

Minutes

January 9, 2016

Moderator: Brother Nic Cartee
Assistant Moderator: Brother David Maggard
Song Leader: Sister Brittani Schiltz
Piano Player: Sister Rebecca Stapleton
Location: Dogwood Ridge Free Will Baptist
Present: 30

Brother Nic Cartee opened the service by greeting the congregation and he had Brother Mark Stapleton pray for the services. Brother Nic Cartee requested the delegates to raise their hands. Brother Nic Cartee read scripture from Titus 2:11-15.

Agenda, Minutes, Treasurer's Report and Letter of Statistics were distributed. Our visitors— Brother Zack Humphries of Pine Creek Conference and Mark Price of Porter Conference.

Clerk Karen Charles did not have any letters with business.

REPORTS: A motion was made by Brother Mark Stapleton to approve the Minutes and seconded by Brother David Maggard. Motion carried.

Mark Stapleton made a motion to discuss the business committee report from the last meeting and seconded by Rebecca Stapleton. The motion carried. Brother Mark Price was present to help with the discussion of dissolving the conference.

Sister Rebecca Stapleton made a motion to extend the conference until July 1, 2016 and seconded by Sister Nita Roark. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Sister Nita Roark to approve the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Brother David Maggard. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Sister Brittani Schiltz to approve the Letter of Statistics and was seconded by Sister Rebecca Stapleton. Motion carried.

Reports given from our messengers to other associations—Sister Eleanor Crabtree went to the Jackson Conference and gave a report. Sister Rebecca Cartee made the motion to approve the report and it was seconded by Brother David Maggard. The motion carried.

Reports given from messengers from other association—Brother Mark Price gave a report on the Porter Conference. He also gave information on the State Conference and the Men's Retreat. Brother Mark Price encouraged all of the men to participate. A motion was made by Sister Molly Cartee to approve the report and was seconded by Sister Rebecca Stapleton.

Old Business

Brother Mark Stapleton made a motion for this to be the last business meeting of the Southern Ohio Conference unless a special meeting is called by the Business Committee-- Brothers Tim Crabtree, Nic Cartee and Mark Stapleton; seconded by Brother David Maggard. Motion carried.

Brother Mark Stapleton made a motion to divide the funds equally among the four churches—Blackfork, Dogwood Ridge, Eifort and Mount Hope; seconded by Brother David Maggard. Motion carried.

Brother Nic Cartee made a motion to give the printer to Mount Hope FWB and they can use or give it away; seconded by Sister Molly Cartee. Motion carried.

Brother Nic Cartee made a motion to dispose the records after July 1, 2016 and after a copy of the minutes are sent to The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection; seconded by Sister Molly Cartee. Motion carried.

Sister Rebecca Stapleton made a motion to give a letter of good standing for our ministers to join another conference of their choice; seconded by Brother Tim Crabtree. Motion carried.

Brother David Maggard made a motion to give a letter of good standing for the churches to join a conference of their choice; seconded by Sister Rebecca Stapleton.

Brother David Maggard made a motion to take the Constitution change off the table; seconded by Sister Molly Cartee. Motion carried.

Brother David Maggard made a motion to accept the Constitution change; seconded by Sister Molly Cartee. Motion carried.

The Constitution change is as follows:

Policy on Marriage and Human Sexuality
Southern Ohio Conference
Adopted January 9, 2016

Introduction

This statement expresses the beliefs of the Southern Ohio Conference regarding marriage and human sexuality. It is based on the application of Biblical principles to our faith, our life, and our practice, and is in intentional accord with the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists, especially as expressed in the Appendix to Chapter IV, Section 1, adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, of which this conference is a member, in July 2008.

A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by these churches only to the extent that it is consistent with the Biblical definition of marriage expressed in this policy statement.

MARRIAGE

We believe, based on the teaching of the Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments, that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world and is intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman. This understanding is supported by the account of creation in Genesis, chapters 1 and 2. Genesis 1:26-27 indicates that God created man in His own image, as male and female. The passage implies that the unity of a man and woman in marriage is in some way reflective of the image of God in mankind.

Genesis 2:18 provides a more detailed account, relating that God created the first man, Adam, and decided that it was not good for him to be alone. God indicated that He would make "a help meet for him," which means a helper suitable for or matching him. Then God brought all of the animals to Adam, but none of them was such a suitable helper; so God created Eve, the first woman, from part of Adam himself. God did not create a second man to be Adam's helper, or an assortment of multiple women, but one woman. Together they were man and wife and had "no shame" or sin in their union (Genesis 2:18-25).

Jesus Christ reaffirmed the teaching of the Old Testament when He said, as recorded in Matthew 19:4-6: "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 5:22-32 that marriage is not merely a human institution, but is a special, divine metaphor that illustrates the union of Christ and the Church. For this reason also, only a union between one man and one woman can be a Biblical marriage because no other union—whether of two men, two women, or any other arrangement—could illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church in accord with this Biblical teaching.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

First Corinthians 6:9-11 condemns a variety of lifestyles including those associated with adultery, prostitution, and homosexuality. Indeed, the Bible condemns as sexual immorality—"fornication" in the Authorized Version—all sexual intercourse outside marriage as defined above. It also encourages Christians to flee from sexual immorality because of its destructive effects and because the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:12-20).

Romans 1:18-32 makes clear that it is not only sinful to engage in homosexual unions, but also to approve of such sins in others or to encourage their practice. As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, we cannot sanction, approve, or promote in any way adultery or any other form of sexual immorality—including, but not limited to, pornography, pedophilia, polygamy, bestiality, or homosexual unions. This is made clear in many passages in the Old and New Testaments.

Our churches follow what the Bible reveals as the "sure foundation" of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles (Matthew 7:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:37). If our churches are to bear the name Christian authentically, we are called to teach and practice these teachings and are not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority. Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, if the two come into conflict about matters as

foundational as marriage, we must ultimately obey God rather than man (Acts 4:18-21).

Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to those named above, are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Lewd conduct; transgender behavior; and the creation, distribution, or viewing of pornography are incompatible with God's purpose for human sexuality.

Ordaining Council Report—None. New Business—None Obituary Report—None.

Sister Molly Cartee made a motion to adjourn from business; seconded by Brother David Maggard. Motion carried.

Brother Nic Cartee turned the service over to the assistant moderator, Brother David Maggard. Brother David Maggard requested for Brother Gary Selby to open with a word of prayer. Brother David Maggard read Psalm 100:1-5.

"*Trust and Obey*" on page 157 was sung while we fellowship and gathered for prayer. Prayer requests were made known. Then, we prayed.

Note: No collection was taken up today.

Brother Nic Cartee opened the service for testimonies and songs. Testimonies were given.

Brothers Nathan Cartee, and Nic Cartee sang "*Oh, This is Just What Heaven Means to Me*" and "*Sweetest Name I Know*." Brother Mark and Sister Rebecca Stapleton sang "*I Know How I Made It*." Sisters Rebecca Stapleton, Brittani Schiltz, Angie Swords and Molly Welch sang "*Thank you, Lord For Your Blessings on Me*." Brother Gary Selby sang "*Psalm 19*." Brother David Maggard sang "*Ain't God Good to Give Us So Many Blessings*."

Brother David Maggard called Brother Mark Price to preach. Brother Mark Price prayed over the service and the reading of God's Word. He read scripture from Chronicles 20:1-30 and gave the message. Then, Brother Mark Price prayed for the churches. Brother Mark Price turned the service back over to Brother Nic Cartee.

Announcements were made. Brother Nic Cartee welcomed everyone to stay for the fellowship and food. Blessing over the food with prayer by Brother Tim Updike. Then, we sang "*What A Friend We Have in Jesus*" while fellowshiping and services were adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Charles, Clerk
Carol Cartee, Assistant Clerk