

DRAFT Pending Approval
Eastern Conference
Of Original Free Will Baptist of North Carolina
One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Annual Session
Bethlehem OFWB Church
Chinquapin, NC 28521
March 10, 2022

Minutes

Prelude: The Willing Heart trio sang several songs before the Moderator's welcome.

Moderator's Welcome: Moderator Mitchell Parker welcomed everyone to Conference Meeting and thanked Bethlehem Church for hosting the 126 Eastern Conference Meeting.

Call To Order: At Nine A.M., Clerk Grady Simpson called the One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Annual Session to order.

Orders: Moderator Parker gave the Orders of the Day by explaining the reason for the 126 Eastern Conference Meeting and the agenda for the meeting.

Brother Craig Simmons, song leader, lead the Congregation, singing "To God Be the Glory."
Mrs. Gail Heath, Pianist.

Devotion: Brother Duane Howard of Smith's New Home OFWB Church gave the morning devotion. He read Scripture from Acts 17 and centered on Apostle Paul's sermon about the unknown God.

Welcome: Pastor Tim Heath of Bethlehem Church gave a warm welcome greeting to the Conference. He informed the Congregation concerning lunch and the accommodation of Bethlehem Church.

Response: Brother Calvin Heath, Pastor of Wintergreen OFWB, gave a cordial response to Bethlehem Church for hosting the Eastern Conference Meeting.

Recognition of Visitors: Moderator Mitchell Parker recognized visiting ministers, convention enterprises, guests, and licensed ministers.

Appointment of Committees: Moderator Mitchell Parker appointed the following committees and officers: Ushers Gabriel Fountain and Jody Horne, Resolution Committee Reverend Ashley Trogdon, Reverend Donald Fader, and the Reverend Chris Singleton. Parliamentarians Reverend Water Pence and Brother John Hawkins.

Concert of Prayer: Reverend David Smith led in a time of prayer and worship. He read the scripture aloud from Psalms 18:6. His theme was when you are in distress. Brother Smith led the Congregation in a time of prayer where everyone was allowed to pray aloud as the Holy Spirit moved them. Brother Smith closed in leading the Congregation in singing the "Doxology."

Camp Vandemere Report: Brother Jody Horne presented the report for Camp Vandemere. He reported the event honoring Colby Tucker, new playground equipment, and plans for Camp Vandemere. Brother Horne presented the report to the Conference as information.

Treasurer's Report: Reverend Donald Fader, Treasurer for the Eastern Conference, presented the Conference treasurer report. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasure's report.

Eastern Conference Budget: Brother Fader also presented a budget for the Eastern Conference. A motion was made and passed to accept the Conference budget for the coming year.

Finance Committee Report: Brother John Hawkins submitted the Eastern Conference Finance committee report. Brother Hawkins reported that the finance committee recommended changing Article 6, Section 14 of the Eastern Conference Constitution to reflect changing from a physical year report to a calendar year report. A motion was made and seconded to reflect the Constitutional change. After discussing the motion, a new motion was made and seconded passed to lay the original motion on the table until the afternoon session. Motion passed.

Executive Committee Minutes: Brother Grady Simpson presented the Executive Committee minutes for approval. A motion was made and seconded passed to accept the Executive Committee minutes.

Ordaining Counsel Report: The Reverend Doctor Ashley Trogon, Secretary of the Eastern Conference Ordaining Council, presented a report, information, and recommendation for adopting a Lay Speaker Ministry. A motion was made and second to accept the report and all recommendations. After discussion, an amendment to the original motion was made to separate page 3, numbers 1 and 2, and considered in a different motion for approval. A motion was made and second to lay the motion and the amendment on the table until the afternoon session. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report: Reverend Jimmy Sowers presented the nominating committee's report and recommendations for Eastern Conferences Officer for the coming year. Motion made and second to lay on the table the nominating report until the afternoon session. Motion passed.

Ladies Auxiliary Report: Mrs. Judith Kennedy gave the Eastern Conference Ladies Auxiliary's report. The report was received as information.

Break: The Moderator declared a Fifteen Minute Break. Moderator Mitchell Parker called the Conference back in session. The Willing Heart Trio led the Congregation in several songs of praise and worship.

Message: Assistant Moderator Reverend Crandall Fountain introduced Reverend David Smith as the speaker for the morning worship service. Reverend Smith used Ezekiel 37 as his primary text. His points of emphasis were "dry bones," "The hand of the Lord was on me." and "The Awakening." Reverend Smith invited all people to receive the "Awakening" from the Lord.

The Willing Heart trio provided songs for a Time of Reflection.

Lunch Break:

Afternoon Session: Intro to the afternoon session, The Reverend Craig Simmons led the Congregation in singing, "Love Lifted Me."

Devotion: Brother Jody Horne of Whaley's Chapel OFWB Church lead in Devotion. His selected scriptural text was Colossians 4:6. His main point was, "Let your conversation be full of grace."

Memorial Committee Report: The Memorial Committee reported three Ministers went home to the Lord since our last Conference meeting. Reverend Jerry English, Reverend Frances Garner, and the Reverend Charles Hardison. Many Ministers expressed wonderful testimonies in memory of these Ministers of the Lord.

The following Convention Ministries made reports to the Eastern Conference: Convention report, Foreign Mission, Children's Home, Ministers Program, University of Mount Olive, Retirement Homes, Cragmont Assembly, Sunday School, and Training report, Church Revitalization and Church Planting, Brad Williamson video, Biker Ministries, Church Finance,

Roll Call: *The Reverend Doctor Ashley Trogdon, Secretary for the Ordaining Council, called Ministers' roll.*

Credentials Committee Report: The Credentials Committee submitted their report. (Report attached)

Digest Committee Report: The Digest Committee submitted their report. (Report attached)

Resolution Committee Report: The Resolution Committee submitted the following resolution:
"Whereas people of Bethlehem OFWB Church have graciously provided their wonderful Church facilities to host the 126th Annual Eastern Conference of OFWB,
Whereas they have met each of us with a welcoming spirit, provided wonderful hospitality to all participants of the Conference,
Be it further resolved; we give a rising vote of confidence to show our appreciation for their graciousness."

Service Awards: Craig Simmons, Chairman of the Eastern Conference Ordaining Council, presented the Pastor's Service Awards. (See attachment of recipients)

Business:

Nomination Committee Report: A motion was made and second to remove the Nomination report off the table for consideration. Motion passed. Moderator Mitchell Parker asked for nomination for Conference Officer positions from the floor. No nominations were received. The motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Motion passed.

Ordaining Counsel Report: Motion made, seconded and passed to remove from the table the Ordaining Council motion and amendment to divide their report leaving page 3 and section one and two being separate items. Motion passed. Motion made and second to separate the Eastern Conference Ordaining Council's report into two separate identities. The Ordaining Council's report and information are pages one and two. Page 3, sections one and two being a separate and a particular matter concerning a "Lay Speaker Ministry" and adoption of change to the

"Educational Requirements for Ministers aged 60 or above, and Ministers transferring to the Eastern Conference from another conference 60 years old or above. Motion made and second to accept The Eastern Conference Ordaining Council's report and information on pages one and two numbers 1-8. Motion passed.

Motion made and second to accept page 3, sections one and two as Lay Speaker Ministries and education requirement changes for Ministers in the Eastern Conference and those transferring into the Eastern Conference. Motion passed.

Motion made and seconded to remove from the table the motion to change the Eastern Conference Constitution Article 6, section 14 to read; "The committee will submit a report of their findings, for the previous calendar ending December 31st, to the Eastern Conference Executive Committee by June 30th of the following year."

Lane School of Theology Report: Reverend Doctor Ashley Trogdon submitted the Lane School of Christian Theology report as reported in the information packet mailed to churches and ministers before the Conference Meeting. Motion made seconded and passed.

Adjournment: Having no other business before the Conference, Moderator Mitchell Parker dismissed the 126th Eastern Conference meeting with prayer.

Grady Simpson, Clerk
Eastern Conference of OFWB.
03/10/22

2022 Eastern Conference Meeting at Bethlehem OFWB Church 03/10/22
Attachments

**Proposed Budget
Eastern Conference
2022**

Income

Conference Registration	\$2,250
Interest Income	850
Contributions	4,250
Total	\$7,350

Expense

Vandemere	\$3,600
Conference Expense	1,250
Office Expense	2,500
Total	\$7,350

Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists
Treasurer's Report
PENDING REVIEW BY FINANCE COMMITTEE
January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

INCOME AND EXPENSE

RECEIPTS	2019-2020 18 Months	2021
Donations and Registration Fees	\$ 6,145.00	\$ 5,840.00
Lane School Income	1,125.00	973.70
Leland Property (Utility Reimbursement)	4,926.00	2,486.20
Sale of Property (Leland Property)	10.00	(25,361.86)
Interest (Wilmington Endowment, Eastern Conference, General)	991.50	991.50
Refunds (Duke Energy, Towne Ins, NC U/W)	912.78	47.37
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$14,110.48	(\$15,023.09)
DISBURSEMENTS		
Administration (Executive Committee/Examining Board)		
Bank Svc Charge	\$ 106.00	60.00
Office Expenses	1,742.13	390.41
Printing	1,199.97	1,281.07
Computer and Software Expenses	-0-	2,077.85
Legal (Lease/title work, revenue stamps, etc)	50.00	-0-
Postage	453.75	176.06
Rent	900.00	900.00
Sub-Total	\$ 4,451.85	4,885.39
Camp Vandemere Expense	37,607.94	\$ 3,600.00
Lane School Expense	560.85	151.11
Convention Wall of Honor	500.00	-0-
Conference Expenses	-0-	1,204.96
Property Maintenance and Utilities		
Utilities: (Leland)	5,037.80	3,390.63
Insurance	2,052.00	202.75
Sub-Total	\$ 46,758.59	8,549.45
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ (37,099.96)	\$ 13,434.84
TOTAL EARNINGS (LOSS)	\$ (15,752.02)	\$(28,457.93)

BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets	2019-2020	2021
First Citizens Checking	\$ 225,898.61	\$ 397,440.68
Wilmington Endowment Restricted (see note-2)	\$ 56,780.49	56,780.49
Total Current Assets	\$ 282,679.10	\$ 454,221.17
Fixed Assets		
Faith (Leland, NC) (see note 3)	200,000.00	-0-
Total Fixed Assets	200,000.00	\$ -0-
Total Assets	\$ 482,679.10	\$ 454,221.17
Liabilities		
Wilmington Endowment w/d (see note-2)	\$ 69,217.53	\$ 69,217.53
Total Liabilities	\$ 69,217.53	\$ 69,217.53
Conference Equity	\$ 413,461.57	\$ 385,003.64
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 482,679.10	\$ 454,221.17

NOTES

This report has been prepared by the treasurer of the Conference and presented to the Executive Committee and Finance Committee and will be submitted to the Conference for approval. This report represents a 12 month period (2021) and it is being compared to the previous 18 month (2019-2020) reporting period. The Finance Committee the Finance Committee is an independent review board elected by the Conference and will answer questions and inquiries relating to this report.

Related Transactions: The treasurer of the Eastern Conference, Donald Fader, is also the Executive Director of the Church Finance Association, Inc which maintains deposits on behalf of the Conference and holds a mortgage on Camp Vandemere.

Note 1 The Leland property was listed at an estimated value of \$200,000.00 as determined by the executive committee based on the market and condition of the property. The property sold for \$175,000.00 on September 6, 2021 and after deducting costs associated with the sale the Conference received \$174,638.14. Since the property had been listed as a fixed asset on the books of the Conference the sale created a paper loss of \$25,361.86. The income from the sale is included in the First Citizens account on the balance sheet.

Note 2 The Wilmington Endowment: The Conference maintains a restricted endowment with the Church Finance Association named "The Wilmington Endowment". The corpus of this endowment was established by members of the Wilmington Mission when that church was sold. The purpose of the endowment is to provide funding for an Original Free Will Baptist work in New Hanover County, North Carolina or the surrounding area.

In 2010, 2013 and 2014 funds were withdrawn in the total amount of \$69,217.53 for use in repairing and improving Faith Mission located in Brunswick County, North Carolina. Currently the work at Faith is inactive and should the property be sold or used for any other purpose than an Original Free Will Baptist Church these funds will be required to be returned to the endowment.

EASTERN CONFERENCE OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 10, 2022

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Assistant Moderator	Rev. Crandall Fountain	Eastern	2022	Rev. Crandall Fountain	Eastern	2024
Clerk	Rev. Grady Simpson	Eastern	2022	Rev. Grady Simpson	Eastern	2024
Member At Large	Rev. Calvin Heath	Eastern	2022	Rev. Calvin Heath	Eastern	2024
Ordaining Council	Rev. Ashley Trogdon	Eastern	2022	Rev. Ashley Trogdon	Eastern	2027
Board Of Trustees	Rev. Ronnie Taylor	Eastern	2022	Rev. Ronnie Taylor	Eastern	2025
Credentials Committee	Rev. Terry Coates	Eastern	2022	Rev. Terry Coates	Eastern	2025
Digest Comittee	Rev. Tim Heath	Eastern	2022	Rev. Tim Heath	Eastern	2025
Memorial Committee	Rev. Joe Ard	Eastern	2022	Rev. Joe Ard	Eastern	2025
Vandemere Board	Mr. Michael Arthur	Central	2022	Mr. Michael Arthur	Central	2027
Vandemere Board	Mr. Victor Jones	Eastern	2022	Mr. Victor Jones	Eastern	2027
Finance Committee Representative	Rev. Crandall Fountain	Eastern	2022	Rev. Crandall Fountain	Eastern	2025
Church Finance Association	Mr. Eugene Burkett	Eastern	2022	Mr. Eugene Burkett	Eastern	2024

Rev. James Sowers James Sowers

Mr. Vernie Fountain Vernie E. Fountain

Rev. David Smith David Smith

EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY REPORT:

I bring greetings to you from all the members of the Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention, women who prayerfully and financially support all our Denominational Ministries.

This past year, we have supported our Denominational work in the amount of \$7,189.01. Our main purpose is to serve our church and community by sharing the love of God in all we do. We are thankful for all the support and hard work of our Women in the Eastern District, especially for their continued response and support during these past two years of Covid-19, which has been difficult on us all.

We also want to thank all our Ministries for their support in helping our Districts receive up to date information about our Denominational work.

Our District Officers are working together to encourage and support our women as they work in their local auxiliaries. The work of our Woman's Auxiliary is important to all of our churches because we help share the love of God and His word.

This coming June 6-9, 2022 we plan to have our Woman's Retreat at Camp Vandemere. Our speaker will be Mrs. Linda Herring and our theme will be "Girls Gone God" based on Psalms 63:1-4. We will learn about courage with kindness and forgiveness. We look forward to having a wonderful week as we share God's love with one another.

Our Spring Convention will be on Saturday March 19, 2022 at Macedonia OFWB Church in Ernul, N.C.

We are still having our Woman's Day Retreats with our theme being "Renewal through Joy." Last year we were unable to have our Woman's Day Retreat, due to Covid. We are pleased that we will be able to have our Retreat this year, that will be on Saturday September 17, 2022 at Core Creek OFWB Church Cove City, N.C.. co-hosted by: Core Creek and Wintergreen OFWB Church Auxiliaries.

To conclude, due to hard work and encouragement, our women are hosting successful conventions for which we are thankful.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Judith Kennedy, President

Memorial Committee Report to the 126th Annual Conference OFWB 3-10-22

Ministers who transferred to Heaven:

1 **Jerry English**

2 **Francis Garner**

3 **Charles Hardison**

4

5

6

7

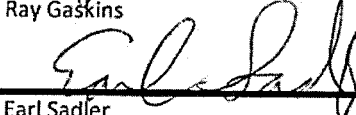
Submitted by Memorial Committee Members:



Joseph Ard



Ray Gaskins



Earl Sadler

	Number Present
Ordained & Certificate of Endorsement Ministers (76)	42
Licensed Ministers (5)	5
Cleared To Work In Conference Ministers (5) (counted in Visitors list)	
Delegates	24
Visitors	20
Total Attendance	91

Signature of Committee Members:

Terry Coates



Butch Haddock



Bob Smith

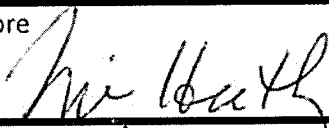


Stats compiled from Conference Registrations and Church Reports submitted to OFWB Convention Office

Number of Churches in Conference	65
Number of Churches Reporting To Convention Office	31
Number of Churches Reporting to Annual Eastern Conference	45
Active Membership	2396
Inactive Membership	2946
Total Church Membership	5464
Members Received by Baptism	33
Members Received by Letter	28
Members Received by Other	9
Members Lost by Death	82
Members Lost by Letter	18
Members Lost by Other	7
Net Change in Membership Total	37
Sunday School Members	919
Women's Auxiliary	
Laymen's League	
Youth Membership	
Total Delegate Fees and Church Contributions	\$3,255.00
Total Minister Fees and Contributions	\$2,050.00
Total Funds Received for 126th Annual Eastern Conference 3-10-22	\$5,305.00

Signed:

Jim Elmore



Tim Heath



Mike Williams

EASTERN CONFERENCE ORDAINED MINISTERS YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION
FOR THE YEAR 2021 AT THE 2022 CONFERENCE

DAVID HANSLEY	1961 60 YRS
CALVIN HEATH	1976 45 YRS
PAUL GRUBBS	1976 45 YRS
JAMES SOWERS	1981 40 YRS
WILLIAM STROUD	1986 35 YRS (DECEASED)
JOE ARD	1986 35 YRS
OWEN PEELE	1991 30 YRS
MICHAEL WILLIAMS	2001 20 YRS
MICHAEL WHEELER	2011 10 YRS
NICK LEWIS	2011 10 YRS
MATTHEW MILLER	2016 5 YRS
KELVIN COATES	2016 5 YRS

(See next page for next year's recipients)

**Lane Schools of Christian Theology
The Eastern Conference School of Ministry
Report to the 126th Annual Conference
Eastern Conference Original Free Will Baptists
March 10, 2022**

Greetings:

It is with sincere appreciation and humbleness that I have the privilege to share with you this update on your school of ministry. It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to guide all our efforts and enable us to provide quality Biblical and practical education to both lay people and ministers. Nothing worthwhile can be accomplished without the leadership and enabling of the Holy Spirit.

I want to update you on what has transpired in in the last year since our last Annual Conference and share our plans as we move forward:

1. Education provided
 - a. We have available all Professional ministry courses and ministry electives required by the Educational Requirements of the Eastern Conference.
 - b. These courses are very thorough and are challenging for the student.
 - c. The goal of each course to for the student to learn both academically and practical skills needed to be prepared for ministry while receiving input from a seasoned minister in each course.
2. We have licensed and Certificate of Endorsements who are currently taking courses with the school.
 - a. Currently all of our students are working to complete one of the "Certificate Programs".
3. Our Certificate Programs:
 - a. In this first phase we are offering a Certificate for Ministry Preparation and a Certificate for Lay Persons
 - b. Our method of Instruction
 - Thorough Independent Study with in course mentoring and personal evaluation from instructors
 - All classes are designed with multiple personal evaluations with a mentor
 - c. Every course costs \$90.00
4. We are continuing to develop the school with designated purpose
 - a. Our highest priority is to develop through phases
 - b. As we develop there is substance to everything we do
 - c. We want to ensure complete credibility in all we do
5. What is this type of vocational ministry education?
 - a. It is an organized educational program offering a sequence of courses which are directly related to the preparation of individuals for ministry.
 - b. In the case of the Lane Schools of Christian Theology we prepare ministers professionally to be proficient in vocational requirements of ministry and to achieve success on the Ordination exam.
 - c. In the case for lay ministry we will prepare lay persons for proficient effectiveness in ministry.
 - d. This program is not an honorary certificate program where educational requirements will be been waived.

- e. It is not a route to circumvent or shorten educational requirements of the Eastern Conference and the ratified educational requirements of 1976.
- 6. Important Facts about Vocational Education:
 - a. With vocational education the emphasis is on having a strong curriculum in place so that when you have students who need training the courses are available. **This model is not driven by the number of students you have at one time.**
 - b. The United States Military uses this model.
 - c. Other vocations use this model

Please remember that **that this vocational training school is not in competition with the University of Mount Olive or any other institution affiliated with our denomination and it will not be promoted in a negative fashion against any who may choose to receive other forms of Religious training.**

Lane Schools of Christian Theology continues to be another opportunity for vocational based religious training. Our desire continues to be to prepare students vocationally for (1) Ministry and (2) To be a leader in the church. Our core philosophy is that education is more than just academic information. It is our desire to help students continue to develop personally and become effective in Christian ministry for the glory of Jesus Christ in His Church.

We want to thank those Eastern Conference Churches that included us in their church budgets this past year. Also, we would like for each of you to consider taking a love offering or adding us to your annual church budget if you have not done so. **All donated funds are received by the treasurer of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptist and are managed by the conference treasurer.**

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you individually or with your church to discuss our programs and how you can become involved.

Sincerely,

Ashley L. Trogon

School Administrator

aglsct@yahoo.com

1-252-402-8401

Lane Schools of Christian Theology
2022-2023 Proposed Budget

Proposed Income:

1. Tuition received: \$1080.00 (Based upon 12 courses taken) (x- times) \$90.00 cost per class.
2. Eastern Conference: \$1,000.00 - Request
3. Donations from Eastern Conference Churches: \$3000.00 - Request

Total Proposed Income: \$5,080.00

Proposed Expenses:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. Bank Fees - | \$150.00 |
| 2. Office Supplies - | \$300.00 |
| 3. Printing/Copy Expenses - | \$50.00 |
| 4. Post Office Fees - | \$75.00 |

Total Proposed Expenses: \$575.00

****We would like to be able to offer scholarships at the appropriate time. This will depend on the level of our donations.**

EASTERN CONFERENCE ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT TO THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EASTERN CONFERENCE

1. HIRING A PASTOR

From: The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (Of the English General Baptist Heritage) ... *“The Church shall call its own pastor from AMONG THE DULY ORDAINED ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTERS WHO ARE APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE OF WHICH THE CHURCH IS A MEMBER.”* Therefore, the Ordaining Council reminds our churches that they NOT CALL ORDAINED OR LICENSED MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS TO SERVE AS PASTORS, INTERIMS, OR TO DO SUPPLY WORK (*as this is in direct opposition to our Articles of Faith*) until that candidate has met all the ordination requirements of the Eastern Conference.

2. OUR EASTERN CONFERENCE LICENSED MINISTERS

Gabriel Fountain	Bethlehem OFWB Church
Duane Howard	Smith’s New Home OFWB Church
Tim Whealton	Pilgrims Rest OFWB Church
Gray Harrison	British Chapel OFWB Church
Jody Horne	Whaley’s Chapel OFWB Church

3. TRANSFERRING MINISTERS WORKING UNDER THE CERTIFICATE OF ENDORSEMENT

Ray Griffin	Trent, OFWB Church
Jonathon Ipock	New Haven OFWB Church
Chris Schneider	Folkstone OFWB Church
Jeremy Verrett	Silver Creek OFWB Church

4. MINISTERS CLEARED TO PASTOR IN THE EASTERN CONFERENCE

Rev. John Butler	Sarecta OFWB Church
Rev. Jeff Daughtry	May’s Chapel OFWB Church
Rev. Sherman Dilley	Beulaville OFWB Church
Rev. Scott Satterfield	Daly’s Chapel OFWB Church
Rev. Bryan Wheeler	Northeast OFWB Church

5. MINISTERS TRANSFERRING TO THE EASTERN CONFERENCE

Rev. Joe Crumpler

6. EASTERN CONFERENCE POLICY ON LICENSED MINISTERS SERVING MEMBER CHURCHES

(A Reminder of the Policy Adopted at the 2019 Session)

1. A licensed minister may serve a church for a period of 90 days.
2. At the end of 90 days the church being served must vote in a church business meeting to renew or not renew the licensed minister’s service to the church for another 90 days and send a letter to the Ordaining Council, letting them know how the church voted. The letter must be signed by the Chairman of the Deacons and the Church Clerk.

3. It is noted that the licensed minister is not the “pastor” of the church but is serving the church on a limited basis. The title of “pastor” or “associate pastor” cannot be given to a licensed minister.

4. The licensed minister cannot conduct a business meeting, preside over the Lord’s Supper, officiate a wedding or perform a baptism.

7. ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR

We are in the process of planning our next Continuing Education Seminar for 2022. This seminar will be on “Ministerial Ethics.” Eastern Conference ministers will be notified of this date asap.

8. EASTERN CONFERENCE POLICY ON MINISTER’S UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM REQUIRED SCHEDULED EVENTS (A Reminder of this policy adopted in 2019)

I. PER THE “ARTICLES OF FAITH” AND VOTE OF THE CONFERENCE, ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED BY ALL EASTERN CONFERENCE ORDAINED AND LICENSED MINISTERS AT THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULED EVENTS:

1. The Annual Conference (Articles of Faith); 2. The Annual Convention of OFWB (Conference Vote); 3. The Annual Eastern Conference Continuing Education Seminar (Conference Vote)

II. WHAT CONSTITUTES A REASONABLE ABSENCE FROM THE ABOVE?

1. Personal sickness that prevents the minister from attending; 2. Death in the family; 3. Surgery of a Church member; 4. Death of a Church member; 5. Other absences will be considered on a CASE BY CASE BASIS.

III. A REQUEST FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY A LETTER OR EMAIL TO THE ORDAINING COUNCIL BEFORE THE REQUIRED SCHEDULED EVENT OR WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE REQUIRED SCHEDULED EVENT FOR THOSE WITH UNANTICIPATED CAUSES FOR ABSENCES.

IV. MISSING A REQUIRED SCHEDULED EVENT WITHOUT A REASONABLE EXCUSE ...

1. FIRST OFFENSE: A certified letter will be sent from the Ordaining Council explaining the responsibility of the OFWB minister to attend all required meetings. The letter will also explain the consequences of missing any required meeting without a valid excuse.

2. SECOND OFFENSE: A certified letter will be sent from the Ordaining Council summoning the minister to meet with the Ordaining Council to explain their absence. The consequences for following absences will be explained to the minister and he/she shall sign a statement saying he/she understands the consequences of future absences.

3. THIRD OFFENSE: The minister will be censured and the consequence of that censure will be the loss of their voting privilege and he/she will not be allowed to discuss any issue on the Conference floor during the following Annual Conference. A list of all censured ministers will be made public at the opening of the Annual Conference.

4. FOURTH OFFENSE: The minister will be censured and the consequence of that censure will be the loss of their voting privilege and he/she will not be allowed to discuss any issue on the Conference floor for the next three (3) Annual Conferences. A list of all censured ministers will be made public at the opening of the Annual Conference.

5. FIFTH OFFENSE: The minister will lose their credentials.

* THESE ARE NOT CONSECUTIVE OFFENSES, BUT OFFENSES DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE MINISTER.

THE ORDAINING COUNCIL MAKES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

I. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE CONFERENCE ADOPT “THE CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER MINISTRY”

The purpose of the Certified Lay Speaker Ministry is to equip candidates to offer themselves as supply and fill in speakers in the absence of an ordained minister in an Eastern Conference OFWB Church. The Certified Lay Speaker is limited to filling the pulpit and visiting the sick and shut-in.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. THE CANDIDATE MUST HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION OR GED.

2. THE CANDIDATE MUST READ THE FOLLOWING TEXT AND COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Read “An Introduction to Original Free Will Baptists” by Floyd B. Cherry and answer the questions at the end of each chapter.

B. Read “The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists” and compare the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptist to our Articles of Faith. List the differences and explain the significance of these differences.

C. Read “A Brief Survey of the Bible: Discovering the Big Picture of God’s Story from Genesis to Revelation” and watch the accompanying DVD By John H. Walton and Mark L. Straus. Answer the questions in each chapter.

3. THE CANDIDATE MUST PARTICIPATE IN A HOMELETICS ONE DAY SEMINAR WHICH INCLUDES:

A. Instruction Period from Rev. Mike Scott

B. Practical Applications, led by Board of Ordination, and Includes:

- The difference between Exegesis and Eisegesis - Hands on training on how to do a Hermeneutics study on a verse of scripture - How to develop an Expository Sermon - How to develop a Topical Sermon - How to develop a Textual Sermon - How to develop a Narrative Sermon

C. Preach a Sermon ... Develop a 15-minute sermon using one of the methods studied in the Practical Applications and present the sermon to the audience at the seminar

4. THE CANDIDATE MUST INTERVIEW DIRECTORS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE OFWB DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES.

II. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE CONFERENCE ADOPT THE FOLLOWING CHANGE:

Any person who is a candidate for licensing into the ministry and is 60 years old or older, and, any ordained minister desiring to transfer to the OFWB denomination from another denomination and is 60 years old or older must fulfill the following educational requirements from a school approved by the Ordaining Council:

1. Old Testament Survey

5. Original Free Will Baptist Theology

2. New Testament Survey

6. Beginning Homiletics

3. The Life of Paul

7. The Work of the Pastor (Pastoral Theo)

4. The History of Original Free Will Baptist

8. The Life of Christ and the Gospels