

MINUTES

Thirty-Third Annual Session
Of The

Southwest Virginia Association

—Of—

Freewill Baptist Churches

And

Southwest Virginia Ministers' Conference

Held With The

**CENTRAL FREEWILL BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Norton, Virginia

May 17

1969

The next session will convene with the
Marthas Chapel Church, of Pound, Va., on
Saturday before the third Sunday in May,
1970, at 9:00 A. M.

O F F I C E R S

J. D. Kilgore, Moderator ----- Pound, Va.
 G. T. Francis, Asst. Moderator ----- Pound, Va.
 Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Ketron, Clerks --Rt. 4, Coeburn, Va.
 Elmer Miner, Treasurer ----- Rfd No. 4, Coeburn, Va.

Executive Board

	Exp. of Office
A. C. Easterling, Wise, Va. -----	1970
Ray Goode, Wise, Va. -----	1971
L. T. Stallard, Pound, Va. -----	1972

Wise County Executive Board

Dayton Sluss, Dungannon, Va. -----	1970
Homer Bays, Rfd. No. 1, Coeburn, Va.-----	1971
Elmer Miner, Rfd. 1, Coeburn, Va.-----	1972
Hardin Brewer, Coeburn, Va. -----	1973
Roy Kennedy, St.Paul Rt. 1-----	1974

Wise County Ordaining Council

Shelby Jackson, Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va. -----	1970
C. L. Kilgore, Coeburn, Va. -----	1971
Eddie Sturgill, Jenkins, Ky. -----	1972
Hobert Addington, Wise, Va. -----	1973
Ralph Flannery, Dungannon, Va. -----	1974

League Field Worker

Paul Samms, Rt. 1, Wise, Va. -----	1970
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ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS

Edgar Baltimore	Hobert Addington	Ray Goode
C. B. Lane	I. T. Stallard	J. D. Kilgore
G. T. Francis	Elmer Miner	C. L. Kilgore
Paul Leonard	Jeff Salyer	Della Salyer
Thurman Mullins	Tyler Tate	Shelby Jackson
C. B. Addington	J. Harold Kilgore	Denver Dean
	William Kilgore	

DEACONS

A. C. Easterling	E. J. Kilgore	W. H. Dail
Oscar Sheppard	Homer Bays	Bill Thompson
C. W. Arney	L. L. Arney	R. B. Collier
Paul Samms	Danny Sturgill	E. P. Edens

DELEGATES

Gladys Flannery
Lakie Osborne
Fay Samms
Wilma Nell Sturgill

Roy Roberts
H. M. Osborne
Mrs. R. B. Collier

Christine Thompson
Edd Carter
Charlotte Ring
June Jackson

PROCEEDINGS

Nine O'clock

The association opened with a short devotional, singing by the congregation under the direction of Bro. Bill Thompson, with Sis. Wilma Sturgill at the piano. Title, "I Feel Like Traveling On". Scripture reading 1st Thes. 5, 1-11 by clerk. Prayer was offered by Rev. I. T. Stallard, Song, "When We All Get To Heaven".

The clerk at this time introduced the moderator, Rev. C. L. Kilgore, who declared the association open for business, which proceeded as follows:

The enrollment and seating of delegates, deacons and ministers as they appear in the enrollment.

The reports from sister association were called for. Bro. W. H. Dail being present from the Tidewater Association, gave an oral report of the work there, which was very much enjoyed by all and unanimously accepted by the association.

The Rev. G. T. Francis volunteered to go to the Tidewater Association.

At this time messengers were chosen to the following associations: The Rev. Jeff Salyer to the John Wheeler Association; Bro. Oscar Sheppard to the John Thomas Association; the Rev. Elmer Miner to the Clinch Valley Association.

Officers were elected, or retained as they appear on officer's page of these minutes.

The recommendation carried from last year that ministers pastor only one church, was again brought to the floor, and after lengthy discussion by several persons, was unanimously approved by the association.

Bro. Wilton Dail, executive secretary and treasurer of the Virginia State Home Mission Board, gave a report of this work, also of the Virginia paper, unanimously accepted by the association.

The ministers' reports were read and approved as they appear on ministers' reporting.

11 O'CLOCK

The worship service was opened with hymn, Amazing Grace. Prayer offered by Rev. Edgar Baltimore. Special numbers were rendered in song by the Christian Crusaders trio.

Rev Hobart Addington, the speaker of the hour, read from Luke 9, using for text Luke 9-58, from which he delivered a wonderful message, enjoyed by all present.

An offering was received for the Greenville Home for children in the amount of \$35.43.

Rev. G. T. Francis asked a blessing for the offering and the food. Adjourned until 1:30.

1:30 P. M.

Special singing by the Christian Crusader Trio. The moderator declared the association open for business, which resumed as follows:

The letter and report from Wise County Quarterly Conference read and approved as they appear in these minutes.

The Superannuation report by Mrs. L. M. Salyer, treasurer, read and approved as it appears in these minutes.

The association treasurer, Rev. Elmer Miner's report accepted as it appears in these minutes.

The clerk was instructed to write an additional letter to the state association, notifying them that Rev. S. M. McFall has moved his membership from the bounds of this association, and recommend that Rev. Elmer Miner be elected as member of the superannuation board, filling this vacancy.

A discussion by several about the printing of the by-laws of the Ministers Conference, unanimously approved the same with recommendation that the conference send a donation to the association to help cover the cost of same.

The question of who is moderator was brought to the floor by clerk, after much discussion the association un-

animously agreed that: The moderator elected at each association shall serve from the close of said association until the closing of next association.

Messengers chosen to the State Association at Richmond, Va., June 14, 1969: Bro. and Sis. Paul Samms, Bro. and Sis. Watson Mullins, Sis. Ralph Flannery, Sis. Kathy Flannery and Sis. Patty Flannery.

The Executive Board recommended the next association convene with Marthas Chapel, Pound, Va.

The eleven o'clock speaker Rev. Edgar Baltimore

To have 1000 minutes printed.

The association approved all recommendations.

The association at this time adjourned until Saturday before the third Sunday in June, 1970.

A rising vote of appreciation given to the Central Church for their kind hospitality during this session.

Benediction by Bro. E. J. Kilgore.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS REPORTING

(All addresses are Virginia unless stated otherwise)

Addington, Hobert	Ball, S. R.	Jess R. Cowden
Wise, Va.	St. Charles, Va.	616 Roberts Ave.
Ashworth, Howard	Bevins, Robert	Norton, Va.
203 Pinehurst Drv.	Wise, Va.	Dixon, Robert
Kingsport, Tenn,	Craiger, Roger	Rt. 1, Big Stone Gap
Bevins Jeff	Rt. 2, Norton, Va.	Francis, G. T.
Wise, Va.	Dean, Denver	Pound, Va.
Beroskey, Bernard	Wise, Va.	Goode, Ray L.
Box 165, Norton Va.	Flannery, Ralph	Wise, Va.
Crawford, Billy Ray	Dungannon Va.	Holmes, Theodore
Coeburn Va.	Greear, J. T.	Keokee, Va.
Dotson, Carson	Norton, Va.	Jessie, Vestus
Rt. 2, Wise, Va.	Hicks, J. Leonard	Norton, Va.
Graham, U. L.	Rt. 2, St. Paul, Va.	Kilgore, J. D.
Big Stone Gap, Va.	Jackson, S. H.	Pound, Va.
Hall, Milam L.	Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va.	Kilgore, William
Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va.	Kilgore, C. L.	Pound, Va.
Honeycutt, Perry	Coeburn, Va.	Laney, J. E.
Norton, Va.	Kilgore, Roy	Rt. 1, Wise, Va.
Kennedy, Roy	Nicklesville, Va.	Maness, William
Rt. 2, St. Paul, Va.	Lane, C. B.	Rt. 1, Box 21
Kilgore, J. Harold	Rt. 2, Wise, Va.	Big Stone Gap, Va.
Esserville, Va.	McFarland, Richard	Mullins, Charlie
Kiser, Willard	Eolia, Ky.	Rt. 2, Pound, Va.
Rt. 2, Coeburn, Va.	Moore, Kermit	Powers, Arnold
Leonard, Paul	17075 Sterling Blvd	Pound, Va.
400 Woolawn Ter.	Sterling. Va.	Ramey, J. L.
Norton, Va.	Mullins, Thurman	242 12th St. S. E.
Miner, Elmer	Pound, Va.	Norton, Va.
Rt. 1 Box 166	Powers, David	Rose, James
Coeburn, Va.	Norton, Va.	Rt. 1, Box 411
Mullins, Hansford	Robbin, Ethel	Coeburn, Va.
Wise. Va.	Norton, Va.	Stallard, I. T.
Powers, B. R.	Salyer, Jeff	Pound, Va.
Wise, Va.	Nicklesville, Va.	Sturgill, Eddie
Ritchie, Glenn	Adkins, Hattie	Jenkins, Ky.
Rt. Box 184	Manasses, Va.	Tate, Tyler
Bristol, Tenn.	Baltimore, Edgar	St. Paul, Va.
Salyer, Della	Dryden, Va.	Sturgill, Fred
Norton, Va.	Blevins, Palmer	Pound, Va.
Addison, C. B.	Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va.	Summers, Garland
Wise, Va.		St. Paul, Va.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHURCHES

CHURCH	Member ship	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Orphanage	Super- Annuation	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Literature and Publications	Sunday School Membership	League Membership	PASTOR
Dungannon	156	450.00	483.72	302.79	30.00	90.00	124.55	152.99	109	25	Echol Carter
Beech Grove	25	150.48	76.21	55.00		81.18	.00	67.90	64		Elmer Miner
Gillenwaters	25	00	25.76	30.00	.00	.00	.00	6.00	20	00	Roy Kilgore
Beckners	36	00	61.56	45.00	10.00	15.00	.00	100.00	55	15	Hansford Mullin
Mary's	147	1001.00	494.00	332.13	20.00	15.00	.00	234.40	180	46	Eddie Sturgill
Ramsey	83	00	874.88	87.62	14.00	50.00	.00	73.05	100	25	James Ramey
Stevens	44	88.00	41.00	26.00		30.00	.00	61.00	45	20	J. T. Greear
Mt. Olive	33	45.00	5.00	10.00	9.00	.00	.00	55.45	65	25	David Powers
Wilsons	43	310.00	145.00	80.00	20.00	20.00	15.05	78.59	70	30	Harold Kilgore
Mt. View	30	34.70	6.00	00	3.00	.00	.00	22.00	85	00	C. B. Addison
Indian Creek	113	328.00	247.65	184.45	12.00	.00	.00	117.13	80	20	William Kilgore
Davis Chapel	28	340.00	339.75	30.00	12.00	.00	.00	66.61	62	25	J. C. Laney
Hopkins	47	35.00	00	58.40	12.00	10.00	.00	37.80	35	00	Denver Dean
Gull Run 1st	40	215.75	100.00	92.50	12.00	34.00	.00	61.70	50	00	James Rose
Stallard Memorial	66	359.58	750.72	242.19	20.00	.00	60.00	25.30	70	00	Roy Kennedy
Bethel	34	00	00	14.39	5.01	.00	.00	71.30	54	19	C. B. Lane

West End	81	1800.00	340.94	392.68	11.00	75.92	14.82	190.00	148	00	U. L. Graham
Valley View	29	150.00	00	00	13.00	.00	.00	44.18	30	00	Perry Honeycut
Lone Pine	58	463.82	500.00	87.90	14.00	.00	15.00	145.97	96	00	G. T. Francis
Martha's Chapel ...	48	00	50.00	15.34	4.70	.00	.00	41.31	48	00	Ray Good
Glamorgan	81	375.00	00	150.00	16.00	.00	.00	143.93	120	26	Denver Dean
Dry Fork	44	174.94	125.00	174.00	20.00	.00	.00	81.60	73	00	S. H. Jackson
Central	65	642.86	502.66	45.00	.00	534.00	121.91	211.54	70	25	W. E. Harrison
Inman	44	1088.38	253.85	45.00	1.50	.00	.00	53.33	52	18	Howard Ashworth
West Norton	30	90.00	45.06	56.16	20.00	.00	35.00	25.43	45	15	Roger Craigier
Esersville	57	120.00	.00	90.31	14.00	32.00	15.00	285.67	90	55	C. L. Kilgore
Bondtown	16	.00	.00	20.00	6.50	6.00	.00	29.00	30	00	Milan Hall
Addison Chapel ...	28	.00	.00	.00	2.00	26.00	.00	62.15	65	00	C. B. Addison
Durham	23	33.75	168.53	73.85	1.00	.00	.00	48.35	70	00	Tyler Tate
Flatwood	68	110.57	.00	40.00	.00	.00	.00	20.00	25	00	Billy Crawford
Pippins	33	.00	70.00	28.00	5.00	4.00	.00	8.97	15	00	Willard Kiser
Kelly View	56	21.50	77.70	10.00	.00	.00	.00	8.97	15	00	William Maness
Toms Creek	44	42.76	.00	.00	1.00	25.00	.00	77.42	41	00	Jeff Salyer
Glady Fork	51	245.00	190.00	30.00	15.00	.00	.00	81.86	57	00	J. D. Kilgore
Rock Lick	45	360.00	100.00	101.20	16.16	.00	.00	21.05	20	00	Harold Kilgore
Calvary	15	281.67	.00	117.98	6.00	17.32	.00	96.75	125	55	J. V. Estept
Colchester	61	773.72	180.27	223.00	13.00	36.00	.00				Kernit Moore

Greetings: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with Central Church of Norton, Va., May 17, 1969. We have chosen all delegates from our last conference as messengers. These, we pray, may sit with you and aid you in your godly work.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches -----	37
Church Membership -----	1928
Sunday School Membership -----	2404
Number Sunday Schools -----	36
Number Youth Leagues -----	15
League Membership -----	439
Church Members received -----	153
Members Dismissed -----	63
Members Deceased -----	20
Ordained Ministers -----	63
Licentates -----	7
Minute Fund Enclosed -----	\$231 36

Done by order of the Wise County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptists while in regular session with Dungannon Church April 12, 1969.

Moderators:	Clerks:
Rev. Ralph Flannery	Leslie G. Ketron
Rev. Elmer Miner	Anson Evans

GREETINGS: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with the Central Church, Norton, Va., May 17, 1969. We herewith submit the following report of the Southwest Virginia Ministerial Association.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE REPORT

The Ministers' Conference convened on Friday night before the second Sunday in April, 1969, at Esserville Freewill Baptist church, Esserville, Va., with 45 present in person and 5 reporting by letter. Number on roll, 62.

OFFICERS

Rev. G. T. Francis, Pres. Rev. Ben Powers, Vice Pres.
Rev. C. L. Kilgore, Sec'y-Treas.

Conduct Board	Executive Committee
Rev. J. D. Kilgore, 1969	Rev. G. T. Francis
Rev. Casper Layne, 1970	Rev. B. R. Powers

Rev. Hobart Addington, 1971 Rev. C. L. Kilgore
 Rev. C. B. Addison, 1972 Rev. Ralph Flanary
 Rev. James E. Laney, 1973 Rev. I. T. Stallard

Balance in treasury beginning year -----	\$111.50
Received during year -----	102.64
	<u>214.14</u>
Less disbursements during year -----	106.17
Balance in treasury end of year -----	\$107.97

The minister's cards were passed on by this conference and recommended to this association now in session.

Rev. G. T. Francis, Pres.
 Pound, Va.
 Rev. C. L. Kilgore, Secy-Treas.
 Coeburn, Va. 24230

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

5-18-68 Bal. carried forward -----	\$ 17.19
6-5-68 Rec'd Wise County Conference -----	224.28
7-13-68 Rec'd Wise County Conference -----	30.00
11-26-68 Rec'd Wise County Conference -----	13.36
Total Recorded -----	\$284.83
Total Disbursements -----	280.21
5-17-69 Balance in Treasury -----	4.62

DISBURSEMENTS

6-10-68 Virginia State Association -----	50.00
6-10-68 Ben Powers Moderator -----	10.00
6-20-68 Elmer Miner, Treasurer -----	10.00
7-2-68 Beverly's Print Shop -----	141.85
7-13-68 Leslie Ketron, Clerk (Manuscript) -----	55.00
11-26-68 Crescent Printery (Certificates) -----	13.36
Total Disbursements -----	\$280.21

Respectfully Submitted: Elmer Miner, Treasurer

SUPERANNUATION ANNUAL REPORT

Carried Forward From April, 1968 -----	370.69
Receipts, John Wheeler Ass'n -----	32.31
Wise County Churches -----	358.87

Friends	5.00
Total Receipts	\$766.87
Disbursements: Rev. Ben Powers, Rev. Charlie Mullins, Rev. Orville O'Quinn and Rev. C. A. Robinette	\$375.00
Postage and Expenses	10.00
Total Disbursements	\$385.00
Balance on hand April, 1969	\$381.87

MRS. L. M. SALYER, Treasurer

IN MEMORY

THE REV. RAY ROBINETTE

Age 67, of Big Stone Gap, Virginia. A minister for 27 years, and was assistant pastor of Beckner's Chapel Church.

REV. COVA A. ROBINETTE

Age 76, first elected clerk of Wise County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptists, serving 18 years as such, also serving as clerk of the state association for some time.

REV. BILLY JOE DYKES

Age 29, pastor of Dungannon Church, drowned while vainly attempting to save his companions from the same fate.

BROTHER MONROE DOTSON

Age 80, Sunday School teacher and deacon in Mt. Olive Church.

MINNIE EVELYN HAMILTON

Age 71, a faithful member of Stallard Memorial Church. Survived by her husband, Nathan Hamilton, four sons and four daughters, three sons having preceded her in death. Also surviving are twenty-four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.



WILLIAM BASCOM POWERS

Age 92, of Dungannon, Va., a faithful member of the Dungannon Church. "Uncle Bill", as he was known, was born in Dungannon. He was the last surviving child of Darinda Powers and Isaac Hartsock Powers, prominent pioneer families of Southwest Virginia. Survivors include his wife, Eddie Lou McPearson Powers, Dungannon; one son, Lyn H. Powers, Cleveland, O., one granddaughter, Miss Judy Powers; several nieces and nephews.



DARRELL EVERETT PRICE

Age 36 years of Toledo, O., formerly of Dungannon, Va. He had been a consecrated Christian for 14 years. He and his wife united with Stallard Memorial Church in 1962, where he was a faithful worker, very talented in song. He is survived by his wife, Clara Blevins Price, two sons, Jimmie and Gerald Price, and one daughter, Deloris Price, all of Defiance, O. His father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Price of Dungannon, and four brothers and four sisters.



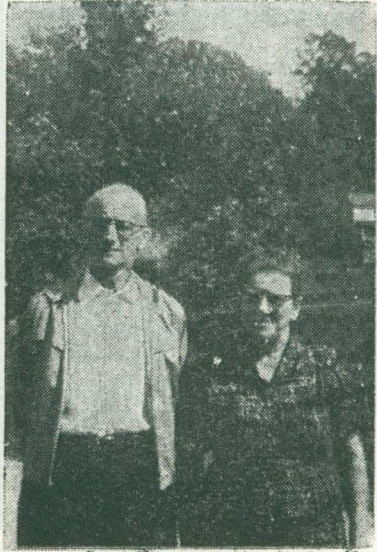
VESTA (TOOD) DOTSON

Was born March 6, 1901, passed away May 7, 1968. She was the wife of Rev. Carson Dotson and worked with him in his ministry, a member of Stevens Chapel, a charter member of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Funeral service was conducted at Stevens Chapel, with the Rev. Ed-die Sturgill, Rev. Oscar Powers. Pallbearers were local ministers.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Carson Dotson; three daughters, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, five sisters and one brother.

She was faithful in her service to God until death, and left a good example for her loved ones to follow. She is lovingly missed by all who knew her. So we can say a Mother and dedicated Christian has



gone home.—Proverb / 31-10.

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 the 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 Perquims, North Carolina, in the year 1727. This church was later lost to the Calvinistic Baptists. 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 Baptists 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 the 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 denominations. 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 a 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 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 J. A. 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 the Pocahontas Free Will Baptist Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas, July, 1948, and was adopted.

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 sanctions 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 the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 con-

ference, and if a quorum is present, the moderator, or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them be 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 represent 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, 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 discussion 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 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 endorsed it in the Gospel (Mat. 13:23), 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 re-

quires 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. **RESURECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRI-BUTION.** 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".

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF FREEWILL BAPTISTS

ARTICLE I—NAME: This organization shall be called the Ministers Conference of the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists.

ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP: The membership of this Ministers' Conference shall consist of ordained ministers in good standing who hold their membership in a Freewill Baptist Church within the Southwest Virginia Association area. This Association is to issue cards annually to all members in good standing.

ARTICLE III—FINANCE: This Ministers' Conference will be financed by free-will offerings, which will be received at each session of the conference.

ARTICLE IV—PURPOSE: The purpose of this Conference to to promote unity and brotherly love; to promote the Gospel; to promote intellectual and spiritual improvement, and to promote Exegetical, Doctrinal and Homoletical study of the Scriptures.

Applicants for ministerial license must be qualified to preach the Gospel according to the scripture, and must be able to read and write and show a general willingness to grow in the ministry, and willing to abide by the by-laws and treatise of the Freewill Baptist Church.

ARTICLE V—OFFICERS: The officers of this conference shall be President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, these officers to be elected annually.

ARTICLE VI—COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS:

Section 1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and two (2) members elected from the floor.

Section 2. Special Committees: Any special committee may be elected or appointed as needed.

Section 3. A Committee on Ministerial Conduct and Improvement: This committee shall be composed of five pastors, that have been in good standing for five (5) previous years, elected by the body. Their term of office shall be 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years. One new member to be elected each year.

ARTICLE VII—MEETINGS: The time of meeting of this Ministers' Conference shall be at 7:30 P. M. on Friday night preceding each Quarterly Conference.

ARTICLE VIII—AMENDMENTS: This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular meeting of the Ministers' Conference by a three-fourths vote of ministers present, provided the proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing to the body at the last regular meeting.

BY-LAWS

1. Each meeting shall be opened with Scripture reading and prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

2. Duties Of Officers:

A. President: It shall be the duty of the President to call each meeting to order, preside over all meetings, maintain proper Christian order and discipline in each meeting and to perform the various other duties relating to his office.

B. Vice-President: It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to perform all the duties of the President in his absence.

C. Secretary-Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to record minutes, maintain records, keep accurate account of all finances and to perform such other duties as pertaining to his office. It shall further be his duty to notify all ministers in this Conference of the time and place of each meeting three weeks in advance of the meeting.

3. It shall be the duty and responsibility of each minister to be present at each meeting if possible. He may report by letter or person. Each minister must report by letter or person at least every four meetings to remain in good standing.

4. By a two-thirds vote of all ministers present, a ruling of the president may be overruled.

5. Any person not a member of this Conference may be allowed to take part in its discussions by a majority vote of the body.

6. The President shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit, or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

7. On any question of procedure ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER shall be final.

8. No minister of this Conference shall be allowed to speak more than five (5) minutes or more than twice on the same subject without the permission of the President.

9. Duties of the Various Committees:

A. Executive Committee: It shall have the power to act in behalf of and for the Ministers Conference from one regular session to another. Any action taken by the Executive Committee when Conference is not in session shall be reported in writing to the next regular Conference for its approval.

B. Committee on Ministerial Conduct and Improvement:

It shall be the duty of this Committee to hear any appeals which may be made to it by any minister appealing decisions of the Ordaining Council.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to investigate unchristian conduct, Doctrine and Practices which are not in accord with the National Treatise of Free Will Baptists, and un-ethical Ministerial Practices or Policies. If this Committee deems it wise and expedient they should present written charges against any minister who is unsound in Doctrine or Practices to the Southwest Virginia Ministers' Association.

It shall be the duty of this Committee, through every means at its disposal, to promote Ministerial improvement in the fields of Pastoral Care, Administration and Preaching.

