

## Association of

# **Illinois Free Will Baptists**

Blue Point FWB Church, Calvary FWB Church, Crossroads FWB Church, Decatur Church, Mt. Vernon First FWB Church

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2017 MEETING

## WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The meeting was opened with the congregation singing "His Name Is Wonderful" led by Shane Davison. Prayer by Steven Cantrell. Host Pastor Ernie Lewis welcomed attendees to the January meeting of the East Central District Association at Blue Point FWB Church, Cisne. His text was Ezekiel 22:23 and spoke on "A Nation in Trouble - Standing in the Gap." God's spokesmen are accountable, and God will bring His judgement. God's people need to be a hedge/wall and intercessors. We need to stand in the gap.

### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Assistant Moderator Ernie Lewis requested the clerk call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Standing delegates were recognized. Clerk Susan Burgess read quarterly and annual reports from the seven churches. There was a motion and second and carried (MSC) to approve the reports and to seat the church delegates. 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. The ending balance today was \$871.12. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

## Illinois State

Ernie Lewis reported on behalf of Promotional Secretary David Shores. We were encouraged to pray for the church at Moline. Also, Same Henderson has retired as pastor at Green Rock Church and moved to Tennessee.

## Illinois Missions

Ernie Lewis gave the update on missions connected to the state. Sarah Malone, ELIC, is recovering from surgery and scheduled to return to Asia soon. Mark King is taking treatments for cancer in Hong Kong. The Illinois Missions Board met with representatives of the Oklahoma Spanish Seminary to arrange for two pastors to go to Joliet. The Missions Board will pay the utilities for a year while the pastors will work in landscaping. Second Chance Church in Joliet closed when the pastor was transferred by his company out of state. Joel and Lydie Teague returned to France. Lydie's sister Mimi is going as an associate missionary. International Missions gave a great report at the end of 2016 that all missionaries' accounts have had the deficits covered, and additional funds were used on other projects, such as sending the Teagues back to France.

Tyler Penn reported that six-year-old Madden Penn became a follower of Christ December 5. At Thanksgiving they had 19 international students in their home. Then 17 internationals were baking cookies with them in December. With the new semester at University of Illinois they will meet new students in Union Hall. They had eight new students at English Corner. The ministry has big Easter plans. Two summer interns will be coming, and they have mission services lined up in Alabama, Florida and Tennessee.

Shane and Joy Davison reported that they are in the US for an extended stay after about five years in France. Their learning Center has 83 students this year, which is their largest outreach to the North African Muslims living in their city. Individually, they have Bible studies with a Tunisian family and a 76-year-old man.

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

Disaster Relief has been quiet, per Tim Hayes. Ernie Taylor reported that Calvary Church is enjoying Pastor Harlan Johnson. Susan Burgess reported that Shane and Joy Davison would be speaking at the IL WAC State Meeting at Bear Point FWB Church, Sesser, on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

Business was recessed for Committees to meet and congregation to enjoy the break in "The Link" Blue Point's new fellowship building. Prayer by Bro. Tim Hayes.

Meeting was resumed. Delegates were called back into session.

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The report from the Business Committee was read and voted on item by item.

- 1. Recommend we give eTeam members \$100.00 each: Ben Barcroft, Isaiah Penn, Ashten Winer, Alana Baker, Gabby Boomer, McGwire Portell.
- 2. Recommend we give Shelby Koelz, Calvary Church, \$100.00 toward her nursing mission 10-day trip to Mozambique.
- 3. Recommend we give our missionaries here today \$100.00 each: Tyler Penn, Shane Davison.

Signed: Tim Hayes, Mike Stephenson, Rodney Logue. MSC to adopt each item.

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

The report from the Youth Committee was read and accepted as information and encouragement.

- 1. CTS competition location at Ina FWB Church, Ina, April 28-29.
- 2. Camp Hope dates have been listed for this summer's weeks of camp. They are on the website ILFWB.org.

Signed: Tyler Penn, Sara Ulrey, Mike Ulrey. MSC to accept the Youth Committee report.

### Oak Valley Church Report

The Oak Valley report was given by Marie Rutger. They are planning a revival the end of March. Pastor Brown is speaking today and directing his Food Pantry ministry, which serves about 200 families monthly since our meeting had been rescheduled for today because of the icy conditions last week.

## Mt. Vernon Church Report

The pastors and members were attending a funeral today. There was a request for prayer for Mark and Khristie Shores' two-month-old granddaughter Abigail, who needs a kidney transplant.

Shane and Joy Davison requested prayer for their new services. They will be attending a missions retreat on four fields, which is sponsored by a Michigan church. Europe and Africa will be in France, and there are plans for South America to attend also. Prayer by Tyler Penn.

### WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship service opened with congregational singing of "At Calvary" and "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." Bro. Harlan Johnson, new pastor at Calvary Church, spoke on "The Power of the Gospel" from Romans 1:16-17. Our world is in trouble because it needs Jesus. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ," I Timothy 1:13-15. Dr. Picirilli says, "He had no need to be ashamed for the Gospel because he had never been ashamed by it." Secondly, the Gospel changes everything. It continues to change us as Christians. Thirdly, preaching of the cross is foolishness to the world but power to the believer. We can impact the world (John 3:16). The situation does not limit the power of the Gospel. Live it unashamedly from faith to faith.

## **EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

- 1. We reviewed the annual reports and recommend a card of good standing to be issued to Richard Brown, Ernie Lewis, Tyler Penn, David Burgess, John D. Hollis, Phillip Kennedy, Stephen Cantrell, Shane Davison.
- 2. We recommend a card of good standing for these over 65: David Shores, James Boggs, Jessie Allen. These were requested by their churches.
- 3. We recommend a card be given to Jamie Lee when we receive his annual report and approved.
- 4. We met with Bro. Harlen Johnson. After we have met with Bro. Harlen, we recommend he be given a card of good standing when we receive a letter of good standing from his former association.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, David Burgess, John Hollis. MSC to accept the report of the Examining Committee. Decatur Church will send request for Bro. Karel Smith, retired pastor.

Business was adjourned. The meeting was dismissed in prayer. The next district meeting will be April 8, 2017 at the Calvary FWB Church, Salem, IL. Workers from the Hispanic ministry who will be working in Joliet will be speaking.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Burgess, Clerk

Susan Burges



## Association of

## **Illinois Free Will Baptists**

#### MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2017 MEETING

### WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The meeting was opened with the congregation singing "When We All Get to Heaven" led by Larry Maas accompanied by Debbie Woolbright. Welcomed by host Pastor Harlen Johnson. The devotion was from I Samuel 17 about David and Goliath. Bro. Harlen pointed out that the "battle is on our own soil" so the battle is the Church's to fight. A video regarding World Missions Offering was shown.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

Moderator Richard Brown requested the clerk call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Moderator recognized standing delegates. Clerk Susan Burgess read quarterly and annual reports from the churches. It was noted that Gary Taylor from Oak Valley Church and Dorothy Holzhausen from Crossroads Church had passed away March, 2017. There was a motion and second and carried (MSC) to approve the reports and to seat the church delegates. The minutes of the January 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. The ending balance today was \$215.12. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

### Illinois Missions

Ernie Lewis gave updates on missions connected to the state, including Jason and Melissa Taylor in Arizona where they had over 1,000 attendees in March. The Lees are meeting in Arkansas for fundraising. Sarah Malone will be in the U.S. this summer and would like to have services in our churches. The Joliet Church is now to be used by a Hispanic church planter from Puerto Rico. Jose Correa graduated from the Hendrix Spanish Institute. After 7 years, we have 4 churches in Puerto Rico. He is now ready to work in Joliet. The church planting leaders will gather in Joliet and get some of the work going before the missionary comes. The missionary will study in Oklahoma before coming to Illinois in January. They have a vision to work in Chicago and start several churches there. Bro. Ernie will take a crew to Joliet to work on the parsonage in April and May. They need churches to pay for certain projects and to send workers.

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

Tim Hayes reported for the Disaster Relief Ministry that they went to Mississippi and helped two churches and eight families. He also helped on two trips to Elkville where the tornado was on the ground for 50 miles. He appreciates the support East Central District gives to the ministry. Ernie Taylor reported that September 14-16 will be the IL Men's Retreat at Camp Hope.

Susan Burgess reported that Shane and Joy Davison would be speaking at the IL WAC State Meeting at Bear Point FWB Church, Sesser, on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

Camp Hope is coming up in June and July. Illinois State is looking for an Associational Pastor to help struggling churches.

Clerk read thank you cards which were received from Isaiah Penn and Shane and Joy Davison for our offerings. Moderator appointed Karel Smith to fill the vacancy on the Business Committee and Ernie Lewis and Harlen Johnson to the Youth Committee. Meeting was recessed for Committees to meet and congregation to enjoy the break.

Meeting was resumed. Delegates were called back into session.

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The report from the Business Committee was read.

1. Recommend we give \$300.00 to the Joliet work.

Signed: Tim Hayes, Rodney Logue. Karel Smith MSC to accept the report of the Business Committee.

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

The report from the Youth Committee was read and accepted as information and encouragement.

- 1. Harmony FWB Church, West Frankfort, is having a Youth Rally April 13 at 7 p.m.
- 2. CTS competition location at Ina FWB Church, Ina, Friday-Saturday, April 28-29.
- 3. Camp Hope dates have been listed for this summer's weeks of camp. Pick up a calendar for June-July. Signed: Ernie Lewis, Phillip Kennedy, Harlen Johnson. MSC to accept the Youth Committee report.

### **EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. We the Committee recommend the East Central send a Statement of Good Standing for Jamie Lee, to the Fox River District, as requested by the Fox River District.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, David Burgess, John Hollis. MSC to accept the report of the Examining Committee.

## Pleasant View Church Report

Pastor David Burgess reported on great VBS, Christmas program and ministries to needy and elderly.

## Blue Point Church Report

Pastor Ernie Lewis reported that they are celebrating a Bible Bowl championship at the National. The church is memorizing verses on Wednesday. SWAG teens are enjoying their Bible study and new gym. Praise God for their new building and the various missionaries they help.

Business was adjourned.

## WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship service opened with singing "He Lives." After an offering Debbie Woolbright sang "I've Got So Much to Thank Him For." Speaker Jose Correa and translator Rick Bowling spoke from I Kings 18:30. Elijah repaired the altar. Altar was always there but not kept repaired. When Jose went to Joliet two months ago, God touched Jose's heart and said Jose was the one to repair the altar and to pay the price so there would be a place for Joliet's Spanish speakers to worship. Never be ashamed of God. It is not easy for Puerto Rico to support a work in Joliet, but they have seen four churches built in Puerto Rico. We will see God's glory. We need your prayers. Thank you for what you have done already.

After the inspirational sermon, the Moderator called for the ordained to come and lay hands on Jose and pray for him and the work in Joliet. Prayer by Bro. John Hollis. Bro. Ernie Taylor closed the meeting in prayer and prayed a blessing on the food.

Next district meeting will be July 8 at Decatur First Church. Calvary and Decatur First will give church reports. October 14 we meet at Crossroads, and Crossroads and Mt. Vernon First Churches will bring reports.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Burgess, Clerk

Dugan Burgess



## 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

MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2017 MEETING AT DECATUR FIRST FWB CHURCH, DECATUR, IL

## WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The meeting was opened with the congregation singing "When We All Get to Heaven." Host Pastor Stephen Cantrel welcomed the group. He introduced Brother Jamie Lee who brought the devotion from Exodus 14:12-14. Sometimes God waits so the miracle will be a bigger miracle. "Anytime when I meet my limits, I meet a limitless God," Bro. Jamie said.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

Moderator Richard Brown requested the clerk call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Moderator recognized standing delegates. Clerk Susan Burgess read quarterly reports from the churches. There was a motion and second and carried (MSC) to approve the reports and to seat the church delegates. 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 the clerk in the absence of the treasurer. The ending balance today was \$268.12. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

## Illinois State

Bro. David Shores reminded us that the National Association of FWBs will convene in Louisville, KY next Sunday and that all services will be streamed through the internet. He gave an update on Bethel Church which has changed its name to Connect Church. The new East Side FWB Church, Glen Carbon, is petitioning to join the Rend Lake Conference. Bro. Shores thanked us for praying for his twin great grandgirls who are now seven months old and out of ICU.

Cuba is allowing large containers of donations to be approved for shipment. Jim Dycus, who has worked on the project for 25 years, now has a brain tumor and needs prayer.

## Illinois Missions

Tyler Penn brought the missions report. Jamie Lee is fully funded. Josh Bennett is moving from the Springs Church, Marana, AZ to start a new church in Georgia. Shane and Joy have all their commitments to go back to the field August 21. Dennis and Carol Teague are in the US. Joel and Lydie Teague are looking to possibly start a church in France. Mark King and Sarah Malone are in the U.S. Several interns are working in Champaign with international students this summer. About 30 are coming to summer events. Fourteen nonbelievers and an Iranian couple are attending Wednesday Bible studies from the Book of James. Kelly and Tyler are meeting with newly marrieds on Monday. They are also working on Thanksgiving plans for the students.

Moderator appointed vacancies on committees: Business Committee - Harlen Johnson; Youth Committee - Stephen Cantrel; Examining Committee - David Shores. Meeting was recessed for Committees to meet and congregation to enjoy the break.

Meeting was resumed. Delegates were called back into session. Tyler Penn shared about the plans for the Fall with Illini Initiative and the Bridge Church. They will have traditional Thanksgiving one week early for 100 international students. Then they will connect to another event to teach about the birth of Jesus.

### **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The report from the Business Committee was read.

- 1. Recommend we give \$300.00 to Sarah Malone for her work and speaking.
- 2. Recommend we thank the Decatur Church for their hospitality.

Signed: Rodney Logue. Harlen Johnson, Lee Penn. MSC to accept the report of the Business Committee.

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

The report from the Youth Committee was read and accepted as information and encouragement.

- 1. We want to thank everyone who helped out with Camp Hope this summer. The reports have been very positive for each week.
- 2. Be in prayer for all who will be traveling to the national Convention later this month and for our youth competing this year.

Signed: Tyler Penn, Stephen Cantrel, Phillip Kennedy. MSC to accept the Youth Committee report.

## **EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. The committee met. We had no business to conduct.

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

## **Calvary Church Report**

Pastor Harlan Johnson reported that in last seven months they have had several new members and new people attending. The people of the church have rallied and met the needs after the passing of Deacon Tim Hayes in April: "Investing in people as needs are met," as he used to say. A successful Vacation Bible School "Passport to Peru" was held in July at Calvary.

## **Decatur Church Report**

Pastor Stephen Cantrel reported that he is beginning his third year in Decatur. Several children and their mother began coming to church after their Vacation Bible School in the park. He and his wife have been discipling several. It is a blessing when those are already members say they have drawn closer to Christ. Peace Church donated playground equipment to Decatur Church.

Business was adjourned. October 14 we meet at Crossroads, and Crossroads and Mt. Vernon First Churches will bring reports.

### **WORSHIP SERVICE**

Worship service opened with singing "Blessed Assurance" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Tyler Penn prayed for the offering, and Kay Penn brought "I'd Rather have Jesus" as the offertory. Sarah Malone is serving in Asia. She explained that ELIC is now Pinnacle because of reincorporation requirements. Sarah shared what the Father has been teaching her this year. 1) What am I supposed to learn through hardships? 2) How can I adjust my wants to God's needs? We are blessing hoarders. God has blessed us so we can bless others. She realized this more deeply when she visited a Syrian Christians' refugee camp. 3) How can we know more about Jesus and less about having more possessions? We are tempted by beautiful things of this life. At the Southeast Asian light festival, floating small boats "take sins away," they believe. But Jesus takes us to be His child destined for Heaven when we ask forgiveness based on His sacrifice on Calvary. Pray we would know more about Jesus. 4) How can we rest in perfect submission? My father is good. He is not surprised. Se we can rest in perfect submission. According to II Corinthians 4:6-7, we limit God if we try to make sense of everything He does. We are God's Plan A for reaching the nations. "Haven't you had just what you need for each day?" God brings those who pray for her to her mind, and she thanked us for prayer and support.

Bro. Stephen Cantrel closed the meeting in prayer and prayed a blessing on the food. We thanked the church for the delicious food.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Burgess, Clerk

Dusan Burgess



## Association of

## **Illinois Free Will Baptists**

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2017 MEETING AT CROSSROADS FWB CHURCH, EFFINGHAM, IL

## WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The meeting was opened with the congregation singing "The Gloryland Way," led by Mike Crabtree and accompanied by Vickie Hollis. Host Pastor John Hollis welcomed the group. He thanked everyone for their cards and prayers on the occasion of his mother's passing. He then spoke about the content, contact and concept of bare feet from Exodus 3:5. He concluded that you are barefooted before God if you are standing humbly on Holy ground. The best tread are feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel.

#### BUSINESS SESSION

Moderator Richard Brown requested the clerk call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Moderator recognized standing delegates. Assistant clerk Paula Hayes read quarterly reports from the churches. There was a motion and second and carried (MSC) to approve the reports and to seat the church delegates. The minutes of the July meeting were presented in typed form for everyone to keep. MSC to accept the minutes as printed. The treasurer's report was read by Kathy Hayes. The ending balance today was \$282.12. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

## Illinois State

Bro. David Shores reported that the National Association of FWBs convened in Louisville, KY with great services and good preaching. There were many seminars in numerous locations. This is the first time more people registered for the youth convention than the adult. There was something for everyone. Pleasant View and Blue Point Churches recently had homecoming services. Portions of Camp Hope are being remodeled and additional work going on looks good. We have a high quality camp at Ewing. Prayer was requested for Camp Hope since Jason Janus is leaving as camp manager to focus on his work at Ina Church. A new couple are interested in the position, and the caretaker house remodeling is starting.

#### Illinois Missions

Ernie Lewis brought the missions report. The Bennetts are planting "Awaken FWB Church" in Tifton, GA. The Carneys establishing house churches in Bihoro, Japan. John and Penny Pratt are with the Goodmans in Marana, AZ. The Springs Church is looking for property and a building to go self-supporting. Jamie and Heather Lee are expecting a fourth son in two weeks. Jose Correa has had a major setback with the hurricane in Puerto Rico, but he plans to visit the Joliet Hispanic Work again in November. Sarah Malone has been visiting with the Portells in Mongolia this week to encourage and help the teachers. Teagues are seeking to open a new church in Nantes, France.

## Master's Men

Kevin Woolbright has been appointed the new coordinator for Disaster Relief after the passing of Brother Tim Hayes in April. Ernie Taylor gave an update on the retreat.

Moderator appointed vacancies on committees: Business Committee - Mike Crabtree; Youth Committee - Harlen Johnson and Stephen Cantrell. Meeting was recessed for Committees to meet and congregation to enjoy the break.

Meeting was resumed. Delegates were called back into session.

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The report from the Business Committee was read.

- 1. We nominate the following:
  - a. Business Committee: Mike Crabtree to replace Tim Hayes
  - b. Examining Committee: Ernie Taylor to replace Ernie Taylor
  - c. Youth Committee: Phillip Kennedy to replace Phillip Kennedy
  - d. Officers for 2018: Moderator Richard Brown, Assistant Moderator Ernie Lewis, Clerk Susan Burgess, Treasurer Kathy Hayes
- 2. Recommend we thank the Crossroads Church for hosting the district meeting.

Signed: Rodney Logue. Mike Crabtree, Lee Penn. MSC to accept the Business Committee report.

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

No report

## **EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. The committee met. We had no business to conduct.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, David L. Burgess, John Hollis. MSC to accept the Examining Committee report.

## **Crossroads Church Report**

Pastor John Hollis requested prayer for people to come to the ministry. At Crossroads they received an offering for Welch College. They had a special Easter service outdoors and then breakfast with a "cross hunt," communion and feet washing. They have worked there for 36 years. They had a good VBS and kids patriotic program. "Redemption" sang, and Grandparents Day was recognized. Bro. Harlan Johnson preached a fall revival. Mike and Mary Altgilbers are leading a remodeling and upgrading project. John's mother passed away September 16. Mr. and Mrs. Hollis were faithful to the Lord in Bethel Church. She worked at camp, in woman's auxiliary and through many other good deeds.

## Mt. Vernon Church Report

Pastor David Shores related that in 1930 Riley Burton organized the church from a revival. Bro. David led Blake Burton to the Lord 35 years later. Blake was Bro. Burton's driver for the revival. They are planning on reaching out at Thanksgiving and Christmas. They will have a Gospel singing and Thursday morning prayer meeting. The hospital is having a fund raiser for a girl in church who has cancer. Their WAC changed the meeting to day instead of evening. Projects include Lifeboat Alliance, Shoebox Christmas child and kids at camp. Phillip Kennedy indicates they have more teens on Tuesday night and kids on Wednesday where he and his wife work. Pray for teens who are confused and that workers will be faithful to the Gospel.

Business was adjourned. January 13 we meet at Mt. Vernon Church.

## **WORSHIP SERVICE**

Worship service opened with congregation singing "Sunlight." Bro. Jamie Lee spoke on Luke 5:4-11. They are making acquaintances in Champaign now. They had a BBQ fall festival at a park with 101 people attending. Coming up they will be a coat drive (33 coats) and a lunch November 3 for 50 teachers at the school they are working with. Recently they have been reminded that "Success is obedience." We say yes to the plan (the calling), then the process may bring pain, but it leads us to the promise. God's plan takes us to surprising places. Think about Peter. He obeyed and toiled all night, but "at your word" he obeyed. Obedience is doing what God says, when He says it, how He says to do it. The results will lift Him up. Peter when he had seen what Jesus could do, fell to his knees in humility. Jesus promised they would catch men. Through three years of training and pain in the process, Peter even denied Christ three times. But in Acts 2 at Pentecost, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit. There is hope in the promise - the best time. "Keep your fork." The best is coming.

The meeting was closed in prayer with a blessing on the food. We thanked the church for hosting.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Burgess, Clerk