

MINUTES

Of the

Eleventh Annual Session

Of the

General Conference

Of the

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST OF THE UNITED STATES

Held With the Church at

Horse Branch Church

TURBEVILLE, S. C.

June 17, 18, 19—1931.

Next Session will be held with Bryan Church, Bryan
Texas, on Wednesday following the Second
Sunday in June, 1932.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
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OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

For Years 1931-32

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| I. J. Blackwelder, Moderator | Lulu, Fla. |
| Rev. Henry Melvin, Vice-Moderator | 110 Emory Ave, Macon, Ga. |
| J. R. Davidson, Recording Secretary | Glennville, Ga. |
| Jas. Cheshire, Treasurer | Colquitt, Ga. |
| Rev. J. L. Welch, Field Secretary | Nashville, Tenn. |
| Rev. T. B. Mellette, Gen. Sec. of Sunday Schools | Hilton, Ga. |
| Mrs. Fannie Polston, Gen Sec. of Women's Work | Nashville, Tenn. |
| S. T. Shutes, Statistician | Vernon, Ala. |
| Rev. Neal H. Parrish, Publicity Director | Hahira, Ga. |
| Rev. Henry Melvin, Gen. Sec. of Young People's Work | Macon, Ga. |

PROCEEDINGS

The Eleventh Annual Session of the General Conference of Free Will Baptist of the United States met with Horse Branch church, Turbeville, S. C., June 17, 1931.

After a brief devotional service, Rev. J. C. Moye delivered a very inspiring message from Exodus 14:15.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

After devotional services, the moderator, Rev. R. F. Pittman, called the Conference in session.

Rev. M. H. Mellette of Turbeville, S. C., gave the welcome address by which he made those in attendance upon the conference, feel at home. In response, Rev. K. V. Shutes expressed the pleasure of all to be at Horse Branch church at this sitting of the conference.

A motion was made and sustained that Rev. I. J. Blackwelder serve as clerk of this session of the conference.

By appointment of the moderator, the following were chosen a Credentials Committee: Rev. J. L. Welch, chairman, from Tennessee; Rev. K. V. Shutes from Florida; Rev. S. T. Shutes from Alabama; Rev. M. H. Mellette from South Carolina; Rev. R. E. Tripp from North Carolina and Rev. J. R. Davidson from Georgia.

Upon examination by the Credentials Committee, the following Conferences and Associations were immediately given seats in the General Body.

Ala.—Vernon Association, T. S. Lollar and Miss Susie Pennington; Alabama State Conference, delegate Rev. S. T. Shutes.

Florida.—Liberty Association represented by letter. Salem Association, Revs. Rufus Hyman and K. V. Shutes.

Georgia.—Midway Association by A. D. Ivey and E. L. Cheshire. Georgia Union Association represented by Revs. Neal H. Parrish and C. J. Harvey. The Benjamin Randall Conference was seated after an examination by the Credentials Committee, of differences existing between the Benjamin Randall Conference and the Georgia Union Association. South Georgia Association was represented by Rev. I. J. Blackwelder.

North Carolina.—State Convention represented by R. E. Tripp. Central Conference by Rev. J. C. Moye, Cape Fear Conference by Rev. Herman Wooten, Eastern Conference by Rev. Clifton Rice, Western Conference by Rev. E. T. Phillips.

South Carolina.—The South Carolina Conference was represented by Revs. G. C. Vause and M. H. Mellette.

Tennessee.—Cumberland Association by Revs. M. S. Harris and W. B. Davenport.

On motion, Rev. C. B. Thompson, from the State Convention of Texas, was seated as a corresponding delegate.

The following visitors were present and made welcome by the conference.

South Carolina.—Rev. E. P. Kirby, Rev. L. A. Holladay, Rev. Lowell Hyman and Mrs. O. S. Denham.

Tennessee.—Miss Agnes Cantrell, Mrs. Alexine Slack, Miss Mary Patton and Miss Ruth Stewart.

Georgia.—Rev. T. B. Mellette, Rev. Joe Fort, Rev. Tom Henry Bowen, Miss Bernice Lewis, Rev. Cooper Fort, Mrs. A. D. Ivey, Miss Nicie Bowen, Miss Lois Hayes and Misses Aleen and Duane Cheshire.

Alabama.—Miss Annie Grace Lollar and Mrs. S. T. Shutes.

Florida.—Rev. J. A. Evans, Viola Edenfield and Mrs. I. J. Blackwelder.

North Carolina.—J. E. Harris, F. Davenport, H. L. Avery, Mrs. J. C. Moye and Mrs. R. F. Pittman.

The Moderator, in his address to the conference, gave us some very astounding facts concerning the history and present conditions of our church.

Motion offered and sustained that the Committee appointed at the last session of this conference, for the purpose of investigating the Benjamin Randall Conference, make its report to the Credentials Committee for its consideration.

On motion a committee was appointed to investigate a mistake made by some one during the last sitting of the conference, regarding the entrance fee of the Salem Association of Florida. The committee was appointed as follows: James Cheshire, Rev. Rufus Hyman and Rev. W. B. Davenport.

By Motion conference adjourned until nine o'clock a. m. Thursday, with the announcement that Rev. J. L. Welch preach at 8:30 p. m.

THURSDAY FORENOON SESSION.

Conference assembled at 9:00 a. m. for regular business. After devotions, conference was called to order by the Moderator and the minutes of the previous day were read and adopted.

Visiting ministers and friends were enrolled as follows: Rev. W. E. Anderson of the Western Conference of North Carolina, Rev. E. C. Morris of Bryan, Texas, Rev. E. C. Chamblee of the Cape Fear Conference of North Carolina, Rev. H. V. Oliver of the South Carolina Conference, Miss Marie Wilson and W. G. Wilson of the Pe Dee Conference of North Carolina.

The following Committees were appointed by the Moderator:

Resolutions.—Rev. N. H. Parrish, Rev. J. C. Moye, and E. L. Cheshire.

Finance.—A. D. Ivey, Rev. W. B. Davenport and Rev. C. J. Harvey.

Education.—Rev. Henry Melvin, Mrs. Fannie Polston and Rev. Clifton Rice.

Missions.—Rev. E. C. Morris, Rev. M. S. Harris and Rev. T. B. Mellette.

Obituaries.—Rev. E. T. Phillips, Rev. Joe Fort and Rev. T. H. Bowen.

Reports on Literature and Temperance were retained as given at the last session of the conference.

The Annual Report of the General Secretary of F. W. B. L. work for the year ending June 1, 1931, was presented at this time and adopted by the conference. (See report.)

The Annual Report of the General Secretary for Women's Work for the year ending June 1, 1931, was received at this time and adopted. (See report.)

The following five recommendations were also presented by Mrs. Polston. (See recommendations at close of Mrs. Polston's Report.)

By motion, a rising vote of thanks were extended to Bro. Melvin and Sister Polston for their very efficient and satisfactory work.

The Treasurer's Report was given and adopted. (See report.)

Following an address on Missions by Rev. I. J. Blackwelder, C. E. Putman gave a wonderful message on the subject, "Did Moses Know?"

Intermission for noon hour.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

After enjoying a very delicious dinner, conference assembled at 2:00 p. m. for regular business.

At this time Mrs. Fannie Polston presented a very inspiring message on Women's Work.

Miscellaneous business and reports of Committees were now considered by the conference.

The report of the Committee on Obituaries was now presented and adopted by the conference. (See report.)

The Special Committee appointed to investigate error in Finances of last conference made their report, which was adopted. (See report.)

By motion, the recommendations presented by Mrs. Polston, were considered one by one.

All five recommendations were adopted and the committees and secretaries as suggested in sections two, three and four, were appointed by the Moderator as follows:

Recommendation No. 2, Committee, Mrs. Polston and Mrs. Nobles.

Recommendation No. 3, State Secretaries.—North Carolina, Mrs. L. R. Tripp; South Carolina, Miss Roxie Belle Vause; Georgia, Mrs. Vera New-

berry; Tennessee, Mary Patton; Alabama, Mrs. T. S. Lollar; Florida, Mrs. G. W. Cloud.

Recommendation No. 4, Committee.—Mrs. Fannie Polston, Mrs. Alice E. Lupton and Miss Dot Harvey.

After an excellent Sunday school address by Rev. Henry Melvin, conference adjourned until Friday 9:00 a. m.

The Moderator announced preaching by R. E. Tripp at 8:30 p. m.

FRIDAY FORENOON SESSION.

The Moderator called the conference to order at 9:00 a. m. Friday and regular business was begun with devotions and the adoption of the minutes of the previous day.

The Credentials Committee made their report regarding the Benjamin Randall Conference. (See report.)

On motion, the Executive Committee of this Conference be required to assist the Georgia Union Association and the Benjamin Randall Conference of Georgia, in settling their troubles, because of which the Benjamin Randall Conference is now in question.

The report of the Educational Committee was presented and adopted. (See report.)

The report of the Committee on Missions was received and adopted. (See report.)

Resolutions.

1. Sustained that a statistician be elected for five years to complete the statistics of our denomination, reporting annually to the General Conference.

2. Sustained that a committee be appointed to formulate a Treatise and Book of Discipline for the Free Will Baptist Denomination.

After an encouraging talk by C. K. Dunn, Manager of the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, N. C., Rev. C. B. Thompson preached a spiritual sermon from Acts 1:8.

Adjourned for the noon hour.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference opened for the afternoon session with singing and prayer, after which C. E. Putman answered some Bible questions to the delight of all present.

Foreign Mission Efforts.

A motion prevailed asking each state represented in the General Conference to contribute twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars to the support of a native foreign missionary, within three months.

The following paid or subscribed five dollars (\$5.00) to foreign missions:

K. V. Shutes, E. P. Kirby, T. J. Harvey, A. D. Ivey, R. F. Pittman, W. B. Davenport, I. J. Blackwelder, M. H. Mellette, J. C. Moye, R. E. Tripp, S. T. Shutes, N. H. Parrish, Edd Chamblee, T. B. Mellette, E. C. Morris, J. A. Evans, H. V. Oliver, T. H. Bowen, J. R. Davidson, Miss Ruth Stewart, Mrs. Fannie Polston, Mrs. M. L. Hicks, Miss Mary Patton, Mrs. Alexine Slack, Agnes Cantrell, Claudia Robinson, Henry Melvin, Herman Wooten and J. L. Welch.

The matter of selecting the field in which this foreign mission work is to be done, was left in the hands of the Executive Committee and General Secretary of Foreign Missions.

At this point the Finance Committee made their report which was received and adopted. (See report.)

OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Elected June 19, 1931.

Moderator, I. J. Blackwelder.

Vice-Moderator, Henry Melvin,

Clerk, J. R. Davidson.

Treasurer, James Cheshire.

Executive Committee Member, W. B. Davenport.

General Secretary of Women's Work, Mrs. Fannie Polston.

" " " Young People's Work, Henry Melvin.

" " " Sunday School Work, T. B. Mellette.

Field Secretary, J. L. Welch.

Publicity Director, Neal H. Parrish.

Statistician, S. T. Shutes.

Committee to Prepare a Treatise and Book of Discipline, R. F. Pittman and R. E. Tripp.

Board of Education:—Alabama, J. B. Bloss; Florida, K. V. Shutes; North Carolina, J. C. Moye; South Carolina, Miss Roxibell Vause; Tennessee, J. L. Welch, Chairman; Georgia, A. D. Ivey.

Motion carried that Rev. J. L. Welch act as chairman of a Hymnal committee for the purpose of considering a complete Church Hymnal, he having the privilege of calling to his assistance such help as he wishes.

By motion the Secretary was authorized to have 1000 minutes printed and distributed.

By invitation the next session of the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist of the United States, is to convene with the Bryan F. W. B. Church, Bryan, Texas, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before the Third Sunday in June, 1932.

By motion the Sunday School and Field Secretary was allowed Twelve Dollars (\$12.50) and fifty cents each and that the Secretaries of the F. W. B. L. and Women's Work receive Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars each to be used in their work.

On motion, the Moderator was given Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars to help bear his expenses.

A rising vote of appreciation by the conference was given to C. E. Putnam for his splendid Bible instructions during this session.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to the Moderator for his efficient and faithful service during his term of office.

The Treasurer reported that the budget voted exceeded the available funds by \$36.80. To overcome this deficit the Sunday School and Field Secretaries donated their allowance of \$12.50 each, the Secretary for Women's Work donated \$10.00 and the Secretary of Foreign Missions donated \$2.00.

By motion the conference adjourned to meet with Bryan F. W. B. Church, Bryan, Texas, on Wednesday following the second Sunday in June 1932.

R. F. PITTMAN, Moderator.

I. J. BLACKWELDER, Clerk.

REPORTS

Obituarise.—It is with deep regret that we, your committee on obituaries, announce that two of our faithful ministers and brethren, Rev. J. H. Little, Jr., of the Central North Carolina Conference and Rev. J. T. Gibbons of the South Carolina Conference, have departed this life. But the Lord knoweth best and we humbly submit to his divine will.

E. T. PHILLIPS,

JOE FORT,

T. H. BOWEN, Committee.

Special Committee Report.—We, your committee, find that the Women's Department of the South Georgia Association is credited with Ten (\$10.00) Dollars, for which the Salem Association of Florida should have credit. We find that this was only a mistake of the Finance Committee and we are pleased to state that said mistake has been corrected by this Committee.

JAMES CHESHIRE,

W. B. DAVENPORT,

RUFUS HYMAN, Committee.

Credentials Committee Report.—We, your Credentials Committee, beg leave to report that we have examined the report of the Special Committee appointed at the last session of the General Conference to investigate conditions in the Benjamin Randall Conference of Georgia, and have considered a great amount of evidence presented on both sides of the matter, and after careful consideration of the report and evidence, we wish to submit the following report and recommendations:

1. That the Special Committee appointed at the 1930 session of the

General Conference reported certain irregular proceedings in the Benjamin Randall Conference.

2. That we, as your Credentials Committee, after hearing both sides of the question presented, find that the Special Committee was justified in making such a report on the evidence in their possession.

3. It is the judgment of this Credentials Committee that the Benjamin Randall Conference should be required to do at last two things: (1) Become reconciled to the Georgia Union Association, (2) That all strife, turmoil and civil prosecutions by ministers and laymen in said conference should cease.

For the above named reasons, we recommend, (1) That the Benjamin Randall Conference be given another year to comply with section three of this report; (2) That in the event this is not complied with, that we withdraw the hand of fellowship from said conference; (3) That the delegates from said conference be seated during this session; (4) That all evidence presented by the special committee be turned over to the Secretary of this Conference, and that this evidence be held by the Secretary until called for by the Conference. Signed.

J. L. WELCH,

K. V. SHUTES,

R. E. TRIPP,

J. R. DAVIDSON,

S. T. SHUTES,

M. H. MELLETTE, Committee.

Report of Field Secretary.—During the past year I have not been able to do personal work among our people in the several states. My efforts have been confined to correspondence with individuals and Conferences, have urged those with whom I have corresponded to support the General Conference.

I have had some very encouraging reports from the fields which indicate activity and growth among our people. I have not received any applications from conferences or associations for membership in this body, but we hope to have some for the next session.

We are fortunate in having Bro. C. B. Thompson, President of the Texas State Convention, with us as corresponding delegate from that body of Free Will Baptists. We invite him and his people to unite with us for the good of our cause. We invite, also, all regular Free Will Baptist bodies to become members of this Conference. Signed

J. L. WELCH, Field Secretary.

Report of Educational Committee.—Realizing that we cannot develop and do our best for the advancement of God's Kingdom without Christian training, as given through our educational institutions, we, therefore, en-

dorse the two educational institutions of our denomination, Eureka College, Ayden, N. C., and Zion Bible School, Blakely, Ga.

2. We find Zion Bible School to be true to the "faith of our fathers" and that it held its first session with four bright, intelligent young men studying to show themselves approved, workmen who need not to be ashamed. Rev. T. B. Mellette served as principal and instructor last year and is elected to the same office for the next year.

3. We recommend that the Educational Committee of this conference be abolished and that a Board of Education, consisting of one member from each state represented in the General Conference, take its place. This Board shall be appointed every two years at the regular election year of the General Conference. We also recommend that this Board make an educational survey of the needs and possibilities of the General Conference, and that it make a report of its findings to the 1932 session of this Conference, together with an educational program to be conducted by the Conference.

4. The above named Board is to be further endowed with power and particular objectives to do as the conference may see fit from time to time. (Adopted)

HENRY MELVIN,
MRS. FANNIE POLSTON.
CLIFTON RICE.

Report of Committee on Missions.—We, your Committee on Missions, are pleased to report that there seems to have been some splendid results of mission efforts in the home field during the past year. We have been informed of four new churches having been organized recently in the following places: Arcadia, Fla.; Alabama City, Ala.; Blakely, Ga. and Horry County, S. C. We also find that other efforts to organize new churches are being put forth. Our recommendation, therefore, to this session of the Conference is that we adhere to the report that was adopted in the 1930 session of the General Conference. (Adopted)

E. C. MORRIS
T. B. MELLETTE,
M. H. HARRIS.

Report of Finance Committee.—We, your Committee on Finance, beg to submit the following report:

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| N. C. State Convention, Auxiliary | \$10.00 |
| Cumberland Association of Tennessee, Auxiliary | 10.00 |
| South Carolina Auxiliary | 5.00 |

Conferences and Associations.

Alabama:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Vernon Association | 10.00 |
|--------------------|-------|

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|---|----------|
| Alabama State Convention | 10.00 |
| Florida: | |
| Liberty Association | 10.00 |
| Salem " | 10.00 |
| Georgia: | |
| Midway Association | 10.00 |
| Georgia Union Association | 10.00 |
| South Ga. Association. Fee vouched for by I. J. Blackwelder | |
| Benjamin Randall Conference | 10.00 |
| North Carolina: | |
| State Convention | 10.00 |
| Central Conference | 10.00 |
| Cape Fear Conference | 10.00 |
| Eastern Conference. Fee vouched for By Clifton Rice | |
| Western Conference. Fee vouched for by E. T. Phillips | |
| South Carolina: | |
| South Carolina Conference | 10.00 |
| Tennessee: | |
| Cumberland Association | 10.00 |
| Total | \$145.00 |

The report was adopted.

A. D. IVEY,
W. B. DAVENPORT,
C. J. HARVEY.

Report of Treasurer: I beg leave to make the following Report.

Receipts.

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|---|----------|
| June 1930 Received from Finance Committee | \$109.70 |
| " " " " Ga. Union Ass'n | 10.00 |
| Total | \$119.70 |
| Amount due Treasurer—by Conference. | 1.80 |
| Grand Total | \$121.50 |

Disbursements.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Paid to Secretary General Conference | \$ 25.00 |
| Paid to Mrs. Fred Poston | 25.00 |
| Paid I. J. Blackwelder | 10.00 |
| Paid Free Will Baptist Press | 61.50 |
| Total Paid Out | \$121.50 |

Amount Received for Foreign Mission ----- \$ 27.90
 Interest @ 8% ----- 2.23

Amount on hand for Foreign Missions ----- \$ 30.13

Respectfully submitted.

JAS. CHESHIRE, Treasurer.

REPORT OF GENERAL SECRETARY OF F. W. B. LEAGUE
 For The Year Ending June 1, 1931

To the 11th. Annual Session of the General Conference of Free Will Baptist in Session June 17-19, 1931, at Horse Branch Church, Turbeville, S. C.—Greetings:

We stand today reviewing the failures and successes of the past, conscious that the Free Will Baptist League has well merited a place in our denominational life. From a few struggling leagues of less than a score of years ago, we have on the whole, strong and active leagues wherever there are Free Will Baptist. Our hearts are made to rejoice as we see the trend of conditions towards more and better leagues, eventually marshalling the Church's greatest asset—youth—for a triumphant, progressive march of our Church. I do not think I am too optimistic when I say that the Free Will Baptist League faces the brightest future of its existence; neither is it too much to say our Church faces the same bright future for out of the leagues will come to us the trained laity of tomorrow—yea, they are even at the door, and some are already busy for the Master.

There is a deep interest in the league work in each state within the bounds of this Conference. North Carolina is holding her own, having a splendid State Convention that will meet for its 5th annual session in Durham on July 4. This Convention is endeavoring to awaken and maintain "league consciousness" throughout the state. The Central Conference is organizing a convention within her bounds. This we heartily commend, and we recommend the following of this example by each local conference.

The Tri-State Convention covering Ga. Fla. Ala. Will hold its 5th annual session Aug. 24-26, near Headland, Ala. This Convention is alert and doing a good work. Last November they put on the field the first full time Field Secretary in the history of the Church. Study Courses in League work are being taught in every league. A summary of the Field Secretary's activities will suffice to give an idea of his work. To date, 27 leagues have been visited, 134 Study Classes held, with a total of 850 studying or attending, with 324 completing the prescribed work. The Secretary visited 1129 homes in the interest of league work, also holding 754 Boys Conferences. Much credit is due Rev. Eddie Lee Hughes, whom the Convention was fortunate to secure for this work. Brother Hughes is a pioneer for our church in this work and he is gloriously acquitting himself at the task.

We report also a State Convention organized in S. C. Last October.

We are happy to record the movement to organize a state work in Texas.

At the present time we have 130 League organizations distributed over 14 states and as follows: Ga. 25, Ala. 21, N. C. 21, Mo. 13, Tenn. 10, Ark. 10, S. C. 9, Fla. 6, Okla. 6, Texas 4, Miss. 1, Ill. 1, Ohio 1, Ky. 1.

Last year we reported 90, thus we show a gain of 40 organizations, or a little better than 30%. Ga. Ala. Mo. Tenn. Okla. all show healthy growth while the other states either held their own, climbed a little—and one or two slipped a bit.

We are rejoicing over the fact that at last a Manual for League work has been prepared. By the time this reaches the public the Mss. will be in the printer's hands. Brother Hughes, Secretary for the Tri-State Convention is its author. He has written from his years of experience in young people's work. This work we are sure will receive a cordial reception and will fill a long felt need in our work. A League secretary's record is ready for the publishers and at this session we will endeavor to arrange for its printing.

During the year we have mailed out the Quarterly Report Blanks receiving on a whole a very fine response. However, we are trying to bring a closer relation with our brethren of the West than is existing at the present time. Hundreds of letters have been written, scores of inquiries answered and suggestions mailed out to the Leagues.

We have endeavored to unify the program material of the quarterly, especially the senior. Splendid cooperation has been manifested by Revs. Mellette and Hyman, also brother Hutchinson. Without these we could not have carried on in the editing of the literature. Miss Marie Nobles has given another year of splendid service in the editing of the Junior quarterly. Miss Nobles has served freely and gladly without remuneration, with the exception of actual expenses. We have arranged for the next year a series of programs on Church History by Rev. E. C. Morris which will prove beneficial in many ways. Then, too, we are planning to have a series of devotional and inspirational programs by Rev. Eddie Lee Hughes.

We are still going with only two quarterlies. Another is sorely needed, however, it seems that we will have to wait longer on this. It is said that all things come to those who wait, so we are not despairing. we believe that our Father will make it possible in His own good time.

According to our quarterly reports, we have approximately 2600 leaguers enrolled in our 130 organizations. Each of these leagues has given the average of \$5.00 per year in dues, an average of \$4.00 per year for other purposes; making a total average of \$9.00 per league, or an average total of \$1170 for all.

The following is our financial report for the year:

Balance from last year ----- \$13.20
 Received from Mrs. Slack (as gift) ----- 5.00

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| Received from Leagues as 10% of dues ----- | 60.50 | |
| Total ----- | | \$78.70 |
| Paid balance on Memograph ----- | \$30.00 | |
| Paid for traveling expenses ----- | 14.00 | |
| Paid for postage, stationery, various supplies ----- | 20.00 | |
| Total ----- | \$64.00 | |
| Amount on hand ----- | 14.70 | |
| | | \$78.70 \$78.70 |

The sale of the League quarterlies is very gratifying, the total sales of the past year is 6940 seniors, and 3335 juniors. These figures against about 1000 copies three years ago; at that time we were only issuing senior quarterlies.

The League work as sponsored by the General Conference now owns one (1) Royal typewriter, one (1) Edison-Dick Memograph machine, several files, ledgers, blanks and various sundry equipment against nothing two years ago. The total value about \$150.00.

The future destiny of the Work is now in the hands of this honorable body to provide for its maintenance and Secretary. I have endeavored to serve as faithfully as possible and have given freely of the best in me. May the work grow, glow and go, for of all our auxiliaries we have none that can fill the supreme need of the hour—trained workers for the Master—as can the League.

With expressions of deepest appreciation to all that have lent a helping hand, may we as we stand at the portals of the new Conference year realize we are facing our brightest future, beholding our own youth that we are to train for service in and through the Church of the Living God.

Yours for the Kingdom First,
HENRY MELVIN.

REPORT OF SECRETARY OF WOMEN'S WORK.

June 1931.

To this, the eleventh session of the general conference of Free Will Baptist, when convened at Turbeville, S. C., I extend sincere greetings:

This, my sixth year as secretary, has been most profitable to me; keeping in close touch with old friends and making new ones who are interested in the extension of Christ's kingdom, working as I have never done before for the church's programs and trying with the best that is within me to help others with their problems.

During the year, the work has made some progress, some more than others, but even in those who have done little there is promise of a new vision. It is most interesting to see how the women's work is being carried

on not only by the women of the larger churches and associations but by the smaller groups as well, all working together through prayer, gifts and service to lift our work to a higher plane.

It was a great pleasure to have a part in organizing a district convention in the Vernon Association of Alabama with four societies represented. I did not get to go at the time but brother Welch did go and helped to complete the organization for them.

I succeeded, through the Tennessee Convention, in having a book of programs arranged for opening devotionals. I am pleased with the way our women have supported this effort. It is most gratifying to know we are studying the same subjects, trying to create more of the spirit of missions, the great need of persistent prayer, stewardship and church loyalty. There is much to do, much that I hope can be accomplished in the near future. I wish we could have plenty of free literature, tracts, programs and other helps that would aid our women in making their meetings interesting and at the same time educational. Let us pray for a real vision of this need and strength and wisdom to make it real.

We can only tell of attempts made and results to date. It is a type of work that cannot be hurried and takes much faith, patience, persistence, many letters, personal contact, prayers for guidance, with much help from our ministers and others. Results are beginning to show and co-operation steadily increasing.

As to the mission study program, I suggest the use of "Stewardship and Missions," by Chas. A. Cook and if any have finished that book, "The Larger Stewardship," by the same author would be fine to take up next.

We must continue to stress our educational program but in addition for the coming year, I would ask that you put special emphasis on the deepening of the individual life spiritually and the development of the devotional and prayer life of our auxiliaries. I would urge that we make a very earnest effort to aid our pastors and ministers; to inform ourselves about the financial conditions of our churches, especially as to the payment of our assessments and apportionments and in every way possible giving assistance to the building up of our churches and the promotion of Christ's Kingdom.

We must remember that the woman's auxiliary is necessarily missionary in its character. A great preacher has said that any church that is not a missionary church is a vanishing church and I believe you will agree with me that any organization of church women that is not "missionary minded" will eventually be a vanishing organization.

Ten years ago the auxiliary thought of itself as a little group banded together to carry out its own separate program. Today we feel ourselves a vital force in the life of the church with no thought but committing ourselves individually and collectively to the furtherance of every phase of the church's mission, in our communities, in our associations and in this national body.

Following is a report of the work in the various states:

North Carolina Woman's State Auxiliary Convention met in regular session May 6, 1931, in Wilson County, With Marsh Swamp Church, with representatives from the three district conventions, reporting the work in good condition. They have four main objectives, college, orphanage, missions and the publishing house. Miss Nellie Alford, director of college, reported she had raised and paid over to that fund \$97.08. Mrs. Minnie Oglesby, director of orphanage, reported a grand total for the year of 229.65. Mrs. R. B. Spencer, director of missions, reported 12 new societies organized and 6 reorganized, making a total of 18 missionary societies in the convention. No report from publishing house director. The convention reported dues and money from other sources raised during the year \$190.53 which amount has been used for expenses and gifts to needy churches. They are asking for a revision of the constitution and by-laws governing the state work. A resolution was introduced to assess each member thirty-cents per year in addition to other dues, this to be prorated equally to district work, state and national. They send ten dollars for the women's department of this conference.

The district convention of South Carolina reported six ladies aid societies representing at the last session which was held in November 1930. They have raised during the year \$395.83 which has been used for the promotion of their work, also a donation to Eureka College and the publishing house. They are studying the book "Stewardship and Missions," as recommended by this department. They observed the week of prayer and send five dollars for the general work.

The district auxiliary convention of Midway Association of Georgia reports they have held one session of the convention and are working on plans for better organization. They also are studying "Stewardship and Missions." They have raised this year \$73.25 and are responsible for the expenses of a young ministerial student in Zion Bible School. While their work is young the prospects are good.

In April 1931, a district auxiliary convention was organized by brother J. L. Welch in the Association of Alabama with 4 societies representing. They are so young, I do not have a detailed report but I feel sure with the officers they have elected, they will be able by another year to give a good account of their stewardship. So let's watch Alabama grow.

The auxiliary convention of the Cumberland Association of Tennessee met in August 1930, in the tenth annual session, with 12 societies representing, with a total membership of 306. They have raised during the year \$3151.19, which has been used mostly in the local work, with the exception of a donation to the Dr. St. Claire Memorial Fund of \$13.00 and a small gift to Eureka College. The treasurer of the convention reported \$5,297.47 in a special fund to be used in orphanage work sometime in the future. They are studying "Stewardship and Missions," and the most of them observed the week of prayer in November. The key note of this last convention

was "Missions." Several inspiring addresses were made on this subject. In their educational program, they urge the study of stewardship and are working to create a greater spirit of missions in our churches, aiding the temperance movement by special days devoted to that subject, contributing to the orphanage fund regularly and assisting the young people both in Sunday school and league. They send \$10.00 for this department.

The auxiliary convention of the Union Association of Tennessee met in August 1930 with nine societies representing. This convention is about a year old. I was not able to get a full report from them.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Received from the conference in session at Vernon, Ala. ----- | \$25.00 |
| In July 1930 from N. C. State Auxiliary Convention ----- | 10.00 |
| | ----- |
| | \$35.00 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Paid for stamps and stationery ----- | \$13.49 |
| For literature such as stewardship and mission books, on | |
| foreign mission work, samples of text books ----- | 9.00 |
| Traveling expense ----- | 12.50 |
| | ----- |
| | \$34.99 |

Recommendations

1. It is highly important that our national work of women's auxiliaries be financed and we recommend that each of the conventions of women's work of the general conference send annually to the conference through the secretary of women's work, the sum of ten cents per capita for the national work.

2. Our constitution of state auxiliary work of women needs revising and we recommend that a committee be appointed at this session to present a revised constitution at the 1932 session of the general conference.

3. We need a secretary in each state whose duty it shall be to act in behalf of the general conference in encouraging the auxiliary work and reporting to the national secretary and we recommend the appointing of such secretaries.

4. We believe much good has been accomplished from an effort to have a week of prayer observed throughout our general conference bounds and therefore recommend that a committee be appointed to arrange the prayer calendar for such a week and to set the time for it notifying each auxiliary convention.

5. An initial effort has just been made to meet a long-felt need for programs for our ladies' aid meetings. It has produced enough interest to warrant our recommending that a further effort be made to furnish programs, tracts and other helps for our auxiliary work through the general conference and the expenses be apportioned to each of the auxiliary conventions.

I have had scattered correspondence with local work in Florida, Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri but not definite enough to make a report of their activities.

I feel it has been a profitable year for this department. It seems the work is only begun. I believe with the proper encouragement, these district conventions will soon grow into state conventions and before many years shall have passed, this department will be a great national body working for the up-building of our church and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. It has been a great joy to serve as your national secretary and I wish to thank all the officers of the state and district conventions who have so loyally co-operated with me. May I ask for your continued support for this department.

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. FANNIE POLSTON.
General Secretary, Women's Work.

422 Deaderick St. Nashville, Tenn.

Report of Committee on Literature.—We, your committee on Literature, beg leave to make the following report: Realizing the great influence that the reading material that we use has upon the minds and life of people, therefore, Be it resolved,

(1) That we as a church recommend that we use the utmost care in the selection of literature we allow our young people to read.

(2) That we urge all our churches to use Free Will Baptist literature, published at the Free Will Baptist Press at Ayden, N. C., such as the Sunday School Quarterlies and League literature.

(3) That we ask our ministers to insist that the "Free Will Baptist," our Church organ, be placed in each home that goes to make up the membership of each church.

(4) We recommend that each conference and association create within their bounds a library of books and literature to be loaned to the ministers and other Christian workers.

W. A. JACKSON,
S. T. SHUTES,
RUFUS HYMAN, Committee.

Report of Temperance Committee.—We, your committee on Temperance, present and recommend the following: (1) That we examine ourselves regarding our temperance, and that a strong effort be put forth to eliminate any intemperance that might be found among the ministry or laity.

(2) That the Conference go on record as opposing any movement that tends to abolish the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

(3) We recommend that our pastors and church officers put forth strenuous efforts to have our discipline enforced in regard to the use and handling of intoxicating liquors.

I. J. BLACKWELDER,
T. B. MELLETTE,
E. B. JOYNER, 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.

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.

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 vacancies in office; to appoint all committees and to perform all duties usually pertaining to such 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 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 unless 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.

LETTER TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

To the General Conference of Free Will Baptist of the United States,
to be held at _____
on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday between the Second and Third Sundays in June 1930: GREETINGS:

We send as delegates to represent the _____

(Name of Convention, Conference or Association)

(Name of delegates and address)

Praying that much and lasting good may be accomplished through the General Conference.

The statistics of our body are as follows:

Number of Churches _____ Number of Ministers _____ Number
of Members _____ Number of Sunday School organizations _____

Number of Free Will Baptist Leagues _____ Number of Ladies' Aid
or Missionary Societies _____ Name and number of any other Aux-
iliary organizations _____

Our Annual fee is \$ _____.

Name and address to whom minutes are to be sent _____

Moderator.

Address _____

Clerk.

Address _____