

From Rile McDuffie
6/89

MINUTES
OF THE
Third Annual Session
OF
CENTRAL TEXAS ASSOCIATION
OF
Free Baptists

HELD WITH BRIGHT LIGHT
CHURCH OCTOBER 1-4, 1908.

FREE BAPTIST NEWS PRINT.
ALVORD, TEXAS.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION,

D. C. Hargrove, Moderator	Iola, Texas
J. L. Payne, Clerk	Zulch, Texas
J. P. Gilpin, Treasurer	Bryan, Texas

ORDAINING COUNCIL.

T. A. Searcy	Bryan, Texas
D. C. Hargrove	Iola, Texas
A. W. Mays	Keith Texas

MISSION BOARD.

J. P. Gilpin	Bryan, Texas
J. S. Harrison	Keith, Texas
A. P. Bains	Normangee, Texas

ORDAINED MINISTERS

J. W. Orr	Ingram, Texas
S. T. Thomas	Keith, Texas
A. W. Mays	Keith, Texas
D. C. Hargrove	Iola, Texas
W. N. Crenshaw	Mesa, Texas
W. T. Wood	Harvey, Texas
John Swanwick	Bryan, Texas
Tom. A. Searcy	Bryan, Texas
J. J. Tipton	Normangee, Texas

LICENTIATES.

Henry Hunter	Zulch, Texas
Roland Spiller	College, Texas

MINUTES

OF THE

Central Texas Freewill Baptist Association.

The Central Texas Free Baptist Association met with Bright Light Church in Brazos County, Texas on Thursday night, Oct. 1st 1908. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. D. C. Hargrove, Text, Matt. 19: 27, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee."

At 9 o'clock p. m. the Association was called to order by Clerk, J. L. Payne, and Rev. D. C. Hargrove was elected moderator, Rev. John Swanwick, assistant moderator and Bro. Roland Spiller, assistant clerk for the ensuing session.

On motion the moderator appointed the following as a committee on pulpit supply: M. G. Buchanan, Wm. Goen and C. T. Rogers.

Association adjourned to meet at 8:30 a. m. Friday.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

Session called to order with song. Scripture lesson 15th Psalm and prayer by Rev. W. T. Wood, he being the oldest minister present.

On motion the body was permanently organized, and the moderator appointed T. A. Searcy, W. N. Crenshaw and John Swanwick as a committee on committees.

Letters from the Quarterly Meetings, which compose the Central Texas Free Baptist Association, were read and received and delegates seated.

The question, "Why did I come to this association," was asked and answered by almost every one present with much interest.

Committee on pulpit supply reported that W. H. Hunter would preach. Association adjourned for preaching.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

Met at 1 : 30 p. m. Song service and prayer by J. P. Gilpin.

The following report was read and adopted: We, your committee on committees, submit the following partial report: We would respectfully recommend the following committees:

On Temperance—J. S. Harrison, Roland Spiller, Wm. Bell.

On Sunday School—S. T. Thomas, J. L. Payne and J. P. Gilpin.

On Obituaries—W. R. Foster, Mrs M. S. Freeman and Mrs Alice Conley.

On Standing of Ministry—John Henry, W. R. Goen and Walter Lowry.

On Condition of Churches—D. C. Hargrove, W. T. Wood and Chas. Rogers.

On Home Missions—M. G. Buchanan, A. W. Mays and J. W. Poteet.

On Foreign Missions—Mrs. Barrow, Henry Hunter and Henry Hardin.

On Finance—John Swanwick, Charles Turner and Will Leighman.

On Resolutions—Mrs. Florence Turner, Miss Viola Payne, Miss Lena Searcy and Miss Lena Gilpin.

On Education—D. C. Hargrove, J. S. Harrison, J. L. Edge.

Respectfully submitted,

T. A. Searcy,

W. N. Crenshaw,

John Swanwick.

The program, which had been arranged by the Program Committee, was taken up and the various subjects discussed until 5 p. m., when on motion the meeting adjourned to meet Saturday morning at 8 : 30 a. m. Preaching at night by Rev. A. W. Mays.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Association was called to order with song and Scripture lesson, part of 5th chapter of 2 Cor. Prayer by Rev. D. C. Hargrove.

At this hour a communication, which was highly appreciated, was received from Bro. J. J. Tatum and on motion, was ordered replied to with expressions of appreciation from the body. The

program was again resumed and disposed of in the forenoon.

Motion adopted that the treasurer collect as many of the unpaid pledges as he can conveniently, and then turn the remainder over to the different pastors for collection.

Motion to adjourn for preaching service. Preaching by Rev. W. N. Crenshaw.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Meeting called to order with song and prayer. Reports of committees were then read, discussed and adopted. See reports.

Rev. T. A. Searcy was unanimously elected to fill the unexpired term of Rev. J. J. Tatum as a member of the ordaining council.

Rev. S. T. Thomas' time as a member of the council having expired, Rev. A. W. Mays was elected to fill the vacancy.

J. P. Gilpin was unanimously elected to succeed himself as a member of the Home Mission Board.

The Association appointed as delegates to the Southwestern Convention, Rev. John Swanwick from the Brazos County Quarterly Meeting and Rev. D. C. Hargrove from the Plainview Quarterly Meeting, the Quarterly Meeting to help defray expenses.

On motion minutes were to be published in pamphlet form, each church requested to pay one dollar toward paying for publication of same.

On motion Rev. John Swanwick was appointed to assist clerk with minutes.

Motion adopted that T. A. Searcy, A. W. Mays and J. S. Harrison be a committee to arrange program for next annual session of this Association.

By request of the Brazos Co. Quarterly Meeting Bro. Roland Spiller was granted license to preach the gospel.

Motion adopted that examination be public.

On motion meeting adjourned, subject to call of the chair.

Preaching at night by Rev. S. T. Thomas.

After preaching service the Association was called in conference again by the moderator. The ordaining council being ready to report, the report was read and adopted.

We, your Ordaining Council beg leave to report that, subject

to request of Union Hill Church we have examined Bro. Roland Spiller for license, and find him sound in Free Baptist faith, and we recommend him to our body, requesting that you grant him primary license for one year.

Respectfully submitted,

D. C. Hargrove,

T. A. Searcy,

A. W. Mays.

An offering amounting to \$6.11 was taken for missions.

Association adjourned to meet with Spring Hill Church in Grimes County, Texas on Thursday night before the 4th Sunday in October, 1909, Rev. A. W. Mays to preach the introductory sermon. Minister's Conference will begin on Wednesday night.

D. C. Hargrove, Moderator,

J. L. Payne, Clerk.

SUNDAY.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Rev. T. C. Ferguson.

Ministers' Conference.

The Ministers' Conference was organized at Bright Light Oct. 1st, 1908. Rev. T. A. Searcy was chosen moderator, Rev. John Swanwick, clerk.

The membership is composed of all the ministers of this Central Texas Freewill Baptist Association, Revs. W. T. Wood, T. A. Searcy, A. W. Mays, Jno. Swanwick, D. C. Hargrove, S. T. Thomas, Hy. Hunter, R. L. Spiller, W. N. Crenshaw, were present.

A few things considered were: The Office and Duties of a Deacon. How to encourage your men in the Ministry. The obligations of the people to the pastors, etc.

Moved that Rev. John Swanwick preach the introductory sermon next year.

Reports of Committees.

Temperance—Just one year ago, one of the present committee had occasion to express himself on this subject

in which he again portrays the evils of intemperence and, thanks be to God, during this year we have more fully realized that the cause of temperence, as it pertains to the liquor traffic which is to our minds paramount with any the live issues of the day, has demonstrated the fact that the strides in that direction have been phenomenal, and we heartily recommend that we as christian people continue in pushing the great work until it becomes statewide, and on and on to a never dying issue and may the slogan be, Down with every branch of the dram-shop!

J. S. Harrison,

W. D. Bell,

R. L. Spiller.

Sunday Schools—We, your committee on Sunday Schools, wish to make the following report: We are pleased to note the great interest that has been manifest in our Sunday-school work within the last five years. We find that fourteen out of fifteen of our churches either have Sunday-schools of their own, or have union Sunday-schools. It makes us feel that our prayers have been answered, yet there is more work to do in that line.

S. T. Thomas,

J. L. Payne,

J. P. Gilpin.

Obituaries—We, your committee on obituaries, beg leave to make the following report:

Whereas, it has pleased God, in His infinite wisdom, to call from our midst our beloved Brothers D. P. Cole, John Cloud, J. H. Turner, J. T. Saley and Sisters Sarah Dyes, Mattie Murphy and Jane Carter, therefore, be it

Resolved: That each of these homes have lost faithful loved ones, and the churches consistant members. It is with sadness, we chronicle their deaths. May the joys of heaven comfort and console the bereaved ones in these homes, and may each have the christian grace to say, "Thy will be done," not ours; for our loss is but heaven's gain.

W. R. Foster,

Mrs. M. S. Freeman,

Mrs. Alice Conlee.

Standing of the Ministry—We, your committee on ministerial standing, would recommend that: Revs. W. T. Wood, S. T. Thomas, W. N. Crenshaw, A. W. Mays, T. A. Searcy, D. C. Hargrove, J. W. Orr, John Swanwick, W. H. Hunter, J. J. Tipton and Roland Spiller be granted certificates of good standing.

J. A. Henry,
J. P. Gilpin,
W. R. Goen,
W. D. Bell,
L. B. Carter.

Condition of Churches—We, your committee on condition of churches, find all of our churches are in better condition spiritually than ever before, for which we are thankful. We feel that they have had a great spiritual uplift and are on higher grounds, and all except one have had a number of additions. The pastors have been faithful to their charges and have made great sacrifices.

C. T. Rogers,
W. T. Wood,
D. C. Hargrove.

Home Missions—We, your committee on Home Missions beg to report that we favor the continuance of the pledge plan, as heretofore pursued. We also recommend that each member of our several churches be requested to pay an assessment of fifteen cents each to be paid to the pastors of their churches and to be forthcoming by the time of the assembling of the association each year. Then to be disseminated at the will of said body.

A. W. Mays,
M. G. Buchanan,
J. W. Peteet.

Foreign Missions—We, the committee on Foreign Missions beg to submit the following: We urge all the pastors to preach at least one sermon during the year, instructing the laity in regard to our various fields in which we have missions established, and to take up contributions for the same and otherwise raise funds for the needs of the men that we as a denomination have employed to preach the Gospel to those in darkness. May the Lord bless and help us all to be more earnest and liberal in the future.

Henry Hunter,
Henry Hardin,
L. A. Barrow.

Finance—We, the committee on finance beg to submit the following: That, considering the hard times of the past year, the churches have done very well, but now that the outlook is brighter, we urge all the churches and all the members of the churches, to make a greater effort to meet the requirements of the Lord's work in a more liberal way, and support the pastors in a manner that they will not meet with the financial embarrassments that worried and discouraged them during the last twelve months; so that they will have more time to devote to the Master's cause. Also that the needs of the home and foreign missions may not be neglected, but that the ministers make a special effort, and the members co-operate heartily on this line. Also we urge that Church-houses, School-houses or any other place of worship wherever services are held be repaired and put in better condition.

Charles Turner,
Wm. Leighman,
John Swanwick.

Education—Education has long been held as the stepping stone to all of our advancements and achievements in the arts and sciences. If so, how applicable to the advancement of our christian work! Through the blessings of education we can have the benefits of wholesome literature, and by it alone can we expect to reach the people. And, inasmuch as our denomination has no school [in this locality] for the training of its ministers, we recommend that this Association, through its Mission Board, take up the work of giving each year at least two of our ministers the benefit of a training through the medium of our Correspondence School, and that the said Mission Board be instructed and empowered to use any money they may have on hand for said purpose.

J. S. Harrison,
D. C. Hargrove,
J. L. Edge.

Resolutions—We, your committee on resolutions make the following report:

Recognizing the blessings of our divine Master in this meeting, be it

Resolved, That this Association desires to make grateful acknowledgement to Him from whom every good and perfect gift

cometh for His protecting care and guiding spirit in these meetings,

Resolved, That we thank the pastor of this church for his thoughtfulness for our comfort. We also thank the good people for their open homes, in which the delegates have been so royally entertained, and the officers and committees for the faithful discharge of their duty.

Lena Searcy,
Viola Payne,
Lena Gilpin,
Mrs. Florence Turner.

Treasurer's Report—From Oct. 17th, 1907 to Oct. 3rd, 1908.

Collected by pledges	\$14.00
Cash paid out to Bro. Searcy	4.20
" " " Bro. Hargrove	4.20
Cash on hand	5.60
Unpaid pledges	62.59

J. P. Gilpin, Treasurer.

MINISTERS' REPORTS FOR 1908.

A. W. Mays.—Did continuous work all the year, pastored two churches, received into the church forty-five, baptized twenty, organized one church, two Sunday schools and two Prayer meetings. Held four revivals.

Henry Hunter—Pastor of one church, held one revival, assisted the other preachers in revival meetings, married one couple.

John Swanwick.—Have preached forty-six sermons, held one revival and assisted in three others. Number of conversions five, organized two Sunday Schools, solemnized one marriage and conducted one funeral.

W. N. Crenshaw.—Have spent nine weeks in revival work this year at the following places: Keith, Cross, Kurten, Harvey, Wixon and also at Vandyke and Salt Springs in Comanche Co. Have also organized two Sunday schools of over forty scholars each.

My work has been very pleasant, and I think successful this

year. There were about 150 conversions in the meetings that I was connected with, but I did not keep account of them. I think the different pastors will report that.

T. C. Ferguson and wife—From the 1st of May 1908 to Oct. 1st 1908, I have been pastor of four churches: Bryan, Bright Light, Kurten and Wellborn Churches. To the churches of which I have been pastor and churches where I have held revival meetings for other pastors, 152 members have been added. Have preached 152 sermons, raised five dollars for Foreign Missions, traveled over 2000 miles, married one couple, but I have conducted no funerals. I have received about \$350.00 for my work up to the meeting of the Association.

Mrs. T. C. Ferguson—From May 1st, 1908 to Oct. 1st, 1908. I have pastored no churches, but have assisted my husband and others in revival work. I have preached about 75 times. As others have reported the additions to the churches where I have labored, I will not report them. I have travelled over one thousand miles in the work, and have received a little over \$50.00 for my work.

CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1st. This organization shall be called the Central Texas Freewill Baptist Association, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well disciplined Free Baptist Quarterly meetings conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this constitution.

Art. 2nd. The members of this Association shall consist of delegates from the several Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed. Every Quarterly Meeting containing five hundred or less members shall be entitled to twelve delegates, and Quarterly Meeting containing more than five hundred members shall be entitled to one delegate for each additional one hundred members or fractional part thereof. Ministers shall be considered as standing members.

Art. 3rd. The officers of this Association shall be a standing clerk and a standing treasurer, and a moderator shall be chosen at every session of the Association with such assistance as may be

found necessary. •

Art. 4th. Any regularly organized and well-regulated Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the usages and adopt the doctrines of the Freewill Baptist Denomination as published in the Treatise on the Faith, and are in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the Denomination, may at any time on application, by a vote of this Association become a member thereof.

Art. 5th. This Association shall have power to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed and to exclude them for disorderly work, if labor with them proves unsuccessful, but in no case to reverse their decision or to interfere with their internal regulations.

Art. 6th. The sessions of this Association shall be held, beginning on Thursday at 7 o'clock p. m. before the regular meeting Sunday with church where held, in October of each year, at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings composing this Association to represent themselves by delegates, and spiritual standing and statistics by letter, and at which time the Association shall act on such questions and topics as may be referred to them by their respective Quarterly Meetings, and transact such other business not contrary to this Constitution or to the usages of the denomination, as in their judgment may promote the cause of Christ, and the interests of the churches and Quarterly Meetings within the limits of the Association.

Art. 7th. The Association shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-law not contrary to this Constitution which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

Art. 8th. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the Association at any session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing and recorded at the last previous session.

BY-LAWS.

Art. 1st. Each session of the Association shall be called to order by the standing clerk, when present, and in his absence by the member having seniority of years.

Art. 2nd. Each session and adjourned sitting of this Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Art. 3rd. This Association may hold correspondence by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies, as it may deem advisable.

Art. 4th. Conference shall sit with open doors except when it may go into a committee of the whole.

Art. 5th. Any person, not a member of this conference may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission of the conference.

Art. 6th. It shall be the duty of the standing clerk to furnish each session of the Association with a book of records containing the doings of its previous sessions.

Art. 7th. The Conference may determine the time when its daily sessions commence and close.

Art. 8th. It shall be the duty of all the members of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each daily session, and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

Art. 9th. No member shall absent himself from conference during its sessions without first obtaining permission from the Conference.

Art. 10th. Every member wishing to speak in conference shall first address the Moderator.

Art. 11th. No person shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes at any one time, nor more than twice on any subject without leave of the conference.

Art. 12th. No debate shall be allowed on any motion except the same be submitted in writing and seconded by a member of Conference.

Art. 13th. No whispering will be allowed in conference without leave of the moderator, but all members shall pay strict attention to the business of conference.

Art. 14th. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one person or member on any committee, provided the one nominated be elected.

Art. 15th. The Constitution and By-Laws of this conference shall be read at each session near its commencement.

Statistical Table

Plainview Quarterly Meeting.

CHURCHES	CLERK	POST OFFICE
Blue Lake	M. C. Carter	Piedmont
Evergreen	J. S. Harrison	Keith
Spring Hill	Walter Franklin	Cross
Willow Hole	A. A. Shannon	Zulch
Hollis	Miss Cheshire	Normangee
North Zulch	Sarah Keefer	Zulch
Plainview	J. F. Reed	George

Brazos Co. Quarterly Meeting.

Liberty	J. A. Henry	Edge
Christian Home	W. E. Cloud	Kurten
Bryan	M. S. Edge	Bryan
Bright Light	Deloros Thibideaux	Bryan R F D
Wellborn	W. E. Graham	Bryan R F D
Zion	Ben Marquett	Wellborn
Union Hill	N. A. Carson	College
Independence	Tom Byers	Bryan R F D

Received	Dismissed	Lettered	Died	Members
10		1		35
6	3	3		85
46	1	3		90
27	1	8	1	132
10		4		36
3			1	26
16		3	3	125
3				47
22			1	104
11		9		74
11		6	11	127
6				60
9	3	1		46
9				35
31				31