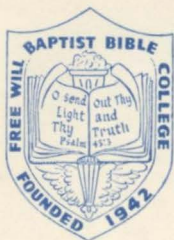


Minutes of the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session
of the Western Division of

Stone Association of
Freewill Christian Baptist
Church of Christ

Held with the Johnson Chapel Church, DeKalb County,
Tennessee, commencing on Thursday before the
Third Sabbath in October, 1919

REV. L. F. SMITH, Moderator, Pleasant Hill, Tenn.
REV. G. B. BROWN, Clerk, Sparta, Tenn., R. 8



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mrs. Daisy Gentry

MINUTES

The ministers and delegates, comprising the Western Division of Stone Association of Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ met with the Johnson Chapel Church, DeKalb county, Tenn., on Oct. 16, 1919, in the 54th annual session.

After devotional exercises by Rev. J. L. Hensley, the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. G. B. Brown; text, John 2:5, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." After which the Association was called to order by Rev. J. W. Stone, Moderator, and it proceeded to organize by electing Rev. L. F. Smith, Moderator, Rev. E. W. Stone, Assistant Moderator, Rev. G. B. Brown, Clerk, and Rev. J. J. Swift, Assistant Clerk.

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

- Allen's Chapel, P. C.—
- Allen's Chapel, O. C.—
- Baker's X Roads—
- Board Valley—G. W. Randolph, J. T. Weaver, Beecher Kinnaird.
- Bear Cove—Clint Haston, Charlie Marsh.
- Cane Creek—J. F. Gentry, N. A. Lee.
- Caney Fork—H. Brown, G. W. Mansell.
- Dodson's Branch—R. F. Hardy, J. V. Hawkins.
- Douglas Chapel—S. Faris.
- Eastland—By letter.
- Flat Rock—
- Free Union—By letter.
- Hensley's Chapel—W. M. Young, Joe Lasson, W. B. Ballew.
- Highland—By letter.
- Johnson's Church—By letter.
- Johnson's Chapel—Alvin Cantrell, W. M. Sherrell, B. W. Young.
- Johnson Stand—
- Laurel Creek—By letter.
- Lost Creek—W. T. Hale.
- Macedonia—By letter.
- Mt. Union—
- Mt. View—
- New Era—
- New Harmony—J. A. Rigsby.

Ozion—V. W. Dewese, J. C. Spears.

Pleasant Ridge—

Poplar Springs—

Post Oak Shade—By letter.

Rocky Point—By letter.

Shady Grove—D. C. Billbrey.

Smith's Chapel—W. H. Segraves, Lee Page, A. L. Segraves.

Yankeetown—By letter.

Zion Hill—

The Rules of Decorum were read and approved with the change of Sections 7 and 8, so as to harmonize with the Manual.

The Moderator appointed the pastor and delegates of the Johnson Chapel church a committee on Devotional Services, which made the following report.

Thursday night, J. L. Hensley. Friday, at 11, J. R. Hammons. Friday night, W. S. Clouse. Saturday at 11, E. W. Stone. Saturday night, W. S. Clouse. Sunday at 11, L. F. Smith.

The delegates were then assigned homes and the Association adjourned until 8 o'clock, Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING

Friday morning the Association met pursuant to adjournment after singing, and prayer by Rev. G. B. Brown.

The roll was called and Thursday's minutes read and approved.

The Moderator appointed the following committees: Obituary, Sabbath Schools, Education and Publication, Finance, Resolutions, and Home Mission.

Letters from the various churches were called for, read and received.

The Moderator appointed the following committees to look after the following church property:

West Chapel—W. N. Selby, J. F. Gentry.

Glade Creek—A. L. Segraves, A. A. Hill, J. W. DuBois

Watson's Chapel—R. F. Baker, J. L. Hensley, H. C. Haston.

Laurel Creek—H. M. Welch, L. F. Smith, T. J. Boston.

Laurel Springs—L. F. Smith, Sam Knox, Joe Davis.

The regular order of business was suspended and the following Brethren were invited to seats with us: Revs. Howard, Hutching, Howell and George, the right hand of fellowship being extended them.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

After singing, and prayer by the Moderator, a petition from New Union Association of Freewill Baptists was read and received, and a committee was appointed to confer with same, as follows: J. J. Swift, V. W. Dewese, H. B. Kelsey, W. S. Clouse.

Committees reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Home Mission, submit the following report:

That each Pastor take up two collections in each church this year and that he make a talk on the interest of same, and that we ask all ministers to work in harmony with same in every church and send same to Treasurer of Home Mission Board.

R. F. BAKER, W. B. GENTRY.

We, your Home Mission Board, report as follows: We have chosen Rev. W. S. Clouse, of Cookeville, Tenn., to serve us 12 months as evangelist and mission preacher, and to report monthly to the Messenger at Cookeville, Tenn., and we solicit a hearty co-operation with him in this great work.

H. M. WELCH, W. S. CLOUSE, R. F. BAKER.

We your Committee on Obituaries submit the following report:

We find the last enemy, Death, has visited our churches and called from our ranks 25 of our members to join the great assembly above. Our greatest loss is their eternal gain. We extend our prayers and sympathy to their families.

W. M. SHERRELL, J. W. LAWSON, J. A. RIGSBY.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following report:

We desire to go on record as a Christian denomination as believing unqualifiedly in the utility of the Sunday school as one of the most potent powers of the church. We recommend that the pastors of the various churches organize Sunday schools in all churches where there are none at present, and foster and encourage their growth in all churches.

W. N. SELBY, H. BROWN, A. L. SEGRAVES.

We, your Committee on Education and Publication submit the following.

This is an age when education is preeminently in the fore-front in every phase of life and believing that Christian education stands for the advancement of the Christian life; therefore we urge our people to support and encourage our Baptist schools and colleges in Tennessee; and believing that the Bible is the foundation of all true Christian education we urge its prayerful study. We also urge the reading of religious literature and that every member take the Freewill

Baptist Messenger, our church paper, and the Baptist and Reflector on home and foreign fields, that our people may understand every line of Baptist work. R. F. BAKER, J. F. GENTRY, J. J. SWIFT.

We, your Committee on Finance report as follows:

We find \$25.50 paid in for minutes. We recommend that \$22.00 worth be printed and the Clerk to have the rest for his trouble.

J. L. HENSLEY, G. W. RANDOLPH, W. S. CLOUSE.

We, your Committee on Temperance submit the following:

Believing that no question should be considered permanently settled until it is settled right, and as we don't believe the whiskey question is settled right until it is wiped out of this fair land of ours; Therefore, we most heartily endorse all legislation against the whiskey traffic and urge the doctrine of temperance to be upheld by all our churches and people.

J. W. STONE, W. T. HALE, H. B. KELSEY.

We, your Committee on Resolutions submit the following report:

Whereas, the Stone Association has had a pleasant and profitable meeting with the good people of Johnson Chapel church, and welcome has been written in large letters in the kind hospitality of this community; therefore, we wish to express our gratitude as the guests of this community.

Be it Resolved, That Stone Association extend its deepest appreciation to the Johnson Chapel church and entire community.

Resolved, also, That we enter heartily into the Seventy-five Million Dollar Drive now being carried on by the Baptists in the South.

E. W. STONE, J. R. HAMMONS, BEECHER KINNAIRD.

We, the Trustees of the Freewill Baptist Publishing Co., to the Stone Association:

Whereas, we have endeavored in the last two years to give our readers the Messenger regularly every two weeks, on the 1st, and 15th of each month, which we have been able to do with the exception of a few copies; but we find for the last two years an indebtedness of \$225.00. We feel that our paper is now the most valuable asset of our church today, and we realize we can not let it fail at this time. We therefore suggest that this Association start an active campaign to raise at least \$500.00 this year to pay off the indebtedness and buy equipment for the Messenger office.

R. F. BAKER, E. W. STONE, J. F. GENTRY.

We, your Campaign Committee submit the following plan for your endorsement:

That the pastors and delegates, deacons and stewards of each church comprise a local committee for each church to raise the five hundred dollars as suggested by the Board of Trustees; this work to

begin the first appointment after the adjournment of this Association. The funds to be sent to Chairman.

E. W. STONE, Chairman, Mrs. J. F. GENTRY, Sec.,
W. B. GENTRY, R. F. BAKER, W. N. SELBY,
J. F. GENTRY, Committee.

The Presbytery met Oct. 18, 1919, and organized by electing Rev. W. B. Gentry, Moderator, and E. W. Stone, Clerk. The presbytery extended the licenses of Bros. Haskell Henry, J. M. Hughes and D. G. Graham another year. There being no further business the presbytery adjourned.

W. B. GENTRY, Mod., E. W. STONE, Clerk,
J. W. STONE, W. S. CLOUSE, Presbytery.

The Committee on Pastoral Labor was appointed.

Ministers reports called for, read and received.

The Treasurer of the Church Extension Board made the following report, showing \$58.00 in the treasury. The Association then ordered out \$50.00 to pay Mrs. J. F. Gentry for her services, to be paid back at the earliest date.

The Home Mission Board was retained for the next twelve months. Adjourned until 8 o'clock, Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Association met pursuant to adjournment after singing, and prayer by Rev. W. B. Gentry.

The roll was called and minutes read and received.

Corresponding delegates were appointed as follows:

To Eastern Division of Stone Association—Rev. W. I. Peters, Rev. L. F. Smith.

To Cumberland Association—Rev. J. W. Stone, Rev. W. S. Clouse.

To Union Association of Missionary Baptists—Rev. J. W. Stone.

To New Salem Association of Baptists—Rev. G. B. Brown, J. F. Gentry.

To General Association—Rev. W. N. Selby, Rev. E. W. Stone.

Southern Baptist Convention—R. F. Baker, J. F. Gentry, Rev. E. W. Stone.

State Convention of Baptists—Rev. E. W. Stone.

The Committee on Pastoral Labor made the following report:

Allen's Chapel, P. C.—W. R. Richardson.

Allen's Chapel, O. C.—L. A. Allen.

Board Valley—W. B. Gentry.

Baker's X Roads—W. I. Peters.
 Bear Cove—L. F. Smith.
 Cane Creek—J. W. Stone.
 Caney Fork—W. N. Selby.
 Dodson's Branch—W. B. Gentry.
 Douglas Chapel—J. R. Hammons.
 Eastland—J. L. Hensley.
 Flat Rock—D. G. Graham.
 Free Union—J. W. Stone.
 Hensley's Chapel—J. L. Hensley.
 Highland—J. R. Hammons.
 Johnson's Chapel—J. L. Hensley.
 Johnson Church—G. B. Brown.
 Johnson Stand—J. P. Chastain.
 Laurel Creek—T. J. Boston.
 Lost Creek—L. F. Smith.
 Macedonia—W. I. Peters.
 Mt. Union—W. S. Clouse.
 Mt. View—
 New Era—D. G. Graham.
 New Harmony—Jas. J. Swift.
 Ozion—J. W. Stone.
 Pleasant Ridge—G. W. Foister.
 Poplar Springs—W. B. Gentry.
 Post Oak Shade—V. W. Dewese.
 Rocky Point—W. I. Peters.
 Shady Grove—J. R. Hammons.
 Smith's Chapel—L. F. Smith.
 Union Hill—S. E. Knox.
 West Chapel—
 Yankeetown—G. B. Brown.
 Zion Hill—J. P. Chastain.

Moved and carried that our next annual Association be held with the Free Union church, Putnam county, Tennessee, 7 miles north-west of Double Springs, commencing on Thursday before the third Sunday in Oct., 1920, Rev. L. F. Smith to preach the introductory, and G. E. Pennington, his alternate.

REV. L. F. SMITH, Moderator.

REV. G. B. BROWN, Clerk.

CHURCH STATISTICS

[illegible]

MINISTERS REPORT

MINISTERS	POST OFFICES	Churches	Sermons	Exhortations	Confessions	Members Recd.	Baptized	Contributions
L. F. Smith	Pleasant Hill	380	120	5	3	\$123	54	
W. B. Gentry	Cookeville	124	23	22	20	60	20	
W. S. Clouse	Cookeville	382	39	32	6	364	98	
J. W. Stone	Bloomington Springs	355	25	15	13	198	53	
G. B. Brown	Sparta, Route 8	260	7	20	14	97	40	
J. L. Hensley	Sparta, Route 4	285	60	26	29	143	68	
J. R. Hammons	Booz	250	4	3		80	55	
H. B. Kelsey	Sparta, Route 4	73	7	25	7	151	48	
W. N. Selby	Cookeville	248	29	16	18	130	19	

MINISTERS WHO MADE NO REPORT

G. E. Pennington, Lebanon; W. R. Richardson, Baxter; E. W. Stone, Baxter; J. L. Myers, Baxter; L. A. Allen, Hilham; D. T. Cantrell, Windle; W. I. Peters, Davidson; J. P. Chastain, Pleasant Hill; J. J. Swift, Sparta; G. F. Henry, Monterey; T. J. Boston, Newton; M. Judd, Cookeville; V. W. Dewese, Silver Point, R. 4; R. G. Lewis, Clifty; S. E. Knox, Verdrie; G. W. Foister, Sparta, R. 8; C. S. Clouse, Sparta, R. 8.

LICENTIATES

D. G. Graham, Winesap; Haskel Henry, Monterey, R. 1; J. M. Hughes, Pomona.

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 profession _____; by letter _____; by recommendation _____; by restoration _____; our decrease by letter _____; by exclusion _____; by death _____. Total in fellowship _____. Our day of meeting is _____ Sabbath. We send contributions _____: For home missions _____. Paid pastor _____. Our present pastor is Bro. _____. Our post office is _____, County, Tenn. This is done by the voice of the church and signed by order of the same on the _____ day of _____, 191___. _____ Moderator.

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 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 their 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. That, for the purpose of ordaining Elders there shall convene a Presbytery. Said Presbytery 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 them 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 unchristian doctrine, 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 extraordinary session at any time for the purpose of transacting any official business.

Sec. 10. 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 transaction of church business in general.

Sec. 11. 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, and if found worthy, they shall ordain him to the office of Elder.

Sec. 12. 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.

Sec. 13. 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.

Sec. 14. 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 pastor for his service. 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 Committee on Support of Pastors.

DECLARATION ON 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, a majority 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 faith and practice.

Sec. 3. That no rule of faith and doctrine shall ever be established in the Freewill Christian Baptist Church 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 or the same in a way that will not violate the law of God, or the law of their country, or the rights of their fellowman.

Sec. 6. 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 words 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 system of practical Christianity.

Sec. 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.

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 up their delegates with letters in order to the Annual Association.

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of the Annual Association to send to the General Association delegates with corresponding letters 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 to the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom.

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 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.

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 6:1-7—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.

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.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS—First Day

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Organization.
3. Enrollment of Delegates.
4. Door Opened to Sister Churches.
5. Rules of Decorum.
6. Committee on Devotional Services.
7. Delegates Assigned Homes.
8. Adjournment.

Second Day

1. Calling the Roll and Reading the Minutes.
2. Reading Letters from Various Churches.
3. Calling for Petitionary Letters.
4. Calling for Corresponding Letters from Sister Associations.
5. Hearing Reports from Special Committees.
6. Miscellaneous Business.
7. Adjournment.

Third Day

1. Calling the Roll and Reading the Minutes.
2. Hearing Reports of Standing Committees.
3. Reports of Ministers Called.
4. Report of Treasurer of Home Mission Board.
5. Appointment of Home Mission Board.
6. Appointment of Corresponding Delegates.
7. Appointment of Committee on Pastoral Labor.
8. Receiving Report of Committee on Pastoral Labor.
9. Designating the Place of Meeting of Next Association.
10. Thanks to Church and Vicinity for Kindness.
11. Minutes of the Day Read.
12. Adjournment.

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 church, the ____ day of ____, 191____. _____Moderator.
_____, Clerk.

