

MINUTES OF
SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
— OF —
STONE ASSOCIATION
— OF —
FREEWILL CHRISTIAN BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST

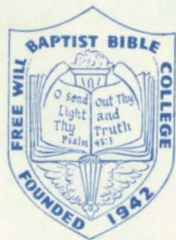
HELD WITH THE YANKEETOWN CHURCH,
WHITE COUNTY, TENNESSEE,
COMMENCING OCTOBER 15, 1931

REV. W. B. GENTRY, Moderator
Cookeville, Tennessee

REV. J. R. HAMMONS, Assistant Moderator
Route 1, Rickman, Tennessee

REV. TILBERT HENRY, Clerk
Monterey, Tennessee

REV. G. W. RANDOLPH, Assistant Clerk
Route 8, Sparta, Tennessee



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 Yankeetown Church, White County, Tennessee, on October 16, 1931, in the 66th Annual Session.

After devotional services by Rev. B. A. Moore, the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. W. A. Johnson. Text: Luke 17:18. "Return to Give God the Glory."

The Moderator, Rev. J. A. Hawkins, called the Association to order and proceeded to organize by electing Rev. W. B. Gentry, Moderator; Rev. J. R. Hammons, Assistant Moderator; Rev. Tilbert Henry, Clerk; Rev. G. W. Randolph, Assistant Clerk.

The roll was called and delegates names enrolled as follows:

- 1 Allen's Chapel +
- 2 Baker's X Roads + Wid Parsons and Mary Spencer.
- 3 Douglas Chapel + S. Pharris and J. L. Bilbrey.
- 4 Dodson's Branch + Wiley Bean, Riley Rector and J. P. Burris.
- 5 Board Valley + Beecher Kinnaird and Fate Weaver.
- 6 Fish Pond + J. R. Walker and J. C. Webb.
- 7 Gentry's Chapel + S. E. Gentry and J. A. McCaleb.
- 8 Glade Creek +
- 9 Hensley's Chapel +
- 10 Johnson Church + J. S. Milligan and Van Richardson.
- 11 Johnson Chapel + B. F. Dunham, W. M. Sherrell and A. H. Cantrell.
- 12 Mt. Union +
- 13 Ozion + George Hedgecough, Eli Lafever and G. W. Dunn.
- 14 Post Oak Shade + C. J. Jaquess, O. H. Kirby, and Mrs. O. H. Kirby.
- 15 Philadelphia + W. H. Shirley.
- 16 Pleasant Ridge + Alonzo Clouse and Alva Hall.
- 17 Shady Grove + Morgan Haney and Fletcher Bilbrey.
- 18 Stone Seminary + U. L. Randolph, Morgan L. Randolph and C. M. Stone.
- 19 Smith's Chapel + A. L. Seagraves and Bob Seagraves.
- 20 Union Hill + W. T. Neal and G. C. Cooper.
- 21 West Union + M. F. Adams.
- 22 Yankeetown + Sam Robinson and G. E. Mansell.
- 23 Mt. Pleasant + W. A. Johnson.
- 24 Millsap Grove + C. B. Willhite and Sarah McCoy.
- 25 Sampson Church + Parker Mooneyham and Alton Mooneyham.
- 26 West Cookeville Church + J. T. Smith and G. W. Webb.
- 27 Winesap Church + John Thomas.

An invitation was given for the reception of new churches, and three came forward.

The Rules of Decorum not read.

The Moderator appointed Rev. J. E. Hickey, Sam Robinson and G. E. Mansell a committee on devotional services, which reported as follows:

Rev. C. M. Bilbrey—Thursday 7:30 P. M.

Rev. D. T. Cantrell—Friday 11:00 A. M.

Rev. G. R. Lewis—Friday 7:30 P. M.

Rev. W. B. Gentry—Saturday 11:00 A. M.

Rev. B. A. Moore—Saturday 7:30 P. M.

Rev. J. R. Hammons—Sunday 11:00 A. M.

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 a prayer by Rev. J. R. Hammons. The roll was called and Thursday's Minutes were read and approved.

Corresponding letters were called for, but none came forward.

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

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

Adjourned until 1 o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

After singing and prayer by Rev. B. A. Moore the Special Committees proceeded to make the following reports:

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 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.

REV. J. A. HAWKINS, A. H. CANTRELL,

REV. W. A. JOHNSON, Committee.

SABBATH SCHOOLS

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

We desire to go on record as a Christian denomination 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. S. MILLIGAN, RILEY RECTOR,
MARION HANEY, Committee.

TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance submit the following report:

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 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.

S. E. GENTRY, REV. E. J. HICKEY,
B. F. DUNHAM, 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 twelve of our beloved members to join the great assembly above. Our great loss is their eternal gain. We extend our prayers and sympathy to their bereaved families.

B. A. MOORE, C. M. BILBREY,
GEORGE HEDGECOUGH, Committee.

FINANCE

We, your committee on Finance submit the following report:

We find \$22.86 paid in for Minutes. We recommend that \$16.00 worth of Minutes be printed and that the Clerk have the balance for his services and mailing out the Minutes.

J. BURRIS, R. G. LEWIS,
F. B. KINNAIRD, Committee.

Moved and carried that the Ninth Section of the Rules of Decorum be amended or changed to read as printed elsewhere in this book.

Rev. G. W. Randolph, Rev. J. R. Hammons, Rev. B. A. Moore, Rev. E. J. Hickey, and Rev. J. A. Hawkins were appointed as the Presbytery.

The following Investigation Committee was appointed to investigate the condition of new churches that may come before the Association: Rev. J. A. Hawkins, Rev. G. W. Randolph, and Rev. E. J. Hickey, Committee.

REPORT OF PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of the Western Division of the Stone Association of the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ met on October 16, 1931, and

organized by electing Rev. G. W. Randolph, Moderator, and Rev. J. A. Hawkins, Clerk.

Bro. Alva Hall came before the Presbytery for Ordination, after passing satisfactory examination, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by prayer and laying on of hands of the Presbytery.

Bro. Virgil Henry and Bro. H. D. Jordan having left our churches and joined other churches, their credentials were declared null and void.

REV. G. W. RANDOLPH, Moderator.

REV. J. A. HAWKINS, Clerk.

SATURDAY

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and a prayer by Rev. C. M. Billbrey, the roll was called and Friday's Minutes were read and approved. Ministers reports were called for and received.

The Moderator appointed a Committee on Pastoral Labor, which made the following report:

PASTORAL LABOR

We, your committee on Pastoral Labor submit the following report:

- 1 Allen's Chapel—
- 2 Baker's X Roads—R. G. Lewis.
- 4 Dodson's Branch—D. B. Hammons.
- 3 Douglas Chapel—E. J. Hickey.
- 6 Fish Pond—C. J. Hammons.
- 8 Glade Creek—G. W. Randolph.
- 7 Gentry's Chapel—W. B. Gentry.
- 9 Hensley's Chapel—Tilbert Henry.
- 10 Johnson Church—G. F. Henry.
- 11 Johnson Chapel—B. F. Dunham.
- 13 Ozion—
- 12 Mt. Union—
- 16 Pleasant Ridge—B. A. Moore.
- 14 Post Oak Shade—B. A. Moore.
- 15 Philadelphia—Tilbert Henry.
- 17 Shady Grove—C. J. Hammons.
- 18 Stone Seminary—W. B. Gentry.
- 19 Smith's Chapel—G. W. Randolph, J. P. Chastain.
- West Point—W. A. Johnson.
- 22 Yankeetown—E. J. Hickey.
- 14 Milsap Grove—E. J. Hickey.
- Poplar Springs—W. A. Johnson.
- 21 Vest Union—B. A. Moore.
- 23 Mt. Pleasant—B. A. Moore.
- 20 Union Hill—J. A. Hawkins, J. R. Hammons.

Mt. Pisgah—J. A. Hawkins.

Winesap—W. A. Johnson.

Sampson—R. G. Lewis, B. A. Moore.

West Cookeville—B. A. Moore.

If there be any ministers that we have left out, and have no church to go to, they may go to any church and feel free to preach.

We released our two oldest ministers, Rev. D. T. Cantrell and Rev. G. B. Brown, from pastoral labor, with the privilege of doing evangelistic work without salary wherever the spirit may lead them. Also release Rev. G. W. Foster for twelve months.

Moved and carried that our next Annual Association be held with the Mt. Pleasant church, Putnam County, Brotherton, Tennessee, commencing on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1932, Rev. W. B. Gentry to preach the introductory sermon, and Rev. G. W. Randolph, alternate.

A resolution of thanks was then extended to the Yanteetown church and vicinity for their kindness during our stay with them.

REV. W. B. GENTRY, Moderator,

REV. J. R. HAMMONS, Ass't. Moderator,

REV. TILBERT HENRY, Clerk,

REV. G. W. RANDOLPH, Ass't. 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 provided 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 five 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 saint's 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 a license for him; after he has the 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.

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 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 Word 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 Scripture, 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 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 that 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.)

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 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 of 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 meeting day is the
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, 193...
....., Moderator.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Ministers	POST OFFICE	Churches	Sermons	Confessions	Members Recd.	Baptized	Contributions
Tilbert Henry	Monterey, Tenn., Route 2	1	46	24	...	...	\$ 17.25
B. A. Moore	Cookeville, Tenn.	3	129	58	31	15	100.79
G. W. Randolph	Sparta, Tenn., Route 8	3	27	8	17	35	4.50

The following ministers made no report:

B. F. Dunham	R. 2, Silver Point	J. H. B. Welch	Monterey
C. S. Clouse	R. 8, Sparta	T. W. Moore	R. 8, Smithville
G. W. Foster	R. 8, Sparta	J. R. Hammons	R. 1, Rickman
J. P. Chastain	Pleasant Hill	D. T. Cantrell	R. 1, Algood
R. G. Lewis	Pleasant Hill	W. B. Gentry	Cookeville
J. A. Hawkins	Cookeville	V. L. Wright	Nashville
A. D. Nabors	R. 8, Sparta		

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 membership. This is done by a vote of the church, the..... day of, 193...

..... Moderator.

....., Clerk.

CHURCH		POST OFFICE AND COUNTY All in Tennessee		Increase		Decr.		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					
Board Valley	Sparta, Route 8, White	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	84	\$1.00	\$28.00	2	2
Johnson Chapel	Silver Point, Route 4, Putnam	13	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	33	1.50	15.00	1	1
Post Oak Shade	Cookeville, Route 9, Putnam	4	2	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	100	1.00	23.30	2	2
Pleasant Ridge	Sparta, Route 8, White	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	43	1.00	14.00	3	3
Philadelphia	Monterey, Route 1, Putnam	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	42	.50	2.00	1	1
Fish Pond	Brotherton, Putnam	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	35	1.00	2.00	1	1
Millsap Grove	Sparta, Route 7, White	28	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	23	.50	21.52	3	3
West Union	Cookeville, Route 1, Putnam	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	1.51	20.70	1	1
Smith Chapel	Pleasant Hill, Cumberland	7	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1103	1.35	70.38	4	4
Mt. Pleasant	Brotherton, Putnam	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	24	.70	11.85	4	4
Shady Grove	Brotherton, Route 1, Putnam	7	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	118	1.30	11.85	4	4
Winesap	Winesap, Cumberland	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	81	1.00	8.00	2	2
Gentry's Chapel	Cookeville, Route 2, Putnam	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	96	1.00	36.48	2	2
Union Hill	Rickman, Route 1, Overton	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	86	.50	25.00	4	4
Stone Seminary	Cookeville, Route 5, Putnam	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3255		21.65	1	1
Johnson Chapel	Sparta, Route 8, White	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	65		19.50	3	3
Dodson's Branch	Cookeville, Route 8, Putnam	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	36	.50	40.16	3	3
Ozlon	Silver Point, Putnam	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	77	1.00	38.47	1	1
Yankeetown	Sparta, White	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	1.10	2.00	2	2
Douglas Chapel	Brotherton, Putnam	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	1.00	10.00	4	4
Sampson	Pikeville, Bledsoe	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	1.00	10.00	4	4
West Cookeville	Cookeville, Putnam	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	1.00	10.00	4	4

