

ELDERS CONFERENCE.

REV. SAMUEL HART, Moderator. REV. E. M'LEOD, Secretary.

PREAMBLE AND RULES.

Whereas we believe the agreement of all associations of men is absolutely necessary in order to their efficiency in whatever work they are engaged; and whereas the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, viewed in its relation to the eternal interest of mankind, is the most important office on earth, hence those engaged in the sacred calling should seek every means for their purity and unity. We, therefore, the Elders and Licentiates of the Free Christian Baptist Conference of New Brunswick do hereby agree to the following Constitution for an Elders Conference among us, having for its object union in matters of doctrine and sentiment, and purity from all bickerings, jealousies, or contentions, which might arise among us, and mar our work in the Lord; and also to enable us to aid each other in the removal of all trials which may arise between preachers and churches, as well as to enable us in a judicious manner to exercise proper disciplinary care toward each other in all matters which may require it. And we do solemnly covenant to set before our people an example of truth, in the inviolable fulfilment of the rules of this Conference, to the full extent which God may place in our power.

I. This Conference shall be composed *only* of ordained Elders and Licentiates in full and regular standing with the General Conference of Free Christian Baptists of New Brunswick, and it shall bear the name of the Elders Conference of Free Christian Baptists.

II. The officers of this Conference shall be a Moderator and Secretary; the former to be appointed annually, and to continue during the year; the latter to continue during the pleasure of the Conference.

III. The duties of the Moderator or shall be to preside in all meetings; to preserve order; and to appoint special meetings when necessary. The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep a faithful and true record of all meetings, record all reports correspond on matters connected with the Conference, and give notice for meetings by the direction of the Moderator.

IV. This Conference shall convene its annual meeting one day before the meeting of the General Conference, and in the same place, at which meeting, every ordained preacher, and every Licentiate, shall hold himself bound to attend, according to the covenant contained in this Constitution.

V. Ten members beside the Moderator shall be required to constitute an Annual Conference to transact business; a less number may adjourn.

VI. The business of this Conference shall be—

1. To cultivate harmony in doctrine and practice.
2. To remove all matters of trial which may exist among any of its members.
3. To investigate the moral character of its members when it may be necessary.