

MINUTES
OF THE
VIRGINIA STATE
ASSOCIATION
OF ORIGINAL
FREEWILL BAPTISTS

Seventh Session

Held With The

Straight Hollow Church

Dante, Va.

June 15 - 17, 1945

PROCEEDINGS

The seventh session of the Virginia State Association of Freewill Baptists met with the Straight Hollow Church, Dante, Va., Friday morning, June 15, 1945, at 10:30. The moderator read for the Scripture lesson twelve verses of the 11th chapter of Hebrews. Prayer by Rev. George Dunbar. There being no clerk for the association, Early Hobbs was elected. Rev. W. T. Large was to preach the introductory sermon, but in his absence the executive board chose Rev. Homer Willis. Rev. Willis delivered the introductory sermon, using for a text the 10th verse of the opening lesson, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

The Virginia State Association met at 2:00 P. M. The clerk read for the Scripture lesson the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians. Prayer by Rev. S. E. Brooks. The assistant moderator, Rev. James A. Boatright, took charge and proceeded with business as follows:

Enrollment of ministers:

The following ministers were present: James A. Boatwright, R. A. Dingus, C. L. Kilgore, Walter Glovier, Ben Powers, Emory Cook, S. E. Brooks, C. E. Spencer, R. E. Hylton, Arville Childress and H. H. Boyd. Visiting ministers present: George

Dunbar, Homer Willis, Paul Woosley and E. M. French.

Enrollment of deacons: E. J. Kilgore, Fin's Deskins, Grover Hawkins and Early Hobbs.

Sandy Valley delegate, Alice Oquin.

Clinch Valley delegates, Ella Dingus, Juanita Hawkins.

Reports from District Associations were as follows:

Sandy Valley: By letter and one delegate. Report received by vote of conference. Check for \$15.00 to State Association enclosed.

Clinch Valley: By letter and two delegates. Report received by vote of conference. Fifteen dollars enclosed to State Association.

Southwest Virginia: By letter and three delegates. Report received by vote of conference. Fifteen dollars enclosed to State Association.

To the Virginia State Association of Freewill Baptists which convenes with Straight Hollow Church, Dante, Va., June 15, 16, 17, 1945.

Greetings:

We, the Sandy Valley Association, send as delegates our beloved brothers and sisters, Glover Whitt, Mrs. Glover Whitt, John Godbee, Alice Oquin and Mary Prestley, whom we pray you will grant to sit with you in your deliberations.

Our standing is as follows: Two Quar-

terly Meetings with 12 churches and a membership of 494; 23 ordained ministers 3 licentiates, 7 Sunday Schools. Enclosed is a check for \$15.00 to State Association.

Done by order of the Sandy Valley Association at North Tazewell, Va., this 25th day of August 1944.

B. W. Presley, Moderator,
Kyle Hubbard, Clerk.

To the Virginia State Association of Freewill Baptists which convenes with the Straight Hollow Church, Dante, Va., June 15, 16, 17, 1945.

Greetings:

We send as delegates to represent us our beloved brothers and sisters, Ella Dingus, Jim Spangler, Garland Henry, Juanita Hawkins and Mrs. Ernest Cox.

Our standing is as follows: State of religion, good; members died this year, one; total membership, 666; condition of Sunday Schools, good; paid pastors, \$501.-36; paid orphanage, \$68.47; number ordained ministers, 14; amount enclosed to State Association, \$15.00.

Done by order of Clinch Valley Association while in session with Midway Church, Scott County, Va., August 11, 1944.

James A. Boatright, Moderator,
L. E. Sexton, Clerk.

Letter from Southwest Virginia Association to the State Association which convenes with the Straight Hollow Church, Dante, Va., June 15-17, 1945.

Greetings:

We send as delegates our beloved brothers and sisters, D. C. McGlothlin, Mrs. J. D. Stone, Dan Sturgill, Cossie Meade, Maggie Daugherty, and S. B. Culbertson, whom we pray you will receive.

Our standing is as follows: Two Quarterly Meetings, 29 churches, state of religion, fair; members received this year, 193; total membership, 1,398; number of Sunday Schools, 25; average number of pupils, 1,107; number officers and teachers, 195; amount for Sunday School publications, \$443.49; number ministers, 39; under license, 3; amount paid pastors, \$3,285.92; amount paid evangelists, \$2,351.25; incidentals, \$1,401.36; amount given to orphanages, \$1,895.58; value of church property, \$29,150.00; enclosed to State Association, \$15.00.

Done by order of Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptist assembled in conference this 19th day of May 1945.

C. L. Kilgore, Moderator,
Coeburn, Va.,

S. B. Culbertson, Clerk,
Woodway, Va.

The executive board reported that Rev. E. M. French would preach the night sermon. The conference adjourned to meet Saturday morning at 9:00 A. M. Rev. E. M. French delivered the night sermon. His lesson was the 22nd chapter of Revelations and the text was the 17th verse of the 21st chapter of Revelations.

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

Conference met at 9:00 A. M., with singing by the congregation. The clerk read the 12th chapter of Hebrews. Prayer by Rev. Wayland Owens.

The moderator took charge and proceeded as follows: Enrollment of ministers coming in on Saturday: Wayland Owens, Paul H. Miller, E. E. Edwards, Robert Dixon, S. M. McFall, J. N. Brannam, Roy Gardner, James Castle.

C. L. Kilgore, treasurer of the superannuation fund, made the following report: Amount carried forward

from last year	\$154.69
Deposited since last year	164.93
Amount paid to	
Rev. W. R. Stallard	60.00
Amount now in treasury	259.62

Report was received by vote of conference. The conference voted to send the 25 per cent to the National Superannuation fund.

A letter from the National Association was read by the assistant moderator. Rev. George Dunbar representing A. B. Crawford, secretary of the National Association, was called upon to make a talk. He gave a very interesting report on the work of the National Headquarters and explained the Unified Program. A freewill offering was taken for the Unified Program and \$50.00 was received. Rev. Dunbar received the offering to take to A. B. Crawford, secretary of the National Association.

The executive board reported that Rev. George Dunbar would preach at 11:00 A. M. The 11:00 A. M. service was opened by singing, "The Light of Wonderful Love." Prayer by Rev. Robert Dixon. Rev. Dunbar preached, using for his subject, "The Threefold Life."

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Conference met at 2:00 P. M. The clerk read the first Psalm. Prayer by Sister Culbertson. The moderator took charge and proceeded with business as follows:

R. E. Hilton was reelected a member of the executive board. Rev. W. T. Large was elected as field worker for young people. E. J. Kilgore was reelected as treasurer and reported as follows:

Balance from previous association	\$ 6.16
Received at last association 1944	40.00

		\$46.16
Paid B. W. Presley, clerk		\$10.00
Balance now in treasury		\$36.16

Report received by vote of conference.

The election of a moderator and assistant moderator was held at this time. C. L. Kilgore, moderator, and James A. Boatright, assistant moderator, were retained for the next session.

Delegates to National Association were: Dan Sturgill, Cossie Meade, Mrs. Dan Sturgill, Ella Dingus and Ada Salyers.

Ministers and deacons planning to go to the National Association: James A. Boatright, E. J. Kilgore, R. A. Dingus, Emory

Cook, Roy Gardner, J. W. Brannam.

Corresponding messengers to Tennessee State Association: Roy Gardner, E. J. Kilgore, Robert Dixon, Wayland Owens.

The executive board reported that the next session of the Virginia State Association will be held with Marys Chapel Church at Coeburn, Va., on Friday before the third Sunday in June, 1946, and that Rev. R. A. Dingus will preach the introductory sermon. The board also reported that Rev. James A. Boatright would preach Saturday night.

The conference adjourned until Friday before the third Sunday in June, 1946.

C. L. Kilgore, Moderator,
James A. Boatright, Asst. Moderator,
Early Hobbs, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We the FREEWILL BAPTIST of the State of Virginia, realizing the importance of a higher degree of co-operation and a greater spirit of unity do ordain and constitute this Constitution and By-Laws for the Government of the State Association of Virginia.

ARTICLE I

Name: The name of this Association shall be known as the VIRGINIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREEWILL BAPTIST.

ARTICLE II

Purpose: The object or purpose of this organization shall be to unify the efforts of various local Associations of this State and adjacent territory.

ARTICLE III

Section 1

Representation: All ministers in good standing in the denomination in the State shall upon application become members in full standing.

Section 2

Each Association within the State shall be entitled to five (5) representatives to be chosen from the laity of the local Association and additional delegate for each Quarterly Meeting to be chosen by the respective Quarterly Meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1

Discipline: The State Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or usage that may properly come before it from any Association Quarterly Meeting or Church composing said State Association of the Freewill Baptist Church, or act upon any appeal that may be made by anybody belonging to said State Association. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the constituent Body or Bodies. Such appeals are to come before the State Association after having been appealed from the lower body to the next higher body.

ARTICLE V

Section 1

Officers: The officers of this State Association shall consist of a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Recording Secretary, an Assistant Recording Clerk, a Treasurer and an Executive Board, each of which shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing vote of the body at the close of each regular session—excepting the Clerk which shall be for a period of four (4) years or during good behavior—and the Executive Board which shall be elected as hereinafter provided.

Section 2

The State Executive Secretaries of Departmental Work shall be as follows: Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Young Peoples Work, Women's Work, Sunday Schools and Education, and shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing vote of the body at each regular session.

Section 3

Committees as necessary shall be appointed by the Chair unless otherwise provided for, and shall hold office until work is completed or until their successors are elected and installed.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1

Executive Board: An Executive Board of three (3) members shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a standing

vote of the body at each regular session of the State Association. They shall hold office for a period of three (3) years.

Section 2

This Executive Board shall have power to act in behalf of and for the State Association from one regular session of the Association to another, and shall have power to elect such officers as may be necessary for its own government, and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the State Association.

Section 3

This Executive Board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its body, and shall also have power to fill any vacancies that occur in any department of work. It shall be the duty of this Board to make written reports of all its work to the next regular session of the State Association.

ARTICLE VII

Time of Meeting: This State Association shall hold its regular meetings annually. The time of the meeting shall be Friday before the third (3) Sunday in June in each year and shall continue in session until its work is completed—providing notice shall have been served to the Clerk of each Association composing the State Association—said notice to have been given ten (10) days previous to the time of the meeting stating the time and place of meeting. Adjourned sessions may be called when conditions demand.

ARTICLE VIII

Denominational Enterprises: It shall be the right and purpose of this State Association to establish and maintain Home Missions, Publishing Houses, Orphanages and Aged Ministers Homes and Summer Camps for Young People.

ARTICLE IX

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of this State Association of Freewill Baptist by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members present, provided a specific notice has been given at the last previous session.

BY-LAWS OF THE

State Association of Freewill Baptist

ARTICLE ONE

The Moderator, or in his absence the Assistant Moderator, shall call the Association to order and if a quorum is present shall proceed with the business.

ARTICLE TWO

Any minister in good standing from any Association composing the State Association shall be eligible for membership upon application, and any delegate legally appointed or elected by any Association and Quarterly Meeting of that Association composed of State Association shall be eligible to membership in this Association.

ARTICLE THREE

It shall be the duty of each body belong-

ing to this Association to send a letter to every annual session of this Association, reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any local Association which fails to report itself for two successive sessions, will be considered dropped from this association.

ARTICLE FOUR

Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

ARTICLE FIVE

By a two-thirds vote of all members present a ruling of a Moderator can be overruled.

ARTICLE SIX

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

ARTICLE SEVEN

This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee as a whole.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the Moderator.

ARTICLE NINE

It shall be the duty of all members of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of

the Moderator.

ARTICLE TEN

No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the Moderator.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

ARTICLE TWELVE

The Moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

Any one desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

The "yeas" and "nays" may be taken on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN

No member of this Association will be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission of the Moderator.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN

It shall be the duty of the Moderator to seat the delegates in a body in a designated

section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN

These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this State Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

VIRGINIA ODD FELLOW PRINT

BROOKNEAL, VIRGINIA
