

MINUTES  
OF THE  
SIXTIETH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
CENTER ASSOCIATION  
OF  
FREE WILL BAPTIST  
CONVENED AT CAMP GROUND  
AUGUST 13-15, 1953



OFFICERS

Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Weldon Wood  
Assistant Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. William Bratcher  
Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ E. T. Cox  
Assistant Clerk and Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Lonnie Barnes



The next Session of the Center Association will be held at  
the Camp Grounds beginning on Thursday night  
before the Third Sunday in August, 1954

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introduction 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 DEMISSION

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 195\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P. O. \_\_\_\_\_  
County, Oklahoma. \_\_\_\_\_, Pastor  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

## PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the Sixtieth Annual Session of the Center Association of Free Will Baptist convened at the Camp Ground, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, August 13, 14 and 15, 1953 A. D. Introductory Sermon Thursday night, delivered by Rev. L. D. Stonecipher.—Text 139 Psalms.

## FRIDAY MORNING

Song service conducted by Rev. Weldon Wood.  
Body called to order by Moderator Rev. William Bratcher.  
Prayer by Brother Lonnie Barnes.  
Devotional reading, 15th Chapter of St. John, by the Moderator.  
Letters called for and read.  
Motion made and carried that we receive the letters and seat the delegates.  
Right hand of fellowship given to delegates.  
Brother Claude Chism selected to preach the 11:00 o'clock service.  
Election of officers.  
Moderator—Rev. Weldon Wood.  
Assistant Moderator—Rev. William Bratcher.  
Clerk—E T. Cox.  
Assistant Clerk and Treasurer—Lonnie Barnes  
Adjourned until 1:00 o'clock.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Singing conducted by Rachell Williams.

Devotional by Rev. Lewis Wood.

Prayer by Brother Claude Chism.

Member of the Board of Trustees elected, Virgil Hunt.

Petitionary letters called for. None.

Rules of order read.

Committees appointed.

Home Mission Committee—Lovie Chism, Luther Parish, Bernice Morrison, Wilford Lee, Curtis Hogue. .

League Committee—William Carter, Troy Henry, Ann Hunt, Christine Barnes, Billy Ray Wood.

Resolution Committee—F. M. Wood, Murrel Wilson, Ed Price, Virgil Hunt, L. D. Stonecipher.

Auditing Committee—E. H. Simpson, William Bratcher, Lewis Wood. Ed Price.

Pulpit Committee—Willie Smith, Lonnie Barnes, Walter Henry, Lois Lamb, Lorene Bratcher.

Temperance Committee—Charlotte Bratcher, J. T. Masters, Maggie Price, Curtis Hogue, Mildred Pannell.

Obituary Committee—Scott Jones, Lydia Eubanks, Mary Eaton, Iva Dake, Rachell Williams.

Sunday School Committee—Walter Wood, Carrie Muncy, Ermalee Henry, Pat Ellis, Dessie Light.

Unfinished business. None.

New business—

Youth Camp Committee:

Wilson—Wilford Lee.

Camp Ground—Mildred Pannell.

Stonewall—Christine Barnes.

Cedar Grove—Sister Chism.

Happyland—Willie Smith.

Ada—Lois Lamb.

Gaar Corner—E. T. Cox.

Stratford—Troy Henry.

Oakman—William Carter.

Motion made and carried that the Cente Association buy two beds for the Orphan Home.

Quarterly meetings set—November, Stonewall; January, Cedar Grove; May, Happyland.

Rev. F. M. Wood to preach the Introductory Sermon at Stonewall. Rev. Curtis Hague selected to preach the Introductory Sermon at the Center Association Camp Ground in 1954. Alternate, Rev. William Bratcher.

Motion made and carried that the host church furnish the program for the quarterly meeting.

Treasurer report by Lonnie Barnes on feeding of the Youth Camp accepted.

Rev. William Bratcher selected to preach the Memorial Service.

Adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

## SATURDAY MORNING

Song service conducted by Rachell Williams.

Prayer by Rev. Scott Jones..

Devotional reading by Sister Lorene Bratcher.

Committee reports read and accepted.

Financial report read and accepted.

Evangelist selected for the Camp Ground Revival, 1954. Rev. Gilbert and Rev. Rupert Pixley.

Adjourned until 1:00 o'clock.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Singing conducted by Janie Lou Nelson.

Devotional reading by Georgia Mae Owens. 15th Chap. of Psalms.

Prayer by Janie Lou Nelson.

Motion made and carried that Raymond Bond be our electrician.

Motion made and carried that we adjourn until our next Association in 1954.

## CENTER ASSOCIATION TREASURY REPORT

### YEAR 1952-1953

Balance from Association 1952 -----\$820.11

#### Credits—

Cedar Grove Church -----	5.00
Oakman Church -----	25.00
Gaar Corner Church -----	35.00
Happyland Church -----	35.00
Camp Ground Church -----	35.00
Yeager Church -----	35.00
Wilson Church -----	10.00
Ada Church -----	35.00
Stratford Church -----	35.00
Yeager Sunday School -----	4.30
Miscellaneous Contributions -----	20.50

**TOTAL** -----**\$594.91**

#### DEBITS—

Mays Lumber Co., -952 -----	\$158.72
R. E. A. -----	24.00
Piano Tuning -----	7.00
Insurance, 1952 -----	70.85
Refund Sulphur Church -----	5.00
Minutes, 1952 -----	75.00
Leo Nelson, Labor -----	78.75
Insurance, 1953 -----	70.40
Balance, 1953 -----	104.69

**TOTAL** -----**\$594.91**

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

### Temperance Committee:

We know that God's Word teaches us that strong drink is contrary to the Doctrine of the Lord. We read from Proverbs 20:1: Wine is a mock, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Then Proverbs 23:19, 20, 21, 29 to 35.

We recommend that we, as a denomination, urge all our members to abstain from all worldly amusement, be temperant in all things and oppose all manner of sin. Colossians 2:21-22.

—The Committee.

### League Committee:

We, your League Committee, submit the following report: It is our opinion that each church should have a League to influence all the youth of the community in the way of Christ, and work toward the building of the League Rally, Youth Fellowship Meetings and Youth Camp at every meeting.

We recommend that all sponsors and leaders be devoted and active Christian workers and teach the Word of God and leave off worldly pleasures, as the children of today are the leaders of the future in the work of Christ our Savior.

Our rally day is on the second Sunday of each quarter, except in May, in which it is on the first Sunday.

Officers for 1953-54—

Sponsors—Brother and Sister Virgil Hunt.

President—William A. Carter, Route 4, Ada, Okla.

Vice-President—Wilford Lee, Route 1, Ada, Okla.

Secretary—Charlene Jones, 828 West 17th Street, Ada, Okla.

Assistant Secretary—Velma Lee Voyles, Route 5, Ada, Okla.

It is our prayer that more of our churches will have a working League and that each League will support our Youth Fellowship Meetings, Youth Camp and League Rallies.

—The Committee.

### Sunday School Committee:

We, your committee on Sunday schools, submit the following reports: It is our honest opinion that each church should have a Sunday school, and that all officers and teachers should be Christians. Our Lord said, Let them alone, they be blind leaders of the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.—Matt. 15:14.

Church	Supt.	Secretary	Av. Att.
Wilson	Toss Hoover	Bernice Morrison	30
Cedar Grove	Robert Harris	Velma Chandler	50
Happyland	Charley Hogue	Eunice Stringer	40
Ada	John Wood	Ruth Lillard	195
Gaar Corner	Ted Cox	Charlotte Bratcher	38
Stonewall	Bob Slaughter	Christene Barnes	70
Stratford	Troy Henry	Vernadene Freeman	65
Camp Ground	Bruce Holland	Ollie Belle Wood	55
Oakman	William Carter	Marie Rountree	40

—The Committee.

### Obituary Committee:

We find that since our last Association God has called from our midst the following members:

Oakman Church—Rev. Jim Caton.

Ada Church—Brother E. A. Guinn, Sister Kallie Fletcher, Brother J. W. Hickey, Brother J. M. Downum.

Cedar Grove—Brother John L. Lee.

We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain. We recommend that this body stand in a moment of silent prayer in memory of the deceased.

—The Committee.

### Home Mission Committee:

We, the Home Mission Committee, report some churches doing good mission work. We see the need of more personal mission work done by pastors, deacons and all members, in homes of this Association—and the Lord said unto the servant, go into the highways and hedges and compell them to come in that my house may be filled. St. Luke 14:23.

—The Committee.

### Resolutions Committee:

Seeing the need for more room in the dormitories, therefore: Be it resolved that we enlarge the dormitories and equip them with cots. Be it further resolved that we instruct the Board of Trustees to present plans to construct an finance same at the next fifth Sunday meeting to be held in November, 1953.

—Resolution Committee.

Resolved: That each church in the Center Association try to get each resident member in the church to contribute \$1.00 to be given to the Board of Trustees for building dormitories and furnishing them with cots.

—The Committee.

## MINISTERS DIRECTORY

Rev. Weldon Wood, 420 South Ash, Ada, Okla.

Rev. Edna Buckelew, 515 East 7th Street, Ada, Okla.

Rev. Scott Jones, Route 3, Ada, Okla.

Rev. Earlin Haskins, Route 2, Ada, Okla.

Rev. Curtis Hogue, Route 3, Ada, Okla.

Rev. Murl Wilson, Box 91, Francis, Okla.

Rev. F. M. Wood, 720 West 4th Street, Ada, Okla.

Rev. Fred Hooper, Route 1, Stratford, Okla.

Rev. Jimmy Ray Nichols, Stratford, Okla.

Rev. Henry Griffin, Stratford, Okla.

Rev. Bill Bratcher, Stratford, Okla.

Rev. Donald Dake, U. S. Air Force.

Rev. L. D. Stonecipher, Stratford, Okla.

Rev. Lonnie Sparks, 14th and Vinita, Sulphur, Okla.

Rev. Roy Wood, Stratford, Okla.

Rev. Bert F. Rogers, Francis, Okla.

Rev. Duff Hunt, 630 West 4th Street, Ada, Okla.

Rev. Lewis Wood, Stratford, Okla.

Rev. Biles, Stratford, Okla.

Licentate Ministers: Sister Lorene Bratcher and Sister Minnie Campbell.

## RULES GOVERNING THE CAMP GROUND PROPERTY

No. 1. No camping will be allowed on west side of the Brook that runs across the property.

No. 2. No person or persons will be allowed to take up residence, permanent or temporary, on the property, unless by special permission of the Board of Trustees.

No. 3. Lots shall be located and numbered beginning with Lot 1, on east side of Brook where it comes into property on north side and numbered eastward consecutively to the NE corner of property, thence southward still consecutively along the east side of property to the SE corner of said property, said lots shall be 40 ft. square. A plat of same shall be kept by Board of Trustees, also a record of the disposal of lots.

No. 4. Any Free Will Baptist belonging to any Church in our Association may build a cabin on this property subject to the following regulations:

- a. No cabin or permanent camp shall be built on any part of the property except on lots mention in Rule No. 3.
- b. No person may build a cabin or permanent camp without getting written permission from the Board of Trustees.
- c. No person shall have the right to move any cabin or permanent camp off the property at any time or for any purpose.
- d. If and when the owner of a cabin or permanent camp shall move out of the State of Oklahoma he shall offer for sale said cabin or permanent camp and if not sold within one year from date of his departure to some person who is a member of some church in the Center Association it shall become the property of the Association or he may give it to the Association or to some person, if such person is a member of some church in the Center Association.

## 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 Baptist, 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 sstatement.)

Done in church conference \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, 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. No member shall be absent while in session without leave of the Moderator, and if so his name shall be left off the minutes.
9. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected if necessary before the close of the Association.
10. Arrangements shall be made at each session of the Association for two or more sermons or equivalent devotional exercises during each day.
11. Alternation 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 postoffice 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. Motions. Every motion made and seconded 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 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. Amendments. Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a two-third 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 shall hold his letter for a period of three months when opportunities afford him, he shall surrender his credentials to the quarterly or yearly meeting.

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 living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and these are equal in the Divine essence, power and glory.—Roman 1:20; John 1:1.

## ARTICLE II.—THE BIBLE

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament 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."—Matthews 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Acts 30:21-, 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; Galations 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 believers in water, and that Christ, who is our life showed His humble example to His children, and bids us to walk therein.—Matthews 3:16, 28:19; John 3:22; Romans 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.—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, is 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; 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 in 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 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; Rom. 16:12; Acts 21:19; 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; 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.

Article 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 sanctions 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 devotion, 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 evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Church	Pastor	Clerk	Clerk's Address	No. on Roll	Received	Dismissed	Died	Meeting Date	Value of Church Property
Ada	Weldon Wood	Valeta Hileman	712 W. 17th, Ada	410	69	8	4	full time	\$20,000
Cedar Grove	Scott W. Jones	Elic Harris	Francis, Okla.	132	0	0	1	full time	4,000
Oakman	C. F. Jones	Flora Carter	Route 4, Ada	70	2	3	1	3rd Sun.	
Stonewall	Merl Wilson	A. E. Lawhorn	Stonewall	90	13	8	0	full time	10,000
Stratford	F. M. Wood	Vesta Henry	Stratford	95	21	4	1	full time	7,000
C. Ground	Wm. Bratcher	J. C. Kirby	Route 2, Ada	81	11	3	0	full time	7,000
Happyland	Curtis Hogue	Willie Smith	Route 4, Ada	63	0	5	0	full time	3,000
Gaar Corner	L. D. Stonecipher	Bessie Bradley	Route 5, Ada		6	5	0	full time	
Wilson		Bernice Morrison	Route 1, Ada	62	0	3	0		

