

Minutes of Sixty-first Annual Session of
Western Division

— of —

STONE ASSOCIATION

— of —

Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ

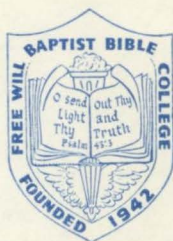
Held with the Shady Grove Church,
Putman County, Tennessee, Commenc-
ing October 14, 1926.

REV. G. W. RANDOLPH, Moderator
Sparta, Tenn., Route 8

J. A. WALKER, Assistant Moderator
Cookeville, Tenn., Route 5

MRS. LILLIE BROWN, Clerk
Sparta, Tenn., Route 8

MRS. LOU SWALLOWS, Ass't. Clerk
Brotherton, Tenn.



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 Shady Grove Church, Putman County, Tenn., on Oct. 14, 1926, in the 61st annual session.

After devotional services by Rev. H. B. Kelsey, the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. A. Hawkins. Text, Deut. 10:12. And Now Israel What Doth The Lord Thy God Require of Thee?

After which the Association was called to order by the moderator, Rev. J. A. Hawkins, and proceeded to organize by electing Rev. G. W. Randolph, moderator and J. A. Walker, assistant moderator, Mrs. Lillie Brown, clerk and Ms. Lou Swallows, assistant clerk.

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

Allen's Chapel—John Mills, H. Brewington, Marvin Brewington, E. Scarlet.

Bakers X Roads—J. W. Spencer.

Board Valley—Casto Selby, Mrs. G. B. Brown.

Gentrys Chapel—J. W. Randolph, J. H. Pendergrass, R. A. Gentry.

Dodson's Branch—M. J. Webb, R. F. Hardy, Mary Lou Maberry, Mrs. Sarah Smith.

Douglas Chapel—I. H. Swallows, Mrs. Lou Swallows.

Fish Pond—I. R. Walker, Mrs. Risea Harris.

Glade Creek—

Hensleys Chapel—Herman Clark.

Johnson's Church—Champ Whitiaker.

Jacksons Grove—

Lost Creek—

Mt. Union—Jas. Welch, J. H. B. Welch.

Stone Seminary—J. A. Walker, P. C. Walker.

Ozion—J. M. Lafever, Mrs. Ada Dunham.

Pleasant Ridge—

Post Oak Shade—J. J. White, R. L. Brown.

Popular Springs—

Philadelphia—

Shady Grove—Catherine Jones, A. Jones.

Smiths Chapel—W. M. Seagraves.

Union Hill—W. T. Neal, C. Q. Hammons.

Yankeetown—J. B. Copeland, Sam Robinson.

Flat Rock—R. G. Lewis.

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

The moderator appointed the pastor, Rev. D. T. Cantrell, and the delegates of the Shady Grove church a committee on devotional services which reported as follows:

Thursday night—Rev. W. A. Johnson and Rev. B. F. Dunham

Friday 11 a. m.,—Rev. E. M. Bledsoe.

Friday night—Rev. E. J. Hickey and Rev. R. G. Lewis

Saturday 11 a. m.,—Rev. J. R. Hammons, Rev. J. T. Trobaugh.

Saturday night—Rev. H. B. Kelsey.

Sunday 11 a. m.,—Rev. J. A. Hawkins.

The reading of the Rules of Decorum was dispensed with.

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

FRIDAY MORNING

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and prayer by Rev. R. G. Lewis, the roll was called and Thursday's minutes read and adopted.

Corresponding letters were called for and one was presented from the Eastern Division of Stone Association, by Rev. E. M. Bledsoe and A. B. Philips and they were invited to seats with us.

Letters from the various Churches were called for, read and approved.

The moderator appointed the following Committees: Obituary, Sabbath School, Education, Finance, Temperance. Adjourned until 1 o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The Association met pursuant to adjournment after singing and prayer by Rev. W. A. Johnson, the following committees reported as follows:

EDUCATION

We, your committee on Education submit the following report: 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 believe 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.

J. W. RANDOLPH, J. T. TROBAUGH, M. J. WEBB, 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 eighteen 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.

C. L. TALENT, J. H. PENDERGRASS, R. F. HARDY, 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.

SAM ROBINSON, E. SCARLET, R. A. GENTRY, 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 in whiskey question is settled 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.

I. H. SWALLOWS, J. B. COPELAND, CASTO SELBY, Committee.

FINANCE

We your committee on finance report as follows: We find \$17.85 paid in for minutes. We recommend that \$12.50 worth of minutes be printed and the clerk to have the balance for her ser-

vices and mailing out the minutes.

J. A. WALKER, P. C. WALKER, J. J. WHITE, Committee.

REPORT OF PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Western Division of Stone Association of Freewill Christian Baptists met on Oct. 15, 1926 and organized by electing Rev. G. B. Brown as moderator and Rev. J. T. Trobaugh, clerk. Rev. C. M. Bilbrey having with-drawn from our body it is moved and carried that we drop his name from our list. J. A. Hawkins, J. H. B. Welch and Tilbert Henry, came before the Presbytery for ordination. After passing satisfactory examination, they were ordained to the full work of the ministry by prayer and laying on of hands of the Presbytery.

Rev. J. A. Hawkins and Rev. H. B. Kelsey were appointed delegates to the Eastern Division of Stone Association, when convened with the Banner Springs church, Fentress County, Tenn., on Friday before the second Sunday in October 1927.

The moderator appointed the committee on pastoral labor.

Adjourned until 8 o'clock, Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Association met pursuant to adjournment after singing and prayer by Rev. J. R. Hammons the roll was called and minutes read and approved.

The committee on Pastoral Labor made the following report.

PASTORAL LABOR

We your committee on Pastoral Labor make the following report:

Allen's Chapel—H. B. Kelsey, J. A. Hawkins.

Bakers X Roads—J. P. Chastain.

Board Valley—Frank Henry.

Gentrys Chapel—E. J. Hickey.

Dodsons Branch—D. B. Hammons, J. R. Hammons.

Douglas Chapel—J. A. Hawkins.

Fish Pond—Geo McCowan, J. R. Hammons.

Glade Creek—

Hensleys Chapel—G. W. Randolph, B. F. Dunham.

Johnsons Church—J. P. Chastain, G. W. Randolph.

Johnson Stand—J. P. Chastain.

Lost Creek—

Mt. Union—G. W. Randolph, T. Henry.

Stone Seminary—E. J. Hickey.
Hensley's Chapel—G. W. Randolph, B. F. Dunham.
Ozion—W. A. Johnson.
Pleasant Ridge—W. A. Johnson, J. H. B. Welch.
Post Oak Shade—G. W. Randolph, J. A. Hawkins.
Poplar Springs—D. B. and J. R. Hammons.
Philadelphia—G. W. Foister, C. S. Clouse.
Shady Grove—J. A. Hawkins.
Smiths Chapel—R. G. Lewis.
Union Hill—J. R. Hammons.
Yankeetown—J. A. Hawkins.
Laurel Creek—R. G. Lewis.
Flat Rock—J. P. Chastain, R. G. Lewis.
Johnsons Chapel—J. T. Trobaugh, B. F. Dunham.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

By request our three oldest ministers, Revs. W. B. Gentry, D. T. Cantrell and G. B. Brown were released from pastoral labor with the privilege of doing Evangelistic work without salary, where ever the spirit may lead them.

Moved and carried that our next Annual Association be held with the Board Valley Church, White County, Tenn., Commencing on Friday, before the third Sunday in Oct. 1927.

Rev. W. B. Gentry to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. J. R. Hammons alternate.

A resolution of thanks was then extended the Shady Grove Church and vicinity for their kindness during our stay with them.

REV. G. W. RANDOLPH, Moderator.

J. A. WALKER, Assistant Moderator.

MRS. LILLIE BROWN, Clerk.

MRS. LOU SWALLOWS, 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 you 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 provided for that purpose.

Sec. 8. Each church represented in the Annual Association shall be entitled to two delegates 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 baptisms, 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: He 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 dismissal 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 practice 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 Clerck.

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 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 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 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 6:17—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 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" (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 Association
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 Brethern: 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 reom-
mendation.....; by restoration.....; our decrease by let-
ter.....; by exclusion.....; by death..... Total in fellow-
ship..... Our day of meeting is..... Sabbath. We send con-
tributions..... 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 theday of....., 192.....
....., Moderator.

MINISTER'S REPORTS

MINISTERS	POST OFFICE	Churches	Sermons	Confessions	Members Rec'd	Baptized	Contribution
D. T. Cantrell.....	Rickman, Tenn.	3	45	10	2	.....	\$117.10
E. J. Hickey.....	Baxter R. 2, Putnam.....	2	42	14	10	.....	62.50
G. B. Brown.....	Sparta R. 8, White.....	3	45	7	3	.....	45.80
G. F. Henry.....	Monterey R. 1, Putnam.....	1	8	.....	1	.....	.....
H. B. Kelsey.....	Sparta R. 4, White.....	2	48	23	19	11	201.47
J. T. Trobaugh.....	Silver Point R. 2, Putnam..	.....	8	11	.....	.....	3.19
J. R. Hammons.....	Boaz	2	35	13	8	7	14.80
B. W. Dunham.....	Silver Point R. 2, Putnam..	.....	5	11	.....	.....	3.79
G. W. Randolph.....	Sparta R. 8, White.....	1	10	.....	1	1	9.00

The following ministers made no report: C. S. Clouse, Sparta, R. 8; G. W. Foister, Sparta, R. 8; D. B. Hammons, Booz, Tenn.; W. J. Breeding, Rickman, Tenn.; J. P. Chastain, Pleasant Hill, Tenn.; R. G. Lewis, Pleasant Hill, Tenn.; W. A. Johnson, Brother-ton, Tenn.; J. A. Hawkins, Cookeville, Tenn.; W. B. Gentry, Cookeville, Tenn.; Tilbert Henry, Monterey, Tenn.; J. H. B. Welch, Monterey, R. 1.

CHURCH STATISTICS

CHURCH

P. O. AND COUNTY
All In Tennessee

CHURCH	P. O. AND COUNTY	All In Tennessee	Increase					Decrease			Total in Fellowship	Minute Fund	Paid Pastor and For Revival Work	Meeting Day
			By Profession	By Letter	By Recommendation	By Restoration	By Letter	By Exclusion	By Death					
Allen's Chapel	Bloomington Sp., Putnam	16	2	1	1	4	222	\$0.50	\$18.17	1	1			
Board Valley	Sparta R. 8, White	1				2	25	1.00	11.00	2	2			
Baker's X Roads	Creston, Cumberland					2	25	1.00	34.50	2	2			
Douglas Chapel	Brotherton, Putnam			1	1	1	78	1.20	43.52	1	1			
Dodson's Branch	Cookeville R. 3, Putnam	19				2	194	1.80	41.72	1	1			
Fish Pond	Brotherton, Putnam	1		1		42	1.00	16.00	3	3				
Flat Rock	Clifty, White						1.00		4	4				
Gentry's Chapel	Cookeville R. 2, Putnam		3			125	1.35	24.00	4	4				
Hensley's Chapel	Sparta R. 4, White	8	1	1	2	69	.60	22.5	4	4				
Johnson Church	Monterey R. 1, Putnam	3			4	86	.85	35.29	4	4				
Johnson's Chapel	Silver Point R. 4, Putnam													
Mt. Union	Monterey R. 1, Putnam						.50		1	1				
Ozon	Silver Point R. 2, Putnam					1	51	.50	20.67	3	3			
Post Oak Shade	Cookeville R. 9, Putnam		1			1	.75	58.0	3	3				
Smith's Chapel	Ravenscroft R. 1, White	3		1		98	1.00	40.0	2	2				
Steady Grove	Brotherton R. 1, Putnam	1				57	.75	9.00	3	3				
Stones' Seminary	Cookeville R. 5, Putnam	3	1	5		74	1.25	39.83	4	4				
Union Hill	Rickman R. 1, Overton	6			2	71	1.10	59.17	1	1				
Yankee town	Sparta R. 2, White	1			1	63	1.15	6.30	2	2				
Philadelphia	Sparta R. 8, Putnam					57	.55	3.59	3	3				
						31	1.00	24.00	1	1				