

**1996-97
YEARBOOK
FOR
ORIGINAL
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0039

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Convention
of
Original Free Will Baptists
Ayden, North Carolina

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of Original Free Will Baptists
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Contents

Foreword	7
Directory of Ordained Ministers	11
Directory of Licensed Ministers	33
Directory of Churches	37
Directory of Denominational Ministries	116
Minutes of State Bodies	
Convention	122
Woman's Auxiliary	134
League Convention	146
Minutes of Conferences and Association	
Piedmont	150
Albemarle	155
Western	162
Pee Dee	171
Eastern	180
Cape Fear	187
Central	195
Statistical Tables	213

MINUTES
of the
FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
of the
ALBEMARLE CONFERENCE
of
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

October 9, 1996
Held With
Mount Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church
Creswell, North Carolina

The next session will convene Wednesday before the second Sunday, October 8, 1997. The location will be Malachi's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Columbia, North Carolina.

Officers for the Years: 1995-1997

Moderator: The Reverend Everette Harper
Assistant Moderator: The Reverend Keith Pelletier
Clerk: The Reverend Paul Grubbs
Assistant Clerk: Mr. Ray Collier
Treasurer: Mr. Lloyd Jones, Jr.

Executive Committee

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

Board of Trustees

Mr. Lloyd W. Jones, Jr. (1997) Mr. Charlie Keech (1998)
Mr. Wayne Britt (1999)

Board of Ordination

The Reverend Robert May (1997) The Reverend Harold Swinson (1998)
The Reverend Paul Grubbs (1999) The Reverend Everett Harper (2000)
The Reverend William Mobley (2001)

Board of Missions

Mr. Ray Collier (1997) Mr. James Cahoon (1998)
Mr. Gary Burbage (1999) The Reverend Harold Swinson (2000)
The Reverend Keith Pelletier (2001)

Nominating Committee

The Reverend Robert May The Reverend Mott Batchelor
The Reverend Billy Reynolds Mr. Mike Gray Mr. Gary Burbage

Roll of Ministers

Mott Batchelor, 333 West Avenue, Plymouth, NC 27962
 W. L. Brickhouse, Rt. 2, Box 259, Columbia, NC 27925
 Paul Grubbs, 312 Lance Drive, Elizabeth City, NC 27909
 Everett Harper, 125 Mackey's Ferry Road, Roper, NC 27970
 Robert May, Rt. 4, Box 387, Ahoskie, NC 27910
 William Mobley, 2306 West 5th St., Washington, NC 27889
 James Owens, 121 Pamela St., Plymouth, NC 27962
 Keith Pelletier, 1159 Mt. Tabor Road, Creswell, NC 27928
 Billy Reynolds, 440 Breezy Banks Road, Roper, NC 27970
 Royce Reynolds, Box 22, Columbia, NC 27925
 Harold Swinson, 808 Jones Bridge Road, Pinetown, NC 27865
 Luther Swinson, 451 Gurganus Rd., Mapel Hill, NC 28454

Licensed Minister

Mike Gray, 305 Pettigrew Street, Plymouth, NC 27962

Proceedings

The 52nd Annual Session of the Albemarle Conference of Original Free Will Baptists met October 9, 1996, with Mt. Tabor Church, Creswell, North Carolina.

The session opened with singing, "Down at the Cross," led by the Reverend Mott Batchelor. The Reverend Billy Reynolds gave the devotion from Psalm 96. Mr. Fentress Simmons gave the welcome and Mr. Lloyd Jones, Jr. responded.

The Clerk called the 52nd Annual Session to order using the words of the late Oscar Webster and presented the Moderator to preside over the meeting.

The Moderator called for prayer at the altar.

By motion, to adopt the printed program and change as needed as we proceed.

All but one church represented by letter. Delegates from 10 churches were seated. There were 9 ministers in the Conference present and 4 were absent with excuse. Nine visiting ministers (the Reverends Dr. Michael Pelt, Bruce Dudley, C. H. Overman, David C. Hansley, Donald Fader, H. P. Norman, Mike Scott, N. B. Barrow, and Dan Beaman) were recognized.

By motion Raymond Lagcher be dropped from the list of ministers.

Representatives from our ministries present were the Reverend Bruce Dudley, Convention and Retirement Homes; Dr. Michael Pelt, Mount Olive College and *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*; the Reverend Donald Fader, Church Finance and Minister's Program; the Reverend Mike Scott, Foreign Missions; the Reverend David C. Hansley, Home Missions and Evangelism; and Miss Tracy McCoy, Free Will Baptist Press.

The Reverend Everette Harper gave the Moderator's Address based on Acts of the Apostles chapters one and two, stating that we need to be positive and responsible in our service to God.

We worshipped God by singing choruses and giving our offerings.

Sister Judy Cox, the Reverend Harold Swinson, and the Reverend Bill Mobley were appointed to the Resolutions Committee.

The Executive Committee report was read by the Clerk and it was accepted by motion.

The Missions Committee report was given by the Reverend Harold Swinson. It was accepted by motion.

The report of the Board of Ordination was read by the Reverend Harold Swinson. It was accepted by motion.

By motion to accept Mott Batchelor into the Conference.

Dr. Michael Pelt shared news of his book, *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, and he emphasized the importance of our history.

We entered into worship with the Reverend Mott Batchelor leading the congregational hymn, the host church provided special music, and the Reverend Keith Pelletier proclaimed the Word. His message was taken from Luke 7:36-50.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session opened with the congregation singing "He Lives," led by the Reverend Mott Batchelor. Mr. Batchelor gave the devotion based on James 4:7-10.

The Reverend Bruce Dudley gave the report of the Convention, our ministries, and introduced the ministry representatives.

Other ministry reports included Albemarle Sunday School presented by the Reverend Keith Pelletier; Albemarle Woman's Auxiliary presented by Sister Eunice Sexton.

Mr. Lloyd Jones, Jr. gave the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted by motion.

The Nominating Committee Report was given and accepted by motion. The nominees were elected by acclamation.

The Resolutions Committee Report was given by Sister Judy Cox. All 3 resolutions passed.

Our delegates to the 1997 Annual Convention will be Sisters Eunice Sexton and Robana Fowler.

By motion the Conference accepted the invitation of Malachi's Chapel to host the 1997 Annual Conference.

The Minutes of this Annual meeting of the Conference were read and accepted on motion.

The Reverend C. H. Overman led in the closing prayer.

Reports

Board of Ordination

December 30: Board met following the Union Meeting at Plymouth First Free Will Baptist Church with the following members present: Moderator, the Reverend Everette Harper; the Reverend Paul Grubbs; the Reverend William Mobley; the Reverend Harold Swinson.

The following items were discussed and passed:

1. The Reverend H. P. Norman petitioned the Board to begin work with Belhaven OFWB Church. After discussion, Brother H. P. was granted clearance for work in the Albemarle Conference with Belhaven Church.

2. The Reverend Mott Batchelor petitioned the Board for approval and membership in the Conference. Brother Mott had been selected as pastor of Plymouth First, upon approval of the Board. The Board approved Brother Mott for membership in the Conference per his letter of transfer from the Western Conference and also cleared him for

pastorate of Plymouth First. Brother Mott will be welcomed into the Conference at its setting in 1996 officially. Motion passed.

3. At this setting, we were saddened by the loss of the Reverend Charlie Overton and the Board agreed to extend to the Reverend Robert May the invitation to fill the unexpired term of Brother Overton. Motion passed upon the acceptance of Brother Robert. All Board members welcomed Brother Robert to the Board.

June 29: Board met at Shiloh OFWB Church following the Union meeting with all members present. The Board of Ordination of the Albemarle Conference recommends to Union Chapel OFWB Church that they grant an extension of Brother Mike Gray's license for one more year, that Brother Mike may petition the Board again within six months to be examined by the Board.

July 27: Board met at St. Paul OFWB Church, Elizabeth City, NC, with all members present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a course of action to follow pertaining to a letter from the Board of Deacons of Union Chapel. The letter was in reference to recommendations which the Board of Ordination had passed to the church concerning Brother Mike Gray. After much discussion, the following motion was passed: the Board of Ordination of the Albemarle Conference is to meet with the deacons of Union Chapel, with Brother Mike Gray present, to discuss the problems concerning Brother Gray's ordination.

Meeting date was set for August 5, 1996, at 7 p.m., with Plymouth First OFWB Church suggested as the location, and if not there, some other designated place of meeting would be chosen.

August 5: Board (all members present) met at Plymouth First OFWB Church. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the deacons of Union Chapel OFWB Church who had questions which pertained to the ordination of Brother Mike Gray. After much discussion, the questions were answered and the meeting adjourned with prayer.

August 29: Board met at Hickory Chapel OFWB Church with all members present.

1. The purpose of the meeting was a discussion concerning Brother Mike Gray's situation. It was determined at this meeting that the Board of Ordination fill the supervisory capacity for Brother Mike, that the Board follow the motion passed at Shiloh which directed Brother Mike about the ordination exam.

2. During discussion of the Ordination Policy of the Albemarle Conference, motion was passed that we, as a Board, begin to establish guidelines and policies which would be in the form of an Application Kit to be passed to prospective candidates for licensing and ordination, as well as ministers transferring to our Conference, which would establish and inform each candidate/minister of the requirements for licensing and ordination and the process of transfer into the Albemarle Conference.

September 28: Board met at Sound Side OFWB Church following the Union Meeting with the following members present: the Reverend Everette Harper, moderator; the Reverend Harold Swinson; the Reverend Paul Grubbs; the Reverend William Mobley.

The following items were discussed and action taken:

1. Upon request of the Reverend Raymond Lagcher, we met with him as he voluntarily surrendered his credentials to the Board. He stated that after much prayer and

consideration, he wished to go into full-time evangelism. He further stated that he wished to operate as an independent and would pursue this type of ministry.

2. The Board met with Brother Mike Gray and passed on to him the Board's recommendations concerning his licensing and ordination process:

A. That he would be under the supervision of the Board of Ordination.

B. That he would be required to make quarterly reports to the Board of Ordination and these reports would include: (1) a list of speaking engagements, (2) a copy of study notes and sermon outlines.

Motion made and passed on the above items of business.

In His service,

The Reverend Harold Swinson, *Secretary*

Executive Committee

The Albemarle Executive Committee met at Mt. Zion on November 9, 1995, with the following present: the Reverend Everette Harper, the Reverend Harold Swinson, the Reverend Keith Pelletier, Brother Lloyd Jones, Jr., and the Reverend Paul Grubbs.

The meeting began with a devotion on Acts 1:14 and 2:42 by Brother Harper with discussion and prayer by Brother Grubbs.

We discussed the Constitution Article I Section 2, noting that we need to emphasize this. We discussed Article IV Section 3 and proceeded to nominate a Nominating Committee of the following people (subject to their accepting): Wilbur Sheppard (Shiloh), Lewis Sullivan (Plymouth), Fentress Simmons (Mt. Tabor), Betty Sawyer (Sound Side), and Billy Dilday (Hickory Chapel).

By motion let the five nominees stand to serve on the Nominating Committee. They are to include next year's Nominating Committee in their report to the Conference.

We discussed Article IV Section 2: What are "subordinate general organizations?"

By motion the Executive Committee is composed of general officers of the Conference, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Board of Ordination, and Chairman of the Board of Missions.

By motion we invite the Reverend Donald Fader to have a "Retirement Seminar" to be held at Union Chapel on a February Friday night in 1996. (This is now set for February 16, 1996, at 7 p.m. [We did not have it due to bad weather.])

Our next meeting will be January 23, 1996, at 5 p.m., at Mt. Zion. We were asked to think about the following to be discussed at our next meeting: (1) Conference-wide revival-discuss it with your churches, (2) nominations to represent the Albemarle Conference at the Convention level. On which boards and committees do we have representatives? When are they up for election? Who do we want to represent us on each of these boards or committees?

By motion to adjourn. Brother Pelletier voiced our closing prayer.

The Albemarle Executive Committee met at Mt. Zion on July 9, 1996, with the following members present: the Reverend Everette Harper, moderator; the Reverend Keith Pelletier; Mr. Lloyd Jones, Jr.; the Reverend Harold Swinson; and the Reverend Paul Grubbs.

The meeting began with prayer led by Brother Lloyd.

The Minutes of our last meeting were read and approved.

We discussed old and unfinished business. The Clerk was instructed to follow-up with

the Nominating Committee. Nominations on the Convention level were discussed.

Brother Harper read 1 Corinthians 3:4-9, emphasizing we are laborers together and God gives the increase.

We discussed the financial statements of the Convention ministries. The Clerk was instructed to send a letter to each ministry requesting its complete financial record be brought to the Conference to be available upon request to any member of the Albemarle Conference.

We worked on the program for this year's Conference. Appointees for the Resolutions Committee are as follows: Judy Cox (alternate, Lester Lamb), the Reverend Royce Reynolds, Karen Clayton, and alternate, Lloyd Comstock. The Memorial Service will be led by the Reverend Robert May.

The Clerk will send report blanks to each church with the question: "Would you like to host the Albemarle Conference next year?"

By motion we write a resolution taking a stand against same-sex marriages and send the resolution to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

By motion to adjourn. Brother Keith voiced our closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Everette Harper, *Moderator*

The Reverend Paul Grubbs, *Clerk*

Board of Missions

The Board of Missions of the Albemarle Conference did not meet in session but did the work to assist churches to locate pastors this past year.

1. During the month of October 1995, Belhaven Church made a request of the Board to assist them with locating a pastor. It was during this time that a candidate for the pastorate was brought to the attention of the Board of Ordination; and after discussion with this candidate, he was not cleared by the Board for work with the Belhaven Church. Following this process it was brought to the Board of Missions that Brother H. P. Norman was asked to come and work with the church. As things progressed, the church chose to elect Brother Norman as pastor and the Board of Ordination cleared him for work in the Albemarle Conference. At present, things are going well for the church.

2. The Board of Missions was also asked to assist Plymouth, First Church, in locating a pastor but they were able to secure Brother Mott Batchelor as pastor without further help. The Board members were informed of action taken by letter.

In His service,

The Reverend Harold Swinson, *Chairman*

Nominating Committee Report

Board of Missions: The Reverend Keith Pelletier

Board of Ordination: The Reverend William Mobley

Board of Trustees: Mr. Wayne Britt

Nominating Committee: The Reverend Robert May, the Reverend Mott Batchelor, the

Reverend Billy Reynolds, Brother Mike Gray, and Mr. Gary Burbage

Respectfully submitted, Wilbur Sheppard, *Chairman*

Resolutions Committee

1. LET IT BE RESOLVED that we give Mt. Tabor Church a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality and for being a gracious host today for the 52nd Annual Session of the Albemarle Conference.

2. LET IT BE RESOLVED that we, the Albemarle Conference, do hereby encourage our members to seek the Lord for guidance and then vote in the upcoming elections according to their convictions.

3. LET IT BE RESOLVED that we extend our appreciation to Dr. Michael Pelt for *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, and furthermore, that we use it to teach our youth and young Christians about the importance of our past and to know who we are as Original Free Will Baptists.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we, as Original Free Will Baptists, use this as a tool of instruction to teach our youth and young Christians Original Free Will Baptist history; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we use the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* to facilitate this history.

Judy R. Cox
The Reverend Harold Swinson
The Reverend Bill Mobley

Treasurer's Report

General Fund 1996

Brought Foward	\$1,371.30
Amount Received After Conference	32.50
Amount Received From Churches	734.00
Amount Received Public Offering	51.00
Total Received	2,188.00
Amount Paid Out	\$1,020.43
Balance in General Fund	\$1,168.37

Mission Fund 1996

Brought Foward	\$1,129.44
Amount Received During Year	1,560.30
Bank Interest	27.44
Total	\$2,717.18

Lloyd W. Jones, Jr., *Treasurer*

Churches	1995	Gain			Lost			Net	1996	Sunday			Avg. SS	Avg. MW
	Members	Baptism	Letter	Other	Deceased	Letter	Other	Change	Members	School	Active	Inactive	Atten.	Atten.

Albemarle Conference

Belhaven

10

Free Union		2	1		7	1		(5)	250	104	150	200	85	175
Gum Neck	48				1			(1)	47	15	12	35	10	16
Hickory Chapel	271		5		4	2		(1)	270	79	176	94	62	90
Malachi's Chapel	158	1	1		2			0	158	47			34	36
Mount Zion	70	2	3		3			2	72	20	18	54	18	25
Mt. Tabor		2			2			0	176				65	80
Plymouth, First			2			4		(2)	42	26			28	30
Shiloh	217	3	4		2	5		0	217	47	100	117	38	50
Sidney	183	3	1		5	3		(4)	185	70			70	80
Sound Side	119	2						2	121	100	121		57	70
St. Paul	86	2	1		2	2		(1)	85	40	54	31	33	54
Trinity	40	1	3		1			3	43	27			27	30
Union Chapel	221	9	12		3	1		17	238	95	146	92	59	100

Albemarle Totals

1413 27 33 0 32 18 0 10 1914 670 777 623 586 836