

300 Minutes

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

WEST FLORIDA

Liberty Free Will Baptist Association

Held With

Cowarts Creek Church

Six Miles Southeast of Dothan, Alabama

OCTOBER 12th and 13th, 1933

OFFICERS

BRO. G. W. OWENS, Moderator,
N. E. CHESTNUT, Clerk and Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. E. Sims, Chairman
T. D. Owens, A. J. Pitts, J. H. Mears
E. C. Anderson

The next session of the Association will convene with Beulah Church, 4 miles South of Graceville, Florida, on Thursday before the Third (3) Sunday in October, 1934. Rev. W. A. Clark to preach the Introductory.

The next Union Meeting to convene with Piney Grove Church, six miles Southwest of Chipley, Florida, on Saturday before the Second (2) Sunday in August, 1934. Rev. C. I. Wells to preach the Introductory.

Proceedings

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Thursday morning, October 12, 1933, the Liberty Association of the United Free-Will Baptist met with Cowarts Creek Church. The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Introductory by Rev. A. L. Pate. Lesson text, 1st verse of 14th Chapter Cor. Noon one hour.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Body called to order by Moderator. Scripture lesson, third chapter of James. Prayer by Moderator.

A call was made for corresponding letters from the churches and received the following:

Pleasant Hill—Drew Lawrence, Henry Mears, Whit Lawrence, Cletus Burch.

New Harmony—G. W. Wright, Lonnie Washington, J. D. Hughes, Henry Barkley.

Blountstown—Sister R. J. Pendarvis, Sister Lillie Mae Yon, Inez Parish, T. E. Parish, W. M. Cochran, W. J. Starry.

A committee on State of Churches and Ministers was appointed as follows: T. D. Owens, chairman; D. F. Hall, G. W. Silcox, Johnnie Powell, J. E. Sims, J. L. Smith.

Correspondence continued.

Piney Grove—W. H. Shores, J. A. Johnson, J. A. Owens, T. D. Owens,

Spring Hill—J. L. Smith, E. C. Anderson, Sister Mollie Anderson, Sister Janie Mears.

Noma—Leroy Callaway, W. M. Callaway, J. W. Barefoot,

New Concord—W. A. Clark, and Sister W. A. Clark.

Cowarts Creek—Green Silcox, D. F. Hall, M. C. Dixon.

St. Johns—J. E. Sims, Jim Chitty, Jim Strickland, Bennet Cook, N. E. Chestnut, Elvie Chestnut, Sister Mae Cook, Sister Olive Berry.

Poplar Head—A. J. Pitts, Sister Roxy Pitts, G. W. Ussery.

Beulah—H. L. Elmore, W. C. Pettis, E. H. Hatcher, T. I. Skinner, R. B. Hatcher.

Mt. Glory—Johnnie Powell, Sister Edna Powell.

The Association entered into a business session. Re-elected G. W. Owens, Moderator and N. E. Chestnut, clerk and treasurer.

A call was made for Correspondents from Sister Associations and received the following:

From Union Hill Association—J. A. Pettis, J. R. Carroll.

From Salem—Rev. Rufus Hyman, Chester Cook, Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

From State Line—E. S. Jones, J. F. Capps.

From S. C. State Conference—Sister Nancy Hyman, Sister Jewell Hyman, Roland Hyman, Robert Hyman, Roy Parker.

Rev. S. F. Shutes, correspondent from Cordova, Ala.

✕ Committee on Nominations—Johnnie Powell, E. A. Hatcher, B. B. Hatcher, T. J. Skinner.

Committee on Divine Service—Jim Chitty, K. B. Fowler and Chester Cook.

Committee on Temperance—Sister Janie Mears, J. T. Birge, J. A. Owens, Joe Hughes, George Wright.

✕ Committee on Resolutions—W. H. Shores, Ed Parish, Henry Mears, W. A. Clark, G. W. Ussery, W. J. Starry.

✕ Committee on Documents—J. C. Eldridge, A. L. Pate, W. J. Starry, W. M. Duncan, J. D. Strickland.

Committee on Memorials—Sister Mae Cook, Sister Mary Kelley, Sister Olive Berry, Drew Lawrence.

✕ Committee on Suggestions—A. B. Cook, J. A. Johnson, W. J. Starry, E. C. Anderson.

✕ Committee on Finance—Elvie Chestnut, Mollie Anderson, Sister A. J. Pitts, Cletis Birch.

✕ Committee on Missions—K. V. Shutes, A. J. Pitts, C. I. Wells, M. C. Dixon, J. L. Smith, W. T. Lawrence.

✕ Committee on Auxiliary—Sister R. J. Pendarvis, E. J. Skinner, Sister Lillie Mae Yon, Sister Ed Jones, S. T. Shutes, D. F. Hall, W. M. Callaway.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE OF CHURCHES AND MINISTERS

The committee reports that Rev. C. I. Wells made satisfaction for his unchristian conduct. It will be noted that at Beulah Church they have had some former confusion for which the Exe-

cutive Committee declares the church right and in order, to which the report of the committee below has reference. We, the committee, report with glad hearts that brotherly love exists among our preachers. Things that have been greivous among us have passed away and brotherly love exists. We, the committee, sustain the action of the Executive Committee concerning Beulah Church. We, the committee, recommend that the letter with its delegates from Blountstown Church be received in this assoication.

T. D. OWENS, Chairman.

Committee on Divine Services reports that Rev. Alvin Pettis will preach at 7:30 P. M.

Rev. Alvin Pettis preached at 7:30 P. M. Text: "Christ the Solid Foundation."

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Devotional service conducted by Rev. W. A. Clark. Scripture lesson, James 3rd Chapter. Call renewed for correspondents.

From State Line—A. C. Womack and wife, Sister S. M. Womach, J. M. Murdock, J. J. Burdeshaw.

Call renewed for Petitionary letters. Received none.

COMMITTEE REPORT ON TEMPERANCE

We beg to make the following report: First, we believe that intemperance is destructive of the usefulness of man as a servant of God. Therefore, we ask that every one be temperate in all things. Second, that all men totally abstain from the use of strong drink. Solomon says in the 20th Chapter of Proverbs, first verse: "Wine is a mockery, strong drink is raging, whosoever is guilty thereby is not wise." So we see wise men will not drink it at all as a beverage.

JANNIE MEARS, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education, offer the following: We earnestly urge the Deacons and Pastors of all the churches in the bounds of this Associotion to try to raise at least \$5.00 per church and send it to Zion Bible School at Blakely, Ga. The future of our church depends to a great extent on the way we handle and carry on what our forefathers have handed to us. One of our greatest needs is the training of young men to fill the places of the min-

isters who are retiring from the ministry. If we believe in educating men for the business world, why not educate them for God and his service?

J. E. SIMS, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARIES

We, your Committee on Auxiliaries, report as follows: We find there are 14 churches in the Association, five with Sunday Schools, two with Leagues, one with Ladies Aid Society. We also find that the churches which have these organizations are doing more in every way for the advancement of the kingdom than those without them. Therefore, we urge every church to put forth strenuous efforts to organize these organizations. These are the mighty arms that will help bear dead or sleeping churches across the tide to a state of fellowship, activity, love and training in the service of God.

SISTER R. J. PENDARVIS, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

We, your Committee on Missions, submit the following report: We noticed very carefully the reading of the reports from the churches and there was not any money for Home or Foreign Missions. If we expect our churches to carry out the mission that Jesus taught, we have got to have a missionary spirit. We only have one Foreign Missionary on the field, and he is paid by the General Conference of the Free-Will Baptist. We ought to be able to have a hundred in a few years, but without a spirit of missions being taught from the pulpit we will never get very far with this work. We also ought to have some Home mission money to help to evangelize the bounds of each association and help build new churches. We have heard quite a bit of complaint from these associations in regard to money being sent for missions and never used that way, until they won't give for that purpose.

We recommend that a Mission Board be appointed by the Moderator to work in the interest of missions in the bounds of this Association. They shall raise money from the churches any way that is legal and spend same in the missionary drives where needed most, as to the best of their judgment. We urge that at least one sermon be preached each year on missions and an offering taken and sent to the chairman of the Mission Board. Each Association was asked by General Conference to send at least \$12.00 per year to the Secretary of Foreign Missions, Rev. J. J. Blackwidder, of Bryan, Texas.

K. V. SHUTES, Chairman.

The report of Committee on Nominations will be found on front outside cover. JOHNNIE POWELL, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

We, your Committee on Memorials, report as follows: Bro. Sam Spivy, of Blountstown; Sister Alice Curry of Spring Hill; Bro. Willie Henderson and Sister Ada Walls, of Cowarts Creek; Sister Ruby Russ, Bro. Wesley Barrow, of Poplar Head; Sister Maudie Martin, Bro. Tolbert Grace, of Piney Grove; Sister Canna Deal, of Cowarts Creek. God has seen fit to call from us eleven brothers and sisters, but our loss is Heaven's gain. Blessed are the death of the saints that die in the Lord. From Cowarts Creek, Sister Canna Deal, age 38; Bro. W. H. Henderson, age 45; Sister Ada Walls, age 55. Sister Canna Deal was a good christian worker and we miss her presence greatly, also Bro. W. H. Henderson is badly missed. Their places cannot be filled, but our loss is Heaven's gain.

MRS. MAE COOK, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following report. We received from the churches \$21.50.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

We, your Committee on Resolutions and Suggestions, have come together and suggest and resolve that each preacher urge on each church to insist on the 10-cent per capita for minutes and associational purposes. Second, we also suggest and resolve that the Decorum of the Liberty Association be placed back in our minutes, together with the by-laws. Third, we suggest and resolve that this Association shall abide by the works and decisions of the Executive Committee while not in session. Fourth, we suggest and resolve that no minister be used on the Executive Committee. Fifth, we suggest and resolve that each church elect the best and most suitable members for delegates.

W. H. SHORES, Chairman.

Home Mission Board—Rev. A. B. Nelson, chairman, A. B. Cook and Johnnie Mears.

Delegates to the General Conference—Rev. A. L. Pate and G. W. Owens.

At eleven o'clock Bro. J. C. Eldridge delivered the message which was a feast to the soul. Text, James 5th Chapter, 19th and 20th verses. Noon one hour.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

At the expiration of the noon recess the house was called to order by singing the old song, "Rock of Ages." Opening prayer by Rev. O. M. Murphy.

It was moved and carried that Rev. Joe Hudson be declared out of order and excluded from this body.

Committee on Documents have no report to make.

Correspondents sent to Sister Associations as follows: To State Line—A. Fowler, M. C. Dixon.

To Salem—Ed Parish, G. W. Owens, A. J. Pitts, J. H. Mears.

Union Hill—W. A. Clark, J. A. Pettis.

REPORT OF MINISTERS

Rev. A. L. Rate has served one church this year and has received \$40.00 for his service.

Report of Rev. J. A. Yager: I was licensed to preach October 22, 1932, by Beulah Church. On January 29, 1933, I was ordained by the ordaining council of the Liberty Association. I have served Gap Pond this year as pastor; have done some field work, have baptized 13, preached 100 sermons and received \$14.80 for my services. I continue to serve Gap Pond as pastor, am also serving new Hickory Grove, have organized New Effort, which I am serving also. Pray for me.

Collection for Aged Ministers and Afflicted Brethren: Rev. W. M. Duncan, \$6.70; Rev. Jordan Murphy, \$6.70; Bro. Cleve Lewis, \$4.38.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the delegates and messengers that compose the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association, do sincerely thank the good people of Cowarts Creek Church, and we do fully appreciate the goodness and hospitality shown us during our sojourn among them. We pray that God's richest blessings may overshadow them from now henceforth and forever.

It was moved and carried to have 300 minutes printed.

It was moved and carried to pay the clerk \$7.50 for his service

Dismissed by song and benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call for Corresponding Letters and Enrollment of Delegates.
3. Organization—Election 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 Reports of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous Business.

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. Pate	Bonifay, Florida
A. B. Nelson,	Bonifay, Florida
C. I. Wells,	Graceville, Florida
M. L. Hall,	Bonifay, Florida
J. H. Chestnut,	Bonifay, Florida
G. W. English	Chipley, Florida
S. E. Carroll	Hartford, Alabama
J. C. Carnley	Caryville, Florida
W. A. Clark,	Black, Alabama
W. M. Duncan	Blountstown, Florida
J. I. Chason	Crescent City, Florida
C. C. Martin,	Blountstown, Florida
W. M. Martin	Bonifay, Florida
W. C. Burton,	Crescent City, Florida

J. A. Jager, Chipley Fla.
C. H. Matthews, Chipley Fla.

Statistical Table

CHURCHES AND PASTORS	CLERK	Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Total Received	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Membership	DAYS OF MEETING
Piney Grove, J. C. Eldridge.....	T. D. Owens, Chipley, Fla.....	32	.....	.....	34	1	.....	2	141	2nd Sunday
Blountstown, C. C. Martin.....	W. M. Duncan, Blountstown, Fla.....	1	.....	2	3	.....	7	1	106	3rd Sunday
Beulah, Rufus Hyman.....	W. C. Pettis, Graceville, Fla.....	7	2	2	4	2	2	.....	53	4th Sunday
New Harmony, John Wachob.....	J. S. Hews, Chipley, Fla.....	3	1	4	8	2	.....	.....	32	1st Sunday
Noma, J. A. Pettis	J. W. Calloway, Graceville, Fla.....	1	5	.....	6	5	5	.....	64	1st Sunday
Pleasant Hill, A. B. Nelson.....	Whit Laurence, Bonifay, Fla.....	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	45	4th Sunday
Poplar Head, A. B. Nelson.....	A. F. Squires, Bonifay, Fla.....	.....	2	.....	2	.....	1	2	41	1st Sunday
St. Johns, J. C. Eldridge.....	N. E. Chesnut, Bonifay, Fla.....	1	2	1	4	.....	4	.....	129	3rd Sunday
Spring Hill, L. C. Mixon.....	J. L. Smith, Bonifay, Fla.....	4	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	85	2nd Sunday
New Concord, L. C. Mixon	Comella Marlow, Black, Ala.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	2	32	4th Sunday
Cowarts Creek, J. H. Guilford..	J. C. Fowler, Dothan, Ala.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	12	2	76	4th 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 days 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 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 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 acknowledgment shall be printed in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by the 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.—1st. Cor. 8:6; 1st Tim. 2:5-6.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and by whom salvation is made secure.—Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; 1st John 2:2.

3. We believe that in the beginning that God made man upright and placed him in a state of glory, without the least mixture of misery from which he voluntarily, by transgression fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Genesis 2:17; 3:19.

4. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for the lack of Christ.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; 1st Tim. 2:4.

5. We believe that the holy scriptures are the word of God and they are the only rule of faith and practice.—Acts 17:30; Heb. 3:10; 1st John 5:10.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ the Son.—2nd Tim. 3:16-17.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and faith without work is dead.—Luke 14:16; Math. 28:19; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19-38; St. Mark 1:15.

8. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free and attainable by all mankind.—Math. 11:27-30; St. John 6:44-65; Psalms 1:1; Titus 2:11-12.

9. We believe that Commemoration and Feet Washing are the ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.—St. John 13:1; Tim. 5:6; Psalms 28:1-7.

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances.—Rom. 12:4-5.

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 man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev. 22:12; St. John 14:2-3.

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DECORUM OF 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, what each church has paid him for his service.

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) minutes 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 Mod-

erator 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 has stepped aside from his obligations in any form (as in 1st. Tim. 3 chap) unless said minister has shown by his actions that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 14. That any minister who will voluntarily step aside immediately turn his credentials over to the executive committee and said executive 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 fail to meet at the appointed hour shall be due acknowledgements to congregation or church.

art. 18. no preacher shall preach in
 churches that cannot bring a clear record
 from his home church.
 art 19. no preacher shall pastor a church
 unless he on his first trip presented his
 credentials.