

**Minutes
Of The 1952 Session
of the
Big Springs Association
Of Freewill Baptist Churches
held with
State Line Church
On Friday Night Before The
Third Sunday In September, 1952**

Next session will meet with the Zion Church beginning Friday night before the third Sunday in September, 1953. Reverend Noah Miller was elected moderator and May Bassham associational clerk.

Introductory sermon, Reverend Isaac Hunt; Reverend Carl Davis, alternate.

Moderator	—	—	Reverend Delbert Davis
Clerk	—	—	May Bassham

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Minutes Big Springs Association Of Freewill Baptist Churches

Minutes of Session of 1952

The Big Springs Association of Freewill Baptist Churches met with the State Line Church on Friday night before the third Sunday in September, 1952.

Friday night session opened by singing. Prayer was led by Brother Keylon. The moderator, Reverend Delbert Davis, read the 8th chapter of Romans as a Scripture lesson. Services closed to meet Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock. Dismissed by prayer by Reverend Noah Miller.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Saturday morning session was called to order by singing. The moderator read the 23rd Psalm as a Scripture lesson. Prayer was led by Reverend Noah Miller.

The moderator read the rules of decorum. The church letters were called for and the following reported: The Center Point letter was presented by Sisters Ruth Talbert and Evelyn Talbott. The Pleasant Grove letter was presented by Sisters Marie Conley and Pat Hargrave. The State Line letter was presented by Brothers Robert Barnett and Wade Keirn.

The letters were received and the delegates were seated and the right hand of fellowship was extended to the delegates.

The committees were appointed:

Divine Committee, Sisters Mary Bassham and Brothers Wade Keirn and Robert Barnett.

Resolution Committee, Reverend Carl Davis, Reverend Opie Hargrave and Brother J. F. Bassham.

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Temperance Committee, Reverend Noah Miller, Brother Wade Keirn and Sister Velma Walker.

Literature Committee, Sister Marie Conley, Brothers Talmage Bassham and George Sellers.

Sunday School Committee, Sisters Evelyn Talbott, Pat Hargraves and, Brother Robert Barnett.

Obituary Committee, Reverend W. C. Keylon, Brothers Mac Conley and Archie Holloway.

Credentials Committee, Brothers Fred Ledener, Archie Holloway, and Mac Conley.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn and meet back at one o'clock.

Reverend Delbert Davis was chosen to preach at 11:00 o'clock. Services opened by singing. Prayer by Reverend Carl Davis. Brother Davis read the 2nd chapter of Galatians as a Scripture lesson, text verse 20.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Saturday afternoon session was called to order by singing. The moderator read the first chapter of First John as a Scripture lesson. Prayer by Reverend Noah Miller.

The Pleasant Flat letter was presented by Brother Fred Lederer and Sister Allie Lederer.

The Zion letter was presented by Brother George Sellers and Sister Sellers.

The Temperance Committee reported:

"We, your Temperance Committee, submit the following report. We recommend that the pastors of all churches urge their members to support candidates whom they know to be dry for all offices, and whom they believe will enforce the laws we now have and others that may be enacted against drunkenness and the sale of beer or any other intoxicating drinks at any place, especially near training camps. Reverend Noah Miller, Wade Keirns, and Velma Walker."

The report was received and the committee released.

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Credentials committee reports as follows:

"We find we have six ordained ministers whose names are as follows: Reverends W. C. Keylon, Delbert Davis, Carl Davis, Noah Miller, Isaac Hunt, and Opie Hargrave. We recommend them all. We find them all in good standing. Committee: Brothers Fred Lederer, Archie Holloway, and Mac Conley."

The report was received and the committee released.

"We, the Sunday School Committee, report as follows: We realize the importance of Sunday School and that it is in keeping with Christ's teaching. Also Solomon says (Proverbs 2:6) 'Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.' We recommend that our ministers give more Sunday School lectures, urging parents to attend Sunday School more regularly. We, therefore recommend Sunday School work, urging parents to maintain Sunday Schools in every community and to take their children every Sunday to same. We also recommend that each teacher and officer be Christian. We also urge that the regular attendants at Sunday School visit and seek to bring the non-attendants in the community. Statistics show that a large per cent of crimes committed are by persons who were not raised in Sunday School.

Committee: Sisters Evelyn Talbott, Pat Hargraves, and Brother Robert Barnett."

Report received and committee released.

"We, the Obituary Committee, find that the Lord has dealt graciously with us, yet has taken away from us our beloved brothers, Reverend R. W. Partee and Deacon F. M. Hutson, and Sister Dora Fuller. Reverend Partee was one of our ministers and a member of the Pleasant Flat Church. Brother Hutson was a member of the Center Point Church and had been a deacon for many years. Sister Fuller was a member of the State Line Church. While we regret very much the loss of our beloved brethren and sister, the Lord knoweth best. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away.

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We assure their friends the sympathy and prayers of the Association. Committee: Reverend W. C. Keylon, Brothers Mac Conley and Archie Holloway."

Report received and committee released.

"The Literature Committee reports as follows: We find that the world is supplied with all kinds of literature, therefore the selection of wholesome literature is very important, as most of our knowledge is acquired by reading. It is necessary that what we read should be clean and wholesome. We condemn the reading of such literature as promotes the growth of infidelity and books teaching evolution and those peddled by men who are not interested in the welfare of our children. Such reading should be let alone as deadly poison. Ministers should study to show inconsistencies of such work. The Bible is our best literature.

Committee: Sister Marie Conley, Brothers Talmage Basham and George Sellers."

The report was received and the committee released.

The report of the quarterly meeting was read and the report was received.

"The Resolutions Committee reports as follows:

No. 1. Resolved that the Association be represented at the State Association by letter or delegate.

No. 2. Resolved that each Church maintain a Sunday School.

No. 3. Resolved that the ministers of the Association continue to expose Darwinism, Russellism, or any other doctrine contrary to the teaching of the Bible, warning against dangers of the teaching.

No. 4. Resolved that the clerk have 300 minutes printed and distributed.

No. 5. Resolved that the pastors in this Association appoint committees as they deem necessary to see about members to ascertain the cause of their absence from church, impressing upon them the importance of regular attendance.

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No. 6. Resolved that each minister of the Association in making his report on the amount of money received for ministerial labor shall designate what part of said money was received from each church and from other places.

No. 7. Resolved that each Church be represented in the Association by letter or delegate.

No. 8. Resolved that we give a vote of thanks to our moderator and clerk for their faithful service during the session.

No. 9. Resolved that we extend our heartfelt thanks to the good people of this community for their kindness and hospitality during our stay with them.

No. 10. Resolved that the delegates from each Church bring money to the Association to pay for having the minutes printed.

No. 11. Resolved that the Association meet with the Zion Church on Friday night before the third Sunday in September 1953.

No. 12. Resolved in the last days there are many false preachers, teachers, and religious leaders imposing themselves on the people and in the churches and many times scattering the flock. Therefore, be it resolved that the ministers and churches of this Association refuse to allow transient preachers to fill the pulpits until they have proven themselves to be sincere servants of God.

No. 13. Resolved that Reverend Noah Miller preach a doctrinal sermon on Saturday of the Association.

No. 14. Resolved that Reverend Opie Hargrave preach a memorial sermon on Sunday of the Association.

Reverend Noah Miller was elected as moderator and May Bassham as clerk.

Sunday morning divine service was conducted by Reverend Noah Miller.

Resolved that we adjourn to meet on that date and place mentioned above.

Reverend Delbert Davis, Moderator.

May Bassham, Clerk.

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STATISTICS REPORT FOR 1952

CHURCHES	Members Received	Baptized	Dismissed By Letter	Excluded	Died	Membership	Meeting Days	Church Clerks	Pastors 1953
Center Point	2				1	108	3	J. L. Davis	Carl Davis
Pleasant Grove	7	5	2			52	3	Emma Hargrave	Carl Davis
Pleasant Flat				1		32	2	Francis Partee	Carl Davis
Zion	4					35	4	Virgie Simpson	Carl Davis
State Line	6	2	1	1	1	96	2	J. F. Bassham	Noah Miller
No Report From: Bay Creek, Mount Zion, Little Flock, Maple Grove, Hill Top, New Home, Valley View, Walnut Grove.									

MINISTERS REPORT FOR 1952

MINISTERS	Churches Pastored	Sermons Preached	Exhortations	S. S. Lectures	Members Received	Conversions Witnessed	Marriages	Funerals	Baptized	Miles Traveled	Money Received From Churches	Money Received From Other Places	Total Money Received
Carl Davis	5	204	17	3	11	21	3	5	13	7885	\$522.48	\$327.72	\$850.20
Delbert Davis		31	10	10		10	2	2	2	500	45.00		45.00
Noah Miller	1	42	12	5	6	6		2	2	1540	51.45	16.50	67.95
Opie Hargrave	2	72	10		3	6	2		2	4200	308.00	35.00	343.96
W. C. Keylon		50	20	3		16		1		2000			
Isaac Hunt		12	12					1		50	50.00		50.00

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

Reverend Carl Davis, Elizabeth, Arkansas
 Reverend Delbert Davis, La Mesa, N. M.
 Reverend W. C. Keylon, Wheeling, Ark.
 Reverend Noah Miller, West Plains, Mo.
 Reverend Opie Hargrave, Mt. Home, Ark.
 Reverend Isaac Hunt, Hocomo, Missouri

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Constitution Of The Association

ARTICLE 1— The Association shall be composed of ordained and licensed Ministers, Deacons and the Clerks of the different churches and Delegates who shall be members of the Churches of the Association and shall have power, when quorum is present, to transact all business that comes before it.

ARTICLE 2— This Association shall meet annually on Thursday night before the third Sunday in September.

ARTICLE 3— Each church shall be entitled to two delegates in the Association; the Association shall act as advisory, but shall have no ecclesiastic authority over the Churches.

ARTICLE 4— The officers of the Association shall consist of a Moderator and Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be members of the Association, and shall be elected annually.

ARTICLE 5— It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over and lead the transactions of the meetings, to appoint all committees, and see that order and decorum are preserved by all the members; it shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep an impartial record of the business transacted during the session and to take charge of the Permanent Records of the Association; the officers of the Association shall continue in office until succeeded by a new election.

ARTICLE 6— It shall be the duty of each church of this Association to send to each annual meeting a letter by its appointed messengers containing a brief account of its changes during the year and its present condition.

ARTICLE 7— Any church may be received into this Association on application for admission by its appointed messengers with a letter of correspondence, provided it is sound in doctrine and orderly in practice, and in token of such reception the Moderator shall extend the right hand of fellowship to its delegates present.

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ARTICLE 8— This Association shall at each annual meeting appoint the time and place for the next annual meeting and the brethren to preach the introductory.

ARTICLE 9— All business shall be done by the members.

ARTICLE 10— The Association shall appoint an Ordaining Council from year to year; provided that in the absence of the Ordaining Council any two Minister or one Ordained Minister and one Ordained Deacon may act as Ordaining Council, and no person shall be ordained without first examining him upon his moral and efficient character to teach or preach the Gospel.

ARTICLE 11— This Constitution may be altered or changed at any of the annual meetings of the Association.

ARTICLE 12— The Association may expel any Church from its deliberations and withdraw its fellowship from the same for heresy or irregularity in practice.

ARTICLE 13— The Churches composing this Association shall contribute to their Pastors sufficient to reward them for their expenses and time spent with them.

ARTICLE 14— This Association shall take care of old and worn-out Ministers and their wives or widows, the Association shall have a treasurer who shall pay out money received to the order of the Association for the purpose contributed.

ARTICLE 15— All Ministers shall make a written report of all their labor during the year.

ARTICLE 16— Each pastor shall impress upon each church in his charge the need of taking sacrament and washing of feet at least once a year.

ARTICLE 17— The Association shall take sacrament and wash feet with the church it meets with Sunday night after the Association each year.

ARTICLE 18— No person shall be ordained to preach the gospel until they have been licensed at least one year and then set apart by the church in which they hold membership.

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Rules of Decorum

SECTION 1— Each session shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Moderator or any person he may designate.

SECTION 2— Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the Moderator.

SECTION 3— All visiting brethren invited to take seats with us may debate on all questions, but shall not vote on any.

SECTION 4— No discussion shall be except on motion and second.

SECTION 5— The person speaking shall adhere to the subject in debate and in no wise cast personal reflections on any one who may have previously spoken.

SECTION 6— The person speaking shall not be interrupted by any one except the Moderator. Nor shall the Moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.

SECTION 7— No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

SECTION 8— Members shall address each other by the appellation of "Brother" or "Brethren".

SECTION 9— If any member objects to the discussion of a motion made and seconded, the Moderator shall immediately put the question: "Shall the question be discussed?" If negative, the question shall not be discussed.

SECTION 10— Motion made and lost shall not be recorded on Minutes unless so ordered by a vote at the time.

SECTION 11— If any motion or proposition under discussion contain two or more parts it shall, at the request of any member, be divided and the vote on each part taken separately.

SECTION 12— No member shall laugh or whisper during speaking.

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SECTION 13— No member can absent himself from the Association without leave.

SECTION 14— The names of all members shall be enrolled and called when necessary.

SECTION 15— No member shall speak over ten minutes without leave of the Moderator.

SECTION 16— The minutes shall be read and corrected before final adjournment.

SECTION 17— Any member who shall break any of these rules shall be reprov'd by the Moderator according to the direction of the Association.

Articles of Faith

1. We believe in one true and living God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost—and these three are equal in divine essence, power and glory. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7; 1 Cor. 8:6; John 10:30.

2. We believe that the Scriptures in the Old and New Testament are the words of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 4:2; 2 Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man and gave him holy commandments, whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under just condemnation of the same, whereby all men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; then He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2: 16-17; Gen. 3:6; John 3:16-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by his death, burial and resurrection purchased our pardon and offers it freely to all men upon the condition of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men every-

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where to repent, therefore look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and beside me there is none else. Rom. 5:26-31; Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Heb. 11:16.

5. We believe that all adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 1:6-14; Titus 3:5; John 3:1-13; Rom. 8-9.

6. We believe that regeneration is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Ghost whereby the penitent sinner receives a new life, becomes a child of God and is disposed to serve Him. As babies require constant food for bodily development, the new born babe in Christ requires constant food that he may develop by a gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:5; Es. 36:26-27; Titus 3:3-5; Gal. 5:1-21; Eph. 2:10; Rom. 8-16; John 1:12-13; Matt. 13:31; Mark 4:26; 1 Peter 2-3.

7. We believe that the doctrine of Sanctification of Holiness as taught in the Bible applies to the soul of inner man and to it alone and that the sanctification of the body will not take place until the resurrection of the dead, when this mortal shall put on immortality and this corruptible shall put on incorruption. 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 7:17-35; Phil. 3:21. 1 Cor. 35:54.

8. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace, and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life, for blessed are they that do his commandments that they have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates of the city. 1 Cor. 10:12-13; Rev. 22:14; Rom. 11:20-21; Heb. 10:26; John 15: 2-6.

9. We believe in the justification of infants by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ in a passive state, thereby adopting them heirs of his kingdom. Matt. 19:13-14; 8:10.

10. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful followers who have obtained fellow-

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ship with each other and given themselves to the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep up good discipline according to the rules of the Gospel. Matt. 18: 15-20.

11. We believe that the church is the family of God, the redeemed in the aggregate of Adam's race from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things of every nation, kindred, tongue and people. Matt. 17:18; Acts 2:47; Heb. 12:23; Eph. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:5; 10:17.

12. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and the government is with the body. Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18-21; Matt. 18:17-18.

13. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children and bade them walk therein. Matt. 3:15-16; Matt. 23: 19-20; Mark 1:8; Acts 8:38; Rom. 6:16.

14. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the Saint's feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and are to be continued until his second coming. Matt. 23:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5.

15. We believe that only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ have a right to baptism, and those only who have been called of God and have come under the Presbytery of the Elders have a right to administer the same. Titus 1:1-16; Mark 16:16; Matt. 3:8-9; Acts 10:47; Tim. 4:16.

16. The soul is immortal, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9.

17. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment.

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and the righteous into eternal happiness. Ecl. 3:17; 11:9; Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Thes. 1:8-9; Rev. 6:12-17; 20:12; 21:8; 14:11; 2 Cor. 5:10; Luke 16:19-23.

18. We believe that God in His goodness displays power of grace in a greater degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instructions of His blessed words to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely to come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. Acts 9:15; Tim. 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:23; 1 Tim. 1:15-16.

19. We believe in a divine call to the ministry, that the minister should heed the admonition of Paul to Timothy to study the Scriptures, that the church donate of their substance as the Lord prospers them to the support of their pastors, and that ministers may have better opportunities to store their minds with that spiritual food so necessary to Christian development. To this end we recommend that each church have a finance committee of three to consist of two deacons and a clerk to collect and store such funds. 2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God through Jesus Christ, and adopted the foregoing articles as our confession of faith, we now give ourselves to each other by the will of God, and agree to the following Church covenant.

1. We solemnly covenant before God that we will strive by His assisting grace to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice. We covenant and agree as members of the church and as Christians, to watch over each other in love for mutual upbuilding in Gospel faith; endeavoring to keep the unity of Spirit in the bonds of peace; to be careful

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of each others reputation, to confess our faults to one another, to strengthen the feeble and kindly admonish the erring, and to labor together for the upbuilding of the church and the denomination, and the salvation of sinners.

2. We promise that we will faithfully and constantly maintain secret and family prayer, and religiously instruct those under our care.

3. We covenant and agree to use our influence to sustain the regular public worship of God, contributing according to our ability and circumstances for the support of the ministry and other expenses among us, that we will be benevolent to the needy, and especially to the poor of our own church.

4. We also promise, that so far as we are able, we will attend upon public worship, the social meetings of the church, and report ourselves regularly at the monthly conference, and that we will walk in all ordinances of the Lord's house.

5. We covenant and agree that we will abstain from all vain amusements and sinful conformity to the world; that we will not traffic in, use, nor furnish others, intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and that we will sustain the benevolent enterprises of our denomination and church—as missions, education, Sabbath Schools, moral reforms, and all others which tend to the glory of God and welfare of man.

And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may join the glorified around the throne of God, ascribing blessings and honor and glory and power to Him who sitteth on the throne and unto the Lamb forever.
Amen.