

MINUTES

of the

MT. MITCHELL ASSOCIATION

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

held with

NORTH BEND CHURCH

March 9 and 10, 1956

FIRST REGULAR ANNUAL SESSION

held with

GREEN MOUNTAIN CHURCH

September 6 - 9, 1956

T. E. Woody . . . . . Moderator

Frances Radford . . . . . Clerk

Mosco Towe . . . . . Treasurer

Second annual session scheduled to convene with North Bend Church, Thursday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1957, at 10:30 a.m.

Sister Frances Radford to delivery introductory message;  
Brother Alvin McPeters to be the alternate speaker.

## MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

On Friday Night, March 9, 1956, delegates from six Free Will Baptist Churches---Prices Creek, Mine Fork, Terrys Fork, North Bend, Green Mountain and Bowditch; with the following Free Will Baptist Ministers: Rev. T. E. Woody, Rev. E. P. Blevins, Rev. E. L. Beachboard, Rev. James Peterson, Rev. Hayden Honeycutt, Rev. Alvin Mc-Peters, Rev. Josephine Bryant Blevins and Rev. Frances Radford convened in business session with the North Bend Church for the purpose of organizing a new Free Will Baptist Association.

The service was opened with congregational and quartet singing, after which we were led in prayer by Brother Blevins. As directed by the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists, we had requested an advisory council from another Free Will Baptist Association. This council consisted of Brother E. O. Connelly, Moderator; Brother John Cansler, Assistant Moderator; and Brother R. C. Mumpower, member; all ordained ministers of the Blue Ridge Free Will Baptist Association. The message of the evening was brought by Brother Cansler, who read from St. Luke 11, and spoke on the subject, "Praying For Something."

Following the worship service, in business conference Brother T. E. Woody, our oldest minister, was elected Moderator; Sister Frances Radford, Clerk; and Brother Mosco Towe, Reading Clerk. Letters of authorization from each of the six organizing churches were read, and the following delegates seated:

Prices Creek Church--Brothers Mosco Towe, James Burleson, Joe Blankenship, Roy Austin, Berle Ledford, Charles Penland, and Robert Arrowood.

Green Mountain Church--Brothers Erskine Miller, Earl Fox, Joe Woody, and Fred Blankenship.

Mine Fork Church--Brothers Frank Laws, Uranus Dayton, Sid Laws and Hubert Freeman, and Sisters Mary Laws and Essie Laws.

Bowditch Church--Brothers Cassie Thomas, Roscoe Briggs, Clarence Byrd, Alec Hensley, James Ray, and Sisters Julia Boone, Elsie Thomas and Pearl Briggs.

Terrys Fork Church--Brothers W. Dell Woody, T. A. Watts, and Sisters Vivian Gardner and Essie Hicks.

North Bend Church--Brothers Noah Hughes, Bert Renfro, Nate Renfro, Landon Briggs, and John Renfro and Sister Lydia Duncan.

The name, Mt. Mitchell Association of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina was presented and un-animously adopted by the body.

A Constitution was presented and adopted by unanimous vote.

An offering to pay the expenses of the brethren who came to serve as our advisory council was received in the amount of \$25.00. The council then asked permission to accept only \$10.00, and to donate the remainder to the treasury of the new Association. The donation was accepted with thanksgiving. We were then led in a prayer of consecration by Brother Connelly. Several brethren then spoke briefly concerning the purpose of the new organization, and our special need of the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit; among them, Brother Blevins and Brother Beachboard. Another business session was appointed for tomorrow night at 7 o'clock by the Moderator, after which we adjourned, with Brother Mumpower leading the closing prayer.

## SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Service opened with congregational singing of "Glad Reunion Day" and "Oh, What A Saviour". Prayer led by Sister Radford, followed by another song, "Blessed Jesus Loves You Too." Preaching by Brother Beachboard from St. John 13:34, 35. Subject: "A New Commandment".

The business session following preaching was opened by some pertinent remarks by Brother Woody, our Moderator. The minute of Friday evening's session was then read and adopted. Election of other officers provided for by the Constitution were elected following adoption of the minute. Brother E. P. Blevins was chosen Assistant Moderator, Brother Joe Woody, Treasurer; Sister Frances Radford, Historian; and Brothers Mosco Towe, Noah Hughes and Eckerd Hunter to constitute the Executive Board. By-laws to the Constitution adopted Friday evening were submitted at the request of the Moderator and unanimously adopted by the body.

It was moved by the clerk and voted by the body to send to the Jacks Creek Association a letter of explanation concerning our new organization. Moved and voted to adjourn to convene with Green Mountain Church, Thursday, September 6, 1956 at 10:30 a.m. in our first annual session.

Following adjournment of Associational business, Ministers' Conference was organized, with the reading and adoption of a Constitution and By-laws and the election of officers as follows: Brother E. L. Beachboard, Moderator, Brother C. H. Honeycutt, Assistant Moderator; and Sister Josephine Bryant Blevins, Clerk. An Ordaining Council was chosen, consisting of Brothers E. P. Blevins, T. E. Woody, and Alvin McPeters. An offering was received for the use of the clerk and historian in purchasing record books and license and ordination blanks. Adjourned to convene with Prices Creek Church on Friday before the 5th Sunday in July, 1956.



## MINUTES OF FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

The first annual meeting of the Mt. Mitchell Free Will Baptist Association convened with the Green Mountain Free Will Baptist Church, Burnsville, N. C., Route 1, Thursday morning, September 6, 1956 at 10:30 a.m. Service was opened with congregational singing of "Holy Light, Keep Shining Upon Me", "The Light On The River" and "Climbing Up The Highway", after which we were led in prayer by Brother Ebb Wheeler. The introductory message, one singularly appropriate, was delivered by the Moderator, Brother T. E. Woody, from 1 Corinthians 12 and 13, his subject being, "Charity Never Faileth." Prayers during the service led by Brother Blevins and Sister Radford. Service closed with Christian handshake and rejoicing.

Following worship, the roll of churches was called and delegates assigned for lunch. Remarks by Brother Blevins and Brother Wheeler preceded benediction by Brother Woody and adjournment for lunch.

Assembled for afternoon session with congregation singing of "Amazing Grace". Devotional reading from one of the Psalms by Brother Hayden Honeycutt. Prayer led by Brother Alvin McPeters. Moderator prepared for business by appointing Brother Mosco Towe and Joe Woody as reading clerks. Brother Levi Deyton was appointed to receive Disabled Ministers' Funds as churches were enrolled. Church letters were then called for and delegates enrolled as follows:

Bowditch: Sister Bertie Hensley, Sister Flossie Harris, Brother and Sister James Ray, Brothers Roscoe Briggs, Cassie Thomas, Clarence Byrd, Alec Hensley and Ralph Cook.

Green Mountain: Sisters Belle Deyton, Bertha Bennett, Ruth Robinson, and Loyce Deyton and Brothers Earl Fox, Frank Ray, and Fred Blankenship.

Mine Fork: Brothers Carmon Laws and Hubert Freeman.

North Bend: Brothers Luther Renfro, Levi Deyton, Clyde Duncan, and Sister Lucy Deyton.

Prices Creek: Brothers Mosco Towe, W. R. Arrowood, Joe Blankenship, Roy Austin, James Burleson, and Sisters Cora Arrowood and Tommylee Burleson.

Terrys Fork: Brothers W. D. Woody, Phil Anderson, Jimmy Anderson, Wayne Metcalf and Brother and Sister Mack Allen.

An offering in the amount of \$14.45 was received to supplement the minute fund submitted by the churches to the reading clerks, who also constituted a finance committee.

After seating of delegates, the following officers were elected: Sister Frances Radford, Clerk; Brother T. E. Woody, Moderator, and Brother Mosco Towe, Treasurer. Committees were then appointed as follows:

Committee on Investigation: Brothers E. P. Blevins, Alvin McPeters, and Levi Deyton.

Committee on Missions: Brothers James Burleson and Roy Austin, and Sister Lydia Duncan.

Committee on Education: Sister Vinita Miller and Brother Joe Woody.

Committee on Sabbath Schools: Brothers Erskine Miller, C. H. Honeycutt, and Roscoe Briggs.

Committee on Temperance: Brothers E. P. Blevins and Ebb Wheeler.

Committee on Obituaries: Sister Maude Ray and Sister Josephine Blevins.

Committee on Resolutions: Brothers Clyde Duncan, Alec Hensley, and Hubert Freeman.

Committee on Deeper Devotion: Brothers Ebb Wheeler, Joe Blankenship, and Roy Austin.

Committee on Sessions: Brothers Luther Renfro, James Burlison, Joe Woody, W. D. Woody, Roscoe Briggs and Carmon Laws.

Committee on Orphanage: Brothers Ralph Cook and Mosco Towe, and first named delegate on each church letter.

Committee on Disabled Ministers' Fund: Brothers Joe Woody, Alvin McPeters, and Fred Blankenship.

Committee on Churches and Pastors: Brothers C. H. Honeycutt, Frank Laws and Robert Arrowood.

Committee on Spiritual Promotion: Sister Frances Radford, Sister Faye McPeters, and Sister Bertie Hensley.

Committee on Lord's Acre Work: Brothers Levi Deyton, James Burlison, Alec Hensley, W. D. Woody, Hubert Freeman and Earl Fox.

Following completion of committee appointments, Brother Ebb Wheeler, visiting minister from the Toe River Free Will Baptist Association, was welcomed to a seat in our body.

Ministers present were then enrolled as follows:

- Rev. E. P. Blevins, Micaville, North Carolina
- Rev. Josephine B. Blevins, Micaville, North Carolina
- Rev. Vinita Gail Miller, Burnsville, North Carolina, Rt. 1
- Rev. Alvin McPeters, Burnsville, North Carolina, Rt. 3
- Rev. T. E. Woody, Burnsville, North Carolina, Rt. 2
- Rev. C. H. Honeycutt--(Note: Clerk failed to get Brother Honeycutt's address, but thinks that Marion, North Carolina, c/o Post Master, will locate him.)
- Rev. Frances Radford, Mars Hill, North Carolina, Rt. 2

Rev. T. A. Watts, Weaverville, North Carolina, Rt. 1, and Rev. E. L. Beachboard, Nebo, North Carolina, Rt. 1, were not present.

Rev. James Peterson, Travellers Rest, South Carolina, Rt. 2, was also absent, due to sickness.

Deacons present enrolled as follows:

Roscoe Briggs	(Bowditch Church)
W. R. Arrowood	(Prices Creek Church)
Erskine Miller	(Green Mountain Church)
James Burleson	(Prices Creek Church)
Frank Laws	(Mine Fork Church)
Hubert Freeman	(Mine Fork Church)
W. D. Woody	(Terrys Fork Church)
Joe Woody	(Green Mountain Church)

Moved, seconded and voted to designate the fund heretofore known as Disabled Ministers' Fund as the Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund. Business session adjourned for preaching following intermission by Sister Edith Pauley of South Side Free Will Baptist Church, Erwin, Tennessee.

Reconvened following short intermission for worship. Service opened with singing by the choir of the local church, "Voices Calling Me." Congregation called around altar for prayer led by Brother Roscoe Briggs. Sister Pauley read for her text Isaiah 54:2. We were blessed with a wonderful service, which closed with a mighty outpouring of the Spirit of rejoicing and several testimonies.

#### THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The congregation reassembled at 7:30 p.m. for preaching by Brother C. H. Honeycutt. The choir opened the service by singing, "Lord, Lead Me On," "Heaven's Jubilee", and "That Glad Reunion Day". Mrs. Howard Whitson then sang two solos, accompanying herself at the piano. Her songs were "Chilly Jordan" and "The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow". She was followed by the Big Creek



Church choir singing, "Surely I Will, Lord", "In God's Garden", "When The Sun Goes Down", and "We Should Walk Together". Then Brother James Burleson gave his testimony and sang, "Just A Closer Walk With Thee", after which we were led in prayer by Sister Opal Blankenship. Brother Honeycutt read for his text 1 John 4:1, from which he brought an inspiring message. The message was followed by more singing, Christian handshake and much rejoicing in the Spirit. Dismissed to meet at 9 a.m. Friday morning.

## FRIDAY SESSIONS AND SERVICES

The Associational body reconvened Friday morning at 9 o'clock. Singing of "Mansion Over The Hilltop" and "I've Been A Waitin'" by the congregation opened the service. Moderator then called body to order and asked Brother Alvin McPeters to lead the opening prayer. Sister Josephine Blevins as appointed temporary clerk in Sister Radford's absence, due to illness. Rules of decorum were read by Moderator, preceding calling for committee reports.

The report of the Committee on Missions was called for and discussed by Brother James Burleson, Brother Woody, Sister Blevins, Brother Frank Laws, Brother McPeters, and Brother Howard Whitson. Report adopted.

(Clerk's Note: All committee reports will be found grouped together in the minute for the convenience of the reader.)

Report of Committee on Education submitted and discussed by Sister Vinita Miller, Brother Joe Woody, and Brother Blevins. Adopted by body as read and discussed.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools received and discussed by Brothers C. H. Honeycutt, Erskine Miller and Roscoe Briggs. Adopted.

The Committee on Temperance submitted its report and was discussed by Brother E. P. Blevins. Further discussion tabled until afternoon to make time for worship. Adjourned until 2:0'clock p.m. -8-

Assembled at 11 a.m. for preaching by Brother Ebb Wheeler. Songs by the Patterson Branch Singers, "It's Worth It All To Be His Child", "When The Sun Of Life Goes Down", and "I'll Wear A White Robe" opened the service. Brother Wheeler's text was Daniel 4:3, from which he delivered a splendid message. Service closed with much rejoicing and fellowship.

Afternoon session convened at 2 o'clock with singing of "Amazing Grace" and "City On The Hill". The Superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Orphanage, Brother Jackson and his daughter were present to represent the children of the Home, and Miss Jackson sang a solo, "Constantly Abiding", after which her father gave an interesting discussion of the home and children. An offering amounting to \$40.25 was received by Brother Jackson for the Orphanage, which was supplemented by \$30.67 from the churches, making a total of \$70.92. Adjourned for preaching at 3 p.m.

The afternoon worship hour was opened with singing by the Jackson sisters. Then Sister Josephine Blevins read for her text Exodus 3:1-9 and Hebrews 2:1-5. Her subject: "This is the beginning of days and of months." Good service closed with much rejoicing in the Lord. Recessed until 7:30 p.m.

Evening worship opened at 7:30 o'clock with singing by the choir, "Where No Stormy Winds Blow" followed with a special song, "Somebody Will Know Me In Heaven" by the Price and Freeman Quartet, and the Patterson Branch Singers rendering "The Father Turned His Back". Opening prayer led by Brother Charlie Miller, after which Sister Vinita Gail Miller read for her text 1 Corinthians 8:13 and 1 Peter 5:10, dwelling especially upon the words, "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth...", from which she brought a profitable message. Dismissed in prayer by Brother Woody.

## SATURDAY SESSIONS AND SERVICES

Association met Saturday morning at 9 o'clock for transaction of business. Service opened by choir singing "The Light On The River", after which Brother Roscoe Briggs led the opening prayer. Remarks by the Moderator urging that business be expedited as rapidly as possible.

Report of Committee on Sessions received and adopted with amendment that time of annual meeting be changed to Thursday before the 4th Sunday in August.

Report of Committee on Deeper Devotion called for. Part of committee absent, and Bro. Blevins appointed to work with Brother Austin on report.

Brother Elzie Robinson, visiting minister from Jacks Creek Conference welcomed to a seat in our body.

Report of Committee on Churches and Pastors received and adopted without discussion.

Report of Committee on Spiritual Promotion received, discussed by Sister McPeters, and adopted.

Report of Committee on Temperance, tabled earlier, adopted without further discussion.

Oral report of Committee on Lord's Acre Work received and adopted. Voted to authorize this Committee (which is composed of one member from each church) to select a committee from their respective churches to work with this central committee in furthering the work in each local church.

Clerk requested and was granted authority to revise church letter form.

Treasurer's report on Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund. Report of Committee on Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund received, discussed by Brother Joe Woody, Sister Radford, Brothers C. H. Honeycutt, Robert Arrowood, and Roscoe Briggs; and adopted by vote of body.

Brother Zenus Allen, from Jacks Creek Conference, welcomed to a seat in the body and a voice in our deliberations.

Special prayer requested by Brother Roscoe Briggs for E. P. Blevins, Jr., Brother & Sister Blevins young son, to be healed. Altar prayer for this request.

Report of Committee on Deeper Devotion submitted, discussed by Brother Blevins, Brother Roy Austin, Sister Ruth Franklin, and adopted by vote.

Moved, seconded and voted to use same Investigating Committee in Association and Ministers' Conference.

Committees on Resolutions and Investigation had no report to offer, except verbal request by Brother Levi Deyton that Lord's Acre Committee work up plans and present them at next Conference for a meeting early in 1957 to be held with each local church in the interest of the Lord's Acre work.

Offering taken for Moderator and Clerk in amount of \$8.81.

Clerk instructed by body to insert in the minute an expression of the Association's gratitude to the Green Mountain Church and Community for their excellent care of the Association.

Business of Association adjourned to meet with North Bend Church in August, 1957.



Reassembled for preaching at 11 a.m. by Brother Zenus Allen. Service opened with singing "Heaven's Jubilee" and "Just A Little Talk With Jesus". Prayer led by Brother Elzie Robinson. Opening remarks by Brother Alvin McPeters, pastor of the host church. Testimony and song, "I'm On The Firing Line For My Lord" by Brother Elzie Robinson. Scripture lesson read by Brother Allen from Romans 13. Subject of discourse, "The Higher Power of God". Brother Allen brought a good message, and the service closed with Christian fellowship and rejoicing, testimonies and prayer.

## PROCEEDINGS OF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The Mt. Mitchell Free Will Baptist Ministers' Conference convened on Saturday afternoon following the Association in its first quarterly meeting. Service opened with congregational singing, "The Light On The River" and prayer led by Brother Honeycutt. Clerk then read minute of last session, and officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Brother T. E. Woody, re-elected Moderator; Brother Hayden Honeycutt, Assistant Moderator, and Sister Josephine Blevins, re-elected clerk.

Brother Elzie Robinson and Sister Ruth Franklin welcomed to a seat in the body.

Moved and seconded to authorize clerk to write Brother E. L. Beachboard for written statement regarding his intent to remain in our Conference.

Sister Vinita Gail Miller submitted to Ordaining Council for examination for license.

Ordaining council elected for ensuing year, Brother E. P. Blevins, chairman, Brother Alvin McPeters and Brother C. H. Honeycutt.

Voted to hold next session of Conference with the Bowditch Church; Brother Blevins to preach the introductory message; Brother Woody to be his alternate.

Sister Miller examined publicly by Ordaining Council and granted license to preach the Gospel for one year by unanimous vote of the body.

Offering for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund received in amount of \$7.00. Dismissed in prayer, to reconvene at 7:30 p.m. in communion and feet washing service.

### SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

After opening song service, we were led in prayer by Brother Charlie Miller. Then Brother Alvin McPeters preached, reading from John 13, after which Brother T. E. Woody conducted communion and feet washing services. A wonderful service, with a large part of the congregation taking part was closed with great rejoicing and prayer. And so ended the first annual meeting of the Mt. Mitchell Association, a gathering so blessed with the manifestation of God's Presence that it will not be soon forgotten by those attending. May God grant it will be but the beginning of a work that will glorify His Name in the salvation and blessing of many souls!

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

We, your committee on missions, urge each church to feel its duty in regard to missions. We feel that some are neglected. We have different missions, and we urge each church to support our missionary, our orphanage, and not to forget our home missions, such as orphans, widows, and the spiritual welfare of those about us, and to visit the sick and supply their needs. 1 Corinthians 16:2: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in

store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come". We also recommend that a percentage of the return from Lord's Acre Projects be set aside for foreign missions.

Sincerely submitted by committee: James L. Burleson  
Lydia Duncan  
Roy Austin

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your committee on education, submit the following: Education comes from teaching and studying; so does our knowledge of the Bible. The Bible speaks of teaching and teachers, not teachers of the world, but God's children in whom the Holy Spirit abides. God's Word also speaks of studying, such as when Paul wrote, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (II Timothy 2:15) There is a great need for gifted Bible teachers in our Sunday Schools to educate our young people concerning God's Word. Our children need to hear and be helped to study the Word of God.

Vinita Gail Miller  
Joe Woody

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We recommend that each of our churches encourage Sunday School work. We also recommend teachers that are God-fearing and God-loving people. We believe people like this will contend for a spiritual Sunday School that will teach the Bible altogether. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life..."

C. H. Honeycutt  
Erskine Miller  
Roscoe Briggs

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on temperance submit the following: To be temperate is to be moderate, or, temperance is moderation, especially in appetite or passion; calm, not liable to excess. Scripture reference, Proverbs 23:1 -- "When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before: and put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite." Proverbs 25:16 -- "Hast thou found honey? Eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it." To over-do, or go beyond the standard, is not temperate.

Humbly presented:

E. P. Blevins  
Ebb Wheeler

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ORPHANAGE

We, your committee on orphanage, recommend that each church in our Association have one Sunday in each month for an offering for our orphanage. Also, that the first Monday in October be set aside for a general collection of foods and other commodities to be delivered on Tuesday to the Green Mountain Church to be picked up by the orphanage truck. Each church is asked to bring along an offering to help bear expense. We ask each minister to impress upon the minds of the people the need of supporting the orphanage.

Mosco Towe  
Bertha Bennett  
Lydia Duncan

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SESSIONS

We, your committee on sessions, have all decided that the Mt. Mitchell Association will meet with the North Bend Free Will Baptist Church on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1957; the introductory sermon to be delivered by Sister Frances Radford, Brother Alvin McPeters being her alternate.



Respectfully submitted:

James L. Burleson  
Carmon Laws  
Joe Woody  
Luther Renfro  
Roscoe Briggs  
W. D. Woody  
Ralph Cook

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHURCHES AND PASTORS

We, your committee on churches and pastors wish to offer the following Scripture references: Ephesians 4th chapter and 1 Corinthians 7:24 -- "Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God."

C. H. Honeycutt  
W. R. Arrowood  
Frank Laws

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SPIRITUAL PROMOTION

We, your committee on spiritual promotion, recommend that we, as God's people, humble ourselves, and strive for the leadership of the Spirit. James 4:10 -- "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Luke 11:13 -- "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Frances Radford  
Faye McPeters  
Bertie Hensley

## REPORT OF TREASURER of AGED AND DISABLED MINISTERS' FUND

Received from churches at this session:

Prices Creek . . . . .	\$ 7.46
Green Mountain . . . . .	50.00
North Bend . . . . .	3.00

Money collected at North Bend when

association was organized . . . . .	15.00
	40.72

**TOTAL IN TREASURY AS OF THIS DATE . . . . . \$117.18**

**Signed:** Josephine Blevins, Treasurer  
 Joe Woody and Mosco Towe,  
 Committee

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGED AND DISABLED MINISTERS' FUND

We, your committee urge our churches to make a greater effort to support our aged and disabled ministers' fund. We believe that our churches are too much interested in other things and are neglecting our duties at home. We do believe that each church should have someone appointed to see to this.

**Committee:** Joe Woody  
 Alvin McPeters  
 Fred Blankenship

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DEEPER DEVOTION

We, your committee on deeper devotion, submit the following: we give these Scripture references for a definition. Romans 12:1, 2-- "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." John 3:16 -- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 10:15 -- "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."

E. P. Blevins  
 Roy Austin  
 Fred Blankenship

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Received from North Bend Church for Orphanage...\$ 27.66  
 which, with \$3.01 unaccounted for as to its source  
 makes..... 30.67  
 which was included with offering received at this  
 session..... 40.25  
 making a total sent to the Home by Brother Jackson  
 of..... 70.92

Receipts for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund already sub-  
 mitted with that committee's report.

Received and disbursed to clerk for printing minutes a total  
 of \$67.50 in donations from churches and offering received  
 at this session.

Mosco Towe  
 Joe Woody  
 Levi Deyton

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

DOLPH E. ROBINSON -- was born June 15, 1882, and died Dec. 3, 1954, leaving 10 children, 47 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren, one brother and many friends. He was a member of the Bowditch Church for a number of years and was a faithful member until he became unable to attend. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Written by his daughter,  
Annie Mae Robinson

MRS. MATTIE PARKER, age 65, died January 8, 1956. She was baptized and joined the Free Will Baptist Church in 1920. Her only survivors are two sisters, Mrs. Dozine Stamey of Celo and Mrs. Wess Ray of Pensacola. She also leaves a number of nieces and nephews. We feel that our loss is heaven's gain. She lived a religious life.

Julia Boone  
Church Clerk

MRS. SARAH HENSLEY -- was born December 29, 1882, and departed this life December 3, 1956, lacking less than a month being 74 years of age at the time of death. In young womanhood, she was united in marriage to the Rev. Van Hensley, who preceded her in death about 6 years ago. She was a charter member of Bowditch Free Will Baptist Church, and a faithful member until failing health rendered her unable to attend.

She is survived by two brothers, Alec of Micaville, N. C., and Oliver of Burnsville, N. C.; one sister, Mrs. Louise Branch of Burnsville, N. C., Route 2, and several nieces and nephews.

Submitted by her pastor.



DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES, PASTORS, CLERKS, LOCAL ORPHANAGE, AND LORD'S ACRE WORK COMMITTEE

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>CLERK AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORPHANAGE CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>LORD'S ACRE WORK CHAIRMAN</u>
Bowditch	Frances Radford	Julia Boone, Micaville, N. C.	Bertie Hensley	Alec Hensley
Green Mountain	Alvin McPeters	Mrs. Joe Woody, Rt. 1, Burnsville, N. C.	Belle Deyton	Earl Fox
Mine Fork	Frances Radford	Mrs. Essie Laws, Rt. 1, Burnsville, N. C.	Carmon Laws	Hubert Freeman
North Bend	Frances Radford	Mrs. Clyde Duncan Rt. 1, Green Mtn., N. C.	Luther Renfro	Levi Deyton
Prices Creek	E. P. Blevins	Mosco Towe, Rt. 1, Burnsville, N. C.	Mosco Towe	James Burleson
Terrys Fork	Frances Radford	Virginia Anderson Route 2 Mars Hill, N. C.	Phil Anderson	W. D. Woody

## CHURCH REPORTS

**BOWDITCH:** No. Baptized, 8; added otherwise, 2; excluded, 0; dismissed, 5; death, 2; communion services, 1; Preaching every Sunday, No. in Sunday School, 70; Total membership, 58; Times Pastor present, 52; minute fund, \$10.00; Paid pastor, \$530.86; paid for Revivals, \$165.00; home missions, \$36.11; Foreign missions, \$129.04; Orphanage, \$85.86; Poor and sick, \$100.00; monthly mission pledge, \$5.00; Value Church Property, \$10,000.00; Improvements, \$50.00.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN:** No. Baptized, 10; added otherwise, 17; excluded, 0; dismissed, 1; deaths, 0; communion services, 1; Preaching every 2nd and 4th Sundays; No. in Sunday School, 75; Total membership, 98; Times paster present, 24; Minute fund, \$5.05; Paid pastor, \$245.98; Paid for revivals, \$161.20; home missions, \$84.37; Orphanage, \$72.54; Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund, \$50.00; Poor and sick, \$125.00; Improvements, \$75.00.

**MINE FORK:** No. Baptized, 0; added otherwise, 0; excluded, 0; dismissed, 5; deaths, 0; communion services, 1; Preaching every first and third Sundays; No. in Sunday School, 35; Total membership, 35; Times pastor present, 24; Minute fund, \$10.00; paid Pastor, \$211.79; Paid for revivals, \$71.93; foreign missions, \$46.45; monthly missions pledge, \$3.00; Value of church Property, \$2,000.00; improvements, \$217.00.

**NORTH BEND:** No. Baptized, 2; added otherwise, 0; excluded, 0; dismissed, 0; deaths, 0; communion services, 1; Preaching 2nd Sunday 2:30 PM and Fourth Saturday and Sunday; No. in Sunday School, 70; Total membership, 140; Times pastor present, 28; Minute fund, \$9.00; Paid pastor, \$422.49; paid for revivals, \$140.26; home missions, \$31.00; foreign missions, \$71.53; Orphanage, \$104.66; Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund, \$3.00; monthly mission pledge, \$3.00; value of church property, \$6,000.; Improvements, \$75.00.

PRICES CREEK: No. Baptized, 2; Added otherwise, 3; Excluded, 0; Dismissed, 0; Deaths, 0; Communion Services, 1; Preaching every second and fourth Sunday; No. in Sunday School, 100; Total membership, 65; Times Pastor present, 23; Minute Fund, \$10.00; paid pastor, \$553.00; Paid for Revivals, \$50.00; Home missions, \$50.00; Foreign missions, \$86.50; Orphanage, \$216.77; Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund, \$7.37; Monthly mission pledge, \$3.00; Value of the Church property, \$2,500.00; Improvements, \$234.58.

TERRYS FORK: No. Baptized, 8; Added otherwise, 1; Excluded, 0; Dismissed, 0; Deaths, 0; Communion Services, 1; Preaching First and Third Sunday Night, Second Sunday 11:00 a.m.; No. in Sunday School, 42; Total membership, 66; Times Pastor present, 31; Minute Fund, \$10.00; Paid pastor, \$259.35; Paid for revivals, \$180.02; Home missions, \$70.00; Foreign missions, \$68.79; Orphanage, \$68.00; Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund, \$5.00; Monthly mission pledge, \$3.00; Value of the Church property, \$2,150.00; Improvements, \$111.00.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CONSTITUTION FOR PRESENTATION TO DELEGATES OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES CONVENED IN BUSINESS SESSION WITH THE NORTH BEND CHURCH.

### ARTICLE 1

This Association shall be known as the Mount Mitchell Association of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.

### ARTICLE 2

The objects of this Association shall be: to proclaim a full salvation and lift up a standard of holy living in accordance with the teaching of the Bible; to promote unity, fraternity, fellowship, and cooperation within the bounds of our own churches, and Christian charity toward all Christians;

to encourage and engage in larger Christian enterprises than can be carried on by one church; to combine and direct the energies of the Free Will Baptists within its bounds in one sacred effort to encourage and promote the general spread of the Gospel, and all of its benevolent enterprises.

### ARTICLE 3

1. This Association shall be composed of all licensed and ordained ministers, and of delegates chosen and sent by each church within its bounds, said delegates being duly recommended by letter from the church to which they belong.

2. Each church, irrespective of size, shall be entitled to five (5) delegates, with an additional delegate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof above fifty (50). Each church is expected to send with its delegation a contribution to help defray the expenses of the Association and the causes which it fosters.

3. The Association disclaims the right to exercise lordship over the churches, or to have any power which entitles it to infringe upon the internal affairs or rights of any of the churches composing it. Each church shall consider its internal affairs to be its own business, but it shall not disrespect the Association and those placed in authority by the proper processes.

### ARTICLE 4

The Association may withdraw from any church that becomes disorderly or refuses to be represented by letter or delegation, providing however, that any church accused of disorderly walk or unscriptural doctrine shall have the same right as an individual in the church to have specific charges presented in writing, together with convincing evidence; a fair opportunity for defense, and to be considered innocent until proved guilty.

## ARTICLE 5

This Association shall make use of the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists adopted by the National Association November 7, 1935, at Nashville, Tennessee; recognizing however, the truth stated therein, that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our only infallible rule of faith and practice.

## ARTICLE 6

Churches coming from another denomination will be carefully examined and approved as to doctrine and practice before being received as members.

## ARTICLE 7

1. The officers of this Association shall be Moderator and Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Historian, all of whom shall be elected for a term of two years, except the Moderator and Assistant Moderator, who shall be elected annually. They shall enter upon the duties of their offices at the close of the current session.
2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over all the meetings of the Association.
3. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Moderator to preside in the absence of the Moderator.
4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the Association in a business-like manner, to superintend printing and distribution of the minutes, and to give over all properties belonging to his or her office to his or her duly elected successor.
5. The clerk shall be paid a fee to be determined by the Association. Minutes of the Association shall be sent to all visiting Free Will Baptist Ministers.
6. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds belonging to the Association, and to disburse same as directed by the Association. The treasurer shall be bonded for an amount sufficient to cover all the funds for which he is responsible.



7. It shall be the duty of the Historian to keep a record of such items of interest as may be useful in the future, especially a file of all the minutes, and to preserve the same in a book. He or she shall also be required to give over all properties of the office to the successor to the office.

#### ARTICLE 8

The Association shall appoint annually such committees as it shall deem necessary to expedite its business. These committees may be called upon to serve in either a temporary or standing capacity. Temporary committees complete their work and make a report of it during the same session in which they are appointed. Standing committees are appointed to assist in such matters as may require service both during and between sessions. The Moderator is empowered to choose the Chairman of each Committee, and the delegates may assist in choosing other members of said committees from among their own ranks.

#### ARTICLE 9

The Executive Board of this Association shall consist of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Historian, and three (3) members elected from the floor. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to have the supervision of the work of the Association between sessions. The Moderator and Clerk, by virtue of their respective offices, shall be Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the Executive Board.

#### ARTICLE 10

It shall be the duty of this Association to encourage a sound ministry, such as present Christ as an all-sufficient Saviour, having made salvation possible to every human being on the terms of the Gospel, which is freely offered to all.

## ARTICLE 11

A church may become a member of this Association by making request by delegation, which delegation shall present a letter showing vital statistics of said church, provided however, that such church shall be examined as to doctrine, practice, and willingness to abide by the Constitution and By-laws of this Association.

## ARTICLE 12

The by-laws of this Constitution shall be read annually immediately after the body is organized.

## ARTICLE 13

This Association advises all its church to commemorate the death and sufferings of our Lord at least twice a year, with the service of feet-washing to follow the communion.

## ARTICLE 14

This Association shall meet annually on Thursday before the second Sunday in September for the purpose of worship and the transaction of business. There shall be no less than two (2) worship services daily while the Association is in session.

## ARTICLE 15

This Association's printed Minutes shall consist of a record of all business transacted and all worship services during the annual meeting, the proceedings of the quarterly sessions of Conference, the Constitution and By-laws of the Association and the Constitution and By-laws of the Ministers' Conference, the Church Covenant, and such tables of statistics and blank forms as may be necessary.

## ARTICLE 16

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at any annual meeting of the Association.

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## BY-LAWS OF THE MOUNT MITCHELL ASSOCIATION OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

### ARTICLE 1

A session of this Association shall meet annually.

### ARTICLE 2

This Association shall be opened with Bible reading and prayer.

### ARTICLE 3

There shall be no conversation with members, one with another, so as to interrupt business, while in session.

### ARTICLE 4

Every person wishing to speak shall first arise to his feet, address the moderator and receive recognition.

### ARTICLE 5

No member shall interrupt another who is speaking.

### ARTICLE 6

Every member shall attend to the subject under consideration.

## ARTICLE 7A

No member shall speak more than three (3) times on any one subject.

## ARTICLE 8

Every motion made and seconded shall be acted upon after suitable discussion unless withdrawn by those who made it.

## ARTICLE 9A

A motion before the house must be acted upon before another motion can be made.

## ARTICLE 10

On all motions, when a vote of the body is taken, a majority shall prevail.

## ARTICLE 11

The Moderator shall have the same privilege to speak as any other member, provided the chair is filled.

## ARTICLE 12

We will admit of no other title but that of Brother or Sister while in session.

## ARTICLE 13

No member shall absent himself from the body while in session without permission of the Moderator.

## ARTICLE 14

Any person transgressing these by-laws shall be admonished by the Moderator.

## ARTICLE 15

No less than seven (7) members shall constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE 16

These by-laws may be amended at any regular annual meeting by two-thirds vote.

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# CONSTITUTION FOR PRESENTATION TO MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OF THE NEWLY FORMED MOUNT MITCHELL ASSOCIATION OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

## ARTICLE 1

This body shall be known as the Ministers' Conference of the Mount Mitchell Association of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.

## ARTICLE 2

This body is formed under and by the authority of the Mount Mitchell Association, and shall be composed of its licensed and ordained ministers, with such delegates as provided by Article 8.

## ARTICLE 3

This body shall have entire jurisdiction over the ministry in said Association, issuing license, prescribing qualifications for the ministry, conducting examinations and ordaining ministers, and at all times working for the most harmonious and effective ministry. Each licensed minister shall work under a license for a period of not less than one year; then being eligible for ordination, providing he can meet all other requirements set forth by the Ordaining Council.



## ARTICLE 4

We deem it necessary for the protection of the Gospel not to receive anyone as a minister who has two living wives.

## ARTICLE 5

Suitable women may be ordained to the Christian ministry, provided there are no objections to such indorsement other than the matter of sex. (NOTE: This is a word for word copy of a ruling passed in the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist Church in 1886.)

## ARTICLE 6

We believe the Bible teaches that Christian women should wear modest apparel, have long hair, and avoid adorning their persons with useless jewelry. This body shall require its female members to be guided by these principles.

## ARTICLE 7

The officers of this Conference shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk-Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and shall perform the duties usually performed by such officers.

## ARTICLE 8

Each church shall be advised by its pastor to send two delegates to each session of this Conference, with a letter of authorization from the church, which delegation shall enjoy equal privileges with the ministry, both in deliberations and in voting.

## ARTICLE 9

Each year, upon being organized, this body shall elect an Ordaining Council. This Council shall consist of three (3) ordained ministers. One member of this Council shall be

retained from the preceding year's Council, the other two (2) to be elected at the discretion of the Conference.

#### ARTICLE 10

The Ordaining Council, when properly organized, shall have charge of all examinations and ordinations of candidates for the ministry, who have been ordered before it by the Conference. It shall also conduct due investigation into the social life of any candidate for ordination.

#### ARTICLE 11

This Conference may receive any Christian minister as a visiting member, and when thus received he may enjoy all rights and privileges of regular members except voting privileges.

#### ARTICLE 12

This Conference shall meet on Friday before each fifth Sunday, with some church in the Association previously agreed upon, or at the call of the Moderator, provided that more than one session may not be held with any church during the same Conference year; and providing also that there be no session held at the fifth Sunday in April immediately following the adoption of this Constitution.

#### ARTICLE 13

The Moderator is empowered, and it is his duty, to call an extra session of the Conference, upon receiving a properly signed petition from five (5) members, at least (3) three of whom shall be ordained ministers.

#### ARTICLE 14

Each applicant for either license or ordination shall present a letter of recommendation from his church, properly signed by both pastor and clerk. He must of necessity be

a member of a church within the bounds of this Conference. Any minister coming from another denomination shall first unite with one of our churches, then present a letter of recommendation from the church, just as any applicant for license or ordination.

#### ARTICLE 15

Any minister who does not represent either in person or by letter for two (2) successive sessions of Conference shall be charged with delinquency and shall be deprived of his vote on any question until his disability is removed by vote of the Conference. However, if the delinquent brother offer a satisfactory reason for his absence, a majority vote of the Conference may remove his disability.

#### ARTICLE 16

The Conference may withdraw fellowship from any member who becomes disorderly, provided however, all Scriptural and Christian means have first been used to help him.

#### ARTICLE 17

The Moderator is empowered to appoint any Committee the Conference deems necessary to expedite its business.

#### ARTICLE 18

Any article of this Constitution or its By-laws may be suspended or amended by a two-thirds vote of the Conference.

#### ARTICLE 19

A session of Conference shall be held in connection with the yearly Association.

## ARTICLE 20

Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum, provided at least three (3) of them shall be ordained ministers.

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## BY-LAWS OF THE MOUNT MITCHELL FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

### ARTICLE 1

No licentiate shall succeed to ordination unless he can furnish sufficient evidence that he has obeyed the Scriptural admonition to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth." The Ordaining Council must be satisfied that he or she is divinely called, and the fruit of life and work during the period served under license must be satisfactory to the Ordaining Council. If it deems such a course advisable, the Ordaining Council may require a licentiate to renew his license, for as often as may be necessary, before ordination.

### ARTICLE 2

Necessary expenses of this organization shall be met by voluntary contribution or by assessment of its members.

### ARTICLE 3

No member shall serve as pastor of a church which does not enforce discipline, care for its pastor according to its ability, and strive to go forward in spiritual progress and the advancement of the cause of Christ.

#### ARTICLE 4

Any member who meddles with the work of another, or injures another's reputation for usefulness shall be subject to a charge of disorderly conduct, and shall be dealt with according to Article 16 of the Constitution.

#### ARTICLE 5

Each member, not excused by age or infirmity, is expected to do some work to advance the Cause of Christ and make a full report at each annual meeting.

#### ARTICLE 6

Membership in this body shall be proof of good standing in the ministry.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ARTICLE 7

#### ARTICLE 8

#### ARTICLE 9



# CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION

We, the \_\_\_\_\_ Free

Will Baptist Church, now in session, send Christian greetings  
to the Mount Mitchell Association, and the following delegates  
to represent us in your body:

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Our statistics are as follows: ---

Our regular preaching days are \_\_\_\_\_; Number baptized  
\_\_\_\_\_; Members added otherwise \_\_\_\_\_; Excluded  
\_\_\_\_\_; Dismissed \_\_\_\_\_; Deaths \_\_\_\_\_; Total  
membership \_\_\_\_\_; Average number in Sunday School  
\_\_\_\_\_; Number of communion and feet-washing ser-  
vices \_\_\_\_\_; Number of times pastor present \_\_\_\_\_.

We paid our pastor \$ \_\_\_\_\_; Paid for revivals  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_; Paid for Orphanage support \$ \_\_\_\_\_;  
For foreign missions \$ \_\_\_\_\_; For local church and  
Sunday School operating expense \$ \_\_\_\_\_; To aged  
and disabled ministers' fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_; For minute fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_; For poor and sick \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and to the  
visiting ministers \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

We pledge to pay to Aged and Disabled ministers' fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_; To foreign mission support \_\_\_\_\_  
per month.

Our church property is valued at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . We have spent approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for church property improvement.

Number of revivals \_\_\_\_\_ . Conducted by \_\_\_\_\_

We believe our general spiritual condition, as compared with a year ago is \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor this year \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor-elect \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Steward \_\_\_\_\_

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to the Lord, through Jesus Christ, we agree to accept the Free Will Baptist articles of faith; we give ourselves to each other by the help of God. (2) We solemnly covenant before God that we will carefully observe, rebuke and admonish those having gone astray and watch over each other's reputation, use our influence to the upbuilding of the church, commands implied in a profession of faith, and in the spirit of kindness and for the advancement of the cause of Christ, endeavoring to seek the unity of the spirit in the bonds of Peace, and to confess our faults to one another, and to strengthen those who 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 to the Gospel and contribute liberally to aid the ministry according to our several abilities. Also we agree to be liberal with those who are afflicted and needy, and especially to those of the household of faith. (5) We also agree to attend the monthly meetings regularly if not Providentially hindered, and to submit to all ordinances applied 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; not to use it as a beverage, nor aid or assist in the manufacture of such, nor to furnish it to others. We also agree to encourage home and foreign missions, education, Sabbath Schools, good morals and everything that is for the glory of God, and to the welfare of men, and may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be happily admitted into the Kingdom of God, where we can ascribe honor unto the Lamb forever. Amen

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