

MINUTES
OF
SECOND ~~FIRST~~ **Annual Session**
OF
MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Formerly Mason and Dixon Association

CONVENED
20 & 21 JUNE 1968
AT THE
FAIRWOOD CHURCH
FAIRFAX STATION, VIRGINIA

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The Third Session of the Maryland State Association will convene 20 June 1969 at the
Calvary Church, Glendale Springs, North Carolina.

Moderator: Rev. Elzo M. Bevan, 2076 Old Centreville Rd., Manassas, Va.
Clerk: Cossie Meade, 249 Cabbel Drive, Manassas Park, Va.

THE MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

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 Maryland State Association.

Article 1: This yearly meeting shall be called the Maryland State 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~~ ^{Third} of Sunday in June, 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 Maryland State 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 MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION

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.

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 Robinson Chapel church has disbanded due to the members moving away and joining other churches. The last members moved their membership to New Home church.

The continued growth of the New River Conference made possible in 1966 the formation of the Mason and Dixon Association, which included the New River Conference, Northern Virginia Conference and the Maryland-New Jersey Conference. In 1967, the Mason and Dixon Association voted to request membership in the National Association of Free Will Baptists. For this reason, the Mason and Dixon Association disbanded as such and took the name of Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists. In 1968, the Maryland State Association encompasses 15 churches in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and has a membership of over 1000. This is the outgrowth of the New River Conference beginning in 1934 with only 11 people. Only God above knows how much good has already been done and what great things God has in store for the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists; but for it all we humbly bow and give the praise to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 1968—10:00 A.M. Session

The Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists met with the Fairwood Church, Fairfax Station, Virginia, on June 20, 1968 at 10:00 A.M. Rev. Lester Horton, Pastor of the Fairwood Church, welcomed the Association. Rev. Lonnie Hale read for Scripture lesson St. John 10:1-25. Response by Rev. Dewey Lockee. Prayer was led by Bro. Eugene Wampler.

The Clerk then called the Association to order and asked Moderator to be elected. Rev. Elzo Bevan was elected Moderator.

Moderator asked for letters from respective Conferences. Letters from New River and Maryland-New Jersey Conferences were read and received.

Bro. Eugene Wampler and Bro. Lester Horton re-elected to Executive Committee.

Proposed program for Association presented by Rev. Lester Horton. Moved and carried that Association accept said Program.

Question concerning the day of the week the Association should start was tabled until Friday night session.

Moved and carried that business be adjourned until 7:00 P.M. Bro. Lockee then led a congregational number, "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder." Sister Kilby sang "There's A Bridge O'er the River."

Devotional by Bro. Johnnie Skeens who read St. John 15:1-11. Rev. William Ellis from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greeneville, Tennessee, then brought a very inspiring message from the Word of God: Romans 8:26-32 Text: God's Eternal Purpose.

7:00 Session

Opened with singing, "I Never Shall Forget the Day." Scripture Reading by Bro. Jack Bartley St. John 1:1-14. Prayer led by Bro. Clate Kilby.

Floor declared open for business by the Moderator.

Motion made to disband the Council as it stands at the present time. Motion carried.

Question of electing a Mission Board for the Maryland State Association taken up at this time. Those nominated were Rev. Wm. Steele, Rev. Donald Swearingen, and Rev. Jack Bartley. Moved and seconded that nominations cease. Carried. Moved and seconded these men make up the Maryland State Mission Board. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded we elect a Program Committee of five people to make up program for next Association and that this committee present the program to the Clerks of the Conferences thirty days prior to beginning of session. Nominated were Rev. Lester Horton, Bro. Larry Meade, and Rev. Elzo Bevan. This motion was tabled for later discussion.

At this time Rev. Harrold Harrison, Promotional Director for the National Free

Will Baptist Sunday School Department presented the Sunday School Curriculum for the future.

Two special songs were sung by the Robinson Quartet.

Bro. Harrison brought a wonderful message which thrilled the hearts of all those present. Scripture: St. John 19:1-18; Text - Behold the man!

Friday, June 21, 1968—10:00 A.M. Session

Opened with singing "Victory in Jesus." Prayer by Bro. Johnnie Skeens.

Moderator declared floor open for business. Called for remaining letter from Northern Virginia Conference to be read before Association. Moved and seconded that letter be accepted as read. Carried.

The question of delegates to the National Association of Free Will Baptists (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, July 14-17, 1968) was discussed. Volunteers at this time: Carl B. Watkins, Cossie Meade, Denver Brown and Amos R. Lane. This question was tabled for later discussion.

Moved, seconded and carried that Maryland State Association send a letter of appreciation to National Association for the spiritual uplift received from the fellowship of the National Association representatives.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Elzo Bevan be Moderator through next year's Association. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded and passed by vote of the body that Rev. Lester Horton be recommended by Maryland State Association for membership on General Board of National Association.

Moved, seconded and carried that Association grant the request of the Calvary Church, Glendale Springs, North Carolina, that the next Association be held there.

Moved and seconded that Association purchase a typewriter and duplicator for the work of the Association. Motion carried.

Recommended by Executive Committee that Association make a contribution of \$300.00 to the Bethel Church and \$200 to Southern Church in Philadelphia. Also recommended that Association loan \$1000 to the Bethel Church. Moved and seconded that Association accept recommendation of Committee. Carried.

Moved and seconded that business be adjourned until the afternoon session at 2:00 P.M.

Special singing by Sister Kilby. Bro. Roger Mullins read for Scripture Lesson II Timothy 4:1-4. Message brought by Rev. Donald Swearingen, Psalms 126:6: "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Text: Win Souls. Benediction: Bro. Clave Goff.

2:00 Session

Opened with singing, "Just a Little Talk With Jesus." Scripture Reading Philippians 3:1-14 by Bro. Larry Meade.

Sister Rudene Kennedy from Camp Venture in Scott County, Virginia, gave a talk on the benefits of youth camp to Christian young people. Sister Joy Rice sang "In Times Like These." Bro. Hobert Dowell brought the message at this time. Scripture: I Samuel 3:2-9 and I Samuel 17:32 Youth Gets the Job Done With Eternal Help of God.

Benediction: Bro. Eugene Wampler.

Moderator declared floor open for business.

Motion made and seconded that Maryland State Association publish a Quarterly Newsletter, to be edited by Bro. Lester Horton. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Sister Nancy Meade be Secretary for Maryland State Association, to be paid same as Clerk - \$25 per year. Carried.

Moved and seconded the Association meet in the future at 10:00 A.M. on Friday morning until Saturday noon before the ~~4th~~ Sunday in June. Carried.

Sister Dorothea Steele brought up the question of a youth camp for the future needs of our Association. Moved and seconded that this question be turned over to State Home Mission Board.

Moved and seconded that Article 7 of Constitution be amended to show correct dates of Association. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Ministers' Conference be held on Friday night before worship service.

Moved and seconded that Association give \$100 to Billy Bevan to aid in expenses and tuition at the Bible College. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that four volunteers for National Association be accepted and that Bro. Bevan make the fifth delegate as he is Moderator of Maryland State Association. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Minutes be read. Carried.

Reading of Minutes by Clerk. Moved and seconded that Minutes be accepted as read. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that business be adjourned until 20 and 21 June 1969 in Glendale Springs, North Carolina.

7:00 Service

Scripture Reading by Bro. Bill Bevan, Ephesians 2:1-10. Prayer by Bro. Donald Swearingen. Billy Bevan gave a short talk on Free Will Baptist Bible College. Special song by Danny Strouth.

Message brought by Bro. Elzo Bevan from St. Mark 16:15 & 16. Text: The Great Commission and Total Commitment to God's Cause.

Minutes From Ministers' Conference 21 June 1968

Opened with prayer.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Jack Bartley be Chairman of this Conference.

Motion carried.

Moved and seconded to send Ministers' Report from Quarterly to Yearly Ministers' Conference and cards to be approved by said Conference. Also same be published in Minutes. Carried.

Moved and seconded that should a minister lose his Good Standing Card, Ministers' Conference recommend that Quarterly Conference call for his Credentials. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Ministers' Conference be adjourned. Carried.

Benediction: Bro. Clate Kilby.

Executive Committee of Maryland State Association:

Clate Kilby

Eugene Wampler

Lester Horton

W. C. Childers

Elzo M. Bevan

Ministers and Deacons Present at the Maryland State Association:

Ministers

Elzo M. Bevan

Lonnie P. Hale

Donald C. Swearingen

Robert H. Dowell

Monroe Hale

J. C. Skeens

Lester Horton

D. W. Lockee

Jesse Haynes

Jack Bartley

Deacons

George Messer

Ray Cantrell

Eugene Wampler

Leon Meade

Kyle Settle

Clyde Settle

Eddie Burgess

Ray Mullins

Robert Addington

Visitors at the Maryland State Association:

Rev. Harrold D. Harrison, Promotional Director, National Free Will Baptist Sunday School Department

Rev. William D. Ellis, Superintendent, Free Will Baptist Home For Children

Rev. Joe T. Hurst, Pastor, Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia

Rudene Kennedy and Joy Rice, Camp Venture, Scott County, Virginia

Delegates to Maryland State Association:

New River Conference

Sister Dortha Steele

Leff Jones

Brady Miller

Evazell Kilby

Bobby Kilby

Jean Sturgill

Leota Jones

Carl B. Watkins

Gilbert Miller

Clave A. Goff

Howard Goff

Marland-New Jersey Conference

John Wyatt

Henry C. Belcher

Bobby L. Beavers

Amos R. Lane

Patricia Beavers

Reba Messer

Northern Virginia Conference

Shirley Hale

Gladys Bartley

Sally Bartley

Roger C. Mullins

C. Reed Mullins

Larry D. Branham

Bobby R. Greene

Daniel Mullen

Mae Casteel

Larry W. Meade

Mary Bevan

Joe Meadows

Denver Brown

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
ANNUAL MINISTERS' REPORTS
AUGUST 1967 - JUNE 1968

| NAME | SERMONS PREACHED | CHURCHES PASTORED | REVIVALS HELD | PROFESSIONS WITNESSED | NO. BAPTIZED | ADDITIONS TO CHURCH | CHURCHES ORGANIZED | FUNERALS PREACHED | MILES TRAVELED | MONEY RECEIVED |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bartley, Jack | 60 | 1 | 0 | 25 | 10 | 27 | 0 | 1 | 500 | 362.00 |
| Bevan, Elzo | 58 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 40 | 2 | 0 | 11,000 | 145.69 |
| Childers, W. C. | 131 | 1 | 1 | Unknown | 6 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 27,000 | 3,640.00 |
| Dial, Ertle | 150 | 1 | 0 | Unknown | 9 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 4,800 | 60.00 |
| | 80 | 1 | 1 | Unknown | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8,000 | --- |
| Good, W. Leo | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | -- | 0 | 0 | 500 | --- |
| Hale, Lonnie | 35 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 25.00 |
| Hale, Monroe | 24 | 1 (Ass't) | 2 | 5 | 3 | -- | 0 | 3 | 4,000 | 40.00 |
| Haynes, Jessee | 25 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 25.00 |
| Horton, Lester | 185 | 1 | 4 | Unknown | 14 | 48 | 2 | 10 | 40,000 | 5,675.00 |
| Jackson, Edward | 36 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,500 | 190.00 |
| Kilby, Clate | 76 | | 2 | 7 | 13 | 17 | 0 | 2 | Unknown | 756.79 |
| Kirk, Paul | 60 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | 6,000 | 10.00 |
| Lockee, D. W. | 72 | 1 | 0 | Unknown | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 600 | 300.00 |
| McCarter, Grover | 19 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | 654 | 5.10 |
| Meade, George | 65 | 1 (Ass't) | 1 | 20 | 8 | -- | 0 | 0 | 10,000 | 40.00 |
| Mosley, Melvin | Rev. Mosley has been ill for 1½ years. | | | | | | | | | |
| Robinson, Lester | 20 | 1 (Ass't) | 0 | 3 | 0 | -- | 0 | 2 | 1,500 | --- |
| Sanger, Bob | 12 | Hindered because of poor health. | | | | | | | | |
| Sherfey, John | Unknown | 0 | 1 | 15 | 0 | -- | 0 | 1 | Unknown | 200.00 |
| Skeens, Johnnie C. | 15 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | 300 | --- |
| Steele, Wm. H. | 156 | 1 | 1 | Unknown | Unknown | 0 | 0 | -- | Unknown | 400.00 |
| Wyatt, Gwyn | 113 | 0 | 3 | 26 | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | 7,000 | --- |

