

1903

MINUTES
--OF THE--
NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
--OF THE--
Hopewell Association
--OF--
FREEWILL BAPTIST,

Convened with the Church in Christ at
Norris Chapel, Ind. Ter.

JULY 22, 23, 24, 25, 1903.

OFFICERS:

REV. J. H. WHEELER, MODERATOR.
REV. T. R. KAMPFLAIN, CLERK.
G. W. HANKS, JR., TREASURER.

The next annual session of the Association will be held with Hopewell Church, on Wednesday night before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1904.

THE FREE BAPTIST VISITOR PRESS.
Coalgate, Indian Territory.

MINUTES

The Ninth Annual Session of the Hopewell Association of Freewill Baptist convened with the church in Christ, at Norris Chapel, Indian Territory, on Wednesday night, July 22, 1903.

The introductory sermon was preached by Bro. L. S. Lisenby. Text: Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Gal. 6:7. Dismissed to meet Thursday morning at 9 o'clock sharp.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Reading of 13th chapter of Proverbs by Bro. A. J. E. Barton, moderator; prayer by W. M. Coggins. Called to order by the moderator, the clerk being present; went into the election of officers for the next year which resulted in the election of Bros. J. H. Wheeler, moderator; W. M. Coggins, assistant moderator; T. R. Kampllain, clerk; W. J. Brown, assistant clerk; G. W. Hanks, Jr., treasurer.

1 Letter from Norris chapel read and adopted: delegates, H. S. Standifer and G. J. Stephens.

2 Letter from Bethany church read and adopted: delegates, T. S. Burns and James Carrel, Sr.

3 Letter from Hopewell church read and adopted: delegates, James W. Griffin and W. S. Hodgins.

4 Letter from Union Grove read and adopted: delegate, B. F. Hudson.

5 Letter from Foster chapel read and adopted: delegates, Felix Fox and Joe Langford.

6 Letter from Friendship church read and adopted: delegate, J. N. Caton.

7 A petitionary letter from Mount Pleasant church read and adopted: delegate, E. H. Byrd.

Motion and second that we receive Rev. T. H. Collinsworth as our missionary of the Southwestern Freewill Baptist Convention. Carried.

A cordial invitation was extended to all visiting brethren and sisters.

Committee on Divine Services:—H. Standifer, G. W. Hanks and Jim Standifer. Report of committee: Bro. Collinsworth to preach at 11 o'clock, followed by Bro. Jim Standifer.

Motion and second to adjourn; carried. Prayer by Bro. Finch.

Thursday Evening.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Evening lesson Psalms 48. Prayer by Bro. Coggins.

Committee on Finance: A. J. E. Barton, J. F. Standifer and J. L. Coker.

Sabbath School Committee: L. S. Lisenby, B. F. Hudson and James Carrel, Sr.

Committee on Obituary: T. S. Burns, G. W. Rose and J. T. Butler.

Committee on Temperance: T. H. Collinsworth, J. N. Caton and T. S. Brown.

Committee on Covenant: G. J. Rose, T. F. Jackson and J. L. Coker.

Committee on Resolutions: James W. Griffin, W. S. Hodgins and T. F. Jackson.

Treasurer's Report: We find our treasurer has paid to home missions \$9.00; for minutes \$13.00; on hand at present \$4.45.

Motion and second that we have a committee on education and periodicals; carried. Committee: A. J. E. Barton, T. S. Burns and T. H. Collinsworth.

Motion and second to adjourn to meet Friday morning at 9 o'clock sharp.
Prayer by Bro. A. J. E. Barton.

Friday Morning.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Services opened by moderator. Lesson first Psalms. Prayer by moderator. Roll called and absentees marked.

Motion and second that we amend the seventh Rule of Order so as to read, no one shall speak more than twice on any subject and not longer than five minutes without special leave of the moderator.

Motion and second that we adopt the Constitution of Article 1 of the minutes of the association held at Norris Chapel in 1899.

Motion and second that we receive the report of the committee on temperance; carried.

Report as follows: We, your committee, recommend truceless and uncompromising hostility to the manufacture, sale and use of alcoholic beverages in any and all forms. We regard the policy of using Government license for the purpose of carrying on the licenry traffic as a sin against God and a dishonor to our people. It is our opinion that we should, by all legitimate means, oppose license traffic in county, state and nation. No one should be retained in fellowship of the Freewill Baptist church who engages in the manufacture or sale of alcoholic liquor, or who invests his money in the manufacture or sale, or rents his property to be used for the traffic of same. No church should retain any member who drinks intoxicating liquors as a beverage or visits saloons for the purpose of such indulgence. T. H. Collinsworth, F. B. Finch and T. S. Burns committee.

We, your committee on obituary, beg leave to submit the following report: We find since the last sitting of the Hopewell Association that it has pleased Almighty God to call from our midst one of our beloved brothers, W. P. Cooksie, of Hopewell church; also one of our beloved sisters, Addie Shock, of Norris Chapel church. Be it resolved, that this association extend its sincere sympathy to the beloved families and friends of deceased. T. S. Burns, chm. committee.

Report of committee on Sunday Schools: We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows: We believe it the duty of all pastors to assist in carrying on Sabbath schools at each place of worship, so as to advance the cause of Christ and to keep our children in the way of truth and point out to them the law of God. L. S. Lisenby, chairman.

There being nothing before the body, a motion and second to adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock p. m., carried. Prayer by Bro. Finch.

Divine services at 11 o'clock, a. m., by Bro. W. M. Coggins, followed by Bro. Ginn, a brother Missionary Baptist. Text: Titus 2nd chapt. 11th and 12th v.

Friday Evening.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Services opened by Bro. A. J. E. Barton by reading the 2nd chapt. of 1st Peter. Prayer by Bro. T. S. Brown.

Motion and second to recieve the following resolution: Be it resolved that our treasurer give and take receipts for all money taken in and paid out.

Motion and second to change the time of the meeting of the association from July to August, on Wednesday night before the regular appointment of each church at which the association is to be held; motion carried.

Motion and second to hear the report of the ministers; carried.

Motion and second to receive the report of Bro. A. J. E. Barton, our home missionary; motion carried.

Motion and second that we receive the report of the committee on education; carried.

Motion and second that we take up the question referred back to the different churches for the division of the association; motion lost.

There being nothing before the body. Motion and second to adjourn to meet at 9 o'clock, a. m. Prayer by Bro. Coker. For divine services Bro. A. J. E. Barton, followed by Bro. T. H. Collinsworth. Text: John 3:5.

Saturday Morning.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Morning lesson read and prayer by Bro. Humphries. Roll called and absentees marked. Minutes read and corrected.

Motion and second that we receive the resolution to send delegates to the Southwestern Freewill Baptist Convention to be held at Copeville, Texas, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in November, 1903. Delegates: Bros. A. J. E. Barton and J. F. Standifer.

There being no other business, motion and second to adjourn carried. Prayer by Bro. J. F. Standifer. For divine services at 11 o'clock, a. m., Bro. J. L. Coker, followed by Bro. L. S. Lisenby. Text: Mathew 2nd chapter 1st and 2nd v.

Saturday Evening.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Services opened by Bro. Hanks reading a lesson; prayer by same. Roll called and absentees marked.

Report of Committee on Education: We, your committee, beg our people, as Freewill Baptists, the importance of education; we further recommend our brethren and ministers to give their service wholly to the Bible and other religious literature; and we further recommend that our brethren, as much as possible, give the Free Baptist Visitor, of Coalgate, Ind. Ter., our support. A. J. E. Barton, T. H. Collinsworth and T. S. Burns com.

Motion and second that we advise Bro. E. B. Barns to attach himself to the church and call a council for same.

Motion and second that we receive the report of the committee covenant; carried.

By consent the Association be held at Hopewell church on Wednesday night before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1904. Bro. J. F. Standifer elected to preach the introductory sermon, Bro. A. J. E. Barton alternate.

Publishing committee of minutes: Bros. T. S. Burns, W. J. Brown and G. W. Hanks. Motion and second to have 350 minutes printed; carried.

Committee appointed by moderator to examine Bro. J. L. Coker as to his qualifications for ministerial services:—A. J. E. Barton, T. R. Kampplain and T. H. Collinsworth. Bro. Coker was found worthy and ordained.

Motion and second we receive the report of the committee on resolutions; carried.

We beg leave to report as follows: Be it Resolved, That we heartily indorse all that has been presented to this body; and that this body extend to the people of Norris Chapel their heartfelt thanks for their hospitality and kindness toward us during our stay with them. James W. Griffin, chairman.

Report of finance committee: We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: we find there is on hand at present for the ensuing year \$12.15. A. J. E. Barton chairman.

Yearly report of Rev. T. R. Kampplain, beginning Aug., 1902, ending Aug., 1903: Traveled 940 miles, preached 60 sermons; couples married, 1; Sunday schools organized, 2; received in money, \$28.25; additions to church, 9.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That the association receive no letters from any church without delegates and that of the laity. Also no delegates without letters in due form.

Second. Resolved, That each minister make a written report of his ministerial labor at each sitting of the association.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COVENANT.

We, your committee on Covenant, beg leave to report the following as our church covenant:

1. We believe the union of Christians in a visable church is sanctioned by the teachings of Christ and the practice of his apostles, and that it is adapted to promote piety and increase Christian influence. We do now heartily enter into covenant before God and each other.

2. We will constantly strive to maintain true piety in our hearts, keep ourselves in vital communion with God and commend religion to others, not only in words, but by means of a devout spirit and holy example, always careful of each other's reputation and usefulness.

3. We will watch over each other in the spirit of true charity, seeking to bear each other's burdens, assist the needy, strengthen the weak, encourage the despondent, sympathize with the sorrowful, reprove the erring, win back the straying to duty, maintain wholesome discipline and receive Christian admonition in meekness, keep the unity of spirit in the bound of peace, and cheerfully submit to such regulations as the majority may approve. We will contribute according to our ability for pastoral support, maintain secret and family prayer, and aid, by presence and otherwise, in sustaining public and social worship.

4. We will give an active and consistent support to the great causes that aim to promote religion. We will release all sanction to those worldly amusements that tend to lessen true piety in ourselves or weaken Christian influence over others, so that religion be not reproached on our account. May He who has promised His help enable us to keep this covenant, and grant us grace to be faithful until He shall gather us unto Himself and crown us with final victory.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. At every sitting, business shall be opened and closed with prayer by the moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers present invited to seats are allowed to take part in debate on all subjects, but not to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the moderator shall put the question; Shall it be discussed? If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

5. If any proposition under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.
6. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded.
7. No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without leave of the moderator.
8. All questions shall be decided by a majority of members present.
9. No one shall absent himself without leave of the moderator.
10. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected, if necessary, before the close of the association.
11. In the sessions of the association arrangements shall be made so as to have two or more sermons each day, or other equivalent devotional exercises.
12. The rules of order shall be read from the chair immediately after the organization of the association.
13. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the association.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCHES.

The local church is an independent body so far as relates to its own government, the transaction of its own business, the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members.

Persons who give evidence of piety are received to membership by a vote of the church; and if not baptised, on condition of being baptised. If objections are made, they should be stated to the church; and if the objections are judged to be valid, the candidate should not be received to fellowship. The right hand of fellowship is given to all persons received by the church.

Persons expelled from sister churches for any cause, or from any church for immorality, should not be received, until first giving satisfaction.

Letters of dismission and commendation are granted by request to members in good standing, by vote of the church, on their removal from its limits. Ministers are received and dismissed by letters, as other members, except when they come from or go to other denominations, in which case a council of ministers should be called to advise respecting the action.

It is the duty of the church to unite with some association, and represent itself regularly by delegates and letters.

No person shall be a delegate from a church or other body in our denomination, unless he is a member of and appointed by the church which he claims to represent.

PERMANENT ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory sermon.
2. Reading letters.
3. Organize by electing officers.
4. Reading rules of order.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Invitation to visiting delegates and brethren.
7. Appointment of committees—on Divine Service, on Finance, on Sabbath Schools, on Obituaries, on Temperance, on Resolutions.

Resolved, That we adopt the Law of the Lord's Supper as laid down in the minutes of the Center Association.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the members of the Church in Christ, known as Freewill Baptists, being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Christ, and convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our government as an Association:

1. This Association shall be composed of all the ordained authority in its bounds, assisted by the several church clerks and delegates chosen by each church, not to exceed three in number.

2. Letters from the churches are to express number in fellowship, the number received by baptism, by letter, and by relation; the number dismissed by letter, excluded from the fellowship of the body, and died, since the association.

3. The members thus chosen shall be known as the Hopewell Association of Freewill Baptist, composed of sundry churches in the Indian Territory. The association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage nor have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, but reserves the right to withdraw from any church that becomes disorderly.

4. The association shall have a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the body.

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted by petitionary letters, and if upon examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly they may be received, the association giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. No questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the association unless it has been discussed in the church asking the question.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association unless it is withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. The association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the association in proportion to the membership of each church, the distribution being at the discretion of the association.

9. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected if needed, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the close of the association.

10. Each ordained minister shall be a member of a church in the bounds of the association; and if he should hold his letter over a period of three months when opportunities and convenience are afforded, he shall surrender his credentials to the quarterly meeting.

11. Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a majority of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in the one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and these three are equal in divine essence, power and glory. Rom. 1: 20, John 1:1.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the written words of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3: 16-17.

3. We believe God created man good and gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall, and man is unable to save himself with his own power; but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory; that he by the grace of God tasted death for every man. Gen. 1:31; Heb. 3:9.

4. We believe that Christ by his suffering, death and resurrection purchased our pardon and offered it free to all on the principles of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. He commands men everywhere to repent. Therefore, he saith: "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God and there is none other." Matt. 4:7; Isa. 45:22; Acts 20:21; Acts 17:30.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3; Rom. 5:1, 13.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon the merits of the Son of God. Mat. 19:13-14; Mark 10:13-14; Luke 18:15, 17.

7. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life; for blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have a right to the Tree of Life and enter in through the gates of the City. Rev. 22:14.

8. We believe that God in his goodness displays his power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying his servants by teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of his blessed Word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation, and nothing prevents the the salvation of any but their stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. 1 Cor. 12:8; Eph. 3:7; Rev. 22:17.

9. We believe that baptism, and the washing of saints' feet, and the Lord's supper, and keeping of the Lord's day holy, and abstaining from worldly lusts and carnal cares and to assemble ourselves together is an ornament which prepares and beautifies the soldier of the cross to march onward in the army of the Lord. Matt. 26:28; John 3:45.

10. We believe that immersion is the apostolic mode of baptism and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to his followers and bids us walk therein. John 2:22; Matt. 3:16; Rom. 6:2, 3, 4, 5.

11. We believe that none have a right to baptism only those who have a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have a right to administer the same only those who are called of God and come under the hands of the presbytery.

12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead of both the just and the unjust. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God; the unjust to shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matt. 25:31-34; 1 Cor. 15:45-5; 2 Thess 1:4-11; Rev. 20:10.

FORM OF LETTER TO ASSOCIATION.

Indian Territory, County of . . . : We, the Church in Christ . . . to the Hopewell Association of Freewill Baptists, when assembled with the Church in Christ at . . . Greeting: We send as delegates from our church Brothers . . . whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your godly deliberations. (Add statistical report, state of religion, post office address, etc.)

LETTER OF DISMISSAL.

This is to certify that Brother . . . is hereby dismissed in full fellowship in the Church in Christ at . . . and as such we recommend him to the fellowship of God's people. Done in church conference.

. Clerk.

. Moderator.

FORM FOR CHURCH BUSINESS.

1. Called into conference by Moderator.
2. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
3. Call for peace of the church.
4. Invitation for members.
5. Reading minutes of last meeting.
6. References.
7. New business.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	POST OFFICES	Deceased	Rec. by confes. . .	Rec. by recom. . .	Rec. by letter . . .	Excluded	Dis. by letter . . .	Total membership
Bethany . . .	T.R.Kampplain	W. J. Brown, Sneed, I. T.		0	2	7	2	0	0	55
Friendship . .	A. J. E. Barton	J. N. Caton, Milo	" "	0	3	0	0	5	0	11
Norris Chapel	J. F. Standifer	Sister Lisenby, Province	" "	1	3	0	0	0	0	15
Foster Chapel	W. M. Coggins	T. S. Brown, Foster	" "	0	4	1	0	0	0	21
Hopewell . . .	W. D. Haston	G. W. Young, Folsom	" "	1	0	0	4	0	0	69
Union Grove	J. H. Wheeler	S. W. Hudson, Burneyv.	" "	0	2	0	2	1	0	20
Mt. Pleasant	A. J. E. Barton	E. H. Byrd, Newport	" "	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

