

Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina



# **YEARBOOK**

# **1986**

For July 1, 1984, Through  
June 30, 1985

**1985-86**  
**Yearbook**  
**for**  
**Original**  
**Free Will Baptists**  
**of**  
**North Carolina**

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

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

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**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION**  
**of the**  
**ALBEMARLE CONFERENCE**  
**of**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**OCTOBER 9, 1985**

**Held with Mount Tabor Free Will Baptist Church**  
**Creswell, NC**

The next session will convene Wednesday before the second Sunday in October, 1986. The location will be at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church near Pinetown, NC.

**OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1985-86**

Moderator, the Rev. Robert May  
 Assistant Moderator, the Rev. Charlie Overton  
 Secretary, the Rev. Frank Thigpen  
 Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Beulah Whitson  
 Treasurer, Mr. Lloyd W. Jones Jr.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee is composed of the general officers of the Conference, the Moderator of the Albemarle Union Meeting, the President of Albemarle Sunday School Convention, the President of the Albemarle League Union, and the President of the Albemarle Woman's Auxiliary Convention.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Rev. L. A. Ambrose

Mr. Ervin Foreman

The Rev. W. L. Brickhouse

**BOARD OF ORDINATION**

The Rev. Charlie Overton  
 The Rev. W. S. Burns

The Rev. Joe Griffith

The Rev. Bobby Brown  
 The Rev. Aubrey Williamson

**BOARD OF MISSIONS**

The Rev. Aubrey Williamson  
 Mr. Ervin Foreman

The Rev. Bobby Brown  
 The Rev. W. S. Burns

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Mrs. Laura Webster

Mrs. Mae Oliver

Mrs. Margaret W. Sheppard

**ROLL OF MINISTERS**

L. E. Ambrose, Route 2, Box 162, Creswell, NC 27928  
 Charlie Overton, 811 Academy Street, Ahoskie, NC 27910

Robert May, Route 4, Box 387, Ahoskie, NC 27910  
 W. L. Brickhouse, Route 2, Box 259, Columbia, NC 27925  
 Johnny Sexton, Route 1, Box 254, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Steve Hargrove, Route 3, Box 294, Ayden, NC 28513  
 David Thick, 710 West Lenoir Street, Kinston, NC 28501  
 Ronnie Mohn, 104 Spruce Street, Williamston, NC 27892  
 Billy Reynolds, Route 1, Box 657, Roper, NC 27970  
 Joe Griffith, 1605 Cooper Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
 Bobby Brown, Route 1, Box 32, Pinetown, NC 27865  
 Charles Parrish, Route 2, Box 100, Belhaven, NC 27810  
 Aubrey Williamson, Route 1, Box 97, Pinetown, NC 27865  
 Raymond Lagcher, Pinetown, NC 27865  
 W. S. Burns, 333 West Avenue, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Frank Thigpen, Route 2, Box 177-A, Creswell, NC 27928  
 Joe Radcliff (Licensed Minister), Pinetown, NC 27865  
 Gary Smith (Licensed Minister), Belhaven, NC 27810

# ROLL OF CHURCHES WITH THEIR CLERKS AND PASTORS

## MARTIN COUNTY

### *Corinth*

Clerk, Mrs. Paul Dan (Faye) Davis, Route 2, Box 97, Jamesville, NC 27846  
 Pastor, the Rev. Joseph Lehmann, 407 East Church Street, Farmville, NC 27828

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

### *Mount Tabor*

Clerk, Mrs. Naomi Ambrose, Route 2, Box 169, Creswell, NC 27928  
 Pastor, the Rev. Frank Thigpen, Route 2, Box 177-A, Creswell, NC 27928

### *Mount Zion*

Clerk, Mrs. Beulah Whitson, Route 3, Box 29, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Pastor, the Rev. W. C. Overton, 811 Academy Street, Ahoskie, NC 27910

### *Plymouth, First*

Clerk, Mrs. Edna Smith, 210 Mott-Ransom Drive, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Pastor, the Rev. W. S. Burns, 333 West Avenue, Plymouth, NC 27962

### *Union Chapel*

Clerk, Mrs. Jane Conner, Box 9, Plymouth, NC 27962  
 Pastor, the Rev. James R. Owens, Route 1, Box 301, Plymouth, NC 27962

## TYRRELL COUNTY

### *Gum Neck*

Clerk, Mrs. Burvell K. Jones, Route 1, Box 277-B, Columbia, NC 27925

### *Malachi's Chapel*

Clerk, W. Braxton Voliva, Box 376, Columbia, NC 27925  
 Pastor, the Rev. Raymond Lagcher, Pinetown, NC 27865

### *Sound Side*

Clerk, Marvin Sawyer, Box 62, Columbia, NC 27925  
 Pastor, the Rev. C. H. Overman, 1201 Stokes Drive, Ayden, NC 28513

## PASQUOTANK COUNTY

### *Saint Paul*

Clerk, Marge Lamb, Route 6, Box 82, Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
 Pastor, the Rev. Joe Griffith, 1605 Cooper Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

**HERTFORD COUNTY***Hickory Chapel*

Clerk, Sara M. Willoughby, Route 4, Box 382, Ahoskie, NC 27910

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

**BEAUFORT COUNTY***Belhaven*

Clerk, Mrs. Hazel Jarvis, Swanquarter, NC 27885

Pastor, the Rev. W. L. Brickhouse, Route 2, Box 259, Columbia, NC 27925

*Free Union*

Clerk, Robert Wilkins, Route 1, Box 440, Plymouth, NC 27962

Pastor, the Rev. Aubrey Williamson, Route 1, Box 97, Pinetown, NC 27865

*Shiloh*

Clerk, Mrs. Mary F. Harris, Box 58, Pinetown, NC 27865

Pastor, the Rev. Bobby Brown, Route 1, Box 32, Pinetown, NC 27865

*Sidney*

Clerk, Mr. Jimmy Brinn, Route 2, Box 350, Belhaven, NC 27810

Pastor, the Rev. Charles Parrish, Route 2, Box 100, Belhaven, NC 27810

*Trinity*

Clerk, Mr. Talmage O. Cooper, Route 1, Box 175, Pantego, NC 27860

Pastor, the Rev. N. Dan Beaman, Route 4, Box 400, Snow Hill, NC 28580

**PROCEEDINGS****WEDNESDAY MORNING**

The congregation sang "Where He Leads I'll Follow" to open the forty-first session of the Albemarle Conference. The devotions were conducted by the Rev. Raymond Lagcher, pastor of Malachi's Chapel.

The welcome was given by the Rev. Frank Thigpen, pastor of Mount Tabor, in the absence of Mrs. Cheryl Williams. The response was given by Mr. Ervin Foreman.

The Conference was called to order by the moderator, the Rev. Robert May, and the adoption of the program was the first order of business. The Rev. Bobby Brown moved to change Article IV of the Constitution of the Albemarle Conference. Said article reads: Standing Boards and Committees: "A board of ordination consisting of three (3) members shall be elected—the term shall be three (3) years, but shall be so adjusted as to terminate the office of one (1) member annually." Said article to read: "A board of ordination shall be elected consisting of 5 members—the term shall be five (5) years, but shall be so adjusted as to terminate the office of one member annually."

This motion was seconded and then this motion was laid upon the table until the afternoon session.

The Rev. W. S. Burns requested his membership in the Piedmont conference be moved to the Albemarle Conference. The Rev. Frank Thigpen requested his membership in the Central Conference be moved to the Albemarle Conference. Both of these requests were passed.

The roll call of churches was called with fourteen (14) present and two (2) absences.

The roll call of ministers was called with twelve (12) present, three (3) absent and one (1) member deceased.

Visiting ministers and delegates from other church bodies were welcomed and recognized. They were as follows: The Rev. Gary Bailey, president of the State Convention; the Rev. Frank Harrison, representing Mount Olive College; the Rev. Bobby

Taylor, representing the Children's Home; the Rev. Harold Jones, director of Foreign Missions; the Rev. Walter Sutton, representing the Retirement Homes; the Rev. Bass Mitchell, representing the State Sunday School Convention; Brother Clifford Gray, executive director of the Free Will Baptist Press.

The moderator's address was on "How We Get Our Ministers." Mr. May made plain that it is the churches that send the ministerial candidates to the ordination boards. And it is out of the churches that our ministers come. The moderator's address was in response to some unsigned letters that members of the ordination board had received.

The moderator appointed temporary committees for the day as follows: Nominating: the Rev. Charlie Overton, Mrs. Beulah Whitson, Mr. Ervin Foreman; Resolutions: the Revs. Bobby Brown, Joe Griffith, W. L. Brickhouse; Temperance: the Rev. Aubrey Williamson, the Rev. Charles Parrish, Mrs. Waters.

All announcements were made by those who had such to make.

Our morning offering was taken to be sent to the denominational enterprises.

The following board appointments were made: Board of Trustees, Board of Ordination, Board of Missions, Board of Christian Education. (See Reports.)

The reports of standing boards were called for. Executive committee: None; Board of Trustees: None; Board of Ordination: The Rev. Charlie Overton gave the report of the Board of Ordination (see Reports); Board of Missions: None; Board of Education: None.

The Rev. Harold Jones gave a report on Foreign Missions. He said we had a great year in Foreign Missions on account of the conferences. He also told us about a new work in Nigeria and how we need a missionary. Also, in the next two years we possibly could have another work in another country. He reminded us of the Foreign Mission Conference in February on prayer.

Mr. Gary Burbage gave a report on the Albemarle Sunday School Convention. New Officers: Gary Burbage, President; Ray Collier, Vice President; Mrs. Fowler, Secretary; Mrs. Sexton, Treasurer.

Mr. Lloyd Jones gave a report on the Albemarle League. There was no conference this year due to lack of participation. Mr. Jones expressed his sorrow for the lack of support and participation in the Albemarle League.

The Rev. Bass Mitchell gave a report on the State Sunday School Convention. He expressed an interest and desire to help any church in our conference with its Sunday School programs.

The Rev. Gary Bailey, president of the State Convention, gave a report on the State Convention. He expressed a desire to see revival and growth in our denomination, both spiritually and numerically. He also told us that one hundred eighty-one (181) ministers were absent from the State Convention. He also gave a report on Cragmont.

Thanks were given to the Rev. Bobby Brown for printing the bulletins for today's conference.

The Rev. Frank Harrison, chaplain of Mount Olive College, gave the report on Mount Olive College. The College has made history in going from a two (2) year to a four (4) year college. He also told us of a course on Free Will Baptist History to be taught at the First Church in Plymouth on November 4, 11, 18, 25, beginning at seven thirty (7:30) p.m. on each of the above evenings. He also told us that the College has a responsibility towards evangelism and every church should send its pastor to the Evangelism Explosion Clinic. He also reminded us of the College Dinner to be held in Roper on November 12. Mr. Harrison also told us of the continuing need for books for the College library.

Mr. Clifford Gray, executive director of the Free Will Baptist Press, gave the report on the press. He told us that the reason *The Free Will Baptist* paper went from weekly to monthly was on account of financial loss. He said that not enough people take the paper.



He also informed us that the Press was still in debt some \$300,000.

The report of the Children's Home was given by the Rev. Bobby Taylor, executive director of the Home.

The worship service began at 11:15 with the Rev. Frank Thigpen, pastor of the host church, bringing the message. He emphasized the five non-negotiable, foundational principles that a church must be committed to: (1) "A high view of God," (2) "the absolute authority of Scripture," (3) "sound doctrine," (4) "personal holiness," (5) "spiritual authority."

The Rev. Bobby Brown dismissed us with a prayer of thanksgiving and asked God's blessings on the food we were about to receive.

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

We resumed business at 1:00 p.m. We opened the afternoon session with devotions by one of our fine licensed ministers, Mr. Joe Radcliff, and we sang the hymn, "Trust and Obey."

The Memorial Service was held by the Rev. Charlie Overton, who had us sing the hymn, "Rock of Ages." Mr. Overton had a prayer and used as his Scripture, Mark 14:9. He told us that the word "memorial" came from a Latin word pertaining to memory. We paused for a few minutes from our business to remember all the deceased loved ones that have gone on before us. He pointed out that for many years they traveled the same journeys that we are now traveling. Because of their faithfulness, hard work, facing many encounters, they took new courage and pressed on.

The Retirement Homes report was given by the Rev. Walter Sutton. He informed us that our conference gave \$1,523.15 for the fiscal year, July 84—June 85. The Retirement Homes Board owns twenty-five acres of land at Middlesex, but so far only one building has been built, the George Best House containing two apartments. Because the land will not "perk" the Retirement Homes is looking at a waste disposal system that will enable them to utilize the rest of the twenty-five acres. This system will cost \$20,000 to be installed.

The Rev. W. S. Burns was recognized as a member of the Board of Home Missions.

We reread our amendment to Article IV of the Constitution of the Albemarle Conference. After very little discussion it was passed.

The subject of Piney Grove Church was brought up and discussed. It was decided that since Piney Grove has a pastor without the proper credentials and has failed to remain in good standing with the conference that they be declared out of fellowship with the Albemarle Conference until the necessary corrections have been made. After some discussion this resolution was passed. The clerk of the conference was ordered to send Piney Grove a copy of the resolution.

The body appointed Mrs. Johnny Sexton and Mrs. Joe Radcliff as delegates to the 1986 State Convention.

The body appointed Mrs. Fowler as our delegate to the General Conference to be held in June.

Free Union Church invited the Albemarle Conference to be held next year at their church. The Conference graciously accepted.

Motion was made and carried to adjourn at 2:40 p.m. We were dismissed in prayer by the Rev. W. S. Burns.

## REPORTS 1985 SESSION

### BOARD OF ORDINATION

The Board of Ordination submits the following report:

On February 2, 1985, the Board met at Mount Zion to examine Mr. Raymond Lagcher for ordination. Mr. Lagcher passed the examination. The Board met at Shiloh Church on February 8, 1985, and ordained Raymond Lagcher.

On March 20, 1985, the Board met at Mount Zion to reinstate Mr. Johnny Sexton's license. The Board also examined the Rev. Dan Beaman's credentials and found them to be okay.

On June 21, 1985, the Board met at Piney Grove Church to discuss with them the reason for not supporting and attending conference organizations and meetings. They stated they were withdrawing from the Conference. Also, the Rev. W. S. Burns brought his credentials for examination. Everything was in order.

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1. WHEREAS, in the past the Board of Ordination has been requested to examine men for license to preach who have two or more living wives, **LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Board of Ordination no longer be required to do so, and that our churches no longer make such requests. See page 86 of the *Articles of Faith* for qualifications. This resolution was tabled until 1986.

2. WHEREAS, the State Convention Executive Committee has requested that all conferences require its ministers to attend the State Convention, **LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that we the members of the Albemarle Conference support this recommendation. This resolution was passed.

3. WHEREAS, The Covenant of the Original Free Will Baptists, page 31 of the *Articles of Faith*, states, "We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, the abuse of drugs, and provide things honest in the sight of all men," **LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that no man be allowed to be examined for license or ordination until he has proven to the Board of Ordination that he no longer is practicing that which is contrary to our Covenant. This resolution was passed.

4. WHEREAS, there is much confusion coming from our pulpits because of so many different versions of the Bible that are being used, **LET IT BE RESOLVED** that since the references to Scripture in our *Articles of Faith* are from the King James Version that our conference adopt for pulpit use the King James Bible, other versions be used only as reference. This resolution was passed.

5. WHEREAS, the gracious members of Mount Tabor Free Will Baptist Church have been such wonderful hosts to this convention, **LET IT BE RESOLVED** that we give them a standing vote of appreciation. This resolution was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Brown

Joe Griffith

W. L. Brickhouse

### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, we have proper guidelines set forth in our *Articles of Faith and Discipline* and WHEREAS the Holy Bible is very imperative in instruction for right

living, the Temperance Committee of this conference asks that we "Renew our commitment to serve our God in spirit and in truth, to continue a forward march for Him and His soon-coming Kingdom."

Respectfully submitted,  
Aubrey Williamson, *Chairman*  
Charles Parrish  
Mrs. Robbie Waters

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Moderator—the Rev. Robert May  
Assistant Moderator—the Rev. Charlie Overton  
Secretary—the Rev. Frank Thigpen  
Assistant Secretary—Mrs. Beulah Whitson  
Treasurer—Mr. Lloyd Jones Jr.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Rev. L. A. Ambrose  
The Rev. W. L. Brickhouse  
Mr. Ervin Foreman

### BOARD OF ORDINATION

The Rev. Charlie Overton  
The Rev. Bobby Brown  
The Rev. Joe Griffith  
The Rev. W. S. Burns  
The Rev. Aubrey Williamson

### BOARD OF MISSIONS

The Rev. Aubrey Williamson  
The Rev. Bobby Brown  
Mr. Ervin Foreman  
The Rev. W. S. Burns

### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Laura Webster  
Mrs. Margaret Sheppard  
Mrs. Mae Oliver

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Brought Forward From 1984		\$ 597.23
Amount Received After Conference	\$ 1,020.00	
Amount Received From Churches	401.80	
Amount Received From Public Offering	63.59	1,495.99
Total Received		\$ 2,082.62
Amount Paid Out		1,495.78
Balance in General Fund		\$ 586.84
Mission Fund		
Brought Forward From 1984		\$ 719.24

Amount Received During the Year

Bank Interest	33.88	33.88
Total		\$ 757.96

SUMMARY

Reports given at this session of the Conference show that our churches, for the year of July 1984—June 1985, gave the following amounts to our denominational programs:

Children's Home	\$ 7,403.00
Mount Olive College	10,756.23
Superannuation	1,121.45
Retirement Homes	1,677.38
Home Missions	5,132.89
Foreign Missions	10,166.90
Cragmont	2,671.44
Total Received	\$38,929.29

Conferences and Unions \$ 1,837.78

Note: One church failed to turn in the annual church letter and one more failed to turn in this section of the annual church letter.

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

## FINANCIAL DATA

CHURCHES	Church			Average MW Att	Gain			Lost			Net Change	Average		Denom Gifts	Local	
	Members	Active	Inactive		Baptism	Letter	Other	Deceased	Letter	Other		Members	SS Att		Use	Total
ALBEMARLE CONFERENCE																
Belhaven											0	0				0
Corinth	19	19		25	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	17	14	1733		0
Free Union	302	302	78								0	0		866		0
Gum Neck	59	19	40	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15			0
Hickory Chapel	273			125	3	3	0	0	12	0	-6	99	84	7806	39408	47214
Malachi's Chapel	173			55	20	2	0	5	0	0	17	0	70	3534	11913	15447
Mount Tabor	156	56	86	100	6	4	0	0	2	0	8	0	60	3602	23531	27133
Mount Zion	91	44	47	40	3	3	0	1	1	0	4	32	30	4654	12966	17620
Plymouth, First	42	42	66	50	0	3	0	1	3	0	-1	43	32	774	18316	19090
St. Paul	128			60	1	0	0	0	3	0	-2	0	50	2295		0
Shiloh	256			100	3	6	0	3	2	0	4	124	85	4033	34426	38459
Sidney	163			85	0	5	2	2	1	0	4	0	70	3978	32185	36163
Sound Side	113	113	120	95	0	2	0	3	0	0	-1	163	95	2981	27250	30231
Trinity					0	0	0	0	1		-1	0		2835	11236	14071
Union Chapel	165	165	73	27	4	4	2	2	6	0	0	0	29	4154	34623	38777
TOTALS	1940	760	510	XXX	40	32	4	17	32	0	25	478	XXX	43245	245854	284205

## CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE

Bethel	149			80	1	0	0	1	1	0	-1	102	90	3109	17379	20488
Casey's Chapel	155	155	0	50	2	4	0	2	4	0	0	81	63	2196	27908	30104
Daly's Chapel	39	36	32	33	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	30	32	434	14567	15001