

1960

ERNEST R. BOWEN  
3606 WEST END AVENUE  
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37205

**Minutes**  
**OF THE**  
**First Annual Session**  
**OF THE**  
**Stone Association**  
**OF**  
**FREEWILL BAPTIST**  
**of Central Indiana**

**MET WITH THE**  
**FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

**October 21, 22, 1960**

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REV. WILLIAM SIMMONS, Moderator ----- Anderson, Ind.  
REV. JAMES O. McCOWANS, Asst. Moderator --Anderson, Ind.  
REV. JAMES W. PHILLIPS, Clerk ----- Anderson, Ind.  
REV. JOSEPH B. MATHENEY, Asst. Clerk --- Anderson, Ind.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **FRIDAY NIGHT:**

1. Calling Delegates to order.
2. Electing Moderator and Clerk.
3. Enrollment of Delegates.
4. Appointment of all Committees.
5. Presby appointed.

### **SATURDAY MORNING:**

1. Calling Roll of Delegates.
2. Calling for Letters from Churches.
3. Invitation for New Churches.
4. Invitation for office of Elder.
5. Reading of Rules.

### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON:**

#### **Committee Report.**

1. Report on Temperance.
2. Report on Sunday School.
3. Report on Resolutions.
4. Report on Obituaries.
5. Report on Prayer Meetings.
6. Contributions counted; Minutes ordered.
7. Appointment for next meeting place.
8. Expressing thanks.
9. Adjournment.

## MINUTES

The First Annual Session of the Stone Association of the Free-will Baptist of Central Indiana met with the First Freewill Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 21, 22, 1960. The former Moderator Rev. William Simmons called the house to order. After singing and prayer proceeded to organize by electing Rev. William Simmons, Moderator; Rev. James O. McCowan, Asst. Moderator; Rev. James W. Phillips, Clerk; Rev. Joseph B. Matheney, Asst. Clerk.

## ROLL OF DELEGATES

After calling the roll of Churches the following delegates represented the following Churches.

First Church of Indianapolis ----- John Payton, George Owens  
First Church of Muncie ----- James Rosebomer, William Fitzgerald  
Mt. Hope of Anderson ----- Elmer McCowan, Lyle Ledbetter

## COMMITTEE ON DEVOTIONAL

Friday Night, Rev. Joseph B. Matheney

Saturday at 11:00 A.M., Edward Hargis

Saturday at 7:00 P.M., Rev. William Simmons

Rev. James W. Phillips, Chairman

Bro. Morgan Shepherd

Bro. Charlie Buchanan

## APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Committee on Temperance: Joseph B. Matheny, Chairman; Bro. William Fitzgerald; Bro. Elmer McCowan.

Committee on Sunday School: Rev. James O. McCowan, Chairman; Lyle Ledbetter; Bro. James Rosebomer.

Committee on Resolutions: Rev. James W. Phillips, Chairman; Bro. Ralph Burke; Bro. Charlie Buchanan.

Committee on Prayer Meetings: Bro. Morgan Shepherd, Chairman; Bro. William Fitzgerald, Bro. Lyle Ledbetter.

Presby was appointed: Rev. James O. McCowan, Chairman; Rev. William Simmons, Rev. Joseph B. Matheny, Rev. James W. Phillips, Rev. Elmer Harris.

Motion to adjourn for Preaching and to meet back at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday.

Rev. Joseph B. Matheny preached a wonderful message on Doctrine.

## SATURDAY MORNING

Was called to order by singing "Won't It Be Wonderful There" "I'm Bound For That Kingdom." Moderator read from the 6th chapter of Galations. Prayer was directed by Bro. Morgan Shepherd.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Report on Temperance

We your committee on Temperance believe that alcohol is a dangerous habit forming beverage, and is extremely harmful to society, detrimental to our morals and is damming to the soul of man. Its nation-wide use in America has produced the majority of the wrecks on the highway, it has also caused many broken homes, broken hearts and made more than 5,200,000 habitual drunkards. Whiskey, wine and beer respects neither age nor sex. We should denounce it as deceptive and dangerous. We declare that total abstinence is the only course and work and pray that we may speedily rid our land of the Satanic menace.

We also advise our preachers and members to not only admonish Temperance in intoxicating drinks but also in their talks or anything whereby our brethren might be offended.

REV. BASIL MATHENY, Chairman  
BRO. WILLIAM FITZGEROLD  
BRO. ELMER McCOWAN

### Report on Sunday School

We your Committee on Sunday School, believe that the Sunday School is the most wonderful organized program in the church, for in this cause you can reach so many with God's word that you can't reach otherwise. It sure backs up the church.

REV. JAMES O. McGOWAN, Chairman  
BRO. LYLE LEDBETTER  
BRO. JAMES ROSEMBOMER

Motion made to adjourn for 11:00 A.M. Preaching and to meet back at 1:00 P.M.

Rev. Edward Hargis preached a wonderful message.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Called together at 1:00 P.M. by congregation singing "Send The Light." Moderator read scripture from 61st Psalms. Prayer by Bro. Freeman.

## RECOGNIZING VISITING MINISTERS

Rev. Freeman, United Baptist, Isman, Tennessee.  
Rev. Richard Cordell, First Freewill Baptist Church, Anderson, Indiana.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION

We your Committee on Resolution ask the Association to adopt this rule that all Ministers who do not make a report to be placed in minutes as ministers who made no report. We also ask that the Association adopt this resolution that Ministers who fail to represent for two consecutive sessions of our association be dismissed from roll of Ordained Ministers.

We also ask that you adopt this rule: If any Minister fails to appear for two consecutive sessions of our Quarterly Meetings, that the Presby go see them.

We also agree to rotate our Conference and Association from one church to the other and not to visit any Church twice until all have been visited.

We also adopted Minister report Form.

We Believe also that the Revised Standard Version is an inaccurate translation of the Bible, and that it seeks to destroy the Deity of Christ, minimizes the necessity of the Second Birth and attempts to make void the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross, and it is therefore an open threat to our Christian way of life. We of this association, because of these convictions, unanimously repudiate it, deem it fallacious, and declare we will neither teach it nor use it in any of our services.

Rev. James Phillips, Chairman  
Bro. Ralph Burke  
Bro. Charlie Buchanan

## REPORT ON PRAYER MEETING

We, your Committee on Prayer Meeting, urge and insist that prayer is needed more regularly throughout our communities. We feel that prayer meeting is needed at least once a week in all our Churches, for we feel that prayer is the key that unlocks Heaven's Door.

Bro. Morgan Shepherd, Chairman  
Bro. William Fitzgerald  
Bro. Lyle Ledbetter

## EXPRESSING THANKS

We, the Ministers and Delegates, wish to thank the good people of Indianapolis for the good food and fellowship we have had with you. We hope to see you at Muncie next year.

May God bless you all is our prayer.

Our work being ended, motion made to adjourn until the next association which will begin on Friday night before the 4th Sunday in October.

Rev. William Simmons will preach the opening message.

## DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Section 1. That all power of the church government is inherent in the people and the preachers; that is, that they may have a right, through their representatives, to establish, alter or amend their form of church government, two-thirds agreeing thereto.

Section 2. That a Christian church is a society of believers in Christ, and is a divine institution, Jesus Christ being the head of the Church and the Bible the only rule of our faith and practice.



Section 3. That no rule of faith and doctrine shall ever be established in the Freewill Baptist Church contrary to the Bible.

Section 4. No person who loves the Lord Jesus Christ and obeys the Gospel should ever be deprived of church membership.

Section 5. Every member has inalienable right to private judgment in matters of religion and may speak freely of the same in a way that will not violate the law of God, or the law of their country, or the rights of their fellow man.

Section 6. Church trials should be conducted on Gospel principles only, and no minister or member should be excommunicated except for immorality, the propagation of un-Christian doctrine, neglect of duty enjoined by the word of God, or the rules of the church.

Section 7. The church has a right to form and enforce such rules and regulations only as are in accordance with the Holy Scripture, and may be necessary to carry into effect the great system of practical Christianity.

Section 8. There may be three grades of association established in the Freewill Baptist Church. First—the monthly association; Second—the annual association; Third—the general association; all of which may be established by the rules of the church.

Section 9. That the church has a right to select their leaders and delegates to the annual association.

Section 10. It shall be the duty of each church to select two deacons and one clerk.

Section 11. It shall be the duty of the different church clerks to keep a correct minutes of all their church meetings in a book provided for that purpose.

Section 12. Each church represented in the annual association shall be entitled to two delegate voters, whose membership does not exceed 50, and one additional for every 25 over 50.

Section 13. That, for the purpose of ordaining elders, there shall convene a Presby. Said Presby shall consist of three or more ordained elders and they shall elect a moderator and clerk from among themselves for the present session. It shall be the duty of said Presbytery to examine all applicants that may come before them for license and ordination, and if found competent shall ordain them or set apart for the work by prayer and laying on of hands. Said Presbytery shall have full power to try ministers and deacons, composing this association, for immorality, propagation of un-Christian doctrine, neglect of duty enjoined by the word of God or the rules of the church, on proper testimony; their word to be final. Any member of the Presbytery shall have full power to convene a Presbytery in extraordinary session at any time for the purpose of transacting any official business.

Section 14. No minister shall be ordained to the office of elder unless they meet the requirements as stated in I Tim. 3: 1-7, and pass a satisfactory examination upon the subject of repentance, faith,

justification, the door of the church, water baptism, the Lord's Supper, washing the saint's feet, and transaction of the church business in general.

Section 15. Any one who desires the office of elder shall take the following steps before presenting himself for ordination. He must come to the Presbytery recommended by church letter for license; He must be a member of the church that recommends him, and if found competent they shall issue license; after he has had his license one year, he shall go before the Presbytery with church letter recommending him for ordination, and if found worthy on second examination, they shall ordain him.

Section 16. That for the purpose of receiving licentiates or ordained ministers from other denominations who come to us well recommended, we receive them and ratify their license or credentials.

Section 17. It shall be the duty of the Presbytery to give a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any ordained minister, if in good standing, wishing to leave our association.

Section 18. It shall be the duty that any minister coming before the Presbytery for license or ordination, or to have their credentials ratified, that they must belong to a Freewill Baptist Church in Stone Association, and bring a letter of recommendation from same.

Section 19. That any minister being called from another association to pastor a church in the Stone Association of Central Indiana, must come before Presbytery for examination.

Section 20. Forbidding any one hereafter having more than one wife, to be ordained for either a minister or a deacon. Also, that if, and when, any of the present ministers or deacons become the husband of more than one wife, or marry a woman with a living husband, his ordination would automatically be annulled.

Section 21. No woman will be licensed or ordained to the office of elder.

## RULES OF DECORUM

Section 1. No complaint shall be brought in the church against transgressing members until the aggrieved party complies with the directions given by our Lord in St. Matthew, 18: 13, 17.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the deacons of the church to go to the transgressing member, talk to them and they shall have until the second church meeting to make reconciliation. It may be the duty of the churches to choose a committee to settle questions of aggrieved causes. Rom. 16: 17.; II Cor. 12: 21; II Cor. 13: 1; II Cor. 12: 21.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of Stewards to advise the church to promote means to sustain the church and preachers. I Cor. 16: 1, 2; II Cor. 9: 7; Luke 10: 7; I Cor. 9: 14.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of each minister, on receiving members in the church, to ask the applicant the following questions: First — "Do you feel that you love God with all your heart, soul,

mind, and strength?" Second — "Are you a believer with all your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?" Third — "Are you willing to walk in all His precepts?" Matt. 22: 37; Acts 8: 37; John 13: 1, 17; I Cor. 11: 20, 22; Luke 22: 18, 20; Matt. 26: 26, 29.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article 1. We believe in one eternal God, the Creator and Upholder of all things and in Jesus Christ, His Son, and in the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one. St. John 1: 1; I Cor. 8: 6; St. John 10: 30.

Article 2. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of Faith and Practice. II Pet. 1: 19-20; II Tim. 3: 14-17; Dan. 10: 21; Acts 1: 16-17; Matt. 21: 42.

Article 3. We believe that man is unable to recover himself from the fallen state that he is in, by reason of sin, only by the grace of God through the exercise of faith. Gen. 1: 27; Gen. 2: 16-17; Psalms 51: 5; Rom. 5: 12-19; John 3: 5-7; Eph. 2: 3.

Article 4. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saint's feet are ordinances of Jesus Christ and that immersion is the only mode of baptism; not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Matt. 3: 14-16; Matt. 3: 5-6; I Pet. 3: 21; John 3: 21; Acts 10: 47; Matt. 28: 19; Luke 22: 18-20; I Cor. 11: 20-29; John 13: 1-17; Matt. 26: 26-29.

Article 5. We believe that no minister has the right to administer these ordinances except such as are regularly ordained. I Tim. 4: 14; Acts 8: 17-19; II Tim. 1: 6; Heb. 6: 2.

Article 6. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, a general judgment, the punishment of the wicked, and the joys of the righteous are eternal. Matt. 28: 6; John 5: 28-29; I Cor. 15: 51-58; John 11: 25; II Thess. 1: 4-9; Rev. 14: 9-13; Luke 16: 23; Rom. 2: 4-5; II Cor. 5: 10; Matt. 12: 36; Rev. 20: 11-15; Matt. 25: 41; Acts 17: 31; Isa. 33: 14.

Article 7. We believe according to the Scriptures; Paul's letter to the Hebrews 6: 1-7; that after man has been made partaker of the Holy Ghost, if he shall fall from Grace, it is impossible to renew him again unto repentance, or restore him unto the favor of God. Heb. 6: 1-7; I John 5: 16.

Article 8. We believe that a man can make shipwreck of his faith. Rom. 8: 38-39; I Cor. 10: 13; II Cor. 12: 9; Job 17: 9; Matt. 16: 18; John 10: 27-28; Phil. 1: 6; II Chron. 15: 2; II Pet. 1: 10; Ezek. 33: 18; John 15: 16; I Cor. 10: 12; Heb. 12: 15; I Chron. 28: 9; Rev. 2: 4-5; Acts 1: 25; Matt. 24: 13; Rev. 22: 19; Phil. 3: 11-14.

Article 9. We believe that sanctification is the work of God's Grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in the Spiritual Birth, constantly growing in the Grace and the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and becomes final at the end. Heb. 12: 14; Phil. 3: 21; I Cor. 6: 11; II Thess. 2: 13; II Thess. 5: 19-23; John 17: 17-19; II Tim. 2: 20-21.



Article 10. We believe that all Christians have a right to the sacramental table upon the principles of their acceptance with him, for Saint Paul says: "But let a man examine himself, and let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." I Corinthians 11: 28.

## **ORDAINED MINISTERS**

Rev. William Simmons, Anderson, Indiana  
Rev. James O. McCowan, Anderson, Indiana  
Rev. James W. Phillips, Anderson, Indiana  
Rev. Joseph B. Matheney, Anderson, Indiana  
Rev. Elmer Harris, Muncie, Indiana

## **LICENSED MINISTERS**

Bro. Edward Hargis, Anderson, Indiana  
Bro. James A. Stephens, Anderson, Indiana

## **CHURCHES, PASTORS AND CLERKS**

**CHURCH** — First Church of Muncie, Cornbread and Brindle Rd.  
**PASTOR** — Rev. James O. McCowan, 2724 Dewey St., Anderson  
**CLERK** — Deloris Belbrey, 2713 Delaware St., Anderson

**CHURCH** — First Church of Indianapolis, 1623 Prospect Street,  
Indianapolis, Ind.  
**PASTOR** — Rev. James W. Phillips, 2720 Dewey St., Anderson  
**CLERK** — Ola Owens, R.R. 9, Box 438, Indianapolis

**CHURCH** — Mt. Hope of Anderson, 2026 Hendricks St., Anderson  
**PASTOR** — Rev. Gilbert Mata, St. Rd. 236, Chesterfield  
**CLERK** — Boyd Arline, 2257 Walton St., Anderson