

**..1899..**

**... MINUTES ...**

**....OF THE....**

**Eighth Annual Session**

**....OF THE....**

**= Little Brown's Creek =**

**Association of**

**Free Will Baptists.**

**HELD WITH**

**Mt. Zion Church, Prentiss Co., Miss.,  
SEPTEMBER 15, 16 AND 18, 1899.**

**T. C. DENSON, Clerk.**

**J. W. CULVER, Moderator.**

**G. M. DENSON, Assistant.**

**J. S. LONG, Assistant.**

**BOONE, Printer, Boonville, Miss.**

## Minutes.

Pursuant to adjournment of 1898, we, the Little Brown's Creek Association convened in her Eighth Annual Session with Mount Zion Church, Prentiss County,, Mississippi, on Friday before the third Sabbath in September, 1899.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder J. W. Culver followed by Elder Houston, from 2nd Timothy, 4th verse—"Preach the Word," which was well received by an attentive congregation.

Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, p. m., when homes were assigned to delegates.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Met pursuant to adjournment, and after singing "Gathered Home" from Perennial Songs, and having a prayer led by Elder J. W. Houston, the house was called to order by the Moderator and declared ready for business.

1st. Called for correspondence and received letters from the following churches, viz: Little Brown's Creek, Hopewell, Ebenezer, Antioch, Macedonia, Jones' Chapel, Mount Zion, Forked Oak, Sandy Hook, and Poplar Springs, which were read and received.

2nd. Enrolled names of delegates: James Moreland, G. M. Denson, W. A. Brown, Wm. Haley, G. C. Bolden, J. S. Long, J. C. Lambert, Dan Lambert, John Lambert, W. B. George, Oscar George, Arther George, S. E. Cooksey, J. A. Lambert, Arther McCoy, M. T. Vanzant, A. G. Vanzant, James McCoy, W. M. Lambert, J. H. Vanzant, G. T. Johnson, J. H. Willis, Josh Adams, M. D. Bain, J. C. Cooksey, J. W. Maddox, J. M. Ables, H. L. Smith, B. T. Blakney, J. W. Phillips, W. L. Smith, W. L. Ables.

3d. Entered into an election for an assistant moderator which resulted in the election of Elder J. S. Long.

4th Entered into election for clerks which resulted in the election of T. C. Denson as clerk and G. M. Denson as assistant clerk.

5th. Received a letter from Clear Creek and enrolled names of delegates, viz: J. M. Price and J. D. Pace.

6th. Called for petitionary letters, received one for Gleener Church.

7th. Called for corresponding letters, received none.

8th. Invite visiting brethren to a seat in the council, received one from Tupelo Association, towit: M. A. O. Bickerstaff.

9th. Appointed a committee consisting of six on arrangement of business, viz: M. T. Vanzant, L. M. White, W. T. Rogers, Joe Lambert, H. L. Smith, James Moreland.

10th. Appoint devotional committee, viz: J. A. Lambert, A. G. Vanzant, H. J. Land.



11th. Appoint committee on finance, viz: D. Lambert, J. M. Ables, Thomas Blakney.

12th. Appointed committee on obituaries, viz: R. G. Childers, J. W. Houston, and M. A. O. Bickerstaff.

13th. Perpetuated the Union which was found good.

14th. Called for report of devotional committee, said committee reports that Elder M. A. O. Bickerstaff and J. S. Long preach tonight (Friday). Moved for an adjournment to meet at 8 o'clock Saturday a. m.

Friday night, preaching by Elders M. A. O. Bickerstaff and J. S. Long from Acts, 10th chapter, part of 34th verse.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment and after singing No. 111 in Perennial Songs, and prayer by Bro. J. S. Long the following business was transacted: Ordained Bro. Polk Tilman to the ministry; Presbytery, L. M. White, W. T. Rogers, J. W. Long, H. L. Smith, H. J. Land, W. B. George, J. W. Culver, Joe Lambert, and I. T. Vanzant.

2nd. Listened to an interesting talk from Elder M. A. O. Bickerstaff on the unity of Southern Baptists.

3d. Called the roll of delegates and marked absentees.

4th. Resolved that the Moderator explain fully all questions before taking the vote.

5th. Resolved, That we continue the program of business as is found in our minutes.

6th. That we continue the rules of order as is found in our minutes.

7th. Resolved, That the Moderator preach the introductory sermon at each association.

8th. Resolved, That we continue the names and postoffice address of our ministers.

9th. Resolved, That the program for church conference be continued.

10th. Resolved, That we continue the constitution as is found in our minutes.

11th. Resolved, That we adjourn until 2 o'clock p. m.

### SATURDAY EVENING SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. Singing and prayer by Bro. M. L. Bickerstaff, proceeded to business.

1st. Resolved, That we continue the form of church letters, as it appears in the minutes with exception that the words deacons and messengers being left off and add experience and baptism.

2nd. Resolved, That we continue the articles of faith as they stand in our minutes.

3rd. That our ministers make a full report of all their ministe-

rial work to each annual association.

4th. That we correspond with sister associations by letter and with the Tupelo association by letter and delegates.

5th. That we examine the order of our ministers by a committee of five brethren, viz: G. T. Johnson, W. B. George, B. T. Blatney, J. H. Vanzant J. M. Abel.

6th. That we contend for the boundary line of the Little Brown's Creek Association as agreed on in the divide.

7th. That our ministers use their influence in establishing Sunday schools in their pastoral charge.

8th. That we require our deacons to demand the credentials of our ministers who absent themselves from our order in disorder.

9th. That we supply the churches with ministerial aid as follows: Little Brown's Creek, W. T. Rogers; Hopewell, Vergil Forrester; Ebenezer, L. M. White; Antioch, J. S. Long; Macedonia, J. W. Houston and R. G. Childers; Poplar Springs, R. G. Childers and J. W. Houston; Liberty Hill, R. G. Childers; Jones' Chapel, L. M. White; Sandy Hook, A. M. Dickerson; Mount Zion, W. T. Rodgers and M. T. Vanzant; Forked Oak, Vergil Forrester; Madden's Chapel, R. G. Childers; Clear Creek, R. G. Childers; Gleener, L. M. White.

The committee on order of the ministry made their report, finding Bro. C. W. Patterson in disorder, it was theretore resolved that we kill his credentials in his hand.

Resolved, That we adjourn until Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

#### MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment and after singing that good old song, "A Charge to Keep I Have," and having a fervent prayer led by Elder M. A. O. Bickerstaff, the Association proceeded to business.

1st. That we correspond with the Tupelo Association to convene at Christian church in Union county, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1899, and that Elder J. S. Long be sent as delegate.

2nd. Resolved, That the clerk correspond with the Baptist Review at Goldsborough, N. C., in regard to printing minutes, and that we empower him to have the minutes printed where he can get them the cheapest.

3d. Resolved, That the clerks of each church keep and report to the next association the amount given to their pastors.

4th. Resolved, That we see after the destitution, and that Elder W. T. Rogers be requested to go to Cross Roads, eight miles west of Booneville.

5th. Resolved, That we believe that they that preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel, and we urge that our churches see

after the support of their moderators by an agreement of their own.

6th. Resolved, That we hold our next Association with Poplar Springs Church, Tishomingo county, 10 miles north of Burnsville, on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1900.

7th. Resolved, That we call for final report of committee on arrangements. Said committee reported and was discharged.

L. M. WHITE, Chairman.

8th. Resolved, That we call for final report of committee on devotion. Said committee reported and was discharged.

H. J. LAND, Chairman.

9th. Resolved, That we call for report of committee on obituaries, said committee made the following report and was discharged: We, your committee on obituaries, beg leave to report that we find death has visited our body and has taken away ten of our beloved brethren and sisters, for which we mourn our loss and pray that we may be able to meet them in the Sweet Bye And Bye.

L. M. BICKERSTAFF, Chairman.

10th. Resolved, That we call for report of committee on the order of the ministry, said committee reported and was discharged: We find the order of our ministry good, except C. W. Patterson.

J. W. ABLES, Chairman.

11th. Resolved, That we call for report of the finance committee, said committee reported that they had \$8.30, and was discharged.

H. L. SMITH, Chairman.

12th. Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the brethren and sisters around Mount Zion Church for their kind hospitality shown to us during our stay with them. May heaven's blessings ever rest upon them. May we meet in the Sweet Bye And Bye.

The stand was filled as follows: Friday at 11 o'clock, J. W. Culver, 2nd Timothy, 2nd verse. Saturday night, Elder R. G. Childers and J. W. Houston, from John 1st Epistle, 3d chapter 1st verse. Saturday, L. M. White and W. T. Rogers, from Hebrews 2nd chapter, 3d verse. Friday night, M. A. O. Bickerstaff and J. S. Long, from Job, 14th chapter, 14th verse. Sunday, 11 o'clock, W. T. Rogers and J. S. Long. Sunday night, A. M. Dickerson and J. S. Long, from St. Luke, 8th chapter, 7th verse. Monday, 11 o'clock, M. A. O. Bickerstaff and J. S. Long.

13th. Resolved, That we adjourn to meet at the time and place above mentioned. While singing that good old song "Fare You Well My Dear Brethren," the messengers took the parting hand and all was made to rejoice in the love of God.



### NAMES AND POSTOFFICE ADDRESS OF MINISTERS.

W. T. Rogers, Corinth, Mississippi.  
 R. G. Childers, Eagle, Mississippi.  
 M. C. Richards, Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi.  
 W. J. Vess, Jacinto, Alcorn County, Mississippi.  
 J. W. Houston, Jacinto, Alcorn County, Mississippi.  
 Vergil Forrester, Jacinto, Alcorn County, Mississippi.  
 A. M. Dickerson, Dennis, Mississippi.  
 L. W. Brown, Pebble Hill, Tennessee.  
 L. M. White, Pickwick, Tennessee.  
 J. W. Culver, Gravel Hill, Tennessee.  
 J. L. Jones, Gravel Hill, Tennessee.  
 J. S. Long, Riverton, Alabama.  
 I. Robinson, residence unknown.

### CONSTITUTION.

Be it known, That we the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ, being in the States of Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, do believe in the doctrine of general atonement, we have been baptized on a profession of faith in Christ, and we are desirous of bringing about a reciprocal union; we propose, therefore, to maintain the order and rules of our association according to the following plan:

ART. 1. We believe the churches of Christ are mutually independent to each other; that a congregational form of church government should be invariably preserved; yet, we being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious counsel on principles of union advantage and Christian love, hold it a duty of the churches to pay respect to these principles with regard to the duty of the association.

ART. 2. This association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who producing letters from respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. 3. The letters so produced shall express the condition of these churches respectively—that is the number of members in fellowship, the members received, excluded and died since last association.

ART. 4. This body shall have no conceived power to lord it over God's heritage or infringe upon any of the internal privileges or rights of the church in our union; but shall only be considered an advisory council in all things pertaining to the internal concerns of the churches.

ART. 5. The association is to give the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty. If the union should be broken between any of the churches said association shall inquire into the cause of the breach and use its best endeavors to remove the difficulty, but if the breach cannot be removed, to withdraw from the churches which they may look upon as unsound in principle or disorderly in conduct or practice until they be reclaimed.

ART. 6. To take up no case of any kind in the union without the consent of a majority of the churches and then only to give advice.

ART. 7. Any church may be admitted into the association by letter and delegate, and if upon examination it is found orthodox and orderly such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegates thereof.

ART. 8. This association when properly organized for business shall consist of a moderator and clerks who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. And the duty of the moderator shall be to keep the association in order, state questions fairly and take their minds thereon, to have the liberty of speech as other members, provided his seat is filled, to have no vote unless the association be equally divided, in which he shall have the deciding vote. And the duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the association.

ART. 9. No query shall be received by the association from any church unless it shall have been acted upon in said church, and cannot be settled, in which case the association shall take up the same and act upon it.

ART. 10. Every church in the association shall be entitled to representation

in this body of any number not exceeding three.

ART. 11. Every motion and second shall be attended to unless withdrawn by the mover.

ART. 12. We agree to all of our business by a majority of the members present.

ART. 13. The association shall have power to sit as an advisory council, give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty, to inquire into the cause of churches neglecting to represent themselves in this association, to appoint any member or members by and with their consent, to transact any business they may judge necessary, to invite any brethren in the ministry to a seat with the association, to adjourn the association to any place that may be deemed necessary, to exclude from his seat any member who will not conform to the rules of decorum, and shall report his or her conduct to the church for which he or they were delegated.

ART. 14. This constitution may be altered or amended by a majority vote of any regular meeting if the proposed amendments shall have been presented at the last preceding regular meeting and approved by that body and published in the minutes with notice that it will be acted upon at the next meeting.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ART. 1. We believe there is one, and but one, living and true God; Isa. 45: 22. "Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else."

2. We believe that Christ is the son of God, and is equal and in harmony with God in every divine perfection. Tim. 2 to 5—"For there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."

3. We believe that the Holy Ghost is the third person, equal in every divine perfection and in harmony with the Father and Son, and will lead us in the way of all truth. John 14:26—"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

4. We believe that God is the author of the Holy Bible, and that its teachings constitute the only infallible doctrine for the government of His church. 2d Tim. 3:16—"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

5. We believe that Adam was created holy, but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently involved his posterity in sin. Gen. 3:6—"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave them to her husband with her and he did eat."

6. We believe that the grace of God appears unto all men, that the gospel is the power of God in revealing the grace of God so that it may result in the salvation of men, that the Holy Ghost, through the Word, reproves the world of sin and is the means by which sinners are regenerated and made wise unto salvation. Rom. 10:12—"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."

7. We believe that Christian faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the son of God and Redeemer of the world and in the divinity of the Holy Scriptures; that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. John 3:36—"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him."

8. We believe that repentance is turning away from sin and humbleness before God and calling on the Lord. 2d Cor. 7:8-10—"For the Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

9. We believe the human will is free, and that men have the ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the scriptures. Mich



6-8—"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God."

10. We do not believe under the gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally, but those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved; that it is possible for those who have been regenerated to make shipwreck of their faith, turn again to sin and be finally lost. Luke 9-62—"And Jesus said unto him: No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God."

11. We believe that good works is the result of faith and is necessary to an ultimate salvation, and that the works of the laws of Moses being dead could not save us; grace saved us from the law creating us into good works which God hath ordained that we might walk in them. Phil. 2-12—"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed not as in my presence only but now much more in my absence work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

12. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in the water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; that baptism cannot be scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it. Rom. 6-4—"Therefore we are buried with him in baptism unto death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in the newness of life."

13. We believe the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance that the bread and wine represent his body and blood, that it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service regardless of names or denominational distinctions. 1st Cor. 11:28—"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup, for he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

14. We believe the Saints ought to wash each others feet in commemoration of the love that was shown to us by our Savior and of our love toward each other; John 13:14—"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

15. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both righteous and wicked. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body shall reunite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness, to reign with God forever and ever. But the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment. John 5: 28-29. "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in their graves shall hear his voice and come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation."

#### PROGRAM FOR HOLDING CHURCH CONFERENCE.

1. Call the Church to order.
2. Invite visiting brethren to a seat in the council.
3. Is there any reference?
4. Is the church in peace?
5. Give an opportunity for the reception of members.
6. Are there any queries?
7. Read the minutes.
8. Motion to adjourn.

#### FORM OF CHURCH LETTER.

We, the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ at.....send greetings to the Ministers, experienced and baptized, composing the Little Brown's Creek Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with.....Church: We send our beloved brother, to wit:.....to sit with you in your deliberations and to help transact any legal business that may come before your honorable body. The statistics of our church are as follows: Received by experience.....; by letter.....; by recommendation.....; by resolution.....; discontinued by letter.....; expelled.....; dead.....; total membership.....; contributions \$.....; we have elected Elder..... to the pastoral care of our church the ensuing year. Clerk.....Address. Moderator.....Address.



in

## PROGRAM OF BUSINESS FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

b

1. Singing and prayer.
2. Call to order.
3. Reading of church letters.
4. Election of Moderators and Clerks.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Call for corresponding letters.
7. Invite visiting brethren to a seat in the council.
8. Appoint committee on arrangement of business.
9. Appoint devotional committee.
10. Appoint committee on finance.
11. Appoint committee on obituaries.
12. Call for report of committee on devotion.
13. Call for report of committee on finance.
14. Call for report of committee on obituaries.
15. Call for final report of committee on arrangement of business.
16. Any unfinished business.

## RULES OF ORDER.

1. The Association, when met, shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, and he shall arise from his seat and address the Moderator.
3. A person speaking shall not be interrupted by any one, except the Moderator until he is done speaking, nor shall the Moderator unless he break order.
4. The person speaking shall adhere to the subject in question and shall not cast any personal reflections on him who may have spoken before.
5. No person shall speak more than three times on any subject without leave of the Association.
6. No member shall laugh and whisper in the time of a public speech.
7. Members shall address each other by the appellation of brother or brothers.
8. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave.
9. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled and called over as often as the Association may think necessary.
10. No person shall speak more than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the Association.
11. Any person who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reprovved by the moderator according to the direction of the Association.

## Statistical Report.

Churches.	Names of Delegates.	Excluded	Ordained Ministers	Days of Meeting	Deacons	Received by Letter	Rec'd by Ex. and Bapt	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Transferred	Deaths	Number of Meetings	Contributions
Little Brown's C	T. C. and G. M. Denson, Jas. Moreland	.1		.3	.1							37	\$ 1.00
Forked Oak....	J. A. Lambert, Arthur McCoy.....											12	.25
Jones' Chapel..	S. E. Cooksey.....											30	.30
Ebenezer.....	G. C. Bolden.....	.1			.3		.2				.3	47	1.00
Gleener.....	J. F. George, H. J. Land.....			.3	.1		.2					19	.50
Clear Creek....	J. M. Price, J. D. Pace.....		.1		.2	.6	.5					29	1.00
Poplar Springs.	H. L. Smith, B. T. Blakney, J. W. Phillips					.7	.7	.1				.1	.41
Antioch.....	J. S. Long, Joe Lambert, W. B. George	.1	.1		.4		.2				.2	.75	.75
Macedonia.....	J. W. Madden, J. M. and W. L. Ables.			.4			.1				.2	.22	1.00
Mount Zion.....	M. T. Vanzant, W. M. Lambert, J. McCoy	.1	.1		.2				.7		.1	.75	1.00
Hopewell.....	M. D. Bain, J. C. Cooksey.....	.2				.2			.3		.1	.22	.50
Sandy Hook....	G. T. Johnson, J. H. Willis.....						.3		.2			.17	.50

P. S.—Be sure to write next letters by form found in minutes and give full statistics.  
T. C. DENSON, Clerk.