

M I N U T E S
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
Of The
Southwest Virginia
Association
—Of—
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
And
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA
MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

HELD WITH THE
INDIAN CREEK
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
POUND, VIRGINIA
MAY 20, 1972

1972

THE NEXT SESSION WILL CONVENE WITH THE
DUNGANNON FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH AT
DUNGANNON, VIRGINIA ON SATURDAY BEFORE
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN MAY 1973 AT 9 O'CLOCK

PREFACE

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 Perquimans, 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 Vanhose, 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. Vanhose, L. A. Holaday, 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.

OFFICERS

Ralph Flanary, Moderator	----- Dungannon, Virginia
Harold Kilgore, Asst. Moderator	----- Jenkins, Kentucky
Anson Evans, Clerk	----- Coeburn, Virginia
Buena Evans, Asst. Clerk	----- Coeburn, Virginia
Paul Sams, Treasurer	----- Wise, Virginia

EXECUTIVE BOARD

	Exp. of Office
Paul Sams, Wise, Virginia	----- 1973
Ray Goode, Clintwood, Va.	----- 1974
I. T. Stallard, Pound, Virginia	----- 1975

WISE COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Hardin Brewer, Rt. 2, Coeburn, Va.	----- 1973
Roy Kennedy, Rt. 1, St. Paul, Va.	----- 1974
Charlie Castle, Big Stone Gap, Va.	----- 1975
Homer Bays, Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va.	----- 1976
Elmer Miner, Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va.	----- 1977

WISE COUNTY ORDAINING COUNCIL

Hobert Addington, Wise, Va.	----- 1973
Ralph Flanary, Dungannon, Va.	----- 1974
Denver Dean, Wise, Va.	----- 1975
Fred Greene, Norton, Va.	----- 1976
Harold Kilgore, Jenkins, Ky.	----- 1977

LEAGUE FIELD WORKER

Paul Sams, Rt. 1, Wise, Va.	----- 1973
Jeffery Sams, Asst. League Field Worker, Wise, Va.	

ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS

Harold Kilgore
G. T. Francis
William Kilgore
Roger Freeman
Palmer Blevins
Jeff Salyers
Ralph Flanary

Garland Summers
Fred Greene
Jim Cox
I. T. Stallard
J. V. Estep
Ray Goode

VISITING MINISTER Albert Dingus

DEACONS

Oscar Sheppard
Robert Riner
Lee Green
Paul Sams
Ed Sturgill

E. J. Kilgore
Anson Evans
Delbert Boggs
W. H. Dail
Milford Craft

DELEGATES

Buena Evans

Mrs. I. T. Stallard

PROCEEDINGS

9:00 o'clock

The 36th annual session of the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptist convened with the Indian Creek Freewill Baptist Church on May 20, 1972.

The session was opened by singing "That Glad Reunion Day". The singing was led by Bro. Oscar Sheppard.

The clerk introduced the assistant moderator, Rev. Ray Goode, who called the session to order and proceeded with the business.

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

The report from the Southwest Virginia Ministerial Association was read and approved as it appears in these minutes.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved and it appears in these minutes.

The report from Wise County Quarterly Meeting was read and approved as it appears in these minutes, \$230.76 was sent with the report for Association Fund.

The Ministers reports were read and those approved as read appear in these minutes.

Brother W. H. Dail, representing Tidewater Conference, gave a report on the work there, which was very much enjoyed by all and this report was received as information.

Visiting minister, Rev. Albert Dingus, from John Thomas Association was welcomed.

Delegates to the State Association which convened June 15 and 16 at Fairmount Park at Norfolk, Virginia were Mrs. Ralph F. Flanary, Kathy and Patty Flanary, Mrs. Fred Green, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sams, Rudene Kennedy and Amenda Sams.

Rev. Jim Cox gave a report on the Work at Roanoke, which was enjoyed by all and accepted by Association.

Amazing Grace was sung and an offering of \$62.47 was received for the Freewill Baptist Home for Children at Greenville, Tenn. Paul Sams gave an oral report on the League work which was accepted by Association.

The Southwest Virginia Association only has one quarterly Meeting reporting and this is contrary to the Treatise. The Moderator was given authority to appoint a special committee of three men to study this problem and bring a recommendation back to the Association before adjournment this evening. The Committee consists of Rev. Fred Green, Rev. Jim Cox, and Rev. Harold Kilgore.

11:00 o'clock

The morning worship service was opened by Bro. Riner and his singers singing, "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All" and "He'll Hold To My Hand." The altar of prayer was led by Rev. Roger Freeman. The moderator introduced Rev. Fred Greene for the morning message. He read from Ezekial 33:11 and II Peter 3:9 and his text was "Who cares if a sinner dies and goes to Hell". He brought a challenging and soul searching message enjoyed by all. In his message he brought out that God's Son cares, the lost in Hell care because the rich man was concerned about his brothers, the true Christian cares. Had a song and a handshake.

The host pastor, Rev. Harold Kilgore, welcomed everyone to eat, and a prayer of thanks for the food was offered by Bro. E. J. Kilgore.

1:00 o'clock

The afternoon business session opened with congregation singing, "Higher Ground" led by Rev. Ralph Flanary. "When Is He Coming Again?" was sung by Penny Evans.

A standing vote of thanks was given to the host church for the hospitality and the good meal served to the Association.

Prayer by Rev. Jeff Salyers.

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

The Executive Board recommended the next Association convene with Dungannon Free Will Baptist Church, at Dungannon, Virginia on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in May 1973.

The eleven o'clock speaker, Rev. Roger Freeman.

The Association approved the printing of 1000 minutes.

Report of special committee -- Yearly meeting is out of order according to treatise. Committee recommends that Wise County Conference form three separate quarterly Conferences to be members of Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptist.

1. Smaller groups work together better and have closer fellowship.
2. Create initiative in local church.
3. Comply with treatise.
4. Division in opinions on non-doctrinal things.

Recommend a non-partial board to supervise organization of the new quarterly conferences. A motion and second that we adopt all of the recommendation in entirety, motion accepted. Recommend that we retain special committee to serve on non-partial board. The committee given authority to choose two more members if necessary.

The Association voted their approval for Rudene Kennedy to obtain

from the Sunday School Department in Nashville a contract to handle the Sunday School Literature in the state. She has opened the bookstore in Norton, Virginia.

Unanimously voted to adjourn until next appointed time, unless called together by the moderator.

Moderator: Rev. Ray Goode

Clerks: Anson Evans
Buena Evans

GREETINGS:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptist when convened with Indian Creek Church of Pound, Virginia, May 20. 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 - - - - -	36
Church membership - - - - -	1923
Number of Sunday Schools - - - - -	36
Sunday School Membership - - - - -	2384
Number of Youth Leagues - - - - -	20
Membership of Leagues - - - - -	588
Church Members received - - - - -	211
Members dismissed - - - - -	66
Members deceased - - - - -	16
Ordained Ministers - - - - -	60
Licentiatees - - - - -	5

DISBURSEMENTS

Pastors - - - - -	\$23,681.05
Evangelistic work - - - - -	6,157.16
Home for Children - - - - -	3,487.04
Superannuation - - - - -	511.90
Home Missions - - - - -	855.03
Foreign Missions - - - - -	1,337.16
Literature & Publications - - - - -	4,135.28
Building and repairs - - - - -	30,976.54
Minute fund enclosed - - - - -	230.76

Done by order of the Wise County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptist while in regular session with Gladys Fork Freewill Baptist Church of Pound, Va. April 8, 1972.

Moderators: Rev. James L. Hicks
Rev. C. L. Kilgore

Clerks: Anson Evans
Buena Evans

GREETINGS:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with the Indian Creek Freewill Baptist Church, Pound, Virginia, May 20, 1972.

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE REPORT

The Southwest Virginia Ministerial Association of Freewill Baptists convened Friday night, April 7, 1972, at Beckner's Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, Wise, Virginia, with 39 members reporting in person and 10 reporting by letter. Number on Roll 62.

OFFICERS

Rev. G. T. Francis, President - - - - - Pound, Va.
Rev. Harold Kilgore, Vice-President - - - - - Jenkins, Ky.
Rev. Roger Freeman, Secretary-Treas. - - - - - Wise, Va.

MINISTERS' CONDUCT BOARD

Rev. C. B. Addison	1972	Rev. Ralph Flanary	1975
Rev. James E. Laney	1973	Rev. Vestus Jessee	1976
Rev. J. D. Kilgore	1974		

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. G. T. Francis	Rev. Ray Goode
Rev. Harold Kilgore	Rev. Ralph Flanary
Rev. Roger Freeman	

Balance in treasury beginning of year - - - - -	\$191.90
Receipts during year - - - - -	<u>135.31</u>
	\$327.21

Superannuation Contribution	\$80.00	
Churches (Meetings and Crusade)	25.00	
Post Cards and Printing	45.64	
		<u>150.64</u>
Balance at end of year - - - - -		\$176.57

The Ministers' cards were read and passed on by the Ministers' Conference and recommended to the Association now in session.

Rev. G. T. Francis, President
Rev. Roger Freeman, Secy-Treas.

TREASURER'S REPORT

5-15-71 Bal. Carried Forward - - - - -	.49
5-15-71 Offering - - - - -	23.49
5-15-71 Wise County Quarterly Conference - - - - -	100.00
8- 6-71 Wise County Quarterly Conference - - - - -	133.40
10-18-71 Wise County Quarterly Conference - - - - -	\$ 83.02
Total Received - - - - -	<u>\$340.40</u>
 Total Disbursements - - - - -	 <u>337.50</u>
 Balance in Treas. - - - - -	 2.90

DISBURSEMENTS

5-15-71 Moderator - - - - -	-\$ 10.00
6- 1-71 Clerks - - - - -	55.00
6-17-71 Virginia State Association - - - - -	50.00
7- 5-71 Treasurer - - - - -	10.00
10-18-71 Printing - - - - -	212.50
Total Disbursements - - - - -	<u>\$337.50</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Elmer Miner, Treas.

SUPERANNUATION REPORT

Balance forwarded from June 1971 - - - - -	-\$108.03
Receipts - - - - -	<u>708.50</u>
Total - - - - -	816.53
Disbursements - - - - -	<u>730.00</u>
Balance in Treasury - - - - -	<u>\$ 86.53</u>

Ministers	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions To Church	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Addington, Hobert	69	2		2	1		4	2,000	\$ 804.00
Addison, C. B.	79	1	1	16	14	15			175.00
Ashworth, Howard		1	1		14		26		
Bevins, Jeff	40	1		9	8	7	1		25.00
Bevins, Robert									
Blevins, Palmer	75	1	3	36	16	3	6	20,000	500.00
Broskey, Bernard	65	1	1	2		4			140.00
Cowden, Jess			2	12	6		4	3,000	30.00
Cox, James G.	150	1		50				10,000	6,500.00
Dean, Denver	45	1		9	8	4	3		1,200.00
Dixon, Robert	30	1	1	10			7	300	600.00
Estep, J. V.	53	1		3	3	3	3	2,868	257.30
Flanary, Ralph	125	2	2	26	12	9	15	7,500	1,200.00
Francis, G. T.	75	1		4	4	1	1	500	480.00
Freeman, Roger	85		5	5	3			1,100	300.00
Graham, U. L.	138	1	1	130	23	28	14	1,000	1,200.00
Goode, Ray L.	80	1	7	104	75		8		
Greene, Fred	126	1	2	40	21	15	5	23,530	5,360.00
Hale, Monroe		1							
Hall, Early	18		1		2			100	
Hall, Milam		1	1	15	12		3		

Ministers	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Reverals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions To Church	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Hampton, Lester	80		2						
Hicks, James L.			6	35	12		15		
Holmes, Theodore	25	1						300	300.00
Honeycutt, Perry	50		2	5			3		
Jessee, Vestus	125	1	3	24	12	3	10	9,000	3,315.08
Kennedy, Roy									
Kilgore, C. L.									
Kilgore, J. D.	162	1	1	6	4	6	8	3,896	172.00
Kilgore J. Harold	90	1	2	5	3	2	10	4,000	
Kilgore, Roy W.	60	1		2			6		
Kilgore, William	30		1	2					50.00
Kiser, Willard		1				2	3		
Laney James E.	162	1			12	13	9		1,100.00
Maness, William	104	2	2	20	3	3	1	3,000	250.00
McFarland, Richard									
Miner, Elmer	102	2		5	5	5	4	4,500	1,057.42
Moore, Kermit	125	1	3	50	48	30	10	30,000	12.00
Mullins, Danny		1				2			
Mullins, Emmitt	75	1	3	17	9	12	4	10,000	
Mullins, Hansford	55		2	5	3		3		12.00
Mullins, LeRoy	80	1			1		1	400	90.00

Ministers	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Reverals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions To Church	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Mullins, Thurman		1							
Powers, Arnold									
Powers, B. R.	52		1	6	6		89		
Powers, David	70	1		12	8	2	12		
Powers, Harlis	50			3	7			500	50.00
Powers, Oscar	120	1	3	9	7	11	6		
Ramey, James A.		1							
Ritchie, Glenn	60	1	3	4		2	2	968	256.17
Robbins, Ethel	10							20	
Rose, James	80	2		4		7	10	756	128.00
Rutherford, Donnie									
Salzer, Della	15			10			2	85	18.00
Salzers, Jeff	56		2	14	6		7		
Slemp, Joel	53	1	1	9	24		2	4,000	350.00
Sloce, Claude									
Stallard, I. T.	110	1	1	15	5	7	12	12,000	
Sturgill, Eddie	164	2	10	51	25	33	16	9,202	
Summers, Garland	50						1	1,000	10.00
Tate, Tyler B.	76		2	5	2		2	1,498	112.00
Turner, C. G.	51		2	18					

ANNUAL REPORT ON CHURCHES

CHURCH	Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	Super-annuation	Home Mission	Foreign Missions	Literature & Pub.	Sun. School Membership	League Membership	Pastor
Dungannon	66	360.00	831.92	271.44	15.00		65.29	132.36	100	30	Eckle Carter
Beech Grove	36	762.06		40.00				95.19	60	30	Elmer Miner
Gillenwater											Roy Kilgore
Beckners	42	345.80	116.50		20.00			100.94	55		Momroe Hale
Marys Chapel	153	900.00	492.00	384.09	20.00		136.60	827.61	198	44	Eddie Sturgill
Ramsey	100	606.93	658.89	179.54	31.36	9.00	35.00	26.93	128	26	James Ramey
Stevens	36	202.00	100.00		16.00			16.00	35		Danny Mullins
Mt. Olive	35	185.00	120.00	55.00	8.40	55.00		96.95	65	25	David Powers
Wilson	40	275.00	90.00	110.00	20.00	168.00		76.79	70	23	Hobert Addington
Mt. View	50	175.41	222.60		10.00			77.61	90	35	C. B. Addison
Indian Creek	117	750.00	305.00	158.23	26.40		35.25	211.40	80	12	Harold Kilgore
Davis Chapel	35	615.00	197.11	37.50	30.00			69.12	40		Oscar Powers
Hopkins Chapel	46		188.64	83.04	20.00			57.68	40	28	J. D. Kilgore
Bull Run 1st	32	136.00		74.00	15.00			41.80	39		James Rose
Stallard Memo.	47	3,097.09	408.32	223.24	40.00		60.00	23.26	57		Roy Kennedy
Bethel	45			23.91	13.68			68.33	54	21	Jeff Bevins
West End	103	1,200.00	322.67	307.07	31.36	188.03	138.09	202.83	179	23	U. L. Graham
Valley View	29	269.45	75.00		21.50			61.99	40		Perry Honeycutt

ANNUAL REPORT ON CHURCHES

CHURCH	Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	Super-annuation	Home Mission	Foreign Mission	Literature & Pub.	Sun. School Membership	League Membership	Pastor
Lone Pine	59	276.68		44.55	15.00	20.00	45.00	129.78	100	16	G. T. Francis
Martha's Chapel	68			15.42	20.00			133.81	57	43	Emmitt Mullins
Glamorgan	92	1,200.00	270.00	265.00	20.00	90.00	245.00	172.53	110	30	Denver Dean
Dry Fork	38	276.84		40.00	20.00			86.93	41	30	Hobert Addington
Central	97	6,700.00	250.00	120.00		230.00	387.93	272.63	88	50	Fred Greene
Inman	31	1,768.00	163.73	60.00				69.14	33		Eddie Sturgill
West Norton	27	50.00	147.60	10.50	5.00			15.07		10	Palmer Blevins
Esserville	75	1,000.00		169.40	20.00	20.00	164.00	345.00	129	70	James E. Laney
Bondtown	15		63.25	45.00				17.44	35		Bernard Broskey
Durham	16	314.82		151.55		11.00		94.42	55	24	Harold Gilly
Flatwoods	67	142.52	52.40	40.00	20.00			86.83	70		Milam Hall
Pippins	33			52.00	4.00				25		Willard Kiser
Kelly View	58		356.63					7.74	45		William Maness
Gladly Fork	65		125.00	40.00	20.00			149.99	66	18	I. T. Stallard
Rock Lick	49	360.00		337.30	25.00	50.00	25.00	69.34	57		Ralph Flanary
Calvary	14	450.15	247.30	58.00	4.50	10.00		52.82	14		J. V. Estep
Colchester	94	965.72	245.70	71.26	21.70			207.54	108		Kermit Moore
Reeds Valley	14	296.58	54.20	20.00	4.00			38.48	21		Elmer Miner

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 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.

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BY-LAWS

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years, shall call the association into conference, and if a quorum is present, the moderator, or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them 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 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. Anybody 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 this 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's 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 (Matt. 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 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 in eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life".

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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 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 is 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.

All applicants for ministerial licenses 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, the 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 who 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 meetings 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 accounts 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 all meetings if possible. He may report by letter or in 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 presi-

dent 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 a decision 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 Freewill Baptist, and unethical 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.

GUSSIE E. BOYD EVANS

Gussie was born, February, 27, 1904 and departed this life June 4, 1971.

She is survived by her husband, Corbett Evans, four boys, six girls, several grandchildren and a host of friends.

She was a member of Stallard Memorial Freewill Baptist Church and has been a Christian for many years. She is missed by all who knew her, but we are glad for the hope of meeting again in Heaven.



CARRIE LOUISA BELLAMY

Carrie, daughter of the late Robert (Bob) Jordan and Mary Melinda Hall Jordan, she was born January 1, 1901 and departed this life May 13, 1972.

She leaves to mourn her loss her husband, Earl Bellamy, three sisters, four brothers, several nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

She was a member of Stallard Memorial Freewill Baptist Church and was faithful until the end. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.





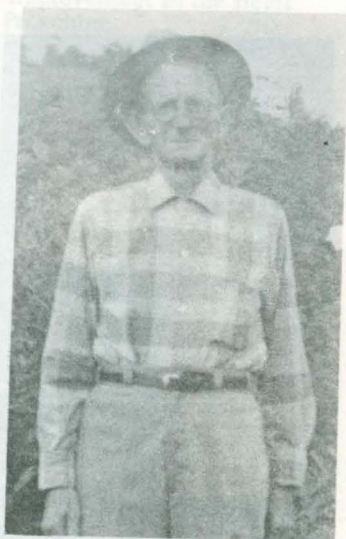
MOLLIE DAY HILL

Departed this life December 16, 1968 at the age of 67. She was a member of Hopkins Chapel Church since 1946. She was the daughter of the late Em and Vona Day. Surviving is one daughter, Mrs. Blanche Gibson. There is a peace that satisfies for we know mom is there. It was just three years ago she went home to meet our God.

WORLEY DEAN

Worley Dean, born January 9, 1886, died May 22, 1971. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Julia Dean, three sons and six daughters, also several grandchildren. He also leaves many friends and loved ones.

He was a member of Stevens Chapel Church for many years. He is missed by all who knew him but we are sure he has gone to a happy home.



BESSIE LURA MINER

Born July 13, 1902 and departed this life April 26, 1972. Her husband Hiram and one son, Merrell, preceded her in death. She leaves four daughters, six sons, four sisters and four brothers, 21 grandchildren, and a host of friends to mourn her leaving.

She was a member of Beech Grove Freewill Baptist Church at Big Stone Gap, Va. where her son, Rev. Elmer Miner, is pastor. We will miss you here mother, but we thank God for a hope that we will meet you in the morning, "So Rest Mom".



