

DERWOOD YATES
ROUTE 2, BOX 156
GOESBURN, VA. 24239

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Pewther Chapel Church

DICKENSON COUNTY, VA.
September 9, 10, 11, 12, 1926

AYDEN, N C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
1926

PROCEEDINGS

The Fourth Annual Session of the John Thomas Yearly Meeting convened with Pewther Chapel on Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1926. The introductory sermon was preached by W. R. Stallard. Text, Psalms 119:129.

ENROLLMENT OF DELEGATES

Wise County Quarterly Meeting: E. J. Killgore, W. B. Powers, C. A. Robinette, W. M. Ramey, A. L. Prater, S. W. Scalf, J. W. Dickenson, J. J. Gilley, W. M. Musick and Mary Johnson.

Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting: Hulda Powers, E. R. Powers, N. H. Stanley, U. S. G. Mead, Malery Slemph, J. P. Reedy, Ortenia Stanley and Julia Powers.

After the enrollment of delegates we proceeded to elect officers of the Yearly Meeting as follows: W. R. Stallard, Moderator; W. R. Bise, Clerk; and J. W. Dickenson, Treasurer.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Business Committee, U. S. G. Mead, N. H. Stanley and C. H. Johnson. To Settle with the Treasurer, E. A. Reedy, C. A. Robinette and J. J. Gilley.

On Supply of Pulpit, Mattie Bise, Hulda Powers and Mamie Ball.

Sunday School Committee: E. M. Green, J. M. Hays and F. T. Kennedy.

On Next Session: U. S. G. Mead, J. J. Gilley and S. W. Scalf.

Moved and carried that we adjourn until 9 o'clock Friday. Preaching at 8 o'clock P. M., by J. M. Hayes and C. A. Robinette, Text Acts 12:5.

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS

Wise County Quarterly Meeting: W. R. Stallard, E. M. Green, T. J. Davenport, J. M. Hays, J. F. Welch, C. A. Robinette, C. H. Johnson, S. M. McFall, L. J. Fields and H. V. Johnson.

Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting: F. T. Kennedy, J. G. Kennedy, E. A. Reedy, W. R. Bise and W. J. Keith.

FRIDAY

Met according to adjournment. Reading and prayer by W. R. Bise. We then took up the work of the Yearly Meeting.

Report of Wise County Quarterly Meeting read and its character passed good.

Report of Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting read and its character passed good.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Business Committee reports No. 1 and No. 2 read and adopted.

The Committee to settle with treasurer reports \$54.40 in the treasury.

The report of the Committee on Sunday schools read and received.

The Committee on Next Session reports that it will be held with Big Spring Church in Wise County.

Moved and carried that we adjourn until 2:30 P. M. Preaching at 11 A. M., by R. S. Ball and E. T. Kennedy, Text, Gallatians 6:7-8.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to adjournment. Reading and prayer by C. A. Robinette.

Report from the Sandy Valley Yearly Meeting read and received.

APPOINTMENT OF CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS

To the Sandy Valley Yearly Meeting, W. R. Bise, J. F. Elliott and F. T. Kennedy.

To Clinch Valley Yearly Meeting, J. H. Hays, T. J. Davenport and C. H. Johnson.

Moved and carried that we have 500 minutes printed.

Appointed W. R. Stallard as evangelist for Wise County Quarterly Meeting and E. A. Reedy for Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting.

Preaching at 3 P. M. by J. G. Kennedy and R. J. Wampler. Text not given.

Preaching at 8 P. M. by E. A. Reedy and J. F. Welch. Text, Daniel 2:44.

Moved and carried that we adjourn until Thursday before the Second Sunday in September, 1927, to convene with Big Spring Church, Wise County, Virginia.

W. R. Stallard, Moderator.
W. R. Bise, Clerk.

SATURDAY

Preaching at 11 A. M. by W. R. Stallard and W. J. Keith. Text Ecclesiastes 12:14.

Preaching at 3 P. M. by Leonard Fields and T. J. Davenport. Text, 1 Samuel 17:29.

Preaching at 8 P. M. by W. R. Bise and C. A. Robinette. Text, 1 Samuel 15:22.

Preaching Sunday by E. A. Reedy and S. M. McFall. Text not given.

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORTS

Report of the Wise County Quarterly Meeting to the John Thomas Association: We have 12 churches and 20 ministers with a membership of 696. Value of church property \$12,500. We have 11 Sunday schools with an enrollment of 250 scholars. We have chose to represent us in the Association the following delegates: J. J. Gilley, C. S. Spinks, Will Ramey, W. B. Powers, J. W. and J. M. Dickinson, E. J. Killgore, W. S. Powers, Dock James, L. F. Brewer, Arthur Castile, John Searbary, Tom Blevins, Syd Robins, C. A. Robinette, J. M. Sandaws, S. W. Scalf, W. M. Music, A. L. Prator, E. M. Day, Tilda Hensley, Alla Ervin, Mattie Cox, Mrs. Martha Taylor, James Williams, Henderson Addington, Marie Whitead, Daniel Hays,

W. W. Adams, Wilbert Bradley, Mary Tompson, Ed Pate, H. U. Addington, Fred Hall and Hattie McConnell.

C. A. Robinette, Clerk
W. R. Stallard, Moderator.

Report of Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting. We have Seven churches with a membership of 225. We have nine preachers. Value of church property \$5000.00. At our last quarterly meeting all our churches were in good standing.

W. R. Bise, Moderator
T. E. Bise, Clerk.

LETTER FROM SANDY VALLEY ASSOCIATION

To the John Thomas Association of Free Will Baptists, Greetings: We, the Sandy Valley Association of Free Will Baptists now in session with Clinch View Church, in Russell County, Va. do elect and send as corresponding messengers to your conference, Elds. R. Seymour Ball and R. J. Wampler and Bros. John Sanders, G. W. Presley, G. H. Fuller and Sisters Afolá A. Ball and Mary Presley. Our standing is as follows: Two Q. M. Boundaries; nine local churches with a membership of 307. Ordained ministers 15, all in good fellowship. Our church work is flourishing very well, have had a very good increase the past year.

Our next association will be held with Little Star Church, Richlands, Tazewell County, Va. A cordial invitation to you all, asking your prayers for our young association and all of our people. We prayerfully submit this correspondence.

J. E. Absher, Moderator
R. Seymour Ball, Clerk.

The Business Committee wishes to submit the following: 1. That we retain our By-laws and present minutes as they are with added work of this association. 2. We offer the following: That each pastor within this Association Bound, instruct their churches in writing to make their request to their Q. M. then from the Q. M. to the Association.

U. S. G. Mead, Chairman.

The Sunday School Committee recommends that our pastors make an earnest effort to keep a live Sunday school in each church.

E. M. Green, Chairman.

MINISTERS CONFERENCE

W. R. Stallard was elected Moderator and W. R. Bise, Clerk. We then took up the character of our ministers and their reports.

The following ministers character were passed and with report. Wise County Quarterly Meeting, W. R. Stallard, C. H. Johnson, J. F. Welch, Sylvan Wilson, W. B. Galloway, J. M. Hays, T. J. Fields, C. C. Wright, E. M. Green, H. V. Johnson, Della Salyer, H. C. Ausbon and J. M. Sheets.

Dickinson County Quarterly Meeting, W. R. Bise, E. A. Reedy and J. G. Kennedy.

The following ministers, character were passed without a report:
C. A. Robinette, S. M. McFall, John Cook, I. N. Mills, J. M. Hays, Jr., Joe Patterson, Hiny Smith, F. T. Kennedy, T. J. Davenport, W. J. Keith, D. L. Smith, S. P. Davis, Troy Robertson and A. F. Hughes.

ORDAINING COUNCILS

Wise County Quarterly Meeting: H. V. Johnson, S. M. McFall and W. R. Stallard.

Dickinson County Q. M.: E. A. Reedy, W. R. Bise and A. F. Hughes.
W. R. Stallard, Moderator
W R. Bise, Clerk.

REPORTS OF MINISTERS

W. R. Stallard, Big Stone Gap, Va., Route 1, Box 146. Preached 74 sermons, labored in three revivals, witnessed 10 conversions, received 11 into the church, married four couples, conducted two funeral services, officiated in one memorial service, travelled 300 miles, organized one church with the assistance of Revs. John Cook and Sylyan Wilson, received by gift and donation \$86.90, pastored one church for seven months, visited and preached to all the churches in the Wise County Q. M. except one, attended many prayer meetings, taught many S. S. Lessons from the Bible, and delivered seven S. S. addresses.

J. F. Welch—I have tried to preach about 31 times, pastored two churches part of the year, travelled about 158 miles, conducted and helped to conduct four funeral services, some prayer services, assisted a very little in two revivals, received \$13.15 cash and about \$7.50 in other donations.

J. M. Sheets, Norton, Va.—Pastored one church, travelled 115 miles, preached 33 sermons, preached one funeral, conducted four burial services, married six couples, gave several talks in Sunday schools, donated \$2.00 to Sunday schools and \$3.00 to the church.

Mrs. Della Salyer, Dorchester, Va.—Preached 65 sermons and 12 funerals, conducted two revivals, witnessed 12 conversions, superintended one Sunday school, travelled 98 miles, received \$112.95, travelling expenses \$125.00.

Sylvan Wilson, Big Stone Gap, Va.—I have preached 72 sermons, witnessed seven conversions, received four into the church, baptized eight, held three revivals and worked in one, pastored one church and was assistant pastor of one, preached five funerals, received \$26.75, travelled about 600 miles, attended several prayer meetings and may God bless all our work.

H. C. Ausbon, Clear Creek, Va., Preached 30 sermons, travelled 100 miles, married four couples, received \$5.00 and donated \$50.00 to the cause. My health has been bad for the past year. Though this outward man may grow weaker, the inward man is renewed day by day. I can tell you all truthfully that I am living in readiness. "Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life". Pray for me.

E. M. Green, Wise, Va., Route 1, Box 57.—I have preached 25 sermons, labored in four revival meetings, witnessed nine conversions, helped to organize one Sunday school, received two members into the church, celebrated two marriages, travelled about 200 miles and conducted four burial services.

W. R. Bise, Millard, Va.—I have preached about 35 sermons, attended one burial service, superintended one Sunday school and donated \$10.00 to the church.

L. J. Fields, West Norton, Va.—I have pastored two churches, preached 37 sermons, received three into the church, conducted four funerals and received \$8.50.

C. H. Johnson, Wise, Va.—I have pastored one church, organized one church by the aid of Troy Robinson, conducted two funerals, united four couples in marriage and baptized four.

H. V. Johnston—I have pastored two churches, preached 71 sermons, held one revival, travelled 840 miles, donated \$30.00 for church buildings, and received \$5.35.

J. G. Kennedy, Nasbie, Va.—I preached about 200 sermons, travelled about 2500 miles, engaged in four protracted meetings, witnessed about 75 professions, preached eight memorial sermons, helped organize one church, pastored three churches, directed the construction of two church buildings, donated one church bell, received \$1010 from one church, received \$500.00.

J. M. Hayes, Clear Creek, Va.—I preached 50 sermons, conducted two funerals, assisted in four funerals, witnessed one conversion, travelled about 200 miles, received fifty cents donation, donated \$5.00 for benevolent purposes and pastored one church.

E. A. Reedy—I preached about 80 sermons, baptized two and received two into the fellowship of the church, pastored one church, married five couples, preached 10 funerals, travelled 500 miles.

W. B. Galloway, Big Stone Gap, Va.—Pastored one church, preached 59 sermons, preached three memorial sermons, helped baptize nine, took part in nine funerals, Superintended one Sunday school, received five into the church, labored in three revivals, witnessed four conversions, attended about 40 prayer meetings, travelled about 322 miles.

OBITUARIES

MALONE—Rev. Brother N. F. Malone was born October 11, 1866 and died May 26, 1925. He professed faith in Christ in early life and entered the ministry in June, 1907. He lived a faithful life until he was called beyond. He spent 19 years in the ministry of the gospel and fell on the battlefield of service. He leaves a wife and eleven children to mourn their loss.

STALLARD.—S. J. Stallard, wife of H. B. Stallard was born Feb. 7, 1846 and departed this life March 16, 1926, age 80 years, one month and nine days. She was the mother of 11 children, seven boys and four girls. All are still living except two boys and one girl. Mother professed faith in Christ in early age. She united with the Free Will Baptist church at

Sugartree Gap and was baptized 45 years ago. She lived a faithful christian until death.

She had the pleasure of raising all her children to a mature age except two who died quite young. God, in his providence, saw fit to call three of her children to the gospel ministry. Two did service for the American S. S. Union for 13 years. She would do anything to make us happy and how we children miss her.

She was a lover of good books until her last hours. She read many of my good books and would look up with rejoicing tears in her eyes and say, what good reading this is. But mother left all her tears on this side of the river and has gone to meet father, Jimmie and sister and to live with God and the angels where sad parting comes no more.

Mother, tell me, did you meet father? is he on that blissful shore? Tell me mother, where is brother and sister, are they waiting for us to come?

This is written in memory of one of the sweetest mothers who ever lived, for the greatest of care for the ones who are gone.

W. R. Stallard.

STIDHAM—Sister Ellen Stidum was born in Scott County in the year 1859 and died May 6, 1926. Sister Ellen was united in marriage to Brother John Stidham. She was the mother of three children. Several months before her death she was afflicted with cancer of the liver and her suffering was very great but she bore it all patiently, and often expressed herself as being ready when ever the death summons should come. She was a faithful member of the Big Spring Free Will Baptist Church. She leaves a host of friends and relatives to mourn her loss, but if they will hold on to God's unchanging hand they will meet sister Ellen in Heaven above.

Big Stone Gap, Va., Route One.

Written by W. B. G.

HAMILTON—Brother Scuyler S. Hamilton was born near Esserville, Va., December 16, 1856, died January 30, 1926, age 69 years. In 1897 he was married to Clearenda Gilly and to their union were born eight children, all living. Brother Hamilton was a devoted christian and always took great interest in Sunday School work. He was a member of the Methodist church for several years, but on July the 5, 1925 he joined the Big Spring Free Will Baptist church and was baptized on that date, and lived a faithful christian life. He loved to talk about the Psalmist David and also to tell of his rich Christian experience and the hope he had in reaching Heaven. On Wednesday January 27, he suffered a stroke of paralysis and never regained conscienceness died Saturday January 30th, about 6:30 p. m. The Church and community lost one of its best citizens and members. To know Brother Hamilton was to love him.

He leaves to mourn his loss his faithful wife, eight children and the community at large.

Written by W. B. Galloway, Big Stone Gap, Va.

CHANDLER—Sister Dona Chandler was born March 20, 1893, departed from this life June 26, 1926. She was born in Scott County, Va.

She was united in marriage to Brother Elbert Chandler in the year 1907, and to their union were born six children all living.

Sister Dona was a faithful member of the Big Spring Free Will Baptist church and lived a true Christian life. On Saturday evening June 26, she fell dead in her yard. A physician was called and he thought her death was due to heart trouble.

She leaves her husband and six children and a large host of friends and relatives.

To know sister Dona was to love her.

May God's Richest Blessings rest upon all the bereaved ones until they meet sister Dona in Heaven.

Written by W. B. Galloway, Big Stone Gap, Va., Route One.

BY-LAWS OF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

1. There shall be a Ministers' Conference held annually in connection with the Yearly Meeting.
2. The object of the Ministerial Conference is to discuss points of doctrine, and examine the Christian character of the ministers.
3. Every minister in the John Thomas Yearly Meeting is required to attach themselves to the Ministers' Conference and must be governed by the rules and regulations of the Ministers' Conference.
4. Every Minister belonging to the Conference is required to report themselves to the Conference annually, either in person or by letter or both.
5. Any minister failing to report for two years in succession without a reasonable excuse shall be reprimanded and if they still disregard this requirement they may be dismissed from the Conference.
6. Any minister moving to another Yearly Meeting shall take a letter of dismission and commendation so that they may properly unite themselves to the Yearly Meeting where they move.

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.

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, doctrine, 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 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 a 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 the 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 pastor 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 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 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 objects 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 unjustifiable 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. *at first,*

Conference or business meetings are opened and closed with suitable devotional exercise. 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 business; but no member is excluded in the absence of the pastor.

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.

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; Johr 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; 1 John 5:1, 10.

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.

