



The 106th Annual Session of the
CONVENTION OF
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

May 23th, 2018

OFWB



Growing in Grace

2016-2021

Ministry & Conference Report Book

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**Minutes of the 268th annual session of the
Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists
November 10, 2016***

These minutes were omitted from the 2016 Report Book

The 268th session of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists opened with Scripture and prayer by the Reverend Tom Malin.

The moderator's address was given by the Reverend Bryant Hines.

Reverend Kelley Smart shared words of greeting and welcome of visiting ministers and denominational ministries.

The Central Conference offering was taken by ushers from Rose of Sharon OFWB.

Reverend Hines appointed a parliamentarian, resolutions committee, and nominating committee.

Ministry Care Committee report was given by the Reverend Dr. John Hill and Dr. Janie Taylor.

Reverend Hines and Dr. Hill explained the revisions and constitutional changes per the distributed copies.

Dr. Hill explained the revisions by detail.

The Revisions Committee moved to suspend the conference rule to read aloud the constitutional amendments. Motion approved.

The Revisions Committee moved to approve the proposed constitutional revision. Motion approved.

The Revisions Committee moved to table the proposed constitution and bylaws until the afternoon session. Motion approved.

Dr. H. Mac Wallace led those in attendance through two well-delivered and relevant sessions regarding the mental health of ministers.

The session reconvened for business.

Constitutional items addressed to read as follows:

Article Five: Meetings

5.1 - Day

The Central Conference shall meet in November at a date, time, and place set by the Executive Committee. The date, time, and place shall be communicated to the Conference membership at the previous annual session, and to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

Article 3.2 – Eligibility for Membership

a) Ordained Minister: An Ordained Minister shall...

- i. be required to attend the annual session of the Conference each year, or at least once in three years. Requests for excusal shall be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Conference before the Conference, or within thirty days after the Conference for those with unanticipated causes for absence. Ministers who fail to attend the annual Conference for three consecutive years without an excusal shall surrender their credentials.

The new constitution and bylaws were voted on. Motion approved and moved forward.

The Reverend Josh Whitfield was extended the right hand of fellowship after being received into the Central Conference from the Eastern Conference.

The conference adopted reports of the nominating, resolutions and credential committees.

Central Conference ministers were then recognized for their years of service.

The conference was concluded by observing the ordinance of Holy Communion.

The 269th session of the Central Conference will be at Free Union OFWB in Walstonburg, NC.

Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Bryant Hines, moderator
The Reverend Todd Sutton, clerk
1-17-17

Those present: Kelley Smart, Tom Malin, Barry Williamson, Todd Sutton, Greg Barnes, and Josh Hobgood.

Call to order by Kelley Smart.

Word of welcome to Greg Barnes and Josh Hobgood as new members, assistant clerk and assistant treasurer.

Devotion from Psalm 27 by Kelley.

Kelley shared a prayer request for his mom, cancer concerns.

Josh shared about a concern he has for helping people with sexual issues.

Kelley led in prayer

Tom sent through treasure's report and explained several key elements.

Tom asked about certain ministers transferring in regards to paying fees.

Also, about certain churches

Motion made and seconded to receive treasurer report as information. Adopted into our minutes.

Kelley shared information about Hillside FWB.

- They acquired a pastor and did not care if he was FWB or not. They have not sent any type of contribution to conference in a number year. Kelley has not received any correspondence from them however they have a loan with church finance (Don Fader).
- Hillside does not really want to be associated with FWB, we as the board need to contact them.
- Barry asked about the loan and how much they owe
- Kelley shared some history about the situation with Hillside FWB
- Church will not arise from its current position until a leader gets in the church to lead them in a positive direction.
- They need to decide what they will do.
- Barry suggested we get an update with them and ask them to part ways.
- Butch Haddock,
- Michael Lewis was pastoring there.
- We will ask Bryant to inform us of how many times he contacted Hillside when he was president.
- Kelley to ask Bryant and correspond with us via email.

Albemarle Conference is getting small. Perhaps invite them to join the Central Conference. Kelley will talk with Royce Reynolds/Al Markuson to see if he thinks there is any interest.

Discussed the previous conference.

Talked about previous conferences, topics and speakers.

Talked about the Press and the strides they have made.

November 9, 2017 at Free Union will be next Central Conference – 9:00-12:00.

Morning format, end with lunch.

Leading from the Pews – possible theme

Using the idea of a lay speaker, perhaps Rick Watson.

In 2018 potentially have the Conference at La Grange FWB? – Ronnie Hobgood

In 2019 Greenville 1st? – Keith Gardner

Kelley to check on a CareNet event and email the group.

Dismissed in prayer by Greg

4-25-17

Kelley began with Scripture from Ezekiel, with a time of devotion and meditation on the importance of vision and following God's guidance. Followed by prayer.

Minutes read by Todd. Motion by Tom and seconded by Josh to receive minutes as information.

Tom shared Treasure's report and updated board about churches and ministers who have not paid dues. Presented concerns of Matthew Forrest and financial difficulties he is facing. Recommended to forego his dues and offer grace. Motion made and seconded to let him forego the dues this year. Board voted to waive this year's dues in light of his difficulty.

Tom shared about Ray Williamson is also in need of paying his dues. Contact has been attempted.

Motion made and seconded to approve treasure's report.

- Carenet Event with Janie Taylor will be rescheduled from May 2017 to September 2017.
- Rev. Bill Groce gave report from Church Growth and Evangelism Committee. He shared his hopes for evangelism so far as our conference, and as the committee he is chairperson for.
 - Reignite the passion and redream the dream again...
 - Bill requested the board to prepare a writing (something written) to address and provide permissions to expand the purpose of the Church Growth Committee. With their willingness to broaden their horizons and opportunities in the conference and beyond. Prepare a document given them permissions to be free to a certain degree for church growth committee to broaden and expand these responsibilities.
 - Prepare a letter to church growth and evangelism committee expanding their permissions. Put in Dropbox for committee to access. Motion made and seconded to prepare a letter. Seek Bill's input to make amendment to the Church Growth Committee's description per our Central Conference and Bylaws.
- Dr. Franklin Baggett will be rotating off this year from ordination board. The executive board needs to be in prayer for the right person to succeed Frankie's position.
 - Possibly will need to revamp the ordination exam to discern where candidates are in relating the information in examination.
- Ed Croom was approached by Kelley to speak at Central Conference this year at Free Union.
- 2018 La Grange FWB - confirmed
- 2019 Greenville First FWB - confirmed
- Hillside Discussion
 - Need a healthy pastor to go in - however it would be a serious investment for the minister to go into to do the work necessary (while at the same time - they cannot afford to pay someone)
 - Considered different available pastors
 - Kelley will check with De Eakes to see if he can fill in for a couple of weeks
- Piney Grove - Pitt County
 - Scott Wright, one week, girlfriend of one of the sons
 - Minority of the group wants to get rid of Scott as pastor
 - Kelley advised that there has to be formal letter to Executive board requesting assistance of board and signed by members of the board other than only Mrs. Everette.
- Motion adjourned and seconded. Dismissed in prayer by Josh.

August 1, 2017

- Executive Board Met in session at La Paz restarant. Members present, Kelley, Tom, Barry, Josh, Greg and Todd.
- Piney Grove – Mr. Wright has been informed of his requirements to complete. May 2018 will be deadline of his provisional license.
 - Mr. Wright will provide us with a transcript of when courses are finished.
- Hillside – perhaps ask Josh Whitfield to supply there when he completes his remaining time at Deep Run.
- CareNet workshop Sept. 18 & 25 – Winterville FWB 9am – 1pm. To sign up – Look to facebook invitation and article of FWB in August (inside of back cover – registration information), as well as email sent out.
 - Workbook is \$25 – to be purchased by each participant. Make Check out to “CareNet Counseling East” for \$25.
- Possible suggestions for nominating committee.
 - Doug Skinner, chair, Donald Ribeiro, Leon Grubbs
- Resolution Committee
 - Keith Gardner, chair, Mike Rowell, Ron Braxton
- Letter to the churches, ministers, etc. - reiterate the time change and concluding at lunch
- Letter to go out by September 15, 2017.
- Central Conference – will be at Free Union, Walstonburg, NC

9-28-17

Executive Board meeting at Free Union OFWB

Members present: Kelley Smart, Tom Malin, Barry Williamson, Josh Hobgood, Greg Barnes, Todd Sutton
Treasurer's report presented by Tom Malin. Report approved.

Kelley informed us that Josh Whitfield is supplying as interim at La Grange Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Committee expressed concerns that he is working outside of denomination and he is the president of (Vice-President of Convention).

Also expressed concern regarding the Piney Grove situation with Scott Wright. The woman who initiated the assistance of the executive board is considering leaving the church, yet she is the one who began the concerns regarding Scott Wright. Down to 10-12 members, but yet representative has said, that the remaining members have a unified mentality. (will wait to see how things work out and if they contribute to the conference).

Scott has May 2018 as deadline for ordination board. He only has a few classes remaining to take.

Sweet Gum Grove was discussed – they have withdrawn from denomination, but they still carry the “Original Free Will Baptist” name.

Committees discussed for conference:

Nominating Committee in place, Doug, Leon Grubbs, Don Ribeiro

Resolutions Committee – Mike Rowell, Ron Braxton (not sure), Phillip

John Hill will be parliamentarian

Josh – will continue to work with the committees to

Credentials Committee – Greg Barnes, still has term ending 2019.

Continuing Ed – Keith Phillips, Tony Glass, Greg Barnes

Other committees and candidates were also discussed.

Credentials Committee will need assistance

Updated Minister's in good standing cards.

Streamlining the information for next year. File for each church with officers and such. And send a list of current officers and any changes each year.

We discussed current status of pastor search for Stoney Creek.

Tom has been assisting when needed at Rose of Sharon during their interim.

Motion made and approved to pay \$250 to Ed Croom for serving as conference speaker for this year.

Motion made and seconded to approve treasure's report.

Motion made and seconded to correct the wording of the motion for last year's change to the bylaws by Dr. Frankie Baggett to read verbatim as follows:

3.2 – Eligibility for Membership

vi. be required to attend the annual session of the Conference each year. Requests for excusal shall be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Conference before the Conference, or within thirty days after the Conference for those with unanticipated causes for absence. Ministers who fail to attend the annual Conference physically for three consecutive years shall be subject to lose their credentials.

Executive Board to have a tour around facilities for conference

Motion made and seconded for adjournment

Report of the Church Growth Committee of the Central Conference

"On November 9, 2001 the Central Conference formed the Church Growth Committee. As stated by the Conference the purpose of the Church Growth Committee is, "to promote and provide financial support for church growth and /or leadership development. Through the work of the committee, Central Conference churches will be more fully equipped to effectively reach people without Christ in their communities."

The following guidelines were established for distributing funds:

1. The church Growth Committee will submit an annual budget to the Central Conference for approval.
2. The maximum amount of allocated funds will not exceed \$500 per quarter per church.
3. Funds must be used for church growth and/or leadership development.
4. The Church Growth Committee will strive to equally fund (contingent upon church requests) growth projects and leadership development programs.
5. Approvals for funds by the Church Growth Committee will be submitted to the Central Conference Treasurer for actual disbursement.

We invite your church to submit applications to this committee to request funds to help your church with growth projects and/or leadership development programs. When we receive an application, we will review and do all that we can to get funds to you for this program. We encourage every church to use this resource that has been made available by the Central Conference.

The following dates are deadlines for applications to be submitted. The dates are based on the four quarters of the church year. please submit your application within plenty of time of the event or project.

February 1, 2018 April 1, 2018 July 1, 2018 October 1, 2018

This past year 2016 – 2017 your Church Growth Committee received requests from two churches and approved them both. Reedy Branch Church was given \$500 to assist with the expenses of new stage lighting for their youth dramatic presentations.

Rose of Sharon Church was given \$500 to send their youth director to a youth leaders' conference in Tennessee to gain new ideas for the growth of their group.

The Church Growth Committee also met on February 24, 2017 at the Reedy Branch Church to discuss ways we as a Committee may be of greater service to the churches and leadership teams of the Central Conference.

It was noted that our annual budget is \$1,000. This amount may need to be expanded in the near future.

Ideas were discussed in sort of a brainstorming manner for impacting our Central Conference Churches for church growth and evangelism.

The following questions were discussed:

- How could we promote outreach ministries in our local churches? leadership development?
- How could we help pastors and church leadership to recover a sense of passion and begin to dream again?

The following ideas were mentioned:

- Send out a book to pastors/ churches to encourage and facilitate church growth and evangelism
- Send out a digital copy of such resources to save money
- Sponsor and plan a seminar on church growth and or evangelism
- Compile a database of email addresses of pastors and churches in the Central Conference
- Use this database to occasionally let churches know that we exist and are waiting and willing to serve their needs
- Call for a Day of Prayer for Church Growth
- Ask the pastors and churches for their ideas of how we could assist them
- Make a link to lots of videos on Church growth and evangelism and make this available to churches and pastors
- Make an app with daily inspirational comments that would be available to our churches and pastors

It was decided that Reverend Bill Groce would serve as chairman of this committee. We look forward to serving you in the year to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Bill Groce, Chairman

Committee Members: The Reverends Kevin Jackson, Carlton Oakley, Todd Sutton

**269th Annual Session of the
Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists
Held at Free Union OFWB Church
November 9, 2017**

The theme of the 2017 Conference of Original Free Will Baptists is: Being Invested in God's Future
The Rev. Kelley Smart briefly shared information regarding the scheduling of the conference as well as other information. Scripture-

The Rev. Todd Sutton read Scripture from Romans 8:15-25 and began the meeting off with prayer. The congregation joined in singing, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

The 269th annual session was called to order by the Rev. Todd Sutton.

A word of welcome was offered by the Rev. Stephen Prescott, pastor of Free Union Original Free Will Baptist, and information was shared regarding the facilities.

The Rev. Josh Hobgood welcomed visitors to the conference

The Rev. Kelley Smart appointed committees and responsibilities as follows:

Parliamentarian: The Rev. Dr. John Hill

Resolutions: The Rev. Philip Wood

The Rev. Michael Rowell

The Rev. Ron Braxton

Nominating: The Rev. Doug Skinner

The Rev. Dr. Don Ribeiro

The Rev. Leon Grubbs

The Rev. Keith Gardner gave the report of the Memorial Committee with the remembrance of the Rev. Bryant Hines.

The Rev. Kelley Smart gave moderator's address from Genesis 12:1-5, 15:1-7. Rev. Smart reminded of God's call upon each person's life and the need to be invested in God's plan. Rev. Smart stressed the role person has to fulfill in each church—as members as well as ministers. He further issued the challenge to be invested in the future of the church. The challenge was issued with a Kingdom-Focused purpose to be reminded of our vision in light of the Great Commission.

Reports were shared by the denominational ministries:

- Christian Education Ministry report was given by Gail Heath,
- Convention Services report was given by the Rev. Gary Bailey and the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood.
- Home Missions report was given by the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood.
- Children's Home report was given by Gary Lee.
- Cragmont report was given by Angela Mattox.
- Foreign Missions report was given by the Rev. Harold Jones.
- FWB Press Foundation report was given by Darren Davenport.
- Retirement Home report was given by the Rev. Ronnie Taylor.
- University of Mount Olive report was given by the Rev. Dr. David Hines – focusing on leading by servant leadership and instilling that in faculty and students.
- Ministerial Association executive committee report was given by the Rev. Johnny Sullivan.
- OFWB Ministerial Association report was given by the Rev. Al Warrick – pastoral leadership institute for FWB ministers – leadership team
- Woman's Auxiliary
- Laymen's League

After pausing for a short break, the conference reconvened with the Conference Offering being taken by the Rev. Tom Malin.

By motion it was decided to receive the report of the clerk, the Rev. Todd Sutton.

By motion it was decided to receive the report of the treasurer, the Rev. Tom Malin.

The Rev. Johnny Sullivan gave the Board of Ordination report. The Rev. Dr. Frankie Baggett addressed article 7, "a minister would lose ordination if performed the marriage a couple of the same sex." The Rev. John Hill provided direction about the wording of the ordination report. By motion it was decided to clarify the position of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptist Central on the performing of marriages:

The Central Conference of OFWB prohibits Central Conference ordained ministers, and any ordained minister from any other conference serving within our conference, from officiating same-gender marriages. Ordained ministers who violate this rule will be subject to the disciplinary actions issued by the Board of Ordination and the minister may lose ordination credentials.

Dr. Baggett addressed the concern of licensed ministers filling pulpits over the approved amount of time and clarified what is allowed per the Articles of Faith. By motion it was decided to receive the report of the Ordination Board.

The Rev. Bill Groce gave the report of the Church Growth Committee. By motion it was decided to receive the report of the Church Growth Committee.

The Rev. Dr. John Hill gave the report of the Ministerial Care Committee. By motion it was decided to receive the report of the Ministerial Care Committee.

By motion it was decided to donate \$500 to the ministerial leadership institute sponsored by the OFWB Ministerial Association.

The Rev. Doug Skinner gave nomination committee report from nomination committee. By motion it was decided to receive the report

The Rev. Greg Barnes gave credentials committee report. The Central Conference had 122 ministers, delegates, and visitors representing 36 conference churches and our denominational ministries. By motion it was decided to receive the report.

The Rev. Philip Wood gave resolutions committee report. By motion it was decided to receive the report.

The Rev. Barry Williamson recognized ministers for their years of service.

Mr. Ed Croom gave address from his experience with strategic planning.

- Meet people where they are; not where we think they ought to be.
- How will we use our talent?

Following the address by Mr. Croom, the Rev. Phillip Wood gave the report of the Resolutions Committee:

Resolution number one: Whereas the people of Free Union Church have been so gracious to us during the 269th session of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists, be it resolved that we give Free Union Church and their pastors a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality.

By motion the 269th session of the Central Conference adjourned.

The 270th session of the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists will be November 8, 2018 at La Grange Original Free Will Baptist

**North Carolina Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists
Report of the Board of Ordination
November 9, 2017**

Central Conference Board of Ordination

Rev. Dr. Franklin Baggett, Chairman

Rev. Mark Hobbs

Rev. Dustin Bannister

Rev. Gary Bailey

Rev. Johnny Sullivan, Secretary

The Board of Ordination has met 7 times since the last conference.

The following were dropped from the list of Licensed Ministers:

Michael Blake Bryan

Robbie Rouse - (Will be added back November 28, 2017 / due to change of Church membership)

Dropped from the list of Provisional Licensed Ministers - Van Mitchell, Jr.

The Reverend Arnold Price has been dropped from the list of duly ordained ministers of the Central Conference.

The Reverend Dr. Josh Whitfield, the Reverend Bryl Simmons, the Reverend Jonathan Whitford were added to the list of Ordained Ministers.

The Reverend Stephen Prescott of the Cape Fear Conference was given clearance to serve as pastor of the Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church.

The Reverend Sonny Williams of the Pee Dee Association was given clearance to serve as pastor of at the Rocky Mount Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Added to the list of Licensed Ministers – Scott Wright.

Anyone who wishes to meet with the Board of Ordination should contact either the chairman or a member of the board prior to the scheduled meeting. The 2018 scheduled meetings of the Board of Ordination will be held at the LaGrange Original Free Will Baptist Church at 10 am on the following dates:

Tuesday - January 9, 2018

Tuesday - April 10, 2018
Tuesday - October 9, 2018

Tuesday - July 10, 2018

The Board of Ordination will conduct a workshop for all Licensed Ministers and ministers holding a Provisional Certificate of Ordination at the Elm Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church Saturday - February 24, 2018 at 9 am. **All Licensed Ministers and those holding a Provisional Certificate of Ordination must attend at least one workshop before being considered for ordination.**

Inclusions to this report:

1. The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists in Section 1: The Local Congregation states the following concerning the church's calling of a pastor: ***"The church shall call its own pastor, from among the duly Ordained Original Free Will Baptist ministers who are approved by the Conference of which the church is a member."*** We wish to remind any church in our Conference, when extending a call to a minister to serve as your pastor, to be sure that the minister gets proper clearance from the Conference Board of Ordination before assuming duties as pastor of the church.
2. All candidates for ordination in the Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists must meet the educational requirements set forth by the Conference of November 8, 2007 and take and pass the Ordination Examination.
3. We wish to remind all Central Conference ordained ministers be required to attend the annual session of the Conference each year. Requests for excusal shall be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Conference before the Conference, or within thirty days after the Conference for those with unanticipated causes for absence. Ministers who fail to attend the annual Conference physically for three consecutive years shall be subject to lose their credentials.
4. In accordance with "The Articles of Faith and Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of The English General Baptist Heritage) under 'The Rules of Church Government,' 'Section 1: The Local Congregation,' 'Meetings Of the Local Congregation:' ***'The ordinances of the Gospel are administered only by ordained ministers.'***" These ordained ministers must be ministers approved by the Central Conference Board of Ordination.
5. Upon requests, the Central Conference gives a Christian flag to the family of a deceased ordained minister who is a member of the Conference.

6. All Ordained Ministers of the Central Conference must maintain membership in an Original Free Will Baptist Church.
7. In accordance with the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist resolution, Central Conference Ministers are permitted only to marry a man and a woman, no same sex marriage.
8. Licensed Ministers from any conference are not allowed to be interim pastors in the Central Conference. Licensed Ministers cannot supply speak more than four Sundays in a calendar year in the same congregation, and two of those Sundays must have ninety days separating them.

The Board of Ordination stands ready to help people called to the Gospel Ministry.

**Central Conference Treasurer's Report November 9, 2017
2017-2018 Budget**

	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Proposed
Church Contributions	5200.00	6375.00	6200.00
Conference Offering	500.00	552.00	500.00
Endowment Income	1500.00	1360.16	1050.00
Interest			
Ministers Membership Dues	1800.00	1560.00	1700.00
Miscellaneous	250.00		250.00
Transfer from Savings	4800.00		5800.00
TOTAL INCOME	14050.00	9847.16	15500.00
Bank Charges (PNC)	100.00		50.00
Board of Ordination	200.00		100.00
Church Growth Committee	1000.00	1000.00	2000.00
Conference	500.00		500.00
Continuing Educ. Committee	500.00	500.00	1000.00
Convention of OFWB Support	750.00	750.00	750.00
Ministry Care Committee	4000.00	1445.00	4000.00
Convention-- OFWB Yearbook	1000.00	570.00	1000.00
Executive Committee	500.00	633.06	600.00
Office Supplies	300.00	877.33	300.00
Clerk	100.00	100.00	100.00
Treasurer	100.00	100.00	100.00
Foundation Endowment	500.00	500.00	500.00
Foundation Scholarship Fund	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Foreign Missions	2000.00	2000.00	2000.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	500.00	500.00
Non-Budgeted Items	1000.00	1303.00	1000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	14050.00	11278.39	15500.00

Nominating Committee Report 2017

Central Conference Boards and Committees

Executive Committee

Kelley Smart – Moderator (2018)
Barry Williamson – Assistant Moderator (2018)
Todd Sutton – Clerk (2018)
Josh Hobgood – Assistant Clerk (2018)
Tom Malin – Treasurer (2018)
Greg Barnes – Assistant Treasurer (2018)

Board of Ordination (5 year term)

Johnny Sullivan (2018)
Gary Bailey (2019)
Dustin Bannister (2020)
Mark Hobbs (2021)
Philip Wood (2022)

Church Growth (3 year term)

Kevin Jackson (2018)
Carlton Oakley (2019)
Bill Groce (2020)

Continuing Education (3 year term)

Ron Braxton (2018) – To fill the unexpired term of Dr. Michael Pelt.
Chuck Branch (2019) – To fill the unexpired term of Harry Grubbs
Keith Phillips (2020)

Conference Board of Trustees (3 year term)

Irvin Mizzell (2018)
Linda Weathersby (2019)
Stearle Pittman (2020)

Minister Care Committee (3 year term)

Todd Sutton (2018)
Harry Grubbs (2019) – To fill the unexpired term of Bryant Hines.
Dr. John Hill (2020)

Credentials (3 year term)

Tony Glass (2018)
Frank Cockrell (2019) – to fill the unexpired term of Greg Barnes
Keith Phillips (2020)

Representative to Church Finance Association (2 year term)

Ray Williamson (2019)

Representative to the FWB Press (Was a 2-year term)

Conference Historian (2 year term)

Dr. Michael Pelt (2019)

Memorial Committee (3 year term)

Barbara Wilson (2018)
Roger Haithcock (2019)
Keith Gardner (2020)

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- Make an app with daily inspirational comments that would be available to our churches and pastors

It was decided that Reverend Bill Groce would serve as chairman of this committee. We look forward to serving you in the year to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Bill Groce, Chairman

Committee Members: The Reverends Kevin Jackson, Carlton Oakley, Todd Sutton

ORDAINED MINISTERS	Ordained	2014	2015	2016	2017
Michael Pelt	9/30/1950	Retired P	Retired P	A	Retired P
Charles Branch	1/5/1969	Retired P	Retired L	Retired	Retired
Bruce Jones	9/5/1971	P	P	P	P
Gary Bailey	7/12/1972	P	A	P	P
Bobby Taylor	11/2/1973	L	L	L	P
Leon Grubbs	9/5/1968	P		P	P
Ronnie Hobgood	8/13/1978	P	P	E	P
Melvin Moore	12/31/1959	Retired L	Retired	Retired	Retired
Harry Grubbs	2/24/1967	P	A	P	P
Frank Flowers	6/2/1972	Retired E	Retired	R	Deceased
Clifford Ball	8/20/1981	P	P	L	Retired
Ray Williamson	5/11/1977	P	P	A	P
Mark Hobbs	11/20/1980	P	P	P	P
Ronald Braxton	2/3/1983	P	P	P	P
Donald Ribeiro	10/27/1983	P		P	
Stanley Buck	9/17/1976	P	P	P	P
Philip Wood	5/12/1979	P	P	P	P
Thomas Bowen	11/25/1990	P	P	P	P
Larry Letchworth	8/23/1992	P	P	P	P
Carroll Bradbury	8/23/1992	P	P	P	P
Jack Weathersby	2/27/1994	P	P	P	P
Joey Williams	1/15/1995	P	P	P	P
Frankie Baggett	10/22/1987	P	P	P	P
Grady Tucker	12/6/1978	Retired P	Retired	Retired	Retired P
Edward Thornton	3/10/1981	A	P	A	
Tony Glass	3/28/1999	P	P	P	P
Frank Cockrell	11/7/1999	L	P	P	P
Johnny Sullivan	5/21/2000	P	P	P	P
Kevin Jackson	12/26/1982	P	P	P	P
Barry Williamson	9/17/2000	P	P	P	P
Todd Sutton	2/11/1996	P	A	P	P
John Simpson	4/29/2001	Retired E	Retired	Retired	Retired
Doug Owens	5/6/2001	P	P	P	P
Roger Haithcock	8/26/2001	p	L	P	P
Philip Boykin	12/7/1980	E	P	P	P
Jacky Raper	6/8/1988	P	P	P	p
James Owens	11/10/1981	P	P	P	P
Charles Russell	11/21/2004	P	P	P	P
Kelley Smart	2/27/2005	E	P	P	P

Michael Rowell	5/15/2005	p	P	P	p
Charles Sutton	8/14/2005	P	P	P	P
Doug Tyson	10/16/2005	P	P	P	
Alvin Keener	1988	A		P	P
Arnold Price	69	P	P	Retired	Retired
Bryant Hines	6/7/1979	P	P	P	Deceased
Ronnie Mohn	Mar-80	P	P	A	P
Doug Skinner	7/2/1972	P	P	L	P
Glenn Batten	10/25/2008	P	P	P	P
Dustin Bannister	9/26/2010	P	P	A	P
Keith Phillips	9/17/2010	P	P	P	Excused
Tom Malin	5/15/2011	P	P	P	P
Carlton Oakley	12/5/2010	E	P	P	P
John Hill	6/4/2004	P	P	P	P
Bill Groce	9/16/2012	P	P	P	P
Spencer Owens	9/23/2012	A	P	P	P
Joshua Hobgood	1/13/2013	P	P	P	P
Jim Skipper	7/28/2013	P	P	P	Transferred
Greg Barnes	8/11/2013	P	P	P	P
Keith Gardner	7/13/2014		P	A	P
Matthew Forrest	2/22/2015	P	P	A	
Michael Woolard	11/8/2015	P		E	
David Hines	6/7/1979			P	P
Josh Whitfield	12/13/2008			P	P
Byrl Simmons					P
LICENSED and Provisional MINISTERS	Licensed	2014	2015	2016	2017
Michael Arthur	1/18/2011		P	P	Dropped
Michael Blake Bryan	7/9/2012	P	P	A	Dropped
Robbie Rouse	7/8/2013	P	P	P	P
Van Mitchell- /provisional	7/14/2015			P	Dropped
Chuck Branch	11/15/2015			A	P
Scott Wright					P

Central Conference Financial Report Summary 2016-2017

<i>Balance from October 31, 2016</i>		\$9,240.71
Receipts		
2016 Conference Offering	\$552.00	
2016-17 Church Contributions since Conference	\$1,420.00	
2016-17 Ministers Dues	\$2,778.00	
2017-18 Ministers Dues	\$900.00	
2017-18 Church Contributions Before Conference	\$4,036.00	
2018-19 Ministers Dues	\$60.00	
Transferred from Maury Endowment	\$151.13	
Transferred from Endowment Fund	<u>\$1,209.03</u>	
Total		<u>\$11,106.16</u>
Total to account for in Checking Account		\$20,346.87
Disbursements		
PNC (Bank Charges)	\$0.00	
Conference Clerk	\$100.00	
Conference Treasurer	\$100.00	
Executive Committee Expenses (Travel)	\$633.06	
Convention of FWB (Year Book)	\$570.00	
Office Supplies (FWB Press)	\$877.33	
Continuing Education Expenses (Josh Whitfield)	\$500.00	
Church Growth Expenses		
Reedy Branch, Rose of Sharon)	\$1,000.00	
OFWB Convention Support	\$750.00	
North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries		
Central Conference Endowment	\$500.00	
Shepherd's Fund	\$1,000.00	
OFWB International	\$2,000.00	
Miscellaneous		
CareNet	\$1,445.00	
Dr. Mac Wallace--Speaker	\$500.00	
CareNet--MFHA Course	<u>\$1,303.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$11,278.39</u>
Total in Checking account as of October 31, 2017		\$9,068.48
 Central Conference Endowment Fund (APYE 1.75%--1/1/17)		 \$60,000.00
(See minutes from Central Conference 11-09-01, Mission Board & Executive Committee Proposal)		
Interest 03-31-17	\$300.00	\$262.50
Interest 06-30-17	\$301.50	\$263.65
Interest 09-30-17	\$303.01	\$264.80
Interest 12-31-16	\$304.52	
Total		<u>\$60,790.95</u>
Total	Xfer to Checking Account	\$60,790.95
Maury Endowment Fund (For Annual Training Conference)		
(APYE 1.75%--1/1/17)		\$7,500.00
(Please see Minutes of Executive Committee September 22, 1988)		

1.75%	Interest 03-31-17	\$37.50	\$32.81
1/1/2017	Interest 06-30-17	\$37.69	\$32.96
	Interest 09-30-17	\$37.88	\$33.10
	Interest 12-31-16	\$38.07	
Total	Xfer to Checking Account	\$151.13	<u>\$7,598.87</u>
Total			<u>\$7,598.87</u>
Savings Account with Church Finance (APYE 0.75%--1/1/17)			\$57,660.64
	Interest 03-31-17	\$142.72	\$108.11
	Interest 06-30-17	\$143.08	\$108.32
	Interest 09-30-17	\$143.43	\$108.52
	Interest 12-31-16	\$143.79	
Total		\$573.02	<u>\$57,985.59</u>
NC Foundation Endowment for Central Conference Scholarships			<u>\$13,050.00</u>
TOTAL OF ALL MONEY			\$148,493.89

Central Conference Church Contributions 2017-2018

LaGrange, First	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$140.00	
Little Creek	\$140.00 110/30	\$121.00	\$162.00	\$100.00	\$84.00	
Marlboro	\$328.00	\$293.00	\$288.00	\$280.00	\$220.00	\$275.00
Ormondsville		\$290.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Otter's Creek	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Owens Chapel	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Peace	\$130.00 100/30	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Piney Grove (Beau. Co.)	\$58.00 28/30	\$28.00	\$53.00	\$23.00	\$53.00	\$30.00
Piney Grove (Pitt Co.)	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$25.00		
Pleasant Hill		\$105.00	\$100.00	\$105.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Reedy Branch	\$150.00 120/30	\$370.00	\$230.00	\$200.00	\$170.00	\$150.00
Rocky Mount, First	\$50.00	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Rose Hill	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$370.00
Rose of Sharon	\$250.00 220/30	\$220.00	\$250.00	\$245.00	\$220.00	
Saints Delight	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	
Saratoga	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.0
Spring Branch	\$180.00 150/30	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Tarboro, First	\$80.00/30	\$50.00	\$110.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	
Walnut Creek	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Watery Branch	\$105.00 65/30/10	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	
Williamston, First	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Winterville	\$245.00 185/60	\$170.00	\$170.00	\$185.00	\$185.00	
TOTAL	\$5,795.00	\$6,741.00	\$6,822.00	\$6,066.00	\$6,175.00	\$4,036.00

Constitution and Bylaws
For
The Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists
of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

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, November 8, 1984, November 9, 2000, November 8, 2001, November 4, 2004, November 4, 2010, and _____.

Article One: Name of the Organization

The name of the organization shall be The Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists (referred hereafter in this document as "the Organization" or "the Conference.")

Article Two: Purpose

The Central Conference of Original Free Will Baptists shall be a cooperative effort among member churches to advance the Kingdom of God by providing a disciplinary framework for ministers and churches, as well as supportive programs and mutual ministries.

Article Three: Members

3.1 – Class of Membership

- a) Ordained Minister: An Ordained Minister shall be an individual whose personal membership is in an Original Free Will Baptist congregation, who has met all of the criteria listed in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*, and the criteria listed in this document in Article 3.2(a). Ordained Ministers, who are in good standing, are those ministers who ascribe to *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*, attend the annual session of the Conference (or provide a letter of excusal), pay annual dues, and support the ministries of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention.
- b) Licensed Minister: A Licensed Minister shall be an individual whose personal membership is in an Original Free Will Baptist congregation, who has met all of the criteria listed in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*, as well as the criteria listed in this document in Article 3.2(b) and other criteria set by the Board of Ordination that is adopted by the Central Conference.
- c) Retired Ordained Minister: A Retired Ordained Minister shall be an individual whose personal membership is in an Original Free Will Baptist congregation and who has notified the Conference Clerk of their retirement from parish ministry. The Retired Ordained Minister may continue to preach, provide short-term interim services, or other pastoral duties on a *limited basis* as personally desired. The Retired Ordained Minister is absolved of the requirements for conference attendance and dues as listed in Article 3.2(c).
- d) Congregation Delegate: A Congregation Delegate is a member of an Original Free Will Baptist congregation who is in good standing with the Conference. The Delegate shall be entitled to attend all Conference meetings, hold Conference office(s), sponsor motions or resolutions, and vote on actions of the Central Conference as a representative of the congregation to which they belong as a member. A congregation shall have one delegate for each one hundred members, or part thereof. (Example: A congregation with a membership of 201 are allowed three delegates.) Eligibility to serve as a Congregation Delegate is found in 3.2(d).
- e) Member Congregation: A Member Congregation is a gathered body of Christian believers who meet for worship and service within the membership of the Conference. Member Congregations, who are in good standing, are those congregations who ascribe to *The Articles of Faith and*

Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage), attend the annual session of the Conference, and contribute financially to the work and ministry of the Central Conference and the Ministries of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention. The criteria to become a Member Congregation is found in 3.2(e).

3.2 – Eligibility for Membership

b) Ordained Minister: An Ordained Minister shall...

- i. possess evidence of a divine call to Christian Ministry.
- ii. hold membership in an Original Free Will Baptist congregation.
- iii. maintain a good moral standard in keeping with the calling of the office of a minister.
- iv. maintain a solid Biblical theology observant of the doctrine of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination, as indicated in the latest revision of *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.
- v. properly register with the credentials committee before or at the annual session of the Conference.
- vi. be required to attend the annual session of the Conference each year. Requests for excusal shall be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Conference before the Conference, or within thirty days after the Conference for those with unanticipated causes for absence. Ministers who fail to attend the annual Conference physically for three consecutive years shall be subject to lose their credentials.
- vii. have all of the rights and privileges of the Conference; which include, but not limited to, making motions, drafting resolutions, voting, and holding office(s).

b) Licensed Minister: A Licensed Minister shall...

- i. possess evidence of a divine call to Christian Ministry.
- ii. hold membership in an Original Free Will Baptist congregation.
- iii. maintain a good moral standard in keeping with the calling of the office of a minister.
- iv. maintain a solid Biblical theology observant of the doctrine of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination, as indicated in the latest revision of *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.
- v. be required to attend the annual session of the Conference. Requests for excusal shall be submitted in writing to the Conference clerk before the Conference, or within thirty days after the Conference for those with unanticipated causes for absence. Licensed Ministers who fail to attend the annual Conference for three consecutive years without an excusal shall be referred to the Board of Ordination.
- vi. properly register with the credentials committee before or at the annual session of the Conference.
- vii. have all of the rights and privileges of the Conference, save that of voting; unless the Licensed Minister is a Congregation Delegate representing the congregation of which that one is a member.
- viii. complete the requirements outlined in Article 3.4(a).
- ix. be endorsed by their church, under the supervision of the Board of Ordination, and within the limits of their licensure time period as defined in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

c) Retired Ordained Minister: A Retired Ordained Minister shall...

- i. give written notice of retirement to the clerk of the Conference.
- ii. not serve a congregation or ministry as full or part time staff.
- iii. hold revivals, short-term interims, and pulpit supply on a limited basis.
- iv. not be required to attend or contribute dues to the Conference; however, should they choose to attend, they must properly register with the credentials committee before, or at the annual session of the Conference.

- v. have all of the rights and privileges of the Conference; which include, but not limited to, making motions, drafting resolutions, voting, and holding office(s).
- d) Congregation Delegate: A Congregation Delegate...
 - i. shall serve at the will and endorsement of the congregation of which they are a member.
 - ii. shall vote in accordance with the general feelings of the majority of their congregation,
 - iii. shall properly register with the credentials committee before or at the annual session of the Conference.
 - iv. shall have all of the rights and privileges of the Conference; which include, but not limited to, making motions, drafting resolutions, voting, and holding office(s).
 - v. may be an ordained minister from another Conference, if the minister's personal membership is in the representative congregation, and the minister registers as a delegate with the expressed approval of the congregation.
- e) Member Congregation: The Member Congregation shall...
 - i. send an annual church report indicating statistical and financial data demonstrating the congregation's health and benevolent work in their community, as well as to the denomination's ministries.
 - ii. contribute financially to the work of the Conference as specified in Article 3.3(c).

3.3 – Dues/Fees

- a) Due for Ordaining:
 - i. Dues for Ordained Ministers are set by the Executive Committee and shall be communicated to the membership at least 60-days before the annual Conference.
 - ii. Dues for an Ordained Minister is waived only during the first year of Conference membership, or when the Ordained Minister properly registers as a Retired Ordained Minister.
- b) Dues for Licensed Ministers:
The Conference waives all dues for Licensed Ministers.
- c) Dues for Member Congregations:
The Executive Committee shall set a suggested contribution for Member Congregations payable to the Central Conference at (or before) the session of the annual Conference.

3.4 – Requirements to Become Members

- a) Becoming a Licensed Minister:
 - i. The process for a member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church to become a Licensed Minister of the Central Conference is well-outlined in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* under the Rules of Church Government, Section Two, subsection titled, "Examination and Qualifications for License."
 - ii. The congregation in a business session must recommend the candidate to the Central Conference's Board of Ordination for examination for license with a letter signed by the clerk and pastor.
 - iii. The Board of Ordination shall give all applicants an examination of matters of faith, doctrine, polity, and work of the ministry. They shall also investigate matters of reputation, ability, educational, and professional qualifications.
 - iv. Having successfully passed the examination and investigation, the candidate is recommended back to the congregation, who shall issue the candidate a license for one year.
 - v. The license of the applicant must be renewed annually and not be allowed to lapse during the time before ordination.

b) Becoming an Ordained Minister:

- i. The process for a Licensed Minister of an Original Free Will Baptist Church to become an Ordained Minister of the Central Conference is well-outlined in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* under the Rules of Church Government, Section Two, subsection titled, "Examination and Qualifications for Ordination."
- ii. The candidate must have been licensed for one year and not more than five years.
- iii. The local congregation of which the Licensed Minister is a member shall request that the Board of Ordination give the Licensed Minister the examination for ordination. The request must be signed by the clerk and pastor of the candidate's church.
- iv. The candidate must have successfully completed the examination administered by the Board of Ordination. The inquiry into the candidate's educational achievements shall include knowledge of theology, homiletics, church history, the Bible, and church government with special emphasis on polity, doctrine, and history of the Original Free Will Baptist denomination.
- v. The candidate must also ascribe to the Ministerial Code of Ethics as adopted by the Central Conference.
- vi. Upon satisfactory completion of the examination and all other requirements of the Conference, the council administers the rite of ordination as outlined in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.

c) Becoming a Member Congregation:

- i. The process for a congregation to become a member of the Central Conference is well-outlined in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* under the Rules of Church Government, Section One, subsection titled, "Organizing and Establishment of a New Church from a Mission."
- ii. The congregation/mission shall make application to the Central Conference Executive Committee.
- iii. The Conference Executive Committee shall conduct an investigation of the congregation to assess at least, but not limited to; (1) a sufficient number of responsible believers, (2) doctrine, practice, polity, and purpose, (3) location, (4) potential for financial income, (5) potential for future growth and development.
- iv. When all requirements found in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* and the Central Conference Executive Committee have been satisfied, the Conference moderator shall extend the hand of fellowship and the congregation will be listed among the churches in good standing.

3.5 – Disciplinary Procedures

a) Disciplinary Procedures for a Licensed Minister

- i. If a Licensed Minister walks disorderly or is perceived to have done so, a charge may be brought against the minister by submitting the charge in writing to the Board of Ordination, signed by the accuser(s), along with evidence to support the charge.
- ii. The charges must be examined by the Board of Ordination to determine if they are legitimate in reference to matters of doctrine, polity, ethics, or morality.
- iii. The minister is entitled to face the author(s) of the charges and to present a proper defense. The Board of Ordination conducting the trial has an obligation to the minister to render a verdict of guilty, or to dismiss the charge(s) to clear the minister's name.
- iv. If the minister's name is cleared, no public record is made except at the request of the accused minister.
- v. If the minister is found guilty, the standing of the minister may be made known to the appropriate congregation(s) and to the Central Conference.
- vi. The minutes of the trial should be recorded only in the minutes of the Board of Ordination, or Executive Committee when they are involved in the trial.

- vii. The results of the trial shall be reported at the annual session of the Central Conference.
 - viii. There shall be no secret meetings/trials or “off the record” meetings in reference to a charge or accusation.
 - ix. There shall be no secret disciplinary actions taken or enacted that are not reported to the annual session of the Conference in the Board of Ordination’s report.
 - x. An appeal process is described, along with the trial process, in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* at Rules of Church Government, Section Two: the Ministry, Relationship to the Conference, 4(e).
- b) Disciplinary Procedures for an Ordained or Retired Minister
- i. If an Ordained or Retired Minister walks disorderly or is perceived to have done so, a charge may be brought against the minister by submitting the charge in writing to the Board of Ordination, signed by the accuser(s), along with evidence to support the charge.
 - ii. The charges must be examined by the Board of Ordination to determine if they are legitimate in reference to matters of doctrine, polity, ethics, or morality.
 - iii. If the charges reflect factionalism in the congregation, the matter will be referred to the Executive Committee of the Central Conference and the Board of Ordination.
 - iv. The minister is entitled to face the author(s) of the charges and to present a proper defense. The Board of Ordination conducting the trial has an obligation to the minister to render a verdict of guilty, or to dismiss the charge(s) to clear the minister’s name.
 - v. If the minister’s name is cleared, no public record is made except at the request of the accused minister.
 - vi. If the minister is found guilty, the standing of the minister may be made known to the respective congregation(s) and the Central Conference.
 - vii. The minutes of the trial should be recorded only in the minutes of the Board of Ordination, or executive committee when they are involved in the trial.
 - viii. The results of the trial shall be reported at the annual session of the Central Conference.
 - ix. There shall be no secret meetings/trials or “off the record” meetings in reference to a charge or accusation.
 - x. There shall be no secret disciplinary actions taken or enacted that are not reported to the annual session of the Conference in the Board of Ordination’s report.
 - xi. An appeal process is described, along with the trial process, in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* at Rules of Church Government, Section Two: the Ministry, Relationship to the Conference, 4(e).
- c) Disciplinary Procedures for a Member Elected to a Board or Committee
- i. If an officer or board member walks disorderly or is perceived to have done so, a charge may be brought against the officer or board member by submitting the charge in writing to the Board of Ordination and/or the Executive Committee, signed by the accuser(s), along with evidence to support the charge.
 - ii. The charges must be examined by the Board of Ordination to determine if they are legitimate in reference to matters of doctrine, polity, ethics, or morality.
 - iii. The officer or board member is entitled to face the author(s) of the charges and to present a proper defense. The Board of Ordination conducting the trial has an obligation to the minister to render a verdict of guilty, or to dismiss the charge(s) to clear the individual’s name.
 - iv. If the individual’s name is cleared, no public record is made except at the request of the accused person.
 - v. If the individual is found guilty, the standing of the individual may be made known to the congregation and to the Central Conference.
 - vi. The minutes of the trial should be recorded only in the minutes of the Board of Ordination, or Executive Committee when they are involved in the trial.
 - vii. The results of the trial shall be reported at the annual session of the Central Conference.
 - viii. There shall be no secret meetings/trials or “off the record” meetings in reference to a charge or accusation.

- ix. There shall be no secret disciplinary actions taken or enacted that are not reported to the annual session of the Conference in the ordination council's report.
- x. An appeal process is described, along with the trial process, in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* at Rules of Church Government, Section Two: The Ministry, Relationship to the Conference, 4(e).

3.6 – Resignation or Transfer of Membership

a) Resignation of Licensure by a Licensed Minister

- i. If a Licensed Minister wishes to surrender the license issued by the congregation, the minister should first consider the matter with fervent prayer.
- ii. The minister should meet with the pastor of the sponsoring congregation and surrender whatever certificate or document issued by the congregation.
- iii. The minister, along with the congregation's pastor, should inform the Central Conference Board of Ordination of this decision.
- iv. The Central Conference Board of Ordination shall include this decision in their report at the annual session of the Conference

b) Resignation of Credentials by an Ordained or Retired Minister:

- i. If an Ordained or Retired Ordained Minister wishes to surrender the ordination credentials issued by the Conference, the minister should first consider the matter with fervent prayer.
- ii. The minister should meet with the Central Conference Board of Ordination to discuss the decision to surrender credentials.
- iii. If no resolution or reconsideration is met, the minister will deliver the credential certificate with a written letter of intent.
- iv. The Central Conference Board of Ordination shall include this decision in their report at the annual session of the Conference.

c) Transfer of a Member Congregation to another Original Free Will Baptist Conference

- i. For congregations wishing to transfer Conference membership to another Original Free Will Baptist Conference, the congregation shall in a duly scheduled and announced business meeting, vote to transfer membership to a specific Conference within the Original Free Will Baptist denomination.
- ii. The intent to transfer shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Committee of the Central Conference, signed by the officers of the congregation.
- iii. The transferring congregation shall also make petition to the potential receiving Conference's Executive Committee according to their adopted process.
- iv. The Executive Committee of the Central Conference shall meet with the potential receiving Conference's Executive Committee to discuss the matter with the officers of the congregation.
- v. When, in the judgment of both Executive Committees, the congregation has sufficiently demonstrated its desire to transfer to another Conference, the congregation is granted transfer and removed from the list of member churches of the Central Conference.
- vi. In cases where the congregation's property is also deeded to the Central Conference, the Conference shall transfer all rights to the property over to the independent congregation as soon as feasible.
- vii. In cases where a congregation wishes to unite with the Central Conference, the congregation must fulfill the requirements for transfer set by their original Conference.

d) Transfer of Credentials of an Ordained or Retired Ordained Minister

- i. The process for transfer of credentials to another Conference is outlined in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* in Section Two: the Ministry, under Relationship to the Conference, item two.
- ii. The minister remains a member of the Central Conference until the transfer process is complete.

- e) Transfer of License of a Licensed Minister
 - i. A Licensed Minister may not transfer to another Conference and maintain licensure.
 - ii. If a Licensed Minister wishes to transfer to another Conference, the candidate must surrender the license and transfer personal membership to a church within the other Conference and start the process over again with the new Conference.
 - iii. If a Licensed Minister wishes to move their membership to another church during the licensure process, the original license issues by the candidate's home congregation will be voided, and the candidate shall start the process over again with the receiving congregation after one year of membership.

Article Four: Organization Officers

4.1 –Name of Offices

The Conference shall elect officers from among its members to fill the offices of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. These officers shall serve as an Executive Board, whose duties are outlined in *Article Six: Executive Committee*.

4.2 –Nomination and Election of Officers

- i. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the moderator of the Conference for nominating to the Conference any properly credentialed Conference member to serve in the capacity in which he or she could be elected.
- ii. The nominating committee shall compose a list of offices eligible to be filled and seek possible candidates or recommendations to fill those availabilities. The list shall contain only one name per position. The list of nominations shall be placed before the Conference in one of the business sessions.

4.3 –Eligibility to Serve as an Officer

Any member, minister, or retired minister, who is a member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church within the membership of the Central Conference is eligible to serve in any capacity on the Executive Committee as an Officer.

4.4 –Term of Service

- a) All officers shall be elected from the membership of the Conference to fill terms of two years.
- b) Each office has a term limit of 4 years (2 two-year terms) except that of the Treasurer, who is granted a maximum of 10 years (5 two-year terms) before becoming ineligible to serve on the Executive Committee.
- c) An ineligible member may be eligible to serve again after one year off the board.

4.5 –Removal of an Officer from Position

- a) Should an officer need to be removed due to some ethical or moral indiscretion before the Conference, the executive committee (after sufficient investigation with the Board of Ordination) shall recommend to the annual session of the Conference for the officer's removal and proceed to elect a replacement.
- b) Should an officer need to be removed due to some ethical or moral indiscretion in the interim between annual sessions of the Conference, the executive committee (after sufficient investigation with the Board of Ordination) shall place the officer on suspension for the remainder of the interim period, recommend to the annual session of the Conference for the officer's removal, and proceed to elect a replacement.
- c) The Executive Committee may choose, if needed, to appoint an individual to temporarily fill the vacancy during the interim period.
- d) The accused officer maintains the right to a fair trial, appeal process, and if desired, the right to resign his or her office.
- e) An appeal process shall follow the outlined procedure found at 3.5(c) *Disciplinary Procedures for a Member Elected to a Board or Committee*.

4.6 –Vacancies

- a) Vacancies that occur at the annual session of the Conference (or at the decision of the Executive Committee) shall be filled at the Conference following the nominating process outlined in *Article 4.2 Nominating and Election of Officers* and according to the adopted parliamentary authority.
- b) Vacancies that occur in the interim period between annual sessions of the Conference shall be filled by candidates appointed by the executive committee. These appointments shall be reported to the Conference in the executive committee's report.

Article Five: Meetings

5.1 - Day

The Central Conference shall meet in November at a date, time, and place set by the Executive Committee. The date, time, and place shall be communicated to the Conference membership, and to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, not less than 120-days before the annual session of the Conference.

5.2 - Quorum

The annual session will be recognized as having a quorum when there is a majority of the members present for a meeting (ordained ministers and/or churches), as determined by the Executive Committee and records of the clerk, providing all the members of the Conference have been duly notified concerning the said meeting.

5.3 - Special Meetings

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to transact the business of the Conference when the Conference is not in session. In the event a called special meeting is necessary for the entire Conference, the Executive Committee will set a date for said meeting with at least a four-week notice to member churches, licensed, ordained, and retired ordained ministers. The only business to be transacted at said meeting will be the specific business for which it is called.

5.4 - Cancellation of a Regularly Scheduled Meeting

The Executive Committee will have the duty of cancellation of a regularly scheduled meeting with just cause. Notification will be at the earliest date known for the decision of cancellation and will be carried out by the Conference clerk, in writing, or by other expeditious communication, i.e., email, text message, phone call, etc.

Article Six: Executive Committee

6.1 –Board Composition

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers of the organization—the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

6.2 –Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet as often as necessary to conduct the business of the Conference between annual sessions; but not less than once per quarter.

6.3 –Duties of the Officers of the Board

- a) Moderator: The Moderator shall...
 - i. preside, according to parliamentary law, over the annual session of the Central Conference;
 - ii. appoint temporary committees, delegates, and representatives;
 - iii. serve as ex officio member of all standing boards and committees;
 - iv. perform the duties of the office of moderator as described in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.
- b) Assistant Moderator: The Assistant Moderator shall...
 - i. perform the duties of the Moderator when that officer is not present and shall assist the moderator when called upon.
 - ii. in the event of resignation or death of the Moderator, the Assistant Moderator shall fill the vacancy until the next annual session of the Conference.
 - iii.

- c) Clerk: The Clerk shall...
 - i. record and preserve a permanent record of the proceedings of all sessions of the Central Conference.
 - ii. prepare and cause to be published the minutes of the annual sessions of the Conference
 - iii. hold trust of all documents not otherwise preserved and surrender documents at the direction of the Conference or at the end of the term of office.
 - iv. conduct all official correspondence and sign documents requiring Conference authorization.
- d) Assistant Clerk: The Assistant Clerk shall...
 - i. perform the duties of the clerk when that officer is not present and shall assist the Clerk when called upon to do so.
 - ii. in the event of resignation or death of the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk shall fill the vacancy until the next annual session of the Conference.
- e) Treasurer: The Treasurer shall...
 - i. hold in trust all money that belongs to the Conference, except that held by other boards and committees of the Conference and surrender all financials at the direction of the Conference or at the end of the term of office.
 - ii. keep an accurate account of all funds received and distributed and shall produce an annual treasurer's report to the membership of the annual Conference.
- f) Assistant Treasurer: The Assistant Treasurer shall...
 - i. perform the duties of the Treasurer when that officer is not present and shall assist the Treasurer when called upon to do so.
 - ii. in the event of resignation or death of the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer shall fill the vacancy until the next annual session of the Conference.

6.4 – Duties of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall...

- a) act with the same authority as the Central Conference seated session during intervals between sessions on matters concerning ministers, churches, and other business as defined in as described in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.
- b) not have the authority to convey property, or to change what the Conference has enacted during an annual session of the Conference.
- c) plan and conduct the annual session of the Central Conference at a time and place according to *Article 5.1 Day*.
- d) serve on behalf of the Central Conference as the trial committee in cases of church disputes as described in *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*.
- e) approve the minutes of the Conference meeting before publication.

Article Seven –Committees and Representatives

7.1 – Board of Ordination

- a) The Board of Ordination, consisting of five ordained ministers of the Central Conference, shall be elected by the Conference. The term of office shall be for members to serve five-year rotational term and adjusted so one member rotating off each year.
- b) A member of the Board of Ordination is eligible to serve two consecutive full-term rotations (ten years) before being ineligible for a third consecutive full-term rotation.
- c) An ineligible member may be eligible to serve again after one year off the board.
- d) The board of ordination shall meet at least once per quarter at a time and place determined by the chairperson.
- e) It shall be the duty of the Board of Ordination...
 - i. to examine and recommend individuals sent by the member congregation for licensure by the member congregation.
 - ii. 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

- iii. to examine ordained ministers seeking membership in this Conference and to make recommendations in keeping with their findings.

7.2 – Church Growth Committee

- a) A committee of five shall be elected to serve as a Church Growth Committee with three members being elected to serve a three-year rotational term with one member rotating off each year, one elected annually from the membership of the Executive Committee, and one member elected annually from the membership of the Continuing Education Committee.
- b) It shall be the duty of the Church Growth Committee to promote and support local church growth through outreach ministry and leadership development, so the Central Conference will be more fully equipped for effective ministry.
- c) The committee shall establish and coordinate a process whereby local congregation of the Central Conference may apply for funds to subsidize the cost of special church growth projects or leadership development programs.

7.3 – Clergy Care Committee

- a) A Clergy Care Committee shall be composed of three members. Each member will follow a three-year rotational term with one member rotating off each year.
- b) It shall be the duty of the Clergy Care Committee to provide and maintain a relationship with qualified and credentialed clinicians to provide counseling, coaching, and other supportive services for Ordained, Retired Ordained, and Licensed Ministers of the Central Conference and their immediate families.
- c) The Clergy Care Committee shall advise and foster relationships with other qualified mental health providers who will agree with the committee's effort and philosophy of mental health care.
- d) The committee shall establish a secure system for, when possible, anonymous service to clergy and families.
- e) The committee shall report at the annual Conference but hold in absolute confidence the personal information of clients. The report should include an up to date service utilization report and recommendations for funding.

7.4 – Continuing Education Committee

- a) A Continuing Education Committee shall have five elected members, with three members elected to serve three-year rotational terms, one rotating off each year; one member elected annually from the Board of Ordination membership, and one member elected annually from the membership of the Executive Committee.
- b) It will be the duty of the Continuing Education Committee to set guidelines concerning what educational resources will be recognized as qualified disciplines for our ministers to receive credit(s) as continuing education and set the number of units that can be credited for such work.
- c) The committee is to plan and promote seminars and training opportunities that will be recognized as qualified disciplines for our ministers to receive credits as continuing education.
- d) This committee is to review annually such applications as may be submitted by our ministers for continuing education units of credit and report them to the Conference in session.

7.5 – Credentials Committee

- a) The Credentials Committee shall be composed of three members, shall be elected from the membership; the term of office shall be a three-year rotational term, but shall be adjusted to rotate one member off annually.
- b) The duties of the Credentials Committee shall be to check each church report for verification of delegates and to make recommendations to the Conference regarding their seat during the Conference.
- c) The committee shall also check registration cards of enrolling ministers and to make recommendations to the Conference regarding their seat during the Conference.

7.6 – Free Will Baptist Press and Church Finance Association Representative(s)

- a) A representative shall be elected to represent the Conference's membership in the Free Will Baptist Press; the term of the office shall be two years.

- b) A representative shall be elected to represent the Conference's membership in the Church Finance Association, the term of the office shall be two years.
- c) Representatives are expected to attend the meetings of these ministries to represent the Central Conference's share of those ministries.

7.7 – Historian

- a) A historian shall be elected from the membership; the term of office shall be two years.
- b) It shall be the duty of the historian to collect and preserve any historical data concerning the Conference.

7.8 – Memorial Committee

- a) A Memorial Committee of three members shall be elected from the membership; the term of office shall be three-year rotational term but shall be adjusted to rotate one member off annually.
- b) It shall be the duty of the memorial committee to prepare and present a memorial service for all Central Conference ministers, spouses, or other Conference servants who die during the year preceding the Conference.
- c) The committee shall prepare a brief biographical sketch for the Historical Collection at the University of Mount Olive.

7.9 – Publicity Representative

- a) A Publicity Representative shall be elected from the membership; the term of office shall be two years.
- b) The duty of the Publicity Representative shall be to publicize activities and work of the Central Conference and Original Free Will Baptist Convention.
- c) The Publicity Representative shall utilize the Original Free Will Baptist Convention's website, emails, The Free Will Baptist Magazine, and any other means of public announcement.

7.10 – Conference Trustees

- a) A Board of Trustees consisting of three members shall be elected from the membership. The term of office shall be three years but shall be adjusted to rotate one member off annually.
- b) It shall be the duty of the board of trustees to hold in trust title(s) to all tangible property belonging to the Conference.
- c) It shall have the power to convey such property as authorized only by the annual session of the Central Conference.

Article Eight: Parliamentary Authority

The organization shall recognize the most recent edition of *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* and the newest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* as its parliamentary authority in meetings of the organization. Should a conflict arise between these two documents, the organization shall adhere to *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)* as the higher authority.

Article Nine: Amendment of the Constitution or Bylaws

The bylaws of the organization may be amended by the two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled annual meeting of the organization. The amendment shall be presented and tabled in the first business session and acted upon in the final business session of the annual Conference meeting.

Article Ten: Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the organization, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the organization, dispose of all of the assets of the organization exclusively to the North Carolina Foundation of Christian Ministries. Any assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Superior Court of the county in which the official office is located.

Article Eleven: Miscellaneous Bylaws

11.1 All reports, resolutions, and recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the moderator and clerk at the appropriate time before or during the annual Conference.

11.2 In the judgment of the Moderator, should any member show anger on any subject, the individual shall forfeit his/her seat in that session of the meeting.

11.3 No member shall be excused from any session of the Conference without the authorization of the moderator. Members wishing to leave the Conference meeting before adjournment shall speak to the moderator to be excused.

11.4 The meeting of the Conference shall open and close with suitable devotional services and prayer as designed by the executive committee.