

MINUTES
Of The
NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
Of The
Southwest Virginia
Association
Of
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
Held With The
INDIAN CREEK CHURCH
Pound, Virginia
May 14, 1955

The next session will convene with the Mary's
Chapel Church, Coeburn, Va., beginning on
Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1956
at 9:00 A. M., E.S.T.

OFFICERS

Elder E. H. Overman, Norfolk, Va.----- Moderator
 Elder Mack Fisher ----- Assistant Moderator
 Leslie G. Ketron, Box 5, Herald, Va.----- Clerk
 E. J. Kilgore, RFD 1, Coeburn, Va.----- Treasurer

Field Worker And Organizer For Youths' Leagues

Mrs. Leslie Ketron, Box 5, Herald, Va.-----

Executive Board

Exp. of Office

Elder S. M. McFall, Clintwood, Va.----- 1956
 Elder E. R. Davis, Dryden, Va.----- 1957
 Wilton H. Dail, 309 Graydon Ave., Norfolk Va.----- 1958

Wise County Executive Board

Exp. of Office

E. P. Edens, Norton, Va.----- 1956
 J. D. Sturgill, RFD 2, Wise, Va.----- 1957
 Elder H. V. Johnston, Dorchester, Va.----- 1958

Wise County Ordaining Council

Exp. of Office

Elder P. H. Miller, Big Stone Gap, Va.----- 1956
 Elder J. W. Branman, Dryden, Va.----- 1957
 Elder L. J. Fields, Norton, Va.----- 1958

Lee County Executive Board

Exp. of Office

Frank Shoemaker, Pennington Gap, Va.----- 1956
 D. C. Sturgill, Dryden, Va.----- 1957
 E. R. Davis, Dryden, Va.----- 1958

Lee County Ordaining Council

Exp. of Office

Elder Edgar Baltimore, Dryden, Va.----- 1956
 Elder E. E. Edens, Keokee, Va.----- 1957
 Elder L. H. Martin, Jonesville, Va.----- 1958

Tidewater Executive Board

Exp. of Office

Elder E. H. Overman, 4010 Little Creek Rd.
 Norfolk, Va. ----- 1956
 Elder E. H. Corn, 9522 19th St., EOY, Norfolk Va.----- 1956
 K. C. Crawford, 806 Mayfield Ave., Norfolk, Va.----- 1956
 W. H. Dail, 309 Graydon Ave., Norfolk, Va.----- 1957
 L. H. Ewell, 324 Poole St., Norfolk, Va.----- 1958

Tidewater Ordaining Council

Exp. of Office

Elder E. H. Corn, Norfolk, Va.----- 1956
 Elder Billy A. Melvin, Richmond, Va. ----- 1957
 Elder Ronald Creech, Warwick, Va.----- 1958
 Elder E. H. Overman, Norfolk, Va.----- 1959
 Elder Fred A. Rivenbark, Norfolk, Va.----- 1960

Woman's Auxiliary Field Worker and Organizer

Mrs. Goldia Kiser, ----- Herald, Va.

ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS—P. H. Miller, E. H. Overman, H. V. Johnston, Ronald Creech, Gale Scott, F. A. Rivenbark, C. H. Denton, Della Salyers, Robert Dixon, James Ramey, W. B. Galloway, W. E. Adams, Mack Fisher, Wade Powers, George Collins, Melvin E. Moore, S. M. McFall.

DEACONS—S. G. Mullins, L. G. Ketron, Frank Parrisher, Wilton H. Dail, George Meade, Webster River, Baxter Bolling, Joe Shepherd, Floyd Starnes

DELEGATES—Mrs. W. D. Adkins, Mrs. H. V. Johnston, Faye Sands, Ava Arnold, W. H. Byrd, Ronnie Blair, Mrs. Joe Shepherd, Mrs. V. B. Dickenson, Mrs. H. V. Mullins, Mrs. Wade Powers, Clayton Poff, Kermit Moore, Butler Fleming, D. J. Hill, Herbert W. Rains, Charlie Greear, Will Greear, Mary Sue Deel, Mrs. Lynord Burnette, Minnie Belle Ketron

CORRESPONDING MESSENGER

Lloyd Hillman, of John Thomas Association

PROCEEDINGS

The nineteenth Annual Session of the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists met with the Indian Creek Church May 15, 1955. The Association was called to order by clerk reading the devotional service. Hymn, Wonderful Jesus; Scripture reading, Job 12-1-7. A very able prayer was offered by Elder Robert Dixon.

Assistant Moderator, Elder E. H. Overman, took charge due to the absence of Moderator L. J. Fields. He heartily welcomed every member present. The delegates were seated and business was resumed as follows: Corresponding letter from John Thomas Association was read and accepted. The following delegates volunteered to attend the John Thomas Association: Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Kilgore, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Powers.

The following reports were read and accepted as they appear elsewhere in these minutes: Letters from Wise County Quarterly Conference, Lee County Quarterly Conference, Tidewater Quarterly Conference, Ministers' Cards, letter from Ladies' Auxiliary of Wise County, and Treasurer's report.

The Moderator then gave way to Bro. I. L. Stanley of Greenville Freewill Baptist Home for Children. Bro. Stanley gave a report as to our support of the home during the past fiscal year. Our contributions amounted to \$4200.00. At the present time there are 65 children in the home. Ten of

the children were present with Bro. Stanly and gave a short program in recitation and song based upon a scripture reading by Bro. Stanley (John 15-11-14). A very able prayer was offered by E. J. Kilgore.

An offering was received for the home amounting to \$57.29. By regular vote \$50.00 was taken from the treasury making a sum of \$107.29 to go to the home.

Association was adjourned until 1:30.

11:00

Congregational singing under the direction of Bro. I. L. Stanley. Speaker of the hour, Elder Mack Fisher. Scripture reading Acts 1-1-12. Text "Moving With God and Alive In Him". A wonderful message was delivered to each one present, showing us the need of the power of God in our lives today that we might go forward in doing our part to advance the cause of Christ in the world today.

1:30

Congregational singing under direction of Bro. Leslie Ketron. Scripture reading, Romans 1-13 and Romans 2-1-4 and prayer by Elder Ronald Creech. An offering was received for Elder W. E. Kerns amounting to \$31.50. Elder Kerns needs our help and prayers, due to the fact he has lost one of his legs. The Moderator then took charge and business resumed as follows: Elder Mack Fisher, field worker for the Youths' Leagues, gave an oral report. He asked to be replaced in this work. Sister Minnie Belle Ketron was voted for the next year. By regular motion it was voted for the Association to pay for literature needed by the field worker in organizing Youths' Leagues, not to exceed \$50.00.

Sister Jones gave an oral report of the Ladies' Auxiliary work in the Tidewater Quarterly Conference. Sister Della Salyers gave an oral report of the Auxiliary work in the Wise County Quarterly Conference and of their plans to organize a state conference.

A plan to have a promotional worker sent out from the Association was suggested by Bro. Wilton Dail and Elder E H. Overman. This plan calls for 50 members from Lee and Wise counties to pledge \$2.00 a month and Tidewater Quarterly Conference will supply the rest of the members in order to have enough money to put the promotional worker on a salary.

The following delegates volunteered to go to the National Association: Bro. and Sis. E. J. Kilgore, Bro. M. E. Howard, Sister Frde Rivenbark and Sister Ronald Creech.

The following delegates volunteered to go to the State Association: Bro. Jack Hill, Bro. Wilton Dail Bro. and Sis. H. V. Johnston and Sis. Della Salyers.

The treasurer, Bro. E. J. Kilgore, was given authority to write checks sufficient to cover the expenses of the Ass'n.

Officers were elected for next year as they appear in the front of these minutes.

By regular motion, Elder S. M. McFall was selected to bring the 11:00 o'clock message for the next Association. Elder Ronald Creech was selected as alternate.

Bro. Wilton Dail gave his report of Home Mission work. An offering of \$10.00 was received for the Home Mission Fund.

The entire Association gave a rising vote of thanks to the Indian Creek Church for the cooperation and hospitality shown throughout the Association. After an old-time handshake, the Association adjourned until Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1956, when it shall convene with Mary's Chapel of Coeburn, Virginia. Benediction by Elder F. A. Rivenbark.

Treasurer's Report: Southwest Virginia Association Of Free Will Baptists May 14, 1955

On hand May, 1954	\$605.56
Paid Out	
Free Will Baptist Home for Children	\$ 25.00
L. G. Ketron, Clerk	10.00
Postage	5.00
L. G. Ketron, preparing manuscript	35.00
Wilton H. Dail, for State Association	50.00
Printing Minutes	106.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$232.02

In Treasury, May, 1955 372.54

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. KILGORE, Treasurer

Lee County Quarterly Conference,
Greetings:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Indian Creek Church, Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1955.

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 9; membership 416; members receive-

ed 22, members dismissed 13; members deceased 1; number of Sunday Schools 9; membership 817; ordained ministers 7; number of Youth Leagues 2; membership 50

Minute fund, \$40.00.

Done by order of Lee County Free Will Baptist Quarterly Conference, April, 1955.

ELDER L. H. MARTIN, Moderator
Jonesville, Va.

E. R. DAVIS, Clerk
Dryden, Va.

Tidewater Quarterly Conference:

GREETINGS:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with Indian Creek Church, Wise, Va., May 14, 1955.

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 5; membership 1016; received this year 224; dismissed 93; deceased 2; number baptized 94; number of Sunday Schools 5; membership 835; number of Youth Leagues 5; number of prayer meetings 5; ordained ministers 7; 5 active and 2 inactive; licentees 3; minute fund enclosed \$101.60.

Done by order of the Tidewater Quarterly Meeting of Free Will Baptists while in regular session with the First Church of Richmond, Va., April 16, 1955.

REV. E. H. OVERMAN, Moderator
4010 Little Creek Rd.
Norfolk, Va.

K. C. CRAWFORD, Clerk-Treasurer
806 Mayfield Ave.
Norfolk, Va.

To The Southwest Association of Free Will Baptists.

GREETINGS:

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

Number of churches 33; church membership 1781; state of religion, good; licentees 9; league membership 211; loss in membership over last year 103; number Sunday Schools

33; Sunday School membership 2656; ordained ministers 71; Youth Leagues 7; members deceased 17.

Minute fund enclosed, \$176.30.

Done by order of the Wise County Quarterly Conference of F. W. B. while in regular session with the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Dryden, Va., April 9, 1955.

ELD. L. J. FIELDS L.; W

Eld. L. J. Fields,

Leslie G. Ketron

Eld. H. V. Johnston, Moderators Jackie Culbertson, Clerks

REPORT OF LADIES' AUXILIARY OF WISE COUNTY

Number of Auxiliaries reporting	5
Number of members	100
Number of tithers	10
Number of members engaged in personal work	65
Number members taking denominational paper	25

Donations are as follows—

Home Mission	\$285.75
Religious Broadcasts	199.00
Home for children	67.85

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. GOLDIA KISER, Pres., Herald, Va.

MRS. MARY BATES, Sec.-Treas., Wise, Va.

I N M E M O R Y

HYDE PARK CHURCH: By Eld. E. H. Overman,

Husband of deceased

Julia Kelly Overman—Born March 18, 1917, died March 25, 1955, leaving two children and her husband. To give her up brought sorrows and burdens to our family, but we are thankful to God she was ready to meet the Lord in peace, to ever be with Him. Words cannot describe the influence of her life, especially on her husband and children, but thank God for the blessed hope of meeting again where there is no death nor sorrow.

INDIAN CREEK CHURCH: by Mrs. Eula Meade,

daughter of the deceased

Mrs. Hettie Meade Cantrell was born March 17, 1904, died Jan. 21, 1955. She accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized April 17, 1938. She united with the Indian Creek-Free Will Baptist Church Dec. 21, 1947, and lived faithful until death.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Alvin Can-

Cantrell, who died Feb. 2, 1951. He, too, was a member of the Indian Creek Church. Surviving are seven children and a number of grandchildren.

INDIAN CREEK CHURCH: by Mrs. Bertie Freeman, Clerk

Benjamin Powell, fine colored brother of our church since April 17, 1949. He passed away Jan. 19, 1955, at the age of 89. Uncle Ben always filled his seat in the church until about a year ago, when he became ill. He often told us of the beautiful home he was going to, where we never grow old.

ALMIRA, VA., LONE PINE CHURCH: William Frank Gentry passed away May 19, 1954, at the age of 67. He was a fine man to know and did what he could to help fight the fight of faith.

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 Baptists 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 Perquimns 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 were 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 1780. The name was later adopted by 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 is plainly set forth that "We believe the whole Scriptures to be the word of God."

In the year 1935 at Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn., a committee was elected for the purpose of formulating, by way of revision, a Treatise out of the various Disciplines, to be used in Free Will Baptist churches. This committee was composed of the following ministers: 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, Tenn., 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.

ANNUAL CHURCH REPORTS OF THE TIDEWATER QUARTERLY MEETING

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1.	648	\$5050.00	262.36			515.00	233.28	35.75	113.65	128.71	175.97	28.60*
2.	161	3920.00				20.00		15.60		65.02	117.46	
3.	97	3002.50	644.73	5.00	60.00	117.15	67.12	20.00	404.30	87.46	1249.65	33.82
4.	48	3183.74	20.00			11.22			11.95	57.19	614.88	
5.	62	2160.00	161.07		10.25	38.62	32.00	11.81		36.51	135.29	

*—Fourth Quarter contributed \$774.35 to National and State Work.
 Third Quarter contributed \$4824.35 to National Cooperative Plan.

KEY TO REPORT

CHURCH

- Line 1.—Fairmont Park
- Line 2.—Hyde Park
- Line 3.—First Church, Warwick
- Line 4.—First Church, Richmond
- Line 5.—First Church, Little Creek
- A. Membership
- B. Paid Pastor
- C. Paid Evangelist

- D. Church Extension
- E. State Promotional
- F. Orphanage
- G. State Home Missions
- H. State Superannuation
- I. Christian Education
- J. National Home Missions
- K. Foreign Missions
- L. National Superannuation

WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE CHURCH REPORT

CHURCH	Memb.	Paid Pastor	Home Mission	Orph.	S. S. Lit.	S. S. Memb.	Pastor Incoming
Dungannon	149	\$245.24	\$ 70.00	\$541.32	\$ 69.70	85	Ralph Flannery
Beech Grove	30	270.00	130.00	65.00	49.25	125	P. H. Miller
Beckners Chapel	47	170.00		14.50	32.40	125	Oscar Powers
Mary's Chapel	127	180.00	46.21	127.29	98.60	205	L. J. Fields
Tacoma	28	52.12			39.50	90	Ray Robinette
Ramsey	66	121.00	16.82	30.00	36.71	65	James Ramey
Stevens	42	22.00	46.20	10.00	8.60	35	Oscar Powers
Gillenwater	50			3.00	16.00	30	R. W. Kilgore
Mt. Olive	18	20.50	6.00		16.75	50	H. V. Johnston
Wilsons	54	127.98	10.00	71.95	29.95	60	Oscar Powers
Mt. View	20	34.40			13.18	81	Jack Richmond
Indian Creek	119	67.00	230.74	51.43	52.02	81	Carson Dotson
Davis Chapel	46	193.00	30.00		28.93	75	Edgar Baltimore
Stallard Memorial	18	40.00	9.23	8.63	22.70	40	
Meades Chap.	90		42.00	45.00	48.78	55	W. R. Powers
Oak Grove	93	600.00	62.78	369.00	251.38	200	W. B. Galloway
Hopkins Chapel	61	148.15	102.00		12.63	44	James Ramey
West End	47	224.00	103.00	56.60	22.95	106	James Ramey
Valley View	51	107.53			33.31	35	W. M. Bowman
Lone Pine	85	195.00	58.86	40.00	40.00	75	Mack Fisher
Martha's Chapel	21				17.10	45	James Ramey
Glamorgan	67	544.00	31.00	60.00	32.00	150	L. J. Fields
Dry Fork	45	114.00	24.00		22.78	34	James Rose

Central	45	420.00	188.00	80.00	46.04	80	Mack Fisher
Calvary	81	450.00	188.00	80.86	46.00	80	P. H. Miller
Inman	38	66.65		92.92	51.99	104	Ramey-Baltimore
West Norton	28	92.06		10.00	23.32	35	Hobert Adington
Dales Ridge	35	2.50		17.00	17.00	30	H. V. Johnston
Esserville	70	100.90	29.96	44.80	74.80	160	Oscar Powers
Addison Chap.	29	12.50		49.40	49.00	85	Johnny Stofor
Huff Clover	31	11.25			41.75	75	Jonas Shupe
Durham Chap.	32				13.50	80	Gale Scott
Flat Woods	18	36.57			10.00	75	Ben Powers

ANNUAL REPORT OF LEE COUNTY CHURCHES

CHURCH	Member- ship	Paid Pastor	Paid Evang.	Orph.	Repairs	Lit.	Pastor
Mt. Hope	45	\$236.00	\$121.00	\$54.29	\$	\$ 5.54	L. H. Martin
Rock Lick	55	180.00	81.05	55.59		60.32	Edgar Baltimore
Mt. Carmel	37	378.52	00.00	81.43	2055.00	59.29	S. B. Culbertson
Palmer Chapel	38	42.50	00.00	33.12		17.56	L. H. Martin
Oconita	80	302.15	80.00	47.00	122.15	7.36	L. H. Martin
Willis Chapel	50	48.04	00.00	0	.0	0	L. H. Martin
Sigma	24	24.76	00.00	0	0	10.03	Curtiss Porter
Minton Memorial	59	226.70	167.34	0	100.00	20.00	Edgar Baltimore
Hoovers Chapel	28	15.00	6.21	10.00	0	12.87	E. E. Edens

ANNUAL MINISTERS' REPORT

	Sermons Preach'd	Churches Pastored	Reverals Held	Profess'ns Witness'd	Number Baptised	Additions to Church	Churches Organiz'd	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Rec'd
Adams, W. E.	53	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	4000	\$ 34.00
Addington, Hobert	50	1	2	3	1	1	0	1		
Baltimore, Edgar	200	3	10	50	10	5	0	8	6000	400.00
Bolling, Monroe	No Record	Kept			0	0	0	1		00
Bowman, W. M.	42	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	2400	70.00
Collins George	65	0	2	25	28	0	0	2	2500	225.00
Corn, Edward H.	104	1	0	12	12	28	0	0	11000	2340.00
Culbertson, S. B.	125	1	3	1	0	2	0	1	500	521.11
Creech, Ronald	189	1	9	83	27	40	0	0	20000	4313.00
Denton, C. H.	No R'cd								No Rec'd	
Dixon, Robert	55	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	500	55.00
Edens, E. E.	86	3	3	10	6	6	0	7	3582	168.70
Francis, G. T.	50	1	0	2	6	4	0	6	200	400.00
Galloway, W. B.	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	50	30.00
Gardener, Ray	61	1	0	2	0	8	0	2	1200	37.00
Johnston, H. V.	75	1	2	0	0	2	0	6	No record	
Kilgore, Roy A.	125	1	4	37	0	12	0	2	2700	75.00
Maggard, J. B.										

B Y - L A W S

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 everybody 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 other wise with other religious bodies.

7. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee on 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 members of the Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and anyone 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. Anyone 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 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 and faith of 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 in-

carnation, 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. **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 him 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 or 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.

