



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, 2022 MEETING AT PLEASANT VIEW FWB CHURCH, WALNUT HILL, IL

WELCOME AND DEVOTION

The meeting was opened with a welcome by Moderator Harlen Johnson. Pleasant View Pastor David Burgess brought the morning devotion from several passages in Proverbs regarding staying well. "There's a relationship between humble acknowledgement of God and physical wellness." People who attend church live on average over seven years longer than people who do not attend church. A peaceful and cheerful heart is good medicine. May we find joy in Jesus' name.

BUSINESS SESSION

The Moderator Harlen Johnson requested Clerk Susan Burgess to call the meeting to order to do business for our Lord. Moderator recognized and seated standing delegates and members of standing boards and officers. Clerk read the churches' quarterly and annual reports. Motion, second and carried (MSC) to approve reports and seat delegates. Minutes of the October meeting, emailed to pastors earlier, were presented in typed form. MSC to accept the minutes as amended that John Hollis will not leave the district in January since he is still a member at Crossroads Church.

Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Kathy Hayes. The opening balance was \$1,069.05; the closing balance was \$1,334.05. MSC to receive the report as read. Moderator charged the committees and delegates. He appointed Mike Ulrey to replace Richard Brown, who is still recovering from surgery, on the Business Committee for the day. Craig Smith was absent due to being at work. Ernie Lewis was appointment to replace him on the Examining Committee for the day.

The moderator explained that because of the eight inches of snow in Nashville, Tennessee, the Kettelman missionary family are not able to speak today and will be rescheduled for the July meeting.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Illinois Missions

Bro. Ernie Lewis gave the missions report for Illinois related missionaries. The Bennett's Awaken Church had over 160 people at the Christmas Eve service. The Davison's have classes going. Ed and Rachel Goode baptized one young woman and are holding Bible studies. The Penn's big Thanksgiving outing with International Students went well. Horacio Minjares had 40 people at the Elgin Church's Sunday afternoon Spanish Church. Craig Portell and family are returning to Mongolia from Canada. Darren and Dana Portell are in Taipei and are noting the political unrest there. Joel and Lydie Teague report that J'Pense saw a large group of young people. David and Miriam Reeves are in Southern France so that David can attend language school.

Because Mark King attended in person, he reported that he has been offered an assignment to teach at a university in Morocco.

WNAC and Master's Men

The Moderator reported that Master's Men will have a retreat September 15-17, 2022 at Camp Hope. It is free, and an offering will be taken. WNAC President Amy Johnson reported that a "Flourish" in person seminar is scheduled for March 26 in Huntington, WV. WNAC is beginning "The Giving Tree" giving campaign. May 14 will be the IL annual fellowship, and retreat is September 23-24, 2022. She requests prayer for a director.

□ Moderator Harlen Johnson 125 Country Club Estates Salem, IL 62881	□ 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
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Attendees joined an altar of prayer for Bro. Richard Brown's further surgery. Motion made for meeting to break to give committees time to meet. MSC. During the break, Kay Penn inspired the congregation with a piano interlude. Meeting resumed. Delegates were called back into session.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

We the Examining Committee recommend the following:

1. We received the annual reports and recommend a card of good standing be issued to each of the following ministers:
 - a. Bro. David Burgess
 - b. Bro. Richard Brown
 - c. Bro. Ernie Lewis
 - d. Bro. Harlen Johnson
 - e. Bro. Stephen Cantrell
 - f. Bro. Shane Davison
 - g. Bro. Craig Smith
2. As requested by their churches, we recommend a card of good standing be issued to these ministers over the age of 65:
 - a. Bro. Jesse Allan
 - b. Bro. John Hollis
 - c. Bro. David Shores
 - d. Bro. James Boggs
 - e. Bro. Karel Smith
3. We recommend Bro. Jeff Pope for a card of good standing upon his joining the Crossroads Church and our receiving a letter of good standing from the White River Association in Indiana.

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

YOUTH COMMITTEE

We recommend the following as information:

1. Camp dates:
 - June 1-3 Leadership
 - June 5-10 Junior/Senior
 - June 12-17 Freshman/Sophomore
 - June 19-24 Junior
 - June 26-30 Primary
 - July 3-8 Junior High

Signed: Suzanne Lewis, Debby Woolbright, Sara Ulrey

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The report from the Business Committee was read. MSC to accept the report to vote item by item.

We the Business Committee recommend the following:

1. We recommend that the motion from the floor which was tabled on October 9, 2021 "to dissolve Youth Committee by removing Article VIII of the Constitution of the East Central Illinois District Association of Free Will Baptists (Revised & Printed April 2012)" be taken from the table and returned to the body for discussion.
2. We recommend that the motion "to dissolve Youth Committee by removing Article VIII of the Constitution of the East Central Illinois District Association of Free Will Baptists (Revised & Printed April 2012)" be amended as follows: "Motion to dissolve Youth Committee by removing Article VIII of the East Central District Constitution and renumbering remaining Articles IX - XII. In addition, the first sentence of current Article IX shall change 'three standing committees' to 'two standing committees.'"

3. Donate \$300 for four people from Calvary FWB Church going to Jamaica.

4. Thanks to Pleasant View for lunch.

Signed: Rodney Logue, Lee Penn, Mike Ulrey - Items 1 and 2 MS did not pass. Items 3 and 4 MSC.

Larry Maas volunteered and was appointed to the Youth Committee.

Business was dismissed.

For their over forty years of service at Crossroads Church and East Central District, John and Vickie Hollis were honored with flowers, a plaque, card and gift presented by Moderator and Mrs. Johnson.

Crossroads Church Report

Retiring Pastor John Hollis wanted to make sure they had a Bible believing pastor at Crossroads. The church welcomes the new pastor Jeff Pope and Linda and Lyndsey. John and Vickie are remaining members of Crossroads for now. He introduced the new pastor who comes from NC and 24 ½ years in Wabash, IN.

Decatur First Church Report

Deacon Lee Penn asked prayer for the bi-vocational Pastor Stephen Cantrell. In October the church celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month. They had a potluck for Thanksgiving. The ladies have a Bible study on the book of Titus. One person has been saved and baptized at their church recently.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship service was opened with the congregation singing “*He Lives” and “The Family of God” led by Larry Maas and played by Susan Burgess. Offering was taken. Bro. David Shores brought the executive director’s report regarding the 200 pastors in the denomination being without pastors. The Illinois State Meeting will be March 17-18 at Calvary Church. The Bridge Builders are sending more food to Cuba.

Bro. Shores then preached from Philippians 1:12, 27-28. We are not in the “sweet by and by” yet, but we are in the “nasty now and now!” God gives us the gift of encouragement. We must let the light of Christ shine (II Corinthians 4:4). Paul was cast down but not destroyed. “I have fought a good fight.” We can recite the Lord’s Prayer to appreciate God’s provisions. Have we yielded to his mandates and forgotten the Great Commission? We are on God’s winning side. Feed those who are in the church services. Together we are better.

Thanks to the Pleasant View Church was expressed. Closing prayer and blessing on lunch was given.

Respectfully submitted by

Susan Burgess

Susan Burgess, Clerk