

MINUTES
OF THE
Central North Carolina Conference
OF THE
(Original)
Free Will Baptist Church

• •

HELD WITH
HULL ROAD CHURCH
GREENE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 10, 11, 1954

• •

REV. N. B. BARROW, *Moderator*
LEO TRIPP, *Clerk*
REV. W. B. RAPER, *Conference Host*



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. I. J. Blackwelder

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Officers of the Conference

Moderator

Rev. N. B. Barrow, Lucama, N. C.

Assistant Moderator

Rev. Henry Melvin, Winterville, N. C.

Clerk

Leo Tripp, Winterville, N. C.

Assistant Clerk

Rev. J. B. Narron, Raleigh, N. C.

Treasurer

Rev. C. J. Harris, Greenville, N. C.

Executive Board

Rev. N. B. Barrow

Rev. Henry Melvin

Leo Tripp

Rev. C. J. Harris

Rev. C. L. Patrick

Boards and Committees

Ordaining Council

Rev. N. D. Beaman

Rev. F. B. Cherry

Rev. Ralph Osborne

Rev. J. C. Lynn

Rev. D. W. Alexander

Rev. W. B. Raper

To Work With The Educational Board

Rev. R. P. Harris

Rev. R. B. Crawford

Alfred Ginn

Committee on Finance

C. D. Hamilton

Mrs. Heber Briley

Marvin Smith

Herman Owens

F. McCoy Tripp

Mrs. A. L. Summerlin

To Represent Stock in Press

Lee Jones

Mrs. Levi Worthington

Mrs. J. C. Moye

Board of Trustees

Kirby Wooten

Levi Hill

Clarence Little

J. Cicero Smith

A. G. Mangum

J. C. Moye

Board of Missions

Rashie Kennedy

Frank Davenport

Charles E. Keith

I. J. Blackwelder

G. O. Mewborn

Publicity Committee

J. O. Fort

Historian

Hubert Burruss

Delegate to State Executive Board to Establish Boundaries

N. Bruce Barrow

Roll of Ministers

D. A. Windham, Greenville, N. C.
J. C. Moye, Snow Hill, N. C.
D. W. Alexander, Bethel, N. C.
W. B. Nobles, Winterville, N. C.
W. L. Hart, Clayton, N. C.
J. E. Wooten, Ayden, N. C.
E. L. Abrams, Tarboro, N. C.
M. A. Woodard, Retired, Winterville, N. C.
W. A. Dail, Retired, Winterville, N. C.
L. B. Manning, Fountain, N. C.
H. T. Sowers, Snow Hill, N. C.
R. H. Mason, Ayden, N. C.
W. G. Ennis, 430 N. Second St., Smithfield, N. C.
N. D. Beaman, Snow Hill, N. C.
Marshall Joyner, Winterville, N. C.
J. P. Barrow, 3824 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
P. C. Wiggs, Belhaven, N. C.
C. D. Hamilton, Fountain, N. C.
L. E. Ballard, Bladenboro, N. C.
Leonard Earl Harris, 269 Tarboro St., Rocky Mount, N. C.
J. D. Vernelson, Route 3, Washington, N. C.
R. C. Proctor, Route 3, Wilson, N. C.
C. L. Patrick, Route 2, Walstonburg, N. C.
C. J. Harris, Greenville, N. C.
Ralph Osborne, Pinetown, N. C.
T. P. Ellis, Route 1, Fountain, N. C.
Graham Baker, Greenville, N. C.
Clarence Little, Greenville, N. C.
Rashie Kennedy, Box 913, Greenville, N. C.
N. B. Barrow, Lucama, N. C.
Roland Cherry, 624 W. Main St., Williamston, N. C.
W. B. Raper, Snow Hill, N. C.
Charles Craddock, 805 Lafayette St., Dothan, Ala.
Hubert Burress, Saratoga, N. C.
Frank Davenport, 2111 Main St., Tarboro, N. C.
Henry Melvin, Winterville, N. C.
Charles E. Keith, 308 E. 11th St., Washington, N. C.
R. L. Norville, Route 4, Greenville, N. C.
R. B. Crawford, 303 Meade St., Greenville, N. C.
J. B. Narron, 2706 Cooleemie Dr., Raleigh, N. C.
R. P. Harris, 1200 Tarboro St., Rocky Mount, N. C.
Michael Pelt, La Grange, N. C.
S. R. Kennedy, 408 Greenview Dr., Greenville, N. C.
Carroll G. Alexander, 3609 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Roger Tripp, 3609 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

F. B. Cherry, Route 3, Greenville, N. C.
I. J. Blackwelder, Ayden, N. C.
J. C. Lynn, Route 3, Ayden, N. C.
J. O. Fort, Ayden, N. C.

Licensed Ministers

J. C. Smith, Kinston, N. C.
Jerry Ballard, Ayden, N. C.
Willis Wilson, Route 1, Stokes, N. C.
Billie Davidson, Ayden, N. C.
Gordan Hart, 3609 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Joseph A. Leahman, Walstonburg, N. C.

Roll of Churches with Clerk and Address

Pitt County—

Reedy Branch—G. M. Vincent, Winterville, N. C.
Bethany—Mrs. Charles Edwards, Winterville, N. C.
Piney Grove—Mrs. Bettie T. Forest, 304 Oak St., Greenville, N. C.
King's Cross Roads—Mrs. I. C. Tugwell, Farmville, N. C.
Sweet Gum Grove—Mrs. Lewis Whitehurst, Route 1, Box 150, Stokes, N. C.
Rose Hill—Mrs. Myra Stanley, Route 3, Greenville, N. C.
Greenville—Mrs. Vernon Barnhill, Box 289, Greenville, N. C.
Dilda's Grove—Mrs. Archie Horton, Macclesfield, N. C.
Winterville—Clyde Hines, Winterville, N. C.
Parker's Chapel—Lloyd Johnson, Route 5, Greenville, N. C.
Pleasant Hill—Norman Stanley, Route 1, Winterville, N. C.
Elm Grove—Levi G. Worthington, Route 3, Ayden, N. C.
Black Jack—A. G. Gaskins, Route 3, Box 296, Greenville, N. C.
Ayden—Mrs. Thelbert Hart, Route 3, Ayden, N. C.
Marlboro—Sam V. Tugwell, Route 1, Farmville, N. C.
Gum Swamp—Floyd P. Harris, Route 6, Greenville, N. C.
Grifton—Miss Lynette Barfield, Free Press, Kinston, N. C.
Hickory Grove—B. E. Dixon, Conetoe, N. C.
Grace—George Minch, Box 913, Greenville, N. C.

Greene County—

Friendship—H. Carl Tyson, Route 1, Farmville, N. C.
Ormondsville—K. L. Wooten, Maury, N. C.
Sts. Delight—Mrs. C. H. Cox, Route 1, Snow Hill, N. C.
Little Creek—Earl McLawhorn, Route 2, Grifton, N. C.
Spring Branch—Mrs. Richard Owens, Walstonburg, N. C.
Howell Swamp—R. S. Holloman, Walstonburg, N. C.
Maury—Lynnell Spivey, Maury, N. C.
Free Union—Mrs. Frank L. Walston, Route 2, Walstonburg, N. C.

Hull Road—Alfred Ginn, Route 2, Snow Hill, N. C.
Harrell's Chapel—R. E. Hart, Route 3, Snow Hill, N. C.
Grimsley—Jimmie Lee Jones, Hookerton, N. C.

Lenoir County—

Hugo—Mrs. Wilton Faulkner, Route 2, Grifton, N. C.
La Grange—Mrs. Mary Hardy, Route 1, La Grange, N. C.

Edgecombe County—

Tarboro—Mrs. Albert Summerlin, Tarboro, N. C.
Rocky Mount—Mrs. O. C. Merritt, 1509 Wilson Rd., Rocky Mount, N. C.
Edgewood—R. H. Harrell, Box 272, Greenville, N. C.
Otter's Creek—Raymond Jefferson, Fountain, N. C.

Wayne County—

Antioch—George C. Sasser, Route 2, Goldsboro, N. C.
Walnut Creek—Miss Ina Ruth Langston, Route 2, La Grange, N. C.
Watery Branch—Edger Bent, Lucama, N. C.

Wilson County—

Owen's Chapel—A. R. Walston, Route 3, Elm City, N. C.
Saratoga—Mrs. Paul Thigpen, Route 1, Stantonsburg, N. C.
Aspin Grove—Robert Oakley, Fountain, N. C.
Daniel's Chapel—Charlie Pittman, Jr., Route 3, Wilson, N. C.

Martin County—

Cedar Grove—Mrs. Mae Jones, Route 3, Williamston, N. C.
Rose of Sharon—Saith Bailey, Route 2, Williamston, N. C.
Williamston—Mrs. Simon Gurganus, Williamston, N. C.

Beaufort County—

Piney Grove—Alton Gray Ausborn, Route 5, Box 256, Greenville, N. C.
Shiloh—J. E. Foreman, Route 2, Washington, N. C.

Halifax County—

Dawson's Grove—Hubert R. Dickens, Route 1, Enfield, N. C.

Pasquotank County—

St. Paul—Mrs. Sudie Copeland, 715 Fleetwood St., Elizabeth City, N. C.

PROCEEDINGS

The Central Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist of North Carolina convened its two hundred sixth session with the Hull Road Church, Greene County, November 10 and 11, 1954. The Moderator, Rev. C. L. Patrick, presided over the meeting. In the absence of the musical director, Mrs. J. C. Moye was asked to take his place.

Devotions and prayer were led by Rev. Graham Baker. Rev. W. B. Raper gave the conference a hearty welcome, and Rev. Hubert Burress gave the response. The Moderator, in his message, urged that the activities of the conference be carried out in an orderly and Christlike manner.

The following ministers were enrolled:

Central Conference—Revs. N. D. Beaman, R. P. Harris, M. A. Woodard, Henry Melvin, Hubert Burress, D. A. Windham, R. B. Crawford, W. A. Dail, Willis Wilson, C. J. Harris, Graham Baker, J. B. Narron, R. L. Norville, R. H. Mason, W. B. Raper, W. B. Nobles, W. G. Ennis, J. E. Wooten, Charles Keith, Rashie Kennedy, N. B. Barrow, J. C. Lynn, J. D. Vernelson, L. B. Manning, D. W. Alexander, F. B. Cherry, Frank Davenport, L. E. Ballard, and J. C. Moye.

Western Conference—Revs. James A. Evans and R. W. Allman.

Albemarle Conference—Rev. C. H. Overman.

Cape Fear Conference—Revs. H. R. Faircloth, L. R. Ennis, and J. R. Davidson.

Eastern Conference—Revs. J. C. Griffin and D. W. Cleve.

All ministers, officers, delegates, boards, and committees were given seats in this conference.

All visiting ministers and delegates were given seats in this conference, and given all privileges, save that of voting.

On motion the Moderator appoint the necessary committees:

Orphanage—Mrs. H. L. Spivey, Mrs. Wilton Ellis, and Mr. Harvey Moore.

Temperance—William Humbles, George Welton, and R. B. Crawford.

Resolution—Revs. Rashie Kennedy, Henry Melvin, and Hubert Burress.

Obituary—Rev. D. A. Windham.

The minutes of the Executive Committee were read and adopted. (See meetings)

Rev. S. A. Smith, superintendent of the orphanage, brought greetings and a verbal report of the activities at the orphanage. An offering was taken for the orphanage amounting to \$134.86.

The Ordaining Council reported that Rev. I. J. Blackwelder, Rev. J. C. Lynn, and Rev. F. B. Cherry had met the necessary requirements to become members of this conference and recommended that their names be added to the list of ministers. The Moderator gave them the right hand of welcome.

The Grace Church at Greenville asked to become a member of this conference, and by a motion it was accepted. The Moderator gave the right hand of welcome to the church.

Rev. Burkette Raper told us of the activities at the Mount Allen Junior College, after which Mrs. Frank Hawkins directed the College Chorus in singing two beautiful selections entitled, "Help from the Mountain Top," and "Wonderful Grace of Jesus."

Rev. J. R. Davidson made a few remarks regarding the Goldsboro Church which was destroyed by fire.

Mrs. J. C. Moye introduced Mrs. Gilbert Jones and Mrs. Lucy Jenkins who brought us a special message in song.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. C. Lynn, pastor of Elm Grove Church. His subject was "Evangelism," based on Genesis 4:7.

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. J. R. Davidson.

Wednesday Afternoon

The afternoon devotions were conducted by Rev. Rashie Kennedy, prayer by Rev. Willis Wilson.

Memorial tributes were conducted by Rev. D. A. Windham, assisted by Mrs. N. A. Clark and others. Rev. D. A. Windham asked that the message given by Mrs. N. A. Clark be recorded as an obituary report, which was accepted. (See report)

Rev. J. E. Wooten was asked to install the new officers tomorrow in the absence of W. L. Hart. Rev. L. B. Manning was asked to conduct the devotions in the absence of Rev. I. J. Blackwelder.

The report of the meeting of the Board of Trustees was read and adopted. (See meetings)

Rev. N. Bruce Barrow gave a report of the State Mission Board. He reported that during the year \$2,398.78 has been sent in by the Central Conference for mission work.

Rev. Hubert Burress brought greetings from the State Sunday School Convention.

Rev. D. W. Alexander made a few remarks concerning the Free Will Baptist Press, and also told how happy he was to be the president of the State Convention.

Rev. F. B. Cherry made a few remarks about the Bible College at Nashville.

Rev. James A. Evans brought greetings from Mount Allen Junior College.

Mrs. Loy E. Ballard brought greetings from Cragmont.

Motion that we elect a delegate from this conference to sit with the Executive Committee of the State Convention to establish boundaries of the various conferences.

Motion that we accept the recommendation of the State Convention in regard to a uniform report blank. An amendment motion was carried that we elect a committee of three with our present secretary as chairman to make the necessary additions to this report blank to fit the needs of this conference. The other committee members appointed were: Revs. W. B. Raper and R. P. Harris.

Dismissed by Rev. M. A. Woodard.

Thursday Morning

Reassembled at nine-thirty p. m. with devotions and prayer by Rev. R. B. Crawford.

The ministers who were not present yesterday were enrolled as follows: Rev. J. O. Fort of the South Georgia Association, Rev. Wilbur Everton of the Eastern Conference, Rev. C. F. Bowen of the Tennessee Cumberland Association, and Rev. R. N. Hinnant of the Western Conference. Each of these brought a few words of greetings.

The minutes of yesterday's activities were read and approved.

Rev. R. N. Hinnant, secretary of the State Convention, spoke briefly giving some figures showing that a number of churches in this conference were not represented or sent in reports to the State Convention. Brother Hinnant urged all the churches to send in a report of their church work to the State Convention so that it would be easier to fill out reports for the state and national work.

Mr. F. McCoy Tripp and Mr. Levi Worthington were asked to work with the Finance Committee in the absence of some of its members.

Rev. R. B. Crawford gave a report of the Temperance Committee. (See report)

Rev. D. A. Windham gave a report of the Educational Committee. (See report)

The Ordaining Council reported that Rev. J. O. Fort had met the necessary requirements to become a member of this conference and recommended that his name be added to the list of ministers. By a motion this request was granted and the Moderator gave him the right hand of welcome.

Mrs. H. L. Spivey gave a report of the Orphanage Committee and by a motion the report was referred back to the committee.

Rev. Rashie Kennedy gave a report of the Resolution Committee and by a motion resolutions one and three were accepted. (See report)

A motion was made and carried that we take an offering for Christian Education to be divided between the Bible College at Nashville and Mount Allen College. The offering amounted to \$136.40.

Mrs. J. C. Moye sang a beautiful solo, "The Holy City."

Rev. N. Bruce Barrow introduced Rev. J. O. Fort who preached the conference sermon, using as his text Acts 26:28.

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. J. R. Davidson.

Thursday Afternoon

Reassembled at one o'clock with devotions conducted by Rev. L. B. Manning, prayer by Rev. Clarence Little.

Rev. Hubert Burress, the conference historian, presented some interesting historical data and recommended that the old records be permanently bound without any expense to the conference. By a motion the recommendation was accepted.

Two petitions were presented for the 1955 session of the conference, and by a motion the invitation of Aspin Grove was accepted.

The committee appointed to recommend the time for the church year to begin recommended that the year end on August 31. This recommendation was amended

CHURCHES	Delegates	Contribution	Value Church Property	Number Members	Baptized	Received by Letter	Dismissed	Died	Total Money Raised	Offerings	Tithes	Sunday School Members	League Members	W. A. Members	Other Aux. Members	Number of Minutes
PITT COUNTY—																
Ayden	Mrs. W. L. Nobles, Mrs. Anna Hill	\$10.00	\$37,000	261	6	1	8	0	\$10,962			170				25
Bethany	Mr. and Mrs. Luther Dail	20.00	35,000	185	1	1	0	1								20
Black Jack	M. W. Smith, S. A. Paramore	10.00	33,000	432	2	2	2	0	17,230			417		42		35
Dildy's Grove	By Letter	10.00	3,500	73	2	2	0	0	1,592		587	78	50	20		10
Elm Grove	No Delegates	10.00	75,000	343	3	3	7	0	6,544			188	60	30		30
Greenville	Mrs. Fronda Hawkins, Alton Vincent, Mr. & Mrs. Moore, Ruth Taylor, Mrs. George Clark	10.00	35,000	697	73	27	3	3	16,431	10,954	5,470	461	70	108		30
Hickory Grove	Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Knox	10.00	10,000	122	1	1	0	0		628		70	20	28		10
Kings Cross Roads	C. C. Corbitt, Roy Case		10,000	214	3	2	0	0	6,896			174	45	20		20
Marlboro	Sam V. Tugwell, Ralph Parker	20.00	4,000	191	6	1	1	0	4,855			195	30	43		20
Parker's Chapel	D. R. House	10.00	20,000	190	15	7	4	2	8,600			147		26		20
Piney Grove	Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Mills	10.00	21,000	224	0	3	4	2	3,514			185		46		20
Pleasant Hill	Leslie Haddock, Atlas Burrough	5.00	15,000	130	0	0	0	0	2,600	1,600						15
Reedy Branch	E. C. Davenport, F. McCoy Tripp	25.00	25,000	271	9	4	2	4	6,295			218	30	45		25
Rose Hill	Leavy Smith, Burney Wilson		20,000	290	40	5	0	3	3,450			159		20		25
Sweet Gum Grove	Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Briley	20.00	10,000	191	3	8	3	2	7,271			143		23		20
Winterville	Letha Stox, Queenie Wetherington	15.00	25,000	197	15	3	1	2	4,491			222		17		15
Gum Swamp	Mrs. H. L. Lewis, Mrs. E. C. Lewis	10.00	30,000	544	5	1	13	4	4,930	1,358	838	135		31		20
Grifton	Herman Owen, Jr.	3.00	900	30	0	0	0	0								5
Grace	T. N. Stocks, Mrs. W. C. James	10.00	25,000	178	0	0	0	1	9,312			280	65	75		20
GREENE COUNTY—																
Friendship	Jessie L. Cobb, R. C. Cobb	15.00	7,500	151	4	4	2	1	6,238					20		15
Free Union	Mrs. Ida Jones, Willie Hardison, Mr. & Mrs. Wilton Ellis, L. H. Heath	35.00	28,000	437	23	7	9	5	7,100			298		62	17	30
Grimsley	Floyd Robinson, Herbert Graves	10.00	15,000	180	3	4	7	2	2,946	2,756		102		40		15
Harrell's Chapel	Allen Sumrell, David Corbett	10.00	15,000	53	0	0	1	2	1,080	125		130		20		5
Hull Road	D. W. Barrow, Noah Hemby, J. B. Barrow, Floyd Taylor, H. B. Hill	40.00	45,000	501	29	8	10	4	12,925			240	60	45		35
Little Creek	Not Represented		15,000	114												10
Maurry	Mrs. H. L. Spivey, R. L. Spivey	5.00	3,000	20	0	0	0	0								5
Saint's Delight	C. T. Wells, Mack Bowen	5.00	4,000	98	6	0	3	3	400	50	100	71				10
Ormondsville	G. E. Mooring	10.00	13,000	334	4	0	16	0	3,628			140		31		25
Howell Swamp	G. O. Mewborn	20.00	15,000	137	0	0	6	1	3,625			82		16		10
Spring Branch	Paul Galloway, Jesse Gay	25.00	5,000	223	1	1	0	3	5,325	105		75	40	21		20
EDGECOMBE COUNTY—																
Edgewood	R. H. Harrell	10.00	12,000	121	25	0	14	1	2,338			119		27		10
Otter's Creek	Not Represented			141												15
Rocky Mount	No Delegates	5.00	25,000	149	11	9	11	1	3,605			118	43	23	6	15
Tarboro	Mrs. A. L. Summerlin, Mrs. Allan Deal	25.00	35,000	105	60	45	2	0	8,505			180	25	34	20	10
LENOIR COUNTY—																
La Grange	Mrs. Mary Hardy	10.00	10,000	120	1	8	3	4	1,402			181		24		10
Hugo	Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Eubanks	10.00	16,500	227	8	0	10	0	1,511			137		23	14	20
MARTIN COUNTY—																
Cedar Grove	Not Represented															5
Rose of Sharon	Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Cowan	10.00	6,000	129	7	1	0	1	216							10
Williamston	Not Represented															5
WILSON COUNTY—																
Aspin Grove	A. G. Mangum	10.00	30,000	269	8	0	0	9	2,817			198	65	12		20
Daniel's Chapel	O. W. Pittman	10.00	25,000	148	3	3	2	0	4,774							15
Owens' Chapel	Beaman Baker	10.00	30,000	171	26	0	0	0				170	40	30		15
Saratoga	George Wilton		6,000	221	4	3	6	4	1,940	1,478	461	169	45	28		20
WAYNE COUNTY—																
Antioch	Burney Kirby, Jr.	10.00	25,000	162	0	1	0	2	3,431	850		126		35	20	15
Walnut Creek	Dorothy Langston, Ina R. Langston	5.00	5,000	95	6	3	0	0	2,797	229		75				5
Watery Branch	Not Represented															5
BEAUFORT COUNTY—																
Piney Grove	Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Tayloe	10.00	2,000	90	5	0	1	1	1,040	704	233	62		19		5
Shiloh	J. H. Waters and Wife	20.00	2,000	295	3	1	9	0	5,050			123				20
HALIFAX COUNTY—																
Dawson's Grove	No Delegates	10.00	2,500	64	0	0	3	1	2,703			45	30	18	9	5
PASQUOTANK COUNTY—																
St. Paul	S. M. Meekins	5.00	35,000	59	7	5	4	0	4,948			80	12	10	12	5

CHURCHES	To Evangelist	Total Paid Out	To Pastor	To Missions	To Orphanage	To Education	To Superannuation	To Church Finance Association	To Union Meetings	For Repairs	To Miscellaneous
PITT COUNTY—											
Ayden	\$ 175	\$ 3,170	\$3,767	\$ 75	\$ 578	\$ 241	\$ 45	\$	\$	\$	\$ 80
Bethany	175	3,170	1,200	20	223	107			30		528
Black Jack	350	16,547	1,325		574	327			60		13,969
Diddy's Grove	235	1,230	594						21	188	69
Elm Grove	244	6,500	1,320	75	730	148	11	8	79	324	4,368
Greenville	260	13,854	4,200	605	2,062	1,589	12	6	182	1,165	2,342
Hickory Grove	180		960		240	53	20		25	142	300
Kings Cross Roads	100	5,984	1,076	78	451	27			45	120	3,499
Marlboro	200	4,325	1,200	20	668	91	25		29	314	1,542
Parker's Chapel	349	5,204	480	137	224	50			37	283	6,644
Piney Grove	130	2,150	665	35	435	10	10		24	740	99
Pleasant Hill	250	2,500	1,400	30	250	150	52	8	20	100	
Reedy Branch	235	6,295	3,600	772	617	330			60	216	
Rose Hill	290		2,100		581	308	60		20	172	
Sweet Gum Grove	300	7,015	1,200	63	805	333	10	10	40	1,222	3,000
Winterville	100	4,469	1,180		60	150	25		40	250	2,512
Gum Swamp	279	4,006	1,289		518	92			32	496	102
Grifton											
Grace		9,312	3,819								
GREENE COUNTY—											
Friendship	400	5,998	1,200	130	467		50	25	40	2,158	900
Free Union	100	4,680	3,100	45	1,100	130	35	24	65	108	
Grimsley	262	2,756	960	110	489	105	34		35	1,024	
Harrell's Chapel	200	800	480	25	150		50		25	25	10
Hull Road	450	10,925	3,000	730	1,930	963	231	20	40	2,580	457
Little Creek											
Maury											
Saint's Delight	75	300	240		19				36	50	
Ormondsville	342	4,822	600	20	255	120	10		24	121	3,330
Howell Swamp	100	3,665	1,200	40	598	282	35	15	24	253	1,500
Spring Branch	200	5,713	1,200	45	489	20	45	15	60		
EDGECOMBE COUNTY—											
Edgewood	160	2,300	960	25	193				25		1,100
Otter's Creek											
Rocky Mount	330		3,157	108	174	254	70		20	437	972
Tarboro	455		2,981	50	99	40	6	3	16	7,141	4,832
LENOIR COUNTY—											
La Grange		1,000			411	41			5	375	
Hugo	72		851	22	100	100			45	148	90
MARTIN COUNTY—											
Cedar Grove											
Rose of Sharon	250	1,927	1,060	80	141	101	25		32	262	
Williamston											
WILSON COUNTY—											
Aspin Grove	100	2,535	1,200	37	569	63			40	511	
Daniel's Chapel											
Owens' Chapel	230		1,130	500	192	38	30	10			120
Saratoga	262	1,974	1,300		46				53	190	21
WAYNE COUNTY—											
Antioch	283	4,045	1,200	57	379	30	35		40	66	11
Walnut Creek	229	2,585	589	34	227	68	35		16	72	1,219
Watery Branch											
BEAUFORT COUNTY—											
Piney Grove	287	1,039	487	5	63	4			20	478	
Shiloh	259	2,092	1,200		525				40	18	72
HALIFAX COUNTY—											
Dawson's Grove	307		925	224	366	211	7	3	42	617	
PASQUOTANK COUNTY—											
St. Paul	175	4,948	2,640	4	94	4	4	4	4	438	

to become effective this year. (See report)

Rev. N. Bruce Barrow made a report of the Ordaining Council and by a motion the report was adopted. (See report)

Rev. J. D. Vernelson gave a report of the Finance Board and by a motion the report was adopted. (See report)

Mrs. H. L. Spivey gave a report of the Orphanage Committee and by a motion the report was adopted. (See report)

Rev. Hubert Burress gave a report of the Conference Mission Board and by a motion the report was adopted. (See report)

A rising vote of thanks was extended to Hull Road Church, the community, and the pastor for the splendid entertainment given this conference. Also a rising vote of thanks was extended to the standing officers, committees, and all speakers for the fine service rendered during the past year and this annual session.

Motion that we stand with bowed heads for a moment of silent prayer in memory of Rev. R. B. Spencer who passed away since the last conference. The prayer was offered by Rev. W. A. Dail.

The officers of the conference to serve for the next two years were elected as indicated by the list on the front page of the minutes.

Motion that the chairman of the Board of Trustees hold all titles of property and represent when necessary. Rev. D. W. Alexander was asked to help complete the work of the out-going Board of Trustees.

Rev. J. E. Wooten conducted an installation service for all of the officers, and the installation prayer was offered by Rev. F. B. Cherry.

The two hundred sixth session of the Central Conference was dismissed by Rev. D. A. Windham.

REV. C. L. PATRICK, *Moderator*

LEO TRIPP, *Secretary*

Meetings of the Executive Committee

First Meeting—

The Executive Committee of the Central Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist of North Carolina met at the Free Will Baptist Mission in Greenville, December 2, 1953. All members of the committee were present. The Moderator, Rev. C. L. Patrick, opened the meeting with prayer and presided over the business.

The following motion was passed with a vote of 3 for and 2 against:

Moved that whereas the Greenville Mission has waited more than the required ninety days, and whereas neither the mission or the Free Will Baptist Church at Greenville have presented any new evidence, that we grant the request of the Central Conference Mission Board mailed to us August 18, 1953.

A motion was also passed that we perfect the organization Thursday, December 10, 1953, at 7:30 p. m. as requested.

There being no other business we were dismissed by Rev. D. W. Alexander.

Second Meeting—

The Executive Committee again met at the Mission in Greenville to perfect the organization on December 10, 1953, at 7:30 p. m. Rev. N. Bruce Barrow presented the Bible, Rev. C. J. Harris presented the Covenant, and the prayer of consecration was offered by Rev. J. D. Vernelson. The Moderator then gave the charge and declared the mission to be a Free Will Baptist church.

Third Meeting—

The Executive Committee met at the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden, on August 27, 1954, with the following members present: Revs. C. L. Patrick, C. J. Harris, N. Bruce Barrow, and Mr. Leo Tripp. Prayer was offered by Leo Tripp.

The following delegates were appointed to the various bodies:

State Convention—Mrs. Zelbert Cox, Levi Worthington, J. L. Nobles, F. McCoy Tripp, L. H. Heath, Titus Harrison, Arthur Morris, and Mrs. Irene Slater.

Eastern Conference—Rev. N. Bruce Barrow.

Albemarle Conference—Rev. D. W. Alexander.

Western Conference—Rev. C. L. Patrick.

Cape Fear Conference—Rev. N. D. Beaman.

The program of the 1954 session of the conference was arranged and the Clerk was asked to have 500 copies printed.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REV. C. L. PATRICK, *Moderator*

LEO TRIPP, *Secretary*

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Central Conference met at the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden on May 18, 1954.

The members present were: Rev. D. W. Alexander, Rev. J. E. Wooten, Russell Little, and Leo Tripp.

Rev. Frank Davenport was present and brought greetings from the Tarboro Church. He also made a report of the building program.

A motion was made and carried that we re-finance the loan of \$1,200.00 dollars made to the First Tarboro Church releasing the first mortgage on the property and taking a second mortgage with the first note of \$600.00 due in October, 1955, and the second note of \$600.00 due in October, 1956, with interest at six per cent.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

REV. D. W. ALEXANDER, *Chairman*

Committee Reports

REPORT OF THE ORDAINING COUNCIL OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE

The Council has held four meetings during the conference year. During the year we have also put forth an effort to carry out the plans and provisions the conference has handed down with reference to our work:

1. In keeping with the conference and its directive, we now have a Correspondence Course to propose to our candidates for the ministry.
2. We have ordained during the year the Reverends Roger Tripp and Carroll Alexander.
3. We have approved coming into our conference by letter the Reverends I. J. Blackwelder, J. C. Lynn, F. B. Cherry, and J. O. Fort. We recommend the above six be entered in our list of ordained ministers.
4. We are requesting each church to furnish a Bible to the Board to be given to candidates for the ministry from their churches.
5. We recommend that our standard for ordaining ministers be continued until we can raise it.

The Board is constantly working to remove various irregularities in our ministerial procedures.

D. W. ALEXANDER, *Chairman*

RALPH OSBORNE, *Secretary*

N. D. BEAMAN

L. B. MANNING

W. B. RAPER

N. B. BARROW

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Finance Committee, wish to submit the following report:
The receipts are as follows:

Balance from last report	\$ 3.82
Offering for orphanage	\$134.86
Offering for education	136.40
Total from churches	609.00
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Total received	\$880.26 880.26
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Total to account for	\$884.08

Paid out as follows:

Leo Tripp (Salary, \$35.00; stamps and stationary, \$8.00)	\$ 43.00
Hubert Burruss	27.25
Balance on 1953 minutes	42.00
C. J. Harris	45.00

D. W. Alexander	34.50
C. L. Patrick	20.00
Burkette Raper	11.25
D. A. Windham	3.78
Ralph Osborne	12.40
Rashie Kennedy	10.00
Bruce Barrow	12.50
Total personal expenses	\$261.68

Appropriations:

Orphanage (Offering and appropriation)	\$200.00
Schools (Mount Allen and Bible College, 50-50)	150.00
Superannuation	50.00
Cragmont	12.60
Missions	100.00
State Promotional Director	10.00
Minutes	100.00
Total appropriations	622.60
Grand total paid out	\$884.08

REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL BOARD

During the past year we have done but little as our people are more educational minded than in the past history of our church.

When the drive was on to raise funds to liquidate the indebtedness of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, we wrote letters to all ministers and church clerks urging all to support the drive and we were pleased with the response.

There was expense to this for paper and postage, and the bill is in the hands of the Finance Committee.

We want to commend the State Board for the creditable start they have made in Mount Olive, N. C., and urge our people to support the work there also.

D. A. WINDHAM, *Chairman*.

C. J. HARRIS

REPORT OF CONFERENCE MISSION BOARD

1953-54

1. Number of board meetings held, 6.
2. Number of mission services held, 21.
(Services held at Hookerton, 7.)
(Services held at Stantonsburg, 14.)
3. Ground breaking services held at Grifton, Greenville, and Tarboro during the year.

4. Grace Free Will Baptist Church organized on December 10, 1953.

D. W. ALEXANDER, *Chairman*
HUBERT BURRESS, *Secretary and Treasurer*
RASHIE KENNEDY
CHARLES EDWARD KEITH
W. B. RAPER

REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Whereas this two hundred sixth session of the Central Conference has enjoyed the fine hospitality of Hull Road Church and community, therefore be it resolved that we tender Hull Road Church, community, and pastor a rising vote of thanks for the splendid entertainment given us.

Be it further resolved that we give a vote of thanks to the standing officers, committees, and all speakers of this conference for the fine services rendered during the past year and this annual session.

In view of the fact that often times the work of this conference is devolved upon a few persons, due to their election to a multiplicity of offices and as members of various standing boards and committees, therefore, be it resolved that a person cannot hold but one office, or serve on more than one standing board or committee, except, where by virtue of the office, the person is a member of the Executive Committee of the conference.

By Committee,

RASHIE KENNEDY
HUBERT BURRESS
HENRY MELVIN

REPORT OF TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following:

We commend those of our conference who live consistently with our church treatise and promote total abstinence. We commend those of our people who refuse to patronize places of business which sell intoxicating beverages. We commend those who vote for candidates for public office who are opposed to intoxicating drinks.

We commend our ministers who denounce from their pulpits destructive evils, and who will not practice questionable habits themselves.

By Committee,

R. B. CRAWFORD
WILLIAM HUMBLE
GEORGE WELTON

REPORT OF ORPHANAGE COMMITTEE

1—We recommend that each church in our conference increase their quota for the orphanage in 1955.

2—We recommend that our churches send monthly contributions, also that each Sunday school receive, one Sunday a month, a contribution for the orphanage.

3—We recommend that our people support the movement to be formulated to give our worthy orphanage boys and girls two years of college training before we discharge them, preferable a Free Will Baptist college. We further recommend the Orphanage Board accept this recommendation, and the recommendation apply to the students recommended by the orphanage superintendent, the staff, and the principal of Middlesex High School. Choice of college to be made by superintendent, staff, and student.

4—We recommend to our people that they endeavor to visit our orphanage at least once each year, and to remember them in our prayers and with liberal donations.

MRS. WILTON ELLIS

HARVEY MOORE

MRS. H. L. SPIVEY

We, the committee to study the ending of the church year, recommend the following:

1. All churches close the year's work August 31.
2. All yearly meetings to be held prior to the above date.

N. BRUCE BARROW, *Chairman*

HENRY MELVIN, *Secretary*

CHARLES CRADDOCK

REPORT OF THE OBITUARY COMMITTEE

In loving memory of Rev. R. B. Spencer and family, the following memorial address was delivered by Mrs. N. A. Clark.

Respectfully Submitted,

D. A. WINDHAM

Memorial Tributes

Mrs. N. A. CLARK

Today we stand at the time-beaten portals of another conference year that will soon fade away into the dateless past. Before us and all about us are seats forever vacated; voices we heard are hushed and we listen, in vain, for footsteps we will never hear again. While they were with us they acted well their part, and though it may have been a small one, even the giving of a cup of cold water, He whose eye is on the sparrow, acknowledged it as *well done*. But one day they came to the end of life's journey; to the river where the last wind of sorrow had blown, and there they closed their eyes for a peaceful slumber and the Great King commanded the spirit to be free, and like a fleeting sunbeam they passed out yonder into God's eternal somewhere, where the wicked cease to trouble and where the weary is forever at rest. Human ties would have turned aside the grave reaper but our doom is written, "Dust thou art and shall to dust return."

One sad day when the evening sun hung low in the dreary west, we came to the valley with a dear, precious burden, and amid the lilies and flowers we tenderly laid it to rest, and when the farewell hymn was chanted, we wept by the side of the tomb. We were prone to wonder if Jesus cares—"Oh, yes He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with our grief." Some of the most precious blessings come to us completely disguised. If it were not for the shower we could never look with rapture at the beauty of the rainbow; and the violet drenched by the rain smiles more beautifully when kissed with heavenly sunshine.

May God give to all a faith that will not waver or complain when on the brink of an earthly woe and in the deepest darkness will feel no doubt—a faith that will lead you to the summit of life's purple hilltop where light lingers long when the day is done. In the stillness of this moment may we submit to His will whose wisdom makes no error and whose goodness never lays on us one trial too many, and say in the words of the Master, "Thy will be done." While the loving hand of an infinite God keeps their last resting place green we will keep their memories, like these evergreens, forever fresh in our hearts.

Let us speak gently and tread softly that their tranquil and peaceful slumber be not disturbed until that glorious day when the eastern sky shall be silvered with the dawn of eternity when He will call them from the grave to "Home, Sweet Home."

"We will sing of the home over there, by the side of the river of life,
Where the saints are immortal and fair and robed in their garments of white.
In the beautiful home over there our kindred and friends are at rest,
Away from our sorrow and care we will fly to the land of the blest."

Statistical Summary

Total number of churches, 50.

Number of churches represented, 42.

Total contribution from churches, \$609.00.

Value of all church property, \$896,900.00.

Number of church members, 9,534.

Sunday school members, 6,163.

Enrolled in leagues, 731.

Enrolled in Woman's Auxiliary, 1,111.

Church members gained this year, 639.

Church members lost, 158.

Total money raised for pastor's salary, \$73,655.00; evangelist, \$9,205.00; orphanage, \$18,092.00; education, \$6,580.00; missions, \$4,191.00.

These are a few of the totals as recorded by your secretary. Although they are encouraging, I hope that they will be even better in the coming year. I wish to thank each of you for sending in these nice reports.

LEO TRIPP, *Secretary*

