

MINUTES

—OF THE—

✻ Tenth Annual Session ✻

—OF THE—

Ministers' Meeting,

—AND OF THE—

Fourteenth Annual Session

—OF THE—

UNION CONFERENCE,

—OF THE—

ORIGINAL

Free Will Baptist,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

Reedy Branch, Pitt Co., N. C.,

JANUARY 7, 8, 9, 1903.

AYDEN, N. C.
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1903.

MINISTERS' MEETING.

WEDNESDAY.

Ministers from the various Conferences met with the church at Reedy Branch, Pitt county, Jan. 7th, 1903.

In the absence of the one appointed to preach the introductory sermon, Elder G. C. Vause was chosen and preached from Matt. 28: 19, 20. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Elder P. T. Lucas was elected President and E. T. Phillips Secretary.

The following ministers being present, their names were enrolled: G. C. Vause, C. B. Jones, W. D. Letchworth, J. L. Strickland, W. C. Vause, J. W. Fuquay, E. T. Phillips, P. T. Lucas, C. A. Jackson, F. McLawhon, W. Lupton, Q. A. Burroughs, G. S. Johnson, C. J. Harris, J. T. Butler, C. L. Little and J. R. McCaskey.

On motion, our constitution be so changed as to admit all ministers of our faith as members.

The following committee was appointed:

On Queries—Elders F. McLawhon, C. A. Jackson, W. Lupton and E. T. Phillips.

All visiting brethren were invited to take part with us.

Prayer was offered by Elder C. A. Jackson.

Query 1st was discussed; viz, "What is the duty of the laity to the ministers?" The subject was discussed by Elders McLawhon, Phillips, Jackson C. A., Harris, Lupton, McCaskey, Little, Butler, Jones and Lucas. It was decided that it was the duty of the laity to support the ministry, to honor them as the Bible commands, giving them means to enable them to prepare themselves for the great work in which they are engag-

ed. Church members can greatly aid their pastors by being in attendance at their several meetings. The pastor of a church should be one that it would be safe to follow and the members should cheerfully honor his counsel. The meeting closed to meet at 6 p. m.

NIGHT SESSION.

Prof. T. E. Peden, Principal of the Free Will Baptist Theological Seminary, of Ayden, N. C., gave an able address from the subject: What the Free Will Baptist believe. Query 2nd was discussed; viz, What is the duty of ministry to the laity? The subject was very well handled by the following Elders and others: McLawhon, Lucas, Fuquay, Jackson C. A., Jones, Vause G. C., Harris, Butler, and others. It was clearly shown. 1. That ministers should be punctual at their appointments. When a minister fails in this he is greatly damaging his church. 2. He should live a life above reproach. We must have a pure ministry. 3. He should study to show himself a master of discourses and have a knowledge of the Bible; for how can he instruct others if he is in ignorance himself. He should be able to break unto others the bread of life and do so. 4. He should add to wisdom zeal and power. This comes by earnestly asking God for his Holy Spirit to fill them and be their guide. 5. The pastor should know each one separately. The good shepherd knows each separate sheep and its needs and wants. In order for the pastor to be fully acquainted with his people he should visit in all the homes, talk, dine and worship with them and thus understand them as much as possible. The meeting closed to meet Thursday morning.

THURSDAY.

The meeting opened with praise and prayer by Elder R. I. Corbett.

Minutes of Wednesday were read and approved.

On motion, the address by Elder Fuquay was deferred until Friday.

Query 3rd was taken up; viz, "What is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost?" Elders Lupton, Harris, Jackson C. A.; Phillips E. T., Corbett, Vause, Lucas, McLawhon, Rev. Mr. Eure, of the M. E. church, Bro. G. W. Dail and others spoke on this topic. It was decided that blasphemy against God was treating him with the utmost contempt in either of the following ways; viz. 1. By attributing the works of God to the Devil. 2. By receiving the Holy Ghost and turning against it, denying the power. 3. By continually resisting the Holy Spirit until he takes his everlasting flight, such as the Scriptures speak of being given over to believe a lie and be damned.

On motion, we have two days meeting at our next annual Ministers' Meeting. It will therefore commence on Tuesday.

On motion, C. A. Jackson preach the introductory and R. I. Corbett be the alternate.

On motion, the Ministers' Meeting close to meet at the place of the next Union Conference.

P. T. LUCAS, President,
E. T. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

Constitution of 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 the 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 others' work, so that our preaching will not conflict in preaching the gospel.

ART. 7. All ministers of our faith in good standing in their respective conferences or associations throughout the state are considered members of this 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 purposes.

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 of order during the sitting of the meeting.

ART. 13. No person shall speak over ten minutes on the same 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 Fourteenth Annual Session of the Union Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist met with Reedy Branch church, Pitt county, N. C., Jan. 8th, 1903.

Elder P. T. Lucas, who was appointed at the last Union, attended and preached the introductory sermon—Text: Gen. 13: 8. "And Abram said unto Lot: Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren."

Elder P. T. Lucas was elected Moderator, pro tem, Elder R. C. Jackson the moderator elect being absent.

The Secretary, E. T. Phillips, and the Treasurer, J. M. Barfield, were both present.

The following ministers being present their names were enrolled: P. T. Lucas, C. A. Jackson, F. McLawhon, W. Lupton, Q. A. Burroughs, G. S. Johnson, C. J. Harris, E. T. Phillips, J. W. Fuquay, W. C. Vause, J. L. Strickland, W. D. Letchworth, C. B. Jones, G. C. Vause, J. R. McCaskey, J. T. Butler and C. L. Little.

The delegate's names were enrolled. [See table of Statistics].

The following committees were appointed:

Devotional—Elders C. J. Harris, F. McLawhon and Bro. W. J. Braxton.

Finance—G. S. Johnson, J. H. Whitley and J. A. Hudson.

Temperance—G. W. Prescott, E. E. Dail and sister Sadie Little.

Education—J. M. Barfield, C. A. Jackson, W. R. Sawyer and E. T. Phillips.

Sabbath Schools—R. I. Corbett, Willie Nobles and sister Mollie Dail.

Missions—C. J. Harris, W. Lupton, J. W. Fuquay and sister Katie Sawyer.

After the organization, prayer was offered by Elder G. S. Johnson.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The following committee reports were received, discussed and adopted:

EDUCATION.—Seeing the great need of a well endowed seat of learning in our denomination.

Be it Resolved, 1st, That this Union Conference ask the churches and pastors of our entire denomination throughout the state, to appoint in each and every church three or more members as a committee to solicit aid for our Seminary at Ayden, N. C. Said committee to hold office for one year or until the indebtedness on the Seminary is paid and a sufficiency over to put the grounds and building in a proper condition to meet the demands of our people.

2nd. All funds raised by the several churches to be credited to the Conference from which said money was raised. Certificates of stock to be issued to the Conferences as aforesaid.

3rd. All moneys raised in the various churches be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Seminary, E. T. Phillips, Ayden, N. C. Said Secretary to turn such money over to the Treasurer of the Seminary Board and receive receipts for the same.

4. That acknowledgments of such money as may be received by the Secretary be made in the FREE WILL BAPTIST, that our people may be thoroughly posted as to who is doing and how much.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Your committee submit the following: Whereas, Sabbath Schools are indispensable factors pertaining to the successful training of the young and the future success of our cause.

Therefore, Be it Resolved, 1st, That our pastors and churches use every effort to establish and support Sunday Schools in all our churches.

2. That we as loyal men and women see to it that our children attend Sunday School and we further ask our older ministers and members to take a greater interest in S. S. work, and see that there is a Sunday School organized in every church.

3. That we try in some way to raise a fund by which we can have our own literature published at our home office.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

TEMPERANCE.—As intemperance is, perhaps, the greatest curse that ever scourged the country and one of depravity's worst fruits, a giant demon of destruction. We, your committee on temperance, submit the following resolutions:

1. We ask the co-operation of all denominations to help drive the traffic from our beloved land; for it retards the progress of all religious societies, hence we can all unite in opposition to it. We ask our people to resort to any honorable method by which the removal may be effected be it by the ballot, in the pulpit, by the fireside, or any way that would be pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

2nd. We ask our churches to deal with all members who engage in the traffic of strong drink; for they can not have the cause of the church at heart, and then wilfully do that which would impede its progress.

BY THE COMMITTEE.

MISSIONS.—Whereas, the work of Missions is one of the Christian's greatest duties to advocate the cause of Christ, and our denomination now stands in great need of it.

Therefore, 1st, We earnestly recommend a better co-operation with all Free Will Baptist Conferences.

2nd, That each Conference earnestly advise each of their local churches to pay into the treasury a sum as it may determine, to be known as state missions.

Same to be sent to the Union Conference for the purpose of building church houses and supporting preachers in needy and destitute places. COMMITTEE.

DEVOTIONAL.—The committee reports that Elder Fuquay give a lecture on Missions tonight; Elder W. C. Vause open and R. I. Corbett preach tonight; tomorrow J. T. Butler open and C. A. Jackson preach at 11 o'clock. Conference called off until Friday at 9 a. m.

FRIDAY.

Conference met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. R. McCaskey. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

On motion, the finance committee retire and settle with the treasurer and he make his report.

The treasurer reports as follows:

Received of the finance committee, \$25.50.
J. M. BARFIELD, Treasurer.

The report of the treasurer was received and the finance committee discharged.

A collection was taken for M. A. Woodard, who is to be a ministerial student at the Seminary.

He received in cash, \$15.17; Two and one-half months board promised @ \$8.00, equals \$20.00; A total of \$35.17.

A collection was taken for Elder J. R. McCaskey, who is in very feeble health. The collection placed on the table amounted to \$28.65.

On motion, we have 750 minutes printed, the secretary distribute them, and be allowed \$5.00 for his services. Also, that each minister in the state have a copy of the Free Will Baptist containing the proceedings of the meeting.

On motion, we return a vote of thanks to the community for the very liberal manner in which they have entertained this conference.

On motion, we ask each General Conference to send a delegation to the next Union Conference. We also beg the unions and churches to delegate as heretofore.

On motion, the next Union Conference meet at Hull Road church, Greene county, N. C., on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in January, 1904.

On motion, C. J. Harris preach the introductory and J. T. Butler be his alternate.

Conference closed with the benediction.

P. T. LUCAS, 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 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 to 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.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	DELEGATES.	No. Members.	Minute Fund.	For Benevolent Purposes.
Hull Road.....	Greene.....	A. T. Dawson.....	265	\$1 00	\$ 100
Howell Swamp.....	"	J. H. Whitley.....	174	50	200
St's Delight.....	"	By Pastor.....	248	1 00	75
Little Creek.....	"	George Jackson.....	115	1 00	80
Grimsley.....	"	By Pastor.....	137	1 00	75
Marlboro.....	Pitt.....	J. A. Oakley.....	116	1 00	100
Reedy Branch.....	"	W. J. Braxton.....	360	1 00	1100
Bethany.....	"	G. W. Dail.....	175	1 00	150
May's Chapel.....	"	C. D. Smith.....	68	50	70
Piney Grove.....	"	By Pastor.....	185	50	75
Parker's Chapel.....	"	G. S. Johnson.....	80	50	70
Black Jack.....	"	A. Hudson.....	236	1 00	200
Ayden.....	"	By Pastor.....	53	50	40
Gum Swamp.....	"	G. W. Stancill.....	232	1 00	150
Trent.....	Pamlico.....	W. R. Sawyer.....	191	1 00	200
Arapahoe.....	"	By Pastor.....	97	1 00	100
Bethel.....	"	By Pastor.....	147	1 00	150
Hugo.....	Lenoir.....	Wm. Dail.....	48	50	65
Marsh Swamp.....	Wilson.....	By Pastor.....	130	1 00	100
People's Chapel.....	"	By Letter.....	108	1 00	50
Little Rock.....	"	J. R. Ferrell.....	135	1 00	50
Rains' X Roads.....	Johnston.....	By Letter.....	120	1 00	10
Holly Springs.....	"	By Letter.....	96	1 00	40
White Oak Hill.....	Nash.....	J. J. Wilson.....	78	50	15
Union Grove.....	Wayne.....	By Letter.....	122	1 00	50
Reunion Chapel.....	Craven.....	J. H. Lathinghouse	27	50	
Fuquay Spring.....	Wake.....	By J. W. Fuquay...	25	20	50
Mt. Tabor.....	Washington	By J. T. Butler.....		1 00	30
Hickory Chapel.....	Hertford.....	"	56	55	100
Pantego Chapel.....	Beaufort.....	"	39	25	110
Bethlehem.....	Sampson.....	By C. A. Jackson...		50	75

Elder J. L. Strickland gave 50 cents for minutes.