MINUTES

- OF THE -

WEST FLORIDA Liberty Free Will Baptist

Association

Held With BEULAH CHURCH Five Miles South of Graceville, Florida OCTOBER 18th and 19th, 1934

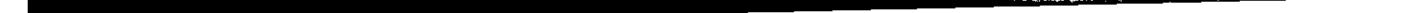
OFFICERS BRO. G. W. OWENS, ______ Moderator N. E. CHESTNUT, _____ Clerk and Treasurer EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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 Poplar Head Church, about 9 miles south-west of Chipley, Florida, on Thursday before the Third (3rd) Sunday in October, 1935. Rev. J. C. Eldridge to preach the Introductory.

The next Union Meeting to convene with St. Johns Church, 2 miles South of Bonifay, Florida, Saturday before the Second Sunday in August, 1935. Rev. A. L. Pate to preach the Introductory.

Next session of Sunday School Convention will be held at Marvin Chapel Church, 6 miles south-east of Marianna, Florida, the Second Fifth Sunday in 1935.



Proceedings

According to previous appointment the Forty-sixth Annual Session of the West Florida Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association met with Beulah Church, Thursday morning, October 18th and 19th, 1934.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called to order by Moderator at 10:00 o'clock. Opening song, 193, in Complete Church Hymn. Opening prayer, by Rev. W. M. Duncan. Introductory sermon by Rev. W. A. Clark. Closed by Rev. A. L. Pate. Lesson text, 4th Chapter of Ephesians. Text: "Be Angry and Sin Not." Noon, one and a half hours.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association reassembled at 1:30 o'clock. Opening song, "Blessed Assurance." Scripture lesson by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. J. A. Johnson.

A call was made for corresponding letters and the following letters and delegates were received:

St. Paul—C. C. Clemons, J. C. Clemons, J. L. Gainey and Sister Julia Clemons.

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

Poplar Head-Roy Chesnut, A. F. Squires, J. A. Pitts.

Cowarts Creek—A. Fowler, Sister Lizzie Fowler, M. C. Dixon, D. T. Hall.

St. Johns-N. E. Chesnut, Bob Pipkin, Bob Walsingham, Alto Nelson, A. B. Cook, J. K. Nelson and Earl Cook.

Liberty-David Cook, Sister Goldie Brock.

New Concord-Sister W. A. Clark, Sister Gertrude Clark, and Sister Lula Stewart.

B:ulah-Walter Pettis, Clarence Brock, H. L. Elmore and Bryant Hatcher.

Pleasant Hill-C. E. Mears and Sister C. E. Mears.

Piney Grove—T. D. Owens, M. Rich, J. A. Johnson, R. E. Golden, A. P. Weeks, Sister Meda Golden, J. H. Mears and Sistar J. H. Mears. New Harmony—Herbert Hews and Sister Cora Matthews. Blountstown—W. J. Starry, Sister R. J. P∈ndarvis, F. M. Knight and Sister F. M. Knight.

The Association sustained the decision of the executive committee and received and seated the W. M. Duncan side of the church of Blountstown.

The Association entered into a business session and re-elected G. W. Owens, Moderator, and N. E. Chestnut, Clerk and Treasurer.

A call was made for petitionary letters and received none.

A call was made for correspondents from sister associations and received the following:

From Salem—Rev. J. C. Eldridge, Bro. E. S. Haddock and J. F. Fillingim.

From State Line—Rev. Floyd Cherry, Rev. A. H. Godfrey, Sister A. H. Godfrey and Rev. D. W. Pool.

Committee on Divine Service appointed: J. H. Mears, W. R. Pipkin, and David Cook.

Report of Committee on Divine Service.

Rev. H. A. Godfrey to deliver the message at 7:30 P. M. Thursday evening, and Rev. Floyd Cherry to preach at 11:00 A. M. Friday, and Rev. J. C.Eldridge to come in the close.

The Association was dismissed until 9:30 A. M., Friday, by

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Rev. W. M. Duncan.

THURSDAY EVENING, 7:00 P. M.

Service opened with song by choir. Prayer by Bro. J. H. Mears and Bro. J. A. Johnson, after which Rev. A. H. Godfrey, of the State Line Association, delivered a very impressive and interesting sermon from the text of Second Peter, 3:11.

Benediction by Rev. Floyd Cherry, also of the State Line Association.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Song by Choir. Prayer by Bro. J. F. Fillingim. Devotional Service by the Moderator. Scripture: James, third chapter. Prayer by Moderator.

Call renewed for corresponding letters and received a letter from New Hope Church.

Renewed the call for correspondents from Sister Associations and received Bro. J. R. D. Register and Sister Aquila Register from the Union Hill Association.

Appointment of Committees:

Committee on Resolutions-Rev. W. M. Duncan, J. F. Fillin-

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gim, E. C. Anderson, C. C. Clemmons and R. W. Walsingham.

Committee on Standing of Churches and Ministers-J. H. Mears, Ben Champion, Bob Pipkin, J. C. Clemmons and David Cook.

Committee on Documents—A. F. Squires, A. Fowler, Walter Pettis, T. D. Owens, Clarence Brock.

Committee on Missions-W. J. Starry, Rev. A. L. Pate, Rev. D. W. Pool, C. E. Mears, A. Fowler

Committee on Suggestions-Rev. J. C. Eldridge, Sister F. M. Knight, Bro. F. M. Knight, Rev. Floyd Cherry.

Committee on Auxiliary—J. I. Mears, A. J. Pitts, M. C. Dixon, D. F. Hall, Sister Lizzie Fowler.

Committee on Nominations-J. L. Gainey, J. L. Smith, Earl Coook, Roy Chestnut.

Committee on Finance-Sister R. J. Pendarvis, J. H. Mears, J. W. Nelson.

Committee on Memorials-H. L. Elmore, J. A. Johnson, Bob Pipkin, Sister R. J. Pendarvis, W. A. Clark.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

We recommend that a Mission Board be appointed by the Mod-

erator 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 drive where needed most to the best of their judgment.

W. J. STARRY, Chairman. Home Mission Board appointed—A. B. Nelson, Walter Pettis and W. J. Starry.

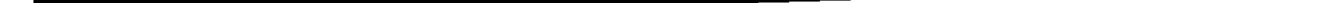
Report of Committee on Nominations will be found on lower part of ouside of front cover.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARY

We, your Committee on Auxiliary, report as follows: We find that thirteen churches are represented in the Association. We have only five Sunday Schools; two Leagues. We also find that these churches that carry on their auxiliary work are in better condition. Let us work and pray that we may have such a vision of the Holy Spirit that we will arise to our duty to our young people for which we are responsible for the way they go. J. E. SIMS, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

We, your Committee, make the following report: First, we suggest that each church maintain a Sunday School and a prayer



Forty-Sixth Annual Session

meeting where possible. Second, that churches be more careful in the reception of members.

REV. J. C. ELDRIDGE, Chairman.

REPORT OF MINISTERS

Dear Brethren, I wish to make a report of my service for this year. I have pastored two churches this year, Gap Pond and Cypress Creek churches; have Baptized three; have received \$27.59 for my service. I have a record of 73 sermons. I desire the prayers of all in behalf of my service for another year.—Your brother and servant in Christ, Rev. J. A. Yager.

Dear Brethren, I will report my ministerial work of this year. I haven't served any churches this year but I have done field work. I have preached 52 sermons; have baptized 5; have held 3 burial services; and did all I could for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom. -Your Servant, J. C. Carnley.

To Liberty Association: Greetings. I have preached 144 sermons; have preached 5 funerals; have baptized 18; have pastored one church; received \$5.20 for my services. I desire your prayers that I will be able to do a greater work for the Lord in the future than I have in the past.—Rev. C. H. Matthews.

A short talk of Exhortation by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS

We, your Committee on Documents, make the following report: We have examined the documents of the different churches and we report favorable on same.

W.C. PETTIS, Chairman

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We beg to make the following report: First, we believe that intemperance is destructive to the usefulness of men as servants of God, therefore, we ask that every one be temperate in all things; Second, that all men totally abstain from strong drink. Solomon says in Proverbs, 20th Chapter, first verse, "Wine is a mockery; strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." So we see wise men will not drink at all. We recommend that 11 church members be more careful to see that this be more strictly carried out.

A. B. COOK, Chairman.

REPORT OF EGECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We have, by the hilp of the Great God, tried to perform our duty toward all the churches of the Association and for the cause

of Christ and His Kingdom first. Also by being agreed, we walk together. We have done the general work of the committee for the year. Also found by investigation that a part of Blountstown church members were out of order because they would not hear the ruling of the Association. We also declare them out of order. Hoping that peace may reign.

J. E. SIMS, Chairman of Committee.

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In compliance to their request the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association granted Mt. Glory and New Concord churches letters of dismission.

It was moved and carried that we retain the same Executive Committee for the next associational year.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STANDING OF CHURCHES AND MINISTERS

We, your Committee on Standing of Churches and Ministers, beg to make the following report: We find that Rev. M. L. Hall has left us and gone to another denomination; also the Executive Committee has cfased Rev. C. I. Wells from preaching in the bounds of the Liberty FreeWill Baptist Association. We recommend that their names be left off the ministers' list. We believe that the majority of our churches are in very good standing. J. H. MEARS, Chairman.

Rev. A. L. Pate made a short but interesting and impressive talk on the standing of our churches and ministers. A short intermission.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Report of Committee on Resolutions may be found as Articles 18 and 19 in Associational Decorum.

REV. W. M. DUNCAN, Chairman.

The Association reassembled by singing the old hymn, "Amazing Grace." Rev. Floyd Cherry took the stand at 11:00 o'clock. Scriptural lesson, Mark, 16th chapter, text, 3 verses, from which he preached a very interesting sermon and was followed by Rev. J. C. Eldridge, who also preached a soul stirring sermon, both of which was enjoyed very much by the congregation. Benediction by Rev. A. L. Pate. Noon 1 hour.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association reassembled by singing the old song, "What Shall Our Answers Be?" Prayer by Bro. W. J. Starry.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

We, your Committee, submit the following report: St. Johns Church: The messenger of death visited the homes of our beloved brother and sister. Sister Jane Bray, Age 45, and had been a member about 25 years. Brother Levi Gibson died Jan. 17th, 1934, age 85 years. We sorrow the loss of our loved ones but we trust that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Piney Grove Church: The Death Angel visited the home of cur beloved, Sister M. A. Crawford, and took her to Himself. She was 74 years of age. She was an ardent member of our church and was ever faithful to the cause. She is gone but not forgotten. She died June 10, 1934.

Beluah Church: The Lord has seen fit to take from us two of our members, Bro. Alex Brimley and Sister Janie Pettis, both of whom were ardent christians and were ever ready to do their duty in every way.

Blountstown Church: Our Heavenly Father saw fit to take our dearly beloved sister, Mrs. T. J. McKeowen, to Himself in July, 1934, age 72 years. She leaves seven children and a number of friends to mourn her going. Sister McKeowen was devoted to her church and always willing to lend a helping hand to the cause of Our Lord. We feel that our loss is her gain.

New Concord Church: Bro. H. M. Monk, a faitful deacon, departed this life May 30, 1934. He left two children, two sisters and one brother and a host of friends. Though we feel that our loss is heaven's gain. Rev. J. A. Bullock, deceased; he was a faithful member. We trust our loss is heaven's gain.

H. L. ELMORE, Chairman.

CORRESPONDENTS TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS

Salem-J. A. Yager, Ch. H. Matthews, G. W. Owens, and J. A. Johnson.

Union Hill—A. L. Pate, W. C. Pettis and J. H. Mears.

State Line—J. W. Nelson, R. W. Walsingham and B. H. Champion

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Total \$30.96

Sister R. J. Pendarvis, Chairman.

Collection for Rev. W. M. Duncan, \$6.26. It was moved and carried to pay Clerk \$7.50. It was moved and carried to have 300 Minutes printed.

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Bro. G. W. Owens and Bro. F. M. Knight was appointed as delegates to represent the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association in the General Conference to convene with Black Jack Church in North Carolina, on Tuesday evening following the second Sunday in June, 1935.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the delegates and messengers that compose the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association do sincerely thank the good people of Beulah Church and surrounding community for their bountiful spread and their goodness to us while with them. We pray that God will continue to bless and keep them.

Moved and carried to adjourn.

Song, "God Be With You." Benediction by Rev. W. M. Duncan.

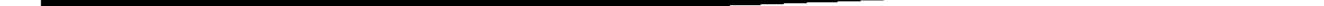
ORDER OF BUSINESS

Introductory Sermon.

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

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. Pate	Bonifay, Florida
A. B. Nelson	Bonifay, Florida
J. H. Chestnut	Bonifay, Florida
S. E. Carroll	Hartford, Alabama
J. C. Carnley	Caryville, Florida
W. M. Duncan	Blountstown, Florida
J. I. Chason	Crescent City, Florida
W. M. Martin	Bonifay, Florida
W. C. Burton	Crescent City, Florida
J. A. Yager	Chipley, Florida
C. H. Matthews	Chipley, Florida



Statistical Table

CHURCHES AND PASTORS

Session

Annual

Forty-Sixth

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Piney Grove, J. C. Eldridge......T. D. Owens, ChipleBlountstown, Gordon Shutes.....Inez Knight, BlountBeulah, A. L. Pate......W. C. Pettis, GraceNew Harmony, H. C. Matthews.J. S. Hughes, ChiplePleasant Hill, A. L. Pate......W. G. Lawrence, BornePoplar Head, A. B. Nelson......A. F. Squires, BorneSt. Johns, Floyd Cherry......N. E. Chestnut, BorneSpring Hill, J. C. Eldridge......J. L. Smith, BonifayLiberty, H. C. Matthews.....J. C. Fowler, DothatNew Hope, W. C. Burton......J. Foster, Vernon,St. Paul, J. C. Eldridge......L. Gainey, Verno

CLERK	Baptism	By Letter	Restored	Con. of Faith	Total Received		Expelled	Died	Membership	-	AYS OF EETING
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CHURCH DECORUM

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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 as 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 males members, well acquainted mith 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 momber 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 unreproachable 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 acknowledgement shall he 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.

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 28:1-17.

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 qual retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—Rev.22:12; St. John 14:2-3.

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 d legates shall be enrolled by the Clerk as they are seated in the body. And the roll shall be called each

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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.

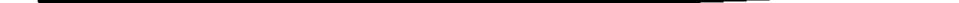
Article 10. That no church shall be considered in this body that retains a minister or deacon that has more than one living wife or drinks intoxiating beverages.

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 ptrson 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 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 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.



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Article 15. That no church shall retain a minister or deacon who does not rult 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 churchts 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 churchts who fail to meet at the appointed hour shall be due acknowledgements to congregation or church.

Article 18. No preacher shall preach in our churches that cannot bring a clear record from his home church.

Article 19. No preacher shall pastor a church unlses he on his first trip produce his credentials.

