

MINUTES
of the
Eighty-Third Annual Session
of the
CENTER ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTIST
August 5, 6, 7, 1976



Officers 1976-77

Moderator	Rev. Delbert Akin 609 West 24th, Ada, Okla. 74820 -- 332-7339
Assistant Moderator	Rev. Carl Shivers Box 225, Stratford, Okla. 74872 --759-2195
Clerk	Norma Bratcher 118 South Center, Ada, Okla. 74820 -- 332-8404
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer	Eugene Hobbs P.O. Box 1758, Ada, Okla. 74820 -- 436-1867

Table of Contents

Order of Business	1
Quarterly Meeting	1
Rules of Order	2
Letter of Dismission	2
Proceedings	3
State Delegates	3
Committees Appointed	4
Committee Reports	6
District C.T.S. Officers	7
Woman's Auxiliary District Officers	7
Resolutions Adopted	8
Treasurer's Report	9
Youth Camp Report	10
Rules Governing Camp Ground Property	11
Quarterly Meetings Minutes	12
Constitution	14
Articles of Faith	16
Church Covenant	18
Boards and Committees	19
Church Directory	20
Ministers Directory	21

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. Petitionary letters called for.
6. Invite visiting Brethren to seats of Council.
7. Reading Rules of Order (By-Laws).
8. Appointment of Committees.
9. Unfinished business.
10. New business.
11. Report of Committees.
12. Election of Officers and Board Members.
13. Miscellaneous.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

First -- November 20, 1976 Cedar Grove
Second -- February 19, 1977 Sulphur, First
Third -- May 21, 1977 Ada

SPEAKERS AND OFFICIALS FOR NEXT ASSOCIATION AND CAMP MEETING

Introductory Speaker Rev. James Franklin
Alternate Rev. Orvel Romine

Memorial Speaker Rev. A. L. McAffery
Alternate Rev. Jerry Dudley

Song Director
Alternate

Pianist Sis Donna Wood
Alternate Sis. Kathy Romine

Camp Evangelist Rev. Connie Cariker
Alternate Rev. Jerry Dudley

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. In respect for the chair, anyone needing to leave the Assembly while business is in session, should ask leave of the Moderator, if possible. All delegates, elected and standing, are obligated to stay until the close of the Association.
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 one sermon and one devotion during each day of the annual or Quarterly Meeting.
12. Alteration may be made in these rules at any regular session.

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 (her) to the fellowship of God's people, and dismissed
from us when united with another church.

Done in Church Conference this ... day of, 19 ...,

..... County, Oklahoma.

....., Pastor Clerk

PROCEEDINGS

Thursday Evening

The 83rd Annual Session of the Center Association of Free Will Baptists met August 5-7, 1976, at the Camp Grounds.

The session was called to order by the moderator, Rev. A. L. McAffery. The congregation sang "He Keeps Me Singing" and "Amazing Grace" led by Rev. Raymond Allen with Donna Wood as pianist. Special singing was provided by the Camp Ground Church young people who sang "Less of Me" and Rev. Delbert Akin sang "The Scars in the Hands of Jesus".

Prayer was led by Bro. Jacky Caton.

The introductory message was delivered by Bro. Paul Wood. He read from John 8:1-11. He brought out the fact that we fail to have the influence we should as christians because we find fault with our church and our fellow christians. We do not have the fear of God. If we search our own lives, we will not find fault with others.

After announcements, we were dismissed in prayer led by Rev. Jerry Dudley.

Friday Morning

This session was called to order by Rev. A. L. McAffery. Congregational song "Come and Dine" was led by Bro. Jacky Caton and Donna Wood was pianist. Prayer was led by Bro. Doc Hill.

The annual letters from the churches were read. Motion carried to accept these letters and seat the delegates. Bro. McAffery led "Glory to His Name".

ADA—Beulah Droke, Oleta Pate, Anna Hunt
ASHER—Goldie Dean, Clara Birks, Paul Wood
CAMP GROUND—Vance Price, LaVelle Wallis, Olive Belle Wood
CEDAR GROVE—Charles Chandler, Ruby West, Willie White
CENTER—Jacky Caton, Gerald Fender, Eddie Lance
EAST SULPHUR—Beulah Nye, Ruth Stanley, Osie Higgins
GAAR CORNER—Roberta Summers, Mildred Stonecipher, Vera Bratcher
HAPPYLAND—Ruth Fredrick, Marie Roundtree, Willie Smith
NON—Bulah Swetnam, Mable Priest
OAKMAN—Sue Manuel, Jackie Berryman, Betty Boland
STONEWALL—Roger Ballard, Sandy Stovall, Billy Carey
STRATFORD—Hallie Wood, Tony Cosby
SULPHUR, FIRST—Gladys Scaff, Jewell Hill, Betty Romine
WILSON—Marzell Briggs, Arminda McCauley, Donna Wood
WOLF—

Motion carried that Bro. Dub Boland, Bro. James Franklin and Bro. Jerry Dudley be allowed to vote in this conference.

A letter was read from the Arbuckle Association stating that the Madill church had joined their Association on a promise of a letter from the Center Association. Motion carried this letter be granted.

The Rules of Order were read by the assistant moderator, Rev. Orvel Romine.

Motion carried the chair appoint the Pulpit Committee.

Motion carried the chair appoint State Delegates for those churches who did not name one in their letter. Motion carried that we give authority to our delegates to appoint someone to fill any vacancy at the State Association.

Motion carried that we table the election of boards until later and adjourn for the morning worship service.

We were dismissed in prayer by Rev. L. D. Stonecipher.

STATE DELEGATES

Dorothy Akin, Goldie Dean, Myrtle Roberts, Ocie Higgins, Christine Barnes, Velma McAffery, Norma Bratcher, Zora Williams, Mable Priest, Betty Boland, Roger Ballard, Bea Dudley, Betty Romine, Donna Wood and Barbara Barlow.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

PULPIT—Corbit Higgins, Lonnie Barnes, Eddie Lance, Clarence Lemming, Coy Stovall
C. T. S.—Bulah Swetnam, Hallie Wood, Oleta Pate
SUNDAY SCHOOL—Roger Ballard, Gladys Scaff, Donna Wood
OBITUARY—Ruby West, Vera Bratcher, Paul Wood
TEMPERANCE—Vance Price, Jacky Caton, Jewell Hill

WORSHIP SERVICE

Bro. Jacky Caton led the congregation in singing "I Love to Tell The Story" and "When We All Get to Heaven." Prayer was led by Rev. Dennis O'Donnell.

The message was brought to us by Rev. Jerry Dudley from Psalms 40:1-4. His subject was "Helplessness without God—Happiness with God." Prayer and the blessing on the food was asked by Rev. A. L. McAffery.

Friday Afternoon

"He Lives" was led as a congregational song by Bro. Jacky Caton. A devotion was given by Rev. James Franklin from Titus 2:1-5.

Motion carried that we grant the desires of the churches asking for the quarterly meetings in their church letters. (See list on page 1)

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by the treasurer. Motion carried to accept the Treasurer's Report as given.

The following proposed constitutional change was read as presented by the Center Church:

"Item 1—In Article II following the words "quarterly meetings" the word "shall" to be replaced by the word "need".

Item 2—In Article IV under Examining Board, all of first paragraph be deleted and the following be inserted. This board shall examine; all ministers for license and ordination; all deacons for ordination; all deacons and ministers coming into this association.

Letters from sister churches requesting examination of a candidate may be sent directly to the clerk at any time.

Time of examination shall be on the Sunday immediately preceeding each conference. The location and hour of such meeting shall be at the discretion of the Examining Board. If there are no candidates for examination no meeting shall be required.

Any member absenting themselves for any two consecutive meetings including quarterly and annual may be replaced.

Item 3—Under Article X—The second sentence of the first paragraph be amended to read, "Quarterly Meetings of the Association shall meet on the third Saturday of November, February, and May of each calendar year."

Motion carried this be tabled until Saturday.

A letter of resignation from Rev. Carl Jackson from the Examining Committee was read. Motion carried to accept this resignation. Motion carried this position be left vacant until the regular election of officers.

Youth Camp report was presented by the Camp Director, Bro. Eugene Hobbs. Motion carried to accept this report as read. (see reports)

Bro. Jacky Caton gave an oral report from the Christian Education Board. (see reports)

Rev. Raymond Allen gave an oral report from the Executive Board. (see reports)

A report from the Examining Committee was given by Rev. Delbert Akin. Motion carried to accept this report. (see reports)

Bro. Lonnie Barnes gave an oral report from the Board of Trustees concerning the 5-year plan to upgrade the camp.

Motion carried that the \$300.00 loan to the C.T.S., reported in the Executive Board Report, be given to the C.T.S.

Motion carried to adjourn. We were dismissed in prayer led by Bro. Lonnie Barnes.

Saturday Morning

Bro. McAffery called the services to order by leading the congregation in singing "Heavenly Sunlight". Prayer was led by Rev. Delbert Akin. Rev. Orvel Romine read a devotional from I Cor. 15:1-8.

Motion carried Resolution 1 be adopted. (see reports)

Motion carried a committee be appointed by the chair to study and make a recommendation of an amount that should be given to the building fund from each church for each member. The Board of Trustees was appointed as this committee.

We were dismissed for a recess by Rev. L. D. Stonecipher so the members of the various committees could meet and turn in a report.

The meeting was called to order with the congregational song "I Am Thine O Lord" led by Jacky Caton.

The Sunday School Committee Report was read. Motion carried to accept this report. (see reports)

The C.T.S. Committee Report was read and accepted. (see reports)

A Financial Report of the Pauls Valley Mission was read. Motion carried to receive this report. (See page 8).

Motion carried to accept the Obituary Report to be read during the Memorial Service. (see reports)

Memorial Service

Bro. Jacky Caton led the congregation in singing "Jesus Saves" and "Living By Faith". Prayer was led by Rev. David McDougal. Rev. Delbert Akin sang "Heaven's Window" as a special number.

The Obituary Report was read. We had a moment of silent prayer in memory of those who had been called from us.

Rev. Delbert Akin delivered a stirring message from II Peter 1:1 concerning the "Exceeding precious promises" to those that remain. Bro. Akin closed with prayer.

We were dismissed and the blessing was asked on the noon meal by Rev. James Franklin.

Saturday Afternoon

The afternoon services began with a congregational song, "The Lily of the Valley". Prayer was led by Bro. Lonnie Barnes.

Bro. Ed Wade was introduced and brought greetings from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. He announced the dates of registration for the Fall Semester which is August 19 and 20, with classes beginning August 23. He indicated they were expecting a total enrollment of 200.

The Temperance Committee Report was read. Motion carried to accept this report. (see reports)

The Board of Trustees Report was read. Motion carried to accept this report. (see reports)

Resolutions 2, 3, and 4 were adopted. (see reports)

Motion carried to remove from the table the proposed constitutional change to be discussed. After discussion, Item 1 did not pass. Motion carried Item 2 be tabled. Motion carried that Item 3 be adopted.

Rev. Connie Cariker was elected as evangelist for the 1977 camp meeting and Rev. Jerry Dudley was elected as alternate evangelist.

Motion carried to elect the song leader for the 1977 camp meeting at the next quarterly meeting.

Bro. Mark Barnes was elected as speaker for the first quarterly meeting.

Bro. Eugene Hobbs recommended the yards at the camp be mowed more often than they had been the past year and that Bro. Bill Bratcher be given a fee to take care of that if he is willing to do this. Motion carried this recommendation be referred to the Board of Trustees to be taken care of.

Rev. Carl Shivers reported that the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma had stated that a licensed minister can perform marriage ceremonies if their credentials are on record.

Motion carried we adjourn. We were dismissed in prayer led by Rev. A. L. McAffery.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Moderator	Delbert Akin
Assistant Moderator	Carl Shivers
Clerk	Norma Bratcher
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer	Eugene Hobbs
Executive Board	L.D. Stonecipher, A. L. McAffery, Finis Cosby, Mel Mauldin
Board of Trustees	Corbit Higgins, Fred Pie
Christian Education	Donna Wood
Examining Committee	Delbert Akin, Walter Wood, Curtis Hogue, Mark Barnes
Resolutions Committee	Bill Bratcher
General Board for 1977	Delbert Akin

COMMITTEE REPORTS

C. T. S.

We the Church Training Service Committee feel that the Free Will Baptist CTS is one of the best organizations in the church for young people. One of our main goals is to train youth of our churches for now and future service, that they may be better servants for Jesus Christ.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.", Proverbs 22:6. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.", Proverbs 13:24. By scriptural directions our youth will be better able to become christian adults and to keep the first commandment with promise, "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." We would like to challenge the parents in this Association to encourage youth in an active CTS program.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We are happy to report that all our churches have active Sunday Schools. They are averaging about the same in attendance as last year. We encourage our churches to "go forth" as Christ commanded in the great commission and bring others in. We feel that the teachers and officers should be active members of the church, full of faith, Christ centered, and empowered by the Spirit to teach.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

As the liberalities of the world gradually seep into many of the churches across our nation today, the Temperance Committee wants to exhort this association as individual churches and individual members of the body of Christ to hold fast to the principles of holy living described in the Holy Word of God. We feel that by adhering strongly to these principles of moderateness, love and temperance, and by letting the world know our Bible-based convictions of everyday living in the grace and mercies of God, we will somehow be ready to meet our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when he returns.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We the Obituary Committee report that God called his beloved children home to be with him, where there is joy, peace and rest:

ADA—C. S. Roberts, Orville Bandy, Lois Simmons, Josie Barton, C. C. Bennett, Vester Hooper

CAMP GROUND—Charles Heber Myers

CEDAR GROVE—Isom Harris

CENTER—Steve Allen

HAPPYLAND—Rev. Scott W. Jones, Minttie Morrison, Lillie Whitley

OAKMAN—Flora Carter, Gussie Lillard

STONEWALL—Barbara Christian, Bob Slaughter

STRATFORD—Mary Pierce, Roy Wood

SULPHUR, First—Jim Carlton

WOLF—J. B. Barlow

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Raymond Allen gave an oral report that the Executive Board had agreed to loan the C. T. S. \$300.00 to purchase an ice maker for the camp.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Bro. Jacky Caton gave an oral report that the Christian Education Board had met and discussed some of the things that they felt should be done at the camp, those mentioned were the need of a new kitchen, needed repairs to the tabernacle, possibly overhead storage water tanks so there will be sufficient water during camp, and some major repairs to the senior girls dormitory.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Credential Committee met at the Center Church, Sunday, June 6, with the following members present: Delbert Akin, Carl Shivers, Walter Wood, and Curtis Hogue. It was reported that Bro. Carl Jackson had submitted for resignation as a member of the Credential Committee.

After a period of discussion with the pastor and others of the Center Church, it was agreed that the Center Church would be asked to date the licenses to preach for Eddie Lance, Ken Nessel, and Roger Ballard as of May 15. This was later acted upon and adopted by the church. This board asked that this be entered in as information in the minutes of the association.

The board met briefly at the associational introductory service on August 5 and agreed to recommend that Jerry Dudley, new pastor at Stratford, and James Franklin, new pastor at Non, be given a vote at this association and be received upon receiving a letter of recommendation from their former association.

DISTRICT C.T.S. OFFICERS

President	Paul Wood
Vice President	Earl Hood
Secretary-Treasurer	Brenda Lance
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer	Teresa Smith
Promotional Secretary	Rebecca Allen & Susan Mouser
Song Leader	Wilma Tackett
Assistant Song Leader	Rebecca Allen
Pianist	Kim Black
Sponsors	Jacky & Judith Caton
Assistant Sponsors	Eddie & Brenda Lance

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY DISTRICT OFFICERS

President	Robbie Henry
Vice President	Lorene Bratcher
Secretary	Betty Romine
Treasurer	Margaret Mouser
Mission Action Chairman	Christine Barnes
Mission Prayer Chairman	Emily Palmer
Mission Study Chairman	Sandy Stovall
Field Worker	Oleta Pate

We have five auxiliaries with a total enrollment of 79. We are proud of our auxiliaries and the work they have done the past year. Our financial report shows that our total receipts for the year were \$1,367.39 and we paid out a total of \$1,547.36 to Home and Foreign Missions, Hillsdale College, W.N.A.C. and the State Auxiliary Fund. We feel that is a tremendous accomplishment for only five auxiliaries.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

At Second Quarterly Meeting

- No.1 Be it resolved that the Executive Board examine the assets and liabilities of incorporating this association and report back to the next quarterly meeting.
- No.2 Be it resolved that the host church for quarterly meetings be in charge of arranging special singing for the worship service.
- No. 3 Be it resolved that we grant Bro. Lowe the authority to continue with the work at Pauls Valley as long as he feels the Lord's leadership and will labor in this work.

At Annual Association:

- No.1 Be it resolved that a recommendation that each church pay according to membership for payment each month to the Board of Trustees for improvement of our camp ground for funding of the 5-year camp plan and implementing it now.
- No. 2 Be it resolved that no member be elected to serve in the association on any standing board or office unless such person is present when elected.
- No. 3 Be it resolved that each standing board of the association be required to present their reports to the body in writing so a better record may be kept for the association.
- No. 4 Be it resolved due to the Executive Board having the authority to act in behalf of the association between sessions, that this board be composed of only the ordained members who are fully accepted into the association.

FINANCIAL REPORT Pauls Valley Mission

February 22- July 26, 1976

RECEIPTS:

Center Association	\$ 335.71	
Church Offerings	537.20	
Total Receipts		<u>\$872.91</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Utilities	\$88.73	
Sunday School Literature	19.40	
Vacation Bible School Literature	23.35	
Center Association-VBS Offering815	
Foreign Missions	5.00	
	13.15	
Total Disbursements		\$144.63
Balance in Treasury		<u>728.28</u>
		<u>\$872.91</u>

W. L. Lowe, Acting Pastor

TREASURER'S REPORT 1976

RECEIPTS:

Ada	\$17,614.70
Asher	112.00
Camp Ground	347.50
Cedar Grove	555.00
Center	1,457.48
East Sulphur	658.28
Gaar Corner	548.15
Happyland	883.43
Madill	177.00
Non	1,775.10
Oakman	957.54
Stonewall	784.62
Stratford	1,901.53
Sulphur, First	2,286.31
Wilson	1,450.55
Wolf	885.79
Youth Camp	1,367.09
Mission Offering	206.00
Camp Auction	1,602.69
Pauls Valley Offering	13.15
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$35,583.91
Balance from last year	971.84
	<hr/>
	\$36,555.75

DISBURSEMENTS:

State Association	\$27,917.67
Pauls Valley Mission	590.00
P.E.C.	68.81
Camp Expenses	2,058.37
Camp Mower Repair	31.35
Camp Pump	254.71
State Delegates	320.00
P.O. Box and supplies	34.65
World Vision	254.01
CTS Loan (ice maker)	300.00
Flowers for funeral	8.50
Ada News	240.50
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$32,078.57
Balance in Treasury	4,477.18*
	<hr/>
	\$36,555.75

* \$1,420.61 General Fund
 3,056.57 Building Fund

\$4,477.18

Eugene Hobbs, Treasurer

YOUTH CAMP REPORT

Total number of students registered	103
Teachers, sponsors, & other workers	31
Cooks and helpers	4
Total registered for 1976	<u>138</u>

Results: 9 first time conversions
 36 rededications
 7 special works

FINANCIAL REPORT OF CAMP

Receipts:

Fees, insurance, meals, etc.	\$1,045.20
Grocery money from churches	520.00
Camp offering	226.60
Concession stand income	750.00
Evangelist money from churches	115.00
Total receipts	<u>\$2,656.80</u>

Disbursements:

Food, Supplies, equipment, etc.	\$1,311.75
Literature	144.08
Insurance premiums (including workers)	72.80
Piano rental	20.00
Printing programs, advertising	82.25
Concession stand expenses	526.21
Labor: Evangelist, cooks, helpers, etc.	600.00
Total disbursements	<u>2,757.09</u>
NET DEFICIT	<u><u>\$100.29</u></u>

Eugene Hobbs, Director
 Jacky Caton, Assistant Director (Boys)
 Rhonda Holland, Assistant Director (Girls)

RULES GOVERNING CAMP GROUND PROPERTY

1. No camping will be allowed on the west side of the brook that runs across the property.
2. No person or persons will be allowed to take up residence, permanent or temporary, on the property, unless by special permission by the Board of Trustees.
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 feet square. A plat of same shall be kept by Board of Trustees, also a record of the disposal of lots.
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 mentioned in Rule No. 3.
 - B. No person may build a cabin or permanent camp without getting 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 the 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.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

November, 1975

The first quarterly meeting was held at the Gaar Corner Church. The meeting was called to order by the moderator. There was a total voting delegation of 63.

The Executive Board reported they had raised the insurance coverage for the Pauls Valley Church building to the appraised value of \$15,000 for \$137.00 per year as approved by the Association. They also found the mortgage to the First National Bank of Wynnewood had not been released. A release was secured and recorded.

The Executive Board reported that they had received a letter from the Stonewall Church asking that they look into the credentials of Bro. Bobby Wright and Bro. Eddie Cameron. The Board met with these men along with Bro. J. E. Woolley and Bro. Bob Slaughter and advised them that they must adhere to the practice of Free Will Baptist doctrine or turn in their credentials. Bro. Bobby Wright agreed to surrender his credentials and did so on October 10. Upon further information received it was decided no action was necessary concerning Bro. Eddie Cameron.

Bro. Walter Wood was elected to replace Bobby Wright on the Examining Board. Bro. Delbert Akin was elected to replace Bro. Scott Jones on the Examining Board. Bro. Jimmy Wooley was elected to replace Bobby Wright as assistant song director for the 1976 camp meeting.

The Examining Board reported they had examined Bro. Gerald Fender and recommended him back to his church for licensing to the ministry. The Examining Board requested that a young minister preach at least three months before the church requests him to be licensed.

Bro. Lonnie Barnes gave a report from the Trustee Board concerning recommended repairs and remodeling to the camp. He presented a diagram of priorities as a plan to accomplish these recommendations in a 5-year plan. Priority 1 was the water problem. A submergible pump had been purchased and installed. Priority 2 would be to repair all electrical facilities. Priority 3 would be to build a kitchen and dining area north of the present location. Priority 4 would be to replace the senior girls dormitory and Priority 5 would be to relocate the junior boys dormitory.

Bro. W. L. Lowe reported that he felt God had led him to the Pauls Valley work and asked for support in his efforts. Motion carried Bro. Lowe be permitted to continue his work for at least three more months.

Motion carried that Bro. Bobby Wright's credentials be ruled void at the Pontotoc County Court House.

Motion carried that the Center Association contribute \$100.00 to the World Hunger Fund to be channelled through World Vision International, and that a fund be set up for contributions sent through the Association.

Motion carried that we place \$1,000.00 from the General Fund to the Building Fund.

The clerk noted that Resolution 4 of the annual association should not have been printed in the minutes because it did not pass.

February, 1976

The second quarterly meeting was held at the First Church in Sulphur. The meeting was called to order by Bro. A. L. McAffery. Since it was necessary for Bro. McAffery to leave and the assistant moderator was not present, Bro. McAffery appointed Bro. Raymond Allen to serve as moderator for the rest of the session. There was a total voting delegation of 59.

Motion carried to grant a letter of recommendation for Bro. Cletus Nichols to the St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting of Missouri. He was replaced on the Executive Board by Bro. Gilbert Priest. Bro. Coy Stovall was elected as alternate introductory speaker for the annual association.

Bro. Delbert Akin was elected as speaker for the next quarterly meeting and Bro. Wayne Patton as alternate speaker.

Resolution 1, 2 and 3 were adopted. (see report)

The Examining Board reported they had examined Bro. Jimmy Woolley and recommended he be licensed to preach. The Board had met with Bro. Dub Boland in regard to his letter of recommendation from California. Since he could not get a letter validating his credentials, the Board could not recommend he be seated as a minister. They announced a scheduled meeting on March 21 to interview all candidates to be examined.

There was a discussion on whether or not a church could send a request for examination directly to the Examining Board without going through the Association. Motion carried that we proceed as always concerning this.

Motion carried that all monies designated for the Pauls Valley church be sent to them and ask that they send a report of the disbursements to quarterly meetings and associations.

May, 1976

The third quarterly meeting was held at the Center Church. The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Bro. A. L. McAffery. We had a total voting delegation of 75. Motion carried Bro. Dub Boland be seated as a delegate since he is a pastor but not ordained.

A financial report was read from the Pauls Valley Mission.

The Executive Board reported they had met jointly with the Examining Board concerning the licensing of 3 ministers by the Center Church. They voted unanimously that the action taken by the church not be approved but that these candidates be examined by the Examining Board and then approved by the Association, and the date of their license be the date they are approved by the body. The moderator ruled that the Association cannot tell the individual church what to do.

The Examining Board made the following recommendations that were accepted: That Bro. Paul Wood not be ordained until after August, 1976, or until he has carried license for at least one year. They recommended that Dub Boland, Roger Ballard, Eddie Lance, Ken Nessel, David Gentry, and Roy Dale Smith be licensed to preach. They recommended that Mel Mauldin be ordained to preach and that Jim Christian be ordained as a deacon.

Bro. Dub Boland was elected to replace Bro. Marion Drake on the Executive Board. Bro. J. E. Woolley and Bro. Corbit Higgins was elected to serve on the Executive Board to replace Bro. L. D. Stonecipher and Bro. Bill Bratcher who had resigned. Bro. Curtis Hogue was elected to serve on the Examining Board to replace Bro. Claud Freeman after his resignation.

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

From long experience, we the members of the Center Association of Free Will Baptists being regularly baptised upon the profession of faith in Jesus Christ and being convinced of the necessity of 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 better associational government.

ARTICLE I—MEMBERSHIP

The Center Association of Free Will Baptists shall be composed of Free Will Baptist Churches in Oklahoma which maintain gospel order and are in agreement with denominational doctrines and practices.

Voting members shall include ordained ministers and deacons who are members in good standing of member churches in the Association, elected officers of the Association, and delegates chosen by the different churches in the union, not to exceed three (3) delegates from each church, who upon presentation of letters from their respective church to each meeting shall be entitled to seats.

ARTICLE II—LETTERS OF REPRESENTATION

Letters from each church giving information requested on letter forms supplied by the associational clerk shall be presented at the annual session. Letters from each church to quarterly meetings shall include only the names of delegates and alternates from the churches.

ARTICLE III—FEES

Each church should send \$10.00 to the annual meeting for printing of minutes which shall be distributed at the discretion of the Clerk. Each church should share in the support of the Association with a \$10.00 love offering to each quarterly and annual meeting.

No Board or individual, except the Executive Board in time of emergency, within the framework of the Association shall have the authority to set, designate, or levy any certain amount of fees or finance upon any individual, church, or group without the approval of the associational body while in regular session.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS AND STANDING BOARDS

OFFICERS: Officers of the Association shall include a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer who shall be chosen by suffrage of members present at the close of each annual session and shall serve for the ensuing associational year.

STANDING BOARDS: All boards shall be composed of five (5) members who shall be elected at the annual meeting to terms of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 year. No individual shall serve on more than one standing board at one time. Vacancies in the boards may be filled at the quarterly meetings of the Association. Standing boards and duties are as follows:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: This board shall hold title to all real property owned by the Association. It shall be responsible for the upkeep and maintainance of the associational property.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: This board shall act for and in behalf of the Association when not in session. It shall examine all churches desiring to unite with the Association and shall act as an organizational council for newly constituted churches.

This board shall have the authority to call the Association into special session by notifying member churches at least ten (10) days in advance of the called session.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD: This board shall be responsible for arranging the program and selecting workers for the annual youth camp. They shall promote the Sunday School and Church Training Service programs in the member churches of the Association.

EXAMINING BOARD: This board shall examine all ministers for license and ordination including those who shall come from other Associations. It shall examine all deacons for ordination. The time of examination of candidates shall be at the discretion of the board with a written recommendation to be presented to the next meeting of the Association following the examination for approval by the body.

All candidates for ordination to the Gospel ministry shall be required by the board to answer the questions as adopted by the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists entitled "Questionnaire for Ministers to be Ordained" as printed in the minutes of the State Association.

ARTICLE V—PETITIONARY LETTERS

Any church, including newly constituted churches, may be admitted into the Association at any regular meeting when the names of delegates and a letter petitioning for membership are presented, and when the church has been examined by the Executive Board of the Association and are found orthodox and orderly.

ARTICLE VI—QUESTIONS

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

ARTICLE VII—MOTIONS

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

ARTICLE VIII—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 IX—SIGNATION

The minutes of the Association shall be read, corrected when necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk at the close of the annual Association.

ARTICLE X—MEETINGS

The meeting date of this Association shall be Thursday night before the second Sunday in August of each year. Quarterly meetings of the Association shall meet on the third Saturday of November, February, and May of each calendar year.

No decision or ruling made and carried in the annual meeting shall be reversed by the quarterly meeting.

ARTICLE XI—AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any annual meeting by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote when presented in writing at least one day in advance.

(Constitution Revised 8-11-73)
(Article X Revised 8-6-76)

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE I

We believe in the living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and these are equal in the Divine Essence, power and glory.—Romans 1:20; John 1:1.

ARTICLE II—THE BIBLE

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament of the King James Version Bible were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 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 man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, but not by constraint, but by choice.—Gen. 3:1-13.

Section 2. Being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall.—Romans 5:14-19.

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, tasted death for every man.—Heb. 2:9.

ARTICLE IV—PARDON

Section 1. We believe that Christ by His death, suffering and resurrection, purchased our pardon.—I Cor. 15:3.

Section 2. And offers it freely to all mankind upon the principle of repentance toward God with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.—Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:28.

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."—Matt. 4:17; Isa. 45:22; Acts 20:21, 17:30.

ARTICLE V—REGENERATION

We believe that all persons reaching the age of accountability, or the knowledge of right from wrong, must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life.—John 3:3, 1:12-13; 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; I John 2:12.

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."—Rev. 22:14; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 12:14-28; James 5:19-20.

ARTICLE VIII—BAPTISMAL 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, 28:19; Rom 6:4-5. (Latin to plunge, to submerge, baptizo; Greek, to dip, baptism: Greek, a dipper, bapton; Greek to wash, to dip.—Matt. 3:13-17, 28:19; Rom. 6:4-5; I Peter 3:21.

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.—Eph. 3:7; I Tim. 1:8-9; Rom. 15:15-16.

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.—Matt. 26:26-29; John 13:2-17; I Tim. 5:9-10; 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.—Acts 10:47.

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.—Acts 13:1-4; Matt. 28:19-20. *

Section 3. And we shall receive none other.—Matt. 3:13-17; Titus 1:15; Acts 14:23.

ARTICLE XII—LORD'S SUPPER—DUTY

We believe it is the duty of each church as oft as they assemble themselves together for the observance of the Lord's Supper, and washing the Saint's feet, to invite all Christians to participate in the observance of the ordinances.—I Cor. 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; II Kings 22:14; Acts 2:17-18.

ARTICLE XIV—FORNICATION

We believe that nothing but death and fornication, gives a scriptural right to a second marriage, and a second marriage under divorce for any other cause than fornication, is a sin of adultery and contrary to the will and Word of God.—Matt. 19:3-11, 5:32; Luke 16:18; Mark 10:11; Rom. 7:1-3; Prov. 5:19-20; I Cor. 7:10-11; Mal. 2:14-17.

ARTICLE XV—RESURRECTION

We believe in the resurrection of all dead both just and unjust.—John 5:28-29.

The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God.—Matt. 25:34; Job. 19:26.

And the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God.—Matt. 25:31-32; Matt. 25:41; I Cor. 15:52; II Thes. 1:4-11; R 20:14-15.

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 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 Savior, Jesus Christ."

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and observance of the ordinances 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 bonds 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 enterprise, 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.

STANDING BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Executive

Mel Mauldin	5 Years
L.D. Stonecipher	4 Years
Raymond Allen	3 Years
A.L. McAffery	2 Years
Finis Cosby	1 Year

Board of Trustees

Corbit Higgins	5 Years
Joe Summers	4 Years
Lonnie Barnes	3 Years
Fred Poe	2 Years
Lonnie Manuel	1 Year

Christian Education

Donna Wood	5 Years
Jacky Caton	4 Years
Eugene Hobbs	3 Years
Norma Bratcher	2 Years
Gayla Bratcher	1 Year

Examining Committee

Mark Barnes	5 Years
Carl Shivers	4 Years
Delbert Akin	3 Years
Walter Wood	2 Years
Curtis Hogue	1 Year

Resolutions Committee

Bill Bratcher	5 Years
Wayne McCracken	4 Years
Impson Anderson	3 Years
Jimmy Ray Nichols	2 Years
Orville West	1 Year

General Board

A.L. McAffery	1976
Delbert Akin	1977

The 1977 Session will be at Ardmore, Oklahoma.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Church--Pastor	Clerk	Membership			Value of Church Property
		Re- ceived	Dis- missed	De- ceased	
				Total	
Ada--Delbert Akin	Erma Williams 816 Charles Dr., Ada, OK 74820	23	15	6	\$165,000
Asher--Paul Wood	Beulah Fry, Rt. 1, Bx 24, Asher, OK 74826	4	2	0	5,000
Camp Ground--Bill Bratcher	Annie Myers, Rt. 2, Bx. 77, Ada, OK 74820	2	2	1	10,500
Cedar Grove--Claud Freeman	Lorene Harris, Rt. 3, Bx. 409, Ada, OK 74820	3	1	1	8,000
Center--Raymond Allen	Robbie Henry, Rt. 5, Box. 249, Ada, OK 74820	11	8	1	30,000
East Sulphur--A. L. McAffery	Osie Higgins, 1400 W. 18th, Sulphur, OK 73086	3	2	0	30,000
Gaar Corner--L. D. Stonecipher	Roberta Summers, Rt. 5, Bx 317, Ada, OK 74820	9	3	0	104
Happyland--Marion Drake	Willie Smith, Rt. 4, Bx 362, Ada, OK 74820	9	2	3	16,000
Non-James Franklin	Lessie Hendrix, Star Rt., Calvin, OK 74531	2	3	0	15,000
Oakman--Dub Boland	Sue Manuel, Rt. 3, Ada, OK 74820	13	8	2	67
Stonewall--Coy Stovall	Jim Christian, Box 353, Stonewall, OK 74871	11	4	2	97
Stratford--Jerry Dudley	Mrs. Jack Woods, Rt 1, Bx 118, Stratford, OK 74872	0	1	2	163
Sulphur, First--Orvel Romine	Ella Mae Stout, Rt. 2, Sulphur, OK 73086	7	1	1	180
Wilson--	Patsy Stone, Rt. 1, Ada, OK 74820	5	1	0	50
Wolf--Dennis O'Donnell	Weldon R. Siler, Box 32, Bowlegs, OK 74830	4	2	1	46
Total--15 Churches		106	55	20	1842
					\$424,500

MINISTERS DIRECTORY

Name	Address	Zip	Phone
Akin, Delbert	609 West 24th	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-7339
Allen, Raymond	Route 3, Box 241	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-2541
Ballard, Les	Box 70	Stratford, Okla. 74872	759-2854
Barnes, Mark	Route 5	Ada, Okla. 74820	436-1449
Bratcher, Bill	Route 2	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-9162
Bratcher, Lorene	Route 2	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-9162
Caton, Dock	Missionary to Spain		
Drake, Marion	1022 E. 9th	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-5539
Dudley, Jerry	Box 591	Stratford, Okla. 74872	759-3313
Franklin, James	Star Route	Calvin, Okla. 74531	
Freeman, Claud	Box 387	Stratford, Okla. 74872	759-2217
Grider, Robert	Brazil		
Haskins, Earlin	Route 2	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-6157
Hill, J. H.		Davis, Okla. 73030	
Hogue, Curtis	Route 6	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-2889
Jackson, Carl	Box 224	Fittstown, Okla. 74842	777-4444
McAffery, A. L.	Route 1	Davis, Okla. 73030	622-5223
Mauldin, Mel	Route 6	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-4866
Morgan, John	1201 N. Stockton	Ada, Okla. 74820	
Nichols, Jimmy Ray	530 N. Pine	Stratford, Okla. 74872	759-2374
O'Donnell, Dennis	Rural Route 1	Seminole, Okla. 74868	398-4393
Patton, Wayne		Stratford, Okla. 74872	759-2108
Romine, Orvel	1302 W. 13th	Sulphur, Okla. 73086	622-5526
Shivers, Carl	Box 225	Stratford, Okla. 74872	759-2195
Staggs, John	100 Brookside Dr.	Moore, Okla. 7360	
Stonecipher, L. D.	Route 1	Stratford, Okla. 74872	759-2719
Stovall, Coy	Box 497	Stonewall, Okla. 74871	
Wood, F. M.	610 W. 1st	Ada, Okla. 74820	332-5430
Wood, W. V.	Box 134	Stratford, Okla. 74872	759-2555

