6/8/58

MINUTES

OF THE

JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION

of

Free Will Baptists

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1957

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PROCEEDINGS
of the
SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

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Convened with
Rooty Branch Church, Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee
Friday and Saturday, August 30, 31, 1957

MINUTES

of the

SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION

of the

JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION

of

Free Will Baptists

Held with

ROOTY BRANCH CHURCH

Bristol, Tennessee

The next session of the John Wheeler Association will convene with Friendship Church Number 1, Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee, Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in September, 1958. Rev. John Sherfey has been chosen to bring the introductory message.

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. E. F. Mitchell ..... Route 1, Holston, Virginia
Sunday School Evangelist, Herbert Blaylock ..... Route 1, Bristol, Virginia
Clerk and Treasurer, Mrs. M. C. Foran ..... 321 Boone Street, Bristol, Virginia

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Douglas Offield ..... Rotue 1, Bristol, Tennessee
Isaac Blaylock ..... Route 3, Bristol, Virginia
W. C. Brannan ..... 1813 King Mill Pike, Bristol, Virginia
V. V. Roark ..... Route 1, Abingdon, Virginia
Mack Crowell ..... Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Jennings Wilson ..... Route 1, Abingdon, Virginia
Rev. J. W. Chesnutt ..... 520 Page Street, Bristol, Virginia
Rev. Dan Jackson ..... Route 2, Abingdon, Virginia

Proceedings

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The John Wheeler Seventy-Ninth Annual Association of Free Will Baptists convened with Rooty Branch Church, Bristol, Tennessee, Friday and Saturday, August 30, 31, 1957.

The conference was called to order at 9 a. m. with the singing of the song, "I'll Live On," followed with prayer by Rev. Walter Statzer. Scripture reading, 2nd chapter First Corinthians, was read by the moderator, Rev. E. F. Mitchell. Fellowship was taken. All in fellowship.

COMMITTEES FOR THE COMING YEAR

Executive Board: Rev. Douglas Offield, term expires, 1958; Brother Isaac Blaylock, term expires 1959; Brother W. C. Brannan, term expires 1960; Brother V. V. Roark, term expires 1961; Brother Mack Crowell, term expires 1962.

Finance Committee: Sister Cordelia Holbrook, chairman, Sister Mae Gross and Sister Margie Shaffer.

Sunday School Committee: Sister Louise Gilbreathe, chairman, Sister Hassie Saltz and Sister Lois Lethcoe.

Temperance Committee: Rev. Charlie Roark, chairman, Rev. J. W. Chesnutt and Rev. D. W. Jackson.

DELEGATES ENROLLED

Rooty Branch Church: Douglas Offield, W. C. Brannan, Mae Gross, Mr. and Mrs. John Holbrook, Anna Rouse, Lou Love, Margie Shaffer, Ada Pendergrass, Wilma Pendergrass, Creaty Shaffer, W. M. Hopkins, Arthur Pendergrass, Mack Crowell, Addie Hardin and Wesley Newman.

Friendship No. 1: Sister Meriah Gross, Rev. H. R. Rouse and Fred Herndon.

Friendship No. 2: None.

Heavenly Rest: None.

Community Free Will: None.

Mt. Olive: None.

East Bristol: M. A. Hammitt, Irene Hammitt, Lillian Hammitt, James Eads, Alfred Jennings and Maurita Jennings.

Valley View: Charlie Roark and M. A. Roark.

First Free Will: E. F. Mitchell.

Pine Hill: Walter Statzer, Mrs. Walter Statzer, Stella Eads, D. W. Jackson, Denver Powers and Mrs. and Mr. Herbert Adams.

Macedonia: Ralph Gilbert, Stella Gilbert, Daisy Gilbert, John Gilbert, Lois Wilson, Novella Blaylock, Mrs. John Gilbert, Mrs. Ralph Gilbert, Hubert Smith, Albert Gilbert, Jennings Wilson and Kyle French.

Greenwood: Clarence Parks, Myrtle Parks, Rhea Blevins, Stella Blevins, Roy Blevins, Green Wright and Frank Wright.

Spoon Gap: Roosevelt Price.

Free Zion: Richard Russell, Irby Sullins, Denton Gobble, Ollie Blackwell and Mrs. Irby Sullins.

Shiloh: Dan Jackson, Cebenell Malcolm, Nancy Dillard, Irene Harless, Eldean Mitchell, Carson Mitchell, Louise Gilreathe, J. W. Chesnutt, Isaac Blaylock and M. C. Foran.

Motion made and carried that this conference adjourn for eleven o'clock preaching service, to convene back at 1:00 p. m. Closing prayer was offered by Rev. Jennings Wilson.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing "In the Shadow of the Cross."

Scripture reading from the 34th chapter of St. Matthew was read by Rev. J. W. Chesnutt, who also brought the introductory message, taking as a subject, "What Have We Done for the Cause of Christ?" Service was closed with prayer by Rev. Dan Jackson.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing "Amazing Grace." Scripture lesson, 24th chapter Acts, was read by Rev. E. F. Mitchell. Prayer was made by Rev. D. W. Jackson. The conference was declared in order to transact any legal business that may come before the body.

BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS

Ministers passed on at this time.

Committee reports were received and adopted as read by vote of the body.

Ordaining council was retained for another year by vote of the conference.

By vote of the conference the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a. m. Saturday. Closing prayer was offered by the clerk.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with the singing of "If the Light has Gone Out of Your Soul." Scripture reading, 4th chapter of 2 Corinthians, was read by the moderator. Prayer was offered by Brother Mack Crowell. Fellowship was taken. All in fellowship. The conference was declared in order to transact any legal business that may come before the body.

BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS

Church letters were received and approved as read.

Ministers' reports were received and adopted as read.

Rev. Homer Goodson was ordained to preach the gospel at this conference session.

Brother Denton Gobble and Brother Irby Sullins were ordained at this meeting for deacons in the Free Zion Church.

Brother Rhea Blevins was ordained at this session as a deacon in the Greenwood Church.

Brothers W. M. Hopkins and Arthur Pendergrass were ordained as deacons in the Rooty Branch Church.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

We, the executive board, wish to make the following reports: We have examined the following brothers: Rhea Blevins, W. M. Hopkins, Arthur Pendergrass, Denton Gobble and Irby Sullins, and found them eligible to be ordained for deacons.

We have examined Rev. Homer Goodson and found him eligible to be ordained to preach the gospel.

We have examined brother Alfred Jennings and found him not eligible according to the Bible to be ordained as a deacon.

We recommend that the next quarterly conference convene with Free Zion Church and that Rev. Jack Sprinkle bring the introductory sermon.

We also recommend that the yearly association convene with Friendship Church Number 1, and that the Rev. John Sherfey bring the introductory sermon.

We recommend that the present ordaining council: Rev. Jennings Wilson, Rev. J. W. Chesnutt and Rev. Dan Jackson be retained for another year.

Rev. Douglas Offield
Brother Isaac Blaylock
Brother W. C. Brannon
Brother Vernon V. Roark
Brother Mack Crowell

Obituary: The committee reported deceased as follows: First Free Will: Sister Sallie Prator and Sister Lula Newman; Friendship No. 1: Sister Anna Woodby; Shiloh: Brother Floyd Canter.

Finance: The committee reported the sum of $102.70, benefit of the association, and $5.00 home mission fund. Total $107.70.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

Brought Forward		$ 600.85
Receipts		
Yearly Association, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 1956	$138.65	
Quarterly Conference, Dec. 1, 1956	45.96	
Quarterly Conference, Mar. 1, 1957	67.43	
Quarterly Conference, June 1, 1957	63.78	
Yearly Association, Aug. 30, 31, 1957	102.70	
Total Receipts		418.52

Total to Account For		$1,019.37

Disbursements

Moderator	$ 40.00	
Rev. W. G. Henley	25.00	
Rev. E. F. Mitchell	50.00	
Orphanage	50.00	
State Fund	50.00	
Minutes	80.00	
Clerk	60.00	
Rev. A. L. Prator	10.00	
Isaac Blaylock	1.00	
Treatise and Forms	4.70	
Ministers' Cards	2.80	
Mailing Minutes	.72	
Total Disbursements		374.22
Balance in Treasury		$ 645.15

Sunday School Committee: We believe that each teacher should be a Christian and have the gift of teaching. We further recommend that only the King James Version of the Bible be taught in our Sunday schools.

Louise Gilreathe,
Hassie Saltz
Lois Lethcoe

Temperance Committee: We recommend to our churches that we be temperate in all things; to love and obey the Lord; to absain from all sinful amusements and from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages; also to avoid all appearance of evil and be according to our church covenant, careful of one another's characters.

Charles Roark
J. W. Chesnutt
D. W. Jackson

Sunday School Evangelist: We wish to report in our survey of the Sunday school we found good schools with 716 members present. However we did not get to visit all the churches due to an accident I had which broke my leg. We received $25.49 for traveling expenses.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Blaylock

Conference adjourned by vote of the conference for eleven o'clock preaching service, to convene back at 1:00 p. m. Closing prayer by Rev. H. R. Rouse.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." Scripture, Judges 7:1-8 was read by Rev. Kyle French, who also brought the message.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing, "Over There." First Psalm was read by the moderator, Rev. E. F. Mitchell. The conference was then declared in order for business.

By vote of the body, Rev. W. G. Henly, Rev. H. M. Whitaker and Rev. Kyle French were chosen to serve on the ordaining council in the absence of the regular council. By vote of the body Rev. Elmer Adkins was chosen to serve on the executive board in the absence of one of the members.

Brother Herbert Blaylock was retained as Sunday school evangelist.

Motion was made and carried that the next quarterly conference will convene with Free Zion Church, Saturday before the first Sunday in December, and that the annual association will convene with Friendship Church No. 1, Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in September, 1958. Rev. John Sherfey was chosen to preach the introductory message at the yearly and Rev. Jack Sprinkle was chosen to bring the message at the quarterly.

MINISTERS' REPORT

The ministers' reports were received as follows:

Rev. Mrs. L. F. Henley: Sermons preached, 21; churches pastored, 1; prayer meetings held, several; witnessed several professions; sick visits, many; received several dollars.

Rev. W. G. Henley: Sermons preached, 38; professions witnessed, several; number baptized, 2; received in the church, 6; funerals preached, 4; marriages performed, 23; received from the church, $22.75; pastored 1 church.

Rev. E. F. Mitchell: Sermons preached, 56; revivals held, 2; number baptized, several; professions witnessed, several; funerals preached, 12; sick visits, several; marriage ceremonies performed, 9; miles traveled, many; money received, $1,200.00.

Rev. Mrs. Hassie Salts: Sermons preached, several; professions witnessed, 7; prayer meetings conducted, 2; sick visits, several; miles traveled, many; money received, $12.75.

Rev. David N. Warren: Sermons preached, 65; Revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 30; baptized, 8; funerals preached, 3; miles traveled, 1,500; money received, $260.50.

Rev. Douglas Offield: Sermons preached, many; churches pastored, 1; revivals conducted, 2; professions witnessed, several; baptized, several; funerals preached, 4; miles traveled, many; money received, $585.92.

Rev. Elmer Adkins: Sermons preached, 150; churches pastored, 2; revivals conducted, 3; professions witnessed, 40; baptized, 8; received in the church, 6; funerals conducted, 1; miles traveled, many; money received, $550.00.

Rev. Homer Goodson: Sermons preached, several; churches pastored, 1; revivals conducted, 1; professions witnessed, 45; baptized, several; received in church, 2; miles traveled, many; money received, $516.90.

Rev. Herbert Adams: Sermons preached, 78; churches pastored, 1; revivals conducted, 1; professions witnessed, several; number baptized, 3; funerals, 1; miles traveled, many; money received, $234.81.

Rev. W. A. Skeens: Sermons preached, 123; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 13; number baptized, 5; additions to church, 6; funerals preached, 1; miles traveled, many; money received, $168.-94.

Rev. Sylvester Shaffer: Sermons preached, 48; churches pastored, assisted in 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 14.

Rev. W. J. Colley: Sermons preached, 44; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, several; number baptized, 7; additions to church, 4; funerals preached, 2.

Rev. Hilliard Pickel: Sermons preached, several; revivals, assisted in, 7; professions witnessed, 37; miles traveled, many; money received, $108.36.

Rev. J. W. Chesnutt: Sermons preached, 75; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, assisted in 2; professions witnessed, 55; number baptized, 35; additions to church, 40; funerals preached, 8; money received, $719.05.

Rev. Walter Statzer: Sermons preached, 106; revivals held, 2; assisted in, 1; professions witnessed, 23; number baptized, 6; miles traveled, many; money received, $213.95.

Rev. Edd Pendergrass: Sermons preached, several; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, several; number baptized, 2; miles traveled, many; money received, $75.00.

Rev. Kyle French: Sermons preached, 118; churches pastored, assisted in 1; revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 58; number baptized, 6; funerals conducted, 1; miles traveled, many; money received, $191.38; prayer meetings conducted, 29; sick visits, several.

Rev. Lawrence Powers: Sermons preached, 39; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, assisted in 1; professions witnessed, 13; number baptized, 7; miles traveled, many; $75.26 received.

Rev. Mrs. Louise Gilreathe: Sermons preached, 42; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 31; number baptized, 3; additions to church, 4; miles traveled, many; money received, $84.40; 1 pounding.

Rev. D. W. Jackson: Sermons preached, several; revivals held, 4; professions witnessed, 14; additions to church, 5; miles traveled, many; money received, $67.42.

Rev. Jennings Wilson: Sermons preached, 120; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 39; number baptized, 7; additions to church, 7; funerals conducted, 15; marriage ceremonies performed, 7; poundings received, 6; money received, $3,134.99.

Rev. H. R. Rouse: Sermons preached, several; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, assisted in some; professions witnessed, several; additions to church, 4; funerals, 1; money received, small amount.

MINISTERS ENROLLED

Ordained

Rev. E. F. Mitchell, Route 1, Holston, Va.
Rev. H. M. Whittaker, Route 2, Bristol, Va.
Rev. H. R. Rouse, Route 4, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. Elmer Adkins, Indian Springs, Tenn.
Rev. W. G. Henley, Box 128, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Mrs. L. F. Henley, Box 128, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Dewey Foran, Address unknown
Rev. E. A. Wagner, 146 Lee Highway, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. J. W. Chesnutt, 520 Page Street, Bristol, Va.
Rev. Charlie Roark, Box 102, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. C. C. Norris, Route 1, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. W. A. Howington, Address unknown
Rev. Joe E. Tolliver, Route 2, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. Amos L. Pope, Route 1, Bristol, Va.
Rev. Preston Roark, Route 1, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Jennings Wilson, Route 1, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Mrs. Thelma Combs, Address unknown
Rev. Mrs. Virginia Brannan, 1813 King Mill Pike, Bristol, Va.
Rev. W. S. Broyhill, Meadow View, Va.
Rev. Mrs. Louise Gilreathe, Winsor Avenue, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. John Vannoy, Glade Springs, Va.
Rev. C. A. Hawks, Address unknown
Rev. Dan Jackson, Route 2, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Edward D. Swartz, Saltville, Va.
Rev. Douglas Offield, Route 1, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. W. A. Skeens, 111 Lily Street, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. T. A. Ingram, Address unknown
Rev. Cecil Clifton, Meadow View, Va.
Rev. Edd Pendergrass, Route 1, Box 479, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. David N. Warren, P. O. Box 886, Bristol, Va.
Rev. Lawrence Chapman, 1401 Texas Avenue, Bristol, Va.
Rev. W. J. Colley, Saltville, Va.
Rev. Mrs. Hassie Saltz, Route 1, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. D. W. Jackson, Box 912, Bristol, Va.
Rev. Mack Galliher, Route 4, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. Herbert Adams, Route 2, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Homer Goodson, Route 2, Bristol, Va.
Rev. Sylvester Shaffer, Route 4, Bristol, Tenn.
Rev. Walter Statzer, Hansonsville, Va.
Rev. John Sherfey, Route 4, Ford Town, Tenn.

Licentiates

Rev. Clifford Roark, Route 1, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Jack Sprinkle, Route 1, Bristol, Va.

Rev. L. E. Powers, Route 2, Bristol, Va.
Rev. Hillard Pickel, Route 1, Box 517-E, Bristol, Tenn.

Dismissed

Mrs. Wilma Baumgardner, Alvarado, Va.
Charlie Jones, Route 1, Abingdon, Va.

CHURCH LETTERS

Macedonia Church: State of religion, good; members received, 7; baptized, 7; total membership, 78; condition of prayer meeting, very good; condition of Sunday school, very good; average number of pupils, 100; number of officers, 9; number of teachers, 7; paid pastor, $2,008.62; paid evangelist, $109.24; home missions, $233.07; building and repairs, $529.48; enclosed for finance, $10.00.

Rev. Jennings Wilson, *Pastor*
Eva Testen, *Clerk*

Community Church: State of religion, good; total membership, 26; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 35; number of officers, 5; number of teachers, 3; building and repairs, $2.25; enclosed for finance, $1.00.

Rev. G. W. Slaughter, *Pastor*
Nora Bacon, *Clerk*

Friendship Number 2: State of religion, good; total membership, 60; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 40; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 3; paid evangelist, $25.00; building and repairs, $100.00; enclosed for finance, $5.00.

Beulah Mink, *Clerk*

Rooty Branch Church: State of Religion, good; members received this year, 4; members dismissed, 38; total membership, 83; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 110; number of officers, 6; number of teachers, 4; paid pastor, $585.92; paid assistant pastor, $200.10; paid evangelist and guest speakers, $147.48; orphanage, $76.50; local welfare, $102.25; building and repairs, $697.80; amount enclosed for finance, $10.00.

We request that Brother Arthur Pendergrass and Brother William Hopkins be ordained for deacons in the Rooty Branch Church in this association.

Rev. Douglas Offield, *Pastor*

Pine Hill Church: Preaching Sundays, 4; joined church, 2; dropped from roll, 2; present membership, 64; number of deacons, 7; paid to Home for Children, $22.55; paid on building and repairs, $53.65; paid for running expenses, $188.80; paid evangelist, $80.00; paid visiting ministers, $142.55; paid pastor, $461.90; paid to charities, $57.33; paid out for all purposes, $1,006.78.

We request that this association ordain Brother Homer Goodson to preach the gospel.

Rev. Homer Goodson, *Pastor*
Edith Phillips, *Clerk*

Free Zion Church: Preaching every Saturday night and Sunday night; prayer meeting, good; total membership on roll, 30; Sunday school, good; members on roll, 100; paid pastor, $22.26; paid visiting ministers, $85.00; enclosed for finance, $5.00.

We request that this association ordain Brother Irby Sullins and Brother Denton Gobble for deacons in the Free Zion Church.

Rev. W. G. Henley, *Pastor*
Rev. L. F. Henley, *Assistant Pastor*
Ollie Blackwell, *Clerk*

Greenwood Church: State of religion, good; members received, 9; baptized, 16; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 60; number of officers, 6; number of teachers, 5; paid pastor, $400.00; paid evangelist, $150.00.

We request that this association ordain Brother Rhea Blevins for a deacon in the Greenwood Church.

Rev. Jack Sprinkle, *Pastor*
Burg Baumgardner, *Moderator*
Betty Moretz, *Clerk*

Shiloh Church: Preaching Sundays, 4; state of religion, good; members received this year, 40; baptized, 35; total membership, 230; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; enrollment of pupils, 294; number of teachers, 4; number of officers, 7; paid pastor, $719.05; paid for evangelist, $375.10; home missions, $15.00; building and repairs, $3,877.89; other expenses, $567.67; for minutes $25.00; total expenses for year, $5,579.71.

Rev. J. W. Chesnutt, *Pastor*
Mrs. Mary Lou Hanger, *Clerk*

East Bristol Church: State of religion, good; members received, 6; baptized, 6; total membership, 41; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 55; number of officers, 8; number of teachers, 4; paid pastor, $146.34; paid evangelist, $100.79; for minutes, $25.00.

Rev. Edd Pendergrass, *Pastor*
Mattie Pendergress, *Clerk*

Friendship Number 1: State of religion, good; members received, 4; baptized, 3; total membership, 60; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 41; number of officers, 4; number of teachers, 4; for minutes, $10.00.

Rev. Louise Gilreathe, *Pastor*
Cora Clark, *Clerk*

Valley View Church: Preaching Sundays, 4; state of religion, good; membership, 14; prayer meeting, good; Sunday school, good; number of pupils, 30; paid pastor, $217.21; other expenses, $325.52; for minutes, $5.00.

Rev. Herbert Adams, *Pastor*
Roselee Miller, *Clerk*

Motion made and carried that this association adjourn at this time; Rev. Herbert Adams offered the closing prayer.

We, the delegates of the represented classes and visiting brothers and sisters, offer our sincere and heart-felt thanks to the people of Rooty Branch Church and community for their kind hospitality shown us during our stay in their locality.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. E. F. Mitchell, *Moderator*
Mrs. M. C. Foran, *Clerk*

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The first Quarterly Meeting of the John Wheeler Association convened with Valley View Church, December 1, 1956. The meeting opened with singing and prayer, followed with Scripture reading.

Delegates were enrolled. Letters from the churches were received and adopted.

PROCEEDINGS

Brother Walter Statzer and Brother Kyle French were ordaind to preach the gospel at this conference session. Brother L. E. Powers was licensed to preach the gospel at this meeting.

Ordaining council serving at this conference was Rev. Jennings Wilson, Rev. W. A. Skeens and Rev. T. A. Ingram.

Motion made and carried that the clerk be given authority to contact each church through its pastor, and remind them that they have become delinquent in sending in their finance with their letters, and also to not forget to donate to the aged ministers' fund. Motion made and carried that this association send the sum of $50.00 to the Free Will Baptist Orphanage at Greenville, Tennessee. This motion was taken care of.

Motion made and carried that Brother Mitchell be given the sum of $50.00 and Brother W. G. Henly be given the sum of $25.00 out of the treasury.

The finance committee reports the sum of $45.96 taken at this session.

Motion made and carried that the next conference convene with Friendship Church No. 1, and that Rev. Kyle French bring the introductory message.

The second quarterly meeting convened with Friendship Church No. 1, Saturday, March 2, 1957.

Rev. E. F. Mitchell, moderator, was in charge. Rev. Kyle French read from the 2nd chapter of Mark and brought the message.

Brother Robert Seats was ordained for a deacon in the Rooty Branch Church at this meeting. Brother M. A. Hammitt was ordained as a deacon for the East Bristol Church at this session.

Brother Sylvester Shaffer and Brother Herbert Adams was ordained to preach the gospel at this meeting.

Vote of the conference was carried that the moderator be paid $40.00 per year for his services and the clerk be paid $60.00, and that this be paid at the close of each meeting and at the annual association.

Sistr Wilma Baumgardner was dismissed from the association at her request at this conference, and granted a letter of recommendation.

Finance report was given in the sum of $67.43.

Motion made and carried that the next quarterly conference convene with Friendship No. 2, Saturday before the first Sunday in June, and that Rev. Herbert Adams bring the morning message. Conference closed with prayer by Brother Mack Crowell.

The third quarterly conference convened with Friendship Church No. 2, Saturday, June 1, 1957.

Brother C. F. Sprinkle was licensed to preach the gospel at this conference session.

Brother Dave Mink was ordained as a deacon for the Friendship Church No. 2, at this session.

Brother Edward D. Swartz and Brother John C. Sherfey were ordained to preach at this meeting.

Brother Charlie Jones was dismissed from this association at this time.

Rev. Herbert Adams brought the morning message reading from the 5th chapter of St. Luke.

Finance report was given, amount $63.78.

Delegates chosen to attend the Virginia State Association which convened with Shiloh Church were: Sisters Bertha Helbert, Elizabeth Worley, Cordelia Holbrook, Rosa Sherman, Ollie Blackwell, Stella Gilbert and Brother Sherman Canter.

Fifty dollars was voted out of the treasury for the Virginia State Association finance.

The meeting adjourned. Closed with prayer by the clerk.

I, Mrs. M. C. Foran, clerk and treasurer of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptists, do hereby certify that these minutes are reproduced correctly to the best of my knowledge and ability with such revisions and correction as were permitted me by the association.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. M. C. Foran

YEARLY MEETING OR ANNUAL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This yearly meeting or association shall be called the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptists, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Free Will Baptist quarterly meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this constitution.

Article 2. The conference of this yearly meeting or association shall consist of delegates from the several quarterly meetings of which it is composed; every quarterly meeting being entitled to one delegate, every quarterly meeting containing five hundred members to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional five hundred members.

Article 3. The officers of this yearly meeting or association shall be a standing clerk, treasurer and a moderator who shall be chosen at every session of the yearly meeting or association, with assistants as may be found necessary.

Article 4. Any well-organized and well-regulated Free Will Baptist quarterly meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the practices and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination as published in the Treatise of their faith and in the minutes of the National Association and are in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application and by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

Article 5. This yearly meeting or association shall have power to discipline the quarterly meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walks if labor proves unsuccessful, but in no case to reverse their decisions nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

Article 6. The sessions of this yearly meeting or association shall be held on _____, at which time it shall be the duty of the quarterly meetings of which this yearly meeting or association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegate, and report their standings, prospects and statistics; at which time the association shall act upon 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 to the practices of the denomination, as in its judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interests of the church and quarterly meetings within the limits of this yearly meeting or association.

Article 7. This yearly meeting or association shall have power to adopt any regulations or bylaws, not inconsistent with this constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

Article 8. This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the yearly meeting or association as any regular session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing and recorded at the next previous session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. *The Bible.* The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. *God.* There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are to supremely love, adore and obey.

3. *Christ.* Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The Mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. *The Holy Spirit.* The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. *The Government of God.* God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.

6. *The Sinfulness of Man.* Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. *The Work of Christ.* The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection, effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. *The Terms of Salvation.* The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. *Election.* God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. *Freedom of the Will.* The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. *Salvation Free.* God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. *Perseverance.* All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. *Gospel Ordinances.* Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel. Feet washing, an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true believers.

14. *Tithing.* God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament, Jesus Christ endorsed it in the gospel (Matthew 23:23), and the apos-

tle, Paul, said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, . . ." (1 Corinthians 16:2).

15. *The Christian Sabbath.* The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements; for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. *Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution.* The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace. To be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, to promote the success of the church and of the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of education and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.