion, that the temporary organization become a permanent one.

The following were elected additional officers:

Rev. D. W. Alexander, of North Carolina, as Vice-President; Rev. J. E. Hodgins, of Alabama, as Treasurer; Rev. Neal H. Parrish, of Georgia, as Field Secretary; Rev. J. W. Alford, of North Carolina, as Chairman of Executive Committee for a term of five years; Neal H. Parrish for a term of four years; D. T. Armstrong for a term of three years, M. B. Hutchinson for a term of two years; J. E. Hodgins, for a term of one year.

On motion, that the Secretary be requested to have one thousand minutes printed, and that he present the

bill for printing to the delegates of this meeting and they raise said amount and forward to the Secretary.

On motion, that we extend a hearty vote of thanks to the good people of Cofer's Chapel church for the royal manner in which they entertained the Conference.

On motion, that the business session of this conference close until the next time in course.

J. L. WELCH, President

E. C. MORRIS, Recording Secretary.

P. S.—The Executive Committee met after the Conference adjourned and transacted the following business:

A location for the next session of the Conference was considered, and Marshall, N. C., was decided on for the next session.

The President and Recording Secretary were appointed to arrange a program for the next Conference.

J. W. ALFORD, Chairman.
NEAL H. PARRISH,
D. T. ARMSTRONG,
M. B. HUTCHINSON,
J. E. HODGINS,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Credentials.

The Committee on Credentials beg to report as follows: We have examined the credentials of the representatives from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina, and find the same regular and in form.

We have also examined the petitionary letter from the Ohio River Yearly Meeting and recommend that they be admitted to membership.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. ALFORD, Chairman
G. W. FAMBROUGH,
J. E. HODGINS,

Committee.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Preamble.

In a meeting called to meet with Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist church, in which meeting was represented the Original Free Will Baptist of the following states: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee. In this meeting a committee of five was appointed to draft a Constitution and By-Laws, by which this organization shall be governed.

Section 1. This organization shall be known as The General Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist of the United States.

Sec. II. The object of the organization shall be to bring together our people throughout the United States, for the purpose of counseling for the general interest of our denomination.

Sec. III. This organization shall be composed of the various Associations, Confernces and Conventions of the above named states, together with other like bodies of the same faith and practice, which may hereafter be admitted.

Sec. IV. Each Association or Conference shall be allowed two representatives, and the State Convention of the states shall be allowed one representative each. However, a minister in good standing in his Conference or Association, shall have full right to counsel with us in all our discussions, but the right to vote is allowed only to the legal representative of said Conference or Association.

Sec. V. Article 1. The officers of this orgnaization shall consist of a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, a Secretary and Treasurer, which shall be elected for a term of years. There shall be elected also, an executive committee of five, who shall serve a term except the first four mentioned, who shall serve for a term of one, two, three and four years respectively.

Art. 2. This organization shall have a credential committee composed of one representative from each state. The moderator exercising authority to appoint

said committee, and such other committees as the body may deem proper.

Art. 3. Each Association, Conference or Convention belonging to this body shall be requested to donate the sum of ten dollars (\$10.00) annually for the promotion of the interest of this organization.

Art. 4. Each representative shall be required to present credentials together with a report from the body represented.

Art. 5. The members of this organization shall be governed by the usual parliamentary rules and usages of deliberative bodies.

Sec. VI. This body shall hold its sessions annually, convening on Wednesday before the last Sunday in each May, at such place as may be designated by the Executive Committee.

Sec. VII. This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two thirds majority of the members present in any regular session; but vote on the amendment shall not be taken until the day following the offering of said amendment.

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

The Second Annual Session of the General Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist Church of the United States met with the Marshall Free Will Baptist Church, Marshall, N. C., on Thursday, May 25th, 1922, at 10 o'clock. The devotional exercises were conducted by the President, Rev. J. L. Welch, of Nashville, Tenn.

At eleven o'clock the Rev. J. E. Hudgens, of Tennessee, delivered an address on "The Need of a United Free Will Baptist Church." Dismissed for dinner by Rev. J. W. Alford, of Kenly, N. C.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Conference reassembled at 2 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. Thos. E. Beaman, of Goldsboro, N. C. After which we were made to feel welcome by an address delivered by the local pastor, Rev. J. A. Martin. The response was very timely by Rev. J. C. Moye, of Snow Hill, N. C.

The object of the General Conference was set forth in an address by J. W. Alford.

The roll was called and the following States were represented:

Georgia.—Revs. J. A. Blanton and Neal H. Parish.

Alabama.—Rev. J. E. Hodgens.

Tennessee.—Revs. J. E. Hudgens, J. L. Welch and Oscar Davis, also laymen G. W. Famborough and E. D. Parker.

North Carolina State Convention.—S. H. Styron.

Central Conference of North Carolina.—Revs. J. C. Moye and T. E. Beaman.

Eastern Conference of North Carolina.—Revs. J. C. Griffin and A. H. Outlaw.

Woman's Home Mission of the Eastern Conference of North Carolina.—Mrs. Alice Lupton.

Cape Fear Conference of North Carolina.—W. A. Jackson and B. P. Parks.

Western Conference of North Carolina.—Revs. N. D. Wiggs and G. W. Ferrell.

French Broad Association of North Carolina.—Revs. J. H. Ballard and R. V. Self.

A Credential Committee was appointed as follows: S. H. Styron, J. E. Hodgens, J. A. Blanton and J. E. Hudgens.

At this time reports from the field were heard which were encouraging and helpful.

The Credential Committee made the following report:

We, your Committee on Credentials feel satisfied from our conference with Bro. T. B. Mellette that he is representing a loyal people and thoroughly orthodox in every respect, and we hereby recommend that he represent the Union Meeting of the South Carolina Conference, and that his name be enrolled from the said Union.

Respectfully submitted by the committee.

Whereupon T. B. Mellette was enrolled as delegate.

On motion a committee be appointed to look into the matter of the constitution and report back to this session of the Conference. J. W. Alford, Chairman; J. E. Hudgens, S. H. Styron, G. W. Famborough and Neal H. Parish, said committee.

E. T. Philips, editor of the Free Will Baptist, presented the cause of the paper to the Conference. He was followed by W. B. Everett, J. A. Blanton and others.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Devotional exercises conducted by N. D. Wiggs. Prayer by R. F. Pittman.

The matter of a reporter was mentioned and resulted in the election of Revs. L. E. Ballard and A. H. Outlaw as a reportorial staff.

Rev. L. E. Ballard, of Asheville, discussed the importance of winning the young people to Christ. He was followed by Rev. J. E. Hudgens, of Tennessee. Sister Alice E. Lupton, of New Bern, N. C., spoke to us on "The Value of Church Auxiliaries," emphasizing the importance of Sunday Schools, Young People's Work, Woman's Work, Ladies Aid and Womans' Home Mission.

E. T. Phillips again presented the paper. The following resolution by S. H. Styron was offered:

Since it is the sense of this General Conference that we as a national body are in need of a young people's organization,

Be it Resolved, 1st. That this body go on record as approving and adopting the Free Will Baptist League as agreed upon and adopted by North Carolina and Tennessee, and that we recommend it to our people everywhere.

2nd. That the Little Workers' League of the East be approved and adopted as a primary department of the Free Will Baptist League.

3rd. That we recommend each Conference and Association composing this General Conference through their officers or in session appoint a field secretary whose duties shall be to promote the work in the bounds of their respective conferences and associations by organizing Free Will Baptist Leagues in the various churches and placing before our people the importance of organizing young people's work; said secretaries to make regular reports of the progress of the work in their respective districts through the medium of our denominational papers. We recommend that each conference or association provide means for expenses of field secretaries.

Further, we go on record as favoring a permanent National Young People's organization as early as it can be effected.

On motion, resolution be referred to a committee, and said committee report back to this conference as early as possible. Committee: Mrs. Alice E. Lupton, L. E. Ballard, G. W. Famborough.

The remainder of the time to the noon hour was consumed in hearing reports from the Free will Baptist League and other auxiliaries from J. L. Welch, President of the Conference, J. C. Griffin, of New Bern, N. C.

On motion, we call off until 1:30.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Prayer by W. B. Everett. R. F. Pittman discussed the subject of "Our Denominational Literature." Committee on Constitution made a report and recommended slight changes; same to be voted upon tomorrow.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That Conference go on record and pledge itself to stand by and support in case of division that part of any church conference or association that contends for the original faith and practice of the Free Will Baptist church, even though it be in the minority, when such division is caused by the advent of new doctrines, which might disturb and destroy the harmony and life of the church.

We further declare it to be our judgment that we will not recognize the doctrines of a second definite work of grace, nor the doctrines allied with it under the guise of sanctification or holiness. But it is our purpose to recognize and we do hereby recognize the doctrine of the Original Free Will Baptist church with all its ordinances unmodified.

On motion, R. V. Self be seated as delegate from the French Broad Association.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Conference request the various Conferences and Associations composing this Conference to submit to the clerk of this Conference a list of all ministers belonging to these Conferences or Associations, in good standing, and the clerk of this Conference be required to have same published as a Directory of the Free Will Baptist Ministers and addresses, and distribute the same to the ministers for reference as to the standing of any minister.

Closed by J. W. Alford.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Devotional by Rev. T. B. Mellette.

Address: "Evangelism," by R. V. Self.

Constitution amended as revised by committee in early part of the Conference. The matter of the manual was mentioned and motion was carried, that the President appoint a committee to confer with a similar committee of the Ministerial Association, for the purpose of criticising and revising said manual.

On motion, Rev. J. L. Welch be elected editor of our Free Will Baptist League literature and Rev. L. E. Ballard and Sister Alice E. Lupton be associate editors. That they prepare same and distribute to our leagues.

Committee on Evangelism report as follows:

We, your committee on Evangelistic work beg to report that we favor National Evangelistic work, and that we recommend that this Conference go on record as the same. We recommend that the selection and employment of one or more evangelists be referred to the Executive committee.

Respectfully,

A. H. OUTLAW,

J. E. HUDGENS,

G. W. FAMBOROUGH,

Committee.

Invitation to hold next session with the Midway Association and by motion it was decided to hold the next session with them.

Received donations:

Eastern Conference of North Carolina	\$10.00
	10.00
Central Conference of North Carolina	10.00
Cape Fear Conference of North Carolina	10.00
Cumberland Association, of Tennessee	10.00
	\$50.00
Paid clerk	10.00
Balance	\$40.00

On motion, we have 2500 minutes printed and distributed among our Conferences and Associations; that clerk be allowed \$10.00 and expenses of postage, etc.

On motion, we extend a rising vote of thanks to the people of Marshall, and especially the churches, our own, and the churches of other denominations.

On motion we close.

J. L. WELCH, Moderator.

R. F. PITTMAN, Clerk Pro Tem.

Report of Manual Committee Made and Accepted.

Owing to the lack of time for the consideration of this matter and appreciating its importance, we, recommend that its consideration be deferred until the next annual conference.

J. E. HUDGENS,

J. W. ALFORD,

For committee from Ministerial Association.

The committee appointed to examine and suggest any necessary revision to the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Conference submit the following:

We recommend that Section 4, be amended as follows: Each association or conference shall be allowed two representatives and the State Convention of the States shall be allowed one representative each. However, each minister in good standing in his conference or association, shall have full right to counsel with us in all our discussions, but the right to vote is allowed only to the legal representative of said conference or association.

We also recommend that in Section 5, Article 1, the word "Moderator" be substituted for the word "President" in every place where it occurs.

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