

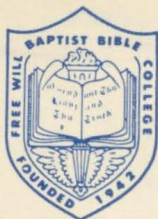
MINUTES
OF
THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

1949

PROCEEDINGS
Of The
72nd ANNUAL SESSION

Convened at the
MT. UNION CHURCH

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM, MONETT, MO.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. Damon Dodd

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
72ND ANNUAL SESSION
OF
THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**Convened With
MT. UNION CHURCH
Near Garrison, Texas
SEPT. 29 THROUGH OCT. 1**

OFFICERS

Rev. Troy McDonald.....Moderator
Mr. A. E. Stokes.....Assistant Moderator
Mrs. Lloyd Stokes.....Clerk

The Seventy-Third Annual Session will be held with the Union Arbor Church, near Beckville, Texas, beginning Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1950, through Saturday.

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Seventy-Second Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association convened at Mt. Union Church September 29 through October 1, 1949.

THURSDAY EVENING—First Session

Singing led by Miss Louise Lunsford.

Prayer by Bro. I. F. Lunsford.

Devotions and Testimonial Service by Miss Louise Lunsford.

Sermon by Rev. J. M. Goode

Dismissed by Rev. J. M. Goode.

FRIDAY MORNING—Second Session

Singing led by Rev. B. A. Grant.

Devotional by Bro. John Gary; Gal. 6:4-10, "Let us not be weary in well doing."

Prayer by Rev. T. W. Smith.

Motion and second program be accepted with any necessary changes.

Divine Committee appointed by Moderator. Divine Committee selected the eldest minister present for the eleven o'clock service.

On motion and second the church letters were received and delegates seated with understanding that delegates coming in late be seated.

On motion and second Association adjourned for recess.

Prayer by Bro. G. O. Parker.

Singing led by Bro. L. E. Carrol.

Sermon by Rev. E. S. Jameson. Scripture—Psalm 116.

Singing "I Love to Tell the Story," the congregation extended their heart felt thanks and gratitude to Rev. E. S. Jameson and Bro. Ike Lunsford for their work in the past years making it possible for us to enjoy the privilege of worship that we have today. This was a gracious service.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. E. S. Jameson.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—Third Session

Singing led by Rev. B. A. Grant.

Prayer by Rev. B. A. Grant.

Singing led by L. E. Carrol.

Devotional by Mrs. Rueben Hays; John 14:1-6.

Prayer by Rev. J. M. Goode.

Motion and second that letters that come in late be read by clerk.

Rev. Troy McDonald gave letter and reported on Crystal Farm Church. Motion and second that letter and oral report be accepted. Rev. E. S. Jameson gave an oral report on Dirgin Church. On motion and second this report was accepted.

Officers Elected

Moderator.....Rev. Troy McDonald

Assistant Moderator.....A. E. Stokes

Motion carried that Bro. Ike Lunsford and Bro. John Gary assist Bro. Ernie Weaver to make out the report on standing of ministry for this setting of the Association.

Mrs. John Gary, from Mt. Olive Church, gave report on their Auxiliary work. She expressed her desire that other churches organize Woman's Auxiliaries.

Mrs. J. M. Goode gave a report on the visit to the Orphanage at Ringling, Oklahoma. From her report I'm sure we all would like to visit and study their needs and ways to help them.

Mrs. Bill Berry made the announcement of District League Rally at Mt. Olive Church October 11. She extended an invitation to all that could to attend.

On motion and second the reports were accepted.

On motion and second business session was continued.

Moderator asked for Committee on Committees report.

Finance report read by Rev. Troy McDonald. On motion and second report was adopted.

Report on Missions read by Rev. E. S. Jameson. On motion and second report was adopted.

Standing of Ministry report was read by Clerk. On motion and second report was adopted.

Obituary report was read by Clerk. On motion and second report was accepted.

Education report was read by Mrs. B. A. Grant. On motion and second report was adopted.

Moderator appointed the following to name delegates to the state association: Rev. B. A. Grant, Rev. J. M. Goode, Rev. T. W. Smith.

The following Committee on Committees was appointed by Moderator: Ike Lunsford, Rev. E. S. Jameson, G. O. Parker.

On motion and second Clerk was instructed to pay for printing of ministers cards out of treasury.

On motion and second Clerk was instructed to pay Rev. B. A. Grant for printing of programs.

Rev. E. S. Jameson made a talk on the national papers. Also the new paper called "The Small Voice."

Bro. J. M. Goode made a few remarks on the financing of unified program.

Mrs. John Gary extended invitation to attend Quarterly Meeting October 29 at the Mt. Olive Church.

On motion and second Association adjourned.

FRIDAY EVENING

Singing led by Louise Lunsford.

Prayer by Rev. B. A. Grant.

Devotion led by Mrs. Earlene Stokes; Matt. 5:1-10.

Testimony service also by Mrs. Stokes.

Prayer by Rev. T. L. McDonald.

Sermon by Rev. Troy McDonald; text "The Gift of the Holy Spirit".

Dismissal prayer by Rev. Troy McDonald.

SATURDAY MORNING

Singing led by Rev. B. A. Grant and Charles Lunsford.

Devotion by Rev. John Newberry. Prayer by Rev. John Newberry. Scripture reading, Proverb 29:18.

Session now open for business.

Committee on Committees submitted the following report:

Education—Mrs. J. M. Goode, Mrs. John Gary, Mrs. Bill Berry. Finance—Will H. Hays, T. L. McDonald, P. R. Clark. Missions—Earlene Stokes, Frankie Smith, Mrs. George Smith. Obituary—Rev. B. A. Grant, Rev. J. M. Goode, Rev. T. W. Smith, Rev. T. L. McDonald. Evangelism—Mrs. John Newberry, Mrs. Rueben Hays, Mrs. Everett Wallace. Publications—Rev. T. W. Smith, Rev. B. A. Grant, Rev. John Newberry, Rev. J. M. Goode, Rev. T. L. McDonald. Standing of Ministry—G. O. Parker, Luther Marshall, J. L. Anderson.

Motion carried that report be adopted.

Moderator appointed Mrs. T. W. Smith, Foy Alexander and Lucille Bell for service on Publication Committee for this setting of Association.

Motion carried to convene at the Union Arbor Church near Beckville, Texas for the 1950 session.

Motion carried that moderator appoint the following:

P. R. Clark, Horace Lunsford to service on Divine Committee with Rev. B. A. Grant.

Moderator appointed Rev. T. W. Smith, Earlene Stokes and P. R. Clark for service on Resolutions Committee.

Divine committee handed in their report.

Motion carried that business adjourn.

Singing led by Charles Lunsford.

Dismissal prayer Rev. E. S. Jameson.

Worship Service

Singing led by Rev. B. A. Grant.

Prayer by Mrs. John Gary.

Sermon by Rev. John Newberry; Scripture Rev. 3:

6-8. "I have set before thee an open door."

Prayer by Rev. T. W. Smith.

Singing led by Louise Lunsford.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. John Newberry.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Singing led by Louise Lunsford.

Prayer by Geneva McDonald.

Devotion by Mrs. T. W. Smith; Romans 6.

Prayer by Rev. T. L. McDonald.

Rev. E. S. Jameson led prayer for those of association that were sick and unable to attend the services.

Session now open for business.

Clerk read report on publications. On motion and second the report was adopted.

The report of the committee for selecting of delegates for the State Association was read. Motion carried that report be adopted.

Rev. John Newberry gave a talk on missions.

Motion carried that we proceed with the days business as the time was growing short.

June Goode gave an interesting talk on the Youth Encampment near Groverton, Texas. She made us all wish we had attended.

Moderator asked Rev. T. W. Smith to speak as he had not been on the program. We all enjoyed this very much.

Motion carried that we accept the Clerk's finance report and give her authority to have 300 hundred minutes printed.

Motion carried that Resolution Committee's report be adopted.

The Mt. Union Church extended the association an invitation to convene with them again as they were glad we came their way.

After reading a portion of the church covenant Rev. B. A. Grant extended his love toward Rev. J. M. Goode.

Minutes were read and corrected. Motion carried that minutes be accepted.

Motion carried that the association adjourn.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. T. W. Smith.

Those selected as Delegates to State Association were:

Fellowship Church.....	Mrs. V. B. Stone
Harper Church.....	Mr. R. F. Birdwell
Mt. Olive.....	Mrs. John Gary
Mt. Union.....	Louise Lunsford
New Hope.....	Mrs. Rene Lee
Campbell.....	Mrs. Glen Watson
Youngblood.....	Mrs. Douglas Blowing
First Church-Henderson.....	Mrs. Rueben Hays
Dirgin Church.....	Mr. John Fitzgerald
Union Arbor Church.....	Mrs. Clara Griffin
Buncombe Church.....	P. H. Graves
Center Point.....	Mrs. Halcomb William

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance:

We as a committee recommend that the church be financed as the Lord would have, 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 the people realize more that the Lord's work needs financing and should come first.

Committee, Rev. J. M. Goode

J. B. McDonald

Bill Berry

Evangelism:

We your Committee on Evangelism report the following: Evangelism, we find, is a Bible doctrine. Through it reaches out to men and women. We trust that people

realize more that we need to advance evangelism with our money and manpower, and when we use both we will see by the glory of God that it will be a great benefit to mankind.

Committee, Roy Graves
Joseph Morris
Levy Koonce

Missions:

We, your Committee on Missions, submit the following: Realizing that Mission work is a Christian duty and very important, we recommend that the pastor and officials of each church stress the importance of this work, and adopt some plan of making monthly payments to this cause. We recommend that each church adopt the unified program plan.

Committee, Will Hays
Ross Clark
Frank Birdwell

Education:

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

1. That each church get acquainted with the Treatise of Free Will Baptists, that they may understand the rules and regulations of the church.

2. That the churches of the Association give the support to the unified program, stressing the importance of Home Missions.

3. If possible sponsor a Vacation Bible School.

4. Let each church study its problems and try by some method or plan to make their Sunday School better.

Committee, Mrs. B. A. Grant
Mrs. Clifton Linton

Obituary:

We, your Committee on Obituary, submit the following deaths:

Mrs. Carrie Horton.....	Fellowship Church
Mrs. Dora Maxwell.....	Fellowship Church
Frankie Redwine.....	Stewart
Mr. T. T. Conely.....	Stewart
Mrs. Will Jones.....	Harper
Mr. Wiley Hampton.....	New Hope
Mrs. P. T. Allen.....	New Hope
Mr. J. B. Fears.....	Mt. Olive

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved and may God bless and comfort their hearts.

Their presence will be missed much with us. Let us have faith and works to meet them in heaven.

Committee, Mrs. Earlene Stokes
Mrs. George Smith

Standing of Ministry:

We find that all ministers are in good standing as far as any proof is available and that they are doing a wonderful work as far as financially able, but we find that several churches are without pastors. We pray that the pastors of this Association help place pastors in those churches.

Committee, John Gary
Mr. Weaver
Ike Lunsford

Publications:

As a Committee on Publications, 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 is 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 recommend that you will always keep clean literature in your homes.

Committee, Mrs. T. W. Smith
Mrs. Lucille Bell
Mrs. Foy Alexander

Resolutions:

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg to submit the following:

We wish to thank this church and community for their kindness and hospitality and the generous way they entertained this Association.

We also recommend that we close this Association with the song "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," and a hearty handshake in Christian faith and love.

Committee, Rev. T. W. Smith
Mrs. Earlene Stokes
Mrs. P. R. Clark

Clerk's Report:

Balance	\$70.18
Expense for State Association.....	\$11.00

Printing of Programs.....	3.50
Ministers' Cards.....	2.25
Clerk's Salary.....	10.00
Balance in Bank.....	\$43.43

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 Body will be composed of delegates elected by the Churches composing this body. Each shall be allowed (2) two delegates and Churches of more than fifty (50) members shall be entitled to one delegate for each twenty (20) members or fractional part thereof until Five and no Church shall have more than Five (5) delegates. All ordained deacons shall be allowed a seat in the Association and shall be entitled to seats in the body and entitled to privileges as delegates, even when not representing Churches.

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 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 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 con-

vinced 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 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 in 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 acquit-

ted 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 Word 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 obligations 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 forsake the assembling of ourselves together for 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 principle 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.—I 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.—I Cor. 11:28.

This do 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.—II Tim. 3:16.

