

MINTUES
OF THE
THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CENTER ASSOCIATION
OF
FREEWILL BAPTISTS

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Convened with Pickett Church, Oklahoma
September 10th, 1931

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W. M. COGGINS, Moderator

J. N. CATON, Assistant Moderator

M. L. HUNT, Clerk

J. W. RAGLAND, Treasurer

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The next Annual Session of Center Associaation
will be held with the Cedar Grove Church,
beginning on Wednesday night be-
fore the Second Sunday in
September 1932.

The 38th Annual Session of Center Association of Free-Will Baptists met with Pickett Church, Thursday evening, September 10th A. D. 1931.

Introductory Sermon preached by Rev. W. M. Coggins, followed by Rev. J. N. Caton. Text: John, 17th Chapter.

Met in Conference Session
FRIDAY MORNING AT 9:00 A. M.

Song, "How Firm a Foundation."

Prayer by Rev. J. N. Caton.

The right hand of fellowship extended to ministers, deacons and delegates present.

The following churches and letters read and received.

1. Cedar Grove—J. F. Williams, Mary Williams, Floyd Lee and Albert Vaughan, Delegates; O. F. Aiken, Deacon.

2. Oakman—Jess Berryman, Mart Massey and John Bradan, Delegates; Virgil Hunt, Deacon; Rev. R. Bess and Rev. J. N. Caton, Ministers.

3. Summers Chapel—Dessie Light and J. W. Isaacs, Delegates; L. D. Haskins, Deacon; Rev. Earlin Haskins and Rev. W. M. Coggins, Ministers.

4. Sulphur—L. N. Houck, J. P. Lewis and Pairlee Oxley, Delegates; Rev. J. W. Smithy, Minister.

5. Non—E. J. Howell, Christine Howell and A. H. Vance, Delegates; Ed Chism and T. A. Priest, Deacons.

6. McCall Chapel—Georgia Long, Sister Tillery and Oscar Keener, Delegates; H. C. Long and J. J. Hemingway, Deacons; Rev. J. B. Cook and Rev. J. T. Caton, Ministers.

7. Knox—Ada Hall, Rosa Clark and Iva Stone, Delegates; Lee Hall and I. O. A. Clark, Deacons; Rev. J. G. Stone, Minister.

8. Vanoss—D. Hunt, Ezra Hunt and B. F. Gurley, Delegates.

9. Ada—Mae Hester and Bell Cooper, Delegates; Jack Hester and M. Johnston Dighton, Deacons; Rev's. J. W. Ragland and D. M. McGehee and W. G. Fields, Ministers.

10. Center—Hester Cox and Ted Cox, Delegates; Rev. W. D. Dame, Minister.

11. Yeager—Lena Wood and Mattie Obar, Delegates; Will Obar, Deacon; Rev's. I. W. Yandell, W. V. Wood, F. M. Wood and Lewis Wood, Ministers.

12. Culley—J. V. Barker, Edna Barker and Oma Earnest, Delegates.

13. Pickett—E. E. Leester, A. M. Files and J. H. Tolli-

son, Delegates; Rev. J. W. Bivens and W. E. Lindsey, Ministers.

14. McGee—Florence Strickland, Bertha Barker and Cora Wood, Delegates; Homer Strickland and Fred Barker, Deacons; Sister Edna Hunt, Minister.

15. Happy Land—Gertie Lamb, Ola Anderson and Dolly Laughlin, Delegates; Scott Jones and S. W. Morrison, Deacons.

16. Bebee—By Letter Only.

17. Grots Grove—George Berglan and Jim Bishop, Delegates.

Visiting Brothers and Sisters invited to seat in Council.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

An election of officers resulted as follows:

Rev. W. M. Coggins, Moderator.

Rev. J. N. Caton, Assistant Moderator.

M. L. Hunt, Clerk.

Rev. J. W. Ragland, Treasurer.

Rules of Order read by Moderator.

The Moderator appointed the following committees.

On Divine Service—E. E. Leester, Oscar Keener and Dessie Light.

On Resolutions—L. D. Haskins, M. Johnston and J. V. Barker.

On Obituary—Virgil Hunt, Lee Hall and J. F. Williams.

On Sunday School—Fred Barker, Mae Hester and Jess Berryman.

On Temperance—Homer Strickland, Gertie Lamb and W. D. Dame.

Preaching at 11 a. m. by Rev. I. W. Yandell, followed by W. D. Dame. Text: Rev. 2-10.

Adjourned to meet at 2:30 p. m.

EVENING SESSION

Met at 2:30 p. m. Called to order by Moderator, Prayer by L. D. Haskins.

After considerable discussion a motion carried to extend the time of future sessions of the Annual meeting by beginning on Wednesday evening instead of Thursday evening. Friday to be Ministers and Deacons meeting.

Adjourned until Saturday 9 a. m.

Preaching at night by Rev. M. M. McKee, followed by Sister Edna Hunt. Text: Rom. 13-1, 2.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Body called to order by Moderator.

Prayer by Rev. W. G. Fields.

Petition of Bebee Church received, it being a new Church and delegates absent, it was required for them to appear at the 1st and 5th Sunday meeting.

The regular committee on Ministerial Standing was retained, committee now consisting of T. N. Houck, A. J. Hudson, J. W. Isaacs, A. H. Vance and John Bradan.

Preaching at 11 a. m. by Rev. J. W. Smithey followed by Rev. Earlin Haskins. Text: Luke 17-26.

Adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

Met at 2:30 p. m.

Body called to order by Moderator.

Prayer by Rev. J. W. Bivens.

The Sunday School Committee reported to-wit:

We your committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report as follows: We believe that it is the duty of every Church to have a Sunday School and that you urge parents to come with their children to Sunday School, that you do your best to get children of God for teachers for each class and that you try to get children of Sinners to come to Sunday School, it is the best means of getting lost souls to God. We urge each superintendent to strive earnestly to get children to remain after Sunday School for Church services.

Committee: Mae Hester, Jess Berryman and Edna Hunt.

Sunday School Statistics

Church	Attendance	Collection	Literature
McGee -----	53	\$20.00	Union
Culley -----	70	\$15.00	Union
Ada -----	50	\$30.00	F.W.B.
Happy Land -----	25	\$20.00	Union
Summers Chapel -----	40	\$20.00	Union
McCall Chapel -----	75	\$15.00	Union
Pickett -----	50	\$12.00	Union
Knox -----	40		Bible
Non -----	75	\$75.00	F.W.B.
Sulphur -----	75	\$50.00	F.W.B.
Oakman -----	70	\$20.00	Union
Cedar Grove -----	50	\$20.00	Union

Church	Attendance	Collection	Literature
Bebbee -----	None		
Vanoss -----	None		
Center -----	50	\$13.00	Union
Yeager -----	40	\$ 9.00	F.W.B.
Grots Grove -----	No Report		
Total School, 14 -----	763	\$319.00	Union

Obituaries

We your committee on Obituaries make the following report: We find that since our last meeting God in his infinite Wisdom has called from our midst, Bro. N. C. Griffin of Sulphur Church, Sister Susie Rogers of McCall's Church and Sister Opal Isaacs of Summers Chapel Church. But we hope that our loss is heaven's gain.

Committee, Lee Hall, J. F. Williams and V. Hunt.

Temperance

We the committee on temperance wish to report as follows: We believe intemperance to be the Greatest curse to God, Church and all mankind, and we urge all of our members to be temperate in all things and to totally abstain from all intoxicating drinks and to discourage its use in every possible way. We urge our ministers to use every opportunity to condemn intoxicating drinks and everything that is against the Will of God. If we know these things, happier are we if we do them.

Committee: Homer Strickland and W. D. Dame.

Motion carried to have 500 copies of the minutes printed.

Motion carried to correspond with 1st Oklahoma Association, either by letter or delegate or both.

Rev. W. G. Fields appointed delegate.

Resolutions

RESOLVED that we the Free-Will Baptists request that at least one Sermon be preached on the Free-Will Baptist Faith and Practice at the setting of the Annual meeting of the association.

RESOLVED that the committee on Ministerial Standing shall have power to investigate any minister in this association, both as to Piety and Doctrine, and on finding such minister out of order, they shall endeavor to get such minister to make restitution and if such minister fails or refuses to right said wrong, said committee shall proceed to take his credentials.

The next Annual meeting of the Association shall be held with Cedar Grove Church beginning on Wednesday evening before the 2nd Sunday in September A. D. 1932.

The 1st Fifth Sunday meeting to be held with Sulphur Church; the 2nd with Ada Church; the 3rd with McCall's Chapel Church.

Motion carried that the Moderator appoint delegates to the State Association to be held with Summers Chapel Church. L. A. Kite, M. L. Hunt, J. V. Barker with Jess Berryman and J. H. Barker as Alternates was appointed.

Rev. Earlin Haskins was appointed to correspond with Missouri Association General Baptist either as delegate or by letter.

RESOLVED that we extend our heart felt Thanks to our beloved officers of the association for their faithful service during this meeting of the Association.

ALSO that we extend our heart felt thanks to Pickett Church and community for their hospitality and kindness to us during this meeting.

Adjourned to meet at the time and place above mentioned.

Rev. W. M. Coggins, Moderator.

Rev. J. N. Caton, Assistant Moderator.

M. L. Hunt, Clerk.

Rev. J. W. Ragland, Treasurer.

Ordained Ministers

Bro. R. Bess, Ada; Bro. S. D. Chambers, Vanoss; Bro. W. V. Wood, Stratford, Rt. 4; Bro. W. D. Dame, Center; Bro. J. G. Stone, Ada, Rt. 1; Bro. J. W. Ragland, Ada, 631 West 6th; Bro. J. N. Caton, Ada, Rt. 3; Bro. M. L. Caton, Ada, Rt. 3; Bro. W. M. Coggins, Blanchard; Bro. Lewis Wood, Stratford, Rt. 4; Bro. Earlin Haskins, Stratford, Rt. 4; Bro. D. McGehee, Ada, Rt. 5; Bro. F. M. Wood, Stratford, Rt. 4; Bro. J. W. Smithey, Davis; Sister Edna Hunt, Stratford, Rt. 4; Bro. C. A. Ramsey, Sulphur; Bro. W. G. Merritt, Sulphur; Bro. W. G. Fields, Asher; Bro. C. E. Faires, Stonewall; Bro. J. B. Cook, Allen; Bro. J. T. Caton, Allen; Bro. J. W. Bivens, Ada. LICENTIATE: Bro. A. A. Williams, Ada; Bro. D. Hunt, Stratford, Rt. 2; Bro. Walter Fields, Seminole.

Statistics

ADA—Mae Hester, Clerk; Postoffice, Ada; Members, 85.

CEDAR GROVE—J. N. Caton, Pastor; Lillian Vaughan, Clerk; Postoffice, Francis.

OAKMAN—Earlin Haskins, Pastor; Clara Caton, Clerk; Postoffice, Ada Rt. 3; Members, 46.

SUMMERS CHAPEL—I. W. Yandell, Pastor; L. D. Haskins, Clerk; Postoffice, Stratford Rt. 4; Members, 75.

SULPHUR—W. L. Waddle, Pastor; A. L. Worstell, Clerk; Postoffice, Sulphur; Members, 95.

NON—M. M. McKee, Pastor; Frank Purser, Clerk; Postoffice, Non; Members, 95.

McCALL CHAPEL—F. M. Wood, Pastor; Virgia Hemingway, Clerk; Postoffice, Allen; Members, 60.

KNOX—J. W. Ragland, Pastor, Iva Stone, Clerk; Postoffice, Ada Rt. 1; Members 43.

VANOSS—No report.

CENTER—W. D. Dame, Pastor, Fannia McCloud, Clerk; Postoffice, Center.

YEAGER—Earlin Haskins, Pastor; Minnie Gentry, Clerk; Postoffice, Stratford Rt. 4.

CULLEY—J. W. Ragland and J. N. Caton, Pastors; J. V. Barker, Clerk; Postoffice, Sasakwa.

PICKETT—J. G. Stone, Pastor; G. H. Farar, Clerk; Postoffice, Ada; Members 52.

McGEE—W. V. Wood, Pastor; Homer Strickland, Clerk; Postoffice, Stratford Rt. 4; Members, 20.

HAPPY LAND—Jess Caton, Pastor; Bernice Anderson, Clerk; Postoffice, Ada; Members, 25.

BEEBE—W. D. Dame, Pastor; E. A. Mayfield, Clerk; Postoffice. Bebee; Members, 13.

GROTS GROVE—W. M. Coggins, Pastor; Nettie Grotts, Clerk; Members, 35.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting the meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer by the moderator, or whomsoever he may request.

2. All ordained or licensed ministers and ordained deacons in good standing in Center Association shall be invited to seats in the annual association.

3. Those who speak shall rise and address the moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without first being seconded.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded, the moderator shall ask, "Any discussion or remarks?" If none,

the question shall be disposed of as usual.

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

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless order by the party making the motion.

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

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority of members present.

10. No member shall be absent while in session without leave of the moderator, and if so, his name shall be left off the minutes.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected if necessary before the close of the association.

12. Arrangements shall be made at each session of the association for two or more sermons or equivalent devotional exercises during each day.

13. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the body.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of Center Association, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, we do therefore ordain this constitution for our better associational government.

ARTICLE I.—Membership

This association is composed of ordained minister and deacons, with delegates chosen by the different churches in our union, not exceeding three delegates from each church, who, upon presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

ARTICLE II.

Letters from each church to express their number of fellowship; the number ordained and licentiate preachers and their postoffice addresses; the number of members received upon confession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration or denominational choice; and the number dismissed by letter, excluded or died since last association.

ARTICLE III.—Name

The members thus chosen and convened to be denomi-

nated the Center Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of sundry churches in Oklahoma.

ARTICLE IV.—Officers

The association to have a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ARTICLE V.—New Churches

Newly constituted churches may be admitted into the association, which are to petition by letter and delegates; and if, upon examination, they may be received into the association and given the right hand of fellowship.

ARTICLE VI.—Questions

No questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the association except it has first been discussed in its own church.

ARTICLE VII.—Motions

Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, unless it be withdrawn by the person making it.

ARTICLE VIII.—Minutes

The association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being at the discretion of the association.

ARTICLE IX.—Clerk

It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the association on a book kept by the association for that purpose.

ARTICLE X.—Signatures

The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected if needed, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the close of the association.

ARTICLE XI.—Amendments

Amendment to the constitution may be made when necessary by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

Amendment No. 1

Each ordained minister shall be a member of a church in the bounds of the association, and if he should hold his letter for a period of three months when opportunities afforded him, he shall surrender his credentials to the quarterly or yearly meeting.

ARTICLES OF FAITH—ARTICLE I.

We believe in the true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and these three are equal in divine es-

sence, power and glory, Rom. 1:30; John 1:1.

ARTICLE II.—The Bible

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

ARTICLE III.—The Fall

Section 1. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments, whereby he should live holy, but the man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice.

Sec. 2 Being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall.

Sec. 3. And that man is unable to save himself with his own power; but we see Jesus, by the suffering of death, crowned with glory, that he, by the grace of God, tasted for every man, Gen. 1:31. Heb. 2:8.

ARTICLE IV.—Pardon

Section 1. We believe that Christ by his death, suffering and resurrection, purchased our pardon.

Sec. 2 And offers it freely to all mankind upon the principles of "repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Sec. 3. He now commands all men everywhere to repent, therefore he sayeth, "Look unto me and be saved all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and there be none else." Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Acts 20:21; 17:30.

Sec. 4. He bids us freely to come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any, but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. 1 Cor. 12:3; Eph. 3:7; Rev. 22:17.

ARTICLE V.—Regeneration

We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3; Rom. 5:1-13.

ARTICLE VI.—Infants

We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon the mercies of the Son of God. John 4:11; Mark 10:44; Luke 18:16

ARTICLE VII.—Apostasy

We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life. "For blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 12:14;

Jas. 5:19-29.

ARTICLE VIII.—Baptism Mode

We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of believers in water; and that Christ, who is our life, showed his humble example to his children, and bids us to walk therein. Matt. 3:16; 28:10; John 3:22; Rom. 6:4-5. (Latin, to plunge, to submerge, "baptizo"; Greek, to dip, "baptisma"; Greek, a dipping, "baption"; Greek, to wash, to dip.)

ARTICLE IX.—Ministry Call

We believe that God, in his goodness, displays his power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying his servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of his blessed word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation.

ARTICLE X.—Commandments

We believe that baptism, and the Lord's supper, and the washing of the saints' feet, and keeping the Lord's day holy, and abstaining from all worldly lust and carnal cares, and to assemble ourselves together, is an ornament, which prepares and beautifies the soldiers of the cross to mark onward in the army of the Lord. Matt. 26:28; John 13:4-5.

ARTICLE XI.—Baptismal Right

Section 1. We believe that none have the right to baptism, only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sec. 2. And none have the right to administer the same, only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the presbytry of elders.

Sec. 3. And we shall receive none other. Matt. 3:13; Titus 1:5; Act 14:23.

ARTICLE XII.—Lord's Supper—Duty

We believe it the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church, when setting the Lord's supper and washing the saints' feet, to invite all Christians. Heb. 10:21; 1 Cor. 11:27, 28.

ARTICLE XIII.—Woman's privilege

We believe the Bible teaches woman's privilege to preach the gospel. Judge 4:4; 2 Kings 22:14; Luke 2:36-37; Matt. 28:7-8; Mark 16:7; Luke 20:10; Acts 21:9; Rom. 16:12; Acts 2:17-18.

ARTICLE XIV.—Fornication

We believe that nothing but death and fornication gives

a lawful right to a second marriage, and a second marriage under divorce for any other cause than fornication is sin as long as continued in. Matt. 19:3-10; 5:32; Luke 16:18; Mark 10:11-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:10-11; Prov. 5:19-20; Mal. 2:14-17.

ARTICLE XV.—Resurrection

Section 1. We believe in the resurrection of all the dead, both the just and the unjust.

Sec. 2. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God.

Sec. 3. And the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matt. 25:31-32; 1 Cor. 15:42-45; 1 Thes. 1:4-11; Rev. 20:10; Job 19:26.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant:

We promise by his grace to love and obey him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all man.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligation in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship, and by self-denial, faith and good works, endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel, nor fail to contribute according to our ability for the support of the Church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work. We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the spirit," in the bond of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and to seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and, as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influences of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling, that the kingdom of God may come, and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sabbath-school and evangelical efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world, and may the Gd of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

-----County, Oklahoma. We,
the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ at-----
Church, to the Center Association, composed of Free Will
Baptists, assembled with-----of
----- We send as
delegates from our church, Bros.-----

whom we pray you to receive to aid in your deliberations.
(Add full statistical reports.) Done in church conference

-----, 19-----

----- Moderator
----- Clerk

LETTER OF DISMISSION

This certifies that-----
is a member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist
Church of Christ at-----
and as such we recommend him (or her) to the fellowship of
God's people, and is dismissed from us when joined to an-
other church. Done in church conference,-----

-----, 19-----

-----, Pastor

----- P. O.-----
County, Oklahoma.

