



# **East Central District**

## ***Association of***

# **Illinois Free Will Baptists**

Blue Point FWB Church, Calvary FWB Church, Crossroads FWB Church, Decatur Church, Mt. Vernon First FWB Church, Oak Valley FWB Church, Pleasant View FWB Church, Salem FWB Church

### **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2014 MEETING**

#### **WELCOME AND DEVOTION**

Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church Pastor John Hollis welcomed attendees to the annual meeting of the East Central District Association. Mike Crabtree led the congregation in "A Shelter in the Time of Storm" while Vickie Hollis played the piano. Brother David Burgess led in prayer for the families of those recently deceased including Bill Bain, deacon at Pleasant View FWB Church. Devotion was brought by Bro. Hollis who spoke of the death earlier this week of Phyllis Fairfield. His text was from Psalm 107:9: "For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Bro. Hollis explained that while businesses may promise "satisfaction guaranteed," God promises to satisfy His people and meet their needs. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled," Matthew 5:6.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Moderator Scott Bee asked the clerk to call the meeting to order. Newly elected clerk Susan Burgess complied. Then the standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read the annual letters from seven churches. There was a motion and second and carried to approve the reports and to seat the delegates sent from churches.

The minutes of the October meeting were presented in typed form for everyone to keep. MSC to accept the minutes as printed.

The treasurer's report was given by Kathy Hayes. Beginning Balance \$612.71 plus Dues from 7 churches \$320 and an offering of \$174 making available \$1106.71. Expenses paid include \$50 to the clerk, \$50 to Jamie Lee (speaker), \$200 to Team Nancy for Nancy Drake, \$150 to Illinois State Association, \$75 to Mark King account, and \$75 to the Disaster Response fund. This leaves a balance today of \$656.71. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Moderator Scott Bee filled the vacancies on the committees: David Pittman to the Business Committee, Mike Crabtree and Suzanne Lewis to the Youth Committee, and Karel Smith to the Examining Committee.

#### **Illinois State**

David Shores gave a promotional secretary report. The Illinois State meeting will be March 20-22 at the Harmony FWB Church, West Frankfort, IL. The state newsletter is now available via email if requested by members. Please announce this to churches to encourage paper, printing and postage savings. Emails are sent the same day as printed copies are mailed (first of month).

#### **Illinois Missions**

Ernie Lewis gave the update on missions connected to the state. He handed out a brief description of each work and commented on some. Josh & Jennifer Detherage are back in Mongolia and expecting a baby. Josh and Ashley Bennett are also expecting another baby. Stephen & Denise Gray are hoping to be self-supporting in September. Remember the family in prayer since Stephen's sister passed away in December. ELIC teachers are meeting in Thailand for their annual conference. Teague families in France saw several dedicate themselves to the Lord and missionary service in their annual *J'Crois* event. Mark King's account is \$4,000 in the red, and the Detherage's account is \$6,000 in the red.

#### **Illinois Master's Men and Women Active for Christ**

The Master's Men retreat will be September 11. IL Women Active for Christ President Susan Burgess announced that the ILWAC state meeting will be Saturday, May 3. It will be held at First FWB Church, Johnston City. Speakers will be Rusty and Brenda Carney. We recessed for 45 minutes so the committees could work.

□ **Moderator: Bro. Scott Bee**  
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□ **Asst. Moderator: Bro. Ernie Lewis**  
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## **BUSINESS SESSION (CONT.)**

Delegates were called back into session. Moderator explained the church annual dues include \$150 to national, \$20 to State, \$40 to quarterly which totals \$210. If a church sent \$230, it can request a \$20 refund or have it applied to next quarterly's dues or consider it a donation.

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The report from the Business Committee was read.

1. Recommends District send our history to Welch College for the National FWB Historical Commission as requested from Dr. Picirilli.
2. Recommends body discuss whether or not to continue paying the state dues for the Salem Church located in Wayne City.
3. Recommends sending an additional \$100.00 apiece for the King and Detherage missionary account.
4. Recommends churches in District send names of retired pastors in their annual reports. This is for cards of good standing.

Signed: Tim Hayes, David Pittman, and Mike Robertson.

MSC to accept the report. Discussion regarding item 1: Request that the clerk keep a scan of any hard bound copies of materials not currently archived digitally. David Shores will check his records to see if he has missing minutes. Item 2: Clerk read letter from Salem Church dated January 18, 2013. Salem Church paid dues one time in 2012 and did not pay dues in 2013. Paying their dues is contingent on Salem's receptiveness of the District paying their dues before the deadline to pay to the State June 1, 2014. Missions Board will contact them. Item 3: Per District Constitution, report is optional for ministers 65 and older or retired.

## **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

The report from the Youth Committee was read.

1. We recommend that the district reconsider CTS practice at the April Quarterly Meeting.
2. Pray for our youth going on mission trips: Emily Petty & Haylee Walker with eTeam and Maria Petty with Welch College. These youth are from our district.
3. Piece of information: check the summer schedule for Camp Hope. Some weeks of camp are at a different time.

Signed: Phillip Kennedy, Suzanne Lewis, Michael Crabtree.

MSC to accept the Youth Committee report. The Executive Committee will decide if the program for the April meeting needs adjustment.

## **EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. Examining Committee has approved the reports of the following ministers for annual cards of good standing and recommend the body to approve:  
James Boggs, Karel Smith, Luther Ganieany, Phillip Kennedy, Ernie Lewis, Jesse Allen, David Shores, David Burgess, John Hollis, Shane Davison, Thomas Bee, Jamie Lee, Richard Brown
2. We will schedule a meeting with Bro. Richard Brown to review his studies.
3. When we receive Bro. Tyler Penn's report and approve, we will issue a card of good standing.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, Karel Smith and John Hollis

MSC to accept the report of the Examining Committee.

## **Calvary Church Report**

Ernie Taylor gave the report for Calvary Church. He announced that Pastor and Mrs. Lee's new baby was born January 17, 2014 and was named Peyton Isaiah Lee. The church is doing well and reaching out in several ways including a Saturday outreach.

## **Crossroads Church Report**

Mike Crabtree reported that Virginia Cooper died December 28, 2011. Because Bro. John was recovering from a heart problem, Mike preached the funeral. In February they had the "Love Our Church" campaign with kids giving hugs and candy kisses. Also, they took up a Kettelman Scholarship offering. April was the season of

prayer for the church. Their 32<sup>nd</sup> homecoming was in May along with VBS and the WAC giving all the fathers desserts on their day. WAC had a back-to-school ice cream social in August. Team Nancy donations were collected in October, and they had a Harvest service. In November they were blessed by a candlelight Thanksgiving service. The weather did not cooperate for the live Nativity, but they had a Christmas program and New Year's Eve service.

### **WORSHIP SERVICE**

Mike Crabtree led the congregation in the song "He Set Me Free" to open the worship service. John Hollis spoke on John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Bro. John invoked us to lift up Jesus. He was lifted up on the cross from the earth. He became our sin. We were reconciled to the Lord. Jesus was lifted up out of the tomb. Jesus explained that unless He were crucified, others cannot come to Him. Cain was given a second chance to do what was right to make appropriate sacrifice. He did not shed animals' blood, but he shed his brother's blood. Galatians 3:13 says, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.'" This Scripture will draw people to Him. He sanctified and changed the curse from a curse to salvation. Remember the Great Commission to get the Word out and God will draw them. All will be drawn to Him. II Thessalonians 3:2 teaches that not all will believe, but Acts 4:12 tells us that there is no other name whereby we can be saved.

Deceased for the year of 2013 were remembered:

Blue Point: Mary Reed, Edith Smith, Ferne Williams, Edra Wilfong  
 Crossroads: Margaret Voss  
 First – Decatur: Myron Sudduth (born 1/16/31 and died 3/16/13)  
 First – Mt. Vernon: Gene House, Wayne Pettit  
 Oak Valley: Pat Estrada  
 Pleasant View: Ellamae Hiltibidal

### **DELEGATES**

Delegates were chosen for the Illinois State Meeting. Pat Shores, Susan Burgess, Mike Robertson, and Kathy Hayes were named as our district delegates. MSC for Moderator Scott Bee to appoint others attending the meeting as delegates.

The next district meeting will be April 12 at the Decatur First FWB Church. CTS competitors are encouraged to present their entries as the program for the meeting. It is a good time to practice!

MSC to adjourn the meeting. A big Thank You was voiced to the Crossroads Church for the food and hospitality they provided today. Bro. David Shores offered a prayer of dismissal and remembered the youth, missions and a blessing on our lunch.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Susan Burgess, Clerk

*Susan Burgess*



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### **MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2014 MEETING**

#### **WELCOME AND DEVOTION**

Meeting was opened with "Til the Storm Passes O'er." Decatur Church Pastor Scott Bee brought a devotion from Mark 4:35 entitled "A Perfect Great Storm." This Scripture is an important teaching for the 12 disciples and for us on navigating through the storms of life. Jesus promises a safe landing on the other side. When facing a storm (1) remember the promises of Jesus, (2) rest in the presence of Jesus, and (3) rely on the power of Jesus.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Moderator Scott Bee asked the Clerk Susan Burgess to call the meeting to order. Standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read the letters from seven churches. There was a motion and second and carried to approve the reports and to seat the delegates sent from churches. Jamie Lee suggested that Salem Church, Wayne City, be contacted again.

The minutes of the January meeting were presented in typed form for everyone to keep. MSC to approve the minutes with correction of Crossroads' homecoming month being in May.

Since treasurer was hospitalized, the treasurer's report was read by clerk. Ending balance was \$536.17.

Moderator Scott Bee filled the vacancies on the committees: Joy Pittman to the Youth Committee and Karel Smith and David Burgess to the Business Committee.

#### **Illinois State**

David Shores gave a promotional secretary report. He reminded everyone of the World Missions Offering coming up the last Sunday in April.

#### **Illinois Master's Men and Women Active for Christ**

Ernie Taylor mentioned that Camp Hope needed help refurbishing items lost in a fire in a storage shed at the property. The Master's Men retreat will be September 11-13. The Master's Men speaker will be David Thomas, Scott Bee's father in law.

IL Women Active for Christ President Susan Burgess announced that the ILWAC state meeting will be Saturday, May 3. It will be held at First FWB Church, Johnston City. Speakers will be Rusty and Brenda Carney. The Women's Retreat will be September 26-27, 2014, at Camp Hope.

#### **Illinois Missions**

Tyler Penn reported that the Illini Initiative has offered hospitality to more unsaved in the Penn home this year than in all their years of ministry. Their children are wonderful helpers in their ministry with International students. Pray for talks with the mission boards in the state and national for co-planters to help build the church plant.

We recessed for 45 minutes so the committees could work.

#### **Decatur Church Report**

Decatur Church pastor was rejoicing with 14 saved and baptized and 16 new members this last year. Three have been saved this year. They have had spring and fall revivals. Recently they had the Carneys, missionaries to Japan, for services. They have replaced the church siding and windows as needed. They are renovating the nursery and kitchen. The Sisters-in-Service have had a shower for the New Life Pregnancy Center. Triplets were dedicated on April 13, and they are ordaining two deacons in April as well.

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### Mt. Vernon Church Report

David Shores recalled that the year 2014 began with a broken water heater and water leak on the first Sunday. But they are rejoicing because an 82-year-old man and some of his children have been saved and are to be baptized. The church has faced some spiritual difficulties in Biblical standards, but church unity still prevails. They are glad new young ones are coming to church although four senior saints have gone on to heaven this year. Phillip Kennedy has a good crowd of young people on Wednesday evening and on *Veggie Tales* Saturdays.

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

Announcements:

1. CTS Competition on April 25-26 at Decatur FWB Church
2. Camp Hope pre-registration deadline May 9
3. Welcome Days at Welch College, Nashville, TN April 17-19.

Signed: Tyler Penn, Phillip Kennedy, Joy E. Pittman MSC to accept the report.

### EXAMINING COMMITTEE

1. Concerning Bro. Craig Smith: When we receive minister's report from 2013, we will send card of good standing. We need a request from Rend Lake District so we can issue a letter of recommendation for Craig Smith.
2. We have received Bro. Tyler Penn's annual minister's report and will send card of good standing.
3. We met with Bro. Richard Brown. He is on course in his studies.
4. Recommend our district acquire Welch DVD course training for ministers to transition for those who will be working toward ordination going forward.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, John Hollis, Jamie Lee MSC to accept the report.

Discussion regarding item 1) Moderator will call Brad Ryan to send request from Rend Lake district for letter of good standing. 2) Tyler Penn received his card of good standing. 3) Richard Brown will be completing his studies soon. We commend him on his work with Hope Ministries. Ernie Taylor has observed this tremendous work, which helps around 200 families a month. 4) Video can be obtained from the Christian Education Board at no cost to us. Committee will work on questions for video and can possibly use some from Metro East district. Also, may use the one-year waiting period to cover some important topics.

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. Being as Bro. Mark King's account has been in the red by thousands of dollars, we recommend that we send an additional \$200 to his account.
2. Recommend Business Committee go to Salem Church, Wayne City on a Sunday morning and report back to the district in July. Also recommend that the East Central District pay the Salem Church dues this year.

Signed: David L. Burgess, Karel Smith, Lee Penn MSC to accept the report.

Discussion regarding item 1) The \$200 is in addition to the usual quarterly \$75 gift. 2) Business Committee would like a face-to-face meeting to encourage the church and bring a report back.

### WORSHIP SERVICE

Bro. Marcellus Leonard, pastor at Heritage FWB Church, Springfield, brought a message on Spring brings rain and storms from Joshua chapter 4. He pointed out that there are rain, rein and reign. In the mist of the original water in Eden, four rivers diverged. It was a source of times of refreshing. Jesus protects us and brings us through the storm. Although your troubles may be stones on your shoulders, let them be memorials for Christ's praise.

The next district meeting will be July 12 at the First FWB Church, Mt. Vernon. MSC to adjourn the meeting. A big Thank You was voiced to the Decatur Church for the food and hospitality they provided today. Bro. David Pittman offered a prayer of dismissal and asked a blessing on our lunch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Burgess, Clerk

*Susan Burgess*



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### **MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2014 MEETING**

#### **WELCOME AND DEVOTION**

Meeting was opened by Ernie Lewis leading "Standing on the Promises" while accompanied by Paula Hayes on the piano. Prayer by David Burgess. We were welcomed by First FWB Church, Mt. Vernon's Pastor David Shores. He brought a devotion from II Thessalonians 3:1-6 regarding the need for end time preaching to be for Biblical purposes. Christians need to pray for Word of God to accomplish salvation.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Clerk Susan Burgess called the meeting to order. Assistant Moderator Ernie Lewis recognized standing delegates. The clerk read the letters from six churches. (Decatur Church letter received later.) There was a motion and second and carried to approve the reports and to seat the delegates sent from churches. The minutes of the July meeting were presented in typed form. MSC to approve the minutes as written.

Assistant Moderator filled the vacancies on the committees: David Shores and David Burgess Examining Committee; Ed Flota and Kathy Hayes Youth Committee; Mike Crabtree and Paula Hayes Business Committee.

#### **Illinois State**

David Shores gave a promotional secretary report. The Adult Camp at Camp Hope, Ewing, will be September 7-10. Josh Bennett and Jeff Goodman, church planters in Marana, AZ, will be the speakers. Ina Church will host a breakfast Tuesday a.m. Bro. Shores may need to ask churches to donate \$100 to help build funds back up in the Adult Camp treasury. Checks can be sent to Brad Ryan, Adult Camp treasurer.

#### **Illinois Missions**

Bro. Ernie Lewis reported that the Marana, AZ church is now meeting in a more permanent building and needs furnishings. There is a list of needs on the first page of the July Illinois newsletter. Pat and Jill McDaniel and two children have been approved to move to help Shane and Joy Davidson in France. The Grays are going self supporting in August but still appreciate help with building payments. Becky Ham is getting her master's degree in Illinois. Sarah Malone returned to the US this week for one-year. The Tyler Penn family took 14 international students on a campout recently. Craig and Sarah Portell had a baby girl June 26 in Canada. Darrel and Dana Portell are in Taiwan now where he is teaching. After September donations can be sent directly to Mark Shores. The Teagues are praising the Lord for over 100 at the J' Pense worship service.

Mark King reported that after 9 years at his university in China, he has been reassigned to work with ELIC in Tibet. He had worked a total of 20 years in China. Tibet has very many political issues and more like old China. The religion is Buddhism. Mark will be teaching at the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences in the city of Lasa. There are no English speaking officials at the school. He will have to communicate in Chinese.

#### **Illinois Master's Men and Women Active for Christ**

The Master's Men retreat will be September 11-13. The Master's Men speaker will be David Thomas, Scott Bee's father in law.

IL Women Active for Christ President Susan Burgess announced that the IL Women's Retreat will be September 26-27 at Camp Hope. Sarah Malone will be the speaker.

The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Kathy Hayes. Ending balance was \$528.17. MSC to accept the report and to express appreciation for the Treasurer's being back after her recovery from hospitalization.

We recessed for 30 minutes so the committees could work.

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## **BUSINESS SESSION (continued)**

### **Business Committee**

1. On the recommendation of the Examining Committee, request has been made to allow Richard Brown to be ordained at the October 2014 District meeting at Oak Valley. He will choose the speaker. MSC
2. We recommend that the local churches use the updated forms provided by the Clerk Susan Burgess. We suggest this report include number of baptisms and number of souls saved. MSC
3. We recommend we give an extra \$200 to Rusty Carney. MSC
4. We recommend we give an extra \$100 to Mark King. MSC

Signed: Tim Hayes, Michael Crabtree, Paula Hayes MSC to accept the report.

### **Examining Committee**

1. We received a letter from Rend Lake district (Jane Harmon, clerk) requesting a letter of good standing for Brother Craig Smith. Craig Smith did send his "Minister's Report" to Brother Jamie Lee. A letter of good standing was sent to Rend Lake District clerk from Jamie Lee – due to Sister Susan Burgess being sick. A card of good standing was sent to Craig Smith as well.
2. We met with Richard Brown and are pleased to announce he has thoroughly completed the courses for ordination. We want to express appreciation to Richard Brown for his hard work and dedication to completing his requirements. Throughout the past two years we have seen Richard grow and want to commend him in this accomplishment.
3. We would like to make a motion to allow Brother Richard Brown's ordination service to take the place of our worship time at the next quarterly meeting which will be held at Oak Valley FWBC. This request has been made by Brother Richard Brown and East Central Examining Committee so we can celebrate his accomplishment and ordination as the Universal Body of Christ. We do realize Richard's two years is up in January – but would like to make an exemption due to the quarterly being at Oak Valley.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, David Shores, David L. Burgess MSC to accept the report.

### **Youth Committee**

Announcements:

1. Around the beginning of August there will be a youth retreat for high schoolers. See Ernie Lewis for details.

Signed: Tyler Penn, Phillip Kennedy, Joy E. Pittman MSC to accept the report.

### **Oak Valley Report**

The Oak Valley Church report was given by Pastor Richard Brown. They have been involved in various ministry outreaches. They are praising the Lord for the several young people who went to Camp Hope as campers, and especially thank the Lord that four of them were saved this summer at Camp.

### **Pleasant View Report**

Susan Burgess reported that Pleasant View representatives attended the National Convention in Tampa July 2013. In October they distributed candy and invitations to students in the Kell Fall Parade. For Thanksgiving and Christmas they collected food for a needy family in Kell at the suggestion of third grader Rachel Maas. They just completed their VBS with sweet children participating. Recently Rusty and Brenda and Gracie Carney and Cesar and Luz Quiroz family (reached for Christ by Ella Ray Jones) spoke at Pleasant View.

### **Camp Hope Report**

Ernie Lewis reported there were 106 campers attending the 5-6 grades camp, and 18 were saved last week. They had camp 5 weeks in a row this year. Steven Gray's son was called to preach, and 2 felt impressed to attend Welch College. He will forward more details on the 3-day retreat in August for high school students.

MSC to adjourn the business meeting.



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### **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 2014 MEETING**

#### **WELCOME AND DEVOTION**

This very special district meeting was opened by Oak Valley host pastor Richard Brown welcoming us. Prayer by David Burgess. Valerie Brown led the congregation in singing "O, How I Love Jesus" while accompanied by Marie Rutger on the piano. Bro. Brown's devotion related to Samson conquering the enemy by the power of the spirit of the Lord in Judges 15:9-15.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Moderator Scott Bee led in prayer for John Hollis. Clerk Susan Burgess called the meeting to order. Standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read reports from six churches. Pastor Hollis being ill, the Crossroads Church did not report. Two Crossroads delegates who were present requested that they be seated. There was a motion and second and carried (MSC) to approve the reports and to seat the delegates sent from all churches. (Report from Crossroads Church was later received by clerk.)

Treasurer's report was given by Timothy Hayes. There was an ending balance of \$546.17. MSC to adopt report. The minutes of the July meeting were presented in typed form. MSC to approve the minutes as written.

The Moderator filled the vacancies on the committees: Karel Smith to the Examining Committee; Jeannie Winter to Youth Committee.

#### **Illinois State**

David Shores gave a promotional secretary report. He thanked everyone for supporting the Adult Camp at Camp Hope, Ewing, in September. The offering covered expenses. There was a good attendance for speakers Josh Bennett and Jeff Goodman, church planters in Marana, AZ.

He welcomed Joshua Colson from Pittsburgh Church to our meeting. Bro. Colson will be ordained November 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Pittsburgh. All are invited.

#### **Illinois Missions**

Ernie Lewis reported that the Marana, AZ church has had to go to two services since moving to their new building. The Goodmans have been approved as foster parents. The Carneys and Dethrages have new babies. The work led by Stephen Gray is self supporting, but Illinois State missions will support them until March on their building. Mark King reports from Tibet that security is tight there. Sarah Malone will be in the US for a year with trips back to Asia as needed. Craig and Sarah Portell are serving in Mongolia. Darren and Dana Portell are in Taiwan where Darren is teaching at the Columbia International School. Mark and Khristie Shores are self supporting. You can send offerings directly to them. The Teagues had their third *J'Pense* event for unbelievers. They distributed Bibles and preached the Gospel and considered the event a success.

#### **Illinois Master's Men and Women Active for Christ**

Ernie Taylor reported that Ken Akers spoke at the Master's Men retreat September 11-13 and did a tremendous job. The Master's Men speaker next year will be Joey Wilson.

IL Women Active for Christ President Susan Burgess reported that the IL Women's Retreat September 26-27 was very inspirational with Sarah Malone speaking and music and art also blessing us. State meeting is May 2 at Pleasant View Church.

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### **Illini Project**

Tyler Penn reported that they had had their best month yet. They are doing systematic Bible teaching for international students now. Their social events work well for relationship witnessing. Tyler coordinates 150 students in conversational English. His studies are based on Bible learning about God and deep conversations with Turkish scholars, Muslims and Chinese currently. Pray especially Fridays at 3:00 p.m.

The Moderator expressed his thanks to this district and state as he and his family have ministered for 2 ½ years in God's will in Decatur. Recently, God led them to a new ministry, and he resigned from Decatur Church September 22 on good terms. The Bees will be moving to Oakland, TN. Church planter Tim Osborn passed away after a long battle with cancer in May. Remember these in prayer.

We recessed for 30 minutes so the committees could work.

### **BUSINESS SESSION (continued)**

**Blue Point Report** Pastor Ernie Lewis related that they had sponsored the FFA service and a football team service recently. VBS averaged 65. They hold services at Cisne Health Care weekly and monthly at Flora. Cisne High's See You at the Pole had 130 adults and students. Missionary speakers at the church include Dethrages, Mark King, Arizona team, Sarah Malone. The WAC sponsored a talent project. The young people have participated in youth camps, bowling, hiking, and three were in Truth & Peace in Texas. One boy has started a Bible study with 30 high school students. One went to Japan in 2014, and another one will be on eTeam in 2015. Their Bible study is well attended. The Building Committee reports progress on plans, and they have set aside a man to be a deacon. Their chili and chowder and trap shoot is coming up as well as the traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service.

**Calvary Report** Pastor Jamie Lee reported Deacon Chris Endebrock just moved to Cape Girardeau. A replacement is to be put aside for a year. At the beginning of the year, God led him to start a sermon study on the Book of Acts. They have had two women who were healed of tumors, which were confirmed on the operating table in both instances. Two young people recently were saved, and they are seeing great changes in their lives. Calvary is involved in a 180 degrees ministry. They have started a Bible study on Saturday night. They plan to put in a rock pit on part of their 11 acres. Pastor Lee checks the ILFWB Church websites monthly for news and listens to sermons. He was inspired by Northwest Church Pastor David Poteet. Bro. Jamie asked if Calvary could do a coat drive for the Northwest Church ministry. He is asking others to help with coats for a Chicago school of 1,000 children. Drop offs are at the Mt./ Vernon, Johnston City, Peace and Calvary churches October 23-24, 2014. Bro. Jamie will pick the coats up from there.

### **Youth Committee**

1. Item of Information: We would like to inform the churches in our district about the Grounded Conference. This conference will be held at the Donelson Fellowship Church in Nashville, TN. The conference is concerning Christian apologetics for youth. The main speaker will be Sean McDowell. The Conference will take place November 7-8, and the cost is \$39.00 per individual. There are some churches in our district who will be in attendance. If you would like more information, please see Phillip Kennedy or Jeanie Winter.  
Signed: Tyler Penn, Phillip Kennedy, Jeannie Winter. MSC to accept the report as information.

### **Examining Committee**

1. We met with Brother Richard Brown, and we are looking forward to the ordination service.  
Signed: Ernie Taylor, Karel J. Smith, Jamie Lee. MSC to accept the report as information.

### **ORDINATION SERVICE**

The service was turned to Oak Valley for the ordination service of Pastor Richard Brown. Bro. Jamie Lee from the Examining Committee gave the opening remarks and introduced the speaker Bro. James Boggs. Bro. Boggs pastored at Oak Valley for eleven years. He took II Timothy 4:1-8 as his text. God will judge the "quick and the dead;" therefore, be instant in and out of season to preach the Word of God. In I Corinthians 15:1-8, Paul said he preached Christ who died for our sin, was buried and rose the third day. He was seen of many witnesses. Bro. Boggs related he had been ordained for 55 years. He sees our nation headed down the wrong path. Before he retired, he was a ticket agent at the second train station from downtown Chicago. In 1968 he

could see buildings burning in Chicago. Businesses started sending workers home at noon. By 5:00 p.m. the last 25 commuters from downtown went through his station. Bro. Boggs knows from experience that we must have the Gospel preached and accepted to escape a repeat of these events in our country. Salvation must be preached to the lost and dying world.

Bro. David Shores, filling in for Bro. John Hollis, brought the charge for this highest calling. 1) Remember to pray. 2) Be a student of the Word. Do you accept the Bible as God's inspired Word? 3) Keep a good testimony and reputation. Will you as a pastor follow the doctrine and practices of Free Will Baptists, and if at some time you change your beliefs, will you surrender your credentials? 4) Strong preaching must be Biblical and courageous. It is not being politically correct. Will it be your commitment to preach Jesus as the only way to heaven? 5) Will you ask direction from God? Bro. Richard responded "Yes, with God as my helper" to each charge.

All ordained authority (ministers and deacons) came to lay hands on Bro. Brown. Prayer of dedication by Tyler Penn. Bro. Ernie Taylor, as chairman of the Examining Committee, presented a certificate of ordination and minister's manual, gift card for \$300 for Richard and Valerie to the Family Christian Bookstores. Valerie presented a large print King James Version Bible from her sister Amy and family. Everyone came to shake their hands and ask for God's blessings on their ministry.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION (continued)**

Business resumed by Moderator Scott Bee.

##### **Business Committee**

1. We recognize the passing of Danny Xanders from Oak Valley Church.
2. We recommend Richard Brown for Moderator. MSC item 1 as information. MSC to accept nominations as a slate.

Meeting adjourned and luncheon served by Oak Valley Church. Thank you was voiced to the Oak Valley Church for the food and hospitality they provided today. A prayer of dismissal and blessing on our lunch was offered. The next district meeting will be January 10, 2015 at the Pleasant View FWB Church, Kell and Myers Roads, rural Walnut Hill.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Burgess, Clerk

*Susan Burgess*