

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixth Annual

Session

OF THE

Central Western Missouri Association

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

**CONVENED WITH THE BLUFF CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 3-6, 1914**

**THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD WITH
STOCKTON CHURCH, STOCKTON, MO.,
SEPTEMBER, 1915**

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LIBERAL NEWS PRINT, LIBERAL, MO.

Central Western Missouri Association

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OFFICERS

O. T. Fast, Moderator	Liberal, Mo.
B. F. Brown, Clerk	Hannon, Mo.
James Long, Treas.	R. I., Irwin, Mo.

EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION BOARD

T. C. Ferguson,	Stockton, Mo.
E. F. Crabtree,	Hannon, Mo.
O. T. Fast,	Liberal, Mo.
W. H. Hamer,	R. I., Irwin, Mo.
L. C. Wade,	Hannon, Mo.

MINISTERS

Ordained—J. T. Williams and D. M. Carlock, Greenfield, Mo., H. Seward, Neola, Mo., E. F. Crabtree, Hannon, Mo., T. C. Ferguson, Stockton, Mo., Myrtle Ferguson, Stockton, Mo., Joe Sigafoose, Chanute, Kansas.

MINUTES

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SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

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OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The Sixth Annual Session of the Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists convened with the Bluff church, September 3-6, 1914.

Introductory sermon, Thursday evening, delivered by Rev. W. H. McKown. Scripture lesson, II. Tim. 3. Text, II. Tim. 3 : 16.

Adjourned to meet at 9 a. m. Friday.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Meeting called to order by Moderator, W. H. McKown.

Opening song No. 307.

Scripture lesson, Isiah 12, by W. H. McKown.

Song No. 352, "Labor On," by congregation.

Prayer by W. H. McKown.

Reading of Constitution and By-Laws by clerk.

T. C. Ferguson and O. T. Fast were nominated for Moderator and voted for by ballot. Bro. Ferguson received 10 votes and Bro. Fast received

13 votes. Motion carried to make Bro. Fast's election as moderator unanimous. Motion carried that Bro. Ferguson act as assistant Moderator.

Bessie Dobbs of Wagoner was elected assistant clerk.

Church letters were called for and read by assistant clerk.

Letter from Hannon church read, received and delegates, deacons and ministers present seated. Delegates, S. L. Wade, absent; Loten Thomas, present; Emma Thomas, present; Grover Lewis, absent; Anna Reed, absent; Mary Wade, absent; Frankie Wade, present. Deacons, John Reihert, absent; L. C. Wade, absent; E. S. Lewis, absent. Ministers, E. F. Crabtree, present; B. F. Brown, present. Sister Deaver, as visitor, given seat in advisory council. Pastor, W. H. McKown. State of religion good. Sunday School evergreen with an enrollment of 120 and good interest. Prayer meeting weekly. Membership about 130 including 16 added by baptism and 1 by letter. Church maintains a missionary society which meets every two weeks. Church invites next session of the Association.

Letter from Verdella church read, received and delegates and deacons present seated. Delegates, Ross Paige, absent; Bessie Paige, present; Edith Mayfield, present; Rosa Coles, present; Nellie Fast, present. Deacons, Ed Coles, present; O. T. Fast, present; Orville Cassett, absent. Membership, 42 resident, 13 non-resident; one added by letter and 1 removed by death. Pastor,

E. F. Crabtree. State of religion good. Sunday School evergreen and prayer meeting weekly. Church invites next session of Association.

Letter from Fair View church read, received and delegates and deacons seated. Delegates, Will Needham, absent; J. E. Sims, absent; Sister Wm. Mayfield, present. Deacons, Chas. Mayfield, present; Jim McCarty, absent; John James, absent; Rev. Sigafosse, absent. Pastor, Rev. Roland. State of religion good. Membership 46, including 5 added by baptism, 5 by experience and 6 by letter. Sunday School evergreen and prayer meeting weekly.

Letter from Hickory Grove church read, received and delegates and deacons present seated. Delegates, Ida Nowlin, present; Annie Shipley, present; Mollie Taylor, present; Bettie Stephens, absent; Walter Newman, absent; J. W. Moul, absent. Deacons, Frank Taylor, absent; Walter Mosby, absent; Frank Evans, absent; Clويد Hensley, absent. Membership about 100. State of religion good. Pastor W. H. McKown. Sunday School evergreen and prayer meeting weekly except preaching Sunday once a month.

Letter from Bluff church read, received and delegates and deacons seated. Deacons, W. H. Hamer, present; John Frances, present; Father Deney, present. Delegates, Roy Bogart, present; Sam Mayfield, present; Grace McWilliams, present; Lena Hamer, present; Lizzie Greer, present. State of religion good. Pastor W. H. McKown. Membership, 34 resident, 35 non-resident. Sunday School evergreen and prayer meeting weekly.

Church extends a hearty welcome to all delegates, deacons and ministers and visiting brethren and sisters attending the Association.

Letter from Wagoner church read, received and delegates, deacons and ministers present seated. Delegates, Ben Miller, present; Ora Miller, present; Bessie Dobbs, present; W. L. Douglas, present; Chas. Miller, present. Deacons, W. H. Potts, absent; W. H. Whistance, absent. Ministers, T. C. Ferguson, present; Myrtle Ferguson, absent. State of religion very good. Membership, 98 resident and 3 non-residence, 25 of which were during the past year added by baptism and 21 by letter. One member has been removed by the grim reaper and two were given letters to join the Stockton church. Sunday School evergreen and prayer meeting weekly. Pastor, E. F. Crabtree. Church requests the ordination of W. L. Douglas as deacon. Church also invites the next session of the Association.

Letter from Neola church read, received and delegates and deacons present seated. Delegates, George Mannis, absent; Mrs. George Mannis, absent; Willie Martin, absent; Mrs. W. Martin, absent; Arthur Eagles, absent. Deacons, Mart Baugh, absent; Price Vaughn, absent; Jas. Vincent, absent; Filmore Hunt, absent; Frank Fruin, absent. Ministers J. T. Williams, absent; H. Seward, absent. State of religion good. Pastor E. F. Crabtree. Membership about 85, including 14 added by baptism. Sunday School evergreen.

Letter from Sylvandale church asking for admission to the Association read. Motion carried

to admit the Sylvandale church to membership in the Association and to extend the hand of fellowship to the delegates and deacons and to seat them in the conference. Sister Washburn and Bro. Hopkins were named as delegates and Bro. Ed Washburn as deacon; but no one was present. Pastor E. F. Crabtree. State of religion good. Sunday School evergreen and prayer meeting weekly. Membership 25. Church requests that J. V. Harbart be ordained as deacon.

Letter from Stockton church asking for admission to this Association read. Motion carried that Stockton church be admitted to membership and that we extend the hand of fellowship to her delegates and deacons and seat them in the assembly. Delegate, Fenis Pruitt, present. Deacons, A. W. Hartley, present; Fred Galyon, absent; E. Pruitt, absent. Church has no pastor at present. Membership 23. Church requests the next session of the Association.

On motion the Moderator appointed the following committees: Pulpit committee, Mollie Taylor, W. L. Douglas and Edith Mayfield. Business committee, T. C. Ferguson, Frankie Wade and A. W. Hartley.

Bro. McKown was granted all privileges of the floor except voting.

Pulpit committee reported that T. C. Ferguson would preach at 11 o'clock and E. F. Crabtree tonight.

Motion carried to adjourn till 2 p. m.

Closing prayer by T. C. Ferguson.

At 11 a. m. the pulpit was occupied by Rev. T. C. Ferguson. Text, I. Peter 3 : 15.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opening song, No. 339.

Prayer by Edith Mayfield.

Scripture lesson, Heb. 2, by O. T. Fast.

Minutes of morning session read and approved.

Business committee reported the appointment of the following committees: Committee on Ministerial standing, Chas. Miller, Loten Thomas, Ed Coles, Chas. Mayfield and Roy Bogart. Committee on publication, B. F. Brown, Mollie Taylor and L. C. Wade.

Motion carried that this Association instruct its clerk to write for Rev. W. H. McKown a letter of greeting to whom it may concern, also stating the work the brother has done in the churches of this Association.

The following resolutions submitted by the business committee were adopted by the Association.

No. 1. Be it resolved that article 4, sections 1 and 2 of the constitution be changed to read as follows:

Section 1. This Association shall elect a board of five members, two of which shall be preachers. This board shall be called the Home Mission and Executive Board of the Association. One member of the board shall be elected to hold office for one year, one for two years, one for 3 years, one for 4 years and one for 5 years. After the first election one member shall be elected each year and each shall hold office for 5 years or till his successor is elected. This board shall have charge of the work of the Association when it is

not in session.

Sec. 2. The Home Mission and Executive Board of this Association shall be the trustees of the Association and shall have charge of its property.

No. 2. Be it resolved that this Association shall try to put an evangelist in the field the ensuring year.

No. 3. Be it resolved that this Association meet next year with the church at Stockton, in Cedar Co. The session to begin on Wednesday night before the 4th Sunday in September, 1915.

No. 4. Be it resolved that this Association send a delegate to the Missouri State Association which meets at the Philadelphia church near Pattonsburg, Mo., on Wednesday night before the 5th Sunday in November, this year.

Be it further resolved that this Association is in favor of organizing a Missouri State Association and that this Association send a letter of greeting and a request that this Association be admitted to membership in the Missouri State Association.

W. H. Potts and A. W. Hartley were chosen delegates to the Missouri State Association and were given the right to choose their alternates.

The financial report of clerk and treasurer showed a balance in the treasury of \$3.10.

Clerk was allowed 75 cents for postage.

Each of the following churches paid \$2.00 to be used to defray the expenses of the Association: Verdella, Bluff, Hannon, Wagoner, Fair View, Stockton and Hickory Grove.

Members of the Home Mission and Executive Board were elected as follows: O. T. Fast for a

term of three years; E. F. Crabtree for a term of four years; T. C. Furguson for a term of five years.

Motion carried that Brothers Grover Lewis of Hannon church, J. V. Harbart of Sylvandale church and W. L. Douglas of Wagoner church be ordained as deacons at the close of preaching services Friday night, Bro. McKown to give the charge to the church and Bro. Crabtree the charge to the deacons.

Motion carried to adjourn till 9:30 a. m. Saturday.

Closing prayer by A. W. Hartley.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

Bro. Crabtree occupied the pulpit, taking for his subject, "A Voice from Eternity."

At the close of preaching services Bro. W. L. Douglas was ordained deacon, Rev. McKown officiating; Rev. Ferguson offered the ordaining prayer.

The pulpit committee reported that B. F. Brown would occupy the pulpit at 11 a. m., Saturday, and T. C. Ferguson at night.

Benediction by Rev. W. H. McKown.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening Song, "Standing on the Promises."

Prayer by O. T. Fast.

Song, "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go."

Scripture lesson, Isaiah 53, by A. W. Hartley.

Minutes of Friday p. m. session read and approved.

Sister Wm. Mayfield appointed on pulpit committee to fill vacancy.

T. C. Ferguson and E. F. Crabtree appointed

to fill vacancies on publication committee.

Bessie Paige and A. W. Hartley appointed to fill vacancies on committee on Ministerial standing

The following resolutions, submitted by the business committee, were adopted by this Association:

No. 1. Be it resolved that we send A. W. Hartley and W. H. Potts to Eldorado Springs to see what can be done to get possession of the church there, and also try to secure the mortgage that is against the church property, and if the mortgage does not exceed \$100.00 that they try to secure it and that the Home Mission and Executive Board raise the money by public subscription to pay them so that they can put the mortgage in the hands of the trustees of the Association.

No. 2. Be it resolved that the word "will" be supplied after the word "free" in Art. 1.

No. 3. Be it resolved the clerk be instructed to send a letter of greeting to the Southwest Convention of Free Will Baptists and to pay the \$3.00 we owe them.

Motion carried to instruct the clerk of this Association to notify the clerk of the Southwest Convention that we will specify the number of copies of their minutes we want after this.

Motion carried to adjourn till 2 p. m.

Closing prayer by B. F. Brown.

At 11 o'clock the pulpit was occupied by B. F. Brown. Lesson, John 12:20-36, Text Jno. 12:21.

SATURDAY P. M. SESSION

Called to order by Moderator.

Reading of Isaiah 55 by Moderator.

Prayer by E. F. Crabtree.

Song No. 306.

Minutes of Saturday a. m. session read and approved.

Pulpit committee announced that E. F. Crabtree would occupy the pulpit at 11 a. m. Sunday and T. C. Ferguson at night.

Committee on Ministerial standing submitted its report which was received and the committee discharged.

Report of committee on Ministerial standing: We your committee on Ministerial standing submit the following report: We find by investigation that the following ministers are entitled to have their names appear in the minutes: Rev. H. Seward, Neola, Mo., Rev. T. C. Ferguson, Wagoner, Mo., Rev. Myrtle Ferguson, Wagoner, Mo., Rev. D. M. Carlock, Greenfield, Mo., Rev. Rev. J. T. Williams, Greenfield, Mo., Rev. Joe Sigafoose, Faulkner, Kans., Rev. E. F. Crabtree, Hannon, Mo., Rev. B. F. Brown, Hannon, Mo., Licentiate.

We also find the following ministers are entitled to annual certificates: T. C. Ferguson, Myrtle Ferguson, E. F. Crabtree and B. F. Brown

C. H. Miller	}	Committee
L. Thomas		
Bessie Paige		

Motion carried that the clerk write each of the ministers of this Association not attending this session of the Association to ascertain if they want certificates of standing.

PUBLICATIONS

We, your committee on publication, beg to submit the following report:

We recommend that our people take our church papers, especially the Free Will Baptist News, published at Weatherford, Texas, and the Free Will Baptist, published at Ayden, North Carolina. The News is semi-monthly and costs 65 cents a year. The Baptist is weekly and costs \$1.00 a year.

We also recommend that all our churches having Sunday Schools use the Free Will Baptist Sunday School Literature published at Ayden, North Carolina.

We further recommend that the clerk have at least 300 copies of the minutes of this session published and distributed among the different churches and that he draw on the treasurer to pay for same.

We further recommend that our church covenant and articles of faith be put in the minutes if there is money in the treasury to pay for same.

B. F. Brown	} Committee on Publication.
E. F. Crabtree	
T. C. Ferguson	

Report on publications received and committee discharged.

Motion carried that this Association call Bro. T. C. Ferguson and wife for our Association evangelists for the ensuing year and allow them all the field collections for their services. Their jurisdictions to be within the bounds of the Association or wherever the Lord calls.

Reports of ministers were made and received and certificates of Ministerial Standing were issued.

ed to all ministers of the Association so reporting:

I, your Brother in Christ, beg to make the following report: I have, with my wife, been constantly in evangelistic work the past year. I have preached a sermon for nearly every day in the year and have seen many precious souls saved, and I have baptized a large number of people. I organized a church at Stockton with the assistance of my wife and Rev. Crabtree and Rev. Shuey. My wife and I have lately united with this Association. We feel at home with you for we have started the organization of every church in the Association but two. Others have assisted us in this work to whom we are thankful. We give God the praise and by His help and your help we expect to go on in this work and try by God's help to save more souls and organize more churches. Pray for us. T. C. Ferguson.

I, your Sister in Christ, a member of the Wagoner church, beg to submit the following report: I have been constantly in the work the past year with my husband. I have seen many precious souls saved. I have preached many sermons and assisted in many revival meetings and in organizing one church. By God's help I expect to keep on in God's work. I also hope and pray that you will have a glorious Association this year. I can't be with you but my prayers will be with you. Mrs. Myrtle Ferguson.

I, your Brother in Christ, beg to submit the following report: Beginning with October, 1913, and continuing to September 1, 1914, I have been constantly in the Lord's work with the following

results: I have traveled 2664 miles; I have reached 175 sermons; I have baptized 64 people; have received 50 members into the church; I have conducted 5 funerals and solemnized 6 marriages; I have received for my services \$480.10 and paid for traveling expenses \$53.28.

W. H. McKown.

E. F. Crabtree and B. F. Brown each made verbal reports of which no record is made.

Motion carried that the clerk be instructed to submit the financial part of his report as far as collections and expenditures are concerned.

Motion carried that the clerk make a report on the growth and present strength of our Association and that the same be entered on the minutes.

I, your clerk, beg to submit the following report:

Estimated value of—			Membership
Hannon	church	\$1700	130
Verdella	"	1200	55
Wagoner	"	2000	101
Bluff	"	900	69
Hickory Grove	"	1400	100
Fair View	"		46
Sylvandale	"		25
Neola	"	550	85
Stockton	"		23
Suns Creek	"	300	
ElDorado	"	1300	
Cedarville	"	250	
Filly	"	200	
Total		<u>\$9800</u>	<u>634</u>

Membership a year ago was 400. Gain for the year 234 members or 58%+. This includes 48 members in the added churches of Sylvandale and Stockton. B. F. Brown.

The following resolutions were adopted by this Association:

Be it resolved that this body extend a vote of sympathy to Sister Potts and Sister Freize for the loss of their faithful father and husband, Bro. Jake Freize and that this message be carried to them by Bro. A. W. Hartley.

Be it resolved than this body extend a vote of sympathy to Sister Mayfield and children for the loss of their faithful husband and father, Lafe Mayfield.

Be it resolved that the Moderator, or someone appointed by him, shall cause a standing vote of this body to be taken at this evening's service, thus showing our appreciation and thankfulness to Bluff church and surrounding community for the brotherly love and kindness shown to us and for their splendid entertainment to us during this session of the Association.

Minutes of Saturday p. m. session read and approved.

Motion carried to adjourn, subject to call of the Moderator.

Closing prayer by T. C. Ferguson.

Saturday evening services were conducted by T. C. Ferguson.

After a standing vote of thanks to Bluff church a motion carried to adjourn to meet with the church at Stockton on Wednesday night before the 4th Sunday in September, 1915.

Sunday morning service conducted by B. F. Brown.

Sunday night service conducted by T. C. Ferguson.

O. T. Fast, Moderator.

B. F. Brown, Clerk.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by his grace to love and obey him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship, and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work. We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bond of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme: counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ i

society: constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sabbath schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONSTITUTION

ART. 1. This body shall be known as the Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists, and shall be composed of such consistent well regulated Free Baptist churches as shall, from time to time, unite with the body and agree to this constitution.

ART. 2. The acting members of this Association shall be such as are chosen by the several churches of which this Association is composed. Each church being entitled to one delegate and each church having twenty-five members two delegates, and one delegate for each additional twenty-five members or major part thereof, and all ordained deacons, ordained ministers and licensed ministers of the several churches of the Association.

ART. 3. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator who shall be elected at each session and shall hold office until his successor is elected, a Clerk and a Treasurer, who shall be standing officers of the Association.

ART. 4. SEC. 1. This Association shall elect a board of five members, two of which shall be preachers. This board shall be called the Home Mission and Executive Board of the Association. One member of the board shall be elected to hold office for one year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years, one for 4 years and one for 5 years. After the first election one member shall be elected each year and each shall hold office for 5 years or til his successor is elected. This board shall have charge of the work of the Association when it is not in session.

SEC. 2. The Home Mission and Executive Board of this Association shall be the trustees of the Association and shall have charge of its property.

ART. 5. SEC. 1. This Association shall meet annually at such a time and place as shall meet with the pleasure of the Association and it shall be the duty of all churches of which it is composed to represent themselves by letters and delegates.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of all ministers of this Association to attend each session or report by letter. And all ministers reporting by letter or in person shall be entitled to a certificate of ministerial standing from the Association.

ART. 6. This constitution may be altered or amended by vote of any session of the Association, notice of such intended change having been given in writing at least three months before such change shall be voted upon, to the executive board.

BY-LAWS

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

2. Each session of this Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

3. Delegates from three (3) or more churches shall constitute a quorum to transact business for the Association but any less number may adjourn from time to time.

4. A member wishing to speak in conference shall arise and address the moderator, and be recognized by same, and shall not be allowed to speak longer than five minutes nor more than twice on any subject without the consent of the conference.

5. New churches may be admitted to this Association by majority vote of conference.

6. The yeas and nays may be taken on any question by the request of one-fourth of the members present.

7. These by-laws may be amended at any session of the Association by a two-third's vote of the members present.

8. A committee of five lay members, delegates present at the Association shall be elected to look into the standing of the ministry, and make their report to the Association before it adjourns for approval or rejection.