

24-9 J. D. Welch

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST OF THE UNITED STATES

HELD WITH

COFER'S CHAPEL

NASHVILLE, TENN., MAY 26, 27, 28, 1926.

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. M. H. MELLETT, Field Secretary-----Turbeville, S. C.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
1926.

Rev. & Mrs. J. L. Welch
4911 Raywood Lane
Nashville 11, Tennessee

Mrs. Polatz 5, 8
Wm. W. Brown p. 7
2nd J. Henry Albion p. 5

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PROCEEDINGS

The Sixth Annual Session of the General Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist church of the United States, met with Cofer's Chapel church, Nashville, Tenn., in the Cumberland Association May 26, 1926, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The session was called to order by Rev. J. L. Welch, Moderator. After the roll call and devotional exercises, Rev. J. W. Alford of Kenly, N. C., preached the introductory sermon from Phil. 3:13, 14. After which adjournment was taken for lunch.

WEDNESDAY 1:30 P. M.

The house was called to order by the moderator, and after devotional service and prayer, held by Rev. R. N. Hinnant of Micro, N. C., the Rev. J. L. Welch of Nashville, Tenn., delivered the address of welcome. Response made by Rev. M. H. Mellette of Turbeville, S. C.

The moderator appointed the Credentials Committee composed of:

J. C. Howell, of Alabama; A. B. Nelson, Florida; Neal H. Parrish, Georgia; J. W. Alford, North Carolina; W. T. Wiley, (proxy) Ohio; M. H. Mellette, South Carolina; W. J. Paul, Tennessee.

The committee called for the credentials and retired, and after due time and deliberation reported the following associations and conventions:

1. ALABAMA.—State Line Association—J. C. Howell, Dothan, Ala.; G. W. Noble, Dothan, Ala. Southeastern Association, not represented.

2. FLORIDA.—Salem Association, by letter. Blountstown Association, not represented. Liberty Association of West Florida, G. W. Owen, Chipley, Fla.; A. B. Nelson, Bonifay, Fla.

3. GEORGIA.—Little River Association, J. D. Little, Sycamore, Ga. Midway Association, W. T. Wiley, Hilton, Ga.; T. G. Harvey, Jakin, Ga. Union Association of Georgia, Neal H. Parrish, Ochlochnee, Ga.; A. L. Davidson, Pine View, Ga. State Convention of Georgia, J. R. Davidson, Vienna, Ga.

4. NORTH CAROLINA.—State Convention, S. H. Styron, Pine Level, N. C. Eastern Conference, A. E. Rouse, Dudley, N. C.; J. W. Alford, Kenly, N. C. Central Conference, R. N. Hinnant, (proxy) Micro, N. C. Western Conference, R. N. Hinnant, Micro, N. C.; E. C. Morris, Durham, N. C.

5. OHIO.—The Ohio Yearly Meeting, W. T. Wiley, (proxy) Hilton, Ga.

6. SOUTH CAROLINA.—State Conference, M. H. Mellette, Turbeville, S. C.

7. TENNESSEE.—State Conference, J. L. Welch, Nashville, Tenn. Cumberland Association, J. E. Hudgens, Ashland City, Tenn.; W. J. Paul, Columbia, Tenn.

Verbal reports were called for by the moderator as to progress and condition of different associations and conferences. Verbal reports were very gratifying and encouraging to the conference.

The moderator appointed the following to preach during the

session: Rev. W. T. Wiley of Georgia, preach Wednesday 8 P. M. Rev. A. B. Nelson of Florida preach Thursday at 11 A. M. Rev. S. H. Styron of North Carolina, preach Thursday at 8 P. M.

Adjourned to meet Thursday at 9 A. M.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 27.

The Conference was called to order by the moderator, J. L. Welch, according to adjournment. Devotional exercises were led by R. N. Hinnant of North Carolina. Prayer by Rev. Paul of Tennessee. The moderator opened the session for business.

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

EDUCATIONAL AND LITERATURE.—Neal H. Parrish, Chairman; J. W. Alford, Jas. Cheshire.

EVANGELISM.—E. C. Morris, Chairman; A. B. Nelson, G. W. Owen.

MISSIONS.—S. H. Styron, Chairman; A. L. Davidson, J. D. Little.

RESOLUTIONS.—A. E. Rouse, Chairman; T. G. Harvey, J. C. Howell.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.—R. N. Hinnant, Chairman; W. J. Paul, W. T. Wiley.

The committee appointed at the last session of this conference to revise the Constitution and By-Laws of this Conference submitted the following: They recommend that the same be published in the minutes of this session and held over as deferred business until our next conference in 1927, in order that the different associations and conferences can have time to study it.

The above report was adopted. (See report of same in the minutes elsewhere).

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To amount to balance from last report	\$ 27.50
Amount from North Carolina State Conference	10.00
Amount from Eastern Conference of North Carolina	10.00
Amount from Central Conference of North Carolina for 1924-25	20.00
Amount from Cumberland Association of Tennessee	10.00
Amount from Liberty Association of West Florida	10.00
Amount from State Line Association of Ala., 1924-25	20.00
Amount from Georgia State Convention	10.00
Amount from Midway Association	10.00
Amount from Georgia Union Association	10.00
Amount from Blountstown Association	10.00

Total\$147.50

Disbursements:

To Recording Secretary	\$ 10.00
To Printing Minutes	42.50

To postage	2.75
	\$ 55.22
Balance	92.28
	JAMES CHESHIRE, Treasurer.
L. E. Balard, Editor of literature, reported collections	\$ 54.25
Disbursement	50.90
	3.35
Balance on hand	

REPORT OF FIELD SECRETARY.

To the General Conference of Free Will Baptist:

Dear Brethren:—I regret to report as your Field Secretary that my efforts to arouse more of our people to an interest in the great work we are anxious to do, has not resulted as encouragingly as we have wished.

As your Secretary, I have collected reports from associations in several states for the purpose of compiling statistics as voted by the session of 1925.

Devotedly your Secretary,

NEAL H. PARRISH. (Report adopted).

Rev. Neal H. Parrish explaining that he had been elected Field Secretary for five years, tendered his resignation which was accepted, and M. H. Mellette of Turbeville, S. C., was elected Field Secretary.

On motion the Field Secretary was authorized to appoint an assistant in each state.

At the 11 o'clock hour, Rev. A. B. Nelson of Florida, delivered a fine sermon from Psalms 116 chapter. After which the conference adjourned for lunch.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The conference was called together at 1:30 by the moderator. Devotional service by R. E. Tripp of North Carolina.

The conference was opened for business and Mrs. Fred Polston of Nashville, Tenn., was asked to address the conference on the Ladies work of Tennessee. She told how the different Ladies Aids raised money for the churches or orphanage. The address was very impressive and the conference will put her suggestions into practice.

A resolution was introduced to change the constitution as to time of meeting from Wednesday before the last Sunday in May to Wednesday, before the third Sunday in June to be voted on the following Friday.

REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Your committee offer the following report:

1. We commend the Cumberland Association of Tennessee for the educational example that she has set for our people in the education of Rev

Wm. H. Oliver, who is completing his degrees from the Vanderbilt University of Nashville, Tenn.

2. We are glad to report that our college at Ayden, N. C., will open for the fall term, and we encourage all our ministers, who can, to enter there for a better preparation of the great work of the Gospel ministry.

3. Inasmuch as we are aware that our college work can live only by our unstinted support, we are urging each minister and delegate upon their return home and fields of labor to become boosters for the college, impressing upon the minds of our whole people the need of our standing behind our college with sufficient funds to insure its successful work.

4. We urge that in our Sunday schools we use Free Will Baptist literature, and that our associations, conferences and conventions have minutes printed by our press at Ayden, N. C. We urge further that we become interested in the Free Will Baptist paper to the extent of trying to get it into the homes of every Free Will Baptist. (Adopted).

BY THE COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM

1. We recommend that the evangelists elected by this conference, be requested to make report of their work to the Recording Secretary and the Secretary make full report of all evangelistic activities at each session of the General Conference.

2. We further recommend that each state have an organization through which evangelistic work may be done in said state.

E. C. MORRIS, Chairman.

A. B. NELSON,

G. W. OWEN,

Report was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

We your committee on Missions recommend the following:

1. That our pastors and ministers stress and impress the great importance of mission work both home and foreign in their respective churches.

2. Since the State Convention of North Carolina has already created a foreign mission board, and perhaps other states have done the same; we urge the importance of supporting the work by liberal donations in order that we may speedily place ourselves in the position to be able to actively support missionaries in the foreign field.

3. We wish to call particular direction to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Woman's Home Mission Convention of North Carolina, and submit the same herewith as a guide for other states, and we recommend that this body urge its adoption in the various states, and we recommend that the same be published in the minutes of this session of the General Conference.

S. H. STYRON, Chairman.

A. L. DAVIDSON,

J. D. LITTLE,

FORM OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF WOMAN'S HOME MISSION CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA.

PREAMBLE.

Realizing the need and opportunity of doing a great work for the up-building of the kingdom of God through the Free Will Baptist church. We hope and shall endeavor to accomplish more in this field than we have in the past by uniting the societies herein mentioned, having one aim in common that of bettering conditions along the lines of Christian education, missions and church building. The funds collected from these organizations shall be used for the above named purposes.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This organization shall be known as the Woman's Home Mission Convention, and shall be established within the bounds of any conference or association.

Art. 2. The officers of this Convention shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Committee. These officers shall be elected at each regular session of the Convention. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the president, secretary and treasurer.

Art. 3. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over all conventions; to state and put all questions properly before the convention; to preserve decorum, to fill all vacancies in office; to appoint all committees and to perform all duties usually pertaining to such an office.

Art. 4. The Vice-President shall occupy the chair in the absence of the president, or at the option of that office, and in this capacity shall perform all duties pertaining to that office.

Art. 5. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep a full and true record of all the proceedings of the convention in a book provided by the convention for that purpose.

Art. 6. The treasurer shall have charge of all funds belonging to this convention, and shall use the same according to the conditions of the said convention, and shall produce a written report at each annual meeting of the convention of all money received and paid out. All orders for money during the year must be signed by the chairman of the Executive Committee.

Art. 7. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to look after the local welfare in its respective district in organizing all Ladies Aid Societies, and Woman's Home Mission Societies and arranging a program for each convention, and such other duties as may evolve upon it.

Art. 8. The members of the convention shall consist of delegates appointed by various local societies of this convention. All ministers shall have the same privilege as officers and delegates.

Art. 9. This Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of delegates present at any regular session of the General Conference or a board appointed by the same for the promulgation of women's work.

Art. 10. The Convention may receive reports from the auxiliaries un-

less they are organized into separate conventions. But in every instance where there is such an organization, auxiliaries not mentioned in this constitution, shall represent in their respective conventions.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

We recommend that the Program Committee place on the program at each setting of this conference a speaker on Sunday school work.

R. N. HINNANT, Chairman.

W. J. PAUL,

W. T. WILEY,

Committee.

Recommended that the conference at this sitting appoint a Program Committee, and this committee arrange a program for each session of conference as soon as possible after the convening of the session.

REPORT ON EVANGELISM.

To the General Conference of Free Will Baptist:

As one of your evangelists, I offer the following as my report: I have held some evangelistic meetings in which the churches witnessed many accessions, and for this we give the glory to our Lord. We have recently purchased a spacious Gospel tent, the seating capacity being from 1500 to 2000. Near \$800 of this cost was subscribed by brethren and friends. The balance raised by personal loan. It is my aim if the Lord wills to do more service evangelically than ever before. Soliciting your earnest prayers for me as your servant, I am

Yours for service,

NEAL H. PARRISH.

(Report adopted.)

Gen. Field
SECRETARIES ELECTED. *Aug 10*

The following secretaries were elected:

FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAGUE.—Mrs. Alice E. Lupton, New Bern,

N. C.

LADIES AID.—Mrs. Fred Polston, 318 Woodland St., Nashville, Tenn. *Aug 10*
EVANGELISM.—Rev. S. H. Styron, Pine Level, N. C.

Rev. S. H. Styron was appointed to preach at 8 o'clock P. M.

Adjourned till 9 A. M. Friday.

FRIDAY MORNING 9 A. M.

The Conference reassembled at the appointed hour. Devotional exercises were conducted by R. N. Hinnant with a beautiful solo, Title: "My Wonderful Dream."

The house was called to order and declared open for business by the moderator.

Called for reports of committees and the following reported:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF CONSTITUTION.

We, your committee appointed at the last session to revise the Constitution and By-Laws recommend this report as deferred business as will be found elsewhere in these minutes.

M. H. MELLETTE, Chairman.

On motion, Rev. J. L. Welch of Nashville, Tenn., be elected to represent us in the Co-operative Association in Tecumseh, Okla., and that his expenses be paid by the Treasurer of this conference.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING REV. B. J. CASH OF BELHAVEN, N. C., DECEASED.

Section 1. Realizing that we have sustained a great loss in the death of Bro. B. J. Cash,

Therefore, Be it Resolved, That we humbly bow in submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

Sec. 2. Be it further resolved, that this body stand with bowed heads in silent prayer one moment in thanks for his memory.

Sec. 3. That we extend our heart felt sympathy to the bereaved family in this their sad hour of grief, and that we assure them of any help that we may be able to render in time of need.

Sec. 4. Be it further resolved, That we spread these resolutions on a page of our minutes in his memory. (The resolutions were adopted).

On motion, the moderator and secretary notify the chairmen of the various boards that they have been relieved, and that secretaries to the various departments have been elected, and this body further instructs that our moderator and secretary notify the members who have been relieved to turn over all funds and data, etc., to the newly elected secretaries and that it shall become the duty of our moderator and secretary to outline the duties of the various secretaries and mail same to them as early as possible. (Adopted).

RESOLUTION BY M. H. MELLETTE.

Realizing the dangerous doctrines and ideas that have crept into our ranks through the teachings of sciences of men, and especially as taught relative to the creation of all things material.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved by this body, known as the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist of the United States, That we reaffirm our faith in the narrative of the creation as contained in Genesis, and we further advise our teachers and publishers to stand true to this doctrine and that our people be requested to refuse any teaching contrary to same.

Be it Further Resolved, That we as a people condemn the modern theories as being taught relative to Christian life, and that we urge our preachers and teachers and churches to ever hold sacred and inviolate the simple teachings through precept and example given by our Lord and Saviour Jesus

Christ that the world through him in us may be saved from sin into everlasting life. (Resolution was adopted).

Motion that Rev. E. C. Morris of Durham, N. C., be elected a member of the Executive Committee in place of J. W. Alford, whose time has expired.

The Executive Committee is composed of: M. B. Hutchinson, Zaleski, Ohio, 1 year. Rev. J. E. Hodgins, Garnsey, Ala., 2 years. Rev. D. T. Armstrong, Thomasville, Tenn., 3 years. Rev. J. G. Harris, Arlington, Ga., 4 years. Rev. E. C. Morris, Durham, N. C., 5 years.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. That this conference set apart and to be paid by the treasurer of this conference to the various field secretaries of the various departments the following amounts:

General Field Secretary of Conference	\$ 15.00
General Field Secretary of Evangelism	10.00
✓ General Field Secretary of Women's Work	25.00
General Field Secretary of F. W. B. League	100-00

Said amounts to be used in the furtherance of their departments. Each secretary to submit a written report of receipts and disbursements in connection with his general report.

2. Resolved that hereafter when a delegate presents his credentials that he also be required to present the ten dollars required by the Constitution before said delegate shall be entitled to a voice or seat with us.

3. We recommend that the various boards be discharged, and this conference elect at this time, a general field secretary for each department of work, whose duty it shall be to organize their respective departments into working units both local and general. Said field secretaries shall be authorized to call to their assistance from the various states such help as they may desire in order to make the work more general, and the field secretary of each department shall make annual report of the activities of their body.

4. We further recommend that the program of the F. W. B. League be published in the Free Will Baptist at Ayden, N. C., and we earnestly request the publisher to give space for same, it being the official organ of the denomination.

5. We further recommend that the time of meeting of this body be changed from Wednesday before the last Sunday in May to Wednesday before the third Sunday in June.

6. Resolved that we greatly appreciate the kind hospitality of Cofer's Chapel, and that this entire body give a rising vote of thanks to them as an expression of their gratitude.

7. Resolved that the clerk have one thousand minutes printed and dis-

tributed and that he be allowed \$15.00 for his services, and that we send 50 copies to the Co-operative Association at Tecumseh, Okla.

A. E. ROUSE,
T. G. HARVEY,
J. C. HOWELL,,

Committee.

On motion the moderator appoint a committee on Treatise.

The following committee was appointed: S. H. Styron, Chairman; M. H. Mellette, R. N. Hinnant.

It was voted that the next session of this body meet with Salem church, in West Florida, on Wednesday before the third Sunday in June, 1927.

There being no further business, the Conference closed with appropriate praise.

J. L. WELCH, Moderator.

G. W. FAMBROUGH, Clerk

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.

Section 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 third Sunday in each June, 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.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES.

In a meeting called to convene with Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist church, Nashville, Tenn., May 26-28, 1921, delegates from Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, met for the purpose of reorganizing the General Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of the United States and appointed a committee of five to draft a constitution and by-laws by which this organization should be governed. The following constitution and by-laws were adopted:

CONSTITUTION.

Article I.

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

Section 2. The object of this organization shall be to bring together our people throughout the United States for the purpose of counseling for the general interests of our denomination.

Section 3. The Conference shall be composed of the various Associations, Conferences, Yearly Meetings, and State Conventions, together with other like bodies of the same faith and practice, which may hereafter be admitted. Also members of various standing boards.

Section 4. Officers: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Committee composed of the foregoing officers. Also, Secretaries of such lines of denominational work as time and conditions suggest their expediency, with boards of five each.

BY-LAWS.

Article I.

Section 1. The Moderator shall preside over all meetings and appoint such temporary committees as the Conference may deem necessary. He shall call the Executive Committee together when necessary and perform such other duties as parliamentary usage demands of him.

2. Section 2. The Vice-Moderator shall preside in the absence of the Moderator.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall record and keep all proceedings of the Conference and Executive Committee, hold all valuable papers belonging to the Conference, and turn same over to his successor in office.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall serve as statistician, have charge of advertising and seek to bring other organizations mentioned in the Constitution, into the General Conference.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall have authority to call extra sessions of the Conference when it becomes necessary, and act as the Conference when it is not in session, such actions to be subject to the Conference.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall hold all monies sent in for sundry purposes and pay out same only as it is appropriated by the Conference or upon receipt of vouchers properly signed by the Moderator and Recording Secretary. He shall give bond as the Conference may demand.

Section 7. Field Secretaries of the different departments shall appoint Field Secretaries in each organization represented in the General Conference, except State Conventions and such other helpers as may be needed to promote their work, and make detailed reports of their accomplishments at each annual session of the General Conference. General Field Secretaries shall be appointed by the boards either in or out of its membership and in case they go out of their board membership to secure a Field Secretary, the Field Secretary shall have the same authority in the General Conference as a member of the board.

Section 8. Each organization represented in the Conference shall be required to donate not less than \$10.00 annually for the promotion of the general interest of the Conference.

Article II.

Section 1. The Conference shall meet annually on Wednesday before the first Sunday in June at such place as may be designated by the Conference.

Section 2. Each organization belonging to the Conference shall be entitled to two representatives for every 1000 church members or a fraction thereof except State Conventions which shall be entitled to only one representative.

Section 3. The representatives shall present credentials to the Credentials Committee and be governed during business sessions by parliamentary law.

Section 4. All officers and Boards shall serve for a term of two years and shall report annually to the Conference.

Amendments.

This Constitution and these By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all the members present in any regular session, provided, the amendment shall not be voted on until the day following the offering of the same.

(The above Constitution and By-Laws are to be adopted or rejected at the next session of the General Conference.)