

MINUTES

OF THE

Texas Association

OF THE

Free Will Baptist

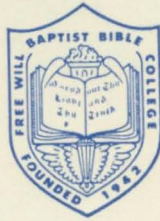
HELD WITH

Union Arbor Church
Beckville, Texas

October 4 to 6, 1934

Rev. E. S. Jamerson.....	President
W. S. Duke	Treasurer
Ira Harper	Clerk

The next session of this Association will convene Thursday Night before the first Sunday in October, 1935, with New Hope Church, Henderson, Texas.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Jim Williams

Minutes

of the

TEXAS FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

held with

UNION ARBOR CHURCH, BECKVILLE, TEXAS

October 4 to 6, 1934

The Fifty Seventh annual session of the Texas Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Union Arbor Church near Beckville, Texas. October, 4 to 6 1934..

Preaching by Rev. Ira Harper, Thursday Night, Text-Phil. 3-10, Sub. Knowing God better.

The second session of the Fifty-Seventh session of the association was opened by the Pres. Rev. E. S. Jamason Friday Morning Oct. 5.

Devotional exercise conducted by Rev. T. W. Smith, scripture reading from Romans 5 ch.,

Prayer.

A welcome address was given by President. Rev. J. H. Gohlson, pastor of the entertaining Church.

A pulpit supply committee was appointed by the President.

Rev. J. H. Gohlson. H. W. Watson. P.H. Graves. D. R. Curbow and Miss Minnie Jimmerson served on this committee.

Rev. C. B. Thompson of Bryan, Texas, was invited at this time to address the body, he spoke on "Christian Kinship."

The Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. E. S. Jamason would preach at 11 o'clock A. M.,

Rev. C. B. Thompson would preach at 7:30 P. M.

On motion, the session adjourned until 1:30 P. M.

Rev. E. S. Jamason preached from Neh. 4ch. 6 verse, Sub.

Doing things for God.

DINNER

The third session was called at 1:30 P. M. Friday.

Devotional exercise conducted by Bro. Frankie Smith, Scripture reading 14 ch, St. John,

Prayer;

The first item of business was the calling for letters of the Churches and seating of delegates which were as follows;

Good Hope; Mrs. H. T. Phillips, Mrs. Lloyd Adams, Miss Minnie Jimmerson and R. Jimmerson.

Dirgin; Miss Pharada Mathews, Miss Cherry Chamness, Miss Elizabeth Fritzgerald and Miss Beatrice Fritzgerald.

Youngblood; Bros Elmer Hill, J.E. Tompkins, Sisters, Mrs J. S. Tompkins, Mrs J. R. Daniels.

Stewart Chappell; Bro. Walter Graham, Olan Graham, Donald Lumsford and Clarence Williamson.

New Hope; Mrs T. W. Smith, Mrs Lillie Stokes, Mrs. Roy Young, Mrs B. A. Grant,

Alternates- Mrs. Lee Pool, Mrs S. A. Watson, Mr. Roy Young, Mr. D. D.- Stokes.

Mt. Union; Bros. H. T. Lunsford, Taylor Lunsford, D. R. Curbow and Mrs. D. R. Curbow.

Friendship; Mrs. Oswald Anders, J. L. Ross, W. B. Duke Jr., Frank Ross.

Darco; R. V. Waldon, Chester Russ, Mrs Jennie Russ and Mrs Eyvhon Bullock.

Mt. Olive; Bro. Othella Parker, J. B. Fears, Johnnie Whitehead, Sister John Clark and Sister Tennie Lee Fears.

Campbell Hill: Bro. H. Watson, T. H. Watson, C. C. Bennett, Mrs C.C. Bennett, Mrs: T. H. Watson.

Broome; Miss Blanche Wait, Mrs. S. A. Harris, Mrs. Emma Eldridge, Bro. Jack Adams.

Center Point: Bro. John Hampton, Comer Wilkinson, Mrs Dottie Hesser, and Mrs Inez Morton.

Harper's Union; Bro. Foy Alexander, Mrs. Foy Alexander, Mrs. Odie Pool, Bro. Elwood Jamerson.

Venice; Bro. C. E. Curbow, I. F. Lunsford, F. A. Boatman, S. E. Lunsford.

Chalk Hill; Bro. Joe Waits, A. J. Williams, Mrs. Laura Wilson.

Buncombe; Brs. Jim Heard, P. H. Graves, J. L. D. Morris, Charleston Welch.

Fellowship; J. O. Roberts, Mrs. J. O. Roberts, J. E. Welch.

Union Arbor; Miss Avis Kinard, Mrs. Travis Jones, Mr. Joe Harris, Millard Beall, Haul Clark.

The election of officers came next day, Rev. E. S. Jameson was elected President for the coming year.

The appointment of committees.

Evangelism; Rev. C. B. Thompson, Rev. J. H. Gholson, Miss Minnie Jimmerson, Rev. T. W. Smith, Rev. Ira Harper.

Finance; J. O. Roberts, G. L. Young, J. L. Ross, D. R. Curbow and P. H. Graves.

Resolutions Committee; Mrs. B. A. Grant, Mrs. Roy Young, Mrs. Travis Jones, A. J. Williams, Milard Beall.

Sunday School; Miss Avis Kinard, Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald, Miss Tennie Lee Fears, Miss Blanche Waits, Mrs. Lloyd Adams.

Obituary Committee; Mrs. Dottie Hesser, Mrs. H. T. Phillips, Joe Waits, J. E. Tompkins, W. L. Crawford.

Publications; Mrs. S. A. Harris, Mrs. A. E. Stokes, J. B. Whitehead.

Missions; Mrs. T. W. Smith, Mrs. Emma Eldridge, G. O. Parker, Mrs. Inez Morton, Mrs. Frankie Smith.

Young People's Work; Miss Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Miss Avis Kinard, Miss Minnie Jimmerson, Mrs. J. O. Parker, Miss Tennie Lee Fears.

Rev. C. B. Thompson was asked to explain what was meant by a Minister's and Deacon's Institute, and upon the result of explanation, there was a motion to organize a ministers, trustee and deacons institute, Motion carried.

Rev. J. H. Gholson, Rev. C. B. Thompson and Rev. Ira Harper were appointed to select a date and place for the organization of this Institute.

The Committee reported that this meeting will be held at Good Hope Church, Friday Night before the fifth Sunday in December, 1934.

The session adjourned subject to the call of the chair.

The fourth session called to order by the President 7:00 P. M. for Young People's Work. The reading of the report on Young People's Work was adopted. Adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday A. M.

The Young People of Dirgin church rendered a splendid program at 7:30 P. M. as follows:

Song by Choir, Scripture reading by Haskel Dickerson, Prayer by Othella Parker.

A Play "Living Water."

Sarah—Pharada Mathews; Two Samaritan Women, Beatrice Fitzgerald, Clara Adams. Miriam, Nona Watson; Eli, Murry Adams; Boy Hubert Hinkle; Ephraim, Olive Sanders.

Directed by Mrs. P. M. Lewllyn.

Rev. C. B. Thompson preached at 8 p. m. Subject, Salvation is Life.

SATURDAY SESSION

The fifth session was called to order by the President Saturday morning, October 6. Devotional service conducted by Bro. P. H. Graves. Scripture reading, 15th chapter of Roman. Prayer.

The reading of the minutes of the previous sessions read and adopted.

The report of the nominating committee on Young People's Work was ratified by the association at this time.

Nominations were: President, Chas. Jamerson, Vice-President, Murry Adams, Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Lucile Hays.

Devotional—Miss Tennie Lee Fears.

Fellowship—Wanda Vice.

Stewardship—Mr. B. A. Grant.

Signed: Committee.

The following committee reports were received. (See reports).

The Clerk's yearly report.

Missions—Sunday School. N. B.

This committee was retained and asked to find a place for meeting of the Convention in May, 1935.

Evangelism—

Report of Publication committee was referred back to committee for further consideration. Adjourned until 1:00 p. m.

Rev. C. B. Thompson preached at 11 o'clock from Isa. 6-1, Subject, Getting a Vision of God.

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 P. M. the Sixth session called to order by president.

Devotional service conducted by Miss Minnie Jimmerson, Scripture reading 12th chapter of Roman.

Prayer.

Bro. Chas. Jamerson was asked to speak at this time as president of the Young People's Work.

Report of ordaining council received, publication committee report received, report on Finance received.

Obituary report received.

The Clerk was instructed to have 400 copies of the minutes printed if it could be had for \$30.00.

Rev. Ira Harper was elected to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the association.

The Association will be held next year with the New Hope Church, Henderson, Texas.

J. L. Ross B. A. Grant J. E. Tompkins were elected as delegates to the State Convention to be held at Waco, Texas, the last of October this year. G. L. Young and Frankie Smith alternates.

Committee on Young People's Work submit the following:

We realize that our greatest weakness in the Young People's Work is lack of leadership.

We therefore recommend that each church include in the educational program of the year a school on Efficiency of Christian Endeavor,

That we meet at least once a year in a Rally for Inspiration and fellowship,

That we plan for more fellowship and cooperation among the societies by having visiting teams.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Fitzgerald.

We your Ordaining Council, recommend that the Ordination of Rev. Gholson be recognized and that Bro. B. A. Grant be licensed to preach the Gospel for one year under primary license.

E. S. Jamerson, Chairman.

The Committee on Resolutions submit the following report:

Resolved that we express our thanks to the entertaining church, its pastor and friends of the church for the fine manner in which they have entertained us. Again be it resolved, that we express our deepest felt gratitude to our visiting brethren.

We pray God's richest blessings on every one.

We the Committee—

Mrs. B. A. Grant, Chairman.

Mrs. Travis Jones

Mrs. Roy Young

Mr. A. J. Williams.

MISSIONS

We the Home Mission Committee recommend that if any member of the church needs financing, the church as an individual see's that this member gets help. We further recommend that the Sunday School observe

a mission Sunday once per month, and that a mission offering be taken on those days and those that have not already sent in their mission funds for the year to do so.

Mrs. T. W. Smith
Mrs. Inez Morton
Mrs. W. M. Eldridge
G. O. Parker
Mrs. Frankie Smith.

We your Obituary Committee report the deceased of the Church Rev. D. R. Jimmerson, Bro. Chas. Gilliam, Bro. J. M. McCasland, Sister Eudie Connally.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved.

We appoint Rev. C. B. Thompson to hold memorial services for Rev. D. R. Jimmerson, Saturday morning.

Mrs. Dottie Hesser, Chairman.

The Committee on Sunday School submit the following:

We are glad that so many of our Churches gave reports of having Sunday Schools carrying on good work.

Believing that it would be a help to the Sunday School work, we ask that a Sunday School Convention be held twice yearly.

We suggest that these meetings be held on Friday night and Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October and May, and that each Sunday School send delegates, report of work done, and suggestions for future work.

Respectfully,
Avis Kinard, Chairman.

Committee on Publication submit the following report:

We recommend that the members of the Free Will Baptist Churches of this association take some religious paper. We recommend the Free Will Baptist Trumpet. We also recommend that the Church Clerk of each Church send in a report of the work that is done each month and what is planned in this way the whole state knows what each one is doing.

Mrs. A. R. Stokes
Mrs. S. A. Harris
Johnnie Whitehead.

Clerk report as follows:

Received (at 1933 Association)	\$26.71
Paid Mrs. T. D. Ross (Due T. D. Ross)	11.49
Paid Chas. Jammerson (For Typing)	3.00
Paid for Stationery	1.25
Balance in Treasurer	\$.97

Ira Harper, Clerk.

In carrying out plans made for any enterprise the selfish motive of its supporters must be removed to promote success. Especially in financing a program for the cause of Christ should we first give ourselves, because of his love for us. God does not ask sacrifice, but he does ask faith and

obedience of us. He says if we love him we will keep his word. In his word he says: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove we now herewith saith the Lord of Hosts. If I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Let's try God's plan. Have we faith sufficient to believe him, and are we willing to show our love for Him by keeping his word? If so, join with me in beginning this New Pastoral year in bringing at least a tithe unto the Lord of all that he sees best to prosper us with, that there may be means to carry on the great work which Christ left for his followers to do, if each member of the Church will only give her best there will be no lack for God blesses every effort made for him.

Some one has said "Our great matters are little to his favor, and our little matters are great to his love."

Even tho the tithe we have to give be small, if given in the spirit of Christ, it will prosper his program, for Christ can not fail.

We your Finance Committee submit the following:

As your committee on finance we find the churches are failing to pay the ministers for their services and we recommend that the ministers go to these respective churches, to set up a budget in each church to take care of the ministers, mission associational expenses and state convention expenses and such items as should be taken care of by the church. To work out some plan to meet the payment of the budget that I am a part of the church and it is my duty to pay my part of the church budget.

J. O. Roberts, Chairman.

We your committee on Evangelism:—We observe that the churches have fallen into what we consider a bad habit, namely, that of putting part evangelistic efforts over a very short period of time, and that in the summer months.

The Master stands constantly ready to save, therefore, we recommend that an Evangelistic Program covering the entire year be planned in which special emphasis for decisions be made during the Christmas and Easter Seasons as well as the summer.

The Sunday School Convention will convene with Youngblood Church Saturday before the second Sunday of November, 1934.

The Ministers, Trustees and Deacons Institute will convene with the Good Hope Church near Henderson, Texas, Friday night and Saturday before the fifth Sunday in December, 1934. Ministers, Trustees and Deacons are requested to be there.

The association was enjoyed by all and Great Hope is held out that something better will be done for the Lord the coming year.

Association adjourned to meet with the New Hope Church near Henderson, Texas, Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1935.

E. S. Jamerson, Moderator

Ira Harper, Clerk.

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.

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.

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

And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised 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, unto 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 baptised—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 baptised, 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 13:32-34.

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

Object.—The like figure whereunto 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 day's 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 have just been conducted, and generally then. 2. Invite visiting brethren to set. 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 bear 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 whisper 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 be 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 conscience of any are tender on the subject of feetwashing 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 monthly 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 Churst, 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 purpose intended, but that it does not extend to the persons, property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

6. That the 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.

