

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Northeast Texas Association
OF
FREEWILL BAPTISTS
HELD WITH
Friendship Freewill Baptist Church
OCTOBER 26-28, 1917

J. F. BLACKWELL, Moderator
P. L. LEATHERS, Secretary

TECUMSEH, OKLAHOMA:
NEW MORNING STAR PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1918.

PROCEEDINGS

The Twenty-first Annual Session of the Northeast Texas Free-will Baptist Association convened with Friendship Church, Bowie County, Texas, on Friday night before the fourth Sunday in October, 1917.

Rev. W. B. Rhea preached the introductory sermon from the subject, Pay thy vow, after which the former Moderator, B. A. Lantroop called for letters from the various churches, and resulted in the following:

FRIENDSHIP—Letter read and Sisters N. E. Lantroop and Lizzie Son were present as delegates.

UNION HILL—Letter read and Bros. J. R. Richey, R. E. Blackwell and Sister Jettie Wooley and R. L. Leathers as delegates.

PLEASANT GROVE—Letter read and Bros. A. C. Rhoads, F. L. Williams and C. A. Williams as delegates.

CEDAR—Letter read and Bros. G. W. Olds and C. V. Reeves were present as delegates.

Business was transacted as follows:

Rev. J. F. Blackwell was elected Moderator and P. L. Leathers was elected Clerk.

Invitation for all visiting brethren to a seat with us as advisory counsel.

Committees were appointed as follows:

FINANCE—Bros. F. L. Williams, R. E. Blackwell and I. A. Misseldine.

RESOLUTIONS—Bros. G. W. Olds, C. A. Williams and Rev. W. B. Rhea.

TEMPERANCE—Bros. B. A. Lantroop, P. L. Leathers and Sister Minnie Morrison.

Motion to adjourn till 9:30 Saturday morning. Benediction by Rev. W. B. Rhea.

SATURDAY MORNING

Association called to order by Moderator. Song, Come ye that love the Lord. Prayer by G. W. Olds. Song, Come thou Fount.

Appointment of committees completed as follows:

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SUNDAY SCHOOL—C. A. Williams, G. A. Blackwell and Sister Rosa L. Leathers.

LITERATURE—B. A. Lantroop, G. W. Olds and Sister E. C. Son.

OBITUARIES—P. L. Leathers, W. B. Rhea and Sister N. E. Lantroop.

Motion to omit preaching at 11 o'clock and hear reports of the several committees.

The following committees reported and were discharged:

Resolutions, Obituaries, Finance, Sunday Schools, Literature, Temperance. (See reports).

Rev. W. B. Rhea read a nice piece of poetry at this time. Bro. Olds presented the body with the Scriptural references for the Articles of Faith and they were adopted and the Clerk instructed to have them inserted.

Motion to adopt the new Treatise, published by the Co-operative General Association, with headquarters at Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Motion to adjourn till 2 o'clock p. m. Benediction by B. A. Lantroop.

Association convened at 2 p. m. Song, Amazing Grace. Prayer by Rev. I. A. Misseldine. Song, We are passing away.

Request was read from Union Hill Church that I. A. Misseldine be ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry.

Bro. B. A. Lantroop, whose time had expired as a member of the Executive Committee, was elected to that place;

Motion to have our minutes printed by the New Morning Star, our own publishing house at Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

Motion to elect a delegate to the Co-operative Association at Tecumseh. Motion to defer election of this delegate till the fourth Sunday in November, or Saturday night before, at Pleasant Grove Church.

Adjourned till 7:30 o'clock. Benediction by Rev. I. A. Misseldine.

Rev. I. A. Misseldine preached at 7:30 Saturday night. The Moderator appointed a presbytery to examine Bro. Misseldine, as follows:

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Rev. W. B. Rhea, J. F. Blackwell, Deacons B. A. Lantroop, G. W. Olds and P. L. Leathers, Rev. W. B. Rhea gave the charge, then the congregation gave Bro. Misseldine the right hand of christian fellowship.

Motion that the Clerk have \$15.00 worth of minutes printed, and that he have balance of finance, as reported by committee for his services.

Voted for the next session of the Association to be held with the Union Hill church, beginning on Friday night before the fourth Sunday in October, 1918. Rev. I. A. Misseldine is to preach the introductory sermon.

Adjourned till Sunday at 10 a.m. Benediction by P. L. Leathers.

Meeting opened and prayers and testimonies followed.

Rev. J. F. Blackwell preached at 11 a.m., Text, John 21:15. Singing of God be with you, and an old time hand shake.

This closed the Twenty-first Annual Session of the Northeast Texas Association of Freewill Baptists.

J. F. BLACKWELL, Moderator.

P. L. LEATHERS, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

We your committee on resolutions insist that each church in association have regular conferences and enforce strict discipline according to the Bible, and each Clerk keep a correct record of all that is done in each church during this associational year and we your committee insist that our churches nor associations do nothing whereby our cause might be reproached.

W. B. Rhea, G. W. Olds, C. A. Williams. Committee.

TEMPERANCE

We your committee on temperance recommend that we do not hold a member in any of our churches who sells or assist in the sale of intoxicating drink, and we pray God to help us check the moderate dram drinker, for such has corrupted the halls of congress and wrecked the homes of the youth and caused widows to weep for their sons. Men and women have gone down in disgrace on account of this demon and we advise that preachers preach at least one discourse on the subject during the associational year.

Bros. P. L. Leathers, B. A. Lantroop, Sister Minnie Marrison, committee.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

We your committee on Sunday Schools beg to report that we find the Sunday Schools are good in our association and recommend that our churches work to maintain the good work in Sunday Schools better next year than in the past.

Rosa L. Leathers, G. A. Blackwell, C. A. Williams, committee

OBITUARIES

We your committee are glad to report that there have been no deaths in our ranks in the last year. We praise God for that. But sad to say it pleased God last year to take from us and Cedar church Bro. R. E. Olds. He is gone to rest to reap the reward that awaits the final faithful.

Sister N. E. Lantroop, Bros. P. L. Leathers, W. B. Rhea, committee.

FINANCE

We your committee on finance beg leave to report. We find for minutes Union Hill Church \$5.00 Pleasant Grove Church \$5.00 Friendship Church \$5.25. Total \$20.25.

R. E. Blackwell, F. L. Williams, I. A. Misseldine, committee.

LITERATURE

We your committee on Literature recommend the Old and New Testaments and Freewill Baptist papers printed Ayden N. C. and the New Morning Star papers and Freewill Baptist Literature for our Sunday Schools.

Bros. B. A. Lantroop, G. W. Olds, Sister E. C. Son, committee.

REPORTS OF MINISTERS

W. B. RHEA—One more year has passed and gone, and I am still preaching for my Lord. I found Cedar Grove Church in bad condition. I commenced gathering the Church together in February, 1917, and caused the Church to come to life again. We now have twenty-five members. I have baptized two; married six couples, and received \$ 7.00.

J. F. BLACKWELL—Pastored two churches; held two revival meetings with good results; received nine members; baptized four, and four by letter; married five couples.

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NORTHEAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION-1917 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

P. L. Leathers, DeKalb, Rt. 4; B. A. Lantroop, DeKalb, Rt. 4.
F. L. Williams, Avery, Rt. 1.

FRIENDSHIP: I. A. Misseldine, Dalby Springs, pastor; Lizzie Lantroop, De Kalb, Rt. 4. Clerk; total membership 30; paid \$ 5 00 for minutes.

UNION HILL: J. F. Blackwell, Avery, pastor; J. R. Richey, De Kalb, Rt. 4. Clerk; Received 9, baptised 4, dismissed by letter 2, received by letter 1, received by statement 4, paid for minutes \$ 5.00, Total membership 27.

CEDAR: W. B. Rhea, Dalby Springs, pastor; T. D. Rhea, Avery, Clerk; Received 4, baptised 2, died 1, paid pastor 50 cents, received by letter 2, paid for minutes \$ 5.25, total membership 25.

PLEASANT GROVE: J. F. Blackwell, Avery, pastor; I. N. Williams, Avery, Clerk; Dismissed by letter 1, paid for minutes \$5.00, total membership 10.

FORM OF LETTER FROM CHURCH TO ASSOCIATION

State of _____ County of _____
We, the Freewill Baptist Church at _____
to the First Oklahoma Association of Freewill Baptists, assembled
with _____ Church, send as delegates from our
Church _____

_____ whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your
Godly deliberations. Give full statistical report.

Done in Church Conference _____ 191 _____

_____ Pastor.

_____ Clerk.

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FREEWILL BAPTIST 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. Matt. 26:28; Luke 22:20; II. Cor. 3:6; Mark 14:24; I. Cor. 11:25.

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 as one God, infinitely wise and good; whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey. Psalms 119:160; Jer. 10:10; John 1:9.

3. **CHRIST.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His 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 our ever present Saviour and Lord. Matt. 1:21; Luke 2:11; John 1:41.

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. Luke 4:1; Luke 12:12.

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. Acts 3:14; Matt. 23:31; I. Cor. 2:7; Eph. 3:10, 11.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God. Gen. 1:26; Gen. 3.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin, that is full and free and is the ground of Salvation by faith. Matt. 11:28.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour 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. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death. Rom. 1:16; II. Cor. 7:10; Acts 16:31.

9. **ELECTION.** God determined from the beginning to save all who

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should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect. I. 2:2; Rom. 3:25,26.

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. Rev. 22:17; John 8:32.

11. SALVATION FREE. God desires the salvation of all, the God invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely. Gal. 5:1.

12. PERSEVERANCE. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation. II. Chron. 15:2; II. Pet. 1:10.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES. BAPTISM, or immersion of believers in water, and the LORD'S SUPPER, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers. Matt. 28:19; I. Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-12.

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. Exodus 20:8-11; Luke 24:1-7.

15. RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT 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 life, and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life." John 5:28,29; Acts 17:31; II. Cor. 5:10.

RULES FOR HOLDING CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1.—Call Church Conference.
- 2.—Call for peace of Church.
- 3.—Call for visiting Brethren to seats in Council.
- 4.—Reading minutes of previous meeting.
- 5.—Unfinished business.
- 6.—New business.
- 7.—Are any sick or in distress.
- 8.—What has been done for the support of the Ministry and other incidental expenses?

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FREEWILL BAPTIST 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 devotion, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, 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 bond of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle 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, the support of missions, the success of Sabbath Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the 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.

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FORM OF LETTER OF DISMISSION

T _____ Texas _____ 191 _____

This certifies that _____ is a regular member of the _____ Freewill Baptist Church at _____ in good standing as such. We commend _____ to the fellowship of God's people; and when we are informed that _____ has united with some other evangelical church, we shall consider _____ regularly dismissed from this church.

In behalf of the Freewill Baptist church at _____

_____ Pastor.
_____ Clerk.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1.—Introductory sermon.
- 2.—Reading of letters.
- 3.—Election of officers.
- 4.—Reading rules of order.
- 5.—Petitionary letters.
- 6.—Invite visiting Brethren to seats in Council.
- 7.—Appointment of committees.
- 8.—Unfinished business.
- 9.—Reports of committees and discussions.
- 10.—Reading and adoption of minutes.
- 11.—Adjournment.

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RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting the meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Moderator, or whomsoever he may request.

2. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

3. No motion shall be discussed without first being seconded.

4. When a motion has been made and seconded, the Moderator shall ask: "Any discussions or remarks?" If none the question shall be disposed of as usual.

5. If any proposition or motion under debate contains 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 ordered by the party making the motion.

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

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

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

10. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected if requested by Association.

11. Arrangements shall be made at each meeting of the Association for two or more sermons or equivalent devotional exercises during each day.

12. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the body.

13. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session.

