

DERWOOD WATERS
ROUTE 2,
COEBURN, VA. 22629

MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
Pewther Chapel Church
DICKENSON COUNTY, VA.
August 9th to 12th, 1923

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.
1924

MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
Pewther Chapel Church

DICKENSON COUNTY, VA.

August 9th to 12th, 1923

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.
1924

PROCEEDINGS.

The First Annual Session of the John Thomas Yearly Meeting convened with Pewther Chapel Church, Thursday before the second Sunday in August 1923. The introductory sermon was preached by E. A. Reedy.

The Yearly Meeting was organized by electing E. A. Reedy, Moderator, W. R. Bise, Clerk and John Shrader, Treasurer.

ENROLLMENT OF DELEGATES.

Wise County Quarterly Meeting: Thomas Adkins, John Shrader, W. C. Perkey, M. V. Noe, R. A. Carter and W. B. Galloway.

Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting: U. S. G. Mead, S. P. Reedy, Walter Kennedy and J. T. Keith.

MINISTERS PRESENT

J. G. Kennedy, F. T. Kennedy, S. M. McFall, R. A. Carter, W. R. Stallard, E. A. Reedy, W. R. Bise, T. J. Davenport, Henry Smith, J. M. Hays, N. W. Cox, W. T. Robertson, H. V. Johnson, D. L. Smith, Asa Hughes, and Dellie Salyer.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

On By-Laws—W. R. Stallard, S. M. McFall and J. G. Kennedy.

On Business—W. R. Stallard, S. P. Reedy and R. A. Carter.

On Pulpit Supply—A. H. Hill, Pearl McFall and Bessie Counts.

On Sunday Schools—J. G. Kennedy, W. R. Stallard and M. M. Dixon.

On Temperance—N. W. Cox, T. J. Davenport and J. M. Hayes.

On Finance—E. G. Kilgore, W. B. Galloway and S. P. Reedy.

On Next Session—F. T. Kennedy, Henry Smith, Thomas Adkins, C. D. McFall and John Shrader.

A motion was carried that we adopt the old Morning Star Treatise.

The report of the By-Law Committee was received, read and adopted.

A motion was carried to adjourn until Friday morning at 9 o'clock A. M.

Preaching at 8 o'clock P. M. by S. M. McFall and W. T. Robertson. Text, Luke 9:29.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Henry Smith. We then called for the Quarterly Meeting Reports which were as follows:

Wise County Quarterly Meeting—Twelve churches, 597 members, value of church property \$11,750. Donated for Home Mission Work \$124.44. Given for pastoral work \$673.20. Dismissed one church from conference.

We hereby send our beloved brothers N. V. Noel, Tom Adkins, W. B. Powers, James Hayes, Tom Bolling, Fred Taylor, Emmet Day, W. C. Perkins, William Bradley, John Shrader, Kint Horn, D. C. Beggley to

represent us in our yearly meeting. We ask for the next Yearly Meeting.

W. R. Stallard, Moderator,

H. V. Johnson, Clerk.

The report of the Wise County Quarterly Meeting was read and received as good in character.

The report of the Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting was laid over until 2:30 P. M.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Business Committee—We your committee on business beg to advise that half of the money in the hands of the Quarterly Meetings be turned over to the Yearly Meeting, treasury to bear the expenses of the Yearly Meeting.

W. R. Stallard, Chairman.

Sunday School Committee—We your committee on Sunday Schools beg to advise that we use our own literature provided that it does not conflict with our Sunday School work.

W. R. Stallard, Chairman.

Temperance Committee—We your committee on Temperance recommend to this body that they require all members to wholly abstain from alcoholic drinks and from all other forms of intemperance.

N. W. Cox, Chairman.

A motion was carried to adjourn until 2 o'clock P. M.

Preaching at 11 o'clock A. M. by N. W. Cox and T. J. Davenport.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. Reading and prayer by Asa Hughes.

The Committee on Next Session reported that the next session be held with Dales Ridge Church.

The Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting made report as follows: Number of members 230, number of churches 6, value of church property \$3,500.00. We do hereby send our beloved brethren Walter Kennedy, Eva Smith, Julie Powers, J. T. Keith, U. S. G. Mead and S. P. Reedy to represent us in our Yearly Meeting.

F. T. Kennedy, Moderator.

A. W. Powers, Clerk Protem.

The above report was received and adopted.

Moved and carried that we have one thousand minutes printed.

Moved and carried that we pay our clerk \$15.00 for his services.

Moved and carried that we have our Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, and By-Laws printed in our minutes.

Moved and carried that we elect W. R. Bise for our clerk for the next year.

Motion was carried to adjourn until Thursday before the second Sunday in August 1924 when we will meet with Dales Ridge Church, Wise county, Va.

E. A. Reedy, Moderator,

W. R. Bise, Clerk.

Preaching at 4 P. M. by J. G. Kennedy and J. M. Hayes. Text Hebrews 1:14.

Preaching at 8 P. M. by M. M. Dixon and Henry Smith. Text Isaiah 53:5.

Preaching Saturday at 11 A. M. by E. F. Hughes and W. R. Stallard. Text Acts 1:11 and First Timothy 4:16..

Preaching Saturday at 8 P. M. by R. A. Carter and D. L. Smith. Text Ephesians 1:4.

Preaching Sunday at 11 A. M. by Dellie Salyer and H. V. Johnson. Text Hebrews 6:8-9.

MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

Organized by electing E. A. Reedy Moderator and W. R. Bise Clerk. We then proceeded to work by electing a by-law committee which met and drew up the by-laws, presented them to the conference and they were adopted as read. The committee consisted of W. R. Stallard, J. G. Kennedy and F. T. Kennedy.

Ordaining Council—W. J. Keith, W. R. Stallard, C. K. Counts, R. A. Carter and F. T. Kennedy.

The conference proceeded to consider the character of the ministers and passed on them and received their reports. Ministers present were J. G. Kennedy, F. T. Kennedy, W. R. Stallard, Henry Smith, R. A. Carter, J. M. Hayes, D. L. Smith, H. V. Johnson, C. K. Counts, T. J. Davenport, Charlie Johnson, E. A. Reedy, W. R. Bise, S. M. McFall, Dellie Salyer, Remy Wilson, R. A. Powers and N. T. Malone.

Ministers absent were W. J. Keith, Joe Patterson, I. N. Mills, J. M. Sheets, Clay Osbern, C. C. Wright, Leonard Fields, John Cook, J. M. Shoop, A. J. Sexton, Jake Welch and W. T. Robertson.

MINISTERS REPORTS.

H. M. Smith, Bondtown, Va. Pastored two churches, preached 65 sermons, held three revivals, received 16 into the church, baptized 15, attended 16 burial services, witnessed 25 conversions, received \$52.50, and donated \$45.50 on church building.

S. M. McFall, Coeburn, Va. Pastored three churches, preached 72 sermons, received nine into the church, worked in three revivals, baptized 2, preached two funerals and received \$328.57.

D. L. Smith, Nasbie, Va. Pastored two churches, preached 80 sermons, attended four burial services and celebrated one marriage.

J. G. Kennedy, Nasbie, Va. As your evangelist I have tried to make full proof of the gospel ministry committed unto me. I have preached about 240 sermons, travelled 2000 miles, engaged in ten revivals but do not know the number of converts or accessions and baptisms. I have taken in \$500.00 for the church house at Bondtown and received about 90 personally.

Dellie Salyer, Dorchester, Va. Travelled 517 miles, preached 97 ser-

mons and four funerals, received ten into the church, worked in three revivals, witnessed 14 conversions and received \$111.20.

R. A. Powers, Richlands, Va. I have conducted five revival meetings, witnessed 28 conversions, baptized 15, added 28 to the church, and organized a church at Richlands, Va.

Rena Wilson, Drill, Va. I have travelled 331 miles, preached 45 sermons, worked in three revivals, witnessed 23 conversions and received \$22.34.

W. R. Bise, Millard, Va. I have assisted the pastor at one church, preached about 25 sermons, given \$4.00 to help erect church building and helped to organize one Yearly Meeting.

E. A. Reedy, Fremont, Va. I have preached 140 sermons, celebrated five marriages, attended eight burials, travelled 500 miles and received \$100.

C. H. Johnson, Richlands, Va. I have been in three revivals, have had souls to come to Christ, have celebrated two marriages and attended three funerals. I have had good success in my work and hope you all good luck.

H. V. Johnson, Dorchester, Va. I have pastored two churches, preached 83 sermons, preached nine funerals, worked in five revivals, witnessed 38 conversions, travelled 640 miles, received \$104.47, donated \$31.00 for church building, baptized 18, and received 49 into the church.

W. R. Stallard, Coeburn, Va. I have pastored three churches, conducted ten revivals, witnessed 73 conversions, received 53 into the church, baptized 45, conducted five funeral services and one memorial, travelled 457 miles, received \$340.48, preached 227 sermons, paid for expenses \$34.90, organized one Sunday School and two prayer meetings, moderated three Quarterly Meetings and helped to organize one Yearly Meeting.

C. K. Counts, Coeburn, Va. I have preached 21 sermons, travelled 224 miles, added one to the church and married eleven couples.

T. J. Davenport, Wise, Va. I have preached four sermons, labored in five revivals, witnessed eight conversions, conducted two burial services and three prayer meetings, celebrated 20 marriages, travelled 150 miles, received \$300.00 and donated to benevolent purposes \$20.00.

A. F. Hughes, Georges Fork, Va. Pastored two churches, preached 43 sermons, held one revival, witnessed five conversions and received five into the church.

R. A. Carter, Glamorgan, Va. I have pastored one church, preached 75 sermons, attended 10 burial services and three funerals, celebrated ten marriages, held one revival and received \$20.00.

J. M. Hayes, Clear Creek, Va. I have preached eleven sermons and witnessed one conversion, given two Sunday School addresses, prayed in eleven homes, preached one funeral and travelled about 50 miles.

OBITUARY.

Brother Nathan S. Casteel was born May 26, 1856 and departed this life Dec. 24, 1922, age 66 years.

He was married to Mary Kennedy and unto this home was born six

children, two girls and four boys. This means that half of the family has gone to live with God and the angels.

Brother Casteel professed faith in Christ in 1894, was baptized and joined the Free Will Baptist Church in Russell county at Sugartree Gap and lived a loyal devoted christian until death.

He was a great sufferer in his last days but bore his sufferings patiently, realizing that when his sufferings were over he would see Mary whom he loved so well and the two girls who long since have gone before.

We want to bow on our knees to many of his sweet prayers while we hear him say, "Come on boys, come on." Like Paul he has fought a good fight and finished his course. His victory is won. He leaves a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death but may God still bless his children to meet mother and father in heaven their eternal home.

Written by W. R. Stallard.

BY-LAWS MOTIONS, ETC., OF JOHN THOMAS YEARLY MEETING.

1. A conference shall be annually held.
2. No conference shall be held with less than three ordained ministers, and four delegates belonging to this Yearly Meeting.
3. Officers of this Yearly Meeting shall be, moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be elected annually.
4. At the opening of each conference, the clerk's book shall be presented, and the proceedings of last conference read.
5. The object of the Annual Conference shall be to promote Christ's Kingdom among men by means in strict conformity to the Holy Scriptures.
6. These conferences shall be composed of the ministers who are members of the Quarterly Meetings belonging to the body, and of delegates from these Quarterly meetings, each Quarterly meeting being entitled to as many delegates as each conference shall think proper.
7. The delegates from each Quarterly meeting shall bear to the conference a letter certifying their appointment, showing the condition and statistics of the Quarterly meeting, and giving a statement of all funds raised during the year for denominational or other benevolent purposes.
8. This conference may at each regular meeting, elect as many boards or standing committees as may be necessary in carrying out its benevolent purposes. These shall keep a record of their proceedings and make a report at each regular meeting of the conference.
9. Any Quarterly meeting desiring to become a member of this body shall present her petition at a regular session of the conference, through delegates appointed for that purpose. If she be received, the moderator shall extend to her delegates the hand of fellowship.
10. The conference may extend to visiting brethren all the privileges of the body, save that of voting.
11. This constitution may be amended at any regular session by vote of four-fifths of the members present of the conference in session.
12. If any member in the judgment of the conference, shall show anger in his discussion on any subject, he shall forfeit his seat in that conference.
13. No member of the general conference shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the moderator.
14. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.
15. There shall annually be a committee of finance chosen to settle with the treasurer and report to conference.
16. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and praise of God.
17. A motion must be made by one member, seconded by another, and afterwards stated by the moderator, before it is debated. A motion shall be reduced to writing by the mover at the demand of any one member.
18. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing.

19. A motion or resolution may be withdrawn at any time before a decision or amendment by the conference.

20. Any motion or resolution containing more than one distinct proposition shall be devised, provided the call for a division be sustained by the majority.

21. When a member speaks or offers a motion he should rise and respectfully address the moderator, confine himself to the question under consideration, and avoid all personality or unkind or disrespectful language.

22. When two or more members rise to speak at the same time the Moderator shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

23. While a member is speaking no one shall interrupt him except to call him to order, ask leave to explain or make explanation. The one allowed to explain, shall confine himself strictly to an actual misunderstanding of language which may need explanation.

24. No member shall speak more than twice, or longer than fifteen minutes at each time, on any question without leave of the Moderator, which leave shall be granted without debate.

25. All committees may be named by the Moderator, by request of the conference.

26. The member first named on a committee shall be its chairman to call the committee together, but after it is convened the committee may elect its own chairman and secretary.

27. Voting shall be done by standing up when a vote is close, or when it becomes necessary to count the affirmative and negative, and in special cases by ballot.

28. The Moderator, in case of a tie, may cast the deciding vote.

29. All members should vote on one side or the other, unless excused by the Moderator.

30. No motion, discussion, or other business, shall be admitted while the vote is being taken.

31. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the Moderator and the clerk.

W. R. Stallard, Chairman.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes.—I. Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things the only begotten Son of God, born of the virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of heaven at the last day to judge both quick and dead.—I. Tim. 2:5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16. Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; I. John 2:2.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7, 8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily by transgression, fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; I. Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of heaven will condemn the children of men. it follows against all argument that all men at one time or other, are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; I. John 5:1.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II. Tim. 3:16, 17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the Gospel.—Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3-5. Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family; so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings; whereas, such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation. for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45, 65. Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:4. II. Peter 2:1; II. Thess. 2:11, 12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any of them dying in that state, shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the kingdom of God."—I. Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36, 37; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace, and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14, 15; Isa. 1:19, 20; Matt. 7:8. Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34, 35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, power or ability, which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ; believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20, 21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice farther than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly, who die in sin, unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31. Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19, 20; John 13:5-17; Jas. 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 2:38, 39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28, 29; II. Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk together in brotherly love.

We, therefore, enter into covenant as members of this church and as Christians, that we will watch over each other in love, sharing together each other's joys and sorrows; that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor omit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; that in all things we will strive to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice, to abstain from all sinful conformity to the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in all our deportment; that we will abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; that we will sustain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine of the church; that we will contribute cheerfully, according to our ability, to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor and the general spread of the Gospel.

In keeping this solemn Covenant may we ever enjoy the blessings and presence of the Great Head of the Church.

THE ORGANIZATION OF A CHURCH.

1. When any number of believers desire to be organized into a Free Will Baptist church, they are examined by one or more regular Free Will Baptist ministers in reference to their Christian character, doctrines, and ability to sustain a church. If the examination is satisfactory the applicants are organized into the church as follows: The Bible is presented as the only rule of faith and practice. The Church Covenant shall be adopted. A prayer of consecration offered. The hand of fellowship is given. Then officers are elected.

2. There shall be male members enough to fill the public offices in the church, in order that a regular discipline may be kept up.

3. After being thus constituted, they shall be at liberty out of the number of regularly ordained ministers, to choose a pastor who shall preside over them.

OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES.

The officers of a church are a board of Trustees, clerk, treasurer, deacons and deaconesses, finance committee and pastor.

Board of Trustees.—The duty of the trustees shall be to hold title to all property, either in fee or gift, and to maintain all rights to same, to convey said property in the discretion of a four-fifths majority of those present at a regular quarterly meeting, being previously announced at said church three months prior to said meeting.

Clerk.—It is the duty of the clerk to keep a church book and in it record the Church Covenant, the names of the members, and all the proceedings of the church, in the exercise of its discipline and management of its temporal affairs. He also signs all the letters and other communications made by authority of the church.

Treasurer.—The treasurer shall be entrusted with the funds of the church, and it shall be his duty to keep a regular account of all the money received, and from whom, and make report of the same annually to the church, or oftener if necessary, which funds shall be drawn on the treasurer only by the order of church.

Deacons.—The deacons are elected for life or during good behavior. They should be men distinguished among their brethren for piety and benevolence. Before entering upon the duties of their office they are ordained by the pastors or other regular minister. Ordination consisting of charge, laying on of hands and prayer. It is their duty to serve at the Lord's table, to distribute of the bounty of the church among its needy members, to visit the sick, to assist the pastor in promoting order in attendance upon the means of grace, to see that an efficient Scripture discipline be enforced in the church, and to conduct religious meetings in the absence of the pastor.

Deaconesses.—They assist the deacons and the finance committee, in visiting the sick, in collecting funds and distributing among the needy members, and enforcing proper discipline among the female members.

Finance Committee.—These have the general management of the finances of the church, subject to the church's control.

Pastor.—Each church elects its own pastor out of the regularly ordained ministers, upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the parties themselves. It is the pastor's duty faithfully to preach the Word, to have the general superintendence of the church, to be himself an example to the flock, to visit the members, especially the sick as he has the opportunity, and to do all within his power to promote the religious interest of the church which he serves, and to advance the cause of Christ among men.

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.

Any person who gives evidence of a change of a heart, professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and has been immersed by a proper administrator, church covenant read, explained and accepted is received to membership by a vote of the church.

From other churches immersed persons are received by letter. No one, against whom any valid objection is made is received to membership. When any member rejects to the reception of an applicant, the matter is deferred until the church can ascertain the nature of the objection. If, in the opinion of the church, the objection is not a valid one, the applicant may be received. Excluded members are received again only when they confess their errors and give evidence of repentance. Persons excluded from other churches are not received, unless it be made evident that they were excluded upon justifiable grounds. The hand of fellowship is extended to all who are received into the membership of the church.

DISMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Only members in good standing are dismissed from the church, and these for no other reason than to unite with some other church. Such members receive letters of honorable dismission and commendation, but are under the watch care of the same church until they are received into some other. A withdrawal without such letter of commendation is equivalent to excommunication, and treated as such by the church.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH.

Each church meets as often as practicable for the public worship of God.

The times of celebrating the Lord's Supper, washing feet, and of business meetings are arranged by each local church to suit its own convenience.

Each church is required to observe the ordinances. Feet washing follows the Lord's Supper.

Conference or business meetings are opened and closed with suitable devotional exercises. The pastor acts as moderator of the business meetings of the church. In the absence of the pastor the church may meet when necessary and attend to ordinary church business; but no member is excluded in the absence of the pastor.

THE MINISTRY

No member of our connection shall be at liberty to take upon himself the public ministry of the Word, unless he feels divinely called, and make report of the same to the church, to which he belongs, and if the church shall be satisfied with his qualifications, and call of such person, then she may grant said person the liberty to exercise his or her gifts by exhortation, for twelve months, or near it.

2. If they prove satisfactory to the church, then the church may recommend them to the Quarterly meeting, which may grant them license to preach the Gospel, for twelve months, or near it, with all the privileges of the Free Will Baptist denomination, except baptism, pastoring churches, and the ordinances of the Lord's house. And if they prove satisfactory to the Quarterly meeting, then they may recommend said person to the Yearly meeting for ordination.

3. The ordaining council must be appointed by the Yearly meeting. Not less than three nor more than five ordained ministers, for a period of twelve months. Any three may legally transact the business of examining the applicants for ordination.

4. When a minister of another denomination, wishes to unite with the Free Will Baptist, he or she must first join the church. Then the proceedings are the same as with licentiates.

5. Any ministers leaving the Free Will Baptist Church and desiring to be reinstated, shall be dealt with as though they had never belonged to the church.

6. If a minister becomes disorderly, or preaches a doctrine contrary to the Free Will Baptist faith, the minister may at once be called to question by the church offended. They must be given a fair and impartial trial, by evidence mainly by the Free Will Baptist members, if the charges shall be sustained, they shall be dealt with, as follows:

The church having the exclusive right to deal with the ministers under their care.

If the charges are against a licentiate, it must be reported to the Quarterly meeting, and their decision shall be final.

If the charges are against an ordained minister, then the Quarterly meeting shall report to, or call the ordaining council together, and they shall try the case, and their decision shall be final.

7. Any ordained minister of the Free Will Baptist may serve the church in the absence of the pastor, in every Gospel order required of him by the church.

J. G. Kennedy,
F. J. Kennedy,
W. R. Stallard.

5" 4/10H

