

Rev. Dunbar, Tenn.

1924

MINUTES

dup
OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST OF THE UNITED
STATES

HELD WITH

Bay Branch Church

TIMMONSVILLE, S. C.

May 21-24, 1924.

OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE:

REV. JOHN L. WELCH, President ----- Nashville, Tenn.
REV. J. E. HUDGENS, Vice-President ----- Ashland City, Tenn.
REV. E. C. MORRIS, Recording Secretary ----- Durham, N. C.
BRO. JAS. CHESHIRE, Treasurer ----- Colquitt, Ga.
REV. NEAL H. PARRISH, Field Secretary ----- Hahira, Ga.

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

The fourth Annual Session of the General Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist church of the United States met with Bay Branch Free Will Baptist church, Timmons ville, S. C., May 21, 1924, at 10:30 o'clock A. M. The Conference was opened by 30 minutes praise and prayer service, conducted by the Moderator, Rev. John L. Welch, after which Rev. Neal H. Parrish of Georgia, preached the opening sermon. According to the program, he used as his subject, "Our Denominational Assets." His text was taken from Luke 12:32. "Fear not little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." The speaker told what had given us as a denomination. He spoke of our organization in the nation, the states and districts with all the auxiliaries and systems. He spoke of our various institutions and urged his audience, in conclusion, to press forward in the work of the Master and possess the Kingdom which our Father has promised us. After the sermon the Conference was called off for refreshments.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

The Conference reassembled at 1.30 o'clock and after song and prayer, Rev. G. C. Vause, the local pastor, delivered the welcome address and the response was given by Bro. Jas. Cheshire of Georgia.

The roll was called and the following were appointed Credential Committee: Rev. R. F. Pittman, Chairman, G. C. Vause and G. W. Cherry. The committee retired and called for the credentials of the various delegates, after which they made their report and the following were enrolled as delegates from the various bodies:

NORTH CAROLINA.—Rev. E. C. Morris, for the State Convention. Rev. W. B. Everett, for the Eastern Conference; Rev. R. N. Hinnant, for the Western Conference; Rev. L. R. Ennis, and layman W. A. Jackson, for the Cape Fear Conference; Revs. R. F. Pittman and Thos. E. Beaman, for the Central Conference.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—Revs. G. C. Vause and M. H. Mellette, for the South Carolina Conference; Rev. J. W. Moore, for the Eastern Conference.

GEORGIA.—Layman T. G. Harvey, for the State Convention; layman Jas. Cheshire and Rev. J. G. Harris, for the Midway Association; Rev. Neal H. Parrish, for the Georgia Union Association.

TENNESSEE.—Miss Ruth Stewart, for the Cumberland Association.

ALABAMA.—Rev. G. W. Cherry, for the State Line Association.

OHIO.—There was a letter read from the Ohio River Yearly Meeting and it was accepted.

On motion, all visitors be invited to seats and council with us, and that they be given all the privileges of the Conference except that of voting.

The following visitors were present and made welcome: Revs. E. P. Kirby, M. S. Todd and A. L. Williams, of the South Carolina Conference; Mrs. R. N. Hinnant from North Carolina, and Mrs. T. G. Harvey from Georgia.

At this time, Rev. W. B. Everett, brought a very timely message on "Our Task." He spoke of the great importance of maintaining what we have at the present and the great necessity of increasing our capacity for our future development. He related the great sacrifice which a few have made and its results, stating that if all had made an equal sacrifice that a much greater result could have been achieved. His plea was for a solid front that we might accomplish that which would be pleasing to the God we serve.

The various committee were appointed as follows:

PUBLICATION.—Revs. Thos. E. Beaman, Geo. C. Vause and layman T. G. Harvey.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.—Revs. E. C. Morris, L. R. Ennis and G. W. Cherry.

EDUCATION.—Revs. W. B. Everett, H. V. Oliver and R. N. Hinnant.

EVANGELISM.—Revs. R. F. Pittman, Neal H. Parrish and J. W. Moore.

RESOLUTIONS.—Revs. M. H. Mellette, J. G. Harris and layman Jas. Cheshire.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.—Miss Ruth Stewart, Rev. J. W. Moore and layman W. A. Jackson.

Conference adjourned until Thursday 9:00 A. M.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Conference came together at the appointed hour. The devotions were led by Rev. E. C. Morris, after which the business session began. The minutes of the previous day were read and approved.

On motion, Bro. W. A. Jackson be seated as delegate from the Cape Fear Conference of North Carolina.

Reports of various committees and officers were taken up at this hour.

REPORT OF FIELD SECRETARY.

To the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist of the United States:

Brethren.—As your Field Secretary, I submit as my report the following: I have sought through correspondence to communicate with leaders among our people in a number of Southern States with the hope that they be finally drawn into this great organization, having received assurance from some that they will finally bring their people to join us.

I feel, brethren, that we have every reason to feel encouraged and to go on with this work. However, exercising due patience, and working tenaciously. (Report adopted.)

NEAL H. PARRISH, Field Secretary.

REPORT OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

The Committee on Free Will Baptist League recommend the following:

1. That the Chairman of the Free Will Baptist League work in the various states, organize in-so-far as is possible, Leagues in the local churches; that local leagues organize themselves into District League Conven-

tions, District League Conventions into State League Conventions, and further, that State League Conventions work under the auspices of the General Conference.

2. We recommend that the Free Will Baptist League Board arrange to provide a Department in the Young People's Friend for the Juniors, and that an editor be appointed by the Board for that work.

3. We further recommend that each Conference and Association in each state represented in this Conference be requested at its next annual meeting to contribute to the financial support of the Free Will Baptist League work, such funds to be for the promotion of the work.

RUTH STEWART,
J. W. MOORE,
W. A. JACKSON,
Committee.

Report adopted.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

The Treasurer begs to make the following report for the year 1923:

Received from the Cumberland Association of Tennessee.....	\$ 10.00
Received from the Eastern Conference of North Carolina.....	10.00
Received from the Central Conference of North Carolina.....	10.00
Received from the Cape Fear Conference of North Carolina.....	10.00
Received from the State Convention of North Carolina.....	10.00
Received from the Midway Association of Georgia.....	10.00
Received from Georgia Union Association of Georgia.....	20.00
Received from the State Convention of Georgia.....	10.00
Received from the Ohio River Yearly Meeting of Ohio.....	10.00
Total.....	\$100.00
Paid Recording Secretary.....	\$10.00
Paid F. W. B. Printing Co.....	72.00

Total paid out.....	\$82.00
Balance on hand.....	\$ 17.50

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. CHESHIRE, Treasurer.

The Treasurer's report was adopted.

Rev. J. W. Alford, who was appointed to investigate the copyright on Dunn-Butler Theology, reports that he has been unable to gather the desired information. The work was deferred until later.

At the 11:00 o'clock hour, Hon. M. B. Prescott, of Ayden, N. C., delivered a very interesting and logical message on "Church Progress," after which the Conference was called off for refreshments.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference came together at 2:00 P. M., and after song and prayer, Rev. Thos. E. Beaman spoke to the body upon the subject of, "Does it Pay

to Advertise." The speaker pointed out very clearly how it pays the business world to advertise and then asked the question, if it pays in commercial business, why will it not pay in the Lord's work?

REPORT OF PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

We, your committee on publication beg to submit the following:

I. That we elect a National Publication Board whose duty it shall be to have charge of all the publication work of books, tracts, pamphlets, etc.

II. That the members of this Board shall be elected in regular session of the Conference, with three members retiring each year. Further it shall be composed of one member from each state together with a chairman who may be elected from either of the states.

III. We recommend that the said Board take up the matter of having printed this year (a) tracts, pamphlets, etc., on the position, faith and practice of the Free Will Baptist. (b) The securing of copyright on Dunn-Butler Theology. (c) The publication of a Treatise of the Faith. (d) A Manual for Ministers. (e) A History of the Free Will Baptist Church.

IV. We recommend that this Conference elect annually an advertising manager whose duty it shall be to advertise the work of the Conference, to have under his direction the advertisement of the publications of the Publication Board.

V. We further recommend that in the publication business of the Board they secure loans when necessary in financing any publication and that all profits derived from the sale of books, tracts, etc., be used as capital.

VI. We also recommend that a subscription campaign to the Baptist paper be put on in the local churches of each state through the Publication Board, with a view of reaching a goal of five thousand subscribers in this Conference year; also that such campaigns, if found profitable, be conducted annually with the goal increased from year to year.

VII. That we instruct the Field Secretary to gather the statistics of the various Conferences and Associations from year to year, same to become a part of the permanent records of the Conference.

VIII. We recommend that we establish a book concern and do Colportage work; that the Executive Committee outline the plans and present to the next session of this Conference.

THOS. E. BEAMAN,
T. G. HARVEY,
G. C. VAUSE,
Committee.

The above report was adopted by sections.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM.

We, your Committee on Evangelism beg to report as follows:

Seeing the need of some definite action along this line, Therefore, be it resolved:

I. That we elect a Board on Evangelism consisting of five, whose duty it shall be to have the supervision of the Evangelistic work of the General Conference.

II. That we elect three general evangelists who shall be under the supervision of the General Board.

III. That the Board of Evangelism arrange an Evangelistic party as quickly as possible, who shall not be confined to any one section or state, but anywhere they may see an opportunity, provided the Board considers it profitable.

IV. That we urge all our ministers and churches to do more evangelistic work. (Report adopted.)

R. F. PITTMAN,
NEAL H. PARRISH,
J. W. MOORE,
Committee.

REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Education recommends:

I. That every Conference and Association take immediate action to effect the completion of our college building, in order to secure to our denomination an educated ministry and laity, and to firmly establish truth in the minds and hearts of our people.

II. That every Conference and Association appoint some suitable person to co-operate with the financial agent of the College to effect this undertaking. It shall be the duty of such persons to act with the financial agent in an advisory capacity in furnishing information concerning the churches in his Conference or Association. That the clerks of each Conference or Association furnish the name of the person appointed to be the financial agent.

III. That since the Free Will Baptist Seminary at Ayden, N. C., is equipped to give due instruction to young men aspiring to the ministry, all Conferences and Associations shall require at least a high school education as a pre-requisite to ordination and demand that men aspiring to the ministry avail themselves of the opportunity for education by the denomination. (The report was adopted.)

W. B. EVERETT,
H. V. OLIVER,
R. N. HINNANT,
Committee.

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools beg to submit the following:

We recommend the reappointment of Rev. T. B. Mellette to the previous duties assigned him and that in connection with this that he be authorized to correspond with the chairmen of the various State Conventions, Conferences and Associations urging them to form District and State Sunday School organizations such as will promote the general progress of the

Sunday School work; and that all state organizations formed shall represent with one delegate in each Annual Session of the General Conference.

We also recommend the appointment of a National Sunday School Board as early as possible. (The report was adopted.)

E. C. MORRIS,
L. R. ENNIS,
G. W. CHERRY,
Committee.

By motion the Conference adjourned until Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Conference reassembled at 9.30 o'clock and after devotion, the Moderator declared the Conference ready for business.

The election of the various boards and officers were taken up as follows:

PUBLICATION BOARD:—Rev. John L. Welch, of Nashville, Tenn., Chairman; Revs. G. C. Vause, Timmons ville, S. C.; Jefferson D. Stephens, Marianna, Fla.; Thos E. Beaman, Morehead City, N. C.; Neal H. Parrish, Hahira, Ga.; G. L. Shutes, Kynesville, Fla.; J. E. Hudgens, Ashland City, Tenn.; and layman M. B. Hutchinson, Zaleski, Ohio.

BOARD ON EVANGELISM:—Rev. R. F. Pittman, Ayden, N. C.; Chairman; Revs. J. G. Harris, Arlington, Ga.; T. B. Mellette, Turbeville, S. C.; and layman G. W. Fambrough, Neptune, Tenn.

ADVERTISING MANAGER:—Rev. Thos. E. Beaman.

NATIONAL EVANGELISTS:—Revs. R. N. Hinnant, Micro, N. C.; Neal H. Parrish, Hahira, Ga.; and R. V. Self, Asheville, N. C.

At this hour, Rev. L. R. Ennis, brought to the Conference a very profitable message on "Colportage Work." The speaker having been engaged in the Colportage Work himself for some time, spoke principally from his own experience. He stated that the need of the work is important for the following reasons:

1. It is one of God's ways of communicating His will to man.
2. It is Biblical.
3. It reaches a class of people who could not be otherwise.
4. It offers an opportunity for the development of Christian workers.

He concluded by saying that evangelists, pastors and the laity should engage in the Colportage work.

The next speaker, Rev. W. B. Everett, used as a subject, "The Christian and his Children." In this message, the speaker clearly pointed out that the development of Christianity is principally brought about through parental heritage. He therefore, urged parents to live such lives that their children would have a foundation upon which to build a Christian character.

At the close of Bro. Everett's address he made an appeal for the college and there was \$6.95 raised as an offering.

Conference called off for refreshments.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference reassembled per adjournment, and after song and prayer the business of the Conference was resumed.

Resolutions were offered as follows:

Realizing the laxity with our people relative to churches and ministers who fail to live up to the standard established by Christ and the early church,

Therefore, Be it Resolved, That this Conference shall regard it as an act of disorder for sister Associations and Conferences to take into fellowship any church or minister expelled by a sister Association, Conference or church or to allow preachers the use of our stand that has been expelled by any sister church for immoral or unChristian conduct or being unsound in the faith and doctrine.

Offered by M. H. Mellette and J. G. Harris. The above resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS OFFERED BY M. H. MELLETTE.

We, the General Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist church being under conviction that the eighteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States is in keeping with the high ideals of good citizenship and good government, and further we believe it to harmonize with the policy and ideals of our Christian forefathers, and especially the teachings of Jesus Christ. And therefore, realizing strenuous efforts for legalizing the manufacture and sale of light wines and bear by those who are opposed to good government and ideal citizenship are being exercised in our nation.

Therefore, Be it Resolved, By this General Conference now in session, May 21-23, 1924, go on record as opposing any legislation effecting or altering the above mentioned amendment and also the Volstead Act; and secondly we ask each of our ministers here assembled to write their respective Representative in Congress and Senator of the United States stating our position and expressing our desire and prayers on this important issue.

Thirdly, We offer our faith and assure our support to those in authority in forcing the said laws by giving them our undivided co-operation and strength with same. (The resolution was adopted.)

On motion the Secretary be authorized to prepare manuscript for the press and that there be one thousand minutes printed and they be distributed among the various Conferences and Associations, and that he be allowed ten dollars for his service.

On motion we accept the invitation of Rev. G. W. Cherry to meet with Howell's Grove, four miles south of Ashford, Ala., next year.

On motion that we render a rising vote of thanks to the people of Bay Branch church for the generous hospitality shown us during the sitting of this Conference.

On motion we render a rising vote of thanks to Mrs. R. N. Hinnant for her service in rendering the musical program.

On motion the same Superintendents of the Young People's work in the various states be re-elected.

The Conference closed by singing "Blest be the Tie That Binds."

JOHN L. WELCH, Moderator.

E. C. MORRIS, Recording Secretary.

P. S.—After the Conference closed Rev. L. R. Ennis related the sad condition of the distraction of Rock Ridge church in Harnett Co., N. C., by a cyclone and there was a plea made for help to re-establish the church in the town of Coats. There was a suggestion that all the ministers take a free will offering in their churches for this cause.

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.

Section 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.

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

Section 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.

Section V.—Article 1. The officers of this organization 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

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

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

Section 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.

Section 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.