

Minutes

of the

JOHN THOMAS
ASSOCIATION

of

Freewill Baptists

STATE OF VIRGINIA

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Held With

Clinchco Church

CLINCHCO, VA.

September 12, 1954

TREASURER'S REPORT OF JOHN THOMAS
ASSOCIATION — 1953-1954

Total in Treasury 1953	\$501.11
King Printing Co. 1700 Minutes	244.82
Everett Johnson, Clerk	20.00
	\$264.82
Balance in Treasury 9-11-54	\$236.29

Received into Treasury 9-11-54:

New Durm Conference, Cleve Dye, Cash	40.00
Letcher County Conference, L. D. Mahan, Ck.	100.00
Dickenson County Conference, B. F. Kennedy, Ck.	163.40
Union Light Church. By Letter, Cash	2.00
Tri-State Conference. Henry Estep, Cash	15.00
Added to Treasury 9-11-54	\$320.40
Balance Brought Forward	236.29
Total in Treasury	\$556.69

Expenditures:

Everett Johnson, Clerk	20.00
Balance in Treasury to date 9-11-54	\$536.69

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Officers

Officers of the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists that were elected for the year 1954-1955:

ALVA DINGUS, McClure, Va. _____ *Moderator*
C. W. ISOM, Burdine, Ky. _____ *Assistant Moderator*
EVERETT JOHNSON, Clinchco, Va. _____ *Clerk*
LESTER ABLE, Jenkins, Ky. _____ *Treasurer*

Ordaining Councils

LETCHER COUNTY CONFERENCE

ALBERT DINGUS, *Chairman* _____ Jenkins, Ky.
C. W. ISOM _____ Burdine, Ky.
L. D. MAHAN _____ Payne Gap, Ky.

NEW DURM CONFERENCE

JAMES HUTCHISON, *Chairman* _____ Swords Creek, Va.
HARLEY DYE _____ Swords Creek, Va.
JAMES HALL _____ Drill, Va.

DICKENSON COUNTY CONFERENCE

E. C. KISER, *Chairman* _____ Stratton, Va.
E. E. REEDY _____ Millard, Va.
ALVIE DINGUS _____ McClure, Va.

TRI-STATE CONFERENCE

CLAUDE CONN, *Chairman* _____ Paw Paw, Ky.
GEORGE HARDING _____ Paw Paw, Ky.
HENRY ESTEP _____ Paw Paw, Ky.

VISITING MINISTERS

REV. B. R. POWERS, Southwest Va. Assoc. _____ Wise, Va.
REV. J. O. BEVAN
Canadian Freewill Baptist Assoc. _____ Okemah, Okla.
REV. RAYMOND BEVAN,
Canadian Freewill Baptist Assoc. _____ Okemah, Okla.
REV. O'QUIN, Sandy Valley Assoc. _____ Council, Va.

CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS

ROY AND BERTHA HYLTON, Sandy Valley Assoc.

Proceedings

The thirty-second annual session of John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists convened with the Clinchco Church, Clinchco, Va., September 10-12, 1954, at 9:30 A.M.

Clerk having charge, read for lesson the 3rd Psalm. Prayer by Sister Lura Vanover.

Thursday being dropped from the association, clerk proceeded by enrolling delegates, ministers, visiting ministers, and corresponding messengers.

Delegates from Dickenson County:

Virgie Kennedy	Lula Kennedy
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold	Lura Vanover
Gouge	Lee Hill
Bessie Large	Greta Hill
Flora Keith	Patsy Spears
Eva Yates	Carmel Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Simon	Mr. and Mr. Dan Rose
Sutherland	Mr. and Mrs. Delmar
Martha Ann Sauls	Farmer
Gladys Holbrook	Elmer Kennedy
Munsey Mullins	Allan Yates
Gaines Lambert	Wilma Yates
Mr. and Mrs. Warren	Verna Patton
Salyers	Stella Deel
Joe Potter and wife	Fannie Mullins
Arnold Large	Marie Kiser
Walton Beverly	

Delegates from Letcher County Conference:

Cora Able	Edna Bates
Oliva Blanton	Mrs. Everett Potter
Edna Blanton	Grace Huff
Lena McPeaks	

Delegates from New Durm Conference:

Walter Whited	Burt Diamond
Jennie Whited	Casey Blankenship
Dan Hess	Mr. and Mrs. Chester Whited
Milburn Hess	Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Dye
Lina Diamond	Mrs. Harley Dye

Delegates from Tri-State Conference:

Ernest Stiltner and wife

MINISTERS

LETCHER COUNTY CONFERENCE

Lester Able	C. W. Isom	Clyde Huff
L. D. Mahan	Ersel Peaks	

NEW DURM CONFERENCE

J. C. Rasnake	Harley Dye	Benton Miller
James M. Hutchinson		

TRI-STATE CONFERENCE

Claude Conn

DICKENSON COUNTY CONFERENCE

James Hobbs	Asa Hughes	Alva Dingus
Morton Rose	W. R. Bise	C. T. Dutton
E. C. (Jack) Kiser	Everett Johnson	
Gobel Rose	Emory Vanover	

Enrollment being finished clerk proceeded by electing moderator unanimously. Brother Alva Dingus was elected to serve as moderator. Moderator taking charge continued by welcoming visitors into the association.

The association gave him power to appoint all committees. He appointed Brother C. W. Isom as an assistant.

He continued by electing clerk and treasurer for the year.

The association voted to retain Everett Johnson, Clerk and J. W. Yates. On Saturday Brother Yates resigned as treasurer due to sickness in his family which prohibited him from attending the association as he would like to. His request was granted and Brother Lester Able was elected to serve as treasurer.

The moderator then appointed a committee to supply the pulpit during the association.

PULPIT COMMITTEE

Munsy Mullins, Chairman	Myrta Boggs
John H. Sutherland	

The association being organized it adjourned till 2:00 p.m. Friday evening.

FRIDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

Brother Bise being pastor of the church opened the service by reading for a lesson 119th Psalm, calling for prayer by Brother Wesley Edwards. Brother Asa Hughes concluded service.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION 2:00 P.M.

Conference opened with congregation singing.

Moderator read for a lesson 2nd chapter of 2nd Thessalonians. Prayer by Brother James Hobbs.

Moderator declared conference open for such business that might come before it.

Letters from Dickenson County and New Durm Conference were read, accepted and passed by association.

Dickenson County letter was as follows:

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists which convened with the Clinchco Freewill Baptist Church beginning on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in September 1954.

We, the Dickenson County Quarterly Conference met with the Pyles Memorial Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July 1954 and organized by electing Rev. Alvie Dingus Moderator, Rev. Kermit Deel, Asst. Moderator: Clinton Lambert and Lloyd Hillman as clerks.

The following delegates were from their respective churches and are delegates to the Association:

Clinchco—Mr. and Mrs. Warren Saylers, Muncey Mullins, Mrs. Verna Patton, Counts Chapel, was absent.

Davis—Mr. and Mrs. Russel Blevins, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Strouth and Mrs. Alma Davis.

Duncan Gap—Katie Beverly, Earl Slemph and Mr. and Mrs. Noah Hamilton.

Dyers Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McClaine, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Rose.

Fleming Town—Ervie Dutton, Katenah Dutton and Tivis Mullins

Ferby Chapel—Martha Meade, R. C. Powers, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Sturgill.

Fremont—Ruth Deel, Patsy Spears, Estey Lee Moore.

Georges Fork—Mr. and Mrs. Walton Beverly, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kenedy, Vergil Rose.

Hillridge—Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Large, Greta Hill, Lee Hill.

Honey Camp—Robert Rose, Falley Rose, Clara Smith.

Hubbard—Mr. and Mrs. Barnie Collins.

Lick Fork—Mr. and Mrs. Brack Powers, Walter Lane, Emma Vanover.

Martins—Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Amburgy, Theodore Hicks.

McCoys—Bennett Kilgore, Retha Kilgore, Daisy McCoy.

Middle Branch—Gaines Lambert, Simon Sutherland, Grady Rasnick, Snoda Sutherland.

Mill Creek—Elmer Kennedy, Fannie De Kennedy, Myrtle Farmer, Marthan Sauls.

Mills—Mr. and Mrs. Thermon Sproles, Mr. and Mrs. Sallie Castle.
 Pine Creek—Elsie Mullins, Willie Newberry.
 Pine Grove—Emmit Hamilton, Orlena Hamilton, Arnold Gouge, Hattie Gouge.
 Pippins—Dewey Sayler.
 Pewther—Allen Yates, Wilma Yates, Flora Reedy, Stella Deel.
 Pyles Memorial—Fannie Mullins, Carl Vanover, Lillian Vanover.
 Rachel—Cowan Mullins, Samantha Mullins, Alta Mullins.
 Rugsby—Goldia Kennedy, Nell Dingus, Lula Kennedy, Pearl Mullins.
 Splash Dam—Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mullins.
 Valley View—Vergy Mullins, Bessie Large.
 Tarpon—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Potter, Marie Kiser, Gladys Hollbrock.
 Yates—Mr. and Mrs. Myrta Boggs, Mildred Yates.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	29
Membership	1634
Number of Sunday Schools	25
Number on Roll	1312
Ordained Ministers	45
Licentiates	4

Done by order of the Dickens County Quarterly Conference while in regular session with the Pyles Memorial Church, July 24, 25, 1954.

Alvie Dingus, *Moderator*
 Kermit Deel, *Assistant Moderator*
 Clinton Lambert, Lloyd Hillman, *Clerks*

New Durm Conference letter was as follows:

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptist:

We, the Russell County, New Durm Conference, met with the Fullers Chapel Church and organized by electing James Hall, Moderator, Harley Dye, Assistant Moderator, and Faye Rasnake, Clerk. The following delegates were from their respective churches:

Fullers Chapel Church—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Whited, Mr. and Mrs. Guss Hess, Ralph Rasnake, Mattie Hess, Corb Ray, Dennie Spencer, and Laura Rasnake.

Drill Chapel Church—Mr. and Mrs. Chester Whited, Hugh Coleman, Kocy Blankenship.

Ephesus Church—Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Dye, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Whited, Eula Newberry, Edna Peck, Martha Dennie, J. W. Dennie, R. C. Pentley.

Fletcher Ridge Church—Harley Nuckles, Ernest Nuckles, Cora Nuckles.

Hale's Chapel—Alva Ray, Dock Presley.

Mt. View Church—Mr. and Mrs. Aubry Compton, Ezra Johnson, Gracie Compton, Rosie Cook.

Clinch View Church—Bertha Rasnake.

Guiding Light Church—Mr. and Mrs. Bert Diamond, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Arwood.

Mt. Zion Church—Leonard Dye.

Tunnell Hill Church—Mr. and Mrs. Grover Sykes.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	_____	11
Number of Members	_____	400
Number of Ministers	_____	16
Number of Sunday Schools	_____	3

Done by order of New Durm Conference while in regular session with Fullers Chapel Church August 6-8, 1954.

Rev. James Hall, *Moderator*

Rev. Harley Dye, *Assistant Moderator*

Foye Rasnake, *Clerk*

No other business at this time. Conference adjourned until 9:30 A.M. Saturday morning.

PREACHING SERVICE FRIDAY EVENING

Committee appointed Brothers Emory Vanover and Benton Miller for this hour of service. Brother Vanover read for lesson 2 verses from the 12th chapter of Romans, 1st and 2nd verses. Prayer by Sister Martha Ann Sauls.

FRIDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

For this hour committee appointed Brothers E. C. (Jack) Kiser, and C. W. Isom for this hour. Prayer by Brother Warren Salyers. Brother Kiser read for a lesson the 34, 35 verses of chapter 13 of St. Luke, also 1st, 2nd and 3rd verses from the 6th chapter of Genesis, using for text, "The Spirit of God."

A wonderful spirit existed during this service. Mrs. Lacy Rose, of Clinchco was converted during this service.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION 9:30 A.M.

Conference opened with singing. Moderator read for lesson 6 verses of the 1st Psalm. Prayer by Sister Martha Wright.

Moderator called for letters from Letcher County and Tri-State Conferences. Letcher County reported. The letter was read, accepted and passed. It was as follows:

The Letcher County Conference met with the McRoberts Church, Aug. 21 and 22, 1954, and appointed the following delegates:

Luther Dingus	Beatrice Graham	Alpha Taylor
Lillie Dingus	Bruce Graham	Juanita Gibson
Lena McPeaks	Barbara Gardner	Burtes May
Mrs. Daniel Green	Patsy Hayes	Essie Stafford
Daniel Green	Alberta Blevins	Bill Anderson
Edna Bates	Lawrence Childress	Edith Wright
Ester Miller	Robert Proffitt	Lura Parker
Ersel Sergeant	Gracie Huff	Oliver Blanton
Effie Miles	Mary Robertson	Helen Bolling
Rosa Bryant	J. E. Hood	Kimer Gardner
Duffie Jent	Pearly Wright	Donald Crager
Ellie Davis	Lloyd Parker	W. H. Elkins
Minnie Freeman	Edna Blanton	Jessie Eversole
Mary Belle Whitaker	Gertrude Hale	Ervin Eversole
Minnie Jones	Clarence Tolliver	Billie Eversole
Dorothy Green	Thelma Mullins	Dewey Griffith
W. M. Wright	Cora Goode	Curtis Maggard
Ethel Anderson	Thelma Loveday	Eldred Hayes
James Isom	Naomi Wilson	Mrs. Eldred Hayes
Vonda Greene	Patsy Goodson	Ollie Sanders
Lawrence Shelby	Henrietta Milton	Jehemiah Cook
Maggie Tackett	Roda Dagnan	Luther Baker
Alpha Looney	Nevalyn Williams	Bill Harris
Barbara Akers	Allie Adams	Robert Prater
Mamie Wright	Hubert Williams	Davis Swindall
Cora Abel	Joe Adams	Elster Robinson
Donella Hibbits	Dwight Puckett	Sue Swindall

Number of Churches	24
Number of Members	1029
Number of Sunday Schools	18
Number on Roll	1161
Average Attendance	792

This has been a good working year for all the churches. They have helped the Foreign Mission and Orphan's Home.

We have several new churches. Pray that we will continue to do our very best for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Albert Dingus, *Moderator*

Eugene Adkins, *Clerk*

Tri-state being absent, was carried over until Saturday afternoon. At this time the treasurer's report was read.

The appointing of messengers to the different associations was the business taken up next. They were as follows:

Sandy Valley Association — J. C. Rasnake, Myrta Boggs and wife, Asa Hughes, Burt Diamond and wife, and Casey Blankenship.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION

Alva Dingus

Lloyd Hillman

L. D. Mahan

Ersel McPeaks

VIRGINIA STATE ASSOCIATION

Convenes with the Russel Fork Church, Council, Va., on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in June, 1955.

C. E. Reedy

Munsey Mullins

J. C. Rasnake

KENTUCKY STATE ASSOCIATION

Convenes on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in June, 1955.

C. W. Isom

Lester Able

The Ministers Conference was organized at this time by retaining the same clerk and moderator.

This finishing the work at this hour, conference adjourned until 2: P.M., Saturday evening.

SATURDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE

Brothers L. D. Mahan and J. C. Rasnake were chosen for this hour. Brother Mahan read for lesson 2nd chapter of Colossians. Prayer by Brother Fred Taylor.

Greetings to the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists which convened with the Clinchco Church, Clinchco, Va., beginning Friday before the 2nd Sunday in September. We, the Tri-State Conference, met with the Kelsa Chapel Church August 19-22, 1954, and elected Claud Conn, Moderator, Ernest Stiltner, Clerk.

The following delegates were chosen to attend the association:

Harmon Chapel—Ernest Stiltner and wife.

Kelsa Chapel—Claud Conn, Henry Estep.

New Zion—Floyd Looney, Ben Spencer.

Bull Creek Church—Troy Dotson, Hobert Hatefield.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	_____	4
Number of Members	_____ (about)	150
Ordained Ministers	_____	8
Licentiatees	_____	

Claud Conn, *Moderator*

Ernest Stiltner, *Clerk*

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION 2:00 P.M.

The Hamilton Quartet opened the conference with singing. Moderator read for lesson 6 verses of the 14th chapter of St. John. By request Sister Harley Dye from Swords Creek led in prayer.

Moderator then called for unfinished business. Tri-State reported with a letter. It was read, accepted and passed by the association.

Brother Orville O'Quinn gave an oral report from the Sandy Valley Association which was received and passed.

The minutes are to be distributed as follows:

Dickenson County	_____	700
New Durm	_____	300
Letcher County	_____	500
Tri-State	_____	200
Total	_____	1700

This finishing the work of the association it adjourned until Friday before the 2nd Sunday in September, at 9:30 A.M., when it will convene with the Kelsa Chapel Church, Paw Paw, Ky., unless called together by moderator.

Ministers Conference already organized. Moderator continued by calling for letter from the four ministers conference. Each conference letter was read and voted on separately.

Those reporting were:

Dickenson County
New Durm

Tri-State
Letcher County

The work of the Ministers Conference being finished, it adjourned until Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1955, unless called together by the moderator, when it will convene with the Kelsa Chapel Church, Paw Paw, Ky.

We, the Tri-State Ministers Conference met with the New Zion Church at Big Rock on Friday before the fifth Sunday in August and organized the Minister's Conference.

The ministers that were present:

Claud Conn

Willie Compton

George Harding

Henry Estep

The following ministers were absent:

Alfred Flanning

Miles Herbert Hurley

Walter Hurley

Troy Dotson

All the ministers' characters were passed on as good. By order of Tri-State Ministers Conference while in session with New Zion Church at Big Rock, Va., on Friday before the 5th Sunday in August, 1954.

Claud Conn, *Moderator*

Ernest Stitner, *Clerk*

SATURDAY EVENING PREACHING SERVICE

Committee appointed Brothers Claud Conn and Ben Powers for this hour of service. Lesson and prayer were omitted at this service.

SATURDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE

Brothers C. T. Dutton and E. M. Rose were appointed for this hour of service. Brother Dutton read the 1st chapter of 2nd Peter for a lesson. By request Sister Vadna Culbertson led the prayer and Sister Huie A. Mullins concluded the prayer.

We, the Dickenson County Ministers Conference met with the Pyles Memorial church on Saturday, July 25, 1954 and organized our Conference by electing Rev. Alvie Dingus Moderator, and Clinton Lambert, Lloyd Hillman as Clerks.

The following ministers were present:

S. P. Davis

Quinton Keith

Luther Taylor

Alvie Dingus

R. L. Large

Marion Belcher

C. T. Dutton

George Mooney

E. R. Flint

Kermit Deel

Ted Mullins

James Hobbs

Erwin Hall

Monroe Mullins

Everett McGlothian

Walter Hughes

C. E. Reedy

Luke Wright

Asia Hughes

E. M. Rose

Joe Johnson

Everett Johnson

Gobel Rose

Rice Bowman

E. C. Kiser

Josh Rose

Licentiates presented:

Rufus Keith

B. S. Moore

Willie Newberry

The following ministers were absent:

W. R. Bise	Hie A. Mullins	Emory Vanover
Emory Estep	Lee Mullins	James Wright
Bill Harrison	Maston Rose	Ivan Reedy
Larence Hicks	Troy Robinson	Everett Smith
Willard Kiser	Cecil Ramey	Newton McGlothian
Kasper Lane	Fred Taylor	D. F. Kennedy

By a move and second the characters of all the ministers were passed as good except Alex Tompkins and Jerry Mullins who were dropped from the Conference at their request.

D. F. Kennedy was reinstated in the conference.

By order of the ministers conference while in regular session with the Pyles Memorial church, July 25, 1954.

Alvie Dingus, *Moderator*

Clinton Lambert, Lloyd Hillman, *Clerks*

The Letcher County Ministers Conference met with McRoberts Church Saturday, August 21, 1954. Albert Dingus was appointed Moderator. Eugene Adkins was appointed Clerk.

The following ministers were present:

Nobel Wright	D. D. Moore	W. A. Looney
Robert Prater	Ezra Johnson	Robert Madden
Bill Harris	Albert Dingus	Donald Sexton
Harold Miles	Isiac Braham	L. P. Hale
John Akers	C. W. Isom	Eugene Adkins
Clyde Huff	Charlie Caudill	Jonnie Skeens
Eddie Byrant	Lester Abel	John Vanover
Glenn Miller	Ledford Mahan	John Miller
J. P. Banks	Darwin Mullins	Hargus Brewer
Dempsey Akers	Lloyd Pike	Adam Wright
Ersel McPeaks		

Ministers absent:

Everett Potter	Leo Goode	Gene Miller
Hilt Taylor	Dallas Kelly	Longely Milton
Wesley Thomas	Johnnie Stofer	W. C. Manes
Bill Smith	Forest Beverly	Charlie Graham
Jimmie Seals	Frank Delph	Henry Don Vest
Edward H. Hall	Ned Wesley	

Total number of ministers — 48.

Lloyd Pike was received into the Letcher County Ministers Conference.

Ordaining Council: Albert Dingus, chairman, Jenkins, Ky., C. W. Isom, Burdine, Ky., L. D. Mahon, Payne Gap, Ky.

Albert Dingus, *Moderator*

Eugene Adkins, *Clerk*

We, the New Durm Ministers Conference, met with the Fullers Chapel Church, August 7, 1954, and organized by electing J. C. Rasnake, Moderator, Foye Rasnake, Clerk. There were 11 ordained ministers present and 4 absent. Their names were called and each voted on. Their characters passed as good. They are as follows:

J. C. Rasnake
Glen Peck
James Hall
James Hutchison
Elmer Hess
Kyle Hubbard
Edward Perkins
Benton Miller

Harley Dye
Gonan Kelley
Charlie Keen
W. E. Rasnake
M. P. Ball
Lee Wilson
Henry Ball

Done by order of New Durm Conference while in regular session with Fullers Chapel Church August 1, 1954.

Rev. J. C. Rasnake, *Moderator*
Faye Rasnake, *Clerk*

The association wishes to thank the people in and around Clinchco, Va. for their kindness and fine spirit shown and extended to the people during this association.

Ministers' Report

From August 1953 to August 1954

DONALD SEXTON

Churches Pastored _____ 1
 Sermons Preached _____ 117
 Number Baptized _____ 5
 Prayer Services Held _____ 58
 Miles Traveled _____ 3000
 Money Received _____ \$215.00
 Funerals Held _____ 3
 Witnessed Several Conversions.

JOHNNY SKEENS

Churches Pastored _____ 2
 Sermons Preached _____ 225
 Revivals Held _____ 7
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 52
 Number Baptized _____ 47
 Burials Attended _____ 5
 Memorials Held _____ 2
 Prayer Services Held _____ 60
 Churches Organized _____ 1
 Sunday Schools Organized _____ 1
 Miles Traveled _____ 1500

ROBERT MADDEN

Sermons Preached _____ 120
 Miles Traveled _____ 2000
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 50
 Number Baptized _____ 30
 Churches Organized _____ 1
 Sunday Schools Organized _____ 1
 Churches Pastored _____ 1
 Money Received _____ \$100.00

EUGENE ADKINS

Churches Pastored _____ 1
 Sermons Preached (about) _____ 100
 Revivals Held _____ 3
 Conversions Witnessed (about) _____ 15
 Number Baptized _____ 21
 Burials Attended _____ 4
 Memorials Held _____ 4
 Prayer Services Held _____ 12
 Total Miles Traveled (about) _____ 3000
 Money Received _____ \$50.00

DEWEY GRIFFITH

Sermons Preached _____ 175
 Revivals Held _____ 1
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 10
 Number Baptized _____ 2
 Burials Attended _____ 1
 Memorials Held _____ 1
 Prayer Services Held _____ 25
 Miles Traveled _____ 1100
 Money Received _____ \$3.60

GEORGE HARDING

Churches Pastored _____ 1
 Sermons Preached _____ 150
 Number Baptized _____ 18
 Burials Attended _____ 4
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 18
 Memorials Held _____ 1
 Prayer Services Held _____
 Miles Traveled _____ 10,000
 Money Received _____ \$32.00
 Revivals Held _____ 6

HENRY ESTEP

Churches Pastored _____ None
 Sermons Preached _____ 90
 Number Baptized _____ 16
 Burials Attended _____ None
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 16
 Memorials Held _____ 1
 Prayer Services _____ 40
 Miles Traveled _____ 2000
 Money Received _____ None
 Revivals Held _____ 2

WILLIE COMPTON

Churches Pastored _____ 1
 Sermons Preached _____ 140
 Number Baptized _____ 10
 Burials Attended _____ 3
 Memorials Held _____ 1
 Prayer Services Held _____ 60
 Miles Traveled _____ 5000
 Revivals Held _____ 2
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 10

CURTIS MAGGARD

Sermons Preached _____ 67
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 5
 Number Baptized _____ 4
 Prayer Services Held _____ 75
 Revivals Held _____ 1
 Miles Traveled _____ 900

W. A. LOONEY

Churches Pastored _____ 2
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 32
 Number Baptized _____ 7
 Burials Attended _____ 7
 Prayer Services Held _____ 5
 Miles Traveled _____ 2870
 Money Received _____ \$107.75

JOHN AKERS

Churches Pastored _____ 2
 Sermons Preached _____ 88
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 5
 Number Baptized _____ 6
 Burials Attended _____ 4
 Memorials Held _____ 4
 Prayer Services Held _____ 6
 Churches Organized _____ 1
 Sunday Schools Organized _____ 1
 Couples Married _____ 3
 Miles Traveled _____ 714

L. DODGE COLEMAN

Sermons Preached _____ 54
 Churches Pastored _____ 1
 Revivals (helped in) _____ 3
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 18
 Number Baptized _____ 5
 Additions _____ 7
 Burials Attended _____ 3
 Memorials Held _____ 1
 Miles Traveled _____ 700
 Money Received _____ \$87.00
 Prayer Services Held _____ 23

NED WESLEY

Sermons Preached _____ 131
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 26
 Number Baptized _____ 17
 Churches Pastored _____ 1
 Funerals Held _____ 1
 Prayer Services Held _____ 20
 Miles Traveled _____ 2000

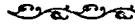
CLAUD CONN

Churches Pastored _____ 3
 Sermons Preached _____ 140
 Number Baptized _____ 21
 Burials Attended _____ 15
 Memorials Held _____ 3
 Conversions Witnessed _____ 21
 Miles Traveled _____ 2000
 Money Received _____ \$5.00
 Revivals Held _____ 3

A MAN OF GOD



(A brief history of the Life of Elder C. S. Penington of Matewan, West Virginia.)



I, C. S. Penington, the second son of Green Penington and Anna Bark Penington was born on Little Blain in Larence Co. Charley, Ky. on January the 9th day A. D. 1876 and my father died when I was a little boy and I was raised as an orphan boy among strangers with very little chance of an education.

When I was 17 years old, I prayed and found the Lord precious to my soul. I went to preaching God's holy word when I was 18 years old and when I was 19 years old, I was married to Miss Louise Ellen Barders and when we were blessed to have a home, we started out with a prayerful and a trusting in the Lord and when God blessed us with children we tried to obey his commandments by bringing them up as we would have them to go and thanks be to God when they grew up they did not depart from it. I now have been blessed to preach God's everlasting word for the past fifty-nine years and have organized churches. I have had a heart ailment for the past 21 years and not able to work at manual labor but the blessed Lord has kept his word and has always supplied my needs. I am now 77 years old and I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread.

Brothers Farewell
C. S. Penington

OBITUARIES

JOHN D. TUCKER

John D. Tucker was born July 21, 1899; age 54 years 5 months 8 days. Departed this life December 29, 1953, at the Receiving Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. He was united in marriage to Lou Potter on June 12, 1924, and to this union were born one son, Lester Morgan Tucker of Detroit, Michigan, three daughters, Virginia Cray Craft, Morning View, Kentucky, Mae Tucker and Betty Lou Tucker, both at home at Detroit, Michigan. Five brothers, as follows: Oliver, Chris, Holbert, Emory and Jim. He was converted and was baptized in the Free Will Baptist Church at Burdine, Kentucky, in May, 1930, and lived a devoted Christian life. He was a true and loving husband and devoted most of his time to the loving care of his wife and family which he admired greatly. He leaves to mourn his loss: his wife, four children, five brothers and a host of relatives and friends and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. But by the Grace of God our loss is heaven's gain. He will be laid to rest in the Potter cemetery at Helton, Kentucky, with the Masonic Order in charge and funeral arrangements in charge of the Potter Funeral Home of West Liberty, Kentucky.

THE OBITUARY OF BROTHER RICHMOND FIELDS

He was born April 14th, 1883, age 71. A member of the Freewill Baptist Church. A man seemingly so, that was loved by all who knew him, deceased Monday morning at 5 minutes past seven o'clock. He died in the triumph of a living faith.

In his sickness he praised the Lord. At times even in whispers when he called on the Lord to have mercy he called him Blessed Lord and Blessed Jesus. The last meal that he took at the table he gave thanks and in his prayers, he cried in his humility and said that his pains in agony would soon be over and he would be with the Lord and there would be no more pain and suffering for him, that the Lord would wipe all tears from his eyes, there would be joy with him forever. His survivors are his mother, Emma Ratliff, six brothers, Melvin Fields, Harman Fields, Floyd Fields, and Ira Fields, Hardin Brown and Raby Brown, four sisters, Matilda Lester, Mae Skienes, Alice Lee, and Bessie Wilmer, and his wife, Chloe Fields, and four children, Virgie Lockhart, Naomi Loaney, Monroe Fields, Woodrow Fields.

FRED JUSTICE

He was born September 17, 1878, the son of Daniel and Sarah Justice and died April 30, 1953.

To mourn his loss he leaves behind his wife, Nora Justice and the following brothers and sisters: Ella Dotson, Hurley, Virginia, Polly Justice, Home Creek, Virginia, Jim Justice, Hurley, Virginia, Delbert Justice, Hurley, Virginia, Betty Justice, Hurley Virginia.

Also four grandchildren: Thelma Justice, Mary Ann, Nancy and Alma Jean, and many other friends and neighbors throughout the country.

By his friend, Willard New

PAUL SWEETON

Paul Sweeton, son of Floyd and Ida Sweeton, was born Oct. 1, 1920, departed this life Feb. 2, 1954, making his stay on earth 33 yr., 4 mo., 1 day.

He was married to Louise Adams Dec. 24, 1937. To this union was born one boy and one girl. The boy preceded him in death.

He leaves to mourn his passing, mother, father, wife and daughter, one brother and two sisters and a host of relatives and friends.

He united with the Burdine Freewill Church, Burdine, Kentucky, July 24, 1938.

IN MEMORY OF ANNIE RAY SCARBERRY

With a sad heart but with loving remembrance, I write the obituary of my darling baby, little Annie Ray Scarberry, who was born Feb. 13, 1952, and was called away from us Sept. 12, 1953. The time she got to stay with us lacking 1 day being 19 months, leaving behind to mourn her loss, her daddy and mother, 7 sisters, 3 brothers and a host of loving friends and relatives.

Giving her up was the hardest thing on earth for us. But we know she is only asleep with Jesus, awaiting for mother to come on home to never have to leave her any more.

Little Annie Ray has gone and left us, never on this earth to see no more — but by the grace of God, I'll meet her on that bright eternal shore.

Written by her mother.

Dorothy Scarberry
Paw Paw, Kentucky

IN MEMORY OF BROTHER JOE DOTSON

Joe Dotson age 78 years deceased April 1, 1954. Brother Dotson came at the call for soldiers for Christ and made a complete surrender to Christ and was forgiven of his past sins and was born in to the Church that Christ purchased with his own blood at least fifteen years ago and he wanted me, L. D. Coleman to baptize him on August 16, 1952. I complied with his request and I was with Brother Joe in several good meetings and he lived a true Christian life with many good fruits of the new spiritual life which is given by Jesus Christ through faith and the operation of the Holy Spirit.

And I talked and visited with Joe down at Jeffersonville, Ky. where he had recently purchased a new home and I can just see Joe by an eye of Faith when he took me out on his farm and showed me the place he wanted to be buried. In just 7 months after this, on his dying bed, he lay smiling and saying he wanted to die shouting praises to his God for the gift of a new body and he just fell asleep. In Christ and all, we that live for Christ will meet Brother Dotson in the sweet by and by.

By L. Dodge Coleman, his Pastor and
Brother in hopes of the resurrection.

OLLIE ELIZABETH BUCHANAN BOND

Ollie Elizabeth Buchanan Bond was born April 3, 1888, in Wise County, near South Coeburn. She departed this life October 30, making her stay on earth 65 years, 6 months, and 27 days. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Buchanan.

She was united in marriage to Norman T. Bond, 1904. To this union was born three sons and seven daughters, Pherba, Thelma, Clyde, Edna, Sue, and Margaret. Her husband and four children preceded her in death.

She is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Hobart, Fred and Charlie Buchanan, Mrs. Ora Wilson, Mrs. Kate Stanley, and Mrs. Virgie Akers; nineteen grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

She was converted and attached to the Methodist Church at South Coeburn about the age of fourteen.

She was a most loving, kind, tender mother, always ready to assist and advise her children and others at any time. We know her place can never be filled. But by her words to her daughter before her passing we know she has filled her place around God's Throne.

She leaves a host of friends and relatives to mourn her passing.

By Marie Tate, a very close
friend of the family.

IN MEMORY OF SISTER JANE JESSIE

Sister Jane Jessie, age about 72 years, deceased March 10, 1954. She leaves two sons, Willie Jessie and Henry Jessie and two daughters, Lillian Lester and Lona Blankenship to mourn. The loss of a dear mother, sister Jane was baptized by the Missionary Baptist and took up membership with the Union Light Church where I, the writer was Pastor about September the 20th, 1936. It always gave her a smile of Christian faith to fill her seat in Church and enjoy the blessings of sound doctrine and the fire of the holy spirit. The last and closing moments of her life, she told the writer that there was a better home awaiting her. A word to her children, prepare to meet God, you can if you will keep and do his commands and endure until the end of this life.

We trust that Mother will be waiting for us at the portals where we can praise God forever and the sun will never go down in that city.

By L. D. Coleman, Her Pastor.

OBITUARY OF MINNIE V. LESTER

Minnie was the daughter of J. E. Dorton and Keron Dorton. She was born August 13, 1895, and died September 20, 1953. Her stay on earth being 58 years, 1 month, and 7 days.

Minnie was united in holy matrimony to William M. Lester March 17, 1923. To this union was born six children, four of which preceded her in death. By a previous marriage to Elbert Bayard, the following children: Malcolm Gene, Mary Ruth, Charoless Fay, and Kenneth Ovid.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, one daughter, one son, one stepdaughter, and one stepson: Betty Gentry of Cincinnati, Ohio; Robert J. Lester, U. S. Army; Leafy McIntosh, Cincinnati, Ohio; and James O. Lester, New York; one brother, Robert T. Dorton, of Big Stone Gap, Va.; one sister, Mrs. M. T. Warden, of Appalachia, Va.

Minnie also leaves to mourn her loss a host of friends and relatives. We feel like our loss is Heaven's gain.

She professed faith in Christ in the year of 1916.

She was a kind and loving wife, loved by her husband, children and everybody.

A precious one from us is gone, a voice we loved is still.

A place in our home is vacant, that can never be filled.

CLIFFORD MCCOY

Clifford McCoy, son of Emory and Daisy McCoy was born December 24, 1935. Departed this life July 3, 1954, making his stay on earth 18 years, 6 months and 9 days.

There is a vacant place in our home, Church and Sunday School that can never be filled.

He professed faith in Christ when he was 14 years old, was baptized October 18, 1953. He was loved by all who knew him and had a loving smile for everyone. He leaves to mourn his loss a father, mother, one sister, Clarabell McCoy, and three grandparents, a number of aunts, uncles, and friends.

He always attended Church and Sunday School regularly and was a Junior Class teacher in Sunday School at the McCoy Chapel Freewill Baptist Church.

Mother, pray on, daddy get ready to meet your darling son and daughter. To his many boy friends and girl friends he loved to be with, prepare to meet Jesus for there is no doubt in our minds about Clifford that he is at rest. We feel that he is at rest. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain. Oh! Lord help us to bear our sorrow and pain until we meet Clifford again.

Sad and sudden was the shock
We never dreamed your death so near
You were a soldier for Jesus
And we know you're up there.

Our home is so lonely, Clifford
We miss you each hour of the day
May God help us to understand
Why you were called away.

Just when your life was brightest
Just when your hopes were best,
God called you from among us
To a home of eternal rest.

No one knows how we miss you
No one knows the bitter pain
We have suffered since we lost you
Life has never been the same.

Written by his uncle and aunt,
Bennit and Retha Kilgore

OBITUARY OF CARMON BELCHER

Carmon was the daughter of Meredith and Sarah Looney of Fullerton, Ky. She was born December 24th, 1910, and fell asleep in Christ our Lord, September 10th, 1953. Her stay on earth being 42 years, 8 months and 17 days. Carmon was united in holy matrimony to Crit Belcher on the 15th day of July in the year of 1930. To this union was born eleven children, five sons and six daughters. One of the sons is asleep with Mother in Christ our Lord.

She leaves to mourn her loss: her husband, Crit Belcher, four sons, Curtis, who is with the U. S. Air Force, Arthur, Donnie, and Herman are still at home, six daughters, Mrs. Jeanette Williams of Columbus, Ohio, Jacqueline Joyce, Judith, Geneva, and Phillis, one son-in-law, Donald Ray Williams, father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Looney, two brothers, Webster and Salyer Looney, two sisters, Pebble Hackworth and Thelma Williams.

Carmon found peace to her soul August the 12th, 1950 and united herself to the Freewill Baptist Church at Burdine, Ky. Brother Albert Dingus and Brother Clarence Bailey baptized Sister Carmon and Brother Crit Belcher on the 24th day of June, 1951 at Jenkins, Ky.

She also leaves to mourn her loss a host of friends and relatives.

We feel like our loss is Heaven's gain. I want to say this to her children, Sleep on Mother, and take your rest; God called you home, He thought it best.

A precious one from us is gone, a voice we loved is still. A place in our home is vacant, that can never be filled. But we can meet you some day, where we will never have to say good-bye.

While your hearts are sad your Mother's Christ can make you glad. We understand that Carmon left this world of tears, and sorrows talking to her Lord and Heavenly Father, and we don't know any better one to talk to than our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Written by W. A. Looney by request of Crit Belcher.

JANIS McCOY

Janis McCoy, daughter of Mrs. Neva McCoy and the late Shalor McCoy, born November 25, 1938, departed this life September 16, 1958.

Janis was of a strong religious faith, and attended Sunday School and Church regularly from a small child.

She was dearly loved by her schoolmates and many friends.

She is survived by her mother, one small sister, Rebecca, two grandmothers and one grandfather, many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

IN MEMORY OF WOODROW L. WILSON

Woodrow L. Wilson, born June 17, 1912, died January 12, 1954. He was the son of Aldon and Letha McPeck Wilson. He was married to Naomi Goodson Wilson. To this union was born two children, Patsy Hanna Wilson, and Woody Thomas Wilson.

He was converted, baptized and became a deacon in the Freewill Baptist Church, was active and faithful in all his church work.

He suffered agony many months before passing away. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Written by sister-in-law, Zelma Loveday,
also Sister in Christ.

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.

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 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 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.

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.

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,

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS (Continued)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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 Freewill Baptists, and instructed for membership in one body.

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 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 move 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

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 the 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.

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. 1 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.—1 Tim 2:5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:17; Acts 24:15; 1 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 2:2; 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 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; 1 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 impress 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 that 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 the 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.

