

1977
MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
TWIN CITIES ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
CALVARY CHURCH
COLUMBUS GEORGIA

COMMENCING ON THE FIRST SATURDAY
IN OCTOBER 1977

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of the
1ST ANNUAL SESSION
of the
TWIN CITIES ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
CALVARY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
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OFFICERS FOR THIS YEAR

MODERATOR.....Rev. James E. Shields

ASSISTANT MODERATOR.....Dr. James Ursery

CLERK.....Mrs. Mike Stevens

ASSISTANT CLERK.....Bro. Edward Newman

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Open meeting with prayer.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
4. Read and adopt minutes of last meeting.
5. Call for acknowledgement in matter of dealing.
6. Report of deacons.
7. Report of committees.
8. Unfinished business
9. New business.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Appointment of committees.
12. Adjourn.

M/S/C -Moved, seconded and carried.

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>CLERK ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Calvary	Deloris Parker 5028 Wellborn Dr. Columbus, Ga. 31907	563-3266 (404)
Emmanuel	Edward Newman 5421 Atkins Dr. Columbus, Ga. 31904	
Providence	Pat Martin 1106 Winston Rd. Columbus, Ga.	687-7616 (404)

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. Russell Horne	3918 Reese Rd. Columbus, Ga. 31907	563-3358 (404)
Rev. Mike Stevens	Route 1 Shenandoah Forest Cataula, Ga. 31804	327-0931 (404)
Rev. James E. Shields	3547 St. Marys Rd. Columbus, Ga. 31907	682-0046 (404)
Dr. James Ursery	5328 Hilliard Ave. Columbus, Ga.	322-6077 (404)
Rev. Frank Williamson	3 New Market Ct. Columbus, Ga.	563-4682 (404)
Rev. Floyd Harris	unknown	

LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. Jerome McSwain	4915 Welborn Dr. Columbus, Ga.	563-8883 (404)
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MINUTES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE TWIN CITY
ASSOCIATION
10-9-76

The 1st annual session of the Twin Cities Association met at Providence Freewill Baptist Church, October 9, 1976.

A motion was made by Bro. Jack Hughes that we form as Association. Motion seconded and accepted.

A motion was made by Rev. James Shields to accept General Rules and Regulations. Motion seconded and accepted.

Motion made by Bro. P.J. Pearson that we accept Freewill Baptist Treaty. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion made by Bro. P.J. Pearson to accept Constitution and By-Laws. Motion seconded and carried.

Rev. Russell Horne presented the Bible as our rule of practice. Motion made by Hugh Ball to accept. Motion seconded and carried.

Rev. James Shields was nominated moderator. Bro. Hershel Allen as assistant moderator. Sister Joanne Boren was nominated clerk and treasurer, Marianne Stevens, assistant. Motions made, seconded and so carried.

Executive Committee was nominated as follows:
Bro. P.J. Pearson as chairman to serve 3 years.
Bro. Hugh Ball to serve 2 years.
Bro. Huey Meadows to serve 1 year.

Motion made by Bro. W.G. Jordan to accept. Motion seconded and so carried.

Ordaining Council nominated as follows:
Rev. Mike Stevens, Rev. Russell Horne and Bro. Frank Williamson. Motion made to accept, seconded and carried.

Secretary to write letter petitioning that the Twin Cities Association join the Georgia State Association.

Motion made by Bro. Horne that the Executive Committee go to the State Convention and represent us. Seconded and carried.

Motion made for ordained ministers from each church attend meeting. Seconded and carried.

Motion made that clerk go ahead and pay annual

fee for State association. Seconded and carried.

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded and carried.

Rev. James Shields

Moderator

Marianne Stevens

Clerk

Saturday

January 8, 1977

Quarterly meeting held at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church.

Meeting called to order by Bro. James Shields, moderator. Song lead by Bro. Horne.

Minutes of last meeting read by Rev. Mike Stevens in the absence of Sister Boren.

Corrections to minutes as follows: State Convention was attended but we did not petition at this time. Moderator recommended that Mrs. Mike Stevens be appointed Clerk-Treasurer and Ed Newman as assistant. Motion made by Rev. Horne, seconded and carried.

Motion made to accept minutes as corrected. Seconded and carried.

Next meeting will be held April 9, 1977, at Emanuel Church beginning at 10:00 A.M.

Bro. Shields recommended that we meet all day so that committees could meet.

Executive committee met to look into White Rock petition.

Bro. Mike Stevens appointed to get letter for each church.

Reports from Committees as follows:

Ordaining Council recommended to accept Bro. James Ursery. Bro. Horne made motion to this effect. Seconded and carried.

Executive Committee made the following report: White Rock Petition - no recommendation at this time. Emanuel recommended to accept into the association. Motion was made to place Bro. James Ursery on Executive Committee. Seconded and carried.

Moderator recommended to replace assistant moderator.

Floor opened for nominations. Bro. Mike Stevens

nominated Bro. James Ursery. Nominations closed.
Nomination seconded and carried.

Bro. James Ursery delivered the morning message.
Motion made to adjourn. Seconded and so carried.

Rev. James Shields
Moderator

Marianne Stevens
Clerk

April 30, 1977

Minutes of the quarterly meeting held at Emanuel Free Will Baptist Church. Meeting was called to order by the moderator. Moderator called for letters from churches. Letters read.

Motion made by Bro. Pearson to have delegates seated. Seconded and so carried.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Motion made to have Bro. Ed Newman sit on the Executive Council. Seconded and so carried.

Message delivered by Bro. Floyd Harris.

Adjourned for lunch.

Afternoon Session:

Report from Ordaining Council. Motion made by Bro. Ursery to ordain Bro. Floyd Harris. Seconded and so carried.

Report from Executive Committee.

Bro. Ursery called attention to the name - Twin City Association. Must be changed to read Twin Cities. Also we must have preamble. Also Bro. Ursery recommended Ordaining Council have three (3) ordained ministers.

Motion made by Bro. Mike Stevens to accept, seconded and so carried.

White Rock Petition - Need letter of good standing from East Alabama Association.

Motion made by Mike Stevens to this effect, seconded and so carried.

Officers to State meeting to meet before next quarterly meeting.

Motion made by Bro. Russell Horne to have chair appoint the nominating committee.

Moderator appointed Bro. Horne, Bro. Urser, Bro. Ed Newman and Bro. Jerry Thorne.

It was also recommended to organize District Auxiliary and Masters Men.

Next meeting to be held at Providence, July 9, 1977.

Recommendation by Mike Stevens to raise fees to \$30.00 and then \$10.00 thereafter.

Recommendation tabled.

Motion made to adjourn.

Bro. James Shields
Moderator

Marianne Stevens
Clerk

July 30, 1977

Minutes of the quarterly meeting held on July 30, 1977 with the Providence Free Will Baptist Church.

Meeting called to order by the moderator. Song led by Bro. James Urser. Letters were read and delegates seated.

Minutes of the last meeting read. Motion made by Bro. Pearson to accept, seconded and so carried.

Motion made to nominate board members to State Convention. Mission Board - Bro. James Urser, Retirement - Bro. Hugh Ball, Education, Bro. James Shields, Budget - Bro. Ed Newman, Trustees - Bro. Frank Williamson.

Seconded and so carried. Motion made by Bro. Horne for Association to bear expenses if not done so by the State. Seconded and carried.

Recommendation made by Bro. Stevens which was tabled now brought forward. Recommendation was to change fees from \$30.00 to \$10.00. This would be a constitutional change. Motion made by Bro. Ball to accept, seconded and so carried.

Adjournment.

Morning message was delivered by Bro. James Shields.

Next meeting October 8, 1977. Calvary Free Will
Baptist Church.

Rev. James Shields
Moderator

Marianne Stevens
Clerk

MINUTES OF THE 1ST ANNUAL SESSION OF THE TWIN CITIES FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The 1st session of the Twin Cities Association met at Calvary Church on October 8, 1977.

The choir of Calvary Church provided special music.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator.

Minutes and Financial Reports were read.

Motion made and seconded to accept reports as read.

The Moderator called for corresponding letters to be read and delegates to be seated.

Delegates for the State Convention were nominated as follows:

Bro. Lee Jordan and Charles Shirley

Alternates: Rachel Horne and Mrs. James Ursery.

Ordained ministers and deacons are standing delegates. Motion made by Rev. Russell Horne to accept these nominations. Seconded and so carried.

Ordaining Council to consist of the same three (3) members as follows: Rev. Russell Horne, Rev. Mike Stevens, and Rev. Frank Williamson.

Another member was needed for the Executive Committee. Bro. Jerry Thorne was nominated. Motion made to accept, seconded and so carried.

Morning session was then turned over to Rev. C. B. Dowdney who gave an informative talk on state office, new missions in the state.

Bro. Dowdney's report was accepted as information.

Bro. James Ursery was elected as Promotional Secretary for the Association.

Morning message was delivered by Rev. Mike Stevens.

Next quarterly meeting to be held with Emanuel Church on January 11, 1978. Each church is to win 30 souls by this meeting.

Afternoon Session

Afternoon session called to order by Moderator.

Reports from committees were read:

Digest Committee-The digest committee received two

(2) church letters reporting 35 baptized 30 new members, total membership of 358.

Edward Newman

W. J. Parker

Jerry Thorne

Ordaining Council - The ordaining council recommended to ordaining Bro. Jerome McSwain into the ministry.

Rev. Russell Horne

Rev. Mike Stevens

Rev. Frank Williamson

Motion made to this effect, seconded and so carried.

Motion made by Rev. Horne to offer to host 1979 State Convention. Seconded and so carried.

Motion made by Bro. Horne to have minutes printed, seconded and so carried.

Six (6) copies of the minutes to be sent to Bro. Dowdney.

Resolution Committee-The resolution committee extended to the host church their appreciation for the hospitality given to us.

Bro. Lee Jordan

Bro. Bill Ogdan

Bro. Loverett

Afternoon session was dismissed with prayer.

James Shields

Moderator

Marianne Stevens

Clerk

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on account as of 5-1-77	\$150.00
Bible purchased for Bro. Floyd Harris	<u>39.95</u>
Balance on account to date	\$110.05
	<u>25.00</u>
	\$135.05

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	PASTOR													
			Baptisms		Rec. by letter professions, ect.		Lost by death letters, ect.		Lost to non-F.W.B. churches		Resident members		Total membership	

FINANCIAL TABLE

CHURCH	Total Offerings	Pastors Salary	Building & Repairs	Local Expenditures	Cooperative Program	Home & Foreign Missions	Staff Salaries
CALVARY	23,967.93	8,320.00		2,500.00	1,180.85		2,400.00
EMMANUEL	24,202.06	8,947.32	2,624.54	12,585.61	512.76		
PROVIDENCE	21,111.17	7,500.00	23,000.00		44.00	100.00	480.00

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
TWIN CITIES ASSOCIATION OF ORIGINAL FREEWILL BAPTISTS

PREAMBLE

We, being the members of the Freewill Baptist Denomination, having adopted the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Original Free Will Baptist, realizing the necessity of fellowship among sister churches of like faith, do bond ourselves together to form an Association, and do therefore ordain this Constitution and By-Laws to the glory of God and to the improvement of denominational relations.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Twin Cities Association of Original Free Will Baptist.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Twin Cities Association is to promote greater fellowship among its member churches and to realize a greater harvest in the Vineyard of the Lord through the combined efforts of the churches. The Association shall encourage the forming of such auxiliaries as are beneficial to the work of the churches, such as, Sunday School, Church Training Service, Master's Men, Woman's Auxiliary, Prayer Meetings, Youth Organizations, and Missionary and Educational Endeavors.

With this Divine purpose in view, we set forth the following statements of truth:

This Association neither claims nor desires to hold nor wield any power or authority over its member churches which are by Divine Right reserved to the churches themselves. We emphasize anew that the local church is its own independent body so far as it relates to its own government, the transactions of its business,

the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members. However, we do hold that churches who have the right and privilege of the above liberty and fellowship are composed of persons who believe the truth as it is in Christ, and give evidence of true piety, are, upon examination or recommendation, received into membership according to regular methods of the local church and upon condition of Baptism.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer.

Section 1: The Moderator shall preside over all business of this Association. He shall keep order and in general direct all business of the Association. He shall serve as ex-officio member of all standing committees or boards.

Section 2: The Assistant Moderator shall discharge the duties of the Moderator in his absence. In the absence of both the Moderator and his Assistant, the Clerk shall call the meeting to order and the Standing Delegates shall elect someone to preside at the meeting.

Section 3: The Clerk-Treasurer shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Association. He/she shall be responsible for the printing and distributing of the Associational minutes to all churches, and shall enroll delegates at each session of the Association. He/she shall do the corresponding necessary for the Association. He/she shall receive all monies contributed to the Association, and make disbursements as authorized by the Association and/or the Executive Board (Committee).

Section 4: The Assistant Clerk-Treasurer shall discharge the duties of the Clerk-Treasurer in his/her absence.

The Association shall appoint or elect any other officers, boards, or committees it deems necessary for its business.

ARTICLE IV - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1: There shall be an Executive Board (Committee) composed of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, and at least three (3) men not holding any other office in the Association. The Executive Board (Committee) shall promote the work of the Association in general and assist any department when the need arises or if called upon. This Committee shall act in behalf of the Association in case of any emergency and shall act as the Association when the Association is not in session. However, any action taken by this Committee is subject to the approval or disapproval of the Association at its next meeting. This Committee shall plan and prepare the programs of the Association. It shall be responsible to the Association for the questioning and examination of churches petitioning this body for membership. This Committee shall have power to deal with any officer of the Association who fails to function in his/her office or indulge in unchristian conduct. However, this action is temporary pending their report to the Association and final action by the body while in session. This Committee shall be available to mediate any dissention or offer any help to member churches providing their help is requested by the church. In such cases their traveling expenses shall be paid by the church desiring their assistance.

Section 2: There shall be an Ordaining Council composed of at least three (3) ordained ministers whose duties consist of those set forth in Article IX, Ministerial Relations of this document.

ARTICLE V - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The term of the Moderator shall be two (2) years. He shall not succeed himself more than once.
2. The length of service for the Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, and the Assistant Clerk-Treasurer shall be at the discretion of the Association.
3. The members of the Ordaining Council shall serve three (3) years. A new member to be added at the annual meeting each year.
4. The officers shall be elected at the regular annual session of the Association on the second Saturday in October.
5. Any additional Boards, Committees, or Officers needed shall be appointed or elected by the Association at its discretion.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

Representation in this Association is conditioned upon meeting the following requirements:

1. Full acceptance of the Treatise of the National Association of Freewill Baptist.
2. The churches of this Association shall practice consistancy in supporting missions and Christian education.
3. Churches who petition this Association shall be examined concerning their spiritual and moral standard before the Association acts.
4. Churches expelled from other Associations for any cause may not be received until their expulsion is satisfactorily explained to the Association.
5. Each church is allowed five (5) delegates. All ordained men in good standing with the church are standing delegates.
6. This Association shall meet four (4) times a year, three (3) quarterly meetings and one (1) annual meeting. Regular quarterly meetings of this Asso-

ciation shall be on the second Saturday in January, April, and July. The annual meeting shall be on the second Saturday in October.

ARTICLE VIII - VOTING

1. The Moderator shall keep order and in general direct all business of the Association. He shall vote only in a tie vote, shall rule any person to silence who refuses to come to order, and in case of extreme disorder may rule the meeting closed. The Moderator shall not allow any discussion on any subject unless it is placed before the body by a move and a second.
2. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on any one subject or more than five (5) minutes without permission from the Moderator.
3. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee/board provided the person nominated is elected.
4. Any person desiring to speak shall rise and address the Moderator but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.
5. Any ruling by the Moderator may be set aside by 2/3 majority of voting delegates.
6. All voting in this Association shall be as agreed upon by its delegates while in session.
7. The Moderator shall follow the Principles of Parliamentary Procedure in moderating the business of this Association.
8. The Moderator shall limit voting to authorized delegates only and no delegate shall leave the building during a business session without being excused by the Moderator.

ARTICLE IX - MINISTERIAL RELATIONS

1. Ordaining Council shall examine any candidate for license upon request from his home church.
2. The Ordaining Council shall examine any candidate for ordination upon request from the church to which he has been called and is pastoring provided he has been licensed and has met the qualifications as stated in Item #5 of this same article.
3. Any Free Will Baptist Minister presenting himself for membership to this Association must, after a

request from the church to which he has been called, appear before the Ordaining Council for questioning, and upon the recommendation from the Ordaining Council be received into full fellowship pending a letter of good standing from his former Association.

4. Any minister, from another denomination presenting himself for membership to this Association must, after a letter of request from the church to which he has been called, appear before the Ordaining Council for questioning. It is agreed that he will, upon recommendation from the Ordaining Council, be received under the watchcare of the Association until such time as agreed upon by the body, during which time the minister will have proved himself, as well as his desire to be a Freewill Baptist, and then will be received into full fellowship by the Association.
5. Any minister presenting himself to this Association for license, ordination, etc., from another denomination, shall be examined by the Ordaining Council. The examination shall include the following:
 - A. A thorough investigation of his character shall be made.
 - B. Close questioning concerning a Divine call to the office.
 - C. He must be thoroughly familiar with and a firm believer in the doctrine of the Freewill Baptist Church.
 - D. His educational qualifications should be in keeping with his office and he must show willingness to further his knowledge by additional study.
 - E. Any candidate for ordination must have been licensed and called to pastor one or more churches or hold a position in a member church that would require ordination such as Associate Pastor, etc. He must be a practicing tither and an active supporter of world-wide missions.
 - F. The candidate shall also be examined according to the Word as found in I Timothy 3.
 - G. The Council shall not recommend the ordination of any person of whom they have honest doubt

concerning his character, qualifications,
and Divine call to the work.

ARTICLE X - ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. This Association shall be open with Scripture reading and prayer and shall be closed with prayer.
2. The Association shall convene at 10:00 A.M. on the date set by the body.
3. At each quarterly meeting business shall be kept to a minimum with a delegate report and representation fee[Ten (\$10) dollars per church quarterly and Ten (\$10) dollars at the annual meeting] report being made and any other pressing item of business being left for the annual meeting.
4. At the annual meeting the annual reports from the churches shall be compiled for the convenience of the Clerk-Treasurer in preparation of the Associational minutes.
5. The meetings of the Association shall rotate among the member churches in succession.
6. This Constitution and By-Laws may be altered by a 2/3 majority vote of the voting delegates present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE - The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rules of Faith and Practice.
2. GOD - There is one living and true God revealed in nature as the Creator of the universe; and in the Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, obey.
3. CHRIST - Christ is God manifest in the flesh, in His divine nature truly God, in His nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, one crucified. He is now risen and glorified, and is our present Saviour and Lord.
4. THE HOLY SPIRIT - The scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reporver, Comforter, Guide, and Sanctifier of men.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD - God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.
6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN - Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin, and become guilty before God.
7. THE WORK OF CHRIST - The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering, death, and resurrection, effected for all a redemption from sin, that is full and free, is the ground of salvation by faith.
8. TERMS OF SALVATION - The conditions of salvation are:
 - (1) Repentance of sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it.
 - (2) Faith of the unswerving committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith with the soul renewed by the Holy Spirit freed from domination of sin and become a child of God.
 - (3) Continuance in faith and obedience until death.
9. ELECTION - God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the condition of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. FREEDOM OF WILL - The human will is free and self-controlled having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit, or to resist them and perish.
11. SALVATION FREE - God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.
12. PERSERVERANCE - All believers in Christ, who through grace preserves in holiness to the end of life have promises of eternal salvation.
13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES - Baptism, or immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances teaching humility, or universal obligation

- and to be administered to all true believers.
14. TITHING - God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorses it in Gospel (Matthew 23-23) and the Apostle Paul said, "upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (I Cor.16:2).
 15. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH - The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, Holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.
 16. RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION -The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men on the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligation to reverence to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship, and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.