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Minutes 51st Annual Session Western Division Stone Association, Freewill Christian Baptist Church

Held with Rocky Point Church, Putnam County, Tennessee, Commencing on Thursday, before the Third Sabbath in October, 1916.

REV. ISAAC TODD, Moderator.

W. M. HENRY, Clerk.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS---First Day.

1. Introductory Sermon
2. Organization
3. Enrollment of Delegates
4. Door Opened for Sister churches

5. Rules of Decorum read
6. Committee on Devotional Services
7. Delegates assigned Homes
8. Adjournment

Second Day.

1. Calling roll and reading minutes
2. Appointment of Special committees
3. Reading letters from various churches
4. Calling for petitionary letters

5. Calling for cor. letters of sister Ass'ns.
6. Hearing reports of special committees
7. Appointment of com't on pastor labor
8. Miscellaneous business 9 Adjournment

Third Day.

1. Calling roll and reading minutes
2. Hearing reports of standing committees
3. Report of ministers called
4. Report Treasurer home mission board
6. Report Treasurer Freewill B. Pub. Co.
12. Minutes of the Day

7. Appointment of Home Mission Board
8. Appointment of corresponding delegates

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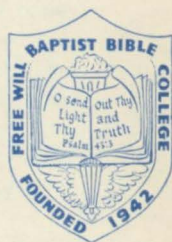
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Tennessee



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. Wm. Henry Oliver

Minutes

OF THE

Fifty-first Session of the Western Division of the Stone Association of Free Will Baptist Church of Christ.

Held with the Rocky Point Church, Putnam County, Tenn. Beginning on Thursday, before the Third Sunday in October, 1916.

Thursday

The Ministers and Delegates comprising the Western Division of the Stone Association of the Freewill Christian Baptist Church met with the Rocky Point Church, Putnam county, Tennessee, on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1916, in its fifty-first annual session; and after singing by the class, devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Isaac Todd, and the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. W. B. Gentry, from 1 Cor. 3; 11; after which the Association was called to order by the moderator, Rev. G. E. Pennington, and proceeded to organize by electing Rev. Isaac Todd, moderator, and W. M. Henry, clerk. Rev. G. E. Pennington retired and Rev. Isaac Todd took the chair. The regular order of business was taken up, and a committee on Devotional service was appointed by the moderator, as follows:

Revs. G. W. Foster, G. B. Brown, Delegates J. H. Miller, Dave Finley. The committee reported as follows:

Thursday night—Revs. Isaac Todd and D. L. Davis. Friday, 11 a. m. Revs. E. W. Stone and M. Judd; night, Revs. W. B. Rhum and T. J. Bostain. Saturday, 11 a. m. Rev. W. S. Clouse; night, Rev. M. S. Wheeler. Sunday, 11 a. m., Rev. L. F. Smith.

The roll was called by churches, and Delegates names enrolled as follows:

Allen's Chapel [Putnan county], M H McBroom, E M Dalton
 Allen's Chapel, [Overton county] No representatives.
 Board Valley—G W Randolph, J Brown
 Baker's Cross Roads—J W Spencer
 Bear Cove—J D Swift, A E Swift
 Cane Creek—Oliver Bussell, R L Montgomery, W W England
 Caney Fork—George Mansell
 Dodson Branch—Jas Mayberry, Sam Hensley, Thos Philips, R Hardy
 Derossett—No representative
 Eastland—Eston Irvin
 Flat Rock—No representative
 Free Union—John L Pressley, Tilden Rodgers
 Glade Creek—C W Lockwood
 Hensley's Chapel—W Bilieu, H B Kelsey
 High Land—J P Ledbetter
 Johnson's Chapel—No representative
 Johnson's Church—Rush England, G T Whitaker
 Johnson's Stand—A M Lee, Mary Lee
 Laurel Creek—by letter
 Lone Oak—M Judd
 Lost Creek—Knoch Hale
 Macedonia—W M Henry, Burl Jones
 Mount Union—W W Welch, W A Welch
 New Era—J E Davis, E Davis
 New Harmony—by letter
 Ozion—Andrew Lafever, J. W. Dunn
 Pleasant Ridge—C S Clouse, M C Henry, J Wilhite
 Poplar Grove—S Bohannon, W T Brown
 Poplar Springs—G W Phillips
 Post Oak Shade—O H Kirby, J C Pippin
 Rocky Point—Dave Finley, J H Miller
 Shady Grove—S D Buckner, James Blaylock
 Smith's Chapel—Fate Kidwell, J O Seagraves, A L Seagraves
 Yankee Town—Frank Pennington, W R Copeland
 Zion Hill—Irvin Burgess, J W Burgess, Perry Vanwinkle
 Mount View—Newton Gentry
 Douglas Chapel—C L Tallant, A J Billberry
 West Chapel, Walker's Creek, and Watson's Chapel, No representative.

The Rules of Decorum were then read and adopted. Delegates were assigned homes and, on motion, the Association adjourned until 8 o'clock Friday morning.

Friday Morning.

Opened with singing by the class and prayer by Rev. Irvin Burgess, after which the roll was called. Rev. W. B. Rhum was invited to a seat in the Association. An opportunity was then given for the reception of new churches. No application made.

The Moderator appointed the following committees: Obituary, Publication, Education, Finance, Sabbath schools, Temperance, Plans on extra business session.—The Presbytery was called together by the moderator, and retired for business.—Letters were then called for from the various churches, read and received.—Corresponding letters were then called for from Sister Associations; whereupon F. M. Copeland and W. C. Stephens came forward bearing a letter from the Eastern division of Stone Association was, read and received.—Bro. M. Judd asked the Association to release him from pastoral work next year; request granted.

On motion, adjourned until 1 o'clock p. m.

FRIDAY EVENING

After singing by the class and prayer by Bro. Wheeler, the regular order of business was taken up.—On motion the clerk was instructed to have printed and furnish to each church a blank form of church letter.—Report of Committee on Obituaries was read and approved. It was as follows:

Whereas, we find that the last enemy, death, has visited our churches, and taken from our ranks 31 of our members. We trust they have joined the assembly above, and that our loss is their gain. We extend our prayers and sympathy to their families.

R. L. Montgomery, G. T. Whitaker, W. B. Rhum.

Report of Committee on Finance was accepted. It follows:

We find \$25.30 paid in for minutes; and recommend that \$4.50 of this be paid to Bro. Henry for service as clerk, and the balance be paid the Freewill Baptist Publishing Co., for printing minutes.

J. D. Swift, F. M. Copeland, W. H. McBroom.

Report of the Committee on Temperance, adopted as follows:

Whereas, the temperance movement is affecting both church and state and we, as a denomination, heartily indorse the stand taken, and the patriotic spirit manifested by the state officials in their efforts to exterminate the liquor traffic, and especially do we commend the action of our governor in his effort to enforce the

temperance law. We further recommend that our ministers make a united effort to put down intemperance, and that each pastor preach at least one sermon against intemperance to their various churches, and that both preacher and layity unite their efforts to exterminate the curse of the rum traffic from our fair land.

M. Judd, James J. Swift, John W. Spencer.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools adopted, as follows :

Believing that the Sunday school is the nursery of the church, where the children are taught and their hearts and minds are impressed with wholesome Scriptural lessons tending to lead them to the knowledge that they are immortal beings, and such impressions made in Sunday school often bring abundant fruit in early life and further, statistics show that a very small per cent of those brought up in Sunday school are ever arraigned before the courts of the state on criminal charges, or imprisoned for crime, we recommend that every church in our Association make every effort possible to organize a Sunday school at their place of worship, and that parents not only send their children, but go with them, and prove to them that the Sunday school is not a place of recreation, but a place where they are to learn for time and eternity, and God will bless the parent, the child and the church. Let each pastor preach at least one sermon a year on the good of the Sunday school, and each school hold an election for superintendent and teachers, and the time for said election shall be the first Sunday in April, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Oliver Bussell, A. I. Seagrave, G. W. Randolph.

On motion, adjourned to Saturday at 8 o'clock a. m.

Saturday Morning.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and after singing by the class and prayer by Rev. J. W. Stone the roll was called, minutes of Friday read and approved. The Report of the Home Mission Board was read and approved, as follows :

We your Committee submit our report: we have chosen Rev. L. F. Smith of Pleasant Hill, and Rev. G. B. Brown of Board Valley, to serve for one year as evangelist and home missionary, and we request them to make quarterly reports to the board, and monthly reports to the MESSENGER at Baxter. They may take collections when necessary for their support; and we earnestly solicit the cooperation of our people with them in their work.

R. F. Baker, W. S. Clouse.

Report of Committee on Education and Publication, adopted :

We recommend the FREEWILL BAPTIST MESSENGER as the official organ of all Freewill Baptists, and ask that each member of our denomination lend it their utmost support. — We also recommend the Freewill Baptist literature published at Ayden, N. C., for use in our Sunday schools; we further recommend that the Freewill Baptist Publishing Co., of Baxter, Tenn., print, at an early date, our church literature. — Seeing the great need of education among our people, we recommend that the Freewill Baptist of Tennessee, and more especially the Stone Association, inaugurate a plan whereby we may establish and maintain a school for the education of our people. — We also recommend that our ministers avail themselves of every opportunity to acquire an education, especially our young ministers.

E. W. Stone, R. F. Baker, W. N. Selby.

Report of Committee on Extra Business Session received, and read as follows:

We suggest that this Association dispense with the regular order of business from 9:15 to 10 o'clock for a general discussion of the problems of the church.

E. W. Stone, L. F. Smith, W. B. Gentry.

Next in order was reading Reports of Ministhrs:

W. B. Gentry, Cookeville, 3 churches, 46 sermons preached, 1 baptised, \$99.92 total amount received for services. G. E. Pennington, Cookeville, (R. 6), 3 churches, 49 sermons, 25 confessions witnessed, 7 received into church, 6 baptised, \$77.00 total amount received for services. G. B. Brown, Sparta (R. 8), 52 sermons preached, 2 received into church, \$64.54 total amount received for services. W. S. Clouse, Cookeville (R. 2), 3 churches, 60 sermons preached, 93 confessions witnessed, 68 received into church, 41 baptised, \$84.55 total amount received for services. J. L. Myers, Baxter, (R. 2) 3 churches, 44 sermons preached, 15 confessions witnessed, 5 received into the church, 4 baptised, \$127.89 total amount received for services. M. S. Wheeler, Bloomington Springs, 2 churches, 36 sermons preached, 47 conversions witnessed, 37 received into church, \$36.00 total amount received for services. J. W. Stone, Bloomington Springs, 3 churches, 60 sermons preached, 32 confessions witnessed, 18 received into church, 15 baptised, \$116.05 total amount received for services.

Report of Committee on Church Development was read and received, as follows:

Realizing the great need of growing enthusiasm, and knowing the energy and influence of our sisters in the various churches, we recommend that this Association create a Womens' Missionary Board, and Ladies' Aid Society, for the purpose of taking care of, and looking after the interest of the churches of Freewill Baptist in the Western Division of the Stone Association; and in order to carry on their work, we recommend that in each church comprising this Association, our sisters organize a Womens' Auxiliary, and that they be assisted by their pastors and deacons. Keep a record of their work, and that the work be reported at the annual meeting of the Womens' Missionary Board; which shall meet at the same time and place and in conjunction with the

brethren of the Western Division of the Stone Association of Freewill Baptist and the Board shall communicate the work of this organization to the Association. We would also recommend that the Association appoint one sister as a field worker to assist the society in the various churches in the Stone Association in organizing the societies and bringing about the result that is so greatly needed. The board shall be composed of five sisters from our churches and that the first named shall be the president and field worker of the Womans' Missionary Society, and that annually thereafter they shall elect their president from among themselves.

W. N. Selby, D. L. Davis, T. J. Bostain.

On motion, the Moderator appointed a committee of five to assist in arranging plans for a Womans' Missionary and Ladies' Aid Society. Following are the names of the committee: E. W. Stone, J. F. Gentry, W. N. Selby, R. F. Baker, D. T. Cantrell.

The Report of the Manager of the Freewill Baptist Publishing Company was read and received:

The Report of the Home Mission Board was called for and received. The Association reappointed the old committee to serve during the coming year. Following is the committee: H. M. Welch, R. F. Baker, W. S. Clouse.

The appointment of Corresponding Delegates to the Eastern Division of the Stone Association was taken up and the following were appointed: J. J. Swift, D. L. Davis, D. T. Cantrell.

The appointment of Corresponding Delegates to the Cumberland Association was taken up, and the following were appointed: E. W. Stone, W. S. Clouse.

The Report of the Standing Committee was called for, and the committee on Zion Hill property not being able to report, was continued for another year. Following is the committee: J. H. Vanwinkle, Irvin Burgess, O. W. Burgess.

Report of the Presbytery read and approved.

The Committee on Board of Womans' Missionary and Ladies' Aid Society report adopted, and members elected as follows: Miss Bessie Selby, president, Cookeville; Mrs. J. F. Gentry, secretary, Cookeville; Mrs. J. W. Stone, Bloomington Springs; Miss Mai Brown, Sparta, Route 8; Miss Winefred Smith, Pleasant Hill.

The Committee on Pastoral Labor was appointed, and sent out.

Upon motion, the Association adjourned for preaching service, which was greatly enjoyed by the delegates and visitors present.

After preaching the business of the Association was taken up. Board Valley and Free Union were put in nomination as suitable places to hold the 1917 Association. The result of the balloting showed 92 for Board Valley and 36 for Free Union, whereupon the moderator announced that the 1917 session of the Association would convene at Board Valley, beginning on Thursday before the third (3d) Sunday in October, 1917, at 11 o'clock, a. m.; Rev. W. S. Clouse to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. G. E. Pennington, alternate.

Report of Committee on Pastoral Labor.

Allen's Chapel, P. C., M. S. Wheeler	Lone Oak, vacant
Allen's Chapel, O. C., L. A. Allen	Lost Creek, J. P. Chastain
Baker's Cross Roads, L. F. Smith	Macedonia, D. T. Cantrell
Bear Cove, L. F. Smith	Mount Union, J. L. Myers
Board Valley, G. W. Foster	New Era, T. J. Bostain
Caney Fork, J. W. Stone	New Harmony, D. L. Davis
Derossett, T. J. Bostain	Ozion, W. S. Clouse
Dodson's Branch, W. S. Clouse	Pleasant Ridge, J. Peters
Douglass Chapel, D. T. Cantrell	Poplar Grove, J. L. Myers
Eastland, Isaac Todd	Poplar Springs, W. S. Clouse
Flat Rock, Isaac Todd	Post Oak Shade, J. W. Stone
Free Union, J. W. Stone	Rocky Point, G. W. Foster
Glade Creek, J. J. Swift	Shady Grove, T. J. Cantrell
Hensley's Chapel, Isaac Todd	Smith's Chapel, Isaac Todd
Highland, J. R. Hammond	West Chapel, W. N. Selby
Johnson's Chapel, J. L. Myers	Walker's Creek, vacant
Johnson's Church, G. W. Foster	Watson's Chapel, L. Hensley
Johnson's Stand, L. F. Smith	Yankeetown, J. J. Swift
Laurel Creek, D. L. Davis, T. J. Bostain	Union Hill, D. L. Davis, J. Peters, assistant
Laurel Springs, vacant	Mount View, Henry Kelsey
	Cane Creek, W. S. Clouse.

Report of L. F. Smith, Home Missionary.

White Hall, 1 visit, 1 sermon, 95 cents received. Dodson's Branch, 1 visit, 1 sermon, \$6.34. Highland, 1 visit, 12 sermons, \$4.55. Indian Creek, 1 visit, 1 sermon, \$3.60. Craventown, 1 visit, 1 sermon, \$2.71. Cooktown, 1 visit, 1 sermon, \$2.90. Crawford, 1 visit, 2 sermons, 85 c. New Era, 4 visits, 4 sermons, \$2.25. New Harmony, 3 visits, 8 sermons, \$14.00. Baker's X Roads, 1 visit, 1 sermon, \$2.90. Stoney Pt., 1 visit, 1 sermon. Cherry creek, 1 visit, 1 sermon (I.O.O.F.) \$5.00. Bear Cove, 4 visits, 14 sermons, 12 members rec., 12 baptised, 37 converts, \$24.15. Cedar Grove, 3 visits, 11 sermons, 1 rec., 1 bap., 1 con., \$2.50. Meridian, 1 visit, sermon. Smith's chapel, 1 visit, 1 sermon. (For J. W. Crayn, at Indian creek, \$3.60; at Bear cove, \$15.15). Totals — 28 visits. 62 sermons. 14 received. 13 baptised. 38 converted. \$75.76 received.

Following is the Report of the Presbytery :

The Presbytery of the Western Division of the Stone Association met with Rocky Point church, October 13, 1916, and proceeded to organize by the election of Rev. W. S. Clouse, moderator, and Rev. E. W. Stone, clerk. Brothers H. B. Kelsey, J. R. Hommons and C. W. Lockwood came before the Presbytery for examination for license and, after examination, license were granted each of them, also the credentials of F. A. Carter were received, also W. J. Peters with license from the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarine, were received, also E. W. Johnson was examined and his license extended another year, as were also the license of Brothers D. L. Davis and Irvin Burgess.

Motion carried that this Presbytery take immediate steps to enforce the latter clause of Section 16, Rules of Decorum, relative to some of our ministers neglecting their duty as ordained ministers, and some of them refusing to take pastoral work and be loyal to the church, its needs and demands.

W. S. Clouse, moderator; E. W. Stone, clerk; L. F. Smith, G. E. Pennington, J. W. Stone, G. B. Brown.

Report of Church Extension Board.

Cane Creek, paid.....	\$1 15
E. W. Stone	1 00
Mrs. J. Stone	1 00
J. L. Myers	1 00
J. F. Gentry	1 00
C. Bohannon, Poplar Grove.....	1 00
S. Bohannon, " "	1 00
John Bohannon, " "	1 00
Melvin Hyder " "	1 00
E. E. Waller, Free Union	1 00
S. B. Pressley, " "	1 00
Caney Fork Church	1 00
Dodson's Branch	70
Bear Cove	4 50
Baker's X Roads	70
Amount collected, less 25c. for ledger	\$16 60
Amount on hand last year	21 20
Amount in bank, Oct'o 14, 1916.....	\$87 80

J. W. STONE, Treasurer.

CHURCH STATISTICS FOR 1916.

CHURCHES	POST OFFICE AND COUNTY, (all in Tenn.)	Increase		Deer's		Total in fellowship	Paid Pastor and for Revival Work	Counted for Minutes	Day of Meeting
		Professions	Letters	Restoration	Exclusion				
Allen's Chapel, P.	Baxter, Putnam	35				131	\$23 00	\$ 55	3
Allen's " O.C.	Hillham, Overt'n								3
Board Valley	Sparta, White	5			6	1 527	24 42	1 00	2
Baker's X Roads	Creston, Cum'd				1	1 65	57 38	1 00	2
Bear Cove	Sparta, White	15	2	2	1	1 169	85 07	1 00	3
Cane Creek	Cookeville, Put.	13	3	1		5 298	46 10	1 15	4
Caney Fork	"	6				4 214	44 10	1 00	3
Dodson's Branch	"	17		1	1	268	59 90	1 00	1
Derosssett	White County								
Douglass Chapel	Brotherton	7	2	24		46	19 05	80	1
Eastland	White County	3	5	2	3	1 82	37 39	1 00	4
Flat Rock	Cumberland Co.								
Free Union	Bloomington, P.	6			1	74	46 50	1 00	2
Glade Creek	Ravenscroft		3			1 71	5 00		2
Hensley's Chapel	Sparta, White					86		64	
Highland	Booz, Overt'n	7			3	1 50		70	1
Johnson's Chapel	Silver Point, P.								
Johnson's Church	Monterey, Put.					76	8 10	60	3
Johnson's Stand	Mayland, Cum.					60	29 55	1 00	3
Laurel Creek	Winesap, "					46	18 70	57	1
Lone Oak	Cookeville, Put.								
Lost Creek	Greentree, White				4	74	15 07	50	2
Macedonia	Brotherton	4				2 80	21 95	60	2
Mount Union	Monterey, Put.	2		2		1 75	80 67	1 05	1
Mount View	Sparta, White	5	7			27	7 10	59	4
New Era	Grapevine	2		1		1 50		75	2
New Harmony	Bledsoe					1 154	11 99	1 00	3
Ozion	Silver Point	1			5	2 151	58 67	75	3
Pleasant Ridge	Sparta, White	2				1 229	6 05	60	1
Poplar Grove	Cookeville, Put.					48	23 50	1 00	1
Poplar Springs	"	4			2	2 117	10 00	50	3
Post Oak Shade	"	8		1	3	2 112	50	1 00	3
Rocky Point	"	8				137	27 00	70	3
Shady Grove	Monterey, Put.					2 83	21 20	35	4
Smith's Chapel	Ravenscroft					1 109	21 07	75	1
West Chapel	Algood, Putnam								
Walker's Creek	Brush Ck, Smith								
Watson's Chapel	Sparta, White				2	2			
Yankeetown	"					40	12 50	40	4
Union Hill	Erasmus					39	23 33	75	4

Paid for Home Missions: Baker's Cross Roads, \$1.70. Bear Cave, \$9.00.

Totals: Professions, 149; Letters, 10; Recommendations, 39; Restorations, 7, increase. Letters, 19; Exclusions, 21; Death, 28, decrease. Total fellowship, 3,259.

Report of E. W. Stone, Sec'y, F. B. P. Co.

To balance, October 15, 1915.....	\$ 5 50
Collected from all sources.....	275 00
Total amount collected.....	\$280 50
Total disbursements.....	2 70 00
Balance in treasury.....	\$10 50

E. W. STONE, Secretary and Treasurer.

A resolution of thanks was then tendered to the good people of Rocky Point for their kindness during our stay among them. The parting hand was taken to meet at the above named place.

Declaration of Rights.

SEC. 1. That all power of church government is inherent in the people and preacher; 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.

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 faith and practice.

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

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

5. 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 system of practical Christianity.

6. That the church has a right to select their delegates to the annual association.

Rules of Decorum.

SEC. 1. There may be three grades of associations established in the Freewill Christian Baptist Church. First, monthly association; second, annual association; third, general association, all of which may be established by the rules of the church.

2. It shall be the duty of each church being a unit in the annual association to elect from their number, two deacons and one clerk.

3. It shall be the duty of each church to send up their delegates with letter in order to the annual association.

4. No minister or member shall be allowed to aid or abet in any way, either directly or indirectly, in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

5. No complaint shall be brought into the church against transgressing members until the aggrieved party complies with directions given by our Lord in Matt. 18:13-17.

6. It shall be the duty of the deacons to go to 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 church to choose a committee to settle questions or aggrieved causes.

7. It shall be the duty of the stewards to advise the church to promote means to sustain their church and preachers.

8. It shall be the duty of each minister on receiving members into the church, to ask the applicant the following question: 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.

9. It shall be the duty of all persons who become members of the Freewill Baptist church, who have not been baptised by immersion for the answer of a good conscience, to attend the ordinance of baptism.

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

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

12. No rule of faith and doctrine shall ever be established in the Freewill Christian Baptist church contrary to the bible.

13. Church trials shall be conducted on gospel principals only, and no minister or member shall be excommunicated except for immortality, the propagation of unchristian doctrine or the neglect of duty enjoined by the word of God or the rules of the church.

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

15. It may be the duty of the annual association to send to the general association delegates with corresponding letters in order.

16. That for the purpose of ordaining elders there shall convene a presbytery. Said presbytery shall consist of three or more ordained elders, and they 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 shall come before them

for license and ordination and if found competent, shall ordain them or set them apart for 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 unchristian doctrine, or neglect of duty enjoined by the word of God, or the rules of the church, on proper testimony; their decision to be final. Any member of the presbytery shall have full power to convene a presbytery in extra session at any time for the purpose of transacting any official business.

17. No minister shall be ordained to the office of elder without 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 saint's feet, and transacting church business in general.

18. Any one who desires the office of an elder shall take the following steps before presenting himself for ordination: He shall be liberated by his church to hold prayer meeting and comment on the scriptures for one; at the expiration of twelve months or any time thereafter, he shall go before a presbytery for a examination, and if found competent, they shall issue license to him, after he has had license for one year, he shall go before a presbytery for a second examination, and if found worthy, they shall ordain him to the office of elder.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. It shall be the duty of each church, on sending delegates to the annual association, to furnish them with a stated amount that they will pay their minister for his services. Any church or pastor failing to comply with said resolution shall be reported to the association, and such failure shall appear in the report of the committee on the support of pastors.

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.

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.

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.

4 We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper and the washing of the saints' 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.

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

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.

7. We believe according to the scriptures—Paul's letter to Hebrews 6:1-7—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.

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

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

10. We believe that all the members of a 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."

Form of Letter to the Association.

We, the Freewill Baptist church at..... County, Tennessee..... to the Stone Association when convened with..... County, Tennessee.

Dear brethren: We have chosen messengers..... to represent us in your body.

The statistics of our church are as follows: Increase by profession....., by letter....., by recommendation....., by restoration....., our decrease by letter....., by exclusion....., by death....., our total to date..... We have paid our pastor, \$....., assistants, \$....., for revival work \$....., total \$....., paid for home mission work \$....., we send contributions for minutes \$....., our day of meeting is..... Sabbath in each month, our present pastor is Bro., send minutes to....., address..... Tenn.

This is done by a voice of the church and signed by order of the same on..... 191..... Clerk..... Moderator.

Form of Church Letter.

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, Tenn., and is hereby dismissed from us in full fellowship. This is done by a voice of the church the..... day of 191.....

..... Clerk..... Moderator.

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