MINUTES

—OF THE—

Sixth Annual Session

—OF THE—

Territorial Freewill Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH

Union Grove Church, at Kennedy, Indian Territory,

August 19th and 21st, 1899.

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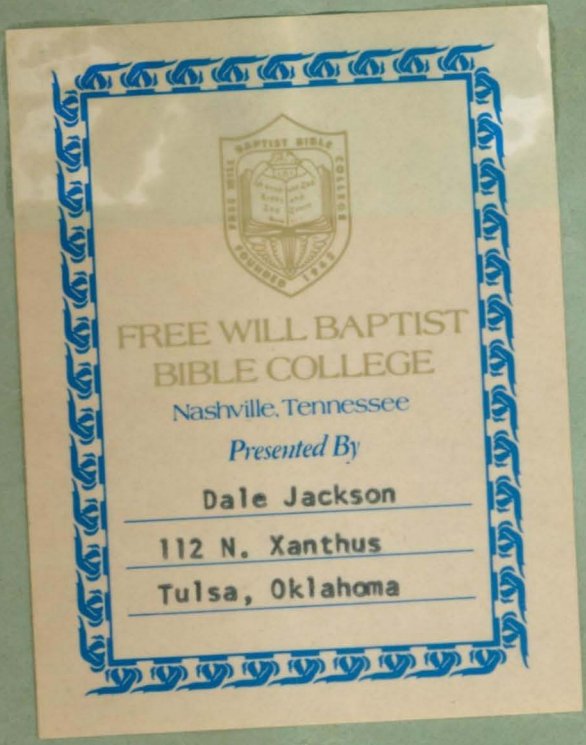
OFFICERS:

J. M. Roberts, - - - - - - - - - - Moderator,
A. S. Baldwin, - - - - - - - - - - - Clerk,
E. Baldwin - - - - - - - - - - Treasurer.

The next session of this Association will meet with Liberty Church Number 2, I. T. and will convene on Friday night before the first Sabbath in September, 1900.

BAPTIST REVIEW JOB OFFICE,
GOLDSBORO, N. C.


FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE
Nashville, Tennessee
Presented By
Dale Jackson
112 N. Xanthus
Tulsa, Oklahoma

PROCEEDINGS.

The sixth annual session of the Territorial Freewill Baptist Association met with Union Grove Church, at Kennedy, I. T. on Friday night before the third Sunday in August, 1899.

Preaching Friday night by Elder J. M. Roberts. The sermon was well adapted to the occasion.

After preaching, the audience was dismissed to meet Saturday morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING, Aug. 19th, 1899.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Singing by the congregation, prayer by Elder E. Baldwin. After which, the body was called to order and proceeded to business as follows:

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

The names of ministers and delegates being enrolled, it was found that a quorum was present.

On motion, it was agreed to permanently organize the body; whereupon, Elder J. M. Roberts was elected moderator; Elder I. W. Yandle assistant moderator; and Bro. A. S. Baldwin was elected clerk for this Association the ensuing year.

After which, the moderator read the Rules of Order and requested a strict observance of them during the session.

Petitionary letters were called for. None presented.

Visiting ministers of other denominations who may be present and who are entitled to take seats with us are invited to do so with the courtesy and privileges of the body; except that of serving on committees, making motions or voting.

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

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder I. W. Yandle. The discourse was very interesting. Text not given.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association came together by singing. Prayer by Elder J. H. Wilson. The moderator called the body to order and called for business.

On motion, it was agreed that the moderator appoint all the committees necessary for the business of this session.

The moderator appoints the committees as follows:

On Devotional Exercise—Brethren J. T. Baldwin, J. W. Graham and B. J. Davis.

On Bill of Arrangements—Elders E. Baldwin, I. W. Yandle, J. H. Wilson and J. E. McGee.

On Sabbath Schools—Brethren W. H. Beller and G. W. Pitman.

On Temperance—Brethren J. R. Rash, J. H. Lackey and J. Prince.

On Obituaries—Elders E. Baldwin and J. E. McGee and Bro. A. S. Baldwin.

On Ministerial Credentials—Brethren E. B. Burrows, A. S. McDonald and Elder E. Baldwin.

On Finance—Brethren G. W. Graham, B. J. Davis and W. Burk.

Committee on Devotional Exercise report as follows: Elder J. Prince preach to-night, Elder J. H. Lackey, alternate. Elder J. H. Roberts preach Sunday at 11 o'clock; Elder I. W. Yandle, alternate. Elder J. H. Wilson preach Sunday night; Elder J. E. Mcgee, alternate.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by the moderator.

Monday Morning, Aug. 21st, 1899.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and sung an appropriate hymn. Elder I. W. Yandle offered prayer. The moderator called the body to order. The clerk called the roll and the ministers and delegates answer to their names.

Reports of committees are called for, and the following is presented:

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools highly recommend the report in our last minutes on this subject and ask that this Association readopt it. It is as follows: We believe it is the duty of each church to maintain a

Sabbath School, and let it be understood that we as Freewill Baptists recommend union as the basis of all Christian people to do the will of our Father in Heaven. That we as Christians should unite all our efforts to keep our children in Sabbath Schools that it may be the means of bringing them to Christ. We earnestly request all our ministers and deacons to do all they can to help a lively Sabbath School and prayer meeting in all our churches which is the life of all churches and neighborhoods. We recommend the Scriptures as our main literature in all our churches.

Respectfully submitted,
W. H. BELLER, Chairman.

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

ON TEMPERANCE.

We your committee on Temperance recommend the report which we find in our last minutes on the subject of Temperance. That it be readopted by this Association, and strictly observed. It is as follows: That it is our honest conviction that intemperance is the direct and indirect cause of nine tenths of all 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 blasting and withering the fairest flowers of our Lord. 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 halls of Cogress, and no one is beyond its reach and powerful influence. Therefore, it is our duty as Christians and children of God to banish the demon beyond our churches and our country, and that all true hearted Christians should take part in delivering fallen men from its blighting influence.

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. LACKEY, Chairman.

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

ON OBITUARIES.

We your committee on Obituaries report: It is fit that we stop amid the turmoils of this life and give thought and meditation to the dead, for the living know that they must die. We sorrow, but not as those who have no hope, feeling that God doeth all things well. Whereas, it has pleased the Lord to take from us our beloved brethren and sisters to wit: Bro. W. V. Burk, John Burk and sister Della Watson of Concord church; and sister Tempa Riggs of Union Grove Church; and sister S. E. Lewis of Union Church number 2, and Thomas Self of Flat Rock Church; and Bro William and sister Winna Moore of New Year Church; and Bro. Lewis Hartsfield of Shilo Church; and sister Minnie Garmore of Oak Grove Church; and sister Lizzie Cowan and sister S. Johnson of Shyan Church. We feel assured that they all passed away in the triumphs of a living faith; and while we mourn—our loss is their eternal gain. We submit to the will of God knowing that he does all things well.

Respectfully submitted,
E. BALDWIN, Chairman

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

ON BILL OF ARRANGEMENTS.

We your committee on Bill of Arrangements recommend the readoption of last year's report with the addition of the bottom lines in parenthesis. The report is as follows: We do not believe that 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. Also we will not recognize any ordained minister

unless he has a recommendation from the church to which he belongs. Also that each church of this Association should have a Treasurer, and that each member of said churches contribute to the Treasurer each quarter as the Lord has prospered them, that we should be ready to assist our ministers at any time, so they can go and preach the Gospel as God requires us to help spread the Gospel. For they who preach the Gospel shall live of the Gospel. Furthermore, we recommend that the ministers of this Association show as much as possible the necessity of a financial system, and that each church send their representatives instructed to arrange if possible a safe plan for the advancement of our cause, and the upbuilding of Christ's Church. That when they need help we will be in readiness to help them in the grand work. (Furthermore, we will not recognize any ordination unless the Presbytery are all ordained ministers of our Faith and in good standing.)

Respectfully submitted,
I. W. YANDLE, Chairman.

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

ON MINISTERIAL CHARACTER.

We your committee on Ministerial Character report as follows: Our ministers as far as we can learn are all in good standing and doing good work in the Master's Vineyard. Respectfully submitted,
E. B. BURROW, Chairman.

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

ON FINANCE.

We your committee on Finance report as follows: We find in the hands of the Treasurer of this Association sent up from the churches by their delegates to pay for printing the minutes, the sum of fourteen dollars.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. GRAHAM, Chairman.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion, it is agreed to hold fifth Sunday meetings in the year nineteen hundred, and that these meetings convene on Friday night before every fifth Sunday; and to meet at different churches as follows:

The first to meet with Oak Grove Church in October 1899, on Friday night as above stated.

The second to meet with Shilo Church and to convene on Friday night before the fifth Sunday in December, 1899.

The third to convene with New Year Church on Friday night before the first fifth Sunday in 1900.

The fourth to convene with Concord Church on Friday night before the second fifth Sunday in 1900.

On motion, it is agreed to have one Evangelist to travel in the bounds of this Association during the associational year, to preach and organize churches wherever he may

see an opportunity to do so. And the choice of this body is Elder I. W. Yandle. And we give him the right to work wherever he thinks he can accomplish the greatest amount of good. We pray that God may work mightily through him and that he may win many souls.

On motion, it is agreed to have a Treasurer, and that Elder E. Baldwin be elected to fill that office, and that he receive all money paid into the Association and pay out the same as the Association may direct, and receipt for the same and make his report to each annual Association.

On motion, it is agreed to hold our next annual session with Liberty church Number 2, and that it convene on Friday night before the first Sabbath in September 1900.

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

On motion, a vote of thanks is given to Shady Grove Church and citizens of the community for kindness shown to members and visitors of the Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place above named.

J. M. Roberts, Moderator.

A. S. Baldwin, Clerk.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters from the churches.
2. Election of officers.
3. Reception of new churches.
4. Invitation to visiting brethren to take seats.
5. Call for correspondents.
6. Appointment of committees.
7. Call for reports of committees.
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. Appointment of correspondents.
10. Time and place of holding the next session.
11. Election of a minister to preach the introductory sermon.
12. Adjournment of the Association.

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. Romans 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. Second Timoth, 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 should taste death for every man Gen. 1:31; Heb 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ by his death, sufferings and resurrection purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon principles of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore, he saith: "Look unto me and be saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else Matthew 5:17; Isaiah 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; Romans 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. Revelations 22:14.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of a 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; Matthew 3:16; Romans 6:2, 3, 4, 5, Matthew 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; Ephe. 3:7; Rev. 22:17.

10. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper, and washing the saints feet are divine ordinances, and should be observed by all his children. Mark 15, 16; John 13:8—16; Matthew 28:19; 1 Tim. 5:10.

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 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 when receiving members, and then it must be unanimous Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23; 2 Cor. 6:6.

12. We believe it is 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; Cor. 15:42—45; 2 Thess. 1:1—11; Rev. 30:10 and 21:9; Job 19:26.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and having obtained justification by Faith in his name, we as members of the several churches that constitute the Territorial Association of Freewill Baptists adopt the following as our Church Covenant:

1. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common Faith, ever striving to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

2. We will not speak evil of each other, nor will we persecute or expose the faults of the weak members of our church; but we will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instruction to Timothy: "That we will reprove, rebuke and exhort" each other as members of a common brotherhood.

3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of Faith. But we should remember that our relations to each other are closer, and the obligations more binding, than that of a common bond of Christian Charity In adopting this Covenant, we become as a family, and assume in a Christian sense, the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.

4. We will attend the stated meetings of our church, unless we are providentially hindered, or uncontrolable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means, as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church. And we will prefer the service of our own Church to that of any other, and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the word to us.

5. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord, by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners; but will occupy seats near the pulpit, and use the natuaal powers which the Lord has given us, to praise his holy name. We will sing, with those who sing, and pray with those who pray.

7. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking, by making Sunday visits to our neighbors, which is a double sin against the law of God, for in so doing, we fail to attend the house of the Lord, and hinder others who might wish to do so. Let us remember the law of Moses which condemns Sabbath breaking, and the words of the inspired apostle which says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is."

7. We will not neglect secret and public prayers, and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God, by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord and say, "but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

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 and aid you in your deliberations.

(Add Statistical Report, state of religion, post office address, number in fellowship, &c.)

Done in Church conference.....1.....

.....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 .....1.....

.....Moderator.

.....Clerk.

FORM OF A DEACON'S LETTER.

This is to certify that Bro ....is a worthy deacon of our church and we recommend him as being worthy of his calling.

Done in Church conference this.....day of.....1.....

.....Moderator.

.....Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Elder J. M. ROBERTS, McLain, I. T.
" J. E. McGEE, Cameron, I. T.
" J. H. BROWN, Whitefield, I. T.
" J. H. WILSON, Fanshaw, I. T.
" C. PHELPS, Hartshorn, I. T.
" J. A. BERRY, Hartshorn, I. T.
" I. W. YANDLE, Red Oak, I. T.
" J. T. DUNN, Wall, I. T.
" J. H. LACKEY, Proctor, I. T.
" G. W. SPRINGFIELD, Pateaw, I. T.
" J. W. BURKHALTER, Tahquah, I. T.
" E. BALDWIN, Hackett, Ark.

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 leasurly 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.

CORRECTION☞ Wherever the words "New Year Church" are found in these minutes it must be corrected so as to read "New Zion Church." It was the printer's mistake, and seen too late to be corrected in the type.

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

2. Letters from the different churches are to express the 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 Tertiorial 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 witdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

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

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, who 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 Assoeiation 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE. FOR 1899.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Rec'd from Ch.	Restored.	Died	Excluded	Days of Meet'g	No. of Members	Paid for Minutes.
Shiloah	E. B. Burrow, A. S. Baldwin, McD...	E. Baldwin	E. B. Burrow, Kully Chaha, I T.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	30	$ 1 40
Shyan	J. E. McGee, C. Bagwell, O. Melton	E. Baldwin	J. E. Thompson, Farmers, I. T.	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	34	1 50
Union Grove	J. T. and J. W. Baldwin, B. Morgan	J. E. McGee	J. T. Baldwin, Kennedy, I. T.	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	50	1 [illegible]
Pleasant Ridge	G. W. Pitman	J. E. McGee	G. W. Pitman, Bengal I. T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	
New Zion	J. H. Lackey	J. H. Lackey	E. W. Leverett, Burney, I. T.	7	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	17	
Flat Rock	J. H. Lackey	J. H. Lackey	T. E Craft, Eufaula, I. T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	
Oak Grove	I. W. Yandle, P. Kuykendall, B. Davis.	J. E. McGee	C. E. Auddex, Red Oak, I. T.	1	..	4	2	..	1	4	3	67	1 50
Coal Creek	P. R. Free, J. Rash	I. W. Yandle	J. R. Rash, Fanshaw, I. T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	
Field's Chapel	J. D. Young, J. M. Roberts	J. M. Roberts	William Hamton	2	..	6	..	..	..	..	2	16	2 00
Concord	E. Graham, W. Burk, J. W. Graham.	J. M. Roberts	E. Graham, McLain, I. T.	5	..	..	5	..	5	..	..	48	2 00
Union Grove, No. 2	W. H. Bellor, J. B. Corbit	J. Prince	W. H. Bellar, Muldrow, I. T.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	14	1 00
Liberty No. 2	M. Gunter	I. W. Yandle	A. James, Penola, I. T.	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	4		50
Liberty	A. J. Jones	J. Brown	T. Sullinger, Stiglar, I T.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	24	1 00
New Home	By letter	J. W. Burkhalter	G. W. Griffin, Talequah, I. T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	2 50
			Total	21	..	12	6	1	15	5	..	351	$14 00.