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MINUTES
OF
First Annual Session
OF
MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Formerly Mason and Dixon Association

CONVENED
18 AUGUST 1967
AT THE
HOPE CHURCH
WILLOW GROVE, NEW JERSEY

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**The Second Session of the Maryland State Association will convene 20
June 1968 at Fairwood Church, Fairfax, Virginia.**

Rev. Lester Horton, Box 132, Gainesville, Va., Moderator
Cossie Meade, 249 Cabbel Drive, Manassas Park, Va., Clerk

THE MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

1. Clerk or the Assistant Clerk or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association to order if a quorum is present. The Moderator or in his absence the Assistant Moderator shall take charge. If neither is 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 sign the Register upon arrival with name, address and quarterly conference they represent. Ordained personnel will register the same way in separate book and specify if member or visitor. Members enrolled shall compose the Association. In case of questionable representation, however, the case under question shall be referred to the Executive Committee.

3. It shall be the duty of each Quarterly Meeting 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 Quarterly Meeting belonging to this Association 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 prayer and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present a ruling of the Moderator can be overruled.

6. The Moderator shall have the same privilege to speak as any other person provided the chair is filled.

7. This Association may correspond by letter or

otherwise with other religious bodies.

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

9. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission from the Moderator and properly identifying themselves.

10. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator by the appellation, "Bro. Moderator" but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.

11. It shall be the duty of each member of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain permission from the Moderator. Under no circumstance shall a member absent himself or herself from the Association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the Moderator.

12. No person may be Moderator of this Association more than twice in succession.

13. No person shall speak more than twice or more than ten minutes on the same subject and shall adhere to the subject under discussion.

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

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

16. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present. A majority shall rule.

17. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to seat delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly hall at the beginning of each business session.

18. Five members of a majority of the resident members shall constitute a quorum in conference.

19. No member shall interrupt while another is speaking.

20. No person shall be ordained as a minister in this Association until he has served one year as a licentiate of a Free Will Baptist Church in this Association. Deacons must have also served one year faithfully in the same.

21. Ordination of ministers and deacons shall be done in the Quarterly Meetings.

22. Each minister shall make a report each year to the Clerk and the Clerk of Quarterly Conference before the Yearly Meeting will read the report before the Conference. Any minister not reporting for two years is subject to loss of his Ministers' Good Standing Certificate.

23. 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.

24. The money in the Treasury shall be distributed by a regular vote of the Association except in extreme emergency when the Executive Committee will have power.

Yearly Meeting Constitution

We, the members of the Free Will Baptist Church, in order to form a more perfect union and promote Christ's Kingdom, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Mason and Dixon Association.

Article 1: This yearly meeting shall be called the Mason and Dixon Association, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well disciplined Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under the Constitution.

Article 2: The Conference of this Yearly Meeting shall be composed of ministers and delegates who are members of a Quarterly Meeting within this Association. Each Quarterly Meeting is entitled to three delegates from each church in addition to the ordained personnel who are standing delegates.

Article 3: The Officers of this Yearly Meeting shall be: Clerk, Treasurer, and Moderator. Clerk and Treasurer are elected and will retain that office until terminated by this Association or the individuals themselves. The Moderator shall be chosen at the close of every session of the Yearly Meeting, with such assistant 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 usages and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination, and the By-Laws of this Association and are in favor of the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, upon application, and by vote of this Association, become a member thereof.

Article 5: Any minister or deacon applying for

membership in this Association must first meet the qualifications as set for in I Timothy, Chapter 3 and Titus, Chapter 1.

Article 6: This Association shall have the power to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, and exclude them for disorderly work if their work proves unsuccessful.

Article 7: The session of this Yearly Meeting shall convene on Friday morning before the Third (3rd) Sunday in August, at 10:00 A.M. and shall have power to adopt any regulations or By-Laws, not inconsistent with the Constitution which may be deemed essential to the further regulations of its sessions.

Article 8: This association shall not recognize any minister or delegate unless they comply with the Constitution and By-Laws thereof.

Article 9: Each church of this Association agrees to send each fifth (5th) Sunday offering to the Treasurer of the Mason and Dixon Association to be used for its missionary and benevolent work. Offering will be sent by each Quarterly Conference following the fifth Sunday.

Short History of New River Conference

The events leading to the organizing of the New River Conference of Free Will Baptists began in the home of W. B. Sturgill on the South Fork of New River, with the organizing of New Home Free Will Baptist Church on October 21, 1934, with 11 members. The organizing was done by Rev. J. M. Young, Rev. John T. Weaver, and Deacon Evermon Hotfield of the Tug River Conference, West Virginia.

On July 26, 1936, Robinson Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, near the mouth of Wilson, Virginia, was organized by Rev. W. C. Childers, Rev. J. M. Young, Rev. W. B. Sturgill, and Rev. B. H. Williams, with a small number of members.

At the request of New Home and Robinson Chapel churches an organizing council from Tug River Conference of Free Will Baptists, West Virginia, met at New Home church on December 5, 1936, for the purpose of organizing a new conference. This council was composed of the following: Rev. John T. Weaver, moderator; Rev. J. B. Wheeler, Rev. A. H. Langdon, Rev. J. S. Sexton, and Rev. J. M. Young. D. B. Sturgill was elected clerk for the conference.

The delegates and reports of the churches to be organized into a conference were called for. New Home church responded and reported twenty-two members including four ordained ministers: Rev. B. H. Williams, Rev. W. B. Sturgill, Rev. W. C. Childers, Rev. J. M. Young, and two deacons.

Robinson Chapel responded and reported 13 members including three deacons. These two churches, with a total membership of 35, was duly organized into a conference which was named the New River Conference of Free Will Baptists. The total membership of the churches now belonging to this conference is 724.

On July 9, 1949, a special session of New River Conference was called for the purpose of organizing Welcome Home church near Bel Air, Maryland. This church was examined and duly organized with 27 members by Rev. W. C. Childers, Rev. J. K. Childers, and deacons, Wayne Gore, D. B. Sturgill, and Joe Idol. In 1951 this church joined the New River Conference.

On May 17, 1953, a special session of the New River Conference was held with Calvary Free Will Baptist Church near Glendale Springs, North Carolina, for the purpose of receiving it into the conference. This church accepted the bylaws of the conference and joined by letter from the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptists.

On July 5, 1957, at a regular session of the New River Conference the Fairwood Free Will Baptist Church of Fairfax, Virginia, presented a church letter and asked to join the conference. The delegates were examined and the conference moved to accept this church.

A special session of the New River Conference was called on February 18, 1960, for the purpose of organizing a church at Essex, Maryland. This church was examined and called the Harmony Free Will Baptist Church.

At a regular session of New River Conference August 17, 1962, Yorkshire church of Manassas, Virginia, was accepted into the New River Conference.

On August 16, 1963, the Chestnut Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Big Island, Virginia, presented a letter asking admittance to the New River Conference. The conference moved to accept this church which organized by the council of the New River Conference, October 13, 1962.

Over the past few years Robinsons Chapel church has disbanded due to the members moving away and joining other churches. The last members moved their membership to New Home church.

From a beginning of 11 people in 1934, only the God of heaven knows how much good has been accomplished, and for it all we bow and give the praise to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

MINUTES

Friday, August 18, 1967 - 10:00 A.M.

The Mason and Dixon Association met with the Hope Church, Willow Grove, New Jersey on August 18, 1967 at 10:00 A.M. The Association was opened with singing, Scripture reading, and prayer.

Rev. Dewey Lockee welcomed the Association to the Hope Church.

Bro. Sidney Sturgill was elected Clerk, pro tem. The Clerk then called the Association to order by calling for the election of Moderator. Rev. Lester Horton was elected Moderator.

Moved and carried that the Clerk read the Association By-laws.

Ministers, deacons, and delegates were called forward and given the Right Hand of Fellowship by the Moderator.

Moved and carried that Moderator be given the power to appoint Assistant Moderator. The Moderator appointed Rev. William Steele.

Moderator appointed Pulpit Supply: Bros. Eugene Wampler, Delmer Miller, and Glover Morgan.

Motion was made to strike out or void #19 of the Association By-Laws. Moved and carried to table the motion until the night session.

Moved and seconded that we have an afternoon session beginning at 2:00 P.M. Moved and seconded that Business Session be adjourned until 2:00 P.M.

2:00 P.M. Session

The 2:00 P.M. session began with singing, "I Feel Like Traveling On," Scripture reading from Romans 8:1-16 by Bro. Bill Bevan. Prayer was led by Bro. Wm. Steele.

Letters from New River and Northern Virginia Conferences read and received.

Pulpit committee selected Rev. Wm. Steele to preach for the afternoon service; Rev. Ray Jeffreys

and Rev. Elzo Bevan at the night service.

Moved and seconded that the Association pay the first month's rent on a mission work in Woodbridge, Va.

Moved and seconded that the work in West Virginia, known as Daisy's Chapel, be granted \$250.00 to help with the covering of the building and the lawyer's fee for legalizing deed.

Moved and seconded that the Association meet in the future beginning on Thursday morning at 10:00 A.M.

Moved and seconded that Association adjourn until 7:00 P.M. tonight.

Bro. Steele read for Scripture lesson Luke 6:43-36; Text: Ye call me Lord and Master and do not what I say.

7:00 P.M. Session

Opened by singing, "The Blood that Stained the Old Rugged Cross;" prayer by Bro. Dowell. Scripture reading II Peter 3:10-13 by Bro. Leo Good.

The question concerning # 19 in the Association By-laws was taken up. Moved and seconded that # 19 be stricken from the By-laws.

Moved we adopt Roberts' Rules of Order as our method of procedure. Carried by vote of Association.

The question concerning a promotional man in the field was discussed.

Request was made by Moderator that a report be given on the trip to the National Association, which was held in Jacksonville, Florida, July 10-13. A report was given at this time by Bro. Elzo Bevan--very inspiring and challenging to the Association as a whole.

A report was given by Sister Dortha Steele concerning the Youth Camp in Scott County.

The move to join the National Association was tabled until the Saturday session.

Moved and seconded the Association stand adjourned until Saturday morning at 10:00 A.M.

Friday night preaching desired at this time. Bro. Jeffreys read for Scripture lesson St. John Chapter 14. Bro. Bevan read background Scripture I Peter 5:1-2, Acts 20:28. Text: I Timothy 1:12-
“ . . . He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”

Saturday, August 19, 1967 - 10:00 A.M.

Opened by Bro. Haynes reading John 3:15&16. Prayer led by Bro. John Johnson.

Joining of the National Association was taken up at this time. Moved and seconded that debate on this question cease.

Moved and seconded and carried by vote of the Association that we join the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Moved and seconded that our official title of Mason and Dixon Association be changed to The Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists. All monies and jurisdiction officers remain the same.

Moved and seconded that the Treatise of the National Association be accepted by this Association.

Moved and seconded the next Association meet with the Fairwood Church.

Moved and seconded our Association meet on Thursday before the 4th Sunday of June 1968.

Moved and seconded that the Association cooperate with the several quarterly meetings and each quarterly meeting decide which church shall have the Association.

Moved and seconded the Association have a Yearly Ministers' Conference one hour before worship service on Friday night.

Ministers' reports received and accepted at this time.

The small identification card will be issued by the Maryland State Association and sent to the clerk of the Quarterly Conference, who will give to ministers

in good standing.

Moved and seconded that Association adjourn until afternoon session. Pulpit committee selected Bro. Hobert Dowell and Bro. Lester Horton to preach at the 11:00 o'clock service. Bro. Dowell's text: Who-soever will come after me let him take up his cross and follow me. Bro. Horton's text: It is done as thou hast commanded and yet there is room.

2:00 P.M. Session

Opened with singing, "O, I Want to See Him;" prayer by Bro. Leo Good. Scripture lesson Matthew 10, read by Bro. Troy Hall.

Moved and seconded that the Clerk have 350 minutes printed.

Moved and seconded the Clerk receive \$25 for keeping of records. and preparation of Minutes; also that Moderator receive \$10 for his services.

Moved and seconded that The Maryland State Association stand adjourned until 20 June 1968.

Executive Committee of Maryland State Association:

Clate Kilby
Eugene Wampler

Lester Horton
W. C. Childers

Elzo M. Bevan

List of Council:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
W. C. Childers	1969
Lester Horton	1968
Clate Kilby	1970
John Barnes	1970
William Steele	1969
Eugene Wampler	1968
Elzo Bevan	1970

Ministers and Deacons Present at the Maryland State Association:

Ministers

William H. Steele
Hobert H. Dowell
Dewey W. Lockee
Jess Haynes
Orville R. Jeffrey
W. Leo Good
Elzo Bevan
Ertle Dial
Charles Duckett
A. C. Richardson
Harry Mintz
Gwyn Wyatt
Rube Johnson
W. C. Childress
John W. Johnson
Grover McCarter
Ruble Burgess

Deacons

Sidney W. Sturgill
Delmer Miller
Eugene Wampler
Reed Johnson
Gilbert Miller
Ray Cantrell
Cossie Meade
Eddie Burgess
T. E. Campbell
George Messer
Kyle T. Settle
Troy R. Hall
William H. Sizemore

Delegates Present at The Maryland State Association:

New River Conference

Sister Dortha Steele
G. P. Morgan
L. D. Eubank
Sister Mae Miller
Sister Marie Miller
Bobby Johnson
Thomas W. Blevins
Jr. Triplett

Maryland-New Jersey Conference

Mrs. George Messer
Clewitt Cook
Donald W. Cook
Preston Stacy
John Harvey, Jr.
George Halbrook

Northern Virginia Conference

Daniel H. Mullen
Sister Addie Mullen

Roger Mullins
Frank McDavid

The Maryland State Association, comprized of 13 churches with a total membership of over 1000, is an outgrowth of what was formerly the New River Conference, beginning with only 11 people.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

[illegible]