MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Freewill Baptist Association.

HELD AT LIBERTY CHURCH, SEPTEMBER 9TH. AND 10TH., 1881.

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Introductory services by Wm. V. Bell. Text, Malachi; 3rd ch., 16 v. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another."

W. A. Headrick was elected Moderator, and Wm. B. Woolsey, Clerk. The following named Brethren were present as Delegates: H. B. Low., N. L. Pack, H Pane, P. Parker, A. J. Cross, Jesse Simpson, M. Copp, G. W. Copp, W. H. Mabe, J. M. Broyles, Geo. Dunbar, W. B. Woolsey, J. M. Shelton, T. Holt, Jas. Speers, D. Casey, Geo. Sexton, J. L. Case, A. Burgess, W. A. Headrick and J. E. Holden.

Received one newly constituted church, viz: New Home, 81 members.

Committees were appointed as follows: Committee of arrangement A. Burgess, J. L. Case, Wm. V. Bell, W. A. Headrick and Wm. B. Woolsey.

Committee on religious exercises, W. A. Headrick and Geo. M. Copp.

Committee on finance, J. E. Holden, and A. Burgess

Adjourned until 1:30 p. m. Prayer by J. L. Case.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by A Burgess.

Committee to consider the state of the denomination, A. Burgess, Wm. B. Woolsey, and W. A. Headrick, to report tomorrow morning.

Committee on next session, N. L. Pack, H. Pane and A. J. Cross. Committee on temperance, J. L. Case, Wm. B. Woolsey and N. L. Pack. Committee on Sabbath Schools, H. B. Low-A' Burgess and J. M. Shelton. Committee on publication, J. E. Holden, W. A. Headrick and M. Copp.

The following visiting brethren being invited took seats with us, viz: R. M. Johnson, M. C. Eldrige, R. Owen, John Gray, J. H. Beam and Wm. B. Woolsey

Adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY.— Met according to adjournment. Prayer by H. Pane,

Report of committee on the state of the denomination: "We a committee appointed by the association to consider the state of the denomination, make the following report, viz: we consider the condition of the denomination, so far as the Union Association is concerned, a very bad one, at present; and when trying to investigate the causes, found them to be both remote and near. The remote cause being a defective organization of the churches and association; the immediate cause being in trying to build up and sustain these churches and the association on a defective organization. We have not the space to enumerate all the items, but we will generalize by saying we have a defective organization and consequently, a defective structure. Therefore; resolved, 1st., that we suggest a thorough reorganization of the Free-will Baptist churches of this association.

2nd. The adoption of the articles of Faith as found in the Treatise, pages 7-44, part first, and pages 31-35, part second.

3rd. The adoption of the church covenant as given by this committee.

4th. That the members of the association be considered as the Free-will Baptist church, and the business which may be done in the session of this body shall be considered as authoritative with the churches.

5th That the action of this association be considered as authoritative and binding upon the churches.

COVENANT

Believing that God in his infinite mercy and wisdom, has sanctioned the organization of a visible church, and that it is the duty of every one who has embraced religion to unite in a church compact, we have before God and oneanother entered into the following covenant, viz: 1st. We covenant to form ourselves into a church compact, and that we will endeavor to live according to the rules and regulations given in God's holy word whatever that may be. 2nd. We covenant to adopt and maintain a regular system of daily prayers. 3rd We covenant to give our attention to the reading of the Bible rather than to any work by man. 4th. We covenant to maintain a system of strict honesty in our dealings and promises. 5th. We covenant to strictly abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a bever age, and to discountenance all means which lead to the manufacturing or selling of intoxicating liquors, except for medical purposes, and when it is practically necessary in the arts and manufactories 6th. We covenant to use our influence in the interest of Sabbath Schools, when properly conducted.

7th. We covenant to faithfully and energetically attend the regular meetings of our church 8th. We covenant to set apart a certain proportion of our earnings for the support of our pastor, and for various other religious purposes. 9th. We covenant to maintain a christian fellowship with all other christian denominations. as far as practicable, and also to patronize them as far as it is in our power, not forgetting, however, that our own church has the highest claims upon us. 10th. We covenant to live in strict conformity to this covenant, even praying that God may revive us daily and strengthen us for the conflicts before us, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Committee { A. Burgess,
W. A. Headrick,
Wm. B. Woolsey.

Committee on Sabbath Schools.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, submit the following: Whereas some of our churches are dead concerning the Sabbath School, resolved that we appoint Wm. B. Woolsey as general agent to try to have Sabbath Schools organized in all the churches where there are none in the bounds of this association.

Committee { J. M. Shelton, H. D. Low, A. H. Burgess.

Committee on Periodicals.

We, the Committee on Periodicals, make the following report: As we highly value intelligence and the transmition of ideas through the press we recommend to our people the following publications issued by the Free Baptist Press, viz: "The Morning Star," at Dover, N. H., "The Free Baptist," at Mineopolis, Minn., "The Rio Grande Freewill Baptist," at Rio Grande, Ohio, "The Freewill Baptist Herald," at Hampton, W. Va., the "Christian Progress," at Doweltown, Tennessee, "The Freewill Baptist," N. C., "The Baptist Review," at Goldsborough, N. C. We also recommend to our people our Sabbath School Literature at Dover, N. H., and the "Missionary Helper," Providence, R. I.

Committee { J. E. Holden, M. Copp, W. A. Headrick.

TEMPERANCE.

We most earnestly believe that a vast amount of the evils to which the human family is subject are caused by the use of intoxicating drinks used as a beverage, and we hereby request all Christians who feel the weight of this evil which is casting such a gloom over the mind of the youth of our land, to assist us in repelling such a foe, knowing as we do, such a foe can only be conquered by a united effort, and we urge upon our people to refrain from this evil, and, in case that one of our members be found tippling with ardent spirits, in any way, that they be

dealt with by the church to which such members belong. : And each pastor to preach a Temperance sermon in each Church.

Committee { J. L. Case, Wm. B. Woolsey, N. L. Pack.

We agree that the next session of our Association be held at Chimney Top Church, Greene Co. Tennessee, to commence Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in Sept. 1885, near Jerrald-town.

1. Resolved that in the reorganization of the churches, or the organization of any new church, that each church elect a Steward, who with the Pastor shall constitute an executive board, whose business it shall be to transact any business refering to the financial business of the church.

2. Resolved that each church when reporting to the Association, shall report their whole number, resident and non-resident, number received during the year by Baptism, by Letter and Experience. Number of candidates for Baptism, number died and dismissed, number of Sabbath School schollars, amount paid to Pastor, and contribution for Home Mission, donation for Minutes, and address of Pastor for ensuing year.

3. Resolved that Executive Board of the churchdecide at the first meeting after the Association, the amount to be paid to the Pastor, donated to Home Mission, donated for Minutes, and the same for any other expenses which the church may think necessary

4. Resolved that whenever a church looses her visibility, that the members in good standing remove their membership to the nearest church, or to any church of their choice of our denomination.

5 Resolved 1st. that the Association appoint a committee of three ministers of the Association who shall have the oversight of the Home Mission work in the Association. 2nd. That the work under this committee be confined to churches, that are without regular Pastors, and to promising points where are no Free Baptist organizations. 3rd. That each Pastor be asked to take at least one collection during the year, in each of his churches for Home Mission work. 4th. That all funds for Home Mission work be paid over to the Treasurer of this committee himself, or through missionaries to be in the employ-

ment of the committee. 5th. That each Missionary be requested to take collections for Home Mission work, wher-ever he labors as a Missionary 6th. That no minister will be recognized as a Home Missionary, unless employed by this committee.

Committee { J. W. Lucas, A. A. Burgess, W. A. Headrick.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Wm. B. Woolsey, F. DeWitt, J. F. Dewitt, W. A. Headrick, A. H. Burgess, Wm. V. Bell, J. S. Case, J. E. Holden, J. W Lucas, Wm. Blazer, J. Fox, J. A. Brown, C. A. Brooks.

LICENSED. J. M. Hays.

Whereas there are many who are not acquainted with our principles, or faith on the communion of Christians we appoint J. W. Lucas to write a circular for this Minute, on the subject.

Wm. B. Woolsey. Clerk.

W. A. Headrick, Moderator.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

This ordinance is strictly and primarily a memorial service. It is intended to commemorate the death of Christ for our redemption. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." 1. Cor. 11:26. The partaker signifies his faith in Christ and hope of salvation through him. It thus becomes a sign of fellowship and communion between Christ and the christian. 1. Cor. 10:16. 1. Jno. 1:3. All who engage in this service acknowledge a common dependence on Christ and common faith in his atonement. In this sense only it may be regarded as a communion between saints.

WHAT IS PREREQUISITE?

If the Bible clearly teaches that any one thing only is an essential to fitness for this communion, we must insist that no one is prepared to commune without that fitness; and we dare not make any thing a prerequisite which the Bible does not make

such. Now we think that Acts 15th chapter, does teachclearly that one thing only is prerequisite to fellowship and communion. Those who have received the Holy Spirit, and thus had their hearts purified by faith, and only those may be received. God has received such. And with Robert Hall we say: "Whosoever is good enough for the Lord, is good enough for me."

From this it follows 1st. That penitents are not fit subjects for communion. 2nd. That it is not essential that communicants be "of the same faith and order." 3rd. That baptism or church-membership even is not prerequisite. We believe that those truly converted will be as prompt as possible in obeying the commands of the Scripture. But we cannot conceive of a case in which a genuine christian has not been able to discharge those important duties prior to the time for communion.

Who Shall Determine The Fitness of Communicants?

If there is only one prerequisite, and from its very nature the possession of it can be positively known only to him having it, then it is evident that he alone is competent to judge of his individual fitness for the communion. This view accords with Scriptural teachings. (See I. Cor. 11:28.) Let the administrator properly instruct the people relative to the design of the ordinance and the fitness required in communicants. When this is done the responsibility of the church ceases. If an unworthy person then partakes, the fearful consequences rest on him alone. 1. Cor. 11:29. An immoral person should not commune But among christians we are not authorized by Scripture to judge of our brother's fitness. Besides we cannot consistently recognize him as a christian in all things else, and then deny to him the right to the Lord's table. Those who do so are exceedingly inconsistant, and assume grave responsibilities. Mat. 18:6. All the Lord's children should be able to come together and agree around their Father's table. May God hasten the time when they "will flow together in the arms of pure christian fellowship and brotherly love."

J. W. Lucas, Parrottsville, Tennessee, Sept., 28, 1884.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	DELEGATES.	Baptised.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total	Non-Resident.	candidates for Baptism.	Finance.	POST OFFICE ADDRESS.
Midway,	A. H. Burgess,	H. D. Low, N. L. Pack,	11	1	1		2	43				Woolsey, Greene Co., Tennessee.
Bell's Chapel,	"	H. Pane,	1	12		4	1	36			$0.70	
Van Hill,	"											Van Hill, Hawkins Co., Tenn.
Grassy Creek,	"	P. Parker,	3	2	2	1		39			.10	Margaret, Hawkins Co., Tenn.
Mt. Zion No. 1,	Wm. V. Bell,	A. J. Cross,					1	37			.35	Cedar Creek, Greene Co., Tenn.
Mt. Zion No. 2,	"	Jesse Simpson,						32				
Chimney Top,	Wm. Blaser,				1	3	2	143	93		1.10	Clear Creek, Greene Co., Tenn.
Liberty,	W. A. Headrick,	M&G. Copp, G. Dunbar, J. Broyls,						25			1.00	Pilot Hill, Washington Co., Tenn.
Woolsey College,	J. W. Lucas,	Wm. B. Woolsey,	2			5		43			.29	Woolsey College, Greene Co., Tenn.
Mt. Pleasant,	Wm. V. Bell,	J. M. Shelton,										Cedar Creek, Greene Co., Tenn.
Big Creek,	"											Jonestown, Cocke Co., Tenn.
Bear Creek,	C. A. Brooks,							14				Warrensburg, Greene Co., Tenn.
Clear Creek,	"	T. Holt,	5		2			10	5			Parrottsville, Cocke Co., Tenn.
Union,	W. A. Headrick,	J. Speers, D. Casey,						81	5		1.00	Horse Creek, Greene Co., Tenn.
New Home.	J. L. Case,	Geo. Sexton,										Parrottsville, Cocke Co., Tenn.
											$4.54	