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**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**THIRD ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF**  
**THE MARYLAND STATE**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**OF**  
**ORIGINAL**  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

CONVENED  
20 & 21 JUNE 1969  
AT THE  
CALVARY CHURCH

LENDALE SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA

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The Fourth Annual Session of the Maryland State Association will meet on 19 & 20 June 1970 with the Mt. Calvary Church, Perryman, Maryland.

# 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 forth 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 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 con-

ference 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 Savior, Jesus Christ.

# MINUTES

Friday, June 20, 1969 — 10:00 A. M.

The Third Session of the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists met with the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Glendale Springs, North Carolina, on June 20, 1969 at 10:00 A. M. The Association opened with congregational singing, "Send the Light." Scripture reading by Bro. Johnnie Skeens, Philippians 2:1-16. Prayer was led by Bro. Kermit Childers.

The Moderator, Bro. Elzo Bevan, declared the floor open for business and called for reading of conference letters by the Clerk. Moved and seconded that letters be accepted as read. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Clerk be allowed, with cooperation of Quarterly Conference Clerks to incorporate full details of past year's work before printing of minutes. Carried.

Moderator appointed Bro. Bill Steele as Assistant Moderator.

Moved and seconded we accept program as submitted by the New River Conference. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Moderator be given power to select Committee on Committees. Carried. Moderator selected Bros. Donald Swearingen, Johnnie Skeens and Clate Kilby.

Bro. Bill Steele gave report on investigation made by Home Mission Board concerning youth camp. Discussion tabled until later.

Moved and seconded we elect Home Mission Board officers to work for this Association. Carried. Those elected were Johnnie Skeens — Promotional Director, Donald Swearingen — Clerk Treasurer.

Moved and seconded we elect a Promotional Director for the State. Carried. Bro. Lester Horton elected.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Horton be allowed to select his Assistant. Bro. Horton selected Bro. Elzo Bevan.

At this time a \$1,000 check was presented to the Association from the Bethel Church with a letter of appreciation for the loan.

Moved and seconded that business session be adjourned until 2:00 P.M. Carried.

## 11:00 A. M. Worship Service

Bro. Lester Horton read 133 Psalm for devotional scripture.

Bro. Fred Greene, Manager, Sales and Distribution for CTS Department reported on their work and offered their services in any way they could be rendered.

Bro. Robert Shockey, National Home Mission Field Secretary, reported on the work of the Home Mission Board. Bro. Shockey brought the message, "the offence of the Cross", I Corinthians 1:17-31.

## 2:00 P.M. Session

Opened with singing, "I Would Not Be Denied." Bro. Lonnie Hale read for scripture lesson 23 Psalm.

Moderator declared floor open for business.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Lester Horton be recommended as a member to the General Board of the National Association. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Horton's expenses as General Board member be paid. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Clerk advance Bro. Horton \$100.00 toward paying for any necessary trips as General Board member.

Bro. Horton requested that he be allowed to resign from State Executive Board. Moved and seconded that we grant Bro. Horton's request. Carried.



Executive Board elected and re-elected and expiration dates:

William Steele	1970
Eugene Wampler	1971
W. C. Childers	1971
Robert Dowell	1972
Johnnie Skeens	1972

Motion made each member pay 50 cents each quarter to Home Missions. Tabled until Saturday session after ministers' conference.

Moved and seconded that we re-elect members for Home Mission Board.

William Steele 2 years

Eugene Wampler 3 years

Noted that money for National Home Missions should be sent through State Home Mission Board.

Moved and seconded that general business to be brought before Association be submitted to Executive Committee in writing beforehand. Carried.

Moved and seconded we pay expenses of any speakers invited to participate in our State Association. Carried.

Moved and seconded that the question of helping pay expenses for Fairwood CTS Bible Bowl team to National be taken up at Ministers' Conference. Carried.

Moved and seconded that we choose our delegates to National from those people already planning to go. Carried.

Moved and seconded that General Board member have power to substitute should any of delegates not be able to attend. Carried.

Moved and seconded that we use long form to report to State Association from Quarterly Conference. Carried.

Moved and seconded we adjourn until 6:00 for Ministers' Conference. Carried.

Ministers' Conference — 6:00 P. M.

Moved and seconded that Ministers' Conference recommend to General Session of Association to adopt the following resolution to provide financial support for the Association: 3 per cent of general offerings (church and Sunday School) from each church with 1 per cent of this to be earmarked for the State Home Mission Board. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Ministers' Conference recommend adoption of following resolution: ministers out of fellowship with local Conference be required to make restitution to local Conference and be recommended by said Conference before being issued good standing card by State body. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Ministers' Conference recommend to General Session following resolution: that local Conferences discourage ordination of ministers who use tobacco. Carried.

Moved and seconded that by-law committee present by-laws for Ministers' Conference at next session. Carried.

7:00 P. M. Session

Opened with special singing by group from the Calvary Church. Devotional scripture by Larry Meade, II Corinthians 5:17-21.

Floor declared open for business.

Moved and seconded we grant Mt. Calvary's request that next Association be held with them in Perryman, Maryland. Carried.

Moved and seconded that business be adjourned until 10:00 A. M. Saturday morning. Carried.

Bro. Billy Bevan brought message for youth service: "Let no man despise thy youth..." I Timothy 4:12-16, a wonderful message enjoyed by all. Saturday, June 21, 1969 - 10:00 A.M.

Opened with congregational singing. Scripture reading Luke 9:23, 24 by Bro. Donald Swearingen.

Moderator called for visiting ministers: Bro. Presley, Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church, Saltville, Va.; Bro. Tommy Salmon,

They were welcomed to the Association and asked to give a word of testimony.

Recommendations made to the Executive Committee for presentation before the body for discussion and voting:

..1) That we adopt financial plan for Association to take place of fifth Sunday offerings: 3 per cent of total offerings (church and Sunday School — not to include building funds, evangelist offerings, etc.) with 1 per cent to be earmarked for State Home Missions.

Moved and seconded we adopt this financial plan. Motion carried.

2) That we give \$50 to each student in our Association attending Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Moved and seconded we give offering as suggested. Motion carried.

3) That we give Fairwood Bible Bowl Team \$150 to help pay expenses to National Association.

Moved and seconded we give \$150 to Fairwood Bible Bowl Team. Motion carried.

4) That we give Bible College Expansion Fund \$1000.00, to be taken in two special offerings in each church over the next year.

Moved and seconded that Association back this plan. Motion carried.

Resolutions made in Ministers' Conference presented for discussion and voting:

1) That ministers out of fellowship with local conference be required to make restitution to local conference and be recommended by said conference before being issued good standing cards.

Moved and seconded we adopt this resolution. Motion carried.

2) That State Association recommend to Local Conferences that they discourage ordination of ministers who use tobacco.

Moved and seconded that we adopt this resolution. Motion carried.

Bro. Bill Steele elected Moderator of next session of the Maryland State Association.

Committee on committees selected Bro. Lester Horton, Bro. Elzo Bevan and Bro. Cossie Meade to serve on Committee for Revision of By-Laws.

Moved and seconded that youth camp question be referred to State Home Mission Board for further study.

Moved and seconded that Clerk have minutes printed in 60 days if possible or at most 90 days and mail them to individual churches. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that good standing cards be turned over to Conference Clerks for distribution. Carried.

Moved and seconded that Association give vote of thanks to Calvary Church. Carried.

Moved and seconded that business be adjourned until next regularly called session or special session of the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists. Carried.

#### 11:00 Worship Service

Special singing by the Bethel Messengers. Message brought by Bro. Harrold Harrison, Isaiah 28:16, a most inspiring message which thrilled the hearts of all.

Maryland State Association Delegates to National Association:

Bro. Amos Lane  
Sis. Freedia Lane  
Sis. Connie Swearingen  
Sis Shirley M. Byrd  
Sis. Lottie Horton

STATISTICS  
MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Number of Conferences	3
Number of Churches	15
Church Membership	1113
Number of Parsonages	1
Number of Ordained Ministers	30
Number of Licensed Ministers	11
Enrollment of Sunday Schools	1210
Average Attendance (Sunday School)	1159
CTS Enrollment	311
Average Attendance (CTS)	266
Mid-Week Service Average Attendance	750

# CONFERENCE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Conference	Paid Pastors	Local Causes: Paid Evangelists	Bldg. & Repairs	Literature	Other Local Causes	Total Spent on Local Causes
New River	1,717.03	635.31	1,757.78	264.01	1,856.23	6,230.36
N. Virginia	11,801.22	1,568.83	14,200.00	1,759.01	2,856.21	32,185.27
Md.-N.J.	5,159.12	1,173.21	3,329.01	716.92	2,620.95	12,999.21
	<u>18,677.37</u>	<u>3,377.35</u>	<u>19,286.79</u>	<u>2,739.94</u>	<u>7,333.39</u>	<u>51,414.84</u>

	Foreign Missions	Home Missions	Outside Causes: Education	Children's Home	Other Outside Causes	Total Spent on Outside Causes
New River	237.37	54.00	114.85	25.00	474.56	905.78
N. Virginia	150.62	162.82	500.00	348.25	1,977.66	3,139.35
Md.-N. J.	<u>361.50</u>	<u>617.51</u>	<u>240.00</u>	<u>617.42</u>	<u>434.54</u>	<u>2,270.97</u>
	749.49	834.33		990.67	2,886.76	6,316.10

## MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION EXPENDITURES

Office Machines & Supplies*	619.60
Delegates & Representatives to Nat'l Association & Various Board Meetings	778.00
Bible College Students	100.00
Moderator, Clerk & Secretary	60.00
National Association General Fund	300.00
Minutes	130.00
State Home Missions	500.00
Misc.	50.30

Total Expenditures

2537.90 \*Includes printing of State paper

# MINISTERS' REPORTS

1968-1969

Name	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions to Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Swearingen, D.	150	1	0	18	2	8	0	3	25,000	1,200.00
Johnson, J.	82	0	0	15	9	-	-	0	- - -	76.00
Haynes, J.	25	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	2,000	- -
Lockee, D. W.	98	1	1	20	12	15	0	3	6,000	900.00
Childers, W. C.	106	1	1	-	-	6	-	2	1,000	33.00
Byrd, C.	125	Asst. 1	0	8	8	-	0	0	5,000	160.00
Dowell, H.	115	1	1	3	0	4	0	0	12,000	170.00
Wyatt, G.	70	1	2	24	10	0	0	1	11,000	- -
Dial, E.	--	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	- - -	- -
Good, L.	30	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	500	100.00
Casteel, R. S.	--	1	0	-	0	5	0	0	- - -	- -
Dolinger, H.	--	0	0	-	-	-	-	1	- - -	- -
Hale, Monroe	30	0	1	5	1	-	-	2	3,000	20.00
Sherfey, J.	Unknown	1	2	45	-	-	0	1	Unknown	Unknown
Bartley, J.	65	1	-	-	-	7	-	1	1,500	321.00
Bevan, E.	100+	1	3	Unknown	15	10	1	0	15,000	439.42
Meade, G. W.	60	1	2	Unknown	20	13	0	0	2,000	300.00
Skeens, J. C.	150	Asst. 1	1	15	10	0	0	0	15,000	50.00
Robinson, L.	30	Asst. 1	2	Unknown	6	0	0	2	Unknown	Unknown
Kirk, P.	40	0	0	-	1	0	0	0	Unknown	Unknown
Horton, L.	300	1	10	Unknown	11	32	1	6	48,000	7,475.00
Sanger, R. (Disabled)	10	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	- - -	- -
Hale, L. P.	45	1	1	6	4	-	1	1	12,000	60.00
Skelton, H. S.	104	2	-	4	0	0	-	1	15,000	- -
Cox, J.	70	-	-	12	8	-	-	-	- - -	- -
Kilby, C.	90	1	2	22	17	15	-	3	Unknown	871.63
Steele, Wm.	128	1	2	5	2	2	0	4	4,000	150.00
Johnson, R.										

