

Minutes of the Thirty-Fourth Annual Session
of Eastern Division

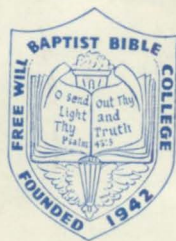
—of—

Stone Association

—of—

Freewill Christian
Baptist Church
of Christ

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Held with the Columbia Hill Church
Overton County Tennessee,
October 7-8, 1921



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. Richard Cordell

MINUTES

The ministers and delegates comprising the Eastern Division of Stone Association of the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ met with the Columbia Hill Church, Overton County, Tenn., in the thirty-fourth annual session, at 11 o'clock, Oct. 7th, 1921.

After prayer by Bro. E. M. Bledsoe, the introductory was preached by Bro. W. H. Stepp, from II Tim. 2:2. Then the former Moderator being present, the delegated body was called to order and proceeded to organize by electing Bro. W. H. Stepp, Moderator, and Bro. A. B. Phillips, Clerk. The Moderator then called for the enrollment of the delegates from the different churches, and the following responded:

Flat Rock—E. M. Bledsoe.

Crawford—James Garrett.

Center Point—C. Cooper.

Indian Creek—C. Stephens.

Columbia Hill—George Phillips, John Phillips, McKinley Phillips.

Banner Springs—W. R. Cook, William Black, T. R. Bicknell, Raymond Norris.

Vine Ridge—W. H. Bowman

Union Ridge—C. D. Phillips.

Union Point—W. J. Looper, M. H. Phillips, S. S. Howard, Josiah Bowman, A. B. Phillips.

Cravenstown—E. B. Almondrode.

Hood's Chapel—J. H. Hood, A. J. Abston.

On motion the Rules of Decorum, in the 1920 Minutes, were read and adopted. On motion the 14th Section was added to the Declaration of Rights, which reads as follows:

"It shall be the duty of any member wishing to leave the Freewill Christian Baptist Church, to call for a letter before leaving."

On motion, it was voted to change Articles of Faith, in Article 7, to read "6th Chapter and 4th verse," instead of "6th Chapter and 17th verse."

On motion, it was voted to change the form of our church letters, so as to make no mention of our contributions for Home Missions or Pastors.

On motion, a committee on devotional services was appointed, which reported as follows:

Friday night, Bro. Bill Johnson and Bro. C. C. Cooper. Saturday

at 11 o'clock, Bro. W. H. Stepp and Bro. D. M. Bledsoe. Saturday night, Bro. V. V. Vaughn and Bro. G. W. McCowen. Sunday at 11 o'clock, Bro. G. W. McCowan and Bro. E. M. Bledsoe.

On motion the preachers and delegates were assigned homes, and the Association adjourned to meet Saturday at 8 a. m. in the morning at the Stone Association of the Presby. Christian Baptist Church of Christian County, Tenn. in the morning.

SATURDAY

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and after prayer by Bro. Johnson, the roll of delegates was called, and the Association proceeded to business by calling for the letters from the different churches, which were read and received. An invitation was then given for the reception of sister churches, and one, Highland, was received, and its delegates, sisters Jane Stout and Dovie Stout, invited to seats in our body.

On motion, Bros. C. C. Cooper, George McGowan and Hilary Phillips were appointed as a committee on finance, and reported as follows:

"We, your committee on finance, find \$17.60 in treasury; Resolved that the clerk have \$12.00 worth of minutes printed, and have the balance for his services."

On motion the delegated body became a committee on Pastoral Labor and reported as follows:

Flat Rock—Pastor, Hilary Phillips; Asst., L. F. Bilbrey.

Banner Springs—Pastor, Ras Bilbrey; Asst., Hilery Phillips.

Vine Ridge—Pastor, W. H. Stepp.

Crawford—Pastor, W. H. Stepp.

Cravenstown—Pastor, G. W. McCowan; Asst., John Fritts.

Center Point—Pastor, C. C. Cooper.

Union Ridge—Pastor, L. F. Bilbrey; Asst's., Ras Bilbrey and John Miller.

Union Point—Pastor, W. H. Stepp; Asst's., G. W. McCowen and F. M. Copeland.

Hood's Chapel—Pastor, K. P. Sims; Asst., W. B. Rhum.

Columbia Hill—Pastor, W. H. Stepp; Asst's., Ras Bilbrey and Hilery Phillips.

Indian Creek—Pastor, L. F. Bilbrey; Asst., Hilery Phillips.

Highland—Pastor, W. H. Stepp; Asst., George McCowan.

Mt. Pleasant—Pastor, V. V. Vaughn.

On motion, it was ordered that Bro. John Fritts' name be enrolled as an ordained minister. On motion, it was ordered that W. I. Peters' name be dropped from the list of ordained ministers.

On motion, W. A. Johnson, Alvis Miller and John Miller were appointed home missionaries to the bounds of the Association.

On motion, our next Association will be held with the Vine Ridge Church, Crawford, Overton County, Tenn., beginning at 11 o'clock on Friday before the second Sunday in Oct. 1922, with Bro. Ras. Bilbrey to preach the introductory sermon.

Resolved, That we express our heartfelt thanks to the people of the Columbia Hill community who so kindly took care of us, and that we tender to them our sincere gratitude for their great kindness and hospitality during our stay with them.

On motion, we sang a song and took the parting hand, and the Association was dismissed in good order, to meet again at the time and place appointed.

W. H. STEPP, Moderator. A. B. PHILLIPS, Clerk.

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.

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.

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.

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 the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Article 5. We believe that no minister has the right to administer these ordinances except such as are regularly ordained.

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.

Article 7. We believe according to the Scriptures—Paul's letter to the Hebrews 6:4—that after a man has been made partaker of the Holy Ghost, if he shall fall from grace, it is impossible ever to renew him again unto repentance, or restore him unto the favor of God.

Article 8. We receive no person into the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ only on the principle of their conversion.

Article 9. We believe that no persons are members of the church of Christ only those who have the witness within themselves.

Article 10. We believe that all the members of the church of Christ have a right to the sacramental table upon the principle of their acceptance with him, for St. Paul says: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." (I Cor. 11:28.)

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

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

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

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

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

Sec. 5. Every member has an 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 their country, or the rights of their fellowman.

Sec. 6. All church trials should be conducted on gospel principles only, and no minister or member should be excommunicated except for immorality, the propagation of unchristian doctrine, neglect of duty enjoined by the word of God or the rules of the church.

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

Sec. 8. There may be three grades of Association established in the Freewill Christian 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.

Sec. 9. That the church has a right to select their leaders and delegates to the Annual Association.

Sec. 10. It shall be the duty of every church to elect two Deacons and one Clerk.

Sec. 11. It shall be the duty of each church to send delegates with letters in order to the Annual Conference.

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of the Annual Association to send to the General Association delegates with corresponding letter in order.

Sec. 13. That no minister or member be allowed to aid or abet in any way, either directly or indirectly, in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. We know by observation that it is the great hindering cause in the upbuilding of the Lord's kingdom on earth.

Sec. 14. It shall be the duty of any member wishing to leave the Freewill Christian Baptist Church, to call for a letter before leaving.

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.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Deacons of the churches to go to the transgressing members, talk to them, admonish 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.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of Stewards to advise the church to promote means to sustain the church and preachers.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of each minister, on receiving members into 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?"

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of all persons who become members of the Freewill Baptist Church, who have not been baptized by immersion, and that for the answer of a good conscience, to attend to the ordinance of baptism.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the several churches to organize a church treasury for the purpose of defraying church expenses.

Sec. 7. It shall be the duty of the different church clerks to keep a correct minute of all their church meetings in a book kept for that purpose.

Sec. 8. 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.

Sec. 9. No minister shall be ordained to the office of Elder until having passed a satisfactory examination upon the subject of repentance, faith, justification, the door into the church, water baptism, the Lord's Supper, washing the saints' feet and transacting of the church business in general.

Sec. 10. Any one who desires the office of Elder shall take the following steps before presenting himself for ordination. They shall be liberated by their churches to hold prayer meeting and comment on the Scriptures for one year; at the expiration of twelve months, or any time thereafter, he shall go before a Presbytery for examination and if found competent, they shall issue license for him; after he has had license for one year he shall go before a Presbytery for a second examination, if found worthy, they shall ordain him to the office of Elder.

Sec. 11. That, for the purpose of receiving ordained ministers from other denominations who come to us well recommended, we receive them and ratify their license or credentials.

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of the Presbytery to give a letter of dismission and recommendation to any ordained minister if in good standing wishing to leave our Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Calling the delegates to order.
2. Electing a Moderator and Clerk.
3. Enrollment of the names of delegates.
4. Appointment of committee on devotional services, and making their report.
5. Reading Rules of Decorum.
7. Adjournment.
8. Calling the roll of delegates.
9. Calling for and receiving letters from different churches.
10. Invitation for reception of sister churches.
11. Contribution counted, printing of Minutes ordered.
12. Invitation for office of Elder.
13. Appointment, place next Association.
14. Appointment to preach introductory.
15. Expressing thanks.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

George McCowan, Monterey, R. 3., Tenn.
K. P. Sims, Wilder, Tenn.
John Stowers, Banner Springs, Tenn.
C. C. Cooper, Manson, Tenn.
W. C. Stephens, Manson, Tenn.
W. B. Rhum, Cook Place, Tenn.
Hilery Phillips, Monterey, R. b. 6., Tenn.
L. F. Bilbrey, Monterey, R. b. 6., Tenn.
V. V. Vaughn, Monterey, R. b. 6., Tenn.
Frances Gennings, Sunbright, Tenn.
W. H. Stepp, Crawford, Tenn.
H. A. Johnson, Davidson, Tenn.
Ervin Holloway, Davidson, Tenn.
John Miller, Wilder, Tenn.
Alvis Miller, Wilder, Tenn.
E. E. Miles, Davidson, Tenn.
Silvester Copeland, Crawford, R. 1., Tenn.
F. L. Copeland, Monterey, R. 2, Tenn.
W. H. Johnson, Cookeville, Tenn.
Jim Huling, Glades, Tenn.
E. M. Bledsoe, Deer Lodge, Tenn.
John Fritts, Davidson, Tenn.

ADDRESS OF CHURCH CLERKS.

Churches	Clerks, P. O. all in Tenn.
Flat Rock	T. S. Adkins, Deerlodge, R. 1.
Crawford	James Jones, Crawford.
Center Point	G. G. Cooper, Manson.
Mt. Pleasant	Frank Finch, Allardt.
Indian Creek	W. B. Rhum, Manson.
Columbia Hill	Almeda Phillips, Crawford, R. 1, Bx. 40
Banner Springs	G. W. Stowers, Banner Springs.
Vine Ridge	Nancy Vaughn, Crawford.
Union Ridge	C. D. Phillips, Monterey, R. 3.
Union Point	A. B. Phillips, Crawford, R. 1, Bx. 40 A
Cravenstown	E. B. Almonrods, Cravens.
Freedom	John Stephens, Glenoby.
Hood's Chapel	J. L. Reagan, Wilder.
Highland	O. V. Bilbrey, Booz.

FORM OF LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION.

We, the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ at _____ County, Tenn., to the Stone Association, when convened with the _____ Church _____ County, Tenn.:

Dear Brethren: _____ We have chosen our messengers _____ to represent us in your body. The statistics of our church are as follows: Increase by baptism ____; by profession ____; by letter ____; by recommendation ____; by restoration ____; our decrease by letter ____; by exclusion ____; by death ____ Total in fellowship ____ Our day of meeting is _____ Sunday. Our present pastor is Bro. _____. Our post office is _____ County, Tenn. This is done by unanimous voice of the church and signed by order of the same on the ____ day of _____, 192____. _____ Clerk. _____ Moderator.

FORM OF LETTER TO CHURCH MEMBERS.

To All Lovers of Jesus Christ: This is to certify that the well beloved _____ is a member of the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ at _____ County, State of Tennessee, and is hereby dismissed from us in full fellowship. This is done by a voice of the entire church, the ____ day of _____, 192____. _____ Moderator.
_____ Clerk.

CHURCH STATISTICS

CHURCH	POST OFFICE & COUNTY All in Tennessee	No. of Members						Day of Meeting		
		Increase			Decrease					
		By Baptism	By Profession	By Letter	By Recommendation	By Restoration	By Letter			
									By Exclusion	By Death
Fiat Rock	Deer Lodge, R. 1, M. C.	8	1	1	1	1	63	\$2 00	1	
Banner Springs	Banner Springs, F. C.	10	1	1	1	1	1	66	4	4
Vine Ridge	Crawford, R. 1, O. C.	15	1	1	1	1	1	30	3	3
Crawford	Crawford, O. C.	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	00	1
Cravenstown	Davidson, F. C.	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	00	2
Center Point	Manson, F. C.	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	60	2
Indian Creek	Manson, F. C.	2	1	1	1	1	1	75	4	4
Union Ridge	Monterey, R. 3, Bx. 74	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	00	3
Union Point	Crawford, R. 1, Bx. 400	8	2	1	1	1	1	2	00	3
Hood's Chapel	Wilder, F. C.	11	10	1	1	1	1	2	00	1
Columbia Hill	Crawford, R. 1, Bx. 35	11	10	1	1	1	1	1	50	2
Highland	Booz,	1	1	1	1	1	1	75	1	1

