

MINUTES
OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
California State Conference
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Ministers and Deacons

Held With The
TULARE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
February 7, 8, 9, 1957
Tulare, California



Next Meeting At
KERMAN FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Kerman, California
October 31, November 1, 2, 1957

OFFICERS

Earl Jensen	President
F. A. McCage	Vice President
Delmer T. Priest	Clerk
Francis Boyle	Assistant Clerk

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Ralph Hampton
Fred Wynn
Joe Blair
James Franklin
E. E. Morris

MEMBERSHIP

Ministers	113
Deacons	145
Total	258

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION

The President called the conference to order and a minister was elected to bring the introductory message. Rev. F. A. McCage was elected.

Opened by singing "Old Fashioned Meeting" lead by Jerry Dudley, accompanied by Betty Fry. Led in prayer by Neal Moore.

Duet number by Jerry Dudley and Betty Fry, "Ninety and Nine".

Devotional service led by Bro. Franklin, pastor of the Kerman Church.

Introductory message by Rev. F. A. McCage. Pastor Jerry Dudley placed the visitors in homes. Dismissed in prayer.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Conference called to order by President, singing led by Jerry Dudley, accompanied by Betty Fry. Scripture reading by Pete Conner, prayer by Clarke Casteel. Welcome to the conference by Jerry Dudley, response by Winston Lawless.

Letters from the following Ministers and Deacons Conferences read and accepted: Golden Gate, Center, Southern and West Coast Associations.

Divine committee reported that Rev. E. E. Morris to bring the 11 o'clock message, and Bobby Brown to bring the evening message.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers elected as follows: Rev. Earl Jensen, President, Rev. F. A. McCage, Vice President, Delmer T. Priest, Clerk, Francis Boyle, Assistant Clerk.

Appointment of Committees

Divine Service— Joy McLain, Tonny Moore, H. Stout, W. Holliday and Jerry Dudley.

Resolution Committee— J. L. Waltman, J. R. Hall, Sam Winters, Gene Rogers, and R. M. Hollins.

Obituary Committee— Pete Conner, Albert Jacoe, Roy Wade and Rodney Kemp.

Finance— O. H. Doss, Cecil Thurman, Bobby Brown, C. R. Fassio and Jack Cravens.

Program— Winston Lawless, James Franklin and Clarke Casteel.

Motion carried to adjourn until 1:30 P.M. Dismissed by prayer.

11:00 O'CLOCK SERVICE

Open by singing, led by Bro. J. Shaw, accompanied by Betty Fry. Prayer by Bro. Wynn. Solo "I Will Meet You In The Morning" by Betty Fry.

Bro. E. E. Morris brought the message, scripture reading, 1 Cor. 1-18. Text, Romans 8-28.

Dismissed by prayer.

1:30 O'CLOCK SESSION

Opened with singing, led by Bro. Edgar Catten. Prayer by Cecil Thurman.

Resolutions No. 1 and 2 read and accepted. (See Report).

Obituary report read and accepted. A moment of silent prayer in remembrance of Bro. H. E. Dixon, Bro. Carl Smitten and Bro. Arnold Phil-den. Prayer by Bro. Evans.

Finance report read and accepted (See Report).

Program Committee reported that the subject, "Unity of Purpose and Methods", would be discussed by Rev. J. R. Hall and Ralph Hampton during the afternoon session.

The body voted to have the next Ministers and Deacons Conference at the Kerman Church, October 31, November 1, 2, 1957. Rev. Winston Lawless was elected to bring the introductory message, Rev. F. A. McCage, alternate.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We recommend that the Clerk be paid \$30.00 and the Moderator be paid \$15.00.

We recommend that 750 minutes of this Conference be printed.

We recommend that each subordinate Conference send \$10.00 per active church to the State Conference, \$5.00 to go to the host church and \$5.00 for the state expenses.

We recommend that the conference pay \$6.00 for printing of programs, and pay Bro. Casteel \$4.36 for expense of telegram.

Discussion: Unity of Purpose and Methods—Rev. J. R. Hall and Rev. Ralph Hampton.

Letter from Amos Fagan read and accepted by the body. Clerk was instructed to write Rev. Fagan and inform him of the action taken by the Conference.

Motion to adjourn until Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. Dismissed by prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

Opened by singing led by Jerry Dudley, accompanied by Betty Fry. Special singing by men's quartet, "In My Fathers House" and "Keys To The Kingdom". Solo— Sister Winters, "You Never Mentioned Him To Me". Prayer by Rev. C. R. Fassio.

Devotional service led by Rev. Gene Rogers.

Rev. Bobby Brown brought the evening message, using for a text, Acts, chapter 1 verses 6-9.

The evening service was an outstanding service. The Holy Spirit was certainly felt by all who were present.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Conference called to order by the President. Singing led by Jerry Dudley. Scripture reading by Odis Farris, Eph., Chapter 4, verses 1-7. Prayer by Bro. Thurman.

Business (New ideas and plans)

Rev. McCage suggested that all Pastors throughout the state recognize this Ministers and Deacons Conference and as much as possible, refrain from having revival meetings during the dates set aside for the conference.

MORTUARY FUND

Motion passed that the Ministers and Deacons Conference set up a Mortuary Fund for the Ministers and Deacons who belong to this Conference.

A committee was elected to draw up plans for the Mortuary Fund.

Elected— F. A. McCage, James Franklin and Delmer Priest.

Mortuary Committee given the power to draw up by-laws to govern this fund.

Clerk given the power to use money from the state treasure for postage pertaining to the Mortuary Fund.

MORTUARY FUND (Committee Report)

Be it resolved that this Ministers and Deacons Conference form a Mortuary Fund to be rendered as aid in the funeral expenses of its members.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this fund shall be on a voluntary basis of members who are in good standing with this Free Will Baptist, California State Ministers and Deacons Conference or whom so ever this Conference hereafter may designate.

DUES

Membership fees shall be the sum of \$2.00 and thereafter assessment of \$2.00 from each member at the death of any member. Any member failing to pay his assessment within 30 days after notice becomes a delinquent member and thereby forfeiting his benefits as a member until such a time that he is reinstated.

(Notes of Interest)

Thirty-five (35) Ministers and Deacons joined the Mortuary Fund by giving the Clerk their dues of \$2.00. If you care to join, send your name and address along with \$2.00 to the

Clerk, Delmer T. Priest, 836 Ventura Avenue, Richmond, California. There are now \$70.00 in the fund. If a member should pass away, \$70.00 would be paid toward his funeral expenses. Within 30 days the fund would be built back by the members sending their \$2.00 to the Clerk.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

No. 1— Be it resolved that the program committee select the speaker for the Friday afternoon discussion service and notify him in time that he may prepare himself for the discussion.

No. 2— Be it resolved that we give the Tulare Church a standing vote of thanks for their splendid care of this setting of the Ministers and Deacons Conference.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in Bank	\$344.53
Turlock Church	5.00
Earl Jensen	10.00
Wade Jernigan	25.00
Wilkins Print Shop	68.43
Chimes Press (repair seal)	6.91
Balance	229.19

Adjourned until October 31, November 1, 2, 1957 at Kerman Church, Kerman, California.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The first meeting of the Golden Gate Ministers and Deacons Conference in 1957 will meet with the Richmond Church, 17th and Lincoln Avenues, March 29-30, 1957.

Second meeting with the Salinas Church, June 28-29, 1957.

Third meeting with the Sherwood Forest Church, September 27-28, 1957. Each church is to be represented by letter with the names of Ministers and Deacons belonging to the church, along with \$10.00 for expense money.

Southern Association

First meeting to be held at Corcoran, March 29-30, 1957. Introductory speaker, Rev. Guy McGuire. Alternate, Rev. Fred Marler.

Second meeting to be held at Tulare, June 28-29, 1957. Speaker, Rev. Harold Talley. Alternate, Rev. Andrew Winters.

Annual to be held at Lamont September 27-28, 1957. Speaker, Rev. L. R. Crum. Alternate, Rev. Fred Wynn.

NOTICE

In sending letters to the State Ministers and Deacons Conference, please include addresses of all Ministers and Deacons.

BY LAWS

ARTICLE 1

The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence the senior minister in years, shall call the ministers present into conference. If a quorum is present the President or in his absence the Vice-President shall moderate the meeting. If neither of these are present, the senior minister in years shall be in charge.

ARTICLE 2

It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll the ministers of the conference. Ministers and Deacons shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the clerk shall compose the conference. In case of questionable representation the case under question shall be referred to the Credential Committee.

ARTICLE 3

Each minister and deacon belonging to this conference must be a member of some church in California and should report to each session in person or by letter and failing to do so for one year is subject to discipline.

ARTICLE 4

Each conference shall be opened by reading a portion of God's word and prayer, and each session shall be closed with prayer.

ARTICLE 5

By a two-thirds vote of the members present a ruling of the President may be overruled.

ARTICLE 6

This conference shall sit with open doors, except when it shall go into a committee as a whole.

ARTICLE 7

No member shall absent himself from the conference during its meeting without permission from the President.

ARTICLE 8

No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of a committee, unless person nominated is not elected.

ARTICLE 9

The President shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit, or when he thinks it will cause discord.

ARTICLE 10

Anyone desiring to speak shall rise and address the President by the appellation, "Brother President," but shall not speak further until recognized.

ARTICLE 11

No member of this conference shall be allowed to speak more than five minutes, nor twice on the same subject without permission from the President.

ARTICLE 12

Be it resolved that each subordinate association send a letter to this conference giving names of all ministers and deacons who are in good standing.

ARTICLE 13

These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this conference by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1

This ministers and deacons conference shall be called the California State Free Will Baptist Ministers and Deacons Conference and shall be composed of ordained Free Will Baptist Ministers and Deacons who are members of some orthodox Free Will Baptist Church in the state of California.

ARTICLE 2

The officers of this conference shall be President, Vice-President, Clerk, Asst. Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be elected annually.

ARTICLE 3

This conference shall have the power to discipline its members.

ARTICLE 4

Every ordained minister and deacon in the State of California should be a member of this conference and is required to report in each session in person or by letter. Every member shall be required to carry a card of identification and recommendation from this conference, and said card to be issued annually.

ARTICLE 5

This conference shall meet annually.

ARTICLE 6

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.

Amendment No. 1

Be it resolved that the Ministers and Deacons Conference of California will not recognize any minister advocating Premellinialism as Free Will Baptist doctrine.

COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and being called and chosen to the Ministry and Deaconship, we give ourselves to one another, by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by the grace of God to love and support our brother minister to the advancement of the Gospel and the Glory of God.

We will not be partakers of any sinful amusement, neither shall we conduct ourselves in any manner at any time that will bring reproach on the ministry or hinder God's cause.

We agree to faithfully discharge our obligations and duties, to study to show ourselves approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

We willingly by self denial, agree to promote the Gospel and by faith, endeavor to "Grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We agree to reprove with meekness and to watch over one another in love and affection, endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace. To be careful of one another's happiness, reputation, and ministerial success. Seek to strengthen and encourage one another, and at all time promote the success of the church and Gospel of our Lord and Savior. We will at all times hold Christian principles sacred, and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief mission in life to carry God's eternal message to those who are dead in sin, that they may be resurrected by "Saving Grace."

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of Education and Denominational enterprises, constantly praying and toiling for greater achievement for Christ. May the God of peace sanctify us blameless unto the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

MINISTERS ROLL

Fletcher Adcock
Boyd Allen
J. N. Allen
Walter Bedell
Don Bias
Bobbie Blair
J. L. Boggs
Gloster Barlow
Francis Boyle
Newell Bonner
Beryl Brakebill
J. E. Bridges
Benny Brown
Bobby Brown
Walter Brown
Marvin Bryant
W. H. Callison
W. T. Cantrell, Sr.
W. T. Cantrell, Jr.
Jerry Carr
J. R. Casey
Clark Casteel
Norman Cathy
John Clifton
J. M. Condley
J. S. Cox
Norman Colcleasure
Jack Craven, Jr.
L. R. Crum
Leroy Cupit
O. H. Doss
Jerry Dudley

I. B. Dunaway
Jack Eaden
H. H. Easterwood
Merle Erickson
Amos Fagan
Don Farris
C. R. Fassio
J. A. Franklin
Charles Frederick
Joy Freeman
Randall Fry
E. M. Gray
Wiley Gregory
Robert Groves
Claudie Hames
J. R. Hall
Ralph Hampton
Clifton Harrison
Russell Hicks
Raymond Hinesly
B. J. Hood
Herman Hupp
R. M. Hollins
Albert Jacoe
Austin Jensen
Earl Jensen
Edward Johns
Bill Kelton
L. A. Lawson
Winston Lawless
Ovolon Lee
Aaron Lewis

MINISTERS ROLL, (Continued)

Roy Letsinger
W. L. Livingston
Leonard Loyd
L. C. Lynch
Edd McCalley
Lonnie McAlester
F. A. McCage
George McLain
Joe Mooneyham
Dean Moore
Neal Moore
E. E. Morris
Cecil Morris
William R. Morris
O. J. Mount
Fred Marlen
Guy McGuire
H. S. Nance
Roy Pembroke
Cecil Portor
Johnny Priest
Garrett Pusley
Earl Ramsay
G. B. Ramsay
Lloyd Reddrick
John R. Reel
Leonard Riles

Wilburn Roberts
C. E. Rogers
Lonnie Roland
D. J. Rowlett
Delmer Scroggins
Henry Scroggins
Eugene Shaw
Glenn Smith
Ernest Snowden
Delbert Spane
Berkie Story
Estel Sweeten
Melvin Talbot
Harold Talley
Cecil Thurman
Troy Turner
Barney Van Winkle
W. L. Waltman
C. E. Wilkenson
Henry Williams
Andrew Winters
Sam Winters
Dewey Wood
Clinton Wood
A. E. Woolery
Fred Wynn

DEACON ROLL

Jack Bailey
Floyd Baker
Willard Bartholemeur
Grady Ballard
Emett Bar
H. H. Bennett
Jim Bentley
Gus Berry
Cleve Blevins
Chester Bonds
Gordon Bradshaw
Clifford Brown
John Brown
Golden Burden
E. W. Burgess
Fred Burton
Earl Buchanan
T. V. Carter
Bill Cathey
Denton Colvin
Pete Conner
Claud Cox
Carl Cravens
O. L. Cremeen
Floyd Cummings
George Davis
Robert Denton
S. P. Dexter
Alfred Dickerson
Jake DeGroat
Andrew Dugan
O. H. Ellis

John Farby
Jewel Flannery
Will Floyd
E. L. Floyd
Author Ford
Herbert Foster
Jasper Gates
Ed Gilliam
Paul Griffin
James O. Grove
Ralph Grove
Elo Guy
Richard Hagar
John Hall
Noel Helums
Herbert Halleman
Lee Hiler
Wilburn Holliday
Orville Higgs
H. P. Horton
Columbus Howard
R. B. Hughes
W. E. Howe
Greg Hunsucker
J. Jackson
John Jackson
Elzie Johns
Ruben Johns
Elmer Jones
Otis Keaster
Rodney Kemp
Herbert Kenedy

DEACON ROLL, (Continued)

Paul Kennedy
Charles Kerkpatrick
Leonard King
Clifford Landers
J. D. Lewis
L. C. Lewis
Virgil Little
Furman Lytle
Ira Malson
Estelle Martin
Tom Mathews
Joe Mauldin
J. V. Meeks
J. H. McDade
Ed Metcalf
Truman Mims
Earl McCullan
Joy McLain
Jack Moore
J. O. Moore
Lowell Moore
Tonny Moore
Fred Morris
Abner Nelms
Arville Nelson
Walker Nichols
Curtis Nixon
Marion Oglesby
Herbert L. Parker
Dallas Pendleton
Irvin Pendley
Edward Pierce

Guy Pitts
Roy Price
Delmer Priest
E. J. Rader
Charles Releigh
Dee Reynolds
Wayne Rice
Tip Richardson
Andrew Roberts
J. A. Roberts
Carl Rodden
Jess Roland
William Rush
Doyle Royster
Eugene Russell
Chad Russ
S. H. Sanunders
Charley Scoggins
Monroe Scrivener
Fred Sessions
Edward Shores
Roy L. Shores
E. E. Sifford
Carl Smith
C. B. Smith
J. B. Smith
Marion Smith
Floyd Smith
J. J. Sparks
Clarence Speaks
Robert Sperlock
H. H. Stout

DEACON ROLL, (Continued)

Clev Suggs

Bon Vandivort

Barney Van Winkle

Ray Wade

W. R. Walden

R. C. Watts

Esmond Wheeler

Elijah Wheeler

Walter Whitehead

Henry Williams

John Wood

Alfred Woody

W. E. Yeager

Lower Cleveland
1323 S.E. 41st