

MINUTES

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

**Southwest Virginia
Association
of
Freewill Baptist Churches
and
Southwest Virginia
Ministers' Conference**

HELD WITH THE

DRY FORK FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH

COEBURN, VIRGINIA

MAY 14th, 1977

The Next Session Will Convene With The

GLAMORGAN CHAPEL FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH

At Glamorgan, Virginia

on Saturday, May 20, 1978

9:30 A.M.

PREFACE

For well over two hundred years there has been 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 U. S. 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, N.C., 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 Freewill 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 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 Freewill Baptist churches.

This committee was composed of the following ministers, namely: J. C. Griffin, chairman; Winford Davis, E. B. Joyner, F. 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. Holiday, 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 Freewill 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 knowledge of our Lord and Savior, 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, or 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.

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 Savior 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 men 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 (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, JUDGEMENT 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."

OFFICERS

Denver Dean, Moderator	Wise, Virginia
Ray Goode, Asst. Moderator	Wise, Virginia
Ralph Flanary, Clerk	Dungannon, Virginia
Mrs. Ralph Flanary, Asst. Clerk	Dungannon, Virginia
Paul Sams, Treasurer	Wise, Virginia

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ralph Flanary, Dungannon, Va.	1978
Jeffery Sams, Wise, Va.	1978
Lars Dorton, Wise, Va.	1978

ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS

Palmer Blevins	J. D. Kilgore
Denver Dean	C. G. Turner
J. V. Estepp	Raymond Baird
J. E. Leonard	Hansford Mullins
Ray Gardner	Ray Goode
Lars Dorton	Hobart Addington

DEACONS

Oscar Sheppard	Isom Cleamon
Bro. Scott	Bill Thompson
Paul Sams	Robert Lawson
Everett Knoll	Lawrence Honeycutt

DELEGATES

Mrs. Turner	George Robertson
Larry Coeburn	Joe Lewis
Doyle Watts	Lola Ferguson
Mrs. Sams	Jackie Bergiss
Mrs. Flanary	Lydia Isom

PROCEEDINGS

9:00 o'clock

The Forty-first session of the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Dry Fork Free Will Baptist Church May 14, 1977.

The session was opened by congregational singing "When We All Get To Heaven" led by Rev. Elmer Miner.

A welcome was extended to all by the host Pastor Rev. Minor.

The clerk read the Scripture taken from Psalms 23. Prayer was led by Rev. John Craft.

The Moderator Rev. Kilgore took charge at this time and gave a welcome to everyone.

The delegates were seated and the conference opened for business.

The Clerk read the minutes of our last session. They were approved as read.

The letters were read from both East and West Wise County Conferences and were approved as read.

A motion was made and approved to use uniform letters from the Free Will Baptist Book Store at Norton, Va.

Treasurer's report was given and accepted as given.

Minister's Conference report was given and accepted as read.

The Executive committee report was given by Rev. Flanary. A motion was made and accepted to accept the new Lee County Conference back into the Southwest Association.

A motion was made and adopted to recall the power given to the ministers to issue Ministers Cards, and the Association to issue cards annually, in the May of each year.

All business being completed a motion was entered to adjourn until Saturday before the second Sunday in May 1978 at Glamorgan Chapel, Wise, Virginia.

Rev. Harold Kilgore was chosen to bring the message next year.

We were dismissed in prayer by Rev. Turner.

The Eleven O'clock message was delivered by Rev. John Craft of the Randall Association of North Carolina.

Bro. Craft challenged our hearts with a message on growth; Scripture taken from Acts 6:12-19.

Lunch was furnished by the host Church, Fellowship was enjoyed by all.

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE REPORT
1976-1977

Total Membership 61.

OFFICERS

Hobart Addington, President	Wise, Virginia
G. T. Francis, Vice President	Pound, Virginia
Harold Kilgore, Secretary-Treasurer	Wise, Virginia

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Hobart Addington	Harold Kilgore
William Maness	LeRoy Mullins
G. T. Francis	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

William Maness	Danny Mullins
LeRoy Mullins	Milam Hall
Ralph Flanary	

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance at Beginning of Year	\$ 37.00
Receipts During Year	187.64
	224.64
Total Expenses During Year	167.15
Balance at End of Year	\$ 57.49

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 Homiletical 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 preceeding 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 amendments 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 in 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 a decision of the ordaining council.

It shall be the duty of this committee to investigate un-Christian 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.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION
TREASURER'S REPORT
MAY 14, 1977

Balance Forward \$ 10.26

RECEIPTS:

West Wise Co. 197.00

East Wise Co. 257.25

Free Will Offering 81.59

TOTAL \$546.10

DISBURSEMENTS:

Moderator 10.00

Clerk. 55.00

Treasurer. 10.00

Va. State Assoc. 50.00

TOTAL \$125.00

BALANCE IN TREASURY \$421.10

Paul D. Sams
Treasurer

GREETINGS:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptist when convened with Dry Fork Free Will Baptist Church, Coeburn, Virginia, May 14, 1977. 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	14
Church Membership.	842
Number of Sunday Schools	14
Sunday School Membership.	739
Number of C. T. S.	6
Membership of C. T. S.	238
Church members received	88
Members dismissed	20
Members deceased	6
Ordained Ministers.	22
Licentiates	5

DISBURSEMENTS

Pastor's Salaries.	10,564.32
Evangelistic Work	Not Given
Home for children	1,960.94
Superannuation.	Not Given
Home Missions	1,268.68
Foreign Missions	950.18
Literature & Publication	8,471.38
Building and Repairs	71,656.93
Minute Fund Enclosed	210.50

OFFICERS OF WEST WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Jimmy Smith, Norton, Va. 1982
- Watson Mullins, Wise, Va. 1978
- Kenneth Proffitt, Norton, Va. 1979
- Carlos Hash, Wise, Va. 1980
- Vadis Shupe, Wise, Va. 1981

ORDAINING COUNCIL

- Hobart Addington, Wise, Va. 1982
- Denver Dean, Wise, Va. 1978
- Roger Freeman, Pound, Va. 1979
- Harold Kilgore, Wise, Va. 1980
- Ray Goode, Wise, Va. 1981

CHURCH TRAINING SERVICE FIELD WORKERS

Harold Kilgore, Wise, Va.	1980
Lars Dorton, Wise, Va.	1978

TREASURER

Paul Sams, Wise, Va.	1978
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Done by the order of the West Wise County Quarterly Conference of Free Will Baptist while in regular session with Esserville Church January 29th 1977.

Moderator: Harold Kilgore

Clerk: Lee Green

Asst. Moderator: Hobart Addington

Asst. Clerk: Faye Sams

**BY-LAWS
WEST WISE COUNTY CONFERENCE
OF FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES**

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in the ministry, who is a member of the West Wise County Conference, shall call the conference to order, 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 the ministry, who is a member of the West Wise County Conference, shall act as moderator.

2. It shall be the duty of the clerk with the assistant clerk to enroll delegates at the door of the conference. Delegates shall present proper evidence of their rights to be seated therein. All delegates shall be issued some type of identification such as a ribbon or badge or card with the name of the delegates pinned to or on the lapel where it will be visible by the moderator when the delegate is standing for business. The deacons, ministers, and delegates enrolled by the clerk shall compose the conference. In case of questionable representation, however, the case under question shall be referred to the Executive Committee.

3. It shall be the duty of every church belonging to this conference to send a letter to every session of this conference reporting in the same, its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any church belonging to this conference which fails to represent itself for two successive sessions may be dismissed from the conference 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. The meeting shall be closed with prayer.

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

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

7. This conference shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a Committee of the Whole.

8. It shall be the duty of all members of the conference to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain permission from the moderator. Exceptions to this would be due to illness, deaths and funerals.

9. No member shall absent himself from the conference during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

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

11. The moderator shall not allow discussion when it is not carried on in a Christian spirit, or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

12. 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.

13. The standing vote, or lifted hands may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

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

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

16. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of this conference by a two-thirds vote of the members present. All proposed amendments or alterations will be tabled for three months to let each church discuss said amendment or alteration and make their decision of how they want to vote.

17. Any minister desiring to be licensed or ordained must be the husband of one living wife. His wife must have only one living husband.

18. All ministers must be brought before this conference and examined by the ordaining council before being granted a license or ordained.

19. Any Church wishing to join the West Wise County Conference will have a one year waiting period for acceptance or rejection by the Body. After the year is up, if the Church is accepted, it will then be eligible to host the next Conference, regardless of where it stands in alphabetic listing of churches.

20. A person must be present at the conference meeting in order to be elected to an office of this conference.

GREETINGS:

To the Southwest Virginia Association of Free Will Baptist, when convened with the Dry Fork Church, Coeburn, Va. May 14, 1977. We have chosen all delegates from our last conference as messengers, these we pray may sit with you in this Godly work.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	22
Church Membership	1073
Number of Sunday Schools	22
Sunday School Membership	1260
Number of Youth Leagues	11
Youth League Membership	304
Church Members Received	171
Church Members Dismissed	99
Church Members Deceased	19
Ordained Ministers	37
Licentiates	8
Ordained Deacons	53

DISBURSEMENTS

Pastors Salaries	25,035.77
Evangelistic Work	6,621.66
Home for Children	3,454.28
Superannuation	545.00
Home Mission	2,580.12
Foreign Mission	1,775.35
Literature & Publications	4,550.54
Building & Repairs	43,963.37
Minute Fund Enclosed	268.25

OFFICERS OF EAST WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

ORDAINING COUNCIL

- Ralph Flanary, Dungannon, Va. 1982
- Eddie Sturgill, Jenkins, Ky. 1981
- J. V. Estep, Big Stone Gap, Va. 1979
- Billy Stover, Norton, Va. 1978
- Fred Ramey, Norton, Va. 1980

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Palmer Blevins, Coeburn, Va. 1978
- J. D. Kilgore, Pound, Va. 1979
- Bill Slemp, Coeburn, Va. 1980

LEAGUE FIELD WORKERS

Mrs. and Mrs. Noon Kiser, Coeburn, Va. 1978

Monroe Robinette, Coeburn, Va. 1978

Done by the Order of the East Wise County Quarterly Conference of Free Will Baptist, while in regular session with the Dry Fork Church, Coeburn, Va. May 14, 1977.

Moderator: Fred Ramey

Clerk: Rev. Elmer Miner, Sr..

Asst. Clerk: Munroe Robinette

CONSTITUTION OF EAST WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

ARTICLE I. This association shall be called the East Wise County Quarterly Conference, and shall be composed of such consistent, well regulated Freewill Baptist Churches which possess sound doctrine, character, reputation, fellowship, stability and organization, as shall unite in this compact and agree to this constitution.

ARTICLE II. The acting members of this Quarterly Conference shall be the Ministers and Deacons belonging to member churches, who shall be considered as standing members, together with such delegates as are chosen by the several churches of which the Quarterly Conference is composed, to represent them in this Conference; every church to be entitled to two delegates, every church containing 50 members to three (3) delegates, and one (1) additional delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members.

ARTICLE III. The officers of this Quarterly Conference shall be a Moderator, who shall be elected at the close of each Conference session, and shall serve the conference the following three months. A clerk, and treasurer, who shall serve as standing officers of the Quarterly conference at the discretion of the Quarterly, together with assistants as may be deemed necessary, and an Executive Board consisting of three (3) members, all of whom shall perform such duties as set forth in the by-laws and as usually devolve upon such officers.

ARTICLE IV. Any well-organized and well regulated Freewill Baptist Church which conforms to the practices and agree with the doctrine of the Freewill Baptist denomination, as stated in the treatise of their faith, and are in favor of the benevolent enterprises, as Sunday Schools, Missions, Temperance, and Education, may be received into this Conference, on application, by vote of the Conference.

ARTICLE V. This Quarterly Conference shall have power to discipline its churches for unchristian behavior, a want of conformity to Gospel order, or a violation of the conditions of this compact, and expel them in case of unsuccessful labor; to license and ordain ministers, such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God. By request of churches to which such persons belong; to settle such questions of discipline and doctrine as the churches may refer to it; and transact such other business as may be necessary for the benefit of religion, consistent with liberty and independence of the churches according to the practices of the Freewill Baptist Denomination, and not repugnant to the regulations of the yearly association with which this conference is connected; and to make such by-laws necessary to its regulation not repugnant to this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI. The sessions of the Quarterly Conference shall be on Saturday before the second Sunday in January. April, July and October at 9 a.m. at which time it shall be the duty of all the churches of which it is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates.

ARTICLE VII. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present, notice of such intended alterations or amendments having been given and recorded by the Clerk at the last regular session of the Conference.

BY-LAWS OF THE EAST WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

1. Each session of this Conference shall be called in conference by the clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence the senior minister in years; if a quorum is present, charge shall be taken by the Moderator, or assistant Moderator, or in their absence a moderator shall be elected from the floor. Each session shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

2. It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll all ordained ministers and deacons of this conference as standing delegates, and to enroll lay-delegates elected by the various churches as letters are read and approved. Also keep a concise and careful record of all the proceedings, read them at the direction of the moderator, and to perform such other duties his office may direct.

3. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep an accurate record of all Conference finances and disbursements and to report such at the direction of the Moderator.

4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over all the business transactions of the Conference, and to see that such is carried on according to Roberts Rules of Order parliamentary procedure; to maintain proper christian order and discipline; and to call and preside over any special called meeting of the conference, between sessions, should an emergency arise that warrants immediate attention.

5. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to arrange the programs of the Conference session, if not otherwise determined, to assist in securing pastors for the churches and suitable fields of labor for the ministers; to render special assistance to weak churches; to see that effective work for Home and Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Superannuation, and Sunday Schools is being done in all the churches, appointing, if need be, suitable committees and workers for these enterprises; and to labor faithfully for the general good of the Quarterly Conference.

As such this Board shall have power to act for and in behalf of the Conference from one regular session to another; any such action to be reported to the next regular session for approval.

6. It shall be the duty of the Ordaining Council to examine for license, candidates at the request of the churches to which they are a member; to examine for ordination candidates, recommended by their local churches who have been licensed for one year or more; to ordain deacons at the request of the churches; to ordain candidates to the Gospel Ministry who favorably pass examination, such examination shall include sufficient material to determine a reasonable acquaintance with the Bible, Christian doctrine, and Freewill Baptist teachings, to examine ministers coming from other conferences or denominations.

7. 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 session.

8. This Conference shall be generally governed by Chapter three (3) of this Treatise as published by the National Association in 1969, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and these By-Laws.

9. The Moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit, or when he thinks it will cause discord and divisions.

10. By a two-thirds majority vote of the members present a ruling of the Moderator may be overruled.

11. Any person not a member of the Conference may be allowed to take part in its discussion by a majority vote of the Conference.

12. No member shall be allowed to speak more than ten (10) minutes, not more than twice on the same subject without permission from the Moderator.

13. No women shall be ordained into the ministry.

14. All candidates ordained into the ministry will be required to be able to read the Bible and to manifest a desire for self-improvement and study. A minister from another denomination wishing to unite with the Freewill Baptist denomination must first unite with a local church, practicing Freewill Baptist doctrine, and will then be subject to examination by the ordaining council as noted in Article VI.

15. Any candidate who has been married and divorced and remarries another will not be granted credentials; no candidate married to a divorcee will be granted credentials; any minister who belongs to this Conference, who divorces his wife and marries another, forfeits his right in the Conference to preach the Gospel, and his credentials will be called for by the Ordaining Council.

16. These By-Laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present, notice of such intended alterations having been given and recorded by the Clerk at the last regular session of the Conference.

17. This Conference adopts the covenants together with the Faith and Practice of the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

18. No person should hold more than one elective office, at one time that shall continue for one year.

19. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to their feet, and address the Moderator, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.

1976 ANNUAL MINISTERS REPORT OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MINISTERS CONFERENCE

MINISTER	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptised	Additions To Church	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Hobart Addington	62	1		6	5	2	3	2,700	\$1,415.00
C. B. Addison	49	1	2	9	7	3			1,200.00
Jeff Bevins				7	5		2		
Robert Bevins									
Palmer Blevins	75	1	1	14	14	9	3	2,500	2,500.00
Edison Boggs									
Bernard Brasky	86	1		3	3				300.00
Jess Cowden	50	1		3			2	1,500	100.00
E. R. Davis		Sick							
Denver Dean	36	1		9	8	2			200.00
J. V. Estep	52	1	1	2		1	1	4,520	450.85
Ralph Flanary	175	2	3	26	18	18	15	25,000+	3,200.00
G. T. Francis	40		1	3	2			500	
Roger Freeman	112		10	40	25		3		
Ray L. Goode	150	1	5	75	40	15	5	15,000	2,500.00
Perry W. Honeycutt	44	2					1	1,000	1,100.00
Milam Hall									
Munroe Hale	10						1		
Vestus Jessee	21		1	14			6		
James H. Kilgore	102	1	2	5	6	10	10	5,000	
J. D. Kilgore	130	1	1	8	6	8	14	8,365	1,875.00
William Kilgore	35						4		
J. E. Leonard	45	1		4		1	1	1,400	609.00
Hansford Mullins	150	1	2	10		8	6		
Leroy Mullins	55	1		2	2			1,000	

William C. Maness	120	2	2	2	6	8		3	2,000	1,200.00
Richard McFarland	100	1	2	2	37	25	17		4,000	480.00
Hobart Martin		Sick								
Emmitt Mullins	75	1	2	2	8	6	2		10,000	
Elmer Miner, Sr.	187	2	1	1	7	9	7	28	5,000	2,200.00
Everett Mullins	21									
Ben Powers	18				4	4		84		
David Powers	48	1			25	25	22	28		
Paul Pennington	65	1	1	1	3	5		1		
Fred Ramey	108	1	2	2	10	18	10	4	7,000	1,000.00
Donnie Rutherford	50	1			25	30	18	1	5,000	200.00
Jim Ramey										
Bill Stover		1						2		
Garland Summers	40							2	500	
Claude Sloce										
Eddie Sturgill	100	1	6	6	52	30	33	8	5,571	
C. G. Turner	25				5	1				
Tyler Tate										
Jonah Shoop										
Danny Mullins		1						1		
Edgar Baltimore	26		1	1	17			18		
Cecil McConnell										
Vardrey H. Bolling	60				7					
Noah Kiser, Jr.										
M. L. Thompson	12				2					
Donald Bolling	5				1					
Jim Smith	75	1	1	1	14	5				375.00
Bill Slemp										
Theodore Homes		1	4	4	17	6	5	8		636.28
Ray Gardner										
Donald Lambert			1	1	7			1		80.00
Raymond Baird	15									30.00

ANNUAL REPORT ON CHURCHES OF THE EAST WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

CHURCH	Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	Super-annuation	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Literature & Publications	Sunday School Membership	League Membership	
1. Beech Grove	30	1,275.00	222.05	40.00		30.00		182.37	40	18	Rev. J. E. Leonard
2. Bondtown	27								30		Rev. Jimmy Ventro
3. Bull Run	43	1,200.00	352.84	268.31	20.00		160.00	191.33	67	25	Rev. Ralph Flanary
4. Central	67	4,677.04	365.00	120.00		985.00	845.35	884.27	75	40	Rev. Jonah Shoop
5. Davis Chapel	51	480.00	295.00	40.00	40.00			180.00	55	27	Rev. David Powers
6. Dry Fork	49	1,444.00		120.00	20.00			197.39	48		Rev. Elmer Miner, Sr
7. Durham	38	1,180.48	288.06	209.87		666.32		346.28	79	25	Rev. Jonah Shoop
8. First FWB	38	1,600.00	472.50		20.00			100.95	42	31	Rev. Fred Ramey
9. Flatwood	36		150.00	20.00	20.00			99.74	36		Rev. Milam Hall
10. Inman	26	475.00	1,216.92	529.11	225.00			202.89	61		Rev. Billy Stover
11. Lone Pine	83	1,800.00	320.00	475.00	75.00	524.80	110.00	509.62	68	12	Rev. Kermit Moore
12. Mary's Chpl.	177	1,240.00	621.32	538.05	20.00	330.00	540.00	985.32	178	45	Rev. Bill Harrison
13. North Fork	57	580.00	816.14	181.00				114.11	35	30	Rev. Paul Pennington
14. Occonita	45	1,975.00	160.00	117.90				33.77	42		Rev. J. D. Kilgore
15. Pippin Chapel	32			30.00	5.00	4.00		5.70	15	21	Rev. Willard Kiser
16. Ramsey	94	398.21	504.47	253.99	60.00		40.00	75.35	123	30	Rev. James Ramey
17. Rock Lick	57	2,000.00		326.16	40.00	40.00	80.00	143.56	87		Rev. Ralph Flanary
18. Stone Mt.	19		376.00					30.00	20		Rev. Bernard Braskey
19. Tacoma	18								35		Rev. Bill Honeycutt
20. Valley View	22	487.97	40.00	39.21	20.00			89.04	21		Rev. Bill Honeycutt
21. Victory	48	3,913.22	421.36	145.68				140.65	83		Rev. Ray Goode
22. Willis Chapel	16	309.85						38.20	20		Rev. J. V. Estep
TOTAL	1,073	25,035.77	6,621.66	3,454.28	545.00	2,580.12	1,775.35	4,550.54	1,260	304	

ANNUAL REPORT ON CHURCHES OF THE WEST WISE COUNTY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

CHURCH	Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	Super-annuation	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Bible College	Literature & Publications	Sunday School Membership	League Membership	
Beckner's Chpl.	70	172.87			10.00					70		Hansford Mullins
Bethel Chapel	45		268.35	54.76	14.08	20.00	20.00	20.00	129.64	55	32	Denver Dean
Brian's Chapel	20	440.00	175.00	25.00	20.00					19		Theodore Holmes
Esserville	68	2,445.00	528.50	210.32	15.00	100.00	120.00		252.01	77	36	Hobart Addington
Glamorgan	102	1,500.00	520.50	545.00	38.16	120.00	195.00	60.00	390.52	122	29	Harold Kilgore
Hoover Hill	37	317.45	980.94		20.00				42.97	45		William Maness
Hopkin's Chpl.	66		25.00	152.13	20.00				106.28	26		Emmitt Mullins
Indian Creek	124	1,305.00	733.00	385.00	20.00	708.68	535.00		478.64	80	28	Eddie Sturgill
Martha's Chpl.	65	84.00		10.00	15.00				11.91	25		Danny C. Mullins
Mt. Olive	28	525.00		225.00	20.00	300.00			161.18	50		Leroy Mullins
Mt. View	64	1,200.00	1,162.47		20.00				152.43	86	30	C. B. Addison
Steven's Chpl.	47	375.00	206.70	100.00	20.00				117.91	40		Don Rutherford
West Norton	58	1,200.00	755.00	103.73	20.00		55.00		92.16	62	53	-----
Wilson's Chpl.	43	1,000.00	781.00	50.00	15.00	20.00	55.18		78.73	70	30	Jimmy Smith

