

MINUTES
Of The
FIRST SESSION
Of The
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Of The
Original Free Will Baptists
Of
The United States
HELD WITH
COFERS CHAPEL CHURCH
Nashville, Tenn.
NOVEMBER 5-7, 1935



AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
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OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

- Rev. J. L. Welch, 1017 Monroe St., Nashville, Tenn., Moderator.
Rev. Winford Davis, Monette, Mo., Assistant Moderator.
Rev. I. J. Blackwelder, 1117 E. Douglas Ave., Nashville, Tenn., Sec.-Treas.
Rev. B. F. Rogers, Rt. 9, Tulsa, Okla., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.
Rev. Henry Melvin, 1211 E. Main St., Durham, N. C., Secretary of Free
Will Baptist League Work.
Rev. Winford Davis, Monette, Mo., Secretary of Sunday School Work.
Rev. I. J. Blackwelder, 1117 E. Douglas Ave., Nashville, Tenn., Secretary-
Treasurer of Foreign Missions.
Mrs. Fannie Polston, 318 Woodland St., Nashville, Tenn., Secretary of
Women's Work.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Rev. J. W. Alford, Kenley, N. C.
Rev. B. F. Brown, Purdy, Mo.
Rev. D. F. Pelt, Abbeville, Ala.
Rev. E. B. Joyner, Lake Butler, Fla.
Mr. C. F. Goen, Bryan, Tex.

12 States represented

15 Dist. Assctns.

27 minutes

33 Delegates

PROCEEDINGS

At 7:30 o'clock Tuesday evening, November 5, 1935, in Cofers Chapel Church, Nashville, Tennessee, the National Association of Free Will Baptists convened in its first session. After a lively devotional service of songs and prayer, led by Rev. R. N. Hinnant of Micro, N. C., Rev. Winford Davis of Monette, Mo., brought a splendid gospel message to the large congregation of anxious delegates and visitors. The delegates and visitors were then assigned homes for the evening, and the meeting was dismissed until 10:30 o'clock Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

At 10:30 o'clock Wednesday morning a rather large number of delegates and visitors met at the church for worship, the organization of the Association having been postponed in order that all the expected delegates may have part in the organization. Therefore, after a spiritual devotional service, the assembly enjoyed a very inspiring sermon by Rev. S. H. Styron of Pine Level, N. C. A very delicious dinner was then served by the local ladies.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

At 1:30 o'clock the people reassembled, and after appropriate devotions the business of the Association was begun. Rev. I. J. Blackwelder was made Secretary pro tem, and the following delegates were recognized:

ALABAMA:

Alabama State Conference: Revs. M. L. Hollis, Joe Fort, and J. H. Haas.

State Line Association: Revs. A. H. Godfrey and Floyd Cherry.

Progressive Association: Rev. Jesse W. Pike and P. A. Crawford.

South Eastern Association: Rev. Daniel F. Pelt.

Mount Moriah Association was represented by two whose names were not turned in.

NORTH CAROLINA:

State Convention: Rev. James Evans and P. A. Boyette.

Western Conference: Revs. S. H. Styron and R. N. Hinnant.

Eastern Conference: Rev. J. W. Alford.

Cape Fear Conference: Rev. J. C. Griffin and W. A. Jackson.

GEORGIA:

Midway Association: A. D. Ivey and James Cheshire.

South Georgia Association: Rev. E. B. Joyner and S. A. Brooten, Jr.

MISSISSIPPI:

North-East Association: H. E. Post and W. J. Hill.

OKLAHOMA:

State Association: Revs. B. F. Rogers, E. E. Morris, E. A. ODonnel, and Will Carter.

Dibble Association: C. Ritche.

MISSOURI:

State Association: Daisy Marcum, Belva Zinn, Mr. and Mrs. Will Pritle, and Eunice Miller.

TEXAS:

State Convention: C. F. Goen and Rev. E. Sterl Phinney.

Central Texas Association: Revs. J. L. Bounds and C. B. Thompson.

NEBRASKA:

Nebraska and Kansas Yearly Meeting: M. L. Morse.

TENNESSEE:

Cumberland Association: G. W. Fambrough and Rev. J. E. Hudgens.

KENTUCKY:

Tri-State Association: Rev. M. F. Vanhoos.

WEST VIRGINIA:

Tri-State Association: Rev. W. I. Marlow.

ARKANSAS:

Revs. L. C. Doyle, Ralph Staten, and Bro. A. T. Blanks were visitors of the State Conference of Arkansas.

Besides the legal delegates there were many laymen in attendance at the Association, whose names were not learned. Also, there were approximately sixty ministers of our own church present, besides Rev. M. R. Gardner of the Methodist Church, and Revs. L. O. Roberts, O. L. Johnson, and W. N. Gibson of the General Baptist Church.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After the delegates and visitors were recognized, the organization of the Association was continued by electing the following officers:

Rev. J. L. Welch, Moderator.

Rev. Winford Davis, Assistant Moderator.

Rev. I. J. Blackwelder, Secretary-Treasurer.

Rev. B. F. Rogers, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

By an unanimous vote of the Association the following committees were duly appointed or elected as indicated in parenthesis:

Committee on Constitution and By-Laws: Henry Melvin, E. S. Phinney, M. L. Hollis, L. C. Doyle (advisory), A. D. Ivey, E. A. ODonnel, J. E. Hudgens, J. M. Haas, and B. F. Brown. (Appointed.)

Treatise Revision Committee: J. C. Griffin, C. B. Thompson, M. L. Morse, W. B. Davenport, H. E. Post, E. E. Morris, Ralph Staten (advisory), E. B. Joyner, M. F. Vanhoos, Winford Davis, and J. S. Fredrick. (Appointed.)

Program Committee: By motion sustained the Moderators and Secretaries of the Association, namely, J. L. Welch, Winford Davis, I. J. Blackwelder, and B. F. Rogers, were elected to draft a program for the working of the General Conference and the Cooperative General Association for the next three years. However, it was later decided that the adoption of the programs of the said bodies would naturally furnish the desired program.

Publicity Committee: E. C. Morris, Thomas Willey, and Melvin Bingham.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

At 7:30 o'clock a large congregation assembled to hear Rev. Thomas Willey of Durham, N. C., lecture on "Foreign Mission Work in South America." After his splendid lecture an offering for mission work was received which amounted to \$75.00.

THURSDAY MORNING

After a splendid devotional service of songs and prayer the business of the Association was resumed and continued as follows:

Education. The Joint Educational Committee was recognized at this time in order that it may make its report to the Association. See report.

Foreign Missions. The present Foreign Mission work was accepted by the Association, and I. J. Blackwelder was made National Secretary-Treasurer of Foreign Missions.

At this time a motion that the Treatise Revision Committee's report be accepted without a public reading was adopted. However, it was read later.

The business of the Association was discontinued at 11:00 o'clock for worship, and Rev M. F. Vanhoos of Paintsville, Ky., stirred the large congregation with an old-time gospel sermon. The ladies then served a very splendid meal which all enjoyed.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

After devotional services Rev. O. L. Johnson of the General Baptist Church gave an interesting talk in the interest of Oakland City College, with special emphasis on the Bible department. Rev. Johnson said that Free Will Baptist Bible students desiring to take training in their school would receive special consideration. Oakland City College is located in

Oakland City, Indiana, and those desiring to investigate the school may write Rev. O. L. Johnson, Oakland City, Indiana.

At this time the Constitution and By-Laws were read and adopted, and the Executive Board required by the Constitution was elected as follows:

Rev. J. W. Alford, Kenley, N. C.

Rev. B. F. Brown, Purdy, Mo.

Rev. D. F. Pelt, Eufaula, Ala.

Rev. E. B. Joyner, Lake Butler, Fla.

Mr. C. F. Goen, Bryan, Tex.

The matter of having the minutes of the Association and the Treatise of Faith printed was referred to the Executive Board.

League Work

The Free Will Baptist League Work that has been being sponsored by the General Conference was accepted by the National Association, and Rev. Henry Melvin, 1211 E. Main Street, Durham, N. C., was elected as National Secretary of the F. W. B. L.

Women's Work

The Women's Auxiliary Work was also accepted by the Association,

Sunday School Work

The Sunday School Work that has been taking shape for the past few years under the direction of the General Conference was accepted, and Rev. Winford Davis, Monette, Mo., was elected as National Secretary of Sunday School Work.

Education

At this time the Joint Educational Committee made its report (see report), which was accepted, and Rev. J. L. Welch, 1017 Monroe Street, Nashville, Tenn., was elected as National Secretary of Education. Also five School Trustees were elected as follows:

Rev. Selph Jones, Mansfield, Mo., Chairman.

Rev. Henry Melvin, 1211 E. Main Street, Durham, N. C.

Rev. J. C. Griffin, 240 Pasteur Street, New Bern, N. C.

Rev. M. F. Vanhoos, Paintsville, Ky.

Rev. E. A. ODonnel, Box 4364, Capitol Sta., Oklahoma City, Okla.

The Joint Educational Committee is responsible for sponsoring the Educational Program suggested in its report.

Miscellaneous Matters

It was moved and sustained that each organization representing in the National Association be requested to represent with a \$15.00 fee to meet the expenses and to further the work of the Association.

At this time Revs. J. C. Griffin and I. J. Blackwelder of the General Conference, and Revs. Winford Davis and E. A. ODonnel of the Cooperative General Association were selected to raise \$80.00, \$40.00 for each division, for the purpose of having the Minutes of the National Association printed. The minutes are to be printed where the best prices are secured.

The responsibility of determining where the next session of the National Association is to be held three years from now was left in the hands of the Executive Board. Also, the Moderator and Secretary, and their Assistants, are to prepare a program for the next session of the Association.

Though the ladies representing the Woman's Auxiliary Work had very little time on the program, the Work was enthusiastically and ably presented by Sisters Fannie Polston, J. E. Frazier, and J. L. Welch, all of Nashville.

Having heard of the death of Billy Sunday, the Association stood in a moment of silent prayer, in recognition of the passing of a great gospel evangelist. Rev. J. L. Welch was asked by the Association to send a telegram of condolence to Mrs. Sunday.

Since the broadcasting station was so courteous as to give a quartet of the Association a few minutes on the air, the Association asked the Secretary to send the Company a note of appreciation for its kindness.

At this time the Association was adjourned to meet again three years hence at the place to be designated by the Executive Board.

Again, a very delicious meal was enjoyed, after which the people assembled for the last service of the session. The devotional service was conducted by Rev. S. T. Shutes of Blakely, Ga., and Rev. C. B. Thompson of Bryan, Tex., brought a splendid message in sermon. After the sermon a season of praise and testimony was enjoyed, and the congregation was dismissed.

Special Note

The music of the Association was a special feature of the program. Most of the congregational singing was directed by Rev. R. N. Hinnant of Micro, N. C. Moreover, the Association was favored with several solos, duets, trios, and quartets by various singers.

Report of Committee on Education

We, the joint committee on education, wish to recommend:

1. That Nashville, Tennessee, be accepted as the location for our Bible School.
2. That we begin school work in September 1936.
3. That a campaign be launched at once for funds to finance the undertaking.
4. That we begin our school work on a small scale, confining the work to a Bible course and add other courses to the same as the Lord prospers us.

5. That this body elect a board of trustees to acquire, and hold title to any and all property of said school for and in the name of this National Association.

(Signed)

J. L. WELCH
MELVIN BINGHAM
E. E. MORRIS
A. D. IVEY acting for
T. B. MELLETTE
SELPH JONES

EXECUTIVE BOARD PROCEEDING

The members of the newly elected Executive Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists composed of the following members:

Eld. J. W. Alford, -----Kenly, N. C., Box 173
Eld. E. B. Joyner, -----Lake Butler, Fla., Route 2
Bro. C. F. Goen, -----Bryan, Texas
Eld. D. F. Pelt, -----Abbeville, Ala.
Eld. B. F. Brown, -----Purdy, Mo., met
and organized by electing Eld. J. W. Alford, Chairman, and Eld. B. F. Brown, Secretary.

The printing of the Treatise was discussed, and it was agreed that sealed bids, with samples of the material to be used in the book, and the price at which the Treatise are to be sold, shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Board by both publishing houses, to wit: The Free Will Baptist Press of Ayden, N. C., and the Free Will Baptist Gem of Purdy, Mo., and the work be given to the publisher who promises to furnish our denomination with Treatise most economically, all conditions considered. The publisher is to finance the work and get his pay from the sale of the Treatise.

It was also agreed that, if any member of the national body has any item of business that should come before the Board, it shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Board, who shall submit it to the other members of the Board in writing.

It was further agreed that any item of business submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Board, and by him to the other members of the Board, if they approve and sign it, it shall be considered a legal action of the Board, provided three or more approve and sign it.

J. W. ALFORD, Chairman
B. F. BROWN, Secretary

Constitution and By-Laws National Association Free Will Baptists

Constitution

PREAMBLE. From long experience we, the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination, being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a Church; and to preserve and maintain correspondence and co-ordination with us, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better denominational government.

ARTICLE I.

Name—This organization shall be known as the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS.

ARTICLE II.

Purpose—The object of this organization shall be to unify the work of the various bodies composing this National Association, and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the Kingdom of God in connection with the various bodies in the Association, or that may hereafter be represented therein.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. Composition—This National Association shall have two (2) divisions, and Eastern Member (formerly known as The General Conference of Free Will Baptists), and a Western Member (formerly known as The Co-operative General Association of Free Will Baptists); but henceforth the Eastern Member shall be known as the Eastern Association of Free Will Baptists, and the Western Member shall be known as the Western Association of Free Will Baptists.

SECTION 2. These two members which compose the National Association shall each be divided as follows: State Associations, which shall be composed of Annual Associations; and the Annual Associations shall be composed of Quarterly Meetings and local churches.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. Representation—Each of the two (2) members (Eastern and Western Associations) which compose the National Association shall be entitled to ten (10) delegates elected from the laity, together with all ordained Free Will Baptist ministers who hold church membership and are in good standing.

SECTION 2. This National Association shall have no power to fill vacancies in the delegation from either body.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. Discipline—This National Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or usage that may properly come before it from either of the bodies composing said organization of the National Association of the Free Will Baptist Church, or act upon any appeal that may be made by any body belonging to this National Association. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the constituent body or bodies, and its decision shall be final. Such appeals are to come before the National Association, after having been appealed from the lower body to the next higher body.

SECTION 2. All appeals coming before the National Association may be settled in either of the following ways: (1) By the National Association when sitting in a Committee as a whole. (2) By a special committee whose report shall be voted on without discussion.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. Officers—The officers of this National Association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk, a Treasurer, and an Executive Board, each of which shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing vote of the body at each regular session.

SECTION 2. National Executive Secretaries of Departmental Work, namely, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Young People's Work, Women's Work, and Sunday Schools, shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing vote of the body at each regular session.

SECTION 3. Committees as necessary shall be appointed by the Chair unless otherwise provided for, and shall hold office until work is completed, or until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE VII.

SECTION 1. Executive Board—An Executive Board of five (5) members shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing vote of the body at each regular session of the National Association. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Association, or until their successors are elected. They shall be elected from either the standing or elected delegates of the body.

SECTION 2. This Executive Board shall have power to act in behalf of and for the National Association from one regular session of the Association to another, and shall have power to elect such officers as may be necessary for its own government, and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the National Association.

SECTION 3. This Executive Board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body, and shall also have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in any department of the work. It shall be the duty of this Board to make written reports of all its work to the next regular session of the National Association.

ARTICLE VIII.

Meetings—This National Association shall hold its regular meetings every three (3) years. Adjourned sessions may be called when conditions demand. The time of meeting of this National Association shall be on Tuesday night following the second Sunday in November tri-ennially, and shall continue its session until its work is completed.

ARTICLE IX.

Denominational Work—This National Association shall have the right to establish and maintain Home and Foreign Missions, Sunday School Work, Young People's Work, Educational Institutions, and to promote evangelism.

ARTICLE X.

Denominational Enterprises—It shall be the duty and purpose of this National Association to establish and maintain Home and Foreign Missions, Publishing Houses, Orphanages, and Aged Ministers' Homes.

ARTICLE XI.

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of this National Association of Free Will Baptists by a two-thirds (2-3) vote of the members present, provided specific notice has been given at the last previous session.

By-Laws

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference, and if a quorum is present the moderator, or, in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them is present the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2. All persons declared by a Committee on Credentials to be duly entitled to a seat in this Association are hereby made and constituted members of this body and are authorized to act in all respects according to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws under which this Association is organized.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this Association to send a letter to every tri-ennial session of this Association, reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Anybody belonging to this Association, which shall fail to report itself for two succes-

sive sessions, 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 with 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. This Association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

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

8. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of all the members of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meetings without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

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

12. The moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. Any one desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "yeas" and "nays" may be taken on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes or twice on the same subject without permission of the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat the delegation in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. 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.