

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

Second Annual Session

—OF THE—

## TERRITORIAL

# FreeWill Baptist Association

—CONVENED WITH—

Liberty Church, Near Whitefield, I. T.,

AUGUST 23, 24, 25, 26, 1895.

### OFFICERS:

O. J. TAYLOR

MODERATOR

E. BALDWIN

CLERK AND TREASURER

BAPTIST REVIEW JOB OFFICE,

GOLDSBORO, N. C.

## PROCEEDINGS.

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The second annual session of the Territorial Freewill Baptist Association convened with Liberty Church, five miles North of Whitfield, I. T., August 23rd, 1895., on Friday night before the 4th Sabbath. The opening sermon was preached by Elder J. M. Roberts, text 1st Tim., 2nd chapter 5th and 6th verses. The congregation was large and attentive to the Word preached. The sermon was able and edifying to the hearers. After preaching, it was agreed to adjourn until Saturday morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, Aug. 24th.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Singing by the congregation, prayer by Elder J. H. Ward. The Moderator called the Association to order, announced that the first business in order was to call for and read the letters from the churches and enroll the names of delegates.

The letters were handed in and read, and contents noted as per Statistical Table. The enrollment showed that there was a quorum present, and it was agreed to permanently organize the body by the election of officers, and that the voting be done by ballot. On the first ballot Elder O. J. Taylor was elected Moderator for the ensuing year, and Elder J. M. Roberts was elected assistant Moderator. Bro. E. Baldwin was elected Clerk, and Elder J. H. Wilson was elected assistant Clerk.

Petitionary letters were called for, and two handed in and read, and on recommendation of Elder J. H. Wilson, the churches were received, the delegates seated and their names ordered to be enrolled in the statistical table.

On motion, the Moderator is authorized and requested to appoint all the committees. The Moderator makes the following appointments, viz:

On Devotional Exercises—Brethren A. J. Jones, I. W. Caudle, C. C. Oler, J. H. Blackwell, and E. Baldwin.

On Bill of Arrangement—Elder J. H. Wilson, Elder J. M. Roberts, O. J. Taylor, and brethren E. Baldwin and W. T. Sullinger.

On Temperance—Brethren T. J. Dunn and C. D. Sullinger and Elder J. H. Wilson.

On Sabbath Schools—Brethren E. L. Harshaw, J. N. Dunn, and Elder J. W. Burckhalter.

On motion, the Association adjourned for preaching and to meet at 5 o'clock, p. m.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder O. J. Taylor, at 11 o'clock, a. m. Text, St. Mark 10th chapter, 26th verse.

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### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sung a hymn, after which Elder J. W. Burckhalter offered prayer. The Moderator then called the body to order.

Roll is called and the ministers and delegates answer to their names.

Proceedings of the forenoon are read and adopted, after which business was transacted as follows, viz:

On motion, the rules of order are read, and the Moderator requested a strict observance to the same.

Visiting ministers and brethren of other denominations are invited to take seats with us.

Committee on devotional exercises report that Elder J. H. Ward preach to-night at early candle light, and Elder J. M. Roberts alternate. That Elder J. H. Wilson preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock, a. m., and Elder Burckhalter preach to-morrow night. Elder J. M. Roberts alternate.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer and benediction by the Moderator.

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### MONDAY MORNING, Aug. 26th.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Singing by the congregation, prayer and called to order by the Moderator. Roll is called and the ministers and delegates answer to their names.

Renewed the invitation to visiting ministers and brethren to take seats with us.

Reports of committees are called for and presented as follows, viz:

#### ON TEMPERANCE.

We your Committee on temperance report: That it is our honest conviction that intemperance is the direct and indirect cause of nine-tenths of all the crimes committed in the world, and that it is the mighty leaver prying at the foundation of all Christianity. It invades the peaceful homes of women and children, blighting and withering the fairest flowers of our land. Clouding the mind, corrupting the morals and deadening the sensibility of both young and old age. Making widows of good Christian hearted mothers and putting children to want. It corrupts the bar, the bench and the pulpit. State Legislatures and Congress Halls. And no one is exempt from its ruins. Therefore, we believe it to be our duty as Christians and children of a pure and holy God to banish the demon from our church and co-operate with all Christians and temperance workers to deliver fallen man from its blighting curse. Respectfully submitted.

C. L. SULLINGER, Chmn.

On motion, the report is adopted and com. discharged.

#### ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools report as follows: We believe it to be the duty of each church to maintain a Sabbath School, if possible, and let it be a union school. It is the ground work of religion. For it is in the service of the Sabbath School that our children receive their first impressions of Christianity. It is one of God's noble means of grace that leads both old and young to the church. We recommend that all our Ministers and Deacons from henceforth use all their efforts to maintain Sabbath Schools in all our churches. We also recommend the Scriptures as our literature.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. HARSHAW, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted and com. discharged.

#### BILL OF ARRANGEMENTS.

We your committee on Bill of Arrangements report as follows: We do not believe that the brethren of this Association ought to ordain any brother to the ministry unless the church to which he belongs recommends him as being worthy of that calling. Furthermore we will not recognize any ordained minister unless he has a recommendation from the church or association to which he belongs. Also, we as

free communion Baptists, make a general call to any and all who are disposed to work as evangelists and we will promise them our prayers and will do all we can to help them advance the cause of Christ. We believe we ought to have as many as two Union Meetings during the year in the bounds of our Association. We also believe that each ordained minister in good standing has a right to seats with us in our Association when we meet for the transaction of business, but not allowed to vote unless he be sent as a delegate.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. ROBERTS, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted and com. discharged.

The committee on devotional service report that Elder J. H. Wilson preach to-day at 11 o'clock, a. m.

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### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion, Bro. E. Baldwin is elected Treasurer, and that all the minute money be paid over to him.

On motion, it is agreed that the Clerk prepare the manuscript for the minutes. That he superintend the printing of the same and have as many copies printed as the funds in hand will pay for. Also that he distribute them among the churches according to their contributions.

On motion, it is agreed that the next session of this Association meet with Shyan Church, five miles north of Cameron, I. T., and that it convene on Friday night before the second Sabbath in September, 1896.

On motion, Elder J. M. Roberts is elected to preach the introductory sermon; and Elder J. E. McGee, is chosen to be his alternate.

On motion, it is agreed to hold two Union Meetings as follows: One to meet with Liberty Church, near Whitefield, I. T., and to convene on Friday night before the fourth Sabbath in July, 1896. The other to meet with Union Grove Church, I. T., at Kennedy, and to convene on Friday night before the first Sabbath in August, 1896. This body requests that all the churches be represented, and especially that all the ministers attend the meetings, that we may make them

profitable to all. That the wheels of Zion may be unclogged and move forward, and that much fruit may be brought forth to the saving of many souls.

On motion, by Elder J. M. Roberts, a vote of thanks is given to Liberty Church and the citizens of this community for kindness and hospitality shown to members and visitors of the Association during its session.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place previously named. The Moderator offered prayer, after which an appropriate hymn was sung, and the parting hand was taken with tears of joy.

O. J. TAYLOR, Moderator.

E. BALDWIN, Clerk.

#### ORDER OF SERVICE ON SABBATH.

It was announced Saturday night to meet Sunday at 9 o'clock, a. m. to engage in a prayer and praise meeting. The attendance was large and the service opened promptly and resulted in the grandest revival of religion ever witnessed in this country. Many Christians were made to shout aloud in the praises of God, for his love that he has bestowed upon the children of men, that we should be called the sons and daughters of God. Dismissed to meet at 4 o'clock, p. m. to show forth the Lord's death till he comes.

The audience was addressed by Elder O. J. Taylor as to the way we understand the Scriptures to set forth this solemn service. The Scriptures used were taken from different parts of the Bible and were well handled. After the emblems were taken, the washing of the saints feet was performed, which resulted in a grand revival. There was a large number participated in the service. Dismissed for preaching to be at early candle light.

*Could  
we  
feel this  
way in  
this  
time?*

## CONSTITUTION.

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From long experience, we, the members of the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ, being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion amongst us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better church government.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by different churches in our union, not exceeding three delegates from each church, and on producing letters shall be entitled to a seat.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number of fellowship, the number received by experience, letters of recommendation, the number dismissed, excluded, restored, and those who have died since the Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened to be denominated the Territorial Association of Freewill Baptists, being composed of sundry churches in the Indian Territory—the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

4. The Association to have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of members present.

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless it has first been discussed in its own church.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being at the discretion of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association on a book to be kept by the Association for this purpose.

10. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

11. Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a majority of the members present.

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## ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

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Elder A. BARNHILL, Kully Chaha, I. T.

" J. E. MCGEE, Kully Chaha, I. T.

" O. J. TAYLOR, Cameron, I. T.

" J. M. ROBERTS, McLain, I. T.

" D. L. BEARDLY, Kully Chaha, I. T.

" J. W. BURCKHALTER, Cameron, I. T.

" J. H. BROWN, Kully Chaha, I. T.

" W. G. RAMSEY, Cameron, I. T.

" J. H. WARD, Fanshaw, I. T.

" J. H. WILSON, Leflon, I. T.

" J. R. POLKE, Kully Chaha, I. T.

# FORMS.

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## FORM OF A CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION:

INDIAN TERRITORY, Cherokee and Choctaw Nations.

.....Church to the Territorial Association of  
Freewill Baptists, when assembled with.....

....., GREETING:

We send as delegates from our Church Bros.....  
....., whom we pray you  
receive to sit with you and aid you in your deliberations.  
[Add Statistical Report, state of religion, post office ad-  
dress, number of fellowship, &c.]

Done in Church conference.....189....

.....Moderator,

.....Clerk.

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## LETTER OF DISMISSAL.

This certifies that .....is a member of  
good standing of the Freewill Baptist Church at.....  
and as such we recommend him to the fellowship of God's  
people.

Done by order of Church in conference,.....189....

.....Moderator,

.....Clerk.

## RULES OF ORDER.

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1. At every sitting, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator, or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers present, invited to seats, are allowed to take part in debate on all subjects, but not to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question: Shall this be discussed? If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions decided by a majority of the members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association, if necessary.

12. In the future sessions of the Association, arrangements shall be made so as to insure two or more sermons each day, or other equivalent devotional exercises.

13. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

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1. We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are equal in Divine essence, power and glory. Rom. 1 : 20; John 1 : 1.

2. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testament is the Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice, 2 Tim. 3 : 16, 16.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall, and that man is unable to save himself with his own power, but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory that He, by the grace of God tasted death for every man. Gen. 1 : 31; Hebrews 2 : 9.

4. We believe that Christ by his death, suffering and resurrection purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore he saith: "Look unto me and be ye saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else." Matt. 4 : 17; Isa. 45 : 22; Acts 20 : 22.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 3 : 3; Rom. 5 : 1—13.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon the merits of the Son of God. Jonah 4 : 11; Mark 10 : 14 Luke 18 : 16.

7. We believe that all Ohristians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end, if they inherit eternal life. for blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates of the city. Rev. 22 : 14.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water; and that

Christ, who is our life, showed his humble example to His children and bids us walk therein. John 3 : 22 ; Matt. 3 : 16 ; Rom. 6 : 2, 3, 4, 5 ; Matt. 28 : 19, 20.

9. We believe that God in his goodness displays His power of Grace in a great degree, in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of his Word, to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. 1 Cor. 12 : 3 ; Eph. 3 : 7 Rev. 22 : 17

10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the saints' feet, and the keeping of the Lord's day holy and abstaining from worldly lusts and carnal cares, and to assemble ourselves together, is an ornament which prepares and beautifies the soldiers of the cross to march onward in the army of the Lord. Matt. 26 : 28 ; John 13 : 4, 5.

11. We believe that none have a right to baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have a right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the Presbytery of Elders ; and each church ought to have a pastor, deacon and clerk chosen by the church and continue in office during the good pleasure of the same ; and in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous. Titus 1 : 5 ; Acts 14 : 23 ; 2 Cor. 6 : 6.

12. We believe it the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's supper and washing the saints' feet to invite all Christians. Heb. 10 : 26 ; 1 Cor. 11 : 27, 28.

13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, of both the just and unjust. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God ; the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matt. 25 : 31—34 ; 1 Cor. 15 : 42—45 ; 2 Thess. 1 : 1—11 ; Rev. 30 : 10 and 21 : 9 ; Job 19 : 26.

