

**1985-86  
Yearbook  
for  
Original  
Free Will Baptists  
of  
North Carolina**

*Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.*

FWB  
BX  
6360  
Y4  
1986  
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Vol. 1174

**MINUTES  
of the  
237TH ANNUAL SESSION  
of the  
CENTRAL CONFERENCE  
of the  
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
of  
NORTH CAROLINA**

**Held with  
Aspen Grove Free Will Baptist Church  
Wilson County  
Thursday, November 7, 1985**

The Rev. Ronnie Vann Hobgood, *Moderator*

The Rev. W. Scott Sowers, *Clerk*

The Rev. Edward Thornton, *Host Pastor*

**OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE**

**MODERATOR**

The Rev. Ronnie Vann Hobgood

**ASSISTANT MODERATOR**

The Rev. Ron Braxton

**CLERK**

The Rev. W. Scott Sowers

**ASSISTANT CLERK**

Miss Leah McGlohon

**TREASURER**

Mrs. Lou McLawhorn

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The Rev. Ronnie Vann Hobgood, *Moderator*

The Rev. Ron Braxton, *Assistant Moderator*

The Rev. W. Scott Sowers, *Clerk*

Miss Leah McGlohon, *Assistant Clerk*

Mrs. Lou McLawhorn, *Treasurer*

## BOARD OF ORDINATION

The Rev. N. D. Beaman (1986)	Dr. Michael Pelt (1988)
The Rev. Ray Williamson (1987)	The Rev. W. Bruce Jones (1989)
The Rev. Harry Grubbs (1990)	

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Jack Dail (1986)	Mr. Willie Harris (1988)
Mr. William Earl Stocks (1987)	Mr. A. H. Cobb (1989)
Mr. Zeb Harrison (1990)	

## BOARD OF MISSIONS

Mr. Raymond Sasser (Honorary)	The Rev. Joseph Lehmann (1987)
Mr. Albert Proctor (Honorary)	Dr. Cedric Pierce (1988)
Mr. Billy Churchill (1986)	Mr. Billy Gurkin (1989)
The Rev. Leon Harris (1990)	

## BOARD OF FINANCE

Mr. Leo Tripp (1986)	The Rev. Calvin Heath (1988)
The Rev. Edward Thornton (1987)	Mr. J. T. Beddard (1989)
Mrs. Mary Boyd (1990)	

 REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBERSHIPS IN THE FREE  
WILL BAPTIST PRESS FOUNDATION, INC.

The Rev. Earl Glenn (1986)	The Rev. Billy Ray Jordan (1988)
Mrs. Dot Dail (1987)	Mrs. Alma Buck (1989)
The Rev. J. B. Narron (1990)	

## CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Rebecca Davenport (1986)	The Rev. Bryant Hines (1987)
The Rev. Donald Ribeiro (1988)	

## OBITUARY COMMITTEE

The Rev. Bass Mitchell (1986)	The Rev. David Hill (1987)
Mrs. Hubert Burress (1988)	

## CONFERENCE HISTORIAN

The Rev. Leon Grubbs (1986)

## PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

The Rev. Dale Albertson (1986)

 REPRESENTATIVE OF MEMBERSHIPS IN CHURCH FINANCE  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Rev. Willis Wilson (1986)

## ROLL OF MINISTERS BY SENIORITY

	1984	1985
N. D. Beaman	P	A
*J. P. Barrow	P	A
*C. D. Hamilton	A	P

*R. C. Proctor	A	A
C. L. Patrick	A	L
N. Bruce Barrow	P	A
J. B. Narron	P	P
Michael Pelt	P	P
Willis Wilson	P	L
Raymond Sasser	P	P
C. H. Overman	L	P
Joseph Lehmann	P	P
Walter Pollard	A	A
Charles Branch	P	P
Bruce Jones	A	P
Clinton Davis	P	A
Gary Bailey	P	P
Walter Reynolds	P	P
Tom Miller	P	P
Stewart Humphrey	L	L
Leon Grubbs	P	P
Bobby Taylor	P	P
Royce Reynolds	L	P
Robert Rollins	P	A
Bobby Futrell	P	A
Ronnie Hobgood	L	P
Cedric Pierce	P	P
Melvin Moore	P	P
Calvin Heath	L	A
Harry Grubbs	P	P
Frank Flowers	P	L
Earl Glenn	P	A
Billy Ray Jordan	P	P
Robert Murray	A	A
*R. P. Harris	P	P
Leon Harris	P	P
Clarence Harris	P	A
Clifford Ball	P	P
Edward Thornton	P	P
David Ricks	A	P
Ray Williamson	P	P
Allan Sterbin	A	A
James Owens	P	P
Ronald Braxton	P	P
Ray Everton	P	L
Donald Ribeiro	L	P
David Hill	P	P
Mark Hobbs	P	L
Ronnie Mohn	A	P
James Sowers	P	P
Roger Heath	P	A
Bass Mitchell	P	P
Bryant Hines	P	P

W. Scott Sowers	P	P
Stanley Buck	P	P
James Lupton		A
Robert Burke		A
Steve Hargrove		P
Jerry Campbell		P
A. J. Scarboro		A
Mike Tart		P

(\*Denotes Retired Ministers)

### ORDAINED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

Bailey, Gary, Route 2, Box 489, Goldsboro, NC 27530; phone 735-3916  
 Ball, Clifford, Route 1, Box 96-A, Grifton, NC 28530; phone 524-4337  
 Barrow, J. P., 7934 Charlotte Pike, Nashville, TN 37209  
 Barrow, N. Bruce, Route 2, Box 375, Snow Hill, NC 28580; phone 747-3688  
 Beaman, N. D., Route 4, Box 400, Snow Hill, NC 28580; phone 747-3503  
 Branch, Charles, 116 Village Drive, Winterville, NC 28590; phone 756-7634  
 Braxton, Ronald, 79 Azalea Gardens, Greenville, NC 27834; phone 758-0974  
 Buck, Stanley, 108 Hope Lodge Street, Tarboro, NC 27886; phone 823-3964  
 Burke, Robert, 1506 Washington Avenue, Weldon, NC 27890; phone 536-4270  
 Campbell, Jerry, Route 3, Box 39, Snow Hill, NC 28580; phone 747-8423  
 Davis, Clinton, Route 3, Snow Hill, NC 28580; phone 747-3087  
 Everton, Ray, Route 2, Box 214, Nashville, NC 27856; phone 459-3818  
 Flowers, Frank, Route 2, Box 252-A, Pikeville, NC 27863; phone 735-0769  
 Futrell, Bobby, 601 Central Avenue, Kinston, NC 28501; phone 523-5878  
 Glenn, Earl, Route 3, Box 637, Wilson, NC 27893; phone 243-6512  
 Grubbs, Harry, 3000 Briarcliff Drive, Greenville, NC 27834; phone 756-8585  
 Grubbs, Leon, Route 2, Box 290, Snow Hill, NC 28580; phone 747-2678  
 Hamilton, C. D., Route 1, Box 282, Fountain, NC 27829  
 Hargrove, Steve, Route 3, Box 294, Ayden, NC 28513; phone 746-3534  
 Harris, Clarence, Route 3, Box 179, Tarboro, NC 27886; phone 823-5854  
 Harris, Leon, Route 3, Box 36, Ayden, NC 28513; phone 746-4320  
 Harris, R. P., 1200 Tarboro Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27801; phone 442-3536  
 Heath, Calvin, Route 5, Box 369, Mount Olive, NC 28365; phone 658-6884  
 Heath, Roger, Route 2, Box 536, Dudley, NC 28333; phone 533-3473  
 Hill, John David, Route 1, Box 60-E, Stokes, NC 27884; phone 758-6903  
 Hines, Bryant, 409 East Main Street, Winterville, NC 28590; phone 355-5929  
 Hobbs, Mark, Box 775, Rocky Mount, NC 27801; phone, 442-4589  
 Hobgood, Ronnie, Box 301, La Grange, NC 28551; phone 566-9315  
 Humphrey, Stewart, Box 6337, Asheville, NC 28816; phone (704) 254-5356  
 Jones, Bruce, Route 2, Box 650-B, Ayden, NC 28513; phone 746-6293  
 Jordan, Billy Ray, Box 497, Dudley, NC 28333; phone 734-2775  
 Lehmann, Joseph, 407 East Church Street, Farmville, NC 27828; phone 753-3527  
 Lupton, James, Route 2, Box 297, Walstonburg, NC 27888; phone 747-8511  
 Miller, Tom, Route 1, Box 96, Hookerton, NC 28538; phone 747-5473  
 Mitchell, Bass, Route 7, Box 471, Goldsboro, NC 27530; phone 734-8378  
 Mohn, Ronnie, 104 Spruce Street, Williamston, NC 27892; phone 792-7002  
 Moore, Melvin, Route 3, Box 192, Elm City, NC 27822; phone 237-0581  
 Murray, Robert, 700 Franklin Street, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27876; phone 535-3201  
 Narron, J. B., 205 South Baywood Lane, Greenville, NC 27834; phone 756-7609

Overman, C. H., 1201 Stokes Drive, Ayden, NC 28513; phone 746-3630  
 Owens, James, Route 1, Box 301, Plymouth, NC 27962; phone 793-3123  
 Patrick, C. L., Route 1, Box 219, Winterville, NC 28590; phone 756-2391  
 Pelt, Michael, Route 4, Box 363, Mount Olive, NC 28365; phone 658-2343  
 Pierce, Cedric, Box 36, Pikeville, NC 27863; phone 242-6155  
 Pollard, Walter, 111 Glenwood Drive, Greenville, NC 27834; phone 756-2211  
 Proctor, R. C., Route 3, Box 244, Wilson, NC 27893  
 Reynolds, Royce, Box 68, Pikeville, NC 27863; phone 242-4516  
 Reynolds, Walter, Box 514, Winterville, NC 28590; phone 756-6587  
 Ribeiro, Donald, Route 8, Box 452-A1, Greenville, NC 27834; phone 756-7876  
 Ricks, David, P.O. Box 545, Pinetops, NC 27864; phone 823-5348  
 Rollins, Robert, 109 Warren Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530; phone 735-1037  
 Sasser, Raymond, 517 Westover Avenue, Wilson, NC 27893; phone 291-5529  
 Scarboro, A. J., Route 1, Box 182, Stantonsburg, NC; phone 291-3981  
 Sowers, James, Route 6, Box 47-B, Kinston, NC 28501; phone, 527-9835  
 Sowers, W. Scott, Route 1, Box 106-B, Farmville, NC 27828; phone 753-4260  
 Sterbin, Allen  
 Tart, Mike, Route 1, Box 674, Greenville, NC 27834; phone 756-7430  
 Taylor, Bobby, Route 2, Box 38-E, Middlesex, NC 27557; phone 235-4638  
 Thornton, Edward, Route 3, Box 22, Snow Hill, NC 28580; phone 747-5792  
 Williamson, Ray, Route 6, Box 147-A, Greenville, NC 27834; phone 758-4356  
 Wilson, Willis, Route 1, Box 18, Winterville, NC 28590; phone 756-1911

#### LICENSED MINISTERS

Jeffery Harrison, Samuel Gay

#### ROLL OF CHURCHES AND THEIR PASTORS

Aspen Grove—Edward Thornton  
 Ayden—J. B. Narron  
 Bethany—C. L. Patrick  
 Community—Robert Burke  
 Daniels Chapel—Earl Glenn  
 Dilda's Grove—Dennis Sherrod  
 Edgewood—Luther Bisette  
 Elm Grove—Steve Hargrove  
 Free Union—James Lupton  
 Friendship—Walter Reynolds  
 Greenville, First—Harry Grubbs  
 Grimsley—Donald Fader  
 Gum Swamp—Ray Williamson  
 Harrell's Chapel—Jerry Campbell  
 Hickory Grove—Clifford Ball  
 Howell Swamp—Ronald Braxton  
 Hugo—Tom Miller  
 Hull Road—Leon Grubbs  
 King's Cross Roads—Bruce Jones  
 La Grange, First—Ronnie Hobgood  
 Little Creek—Frank Flowers  
 Marlboro—W. Scott Sowers  
 Ormondsville—Charles Branch

Otter's Creek—A. J. Scarboro  
 Owens Chapel—Melvin Moore  
 Peace—David Ricks  
 Piney Grove (Beaufort)—Walter Pollard  
 Piney Grove (Pitt)—Mike Tart  
 Pleasant Hill—Bryant Hines  
 Reedy Branch—Willis Wilson  
 Rocky Mount, First—Mark Hobbs  
 Rose Hill—Leon Harris  
 Rose of Sharon—Foy Futrelle  
 Saints Delight—James Warren  
 Saratoga—J. C. Yates  
 Spring Branch—Ed Miles  
 Sweet Gum Grove—David Hill  
 Tarboro, First—Stanley Buck  
 Walnut Creek—Larry Barbour  
 Watery Branch—Robert Jones  
 Williamston, First—Ronnie Mohn  
 Winterville—Edward Taylor

## PROCEEDINGS

### MORNING SESSION

The Central Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, being the continuation of the General Conference, convened in its 237th annual session with the Aspen Grove Church, Wilson County, on November 7, 1985, at 9:30 a.m.

Marian Kennedy led the congregation in singing a hymn. Sammy Gay of Howell Swamp Church gave a devotion and led in prayer.

The Rev. W. Scott Sowers, clerk, called the annual session to order. Mr. Marvin Langley of the host church extended a warm welcome, which was responded to by Mrs. Helen Beaman of Hull Road Church.

The Rev. Ronnie Vann Hobgood, moderator, addressed the Conference. The roll of churches was called, which was followed by the calling of the roll of ministers.

Visiting ministers were recognized as follows. From the Albemarle Conference: Steve Hargrove; from the Cape Fear Conference: Ed Miles, Frank Harrison, Jeff Scarborough, Foy Futrelle and Ed Taylor; from the Eastern Conference: Walter Sutton, Jerry Campbell, and Donald Fader; from the Western Conference: John Williams, J. C. Yates, Luther Bissette, Charles Crisp, and Dennis Sherrod.

The moderator made the following appointments: Parliamentarian: the Rev. Gary Bailey; Resolution and Temperance Committee: the Revs. Leon Grubbs, Tom Miller, and M. S. Cowan; Nominating Committee: the Revs. J. B. Narron, C. H. Overman, and Mrs. Dot Dail; Timekeeper: the Rev. Ron Braxton.

The clerk gave the Executive Committee Report. Upon proper motion the report was adopted. (See Reports.)

Upon proper motion to refer the special election of the moderator, assistant moderator, and clerk to the Nominating Committee.

Upon proper motion to adopt the recommendation of the State Convention requiring attendance of ministers at the State Convention using the guidelines used by the conference for attendance at the annual session.

Reports of the denomination and its enterprises were given as follows: State Convention by the Rev. Gary Bailey, president; Church Finance Association by the Rev. Walter



Reynolds, director; Minister's Program by the Rev. Donald Fader, director; Home Missions by the Rev. Charles Crisp, director; and Children's Home by the Rev. Bobby Taylor, director.

Marian Kennedy led the congregation in the singing of a hymn.

Reports resumed as follows: Free Will Baptist Press by Mr. R. Clifford Gray, director; Foreign Missions by Mrs. Sandra Jones; Mount Olive College by the Rev. Frank Ray Harrison, chaplain; Retirement Homes by the Rev. Walter Sutton, director; Cragmont Assembly by the Rev. John Williams, manager; and the Sunday School Convention by the Rev. Bass Mitchell, field secretary.

#### WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship was begun with the singing of a hymn. An offering was received and special music was rendered by Marian Kennedy. The Rev. Edward Thornton brought the message. Miss Patsy Cannon sang a solo, and the Rev. J. B. Narron gave the benediction and grace for the meal.

The Conference adjourned for lunch, which was served by the host church.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

The Conference reconvened after lunch, with Marian Kennedy leading the congregation in singing a hymn.

Mrs. Natalie Taylor of Winterville Church gave the afternoon devotion.

The report of the Obituary Committee was given by Mrs. Clara Patrick with an organ interlude by Mrs. Raymond Sasser and prayer by the Rev. David Hill. Upon proper motion the report was received as information. (See Reports.)

The report of the Credentials Committee was given by Mrs. Rebecca E. Davenport. Upon proper motion the report was adopted. (See Reports.)

The report of the Central Conference Missions Board was given by the Rev. Cedric Pierce. He introduced the Rev. James Sowers, pastor of the Grifton Mission. Upon proper motion the written report was adopted. (See Reports.)

Upon proper motion that the names of the Rev. Raymond Sasser and Mr. Albert Proctor be included with the current members of the Central Conference Missions Board in the Central Conference minutes in the *Yearbook* until they are deceased.

The report of the historian was given by the Rev. Leon Grubbs, historian, as information.

The report of the Resolutions and Temperance Committee was given by the Rev. Leon Grubbs. Upon proper motions each of the resolutions was adopted separately. (See Reports.)

The report of the Ordaining Council was given by the Rev. Ray Williamson. Upon proper motion that the report be adopted; that the names of James Lupton, Robert Burke, Steve Hargrove, Jerry Campbell, and Jack Scarboro be added to the list of ordained ministers, that the name of Mike Tart be changed from the list of licensed ministers to that of ordained ministers; and that the names of Robert Strickland, Dale Albertson, Frank Thigpen, Jack Mayo, and Reb Lancaster be removed from the list of ordained ministers; and that the Conference approve the concept of the certified lay speaker program, authorize the Council to continue work on it, and present a detailed proposal to the Conference when the work is complete. (See Reports.)

The report of the Nominating Committee was given by the Rev. J. B. Narron. Upon proper motion the report was adopted and the names placed in nomination. (See Reports.)

Upon proper motion the nominees were elected by acclamation.

Mrs. Lou McLawhorn gave the Treasurer's Report. Upon proper motion the report was adopted. (See Reports.)

The report of the Finance Committee was given by Mrs. Lou McLawhorn. Upon proper motion the report was adopted. (See Reports.)

Upon proper motion that the Conference adjourn and leave all unfinished business in the hands of the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Ronnie Vann Hobgood, *Moderator*  
 Scott Sowers, *Clerk*

## REPORTS

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 2, 1984

The Executive Committee of the Central Conference met on December 2, 1984, at the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden at 10:30 a.m. The following members were present: Jack Mayo, Ronnie Hobgood, Lou McLawhorn, and Leah McGlohon.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Jack Mayo.

Since Ronnie Hobgood was absent from the Conference and some others were busy with committees, there was a question about the report of the Board of Missions about the Grifton Mission. The Rev. Charles Crisp of the Board of Home Missions came in and answered the question concerning the purchasing of property.

Ronnie Hobgood read the minutes of the Conference, which were approved as read.

The moderator read a letter of resignation from the Rev. C. H. Overman as clerk of the Conference. By motion his resignation was accepted.

Lou McLawhorn asked about an identification number for the bank account. It was discovered that we can use the identification number that is used by the State Convention.

Since the assistant clerk preferred for someone else to be the clerk, the president announced that the Rev. Scott Sowers would be willing to serve. Lou moved that we ask Scott to serve as clerk. Ronnie seconded the motion, and it passed.

The treasurer reported funds that had been paid out since the Conference met, leaving a balance of \$1,650.67 in the treasury.

Future meeting locations for the Conference were discussed. The minutes showed that the invitation for the 1985 session had been accepted at the 1984 session. Therefore, Ronnie moved that we accept the invitation of the Black Jack Church for the 1986 session. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Ronnie Hobgood.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jack Mayo, *Moderator*  
 Leah McGlohon, *Assistant Clerk*

(March 15, 1985)

The Executive Committee of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists met at Marlboro Church on March 14, 1985, at 1:30 p.m.

The following members were present: The Revs. Ronnie Hobgood, Scott Sowers, Mrs. Lou McLawhorn, and Miss Leah McGlohon.

Ronnie Hobgood read a letter of resignation by the Rev. Jack Mayo. According to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference, the assistant moderator is to fill the position of moderator until the next annual session of the Conference.

Upon proper motion that the Rev. Ron Braxton be elected assistant moderator by acclamation.

The treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$1,774.34. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

(October 3, 1985)

The Executive Committee of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists met at Marlboro Church on October 3, 1985, at 3:30 p.m. The following members were present: The Revs. Ronnie Hobgood, Ron Braxton, Scott Sowers, and Mrs. Lou McLawhorn.

The moderator called the meeting to order and led in prayer. The treasurer reported a balance of \$1,128.29.

Upon proper motion that we refer the brochure on the call to ministry to the Ordaining Council for preparation and return to the Executive Committee for final approval and publication.

Upon proper motion to request that the Conference elect a moderator, assistant moderator, and clerk during this session, because of circumstances that have caused all three positions to be filled since the last session of the Conference.

Upon proper motion that the clerk prepare and mail an annual report letter to the Conference churches.

Upon proper motion that we recommend that the Conference act on the recommendation of the Convention concerning required attendance at the Convention.

Upon proper motion that the Central Conference participate in the *Yearbook* project.

Upon proper motion that the unexpired term of Ron Braxton on the Credentials Committee remain vacant until conference elections.

The program for the annual session was prepared and upon proper motion the meeting was adjourned.

### OBITUARY REPORT

There's an open gate  
At the end of the road  
Through which each must go alone,  
And there in a light we cannot see  
Our Father claims His own;  
Beyond the gate your loved one  
Finds happiness and rest  
And there is comfort in the thought  
That a loving God knows best.  
Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Our hearts are saddened today in the loss of one who walked and worked among us—the Rev. L. B. Manning, who for 61 years preached the Word and during those years led many to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Born May 13, 1900—Died April 29, 1985. Surely we miss him, but we know he is in a much better place.

Today we want to also remember our faithful laity who have departed to be with the Lord for we have precious memories of them also.

Everything these dear friends did to build up the Central Conference work, we greatly appreciate.

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning at the bar,  
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;

For though from out our bourn of time and place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

Precious Memories—played by Mrs. Raymond Sasser; prayer by the Rev. David Hill.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bass Mitchell  
David Hill  
Mrs. C. L. Patrick

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Reading from the Constitution of the Central Conference, portions from Articles I and II: "This conference shall be composed of affiliated ordained ministers and churches within its bounds, who are in good standing, and all general officers and members of standing boards or committees of the conference . . ."

"Each church shall represent with one delegate for each one hundred members or fraction thereof . . ."

Therefore, we the Credentials Committee, submit the following report:

- 1. We recommend that all delegates who have properly registered for the 237th annual session of the Central Conference be seated in the 1985 session.
- 2. We recommend that all ministers who are in good standing with the conference be seated.
- 3. We further recommend that all ministers and delegates having identification cards and having registered properly, be seated.
- 4. The following have registered today:

Central Conference ministers	35
Delegates	56
Visiting ministers	15
Churches represented	31
Licensed ministers	16
Total Registered	153

Respectfully submitted,  
Leon Harris  
Rebecca Davenport

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE MISSIONS BOARD

Again this year we want to thank you very sincerely for your prayer and financial support of our Central Conference Missions program. Our ladies through the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention have continued their generous contributions for which we extend a very special "THANKS"! We depend greatly upon *all* of you to make it possible for your Missions Board to move forward in the areas of responsibility you have assigned to us! It is our desire and aim to use wisely *all* that which you commit to our trust.

Your Missions Board has made and will continue to make every effort to fulfill the goals established by this Conference:

1. "AN ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN EVERY TOWN";
2. Stand ready to assist any church in our conference that might need help; and
3. Be prepared to launch out in the establishment of another mission or supporting a prospective group which feels led to organize.

We urge our people to use the services available through your Missions Board to assist churches in need and to establish new churches. We need your help!

The Grifton Mission, which was started in October, 1982, is progressing nicely and experiencing steady growth under the very capable leadership of the Rev. Jimmy Sowers, pastor. Please remember that this work is a joint venture of the State Home Missions Board and the Central Conference Missions Board. As we reported our plans to you last year, we are happy to be able to report complete implementation of those plans during this year. We ended our pastor's salary supplement on December 31, 1984. Then in early January, 1985, your Missions Board paid \$5,200 toward the down payment to enable the Grifton Mission to purchase their property, consisting of the old St. Jude Catholic Church building and approximately four (4) acres of land. The interests of the Central Conference are protected by deed restriction as promised.

Your Missions Board has agreed to assist the Grifton Mission further in the amount of \$300 per month during the next twelve months (December 1, 1985—November 30, 1986) toward the payment on the property. The total payment is \$800 per month, \$500 of which the Mission will pay. The Mission is also providing payment for all utilities, maintenance and upkeep, improvements, and one-third of the pastor's salary. Please continue to pray for the Grifton people and support them in every way you can!

We solicit your continued prayers for your Missions Board and all those working for the cause of missions as well as your generous financial support! All contributions to Central Conference Missions should be mailed to:

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE MISSIONS

Dr. Cedric D. Pierce Jr.

P. O. Box 36

Plkeville, NC 27863-0036

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Lehmann, *Chairman*  
Cedric D. Pierce Jr., *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Linwood Cobb  
Billy Gurkin  
Bill R. Churchill

MISSIONS BOARD  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
To the Conference in Session  
NOVEMBER 7, 1985 (Year Ending June 30, 1985)

	<u>1982/83</u>	<u>1983/84</u>	<u>1984/85</u>
Aspen Grove	\$ 10.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00
Ayden	20.00	15.00	20.00
Bethany	5.00	10.00	10.00
Black Jack	55.00	30.00	15.00
Community	5.00	10.00	5.00
Daniels Chapel	5.00	10.00	15.00
Dilda's Grove	403.37	402.09	393.87
Edgewood			
Elm Grove	5.00		
Free Union	5.00	110.00	110.00
Friendship	399.00	416.00	305.00
Greenville, First	10.00	10.00	10.00
Grifton Mission		85.00	95.00
Grimsley	5.00	15.00	
Gum Swamp			10.00
Harrell's Chapel			
Hickory Grove	30.00		10.00
Howell Swamp	10.00	10.00	10.00
Hugo		5.00	
Hull Road	5.00	10.00	10.00
King's Cross Roads	106.60	91.15	76.92
La Grange	5.00	10.00	10.00
Little Creek	5.00	10.00	10.00
Marlboro	10.00	25.00	20.00
Ormondsville	62.00	82.00	58.00
Otter's Creek			
Owens Chapel	101.00	77.00	101.00
Peace	5.00	5.00	10.00
Piney Grove (Beaufort County)	156.00	90.00	242.50
Piney Grove (Pitt County)			
Pleasant Hill	10.00	5.00	5.00
Reedy Branch	10.00	10.00	10.00
Roanoke Rapids, First	530.68	closed	closed
Rocky Mount, First		5.00	5.00
Rose Hill	35.00	10.00	10.00
Rose of Sharon	10.00	10.00	10.00
Saratoga	10.00		5.00
Spring Branch	10.00	10.00	15.00
Saints Delight			
Sweet Gum Grove	5.00	5.00	10.00
Tarboro, First	140.00	135.00	85.00
Walnut Creek		100.00	
Watery Branch			

## Central Conference

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Williamston			
Winterville	<u>976.60</u>	<u>990.34</u>	<u>15.00</u>
TOTAL: Churches, Sunday School, Woman's Auxiliary	\$3,151.25	\$2,813.58	\$1,727.29
Second Union Meeting	63.05	50.31	58.43
Fourth Union Meeting			
Central District Auxiliary Convention		10.00	5.00
Interest Earned	247.50	481.94	4,134.35
Miscellaneous			<u>5.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$3,461.80</u>	<u>\$3,355.83</u>	<u>\$5,930.07</u>

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE MISSIONS BOARD

Treasurer's Report  
Year Ended June 30, 1985  
November 7, 1985

Balance on hand—July 1, 1984		\$61,916.54
Categorized as follows:		
Checking Account	\$ 874.54	
Original Savings	2,000.00	
Savings from Roanoke Rapids Property Sale	<u>59,042.00</u>	
Total Balance on Hand, July 1, 1984		<u>\$61,916.54</u>

## ACTUAL RECEIPTS

Churches, Sunday Schools, Women's Auxiliaries, etc.	\$ 1,727.29	
Second Union Meeting	58.43	
Central District Auxiliary Convention	5.00	
Interest on Savings	4,134.35	
Miscellaneous: Cash—State Auxiliary Convention	<u>5.00</u>	
Total Receipts as Reflected on Printed Report		<u>5,930.07</u>
TOTAL FOR WHICH TO ACCOUNT		<u>\$67,846.61</u>

## ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS

Grifton Mission Pastoral Supplement (Expired 12/31/84)	\$ 1,350.00	
Grifton Mission Down Payment on Property	5,200.00	
Office Expense	262.70	
Board Meetings Expense		
Total Disbursements		<u>6,812.70</u>
BALANCE ON HAND, June 30, 1985		<u><u>\$61,033.91</u></u>
Checking Account	\$ 991.91	
Savings Accounts	60,042.00	
Total Balance	<u>\$61,033.91</u>	

NOTE: All Savings are on deposit with the Church Finance Association.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cedric D. Pierce Jr., *Secretary-Treasurer*

### THE ORDAINING COUNCIL

The Ordaining Council is elected and authorized by the Central Conference to examine and certify each candidate for license and ordination, to give clearance or receive transfer of membership of each minister from another conference, and to properly exercise ministerial discipline as set forth in the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists*. The members of the Ordaining Council presently serving are: Harry Grubbs, chairman; Dr. Michael Pelt, vice-chairman; Ray Williamson, secretary; Dan Beaman, and Bruce Jones. The council met six times since the last session to fulfill its duties.

During the year four ministers were given clearance to pastor churches within the Central Conference: Robert Jones of Watery Branch, Luther Bissette of Edgewood, Dennis Sherrod of Dilda's Grove, and Ed Miles of Spring Branch.

Letters of transfer to the Central Conference were received from two ministers: Robert Burke from the Eastern Conference, and Jack Scarboro from the Western Conference. Memberships were also received pending the transfer of letters for Steve Hargrove from the Albemarle Conference, Jerry Campbell from the Eastern Conference, and James Lupton from the Western Conference.

Three ministers were given letters of transfer from the Central Conference: Robert Strickland and Dale Albertson to the Western Conference, and Frank Thigpen to the Albemarle Conference.

The ordination credentials of two ministers became null and void during the year: Jack Mayo surrendered his credentials for pleading guilty to criminal charges, and Reb Lancaster's credentials were automatically revoked for joining a church of another denomination.

One candidate for ordination was approved, and credentials were issued to Mike Tart on February 4, 1985.

The council also began work, upon direction by the Central Conference Executive Committee, on a brochure about the call to the ministry to be distributed among our churches, layman's leagues, youth convention, etc. to call attention to the need for God-called people to the ministry.

The council spent considerable time in study and discussion concerning a new concept of ministry for Original Free Will Baptists: a certified lay speaker program. The need exists for a place within our work for those who feel God's call to preach His Word, have natural abilities, and a desire for deeper study and increased service, but do not necessarily feel led to accept the position and responsibility of an ordained minister. Many new and wonderful opportunities and challenges could be offered through such a program. Areas discussed include: (1) recommendation by the local church, (2) courses of study, (3) oral examination, (4) certification, and (5) listing of certified lay speakers in the Conference minutes and *Yearbook*. Other areas need to be more fully explored, but the need is real and full of possibilities which can give the lay people of our churches an avenue for greater service and personal growth in the faith.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Williamson, *Secretary*  
Harry Grubbs, *Chairman*

### RESOLUTIONS AND TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

1. BE IT RESOLVED that we affirm our support of and commit ourselves to helping carry out the four-part five-year plan adopted by the State Convention at its last meeting.
2. BE IT RESOLVED that the officers of the Conference be given a standing vote of appreciation for the outstanding manner in which they handled the affairs of the



Conference during the past year under difficult circumstances; and for the orderly and proficient manner in which today's Conference was conducted.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Aspen Grove Church be given a standing vote of thanks for the excellent hospitality provided for today's meeting of the Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

M. S. Cowan

Tom Miller

Leon Grubbs

#### REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee makes the following nominations:

##### EXECUTIVE BOARD (to one-year term)

Moderator	The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood
Assistant Moderator	The Rev. Ron Braxton
Clerk	The Rev. Scott Sowers

##### BOARD OF ORDINATION

Term ending 1990	The Rev. Harry Grubbs
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##### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Term ending 1990	Mr. Zeb Harrison
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##### BOARD OF MISSIONS

Term ending 1990	The Rev. Leon Harris
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##### BOARD OF FINANCE

Term ending 1990	Mrs. Mary Boyd
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##### REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBERSHIPS IN THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS FOUNDATION

Term ending 1990	The Rev. J. B. Narron
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##### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Term ending 1987	The Rev. Bryant Hines
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Term ending 1988	The Rev. Donald Ribeiro
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##### OBITUARY COMMITTEE

Term ending 1988	Mrs. Hubert Burress
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Respectfully submitted,

J. B. Narron

C. H. Overman

Dot D. Dall

#### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, the finance committee of the Central Conference, submit the following recommendations:

To the following enterprises we present a donation of \$75 each.

The Free Will Baptist Press

The Minister's Program

Cragmont Assembly

Home Missions

Foreign Missions

Retirement Ministry

Children's Home

Mount Olive College

Respectfully submitted,

Finance Committee,

Lou D. McLawhorn, *Chairperson*

Leo Tripp

Ed Thornton

## TREASURER'S REPORT

November 1984—November 1985

Checking Account Balance, 11/8/84 \$ 780.58

## RECEIPTS

Conference Collection	\$ 100.00	
Yearbooks	<u>1,495.00</u>	1,595.00
Total		<u>\$2,375.58</u>

## DISBURSEMENTS

The Rev. Jack Mayo (travel)	\$ 20.70
La Grange Church (telephone)	10.00
The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood (supplies)	55.95
Free Will Baptist Press	62.50
Superannuation	62.50
Retirement Homes	62.50
Children's Home	62.50
Mount Olive College	62.50
Cragmont	62.50
Foreign Missions	62.50
Home Missions	62.50
Free Will Baptist Press (supplies)	5.33
Free Will Baptist Press (yearbooks)	604.25
Farmville Flower Shop (Rev. L. B. Manning)	41.80
Intangible Tax	1.00
Free Will Baptist Press (supplies)	<u>8.26</u>
	1,247.29
Total in Treasury, 11/7/85	<u>\$1,128.29</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Ronnie V. Hobgood, *Moderator*  
 Lou D. McLawhorn, *Treasurer*

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

## FINANCIAL DATA

CHURCHES	Church			Average MW Att	Gain			Lost			Net Change	Average		Denom Gifts	Local Use	Total
	Members	Active	Inactive		Baptism	Letter	Other	Deceased	Letter	Other		Members	SS Att			
CENTRAL CONFERENCE																
Aspen Grove	243	142	101	110	7	2		3			6	157	120	4651	30856	35507
Ayden	145	145	150	65	0	0	0	1	10	0	-11	75	45	1887	24046	25933
Bethany	177	89	90	70					2		-2	78	50	4862	28141	33003
Black Jack	677	677	0	275	6	8	4	14	9	51	-56	436	292	8643	104637	113280
Community	118			75	4	5	0	1	2	0	-6	101	65	552	23048	23600
Daniels Chapel	354										0	163			0	
Dilda's Grove	101			75							0	75	60	4019	10049	14068
Edgewood	36	39	18		0	4	0	6	2	0	-4	46	42	2633	14637	17270
Elm Grove	179			125	3	7		1	7		2	140	100	5119	42897	48016
Free Union	297	297	200	210	1	2	0	10	3	0	-10	0	100	6508	38120	44628
Friendship	287			185	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	242	140	13823	0	
Greenville, Firs	215			150	1	0	0	4	5	0	-8	108	85	8650	67631	76281
Grimsley	73	73	69	55	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	64	50	2285	18080	20365
Gum Swamp	230	230	209	136	17	12	0	7	1	0	21	201	141	14363	42972	57335
Harrell's Chapel	160	130	30	105				6	1		-7	140	120	5472	27463	32935
Hickory Grove	95	94	6	75	3	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	63	3063	27664	30727
Howell Swamp	142				0	0	0	1	1	0	-2	0		1670	15297	16967
Hugo	89	76	52	70	3	4	0	7	4	0	-4	78	62		0	
Hull Road	345			135	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	90	19468	26611	46079
King's Cross Roa	200	125	75	120	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	113	89	14529	36849	51378
La Grange	198				1	3	0	4	3	0	-3	126	105	4622	32757	37379
Little Creek	146	122	24	75	0	0	0	3	0	0	-3	0	55	4023	19197	23220

Marlboro	259	253	6	147	7	6	8	1	0	0	20	196	132	4245	50654	54899
Ormondsville	143	142	50	120	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	84	3365	34660	38025
Otter's Creek	67	60	31	52	1	2	0	0	5	0	-2	52	43	2673	16057	18730
Owens Chapel	197			150	1	0	0	1	3	0	-3	100	90	2751	22706	25457
Peace	90	62	28	80	4	8	0	1	0	0	11	64	58	2442	25337	27779
Piney Grove(B)	41	36	5	36	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	39	28	2231	6931	9162
Piney Grove(P)	158	85	86	70	0	0	5	1	10	0	-6	64	50	3687	38777	42464
Pleasant Hill											0	0			0	
Reedy Branch	307	177	132	150	0	7	0	6	3	0	-2	185	135	7741	43472	51213
Rocky Mount, Fir	110				1	1	0	1	0	0	1	25			0	
Rose Hill	190	200	82	125	7	1	0	5	0	0	3	101	68	4636	34186	38822
Rose of Sharon	176	115	60	80	5	2	0	3	2	0	2	115	90	5846	26327	32173
Saint's Delight											0	0			0	
Saratoga	179	179	38	96	6	3	1	3	7	0	0	93	89	3836	31881	35717
Spring Branch	249			130	4	1	0	3	1	0	1	130	100	4175	21905	26080
Sweet Gum Grove											0	0			0	
Tarboro, First	408			173	19	7	0	2	3	0	21	174	135	7892	87000	94892
Walnut Creek	93			38	1	0	0	0	2	0	-1	103	35	2605	15769	18374
Watery Branch											0	0			0	
Williamston, Fir	112	74	123	80	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	47	864	31792	32656
Winterville	258			130	5	4	5	2	1	2	9	141	115	16495	103934	120429

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TOTALS	7544	3622	1665	3768	117	101	23	107	93	53	-17	3987	3173	206326	1222340	1414843
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#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Angola	60				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		405	14323	14728
Antioch	318	168	150	220	4	7	0	2	0	0	9	75	130	1370	38413	39783
Arapahoe	249	150	99	140	12	10	0	0	4		18	185	135	7977	49113	57090
Beaufort	73	47	27	60	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	41	35	1111	19154	20265