

MINUTES
Of The
FREE WILL BAPTIST
Of The
TEXAS ASSOCIATION

Held With
UNION HARBOR CHURCH

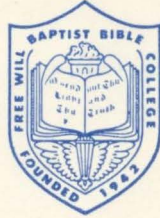
Near Beckville, Texas

October 3-5, 1940



THE NEXT SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL CON-
VENE THURSDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE FIRST SUN-
DAY IN OCTOBER, 1941 WITH THE MT. UNION
CHURCH ABOUT 6 MILES NORTHWEST OF GAR-
RISON, TEXAS.

REV. IRA HARPER, Moderator
J. L. ROSS, Clerk



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Jim Williams

Minutes Of The
**TEXAS FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**

Held With
UNION HARBOR CHURCH

Near Beckville, Texas

October 3-5, 1940

The sixty-third annual session of the Texas Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Union Harbor church near Beckville, Texas, October 3rd to 5th, 1940.

Rev. T. M. Hays preached the introductory sermon, scripture Matthew 7:13-14. Subject: "The Straight Gate."

FRIDAY MORNING

Song service led by Bro. Harper. Devotional by Sister Edna Kelly. Scripture John 15th Chapter. Prayer by Bro. E. S. Jamerson. Response by Bro. T. W. Smith. The first item of business was to elect a pulpit supply committee: J. E. Tompkins, W. H. Randle, H. M. Reeves. The committee reported Bro. E. S. Jamerson to preach the eleven o'clock sermon. The next item of business was calling for the letters from the various churches and seating of the delegates to the association, the seated were as follows: Youngblood church, Mrs. Ruth Tompkins, Mrs. Douglas Browning, Miss Paul Hill; Good Hope: Mrs. J. W. Wilder, Mrs. Horace Phillips, Mrs. Mark Mallard; Harper Grove: Mrs. Ross Clark, Mrs. Frankie Birdwell, Mrs. Will H. Hays; New Hope: Atlas Grant, Lee Pool, Mrs. Alfred Barnes; Buncombe: Earnest Height, Henry Ruson; Darco: Sister Minnie Reeves, Sister Jennie Russ, Sister Edna Kelley; Dirgin: Bro. and Mrs. J. P. Jinnings, Bro. and Sister Marshall Pool; Mt. Union: C. E. Curbow, Mrs. C. E. Curbow, Mrs. H. Curbow; Union Arbor: Mack Patterson, Henry Patterson; Friendship: Mrs. B. F. Payne, Barney Duke, J. B. Duke; Mt. Olive: Lester Harris, Kenneth Compton, Lee Fears, Stuart Chapple, Bro. and Sister Wott Williamson, R. M. Thornton; Chalkhill: Sister Vivian Barlow, Sister Susie Strong, Sister Alta Braham.

A petitionary letter from the Christian Form church asking for membership in the Texas Association of Free Will Baptist was read and the church was accepted into the association and their delegates seated and given the righthand of fellowship. The delegates were Bro. Raford Dunlap, Bro. W. H. Randle.

On motion and second the body adjourned until 1:15.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Song service lead by Bro. Harper. Devotional by Bro. Newberry. Business. Election of officers. Bro. Harper was elected moderator and Bro. Newberry assistant moderator.

By a vote of the association the 64th session of the Texas Association of Free Will Baptist will convene with Mt. Union church about six miles Northwest of Garrison, Texas.

On motion and second the Association voted to extend Bro. T. M. Hays license to preach the gospel for one year.

Report of Committee on Evangelism read and adopted.

Report of Committee on Missions read and adopted.

Committee on Committees appointed by moderator were: Bro. T. W. Smith, Bro. Douglas Browning and Bro. E. S. Jamerson,

Bro. E. S. Jamerson, B. F. Payne, and J. L. Ross were appointed as a committee to investigate the Theological Seminary at Dallas as a place for our young ministers to attend school.

Sister T. W. Smith made a verbal report on the orphanage fund. In discussing the possibilities of building an orphans home in Texas a collection of \$3.89 was taken, then the report was accepted.

On motion and second the body adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

Song service by Bro. Harper. Devotional by Sister Grant. Scripture the 12th chapter of Romans. Prayer by Sister T. W. Smith. Business. Report of Committee on Committees read and accepted.

Report of Committee on Delegates to State Convention read and accepted.

Report of Committee on Obituary read and accepted.

Report on Layman's Council read and accepted.

Bro. T. W. Smith the eleven o'clock sermon. Scripture Matthew 17:1-9. Text the 8th verse.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Song service by Bro. Jamerson. Devotional by Sister Tommie Franklin. Scripture the first chapter of Thesalonians. Prayer by Sister Reed. Business. Sister Tommie Franklin was elected to preach the introductory sermon at the 64th annual session of the Texas Association when convened with the Mt. Union church Thursday night before the Sunday in October, 1941.

Woman's Work

The reports from the Woman's auxiliaries were read and enjoyed by all. Sister Kester read her report as a field worker and it was accepted.

Report from the Quarterly meeting was read and accepted.

Sister Reed made a very interesting talk on How To Equip To Have Sunday School.

On motion and second the association adjourned to meet with the Mt. Union church Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1941.

IRA HARPER, Moderator
J. L. ROSS, Clerk

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LAYMEN COUNCIL

We your Committee on Laymen's Council submit the following report:

From observation over the field we find that our laymen have not been organized into an efficient body as yet.

We therefore offer this resolution to-wit:

That the pastor try to meet at regular times with the churches and call a meeting of laymen to determine just what can be done about the organizing of a laymen's Council in the local bodies.

That a great work is being left unfinished. That much could be done by the laymen if only we could get them interested in the local church work.

Signed Committee,
IRA HARPER
DOUGLASS BROWNING
REV. T. W. SMITH

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

We your Committee on Missions find we have done but very little on missions. We as a committee heartily endorse Missions as a world-wide program, John 3:16. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. I John 2:2—And he is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The command is world-wide. Mark 16:15—Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Romans 10:13-15—For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?

We believe that tithing is the most effective way of promoting and financing the kingdom work. I Corinthians 16:2—Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him that there be no gathering when I come.

The great work of Missions now pressing upon the churches will never be properly supported until God's people fully realize their privileges and obligations as christian stewards. When men and women see that they are stewards for God in all the relations of life unto which they enter, there will be larger and better giving and the financial problems of the kingdom work that is such a problem will be overcome.

We recommend that each church have at least one study course of Stewardship and Missions each year.

May God help us all to know our duty to God and His Cause.

MRS. T. W. SMITH, Chairman
MRS. LILY BROWNING
MRS. C. J. KESTER

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM

We your Committee on Evangelism submit:

We recommend that each church select a Committee on Evangelism to do personal work throughout the year. We would suggest that this committee work as did the seventy two and two. We would further suggest that this committee meet at least once each month to lay plans and pray altogether for success.

EGBERT S. JAMERSON
JOHN NEWBERRY
J. W. SMITH
MRS. IRA HARPER
TOMMIE FRANKLIN

DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION:

J. E. Tompkins

H. D. Browning

P. H. Graves

C. E. Curbow

J. L. Ross

Ernie Weaver

E. T. Tipps

Mrs. Frank Birdwell

Ernest Hensly

J. H. Fitzgerald

T. T. Meggason

We need the following named amounts from each church to successfully handle our finance and we suggest that each church divide this quota into fourths taking an offering each quarter and send to J. L. Ross, Carthage, Rt. 1. Good Hope \$6.50; New Hope \$5.00; Harper \$4.00; Compton \$4.50; Friendship \$4.50; Fellowship \$7.50; Stewart \$4.00; Dirgin \$4.00; Union Arbor \$5.00; Buncombe \$4.00; Campbell \$3.50; Chalk Hill \$3.50; Youngblood \$4.00.

E. S. JAMERSON, Chairman

J. W. SMITH

IRA HARPER

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

We your Committee on Committees submit:

Education: B. F. Payne, E. S. Jamerson, J. L. Ross.

Laymen council: H. D. Browning, LeRoy Matthews, Frankie Smith.

Standing of the Ministry, F. W. Dollar, Tim Phillips, G. W. Smith.

Evangelism: E. S. Jamerson, T. M. Hays, Ira Harper.

Young Peoples Work: Miss Avis Kinard, Houston Hicks, Alton Flanagan.

Obituary: Ira Harper, Mrs. T. W. Smith, Mrs. Essie Hughes

Finance: P. H. Graves, W. B. Duke, J. L. Ross.

Missions: Mrs. H. D. Browning, Mrs. E. T. Tipps, Mrs. W. H. Hays, Miss Tommie Franklin.

Program: Pastor and Deacons of entertaining church.

Resolutions: S. H. Hicks, T. W. Smith, Miss Tommie Franklin.

Publication: LeRoy Matthews, E. T. Tipps, J. L. Anderson.

T. W. SMITH

E. S. JAMERSON

H. D. BROWNING

"TO THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST,
WHEN CONVENED WITH HARBOR CHURCH OCTOBER 3RD
THROUGH 5TH, 1940."

Greetings in Jesus name: I wish to submit the following report, which includes work from October, 1939 to October, 1940.

Sick calls, reading, and praying in homes and different places
175.

Church services 9.

Cottage prayer meetings 1.

Bouquets from our flower garden for mission work 50.

A SISTER IN CHRIST,
MRS. AMANDA J. KESTER

Because of inconvenient circumstances, my report of 1938 and 1939 was not turned in. If you care to have an account of the work of that time, I will send it in with this last report.

Work from October 1938 to October 1939.

Sick calls, reading and praying in homes and different places
375.

Cottage prayer meeting 6.

Jail services 1.

Bouquets from our flower garden for mission work 48.

MRS. AMANDA J. KESTER

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY

We your Committee on Obituary submit the following report:

We find that we have lost through death the following members from—

Darco: Sister W. H. Waldrop.

Dargin: Bro. Parish Adams, Sister Charlotte Jamerson.

Union Arbor: Bro. D. W. Martin.

Friendship: Sister T. D. Ross, Sister D. H. Duke.

Mt. Olive: Bro. Pete Hillin, Sister F. M. Berry.

Signed,

MRS. G. W. SMITH
IRA HARPER

P. S. We ask that the body stand and offer prayer to the bereaved.

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 16:32-24.

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.—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 understandings for good.

Article 3. This association shall be composed of delegates elected by the churches composing the association. Each church shall be allowed two delegates and churches of more than fifty members shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty members or fractional part thereof into five delegates and no church shall have more than five delegates.

All ordained deacons shall be allowed a seat in the association and be entitled to privilege of delegates, even when not representing Churches.

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.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

