

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**GENERAL CONFERENCE**  
**OF THE**  
**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST OF THE UNITED**  
**STATES**

**HELD WITH**  
**Howard's Grove Church**  
**ASHFORD, ALA., MAY 27, 28, 29, 1925**

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**OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE:**

REV. JOHN L. WELCH, Moderator	Nashville, Tenn.
REV. J. W. ALFORD, Vice-Moderator	Kenly, N. C.
G. W. FAMBROUGH, Recording Secretary	Neptune, Tenn.
BRO. JAS. CHESHIRE, Treasurer	Colquitt, Ga.
REV. NEAL H. PARRISH, Field Secretary	Blountstown, Fla.

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

The Fifth Annual Session of the General Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist Church of the United States, met with Howard's Grove church, Ashford, Ala., in the State Line Association, May 27, 28, 29, 1925, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The meeting was opened by Rev. J. L. Welch, Moderator, and in the absence of Rev. E. C. Morris, Recording Secretary, G. W. Fambrough, of Neptune, Tenn., was elected Recording Secretary, and after song and prayer service, Rev. J. L. Welch, of Nashville, Tenn., preached the opening sermon, from the 12th chapter of Romans, in which he made a very strong plea for the advancement of this organization, one of the greatest ever organized. After the sermon a very bountiful repast was served.

## WEDNESDAY 1:30 P. M.

The house was called to order by the Moderator, a quorum being present. After devotional services held by Rev. D. T. Armstrong of Tennessee, and prayer by B. J. Cash of North Carolina, Rev. G. W. Cherry of Dothan, Ala., delivered the welcome address, and response delivered by Rev. J. W. Alford of North Carolina. The moderator appointed the Credentials Committee composed of Rev. G. W. Cherry, Rev. M. H. Mellette and Rev. J. W. Alford.

The committee called for the credentials and retired and after deliberation and due time reported the following Associations with their delegates, said report was adopted and the delegates were enrolled.

ALABAMA.—State Line Association—Rev. G. W. Cherry and Bro. J. C. Howell.

FLORIDA.—Salem Association—By Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

GEORGIA.—Midway Association—Layman Willie Wiley and Rev. W. T. Wiley; Union Association, Rev. Neal H. Parrish, and Georgia State Convention, by Rev. Neal H. Parrish.

NORTH CAROLINA.—State Convention—Rev. A. H. Outlaw; Eastern Conference, Rev. Lloyd Vernon; Central Conference, W. E. Anderson and Rev. B. J. Cash.

OHIO.—The Ohio Yearly Meeting was represented by letter.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—Rev. M. H. Mellette represented the South Carolina Conference.

TENNESSEE.—Cumberland Association—Rev. D. T. Armstrong and layman G. W. Fambrough.

The following Associations with delegates petitioned and were received into the General Conference:

The Little River Association of Georgia, with Neal H. Parrish (proxy) delegate.

FLORIDA.—Blountstown Association, with F. M. Knight and T. E. Parrish, delegates; Liberty Association, of West Florida, Rev. A. B. Nelson, delegates.

South Eastern Association of Alabama, J. H. Guilford and J. H. Oates, delegates.

On motion, visiting brethren were invited to seats and council with all



privileges except in voting. Rev. M. L. Hollis, representing the State Conference of Alabama, accepted and made welcome.

The Devotional Committee composed of Rev. A. H. Outlaw, Rev. D. T. Armstrong, layman James Cheshire, and Rev. G. W. Cherry, were appointed by the moderator and made the following report:

Rev. Lloyd Vernon of North Carolina, preach Wednesday 8 P. M.

Rev. J. W. Alford, Thursday 11 A. M.

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Thursday 8 P. M.

Rev. D. T. Armstrong, Friday 11 A. M.

The subject, "What We Most Need" was discussed in general, in which many interesting and advanced thoughts were brought forth. Conference adjourned till Thursday 9 A. M.

### THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 28.

The Conference met according to adjournment with Rev. J. L. Welch in the chair. Devotional exercises were held by D. T. Armstrong and M. H. Mellette, after which, the session was opened by the moderator.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved, after which the following committees were appointed by the moderator:

EDUCATIONAL AND LITERATURE.—M. H. Mellette, Chairman; T. G. Harvey, A. B. Nelson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.—M. L. Hollis, Chairman; B. J. Cash and G. W. Cherry.

EVANGELISM.—Neal H. Parrish, Chairman; James Cheshire, and J. C. Howell.

RESOLUTIONS.—J. W. Alford, Chairman; W. E. Anderson and W. T. Wiley.

MISSIONS.—A. H. Outlaw, Chairman; Lloyd Vernon and D. T. Armstrong.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

To amount to balance from last report .....	\$ 17.50
To amount from the Free Will Baptist League .....	59.43
To amount from South Carolina Conference .....	10.00
To amount from North Carolina Convention .....	10.00
To amount from Eastern Conference of North Carolina .....	10.00
To amount from Cumberland Association of Tennessee .....	10.00
To amount from Ohio Yearly Meeting Conference .....	10.00
To amount Midway Association of Georgia .....	10.00
To amount from Union Association of Georgia .....	10.00
Total .....	\$146.93

#### Disbursements:

To Mrs. Alice Luton, Chairman F. W. B. L. ....	\$ 59.43
To Recording Secretary .....	10.00

To Printing Minutes .....

50.00

\$119.43

Balance .....

\$ 27.50

JAMES CHESHIRE, Treasurer.

Report was adopted.

### TREASURER'S REPORT OF THE F. W. B. L.

May 21, 1924 to amount balance .....	\$ 66.08
To amount from State Convention of North Carolina .....	31.25
To amount from New Bern League of North Carolina .....	10.33
To amount from Eastern Conference of North Carolina .....	25.00
To French Broad Association of North Carolina .....	20.00
To amount from Rev. A. H. Outlaw for literature .....	44.60
To amount from L. E. Ballard for literature .....	85.17
To amount from Jakin, Ga., .....	10.75
To amount from Woman's Home Mission Gen. Con. of N. C. ....	15.38
To amount from Tennessee League Convention .....	5.00
To amount from other sources .....	72.60
	\$386.16

#### Disbursements:

To the Free Will Baptist Printing Co., .....	\$302.50
To Loy E. Ballard, printing Young People's Friend .....	48.99
	\$351.49
Balance in Treasury .....	34.67

MRS. ALICE E. LUPTON, Treas.

Report was adopted.

### REPORT OF THE FIELD SECRETARY.

To the Conference of Original Free Will Baptist:

Dear Brethren:—The following is my report as your Field Secretary:

I have endeavored to agitate among our people the need of greater unity and have tried to get into communication with some of our ministers and Associations that have not heretofore been represented in this honorable body; as a result I have every reason to feel that two other Associations have been added.

Doubtless some other brother might have had better results if elected as your Field Secretary, in such case I pledge my continued co-operation, for the best interest of this Conference.

Most prayerfully yours,

NEAL H. PARRISH.

Report adopted.



## REPORT OF NATIONAL EVANGELIST.

To the General Conference of Free Will Baptist:

Dear Brethren:—As your National Evangelist, I beg to make the following report of my work since the session of last year:

I have held a number of meetings in South Carolina, Georgia, and a few in Florida. The Lord blessed us most wonderfully in these good meetings, and quite a number was added to our faith, and a number of churches revived. I have now engagements for two tent meetings in Florida, with fair prospects for organizing two churches.

May God continue to bless our brethren in an effort to go forward evangelistically.

I am yours in service,

NEAL H. PARRISH.

Report adopted.

At the 11 o'clock hour the Rev. J. W. Alford of North Carolina, delivered a very forceful and logical sermon from 1st John 3-2, after which refreshments were served.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The Conference came together at 1:30 o'clock and after devotional exercises with song and prayer, Miss Ruth Stewart of Nashville, Tenn., made an interesting talk on the Young People of our church, and made plans to organize a Free Will Baptist League at Howard's Grove church. Miss "Dot" Harvey of Jakin, Ga., made quite an interesting talk on the F. W. B. L. and said advancement had been made in Georgia in this great work. After which a general talk was made along this line placing strength on this work.

Rev. A. H. Outlaw made a plea for Summer students to attend school at Ayden, N. C.

To refresh the minds of the body a quartette was sung by Misses Ruth Stewart and Eunace Nelson, Messrs A. B. Nelson and I. M. Brackin.

On motion the regular order of business was suspended and we go into the election of officers for the next two years.

Rev. J. L. Welch of Nashville, Tenn., was nominated and elected by acclamation as Moderator, with Rev. J. W. Alford of Kenly, N. C., Vice-Moderator; G. W. Fambrough of Neptune, Tenn., was elected recording secretary. Rev. Neal H. Parrish of Blountstown, Fla., was elected Field Secretary, James Cheshire of Colquit, Ga., was elected Treasurer. Conference adjourned till Friday 9 A. M.

The following brethren were designated to assist our Field Secretary in collecting and compiling statistics of our Free Will Baptist in each state. Neal H. Parrish, Field Secretary, Lloyd Vernon, North Carolina; M. H. Mellette, South Carolina; J. C. Howell, Alabama; and G. W. Fambrough, Tennessee.

## REPORT OF REV. R. V. SELF, NATIONAL EVANGELIST.

Number churches 1; number of revivals conducted 14; number sermons preached 310; received into the church 246; baptized 16; sick visits made 100. Special sermons and lectures delivered 11; marriage ceremonies per-

formed 5; two churches organized; \$28.00 raised for benevolent purposes; amount received for services \$3045.01; amount given personally for benevolent purposes \$240.00; conversions for the year 904.

Respectfully,

R. V. SELF.

Report adopted.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sunday Schools submit the following:

1st. We recommend that the preachers, deacons and laymen use their influence in promoting the Sunday School work in their respective churches and communities.

2nd. We further recommend the use of the Free Will Baptist literature published at Ayden, N. C.

3rd. We recommend that all the Conferences and Associations represented in this General Conference appoint a field superintendent to look after the Sunday School work in their respective Conferences or Associations.

M. L. HOLLIS,

B. J. CASH,

G. W. CHERRY,

Committee.

Report adopted.

## REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

We, your committee on Education submit the following report:

Whereas, people in ignorance of things beneficial or injurious to their well being are in no position to support the good or resist the evil, we should open our eyes to the great need of educating our people along these lines.

1st. We endorse the reports of both the Educational and Publication committees of our last session.

2nd. While raising funds to finance the Free Will Baptist College at Ayden, N. C., our Conferences, Associations, etc., shall raise funds to be used in carrying out the recommendations of the Publication Committee.

3rd. We recommend that our churches shall use our Sunday School literature and song books.

4th. We recommend that all Free Will Baptist parents look more carefully after the character of literature their children read in homes and Sunday schools.

M. H. MELLETTE,

T. G. HARVEY,

A. B. NELSON,

Committee.

Report adopted.

## FRIDAY MORNING 9:00 A. M.

The Conference reassembled at 9 o'clock and after devotional exercises by Rev. D. T. Armstrong, the moderator declared the Conference open for business.



Motion made that moderator appoint a committee of three to revise the Constitution and By-Laws of this Conference and that they report at the next session of the Conference on the first day.

The moderator appointed the following on this revision: Revs. B. J. Cash, M. H. Mellette and A. H. Outlaw.

The Rev. J. G. Harris was elected a member of the Executive Committee for a term of five years, with Rev. D. T. Armstrong for four years, Rev. J. E. Hodgins, for three years, Rev. M. B. Hutchinson for two years, and Rev. J. W. Alford for one.

The committee on Missions made report, after which the house adjourned for the 11 o'clock service, at which time the Rev. D. T. Armstrong of Tenn., preached, his subject being, "The Glorious Gospel." After which refreshments were served.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The Conference was called to order by the Moderator and after devotional exercises Miss Ruth Stewart was given time in which she organized a Free Will Baptist League, for the church.

Motion made that the body go into the election of a place for the next annual meeting, Nashville, Tenn., was selected with Cofer's Chapel on Arthur Avenue in North Nashville.

Ladies Aid Committee was elected composed of the following: Mrs. Fred Polston, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. Alice E. Lupton, New Bern, N. C.; Mrs. G. A. Connor, Belhaven, N. C.; A. R. Carter, Hahira, Ga.; G. L. Shutes, Kynessville, Fla.

Motion made and carried that the moderator name a board of five to govern the young people's work of our churches. The following were appointed: T. B. Mellette, Miss Ruth Stewart, Miss Dorothy Harvey, L. E. Ballard, and Miss Terry Pettit.

A request from the Arkansas State Association that we send representation to their next meeting which will meet with Macedonia church, Cleveland county, Ark., on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1925. Rev. J. L. Welch was elected to attend this Association.

The following resolution was adopted:

With hearts filled with gratitude to God for his blessings in our meeting, and too appreciative of the brotherly love that has existed within our body, and the fairness and justice rendered by our officials, also the liberal support of same by the church and community.

Therefore, be it Resolved, 1st. That this body close with appropriate praise and prayer to God.

2nd. That we give a rising vote of thanks to the moderator and other officers and Committeemen of our body, for their faithful performance of duties assigned them.

3rd. That we extend our heart-felt thanks to the community for their liberal support and hospitality shown us during our session here in their midst.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM.

We, your committee beg to make the following as our report:

1st. By reason of the absence of the chairman of the Evangelistic Board, we are unable to get report of any of the work accomplished this year.

2nd. We recommend that each Association, Conference and Convention adopt some plan to raise funds and send to each regular session of this Conference to be used for Evangelistic purposes.

3rd. We recommend further that our ministers make earnest efforts to interest our whole people in the Evangelistic work of our Denomination. We furthermore recommend that our present Board of Evangelistic be continued in office for the ensuing year.

NEAL H. PARRISH,  
JAMES CHESHIRE,  
J. C. HOWELL,  
Committee.

Report adopted.

The Evangelistic Board:—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.

### REPORT OF MISSION COMMITTEE.

We recommend a Board of Five on Woman's activities, such as Ladies Aid, Home and Foreign Missions, Societies in churches, Woman's Home Missions Conventions in local Conferences, Associations and Yearly Meetings. Said Board to elect a Field Secretary to do their field work, and make up detailed reports of the same for their Conferences Annually.

Respectfully,

A. H. OUTLAW,  
LLOYD VERNON,  
D. T. ARMSTRONG,  
Committee.

Report adopted.

4th. That the Recording Clerk supervise the printing and distributing the minutes of this Conference and he be allowed \$10.00 for his service.

5th. That this Conference appoint and delegate to the corresponding secretary the work of statistician for our Conference.

The Conference closed with appropriate praise.

J. L. WELCH, Moderator.



**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.