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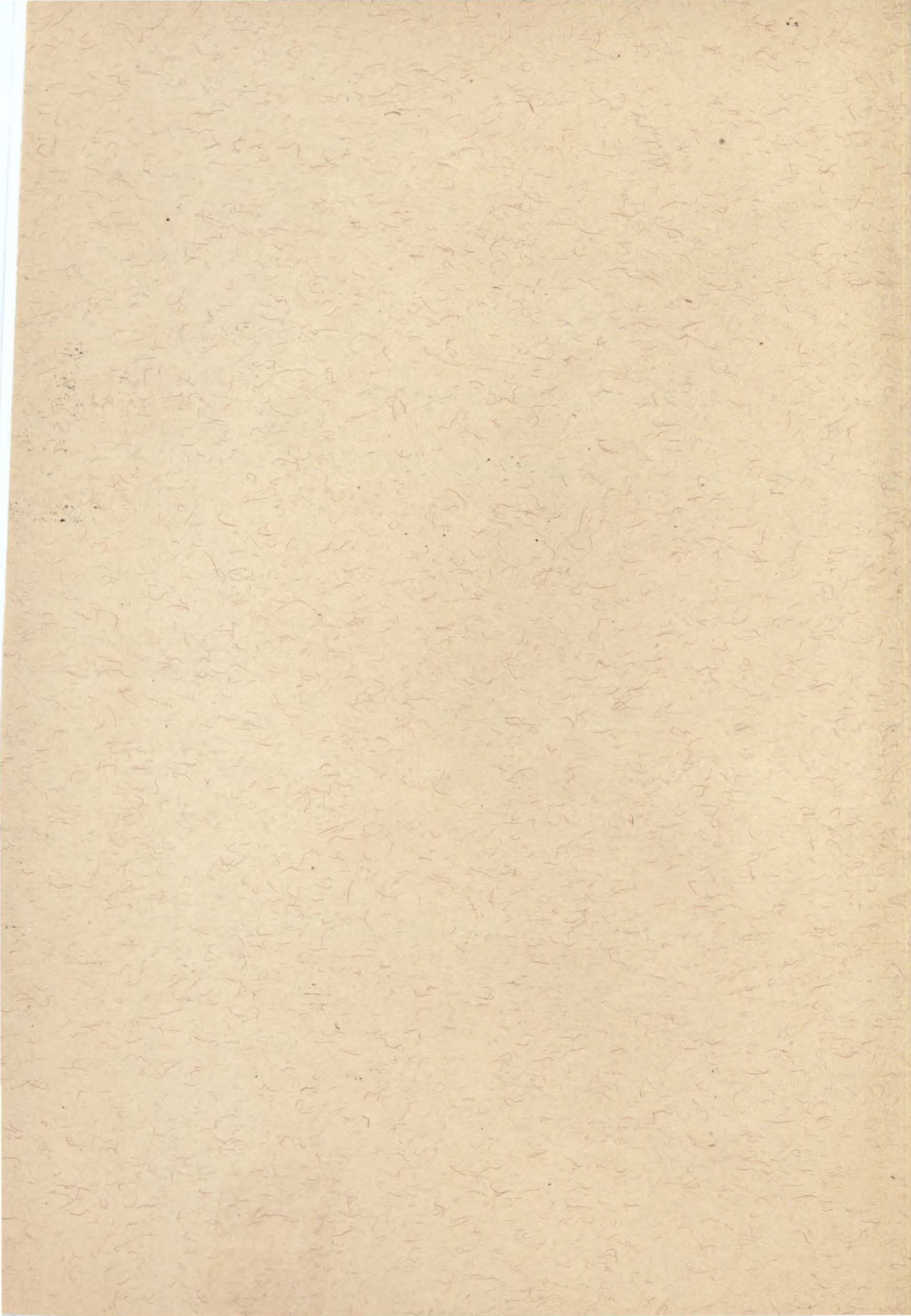
1961 Session of the Revived

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA

November 20, 1961

Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church

Harnett County



PROCEEDINGS

ministers, delegates and visitors gathered at Prospect Free Will Baptist Church in Harnett County on November 20, 1961, for the purpose of organizing an Original Free Will Baptist Conference committed to our historic practice of congregational church government. The host pastor, Rev. Carey Watkins, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A. M. and acted as temporary chairman. Rev. Bobby Jackson led the congregation in singing "Faith of our Fathers" and Rev. Rashie Kennedy led in prayer.

Rev. Carey Watkins welcomed the group to Prospect Church and stated the purposes of the meeting. Rev. Eugene Waddell brought the message on the subject, "Who are the Original Free Will Baptists?" We sang "Amazing Grace".

Other ministers and delegates from the Western Conference were called into a short session.

MINUTES OF THE TRUE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF THE WESTERN CONFERENCE

Rev. Bobby Jackson was elected temporary Moderator and Rev. Billy Morris was elected temporary Secretary. The following delegates were enrolled:
Edgemont - Lloyd Williford, Jack Ray
Tippett's Chapel - Kenneth Lee, L. R. Lee
Oak Grove - J. M. Medlin, Mrs. Fred Roll, Mrs. Geraldine Flowers
Fellowship - Ed Hill, Clayborne Hudson, Woodrow Bryant
Calvary - Charles Williford, Bobby Rigley
Saint's Delight - Julius Layton, Mrs. Earl Burnette, Mrs. Ralph Clegg

The following ministers were enrolled: Ralph E. Clegg, Conrad Williford, Annie Graves, Ronnie Peele, Q. G. Worrell, Paul Lee, Charles Bryant, Donald Creech, Billy Morris and Bobby Jackson. Correspondence was communicated from Dan Merkh and G. C. Lee requesting membership in the proposed conference. On motion their names were added to the list of Western Conference Ministers present.

The following resolution was presented and on motion was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists has declared its present form of church government to be connectional;
and

Whereas, the chief clause in the Statement of Faith and Discipline for Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina - "the annual conference or association being the highest tribunal, shall have final disciplinary authority over the local church." - supporting this erroneous practice was taken from the Holiness corrupted Cape Fear Conference Discipline of 1899, which was repudiated by the Original Cape Fear Free Will Baptist Conference; and

Whereas, the ministerial credentials of one of our pastors were revoked for reasons other than those specified on the certificate, namely immoral character and unsound doctrine, and through the improper procedure of refusing to give the accused specific or authenticated charges and the names of his accusers; and

Whereas, the unprecedented interference of the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists in the internal affairs of one of our sister churches, Edgemont Church, by becoming a plaintiff in court proceedings designed to seize control of the property and award it to a small minority, constitutes a serious departure from the historic practices, customs and usages of our denomination; and

Whereas, the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists has taken action which in effect laid the groundwork for said conference to become a part of a new denomination; therefore,

Be it resolved that we, the adherents to the historic doctrines, church government, customs, practices, and usages of Original Free Will Baptists, assembled this 20th day of November, 1961, do hereby declare ourselves to be the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists; and

Be it further resolved that we repudiate the following statement found on Page 53 of the Statement of Faith and Discipline for Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina - "the annual conference or association being the highest tribunal, shall have final disciplinary authority over the local church"; and

Be it further resolved that we unite with the churches and ministers who are true Original Free Will Baptists from the bounds of the Eastern Conference, Albemarle Conference, Cape Fear Conference and Central Conference; and

Be it further resolved that we declare that all those churches and

ministers in company with us, adhering to the doctrines, customs, practices and usages of the true Original Free Will Baptists are in good standing; and

Be it further resolved that we declare our determination to maintain our affiliation with our denomination, namely the National Association of Original Free Will Baptists.

At the session of the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Western Conference was adjourned.

Ministers and delegates from the Central Conference were called in a short session.

MINUTES OF THE TRUE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Jack Paramore was elected temporary Moderator and Brother Galanbar was elected temporary Clerk. The following ministers were enrolled: Robert Edwards, Adam Scott, Nathan Eason, A. C. Morgan, Rashie Nedy, LaRue Davis, Carroll Alexander, Guy Owens, Jack Paramore and an Dunbar.

Following delegates were enrolled:

Mt. Calvary, Hookerton, N. C. - Tom Miller, Willie Wood, Wilton Taylor

Hope Church, Scotland Neck, N. C. - Mrs. E. W. Moore, Mrs. C. M. Flowers, N. J. Harris

Maranatha, Greenville, N. C. - Mrs. LaRue Davis, Mrs. Earle Garris
Grifton Church - Tom Hardison, Alvis Harris

Following resolution was presented and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists in session November 8,9, 1961, in Greenville, N. C. by unprecedented action of refusing to seat certain ministers for reasons not specified in the constitution of the Central Conference has departed from the democratic practices, customs, and usages of Original Free Will Baptists; and

Whereas, the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists in the same session endorsed the action of the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists in its unprecedented interference in the internal affairs of a local church whereby it became the plain-

tiff in court proceedings to seize control of the property and a
it to a small minority; and

Whereas, the said conference adopted a resolution supporting the
action and affirming the position of a group of men who signed a
affidavit stating their belief in a connectional form of church
government; and

Whereas, the chief clause in the Statement of Faith and Discipline
for Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina supporting this
practice was taken from the Holiness corrupted Cape Fear Discip
of 1899 which was repudiated by the Original Cape Fear Free Will
Baptist Conference. This clause is: "That the annual conference
association being the highest tribunal, shall have final discipli
nary authority over the local church." and

Whereas, the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists in
session November 9, 1961, passed resolutions which in effect laid
the groundwork for said conference to become a part of a new de
nomination; therefore,

Be it resolved that we, the delegates who are representing churches
and ministers who are adherents to the historic doctrines, customs
practices, and usages of Original Free Will Baptists assembled the
20th day of November, 1961, do hereby declare ourselves to be the
true Original Free Will Baptists of the Central Conference of Ori
ginal Free Will Baptists.

Be it further resolved that we repudiate the following statement
found on page 53 in the Statement of Faith and Discipline for Ori
ginal Free Will Baptists of North Carolina which is: "The annual
conference or association being the highest tribunal, shall have
nal disciplinary authority over the local church."

Be it resolved that we unite with the churches and ministers who
true Original Free Will Baptists from the bounds of the Eastern,
Western, Albemarle and Cape Fear Conferences.

Be it resolved that we declare our determination to maintain our
affiliation with our denomination, The National Association of Ori
ginal Free Will Baptists.

Be it further resolved that we declare all those churches and

ministers in company with us adhering to doctrines, customs, practices and usages of the true Original Free Will Baptists to be in good standing.

On the session of the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Annual Conference adjourned.

Ministers and delegates from the Cape Fear Conference were called to a short session.

MINUTES OF THE TRUE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF THE CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE

Carey Watkins was elected temporary Moderator and Rev. Herman L. Hersey was elected temporary Secretary. The following delegates were enrolled:

Garner - James Faircloth, Mrs. Mary Howell, H. C. Price
Raleigh - J. D. Ballance, W. H. Davis, Vester Benson
Community Chapel - E. W. Giles, W. B. Turlington
Prospect - J. C. Ennis, Fred Parker, C. B. Denning

The following ministers were enrolled: R. Eugene Waddell, Billy Walker, J. Coates, Frank Davenport, Herman L. Hersey, and Carey Watkins. Resolutions were received from Brothers Fred Hersey and Lonnie Cayton that they be enrolled. On motion Fred Hersey and Lonnie Cayton were enrolled as ministers. On motion Wingate Hansley was enrolled as a minister.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists was originally organized by the Discipline prior to 1899 which contains the following statement, "Independence of Churches, etc." page 36, "Each local church is a distinct and independent organization with full authority to manage its own internal affairs, elect its officers, receive, dismiss, discipline and exclude members. But this principle of the independence of each church is not held as a law of isolation: on the contrary, churches conveniently situated associate and co-operate in all things which tend to advance the common cause. Councils are, therefore, called in the organization of a church, ordination of a minister, and the settlement of serious difficulties. On the same principles, the churches meet by delegation in the Annual Conference, etc. But to these Conferences are granted no judicial or appellate powers con-

licting with the independence of the local churches." The Free Baptist Faith to which is added the practice of Cape Fear Freewill Baptist Conference by J. W. Lucas, Goldsboro, N. C., Baptist Review Job. Print., 1883; and

Whereas, the revision of the Discipline, Faith and Practice of the Cape Fear Freewill Baptist Conference, revised 1899, corrupted the original doctrine regarding church government in that the last paragraph under, "Independence of Churches, etc." quoted above was changed to read, "The Annual Conference being the highest tribunal shall have final jurisdiction over the local churches"- page 34;

Whereas, the revised Discipline, Faith and Practices of the Cape Fear Free-Will Baptist Conference, 1899, also corrupted the original doctrine regarding sanctification as set forth in the Discipline prior to 1899 in that the following definition was given and added to sanctification, "it is obtained by faith and is subsequent to regeneration." - page 17; and

Whereas, the following churches on January 12, 1912, Shady Grove Bethel, Bizzell's Grove, Robert's Grove, Lee's Chapel, Oak Grove, Dalys Chapel, St. Mary's Grove, St. Paul, Goldsboro, St. John and Prospect reconvened as the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists and repudiated the corrupt revised Discipline of 1899 and re-enacted and re-adopted the original faith of the founding fathers as promulgated in the first Cape Fear Freewill Baptist Conference of 1855 as set forth in the Discipline prior to 1899, as recorded in the Discipline, The Freewill Baptist Faith to which is added The Practice of Cape Fear Freewill Baptist Conference by J. W. Lucas, Goldsboro, N. C. Baptist Review Job Print., 1883; and

Whereas, the State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina in 1916, in adopting their first discipline, used the corrupt discipline of 1899 of The Cape Fear Free-Will Baptist Conference in that they copied the church government revision, "The Annual Conference being the highest tribunal shall have final jurisdiction over the local churches," page 37, Church Discipline of Original Free Will Baptist, revised 1916. And subsequent revisions of the North Carolina Statement of Faith and Discipline for Original Free Will Baptist have continued to use this statement adopted by the religious group now known as the Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Holiness movement; and

reas, the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists in session at Lee's Chapel Church November 2,3, 1961, repudiated the faith and practice of our founding fathers of 1855 and of that repudiated and re-adopted in the reconvened session on January 12, 1912 as set forth in the Discipline prior to 1899 when, after Moderation L. R. Ennis very carefully read in his opening statement the resolution under "Independence of Churches etc." page 36, of The Free-Will Baptist Faith to which is added The Practice of Cape Fear Free-Will Baptist Conference, by J. W. Lucas, Goldsboro, N. C., Baptist Book Concern Print., 1883, and tendered his resignation with the understanding that as the Conference voted they endorsed and declared themselves as adhering to a connectional form of government that conferred final authority and sovereignty over the local churches to the Conference; The Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists declared themselves "Connectional Free Will Baptists" by majority vote of sixty-five to seventeen, November 2, 1961; and

reas, the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists did not repudiate the faith and practices of Original Free Will Baptists prior to 1899 by adopting a resolution endorsing the usurped authority of the Western Conference relating to the application of conference authority over the local churches; and

reas, the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists did not repudiate the faith and practices of Original Free Will Baptists of the Cape Fear Conference prior to 1899 by adopting a resolution that the churches that have adopted forms of government contrary to the Statement of faith and discipline for Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina be declared out of fellowship with the conference until such time as they bring themselves back in line with said discipline; and

reas, the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists did not repudiate the faith and practices of the Cape Fear Conference of Free Will Baptists prior to 1899 by adopting a resolution that the members who have led their churches in these violations be silenced until such time as they bring themselves back in line with the statement of faith and discipline for Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina; and

reas, about the year 1834 Prospect Free Will Baptist Church was organized as a Free Will Baptist Church; and

Whereas, Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church participated in the organization of the first Cape Fear Freewill Baptist Conference in the year 1855 under the doctrine as set forth in the Discipline prior to 1899 and as recorded in The Freewill Baptist Faith to which is added the practices of Cape Fear Freewill Baptist Conference by J. W. Lucas, Goldsboro, N. C. Baptist Review Bob Print., 1883; and

Whereas, Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church participated in the special session of the Cape Fear Free Will Baptist Conference on January 12, 1912 at Shady Grove Church in Sampson County and joined the following churches - Shady Grove, Bethel, Bizzel's Grove, Robert's Grove, Lee's Chapel, Oak Grove, Daly's Chapel, St. Mary's Grove, St. Paul, Goldsboro and St. John - in perfecting a permanent organization to the end that the original faith of our fathers, as promulgated in the first conference of 1855, might be re-enacted and re-adopted; and

Whereas, "Prospect Church in Conference January 27, 1912, Brother D. R. Ennis in chair. By motion a vote was taken to decide whether the Church wanted to adopt the old Discipline as adopted prior to 1899. The Church unanimously adopted the old Discipline." D. R. Ennis Moderator, R. M. Parker, Clerk. Page 89, Prospect Church Conference Minutes; and

Whereas, Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church in Conference September 30, 1961, by unanimous vote, adopted the following statement and recommendations:

STATEMENT

For the past few months there has been some question among Original Free Will Baptists in regards to church government.

Therefore, be it resolved that Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church, Route 3, Dunn, Harnett County, North Carolina, officially re-affirms its position relative to church government

That Prospect Free Will Baptist Church believes now, as it always has believed, in the independence of the local church, holding that the local church, is an independent body, so far as it relates to its own government, the transaction of its business, the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members, and these rights cannot be denied the local church by any other organization within or without the denomination.

That Prospect Free Will Baptist Church has every right to hold and retain title to all property owned by it. That the board of trustees is invested with authority from the church to make proper and legal transactions, subject to the will and order of the majority of the church, and they shall be the custodians of such documents. That Prospect Free Will Baptist Church will not under any circumstances surrender these rights to any other organization.

That Prospect Free Will Baptist Church has the right to employ any Free Will Baptist minister as pastor, who is in good standing with the denomination regardless of his place of residence. It is understood that this right cannot properly be denied by any subsequent action of a quarterly meeting, yearly meeting, district association, national association, or any other group. It is further understood that the pastor of Prospect Free Will Baptist Church shall, upon ninety-day notice, terminate his services upon request by a majority vote of members in good standing of Prospect Free Will Baptist Church.

Prospect Free Will Baptist Church recognizes and believes in the value of coming together with other Free Will Baptist Churches for the purpose of mutual fellowship and endeavor and the establishing of proper organizations for the unifying of our purposes and accomplishing the goal of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every creature. However, Prospect Free Will Baptist Church is unalterably opposed to any organizational machinery within our denomination at any level which makes subjects of those who associate with it, invests undue authority in the hands of a few, and consequently throttles the democratic processes of church government and majority rule of the local congregation.

Be it known that to withdraw fellowship is the only form of discipline which may be brought against Prospect Free Will Baptist Church by any conference or association, district or quarterly meeting, State Convention, National Association, or any other body in any instance, situation, or practice since the final disposition of any matter within Prospect Free Will Baptist Church must be decided by majority vote of the members of Prospect Free Will Baptist Church.

Therefore, Prospect Free Will Baptist Church does emphatically

declare that as evidenced by its more than one-hundred year history and by inherent and scriptural rights as an autonomous self-governing body, and that Prospect Free Will Baptist Church does steadfastly refuse and deny any and all judiciary authority of any body or group outside the bounds of the congregation of Prospect Free Will Baptist Church. That under no circumstances will Prospect Free Will Baptist Church relinquish its right to govern itself by the will and vote of the majority of its members.

Let it be understood that this statement in no way implies that it is the intention or desire of Prospect Free Will Baptist Church to sever its relations with other Original Free Will Baptists, but rather that Prospect Free Will Baptist Church intends to retain its identity as an Original Free Will Baptist Church. Neither does this statement imply that the pastor is to become in any way a dictator over Prospect Free Will Baptist Church, but rather that the pastor and the majority of the membership are under God to lead the church in all Christian endeavor; always respecting and considering the sentiments of the minority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended by the Board of Deacons and the Pastor that Prospect Church adopt the foregoing statement in order to spell out and define its exact position relative to its church government and in order to eliminate confusion because of various interpretations of Original Free Will Baptist government.
2. It is recommended by the Board of Deacons and the Pastor that the delegates elected to the annual Cape Fear Conference meeting be instructed to cast their vote in accordance with the principles set forth in this statement relative to the church government of Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church and that all delegates hereafter elected to any and all conference, associations and conventions cast their vote on the basis that Prospect Church believes in the historic practice that the final voice and word of authority is vested in the membership of the congregation at Prospect Church.
3. It is recommended that since constitutional provisions are made that Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church maintain an affiliation with the National Association of Free Will Baptist Churches.

tist of America and its world-wide missionary ministry.

4. That on the basis of the adoption of the above recommendations and because Carey Watkins cannot submit himself to become a member of this new religious denomination the leaders of the State Convention of North Carolina Free Will Baptists are purporting to form on the basis of a lawyer's interpretation of certain articles in the Statement of Faith and Discipline of Original Free Will Baptists for North Carolina, and because Carey Watkins is in faith, doctrine, and practice an Original Free Will Baptist, that Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church give a vote of confidence to and retain Carey Watkins as pastor of Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Therefore, the Pastor and Congregation of Prospect Original Free Will Baptist Church, Harnett County, N. C. request and invite all ministers and churches of the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists who desire to maintain an affiliation with the National Association of Free Will Baptists of America and who believe in and adhere to and defend the faith and practices of Original Free Will Baptists as set forth in the Discipline prior to 1899 as recorded in The Freewill Baptist Faith to which is added the practice of Cape Fear Freewill Baptist Conference, by J. W. Lucas, Goldsboro, N. C., Baptist Review Job Print., 1883, to sit with us in a session of the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists to the end that the original faith of our fathers, as promulgated in the first Conference of 1855, may be re-enacted and re-adopted.

Therefore, we resolved that we, the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Cape Fear Conference, hereby endorse the above resolution and join with Prospect Church in declaring that we are the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Cape Fear Conference; and

we it further resolved that we declare that all those churches and ministers in company with us, adhering to the doctrines, customs, practices and usages of the true Original Free Will Baptists are in good standing; and

we it further resolved that we, the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Cape Fear Conference, unite with the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Western, Eastern, Albemarle and Central Conferences,

in forming a Conference committed to our historic practice of congregational church government as practiced prior to the Discipline of 1899.

On motion the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Cape Fear Conference adjourned.

Brother J. D. Ballance dismissed the congregation with prayer for the noon recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION

We reconvened at 1:30 P.M. with the singing of "There's Within My Heart a Melody" and prayer by Rev. Wingate Hansley. Rev. Frank Davenport brought the devotions.

Rev. Bobby Jackson presented the following proposal which was unanimously adopted.

We, the undersigned, having a burden to maintain our historic congregational church government among Original Free Will Baptists, present this proposal to the delegates and ministers who have come to this meeting for the purpose of organizing a conference committed to our historic practice of congregational church government and desiring to maintain affiliation with our denomination - the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Therefore we respectfully propose the following:

1. That we elect a temporary chairman over this meeting today.
2. That we elect a temporary secretary.
3. That we ask permission of the body to present a series of proposed resolutions for consideration of the body. We present these with the understanding that any or all of them may be amended or rejected by the body.

(The following ministers signed: Bobby Jackson, Herman L. Hersey, Carey D. Watkins, Jr., R. Eugene Waddell, Q. G. Worrell Sr., W. A. Hansley, Rashie Kennedy, Guy F. Owens, Nathan Eason, Lonnie Graves, Carroll Alexander, LaRue Davis, Paul Lee, Luther Burns, Ronnie Peele, Charles Bryant, Ronald Creech, Billy B. Walker, Adam Scott, Frank Davenport, Robert L. Edwards, Conrad Williford, E. Eugene Hales and Thomas K. Johnson)

Rev. Rashie Kennedy was elected temporary Chairman and Rev. Herman L. Hersey was elected temporary Secretary. On motion the series of prop

tions are to be presented one at a time.

tion the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS the true Original Free Will Baptists from the Western Conference in session this the 20th day of November, 1961 adopted the following resolution: (see pages 3-5) and

WHEREAS the true Original Free Will Baptists from the Central Conference in session this the 20th day of November, 1961 adopted the following resolution: (see pages 5-7) and

WHEREAS the true Original Free Will Baptists from the Cape Fear Conference in session this the 20th day of November, 1961 adopted the following resolution: (see pages 7-14) therefore be it resolved

THAT we declare that we, the adherents to the historic doctrines, practices, customs, usages and church government of the Original Free Will Baptists, assembled together on this 20th day of November, 1961, are the true Original Free Will Baptists from the bounds of the Central, Western, Eastern, Albermarle and Cape Fear Conferences of Original Free Will Baptists; be it further resolved

THAT we endorse the above quoted resolutions adopted by the true Original Free Will Baptists from the Western, Central and Cape Fear Conferences; be it further resolved

THAT we recognize and seat the delegates who were sent by their local churches to this meeting for the purpose of organizing an Original Free Will Baptist Conference committed to our historic practice of congregational church government and desiring to maintain affiliation with our denomination - the National Association of Free Will Baptists; be it further resolved

THAT we recognize and seat all ministers requesting this privilege who have been ordained as Original Free Will Baptist Ministers, and who are committed to our historic practice of congregational church government and desire to maintain affiliation with our denomination - the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

tion the following delegates and ministers were recognized and
d:

Brookwood Church, Fayetteville - Mrs. Fred Kirby and Mrs. Tom Johns
St. Paul, Elizabeth City - James Armstrong, Fred Armstrong and Oll
Lamb

Joy Church, Tarboro - Melvin Williamson, Ronald Williamson and Mrs
Glen Abrams

Ministers: David Paramore, Eugene Hales, Luther Burns and Thomas
Johnson

On motion the following resolution was unanimously adopted after An Abstract of the Former Articles of Faith Confessed by the Original Baptist Church, Holding the Doctrine of General Provision, with a Proper Code of Discipline for the Future Government of the Church of 1812 and revised in 1835 was read.

WHEREAS the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists was "Mother Conference" of the present Central, Eastern, Western and Albermarle Conferences; and

WHEREAS the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Cape Fear Conference have historically operated on the same general principles the General Conference; and

WHEREAS this General Conference when it divided in 1886 was operated under An Abstract of the Former Articles of Faith Confessed by the Original Baptist Church, Holding the Doctrine of General Provision with a Proper Code of Discipline for the Future Government of the Church of 1812 and as revised in 1835; therefore be it resolved

THAT we declare ourselves assembled together on this 20th day of November, 1961 to be the 1961 session of the revived General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, and shall be henceforth known as the "General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina"; be it further resolved

THAT we, the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, adopt An Abstract of the Former Articles of Faith Confessed by the Original Baptist Church, Holding the Doctrine of General Provision, with a Proper Code of Discipline for the Future Government of the Church of 1812 and as revised in 1835.

On Motion the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS the true Original Free Will Baptists of the Western, Central and Cape Fear Conferences have ratified the credentials of the

Following ministers: Ralph E. Clegg, Conrad Williford, Lonnie Graves, Annie Peele, Q. G. Worrell, Paul Lee, Charles Bryant, Ronald Creech, Billy Morris, Bobby Jackson, Dan Merkh, G. C. Lee, Robert Edwards, Lam Scott, Nathan Eason, A. C. Morgan, Rashie Kennedy, LaRue Davis, Carroll Alexander, Guy Owens, Jack Paramore, Galan Dunbar, R. Eugene Addell, Billy Walker, C. H. Coates, Frank Davenport, Herman L. Hersey, Carey Watkins, Fred Hersey, Lonnie Cayton & Wingate Hansley;

WHEREAS we acknowledge the local church as the final authority; therefore be it resolved

THAT we ratify the credentials of the ministers listed in the first preamble of this resolution and any other true Original Free Will Baptist minister who adheres to the doctrines, practices and usages of the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, and who is in good standing with his local church.

Therefore the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLVED that member churches of the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina may adopt in addition to an Abstract of the Former Articles of Faith Confessed by the Original Baptist Church, Holding the Doctrine of General Provision, with a proper Code of Discipline for the Future Government of the Church any other supplementary Discipline or Treatise not in basic conflict with this Abstract of the Former Articles.

Therefore the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS the National Association of Original Free Will Baptists, during its 1961 session at Norfolk, Virginia, asked the State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina "to renege any and all forms of connectional church government and reaffirm its position in our historic and established form of congregational church government"; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists, during its 1961 session at Mt. Olive, N. C., refused to comply with the above mentioned request of the National Association; therefore be it resolved

THAT we, the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, hereby comply with the request of the National

Association and hereby repudiate any and all forms of connection church government wherever it may be found among Free Will Baptists and do hereby reaffirm our belief in congregational church government.

On motion the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS the Statement of Faith and Discipline for Original Free Baptists of North Carolina on page 53, 1955 revision, contains the following, "The Annual Conference or Association being the highest tribunal, shall have final disciplinary authority over the local church"; and

WHEREAS this statement with slight variation has existed in the Discipline of the North Carolina State Convention since its first Discipline in 1916 where it read, "The Annual Conference being the highest tribunal shall have final jurisdiction over the local churches"; and

WHEREAS this statement came from a corrupted holiness discipline the Cape Fear Conference, 1899 revision, which was repudiated by re-organized Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists January 12, 1912; therefore be it resolved

That we hereby repudiate the above quoted statement found on page 53 of The Statement of Faith and Discipline for Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.

On motion the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS the Cape Fear Conference was organized in 1855 and operated under a discipline entitled The Freewill Baptist Faith to which Added the Practice of the Cape Fear Freewill Baptist Conference;

WHEREAS this discipline on page 36, 1883 printing, contains the following under "Independence of Churches": "Each local church is a distinct and independent organization with full authority to manage its own internal affairs, elect its officers, receive, dismiss, discipline and exclude members. But this principle of the independence of each church is not held as a law of isolation; on the contrary, churches conveniently situated associate and co-operate in all things which tend to advance the common cause. Councils are therefore, called in the organization of a church, ordination of

minister, and the settlement of serious difficulties. On the same principles, the churches meet by delegation in the annual Conference, ect. But to these Conferences are granted no judicial or appellate powers conflicting with the independence of the local churches"; and

HEREAS a revision of this discipline of 1899, corrupted with holiness doctrines, changed the last sentence to read: "The annual Conference being the highest tribunal shall have final jurisdiction over the local churches"; and

HEREAS the original Free Will Baptists of the Cape Fear Conference in session on January 12, 1912, re-organized the Cape Fear Conference and adopted the discipline prior to the 1899 corrupted version; and

HEREAS the Cape Fear Conference through its history, except for the holiness deflection, has operated according to the principles contained in the 1883 printing regarding "Independence of Churches"; and

HEREAS this statement clearly states the position of congregational church government relating to the relationship of a local church to conference; and

HEREAS this statement is in harmony with An Abstract of the Former Articles of 1812; therefore be it resolved

THAT we adopt the paragraphs on "Independence of Churches" quoted above from the 1883 printing and pledge that this is our official position regarding the relationship of this General Conference to all affiliated churches.

motion the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLVED that we, the General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina take whatever steps necessary to maintain our affiliation with our denomination - the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

motion the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

RESOLVED that a Secretary-Treasurer be elected to act as Promotional Secretary whose duties it will be to act as our official spokesman

and to distribute educational and promotional material as funds are available; be it further resolved

THAT we elect a temporary Membership Committee consisting of the Secretary-Treasurer and four others to receive ministers and churches under the watchcare of our Conference until the next session. It is understood that this is the limit of their authority; be it further resolved

THAT we meet for fellowship and necessary business on Tuesday, January 30, 1961. It is understood that the Pastor of the host church will arrange for the sermon and will preside until a moderator is elected.

On motion it was voted that we meet with the Grace Church in Greenville. Rev. R. Eugene Waddell was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Rev. LaRue DeLoach, Rev. Ronald Creech, Rev. Paul Lee and Mr. Fred Parker were elected to work with the Secretary-Treasurer in the Membership Committee.

On motion we gave a rising vote of thanks to the host church and to those who prepared the program and resolutions.

An offering in the amount of \$ 106.99 was received.

On motion we adjourned. Rev. Carey Watkins gave the benediction.

Rashie Kennedy, Chairman

Herman L. Hersey, Secretary