

**1995-96  
YEARBOOK  
FOR  
ORIGINAL  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

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Central Conference  
**MINUTES**  
of the  
**247th ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
of the  
**CENTRAL CONFERENCE**  
of the  
**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

Held with  
**First Free Will Baptist Church of Rocky Mount**  
**Nash County, North Carolina**  
**Thursday, November 9, 1995**  
**The Reverend Ray Williamson, Host Pastor**

**Officers of the Conference**

Moderator: The Reverend Gary Bailey  
Assistant Moderator: The Reverend Stanley Buck  
Clerk: The Reverend Joey Williams  
Assistant Clerk: Dr. Michael Pelt  
Treasurer: The Reverend Ray Williamson

**Boards and Committees**

**Executive Committee (1994-1996)**

The Reverend Gary Bailey, Moderator  
The Reverend Stanley Buck, Assistant Moderator  
The Reverend Joey Williams, Clerk  
Dr. Michael Pelt, Assistant Clerk  
The Reverend Ray Williamson, Treasurer

**Board of Ordination**

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood (1996) | The Reverend J. B. Narron (1997) |
| The Reverend Harry Grubbs (1998)   | The Reverend Scott Sowers (1999) |
| The Reverend Philip Wood (2000)    |                                  |

**Board of Trustees**

|                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| The Reverend N. Bruce Barrow (1996) | Mr. Joe Williams (1997)   |
| Mrs. C. L. Patrick (1998)           | Mrs. Gladys Oakley (1999) |
| Mr. Rex Wainwright (2000)           |                           |

**Board of Missions**

|                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. Billy Churchill (1996)          | The Reverend Glenn Mills (1997) |
| The Reverend N. Bruce Barrow (1998) | The Reverend Leon Grubbs (1999) |
| Mr. Blanie Moye (2000)              |                                 |

**Board of Finance**

|                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Reverend Frank Flowers (1996) | Mrs. Joyce Hathaway (1997) |
| The Reverend David Langley (1998) | Mrs. Alma Buck (1999)      |
| Mrs. Annie Cratt (2000)           |                            |

**Koinonia Advisors**

The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood (1996)

Dr. Donald Ribeiro (1997)

**Representation of Memberships in the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.**

The Reverend Ron Braxton (1996)

Mr. Thomas Strickland (1997)

The Reverend Dan Beamon (1998)

Mrs. Louise Whitehurst (1999)

Mrs. Elma Beddard (2000)

**Credentials Committee**

Mr. Barry Williamson (1996)

The Reverend David Hill (1997)

The Reverend Walt Tyndall (1998)

**Obituary Committee**

The Reverend Thomas Bowen (1996)

The Reverend Tom Miller (1997)

Mrs. Ruth Taylor (1998)

**Conference Historian**

Mrs. Kenya Williams (1996)

**Publicity Chairperson**

Mrs. Wallie Hargrove (1996)

**Representative of Memberships in Church Finance Association, Inc.**

The Reverend Philip Wood (1996)

**Roll of Central Conference Ministers  
by Seniority**

| Minister         | Ordained | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
|------------------|----------|------|------|------|
| N. D. Beamon     | 12/04/33 | P    | P    | P    |
| C. L. Patrick    | 04/20/47 | P    | P    | A    |
| N. Bruce Barrow  | 09/1935  | P    | P    | P    |
| J. B. Narron     | 10/13/50 | P    | P    | P    |
| Michael Pelt     | 1950     | P    | L    | P    |
| Willis Wilson    | 12/28/54 | P    | P    | P    |
| C. H. Overman    | 1952     | P    | P    | P    |
| Joseph Lehmann   | 11/09/65 | L    | L    | L    |
| Charles Branch   | 01/25/69 | L    | P    | P    |
| Bruce Jones      | 09/05/71 | P    | P    | P    |
| Clinton Davis    | 07/05/72 | P    | P    | P    |
| Gary Bailey      | 07/12/72 | P    | P    | P    |
| Walter Reynolds  | 07/30/49 | L    | P    | P    |
| Tom Miller       | 07/02/67 | P    | P    | P    |
| Stewart Humphrey | 11/10/66 | L    | L    | L    |
| Leon Grubbs      | 09/05/68 | P    | P    | P    |
| Bobby Taylor     | 11/02/73 | P    | P    | L    |
| Ronnie Hobgood   | 08/13/78 | P    | P    | P    |
| Melvin Moore     |          | P    | L    | L    |

| <b>Minister</b>     | <b>Ordained</b> | <b>1993</b> | <b>1994</b> | <b>1995</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Harry Grubbs        | 02/24/67        | P           | P           | L           |
| Frank Flowers       | 06/02/72        | P           | P           | P           |
| Earl Glenn          |                 | P           | P           | P           |
| Billy Ray Jordan    | 10/17/62        | P           | L           | A           |
| R. P. Harris (ret.) | 11/20/33        | L           | P           | P           |
| Leon Harris         | 05/17/81        | P           | P           | P           |
| Clifford Ball       | 08/20/81        | P           | P           | P           |
| Ray Williamson      | 05/11/77        | P           | P           | P           |
| Ronald Braxton      | 02/03/83        | L           | P           | L           |
| Donald Ribeiro      |                 | L           | L           | L           |
| David Hill          | 10/31/68        | L           | P           | P           |
| Mark Hobbs          | 11/30/80        | P           | P           | L           |
| Bass Mitchell       | 10/31/76        | L           | A           | A           |
| W. Scott Sowers     | 07/01/73        | P           | P           | P           |
| Stanley Buck        | 09/17/73        | L           | P           | P           |
| Steve Hargrove      | 05/31/78        | P           | P           | A           |
| David Langley       | 10/05/87        | P           | P           | P           |
| Philip Wood         | 05/12/79        | P           | P           | P           |
| Norwood Futrell     | 09/1951         | P           | P           | L           |
| Thomas Parrish      | 02/10/63        | L           | A           | A           |
| Calvin Heath        |                 | L           | P           | P           |
| Thomas Bowen        | 11/25/90        | P           | P           | P           |
| Harry A. Jones, Jr. | 10/27/91        | L           | P           | P           |
| Ronnie Mohn         |                 | P           | L           | A           |
| Carroll Bradbury    | 09/23/91        | P           | P           | P           |
| Glenn Mills         | 09/23/91        | P           | P           | P           |
| H. P. Norman        | 09/08/93        | P           | P           | P           |
| Frank Robbins       | 09/08/93        | P           | A           | P           |
| Walter R. Tyndall   | 09/08/93        | P           | P           | P           |
| Larry Letchworth    | 09/23/91        | P           | P           | P           |
| Jack E. Weathersby  | 02/27/94        | P           | P           | P           |
| Archie Brock        | 12/06/92        |             | P           | P           |
| Joey Williams       | 01/15/95        | P           | P           | P           |
| Mark Hogan          |                 |             |             | P           |
| Clifford Harwood    |                 |             |             |             |

| <b>Licensed Ministers</b> | <b>1993</b> | <b>1994</b> | <b>1995</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Todd Sutton               | P           | P           | P           |
| Barry Wayne Williamson    | P           | A           | L           |
| Donald Randolph Cobb      |             | P           | P           |
| Shelton Eugene Rouse      |             |             | A           |
| Samuel Earl Gay           |             |             | A           |
| Chris Haddock             |             |             | P           |
| Douglas G. Owens          |             |             | A           |
| Charles Owens             |             |             | P           |

## Roll of Churches

| Church                     | Letter | Delegates |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Aspen Grove                | N      | N         |
| Ayden                      | Y      | Y         |
| Bethany                    | Y      | Y         |
| Black Jack                 | Y      | N         |
| Community                  | N      | N         |
| Daniel's Chapel            | Y      | Y         |
| Dilda's Grove              | Y      | N         |
| Edgewood                   | Y      | N         |
| Elm Grove                  | Y      | Y         |
| Free Union                 | Y      | N         |
| Friendship                 | Y      | Y         |
| Greenville, First          | Y      | Y         |
| Grimsley                   | N      | N         |
| Gum Swamp                  | N      | N         |
| Harrell's Chapel           | Y      | Y         |
| Hickory Grove              | Y      | Y         |
| Howell Swamp               | Y      | N         |
| Hugo                       | Y      | N         |
| Hull Road                  | Y      | Y         |
| King's Cross Roads         | N      | N         |
| La Grange, First           | Y      | N         |
| Little Creek               | Y      | Y         |
| Marlboro                   | Y      | N         |
| Ormondsville               | Y      | Y         |
| Otter's Creek              | Y      | Y         |
| Owen's Chapel              | Y      | Y         |
| Peace                      | Y      | Y         |
| Piney Grove (Beaufort Co.) | Y      | N         |
| Piney Grove (Pitt Co.)     | Y      | Y         |
| Pleasant Hill              | Y      | N         |
| Reedy Branch               | Y      | Y         |
| Rocky Mount                | Y      | Y         |
| Rose Hill                  | Y      | Y         |
| Rose of Sharon             | Y      | Y         |
| Saint's Delight            | N      | N         |
| Saratoga                   | N      | Y         |
| Spring Branch              | Y      | N         |
| Sweet Gum Grove            | N      | Y         |
| Tarboro, First             | Y      | Y         |
| Walnut Creek               | Y      | N         |
| Watery Branch              | N      | N         |
| Williamston, First         | Y      | Y         |
| Winterville                | Y      | Y         |
| Hillside Mission           | Y      | N         |

**Proceedings**  
**Morning Session**

The Central Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists, being the continuation of the General Conference, convened in its 247th Annual Session with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, on Thursday, November 9, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.

The Reverend Joey Williams, clerk, called the annual session to order and presented the Reverend Ray Williams, host pastor, who opened the Conference with a hymn, "Praise to the Lord Almighty." Mr. Todd Sutton read Scripture and led in the opening prayer.

Mr. Donald Rogers, from the host church, extended a cordial welcome to the Conference.

The Reverend Gary Bailey, moderator, gave a brief address encouraging the Conference to "increase its vision."

The roll of churches was called with 23 churches responding with delegates.

Seven visiting ministers were recognized and welcomed by the Moderator. The ministers were: the Reverends Joe Ingram, Aubrey Williamson, Richard Holmes, Ray Wells (from the Western Conference), Rod Jones, Walter Sutton (from the Eastern Conference), and Stephen Prescott (a licensed minister from the Eastern Conference).

The Moderator appointed temporary committees as follows: Parliamentarian--Dr. Michael Pelt; Nominating--the Reverend Ronnie Hobgood (chairman), the Reverend Leon Grubbs, the Reverend J. B. Narron; Resolutions and Temperance--the Reverend Glenn Mills (chairman), the Reverend Leon Harris, the Reverend Philip Wood; Song Leader--the Reverend Ray Williamson; ushers were supplied by the host church.

At 10 a.m., Conference business was set aside for the worship service. The service was opened with Scripture from Psalm 100 and prayer. The Reverend Ray Williamson led the congregation in the singing of "To God Be the Glory," followed by the offering from the Conference and the offertory prayer. Special music was presented by a quartet from the host church. The Reverend Ray Wells, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, preached the Conference sermon. His text came from Exodus 14. The main emphasis of that message was, "Where do we go from here?" That was the question facing the Children of Israel as they faced the Red Sea with Pharaoh and his army behind them. The Reverend Wells stressed that as Free Will Baptists we must ask ourselves this same question that the Children of Israel asked and we must strive with God's help and guidance to move forward. The worship service concluded with the singing of "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" and prayer.

The report of the Executive Committee was read by the Clerk. By motion it was adopted (see Reports).

The report of the Board of Ordination was read by the Reverend Ronnie Hobgood. By motion it was adopted (see Reports).

The Reverend Gary Bailey, moderator, presented certificates to the following ministers in recognition for years of service: The Reverend N. B. Barrow--60 years, Dr. Michael Pelt--45 years, the Reverend J. B. Narron--45 years, and the Reverend Joseph Lehmann--30 years. The Reverend Gary Bailey, moderator, extended a welcome to membership in the Conference to the Reverend Joey Williams, newly ordained in January; the Reverend Mark Hogan, transferring to the Central Conference; and the Reverend Clifford Harwood, transferring to the Central Conference.

An oral report covering all of the denominational ministries, was given by the Reverend Scott Sowers, executive administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will

Baptists. Following the reports, comments were made by representatives of the denominational ministries as follows: the Reverend C. H. Overman, former Executive Administrator; Dr. Michael Pelt, Mount Olive College; the Reverend Walter Sutton, Retirement Homes; the Reverend Walter Reynolds, Church Finance; Dr. Bobby Taylor, Children's Home; the Reverend Gary Bailey, Cragmont Assembly.

The roll of ministers was called.

The Reverend Walt Tyndall gave the report of the Credentials Committee. By motion the report was adopted (see Reports).

Mrs. Kenya Williams, the Conference historian, gave a report on the historical survey sent out to the churches of the Conference and encouraged each church to update her record in the Historical Collection in the Moye Library at Mount Olive College (see Reports).

The Conference recessed for the noon meal with prayer.

### Afternoon Session

The afternoon session was called to order with the singing of "Blessed Assurance." The afternoon session was moderated by the Assistant Moderator, the Reverend Stanley Buck.

The Reverend Thomas Bowen gave the report of the Obituary Committee (see Reports).

The Reverend Leon Harris gave the report of the Conference Board of Missions. By motion the report was adopted (see Reports).

The Reverend Ray Williamson gave the Treasurer's Report. By motion the report was adopted (see Reports).

The Moderator called for miscellaneous business. There was no miscellaneous business.

The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood gave the report of the Nominating Committee. By motion the report was adopted (see Reports).

The floor was opened for other nominations. There were no other nominations. By motion the nominations ceased and the nominees were elected by acclamation.

The Reverend Philip Wood gave the report of the Resolutions and Temperance Committee. By motion the report was adopted (see Reports).

A rising voting thanks was given to the host church and to the Conference officers for their work over the past year.

By motion the Conference adjourned.

The Conference was dismissed with prayer by the Reverend Michael Pelt.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Gary Bailey, *Moderator*  
The Reverend Joey Williams, *Clerk*

### Reports Executive Committee

(November 29, 1994)

The Executive Committee met at Bill's Barbecue in Wilson, NC, November 29, 1994.

Present at the meeting were the Reverends Gary M. Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, Mark Hobbs, Phil Wood, and Joey Williams.



The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer.

The minutes of the 246th Annual Session of the Central Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists were read and approved.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

(April 18, 1995)

The Executive Committee met at Bill's Barbecue in Wilson, NC, April 18, 1995.

Present at the meeting were the Reverends Gary M. Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, and Joey Williams.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer.

The minutes from the November Executive Committee meeting were read, corrected, and approved.

### New Business

There was a discussion concerning the 247th Session of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. An invitation to First Free Will Baptist Church of Rocky Mount was given. A motion to accept this invitation was made by the Reverend Stanley Buck, seconded by the Reverend Joey Williams. Thursday, November 9, 1995, was the date set for the Conference. The Executive Committee received the resignation of Chaplain Mark Hobbs as Assistant Clerk due to his transfer to Turkey.

There was a discussion on a replacement for Chaplain Mark Hobbs, assistant clerk. We decided to research the Constitution and Bylaws before a replacement was found.

A motion was made and seconded that we adjourn, and the meeting was closed in prayer.

(August 29, 1995)

The Executive Committee met at Bill's Barbecue in Wilson, NC, August 29, 1995.

Present at the meeting were the Reverends Gary M. Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, and Joey Williams.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer.

The minutes of the April 18, 1995, meeting were read and approved.

There was a discussion concerning a ministers' meeting. A motion was made by the Reverend Joey Williams, seconded by the Reverend Stanley Buck, to have this meeting at Ryan's Steak House, on October 23, 1995, and that we ask Lydia van der Plas to come as our speaker.

### Old Business

We discussed details concerning the 247th Session of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. A motion was made by the Reverend Ray Williamson, seconded by the Reverend Joey Williams, to invite the Reverend Ray Wells to preach the Conference message.

A motion was made by the Reverend Stanley Buck, seconded by the Reverend Ray Williamson, to appoint Dr. Michael Pelt as the Assistant Clerk to replace Chaplain Mark Hobbs.

### New Business

The Reverend Gary M. Bailey, moderator, informed the Executive Committee of an investigation from two groups of Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church, seeking help and direction for their church. As a committee, we agreed to meet with them at a date that

would be convenient for each member of the Executive Committee. We agreed that this meeting would allow us to hear the concerns of the members, but that we would send recommendations at a later time.

(September 27, 1995)

The Executive Committee met at Ryan's Steak House, in Greenville, NC, September 27, 1995. Present at the meeting were the Reverends Gary M. Bailey, Ray Williamson, and Joey Williams. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. We had a brief discussion concerning the path we, as the Executive Committee, would take during our meeting with Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church. A motion was made by the Reverend Ray Williamson, seconded by the Reverend Joey Williams, to appoint the Reverend David Hines as acting moderator of the church, since at the present time he is serving in the role of interim pastor. We called a recess until we reconvened at Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church. The meeting reconvened at Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church, in Ayden, at 7:30 p.m.

The Reverend Gary M. Bailey began the meeting by reading selected sections from *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for the the Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

The Executive Committee set down guidelines we would follow:

- 1) Limit remarks to 5 minutes.
- 2) Please try to avoid stating the same events numerous times;
- 3) That the Executive Committee was on a fact-finding mission;
- 4) That anyone desiring the floor must be first recognized by the Chair, then state

his or her name for the record.

At this time the floor was opened to all those desiring to speak. Several members expressed their views.

The Moderator made a few closing comments. He stated that the Executive Committee would be meeting together to help find a solution and that it would be several weeks before the church would hear from the Executive Committee. He further stated that the Executive Committee would be in prayer for the church and the meeting was closed in prayer.

(October 5, 1995)

The Executive Committee met at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville, October 5, 1995, in regards to the meeting the Committee had with Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Present at the meeting were the Reverends Gary M. Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, and Joey Williams. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. The purpose of this meeting was to try to find some solutions to the problems facing Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church. The Committee began by having an open discussion concerning the meeting we had with Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church. The Committee compiled a list of recommendations. The meeting was closed with a word of prayer.

(October 18, 1995)

The Executive Committee met at Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC, October 18, 1995.

Present at the meeting was the Reverends Gary M. Bailey, Michael Pelt, David Hines, and Joey Williams.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by the Reverend Gary M. Bailey.

The purpose of this meeting was to try to finalize the recommendations to be presented to Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed on four recommendations as follows:

- 1) We recommend that Gary Evans and Dick Evans not act as deacons until fully ordained.
- 2) We recommend that the current Board of Deacons be informed that they are not a board of directors but a recommending body to the congregation. Decisions of the Deacon Board are to be approved by the Church in conference before actions are taken.
- 3) We recommended a training course to be set up on "The Work of the Office of Deacon and Other Church Officers and Their Relationship to the Congregation." This training course will be offered to all members of Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church and will be taught by Dr. David Hines.
- 4) We recommended that all the work of the Pulpit Committee cease until further recommendations from the Executive Committee of the Central Conference.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

(November 9, 1995)

The Executive Committee of the Central Conference met at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, prior to the 247th Annual Session of the Conference. Present for the meeting were the Reverends Gary M. Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, Michael Pelt, and Joey Williams. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. By motion the program of the 247th Annual Session of the Central Conference was approved as printed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Gary Bailey, *Moderator*  
The Reverend Joey Williams, *Clerk*

## **Board of Ordination**

### **Meetings**

The Board of Ordination has met five times since the last Conference. The Board met on November 10, 1994; January 9, 1995; April 3, 1995; July 17, 1995; and October 30, 1995.

### **Clearance to Pastor in Conference**

The Reverend Mark Hogan  
November 10, 1994  
Bethany Free Will Baptist Church  
Winterville, NC

The Reverend Charlie Tucker  
October 30, 1995  
Aspen Grove Free Will Baptist Church  
Fountain, NC

### **Clearance to Work in Conference**

Mr. Stephen Prescott  
October 30, 1995  
First Free Will Baptist Church  
Greenville, NC

### **Transfer of Conference Membership**

The following ministers have transferred their conference membership to the Central Conference.

The Reverend Clifford Harwood  
January 9, 1995  
Pastor of La Grange First Free Will Baptist Church  
La Grange, NC

The Reverend Mark Hogan  
May 11, 1995  
Bethany Free Will Baptist Church  
Winterville, NC  
September 6, 1986 (date of ordination)

The following minister has transferred his conference membership from the Central Conference.

The Reverend Ronnie Mohn  
October 30, 1995  
Transferred to the Eastern Conference

### **Minister Ordained**

The Reverend Joey Williams  
January 9, 1995  
Pastor of Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church  
Bear Grass, NC  
Date of Ordination--January 15, 1995, First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville

### **Ministers Licensed**

Mr. Shelton Rouse  
First Free Will Baptist Church  
Williamston, NC

Mr. Samuel Gay  
Howell Swamp Free Will Baptist Church  
Walstonburg, NC

Mr. Chris Haddock  
First Free Will Baptist Church  
Williamston, NC

Mr. Douglas G. Owens  
Saratoga Free Will Baptist Church  
Saratoga, NC

Mr. Charles Owens  
 Otter's Creek Free Will Baptist Church  
 Fountain, NC

### Membership Roll

The following ministers were added to the roll of ordained ministers:

The Reverend Joey Williams  
 The Reverend Clifford Harwood  
 The Reverend Mark Hogan

The following minister is to be dropped from the roll of ordained ministers:

The Reverend Ronnie Mohn

The following ministers are to be added to the roll of licensed ministers:

Mr. Shelton Eugene Rouse  
 Mr. Samuel Gay  
 Mr. Chris Haddocok  
 Mr. Douglas G. Owens  
 Mr. Charles Owens

Respectfully submitted,  
 The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood, *Chairman*  
 The Reverend J. B. Narron  
 The Reverend Harry Grubbs  
 The Reverend Scott Sowers  
 The Reverend Charles Branch

### Report of the Credentials Committee

We, the Credentials Committee, submit the following report:

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Churches represented by Delegates | 23        |
| Central Conference Ministers      | 42        |
| Central Conference Delegates      | 44        |
| Visiting Ministers                | 4         |
| Licensed Ministers                | 3         |
| Visitors                          | <u>16</u> |
| Total registered                  | 109       |

Respectfully submitted,  
 The Reverend Walt Tyndall  
 The Reverend J. David Hill

Last year, a historical survey was mailed to each of the churches in the Central Conference. Sixteen of the forty-four churches responded to the survey. This year, another survey was mailed to each church. Twenty-three responses were received. Of the twenty-three responses received, nine were received from churches that did not respond the previous year. If your church has not turned in a historical survey, please do so. During research at the Moyer Library, I found that many churches have not updated their historical records in several years. Each church is encouraged to update her historical records in the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection on a regular basis. Also, each church is encouraged to turn over any items or documents of historical significance to the Conference.

Mrs. Kenya Williams  
Conference Historian

### **Obituary Committee**

We, the Obituary Committee, are not aware of the passing of any of our Central Conference ministers in the past year. Yet, there are several of our brother ministers from other conferences of our denomination that have passed on and they will be missed. There are also many members of our churches that have gone to be with the Lord and they will be missed.

"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:7-8).

Let us all stand and have a moment of silent prayer for all those families that have lost loved ones this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Tom Miller, *Chairman*  
The Reverend Earl Glenn  
The Reverend Thomas Bowen

### **Central Conference Missions**

The Central Conference Mission Board expresses thanks to all of you for your prayers and financial support this past year. A very special "thank you" is again extended to the ladies, who through the Auxiliary Convention, have continued a most generous support of Central Conference Missions. We also want to express our deep appreciation to the churches who sent gifts monthly.

The goals of the Central Conference Missions Board, as assigned by the Conference, are as follows:

1. "An Original Free Will Baptist Church in every town
2. Stand ready to assist any church in our conference that might need our help;  
and
3. Be prepared to launch out in the establishment of another mission or supporting a prospective group which feels led to organize."

Our financial report reveals deposits in our checking account of \$848.94 and expenditures of \$1,986.22. All monies spent this year reflect our continued support of Hillside

Mission. We also have "The Central Conference Mission Board Endowment Fund" with Church Finance Association. The interest from these savings have enabled us over the past couple of years to purchase a central air conditioning unit for Hillside, to remodel inside, as well as, repair the roof, the large front window and paint the outside.

Your Mission Board has taken initial steps to locate a promising site for a new work, however, our primary emphasis continues to be helping Hillside Mission reach church status as soon as possible. Hillside Mission has turned to your Board to assist them in some needed repairs to the exterior of their building; we will also continue to provide \$150 per month toward Hillside Mission's property payment to Church Finance.

We thank all of you for the confidence you have shown in us by electing us to serve on your Mission Board, however, we cannot serve this Conference effectively without your prayers and support.

All contributions should be mailed to:

Central Conference Missions  
c/o The Reverend Leon Harris  
Route 3, Box 36  
Ayden, NC 28513

### Central Conference Missions Treasury Report

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance on Hand--July 1, 1994 | \$ 73,218.04 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|

#### Actual Receipts

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Balance in Checking--July 1, 1994 | \$ <u>1,259.28</u> |
| Total on Hand                     | \$ 2,108.22        |

#### Actual Disbursements

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Property Payments (Church Finance for Hillside Mission) | \$ 1,800.00        |
| Bank Charge   | 36.00              |
| Chalk Board (English School for Migrant Workers)        | 97.22              |
| Travel and Miscellaneous                                | 35.00              |
| Total Expenditures                                      | \$ <u>1,968.22</u> |

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance in Checking--June 30, 1995 | \$ <u>40.00</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|

#### Savings

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance as of July 1, 1994     | \$ 71,958.76        |
| Interest Earned                | 1,487.67            |
| Savings--June 30, 1995         | <u>73,446.43</u>    |
| Balance on Hand--June 30, 1995 | \$ <u>73,586.43</u> |

### Treasurer's Report

November 1, 1994-October 31, 1995

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Balance Brought Forward--November 1, 1994 | \$7,888.68 |
|---|------------|

#### Receipts

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Church Contributions | 1,400.00 |
|----------------------|----------|

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Interest on Checking                           | 126.24             |
| Interest on Church Finance Association Deposit | 514.26             |
| Interest on Mount Olive College Note           | 468.75             |
| Total Receipts                                 | <u>2,509.25</u>    |
| Total to Account for                           | <u>\$10,397.93</u> |

**Disbursements**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| State Convention Headquarters--office equipment | \$1,000.00        |
| FWB Press                                       | 16.70             |
| <i>Yearbook</i> Pages                           | 3,910.00          |
| Board of Ordination Expenses                    | 116.15            |
| Executive Committee Expenses (1993-1994)        | 137.77            |
| Executive Committee Expenses (1994-1995)        | 179.04            |
| Total Disbursements                             | <u>2,359.66</u>   |
| Balance in Bank as of October 31, 1995          | <u>\$8,038.27</u> |

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Branch Bank Checking       | \$8,038.27         |
| Mount Olive College Note   | 7,500.00           |
| Church Finance Association | <u>17,141.84</u>   |
| Grand Total                | <u>\$32,680.11</u> |

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Gary Bailey, *Moderator*  
The Reverend Ray Williamson, *Treasurer*

**Nominating Committee**

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Assistant Clerk:                               | Dr. Michael Pelt                 |
| Board of Ordination:                           | The Reverend Philip Wood (2000)  |
| Board of Trustees:                             | Mrs. Gladys Oakley (1999)        |
|  | Mr. Rex Wainwright (2000)        |
| Board of Missions:                             | Mr. Blanie Moore (2000)          |
| Board of Finance:                              | Mrs. Annie Cratt (2000)          |
| Representative to the Free Will Baptist Press: | Mrs. Elma Beddard (2000)         |
| Credentials Committee:                         | The Reverend Walt Tyndall (1998) |
| Obituary Committee:                            | Mrs. Ruth Taylor (1998)          |

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood, *Chairman*  
The Reverend Leon Grubbs  
The Reverend J. B. Narron

**Report of the Resolutions Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED, that we give a rising vote of thanks to our host church, First Free Will Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, for its warm hospitality extended to this 247th Annual Session of the Central Conference.

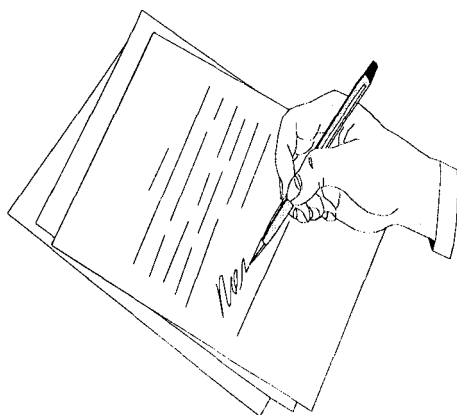


BE IT RESOLVED, that we give a rising vote of thanks to our officers, who have faithfully served the Conference this past year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference message delivered by the Reverend Ray Wells to the 247th Annual Session of the Central Conference, be published in *The Free Will Baptist*.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Glenn Mills, *Chairman*  
The Reverend Leon Harris  
The Reverend Philip Wood

# ***Statistical Tables***



| Churches                | 1994        | Baptism   | Gain      | Other     | Deceased  | Lost      | Other    | Net       | 1995        | Sunday      | Active      | Inactive   | Avg. SS     | Avg. MW     |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|                         | Members     |           | Letter    |           |           | Letter    |          | Change    | Members     | School      |             |            | Atten.      | Atten.      |
| Shady Grove             | 280         | 5         | 2         |           | 7         | 5         |          | -5        | 275         | 115         |             |            | 73          | 90          |
| Smithfield, First       | 132         |           |           | 1         | 3         | 10        |          | -12       | 120         | 18          | 61          | 59         | 12          | 35          |
| Smyrna                  | 152         | 4         |           |           | 1         |           |          | 3         | 155         | 102         | 155         |            | 75          | 75          |
| Steven's Chapel         | 117         | 7         | 2         |           | 2         | 2         |          | 5         | 122         |             |             |            | 45          | 75          |
| St. Mary's Grove        | 215         |           |           |           | 2         | 1         |          | -3        | 212         | 139         | 212         | 34         | 78          | 136         |
| St. Paul                | 159         |           | 3         |           |           | 3         |          | 0         | 159         | 102         | 95          | 64         | 69          | 69          |
| Tee's Chapel            | 306         | 9         | 2         |           | 5         | 2         |          | 4         | 310         | 198         | 310         | 39         | 147         | 156         |
| Vandora Springs         | 91          | 3         | 3         | 6         |           | 3         |          | 9         | 94          | 45          | 84          | 10         | 41          | 68          |
| Victory First Deaf      |             |           |           |           |           |           |          |           |             |             |             |            |             |             |
| West Clinton            | 22          |           |           |           |           | 2         |          | -2        | 20          | 20          | 18          | 2          | 15          | 18          |
| Wootens Chapel          |             | 4         | 20        |           |           |           |          | 24        |             | 25          |             |            | 23          | 50          |
| Yelverton Grove         | 147         | 7         |           |           | 8         | 3         |          | -4        | 143         | 99          |             |            | 68          | 50          |
| <b>Cape Fear Totals</b> | <b>4130</b> | <b>89</b> | <b>57</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>61</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>4136</b> | <b>2181</b> | <b>1511</b> | <b>685</b> | <b>1658</b> | <b>2107</b> |

#### Central Conference

|             |     |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |     |    |    |     |    |    |
|-------------|-----|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Aspen Grove | 214 | 6 | 4 |  | 9 | 1 |  | 0 | 214 | 94 |    |     | 65 | 80 |
| Ayden       | 137 |   | 2 |  | 1 |   |  | 1 | 138 | 36 |    |     | 36 | 56 |
| Bethany     | 197 |   |   |  |   |   |  | 0 | 197 | 71 | 99 | 108 | 56 | 80 |

| Churches           | 1994    | Baptism | Gain   | Other | Deceased | Lost   | Other | Net    | 1995    | Sunday | Active | Inactive | Avg. SS | Avg. MW |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|
|                    | Members |         | Letter |       |          | Letter |       | Change | Members | School |        |          | Atten.  | Atten.  |
| Black Jack         | 298     | 4       | 2      |       | 5        | 8      |       | -7     | 591     | 356    | 411    | 180      | 222     | 252     |
| Community          | 87      |         | 2      |       | 4        | 5      |       | -7     | 80      | 35     | 29     | 51       | 17      | 35      |
| Danields Chapel    | 393     | 4       | 9      |       | 5        | 6      | 1     | 1      | 394     | 145    |        |          | 125     | 185     |
| Dilda's Grove      |         |         |        |       |          |        |       |        |         |        |        |          |         |         |
| Edgewood           | 52      |         |        |       | 2        | 4      |       | -6     | 46      | 30     | 39     | 7        | 31      | 33      |
| Elm Grove          | 190     | 3       | 6      |       | 5        | 1      |       | 3      | 193     | 85     |        |          | 85      | 100     |
| Free Union         | 324     | 2       | 7      |       | 8        | 1      |       | 0      | 324     | 150    | 324    |          | 100     | 150     |
| Friendship         | 317     | 1       | 2      |       | 4        | 7      |       | -8     | 309     | 168    | 150    | 159      | 102     | 175     |
| Greenville, First  | 256     | 3       | 7      |       | 1        | 2      |       | 7      | 263     | 137    |        |          | 106     | 144     |
| Grimsley           |         |         |        |       |          |        |       |        |         |        |        |          |         |         |
| Gum Swamp          | 107     |         | 2      |       | 6        | 2      |       | -6     | 101     | 87     | 101    | 340      | 50      | 65      |
| Harrells Chapel    | 148     | 13      | 2      |       | 5        | 5      |       | 5      | 153     | 146    | 110    | 43       | 110     | 110     |
| Hickory Grove      |         |         |        |       |          |        |       |        |         |        |        |          |         |         |
| Hillside Mission   | 49      | 6       | 4      |       | 1        | 4      | 5     | 0      | 54      | 14     | 54     |          | 14      | 40      |
| Howell Swamp       | 129     |         | 1      |       | 1        |        |       | 0      | 129     | 60     |        |          | 45      | 55      |
| Hugo               | 113     | 4       | 1      |       | 1        |        |       | 4      | 117     | 77     | 86     | 31       | 65      | 92      |
| Hull Road          | 310     |         |        |       | 1        | 3      |       | -4     | 306     | 100    |        |          | 88      | 140     |
| King's Cross Roads | 231     | 10      | 13     | 6     | 3        | 4      | 5     | 17     | 248     | 183    | 174    | 74       | 120     | 185     |
| La Grange, First   | 201     | 5       | 2      | 3     | 2        | 4      |       | 4      | 205     | 116    |        |          | 85      | 90      |
| Little Creek       | 150     | 1       |        |       | 2        | 4      |       | -5     | 145     | 75     | 128    | 17       |         |         |

| Churches           | 1994    | Baptism | Gain   | Other | Deceased | Lost   | Other | Net    | 1995    | Sunday | Active | Inactive | Avg. SS | Avg. MW |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|
|                    | Members |         | Letter |       |          | Letter |       | Change | Members | School |        |          | Atten.  | Atten.  |
| Marlboro           | 326     | 6       | 6      | 2     | 3        |        |       | 11     | 337     | 203    |        |          | 135     | 175     |
| Ormondsville       | 179     | 5       | 4      |       |          |        |       | 9      | 188     | 100    | 98     | 90       | 81      | 92      |
| Otters Creek       |         |         |        |       |          |        |       |        |         |        |        |          |         |         |
| Owens Chapel       | 214     |         | 2      |       | 5        | 4      |       | -7     | 207     | 98     | 120    | 87       | 90      | 140     |
| Peace              | 92      | 5       | 4      |       | 1        |        |       | 8      | 100     | 79     |        |          | 53      | 62      |
| Piney Grove (Beau) | 31      |         |        |       |          |        |       | 0      | 31      | 24     | 31     | 6        | 13      | 24      |
| Piney Grove (Pitt) | 50      |         |        | 2     | 3        | 2      | 10    | -13    | 37      | 26     | 37     |          | 18      | 32      |
| Pleasant Hill      | 58      |         | 2      |       | 2        |        |       | 0      | 58      | 70     | 58     | 80       | 44      | 60      |
| Reedy Branch       | 417     | 4       | 13     |       | 5        | 4      |       | 8      | 425     | 212    |        |          | 154     | 200     |
| Rocky Mount, First | 160     |         |        |       |          |        |       | 0      | 160     | 61     | 78     | 82       | 45      | 65      |
| Rose Hill          | 333     | 1       | 1      | 2     | 4        | 4      |       | -4     | 329     | 125    | 329    | 59       | 80      | 200     |
| Rose of Sharon     | 185     | 6       | 4      |       | 1        | 4      |       | 5      | 190     | 100    | 93     | 97       | 93      | 90      |
| Saratoga           | 201     | 1       |        |       | 4        | 2      |       | -5     | 196     | 116    | 196    |          | 97      | 95      |
| Spring Branch      | 186     | 7       | 3      |       | 3        | 1      |       | 6      | 192     | 70     |        |          | 50      | 85      |
| St. Delight        |         |         |        |       |          |        |       |        |         |        |        |          |         |         |
| Sweet Gum Grove    | 211     |         | 2      |       | 5        |        |       | -3     | 208     | 96     | 208    |          | 70      | 85      |
| Tarboro, First     | 385     | 3       | 1      |       | 5        | 23     |       | -24    | 361     | 122    | 167    | 194      | 100     | 135     |
| Walnut Creek       | 43      | 2       |        |       |          |        |       | 2      | 45      | 48     | 45     |          | 35      | 38      |
| Watery Branch      | 103     | 8       | 6      |       | 3        | 4      |       | 7      | 110     | 119    | 110    | 35       | 90      | 105     |
| Williamston, First | 206     | 11      | 2      | 2     | 1        | 2      |       | 12     | 218     | 62     | 104    | 114      | 43      | 90      |

| Churches    | 1994    | Baptism | Gain   | Other | Deceased | Lost   | Other | Net    | 1995    | Sunday | Active | Inactive | Avg. SS | Avg. MW |
|-------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|
|             | Members |         | Letter |       |          | Letter |       | Change | Members | School |        |          | Atten.  | Atten.  |
| Winterville | 280     | 9       | 13     |       | 4        | 1      |       | 17     | 297     | 176    |        |          | 114     | 162     |

|                       |      |     |     |    |     |     |    |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <u>Central Totals</u> | 7563 | 130 | 129 | 17 | 115 | 112 | 21 | 28 | 7896 | 4072 | 3379 | 1854 | 2927 | 4002 |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|

#### Eastern Conference

|                  |     |   |   |  |   |   |   |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |
|------------------|-----|---|---|--|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Angola           | 58  | 6 | 6 |  |   | 2 |   | 10 | 68  | 63  | 68  | 75  | 46 | 87  |
| Antioch          | 355 | 6 | 5 |  | 1 | 2 |   | 8  | 363 |     |     |     | 72 | 225 |
| Arapahoe         | 166 | 3 |   |  | 2 |   |   | 1  | 167 |     |     |     | 95 | 120 |
| Beaufort         | 39  |   |   |  |   | 4 |   | -4 | 35  | 20  | 24  | 11  | 20 | 34  |
| Bethel           | 53  | 1 | 1 |  |   |   |   | 2  | 55  | 30  |     |     | 28 |     |
| Bethlehem        | 176 | 6 | 3 |  | 4 |   |   | 5  | 181 | 111 | 121 | 60  | 70 | 75  |
| Beulaville       | 199 | 4 | 1 |  | 4 |   | 2 | -1 | 198 | 75  | 105 | 93  | 60 | 75  |
| Bridgeton        | 158 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |   | 0  | 158 |     | 25  | 133 |    |     |
| British Chapel   | 113 | 5 |   |  | 1 |   |   | 4  | 117 | 50  | 69  | 44  | 45 | 60  |
| Cabin            | 165 | 8 |   |  | 2 | 2 |   | 4  | 169 | 45  | 40  | 5   | 40 | 65  |
| Christian Chapel | 245 | 4 | 1 |  | 3 | 2 |   | 0  | 245 | 98  |     |     | 49 | 85  |
| Core Creek       | 119 | 9 | 2 |  |   |   |   | 11 | 130 | 78  | 85  | 45  | 50 | 65  |
| Core Point       | 32  |   | 2 |  | 2 | 1 |   | -1 | 31  | 30  | 30  |     | 25 | 30  |
| Crab Point       | 135 |   | 2 |  |   |   |   | 2  | 137 | 57  | 49  | 88  | 40 | 55  |