

MINUTES
of the
Thirty-Eighth Annual Session
of the
**West Florida Liberty Free-Will
Baptist Association**

Held With

St. Paul Church

Washington County, Florida

November 4th and 5th, 1926

REV. C. I. WELLS.....Moderator

J. T. BIRGE.....Clerk and Treasurer

—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—

W. A. Elmore, Chairman

G. W. Owens

Lee Wilson

C. C. Clemmons

Bennet Cook

The next session will convene with St. John's Church, two miles South of Bonifay, Fla., on Thursday before the first Sunday in November, 1927. The next Union Meeting will meet with Piney Grove Church, 7 miles South of Chipley, on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1927.

PROCEEDINGS

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THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening Prayer by Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

Introductory service was conducted by Rev. A. L. Pate.

Scripture lesson, second Timothy and second.

Dismissed one hour for refreshments.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The house was called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer by Rev. G. W. English.

Called for letters from the churches and received as follows:

The various churches were represented by the following delegates:

Liberty—W. H. Reno, E. J. Cook.

Noma—J. M. Wells, N. E. Ellis, J. W. Brackin, J. W. Barefoot, Sister Nonie Birge.

Piney Grove—G. W. Owens, R. A. Golden, J. A. Owens.

Gowart's Creek—G. W. Silcox, A. Fowler, J. A. Pitts, John Enfinger, Sister Fowler.

Spring Hill—J. L. Anderson, J. I. Mears, Sister Janie Mears.

Beulah—W. C. Pettis, R. A. Elmore, C. I. Hicks.

St. Johns—A. D. Cook, J. W. Nelson, Eddie Sims, J. M. Chittie, Sister Kelly.

Poplar Head—A. L. Bell, N. E. Chestnutt.

St. Paul—W. D. Clemmons, Jessie Gainey, W. W. Russ, Sister Nancy Clemmons.

Antioch—W. G. Spurlock, Lee Wilson, Sister Thelma Wilson, Martha Wilson.

New Concord—W. A. Clark, Frank Merrell, Andrew Marlow, W. B. Stewart.

Pleasant Hill—C. C. Harrell.

The Association, being duly organized, went into the election of a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in electing Rev. C. I. Wells, Moderator; G. W. Owens, assistant Moderator; J. T. Birge, Clerk.

Call for Petitionary Letters, New Harmony represented by J. H. Barkley, H. C. Martin, and Pilgrims Guide, rep-

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resented by Brother George Taylor, W. M. Nichols.

Call for Correspondents from sister association's, with responses as follows:

Salem—Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

Blountstown—Rev. D. P. Mathews.

Union Hill—Rev. J. W. Posey, J. R. Bradley, F. M. Posey, Sister Carroll.

State Line—F. W. Brackin welcomed them with a hearty hand shake.

Various committees were appointed as follows:

Committee on Documents—W. W. Russ, J. W. Barefoot N. E. Ellis, J. H. Basker.

Committee on Education—N. E. Chestnut, D. R. Owens, J. W. Nelson.

Committee on Temperance—W. C. Pettis, J. R. Bradley, S. E. Carrol.

Committee on Suggestions—G. W. English, E. D. Sims, J. M. Wells, M. L. Hall, J. L. Anderson.

Committee on Divine Service—Lee Wilson, Bennet Cook, W. A. Elmore.

Committee on Resolution—A. L. Pate, J. C. Carnley, G. W. Spurlock, C. C. Clemmons.

Committee on State of Churches and Ministers—J. A. Owens, W. M. Calloway, H. C. Martin, W. H. Renow

Committee on Memorial—Nonie Birge, Sister Mary Kelly, Sister Nancy Clemmons, J. W. Posey.

Committee on Home Mission—G. W. Owens, A. L. Bell, J. W. Cox, R. E. Golden, J. M. Chittie.

Committee on Finance—Jesse Gaine, W. B. Clemmons, R. A. Elmore, D. P. Mathews.

Call for Report on Divine Service—Rev. J. W. Cox to preach at 6 o'clock p. m. Scripture lesson, Romans 10. Text Mark 16:15. Brother J. C. Eldridge to preach at 11 o'clock Friday.

Dismissed until 7 o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by the Moderator. Lesson text, Second Timothy.

Prayer by Rev. A. L. Pate.

Brother J. W. Cox was ordained to the ministers work. Spokesmen J. M. Wells, J. L. Anderson, presbytery Rev. A. L. Pate, Rev. C. I. Wells.

10 minutes recess.

House called to order by the Moderator, renewed the call for corresponding delegates.

Union Hill—J. R. Bolden, Rev. J. A. Pettis, A. T. Moss, F. W. Boldon.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Call for Report of various committees, which were rendered as follows:

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We your Committee on Temperance, ask to report as follows: That no true borned child of God will not and can not live a christian life and drink intoxicating beverages, and we, as a board of brethren, do hereby pledge ourselves to help enforce all laws to do away with all intoxicating beverages on account that it is wrecking many homes, and we love the Lord, and we want temperance in all things, and to keep a clean house for the Lord. Be it further resolved that each preacher is hereby asked to preach a temperance sermon, once during the year, outlining the great evil of intemperance and enthroning temperance and Christianity, instead.

W. C. PETTIS, Chairman

REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg leave to make the following report. First, be it resolved that the Decorum and Articles of Faith be put back in our minutes. Second, Section tabled.

A. L. PATE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERS

We, your Committee on Ministers, ask to make the following report. We find by reading the letters from the

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different churches, all reported in good standing, but we find the churches falling far short of supporting their pastors, as we think they should and in some instances, the pastors are not doing their duty in stimulating and urging the churches to their duty, we suggest that each church and pastor wake up to their duty. We further urge that all the churches get back on the old line of communing and that this session of the association adopt the rule and receive no church that does not commune two or more times a year, without a good cause. Respectfully,

J. A. OWENS, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS

We, your Committee on Documents, ask to make the following report: We urge that all our churches have a Sunday School and that they use the Free-Will Baptist literature. We also urge the Superintendent to introduce the Free-Will Baptist paper, which is published at Ayden, N. C. We also suggest that they all have a good prayer meeting, once a week and that it should be the duty of the pastor of each church to urge and see that the same is carried out.

W. W. RUSS, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

We, your Committee on Memorials, beg leave to report that we find that God, in His Wisdom, has seen fit to call from us the following members: Brother Jessie English, from Noma; Brother H. L. Yates, from St. John's; Sister Ora Rutherford, from Spring Hill; Sister Alfa Hicks, from Beulah; Sister Mary Stewart, from Liberty. We have great sympathy for the dear loved ones, but our loss is Heaven's gain. All faithful workers in Christ are received of God.

Respectfully,

NONIE BIRGE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

We, your Committee on Suggestions, beg leave to make the following report: We suggest that the deacons of the church, where the association convenes, see that the delegates have homes and not crowd anyone.

G. W. ENGLISH, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to make the following report: We consider one of the greatest needs of our denomination to be a consecrated education. We suggest that our denomination assist any man feeling the calling to the ministry, and having no education, to secure enough education to rightly read the Word of God. We further suggest that our members be careful as to the religious literature they read. They are subject to be misled.

Respectfully,

N. E. CHESTNUT, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to make the following report: We find for minutes and associational funds, \$26.50; home mission funds, \$11.91. We find in the treasure, for associational funds, \$11.44; for home missions, \$16.10; making the total, \$65.95; less \$7.50, paid to the clerk; total, \$58.45.

JESSIE GAINEY, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS

We, your Committee on Home Missions, beg leave to make the following report: We, seeing the need of Home Mission work, we ask that all of our male members give, as a free will offering, one dollar per year to the home mission work and the sisters give twenty-five cents per year for home missions.

J. W. COX, Chairman.

HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

We, your Home Mission Board, have held one session this year. We have not put any man in the field this year. We have not sufficient funds, with which to pay for much work. We tried to employ one man, but did not succeed. We hope with increased funds to be able to have some work done in the ensuing year.

A. B. NELSON, Chairman.

Recess ten minutes.

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House called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer by Bro. D. R. Owens.

Sermon by Rev. J. C. Ethridge. Lesson text, Elijah 9:10. Dismissed one hour for refreshments.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

House called to order by the Moderator. Call for the Reports of Ministers. Reports as follows:

Brethren, I herewith submit my ministerial report for the year, 1926: Miles traveled, about 2100; sermons, about 135; financial aid, \$120; members received, 71; marriages, 5; funerals, 5. God has been good to us, for which we should use our talent in his service.

Your brother, in Christ,

REV. A. B. NELSON.

Brethren, I submit the following report for the year, A. D., 1926. I have served three churches. Noma, I receive, \$45.35; St. John, \$48.37; Cowart's Creek, \$78.00; total, \$171.62. Additions as follows: Noma, 17, St. John's 4; Cowart's, 4. Respectfully submitted,

REV. C. I. WELLS.

Brethren, I herewith submit my report. I have served four churches this year. Two of which are in this association and two in the Blountstown association. I organized one church, at Clarksville. They paid me, \$21.45; Abe's Springs paid \$44.35; St. Paul, \$43.10; Beulah, \$50.25.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. A. L. PATE.

Brethren, I submit the following report, A. D., 1926: I have served one church in this association, Piney Grove. Sermons preached, 30; funerals conducted, 1; received \$75. Also served two churches in the Union Hill association.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. J. A. PETTIS.

Brethren, I have served one church, conducted one burial service, received \$8.25.

REV. G. W. ENGLISH.

I, as a licensed preacher, report as follows: I have preached six sermons and have done all that seemed that I could to upbuild God's Cause and Kingdom.

REV. D. R. OWENS.

I, as a licensed preacher, though I am so feeble, but strong spiritually, have done all that lay in my power, for the cause of the upbuilding of God's Kingdom. Though I have kept no record of my work, but did all that I could.

REV. M. L. HALL.

Called for general business.

The association elected the following as an Executive Committee: W. A. Elmore, G. W. Owens, Lee Wilson, C. C. Clemmons, Bennett Cook.

Committee on Nominations, received and read:

"We your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to make the following report: Rev. J. W. Cox to preach the introductory sermon at the next session. Rev. C. I. Wells to preach the introductory sermon at the union meeting.

LEE WILSON, Chairman.

St. John gets the next session. Piney Grove gets the next union meeting.

Delegates report to the General Conference read and received:

We, your delegates to the General Conference, have attended the session at Cooper's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn., and tried to do our duty as your representatives, there. We have secured the next session for Salem church, Jackson County, Florida.

G. W. OWENS and A. B. NELSON, Delegates.

Rev. A. L. Pate and Rev. C. I. Wells were elected delegates to meet the next General Conference, on Wednesday, before the third Sunday in June.

Delegates to Sister Associations:

Union Hill—J. W. Barefoot, W. M. Calloway, W. A. Elmore.

State Line—C. I. Wells, W. A. Elmore.

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Salem—C. I. Wells, A. L. Pate.

Blountstown—A. L. Pate, J. L. Anderson.

We pay the clerk, \$7.50. Print three hundred minutes.

Retained same Home Mission Board.

Poplar Head gets the second Fifth Sunday meeting in next year.

Public contribution to Brother Cox, \$5.15.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Association Funds.....\$37.94

Home Mission Funds.....\$28.01

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the delegates and messengers, desire to thank the good people of St. Paul church, for their generous hospitality, so graciously extended to us during our stay with them, for their kindness and great love they showed to us. We want to especially thank the good ladies' upon whom the burden of care for us fell the heaviest. May God's greatest blessings, both spiritual and temperal, be bestowed upon each and all.

J. T. BIRGE.

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. Pate.....Bonifay, Fla.

A. B. Nelson.....Bonifay, Fla.

C I. Wells.....Noma, Fla.

M. L. Hall.....Bonifay, Fla.

J. H. Chestnut.....Bonifay, Fla.

A. M. Swindle.....Chiple, Fla.

G W. English.....Chiple, Fla.

S. E. Carroll.....Hartford, Ala.

J. C. Carnley.....Caryville, Fla.

J. L. McDaniel.....Vernon, Fla.

J. W. Cox.....Greensboro, Fla.

ORDER OF BUSINEESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for Corresponding Letters and Enrollment of Delegates.
3. Organization. Electing of Moderator and Clerk.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Call for Correspondents from Sister Associations.
6. Appointment of Committees.
7. Appointment of Correspondents.
8. Reading of Corresponding Letters.
9. Hearing Report of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

LIST OF DELEGATES

W. H. Reno, E. J. Cook, J. M. Wells, N. E. Ellis, J. W. Bracken, J. W. Barefoot, Nonie Birge, G. W. Owens, R. A. Golden, J. A. Owens, G. W. Silcox, A. Fowler, Sister Fowler, J. L. Anderson, J. I. Mears, Sister Janie Mears, W. C. Pettis, R. A. Elmore, C. J. Hicks, A. D. Cook, J. W. Nelson, E. D. Sims, J. M. Chittie, Sister Kelly, A. L. Ball, N. E. Chestnut, W. D. Clemmons, Jesse Gainey, W. W. Russ, Nancy Clemmons, W. G. Spurlock, Lee Wilson, Thelma Wilson, Martha Wilson.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches and Pastors	Clerk	Baptism	Con. of Faith	By Letter	Restored	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Died	Membership	Days of Meeting
Cowart's Creek, C. I. Wells	J. C. Fowler, Dothan	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	80	4th Sunday
Beulah, J. A. Pettis	W. C. Pettis, Graceville	4	2	2	1	4	0	1	79	4th Sunday
St. Paul, A. B. Nelson	Jessie Gainey, Vernon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	49	1st-3rd Sun.
Spring Hill, Jim Posey	J. E. Bass, Bonifay	28	0	9	0	0	5	1	96	2nd Sunday
Piney Grove, J. A. Peettis	T. D. Owens, Chipley	0	0	1	0	2	4	0	30	3rd Sunday
Noma, C. I. Wells	J. T. Birge, Graceville	7	2	2	3	1	0	1	60	1st Sunday
Liberty, Joe Hudson	J. Foster, Vernon	6	2	0	3	1	0	1	74	3rd Sunday
New Concord, J. A. Pettis	M. M. Clark, Black	3	1	0	0	5	1	0	28	1st Sunday
New Harmony, J. C. Carnley	H. C. Martin, Chipley	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	20	1st Sunday
Pleasant Hill, Joe Hudson	J. W. Yates, Bonifay	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	11	4th Sunday
Popular Head, A. L. Pate	N. E. Chestnut, Bonifay	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	68	1st Sunday
St. John, C. I. Wells	J. E. Sims, Bonifay	2	1	1	0	9	0	1	138	3rd Sunday
P'g'm's G'de, W. W. Nichols	Nora Brown, Southport	15	0	2	0	0	0	0	45	
Antioch, A. B. Nelson	G. W. Spurlock, Graceville	5	0	2	0	0	1	0	145	1st Sunday

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at last conference in Association year, or, if they prefer, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be chosen at any other time, but if the choice be made at a special Conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be Moderator of church, but when the Moderator, being present, same is absent, or does not sit a suitable brother shall be appointed in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and distribution of all contributions made for pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall also take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper, and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church and preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a clerk is appointed all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately turned over to him by his predecessor.

8. When it becomes necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

9. The church shall hold two day's meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time for conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference, if they can, for on that

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day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on church doctrine, discipline, and rules of holy living.

11. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member who may be generally remiss in attending meetings of the church, according to covenant (Article 10), shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his conduct, but the church may exempt members from this if necessary.

12. Conference shall be opened as follows: First, prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then: Second, invite visiting brethren to seats with us: Third, open the doors for reception to members: Fourth, call for absentees; Fifth, for acknowledgements; Sixth, for references or deferred business: Seventh, for matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church; Eighth, for miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren called in as help from other churches shall be allowed to vote.

14. An ordinary member of a Baptist church which does not hold this church in fellowship, may be received into this church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unrepachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he wanted to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

15. We receive members by experience or baptism; on confession of faith, by letter or restoration.

16. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

18. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of the witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be printed in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil.

22. A vote shall not be taken on any question without a move and second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon request may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient excuse, nor engage in conversation or whispering, without being subjected to be called to order by the Moderator.

26. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must rise to their feet and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission of the Moderator, nor shall the remarks on any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some brother as Moderator in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it be necessary to call him to order.

30. We believe it to be the duty of the church to communicate, wash the saint's feet as often as the church sees fit, the expenses to be paid by the church.

31. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is but one living and true God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and ruler of the universe.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and by whom salvation is made secure.

3. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright and placed him in a state of holiness under the laws of His Maker, but by a voluntary transgression of his own he fell from that Holy and happy state.

4. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for the lack of Christ.

5. We believe that the holy scriptures are the word of God and they are the only rule of faith and practice.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father by the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ His Son.

7. We believe that good workers are the fruits of faith and faith without work is dead.

8. We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free and attainable by all mankind.

9. We believe that Commemoration and Feet Washing are the ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances.

11. That the end of the world is approaching when Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and this judgement will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

DECORUM OF THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Article 1. This Association shall be composed of delegates from churches in good standing only, and shall be called together by the Moderator of last session, if present. If absent, by his assistant or by some one elected by the body.

Article 2. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Article 3. The Moderator and clerk of the last session shall officiate until the body is organized and new officers elected by ballot.

Article 4. The Moderator shall call the body to order and see that order is preserved. Submit all motions to the body. He shall have the same right of speech as any other member, but appoint some other brother as chairman while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless it be in case of a tie, then he may cast the deciding vote.

Article 5. The delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk as they are seated in the body. And the roll shall be called each morning and all not answering to their names marked absent.

Article 6. That no delegate or minister shall be allowed to absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

Article 7. That all ministers belonging to this Association must be present at each session or send in a report to the former Moderator as to the cause of absence or his name will be left off the ministers list of this session.

Article 8. And that each minister shall make a report of how many churches he is serving, if any, and what each church has paid him for his services.

Article 9. That no minister shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rights of matrimony where either party have been divorced except it be for fornication.

Article 10. That no church shall be considered in this body that retains a minister or deacon that has more than one living wife or drinks intoxicating beverages.

Article 11. All business shall be brought before the body by move and second and shall be disposed of according to good usage. But no move shall be submitted to the body when there is a move before the house unless the first one be withdrawn by the person who made such move and no person shall be allowed to speak more than three (3) times on the same subject and not more than ten (10) min-

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utes each time without a move and second carried by the body.

Article 12. No person shall be disturbed while speaking so long as he keeps to the point in debate only by the Moderator and then only call him to order. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the Moderator and he must not use abusive language or personal reflection upon any one.

Article 13. This Association shall have a treasurer and executive committee to be elected annually. And no church shall be considered in this body who shall, or have retained a minister that have stepped aside from his obligations in any form (as in 1st Tem. 3 chap.), unless said minister have shown by his actions that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 14. That any minister who will voluntary step aside immediately turn his credentials over to the executive committee and said ex. committee shall visit various churches to see if they are in good standing or not and help them to retain good order.

Article 15. That no church shall retain a minister or deacon who does not rule his own house well.

Article 16. That no church shall be recorded in this body who does not commune and wash feet at least twice (2) a year and who does not have conference at least six (6) times a year and each church shall state in its associational letter as to whether this ordinance has been kept or not. And also state how much it has paid its pastor and all ministers serving churches shall preach at least one sermon a year on doctrine and rules of holy living.

Article 17. Any preacher belonging to this body who sends an appointment or serving churches who fails to meet at the appointed hour shall be due acknowledgements to congregation or church.