

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Ninth Annual Session

—OF THE—

Ministers' Meeting

—AND OF THE—

Thirteenth Annual Session

—OF THE—

UNION CONFERENCE,

—OF THE—

ORIGINAL

Free Will Baptist,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

TRENT, PAMLICO CO., N. C.,

MARCH 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th,

1902.

AYDEN, N. C.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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MINISTERS' MEETING.

WEDNESDAY.

Ministers from the various conferences met with the church at Trent, Pamlico county, March 5th, 1902.

Elder E. T. Phillips preached the introductory from 2 Tim 2: 15. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." After an intermission of forty-five minutes, the meeting reassembled.

Elder R. C. Jackson was elected president and E. T. Phillips clerk.

The following ministers were enrolled: E. T. Phillips, R. C. Jackson, J. M. Barfield, W. H. Frost, V. G. Brittain, R. I. Corbett, J. W. Alford, T. A. Mozingo and H. Cunningham.

The following committees were appointed:

Devotional—F. J. Sawyer, J. M. Sawyer and V. G. Brittain

Query—W. H. Frost, J. W. Alford and V. G. Brittain.

Obituaries—J. W. Alford, E. T. Phillips and V. G. Brittain.

All visiting brethren were invited to seats in the body.

The devotional committee report: H. Cunningham open and J. W. Alford preach tonight; J. M. Barfield open and R. C. Jackson preach tomorrow.

The meeting disposed of the following queries:

1. What should a minister do when first visiting a community? It was discussed by the following elders: W. H. Frost, E. T. Phillips, V. G. Brittain, T. A. Mozingo and R. C. Jackson. It was decided that he should hold up Christ

d use all earnestness in winning souls to Him.

2. How should church members be dealt with for non-attendance? Discussed by Elders Brittain, Frost, Corbett and R. C. Jackson. It was decided that strictness in church discipline was the life of the church, that members who habitually absent themselves from their regular church meetings should be admonished by the deacons or by a committee appointed by the church. If they still persist, they should, without a valid excuse, be expelled from the church.

3. What is the Bible doctrine of laying on of hands? Discussed by Elders Brittain, Frost, Jackson, Phillips and others. It was decided that laying on of hands is a part of our doctrine and that to fail to practice it is a departure from our faith.

4. The best method of organizing Sunday Schools in the various churches and communities, also the best method of interesting the whole membership in the work? Discussed by Elders Jackson, Brittain, Alford, Corbett, Phillips and others. It was decided that each church should be taught the importance of the Sunday School. That parents should accompany their children to the same. That great importance should be attached to the teaching and that our own literature should be used as much as possible.

On motion, the meeting adjourn until 9 o'clock Thursday morning. Benediction by the Mod.

THURSDAY.

Met according to adjournment. Praise and prayer by J. M. Barfield. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The 5th query was taken up; viz, "What is the best method for raising mission funds? It

was discussed at some length by Elders Barfield, Frost, Jackson, Phillips, Mozingo, and Bro. T. J. Sawyer. It was agreed that ministers should preach mission sermons and that quarterly collections should be taken at the churches. That we should see that the union meetings are well supported and much mission work done through them. Further, each church should by all means send a becoming fund to the General Annual conferences for this work. Also each church should have a finance committee for this very essential work.

6. What is meant by the preaching to the spirits in prison as recorded in 1 Peter 13: 19? Nearly all the ministers present had something to say on this subject. It was decided that the prisoners were sinners, who had not received the gift of the Spirit.

The committee of arrangements report: R. I. Corbett open and H. Cunningham preach to-night.

It was agreed that the query committee be a standing committee and that they make out a list of queries for our next session several weeks previous to the meeting.

Moved that H. Cunningham preach the introductory and W. H. Frost be the alternate at the next session.

On motion, the meeting close. Prayer by the president.

R. C. JACKSON, Pres.,
E. T. PHILLIPS, Sec'y.

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.

ART. 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 ministers' meeting shall be published in connection with the minutes of the Union Conference.

UNION CONFERENCE.

The Thirteenth Annual Session of the Union Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist met with the church at Trent, Pamlico county, March 7th, 1902. Eld. R. C. Jackson preached the introductory. Text: Matt. 7:28.

The following were enrolled as members of the conference.

Officers—R. C. Jackson, Mod., E. T. Phillips, Sec'y, and J. M. Barfield, Treas.

Ministers—J. M. Barfield, H. Cunningham, J. W. Alford, R. I. Corbett, E. T. Phillips, T. A. Mozingo, V. G. Brittain and W. H. Frost.

The following committees were appointed:

Devotional—T. J. Sawyer, V. G. Brittain and J. M. Sawyer.

Finance—A. Casey, W. R. Sawyer and E. S. Broughton.

Temperance—J. W. Alford, R. I. Corbett and T. A. Mozingo.

Education—W. H. Frost, C. K. Dunn and J. M. Barfield.

Sunday Schools—F. Rowe, J. F. Heath and C. K. Dunn.

Missions—R. C. Jackson, E. T. Phillips and E. S. Broughton.

The reports were read from the various churches represented. [See table of statistics].

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

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. Geo. Prescott, his co-worker,

is also a proficient teacher and a most excellent young man. Miss Lillian M. Munn, the primary teacher, is also worthy of our confidence and cheerful support.

RESOLVED, 1, 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 called 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 Pub. Co. at Ayden, N. C.

4TH., We insist that every home be supplied with the FREE WILL BAPTIST and that they rally to its support.

5TH., We therefore recommend that this honorable 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.

The above report was adopted.

TEMPERANCE.—Seeing the fearful ravages of intemperance and the evil for which there is no remedy, save total abstinence.

Resolved, 1st, That we request our ministers to preach not less than two sermons each year in each church on this subject.

2. We insist on the young people organizing themselves into temperance organizations and pushing the work to the front.

3. That we do not tolerate its use in any form.

4. Every member frequenting bar-rooms and other drinking places should have the censure of the church resting on him and be dealt with.

COMMITTEE.

The above report was adopted.

MISSIONS.—We, your committee on missions, beg lief to submit the following:

1. We advise that each pastor preach at least two mission sermons to his church each year.

2. That we raise a greater amount of funds for our union meetings and that each union meeting support at least one or two mission points, sending some of their best tallented ministers to the same.

3. We ask that each church send a becoming sum to its annual conference for this special purpose.

COMMITTEE.

The above report was adopted.

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 pastors 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.

The above report was adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received at this conference,	- - -	\$21.85,
Paid to Clerk,	- - - - -	5.00,
Balance on hand,	- - - - -	16.85.

Respectfully submitted,
J. M. BARFIELD, Treas.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion, we change the time of holding our Union Conference from Friday before the second Sunday in March to Friday before the second Sunday in January.

The following officers were elected for two years: R. C. Jackson, Moderator; E. T. Phillips, Secretary, J. M. Barfield, Treasurer.

On motion, the next session of the Union Conference meet at Reedy Branch church, Pitt county, near Winterville station, on Friday following the Ministers' Meeting, which meets on Wednesday before the 2nd Sunday in Jan., 1903.

On motion, the program committee appoint some one to preach a sermon on missions, also one on doctrine.

Elder P. T. Lucas was elected to preach the introductory at the next union and Elder C. A. Jackson to be his alternate.

A vote of thanks was tendered the community of Trent church for the very liberal way in which they entertained both the Ministers' Meeting and Union Conference.

On motion, the secretary be allowed \$5.00 for preparing the manuscript and distributing the minutes.

The devotional committee report: Elder Barfield open and Corbett preach tonight; Alford open and Phillips preach tomorrow at 11 o'clock;

Saturday night, Corbett open and Alford preach;
Alford open and Corbett preach Sunday.

The following resolution by V. G. Brittain was adopted: Resolved, That each minister be earnestly requested to keep the cause of the Union Conference before the minds of their congregations Also that the churches pay the expense of ministers and delegates to the meeting.

On motion, the conference adjourn to meet with Reedy Branch church, Pitt county, on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in January, 1903.

Praise and prayer by H. Cunningham.

R. C. JACKSON, Moderator,
E. T. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

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 North Carolina 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 meet-

ing, 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. 3. 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.

CHURCHES.	CO'S.	DELEGATES.	No. Mem.	Minute F.	For Ben. Purposes.
Davis Shore,.....	Carteret,	By V. G. Brittain,.....	68	\$1.00	\$100.
Edwards,.....	Beaufort,	By V. G. Brittain,.....	19	25
St. Mary,.....	Craven,	By W. H. Frost,.....	95	50	300.
Antioch,.....	"	F. P. Rowe, A. Fulcher	110	1.10	125.
Reunion Chapel,.....	"	J. F. Heath,.....	27	50	20.
Hull Road,.....	Greene,	A. T. Dawson,.....	269	1.00	100.
Howell Swamp,.....	"	By R. I. Corbitt,.....	161	1.00	150.
Sts. Delight,.....	"	By J. M. Barfield,.....	206	1.00	75.
Little Creek,.....	"	By J. M. Barfield,.....	150	1.00	50.
Grimsley,.....	"	By E. T. Phillips,.....	137	1.00	75.
Trent,.....	Pamlico,	E. S. Broughten,.....	186	1.00	328.
Arapahoe,.....	"	C. K. Dunn,.....	96	1.00	125.
Bethel,.....	"	T. M. Martin,.....	146	1.00	125.
Kinston,.....	Lenoir,	By J. W. Alford,.....	70	1.00	675.
Hugo,.....	"	By E. T. Phillips,.....	48	1.00	50.
Marlboro,.....	Pitt,	By R. I. Corbitt,.....	118	1.00	75.
Ayden,.....	"	By J. M. Barfield,.....	57	1.00	75.
Reedy Branch,.....	"	By Letter,.....	342	1.00
Pine Level,.....	Johnston,	By Letter,.....	215	1.00
Flood's Chapel,.....	Nash,	By R. I. Corbitt,.....	56	50	100.
Pleasant Union,.....	"	By Letter,.....	36	25
Pleasant Grove,.....	Wayne,	By Letter,.....	225	1.00
Casey's Chapel,.....	"	A. Casey,.....	72	1.00
Core Point,.....	Beaufort,	By V. G. Brittain,.....	38	25	50.
Marsh Swamp,.....	Wilson,	By Letter,.....	122	1.00
People's Chapel,.....	"	By Letter,.....	78	50

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO ELD. C. R. PEARCE.

By order of the ministers' meeting at Trent church,
Pamlico Co., March 5th, 1902.

It is with sorrow that we are called upon to give a passing tribute of respect to one of our worthy members, whom the Great Master has called from labor to reward. Elder Pearce was a member of the Free Will Baptist church for 32 years, having united with Union Grove church, Wayne Co., when quite a young man. He was a devout minister for 28 years. With a limited education he was a great power for God and the faith he dearly loved. He was a successful pastor, having the care of seven churches at his death. In the S. S. work he took the highest delight, being the great leader of this work in the Western Conference. He married Martha J. Rains of Johnston Co. and lived happily with her for 18 years. An exemplary husband, a kind father and a most excellent neighbor, was Elder Pearce. His spirit took its flight on the 26th of April, 1901. Peace to his dust. May God comfort his sorrowing family and friends.

Committee.

