



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 10, 2015 MEETING

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Assistant Moderator Ernie Lewis welcomed attendees to the annual meeting of the East Central District Association. Larry Maas from host church Pleasant View led the congregation in singing "To God Be the Glory" while Paula Hayes played the piano. Pastor David Burgess brought a devotional message from II Chronicles.

BUSINESS SESSION

Assistant Moderator asked Clerk Susan Burgess to call the meeting to order. Then the standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read the quarterly and 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 Treasurer Kathy Hayes. Beginning Balance \$656.71 with an ending balance today of \$776.17. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Assistant Moderator Ernie Lewis filled the vacancies on the committees: Paula Hayes to the Youth Committee, and Mike Crabtree to the Business Committee.

Illinois State

David Shores gave a promotional secretary report. Richard Brown was ordained at the last quarterly meeting at Oak Valley FWB Church on October 11, 2014. Brother Shores and Phillip Kennedy also attended the ordination of Josh Colson at Pittsburg. The loss of life of Brother Byford and Sister Wastina Campbell, state historian, was remembered. Apparently, all of their vast records were lost in the house fire also. Therefore, Brother Shores has been sending historical records to Dr. Robert Picirilli for the National Historical Committee housed by Welch College in Nashville, TN where these can be preserved.

Congratulations were given to Jamie Lee and those churches which helped send a van load of winter coats to David Potete to be distributed in schools in Chicago. Ernie Lewis and David Shores went to the Leadership Conference in Nashville regarding marriage. The speaker had presented the same paper to the Pope.

Stan Toler will be speaking at the Illinois State Meeting at Ina FWB Church, March 19-21.

Receiving undeliverable newsletters costs 50 cents each. Please let Brother Shores know your exact address if you do not receive your next month's Illinois Newsletter.

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. In Marana 190 attended Christmas Eve services with two salvations. The Carneys are moving to the eastern side of the island to work with home churches in Japan. Blue Point Church sent packages to the Davisons in France and to the Detherages in Mongolia. Detherages are coming to the US in June but may not return to Mongolia. The Goodmans have a short-term foster child. Steven Gray will be making a presentation at the Illinois State Meeting on the Discovery Church becoming self supporting. Mark King needs prayer for safety in Tibet, and Sarah Malone needs prayer for her travels. Craig and Sarah Portell are teaching English in Mongolia at their school. Darren and Dana Portell are expecting a baby in Taiwan. The Teagues are seeing an explosion of outreach and response in France. They had baptismal services December 6.

Pray for David Lytle and 3 children after death of Bethany Atwood Lytle who died eight days after finding out she had cancer. The Lytles were in Peru but had returned to the States.

□ **Moderator: Bro. Richard Brown**
1432 CR 1200 N.
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□ **Asst. Moderator: Bro. Ernie Lewis**
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□ **Clerk: Susan Burgess**
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Illinois Master's Men and Women Active for Christ

The Master's Men retreat will be September 17-19 at Camp Hope. IL Tim Hayes announced a military retreat in North Carolina for 60-120 Fort Benning, GA service members. Chaplains and James Evans are speakers.

Women Active for Christ President Susan Burgess announced that the ILWAC state meeting will be Saturday, May 2. It will be held at Pleasant View FWB Church, Walnut Hill. WNAC will begin receiving National Co-operative giving in February 2015 since becoming a National Department.

Business was recessed for Committees to meet.

BUSINESS SESSION (CONT.)

Delegates were called back into session.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The report from the Business Committee was read.

1. Deceased Members of the East Central District for 2014 include the following:

Blue Point – Martha Block – March 16

Crossroads – Phyllis Fairfield – January 12; Kenny Walker – December 11

First – Mt. Vernon – Leatrice Angle – December 21; Dorothy Hamilton – February 27; Florence Casey – March 22; Wendell Duane Moles – February 19

Pleasant View – Bill Bain – January 18

2. Recommends the district send \$200 to National WNAC.

3. Recommends sending \$100 to each eTeam member:

Emily Petty, Brazil; Esther Smith, Panama; Isaiah Penn, Japan; John Bill, Brazil

Signed: Tim Hayes, Mike Robertson, and Mike Crabtree.

MSC to adopt the report.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The report from the Youth Committee was read.

1. We encourage our youth to attend the Welcome Days at Welch College April 16-18.
2. We ask for information (right now). Do any of the local churches have CTS competitors preparing for competition? We do not know whether to plan for a practice competition at the April 11 East Central District meeting at Blue Point Church. What the wishes of this group?

Signed: Phillip Kennedy, Paula L. Hayes, Tyler Penn.

MSC to accept the Youth Committee report. The Executive Committee will decide if the program for the April meeting needs adjustment. Emily Petty is also going to Truth & Peace as a senior, and Blue Point has one in Truth & Peace also.

Decatur First Church Report

No one present to give report. They are seeking a pastor.

Crossroads Church Report

Mike Altgilbers reported that the church hosted the district meeting in January 2014. In February Pastor John Hollis had surgery. Mike Altgilbers and Mike Crabtree filled in. Phyllis Fairfield passed away January 12. The Fairfields attended Kankakee church and moved to Effingham with children and grandchildren. The church celebrated the Ordinances in April and had an early Easter service. They took a WMO offering. For their homecoming services Erica Hollis and Forgiven trio sang. Mikala Altgilbers celebrated with a special high school graduation reception. VBS was June 9-13, 2014 in the evening with many dedicated workers. The Pastor had a heart cath in October. Remember him in prayer. There was a concert October 12, and on October 19 the WAC held a walk-a-thon and cookout. In November they had a candlelight service. Kenny Walker died in December. Their live nativity was December 12 and 13 with good weather for caroling. Their Christmas Eve service and New Year's Eve service were memorable.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Special prayer was given for Brother John Hollis and the family of Bethany Lytle. Larry Maas led the congregation in the song "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" to open the worship service. The offertory was by Paula Hayes playing "It Took a Miracle" and "Here I Am to Worship" medley.

Tyler Penn was the speaker. He reviewed that when the ministry in Champaign was started, the Illini Initiative was to start a church and to minister to international students. He thought he would be the pastor of The Fields Church, and work with the English Corner, an organization of international campus ministry, in partnership. Last January 2014, he told the Illinois Missions Board that he and his wife's vision was to be missionaries to international students and that a church planter needed to be hired. In February 2014 he went to A FWB missions summit and heard Home Missions Director David Crowe's vision to church planters and the work of International Missions to reach international students. In March Tyler and Ernie Lewis met with David Crowe and International Missions Director Clint Morgan. They consulted with their boards in April, and the Directors and IL Missions signed an agreement in September. Thus, the Tyler and Kelly Penn are now switching to the oversight of the International Missions Department as of April 2015. This will be similar to working with ELI to meet needs of the people and use the opportunity to build relationships and lead to the Gospel presentation.

The Penn children are a big help in ministry, even eating Iranian dinner. Tyler leads a Bible study on the Big Questions of Life. He read Leviticus 19:34-35 and made comments. He showed slides with many of the students they have befriended.

The IL Missions Board does not have a church planter prospect. Tyler would be glad to come to our churches again to explain about the changes in ministry.

BUSINESS SESSION (CONT.)

Delegates were called back into session.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. We recommend East Central District issue/approve a card of good standing to the following:
Luther Ganieany, David Burgess, David Shores, Tyler Penn, Jessie Allen, Richard Brown, Shane Davison, Phillip Kennedy, James Boggs, Jamie Lee, John Hollis, Ernie Lewis.
Upon receipt of request from December 1 we will send card of good standing to Karel Smith.
2. We are currently re-examining our new candidate procedure and the study course.

Signed: Jamie Lee, Ernie Taylor, and John Hollis

MSC to accept and approve the report of the Examining Committee. Ernie Lewis informed us that the National is looking for procedures to use on a national basis.

DELEGATES TO STATE

Delegates were appointed for the Illinois State Meeting. Pat Shores, Susan Burgess, Mike Robertson, Esther Edwards, Paula Hayes and Kathy Hayes were named as our district delegates. MSC for Moderator or Assistant Moderator to appoint others attending the meeting as delegates.

Ernie Lewis reported he had talked to Dale Braddock from the Salem Church. They do not have money to pay dues although they are not opposed to being part of our quarterly. MSC to pay Salem Church dues. Report submitted by District Clerk to State Clerk. Ernie and Jamie Lee will meet with Dale and someone from Salem Church.

We will get more information on who needs Truth & Peace funds for April session.

The next district meeting will be April 11 at the Blue Point FWB Church.

MSC to adjourn the meeting. A big Thank You was voiced to the Pleasant View Church for the food and hospitality they provided today. Bro. Phillip Kennedy offered a prayer of dismissal and a blessing on our lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Burgess, Clerk

Susan Burgess



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MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2015 MEETING

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Meeting opened with congregation signing "Oh, How I Love Jesus," accompanied by pianist Marie Rutger. Opening prayer was by Lee Penn. Host Pastor Ernie Lewis welcomed attendees to the April meeting of the East Central District Association. Bro. Lewis brought a devotional message about the Prodigal Son from Luke 15:11-24

BUSINESS SESSION

Moderator Richard Brown asked Assistant Clerk Paula Hayes to call the meeting to order. Then the standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read the quarterly letters from the churches. There was a motion and second and carried (MSC) to approve the reports and to seat the delegates sent from churches.

The treasurer's report was read. Beginning Balance was \$776.17 with an ending balance today of \$263.17. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

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

Moderator filled the vacancies on the committees: Business Committee: Lee Penn, Mike Altgilbers, Marie Rutger; Examining Committee: Ernie Taylor, David Burgess, David Shores; Youth Committee: Tyler Penn, Phillip Kennedy, Rodney Logue.

Illinois State Report

David Shores gave a promotional secretary report. He reported that the Illinois State Meeting in March was one of the least attended. The business was light. It was mentioned that the National Association website has a report on same sex marriage which churches need to read in order to be sure their constitution and by-laws are updated. This is a matter of prayer as well.

Illinois Missions Report

Ernie Lewis gave the update on missions connected to the state. He handed out a brief description of each work and commented on some. In Marana 378 attended Easter services with 13 salvations. Discovery Church is now self supporting. Mark King needs prayer for safety in Tibet. Craig and Sarah Portell are teaching English in Mongolia at their school but need more students to continue. Darren and Dana Portell are expecting a baby soon in Taiwan. The Teagues are seeing an explosion of outreach and response in France. Eighty unbelievers attended recent service. They need a bigger building.

The Illinois Missions Board helped to get Mark King back in the positive range with a \$1,500 donation.

Applications for camp workers and campers are available for Camp Hope.

Tyler Penn reported that the Bethel Youth Group came to Champaign over the Spring break and he explained Easter to International student. They also helped clean up the English Corner. On Easter seven international students walked to church with Tyler. One asked how does one become a Christian? So Tyler explained salvation on the way. Pray for the student Kelly.

Illinois Master's Men and Women Active for Christ Reports

The Master's Men retreat will be September 17-19 at Camp Hope. IL

Women Active for Christ state meeting will be Saturday, May 2. It will be held at Pleasant View FWB Church, Walnut Hill.

Business was recessed for Committees to meet.

BUSINESS SESSION (CONT.)

Delegates were called back into session.

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□ **Asst. Moderator: Bro. Ernie Lewis**
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□ **Clerk: Susan Burgess**
125 County Club Estates
Salem, IL 62881

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The report from the Business Committee was read.

1. Pay the speaker \$100.00

Signed: Lee Penn, Marie Rutger, Mike Altgilbers

MSC to adopt the report.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The report from the Youth Committee was read as items of information.

1. CTS Competition will be at First FWB Church, Decatur, IL, on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25.
2. Get your camp forms turned in by May 5 for kids to go to Camp Hope.

Signed: Phillip Kennedy, Rodney Logue, Tyler Penn.

MSC to accept the Youth Committee report.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. Send a letter of good standing for Brother Scott Bee to the clerk of the West Tennessee Association of Free Will Baptists.
2. We discussed the examination process for new pastors. We are still studying the changes that need to be made.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, David L. Burgess and David Shores

MSC to accept and approve the report of the Examining Committee.

First Church Mt. Vernon Report

Phillip Kennedy gave an encouraging report that they are having several visitors. There are lots of youth activities. A group attended the Grounded Conference in Tennessee. They are giving teens and kids service opportunities in the church, such as ushers, singing, etc. Their Veggie Tales Day saw a large attendance. Everyone is inviting friends to attend. Pray they can reach the parents through the kids at home.

Oak Valley Church Report

Richard Brown reported that the church is supporting kids, missionaries, E-Team and the community. They are involved in the food pantry ministry. Once a month they go to Brookstone Estates for ministry there. They started a Sunday evening Bible study on Thessalonians. They plan on doing more activities in the future. Pray the church will step up and do the ministry God has for it.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Valerie Brown led the congregation in singing. Tyler Penn led in prayer. Marie Rutger played "He Touched Me" for the offertory.

CTS practice session included memorization entries from Crossroads FWB Church and media commercial entry by Pleasant View FWB Church youth.

Speaker Sarah Malone shared that she is currently on home assignment with ELIC. She told how the government is arresting members of the church there. Members are posted outside the prison 24/7. If a member is released, they make sure the member gets home. If an unbeliever is arrested, they share Christ. Workers are also in the Middle East refugee camps. Many Muslims are coming to Christ because of ISIS. Believers are there to give food and comfort to refugees. She updated us on her job.

Sarah's theme was what it means to follow Jesus from Matthew 4:18-22. To follow Jesus, we need to be like Christ in discipleship and daily relinquish our will. Have agape love for one another. Then people will see our relationship with Jesus. Following means not holding on too tightly to anything, but leaving and following Christ. Is there something we are holding on to? The Father is gently trying to get us to let it go.

After the message, it was announced that Blue Point FWB Church will have a ground breaking next Sunday afternoon for their new addition. Richard Brown closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Burgess, Clerk

Susan Burgess



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MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2015 MEETING

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Meeting opened with congregation singing. Host Pastor Jamie Lee welcomed attendees to the July meeting of the East Central District Association. Bro. Jamie brought a devotional message from John 15:9: "Without me you can do nothing." He spoke about disappointment, discouragement and defeat unless we have Jesus.

BUSINESS SESSION

Moderator Richard Brown asked Clerk Susan Burgess to call the meeting to order. Then the standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read the quarterly letters from the churches. There was a motion and second and carried (MSC) to approve the reports and to seat the delegates sent from churches.

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

The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Kathy Hayes. Beginning Balance was \$263.17 with an ending balance today of \$493.17. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Illinois Missions Report

Ernie Lewis gave the update on missions connected to the state. He handed out a brief description of each work and commented on some. Shane & Joy Davison were in the States for the month of June. They teach various classes in France at least 3 times a week. The Detherages are back in the States as of July and are off the IGO Plan. The Goodmans sent their church teens to camp in Arizona at a cost of \$350 per camper. Craig and Sarah Portell need students in their English school in Mongolia. Praise the Lord for a miracle that Sarah Malone's heart suffered no damage after her heart episode at Camp Hope June 30. The Teagues will be holding their next *J'Pense* service July 11.

Tyler Penn reported on the work with International Missions. They have been officially appointed as "International Missionaries" in Champaign, IL. They had about 24 students at a July 4 event. Tyler has also been teaching in camps this summer. A Taiwan student from 2013 connected with Darren and Dana Portell and had dinner at their house near the National Taiwan University. The student is going to church with the Portells and is a third-generation Taiwan Christian.

Brother David Burgess reported an urgent plea for help at the hospital in Cote d'Ivoire since there has been an electric fire and well problems.

Illinois Master's Men and Women Active for Christ Reports

The Master's Men retreat will be September 17-19 at Camp Hope. No Disaster Relief calls requests were received as reported by Ernie Taylor.

Susan Burgess reported that Women Nationally Active for Christ will have Sarah Malone as their speaker at the National Convention next week. The WNAC National Retreat will be September 3-5 in Murfreesboro, TN.

Moderator filled the Youth Committee vacancy for today with Rodney Logue; Examining Committee, David Burgess.

Business was recessed for Committees to meet. Prayer for family of Rev. Clifford Hicks whose funeral was today. Bro. David Shores did not give his report since he was at Bro. Hicks' funeral.

BUSINESS SESSION (CONT.)

Delegates were called back into session.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The report from the Business Committee was read.

1. Bro. Jamie Lee submitted a letter of resignation.

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125 County Club Estates
Salem, IL 62881

We will discuss filling this position in the October meeting since our regular elections are in October.

Signed: Mike Robertson, Lee Penn, Tim Hayes

MSC to adopt the report.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The report from the Youth Committee was read as an item of information.

1. Pray for all of our youth who will be competing at the National Youth Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Signed: Phillip Kennedy, Rodney Logue, Tyler Penn.

MSC to accept the Youth Committee report.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. We met with Bro. Stephen Cantrell. We recommend that we receive Bro. Stephen Cantrell into full fellowship upon receipt of the letter of good standing from the Vernon Association of Free Will Baptists in Alabama. (East Central Clerk to send the name and address to Vernon clerk requesting the letter.)

Signed: Ernie Taylor, David L. Burgess and Jamie Lee

MSC to accept and approve the report of the Examining Committee.

Brother Mike Robertson addressed the body. He comes from military career where duty, honor, country is the code. A pastor in another part of the USA put the Christian flag on top on the flag pole to show God is first. Mike suggests the pastors encourage other churches to do so. Mike made a motion that we recommend to our churches to make God first with putting Christian flags over the American flags. Seconded by Judy Donoho. David Burgess mentioned church pennant allowed on top of the US flag when services are occurring in the Navy. MSC

Blue Point Report

Bro. Ernie Lewis gave an encouraging report about the church trying to get a new building built despite the rain. Their church will be distributing popsicles at the summer parade since "going to Blue Point is cool." They have had several weddings, including one with Oak Valley also.

Pleasant View Church Report

The Pleasant View report was given by Susan Burgess. The church has seen new families attending and is enjoying their usual plan of work.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Tia Dunaway led the congregation in singing "He Is Exalted" and "My Jesus, I Love Thee." Bro. Stephen Cantrell, new pastor at Decatur First FWB Church, brought the morning message. He experienced Camp Hope this past week and was rejoicing that his 10-year-old son was saved.

His message was from II Kings 10: Are we just another Jehu? Jehu wiped out Baal from Israel. Yet he returned to idol worship (golden calves). This is hypocrisy.

Where our nation is taking us is out of our main focus. There is a Romans 1, but there is also a Romans 2. "Therefore, you are without excuse." Those who know God are more accountable. He referenced Acts 19 where people are saved when Paul preached, not when legislation was written. We want America to be moralized and documented as a Christian nation, a heaven on earth. But do we want to make Christians by preaching the Word? His goal is to see people saved. Don't be surprised at the fiery trial, Peter wrote. Rejoice.

Bro. Ernie Lewis closed the meeting with prayer and blessed the food. Thank you Calvary Church for the delicious lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burgess, Clerk

Susan Burgess



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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2015 MEETING

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

Meeting opened at the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church, Effingham, with congregation singing "What A Day That Will Be" led by Bro. David Burgess. Prayer was led by host Pastor John Hollis who also welcomed attendees to the October meeting of the East Central District Association. Bro. John brought a devotional message from James 5:16: "Efficient and Effective." He spoke about using our time and talents wisely in our work for God and our churches. Colossians 4:5 encourages us to make good use of our time. We are to study and be prepared. This is God's work.

BUSINESS SESSION

Moderator Richard Brown asked Clerk Susan Burgess to call the meeting to order. Then the standing delegates were recognized. The clerk read the quarterly letters from the churches. Moderator seated the delegates. The clerk read the business portions of the printed minutes. A motion and second were made and the motion carried (MSC) to approve the minutes.

The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Kathy Hayes. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

Moderator appointed Rodney Logue to fill in for Lee Penn on Business Committee. No member of the Youth Committee was present and no items to cover. David Burgess replaced Jamie Lee, who has resigned, on the Examining Committee for today.

Illinois Executive Director Report

Bro. David Shores reported that the quarterly meeting at Camp Hope when the Rend Lake and South Central met together was so crowded he had to sit in the choir. Calvary and Jamie Lee are collecting coats October 22. Our task is to take the Gospel whether culture has changed or not. Adult Camp had an excellent evangelist in Tim York this summer. The Board meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13, to choose next year's speakers. The Illinois Newsletter address corrections cost \$60 recently. Bro. Shores is not paying for these. You can request that he send your newsletter via email.

Illinois Missions Report

Ernie Lewis gave the update on missions connected to the state. He handed out a brief description of each work and commented on some. Tim Hayes mentioned that he and Kathy and Ernie and Tish Taylor visited Marana Church in Arizona at the end of August. They have great location, facilities and music and have two services. Heather Goodman leads the contemporary music. Betty Goodman, Jeff's mom, related testimony of two sisters who have really been workers since they were saved.

Illinois Master's Men and Women Active for Christ Reports

The Master's Men retreat September 17-19 at Camp Hope had Joe Wilson as speaker. The IL Disaster Relief has received a request to assist next week in South Carolina flooding. Four churches, including Sherwood Lee's home church, were badly affected, Ernie Taylor reported.

Susan Burgess reported that the Illinois Women Active for Christ will have their state meeting Saturday, May 7, 2016, at the New Hope FWB Church, rural Ina. The National Retreat in September was great and very enjoyable.

Richard Brown shared information about his food pantry ministry. It is not about food; it is about sharing the Gospel for seven years, including reaching people in China, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Business was recessed for Committees to meet.

BUSINESS SESSION (CONT.)

Delegates were called back into session.

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BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Bro. Mike Robertson submitted a letter of resignation from the Business Committee. Accepted
2. The slate of officers is submitted for election as follows: Moderator Richard Brown, Assistant Moderator Ernie Lewis, Clerk Susan Burgess, Treasurer Kathy Hayes; Business Committee Rodney Logue to replace Mike Robertson; Examining Committee David Burgess to replace Jamie Lee; Youth Committee Tyler Penn to replace Tyler Penn; Executive Board John Hollis to replace John Hollis.

Signed: Mike Robertson, Rodney Logue, Tim Hayes MSC to adopt the report.

YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT No report from the Youth Committee.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Having received the letter of good standing from the Vernon Association of FWB (Alabama) for Bro. Stephen Cantrell, we welcome him to full fellowship with the East Central District.

Information: The Committee will obtain a file storage for Examining Committee documents.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, John Hollis and David L. Burgess MSC to adopt the report.

Calvary Church Report

Mike Ulrey reported that their coat drive is helping the Second Chance Community FWB Church in Joliet by October 22. In August Calvary had a Back to School Extravaganza with 30-40 kids receiving school supplies and attending a two-day VBS. On October 24 they will have a harvest party with bonfire, mini hayride, chili, hot dogs, etc. On Thanksgiving Day they have a goal of 60 people who have nowhere to eat to come for a meal. They have installed four security cameras and are working on a security plan.

Crossroads Church Report

Crossroads and Pastor John respect Mike Robertson's decision to retire from the Business Committee after 24 years because of Mrs. Pat's health. The 34th Crossroads Anniversary was celebrated this year, and have been having a nursing home monthly service for 30 years. They depend on faithful volunteers. Praise that their music leader was saved at age 73. They sent campers to Camp Hope this summer. Rodney Logue went to the Masters Men retreat. Their WAC held an ice cream social and a walk-a-thon and wiener roast. Tyler Penn filled in when Bro. John had medical procedures for his heart. They participated in Life Chain and asked prayer for the church.

Bro. David Burgess requested prayer for the Pregnancy Care Center which burned in Salem and prayer for their ministry at the new location. Bro. Ernie Lewis gave a testimony of prayers for Crossroads Church.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The offering was received. Bro. Richard led us in "Victory In Jesus."

Bro. Ernie Lewis spoke from Esther 4:10 and I Peter 4:1, 7, 12 on "Fulfilling Our Purpose." God is with us in bad times as well as good. Esther may have become Queen for just such a time to save her people. Be sure our sins will find us out. We should not think that persecution only happens in other places. The murder of the Jews was inescapable, but God provided a way. The appointments of men are Divine. We must have the courage to do right. We need a nation on its knees in prayer and fasting. We may have to stand in civil disobedience, but we must do the right thing regardless. Will you follow His purpose into eternity?

The next district meeting will be Saturday, January 9, 2016 at Decatur First Church. Decatur First and Mt. Vernon First Churches will report.

Bro. Mike Robertson closed the meeting with prayer and blessed the food. Thank you Crossroads Church for the delicious lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burgess
Susan Burgess, Clerk