

MINUTES

of the

Eighty-Fourth Annual Session

of the

**CENTER ASSOCIATION**

of

**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

August 11, 12, 13, 1977



Officers 1977-78

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Moderator .....                                | Rev. Carl Shivers |
| Box 225, Stratford, Okla. 74872 - 759-2195     |                   |
| Assistant Moderator .....                      | Rev. David Sutton |
| Route 2, Box 402A, Ada, Okla. 74820 - 332-5539 |                   |
| Clerk .....                                    | Norma Bratcher    |
| 118 S. Center, Ada, Okla. 74820 - 332-8404     |                   |
| Assistant Clerk-Treasurer .....                | Eugene Hobbs      |
| P. O. Box 1758, Ada, Okla. 74820 - 436-1867    |                   |

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## 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 19, 1977 .....  | Stratford      |
| Second — February 18, 1978 ..... | Sulphur, First |
| Third — May 20, 1978 .....       | Stonewall      |

## SPEAKERS AND OFFICIALS FOR NEXT ASSOCIATION AND CAMP MEETING

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Introductory Speaker ..... | Rev. Muril Wilson      |
| Alternate .....            | Rev. Carl Jackson      |
| Memorial Speaker .....     | Rev. L. D. Stonecipher |
| Alternate .....            | Rev. Raymond Allen     |
| Song Director .....        | Dean Stone             |
| Alternate .....            | Jacky Caton            |
| Pianist .....              | Donna Wood             |
| Alternate .....            | Anita Summers          |
| Camp Evangelist .....      | Rev. David Sutton      |
| Alternate .....            | Rev. DeArthur Yandell  |

## **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 84th Annual Session of the Center Association of Free Will Baptists met August 11-13, 1977, at the Camp Grounds.

The session was called to order by Rev. Bill Bratcher in the absence of the moderator and assistant moderator. Congregational singing, "The Lily of the Valley" and "Heavenly Sunlight", was led by Robbie Henry with Donna Wood as pianist.

Prayer was led by Bro. Lynn Wood. The congregation sang "Whosoever Meaneth Me". Prayer was led by Rev. L. D. Stonecipher.

Testimony service was led by Rev. Bill Bratcher followed by an altar prayer.

Rev. Wayne Patton was the introductory speaker. His message was from Acts 6:3-8, the fullness of the Spirit of God.

After announcements, we were dismissed in prayer led by Rev. David Sutton.

### FRIDAY MORNING

This session was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Carl Shivers. "Kneel at the Cross" was led by Rev. A. L. McAffery with Donna Wood as pianist. Prayer was led by Rev. Carl Jackson.

Letters were read from all churches except Wolf. They were not represented. The Wolf Church annual letter was received in the mail August 18, 1977. "Amazing Grace" and "Blessed Assurance" was led by Bro. McAffery, accompanied by Carla Dudley, as the delegates were given the right hand of fellowship:

ADA—Leon Scroggins, Zora Williams, J. A. (Teck) Williams

ARDMORE—Jay Crisp, Elbert McMahan, John Jeter

ASHER—Goldie Dean, Clara Birks

CAMP GROUND—Vance Price, LaVelle Wallis, Annie Myers

CEDAR GROVE—Ruby West, Mary Wilson, Lavada West

CENTER—Dub Boland, Skip Barbee, Eddie Lance

EAST SULPHUR—Ruth Stanley, Valma McAffery, Ruth Owens

GAAR CORNER—Mildred Stonecipher, Roberta Summers, Anita Summers

HAPPYLAND—Marie Roundtree, Willie Smith, Lassie Griffin

NON—Freddie Poe, Bulah Swetnam

OAKMAN—Mary Jo Hilton, Marcella Jackson, Shawn Roddy

PAULS VALLEY—Juanita Lowe

STONEWALL—Kay Prince, Jewell Wilson, Jewell Slaughter

STRATFORD—Hallie Wood, Bea Dudley, Bobby Williams

SULPHUR, FIRST—Stella Evans, Frank Hunt, Bertha Atteberry

WILSON—Lela Williamson, Donna Wood, Lynn Wood

WOLF—

A petitionary letter was read from the Maranatha Free Will Baptist Church of Ardmore. Motion carried to receive the church pending examination by the Executive Board. Motion carried that since delegates were not named in the church letter, because of a probable oversight, that the three individuals present from the church be named as delegates and be seated in this annual session.

Motion carried that Rev. Leroy Holman and Rev. David Sutton be allowed voting privileges in this Association pending examination for acceptance into the Association.

We were dismissed until the afternoon session by prayer led by Bro. Lonnie Barnes.

## STATE DELEGATES

Kathleen Sutton, Hallie Wood, Myrtle Roberts, Christine Barnes, Emmet Owens, Norma Bratcher, Robbie Henry, Mable Priest, Juanita Lowe, Zora Williams, Oleta Pate, Wilma Christian, Bea Dudley, Onema Erickson, Lynn Wood, Donna Wood, Carolyn Holman.

## COMMITTEES APPOINTED

PULPIT—Mildred Stonecipher, Freddie Poe, Ruth Owens, Ruby West, Eddie Lance  
C. T. S.—Lynn Wood, Frankie Hunt, Bea Dudley  
SUNDAY SCHOOL—Freddie Poe, Jay Crisp, Leroy Hunt  
OBITUARY—Roberta Summers, Donna Wood, Ruby West  
TEMPERANCE—Leon Scroggins, Ruth Owens, Lassie Griffin

## WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. A. L. McAffery led the congregation in singing "Living By Faith" and "Victory in Jesus". Prayer was led by Sis. Hallie Wood.

Rev. David Sutton delivered a wonderful message from Ephesians 4:11-16. We were dismissed and the blessing was asked for the noon meal by Bro. Lonnie Barnes.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Rev Jerry Dudley led the congregation in singing "I Love to Tell The Story" and "Faith is the Victory" accompanied by Anita Summers at the piano.

Motion carried to accept the Executive Board Report. (see reports)

Motion carried the chair appoint all committees.

State delegates were elected for those churches not naming a delegate in their letter. The meeting places for the quarterly meetings were selected. (see page 1). Rev. Leroy Holman was elected as speaker for the first quarterly meeting. Rev. L. D. Stonecipher was elected as alternate speaker.

The Treasurer's Report was given. Motion carried to accept this report. Motion carried to give the treasurer, Bro. Eugene Hobbs, a rising vote of thanks for a job well done.

Motion carried that the state delegates have the authority to fill any vacancies at the State Associational meeting.

Motion carried we grant a letter of recommendation for Rev. Mark Barnes to the First Oklahoma Association.

Motion carried that we recess for fifteen minutes so the various boards and committees can work on their reports to be presented.

The Rules of Order were read by the moderator.

Motion carried to adopt the Temperance Committee Report. (see reports)

Motion carried to accept the C. T. S. Report. (see reports)

Motion carried to receive the Sunday School Report. (see reports)

Motion carried to accept the Christian Education Board Report. (see reports)

Motion carried that we receive the Examining Board Report and assume jurisdiction. (see reports)

Motion carried that we receive Rev. Larry Weatherman into the Association even though we did not receive a letter from West Fork Association since he was previously a member of this Association and had not requested to be examined by the West Fork Association while he was a member of the Garland Church.

Motion carried to receive Rev. Leroy Holman into our Association without a letter since he is not presently a member of an Association.

Motion carried to table the Resolutions Committee Report until the Saturday session.

Motion carried to adjourn. We were dismissed in prayer led by Bro. Dub Boland.

## **SATURDAY MORNING**

The congregation sang "Come Unto Me" led by Rev. Jacky Caton, accompanied by Donna Wood.

Rev. A. L. McAffery gave a devotional reading from Romans 12:1-2.

Motion carried that we suspend Resolutions No. 2 of the 1976 Annual Association.

Board members, speakers and officials, and officers were elected for 1977-78.

We were dismissed for recess before the Memorial Service.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Congregational singing was led by Rev. Leroy Holman. Donna Wood was pianist.

Bro. Lonnie Barnes spoke in commemoration of Bro. Virgil Hunt. Sis. Anna Hunt presented a donation of \$500.00 to the camp in memory of Bro. Virgil Hunt. Motion passed that the body give a rising vote of thanks for this contribution.

Special singing: Lyle Sutton sang "Let My Light Shine in the Night Time" and Anita Summers sang "Ten Thousand Years".

The Obituary Report was read and then we stood for a moment of silent prayer in remembrance of those who have passed on. Rev. A. L. McAffery used I Cor. 15:1-4 as his scripture text for the memorial service.

We were dismissed for lunch and the blessing was asked on the food by Rev. L. D. Stonecipher.

## **SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

"He Keeps Me Singing" was led by Rev. Jacky Caton as a congregational song. Donna Wood was pianist. Prayer was led by Bro. Joe Summers.

Bro. James Amick, Director of Public Relations of Hillsdale College, spoke in behalf of Hillsdale.

The Resolutions Committee Report was taken from the table for discussion. Motion carried to adopt this report. (see reports)

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

Motion carried to receive the Board of Trustee Report. (see reports)

Bro. Eugene Hobbs gave an oral Youth Camp report for information.

Motion carried to give a rising vote of thanks to Bro. Eugene Hobbs and all the camp workers.

Motion carried to adjourn. We were dismissed in prayer led by Rev. Bill Bratcher.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS, BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Moderator .....                 | Carl Shivers   |
| Assistant Moderator .....       | David Sutton   |
| Clerk .....                     | Norma Bratcher   |
| Assistant Clerk-Treasurer ..... | Eugene Hobbs   |
| Executive Board .....           | Finis Cosby  |
| Board of Trustees .....         | Lonnie Manuel  |
| Christian Education .....       | Gayla Bratcher   |
| Examining Committee .....       | Curtis Hogue, Muril Wilson, Leroy Holman, Wayne Patton |
| Resolutions Committee .....     | Orville West   |

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **C. T. S.**

We recommend that the possibility of competitive activities be initiated in the associational C.T.S. if sufficient interest is present within the local churches. We suggest that the

Christian Education Board ascertain the interest in each church before the next quarterly meeting and that the Christian Education Board work with associational C.T.S. officers and sponsors to establish this program if the necessary interest exists.

We suggest that the Christian Education Board, in cooperation with associational C.T.S. officers, contact and work with associational churches not having C.T.S. programs to establish an active C.T.S. in each church.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

We are happy to report that all churches, except one, have active Sunday Schools. As soon as a building is completed, the Maranatha Church, Ardmore, will begin a Sunday School program. We encourage all churches to go forth as Christ commanded in the great commission and bring others in. We feel that, where possible, all teachers and officers should be active members of the church. We further feel that they should be full of faith, Christ centered, and empowered by the Spirit to teach.

### **TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE**

We, the Temperance Committee, would like to make a recommendation that none of our Christian youth or older members attend any activities where they serve any intoxicating beverages of any kind. We should be temperant in all things.

### **OBITUARY COMMITTEE**

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

ADA—Albert Gannon, Virgil Wilson, Bob Kendrick, Ova Dake, Cordia Allen, Mary Lichly-

ter, Dollie Arter, Cora Porter, Everett Haskings, Mae Shumard

CAMP GROUND—Mrs. E. L. Crawley

CEDAR GROVE—Virgie Chandler

EAST SULPHUR—Della Billings, Lillian Campbell, Minnie Spiegel

HAPPYLAND—John Wesley Lamb

PAULS VALLEY—Bert Guyer (Honorary)

NON—J. W. Linton

STONEWALL—Mary Pate

SULPHUR, FIRST—G. B. Arron, Delia Bagley

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Executive Board recommends that \$500.00 be transferred from the General Fund to the Camp Ground Building Fund.

The Executive Board met with representatives of the Maranatha Free Will Baptist Church of Ardmore. We recommend them to full fellowship in the Center Association. We have found them to be sound in doctrine and spiritually strong, as well as financially stable.

### **EXAMINING BOARD**

We recommend Bro. David Gentry continue to serve under license to preach.

We recommend Bro. Anthony Prince to be ordained as a deacon.

We recommend Bro. Charles Chandler to be ordained as a deacon.

We recommend Bro. Donal Hilton continue his study and seek any assistance available in preparation for his preaching ministry.

We recommend Bro. Roger Ballard to be ordained to preach.

The Examining Board recommends that David Sutton be received into full fellowship upon receipt of a letter from the Greater Tulsa Association.



The Examining Board having received correspondence sent by and to Larry Weatherman regarding his request for a letter of recommendation from West Fork Association of Texas. Since he was never examined nor received into that Association no letter can be granted. The requirements of this Association for a letter cannot be met. Therefore, we request the Association assume responsibility and decide his status in the Association.

(Correction of Examining Committee Report printed in 1976 Minutes as voted in Quarterly Meeting of February, 1977.)

"At a joint meeting of the Executive Board, the Examining Board, and the Association moderator, on June 6, 1976, at the Center Church, the following proposal was made:

Raymond Allen offered, upon approval by the Center Church, to voluntarily withhold ordination of Kenny Nessel, Roger Ballard, and Eddie Lance until after the May 1977 Quarterly Meeting. The **only** condition was that the Examining Board report this as a voluntary action of the Center Church. The Examining Board accepted this and agreed to so report it to the Association.

There were no members of the Center Church invited or in attendance at this meeting, with the exception of Raymond Allen, who had called this meeting and was Chairman of the Executive Board."

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met, and submit our plan to start a kitchen and lunch room immediately.

We recommend the Camp Ground tie on to the rural water line as soon as it is laid.

As soon as funds are available, plans are to build a new modern senior girl's dorm. We can then use dimension lumber in the old dorm to enlarge the two junior dorms.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

The Christian Education Board recommends that previous sponsors, cooks, etc., at the camp **be contacted** for ideas concerning various camp projects.

During the coming year the Christian Education Board plans to set up a new procedure to hopefully increase involvement of young people from various churches in Saturday night C.T.S. services as well as in local services.

## DISTRICT C.T.S. OFFICERS

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| President .....                     | Earnie Thompson  |
| Vice President .....                | Tony Boland  |
| Secretary .....                     | Debbie Hobbs   |
| Assistant Secretary-Treasurer ..... | Brenda Lance   |
| Promotional Secretary .....         | Lisa Hunt  |
| Song Leader .....                   | Barry Ballard  |
| Assistant Song Leader .....         | Eddie Kinstner   |
| Pianist .....                       | Rebecca Allen  |
| Assistant Pianist .....             | Billy Briggs   |
| Sponsors .....                      | Jacky & Judith Caton                                   |
| Assistant Sponsors .....            | Brenda & Eddie Lance                                   |
| Retreat .....                       | Eddie Lance, Donal Hilton, David Gentry, and Earl Hood |

## **WOMAN'S AUXILIARY DISTRICT OFFICERS**

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| President .....               | Robbie Henry     |
| Vice President .....          | Kathleen Sutton  |
| Secretary .....               | Ina Nelson       |
| Treasurer .....               | Margaret Mouser  |
| Mission Action Chairman ..... | Christine Barnes |
| Mission Prayer Chairman ..... | Emily Palmer     |
| Mission Study Chairman .....  | Norma Bratcher   |
| Field Worker .....            | Oleta Pate       |

## **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED**

### **At First Quarterly Meeting:**

- No. 1 Be it resolved that the Center Association purchase a one-half page ad in the Hillsdale yearbook to include the names of churches in the Association and pictures of the students attending from this Association.
- No. 2 Be it resolved that \$1,200.00 of the general fund be transferred to the Camp Ground building fund.
- No. 3 Be it resolved when a church is represented by any of its membership, such as a pastor, deacon, or just lay members, that such be stated in the minutes so as to give recognition to that particular church as having been represented in some manner. (This is not to supercede the church letter but to be a clerk's notation made in the minutes for churches that do not send a letter.)

### **At Third Quarterly Meeting:**

- No. 1 Be it resolved that due to the deficiency of our Youth Camp funds at the 1976 youth camp, the Christian Education Committee recommends that each church, if they feel able to do so, send \$50.00 for food this year instead of \$40.00 that has been sent the last two years.

### **At Annual Association:**

- No. 1 Be it resolved we designate the Co-Operative funds in the following allocations:
- 50% to the State Association
  - 30% to the Camp Ground building fund
  - 5% to the General Fund
  - 5% to the Camp Ground care and maintenance fund
  - 5% to the Camp property insurance fund
  - 5% to Mission fund to be used only with the local Association
- 100%

# TREASURER'S REPORT 1977

## RECEIPTS

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Ada .....            | \$19,558.07 |
| Asher .....          | 212.00      |
| Camp Ground .....    | 200.00      |
| Cedar Grove .....    | 635.00      |
| Center .....         | 1,654.52    |
| East Sulphur .....   | 399.00      |
| Gaar Corner .....    | 853.00      |
| Happyland .....      | 902.90      |
| Non .....            | 2,199.24    |
| Oakman .....         | 1,225.78    |
| Pauls Valley .....   | 376.23      |
| Stonewall .....      | 812.84      |
| Stratford .....      | 3,047.48    |
| Sulphur, First ..... | 3,226.01    |
| Wilson .....         | 2,287.76    |
| Wolf .....           | 948.61      |
| Assoc. Din .....     | 156.20      |

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| TOTAL RECEIPTS .....   | 38,694.64   |
| Previous Balance ..... | 4,618.65    |
|                        | <hr/>       |
|                        | \$43,313.29 |

## DISBURSEMENTS:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| State Association .....                              | 33,344.98 |
| Associational Meeting Cooks, '76 .....               | 50.00     |
| Bible Bookstore, '76 .....                           | 119.52    |
| Camp Telephone, '76 .....                            | 6.79      |
| P. O. Box, '76 & '77 .....                           | 35.00     |
| Ada News, '76 .....                                  | 325.20    |
| P.E.C., '76 .....                                    | 128.93    |
| Associational Meeting Food, '76 .....                | 29.71     |
| Camp Work and Repair of Camp Equipment .....         | 168.04    |
| State Association Delegates, '76 .....               | 300.00    |
| Pauls Valley Mission .....                           | 460.00    |
| Eldridge Propane, '76 .....                          | 54.71     |
| Gregory Pest Control, '76 .....                      | 75.00     |
| World Vision (hunger) Fund .....                     | 140.00    |
| Hillsdale (Broadhurst Fund and Harvester Adv.) ..... | 245.00    |
| Evans for Camp Materials, '76 .....                  | 27.00     |
| Ada Auto Supply (Mower repair) .....                 | 25.33     |

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ..... | \$35,535.21 |
| Balance in Treasury ..... | 7,778.08*   |
|                           | <hr/>       |
|                           | \$43,313.29 |

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| *General Fund ..... | \$1,565.79 |
| Building Fund ..... | 6,212.29   |
|                     | <hr/>      |
|                     | \$7,778.08 |

Eugene Hobbs, Treasurer

## YOUTH CAMP REPORT

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Total number of students registered .....   | 126 |
| Teachers, sponsors, and other workers ..... | 35  |
| Total .....                                 | 161 |

Results: 11 first time conversions  
           41 rededications  
           2 special works

## FINANCIAL REPORT OF CAMP

### Receipts:

|                                      |          |            |
|--------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Fees, insurance, meals, etc. ....    | \$942.50 |            |
| Grocery money from churches .....    | 710.00   |            |
| Camp offering (Missionary) .....     | 270.82   |            |
| Concession stand income .....        | 914.30   |            |
| Evangelist money from churches ..... | 240.00   |            |
| Total Receipts .....                 |          | \$3,077.62 |

### Disbursements:

|  |            |          |
|--|------------|----------|
| Food, supplies, equipment, etc.* .....       | \$1,119.76 |          |
| Literature .....                             | 128.37     |          |
| Insurance premiums (including workers) ..... | 83.90      |          |
| Printing programs, advertising .....         | 142.25     |          |
| Concession stand expense .....               | 652.78     |          |
| Labor: Evangelist, cooks, helpers, etc. .... | 600.00     |          |
| Missionary Offering .....                    | 270.82     |          |
| Total disbursements .....                    |            | 2,997.88 |
| Cash balance .....                           |            | \$ 79.74 |

\*Our thanks to Brenda and Eddie Lance for donations for recreation equipment. We were also pleased to have students from churches in neighboring associations.

Eugene Hobbs, Director  
 Jacky Caton, Assistant Director (Boys)  
 Gayla Bratcher, 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, thense 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, 1976

The first quarterly meeting was held at the Cedar Grove Church. Rev. Delbert Akin, moderator, was in charge. There was a total voting delegation of 71.

The Examining Board made the following recommendation which was accepted: that Brothers James Franklin and Jerry Dudley be received into full fellowship of the Center Association, that the request of the Oakman church that Bro. Dub Boland be examined not be granted at the present time but postponed until the term of his license be up in May, 1977.

Resolutions No. 1, 2, and 3 were adopted. (see report)

The Executive Board recommended that the Association uphold and abide by the Examining Board report recorded in the minutes of the annual association.

Motion carried the Executive Board meet with the Pauls Valley Mission to work out procedures to facilitate the return of the property to them.

### February, 1977

The second quarterly meeting met at the First Church in Sulphur. The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Rev Delbert Akin.

A petitionary letter was read from the Pauls Valley church. Motion carried to accept this church.

The Executive Board reported they had met with the Pauls Valley Mission on November 23, 1976, to discuss the re-organization of the Pauls Valley Church. On December 5, 1976, the Executive Board met with the Pauls Valley Mission to re-organize. There were seven individuals who presented themselves for membership.

While in session on the 5th day of December, 1976, the Executive Board voted unanimously that, due to the incorrectness of the Examining Board Report found on page seven of the 1976 minutes, the report in its entirety be printed in the 1977 minutes of this Association. (see page 7)

The Examining Board made the following recommendations that were accepted:

1. To renew Virgil Winters' license to preach.
2. That Bro. Charles Jones be licensed to preach.
3. That Bro. Bill Griffin be licensed to preach.
4. That we receive Bro. Muril Wilson into the Association upon receipt of a letter from the First Oklahoma Association.
6. That the Executive Board be directed to act upon the recommendation of the Examining Board in regard to Bro. Ken Nessel, pending his call from Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church.

The following Board of Trustees report was accepted: It was recommended that an overhead water tank be installed to supply water at showering time. There is also a good possibility that rural water be made available for the Camp Ground.

The Board recommended the churches begin to raise money for a 36 x 80' kitchen and dining room. This building can be erected for \$7,200, insulation \$1,100, doors and windows \$650. This is a total of \$8,950 plus the concrete floor. At the present time, the building fund contains \$4,700, which is around half the amount needed.

Motion carried that each church report back to the next quarterly meeting or to the Board of Trustees, the amount they will be able to give to this project.

Motion carried that the Executive Board be directed to conduct an annual audit of the Treasurer's books prior to each annual Association.

Motion carried that we send \$200.00 from the general fund to Hillsdale to help raise funds to match the Broadhurst funds.

**May, 1977**

The third quarterly meeting was held at the Ada Church. Rev. Carl Shivers was in charge of the meeting.

Motion carried to grant a letter of recommendation for Rev. Orvel Romine to the First Mission Association.

Motion carried to grant a letter of recommendation for Rev. Delbert Akin to the Arbuckle Association.

Dean Stone was elected as song director and Roger Ballard as assistant song director for the camp revival.

A letter was read from Rev. Connie Cariker informing us that he would be unable to be our evangelist for the camp revival in August. Rev. David Sutton was elected as alternate evangelist for the camp revival.

A letter from Hillsdale FWB College was read, informing us that the Broadhurst project was successful and that funds had been matched in order for us to receive the \$600,000 grant.

The following individuals were elected to fill vacancies on the Examining Board until the annual association: Rev. Muril Wilson - 5 years; Rev. Jerry Dudley - 3 years.

The following reports were accepted:

Board of Trustees: Arrangements have been made to keep the Camp Ground mowed. We have plans completed to build the kitchen, but we are waiting for the finances. The Board agreed to permit churches in the Association to use the Camp Ground on weekends for their young people.

Resolutions Committee: Be it resolved that due to the deficiency of our youth camp funds at the 1976 youth camp, the Christian Education Committee recommends that each church, if they feel able to do so, send \$50.00 for food this year instead of \$40.00 that has been sent the last two years.

Executive Board: The Executive Board met with the Examining Board and officers of Oakman church in a called meeting at the Stratford church. The Executive Board recommends that the Association approve the recommendation of the Examining Board in not receiving Bro. Dub Boland as an ordained minister from California.

Examining Board: Whereas Bro. Dub Boland has not received a letter of recommendation from his former Association in California, we recommend that he not be received as an ordained minister into our Association and that he not be considered until his status with his former Association be clarified by letter.

We recommend Bro. Larry Weatherman to our Association upon receipt of a letter of recommendation from West Fork Association.

We recommend Jerald Fender for ordination to preach.

We recommend Jacky Caton for ordination to preach.

We recommend Lee Henry for ordination for deacon.

We recommend Bro. Ken Nessel for ordination to preach.

Motion carried that Bro. A. L. McAffery act as assistant moderator through the remainder of this year.

Rev. Wayne Patton was elected to replace Rev. James Franklin as Introductory Speaker for the 1977 Association. Rev. Muril Wilson was elected as alternate speaker.

Billy Briggs was elected as alternate pianist for the camp revival.

# 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 maintenance 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 intallible 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 BOARD AND COMMITTEES

## Executive

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

## Board of Trustees

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

## Christian Education

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

## Examining Committee

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Curtis Hogue ..... | 5 Years |
| Muril Wilson ..... | 4 Years |
| Leroy Holman ..... | 3 Years |
| Wayne Patton ..... | 2 Years |
| Walter Wood .....  | 1 Year  |

## Resolutions Committee

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

## General Board

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Carl Shivers ..... | 1977 & 1978 |
|--------------------|-------------|

The 1978 Session will be at Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Sheridan Skyline East Motel

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

| Church—Pastor                    | Clerk   | Membership    |                |               | Value of Church Property |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
|                                  |   | Re-<br>ceived | Dis-<br>missed | De-<br>ceased | Total                    |
| Ada—David Sutton                 | Erna Williams, 816 Charles Dr., Ada, Ok. 74820          | 21            | 15             | 10            | 599                      |
| Asher—Earl Hood                  | Beulah Fry, Route 1, Asher, Ok. 74826                   | 4             | 0              | 0             | 15                       |
| Camp Ground—                     | Annie Myers, Route 2, Box 77, Ada Ok. 74820             | 0             | 1              | 1             | 63                       |
| Cedar Grove—Claud Freeman        | Lorene Harris, Route 3, Box 409, Ada, Ok. 74820         | 14            | 5              | 1             | 86                       |
| Center—Raymond Allen             | Robbie Henry, Route 5, Box 249, Ada, Ok. 74820          | 37            | 7              | 0             | 115                      |
| East Sulphur—A. L. McAffery      | Osie Higgins, 1400 W. 18th, Sulphur, Ok. 73086          | 22            | 9              | 3             | 75                       |
| Gaar Corner—L. D. Stonecipher    | Roberta Summers, Route 5, Box 317, Ada, Ok. 74820       | 0             | 6              | 0             | 92                       |
| Happyland—Marion Drake           | Willie Smith, Route 4, Box 357, Ada, Ok. 74820          | 0             | 6              | 1             | 41                       |
| Maranatha (Ardmore)—Leroy Holman | Jean Farve, Route 1, Box 51AF, Ardmore, Ok. 73401       | 9             | 0              | 0             | 136                      |
| Non—                             | Lessie Hendrix, Star Route, Calvin, Ok. 74531           | 9             | 1              | 1             | 146                      |
| Oakman—Carl Jackson              | Sue Manuel, Route 3, Ada, Ok. 74820                     | 18            | 0              | 0             | 84                       |
| Pauls Valley—W. L. Lowe          | Mrs. W. L. Lowe, Box 296, Paoli, Ok. 73074              | 14            | 0              | 0             | 14                       |
| Stonewall—Muri Wilson            | Jim Christian, Box 353, Stonewall, Ok. 74871            | 6             | 12             | 1             | 72                       |
| Stratford—Jerry Dudley           | Mrs. Jack Woods, Route 1, Box 118, Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 21            | 5              | 2             | 201                      |
| Sulphur, First—Meryle Erickson   | Ella Mae Stout, Route 2, Sulphur, Ok. 73086             | 0             | 5              | 2             | 180                      |
| Wilson—Wayne Patton              | Patsy Stone, Route 1 Ada, Ok. 74820                     | 4             | 2              | 0             | 53                       |
| Wolf—Dennis O'Donnell            | Weldon R. Siler, Box 32, Bowlegge, Ok. 74830            | 1             | 2              | 1             | 44                       |
| Total—17 Churches                |   | 180           | 76             | 23            | 2016                     |
|                                  |   |               |                |               | \$539,130                |

# MINISTERS DIRECTORY

| NAME               | ADDRESS             | ZIP                  | PHONE    |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Allen, Raymond     | Route 3, Box 241    | Ada, Okla. 74820     | 332-2541 |
| Ballard, Les       | Box 70              | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-2854 |
| Bratcher, Bill     | 215 W. 14th.        | Ada, Ok. 74820       | 436-2613 |
| Bratcher, Lorene   | 215 W. 14th.        | Ada OK. 74820        | 436-2613 |
| Caton, Dock        | Missionary to Spain |                      |          |
| Caton, Jacky       | Route 5             | Ada, Ok. 74820       |          |
| Drake, Marion      | 1022 E. 9th.        | Ada, Ok. 74820       | 332-3000 |
| Dudley, Jerry      | Box 591             | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-3313 |
| Franklin, James    | Star Route          | Calvin, Ok. 74531    |          |
| Freeman, Claud     | Box 387             | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-2217 |
| Grider, Robert     | Brazil              |                      |          |
| Haskins, Earlin    | Route 2             | Ada, Ok. 74820       | 332-6157 |
| Hill, J. H.        |                     | Sulphur, Ok. 73086   |          |
| Hogue, Curtis      | Route 6             | Ada, Ok. 74820       | 332-2889 |
| Hood, Earl         | Route 2, Box 188    | Ada, Ok. 74820       | 332-4546 |
| Holman, Leroy      | 905 B S.E.          | Ardmore, Ok. 73401   | 226-1423 |
| Jackson, Carl      | Box 224             | Fittstown, Ok. 74842 | 777-4444 |
| Kennedy, Jim       | 1416 1st. S.W.      | Ardmore, Ok. 73401   | 226-2924 |
| Lowe, W. L.        | Box 296             | Paoli, Ok. 73074     | 484-7205 |
| McAffery, A. L.    | Route 1             | Davis, Ok. 73030     | 622-5223 |
| Mauldin, Mel       | Route 6             | Ada, Ok. 74820       | 332-4866 |
| Morgan, John       | 1201 N. Stockton    | Ada, Ok. 74820       | 332-4866 |
| Morgan, John       | 1201 N. Stockton    | Ada, Ok. 74820       |          |
| Nichols, Jimmy Ray | 530 N. Pine         | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-2374 |
| O'Donnell, Dennis  | Rural Route 1       | Seminole, Ok. 74868  | 398-4393 |
| Patton, Wayne      |                     | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-2108 |
| Shivers, Carl      | Box 225             | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-2195 |
| Stonecipher, L. D. | Route 1             | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-2719 |
| Stovall, Coy       | U. S. Army          |                      |          |
| Sutton, David      | Route 2, Box 402A   | Ada Ok. 74820        | 332-5539 |
| Weatherman, Larry  | 125½ N. Hope        | Ada, Ok. 74820       |          |
| Wilson, Muril      | Box 205             | Stonewall, Ok. 74871 | 265-9200 |
| Wood, Billy Ray    |                     | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-3122 |
| Wood, F. M.        | 610 W. 1st.         | Ada, Ok. 74820       | 332-5430 |
| Wood, Paul         |                     |                      |          |
| Wood, W. V.        | Box 134             | Stratford, Ok. 74872 | 759-2555 |

