

**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**First Annual Session**  
**OF**  
**MASON AND DIXON ASSOCIATION**  
**OF**  
**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
  
**Formerly New River Conference**

**CONVENED**  
**19 AUGUST 1966**  
**AT THE**  
**YORKSHIRE CHURCH**  
**MANASSAS, VIRGINIA**

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The Second Session of the Mason and Dixon Association will convene  
18 August 1967 at Hope Church, Willow Grove, New Jersey.

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

# Mason and Dixon 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. Any question vital in importance to the churches coming up before this Association shall be carried over till the next regular meeting before being voted upon.

20. No member shall interrupt while another is speaking.

21. 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.

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

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.



# MINUTES

The New River Conference of Free Will Baptists met with the Yorkshire Church, Manassas, Virginia on August 19, 1966 at 10:00 AM. The Conference opened with singing, "Nearer My God to Thee," and Scripture reading from the book of Psalms by Rev. W. C. Childers. Prayer was led by Bro. Haynes.

Rev. Cecil Stallard, Pastor of the Yorkshire Church welcomed the Conference to the church.

The Clerk called the Conference to order by calling for the election of Moderator. Rev. Lester Horton was elected Moderator.

Two verses of "Precious Memories" were sung in memory of Bro. Joe Miller.

The Moderator was given power to appoint an assistant and Rev. Gwyn Wyatt was appointed Assistant Moderator.

The church letters were called for and received, and the Clerk read the letters before the Conference.

Little Zion, Yorkshire, and Street Church did not report at this time. Chrome Hill Church reported orally.

The delegates that were named in the letters were called forward and given the Right Hand of Fellowship by the Moderator.

Moved and carried that the Conference accept the letters from the churches.

Visiting ministers were called for and none came forward.

The Treasurer's Report was given and he reported \$683.80 in the Treasury.

Moved and carried that Moderator appoint Pulpit Supply. Bros. Gilbert Miller, Ralph Page, and Cleve Goff were appointed.

Rev. H. S. Skelton was elected to preach the Introductory due to Rev. William Steele's being in the hospital.

Moved and carried that Council meet at 6:30 P.M.

Moved and carried that Conference adjourn until 7:30 P.M.

The 7:30 P.M. session began by singing "My Sins Are Gone," and Scripture reading from the third chapter of James by Rev. Lonnie Hale. Prayer was led by Bro. Paul Kirk.

Letters from the churches not reporting in the morning session were read before the Conference and received by vote of the Conference.

Visiting ministers and deacons were called for and Rev. Alex Thompkins and Deacon Forrest Mills came forward.

Bro. Curtis Stallard was appointed to the Pulpit Supply Committee.

The Ministers' Reports were called for and read before the Conference.

Moved and carried to accept the Ministers' Reports.

The Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. Clate Kilby would open the worship service and Rev. W. C. Childers would bring the message.

There was discussion concerning the acceptance of ministers from other denominations into this Conference.

Moved and carried that Conference consider the requests contained in the church letters.

Moved and carried to adjourn until 10:00 A.M. the following morning.

Saturday, August 20, 1966 - 10:00 A.M.

This Conference session was opened with Scripture reading and prayer.

The Ordaining Council examined Bro. Charles B. Duckett for ordination to the ministry. Rev. W. C.

Childers conducted the examination.

Moved and carried that the Clerk notify Rev. Melvin Mosley that we will assist him in any way that we can, but due to the distance we would not accept his church into the Conference.

The Council reported favorably on the examination of Bro. Duckett.

Moved and carried that Conference accept the report and to continue with the ordination.

Bro. Duckett was called to preach before the Conference and was then ordained by laying on of hands and prayer by Rev. Clate Kilby. Rev. W. C. Childers gave the Charge and Deacon Eugene Wampler presented the Bible.

An offering of \$75.90 was taken for the Childrens' Home.

Moved and carried to proceed with the organization of the Association.

The Moderator read the proposed Constitution and By-laws.

Moved and carried that the By-laws be put on the floor for discussion.

Moved and carried that Conference adjourn until 2:30 P.M.

The 2:30 session opened by Rev. Leo Goode's reading of the Second Chapter of II Thessalonians. Prayer was offered by Rev. Bartley.

Moved and carried to accept the proposed By-laws and Constitution.

Moved and carried that the Association be known as the Mason and Dixon Association of Free Will Baptists.

Rev. Lester Horton was elected Moderator and Bro. Cossie Meade was elected Clerk and Treasurer.



Moved and carried that all authority and money of the New River Conference be transferred to the Mason and Dixon Association and the New River Conference disband as of this day and date.

Moved and carried that Minutes of this Conference and the Mason and Dixon Association be printed.

Moved and carried that next Association meet with the Hope Church, Willow Grove, New Jersey.

Moved and carried that Clerk read the Minutes before the Conference.

Moved and carried that the just-read Minutes be accepted.

Moved and carried to adjourn.

Rev. Lester Horton, Moderator  
Cossie Meade, Clerk

Licensed Ministers in Mason and Dixon Association:

John Sherfey  
Johnny Skeens  
Jack Elswick  
Lester Robinson

# 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.

# Obituary

Joe Henry Miller

Joe Henry Miller was born April 10, 1903; departed this life April 10, 1966, making his stay here on earth 63 years. He was married to Cordie Bowlin November 23, 1923, and to this union were born ten children, of which one son preceded him in death. He leaves his wife, six sons, three daughters, three brothers, two sisters, twenty-four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of friends and loved ones.

Joe professed a hope in Christ in 1937 and united with Glendale Baptist Church. Later, he moved his membership to Calvary Baptist Church where he remained most faithful until death. Joe was always a good father. He met all with a smile. He bore his suffering with patience. He often said he was just waiting for the call to come for him to go home.

We have lost a dear loved one, a good neighbor, and a real friend in time of need, but we have the sweet assurance that our loss is his gain. How we will miss him here in our homes and churches where he sang and shouted the praises of God. Joe has gone home to heaven where all is joy, peace, and happiness. We can't say goodbye but we'll just say so long for a little while.

# MINISTERS' REPORTS

Minister	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions to Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
W. C. Childers	214	1			27			8	23,500	\$3,120.00
Jesse L. Cox	57			15	5			1		
Jack Bartley	40			10	10					
Elzo Bevan	100+		6		34					500.00
Raymond Bevan	65		2							
Leo Good	30	1	1	3	3					25.00
Lonnie Hale	75		1	8	10	2		1	15,000	
Jessie Haynes	25		2	4						
Lester Horton	300	1	11	279	122	62		10	52,780	
Rube Johnson	90	1		13	11	11		1		180.00
Clate Kilby	135	3	1	16	4	4		4		610.00
Ralph Little	103		3	24	7				15,000	100.00
D. W. Lockee	98	1	2	10	1	4				
Grover McCarter	51			3					4,424	36.00
George Meade	65		1	9	15			1	8,000	25.00
Melvin Mosley	47	1		7	3					45.00
C. C. Stallard		1		20-25	10			3	5,000	300.00
Wm. H. Steele	193	1		29	4	6			20,000	
James Ventro	165	1	3		31	7	1	3	18,000	103.83