

Sis

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY FIFTH SESSION
OF THE
JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION
OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
WHICH CONVENED WITH
PAYNE GAP CHURCH
PAYNE GAP, KY.
SEPTEMBER 11-14, 1947

The next session will be held with the Valley View Church, at Clintwood, Va. Convening Thursday before the Second Sunday in September 1948.

OFFICERS OF THE JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION

For the year 1947 & 1948

W. R. Bise Moderator

J. C. Rasnake Asst. Moderator

Everet Johnson Clerk

Ted Bise Treasure

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Corbet Deel

Trig Smith

U. S. G. Meade

N. B. Lambert

George Browning

ORDAINING COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1947 & 1948

Dickenson County Q. M.

E. C. Kiser Chairman

W. R. Bise

Emory Vanover

Letcher County Q. M.

Albert Dingus Chairman

C. W. Isom

L. D. Mahan

New Durm Q. M.

J. C. Rasnake Chairman

W. E. Rasnake

C. E. Church

The next session will meet with the Valley View Church at Clintwood, Va. Beginning on Thursday before the second Sunday in September, 1948.

The Twenty Fifth Annual Association of the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists.

Officers of the John Thomas Association for year 1947-1948
Rev. W. R. Bise Millard, Va. Mod.
Rev. J. C. Rasnick Cleveland, Va. Ass't Mod.
Everett Johnson Clinchco, Va. Clerk
Ted Bise Millard, Va. Treas.

PROCEEDINGS

The Twenty Fifth Annual Association of the John Thomas Association of the Freewill Baptist convened with the Payne Gap Church at Payne Gap, Ky. on Thursday, Sept. 11 to the 14th at 11 o'clock.

Introductory Sermon delivered by L. D. Mahhan and Monroe Hubbard concluding service. Prayer W. R. Bise. Reading for lesson the first nine verses of the 13th chapter of Hebrew.

Sermon Text: (Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forevermore) This was a wonderful message with great manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Thursday Evening Session 2 P. M.

Conference opened with congregation singing.

Clerk having charge of Conference read for lesson the first 14 verses of the Fourth Chapter of 1st John.

Prayer by J. C. Rasnack. Clerk declaring Conference open for such business that might come before Association. The first item was enrolling of delegates, corresponding messengers, ministers, and visiting ministers.

Delegates from Dickenson County Q. M.

Lura Vanoyer, Bertha Stanley, Flora Keith, O. A. Kiser, Mrs. Walter Burchett, I. S. Gilliam, Della Evenare, Mildred Holbrook, Mrs. O. A. Kiser, Bernard Rakes, J. M. Green, Emerson Underwood, Palmer Southerland, George Lambert, Mrs. Henry Lambert, Snod-
ia Southerland.

New Durm Q. M.

M. F. Hess, E. R. Rasnack, Cleve Dye, Ella Dye.

Walter Whited

Milburn Hess

Letcher County Q. M.

Lura Wywn, Mrs. Linda Caldwell, Lola Caudle, Loela Lowe, Annie Balsinger, Lena McPeaks, Rosa Haynes, Bill Wyn, C. O. Caudell, Patsy Killen, Lenora Wright, Mary Dulaney, Betty Holbrook, Hobart Castle.

Ministers

Dickenson County Q. M.

W. R. Bise, Henry Smith, Luther Taylor, Clyde Reedy,

New Durm Q. M.

J. C. Rasnack, Clyde Church.

Letcher County Q. M.

Monroe Hubbard, L. D. Manhan, Everett Potter, Alva Dingus, Ersel McPeaks, Clyde Huff, James Wright.

The next item was the electing of a moderator. Motion carried to elect W. R. Bise, Mod. and J. C. Rasnack as Ass't. Mod.

By move and second it was voted to retain Everett Johnson as clerk and Ted Bise as Treas.

Mod. was given power to appoint committees.

Supply of Pulpit

Melvin Killen, Chairman, Robert Mullins, Milburn Hess.

Next session of the Association convenes with the Valle View Church at Clintwood, Va. on Thursday before the second Sunday, in Sept. 1948.

It was voted to draw five per cent, per member, from the Q. M. Funds instead of the ten per cent to take care of the Associations expense.

Moderator invited visiting brethren and corresponding messengers to sit with us as advisory members.

The committee appointed Alva Dingus and Clyde Church to fill the pulpit at 2 O'clock Thurs. evening.

By moving second it was voted to adjourn the conference till Friday Morning at 9:30 A. M.

Alva Dingus reading for lesson 12 verses of the 20th chapter of Acts beginning with the 23rd verse. Prayer by Linda Caldwell. Using for text "none of these things move me." Clyde Church concluding service. This was a very Spiritual Message.

Thursday Nite Service 7:30 P. M.

Committee on Supply pulpit reported as follows

Emory Vanover and Henry Smith to preach at this hour.

Reading for lesson part of the 17th chapter of St. John.

Prayer by Aunt Mary Powers.

Using for text "For ye are dead, and your life hid with Christ in God"

Friday Morning Session 9:30 A. M.

Conference opened with singing. Mod. reading for lesson the fourth chapter of Malachi. Mod. called for volunteer prayer. Myrtle Stewart responding. Mod. having charge declared conference opened for any such lawful business that might come before the Association. The enrollment of delegates, Ministers, Visiting Ministers and Corresponding Messengers. Mod. called for letters from the respective Q. M.

Dickenson County responding. It was as follows:

To the John Thomas Association which will convene with the Payne Gap Church, Payne Gap, Ky. from the 11th-14th of Sept. 1947.

Greetings:

We, the Dickenson Q. M. met with the Counts Chapel Church on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July and organized by electing W. R. Bise, Mod. Clyde Reedy Ass't Mod and Clinton Lambert and N. H. Stanley as clerks. The following delegates were from their respective churches.

Charlie's Chapel	Reported by Letter
Clinchco Church, Mrs. Rudd Patton, Mrs. Everett Kelly Sloan	
Cold Springs Church Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Grizzle, Ruth McCoy	
..... Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Kilgore	
Counts Chapel	Aught Counts, John & Cleve Green
Davis Chapel	Absent
Duncan Gap	Present by Letter
Fleming Town	Julia Stanley, Lenzie & Hattie Mullins
Ferby Church	C. H. Meade
George's Fork	Absent
Hamilton's Chapel	U. S. A. Stafford Meade
Honey Camp	Mrs. Josh Rose Mr. & Mrs. Jim Rose
Hubbadds Chapel	Mr. & Mrs. Connie Lane
Lick Ford	Mr. and Mrs. Hamp Vanover
Martin's Chapel	Tom Martin
Middle Branch	Mrs. Gaines Lambert
..... Grady Rasnack, S. S.	
..... Sutherland	
Mill Creek	Woodrow Jessie, Mrs. Chas. Lambert
..... Harrison & Kermit Deel	
Pine Creek	Present by Letted
Pine Grove	Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Kiser
PiPin's Chapel	Margaret Meade & Dewey Salyers
Puthers Chapel	Mrs. E. A. Reedy, Stella Deel,
..... Oma Arrwood & Joyce Reedy.	
Rachels Chapel	I. S. Gilliam
Rugby Chapel	Maxie Kieth
Tarpon	Dora Buhchett & Bernard Rakes
Union Light	Present by Letter
Yates Chapel ..	Lonzo Edwards, Carl Yates and Mrs. Reba Stanely
Valley Veiw	Lura Vanover, Bertha Stanely
..... Flora Keith, Macatia Lane	

Our Standing Is As Follows

No. of Churches	26
No. of Members	1284
No. of Sunday Schools	21
No. on Roll	1404
Average Attendance	949
No. of Ordained Ministers	28
No. of Ordained Liciniates	2
Value of Church Property	\$22,700.00

W. R. Bise..... Mod.
 Clyde Reedy..... Ass'e Mod.
 N. H. Stanely, Clinton Lamber, clerks

By move and second this letter was accepted and passed by Association.

Moderator calling for next letter. Letcher county Q. M. responding.

It was as follows:

To the John Thomas Association, which will convene with the Payne Gap Church, Payne Gap, Ky. from the 11th.-14th. of Sept. 1947.

Greetings.

We, the Letcher County Conference met with the Marshalls Branch Church from the 23rd. to the 24th. of Aug. 1947, and appointed the following delegates to your association.

From Dunham Church

Annie Balsinger, Dollie Evanoff, Jeneva Radford, Nola Short, Maggie Thomas, Mrs. C. O. Caudle

Mickey Wywn, Burdine Church Billy Wywn, Lura Lowe, Clifford Honeycutt, Betty Holbrook

Marshall's Branch

Mary Delaney, Rosie Haynes, Lenora Wright

Payne Gap Church

Lena McPeaks

Our Standing Is As follows:

No. of Churches	7
No. of Members	464
No. of Sunday Schools	5
No. of Ordained Ministers	25
No. of Liciniates	2
Average Attendance in Sunday School	425
Albert Dingus	Mod.
Johnny Sykes	Clerk

By move and second this letter was accepted and passed by Association. By move and second Conference adjourned till 10:30 A. M. Ministers Conference organized by retaining the same clerk and Mod. Moderator calling for letters from Ministers Conference Dickenson County responding as follows:

We, the Dickenson County Ministers Conference met with the Count's Chapel Church on Sat. before the 4th. Sunday in July 1947, and organized by electing W. R. Bise, Mod., Clinton Lambert and N. H. Stanley, Clerks.

The following ministers were voted in good standing:
 W. R. Bise, J. E. Cox, Floyd Cantrell, Asa Hughes, E. C. Kiser,
 Willard Martin, Monroe Mullins, Josh Rose, Eddie Rose, Troy
 Robinson, Henry Smith, Alex Tompkins Bill Willis, Quentin Keith,
 Dodge Coleman, S. P. Davis, Floyd Hill, W. R. Johnson, Willard
 Kiser, George Monney, Clyde Reedy E. R. Rose, Maston Rose, D. L.
 Smith, Creed Stanley, Luther Taylor, Walter Hughes, A. N. Kiser.

By move and second this conference adjourned until Sat. be-
 fore the fourth Sunday in July. 1948, unless called together by
 the Moderator.

W. R. Bise	Mod.
N. H. Stanely	Clerk
Clinton Lambert	Clerk

By move and second this letter was accepted and passed by
 the Association.

By move and second both Conference adjourned till 2:30 P. M.
 Committee appointed Albert Dingus E. F. Edwards for the preach-
 ing hour at 11 o'clock. Reading for lesson first four verses of the
 21st chapter of Luke. Using for text "Preach the word." This was
 a very impressive message and manifestation of the Holy Spirit
 was present. Prayer by Monroe Hubbard.

Friday Evening Session 2:30 P. M.

Conference called together by singing. Moderator having
 charge. Reading for lesson the fourth chapter of second Timothy.
 Prayer by Luther Strouth.

Moderator calling for such business that might come before
 the Association. First item was finishing the Ministers Confer-
 ence work. Reading Ministers report from Letcher County. It was
 as follows:

The Letcher County Ministers Conference was called to order.
 Aug. 23rd. 1947. The character of the following ministers were
 passed as good:

Joe Banks, Porter Brewer, Albedt Dingus, C. C. Flanary, Monroe
 Hubbard, C. W. Isom, L. D. Mahan, Ersel McPeaks, F. M. Reese.
 Marvin Strunk, James Wright, A. L. Dingus, J. I. Terry, W. M. El-
 kins, Charlie Graham, Ezra Johnson, Everett Potter, Clyde Huff,
 Robert Madden, Hubert Hill,, Persey Elkins, V. C. Manis, John
 Akers, D. D. Moore, Emory Vanover.

Albert Dingus	Mod.
.....Johnny Sykes	Clerk

By move and second this letter was accepted and passed by
 the Association.

Moderator calling for next letter. New Durm Q. M. respond-
 ing. It was as follows:

New Durm ministers conference met with the Clinch View Church, August 10, 1947, and organized by electing J. C. Rasnack Mod. and Faye Hess as clerk. Eight ordained ministers being present. Their names were called and each one voted upon. Their characters were passed as good Five ministers being absent, their characters were passed as good.

Ministers names were as follows:

J. C. Rasnack, C. E. Spencer, M. P. Ball, W. E. Rasnack, Goinian Kelly, C. E. Church, Mose Napier, Lee Wilson, R. S. Ball, Elmer Hess.

..It was regular moved and second that we elect J. C. Rasnack, Chair. C. E. Church and W. E. Rasnack for the ordaining council.

J. C. Rasnack Mod.
 ..Faye Hess Clerk

By move and second this letter was accepted by the Association. Next was reading of the letter from the New Durm Q. M. It was as follows:

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptist.
 Greetings:

We, the Russell County New Durm Q. M. met with the Clinch View Church from the 8th to the 10th of Aug. 1947 and appointed the following delegates to the Association.

I. F. Stevens, E. R. Rasnack, Ralph Stevens, Bertha Rasnack, Mary E. Rasnack, Cleve Dye, Ella Dye, Oria Wilson, Hazel Wilson, Lenord Dye, Mrs. Lenord Dye, Dave Owens Norma Whited, M. F. Hess, Gus Hess, Lula Hess, Harley Dye, Klye Tompson, Milburn Hess, Harley Dye, Corb Ray, Ralph Rasnack, Oria Wilson.

Our Standing is as follows:

No. of Churches	7
No. of Members	216
No. of Sundays Schools	3
No. of Ordained Ministers	13
J. C. Rannack	Mod.
.....Faye Hess	Clerk

Next was the questioning of the Quartely Meeting for their quota of minutes. They are to be distdubeted as follows:

New Durm	150
Letcher County	250
Dickenson County	450
Total	850

The clerk was empowered to draw on the Quartley Meeting for their part of their minutes. And the clerk was empowered to draw on the Association to pay for minutes.

By move and second the Conference was adjourned until 9:30 Sat. morning.

The Pulpit Committee choosing W. R. Bise and J. C. Rasnack for this hour. Reading for lesson the 50th Psalm. Prayer by Maydel Dingus. There was a great manifestation the Holy Spirit during this hour of service.

Clyde Reedy and Enoch Rose was chosen by the Pulpit committee for this hour of service at 7:30 P. M. Clyde Reedy reading lesson the 13th chapter of 1st. Cor. Prayer by Emmett Powers. Text "Love." This was a wonderful hour of service and a great manifestation of the Spirit.

Saturday Morning Session 9:30 A. M.

Conference opened by singing. Mod. reading for lesson 22nd chapter of Rev. Prayer by James Wright. Mod. calling for such business that might come before the Association. First item was the appointing of corresponding messengers to various sister Associations. They were as follows

Southwest Va. Association

L. D. Mahan, Alva Dingus, Ersel McPeaks, Mrs. Mae Vanover.

Ky. State Association

L. D. Mahan, Monroe Hubbard.

Clinch Valley Association

W. R. Bise, Everett Johnson.

Next was the appointing of ordaining Councils.

Letcher County

L. D. Mahan, Albert Dingus, Chair. C. W. Isom.

Dickenson County

E. C. Kiser, Chair.; W. R. Bise, Emory Vanover.

New Durm Q M.

J. C. Rasnack, Chair, W. E. Rasnack, C. E. Church

It was unanimously voted by the Association to double the amount of clerks fee. Making the fee \$20.00 per year.

It was also unanimously voted by the association that on Sun-folloing, the Association would be a Memorial for all the deceased members of the Freewill Baptist. The first service, beginning next year, will be a general Memorial for all those that have passed away.

This bringing to a close the work of the John Thomas Association by move and second this Association was adjourned till Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in Sept. 1948 unless called together by the Mod. when it will reconvene with the Valley View Church at Clintwood, Va.

By move and second Ministers Conference adjourned till Sat- before the second Sunday in Sept. 1948 unless called together by the Mod. when it will reconvene with the Valley View Church at Clintwood, Va.

Saturday Morning Preaching Service

Clyde Huff and Charlie Mullins was chosen for this hour: Prayer by Charlie Isom, Clyde Huff using for text "With me you can do anything."

Preaching Service Sat. Night

Preaching by Albert Dingus and C. W. Isom. Reading for lesson 3rd. chapter of 1st. Cor. Using for text the 16th. verse of the 6th. chapter of Jeremiah.

Preaching Service Sunday at 11:00 O'clock

Preaching by Edd Rose and L. D. Mahan. Reading for lesson the 3rd. chapter of Rev. Using for text the 4th verse of the lesson read.

YEARLY MEETING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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 the Constitution.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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 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.

Article 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.

Article 6. The session of this Yearly Meeting shall convene on Thursday before the second 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 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 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.

Article 7. The 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 regulations of its sessions.

Article 8. This Conference shall not recognize any minister or delegate unless they comply with the constitution and by-laws thereof.

Article 9. Each Quarterly Meeting shall send to the Yearly Meeting, with their annual letters, funds equal to ten cents (10c) per member in said Quarterly Meeting; said funds to be used in meeting expenses of the Yearly Meeting.

Article 10. The 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 alterations having been given and recorded at the next previous session.

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.

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-fifth 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 doctrine 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 treasury only by the order of the church.

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

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

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

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 ordinance. 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.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk 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 quit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring to 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, ordinance, 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.

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 into 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.

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 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 Freewill Baptist Church, he must first join this church. Then the proceedings are the same as with licentiates; which is as follows:

When he feels Divinely called he is given a license by Pastor of the Church to which he belongs. Then he is free to exercise his gift by exhortation for a period of twelve months. If proven satisfactory he is recommended to the Quarterly Meeting by said Church. Then from the Quarterly Meeting to the Ordaining Council. If proven satisfactory then he is ordained, otherwise he is granted a new license to exhort for twelve months more.

5. Any minister 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 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.

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

ORGANIZATION OF 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 members and one ordained minister which will meet with

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 Freewill Baptists, and instructed for membership in one body.

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 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. 1:17; 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 quickened and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7, 8; Acts 2:5; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

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 moral 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 24:27; 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 brought them: because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and the 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; John 5:1, 10.

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

8. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly 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 of 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 impressive of His Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just and change themselves with their own damnation, for willfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:17; St. John 6:45, 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 12:29.

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 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 1:14; II Peter 2:1; II Thesa. 2:11; Rom. 2:10-21.

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 of 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 teaching 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 made 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.

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 Meetings are requested 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. Any ministers failing to report for a period of two years, either in person or by letter, or both, shall automatically exclude himself 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 Meetings where they move.

BY-LAWS

1. No conference shall be held with less than three ordained ministers and four delegates belonging to the 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. Any motion must be made by one member, seconded by another and afterwards stated by the moderator, before it is debated. A motion shall be reduced to writing by the mover or 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. When 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 or 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 committees 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. L. SMITH

ARTHUR CASTEEL

J. C. RASNAKE

W. R. STALLARD

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 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 consequence 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.

Obituaries

EDWARD ANDERSON

Edward, son of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Anderson of Clinchco, Va. was killed in a mine accident at Dante, Va. on June 5, 1947.

He was a loving companion and son and was loved by all who knew him.

He always had a bright smile and a loving howdy for every one he came in contact with.

We know that there is a God who gives justice in all things and when we pray he hears and answers in his own will and way.

We trust that Edward prayed. Every one that knows the worth of prayer, pray for the Anderson family, wife and baby

He leaves to mourn his loss: wife, one sweet little girl, father, mother, and several brothers & sisters, and a host of friends.

Aunt Mae Vanover

JACK DEEL

Jack Deel, son of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Deel, was burned to death by gasoline on the 12th day of Sept. 1947, He was a sweet and loving boy and was loved by all who knew him.

He said to his mother just before his passing "be still mother dont you hear the Angles singing".

We think that Jack must have been thinking and meditating upon heaven and immortal glory.

We feel our loss is heavens gain.

He leaves father, mother, brothers, and sisters and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

Mrs. John Vanover

Obituaries

Miss Betty Lambert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lambert of Tenso, Va. died Nov. 7, 1946. Making her stay on earth 18 years, and 9 days.

Betty was a very sweet and lovable girl who won many awards for perfect attendance at Sunday School. She gave her heart to Jesus and it was her desire to be baptised, but sickness prevented.

Even in her suffering, Betty seemed constantly thinking of her friends and classmates and wanted them to know Jesus.

She bore her suffering so bravely, always praying that God's will be done.

It is so sweet to know that you boys and girls who loved Betty so dearly, may go see her someday, if you will but humble yourselves and take Jesus into your heart as she did.

This seemed to be the message Betty wanted to leave with you.

She left a Father, Mother, two Brothers two Sisters and a host of friends to mourn her loss.

We feel our loss is Heavens gain.

Written by her Sunday School Teacher
Mrs. Mona Tiller

KERMIT MARTIN

Kermit, son of Mr. & Mrs. Con Dee Martin of Long Branch, Was killed in a mine accident at Clinchco, Va. June 16, 1947. Kermit was a fine boy and was loved by all who knew him.

I had several conversations with Kermit on the Bible and he always seemed to be interested and always said he was going to be a Christian.

Kermit lived long enough to pray. He realized that his condition was serious and he trusted in our Loving God who hears and answers Prayers. We know that God takes care of all these things.

He leaves to mourn his loss a loving Mother & Father, Wife and step-daughter, and several brothers & sisters and a host of friends.

Written by:

Mrs. John Vanover

MINISTERS REPORT

Names and Address	SERMONS PREACHED	CHURCHES PASTORED	REVIVALS HELD	PROFESIONS WITNESSED	N.O. BAPTISED	ADDITIONS TO CHURCH	CHURCHES ORGANIZED	FUNERALS PREACHED	MILES TRAVELED	MONEY RECEIVED	PRAYER SER- VICES HELD	MEMORIALS HELD	S. S. ORGANIZED
M. P. Ball Davenport, Va.	56	2	0	11	7	0	0	6	400	0	13	5	0
E. E. Edwards Bristol, Va.	125	0	1	8	0	2	0	0	2000	\$10.00	40	6	0
C. E. Church Swords Creek, Va.	175	3	4	91	11	9	0	9	2790	\$467.80	0	9	1
J. C. Rasnake Cleveland, Va.	108	3	3	30	15	0	0	6	1285	\$534.50	0	6	0
C. E. Spencer Drill, Va.	157	0	4	13	2	8	0	3	1000	\$75.00	15	4	0
Gonian Kelly Cleveland, Va.	26	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0
W. E. Rasnake Council, Va.	96	3	0	9	3	0	0	3	400	\$23.50	6	5	0
L. D. Coleman Paw Paw, Ky.	48	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	300	\$22.40	6	1	1
Robert Madden Atock, Ky.	100	0	1	8	2	6	0	2	1000	\$30.00		3	0
Clyde Huff Mc Roberts, Ky.	75	0	3	60	25	0	1	8	2000	\$75.00	50	0	1
Albert Dingus Burdine, Ky.	60	2	2	50	15	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D. D. Moore Mc Roberts, Ky.	60	1	1	30	2	2	0	8	1000	0	12	10	0
L. D. Mahan Payne Gap, Ky.	57	1	0	12	0	0	0	4	800	0	16	3	0
Report For 1946													
W. R. Bise Millard, Va.	130	4	0	10	0	15	0	2	550	\$130.00	15	4	0

