

Asa William Berry

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

HELD WITH
Broom Chapel Church, October 1, 1931.

OFFICERS

Rev. E. S. Jameson, President,
T. D. Ross, Clerk,

_____, _____
Carthage, Texas

The next Annual Session of this Association will
be held with Harpers Union Church, beginning on
Thursday night before the first Sunday in Oct., 1932.
Rev. Ira Harper will preach the introductory sermon.

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PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Fifty-fourth Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association,

On October the first, the Texas Free Will Baptist Association held its Fifty-fourth Annual Session with Broom Chapel church.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. R. Jimmerson from 3rd chapter of Acts.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The business session opened at 9:30 Friday morning.

A Suggestive Program to govern this session of the Association was read and adopted.

Rev. E. S. Jamason made a few introductory remarks.

Rev Jim Dowel a visiting minister from North Zulch was invited to speak. He made a very encouraging short talk. He was followed by Rev J. L. Bounds also from North Zulch who has pastored two churches in East Texas the past year.

Reading of church letters and seating delegates present

A petitionary letter from a new church near Troup, Smith county was read and received and the delegates given the right hand of Christian fellowship.

Mrs. A. F. Ficken from Iowa made some very earnest and impressive remarks at this time, after which the session adjourned for preaching.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Rev. J. L. Bounds preached at eleven o'clock. Subject: "Prayer."

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association convened at 1:30 p. m. with devotional led by Hubert Ray Berry.

Letter from Harpers Union read.

Bro. and Sister Frank Patterson and Bro. and Sister Singletary were made delegates from Young Blood, as the elected delegates were absent.

Bro. Shires gave a verbal report from Rose Hill.

Bro. E. S. Jamason was re-elected president and B. A. Wainright vice president.

One delegate was present from Union Arbor and no letter. Bro. Ira Harper gave a verbal report of the church.

The following Committees appointed from the Chair:

Sunday School—Mrs. J. F. Patterson, Mrs. W. M. Graham and B. A. Wainright.

Evangelism—J. L. Bounds, J. H. Dowel, Ira Harper.

Young People—H. R. Berry, W. M. Graham, H. K. Williams.

Finance—J. L. Ross, Harvey Hays, J. F. Patterson, S. A. Watson, Church Gibson.

Missions—Miss Asa Hillin, J. B. Duke, G. R. Smith, A. M. Grant.

State Convention—Wendell Rayborn, A. D. Singletary, J. A. Clark, Mrs. Beulah Bryant, M. L. Murphy.

Relation of State Work to National Convention—B. A. Wainright, J. F. Patterson, E. Weaver, H. R. Berry, Mrs. I. N. Thornton.

Encampment—J. L. Ross, Harvey Hays, J. B. Duke, Hubert Ray Berry, S. A. Watson.

Resolutions—Harvey Hays, Ira Harper, C. C. Gibson, J. H. Shires, J. S. Gothad.

Obituary—D. R. Jimmerson, H. H. Hillin, Miss Tennie Allen, Claude Smith.

A resolution framed by Miss Minnie Jimmerson and introduced by Mrs. Ficken as follows: We, as a denomination, are failing to assume our responsibility in the bringing in of the Kingdom of God. Not because we are lacking in talent, but because we have failed to provide leadership and training, and we have to do this because we have neglected to give of ourselves and of our substance. For several years now we have realized the source of our weakness. Today let us take a step forward and lay a definite plan for relieving this situation, so that we may go forward in our kingdom work: I, therefore offer a resolution recommending that each church in the Association plan to enlist the co-operation of every member in the planting and tilling of one acre of land, the proceeds from the products of same to be used in church work.

Rules and Regulations—First: An acre committee to be appointed by the Association to promote the plan.

An acre committee to be appointed in each individual church by the church to promote the plan locally, freedom to be granted the individual in the choice of his acre and the crop to be planted.

Members of the churches not living in rural district should set aside a tenth of his income or secure an acre of land and cultivate after business hours, or hire same cultivated.

If one tenth of income is given they may be counted in the acre plan.

The following is the standard for the acre plan:

100 per cent enlisted.....	50 points
50 percent enlisted	25 points
10 percent enlisted	15 points
50 per cent of income given to missions.....	25 points
10 per cent of income given to missions.....	5 points
Acre committee working and reporting to Association promptly	15 points
Letters promptly answered	10 points
A possible	100 points.

How many churches will be 100 per cent churches next year?

Respectfully submitted,

Minnie Jimmerson.

A motion carried to amend this resolution so as to read:
"One acre to the family."

The resolution was adopted as amended.

Adjourned to meet at 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The young people of Harpers Union church presented a very interesting and instructive play at 7:30 p. m., sponsored by Mrs. A. F. Ficken, supervisor of Religious Education, who gave us an earnest religious address after the play.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called to order at 9:30 Saturday morning by the president.

Devotional led by Bro. S. A. Watson.

Letter and delegates received from Buncomb church.
Finance report read and referred back to committee.
S. A. Watson, J. L. Ross, and Wendell Rayborn were
named as committee on pulpit supply.

Report on Young People's Work adopted as follows:
We recommend that since the young people have their
organization, that the Association let them work it as
they would, but give them one evening of the Association.

We further recommend that the pastors place more
emphasis on Young People's work in their churches.
Also the churches that have an organization of young
people try to widen the boundries of this good work.

Hubert Ray. Berry, Chairman.

Report on Evangelism:—All the churches in our de-
nomination should be vitally interested in evangelistic
work, and the entire Association should feel grateful to
the all-wise Creator for the opportunity to do a great
work in the field of evangelistic service. We believe
that personal evangelism is one of the outstanding needs
of the present day. We recommend that all members
be impressed with the importance of personal evangelism.

We further recommend that our Association offer some
definite plan to our local churches to further the evan-
gelistic spirit. It is also our desire to impress upon the
membership of all the churches the need of a better and
more prosperous financial support of the evangelistic
work in our denomination.

J. L. Bounds, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Relation of the State Work
to the National Convention:—We report as follows:

From observation and investigation, we recommend
that Texas State Convention remain neutral so far as
the National Convention is concerned until conditions
warrant otherwise.

Adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Preaching at eleven o'clock by Rev. J. H. Dowell of
North Zuleh, who gave us an able sermon from Heb. 12:1.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association reconvened at 1:30 p. m.

A resolution by Ira Harper was unanimously adopted, That a letter be sent Mrs. J. J. Tatum expressing our sympathy in her behalf, also our regret in the loss of our beloved brother and minister, J. J. Tatum.

Report of Missions adopted as follows: Our mission work is not progressing as we had hoped to find it in this Association. The majority of the churches are neglecting mission work entirely. We recommend that each church appoint a committee of three ladies to organize a Woman's Missionary Society, and that they see to it, that a report is made of their labors at the next Ass'n.

Miss Asa Hillin, Chairman.

Report on Sunday Schools:—We beg leave to submit the following report: We find from the reports of the churches, that the Sunday schools seem to be in better condition this year than for several years previous. We are glad of this splendid interest, and would urge every church to take courage and go forward, making next year a better year. We would urge the loyalty of each Sunday school to the Sunday School Convention. Meeting twice a year for inspiration and exchange of ideas is certainly worth while.

Miss Minnie Jimmerson, Chairman

Report of Committee on Finance:—We recommend that the pastors of the various churches take up the acreage plan with their churches and to see that each church appoints a committee to look after same, and those who do not farm be urged to give the equivalent to the production of one acre for the benefit of church work, and to interest all they can in helping in the finance of the church.

We further recommend that our pastors take immediate steps to collect balance due the widow of our State Secretary.

J. L. Ross, Chairman

J. L. Ross, J. B. Duke, Harvey Hays, S. A. Watson and Hubert Ray Berry were made a committee to secure a suitable place for an encampment for our young people, with the object in view of giving them a training course each year in church work.—J. L. Ross, Chairman of Com.

Corresponding messengers to the Central Texas Association: B. A. Wainright, J. L. Ross, Ira Harper, T. D. Ross.

The Committee on Obituaries made the following report:

We find that God, in His wisdom, has seen fit to remove from our midst the following members: Bro. Henry Wilson, Sister Cordell Eldridge, Sister Leola Lunsford, Bro. H. C. Dunn, Bro. T. E. Williamson, Sister Joe Kuykendoll, Bro. J. R. Koonce, Sister Bettie Lunsford and Bro. W. C. Morris.

We extend our heart felt sympathy and condolence to the churches and to the bereaved families. We would ask this Association to reverently bow in prayer, remembering the churches and the bereaved families.

Respectively submitted,

D. R. Jimmerson, Chairman.

Delegates to the State Convention:—Barney Duke, J. L. Ross, Jim Tompkins, J. F. Patterson, A. D. Singletary, Miss Asa Hillin, Frank E. Smith, H. T. Vise, E. Weaver, Walter Young, Alton Peterson, W. M. Graham, D. E. Lunsford, P. H. Graves, Miss Minnie Jimmerson, T. D. Ross, C. C. Gibson, H. K. Williams, Miss Mamie Lou Waits, Harvey Hays, H. K. Berry, Mrs. E. T. Tipps, Mrs. S. A. Watson, B. Freeman,

Rev. J. L. Bounds tendered the thanks of the Association to the church and community for their hospitality in caring for the Association as freely as they did.

The next Session will be held with Harpers Union church, beginning on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1932. Bro. Ira Harper will preach the introductory sermon.

At the close of the business session Bro. S. A. Watson was ordained deacon of New Hope church by the laying on of hands and prayer.

All went home feeling that it was good to be there.

Egbert S. J.

1st Timothy 2-5,6

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Of God.—Article 1. There is one God and Mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in good time. *1st Timothy - 2-5-6*

Of Free Will.—Article 2. We believe that the human will is free, and that all who have heard and who have learned of the Father have the ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation. *(Luke 9-22-25) John 12-48 Luke 9-22-25*

Of Baptism.—Article 3. Mode—And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water.—Matt. 3.—*John 12-48*

And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized of John in Jordan.—Mark 1:9.

Buried with Him in baptism, wherein ye are also risen with Him through faith of the operation of God who hath raised Him from the dead.—Col. 2:12.

We are buried with Him in baptism, into death, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.—Romans 6:4-5.

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

Subjects.—Go ye therefore and teach all nations—Matt. 28:19.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized—Acts 2:41.

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 16:32-34.

If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest.—Acts 8:37-39.

Object.—The like figure wherunto baptism doth also now save us (not putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.—1 Peter 3:21.

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.—1 Cor. 11:28.

This done in remembrance of me.—Luke 22: 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.—2 Tim. 3:16. ✓

CONSTITUTION

Constitution amended at regular session of the Association.

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

Article 2. 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 good undertakings for good.

Article 3. 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 delegates, and for over fifty and not more than seventy-five members, a Church shall be entitled to one more delegate.

Article 4. Ordained ministers may have seats in the Association and be entitled to privileges of delegates, even when not representing Churches. (As amended).

Article 5. New Churches and ministers may be admitted to membership on application when duly accredited. (As amended).

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 a preceding session.

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

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 all contributions made by the Church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine, in 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 days' meeting monthly embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

9th. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference meeting 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 rules of holy living.

10th. Conferences shall be conducted as follows: 1. Prayer, unless Divine services has just been concluded, and generally then. 2. Invite visiting brethren to seat. 3. Open a door for the reception of members. 4. Call for absentees. 5. For acknowledgements. 6. For reference of deferred business. 7. For miscellaneous business.

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

12th. An orderly member of the Baptist Church, which does not hold this Church in fellowship, may be received into the

Church without a letter, when it is 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 member shall be received without the unanimous consent of members present; but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn, the member 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 his trial; provided his residence is known in 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 acknowledgements shall be minuted on the Church books.

18th. Members dismissed from the Church by letter, who become disorderly, or 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 evil conduct.

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

21st. No motion 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 a conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request may be exempted by the Church from the voting on either side in peculiar cases.

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

24th. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must arise to their feet and address the moderator and keep up 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 any one be unreasonably long.

26th. When the moderator speaks in debate he nominates some brother as 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 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.

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

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. 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.

2. 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 of Christ.

3. 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 word of God, subversive of the Churches and dangerous to the liberties of men.

4. That Gospel Churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; 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.

5. That the authority of Churches is designed for the perpetuation of true religion to 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 the persons, property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

6. 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 Gospel.

7. That the officers of a Church are Elders and Deacons; that Elders are also called Bishops or Pastors; that all 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.

8. 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 member, and if he is guilty of transgression, he is to be brought before the brethren and 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.

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

