

MINUTES
Of The
TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL
SESSION
Of The
Southwest Virginia
Association
Of
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

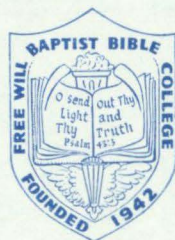


Held With The
OAK GROVE CHURCH

Big Stone Gap, Va.

May 18, 1957

The next session will convene with the First
Freewill Baptist Church at Portsmouth, Virginia,
on Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1958
at 9:00 A. M., E.S.T.



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. E. M. French

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 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, admonish the erring, and so 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 purpose 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.

O F F I C E R S

Elder P. H. Miller, Big Stone Gap, Va.	Moderator
Elder Eugene Waddell, Portsmouth, Va.	Asst. Moderator
Leslie G. Ketron, Herald, Va.	Clerk
E. J. Kilgore, R.F.D. 1, Coeburn, Va.	Treasurer

Field Workers For Youth's League

Elder Bobbie Stanley, Wise Va.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Exp. of office

Wilton, H. Dail, 3212 Breast Ave., Norfolk, Va.	1958
Elder David Powers, Norton, Va.	1959
Elder W. B. Galloway, Big Stone Gap, Va.	1960

COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF MINISTERS

Elder H. V. Johnson, Norton, Va., Rt. 1.	1958
Elder Willard Bowman, Derby, Va.	1959
Elder Eugene Waddell, Portsmouth, Va.	1960

WISE COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Elder H. V. Johnson, Rt. 1, Norton, Va.	1958
Elder S. M. McFall, Clintwood, Va.	1959
J. D. Sturgill, Rt. 2, Wise, Va.	1960

WISE COUNTY ORDAINING COUNCIL

Elder L. J. Fields, Norton, Va.	1958
Elder P. H. Miller, Big Stone Gap, Va.	1959
Elder Hobert Addington, Esserville, Va.	1960

LEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Clarence Ramey, Jonesville, Va.	1958
Frank Shoemaker, Pennington, Gap, Va.	1959
D. S. Sturgill, Dryden, Va.	1960

LEE COUNTY ORDAINING COUNCIL

Elder L. H. Martin, Jonesville, Va.	1958
Elder Edgar Baltimore, Dryden, Va.	1959
Elder E. E. Edens, Keokee, Va.	1960

TIDEWATER EXECUTIVE BOARD

Elder Billy A. Melvin, 5210 Monument Ave. Richmond, Va.	1958
Elder Ivey J. Carter, 8702, Tidewater Dr., Norfolk Va.	1958
Elder C. W. Roughton, Rt. 2, Box 155, Norfolk, Va.	1958
Elder L. W. Ewell, 808 Westover, St., Norfolk, Va.	1958
W. H. Dail, 3212 Breast Ave, Norfolk, Va.	1959

TIDEWATER ORDAINING COUNCIL

Elder J. B. Chism, 618 N. Hudson Terrace, Warwick, Va. -----	1958
Elder E. H. Overman, 1826 Broadfield Rd., Norfolk Va	1959
Elder Fred A. Rivenbark, 3301 Verdun Ave., Richmond, Va. -----	1960
Elder Billy A. Melvin, 5210 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. -----	1961
Elder Eugene Waddell, 1523 Des Moines Ave., Portsmouth, Va. -----	1962

E N R O L L M E N T

DELEGATES—Proctor Kennedy, Mrs. E. J. Kilgore, Mat-
tie Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Heath, Myrtle Davis,
Melvin Boyd.

DEACONS—E. J. Kilgore, Lesile Ketron, W. H. Dail,
Clyde Kiser

MINISTERS—Ben Powers, P. H. Miller, F. A. Rivenbark,
E. H. Overman, Billie Melvin, Della Salyers, Ethel
Robbins, W. B. Galloway, V. B. Thacker, W. H. Fen-
tess, S. M. McFall, H. V. Johnson, Ralph Flannery,
Hobert Addingt, Ray Gardner, T. R. Music, I. J. Car-
ter, Eugene Waddell

P R O C E E D I N G S

The twenty-first annual session of the Southwest Virgin-
ia Associaton of Freewill Baptists met with Oak Grove
Church of Big Stone Gap, Va., May 18, 1957. The Associa-
tion was called to order with a short devotional. Congrega-
tional singing, under the direction of Bro. Callahan, pray-
er by Eld. Ben Powers and scripture reading by Bro. Leslie
Ketron. The moderator took charge and business resumed
as follows:

Enrollment and seating of all delegates.

Letters from Lee County, Wise County and Tidewater
were read and accepted by regular motion as they appear in
these minutes. The following delegates volunteered to go to
John Thomas Association (when it convenes Saturday be-
fore the second Sunday in September with Pine Chapel
Church, Jenkins, Ky.: Ben Powers, E. J. Kilgore, David
Powers, S. M. McFall.

The League field worker gave an oral report which was
accepted by regular motion and a rising vote of thanks for

the work that had been accomplished in the Youth Leagues. Elder Billie Melvin made a wonderful report on the Youth Camp at Norfolk, Va. The recommendation that each Quarterly meeting endeavor to send some of their young people to the camp was accepted by the Association. Sister Jones of Norfolk read a wonderful report of the ladies' work in the Tidewater Conference. The report was accepted by regular motion as it appears in these minutes. Sister Jones also made a fine report of the ladies' work done in the state. An oral report was made by sister Goldia Kiser of the ladies' work in Wise County.

Benediction

Conference adjourned by regular motion until 1 O'clock.

11:00

Singing, under the direction of Bro. Callahan

Prayer by Elder W. B. Galloway.

Messenger—Elder F. A. Rivenbark

Scripture—6th chapter of Ephes. 10-18

Text—"The Christian Uniform" from which Eld. Rivenbark brought a very inspiring message.

Fellowship service was enjoyed by all. Elder Ben Powers sang a wonderful song, which was a blessing to the entire congregation.

Benediction, Elder E. H. Overman

1:00

Singing under the direction of Bro. Bill Thompson

Scripture by Elder E. H. Overman, 2d chapter first Timothy 1-4.

Prayer by Elder Eugene Waddell

The moderator took charge and business resumed as follows:

In the absence of two members of the Executive Board, Bro. Wilton Dail was given authority to select two ministers to serve with him on the executive committee. Elders S. M. McFall and W. B. Galloway were elected to fill the vacancies. By regular motion, the following reports were accepted by the Association:

Treasurer's report by Bro. E. J. Kilgore; ministers' reports; report by Bro. W. H. Dail on Home Missions.

The treasurer was given authority to write checks to cover the expenses of the Association. By regular motion the League field worker, Mrs. Leslie Ketron, was paid \$50.00 for services rendered. A report was given by Bro. E. J.

Kilgore of the work being done at the childrens' home. A freewill offering was received for the home of \$37.85. The Association voted to donate enough from the treasury to make the offering \$100.00. The failure of ministers to report was brought before the Association. After much discussion, the clerk was instructed to report only the ministers reporting to the Association. Without the ministers' reports it is impossible for the clerk to have a true report to send to the State Association. With this thought in mind, a new by-law concerning ministers reporting was discussed by the Association. The thoughts of the Association on this matter were finally put into words by Elder Billie Melvin and read to the Association. By regular motion these words became By-Law No. 18, as it appears in these minutes. The Association also voted to give the Executive Committee permission to select a Ministerial Committee to deal with the character and conduct of ministers. Should the need arise, any minister in the three quarterly conferences making up this Yearly Association can appeal to this committee. Officers of the association were elected as they appear in the front of these minutes.

The following reports were brought in by the Executive Board and passed by the Association: The next session would meet with the First Freewill Baptist Church Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1958. Elder W. B. Galloway will bring the morning message. Elder Ralph Flanary, alternate.

Elder W. B. Galloway was selected to replace the outgoing member of the Executive Board, E. R. Davis.

Elder H. V. Johnston, Elder Willard Bowman, Elder Eugene Waddell were selected to serve on the committee dealing with problems of ministers.

A rising vote of thanks was given to the outgoing moderator, Eld. E. H. Overman. Truly he has been a great leader and it has been a privilege of each member of the Association to have such a godfearing moderator lead us in our godly work.

A rising vote of thanks was given Oak Grove Church for the fine fellowship shown throughout the association.

By regular motion, the Association was adjourned until Saturday before the third Sunday in May, when it shall meet with the First Freewill Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va. Benediction.

Treasurer's Report Of Southwest Virginia Association Of Freewill Baptists

On hand May, 1956 -----		\$405.19
Received of Wise County Quarterly Meeting -----		
Meeting -----	\$185.00	
Received Lee County Quarterly Meeting -	\$40.00	
Received of Tidewater Quarterly meeting	123.70	753.89

DISBURSEMENTS

Leslie Ketron -----	\$100.00	
Eld. E. H. Overman, Moderator-----	10.00	
F.W.B. Home for Children-----	50.00	
Leslie Ketron, for Clerk and Manuscript----	45.00	
Postage -----	8.50	
Wilton H. Dail, State Minutes-----	50.00	
Mrs. Leslie Ketron, League Work-----	30.00	
Printing Minutes -----	105.00	
Ministers' Cards -----	6.50	405.00

Balance In Treasury ----- \$349.89

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. KILGORE, Treasurer

LEE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

GREETINGS: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptist, when convened with Oak Grove Church, Big Stone Gap, Va., Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in May, 1957.

We have chosen all delegates from our last conference as messengers. These we pray, may sit with you in your godly work.

Our standing is as follows:

number of churches-----	8	Membership-----	399
Members rec. -----	25		
Dis. -----	7		
Number Sunday Schools--	8	Membership-----	515
Number Youth Leagues	1	Membership -----	20
Ordained Ministers -----	4		

Done by order of Lee County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptists, April 6, 1957.

Minute Fund enclosed \$39.90.

Moderator, S. B. CULBERTSON

Woodway, Va.

Clerk, Mrs. Howard Sally

Woodway, Va.

WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

GREETINGS: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with Oak Grove Freewill Baptist Church, Big Stone Gap, Va., May 18, 1957.

We have chosen all our delegates from our last quarterly conference as messengers, whom we pray may sit with you in your godly work. Our standing is as follow:

Number of Churches----- 33	Membership----- 1757
Members Received ---- 123	Members dismissed--- 50
Died ----- 16	
Number Sunday Schools 33	Membership ----- 2900
Number of Youth Leagues 7	
Number of Auxiliaries ---7	
Number Ordained Ministers ----- 69	Licensed Ministers----- 5

Minute Fund enclosed \$175.00

Done by order of Wise County Quarterly Conference while in regular session with Beech Grove Church, Big Stone Gap, Va., April, 1957.

Moderators, L. J. Fields and Hobert Addington
Clerk, Leslie Ketron

Tidewater Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptist Churches

To The Southwest Virginia Association Of Freewill Baptists, Greetings:

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 ---- 6	Membership----- 1543
Received this year----- 292	
Number Sunday Schools 6	Membership----- 1010
Number Youth Leagues 6	
Number Prayer Meetings 6	
Ordained Ministers ----- 9	Licentees ----- 5

Minute fund enclosed, \$154.30

Done by order of Tidewater Quarterly Meeting of Freewill Baptists while in regular session with the First Church, Little Creek, Va.

Elder Billy Melvin, Moderator
Richmond, Va.

C. W. Roughton, Clerk-Treas.
Norfolk, Va.

TREASURER'S REPORT OF TIDEWATER DIST. WOMAN'S AUXILIARY AS OF MAY 1, 1957

Balance brought forward ----- \$ 54.02

RECEIPTS

Fairmount Park Church -----	\$73.48
Warwick City Church -----	40.80
Hyde Park Church -----	20.70
Little Creek -----	11.80
Richmond Church -----	34.90
Portsmouth Church -----	18.60
Love offerings (Oct. and April)-----	43.80

\$244.08	244.08
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LESS DISBURSEMENTS

Tent—Project for year -----	\$40.00
Field Worker -----	27.00
Octavia Jones Loan Fund -----	42.98
Foreign Missions -----	22.30
Greenville Home for Children-----	21.50
Per capita dues (155 members)-----	31.00
Award to Outstanding Auxiliary Lady to go to State Convention -----	25.00
Prizes to winners of YPA, GTA contests---	4.50

\$214.28

Balance on hand -----	\$83.82
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The Auxiliary voted also to send the winning contestants to the state convention in June. This will be taken from our treasury when bills are presented.

Gertrude Whitehurst, Treasurer

Balance in Octavia Jones Loan Fund as of this date \$162.21.

ANNUAL MINISTER REPORTS

Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Reverals Held	Profess'n's Witness'd	Number Baptised	Additions to Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received	
TIDEWATER MINISTERS										
Carter, Ivey J.-----	149	1	0	67	30	32	0	0	8,000	\$3,285.00
Chism, J. B. Jr.-----	95	1	0	38	5	20	0	0	15,000	3,120.00
Denton, C. H.-----	Active in his home church, but not as a pastor due to health									
Fentess, W. H.-----	42	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1,000	
Melvin, Billy A.-----	150	1	4	30	10	25	0	1	10,000	3,900.00
Overman, E. H.-----	166	1	2	79	0	103	0	1	30,000	4,275.00
Rivenbark, F. A.-----	134	1	4	110	77	127	0	10	26,000	5,200.00
Waddell, Eugene -----	152	1	5	65	25	35	0	5	22,000	3,105.00
LEE COUNTY MINISTERS:										
Baltimore, Edgar -----	170	3	0	2	2	2	0	8	1,000	250.00
Culbertson, S. B. -----	200	2	2	25	10	18	0	5	2,000	716.61
Edens, E. E.-----	25	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	100	10.00
Martin, L. H.-----	112	3	1	14	3	5	0	1	800	459.28
WISE COUNTY MINISTERS										
Adams, W. E. -----	34	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	800	36.00
Addington, Hobert --	50	1	1	2	0	1	0	3	300	225.00

Addison, B. -----	71	1	0	7	7	4	0	2	0	0
Ball, S. R. -----	45				0	0	0	0	100	19.39
Brannon, J. W. -----	60	0	0	17	19	0	0	16	3,600	72.50
Bowman, W. M. -----	42	1	1	42	35	29	0	1	0	0
Flannery, Ralph -----	150	2	4	25	10	5	0	5	5,000	100.00
Galloway, W. B. -----	30	1	0	0	0	2	0	6	1,500	Turned back to church
Active in home church but not as pastor due to health. Preached 5 funerals.										
Gardner, Ray -----		2	0	0	0	2	0	0	3,441	67.00
Johnston, H. V. -----	54									
Miller, P. H. -----	150	2	4	56	28	10	0	25	10,000	600.00
Mullins, Hansford -----	95	1	2	34	18	0	0	2	22,000	45.25
Meade, J. L. -----	67	4	1	35	30	31	0	3	2,000	50.00
Powers, W. H. -----	200	1	7	83	52	20	0	40	1,000	75.00
Powers, David D. -----	139	0	4	50	40	0	0	8	0	12.00
Powers, B. R. -----	108	2	6	71	54	19	0	43	0	225.00
Robbins, Ethel -----	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	500	0
Rose, James -----	52	2	1	0	14	10	0	1	0	135.00
Salyer, Della -----	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	470	25.00
Thacker, V. B. -----	87	0	2	14	0	0	0	12	450	0
Wynn, Curtiss -----	50	0	2	45	10	0	0	0	0	0
White, Wythe -----	88	1	0	12	7	12	0	11	3,885	466.00
Francis, G. T. -----	83	2	0	15	2	12	0	2	0	72.60

ANNUAL REPORT OF WISE COUNTY FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

[illegible]

Marthas Chapel	24	125.00	125.00	85.00	00	25.00	Jim Ramey
Glamorgan	63	389.00		00	00	90.00	L. J. Fields
Dry Fork	42	102.86	77.00	60.00	00	23.89	James Rose
Central	55	120.00	28.36	156.45	00	62.21	Bill Harris
Calvary	30	560.00	80.00		8.00	26.99	P. H. Miller
Inman	37	122.72	44.72	77.64	172.42	57.18	Jim Ramey
West Norton	32	73.90		10.00		25.05	L. J. Fields
Bondtown	30			22.00		40.00	H. V. Johnson
Esserville	74	84.04	140.58	96.07	156.06	123.74	Oscar Powers
Addison Chap.	33					37.39	Jim Ramey
Huff Cloverlick	42		100.00			28.03	Emitt Begley
Durham Chapel	29	73.25	56.59			66.89	Walter Glover
Flatwoods	20			63.21		27.81	Sam Shuss

The following churches contributed to superannuation:

Dungannon, \$8.00	Wilson Chapel \$21.60	Beech Grove \$5.00	Esserville \$8.00
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ANNUAL REPORT OF LEE COUNTY FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

CHURCH	Member- ship	Paid Pastor	Orphanage	Evangelistic	Literature	PASTOR
Mt. Hope	44	\$240.00	\$72.74	\$126.88	\$.00	L. H. Martin
Rock Lick	54	165.00	56.26	26.85	71.16	Edgar Baltimore
Mt. Carmel	56	458.04	74.75	118.85	86.00	S. B. Culbertson
Palmer Chapel	24	51.55	23.28	75.00	17.31	L. H. Martin
Oconita	80	258.57	79.00		13.70	S. B. Culbertson
Willis Chapel	50	86.20			5.73	L. H. Martin
Minton Memorial	63	280.00	25.00	158.41	23.66	Edgar Baltimore
Hoover Chapel	28	7.28	10.00	11.29	19.76	E. E. Edens

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TIDEWATER QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

CHURCH	Members Received	Members- ship	Receipts	Pd. Out	Promotional Work	Home Mission	Orphanage	Co-op Program	Super- annuation
Fairmont Park									
Norfolk, Va. --	76	817	\$39,499.02	\$35,339.60	\$403.03	\$597.77	\$353.50	\$4,422.13	152.49
Hyde Park									
Norfolk -----	79	194	16,045.60	16,017.98	69.44	214.11	168.23	1,323.93	
First F.W.B.									
Richmond -----	24	70	16,303.69	13,582.82				1,467.37	
First F.W.B.									
Warwick -----	40	133	14,873.58	13,827.28	60.00	57.69	236.74	1,457.76	15.00
First F.W.B.									
Little Creek --	23	84	5,200.00	4,973.61	10.00	65.00	115.49	156.66	
First F.W.B.									
Portsmouth ---	50	245	8,920.49	9,124.09				626.32	
Princes Anne									
Mission -----		30	979.85	195.48					

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, North Carolina, in the year 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 the convenience" with the solemn declaration that "the Bible is infallible" and in every instance it was 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 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, Mich., a resolution was passed in which several 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.

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 case 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 may 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 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 meeting 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 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.

18. It shall be the duty of every minister who holds membership in this Association to report in writing to every annual meeting of the association. If any minister fails to report to the association for two successive sessions, he may be dismissed from the association by two-thirds of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the 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 incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection affected 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 ones 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 o f 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 endorsed 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 amusement 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 in eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

