

MINUTES OF THE
SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION
—OF—
STONE ASSOCIATION
—OF—
**Freewill Christian Baptist
Church Of Christ**

HELD WITH THE OZION CHURCH
PUTNAM COUNTY, TENNESSEE
COMMENCING OCTOBER 13, 1939

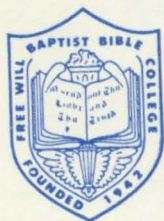
ELDER ALVA HALL, Moderator
Route 8, Sparta, Tenn.

ELDER G. W. RANDOLPH, Asst. Mod.
Route 8, Sparta, Tenn.

FRED CLOUSE, Clerk
Route 8, Sparta, Tenn.

ESKLE BAKER, Asst. Clerk,
Route 1, Sparta, Tenn.

SERVICE PRINTING CO., MAYLAND, TENN.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. I. J. Blackwelder

The ministers and delegates composing the Western Division of the Stone Association of the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ met with the Ozion Church, Putnam County, Tennessee, on October 13, 1939, in Seventy-Fourth Annual Session.

After devotional services by the Elder F. E. Scarlett, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder R. G. Lewis, Text: Acts 10:34; "I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

The Moderator, Elder G. W. Randolph, called the Association to order and proceeded to organize by electing Elder Alva Hall Moderator; Elder G. W. Randolph, Assistant Moderator; Fred Clouse, Clerk and Eskle Baker, Assistant Clerk.

The roll was called and delegates' names enrolled, as follows:

Allen's Chapel (Putnam County), Hop Brewington, D. C. Scarlett and Marvin Alcorn.

Allen's Chapel (Overton County),—

Baker's Cross Roads, by letter.

Bethcar, D. W. Nichols and Bethel Saylor.

Board Valley, Eskel Baker and James Selby.

Dodson's Branch, Thurman Webb and Harvie Allen

Douglas' Chapel, Orley Tallent, R. B. Swack and J. G. West.

Fish Pond, Charley Walker and Ben Brown.

Gentry's Chapel, Isaac Wood, Grit Holman and Oliver Bussell Glade Creek,—

Hensley's Chapel, J. C. Young, C. A. Young and Joan Seals.

Johnson's Chapel, W. M. Sherrill.

Liberty, by letter.

Morgan Springs,—

Mt. Pleasant, Will West and Ernest Wood.

Mt. Pisgah,—

Ozion, G. W. Dunn, Raymond Thomas and Claude Dobbs.

Philadelphia, Clifford Lewis, John Bradham and Monroe Rice.

Pleasant Ridge, Arvil Baker, Fred Clouse and Charlie Henry.

Post Oak Shade, O. H. Kirby and Casper Jaquess.

Sampson, Bill Davis and Lester Simmons

Shadly Grove, Fletcher Bilbrey and Bluford Jones.

Smith's Chapel, W. M. Seegraves.

Stone Seminary, R. L. Clouse and E. H. Morgan.

Union Grove,—

Union Hill, Jim Bilbrey and Russell Wilson.

West Cookeville, G. W. Webb and Carson Harp.

New West Point,—

Winesap, Walter Kerley, Venus Smith and Freman Sherrill.

Yanketown, Bob Copeland and Melvin Copeland.

A call was made for petitionary letters; none came forward.

The Association then welcomed—

Elder I. J. Blackwelder, 1115 E. Douglas Ave., Nashville.

Brother I. L. Stanley, Sup't Tenn. Freewill Baptist Orphanage,

Route 9, Greeneville, Tenn., and their fellow workers to take a seat with us.

Brothers Blackwelder and Stanley responded with short talks.

Letters were called for from Sister Churches; one came forward; Bethcar, a newly organized church. The letter was read and accepted by the Association.

The Moderator appointed a committee on devotional services; Frank Malone, G. W. Dunn, Maynard Thomas and Claude Dobbs, who submitted the following report:

Elder I. J. Blackwelder to preach Friday night, Elder Mayford Bilbrey at 11:00 A. M., Elder W. M. Stowers Saturday night and Elder Frank Malone Sunday at 11:00.

Rules of Decorum were called for, and stood as read.

Regular committees were then appointed.

The delegates were then assigned homes.

Brother I. L. Stanley gave a wonderful lecture on the F. W. Baptist Orphanage of which he is Superintendent. A contribution of \$10.21 was made by the Association toward its support.

Sister J. N. Welch made an interesting talk on young people's work and women's organization of the Freewill Baptist Church.

Elder Blackwelder also, made a talk on the financial standing of the Freewill Baptists.

A talk was made by our aged minister Elder Wiley Gentry who is physically disabled. An offering was taken amounting to \$4.21 which was received with thanks.

A motion was made and carried that we adjourn until Saturday morning at 8:00 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing, and prayer by C. Q. Hammons the roll was called by the Clerk.

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

Ministers' reports were called for and read.

Mt Zion Church, Cumberland County, came forward to be received into the Association but was laid aside until deacons were ordained.

A motion was made and carried that the Association approve of Sister Fannie Polsten's work.

A motion was made and carried that we recommend the deacons of the various churches take steps to provide financial support for our organizations.

Interesting talk by Elder Blackwelder on Missions.

RESOLVED; that the National and State conventions of Freewill Baptists, and every church therein, are hereby warned not to recognize B. A. Moore, who has recently organized a so-called Freewill Baptist Association at Cookeville, Tennessee. He left the Western Division of Stone Association.

Motion was made and carried that all churches organize an all-year-round Sunday School and use our literature. To be had at Freewill Baptist Press, Ayden, North Carolina. Motion was made and carried that we print Col. G. W. Poague's report as follows:

"REPORT OF COL. GEO. W. POAGUE, Evangelist of Stone Association, to the Moderator and members, as you all know I have been over most of the field, and the report of the various churches show the results.

"In July I visited the National Association at Bryan, Texas. I had our Association recognized and statistics added on August 30th and 31st. I went to our State Association at our Orphan's Home at Greeneville, Tennessee, and secured our admission. As a token of my work in the Stone Association they voted to hold the 1940 meeting with us and left the meeting place for me to

select. I have selected Dodson's Branch which is located 9 miles north of Cookeville, Tenn., on the T. P. I. and Gainesboro road. Brother Fred Clouse is recommended to report us in the National meeting at Paintville, Ky. Recommended that the following represent us in the State meeting in 1940: Lee Clouse, Oliver Bussell, Lester Simmons, Fred Clouse and Riley Rector. God Bless you all.

Yours in Christ, CCL. GEO. W. POAGUE."

Motion was made and carried that we approve the appointment of Mrs. Elvira LaFever and Mrs. Hautie Hickey to take charge of the women's work. Moved that we adjourn until 1:00 P. M.

SATURDAY EVENING

The Association met pursuant to adjournment after singing and prayer.

Motion was made and carried that we approve the appointment of Erkle and Ruth Baker to take charge of the young people's work; Jesse LaFever for Sunday Schools.

Reports of regular committees called for, read and received.

EDUCATION

We, your committee on education, submit the following report: This is an age when education is pre-eminently in the forefront in every phase of life, and believing Christian education stands for the advancement of Christian life, therefore; we urge that our people 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 especially urge that all young ministers take more interest in education and in the study of God's word; that they may be more able to preach the gospel.

Hop Brewington, J. L. Selby, Thurman Webb, Committee.

TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on temperance, submit the following report:

We believe that no question should be permanently settled until it is settled right, and as we do not believe that the whiskey and beer question is settled until it is wiped out of this fair land of ours, therefore, we heartily indorse all legislation against whiskey and beer traffic and urge the doctrine of temperance to be held by all our churches and people, including the beer is settled until it is wiped out of this fair land of ours, therefore, we heartily committees appointed from the County Courts of our State; and we urge all ministers to fight against whiskey and beer traffic with all their energy from the pulpit.

J. G. West, J. C. Young and W. M. Sherrill, Committee.

OBITUARY

We, your committee on Obituary, submit the following report:

We find that the enemy, death, has visited our churches and called from our ranks 22 of our beloved members to join the great assembly above; our great loss is their eternal gain. We extend prayers and sympathy to their bereaved families.

Arvil Baker, Monroe Rice and G. W. Webb, 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 Schools as one of the most potent powers of the church.

We recommend that the pastors of the various churches appoint a committee of the believing members to look after the interest of the same.

Bill Davis and Casper Jaquess, Committee.

FINANCE

We, your committee on finance, submit the following report:

We find \$29.41 paid in for minutes. We recommend that \$20.00 worth of minutes be printed and that the clerk have the balance for his services, and mailing of the minutes.

Lee Clouse, W. M. Seegraves and Russell Wilson, Committee.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY

We, the Presbytery of the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ, with the Ozion church, this the 14th day of October, 1939, and organized by electing E. J. Hickey, Moderator, and R. W. Pennington, Clerk, the following came before the Presbytery and were granted license: Eskle Baker, Carson Harp, Ulus Lewis, W. S. Robinson, W. N. Davis, J. D. Hammons and J. A. McCaleb. One, Casper Jaquess was ordained:

Elder E. J. Hickey, Moderator, Elder R. W. Pennington, Clerk.

REPORT OF PASTORAL LABOR

We, your committee on pastoral labor, submit the following:

Allen's Chapel, P. C.	F. E. Scarlett
Allen's Chapel, O. C.	
Baker's Cross Roads	
Bethcar	E. J. Hickey
Board Valley	B. F. Dunham
Dodson's Branch	Alva Hall
Douglas Chapel	C. Q. Hammons
Fish Pond	B. F. Dunham
Gentry's Chapel	W. M. Stowers
Glade Creek	
Hensley's Chapel	P. E. Hickey
Johnson's Chapel	Frank Malone
Liberty	Tilbert Henry, Jasper Henry, Asst.
Morgan Springs	
Mt. Pleasant	F. E. Scarlett
Mt. Pisgah	
Mt. Zion	J. E. Wood
Ozion	Frank Malone
Philadelphia	Paul Hickey, Alva Hall, Asst.
Pleasant Ridge	E. J. Hickey, Alva Hall, Asst.
Post Oak Shade	I. R. Wood
Sampson	B. F. Durham, R. G. Lewis, Asst.
Shady Grove	Paul Hickey
Smith's Chapel	R. G. Lewis, Tilbert Henry, Asst.
Stone Seminary	W. M. Stowers
Union Grove	
Union Hill	Robert Hammons, C. Q. Hammons, Asst.
West Cookeville	C. M. Bilbrey, 1st and 3rd Sundays Frank Malone, 2nd and 4th Sundays
New West Point	
Winesap	I. R. Wood, J. E. Wood, Asst.
Yanketown	B. F. Dunham

C. Q. Hammond was appointed as corresponding delegate to represent us with the Eastern Division next year

Motion made and carried that we change our Association back to three days.

A memorial service was held for the late C. S. Clouse, prayer by Brother Wood.

Motion made and carried that our next annual Association be held with the Winesap church, Cumberland County, Tenn., beginning Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1940, Elder E. J. Hickey to preach the introductory sermon and Elder Alva Hall, Alternate.

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

Elder Alva Hall, Moderator, Elder G. W. Randolph, Asst.

Fred Clouse, Clerk, Eskle Baker, Asst.

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 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 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 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, enjoining 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 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.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Section 1. That all power of church government is inherent in the people and the preachers; that is, in the churches; and 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 the country, or the rights of their fellowman.

Sec. 6. Church trial 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 enjoining 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 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 Assembly 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 Testament 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 of 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 6:1-7—that after a man has been made partaker of the Holy Ghost, if he shall fall from Grace, it is impossible 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 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 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 membership _____. Our day of meeting is _____
Sabbath We send contribution \$ _____. 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 _____, 19 _____.

_____, Moderator.

_____, Clerk.

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 _____, 19 _____.

_____, Moderator.

_____, Clerk.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

First Day

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Organization.
3. Enrollment of Delegates.
4. Calling for Petitionary Letters.
5. Appointment of Committee on Devotional Services.
6. Receiving Report of Committee on Devotional Services.
7. Door Opened to Sister Churches
8. Rules of Decorum.
9. Appointment of Regular Committees.
10. Delegates Assigned Homes.
11. Adjournment.

Second Day

1. Calling of Roll and Reading the Minutes.
 2. Reading Letters from Various Churches.
 3. Report of Ministers Called.
 4. Miscellaneous Business.
 5. Appointment of Corresponding Delegates.
 6. Appointment of Committee on Pastoral Labor.
 7. Hearing Reports of Standing Committees.
 8. Hearing Report of Presbytery.
 9. Adjournment.
 10. Receiving Report of Committee on Pastoral Labor.
 11. Designating Place of Meeting for Next Association.
 12. Thanks to Church and Vicinity for Kindness.
 13. Minutes of the Day Read.
 14. Adjournment.
-

CHURCH STATISTICS

CHURCHES	POST OFFICE AND COUNTY (All in Tennessee)	Increase		Decrease		Total Fellowship	Minute Fund	Paid Pastor and for Revival Work.	Meeting Day
		By Profession	By Letter	By Recom'dat'n	By Restoration	By Letter			
Allen's Chapel, P. C.	Baxter, Putnam.....	13					76	1.00	350.25
Bethar.....	Baxter, Putnam.....						10	0.75	2
Board Valley.....	Sparta, R8, White.....	3	1			2	89	0.70	38.70
Dodson's Branch.....	Cookeville, R8, Putnam.....	1	1			6	263	2.00	46.55
Douglas Chapel.....	Brotherton, Putnam.....						76	0.75	26.68
Fish Pond.....	" "						44	1.00	19.80
Gentry's Chapel.....	Cookeville, R2, Putnam.....	25				6	156	1.60	72.40
Hensley's Chapel.....	Sparta, R5, White.....	5					111	1.00	24.64
Johnson's Chapel.....	Silver Point, R3, DeKalb.....					41	1.10	29.43	1
Liberty.....	Livingston, R3, Overton.....					1	59	1.00	5.50
Mt. Pleasant.....	Putnam.....		1			2	22	1.50	4
Mt. Zion.....	Mayland, Cumberland.....					13	50	19.60	2
Ozton.....	Silver Point, Putnam.....	1		2		74	1.00	80.74	3
Pleasant Ridge.....	Sparta, R8, Putnam.....	20	8	4		92	1.50	50.00	3
Philadelphia.....	Monterey, Putnam.....	10	2	2		76	2.00	23.65	2
Post Oak Shade.....	Cookeville, R9, Putnam.....				1		86	1.00	31.50
Sampson.....	Pikeville, Bledsoe.....	25	2		2		70	2.16	49.68
Shady Grove.....	Brotherton, Putnam.....	12				1	138	1.00	53.22
Smith's Chapel.....	Pleasant Hill, Cumberland.....						50	1.00	20.75
Stone Seminary.....	Cookeville, R5, Putnam.....	5	1	2		2	110	1.60	38.05
Union Hill.....	Rickman, R1, Overton.....				1		93	1.00	15.00
West Cookeville.....	Cookeville, Putnam.....	1				1	16	75	2.00 all
Winesap.....	Winesap, Cumberland.....	6		1		58	1.50	31.00	3
Yankeetown.....	Sparta, White.....	3		2		52	1.00	44.12	3

MINISTERS' REPORT

NAME	POST OFFICE	COUPLES MARRIED	FUNERALS PREACHED	CHURCHES	SERMONS	CONFESSIONS	RECEIVED	BAPTIZED	CONTRIBUTIONS
E. J. Hickey.....	Baxter Rte. 2.....	1		4	78	65	26	6	\$128.25
B. F. Dunham.....	Sparta Rte. 1.....	1		4	73	5	8	6	128.13
R. G. Lewis.....		1			18		41	34	34.85
J. E. Wood.....	Pleasant Hill.....	4	2	3	84	6	21	7	70.16
P. E. Hickey.....	Monterey Rte. 1.....			1	120	93	12	18	78.08
F. E. Scarlett.....	Baxter Rte. 1.....	2		2	28	17	17	13	51.65

The following made no report: G. W. Randolph, Sparta, R8; H. B. Cantrell, Smithville, R8
 J. R. Hammons, Rickman, R1; C. M. Bilbrey, Brotherton, R1; W. C. Bean, Cookeville, R3
 W. A. Johnson, Brotherton; R. W. Bennington, C. H. Kemp, Cookeville, D. B. Hammons, Hilham, R1
 G. W. Foster, Tilbert Henry, J. H. B. Welch, Jasper Henry, W. B. Gentry, Cookeville, D. G. Graham,
 Frank Malone, Cookeville, C. J. Jaquess, J. A. Wagoner, J. W. Barnes.

MINISTERS GONE TO REST

Elders G. B. Brown, W. I. Peters, D. T. Cantrell, J. A. Hawkins, J. P. Chastain and
 C. S. Clouse.

