

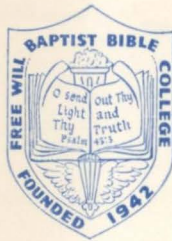
MINUTES
OF THE
Fifty-Third Annual Session
OF THE
CENTER ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

CONVENED WITH GAAR CORNER CHURCH, GAAR
CORNER, OKLAHOMA, AUGUST 15-17, 1946

OFFICERS

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Moderator | - - - - - | Rev. F. M. Wood |
| Assistant Moderator | - - - - - | Rev. Scott Jones |
| Clerk | - - - - - | V. Hunt |
| Ass't. Clerk and Treasurer | - - - - - | Fred Barker |

The next Annual Session of Center Association will be held
at the Camp Ground, beginning on Thursday night
before the Third Sunday in August, 1947



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. John H. West

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of delegates.
5. Election of officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Reading rules of order (By-Laws).
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New business
12. Reports of committees.
13. Miscellaneous business.

LETTER OF DISMISSION

This is to certify that _____ is a member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist Church at _____ and as such we recommend him (or her) to the fellowship of God's people, and is dismissed from us when united with another church.

Done in Church Conference this _____ day of _____, 194_____

P. O. _____
County Oklahoma.

_____, Pastor

_____, Clerk

PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the Fifty-third Annual Session of the Center Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Gaar Corner Church August 15, 16 and 17, 1946. Preaching Thursday night, August 15 by Rev. W. C. Wood.

FRIDAY MORNING

Body called to order by Rev. F. M. Wood.

Singing conducted by Fred Barker.

Prayer by Rev. E. E. Morris.

Scripture reading 12th chapter of Romans.

Letters received and the following delegates seated from the different churches:

Ada—Sisters June Crumb, Effie Wood and Thelma Simpson.

Cedar Grove—Bro. Tom West, Sisters Ada West and Virgie Chandler.

McGee—Sisters Henry and Masters and Bro. G. E. Buckelew.

Non—Bro. Lonnie Wellington, Sister Ollie Russell and Sister Laura Dodson.

Sulphur—Sisters, Lowther, Clark and Barton.

Stratford—Sisters W. O. Reed, Beulah Hunt and Myrtle Wood.

Gaar Corner—Bro. Ted Cox and Sisters Metheny and Farley.

Wilson—Sisters Stone and Price.

The right hand of fellowship given.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of officers results as follows:

Moderator, Rev. F. M. Wood.

Assistant Moderator, Rev. Scott Jones.

Clerk, V. Hunt.

Assistant Clerk and Treasurer, Fred Barker.

Rules of order read by Moderator.

Committees appointed as follows:

Divine Service—Bros. Haskel Dighton, J. T. Masters and Autrey Nix.

Resolutions—Bros. Earlin Haskins, G. O. Palmer and W. O. Henry.

Sunday School—Sisters Virgie Chandler, Effie Wood and W. O. Wood.

Obituary—Bro. Ed Price, Sister Thelma Simpson and Bro. J. P. Lewis.

Temperance—Bros. E. E. Morris, W. F. Wood and Merl Wilson.

Home Mission—Sisters Metheny, Beulah Hunt and Vesta Henry.

League—Bros. Harlan Parsons, W. A. Hearron and Sister June Crumb.

Motion carried to centralize the association. Quite a discussion follows. Various tracts of land being offered by different ones.

We adjourn until 1:30 P. M.
Dismissed by Bro. Fred Barker.
Preaching at 11:00 o'clock by Brother Harlan Parsons followed
by Brother Merl Wilson. Subject, "What Time Is It?"

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Met with Moderator F. M. Wood in charge. After singing we had
prayer led by Rev. Earlin Haskins.

Scripture reading part of 8th chapter of Romans.

Motion carried to have Memorial Service Saturday at 11:00
o'clock to be preached by Rev. W. A. Hearron.

After more discussions about location of the Camp Ground for
the association, a motion was made and carried to table the question
until Saturday morning.

Brothers E. E. Morris, Earlin Haskins and Fred Barker appoint-
ed as committee to contact owner of tract of land on Highway 13,
near Oil Center in regards to buying it.

Donations made for purpose of buying and improving the Camp
Ground, resulted in \$722.22 being donated and pledged. With various
ones agreeing to make further pleas to their church and community
for funds.

Report of visiting brethren as follows:

Bro. McCage from First Oklahoma Association.

Bro. Ritchie from Dibble Association.

Bro. Truman Huddleston from First California Association.

Delegates appointed to State Association as follows:

Delegates—Sister Hearron, Sister Merl Wilson, Sister Fred Bark-
er, Sister E. E. Morris and Sister Dodson.

Alternates—Sister Marjorie Worstell, Sister Winnie Price, Bro.
G. E. Buckelew, Bro. Earl Collins and Bro. Lonnie Wellington.

Motion carried to send \$10.00 to State Association as minute
money. Motion carried to send \$5.00 to the National Association.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report made and accepted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Carried over from 1945 | \$34.82 |
| Received for minutes | 28.50 |
| Received for feeding fund | 85.00 |
| Paid out for feeding association | 85.00 |
| Balance in treasury | 63.32 |

We adjourn until 9:00 A. M. Saturday.

Dismissed by Rev. W. A. Hearron.

Preaching at night by Rev. Truman Huddleston, followed by Rev.
J. F. Hooper. Text, Psalm 50 and 3.

SATURDAY MORNING

Met at 9:00 o'clock, Moderator F. M. Wood in charge.

Scripture reading 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians.

Prayer by Bro. Earlin Haskins.

Voting on the location of Camp Ground for the association resulted unanimously in favor of a tract of land located on Highway 13 near Oil Center.

Board of Trustees for the Camp Ground elected as follows:

Three year term, V. Hunt, Route 5, Ada; two year term, Fred Barker, Route 5, Ada; and one year term, G. O. Palmer, Sulphur.

Report of League Committee accepted.

Report of Women's Auxiliary accepted.

Rev. Scott Jones elected to preach the introductory sermon at the next association.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Placing of the Fifth Sunday meetings resulted as follows: First Fifth Sunday meeting at Sulphur in September, 1946; Second Fifth Sunday meeting at Ada in December, 1946; Third Fifth Sunday meeting at Stratford in March, 1947.

Motion carried that we place a monument at Bro. Coggins' grave if satisfactory with his family. Earlin Haskins to be in charge.

Rev. E. E. Morris and Rev. W. A. Hearron selected to conduct the camp meeting to be held beginning on Friday night before second Sunday in August, 1947 at the Association Camp Ground, where we expect to hold the next association.

A collection of \$52.15 is taken for the Orphans Home.

We have several splendid talks about the Orphans Home.

Rev. Earlin Haskins selected to preach the Memorial sermon at the next association in 1947.

Sister Bertha Barker elected as delegate to the National Association.

Temperance Committee report accepted.

Obituary Committee report accepted.

Sunday School Committee report accepted.

Minutes read and approved.

We adjourn to meet again on Thursday night before the third Sunday in August, 1947, at the Camp Ground on Highway No. 13, nine miles northwest of Ada.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Women's Auxiliary:

We your committee on Women's Auxiliary recommend that we work more earnestly as an auxiliary to carry on the work in our church, and to help new auxiliaries. Furthermore, to encourage our young people in their league work. We recommend that the Auxiliary do more for the Orphans Home. We pray that our ministers will feel that we are ready to stand behind them and support them in any way they see fit.—Signed by Committee.

Report of League Committ:

We your committee on League work beg to report that we have three active leagues in our association. There are approximately 100 league members in the three active leagues. Officers for the ensuing year are: President, Harlan Parsons; vice-president, Virgil Hunt; secretary, Geneva Cecil; Sponsor, Mrs. Patty Parsons.

We your committee on Leagues urge every church in our association to organize a league. We believe that the training of our young people in our leagues is of great importance to the church.—Signed by Committee.

Obituary:

We your committee on Obituary report that God has seen fit to call from our midst Brother Garland Lowther of the Sulphur church, Sister Burnett, Sister Nellie Watt, Brother Arch Crosbie and Sister L. O. Basson from the Stratford church; Sister Dodd from the Ada Church; Brother W. M. Coggins, our old moderator, from Blanchard, Okla.; Brother Harry Patterson from the Oakman church. We recommend that this body stand a moment in silent prayer.—Signed by Committee.

Temperance:

We your committee on Temperance recommend that all church members abstain from all intoxicating drinks. We also recommend that our ministers preach more on intemperance.—Signed by Committee.

Sunday School:

We your committee on Sunday Schools find all churches reported to have Sunday Schools. We recommend that they strive for a larger attendance.—Signed by Committee.

MINISTERIAL REPORT

Rev. W. V. Wood: Pastored two churches one-half time, conducted four revival, worked in three revivals, conducted three funerals, married three couples, travelled 2,196 miles. Received \$1,372.20, and paid 137.00 back into the church treasury.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Resolution No. 1. Resolved that a Board of Trustees for the Camp Ground be elected, that said board have the general oversight of all matters concerning the ground. Namely: The purchasing of ground, selecting and buying of materials for the erection of buildings, and general planning and overseeing of grounds; furthermore, for the general supervising of Camp Grounds; provided, however, said board shall be subject to the approval of the association. Furthermore, said board shall make a set of rules to govern the Camp Grounds which must be submitted to this body at the first Fifth Sunday meeting for the approval of same. If approved it become a part of the Constitution. Furthermore, this board shall consist of three men, one elected for one year; one for two years, and another for three years, and one member to be elected each year thereafter.

We also authorize the treasurer of the association to pay all claims at any time when signed by all members of said board.

Resolution No. 2. Resolved that the Center Association have a Camp Meeting at our Camp Ground to begin on Friday Night before the second Sunday in August, 1947, and continue through the association.

Resolution No. 3. Resolved that we extend to the Gaar Corner church our thanks, to show our appreciation for their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.

MINISTER'S DIRECTORY

Earlin Haskins, Ada, Okla.
J. F. Hooper, Stratford, Okla.
J. N. Caton, Route 3, Ada, Okla.
W. V. Wood, Ada, Okla.
J. G. Stone, West 13th Street, Ada, Okla.
J. P. Lewis, Sulphur, Okla.
J. W. Ragland, 631, West 4th Street, Ada, Okla.
Edna Blckelew, Route 1, Stratford, Okla.
E. E. Morris, 420 South Ash, Ada, Okla.
L. V. Wood, Stratford, Okla.
D. Hunt, Stratford, Okla.
W. L. Dunlap, Sulphur, Okla.
F. M. Wood, Ada, Okla.
Alvis McAffrey, Route 1, Stratford, Okla.
I. W. Yandell, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Scott Jones, Route 3, Ada, Okla.
W. D. Dame, Route 5, Ada, Okla.
Don Burch, Route 1, Stratford, Okla.
B. F. Gurley, Route 1, Roff, Okla.
Muriel Wilson, Route 3, Ada, Okla.
J. T. Caton, Allen, Okla.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

_____ County, Oklahoma.

We, the Free Will Baptist Church of God, at _____
to the Center Association, composed of Free Will Baptists, assembled
with _____ at _____

We send as delegates from our Church _____
whom we pray you will receive to sit with you, and aid in your
Godly deliberations.

Follow with complete church statement.

Done in church conference _____, 194 _____

_____, Moderator

_____, Clerk

RULES OF ORDER

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

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

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

4. 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.

5. 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 taken separately.

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

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

8. All questions shall be decided by the majority of members present.

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

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

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

12. Alteration may be made in these rules at any regular session.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we the members of the Center Association, being regularly baptized upon the profession of 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 correspondence with each other, we do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better associational government.

ARTICLE I. Membership. This association is composed of ordained ministers 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 of ordained and licentiate preachers and their post office address; 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 denominated the Center Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the sundry churches in Oklahoma.

ARTICLE IV. Officers. The association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ARTICLE V. New Churches. New 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 question from any church shall come under 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 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 in a book to be kept by the association for that purpose.

ARTICLE X. Signation. 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. Admendments. Admendments 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 he shall hold his letter for a period of three months when opportunities afford him, he shall surrender his credentials to the quarterly or yearly meetings.

Amendment No. 2. The meeting date of this association shall be Thursday night before the third Sunday in August in each year.

ARTICLE I—ARTICLES OF FAITH

We believe in the true living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and these are equal in divine essence, power and glory. Romans 1:20; 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. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21.

ARTICLE III—THE FALL

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

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

Section 3. And that man is unable to save himself with his own power; but we see Jesus, by the suffering death, crowned with glory, that He by the Grace of God, tasteth death for every man. Genesis 1:31; Hebrews 2:9.

ARTICLE IV—PARDON

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

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

Section 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 is none else." Matthew 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Acts 20:21-, 17:30.

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; Romans 5:1-13.

ARTICLE VI—INFANTS

We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon the mercies of the Son of God. Jonah 4:11; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16.

ARTICLE VII—APOSTASY

We believe 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 of that city." Revelation 22:14; Gallatians 5:4; Hebrews 12:14-28; James 5:19-20.

ARTICLE VIII—BAPTISM MODE

We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life showed His humble example to His children, and bids us to walk therein. Matthew 3:16; 28:19; John 3:22; Romans 6:4-5. Latin to plunge, to submerge, baptizo; Greek, to dip, baptismos; Greek, a dipping, baptiton; 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 servant by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of His blessed word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. Ephesians 3:7; Rev. 22:17.

ARTICLE X—COMMANDMENTS

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the saint's feet, and keeping the Lord's Day holy, and to abstain from all worldly lust and carnal cares, and to assemble ourselves together, in an ornament which prepares and beautifies the soldiers of the cross to march onward in the army of the Lord. Matthew 26:26-29; John 13:2-17; I Timothy 1:9-10; Luke 22:7-20.

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.

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

Section 3. And we shall receive none other. Matthew 3:13-17; Titus 1:5; Acts 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 sitting the Lord's Supper and washing the saint's feet, to invite all Christians. I Corinthians 11:27-28.

ARTICLE XIII—WOMAN'S PRIVILEGE

We believe the Bible teaches woman's privilege to preach the gospel. Judges 4:4; Romans 16:12; Acts 21:9; II Kings 22:14; 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 a sin if continued in Matthew 19:3-11; 5:22; Luke 16:18; Mark 10:11-12; Romans 7:1-3; Proverbs 4:19-20; I Corinthians 7:10-11; Malachi 2:14-17.

ARTICLE XV—RESURRECTION

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

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

Section 3. And the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matthew 25:31-32; I Corinthians 15:42-45; II Thessalonians 1:4-11; Revelation 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 appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

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 the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinance of the gospel, nor fail to pay 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 to promote the success of the church and the gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprise supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence 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 schools, and evangelists efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sunday School Report

| Church | Supt. | Av. Att. | Sec'y | Lit. |
|-------------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| Gaar Corner | Fred Barker | 45 | Annabelle Farley | Union |
| Ada | Ted Pate | 130 | Helen Morris | F. W. B. |
| McGee | David Jenkins | 25 | Ova Dake | Union |
| Sulphur | Bro. D. E. Clark | 47 | Roy Howith | F. W. B. |
| Stratford | Roxie Suets | 45 | Bonnie Suits | F. W. B. |
| Cedar Grove | Dual Chism | 45 | Edith Phillips | F. W. B. |
| Non | Claude Chism | 50 | R. Wellington | F. W. B. |
| Wilson | Rev. Gurley | 50 | Eva Stone | Union |
| Oakman | Not Reporting | | | |

CHURCH DIRECTORY

| Church | Pastor | Clerk | Mem. | Rec'd | Dis. | Died | Meeting | Date | Val. | Ch. Prop. |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------|-------|------|------|-------------|------|------------|-----------|
| Ada | E. E. Morris | Valeta Hillman | 219 | 27 | 0 | 1 | Full Time | | \$8,000.00 | |
| Gaar Corner | W. V. Wood | Bertha Barker | 51 | 8 | 2 | 0 | Full Time | | None | |
| McGee | F. M. Wood | Myrtle Masters | 20 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1-3 Sundays | | None | |
| Non | Ben Pixley | Mavyce Chism | 90 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 3rd Sunday | | \$2,500.00 | |
| Oakman | Merl Wilson | No Report | | | | | 3rd Sunday | | None | |
| Sulphur | W. A. Hearron | Linnie Sparks | 156 | 4 | 0 | 1 | Full Time | | \$4,000.00 | |
| Stratford | J. F. Hooper | Mrs. W. O. Reed | 40 | 6 | 2 | 4 | Full Time | | \$1,500.00 | |
| Wilson | Merl Wilson | Bernice Morris | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1st Sunday | | None | |
| Cedar Grove | Cecil McKensey | Lewis Baker | 128 | 5 | 0 | 0 | Full Time | | \$2,500.00 | |

