

*MINUTES OF*

**The Pilgrim Association**

OF THE

**Original Free Will**

**Baptist Churches**

*SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION*

was held at the

**Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist Church**

**Concord, North Carolina**

**The Sixth Annual Session will be held on  
the last Saturday in September, 1969, at  
Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist Church,  
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## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Moderator ----- Rev. S. A. Graybeal  
Vice Moderator ----- Rev. James C. Ross  
Clerk ----- Rev. and Mrs. James Ross  
Treasurer ----- Rev. Weldon Key

## Minister's Conference Officers

Moderator ----- Rev. Henry Sides  
Vice Moderator ----- Rev. L. C. Boatwright  
Clerk ----- Rev. and Mrs. James Ross  
Treasurer ----- Rev. Weldon Key

## Ladies' Auxiliary Officers

President  
Vice President  
Secretary

## Trustees

Rev. W. C. Eggers      Rev. L. M. Hooper      Rev. S. A. Graybeal

## Ordaining Council

Rev. W. W. Wright      Rev. Lloyd Cochran  
Rev. Clifford Ross      Rev. Henry Sides  
Rev. Earl Ruff

# MINISTER'S NAMES

Name & Address	Telephone
Rev. Jay Lee Barbee ----- Rt. 4, Box 675, Kannapolis, N. C.	933-9476
Rev. L. C. Boatwright P. O. Box 332, Mt. Pleasant, N. C.	
Rev. L. B. Cochran ----- Rt. 2, Box 304, Kannapolis, N. C.	933-3213
Rev. S. A. Graybeal ----- 709 Deaton St., Kannapolis, N. C.	933-1561
Rev. Weldon Key ----- Rt. 4, Box 412, Kannapolis, N. C.	938-2269
Rev. Millard Hardman ----- Rt. 4, Box 688, Kannapolis, N. C.	933-3066
Rev. L. M. Hooper ----- Rt. 2, Box 18, Goldhill, N. C.	279-3856
Rev. J. C. Ross ----- Rt. 2, Box 167, China Grove, N. C.	857-9632
Rev. W. W. Wright 5916 Monroe Road, Matthews, N. C.	
Rev. Henry Sides ----- 61 Roberta Road, Concord, N. C.	782-4571
Rev. Julius Hopkins P. O. Box 413, Jefferson, S. C.	
Rev. Johnny Sprinkle Route 2, China Grove, N. C.	
Rev. Clyde Church ----- Rt. 1, Box 526, Concord, N. C.	782-2072
Rev. Sanford Donhue Route 1, Mt. Croghan, S. C.	

# ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.
3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His Divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our everpresent Saviour and Lord.
4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.
5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.
6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.
7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free, and is the ground of salvation by faith.
8. **The terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's life to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.
9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who would comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. **Freedom of the Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.
12. **Perserverance.** All believers in Christ who through grace perservere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.
13. **Gospel Ordinances.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.
14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." (I Cor. 26:2a).
15. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.
16. **Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## **PILGRIM ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CONSTITUTION**

- (1) This Association shall be composed of delegates elected by churches of this body to represent the churches annually.
- (2) The Association when assembled, shall first elect a moderator and clerk.
- (3) Rules of decorum must be read immediately after the Association is assembled.
- (4) The Association will encourage a sound ministry such as presents CHRIST all sufficient SAVIOR that the plan of salvation presented by CHRIST, is strictly and definitely grace and as presented by the Gospel, will save all human beings who accept it.

- (5) Any minister in good standing with their Church or Association may be invited to a seat in our Council, take part in our deliberations and their name be enrolled in our minutes.
- (6) It is the duty of the Association to appoint or elect, Committees to take care of special business. Each Committee report must be in writing and turned in to the clerk for reading before the Assembly.
- (7) All questions presented to the Association by any Church or Minister shall be attended to.
- (8) Any Church wishing to unite with this Association may do so, by letter presented by delegates of said Church. The Church must accept our articles of faith and Church covenant.
- (9) The Association may withdraw from any Church who walks disorderly or violates any rule made and passed on by this body.
- (10) It is to be understood that this body assumes no higher authority than an advisory council.
- (11) Any Minister found casting his influence against any Church, or in any way marring the character unjustly of another Minister will be dealt with by the Ministers conference.

## 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 to the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all 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 Savior Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake 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 to 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 of 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 the evangelistic effort for the salvation of the world.

## RULES OF DECORUM

- (1) The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
- (2) There shall be no conversation by members one with another so as to interrupt business while in session.
- (3) Every member wishing to speak shall first rise and address the Moderator.
- (4) No member shall interrupt a member while speaking.
- (5) We shall admit no other title in session but that of Brother and Sister.
- (6) Every member speaking shall attend to the subject under consideration.
- (7) No member shall speak more than twice on any one subject.
- (8) Every motion made and seconded shall be attended to unless withdrawn by the person who made it.
- (9) No member shall absent himself from the body without leave of the Moderator.
- (10) On all motions made where the vote of the body is taken, a majority shall prevail.
- (11) The Moderator shall have the same privilege to speak as any other member provided the chair is filled.
- (12) Any member transgressing the above rules shall be admonished by the Moderator.
- (13) Not less than 2/3 majority shall constitute a quorum.



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- (1) The Ordination Council shall have Ministers' Conference authority in the interim.
- (2) The Ministers' Conference shall have authority to elect the Ordination Council.
- (3) All Ministers, licensed and ordained, shall have a seat, voice and vote to all Ministers' Conferences, and, along with all delegates, at Associational Conferences.
- (4) Any Minister failing to send a report to the Association in two (2) Annually Association shall be dropped.
- (5) The Executive Board shall have Associational authority in the interim.

### **RULES GOVERNING ORDINATION COUNCIL**

- (1) No minister may be granted license or certificate of ordination unless he presents a letter of recommendation from the church of which he is a member
- (2) No licensed minister may be ordained under one year from date of license unless he is called to be a full time pastor.
- (3) All ministers being admitted to this association must promise to give up the credentials they hold from this association if and when he is adjudged by ministers conference to be disqualified to preach the gospel in compliance to our faith.
- (4) Council shall ordain any person qualifying by rules of THE PILGRIM ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST.
- (5) Council shall not issue credentials to brethren who have two living companion without a Bible right.
- (6) This council must not use partiality in the issuance of credentials.
- (7) These rules must be read to each minister asking for entrance into this association.
- (8) This ordination council shall have ministers conference authority in the interim.

## Association Meetings

### September 28, 1968

Open with song, Rev. Key welcomed each Minister and then asked Rev. Cochran to lead in prayer. Brother Steely led another song. Rev. Key turned the service over to Rev. Ronald Creech, who read John, chapter 8, verses 1 thru 11, and he brought a wonderful message. The Association was then dismissed for lunch.

The Association was called into Conference again at 1:00 p.m., with Brother Steely leading the song, Rev. Boatwright led in prayer. Rev. Graybeal took over and asked that Rev. Creech have a voice in the Association. Rev. Key made a move that the Churches adopt the Children's Home in Greenville, Tennessee, and each Church send as much as they can to the Children's Home. Brother Creech suggested that he write the name of each Mission, Rev. Key made a move that the Association send \$15.00 to the Children's home. The Committee report was read and accepted 100%. Rev. Graybeal took up an offering for Rev. Creech, \$15.00 for the State Association. Move to go out of Conference, Rev. Ross, and Rev. Key.

### December 31, 1967

The minister Conference met at Faith Free Will Baptist Church with the Rev. Colon Hudson. Rev. Hudson welcomed each Minister with a hearty welcome, and then he asked Rev. L. C. Boatwright to lead in prayer, after which time the Ministers and Visitors sang "Heavenly Sunlight." Rev. Hudson, then asked Rev. Graybeal to bring the message, he read from John, chapter one. Rev. Graybeal spoke on the scripture after which time he turned the meeting over to the Moderator Rev. Ross. Rev. Ross declared the meeting into conference. Rev. Graybeal discussed the bill about having a quarterly meeting, he said that the Ministers conference should think about it to the next Association met. Rev. Ross discussed about having a revival this summer. Rev. Henry Sides made the suggestion that the Ministers Conference take up an offering at each meeting to help with the expense of the Association. Motion made by Rev. Sides and seconded by Rev. Graybeal. Next Conference at Cedar Grove the last Sunday in March.

### March, 1968

The Second Ministers Conference met at Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist Church with the Rev. Henry Sides. The song, "Power in the Blood," was led by Mrs. Louise Cochran. Rev. S. A. Graybeal led in prayer. Rev. Sides read from the 28 chapter of Matthew, beginning with the 16th verse. He then spoke on the scripture, after which he turned the meeting over to the Moderator, Rev. Ross. Rev. Ross

declared the house into conference and asked the Clerk to read the roll call.

Rev. Graybeal, asked that Rev. Ronald Creech have a voice in the conference, Rev. Key asked that the minutes be read. Rev. Tony Wright asked that Rev. Hopkins stand so all the Ministers would know him, Rev. Graybeal discussed that Rev. Earl Bittle have a dismissal from our Ministers Conference. Rev. Key made the motion and seconded by Rev. Sprinkle. Rev. Ross turned the Conference over to Rev. Key, the Vice Moderator, at which time he asked that Rev. Ronald Creech speak to the conference. Rev. Hudson made the motion to take up the money for the Association. Rev. Key made the suggestion that the conference let the State print the minutes. The offering was \$13.00, which was turned over to Rev. Creech. Next meeting at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church. Closed by prayer.

### **June 30, 1968**

The Minister's Conference met at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church with the song, "Take The Name of Jesus," which was led by the Pastor, Rev. Johnny Sprinkle. Rev. Cochran led in prayer. Rev. Sprinkle read the 10th chapter of Romans, he brought a wonderful message, after which time he turned it over to Rev. Ross. Rev. Ross asked the clerk to read the minutes. Rev. Ross asked to discuss about having the minutes printed by the State Association, Rev. Graybeal discussed it and asked that we pass a bill to have our own minutes books printed. This was to be brought back at the Annual Association to be discussed and passed on. The next meeting will be the Annual meeting, at Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church, the 28 of September. Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Hudson.

### **September 28, 1968**

Ministers Conference met at Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Key. He read I Timothy 15 and spoke on it. The song, "At Calvary", was led by Rev. Key, he then called on Rev. Sides to lead in prayer. Rev. Key gave each minister a hearty welcome. Then he turned it over to the Moderator, Rev. Ross. Rev. Ross declared the house into conference. Rev. Graybeal discussed about the Flower Fund and then took up \$15.00. Rev. Graybeal nominated Rev. Sides for Moderator of the Minister, second by Rev. Key. Rev. Key nominate Rev. Boatwright as Vice Moderator, Seconded by Rev. Sprinkle, Rev. Graybeal nominated Rev. Sprinkle as clerk, seconded by Rev. Cochran, Rev. Graybeal nominated Rev. Key as Vice Clerk and also Treasurer. Rev. Wright, Rev. Ross, Rev. Ruff, Rev. Cochran, Rev. Sides, all were nominated by Rev. Key, seconded by Rev. Graybeal. Rev. Ross turned the Association over to the Moderator Rev. Graybeal.

## Committee Reports

We the Evangelism Committee, do recommend that the Association put Rev. Ross in as Evangelist, and that each time he goes to preach, take up an offering for him to help with his expenses.

Mrs. Louise Cochran, Mrs. Ammons, Mr. Steely.

We the Finance Committee, do hereby recommend that each Church send (2%) of their yearly offering with their report.

Rev. Sides, Rev. Boatwright, Rev. Cochran.

We the Minister's Committee, do hereby recommend that each Minister send (4) four dollars with their report to the Association.

Rev. Key, Rev. Ross, Rev. Boatwright

The Foreign Mission was discussed and it was decided to send money to the Children's Home and to send money to the Foreign Mission.

## Ladies Auxiliary

Church—New Hope

President—Mrs. Doris Kirk

Vice-President—Mrs. Helen Sprinkle

Secretary—Mrs. Frances Treece

Treasurer—Mrs. Frances Treece

Money Received—\$225.51

Money Paid Out—\$249.46

Members—14

Fee—\$3.00

Total—balance in treasury. (Including money carried over from 1967. Totals listed, paid out and taken in are only for 1968. \$210.35

Beginning year, Oct. 10, 1967—\$ 49.05

Spent out—\$140.28

Present amount, Sept. 10, 1968—\$78.26

Average attendance—11 members

President—Mrs. Odelia Vann

Secretary and treasurer—Mrs. Evelyn Cole

## ANNUAL MINISTER'S REPORT

NAME	Sermons Preached	Revivals Held	Professions	Members Received	Members Baptized	Funerals Conducted	Homes Visited	Hospitals Visited	Weddings Performed	S. S. Lessons Taught	Money Given	Money Received	Approximate Miles Traveled	Expenses
Jay Lee Barbee	27	1	2	5		1	115	125			150.00		2,000	\$ 75.00
L. C. Boatwright	125	2		19	6		100	8	2		350.00	1000.00	8,320	520.00
L. B. Cochran	25		20		4	1	15	20	1		150.00	600.00	1,500	300.00
S. A. Graybeal	75		30	23	4		20	25	3		80.00	875.00	2,500	400.00
Julius Hopkins	50						75	6			75.00		600	156.00
Colon Hudson	125		25	22	10	2	75	100		1	402.50		6,000	300.00
Weldon J. Key	108			15	14	3	200	30		20	700.00	780.00	10,000	200.0
James C. Ross	20		3				30	20			400.00	34.00	3,000	150.00
Fred Earl Ruff	25						20	6		10	100.00		800	25.00
Henry D. Sides	100	1	30			2	50	60		2	400.00	285.00	1,500	400.00
Johnny Sprinkle	135		3	4			uk	uk		20		1110.00	1000	
W. W. Wright	76	1	42			1	100	90		40	596.27		500	150.00

## ANNUAL CHURCH REPORT

Name Of Church	Rec'd. by Letter								By Baptism		By Statement		Total Rec'd.		Dismissed by Letter		By Erasure		By Death		Total Dismissed		Gain		Present Membership		Paid Pastor		Other Salaries		Paid for Evangelistic Purposes		Missions		Contributions to Children's Home		Contributions to Charitable Purposes		General Fund		B'ldg. and Repairs		Indebtedness		Misc. Purposes		Value of Church Property	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42						
Cedar Grove	2	1	4	7	6	4	0	1	27	\$ 285.00	\$100.00			\$12.50	1,704.23	551.88																										10,000.						
Cross of Calvary	5	5	7	17	0	0	0		17	60.00			2.78	11.00																							23.33		1,000.									
Faith	0	10	2	22	0	0	0	22	33					60.00	16.00																																	
Immanuel	5	5	3	15	1	0	0	19	65	780.00	340.00	\$341.56	114.64	35.55	455.41																					5193.24		10,000.										
New Hope	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	4	45	1,110.00	75.00	25.00	37.00																											10,000.								
Oak Grove	5	4	13	23	0	0	0	23	158	875.00		300.00	300.00	36.00	2000.00																					140.00		12,000.										

