

Minutes of Sixtieth Annual Session
of Western Division

—of—

Stone Association

—of—

**Freewill Christian Baptist
Church of Christ**

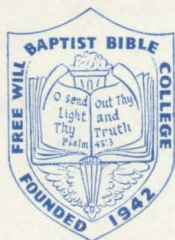
Held with the Post Oak Shade Church,
Putnam County, Tennessee, Commencing
October 15, 1925

REV. J. A. HAWKINS, Moderator
Cookeville, Tenn.

J. A. WALKER, Assistant Moderator
Cookeville, Tenn., Route 4.

CLAUDIA KIRBY, Clerk
Cookeville, Tenn., Route 9.

S. P. KUYKENDALL, Assistant Clerk



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. Alva Hall

MINUTES

The ministers and delegates comprising the Western Division of Stone Association of Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ met with the Post Oak Shade Church, Putnam County, Tennessee, on October 15, 1925, in the 60th annual session.

After devotional services by Rev. J. A. Hawkins, the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. T. Cantrell, text Acts 15:6, "And the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter,"

After which the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. W. B. Gentry, and proceeded to organize by electing Rev. J. A. Hawkins, Moderator, and Rev. J. A. Walker, Assistant Moderator, Claudia Kirby, Clerk, and S. P. Kuykendall, Assistant Clerk.

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

- Allens Chapel—Jeff Bryant, Hop Brewington.
- Bakers X Roads—By Letter.
- Board Valley—J. E. Brown.
- Gentry's Chapel—Ernest Lamb.
- Caney Fork—.
- Dodson's Branch—R. D. Rector, W. C. Armstrong, W. W. Roberts.
- Martha Hawkins, Lizzie Swearingin.
- Douglas Chapel—Sam Burnett.
- Fish Pond—Wesley Roberts, John Roberts.
- Glade Creek—Drew England.
- Hensley's Chapel—W. E. Bilyew, Arthur Graham.
- Johnson Church—Oscar Whittaker.
- Johnson Stand—.
- Jackson Grove—.
- Lost Creek—.
- Mt. Union—George Whittaker.
- Stone Seminary—John Walker.
- Ozion—J. M. Lafevers.
- Pleasant Ridge—.
- Post Oak Shade—Washa Flatt, Atwell Rector.
- Poplar Springs—.
- Philadelphia—.
- Shady Grove—A. J. Jones.
- Smith's Chapel—J. C. Scott, A. L. Seagraves.

Union Hill—W. T. Neal, T. B. Neal.

Yankeetown—W. R. Copeland.

Zion Hill—.

Laurel Creek—.

An invitation was given for the reception of new churches but none came forward.

The Moderator appointed Rev. W. B. Gentry and the delegates of Post Oak Shade church a committee on devotional services, which reported as follows:

Thursday night, Rev. W. T. Bowman,

Friday at 11 a. m., Rev. H. B. Kelsey.

Friday night, Rev. B. F. Dunham.

Saturday at 11 a. m., Rev. G. W. Randolph.

Saturday night, Rev. E. J. Hickey.

Sunday at 11 a. m., Rev. D. T. Cantrell.

The delegates were then assigned homes and the Association adjourned until 8:00 o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and prayer by Rev. W. T. Bowman the roll was called and Thursday's Minutes read and adopted.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees: Obituary, Sabbath School, Education, Finance, and Temperance.

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

Rev. W. T. Bowman of the Eastern Division of the Stone Association of Freewill Christian Baptists represented with us and reported as follows:

Our increase in the past year has been 94, our decrease has been 9, one new church added with a membership of 54, total number in fellowship, 1,028.

Adjournment until 1:00 o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and prayer by Rev. B. F. Dunham, the following Committees reported as follows:

EDUCATION

We, you Committee on Education, submit the following: This is an age when Education is preeminently in the forefront in every phase of

life, and believing that Christian education stands for the advancement of Christian life, therefore, we urge our people to support and encourage our Baptist schools and colleges in Tennessee; and believing the Bible to be the foundation of all true Christian education, we urge its prayerful study. We also urge that all young ministers may take more interest in the study of God's Word, that they may be more able to preach the Gospel.

D. T. CANTRELL, W. R. COPELAND, E. J. HICKEY, Committee.

OBITUARY

We, your Committee on Obituaries, submit the following report: We find that the last enemy, death, has visited our churches, and called from our ranks eleven of our beloved members to join the great assembly above. Our greatest loss is their eternal gain. We extend our prayers and sympathy to their bereaved families.

G. W. RANDOLPH, J. E. BROWN, W. E. LAMB, Committee.

SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, submit the following report: We desire to go on record as a Christian denomination as believing 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 our churches and encourage the work of the same.

D. F. DUNHAM, W. T. NEAL, OSCAR WHITTAKER, Committee.

TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following report: Believing 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 heartily endorse all legislation against the whiskey traffic and urge the doctrine of Temperance to be held up by all our churches and people, and we urge all ministers to fight it with all their energy from the pulpit.

J. M. LAFEVERS, ATWELL RECTOR, W. C. ARMSTRONG, Committee.

FINANCE

We, your Committee on Finance, report as follows: We find \$18.80 paid in for minutes. We recommend that \$12.00 worth of minutes be printed and the Clerk to have the balance for her services and mailing out the minutes.

MARTHA HAWKINS, R. D. RECTOR, Committee.

REPORT OF PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Western Division of Stone Association of Freewill Christian Baptists met on October 16th, 1925, and organized by electing

Rev. W. B. Gentry, Moderator, and Rev. G. W. Randolph, Clerk.

It was moved and carried that we extend the license of Bros. J. H. B. Welch and J. A. Hawkins for one year, by their request.

Adjourned until 8:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and prayer by Bro. Sam Burnett, the roll was called and minutes read and approved.

Revs. W. B. Gentry and D. T. Cantrell were appointed corresponding delegates to the Eastern Division of Stone Association of Freewill Christian Baptist.

The Committee on Pastoral Labor was appointed.

The Association retained the same Home Mission Board, composed of R. L. Clouse, S. P. Kuykendall, C. L. Tallent, Committee.

HOME MISSION

We, your Committee on Home Mission beg leave to submit the following report: As we think best to hold the money in the treasury until the following year. We further recommend that the pastors of each church take at least one collection during each year for the benefit of same, and forward same to the chairman of the Board.

R. L. CLOUSE, Chairman, Cookeville, Tenn., Route 5;
S. P. KUYKENDALL, C. L. TALLENT, Committee.

PASTORAL LABOR

The Committee on Pastoral Labor made the following report:

Allen's Chapel—H. B. Kelsey.

Baker's X Roads—D. T. Cantrell.

Board Valley—G. W. Foister.

Gentry's Chapel—J. A. Hawkins.

Caney Fork—.

Dodson's Branch—D. B. Hamons, J. A. Hawkins.

Douglas Chapel—D. T. Cantrell, G. B. Brown.

Fish Pond—J. R. Hamons, M. C. Bilbrey.

Glade Creek—G. F. Henry.

Hensley's Chapel—E. J. Hickey, B. F. Dunham.

Johnson Church—G. B. Brown, G. W. Foister.

Johnson Stand—.

Jackson Grove—G. W. Foister.

Lost Creek—J. P. Chastian.

Mt. Union—M. C. Bilbrey.

Stone Seminary—W. B. Gentry.
Ozion—H. B. Kelsey.
Pleasant Ridge—
Post Oak Shade—E. J. Hickey, J. A. Hawkins.
Poplar Springs—D. B. Hamons.
Philadelphia—G. B. Brown, G. W. Foister.
Shady Grove—D. T. Cantrell.
Smith Chapel—G. W. Randolph, J. P. Chastian.
Union Hill—J. R. Hamons, D. T. Cantrell.
Yankeetown—G. B. Brown, G. W. Randolph.
Zion Hill—
Laurel Creek—

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and prayer by Rev. H. B. Kelsey, the minutes of today were read and approved.

Moved and carried that our next annual Association be held with the Shady Grove Church, Putnam County, one mile northwest of Bilbrey, commencing on Thursday before the third Sunday in October 1926; Rev. J. A. Hawkins to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. W. B. Gentry, alternate.

A resolution of thanks was then extended the Post Oak Shade and vicinity for their kindness during our stay with them.

REV. J. A. HAWKINS, Moderator.

J. A. WALKER, Assistant Moderator.

CLAUDIA KIRBY, Clerk.

S. P. KUYKENDALL, Assistant Clerk.

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 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?"

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 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 the 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 his 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 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 Committee on Support of Pastors.

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 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 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 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 each church to elect two Deacons and one Clerk.

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 of 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 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 letters to the Hebrews 6:17—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 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 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." (1 Cor. 11:28.)

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 vote of the church, the day of, 192.....
Moderator. Clerk.

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.
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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 fol-
lows: Increase by profession.....; by letter.....; by recommen-
dation.....; 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 postoffice is....., County, Tenn. This is
done by the voice of the church and signed by order of the same on the
..... day of, 192....., Moderator.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

MINISTER	POST OFFICE	Churches	Sermons	Confessions	Members Rec'd.	Baptized	Contributions
D. T. Cantrell.....	Algood, Tenn., R. 1.....	156	14	8	16	\$ 92.17	
E. J. Hickey.....	Baxter, Tenn., R. 2.....	363	11	10	8	100.00	
W. B. Gentry.....	Cookeville, Tenn.....	134		21	15	70.86	
G. F. Henry.....	Monterey, Tenn., R. 1.....	335		20	5	18.92	
C. M. Bilbrey.....	Livingston, Tenn.....	143	16		2	40.82	
G. B. Brown.....	Sparta, Tenn., R. 8.....	234	13	14		43.66	
J. A. Hawkins.....	Cookeville, Tenn.....	220		4		24.50	
B. F. Dunham.....	Silver Point, Tenn., R. 2.....	119	20	3	3	78.00	
G. W. Randolph.....	Sparta, Tenn., R. 8.....	119	1	17	12	19.20	
H. B. Kelsey.....	Sparta, Tenn., R. 4.....	244	9		1	136.70	

The following ministers made no report: C. S. Clouse, Sparta, R. 8;
G. W. Foister, Sparta, R. 8; W. J. Breeding, Rickman, Tenn.; J. R.
Hamons, Booz, Tenn.; D. B. Hamons, Booz, Tenn.; J. P. Chastain,
Pleasant Hill, Tenn.; R. G. Lewis, Clifty, Tenn.

