

MINUTES

OF PART OF THE
Sixty Fifth Annual Session
AND ALL OF THE
Sixty Sixth Annual Session
OF THE
TEXAS FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

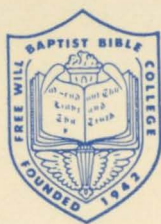
OF

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HELD WITH
Mt. Olive Church
Near Henderson, Texas
October 1-3, 1942
AND THE
Chalk Hill Church
Near Tatum, Texas
September 30 to October 2, 1943

The Sixty Seventh Annual Session will be held with
the Clayton Church in Panola, Co. Sept. 28-29-30, 1944.

Free Will Baptist Gem, 211 Bond St., Monett, Missouri



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Jim Williams

PROCEEDINGS

Mintutes of the Sixty-Fifth Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association held with Mt. Olive Church, October 1st to 3rd, 1942.

FIRST SESSION

Preaching by E. S. Jameson. Scripture John 1:1-4.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Devotional by Sister Kester. Scripture John 15.
Prayer by Ira Harper.

Moderator appointed Miss Christine Jennings Clerk
Pro Tem. Program adopted.

Reading of the letters.

On motion letters were received and delegates seated.

Pulpit Supply Committee: J. B. Fears, W. H. H. Hays
and R. Jimerson.

Preaching by Ira Harper. Scripture St. John 6:67-71.

On motion body was adjourned until 1:30.

THIRD SESSION

On motion delegated of the Dirgin Church are seated
without a letter.

B. A. Grant was elected by acclamation to serve as
moderator. Ira Harper was elected assistant modera-
tor. Mrs. Mary Andrew was elected assistant clerk.

A committee of committees was appointed by moder-
ator. E. S. Jameson, Ira Harper and W. H. H. Hays.

Mrs. Frank Bridwell gave a lecture on Sunday school
work. In which a round table discussion was entered
into by several speakers.

On motion a vote of thanks was extended to Rayford
Flanagan for typing the program.

Pulpit supply committee appointed B. A. Grant to
preach the night sermon.

On motion body adjourned until Saturday 10: AM.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Devotional by Reyford Flanagan. Scripture Psalm
27:1-4.

Preaching by B. A. Grant. Scripture Matt. 26:36-46.

FOURTH SESSION

Saturday A.M. October 3rd.

House called to order by moderator.

Devotional by J. O. Parker. Scripture Matt. 5:1-16.

On motion house called to rest until 11:30 for preaching.

Preaching by Ira Harper. Scripture second book of Corinthians 4:1-7.

On motion body was adjourned until 1:30.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The house was called to order by moderator.

Prayer by Sister Kester.

On motion resolution adopted expression of sympathy of the family of Brother J. L. Ross by the Texas Ass'n.

On motion and second report on Evangelism was adopted.

On motion and second report on Missions was adopted.

On motion and second report on Obituary was received.

On motion and second report on Young Peoples work adopted.

On motion and second report on Finance adopted.

The body stood in memorial to our deceased members.

Report of Sister Kester received.

TO THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

When convened with Mt. Union Church Oct. 2,3,4, 1942.

Greetings, in Jesus' name!

I wish to submit the following report of my work, which includes work from October 1940, to October 1942.

1. Sick calls, reading, and prayer in different places 194
2. Bouquets from our flower garden for mission work 52
3. Church Services 10
4. Funeral Services 1
5. Cottage prayer meetings 3

Mrs. Amanda J. Kester

* Because of my absence from the Association last year, the above report was not turned in. In case you desire to have the record of last year's report, I am enclosing it with this year's report.

Chalk Hill Church was chosen for 1943 Association.
B. A. Grant was elected to preach the introductory sermon.

On motion and second the clerk was instructed to have 250 minutes printed.

Sister Kester gave an interesting talk on Young Peoples Work.

Ruby Hands gave a verbal report of the Dirgin Young Peoples Work.

R. Jimerson gave a talk on Missions.

Ira Harper gave a talk on Christian Education.

On motion the body voted to send our portion of money to the State Convention of \$11.00.

A vote of thanks was extended to the community for their loyal entertainment.

Next session to be held with the Chalk Hill Church.

On motion the body adjourned until Thursday night before the first Sunday in October 1943. To meet with the Chalk Hill Church on highway 49, 9 miles N.W. of Tatum.

PROCEEDINGS

The sixty-six annual session of The Texas Association of the Free Will Baptist convened with the Chalk Hill Church near Tatum, Texas September 30 to Oct. 2, 1943.

FRIDAY MORNING

In the absence of moderator Rev. Ira Harper was elected moderator pro tem.

Pulpit Supply Committee: A. J. Williams, W. H. H. Hayes and H. W. Watson.

On motion and second body was adjourned until 1:30.

Preaching by Ira Harper.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Devotional by Mrs. Bill Berry. Scripture Psalm 116.

Prayer by Mrs. John Hunt.

THIRD SESSION

On motion and second body was called to order by moderator for business.

Reading of the letters.

On motion and second the letters were received and the delegates seated.

On motion Ira Harper was elected for moderator.

On motion B. A. Grant was elected assistant moderator.

On motion and second the moderator appointed the following committees.

Committee On Committees

We, your Committee on Committees submit;

Education: E. S. Jameson, G. O. Parker and W. B. Duke.

Laymens Council: W. H. H. Hays, S. S. Sims and Bill Berry.

Standing of Ministry: Fred Curbow, Mrs. Will H. Hays and Mrs. Mildred Beall.

Evangelism: Mrs. Ira Harper, Mrs. Nell Williamson and Miss Georgia Fae Wallace.

Young People: Mrs. Rosie Freeman, Mrs. Cecil Lunsford, Miss Josephine Young, Mrs. Susie Strong and Mrs. Albert Kelly.

Obituary: Mrs. W. H. Randle, Mrs. Richon McDowell, Mrs. Laura Wilson, Mrs. Bob Lunsford and Mrs. Bill Berry.

Finance: Millard Beall, A. J. Williams and Jim Harold Adams.

Missions: B. A. Grant, Mrs. Henry Curbow, Mrs. Dessie Gilliam, Mrs. John Hunt and Mrs. Joe Gray.

Publications: Mrs. Willie Freeman, Miss Thelma Gray and Mrs. Henry Wilson.

Resolutions: J. B. Duke, Miss Emma Birdwell, Miss Bobbie Jennings and Mrs. Effie Harris.

Program: Pastor and deacons of entertaining church.

On motion and second a one hour recess was given for the committees to get together and make reports.

On motion and second house was called to order to receive committees reports.

On motion and second report on Education was read and adopted.

On motion and second report on Evangelism was read and adopted.

On motion and second report on Missions was read and adopted.

On motion and second that the committees on resolution be tabled until the close of session.

On motion and second the report of the committees on the Standing of the Ministry was read and adopted.

On motion the body adjourned until ten o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

Devotion by Sister B. A. Grant. Scripture Psalm 1st. chapter. Prayer by Rev. E. S. Jameson.

The reading of the minutes. Corrections were made.

FOURTH SESSION

On motion report on the Stewart Church was made by Bro. B. A. Grant. On motion and second that the delegates be seated.

On motion report on Obituary was read and adopted. Prayer by Bro. Grant.

On motion report on Laymans Council was read and adopted.

On motion report on Publication was read and adopted.

On motion report on Finance was read and adopted.

A discussion on the finance fund was made.

A prayer by Rev. E. S. Jameson.

On motion and second that we would adjourn for a five minute recess.

Preaching by Rev. B. A. Grant, 19th chapter of John 25-27.

Prayer by Rev. B. A. Grant.

On motion and second body was adjourned until 1 o'clock.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Devotional by Mrs. E. Beall. Scripture Psalm 133.
Prayer by Rev. B. A. Grant.

FIFTH SESSION

On motion and second that the following ones be delegates to the State Convention to be held with the Comanche Church: Floyd Dollar, E. D. Lunsford, Bill Berry, R. Jimmerson, D. D. Stokes, P. H. Graves, J. E. Thompkins, M. C. Pool, Horace Lunsford, A. J. Williams and W. H. H. Hays.

On motion and second, that the Free Will Baptist Association will send eleven dollars to the State Ass'n.

On motion and second, that the minutes of last year and this year be printed together. Three hundred and fifty copies are to be made.

The next session of the Free Will Baptist Association will convene with the Clayton Church, Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1944.

On motion and second, Rev. B. A. Grant was elected for the opening sermon of the next Association.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Chalk Hill Church and words by Rev. B. A. Grant.

Education

We, your committee on Education submit:
We suggest that there are several ways of securing education. Through Bible Study in the Sunday school, Home study and by entering school or college. Since we have secured and established a Bible School in Nashville, Tennessee. We recommend that all our people lend every effort to it's maintenance. It needs our financial and spiritual support. We mean by this that our entire membership should contribute money as well as prayer for the success of the school. We further recommend that each church take up a systematical support of this school.

Egbert S. Jameson, G. O. Parker, W. B. Duke

Evangelism

We, your committee on Evangelism report the following:

Evangelism is a Bible doctrine of great benefit to mankind. Through it we reach men and women for whom Christ died. Let us advance Evangelism not only among preachers, but through individuals as well. To do this it takes money and man power. We have both. Let's use them to the Glory of God.

Mrs. Ira Harper, Mrs. Nell Williamson

Budget Committee

We, your Budget Committee report the following assessments on the various churches of the Association to take care of the Associational expenses: Chalk Hill \$7.00, Harper Grove \$4.05, Union Arbor \$5.00, New Hope \$2.00, Mt. Olive \$3.50, Clayton \$4.00, Mt. Union \$3.50, Camel \$1.05, Dirgin \$2.86 and Stwert \$2.50.

Missions

We, your committee on Missions find we have done very little on Missions. We as a committee heartily endorse Missions as a world wide program. John 3:16. We your committee believe that Mission work is needed more to day than ever before. We recommend that each church in the Association have a few days Bible study during each year so our young people may get a greater vision of the Gospel and Missions. May God help us to know the more we give the greater blessings we will receive.

B. A. Grant, Mrs. Dessie Giliam, Mrs. J. W. Hunt, Mrs. Willie Curbow, Mrs. Joe Gray

Obituary

We, your committee on Obituary submit the following report: We find that we have lost through death the following members from—

Union Arbor— Bro. Joe Harris, Bro. Casero Sanders.

Mt. Union— Sister Mary Turner.

New Hope— Sister Clement Beall.

Crystal Farms— Bro. W. H. Randle.

We ask that the body stand and offer prayer for the bereaved.

Mrs. W. H. Randle, Mrs. Bill Berry, Mrs. Laura Wilson, Mrs. Bob Lunsford, Mrs. Richard McDowell.

Laymen's Council

We, the committee on Laymen's Council submit the following report: No report of Laymen's Council has come to the Association in some time. We would recommend a revival of this branch of the Kingdom's work. We recommend each church revive the Laymen's Council and have meetings at least once a month and report their work at each Association.

W. H. H. Hays, S. S. Sims, Bill Berry

Publication

We the committee on Publication recommend that each member of our church or each head of the family subscribe to one of the several denominational church papers that are being published.

Miss Thelma Gray, Mrs. Henry Wilson, Mrs. Willie Freeman.

Young People's Work

Our church workers consist of young people who attend Sunday school, church and prayer meeting well. The interest of the young people would go with them to Sunday school, church and prayer meeting would make them more interested to go. We recommend that our young people become more thoroughly organized.

Mrs. Rosie Freeman, Mrs. Cecil Lunsford, Miss Josephine Young, Mrs. Susie Stong, Mrs. Evia Kelly.

Finance

We your committee on Finance find insufficient funds for carrying on the work. We recommend that funds be raised at once.

W. M. Beall, A. J. Williams, Jim Harold Adams

Standing of Ministry

All the ministers in our Association are of the highest standing. All have made every sacrifice to carry on the work of our Lord and we further recommend that all churches stand behind these ministers at all times.

Mrs. Will Hays, Mrs. W. M. Beall, Mr. Fred Carbow.

Mission Work by Amanda J. Kester

From October 1st., 1942, to October 1st., 1943.

Sermons 9
Visiting sick, reading the bible, and prayer in homes,
and different places 200

Yours for Jesus, Mrs. Amanda J. Kester

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 baptized, went up straightway out of the water.—Matt. 3.

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 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 has just been concluded, generally then. 2. Invite visiting brethren to seat. 3. Open a door for the reception of members. 4. Call for absentees. 5. For acknow-

ledgements. 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 acknowledgment 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 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 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 man.

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.

