

MINUTES

—OF THE—

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

TERRITORIAL

Freewill Baptist Association,

—CONVENED WITH—

Shyan Church, Indian Territory,

SEPTEMBER 11 and 12, 1896.

BAPTIST REVIEW JOB OFFICE,
GOLDSBORO, N. C.

PROCEEDINGS.

The third annual session of the Territorial Freewill Baptist Association met with Shyan Church, Indian Territory, Friday night before the second Sunday in September, 1896. The Association met pursuant to the adjournment of the last session. Elder C. Phelps preached. His text was taken in the Psalms. His discourse was eloquent and good interest was manifested. The body adjourned to meet Saturday morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING, Sept. 12th, 1896.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Singing by the congregation, and prayer by the Moderator. Who also called the body to order. Business was transacted as follows, viz:

Letters from the churches were called for, handed in and read, and contents noted as per statistical table.

The names of ministers and delegates being enrolled, and a quorum being present, it was agreed to permanently organize the body by the election of officers, and to elect by ballot. Whereupon Elder J. M. Roberts was elected Moderator; and Elder E. Baldwin was elected Clerk for the ensuing year.

Petitionary letters were called for and seven were handed in and read, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Association that they had been organized according to our decorum, and were sound in doctrine:

On motion, the churches were received, the moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to the delegates, and their names and statistics ordered to be enrolled in the minutes.

On motion, the moderator is authorized and requested to appoint all the committees. The following committees are appointed:

ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES—Brethren J. M. Nabors, J. W. Graham and G. Wollard.

ON FINANCE—Brethren J. F. Dunn, and J. W. Davis and L. W. Caudle

ON TEMPERANCE—Brethren J. M. Nabors and J. F. Dunn.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—Elders G. T. Brassfield, J. H. Brown, and Bro. E. L. Harshaw.

ON OBITUARIES—Brethren E. Baldwin, J. C. Matthews and Elder J. H. Brown.

ON BILL OF ARRANGEMENT—Elders G. T. Brassfield, C. Phelps, U. Cobb, J. M. Roberts and Bro. E. Baldwin.

Committee on Devotional Exercise report that Elder J. W. Yandal preach to-night and Elder J. M. Roberts preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

On motion, the Association adjourned for preaching and to meet at 3 o'clock p. m.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. M. Roberts. His text was Acts 11c, 16 verse.

The subject was a grand one and was well handled. Every body seemed to be edified very much. After preaching all were dismissed to meet at 3 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. All engaged in singing a hymn. After which Elder U. Cobb offered prayer. The Moderator called the body to order and called for the reports of committees, which are presented as follows, viz:

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 understood that we as liberal Baptists recommend union as the basis for all Christian people to do the will of our Father in Heaven. That we should unite all our efforts to keep our children in Sabbath Schools. That it may be the means of bringing our little ones to Christ early. We recommend that all our ministers and deacons do all in their power to keep the Sabbath School interest alive in their churches. We recommend the Scriptures as our main Literature in all our churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Brown, Chairman.

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

ON TEMPERANCE.

We your committee on Temperance report as follows: That it is our honest conviction that intemperance is the direct and indirect cause of nine tenths of all the crimes committed in all our land and it is a mighty means of keeping back thousands of men and women from making peace with their Saviour. It invades the peaceful homes of women and children blighting and withering the fairest flowers of our land. It beclouds the mind and corrupts the morals, and destroys the mind of both old and young, it makes widows of Christian hearted mothers and brings both them and their children to want. It corrupts the bar, the bench, and the pulpit, State Legislatures and the Hall's of Congress, and no one is beyond its baneful influence. Therefore it is our duty as Christians and children of God to banish the demon from our churches and our country, and that all true hearted Christians should take part in delivering fallen man from its blighting influence.

Respectfully submitted,

I. W. CAUDLE, Chairman.

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

ON OBITUARIES.

We your committee on Obituaries report as follows: It is meet that we pause amid the toil and care of our labor and give thought and meditation to the dead. We should do this in respect and esteem for the dead, and as an example and warning to the living. When we heard of the death of Bro. J. A. Baldwin of Kennedy, I. T. and of brother Rodgers of Webers Falls, I. T., of whom we sorrow very much; but let us live so in this life that we will meet our loved ones gone on before. We bow our heads, and our hearts are filled with sorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

E. BALDWIN, Chairman.

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

ON BILL OF ARRANGEMENTS.

We your committee on Bill of Arrangements report as follows: We do not believe that the brethren of this Association should ordain any brother to the ministry,

without he has a recommendation from the church to which he belongs, and that they believe him to be worthy of the calling. Furthermore, we will not recognize any ordained minister unless he has a recommendation from the church or Association to which he belongs. Furthermore, we recommend that each church should have a Treasurer and that each member of said church should contribute to the Treasurer each quarter as the Lord has prospered him. That there be no gathering when I come. That we should be ready to assist our pastors at any time so they can go and preach the gospel and leave their families in reasonable circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

C. PHELPS, Chairman.

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

ON FINANCE.

Wc your committee on Finance report as follows: We have no funds in our hands from any previous session; but we have in hand sixteen (\$16.00) dollars sent up by the churches of this Association to pay for printing the minutes of this session.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. DUNN, Chairman.

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

MISCELLANEOUS, OR NEW BUSINESS.

On motion, Bro. E. Baldwin was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

On motion, the Finance committee is ordered to turn over all funds in their hands to the Treasurer.

On motion, the Clerk is requested to prepare the manuscript, and superintend the printing of the minutes.

On motion, the Clerk is requested to have four hundred copies of the minutes printed, and distribute to each church according to membership. That they be sent to the clerks of the churches.

On motion, that this Association be represented in the sister Association of Sebastian county, Ark. by letter and delegation.

On motion, Elder J. W. Yandle is elected to represent this body in that Association.

On motion, Elder G. T. Brassfield is elected to preach the introductory sermon; Elder J. W. Yandle, alternate.

On motion, it was agreed that the next session of this Association be held with Oak Grove Church, four miles north of Red Oak, I. T., and that it convene on Friday night before the first Sabbath in September 1897.

On motion, it is agreed to adopt the BAPTIST REVIEW published at Goldsboro, N. C., as our organ or church paper and recommend it to the churches of this Association as a faithful advocate of our doctrine.

On motion, it is agreed to have a Union Meeting at Hartshorn Church to convene on Friday night before the fourth Sabbath in November, 1896. It is also agreed to hold the second Union Meeting with Maple Springs Church and that it convene on Friday night before the first Sabbath in February, 1897.

On motion, a vote of thanks is given to Shyan 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 adjourns to meet at the time and place previously mentioned. The moderator offered prayer, and after night service, the parting hand was taken with many tears and shouts of joy.

J. M. ROBERTS, Moderator,

E. BALDWIN, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION

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 in each church, and on producing letters shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express their number in 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.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Elder A. BARNHILL, McLain, I. T.

" J. E. MCGEE, Farmers, I. T.

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

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

" J. W. BURKHALTER, McLain, I. T.

" J. H. BROWN, Whitfield, I. T.

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

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

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

" J. R. POLKE, Whitfield, I. T.

" D. L. BARDEN, Stiglar, I. T.

" C. PHELPS, Hartshorn, I. T.

" W. COBB, Hartshorn, I. T.

" G. T. BRASSFIELD, Red Oak, I. T.

" J. A. BERRY, Hartshorn, I. T.

" W. UTTERBACK, Muldraw, I. T.

FORMS.

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.....

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.

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.

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 it 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 to insure two or more sermons each day, or other equivalent 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.

By an oversight of the Clerk, and we did not see it in time to make correction, the name of Elder J. W. Yandle was not placed among the ordained ministers.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

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

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament is the Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3: 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 Christians 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 right to the tree of life and enter in through the gate to 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 the 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; 1 Cor. 15: 42-45; 2 Thess. 1: 1-11; Rev. 30: 10 and 21: 9; Job 19: 26.

