

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
WESTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST
YEARLY MEETING

CONVENED WITH

Atoah Church

Graham County, N. C., August 22, 1924.

The next Yearly Meeting will be held with the Saw Mill Hill church, in Swain county, N. C., beginning on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August 1925, at 9 o'clock. Rev. J. H. Cochran will preach the introductory sermon, Rev. C. G. Bridges, alternate.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.
1925.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Western Free Will Baptist Yearly Meeting met in its Twentieth Annual Session with the Atoah Church, August 22, 1924, in Graham county, N. C., with the old Moderator in the chair. "Song, I'm going Home." Prayer by Rev. U. B. Brendle. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. C. G. Bridges Text: St. John 4:29.

The house was called to order by the old clerk.

On motion by W. E. Barker a committee be appointed to examine the credentials of the membership of this Yearly Meeting. The motion was sustained and the following brethren were appointed: Bros. N. V. DeHart, P. H. Creesman, and J. A. Cook.

The Credentials committee were called on to report. They report as follows. We find the delegates complete for the transaction of the business of this Yearly Meeting.

N. V. DeHART,
P. H. CREESMAN,
J. A. COOK,

Committee.

The enrollment of membership of this Yearly Meeting called for, and the following were enrolled:

Saw Mill Hill Church.—Bros. E. L. Green, N. V. DeHart, and Sister Mattie Green.

Mount Vernon.—Bros. W. E. Barker, Man Bowers, Walter Woodard, Sister Nancy J. Barker, and Revs. U. B. Brendle, C. G. Bridges, J. H. Cochran.

Atoah.—Bros. J. W. Eller, Mike Campbell, Sister Kansas Eller, Olivia Campbell, Lou Eller and Bro. J. A. Cook.

Pleasant Grove.—Bros. P. H. Creesman, G. D. Creesman, Sister Effie Whitaker, and Rev. W. H. Eller.

On motion by W. E. Barker, this Yearly Meeting go into a permanent organization. Motion carried. Then the body went into an election for moderator. They elected Rev. J. H. Cochran. Then on motion elected W. E. Barker, Clerk by acclamation. Then on motion the chairman appoint all the various committees. The motion was sustained.

Then a committee on devotional exercises was appointed as follows: Rev. W. H. Eller, Bro. N. V. DeHart and P. H. Creesman.

On motion the meeting adjourn till 1:30 P. M. Dismissed by prayer.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Song, "Bringing them Home." Then the moderator read the 5th chapter of Job. Prayer was offered by Bro. P. H. Creesman. The house was called to order by the clerk. Then the committee on Devotional Exercises called to report, and reported as follows: Rev. E. L. Green will address the people from the stand at 3 o'clock Friday evening; Rev. U. B. Brenble at 11 o'clock Saturday morning; Rev.

C. G. Bridges at 3 o'clock Saturday evening; and Rev. J. H. Cochran at 11 o'clock Sunday morning.

On motion visiting brethren were invited to seats. None came forward. Then a committee was appointed on Sabbath Schools, towit: Bros. N. V. DeHart, P. H. Creesman and Rev. E. L. Green.

Temperance Committee appointed: Revs. W. H. Eller, C. G. Bridges, and Bro. G. D. Creesman. Then a committee on Periodicals, towit: Revs. W. H. Eller, E. L. Green and Bro. J. A. Cook.

Committee on Mission Work.—Bros. J. A. Cook, Walter Woodard, Mike Campbell.

Committee on Resolutions.—W. E. Barker, Man Bowers, and Rev. U. B. Brendle.

Then a committee on Ministerial Character was appointed as follows: Bro. P. H. Creesman, J. W. Eller, and Sister Lou Eller.

Committee on Education.—Bro. Mike Campbell, Rev. U. B. Brendle and Sister Kansas Eller.

Committee on Obituaries and Changes.—Rev. W. H. Eller, Sister Mattie Green, Nancy J. Barker.

The committee that was appointed at the last Yearly Meeting to see Rev. J. D. Eller concerning his ministerial work, were called upon to report. Then Rev. J. D. Eller came forward and made his own statement and gave up his credentials to the body of this Yearly Meeting. On motion, the Yearly Meeting receive his credentials.

On motion the meeting adjourn to 9 o'clock Saturday morning. Dismissed by prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Song, "O Home so Bright." The Moderator read the 37th Psalm. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. H. Eller.

The house was called to order by the clerk. Then the committee on Time and Place were appointed, towit: Bros. P. H. Creesman, N. V. DeHart, and Walter Woodard.

On motion, Rev. W. H. Eller was elected Reading Clerk.

The committee on Sabbath Schools was called upon to report. After discussion by Rev. W. H. Eller and Rev. U. B. Brendle the report was adopted.

Sabbath School Report.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report as follows: We see the need of more Sabbath School work among our Christian brethren. We earnestly ask the hearty co-operation of fathers and mothers and children in this great work.

N. V. DeHART,
P. H. CREESMAN,
E. L. GREEN,

Committee.

The committee on Temperance was called upon to report. After dis-

cussion by Rev. U. B. Brendle and Rev. W. H. Eller, the report was adopted.

Temperance Report.

We, your committee on Temperance report as follows: We as Christian people believe in temperance in all things. We should be temperate in our conversation. In intoxicating liquors especially. We pledge ourselves as citizens and Christians to assist the courts and officers in prosecuting all whiskey cases in order to save our young men from the habit of drink and to have sober men to build homes for our girls that we may have happy homes and families.

REV. W. H. ELLER,
REV. C. G. BRDGES,
G. D. CREESMAN.

Committee.

The committee on Periodicals was called upon to report. On motion the report was received. After discussion by Rev. U. B. Brendle, Rev. W. H. Eller, Rev. J. H. Cochran, the report was adopted.

Report on Periodicals.

We, your committee on Periodicals beg leave to report as follows:

We first advise the reading of the Bible by old and young, which is the best of all books.

2. We advise our people to take and read the Free Will Baptist paper price of the paper is \$1.50 per year.

REV. W. H. ELLER,
J. A. COOK,
E. L. GREEN,

Committee.

The committee on Resolutions was called upon to report. On motion the report was received. After the discussion by Rev. U. B. Brendle, Rev. W. H. Eller, Rev. J. H. Cochran, Bro. P. H. Creesman, the report was adopted.

Report of Resolutions Committee.

We, your committee on Resolutions beg leave to report as follows:

Be it Resolved, That our churches engage ministers who are faithful in the cause of Christianity, and who will impress upon their churches the great love of God, and also the sincere love we owe to each other, taking the oversight of the body, to co-operate in the spirit of love and to take care of each others reputation in love, and that we co-operate with each other, and that we co-operate together in an effort to win the lost world to Christ.

REV. U. B. BRENDLE,
W. E. BARKER,
MAN BOWERS,

Committee.

The committee on Education was called upon to report. On motion the

report was received. After discussion by Rev. U. B. Brendle, Rev. W. H. Eller the report was adopted.

Report of Committee on Education.

We, your committee on Education beg leave to report as follows:

We believe all people should have a good education in these last days, which is required to be able to meet the present business world, and we especially advise a thorough Bible education. We also advise that all parents take advantage of our present School system in having their children educated.

REV. U. B. BRENDLE,
MIKE CAMPBELL,
KANSAS ELLER,
Committee.

On motion the meeting adjourn to 1.30 P. M. Dismissed by prayer.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Song by the choir, "Only Trust Him." The moderator read the 59th chapter of Isaiah. Prayer was offered by E. L. Green. The house was called to order by the clerk.

The committee on Mission work was called upon to report. On motion the report was read and received. After discussion by Rev. W. H. Eller, Rev. U. B. Brendle, the report was adopted.

Report of Mission Committee.

We, your committee on Mission work report as follows: We recommend a Home Mission work. We can look at our homes and find people who know nothing about God, and we can find widows and orphans who need help at all times in our own home country. We believe in Foreign Missions so far that if our churches have a man or lady who wishes to go to the Foreign fields, let them send them and support them.

J. A. COOK,
WALTER WOODARD,
MIKE CAMPBELL,
Committee.

The committee on Ministerial Character was called upon to report. On motion the report was read and received. There was no discussion and it was adopted.

Report of Committee on Ministerial Character.

We, your committee on Ministerial Character report as follows:

We find all the ministers in the bounds of the Yearly Meeting in good standing. Names are as follows: Revs. C. G. Bridges, J. H. Cochran, W. H. Eller, U. B. Brendle, B. R. Sherrill.

J. W. ELLER,
P. H. CREESMAN,
S. L. ELLER,
Committee.

The committee on Obituaries and Changes called to report. On motion the report was read, received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Obituaries and Changes.

COOK.—Sister Martha Cook departed this life February 16, 1924, leaving a husband, four children and a loving mother to mourn their loss. The church at Atoah has lost a faithful member, but we humbly submit to the will of the Almighty God knowing that he doeth all things well. She had been a member of the church for ten years, but we believe while we miss her so much in our circle that she is singing with the angels.

KELL.—Sister Asalea Kell, a member of Pleasant Grove church departed this life March 12, 1924, at the age of 24 years. She leaves a husband and four little children and a mother and two brothers to mourn their loss. She was a member of the Pleasant Grove church, and in her passing the husband loses a good companion, the children a good mother, and the church a good and efficient member, but we trust that our loss is her great gain. We believe that today she is with the angels and from this we take our consolation.

COCHRAN.—Sister Mary M. Cochran of Mount Vernon church passed away April 23, 1924, leaving a husband and seven children to mourn their loss. She has been a member of the church for about thirty years. In her passing the home has lost a loving mother and the church a good and faithful member and we submit her to the alwise Creator, as he doeth all things well, and as to her we believe that she is with the angels at the right hand of God.

CHASTAIN.—Bro. D. W. Chastain passed away during the month of June, 1924. He had been a member of the church for about 40 years. In his passing, He leaves children and other relations and a host of friends to mourn his loss. He was strong in the faith of his God and his church and we are satisfied that the brother has his reward at the right hand of God.

REV. W. H. ELLER,
NANCY J. BARKER,
MATTIE GREEN,

Committee.

Then a collection was taken for the clerk. Amount of the collection \$6.65.

On motion the meeting adjourned for time and place specified.

REV. J. H. COCHRAN, Moderator.

W. E. BARKER, Y. M. Clerk.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

MOUNT VERNON.—Membership 91, died 2, received 3, ordained ministers 3, valuation of church property \$700.00. The church is in good standing with a good Sunday school.

REV. J. H. COCHRAN, Pastor.

SISTER ELMRA GREEN, C. C.

SAW MILL HILL.—Memebrship 33, received by letters six members,

Licentiates 1, valuation of church property \$500.00. The church is in good standing with a good Sabbath school every Sunday.

REV. J. H. COCHRAN, Pastor.

N. V. DeHART, C. C.

ATOAH.—Membership 51, dismissed 1, ordained ministers 1, valuation of church property \$500.00. The church is not prospering as we would like to see it. We have a good Sabbath school with good attendance every Sunday, and a good singing class.

REV. W. H. ELLER, Pastor.

J. W. ELLER, C. C.

PLEASANT GROVE.—Members 31, dismissed 1, died 2, ordained ministers 1, received 8. The church is in good working condition with a good Sabbath school every Sunday. Valuation of church property \$800.00. Donated to pastor \$19.00.

REV. W. H. ELLER, Pastor.

BERTHA NICHOLS, C. C.

A CARD OF THANKS.

We, the ministers and delegates of this Yearly Meeting, wish to extend our heart-felt thanks to the Atoah church and its surrounding community for their homes made so welcome to us and the cautious care they have taken of this Yearly Meeting during this session.

MINISTERS NAMES AND POSTOFFICE ADDRESSES.

Rev. J. H. Cochran	Alarka, N. C.
Rev. C. G. Bridges	Alarka, N. C.
Rev. W. H. Eller	Robinsville, N. C.
Rev. B. R. Sherrell	Ela, N. C.
Rev. U. B. Brendle	Royalton, Ill.
Rev. E. L. Green	Almond, N. C.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the Universe and in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet, one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are to supremely love, adore, and obey.

3. **CHRIST.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in his human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man; once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is an ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to the years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are: First, Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. Second, Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. Third, Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence, by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit or to resist them and perish.

11. **SALVATION FREE.** God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

12. **PERSEVERANCE.** All believers in Christ, who, through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life have promise of eternal salvation.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities and for personal communion with God.

15. **RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done ill unto the re-

surrection of judgment; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.—John 5:29, revised version; Matt. 25:46.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having given ourselves to the Lord, through Jesus Christ, we agree to adopt the Free Will Baptist faith, we now give ourselves to each other by the help of God.

2. We solemnly covenant before God that we will carefully observe the commandments implied in a profession of faith, and in the spirit of meekness rebuke and admonish those who have gone astray, and watch over each other, being careful of each other's reputation, and use our influence to the upbuilding of the church and for the advancement of the cause of Christ, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, and to confess our faults one to another and to strengthen those that are weak.

3. We promise, by the help of God, that we will faithfully practice family and secret prayer and strive to cultivate the doctrine of God's revealed word in the minds of those under our care.

4. We also agree to use our influence for the support of the gospel, and to contribute liberally to aid the ministry, according to our several abilities. Also we agree to be liberal with those that are afflicted and needy, and especially those of our own denomination.

5. We also agree to attend the monthly meetings regularly if not providentially hindered, and submit to all ordinances implied in a profession of faith.

6. We also agree to abstain from all sinful and vain amusements.

7. We also agree to abstain from all intoxicating liquors, and not to use it as a beverage, or to aid or assist in the manufacture of such, nor to furnish it to others.

8. We also agree to encourage home and foreign missions.

BY-LAWS.

1. Each session of this Conference shall be called to order by the standing clerk, and in his absence by the member having seniority of years.

2. Each session and adjourned sitting shall be opened and closed by prayer.

3. Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but any less number may adjourn from time to time.

4. After the opening of each session of the Yearly Meeting, the old Moderator takes the chair; if he is not present a chairman is appointed. A committee of not less than three persons shall be chosen to examine credentials of membership in this Yearly Meeting. After the report of this committee and enrollment of members present, the Yearly Meeting shall proceed to elect a moderator, and to the transaction of other business.

5. At each session the Yearly Meeting shall appoint such standing committees as shall be for the good of our denomination, on subjects as the

following: Printing Establishments, Education, Sabbath Schools, Temperance, Ministry, Missions, etc. All business shall be reported to the appropriate committee. Special committees may be appointed at the pleasure of the Yearly Meeting.

6. This Yearly Meeting may hold correspondence with other Yearly Meetings or religious bodies as it may deem advisable.

7. This Yearly Meeting may sit with open doors, except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this Yearly Meeting may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the body.

9. Any Christian in good standing in their own church, in other denominations, may be invited to seats.

10. It shall be the duty of the standing clerk to furnish the minutes of the previous session of the Yearly Meeting, and a full record in the year book.

11. The Yearly Meeting shall determine the time of the opening and closing of its daily sessions.

12. It shall be the duty of each member to be present at the time of the opening and closing of each session; unless released by the Yearly Meeting.

13. No member shall retire from the session to go out, without leave of the Moderator.

14. Every member wishing to speak in the session shall first obtain leave of the moderator, and address the moderator.

15. No person shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes at any one time, nor more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the Yearly Meeting.

