



The 108th Annual Report of the
**CONVENTION OF
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

May 20th, 2020

OFWB



Growing in Grace

2016-2021

Ministry & Conference Report Book

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Minutes, of the 124 session of the Eastern Conference of the

Original Free Will Baptist,

held at Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist Church

October 25, 2019, at Holly Ridge, NC 28445.

At 9:00 am Brother Grady Simpson, Clerk of the Eastern Conference called the Conference to order and declared the Eastern Conference in session with the Reverend Mitchell Parker, Moderator, presiding.

Brother Mitchell Parker explained the purpose, activities, and events of the day.

Brother Darrell Pope, song leader, led the congregation in singing "Glory to His Name" accompanied by Pianist Sister Rebecca Humphrey.

Brother Donald Guthrie gave an inspiring devotion. His text was taken from Hebrews 10: 25 & 25. The theme of his devotion was "People not attending Church have a responsibility to Jesus as well as saved people". The excuse, "I did not know the importance of what Jesus did for me" will not help them in the Day of Judgement.

The welcome was presented by the Reverend Cliff Wilson, Pastor of Folkstone OFWB Church. The Response was given by the Reverend Calvin Heath.

Brother Mitchell Parker, the Moderator, gave recognition to visiting Ministers, Union Moderators, License Ministers, and The Convention of OFWB Enterprises in attendance.

Reverend Parker appointed temporary committees' Parliamentarian & Ushers.

Brother Mitchell Parker gave the Moderator's address to the Conference. His remarks centered around unity, love, prayer, and Jesus.

Reverend David Smith and Wife Dawn Smith presented comments about the importance of fasting and prayer. The Conference formed two large circles, one for men and one for women. They led the Conference in a circle concert of prayer for our Denomination, Churches, People, and the lost. It was a remarkable inspirational event that set the atmosphere for the Eastern Conference Meeting. The Spirit of God was very evident.

At the morning business meeting, several items were brought before the Conference for consideration.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to present the Eastern Conference Constitution and Bylaws changes as information until the afternoon session to be voted on. Brother Mitchell Parker explained that the Constitution and Bylaws changes had been previously printed and mailed to every Minister and Church Clerk in the Conference before the Conference for reading and to prepare the Ministers and Delegates of the impending changes.

A motion was made, by Sister Annette Cayton and Sherry Toler delegates of Whitehill OFWB Church, that the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist Church transfers any claims or titles to Whitehill Original Free Will Baptist Church of land and property to the trustees of Whitehill OFWB Church. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made, by Sister Barbara Lancaster delegate of May's Chapel Church, that the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist transfer any claims or titles to May's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church of land and property to the trustees of May's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church. The motion was seconded and passed.

Brother Victor Jones, Board Member of the Board of Directors of Camp Vandemere presented a financial report for Camp Vandemere. He made several mentions of the growth and financial condition of the Camp being in good condition. Brother Jones also commented on the proposed Eastern Conference Constitution change about the number of Board members of Camp Vandemere. Brother John Hawkins a Board Member of the Board of Directors for Camp Vandemere, and Chairman of the new Eastern Conference Financial Review Committee reported the possible future growth of Camp Vandemere. Brother Hawkins also commented on the newly established Eastern Conference Financial Review committee. He also commended Brother Don Fader, Treasurer of the Eastern Conference, on the fact that he recommended to the Eastern Conference Executive Committee to establish such a committee to review the financial records of the Eastern Conference before the Conference's annual meeting. The Camp Vandemere Report was accepted as information.

Brother Don Fader gave a financial report for the Eastern Conference. Brother Fader related the pending sale of the Leland property and the Beaufort property. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the financial report.

Brother Ashley Trogdon reported for the Ministerial Examining Board. He also mentioned the new policy recommendation now pending approval by a vote later in the afternoon concerning Minister absent policy from the Annual Conference Meeting. The new policy will be part of the Constitution and Bylaws changes if approved by vote.

Brother Jimmy Sowers presented the Nominating Committees recommendation for Conference Officers for the year 2019-2020. He pointed out that the recommendation for an Assistant Clerk of the Eastern Conference would be only upon the Constitution and Bylaws changes approval when voted on in the afternoon. The Committee's recommendation for Assistant Clerk of the Eastern Conference is Brother Vernie Fountain. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Nomination Committee's report.

Brother Mitchell Parker Moderator declared a break for 15 to 20 minutes to allow the Conference Ministers and delegates to visit the Convention of the Original Free Will Baptist Ministries tables.

Morning Worship Service:

Congregational Singing of the Hymn "I Believe in a Hill Called Mt. Calvary was led by Brother Darrell Pope accompanied by Sister Rebecca Humphrey, Pianist.

Brother Justin Barnett introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Art Rainer.

Dr. Rainer's scriptures were taken from 1 Timothy 6:17-19 His theme was based upon rich people and money. He cited several examples of how Christians can be successful in financial matters from his book titled The Money Challenge. While citing his book, he used scripture to emphasize that Christians should not be overwhelmed by money and forget about Jesus.

He gave three examples that can guide Christians in their financial growth, give generously, save wisely, and live appropriately.

Brother Rainer closed his message with prayer.

A closing Hymn of "The Old Rugged Cross" was led By Brother Darrell Pope, and accompanied by Sister Rebecca Humphrey, pianist.

Brother Mitchell Parker dismissed the Conference for lunch and dismissed with prayer and blessing of the food.

Folkstone Church furnished the lunch for the Conference. It was truly a lunch for Kings.

During the lunch, Ministers and Delegates enjoyed a lunch and learn session with Dr. Rainer.

Afternoon Session:

Brother Mitchel Parker opened the afternoon session.

A congregational hymn, "To God Be the Glory" was led by Brother Darrell Pope, accompanied by Sister Rebecca Humphrey, pianist.

Brother Frances Garner brought the afternoon message. His scripture was taken from Ephesians 5:28. His theme was "Loyalty". He used his marriage to his departed wife of more than 50 years as an example of loyalty. He related that such commitment and loyalty to his marriage was also an example of our loyalty we should show to Jesus. Brother Garner closed with prayer.

Testimony time was called for in the Conference Meeting. Many testimonies were given that lifted the hearts and spirits of everyone. The testimonies were about Jesus.

Brothers Earl Sadler and Joe Ard gave the Memorial Committees' report of three ministers passing on to Heaven during the past year. Brother Ronnie Parker, Brother Bryce Rouse, and Brother Richard Roberts. One Minister's wife was mentioned, Sister Mary Ellen Box, wife Brother Jerry Box. The congregation also mentioned several family members and friends of Jesus Christ.

Brother Ashley Trogon conducted the Ministers roll call.

Brother Craig Simmons, Chairman of the Eastern Conference Examining Board, presented Pastor's Service Pin wards. Brothers John Carawan 10 years, Butch Haddock 10 years, Neil Cox 20 years, Tim Heath 35 years, Joe Ratcliff 35 years, Mike Scott 40 years, Craig Simmons 40 years, Gurney Chase 45 years, Robert Langley 50 years, Ronnie Aycock 50 years, Jimmy Webster 50 years, and Walter Sutton 60 years.

The Eastern Conference Wall of Honor Award was given to Brother Jessie Cayton.

Eastern Conference Ordaining Council Board recognized Brother Bennitt Sims as a duly ordained minister of the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist. He was given the right hand of fellowship.

Brother Terry Coats gave the Credentials Report which is made as a part of these minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the report. Special Thanks to Brothers, Harry Bryan and Tim Whealton for helping at the Credentials table.

Brother Michael Williams gave the Digest Report. The report will be part of these minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the report. Special thanks to Brother Jimmy Sowers for helping us at the registration table.

Final Business Session:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Nomination Committee's recommendation for officers in for 2020

The motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the changes to the Eastern Conference Constitution and the recommended policies and Changes.

Brother Mitchell Parker, the Moderator, explained Brother John Williams Director of Cragmont had released us from having our 2020 Conference Meeting at Cragmont. He stated that no other Conference had accepted the invitation to attend Cragmont for their Annual Meetings and that it was a long way to come for the Eastern Conference.

Brother Ashley Trogon gave the report of the Resolutions Committee. Be it Resolved; the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist give a standing ovation to the Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist Church for hosting our Conference Meeting. Job well done!

A motion was made, seconded, and passed not to attend Cragmont for our annual Conference Meeting. Brother Tim Heath of Bethlehem OFWB Church in Fountain Town extended an invitation to the Eastern Conference to have the annual meeting at Bethlehem OFWB Church. The motion was made, second, and passed to accept the invitation.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to invite Cragmont to our 2020 Conference and award them a \$ 1000 gift.

Brother Jack Webb was appointed to make a list of Ministers not serving a Church at this time, and who would be willing to fill a pulpit and travel.

The Eastern Conference Meeting was dismissed by prayer by Brother Crandall Fountain.

Grady Simpson

Clerk of the Eastern Conference