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MINUTES

of the

John Wheeler Association

of

Free Will Baptist

1974

Proceedings

of the

Ninety-Sixth Annual Association

Convened with the

PUGH MOUNTAIN CHURCH

Marion, Virginia

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1974

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The next session will convene with the East Bristol Church,
Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1975.

OFFICERS

Moderator: Rev. Walter Statzer, 238 Meadow Crest Dr., Bristol, Virginia

Clerk and Treasurer: Bro. Raymond J. Freeman — Route 3, Marion, Va.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. John M. Taylor Route 1, Saltville, Virginia

Rev. Kenneth Shaffer 1208 Virginia Avenue, Bristol, Tennessee

Rev. Kyle French Box 87, Chilhowie, Virginia

Rev. Howard Campbell Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee

Rev. Darrell Pickle Route 3, Marion, Virginia 24354

HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Walter Statzer 238 Meadow Crest Drive, Bristol, Virginia

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELIST

Mrs. Claude Cardwell Box 88, Saltville, Virginia

TRUSTEES

Rev. Walter Statzer 238 Meadow Crest Drive, Bristol, Virginia

Rev. Kyle French P. O. Box 87, Chilhowie, Virginia

Rev. C. F. Sprinkle Route 5, Bristol, Virginia

PROCEEDINGS

The John Wheeler Nineth-sixth Annual Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Pugh Mountain Free Will Baptist Church, Marion, Virginia on October 5, 1974.

The meeting began with the singing of "When The Redemmed Are Gathering In", led by Rev. John Tilson.

Clerk, Raymond J. Freeman, read the following Scripture, Romans, Chapter fifteen, verses one thru seven.

Prayer was offered by Rev. C. C. Olinger.

The Association was called to order by the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Cecil Pressley.

Move was made and seconded to enter into business.

DELEGATES ENROLLED

Southwestern Quarterly

Sister Ora Chapman, Sister Mary Blaylock, Sister Bertha Helbert, Sister Edith Baker, and Sister Mildred Helbert.

Northeastern Quarterly

Sister Pressley and Sister Lottie Cardwell.

Standing Delegates Enrolled

MINISTERS: Orville O'Quinn, Herman Cress, Ralph Graham, Johnny Hooker, C. C. Olinger, Jack Sprinkle, Lula Henley, Kenneth Shaffer, Walter Statzer, Howard Campbell, Avery Sheets, John Tilson, and Cecil Pressley.

DEACONS: Robert Cale, Steve Knipp, Sandy Bentley, and Raymond J. Freeman.

VISITORS PRESENT: One.

VISITING MINISTERS AND DEACONS: Kenneth Skeens, George Sizemore, Paul Davis, Roger Roop.

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORTS

NORTHEASTERN QUARTERLY

Number of Churches	8
Church Membership	611
Number of Parsonages	1
Number of Ordained Ministers	18
Number of Licensed Ministers	2
Number of Ordained Deacons	29
Enrollment of Sunday Schools	659
Average Attendance of Sunday School	659
Enrollment of C. T. S.	117
Average Attendance of C. T. S.	117
Enrollment of Woman's Auxiliaries	58
Average Attendance of Woman's Auxiliaries	42
Mid-Week Service Average Attendance	190

Financial Report

Pastor's Salaries	\$ 23,640.48
Evangelistic Work	1,940.60
Building and Repair	17,923.35
Literature	2,016.33
Other	3,278.68
TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES	\$ 48,799.44

Foreign Missions	554.73
Home Missions	903.16
Education (Bible College)	387.33
Orphanage	1,205.44

TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES \$ 3,050.66

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 51,850.10

Amount enclosed for Fees 80.00

SOUTHWESTERN QUARTERLY

Number of Churches	8
Church Membership	544
Number of Ordained Ministers	18
Number of Licensed Ministers	2
Number of Ordained Deacons	29
Enrollment of Sunday Schools	480
Average Attendance of Sunday Schools	436
Enrollment of C. T. S.	50
Average Attendance of C. T. S.	45
Enrollment of Woman's Auxiliaries	39
Average Attendance of Woman's Auxiliaries	28
Mid-Week Service Average Attendance	183

Financial Report

Pastors Salaries	\$ 11,686.92
Evangelistic Work	2,234.50
Building and Repair	7,421.38
Literature	1,073.00
Other	2,050.78

TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES 24,466.58

Foreign Missions	50.00
Home Missions	407.13
Orphanage	403.02
Superannuation	10.00

TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES \$ 870.15

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 25,336.73

Value of Church Property \$230,000.00

Amount Enclosed for Fees \$ 150.00

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

TOTAL CASH **\$ 473.19**

Check Book	2.41
Printing of Minutes	208.00
Virginia State Association	50.00
Record Keeping Supplies	16.55
Ministers Cards	20.60
Postage	4.44
Clerk and Treasurer	25.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 327.00**

Balance	146.19
Friday Night Offering	33.15
Saturday Morning Offering	19.60
Received from Quarterly — Northeastern	80.00
Southwestern	150.00
Received from Lake Park Church	10.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 292.75

TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR **\$ 438.94**

Report of the Sunday School Evangelist was read and accepted by the body.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELIST

Work shops Conducted	5
Training Classes	1
Number attending training class	35

Northeastern Quarterly	\$ 100.00
Southwestern Quarterly	100.00

TOTAL MONEY RECEIVED **\$ 200.00**

Stanley Outlaw (Teacher)	\$ 150.00
Janitorial Services	40.42

TOTAL DISBURSEMENT **\$ 190.42**

BALANCE	9.58
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OLD BUSINESS

A move was made and seconded that Robert Prater, Jr. be dismissed from the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist. The Clerk is to write for his License and Ministerial Card by Registered Mail. This move was passed by the body.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVING TODAY — Rev. Howard Campbell and Rev. Johnny Hooker. The following Ministers served in the absence of regular Board Members: Rev. C. F. Sprinkle, Rev. C. C. Olinger, Rev. Kenneth Shaffer.

The Executive Board excused to take care of their business.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Walter Statzer spoke about supporting Home Missions, also about the hiring of a Promotional Secretary for our State Association.

NEW BUSINESS

The following motions were made and passed by the body.

The Northeastern and Southwestern Quarterlys will each send \$150.00 to the John Wheeler Association, until a better method of supporting the John Wheeler Association can be worked out.

The John Wheeler Association will send \$100.00 to the State Association.

The following recommendations were made by the Executive Board, all were voted on and passed by the body.

Rev. Jack Sprinkle was elected Moderator for the 1975 yearly session of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist.

Rev. Herman Cress will bring the Eleven o'clock message at the 1975 yearly meeting.

Bro. Steve Knipp will serve on the Executive Board in the place of Rev. Darrell Pickle, who has moved out of the State of Virginia. His Term will expire in October 1977.

Bro. Sandy Bentley to serve on the Executive Board. This is to replace Rev. Howard Campbell who's term expires this year. Brother Bentley's term will expire in 1979.

Motion was made and passed by the body to adjourn until the Eleven o'clock Preaching Service.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

The service opened by singing, "At Calvary".

Morning offering taken — \$19.60.

Prayer offered by Rev. Herman Cress.

Rev. Kenneth Shaffer brought the eleven o'clock message using Scripture from First Corinthians, chapter fifteen, verse one thru fourteen.

Text: "Are We Presaching the Gospel from the Pulpit".

Rev. Orville O'Quinn gave his testimony and sang two songs.

Services Dismissed for Lunch.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The evening service began with the singing of "The Promised Land."

The Clerk read the following scripture: James, chapter one, verses twelve thru fifteen.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Ralph Graham.

SCHEDULE OF YOUTH RALLYS

Second Saturday night in November, 1974	Shiloh
Second Saturday night in February, 1975	Cardwell Town
Second Saturday night in May, 1975	Cornerstone
Second Saturday night in August, 1975	Greenwood

Delegates chosen to attend the State Association when it convenes in Roanoke on June 14, 15, and 16, 1975 are as follows: Sisters Marsha Tilson, Lottie Cardwell, Madge Statzer, Sister Pressley, Emma Swim, and Hazel Davis.

A motion was made and passed by the body to hold the 1975 Association meeting at the East Bristol Free Will Baptist Church, Bristol, Virginia.

A motion was made and passed by the body that Rev. Skeens will bring the Devotional Message at the 1975 Ministers and Deacons Conference.

TERMS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD EXPIRES AS FOLLOWS:

Rev. Kyle French	Oct. 1975
Rev. John Taylor	Oct. 1976
Bro. Steve Knipp	Oct. 1977
Rev. Johnny Hooker	Oct. 1978
Bro. Sandy Bentley	Oct. 1979

The following recommendations were made by the Executive Board. All were voted on and passed by the body.

We the Executive Board recommend that Bro. Robert Smith be dismissed from the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist according to the Treaties, according to Section Two, Article E. and also section Three, Article B. of Chapter Two. The Clerk is to write for his License.

We, the Executive Board, recommend that Bro. Rhea Willis be dismissed from the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist according to the Treaties, according to section Two, Article E. and Also Section Three, Article B. of Chapter Two. The Clerk is to write for his License.

We, the Executive Board, recommend that the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist accept the Lake Park Free Will Baptist Church into th Association, pending a letter from their Church.

Rev. Walter Statzer be retained on the Home Mission Board.

Sister Lottie Cardwell be retained as Sunday School Evangelist.

A motion was made and passed by the body that the Clerk has the Authority to correct and mistakes in the Minutes.

A motion was made and passed by the body to print 500 copies of the Minutes.

The Right Hand of Fellowship was given to Representatives of Lake Park Free Will Baptist Church.

A motion was made and passed by the body to adjourn.
Closed in prayer by Rev. Orville O'Quinn.

We the delegates of the represented classes and visiting Brothers and Sisters, offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Pugh Mountain Free Will Baptist Church and Community for their kind hospitality shown us during our stay in their locality.

Rev. Cecil Presley, Moderator
Bro. Raymond J. Freeman, Clerk

OBITUARY REPORT

Bro. Robert David Morris — 1915 - 1973.

MINISTERS WHO BELONG TO THE JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION AND THEIR REPORTS

Rev. Avery Sheets Route 3, Marion, Va. 24354
Sermons Preached, 96; Churches Pastored, 2; Professions Witnessed, 12; Number Baptized, 7; Number helped to Baptize, 12; Funerals Preached, 1; Marriages Solemnized, 1; Miles Traveled, 5,600; Money Received, \$2,800.00

Rev. Kyle French Box 87, Chilhowie, Va. 24319
Sermons Preached, 143; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 5; Professions Witnessed, 34; Funerals Preached, 4; Marriages Solemnized, 4; Money Received, \$3,175.00.

Rev. Howard Campbell Route 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620

Sermons Preached, 104; Churches Pastored, 1; Professions Witnessed, 23; Number Baptized, 9; Additions to Church, 5; Funerals Preached, 5; Marriages Solemnized, 5; Miles Traveled, Many; Money Received, \$1,625.00.

Rev. Harold Rouse Route 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620
Sermons Preached, 75; Churches Pastored, 1; Professions Witnessed, 30; Number Baptized, 3; Funerals Preached, 3; Marriages Solemnized, 4; Money Received, \$850.00.

Rev. Shelton Norris Box 3078, Bristol, Tenn. 37620
Sermons Preached, 21; Professions Witnessed, 4; Number Baptized, 1; Funerals Preached, 3; Miles Traveled, Many; Money Received Approximately \$25.00.

Rev. Walter Statzer 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va. 24201
Sermons Preached, 174; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 1; Professions Witnessed, 47; Number Baptized, 3; Additions To Church 10; Funerals Preached, 7; Marriages Solemnized, 6; Money Received, \$7,045.10.

Rev. Glen Powers Route 2, Marion, Va. 24354
Sermons Preached, 42; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 1; Professions Witnessed, 9; Additions to Church, 1; Funerals Preached, 2; Money Recived, \$602.75.

Rev. John Tilson Route 3, Box 557-A, Bristol, Tenn. 37620
Sermons Preached, 41; Revivals Held, 1; Professions Witnessed, 2; Money Received, \$375.00. I sincerely appreciate all help and invitations from Pastors of this Association during the past year.

Rev. Orville O'Quinn 228 Crockett St., Bristol, Va. 24201
Sermons Preached, 32; Miles Traveled, 1380; Money Received, \$466.10.

Rev. Herbert Adams Route 6, Bristol, Va. 24201
Sermons Preached, 116; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 2; Professions Witnessed, 27; Sick Visits, 79; Funerals Preached, 3; Marriages Solemnized, 1; Miles Traveled, 1950; Money Received, \$419.33. May the good Lord bless you, pray for us.

Rev. Elmer Adkins Route 4, Blountville, Tenn. 37617
Sermons Preached, 40; Professions Witnessed, 10; Funerals Preached 3; Money Received, \$150.00. Pray for me. May God bless you in the Association.

Rev. Junior Gobble Route 5, Abingdon, Va. 24210
Report for four months: Sermons Preached, 35; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, assisted in 2; Professions Witnessed, unknown; Number Baptized, 3; Miles Traveled, Many; Money Received, \$372.62.

Rev. Robert L. Spears Route 3, Abingdon, Va. 24210
Sermons Preached, 60; Churches Pastored, 1; Professions Witnessed,

9; Number Baptized, 7; Funerals Preached, 1; Money Received, \$298.50.

- Rev. Ralph Carty Route 5, Abingdon, Va. 24210
Sermons Preached, Approx. 52; Churches Pastored, 1; Professions Witnessed, 8; Number Baptized, 5; Additions to Church, 2; Marriages Solemnized, 3; Miles Traveled, Several; Money Received, Approx. \$1,022.00.
- Rev. Samuel Johnson Route 2, Box 213, Glade Spring, Va.
Sermons Preached, 59; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 2; Number Baptized, 56; Additions to Church, 30; Miles Traveled, Unknown; Money Received, \$251.00.
- Rev. Jennings Wilson Chilhowie, Va. 24319
Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 1; Professions Witnessed, 112; Number Baptized, 14; Additions to Church, 11; Funerals Preached, 16; Marriages Solemnized, 13; Money Received, \$5,833.00.
- Rev. Orville Trivette Route 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620
Sermons Preached, 25; Churches Pastored, 1; Professions Witnessed, 5; Number Baptized, 2; Funerals Preached, 1; Marriages Solemnized, 1; Money Received, \$125.00.
- Rev. J. E. Floyd Route 2, Marion, Va. 24354
Sermons Preached, 183; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 2; Professions Witnessed, 257; Number Baptized, 81; Additions to Church, 79; Funerals Preached, 2; Marriages Solemnized, 4; Miles Traveled, 39,000; Money Received, \$7,200.00.
- Rev. Arthur Rhymer Route 3, Bristol, Tenn. 37620
Sermons Preached, 55; Revivals Held, 2; Professions Witnessed, 17; Number Baptized, 0; Miles Traveled, Unknown; Money Received, \$453.10.
- Rev. John Taylor Cleveland, Va.
Sermons Preached, 104; Professions Witnessed, 7; Funerals Preached, 3; Money Received, \$200.00.
- Rev. Ralph Graham Route 4, Marion, Va. 24354
Sermons Preached, 12; Money Received, \$5.00.
- Rev. Calvin Baumgardner Route 1, Box 470, Damascus, Va. 24236
Sermons Preached, Unknown; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 4.
- Rev. Paul Rouse, Jr. 2161 Bradley St., Bristol, Va. 24201
Sermons Preached, 107; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 8; Professions Witnessed, 49; Number Baptized, 27; Funerals Preached, 2; Marriages Solemnized, 5; Miles Travelled, Many; Money Received, \$197.00.
- Rev. Johnny Hooker Route 1, Blountville, Tenn. 37617
Sermons Preached, 69; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 2; Professions Witnessed, 14; Additions to Church, 2; Marriages Solemnized, 2; Money Received, \$600.00.

- Rev. Kenneth Shaffer 1208 Virginia Ave., Bristol, Tenn. 37620
 Sermons Preached, 60; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 2;
 Funerals Preached, assisted in 2; Miles Traveled, about 4,000;
 Money Received, about \$300.00.
- Rev. Edd Pendergrass Route 1, Bristol, Tenn. 37620
 Sermons Preached, 30; Churches Pastored, Assistant, 1; Revivals
 Held, 1; Professions Witnessed, 5; Funerals Preached, 2; Miles
 Travelled, 500.
- Rev. Herman Cress Route 1, Marion, Va. 24354
 Sermons Preached, 43; Revivals Held, 1; Professions Witnessed, 32;
 Number Baptized, 11; Miles Traveled, 4,665; Money Received,
 \$280.00.
- Rev. C. C. Ollinger Box 274, Saltville, Va. 24370
 Sermons Preached, 14; Professions Witnessed, 8; Number Baptized,
 3; Funerals Preached, 3; Marriages Solemnized, 2; Miles Traveled,
 Many; Money Received, \$29.00. Visited many homes and the hos-
 pitals.
- Rev. Homer Goodson Route 5, Box 654, Bristol, Va. 24201
 Sermons Preached, Many; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 1;
 Professions Witnessed, 12; Number Baptized, 8; Additions to Church,
 8; Funerals Preached, 5; Marriages Solemnized, 12; Miles Traveled,
 Many; Money Received, \$400.00.
- Rev. C. F. (Jack) Sprinkle Route 1, Bristol, Va. 24201
 Sermons Preached, 171; Churches Pastored, 1; Revivals Held, 2;
 Professions Witnessed, 42; Number Baptized, 31; Additions to the
 Church 17; Funerals Preached, 7; Marriages Solemnized, 4; Miles
 Traveled, 24,000; Money Received, \$6,500.00.

The following Ministers have not sent in their reports:

Joe Tolliver, Eddy Foster, J. W. Chesnutt, Garry Rowlett, Lula Henley,
 Cecil Pressley.

**We welcome the following Ministers who have just joined The John
 Wheeler Association:**

Rev. Kenneth Skeens, Rev. George Sizemore, Rev. E. E. Edwards.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

The Annual Sunday School Workshop was held with the Pugh Mountain Free Will Baptist Church, Marion, Va. on October 3rd, 1974.

Services began with the singing of "I Never Shall Forget the Day", also "The Glory Land Way", singing was led by Rev. Walter Statzer.

The following scripture was read by the Clerk, Second Timothy, Chapter two, Verse fifteen.

Prayer by Rev. Herman Cress.

WORKSHOP

Sunday School Evangelist, Sister Lottie Cardwell read the following scripture, Isaiah, chapter twenty-eight, verses nine and ten.

Workshop directed to the Sunday School Superintendents.

Sister Cardwell discussed the duties of a Sunday School Superintendent.

Sister Cardwell taught a lesson on Elijah, using Flannel Graph.

Number of persons present, ten.

Closed with prayer by Bro. John Calhoun.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The Ministers and Deacons conference convened with the Pugh Mountain Free Will Baptist Church, Marion, Va. on October 4, 1974.

The meeting began by singing "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes". Singing led by Rev. John Tilson.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Johnny Hooker. Welcome given by Rev. Cecil Pressley.

The Devotional message was brought by Rev. Cecil Pressley, using scripture from Colossians, chapter 4, verse 1 thru 6.

Text used, verse 5.

The Association was called to order by Moderator, Rev. John Taylor. Move was made and seconded to enter into business.

Fellowship was taken, all were in Fellowship.

Minutes of the 1973 Association was read by the Clerk.

Letters from the following Ministers were read to the body, Kyle French, Levi Arnold, Howard Campbell, Harold Rouse, Ralph Graham.

Ministers reports were read and received as read by the body.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVING

Rev. C. C. Olinger, Rev. C. F. Sprinkle, Rev. Johnny Hooker.

The following recommendations were made by the Executive Board. All were voted on and passed by the body.

Rev. Edd Pendergrass will be the Moderator for the 1975 Ministers and Deacons Conference.

New Ministerial Cards were presented to the following Ministers: C. F. Sprinkle, C. C. Olinger, Herman Cress, Edd Pendergrass, Kenneth Shaffer, Johnny Hooker, John Taylor, Arthur Rhymer, Orville Trivette, Jennings Wilson, Samuel Johnson, Ralph Carty, Robert Spears, Junior Gobble, Herbert Adams, Orville O'Quinn, John Tilson, Glen Powers, Avery Sheets, Walter Statzer, Shelton Norris, Howard Campbell, J. E. Floyd.

Cards received by mail and approved: Rev. Elmer Adkins, Rev. Kyle French, Rev. Ralph Graham.

The following ministers were approved, pending their reports: Garry Rowlett, Lulu Henley, Joe Tolliver, J. W. Chesnutt, Eddy Foster, Homer

Goodson, Harold Rouse, Douglas Offield, Calvin Baumgardner, Paul Rouse.

Offering received: \$33.15.

Number of Ministers present	23
Number of Deacons present	7
Number of visiting Ministers present	4
Number of visiting Deacons present	0
Number of Visitors present	3

Motion was made and passed by the body to adjourn for one year.
Meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Otis Smith.

YEARLY MEETING OR ANNUAL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This yearly meeting or association shall be called the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist, 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, or in its judgement 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 at any regularly 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.

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 determines from the beginning to save all who should comply with the condition 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. **Perserverance.** 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, or ordinance teaching humility or universal obligation, 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 apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, . . ." (I Corinthians 16:2).
15. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law required that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements; for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communication with God.
16. **Resurrection, Judgement, 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 solem 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.

