

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
ROCK FISH CONFERENCE
OF THE
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST
WHICH CONVENED WITH
Raynor's Chapel

OCTOBER 13, 1927.

College at Ayden p 6

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
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PROCEEDINGS

The Sixteenth Annual Session of the Rockfish Conference, convened with Raynor's Chapel, of the Original Free Will Baptist church, October 13, 1927, beginning Thursday and closing Friday evening.

After singing an appropriate hymn, Bro. J. J. Peel led with an able prayer. After which Rev. M. L. Baxley preached the introductory sermon. Text: Luke 8:22. "Let us go over on the other side of the lake, and they launched forth."

After the sermon, the conference was organized by re-electing Rev. H. C. Adcox, Moderator, and Rev. A. J. Pearson, Clerk for the ensuing year.

The moderator took his seat and called the conference to order. He declared the conference open for business for the betterment of the church and the building up of God's kingdom.

The conference appointed a devotional committee composed of Bro. Joseph Walters, Chairman; J. J. Peel, W. L. Strickland.

The conference adjourned till 1:30 for dinner. Benediction by Rev. J. N. Oneal.

Dinner was served on the ground.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Met according to adjournment. Rev. D. S. Brown read a scripture lesson from the Second chapter of Hebrews and led in prayer.

The moderator opened the business of the conference by asking the clerk to read the minutes. The minutes as read were approved.

The moderator called upon the devotional committee to make their report. The report was as follows: Rev. E. T. Porter open at 7:30 and A. J. Pearson preach. Friday at 11 o'clock: Rev. J. N. Oneal open and Rev. D. S. Brown preach. Rev. H. C. Adcox preach at 7:30 at night.

The clerk was asked to call the roll of preachers and delegates and enroll their names and postoffices on the minutes. They were enrolled as follows:

H. C. Adcox, St. Pauls, N. C.

M. L. Baxley, Raeford, N. C.

A. J. Pearson, St. Pauls, N. C.

T. S. Sweat, Patrick, S. C.

J. N. Oneal, Hartsville, S. C., R. F. D. No. 4.

D. S. Brown, McColl, S. C.

Licentiate.—E. T. Porter, Hartsville, S. C.

Delegates and Churches were as follows:

Hills Chapel.—Clarence Dixon, McBee, S. C.

Bethlehem.—By letter.

Cross Road.—R. N. Gandy, E. T. Porter, Hartsville, S. C.

Cross Branch.—By proxy.

Mount Moriah.—Miss Katie Smith, and J. J. Peel, Hamlet, N. C.

Ephesus.—Joseph Walters, St. Pauls, N. C., and C. W. Bennett, Hope Mills, N. C.

Raynor's Chapel.—Ed Bryant, Hope Mills, N. C.

Lakefield.—W. H. Carmer, Raeford, N. C.

Next in order was appointing committees on the different subjects. They were appointed as follows:

On Temperance.—Bros. W. L. Strickland, Joseph Walters, Rev. D. S. Brown.

On Education.—Bros. J. J. Peel, C. W. Bennett, and Rev. J. N. Oneal.

On Orphanage.—Rev. E. T. Porter, Bros. R. N. Gandy and Ed. Bryant.

On Periodicals.—Bro. W. H. Carmer, Bros. Clarence Dixon and Jno. Patterson.

On Ministerial Labor.—Bros. J. J. Peel, W. L. Strickland, Joseph Walters.

Unfinished business was asked for.

The moving of Raynor's Chapel was discussed. A committee was appointed to see if we could secure a lot on the highway to place the church. The committee appointed was as follows: Bro. Joseph Walters, Rev. M. L. Baxley, and Bro. Joseph Patterson.

On motion by Bro. Joseph Walters, conference close until 9:30 Friday morning. Benediction by Bro. T. S. Sweat.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Conference opened according to adjournment at 8:30.

After reading a portion of Scripture and prayer by Rev. D. S. Brown, the moderator declared the house ready for business.

The clerk read the minutes of Friday and they were approved.

The clerk was asked to call for reports of churches.

They report as follows:

HILLS CHAPEL.—Clarence Dixon, delegate. Report shows 30 members on roll, doing what they can to promote God's kingdom. We have called Rev. J. N. Oneal for pastor for the ensuing year. We send \$2.00 for conference expenses.

L. T. HILL, Clerk, McBee, S. C.

BETHLEHEM.—Bethlehem reported by letter. The report was as follows: The church is in very good condition. Sends \$2.00 for expenses.

T. S. SWEAT, Clerk, Patrick, S. C.

CROSS BRANCH.—Reported by proxy. Sends \$2.00 for conference expenses.

MOUNT MORIAH.—This church gives good report as follows: We send Sister Katie Smith, and Bro. J. J. Peel as delegates. They report the church in a growing condition, has 45 members and send \$2.00 for minutes. Eld. E. H. Russ has been our pastor and we have called him for another year. We have sent to Orphanage \$15.56, collection for Sunday School \$13.84, paid pastor \$70.81. We paid Rev. M. L. Baxley \$5.00. Paid for revival services \$25.00, for incidental expenses \$11.46, total for all purposes \$141.67.

N. H. SMITH, Clerk, Osborne, N. C.

EPHESUS.—The report is as follows: The church is in a normal condition. We have received five new members, have on roll 77 members. Paid pastor \$45.65 for his services this year. We paid evangelist \$36.81, improvement to church \$50.00, value of church property \$850.00. We have a good Sabbath School, and we use Free Will Baptist literature. We regret the resignation of our former pastor, Rev. H. C. Adcox. We have called Rev. H. M. P. Todd. We solicit the prayers of the conference. Joseph Walters, delegate.

C. W. BENNETT, Clerk, Hope Mills, N. C.

LAKEFIELD.—The church reports as follows: The church is in very good condition. We have on roll 27 members. We send W. H. Carmer as delegate. We have paid pastor \$32.00 for missions \$20.30, for Sabbath School \$12.40. We send \$2.00 for conference expenses. Rev. M. L. Baxley has been our former pastor and we have called him for the ensuing year.

J. A. PATTERSON, Clerk, Hope Mills, N. C.

RAYNOR'S CHAPEL.—The church is represented by Ed. Bryant, delegate. The church has not had much preaching this year. We send \$2.50 for expenses. We ask the prayers of the conference.

CROSS ROADS.—The church sends as delegates, R. N. Gandy and E. T. Porter. The church is in a very good condition. We have received 11 new members and have on roll 42. Paid for pastoral work \$51.00, for home mission work \$22.50, for incidentals \$6.00. Total paid out \$79.50.

R. N. GANDY, Clerk, Hartsville, S. C.

After the report of the churches, the moderator asked the ordained ministers to make their annual report.

REV. H. C. ADCOX.—I have pastored two churches, have preached 58 sermons, received 17 members into the church, baptized 8, money received \$114.15, travelled 1990 miles.

REV. M. L. BAXLEY.—Have been pastoring two churches, preached 84 sermons, received in money \$197.00.

REV. A. J. PEARSON.—Have preached 30 sermons, baptized 11 persons, received into full fellowship of the church 13 members, received \$40.00.

REV. T. S. SWEAT.—I have preached a good many times. I have not pastored any churches but I have superintended 2 Sunday schools. Have received \$25.00 for my labor this year.

REV. J. N. ONEAL.—I have served three churches, preached 145 sermons, received 7 members, baptized 2. My aim is higher ground.

Report of E. T. Porter, Licentiate.

Since I have been licensed, I have held one revival meeting, and ten joined the church. I ask the prayers of the brethren at this junction.

Bro. Joseph Walters made a motion to call off for preaching, and the motion was sustained. Rev. D. S. Brown was appointed by the devotional committee to preach.

Elder A. B. Peavy and wife having a seat in the conference, Bro. Brown gave way for Elder Peavy to preach in his place. Bro. Peavy preached an able sermon from Acts 19th chapter. Text: "Have ye received the Holy

Ghost since ye believed?" Closed with prayer by A. J. Pearson till one o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference opened with reading 103 Psalm by Elder M. L. Bailey. Prayer by Elder H. C. Adcox. After which the moderator declared the house open for business. The moderator gave the floor to Eld. A. B. Peavy, who made a statement as follows:

I am not able to do much service. Said his health was not good, but if the conference or churches could use him, he was willing to do what he could provided he was not called too far from home.

We are glad to have Bro. Peavy with us, for the good he has done and the chance for his service in the future.

Next in order was the reports from the committees.

Report of Sabbath School Committee.

Your committee beg leave to report as follows: That we have an ever-green Sunday School in all our churches, and that we use Free Will Baptist literature in all our Sunday schools.

MISS KATIE SMITH, Ch'm.
ELD. M. L. BAXLEY,
ELD. T. S. SWEAT,
Committee.

Report of Temperance Committee.

We, your committee on Temperance, recommend total abstinence from all kinds of alcoholic drinks. Also that we use temperance in all things.

BRO. W. L. STRICKLAND, Ch'm.
ELD. D. S. BROWN,
BRO. JOSEPH WALTERS,
Committee.

Report of Committee on Education.

Your committee beg leave to report as follows:

We believe that we should have a better educated ministry. We also recommend our Free Will Baptist College, at Ayden, N. C., to our young students.

J. J. PEEL, Ch'm.
ELD. J. N. ONEAL,
BRO. C. W. BENNETT,
Committee.

Report of Committee on Ministerial Character.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report:

We find our ministers' reports all O. K.. We find also that their conduct is good.

W. L. STRICKLAND,
J. J. PEEL,
JOSEPH WALTERS,
Committee.

Report of Orphanage Committee.

We your committee, recommend that our churches see to it that each member donates something each month for the support of the Orphanage at Middlesex, N. C.

E. T. PORTER,
R. N. GANDY,
ED BRYANT,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Periodicals.

Your committee recommends that our denomination patronize our Publishing House at Ayden, N. C. Also that we use Free Will Baptist literature, and also that each preacher take the Free Will Baptist paper, and that he do all that he can to get his members to subscribe.

W. H. CARMER,
CLARENCE DIXON,
JOHN PATTERSON,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Home Mission Work.

We, your committee on Home Missions, recommend that each church have an Aid Society for the purpose of raising money for charitable purposes as they see need for it.

KATIE SMITH,
HATTIE ADCOX,
E. T. PORTER,

Committee.

Report of Finance Committee.

We, your committee, find in the treasury at the sitting of this conference ----- \$ 7.55
Paid in by different churches ----- 15.50
Pledged by M. L. Baxley for Raynor's Chapel ----- 1.50

Total in treasury ----- \$24.55
Paid clerk out of treasury ----- 5.00
Balance in treasury ----- \$19.55

M. L. BAXLEY, Ch'm.
W. L. STRICKLAND,
J. N. ONEAL,

Committee.

It was moved by Bro. Joseph Walters that we compensate our moderator \$5.00 for his services. The motion was seconded by Elder J. N. Oneal and so ordered by vote.

We raised by public collection \$6.45. The balance of the collection was placed in the treasury, making a total in the treasury of \$21.00.

It was moved that we appoint a conference Aid Society president. It was so ordered, and Sister Hattie Adcox was nominated and elected for the

said purpose. She is to advise better plans for each church to raise money, and assist in organizing societies where they are needed.

The conference then gave way for Bro. W. L. Strickland to make a talk in regard to the State Convention. He made a very favorable report. He stated that they were looking to the Rockfish Conference to do their part in the support of the convention.

Bro. J. J. Peel and Bro. W. L. Strickland were elected by the conference as delegates to the State Convention at its sitting in 1928.

It was moved by Bro. Joseph Walters that we close to meet at Mt. Moriah church, in Richmond County at 11 o'clock. Mt. Moriah is near Hamlet, N. C.

It was voted and ordered by conference to meet Thursday before the second Sunday in October in 1928 at place above mentioned.

Rev. E. T. Porter is to preach the introductory sermon. The moderator asked the conference to give thanks to the people of Raynor's Chapel by a rising vote.

With bowed heads, Bro. J. J. Peel closed by an able prayer of thanks to God for blessing us in the Conference.

H. C. ADCOX, Moderator.

A. J. PEARSON, Clerk.

