

MINUTES
Of The
LEE COUNTY
ASSOCIATION
Of The
Freewill Baptist Churches



Held With The
Willis Chapel Freewill Baptist Church
April 4, 1970
Pennington Gap, Virginia

P R E F A C E

For well over two hundred years there has been a Baptist people in the United States who preached and practiced "Freedom of the Will." A great many of the Baptists came from Wales and London to the eastern part of the United States in the early settling of this country. Among the earliest records available, we find the name of Paul Palmer, who preached and organized a church in Perquims, North Carolina, in the year 1727. This church was later lost to the Calvinistic Baptists. Not only this church was lost, but several others in the course of time were lost, but a sufficient number kept the "Faith once delivered to the saints" that a steady increase has prevailed throughout the years.

Those who are called Free Will Baptists in North Carolina were first called by this name by those who opposed the doctrine of "Freedom of the will." The same thing was true in the north with the Rev. Benjamin Randall and his followers, whose church was organized at New Durham, N. H., in the year of 1780. The name was later adopted by the believers in "Salvation by Grace through Faith," who preached freedom of the the will.

Among these believers it was deemed wise to set forth certain outstanding fundamental doctrines as believed by the denominations. In several of the states there were booklets published setting forth the "Articles of Faith." Many of the Disciplines set forth had different ways of doing things, while the fundamental doctrine was the same in all. These Disciplines and the Articles of Faith set forth the fact that "these were set forth for the convenience" with the solemn declaration that "the Bible is infallible" and in every instance it was plainly set forth that "We believe the whole Scriptures to be the word of God."

In the year 1935, at Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn., a committee was elected for the purpose of formulating, by way of a revision, a treatise out of the various Disciplines and former Treatise, to be used in Free Will Baptist churches. This committee was composed of the following ministers, namely: J. C. Griffin, chairman; and Winford Davis, E. B. Joyner, J. S. Frederick, E. E. Morris, W. B. Davenport, Millard Vanhooose, C. B. Thompson, and Ralph Staten, with two laymen, M. L. Morris and Hubert Post. This committee worked for several hours and then reported. A motion was carried that the report be accepted. In the year 1947, while the National Association

was in session at Highland Park, F.W.B. Church in Detroit, Michigan, a resolution was passed in which several members of the General Board of the National Association and one member from each affiliated state convention or association was to meet and revise the Treatise and report at the next session of National Association. This committee, composed of the following ministers, namely: J. L. Welch, chairman; R. B. Crawford, J. C. Griffin, J. F. Miller, K. V. Shutes, F. S. Vanhooose, L. A. Holliday, I. W. Yandall, M. L. Sutton, Ralph Staten, Harry Beatty, H. E. Willis, Floyd Cherry, R. N. Hinnant, Seldon Bul-lard, C. H. Curry and J. A. Lambert met at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville, Tenn., in April and the revision was made and presented to the National Association in session in the Pocahontas Free Will Baptist Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas, July, 1948, and was adopted.

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 sanctions 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 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, admonish the erring, and, so far as we are able, promote the success of

the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief purpose 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 educational 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 the Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFICERS

Silas Culbertson, Moderator	Woodway, Va.
E. R. Davis, Asst. Moderator	Pennington Gap, Va.
Arthur M. Poteet, Clerk	Jonesville, Va.
Ferrel Poteet, Asst. Clerk	Jonesville, Va.
Clarence Ramey, Treasurer	Jonesville, Va.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Frank Shoemaker, Pennington Gap, Va.	1971
Raymond Baird, Jonesville, Va.	1972
Clarence Ramey, Jonesville, Va.	1973

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Silas Culbertson, Woodway, Va.	1971
E. R. Davis, Pennington Gap, Va.	1972
L. H. Martin, Jonesville, Va.	1973

DEACONS

Clarence Ramey
Ben Lawson
Ralph Callahan

Fred Smith
Charles Rogers
Everett Noe

Fred Carter

DELEGATES

Billy Powers
Norva Salley
Eunis Roberts
Fannie Rutherford
Everett Noe
Rose Tate

Nora Reynolds
Roscoe Reynolds
Fannie Driskel
Ray Lou Bledsoe
Mrs. Jim McCracken
Helen Wright

Mattie Collier

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Lee County Association of Freewill Baptists convened with the Willis Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, Pennington Gap, Va., April 4, 1970.

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk. Opening song was, I Feel Like Traveling On, sung by the congregation. Scripture reading was from 2 Thess. Chapter 3, 1-5 verses. Prayer was by Rev. Billy Powers.

Elder S. B. Culbertson was moderator but due to sickness he was unable to attend. Elder E. R. Davis the Assistant Moderator took charge of the meeting. Business was as follows: Delegates, Ministers, and Visiting Ministers were enrolled. The Association was glad to have Elder Shannon Powers, Kingsport, Tenn., as a visiting minister. The Church Letters were then read and accepted. Clarence Ramey a member of the Executive Board, time had expired. The Association re-elected him to this position. Elder L. H. Martins time had expired on the Ordaining Council. He was re-elected to this position. The Clerk made mention that Frank Shoemaker a member of the Executive Board had failed to attend several of the past conferences. The other two members of the Board were instructed to contact Frank Shoemaker and inquire of his intents in the future. The Clerk Arthur M. Poteet, Assistant Clerk Ferrel Poteet and Treasurer Clarence Ramey, were re-elected for another one year term. This being the time to decide on the printing of the minutes, it was mentioned that last year we had to many printed. Motion was made and seconded that the Clerk make the decision on how many to have printed. Arthur M. Poteet then mentioned how he felt that God had blessed the Mt. Hope Church, and that he recommended Rev. Shannon Powers and Rev. Billy Powers to the Association and that they had been a great help to Mt. Hope Church. The Moderator then ask for motions for a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Preacher and Assistant Preacher for the next meeting. E. R. Davis was elected Moderator, S. B. Culbertson, Assistant Moderator, Richard Hines, Preacher and Billy Powers, Assistant Preacher. The next Conference was due to meet at the Hoover Chapel Church but due to no representation from that Church it will meet with the North Fork Church. Motion was made and passed that the next Conference be on July 11, 1970 at 7:30 P. M. DST due to the fact that the first Saturday night fell on the 4th of July. Motion was then made and passed that the meeting adjour until the 11th day of July 1970 at 7:30 P. M. DST.

The Moderator then mentioned that Elder S. B. Culbertson was to bring the message but was unable to attend due to sickness. Elder Richard Hines was Assistant Minister but he ask Elder Shannon Powers the Visiting Minister to bring the message. Elder Powers brought a very inspiring message taking his text from the Book of Daniel. After the message and Association meeting was closed, refreshments were served by the Church.

Arthur M. Poteet, Clerk
Route 4
Jonesville, Virginia 24263

ANNUAL CHURCH REPORT

CHURCH	Members	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Literature	Pastor	Value Church Property
Oak Grove	143	\$1200.00	\$50.00	\$360.00	\$30.00	.00	\$146.76	Silas Culbertson	\$60,000
Big Stone Gap, Va.								Woodway, Va.	
Mt. Carmel	106	\$700.37	.00	\$100.00	.00	\$80.00	\$140.00	Silas Culbertson	\$20,000
Woodway, Va.								Woodway, Va.	
Ocoonita	63	\$460.00	.00	\$116.44	.00	\$50.00	\$38.52	Richard Hines	\$9,000
Jonesville, Va.								Jonesville, Va.,	
Mt. Hope	67	.00	\$868.56	\$41.16	.00	.00	\$73.99	No Pastor	\$15,000
Jonesville, Va.									
Hoover Chapel	25	\$120.93	\$21.75	.00	.00	.00	\$14.44	William C. Maness	
Keokee, Va.								Big Stone Gap, Va.	
North Fork	17	\$230.00	.00	\$25.00	.00	.00	\$31.40	L. H. Martin	\$2,000
Keokee, Va.								Jonesville, Va.	
Willis Chapel	15	\$276.82	.00	.00	.00	.00	\$28.00	L. H. Martin	
Pennington Gap, Va.								Jonesville, Va.	\$3,000

ANNUAL MINISTERS REPORT

MINISTERS

	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions To Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Silas Clubertson Woodway, Va.	61	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	2,500	\$1,900.37
E. R. Davis Pennington Gap, Va.	No Report	Due To Sickness								
Richard Hines Jonesville, Va.	56	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,776	\$390.00
L. H. Martin Jonesville, Va.	62	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1,344	\$609.82
Licentates Report										
Billy Powerskingspor , Tenn.	57	0	3	22	10	26	0	1	5,000	\$235.00

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 1970

Received From Lee County District Association	\$106.05
Amount Paid Clerk	\$ 8.00
Amount Paid Moderator	\$ 8.00
Amount Paid For Minutes	\$ 69.16
Balance In Treasury	\$299.33

Submitted By
Clarence Ramey, Treas.

B Y - L A W S

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years, shall call the association into conference, and if a quorum is present, the moderator, or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them be present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2. It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll the delegates to the association, who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the clerk shall compose the association. In case of questionable representation, however, the case under question shall be referred to the credential committee.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this association to send a letter to every annual session of this association reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body belonging to this association which shall fail to represent itself for two successive sessions may be dismissed from the association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present, ruling of the moderator may be overruled.

6. This association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. This association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission from the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of all members of the association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and ad-

dress the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15. No member of this association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

18. It shall be the duty of every minister who holds membership in this association to report in writing to every annual meeting of the association. If any minister fails to report to the association for two successive sessions, he may be dismissed from the association by two-thirds of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the 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 supremely to 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 of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man 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, suffering, death and resurrection affected 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 ones 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 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 (Mat. 13:23), 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 Cor. 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. RESURECTION, 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 in eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

