

Minutes
of
The Western Free Will
Baptist Associations
60th Annual Session
August 19-20, 1966

Articles of Faith

Church Covenant

By-Laws

MINUTES
of
THE WESTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS
60th ANNUAL SESSION
August 19 - 20, 1966
ARTICLES OF FAITH
CHURCH COVENANT
BY-LAWS
SESSIONS:

Next Sessions will be held with the Saw Mill Hill Church at Lauada, N. C., on Friday and Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in August, 1967.

Annual Sermon: Rev. Leonard Mayfield

Alternate: Rev. Leonard Lindsey

In the event the Saw Mill Hill Church cannot have the sessions it will convene with the Mt. Vernon Church at Alarka, N. C.

MINUTES

of

THE WESTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
CONVENED WITH THE CONLEYS CREEK CHURCH,

WHITTIER, N. C. AUGUST 19 - 20, 1966

Met at 10:00 A. M.

OFFICERS:

Moderator: Rev. Clyde Nations, Jr.

Assistant Moderator: Rev. Lelon Greene

Clerk: Mrs. Faye Nations

DEVOTIONAL: Rev. Joe Greene

SONG: "When We All Get To Heaven"

The 60th Annual Session was announced in order by
Moderator.

Delegates from each church were seated.

COMMITTEES:

The following committees were appointed:

ARRANGEMENTS:

Chairman: Bro. Robert Freeman

Members: Bro. Robert O'Dear, Rev. Leonard Lindsey
Bro. Thurman Greene, Bro. Fred Winchester

Report:

Friday Morning:

Rev. Lelon Greene

Friday Evening:

Rev. Leonard Lindsey

Saturday Morning:

Rev. Clyde Nations, Sr.

Saturday Evening:

Rev. Leonard Mayfield

SABBATH SCHOOLS:

Chairman: Sis. Emma Burnett

Members: Sis. Lorene Wise, Sis. Beulah Lindsey, Sis.
Ethel Messer, Sis. Lexie Winchester.

Report:

We your committee on Sabbath School, recommend that the teachers and deacons examine the literature to be sure it is based on the King James Version of the Bible and that we make sure our teachers and leaders are dedicated Christians. We recommend that all the churches use cards for the small children, and that parents take their children to church, not just send them. The Bible says to train up a child in the way he should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it. They should also encourage children to remain after Sunday School for preaching services.

MISSIONS

CHAIRMAN: Rev. Joe Greene

MEMBERS: Sis. Pauline Adams, Sis. Peggy Lindsey, Bro. Lelon Greene, Sis. Dessie Parton.

REPORT: We your committee on Missions do strongly recommend that our churches contribute to both home and foreign Missions, of our denomination, in accordance with the scripture: Mark 16:15. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. This committee recommends that each church set aside a certain amount for Missions or for the missionaries of its choice.

TEMPERANCE

CHAIRMAN: Bro. Fred Winchester

MEMBERS: Rev. Jimmy Vaughn, Rev. Leonard Mayfield. Bro. Albert Parrish, Rev. Leonard Lindsey.

REPORT: We believe that Godly Council and an altar in the home is the foundation of Gods eternal church. We believe that our association should take active part to condemn alcohol beverage in any form. We believe in abstaining from all worldly amusements. We believe Gods Commandments should be prayerfully read and taught in the home and the church, and made a part of our lives

RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN: Bro. Robert O'Dear

MEMBERS: Sis. Shirley Lindsey, Sis. Glynda Jones, Sis. Thelma DeHart, Rev. Paul Mayfield.

REPORT: We resolve to be better, and stronger Christians. We urge our preachers, members, and Deacons to live the kind of lives through the week that the people may see what Jesus means to them and could mean to others. We should visit the sick, help the needy, and never forsake Christian fellowship. Each and everyone should do these things instead of saying it and not doing it.

House was adjourned until Evening Session.

SERMON: Rev. Lelon Greene

SONG: "Jesus Spoke To Me"

SCRIPTURE: Several portions on worldly love.

Friday Evening session opened as house was announced in order by Moderator.

TIME: 1:00 P. M.,

SONG: "Hold To Gods Unchanging Hand"

Reports were read and adopted.

Brother Stevens (Missionary from Africa) was our guest speaker. He spoke on Missions. Bro. Stevens gave a good talk on his work in Africa, where he spent 17 years, as Missionary to the people. His wife was the first Free Will Baptist Missionary to enter Zululand.

Many delegates discussed Temperance and its meaning. House was adjourned until Saturday morning 10:00 A.M.

SONG: "He's Coming Again"

SERMON: Rev. Leonard Lindsey

SCRIPTURE: The 24th chapter of Matthew, 12th verse.

Sermon was enjoyed by all, congregation had old fashioned handshake.

Saturday Morning Service; Met 10:00 A. M.

SONG: "Well Done My Child"

DEVOTIONAL: Bro. German Vogel, 1st chapter Acts. Verses 7 and 8.

House was announced in order by Moderator.

Church letters were adopted.

CHURCH LETTERS

CONLEY'S CREEK FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Whittier, North Carolina

To the Western Annual Association, which meets here at Conley's Creek. We send as delegates, Bro. Asbury Herron, Sis. Arzelia O'Dear, Bro. Albert Parrish, Sis. Della Parrish, Sis. Cora Herron, Bro. Robert O'Dear, Sis. Edna O'Dear, Bro. Collins Greene, Sis. Anne Greene.

PASTOR: Rev. Lelon Greene

SUPERINTENDENT: Bro. Robert O'Dear

Clerk and Secretary: Sis Ethel Messer

NUMBER OF CLASSES: 3

NO. OF DEACONS: 6

REVIVALS: 1

INCREASE: 2

DISMISSED: 3

MEMBERSHIP: 51

FINANCIAL TABLE

Pastor's Pay	\$101.35
Fieldworker's Pay	32.88
Paint and Repairs	40.67
Flowers	20.00
Sick and Needy	17.23
Light Bills	21.60
Literature	9.42
Revivals	21.78
Minutes	15.00
Other Church Expenses	29.33
TOTAL	\$309.26

Signed, Ethel Messer, Clerk

MOUNT VERNON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Alarka, North Carolina

To the Western Free Will Baptist Association, which will convene with the Conleys Creek Church, Friday, August 19, 1966. We send as delegates: Sis. Ann Welch, Sis. Glynda Jones, Bro. Thurman Greene, Bro. Joe Greene, Sis. Emma Burnette, Sis. Frances Vaughn, Rev. Jim Vaughn, whom we pray sit with you in Godly deliberations.

RELIGION: King James Version

PASTOR: Jim Vaughn

SUPERINTENDENT: Clyde Jones

Five

CHURCH LETTERS CONTINUED

MOUNT VERNON F. W. B. CHURCH CONT.

Dismissed:	None
Died	3
Officers:	3
Average No. Pupils:	90
Teachers:	5
Sunday School:	Fair
Membership:	178
Baptised:	6
Literature:	Free Will Baptist
Ministers belonging to our church:	
Rev. Lelon Greene	Rev. Claude Bridges
Rev. Joe Greene	Rev. Albert Herron
Rev. Jay Burnette,	All of Bryson City, N. C.
Rev. Jim Vaughn,	Robbinsville, N. C.; Rev. John Hicks,
New York, N. Y.	

FINANCIAL TABLE

Pastor	\$960.10
Needy Families	120.63
Funeral Flowers	33.98
Fieldworker	35.00
Miscellaneous Items	303.25
Janitor	60.00
Literature	58.34
Work on Church	1,524.70
TOTALS	\$3,096.00
Church Valuation	\$7,000.00

Done in order of Mt. Vernon Church, Alarka, Route 2.

Rev. Jim Vaughn, Moderator

Sis. Glynda Mae Jones, Clerk

BEAVER CREEK CHURCH,

Andrews, North Carolina

To the Weestern Association of Free Will Baptist, which convenes with the Conleys Creek Church, Whittier, N. C., we send as delegates: Bro. Robert Freeman, Sis. Ona Freeman, Sis. Lorene Wise, Sis. Jessie Barnard, Sis. Fannie Hardin, and Bro. Willard Hardin.

CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Pastor: Rev. Leonard Mayfield, Hayesville, N. C.

Clerk: Sis. Pauline W. Adams, Andrews, N. C.

Membership: 81

Superintendent: Charles Gibson, Jr.

Assistant Supt.: Willard Hardin

Secretary & Treasurer: Lorene Wise

Pianist: Lois Ann Hardin

No. of Classes: 5

Average Attendance: 55

CHURCH LETTERS CONTINUED
BEAVER CREEK CHURCH LETTERS CONT.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Church and Sunday School Expenses	\$688.02
Charity	316.30
Flowers	40.00
Visiting Preachers	208.12
Pastor's Salary	453.56
Benches Bought	600.00
TOTAL	\$2,301.00
Church Valuation	\$6,600.00

Ordained Ministers holding membership with us:
 Rev. Leonard Mayfield, Hayesville, N. C. and Rev. Paul
 Mayfield, Sylva, N. C.

Pauline W. Adams, Clerk

SAW MILL HILL CHURCH LETTER,
Lauada, Route 3

To the Western Associations Yearly Meeting, which
 will convene with the Conley's Creek Church this Friday.
 August 19, and 20th, 1966. We send as delegates to sit
 with you in conference, Bro. Fred Winchester, Sis. Jean
 Winchester, Bro. Troy Whitesides, Sis. Edna Whitesides,
 Bro. Arvil DeHart, Sis. Thelma DeHart, Sis. Mary DeHart,
 Sis. Nellie Lowe, Sis. Dessie Parton, Sis. Ethel Hall, Sis
 Ellen Winchester, Sis. Betty Winchester, Sis. Carolyn
 Winchester, Sis. Lexie Winchester. Pastor: Rev. Clyde
 Nations, Jr.

Pastor: Clyde Nations, Jr., Route 3, Box 64, Bryson City,
 North Carolina.

Clerk: Edna Whitesides, Rt. 3, Bryson City, N. C.

Number of Members: 57

No. Revivals: 1

No. Deaths: 1

Ministers holding membership in our church: Rev. Clyde
 Nations, Jr., Rev. E. L. Greene, both of Bryson City, N. C.
 Preaching services each Sunday and Sunday Night. Choir
 Practice on Wednesday night.

SUPERINTENDENT: Arvil DeHart

SECRETARY: Ethel Hall

No. Teachers and Officers: 8

No. Classes: 5

Average Attendance: 50

Sunday School: Good

CHURCH LETTERS CONTINUED
SAW MILL HILL CHURCH LETTER CONT.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Pastor's Salary	\$1,258.67
Visiting Evangelist	111.00
Choir Director:	320.00
Sick	50.00
Flowers	40.00
Visiting Missionaries	25.00
Field Worker	22.00
Tiled Floors	125.40
Bought Tile for Ceiling	102.00
Christmas Decoration	9.75
Tuning of Piano	10.00
Minutes	20.00
Choir and Hymnal Books	81.77
Fuel	53.48
Light Bill	22.00
TOTAL	\$2,251.07
Church Valuation	\$7,500.00

Done in order of Saw Mill Hill Church, August 7, 1966.

Clyde Nations, Jr., Moderator; Edna Whitesides, Clerk
CONNELLY SPRINGS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
 Connelly Springs, N. C.

To the Western Association of F. W. B., which convene swith the Conleys Creek Church this August 19-20, 1966. We send as delegates to be seated with you in conference: Sis. Ethel Berry, Sis. Beulah Lindsey, Sis. Shirley Lindsey, Sis. Peggy Lindsey, Bro. Henry Lindsey, Rev. Leonard Lindsey, Sis. Pearlene Seay, Bro. Leroy Seay, Bro. Junior Berry.

PASTOR: Rev. Leonard Lindsey, Box 385,
 Connelly Springs, N. C.

CLERK: Bro. Lon Ledford, Valdese, N. C.

Active Church Members 64

Increase During Year 8

Decrease by Death 1

Ministers belonging to church: Rev. Leonard Lindsey, Connelly Springs; Rev. Lon Ledford, Valdese, N. C.; Rev. Ralph Keaton, Hickory, N. C.

CHURCH LETTERS CONTINUED

CONNELLY SPRINGS CHURCH LETTER CONT.

Superintendent: Howard Honeycutt

Treasurer: Leroy Seay

Choir Director: Junior Maney

Pianist: Sylvia Wilson and Faye Elkins

No. of Classes: 4.

No. of Teachers and Officers: 6

Preaching Services Sunday morning and Sunday night,
Wednesday and Saturday night. Choir practice, Friday
night.

Sunday School: Good

FINANCIAL REPORT

Pastor's Salary	\$900.00
Visiting Evangelist	100.00
Flowers	75.00
Building Repairs	125.00
Church Expenses	400.00
Missionaries	175.00
Heating	50.00
TOTAL	\$1,825.00
Church Valuation	\$7,000.00
Done in order of Connelly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, August 19, 1966.	

Moderator: Rev. Leonard Lindsey

Clerk: Lon Ledford

Saturday Morning Session Continued

Committees were appointed as follows:

ORPHANAGE:

Chairman: Sis. Carolyn Winchester

Members: Sis. Pearlene Seay, Sis. Pauline Adams, Sis. Glenda Jones, Sis. Ethel Messer.

REPORTS: We your committee on orphanage, urge our Churches to help support the orphans in our communities and to help our church supported Childrens Homes. Also to give love and affection to all children who have lost one or both of their parents.

SESSIONS:

Chairman: Bro. Joe Greene

Members: Sis. Pauline Adams, Sis. Mary DeHart, Rev. Lelon Greene, Bro. Leroy Seay.

REPORT: The next session will be held with the Saw Mill Hill Church at Lauada, on Friday and Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in August, 1967.

Annual sermon by Reev. Leonard Mayfield. Alternate Rev. Leonard Lindsey. In the event the church cannot have these sessions they will convene at the Mt. Vernon Church at Alarka.

CHANGES:

Chairman: Bro. Collins Greene

Members: Bro. Thurman Greene, Bro. Junior Berry, Bro. Leonard Mayfield, Bro. Fred Winchester.

REPORT: Mr. Vernon: Put in heating system, bought new seate, put paneling in church and ceilitex overhead, tiled floors, put up new front front door, put in new pulpit, painted base boards, painted roof and woodwork.

Beaver Creek: Added new seats.

Connellys Springs: Built new outside Bathrooms.

Saw Mill Hill: Installed overhead tile and installed new light fixtures. Tiled floors.

Conleys Creek: Painted ceiling, floors, and walls of church, and installed new outlet.

MINISTERIAL CHARACTER:

Chairman: Bro. Henry Lindsey

Members: Bro. Robert O'Dear, Bro. Thurman Greene, Bro. Willard Hardin, Bro. Fred Winchester.

REPORT: We your committee on Ministerial Character, believe if a man is called of God to preach, he will and should be about our Fathers business. We also believe those desiring the office of a Bishop should qualify accordingly to first Timothy 1:7.

We recommend the following Ministers as being in good standing with our association:

Rev. Clyde Nations, Jr., Rev. Clyde Nations, Sr., Rev. Joe Greene, Rev. Lelon Greene, Rev. Leonard Mayfield.

OBITUARIES:

Chairman: Sis. Pauline Adams

Members: Bro. Joe Greene, Sis. Della Parris, Bro. Leroy Seay, Sis. Thelma DeHart.

Report: Mt. Vernon: All of us are saddened at the tragic passing of Bro. Rev. Ben Cochran, who departed from this life August 14, 1966. Most of us knew Bro. Ben and how he dedicated his life to God, and his fellowman. At one time or another during his ministry, he was pastor of all the churches in our association except Connellys Spring, our new church.

All of us know that he filled his appointments many times when he was not physically able. Bro. Ben will be long remembered with love by all of us.

Sister Lorine Smith and Bro. Jim Franklin both passed away since our last association. They were active members as long as they were able to attend

church. They will be missed in the community.

Saw Mill Hill: Norman Watkins has departed this life since our last association. Bro. Watkins attended and supported our church until he moved out of the community. He came back to the church when he was able and had the opportunity to come. He is missed very much by us at Saw Mill Hill Church.

Beaver Creek: The family of Mrs. Walter Ellis, donated to Beaver Creek church, \$85.00, to be paid on benches, as a memorial to Sister Martha Jane. We share with the family their sorrow. Her memory will live on in our hearts. She will be long remembered for her Christian character and her love for all humanity.

OBITUARIES CONT.

Beaver Creek:

Brother Aubrey Eller passed away Oct. 1965. Bro. Eller had not lived in our community for many years, but he was still a member and regarded Beaver Creek as his home church. While living here, he was an active member, and will be especially remembered for his love for music and his talent as a choir leader. His father Rev. John Eller helped to organize our church.

Another beloved member is gone from our midst. Sister Annie Hardin passed away Aug.

14, 1966. She joined the church at an early age. She has continued through the years as a faithful member. Having been an invalid for many years, she was not able to attend church. Her faith, and her cheerfulness, despite her suffering, has been an inspiration to all of us.

Connellys Springs: Rev. Charlie Whitworth has passed away, at the age of 88 years of age. He attended church regularly with us despite his age. His presence is missed from our church as he was a faithful member.

EDUCATION:

Chairman: Bro. Willard Hardin

Members: Bro. Thurman Greene, Bro. Albert Parris, Sis. Ethel Berry, Sis. Jean Winchester.

Report: We your committee on parents should teach Bible to education recommend that both their children at home. We urge young and old alike obtain the every possible means of keeping best education possible. We feel unsound literature from that everyone who can, should our children. attend our Free Will Baptist House was dismissed until Evening College. We further feel that session.

Sermon: Rev. Clyde Nations, Sr.

Song: "Amazing Grace"

Scripture: 1st Corinthians, 13th Chapter, 1-5

Saturday Evening Session met at 1:00 P. M.

House was announced in order by moderator, for final session. All reports were read and adopted.

Ministers reports were adopted. Report from Rev. Clyde Nations, Jr. Pastor Saw Mill Hill Church. Beginning Aug. 15, 1965 to Aug. 19, 1966.

I have attended all the regular services of my church, except for 4 or 5 absences resulting from illnesses and deaths in family. Have pastored Saw Mill Hill F.W.B. Church for 6 years. I have visited the sick in homes and hospitals, of our area. Have attended and helped in several funerals. I have performed 3 marriages this year. I have visited the Atowa church in Robbinsville, hoping to get them back into the association. Welcomed our fieldworker for 2 services in our church. Total offering from my church. 1,258.67. Other offerings not totaled.

Rev. Clyde Nations, Jr.
Route 3, Box 79
Bryson City, N. C.

Report from Rev. Lelon Greene, Pastor of Conleys Creek Church. I have pastored Conleys Creek church for one year. Have performed 3 weddings and helped in 2 funerals.

Collections received \$101.35. The Lord has wonderfully blessed me this past year. Offering for Lords work. Unknown.

✓ Rev. Lelon Greene
Route 2,
Bryson City, N. C.

Report from Rev. William Leonard Lindsey, Pastor of Connelly Springs, F.W.B. church. I was licensed to preach on Oct. 10th, 1965 Elected Fieldworker in Western Association on 3rd Saturday night in Oct. 1965. Number of visits made as fieldworker — 10.

Offering Received as Fieldworker — \$125.00
No. of Revivals helped in — 1
No. of confessions — 19 Baptized — 4 Received \$15.00
Visited many homes. Attended regular services in home church.

Rev. William Leonard Lindsey
P. O. Box 385
Connelly Springs, N. C.

Report of Rev. Leonard Mayfield, pastor Andrews Beaver Creek Church. I have preached 49 sermons. Visited 68 homes. Attended 75 meetings. Traveled 4,175 miles in services. Helped in 2 funerals.

✓ Rev. Leonard Mayfield
Route 1,
Hayesville, N. C.

Saturday Evening Sessions continued:

Nominations and votings were as follows:

Field Worker for coming year:

✓ Rev. Joe Greene. 100% Votes
Rt. 2

Bryson City, N. C.

Ordaining Council: Bro. LeRoy Seay, Bro. Robert O'Dear, Rev. Leonard Mayfield, Rev. Lelon Greene, Rev. Clyde Nations, Jr. These men will represent our association and as a team ordain Deacons and ministers when needed. 100% Votes

Clerk for coming year:
100% Votes

Mrs. Clyde Nations, Jr.

Rt. 3, Box 79

Bryson City, N. C.

Assistant Clerk:
100 % Votes

Bro. Robert O'Dear

Whittier, N. C.

Moderator:

Rev. Clyde Nations, Jr.

Rt. 3, Box 79

✓ Bryson City, N. C.

Assistant Moderator:

Rev. Lelon Greene

Route 2,

✓ Bryson City, N. C.

Final business for the Saturday evening sessions was to ordain Bro. Leonard Lindsey as Minister.

Questions and pledges were brought before him, by the Moderator. Members of Ordaining council were permitted to question him as to his ministry. His answers were acceptable and Rev. Leonard Mayfield brought the charge to ministers. I'm sure all the association enjoyed this message.

After the sermon was the prayer by Deacons and ministers of the association.

Song: By the Good Will Quartet
"I Love To Walk With Jesus."
Handshake with minister and his wife.

Association was dismissed until Friday and Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in August, 1967.

Song: "His Love and Glory"

Prayer: Rev. Clyde Nations, Jr.

Clyde Nations, Jr. Moderator

Faye Nations, Clerk

A note to the church at Conleys Creek.

I'm sure I can speak for the entire Association when I say we sincerely enjoyed the fellowship with you and pray we will see each and everyone of you again next year at Saw Mill Hill church. God bless you is our prayer.

Faye Nations,

Your Association clerk.

P. S. Do your best to encourage your members of the importance of their being at our association both days, if possible.

Thank you

To the Association as a whole:

Please do your best to take care of your minutes until we meet on Association date. I also would like you to start planning for this date now, plan to be there both days if possible. Put this date on the top of your list of important things you plan to do. Lets work together to make our association a great success this year. God will richly bless you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Faye Nations, Clerk

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE 1:

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

ARTICLE 2:

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

ARTICLE 3:

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 our ever present Saviour and Lord.

ARTICLE 4:

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

ARTICLE 5:

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

ARTICLE 6:

THE SINFULNESS OF MAN: Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inheriting a fallen nature of such

tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.

ARTICLE 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 all salvation by faith.

ARTICLE 8:

THE TERMS OF SALVATION: The conditions of salvation are repentance or sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. Faith of the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with the 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 domination of sin, and becomes a child of God in the continuance of faith and obedience until death.

ARTICLE 9:

ELECTION: God determined, and from the beginning, to save all who comply with the conditions of salvation, hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

ARTICLE 10:

FREEDOM OF THE WILL: The Human will is free and self-controlled, having to yield to the influence of the truth and Spirit or to resist them and perish.

ARTICLE 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH continued at the bottom of page 17.

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.

To solemnly covenant before God that we will carefully observe the commandments implied in a profession of faith, and in a spirit of meekness, rebuke and admonish those who have gone astray. 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 seek 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.

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.

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 faith.

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

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

We agree to encourage home and foreign missions.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE 12:

PERSEVERANCE: All believers in Christ who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life have the promise of salvation.

ARTICLE 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.

ARTICLE 14:

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH:

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

ARTICLE 15:

RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION : The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done evil unto the resurrection of judgment; these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

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 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 the credentials for 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 such 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. The Yearly Meeting may hold correspondence with other Yearly meetings or religious bodies as it may seem advisable.

7. This Yearly Meeting may sit with open doors except when it shall go into 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.

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 the 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 time nor more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Yearly Meeting.

16. No debate shall be allowed on any motion except the same be submitted in writing and seconded by a member of the Yearly Meeting.

17. No whispering can be allowed while in session without leave of the Moderator. All must give heed to business.

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

19. A majority of the members in session shall be the power of rule. A respectable majority may take an appeal to the General Conference.

20. This Constitution and By-Laws may be altered or amended at any Yearly Session, provided such alteration or amendment shall have been proposed at the previous session.

