

H. RAY BERRY

MINUTES
OF THE
Fifty-Second Annual Session
OF THE
TEXAS FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

DARCO CHURCH
Harrison County

OCTOBER 3-5, 1929

Mount Olive Church



E. S. JAMERSON	Moderator
B. A. WAINRIGHT	Vice-President
THOS. D. ROSS	Clerk
W. B. DUKE, JR.	Assistant Clerk

MINUTES

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION—TEXAS

FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Fifty-Second Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association was held with Darco Church in Harrison County, commencing Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1929.

The first service consisted of reading the 24th Psalm, and the discussion of local church matters.

The business session opened Friday morning with song, Scripture reading and prayer by Rev. D. R. Jimmerson.

It was adopted to receive the church letters and delegates at one time. Ira Harper, H. W. Watson, and J. B. Fears were appointed on Pulpit Committee. Visiting brethren were asked to make a few remarks. Rev. J. J. Tatum, State Secretary, gave us a very encouraging report of the work over the State. Rev. J. W. Handy reported favorably from Central Texas Association. Miss Minnie Jimmerson made a very appropriate short talk. Adjourned for preaching.

The Association reconvened in the afternoon at 1:30.

Rev. J. W. Handy preached at eleven o'clock from Gal. 6:17.

Bro. S. A. Watson conducted devotional exercises. Scripture reading, Psalms 24th Chapter.

Reading the Minutes of the morning session which was adopted as read.

Reading of the Church Letters and seating the delegates present:

FRIENDSHIP: J. L. Ross, W. B. Duke, Jr., and H. K. Ross.

YOUNGBLOOD: Miss Eva Hill, Miss Josie Tompkins, Miss Nellie Tompkins

BUNCOMB: P. H. Graves, J. L. D. Morris, W. L. Crawford.

CENTER POINT: Walter Wilkerson, Dottie Hesser, Oscar Hes-

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ser, Fannie Pitts, Bill Hill, W. D. Heard.

GOOD HOPE: Tim Phillips, Church Gibson, Joe Weatherford, Will Wherry, Lod Anderson.

NEW HOPE: Howard Morris, S. A. Watson, Wilford Lee and Mrs. Gus Smith.

MOUNT OLIVE: Ray Berry, Arthur Hale, Mrs. Monnie Duncan, Ab Fears, Mrs. Annette Fears.

MT. UNION: D. R. Curbow and wife, Beatrice Curbow, H. T. Lunsford and wife, Minnie Lunsford.

UNION ARBOR: T. E. Williamson, E. J. Rhodes, G. S. Sims, H. L. Vice, W. B. Jennings.

HARPER'S UNION: A. R. Harper, Mrs. A. R. Harper, George Birdwell, Mrs. W. H. Hays

DIRGIN: Elbert Grigsby, Sister Edna Mae Jennings, Sister Oleda Adams, and Sister Vivian Hinkle.

DARCO: Thomas Reeves, Sister Eunice Eldridge, Sister Elizabeth Harper.

STEWART CHAPEL: R. M. Thornton and wife, Olan Graham and wife, T. L. Conley and wife.

The next item of business was the electing of officers. Rev. E. S. Jamerson was unanimously elected president, and Rev. B. A. Wainright, Vice President, and W. B. Duke, Jr., assistant clerk.

The following committees were appointed by the president:

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Ira Harper, Miss Minnie Jimmerson, Hubert Ray Berry, Earnest Tipps, Mrs. R. M. Thornton.

COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM—J. J. Tatum, H. S. Higginbotham, J. B. Fears, P. H. Graves, H. W. Lee.

MISSIONS—B. A. Wainright, H. W. Watson, T. O. Jones, T. L. Conley, S. A. Watson, H. A. Thornton, T. F. Reaves, W. D. Heard.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK—Mrs. J. O. Graham, Miss Lillie Mae Fears, Mrs. B. A. Wainright, Kilby Ross, Miss Minnie Jimmerson.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS—J. W. Handy, J. E. Tompkins, Mrs. Oscar Hesser, Mrs. P. H. Graves and J. R. Wyatt.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE—J. B. Fears, J. O. Graham, J. A.

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Clark, G. W. Smith, H. T. Higginbotham, Oscar Hesser, P. H. Graves, and T. D. Ross, W. B. Duke, Jr.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE—Rev. D. R. Jimmerson, Mrs. Gus Smith, Mrs. T. L. Conley.

J. E. Tompkins, J. B. Fears and H. W. Watson were appointed to name delegates to the State Convention to be held at Fort Worth, beginning the 5th day of November, 1929.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning. An address at night by the Superintendent of the Tatum School which was very interesting and instructive. Everyone present enjoyed it very much. After the address, Rev. J. J. Tatum preached a very able sermon. Late in the afternoon Miss Minnie Jimmerson, who for the past several years has been in the North, taking instruction in, and teaching religious training, gave us a heart to heart talk on how our young people should be trained for worship. If her advice could be put into practice it would inspire our young people to nobler and better things and give to the churches a much needed uplift.

The Association convened at 9 o'clock Saturday morning with a song.

Devotional was led by P. H. Graves.

P. H. Graves, W. B. Duke, Jr., and G. R. Smith were placed on a resolution committee.

It was unanimously voted to extend an invitation to the State Convention to hold its next session with Mt. Olive Church, Rusk County, ten miles South of Henderson.

Report on Young People's work read and referred back to the committee.

Reading of the different reports. Adjourned for preaching.

Rev. D. R. Jimmerson preached for us at eleven o'clock from Judges 7:21: "And They Stood Every Man in His Place."

The afternoon was devoted to discussing and receiving the various reports.

Report of Sunday School Committee

We, your committee on Sunday School work, submit the following:

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There is a favorable report from some of our churches on Sunday School work, but some we notice did not report any Sunday School. We are of the opinion that more leaders are needed to carry on this great work. Therefore, we recommend that some method of training for this work be adopted.

We recommend that the committee appointed for young people's work be responsible for the church school work. This committee could be a committee on religious education and therefore include all educational work.

IRA HARPER, Chairman.

Committee Report on Evangelism

We, the committee on Evangelism, submit the following:

As we have always been considered in the front ranks as Evangelistic, we would urge our churches to great evangelistic efforts that we may be worthy of our past history and bring greater glory to God in the salvation of the lost world.

We further recommend to all of our churches that an evangelistic campaign be entered into by the churches and each of their auxiliaries, namely: the Sunday School, Young People's Society, and the Women's Society of our Association. We urge each member of the church to make a special effort under the direction of the Holy Spirit to win one or more souls during the months of this campaign.

We recommend that two months be observed for this work, the time to be set by the Association. This time be designated for special evangelism for this Association and that all our churches observe these months in this special way, by prayer, personal work and endeavor to persuade our friends to make a definite decision for Christ, and that the pastors be asked to make services in these months of an evangelistic nature giving opportunity for public confession of Christ and giving opportunity for Church membership.

Lastly, we would recommend that the pastor and his church officials would arrange and carry out this program.

J. J. TATUM, Chairman.

Report on Young People's Work

We recommend that in every church the young people of the church be organized as a young people's group, making plans for study in the church school, for worship in the church school, taking charge of the worship service at least once a month.

For Mission study through the "World-Wide Guild" and Royal Ambassador's for expression in a special service like a B. Y. P. U. or C. E.

We recommend the Commission Plan to our young people as the best literature available at the present time. We recommend that an active committee to supervise the young people's work during the year be appointed with authority to work through the pastor in executing the above recommendations.

MRS. J. O. GRAHAM, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Finance

We, your committee on finance recommend that this Association raise \$250.00 for next year's State fund. We suggest that each church select a committee to collect this money and not lay it on the pastor. We see from the letters that they can't collect their salary.

We want to call your attention to the fact that the pledges for the State work will be due by the 1st of November and we urge that the churches attend to this for this fund is behind. We further recommend that the church Clerk take this matter up at once and remit to the State Treasurer. We also recommend that the pledge system be adopted for the raising of this fund for another year. We further recommend that each church pay as much as \$2.00 for each delegate that goes to the State Convention. We commend the services of Sister Minnie Jimmerson to the church.

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es where it is possible to secure the funds for the work.

J. B. FEARS, Chairman.

Report of D. R. Jimmerson's work from October, 1928, to October, 1929:

Sermons preached, 90; amount of money received, \$73.64; Received in church, 4 members; Baptized, 2; Conducted 2 funerals; Pastored Buncomb church for 7 months—received \$31.04 from this church to date. Held two revival meetings.

Report of Committee on Missions

We, your Committee on Missions, beg to submit the following report:

From what we can learn from observation, there is not much effort being put forth in the Mission line.

Bro. D. R. Jimmerson has been doing splendid work in the field but he does not have co-operation that he should have, but we are proud of him and his work.

We therefore recommend that a Missionary be employed for full time at a salary of one hundred dollars per month which shall be paid out of each church treasury their prorata; we also recommend Miss Minnie Jimmerson for the job.

We also recommend that a committee be appointed to raise said salary, subject to approval of each church.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE:

B. A. WAINRIGHT.

TRAVIS JONES.

S. A. WATSON.

W. D. HEARD.

Report of Committee on Publications

We, your committee on Publications beg to submit the fol-

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lowing:

We earnestly recommend that our churches adopt the use of our Denomination Literature in our Sunday Schools, wherever it is possible to do so in order that the doctrines of our denomination may be more fully taught and instilled into the minds of our youths; And furthermore we recommend that some paper published by our people should be in each of our homes. Namely, there are two such publications within our reach: the Ayden Free-will Baptist of Ayden, N. C., or any other paper that is indorsed by our people, and again we recommend that the Articles of our Faith be Published in the Minutes of our Association and also the name and Postoffice address of each ordained minister in our Association; and we further recommend that our church make use of our local newspapers in announcing our meetings of every nature, as the editors are glad to print these things for us and do so without charge, and we feel that this will have a great influence in bringing our cause before the public.

J. W. HANDY, Chairman.

J. E. TOMPKINS.

MRS. OSCAR HESSER.

MRS. P. H. GRAVES.

J. R. NIGHT.

State Convention Committee Report

We your committee on State Conventions recommend that we ask every person interested in the work to put forth a personal effort to get our quota and that each church pay expenses of delegates J. E. Tompkins, J. F. Patterson, J. L. Ross, J. B. Fears, J. S. Tompkins, S. A. Watson, W. H. H. Hays and wife, P. H. Groves, H. W. Lee, W. B. Duke, Jr., G. W. Smith, Arthur Hale, Rubert Ray Berry, J. A. Clark, V. M. Hampton, H. S. Higginbotham, J. E. Grigsby, T. O. Jones, G. L. Young, D. R. Curbow.

Report of Committee on Resolutions

We, your Committee on Resolutions submit the following report:

We ask that the Moderator of this Association ask or appoint some suitable person to extend to the Darco community our appreciation for their efforts in entertaining and caring for this body, and especially commend Rev. Ira Harper for his untiring efforts in the matter.

We ask that this Association send Rev. D. J. Dollar a letter, expressing our regrets of his not being able to be with us.

P. H. GRAVES.

W. B. DUKE, JR.

G. R. SMITH.

Committee.

Report of Committee on Obituaries

We, the Committee on Obituaries report as follows:

We find ten members of this Association have been called to the land beyond since we met last.

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved ones, also to the churches of which they were members. Of the deceased ones there are three brothers and seven sisters: Brothers Charlie Capps, Willie Hill, and J. E. Husbands; Sisters Geraldine Grant, Callie Mae Alred, Rosie Campbell, Hattie Martin, Nettie Ferguson, and Emmy Capps and Mrs. Arlevia Sanders.

We suggest that the Association be called for a few minutes in prayer in behalf of the bereaved ones.

D. R. JIMMERSON, Chairman.

This closed another harmonious session of the Association.

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The next session will be held with Mt. Olive Church in Rusk County, ten miles South of Henderson on Thursday night, before the first Sunday in October, 1930. Ira Harper was appointed to preach the introductory sermon.

Rev. B. A. Wairight preached a very able sermon on Saturday night and J. J. Tatum Sunday at eleven.

E. S. JAMASON, Moderator.

T. D. ROSS, Clerk.

Articles of Faith

Of God—Article 1. There is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in good time.

Of Free Will—Article 2. We believe the human will is free, and that all who have heard and have learned of the Father have the ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation.

Of Baptism—Article 3. M.—And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water.—Matt. III.

"And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized of John in Jordan."—Mark I-9.

"Buried with Him in baptism, wherein ye are also arisen with Him through faith of the operation of God who hath raised Him from the dead."—Col. II:12.

"We are buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we are planted together in the likeness of His resurrection."—Rom. VI:4-5.

"For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God."—Col. 3:3.

Subjects—"Go ye therefore and teach all nations."—Matthew XXVIII:19.

"Then they that gladly received His word were baptized."—Acts II:41.

"And they spake unto Him the word of the Lord and to all that were in the house; and he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes, and was baptized, he and all his straightway. And when he had brought them into His house He set meat before them and rejoiced, believing in God with all His house."—Acts XVI:32-34.

"If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest."—Acts VIII, 37-39.

Object.—The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us (not putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."—I Peter 3:21.

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The Lord's Supper.—Article 4.—“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.”—I Cor. XI:28.

Object.—“This do in remembrance of me.”—Luke XXII:19.

The Bible.—Article 5.—“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”—II Tim. III:16.

Constitution

Article 1.—This Association shall be known as the Texas Free Will Baptist Association.

Article 2.—This Association shall be composed of delegates from the churches, who shall be selected and sent from the churches composing it; and each church shall be entitled to two (2) delegates for the first fifty (50) members and for over fifty, one delegate for each additional twenty-five members or fractional part thereof.

Article 3.—Ordained ministers may have seats in the Association and be entitled to privileges of delegates, even when not representing churches.

Article 4.—It is not the object of this Association to usurp authority over the churches, but to recommend such measures as would promote unity of action among the churches; to harmonize the efforts of the individual churches with one another in their efforts to accomplish good and make each other more proficient in their undertaking for good.

Article 5.—New churches and ministers may be admitted to membership on application, when duly accredited.

Article 6.—The standing officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

Article 7.—This Association shall hold its sessions once every year, at a time and place specified by the preceding session.

Article 8.—The Association shall have the right to dismiss disorderly churches and objectionable members at any of its sessions.

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Article 9.—This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, at any regular meeting of the Association.

Church Decorum

1st.—The Church may choose a pastor annually, at the last regular conference in Associational year, or if they prefer may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time, to continue from year to year, so long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2nd.—When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any time; but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3rd.—The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent, or does not sit as Moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4th.—There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of contributions made by the church, for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine, in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5th.—Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk, and it shall be his duty to do the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

6th.—When a new clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

7th.—When the church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose business it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them, relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

8th.—The Church shall hold a two-day's meeting monthly, embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

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9th.—It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

10th.—Conferences shall be conducted as follows: 1.—Prayer; unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then; 2.—Invite visiting brethren to a seat; 3.—Open a door for the reception of members; 4.—Call for absentees; 5.—For acknowledgements; 6.—For references or deferred business; 7.—For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church; 8.—For miscellaneous business.

11th.—Visiting brethren, as also helps called from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions and seconds, but not allowed to vote.

12th.—An orderly member of the Baptist church, who does not hold the church in fellowship, may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

13th.—No person shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present; but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn, the members who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealings by the church.

14th.—When the moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent for three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

15th.—No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing, to attend at his trial, provided his residence is known to the church.

16th.—When a witness, not a member of this church, is introduced, he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

17th.—The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledge-

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ments shall be minuted on the church book.

18th.—Members dismissed from the church by letter, who become disorderly, or who continue to hold their letters without a good reason, shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

19th.—Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of former conduct.

20th.—A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a motion and a second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

21st.—No move shall be made while a motion and second is before the conference.

22nd.—It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar places.

23rd.—No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without subject to being called to order by the moderator.

24th.—All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must arise to their feet and address the moderator and keep to the point in debate.

25th.—No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion, without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

26th.—When the moderator speaks in debate he nominates some brother moderator in his stead.

27th.—No one shall be interrupted while speaking, unless it is necessary to call him to order.

28th.—It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper at least four times a year and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

29th.—If the consciences of any are tender on the subject of feet washing in any church, they shall not be molested if they see fit to practice it.

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30th.—The decorum may be altered or amended by the vote of two-thirds of the members at any two successive monthly conferences.

Government and Ordinances

1st.—We believe that a gospel church, or a church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians, constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2nd.—That the rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches, and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3rd.—That the establishment of a central or Catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition, repugnant to the world of God, subversive of the churches and dangerous to the liberties of men.

4th.—That gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the scripture; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government, without suspension or interference, being under Christ, essentially independent and absolute; and that if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction, by delegation or otherwise, the assembly then ceases to be a gospel church.

5th.—That the authority of churches is designed for the perpetuation of the true religion of the gospel, and for the preservation of a pure and orderly body of Christians on earth; that it is fully sufficient for the purposes intended, but that it does not extend to persons, property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

6th.—That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the gospel, that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of church members is an assumption of authority on the part of the church, and a departure from the plan of the gospel.

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7th.—That the officers of a church are Elders and Deacons; that Elders are also called Bishops and Pastors; that all Elders are equal in rank though they may perform different functions since some may be Bishops or Pastors of particular churches, while others may be simply Elders, having no pastoral charge.

8th.—That the authority of the minister of the gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any act which belongs to the authority of the church, such as reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church he is no more than any other church member and if he is guilty of transgression, he is to be brought before the brethren, convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person, yet we think it prudent and proper to call in advisory helps, especially if the minister is to be tried upon charges of heresy.

9th.—That Elders and Deacons may be set apart to their office by ordination, the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery and prayer.

