

c. 1925

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirteenth Annual Session

OF THE

UNION ASSOCIATION

OF

UNITED FREE WILL BAPTIST

WHICH CONVENE WITH

New Bethel Church

WORTH COUNTY, GA.

OCTOBER 20-21, 1938

The next session will convene with Salem Church, 4 miles southwest of Monticello, Fla. on Thursday at 10:30 a. m., before the fourth Sunday in Oct., 1939.

OFFICERS

Elder J. F. Ashmore, Moderator, Omega, Ga.
Elder W. L. Harrell, Assistant Moderator, Omega, Ga.
J. J. Fowlst, Secretary and Treasurer, Sylvester, Ga.

For any information as to the location of church,
write Elder W. L. Harrell, Drifton, Fla.

LIBRARY

PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Session of the Union Association of United Free Will Baptists, convened with New Bethel Church, Worth County, Ga., Oct. 20-21, 1938.

The body of delegates and ministers was called to order at 10:30 a. m. by Moderator W. L. Harrell. Song No. 109, in Gospel Songs, was followed by prayer by Elder Harvey Wilson.

Rev. J. F. Ashmore preached the introductory sermon, using the text, Hebrews 3:3. The subject was well presented in a logical and spiritual manner to the soul benefit and edification of all.

After preaching service, the Association was dismissed for dinner, which was served at the church.

Thursday afternoon session was called to order at 2 o'clock by Moderator W. L. Harrell. Song No. 86 in Gospel Messenger. Prayer was offered by Elder W. L. Barrow.

The Moderator read for a lesson Isaiah 12th chapter. The Moderator declared the body in order and ready for the business session, which was conducted as follows.

Call for letters from churches of this Association.

Letters from churches were received and the moderator appointed A. J. Brady and J. J. Fowler to read them. Churches were represented as follows:

PROSPERITY CHURCH, W. R. Lawson and John Jones.

NEW BETHEL CHURCH, G. I. Whittington, W. T. Farmer, Marlin Kilcrease, Melvin Fowler, Russie Wisham, Frank Hobby and Jodie Hobby.

LIBERTY CHURCH, J. C. Boyd, Annie Mae, Mary Boyd.

MIDWAY CHURCH, Walter Murphy, Robert Murphy and Morris Gay.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Alderman and Mrs. J. W. Croft.

NEW HOPE CHURCH, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Peek, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Jones.

GREENWOOD CHURCH, B. W. Cleney, Mrs. Clyde Harmon and J. T. Lee.

CANADY CHAPEL CHURCH, Artie Cone and B. H. Bradley.

SALEM CHURCH, Jack Wyrick, Mr. Braswell, Ida Higginbotham and Della Anglin.

ST. PAUL CHURCH, A. J. Brady, M. A. Godwin, D. R. Mulkey.

SPRING HILL CHURCH, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Morrey.

NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH, represented.

UNION HILL CHURCH, represented.

The letters were read and received. By motion, delegates were seated in a body.

Committee to hold election of officers was appointed: J. D. Little, J. C. Harvey, W. R. Lawhorn.

Elder J. F. Ashmore was elected moderator, Elder W. L. Harrell assistant moderator, and J. J. Fowler secretary and treasurer.

The Moderator read the Association Decorum, then called for

corresponding delegates. Received Bro. W. R. Lawhorn and wife from the Chattahoochee; Bro. C. J. Harvey and wife, from the Georgia Union and Bro. J. D. Little from the Little River Associations. Moved and seconded that the Moderator and Clerk extend the right hand of fellowship to the corresponding delegates and the correspondents be seated in our body.

Called for petitionary letters. None received.

Appointed committee on preaching: Walter Murphy, Melvin Fowler and W. R. Lawson.

Report of preaching committee heard and accepted. Bro. Harvey Wilson to preach at 6 p. m., Bro. W. R. Lawhorn at 8 p. m. and Bro. C. J. Harvey to preach Friday at 11 a. m. Bro. J. D. Little to close for C. J. Harvey.

W. R. LAWSON, chairman.

Moderator appointed the following committees:

SABBATH SCHOOLS: Ida Seberry, Aquila Croft, Mrs. C. M. Jones.

EDUCATION: Mrs. Clyde Harmon, Walter Murphy, A. J. Brady.

LITERATURE: Robert Murphy, B. H. Bradley, Frank Hobby.

STATE OF CHURCHES: Walter Murphy, G. I. Whittington, Russie Wisham.

TEMPERANCE: Morris Gay, W. T. Farmer, Melvin Fowler.

DESTITUTIONS: J. C. Weathers, P. R. Stokeley, W. L. Barrow.

NOMINATIONS: W. L. Windsor and others.

STATE OF MINISTERS AND DEACONS: Marlin Kilcrease and others.

RESOLUTIONS: Rev. W. L. Harrell and others.

LADIES AID WORK: Mrs. J. F. Harmon, Mrs. Asylee Peek, Mrs. C. M. Jones.

FINANCE: M. A. Godwin and others.

Thursday's session closed after arranging homes for the delegates. Moved to adjourn until 9 a. m. Friday. Dismissed by Bro. J. C. Harvey for supper, which was served at the church.

After supper, the congregation was called back into church for preaching by Elder Harvey Wilson. He used for a lesson the 7th chapter of Chronicles. Rev. W. R. Lawhorn then preached, using as text Malachi 3:3.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The body was called together Friday morning by the moderator, Rev. J. F. Ashmore. Prayer by Bro. Melvin Fowler. The Moderator read for a scripture lesson Acts 3:1-9.

Moved to suspend regular order of business and take up new business.

Appointed correspondents to other Associations.

To the Chattahoochee: W. L. Barrow and E. V. Fallen.

To the Georgia Union: A. L. Sellars and B. W. Cleney.

To the Little River: J. F. Ashmore and J. J. Fowler.

To the Martin, by Minutes.

To the South Georgia, by Minutes.

Moved that Rev. J. F. Ashmore represent the Union Association at the State Association, to convene at Midway church on Nov. 9, 1938, and if he deemed it a worthy association that he join our Association to that body, and if not, refrain from joining that body. Moved that this Association pay Bro. Ashmore's expenses to the state meeting, which was paid in the amount of \$2.00.

Moved that Bro. Ashmore keep funds formerly given for entrance to the State Association.

Moved to pay correspondents expenses.

Moved that we have 300 Minutes printed and that we have a full Minute made. Moved that clerk pay for minutes out of funds belonging to this Association and have Minutes made where best. Moved to pay clerk \$10.00 for his service.

Moved that the Moderator appoint an executive committee: Robert Murphy, Moultrie, Ga.; G. I. Whittington, Sylvester, Ga.; W. R. Lawson, Ashburn, Ga.; M. A. Godwin, Tifton, Ga.; J. W. Croft, Berlin, Ga., were appointed.

Ordaining Council was appointed as follows: W. L. Harrell, J. C. Weathers, G. W. Rhodes, W. L. Barrow and A. L. Sellars.

Moved to return to regular order of business.

Moved that we leave the matter of the ministers' credentials in the hands of the committee appointed on the Standing of Ministers and Deacons.

Moved to accept Bro. W. L. Barrow's statements in regard to Jerusalem church.

Moved that we adjourn for preaching. Dismissed by W. L. Harrell.

At 11:30, the body was again called for preaching by Rev. J. C. Harvey, of the Georgia Union Association. Using for a text Psalms 39:1, Bro. Harvey delivered a very impressive sermon. He was followed by Rev. J. D. Little, of the Little River Association. Using for a scripture lesson part of the 6th verse of the 5th chapter of Matthew, he also delivered a very impressive sermon.

After preaching, the body was dismissed by Bro. W. R. Lawhorn for dinner, which was served at the church.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was again called to order by the Moderator, singing song No. 30. Prayer by Bro. Jack Wyrick. Called for reports of all committees.

Reports were as follows:

NOMINATING

Your committee recommends that the next session of this body be held with Salem Church, 4 miles southwest of Monticello, Jefferson County, Fla., on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1939, at 10:30 a. m., and that Rev. W. L. Barrow preach the introductory, E. V. Fallen, alternate.

W. L. WINDSOR, chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

Your committee reports that we see a great need for home missions. We recommend that each family of each church send to the Association \$1 for home missions.

Seeing that Articles 9, 10 and 15 are so badly neglected, ask that each pastor insist that members of his church attend church services better.

We also recommend that this association select a field man whose duty shall be to visit each church of the Association, to preach a doctrinal sermon, and the church shall bear the expense of his visit.

W. L. HARRELL, chairman.

STATE OF MINISTERS AND DEACONS

We, your committee, find all ministers and deacons in good standing except two ministers.

MARLIN KILCREASE, chairman.

TEMPERANCE

Your committee reports that seeing the use of strong drink destroying virtue and lowering the standards of living, destroying homes, increases crime, lowers resistance to disease, increases victims for the insane asylums, we should be very careful to teach our young the dangers of strong drink. The church should be temperate in all things.

MELVIN FOWLER, chairman.

EDUCATION

Your committee reports the following: That we do all in our power to educate our children that they may be prepared to read God's word for themselves.

WALTER MURPHY, chairman.

STATE OF CHURCHES

Your committee reports that all churches are in good standing, so far as we can find.

WALTER MURPHY, chairman.

LADIES AID WORK

Your committee reports that we find only a few Aids in our Association. We find the Ladies Aid great help to the churches which have them. Would like to see all churches with Aid Societies working for the betterment of churches, as it helps much in the upkeep and financing of the church.

MRS. CLYDE HARMON, chairman.

SABBATH SCHOOLS

Your committee finds that some of our churches have no Sunday school. We urge that our churches try to have one, as it means so much to the life of the church. Too, it is good Christian training, and is the only place where we can teach or read God's word collectively.

MRS. IDA SEBERRY, chairman.

LITERATURE

Your committee requests that our churches use Free Will Baptist literature in Sunday school work and read the Baptist paper.

ROBERT MURPHY, chairman.

FINANCE

We, your committee, report that we received at this session from the churches represented \$48.61.

M. A. GODWIN, chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For Thirteenth Annual Session

Rec'd from Finance Committee	\$48.61	
Bal. from last Session	5.39	
		\$54.00
Paid for Clerk Hire		\$10.00
Correspondents Expenses		5.50
J. F. Ashmore, to Convention		2.00
		\$17.50
BALANCE IN TREASURY		\$36.50

J. J. FOWLER, Sec. and Treas.

Moved and seconded that Bro. W. L. Harrell be selected as field man for this Association, and that he go at least once to each church of this Association and preach a doctrinal sermon. The church at which he preaches will pay his expenses.

Moved that this body extend a vote of thanks to this church and community for the hospitality shown to us while in this session by rising to their feet.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn, to meet with Salem Church, at Monticello, Fla., on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1939, at 10:30 a. m.

Adjourned by singing No. 46 in Gospel Message books.

ELDER J. F. ASHMORE, Moderator.

J. J. FOWLER, Sec. and Treas.

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

W. A. Sellers	Camilla, Ga.
A. L. Sellars	Camilla, Ga.
J. F. Ashmore	Omega, Ga.
W. L. Harrell	Omega, Ga.
J. C. Weathers	Cordele, Ga.
W. L. Barrow	Drifton, Fla.
C. L. Croft	Pavo, Ga.
E. V. Fallen	Coolidge, Ga.
W. F. Clark	Thomasville, Ga.
C. T. Rentz	Coolidge, Ga.
John M. Newton	Moultrie, Ga.
R. M. Massey	Sale City, Ga.
J. L. Sloan	Coolidge, Ga.
G. W. Rhodes	Moultrie, Ga.
W. G. Boyd	Moultrie, Ga.

NAMES OF LICENTIATES

James Lavender	Ashburn, Ga.
W. L. Windsor	Drifton, Fla.
Mrs. Ida Seberry	Drifton, Fla.
P. R. Stokeley	Drifton, Fla.
L. E. Croft	Berlin, Ga.
Mrs. Vercy Bradley	Thomasville, Ga.
B. W. Clenney	Camilla, Ga.
J. T. Touchton	Pavo, Ga.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

W. L. Harrell	Omega, Ga.
J. C. Weathers	Cordele, Ga.
G. W. Rhodes	Moultrie, Ga.
W. L. Barrow	Drifton, Fla.
A. L. Sellars	Camilla, Ga.

OUR DEAD

In memory of Bra. Billie Sloan, who departed this life Oct. 5, 1938. He was a faithful member of New Hope church several years and attended regularly until his health failed him. May God's richest blessings ever comfort and protect his loved ones. We hope that our loss is heaven's gain.

CLARENCE MURPHY, C. C.

REV. G. W. BOYD, Pastor.

Sister Rosa Lee. No obituary written.

In memory of Sister Martha Corley, who departed this life during the year 1938. She was about 70 years old and had been a member of Liberty Church since its constitution. May God's richest blessings ever attend her loved ones. We hope that our loss is heaven's gain.

MRS. IDA JORDAN, Church Clerk.

REV. W. G. BOYD, her pastor.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of Gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in heaven and such Christians on earth as are not attached to the visible church according to the gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the Word of God, subservient to the churches and dangerous to the liberty of man.

5. The Gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute, and that if this right be surrendered to superintending juris-

diction by delegation or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.

6. The churches may, nevertheless, we suppose, meet by delegates, form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up the correspondence; but that the right and authority of churches being inalienable, or in no way comprised or hindered by entering into an association and therefore an association has no authority over churches or individuals, their only power being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity; to promote natural intercourses, and a concentration of voluntary effort; and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by any individual.

7. That the authority of the Churches is designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel, and for the preservation of true and orderly body of Christians on earth; that it is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but it does not extend to persons, property or the conscience of men in any manner whatsoever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel; that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of such membership is an assumption of authority on the part of the church and a departure from the Gospel plan.

9. That the Officers of a church are elders and deacons; that the elders are called bishops or pastors, and all of the elders are equal in rank though they may perform different functions—since some may be bishops or pastors of particular churches, while others may be simple elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any acts that belong to the authority of the church—such as the reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church, he is not more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person; yet we think it prudent to call in advisory help especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes.

13. That elders and deacons must be set apart to their office of ordination, by the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective offices.

14. No preacher shall be ordained unless called to take charge of a church as pastor, or some good and sufficient reason.

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The Church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in Association year, or if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time, but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor. Also, it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastors to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes.

8. The church shall hold a two day's monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

9. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

10. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever of the church according to the Covenant (Article 5) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect; but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

11. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for the reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgments. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches, shall speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

13. Any orderly member of the Baptist church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall be valid, unless withdrawn, the members who make them shall be liable to be taken under dealing with the church.

15. When the moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing, to attend the trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined till the question has been put to the church, Will you hear the testimony of the witness?

18. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letters without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their misconduct.

20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

23. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided, but a member, upon request, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.

25. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling, those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep to the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

27. When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

28. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is to call the speaker to order.

29. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints' feet at least once a year.

30. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

31. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

32. That each minister preach and practice the same doctrine, and principles. And each church do the same as set up by Christ and follow the apostolic doctrine and follow it closely.

33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two successive monthly conferences.

CHURCH COVENANT

1. Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace into the knowledge of our divine Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to devote our time and talents to the interest of pure and undefiled religion, we do solemnly covenant with each other to walk together in love and brotherly kindness and to glorify God through life as the only hope in death.

2. We agree to exercise Christian love and affection for each other as members of the household of faith, that the knowledge of truth may be glorified in us and by us, to the end that we may be perfect in the will of God through Christ Jesus concerning us.

3. We endeavor to uphold the public worship of Almighty God and ordinances of His church, not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of the means with which we are blessed for the ministry among us and other necessary expenses of the church.

4. We will not neglect the devotional exercises of secret prayer and the duties of family worship, and the training up of our children and those under our care with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven.

5. We agree to neglect our secular or worldly avocation to attend the stated meetings of the Church and to labor for its prosperity in the most holy faith believing that if we do this we let our light shine; if we fail to attend to the sacred duties we prove to be a stumbling block to the world and reproach to the church.

6. We believe that all Christians are endowed with certain talents and influences, for the improvement of which they will be accountable to the Great Head of the church; that if there are unruly members in the church, it is our duty to approach such in the spirit of love and to admonish them to forsake their evil doings, if they will not hear thee, take one or two or more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established; then if they will not hear the church, then let them be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

7. We believe the Worldly dance and drinking ardent spirits with and commingling with drunkards are sins which should be condemned by the church.

8. It shall be the duty of all pastors to read this Covenant and to explain every part and clause thereof to the church on the opening of all church meetings.

DECORUM OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceding session shall preside until their successors shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceeding shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

9. After motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move a reconsideration.

10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave of absence without permission from the body.

11. This Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

13. No church shall liberate any minister coming from any other denomination until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and received credentials bearing their approval.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall hereafter be known as the Union Free Will Baptist Association.

2. It shall be composed of: (1). The ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto; (2). Legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirements of churches: Each church shall be required to send up an annual report to the Association in which they shall make a brief statement of the pastor, report the character and usefulness of the minister whose membership is with them, give name and post office of the Church Clerk, give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded, and died, the number of members, and the amount paid for Associational purposes.

4. Each church in the Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own government without suspension or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.

5. This body shall be considered an advisory council whose duty it is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled, and while there it shall be its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the Association and to use their best influence to promote a moral and benevolent means and institutions such as education, Sabbath Schools, missionary work, etc.

6. The Officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our articles of faith and conform to its usages.

8. Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate to every 20 members or fractional part thereof.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority of votes.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in His attributes.—I. Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of heaven at the last day to judge both quick and dead.—I. Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; 1. John 2:2.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily by transgression, fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; 1. Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore being the cause why the just and righteous God of heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all argument that all men at one time or other, are found, in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1. John 5:1-10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—2. Tim. 3:16, 17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the Gospel.—Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family; so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings; whereas, such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45,65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:4; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Thes. 2:11, 12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any of them dying in that state, shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the kingdom of God."—1. Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36, 37; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace, and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14, 15; Isa. 1:19, 20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34, 35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, power or ability, which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ; believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20, 21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly, who die in sin, unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-46.

