

THIS ~~BOOK~~ WAS SENT TO ME RECENTLY

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirtieth Annual Session

OF

Freewill Baptists.

Held With Ewing Seminary Church, in Johnson Co., Ark.,
October 2, 1898.

ELD. I. S. C. SATTERWHITE, Moderator.

ELD. J. A. STARK, Clerk.



ARKANSAS FREEWILL BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,
CONWAY, ARKANSAS.

THIS MI ZION ^{ASSOC} IS
DIFFERENT FROM EITHER THE
"NEW" MI ZION OR THE
"OLD" MI ZION ASSOCIATIONS
PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED (see p. 4)

I KNOW ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING ABOUT THE
PUBLISHING HOUSE.

MINUTES

At the thirteenth annual Association of Freewill Baptist, held with Ewing Seminary Church, in Johnson Co., Ark., Oct. 2, 1898.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. M. A. Whisant. Text, 2nd Timothy, 3 and 16; after which association was called to order by Eld. J. T. Sock, by calling for letters composing the Mt. Zion Association, to-wit: Pleasantville, Strawberry Valley; Ewing Seminary, Pleasant Grove.

Moderator and Clerk was then elected by acclamation. I. S. C. Satterwhite, was elected Moderator, and Eld. J. A. Stark, Secretary. Then committees were appointed by Moderator.

ON BILL OF ARRANGEMENTS—C. S. Boldman, G. W. Jups and T. S. Whitten.

ON TEMPERANCE—Sister C. S. Pitts, Carline Shackelford and Eld. Russell.

ON NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES—Bros. McGarley, U. D. Pitts and Jesse Carter.

ON RESOLUTION—Bro. G. W. Partain, Eld. W. J. Bristow and Eld. J. T. Sock, with Moderator and Clerk.

Called for corresponding letters: Received one from Hopwell Association, of Freewill Baptist, by the hand of Eld. I. S. C. Satterwhite; received one from Boston Mountains Association, by the hand of Eld. M. A. Whisant.

Corresponding delegate from Malberry Association No. 2, without letter, to-wit: Eld. W. J. Bristow.

On motion, association adjourned until Saturday morning at 8 o'clock.

Prayer by Eld. Bristow.

SATURDAY—MORNING SESSION.

Prayer by Bro. S. W. Pitts.

Bill of arrangements called up, read and received and committed.

Resolved, That we have our minutes printed, 200 in number, and Clerk superintend and distribute the same.

← The name "Seminary" is interesting.

These ASSOCs. ARE EXTINCT

Resolved. We keep up correspondence with sister associations. Eld. J. A. Stark, G. W. Partain, G. G. Partain and G. J. Green, offer their services to write and carry letter to Antioch association, to be held with Walnut Grove Church, embracing fourth Sunday in September, 1899.

Corresponding delegates to Hopewell Association, S. W. Pitts, T. S. Whitten. Boston Mountain association; T. S. Whitten. Mulberry association, by letter Friday before third Sunday in Sept. 1899.

Where shall our next association be held?

Resolved, That it be held with Pleasant Grove, Pope county, four miles north of Dover, Ark.

Resolved, That Eld. W. J. Bristow preach the introductory sermon, and M. A. Whisant, alternate.

ON TEMPERANCE.

Read and received and committee released.

We, your committee on temperance, this being our honest conviction that nine-tenths of all crime is brought about or is the direct cause of intemperance; that it is the mighty lever prizing at the very foundation of christianity, therefore we believe it our duty to use every effort to banish every kind of intemperance from among us, and ever heed the admonition of Paul, where he said be ye temperate in all things.

ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on finance, beg leave of this honorable body to submit the following, as it is impossible to carry on any kind of business without any financial support: Be it

Resolved, That the Moderator take up a public collection for the support of the association, and all monies collected be placed in the hands of the treasurer, to be used when needed, and that each pastor of a church take up a public collection quarterly for the support of the church, money to be put in treasury of which church he has charge.

ON OBITUARY.

Whereas, God in his infinite goodness and tender mercy has seen fit to remove by death from among us, one beloved brother, to-wit: Eld. G. J. Fields, of whom has for many years officiated

*This church is still
existing as a member
of the Antioch Assoc.*

Interest in 1896?

as a minister, and almost a father to our association. He has been a worthy member of the Pleasant Grove Church for many years.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved relatives and friends of the deceased, and we thank God that he has only taken the one from among us. Then we should not mourn, for our loss is his eternal gain, for God has said, "blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

By motion and second take up the money contributed, of which amounted to \$3.25.

Motion and second that the Moderator appoint delegates to the District convention, names as follows: Eld. J. A. Stark, J. E. Partain, S. W. Pitts, C. S. Holman, G. C. Partain and U. D. Pitts. Alternates, J. W. McCarley, P. S. Colier, Sisters Pitts and Holman.

Resolved That we enter this resolution, that each church report the condition of their Sunday schools to the association on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1899. Recess about three hours.

Prayer by Eld. Whisant.

After recess the Clerk was appointed as Treasurer, and contribution money turned over to him.

By motion the obituary of G. J. Fields was read by the Clerk and received by the association, and committee discharged.

Motion Clerk write the corresponding letter to the district convention, embracing the third Sunday in October, 1898.

Resolved, We tender our thanks to this vicinity for their hospitality to us.

Motion to adjourn to meet with Pleasant Grove Church, on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1899.

Prayer by Moderator.

ELD. I. S. C. SATTERWHITE, Moderator.

ELD. J. A. STARK, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

From a long series of experience we, the churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a continuation of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us. We therefore

← unsure about what is meant by "DISTRICT"

propose to keep orders and rules of our Association according to the following plan, or form of government:

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union, and each church is entitled to three messengers. All ordained ministers of our faith and order shall be members when present.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letter or recommendation, dismissed, excluded, restored, and that have died since last association, and the name of Clerk, county, postoffice, and Sabbath of meeting.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, to be denominated the Mt. Zion Association of Freewill Baptists, being composed of the churches in the State of Arkansas, and the association to have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power of the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

4. The Association to have a Moderator and Clerk.

5. New churches may be admitted into the association by letter or delegates if found to be orthodox in the faith of the Freewill Baptists. The Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. No question presented by the delegates of any church shall be discussed in the association unless it has been thoroughly discussed in their own church.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, unless it be withdrawn by the members making it.

8. The association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of this association in proportion to the number of members of each church, the contribution being at discretion of the association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes.

10. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the association closes.

11. The association shall have a fund for her support which shall be supplied by voluntary contribution of the churches whose

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duty it shall be to send it by the hands of the messengers, which money so sent shall be deposited in the hands of the treasurer for that purpose, and he shall be accountable to the association for all money by him received until paid out as they may direct.

12. The association, in case of failure of any church to attend, may inquire into the cause.

13. That we ordain no minister without the application being represented to the presbytery set apart for the purpose of ordaining, a petition bearing two-thirds of the names of the members of the church where his membership is.

14. Amendments to this plan or form of government may be made at any time when a majority of the members may deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the word and Holy Ghost, and these are one.

2. We believe that the scriptures of the old and new Testament are the word of God, and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and that by his transgression all his posterity fell and were made sinners.

4. We believe in the corruption of human nature and the inability of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability.

5. We believe that Jesus Christ by the grace of God tasted death for every man and through His mediatorial death the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all that come unto Him upon gospel terms.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and good works are the fruits of faith and follow after justification.

7. We believe that saints who will persevere in grace unto the end will be saved and not one of them will be finally lost.

8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general or universal judgment, and the punishment of wicked will be eternal.

9. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women who have obtained fellowship with

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each other and have given themselves to the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep up a good discipline according to the rules of the gospel.

10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and the government thereof is with the body.

11. We believe that true believers are only fit subjects for baptism, and immersion the true mode, and the Lord's supper and washing of feet are ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and should be continued until his second coming.

12. We believe the Lord's day ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God, and that no works of worldly business ought to be transacted thereon—works of piety, mercy and necessity excepted.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. At every sitting business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator, or whosoever he may request.

2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

3. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.

4. If, when a motion has been made and seconded, a member opposes its discussion the Moderator shall put the question, "shall the question be discussed?" which, if negative, the subject shall be dismissed.

5. If any proposition or motion under debate contain two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes, unless so ordered at the time.

7. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the Moderator.

8. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

9. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator, if so, his name shall be left off the minutes.

10. The minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the rising of the association.

11. That the future sessions of the association arrangements be made so as to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises which will be equivalent thereto, during each day of the session.

12. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the Chair immediately after the organization of the association.

