

Minutes--

of the

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

Southwest Virginia Association

of

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

—xXx—

Held With The

MEADES CHAPEL CHURCH

HERALD, VIRGINIA

May 15, 1954

—xXx—

The next association will convene with the Indian Creek Church, located eight (8) miles north of Wise, Virginia on Route 23, beginning on Saturday, 9:00 a.m. E.S.T., before the Third Sunday in May, 1954

O F F I C E R S

Rev. W. A. Hales, Norfolk, Va. Moderator
 Rev. L. J. Fields, Norton, Va. Assistant Moderator
 Leslie G. Ketron, Bx 5, Herald, Va. Clerk
 Emmitt J. Kilgore, Rfd 1, Coeburn, Va. Treasurer

Field Worker and Organizer for Youth's Leagues

Rev. Mack Fisher Wise, Va.

Executive Board Exp. of Office

Wilton H. Dail, 309 Graydon Ave., Norfolk 7, Va.1955
 Rev. S. M. McFalls, Clintwood, Va.1956
 Rev. E. R. Davis, Dryden, Va.1957

Wise County Executive Board Exp. of Office

W. C. Robbins, Dorchester, Va.1955
 E. P. Edens, Norton, Va.1956
 J. D. Sturgill, Rfd 2, Wise, Va.1957

Wise County Ordaining Council Exp. of Office

Rev. L. J. Fields, Norton, Va.1955
 Rev. P. H. Miller, Big Stone Gap, Va.1956
 Rev. Shelby H. Jackson, Dorchester, Va.1957

Lee County Executive Board Exp. of Office

Ray Davis, Dryden, Va.1955
 Frank Shoemaker, Pennington Gap, Va.1956
 D. C. Sturgill, Dryden, Va.1957

Lee County Ordaining Council Exp. of Office

Rev. S. B. Culbertson, Woodway, Va.1955
 Rev. Edgar Baltimore, Calvin, Va.1956

Tidewater Executive Board Exp. of Office

Rev. E. H. Overman1955
 4010 Little Creek Rd., Norfolk 3, Va.
 Frank Parrisher, Warwick, Va.1956
 W. H. Dail, 309 Graydon Ave., Norfolk 7, Va.1957

Tidewater Ordaining Council Exp. of Office

Rev. W. A. Hales, Norfolk, Va.1955
 Rev. Eddie H. Corn, Norfolk, Va.1956
 Rev. Billy A. Melvin, Norfolk, Va.1957
 Rev. Ronald Creech, Warwick, Va.1958
 Rev. E. H. Overman, Norfolk, Va.1959

Woman's Auxiliary Field Worker and Organizer

Mrs. Goldia Kiser, Herald, Va.1955

ENROLLMENT

Ministers

H. V. Johnston, W. A. Hales, L. J. Fields, James A. Ramey, V. B. Thacker, C. W. Noles, J. L. Meade, C. C. Arney, E. H. Overman, L. M. Cole, Ray Gardener, George N. Collins, J. B. Maggard, David Powers, W. E. Kerns, Wythe White, Willie E. Adams, J. W. Brannon, Otis Keith, and Mack Fisher.

Deacons

E. J. Kilgore, Jewell Meade, Wilton H. Dail, Joe Shepard, Ray Hubbard, Clyde Kiser, Charlie Reed, Garfield Taylor, and L. G. Ketron.

Delegates

Mrs. L. M. Cole, Mrs. Mazzie Large, Mrs. Quiet Bittner, Mrs. Edna Powers, Mrs. Charlotte Collins, Will Murphy, Mrs. Fannie Robinson, G. V. Spivey, Beatrice White, Mrs. L. J. Fields, Anna Holton, Jackie Culbertson, Melvin Moore, Goldia Kiser, Goldia Arney, Dorothy Meade, and Mrs. Will Murphy.

PROCEEDINGS

9:00

The Eighteenth Annual Session of the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptist met with the Meades Chapel Church, Herald, Virginia, May 15, 1954.

The association was called to order by the moderator, Rev. W. A. Hales. Opening hymn, "The Glory Land Way," by the congregation under the direction of Rev. James A. Ramey. The devotional Scripture, Luke 6, and prayer by Rev. E. H. Overman, pastor Hyde Park Church.

The moderator then welcomed all ministers, deacons, and delegates to sit and participate in all business of the association. A letter of regret from Rev. Paul Harry Miller was read stating his failure to attend the association. Rev. Miller being the assistant moderator, it became necessary to elect someone to this post. By unanimous vote the moderator was given power to appoint an assistant, his choice being Rev. L. J. Fields, who agreed to serve as such. Work resumed as follows: Letters from Wise County Quarterly Conference, from Lee County Quarterly Conference, and Tidewater Quarterly Confer-

ence were read and accepted with their delegates, the same appear elsewhere in minutes. The treasurer's report given by the treasurer, was also accepted as it appears in minutes.

The moderator, Rev. Hales, at this time introduced the family paper (Contact) an official publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, published at Nashville, Tennessee, urging membership to subscribe for same.

Bro. Wilton H. Dail, Virginia State Promotional Secretary and Treasurer, gave a very timely and constructive talk in regard to home missions, followed by a talk on the same subject by Rev. L. J. Fields.

Obituaries of deceased members were read and approved to be printed as they appear elsewhere in minutes.

Reports of ministers were read and approved as they appear in minutes.

Association adjourned until 1:30.

11:00

Opening hymn, "What A Friend We Have in Jesus," under the direction of Rev. James A. Ramey.

Rev. W. A. Hales, the speaker of the hour, read for a lesson II Kings 7:1-3, after which Bro. E. J. Kilgore offered a very able and touching prayer. Rev. Hales used for a subject a part of the third verse of the lesson, "Why stand we here until we die?" from which, through the anointing of God, he delivered a wonderful message which was enjoyed by all present. Benediction prayer by Rev. J. L. Meade.

1:30

Devotional reading, Luke 13:24-35, and prayer by Rev. L. M. Cole. The moderator then called the conference to order and introduced Mrs. I. L. Stanley from the Greenville Children's Home. After a brief talk, Sis. Stanley introduced the children who were present for a program of recitations, songs, and prayer, which was very, very much enjoyed by all.

The moderator again took charge and work resumed as follows.

A free will offering of \$50.78 was received for the Greenville home. By unanimous vote \$25.00 was drawn from the association treasury and given to the home.

Mrs. Jones, Auxiliary worker from the Tidewater Quarterly Conference, gave a report of the woman's work

in that field, with encouragement to the other conferences.

Rev. Hadley Overman gave a very fine talk on Foreign Missions. Also, he suggested a full time executive secretary for Virginia State, recommending Bro. Wilton H. Dail to this post.

By unanimous vote of association, agreed that upon due notice from the quarterly conference clerks of any licensed minister being ordained between sessions by said conferences, the clerk of the association shall issue a card of recommendation for the year of ordination.

Rev. W. A. Hales expressed his desire to leave the association to go to another Free Will Baptist field. By unanimous vote of the association, the clerk was instructed to write a letter of recommendation, and when we are informed he has united with another Free Will Baptist Association, we will consider him regularly dismissed from this Association.

Delegates to the following associations volunteered as follows:

National Association at Spartanburg, S.C., Tuesday after the second Sunday in July, 1954, Bro. E. J. Kilgore.

Virginia State Association, West Bristol, Va., Friday before the third Sunday in June, 1954—Bro's. Wilton Dail, E. J. Kilgore and Rev. J. W. Brannon.

John Thomas Association, September, 1954, Bro's. E. J. Kilgore, Joe Shepard and Sis. Jackie Culbertson.

Unanimously voted to give treasurer authority to write checks in sufficient amount to pay all expense of the association.

Officers elected for the in-coming year as follows:

Moderator: Rev. L. J. FieldsNorton, Va.

Assistant Moderator: Rev. Hadley Overman, Norfolk, Va.

Clerk: Mr. Leslie G. KetronBx 5, Herald, Va.

Treasurer: Mr. E. J. KilgoreRfd 1, Coeburn, Va.

Executive Board. Rev. E. R. Davis'Dryden, Va.

Rev. Mack Fisher of Wise was elected as organizer for the young people's Leagues.

The clerk was instructed to write the pastors of all churches a letter asking for their full cooperation with Rev. Fisher to try to win our youth for Christ, when he visits their church.

The Executive Board ruled the next association would convene with the Indian Creek Church, Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1955. Rev. Mack Fisher elected

to bring the 11:00 o'clock message; Rev. Hadley Overman elected as alternate. -

Rev. Hales expressed his appreciation for the honor bestowed on him by electing him two years in succession to serve as moderator.

The entire association gave a rising vote of thanks to the church for their cooperation and hospitality rendered. After an old time hand shake the association adjourned until Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1955.

Benediction prayer by Bro. G. V. Spivey.

Treasurer's Report: Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptists—May 15, 1954

On hand May 16, 1953	\$461.03
Paid out	
Rev. W. A. Hales, Moderator	\$ 10.00
L. G. Ketron, Clerk	10.00
L. G. Ketron, preparing manuscript	35.00
Virginia State Association	50.00
Wilton H. Dail, for ledger	5.00
Ministers Cards	5.00
Printing Minutes, F.W.B. Gem	88.87
Total expense	203.87
In treasury, May 15, 1954	\$257.16

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. E. J. Kilgore, Treasurer

Tidewater Quarterly Conference:

Norfolk, Virginia
May 12, 1954

To Southwest Virginia Association:

Greetings:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Meade's Chapel Church, Herald, Virginia, May 15, 1954.

We have chosen as delegates Brother Louis M. Cole and Sister Annie Cole. These we pray may sit with you in your Godly work. Our standing is as follows:

Number of churches 5; membership 903; received this year 240; dismissed 150; deceased 5; number baptized 112; number of Sunday Schools 5; youth Leagues

4; number of prayer meetings 5; ordained ministers 7; licentees 1; minute fund enclosed \$90.30.

Done by order of the Tidewater Quarterly Meeting of Free Will Baptist while in regular session April 10, 1954.

Rev. E. H. Overman, Moderator
4010 Little Creek Road
Norfolk, Virginia

K. C. Crawford, Clerk-Treasurer
806 Mayfield Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia

Lee County Quarterly Conference:

Greetings:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptist when convened with the Meades Chapel Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1954.

We have chosen all delegates from our last conference as corresponding messengers, these we pray may sit with you in your Godly work. Our standing is as follows:

Number of churches 10; membership 426; members received 27; members dismissed 10; members deceased 8; number of Sunday Schools 10; membership 781; ordained ministers 7; number youths Leagues 2; membership 81; minute fund enclosed \$40.00.

Done by order of the Free Will Baptist Quarterly Conference of Lee County, Virginia, this the 29th day of April, 1954.

Moderator: Rev. S. B. Culbertson
Woodway, Virginia

Clerk: Rev. E. R. Davis
Dryden, Virginia

Wise County Quarterly Conference:

Greetings:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptist while in regular session with the Meades Chapel Church, Herald, Virginia, May 15, 1954.

We have chosen all delegates from our last conference as corresponding messengers. These we pray may sit with you in your Godly work. Our standing is as follows:

State of religion, good; number of churches 31; membership 1,911; number Sunday Schools 31; membership 2,628; number young peoples Leagues 6; membership

240; deceased members 11; total gain in membership 326; ordained ministers 63; licentees 14; minute fund enclosed \$191.10.

Done by order of the Free Will Baptist Quarterly Conference of Wise County, Virginia, while in regular session with the Martha's Chapel Church, Pound, Virginia, April 10, 1954.

Moderators: Rev. Paul Harry Miller
Rev. W. B. Gallaway

Clerks: Mr. Leslie G. Ketron
Mrs. Jackie Culbertson

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TIDEWATER QUARTERLY MEETING

CHURCH	Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist ..	Church Extension	State Promotional	Orphanage
Fairmount Park <i>a</i>	648	5,000.00	895.00	117.50		139.35
Hyde Park <i>b</i>	105	3,090.00	260.00		5.00	141.70
First Church, Warwick <i>c</i>	57	2,640.00	629.45	27.35	28.75	101.01
First Ch., Little Creek <i>d</i>	54	605.00	70.00	5.00	132.01	88.74
First Church, Richmond <i>e</i>	39	3,240.00	150.00	2.00		28.60

Connect this Table by the Key Letters *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, and *e*.

	State Home Missions	State Superannuation	Christian Education	National Home Missions	Foreign Missions	National Superannuation	College Student Fund ...	Pastor
<i>a</i>	30.50	10.00	137.50	42.78	128.53		1,000.00	W. A. Hales
<i>b</i>			132.61		56.17			Daniel J. Merkh
<i>c</i>	32.38	5.00	278.86	38.38	592.72	12.59		E. H. Overman
<i>d</i>	49.33	13.98	28.00	15.46	50.73			Ronald Creech
								E. H. Overman
								Eddie Corn
<i>e</i>	47.50	3.00	34.18		22.87			Billy Melvin

ANNUAL REPORT OF MINISTERS

	<i>Sermons preached</i>	<i>Churches pastor'd</i>	<i>Revivals held</i> ...	<i>Profes'sns witnes'd</i>	<i>Number baptized.</i>	<i>Additions to ch.</i> .	<i>Churches organiz.</i>	<i>Funerals preach'd</i>	<i>Miles traveled</i> ..	<i>Money received</i> .
Adams, W. E.	45	1	1	3					5,000	\$ 29.49
Arney, C. C.	75	3		4		7		6	525	40.00
Bowman, Willard	48	1		2	4	2			2,000	60.00
Baltimore, Edgar	40	2	3	33	10					
Brannon, J. W.	48		1	9				1	1,100	49.97
Creech, Ronald	180	2	8	225	25	30			20,000	3,920.00
Collins, G. N.	133		2	103	42			2	3,000	300.00
Culbertson, S. B.	29	1		3	2				500	44.05
Denton, C. H.									retired	
Davis, E. R.	35	1				5		2	400	50.77
Gardener, Ray									sick	
Fisher, Mack	120	3	2	22	26	50		14	5,000	1,100.00
Fields, L. J.	35	1						2	800	139.00
Francus, G. T.	113	3	1	18	21	11	1	10	3,775	679.00
Hales, W. A.	161	1	1	59	39	81		11	13,500	5,200.00
Holmes, Theodore	15		1	1	6				500	12.00

Johnson, H. V.	81	1							1	2,100	244.00
Kerns, W. E.	35	1	2	15	3	3			1	604	65.00
Keith, Otis	150	1	3	35	5	10			5	1,000	800.00
Mullins, Hansford	60		4	25						2,000	15.00
Meade, J. L.	74	3		5		6			7	500	55.00
Martin, L. H.	105	2	1	11					1	1,000	537.25
Miller, Earl	80		2		27			1		800	100.00
Miller, P. H.	234	4	5	81	42	31		1	15	10,000	600.00
Maggard, J. B.	122			18	7			2		1,000	25.00
Melvin, B. A.	225	2	8	50	15	25			5	15,000	3,000.00
Overnan, E. H.	93	2		17	13	31			2	9,000	820.00
Parsons, E. R.	35			1					1		
Powers, David	129		3	31					4	2,200	
Richardson, Homer	250		2	20	22				3	1,000	75.00
Robbins, Ethel	15			3					1	2,000	
Ramey, James A.	150	6	3	58	75	84			55	2,000	400.00
Sturgill, J. T.	60	1	1	12	8					4,000	20.00
Salvers, Della	64			12					5	445	65.50
Thacker, V. B.	112	2	3	7	4	6			7	1,650	39.97
Wynn, Curtiss	60		1	70	1					800	150.00
White, Wythe	112		2	68	15	16			13	3,856	359.00
Wilson, Sylvan	40	1			9	15			12		
Edens, E. E.	65	1	1		4				3	500	150.00
Rose, James	48	2	1	3					2	500	280.00

WISE COUNTY ANNUAL CHURCH REPORTS

CHURCH	Membership	Paid Pastor	Home Missions	Orphanage	S.S. Membership	Literature	Pastor
Dunganon ...	154	316.67	40.00	218.33	95	71.09	S. M. McFalls
Beech Grove .	81	75.00	188.00	116.00	125	45.00	P. H. Miller
Beckners Ch.	36	108.00	78.00	16.09	73	15.00	Oscar Powers
Mary's Chap.	175	263.60	75.00	197.07	225	89.72	James Rose
Tacoma	21	39.40	50.58		91	36.00	C. A. Robinette
Ramsey	59	174.98	15.00		45	15.80	James Ramey
Stephen's Ch.	46	7.00	28.75	5.00	30	24.00	Oscar Powers
Gillenwaters .	64	6.00	10.00	10.08	40	24.00	Roy W. Kilgore
Mt. Olive	42	70.00			65	32.00	Oscar Powers
Wilson's Ch. .	55	118.69	58.24	119.33	61	32.00	Oscar Powers
Mt. View	28	48.00	33.00		68	17.00	C. A. Robinette
Indian Creek	109	45.00	173.67	38.75	82	61.30	W. C. Dotson
Davis Chap. .	39	145.70	5.00		71	41.25	Edgar Baltimore
Stallard Mem	17	29.00	10.31	69.83	35	22.00	C. A. Robinette
Meades Chap.	91	22.60	85.00	47.00	60	32.00	Arney & Meade
Oak Grove ...	88	600.00	168.79	375.50	220	209.80	W. B. Galloway
Hopkins Ch. .	73	240.01			50	22.50	James Ramey
West End ...	29	228.27	102.70	40.69	106	24.00	James Ramey
Valley View .	51	78.36	10.00		50	45.00	W. M. Bowman
Lone Pine ...	75	200.00	62.00	35.00	75	62.00	Mack Fisher
Martha's Ch. .	30		40.00	10.00	54	32.00	Carson Dotson
Glamorgan ...	58	552.00	52.87	60.00	98	45.00	L. J. Fields
Dry Fork	49	132.35	17.41	32.25	46	26.00	Wade Powers
South Side .	60	341.87	160.00	59.06	85	54.00	Mack Fisher
Calvary	82	600.00	289.25	57.85	80	54.00	P. H. Miller
Inman	49	171.25	71.23	78.59	107	45.00	P. H. Miller
West Norton .	29	48.11	35.00	20.00	35	18.00	Hob't Addington
Dales Ridge .	35		29.64		45	20.00	H. V. Johnston
Esserville ...	61	162.33	140.22	37.00	162	97.00	Oscar Powers
Addison's Ch.	20	recently organized			91	44.90	John Stofer
Huff Clov'rli'k	25	recently organized			108	21.00	Jonah Shupe

ANNUAL REPORT OF LEE COUNTY CHURCHES

CHURCH	Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Orphanage	Repair	Literature	Pastor
Mt. Hope	43	258.50	87.72	96.87		11.08	Hobart Martin
Rock Lick	53	180.00	11.10	41.42		35.16	Edgar Baltim're
Mt. Carmel	35	109.87		79.52		53.63	S. B. Culb'rton
Palmer Chapel	36	99.74		19.89	277.96	22.87	Hobert Martin
Ocoonita	80	236.88	40.00	36.00	13.81	12.27	Hobert Martin
Willis Chap.	50	96.34	50.36			19.99	Hobert Martin
Gibson Chap.	20	6.00	3.43			6.00	Willard Bowm'n
Sigma	30	90.33	27.64			10.11	C. A. Porter
Minton Memo.	50	145.00	102.23		500.00	16.10	P. H. Miller
Hoover Chapel	28	93.00	29.60	24.99	98.81	33.87	E. E. Edens

IN MEMORY

Dunganon Church: by Mark H. Castle.

Floyd Baldwin—born September 30, 1897, died April 2, 1952.

Rev. Mack Butler—born 1897, died 1954. All who have known Bro. Butler have indeed been fortunate to have had such a good friend. His passing was indeed a shock to all. To give up one of our loved ones brings many sorrows and burdens, but we can be thankful he was permitted to remain with us these many years, and for the great work God has accomplished through him. Brother Butler is survived by his wife, Mrs. Florence Frazier Butler; two daughters, four sons, two sisters, two brothers, six grandchildren, a host of friends and relatives.

Indian Creek Chapel: by Arnold Boggs, son of deceased.

Dora Boggs—born July 6, 1887, died February 1, 1954, leaving nine children, and her husband James W. Boggs. Mr. Boggs followed his wife in death 52 days later, professing a hope that he was ready to meet the Lord in peace, to ever be with Him and the holy angels. We, the children feel father and mother are far better off, and await us in heaven.

Martha's Chapel: by Mrs. Oma S. Williams.

Bro. Gilbert Adams—born November 19, 1889, died September 20, 1953.

Hopkins Chapel: by Mrs. Vestus Jessee.

Bro. Floyd Freeman—died April 11, 1953, leaving his wife and seven children. Bro. Freeman professed a hope in Christ in December, 1952, was baptized, united with the Hopkins Chapel Church and lived faithful until death.

Beech Grove Church: Mrs. Emma Fraley.

Sally Katherine Garrison—born April 6, 1875, died May 10, 1954. Aunt Sally, as everyone knew her, made a profession of faith in Christ at the age of fifteen, and until death she lived a very consecrated Christian life. Seven children and her husband have preceded her in death. She is survived by one child. Aunt Sally will be greatly missed, but her testimony will live on and on.

Mrs. Cornett Farmer—born 1902, died April 8, 1954. Mrs. Farmer is survived by her husband, Frank Farmer, two children and two grandchildren.

P R E F A C E

For well over two hundred years there has been a Baptist people in the United States who preached and practiced "Freedom of the Will." A great many of these Baptist came from Wales and London to the Eastern part of the United States, in the early settling of this country. Among the earliest records available we find the name of Paul Palmer who preached and organized a church in Perquims County, North Carolina in the year of 1727. This church was later lost to the Calvinistic Baptist. Not only this church was lost, but several others in the course of time were lost, but a sufficient number kept the "Faith once delivered to the saints," that a steady increase has prevailed throughout the years.

Those who are called Free Will Baptist, in North Carolina were first called by this name by those who opposed the Doctrine of "Freedom of the Will." The same thing was true in the north with Rev. Benjamin Randall and his followers whose church was organized at New Durham, N.H. in the year of 1780. The name was

later adopted by the believers in "Salvation by Grace through Faith" who preached "Freedom of the Will."

Among these believers it was deemed wise to set forth certain outstanding, fundamental doctrines as believed by the denomination. In several of the states there were booklets published setting forth the "Articles of Faith." Many of the Disciplines set forth had different ways of doing things, while the fundamental doctrine was the same in all. These Disciplines and the "articles of faith" set forth the fact that "these were set forth for convenience" with the solemn declaration that "The Bible is infallible," and in every instance it as plainly set forth that "We believe the hole Scriptures to be the word of God."

In the year 1935 at Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tennessee, a committee was elected for the purpose of formulating, by way of revision, a Treatise out of the various Disciplines and former Treatise, to be used in Free Will Baptist churches. This committee was composed of the following ministers, namely: J. C. Griffin, chairman, and Winford Davis, E. B. Joyner, J. S. Frederick, E. E. Morris, W. B. Davenport, Millard Vanhooose, C. B. Thompson, and Ralph Staten, with two laymen, M. L. Morris and Hubert Post. This Committee worked for several hours and then reported. A motion was carried that the report be accepted. In the year 1947, while the National Association was in session at Highland Park F.W.B. Church in Detroit, Michigan, a resolution was passed in which seven members of the General Board of the National Association and one member from each affiliated State Convention or Association was to meet and revise the Treatise and report at the next session of the National Association. This committee composed of the following ministers, namely: J. L. Welch, chairman; R. B. Crawford, J. C. Griffin, J. F. Miller, K. V. Shutes, F. S. Vanhooose, L. A. Holliday, I. W. Yandall, M. L. Sutton, Ralph Staten, Harry Beatty, H. E. Willis, Floyd Cherry, R. N. Hinnant, Seldon Bullard, C. H. Curry and A. J. Lambert met at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville, Tennessee in April and the revision was made and presented to the National Association in session in Pocahontas Free Will Baptist Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas, July, 1948, and was adopted.

BY-LAWS

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference, and if a quorum is present the moderator, or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them is present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to enroll the delegates to the Association, who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the Clerk shall compose the Association. In case of questionable representation, however, the cases under question shall be referred to the credential committee.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this Association to send a letter to every annual session of this Association, reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body belonging to this Association, which shall fail to report itself for two successive sessions, may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present a ruling of the moderator can be overruled.

6. This Association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission from the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of all the members of the Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meetings without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will

cause discord or division.

13. Any one desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

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.

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 Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

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.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

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.

6. **The Sinfulness of man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His incar-

nation, life, suffering, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

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.

9. Election. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

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.

11. Salvation Free. God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. Perseverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances. Baptism, or the 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 ministered to all true believers.

14. Tithing. God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (I Cor. 16:2).

15. 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.

16. 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 of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 devotions, 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 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; 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 Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the World. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

