

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Eighth Annual Session

—OF THE—

Ministers' Meeting,

AND OF THE

Twelfth Annual Session

—OF THE—

UNION CONFERENCE,

—OF THE—

ORIGINAL

Free Will Baptist

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

UNION GROVE, WAYNE COUNTY, N. C.,

March 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th.,

1901.

1901.

FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT,
AYDEN, N. C.

Ministers' Meeting.

WEDNESDAY.

Ministers from the various conferences met with the church at Union Grove, Wayne Co., March 6th, 1901.

Elder C. A. Jackson preached the introductory sermon—Text: I Tim. 1: 18-19.

After an intermission of 45 minutes, the meeting reassembled.

Eld. C. A. Jackson was elected president, and Eld. E. T. Phillips, secretary.

The following ministers were enrolled:

Western Conference—P. T. Lucas, E. T. Phillips, L. T. Phillips, C. R. Pearce, J. H. Sasser, J. K. Ruffin, W. A. Benson.

Cape Fear—R. C. Jackson, D. R. Stafford, C. A. Jackson.

Central—J. M. Barfield and W. H. Frost.

Eastern—V. G. Brittain and W. D. Letchworth.

The president appointed C. R. Pearce, J. C. Rose and Albert Aycock a devotional committee.

The president appointed a query committee as follows: L. T. Phillips, R. C. Jackson, J. M. Barfield, V. G. Brittain, W. H. Frost.

The devotional committee report: R. C. Jackson open and D. R. Stafford preach to-night.

The ministers called off to meet at 9 o'clock, Thursday morning, giving way for the Hymn Book committee to hold a session.

THURSDAY.

The meeting met at the appointed hour. Prayer by the secretary.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

On motion, the laity be invited to take part in any discussion.

The report of the query committee was adopted.

The following queries were submitted:

1st. The subject of the resurrection. "How are the dead raised up and with what body do they come?" The subject was discussed by Elds. R. C. Jackson, E. T. Phillips, V. G. Brittain, W. D. Letchworth. All agree that the body is resurrected but that it is a glorified body.

2nd. How shall we create a greater interest in church attendance by the members? Discussed by Pierce, Brittain, Jackson R. C. and C. A., Lucas, Frost and Ruffin. It was agreed that the pastor should be a living flame for God, that he should visit among his flock, and by zealous work get the members to attend.

3rd. What is the best plan to get the strong churches to aid the weak? Discussed by Lucas, Frost, Stafford, Jackson R. C. and C. A., and others. It was agreed that we ought to build up churches in needy places especially in the towns of the state. It was further advised that this body draft a resolution and present it to the union conference, to assemble at this meeting, requiring each local church in the state to aid in the erection of church buildings, subject to investigation by a committee appointed by this body.

4th. What is sinless perfection? This was discussed by Elds. R. C. and C. R. Jackson, L. T. Phillips and some others. It was admitted that sinless perfection belonged to God alone, but that Christian perfection was held up as the true standard for Christians.

Devotional committee report: Eld. J. M. Barfield open and Eld. W. H. Frost preach to-night. The meeting closed until Friday.

FRIDAY.

The meeting met at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Eld. V. G. Brittain.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

On motion, a committee be appointed to define query 4th. They submitted the following report which was adopted:

1st. We, your committee, agree that sinless perfection in a full sense of the word, would mean absolute perfection, which Christ alone could be.

2nd. Christian perfection is that which God requires of his servants, according to Rom. 6:16. Matt. 5: 8-48. James 1: 27. Luke 10: 27-28.

V. G. BRITTAIN, }
R. C. JACKSON, } Committee.
W. H. FROST, }

On motion, E. T. Phillips preach the introductory at the next ministers' meeting and V. G. Brittain be the alternate.

On motion, the ministers' meeting close. Prayer by Eld. J. M. Barfield.

C. A. JACKSON, President,
E. T. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

Constitution of the Ministers' Meeting.

ARTICLE 1. A ministers' meeting of the Original Free Will Baptist of North Carolina shall meet at least once every year. Wednesday before the meeting of the Union Conference and hold until the opening of the same, at the appointed place for the Union Conference.

ART. 2. An introductory sermon shall be preached at the setting of the ministers' meeting each year.

ART. 3. The minister who preaches the introductory shall preside over said meeting until a President is elected.

ART. 4. Each meeting shall have power to elect such officers as may be needful.

ART. 5. The meeting shall be to devise plans for the advancement of the Gospel of Christ.

ART. 6. It shall be the duty of the meeting to keep unity between the brother ministers and to understand each other's work, so that our preaching will not conflict in preaching the gospel.

ART. 7. All ministers who wish to become members of the ministers' meeting, shall make application at the regular sitting of said meeting, and shall be received by the regular vote of that meeting.

ART. 8. All members composing said meeting shall be required to attend annually, unless providentially hindered.

ART. 9. The meeting shall have power to exclude any member of said meeting, for any disorderly walk.

ART. 10. This meeting shall have the power to make or amend any rule or by-law they may think necessary, in carrying out its benevolent purpose.

ART. 11. All members composing this meeting shall be required to vote pro or con, unless excused by the President.

ART. 12. The President shall have supreme power to call any person to a point or order during the sitting of the meeting.

13. No person shall speak over ten minutes on any subject without the consent of the President, and shall be allowed to speak twice if necessary.

ART. 14. The proceedings of the minister's meeting shall be published in connection with the minutes of the Union Conference.

UNION CONFERENCE.

The Twelfth Annual Session of the Union Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist of N. C., met with the church at Union Grove, Wayne Co., March 8th, 1901.

Eld. V. G. Brittain preached the introductory—
Text: Heb. 12: 1, and Eph. 4: 13.

The following were enrolled as members of the conference:

Officers—R. C. Jackson, Mod., E. T. Phillips, Sec., J. M. Barfield, Treas.

The following ministers were enrolled:

From the Western Conference—P. T. Lucas, E. T. Phillips, J. H. Worley, J. K. Ruffin, R. H. Holland.

Cape Fear—R. C. Jackson, C. A. Jackson, D. R. Stafford.

Eastern—V. G. Brittain, W. D. Letchworth.

Central—J. M. Barfield, W. H. Frost.

Churches and delegates were enrolled. (See table of statistics.)

The following committees were appointed:

Devotional—J. J. Morris, J. C. Rose, Albert Aycock.

Finance—J. J. Jones, W. J. Braxton, J. H. Worley.

Temperance—Elds. C. A. Jackson, P. T. Lucas, W. D. Letchworth.

Education—Elds. W. H. Frost, J. H. Worley, J. M. Barfield.

Sabbath Schools—Eld. D. R. Stafford, B. An-

derson, Albert Aycock.

Missions—Elds. P. T. Lucas, E. T. Phillips, R. H. Holland.

After the organization, prayer was offered by the moderator.

Devotional committee report: R. C. Jackson preach and C. A. Jackson close Friday night.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The following reports were adopted by the conference.

Devotional—We, your committee, make the following report: Eld. J. M. Barfield preach Saturday at 11 o'clock; D. R. Stafford, Saturday night, and J. H. Worley on Sunday.

Finance—The finance committee report that they have paid into the hands of the treasurer \$19.30, the amount received at this union. The treasurer acknowledges the receipt of the same.

COMMITTEE.

Temperance—Seeing the great evil wrought by the drink habit in our land, and considering it a deadly foe to our prosperity as a church, Be it Resolved,

1st. That we earnestly entreat that our ministers preach, and our teachers teach the great importance of total abstinence as a beverage.

2nd. That we approve of prohibition, or any measures that may be put forth to advance the temperance cause.

3rd. That we consider any minister or teacher who frequents bar-rooms unworthy of our con-

fidence as a minister or teacher of the Gospel. We hold that our conference should disown any such minister or teacher, after due information of the same.

COMMITTEE.

Education—We congratulate the trustees of the Seminary in securing the services of Prof. Thos. E. Peden, A. M., who is in every way worthy of our confidence and support—a man of great piety, deep learning and a most excellent instructor. Prof. George Prescott, his assistant teacher, is a proficient teacher and a most excellent young man. Miss Annie Joyner, our music teacher is a very proficient instructor in music.

Resolved, 1st. That the subject of education be constantly kept before our people.

2nd. That we earnestly request our ministry and laity to use their best efforts for the building up of our Seminary at Ayden, N. C., in soliciting pupils and means for its support. We further urge our young men who feel divinely impressed to preach, to accept the excellent advantages offered them at our institution of learning; those who cannot attend the school to take the correspondence course under Prof. Peden.

3rd. We ask our people to support the organ of our denomination, THE FREE WILL BAPTIST, also support our publishing Co. at Ayden, N. C.

4th. We insist that every home among our people be supplied with the FREE WILL BAPTIST and that they rally to its support.

5th. We, therefore, recommend that this hon-

orable body accept the course of Theological study as taught in our Seminary at Ayden, N. C., for the future basis of ordination of future applicants for the ministry.

COMMITTEE.

Sabbath Schools—Whereas, Sabbath Schools are indispensable factors pertaining to the successful training of the young and the future success of the church. Therefore, Be it Resolved,

1st. That our pastor and church officials use every effort to establish and maintain Sunday Schools in all our churches.

2nd. That we, as loyal men and women, see to it that our children attend Sabbath School. We further instruct that our people use our own literature in the schools, when it is possible, and that the officers be chosen from the members of the church, and that each school make an annual report to this conference.

COMMITTEE.

Missions—We, your committee, seeing the great need of our establishing churches in the towns and cities of our state, beg lief to submit the following:

Resolved 1st. That our people turn their attention mainly to these strongholds of population and wealth.

2nd. We urge that each Free Will Baptist church in N. C. raise a fund to aid in this great work.

3rd. That we earnestly insist that our minis-

ters keep the subject of missions ever before their people, and see that each church under their care raise a becoming sum and send to each general conference for this special purpose.

COMMITTEE.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Art. 4th of the constitution was changed to read thus: "This conference shall be composed of the ministers of the several conferences or associations of the Original Free Will Baptist of N. C., and of delegates from the different conferences, associations or churches. Every 300 members or fraction thereof being entitled to one delegate."

The following resolution offered by Eld. R. C. Jackson was adopted:

Seeing the need of a more convenient plan of representing in the union conference and that the Free Will Baptist of N. C., may more consistently advertise the work of the Free Will Baptist and their progression.

Resolved 1st. That this body adopt the following resolution and recommend the same to the general conference or associations of this and sister states, at their next annual sitting for their adoption.

2nd. That each annual conference at their yearly sitting appoint a delegation to the amount of one for every 300 members or fraction thereof to represent their body in the general union conference.

3rd. That the delegation from each annual conference, association, or local church bear a letter showing their appointment, the total number of members of their respective conferences, associations or churches, donation for minute funds, and an aggregate value of church property.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Conference met according to adjournment. Prayer by the secretary. Minutes of yesterday read and approved. The miscellaneous business left over from Friday was taken up.

The committee on church extension submit the following report, which is adopted:

We, the committee on church extension, appointed by the ministers' meeting, submit the following: We are to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. Therefore Be it Resolved,

1ST. That each local church be requested to take up a collection upon the approval of the undersigned committee and the validity and ability of the membership to sustain a church.

2ND. That we ask each of the several conferences or associations in our state to appoint a committee to look after and see that the church extension fund be used only in those places where there is reasonable grounds to suppose that the organizations are able to sustain a church.

3RD. That the Union Conference submit a copy of these resolutions to the general conferences in N. C., recommending that they adopt the same.

COMMITTEE.

The following were appointed a committee on church extension fund: J. M. Barfield, R. C. Jackson, P. T. Lucas and V. G. Brittain.

The following were appointed delegates to the Triennial conference to be held in Nashville, Tenn., in October, 1901:

From the Western Conference—J. H. Worley, and P. T. Lucas.

Cape Fear—R. C. Jackson and H. W. Jernigan, alternate, C. A. Jackson.

Eastern—V. G. Brittain, W. W. Lewis, W. R. Sawyer and A. E. Rouse.

Central—J. M. Barfield, E. T. Phillips, T. H. Barnhill and W. H. Frost.

It was ordered that the next union meet with the church at Trent, Pamlico county, N. C., Friday after the 1st Sunday in March, 1902.

On motion, C. A. Jackson preach the introductory and J. H. Worley be his alternate.

On motion, we appoint a committee to draw up some rules of order for the government of the body to be presented at the next general meeting. The following were appointed to draft said rules: W. J. Braxton, J. H. Worley, C. A. Jackson, W. H. Frost and V. G. Brittain.

On motion, a vote of thanks be extended to the people of this vicinity for their kindness and liberality to the body.

On motion, the secretary prepare the minutes for the press, distribute the same and that he be allowed \$5.00 for his services.

On motion, the Union Conference come to a close. Benediction by the moderator.

R. C. JACKSON, Mod.

E. T. PHILLIPS, Sec.

Constitution of the Union Conference.

ART. 1. This body shall be known as the Original Free Will Baptist General Union Conference.

ART. 2. The object of this conference shall be to promote Christ's Kingdom among men by means in strict conformity to the Holy Scriptures, in our co-operation together in having the doctrine of Christ preached for the salvation of souls.

ART. 3. The officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Treasurer, Corresponding and Recording Secretary, who shall be elected for a term of two years, who shall hold their office until their successors are elected, which election shall take place one year previous to their entering upon the duties of their office.

ART. 4. This conference shall be composed of the ministers of the several conferences or associations of the Original Free Will Baptist of N. C. and of delegates from the different conferences, associations or churches. Every 300 members or fraction thereof being entitled to one delegate."

ART. 5. The delegate from each church, shall bear to the conference, a letter certifying his appointment, showing the amount of contribution raised for benevolent purposes during the year, and total number of members, and nothing more.

ART. 6. This conference may, at each regular meeting, elect as many boards of standing committees as may be necessary in carrying out its benevolent purposes. These shall keep a record of their proceedings and make a report at each regular meeting of this conference.

ART. 7. Any minister, conference, or church, desiring to become a member of this body shall present his or her petition at a regular session of conference through a delegate appointed for that purpose. If he

or she be received, the Moderator shall extend to her delegate the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 8. The Moderator may extend to visiting brethren all the privileges of the body save that of voting.

ART. 9. Each conference is a distinct and independent organization with full authority to manage its own internal affairs, elect its own officers, etc.

ART. 10. This constitution may be amended at any regular session by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory sermon.
2. Enrollment of those entitled to membership.
3. Organization.
4. Appointment of committees.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Hand of fellowship to visiting brethren.
7. Reports from churches.
8. Reports from committees.
9. Resolutions.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHUR. RES.	COUNTIES.	DELEGATES.	NO. MEM.	CONT'N.
Flood's Chapel,.....	Nash,.....	By Pastor,.....	55	\$ 80
Free Union,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	50	75
Union Grove,.....	Wake,.....	By Pastor,.....	35	65
Grimsley,.....	Greene,.....	By Pastor,.....	129	1 00
Fort Run,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	99	50
Little Creek,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	102	1 00
Sts. Delight,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	198	50
Ayden,.....	Pitt,.....	By Pastor,.....	44	1 00
Reedy Branch,.....	"	W. J. Braxton,.....	333	50
Elm Grove,.....	"	J. M. Barfield,.....	145	75
Hugo,.....	Lenoir,.....	By Pastor,.....	48	1 00
Union Grove,.....	Wayne,.....	J. J. Morris,.....	129	50
Watery Branch,.....	"	J. J. Jones,.....	270	1 50
Pleasant Grove,....	"	W. T. Jones,.....	255	25
Little Rock,.....	Wilson,.....	W. M. Holland,.....	148	25
Peoples' Chapel,....	"	R. Winstead,.....	48	50
Stone Hill,.....	Wayne,.....	J. B. Elmore,.....	80	25
Pine Level,.....	Johnston, ..	J. L. Davis,.....	243	75
Holly Springs,.....	"	W. G. Pittman,.....	76	50
Kenly,.....	"	T. O. Edgerton,.....	81	25
T. Chapel,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	21	50
New Center,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	34	50
New Hope,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	75	1 00
Bethlehem,.....	Sampson,...	By Pastor,.....	39	50
Zoar,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	30	50
Lebanon,.....	"	By Pastor,.....	49	60
Hodges' Chapel,....	Harnett,....	By Letter,.....	180	50
St. Mary,.....	Craven,....	B. Anderson,.....	91	50
Trent,.....	Pamlico,....	By Pastor,.....	192	1 00
Davis' Shore,.....	Carteret,...	By Pastor,.....	55	50