

MINUTES

of the

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

ROCKFISH

**Original F. W. B. Association
of North Carolina**

which convened with the

ST. JOHN F. W. B. CHURCH

Near Patrick, S. C.

OCTOBER 8, 1943

Next session will be held Friday and Saturday before the
Second Sunday in October, 1944, with the Hickory Grove Church.



1943

FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
of the
THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
ROCKFISH ORIGINAL F. W. B. ASSOCIATION
held with
ST. JOHN FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Patrick, Chesterfield County, South Carolina

October 8, 1943

PROCEEDINGS

The Thirty-Fifth session of the Rockfish Association convened with St. John Free Will Baptist Church in Patrick, Chesterfield County, South Carolina.

On Friday morning, October 8, 1943, the Free Will Baptists of the Rockfish Association gathered in annual session with St. John Free Will Baptist Church, Patrick, S. C., Chesterfield County, for the purpose of holding its annual association.

Friday morning session began at ten o'clock. It was opened by singing "Take the Name of Jesus with You," followed by prayer by Elder L. C. Coats. Rev. M. L. Baxley was called upon by the former moderator to read a scripture lesson; he read the 66th Psalm.

The Moderator, O. M. Hilburn, called the session to order. He asked for a motion for nomination of a new moderator and new clerk. Motion was made, seconded and so ordered that Rev. M. L. Baxley be elected Moderator. Motion made, seconded and so ordered that Rev. A. J. Pearson be appointed Secretary. Rev. M. L. Baxley was called to the chair by former Moderator, O. M. Hilburn, also Elder A. J. Pearson was called to the Clerk's chair.

The Clerk was asked to read the minutes of last association. The minutes being read were received by the association after which the roll was called of ministers present. Ordained Ministers were as follows:

M. L. Baxley, present; Steve English, absent; Walter Carter, absent; N. I. Mills, absent; Frank Sanford, absent; J. H. Galloway, absent; Austin Bascot, absent; Joe Melton, absent; S. M. Parks, present; L. C. Coats, present; Seldon Bullard, present; O. M. Hilburn, present; W. H. Ivey, present; A. J. Pearson, present; H. T. Sellers, present; J. C. Rogers, absent; Geo. W. Huestas, absent; L. C. Harison, absent; W. N. Mills, absent; C. B. Hopkins.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Devotional Committee—Sister Rosa L. McLean, Bro. John Patterson and Bro. C. W. Bennett.

Orphanage Committee—Rev. O. M. Hilburn and Bro. John Patterson.

Education Committee—Bro. J. W. McLean and Rev. H. T. Sellers.

Temperance Committee—J. B. Webster and Rev. W. H. Ivey.

Sabbath School—Bro. C. W. Bennett and Rev. L. C. Coats.

Auxiliary Committee—Sister Armetha Lee, Sister J. F. Roberts and Sister Rosa L. McLean.

Ministerial Committee—Bro. J. W. Patterson, Bro. J. R. Boon and Bro. Pat Hodge.

After the appointing of the committees, the Devotional Committee was asked to make their report. The chairman of the committee, Bro. John Patterson, came forward with the following report: Rev. H. T. Sellers to preach at eleven o'clock, A. J. Pearson to preach at night.

It was motioned to dispense with business until after the preaching service. Rev. H. T. Sellers was called upon to take charge of the service. After singing "Love Lifted Me," Rev. L. C. Coats led in prayer. Elder Sellers read

part of the 15th chapter of St. Luke, taking as his text: "I will arise and go to my Father and say Father, I have sinned against you and am no more worthy to be called thy Son. Make me one of thy hired servants." Following the good sermon we had congregational singing. We were dismissed by Rev. O. M. Hilburn for lunch to reassemble at one o'clock.

At one o'clock we returned as pre-arranged. Rev. W. H. Ivey was appointed to open the devotional service by reading a scripture lesson. Rev. J. F. Roberts led in prayer.

The Moderator declared the house open for business. The Moderator had the association to stand and give thanks for our unity of love in this association.

Rev. O. M. Hilburn asked that this association give him a transfer from our association.

The Moderator gave thanks to the people for their hospitality and nice dinner.

The ordained ministers were asked to make their report of their annual work in the ministry.

Rev. O. M. Hilburn gave a verbal report that was very good of his work. He pastored one church and held several revivals; he also is taking full time work at Caroleen, N. C., Box 123, with the Fairview Church.

Rev. H. T. Sellers gave a good report. He had been doing some evangelistic work.

Rev. L. C. Coats gave a very good report. He had one regular appointment at Piney Plain Church and had done other preaching.

Rev. W. H. Ivey made his report which was very good. He had regular appointments at the different churches in the association.

Rev. J. F. Roberts gave in his report that he and his wife had been doing mission work in the Don Wheeler Association, Western Virginia. They cast lots with the Rockfish Association.

Rev. M. L. Baxley gave a good report of his work in the association.

Rev. S. M. Parks gave report of doing some work in the association.

Rev. A. J. Pearson pastored one church in the association.

After the reports of the ministers the Moderator appointed Rev. W. H. Ivey for Reading Clerk. He was asked to come forward after which the churches were asked to report.

Hickory Grove—We the Church at Hickory Grove send Bro. John Patterson and Sister Armetha Lee to represent us. Our church is in good condition. We have called Rev. M. L. Baxley for our pastor for the ensuing year. Rev. A. J. Bascot was our former pastor of Rockingham, N. C. We paid our pastor \$58.55, paid Evangelist \$27.50, repairs \$5.00, Orphanage \$140.00, building and repair \$51.00. Enclosed for minutes is \$5.00.

St. John—Dear Brethren: We the church of St. John send Bro. Maison McLean, P. W. D. McLean, J. P. Parks and Mrs. Rosa L. McLean to assist in your deliberation. Hope you will have a grand association. State of condition of church is good. Total membership 75. We paid our pastor \$225.00.

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paid Evangelist \$83.65. Enclosed find \$2.00 for expense of association. Our pastor is Rev. Walter Carter. We ask the prayers of the brethren for our success this coming year.

Sandy Grove—Dear Brethren: We the church of Sandy Grove send G. H. Carver and C. W. Bennett to represent our church in the association and hope they will be a blessing to your body in deliberation. Paid pastor \$111.45, Evangelist \$82.09, building \$105.58, Orphanage \$39.79. Enclosed find \$3.00 for minutes. Pray much for our success.

Mt. Moriah—We the church at Mt. Moriah, Hamlet, N. C., make our report to your honorable body at St. John Church, Patrick, S. C., as follows: State of religion, good. Paid our pastor \$75.00, paid Evangelist \$26.00, building repairs \$200.00, for publication \$25.00. Enclosed for minutes \$2.50. Pastor for the ensuing year Rev. Roy Alimon, Kannapolis, N. C.

Piney Plain—We the church of Piney Plain, Hartsville, S. C., report as follows: State of church spiritually good. We have paid pastor \$30.00, repairs \$19.00, piano \$75.00, table and chairs \$12.00. We have a good Sabbath School of about 45 regular attendants. We ask the prayers of your honorable body.

McColl—We send one dollar to represent our church by Bro. H. T. Sellers. We are planning to build a church soon. We are worshipping under an arbor. We ask the help and prayers of the association that we may soon have a church building.

Entwistle—Entwistle Church appointed a delegate to represent their church but he was not able to make connections at Hamlet and had to mail a report after the association was over to the clerk, asking to get it in the minutes. So we endeavor to do so, hoping it will meet the approval of the association. Report as follows: We send Bro. A. F. Harden to represent and Bro. J. W. Sanford as delegates to your association at Patrick, S. C., St. John Church. State of religion good. Paid pastor \$1,052.56. Members received none. Paid Evangelist \$66.00, foreign missions \$7.00, building and repairs \$101.66, Education \$6.50, publication \$13.14. We send for minutes \$3.00. Rev. Walter Carter is pastor and moderator. This is done by order of Entwistle Church. James English, Clerk.

Motion being in order for association to adjourn, motion was made by L. C. Coats to adjourn until Saturday morning at ten o'clock. Motion was seconded by Bro. J. R. Boon and was so ordered by the body. Dismissed by Rev. L. C. Coats.

Saturday morning we met back at the specified hour. Rev. S. M. Parks was appointed to open the session. After reading a part of the 5th chapter of Matthew prayer was offered by Bro. John Patterson. The Moderator then declared the association open for business. The Moderator first called for the reports of the committees.

Education—We, your committee, make the following report: We recommend that our denomination do all they can to teach their children that education is more essential to the people in their day than in former days as we are more enlightened, have greater need of education. There are so

many more things that we need education for than in former days—also ministerial education. We need it in our churches more than ever before. Let us as a church advocate it to our ministers in the Bible study.

Rev. S. M. Parks,
Bro. John Patterson, *Committee.*

Sabbath School—We, your Committee on Sabbath School, urge and request all our churches to see to it that they have a Sabbath School and we recommend the use of Free Will Baptist literature.

L. C. Coats,
C. W. Bennett, *Committee.*

Orphanage—We, the Committee on Orphanage, recommend that our association do all we can to see that our Orphanage is supported by our means realizing that we are responsible for their support.

J. W. McLean,
Rev. H. T. Sellers, *Committee.*

Temperance—We, your Committee, recommend as strong drink is raging and disqualifies a man in his morals and in any kind of manual labor and finally send his body to a drunkards grave and his soul to a devil's hell not to drink anything that has alcohol in it.

J. B. Webster,
Rev. W. H. Ivey, *Committee.*

Missions—We recommend that we have a Missionary Society in each of our churches and to raise funds for home and foreign missions that may help to carry the gospel everywhere it is needed.

J. W. McLean,
Rev. S. M. Parks, *Committee.*

By motion of Bro. J. W. Patterson that we take recess for preaching to return back for business at one o'clock we were dismissed by Bro. J. F. Roberts. We returned at eleven o'clock for preaching by the Moderator, Rev. M. L. Baxley. After preaching we were dismissed by A. J. Pearson to return at one o'clock.

In the afternoon the association met back at the hour pre-arranged. Rev. A. J. Pearson was appointed to open the association by reading a scripture lesson. After reading the 4th chapter of the First Epistle of John we sang the "Old Model Church." Rev. M. L. Baxley led in prayer. The Moderator then declared the house open for business. Bro. C. W. Bennett asked for the floor. Request being granted he made an interesting appeal to our association in regards to its ministers and churches to subscribe for the "Free Will Baptist" it being the organ of our church.

Sister J. F. Roberts recommended that each church organize an auxiliary for the help of the church in its Christian endeavors to raise funds for charity purposes and incidental expenses.

Sister J. F. Roberts,
Sister Rosa McLean, *Committee.*

Moderator asked for report of Ministerial Committee. Reported as follows: We, your committee, after investigating the morals and spiritual life of our ministers find them living a good life.

John Patterson,
J. R. Boon, *Committee.*

Memorial Committee reported: We, your committee, regret to report the death of dear Bro. W. L. Strickland who died September 28th, who loved his church and his God. He will be greatly missed by those that knew him and his church. He was a member of Entwistle Free Will Baptist Church. His pastor was Rev. Walter Carter. Written by A. J. Pearson by order of association.

After this report the Moderator asked that anyone that knew anything about the organizing of Rock Fish Association and those that assisted in the organization to get up and tell about it. Bro. John Patterson stated that himself and A. J. Pearson and Rev. Kenneth Raynor of Milton, Fla., were the only male members living that are charter members. He stated that Rev. Joseph Salmon, Rev. Kenneth Raynor and Rev. A. J. Pearson met the Cape Fear Conference at Long Branch Free Will Baptist Church and asked the Conference permission to organize a Conference this side of the Cape Fear River and to remain an arm of the Cape Fear Conference. It was organized in 1912 at Raynors Chapel Church. Each one that knew Bro. Salmon and Bro. Raynor and also Rev. Deane and others were asked to say something after which the Moderator asked the association to stand up with bowed heads in honor of those that had departed and those that are living. It was so ordered by the association. The Rockfish Association is thirty-one years old and has about three hundred members.

OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Moderator	M. L. Baxley
Treasurer	A. J. Pearson
Secretary	A. J. Pearson

ORDAINING COUNCIL

M. L. Baxley O. M. Hilburn Walter Carter

EXECUTIVE BOARD

J. W. McLean A. J. Bacot E. R. Polston N. H. Mills

STATISTICAL TABLE NO. 1

<i>Churches</i>	<i>Pastor's Salary</i>	<i>Evangelist</i>
Entwistle	\$1,052.56	\$66.00
St. John	225.00	83.65
Sandy Grove	111.45	82.09
Mt. Moriah	75.00	26.00
Piney Plain	30.00	10.00
Hickory Grove	58.55	27.50
McColl—Not Reported.		

CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

<i>Hickory Grove</i> —J. A. Patterson	Raeford, N. C.
<i>Sandy Grove</i> —Miss Ellen Bud	St. Paul, N. C.
<i>Mt. Moriah</i> —Mattie Norton	Hamlet, N. C.
<i>St. John</i> —Bertha McLean	Patrick, S. C.
<i>Piney Plain</i> —Agie May Griggs	Hartsville, S. C., Route 1

At this time the Moderator asked that the Finance Committee make their report. Report as follows:

At this sitting we, your committee find paid in for

Incidental expenses	\$17.60
Paid Clerk	5.00
Balance	\$12.60

At the resignation of Rev. O. M. Hilburn, Rev. L. C. Coats was appointed on the Ordaining Council.

Report of Budget Treasurer the hands of W. H. Ivey is \$100.00. Rev. O. M. Hilburn, Trustee, resigned because of being moved to another association. Bro. C. W. Bennett was appointed to take his place as Trustee. Motioned and so ordered that Rev. W. H. Ivey remain as Budget Treasurer. Rev. A. J. Pearson was appointed Secretary and Treasurer as Rev. Seldon Bullard had transferred to South Carolina Association. At the closing of the association an offering was taken for the South Carolina Orphanage. The collection was \$5.00.

The Moderator asked where the next association would convene. Hickory Grove asked that we convene with them on the next sitting. By vote it was so ordered that next association convene with Hickory Grove Church Friday and Saturday before second Sunday in October, 1944.

It was moved and so ordered that the association extend thanks to the ladies and brethren for their kind hospitality while in session with bowed heads while the Moderator dismissed with prayer.

Rev. M. L. Baxley, *Moderator.*
Rev. A. J. Pearson, *Clerk.*

