

### **Minutes of the Triennial General Conference (Peden movement), 1895**

(transcribed by Robert E. Picirilli from the December 4, 1895 issue of *The Free Will Baptist*, photocopy made for him by Gary Barefoot, Curator of the FWB Historical Collection at Mount Olive College in N.C.)

#### **GENERAL CONFERENCE**

The Free Will Baptist General Conference began its 29<sup>th</sup> session with a prayer and praise meeting, at Coalton, Ohio, Oct. 2, 1895, at 10 a.m. Met at 2 p.m. and spent an hour in prayer service. Adjourned until 7 p.m. Night session. Prayer was offered by Rev. Robert L. Farmer. The election of officers resulted in the choice of Rev. R. L. Farmer, Moderator; Rev. John A. Oliver [Oiler], assistant; Minerva Bennett, clerk. Minutes of last session, held at Lowell, were presented in pamphlet form. Minutes of called session, held at Sciotoville, O., read and approved. Letters were read from the Ohio and Kentucky Y. M., Ohio River Y. M., and W. Va. State Convention. Voted to allow all loyal Free Will Baptists present to represent the non-reporting Yearly Meetings. The Constitution adopted in 1841 and also the proposed Constitution of the "New Conference" was read, per request of brethren, by the clerk. Adjourned until tomorrow 10 a.m. Prayer by Bro. Samuel Shumate.

#### **Morning Session, Oct. 3.**

Prayer by Rev. John A. Oiler. Yesterday's minutes read and approved. Roll call showed thirty members in attendance. Declared the office of clerk vacant. Per Constitution, proceeded to election by ballot. Appointed Bro. Alonzo Lacey and Bro. Samuel Shumate tellers. Four votes were cast for Rev. John A. Oiler, and 10 for T. E. Peden, who was declared elected.

Appointed Bro. Sam'l Shumate, Revs. John Mullen, John A. Oiler, T. E. Peden and K. R. Davis, an Executive Committee with full power to act for Conference until its next meeting.

Appointed Thos. E. Peden, S. Fisher, A. Frowein, J. Hartsook and John Sheppard, a Mission Board. The retiring board reported that they had established a mission in the city of Portsmouth, Ohio, a church had been organized and now enrolls 23 members. A good Sabbath school, and A. C. F. Society are sustained, and one thousand dollars in money and good pledges, have been secured to build a house of worship, but for want of funds no other point had been occupied. It is hoped the contributions will be large enough the coming year to establish several new missions in our own country, and commence one in some foreign land.

Adjourned until 2 p.m. Prayer by Bro. David Marsteller.

#### **Afternoon Session.**

Prayer by T. E. Peden. Committees had been appointed on Missions, Education and Publications. Their reports were adopted as follows:

Education—We are, as ever, strongly in favor of a sanctified education, and urge our people to continue establishing schools, until every State has at least one Free Will Baptist institution of learning. The major part of the professors and teachers in each

college or other school, should be loyal to the Constitution of General Conference adopted in 1841.

Thos. E. Peden,  
J. A. Oiler,  
R. L. Farmer,  
David B. Marsteller,  
John Steward [Stewart?],  
Committee

Missions—We ask our people to increase their interest in contributions for missions, and try especially to get every one to give something statedly for this purpose. We instruct the Mission Board to push the work in Portsmouth until the church is self-sustaining. We advise the Board to establish a new Foreign Mission as soon as the funds will admit.

John A. Oiler,  
Elizabeth Stewart  
David B. Marsteller,  
Minerva Bennett,  
Floyd Sumter,  
Committee.

Publications—We commend the FREE WILL BAPTIST, published at Ayden, N. C., and the Church Watchman, published at South New Lynne, Ohio, to our people as worthy of their confidence and support. We advise the Executive Committee to revive the Central Free Will Baptist, as a special advocate of our principles, if sufficient financial aid can be secured.

J. A. Oiler,  
David B. Marsteller,  
J. Stewart,  
W. A. Pemberton,  
Mrs. D. Marsteller,  
Committee.

Adjourned to meet in the city of Nashville, Tenn., the first Wednesday in Oct., 1896, at 10 a.m., to finish the business of this session of our triennial Conference.

Thos. E. Peden, Cl'k.  
R. L. Farmer, Mod.