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# **M I N U T E S**

**Of The**

**Eighth Annual Session**

**Of The**

**Center Association**

**Of The**

**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**Of**

**CALIFORNIA**

**May 12, 13, 1955**

**When Convened With The**

**FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Kerman, California**

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**MINUTES**  
Of The  
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The next annual session will be held at Selma Free Will Baptist Church, 10681 Highland Avenue, Selma, California on Thursday night before the third Sunday in May 1956. (May 17-18, 1956.)



## OFFICERS

Moderator .....	Rev. Lester L. Davis 760 R Street, Fresno, California
Assistant Moderator .....	Rev. Wade Jernigan P. O. Box 61, Kerman, California
Clerk .....	Fern McAlister P. O. Box 84, Kerman, California
Assistant Clerk .....	Marjorie Winters 309 "J" Street, Sanger, California
Treasurer .....	Rev. Lloyd Talley P. O. Box 171, Orange Cove, California

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Sam Winters .....	Five Years 309 "J" Street, Sanger, California
Rev. Cecil Thurman .....	Four Years 3756 Tyler Street, Fresno, California
Rev. G. M. Condley .....	Three Years 116 Springfield Avenue, Rt. 2, Reedley, California
Rev. Winston Lawless .....	Two Years 10681 Highland Ave., Selma, California
Rev. J. E. Bridges .....	One Year Orosi, California

## PROCEEDINGS

### Thursday Night

The eighth annual session of the Central Association of Free Will Baptists opened by singing "Anywhere Is Home" and "In The Morning of Joy" led by Loren Rush, Kerman; accompanied by Barbara Sharp, Kerman.

Prayer by Rev. Joe Mooneyham, Tulare.

"Rock of Ages Hide Thou Me" and "Heaven " were sung by a mixed quartet.

Prayer by Rev. Lee Ramsey, Exeter.

Rev. Wade Jernigan, Kerman brought the message using Psalms 133 for the scripture reading and "Unity Among the Brethren" as his subject.

Dismissed by Rev. Leonard Rial, Chowchilla.

### Friday Morning Session

Opened by singing "To The Work" led by Rev. Joe Mooneyham, accompanied by Fern McAlister, Kerman.

Rev. Sam Winters, Sanger read I John 3:1-7 for the scripture reading.

Prayer by Rev. J. E. Bridges, Reedley.

Letters were read, accepted and delegates seated from Clovis, Hanford, North Fresno, Parlier, Reedley, Selma, Orange Cove, Kerman, Sanger, and Calwa.

Motion carried that Moderator appoint Divine Service Committee. Those appointed were J. M. Rolen, chairman, Kerman; Earl Buchanan, Parlier; Sybil Radar, Clovis; Virgil McIntosh, Calwa; and Arlie Cross, Orange Cove.

Officers were elected as follows:

Moderator—Rev. Lester L. Davis, Assistant Moderator—Rev. Wade Jernigan, Clerk—Fern McAlister, Assistant Clerk—Marjorie Winters.

Motion carried to retain Rev. Lloyd Talley as treasurer.

Motion carried that election of Executive Board follow Executive Board report.

Motion carried that Moderator appoint all committees.

Resolution Committee was appointed as follows: Rev. Delmer Scroggins, Parlier; M. V. Little, Selma; Rev. Elwood Williamson, Clovis; Rev. G. M. Condley, Reedley; and Rev. Bill Mize, Hanford.

Motion carried to adjourn business until 1:30 p. m.

### Eleven O'Clock Service

Opened by singing "Just Over In The Gloryland" led by Rev. Delmer Scroggins, accompanied by Eula Mae Williamson, Clovis.

Prayer by Rev. J. E. Bridges.

Congregation sang "When Morning Comes."

Prayer by Rev. W. A. Huddleston.

Rev. Joe Mooneyham brought an inspiring message using Gen. 35:1 and Malachi 3:7 as the scripture reading and "Rededication" as his subject.

A handshake was given to Rev. Joe Mooneyham and Rev. Wade Jernigan.

Benediction.

## Afternoon Session

Opened by singing "I'm Getting Ready."

Prayer by E. W. Burgess, Hanford.

Sherman Wells, Calwa sang "House of Gold."

Resolutions Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were read and accepted.  
(See Reports.)

Committees were appointed as follows:

### Sunday School

Eula Mae Williamson, Clovis  
Wm. J. Rush, Kerman  
Sherman Wells, Calwa  
Ann Kline, Selma  
Otis Keoster, Hanford

### Obituary

Martha Hale, Sanger  
Allie Stone, Hanford  
John Keetom, Clovis  
Agnes Kerr, Parlier  
Marion Oglesby, Reedley  
Gladys Baker, Calwa  
Susie Martin, North Fresno  
Zeta Solsby, Selma  
Bertha Talley, Orange Cove  
Bud Gregg, Kerman

### Temperance

E. W. Burgess, Hanford  
Theodora Thurman, N. Fres.  
Pearl Davis, Calwa  
Lois Colvin, Sanger  
Maggie Bridges, Reedley

### Finance

Clark Casteel, Sanger  
I. B. Donaway, N. Fresno  
Opal Whittenburg, Selma  
Mae Taylor, Calwa  
Leroy Wilson, Kerman

Motion carried to adjourn for 15 minute recess.

Business resumed

Motion carried that a love offering be taken for the Kerman Church in appreciation for meals.

Divine Service Committee report was read.

A letter of appeal from O. W. Butler and Roscoe Proctor of Hanford was read. (See Reports.) Motion carried that an impartial committee be elected to meet with the officials of Hanford Church and learn the details of this matter. The committee elected was Wade Jernigan, Winston Lawless, Lloyd Talley, Clark Casteel, G. M. Condeley, Cecil Thurman and Delmer Scroggins.

Executive Board's report was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Reports of Temperance Committee was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Report of Finance Committee was read and recommendations nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were accepted. (See reports.)

Report of Sunday School Committee was read and accepted. (See Reports.)

Report of Obituary Committee was read and accepted and a moment of silent prayer was given. Motion carried that a poem be inserted with the Obituary report. (See Reports.) (Poem was not obtained.)

Motion carried that the Kerman Church ask for the California State Association of 1956.

Motion carried that Finance Committee be dismissed and another be elected. They were elected as follows: Sam Winters, Cecil Thurman, Delmer Scroggins, Rodney Kemp and Pearl Davis.

The next annual association was placed at Selma Church, 10681 Highland Avenue, Selma, California, May 17, 18, 1956. Rev. J. E. Bridges was elected to bring the introductory message and Rev. Lester L. Davis as alternate.

Quarterly meetings were placed as follows:

First quarterly meeting was placed at Calwa Church, Calwa, California on Thursday night before the third Sunday in August 18, 19, 1955, Rev. Clark Casteel was elected to bring the introductory message and Rev. Sam Winters as the alternate.

The second quarterly meeting was placed at Parlier Church, Parlier, California on Thursday night before the third Sunday in November, 17, 18, 1955. Rev. Wade Jernigan was elected to bring the introductory message and Rev. Elwood Williamson as the alternate.

The third quarterly meeting was placed at the Orange Cove Church, Orange Cove, California on Thursday night before the third Sunday, February 16, 17, 1956. Rev. Lonnie McAlister was elected to bring the introductory message and Rev. G. M. Condley as the alternate.

Sherman Wells, Martha Hale, Susie Martin, Leona Keoster, Georgia Reynolds, Agnes Kerr, and Gladys Baker were appointed delegates to the State Association.

Annual report of the Executive Board was read and accepted (See Reports.)

Rev. Sam Winters was elected to 5 year term on the Executive Board.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted by motion. Motion carried to adjourn until next quarterly meeting.

Dismissed by Homer Kline, Selma.

### Friday Night Services

Opened by singing "The Old Gospel Ship."

Prayer by Rev. J. P. Pierce, Firebaugh.

Rev. Wade Jernigan led the devotional service. Prayer by Rev. T. N. Huddleston, Chowchilla.

Prayer by Rev. J. E. Bridges. Special singing by the McEwen family, Kerman.

Rev. Delmer Scroggins brought the message using John 3:14-15 as his text.

Handshake was given to Rev. Scroggins.

Dismissed by Bob Pierce, Firebaugh.

Lester L. Davis, Moderator

Fern McAlister, Clerk

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Resolution Committee

1. Be it resolved that host church prepare meals for quarterly meetings and association and that finance committee recommend amount each church should send.

2. Since there are some who have Free Will Baptist Minister's and Deacon's Credentials who are not affiliated with a church and since this practice is contrary to Free Will Baptist teachings and practices; Be it therefore resolved that any one holding such credentials have same annulled and the names be advertised in the denominational papers, providing that such persons have had an opportunity to unite with a church. Be it further resolved that the Executive Board have jurisdiction in this matter.

3. Be it resolved that no minister organize a church in the boundary of Center Association unless he plans to pastor same or secure a pastor until church is firmly established.

4. Be it resolved that all ordained and licensed ministers and ordained deacons submit a tithing report to each quarterly meeting and yearly association.



5. Be it resolved that no one be allowed to serve in two or more offices in Center Association.

6. Be it resolved that a standing vote of thanks be given host church for their hospitality and christian spirit.

#### **Sunday School Committee**

We recommend that any teacher or officer going to another denomination and holding office for them be automatically dropped from our roll.

#### **Temperance Committee**

We recommend that our people avoid all appearance of evil, practice and teach temperance in all things, and concentrate our teaching of temperance to our young people.

#### **Obituary Committee**

We regret to state God has called Sister C. T. McCowan of Orange Cove from our midst.

#### **Finance Committee**

We report we have \$428.17 on hand.

1. We recommend that 300 minutes be printed.

2. We recommend that \$90.00 be sent to State Association.

3. We recommend that Moderator and Treasurer be paid \$10.00 each, assistant clerk be paid \$5.00, and clerk be paid \$25.00 annually.

4. We recommend that \$50.00 be sent to National Headquarters Fund.

5. We recommend that the Executive Board members be paid six cents (.06c) per mile for travel expense.

6. We recommend each church send \$16.00 to each quarterly meeting, \$10.00 for host church and \$6.00 for associational expenses, and \$26.00 to annual session with \$16.00 for host church and \$10.00 for associational expenses.

#### **Executive Board Report**

The Executive Board met at Kerman, California May 13, 1955 for the purpose of examining Brother Edward Shores and Brother Ovolon Lee for ordination as deacons and Brother Sherman Wells and Brother Raymond Hays for license to preach the gospel. Inasmuch as the record

of their tithing was not included with letter and as the Board is governed by Article 9 of the Constitution of this association, we your examining board recommend these brothers bring their record to the next quarterly conference three months from now.

### Executive Board Yearly Report

The Executive Board met July 28, 1954 with 4 members present for the purpose of studying means of helping the Hanford Church in their financial difficulties. After some discussion it was voted to ask each church in Center Association to take an offering for the church. It was recommended that Hanford repay the financial aid as soon as possible.

On August 13, 1954 the Executive Board met with 5 members present in special session to work out a way to help the Reedley Church increase its membership. Motion carried to engage Rev. Wade Jernigan to hold a revival in Reedley beginning August 30th. This revival was held as scheduled.

On October 16, 1954 the Executive Board met at Kerman, California for the purpose of examining Brother F. C. Casteel for ordination as a minister. Examination was postponed until Monday, October 18th so a record of his tithing could be secured.

Motion carried to request Hanford Church to call the church into conference to meet with Executive Board. Motion carried that association pay the expense of the revival at Hanford.

On October 18, 1954 the Executive Board met at Sanger, California with all members present to proceed with examination of Brother F. C. Casteel for ordination after receiving a record of his tithes to the church. Brother was recommended for ordination after examination.

On October 23, 1954 the Executive Board met at Hanford, California with the Hanford Church to help them restore order. Rev. Winston Lawless was elected as Moderator. Motion carried to enter into conference. Rev. Ray Morris offered his resignation as pastor of the church. Motion carried to accept his resignation. Motion carried that the church accept the help of the association through the Executive Board. The Executive Board is to supply the pulpit until revival is started. The Board is to advertise revival and supply evangelist. Motion carried to start revival November 21st.

On November 8, 1954 the Executive Board met at Orange Cove to work out program for Hanford revival. It was voted for the Board to preach the revival and that each should preach according to term in office beginning with five year man. Rev. Winston Lawless and Rev. Cecil Thurman were appointed to take care of advertising revival.

On May 9, 1955 the Executive Board met at Selma, California to take care of any necessary business. Motion carried that this Board recommend that Rev. G. M. Condeley be elected to the Executive Board to serve three years in Rev. F. C. Berry's place. Rev. Berry resigned when he moved to West Coast Association. Motion carried that the Board visit Delbert Spain to ask him to surrender Minister Credentials. Three members of Board called on him and he was in Fresno. This was done on May 10, 1955.

Lloyd Talley, Clerk

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### LETTER OF APPEAL

To the Center Association:

We ask for an appeal according to Article 4 of Constitution.

We feel we have been unjustly charged and unlawfully dismissed from Hanford First Free Will Baptist Church.

O. W. Butler  
Roscoe Proctor

## MINISTERS ROLL

Cecil Thurman ..... 3756 Tyler, Fresno, California  
G. B. Ramsey ..... 1404 Tucker, Selma, California  
Wade Jernigan ..... P. O. Box 61, Kerman, California  
Winston Lawless .. 10681 Highland Avenue, Selma, Calif.  
Sam Winters ..... 309 "J" Street, Sanger, California  
G. M. Condley .... 112 Springfield Ave., Rt. 2, Reedley, Cal.  
J. E. Bridges, ..... Orosi, California  
Lonnie McAlister ..... P. O. Box 84, Kerman, California

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## DEACONS ROLL

C. A. Scroggins ..... P. O. Box 411, Parlier, California  
L. E. Buchanan ..... P. O. Box 55, Parlier, California  
J. W. Hall ..... P. O. Box 355, Kerman, California  
Marion Oglesby ..... 41 Ely Avenue, Reedley, California  
J. M. Rolen ..... Route 2, Box 336-B, Kerman, California  
W. J. Rush ..... Route 2, Box 231-D, Kerman, California

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## VISITING MINISTERS

Lee Ramsey, Route 2, Box 336-AA, Kerman, California  
J. P. Pierce ..... P. O. Box 24, Firebaugh, California  
T. N. Huddleston ..... P. O. Box 2, Red Top, California  
Leonard Rial ..... 416 Riverside, Chowchilla, California

# CONSTITUTION

## Preamble

From long experience, we the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as an association of churches and to preserve and maintain correspondence and coordination among us, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better denominational governmental government.

## Article I

This organization shall be known as the Center Association of Free Will Baptists of the state of California.

## Article II

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify the work of our churches and to devise and execute measures for expanding our work in the cause of Christ into broader fields.

## Article III

This Center Association shall consist of three delegates duly appointed or elected by the church they represent and all ordained Free Will Baptist ministers, their wives, all ordained Free Will Baptist deacons and their wives, and church clerks.

## Article IV

The Center Association shall have the right to settle any and all questions of discipline, doctrine or practice that may properly come before it from any of the churches composing this organization, or act upon an appeal that may be made by any member of a member church who feels he has been unjustly charged. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the person or body making such appeal.

## Article V

Officers— The officers of this Center Association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk and Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the opening of each setting of the annual association.

Committees— Committees as necessary shall be appointed by the Moderator unless otherwise provided for and shall hold office until their work is completed or their successors are appointed.

### Article VI

This Executive Board shall be composed of five members. Each member shall be an ordained minister in good standing in the Center Association and their terms of tenure shall be as follows:

- (1) One for one year
- (1) One for two years
- (1) One for three years
- (1) One for four years
- (1) One for five years

Succession to office thereafter shall be determined as order requires.

### Article VII

The Center Association shall hold its meeting annually the date and place to be decided upon at each previous setting of said Association.

### Article VIII

Should necessity arise which calls for and requires immediate action, the Executive Board of this Association shall convene upon call of its chairman and shall take whatever action it deems necessary in the best interest of the cause of Christ. The action, however, shall not conflict with the purpose and edicts of the Constitution as set forth in the preceding Articles.

### Article IX

The Executive Board of this Center Association shall not license nor ordain any deacon or minister who does not believe and practice titheing, their titheing being a part of the record to be submitted to the board at the time of presentation for examination for credentials.



## ARTICLE X

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of the Center Association by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting. All proposed alterations or amendments shall be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

### Amendment No. I

This Association shall refrain from ordaining anyone to the Ministry who is not actively engaged in a work that necessitates ordination.

## BY LAWS

1. The Moderator or Assistant Moderator or in their absence the oldest minister (in the work) present shall call the Association into conference.

2. Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.

3. Representation from a majority of the member churches shall constitute a quorum. A less number may adjourn until such a quorum is present.

4. Visiting brethren are invited to seat as advisory members.

5. Those who shall speak, shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.

7. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special permission of the Moderator.

9. The Moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit.

10. The ruling of the Moderator may be over-ruled by a two-third majority of members voting.

11. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has first been discussed in its own church.

12. At each Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent devotional exercises each day.

13. The Center Association shall have power to fill vacancies in the delegation from any composite body.

## STATISTICAL REPORT OF CHURCHES

Church	Total Membership	Number Received	Number Dismissed	Number Baptised	Number Deceased	Paid Pastor	Bldg. and Repair	Value of Property	Paid Evangelist	Missions
1. Kerman	185	36	3	33	0	\$3,380.00	\$1,786.94	\$40,000.00	\$250.00	\$383.00
2. Orange Cove	60	3	0	0	1	1,497.70	576.70	15,000.00	110.00	120.14
3. Reedley	19	5	6	2	0	470.00	—	—	30.00	10.24
4. Clovis	31	—	—	—	0	408.00	—	2,500.00	—	5.62
5. Hanford	90	35	21	26	0	107.79	1,700.00	20,000.00	—	—
6. Sanger	34	14	4	5	0	160.00	—	2,000.00	25.00	—
7. No. Fresno	32	3	2	—	0	2,545.50	567.00	4,000.00	85.00	26.00
8. Selma	82	9	—	5	0	3,120.00	1,609.86	30,000.00	100.00	131.74
9. Parlier	55	12	7	10	0	997.63	18.00	7,500.00	86.78	46.39
10. Calwa	86	40	5	15	0	1,064.52	872.55	35,000.00	62.88	49.94