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A. L. C.

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

John Thomas Yearly Meeting

HELD WITH

Rugby Church

DICKENSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

September 6-9, 1928.

Ayden, N. C.
Free Will Baptist Press
1929

PROCEEDINGS

The John Thomas Yearly Meeting met with the Rugby Church, Dickerson County, Va., September 6-9, 1928. The introductory sermon was preached by F. T. Kenady. Text not given.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Met at 2 P. M. Reading by W. R. Bise. Prayer by H. M. Smith. We then proceeded to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

Enrollment of Delegates:—J. B. Kiser, U. S. G. Mead, J. P. Reedy, J. J. Gilla, C. W. Dickinson, Charlie Mead, Eva Smith, Mattie Rose, Frances Dickenson, Olivia Stanley, Luther Casteel, J. F. Blevins, Jet Dotson, Edd Pate, E. J. Kilgore.

Election of Officers:—W. R. Stallard was elected Moderator; W. R. Bise, Clerk; and J. W. Dickenson, Treasurer.

Enrollment of Ministers:—The following were present: W. R. Stallard, S. M. McFall, J. M. Hays, F. T. Kenady, H. M. Smith, D. L. Smith, W. B. Galloway, C. A. Robbinett, C. H. Johnson, A. L. Dingus, Albert Dingus, J. F. Welch, Mack Gardner, and J. C. Rasnake.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

Business.—J. B. Kiser, W. B. Galloway, S. M. McFall.

Supply of Pulpit.—F. T. Kenady, Charley Stanley, D. L. Smith.

Sunday School.—C. A. Robbinett, J. M. Hays, H. M. Smith.

Next Session.—U. S. G. Mead, H. M. Smith, C. W. Dickinson.

Moved and carried that we adjourn till 9 A. M. Friday.

Preaching at 3:30, by J. C. Rasnake, C. A. Robbinett, and A. L. Dingus.
Text: John 3:15.

Preaching at 8 P. M. by J. L. Welch, W. B. Galloway, and H. M. Smith.
Text: Luke 23:4.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Met according to adjournment. Reading by W. R. Stallard. Prayer by Bro. Collins. We then took up the work of the yearly meeting.

1. The Quarterly Meeting Reports.—By move and second, the Dickenson County quarterly was laid over. Wise County Quarterly Report: Received and passed the report.

Moved and carried that the By-Laws of Wise County Quarterly Meeting be printed in our minutes.

Reports of Committees previously appointed: Reports No. 1 and 2 were adopted.

The report of the Temperance Committee was adopted.

Report of Committee on Next Session:—The committee reports that the next session be held with Mary's Chapel, Coeburn, Va., commencing on Thursday before the Second Sunday in September 1929.

The Sunday School committee made no report.

Corresponding Messengers called for. Received report from Sandy Val-

ley Yearly Meeting by the hands of Bros. B. W. Presly, John Sanders, J. C. Rasnake, Mary Rasnake and Mary Presly.

Report of Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting, received and passed its character.

The following Corresponding Messengers were appointed: To Sandy Valley Quarterly Meeting: J. M. Hays, W. R. Bise, A. L. Dingus, J. B. Kiser, W. R. Stallard, F. T. Kenady and E. A. Reedy.

Moved and carried that we adjourn till 2 P. M.

Preaching at 11 A. M. by Mack Gardner, and S. M. McFall. Text: Rev. 22:12.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Met according to adjournment. Reading by W. R. Stallard. Prayer by Arthur Casteen.

Report as to changing Art. 6 of our 1927 minutes.

Moved and carried that our ministers have the right to elect officers.

Moved and carried that any Free Will Baptist, being present at any business meeting be invited to a seat in our council.

Corresponding Messenger to Clinch Valley Quarterly Meeting: J. M. Hays.

Moved and carried that we adjourn till 9 A. M. Saturday.

Preaching at 3:30 P. M. by C. H. Johnson, W. R. Bise, and J. M. Hays. Text: Matt. 19:20. Preaching at 8 P. M. by S. P. Davis, Albert Dingus and R. Powers. Text: Rev. 22:14.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Met according to adjournment. Reading by W. R. Bise. Prayer by W. B. Galloway.

Moved and carried that we have 1,000 minutes printed.

Moved and carried that we adjourn till Thursday before the Second Sunday in September 1929.

W. R. STALLARD, Moderator.

W. R. BISE, Clerk.

Preaching Saturday at 11 A. M. by E. A. Reedy and J. C. Rasnake. Text not given. Preaching at 3:30 by S. M. McFall and J. M. Anderson. Text: Heb. 3:15. Preaching at 8:00 P. M. by W. R. Stallard, Ben Powers and H. M. Smith. Text: Heb. 12:1.

Sunday:—Preaching at 11 A. M. by J. C. Rasnake, C. A. Robinett, and M. Hubbard. Text: Psalms 50:1.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

E. A. Reedy was elected moderator, and W. R. Bise, Clerk.

Moved and carried that the clerk have the right to change any misspelled word.

Moved and carried that we adjourn till 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. We then took up the character of our

ministers and passed on them all at once, and then received their reports.

Moved and carried that the clerk write all absent ministers.

R. A. Powers was elected Evangelist.

Ordaining Council, Wise County: W. R. Stallard, S. M. McFall, H. M. Smith.

Ordaining Council, Dickenson County: A. F. Hughes, W. R. Bise, D. L. Smith.

E. A. REEDY, Moderator.

W. R. BISE, Clerk.

REPORTS OF MINISTERS.

W. R. Bise, Millard, Va.:—Preached 40 sermons, pastored 1 church, moderator of three quarterly meetings, yearly meeting clerk for one year, helped to baptize 5, conducted two funeral services.

Monroe Hubbard, Wise, Va.:—Dear Bro. Bise, I will try to give my report for last year. I have pastored 2 churches, preached about 55 sermons, gave to the cause of Christ about \$45.00, received \$5.00. Brethren pray for me.

Albert Dingus, Jenkins, Ky.:—I have tried to preach about 60 sermons, attended one burial, helped in 3 revivals, witnessed 3 conversions, was assistant pastor of one church, traveled about 200 miles. Brethren pray for me.

P. L. Anderson, Appalachia, Va.:—I have organized 2 Sunday Schools, helped in 3 revivals, took part in one memorial service, helped baptize 18, preached 8 funerals.

S. M. McFall, Coeburn, Va.:—I have pastored 2 churches, preached 71 sermons, held one revival with the assistance of Rev. W. R. Stallard, with the result of 51 conversions, baptized 14, received 45 into the church, conducted 39 funerals, 2 memorial services, 5 Odd Fellow sermons, married 2 couples, traveled 1140 miles, received \$170.00.

J. A. Hood, Big Stone Gap, Va., R. F. D. 1, Box 173:—To the John Thomas Association of Free Will Baptist, to convene with the church at Rugby, Dickenson County, Va.:—Greetings to the brethren at Rugby Church which compose our Annual Meeting: I hope that you all will have a good meeting and a joyous time in the service of God.

I am sorry that my circumstances are such that I cannot be with you all. I will give you a report of my work for the past year: I have pastored one church, helped to run three Sabbath Schools, held 2 revivals, helped in two other revivals, witnessed several church communions, received 3 into the church, dismissed from the church 5, baptized 4, preached 68 sermons, received \$4.50, spent \$1.00 for church expenses. Your brother in Christ.

D. L. Smith, Nasbie, Va.:—Preached 67 sermons, pastored one church, witnessed 14 conversions, helped in 2 revivals, conducted one prayer meeting service, conducted 4 burial services, received 8 into the church, baptized 6, married one couple. Brethren, pray for me, that I may finish my work in righteousness.

W. B. Galloway, Big Stone Gap, Va., Route 1, Box 50:—I have preached

32 sermons, helped baptize 2, labored in one revival, took part in two memorial services, witnessed two conversions, superintended one Sunday School, took part in five funerals, and traveled about 247 miles.

H. M. Smith, Lyons, Va.:—I have preached 85 sermons, labored in two revivals, witnessed 17 conversions, received 12 into the church, baptized 9, preached two funerals, attended 22 burial services, pastored one church.

S. P. Doris, Trace Fork, Va.:—I have preached about 75 sermons, conducted about 17 burials and 3 funeral services, helped baptize 3, conducted a few prayer services. I desire the prayers of God's people.

C. H. Johnson, Foraker, Va.:—I have preached 75 sermons, pastored two churches, baptized 3, attended 3 burials, married 3 couples, received 17 into the church.

R. A. Powers, Toms Creek, Va.:—I have preached 100 sermons, conducted 4 revivals, witnessed 28 conversions, baptized 7, organized 2 churches, conducted 17 funeral services, traveled 900 miles, received \$25.00 donations, pastored one church.

C. A. Robbinette, Wise, Va.:—I have preached 108 sermons, witnessed 3 conversions, labored in three revivals, conducted one burial service, received 3 into the church, baptized 9, received about \$50.00 by gifts and donations, traveled about 935 miles, pastored two churches.

A. L. Dingus, Burdine, Ky.:—From April 21 to September 8, 1928, I have preached about 29 sermons, traveled about 191 miles, baptized 2, assisted the pastor of one church, conducted the prayer meeting in my home church.

J. M. Hays, Clear Creek, Va., Box 84:—To the Wise County Yearly Meeting: I have preached 75 sermons, had 35 conversions, held five burials, conducted 4 prayer meetings, attended 4 funeral services, made 4 Sunday School addresses, received \$35.00, donated \$8.50. May the Lord prosper us in his warfare.

W. H. Powers, Jenkins, Ky.:—I have preached 75 sermons, attended one burial, one memorial service, baptized one, helped in 4 revivals, witnessed 6 conversions, assisted pastoring 2 churches, traveled 250 miles. Brethren, pray for me that I may bear my cross and receive a crown.

B. R. Powers, Jenkins, Ky.:—I wish to submit the following report: I have preached 125 sermons, attended three burials, baptized 2, helped in 4 revivals, witnessed 8 conversions, pastored one church, helped organize one church, have traveled about 300 miles. Brethren, pray for me, that while this outward man perish, the inward man be renewed day by day, and that I may fight the good fight of faith and receive a crown.

W. R. Stallard, Big Stone Gap, Va., Route 1, Box 146:—I have preached 204 sermons, witnessed 127 conversions, conducted 9 revival meetings, held three funeral services, 2 memorial services; received 43 members into the churches, baptized 19, moderated 4 quarterly meetings, and one yearly meeting, organized 2 churches, married one couple, received by gifts and donations \$299.42, traveled 1,024 miles, organized 2 prayer meetings. Your Evangelist for the Wise County Quarterly Meeting. See Gal. 6:9.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Report of Temperance Committee:—We your committee on Temperance wish to submit the following: That our people abstain from all alcoholic drinks, public swimming pools, theatre going, dance halls, card playing and all worldly amusements, which are blighting the lives of our people so rapidly.

S. M. McFALL, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Business:—We, the Business Committee, hereby present the following resolutions:

1. That the chairman of the Ordaining Council shall be supplied with the proper forms to be given to the ministers when they are ordained, and also for licentiates, and that they shall properly be signed by the members of the ordaining council with pen and ink.

2. We also recommend that the conference give the clerk the right to order 24 ordination certificates and 24 licentiates cards; and that said certificates and cards shall be paid for out of the minute funds and be given to Ordaining Council.

J. B. KISER, Chairman.

Report of the Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting.

We, the Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting, now in session with Ferbie church, have elected the following delegates: Eva Smith, Mattie Rose, Orleina Stanley, M. H. Stanley, Geo. Rose, Rufus Yates, U. S. G. Mead, E. R. Powers, Huldah Powers, Emory Powers, Julia Powers, Winnie Powers, Bill Dotson, J. T. Dotson, Charlie Mead and J. P. Reedy.

We have 9 churches with a membership of 278. We have added two new churches. We have 14 ministers, all in good standing. Value of church property \$6,000.00.

W. R. STALLARD, Mod.

N. H. STANLEY, Clerk.

W. R. BISE, Clerk pro. tem.

Report of the Sandy Valley Association.

Venia, Va., Aug. 25, 1928.

To the John Thomas Association of Free Will Baptist to convene with Rugby Church, Dickenson County, Thursday before the Second Sunday in September 1928.

Greeting: We, the Sandy Valley Association of Free Will Baptist, now in conference session with Austin Chapel Church at Venia, Buchanan County, Va., do elect our brothers and sisters as corresponding messengers to be with you in your conference: namely, John Sanders, B. W. Presly, G. W. Presly, Mary N. Presley, Mary A. Rasnake, J. C. Rasnake.

Our standing is as follows: Two quarterly meeting boundaries, eight local churches, with a membership of 231, 14 ordained ministers, all in good fellowship. Our next association will be held with Fuller's Chapel, Russell

County, Va. Rail road station, Drill, Va. on Thursday before the 4th Sunday in August, 1929.

A cordial invitation is extended to you all to be with us, asking the prayers of you all.

We prayerfully submit this correspondence.

SANDY VALLEY ASSOCIATION.

J. C. RASNAKE, Mod.

S. E. BROOKS, Clerk.

Report from the Wise County Quarterly Meeting.

To the John Thomas Association, from the 6th to the 9th of September, 1928: We have 13 churches and 22 ministers, with a membership of 572. Value of church property \$13,000. We have 10 Sunday Schools with an enrollment of 707 scholars. We have chosen to represent us in this association, the following delegates from each church; namely,

Wilson's Chapel:—Syd Robins and J. L. Sanders.

Dale's Ridge:—Edd Culberson, Dock James.

Hopkins Chapel:—Emmitt Day, Tilda Hencely.

Ramsey Church:—C. A. Strickland and T. H. Dixon.

Mountain View:—E. M. Green and W. B. Powers.

Mary's Chapel:—J. B. Kiser and E. J. Kilgore.

West Norton:—Rosa Stergill and D. A. Stallard.

Cherry Grove:—H. U. Addington, and Edd Pate.

Big Spring:—J. J. Gilly and C. W. Dickenson.

Union Church:—Arthur Castile and John Scarberry.

Stephens Chapel:—Mattie Cox and Margaret Wheatley.

Bowens Chapel:—C. C. Colton and Emily Hood.

We furthermore recommend our beloved brother, P. L. Anderson, to your Yearly Meeting Ordaining Council, to be ordained and preach the Gospel.

C. A. Robinette, Clerk.

Addition to By-Laws, During Past Year, Adopted April 8, 1928.

1. We, the Business Committee, resolved that our clerk keep a full record of all business transactions, and keep the name of each preacher with the text and time and place, and the result of each service during the four quarterly meetings, and have this printed in our minutes, showing a complete record of the full years work, also the courtesy shown to us by the people at each quarterly conference.

MONROE HUBBARD, Chm.

2. Be it resolved, That any pastor, expecting pastoral work, and failing to do his duty as pastor, or failing to call the church in council and elect a pastor in August, shall not have his character passed in the Ministers' Conference.

Signed by Business Committee,

J. J. GILLEY,

C. C. COLTON,

E. J. KILGORE.

3. We, your Sunday School Committee, do recommend that each church abide by the resolution set forth in our new minutes, that each church not having a Sunday School, use every effort to organize one, as we believe the writing of the old praphet: "Train up your children in the way you would have them go, and when they get old they will not depart from it.

MONROE HUBBARD, Chm.

**NAMES OF CHURCHES WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE PASTORS
AND ADDRESSES.**

Pardee.—C. A. Robinette, 1st. Sat. and Sun., Wise, Va. Route 1, Box. 57.

Ramsey.—C. A. Robinette, 2nd Sat. and Sunday, Wise, Va., Route 1, Box 57.

Dale's Ridge.—C. A. Robinette, 3rd Sat. and Sun., Wise, Va., R. 1, Box 57.

West Norton.—C. A. Robinette, 4th Sat. and Sun., Wise, Va., R. 1, Box 57.

Hopkins Chapel.—Monroe Hubbard, Wise, Va., Route 1.

Stevens Chapel.—Monroe Hubbard, Wise, Va., Route 1.

Mountain View.—Monroe Hubbard, Wise, Va., Route 1.

Big Spring.—Sylvan Wilson, Big Stone Gap, Va.

Mary's Chapel, W. R. Stallard, Big Stone Gag, Va.

Cherry Grove.—J. G. Kenady, 3rd Saturday and Sunday.

Wilsons Chapel.—

Union.—

Bowens Chapel.—

Roaring Fork.—P. L. Anderson, Roaring Fork, Va.

OBITUARIES OF DECEASED MEMBERS.

Amandy Reedy.

Amandy Reedy was born March the 15, 1880, died March 16th 1927. She was converted about 22 years ago, and joined the Free Will Baptist church to which she lived a true Christian life. She was a woman of noble character, and she was loved by all who knew her. She is sadly missed by her relatives and friends. Her influence as a Christian in her community will never die. She leaves her husband, Rev. E. A. Reedy, and five children to mourn for mama. But the loss of these is but heaven's gain.

So live on dear Mandy,

For you are at rest;

The love of God was in your breast.

We hope to meet you some day and never part.

Written by W. R. BISE.

Mrs. Erma Jenkins.

Sister Erma Jenkins was born on March 26th, 1900, and died May 26th, 1928, age 28 years and two months. She was the mother of three children all living. She professed faith in Christ about five years ago and united with the Big Spring Free Will Baptist Church and remained a faithful member until God called her to a better home. Sister Jenkins suffered a great deal before her death but she bore it patiently and often expressed that she was ready and waiting for her Redeemer to call her home. She leaves behind her husband, three children, mother, two sisters, six brothers, and a host of friends.

We are so sad and lonely,
Since mother passed away;
But we are waiting long to meet her,
In that Resurrection day.

Big Stone Gap, Va.

W. B. GALLOWAY.

L. H. Hall.

L. H. Hall was born Jan. 1, 1862. He died Feb. 9, 1928, aged 66 years, one month and eight days. Brother L. H. Hall lived a faithful member of the Free Will Baptist church 21 years. He was ordained to preach the Gospel Oct. 8 1908. He was a faithful minister till he became disabled; but it gives us great joy to know that he departed this life trying to shout the praises of God; which he did so often when in church services, with his many relatives and friends.

Brother Hall leaves a wife and a number of children to mourn their loss, besides a host of other relatives and friends. His wife stood by him and did all she could for him till God called him home.

We miss him in his home; we miss him in the church; we miss him in the Sunday School; but he has finished his course. He, like the apostle Paul, has gone to receive his crown.

Job has declared, that man's days were numbered. We feel sure that Bro. L. H. Hall lived his number of days. We should not mourn for him as those who have no hope of meeting with him again.

May God bless his wife and children, that they may be ready to meet him when they, too have to quit the walks of men and women.

We are sad and lonely,
Since father passed away;
But we are waiting long to meet him,
In the resurrection day.

Wise, Va.

C. A. ROBINETTE.

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.

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 five 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; 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.

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