

Minutes of The
John Wheeler Association
of
Free Will Baptist
1983

Proceedings of The
105th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION

CONVENED WITH THE
ROOTY BRANCH FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Bristol, Tennessee
SATURDAY, OCT. 1, 1983

THE 1984 SESSION WILL CONVENE WITH THE
VALLEY VIEW FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
SATURDAY BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER, 1984.

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John Wheeler Association
of
Free Will Baptist
1983

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105th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

MODERATOR REV. WALTER STATZER
238 Meadowcrest Dr.
Bristol, Va. 24201
(703) 669-1805

CLERK BRO. DONALD WHITE
1762 Pittstown Rd.
Bristol, Va. 24201
(703) 669-3604

HOME MISSION BOARD

Walter Statzer 238 Meadowcrest Dr., Bristol, Va.

TRUSTEES

Rev. Walter Statzer 238 Meadowcrest Dr., Bristol, Va.
Rev. Kyle French P. O. Box 87, Chilhowie, Va.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bro. Dennis Frye Rt. 2, Saltville, Va. 24370
Rev. Kenneth Shaffer 1208 Virginia Ave., Bristol, Tn. 37620
Bro. John Calhoun 4173 Reedy Creek Rd., Bristol, Va. 24201
Rev. Howard Campbell Rt. 3, Bristol, Tn. 37620
Rev. Jennings Wilson Box 71N, Chilhowie, Va. 24319

PROCEEDINGS

The One Hundred and Fifth Annual Session of The John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Bristol, Tn. on October 1, 1983.

The Meeting began by singing "Victory in Jesus" led by Bro. Leroy Fleenor.

Rev. Roger Ball, Assistant Clerk then gave the welcome. Rev. Ball then read Romans 5:1-6. Alter prayer was led by Rev. Johnny Hooker.

Rev. Howard Campbell, Assistant Moderator took charge of the meeting. After a brief welcome on behalf of the host church, a motion was made and carried to enter into the conference.

While singing "God Holds the Future in His Hand" fellowship was taken and the congregation registered. All were in fellowship.

Standing delegates were recognized with eighteen present.

STANDING DELEGATES ENROLLED

Leroy Fleenor, Roger Ball, Jennings Wilson, Herbert Adams, Clarence Frye, James White, Phillip Neal, Junior Davidson, Dennis Frye, James White II, Kenneth Shaffer, Johnnie Hooker, Kyle French, Bob Surber, Harold Campbell, Ronald Baldwin, S.C. Bentley, and Don White.

Letters from the Quarterlys were read.

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORTS

NORTHEASTERN QUARTERLY

MODERATOR Rev. Jim Cox, Roanoke, Va.
 CLERK Sis. Lottie Cardwell, Saltville, Va.

LIST OF DELEGATES:

Pam Frye, Ollie Tolbert, June Davidson, Jo Ann Taylor, and
 Virginia Neese.

Number of Churches	8
Church Membership	559
Number of Parsonages	3
Number of Ordained Ministers	16
Number of Licensed Ministers	3
Number of Ordained Deacons	23
Average Attendance of Sunday School	740
Average Attendance of Womens Auxiliaries	72
Mid-Week Average Attendance	316

FINANCIAL REPORT

SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES

Pastor's Salaries	\$ 40,800.45
Evangelistic Work	7,660.45
Building and Repair	29,427.98
Literature	5,072.34

TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES\$ 82,961.22

SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES

Foreign Missions	\$ 1,950.07
Home Missions	4,391.00
Education	903.00
Free Will Baptist Home for Children	1,317.88

TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES\$ 8,561.95

TOTAL EXPENDITURES\$ 91,523.17

AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR FEES\$ 440.00

SOUTHWESTERN QUARTERLY

MODERATOR Bro. Don White, Bristol, Va.
 CLERK Bro. John Calhoun, Bristol, Va.

LIST OF DELEGATES:

Linda Fleenor, Edith Hooker, Mary Blaylock, Cara Baker, and Ida
 Adams.

Number of Churches	8
Church Membership	746

Number of Parsonages	0
Number of Ordained Ministers	16
Number of Licensed Ministers	1
Number of Ordained Deacons	26
Enrollment of Sunday School	747
Average of Sunday School	689
Enrollment of Church Training Service	140
Average Attendance of Church Training Service	122
Enrollment of Women's Auxiliaries	65
Average Attendance of Women's Auxiliaries	58
Enrollment of Master's Men	14
Mid-Week Service Average Attendance	187

FINANCIAL REPORT

SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES

Pastor's Salaries	\$ 34,151.34
Evangelistic Work	2,549.98
Building and Repair	56,457.07
Literature	2,322.54
Other	17,831.97

TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES\$113,312.97

SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES

Foreign Missions	\$ 1,200.77
Home Missions	2,406.15
Education	253.25
Free Will Baptist Home for Children	363.19

TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES\$ 4,223.36

TOTAL EXPENDITURES\$117,536.26

VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY\$800,000.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR FEES\$ 360.00

A motion was made and carried to accept the reports as read. Also to seat the delegates listed in those reports.

Rev. Johnny Hooker and Rev. Clarence Frye were elected protom to the executive board to replace Bro. John Calhoun in his absence and Rev. Howard Campbell who is serving as Moderator for today's session. The Executive Board was excused. Executive Board serving today: Bro. Dennis Frye, Rev. Kenneth Shaffer, Rev. Jennings Wilson, Rev. Johnny Hooker, and Rev. Clarence Frye.

Treasurer's report was read.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance on Hand October 2, 1982	\$ 614.42
Received from Northeastern Quarterly	280.00
Received from Southwestern Quarterly	360.00
Offering from Minister's and Deacon's conference 10-1-82 ..	20.97
Offering from the 104th session 10-2-82	19.61
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 680.58
TOTAL	\$1295.00

EXPENDITURES

New Checks	\$ 7.97
Printing of 1982 minutes	270.40
1983 Sunday School Retreat	100.00
State Fees	160.00
National Fees	160.00
Postage	10.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 708.37
BALANCE October 1, 1983	\$ 586.63

A motion was made and carried to accept Treasurer's report as read.

Sister Lottie Cardwell, Sunday School Evangelist for the Northeastern Quarterly gave a report. She did three Bible Schools with good success. The Sunday School Retreat was held at Hemlock Haven and we anticipate another quality retreat in the coming year with the approval of this body. This year Sunday School Workshop was good. Continue to pray for this work and call Sis. Lottie if she can be of help in any way.

Rev. Ronald Baldwin, Sunday School Evangelist for the Southwestern Quarterly gave no report.

Motion made and accepted to accept the report of the Sunday School Evangelist.

Rev. Kyle French reported on the situation at the Children's Home. Visit the home if you possibly can and continue to pray for them.

Motion made and carried to accept this report.

Sis. Lottie Cardwell recommended the Association invite a Representative of the Free Will Baptist Bible College to our meeting each year. Motion made and carried to accept this recommendation.

NO OLD BUSINESS

Announcements were made.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Item 1. That Willis Osborne be entrusted to serve a five year term on the Executive Board to expire in 1988. He will replace Bro. Dennis Frye whose term expires today.

- Item 2. That the 106th session of the John Wheeler Association convene with the Northeastern Quarterly Conference at the Valley View Free Will Baptist Church, Saturday before the first Sunday in October 1984.
- Item 3. That Elmer Cardwell, Jr. serve as Moderator for the 1984 session.
- Item 4. That Walter Statzer be retained to serve on the Home Missions Board.
- Item 5. Funding for the Sunday School Retreat be continued as in the past.
- Item 6. That Sister Lottie Cardwell be given authority to appoint delegates to the state association.
- Item 7. We the executive board recommend that article 3 of the constitution be altered to state that the Clerk-Treasurer and assistant serve a four (4) term, instead of standing term as stated. This action to be taken in accordance with article 8 of the constitution.
- Item 8. We the Executive Board recommend that Bro. Donnie White serve as Clerk-Treasurer and Roger Ball as Assistant for the 1984 session of John Wheeler Association on the basis that the recommendation from 1982 was not made in accordance with article 3 of the constitution.

Separate motions were made and passed to accept items 1-6 of the Executive Board.

Rev. Bob Surber gave a report on the church at Charlottesville. Rev. Walter Summerlin is pastor. Doing well, continue to pray. Rev. Bob Lewis home Missionary to Colorado Springs, Colorado is accomplishing great things for the Lord, continue to pray.

Comment on the role of young people in our Churches.

Motion that the Association organize a youth Revival with Rev. Bob Surber taking responsibility for this. Motion passed.

Item 7 of the Executive Board read, motion carried to table item 7 until the 106th Session of the Association. Item 8 was then passed.

Rev. Bob Surber then took charge of the service to bring the morning message. Reading Col. 4:17 and using as a text "Are we doing the job good enough?" Brought a very challenging message. The Moderator then took charge of the meeting. Offering of \$30.00 was received while singing "Are you Washed in the Blood." Prayer of thanks by Rev. Jennings Wilson.

Motion passed to accept Minister's cards from Elmer Cardwell, Ronald Baldwin and Leroy Fleenor as information.

Motion to give permission to Clerk to arrange wording in minutes to be appropriately understood.

Motion to give Clerk permission to have minutes printed.

Sister Pam Frye sang "He Touched Me."

Minutes were read for approval. Motion passed to accept the minutes as read.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Prayer of dismissal and special prayer for Clarence Flinchum was held on the altar, led by Brother James White, Sr.

TERMS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD EXPIRE AS FOLLOWS

Rev. Kenneth Shaffer	1984
Bro. John Calhoun	1985
Rev. Howard Campbell	1986
Rev. Jennings Wilson	1987
Rev. Willis Osborne	1988

MINISTERS WHO BELONG TO THE JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION

Rev. Herbert Adams, Rt. 6, Bristol, Virginia 24201, Phone 703-669-2426; Sermons Preached — 109; Churches Pastored — 2; Assisted in 3 Revivals; Professions Witnessed — 14; Number Baptized — 2; Visited many sick; Churches Organized — 1; Funerals Preached — 1; Marriages Solemnized — 1; Miles Traveled — 3165; Money Received — \$1210.46. Member of and recommended by Pine Hill. May the Lord Bless you all, pray for us. Ordained Minister. Pastor Pine Hill and Adam's Chapel.

Rev. Roger Ball, 1046 Rich Valley Road, Bristol, Va. 24201, Phone 703-466-2806; Sermons Preached — 53; Churches Pastored — assisted 1; Revivals Held — 0; Professions Witnessed — 8; Addition to Church — 0; Churches Organized — 0; Funerals Preached — 2; Marriages Solemnized — 1; Miles Traveled — several; Money Received — \$783.50. Member of and recommended by Shiloh, Ministering at Friendship. Ordained Minister.

Rev. Ronald Baldwin, Rt. 4 Box 80 C, Bluff City, Tn. 37618, Phone 615-538-4612; Ordained Member of Feather's Chapel and recommended by Feather's Chapel. Ministering at Feather's Chapel. Sermons Preached — 68; Churches Pastored — 0; Revivals Held — 0; Professions Witnessed — 4; Number Baptized — 3; Funerals Preached — 2; Marriages Solemnized — 0.

Rev. Andy Blevins, Rt. 5, Marion, Va. 24354, Licensed. Member of, recommended by, and Ministering at Liberty.

Rev. Howard Campbell, Rt. 3, Bristol, Tn. 37620, Phone 615-878-3953, Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and Pastoring Rooty Branch. Sermons Preached — 110; Churches Pastored — 1; Revivals Held — 1; Professions Witnessed — unknown; Number Baptized — 9; Additions to Church — 7; Funerals Preached — 8; Marriages Solemnized — 7; Miles Traveled — unknown; Money Received — \$2500.00.

Rev. Elmer Cardwell, Jr., Rt. 2, Saltville, Va. 24370, Member of and recommended by Cardwelltown. Ordained. Phone: 703-496-4295. Sermons Preached — 35; Professions Witnessed — 3; Miles Traveled — many.

Rev. Bobby Collins, Rt. 2 Box 108A, Saltville, Va. 24370, 703-944-3573. Ordained. Member of and recommended by Cardwelltown. Sermons Preached — 84; Number Baptized — 5; Miles Traveled — 4980; Money Received — \$125.00.

Rev. Jim Cox, 1019 Vinton Road, N.E., Roanoke, Va. 24012, 703-344-7379. Member of, recommended by, and Pastoring First Free Will, Roanoke, Va.

Rev. Leroy Fleenor, Rt. 3, Blountville, Tn. 37617, 615-323-8026, Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and Pastoring Land Mark Mission. Sermons preached — 75; Churches Pastored — 1; Revivals Held — 0; Professions Witnessed — 16; Number Baptized — 8; Additions to Church — 4; Marriages Solemnized — 3; Miles Traveled — many.

Rev. Kyle French, Box 87, Chilhowie, Va. 24319, 703-646-3824; Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and Pastoring Macedonia. Sermons Preached — 93; Churches Pastored — 1; Revivals Held — 3; Professions Witnessed — 30; Number Baptized — 1; Additions to Church — 2; Funerals Preached — 11; Marriages Solemnized — 10; Money Received — \$5200.00.

Rev. Clarence Frye, Sr., Rfd. 1 Box 62, Saltville, Va. 24370, Member of, recommended by, and Ministering at Macedonia. Sermons Preached — 18; Professions Witnessed — 6; Number Baptized — 9; Miles Traveled — 300; Money Received — \$66.00. Pray for us that we will always be found working in the Harvest. Amen.

Rev. Clyde Gamble, 540 Willow Branch Road, Bristol, Va. 24201, 703-466-2945, Ordained. Member of and recommended by Shiloh, Pastoring Grace Baptist. Sermons Preached — 54; Churches Pastored — 1; Professions Witnessed — 1; Funerals Preached — 1; Miles Traveled — no record; Money Received — \$1336.50.

Rev. Homer Goodson, Rt. 5, Box 654, Bristol, Va. 24201, 703-669-5771; Ordained, member of and recommended by Pine Hill. Sermons Preached — Many; Churches Pastored — 1; Professions Witnessed — 10; Additions to Church — 10; Churches Organized — 1; Miles Traveled — many; Money Received — \$500.00.

Rev. Robert Harless, Rt. 4, Bristol, Tn. 37620, 615-878-3077 Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and Ministering at Rooty Branch. Sermons Preached — 25; Professions Witnessed — 2; Funerals Preached — 1; Miles Traveled — unknown.

Rev. Curtis Haven, Rt. 1, Saltville, Va. 24370, 703-944-3573. Ordained. Member of and recommended by Liberty. Sermons preached — 77; Churches Pastored — helped 1; Professions Witnessed — 2; Miles Traveled — approx. 5000; Money Received — \$1609.00. Include radio money. Pray for us that we would do more for the Lord.

Rev. Lula Henley, 264 Lowland St., Abingdon, Va. 24210, 703-628-6207. Ordained. Standing recommendation. Disabled.

Rev. Johnny Hooker Rt. 1, Blountville, Tn. 37617, 615-323-7892; Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and Pastoring Feather's Chapel. Sermons Preached — 48; Churches Pastored — 1; Revivals Held — assisted 2; Professions Witnessed — 18; Number Baptized — 5; Additions to Church — 5; Funerals Preached — 1; Marriages Solemnized — 2; Money Received — \$2000.00.

Rev. Charles Lovelace, Rt. 7, Box 86, Blountville, Tn. 37617; Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and Ministering at Feather's Chapel. Sermons preached — 40; Professions Witnessed — some; Number Baptized — 3; Money Received — \$10.00.

Rev. David Neitch, Rt. 5, Marion, Va. 24354, 703-783-2926. Ordained. Sermons Preached — 200; Churches Pastored — 2; Professions Witnessed — unknown; Number Baptized — 30; Funerals Preached — 8; Marriages Solemnized — 6; Miles Traveled — unknown; Pray that God will use me for His Glory.

Rev. Shelton Norris, Box 3078, Bristol, Tn. 37620, 615-878-3615. Ordained. Member of and recommended by Valley View. Pastoring at Maple Grove Community. Sermons Preached — 112; Churches Pastored — 1; Professions Witnessed — 2; Funerals Preached — 4; Marriages Solemnized — 1; Miles Traveled — 21,000; Money Received — \$9100.00.

Rev. Orville O'Quinn, 1121 McNeil St., Bristol, Va. 24201, 703-669-6060; Ordained. Standing recommendation. Member of East Bristol. Disabled.

Rev. Willis Osborne, Marion, Va. 24354. Licensed. Member of Cardwelltown and recommended by Cardwelltown. Pastoring Valley View. Sermons Preached — 65; Churches Pastored — 1; Professions Witnessed — 8; Additions to Church — 7; Funerals Preached — assisted 1; Miles Traveled — approx. 5300; Money Received — approx. \$1071.50. May all the Glory be given to God for the works He hath done. Pray for us.

Rev. Cecil Presley, Drawer D, Chilhowie, Va. 24319, 703-646-8961, Ordained. Member of and recommended by Pogh Mountain.

Rev. Jim Queen, Rt. 5, Marion, Va. 24354, 703-783-5245. Ordained. Sermons Preached — 200; Professions Witnessed — 10; Funerals Preached — 1; Miles Traveled — 1296.

Rev. Cecil Rouse, Rt. 4, Bristol, Tn. 37620, 615-878-3967, Ordained. Recommended by, member and Pastoring Friendship. Sermons Preached — disabled. Churches Pastored — 1; Marriages Solemnized — 1; Miles Traveled — very few; Money Received — \$200.00. Continue to pray for me.

Rev. Clifton Rush, Rt. 3, Bristol, Tn. 37620, 615-878-3293, Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and Pastoring East Bristol; Sermons Preached — 115; Churches Pastored — 1; Professions Witnessed — unknown; Number Baptized — 4; Additions to Church — 4; Miles Traveled — unknown; Money Received — \$1200.00. Pray for us that we may lead others to Christ.

Rev. Kenneth Shaffer, 1208 Virginia Ave., Bristol, Tn. 37620, 615-968-3953, Ordained. Member of, recommended by and Pastoring Valley View. Sermons Preached — 65; Churches Pastored — 1; Revivals Held — 1; Professions Witnessed — some; Additions to Church — 2; Marriages Solemnized — 1; Miles Traveled — many; Money Received — \$1076.58.

Rev. Lee Statzer, 238 Meadowcrest Dr., Bristol, Va. 24201, 703-669-1805. Licensed. Member of, recommended by, and Ministering at Shiloh. Sermons Preached — 66. Miles Traveled — approx. 388; Money Received — approx. \$125.72.

Rev. Walter Statzer, 238 Meadowcrest Dr., Bristol, Va. 24201, 703-669-1805. Ordained. Member of, recommended by and Pastoring at Shiloh. Sermons Preached — 190; Churches Pastored — 1; Number Baptized — 1; Additions to Church — 5; Funerals Preached — 30; Marriages Solemnized — 16.

Rev. Bob Surber, Rt. 2, Saltville, Va. 24370, 703-496-7316. Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and pastoring at Cardwelltown. Sermons Preached — 142; Churches Pastored — 1; Revivals Held — 2; Professions Witnessed — 24; Number Baptized — 11; Additions to Church — 12; Funerals Preached — 5; Marriages Solemnized — 4; Miles Traveled — many. Money Received — \$10,600.00. I am thankful for all the Lord has done for us.

Rev. John Taylor, Rt. 1, Box 77, Cleveland, Va. 24225, 703-889-1552. Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and ministering at Macedonia. Sermons Preached — 18; Professions Witnessed — 4; Number Baptized — 10; Funerals Preached — 1; Marriages Solemnized — 1; Miles Traveled — unknown; Money Received — \$125.00. Please pray for me a brother in Christ.

Rev. Clifton Vanover, 103 Nita Street, Bristol, Tn. 37620, 615-878-4675. Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and ministering at Rooty Branch. Sermons Preached — 3; Professions Witnessed — 1; Marriages Solemnized — 1; Miles Traveled — several. Totally disabled; seven heart attacks, lung surgery, high blood and pray for me.

Rev. James White, II, 1629 Gate City Hwy. No. 8, Bristol, Va. 24201, 703-669-8577. Ordained. Member of, recommended by and Ministering at East Bristol. Sermons Preached — Several; Professions Witnessed — few; Number Baptized — assisted 4; Money Received — approx. \$110.00.

Rev. Jennings Wilson, Box 71N, Chilhowie, Va. 24319, 703-646-3382. Ordained. Member of, recommended by, and Ministering Macedonia. Churches Pastored — assisted 1; Revivals Held — 1; Professions Witnessed — 61; Number Baptized — 19; Funerals Preached — 22; Marriages Solemnized — 12; Money Received — \$1500.00.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

Opening song led by Rev. James White, II.

Opening prayer led by Rev. Howard Campbell.

Opening remarks by the clerk. Service turned over to Sis. Lottie Cardwell.

Mary Lou Hanger spoke on Teaching Ladies "the Holy Spirit, what He does for us." He convicts, re-generates, baptizes, intercedes, anoints, fills, witnesses, seals, indwells, and endows us.

Bob Surber spoke on giving a "Chalk Talk." You don't need to be an artist. Take a lesson and prayerfully consider ways to illustrate it. Don't be afraid to draw, or ashamed of your drawing. Simplicity is the key.

Pam Frye sang "He Touched Me."

Bro. Don White spoke on "Recruiting Great Youth Workers."

Sis. Lottie Cardwell then taught with a flannel lesson on how to prepare our lessons. Pray, study, be happy in your class, don't lose your temper. Do what you say you'll do. Don't give up.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The John Wheeler Ministers and Deacons Conference met with the Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Friday, Sept. 30, 1983.

Opening song, "Revive Us Again" led by Rev. Walter Statzer.

Rev. Howard Campbell, host Pastor, then took charge of the meeting, and welcomed those in attendance. Opening prayer was led by Rev. Kyle French on the altar.

Bro. Don White then took charge of the meeting, and awaited a motion to enter into conference. Motion carried. Motion made that Rev. Shelton Norris serve as moderator in the absence of Rev. Joe Powers. Motion made and carried that Rev. Howard Campbell bring the message for the Ministers and Deacons Conference.

Rev. Norris then took charge of the meeting. Song "Glory to His Name" was sung while taking Fellowship. All were in fellowship. Rev. Roger Ball then read the minutes of the previous session. No old business. List of ministers who are recommended by the Quarterly Meetings to receive new Minister Cards were read by Rev. Ball. Motion made and carried to accept this list as read.

Reports of the Ministers for 1983 were read by Rev. Ball. Motion made and carried to accept these reports as read.

The Moderator then charged the crowd to work harder for the Lord in the coming year.

New business: Motion to include ministers recommending church, ministering church and status of ministry to this Conference, as information in the printing of the minutes of the Annual meeting.

Offering of \$28.45 was received while singing "Standing on the Promises."

Rev. Howard Campbell then took charge of the service and preached a challenging message from Luke 10:2 using as a text, Laborers in the Vineyard.

Motion made that Rev. Surber elect a speaker for next year. Motion carried. Bro. Surber then selected Rev. James White II as speaker.

New ministers cards were issued and information collected and verified.

Roll was taken with 19 ministers present and 9 deacons, 1 visiting minister, and eight visitors.

Reading of minutes by Clerk. Motion carried to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried that the meeting be adjourned. Announcements were made. Dismissal prayer by Rev. Kenneth Shaffer.

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 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 of 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 communion 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 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.

