

MINUTES

OF THE

MT. MITCHELL ASSOCIATION
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Organizational Meeting
Held
March 9 and 10, 1956

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
HELD WITH
BOWDITCH CHURCH, AUGUST 22-24, 1968

Joe Woody Moderator
Vinita Miller Deyton Clerk

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Scheduled to Convene with Patterson Branch Church
Thursday before the Fourth Sunday in August 1969
at 10:30 a.m.

Sister Edith Pauley to Deliver the Introductory Message
Sister Frances Radford to be the Alternate Speaker

IN MEMORIAM



REV. T. E. (DAD) WOODY

To- "Dad"

Our Father let me walk with you right up to Heaven's gate
Knowing it would be too hard for me to watch you go and wait,
And as you entered glory fair, I prayed and held your hand
Until I felt you slip away with the glorious angel band.
Our hearts and lives were inter-twined; so truly one were we
That I longed so to go along where I could with you be;
But since our Saviour called you Home, and you couldn't
longer stay,

I know you wait for me up there, and your foot-prints mark
the way.

The glimpses I've had of the other side, the breezes that
blow this way

Have taught me lessons I ne'er could have learned, had
I not walked with you that day

The Valley of Shadow, so dark and grim:--but Light broke
through at the end!

And I would I could share with all broken hearts the comfort
our Father did send.

Could I teach all God's children the lessons I learned, we'd
welcome the journey Home;

For we'd know that Heaven's no strange, foreign place, but
the land of our loved and own!

We'd know that death can ne'er really divide the ones who on
Jesus depend;

And that in Spirit they witness our race, that they comfort
and help to the end.

And since you're there, Heav'n has become a truly "homey"
place,

For just inside the gate, by faith, I see your smiling face:

The gate I asked He'd open as I felt you slip away,

The gate where you will meet me on my Home-going day. . .

I miss you so, no mortal tongue could all my heartache tell;

But I have our Father's comfort: I know that all is well

With you up there, where I shall go when work down here is
o'er,

And clasp your hand, and see you smile, again on that glad
shore.

Your "young-'un",

Frances

PROCEEDINGS

The thirteenth annual session of the Mt. Mitchell Free Will Baptist Association convened with the Bowditch Church, Route 5, Burnsville, North Carolina, Thursday, August 22, 1968, at 10:30 a.m. The choir sang "I'd Rather Be An Old Time Christian" and "I Have Somebody With Me." Welcome given by pastor of the host church, Brother Sam Moore. Prayer led by Sister Lucy Deyton. Brother Charlie Miller read Hebrews 12:1. His subject was "Listen to the Witnesses". He delivered a wonderful message; the power of God was greatly manifest. After a handshake of sweet fellowship there were testimonies by Sister Frances Radford; Brothers Sam Moore, Roosevelt Briggs. Dismissed with prayer for lunch.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Reconvened at 12:45 p.m. for business. Service began with the choir singing "Press On, It Won't Be Long". Prayer led by Brother Roosevelt Briggs.

The Assistant Moderator, Brother Cassie Thomas gave the opening remarks. Proceeded with business. Appointed Sister Frances Radford as reading clerk. Appointed the following committees:

To receive Disabled Ministers' Fund. . Brother Joe Woody
To receive Foreign Missions Fund. Brother Wade Murphy
To receive Old Folks Home Fund Brother Sam Moore
To receive Minute Fund Sister Vinita Deyton

Church letters read. Churches with delegates were enrolled as follows:

BOWDITCH - Sisters Bertie Hensley, Adlie Briggs; Brothers Paul Briggs, Alec Hensley, Fonze Hughes.

GREEN MOUNTAIN - Sisters Tilda Bennett, Kathleen Blankenship, Trina Williams, and Brother Fred Blankenship.

MINE FORK - Brothers Frank Laws, Clair Laws, James Fox.

PRICES CREEK - Sisters Tommilee Burleson, Cora Arrowood, Camilee Thomas, and Brother Moscoe Towe.

SOUTH BEND - Sisters Lucy Deyton, Allie Renfro; Brothers Levi Deyton, Nathan Renfro.

TERRYS FORK - Brothers Wayne Metcalf, Dave Proffitt.

Voted to receive the church letter from Patterson Branch Church. Letter read. The following delegates seated:

PATTERSON BRANCH - Sisters Belle Deyton, Anna Scott; Brothers Jack Webb, Fletcher Bryant.

Voted to receive the Patterson Branch Church in full fellowship.

Elected Brother Joe Woody as Moderator, Brother Sam Moore as Assistant Moderator. Elected Sister Vinita Deyton as Clerk of Association.

Upon taking the office of Moderator, Brother Woody read the by-laws of the Association.

Called for unfinished business. None presented.

Appointed Brother Roosevelt Briggs to preach at the 7:30 p.m. service; Sister Frances Radford at the Friday morning service.

The following committees were appointed:

CARE FOR AGED AND CHILDREN - Sisters Anna Scott, Bessie Woody; Brother Sam Moore.

countless others. His greatest monument here will be in the lives of those he led to God and to a closer walk with God, as we endeavor to walk in the path he made so plain. But, feeling I knew him better than any other person, especially during his last years, I know he would want me to give all glory for that life to the One Who saved him and kept him, and in Whose presence he now rejoices. He would want me to say for him: "By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain."

May we meet him by that same grace in the place Jesus has gone to prepare, and from where he now witnesses our race. (Hebrews 12:1)

Written by his partner and fellow-laborer in the Gospel for a quarter of a century,

Frances Radford.

OFFICERS OF MOUNT MITCHELL ASSOCIATION
AND MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

ASSOCIATION

Moderator	Joe Woody, Burnsville, N. C.
Assistant Moderator	Sam Moore, Burnsville, N. C.
Clerk	Vinita Miller Deyton, Burnsville, N. C.
Treasurer, Disabled	
Ministers' Fund	Gene Woody Burnsville, N. C.
Committee for Disabled	
Ministers' Fund	Joe Woody Moscoe Towe
Committee of Investigation	Cassie Thomas Moscoe Towe Sam Moore

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Moderator	Cassie Thomas
Assistant Moderator	Arnold Briggs
Clerk	Vinita Miller Deyton
Ordaining Council	Charlie Miller, Chairman Cassie Thomas, Roy Whitson
Committee of Investigation	Cassie Thomas Sam Moore

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The Assistant Moderator, Brother Cassie Thomas gave the opening remarks. Proceeded with business. Appointed Sister Frances Radford as reading clerk. Appointed the following committees:

To receive Disabled Ministers' Fund. . . Brother Joe Woody
To receive Foreign Missions Fund. Brother Wade Murphy
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MINE FORK - Brothers Frank Laws, Clair Laws, James Fox.

PRICES CREEK - Sisters Tommilee Burleson, Cora Arrowood, Camilee Thomas, and Brother Moscoe Towe.

SOUTH BEND - Sisters Lucy Deyton, Allie Renfro; Brothers Levi Deyton, Nathan Renfro.

TERRYS FORK - Brothers Wayne Metcalf, Dave Proffitt.

Voted to receive the church letter from Patterson Branch Church. Letter read. The following delegates seated:

PATTERSON BRANCH - Sisters Belle Deyton, Anna Scott; Brothers Jack Webb, Fletcher Bryant.

Voted to receive the Patterson Branch Church in full fellowship.

Elected Brother Joe Woody as Moderator, Brother Sam Moore as Assistant Moderator. Elected Sister Vinita Deyton as Clerk of Association.

Upon taking the office of Moderator, Brother Woody read the by-laws of the Association.

Called for unfinished business. None presented.

Appointed Brother Roosevelt Briggs to preach at the 7:30 p.m. service; Sister Frances Radford at the Friday morning service.

The following committees were appointed:

CARE FOR AGED AND CHILDREN - Sisters Anna Scott, Bessie Woody; Brother Sam Moore.

- CHURCHES AND PASTORS - Brothers Wade Murphy, Levi Deyton, Cassie Thomas.
- DEEPER DEVOTION - Brothers Paul Briggs, Cassie Thomas, Roy Whitson, Wayne Metcalf.
- DISABLED MINISTERS' FUND - Brothers Moscoe Towe, Nathan Renfro, Fred Blankenship.
- EDUCATION - Sisters Frances Hughes, Camilee Thomas, Belle Deyton.
- INVESTIGATION - Brothers Cassie Thomas, Sam Moore, Moscoe Towe.
- LORD'S ACRE - Sisters Lucy Deyton, Kathleen Blankenship; Brother Jack Webb.
- MISSIONS - Sisters Frances Radford, Belle Deyton, Lucy Deyton.
- SUNDAY SCHOOLS - Sister Anna Scott; Brothers Jack Webb, Fletcher Bryant.
- TEMPERANCE - Sisters Tomilee Burleson, Trina Williams; Brother Roosevelt Briggs.

Called for visiting ministers. None present.

Enrolled the following ministers:

Sisters Vinita Deyton
Frances Radford

Brothers Roosevelt Briggs
Charlie Miller
Sam Moore
Wade Murphy
Cassie Thomas
Roy Whitson

While the congregation sang we gave the Patterson Branch delegates the right hand of fellowship.

We were dismissed by Brother Roy Whitson, until the 7:30 p.m. worship service.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The 7:30 p. m. worship service began with the choir singing "I'm Getting Ready to Leave This World". Brother Rothy Ogle sang "God's Only Son" and "No Wars in Heaven". Opening remarks by Brother Sam Moore. Altar prayer led by Brother Arnold Briggs. Brother Roosevelt Briggs sang "Matters Not". He then read Matthew 16:18. On the subject "The Church That Has Stood the Test" he brought a very good message. After a handshake of fellowship we were dismissed in prayer to meet at 10:00 a. m. Friday.

FRIDAY MORNING SERVICE

Service convened at 10:00 a. m. The choir sang "Will Jesus Find Us Watching?" Devotional given by Brother Ronald Creech, reading various verses from Psalm 119, after which he led us in prayer.

In the absence of Brother Joe Woody, Brother Cassie Thomas called business to order. Minutes of yesterday's session read and adopted.

Enrolled Sister Edith Pauley.

Welcomed Brother Roscoe Briggs, as he is no longer a member of our body.

Brother Ronald Creech spoke on the work of the Free Will Baptists: 1. Home for Aged; 2. Youth Work; 3. Missions; 4. Fund for Aged Preachers; 5. The Witness and bookstore.

Business session adjourned for preaching at 11:00 o'clock.

WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

Worship service began with the choir singing "Living By Faith". Sister Frances Radford read St. John 10:1-18. On the phrase "I am come that they might have life. . . ." she brought a message of great depth and power.

Sister Tomilee Burleson was anointed for her husband. The Lord was present in the prayer.

There was a handshake, followed by several testimonies, with much rejoicing.

Dismissed by Brother Wade Murphy for lunch.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m. for business. Devotional conducted by Sister Edith Pauley, reading Ephesians 1:17-23. Prayer led by Brother Sam Moore.

Business session called to order by Moderator. Report of Committee on Missions called for. Read by Sister Lucy Deyton. Discussed by Sisters Frances Radford, Vinita Deyton, Belle Deyton. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Education called for. Read by Sister Frances Hughes. Sister Frances Radford read the letter from Brother Jack Paramore inquiring as to when the churches desire his coming to speak. Appointed Brothers Charlie Miller, Cassie Thomas, Sam Moore as a committee to decide where Brother Paramore's meetings shall be held. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools called for. Read by Brother Jack Webb. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Churches and Pastors called for. Read by Brother Wade Murphy. Discussed by Brothers Murphy, Cassie Thomas, Ralph Cook; Sister Frances Radford. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Care for Aged and Children called for. Read by Sister Vinita Deyton. Discussed by Brothers Ronald Creech, Moscoe Towe, Joe Woody; Sisters Frances Radford, Edna Willis. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Disabled Ministers' Fund called for. Read by Brother Moscoe Towe. Discussed by Brother Towe. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Deeper Devotion called for. Read by Brother Cassie Thomas. Discussed by Sister Frances Radford. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Lord's Acre called for. Read by Sister Lucy Deyton. Discussed by Brothers Jack Webb, Levi Deyton. Received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Investigation called for. No Report.

Moved to dedicate the Minutes to the memory of Brother T. E. Woody, with his picture included.

Appreciation expressed to the Bowditch Church for their care of the Association.

Upon request of the Patterson Branch Church, it was decided that the next Association be held there.

Appointed Sister Edith Pauley to preach at the 7:30 p.m. worship service.

Adjourned until the 7:30 p.m. worship service.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The 7:30 p. m. worship service began with the choir singing "My Song of Praise". Sister Adalene Blankenship sang "One More Valley". Brother Zenus and Sister Shirley Allen sang "The Model Church", with much presence of the Spirit. Opening remarks by Brother Sam Moore. Altar prayer led by Brother Zenus Allen. Sister Edith Pauley read Romans 8:1-39 and II Kings 6:8-22. On the subject "What Do You See?" she brought a very encouraging message. After several good testimonies we were dismissed by Brother Moscoe Towe until the Saturday morning service.

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

Service convened at 10:00 a. m. The choir sang "I Have Found the Way". Devotional conducted by Brother Roy Whitson, reading St. John 24:44-48. Altar prayer led by Brother Joe Woody.

Business called to order by Moderator. Called for reading of treasurer's report on Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund.

Moved to increase the amount given from the Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund to Sister Josephine Blevins from ten dollars monthly to fifteen dollars monthly until the next conference.

Minutes of yesterday's session read and adopted.

Enrolled Brother Arnold Briggs.

Called for report of Committee on Paramore's Appointments. Brother Jack Paramore, from the Nashville, Tennessee, Free Will Baptist Bible College, will speak at

the following churches on the appointed dates:

Green Mountain Church -- Friday Night --
October 11 (Bowditch and Mine Fork Churches
please represent at Green Mountain.)

Patterson Branch Church -- Saturday Night --
October 12 (South Bend Church please represent
at Patterson Branch.)

Prices Creek Church -- Sunday Morning --
October 13

Terrys Fork Church -- Sunday Night --
October 13

Praise offered for the Lord's Presence being so greatly
manifest throughout Association.

Adjourned until we meet with the Patterson Branch Church
on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in August 1969.
Sister Edith Pauley to preach the introductory message;
Sister Frances Radford to be the alternate speaker.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGED AND DISABLED MINISTERS' FUND

We, your Committee on Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund recommend that each church in our Association have a set time to collect funds for this purpose. We recommend each fifth Sunday as a good time to receive this offering. It is our duty to help take care of our ministers when they are old or disabled and can't take care of themselves. We are commanded to do good to all, especially the household of faith.

Moscoe Towe
Nathan Renfro
Fred Blankenship

Treasurer's Report:

Amount on hand at close of	
last Association	\$1,473.37
Paid to Brother T. E. Woody	40.00
Paid to Sister Josephine Blevins	120.00
Deduction for bonding fee	5.00
Amount on hand after above deductions .	<u>\$1,308.37</u>
Received at Ministers Conferences.....	59.36
Received at 1968 Association	119.69
Interest paid by Bank	<u>39.61</u>
Present Balance	<u><u>\$1,527.03</u></u>

CARE FOR AGED AND CHILDREN

We, your Committee on Aged and Children submit the following:

Certainly we should not neglect our duty toward the aged and children. So many examples are set forth for us of

how our Heavenly Father is so tender with us, who are His children.

In I. John 3:17 we read, "But whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

Psalm 71:9... "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth."

Anna Scott
Bessie Woody
Sam Moore

CHURCHES AND PASTORS

We, your Committee on Churches and Pastors submit the following for study:

Matthew 16:17-19... "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Farjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Ephesians 4:11, 12... "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

We recommend that the churches choose a pastor as the Holy Ghost directs, praying God's will be done. We feel that a church will grow and prosper when a pastor is chosen by God.

Wade Murphy
Cassie Thomas
Levi Deyton

DEEPER DEVOTION

We, your Committee on Deeper Devotion submit the following Scriptures:

Romans 12:1, 2 . . . "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, hold, 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."

I. Timothy 2:1, 2 . . . "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." Ephesians 6:11-18.

Cassie Thomas
Roy Whitson
Paul Briggs
Wayne Metcalf

EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education submit the following Scriptures:

II. Timothy 2:15... "Study to shew thyself approved unto god, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Proverbs 15:14... "The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge; but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness."

James 1:5... "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Job 28:28... "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, That is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

Frances Hughes
Camilee Thomas
Belle Deyton

CLERK'S NOTE: During the six Vacation Bible Schools conducted in the Green Mountain, Mine Fork, Prices Creek, South Bend, Terrys Fork, and Big Creek Churches there were 205 children in attendance.

LORD'S ACRE

We, your Committee on the Lord's Acre Work submit the following:

We urge all our churches to take part in this project. It can be a great blessing to each one. We feel sure God is pleased to have a working church to help those in need.

I. 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."

Lucy Deyton
Kathleen Blankenship
Jack Webb

MISSIONS

We, your Committee on Missions submit the following Scriptures:

Matthew 13:38, 39... "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels."

Matthew 10:37, 38... "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

Matthew 9:37, 38... "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Lucy Deyton
Frances Radford
Belle Deyton

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools submit the following:

Scripture Reference: Romans 12:1.

We should strive to be on time for Sunday School each Sunday and encourage our children in the Lord's work.

We should try to have the most devoted Christians to teach all classes.

We should strive for more reverence for the house of God.

We should observe altar prayer, and encourage a more devoted prayer life and also, family devotions. We should teach our children to pray at home and at Sunday School.

Jack Webb
Fletcher Bryant
Anna Scott

TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance submit the following:

Temperance involves mastery of oneself to such a degree that one is able to abstain from anything which might hinder his effective service for God, and to subject all of his or her physical impulses to the will of Christ.

We give the following Scripture references:

Galatians 5:22, 23... "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Ephesians 5:18... "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

Titus 1:8... "But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate..."

Tomilee Burleson
Trena Williams
Roosevelt Briggs

SESSIONS OF ASSOCIATION

<u>Number</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Year</u>
14	Patterson Branch Church	1969
15	South Bend Church	1970
16	Mine Fork Church	1971
17	Prices Creek Church	1972
18	Terrys Fork Church	1973
19	Green Mountain Church	1974
20	Bowditch Church	1975

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

MINE FORK CHURCH September 27, 1968
PRICES CREEK CHURCH December 27, 1968
SOUTH BEND CHURCH March 28, 1969
GREEN MOUNTAIN CHURCH June 27, 1969
PATTERSON BRANCH CHURCH . . . August 23, 1969
BOWDITCH CHURCH November 28, 1969
MINE FORK CHURCH March 27, 1970

IMPORTANT: It is expected of the women of the churches to serve lunch at the Conference for Friday only.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

FIRST QUARTERLY SESSION

The 44th session of Ministers' Conference met with the Prices Creek Church October 27, 1967. Choir sang "I Feel Like Traveling On". Altar prayer led by Brother Roscoe Briggs. Brother Charlie Miller read Matthew 17:14-21, using for his subject, "Why Could Not We Cast Him Out?"

Met at 1:30 p.m. for business. Devotional by Brother Burl Austin. Prayer led by Brother Moscoe Towe. Reading of last minutes. All responded to call for fellowship. Those ministers present were:

Sisters Vinita Deyton
Edith Pauley

Brothers Roosevelt Briggs
Roscoe Briggs
Guy Honeycutt
Charlie Miller
Sam Moore
Wade Murphy
Cassie Thomas
Roy Whitson

Church letters read; delegates seated.

Received an offering amounting to \$25.25 for Brother T. E. Woody.

Moved to add following paragraph as Article 22, added as amendment to Article 14: Every minister coming from another Conference to seek membership in our body must bring with him a letter of recommendation from the Conference he is leaving.

Omitted night service, due to revival at South Bend.

Met Saturday morning for business. Choir sang "An Old Account Was Settled." Devotional by Brother Guy Honeycutt. Prayer led by Sister Edith Pauley.

Topic discussed: "The Fullness of Christ".

Worship service. Choir sang "Blessed Assurance". Prayer led by Brother Cassie Thomas. Brother Roosevelt Briggs read Luke 15:18, using "The Prodigal Son" for his subject. Much presence of Spirit.

Brother Cassie Thomas, Moderator
Sister Vinita Deyton, Clerk

SECOND QUARTERLY SESSION

The 45th session of Ministers' Conference met with the South Bend Church December 29, 1967. Choir sang "Just a Little Talk With Jesus". Prayer led by Brother Wade Murphy. Sister Vinita Deyton read Ephesians 4:11-16, using for her subject, "Why We Preach"

Met at 1:15 p.m. for business. Choir sang "Redeemed". Devotional by Brother Wade Murphy. Prayer led by Brother Roosevelt Briggs.

Enrolled following ministers:

Sisters Vinita Deyton	Brothers Roosevelt Briggs
Edith Pauley	Charlie Miller
Frances Radford	Sam Moore
	Wade Murphy
	Cassie Thomas
	Roy Whitson

Received \$14.61 for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund. Church letters read; delegates seated. Brother William D.

Robinson returned his credentials, as he has joined another denomination.

Evening worship service began with choir singing "I Have Somebody With Me". Prayer led by Brother Roosevelt Briggs. Sister Frances Radford read St. Luke 16:19-26 and I. Corinthians 15:35-38, using for her subject "What Are They Doing in Heaven Today?"

Saturday morning business session began with choir singing "God Holds the Future in His Hands". Devotional by Brother Roy Whitson. Prayer led by Brother Charlie Miller.

Granted Brother Arnold Miller's request that he be dismissed from our body, with the provision that he return his permanent license paper.

Discussion of the topic: "What is a Personal Experience With God?". Worship service began with prayer for healing of Sister Edith Pauley's hands. (Sister Pauley's hands were restored by God to a normal condition.) Brother Roosevelt Briggs read Revelation 6:16, 17, using for his subject, "The Day of God's Wrath".

Brother Cassie Thomas, Moderator
Sister Vinita Miller Deyton, Clerk

THIRD QUARTERLY SESSION

The 46th session of Ministers' Conference met with the Terrys Fork Church March 29, 1968. Choir sang "Lord Lead Me On". Altar prayer led by Brother T. A. Greene. Brother Wayne Metcalf gave testimony to the power of God in his own life, in raising him from the door of death. Brother Charlie Miller read St. John 3:8, using for his subject "The Likenesses of the Spirit and the Wind".

Enrolled the following ministers:

Sisters Vinita Deyton
Edith Pauley
Frances Radford

Brothers Arnold Briggs
Roosevelt Briggs
Roscoe Briggs
T. A. Greene
Guy Honeycutt
Charlie Miller
Sam Moore
Wade Murphy
Cassie Thomas
Roy Whitson

Received \$29.50 for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund.

Welcomed Brother Ronald Creech, editor of THE WITNESS, and Brother Jack Paramore, from the Bible College. Asked them to speak.

Business session began with choir singing "I've Never Been Sorry". Devotional by Brother Sam Moore. Prayer led by Sister Vinita Deyton.

Church letters read; delegates seated.

Granted Brother Roscoe Briggs a letter of recommendation, as he wishes to work elsewhere.

Evening worship service began with choir singing "The Church on the Hill". Prayer led by Sister Vinita Deyton. Brother T. A. Greene read Romans 1:1-15, using for his subject "The Message and the Messenger". An ordination of deacons began with Sister Frances Radford reading Acts 6:1-8. Ordained Brothers Phil Anderson and Cline Honeycutt to the Deacon Board of the Terrys Fork Church.

Saturday morning business session began with choir singing "Trust and Obey". Devotional by Brother Roy Whitson.

Prayer led by Brother Arnold Briggs.

Discussed the topic "How to Proclaim a Full Salvation and Lift Up a Standard of Holy Living in Accordance With the Teaching of the Bible".

Worship service began with choir singing "Rescue the Perishing". Prayer led by Brother T. A. Greene. Sister Edith Pauley read Mark 6:1-3, using for her subject "Who Is He?"

Brother Cassie Thomas, Moderator
Sister Vinita Miller Deyton, Clerk

FOURTH QUARTERLY SESSION

The 47th session of Ministers' Conference met with the Green Mountain Church June 28, 1968. Choir sang "Just a Little Talk With Jesus". Prayer led by Brother Joe Woody. Brother Roosevelt Briggs read Matthew 27:28, using for his subject "A Friend".

Welcomed Brother Ronald Creech, State Evangelist, and Brother Lynn from the West Asheville Cedar Hill Church.

Business session began with choir singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms". Prayer led by Brother Lynn. Enrolled following ministers:

Sisters Josephine Blevins	Brothers Roosevelt Briggs
Vinita Deyton	Wade Murphy
Edith Pauley	Cassie Thomas
Frances Radford	

Received \$15.25 for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund. Church letters read; delegates seated. Discussed topic: "The Devices of Satan".

Evening worship service began with choir singing "Let Me Live Close to Thee". Prayer led by Brother Bernie Jones, a visiting minister. Sister Edith Pauley read St. John 4:1-30, using for her subject "Come See a Man".

Saturday morning business began at 10:00 a.m. Omitted customary singing and devotional to give time for Brother Fred Peterson to play his recording of Brother Estus Pirkle's message, "If Footmen Tire You, What Will The Horses Do?" Discussed topic: "What is the greatest need of the Church today?"

Worship service. Brother Wade Murphy read I. Corinthians 15:42-58, using for his subject "The Resurrection of the Saints".

Brother Cassie Thomas, Moderator
Sister Vinita Miller Deyton, Clerk

FIFTH QUARTERLY SESSION

The 48th session of Ministers' Conference met with the Bowditch Church in connection with Association.

Enrolled following ministers:

Sisters Vinita Deyton	Brothers Arnold Briggs
Edith Pauley	Charlie Miller
Frances Radford	Sam Moore
	Wade Murphy
	Cassie Thomas
	Roy Whitson

Received \$14.00 for Aged and Disabled Ministers' Fund.

Welcomed Brother Roscoe Briggs.

Elected Brother Cassie Thomas as Moderator; Brother Arnold Briggs as Assistant. Elected Sister Vinita Deyton as Clerk.

Elected members for Ordaining Council: Brother Charlie Miller, chairman; Brothers Cassie Thomas and Roy Whitson.

Ordained Brother Wade Murphy with prayer and laying on of hands.

Topic for next Conference: "The Preciousness of the Cross".

Adjourned until Conference at Mine Creek Church, September 27th, 1968. Brother Sam Moore to preach introductory message; Brother Arnold Briggs to be the alternate speaker.

Brother Cassie Thomas, Moderator
Sister Vinita Miller Deyton, Clerk

OBITUARIES

CARL BOONE

Carl Boone was born January 31, 1894 and departed this life February 25, 1968. He was a charter member of Bowditch Church. He helped organize the Church in 1926 and was a good member. He is so grievously missed by his family and the community. He is survived by the wife, Julia Boone; one daughter, Mrs. Clarence Byrd; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They loved him so good, it is so hard to live here without him. We know he has gone to rest, and his works shall follow him. He will come back some morning with the Lord when He comes to gather His children. We pray God will help us all to be ready to meet him in the air, and to ever be with the Lord. He is gone, but he is not forgotten by his family and the community.

Frances Hughes
Church Clerk

BONNIE ANDERSON BRINKLEY

Bonnie Anderson Brinkley departed this life May 8, 1968 at the age of 58. Surviving are her husband, Johnny R. Brinkley; three daughters: Mrs. William Spanburg of Pontiac, Michigan; Mrs. Frank Rothrock and Mrs. Bobby Blair, of Thomasville, N. C.; a son, J. D. Brinkley of Asheville, N. C.; two sisters, three brothers, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Brinkley and her husband operated the Brinkley Rest Home in Burnsville for several years. At the time of her death she was supervisor of the Free Will Baptist Rest Home in Burnsville.

Mrs. Brinkley united with the Green Mountain Free Will Baptist Church, where she was a very active and devoted member. Her presence will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her.

A ROSE IS GONE

(Written in memory of Bonnie Brinkley)

God needed another rose
To bloom in His garden of love,
So He sent His Angels
To gently bear you to Heaven above.

Here, you bloomed in true beauty
Our lives enriched by your presence,
So kind, gentle, and loving;
Sadness has come since your absence.

The young and the old
Loved you so much;
The sick felt better
At your tender touch.

Sweet memories of you
Will live in our hearts ever.
In God's garden of love
You'll bloom forever.

Loyce Woody Deyton

CHRISTINE MILLER JOHNSON

Christine Miller Johnson departed this life February 14, 1968 at the age of 95. She is survived by two sons, Roy Johnson of Carpenter, Ohio and Finley Johnson of Burnsville, N. C.; two sisters, Mrs. Grover Hunter and Mrs. Frank Laws, both of Burnsville, N. C.; 33 grandchildren and 68 great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the Green Mountain Church. She is missed; the absence of her sound falls heavily on our ears and hearts. Hers was a quiet nature, molded by the great hardships of many early years. But for such there is restand reward.

A great-granddaughter,
Vinita Miller Deyton

ESSIE EDWARDS LAWS

Essie Edwards Laws was born April 16, 1896 and departed this life June 8, 1968, after a lengthy illness. Surviving are the husband, Sidney Laws; two sisters, Ola and Carrie; one niece, Mrs. Willie Bennett, all of Burnsville, N. C.

She was a member of the Mine Fork Church. She was one of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price (I. Peter 3:4). We believe she waits to welcome us at the ending of our earthly race. And until then she will be missed greatly.

A friend,
Vinita Miller Deyton

WALTER A. LAWS

Walter A. Laws went to his reward on August 18, 1968, at the age of 73. He is survived by 4 daughters: Mrs. Junior Ball, Mrs. Bruce Ledford, Mrs. Ivan McCurry and Mrs. Fred Honeycutt; 7 sons: Roscoe, Zeph, Albert, Ralph, Rassie, of Burnsville, N. C. and Paul and Ramon of Johnson City, Tennessee; many grandchildren; two brothers: Frank and Sidney, of Burnsville, N. C.

He was a member of the Mine Fork Church. Though small of stature, like Zachaeus of old, he loved his Lord. He knew the joy of the Lord while on earth, and we believe he knows it in perfection now. We miss him, but we are happy for him: his greatest desire was to depart this life.

A friend,
Vinita Miller Deyton

AUGUSTUS ERSKINE MILLER

A. Erskine Miller slipped away home on September 15, 1967, at the age of 76. He is survived by the widow, Princey Cannon Miller; one daughter, Mrs. Echird Hunter; four sons: Charlie, John and Arnold, of Burnsville, N. C. and Ted, of Asheville, N. C.; 17 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

He was a deacon of the Green Mountain Church -- one approved by God and man.

AUTUMN (In memory of Erskine Miller)

It is autumn.
The rustling of dying leaves of corn,
The unwavering chant of the cha-chas
Verify it.

And he is gone.
No large-type print announced
His passing; no business stopped
Because he is no more.
No history book records deeds of his,
No multitudes heard his words,
Few knew the man we mourn.

He was a plain man:
No pretense in his speech; no flair
In his manner of his dress.
He sought no fame; . . . desired
No wealth. Perhaps
You wonder why he is so missed.

The great did not know him.
But the poor did. . .
He was to them a friend.
The sick knew him. . .
They expected his humble efforts
Their bodies and spirits to mend.
The troubled knew him,
And drew strength from his presence
Because he had known trouble--
--and overcome.

The wayward ones knew him---
And respected him for the man he was:
A just one.
The Christian knew him;
His life was an open book. ,
Each page a worthwhile page.
The businessmen knew him
As a law-abiding citizen.
His debts were always paid.

How is it
That a body of clay
Can hold all he was?
And how does the soul within
Make a body so dear
As his was to us?
He was strong enough
To be tender.
Oh! How tender were his ways!

He had experienced enough
To understand.
He understood. . . That's a lot to say.
Inside the body was a soul
That caused him
Never to mistreat a fellowman.

He was honest enough to see
His family just as they are,
As few parents can.
He had known want,
But had learned contentment.
No one ever heard him complain.
In life he knew much happiness;
But, too, he knew pain and
 heartbreak and care;
No matter. . . he remained the same.
Let it be said of him that
He was what God intended him to be:
He was wholly a man.

Ah! Pap-paw.
The emptiness you left
Ever seems to grow.
It's because there'll never be
Another like you.
I wonder. . . . did you know----
Did our blundering words
And the things we did
Show you what to us you meant?
If not, I pray God to tell you,
For only He knows
How much you are missed.
Your feet took careful steps--
Their echoes affect our every day.
They will live as long as we live.

Your hands . . . so calloused by toil,
Seemed never to take,
But, always, somehow, to give.
There was something about your smile
That burned itself
Into our hearts and minds.
You could laugh. You had
A sense of humor
That trouble and pain could not bind.
Thank God for memory!
In ours we have you yet.
We still smile at some joke you
 played;
Or at something you said.
Our lives are still enriched
Because of the prayers you prayed.

Pap-paw, the gardens have
 surrendered to the weeds;
The air is cooler now.
Many birds have flown.
These hills you knew so well
Are again painted orange and red
 and brown.
And you are gone.

It is autumn.
Your toiling is done.
Your harvesting is begun.

A granddaughter,
Vinita Miller Deyton

TRISSIE MITCHELL

Trissie Mitchell departed this life on September 14, 1967, at the age of 95. She is survived by two sons: Dewey and Guy, of Burnsville, and several grandchildren. She was a devoted mother, one who worked to rear her children after being widowed. She is remembered by her many friends for her sweet face and her gentle spirit. We believe her suffering is forever over. She is missed. But we could not bring her back; to be at rest is far better than here.

A friend,
Vinita Miller Deyton

CORA FOX RAY

Cora Fox Ray went home to rest on August 4, 1968, at the age of 84. Surviving are three daughters: Mrs. Georgia Robinson of Burnsville; Mrs. George Anderson of Marion and Mrs. Paul Gardner of Middletown, Conn.; four sons: Frank of Burnsville, Roy of Micaville, Carl of Swannanoa, and Paul of Oteen; two sisters, three brothers and several grandchildren.

She will always abide in the memories of her children and friends. She was a good woman; of such God said the price is above that of rubies.

Vinita Miller Deyton

MURRAY WRIGHT

Murray Wright departed this life August 7, 1968, at the age of 56. Surviving are the widow, Helen Blevins Wright; a daughter, Mrs. Grady P. Melton; a son, Danny Wright, both

of Burnsville; three sisters, Mrs. Ola Price, Mrs. Joe Woody, and Mrs. Mary Curtis; four grandchildren. He professed faith in Christ at an early age.

AN EMPTY PLACE

A place is empty in this world
That no one else can fill,
God saw it was time to take you home
We know it was His will.

The pain you bore so bravely
While on your journey here,
Already you've forgotten;
You have found peace for evermore.

Our day was made much brighter
Each time we saw you smile.
Your words, so softly spoken...
We'll not hear them for awhile.

Memories of you live in our hearts
That time can never erase.
With the help of Jesus and His love
Someday, we'll meet at Heaven's gate.

In memory of Murray Wright.

A niece,
Loyce Woody Deyton

ANN HENSLEY

Ann Miller Hensley, widow of the late Jim Hensley, departed this life January 2, 1968, at the age of 72. She is survived by four children: Will, Quentin, Pearl and Violet and three stepchildren: Monroe, Crawford and Dealie.

She was a member of the Patterson Branch Church. We feel she is united with her friends and loved ones on the other side.

Vinita Miller Deyton

WAYNE PETERSON

Wayne Peterson, aged 26, was taken home suddenly on August 9, 1968 in a traffic accident. Surviving are the wife, Shirley Hopson Peterson; two children, Tammy and Marty, of the home; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Peterson; two sisters: Frances and Elaine; five brothers: Don, Blaine, Carmon, Edward, and Steve; and the maternal grandparents.

He was a member of the South Bend Church. The last memory that most of us have of him was of his rejoicing in the South Bend revival. In our loss and acute sorrow we are tempted to question "Why?" God does not explain everything to us; but He promises that everything is for our good if we love Him. And He encourages us to come on to where we believe Wayne is. On that side, when the pattern of life is completed, we shall understand God's design.

A friend,
Vinita Miller Deyton

MINISTERS ROLL

ORDAINED

Arnold Briggs Rt. 2, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Roosevelt Briggs Rt. 1, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
T. A. Greene 2013 Cedar Fork Drive
Greensboro, North Carolina
Guy Honeycutt Rt. 1, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Charlie Miller Box 612, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Sam Moore Burnsville, North Carolina 28714
Wade Murphy Burnsville, North Carolina 28714
Frances Radford Box 155, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Cassie Thomas Rt. 5, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Roy Whitson Green Mountain, North Carolina

PERMANENT LICENSE

Josephine Blevins Rt. 2, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Vinita Miller Dayton Rt. 1, Burnsville, N. C. 28714
Edith Pauley Erwin, Tennessee

TABLE OF STATISTICS

	(Union) Bowditch	Green Mountain	Mine Fork	Patterson Branch	Prices Creek	South Bend	Terrys Fork
Meeting Days	2 - 4	1 - 3	2 - 4	Full	2 - 4	2 - 4	Full
Number Baptized	0	1	1	8	3	1	0
Added Otherwise	0	4	1	0	0	0	6
Excluded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
Deaths	1	3	1	1	0	1	0
Communion Services	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
Number in Sunday School	45	80	35	50	40	65	50
Total Membership	50	135	45	91	83	95	80
Times Pastor Present	45	22	22	40	45	24	Full
Minute Fund	15.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	21.45	18.87	20.00
Paid Pastor	281.25	461.19	195.48	869.17	639.96	369.89	1,102.89
Paid for Revivals	42.00	71.50	46.00	245.00	418.06	84.45	160.00
Foreign Missions	90.00	85.49	39.86	494.53	518.66	189.25	426.10
Home for Aged	47.25	375.00	41.60	0	49.97	83.22	84.00
Poor and Sick	15.00	412.27	50.00	41.19	331.30	208.47	250.00
Monthly Mission Pledge	0	4.00	4.00	0	29.00		19.00
Value Church Property	10,500.00	9,000.00	7,000.00	3,236.00	7,451.50	7,586.00	10,200.00
Improvements	0	130.00	0	0	52.00	25.00	237.00
Disabled Ministers' Fund	0	50.00	0	10.00	49.69	0	10.00
Visiting Ministers	14.00	Unknown	8.64	246.25	28.00	15.45	195.00
Lord's Acre Receipts	0	170.57	0	0	0	0	0
Sunday School and Local Church Operating Expense	250.00	317.80	161.00	82.00	190.45	253.17	211.00

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

<u>Church and Pastor</u>	<u>Clerk and Address</u>	<u>Aged Home Chairman</u>	<u>Lord's Acre Work Chmn.</u>
(Union) Bowditch Sam Moore	Mrs. Frances Hughes Micaville, N. C.	Bertie Hensley	Alec Hensley
Green Mountain Charlie Miller	Mrs. Joe Woody Route 1 Burnsville, N. C.	Earl Fox	Earl Fox
Mine Fork Charlie Miller	Mrs. J. B. Robinson Route 1 Burnsville, N. C.	Carmon Laws	Hubert Freeman
Patterson Branch Frances Radford	Mrs. Burdette Deyton Route 1, Box 98 Burnsville, N. C.		
South Bend Charlie Miller Co-Pastor - Vinita Deyton	Mrs. Gene Thomas Route 2 Green Mountain, N. C.	Luther Renfro	Levi Deyton
Prices Creek Cassie Thomas	Mr. Doyle Fox Route 3, Box 266 Burnsville, N. C.	Moscow Towe	James Burleson
Terrys Fork Joint Pastors: Frances Radford Arnold Briggs	Miss Judy Metcalf Route 2 Mars Hill, N. C.	Wayne Metcalf	Phil Anderson

CONSTITUTION OF MOUNT MITCHELL
FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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 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 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 rights 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 proven 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 season.
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, providing 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 Bylaws of this Constitution shall be read annually immediately after the body is organized.

ARTICLE 13

This Association advises all its churches 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

The Association shall meet annually on Thursday before the fourth 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 Bylaws of the Association and the Constitution and Bylaws 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.

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 Bylaws shall be admonished by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 15

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

ARTICLE 16

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

CONSTITUTION OF THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OF
MT. 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 Mt. 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 endorsement 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, having 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 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 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 offers 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 Bylaws 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.

ARTICLE 21

(Added as an amendment to ARTICLE 15)

Every minister granted license or ordination by this body shall be required to pledge that he will faithfully attend and support the Conference.

ARTICLE 22

(Added as an amendment to ARTICLE 14)

Every minister coming from another Conference to seek membership in our body must bring with him a letter of recommendation from the Conference he is leaving.

BYLAWS OF THE MOUNT MITCHELL
FREE WILL BAPTIST
MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

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 contributions 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

All ministers seeking license to preach must be kept under the watchcare of the Conference for the period of three months.

* * * * *

FAITH

Saving faith is an assent to the mind to the fundamental truths of revelation; an acceptance of the Gospel, through the influence of the Holy Spirit; and a firm confidence and trust in Christ. The fruit of faith is obedience to the Gospel. The power to believe is the gift of God; but believing is an act of the creature, which is required as a condition of pardon, and without which the sinner cannot obtain salvation. All men are required to believe in Christ; and those who yield obedience to this requirement become the children of God by faith.

Scripture references to Faith: II Cor. 7:10; Prov. 28:13; Ezek. 18:30; Acts 17:30; Luke 13:5; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; James 2:17; Phil. 1:29; Gal. 3:26.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith, and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn Covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of men." We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and

Saviour Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for Church Conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

