

Original Handwritten Minutes
Published

1st General Assembly
January 26-27, 1906
Camp Creek, North Carolina

MINUTES
of
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
of the
CHURCHES OF EAST TENNESSEE, NORTH GEORGIA AND WESTERN NORTH-CAROLINA, HELD JANUARY 26&27 1906, at Camp Creek, N.C.

NOTE. — We hope and trust that no person or body of people will ever use these minutes, or any part of them, as articles of faith upon which to establish a sect or denomination. The subjects were discussed merely to obtain light and understanding. Our articles of faith are inspired and given us by the Holy Apostles and written in the New Testament which is our only rule of faith and practice.

The meeting called to order and devotions conducted by the pastor, A. J. Tomlinson.

After due consideration the Assembly accepted the following motto or ruling: - We do not consider ourselves a legislative or executive body, but judicial only.

The question as to whether records should be made and preserved, of this and other like assemblies was duely discussed by deacon J.C. Murphy and others, passed upon and recommended as scriptural.

The assembly discussed the advisability of each local church making and preserving its own records. Consider it in harmony with New Testament teaching, and advise each local church to make and preserve records of all

church proceedings. The Acts of the Apostles as example.

Communion and feet-washing were duely discussed by elder R. G. Spurling and others, and it is the sense of this assembly that the communion and feet-washing are taught by the New Testament Scriptures, and may be engaged in at the same service or at different times at the option of the local churches. In order to preserve the unity of the body, and to obey the sacred Word, we recommend that every member engage in these sacred services. We further recommend that these holy ordinances be observed one or more times each year

Prayer-meetings discussed by brother Alexander Hamby and others. It is, therefore, the sense of this assembly that we recom-

mend, advise and urge that each local church hold a prayer-meeting at least once a week. We recommend further that some one in every church, who may feel led by the Holy Spirit or selected by the church, take the oversight thereof and see that such prayer-meeting is held regularly and in proper order.

Evangelism, discussed by the pastor and others; reports of work done the past year; consecration on the part of a number. After the consideration of the ripeued fields and open doors for evangelism this year, strong men wept and said they were not only willing but realy anxious to go. It is, therefore, the sense of this meeting that we do our best to press into every open door this year and work with greater zeal and energy for the spread of the glorious gospel of

the Son of God than ever before.

A discourse on The Use of Tobacco was delivered by evangelist M.S. Lemons and discussed by others. After due consideration this assembly agrees to stand, with one accord, in opposition to the use of tobacco in any form. It is offensive to those who do not use it; weakens and impairs the nervous system; is a near relative to drunkenness; bad influence and example to the young; useless expense, the money for which ought to be used to clothe the poor, spread the gospel or make the homes of our country more comfortable; and last we believe its use to be contrary to the teaching of Scripture, and as Christ is our example we cannot believe that He would use it in any form or under any circumstances.

We further recommend and

advise that the ministers and deacons of each church make special effort to use their influence against its use, deal tenderly and lovingly with those in the church who use it, but insist with an affectionate spirit that its use be discontinued as much as possible. We also, advise the deacons to secure a report at the close of each year, of the number that have been induced to discontinue the habit and delivered from a desire for it, also the number that still continue its use, and carry such report to the general assembly.

Family worship was discussed by Andrew Freeman and others. It is, therefore, the sense of this assembly that we recommend and urge that the families of all the churches engage in this very sacred and important service at least once a day and at a time

most convenient to the household and that the parents should see that every child is taught, as early as possible, to reverence God and their parents by listening quietly and attentively to the reading of God's Word and getting down on their knees during the prayer. We recommend further that the ministers and deacons of each church use their influence and make special effort to encourage every family in the church to engage in this devotional exercise every day. And that the deacons ascertain the proper information and make a report of the number of families that have been induced to take up this service during the year, the number that make it a regular practice and those that do not and carry such report to the yearly or general assembly.

The Sun-day School was brief-

ly discussed by elder W. F. Bryant, Malissie Murphy and others. We highly favor this important service as a means to teach the children to reverence God's Word and the house appointed for worship, and also, to elevate the morals of a community. It is, therefore, the sense of this assembly to recommend, advise and urge every local church to have a Sunday School every Sunday during the whole year if possible. We advise the workers to do all they can to propagate the Sunday School interests, and search for places where there are none and organize where it is possible to do so. We believe a Sunday School may sometimes be organized and run successfully where a church could not be established at once, thereby opening and paving the way for more permanent work in the future. It is further recommended that Sun-

day Schools be held in the forenoon when it is possible to hold them at that time.

When a member in good standing removes from the vicinity of one church to another, we recommend that a letter of recommendation be given them on request, in harmony with Romans 16:1,2. "We commend unto you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea that ye receive her in the Lord as becometh saints."

We recommend a closer union and fellowship of all the churches. We, therefore, conclude an assembly composed of elders and chosen men, and the women, from each church, once each year to be of vast importance for the promotion of the gospel of Christ and His Church. We, therefore, with one

accord select and set apart Thursday, Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in January of each year, for this special yearly assembly. Provided, however, that there are no preventing providences. The place to be selected later as the providences of God and His Spirit may direct.

It seemeth good to the Holy Ghost and us, being assembled together with one accord, with the Spirit of Christ in the midst, and after much prayer, discussion, searching the Scriptures and counsel, to recommend these necessary things and that they be ratified and observed by all the local churches. It is the duty of The Church to execute the laws given us by Christ through His Holy Apostles.

The Assembly concluded:—
Saturday, January 27, 1906, at
7-30 P. M.