



The 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the  
**CONVENTION OF  
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**May 18-19, 2016**

*Growing in Grace  
Through Community Service*

II Corinthians 9:8-9

**OFWB**



**Growing in Grace**

**Ministry and Conference Report Book**

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Cape Fear  
**MINUTES OF THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE  
OF THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
HELD AT BETHEL OFWB CHURCH  
FOUR OAKS, NORTH CAROLINA  
NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

**Moderator:** The Reverend Aubrey Williamson (2016)  
**Assistant Moderator:** The Reverend Doctor Sam Weeks (2016)  
**Clerk:** Eva Ballance (2017)  
**Assistant Clerk:** Carolyn Jernigan (2017)  
**Treasurer:** The Reverend Brad Williamson (2016)  
**Member at Large:** The Reverend Stephen Prescott (2017)

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
Aubrey Williamson, Sam Weeks, Eva Ballance,  
Carolyn Jernigan, Brad Williamson, Stephen Prescott

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Carlton Barefoot (2016) Braxton Carter (2017)  
William "Corky" Herring (2018) Brad Barbour (2019) Jim Best (2020)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Wayne Puckett (2016) Martha Parsons (2017)  
Peyton Lee (2018) Doug Seymour (2019) Vicki Medlin (2020)

**ORDAINING BOARD**  
Ricky Warren (2016) Roger Hill (2017)  
Aubrey Williamson (2018) Sam Weeks (2019) Joe Ballance (2020)

**ORDAINED MINISTERS**  
(P – Present, A – Absent, E – Excused)

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E	Fred Baker	P	Alan Lamm
P	Joe Ballance	P	David Langley
P	Ken Benton	P	Donnie Massey
A	Cecil Blackmon	E	Richard McKeel
A	Gene Britt	P	Tony McLamb
P	John Butler	P	Vicki Medlin
E	Rayford Byrd	E	Joe Myrick
P	Charlie Carroll	P	Billy Nowell
E	Braxton Carter	P	Charles Petit
P	Duane Casey	P	Dennis Pollock
E	Scott Casey	P	Stephen Prescott
A	Larry Coats	E	Alan Price
P	James Corbett	P	Clarence Privette
P	Ken Dabbs	A	Scott Satterfield
E	Wade Daughtry	P	Doug Seymour
A	Jesse Fulcher	E	Elijah Smith
E	Edmundo Gonzalez	P	Ricky Warren
E	Otis Hamm	P	Sam Weeks
P	Frank Harrison	P	Richard Whitman
P	William Herring	P	Aubrey Williamson
P	Roger Hill	P	Brad Williamson
P	Emmitt Jones	P	Carla Williamson
E	Dan Jordan		

## LICENSED MINISTERS

E Jason Bordeaux  
P Marci Rollins-Smart

E Jason Pittman

## PROCEEDINGS

The One Hundred and Sixty-First Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists (OFWB) convened at Bethel OFWB Church, Four Oaks, North Carolina on November 10, 2015. Moderator Aubrey Williamson welcomed everyone. Moderator Aubrey Williamson presented the program for adoption. Motion was made to accept the program for adoption. Motion carried.

The congregation opened in singing, "Standing on the Promises," *Carter*, led by song leader, Peyton Lee. Licensed Minister Marci Rollins-Smart offered scripture and prayer from James 1:19-27. The conference was welcomed by Rev. Tod Creech, pastor of Bethel OFWB Church of Four Oaks. The response was heard from Rev. Dr. Sam Weeks, a member of First OFWB Church of Smithfield.

Clerk Eva Ballance called the session to order. The rules of registration were then explained by Rev. William "Corky" Herring, member of the Credentials Committee, 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. Rev. Tod Creech and Rev. Frank Grubbs requested to join the Cape Fear Conference. Motion was made to accept Rev. Creech and Rev. Grubbs in the Cape Fear Conference. Motion was carried. The right hand of fellowship was extended by Moderator Aubrey Williamson to Rev. Tod Creech and Rev. Frank Grubbs on behalf of the conference. The Moderator recognized visiting ministers and guests. Moderator Aubrey Williamson recognized Wall of Honor recipient, the late Rev. Dean Kennedy. Rev. Doug Seymour received the Wall of Honor plaque of honor on his behalf.

Moderator Aubrey Williamson offered words of encouragement to the conference from Acts 2:41-47. He expressed the importance of keeping the main thing, the main thing in our lives which is doing the work God commanded us to do in the Great Commission. He expressed the importance of the Church continuing to win souls to Christ as the Church strives to be the Church. Moderator Williamson led in prayer.

Motion was made to receive the written report of the Executive Committee as information. Motion carried.

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

**Resolutions Committee:** Chair Ricky Warren, Doug Seymour, Carla Williamson

**Obituary Committee:** Chair Billy Nowell, John Butler

**Credentials Committee:** Chair Connie Weeks, Duane Casey, William "Corky" Herring, Carolyn Jernigan

**Nominating Committee:** Chair Sam Weeks, Frank Harrison, Vicki Medlin

**Parliamentarian:** Ricky Warren

Rev. Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention Services of the Original Free Will Baptists was recognized and he introduced the denominational ministry representatives, encouraging all churches to extend an invitation to the denominational ministries. Representatives from our denominational ministries were present and given an opportunity to speak on the behalf of each ministry. The following ministries were represented: University of Mount Olive – Rev. John

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Blackwell, Minister's Program – Rev. Ricky Warren, Retirement Home Ministry – Rev. Ronnie Taylor, Children's Home – Gary Lee, Cragmont Assembly - Carolyn Best, Home Missions & Evangelism and Harvest Connection – Rev. Tim Heath, Ministry of Christian Education – Gail Heath, OFWB International – Rev. Harold Jones, Free Will Baptist Press – Rev. Buddy Sasser, Convention of OFWB – Rev. Buddy Sasser. Moderator Aubrey Williamson recognized Rev. Ricky Warren for a report from the N.C. Foundation for Christian Ministries. Rev. Brad Williamson provided a report from the Ministerial Association of OFWB.

The Morning Worship Service began with singing, "Revive Us Again," *MacKay*. An offering was received and the offertory prayer was given by Rev. Duane Casey. Rev. Emmitt Jones, retired pastor from Bethel OFWB Church of Four Oaks brought the morning message from Revelations 2:1-6 and excerpts from the book, Autopsy of a Deceased Church. He presented an explanation of the Church of Sardis, further stating that churches have plenty of activity and good organization, but no spiritual vitality. He stated a need to pray for our churches and open our eyes to the community for evangelism. There is a need for churches to evaluate their present state because churches with an outward presence, inside can be dying. Rev. Aubrey Williamson prayed the closing prayer for the worship service. The following reports of Standing Boards (see attached reports of the Standing Boards) and one Temporary Committees Report were received before lunch: Blended Fellowship and Conference Missions Report - Rev. Doug Seymour and Woman's Auxiliary, Cape Fear Youth and Credentials Report – Carolyn Jernigan. Rev. Tod Creech prayed the blessing and the conference recessed for lunch.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

Moderator Aubrey Williamson called the session to order. The afternoon session began with the congregation singing, "When We All Get to Heaven," *Hewitt*, led by song leader Peyton Lee. Scripture from Romans 10:11-13 and prayer were offered by Rev. Tod Creech.

The following reports of Standing Boards were received by the conference (see attached reports of the Standing Boards). The Ordaining Council report was given by Rev. Dr. Sam Weeks and the Cape Fear Conference Minister's Association report was given by Rev. Dr. Ken Benton. Martha Parsons gave the Board of Christian Education report. It was noted that the Church Support and Growth Committee will report at the next meeting. Moderator Aubrey Williamson asked for a motion to receive these reports and the reports from the morning session by acclamation. Motion carried.

The following reports of the Temporary Committees were received (see attached reports of the Temporary Committees). The Resolutions Committee presented one resolution, which was met with approval. The Obituary Committee reported the passing of two Cape Fear Conference ministers during the past year and presented one resolution, which was met with approval. Motion was made to accept the report as information. Motion carried. The Nominating Committee made its recommendations to the conference. The list of candidates for nomination received a motion to be elected, was seconded and passed. Motion was made to receive the Credentials Report presented in the Morning Session as information. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Brad Williamson and was received by motion (see attached report).

The conference then moved into its business session. There was no old business. One item of new business was a motion to present \$300.00 from the Cape Fear Conference to the Convention for assistance in moving their headquarters to Mount Olive. Motion carried. A motion was made to present \$500.00 from the Cape Fear Conference to the FWB Press to aid in

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purchasing a HVAC. Motion carried. A motion was made to publish the morning message by Rev. Emmitt Jones in manuscript form in the *Free Will Baptist*. Motion carried. The 162nd Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference will be held at Lee's Chapel OFWB Church of Dunn on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

Motion carried to adjourn the 161st Session of the Cape Fear Conference and the conference was dismissed in prayer by Rev. Stephen Prescott.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Aubrey Williamson, Moderator  
Eva Ballance, Clerk

### CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES 161st Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference

The Executive Committee of the Cape Fear Conference met on January 30, 2015, at First Original Free Will Baptist Church of Smithfield. Members present were Aubrey Williamson, Sam Weeks, Eva Ballance and Carolyn Jernigan.

Moderator Aubrey Williamson called the meeting to order and gave the devotion from John 3:16. Sam Weeks led in prayer.

The Executive Committee minutes from the last meeting were approved as presented. Sam Weeks, Treasurer gave the treasurer's report. There was a balance of \$2462.57 in the general fund, \$543.22 in the Education Fund and \$398.34 to be deducted for expenses. Motion made to accept the treasurer's report as presented (MSP).

The Executive Committee approved funding the Shepherds Fund of the NC Foundation For Christian Ministries after mid-year with a contribution of \$1200.00.

It was noted that Dr. Otis E. Hamm resigned his position as Assistant Moderator by letter effective January 2, 2015. Motion made to nominate Sam Weeks to fill the unexpired term of Assistant Moderator and continue his position as Treasurer until the position is filled (MSP).

Motion made to nominate Brad Williamson to fill the unexpired term of Treasurer to expire 2016 (MSP).

Motion made to accept the Cape Fear Conference Annual Meeting minutes with the addition of the Cape Fear Conference Constitution and Bylaws (MSP).

Nominations were received for the formation of a select committee for Church Support and Growth. A member and an alternate were recommended for each member on the committee. The nominations were as follows, Rev. Stephen Prescott (Rev. Brad Williamson – Alternate), Rev. Braxton Carter (Rev. William "Corky" Herring – Alternate), Teresa Barefoot Eason (Leigh Ann Norris – Alternate).

Planning of the mid-year meeting began with discussion of the location. It was decided to inquire if Tee's Chapel OFWB Church was available and if not, contact Hopewell OFWB Church. The date was set for April 23, 2015, with food serving at 6:30 p.m. and the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sam Weeks will contact Rev. Dennis Pollock about the use of their facilities, Rev. Doug Seymour for his availability to play for the singspiration, and Kayla Seymour to sign.

Dr. Lydia Hoyle, Professor of Church History at Campbell Divinity School, will make a presentation at the next Minister's Meeting on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 A.M. It was

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recommended to ask the Minister's Association to contact Rev. Ken Benton for his approval for a letter to be sent to invite every Cape Fear Conference minister and one lay person to the meeting.

Motion made to adjourn (MSP). Carolyn Jernigan dismissed in prayer.

The Cape Fear Conference Executive Committee met on September 14, 2015, at First OFWB Church in Smithfield. Members present were Aubrey Williamson, Sam Weeks, Brad Williamson, Eva Ballance and Stephen Prescott. Aubrey Williamson opened the meeting with devotion from Psalm 139. Brad Williamson prayed the opening prayer.

The minutes were approved for information with correction (MSP).

Brad Williamson presented the treasurer's report. Balance was \$1,854.09, which included \$247.32 in the Education Fund. Motion made to approve the treasurer's report and the Fellowship treasurer's report (MSP).

It was decided to include the new conference funds in the Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference letter to the churches.

Discussion continued about the formation of the Church Support and Growth Committee.

Aubrey had received a letter of resignation from Stephen Prescott, who no longer desired to serve on the committee. Aubrey Williamson appointed Carolyn Jernigan to replace Stephen's unfilled position and will contact her.

Wall of Honor recipient for 2015 was discussed and selected.

The Convention Executive Committee has requested an appointment with the Cape Fear Conference to review The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government For Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage). Each conference will have a representative for this purpose. Rev. Frank Harrison was recommended and Stephen Prescott will be the alternate selection.

The committee planned the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Cape Fear Conference.

Motion made to adjourn (MSP). Stephen Prescott led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Ballance, Clerk of Cape Fear Conference

## **Blended Fellowship Mission/Ministry Report 161st Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists**

The staff, volunteers and clients at Blended Fellowship greatly appreciate your prayers, encouragement and generous support during the past year. We continue to serve as advocates for our deaf clients by assisting them with needs that arise because of their deafness. Some of our clients live at the poverty level and your contributions of food, clothing and various other items, along with your financial support, have enabled us to meet needs and build trust. We are grateful to Pleasant Grove OFWB Church for continuing to allow us to use their facility once a month for a Bible study with Deaf adults in the Dunn/Erwin area. We also continue to provide support services for blended families, those that consist of at least one deaf member. A major emphasis of these services is communication within the family using sign language. We find that many of the problems we are asked to help resolve are the result of miscommunication or lack of communication. One of the ways we are helping improve this situation is Blended Bridges, our summer day camp for deaf children and their hearing family members. During the



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entire month of July, we teach hearing family members to sign and reinforce the academic and language skills of the deaf children. This past July we had 37 children in attendance. One of those was a young deaf boy adopted from China, the same boy that some of you helped through the shoe drive. My daughter, Kayla, learned the alphabet in Chinese Sign Language and some written words in Chinese in order to communicate with him and teach him American Sign Language. He caught on very quickly! One of the deaf children I picked up each day was signing very little when Bridges began, but was signing almost everything by the time it ended. The number of children served has grown each year and we feel that Bridges is one of our most successful endeavors. Of course, during Bridges and all of our other activities, we share the love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a variety of ways utilizing dramas, video, black light presentations, puppets, literature, counsel, teaching and preaching. Most recently, we held our annual maze event which teaches a visual lesson about following the leadership of the Holy Spirit. More than 120 people attended the event, not including those from Blended Fellowship. Among the attendees were 38 students and faculty from the Eastern North Carolina School For The Deaf.

Over the past several months, we have been working with a consulting firm to evaluate our ministry and determine how we can make it even more effective as well as secure significant funding for much needed staff positions. Our full time and part time volunteers are devoted to the work they do but more paid staff is needed to meet the increasing needs. We will share the consultants' findings and recommendations with the conference leadership as the information becomes available.

It is no exaggeration to say that if not for Blended Fellowship, there are those who would be in prison today, those who would be hungry, in need of warm clothing, those who would not have received medical care they needed, those who would be living in unsafe conditions, children with no language, adults that feel abandoned and unloved and those who would be lost and undone, without Christ. Thank you again for the significant part you have played in making a difference in these lives and for your ongoing help in moving this ministry forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Seymour  
Pastor/Director  
Blended Fellowship Mission/Ministry

### **Report of the Board of Ordination 161st Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference**

**1) The Ordaining Board met on January 30, 2015, at the First FWB Church Smithfield.** Those present were Sam Weeks, Frank Harrison, Joe Ballance, and Aubrey Williamson. a) The meeting was opened with prayer. b) The minutes from the last meeting were read and accepted. c) The board met with Rev. Tod Creech. Tod was originally ordained in this Conference, but moved his membership to the Western Conference while serving there. Tod is requesting permission to serve in this Conference. Motion, seconded and passed granting permission to

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serve. (Conference note Tod is now pastor at Bethel OFWB). d) The Board met with Mr. Duane Casey, Licensed Minister from Hopewell Church. Mr. Casey has completed the written portion of the Ordination Examination that was administered by his Board mentor, Rev. Sam Weeks. He is before the Board to complete the oral portion of the examination. Duane has successfully passed both the written and oral portion of the examination. Motion was moved, seconded and passed to ordain. Discussions followed to make plans for the service. It was agreed that the requested date, Sunday February 15, 2015 at 3:00 pm at Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield be set for the special service. e) The meeting was adjourned in prayer.

**II) The Ordaining Board met on May 20, 2015, at the University of Mount Olive, Mount Olive.** Those present were Sam Weeks, Ricky Warren and Aubrey Williamson.

a) The meeting was opened with prayer. b) The minutes from the last meeting were read and accepted. c) The Board met with Ms. Marci Rollins-Smart from First Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro to be examined for licensing. Her pastor, Rev. Gary Bailey accompanied Ms. Rollins-Smart and offered his support and expresses his approval. A letter from the church has been received recommending that the Board of Ordination examine her for Licensure. The board examined her and discussed the application procedure. Motion, seconded and passed that Ms. Rollins-Smart is approved contingent upon the receipt of her completed application for licensure. The board notified the church via her pastor to proceed to license. d) The meeting was adjourned in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sam Weeks, Chairman  
Joe Ballance  
Roger Hill

Ricky Warren  
Aubrey Williamson, Secretary

## **The Report of the Minister's Association 161st Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists**

During the past year, the Cape Fear Minister's Association met for two meetings. The guest speaker in March 2015 was Dr. Lydia Hoyle, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Church History and Baptist Heritage at Campbell University Divinity School in Buies Creek, North Carolina. She spoke on the historical beliefs and practices of our Baptist heritage in relation to separation of church and state. In August 2015, Rev. Tim Heath, Director of Home Missions & Evangelism (Disaster Relief) was the guest speaker. A prayer was offered for all prayer requests mentioned at each meeting. Cape Fear Conference Minister's Association meetings are held on the Monday before fifth Sunday. Ministers and licensed ministers are invited to participate. There are 30 ministers on roll with an average attendance of 14 ministers at each meeting. All 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 that were served after each meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Reverend Joe Ballance, Secretary/Treasurer

Cape Fear  
**Christian Board of Education Report**  
**161<sup>st</sup> Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists**

The Cape Fear Conference Board of Christian Education met in May at the First Original Free Will Baptist of Smithfield to grade scholarship applications received. The scholarships were awarded as follows:

Evan Raynor	Smyrna OFWB Church	\$500.00
Morgan Cotton	First OFWB Church of Goldsboro	\$250.00
Dylan Robert Blackburn	Shady Grove OFWB	\$250.00

We, the Committee of the Board of Christian Education, thank each church for your support to help young people who are well-deserving of a scholarship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Parsons, Chairperson

**Resolutions Committee**  
**161<sup>st</sup> Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists**

Whereas, Bethel OFWB Church has been a gracious host of the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Cape Fear Conference

Now therefore, be it resolved that we give a rising vote of thanks to the good people and pastor of Bethel OFWB Church of Four Oaks.

**Resolution adopted**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Ricky Warren, Chair, Rev. Doug Seymour and Rev. Carla Williamson

**Obituary Committee**  
**161<sup>st</sup> Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists**

We, the Obituary Committee do offer the following report to the 161<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference. Since the 160<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of our Conference, we have had two ministers to pass away, Rev. Jeff Scarborough and Rev. Dean Kennedy. Rev. Billy Nowell and Rev. John Butler gave remarks on each minister. The service closed in prayer.

The following resolution was presented.

Now therefore, be it resolved that Bro. Jeff Scarborough and Bro. Dean Kennedy be added to the minutes of the 161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Cape Fear Conference as OFWB ministers. They are remembered as honorable, dedicated and beloved by all who knew them.

II Timothy 4:6-8 was an anchor for both of their lives. They served the OFWB denomination for nearly 100 years total in several churches. Our lives and the churches are richer in Jesus Christ. What a blessing God has been through these great men.

I so move that we place this in the conference minutes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Billy Nowell, Chair and Rev. John Butler

Cape Fear  
**Credentials Committee**  
**161<sup>st</sup> Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists**

present at the One Hundred and Sixty-First Annual Session of Cape Fear Conference are as follows:

Ministers	30
Licensed Ministers	1
Officers	3
Delegates	26
Visitors and Visiting Ministers	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Donnie Weeks, Chair, Rev. Duane Casey, Rev. William Herring and Carolyn Jernigan

**Nominating Committee**  
**161<sup>st</sup> Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists**

The Nominating Committee submitted the following to serve the conference:

Executive Committee- Clerk (2017): *Eva Ballance*  
 Assistant Clerk (2017): *Carolyn Jernigan*  
 Member at Large (2017): *Stephen Prescott*  
 Member of the Board of Trustees – (2020): *Jim Best*  
 Member of the Board of Education - (2020): *Vicki Medlin*  
 Member of the Ordaining Board – (2020): *Joe Ballance*

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sam Weeks, Chair, Rev. Frank Harrison and Rev. Vicki Medlin

**Cape Fear Conference Treasurer's Report**  
**161<sup>st</sup> Cape Fear Conference of Original Free Will Baptists**

*Balance From November 10, 2014* \$512.07

**Receipts**

2014 Conference (offering and dues)	\$2450.00
2014 Church Dues since Conference	\$650.00
2015 Fellowship Meeting offering	\$170.50
2015 Fellowship Meeting dues	\$2700.00
2015 Conference Church dues	\$150.00
Designated Gift for Blended Fellowship Mission	\$1500.00
Miscellaneous	

Total	<u>\$7,620.50</u>
Total to account for in Checking Account	\$8,132.57

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## Disbursements

Conference Expense	\$633.34
North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries	\$1200.00
Foreign Missions	\$665.07
Home Missions	\$665.07
Convention of OFWB (Report Book)	\$480.00
Convention of OFWB (Delegates)	\$135.00
Education Scholarships	\$1,000.00
Blended Fellowship Designated Gifts	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	

Total Disbursements	<u>\$6,278.48</u>
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<i>Total in Checking Account as of October 31, 2015</i>	\$1,854.09
(Out of this balance \$247.32 is in the Education Fund)	

Formula for disbursement of Conference Dues and Offerings:

Missions = 25% (half to Foreign and half to Home)

Christian Education Fund = 20%

Conference and other expenses = 55%

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Brad Williamson, Treasurer