

THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION

of

FREE WILL BAPTIST

1948



Proceedings

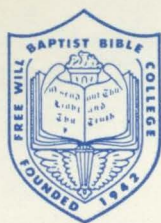
of the

71st Annual Session



Convened at the

Mt. Olive Church



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Jim Williams

PROCEEDINGS
of the
71st ANNUAL SESSION
of
THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Held with

Mt. Olive Church

Near Henderson, Texas

October 1-2, 1948

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Officers

Rev. E. J. Vaughn	- - - - -	Moderator
Mrs. Lloyd Stokes	- - - - -	Clerk
Rev. Troy McDonald	- - - - -	Assistant Moderator

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The Seventy-Second Annual Session will be held with the Mt. Union Church, near Garrison, Texas, beginning Thursday night, September 29, through October 1, 1949.

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Seventy-First Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association held with Mt. Olive Church September 30 to October 1-2, 1948.

First Session—Thursday Evening

Singing led by Frankie Smith. Prayer by Lloyd Stokes. Devotions by Rev. E. S. Jameson. Prayer by Mrs. Gus Smith.

Sermon by Rev. Troy McDonald. Scripture: 6 chap., 1st verse through 11th verse of Galatians.

Friday Morning—Second Session

Singing led by Rev. E. J. Vaughn. Prayer by Rev. Tommie Smith.

Devotional led by Rev. J. M. Goode. Scripture: 3rd chap. Acts of Apostles. Subject: "Such As I Have."

Prayer service led by Rev. E. S. Jameson. Fellow Christians knelt at altar in prayer.

Motion made and seconded that program be accepted with any necessary changes.

Divine Committee appointed to select ministers for preaching throughout Association. Divine Committee handed Moderator their report.

Letters from various churches was read by Clerk.

Motion made and seconded that letters be received as read and delegates seated with understanding that delegates coming in late be seated.

Motion made and seconded that Association adjourn for five minute recess.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. John Newberry.

Singing led by Rev. E. J. Vaughn. Prayer by Rev. B. A. Grant.

11:00 Sermon by Rev. B. A. Grant. Scripture: 133rd Psalm. Theme: Unity.

Song led by Rev. E. J. Vaughn.

Fellow Christians came up and shook hands on the proposition they would try and do more in the coming year than in the past.

Prayer by Bro. W. L. Rodgers.

Dismissed for lunch.

Friday Afternoon—Third Session

Singing led by Rev. B. A. Grant.

Devotional by Bro. Everett Tompkins. Prayer by Rev. E. S. Jameson.

Session now open for business.

Letter that came in late from Dirgin church was read by Rev. E. S. Jameson.

Letter from Clayton Church was read by Clerk.

On motion and second Rev. E. J. Vaughn was elected Moderator.

On motion and second Rev. Troy McDonald was elected Assistant Moderator.

Moderator called for reports of the committees.

The committees not having their report ready were asked to get together and have report ready for Saturday morning session.

On motion and second Moderator was instructed to write committees two weeks before the association convened that they may have their reports ready.

Moderator appointed the following Committee on Committees: Rev. Troy McDonald, Rev. B. A. Grant, Rev. J. M. Goode.

Rev. B. A. Grant reminded the Association that the State Association would convene with New Hope Church November 2nd. The churches heard the reading of the days on which they were assigned to bring lunch.

Sister Gus Smith extended an invitation to all to attend the State Association at New Hope.

Moderator appointed following committee to appoint delegates to the State Association: Rev. John Newberry, Rev. B. A. Grant.

Motion made and carried that Association Treasurer pay the expense of printing the Texas Association program.

Motion made and seconded that the Association grant Mt. Union Church per request for the next annual session.

Invitation was extended to all from the Youngblood church to attend the Quarterly meeting.

We heard some interesting talks from various pastors and delegates as to why we should have the name of our church on the church building.

Fellowship Church made the announcement that they had an altar bench. New Hope made the statement that they voted at the last Conference to erect an altar bench and would have it ready in time for the State Association.

Sister John Gary read a letter she had received from Sister Ferguson about the Women's Auxiliary work. Many expressed a desire to organize auxiliaries.

Motion made and seconded that body adjourn with understanding that if standing Committee on Committees had their reports they might hand them in at the evening service.

Friday Evening Service

Singing led by Mrs. John Newberry. Prayer by Mrs. Bill Berry.

Devotional by Mrs. Bonnie Smith. Scripture: John 14:1-15. Prayer by Rev. J. M. Goode.

Sermon by Rev. John Newberry. Scripture: 29th Chapter of Proverbs, the 19th verse. Text: "Where There Is No Vision the People Perish."

While singing "Rescue the Perishing," congregation extended the right hand of fellowship to Rev. John Newberry.

Dismissal prayer by Mrs. Gus Smith.

Saturday Morning

Singing led by Rev. E. J. Vaughn. Prayer by Rev. Troy McDonald. Prayer by Rev. E. J. Vaughn.

Devotional by Rev. John Newberry. Scripture: John 15:1-17.

Prayer.

Rev. Vaughn asked Association to be much in prayer and help him moderate this body. He asked also that we pray for his dear mother who is very ill.

Session now open for business. Motion made and seconded that letters from Buncombe and Center Point be accepted as read and delegates seated.

Motion made and seconded chair appoint two committeemen to work on education committee.

On motion and second Laymen's Council report was accepted.

On motion and second Mission report was accepted.

On motion and second Obituary report was accepted.

On motion and second Moderator appointed a Standing of Ministry Committee.

On motion and second body adjourned for five minutes recess.

Prayer by Mrs. Bonnie Smith.

Singing led by E. J. Vaughn. "Sweetest Mother" was dedicated to all of the mothers.

Preaching by Rev. T. W. Smith. Job 19:25; Subject: "The Knowledge of the Christian Heart."

While the choir sang the Christians that could say they knew their Redeemer liveth, came and gave Bro. Smith their hand.

Singing "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," congregation shook hands with each other.

Dismissal prayer by Bro. Graves.

Saturday Afternoon

Singing led by Rev. J. M. Goode. Prayer by Bill Berry.

Devotional by Sister Amanda Kester. Scripture: St. John 8:28-37.

Session now open for business.

Moderator appointed a Finance Committee.

Moderator appointed a Publication Committee.

Motion made and seconded that Christian Education Committee's recommendations be adopted.

On motion and second the Standing of Ministers report was accepted.

Motion made and seconded that report from Evangelism be accepted.

Motion made and seconded that report on evangelism be withdrawn from file.

The committee for selecting State Association delegates was read by B. A. Grant.

Motion made and seconded that Association elect delegates that committee selected.

Motion made and seconded that Association adopt report on Publication.

On motion and second Bro. Jameson was appointed Association reporter to the church papers.

On motion and second the second report on Evangelism was accepted.

On motion and second report on Finance was adopted.

On motion and second Rev. J. M. Goode was elected to preach the introduction sermon at next annual meeting.

On motion and second Rev. Tommie Smith extended the heart-felt thanks of the Association to the Mt. Olive Church and its people for the kindness and hospitality shown them.

Congregation gave a rising vote of thanks to the church.

Report of Committee on Committees was read by Rev. J. M. Goode.

On motion and second report was accepted.

Rev. E. J. Vaughn gave an oral report on the Preachers and Deacons meetings. The next meeting will be held at New Hope Church Friday night before the Quarterly Meeting in October.

On motion and second minutes were adopted as read, also the Finance report.

Clerk's Report

Balance	\$99.93
Expense for State Association	\$16.00
Printing of Association Programs	\$ 3.75
Clerk's salary	\$10.00
Balance in bank	\$70.18

On motion and second body adjourned singing "God Be with You 'Till We Meet Again."

Prayer by Everett Wallace.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Education—We, your Committee on Christian Education, submit the following recommendations:

1st. The use of a Report Form to stimulate Bible study, lesson preparation and other points in Sunday School classes.

2nd. Sponsor a Vacation Bible School in each church in the Association.

3rd. That the churches of the Association give greater support to the Unified Program urging attendance to and supporting of the Bible college.

4th. That each church distribute among their members copies of the Treatise of Free Will Baptists, and a study be made with this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. B. A. Grant,

Mrs. John F. Gary,

Mrs. Bill Berry.

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 manpower. Let us use both for the glory of God.

Committee:

E. J. Vaughn,

B. A. Grant,

John Newberry.

Finance—We, as a Committee, recommend that the church be financed as the Lord would have them, that is by tithing and offering. We realize that the churches have been financed better the past year than ever before. In Christ we pray that this be done. We trust that people realize more that the Lord's work needs financing and should come first.

Forrest E. Berry,

Everett Wallace,

Lee Fears.

Laymen's Council—Last year this Council recommended that each church organize a Laymen's Council at their regular meeting day. We find that this has not been done, therefore, we recommend that they do this in the near future and each council can work with and through the others.

Lloyd Stokes.

Standing of Ministry—We, the Committee on the Standing of the Ministry report the following.

We find the ministers in this association are in good standing and doing a wonderful work. We find we have four churches that do not have pastors. We recommend that every effort possible be taken to secure pastors for all the churches of the Association.

Forrest E. Berry,

P. H. Graves,

W. B. Perry.

Missions—We know there is much to be done on the mission field, both home and foreign, yet we realize that if we can get people interested in home missions, foreign missions will follow.

Therefore, we recommend that the churches of this association feel a keen interest in getting their own church a pastor and building their own, then go into foreign fields. Acts 1:8, Ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We recommend that all churches of the Association adopt and support the Unified Program.

Troy McDonald,
John Newberry.

Publication—As a Committee on Publication, we wish to recommend that all our Sunday Schools use our Free Will Baptist literature, we also recommend our Free Will Baptist papers, the Gem, and the Free Will Baptist, the Gem published at Monett, Mo., and the Free Will Baptist at Ayden, N. C.

We recommend that our churches study our Free Will Baptist treatise that we may know what our F. W. B. stands for.

We, as Free Will Baptist, need to elect a reporter to report to our Free Will Baptist papers.

Your Committee:

Mrs. T. W. Smith,
Mrs. A. B. Duncan,
Mrs. Amanda J. Hester.

Obituary — We, your Committee on Obituary, submit the following deaths: Youngblood Church, J. E. Tompkins; Dirgin Church, J. H. Sheffield; Compton Church, Mrs. Lou Fears and Mrs. Emma Stafford; Fellowship, Rev. Jessie Johnson.

We wish to extend our heart-felt sympathy to the bereaved. May God the Comforter, comfort their hearts. We do miss their presence with us. Let's strive to meet them in that home in heaven.

Committee.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Education—First Church: Mrs. B. A. Grant, Mrs. Everett Wallace, Mrs. Clifton Linton.

Finance—Compton Church: J. M. Goode, J. B. McDonald, Bill Berry.

Missions—Harper Church: Will Hays, Ross Clark, Frank Birdwell.

Obituary—New Hope: Bonnie Smith, Earline Stokes, Ruth Smith.

Standing of Ministry—Union Arbor: Sammie Sims, Ernie Weaver, W. L. Rodgers.

Publication—Center Point: Mrs. Demma Hesser, Linzy Downs, Halsom Williams.

Evangelism—Buncombe: Mr. Ray Graves, Mr. Joseph Morris, Levy Koonce.

Delegates elected to State Association: Mrs. Gus Smith, Mrs. Tommie Smith, Mr. G. O. Parker, Mrs. Will H. Hays, Mr. Levy Koonce, Mrs. Lola Zager, Mrs. Dottie Hesser, Mr. W. L. Rodgers, Mrs. R. V. Bell, Mrs. Douglas Browning, Mrs. John Newberry.

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 privilege 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 a 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 a 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 service 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 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

dealings by the Church.

withdrawn, the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under

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 acknowledgement shall be minuted on the Church books.

18th. Members dismissed from the Church by letter, who became 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 anyone 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 purpose intended, but that it does not extend to the persons property or conscience 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 so 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.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the words of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligation in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together in church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "Keep the Unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme. Counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world, and may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

