

Minutes

of the ⁶⁹70th Annual Session

of the

Central Western

Missouri Association

of

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

When Convened With

Stockton Free Will Baptist Mission

Tuesday Evening, July 26, 1977

The 70th Annual Session

Will Meet With the

Verdella Free Will Baptist Church

Friday Evening, March 31, 1978

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 Rev. Andy Lay, 13 Tanglewood Dr., Carl Junction, Mo.

EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION BOARD

Deacon Charley Hoover, Liberal, Mo. _____	1982
Rev. Bob Dickey, Liberal, Mo. _____	1981
Rev. Fidell Bridges, El Dorado Springs, Mo. _____	1980
Deacon John Bough, Stockton, Mo. _____	1979
Deacon Roger Phillips, Liberal, Mo. _____	1978
State General Board Member, Charley Hoover _____	1978

CHURCH CLERKS

BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, ElDorado Springs, Mo.
 Lois Smith, 106 E. Poplar, El Dorado 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.
 Beatrice Bough, 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.
 Claud Gulick, P.O. Box 131, Carterville, Mo. 64835
 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.
 Rev. Elwood Perry, R 1, Jerico Springs, Mo. 64756
 OSKALOOSA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Arcadia, Kan.
 Rev. Bob Dickey, Box 53, Liberal, Mo. 64762
 VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Iantha, Mo.
 Rev. Leroy Blankenship, 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. Lavelle Reeves, Box 347, Stockton, Home Missionary
Rev. Hollis Walker, Jr., Liberal, Mo. 64762
Rev. Steve Reeves, Box 347, Stockton, Mo. 56785
Rev. Lowell Martin, Greenfield, Mo. 65661 Superannuated
Rev. Arlie Hoover, Liberal, Mo. 64762 Superannuated

PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday Evening July 26, 1977

Worship service began with congregational singing, and Rev. Gary Elder led in prayer.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hopkins were in charge of the service for a while, at which time they gave many beautiful numbers, both vocal and instrumental. Among the inspiring songs rendered were, "I don't know why", "He just gets sweeter", "How can I give thanks", and a Medley of spiritual songs.

The Clerk of the Association declared a quorum present to transact business and, called the Moderator, Charlie Hoover, to the stand to take charge of the business session.

In bringing the Moderator's devotional thoughts, he called attention to the theme for this year, "Prayer," with its many facets, and quoted Luke 11:9, which was the basis for the theme.

An offering was taken to defray expenses of the association, amounting to \$46.94.

The Holt Family of El Dorado Springs, blessed with several numbers, both vocal and on their instruments, at this time. Hearts were solemnized and readied for the message of the hour by their spiritual songs.

Bro. Bob Dickey speaker of the evening, based his message on the theme scripture Luke 11:9. It carried the idea that it is not altogether enough to just believe, but many times action on the part of the child of God is imperative to him, or her, receiving and answer to prayer. God's plan is to do His work through human agents.

"Ere you left your Room this Morning" was sung as an invitation to any, and all, to take advantage of the prayer, to deepen their commitment to Christ.

Benediction was pronounced by Roger Phillips.

Wednesday Morning 9:45 Business Proceedings, July 27, 1977

Devotional time began with Rev. Leroy Blankenship leading in congregational sing of "The Old Rugged Cross", and "He Keeps Me Singing".

Rev. Fidell Bridges brought out spiritual thoughts, appropriate to carrying on business for the Lord, from Psalms 34. He admonished the delegation to appropriate the help and grace, God has promised His people, for accomplishing His tasks.

Moderator Charley Hoover took charge calling for the reading of the By-Laws by Bro. Bob Dickey.

Letters from the Churches were read, and M/S/C to seat delegates. Executive Board Report read. M/S/C to receive.

The matter of Insurance on the Youth Camp Cabins, which was brought up at the State Association when convened at Springfield, was discussed. It was decided to leave it in the hands of the Executive Board.

Statistician's Report was read. M/S/C to receive.

Treasurer's Report was read. M/S/C to receive.
A recess was taken at this time before the worship hour time.

Wednesday Morning Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Gary Elder led the congregation in singing "Praise the Lord," and "Heavenly Sunlight," with sister Brenda Blankenship at the piano. Sister Januita Smith led in prayer.

Bro. and sister Leroy Blankenship brought the beautiful number in song "Love is Why".

The morning message was brought by Bro. Leroy Blankenship. His theme, "why it is important to pray," was an answer to the association theme "Does it pay to pray?" He used a poem which contained inspiring thoughts on prayer, to emphasize his remarks. Eph. 6:12-13. 18 stressed the idea he was presenting, that diligence and perseverance must be practiced if we are to claim God's promises.

Specifically asking for the desired object of ones prayer was encouraged and praying with a spiritual singleness of mind, with Luke 6:12 as an example was advocated.

"Where He Leads Me I Will Follow" was sung as an invitation to a more prayerful, and dedicated life was encouraged.

Announcements about the afternoon program were made, and the congregation joined in singing "Blessed Assurance," after which Sister Lowell Martin pronounced the benediction and blessing on the noon meal.

Minister's Conference Wednesday 1:30 P.M. July 27, 1977

Bro. Fidell Bridges took charge of the Minister's Conference, introducing the various ministers of the Association, as each took his turn speaking on the different aspects of prayer, as it is revealed in the light of God's word.

Bro. Lavelle Reeves spoke from Rom. 1:8, concerning our obligation to pray for all those, whose obligation it is to carry the Gospel to others where we cannot; that their hands may be held up for the task in whatever circumstances they are called to labor in. Sincerity of the heart is the secret to God's answer. James was quoted also.

Bro. Gary Elder spoke from Luke 18:1-8 stressing the importance of praying, persistently, specifically, and with all earnestness; and as is brought out in Mark 11:24, absolute confidence in the belief that Divine intervention can bring it to pass, if it is within God's will.

Bro. Thayne Fast read from Matt. as he brought out the fact that humility was an absolute prerequisite to receiving an answer, and giving God credit for supernatural answers, rather than crediting ones self for apparent success in any spiritual accomplishment.

Bro. Bob Dickey pointed to Christ as our supreme example of the necessity, and possibility of praying in the most excruciating circumstances. He named five things that had to be present if we are in complete harmony, as Christ was in His ordeal-aloneness, humility, earnestness, persistence, and submission.

At this time Bro. Bridges called Sister Lowell Martin, one of our association Ministers, now semi-retired, and much loved by many, to the stand. She has given many years of her life to the ministry and evangelization of ours, and other associations in the State of Missouri. Her spiritual strength, and wisdom, has contributed much to the advancement of Free Will Baptist Work, both at home, and out to the "Uttermost Parts" through the years.

Her life has inspired many-especially, young people, to strive to

emulate her Christian virtues, and dedication of purpose. Once more she spoke words of encouragement, and admonition to all to continue strictly in adherence to humility, and simplicity, and an implicit childlike faith in the infallible promises of God.

In expressing gratitude for the good years God had given her when she could be actively engaged in the work, she also expressed deep gratitude that God was allowing her to see so many young dedicated ministers becoming actively engaged in the work as well as dedicated lay workers.

Bro. Leroy Blankenship directed his remarks to what God's plan of evangelization for the ages is. He read from passages in Matt. and Eph. to prove that we are responsible for unlimited territory, in delivering the Gospel to mankind, and has given the Christian the tool with which to work effectively. Every Christian has some gift to be used.

Bro. Bridges again took charge summarizing what had been said, and calling for consistent Christian living, with conduct beyond reproach, to refute criticism of a gain saying world.

Sister Januita Smith pronounced the benediction.

Sunday School and C.T.S. Wednesday 3:00 P.M. July 27, 1977

The session opened with the congregation singing "Amazing Grace" Ramona York was at the piano.

Bro. Claud Gulick led in prayer.

Rev. Andy Lay took charge of a round table discussion of ways to improve the quality of our Sunday School, and C.T.S. work, and how to make it more effective in the spiritual life of the Church. He suggested evaluation and goal setting as things that might be considered for the coming year.

Quite an interesting discussion was engaged in, in which there were quite a number of ideas advanced for stimulating interest in class work, appealing to unreached people; improving teaching techniques and methods; helping teachers to more adequately qualify themselves for teaching the particular age group they are responsible for.

Some worthwhile suggestions were: teachers meetings, with division of those teaching each particular age bracket; efforts to evangelize the unreached of the community by scriptural, but never unethical methods; conducting an Exhibit Day, at which time work done in the classroom might be seen by others; giving some kind of recognition, as gift, or offer to perform some responsibility needed by someone; grade cards, given the younger children to take home to show parents; and several other examples given of things that had been tried with success.

Bro. Lay closed the session with the suggestion that everyone take the thoughts that had been advanced, and adapt any of them that might be used in the various Sunday Schools, and C.T.S. work in the association.

After necessary announcements, concerning the business of the next day, the service was dismissed until time for the evening worship hour. Bro. Lay pronounced the benediction.

Wednesday Evening Worship Service 8:00 P.M. July 27, 1977

The Moderator called the meeting to order and Bro. Bob Dickey led the congregation in singing "Victory in Jesus," with Sister Ramona York at the piano. Bro. Reed Smith led in prayer.

Bro. Andy and Sister Heidi Lay, and Joyce Ballinger sang several beautiful numbers, with Joyce accompanying. Among the numbers were: "Thanks to Him", "I Just Keep Falling in Love", "The Old Rug-

ged Cross Made the Difference", Statue of Liberty", Let Me Live in the Light of His Love", and "The Shepherd and His Sheep".

The evening message was brought by Bro. Lay, and he spoke of the hindrances to having our prayers answered-using a homey little illustration to drive home the point in a convincing way.

By twelve points, he listed the destructive elements that might be harbored in hearts, to destroy the effectiveness of prayer: 1. From Proverbs, we can learn that unconfessed sin is detrimental; 2. James speaks of selfishly asking amiss; 3. Eph. 6:18 indicates the necessity of praying in the spirit; 4. Heb. 11:6 makes it clear that it is futile to pray without faith; 5. John 14:13 states that we must ask in His name; 6. According to Luke 11:4 we cannot entertain an unforgiving spirit; 7. Must pray in the will of God as in Jam. 5:14; 8. Phill. 4:6 condemns ingratitude; 9. John 15:7 speaks of the necessity of abiding; 10. We cannot be rebellious and high minded; 11. A stingy spirit is condemned in Prov. 21:13; and 12. Speaks of the necessity of living in marital harmony through 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

Through his enlargement on these thoughts and scriptures, briefly mentioned, he brought some thought provoking things to the attention of all, that should be pondered and result in extensive soulsearching by every Christian.

In concluding his message, he brought a very dramatic example, of the importance of having a complete absence of these unchristlike elements, if we are to be able to have unity of spirit with all God's people in prayer. The example was an incident, in which the two mothers of one of our Free Will Baptist Missionary couples, both had a peculiarly impressive dream and were awakened at the identical time on the same night, and felt the need of praying for the couple, neither of them knowing the other had had the same experience for months. It is imperative to live in the center of Gods will, if we are to accomplish what He would have us do.

As a song of dedication the beautiful song "Teach Me to Pray" was sung, and the worship service was concluded by receiving an offering for missions amounting to \$192.12.

After moderators remarks, Bro. Don Smith pronounced the benediction.

Thursday Morning Business Session 9:45 July 28, 1977

Bro. Bob Dickey led in singing "We've a Story to tell to the Nations," with Joyce Ballinger at the piano.

The morning devotional thoughts were brought by Bro. Gary Elder. From the words of the Patriorch, Jacob, in Ex. 32:10, he gave an inspirational message on how wonderful God does bless those who have in the past, and will in the future trust completely in Him.

He cited not only great spiritual giants of prayer in the Bible, but many all down through the different missionary periods-beginning with the early Church Fathers to our time, who had persevered through great spiritual crises to spread the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. Andy Lay led in prayer, and the Moderator took charge.

Report of the Temperance Committee was read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Report of the Mission Committee was read, and M/S/C to adopt.

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

Report of the Committee on Christian Education was read, and M/S/C to receive. M/S/C to adopt.

Report of the Business Committee was read, and M/S/C to receive for discussion. M/S/C to adopt item by item.

Item No. 1 M/S/C to refer to Business Committee to rewrite, and bring back to the floor.

Item No. 2 M/S/C to receive for discussion. M/S/C to adopt. The Executive Board, along with Ministers, were appointed to recommend a plan to churches for carrying out the project.

Thursday Morning 11:00 A.M., July 28, 1977

DISTRICT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

The Auxiliary President called the meeting to order. Jean West led the congregational in singing "Whisper a Prayer," accompanied by Barbara Hopkins, Sister Lowell Martin led in prayer.

The theme of the Convention was "Prayer changes things," which was stressed throughout the messages. Specials were a song by Rev. Andy Lay, and a reading by Viola Bussone.

The speaker of the morning was Mrs. Heidi Lay, who brought a message on how prayer can help in our everyday lives. The service was dismissed with prayer, and a blessing on the noon meal, by Mrs. Jackie Elder.

Thursday Afternoon 1:00 P.M. Auxiliary Business Session

The meeting reconvened and President Virginia Hoover, called the meeting to order. The congregation was led in singing "What a Friend we have in Jesus," and Sister Doris Whitson of Verdella led in prayer. Sister Pauline Reeves of the Stockton Mission Church brought the devotion on "What Hinders Prayer."

Report of the nominating committee was read as follows: President, Viola Bussone; Vice President, Ionia Phillips; Secretary-Treasurer, Barbara Hopkins.

The entire slate of officers were elected by the body and an offering was taken amounting to \$78.65.

Specials for the afternoon were by Rev. and Mrs. Leroy Blankenship of the Verdella church; Christine and Susie Rublee of the Stockton Mission Church and Ramona York of Independence Church.

The service was turned over to Jean Williams of Kansas City for the message.

Sister Thelma Dickey dismissed the service.

AUXILIARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand	\$ 20.32
Membership fees	52.50
Offering of the day	78.65

Total	\$151.47
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Expenses:

Membership fees	\$43.75
Paid speaker Jean Williams	40.00
Paid Association for Minutes	10.00
Paid Executive Board for Camp Building Fund	\$40.00
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	\$133.75

17.72

Betty Gilmartin, Sec.-Treas.

Thursday Afternoon 3:00 P.M. Business Session July 28, 1977

Item No. 1, of the Business Committee, brought back as rewritten, for action by the body. M/S/C to adopt. Oskaloosa was voted as the first meeting place of the Quarterly Meeting and 7:00 P.M. set as the time to convene.

Item No. 3 M/S/C to adopt

Item No. 4 M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 5 M/S/C to receive for discussion by the Body. After a quite lengthy discussion and hearing the project explained by Bro. Andy Lay from the State Board, the vote seemed to indicate that the Central Western Association did not strongly favor participation in the project, but did not actually oppose it on a State level.

Item No. 6 M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 7 M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 8 M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 9 M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 10 M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 11 M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 12 M/S/C to adopt.

The Moderator called for invitation for the meeting place of the 1978 session of the association.

M/S/C to accept the invitation of the Verdella Free Will Baptist Church to entertain the 1978 session.

M/S/C to adopt the report of the Nominating Committee for officers of the Association for the coming year, as follows:

Moderator Charley Hoover

Assistant Moderator Rev. Bob Dickey

Clerk-Treasurer Thora Grider

Assistant Clerk Alice Hoover

Statistician Ionia Phillips

Itinerate Contact Rev. Andy Lay

Following necessary remarks concerning closing out of the business session, the session was adjourned until the 1978 session.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Temperance Committee: Chairman, Virginia Bunton, Thelma Dickey, Bernice Eastman.

Obituary Committee: Chairman, Mildred Kicenski; John Grider, Amos Eastman.

Business Committee: Chairman, Andy Lay; Leroy Blankenship, Charley Lines.

Missions Committee: Chairman, Gary Elder; Januita Smith, Beatrice Bough.

Christian Education Committee: Chairman, Thayne Fast, Edna Lines, Lowell Martin.

Ministerial Standing Committee: Chairman, Roger Phillips, Viola Bussone, May Cleffman, Ramona York, Claud Gulick.

Nominating Committee: Chairman, Lavelle Reeves; Virginia Hoover, Dorothy Dickey.

Nominating Committee Report

We recommend the following as officers for the coming year:

Moderator Charley Hoover

Assistant Moderator Rev. Bob Dickey

Clerk Treasurer Thora Grider

Assistant Clerk Alice Hoover

Statistician Ionia Phillips

Itinerant Contact Dorothy Dickey

Executive Board Member Charley Hoover

/s/ Dorothy Dickey, Virginia Hoover, Lavelle Reeves.

Mission Committee Report

We recommend that each church continue their support of the Stockton Mission, and if they haven't already, to try if they can see fit, to raise their support to 10% of their income.

/s/ Gary Elder, Januita Smith, Beatrice Bough

Ministerial Standing Committee Report

We, your committee, have examined the reports of these following Ministers, and found them to be in good standing:

Morgan Walker, Bob Dickey, Gary Elder, Thayne Fast, Andy Lay, Lavelle Reeves, Hollis Walker Jr., Fidell Bridges, Leroy Blankenship, and Steve Reeves.

/s/ Roger Phillips, Claud Gulick, Ramona York, Mae Cleffman, Viola Bussone.

Christian Education Committee Report

1. We recommend that our Ministers, Teachers, Officers, and anyone who would, take advantage of the M.B.I. classes, if they are made available this year.

2. We recommend the doctrines of Christ, and standards of Free Will Baptists, be taught and practiced in our churches regularly.

3. We recommend that each church have a regular teachers meeting to cope with problems, and gather suggestions, to improve the quality of teaching and class participation.

4. We recommend that each church have C.T.S. classes for all ages and that they use C.T.S. material from the Nashville Office.

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

Obituary Committee Report

The Lord has called four 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: Alta Shepard, Verla Costley, Tony Davis, and Grace Henderson.

/s/ Mildred Kicenski, Amos Eastman, John Grider

Temperance Committee Report

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

2. We recommend remaining firm in our position on Article 2 of our 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 T.V. entertainment against 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 about our belief.

/s/ Virginia Bunton, Thelma Dickey, Bernice Eastman.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Business Committee, recommend the following item for adoption:

1. That we, the Association, organize a Quarterly Meeting, to convene the first Saturday in June, September, December, and [REDACTED], the March meeting being the [REDACTED] annual association.

We recommend that the Fifth Sunday Meeting disband, and that we select a meeting place for the September meeting and a Program Committee be appointed.

2. That the Moderator appoint a committee to be charged with the responsibility of building an addition on the boys cabin at the Youth Camp.

3. That the Executive Board be enlarged from the present five members, to nine members-one member being from each church. That the churches recommend their representatives to be elected by the association, that the terms be three years, and that three members be elected each year in alphabetical order.

Since these will require a constitutional change, we recommend that a notification be sent to each church thirty days prior to the next annual meeting.

4. That we buy \$2,000 worth of Insurance on each of the Youth Camp cabins, at a cost of \$22.00 per year.

5. That we give our General Board representative direction on our opinion concerning the Missouri Free Will Baptist State Association constructing a Nursing Home and Retirement Center.

6. That we encourage our churches to get their contributions in for the entertainment of the National Free Will Baptist Association, meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in July of 1978. In compliance with Item 1. of last year's Business Committee Report, Central Western Missouri's allocation is \$425.00.

7. That we change Constitutional Article number 7 to read, "This Association shall meet annually on Friday following the fourth Sunday in March each year, and continue through Saturday night. It shall be the duty of the churches composing it, to represent themselves, by letter and delegate.

8. That we change By-Law Article number 7 to read "It shall be the right of each church in the Association to determine its own fiscal year. We suggest March 1 to February 28-29.

9. That we give a standing vote of thanks to the Stockton Mission Church, for the excellent job they have done hosting this convention.

10. That we express our appreciation to Mrs. Barbara Hopkins for preparing the beautiful poster, stating the theme of the Association.

11. That we express our appreciation to the officers of our Association, for their superb leadership.

12. That we direct the Executive Board of the Association, to periodically adjust their expenditures to the Stockton Mission to the income designated for the purpose.

/s/ Andy Lay, Charles Lines, Leroy Blankenship

1976-77 STATISTICAL TABLE

	Bethel	El Dorado First	Hannon	Gr'n'f'ld	In.	H'kry Grove	Oskaloosa	Verdella	Webb City Evangel	TOTAL
M'bers Rec'd	10	1	2	0	2	1		13	10	39
Members Lost	3	0	6	1		3		3	7	23
Members Deceased	1	1	0	0		0	1	1		4
Total M'b'sh'p	72	24	89	35	4	38	36	75	41	434
S. S. Avg.	80	25	80	21	4	14	26	50	45	355
Midweek Ser. Avg.	25		25	12			15		25	102
Women's Aux.	12		13				8	10		43
Ord. Ministers	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	11
Lic. Ministers	1	0	1	0	1				0	3
Ord. Deacons	1	1	4	0	3	1	2	3		15
Pastor Salary	4420.00	780.00	5591.00	3060.00	50	2885.00	2661.00	5635.00	9251.80	34583.80
Evangelistic	510.00		561.26	236.90			250.10	619.00		2177.26
Bldg. Repair	30439.00	708.15	2468.64	75.33		900.20	528.57	65.80	100.00	35285.69
Literature		76.44	779.82	95.88		108.59	214.78	481.13		1756.64
Other		531.42	2159.84	361.81			1052.36		1414.00	5519.43
Tot. Loc. Causes	35369.00	2096.01	11560.56	3829.92	42	3893.79	4706.81	6800.13	11713.80	80268.44
Co-op		60.00	1741.50			218.64	416.89	1388.27	239.12	4064.42
Foreign Mis'ns	1361.00		1514.00		00	130.98	78.25	783.65	392.06	4379.94
Home Missions	1462.00	60.00	2825.77	208.57	35	342.89	827.22	1576.87	150.07	7598.24
Orphanage						141.75				141.75
Assoc. Projects						218.64				218.64
Other			711.49				642.55	120.00	105.00	1579.04
Tot. Out. Causes	2823.00	120.00	6792.76	208.57	35	1164.58	1964.91	3868.79	886.25	18093.71
Total Spent	58069.00	2216.01	18353.32	4038.49	27		6671.72	10669.72	12600.05	113181.58
Church Prpty. \$90000.00		\$15000.00	27000.00	7500.00		20000.00	12000.00	19500.00		191000.00
Fees Enclosed		13.50		18.50	50	18.50			25.00	87.00

MINISTER'S REPORTS

REV. LEROY BLANKENSHIP—Sermons preached, 78; churches pastored, 1; revivals conducted, 2; professions witnessed, 6; number baptized, 3; additions to church, 1; weddings, 1; funerals preached, 1; salary received, \$2600.00.

REV. FIDELL BRIDGES—Sermons preached, 150; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 4; number baptized, 6; additions to church, 10; funerals preached, 9; money received, \$4335.00.

REV. HOLLIS WALKER—Sermons preached, 46; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 2; number baptized, 2; funerals, 1; miles traveled 1512; \$1147.00; weddings, 4.

REV. LAVELLE REEVES—Sermons preached, 90; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 10; funerals preached, 1.

REV. ANDY W. LAY—Sermons preached, 106; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 23; number baptized, 5; funerals preached, 3; additions to church, 10; miles traveled, 28,000.00; amount received, \$9400.00.

REV. MORGAN WALKER—Sermons preached, 100; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 2; baptized, 2; additions to church, 1; miles traveled, 600; amount received, \$780.00.

REV. THAYNE FAST—Sermons preached, 96; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 1; baptized, 1; additions to church, 1; funerals preached, 1; miles traveled, 5,300; weddings performed, 4; amount received, \$2885.00.

REV. BOB DICKEY—Sermons preached, 95; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 5; number baptized, 2; funerals preached, 3; miles traveled, 9500; weddings, 5; amount received, \$2619.00.

REV. GARY ELDER—Sermons preached, 110; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 6; number baptized, 5; additions to church, 2; funerals preached, 1; amount received, \$5511.00.

REV. STEVE REEVES—Sermons preached, 40; professions witnessed, 8; miles traveled, 9790; amount received, \$625.00.

REGISTRATION

MINISTERS—Revs. Bob Dickey, Leroy Blankenship, Morgan Walker, Elwood Perry, Gary Elder, Lavelle Reeves, Fidell Bridges, Thayne Fast, Andy Lay, and Lowell Martin.

DEACONS—Roger Phillips, Carl Bough, Dee York, Amos Eastman, John Bough, Reed B. Smith, Charley Hoover, Don Smith, Alfred Bough, and Joe Rickman.

STOCKTON MISSION—George Ruyle, Alma Ruyle, Greg Rublee, Lillian Rublee, Phip Rublee, Georgia Rickman, Agnes Bough, Homer Bough, John Bough, Neil Rublee, Theo Bough, Mary Cross, Kristina Rublee, Diana Rublee.

VISITORS—Ionia Phillips, Lora Phillips, Lynette Phillips, Clinton Phillips, Linnie McThompson, Lyle McThompson, Lee Bunton, Harold Smith, Alta Wolf, Wilbia Sell, Clifford Hoover, Bertha Hayward, Jean West, Willis Cleffman, Fay Marshall, Linda Holt, Larry Holt, Jeanie Baldwin, Alice Hoover, Pauline Reeves, Misty Blankenship, Jamie Blankenship, Anada Blankenship, Mary Cross, Betty Crutcher, Madge Sawyer, Lucille Franklin, Sam Crutcher, Wilma Smith, Margaret Smith, Leah Nell Smith, Joe Bussone, Floy Hartley, Doris Whitson, Betty Gilmartin, Jamie Lay, Jim Atkinson, Opal

Atkinson, Joyce Ballinger, Bernie Ballinger, Brent Thompson, Cindy Thompson and Jim Bussone.
 DELEGATES—Virginia Bunton, Juanita Smith, Abba Walker, Dorothy Dickey, Mildred Kicenski, Charley Lines, Mrs. Charley Lines, Virginia Hoover, Mae Cleffman, Viola Bussone, Thelma Dickey, Ramona York, Beatrice Bough, John A. Grider, Bernice Eastman, Brenda Blankenship, Claud Gulick, Hazel Fleeman, Barbara Hop-Elsie Gulick and Heidi Lay.

Report from Executive Board

Chairman, Charlie Hoover; Secretary-Treasurer, Roger Phillips; Member, John Bough; Member, Fidel Bridges; Member, Bob Dickey.

October 31, 1976—After the Fifth Sunday meeting was held at First Church of El Dorado the board met to discuss the requirements for Bro. Steven Reeves to obtain a license to preach.

January—After the Fifth Sunday meeting at Verdella a meeting of the Board was held to discuss the financial needs for support of the Stockton Mission. It was decided we would operate the fund on faith and that the need would be met.

April 21—A meeting was held at Bro. Bob Dickeys to plan the program for the regular association meeting. Charlie Hoover, Roger Phillips and Bob Dickey were the members present. The plans were not completed but were to be finished at Stockton May 5.

May 5—A meeting was held at Stockton to finish preparing the program for the association. A discussion followed on selling the west end of Stockton Church lot to the School. A minimum of \$2000 was set for the price to be obtained for the land. All members were present. Refreshments were provided by John Bough, Theo Bough, Sister Reeves.

Sunday, May 29—After the Fifth Sunday meeting held at Hannon the Board convened to examine and grant Bro. Steven Reeves a license to preach. He gave a stirring testimony and was questioned on his understanding of doctrine. Bro. Bob Dickey moved to grant Bro. Steven a license and the vote was unanimous.

Association Treasurer's Report July 1976 - July 1977

Balance	\$125.85
Budget from church letters	211.50
Auxiliary for Minutes	10.00
State Entertainment	40.00
Offerings at Association	69.34
	\$456.69

DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing of Minutes	\$134.00
State Entertainment	45.00
Association Programs	22.50
Mailing Local Minutes	3.55
Mailing State and National Minutes	3.28
Mailing Church Letters	1.04
Telephone Calls	5.74
Clerk's Honorarium	31.72

	\$246.83
	209.86
Expense of General Board Member to State Board Meetings	79.50
	<u>\$130.36</u>

REPORT OF THE STOCKTON MISSION

Offerings to Central Western Mo. Association for Stockton Mission	
Bethel S.S. and Church Offerings	\$1526.80
First Church of El Dorado	90.00
Hickory Grove	212.27
Verdella	1670.13
Hannon	1711.50
Stockton Mission	300.00
Independence	178.31
Oskaloosa	832.22
Greenfield	176.07
Special Offering at Association	100.36
Cooperative Thanksgiving Service at Hannon	171.25
October Fifth Sunday	46.76
January Fifth Sunday	108.67
Singing Service held at Liberal	51.17
	<u>\$7175.51</u>

Expenses for the year 1976-1977

Bro. Lavelle Reeves, salary and housing allowance	\$7980.00
Bob Dickey, paint on cabin at Youth Camp	15.00
Corp. report on Executive Board	1.00

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—This Association shall meet annually on Friday, following the fourth Sunday in March, and continue through Saturday night. 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 ses-

sion 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 in the Association to determine its own fiscal year. We suggest March 1st to Feb. 28-29.

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 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 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.