# MINUTES

of the

Seventy-sixth Annual Meeting

of the

Old Mt. Zion Association

of

# Freewill Baptists

HELD WITH PILGRIM'S REST CHURCH

Two and One-half Miles West Spring Valley, Ark.,

August 10th and 11th

1917

# MINUTES

Minutes of the Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting of Old Mt. Zion Association of Freewill Baptists, held with Pilgrim Rest Church, two and one-half miles west of Spring Valley P. O., Washington Co., Ark., on August 10 and 11, 1917.

Association called to order by Moderator Eld. G. C. Bland. Introductory sermon delivered by Eld G. C. Bland. Reading lesson 93d Psalm; text, Eccle. 12:13, 'Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.'

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

After recess for dinner, we then proceeded to organize the Association and appointed Sister Annie Means assistant clerk. The letters from the several churches composing the said Association were called for and the following responded, their letters read and their delegates named and invited to seats in conference:

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

Mt. Zion—A. H. Morris.

New Hope—J. W. Allred, May Allred, Everett Bland. Hickory Grove—Walter White, Charlie Mopins, G. W. Lynch. Christian Home—W. M. Lee, Sherman McGinnis, Hugh Becker. Coal Gap—J. S. Turney.

Clifty-F. C. Finn, John Capps.

Christian Union—G. W. Thornsburg, A. Howard, S. A. Wight. Hickory Flatt—Annie Means, Riley Clardy, Obie Evans.

Pilgrims Rest-John Barnes, Henry Savage, Mrs. Dora Shetley. Antioch—E. M. Houston, J. G. Wilson. Lone Star—R. F. Hardy, P. L. Sandlian, Alvin Cook. Cottage Hill—L. S. Bowlin, S. L. Garvin, Pon Brodrich. Shady Grove—J. S. Henson. Highland—not represented.

#### SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

Union-J. H. P. Jones, D. W. Briley, Mrs. D. W. Briley. New Mt. Zion-not represented. Sugar Creek-not represented. Horton Creek-not represented.

Cherokee Home—not represented.

Association General Baptists of Eastern Oklahoma, J. B. Johnson. Mary and Rósa Henson of Shady Grove church, and Jessie Rolls and W. Hancock of Mt. Zion church were seated by the Association as delegates for their respective churches by request.

Newly organized churches were called for and none responded, after which a song was sung and the right hand of fellowship was extended. The Association was then called into an election to elect a moderator and clerk for the ensuing year. Brethren A. H. Morris and John Capps were appointed election clerks. The delegates proceeded to vote by ballot. The election clerk declared Eld. G. C. Bland, moderator, and Annie Means, clerk.

Constitution and Rules of Order were read by moderator immediately after being re-elected. Then proceeded to appoint the following committees:

Resolutions—J. H. P. Jones, W. T. Webb, G. W. Lynch. Temperance—Mrs. Dora Shetley, Mrs. E. M. Allred, Mrs. Briley. Sabbath School—Louis Bowlin, D. W. Briley, J. H. Roberts. Obituary—J. B. Johnson, J. S. Turney, A. H. Morriss. Finance—E. M. Houston, Kirk Finn, J. W. Allred. Non-represented church: W. T. Webb, Geo. Been, J H. Roberts. Preaching—John Capps, W. M. Lee, Jesse Roles. Moved that we repeal the action taken in 1914 relative to the sup-

port of our pastors. Motion carried.

Moved and approved that we adjourn until Saturday at 8:30 a.m. FRIDAY NIGHT: Brethren J. H. Roberts and E. S. England conducted, the prayer by Brother E. S. England and the benediction by Brother G. W. Lynch.

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Association called to order by moderator, prayer by Elder G:•W. Lynch. After the roll call by the clerk, a call was made for report of committee.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Resolved, That we keep a memorial of our dead.

Resolved, That we keep our correspondence with our sister associations.

The following brethren volunteered to write and bear the letter and represent us in Union Association: W. T. Webb, J. G. Wilson, George Been, and E. M. Houston, alternate.

New Mt. Zion: J. G. Wilson, W. M. Carlock, J. H. Roberts and W. E. Lynch.

Cherokee: E. S. England, J. H. Roberts, George Been and G. W. Thornsbury.

Resolved, That we have 500 minutes printed; also appoint some one to superintend the printing and distribution. Geo. Been selected.



Resolved, That the next Association be held with New Hope church, one mile east of Larue, Benton Co., Ark., and fourteen miles east of Rogers, Ark.

Services ably conducted by Elders J. H. P. Jones and G.W.Lynch at 11 a. m. Reading lesson, Eph. 1; text, Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work together for good to them who love God.".

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: Opened by singing and reading Matt. 28; prayer by J. H. Allred, after which we proceeded to elect one to preach the introductory sermon and J. H. P. Jones was duly elected, with W. T. Webb, alternate.

Moved that a historical account be given by a committee appointed, and a committee was appointed as follows: G. W. Lynch, W. T. Webb and Geo. Been, to report at next Association.

Moved and approved that we are resolved that we believe in the support of our pastors. Also that we discontinue to carry the name of Oak Grove church as they are disbanded. Also that the report of the Committees on Resolutions, Sabbath School, Temperance, Finance and Obituary be received and committees discharged.

Moved that Old Mt. Zion Association be represented in State Association by delegates, Bro. George Been being selected as delegate for

ensuing year; \$10.50 contribution was given to meet his expenses.

The minutes were read by clerk and adopted by Association.

Moved that we adjourn at close of service tonight to meet with New Hope Church, one mile east of Larue, Benton Co., Ark., and 14 miles east of Rogers, Ark., on Friday at 10:00 a.m., before the second Sunday in August, 1918.

BILL OF THANKS: Resolved, we tender our sincere thanks to the church and good people of this place for their kindness and hospitality extended to us during our stay among them and especially for the good dinners prepared and brought to the ground for our convenience. May God give both temporal and spiritual gain.

Services conducted Saturday night by Elders W. T. Webb and J. B. Johnson. Reading lesson, Exodus 12th chapter; text, I Corinthians 11-2. They then proceeded to set forth the Lord's Supper and invited all of the Lord's children present to the sacramental supper which was largely partaken of; also many partook in the washing of the saints feet. We then bowed in a prayer of dismission by our beloved Moderator; then sang praises to God, and took the parting hand.

Eld. G. C. Bland, Moderator Larue, Benton Co., Ark.

Miss Annie Means, Clerk Spring Valley, Wash. Co. Ark



Services conducted on Sunday at 11 a. m. by J B. Johnson.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, the Committee on Finance, submit the following report. We find the following churches have sent in by the hand of their delegates the following amounts to pay for the printing and distributing of our minutes:

Mt. Zion, \$2.85; New Hope, \$2.80; Hickory Grove, \$1.00; Christian Home, \$2.25; Coal Gap, \$1.00; Clifty, \$2.00; Christian Union, \$1.00; Hickory Flatt, \$1.77; Pilgrim's Rest, \$1.43; Cottage Hill, 85c; Antioch, \$1.25; Lone Star, 80c; Shady Grove, \$1.00; Total—\$20.00.

J. W. Allred, F. C. Finn and E. M. Houston, Committee. Cost of printing 500 copies of minutes by the Rogers Democrat, Rogers, Ark., \$20.00

#### COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, the Committee on Temperance, beg to submit the following: That we earnestly beg all the sisters in the Association to use every means to put down the vile traffic of the sale of intoxicating liquors; and also ask all the brotherhood to use their votes against it at the polls

at every opportunity.

Mrs. Dora Shetly, Mrs. Mary Allred, Mrs. D. W. Briley, Com.

#### COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOL

We, as Freewill Baptists, believe that Christ commissioned the Church to teach all nations, and that they may teach from the pulpit and in the Sunday School. That the Bible may be taught and such other helps as are scriptural. Farther, that we make a strong effort to maintain a Sunday School in each of our churches. We further request that each church in the Association make a full report of their Sunday School with their church letter, and if they have no school, to please state so in the letter. We further request that the Association make a statistical report of the Sunday Schools and have it printed in the minutes of our Association.

J. H. Roberts, D. W. Briley and L. S. Bowlin, Committee

#### **OBITUARIES**

Pilgrim's Rest—Sister Donnie Clifton. Shady Grove—Bro. Alva Shrader. New Hope—Sister Katie McGinnis. Sugar Creek—Mrs. Mary R. Wilson.

Christian Home—Sister Margaret E. Wilks. Antioch—Sister Bertha Armour.

We find that the Lord has called from labor to reward the above named. We mourn with those who mourn over the loss of their loved ones, but say, weep not as those who have no hope, for they are at rest. May we all continue in the faith unto the end and then wear a crown of glory with Christ our Saviour.

J. B. Johnson, J. S. Turney and A. H. Morris, Committee

#### SISTER DONIE CLIFTON

was born May 16, 1897, and died November 2, 1916. Sister Donie professed a hope in Christ on August 21, 1913, and united with the Pilgrim's Rest church of Freewill Baptists on August 24, 1913. She was baptized on August 25, 1913. She lived a faithful and devoted Christian life until death, and was attentive to her church and Sunday school as long as she was able to go. She bore her afflictions with patience even to the end. We mourn her absence from us but we weep not as for those who have no hope for we realize that our loss is her eternal gain.

> One loved one from us is gone, One voice among us is stilled,

One place among us is vacant That never can be filled.

#### SISTER BERTHA ARMOUR

was born May 19, 1881, in Arkansas. She professed a hope in Christ in 1908 and joined the church known as Antioch. She lived a devoted Christian until God called for her. She departed this life March 13, 1917. She leaves a husband, five children and a host of friends to mourn her loss. May each brother and sister live a devoted Christian until death when they shall hear the welcome applause "Come ye blest of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

#### BRO. ALVA SHRADER

was converted and baptized in 1915 and lived a devoted Christian life until death February 23, 1917.

#### SISTER MARY R. WILSON

was born July 30, 187, professed a hope in Christ at the age of 20 years and lived a Christian life until death, aged 69 years, 9 months.



#### SISTER MARGARET E. WILKS

was born Septembe 28, 1851, and died October 15, 1916; became a Christian at the age of nineteen years. She was a devoted follower of the Master until called to her reward.

A prescious one from us is gone,

A voice we loved is stilled;

A place is vacant in our home

Which never can be filled.

God in His wisdom has recalled The boon His love had given, And tho her body slumbers here, Her soul has gone to heaven.

In Sister Margaret Wilks, the Christian Home church loses one of its most devout members of life-long standing, beloved and mourned by all who knew her.

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## LIST OF MINISTERS

# Name Age Post Office

J. G. Wilson, 76 years, Huntsville, Ark. G. W. Lynch, 70 years, R. 1, Box 14, Clifty, Ark. S. G. Moses, 70 years, Huntsville, Ark. W. T. Webb, 47 years, R. 1, Spring Valley, Ark. W. O. Johnson, 73 years, Harris, Ark. W. S. Copeland, 43 years, Fayetteville, Ark. K. A. Moses, 75 years, Huntsville, Ark. W. M. T. Todd, 55 years. J. J. Rider, 55 years. G. C. Bland, 59 years, Larue, Ark. John Garvin, 68 years, R. 1, Spring Valley, Ark. M. P. Capps, 70 years, Mundell, Ark. J. H. Roberts, 50 years, Spring Valley, Ark. J. S. Turney, 63 years, Glade, Ark. J. S. Smith, 48 years, Marble, Ark. R. A. Smith, 51 years, Marble, Ark. Sam Garvin, Spring Valley, Ark. E. S. England, 49 years, Rhea, Ark. E. M. Houston. George Been, 35 years, Spring Valley, Ark. LICENSED MINISTERS W. H. Elkins, — years, War Eagle, Ark.



# STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mt. Zion1	0	0	0	0.	0	33
New Hope	0	2	1	0	1	93
Hickory Grove1	2	2	0	0	0	72
Christian Home	2	0	0	0	1	69
Coal Gap	0	0	0	0	0	47
Clifty						
Christian Union0	0	Ó	0	0	0	41
Hickory Flatt	0	0	0	0	0	62
Pilgrim's Rest	6	0	0	0	1	57
Cottage Hill0	0	<b>, 1</b>	0.	1	0	32
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Antioch	0	0	, <b>0</b>	0	1	41
Mt. Pleasant0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Highland0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Lone Star0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Horton's Creek	0	0	0	0	0	7
Shady Grove0	0	0	0	0	1	14
<ul> <li>TOTALS—1. Received by Experience and Bapt</li> <li>2. Received by Recommendation</li> <li>3. Received by Letter</li> <li>4. Dismissed by Letter</li> <li>5. Excluded</li> <li>6. Died</li> </ul>	• • • •	• • •		3	•••	.10
				9		35
Total Membership			•••		• • • •	683



### CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experience, the Church of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate union and communion amongst us and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other. We therefore purpose to keep order 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 of our Union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and producing letters they shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from different churches are to express their number of fellowship, the number received by experience, letters or recommedation, dismissed, excluded, restored, and those who have died since the last Association.

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

4. The Association to have a Moderator or Clerk who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

5. New churches to be admitted into the Association are to petition by letter and delegates, and if, on examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received by the Association 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 thoroly 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 member who made it.

8. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the members in each church, the contibutions being at the direction of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep 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. Amendments to this plan of government may be made at any time when a majority of the members may deem it necessary.

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

### RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting business shall be opened or concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whoever he may require.

2. Ministers present invited to seats with us may debate on all questions but vote on none.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided on all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.

5. If, when a motion has been made and seconded and a mem-

ber opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question: "Shall this question be discussed?" Which, if negatived, shall be dismissed.

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

7. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without special leave from the Moderator.

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

10. No member shall absent himself without leave from the Moderator; if so his name shall be left off the minutes.

11. The minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the rising of the Association.

12. That in the future sessions of this 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

13. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.

14. Alternations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

# **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Association called to order by the Moderator and in his absence the clerk.

2. Introductory sermon.

3. Letters from the churches composing the Association called for, read and messengers invited to seats.

4. Corresponding associations.

- 5. Right hand of fellowship.
- 6. Call for letters from newly organized churches.
- 7. Election for permanent officers.

8. Reading Constitution and Rules of Order by Chair or Clerk.

9. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Resolution. (b) Finance. (c) Arrangement of Preaching. (d) Temperance. (e) Sabbath schools. (f) Obituary. (g) Condition of non represented churches. (h) Union of churches.

10. Report of committees appointed at last Association and other unfinished business.

11. Reports of new committees.

- 12. New business.
- 13. Choosing place for our next Association.
  - 14. Who shall preach the Introductory Sermon.
  - 15. Reading and adopting the Minutes.
  - 16. Adjournment.

## **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Word and the Holy Ghost. Isaiah 45:5; 1st Cor. 8:6; 1st John 5:7.

2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the Gospel by Jesus Christ, the only rule of faith and practice. 2nd Peter 1:21; 2nd Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam and that by his transgressions all his posterity fell and were made sinners. Gen. 3:6; Rom. 3:19.

4. We believe in the corruptness of human nature and the inability of man to recover himself by his own freewill and ability. Rom. 5:12; 1st Cor. 15:21-22.

5. We believe Jesus Christ by the grace of God tasted death for every man and thru his mediatorial death the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all who come to Him on gospel terms. Heb. 2:6-10; St. John 3:36.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and the good works are the works of faith and follow after justification. Eph. 2:5-8; Romans 5:1-16.

7. We belive that saints may persevere in grace and not be lost. Matt. 11:28; Rev. 22:14; 2:20; 1st Peter 3:18; 1st Thes. 5-23.

8. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. Matt. 25:32-40; 2nd Cor. 5-10; Rev. 20:12; Acts 17:31

9. We believe the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, who have obtained fellowship with each other and given themselves to the Lord and to one another. Matt. 16: 17-18; 1st. Cor. 12:12; Rom. 12:4-5.

10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and that the government thereof is with the body. Eph. 2:20; Matt. 18:15-17.

11. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet are ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ and should be continued until the second coming. Matt. 28:19; John 13:5-16; Col. 2:12.

12. We believe that true believers are the only fit subjects for Baptism, and that immersion is the only true gospel mode. Matt. 3: 16-17; Acts 8:36-37; Rom. 4:6.

13. We believe that none but true believers are fit subjects to commune at the Lord's table. 1st Cor. 11:28-29; 2nd Cor. 13-5.

14. We believe that the Lord's Day ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God and that no work or worldly business ought to be transacted thereon; works of piety, mercy and necessity excepted. Ex. 20:8-9; Lev. 26:2; Luke 13:14-16; 14:5.

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