

CENTRAL TEXAS DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS, INC.

11918 Lois Lane Dr.

Pinehurst, TX 77362

<http://www.texasfwb.org/central.html>

The Central Texas District Association of Free Will Baptists held their quarterly meeting on February 10, 2024 at Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan, Texas. Moderator, Bro. Doug Dickey called the meeting to order and opened the meeting in prayer. Bro. Doug Dickey called for the church letters.

Marcus Brewer led the congregation in "This is My Father's World".

Bro. Doug read the Preamble as a reminder of who we are and what we are to be about. The Free Will Baptist Constitution is in the back of the Digest of Reports.

Bro. Doug Dickey, Moderator, presented the seating of the delegates. Pastors, pastor's wives, deacons, deacon's wives, standing delegates and church delegates were recognized and seated.

Clerk, Sandy Pierson stated there were 14 churches represented by letter and 10 churches represented by delegates.

Bro. Doug Dickey welcomed everyone to Fellowship and thanked them for coming.

Motion by Jim Brewer to adopt the program. Seconded by John Davis, motion carried.

Minutes and Treasurer's reports from November were approved as presented.

Bro. Doug shared how 10 years ago the district desperately needed a treasurer and Debbie stepped in and has done an incredible job. Her reports have been impeccable. In ten years, she has not missed even one meeting. How many of us, even pastors, can say that. Bro. Doug presented her with some beautiful flowers and there is a cake for her in the fellowship hall.

John Davis, Jim Brewer and Clyde Goen were appointed to the Resolution Committee.

Bro. Jeremy Lightsey, Rory Meadors and Bro. Darrin Ely were appointed to the Obituary Committee.

Clerk, Sandy Pierson gave the General Board Report.

Sharon Dickey gave the W. Herbert Richards Memorial Scholarship Fund report.

Balance - \$15,665.56

Expansion idea - Anyone going on an Eteam trip, participating in Truth and Peace, or the College Missions Program would receive \$500 per event each year as funds are available.

Lydia Topping recapped the events from the CTDWAC for 2023:

We promoted and attended the Ladies Tea Fellowship at the Whistle Stop Tea Room hosted by Tomball WAC on April 22. We had 4 churches represented with a total of 63 ladies.

We also promoted the State Retreat on September 29th / September 30th. At the retreat we heard from Rachel Norris and Ruth McDonald.

We were able to provide financial support to the following:

Truth & Peace (1 Participants) - \$500.00

E-Team (1 Participants) - \$600.00Hailee

Impact France TOGO - \$100.00

Voltz to Bulgaria - \$300.00

Taylor Pate/Japan - \$600.00

WNAC Giving Tree - \$120.00

Authentic Church Building Fund- \$500.00

Harvest Child Care Ministries - \$100.00

Total - \$2,820

Looking Ahead:

We will promote and encourage our ladies to attend the spring Ladies Fellowship sponsored by Tomball WAC, the State Meeting in June and the TWAC Ladies Retreat.

We continue to encourage our ladies (and some men) through our Facebook group "Central Texas Women Active for Christ".

RECESS

We do not have a video from Hailee. Baby Aurora Rose made her appearance on February 9th. Mom and baby are doing great! God is good!

Anthony and Leah Edgmon, missionaries to Spain were with us and shared that it was good to be back in Texas. It's amazing to think they have been in Spain for 25 years. Their daughter just got married in December, she is in her last year at Welch. Their son, Marc is a sophomore at Welch. They began their ministry in Collado Villalba. A few years later they went to Alpedrete where they have been ministering ever since. When they go back, they will go to Moralzarzal to start a new ministry. There are about 8000 towns in Spain. When they first went to Spain only about 600 towns had any gospel preaching church. Twenty-five years later about 1000 towns have a gospel preaching church. There are still 7000 towns that don't know about Jesus. Even though the statistics look grim, God is bigger than any statistic! Anthony and Lea plan to go back after the National Meeting in July. Please continue to support and pray for them.

Marcus led the congregation in "There is Power in the Blood" & "Down at the Cross".

Jim Brewer prayed the offertory prayer. Offering collected by Jim and Bro. Jeremy Lightsey was \$313.00.

Marcus and Ashton Brewer provided the special music. They blessed us with "Revelation Song".

Bro. Doug Dickey introduced our guest speaker, Bro. John Collier, pastor of New Beginnings Church.

Bro. John spoke about "Good Grief".

"Good Grief is the painful, but effective, way that God helps us and heals us after a significant loss event, such as the death of a loved one."

- 1. Why Do We Grieve?**
- 2. How Should I Respond to Someone's Grief?**
- 3. Where Should I Find Help During My Time of Grief?**

Why Do We Grieve?

Grief is a natural response to pain and loss. You need to understand that grieving is not a sinful response.

Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14:

"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

Notice he doesn't say not to grieve, but as you grieve place your hope in God and in Jesus' resurrection. When we lose someone or something that is precious or valuable to us, we grieve. This is natural and good even though it is painful. That's why we grieve.

How Should I Respond to Someone's Grief?

- 1. *Don't avoid the person who mourns.*** We worry we don't know what to say or we find funeral homes awkward. The worst thing you can do is nothing.
- 2. *Don't think you have to say the right thing.*** The most help you can be is to be there. Give the gift of presence.
- 3. *Don't treat the survivor differently.*** For example, if you would have invited the couple to the event or to your home, invite the widow or widower.
- 4. *Do understand the grieving process takes a long time.*** Be patient.
- 5. *Do expect their emotions to fluctuate.*** The survivor will not always feel badly. Let them be happy; let them be sad, maybe all in a matter of moments.
- 6. *Don't think you have to bring up their loss or grief every time you are with them.*** Don't ask, "How are you really doing?" Don't push.
- 7. *Do be willing to reminisce.*** Sometimes we think they don't want to hear something about their loved one. I know from experience that is not true. One of the great joys for me is when someone who knew my mother or my grandparents shares a happy memory with me.
- 8. *Do be personal in your remembrances.*** If you know something nice to say, say it. "Your mother was so wonderful to me when..." or "Your dad's strong faith was an inspiration to me when..."
- 9. *Do keep your sense of humor.*** Don't be flippant, but remember that Proverbs 17:22 says: "A cheerful heart is good medicine..." The famous preacher Vance Havner, after the death of his wife, when someone would say to him, "I'm so sorry you lost your wife," he would smile and say, "Well, don't be sorry. After all, something's not lost if you know its location! And I know right where to find her!" But don't assume that because the sense of humor remains the grief is gone. Proverbs 14:13 says: "Even in laughter the heart

may ache, and rejoicing may end in grief."

10. Do remember the time you are most needed is not immediate. Don't get me wrong; you need to be there from the start, but everybody comes immediately. It's weeks later and months later when everyone else is gone that you are needed most.

Where Should I Find Help During My Time of Grief?

There are really two answers to this question: God (and his word) and God's people. When you are experiencing a time of grief, it is important to understand that Jesus offers incredible resources in his word to help heal.

It will take time to progress through the journey God has you on, but he is with you every step of the way and he will deliver you. You may experience depression, but not defeat. Jesus offers help through the promises in his word, but he also offers help through his people.

Additional Information: Grief Share, Celebrate Recovery, First Aid for Emotional Hurts

Bro. Randy Puckett dismissed the meeting in prayer and asked the blessing on the lunch.

LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION

Marcus Brewer led the congregation in "Without him".

Bro. Jeremy Lightsey opened the session in prayer.

There was no Christian Education Board Report.

There was no Trustee Board Report.

John Davis gave the Camp Board Report. We spent a good portion of 2023 recovering from the mold infestation in the dining hall and dorms. Much of the facilities had to be taken out and replaced to eliminate the mold problem. As you can see from our financial report, the carpentry work, building materials, trash removal, and other expenses came to well over \$40,000 so we had to take significant dollars out of savings to cover this. However, our facilities are in better shape than ever and we believe many future problems have been avoided because of the work done this year. We felt blessed to have some reserves even though we felt that the insurance should have covered much of this expense. We have already had three groups use the camp for weekend retreats and have received great feedback.

On that note, we have been shopping for a new insurance company to replace Church Mutual, but have been unsuccessful in getting a reasonable quote. The agent we have dealt with the most told us that the whole insurance industry is dealing with inadequate reserves because they are required by law to have a certain amount of cash on hand as a percentage of all the policies they write. Hopefully in a year or two, we will be able to get a better plan in place.

The Nominating Committee report was given by John Davis, making the following nominations:

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Moderator - Replacing Doug Dickey, Doug Dickey (2025)
Assistant - Replacing Wesley Hood, Wesley Hood (2025)
Clerk - Replacing Sandy Pierson, Sandy Pierson (2025)
Treasurer - Replacing Debbie Bishop, Elizabeth Howell (2025)
Assistant Clerk - Replacing Sharon Dickey, Sharon Dickey (2025)
Assistant Treasurer - Replacing John Davis, John Davis (2025)
Parliamentarian - Replacing John Davis, John Davis (2025)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Executive Board will continue in this role (2025)

Boards:

W.H. Richards Memorial Scholarship Fund - Replacing Chuck Lysaker, Chuck Lysaker (2027)
Ordaining Council - Replacing Wesley Hood, Wesley Hood (2027)
Christian Education - Replacing Randy Puckett, Randy Puckett (2027)
Camp Board - Replacing Tony Pedretti, Jim Kilgore (2027)
CTDWAC - Replacing Lydia Topping, Lydia Topping (2027)

Motion was made by Bro. John Collier and seconded by Clyde Goen to elect the above slate of nominees as a slate. Motion carried.

John Davis made a motion that the outgoing district treasurer, Debbie Bishop, be directed to write a check in the amount of \$10,000 to Wells Fargo Bank so that the new treasurer will be able to open an account and operate the district treasury. When all the transactions in the Amegy Bank account have cleared the bank, Debbie Bishop will have the responsibility to close the Amegy account and send the remaining balance to the new treasurer. Second by Marcus, motion carried.

John Davis made a motion that the District instruct Wells Fargo to grant signature authority for the district checking account to the treasurer, Beth Howell, and assistant treasurer, John Davis. Furthermore, the district should instruct the bank to issue a debit card to the treasurer. The District Clerk should make available a copy of the minutes of this meeting to be delivered to the bank. Second by Jim Brewer, motion carried.

Reminder of dates and locations of 2024 Quarterly Meetings. All meetings will start at 9:30.

Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Dismissal prayer by Bro. Gene Richards.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sandy Pierson
District Clerk
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