

Minutes
of the
Sixty-first Annual Session
of the
CENTER ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Convened at Camp Ground

August 12-14, 1954

OFFICERS

Moderator -----Rev. Weldon Wood
Assistant Moderator -----Bro. William Bratcher
Clerk -----Bro. Lonnie Barnes
Assistant Clerk and Treasurer -----Bro. Troy Henry

The next Session of the Center Association will be held
at the Camp Grounds beginning on Thursday night
before the Third Sunday in August, 1955

CHURCH LETTER TO A QUARTERLY MEETING, YEARLY ASSOCIATION

Date_____195_____

To the _____ Association of Free Will Baptists
when convened with the Free Will Baptist Church at _____
Oklahoma, _____19_____. We send as delegates our beloved

_____ whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly delibera-
tions.

STATISTICS

FINANCES

State of Religion _____	Paid Pastor _____ \$_____
Members received this year _____	Paid Evangelist _____ \$_____
Baptized _____ Dismissed _____	Home Mission _____ \$_____
Died _____ Total Membership _____	Foreign Mission _____ \$_____
Condition of Prayer Meeting _____	Building and repairs _____ \$_____
Condition of Sunday School _____	For Education _____ \$_____
Average No. of pupils _____	For Publication _____ \$_____
No. of Officers____ No. of Teachers____	Enclosed for Minutes _____ \$_____

MINISTERS BELONGING TO OUR CHURCH

Names

Addresses

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

DEACONS BELONGING TO OUR CHURCH

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Pastor's Name _____ Address _____

Done by order of _____ Church assembled in con-
ference this _____ day of _____ 19_____.

_____ Moderator

_____ Clerk

Remarks: _____

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. Appointment of committees.
9. Inviting visiting brethren to seats in council.
10. Unfinished business
11. New business
12. Reports of committees.
13. Miscellaneous

LETTER OF DISMISSION

This is to certify that _____ is a
Member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist 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 Sixty-first Annual Session of the Center Association of Free Will Baptist convened at the Camp Ground, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, August 12, 13, and 14, 1954 A. D. Introductory Sermon Thursday Night, delivered by Rev. Curtis Hogue, Pastor Happyland Church.

FRIDAY MORNING

The Association called to Order by the Moderator, Rev. Weldon Wood.
Song Service: Mrs. Willie Smith

Devotional Reading: II Thess. 2nd Chapter.

Letters called for and read, and the delegates were properly seated.

The Election of officers were as follows:

Moderator: Rev. Weldon Wood, 420 S. Ash, Ada Oklahoma

Asst. Moderator: Rev. Bill Bratcher, Stratford, Oklahoma

Clerk: Bro. Lonnie Barnes, 710 E 12th, Ada, Oklahoma

Asst. Clerk: Brother Troy Henry, Stratford, Oklahoma

Board of Trustee, Bro. J. T. Masters replacing Bro. Fred Barker.

FRIDAY 11:00 A.M.

Song Service: Lonnie Barnes

Message. Rev. Billy Ray Holland, followed by Rev. Edna Bucklew.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR 1954 SESSION AS FOLLOWS

PULPIT	HOME MISSION	LEAGUE
Lorene Bratcher	Muril Wilson	Charlotte Bratcher
Naomi Peeveyhouse	James Murray	Jimmy Ray Nickels
Walter Henry	Bernice Morrison	Connie Lancaster
Lizzie Eubanks	Irene Collins	Alice Wood
J. T. Masters	Ermalee Henry	Junior Freeman
RESOLUTIONS	AUDITING	TEMPERANCE
F. M. Wood	E. H. Simpson	Willie Smith
Scott Jones	Dessie Light	Bobby Sue Voyles
Edward Patterson	Walter Wood	Mrs. Toss Hooser
Toss Hooser	Walter Henry	Henry Griffin
Walter Wood	Roy Wood	Wanda Cranford
OBITUARY	SUNDAY SCHOOL	EXAMINING
Sis. Robinson	J. T. Masters	Muril Wilson
Edna Bucklew	Charlotte Bratcher	Earlin Haskins
Christine Barnes	Jess Berryman	F. M. Wood
Muril Wilson	Christine Barnes	Scott Jones
Bro. Jarvis	Dessie Light	Bill Bratcher

YOUTH CAMP COMMITTEE FOR 1954

Jimmie Ray Nickels	Stratford
Lonnie Barnes	Stonewall
Irene Collings	Ada
Garrett Beller	Wilson
Fred Barker	Gaar Corner
Sister Chism	Cedar Grove
Everett Pannell	Camp Ground
Jess Berryman	Oakman
Archie Sloan	Happyland

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Song Service	Fred Barker
Devotional	Bobbie Sue Voyles
	Scripture, John 1st Chapter
Prayer	Lorene Bratcher

Report of Board of Trustees given and received including the resolution made by the Board of Trustees to build and clear remainder of ground.

Motion accepted to recommend to each church that they give \$1.00 per member for the building of dormitories and try to have the money in by the First Fifth Sunday Meeting.

The quarterly meetings were set as follows:

Cedar Grove	October
Oakman	January
Stratford	May

Bro. Billy Ray Holland was elected to bring the Introductory message at Cedar Grove. Rev. James Murray was his alternate.

Rev. F. M. Wood will bring the introductory message at the 1955 Session of the Center Association, Rev. Scott Jones alternate.

Memorial sermon by Weldon Wood, Alternate F. M. Wood.

The Association chose Rev. Hattie Newman, Oilton, Oklahoma as evangelist for the camp meeting in 1955.

Resolution Report Accepted (see report)

Motion carried that the Youth Camp start on Monday rather than Wednesday.

Motion carried that the fee for our Youth encampment remain the same \$5.00 for the entire 10 days.

Rev. Junior Freeman was chosen to bring the Friday Evening Message.

SATURDAY MORNING

Singing ----- Jimmy Ray Nickles

Devotional ----- Mary Alice Bond
reading I Cor. 13th Chapter

Prayer ----- Mary Alice Bond

Motion carried that the clerk have the minutes printed

Motion made to insert a complete letter form in the minutes.

Motion carried that we retain Walter Wood as the Center Associational member on the General board.

Troy Henry was elected to represent the Center Association as our national delegate.

Motion carried that arrangements be made for song books.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Song Service ----- Willie Smith

Prayer ----- Jess Berryman

Motion carried that the number of students and the number of conversions be put in the minutes.

Motion carried that the moderator appoint members on the examining committee: to examine Bro. Garrett Beller on Saturday Night, The Committee:

Rev. Curtis Hogue

Bro. Lonnie Barnes

Bro. Ed Price

We had a very successful revival and youth encampment. There were 42 conversions and 96 youth registered in our school.

Adjourned.

CENTER ASSOCIATION TREASURER REPORT 1953-1954

Balance from Association 1953 -----\$104.69

CREDITS

Camp Ground Church -----	\$ 64.35
Cedar Grove Church -----	12.00
Ada Church -----	160.00
Gaar Corner Church -----	88.00
Happyland Church -----	52.00
Oakman Church -----	42.00
Stonewall Church -----	74.00
Stratford Church -----	148.00
Wilson Church -----	2.50
Balance left in youth camp -----	35.32
Collection for Evangelist -----	86.11

TOTAL -----\$886.25

DEBITS

Bill Booth -----	\$ 5.00
Evans Hard -----	.88
Woods Grocery -----	1.05
State Treasurer -----	10.00
C. M. Mays Lumber Company -----	204.39
Minutes -----	75.00
Piano tuning -----	10.00
Orphanage, for beds -----	106.35
Evangelist -----	150.00
Insurance for 1954 -----	68.49
Balance in treasury -----	255.09

TOTAL -----\$886.25

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Temperance Committee:

We know that God's Word teaches that strong drink is contrary to the doctrine of the Lord. We read from Proverbs 20:1: Wine is a mocker, 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 donomination, urge all our members to abstain from all worldly amusement, be temperent in all things and oppose all manner of sin. Colossians 2:21-22.

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 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 pleasers, 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 1954-55.

SPONSORS: Bro. and Sister Lonnie Barnes, 710 E. 12th St. Ada, Oklahoma.

PRESIDENT: Billy Ray Holland, Rt.1, Ada, Oklahoma

VICE PRESIDENT: William Carter, Rt. 4, Ada, Oklahoma

SECRETARY: Charlotte Bratcher, Rt. 1, Roff, Oklahoma

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Bobby Sue Voyles, Rt. 5, Ada, Okla.

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	Superintendent	Secretary	Ave. Att.
Wilson	Wilford Lee	Bernice Morrison	30
Cedar Grove	Robert Harris	Velma Chandler	50
Happyland	Charley Hogue	Eunice Stringer	40
Ada	John Wood	Ruth Lillard	200
Gaar Corner	Ted Cox	Charlotte Bratcher	38
Stonewall	Tom Wilson	Christene Barnes	65
Stratford	Troy Henry	Vernadene Freeman	65
Camp Ground	Bruce Holland	Ollie Belle Wood	55
Oakman	William Carter	Marie Rountree	30

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 the 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.

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 and finance same at the first fifth Sunday meeting to be in October, 1954.

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.

Obituary Committee

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

Wilson Church-----Dewey Stone
Ada Church-----John Fletcher, John Lunsford, Mary Arthur

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.

MINISTERS DIRECTORY

Rev. Weldon Wood	420 South Ash, Ada
Rev. Edna Buckelew	515 E. 7th St., Ada
Rev. Scott W. Jones	Route 3, Ada
Rev. Earlin Haskins	Route 2, Ada
Rev. Curtis Hogue	Route 3, Ada
Rev. Murl Wilson	Box 91, Francis
Rev. F. M. Wood	720 West 4th St., Ada
Rev. Fred Hooper	Route 1, Stratford
Rev. Jimmy Ray Nickels	Stratford
Rev. Henry Griffin	Stratford
Rev. Bill Bratcher	Stratford
Rev. Donald Dake	708 West 4th St., Ada
Rev. L. D. Stonecipher	Stratford
Rev. Roy Wood	Stratford
Rev. Lewis Wood	Stratford
Rev. Biles	Stratford
Rev. Duff Hunt	630 West 4th St., Ada
Rev. Wilbur Schultz	730 West 19th St., Ada
Rev. Lorene Bratcher	Stratford
Rev. Billy Ray Wood	Stratford

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 of 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 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; Galatians 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	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	19	5	3	Full	\$25,000
Cedar Grove	James Murray	Elic Harris	Francis	130	0	2	0	Full	4,000
Oakman	Wm. Bratcher	Flora Carter	Route 4, Ada	72	1	0	0	Full	
Stonewall	Muril Wilson	Mary Kee	Stonewall	94	7	3	0	Full	10,000
Stratford	F. M. Wood	Vesta Henry	Stratford	102	9	2	0	Full	7,000
C. Ground	Scott W. Jones	J. C. Kirby	Route 2, Ada	87	5	0	0	Full	7,000
Happyland	Curtis Hogue	Willie Smith	Route 4, Ada	66	3	0	0	Full	3,000
Gaar Corner	L. D. Stonecipher	Bessie Bradley	Route 5, Ada	42	0	0	0	Full	
Wilson		Bernice Morrison	Route 1, Ada	62	0	0	1	---	

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.

