

dup
State

MINUTES

OF THE
HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION
No. 2

Church of God Denominated
Free Will Baptists

1951

1952

PROCEEDINGS
of the
NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Convened with
Lone Grove Free Will Baptist church

MINUTES
of the
NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
Hopewell Association No. 2
Free Will Baptists

Held with the
LONE GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Beginning Thursday Night, September 30, 1951

OFFICERS

Moderator

Bro. N. C. Ballew, Wirt, Okla.

Assistant Moderator

Bro. G. W. Hanks, Wilson, Okla.

Clerk

Sister Grace Brandon, Box 275, Wirt, Okla.

Assistant Clerk

Sister Myrtle Ballew, Box 612, Wirt, Okla.

The twentieth annual session will convene on Thursday night before the first Sunday in September, 1952

PROCEEDINGS

Thursday Night Service

The body was called to order by Rev. G. W. Hanks. We sang "I'll Live In Glory" and "Some Day". Prayer by Bro. N. C. Ballew. We sang "What a Gathering That Will Be."

A testimonial service was led by Bro. N. C. Ballew quoting a portion of 133 Psalms.

Rev. G. W. Hanks brought the introductory message by reading a portion of Psalms 112. He used as his subject, "How long halt ye between two opinions" I Kings 18-21. An altar call was given while we sang "Just As I Am" and "Glory to His Name." Dismissed by Rev. O. E. Hartness pastor of the Lone Grove Assembly of God Church.

Friday Morning Service

Meeting opened by singing "Love Lifted Me" and "I'll Live On." Prayer by Bro. Herron, Bro. Hanks took charge and called the house to order and declared conference in session. Church letters were called for and read from the following churches: Lone Grove, Stobtown, Healdton, and Clemscot. Petitionary letter from Santa Fe church was read. Motion carried that we accept the letters and seat the delegates. Moderator gave the right hand of Christian fellowship to the delegates.

Money received for minutes as follows:

Stobtown Church	\$10.00
Lone Grove	10.00
Clemscot	10.00
Santa Fe	5.00
Healdton	10.00
	\$45.00

Motion carried we seat Rev. E. S. Sunday, pastor of the Healdton church. Motion carried we seat Rev. and Sister Herron from Sulphur church to aid us in our work. Motion carried that the moderator appoint a committee on divine arrangements. Committee Sis-

ter Charlie Truitt, Bro. Stublefield and Sister Jaree McClain.

Officers elected as follows: moderator, Bro. N. C. Ballew; assistant, Rev. G. W. Hanks. Motion carried that we retain our present clerk and assistant clerk. Sister Grace Brandon and Sister Myrtle Ballew. The Pulpit committee reported that Rev. E. S. Sunday will bring the morning message at 11:00. Motion carried we adjourn the business session until 1:30 p.m. Dismissed by moderator.

Eleven O'clock Service

Opened by singing "Some Day" and "Hide Me Rock of Ages." Rev. E. S. Sunday brought the message. Scripture text 78th Psalms 41. He used as his subject, "Limiting the Power of God." Dismissed by Rev. J. O. Hudson for lunch.

Friday Afternoon

Moderator called house to order sang "I just Steal Away and Pray" and "I Am Satisfied With Jesus." Devotional was given by Bro. Christian reading the book of Jude. Prayer by Rev. J. O. Hudson.

Motion carried that the moderator and assistant moderator appoint all committees.

Minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read and approved. Rules of order were read by the moderator Bro. N. C. Ballew.

Motion carried we substitute assistant moderator in the absence of Rev. Hanks. Bro. Christian was elected.

Election of Committees

Pulpit Committee—

Sister Charlie Truitt
Sister Jaree McClain
Bro. Stublefield

Sunday School Committee—

Sister Reba Ritter
Sister Butler
Sister Hicks

Temperance Committee—

Rev. E. S. Sunday
Bro. Stublefield
Bro. Ben Brewer

Resolution Committee—

Sister Charlie Truitt
Rev. J. O. Hudson
Sister Jaree McClain

Obituary Committee—

Bro. Johnnie Gilmore
Sister Pool
Sister Eileen Williamson

Education Committee—

Bro. Stublefield
Sister Montgomery
Rev. E. S. Sunday

League Committee—

Sister Lennie Adams
Sister Marjorie Carroll
Sister Connie Morris

Motion carried we elect one new member each year to serve three years on Orphanage board.

Motion carried we elect one new member each year to serve on Credential committee.

Bro. Omer Talley, Ardmore, Okla., Route 2 was elected as association treasurer.

Motion carried we accept the report of Education committee. (See reports).

Motion carried we accept the report of League committee. (See report)

Motion carried we accept the report of Temperance committee. (See report)

Motion carried we accept report of Sunday School committee. (See report)

Motion carried we accept the report of Obituary committee. (See report)

Motion carried we accept the report of the Resolution committee (See report)

Motion carried that we go to Santa Fe Church next

association. Beginning Thursday night before the first Sunday in September 1952.

Motion carried we accept treasurers report.

Motion carried that we have next fifth Sunday meeting at the Healdton church beginning Friday night before the fifth Sunday in September.

Bro. N. C. Ballew gave report on the Orphanage.

Bro. Fellabaum was elected to bring the introductory message at next fifth Sunday meeting.

Rev. J. O. Hudson was elected to bring the introductory message at next association.

Divine committee reports that Bro. Hudson will bring the Friday night message.

Motion carried that we dismiss all temporary committees for this session.

Delegates to represent us at the association were elected as follows. Sister Marjorie Carroll, Bro. Noah Smith, Sister Noah Smith and Sister W. A. DeHart. We recommend Sister Marjorie Carroll as representative to the National association.

Motion carried that we send our moderator, Bro. N. C. Ballew to Dibble association as corresponding delegate. ✓

Motion carried we adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. W. A. Williams.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunday School Committee

We, your committee on Sunday School, wish to report the following:

1. That each church have and attend Sunday School and use Free Will Baptist Literature.

2. We suggest that all teachers and officers be Free Will Baptists.

3. We urge that parents go with their children to Sunday School. Take part and be on time.

The Committee

Temperance Committee

We, your committee on Temperance recommend that our ministers preach more against the sale and use of all intoxicants and that our young people be

instructed in regards to the effect it has upon their minds, souls, and bodies.

We further recommend that at least one sermon be preached on Temperance during each quarter.

Signed:

The Temperance Committee

Resolutions Committee

We extend our appreciation to the host church for the courtesy and hospitality shown us during this meeting.

Signed by Committee

League Committee

We, your committee on Leagues, report on the following:

We recommend that each Free Will Baptist church have a League, which should be organized according to the rules given in our League manual with all officers Christians. We further urge that each League be represented in district rallies and also give its full support to the state work. We ask the older church members to give more attention and co-operation to our Leagues and bear in mind that the Leagues of today will be the churches of tomorrow.

We recommend that the youth encampment be continued for the first five days of the yearly association. We have learned in the past encampment that it has been a blessing to us.

We recommend the League rally be an all day meeting instead of a half day meeting.

Committee

Education Committee

We, the committee on Education, recommend that each church have a daily Vacation Bible school for the purpose of interesting our children in the Bible. We also urge each church systematically support our F. W. B. college at Nashville. We further recommend that each church sponsor a teacher training course. We recommend that members of the churches study

our treatise and acquaint themselves fully with the doctrine of Free Will Baptists.

Signed,
The Committee on Education

Obituary Committee

We, your committee on Obituary are sorry to report there have been two deaths in our association the past year. Bro. R. E. Chaudion from the Healdton church and Sister Lee from the Stobtown church.

These two were good leaders in our churches and association and whom we miss in our midst.

Signed the Committee
Sister Pool
Sister Williamson
Bro. John Gilmore

CHURCH LETTERS

Clemscot Church

Letter from the Clemscot Church of God Denominated Free Will Baptist to the Hopewell association No. 2 when convened with the Lone Grove Free Will Baptist church. We send as delegates our beloved Sister Juhree McClain, Bro. Fred Williamson and Sister Fred Williamson. Alternates: Sister Dovie Powell, Bro. Troy Lewellen and Bro. Billie Powel, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good; members received this year, 14; number dismissed by letter, 5; number deceased, none; resident members, 50; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday School, good; average number pupils, 50; officers, 6; condition of League, good; value of church property, \$4,000.00; amount paid pastor, \$1,825.00; amount for evangelistic work, \$85.00; amount for building and repair, \$617.29; amount for miscellaneous and labor, \$237.64; for education, \$47.35; Home Mission, \$18.48; orphanage, \$163.64; publication and literature \$40.14.

Deacons: Bro. John Woods, Healdton, Okla.; Bro. Ed Gilliam, Huntington Park, California.

Ministers: Rev. T. Maynard, Comanche, Okla. and Pastor J. O. Hudson, Clemscot, Okla.

We enclose \$10.00 for minutes, done by order of Clemscot Free Will Baptist church assembled in conference, 29th day of August 1951.

We ask for the next association.

Moderator Rev. J. O. Hudson
Clerk Sister John Woods

Stobtown Church

Letter from the Stobtown church of God Denominated Free Will Baptist to Hopewell association No. 2, when convened with the Lone Grove Free Will Baptist church.

We send as delegates Bro. Roy Herron, Bro. Ben Brewer, and Sister Aubrey Butler. As alternates Sister J. C. Christian, Sister Ben Brewer, Sister Dora Ellis, whom we pray you will receive to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good; members received, 4; condition of Sunday School, good; number of officers, 2; teachers, 4; condition of prayer meeting and Leagues, good; paid evangelist, unknown; miscellaneous expenses, unknown; amount for building and repair, \$60.00; offering for children's home, unknown, was paid to association treasurer; paid pastor, unknown; value of church property, \$1,800.00; amount enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Deacons: Bro. Christian, Bro. Joe Balthrop, Bro. Herman Green, Bro. James Adams.

Minister: Rev. Roy Herron.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference August 29th, 1951.

We are sorry to report the death of Sister Floy Lee.

Rev. Roy Herron, Mod.
Bro. Ralph Mullens, Clerk

Healdton Church

Letter from Healdton Free Will Baptist church to Hopewell No. 2 annual association of Free Will Baptist, when convened with the Enterprise church at Lone Grove, Okla., August 30th, 1951.

We send as delegates our beloved Sister Charlie Truitt, Sister Reba Ritter and Sister Lennie Adams. Alternates, Sister L. C. Pool, Sister Dorotha DeHart and Bro. Bill Ritter, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godley deliberations.

State of religion, good; members received this year, 10; number baptized, 4; number dismissed by letter, 5; number deceased, 1 (Bro. R. E. Chaudion); resident members, 53; non-resident members, 29; total membership, 82; condition of prayer meeting, good; Sunday School, good; average no pupils, 50; teachers and officers, 7; condition of League, good; League membership Junior and Senior, 30;

Paid pastor, \$1,337.50; evangelist, \$307.45; building and repair \$409.80; incidentals \$289.04; value of church property, \$7,874.00; paid missions, \$77.00; Bible College, \$153.00; publications and S. S. literature, \$60.40 amount to children's home, \$280.26; amount enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. E. S. Sunday, Healdton, Okla., Box 241.

Deacons: Bro. Jay Crisp, Bro. N. C. Ballew, Bro. Marlin Bivens all of Wirt, Oklahoma; Bro. W. A. DeHart, Healdton, Okla.; Bro. Herb Welch, Ardmore, Okla.

Done by order of Healdton Free Will Baptist church assembled in conference this 8th day of August 1951.

Rev. E. S. Sunday, Moderator
Sister Myrtle Ballew, Clerk of
Wirt, Okla., Box 612

Lone Grove Church

Letter from the Church of God, Denominated Free Will Baptist at Lone Grove to the yearly association, when convened with the Lone Grove church at Lone Grove.

We send as delegates: Bro. C. M. Burdue and Bro. Hop. Stubblefield, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good; members received, none; members died none. We have nearly finished our

church building and at the present time our church membership hasn't all been recorded in our church book. Neither has our labor and materials for the church building.

We plan to organize a Sunday School in the future. We are few in number and we do need your prayers. We send \$10.00 for minutes.

Pastor G. W. Hanks, Wilson, Okla.
Sister Connie Morris, Clerk,
Ardmore, Okla.

Petitionary Letter from Santa Fe Church

Letter from the Santa Fe Church of God Denominated Free Will Baptist to Hopewell association No. 2, when convened with the Lone Grove Free Will Baptist church at Lone Grove, Oka.

We send as delegates our beloved Sisters: M. L. Montgomery, Sister Ralph Hicks and Bro. John Gilmore. As alternates: Sister Garrett Hurst, Alice Spurgeon and Jewel Chaudoin.

We place a petitionary letter with the associational body wherein our desires are made known unto you. The Santa Fe Free Will Baptist church was organized after having been examined by counsel representatives, Bro. John Woods of the executive board of this association on August 23rd, 1951 at Velma, Okla.

We desire to be taken into full fellowship with the association and permitted representative seats with all your Godly deliberations.

Organization as follows:

Those that sat in counsel were Rev. J. O. Hudson, Clemscot, Okla.; Rev. Ward Fellabaum, County Line, Okla., Box 37; Bro. John Woods, Clemscot, Okla.; Bro. Floyd Carroll, Duncan, Oka., Rt. 3.

Song "At The Cross." Prayer by Bro. John Woods. Rev. J. O. Hudson presided. Spoke to the body on the faith and doctrine of Free Will Baptists. Covenant read by Rev. J. O. Hudson. Prayer by Rev. Ward Fellabaum. The Bible was presented and church established.

The charter members being Rev. and Sister Ward Fellabaum, Bro. and Sister L. A. Gilmore and son,

John. Bro. and Sister Garrett Hurst, Bro. and Sister Floyd Carroll, Sister Alice Spurgen, and Bro. Forest Cox.

The doors of the church were opened, Sister M. L. Montgomery by statement. Bro. and Sister Zelous Chaudoin by statement, Bro. and Sister Vess Rozell by statement, Don Gilmore by baptism, Raymond Hurst by baptism.

Officers as follows:

Clerk, Marjory Carroll; Treasurer, Sister L. A. Gilmore; Pastor, Rev. Ward Fellabaum, County Line, Okla., Box 37.

Church named Santa Fe Free Will Baptist.

Deacons: Bro. Floyd Carroll, R. 3, Box 164, Duncan, Okla.; Bro. Vess Rozell, Alma, Okla.

We had 10 day revival with 3 conversions, 2 baptized. We paid the evangelist \$78.00.

We request that the association be brought to the Santa Fe church next year. We enclose \$5.00 for minutes.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this 26th day of August 1951.

Rev. Ward Fellabaum, Mod.

Sister Marjory Carroll, Clerk

Orphanage Board

Bro. John Woods, Healdton, Oklahoma

Bro. N. C. Ballew, Wirt, Oklahoma

Bro. Ralph Mullens, Route 2, Ardmore, Oka.

Executive Board

Bro. N. C. Ballew.....1947

Bro. Barrett Hurst1948

Bro. Marlin Bivens1949

Bro. Henry Christian1950

Bro. Troy Morris1951

Credential Committee

Bro. H. L. Christian

Bro. N. C. Ballew

Bro. John Woods

Roll of Ordained Ministers

Rev. J. O. HudsonClemscot, Oklahoma

Rev. L. MaynardClemscot, Oklahoma

Rev. G. W. Hanks	Wilson, Oklahoma
Rev. Ward Fellabaum	Santa Fe, Oklahoma
Rev. E. S. Sunday	Healdton, Oklahoma
Rev. Roy Herron	Ardmore, Oklahoma

Church Clerks

Healdton—Sister Myrtle Ballew, Box 612, Wirt, Okla.
 Clemscot—Sister John Woods, Healdton, Okla.
 Wilson—Sister Versie Ledbetter, Wilson, Okla.
 Stobtown—Bro. Ralph Mullens, Ardmore, Okla.
 Lone Grove—Sister Connie Morris, Lone Grove, Oka.

Statistical Report for Hopewell

No. 2 Association

Churches 6, members 250, ministers 6, deacons 14,
 paid pastors \$3,162.50, paid evangelists \$470.45, paid
 children's home \$343.80, value of church property
 \$15,000.00, building repairs \$1,086.09.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and these three are equal in Divine essence, power and glory—Romans 1:20, I John 1:7, John 17:21.

2. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice—Matt. 5:8; II Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe that 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 that 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, should taste death for every man—Gen. 3:7-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His death, burial, and resurrection, purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon the principles of repentance

toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent, therefore He saith: "Look unto me and be saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else"—Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Acts 20:2-21; Acts 17:30.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life—John 3:3.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved by the merits of the Son of God—John 4:11; Deut. 1:39; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16.

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 the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the city—Matt. 24:13; Rev. 22:14.

8. We believe that Baptism by immersion is the Apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water; and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children, and bids us walk therein—John 3:22; Matt. 3:16; 28:19-20; Romans 6:2-5.

9. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost, and by the instructions of His blessed Word, to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. He bids us freely to come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come—I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 3:7; Rev. 22:17; Isa. 55:1.

10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saint's feet are Divine ordinances and should be observed by all His children — Mark 14:22; John 3:4-14; Matt. 28:19-20; I Tim. 5:10.

11. We believe that none have a right to Baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have the right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the Presbytery of Elders; and each church ought to have a pastor, deacons, and

clerk, chosen by the church and continuing in office during the good pleasure of the same; and in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew, and other Scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases, a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous—Tit. 1:5; Acts 14:23; II Cor. 6:6.

12. We believe it to be the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's Supper to "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat"—I Cor. 11:28; John 13:14; Heb. 10:25.

13. We believe that Sanctification and Holiness is a Bible doctrine, that immortality is God dwelling in the light so when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God—Gal. 6:10; I John 2:9.

14. We believe in the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of the damnation, then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

RULES OF ORDER

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

2. Ministers and deacons present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the

Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. 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.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association, if necessary.

12. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangement shall be made to assure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce, just before adjournment, who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

13. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization.

14. 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 baptized, on condition of being baptized. If objections

are made, they should be stated to the church; and if objections are judged valid, the candidate should not be received into fellowship. The right hand of fellowship is given all persons received by the church.

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

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

It is the duty of the church to unite with some Association and represent itself regularly by delegates and letter.

No person shall be a delegate from a church, unless he or she is a member and appointed by the church he or she claims to represent.

CHURCH LETTER

Letter from Church to the

(Please state whether Quarterly or Yearly Meeting of Association), when convened with.....

Church at

We send as delegates our beloved:

.....
.....
.....

State of religion,.....; members received by letter,; by recommendation or by experience in grace,; dismissed,; number died,; total membership,; condition of prayer meeting,; of Sunday School,; average number of pupils,; number of officers,; of teachers,; paid pastor, \$.....; paid evangelist, \$.....; amount for building and repair, \$.....; for incidentals,

\$.....; value of church property, \$.....; miscellaneous expense, \$.....; amount enclosed for minutes, \$.....

Pastor's name and address:

Names and addresses of ministers and deacons:
Ministers:

Deacons:

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this day of, 19.....

....., Moderator
....., Clerk

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read, and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating delegates.
5. Election of officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Reading Rules of Order.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New business.
12. Reports of committees.
13. Miscellaneous business.

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Called to order by the Moderator.
2. Called into conference, or vote to go into conference.
3. Call for peace of the church (All who are at peace with God and each other, hold up your right hand.)

4. Visiting brethren invited to seat in council (Visiting members from other Free Will Baptist churches allowed.)
5. Reading of minutes of last church conference.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Reports of delegates to Association or Quarterly Meeting.
9. Are there any sick or in distress?
10. Support of ministry and other expenses.
11. Call for confession.
12. Invitation for members.
13. Adjournment.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptists), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better church government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP—This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME—The members thus chosen and assembled with the ministers and deacons to be denominated the Hopewell Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the several churches of our union, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. LETTERS — Letters from the different churches represented are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of or-

dained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration of denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. Churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. OFFICERS—The Association to have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 5. NEW CHURCHES — Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if, upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. QUESTIONS — No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has first been considered in its own church.

Art. 7. MOTIONS—Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 8. MINUTES—The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in the proportion to the amount paid by each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. CLERK—It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. SIGNATURES—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.

Art. 11. AMENDMENTS—Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a two-

thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.

AMENDMENT No. 1 — Each ordained minister shall be a member of a church in the bounds of the Association, and if he should hold his letter for a period of three months, when opportunity affords him, he shall surrender his credentials to the quarterly meeting.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things; to avoid all appearance of evil; to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works, endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of spirit in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and to seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief busi-

ness in life to extend the influence of Christ in society. constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions and the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

