



# **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

### **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2018 MEETING AT MT. VERNON FWB CHURCH, MT. VERNON, IL**

#### **WELCOME AND DEVOTION**

The meeting was opened with the congregation singing "Redeemed," led by Ernie Lewis and accompanied by Vickie Hollis. Prayer by Bro. Karel Smith. Host Pastor David Shores welcomed the group. He spoke from James 1:17 about our speech. Humans cannot control it, for instance Peter, Ananias and Sapphire. Their words were their sins.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Since we had to change the date of the meeting because of inclement weather on January 13, the Moderator Richard Brown was attending to his duties at the food distribution center today. Assistant Moderator Ernie Lewis requested Clerk Susan Burgess call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Moderator recognized standing delegates. Clerk read the annual and 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 treasurer's report was read by Kathy Hayes. The ending balance today was \$468.12. MSC to accept the treasurer's report. The minutes of the October meeting, which had been mailed to pastors earlier, were presented in typed form for everyone to keep. MSC to accept the minutes as printed.

Moderator filled committees: Business Committee Mike Stephenson filling in for Lee Penn, and Mike Altgilbers filling in for Mike Crabtree; Youth Committee Amy Johnson filling in for Brad DeCicco, and Sarah Ulrey filling in for Tyler Penn.

#### **Illinois Missions**

Ernie Lewis brought the missions report. The Bennetts are planting a church in Tifton, GA. Shane Suggs is moving to Georgia to work as assistant pastor. The Carneys have been establishing house churches in Bihoro, Japan and will be spending several months in USA. The Springs Church is looking for property and a building to go self-supporting. Teagues are seeking to open a new church in Nantes, France. Regarding the eTeam, Ashton Winter is going to Panama, Harrison Walker to France, Ben Barcroft to Japan, Gabby Boomer to Brazil, and Elly Hill to Nashville refugees. Prayer was also requested for Brooklyn Penn who is seeking to serve among refugees. CMP participants include Jonathan Hill to Bulgaria, Jessalyn Eubanks to Brazil, and Emily Petty to Japan for an internship. Maddy Kate Hollis and Bailey Hacker will be participating in Truth and Peace. Sincere prayer was made for these young people.

#### **WNAC**

IL WAC President Susan Burgess reported that the state meeting will be Saturday May 5 at Rescue FWB Church, Whittington, starting at 9:00 a.m. A brunch will be served. Rusty and Brenda Carney will be the speakers, and Andrea Harris will sing. Please bring items for the Provision Closet.

Other announcements included Ignite the Flame dinner February 17 at Ina, Calvary Church's revival and pastor seminar March 2-4 with Jim Mullen, and Welch Bible Conference March 11-13. Meeting was recessed for Committees to meet and congregation to enjoy the break.

Meeting was resumed after the break. Delegates were called back into session. The assistant moderator gave the dates for Camp Hope this year.

□ <b>Moderator Richard Brown</b> 1432 CR 1200 N. Geff, IL 62842	□ <b>Asst. Moderator Ernie Lewis</b> 1176 County Rd. 1975N Cisne, IL 62823	□ <b>Clerk Susan Burgess</b> 4911 East Chana Road Walnut Hill, IL 62893	□ <b>Treasurer Kathy Hayes</b> 5150 Centennial Lane Iuka, IL 62849
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### **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The report from the Business Committee was read.

1. We recommend we give Curtis Smith \$75.00 for speaking.
2. We recommend we give \$50 each to the five young people from the East Central District going on eTeam mission trips this summer.
  - i. Ben Barcroft – Japan
  - ii. Gabby Boomer – Brazil
  - iii. Ellie Hill – Nashville refugees
  - iv. Harrison Walker – France
  - v. Ashton Winter - Panama

Signed: Rodney Logue. Mike Altgibbers, Mike Stephenson. MSC to accept the Business Committee report.

### **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

The Youth Committee recommended the following items for information:

1. CTS Competition at Ina April 27-28. Theme at Nationals "Unseen" Hebrews 11:1.
2. Students invited also to Ignite the Flame dinner at Ina on February 17 at 6:00 p.m. \*Welch usually has something special for teens.
3. Welcome Days April 12-14 at Welch
4. Start praying for Camp Hope. Start promoting your kids going.
5. Truth & Peace Weekend May 4-5 at The Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, TN.

Signed: Phillip Kennedy, Amy Johnson, Sara Ulrey. MSC to accept the Youth Committee report.

### **Oak Valley Report**

Marie Rutger gave the Oak Valley Report. The church attendance has been up. On Easter they had a well-attended sunrise service as well as Easter worship service. They appreciate their pastor very much. He works diligently with the Geff Hope Ministries food distribution once monthly, and the Oak Valley people volunteer to help as well as support it financially. One of their long-time members Bro. Glen Byars passed away this past year, and he is very much missed.

### **Pleasant View Church Report**

Susan Burgess gave the Pleasant View Report. In May the women participated with the Calvary Church in a banquet with the Bartons' granddaughters presenting a musical evening. The ladies received flowers on Mothers' Day, and the gentlemen received a gift on Fathers' Day. The Vacation Bible School theme was Passport to Peru. Upgraded lighting has been added to the classrooms and fellowship hall. Bro. Harlen Johnson preached revival services beginning with a joint service with Calvary in December. Food was collected for needy families in November and December. "Norman's Rock Well Family Inn" Christmas production was presented by the very talented young adults in the church with touching Scripture recitation by the children.

### **EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

The report from the Examining Committee was read.

1. The Examining Committee has requested and received a letter of good standing for Bro. Harlen Johnson from the White River District in Indiana. We have issued a minister's card of good standing to Bro. Harlen Johnson for 2017.
2. We received the annual reports and recommend a card of good standing be issued to each of the following ministers:
  - a. Bro. Phillip Kennedy
  - b. Bro. John D. Hollis
  - c. Bro. David L. Burgess
  - d. Bro. Ernie Lewis
  - e. Bro. Harlen Johnson
  - f. Bro. Richard Brown
  - g. Bro. Stephen Cantrell
  - h. Bro. Thomas Shane Davison

3. As requested by their churches, we recommend a card of good standing be issued to these ministers over the age of 65:
    - a. Bro. James Boggs
    - b. Bro. Jesse Allen
    - c. Bro. Karel Smith
    - d. Bro. David Shores
  4. Upon receiving Bro. Tyler Penn's minister's report, and approval by the Committee, we will issue a card of good standing.
- Signed: Ernie Taylor, David L. Burgess, John Hollis. MSC to accept the Examining Committee report.

Delegates to the State Meeting at Peace Church, Granite City, March 15-17 were appointed: Rodney Logue, Kathy Hayes, Pat Shores, Sara Ulrey. MSC that moderator or assistant moderator can fill the fifth vacancy or can change another delegate as needed.

Business was adjourned. April 14 we meet at Oak Valley Church.

### **WORSHIP SERVICE**

Worship service opened with congregation singing "Blessed Assurance." Prayer by John Hollis. Ernie Lewis led the congregation in "My Jesus I Love Thee." Offering was taken, and Vickie Hollis played "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Bro. Curtis Smith, moderator of the Illinois State Association and pastor of Harmony FWB Church, preached from Isaiah 9:6 "Wonderful, Merciful Savior." We need to be reminded who we serve when we see problems. Our Savior is "wonderful," Isaiah 25:1. God gives us mercy, not what we deserve, Titus 3:5 and Romans 6:23. Jesus washed away our sin debt. He is our friend Proverbs 18:24. He is our Counselor. II Corinthians 1:4 tells us that He comforts us in all our troubles so we can comfort others. Focus on Jesus in the middle of the storm and walk on the water. Don't wait for a storm. Go to Jesus when the raindrops fall. He is our "Mighty God." I Chronicles 29:11 reminds us He should be the head of your house, and the Everlasting Father wants what is best for us. His heart breaks for us when we make mistakes. God is love I John 4:4. Worship Him as the Prince of Peace. True peace comes at salvation. Philippians 4:6-7 assures us that His peace passes all understanding.

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

Respectfully submitted by

  
Susan Burgess, Clerk





# **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

### **MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2018 MEETING AT OAK VALLEY FWB CHURCH, GEFF, IL**

#### **WELCOME AND DEVOTION**

The meeting was opened in prayer by host pastor Richard Brown. He led the congregation in singing "Victory In Jesus," accompanied by Marie Rutger. Bro. Brown spoke from Romans 1:8. Jesus was willing to be nailed to the cross. The stone was rolled away – not so Jesus could get out but so we could get in. Is the Church ready to receive people? Are our hearts ready to witness? We have to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Moderator Richard Brown requested Clerk Susan Burgess call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Moderator recognized standing delegates. Clerk read the annual and 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 January meeting, which had been mailed to pastors earlier, 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. The opening balance was \$468.12, and the ending balance today was \$488.12. MSC to accept the treasurer's report.

#### **Illinois State Report**

Bro. David Shores reported that we had a great Illinois State meeting in March. Illinois eTeam members do need more donations in their accounts. Moline, IL church needs a pastor. Mark and Khristie Shores have moved from the Mountain View Church in Albuquerque, NM to a church in Oklahoma. Bro. Shores praised the Lord that their twin great-granddaughters were officially adopted this week.

#### **Illinois Missions**

Bro. Ernie Lewis brought the missions report. The Bennetts are planting a church in Tifton, GA. Shane Suggs and family are moving to Georgia in May to work as assistant pastor. The Carneys are spending several months in USA. Rusty will be our speaker at the April district meeting. Jeff Goodman at The Springs Church had 702 on Easter in three services with two salvations. The Bridge Church had over 70 at their Easter service, led by Jamie Lee. Jennie and Laurence Probst are assisting Cristian and Melissa Figueroa in the Joliet Hispanic Work. The Penns hosted international students on Easter at church and for dinner in their home. The Teagues are looking for a location for a new church.

#### **Others**

IL WAC President Susan Burgess reported that the state meeting will be Saturday, May 5, at Rescue FWB Church, Whittington, starting at 9:00 a.m. A brunch will be served. Rusty and Brenda Carney will be the speakers, and Andrea Harris will sing. Please bring items for the Provision Closet. Both WAC districts bought bricks for Welch College, and that item of business will be brought forth at the state meeting as well.

Other announcements included the Master's Men Retreat in the Fall. A Camp Hope report was given by Brad Ryan, Board member. A new caretaker has been hired. Cody and Alyssa Hiller are the new caretakers. The caretaker house is being remodeled. Also, an addition to the Girl's Dorm is underway. The Camp Board is applying for another grant from the FWB Foundation for several projects.

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| □ <b>Moderator Richard Brown</b> | □ <b>Asst. Moderator Ernie Lewis</b> | □ <b>Clerk Susan Burgess</b> | □ <b>Treasurer Kathy Hayes</b> |
| <b>1432 CR 1200 N.</b>           | <b>1176 County Rd. 1975N</b>         | <b>4911 East Chana Road</b>  | <b>5150 Centennial Lane</b>    |
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Bro. Ryan also gave a Welch College report since he is a board member for the college as well. Dr. Robert Picirilli will speak at the baccalaureate Thursday, May 10, and Dr. Pressler will speak at graduation Friday, May 11 at 10:00 a.m. Pray for larger donors to support the work of the college. Campaigns include Building on the Legacy and Pave the Way (buying a brick for \$250 to be laid in October). Encourage students to come.

Moderator appointed Harlan Johnson to replace Mike Crabtree on the Business Committee, and Philip Kennedy will serve alone on the Youth Committee for the day. Meeting was recessed for Committees to meet and congregation to enjoy the break.

Meeting was resumed after the break. Delegates were called back into session.

### **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The report from the Business Committee was read.

1. It is the recommendation of the Business Committee that the East Central Quarterly purchase one brick (\$250) for the Welch College Pave the Way Program. "East Central District IL State FWB"
2. The Business Committee also recommends that Oak Valley receive a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality.

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

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The committee met; there was no business brought to the committee.

Signed: Ernie Taylor, David L. Burgess, John Hollis

### **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

The Youth Committee recommended the following items for information:

1. Recommend sending teens to CTS Competition at Ina FWB Church on Friday and Saturday, April 27-28.
2. Recommend sending children to Camp Hope. Forms will be mailed this week to last year's campers. Find forms at ILFWB.ORG under Camp Board.
3. Recommend taking young people to the National Youth Conference in Little Rock, AR on July 22-25. The theme is "UNSEEN" from Hebrews 11:1.

Signed: Phillip Kennedy. MSC to accept the Youth Committee report as information.

### **Blue Point Church Report**

Bro. Ernie Lewis gave the report. The church donated a \$4,000 grill to the Bennetts so they could have neighborhood cookouts. After Vacation Bible School Blue Point will have a Sunday morning commencement service. The Cisne parade was rained out; so they have 2,000 popsicles left. The church participated in a "We Care, We Share" event. They also held a fundraiser for Sonny Smith family and a concealed and carry class. There were 180 at the Easter service. They have students in eTeam and Truth and Peace. David Shores preached homecoming services for them.

### **Calvary Church Report**

Bro. Harlan Johnson gave the Report. The church won second place in the October Little Egypt Parade in Salem. Bro. Ernie Taylor is the head of their security team. For Salem Family Day, the church had lemon shake ups and handed out VBS invitations. At Apple Fest it was apple turnovers and pies. Jim Mullen preached a revival and pastor's health conference recently. They just finished their men's retreat. When Rusty Carney preached, a little girl was saved, and her dad was in church for the first time. The kids are involved in CTS.

Bro. John Hollis brought up that our state association wants us to address homosexual and other gender topics for a state committee on bylaws. This includes rules for renting the church buildings to anyone outside your church because current law says if you rent, you have to rent to anyone. Send your ideas to Bro. Shores.

Business was adjourned. July 14 we meet at Pleasant View Church.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Worship service opened with prayer by Bro. Stephen Cantrell for the offering. Marie Rutger played the offertory "He Touched Me." Bro. Richard Brown led the congregation in singing "How Great Thou Art." Bro. Brad Ryan, pastor of Ina FWB Church, spoke on I John 5:14,15. He emphasized that preaching is vital to win souls, but praying must not be neglected or preaching is less effective. We must pray according to His will for confidence in prayer. We must pray in the name of Jesus. There is something about the name of Jesus. The prayer's objective must glorify the Father. We must pray in cooperation with the Holy Spirit so our thoughts are right, wise and of the Father (Romans 8:26). Also James 1:5-6 teaches us to pray from a faithful heart without doubts. Hindrances to prayer include secret sin, selfishness, routine, unforgiving spirit, and impatience.

Bro. Shores closed in prayer with a blessing on the food. We thanked the church for hosting.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Burgess".

Susan Burgess, Clerk





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## ***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 14, 2018 MEETING AT PLEASANT VIEW FWB CHURCH, WALNUT HILL, IL**

#### **WELCOME AND DEVOTION**

The meeting was opened with a welcome by host Pastor David Burgess. He led the congregation in singing "I Surrender All," accompanied by Paula Hayes at the organ and Susan Burgess at the piano. Bro. Burgess spoke from the book of Matthew for a morning devotional thought.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Moderator Richard Brown requested Clerk Susan Burgess call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Moderator recognized standing delegates. Clerk read the 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, which had been mailed to pastors earlier, were presented in typed form for everyone to keep. MSC to accept the minutes as corrected. The treasurer's report was read by the clerk. The opening balance was \$488.12, and the ending balance today was \$468.12. A request from the treasurer that there be a second signer on the checking account was referred to the Business Committee.

#### **Illinois State Report**

Bro. David Shores reported that we had a great National Convention in July. He welcomed Rusty Carney to the services. Bro. Shores mentioned several prayer requests. The Moline Church Pastor Bill Russell had to leave the church because of the poor health of his wife and himself. Retired pastor Jesse Allen is hospitalized. Former Illinois State moderator Larry Montgomery has died. Also, Phillip Kennedy and family have been called to pastor at First FWB Church, Benton. One of the Shores' great granddaughters is on the list as a kidney recipient.

Bro. Bobby Jackson will be the speaker at the September 9-12 Camp meeting at Camp Hope.

Bro. Shores is seeking examples of church bylaws and guidance regarding use of church buildings. Also, let him know if you would like to receive the State newsletter in an email in order to save money.

#### **Illinois Missions**

Bro. Ernie Lewis brought the missions report. The Bennetts are launching a church in Tifton, GA in August. The preview service saw 125 in attendance. Shane Suggs and family are moving to Georgia in May to work as assistant pastor. The Carneys are spending several months in USA. Rusty will be our speaker today. Jeff Goodman and The Springs Church are seeking property or a building. Jamie Lee at the Bridge Church has had three preview services and will hold the launch service in late August or early September. Jennie and Loren Chaney are assisting Cristian and Melissa Figueroa in the Joliet Hispanic Work. The Penns are working with international students even during the summer. The Teagues are looking for a location for a new church.

#### **Others**

New IL WAC President Amy Johnson announced the Illinois Women's Retreat will be September 28-29 at Camp Hope. Speakers are Elizabeth Hodges and Sarah Malone.

Other announcements included the Master's Men Retreat in the Fall will be September 13-15. Travis Penn, Indiana pastor at Cross Life FWB Church, will be the speaker.

□ <b>Moderator Richard Brown</b>	□ <b>Asst. Moderator Ernie Lewis</b>	□ <b>Clerk Susan Burgess</b>	□ <b>Treasurer Kathy Hayes</b>
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Moderator appointed Ernie Lewis to replace Mike Crabtree on the Business Committee, and Harlen Johnson, Stephen Cantrell and David Pittman will serve on the Youth Committee for the day. Meeting was recessed for Committees to meet. Meeting was resumed after the break. Delegates were called back into session.

### **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The report from the Business Committee was read. MSC to accept the report and deal with item by item.

1. Recommend Stephen Cantrell be elected to the Youth Committee to replace Phillip Kennedy whose term expires 2020. This is contingent on Bro. Kennedy's resignation letter and request from South Central District for a letter of good standing, which can be sent by our clerk. MSC
2. Recommend current clerk be authorized as second signature on the District bank account. MSC
3. Recommend today's special speaker receive \$100. MSC
4. Recommend we meet in October at Calvary Church and in January at Blue Point. MSC
5. Recommend that Pleasant View receive a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality and lunch.

Signed: Rodney Logue, Lee Penn and Ernie Lewis. MSC to accept the Business Committee report.

### **EXAMINING COMMITTEE**

The committee met with Bro. Rusty Carney for fellowship; there was no business brought to the committee. Signed: David L. Burgess, John Hollis, Ernie Taylor MSC

### **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

The Youth Committee recommended the following items:

1. Pray for the youth competing in National events. Safety of travel to and from National Youth Conference in Little Rock, AR on July 22-25.
2. Pray for guidance for Business Committee in finding Youth Committee volunteers.

Signed: Stephen Cantrell, Harlen Johnson, David Pittman. MSC

### **Crossroads Church Report**

Pastor John Hollis praised God for new members Roy and Kathy Bartels. On Easter they had early services with breakfast and regular service following. In April Jude Hollis, age 4, accepted Jesus as his Savior, and Bro. John and Vicki celebrated their 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Vicki judged CTS events at Ina, and 3 attended the WAC state meeting. The 37<sup>th</sup> year homecoming was celebrated by Wanda Mountain Boys and Johnny Hollis preaching. Their VBS outreach closed with a program and cookout. Briana Young accepted Christ at Camp.

### **Decatur First Church Report**

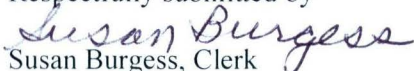
Pastor Stephen Cantrell reported that they bring two routes of kids to Wednesday services. His wife has two discipleship classes, and he is preaching from Romans with "Summer in the Psalms." Two girls went to eTeam and one to Truth and Peace. The Church is taking a prayer walk through the streets of Decatur.

### **WORSHIP SERVICE**

After business was adjourned, worship service opened with singing "A New Name Written Down in Glory" led by Bro. Brown. Prayer for the offering. Paula Hayes played the offertory. Missionary to Japan Rusty Carney played "I'll Fly Away." Then he told about their recent travels in Illinois, Oklahoma, and Texas. He shared his testimony that he was born in Macon, Georgia, but his parents moved back to Illinois. He was saved at the age of 4 and wanted to be a missionary from first grade on. He testified that God puts desires in our hearts for His will. Bro. Rusty met his future wife Brenda at Welch College. Brenda did an internship in Japan, and then he did a summer overseas apprenticeship when they were engaged. In January 2009 they first went as missionaries. This past term God led Bro. Rusty to read about prayer and learn from God, "Come unto me." He spent several times a day in the prayer room. In January 2019 they hope to return to Japan and minister in Tokyo to help lead a church there while the MacDonald's are in United States. Prayer is needed for the Buddhist neighbor who will need to give favor to the new church location before relocation can be finalized. The Carneys are planning a YouTube channel with Japanese Christian testimonies, especially to reach commuters in Japan.

Bro. Burgess closed in prayer with a blessing on the food. We thanked the church for hosting.

Respectfully submitted by

  
Susan Burgess, Clerk





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# **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 OCTOBER 13, 2018 MEETING AT CALVARY FWB CHURCH, SALEM, IL**

#### **WELCOME AND DEVOTION**

The meeting was opened by the congregation singing "At the Cross" led by Kathy Hayes and accompanied by Debbie Woolbright at the piano. Pastor Harlan Johnson welcomed everyone to Calvary. He spoke from Isaiah 43:1-3. We are not to fear. We cannot worship and glorify the Lord as we should if we succumb to fear. Fear is bigger than us, but not bigger than our Savior. Bro. Harlan then led in prayer.

#### **BUSINESS SESSION**

Moderator Richard Brown prayed to open business session and then requested Clerk Susan Burgess call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Moderator recognized standing delegates. Clerk read the 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, which had been mailed to pastors earlier, were presented in typed form for everyone to keep. The Clerk noted that item one indicated that a letter of resignation from the Youth Committee was expected from Bro. Phillip Kennedy who has transferred to Benton First FWB Church in another district. The Business Committee indicated they would take Bro. Kennedy's oral resignation. Also, regarding item two, the current clerk and treasurer have met at the bank and added the clerk as the authorized second signature. MSC to accept the minutes as amended.

The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Kathy Hayes. The opening balance was \$468.12, and the ending balance today was \$697.44.

#### **Illinois State Report**

Bro. David Shores reported that we had 4,300 in attendance at the National Convention in July. More registered for the youth conference. The Bonnie post office flooded September 8 and still is not opened. So the mailing of the newsletter has been delayed. Bro. Bobby Jackson spoke at the Camp Meeting. We had a higher attendance and good offering. David Mischler was elected president of the Camp Meeting. Nominations are being taken for the Executive Secretary of Free Will Baptists since Keith Burden is retiring December 31, 2019.

#### **Illinois Missions**

Bro. Ernie Lewis reported that on September 9 the Awaken Church opened and had four baptisms the first Sunday. Hurricane Michael did affect them. The Lewis family will be visiting the Davisons in France in the Spring. The Goodmans in Arizona are reaching youth and want a building. Tibet and China are tightening restrictions on Christians. Jamie Lee's first service in Champaign was September 16. They are planning to baptize three. Adam and Rebecca Garrett are coming there to help in the work. They are experienced church planters. The Penns have scheduled a cookout for international students and the church on October 14. Sarah Malone is now available for services. Tyler Penn spoke at the Missions Conference at Welch College. Craig Portel is now the director of ELI in Mongolia. The school in Taiwan where Darren Portell teaches is building a new school. Dennis and Carol Teague are working to organize a new church. Joel and Lydie Teague took a group to Bulgaria to help present a "J'Pense" event. There were over 100 attending, many of whom were unbelievers. The pastor missionary has left the Joliet work. Jenny Probst is trying to keep the Sunday School going. Bro. Ernie requested prayer for the mission board.

□ **Moderator Richard Brown**  
1432 CR 1200 N.  
Geff, IL 62842

□ **Asst. Moderator Ernie Lewis**  
1176 County Rd. 1975N  
Cisne, IL 62823

□ **Clerk Susan Burgess**  
4911 East Chana Road  
Walnut Hill, IL 62893

□ **Treasurer Kathy Hayes**  
5150 Centennial Lane  
Iuka, IL 62849



### Others

Ernie Taylor reported that the Master's Men Retreat September 13-15 was a good retreat with Travis Penn, Indiana pastor at Cross Life FWB Church, speaking. Bro. Taylor took second place in the shoot off. He pointed out that Calvary Church now has security cameras in place. Susan Burgess report that the September 28-29 Illinois Women's Retreat was excellent. The Women Active for Christ state meeting will be held in May.

Moderator appointed Stephen Cantrell and Karel Smith to fill vacancies on the Youth Committee. On the Business Committee Harlan Johnson will replace Mike Crabtree for the day. Meeting was recessed for Committees to meet. Meeting was resumed after the break. Delegates were called back into session.

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The report from the Business Committee was read. MSC to accept the report and deal with item by item.

1. Recommend Harlan Johnson replace Richard Brown as moderator.
2. Recommend Richard Brown replace Mike Crabtree who has suggested that he be replaced on the Business Committee since he has missed several meetings due to his health.
3. Recommend we pay Jamie Lee \$150.00 for speaking and mileage.
4. Recommend that we thank Calvary Church for hosting the quarterly meeting and lunch.

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

### EXAMINING COMMITTEE

The committee met. They had no new business to discuss.

Signed: David L. Burgess, John Hollis, Ernie Taylor MSC

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee recommended the following items:

1. Suggest that churches send their Sophomores-Juniors and Seniors to Welcome Days at Welch College November 8-10, 2018.
2. Suggest that churches take their teens to the Grounded Conference at Donelson Church, Nashville, Tennessee, October 26-28. Speaker will be J. Warner Wallace. [Info@donelson.org](mailto:Info@donelson.org)

Signed: Stephen Cantrell, Ernie Lewis, Karl J. Smith. MSC

The slate of officers (page 4 of minutes) was approved. MSC. There was a request to include the slate and it be sent to the churches.

### Mt. Vernon First Report

Pastor David Shores reported that their youth group had been affected by the gender identity crises in the Mt. Vernon schools. As a result, a Thursday a.m. prayer group was begun after all had transpired. Mt. Vernon has remodeled their kitchen. They have gained new couples and two new deacons in their church. Their WAC raised over \$2,000 for missions. They also had an evening meal for police and county deputies and a lunch for firemen. They had a booth at Family Day and a prayer tent. Bro. Phillip Kennedy received a call to pastor in Benton. The Mt. Vernon church was established after Bro. Riley Burton preached a 1930 revival when 53 people were saved. Years later Bro. Shores led Mr. Burton's 83-year-old son to the Lord.

### Oak Valley Church Report

Pastor Richard Brown reported that they have remodeled with carpeting and new chairs recently. They have sent their pews to their next assignment. Oak Valley is planning youth ministry, and Bro. Richard had spent time recently counseling a man struggling with alcoholism.

Bro. John Hollis wants a new teacher training seminar. Randall House is agreeable to providing training. This is a suggestion for the Youth Committee to consider. The Clerk reminded everyone that the January 12 meeting would be at Blue Point Church and the church reports would be given by Blue Point and Pleasant View. Business session was dismissed.



## WORSHIP SERVICE

After business was adjourned, worship service opened with singing "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story" led by Tia Dunaway who also played the offertory, "God Is So Good." Prayer for the offering was led by Bro. Richard Brown.

Speaker Bro. Jamie Lee brought his friend Gerald Voice with him. Gerald reported that he and Jamie had met at the YMCA. Through this Gerald began attending the Bridge Church. Bridge has completed a shoe fundraiser for two schools.

Bro. Jamie said that he enjoys visiting with people and that they have a diverse congregation at The Bridge. Their worship band members are Jamie's cousins. Bro. Jamie spoke about "Living Your Life Fearlessly. Fear distorts reality. In Numbers 13:30 God told Moses to send out twelve spies to the Promised Land. The spies saw powerful people. Ten said that the Children of Israel could not conquer the new land. Fear handicapped them from moving forward. We must believe in God's promises. "Fear Not" is a daily directive from the Bible. God's promises took the Children of Israel from bondage to freedom.

Bro. Taylor closed in prayer with a blessing on the food. We thanked the church for hosting.

Respectfully submitted by

  
Susan Burgess, Clerk