

**1996-97
YEARBOOK
FOR
ORIGINAL
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

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MINUTES
of the
248th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of the
CENTRAL CONFERENCE
of the
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Held with
Peace Free Will Baptist Church
Edgecombe County, North Carolina
Thursday, November 7, 1996
The Reverend Carroll Bradbury, 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 (1996-1998)

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 J. B. Narron (1997) The Reverend Harry Grubbs (1998)
The Reverend Scott Sowers (1999) The Reverend Philip Wood (2000)
The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood (2001)

Board of Trustees

Mr. Joe Williams (1997) Mrs. C. L. Patrick (1998)
Mrs. Gladys Oakley (1999) Mr. Rex Wainwright (2000)
The Reverend N. Bruce Barrow (2001)

Board of Missions

The Reverend Glenn Mills (1997) The Reverend N. Bruce Barrow (1998)
The Reverend Leon Grubbs (1999) The Reverend Leon Harris (2000)
Mr. George Wooten (2001)

Board of Finance

Mrs. Joyce Hathaway (1997) The Reverend David Langley (1998)
Mr. Macon Page (1999) Mrs. Annie Cratt (2000)
The Reverend Frank Flowers (2001)

Koinonia Advisors

Dr. Donald Ribeiro (1997)

The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood (1998)

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

Mr. Thomas Strickland (1997)

The Reverend Dan Beamon (1998)

Mrs. Louise Whitehurst (1999)

Mrs. Elma Beddard (2000)

Credentials Committee

The Reverend David Hill (1997)

The Reverend Walt Tyndall (1998)

Mr. Doug Owens (1999)

Obituary Committee

The Reverend Tom Miller (1997)

Mrs. Ruth Taylor (1998)

The Reverend Ronald Braxton (1999)

Conference Historian

Mrs. Kenya Williams (1998)

Publicity Chairperson

The Reverend C. H. Overman (1998)

Representative of Memberships in Church Finance Association, Inc.

The Reverend Philip Wood (1998)

**Roll of Central Conference Ministers
by Seniority**

| Minister | Ordained | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|------------------|----------|------|------|------|
| N. D. Beamon | 12/04/33 | P | P | P |
| N. Bruce Barrow | 09/1935 | P | P | P |
| J. B. Narron | 10/13/50 | P | P | P |
| Michael Pelt | 09/1950 | L | P | P |
| Willis Wilson | 12/28/54 | P | P | P |
| C. H. Overman | 08/1952 | P | P | P |
| Joseph Lehmann | 11/09/65 | L | L | L |
| Charles Branch | 01/05/69 | P | 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 | P | P | L |
| 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 | L | A |
| Ronnie Hobgood | 08/13/78 | P | P | L |
| Melvin Moore | 12/31/59 | L | L | P |

| Minister | Ordained | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|-------------------------|----------|------|------|------|
| Harry Grubbs | 02/24/67 | P | L | P |
| Frank Flowers | 06/02/72 | P | P | P |
| Earl Glenn | 1949 | P | P | P |
| Billy Ray Jordan (ret.) | 10/17/62 | L | A | L |
| R. P. Harris (ret.) | 11/20/33 | P | P | P |
| Leon Harris | 05/17/81 | P | P | P |
| Clifford Ball | 08/20/81 | P | P | L |
| Ray Williamson | 05/11/77 | P | P | P |
| Ronald Braxton | 02/03/83 | P | L | P |
| Donald Ribeiro | | L | L | L |
| David Hill | 10/31/68 | P | P | P |
| Mark Hobbs | 11/20/80 | P | L | A |
| Bass Mitchell | 10/31/76 | A | A | A |
| W. Scott Sowers | 07/01/73 | P | P | P |
| Stanley Buck | 09/17/73 | P | P | P |
| David Langley | 10/05/87 | P | P | P |
| Philip Wood | 05/12/79 | P | P | P |
| Norwood Futrell | 09/1951 | P | L | L |
| Thomas Parrish | 02/10/63 | A | A | P |
| Calvin Heath | 10/31/76 | P | P | P |
| Thomas Bowen | 11/25/90 | P | P | L |
| Harry A. Jones, Jr. | 10/27/91 | P | P | P |
| Carroll Bradbury | 09/23/91 | P | P | P |
| Glenn Mills | 09/23/91 | P | P | P |
| Larry Letchworth | 08/23/92 | P | P | P |
| H. P. Norman | 09/08/93 | P | P | P |
| Frank Robbins | 09/08/93 | A | P | P |
| Walter R. Tyndall | 09/08/93 | P | P | P |
| Jack E. Weathersby | 02/27/94 | P | P | A |
| Archie Brock | 12/06/92 | P | P | A |
| Joey Williams | 01/15/95 | P | P | P |
| Mark Hogan | 09/06/86 | | P | P |
| Clifford Harwood | | | | P |
| Todd Sutton | 02/11/96 | P | P | P |

| Licensed Ministers | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| Barry Wayne Williamson | A | L | A |
| Donald Randolph Cobb | P | P | P |
| Shelton Eugene Rouse | | A | A |
| Samuel Earl Gay | | A | A |
| Douglas G. Owens | | A | P |
| Bradford R. Williamson | | | L |
| Tony Glass | | | P |
| Brian Garriss | | | A |

Roll of Churches

| Church | Letter | Delegates |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Aspen Grove | N | N |
| Ayden | Y | Y |
| Bethany | Y | Y |
| Black Jack | Y | Y |
| Community | N | N |
| Daniel's Chapel | Y | Y |
| Dilda's Grove | Y | Y |
| Edgewood | Y | Y |
| Elm Grove | Y | Y |
| Free Union | Y | Y |
| Friendship | Y | Y |
| Greenville, First | Y | Y |
| Grimsley | N | N |
| Gum Swamp | N | N |
| Harrell's Chapel | Y | Y |
| Hickory Grove | N | Y |
| Howell Swamp | Y | N |
| Hugo | Y | Y |
| Hull Road | Y | N |
| King's Cross Roads | N | Y |
| La Grange, First | N | Y |
| Little Creek | Y | Y |
| Marlboro | N | N |
| Ormondsville | Y | Y |
| Otter's Creek | Y | Y |
| Owen's Chapel | Y | Y |
| Peace | Y | Y |
| Piney Grove (Beaufort Co.) | Y | Y |
| Piney Grove (Pitt Co.) | Y | N |
| Pleasant Hill | Y | N |
| Reedy Branch | N | Y |
| Rocky Mount, First | Y | Y |
| Rose Hill | Y | Y |
| Rose of Sharon | Y | Y |
| Saint's Delight | N | Y |
| Saratoga | Y | Y |
| Spring Branch | Y | Y |
| 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 248th Annual Session with Peace Free Will Baptist Church of Pinetops, North Carolina, on Thursday, November 7, 1996, at 9:30 a.m.

The Reverend Joey Williams, clerk, called the annual session to order and presented the Reverend Ray Williams, who opened the Conference with a hymn, "To God Be the Glory." Mr. Douglas Wooten read Scripture and led in the opening prayer.

Mr. George Wooten, from the host church, extended a cordial welcome to the Conference.

The Reverend Gary Bailey, moderator, gave a challenging address encouraging the churches of the Conference to be involved in outreach.

The roll of churches was called, with 20 churches responding with delegates.

Eight visiting ministers were recognized and welcomed by the Moderator: from the Western Conference--the Reverends Joe Ingram, Harold Jones; from the Eastern Conference--the Reverends Rod Jones, Bruce Dudley, Joseph Yates, Donald Fader, and Stephen Prescott; from the Cape Fear Conference--the Reverend W. Burkette Raper.

The Moderator appointed temporary committees as follows: Parliamentarian--Dr. Michael Pelt; Nominating--the Reverend Leon Grubbs, chairman, the Reverend J. B. Narron, and the Reverend Philip Wood; Resolutions and Temperance--the Reverend C. H. Overman, chairman, and the Reverend Calvin Heath; Song Leader--the Reverend Ray Williamson.

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 J. B. Narron. By motion it was adopted. (See Reports.)

The Reverend Gary Bailey, moderator, extended a welcome to membership in the Conference to the Reverend Todd Sutton (newly ordained in February), and the Reverend Frankie Baggett (transferring to the Central Conference).

At 10:30, Conference business was set aside for the worship service. The service was opened with Scripture reading from Psalm 98 by the Reverend Gary M. Bailey and prayer by the Reverend Joey Williams. The Reverend Ray Williamson led the congregation in the singing of "In the Service of the King," followed by the offering for the Conference and the offertory prayer by the Reverend Ray Williamson. Special music was presented by Mrs. Peggy Wooten from the host church. The Reverend W. Burkette Raper preached the Conference sermon. His text came from Jeremiah 6:16. The main emphasis of that message was remembering that if we do not know from "whence we came, we will not know where we are going." He stressed that as Free Will Baptists we must know what we believe. He stressed that there are four core values found in our faith: freedom and accountability of the individual under God, priesthood of believers, emphasis on spiritual life, and the view of the church as a family. He ended his message by pointing out that we are the trustees of the Church, in that we did not found the church, so we have no right to destroy the church. The worship service concluded with the singing of "Take the Name of Jesus with You" and with prayer by Dr. Pelt.

The Reverend Gary Bailey, moderator, presented certificates to the following minister in recognition of years of service: the Reverend Bruce Jones -- 25 years.

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

The Conference recessed for the noon meal with a prayer by the Reverend Harry Grubbs.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session was called to order with the singing of "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

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

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.

The roll of ministers was called.

The Reverend Leon Harris gave the report of the Conference Board of Missions. 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 Ray Williamson gave the Treasurer's Report. By motion, the report was adopted. (See Reports.)

The Reverend C. H. Overman gave the report of the Resolutions Committee. By motion, the report was adopted. (See Reports.)

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

By motion, the Conference adjourned.

The Conference was dismissed with prayer by the Reverend Gary Bailey.

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

Reports Executive Committee

November 11, 1995

The Executive Committee met at First Free Will Baptist Church of Rocky Mount on November 21, 1995. The Moderator called the meeting to order. The following were present: Gary Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, and Michael Pelt. The meeting was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the 247th Annual Session of the Central Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists were read and approved.

The committee discussed investing funds of the Conference. By motion, the committee agreed to give Ray Williamson the authority to invest the funds, and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

By motion, the committee adjourned.

January 4, 1996

The Executive Committee met at Ryan's Steak House, Greenville, NC, on January 4, 1996. The Moderator called the meeting to order. The following were present: Gary Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, Michael Pelt, and Joey Williams. The opening prayer was given by Stanley Buck.

Ray Williamson reported placing \$7,300 into a three-month certificate of deposit on November 29, 1995. The committee decided that when this certificate of deposit matured, \$5,000 would be placed in a Investment Account at Mount Olive College.

The committee discussed the 1996 Seminar. By motion, the committee agreed to talk to Dr. K. David Hines relative to the cost of books and details concerning a seminar on church growth.

By motion, the committee agreed to have a joing meeting with the Central Conference Board of Ordination to discuss the matter of continuing education for ordained ministers, and a more structured program for helping licensed ministers to develop their potential. It was decided that this meeting would be held at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville, on Thursday, February 1, 1996, this date to be confirmed by the Moderator.

By motion, the committee agreed to commend the Elm Grove Church for having a workshop of deacons and church officers, that we have received positive reports, and we bid them God's speed in their search for a pastor.

By motion, the committee adjourned.

February 1, 1996**Joint Meeting With the Central Conference Executive Committee and
Central Conference Board of Ordination**

The Executive Committee and the Board of Ordination met at First Church, Greenville, on Thursday, February 1, 1996. The Moderator called the meeting to order. The following were present: Gary Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, Michael Pelt, Ronnie Hobgood, Philip Wood, J. B. Narron, and Joey Williams. The opening prayer was given by Philip Wood.

The meeting began with an explanation of the purpose of this meeting by Gary Bailey. The purpose is to examine continuing education for ministers, and a more structured program for helping licensed ministers.

Following the discussion, it was concluded that these steps should be taken:

1. Define the program.
2. Provide a rationale, that is, explain why it is important.
3. Develop criteria, to include what the Conference will provide, and what can be offered by other sources.

Gary encouraged each one present to continue to pray and study different directions we could pursue. He appointed J. B. Narron and Michael Pelt to take the notes from tonight's meeting and prepare a report to be presented at a later date.

The meeting closed with prayer.

February 29, 1996

The Executive Committee met at Strickland-Dail, Farmville, NC, on February 29, 1996. The Moderator called the meeting to order. The following were present: Gary Bailey, Stanely Buck, Ray Williamson, Michael Pelt, and Joey Williams. The opening prayer was given by Joey Williams.

The Minutes of the January 4, 1996, meeting were read, corrected, and approved.

Michael Pelt reported to the committee and submitted his and J. B. Narron's joint work of continuing education for ministers. Stanley Buck presented information concerning continuing education from the North Carolina Conference of the Pentecostal Holiness Church. The Board proceeded in an open discussion concerning the proposal submitted by Michael Pelt and J. B. Narron.

By motion the committee agreed to hold a seminar on "Leading the User Friendly Church" led by Dr. K. David Hines. The date for the seminar will be May 16. The location will be Winterville Church.

By motion, the committee adjourned.

May 16, 1996

The Executive Committee met at Dixie Queen Restaurant, Winterville, NC, on May 16, 1996. The Moderator called the meeting to order. The following were present: Gary Bailey, Stanley Buck, Ray Williamson, Joey Williams, and Dr. K. David Hines. The opening prayer and blessing were given by Joey Williams.

We enjoyed a time of fellowship with one another before the seminar on "Leading the User Friendly Church," given by Dr. K. David Hines. Following the meal, the meeting was adjourned to reconvene at Winterville Church.

The meeting was called back to order at Winterville Free Will Baptist Church.

By motion, the committee agreed to pay Dr. K. David Hines \$250 for his services.

The committee discussed the plans for the 1996 Central Conference. By motion, the Reverend Stanley Buck was asked to arrange and confirm plans for the location of the 1996 Central Conference.

By motion, the committee adjourned. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Reverend Gary Bailey.

November 7, 1996

The Executive Committee of the Central Conference met at Peach Church, Pinetops, prior to the 248th 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 248th Annual Session of the Central Conference was approved as printed.

By motion, the committee agreed to recommend the adoption of the proposal for continuing education for ministers, and that the Executive Committee appoint the initial committee to serve for the coming year.

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

Board of Ordination*Meetings:*

The Board of Ordination has met four times since the last Conference. The Board met on January 8, 1996; April 15, 1996; July 1, 1996; and October 7, 1996.

Clearance to Pastor in Conference:

The Reverend John Robert Harris
January 8, 1996
Gum Swamp Free Will Baptist Church
Greenville, NC

The Reverend Frankie Baggett
April 15, 1996
Elm Grove Free Will Baptist Church
Ayden, NC

The Reverend Mike Ledbetter
July 1, 1996
Reedy Branch Free Will Baptist Church
Winterville, NC

The Reverend Grady Tucker
October 7, 1996
Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church
Greenville, NC

Transfer of Conference Membership:

The following minister has transferred his Conference membership from the Central Conference:

The Reverend Steve Hargrove (to the Eastern)

Minister Ordained:

The Reverend Todd Sutton
February 11, 1996
Snow Hill, NC

Ministers Licensed:

Mr. Bradford "Brad" Ray Williamson
April 15, 1996 (received license from the church on April 21, 1996)
First Free Will Baptist Church
Rocky Mount, NC

Mr. Tony Glass
 July 1, 1996
 Free Union Free Will Baptist Church
 Walstonburg, NC

Mr. Brian Garris
 July 1, 1996
 Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church
 Stokes, NC

Membership Roll:

The following minister was added to the roll of ordained ministers of the Central Conference:

The Reverend Todd Sutton

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

The Reverend Steve Hargrove

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

Mr. Brad Williamson

Mr. Tony Glass

Mr. Brian Garris

The following ministers are to be dropped from the roll of licensed ministers:

Mr. Chris Haddock

Mr. Charles Owens

Respectfully submitted,
 The Reverend John B. Narron, *Chairman*
 The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood
 The Reverend Harry Grubbs
 The Reverend Scott Sowers
 The Reverend Philip Wood

Report of the Credentials Committee

We, the Credentials Committee, submit the following report:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Churches Represented by Delegates | |
| Central Conference Delegates | 20 |
| Central Conference Ministers | 33 |
| Visiting Ministers | 39 |
| Licensed Ministers | 8 |
| Visitors | 3 |
| Total Registered | <u>11</u> |
| | 83 |

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

Obituary Committee

We, the Obituary Committee, are not aware of the passing of any of our Central Conference ministers or ministers' wives in the past year.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21).

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

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Tom Miller, *Chairman*
The Reverend Thomas Bowen
Mrs. Ruth Taylor

Central Conference Missions

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance on Hand--July 1, 1995 | \$ 73,586.43 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|

Actual Receipts

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Balance in Checking--July 1, 1995 | \$ 40.00 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Contributions from Churches | <u>2,875.39</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Total on Hand | \$2,915.39 |
|---------------|------------|

Actual Disbursements

| | |
|---|------------|
| Property Payments (Church Finance for Hillside Mission) | \$1,800.00 |
|---|------------|

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Bank Charge | <u>44.00</u> |
|-------------|--------------|

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Total Disbursements | \$1,844.00 |
|---------------------|------------|

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Balance in Checking--June 30, 1996 | 1,071.39 |
|------------------------------------|----------|

Savings

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Endowment Fund (@ 5% Interest) | \$60,000.00 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Savings (@ 3 5% Interest) | 16,442.83 |
|---------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Interest Earned | <u>3,616.61</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Total Savings | \$80,059.44 |
|---------------|-------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance on Hand--June 30, 1996 | \$81,130.83 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|

Treasurer's Report

November 1, 1995--October 31, 1996

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Balance Brought Forward--November 8, 1995 | \$ 8,038.27 |
|---|-------------|

Receipts

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Conference Offering--November 9, 1995 | \$ 138.50 |
| Church Contributions | 1,550.00 |
| Interest on Checking and CD | 143.77 |
| Interest on Church Finance Association Deposit | 557.11 |
| Interest on Mount Olive College Note | <u>468.75</u> |
| Total Receipts | \$2,858.13 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Total to Account For | \$10,397.93 |
|----------------------|-------------|

Disbursements

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Central Conference Missions | \$ 100.00 |
| Church Growth Seminar | 250.00 |
| Convention of OFWB | 1,093.30 |
| <i>Yearbook</i> Pages 975.00 | |
| Mailing 118.30 | |
| FWB Press | 19.00 |
| Viking Office Products | 38.91 |
| Executive Committee Expenses | 734.57 |
| Ordaining Council Expenses | 151.39 |
| Charge for New Checks | 18.97 |
| Mount Olive College Deposit | <u>5,000.00</u> |
| Total Disbursements | \$7,406.49 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balance in Bank as of November 7, 1996 | \$3,489.91 |
|--|------------|

Money on Deposit:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Mount Olive College | \$5,000.00 |
| Mount Olive College Note | 7,500.00 |
| Church Finance Association | <u>17,141.84</u> |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Total Funds to Account For | \$33,131.75 |
|----------------------------|-------------|

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

Nominating Committee

Officers (1998)

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Moderator | The Reverend Gary M. Bailey |
| Assistant Moderator | The Reverend Stanley Buck |
| Clerk | The Reverend Joey Williams |
| Assistant Clerk | Dr. Michael Pelt |
| Treasurer | The Reverend Ray Williamson |
| Board of Ordination | The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood (2001) |
| Board of Trustees | The Reverend N. B. Barrow (2001) |
| Board of Missions | Mr. George Wooten (2001) |
| Board of Finance | The Reverend Frank Flowers (2001) |
| To Fill the Unexpired Term of Mrs. Alma Buck | Mr. Macon Page (1999) |
| Koinonia Advisors | The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood |
| Representative to the Free Will Baptist Press | The Reverend Ron Braxton (2001) |
| Credentials Committee | Mr. Doug Owens (1999) |
| Obituary Committee | The Reverend Thomas Bowen (1999) |
| Conference Historian | Mrs. Kenya Williams (1998) |
| Publicity Chairperson | The Reverend C. H. Overman (1998) |
| Representative of Membership in Church Finance Association, Inc. | The Reverend Philip Wood (1998) |

Respectfully submitted,
 The Reverend Leon Grubbs
 The Reverend Philip Wood
 The Reverend J. B. Narron

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Inasmuch as the message delivered today by Dr. Raper has reminded us of our historical Christian background as Original Free Will Baptists; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we pledge ourselves anew to the preservation and personal awareness of our heritage, remembering that if we do not know from "whence we came, we will not know where we are going."

BE IT RESOLVED that we give a rising vote of thanks to our host church, Peace Free Will Baptist Church, and their pastor, for their warm hospitality extended to this 248th 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.

Respectfully submitted,
 The Reverend C. H. Overman, *Chairman*
 The Reverend Calvin Heath

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the Central Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination of North Carolina, desiring to be in fellowship in a bond of union, do ordain this constitution revised at annual session November 7, 1979, November 4, 1981, November 10, 1982, and November 8, 1984.

NAME

This shall be the constitution of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina.

PURPOSE

The object of the Central Conference shall be to promote Christ's kingdom among men by means in strict conformity to the Holy Scriptures.

Article I. COMPOSITION

This conference shall be composed of affiliated ordained ministers and churches within its bounds, who are in good standing, and of all general officers, and members of standing boards or committees of the conference. It shall operate under *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*. No church corporation whose articles of incorporation or constitution and bylaws conflict with *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*, shall be permitted membership in the Central Conference.

Article II. REPRESENTATION

Each church shall represent with one delegate for each one hundred members or fraction thereof. The delegation from each church shall carry to the conference a letter certifying their appointment, and giving the statistics and financial condition of the church, together with a statement of all funds received and distributed for denominational and benevolent purposes during the year.

Article III. OFFICERS

The officers shall be a moderator, an assistant moderator, a clerk, an assistant clerk, and a treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of two years. After serving two (2) full terms of two (2) years each, no member shall be eligible for nomination to the same office until after an interval of one (1) year. The duties of said office shall be entered into at the close of the session in which they are elected.

Article IV. STANDING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

It shall be the policy of this conference to elect as many boards and committees as may be necessary in carrying out its program. These shall keep records of their proceedings and make a report at each annual session of the conference.

A board of trustees, a board of ordination, a board of finance, and a board of missions, consisting of five members each shall be elected. The term of office for members of these boards shall be five years but shall be adjusted to terminate the office of one member annually.

A committee to represent the conference's membership in the Free Will Baptist Press, consisting of five members, shall be elected. The term of office for members of this committee shall be five years but shall be adjusted to terminate the office of one member annually.

A committee of one shall be elected to represent the conference's membership in the Church Finance Association, Inc.; the term of office shall be two years.

A credentials committee and an obituary committee, consisting of three members each, shall be elected. The term of office for members shall be three years but shall be so adjusted as to terminate the office of one member annually.

A committee of one shall be elected to serve as conference historian; the term of office shall be two years.

A committee of one shall be elected to serve as publicity committee; the term of office shall be two years.

The executive committee shall be composed of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, and treasurer elected by the conference at the time of the official election of officers.

Temporary committees shall be appointed at the option of the conference for whatever purposes may be deemed necessary.

Article V. FINANCE

Each church shall contribute to the conference according to its membership.

Article VI. ADMISSION OF CHURCHES

Any properly organized church that gives evidence of adherence to the doctrines of Christianity as taught by Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina and desires to help promote the program and work of the Central Conference and the North Carolina State Convention may present its petition to the regular session of the conference. If the petition for membership is approved, the moderator shall extend the hand of fellowship to the delegates.

Article VII. DISMISSION OF CHURCHES

A church may be dismissed from membership in the conference by vote of the conference.

Article VIII. VISITORS

The Central Conference may extend to visiting brethren all the privileges of the body save that of voting.

Article IX. MEETINGS

The Central Conference shall meet in annual session on Thursday before the second Sunday in November of each year. The host church shall be selected by vote of the conference in annual session or by the executive committee. The place of a future meeting thus selected may be changed by an act of the executive committee should a change become necessary.

Article X. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. The duties of the moderator shall be to preside, according to accepted parliamentary procedure, over the session of the Central Conference; to appoint temporary

committees, delegates, and representatives; to serve as ex officio member of all standing boards and committees; and in general to perform the duties of the office of moderator.

Section 2. The duties of the assistant moderator shall be the duties of the moderator when that officer is not present and he shall assist the moderator when called upon. In the event of the resignation or death of the moderator, the assistant moderator shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the conference.

Section 3. The clerk shall record and preserve a permanent record of the proceedings of all sessions of the Central Conference. He shall prepare and cause to be published the minutes of the annual sessions of the conference, hold in trust all documents not otherwise preserved, and surrender same at the direction of the conference. He shall conduct the official correspondence and sign such documents and instruments as require his signature.

Section 4. The duties of the assistant clerk shall be the duties of the clerk when that officer is not present, and he shall assist the clerk when called upon. In the event of the resignation or death of the clerk, the assistant clerk shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the conference.

Section 5. The treasurer shall hold in trust all money that belongs to the conference, except that held by other boards and committees of the conference. He shall keep an accurate account of all funds received and paid out and make an annual report accordingly to the conference.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the executive committee to transact the business of the conference when the conference is not in session. The executive committee shall plan the program for the annual session of the conference.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the board of trustees to hold in trust title to all tangible property belonging to the conference. It shall have power to convey such property when authorized by the conference.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the board of ordination (1) to examine and recommend the license of ministers; (2) to examine, ordain, and discipline ministers in keeping with the provisions of *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* and (3) to examine ordained ministers seeking membership in this conference and to make recommendations in keeping with their findings.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the board of finance to check and verify all money to be received by the treasurer; they shall make recommended allocations and report same to the conference.

Section 10. It shall be the duty of the board of missions to cooperate with the churches and the conference in furthering the establishment of churches within the bounds of the conference. The missions board shall endeavor through cooperating with the State Board of Missions to raise money, arrange itineraries, and keep the work of missions before our churches.

Section 11. It shall be the duty of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation committee to represent the conference's stock in the Free Will Baptist Press and to do so at any stockholders' meeting.

Section 12. It shall be the duty of the credentials committee to check each church report for verification as to their delegates and make recommendations to the conference as regarding their seat during the annual session. The credentials committee shall check registration cards of the enrolling ministers and make recommendations of same to the conference.

Section 13. It shall be the duty of the obituary committee to prepare suitable memorial

services for all ministers who die during the year preceding the conference and to present to the conference a suitable obituary for publication in the conference minutes and in *The Free Will Baptist*. Copies of the obituary are to be presented to the family of the deceased and to his local church.

Section 14. It shall be the duty of the conference historian to collect and preserve any historical data concerning the conference.

Section 15. It shall be the duty of the publicity committee to see that proper publicity is given to the activities and work of the conference.

BYLAWS

Section 1. A board or committee will be recognized as having a quorum when there is a majority of the members present for a meeting, providing all the members of said board or committee have been duly notified concerning the said meeting.

Section 2. All reports, resolutions, and recommendations shall be considered properly presented to the conference in written form only.

Section 3. Each minister and delegate in good standing shall duly attend each day while the conference is in session or be subject to censure by the conference and reported to his local church.

Section 4. If any member, in the judgement of the conference, shall show anger in his discussion on any subject, he shall forfeit his seat in that session.

Section 5. No member shall be excused from any session of the conference without leave of the moderator.

Section 6. The conference shall adjourn by a majority vote.

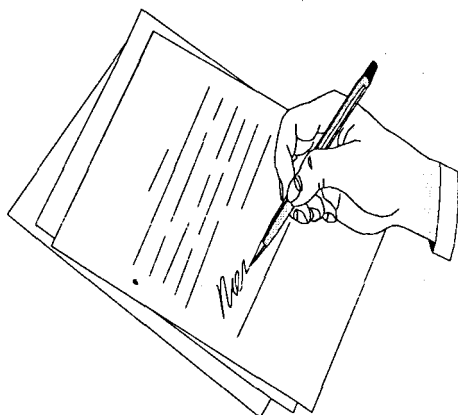
Section 7. Each officer and member of standing committees and boards in good standing shall be entitled to a seat and vote in the conference.

Section 8. The conference shall open and close with suitable devotional services.

Section 9. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the moderator and clerk.

Section 10. This constitution and its bylaws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds favorable vote of the members present, provided that said amendment shall be presented in the morning session for action in the afternoon session.

Statistical Tables



| Churches | 1995 | Gain | | | Lost | | | Net | 1996 | Sunday | Active | Inactive | Avg. SS | Avg. MW |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Members | Baptism | Letter | Other | Deceased | Letter | Other | Change | Members | School | | | Atten. | Atten. |
| Robert's Grove | 205 | 11 | 4 | | | 3 | | 12 | 217 | 134 | | | 106 | 117 |
| Shady Grove | 275 | 5 | 6 | | 4 | 5 | | 2 | 277 | 90 | | | 67 | 90 |
| Smithfield, First | 120 | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | | (5) | 115 | 15 | 56 | 59 | 12 | 35 |
| Smyrna | 155 | 13 | 3 | | 7 | 3 | | 6 | 161 | 102 | 161 | | 80 | 85 |
| Steven's Chapel | | | 3 | | 4 | 1 | | (2) | 120 | | | | | 68 |
| St. Mary's Grove | 212 | 2 | 3 | | 5 | 6 | | (6) | 206 | 115 | 206 | 34 | 71 | 100 |
| St. Paul | 165 | 2 | 3 | | | | | 5 | 167 | 105 | 97 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| Tee's Chapel | 310 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | | | 8 | 318 | 201 | 318 | 36 | 145 | 159 |
| Vandora Springs | 94 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | | (4) | 90 | 42 | 77 | 13 | 30 | 55 |
| West Clinton | 20 | | 3 | | 1 | | | 2 | 22 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 18 | 20 |
| Wootens Chapel | 132 | 3 | 16 | 2 | | | | 21 | 153 | 53 | 65 | 88 | 40 | 90 |
| Yelverton Grove | 143 | | 1 | | 4 | | | (3) | 140 | 99 | | | 63 | 52 |
| Cape Fear Totals | 3836 | 84 | 86 | 19 | 62 | 49 | 4 | 74 | 4530 | 2094 | 1439 | 636 | 1466 | 2263 |

Central Conference

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----|---|---|----|---|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Aspen Grove | 214 | | 2 | | 11 | 6 | | (15) | 199 | | | | 65 | 65 |
| Ayden | 138 | 3 | 4 | | 3 | 4 | 2 | (2) | 136 | 49 | | | 36 | 55 |
| Bethany | 162 | | 2 | 6 | 3 | | 2 | 3 | 165 | 70 | 100 | 65 | 50 | 80 |
| Black Jack | 591 | 17 | 2 | | 4 | 2 | | 13 | 604 | 364 | 427 | 177 | 236 | 247 |

| Churches | 1995 | Gain | | | Lost | | | Net | 1996 | Sunday | | | Avg. SS | Avg. MW |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|
| | Members | Baptism | Letter | Other | Deceased | Letter | Other | Change | Members | School | Active | Inactive | Atten. | Atten. |
| Community | 80 | 4 | 1 | | | 2 | | 3 | 83 | 35 | 35 | 48 | 30 | 35 |
| Daniels Chapel | 394 | 3 | 1 | | 5 | 14 | | (15) | 379 | 159 | | | 128 | 185 |
| Dilda's Grove | 96 | | | | 3 | 1 | | (4) | 92 | 47 | 57 | 35 | 35 | 60 |
| Edgewood | 46 | | 1 | | 2 | | | (1) | 45 | 33 | 28 | 17 | 30 | 26 |
| Elm Grove | 193 | | | | 3 | 5 | | (8) | 185 | 75 | | | 75 | 100 |
| Free Union | 324 | 14 | 8 | | 4 | | | 18 | 342 | 152 | 342 | | 105 | 165 |
| Friendship | 307 | 2 | 1 | | 5 | | | (2) | 305 | 140 | | | 120 | 150 |
| Greenville, First | 263 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 10 | 273 | 135 | | | 104 | 149 |
| Grimsley | 65 | 4 | | | | | | 4 | 69 | 85 | 69 | 61 | 60 | 70 |
| Gum Swamp | 101 | 5 | 7 | | 3 | | | 9 | 110 | 87 | 110 | 340 | 60 | 70 |
| Harrells Chapel | 152 | 14 | 4 | | 4 | 4 | | 10 | 162 | 130 | | | 115 | 105 |
| Hickory Grove | 91 | | | | | | | | 91 | | 91 | 14 | 45 | 60 |
| Hillside Mission | 54 | 3 | 7 | | 3 | | | 7 | 61 | 16 | 61 | | 12 | 40 |
| Howell Swamp | 129 | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | | (4) | 125 | 65 | | | 45 | 55 |
| Hugo | 117 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 10 | 127 | 65 | 95 | 32 | 64 | 100 |
| Hull Road | 328 | | | | 1 | 1 | | (2) | 326 | 125 | | | 85 | 120 |
| King's Cross Roads | 248 | 5 | 10 | | 5 | | 5 | 5 | 253 | 184 | 171 | 82 | 125 | 185 |
| La Grange, First | 205 | 4 | | | 3 | 1 | | 0 | 205 | 111 | | | 85 | 89 |
| Little Creek | 145 | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 2 | | (1) | 144 | 65 | 127 | 17 | 50 | 55 |
| Marlboro | 337 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 337 | 208 | | | 80 | 146 |

| Churches | 1995 | Gain | | | Lost | | | Net | 1996 | Sunday | | | Avg. SS | Avg. MW |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|
| | Members | Baptism | Letter | Other | Deceased | Letter | Other | Change | Members | School | Active | Inactive | Atten. | Atten. |
| Ormondsville | 188 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 185 | 105 | 102 | 87 | 87 | 100 |
| Otters Creek | 214 | | 2 | | 3 | | | (1) | 213 | 98 | 118 | 95 | 90 | 135 |
| Owens Chapel | | | | | | | | | 207 | 98 | | | 90 | 140 |
| Peace | | | | | | | | | 100 | 79 | | | 60 | 75 |
| Piney Grove (Beau) | 31 | | | | 1 | | | (1) | 30 | 25 | 30 | 6 | 12 | 22 |
| Piney Grove (Pitt) | 37 | 5 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | (2) | 35 | 21 | 35 | | 23 | 38 |
| Pleasant Hill | 58 | | | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 58 | 76 | 51 | 65 | 61 | 51 |
| Reedy Branch | 425 | 10 | 14 | | 2 | 3 | | 19 | 444 | 208 | | | 125 | 200 |
| Rocky Mount, First | 160 | 4 | 1 | | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 161 | 61 | | | 50 | 68 |
| Rose Hill | 329 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | | (1) | 328 | 125 | 328 | 59 | 80 | 200 |
| Rose of Sharon | 190 | 3 | 7 | | 3 | 1 | | 6 | 196 | 100 | 105 | 91 | 97 | 103 |
| Saratoga | 196 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 0 | 196 | 110 | 196 | | 92 | 95 |
| Spring Branch | 192 | 3 | | | 2 | | | 1 | 193 | 70 | | | 60 | 90 |
| St. Delight | 22 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | | 30 | 28 | 13 | 17 | 27 | 40 |
| Sweet Gum Grove | | | | | | | | | 208 | | | | 65 | 95 |
| Tarboro, First | 361 | | 2 | | 6 | 1 | | (5) | 356 | 103 | 166 | 190 | 95 | 125 |
| Walnut Creek | 45 | | | | | 1 | | (1) | 44 | 48 | 44 | | 35 | 38 |
| Watery Branch | | | | | | | | | 110 | 119 | 110 | 35 | 90 | 105 |
| Williamston, First | 201 | 6 | 2 | | 1 | 6 | | 1 | 202 | | 83 | 119 | 40 | 60 |
| Winterville | 280 | 5 | 8 | | 5 | 4 | | 4 | 284 | 172 | | | 111 | 167 |

| Churches | 1995 | Gain | | | Lost | | | Net | 1996 | Sunday | | | Avg. SS | Avg. MW |
|----------|---------|---------|--------|-------|----------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|
| | Members | Baptism | Letter | Other | Deceased | Letter | Other | Change | Members | School | Active | Inactive | Atten. | Atten. |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Central Totals | 7709 | 149 | 108 | 19 | 116 | 75 | 17 | 60 | 8398 | 4046 | 3094 | 1652 | 3230 | 4359 |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|

Eastern Conference

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Angola | 67 | 5 | 5 | | | 2 | | 8 | 75 | 42 | 67 | 79 | 38 | 82 |
| Antioch | 363 | 4 | | 4 | | 5 | | 3 | 362 | | | | 66 | 225 |
| Arapahoe | | | | | | | | | 167 | | | | 95 | 120 |
| Beaufort | 35 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 36 | 18 | 23 | 13 | 18 | 22 |
| Bethel | | | | | | | | | 55 | | | | 40 | 60 |
| Bethlehem | 181 | 5 | 3 | | 2 | | | 6 | 187 | 112 | 112 | 75 | 65 | 75 |
| Beulaville | 198 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 199 | 75 | 115 | 84 | 60 | 75 |
| Bridgeton | 160 | 4 | | | 3 | | | 1 | 161 | | 25 | 136 | 25 | 30 |
| British Chapel | 115 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 0 | 115 | 50 | 65 | 50 | 45 | 55 |
| Cabin | 169 | 9 | | | 4 | 6 | | (1) | 168 | 45 | 35 | 10 | 35 | 50 |
| Christian Chapel | 241 | 5 | 2 | | 4 | 2 | | 1 | 242 | 109 | | | 62 | 85 |
| Core Creek | 116 | 3 | 8 | | 3 | 3 | | 5 | 121 | 80 | 81 | 45 | 55 | 68 |
| Core Point | | | | | | | | | 130 | | | | 30 | 38 |
| Crab Point | 137 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | 140 | 59 | | | 37 | 35 |
| Croatian | 158 | 1 | 5 | | 3 | | | 3 | 161 | 67 | | | 41 | 145 |
| Daly's Chapel | 191 | 2 | 5 | | 1 | | | 6 | 197 | 65 | | | 37 | 60 |