

MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
UNITED ASSOCIATION OF
MOUNTAIN FREEWILL
BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
NORTH BEND CHURCH
YANCEY COUNTY, N. C.

October 29, 30 and 31, 1908.

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: : : PROCEEDINGS OF ASSOCIATION : : :

In accordance with the votes taken by the French Broad, Jack's Creek, Toe River and Unicoi Associations, Clinch Valley and John Wheeler Yearly Meetings and Greene county Quarterly Meeting the people met with the North Bend Freewill Baptist church, Green Mountain, N. C., at 2:00 p. m., Oct. 29, 1908 to organize a United Association.

After a short song service, Scripture reading by Rev. W. P. Knowling and prayer by Rev. D. E. Green, a temporary organization was effected by electing Rev. J. C. Stallard, temporary chairman and G. W. Lawrence, temporary clerk. Voted to appoint a committee to draft a Constitution and By-Laws and report at the morning session. Committee: Revs. G. S. Porter, D. E. Green, W. R. Stallard and G. W. Lawrence. Adjourned to meet at 8:00 a. m. Friday. 6:30 p. m. services conducted by Rev. D. E. Green.

Friday Morning

Reading John 15, 1-17 by Rev. J. C. Stallard. Prayer by Rev. G. S. Porter. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. The following bodies were represented by delegates: Clinch Valley Y. M., Rev. D. E. Green; Greene Co. Q. M., Rev. W. R. Stallard and Rev. G. S. Porter; Jack's Creek Association, T. W. McKinney and C. C. Deyton; Unicoi Association, Rev. W. P. Knowling and Rev. G. W. Lawrence. Voted to enroll Rev. J.

C. Stallard as a delegate from Greene Co., Q. M. Voted to invite Revs. I. T. Crowder and M. J. Peterson to seats in this conference as advisory members

The constitution was presented by the committee, discussed, and the first articles adopted. The remainder were deferred till next season.

Voted to proceed to the election of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer as provided for in constitution.

The following were elected by ballot: President, J. C. Stallard; Vice-President, D. E. Green; Secretary and Treasurer, G. W. Lawrence.

10:30 Sermon by Rev. D. E. Green from Josh. 15, 19.

Adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m.

Friday Afternoon

After devotional exercises the minutes of the previous session were read and approved. The last articles of the Constitution were taken up and adopted. [See last pages.]

The By Laws were then taken up, discussed, and adopted.

Adjourned to 8:00 Saturday morning.

Sermon 6:30 p. m. by Rev. W. R. Stallard from Rev. 22, 1-2.

Saturday Morning

Reading Psalm 103 and prayer by the President.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Voted to constitute Rev. D. L. Howell a delegate from Unicoi Association and Revs. I. T. Crowder, U. Bennett, and M. J. Peterson delegates from Jack's Creek Association.

On motion the following committee on Resolutions was appointed: D. E. Green, C. C. Deyton and U. Bennett.

On motion an Executive Board consisting of one member from each body composing the United Association was elected as follows: Clinch Valley Y. M., Rev. G. K. Counts, Bondtown, Va.; French Broad Association, Rev. J. H. Ballard, Jewel Hill, N. C.; Greene Co., Q. M., Rev. G. S. Porter, Alpha, Tenn.; Jack's

Creek Association, Rev. Willis Ballard, Barnardsville, N. C.; John Wheeler, Y. M., Rev. A. A. Cox, Bluff City, Tenn.; Toe River Association, Rev. Garrett Hopson, Magnetic City, N. C.; Unicoi Association, G. W. Lawrence, Unicoi, Tenn.

Voted that a committee of five be appointed by the chair to act for the Executive Board until the Board shall meet and organize. G. W. Lawrence, D. L. Howell, C. C. Deyton, D. E. Green, and W. R. Stallard were appointed. Voted that this committee meet and if possible decide in regard to employing an agent etc., and report at this meeting.

The following standing committees were appointed:

Denomination	{ W. P. Knowling, C. C. Deyton, U. Bennett.
Education	{ D. L. Howell, M. J. Peterson, J. C. Stallard.
Sunday School	{ D. E. Green, J. S. Burgess.
Temperance	{ Garrett Hopson, A. A. Cox.
Home Missions	{ C. H. Stallard, W. P. Knowling.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The committee on Resolutions made the following report which after discussion was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, we believe that in the purchase of the Unicoi property the General Conference of Free Baptists made a bona fide effort to establish a school for the Mountain Free Baptists, and that the placing of J. W. Lucas, a native of North Carolina, in control of the enterprise was out of respect for the mountain people and

with the thought that he was the person best fitted to carry out the educational plans of the Free Baptists, and,

Whereas, the said J. W. Lucas has betrayed the trust placed in him and there is no further hope of doing anything in an educational or religious way under his leadership, therefore,

Be it resolved, That we insist that said General Conference carry out its pledge made when collecting money from Mountain Free Baptists, and

Be it Further Resolved, That we ratify the action of the different Associations composing this body in which they approve of the corporation formed January 2, 1908, at Erwin, Tenn., styled the Unicoi Collegiate Institute, consisting of D. L. Howell, E. W. Akard, G. W. Lawrence, W. P. Knowling and S. G. Street, as their legal representative, and sanction the efforts of that corporate body to secure possession of the Unicoi property for school purposes as originally intended.

Also the following which after a thorough discussion was adopted.

Whereas, J. W. Lucas as agent for the General Conference of Free Baptists for the Unicoi school and claiming to be a friend of the school, has almost from the beginning sought to discourage its growth, and,

Whereas, by letters and otherwise he has misrepresented the Mountain Free Baptists and sought to create prejudice against them among our northern brethren to the end that he might build himself up and secure the Unicoi property for himself for a mere pittance, and,

Whereas, by accepting all his statements as true and persistently refusing to thoroughly investigate the case or listen to advice from resident well-wishers of the school, said General Conference has shown itself unable through its agent to manage such an enterprise. In proof witness the facts that the decline in outside patronage from 1903-4 to 1907 was from 22 to zero, and at the present time, Oct. 1908, their agent controls all the property and there is no school, therefore,

Be it Resolved, (1) That we believe his failures—we know of no successes—are caused by his own supremely selfish and jealous nature, and,

Be it Resolved, (2) That we have lost all the confidence we ever had in his ability as an educator, or his sincerity as a Christian, or his honesty as a business man and,

Be it Resolved, (3) That we believe him a menace to our denominational and religious work and warn all our churches against inviting him into their pulpits.

D. E. GREEN, Chm.

Adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m.

10:30 Sermon by Rev. G. S. Porter on the subject of Prayer

Saturday Afternoon

Devotional services by Bros. Stallard and Peterson.

Minutes of previous session read and approved.

On motion G. S. Porter, D. L. Howell and D. E. Green were appointed committee on next session.

The committee appointed to act for the Executive Board gave the following report which was adopted:

We our committee recommend that the services of Rev. Willis Ballard be secured if possible for Field Agent and Evangelist.

We also recommend that the Association appropriate \$400 above traveling expenses for the support of a Field Agent and that the agent be instructed to raise whatever funds he may be able to secure in the field and make a full report to the Executive Board quarterly.

We further recommend that the different Associations be requested to raise a sum equal to ten cents per capita for the resident membership within its bounds to help in supporting the work.

We recommend that Rev. J. C. Stallard be employed to have oversight of our Young People's Work as Young People's Field Secretary and that he be asked to give to the work such a part of his time as his other duties will permit.

G. W. LAWRENCE, Chm.

Voted that the treasurer be required to give bond for \$2,000 the same to be held by the president.

The committee on next session report that the next meeting of the United Association will be held at Midway, Tenn., beginning Thursday before the 4th Sunday in Oct. 1909 at 10:30 a. m. Rev. J. H. Ballard is appointed to preach the introductory sermon next session and Rev. C. K. Counts is his alternate.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the people of North Bend and vicinity for their kind hospitality during the session.

Adjourned.

J. C. STALLARD, Pres.

G. W. LAWRENCE, Sec.

Heavy rains and high waters prevented the attendance of many delegates.

: : : CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS : : :

: : : CONSTITUTION : : :

ART. I. Sec. 1. This organization shall be known as the United Association of Mountain Freewill Baptists.

Sec. 2. This Association sustains the same relation to the bodies comprising it as these bodies do to the churches composing them.

ART. II. The object of this organization shall be to unify the work of the different associations, to devise and execute measures for the extension of Christ's Kingdom in connection with the various bodies herein represented.

ART. III. This Association shall be composed from delegates from the French Broad Association, Clinch Valley Yearly Meeting, Greene County Quarterly Meeting, Jack Creek Association, John Wheeler Yearly Meeting, Toe River Association, and Unicoi Association, together with delegates from other bodies of the same evangelical faith as may be admitted to the United Association by a two-thirds majority vote at any regular meeting.

ART. IV. Each Association composing this body shall be entitled to be represented by one delegate, and one delegate additional for each 200 resident members or major portion thereof.

ART. V. This Association shall have the right to discipline and if necessary exclude any association or body belonging to it, but shall have no power to change the decision of a church.

ART. VI. There shall be chosen from persons in good standing in the United Association an Executive Board to consist of one member from each of the bodies composing it. Each body is requested to recommend one of its members to serve on this board, such recommendation being considered a legal nomination. To this board is delegated power to act in behalf of and for the United Association from one regular meeting to another. This board shall have power to elect or choose such officers as are needful for its own government and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the United Association. To this board is further delegated the power to collect funds and employ workers so far as the means in its hands will permit. This board may employ one General Agent or Evangelist and one Field Secretary, who shall work under the direction of the board in such territory as the board may deem advisable. This board shall keep a correct record

of all work done and meetings held and make a full report at the next regular meeting of the United Association.

ART. VII. The officers of this body shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary and treasurer chosen by ballot at each regular meeting. Such committees as may be deemed necessary shall be appointed.

ART. VIII. This Association shall hold its next meeting beginning Thursday before the fourth Sunday in Oct. 1909 and annually thereafter.

ART. IX. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided such amendment has been proposed in writing at a previous session by a member of the United Association.

BY-LAWS

ART. I. Each meeting of the United Association shall be opened by prayer.

ART. II. It shall be the duty of each body belonging to the United Association to send a letter to each regular meeting, reporting in the same its spiritual condition, its works of benevolence and its statistics, and any of the bodies belonging to this association which shall fail to report themselves for two successive sessions may be dismissed from this association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

ART. III. At each regular meeting of the United Association the following standing committees may be appointed: Education, Sunday Schools, Temperance, The Ministry, Publications, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Young Peoples Work, Finance.

ART. IV. This Association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

ART. V. It shall be the duty of all the members of this association to be present at the appointed time for each meeting, and anyone wishing to absent himself from the meeting during its session should first obtain permission from the association.

ART. VI. No member of this association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes and but twice on the same subject without permission of the association.

ART. VII. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular session of the association by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided written notice of the proposed change shall be given at a previous regular meeting.

