

MINUTES
Of The
47TH ANNUAL SESSION
Of The
SANDY VALLEY
ASSOCIATION
Of The Original
Freewill Baptists
Of The
United States of America



HELD WITH
YOSTS CHAPEL CHURCH
CEDAR BLUFF, VA.
AUGUST 21-22, 1970

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**NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD WITH BETHEL CHAPEL
CHURCH, RT. 1, SWORDS CREEK, VA., FRIDAY MORNING
BEFORE THE 4TH SUNDAY IN AUGUST 1971 AT 10.30 A.M.**

PROCEEDINGS:

On Friday morning August 21, 1970, the 47th Annual Session of the Freewill Baptist met with Yosts Chapel Church, Cedar Bluff, Virginia.

The association opened with singing. Scripture was read by Bro. Ralph Bostic, the 9th chapter of St. Luke beginning at the 7th verse. Prayer was offered by Bro. Ralph Bostic.

The introductory sermon was preached by Bro. Ralph Bostic.

Clerk took charge and found sufficient delegates, Ministers, Deacons, etc., to organize the Conference.

FIRST ENROLLED THE DELEGATES

Sister Corrine Lane	Sister Virginia Hess
Sister Grace Colley	Sister Dorothy Hess
Sister Frances Colley	Sister Beulah Hubbard
Sister Belle Bandy	Sister Edith James
Sister Elizabeth Whitt	Sister Dillie James
Sister Ethel Godbey	Sister Mary Reynolds
Sister Faye Whitt	Sister Dollie Reynolds
Brother Jack Lane	Sister Gay Reynolds
Brother Ralph Bostic	Sister Bertha Helton
Sister Jocie Hess	Sister Ethel Owens
	Sister Maudie Owens

ROLL OF DEACONS

Brother Crockett Harman	Brother Roy Helton
Brother Bill Richardson	Brother Frank James
Brother Ed Hankins	Brother Morgan Owens

ROLL OF MINISTERS

Bro. Ralph Bostic	Bro. Burk Hess
Bro. Emory Edwards	Bro. Luther Hubbard
Bro. James Blott	Bro. Elmer Hess
Bro. G.C. Sizemore	Sister Rhoda Dye
Bro. Kelly McCoy	Bro. Earl James
Bro. A.H. Dye	Bro. Perry Reynolds
	Bro. Manuel Colley

VISITING MINISTER

Dr. H.N. Altizer

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Brother A.H. Dye, Brother Fielden Sanders, Brother Crockett Harman, Brother Roy Helton, Prot.

Move was made by Bro. A.H. Dye seconded by Sister Rhoda Dye that we elect Bro. Ralph Bostic for Moderator, motion carried.

Clerk declared conference open and turned charge over to Moderator. Moderator took charge and proceeded to business.

CHURCH REPORTS

Received letter from Tazewell County, move was made by Bro. Roy Helton, seconded by Brother Bill Richardson that we accept the letter as read and pass the order of the churches good. Motion carried.

Cedar Bluff, Virginia
August 1, 1970

GREETINGS:

To the Sandy Valley Association of Freewill Baptist, when convened with the Yosts Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, RFD#1, Cedar Bluff, Virginia;

Friday morning before the 4th Sunday in August at 10:30 A.M. We do send the following delegates to sit with you in your Godly deliberations, whom we pray you to receive.

Sister Muriel Earls
Sister Emma Lou Stallard
Sister Pauline Brown
Sister Belle Bandy
Sister Corrine Lane

Brother Jack Lane
Sister Frances Colley
Sister Ethel Godbey
Sister Elizabeth Whitt
Sister Grace Colley

Our Standing is as follows:

We have six churches with a membership of 291. All churches report good Sunday Schools and about half of them report Prayer Meetings. We have 13 ordained Ministers and 3 licentiates. We also have 11 ministers who were recommended by the church for their Clearance cards.

Bro. Ralph Bostic - Swords Creek, Virginia
Bro. James Blott - RFD# 1, Cedar Bluff, Va.
Bro. Earl Cole - Jewell Valley, Virginia
Bro. George Barrett - 1000 Wilson Rd., Smithfield,
Virginia
Bro. Garnet Vance - Richlands, Virginia
Bro. Oliver Osborne - Richlands, Virginia
Bro. Dallas Barber - Coopers, West Virginia
Bro. James H. Sargent, Jr. - RFD# 1
North Tazewell, Va.
Bro. Kenneth M. Skeens-Bob White, W. Va.
Bro. George C. Sizemore - Abingdon, Va.
Bro. Billie Shook - RFD# 1, Cedar Bluff, Va.
Bro. Ernest Lynn - Bandy, Virginia

CLERKS BELONGING TO OUR CHURCHES

Sis. Mary Ellen Hankins - Rt. 1, Cedar Bluff, Va.
Sis. Ethel Godbey - Rt. 1, Cedar Bluff, Va.
Sis. Cloye Christean - Rt. 1, Cedar Bluff, Va.
Sis. Margaret Vernon - Rt. 1, Cedar Bluff, Va.

Sis. Evelyn Elswick - Richlands, Virginia
Sis. Dessie Reedy - Richlands, Virginia

DEACONS BELONGING TO OUR CHURCHES

Robert Brewster - Bandy, Virginia
W. H. Tabor - Cedar Bluff, Virginia
Roy White - Richlands, Virginia
Sherman Elswick - Richlands, Virginia
Paul Davis - Richlands, Virginia
Bob Hess - Richlands, Virginia
Bill Richardson - Seaboard, Virginia
Arthur Earls - Amonate, Virginia
John Godbey - Cedar Bluff, Virginia
Thomas Vernon - Amonate, Virginia
Carl Brown - Amonate, Virginia
Wiley Rice - Amonate, Virginia
Don Colley - Cedar Bluff, Virginia
Edd Hankins - Cedar Bluff, Virginia
Woodrow Grindstaff - Cedar Bluff, Virginia
Crockett Harman - Cedar Bluff, Virginia
Ward Blevins - Cedar Bluff, Virginia

Valuation of church property	\$78,200.00
Amount in Treasury	663.82
Amount in Benevolence Fund	608.97
Paid Pastors last year	3,164.00
Enclosed	50.00

Our next conference will convene with the Little Star Church, Richlands, Virginia, beginning Friday Evening before the 4th Sunday in October 1970 at 6:30 P. M.

Done by the order of the Tazewell County Conference when convened with the Amonate Freewill Baptist Church July 25, 1970.

James Blott, Moderator
Crockett Harman, Clerk

Received letter from Russell County, move was made by Bro. Bill Richardson, seconded by Brother Jack Lane that we accept the letter as read and pass the order of the churches good, motion carried.

Swords Creek, Virginia
August 21, 1970

GREETINGS:

To the Sandy Valley Association of Freewill Baptist when convened with the Yosts Chapel Church, Friday morning before the 4th Sunday in August, 1970

We the Russell County Conference do send the following delegates to sit with you in your conference.

Sis. Virginia Hess
Sis. Dorothy Hess

Sis. Beulah Hubbard
Sis. Renia Perkins

Our Standing is as follows:

We have 4 churches with a membership of 108 and 8 ordained Ministers.

Bro. A.H. Dye - Swords Creek, Virginia
Bro. Luther Hubbard - Swords Creek, Virginia
Bro. Dewey Dye - Swords Creek, Virginia
Bro. Elmer Hess - Honaker, Virginia
Bro. Burk Hess - Honaker, Virginia
Bro. Perry Taylor - Honaker, Virginia
Sis. Rhoda Dye - Swords Creek, Virginia
Sis. Jettie Dye - Swords Creek, Virginia

We recommend all these ministers for Clearance cards.

We have two licentiate ministers in our conference, Bro. Worley Harris, Swords Creek, Va., and Brother Marion Harris, Honaker, Virginia.

Valuation of church property	\$2,000.00
Paid out for building repairs	197.35
Church Treasury	125.80
Paid Pastors	154.10

We have dismissed one member by letter and received seven members. All our churches report prayer meetings and Sunday School.

CLERKS NAMES AND ADDRESSES

Sister Rhoda Dye	Swords Creek, Va.
Sister Jettie Dye	Swords Creek, Va.
Sister Trevia Taylor	Honaker, Va.
Sister Hazel Fields	Honaker, Va.

Enclosed is \$40.00.

Done by the order of Russell County Conference while in regular session with Bethel Chapel Church, Swords Creek, Va., August 15, 1970.

We pray the Lord will bless you all a good Association.

Bro. Elmer Hess, Moderator
 Bro. Burk Hess, Ass't. Moderator
 Sis. Rhoda Dye, Clerk

Received letter from Buchanan County, move was made by Brother A. H. Dye seconded by Bro. Burk Hess that we accept the letter as read and pass the order of the churches good, motion carried.

Council, Virginia
 August 21, 1970

GREETINGS:

To the Sandy Valley Association of Freewill Baptist, when convened with Yosts Chapel Church,

Cedar Bluff, Virginia, Friday morning before the 4th Sunday in August, 1970.

We the Buchanan County Conference do send the following delegates to sit with you in Conference, whom we pray you to receive.

Sis. Bertha Helton	Sis. Dollie Reynolds
Sis. Mary Reynolds	Sis. Ethel Owens
Sis. Bonnie Music	Sis. Maudie Owens
Sis. Edith James	Sis. Dellia James

Our Standing is as follows:

We have three churches. Some of the churches report good Sunday Schools. Total membership 119. We have five ordained Ministers. We the Buchanan County Conference dropped the Eastern Star Church from our Conference at this time. They failed to report in to the Conference for over a year.

Ministers we recommend for Clearance cards: *

Bro. Earl James - Rt. 2, Honaker, Virginia
Bro. Perry Reynolds - Swords Creek, Virginia
Bro. Arnold Simpkins - Richlands, Virginia
Bro. Lester L. Gilley - Fairfax, Virginia
Bro. Manual Colley - Jewell Valley, Virginia

Valuation of church property \$6,000.00

CLERKS NAMES AND ADDRESSES

Hazel Combs, Venia, Virginia
Venia Chapel Church
Maudie Owens, Council, Virginia
Russell Fork Church
Bertha Helton, Honaker, Virginia
Helton Chapel Church

Our next Conference will convene with Russell Fork Church, Council, Virginia, on Sat. morning at 10:30 A. M. before the first Sunday in November 1970.

Done by the order of the Buchanan County Conference while in regular session with the Helton Chapel Church, August 1, 1970.

Bro. Perry Reynolds, Moderator
Bro. Earl James, Ass't. Moderator
Sis. Rutha Hess, Clerk

Amount enclosed, \$40.00.

Move was made by Bro. A.H. Dye, seconded by Bro. Jack Lane this Conference stands adjourned to meet back at 1:30 P. M. , motion carried.

Friday evening conference met at appointed time, open with singing, Scripture was read by the clerk, the first chapter of James, prayer by Sis. Rhoda Dye. Clerk declared conference open and turned charge over to Moderator. Moderator took charge and proceeded to business. First called roll and noted those present.

Move was made by Bro. Emory Edwards, seconded by Bro. Burk Hess that we cut the Buchanan county fee from \$40.00 to \$30.00, as we just have three churches now, motion carried.

Move was made by Bro. Crockett Harman, second by Emory Edwards that we just have 100 Minutes printed, motion carried.

Report from the executive board: at the close of conference Bro. Earl James to bring the message and tonight Bro. Emory Edwards.

Move was made by Bro. Burk Hess seconded by Bro. Jack Lane that this conference adjourn to meet back at 10:30 A. M. Sat. morning, motion carried. Closed with prayer by Bro. Bill Richardson.

Friday evening service preaching by Brother Earl James.

Friday night service opened with singing, prayer by Bro. Edd Hankins and sermon was preached by Bro. Emory Edwards, text in Genesis, "God's Creation." Closing song was "Gethsemane Prayer" by Brother Junior Sargeant.

Saturday morning conference met at appointed time opened with singing. Clerk read scripture, 1st chapter of St. John, prayer by Brother G. C. Sizemore. Clerk declared conference open and turned charge over to moderator. Moderator took charge and proceeded to business.

Appointed Delegates to go to the State Association.

Bro. Crockett Harman
Bro. G.C. Sizemore

Bro. Emory Edwards
Bro. Bill Richardson

Song by Brother and Sister Perry Reynolds and girls.

Report from the executive board; Sister Rhoda Dye to bring the message at the close of the conference.

Move was made by Brother Roy Helton, seconded by Brother Luther Hubbard that this conference adjourn to meet back at 1 o'clock P. M. , motion carried.

Saturday morning service opened with singing, prayer by Sister Dorothy Hess. Song by Brother and Sister A.H. Dye. Scripture was read by Sis. Rhoda Dye, the 3rd chapter of St. John, preaching by Sis. Rhoda Dye.

Saturday evening conference met at appointed time, open with singing. Clerk read scripture from the 13th chapter of Matthew, prayer by Brother Elmer Hess. Clerk declared conference open and turned charge over to moderator. Moderator took charge and proceeded to business.

Move was made by Brother Burk Hess, seconded by Brother James Blott that we retain the same member on the executive board, Bro. A. H. Dye, motion carried.

Report from the Treasury:

On Hands	\$ 61.25
Received in Conference	<u>130.00</u>
	\$191.25
Paid Clerk Fee	<u>15.00</u>
Balance	\$176.25

Report from the executive staff: Bro. Burk Hess to bring the message at the close of the conference.

Next session will be held at the Bethel Chapel Church, Rt. 1, Swords Creek, Va., Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. before the 4th Sunday in Aug. 1971.

Move was made by Bro. Jack Lane, seconded by Bro. Roy Helton that this conference now stands adjourned to meet at appointed time and place unless called together by the Moderator, motion carried, closed with prayer by Brother Luther Hubbard.

Saturday evening service opened with singing, preaching by Brother Burk Hess.

Bro. Ralph Bostic, Moderator
Bro. A.H. Dye, Ass't. Moderator
Sister Gladys Compton, Clerk

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the 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 knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ".

We will not forsake 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, and 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 principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, con-

stantly 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, and success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the peace and sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is but one living, true and eternal God the Father, of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes. I Cor. 8: Isa. 11:28.

2. We believe there is one Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things, the only begotten son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God sent freely into the world because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day and ascended into heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time, in the clouds of heaven at the last day, to judge both the quick and the dead. I Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; 1st John 2:2.

3. We believe there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God. St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe in the beginning God made man upright and placed him in a state of glory

without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily by transgression fell and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death. Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of the truth that they might be saved, for which end Christ has commended the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature. Mark 26:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15;-17; Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the scripture has said for denying the Lord that bought them, because they believe not in the holy begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause the just and righteous God of heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all argument that all men at one time or another are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved. Acts 7:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1st John 5:1-10.

7. We believe the holy scripture is infallibly true and that it is the rule of faith and practice. Tim. 3:16-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of general provision made of God in Christ for the benefit of all mankind who repent and believe the gospel. Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28: 19-20; Luke 13:3-4; Acts 3: 19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son; and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine teachings, whereas those who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just and charge themselves with their own damnation for will-

fully rejecting offers of sovereign grace. Matt. 11: 27; St. John 6:45-65; Psalms 1:1; Titus 2:11-12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turned the grace of God into lasciviousness, deny the only Lord God who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon them swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such as the apostle saith because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man who doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God. Jude 1:4; Peter 2:1; 2nd Thess. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God in their own persons, are not subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not any of them, dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the kingdom of God." 1st 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36-37; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that good words are fruits of saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace, and not in the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men. Rev. 22:14-15; Isa. 19: 20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6: 16; Luke 13:34-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the holy scripture for justification before God for his own works, power or ability, which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made to come to God through Jesus Christ, believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God. Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20-21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all possible conditions, yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting life out of respect of mere choice further than he hath appointed the godly unto life and the ungodly, who die in sin unto death. Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe as touching gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praises to God, and the public ministry of the Word with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:16; Luke 22:19-29; John 12:5-17; James 5:14.

16. We believe the gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism. Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:19-20; Acts 2:38-39; Romans 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day. John 5:28-29; 2nd Cor. 6:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torment of the wicked is endless. Matt. 25:46.

CONSTITUTION As Amended by this Association

Article 1

This yearly meeting, or association, shall be called the Sandy Valley Association and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well disciplined Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meetings conveniently located as may embody themselves

under this constitution.

Article 2

The conference of this yearly meeting, or association, shall consist of delegates from the several quarterly meetings of which it is composed, every quarterly meeting being entitled to one delegate to every fifty members or fraction thereof.

Article 3

The officers of this yearly meeting or association shall be a standing clerk and treasurer; and a moderator who shall be chosen at every session of the yearly meeting, or association, with such assistants as may be found necessary.

Article 4

Any well organized and well regulated Free-will Baptist Quarterly Meeting composed of such churches as conform to the usages and adopt doctrines of the Freewill Baptist denomination as published in the Treatise of their faith, and in the minutes of the State and National Association and are in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time on application by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

Article 5.

This yearly meeting, or association, shall have the power to discipline the quarterly meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walk, if labor proves unsuccessful; but in no case to reverse their decision nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

Article 6

The session of this yearly meeting or association shall be held on Friday before the 4th Sunday in August, at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings of which this yearly meeting or association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates, and report their

standing, prospects, and statistics; at which time the association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to it by its respective Quarterly Meetings and transact such other business not repugnant to this constitution nor to the practices of the denomination, as in its judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interests of the churches and Quarterly meetings, within the limits of this yearly meeting, or association.

Article 7.

This yearly meeting, or association, shall have power to adopt any regulations or by-laws not inconsistent with this constitution which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

Article 8.

This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the yearly meeting or association at any regular session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing, and recorded at the next previous session.

