

# MINUTES . . .

of the 65th Annual Session of the

## Central Western Missouri Association of FREE WILL BAPTISTS

When Convened With

BETHEL

FREE WILL

BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday Evening, July 24, 1973

The 66th Annual Session

Will Meet With the

VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday Evening, July 23, 1974

## OFFICERS

Moderator .....	Deacon Charlie Hoover
Assistant Moderator .....	Rev. Bob Dickey
Clerk-Treasurer .....	Thora Grider
Asst. Clerk .....	Alice Hoover
Statistician .....	Ionia Phillips
Itinerate Contact .....	Dorothy Dickey

## EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Deacon Roger Phillips, Liberal, Mo. ....	1978
Deacon Charlie Hoover, Liberal, Mo. ....	1977
Rev. Bob Dickey, Liberal, Mo. ....	1976
Rev. Dale Pitts, Iantha, Mo. ....	1975
Deacon John Bough, Stockton, Mo. ....	1974
State General Board Member, Rev. Bob Dickey .....	1974

## CHURCH CLERKS

BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, ElDorado Springs, Mo.  
     Nancy Mays, 1109 S. Forrest, ElDorado Springs, Mo. 64744

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, ElDorado Springs, Mo.  
     Mrs. Mildred Kicenski, 111 W. Walnut, ElDorado Springs, Mo.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Greenfield, Mo.  
     Mrs. Lucille Franklin, 403 Toney Ave., Greenfield, Mo. 65661

HANNON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, Mo.  
     Mrs. Margaret Smith, Route 2, Liberal, Mo. 64762

HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BAP. CHURCH, Harrisonville, Mo.  
     Mrs. Iris Jones, Route 3, Box 212, Harrisonville, Mo. 64701

INDEPENDENCE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, Mo.  
     Mrs. Beatrice Bough, Route 2, Stockton, Mo. 65785

OSKALOOSA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Arcadia, Kan.  
     Mrs. Wilma Smith, Route 1, Box 203, Liberal, Mo. 64762

VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Iantha, Mo.  
     Mrs. Frances Fogar, 202 W. 1st Street, Lamar, Mo. 64759

WAGONER FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, Mo.  
     Mrs. Theo Bough, Route 4, Stockton, Mo. 65785

## MINISTERS

BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, ElDorado Springs, Mo.  
     Rev. Fidell Bridges, 109 W. Cruce, ElDorado Springs, Mo. 64744

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, ElDorado Springs, Mo.  
     Rev. Morgan Walker, Route 1, ElDorado Springs, Mo. 64744

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Greenfield, Mo.  
     Rev. Winford Davis, Monett, Mo. 65708

HANNON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, Mo.  
     Rev. Russell Johnson, Liberal, Mo. 64762

HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BAP. CHURCH, Harrisonville, Mo.  
     No Pastor

INDEPENDENCE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, Mo.  
     No Pastor

OSKALOOSA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Arcadia, Kan.  
     Rev. Bob Dickey, Route 1, Liberal, Mo. 64762

VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Iantha, Mo.  
     Rev. Dale Pitts, Route 1, Iantha, Mo. 64753

WAGONER FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, Mo.  
     No Pastor

## OTHER MINISTERS IN THE ASSOCIATION

Rev. Arlie Hoover, Liberal, Mo. 64762 (superannuated)  
Rev. Lowell Martin, Greenfield, Mo. 65661  
Rev. Thayne Fast, Liberal, Mo. 64762  
Rev. Elwood Perry, 411 E. Jefferson St., Warsaw, Mo. 65355  
Rev. Beulah Casteel  
Rev. Hollis Walker, Liberal, Mo. 64762  
Rev. Alice Dickey, 10523 Skiles, Kansas City, Mo. 64134

## PROCEEDINGS

**Tuesday Evening, July 24, 1973**

The sixty-fifth session of Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptist convened with Bethel Church in Eldorado Springs at 8:00 P. M.

Services opened with congregational singing led by Rev. Billy Gentry, with Mrs. Genry at the piano.

The Gentry's, and a group from their church, provided a number of special in song, preceding the worship hour, which was very inspirational.

The Clerk declared a quorum present and called the Moderator, Bro. Charlie Hoover, to the chair to conduct the business session.

After preliminary announcements, concerning the business, the Moderator called for a love offering to be taken for the guest speaker. An offering of \$33.25 was received.

Rev. Billy Gentry brought a soul searching message along the theme of the Association "Launch Out Into the Deep." An invitation was given to God's people to rededicate for greater service, and unsaved were invited to come also.

Benediction was pronounced by Bro. John Bough.

**Wednesday Morning, 9:45 A. M., July 25, 1973**

Bro. Bob Dickey led the congregation in singing "Are You Washed In the Blood," and was accompanied by Jeanie Baldwin at the piano.

The morning devotion was brought by Sister Lowell Martin. From Luke 24, she brought a challenging message on the urgency of God's people tarrying before the Lord, in order to have the necessary witnessing power to accomplish what should be accomplished.

The Moderator took charge and read the By-Laws.

The Clerk read the Church letters. M/S/C to receive same, and seat delegates.

The Clerk read the report of the Executive Board. M/S/C to receive the report.

The Clerk read the report of the Treasurer. M/S/C to receive the report.

The Moderator appointed committees.

The 11:00 a. m. worship began with congregational singing led by Bro. Bob Dickey with Ramona York at the piano.

An offering, amounting to \$39.60, was received for Home Missions. Rev. Lawrence Thompson then brought information from State Home Mission Board, and a message from Matthew 14 on church's obligation to win lost people.

Benediction by Bro. Bob Dickey.

### Wednesday Afternoon, 1:30 P. M., July 25, 1973

Sister Becky York led the congregation in singing "I'll Be a Friend to Jesus," with Ramona York at the piano.

Bro. Fidel Bridges took charge and the Minister's conference presented an interesting and spiritually informative program using Hebrews 6:1-2, "The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ," as a bases. The following Ministers, with their assigned subjects, took part:

Bro. Morgan Walker, repentance; Bro. Bob Dickey, Faith in God; Bro. Dale Pitts, Baptism of Christ; Bro. Fidell Bridges, Water Baptism; Bro. Russell Johnson, Laying on of Hands; Bro. Elwood Perry, Resurrection of the Dead; Sister Lowell Martin, Eternal Judgement.

### Wednesday Afternoon, 3 P. M., July 25, 1973

#### CTS and SUNDAY SCHOOL

The CTS and Sunday School portion of the local Association convened in the afternoon, Wednesday, 3:00 p. m., July 25, 1973. A panel was formed by Bro. Pitts, Bro. Russell Johnson and Bro. Sharry. The panel was questioned by the delegates on any matter relating to Sunday School. It was brought out that quarterlies were to be used at home for study guide and lessons should be taught from the Bible. It was decided that a large class with a good teacher is better than smaller classes with inadequate teachers.

It was brought out that a variation from lecture to question and answer, and other methods rather than one standard method of teaching was best. If questions were to be used, they should be assigned in advance. There was some discussion on the print in the quarterlies.

The following officers were elected: President — Bob Dickey; Vice President — Dale Pitts; Secretary — Dorothy Dickey.

CTS and Sunday School portion closed with prayer.

### Wednesday Evening, 8:00 P. M., July 25, 1973

The service began with congregational singing led by Larry Holt with Jeanie Baldwin at the piano, "Joy Unspeakable" and "Just Over in the Gloryland" were sung, then they gave some beautiful music.

The Moderator called Bro. Harry Beatty, Mo. State Executive Secretary to the stand, who gave an encouraging report of our work in general over the state through the cooperative fund, and otherwise.

Preceding the worship service an offering, amounting to \$53.17, was taken for Home Mission Work and specified for Aurora Mission.

Rev. Robert Sharry, from the Aurora Mission, brought a beautiful message in song, "Take Up Thy Cross and Follow, Follow Me," after which he took a text from Acts 16, and brought a message concerning the obligation of the church to search out, and seek after those who are unchurched, and bring them into contact with Christ where they may come to know him.

"Jesus Paid It All," was sung as an invitation was given to the lost to come, or Christians who desired to make a special commitment.

Benediction was pronounced by Rev. Russell Johnson.

Thursday Morning, 9:45 A. M., July 26, 1973

The morning session was opened by singing "I Would Not be Denied," led by Bro. Bob Dickey, with Virginia Bunton at the piano.

Bro. Dale Pitts brought an impressive devotional message, on the relevancy of the Gospel for the great spiritual needs of our day, and the necessity of the church of the Living God launching out into the deep to fulfill the mission it has to do. Scripture, Acts 27:29.

Bro. Walker led in prayer.

The Moderaor took charge and called for reading of Committee reports.

The Clerk read the report of the Temperance Committee. M/S/C to receive report.

The Clerk read the report of the Missions Committee. M/S/C to receive report.

The Clerk read the report of the Statistician. M/S/C to receive the report, following detailed reading of same, and that necessary corrections be made.

Business adjourned to give way to District Women's Auxiliary Program.

Thursday Morning, 10:30 A. M., July 26, 1973

#### THE DISTRICT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Women's Auxiliary business session was called to order by President Juanita Smith. The program began with congregational singing, "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes," was led by Sister Pat Pitts, with Sister Ramona York, pianist.

After prayer by Sister Johnson, Sister Virginia sang "There Is Something About That Name."

At 11:00 A. M., the worship hour was conducted by Sister Brenda Sprell, from the Bible College at Nashville, Tenn., who is our National Field Worker, as guest speaker.

She talked about Missions in the Home. She challenged our hearts to recognize God's miracles in our homes and lives. Also, that we should raise our children to realize the importance of Missions, in lives at home and abroad.

We were then dismissed for the lunch hour with benediction by Bro. Russell Johnson.

The afternoon session was called to order at 1:30, by our President, Juanita Smith. The congregation joined in singing "Revive Us Again," led by Sister Pat Pitts, after which Sister Floy Hartley led in prayer. The President then called for a love offering. \$41.60 was received for the morning speaker.

We were then favored by a special by Ramona and Becky York, "He Looked Beyond My Faults." Sister Lowell Martin brought our afternoon devotion from Mark 4:21-25, on Hiding our Spiritual Lights. Sister Pat Pitts then sang, "Jesus Use Me."

The oldest lady present, and the mother with the most children attending, were presented with corsages. Sister Floy Hartley, 78 years of age, received the one for the oldest, and Sister Pat Pitts received the one for having the most children, four in number.

The Secretary-Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The nominating committee's report was read and received as follows: President, Alice Hoover; Vice President, Pat Pitts; Secretary-

Treasurer, Sue Bridges.

Sister Bridges declined, and Sister Dorothy Dickey was nominated and elected for this office. M/S/C to accept the report, with necessary changes.

The President declared the business completed, and the service was turned back to the Moderator, Bro. Charlie Hoover.

#### Thursday Afternoon, 3:00 P. M., July 26, 1973

The business session was called to order again by the Moderator. The Clerk read the report of the Christian Education Committee. M/S/C to receive report as a whole.

The Clerk read the report of the Obituary Committee. M/S/C to receive report. Silent and audible prayer was observed as a memorial tribute to those faithful ones who had gone home since last year.

The Clerk read the report of the Ministerial Standing Committee. M/S/C to receive report, to be adopted item by item. M/S/C to adopt item 1; M/S/C to adopt item 2; M/S/C to adopt item 3; M/S/C to adopt item 4.

M/S/C to elect delegates to the State Association. The following were elected: John A. Grider, Virginia Bunton, Lee Bunton, Ionia Phillips, Theo Bough, Ramona York, Mary Cross.

M/S/C to accept invitation to meet with Verdella Church for the 1974 session.

M/S/C to adopt report of the Nominating Committee.

M/S/C to adjourn.

### REGISTRATION

**MINISTERS** — Elwood Perry, Beulah Casteel, Russell Johnson, Morgan R. Walker, Bob Dickey, Fidell Bridges, Lowell Martin, Alice Dickey, Harry Beatty, Thayne Fast, Dale Pitts, Hollis Walker.

**STANDING DELEGATES** — Dorothy Dickey, Mary E. Perry, Iris Jones, Beatrice Bough, Juanita Smith, Vonda Johnson, Margaret Walker, Mildred Kicenski, Floy Hartley, Lucille Franklin, Theo Bough, Anna Walker, Reed Smith, Charlie Hoover, Myre H. York, Patricia Pitts, John Bough, Frances Fogar.

**ELECTED DELEGATES** — Hazel Fleeman, Thelma Dickey, Ardeth Malone, Glenna Shackhouse, Amos Eastman, Herschel Malone, Betty Gilmartin, Ramona York, Ruby M. Skakal, Mary Cross, Paul Allen, Jeanie Baldwin, Vallie Grout, Madge Sawyer, Becky York, Virginia Bunton, Robert Hastings.

**VISITORS** — Bernice Eastman, Pearl Dodd, Ava Smith, Clara Bybee, John A. Grider, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Heath, Jessie Gilpiu, Rev. Robert R. Sharry, Teresa Ann Dickey, Martha Cooper, Don Smith, Margaret Smith, Christy Williams, Larry Holt, Debbie Pitts, Della Pitts, Deanna Pitts, Darla Pitts, Merle Rouse, Cathy Rouse, Nancy Rouse, Stella Fast.

## REPORTS OF MINISTERS

**ELWOOD R. PERRY** — Sermons preached, 90; churches pastored, 1; number baptized, 2; additions to church, 2; funerals preached, 3; miles traveled, 3,100; amount received, \$520.00

**ALICE DICKEY** — Sermons preached, 22; professions witnessed, 6; number baptized, 2; additions to church, 10; weddings performed, 5; amount received, \$62.00

**FIDELL BRIDGES** — Sermons preached, 156; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 15; number baptized, 0; funerals preached, 5; radio programs conducted, 45; weddings performed, 4; miles traveled, 3,000; amount received, \$2,450.00

**LOWELL MARTIN** — Sermons preached, 42; churches pastored, 1; funerals preached, 4; weddings performed, 1

**HOLLIS WALKER, Jr.** — Sermons preached, 15; number baptized, 2; miles traveled, 200; amount received, \$35.00

**BOB DICKEY** — Sermons preached, 84; churches pastored, 1; funerals, 5; miles traveled, 5,000; amount received, \$1,719.00

**THAYNE FAST** — Sermons preached, 117; churches pastored, 1; number baptized, 2; additions to church, 2; funerals preached, 3; miles traveled, 15,253; amount received, \$300.00

**MORGAN R. WALKER** — Sermons preached, 103; churches pastored, 1; funerals preached, 2; miles traveled, 810; amount received, \$790.00

**BEULAH CASTEEL** — Sermons preached, 21; hospital calls, 21; miles traveled, 598; amount received, \$64.75

**DALE PITTS** — Sermons preached, 95; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 25; funerals, 1; miles traveled, 10,000; amount received, \$3,300.00

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

**August 5, 1972, First Free Will Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.**

1. Theme of business was to discuss the yearly report of Rev. David Painter, as he failed to report to the Association.

M/S/C that we grant him a card of standing.

2. Theme of business was to meet with Sister Beulah Casteel, to examine her for a license to preach.

M/S/C that we grant her a license.

**August 27, 1972, First Free Will Baptist Church, Eldorado Springs, Mo.**

Purpose of meeting was to examine Bro. Morgan Walker for a license to preach.

M/S/C to grant him a license for one year.

**November 16, 1972, Hannon Free Will Baptist Church, Liberal, Mo.**

The Rev. Lawrence Thompson, of the State Home Mission Board met with the Board to discuss the possibility of starting a Mission in the Stockton area.

It was decided to make this an object of prayer, and see what

the Lord would have us do.

We also voted on a place for the 1973 meeting of the Association to meet.

M/S/C to convene with Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, El-Dorado Springs.

January 15, 1973, the John Bough home

1. Theme of business was to examine Rev. Hollis Walker, jr., for a card of standing, back into the Association.

M/S/C to grant him a card of standing.

2. Theme was to examine Rev. Dale Pitts for ordination.

M/S/C to recommend him for ordination.

3. Theme was to plan the program for 1973 Association.

June 8, 1973, the Charlie Hoover home.

The purpose of meeting was to complete the program planning for 1973 session of the Association, and to accept the resignation of Rev. Fidell Bridges.

#### BOARD TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance, July, 1972	\$36.99
Fifth Sunday Offerings	\$39.40
	<hr/>
	\$76.39
Telephone Calls	\$18.07
	<hr/>
Balance, July, 1973	\$58.32

/s/ Bob Dickey, Treasurer

#### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY, 1972 TO JULY, 1973

Balance, July 25, 1973	\$172.22
Deposit	290.47
	<hr/>
	\$462.69

#### Disbursements:

Foreign Mission, Ernie Deeds	\$ 68.22
Travel Expense, Bob Dickey	42.76
Clerical Expense, Alice Hoover	29.70
Liberal News, 200 programs	14.50
Liberal News, 125 Ass'n members	107.78
R. H. Ferguson, Florist, Cockrell flowers	10.00
	<hr/>

\$272.96

---

\$189.73

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

1. We recommend as officers of the Association for the coming



## STATISTICAL TABLE

	Bethel	First of El Dorado	G'field	Hannon	Hickory Grove	Indep.	Oskaloosa	Verdella	Waggoner	First of Kansas City	TOTALS
Members Received ____		2	4	6	6	2		6		1	27
Members Dismissed ____			2	2	4			2			10
Members Deceased ____	1			1	2		1				5
Total Memb'ship _____	28	39	36	74	43	20	32	56	16	91	435
CTS _____				35				25			60
Sunday School _____	53	30	29	70	30	14	21	50		17	311
Ordained Ministers ____	1		1	2		1	2	2		2	11
Licensed Ministers ____	1	1								1	3
Deacons _____		1		4	1	3	2	3	3	3	20
Paid Pastor _____	\$ 2,380.00	\$ 750.00	\$2,600.00	\$ 4,300.55	\$ 2,005.00	\$ 540.00	\$ 1,432.85	\$ 3,232.86	\$ 350.75	\$ 300.00	\$ 17,892.01
Evangelist _____	111.68	220.08	156.40	250.00	150.00	260.00	86.18		97.67		1,332.01
Property Value _____	10,000.00	15,000.00	7,500.00	12,000.00	14,000.00		10,900.00	18,000.00	4,000.00	85,000.00	176,400.00
Bldg. and Repair _____	995.74	197.29	2,020.90	2,863.10	136.13	7.00	783.00	8.06	120.72	4,486.29	8,618.23
Total Spent _____	6,108.84	2,118.57	5,450.38	13,823.51	3,933.50	1,945.00	3,483.87	3,542.07	636.39	5,174.63	46,216.76
Co-operative Fund ____	47.62			994.90	205.10			611.51			1,859.21
Foreign Missions _____	40.00		177.06	1,372.30	93.10	120.00	50.00	905.25	18.34		2,938.07
Home Missions _____	83.55	19.25		1,127.01				112.71		270.00	1,612.52
Literature _____	210.93	89.13	104.30	396.47	181.39	80.00	129.39	251.69	55.00	118.34	1,616.84
Youth Camp _____				230.55				120.00			350.55
Budget _____	18.00	14.50	20.50	36.00	20.00	15.00	13.50	19.00	13.00		169.50
Orphanage _____		25.75									25.75
Auxiliary _____	10		16	13				13		6	58
Bible College _____				817.31							817.31

year:

Moderator, Charlie Hoover  
Ass't Moderator, Rev. Bob Dickey  
Clerk-Treasurer, Thora Grider  
Ass't Clerk, Alice Hoover  
Statistician, Ionia Phillips  
Itinerate Contact, Dorothy Dickey

Rev. Dale Pitts to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Fidell Bridges to expire in 1975.

Deacon Roger Phillips to fill the expired term.

/s/ Orville Foger, John E. Bough, Thelma Dickey, Lowell Martin

#### **OBITUARY COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Since our Heavenly Father in His wisdom has called the following: Laphema Herrell, Oskaloosa church; Effie Bridges, Eldorado church; Ira Truskett, Hannon church; Dally Jones and Joe Cockrell, Hickory Grove church; we extend sympathy to the bereaved families and pray that God will comfort them.

We recommend having a moment of silent, followed by audible prayer in their memory.

We recommend that the names of the deceased be included in each church letter.

/s/ Ramona York, Hazel Fleeman, Jeanie Baldwin

#### **MINISTERIAL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

We, your committee, have examined the following minister's reports, and found them in good standing: Elwood Perry, Dale Pitts, Bob Dickey, Lowell Martin, Fidell Bridges, and Hollis Walker, jr.

As the following three ministers, Thayne Fast, Beulah Casteel, and Alice Dickey, are all members of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Kansas City, we feel their card of standing should be withheld until all the confusion is settled, and they are approved by the Executive Board of this Association.

/s/ Don Smith, Virginia Bunton, Theo Bough, Reed Smith

#### **BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

1. We recommend that every church of this Association give 5% of their offering to be placed in the hands of the Executive Board, as a Mission Fund, to be used in Central Western Missouri Association. We recommend that it be given monthly.

2. We recommend that a committee be appointed to arrange sponsors and attendance at the youth camp.

3. We recommend that the Executive Board look into the possibility of expanding the girl's cabin at the youth camp.

4. We recommend that we give a standing vote of thanks to the Bethel Church in recognition of the gracious hospitality extended us, as delegates and visitors during the Association.

/s/ John E. Bough, L. Dale Pitts, Bob Dickey, Ionia Phillips

#### **TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

1. We recommend that all Christians raise their influence against

legalizing drugs.

2. We recommend that we remain firm in our stand against liquor and socialized drinking.

3. We recommend that every family write each of our TV networks concerning the programs which are shown over their networks.

/s/ Bob Dickey, Juanita Smith, Dale Pitts

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:**

1. We recommend that each Church make available for their members additional Bible study material to supplement Sunday school quarterlies, and action on a former recommendation, to provide a church library is urged.

2. We recommend and urge parents to push for attendance at our own Free Will Baptist colleges, in view of the impact much of the college teaching by non-Christian teachers is having on today's youth.

3. We recommend that all churches of our Association endeavor to conduct a vacation Bible school yearly.

4. We recommend, since recognizing that even our young children are being faced constantly by the evils of drug traffic and pornography, that our churches institute classes of education on these problems, so they may know the dangerous effects, and what God's word says on these subjects.

/s/ Lowell Martin, Dorothy Dickey, Jo Hastings, Madge Sawyer

#### **MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

We recommend that we continue to give to foreign missions, and pray for our foreign missionaries. However, since emphasis is on home missions in our convention this year, we would like to deal with home missions in our report.

We feel the speakers in our convention were good, and gave us a great deal of information on state home mission work. And certainly we need to support state work. However, we feel there is a real need for us to take a good long look at the Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptist home mission need.

In the great commission of Acts 1:8b, "He shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." You will notice in this great commission they were to begin at Jerusalem. In other words at home. They were to establish a base from whence to work. May we look at the possibilities and opportunities within our reach and our capabilities. We have within our area seven cities which do not have Free Will Baptist churches in them. We have small churches which could use the help of the larger churches upon their request of course. Would it be so impossible for us as an Association to help ourselves.

We recommend that each church pray much about our needs in our Association, and ask God to reveal ways in which we can meet these needs. We recommend that the Executive Board, which is our Home Mission board prayerfully seek along with the churches of this Association, can work together to build a larger Association by launching out and seeing souls saved. We believe such a Program can be found and placed in action.

/s/ Rev. Fidell Birgdes, Harold Cross

## CONSTITUTION

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

Article 2—Purpose.—The purpose of this organization shall be to unify the work of the various churches of which it is composed, and to promote plans for the extension of the Kingdom of God.

Article 3—Representation. Representation to this Association shall be those who are chosen by the churches of which it is composed; each church to be entitled to one delegate, and each church having twenty-five resident members two delegates, with one delegate for each additional twenty-five members or major part thereof, together with all ordained deacons, ordained or licensed ministers and their companions who are members in good standing with the Free Will Baptist church and the church clerks of the churches in this Association, and one delegate from each church represented in a Quarterly Meeting from the Central Western Missouri Association.

Section 2.—A resident member shall be one in good standing who, if able, discharges his or her obligations to the church. All other members shall be considered non-resident.

Article 4—Discipline. Should a grievance arise which cannot be properly and satisfactorily settled in the local church, a request may be made to the Association that a council be appointed to advise or arbitrate; the decision of that council to be accepted as final.

Article 5—Officers. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, a Treasurer, and a Statistician; all said officers shall be elected annually at the regular session of the Association; and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.

Article 6—Boards. This Association shall elect a Board of five members of which two shall be ministers, to be elected as follows: The first named for a period of one year, the second for a term of two years, and the fifth for a term of five years. After the first election one member shall be elected each year for a term of five years or until his successor is elected. This Board shall be called the Home Mission and Executive Board of the Central Western Missouri Association, shall act as Trustee of any property of the Association, and shall be the examining council of the Association.

Article 7—Meetings. This Association shall meet annually on Tuesday night following the 4th Sunday in July, and it shall be the duty of the churches composing it to represent themselves by letter and delegate.

Article 8—Program. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to plan and carry out the program of the Association.

Article 9—Amendments. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of members present; provided notice of proposed alteration or amendments has been given to the church clerks of the member churches by the Executive Board 30 days prior to Association meeting.

## BY-LAWS

Article 1. Each annual session of this Association shall be called to order by the Clerk or the Assistant Clerk, or in his or her absence the standing member having seniority in years of service. After the clerk or the one calling the assembly to order shall declare a quorum he or she shall call the Moderator to the chair, or in his or her absence the standing member having seniority in years of service.

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

Article 3. Delegates equal in number to the number of active churches and representing at least a simple majority of active churches shall constitute a quorum to transact business for the Association, but any less number shall adjourn.

Article 4. Regular Parliamentary procedure as set forth in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be followed. The method of voting shall be determined by the Moderator unless one-third of the voters present dissent. No one shall be allowed to speak more than five minutes nor more than twice on the same subject without the consent of the Conference.

Article 5—Section 1. The first item of business of the Association shall be to receive the church letters and seat the delegates. However, business shall not be suspended to wait for late or delayed letters. Such letters shall be received upon their arrival and their delegates seated.

Section 2—Item 1. The election of the officers of this Association shall be held at the closing business session of the regular session of the Association. They shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Section 2—Item 2. The Clerk-Treasurer shall supervise the printing of the minutes for the year of which they were Clerk-Treasurer.

Section 3. The second item of business of the Association shall be the report of the Executive Board.

Articles 6. All committees or a Committee on Committees shall be appointed by the Moderator.

Article 7. It shall be the right of each church of the Association to determine its own pastoral year. We urge that each church have its business year end on June 30th.

Article 8. A committee of five lay members, qualified delegates to the Association, shall be chosen to look into the standing of the ministry of the Association and shall report to the Association for approval before adjournment.

Article 9—Section 1. It shall be the duty of the churches of the Association to accompany their church letter with five dollars (\$5.00) per church plus fifty cents (50c) per resident member for the Central Western Missouri Association fund to be allocated thus: 15 per cent for honorarium for associational clerk, and 85 per cent for the Central Western Missouri Associational expense.

Section 2. The associational clerk is to reimburse our general board member from this association to the State Association for gas, lodging and food per receipts.

Article 10—Section 1. No one shall be ordained to the ministry in the Association until they have carried a license two years, or should they be called to pastor a church they may be ordained in one year.

Section 2. Examination for ordination to the ministry may be carried out at the regular session of the Association, or as otherwise directed by the Association. Examination for license or for ordination (both ministers and deacons) to be done at a time and place agreeable to both candidate and examining council. Ordination may be carried out in the local church (if desired) subsequent to examination and favorable action of the examining council.

Article 11. No one shall be licensed or ordained in this Association who is a user of tobacco, alcohol, or who cannot qualify according to I Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:6-9.

Article 12—Section 1. It shall be required of the ministry of this Association to adhere to sound doctrine in both preaching and practice as embraced in our Treatise of Faith and Practice. It shall further be the duty of the active ministries to report each year by letter and at least once in three years in person. Ministers in the Armed Forces shall not be required to report in person during their term of service. All ministers meeting these requirements shall be granted a Certificate of Ministerial Standing when and if approved by the appointed Committee on Ministerial Standing.

Section 2. All aged or afflicted ministers, who so desire, may be enrolled on the superannuated list, not being required to report to the Association in order to have a Certificate.

Article 13. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any session of the Association by a two-thirds vote of members present, providing that a notice of proposed change has been given to the church clerks of the member churches by the Executive Board 30 days prior to the Association meeting.

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus 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 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 in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake 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 bonds 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 influences of Christ in society; constantly praying and tolling 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 education and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.