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MINUTES
OF THE
Eleventh Annual Session
OF THE
John Thomas Freewill
Baptist Association
HELD WITH
Dungannon Church
Dungannon, Virginia

SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 9, 10, 1933

The Eleventh Annual Session of the Freewill Baptist Association met with Dungannon church September 7-10, 1933, and transacted their business with same. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. A. Boatright from Revelation 21:9. Prayer by Rev. E. A. Reedy.

THURSDAY PROCEEDINGS

Conference met at 2:30 p. m. and was called to order by Arthur Casteel, former clerk; prayer by Rev. C. A. Robinette. Rev. W. R. Stallard elected Moderator, Rev. C. A. Robinette, Clerk and E. J. Kilgore treasurer.

DELEGATES

The following delegates were seated: Mrs. Carl Sauls, S. O. Meade, C. H. Meade, J. W. Dingus, Carl Sauls, Carbit Deel, Mrs. Francis Dickenson, Callie Sturgill, Mattie Wells, Chas. S. Stanley, Daniel McFall, U. S. G. Meade, John Keith, H. H. Gibson, W. H. Ramsey, Nora Ramsey, C. W. Willis, O. A. Kiser, Phoebe Kiser, E. D. Pate, Callie Blevins, Melven Killen, E. J. Kilgore, L. D. Mahan, Mrs. Carbit Deel, E. M. Rose, J. E. Perry, Rausie Meade, Glessie Mullins, W. M. Wheatley, C. O. Bowman, M. R. Shoemaker, A. C. Johnson, R. L. Hyden, and Shelby Jackson.

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS PRESENT

W. R. Stallard, E. A. Ready, J. A. Boatright, J. W. Addington, J. T. Davis, W. T. Bise, J. F. Elliott, Monroe Hubbard, Arthur Casteel, C. H. Johnson, W. R. Johnson, W. J. Keith, C. A. Robinette, H. M. Smith, W. R. Bise, W. T. Large, S. M. McFall, L. D. Mahan, E. M. Rose, J. B. Carter, Della Salyer, Ida Carter, James Hayes, H. V. Johnston, L. J. Fields, B. R. Powers, C. H. Stallard, Sylvan Wilson. Visiting ministers, W. S. Barton and Acie Lawson.

MINISTERS ABSENT

M. C. Gardner, C. C. Wright, W. B. Gallaway, A. F. Hughs, S. P. Davis, Wade Powers, Luther Strouth, Dock Kilgore, J. F. Welch, J. M. Wright, Chas. W. Isom, R. A. Powers, Troy Robinson, Albert Dingus, E. M. Green, A. L. Dingus, J. W. Dickenson, and W. F. Wright.

COMMITTEES

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

A Special Business Committee from Wise and Dickenson counties consisting of J. E. Williams, Sam Blankenbecler, E. J. Kilgore, W. M. Wheatley, and E. D. Pate from Wise county, and U. S. Meade, Carl Sauls, Melven Killen, H. D. Detona, and J. E. Perry from Dickenson county.

Committee on Supply of Pulpit: W. H. Ramsey, P. H. Osborne, and Mrs. Francis Dickenson.

Committee on Next Session: Carbit Deel, Monroe Hubbard, and W. M. Wheatley.

By motion Conference adjourned until 9 a. m. Friday, Sept. 8.
 Preaching Thursday at 8 p. m. by W. S. Barton and Acie Law-
 son. Text: St. Mark 8:25. Prayer by J. T. Davis.

Friday, September 8, 1933, Morning Session

The Conference met September 8, according to adjournment at 9 a. m. and opened by W. R. Stallard, Moderator. Scripture lesson 12th chapter of Romans. Prayer by H. M. Smith.

Enrollment of Corresponding Messengers: Carlis Presley from Sandy Valley Association and J. A. Boatright from Clinch Valley Association.

Quarterly Meeting reports called for, read and received as follows:

REPORT OF WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING

To the 11th Annual Session of the John Thomas Association, Greeting: Our statistics are as follows:

We have 19 churches with a membership 1177; 26 ordained ministers, three under watch care of the church; value of church property \$13,000.00. We have 8 Sunday Schools with an enrollment of 741 students. We have chosen the following delegates from each church to represent us:

Union, J. C. Wolfe, J. T. Blevins, and Callie Blevins.

Cherry Grove, W. H. Bradley, Walker Hall, and E. D. Pate.

Marys Chapel, W. R. Stallard, D. C. McGlothlin, E. J. Kilgore.

Dales Ridge, Jessie James, C. C. Bryant and George Jourdon.

Mt. View, Roscoe Reed and Logan Stallard.

Stevens Chapel, Sam Blankenbecler, R. L. Hyden, Geo. Falin.

Hopkins Chapel, Emmitt Day and Vonnice Day.

Wilsons Chapel, Wane Wells, Stella Wells, Charlotte Thacker.

Big Spring, John Mullins, Callie Sturgill, Francis Dickenson,

Mrs. C. L. Wells.

Happy Bottom, Charlie Reed, Vernon Kiser, and Rit Large.

Dungannon, C. E. Roberts, Will Ramsey, C. O. Bowman, and Nora Ramsey.

Ramsey, Henry Maples and Clarence Turner.

Gillenwaters Chapel, Edd Culbertson and Logan Tompson.

West Norton, J. M. Woods, Wilburn Bradley, D. A. Stallard.

Duncan Gap, Jack Malone, J. R. Clark, and Leslie Green.

Pine Camp, R. M. Evans, M. R. Shoemaker, Kelley McCoy.

Hoovers Chapel, Henry Flanary, Glessie Mullins, Joe Sarah.

Dorchester, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Ison, Prince Williams, and A. V. Woods.

Rock Lick, L. L. Arney, H. H. Gibson, and W. E. White.

Our next Quarterly Meeting will convene with the Ramsey church, two miles below Norton, Va., on Friday before the second Sunday in October 1933.

H. V. JOHNSTON, Moderator.

C. A. ROBINETTE, Clerk.

REPORT OF DICKENSON CO., QUARTERLY MEETING

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptist which will convene with the Dungannon church on Thursday before the second Sunday in September 1933.

Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting met with Rachel Chapel church on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July 1933, and elected the following delegates:

Carl Sauls, Martha M. Sauls, Carbit Deel, Stella Deel, Emery Vanover, Charley W. Isom, Ula Vanover, Wise Dingus, Albert Dingus, Melven Killen, Patsy Killen, James Wright, J. R. Belcher, Kenis Gibson, Charley Mead, Rosy Mead, U. S. G. Mead, John Keith, Aey Hughs, E. R. Paners, Cammal Willis, George Mooney, C. H. Johnson, Ida Davis, Orbe Kiser, E. M. Rose, Willie Large, Earl Dotson, C. S. Stanley, A. C. Johnson, J. E. Perry, W. H. Hanson.

We have 14 churches, two added since our last association, with membership of 525, all in good standing. We have several Sunday Schools with a large attendance. Value of church property \$7500.00. We have had several revivals since our last association with good results. We have 31 ministers all in good standing. Brethren, pray for us that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.

E. A. READY, Moderator.

N. H. STANLEY, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS

Corresponding messengers called for and received as follows:

North Tazewell, Va., R. 1, August 26, 1933.

To the Eleventh Annual Session of the John Thomas Freewill Baptist Association to convene with the Dungannon church, Greeting:

We the Sandy Valley Association now in session with Liannkis Chapel church, do send our message of love and fellowship by correspondence by Rev. D. E. Garrant, John Sanders, Rev. Stuart O. Keen, J. A. W. Hankans, and Carlis Presley.

We have 2 Quarterly Meetings; 14 churches; 19 ministers; 629 members; church property valued at \$5,000 00. Since our last report we have added 2 newly organized churches.

We extend our thanks to you all for your correspondence by E. A. Reedy, J. F. Elliott, E. J. Kilgore, Monroe Hubbard, and J. B. Carter, glad to have them with us. Our next session will be held with Russell Fork church, Council, Va. Pray you will send a large number of correspondents.

Requesting your prayers in our behalf, we are,

Yours in brotherly love,

S. E. BROOKS, Moderator.

B. W. PRESLEY, Clerk,
Council, Va.

By motion conference adjourned until 1:30 p. m.
 Preaching Friday at 11 a. m. by C. A. Robinette and Monroe Hubbard; prayer by J. W. Addington. Text: 126 Psalm, 3 verse.

Friday, September 8, 1933, Evening Session

Conference met pursuant to adjournment at 2:30 and opened by the Moderator; Scripture lesson 6 chapter Romans; prayer by Arthur Casteel.

The Clerk called the complete roll of delegates and ministers and enrolled all delegates and ministers who had recently arrived.

Moved and seconded that this Conference grant C. A. Robinette, our Clerk, the right to prepare the manuscript and have minutes printed at the best place possible as to price and quality. Also moved and seconded that an offering be taken to pay the clerk for work or especially to defray expenses of postage etc. Received \$6.60

Conference adjourned until 9 a. m. Saturday, September 9, 1933.

Preaching Friday at 7:30 p. m. by J. W. Addington and W. R. Bise, prayer by E. A. Reedy. Text: Psalms 25:6.

Saturday, September 9, 1933, Morning Session

Conference met according to adjournment, Saturday morning, September 9, 1933, and was called to order by the Moderator. Lesson read, 9 chapter I Timothy.

Moved and carried that the Moderator appoint Corresponding Messengers to the different associations. Appointments follows:

Tennessee Association, To begin Thursday before the third Sunday in August 1934, Arthur Casteel, Monroe Hubbard, J. T. Davis, E. A. Reedy, and H. V. Johnston.

Sandy Valley Association, To begin Thursday before the fourth Sunday in August 1934, W. R. Bise and J. F. Elliott.

Clinch Valley Association, To begin Thursday before the second Sunday in August 1934, W. R. Bise, Chas. S. Stanley, H. M. Smith, J. W. Addington, and W. T. Bise.

Rural Baptist Association, To begin Thursday night, 7:30 p. m. before the first Sunday in September 1934, J. F. Elliott, E. M. Rose, W. T. Large, W. E. McCoy, and G. W. Willis.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Report of committees called for, read and adopted as follows:

Business Committee. We the Special Business Committee of the Freewill Baptist Association in session at Dungannon, Virginia, appoint for a temperance talk, Saturday afternoon, W. R. Johnson. (Talk omitted for like of time); for a Sunday School talk Sunday morning after Sunday School, Corbit Reedy. The Business Committee also O. K'd. the following letter:

North Tazewell, Va., Rout 1, August 26, 1933.
 To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptist an other associations of the same faith and order.

After due consideration of the necessity of organizing a General Association of all our associations; we deem it our duty to all come together in one general conference once each year. We, therefore, place our conference for membership.

Hoping this will meet the approval of all other associations, we prayerfully submit our application.

THE SANDY VALLEY ASSOCIATION.

S. E. BROOKS, Moderator.

B. W. PRESLEY, Clerk.

Committee On Next Session. We your Committee on Next Session, agree to send the Yearly Meeting to Clinchco, Va., to begin on Thursday before the second Sunday in September 1934.

Monroe Hubbard, W. M. Wheatley, Corbit Deel. Committee.

By motion and second this Conference closed until Thursday before the second Sunday in September 1934.

Preaching at 11 a. m. by E. M. Rose and H. M. Smith, prayer by Della Salyer. Text: St. John 14:6.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ORGANIZED

Ministers Conference was organized Saturday, September 9, 1933 at 2:30 p. m. by electing Rev. E. A. Reedy, Moderator and Rev. C. A. Robinette, Clerk.

Moved and carried that we accept the report of Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting as to character of ministers, all passed good. A motion also carried to appoint a General Evangelist. Rev. J. W. Addington was elected.

Appointed Ordaining Councils: From Wise county, Monroe Hubbard, C. A. Robinette and L. J. Fields; Dickenson, county, E. A. Reedy, Acie Hughs and Albert Dingus.

Preaching at 7:30 p. m. by W. R. Johnson and L. J. Fields; prayer by W. R. Bise. Text: Growth in Grace.

At the close of Sunday School, we had a fine talk on Sunday School by Corbit Reedy.

Preaching Sunday, September 10, at 11 a. m. by J. T. Davis and E. A. Reedy; prayer by Sister May Wolfe. Text: II Timothy 2:15.

Public collection to pay on Ramsey church, \$4.55.

MINISTERS REPORT

Report of W. R. Stallard, Evangelist, Coeburn, Va., R 2, Box 40.

From September 11, 1932, to September 7, 1933, I labored in 7 revivals; witnessed 32 conversions; preached 146 sermons; received 3 members into the church; attended 5 Quarterly meetings; celebrated 1 marriage; attended 3 funerals; participated in 1 memorial service; traveled 400 miles; organized 1 church; pastored 1 church; made 2 church visits; received by gift and donation \$49.28.

Report of C. A. Robinette, Nickelsville, Va., Route 1, Box 83,

From September 11, 1932, to September 7, 1933, I held 3 revivals;

preached 152 sermons; witnessed 15 conversions; pastored 2 churches; baptized 3; added 6 to church; preached 5 funerals; traveled 730 miles; received by gift and donation \$78.00.

Report of L. J. Fields, Norton, Va., Route 1.

I have preached 95 sermons; pastored 2 churches; helped to organized 1 church; helped to hold 4 revivals; witnessed 191 conversions; conducted 1 funeral service; received about 80 into the church; baptized 76; received from the churches on pastoral work \$21.70.

Report of Monroe Hubbard, Jenkins, Ky.

From September 10, 1932, to September 9, 1933; I have preached 74 sermons; 3 funerals; baptized 14; received 97 into fellowship of the church; married 7 couples; traveled 1,000 miles; donated \$75.00; received nothing; pastored 1 church. Brethren, pray for me that I may do more this year than ever before.

Annual Report of J. W. Addington, Coeburn, Va.

Pastored 1 church; held 15 revivals; preached 374 sermons; conversions 352; baptized 126; funerals 5; memorials 6; added to church 135; traveled 3,258 miles; received \$394.24.

Report of Arthur Casteel, Dungannon, Va.

From September 11, 1932, to September 9, 1933. I have served as Clerk of our association for the past year, delivered 21 addresses; worked in several Sunday Schools; assisted in 9 burials; worked in 7 revivals; witnessed more than 100 conversions; traveled more than 4,000 miles; donated \$278.00 to the cause of Christ. May God bless our association.

Report of C. H. Johnson, Coeburn, Va., Route 2.

Assistant pastor of 1 church; worked in 2 revivals; preached about 75 sermons; helped to baptize 6; attended 2 funeral services.

Report of T. H. Dixon, Norton, Va.

I have preached 35 sermons; held 1 revival and assisted in several; witnessed 15 conversions; assisted in baptizing some; pastored no church; traveled about 75 miles.

Report of P. L. Anderson, Appalachia, Va.

I have preached 75 sermons; held 1 revival; baptized 13; received 9 into the church; conducted 7 funerals; helped in 4 memorials; married 4 couples; and received 25.00.

Report of J. M. Sheets, Norton, Va.

I have preached 42 sermons; helped in 2 memorials; held 1 burial service; helped in 2 baptizings; married 1 couple; traveled about 200 miles; conducted 4 prayer services.

Report of C. C. Wright, Dorchester, Va.

I have preached 24 sermons; conducted 2 funerals; celebrated 2 marriages; traveled 178 miles.

Report of H. V. Johnston, Dorchester, Va.

I have pastored 2 churches; held 4 revivals; witnessed 193 con-

versions; baptized 73; received 131 into the church; preached 9 funerals; assisted in 4 memorials; preached 187 sermons; helped to organize 1 church and 1 prayer meeting, received \$78.17 as a donation; traveled 5,018 miles.

Report of J. F. Elliott, Coeburn, Va.

I have delivered several addresses; assisted in 4 revivals; helped in 2 memorials; witnessed about 40 conversions; traveled about 600 miles; received nothing.

Report of J. B. Carter, Norton, Va. Route 1.

I have preached 167 sermons; held 6 revivals; added 34 to the church, baptized 19, witnessed 30 more baptized, helped in 3 revivals, conducted 20 prayer services, organized 3 Sunday Schools, held 4 funerals, conducted 1 memorial, pastored 1 church, assistant pastor of 1 church, traveled about 1000 miles, received about \$25.00.

Report of Ida Carter, Calvin, Va.

I have labored in 2 revivals; witnessed about 65 conversions, took part in 1 memorial; 1 funeral; 35 or 40 preaching services and prayer meetings; conducted 1 Easter Program for the benefit of the Sunday School, organized 1 Sunday School and superintended 2, one at 10 a. m. and one at 2 p. m.

Report of Rev. B. R. Powers, Wise, Va.

I wish to submit the following report: I preached 363 sermons; 63 prayer services; held 14 revivals; witnessed 400 conversions; assisted in 2 revivals; pastored 2 churches; assistant pastor of 1; baptized 406; organized 2 churches; helper in organizing 1; Sunday School organized 1; received 202 church members; memorial services 13; burial services 38; married 1 couple; traveled 3,000 miles; received by gifts and donations \$500.00.

Report of W. R. Johnson, Clinchco, Va.

Sermons 105; prayer meetings 29; conversions witnessed 45; baptized 4; helped to baptize 9; burial services 5; funerals preached 4; assisted in memorials 2; received into church 3; miles traveled 714; received \$59.90; expenses \$8.08.

Report of E. A. Reedy, Fremont, Va.

I wish to submit the following report: I have preached 120 sermons; baptized 60; received 50 into the church; married 8 couples; attended 16 burials, and about 16 funerals and memorials; received \$25.00 from Clinchco church.

Report of H. M. Smith, Coeburn, Va., Route 2, Box 55.

Revivals held 5; sermons preached 236; conversions 36; churches pastored 3; baptized 30; added to church 20; funerals 21; memorials 3.

Report of J. T. Davis, Leona Mines, Va.

I have pastored 3 churches; preached 75 sermons; held 2 revivals; witnessed 30 conversions; organized 1 church; received 15 into the

church; baptized 6; organized 1 Freewill Baptist League; received by gift and donation \$7.00.

Report of W. T. Large, Toms Creek, Va.

I have delivered 50 gospel addresses held 1 revival, conducted 12 prayer services, helped in 1 revival, witnessed 24 conversions and renewals, helped baptize 6.

Report of James Wright, Jenkins, Ky.

I have delivered 45 sermons, conducted 19 prayer services, witnessed 31 conversions, baptized 9, traveled about 1,000 miles, married 1 couple, expenses about \$15.00, received no money, donated \$10.00.

Report of L. D. Mahan, Jenkins, Ky. Box 213.

I have preached 56 sermons, worked in 3 revivals, witnessed 28 conversions, conducted 7 prayer services, called in 12 burial services, helped organize 1 Sunday School, Superintendant of 1 Sunday School, traveled 740 miles. Expenses \$12.50 beside car.

Report of J. M. Wright, Jenkins Ky.

I have preached about 110 sermons, baptized 24, admitted 30 to the church, conducted 4 burial and 9 memorial services.

Report of Dock Kilgore, Helyer, Ky.

I have preached 77 sermons, conducted 31 prayer services, 5 burials, 1 memorial, traveled 500 miles, assistant pastor of 1 church.

Report of Luther Strouth, Hylton, Ky.

I have preached 102 sermons, conducted 2 burial services, assisted in 3 memorials, pastor of 2 churches, assistant pastor of 1 church.

Report of Charles W. Isom, Shelby Gap, Ky.

I have preached 85 sermons, baptized 5, received 6 into the church, preached 2 funerals, attended 3 burials, 2 memorials, witnessed 29 conversions, helped in 3 revivals, pastored 3 churches, married 4 couples, traveled 975 miles.

Report of Mrs. Della Salyer, Dorchester, Va.

I have preached 35 sermons, 4 funerals, worked in 2 revivals, witnessed 180 conversions, worked in prayer meetings and Sunday schools.

Report of James A. Hood, Big Stone Gap, Va., Route 1, Box 173.

I have 2 regular appointments, preached 37 sermons, baptized 3, admitted 3 into the church, worked in 2 revivals, witnessed 2 conversions.



OBITUARIES

In Memory of Rev Clay Osborne

It is with a sad and aching heart that I attempt to write an obituary of my kind and loving grandfather Clay Osborne, who is missed so much at church, at home and in his community. He leaves a wife and eight children, and a host of friends to mourn their loss. His loving face will be missed in our next gathering in his church. There is a vacant seat in the home that never can be filled. His dear wife will many times think of the loving husband who was so cheerful in their home. He was well thought of in the neighborhood in which he lived.

Grandfather lived a devoted Christian life and held out faithful till the end. In his dying hours he called his family to his bed and tried to point out the road that leads to the Pearly Gates. He told them that he hadn't interred but was ready to step through. He professed faith in Christ and united with the Freewill Baptist church May 1876, in Scott county. He was ordained at Steels Fork in 1908.

Brethren, pray for us that we may meet Grandfather on the other shore. Sleep on grandfather, until that day when we shall meet to be for aye.

Margareth Osborne.

In Memory of Jessie Collins

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: With a sad and aching heart I attempt to write this obituary of a brother in Christ, Jessie Collins, who departed this life August 2, 1933. He was a Christian and a great worker in the field for Christ and His cause. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn their loss, beside a host of friends. He was 63 years old, lived a Christian 11 years and often had prayer meeting in his home.

While on his bed of affliction, he asked them to sing the song "Moving up home some day" He said he was ready to move up home some day, there was nothing in his way. He was a member of the Freewill Baptist church at Ramsey, Oh; how we miss him! He said he could not sing much down here, but when he got to heaven he could help the angels sing, "Hold to God's unchanging hand."

When we read this let us all examine our lives and see if we are prepared to leave this world with as good a testimony. Brother Collins has fourteen children who preceded him to the Glory land, there to await his coming.

Written by Lillie Tunnell.

In Memory of Hazel Murry

Our hearts ache with sadness as we attempt to write this obituary of little Hazel Murry who was fatally injured by an automobile near her yard gate, while on her way home from school.

She was fourteen years of age, a Christian, and a faithful member

of Sunday School. How her classmates and I, her teacher, miss her in Sunday School.

She left a father, a mother, one sister and several brothers who mourn their loss. But God had a better place for this little girl whom everybody loved, than this old world of sorrow. He has a better home for us. Let us prepare to meet little Hazel in this Beautiful Home called Heaven.

Written by LILLIE TUNNELL.

In Memory of Rev. Bob Carter

With a sad heart we bring to memory a loving father as we attempt to write this obituary. Father departed this life eight years ago. He was born and raised in Wise county. He preached fifteen years and died in the stand while in defence of the Gospel of Christ. He leaves a wife and two children with many other friends who mourn their loss. We are all on the way to meet father in Heaven, that we may be a united family around the throne.

I, J. B. Carter, his son, am following father's foot-steps in preaching the Gospel. May all fathers set the right example before their children that they might follow in the right way. Father has long been gone but his labors are still living on.

J. B. CARTER and NANNIE ANDERSON.

With a sad and lonesome heart, I attempt to write an obituary of a kind and loving brother, born December 1, 1880, and departed this life December 24, 1932. He leaves a wife and seven sons, father, four sisters, and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss. He was converted at the age of thirteen years, joined the Freewill Baptist church.

During his sickness he would flee to my house for refuge and care, which was my delight to care for my precious brother, who always delighted himself in talking on the Bible, the book he cherished above all books. He lived a consecrated Christian until death and in his dying hours he said the Lord was with him.

Rest in peace Brother Joe, until our Savior calls us all from the dust to eternal joy, then we shall shake hands again where parting will be no more.

Written by a Sister, VICTORIA POWERS.



Organization of a Quarterly Meeting

Two or more churches wishing to organize a Quarterly Meeting, shall appoint three delegates for the purpose and request of an adjoining Quarterly Meeting a council of not less than five members and one ordained minister, which will meet with the delegates and proceed:

1. To examine the delegates respecting the Christian character and doctrines of their respective churches, and the reasons for such an organization as desired.

2. The right hand of fellowship and consecrating prayer.

3. The election of a moderator, clerk and treasurer, and then proceed with the business as may come before it.

4. Delegates are elected to some Yearly Meeting or Association of the Freewill Baptist, and instructed for membership in such body.

Yearly Meeting Constitution

We the members of the Freewill Baptist church, in order to form a more perfect union and promote Christ's Kingdom, do ordain and establish this Constitution, for the John Thomas Yearly Meeting.

Article 1. This Yearly Meeting shall be called the John Thomas Yearly Meeting, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well disciplined Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this Constitution.

Art. 2. The Conference of this Yearly Meeting shall be composed of the ministers and delegates, who are members of the Quarterly Meetings; each Quarterly Meeting being entitled to three delegates from each church.

Art. 3. The officers of this Yearly Meeting shall be a Clerk, Treasurer, and Moderator, and shall be chosen at every session of the Yearly Meeting, with such assistants as may be found necessary.

Art. 4. Any well-organized and well regulated Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the usages, and adopt the doctrines of the Freewill Baptist denomination, as published in the minutes of the John Thomas Yearly Meeting, and are in favor of the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time on application, by vote of this Yearly Meeting, become a member thereof.

Art. 5. This Yearly Meeting shall have power to discipline the Quarterly meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walk; if their labor proves unsuccessful.

Art. 6. The session of this Yearly Meeting shall convene on Thursday before the second Sunday in Sept., at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings, of which the Yearly Meeting is composed, to represent themselves, and report their standing, prospects, and statistics by letter; at which time the Yearly Meeting shall act on such questions and topics, as may be referred to them

by their respective Quarterly Meetings, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor the usages of the denomination, as their judgment may promote the cause of Christ, and the interest of the churches and Quarterly Meetings, within the limits of the Yearly Meeting.

Art. 7. This Yearly Meeting shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its session.

Art. 8. This Conference shall not recognize any minister or delegate, unless they comply with the Constitution and By-Laws thereof.

Art. 9. Each Quarterly Meeting shall send into the Yearly Meeting Treasurer, their pro rata part of funds, that is necessary to take care of the expenses of the Yearly Meeting.

Art. 10. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of four-fifths of the ministers and delegates present at any session, notice of such intended alternation having been given and recorded at the next previous session.

By-Laws, Motions, Etc., of John Thomas Yearly Meeting

1. No conference shall be held with less than three ordained ministers, and four delegates belonging to this Yearly Meeting.

2. At the opening of each conference, the clerk's book shall be presented, and the proceedings of last conference read.

3. 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 quarterly meeting of the conference.

4. The conference may extend to visiting brethren all the privileges of the body, save that of voting.

5. 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.

6. No member of the general conference shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the moderator.

7. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.

8. There shall annually be a committee of finances chosen to settle with the treasurer and report to conference.

9. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and praise of God.

10. A motion shall 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.

11. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing.

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

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

14. 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.

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

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. All committees may be named by the moderator, by request of the conference.

19. 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.

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

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

22. All members should vote on one side or the other, unless excused by the moderator.

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

24. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the moderator and the clerk.

25. Each Quarterly Meeting shall ask of their respective churches, to deal with their members when necessary, according to Matt. 18:15-17.

26. After a member accepts the Bible as their faith and rule and practice, then the right hand of fellowship shall be given, which is the door into the church.

27. If the minority of a Quarterly Meeting be grieved over the ruling of the majority, they have the right to appeal to the Yearly Meeting and their decision shall be final.

28. No minister shall have a vote in the conference unless he is a member in good standing with his church and conference.

E. A. Reedy, S. M. McFall, D. E. Smith, Arthur Casteel,
J. C. Rasnake, and W. R. Stallard, Committee.

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

1. 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.

2. If they prove satisfactory to the church, they shall be recommended to the Quarterly Meeting, if satisfactory to same, may license said applicant or recommend them to the Ordaining Council, and shall be ordained if proven satisfactory to the Council.

3. The Ordaining Council shall be appointed by the Yearly Meeting. Three ordained ministers from each Quarterly Meeting, for a period of twelve months. Any three may transact the business of examining the applicants for ordination.

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

5. Any ministers leaving the Freewill 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 Freewill 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 Freewill 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 Freewill 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, and W. R. Stallard, Committee.

The Organization of a Church

1. When any number of believers desire to be organized into a Freewill Baptist church, they are examined by one or more regular Freewill Baptist ministers in reference to their Christian character, doctrine, and ability to sustain a church. If the examination is satisfactory the applicants are organized as follows: The Bible is presneted as the only rule of faith and practic. 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 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 a 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 intrusted with the fund 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 fund 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 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 female members.

Finance Committee.-- These have the general management of the finance 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 pastors 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 to the Lord Jesus Christ, and has been immersed by a proper administrator, the 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.

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 church to its 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.

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 dismissal 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.

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, 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, 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 believe 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, or 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, 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; 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 offer 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. 2:12,12; 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 Scripture 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 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, 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.5:24.

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 judgement at the last day.-- John 4:38,39; 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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