

Minutes of Sixty-second Annual Session
of Western Division

— of —

STONE ASSOCIATION

— of —

Freewill Christian Baptist
Church of Christ

Held with the Board Valley Church,
White County, Tennessee, Commencing
October 14, 1927.

REV. J. A. HAWKINS, Moderator
Cookeville, Tenn.
Rev. J. R. HAMMONS, Ass't. Moderator
Booz, Tenn.,
HERSHEL L WHITAKER, Clerk
Sparta, Tenn., Route 8
MRS. LILLIE BROWN, Ass't Clerk
Sparta, Tenn., Route 8

MINUTES

The ministers and delegates comprising the Western Division of Stone Association of Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ met with the Board Valley Church, White County, Tennessee on Oct. 14, 1927 in the 62nd Annual session.

After devotional services by Rev. J. R. Hammons, the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. W. B. Gentry. Text: 1-Timothy 4:16. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them, for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that bear thee.

After which the Association was called to order by the moderator, Rev. G. W. Randolph and proceeded to organize by electing Rev. J. A. Hawkins, moderator and Rev. J. R. Hammons, assistant moderator, Hershel L. Whitaker, Clerk, Mrs. Lillie Brown assistant clerk.

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

Allen's Chapel—Hop Prewington.

Bakers X Roads—By Letter.

Board Valley—J. E. Brown, Beecher Kinnard.

Dodson's Branch—Birde Maberry, Mack Crabtree.

Douglas Chapel—Isaac Swallows.

Fish Pond—By Letter.

Flat Rock—

Gentry's Chapel—J. A. McCaleb.

Glade Creek—

Hensley's Chapel—E. G. Parris, F. L. Cass, Author Graham.

Johnsons Church—Callie Elrod, Van Richardson.

Mt. Union—Levi Selby.

O'Zion—J. C. Spears, Eli Lafever, Minnie Bryant.

Post Oak Shade—By Letter.

Poplar Springs—

Phi'lade'phia—W. S. Scarbrough, Bettie Scarbrough, Hershel L. Whitaker.

Stone Seminary—John Walker, U. L. Randolph, Herman McCormick.

Shady Grove—A. J. Jones.

Smiths Chapel—A. L. Seegraves, P. C. Chastain.

Union Hill—W. J. Bilbrey, F. Phillips.

Yankeetown—W. R. Copeland, Sam Robinson.

Johnsons Chapel—J. L. Johnson, W. M. Sherrill.

West Point—Thomas W. Moore.

By request the Home Mission Board was released, and a new one appointed as follows: Beecher Kinnard, chm., J. E. Brown, W. R. Copeland. The pastors being requested to take up collection for same and return to chairman.

An invitation was given for the reception of new churches, whereupon West Point Church, Dekalb County, Smithville, Tenn., came forward with letter and delegate.

The moderator appointed the pastor, Rev. G. F. Henry and the delegates of Board Valley Church a committee on devotional services which reported as follows.

Friday night—Rev. G. M. Pruitt.

Saturday 11 a. m.,—Rev. E. J. Hickey.

Saturday night—Rev. B. F. Dunham.

Sunday 11 a. m.,—Rev. G. M. Pruitt.

The reading of the Rules of Decorum was dispensed with.

Correspondent letters were called for but none came forward.

Bro. G. M. Pruitt of the Cumberland Association being present was invited to a seat with us.

The moderator appointed the following committees: Obituary, Sabbath Schools, Education, Finance, Temperance.

The delegates were then assigned homes and the association 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 Friday's Minutes read and adopted.

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 prayful 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.

HOP DREWINGTON, BEECHER KINNARD, J. E. BROWN, 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.

J. A. McCaleb, E. G. Parris, Arthur Graham, 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 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. C. Spears, J. L. Selby, V. C. Richardson, Committee.

OBITUARY

We, your committee on obituaries submit the following report. We find that the enemy death has visited our churches and called from our ranks 23 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.

Birdle Maberry, Mack Crabtree, Isaac Swallows, Committee.

FINANCE

We your committee on Finance report as follows: We find \$21.40 paid in for minutes. We recommend that \$13.00 worth of minutes be printed and the clerk to have the balance for his ser-

vices and mailing out the minutes.

JOHN A. WALKER, W. S. SCARBROUGH, DOW NABORS,
Committee.

REPORT OF PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Western Division of Stone Association of Freewill Christian Baptists met on Oct. 15, 1927 and organized by electing Rev. G. B. Brown, moderator and Rev. J. T. Trobaugh, clerk. The presbytery declares the credentials of Rev. H. B. Kelsey null and void for two years or until he restores himself with his home church.

D. B. Faulkner came before the presbytery for credentials. After passing satisfactory examination they were granted license credentials to the full work of the ministry. Also ratified the credentials of Thomas W. Moore, Smithville, Tenn. Also A. D. Nabors and J. E. Graham came before the presbytery for license. After passing satisfactory examination they were granted licence for twelve months.

Rev. G. B. BROWN, Moderator.

Rev. J. T. TROBAUGH, Clerk.

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

The committee on pastoral labor was appointed.

Adjourned until 1 o'clock.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and prayer by Dow Nabors. Ministers reports were called for, read and approved.

Rev. G. W. Randolph and Rev. J. A. Hawkins were appointed delegates to the Eastern Division of Stone Association.

PASTORAL LABOR

We your committee on Pastoral Labor make the following report:

Allens Chapel—E. J. Hickey.

Bakers X Roads—R. G. Lewis.

Board Valley—Ben Fawkner.

Gentry's Chapel—Ben Fawkner.

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

Douglas Chapel—J. A. Hawkins.
Fish Pond—J. R., Hammons.
Glade Creek—G. F. Henry, J. T. Trobaugh.
Hensleys Chapel—E. J. Hickey, B. F. Dunham.
Johnson Church—G. W. Foster, Dow Nabors.
Johnson Stand—
Lost Creek—B. F. Dunham, J. T. Trobaugh.
Mt. Union—Tilbert Henry.
Stone Seminary—E. J. Hickey.
Ozion—W. A. Johnson, B. F. Dunham.
Post Oak Shade—J. T. Trobaugh, B. F. Dunham.
Poplar Spring—D. B. Hammons.
Philadelphia—G. W. Foster, Dow Nabors.
Shady Grove—J. A. Hawkins
Union Hill—J. R. Hammons, J. T. Trobaugh.
Yansectown—J. A. Hawkins.
Laurel Creek—
Flat Rock—R. G. Lewis.
Johnson Chapel—W. A. Johnson.
West Point—Thomas W. Moore.
Smiths Chapel—R. G. Lewis.

We release our three oldest ministers, Revs. W. B. Gentry, D. T. Cantrell and G. B. Brown from pastoral labor with the privilege of doing Evangelistic work without salary, wherever the spirit may lead them.

Moved and carried that our next Annual Association be held with Johnson Chapel Church, Dekalb County, Tenn., Commencing on Thursday before the third Sunday in Oct. 1928.

Rev. E. J. Hickey to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. J. T. Trobaugh, alternate.

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

REV. J. A. HAWKINS, Moderator.

REV. J. R. HAMMONS, Asst. Moderator.

HERSHELL L. WHITAKER, Clerk.

MRS. LILLIE BROWN, Asst. 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 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 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 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: 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 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 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 select 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 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 Church.
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 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.

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 recom-
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 the _____ day of _____, 192 _____
_____, Moderator.

MINISTER'S REPORTS

MINISTERS	POST OFFICE	Churches	Sermons	Confessions	Members Rec'd.	Baptized	Contribution
D. T. Cantrell.....	Algood, Tenn. R. 1, Putman	...	55	25	...	...	\$ 50.02
J. T. Trobaugh.....	Silver Point, R. 2, Putman	1	31	8	8	5	15.00
E. J. Hickey.....	Baxter, Tenn. R. 2, Putman	3	61	12	...	...	114.00
W. A. Johnson.....	Brotherton, Tenn. Putman	...	58	15	10	6	55.00
G. F. Henry.....	Monterey, R. 1, Putman.....	1	...	19	...	11	11.40
T. W. Moore.....	Smith, R. 8, Dekalb.....	...	75	35	...	...	35.00
G. B. Brown.....	Sparta, R. 8, White.....	...	25	...	12	...	20.00

The following ministers made no report: C. S. Clouse, Sparta,
R. 8; G. W. Foster, 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.; J. A. Hawkins, Cooke-
ville, Tenn.; W. B. Gentry, Cookeville Tenn.; Tilbert Henry,
Monterey, Tenn.; J. H. B. Welch, Monterey, Tenn.; R. 1.; J R
Hammons, Booz, Tenn.; B. F. Dunham, Silver Point, R. 2.; G. W.
Randolnh, Sparta, Tenn., R. 8.; Ben Hawkner, Tullahoma, Tenn.;
Lisceniates: A. D. Nabors, Sparta, Tenn., R. 8; J. E. Graham,
Sparta, Tenn., R. 4.

CHURCH STATISTICS

CHURCH

P. O. AND COUNTY.
A. I. In Tennessee

Meeting Day	Paid Pastor and For Revival Work	Minute Fund	Total in Fellowship	Decrease:			Increase				
				By Death	By Exclusion	By Letter	By Restoration	By Recommendation	By Letter	By Profession	
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