

# *Minutes*

of the 70th Annual Session

of the

**Central Western  
Missouri Association**

of

**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

When Convened With

**Verdella Free Will Baptist Church**

Friday Evening, March 31th, 1978

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The 71th Annual Session

Will Meet With the

**Bethel Free Will Baptist Church**

Friday Evening, March 30th, 1979

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**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WESTERN ASSOCIATION  
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**Verdella Free Will Baptist Church**

**March 31, 1978**

# MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS 1978

## OFFICERS

MODERATOR . . . . Rev. Andy Lay, 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, MO  
 ASSISTANT MODERATOR . . . . Rev. Leroy Blankenship, Liberal, MO  
 CLERK-TREASURER . . . . .Thora Grider, Greenfield, MO  
 ASSISTANT CLERK . . . . .Barbara Hopkins, Liberal, MO  
 STATISTICIAN. . . . .Lita Munn, Liberal, MO  
 ITINERATE CONTACT . . . . .Rev. Bob Dickey, Liberal, MO  
 STATE GENERAL BOARD MEMBER. . .Deacon Charlie Hoover, Liberal, MO

## EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION BOARD

1. BETHEL CHURCH, Laurel Mays, El Dorado Springs, MO	1979
2. EVANGEL CHURCH, Rev. Andy Lay, Carl Junction, MO	1979
3. EL DORADO FIRST, Rev. Morgan Walker, El Dorado Sp., MO	1979
4. GREENFIELD FIRST, Rev. Lowell Martin, Greenfield, MO	1979
5. HANNON, Charlie Hoover, Liberal, MO	1980
6. HICKORY GROVE, Rev. Thayne Fast, Liberal, MO	1980
7. INDEPENDENCE CHURCH, Dee York	1980
8. OSKALOOSA CHURCH, Phillip Munn, Liberal, MO	1981
9. STOCKTON MISSION, John Bough, Stockton, MO	1981
10. VERDELLA CHURCH, Roger Phillips, Liberal, MO	1981

## CHURCH CLERKS

BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST, El Dorado Springs, MO  
 Lois Smith, 106 E. Poplar, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744  
 EVANGEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 221 S. Liberty, Webb City, MO  
 James Atkinson, P.O. Box 206, Oronogo, MO 64855  
 EL DORADO FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Park and Marshell,  
 El Dorado Springs, MO  
 Mildred Kicenski, 111 W. Walnut, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744  
 GREENFIELD FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, S. Allison,  
 Greenfield, MO  
 Lucille Franklin, 403 Toney Ave., Greenfield, MO 65661  
 HANNON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
 Margaret Smith, Liberal, MO 64762  
 HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BPATIST CHURCH, Harrisonville, MO  
 Iris Jones, Rt. 3 Box 212, Harrisonville, MO 64701  
 INDEPENDENCE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, MO  
 Beaterice Bough, Rt. 4, Stockton, MO 65785  
 OSKALOOSA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Arcadia, KS  
 Viola Bussone, 917 W. 6th, Pittsburg, KS 66762  
 STOCKTON FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION CHURCH, Stockton, MO  
 Rev. Lavelle Reeves, Home Missionary, Stockton, MO 65785

## CHURCH CLERKS (cont'd.)

VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
Frances Foger, 202 W. 1st, Lamar, MO 64759

## MINISTERS OF CHURCHES

BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, El Dorado Springs, MO  
Rev. Fidell Bridges, 109 W. Cruse, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744  
EVANGEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 221 S. Liberty, Webb City, MO  
Rev. Andy Lay, 13 Tanglewood, Carl Junction, MO 64834  
EL DORADO FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Park and Marshall,  
El Dorado Springs, MO  
Rev. Morgan Walker, Rt. 1, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744  
GREENFIELD FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Greenfield, MO  
Rev. Winford Davis, Monett, MO 65708  
HANNON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
No pastor named.  
HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Harrisonville, MO  
Rev. Thayne Fast, Liberal, MO 64762  
INDEPENDENCE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, MO  
Rev. Elwood Perry, Jerico Springs, MO 64756  
OSKALOOSA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Arcadia, KS  
No pastor named.  
STOCKTON FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION CHURCH, Stockton, MO  
Rev. Lavelle Reeves, Home Missionary, Stockton, MO 65785  
VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
Rev. Leroy Blankenship, Liberal, MO 64762

## MINISTERS OF CENTRAL WESTERN ASSOCIATION

Rev. Bob Dickey, Liberal, MO; Rev. Steve Reeves, Student at Hillsdale College, Moore, OK; Rev. Gary Elder, Liberal, MO; Rev. Morgan Walker, El Dorado Springs, MO; Rev. Hollis Walker, Jr., Liberal, MO; Rev. Lynn Smith, Student at Hillsdale College, Moore, OK; Rev. Andy Lay, Carl Junction, MO; Rev. Leroy Blankenship, Liberal, MO; Rev. Fidell Bridges, El Dorado Springs, MO; Rev. Thayne Fast, Liberal, MO; Rev. Lavelle Reeves, Stockton, MO; Rev. Lowell Martin, superannuated, Greenfield, MO; and Rev. Arlie Hoover, superannuated, Liberal, MO.

## PROCEEDINGS

Friday Evening March 31, 1978

The worship service opened with the congregation joining in singing, "He Keeps Me Singing", and "To God Be the Glory". Bro.

Friday Evening March 31, 1978 (cont'd.)

Leroy Blankenship led the singing with Sister Brenda Blankenship at the piano. Following some words of greeting, and welcome, Brother Blankenship turned the service over to the Clerk to declare a quorum present for conducting business, and calling the Moderator, Brother Charlie Hoover, to moderate.

Following necessary remarks concerning business and appointing committees, an offering was taken, amounting to \$47.00, for expenses.

Preceding the preaching of the hour, the young people of the Verdella Church, Brother Andy Lay, Bob Hopkins, and Barbara Hopkins brought beautiful numbers in song.

Brother Clarence Burton, Missouri State Promotional Secretary, was present, and was introduced by the Moderator to take charge of the evening to give news of the work in general over the state, and bring the message of the evening.

In accord with the theme of this years session, "Go, Preach, and Teach", from Mark 16:15, Brother Burton brought an inspiring message on the key to building a successful church, using the pattern of the early church, as found in Acts 4:15-31. Many of the spiritual virtues that are imperative for an individual, or church, to possess if they are to accomplish the work God desires His people to, were dealt with. Among the most important, prevalent among the early church were: total dedication to the new found hope, boldness, persistence, noncompromise, a conscience-ness of the urgency of the message, resignation to the fact that the Gospel must be preached regardless of constant opposition, and there must be unity of purpose among the people of God. He emphasized the fact that the phenomenal growth of the church could only be attributed to the church working completely under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, as they were unctionized to go forward.

After preliminary remarks about Saturday session by the Moderator, Brother Charlie Hoover and some discussion by Chairmen of the various committees relative to a meeting time to take care of their part of the business, the service was dismissed to convene at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Saturday Morning 9:30 Business Session April 1, 1978

Service began with singing, "At Calvary", led by Brother Blankenship, with Sister Barbara Hopkins playing. Brother Munn led in prayer, then the congregation sang, "The Old Rugged Cross."

Brother Fidell Bridges brought a good morning devotion to getting the business for God underway. From St. John 11:38, he used that recorded incident as an analogy of our lives - rolling away the gravestone, and exposing the grave clothes, likened to opening a direct approach to God, but putting off worldliness, lack of concern for unsaved, ignorance of the scriptures willfully,

## Saturday Morning 9:30 Business Session April 1, 1978 (cont'd.)

being satisfied with being lukewarm, and many other signs of a nominal Christian, which keeps many lost souls from seeing God.

The Moderator, Brother Charlie Hoover, took charge, asking Brother Roger Phillips to read the By-Laws. Reports were called for and read. The church letters were read and delegates seated.

Executive Board Report was read by Chairman, Roger Phillips, and M/S/C to receive report.

Treasurer's Report was read and M/S/C to receive report.

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

Business Committee's Report was read by Chairman, Andy Lay, and M/S/C to receive Item by Item. M/S/C to amend Section 2 of Item 1 and bring back to floor.

The Body discussed improvements needed at the Youth Camp, and what could and should be done before this year's camp session.

Brother Roy Burney, visiting minister, was invited to say a few words, as was Missionary Jim McLain, from Japan. Then Brother Munn dismissed the business session with prayer. There was a fifteen minute recess before the 11:00 a.m. morning message of the Women's Auxiliary Convention.

## Saturday Morning Auxiliary Session 11:00 a.m. April 1, 1978

The Auxiliary Vice-President, Ionia Phillips, called the meeting to order. Judy Williams led the congregational singing, "He Keeps Me Singing", accompanied by Barbara Hopkins. Sister Pauline Reeves led us in prayer.

The theme of the convention was "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is older he will not depart." Proverbs 22:6.

Our speaker was Mrs. Jim McLain, Missionary to Japan, who gave an inspiring message on "the way, the truth, and the life." Service was dismissed by prayer with a blessing on the bountiful noon meal by Juanita Smith.

## Saturday Afternoon Auxiliary Session 1:00 p.m. April 1, 1978

The meeting reconvened and Vice-President, Ionia Phillips, called the meeting to order. The congregation was led in singing "Count Your Blessings", by Lita Munn. Offering was taken in the amount of \$44.41. Prayer was given by Janie Dickey.

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

Sister Martha Nutting gave the devotion on training our children as the Bible says. We were led in prayer by Virginia Bunton.

Special music was by Bob and Barbara Hopkins. A short

Saturday Afternoon Auxiliary Session 1:00 o,n, April 1, 1978 (cont)

testimony was given by Thora Grider. We were dismissed in prayer by Alice Hoover.

Saturday Afternoon Business Session 2:00 p.m. April 1, 1978

The meeting was called to order with singing of, "It is Joy Unspeakable", led by Sister Lita Munn, with Sister Virginia Buntton playing.

Ministerial Standing Committee's Report read, and M/S/C to receive the report.

Business Committee's Report read, with recommendations, and M/S/C to receive report to be adopted Item by Item.

Item No. 1 was read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Section No. 1 of Item 1 read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Section No. 2 of Item 1 read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Section No. 3 of Item 1 read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Section No. 4 of Item 1 read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Section No. 5 of Item 1 read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Section No. 6 of Item 1 read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 2 was read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 3 was read, and M/S/C to adopt.

Item No. 4 was read, and M/S/C to adopt.

No invitations were extended to entertain the 1979 session, so the Moderator asked for invitations from the floor and invitations came from the Bethel Church of El Dorado Springs; and Evangel of Webb City. These were submitted to the Body for a vote to decide.

M/S/C to accept Bethel's invitation for the 1979 session.

M/S/C to empower the Moderator to appoint delegates to the Missouri State Association from those who are in attendance at that time in Flat River.

Nominating Committee's Report was read, and M/S/C to elect individually and submit the names to be voted on where more than one persons name was offered for an office.

M/S/C to elect Rev. Andy Lay, Moderator.

M/S/C to elect Rev. Leroy Blankenship, Assistant Moderator.

M/S/C to elect Thora Grider, Clerk-Treasurer.

M/S/C to elect Barbara Hopkins, Assistant Clerk.

M/S/C to elect Lita Munn, Statistician.

M/S/C to elect Rev. Bob Dickey, Itinerate Contact.

M/S/C to elect Deacon Charlie Hoover, State Gen. Board Member.

In compliance with Section 2 of Item 1 of the Business Committee Report which was adopted, the Moderator called for a representative from each member church to be submitted, to serve on the new Executive and Home Mission Board.

After discussion from the floor concerning the expediency of including the Stockton Mission, allowing a representative with voting privileges, the matter was submitted to the Body for a vote.

Sat. Afternoon Business Session 2:00 p.m. April 1, 1978 (cont'd.)

M/S/C to grant the new Stockton Mission the privilege of representation, with voting privileges.

M/S/C to elect Laurel Mays, from Bethel Church; Andy Lay, Evangel; Morgan Walker, El Dorado First; Lowell Martin, Greenfield; Charlie Hoover, Hannon; Thayne Fast, Hickory Grove; Dee York, Independence; Phillip Munn, Oskaloosa; John Bough, Stockton; and Roger Phillips, from Verdella.

M/S/C to charge Brothers' Andy Lay, Bob Dickey, and Roger Phillips with preparing the program for the 1979 session.

M/S/C to give the Verdella Church a vote of thanks for their hospitality, and all the fine food they had prepared for the sessions.

M/S/C to adjourn, to meet again on Friday March 30, 1979, with the Bethel Church in El Dorado Springs, MO.

Mission Service Saturday Evening April 1, 1978

The worship service began with Brother Leroy Blankenship leading the congregation in singing "Send the Light" and "Where He Leads, I'll Follow", with Barbara Hopkins at the piano. Brother Gary Elder led the prayer.

After some preliminary remarks, Brother Andy Lay called on Bob and Barbara Hopkins to come for special music. They brought some very beautiful and soul-stirring numbers - among them were "In the Name of Jesus", and "I Should Have Been Crucified".

Brother Jim McLain, returned Missionary from Japan, was invited to take the stand for the evening message. By using a play on the first word of the Theme of the Association "GO", he brought a message of urgency in getting ordained as Ministers, or consecrated as liety, getting out to work, and getting people saved. For his message, he read from 1 Samuel 15, as a basis for his remarks on the importance of Samuel being where he could be used of God, in helping get Saul where he could be used of God.

Many marks of a dedicated Christian were referred to as he spoke of the things which the child of God is confronted by, as he goes out to do battle for the Lord. Emphasis was placed on being first led by the Holy Spirit in any undertaking, then following it with unyielding purpose, regardless of the adverse circumstances which might come to hinder or even cause one to doubt, and being willing to let self be crucified that Christ might be glorified in salvation for all.

Brother Andy Lay took charge, and called for a mission offering to be taken while Sister Barbara Hopkins played the piano. The offering of \$177.00 was sent to Nashville to be applied to the account of Brother Jim and Sister Olena McLain and their family.

The service was then dismissed by the benediction.



## BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Business Committee, recommend the following:

1. That we delete Article No. 6 of the Association Constitution and replace it with the following:

### Article 6 - Boards

Section 1. This Association shall maintain a Board to be known as the Home Mission and Executive Board of the Central Western Missouri Association.

Section 2. This Board shall be made up of one ordained person from each member church. If an ordained representative is not available, a church may recommend a non-ordained person, who otherwise meets the qualifications for ordination stated in these By-Laws.

Section 3. Such members shall be elected by the Association with consideration given to the nominees submitted by their churches.

Section 4. One third of the members of this Board shall be elected each year, for a three year term of office. (the churches shall be listed alphabetically; the first third and fraction, if any, elected for a one year term; the second third and fraction, if any, elected for a two year term; the third third elected for a three year term.)

Section 5. The duties of this Board shall be: to serve as trustees of any and all property belonging to the Association; to serve as the Examining Council of the Association; to promote and oversee home mission work within the Association; to act upon any expedient business of the Association that may arise between meetings of the Association.

Section 6. This Board must have at least a simple majority present to officially conduct business.

2. That the Association designate the \$220.00 in the Treasury, which is not clearly identified, for the repair of our Youth Camp cabins.

3. That the Association appoint Rev. Bob Dickey and Rev. Leroy Blankenship to oversee the needed repair of our Youth Camp cabins prior to camp time in June, using the designated money in the Association treasury to pay for the material.

4. That we encourage our churches, especially our youth, to begin fund raising for an addition to the boys cabin at Youth Camp; that when \$2,000.00 has been obtained, the Executive Board be directed to begin the project.

/s/ Andy Lay, Chairman; Leroy Blankenship, Jim Atkinson, Alice Hoover, Betty Gilmartin.

## MINISTER'S REPORTS

REV. BOB DICKEY - Sermons preached, 54; churches pastored, 1;

## MINISTER'S REPORTS (cont'd.)

professions witnessed, 3; funerals preached, 1; miles traveled, 4,000; weddings, 3.

REV. HOLLIS WALKER JR. - Sermons preached, 49; churches pastored, 1; number baptised, 1; funerals preached, 1; miles traveled, 2,500; amount received, \$1,110.00.

REV. LAVELLE REEVES - Sermons preached, 60; revivals held, 1; funerals preached, 1.

REV. THAYNE FAST - Sermons preached, 44; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 1; number baptised, 1; miles traveled, 4,600; amount received, \$1,455.00.

REV. LEROY BLANKENSHIP - Sermons preached, 100; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 15; number baptised, 2; miles traveled, 1,500; weddings, 1; amount received, \$7,825.00.

REV. MORGAN WALKER - Sermons preached, 66; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 5; number baptised, 4; additions to church, 4; miles traveled, 500; amount received, \$525.00.

REV. GARY ELDER - Sermons preached, 120; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 6; number baptised, 4; additions to church, 2; amount received, \$6,000.00.

REV. ANDY LAY - Sermons preached, 71; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 9; number baptised, 2; additions to church, 5; funerals preached, 2; miles traveled, 21,000; amount received, \$7,800.00.

REV. FIDELL BRIDGES - Sermons preached, 104; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 5; number baptised, 5; additions to church, 9; funerals preached, 10; amount received, \$4,420.00.

## REGISTRATION

MINISTERS - Rev. Gary Elder, Leroy Blankenship, Bob Dickey, Andy Lay, Morgan Walker, Thayne Fast, Lavelle Reeves, Fidell Bridges, Jim McLain, and Clarence Burton.

DEACONS - Reed B. Smith, Phillip E. Munn, John Bough, Charlie Hoover, Carl Bough, and Charles Whitson.

DELEGATES - Jim Bussone, Claud Guliek, Barbara Hopkins, Juanita Smith, Judy Williams, Jack Williams, Dorothy Streer, Mildred Kicenski, Alice Hoover, Pauline Reeves, Dorothy Dickey, Virginia Hoover, Betty Gilmartin, Doris Whitson, Beaterice Bough, Elsie Guliek, Jim Atkinson, and Opal Atkinson.

VISITORS - Brenda Blankenship, Misty Angela, and Jamie; Linda Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, Paulette Munn, Wilma Smith, Eva Munn, Jackie Elder, Tonya and Jeff; Thelma Dickey, Clara Bybee, Theo Bough, Judy Sprenkle, Wilma Crockett, Frances Foger, Ionia Phillips, Lora, Clinton, and Lynette; Bob Hopkins, Doug Hoover, Craig Hoover, Don and Norma Bleberdorf, and family; Lee and Virginia Bunton.

1977-78 S T A T I S T I C A L T A B L E

	Bethel	ElDorado First	Hannon	Greenfield	Indep.	Hickory Grove	Oskaloosa	Verdella	Webb City Evangel	TOTAL
Members Received	9	4	2	4			4	18	5	46
Members Lost					2	1	4	4	7	18
Members Deceased		1	2				2		1	6
Total Membership	70	27	87	39	14	27	34	57	39	394
Sunday School Avg.	78	31	80	22	13	16	26	63	41	370
Women's Auxiliary	12		18				10	15		55
Ordained Ministers	1	1	2	1	1		1	3	1	11
Licensed Ministers	1		1			1				3
Ordained Deacons	1	1	3		5	1	2	4		17
Pastor Salary	\$4,420.00	525.00	5,000.00	2,040.00	500.00	1,390.00	2,013.50	5,100.00	5,304.00	26,392.50
Evangelistic	35.00	211.80	201.00	284.00			352.80	422.10	100.00	1,606.70
Building Repair			633.30				321.97	5,067.90	1,105.00	7,128.17
Literature		68.19	552.40	76.32	32.14	52.40	185.36	465.30	715.00	2,147.11
Other			4,632.36	232.89			918.16		3,964.00	9,747.41
Total Local Causes		580.10	11,019.06	2,633.21			3,791.79	11,055.30	11,188.00	40,267.46
Co-op		40.00	1,519.00			97.32	264.11	748.74	239.00	2,908.17
Foreign Missions	1,394.81		1,103.00		60.00	25.41	96.17	401.13	219.00	3,299.52
Home Missions	1,189.72	40.00	1,554.00	73.55	23.16	97.32	602.91	1,600.00	57.00	5,337.66
Orphanage		64.45	Clothing			100.00				164.45
Assoc. Projects			75.00				176.17	828.74		1,079.91
Other			2,316.18					96.31	65.00	2,477.49
Total Out. Causes		144.45	6,567.18	73.55		359.59	1,139.36	2,126.92	580.00	10,991.05
Total Spent		1,542.55	17,586.24		27.30	2,122.34	4,931.15	13,182.22	11,768.00	51,859.80
Church Property	95,000.00	15,000.00	40,000.00			20,000.00	12,000.00	25,000.00	15,000.00	222,000.00
Fees Enclosed		14.50		20.50	12.00	15.00	5.00	33.50	24.50	125.00

## 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, Steve Reeves, and Lynn Smith.

/s/ Roger Phillips, Juanita Smith, Jack Williams, Phillip Munn, John Bough.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your committee, recommend the following:

Moderator: Charlie Hoover - Andy Lay.

Assistant Moderator: Leroy Blankenship.

Clerk-Treasurer: Thora Grider.

Assistant Clerk: Ionia Phillips - Barbara Hopkins.

Itinerate Contact: Bob Dickey.

Statistician: Lita Munn.

State General Board Member: Charlie Hoover.

Executive and Home Mission Board: Roger Phillips.

/s/ Bob Dickey, Doris Whitson, Dorothy Dickey, Jim Bussone, Fidell Bridges.

## ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT JULY 1977 - MARCH 1978

Balance, July 1977 . . . . . \$130.36

### Income:

Budget from Church Letters. . . . . \$194.50

State Expense from Letters. . . . . 40.00

Offering from Association . . . . . 46.94

Total Income . . . . . \$411.80

### Disbursements:

Printing of Minutes . . . . . \$135.00

State Expense for National Meet in K.C., MO . 45.00

Association Programs. . . . . 22.75

Clerk Honorarium. . . . . 29.17

Printing Statistical Reports. . . . . 5.00

Mailing National Minutes. . . . . 3.00

Mailing Church Letters. . . . . 1.17

Total Disbursements. . . . . 241.09

Balance, March 1978. . . . . \$170.71

## REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

July 27, 1977: The Executive Board met with Brother Leroy Blankenship, of the Verdella church during the convening of the Association for examining his qualifications to be granted a card of standing with our association. Upon completion of examination, the card was voted to be granted. Upon the closing of the final business session of the Association proper, the Executive Board met to elect officers to hold office until April 1, 1978. The motion was made and seconded to hold over the present officers, Charlie Hoover, President; Roger Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer.

January 12, 1978: The Executive Board met at the Verdella Church to plan the program for the Association. Those present were Charlie Hoover, Bob Dickey, Roger Phillips, and host pastor Leroy Blankenship. Those absent were Fidell Bridges and John Bough. The meeting was opened with prayer by Brother Leroy Blankenship. A discussion was held on the Stockton Mission. A motion was made by Roger Phillips to plan for the board to meet with Brother Reeves, January 22, at the Stockton Mission to discuss the situation at the Stockton Mission. The next item was the examination of August "Butch" Splitter for office of Deacon for the Verdella Church at the request of the Verdella Church. After examining Brother Butch, a motion was made and seconded to accept and pass him as qualified with the ordination service to be planned by the Pastor and Brother Butch. After this, we worked on the program. After going as far as we could with the planning, we were dismissed by prayer.

January 22, 1978, Stockton: A meeting was held at Stockton, January 22, to discuss the needs of the mission. The minutes were read and approved. A discussion was held on Brother Reeves salary. It was determined his salary would be met and all remaining funds would be applied to the housing allowance up to \$115.00 at the end of the month. A discussion then followed on the program for the Association. The recommendation for By-Law change on the business committee report, on change of board members was discussed and it was decided that the notice to churches would include the following: The board does recommend that only ordained members be put on this board, that the board be one member from each church and not a set number to avoid the need for a By-Law change each time our number of churches in the association might change. It was determined that each church should send in a name of a person to serve on this board in order to get the board established at the Association, in case this recommendation is accepted by the Association. Also, it is recommended that the nominee be willing to travel to the location of the board meeting. After this the meeting was adjourned.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT FOR JULY 1ST  
TO APRIL 1ST

INCOME FOR STOCKTON MISSION:

Hickory Grove . . . . .	\$ 143.81
Oskaloosa . . . . .	507.61
First Church of El Dorado . . . . .	45.00
Greenfield. . . . .	111.55
Belton. . . . .	900.00
Hannon. . . . .	1,472.00
Independence. . . . .	131.16
Bethel. . . . .	1,414.84
Verdella. . . . .	<u>889.78</u>
Total Income . . . . .	\$5,951.87

EXPENSE FOR STOCKTON MISSION:

Brother Reeves Salary & Housing Allowance .	\$5,864.72
Total Expense. . . . .	\$5,864.72

YOUTH CAMP FUND

Offering taken at Association . . . . .	\$ 86.00
Oskaloosa . . . . .	20.00
Oskaloosa . . . . .	<u>96.17</u>
Total Income . . . . .	\$ 202.17

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

## CONSTITUTION (cont'd.)

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 - Officer. - 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 maintain a Board, to be known as the Home Mission and Executive Board of the Central Western Missouri Association. This Board shall be made up of one ordained person from each church. If an ordained representative is not available, a church may recommend a non-ordained person, who otherwise meets the qualifications for ordination stated in these By-Laws. Such members shall be elected by the Association, with consideration given to the nominees submitted by their churches.

One third of the members of this board shall be elected each year, for a three year term of office. (The churches shall be listed alphabetically with the first third and fraction, if any, elected for a one year term; the second third and fraction, if any, elected for a two year term; and the third third elected for a three year term.)

The duties of this board shall be: to serve as trustees of any, and all, property belonging to the association; to serve as the examining council of the Association; to promote, and oversee Home Mission work within the Association; to act upon any expedient business of the Association that may arise between meetings of the Association.

The board must have at least a simple majority present to officially conduct business.

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.

## CONSTITUTION (cont'd.)

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.



## BY-LAWS (cont'd.)

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 February 28 or 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 (50¢) 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.

## BY-LAWS (cont'd.)

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

## CHURCH COVENANT (cont'd.)

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.