

*Message*

**for**

**Original**

**Free Will Baptists**

**of**

**North Carolina**

A PUBLICATION OF  
**THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS**  
AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

For  
July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979

**Published**  
**1980**

**1979-80**  
**Yearbook**  
**for**  
**Original**  
**Free Will Baptists**  
**of**  
**North Carolina**

**Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.**  
**Ayden, N. C.**

**Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.  
Ayden, North Carolina**

**All Rights Reserved**

**Available from the Publishers at:**

**811 North Lee Street  
Ayden, North Carolina 28513**

**PRINTED IN U. S. A.**

# CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD</b>	7
<b>DIRECTORY OF MINISTERS</b>	9
<b>DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES</b>	21
<b>DIRECTORY OF INSTITUTIONS</b>	95
<b>DIRECTORY OF DENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES</b>	101
<b>MINUTES OF STATE BODIES</b>	107
Special Called Session	109
State Convention of Churches	115
Officers	115
United Program	115
Boards and Committees	116
Proceedings	117
Reports	120
Commission on Scouting	120
League Convention	121
President Hansley's Message	123
Ministerial Association	125
General Conference	126
Sunday School Convention	127
Home Missions and Church Extension	128
Woman's Auxiliary	138
Mount Olive College	138
Executive Committee	144
Superannuation Board	149
Retirement Homes	158
Camp Vandemere	160
Church Finance Association	161
Cragmont Assembly	162
Free Will Baptist Press Foundation	164
Foreign Missions Board	165
Children's Home	175
Credentials Committee	179
Temperance Committee	180
Obituary Committee	180
Chaplains Commission	182
Resolutions Committee	182
Nominating Committee	183
Treasurer's Report	184
Sunday School Convention	187
Woman's Auxiliary Convention	196
League Convention	215
<b>MINUTES of CONFERENCES and ASSOCIATIONS</b>	
Piedmont	223
Albemarle	242
Western	251
Pee Dee	264
Eastern	278
Cape Fear	314
Central	340
<b>CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES</b>	357
<b>STATISTICAL TABLES</b>	363

**Minutes  
of the  
THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION  
of the  
ALBEMARLE CONFERENCE  
of  
Original Free Will Baptists  
of  
NORTH CAROLINA  
October 10, 1979**

Held with Mount Tabor Free Will Baptist Church,  
Creswell, North Carolina 27928.

The next session will convene Wednesday before the Second Sunday in October, 1980. The place will be announced by the Executive Committee.

**OFFICERS FOR THE 1980 SESSION**

Moderator.....The Rev. Francis Garner, Route 1, Pinetown, N.C.  
Assistant Moderator.....The Rev. Robert May, Ahoskie, N.C.  
Secretary.....The Rev. Marvin R. Waters, Route 1, Pinetown, N.C.  
Assistant Secretary .....Unfilled  
Treasurer.....Mr. Lloyd Jones Jr., Route 2, Roper, N.C.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Rev. Francis Garner, The Rev. Marvin R. Waters, Mr. Lloyd Jones Jr., the Moderator of the Albemarle Union Meeting, the President of the Albemarle Sunday School Convention, the President of the Albemarle League Union, and the President of the Albemarle Women's Auxiliary Convention.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Rev. L. E. Ambrose (1980)                      The Rev. W. L. Brickhouse (1981)  
Mr. Jay Leggett (1982)

**BOARD OF ORDINATION**

The Rev. Francis Garner (1980)                      The Rev. Charlie Overton (1981)  
The Rev. Robert May (1982)

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Mr. David Furlough (1980)                      Mr. Hilton Simmons (1981)  
 Mr. Oscar Webster (1982)                      The Rev. Ransom McAbee (1983)  
 The Rev. Steve Hargrove (1984)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Laura Webster (1980)                      Mrs. Margaret Woolard (1981)  
 Mrs. Mae Oliver (1982)

ROLL OF MINISTERS

L. E. Ambrose, Creswell, N.C. 27928  
 Charlie Overton, Ahoskie, N.C. 27910  
 Robert May, Ahoskie, N.C. 27910  
 W. L. Brickhouse, Columbia, N.C. 27925  
 Marvin R. Waters, Route 1, Pinetown, N.C. 27865  
 Johnny Sexton, Plymouth, N.C. 27962  
 Francis Garner, Route 1, Pinetown, N.C. 27962  
 Floyd Burkey, Plymouth, N.C. 27962  
 Melvin Moore, 1605 Cooper Street, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909  
 Billy Reynolds, Route 1, Box 657, Roper, N.C. 27870  
 Ransom McAbee, Route 2, Creswell, N.C. 27928  
 Steve Hargrove, Route 2, Belhaven, N.C. 27810

ROLL OF CHURCHES WITH THEIR  
 CLERKS AND PASTORS

MARTIN COUNTY

Corinth—Clerk, P. Dan Davis, Route 2, Box 97, Jamesville, N.C. 27846  
 Pastor, the Rev. Charlie Rice, Box 445, New Bern, N.C. 28560

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Mt. Tabor—Clerk, Mrs. Naomi H. Ambrose, Route 2, Box 169, Creswell,  
 N.C. 27928  
 Pastor, the Rev. Ransom H. McAbee, Route 2, Creswell, N.C. 27928  
 Mt. Zion—Clerk, Mrs. Beulah Whitson, Route 3, Box 29, Plymouth, N. C.  
 27962  
 Pastor, the Rev. Charlie Overton, 811 Academy Street, Ahoskie, N.C. 27910  
 Piney Grove—Clerk, Mrs. Lois Krawczyk, Route 1, Roper, N.C. 27970  
 Pastor, the Rev. Billy Reynolds, Route 1, Box 657, Roper, N.C. 27970  
 First Free Will Baptist of Plymouth—Clerk, Mrs. Irene Pierce, Route 3,  
 Box 326, Plymouth, N.C. 27962  
 Pastor, the Rev. Floyd Burkey, 333 West Avenue, Plymouth, N.C. 27962  
 Union Chapel—Clerk, Mrs. Mivarene Phelps, Route 1, Box 293, Plymouth,  
 N.C. 27962  
 Pastor, the Rev. O. Swade Benson, Clayton, N.C. 27520

TYRRELL COUNTY

Sound Side—Clerk, Marvin Sawyer, Box 62, Columbia, N.C. 27925  
 Pastor, the Rev. N. D. Wiggs, 23 Crescent Drive, Kinston, N.C. 28501

**Gum Neck**—Clerk, Mrs. Dorothy Brickhouse, Route 1, Box 260, Columbia, N.C. 27925

Pastor, none listed on report.

**Malachi's Chapel**—Clerk, W. Braxton Voliva, Box 394, Columbia, N.C. 27925

Pastor, the Rev. N. D. Wiggs, 23 Crescent Drive, Kinston, N.C. 28501

#### BEAUFORT COUNTY

**Free Union**—Clerk, Tony Webster, Washington, N.C.

Pastor, the Rev. Francis Garner, Route 1, Pinetown, N.C. 27865

**Trinity**—Clerk, Talmage Cooper, Route 1, Pantego, N.C. 27860

Pastor (supply), the Rev. Bryant Hines, Goldsboro, N.C. 27530

**Sidney**—Clerk, Jimmy D. Brinn, Route 2, Box 350, Belhaven, N.C. 27810

Pastor, the Rev. James Steve Gargrove, Route 2, Box 100, Belhaven, N.C. 27810

**Belhaven**—Clerk, Mrs. Harry Jarvis, Engelhard, N.C. 27824

Pastor, none listed

**Shiloh**—Clerk, Mrs. Mary Ann Harris, Route 1, Box 341-A1, Pinetown, N.C. 27865

Pastor, the Rev. Marvin R. Waters, Route 1, Box 20-A, Pinetown, N.C. 27865

#### HERTFORD COUNTY

**Hickory Chapel**—Clerk, J. J. Chamblee Jr., Route 4, Box 390, Ahoskie, N.C. 27910

Pastor, the Rev. Robert May, Route 4, Box 387, Ahoskie, N.C. 27910

#### PASQUOTANK COUNTY

**St. Paul**—Clerk, Mrs. Eunice F. Ambrose, 806 Greenleaf Street, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909

Pastor, the Rev. Melvin T. Moore, 1605 Cooper Street, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909

## PROCEEDINGS

The thirty-fifth annual session of the Albemarle Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina convened with Mount Tabor Free Will Baptist Church, Route 2, Creswell, North Carolina, on October 10, 1979.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING

The devotions were conducted by the Rev. Steve Hargrove. The congregation sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Brother Hargrove read Hebrews 12:1-3 for devotional Scripture. Prayer was by Brother Hargrove also.

The welcome was given by the Rev. L. E. Ambrose. Brother Oscar Webster gave the response to the welcome.

The Conference was called to order by the secretary, the Rev. Marvin R. Waters.

The list of Churches was called. Fourteen (14) reported, by letter and by delegate.

The list of ministers was called and the following reported: Francis Garner, Ransom McAbee, L. E. Ambrose, Robert May, W. L. Brickhouse, Johnny Sexton, Floyd Burkey, Melvin Moore, Marvin Waters. It was reported that Charlie Overton could not be with us due to the illness of his wife.

Visiting ministers were recognized with the following present: Joe Ingram, Foreign Missions; Dr. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College; Hubert Burress, Church Finance Association; Stewart Humphrey, Children's Home; Walter Reynolds, Free Will Baptist Press; Taylor Hill, Home Missions; Walter Sutton, representing Camp Vandemere; and Steve Hargrove, visiting minister of the Cape Fear Conference.

The Rev. Francis Garner, moderator, gave the moderator's address. Brother Garner remarked that "the past is behind us. The potential and probabilities for the future are unlimited." He stated that "the prize will be God's reward to us for our labors." For the present, "our united labors are essential," he said.

The moderator appointed the following temporary committees:

Nominating—Billy Dilday, Ervin Foreman, Ransom McAbee

Resolutions—Oscar Webster, Jay Leggett, Robert Midyette

Temperance—Floyd Burkey, Bill Gurganus, David Furlough

The Conference then entered into a special period of prayer for the Rev. Cedric Pierce, a fellow minister, who is reportedly ill, for the Rev. S. A. Smith, whose wife had passed away, and Mrs. Charlie Overton, who is in the hospital at the time of this conference.

An offering was received for the General Fund of the Conference.

A motion was made and carried to adopt the printed program as the order of business with the moderator having the privilege to make any changes he might deem necessary.

Report of the Executive Committee of the Conference was given by Marvin R. Waters. A motion was made and carried to adopt the report. (See Reports.)

Report of the Board of Ordination was given by the Rev. Robert May. A motion was made and carried to adopt the report. (See Reports.)

Report of Mount Olive College was given by Dr. Burkette Raper. Dr. Raper prefaced his remarks with an announcement concerning the death of Mrs. S. A. Smith. He called attention to the benefit suppers for the counties in our Conference area. He stated that the college is enjoying a record enrollment this year. Dr. Raper further explained the financial aid program of the college, expressing the continued desire of the college to provide every Free Will Baptist young person the opportunity for attaining a Christian education. A motion was made and carried that the report be received as information.

The Rev. Steve Hargrove requested membership into the conference. A motion was made to receive Brother Hargrove pending his letter from the Pee Dee Association. Motion carried.

The Rev. Taylor Hill presented the report of the Home Missions Department. Brother Hill, in addition to the written report, stated that the



Home Missions program is doing well. He reported that the missions had given back over \$7,000 to the denominational enterprises. A motion was made and carried to receive the report as information.

The report of the Church Finance Association was given by the Rev. Hubert Burress. Brother Burress reported that a total of \$528,400 had been loaned during the past year. He reported that the large loan to Cragmont had been one of the most important developments of the Church Finance Association's program. Brother Burress urged each Church to purchase two memberships into the Association. This report was received by the Conference as information.

The Rev. Joe Ingram gave the report on the Foreign Missions Program. In addition to the printed report, Brother Ingram spoke of a recent trip to India. He stated that six of the Indian churches have elementary schools with an enrollment of over 900 students. Brother Ingram asked for the continued blessings of God upon the Foreign Missions ministry. A motion was made and carried to receive the report as information.

Announcements were made relative to church concerns of the local churches.

The Conference entered the worship hour. The host church choir sang "When I've Gone the Last Mile." The Rev. Ransom McAbee delivered the Conference sermon entitled "If My People." His text was 2 Chronicles 7:14. Following the benediction by Dr. Burkette Raper, the Conference enjoyed a delicious noon meal served by the host church.

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

The Rev. W. L. Brickhouse gave the devotions from 2 Timothy 3. The congregation sang "I Want to Be a Worker."

The Rev. Robert May conducted the memorial service, reading an appropriate poem and leading in a memorial prayer.

The Rev. Walter Reynolds gave the report from the Free Will Baptist Press. Brother Reynolds reported that sample packages of the new literature for the nursery, preschool, and primary Sunday school classes have been mailed to the churches. Brother Reynolds reported the Press's purchase of a new two-color printing press. This particular press will cut the work load by one-half. Brother Reynolds further encouraged each church family to subscribe to "The Free Will Baptist." A motion was made carried to receive the report as information.

The Rev. Walter Reynolds gave the report on Superannuation. Motion was made and carried to receive the report as information.

The Rev. Willis Wilson sent a report to the Conference via the Rev. Walter Reynolds. This report was an open letter to all Free Will Baptists, expressing the need for continued financial support for the retiring of the loan debt on Cragmont's new assembly building. Brother Reynolds reported that the first loan payment will be due November 14, and will amount to approximately \$35,000. Motion was made and carried that we receive this report as information.

The Rev. Walter Sutton gave the report on the ministry of Camp Vandemere. Brother Sutton reported that Camp Vandemere is owned and operated by the member churches of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. He stated that the camp is open to all Free Will Baptists with organized activities being conducted. Brother Sutton stated that those interested in Camp Vandemere's camping schedule could contact either Ralph Sumner or Walter Sutton. A motion was made and carried to receive the report as information.

Mr. Lloyd Jones reported on the Albemarle League Convention. Mr. Jones stated that he would be glad to work any church that desires to establish a league. He called for the continued prayers of our people on behalf of the ministry of the League. Motion was made and carried to receive the report as information.

Mrs. Lorraine Garner, President of the Albemarle Woman's Auxiliary Convention, reported on the work of that Convention. She gave the following figures as estimates of membership: 200 women who are members, 100 YFA members, 100 AFC members, and 25 Cherub members. Motion was made and carried to receive this report as information.

Report of the Albemarle Conference Youth Convention was by Mrs. Betty Sawyer, Youth Chairman. She reported the Convention as having had two conferences this year. These were held at the Sound Side Church and the Free Union Church. She encouraged more involvement on the part of both ministers and laity in our youth activities. A motion was made and carried to receive this report as information.

The report on the Albemarle Conference Sunday School Convention was given by Mr. Ervin Foreman, President of the Convention. Brother Foreman reported that there will be a meeting of the Board of Education of the Albemarle Conference along with the Executive Committee of the Sunday School Convention to discuss ways of improving the ministry of the Sunday School Convention. He urged the continued involvement of our Sunday school officers and teachers in the work of the Sunday School Convention. A motion was made and carried to receive this report as information.

Mrs. Laura Webster gave the report on the past State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. She commented on the various happenings of the Convention. A motion was made and carried to receive the report as information.

The Rev. Stewart Humphrey, Director of the Children's Home, gave the report on the Home. Brother Humphrey stated that the Free Will Baptist Children's Home is leading the way in child care in institutions across the nation. Humphrey further reported on the Retirement Homes ministry, stating that we should rally behind the Retirement Homes as a ministry to both laity and clergy. A motion was made and carried to receive each of these reports as information.

#### REPORTS AND BUSINESS OF THE CONFERENCE

The report of the Temperance Committee was given by the Rev. Floyd Burkey. A motion was made and carried to adopt the report. (See Reports.)

The report of the Resolutions Committee was given by Mr. Oscar Webster. A motion was made and carried to adopt the two (2) resolutions offered by the committee. (See Reports.)

A motion was made and carried that in regard to Resolution 2, as adopted by this Conference, that the Executive Committee choose a chairman of each standing board and meet with each board to give it direction as to its purpose and work.

Report of the Nominating Committee was given by Mr. Billy Dilday. A motion was made and carried to adopt the report. (See Reports.)

A motion was made and carried that the Conference express its wishes for the State Convention to meet in the month of August.

Mrs. Lorraine Garner, Mrs. Laura Webster, and Mrs. Floyd Burkey were appointed to serve as delegates to the next State Convention.

Mr. Oscar Webster was appointed delegate of the Albemarle Conference to the General Conference.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Mr. Lloyd Jones, treasurer. A motion was made and carried to adopt the report. (See Reports.)

Mr. Billy Dilday installed the new officers of the Conference with Scripture and a prayer of consecration.

The minutes of the Conference were read. A motion was made and carried that the reading of the minutes be adopted.

The right hand of fellowship was extended to the Rev. Steve Hargrove as the congregation sang "Amazing Grace."

A motion was made and carried that the host church be extended a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality in hosting this year's Conference.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn, leaving any unfinished business in the hands of the Executive Committee. The benediction was prayed by the Rev. Francis Garner.

## REPORTS

Adopted by the Conference to be a Part of the Minutes

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met at the Sidney Free Will Baptist Church, April 29, 1979. The item discussed was the possibility of our Conference hosting the 1979 session of the State Convention. Brother Francis Garner and Marvin Waters reported that they had contacted the administrators of the Martin County Memorial Auditorium and had been told the Auditorium could not be used during a school day. Following discussion, the Executive Committee instructed the secretary to write the Executive Committee of the State Convention explaining our reasons for not being able to host the State Convention as we had previously hoped to do.

It was also announced at this meeting that the next annual Albemarle Conference would be October 10, 1979, at the Mount Tabor Church, Creswell, Washington County.

# BOARD OF ORDINATION

We, the Board of Ordination, submit the following report:

On December 30, 1978, the Board met at Shiloh church, Pinetown, N.C., to question the Rev. N. D. Wiggs relative to his license. We found him to be in good standing with his conference and we, the Board, were satisfied.

On December 30, 1978, the Board met at Shiloh church, Pinetown, N.C., to examine Bryant Hines Jr.'s license. The Board was satisfied with him as a licensed minister.

On April 28, 1979, the Board met at Sidney church, Belhaven, N.C., to ordain Craig Simmons.

On May 5, 1979, the Board met at Hickory Chapel church to give examination to Paul Melson. He did not pass the examination. He was asked to appear at a later date for further examination.

On July 28, 1979, the Board met at Sound Side church, Columbia, N.C., to examine the credentials of the Rev. Steve Hargrove. The Board was satisfied.

On July 29, 1979, the Rev. Swade Benson met with the Rev. Charlie Overton at the home of Mr. Ernest Whitson, Plymouth, N.C., to clear his license. Charlie Overton reported the information to the Rev. Robert May and the Rev. Francis Garner, members of said Board. They stated, along with Charlie Overton, that they were satisfied.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlie Overton, *Chairman*  
Robert May  
Francis Garner

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### General Fund

Brought Forward from 1978 Conference		\$456.17
Amount Received from Churches	\$317.00	
Amount Received from Public Offering	38.45	355.45
Total Received		\$811.62
Amount Disbursed		\$314.87
Balance in General Fund		\$496.75

### Mission Fund

Brought Forward		\$330.12
Amount Received	\$41.07	
Bank Interest	19.68	60.75
Total		\$390.87

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1. Whereas Mount Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church was the kind and gracious host to the 1979 annual session of the Albemarle Conference of

Respectfully submitted,  
Lloyd Jones Jr., *Treasurer*

Original Free Will Baptists, be it resolved that we give to the host church a rising vote of appreciation for their entertainment of this session of the Conference.

2. Whereas the success of the program of the Conference is dependent on its standing boards and committees to perform their respective duties, be it resolved we urge these boards and committees to be active in carrying out their responsibilities and making a report of their activities to the annual session of the Conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Oscar Webster, *Chairman*  
Jay T. Leggett  
R. E. Midgett

#### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

1. We, the Temperance Committee, urge all churches in our Conference to include the Christian Action League in their budget. This will aid them in their fight against alcohol, drugs, and pornography.

2. We, as a body of believers, should take our stand against the sidespread homosexual movement throughout our nation. The Scriptures teach this as being sinful and ungodly (see Romans Chapter 1).

Respectfully submitted,  
Floyd Burkey, *Chairman*  
Bill Gurganus  
David Furlough

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Board of Trustees—J. T. Leggett to fill the expired term of J. T. Keech.

Board of Ordination—The Rev. Robert May to succeed himself.

Board of Missions—The Rev. Steve Hargrove to fill the expired term of Mr. Bill Gurganus. The Rev. Ransom R. McAbee to fill the unexpired term of the Rev. Melvin Moore.

Board of Christian Education—Mrs. Mae Oliver to fill the expired term of Mrs. Beulah Whitson.

Respectfully submitted,  
Billy Dilday, *Chairman*  
Ervin Foreman  
Ransom McAbee

Churches	MEMBERSHIP							Total Property Value	TREASURER'S REPORT		
	Church	SS	League	YFA	AFC	WA	LL		Total Used Locally	Denomi- national Enterprises	Grand Total
ALBEMARLE CONFERENCE											
Belhaven	20	12									
Cape Colony Mission											
Corinth	37	27				14		20,000	3,206	682	3,888
Free Union	356	159		20	24	30		250,000	38,794	2,154	40,947
Gum Neck	43	34				14		25,000	1,777	450	2,227
Hickory Chapel	282	124		4	6	33	6	300,000	23,841	8,106	31,947
Malachi's Chapel	152	60							12,130	2,198	14,328
Mount Tabor	157	53		7		24		70,000	18,548	2,270	20,818
Mount Zion	92	48	24			5		25,000	9,178	2,461	11,639
Piney Grove											
Plymouth, First	58	71		5	8	17		40,000	13,140	632	13,772
Shiloh	236	142		10	12	23	15	200,000	30,228	1,417	31,645
Sidney	158	98	35	20		20	18	175,000	17,040	1,690	18,730
Sound Side	199	116	19	20		15			12,473	1,665	14,138
St. Paul	132	50				15		80,000	13,800	1,036	14,836
Trinity	50	30	30			15		40,000	3,630	1,420	5,050
Union Chapel	145	118						61,500	10,606	1,095	11,701
CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE											
Bethel	148	96		8	11	16		80,000	13,788	2,029	15,817
Casey's Chapel	136	78				16		95,000	16,169	1,665	18,284
Catalpa Mission	106	63		7	6			125,000	9,066	909	9,975
Christian Chapel	82	50				15	10	70,000	12,079	165	12,244
Daly's Chapel	49	36				13		36,000	5,289	442	5,731
Eastover Mission	21	9		12				12,500	5,408	20	5,428
Eastwood	35	46		10	5	14	8	150,000	15,989	1,077	17,066
Faith	127									1,835	1,835
Goldsboro, First	251	135		10	12	61		400,000	36,825	4,100	40,925