

WORKING FOR GOD EFFECTIVELY



Working for God With Enthusiasm

The 96th Annual Session
of the
Convention of
Original Free Will Baptists

May 20 — 22, 2008

Reports Book

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**MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE
OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS
HELD AT ST. MARY'S GROVE OFWB CHURCH
OF THE BENSON COMMUNITY, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

Moderator: The Reverend Aubrey Williamson (2008)
Assistant Moderator: The Reverend Otis Hamm (2008)
Clerk: Eva Ballance (2009)
Assistant Clerk: Carolyn Jernigan (2009)
Treasurer: The Reverend Sam Weeks (2008)
Member at Large: The Reverend Ken Dabbs (2009)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Eva Ballance, Carolyn Jernigan, Sam Weeks, Ken Dabbs

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ray Smith (2008) J.N. Bryant (2009)
Donnie Massey (2010) Bobby Johnson (2011) Chris Markuson, Jr. (2012)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peyton Lee (2008) Doug Seymour (2009)
Billy Nowell (2010) Wayne Puckett (2011) Martha Parsons (2012)

ORDAINING BOARD

Aubrey Williamson (2008) Sam Weeks (2009)
Joe Ballance (2010) Frank Harrison (2011) Jim Bogle (2012)

CONFERENCE DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

Ricky Warren (2008)

ORDAINED MINISTERS

(P – Present, A – Absent, E – Excused)

A	Norman Ard	P	Wade Daughtry
A	Henry Armstrong	A	Jesse Fulcher
P	Fred Baker	P	Edmundo Gonzalez
P	Joe Ballance	P	Otis Hamm
E	Swade Benson	P	Frank Harrison
P	Cecil Blackmon	P	Ronnie Hayes
P	Jim Bogle	E	David Hill
P	Rayford Byrd	P	John Hill
P	Braxton Carter	P	Roger Hill
A	Scott Casey	P	Earl Johnson
P	James Corbett	P	Fred Johnson
P	Ken Dabbs	P	Emmitt Jones

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A	Dan Jordan	P	Clarence Privette
P	Dean Kennedy	P	Burkette Raper
P	Alan Lamm	A	Scott Satterfield
E	John Rayford Lee	P	Jeff Scarborough
P	Donnie Massey	P	Doug Seymour
P	Richard McKeel	P	Elijah Smith
A	Tony McLamb	P	Hubert Stanley
A	Joe Myrick	P	Charlie Tucker
A	Billy Nowell	E	William Van der Plas
P	Kenneth Phillips	P	Ricky Warren
P	Dennis Pollock	P	Sam Weeks
E	Alan Price	P	Aubrey Williamson
P	Jimmy Price	P	Richard Whitman

LICENSED MINISTERS

A	John Butler - Oak Grove
P	Tina Penny - Johnston Union
P	Bryan Williamson - St. Mary's Grove

PROCEEDINGS

The One Hundred and Fifty-Third Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists (OFWB) convened at St. Mary's Grove OFWB Church, Benson Community, North Carolina on November 13, 2007. Moderator Aubrey Williamson presented the program for adoption.

The congregation opened in singing 'When We All Get To Heaven', *Wilson*, led by song leader, Rev. Dean Kennedy. Carla Williamson offered scripture and prayer from Luke 24:44-49. The conference was welcomed by Pastor Williamson of St. Mary's Grove OFWB Church. The response was heard from Helen Smith of Smyrna OFWB Church.

Clerk Eva Ballance called the session to order. The rules of registration were then explained by the Credentials Committee Chair Roger Hill, as adopted by the One Hundred Fourteenth Session of the Cape Fear Conference. Clerk Eva Ballance called the Roll of Officers and Standing Boards, Churches, and Ministers. The Moderator recognized the visitors. A welcome was extended by Rev. Frank Harrison to Larry Coats for his return to the ministry.

Moderator Aubrey Williamson offered words of encouragement to the conference with reference to Galatians 4:4a, "When the fullness of time was come". He commented that "Our hour has come. God's timing is perfect. We are here at this time to do the work of impacting the world with the Gospel. Nothing is impossible with God. We should be the people we claim to be because of His love for us."

Motion was made to appoint the following temporary Committees by Moderator Williamson. The motion carried.

Temperance/Resolutions Committee: Chair Fred Baker, Otis Hamm, Richard Whitman

Obituary Committee: Chair Doug Seymour, Emmitt Jones

Credentials Committee: Chair Roger Hill, Clarence Privette, John Hill

Nominating Committee: Chair Sam Weeks, Dean Kennedy, Ken Dabbs

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Representatives from our denominational ministries were present and given an opportunity to speak on the behalf of each ministry. The following ministries were represented: Convention of OFWB - President Charles Lynwood Renfrow, Blended Fellowship Mission/Ministry - Rev. Doug Seymour, Foreign Missions - Harold Jones, Mount Olive College - Jeff Daughtry, Sunday School Ministry - Mary Dudley, Home Missions & Evangelism and Harvest Connection - Mary Dudley, Children's Home - Cynthia Batten, Retirement Home Ministry - Ronnie Taylor, Free Will Baptist Press - Cliff Gray, Camp Vandemere - Wesley Taylor, Church Finance and Minister's Program - Charles Lynwood Renfrow, Cragmont Assembly - Carolyn Best.

A report was given by Dr. Burkette Raper for the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries. John Hill spoke on behalf of the Ministerial Association.

The Morning Worship Service began with singing "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story", *Bilhorn*, led by song leader, Peyton Lee. Special music was presented by Heather Markuson. Dr. Alan Lamm, pastor of Casey's Chapel OFWB Church and Professor of History at Mount Olive College, brought the morning message from Daniel 5. He stated that "Our young people are being (incorrectly) taught that Christians are backward, the Bible is not the inspired Word of God, and that Jesus is not the way of salvation. People in the world and in the church, when weighed, are found lacking, just like Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. The handwriting is on the wall today. People tend to come to church to be served, not to serve. There is a need for a spirit-filled, born again revival." An anointing service for Rev. Ronnie Hayes took place during the invitation and altar call.

The blessing was offered and the conference went to lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session began with the congregation singing "Sunshine In My Soul", *Sweney*. Scripture and prayer were offered by Chris Markuson, Jr. from Philippians 4:6-9.

The following reports of the Standing Boards were received by the conference (see attached reports of the Standing Boards). The Moderator asked the conference to accept the written report of the executive committee. Motion was made to accept the written report of the executive committee as presented. Motion was carried. The Mission's Committee report from Blended Fellowship was noted as having been given during the morning session. The Ordaining Council report was given by Aubrey Williamson. The right hand of fellowship was extended by Moderator Aubrey Williamson to Rev. Gene Britt, welcoming his transfer of membership from the Central Conference to the Cape Fear Conference. The Woman's Auxiliary Report was given by Carolyn Jernigan. The Cape Fear Youth Fellowship and the Board of Christian Education reports were given by Martha Parsons. The Cape Fear Minister's Conference report was given by Joe Ballance. These reports were accepted as information.

The following reports of the Temporary Committees were then received (see attached reports of the Temporary Committees). The Temperance/Resolutions Committee presented six resolutions, of which five passed and one was defeated. A rising vote of thanks was given by the Cape Fear Conference to St. Mary's Grove OFWB Church for graciously hosting the 153rd Annual Session. The Executive Committee members were given a rising vote of thanks for an excellent conference program. The Obituary Committee reported the deaths of two ministers and a pastor's wife during the past year. Recognition was made from the floor of the death of a previous secretary of the Cape Fear Union. The Nominating Committee made its recommendations to the conference and it

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was voted by acclamation to accept the committee's recommendations. The Credentials Committee gave a report of the Annual Conference's attendance.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Sam Weeks and was received by motion (see attached report).

Information regarding the Wall of Honor at Convention Headquarters was presented by Dr. Sam Weeks.

The conference then moved into its business session. New business was presented questioning if there is a need to increase the dues from the churches to the Conference. No action was taken.

The 154th Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference will be held on November 11, 2008, at Powhatan OFWB Church.

Motion was carried to adjourn the 153rd Session of the Cape Fear Conference and the conference was dismissed with prayer remembering the multiple prayer requests that were made.

Respectfully submitted,

Aubrey Williamson, Moderator
Eva Ballance, Clerk

Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee Minutes 2007

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee met December 11, 2006, at the First FWB Church in Smithfield at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.

Conference Executive Committee present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks, Eva Ballance, Carolyn Jernigan and Ken Dabbs.

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Aubrey Williamson

The Cape Fear Conference Annual report for the Convention Yearbook was reviewed by the Executive Committee. A motion was carried to accept this report as corrected.

Rev. Jesse Fulcher read letters and previous meeting minutes regarding the withdrawal of Vandora Springs OFWB Church from the Cape Fear Conference.

Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee.

A review was made of Daly's Chapel Church reports dated June to October 2006. A motion was carried to request Daly's Chapel Church by letter to continue sending copies of their reports quarterly and in addition to the reports, to request a visit from the Acting Director/Pastor every six months.

A letter regarding Disaster Relief Trailer donations will be sent to all churches in April, 2007.

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A motion was carried to contact Rev. Roy Clifton for reconsideration of his decision to withdraw from the Ordaining Council.

A review of the CFC Annual Report 2006 and 2005 revealed three ministers who had missed two consecutive annual conferences without being excused. Ministers will be notified by letter.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was approved for April 23, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at Smithfield 1st FWB.

Motion was carried to adjourn. Rev. Ken Dabbs led the closing prayer.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee and The Ordination Board met in Joint Session on February 5, 2007, at the First FWB Church in Smithfield at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.

Conference Executive Committee present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks, Eva Ballance, Carolyn Jernigan and Ken Dabbs. Ordination Board present: Sam Weeks, Aubrey Williamson and Joe Ballance.

Opening prayer and Devotion: Aubrey Williamson

The December, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting minutes stood approved as corrected.

Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee.

The letter, requesting all churches and pastors to support the purchase of the trailer by the Disaster Relief Ministry, will be released in February, 2007, with a respond date of August, 2007.

Rev. Sam Weeks had an opportunity to interact with Ronnie Taylor, from Daly's Chapel Church, prior to his receipt of the letter from the Executive Committee. Ronnie Taylor stated that he would be glad to continue sending reports for the Executive Committee's review and come to meetings as scheduled by the Executive Committee.

Rev. Jesse Fulcher will submit the 2006 Cape Fear Conference Annual report to the Convention for publication and forward a copy to Clerk, Eva Ballance, when it is completed.

Conference Moderator, Aubrey Williamson and Ordination Chairman, Sam Weeks were in attendance at a meeting at Convention Headquarters. It was noted that the convention had been operating in the red for the past 4-5 quarters. A request was made to ask for financial support from all the conferences. Rev. Weeks asked the Cape Fear Conference

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to give \$1000.00 to the Convention and earmark it to be a source of reimbursement for the Convention president. The motion carried.

Rev. Roy Clifton has responded that he would like to reconsider his withdrawal from the Ordination Board. Rev. Clifton has requested a meeting to discuss his reconsideration. The motion carried to schedule a joint meeting with the Executive Committee and the Ordination Board for this purpose.

Concern was expressed over the organization of a group within the Cape Fear Conference, known as "Fellowship of Conservative Original Free Will Baptists." This group formed during a meeting held at Carolina Bible Institute in January, 2007. It was noted that this may have developed as a result of the problems that arose at the Cape Fear Conference Annual meeting. It was determined that officers had been elected by the group. Rev. Roy Clifton had been seated as moderator and Rev. Jim Bogle, as secretary. In an effort to promote peace and unity within the Cape Fear Conference, a motion carried to request Rev. Clifton and Rev. Bogle to meet with the Executive Committee and the Ordination Board.

Motion was carried to adjourn. Rev. Sam Weeks led the closing prayer.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee and The Ordination Board met in Joint Session on February 15, 2007, at the First FWB Church in Smithfield at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.

Conference members present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks, Eva Ballance and Carolyn Jernigan. Ordination Board present: Sam Weeks, Aubrey Williamson, Frank Harrison and Joe Ballance.

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Aubrey Williamson

The February 5, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting minutes were approved as read. (MSP)

Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee.

Moderator Aubrey Williamson stated there were two items of old business to be addressed. First, there would be a meeting at 5:00 p.m. with Rev. Roy Clifton, regarding his reconsideration to serve on The Ordination Board. Next, there would be a meeting at 5:30 p.m. with Rev. Jim Bogle, to discuss the relationship of the "Fellowship of Conservative Original Free Will Baptists."

At 5:00 p.m., Rev. Roy Clifton came before the CFC Executive Committee and The Ordination Board to discuss his decision to reconsider his position on The Ordination Board. Members of The Ordination Board offered words of support and encouragement to Rev. Clifton to serve with them. After much discussion, Rev. Clifton stated that he would make his decision and notify The Ordination Board.

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At 5:30 p.m., Rev. Jim Bogle met with the CFC Executive Committee and The Ordination Board and offered insight regarding the formation of "Fellowship of Conservative Original Free Will Baptists". Rev. Bogle stated that anyone who desired to attend the next meeting of "Fellowship of Conservative Original Free Will Baptists" on Saturday, February 17, 2007, should attend even though it was noted that no Executive Committee member or Ordination Board member present at this meeting had received a letter of invitation to the upcoming meeting or any previous meeting. The Executive Committee and The Ordination Board encouraged Rev. Bogle to express to the "Fellowship" their desire to work together in the spirit of unity and peace.

It was noted that the next meeting of The Executive Committee would be held on April 23, 2007, at Smithfield 1st FWB at 4:00 p.m.

Motion was carried to adjourn. Carolyn Jernigan led the closing prayer.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee met April 12, 2007, at the First FWB Church in Smithfield at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.

Conference members present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks, Eva Ballance and Carolyn Jernigan. It was noted that Ken Dabbs had missed two consecutive executive committee meetings.

Devotion and Opening prayer: Carolyn Jernigan.

The February 15, 2007 Executive Committee minutes were approved as corrected. (MSP)

Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee.

Old business was presented for discussion.

A motion was made to place Rev. Aubrey Williamson in the unexpired term that was vacated by Rev. Roy Clifton. A second to the motion was made. The motion carried.

It was noted that Rev. Roy Clifton had notified Rev. Aubrey Williamson, by phone, of his decision to reconsider his resignation from The Ordination Board and fill the remainder of the term.

A motion was made to offer Rev. Roy Clifton the unexpired term that was vacated by Rev. Aubrey Williamson. A second to the motion was made. The motion carried with one dissension.

Moderator Aubrey Williamson presented a letter to the Executive Committee to notify Rev. Charlie Tucker of his failure to attend two consecutive Cape Fear Conference Annual Meetings without being excused.

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In the way of new business, Moderator Aubrey Williamson presented a petition that he had received by mail that read, "As pastors and /or members of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, we appeal to the Executive Committee and The Ordination Board of the Cape Fear Conference to stand by the Word of God, and to be faithful to our Faith and Disciplines which clearly limit ordination to the men of our Denomination..." Motion was made and carried to rule the petition out of order.

A discussion followed of the importance to inform and educate the laity of the Cape Fear Conference of the history and heritage of The Original Free Will Baptists. It was decided to hold a seminar in the summer, 2007 and invite a well-informed speaker to address those in attendance.

Motion was carried to adjourn. Closing prayer was led by Rev. Otis Hamm.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee met April 23, 2007, at the First FWB Church in Smithfield at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.
Conference members present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks, and Eva Ballance.

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Aubrey Williamson

Ronnie Taylor, representing Daly's Chapel, gave a detailed six-month report on the church membership and attendance, expenses, repairs and plans for potential growth.

Ronnie Taylor announced that he had become a licensed minister in the Eastern Conference as of April 1, 2007. He was commended by the Executive Committee for his plan to become an ordained OFWB minister. Appreciation was expressed to Ronnie Taylor for his excellent report to the Executive Committee.

Previous Executive Committee minutes, from April 12, 2007, were accepted as information. (MSP)

Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee.

In the way of old business, it was noted that Rev. Roy Clifton had accepted the vacant position on the Ordination Board.

It was decided that Moderator Aubrey Williamson would contact Rev. Ken Dabbs regarding his failure to attend the last three Executive Committee meetings. It was decided that a constitutional change regarding absenteeism was not necessary at this time.

Rev. Otis Hamm gave a report of a seminar he had attended in the Central Conference. Literature was provided to all members present. Explanation was given regarding the program and the Concert of Prayer that followed. A motion carried to proceed with a

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program in a similar format for the Cape Fear Conference Ministers and laity. A motion carried to ask The Cape Fear Union's permission to present this program at the Union Revival in September. It was noted that this would be an informative session. Rev. Otis Hamm will get more detailed information for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the program for September. The Executive Committee meeting in July will focus on the planning of the Cape Fear Conference Annual Convention to be held in November. It was requested that the clerk bring a preliminary layout of the program to this meeting.

New business presented was a request by Blended Fellowship to publicize a Fundraiser, Project 122, on their website. It was approved.

Motion was carried to adjourn. Closing prayer was given by Eva Ballance.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee met May 31, 2007, at the First FWB Church in Smithfield at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.
Conference members present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks, Ken Dabbs and Eva Ballance.

Devotion: Aubrey Williamson Opening Prayer: Ken Dabbs

Previous minutes, from April 23, 2007, were read and accepted as information. (MSP)

It was decided that when an Executive Committee member misses two consecutive meetings, contact would be made with that member as a show of concern of their absence.

Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee.

In the order of old business, a re-typed copy of the Constitution was given to each member present for their review. Any suggested changes should be presented at the next regular scheduled meeting.

A second item of old business was a letter received by Moderator Aubrey Williamson, addressed to the Executive Committee, by a member of Daly's Chapel, which expressed concerns of the support of Phase II-Harvest Covenant Agreement with Home Missions. Concerns were no pastor being supplied for Daly's Chapel, no teacher or officer training, and no implementation of a Sunday School program. A meeting was requested by the member for action by the Executive Committee. Moderator Aubrey Williamson noted that in a letter dated August 22, 2004, Daly's Chapel had received full reinstatement as a church in the Cape Fear Conference. Then, in another letter dated August 22, 2004,

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Daly's Chapel had requested to be under Phase II-Harvest Covenant Agreement with Home Missions. Moderator Aubrey Williamson stated he had requested a copy of the covenant agreement from Ronnie Taylor. It was determined that letters would be mailed to Daly's Chapel Director, Licensed Minister Ronnie Taylor, Home Missions Board Chairman, Rev. David Charles Hansley, Executive Director, Howard McPherson and to the member from Daly's Chapel who requested the meeting. The letter would request their presence at a meeting with the Executive Committee at Daly's Chapel on June 10, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss these issues. An alternate date of July 8, 2007 was established. (MSP) A review of the covenant agreement by the Executive Committee was recommended prior to the scheduled meeting at Daly's Chapel. Moderator Aubrey Williamson stated he would contact the member of Daly's Chapel for confirmation of a date. Then the above-mentioned persons would be notified by letter.

A third item of old business concerned the status of Blended Fellowship becoming a church in the conference vs. remaining a mission. It was recommended to think and pray about this decision for discussion prior to the Annual Cape Fear Conference Meeting in November.

There was further discussion regarding a presentation to inform the ministers and laity in the Cape Fear Conference about the issue of women serving in the ministry. It was decided to ask two individuals to write a paper addressing the matter who are in agreement and two individuals to write a paper who are in disagreement. Two individuals will be asked as alternates. Instructions to the writers were that presentations should be a maximum of 20 minutes in length, professionally written, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point, with footnotes. Recommended deadline was established as June 30, 2007. (MSP)

A meeting will be scheduled prior to the regular scheduled meeting for the review of the papers by the Executive Committee provided they are received in a timely manner. It was discussed to address an interest to the Cape Fear Union to consider the September Revival Meeting as an opportunity to present the Forum. Eva Ballance agreed to discuss this matter with the Moderator of the Cape Fear Union, Rev. Braxton Carter.

Motion was made to adjourn. (MSP) Rev. Otis Hamm led the closing prayer.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee met on July 23, 2007, at Disaster Relief Ministry of OFWB in Kinston, North Carolina at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.
Conference members present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks and Eva Ballance.

Devotion: Aubrey Williamson Opening Prayer: Otis Hamm

Previous minutes, from May 31, 2007, were read and accepted as corrected. (MSP)

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Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee.

It was decided to discuss any recommendations for changes in the Constitution at the next scheduled meeting.

It was noted that Daly's Chapel Church was doing well and there was no need to meet with them at this time.

It was decided to discuss the status of Blended Fellowship as a ministry vs. a church in the conference at the next scheduled meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the Forum. It was decided that Eva Ballance, Clerk, would be the recipient of writings via e-mail and would distribute them to all Executive Committee members for their review prior to the next scheduled meeting. Contacts would be made to encourage submission of writings by August 15, 2007.

A motion was made that August 15, 2007, would be the deadline for submission of materials and if not received by this date, then the meeting for Forum presentation would be cancelled until adequate submissions are received. (MSP)

A motion was made that if the Conservative Free Will Baptists request to address or report at the 153rd Session of the Cape Fear Conference, that their request be denied. (MSP)

A motion was made to accept the 153rd Session of the Cape Fear Conference program as planned. (MSP)

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at Smithfield 1st FWB Church.

Motion was made to adjourn. (MSP) Eva Ballance led the closing prayer.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee met on August 16, 2007, at 1st Smithfield OFWB Church at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.

Conference members present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks, Ken Dabbs, Eva Ballance and Carolyn Jernigan.

Devotion: Aubrey Williamson Opening Prayer: Otis Hamm

Minutes were accepted as presented. (MSP)

The Forum was discussed and a motion was made to table The Forum because the criteria established for submission of writings had not been met by the August 15 deadline. (MSP)

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A request was made that all writers receive a thank you note and an explanation of the decision to table The Forum and acknowledge plans to revisit the issue after the Annual Cape Fear Conference Meeting in November, if deemed necessary.

Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee. Motion was made to table the review of The Constitution until the next meeting to allow adequate time for reading by all members. (MSP)

Rev. Sam Weeks will contact Rev. Doug Seymour and ask him to make a presentation of his vision for Blended Fellowship at the next scheduled meeting. Blended Fellowship would like to engage in discussions concerning the possibility and feasibility of becoming a Cape Fear Conference Ministry.

Rev. Sam Weeks will present a copy of the resolutions presented at the Annual Convention of OFWB to Eva Ballance, Clerk. There will be further discussion concerning the possibility of presenting a resolution to the Cape Fear Conference, affirming that we continue to follow the already prescribed criteria concerning those called into the ministry as documented in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government of Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*, by the Executive Committee.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at 1st Smithfield OFWB Church.

Motion was made to adjourn. (MSP) Carolyn Jernigan led the closing prayer.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee met on September 24, 2007, at 1st Smithfield OFWB Church at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Aubrey Williamson.

Conference members present: Aubrey Williamson, Otis Hamm, Sam Weeks, Eva Ballance and Carolyn Jernigan.

Opening prayer and Devotion: Aubrey Williamson

Ronnie Taylor, representing Daly's Chapel, gave a detailed six-month report on the church membership, attendance and offerings, repairs to the church and fellowship hall, and cemetery clean-up. He plans to complete his work for ordination by June, 2008. He was asked to contact Jean Ackiss for information to begin a Woman's Auxiliary. There was further discussion regarding Dalcy's Chapel coming out from under Home Missions. Rev. Otis Hamm prayed a prayer of blessing for Daly's Chapel and Ronnie Taylor was thanked for the update and six-month report. The Executive Committee will meet with Ronnie Taylor for a report in six months.

Rev. Doug Seymour, from Blended Fellowship, and Rev. Dean Kennedy, from the mother church, Haymount, were recognized by the Executive Committee. Rev. Seymour

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stated that it was a peak time for worship at Blended Fellowship and he was excited and ready to move forward. He stated that the "mission" was accomplished, which meant the goal of bringing the hearing and deaf together in worship had been successful. His vision is to maintain their status as a mission with missionaries reaching the deaf with the gospel. He presented other long-range goals of meeting the needs of the deaf and in doing so, provide spiritual guidance. Acknowledging that there are six million deaf in the United States and only 2% are Christians, he feels a strong need to remain a mission/ministry in the Cape Fear Conference. Rev. Doug Seymour and Rev. Dean Kennedy answered several questions presented by the Executive Committee. Rev. Seymour was thanked for his excellent presentation.

Further discussion continued regarding Blended Fellowship's status. The Executive Committee made the following recommendation: We recommend and encourage all of our churches to continue to support Blended Fellowship Mission/Ministry. (MSP) Dr. Sam Weeks would contact Rev. Doug Seymour with the results of the discussion.

Minutes were accepted as presented. (MSP)

Treasurer Sam Weeks reported the Treasurer's report to the Executive Committee.

It was decided to not make any revisions to The Constitution at this time.

There was no new business.

Motion was made to adjourn. (MSP) Eva Ballance led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Ballance, Clerk

A summary of the following Ordaining Board Minutes was reported. 153rd Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists

The Ordaining Board met on February 5, 2007, at the First FWB Church, Smithfield.

Board members present: Sam Weeks, Aubrey Williamson, Joe Ballance.

The Board met at the request of the Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee in a joint session. The meeting was called by the Conference Moderator, Rev. Aubrey Williamson, and Ordination Board Chairman, Rev. Sam Weeks, to discuss a meeting that they had been called to attend by the president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The meeting they attended was called with all Conference Moderators and Ordination Board Chairmen. It was held on January 24, 2007, at the Headquarters in Ayden, NC. There was discussion concerning procedures for licensure and ordination, with specific attention given to women in ministry. There is concern that all conferences understand the relationship to the churches and the churches to the conferences. The main

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suggestion from our Convention President, Rev. Charles Lynn Renfrow, is the stress unity among our churches, our ministers, our Conferences, and our Convention.

The Ordaining Board met on February 15, 2007, at the First FWB Church, Smithfield.

Board members present: Sam Weeks, Aubrey Williamson, Joe Ballance, Frank Harrison
The Board met in a joint session with the Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee to meet with the following:

The Rev. Roy Clifton to discuss his reconsideration to return to the Board of Ordination. After much discussion concerning his reaction at the Conference that resulted in his resignation from the Board, we also had questions concerning his affiliation with a newly formed organization called, "Fellowship of Conservative Free Will Baptists."

The Rev. Jim Bogle to discuss the Cape Fear Conference's relationship with an organization called, "The Fellowship of Conservative Free Will Baptists." It was noted that Jim had told his congregation at the first meeting of the Fellowship that it was hosted by the Cape Fear Conference, when, in fact, it was not. Jim noted that this was an oversight and that he had corrected that statement to his congregation. He stated that anyone who wanted to attend the Fellowship meetings was welcomed in the future. It was noted that everyone was not welcomed or invited at the onset, because meetings were held by exclusive invitation only. There were concerns that this group may have intentions that are contrary to the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government of Original Free Will Baptist Churches (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*. There are concerns that this group may be a sect and may have intentions of leaving this denomination. Jim Bogle stated that these are not the intentions of the Fellowship and that they are meeting for the purpose of fellowship and to provide an opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals.

The Ordaining Board met on March 18, 2007, at the First FWB Church, Smithfield.

Board members present: Sam Weeks, Aubrey Williamson, Joe Ballance

The Board met for the purpose of meeting with Larry Coats concerning his interest in returning to the Original Free Will Baptists as an ordained minister, requesting reinstatement of his credentials. The Board met privately for preliminary discussion concerning Mr. Coats' history with the Conference. Mr. Coats was ordained in 1966 out of the Powhatan FWB Church in the Cape Fear Conference. It is noted that Mr. Coats served Rock Springs Church (Bailey), Steven's Chapel Church (Benson), Johnston Union Church (Smithfield), and Wooten's Chapel Church (Clayton) during his tenure. He has been away from the Conference for 23 years.

The Board then met with Mr. Coats to discuss his intentions and for a question and answer session.

After further private discussion, the Board approved the following recommendation, which was seconded and passed unanimously:

We will permit Mr. Coats to return to the ministry of the Original Free Will Baptist Church for a probation period, with the privileges of a licensed minister for a minimum of 1-year. During the probation period, Mr. Coats will adhere to guidelines as prescribed by the Ordination Board. Mr. Coats will meet with the Ordaining Board on April 23, 2007, 1:00pm to receive information concerning requirements. Mr. Coats will return to

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meet with the Ordination Board at the Spring 2008 meeting for a review of requirements and possible reinstatement of credentials. Frank Harrison will serve as his mentor.

The Ordaining Board met on April 23, 2007, at the First FWB Church, Smithfield.

Board members present: Sam Weeks, Aubrey Williamson, Joe Ballance, Roy Clifton, Frank Harrison

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The following requirements for Mr. Larry Coats were outlined:

1. That he have the privileges of a licensed minister for a minimum of 1 year, probationary period.
2. That he read Dr. Floyd Cherry's book and Dr. Michael Pelt's book concerning the history of the Original Free Will Baptist Church and review with his mentor, Frank Harrison.
3. That he go through the "study guide" to the satisfaction of his mentor.

The following suggestions were outlined:

1. That he begin some college education with biblical courses
2. That he be a faithful attender of an Original Free Will Baptist Church.

This will be reviewed in April 2008 for action concerning whether or not to restore his ordination credentials.

Motion seconded and passed.

The Board met with Mr. Larry Coats to present the requirements and suggestions as set forth by the Board of Ordination. He favorably agreed to the Board's recommendations. Mr. Coats' address is 7294 Lee's Ridge Rd, Oak Ridge, NC 27310.

The Board agreed to publish Mr. Coats' information about his relationship with the Conference in our denomination in the *Free Will Baptist*.

The Board met with Mr. John Butler to consider another 90 days at Covenant in Hope Mills. Motion seconded and passed that he continue to serve there for another 90 days.

The Ordaining Board met on July 23, 2007, at the Disaster Relief Ministry, Kinston.

Board members present: Sam Weeks, Aubrey Williamson, Frank Harrison

The meeting was opened with prayer. It is to be noted that Mr. Bobby Tew has joined a church of another denomination and is no longer a member of the Lee's Chapel Church in Dunn, NC. Therefore, his credentials as an Original Free Will Baptist minister are nullified. His name will be deleted from the list of ministers from this Conference. The fact that he is no longer an Original Free Will Baptist minister will be published in the *Free Will Baptist*. Motion seconded, passed.

The Board discussed Mr. John Butler to continue for 90 more days of service at Covenant in Hope Mills, NC. Motion seconded, passed that he be allowed to continue.

The Ordaining Board met on September 24, 2007, at the First FWB Church, Smithfield.

Board members present: Sam Weeks, Aubrey Williamson, Frank Harrison, Joe Ballance

The meeting was opened with prayer. The Board discussed Mr. John Butler to continue for 90 more days of service at Covenant in Hope Mills, NC. Motion seconded, passed that he be allowed to continue.

The Board discussed Mr. Larry Coats progress concerning his requirements as previously outlined for the Board's review.

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Respectfully submitted,

The Ordaining Board of the Cape Fear Conference
Rev. Aubrey Williamson, Secretary

The Report of the Minister's Association 153rd Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists

During the past year, the Cape Fear Minister's Association had three meetings. Several good speakers made presentations that provided us with excellent information and challenged each of the ministers to work for the cause of Christ.

Our guest speaker in April was Reverend Donald Fader, Director of The Free Will Baptist Minister's Program. The meeting in July was held at The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry in Kinston, N.C. Rev. David Hansley, along with Roy Wetherington, Rev. Francis Garner and Rev. Tim Heath, gave us an update on the progress of the Disaster Relief Ministry and the importance of developing a church plan for disaster. A tour of the facilities was given. Rev. Doug Seymour gave an update of the ministry at Blended Fellowship in the September meeting.

We have 27 ministers on roll with an average attendance of 10 ministers at each meeting. Two of the meetings were held at the First Free Will Baptist church in Smithfield. Dr. Sam Weeks and his wife, Connie, with assistance from members of his church, prepared the noon meals following each meeting. Disaster Relief Ministry provided the meal following the tour of their facilities in July.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Joe Ballance, Secretary/Treasurer

Blended Fellowship Mission/Ministry Report 153rd Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists

The Blended Fellowship family wishes to express deep and sincere appreciation to the Cape Fear Conference for your continuing support. Your support is not in vain. God continues to bless our work as we strive to reach the Deaf with the gospel and touch hearts through the Deaf. During the past year, we have received 32 new members, 15 of those were received by letter of transfer, 17 accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord. We praise God for these precious souls, especially the 7 new members from the Deaf community! We currently average about 75 in attendance for Sunday morning worship.

We are continuing to make daily use of the large building God has provided. However, we are trusting Him to provide a solution for our ongoing roof problem and the funds to complete our much needed fellowship hall.

Aside from the facility work, there is still much ministry work to be done as we are truly working in a field that is "white unto harvest". Of the 6 million deaf people in the United States, only 2% claim to be Christian. This is simply not acceptable. With

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your help, we intend to impact the Deaf world with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. We believe the Deaf are worth the effort and the cost. Consider what God has already paid for them.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Seymour, Pastor

Cape Fear Youth Fellowship Summary Report 2007

Our attendance is not as good as we would like. However, we did have a great turnout for our Annual Field Day at the Children's Home. This year we went to White Lake and invited the children from the Children's Home. They came and had a great time. We also collected supplies for the Children's Home on the same day. It was very good, also.

Mary Allen and I would like to encourage your church to make plans to attend all Youth Rallies in 2008. You should have received a schedule for 2008 giving the dates and places the rallies will be held. If you have any questions about the Cape Fear Youth Fellowship, please feel free to call Mary Allen at 919-963-9620 or Martha Parsons at 910-438-9299. Please keep us in your prayers as we try to work with the youth.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Parsons, Co-Director

Christian Board of Education Report to the Cape Fear Conference

Each year the committee sends letters with an application to each Cape Fear Conference Church for all seniors who are going to attend college in the fall to apply for the scholarship that is given each year. This year we were able to award each person that applied a scholarship. The committee developed a score sheet giving points for the following:

1. Financial need/income
2. Activities-church/school
3. Academic record
4. College attending
5. Field of study

This year each person was highly qualified. We had a tie with 18 points each, one with 16 points and the other with 14 points. The scholarships were awarded to the following:

1. Kimberly Dale Canady, Powhatan OFWB, 1st place, \$500.00
2. Geneva Runion, Lee's Chapel OFWB, 1st place, \$500.00
3. Aaron Douglas Allen, Blended Fellowship, 2nd place, \$150.00
4. Mary Christina Britt, St. Paul's OFWB, 3rd place, \$100.00

Each church was sent a letter informing them that the Cape Fear Conference had set the month of October as Christian Board of Education Month. Each church was

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asked to support the Christian Education with a donation. If your church has not acknowledged that request, we will accept it at any time. Some churches have already done so. You can send your donation to Dr. Sam Weeks, 2033 Smith Road, Smithfield, N.C. 27577. The committee's goal is to give each one that applies a \$500.00 scholarship. We want to thank you for your donation.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Parsons, Chairperson

Temperance and Resolutions Committee

1. **Whereas** the Convention of OFWB adopted Resolution #2, stated below, at its annual meeting in May, 2007,

Resolution #2: Be it resolved that this Convention continue to support the licensing and ordination to ministry according to the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptist (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* as stated under the Rules of Church Government – Section 2, The Ministry.

We support further the local church and the conference and the licensing and ordination process as stated in the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptist (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cape Fear Conference adopt the same resolution at its annual meeting, November 13, 2007.

Submitted by Otis Hamm representing the Executive Committee of the Cape Fear Conference

Resolution adopted

2. **Whereas**, the ministry of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries is Godly and fruitful for the furtherance of God's Kingdom through His chosen vessels,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cape Fear Conference contribute twelve hundred dollars (\$ 1,200.00) to this fine work.

Submitted by Otis Hamm representing the Executive Committee of the Cape Fear Conference

Resolution adopted

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3. **Whereas**, the public media continues to discredit and ridicule our God and our faith in Him,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cape Fear Conference reaffirms its historic stand against sinful amusements and encourages our members to abstain from all filthy magazines, books, TV programs and movies.

Submitted by J. N. Bryant and Fred Baker

Resolution adopted

4. **Be it resolved** that the 153rd Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference petitions the Convention to form a committee to study, for revision and clarification, Section 2 of our Statement of Faith and Discipline, that the qualifications for the ministry, with particular interest to women, might be resolved and subsequently approved by the denomination overall.

Submitted by The Reverend Jim Bogle

Resolution defeated

5. **Whereas**, Saint Mary's Grove OFWB Church has been so hospitable and gracious in hosting the 153rd Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cape Fear Conference give a rising vote of thanks to the Saint Mary's Grove OFWB Church.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

Resolution adopted

6. **Whereas**, the Executive Committee has provided great leadership for the Cape Fear Conference this past year and has prepared and carried out an excellent conference program,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cape Fear Conference give a rising vote of thanks to the Executive Committee members.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

Resolution adopted

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Baker, Chair

Obituary Committee

The committee reports that two of our ministers have departed from us this past year, the Reverend Ed Miles and the Reverend Roy Clifton, as well as, Lucille Armstrong, wife of Rev. Henry Armstrong. Recognition of the passing of Ruth Warrick was made for her devoted service as Secretary for the Cape Fear Conference Union.

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Respectfully submitted,

Doug Seymour, Chair

Credential Committee

Present at the One Hundred Fifty-Third Annual Session of Cape Fear Conference are as follows:

Ministers	38	
Delegates	37	
Visitors	21	
Officers	<u>2</u>	
Total	98	(Several workers not counted)

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Hill, Chair

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee submitted the following to serve the conference:

Executive Committee-	Clerk, Eva Ballance (2009)
	Assistant Clerk, Carolyn Jernigan (2009)
	Member at Large, Ken Dabbs (2009)
Board of Trustee-	Chris Markuson, Jr. (2012)
Board of Education-	Martha Parsons (2012)
Ordaining Board-	Jim Bogle (2012)

Notation: The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee will continue to serve as the Cape Fear Conference Mission Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Weeks, Chair

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**Cape Fear Conference Treasurer's Report
November 14, 2006 - November 12, 2007
St. Mary's Grove OFWB Church
November 13, 2007**

I.	Balance on hand as of November 13, 2006:	\$1,961.00
II.	Receipts:	
	2006 Conference (offering and letters)	\$2,748.05
	Union offerings and letters (Apr/Jul/Sept)	\$2,053.00
	Late Conference/Union (Mailed in)	\$850.00
	Designated Gift for Disaster Relief Trailer (Robert's Grove)	\$500.00
	Designated Gifts for Education Fund	\$350.00
	Designated Gifts for Blended Fellowship Mission	<u>\$3,200.00</u>
	Total Receipts:	\$9,701.05
	Total to account for:	\$11,662.05
III.	Disbursements:	
	Conf/Union Expenses (Postage, travel, honorariums)	\$791.49
	N. C. Foundation for Christian Ministries	\$1,200.00
	Foreign Missions	\$468.94
	Home Missions	\$468.92
	Home Missions (Disaster Relief Trailer)	\$500.00
	Education Scholarship	\$1,250.00
	Blended Fellowship Designated Gifts	\$3,200.00
	Convention of OFWB (2005 Report Books)	\$1,715.00
	Love Gift	<u>\$50.00</u>
	Total Disbursements:	\$9,644.35
IV.	Balance on hand as of November 12, 2007:	\$2,017.70
	(Out of this balance \$409.84 is in the Education Fund)	
V.	Formula for disbursements:	
	Missions = 25% (half to Foreign and half to Home)	
	Christian Education Fund = 20%	
	Union and Conference expenses = 55%	

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Weeks, Treasurer