

Six

MINUTES
Of The
John Thomas Free Will Baptist
Association
15th Annual Session

Held At
BURDINE CHURCH
BURDINE, KY.

September 9th to 12th, 1937



Rev. E. A. Reedy, Moderator
E. C. Kiser, Clerk
Carl Sauls, Treasurer

Proceedings

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 11:00 A. M.

Introductory sermon: Rev. Albert Dingus. Lesson read: Romans 12th Chapter; prayer by Rev. E. A. Reedy. Text, Hebrews 13th chapter, first verse. Service concluded by Rev. E. A. Reedy.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

E. C. Kiser, Clerk, having charge of same, declared conference open for the transaction of such business as may come before it.

The first item of business was the nomination of a Moderator. Rev. E. A. Reedy was elected Moderator, and assumed the duties of his office by taking the chair, and proceeding with the election of a Clerk and a Treasurer.

E. C. Kiser was re-elected Clerk by acclamation. Carl Sauls was re-elected Treasurer by acclamation.

It was voted by acclamation to give the Moderators power to appoint all committees.

ENROLLMENT OF DELEGATES

John Sykes	Alex Thompson	Sanford Swindall
Pearl Bise	Ted Bise	Eunice McFall
Alice Lane	M. E. Boggs	Charlie Meade
Mrs. M. E. Boggs	W. J. Yates	L. D. T. Silcox
Lura Vanover	Muncie Mullins	Phoebe Kiser
Gilmer Browning	E. W. Stanley	

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS PRESENT

Albert Dingus	C. W. Isom	J. W. Dingus
Luther Strouth	L. D. Mahan	Mack Gardner
W. M. Gardner	Emery Vanover	C. W. Noles
E. A. Reedy	W. R. Bise	H. M. Smith
B. C. Lane	E. C. Kiser	

VISITING MINISTERS

B. R. Powers	W. T. Large	J. W. Addington
J. C. Rasnick	M. P. Ball	M. E. Brooks
Leck Whitt	Roy Reedy	J. F. Elliott

The following appointments were made by the Moderator:

PULPIT COMMITTEE

Pearl Bise	Lora Dingus	Rosie Meade
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COMMITTEE ON NEXT SESSION

Rev. Albert Dingus L. D. T. Silcox Saul Meade

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Rev. C. W. Ison Muncie Mullins Charlie Meade
Appointed for Admonisher on Sunday School: Rev Albert Dingus.
Appointed for Temperance address: Rev. C. W. Ison.
This conference adjourned until Friday, Sept. 10, 9:00 A. M.
Preaching Thursday, Sept. 9th, 8:00 P. M., by Rev. M. P. Ball
and Rev. J. C. Rasnick; lesson 14th chapter of St. John. Prayer by
Mary Powers. Text, St. John 14:6.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 10TH—MORNING SESSION— 9 O'CLOCK

Opened by Moderator. Lesson, 4th chapter 2nd Corinthians.
Prayer by B. C. Lane.

DICKENSON COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

To the John Thomas Free Will Baptist Association, which will
convene with Burdine church on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday
in September, 1937, greetings:

Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting met with Pine Grove church
on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1937, and appointed
the following delegates to represent our Quarterly Meeting:

Phoebe Kiser, Sallie Hamilton, D. L. Beverly, Callie Beverly,
Minerva Beverly, C. H. Meade, Billie Dingus, Stanford Meade, John
Keith, L. D. T. Silcox, Shaylor McCoy, Jim Case, Vonie Case, Eva
Smith, Molly Hill, Lillja Salyer, John Yates, Alex Reedy, Eunice
McFall, M. E. Boggs, Mrs. M. E. Boggs, Ted Bise, Ballard Hughes,
Gilmer Browning, Lura Vanover, J. C. Rose, Mincie Mullins, Wel-
ford Stanley, George Browning, A. C. Johnson, John Mullins,
James Rose, Fallie Rose, Pearl Bise, Alice Lane.

We have fifteen churches with a membership of 708 members.
Value of church property, \$7,500.00. We have several Sunday
Schools with a large attendance. We have 19 ordained ministers
all in good standing. We earnestly ask the prayers of the Associa-
tion that our quarterly meeting may grow more in the next year.

Done and signed by order of the Quarterly Meeting.

W. R. BISE, Moderator.

N. H. STANLEY, Clerk.

LETCHER COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

To the Yearly Meeting with Burdine Church, Sept., 9-12, 1937,
from the Letcher County Quarterly Meeting, greetings:

We have nine churches, with a membership of 381; 24 ordained ministers and nine licentates. Value of church property, \$1500. We have five Sunday Schools with an average attendance of 332. We have chosen to represent us as delegates from each church:

Burdine Church: John Sykes, Alex Tompkins and Sara Privett.
Allegheny: Lawrence Childers and Hobart Spriggs.

Potters Fork: S. G. Wright and Dutch Wright.

Payne Gap: Goldie Bentley, Lloyd Roberts, Sister Lloyd Roberts and Russell Bentley.

Sergeant: Brother Cole, Sister Strunk and Sister Fields.

Marshall's Branch: Sanford Swindall and Minnie Johnson.

McRoberts: J. T. Terry, Mrs. J. T. Terry and V. C. Mannis.

Fleming: Robert Sexton, Andrew Adams and Paul Prom.

Lookout: Lige Gibson and Clercy Gibson.

Our next quarterly meeting is with Allegheny Church, beginning Friday before the 4th Sunday in November.

C. W. ISON, Moderator.

LUTHER STROUTH, Clerk.

Conference adjourned until 2:30 p. m. Preaching at 11:00 a. m. B. C. Lane and H. M. Smith. Lesson St. John, 21st chapter. Prayer, C. W. Ison; text, St. John 21:12.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

2 O'Clock

Conference opened by Moderator. Lesson omitted. Prayer by J. W. Dingus. It was moved and seconded by the conference that E. C. Kiser, Clerk, should have the right in making off the manuscript to correct all mistakes and to arrange all material in the best form possible.

APPOINTMENT OF ORDAINING COUNCIL

Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting

A. F. Hughes, Chairman

W. R. Bise

Thurston Meade

Letcher County Quarterly Meeting

Albert Dingus, Chairman

Luther Strouth

C. W. Ison

This Ordaining Council was reappointed. Conference adjourned until 9:00 A. M. Saturday.

Preaching Friday, 8:00 p. m. by Rev. E. A. Reedy and Emory Vanover. Lesson, Isaiah 55: chapter. Prayer, Hassel Boyd. Text, 10-11. verse of same chapter.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11—MORNING SESSION—9 O'CLOCK

Conference opened by Moderator. Lesson, Ephesians 6: chapter. Prayer, Mollie Hill.

The Moderator appointed the following corresponding messengers to the Sandy Valley Association:

Thurston Meade	W. R. Bise	E. A. Reedy
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Corresponding messengers to Southwest Virginia Association at Dungannon, Va.:

C. W. Ison	Albert Dingus	Emory Vanover
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MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Report of Ministers' Conference held at Potters Fork Church August 21, 1937, at 3 P. M.

The Ministers' Conference was organized by electing Bro. C. W. Ison as Moderator and Bro. Luther Strouth as Clerk. The following ministers were present:

Clyde Flanery	James Wright	J. M. Wright
Riley Colwell	W. M. Gardner	Mack Gardner
C. W. Ison	J. P. Banks	W. K. King
L. D. Mahan	J. W. Dingus	Ersel McPeck
Albert Dingus	Luther Strouth	C. W. Noles
Charlie Houston	Hobart Spriggs	Marion Strunk

The following ministers were absent:

Basil Spencer	Leonard Powers	Dock Kilgore
Ed Oaks	W. M. Cook	J. D. Brewer
Monroe Hubbard	Porter Brewer	J. H. Martin
Emory Vanover	H. H. Blackburn	Richard Lee
Jessie Hale	W. M. Blanton	

Character and doctrine passed as good with the exception of one minister who was questioned as to walks. The Admonishing Council was instructed to visit him.

C. W. ISON, Moderator
LUTHER STROUTH, Clerk.

Dickenson County ministers met with Pine Grove church on Saturday at 3.30 p. m. before the 4th Sunday in July, 1937, and organized by electing W. R. Bise moderator, and N. H. Stanley clerk.

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS PRESENT

E. A. Reedy	W. R. Bise	Thurston Meade
S. P. Davis	Earl Mullins	E. M. Rose
Henry Smith	Dan Smith	B. C. Lane
Charley Johnson	T. M. Dotson	Dan Hawkins
	Vernon Kiser	

MINISTERS ABSENT

W. T. Bise	E. C. Kiser	Troy Robinson
Asa Hughes	George Mooney	Floyd Cantrell

We have 19 ordained ministers, all in good standing and three under the watch care of the church by a move and second. The character of all the ministers passed good as to fellowship and doctrine. There being no further business before this conference, by a move and second this conference stands adjourned until Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1937. Then it will be reopened with the Ferbia Church.

W. R. BISE, Moderator.

N. H. Stanley, Clerk.

SATURDAY MORNING

Preaching at 11 o'clock, B. R. Powers and W. T. Large. Lesson 22 verses of 17th chapter St. John. Prayer, E. A. Reedy. Text: "The Gospel and its standards."

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION—2:30 P. M.

Conference opened by Moderator; lesson and prayer omitted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

We, your business committee, having nothing new offered. We can recommend to hold fast the same rules and regulations which we have.

C. W. Ison.

Muncie Mullins.

Charlie Meade.

NEXT SESSION COMMITTEE

Reported that the John Thomas Free-Will Baptist Association will hold its 16th annual session at Pewther Chapel Church, Mil-lard, Va. Business conference adjourned until Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1938.

Albert Dingus, Chairman.

Sol Meade.

L. D. T. Silcox.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The ministers' conference was continued as organized in the morning session.

Thurston Meade was re-elected Traveling Evangelist.

Emory Vanover was elected assistant Traveling Evangelist.

Ministers' conference adjourned until Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in September, 1938.

Preaching Saturday 3:00 p.m., Thurston Meade. Lesson 145 Psalm; prayer, Mary Powers; text, Psalms 145:13.

Preaching Saturday night by Luther Strouth and J. C. Rasnjek. Lesson, 3rd chapter; prayer, E. A. Reedy; text, 3rd verse of same chapter.

Preaching Sunday: E. A. Reedy and Albert Dingus.

Rev. E. A. Reedy, Moderator.

E. C. Kiser, Clerk.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

1936-1937

SPRIGGS, HOBART—Have been assistant pastor of one church, 100 sermons preached, witnessed 13 conversions, attended 6 burials, held 3 memorials, prayer services in homes 70, 1 member added to church, helped baptize 5.

GARDNER MACK—No churches pastored. I have preached 40 sermons, held 3 revivals, witnessed several conversions, 7 prayer services held in homes, added 12 members to church, married 6 couples, traveled 100 miles.

SMITH, H. M.—I have pastored 1 church, assisted with 2, 100 sermons preached, held 4 revivals, attended 25 burials, held 7 memorials, 25 prayer services in homes, added 25 members to the church, organized 2 Sunday Schools, married 8 couples, traveled 500 miles.

Received from Free Will Baptist Churches	\$ 25.00
Received from other churches	1.00
Other donations	\$75.00
Total amount received	\$101.00

DINGUS, J. W.—Have preached 34 sermons preached, witnessed 47 conversions, attended 3 burials, held 1 memorial, several prayer services held in homes, traveled about 500 miles.

KISER, VERNON—Assistant pastor of 2 churches, preached 110 sermons, held 2 revivals, conversions witnessed 36, attended 8 burials, held 5 memorials, 20 prayer services held, baptized and helped baptize 12, organized 1 Sunday School, traveled 500 miles.

McPEEK, ERSEL—Preached 26 sermons, witnessed 1 conversion, held 2 memorials, 6 prayer services in homes, traveled 200 miles.

COLDWELL, RILEY—Pastored one church, two hundred sermons preached, held 3 revivals, several conversions witnessed, attended 10 burials, 50 prayer services in homes, added 30 members to church, married 3 couples.

COOK, W. M., Hellier, Ky.—Have preached 47 sermons, attended 7 burials, held 8 memorials, 32 prayer services held in homes.

TERRY, J. T.—Have preached 50 sermons, witnessed 8 conversions, conducted 12 prayer services in homes.

DINGUS, ALBERT—Pastored 3 churches, preached 75 sermons, held 3 revivals, witnessed 80 conversions, attended 10 burials, held 6 memorials, baptized 35, added 39 members to church, organized 1 Sunday School.

POWERS, L. P., McRoberts, Ky.—Preached 28 sermons, worked in 2 revivals, witnessed several conversions, baptized 4, held several prayer services in homes, traveled 150 miles, added 11 members to church.

GARDNER, W. M.—Preached 85 sermons, held 2 revivals and assisted in 2, witnessed 20 conversions, attended 6 burials, 9 prayer services in homes, added 1 member to church, traveled 350 miles.

STROUTH, LUTHER, Hellier, Ky.—Pastored 1 church, preached 138 sermons, held 1 revival, witnessed 35 conversions, attended 8 burials, held 5 memorials, held 40 prayer services in homes, added 3 members to church, helped baptize 19, traveled 400 miles. I desire the prayers of all christians in my behalf.

LAYNE, B. C., Wise, Va.—Pastored 3 churches, preached 150 sermons, held 4 revivals, witnessed 32 conversions, attended 50 burials, held 10 memorials, held 50 prayer services in homes, added 6 members to church, organized 2 Sunday Schools, I have donated about \$50.00 to the cause of Christ.

Received from Free Will Baptist churches	\$46.00
Other donations	25.00
Total amount received	\$71.00

LEE, RICHARD—Preached 40 sermons, helped in 3 revivals, 10 conversions witnessed, held 10 prayer services in homes, traveled 100 miles.

JOHNSON, C. H.—I have visited the churches every month for the last year. Donations about \$50.00; assistant pastor to 1 church. I want all to pray for me that I might do better in the years to come. Received nothing.

WRIGHT, J. M.—I have pastored 2 churches, preached 125 sermons, witnessed 20 conversions, attended 10 burials, prayer services in homes, 9, added 7 members to church, traveled 1200 miles.

MAHAN, L. D., Box 213, Jenkins, Ky.—Pastored 1 church, preached 65 sermons, witnessed 10 conversions, attended 2 burials, held 1 memorial, held 10 prayer services in homes, traveled 1000 miles. Gave to the cause of Christ \$20.00. Have received no donations.

ISON, C. W., Burdine, Ky.—Preached 112 sermons, held 11 memorial services, preached 8 funerals, witnessed 9 conversions, married 5 couples, pastored 4 churches, moderator of 2 quarterly meetings, helped to lay hands on 9 ministers, traveled 1570 miles.

BREWER, PORTER, McRoberts, Ky.—Conducted 7 funerals, preached 75 sermons, conducted 35 prayer services, witnessed 40 conversions, baptized 10, assistant pastor 1 church, received no money from church, gave \$5.00 to the church. Hoping to do more work the next year than in this one past. Pray for me.

Obituaries

FLOYD STANLEY

Born March 22, 1853, died February 23, 1937, aged 83 years, 11 months and 1 day. He was married to Mary Dotson about sixty-three years ago. To this union was born five boys, all of who are living. His first wife died, and he was married to Sophronia Dotson on September 15, 1888. To this union were born four boys and five girls. Two boys and three girls are now living.

He first united with the Methodist church and later on took up fellowship with the Free-Will Baptist church at Lock Fork, and lived a consecrated Christian life until death. He said in his last days that there was nothing in his way, and wanted preaching here every Sunday.

He leaves a dear companion, 10 children and 2 brothers, a number of grandchildren and a host of friends to mourn his loss. But our loss is his eternal gain.

Dictated by,

WELFORD STANLEY,
NOAH STANLEY,
TRIGG DOTSON.

Written by Mrs. Arel Powers.

HAROLD STANLEY

The son of Welford and Mattie Stanley, born April 29, 1922, died January 3, 1937, aged 14 years, 8 months and 5 days. Harold was an obedient son, and he said to his mother a short time before his death, "Mamma, you ought to rejoice instead of crying." That we all ought to laugh and talk and rejoice instead of weeping. He said he had prayed for two weeks for the Lord to help him and that He had helped him, and that he would see lights through the window that looked like electric lights. He asked his daddy if there was going to be church services that night. He wanted them to have services and he wanted to join the church and be baptized. He called his daddy to his bedside and said, "Daddy, I'm going to die." About half an hour later he had passed away. He leaves a father and mother, three sisters and two brothers and an large number of schoolmates and relatives to mourn his loss, but according to his testimony, their loss is his eternal gain.

JOEL STANLEY

Son of Welford and Mattie Stanley, born March 3, 1933, died February 2, 1935, aged 22 months and 29 days.

We are not worrying about Joel, except his absence from the home, for Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for such is the kingdom of Heaven."

Dictated by,

WELFORD STANLEY

NOAH STANLEY

TRIGG DOTSON.

Written by Arel Powers.

MERTIE MARTIN

Our much beloved sister was born in 1895, and died October 28, 1936, at the age of forty-one. She was married in 1912, and leaves a husband, J. M. Martin, and nine children and three grandchildren. She was a member of the McRoberts Free-Will Baptist church, and is missed by her many friends. She was loyal to her family and church and to the cause of Christ. May her life be a light to her many friends and family.

HENRY CASE

Brother Henry Case was born April 21, 1861, died May 11, 1936, making his stay on earth 75 years, 20 days, leaving a devoted wife and 11 children to mourn his loss and many friends and relatives. By all reports, he died in the full triumph of the faith of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and by the fruits he bore he, no doubt, was 100 per cent christian. We have also his dying statement, "He had made peace with the Lord long ago."

Father's place is vacant here

While we cry, while we sigh,

Let's pray the circle won't be broken

In the sky, in the sky.

By OCTAVIA KIDD.

ROSA JANE STANLEY

Aged 58 years, 7 months and 6 days. She joined the Regular Baptist church about thirty-one years ago and lived a true Christian life until her death. She was married to Sanford Stanley about 32 or 33 years ago. To this union were born six children, three boys and three girls, of which all are home to mourn her loss. But we hope our loss is her eternal gain. Sleep on, and in a few days I will meet you, mother.

Written by her son, Merida Mullins.

HULDA WOOTEN

Was born August 11, 1894, died May 7, 1937, leaving besides her husband eight children, of whom seven were boys and just one girl. She was converted while sick, and raised from the bed shouting and telling what the good Lord had done for her, and begged her sinner husband to repent and live a better life. She has a good old Christian mother and other near relatives and friends to mourn her loss. But we feel she has no more worries—just a happy exchange. We hope her family will be reunited some happy day.

Written by Octav.a Kidd.

SARAH ADKINS

It's with a sad heart I attempt to write the obituary of my dear mother, Sarah Adkins. She was the daughter of Wilson and Jane Rose, and was born August 13, 1874. She was married to Squire Adkins in 1892. To them were born fifteen children, six boys and nine girls.

She was sixty-three years, eight months and twenty-two days old. She joined the Free-Will Baptist church about thirty years ago and lived a true Christian until death. And departed this life May 5, 1937. She leaves ten children, two boys and eight girls and a husband to mourn her loss. We have no doubt but what mother is shouting around that bright throne of God. She praised His name as long as she had breath to speak.

I hope all the family that are not ready to meet mother her prayers will ring in their ears till they can't eat nor sleep till they make peace with God. I hope everybody will meet around that shining throne of God, where parting will be no more.

Written by her daughter, Alma Dotson.

GRADY DOTSON

He was the son of Trigg and Mandy Dotson, born February 12, 1908, and departed from this life July 16, 1933, aged 25 years, 5 months and 4 days. Grady was a loving and obedient son and was loved by all who knew him. He went about his work so he could help his father and mother. He had a fatal accident by the explosion of a carbide plant, living only two hours after the accident. He was continuously praying during that time. So we are not worrying about the welfare of his soul, for Jesus says in his words that all that will come to Him with a contrite spirit and a broken heart He will in no wise cast off.

He leaves a father and mother, three brothers and five sisters to mourn his loss. Also his neighbors and all who knew him.

He was always helping people in distress any time he could do anything for them.

Welford Stanley, Noah Stanley
and Trigg Dotson.

LIHU SALYER

Lihu Salyer was born about 1850 and died April 22, 1929. With sorrowful hearts we write these words concerning our father. He was a loving father and a devoted husband. He confessed faith in Jesus about one year before he died. He got out of bed the evening before the death angel came and led prayer. He said that he was ready to go.

If you get weary just go to Jesus. He will satisfy your mind. He says seek and you shall find, walk the golden streets and shine. He wants to lead us through the pearly gates, where we'll never separate,

We must be free from sin if we ever enter in.
Praise His name, He'll give us life again.

Logan and Helen Salyer.

SARAH SALYER

Was born July 7 (about 1858), died January 24, 1936. She married Lihu Salyer in 1878, and to this union was born six children, of which four are still living and two preceded her to the grave. She professed faith in Christ about four years before her death. She was a loving mother. She leaves her children and many friends to mourn their loss. We miss her much, but our loss is her gain. Sleep on, mother, that peaceful sleep of the blest. We will meet you at the gate of glory, for she asked, "Who is going to meet me in that beautiful, bright world," just before death came.

Logan and Helen Salyer.

MRS. LONNIE HALL

Sister Lonnie Hall was born in 1897. Our beloved sister died July 12, 1937, and leaves her husband, Lonnie Hall, and four children. She was a member of the McRoberts Church and a true worker in church and Sunday School, and is being missed by her many friends and the church. May her life be a light to her family and friends.

GRANDMA STEVENS

Sister Grandma Stevens was born in 1845 and died June 28, 1937, and was 83 years old. She leaves seven children and several grandchildren. She was a member of the McRoberts church. She is missed in our midst and many are grieved because of her departure. We pray that her life will be a light for her children and friends, for we are sure she is watching at the entering gate.

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.

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.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

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

ip 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. Foot washing follows the Lord's Supper.

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

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 ordered 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 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.

ORGANIZATION OF A QUARTERLY MEETING

Two or more churches wishing to organize a Quarterly Meeting, shall appoint three delegates for that purpose and request of an adjoining Quarterly meeting a council of not less than five mem-

bers 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 reason 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 such business as may come before it.

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

YEARLY MEETING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

We, the members of the Free Will 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 Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this Constitution.

Art. 2. The Conference of this Yearly Meeting shall be composed of 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 assistant as may be found necessary.

Art. 4. Any well organized and well regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the usages and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denominations, 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 work if their labor proves unsuccessful.

Art. 6. The session of this Yearly Meeting shall convene on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in September, at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings of which the Yearly Meeting is composed to represent themselves by delegates, and re-

port 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 it by its respective Quarterly Meetings, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor the usages of the denomination, as in its 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 the Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

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 its pro rata part of funds, that are 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 alteration having been given and recorded at the next previous session.

BY-LAWS

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 books 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 finance 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 must be made by one member, seconded by another and afterwards stated by the moderator, before it is debated. A mo-

tion shall be reduced to writing by the moeivr 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, avoid all personalities 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 to 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 up 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 its respective churches to deal with its members when necessary, according to Matthew 18:15, 17.

26. After members accept the Bible as their rule of faith 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 its 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 W. R. Stallard

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. All ministers in the John Thomas Yearly Meeting are required to attach themselves to the Ministers' Conference and must be governed by the rules and regulations of the Ministers' Conference.

4. All ministers belonging to the Conference are required to report themselves to the Conference annually, either in person or by letter or both.

5. All ministers 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. All ministers 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 applicants or recommend them to the Ordaining Council, and shall be ordained if proven satisfactory to the Council.

3. The Ordaining Council must be appointed by the Yearly Meeting. Three ordained ministers from each Quarterly Meeting shall serve 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 Free Will Baptist Church, he or she must first join this

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 churches have 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 Baptists may serve the church in the absence of the pastor, in every Gospel order required of him 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, 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 the 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 means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

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

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

7. We believe that all people reaching the years of accountability must be born again. Then by trusting His promises and keeping His commandments until the end of life, we shall be saved.—II Tim. 4-7.

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

9. 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.

10. 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 willfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45, 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11,12; Jer. 22:29.

11. 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 here is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:14; II Peter 2:1; II Thess. 2:11; Rom. 2:19-11.

12. 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 that none 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.

13. We believe that good works are the fruits of 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 further 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.

16. 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 of 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 13:5-7; Jas. 5:14.

17. 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.

18. 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.

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

