

MINUTES
OF THE
Third Annual Session
OF THE
MISSOURI
State Association
OF
Freewill Baptists

Held With Hickory Grove Church,
Cass County, Missouri

October 25, 26, 27 and 28, 1904



REV. IRA WATERMAN
ELDRIDGE, MO.
Clerk Laclede County Association
of Freewill Baptists and State
Evangelist.

SESSION PROCEEDINGS

At 7:30 o'clock on October 25, 1916, the Missouri State Association of Freewill Baptists met with Hickory Grove Church in Cass Co., Mo., in its third annual session.

Praise by congregation. Prayer by moderator, Rev. T. C. Ferguson. Introductory sermon by Rev. Ira Waterman: Text 1st. Tim. 4:14.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock on Thursday morning.

THURSDAY MORNING

Praise by congregation. The moderator, Rev. T. C. Ferguson, read the 20th Psalm and offered prayer.

Called for enrollment of ministers and deacons. All present enroll.

Called for letters from Association and Quarterly Meetings composing this body. All responded.

Called for new Associations and Quarterly Meetings; Niangua Associations responded, with a letter and delegate. All letters read, accepted and delegates seated in council.

Called for election of officers. Rev. T. C. Ferguson was elected moderator and Rev. E. C. Whitehead assistant; Rev. Ira Waterman clerk and Deacon Selph Jones assistant.

Called for Corresponding Messengers. None.

All visiting christians were invited to take a seat in council.

As a Pulpit Committee, the following were chosen: Deacons W. L. Newnam, J. J. McCartny and W. S. Mosley.

As a committee of Resolutions the following were chosen: Revs. J. P. Highfill Delegate, H. G. Barr and Deacon, Selph Jones.

The Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. J. P. Highfill occupy the pulpit at 11 o'clock a. m.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2 o'clock p. m.

Adjourned with prayer by moderator.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Praise by congregation. For a lesson, the moderator read the 5th Psalm.

Prayer by Rev. E. Hendrickson.

Minutes of the forenoon session read and approved.

Called for reports of State officers. Reports given by the officers and accepted.

Called for reports of Home Mission Board. Report presented by Rev. T. C. Ferguson, chairman, and after being read, was accepted.

Called for reports of State evangelists.

Rev. T. C. Ferguson's report: Sermons, about 600; conversions witnessed, about 300; received into the church, about, 301; baptized, 202; assisted in organizing churches, 3; assisted in ordaining ministers, 1; assisted in ordaining deacons, 2; subscribers for the "Star," 55.

Rev. Ira Waterman's report: Sermons, 453; conversions witnessed, 358; received into the church, 83; baptized, 11; assisted in ordaining ministers, 1; assisted in ordaining deacons, 2; miles traveled, 3634. Reports accepted.

Resolved, that we indorse Rev. Miss A. S. Esterbrook of Bridgetown, Barbades, as one of our missionaries and recommend that she receive financial aid from the bodies composing this Association.

Resolved, that we indorse the "New Morning Star" published at Weatherford, Texas, as the official organ of this Association.

Resolved, that we recommend that all our Sunday School, wherever practical, use Freewill Baptist literature published by The Freewill Baptist Publishing Co., Ayden, N. C.

Pulpit Committee reported that Revs. E. C. Whitehead and J. F. Ducksworth occupy the pulpit at 7:30 p. m.

Motion carried to adjourn until 9 o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING

Praise by congregation. The moderator read the 12th chapter of Isaiah and offered prayer.

Minutes of the Thursday afternoon session read and approved.

Resolved, that we indorse and recommend to all our ministers and christian workers the Freewill Baptist Correspondence School conducted by Rev. J. F. Wolfe, of Pawne City, Nebraska.

Motion carried to revise article four of our constitution, notice having been given at the previous annual session. A revised copy was offered and accepted (see Art. 4)

Motion carried to elect five trustees in accordance with our constitution as revised. The following were elected delegates: J. D. Fowler for one year, Rev. C. E. Mann for two years, Rev. T. E. Ferguson for three years, Rev. Ira Waterman for four years and Deacon, Selph Jones for five years.

Pulpit Committee reported that Revs. Thomas Grant and E. Hendrickson occupy the pulpit at 11 o'clock a. m.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2 o'clock p. m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Praise by congregation. The assistant moderator read the 23rd Psalm and offered prayer.

Motion carried to elected delegates to the Co-operative Association which meets with Philadelphia church near Pattonsburg, Mo. on December 27, 1916 on a basis of one delegate for every one hundred members. There being over six thousand and two hundred members belonging to the different bodies composing this Association, sixty two delegates were chosen and the clerk requested to notify them of their election.

Resolved that we request each Association and quarterly meeting composing this body to send at least one dollar for each church they report to this Association; to be used for superintending printing and distributing the minutes of this body.

Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. Ira Waterman occupy the pulpit at 7:30 p. m.

Motion carried to adjourn until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

Praise by congregation. Assistant moderator read the 4th chapter of Eph.

Prayer by Rev. J. P. Highfill.

Minutes of the Friday afternoon session read and approved.

Motion carried that Revs. Ira Waterman, T. C. Ferguson, Myrtle Ferguson and J. F. Duckworth be our State Evangelist, but without salary.

Motion carried to give the remaining part of the forenoon to temperance work. A lecture was delivered by Bro. H. S. Barr.

Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. T. C. Ferguson occupy the pulpit at 11 o'clock a. m.

Adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Praise by congregation. The moderator read the 4th chapter of Mal. and offered prayer.

Minutes of the forenoon session read and approved.

Motion carried that Rev. Ira Waterman superintend the printing of five hundred copies of minutes.

Motion carried that our next meeting shall convene with Niangua church in Webster Co., Mo., on October 17, 1916, and that Rev. J. F. Duckworth preach the introductory sermon.

Pulpit Committee reported that Revs. J. F. Duckworth and Ira Waterman occupy the pulpit at 7:30 p. m. Rev. E. Hendrickson Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m. and Rev. E. C. Whitehead, Sunday at 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Motion carried that all outstanding committees be discharged.

Motion carried that Rev. J. F. Duckworth deliver the farewell address at the close of the 7:30 o'clock service.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet with Niangua church in Niangua, Webster county, Missouri at 7:30 o'clock p. m. on October 17, 1916. Adjourned with prayer by Rev. T. C. Ferguson.

MINISTERS BELONGING TO ASSOCIATION

NORTHWEST MISSOURI ASSOCIATION

Name	Address
James S. Shoop	Kirksville, Missouri
L. L. Mikels	Greentop, Missouri
Charley Phillips	Connelsville, Missouri
J. F. Duckworth	Greentop, Missouri
W. D. McFarland	Livonia, Missouri
P. H. Veach	Livonia, Missouri
James Vestal	Livonia, Missouri

LACLEDE COUNTY ASSOCIATION

W. T. James	Safe, Missouri
C. M. Rector	Eldridge, Missouri
J. W. Curran	Russellville, Arkansas
Richard Stevens	Abo, Missouri
M. H. Reed	Warsaw, Missouri
H. F. Weaver	Bentonville, Arkansas
F. M. Phelp	Springfield, Missouri
Wm. Bingham	Falcon, Missouri
M. E. Brasher	Abo, Missouri
Mary Edwards	Nebo, Missouri
Frank Edwards	Nebo, Missouri
W. D. Peoples	Agnes, Missouri
M. M. Kelley	Salina, Missouri
Wm. Scheets	Agnes, Missouri
A. L. Broyles	Lyons, Missouri
C. R. Williams	Eldridge, Missouri
L. H. Jones	Honey Creek, Texas
C. A. McAllister	Nebo, Missouri
R. W. Waterman	Eldridge, Missouri
Ira Waterman	Eldridge, Missouri
Lem Waterman	Eldridge, Missouri
Charlie Waterman	Polk, Iowa
William West	Fristoe, Missouri
A. J. Kelsey	Lyons, Missouri
E. W. Bingham	Drynob, Missouri
J. R. Reid	Abo, Missouri

T. J. Peterson	Oakland, Missouri
W. R. Agee	Springfield, Missouri
M. T. Lomenick	Fate, Missouri
John Lopp	Fristoe, Missouri
A. J. Chambers	Agnes, Missouri
S. N. Reid	Drynob, Missouri
W. P. Mankin,	Dove, Missouri
Wm. Fincher	Agnes, Missouri
R. P. Wilson	Lyons, Missouri
C. T. Neece	Racket, Missouri
D. Milligan	Competition, Missouri
C. E. Cornelison	Grove Springs, Missouri
L. A. Miller	Cross Timbers, Missouri

CENTRAL-WESTERN MISSOURI AND SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS ASSOCIATION

D. M. Carlock	Greenfield, Missouri
H. Seward	Neola, Missouri
E. F. Crabtree	Hannon, Missouri
J. T. Williams	Greenfield, Missouri
T. C. Ferguson	Stockton, Missouri
Myrtle Ferguson	Stockton, Missouri
J. E. Bayles	Chanute, Kansas
Jacob Sparks	Chanute, Kansas
Mrs. Jacob Sparks	Chanute, Kansas
J. R. Warran	Chanute, Kansas
Thomas York	Chanute, Kansas

LICENTIATES

B. F. Brown	Hannon, Missouri
J. T. Slaight	Chanute, Kansas
C. C. Pitts	Chetopa, Kansas
Wm. Needham	Faulkner, Kansas
Charley Mayfield	Chetopa, Kansas

NORTHWESTERN MISSOURI ASSOCIATION

S. B. Lewis	Pattonsburg, Missouri
W. H. McKown	Charlow, Missouri
Rev. Fedley	Weatherby, Missouri
G. W. Hensley	Grant City, Missouri

Rev. Bethel	St. Joseph, Missouri
Rev. Stephenson	St. Joseph, Missouri
C. E. Mann	Santa Rosa, Missouri
Cora Mann	Santa Rosa, Missouri

LICENTIATES

Rev. Hadley	Easton, Missouri
Willie Kern	Easton, Missouri

UNION ASSOCIATION

J. H. Claxton	Competition, Missouri
C. E. Findley	
Z. Williams	Cabool, Missouri
J. T. McCall	Cold Springs, Missouri
J. T. Holcomb	Niangua, Missouri
D. H. Long	Mountain Grove, Missouri
J. W. Love	Mountain Grove, Missouri
C. S. Long	Norwood, Missouri
L. W. Hensley	Hartville, Missouri
W. N. Zuners	Norwood, Missouri
W. S. Gaskill	Mansfield, Missouri
M. B. Clift	Niangua, Missouri
E. N. Delcour	St. George, Missouri
L. N. Marler	Seymour, Missouri
T. B. Marler	Ava, Missouri
A. Halford	Bushy Knob, Missouri
Ora Keller	Bushy Knob, Missouri
E. Carpenter	Teague, Missouri
A. Browitt	Hartville, Missouri
Rev. Silvy	Seymour, Missouri
Rev. Guring	(address not known)
A. J. Barnett	Norwood, Missouri

INDIA CREEK ASSOCIATION

E. C. Whitehead	Anderson, Missouri
C. Thomas	Rocky Comfort, Missouri
H. E. Rowland	Baxter Springs, Kansas
E. Hendrickson	Granby, Missouri
L. E. Nutting	American Falls, Idaho

ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETING

I. L. L. Pond	Esther, Missouri
T. J. Mann	Esther, Missouri
J. D. Flannery	Farmington, Missouri
J. J. Wood	Farmington, Missouri
J. M. Baugh	Bonne Terra, Missouri
S. M. Ferguson	Flat River, Missouri

NIANGUA ASSOCIATION

J. P. Highfill	Springfield, Missouri
W. N. Sutton	Long Lane, Missouri
N. J. Breshears	Long Lane, Missouri
Emeel Burton	Long Lane, Missouri
W. F. Millard	Long Lane, Missouri
Wm. Phillips	Long Lane, Missouri
H. S. Lee	Buffalo, Missouri
A. L. Gower	Thorpe, Missouri
Willis Rush	Urbana, Missouri
B. House	Goodson, Missouri
C. A. Hefton	Phillipsburg, Missouri
Larkin Jones	Wichita, Kansas
O. B. Lane	Phillipsburg, Missouri

LICENTIATES

Lee Spain	Springfield, Missouri
George Sturdevant	Tilden, Missouri
G. W. Hasten	Long Lane, Missouri
W. I. Jones	Conway, Missouri

WESTERN MT. ZION ASSOCIATION

N. B. Sala	Anderson, Missouri
J. A. Shockley	Pineville, Missouri
J. H. Ross	Granby, Missouri
James Pozy	Joplin, Missouri
S. B. Mayfield	Carterville, Missouri
Allen Shuy	Alba, Missouri
Henry Allen	Anderson, Missouri

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another, by the will of God, in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things; to avoid all appearance of evil; to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages; and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor and all its benevolent work. We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and to watch over one another in love endeavoring to "keep the unity of the spirit" in the bonds of peace; to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, support of missions, the success of the Sabbath schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Bible** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the Universe and in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet one God, infinitely wise and good whom all intelligent creatures are to supremely love, adore and obey.

3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in this divine nature truly God, in his human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man; once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is an ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to the years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: First, Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. Second, Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a

child of God, Third, Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. **Freedom of the Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit or to resist them and perish.

11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

12. **Perseverance.** All believers in Christ, who, through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life have promise of salvation.

13. **Gospel Ordinances.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel; of universal obligation and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities and for personal communion with God.

15. **Resurrection, Judgement and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgement; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

BY-LAWS

I. All business meetings shall be opened by singing, reading a portion of God's Word and prayer and shall be closed by prayer.

II. No one shall speak more than five minutes nor more than twice on the same subject without the consent of the Moderator.

III. Any member of this body can appeal from the decision of the Moderator to the Association and by a majority vote thereon the objection shall be sustained or rejected.

IV. No one shall leave the Association without the consent of the Moderator.

V. All who wish to speak while the Association is in session shall arise and say "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until he or she is recognized by the Moderator.

VI. The Moderator shall stop all discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it is likely to lead to discord and division.

VII. The officers of this body shall submit every year a written report of the work done for this Association.

VIII. These By-Laws may be amended or changed at any regular business session by a majority vote.

CONSTITUTION

I. This Association shall be called the Missouri State Association of Freewill Baptists.

II. The object of this Association shall be for the bringing together the Freewill Baptists of the State of Missouri in one great annual gathering so they can get better acquainted with each other and for the upbuilding of the Freewill Baptist churches of Missouri and the salvation of souls.

III. This Association shall be composed of duly elected delegates from the Quarterly Meetings, Yearly Meetings, and Associations. Each body shall be entitled to one delegate for every fifty members or major fraction thereof, with the deacons and licensed and ordained ministers.

IV. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Asst. Moderator, a Clerk, who also shall be treasurer and shall superintend printing of minutes at \$5.00 per annum, assistant Clerk who shall be elected annually and hold their office until their successors shall be elected; a Board of Trustees of five members whose

terms of office shall be as follows: One for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, one for five years, and at the expiration of each of these terms, one is to be elected for a term of five years, and who shall hold their offices until their successors are elected; and further, if any vacancies occur between sessions of the Associations the Board shall fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next session of the Association, who shall perform the following duties: First—Shall be the legal corporation of the Association with the corporate name of The Board of Trustees of the Missouri State Association of Freewill Baptists; to be a Board of Missions and Church Extension to secure, hold, use, convey funds in money, homes or lands for the propagation of the gospel in connection with the Freewill Baptist Denomination. Second—To receive, hold, manage, use control or convey any property intrusted to the Association for and in accordance with the purpose of the donors. Said Board of Trustees shall also compose the Home Mission Board whom may be chosen from ministers, deacons or delegates.

V. This Association shall not usurp any authority over the Quarterly meetings, Yearly Meetings and Associations that shall be under its supervisions, but shall be an advisory body to help them.

VI. Seven or more ordained ministers or deacons from two or more bodies belonging to this Association shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

VII. The Clerk or Assistant Clerk and in their absence the senior minister in age shall call the Association to order for business and call the Moderator or his assistant to the chair, and if neither Moderator nor assistant are present, then the senior minister in age shall act as Moderator. On taking the chair the Moderator shall call for the reading of the letters from the different bodies composing this Association and after the letters are read he shall seat the delegates. After the delegates are seated the election of new officers shall be in order.

VIII. An organized Quarterly Meeting, Yearly

Meeting or Association of Freewill Baptists may unite with this body at any regular session through a letter or delegate and by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

IX. This Constitution may be added to, amended or changed at any regular session of this body by a two-thirds vote of all members present after a written notice of the contemplated change has been given to this body at the previous session to which such change shall take place.