

Minutes

of the 68th Annual Session

of the

Central Western Missouri Association of FREE WILL BAPTISTS

When Convened With

Oskaloosa Free Will Baptist Church

Tuesday Evening, July 27, 1976

The 69th Annual Session

Will Meet With the

Stockton Free Will Baptist Mission

Tuesday Evening, July 26, 1977

OFFICERS

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

EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Bob Dickey	1981
Rev. Fidell Bridges	1980
Deacon John Bough	1979
Deacon Roger Phillips	1978
Deacon Charlie Hoover	1977
State General Board Member, Charlie Hoover	1978

CHURCH CLERKS

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

FRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Eldorado Springs, Mo. 64744
 Mildred Kicenski, 111 W. Walnut, Eldorado Springs, Mo. 64744

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

HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BAP. CHURCH, Harrisonville, Mo.
 Iris Jones, Route 2, Box 212, Harrisonville, Mo. 64701

INDEPENDENCE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, Mo.
 Rebecca York, Route 3, Stockton, Mo. 56785

OSKALOOSA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Arcadia, Kan.
 Viola Bussone, 917 West 6th, Pittsburg, Kan. 66762

VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Iantha, Mo.
 Frances Foger, 202 W. 1st St., Lamar, Mo. 64759

EVANGEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Webb City, Mo.
 Mrs. Don Jay, 401 N. Byers, Avenue, Joplin, Mo. 64801

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

MINISTERS OF CHURCHES

BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Eldorado Springs, Mo.
 Rev. Fidell Bridges, 109 W. Cruse, Eldorado Springs, Mo. 64744

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Eldorado Springs, Mo.
 Rev. Morgan R. Walker, Route 1, Eldorado Springs, Mo.

HANNON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, Mo.
 Rev. Gary Elder, Liberal, Mo. 64762

HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BAP. CHURCH, Harrisonville, Mo.
 Rev. Thayne Fast, Route 2, Liberal, Mo. 64762

INDEPENDENCE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, Mo.
 No pastor listed

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

VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Iantha, Mo.
 Rev. Steve Burton, Route 2, Liberal, Mo. 64762

EVANGEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Webb City, Mo.
 Rev. Andy W. Lay, 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, Mo. 64834

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

OTHER MINISTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Rev. Lowell Martin, superannuated, Greenfield, Mo. 65661
Rev. Arlie Hoover, superannuated, Liberal, Mo. 64762
Rev. Hollis Walker Jr., Liberal, Mo. 64762

PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday Evening July 27, 1976

The worship service opened with special singing, and music provided by Brother Andy Lay's musical group, of the Evangel Free Will Baptist Church of Webb City.

Brother Bob Dickey led the congregation in singing "Victory in Jesus", after which the clerk called the meeting to order, and declared a quorum present to transact business. The Moderator, Charlie Hoover, came to the chair to take charge of business. Calling attention to the theme of the Association, displayed above the pulpit, he read and made appropriate remarks concerning the relevency of the scripture to our present conditions. The theme "Prepare for His Coming," was from Matt. 24:42, and was used throughout the sessions in a very effective, and inspirational way by the various messages and devotions.

The Lay musical group again blessed the audience with many very beautiful and spiritually uplifting numbers.

Rev. Gary Elder was the speaker of the evening, and brought a moving and soul-searching message of the sudden appearance Christ is expected to make; and the vital importance of His people maintaining a consistent christian life, if they are to be ready when He makes His appearance. The theme scripture Matt:24:42 was used as a basis for his message.

"There's a Great Day Coming" was sung as an invitation was extended to any unsaved who needed Christ, or Christian who had a need in their life. An offering was taken at the conclusion of the service, to help defray expenses of the association, amounting to \$46.50.

After necessary announcements were made, relative to the following business session the meeting was adjourned to convene at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday morning, and the benediction was pronounced.

Wednesday Morning 9:45, July 28, 1976

The service was called to order by the Moderator, Charlie Hoover, and Rev. Fidell Bridges led in prayer. Lita Munn led the congregation in singing, with Martha Cooper at the piano.

Rev. Hollis Walker brought the devotional thoughts, using the theme scripture Matt. 24:42, as the basis for his comments, and admonitions, as the business of the association was carried on that God's will might be accomplished in all the deliberations.

The moderator asked Rev. Andy Lay to read the By-Laws prior to the opening of the business session.

Church Letters were read, and M/S/C to receive same, and seat the delegates.

Report of Executive Board was read, and M/S/C to receive same.

Report of Statistician was read, and M/S/C to receive.

Report of Association Treasurer read, M/S/C to receive.

The matter of raising Central Western Missouri's apportionment, of the necessary finances for entertaining the National Free Will Baptist Association to be held in Kansas City in 1978 was discussed.

M/S/C to refer the matter to the Business Committee to make whatever disposition they might consider possible, and bring it to the floor for a vote.

Wednesday Morning Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

Congregational singing was led by Lita Munn, with Virginia Bunton at the piano, and "At Calvary" was sung. Rev. Hollis Walker Jr led in prayer.

At this time Virginia Bunton accompanied Lita Munn and Martha Cooper as they sang "I know who holds tomorrow" in a way that inspired and blessed, and solemnized hearts in preparation for the morning worship service.

Rev. Andy Lay, speaker of the hour used scripture from Matthew 24, 1 Cor. 15; 51-52; and 1 Thess. to bring a timely and searching message on the necessity of the christian making a self analysis of his life, being constant in his zeal for his Lord, if he is to be sure of his readiness for His return. He brought to the attention of the listener the many signs already present that herald His eminent return.

As the pianist played, an offering was taken toward the association's expenses for which Bro. Butch Splitter offered grateful thanks. The offering was in the amount of \$22.84.

Ministers Conference, Wednesday, 1:00 P.M., July 28, 1976

As the conference opened Roger Phillips led the congregation in singing "Jesus Saves", with Alice Hoover at the piano. Rev. N. R. Smith pastor of the Joplin Free Will Baptist led in prayer.

At this time several ministers spoke on various aspects of christian living, and stressed that it is imperative that the christian maintain his integrity with God, in every area of his life if he is to be found clothed in righteousness that God demands at the return of the Lord.

Rev. Gary Elder emphasized the importance of watchfulness, using Mark 13:32-37 and Luke 21:34 to encourage against letting the cares of life choke out the christian testimony. Living a life free of reproach should be a goal to strive for in order to be counted worthy.

Rev. Fidell Bridges used Luke 21:42-46 as he enlarged on the sphere of activities the child of God should engage in, while waiting for Christs return. Vision for others spiritual welfare should come as a natural consequence of a dedicated life, that they, too, might be prepared at His coming.

Rev. Andy Lay used various passages from I Thess. to explain the way in which a Christian should pass the days of his waiting for the return of Christ. It shouldn't be laborious, and full of anxiety, but a time of great joy and comfort as we wait with great anticipation for the blessed Hope. Through prayer, and dedicated living His people may be empowered by the Holy Spirit, to live lives unblamable.

Ramona York sang a beautiful and unlifting special, "King Jesus", accompanied by Virginia Bunton.

Rev. Hollis Walker brought encouraging thoughts from I John 4-14; Acts 2:25-28; and II Cor. 7:9-10. From his selected scripture the believer may find that these things, which seem to be a hindrance, ultimately work out for this "so great salvation". The promises to the believer is that, "He that is in us, is greater than he that is in the world", so that the sorry on that may be experienced, from the pressures of life, are only for a season.

Rev. Thayne Fast admonished all believers to be sober, and vigilant if they are to maintain their status, and be prepared for the sudden appearance of Christ. He read from I Peter 5, to substantiate the fact that we may be strengthened, and established, even in the face of adversity, and that we may even find great comfort and joy as we partake of His suffering.

Rev. N. R. Smith, pastor of the Joplin Free Will Baptist Church, in the Indian Creek Association, was invited to speak. He read from Romans 15, as a basis for his message on the necessity of building on the proper foundation, if a solid christian character is to be expected. This may also be true of the church, if it is to accomplish to the maximum, what God would have it to.

His message was unique in that he brought out the fact of the importance of some of the most insignificant characters, to the welfare of Paul, and the church. We can never minimize on the importance of any individual in the work of the Kingdom of God, and each human being should have the privilege of developing to the ultimate of his, or her, potential spiritually in order that not only they will be prepared at Christ's coming, but their life may effect the salvation of others..

Sunday School and C.T.S. Wednesday Afternoon, 3:00 P.M.

Two congregational songs, "Deeper, Deeper," and "In My Heart there Rings a Melody", were led by Lita Munn, with Alice Hoover at the piano.

Roger Phillips took charge and introduced the visiting minister, Rev. N. R. Smith, who led an open discussion on the problems of organizing, and operating a Sunday School, or C.T.S., in getting them to work to the maximum of their potential. A very interesting discussion, of suggestions, information, and examples were enjoyed.

Wednesday Evening Worship Service, 8:00 P.M., July 28, 1976

Martha Carpenter led the congregation in singing "The old Account was Settled Long Ago", with Virginia Bunton at the piano.

The Beacon Musical group from the Christian Church in Liberal, Mo., blessed the service with several beautiful numbers in song at this time which added much to the mission service of the evening.

The Moderator called the Home Missionary, Rev. Lavelle Reeves to the stand, at which time he gave a full report of the establishment of the new mission at Stockton, then delivered a soul-stirring message concerning our debt to the lost people around us.

Following the report on the work of the Mission, and before the message of the evening, the Beacons presented several more numbers, in a very impressive and inspirational way.

Rev. Reeves read a poem "Are you softsoaping God?" From this "homey" little poem, in its uniqueness, he drew a striking likeness between the characteristics of the common bar of soap, to those of too many professing Christians.

As he spoke under the unction of the Holy Spirit, he drove home many spiritual truths contained in the poem, and gave scriptures to be employed as an antidote for these symptoms of spiritual illnesses.

From Matt. 28, and I Thess. he presented many thoughts concerning the purpose He has for the Church to "Go ye into all the world", and the fact of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to enable the people of God to accomplish this purpose. From the Phillipian letter He has promised to "Supply all our needs".

The church has been told of the many acts, and attributes of the Holy Spirit whose purpose it is to save, sustain, and provide enabling power to His people until Jesus comes, and we are commanded to "Occupy until He comes."

The Holy Spirit gave great emphasis to the message and as an invitation was extended there was a holy solemnity over the audience, and one young woman responded expressing her desire to live a more dedicated life. It was such a service as always blesses the hearts of

God's people, and moves them to more consecrated living.

After necessary remarks concerning Thursday's business session the Moderator, asked Don Thomas to pronounce the benediction.

Thursday Morning Business Session 9:45 A.M., July 29, 1976

Services began with the congregation singing "When the Roll is Called up Yonder," led by Lita Munn, with Alice Hoover at the piano.

Rev. Lynn Smith brought the morning devotion from John 15:18-19. After uplifting comments and thoughts on the scripture, he called on Rev. Gary Elder to lead in prayer.

The Moderator called the session to order for business, and asked for reports of the committees to be read.

Report of the Obituary read, and M/S/C to receive same.

Report of Temperance Committee read, and M/S/C to receive.

Report of the Committee on Christian Education read, and M/S/C to receive in its entirety.

Report of Mission Committee read, and M/S/C to adopt. Discussion was called for, to determine the interest of the Association in regard to the possibility of attempting the establishing of another mission within the bounds of the Central Western Association, and if so, how to proceed, and when it should be.

M/S/C that the matter be referred to the Executive Board, for further action, and to bring the matter back to the floor in the afternoon, after contacting the State Home Mission with an inquiry as to what help, if any, might be expected to assist Central Western in this venture.

Business adjourned until afternoon, following the Auxiliary Convention.

Thursday Morning, 11:00 A.M., July 29, 1976

DISTRICT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

The Theme: Free Indeed. "If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed".

Auxiliary President, Virginia Hoover, called the meeting to order. Ionia Phillips led the congregation in singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" accompanied by Alice Hoover. Theo Bough, of the Stockton Free Will Baptist Mission, led in prayer.

Januita Smith, of Hannon Church, read "America, My Country, 'Tis of Thee," telling us about our National symbols in America.

Lynn Smith of the Hannon Church sang "The Old Rugged Cross."

Rev. Fidell Bridges brought the message concerning our theme, "Bondage in Freedom."

The morning message was dismissed in prayer, and the blessing on the noon meal by Mrs. Jackie Elder of the Hannon Church.

Auxiliary Business Session 1:00 P.M.

The convention reconvened and President Virginia Bunton called the meeting to order, with congregational singing, "America." Sister Betty Gilmartin of the Verdella Church led in prayer.

Gladys Brooks of Oskaloosa Church brought the devotion, telling us about our faith, and love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

President Virginia Hoover then called for the report of the Nominating Committee. Nominations were as follows:

President: Virginia Hoover

Vice President: Ionia Phillips

Secretary-Treasurer: Betty Gilmartin

The entire slate of officers were elected by the body, and an offering was then taken, amounting to \$42.05.

Two specials were then given by Martha Cooper of the Oskaloosa

Church; and Joann Kirby of the Hannon Church.

Viola Bassone, Oskaloosa Church read a poem.

The meeting was then turned over to Brenda Evens of Kansas City for a message. Sister Thelma Dickey dismissed the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT OF AUXILIARY FUNDS

Balance on hand from previous year	\$37.02
Membership fees	43.50
Offering of the day	42.05

Total \$122.57

Expenses:

Membership fees for 1975-1976	\$36.25
Late fees for 1975-1976	16.00
Paid speaker, Brenda Evens	40.00
Paid Association for Minutes	10.00
Total Expenses	\$102.25

Balance on hand \$ 20.32

/s/ Martha Cooper, Secretary-Treasurer

Thursday Afternoon Business Session 3:00 P.M., July 29, 1976

The business session was called to order for the transaction of business by the Moderator.

Report of the Committee on Ministerial Standing was read, and a M/S/C to receive same.

Report of the Business Committee was read, and M/S/C to receive to be adopted item by item.

M/S/ to adopt item 1; M/S/C to adopt item 2; M/S/C to adopt item 3; M/S/O to adopt item 4 for discussion; M/S/C to adopt for the Executive Board's consideration in planning the programs for the future Association. M/S/C to adopt item 5; M/S/C to adopt item 6, and it was acted on immediately; M/S/C to adopt item 7.

The Moderator asked for invitations to host the 1977 session of the Central Western Missouri Association, and Stockton extended an invitation to convene with the new Mission Church. M/S/C to accept.

Item 2 of the Mission Committee's report, which had been tabled from the morning session for further consideration was brought to the floor. Since no one had been able to establish contact with the State Home Mission Board, a M/S/C to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive Board to deal with later.

Report of the Nominating Committee was read, and M/S/C to receive by acclamation.

M/S/C to adjourn until the 1977 session, to be held with the new mission church in Stockton, Mo., on Tuesday night, July 26, 1977.

Benediction

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Christian Education Committee: Chairman, Gary Elder; Butch Splitter, Claud Gulick.

Ministerial Standing Committee: Chairman, Roger Phillips, Virginia Bunton, Carl Bough, Charlie Hoover, Hershel Malone.

Nominating Committee: Chairman, Fidell Bridges; Ramona York, Lita Munn.

Missions Committee: Chairman, Bob Dickey; Wilbia Sell, Danny Crutcher.

Business Committee: Chairman, Andy Lay; Corkie Walker, Alice Hoover.

Temperance Committee: Chairman, Lavelle Reeves; Betty Gilmartin, Wayne Moody.

Obituary Committee: Chairman, Thayne Fast; Hazel Bowman, Jim Bussone.

/s/ Chairman, John Bough; Fidell Bridges, Roger Phillips

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. We recommend that our people—especially, teachers, and officers take part in the MBI classes held at Verdella Free Will Baptist Church.

2. We recommend that our FWB beliefs, and practices be taught on a regular basis to our people.

3. We recommend that each church participate at least once a year in the National Sunday School Enlargement Campaign.

4. We recommend that each church have a regular teacher's meeting to cope with problems, and gain suggestions to improve the quality of teaching and class participation.

5. We recommend that each church have weekly CTS classes for all ages, and that they use CTS material from our Nashville office.

/s/ Gary Elder, Butch Splitter, Claud Gulick

Temperance Committee Report

1. We recommend that all Christians speak out against legalizing harmful drugs.

2. We recommend that we remain firm on Article 2 of the Church Covenant, "We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearances 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."

3. We recommend that Christians speak out and every family regulate their TV entertainment against sinful advertisements, and amusements.

4. We recommend that the Church Covenant be read once each quarter in all our churches, trusting that this will enlighten all new converts that they may know our belief.

/s/ Lavelle Reeves, Wayne Moody, Betty Gilmartin

Obituary Committee

The Lord has called five of our members home from our midst, and we recommend that we have a few moments of silent prayer in memory of their service, and devotion to our association. Deceased are: Harry Cadell, John Smiley, Katherin Harper, Fred Wolf, Marzzie Smith and Jessie Whitley.

/s/ Thayne Fast, Jim Bussone, Hazel Bowman

Business Committee Report

We, the Business Committee, recommend the adoption of the following items.

1. That we adopt the State Association's recommendation to raise \$425.00 in this association, for hosting the National Association in Kansas City in 1978. We recommend that each church contribute at least \$1.10 per member to the fund-sending it to the Associational clerk, to be forwarded to the State Office not later than Jan. 1, 1978.

2. That each church increase its giving to the Stockton Mission work, striving toward a goal of 10% of their General Fund income for this project.

1975-76 STATICAL TABLE

	Bethel	El Dorado First	Hannon	Gr'nfld	H'kry Grove	Oskaloosa	Webb City Verdella Evangel	TOTAL
M'bers Rec'd	27		7				11	45
Members Lost	4	14	5	1				24
Members Deceased	1	3			1			5
Total M'b'sh'p	66	24	85	36	41	37	57	354
S. S. Avg.	95	30	89	24	20	25	53	351
Midweek Ser. Avg.	35		25	12		15	10	97
Women's Aux.	13		12			8	10	43
Ord. Ministers	1	1	2	1		1	2	8
Lic. Ministers	1				1			2
Ord. Deacons	1	1	4		1	2	3	15
Pastor Salary	\$2,600.00	790.00	5,649.00	3,020.00	3,145.00	2,138.38	5,200.00	22,542.38
Evangelistic	625.25				232.20	328.99	363.82	1,471.55
Bldg. Repair	11,618.72	82.76		149.35	911.81	457.43	47.02	1,773.37
Literature	729.03	82.32	968.55	117.28	179.17	216.66	449.87	2,066.41
Other	2,448.85		180.00	425.51	92.80	916.84		1,886.43
Tot. Loc Causes	18,021.85	955.08	6,797.55	3,712.14	4,560.98	4,058.30	6,060.71	29,740.14
Co-op		5.00	1,792.00		164.07	325.80	1,061.60	3,348.47
Foreign Mis'ns	976.52	25.00	3,834.00	207.36	55.00	174.06	800.80	6,192.74
Home Missions	1,279.07	30.00	3,630.00	435.79	222.07	424.81	783.38	5,565.80
Orphange		45.00			129.02			174.02
Assoc. Projects	865.53						598.37	2,463.90
Other					104.69	265.08	201.38	571.15
Tot. Out. Causes	2,355.59	105.00	9,256.00	643.15	674.85	1,189.75	3,445.53	18,316.08
Total Spent	20,277.44	1,060.08	16,053.55	4,355.29	5,235.83	5,248.05	9,506.24	48,056.22
Church Prpty.	\$70,000.00	\$15,000.00	25,000.00	7,500.00	20,000.00	12,000.00	19,500.00	169,000.00
Fee Enclosed		13.50	42.50		15.50		20.00	91.50

3. That a By-law revision change be presented at next year's session, incorporating a meeting date change so our annual meeting will be held the week following the fourth Sunday in March. (This constitutes a change of Article 7 of the Constitution.)

4. That the meeting date be changed to Friday night, and Saturday for our annual meeting.

5. That By-Law Article 7 be changed so the churches' fiscal year end on the last day of February each year.

6. That we give a standing vote of thanks to the Oskaloosa FWB Church and Pastor, Bro. Bob Dickey for the superb way they have hosted this session of the Central Western Missouri Free Will Baptist Association.

7. That we voice an "amen" in appreciation to the officers of our association, for their excellent leadership.

/s/ Andy Lay, Hollis Walker Jr., Alice Hoover
Mission Committee Report

1. We recommend that our churches continue to support the Stockton Mission.

2. We recommend that we have discussion from the floor concerning the prospect of, and interest in starting a mission in Nevada.

/s/ Bob Dickey, Wilbia Sell, Sam Crutcher

REGISTRATION

MINISTERS—Bob Dickey, Fidell Bridges, Andy Lay, Gary Elder, Hollis Walker Jr., Lavelle Reeves, Thayne Fast, Lowell Martin.

VISITORS—Tresa Dickey, Martha Cooper, Lucille Miller, Wilma Smith, Theo Bough, Joey Bussone, Ann Morgan, Joe Bussone, Lynn Hoover, Mr. and Mrs. Suschnick, Merle Rouse and Nancy, Denise Thomas, Betty Crutcher, John A. Grider, Bob and Sally Suschnick, Todd and Lori, Ronnie Talbott, Jo Hastings, Clifford Hoover.

STANDING DELEGATES—Roger Phillips, Margaret Walker, Viola Bussone, Dorothy Dickey.

ELECTED DELEGATES—Wayne Moody, Sam Crutcher, Lita Munn, Alice Hoover, Virginia Bunton, Wilbia Sell, Betty Gilmartin, Claud Gulick, Jim Bussone, Butch Splitter, Hershel E. Malone, Carl Bough, Beatrice Bough, Hazel Bowman, Ramona York, Joyce Rose, Reba Rouse, Virginia Hoover, Lynn Smith.

DEACONS—John Bough, Roger Phillips, Charlie Hoover.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

REV. FIDELL BRIDGES—Sermons preached, 104; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 25; number baptized, 18; additions to church, 22; funerals preached, 8; weddings, 5; miles traveled, 3,000; amount received, \$2,600.00.

REV. ANDY LAY—Sermons preached, 102; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 4; professions witnessed, 30; number baptized, 8; funerals preached, 3; miles traveled, 28,000; amount received, \$4,400.

REV. HOLLIS WALKER, JR.—Sermons preached, 50; churches pastored, 1; funerals preached, 1; miles traveled, 2,600; amount received, \$1,035.00; weddings, 2.

REV. MORGAN WALKER—Sermons preached, 102; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 1; funerals preached, 1; miles traveled, 520; amount received, \$790.00.

REV. BOB DICKEY—Sermons preached, 96; churches pastored, 1; pro-

fessions witnessed, 1; funerals preached, 3; miles traveled, \$4,500; amount received, \$2,132.00; weddings, 1.

REV. THAYNE FAST—Sermons preached, 96; churches pastored, 1; miles traveled, 10,600; amount received, \$3,145.00; weddings, 1.

REV. GARY ELDER—Sermons preached, 120; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 3; number baptized, 2; additions to church, 7; funerals preached, 2; amount received, \$5,649.00.

REV. LAVELLE REEVES—Central Western Missouri Association Home Missionary, January 1, 1976 to July 25, 1976. Sermons preached, 80; professions witnessed, 5; amount received \$3,750.00.

Executive Board Report From July 1975 to July 1976

September 27, 1975, Stockton, Mo.

Meeting was held at Stockton to search for a suitable location for the mission services to be held in.

A motion was made and sustained to give Bro. Lavelle Reeves, the Home Mission worker, a housing allowance.

January 2, 1976, at Bro. Lavelle Reeve's Home

The matter of services being held in Bro. Reeve's home was discussed, and more discussion on continuing to search out a possible church site for future use.

At the request of the Hannon Church, Bro. Bob Selvey was examined for the office of deacon.

Bro. Lavelle Reeves was instructed on what he should do to obtain a license to preach.

January 20, 1976, at Bro. Lavelle Reeve's Home

The matter of buying property to build a church on was discussed and it was voted to buy an available church site for \$12,000.00. Work was to be started immediately.

January 25, 1976, at the Pizza Building in Stockton

Discussion was carried on concerning building the new church, and plans to begin.

Bro. Fidell Bridges offered his services in promoting the new church work, and was accepted.

Program for the Annual Association to be held at Oskaloosa Church was planned.

April 1, 1976, Stockton, Mo.

Plans were discussed for buying and paying for the land, and material with which to build the new church.

It was decided that the Board would borrow \$25,000.00, with which to buy the land, and material.

The Board members signed for the money, and the deed is held by the Executive Board members, or their successors, until such time that the church is organized, and can take over the debt.

Bro. Lavelle Reeve's salary is to be paid by the Central Western Association.

July 11, 1976, Basement of new Stockton Church

The Board discussed with Bro. Stanton his desire to start a mission and work with our association.

A request was read from the Hannon Church, that the Board would examine Bro. Lynn Smith, at the regular meeting of the Association, for a license to the ministry.

Association Treasurer's Report July 1975-1976

Balance July, 1975\$173.18

Budget from church letters	215.00
Offering for association expense	57.00
Auxiliary offering	10.00

\$455.18

DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing of Minutes	\$128.00
Programs for Association	17.50
State Association Budget	45.00
Telephone calls	3.58
Clerk's Honorarium	32.25
Stamps	3.00
State Board Expense, Charlie Hoover	100.00

\$329.33

\$125.85

Nominating Committee Report:

We recommend the following as officers for the coming year:

Moderator, Deacon Charlie Hoover

Assistant Moderator, Rev. Bob Dickey

Clerk-Treasurer, Thora Grider

Assistant Clerk, Alice Hoover

Statistician, Ionia Phillips

Itinerant Contact, Dorothy Dickey

Executive Board Member for five years, Rev. Bob Dickey

/s/ Fidell Bridges, Lita Munn, Ramona York

Ministerial Standing Committee Report

We hereby recommend the following ministers for a Certificate of Ministerial Standing, after having examined them.

Andy W. Lay, Hollis Walker Jr., Thayne Fast, Morgan Walker, Bob Dickey, Gary Elder, Lavelle Reeves, Fidell Bridges, Charles Lynn Smith.

Superannuated—Lowell Martin, Arlie Hoover.

/s/ Roger Phillips, Hershel E. Malone, Carl Bough, Virginia Bunton, Charlie Hoover.

Executive Board's Financial Report July 1975-July 1976

INCOME:

Hannon	\$1179.50
Bethel	1279.07
Oskaloosa	447.31
Verdella	953.37
Greenfield	435.79
Fifth Sunday	90.68
Individuals	80.00
Hickory Grove	182.05
ElDorado First	65.00
Webb City	48.16
Independence	50.51

\$4811.15

EXPENSES:

Moving Expense	\$ 300.00
Salary	6000.00
Mileage	134.90

Phone calls	20.64
Miscellaneous	13.00
Housing Allowance	920.00
	<hr/>
	\$7288.54

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 open 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.

Article 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 candidates 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 meek-

ness, 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 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 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.