

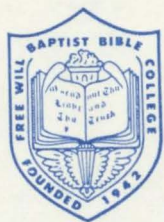
Mrs. Sledge

MINUTES
OF THE
NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
EASTERN OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION
OF THE
CHURCH OF GOD
(DENOMINATED FREE WILL BAPTIST)
WHICH CONVENED WITH
CISCO CHURCH
SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 10, 1936

ELDER C. A. SLEDGE	Moderator
ELDER J. A. DAVIDSON	Assistant Moderator
ELDER J. C. BYRNS	Clerk
MRS. KATE TOPPING	Assistant Clerk and Treasurer

ELDER T. W. WELCH, Evangelist, Wright City, Oklahoma

The next Association will convene with Holly Creek Church on
Saturday night before the fourth Lord's Day in August, 1937,
eight miles North of Idabel, Oklahoma.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

the daughters of

Rev. G. W. Million

in his memory

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Reading Letters from Churches.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Reception of New Churches.
4. Inviting Brethren to Seats in Council.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Appointment of Committees.
7. Miscellaneous Business.
8. New Business.
9. Call for Reports of Committee.
10. Electing Minister to Preach the Introductory Sermon

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer, by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded, and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association, if necessary.

12. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

13. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

PROCEEDINGS

Saturday Night Session

Song service, prayer by Elder C. A. Sledge.

Introductory Sermon by Elder J. C. Byrns. Subject "The Macedonian Call." Text: Luke 10:2.

After an old time handshake the body adjourned to meet Sunday at 11 o'clock.

Sunday Morning Session

Sunday School at 10 o'clock.

Preaching by Elder J. A. Davidson. Scripture lesson, Romans the 8th chapter. Text: I Cor. 3:8-12.

Sunday Night Session

Song Service. Prayers by Elder G. W. Oliver and Sister Wehunt.

Devotional led by Elder J. C. Byrns.

Preaching by Elder C. A. Sledge. Scripture lesson, Matt. 28:8-20. Text Matt. 28-20. After which the relationship of Our Lord was revealed in the breaking of bread and the cup in commemoration of the broken body and spilled blood of Our Lord, also in washing the Saints' feet.

Monday Morning Session

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Song by choir. Prayer by Elder J. C. Byrns. Lesson read by Moderator, Romans the 8th chapter. Motion carried to retain present moderator. Elder C. A. Sledge was chosen moderator; Elder J. C. Byrns, Clerk; and Mrs. Kate Topping, assistant clerk and treasurer. Moderator extended right hand of fellowship to the delegation. Letters of various churches read.

Appointment of committees. Adjourned for 11 o'clock service.

Song by choir. Prayer by Elder T. W. Welch. Preaching by Elder G. W. Oliver. Text: John 3:1-8 Following service the body adjourned to meet at one o'clock.

Monday Afternoon Session

Song by choir. Lesson read by moderator, Psalms 1. Prayer by Elder C. A. Sledge. Reports of committees. (See reports).

Appointment of Committees

Devotional—Sister Elsie Arnold, Sister Kate Topping and Sister Bethel Fisher.

Resolutions—Rev. H. W. Finney, Rev. J. A. Davidson, Sister Mary Smith and Sister Elsie Arnold.

Sabbath Schools—Rev. T. W. Welch, Rev. J. C. Byrns, Sister Ollie Oliver and Sister Mary Sledge.

Ministers Character and Credentials—Sister Ethel Petty, Sister Elzie Pauley, Sister Sadie Overturf, Sister Pearl Jones and Bro. L. C. Jones.

Temperance—Bro. J. K. Kennedy, Bro. J. W. Caldwell, Sister Luo We-hunt and Sister Robbie Hester.

Finance—Sister Cumi Hawkins, Sister Savanah Wallace, Bro. E. H. Johnson and Bro. J. W. Fisher.

Obituary—Rev. T. W. Welch, Rev. G. W. Oliver, Sister Mary Sledge and Sister Ethel Petty.

List of Churches

Water Mill Church—Elder C. A. Sledge, Moderator, Valliant, Okla.; Sister Ivy Hamilton, church clerk, Valliant, Okla.

Holly Creek Church—Elder and Sister J. C. Byrns, moderators, Idabel, Okla.; Sister Bethel Fisher, church clerk, route 1, Broken Bow, Okla.

Cisco Church—Elder C. A. Sledge, moderator, Valliant, Okla.; Sister Kate Topping, church clerk, route 1, Idabel, Okla.

Honey Grove Church—Elder G. W. Oliver, moderator, R. 1, Broken Bow, Okla.; Sister Lottie Moye, church clerk, R. 1, Broken Bow, Okla.

Spencerville Church—Elder J. A. Davidson, moderator, Valliant, Okla.

Motion made and carried that we change the date of the Association, and meet on Saturday night before the fourth Sunday in August, 1937, with Holly Creek Church.

Elder J. A. Davidson was appointed by the moderator to preach the introductory sermon at our next association. Elder J. C. Byrns and Deacon W. H. Hunt were retained as committee for the fifth Sunday meetings. Mrs. Kate Topping was appointed treasurer of the association by the moderator.

Motion made and carried that we extend our heartfelt thanks to Cisco church and community for their hospitality during our stay in their midst.

Motion made and carried that the association adjourn to meet with Holly Creek Church on Saturday night before the fourth Sunday in August, 1937, eight miles north of Idabel, Okla.

Dismissed by Elder Hester.

ELDER C. A. SLEDGE, Moderator.

ELDER J. A. DAVIDSON, Assistant Moderator.

ELDER J. C. BYRNS, Clerk.

MRS. KATE TOPPING, Assistant Clerk.

Report of Temperance Committee

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report, that we can not place too high an estimate on this subject. Temperance is indispensable to the well being of this life, and in the life which is to come Intemperance is disloyal to the laws of nature, and moral, as well, and is always harmful and many times destructive to both soul and body, therefore, we urge that total abstinence is the only safeguard against it's baneful influence and that all true hearted children of God should take part in assisting fallen humanity

from its blighting influence. We respectfully demand that each minister in this association preach at least two sermons each year against intemperance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Z. K. KENNEDY,
J. W. CALDWELL,
LUO WEHUNT,
ROBBIE HESTER,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report as follows: We believe that Sunday School is an important part in God's work as it increases the study of the Bible with both young and old and promotes christian fellowship, therefor, we feel that each of the Free Will Baptist Church of God, should earnestly strive to maintain a Sunday School in each church and in other places where they may desire. We know that in the upbuilding of the Sunday School, we should first be cleansed of all sin and be a faithful member of the school and a worker for Christ. We recommend that the teacher of each class should be a christian and set a good example for the younger followers.

Respectfully Submitted,

T. W. WELCH,
MARY SLEDGE
ETHEL PETTY,
OLLIE OLIVER,
J. C. BYRNS,

Committee.

Report of Obituary Committee

We, your Committe on Obituary, beg leave to report as follows: It is fit that we pause amid the turmoils of this life and give thought to our dead, for the living know that they must die. We sorrow, but not like those that have no hope. Whereas, it has pleased the Lord to take from our midst Bro. Leonard of Eagletown Church, he will be sadly missed by loved ones and friends. Therefore, we resolve to humbly bow in submission to Him that doeth all things well, and for His glory, but we know that the Lord doeth all things well and we realize that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Respectfully Submitted,

T. W. WELCH,
MARY SLEDGE,
G. W. OLIVER,
ETHEL PETTY,

Committee.

Report of Finance Committee

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report as follows: We find in the hands of the delegates the following amount for minutes:

✓ Water Mill Church	\$3.50
Cisco Church	\$3.25
Holly Creek Church	\$2.50
Honey Grove Church	\$2.20
Eagletown Church	\$.50
Spencerville Church	\$2.00
Balance on hand in treasury	\$2.86
Total	\$16.81

Respectfully Submitted,

CUMI HAWKINS,
SAVANAH WALLACE,
E. H. JOHNSON,
J. W. FISHER,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Ministerial Character and Credentials

We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: We find all of our ministers in good standing and a majority of them doing good work. We recommend that each church report in it's letter to the association the character and manner of preaching of their pastor, and all ministers belonging to their church. Where a minister is called to the charge of any church and fails to respond without giving a reasonable excuse, the church making the call should report said minister to the association; and also where any church calls a pastor and fails to contribute to his needs as the Lord has prospered them, the pastor should report such acts of this church to the Annual Association. We further recommend that each minister preach at least one sermon to each church they serve on the financial support of the Gospel.

Respectfully Submitted,

L. C. JONES,
ELZIE PAULEY,
PEARL JONES,
SADIE OVERTURFF,

Committee.

Report of Committee on Resolutions

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg leave to report as follows:

1. Whereas the Lord has wonderfully blessed us as a denomination, since our last Association, and used by His wonderful purpose, and that to

in-gathering of many souls for which we are thankful, therefore be it Resolved: That we, the Free Will Baptist Church of God, put forth a greater effort in the ensuing year, and earnestly pray Almighty God for a greater in-gathering of souls during our next associational year; and that each member of this Association assist by living a consistent Christian, devoted life separate from wordly amusements which tend to lessen our Christian influence, "for how shall we who are dead to sin, live any longer therein." Rom. 6:2. Jesus said, "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." Matt. 7:18. God's people are called our people, separate from the world. The Apostle Paul said in 2 Cor. 6:17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you, and I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and my daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

2. Be it further Resolved that each minister keep a true record of his or her work in general, also that each church clerk or treasurer keep an account of all funds paid in and by whom, also amount paid pastor and other purposes.

3. Be it further resolved that the churches of this Association have a treasurer, and that the pastor, deacons and treasurer insist that each member pay \$1.00 into the treasury during the year for church purposes, and that each family set apart a piece of ground, work it and turn the proceeds into the treasury to pay pastor, and other church purposes.

4. Be it further resolved that each minister, deacon and member of this Association use their influence against the liquor traffic and that it goes down on record, that we declare ourselves one unanimous Christian body, in favor of prohibition and against intemperance of every nature, and that we show our loyalty to the law of Almighty God in the general election on Nov. 3, 1936.

5. Be it further resolved that the Eastern Oklahoma Associational district maintain a fifth Sunday meeting on each fifth Sunday during the ensuing associational year. The first fifth Sunday meeting will convene with Mt. Grove Church on Friday night before the fifth Sunday in November, 1936. The second to convene with Water Mill Church on Friday night before the fifth Sunday in January, 1937. The third to convene with Cisco Church on Friday night before the fifth Sunday in May, 1937.

Respectfully Submitted,

REV. J. A. DAVIDSON,

REV. H. W. FINNEY

ELSIE ARNOLD,

MARY SMITH,

Committee.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and these three are one in Divine Essence, power and glory.—Rom. 1:20; John 1:1.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament is the word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:21.

3. We believe that God created man good, gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law, and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners; not by constraint but by choice; being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall and that man is unable to save himself with his own power, but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory, that He, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man.—Gen. 1:31; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His death, burial and resurrection, purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon the principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore he saith, "Look unto me and be ye saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else."—Matt. 4:17; Isa. 45:22; Acts 20:21.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life.—John 3:3; Rom. 5:1-13.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon merits of the Son of God.—Jonah 4:11; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16.

7. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end, if they inherit eternal life, for "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."—Rev. 22:14.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water; and that Christ who is our life, showed this humble example to His children and bids us walk therein.—John 3:22; Matt. 3:16; Romans 6:2-5; Matt. 28:19, 20.

9. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace to a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants, by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and the instruction of His word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any, but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come.—I Cor. 12:3; Eph. 3:7; Rev. 22:17.

10. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are Gospel Ordinances. And keeping of the Lord's Day holy and abstaining from worldly lusts and carnal cares and to assemble ourselves together, are ornaments which prepare and beautify the soldiers of the cross to march on in the army of the Lord.—Matt. 26:28; John 13:4, 5.

11. We believe that none have a right to Baptism, only those who have

obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus, and none have a right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the presbytery of the elders; and each church ought to have a pastor, deacons, and clerk chosen by the church, and continue in office during the good pleasure of the same; and in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other Scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous.—Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23; II Cor. 6:6.

12. We believe it is the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's Supper and washing the saints' feet, to let a man examine himself, and so let him eat.—I Cor. 11:17-28; Hebrews 10:26.

13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God; the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God.—Matt. 25:31; I Cor. 15:42-45; II Thess. 1:11; Job 19:2.

14. We believe the Christian Sabbath is a divine institution binding all, and should be observed by abstaining from all secular business and amusements, and consecrated to the worship of God and spiritual improvement.—Mark 2:27; Luke 24:1-7; John 20:19-26; Acts 2:1; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10, Psalms 118:22-24.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice in this solemn covenant:

Article 1. We believe that a union of Christians is a visible church, sanctioned by the teachings of Christ and the practice of His apostles, and we believe it conducive to stronger Christian ties and greater influence of the church; Therefore, we enter into this covenant.

Art. 2. We shall constantly strive to maintain true piety in our hearts, and by constant loyalty to the commands of our Saviour, commend His life to others, leading a holy, devout life before the world.

Art. 3. We will watch over each other in the spirit of true charity, helping to bear each other's burdens, assist the needy, strengthen the weak, encourage the despondent, sympathize with the sorrowful, reform the erring to the best of our ability, keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, cheerfully submitting to Christian admonition, contributing to the support of the gospel as the Lord has prospered us, maintaining secret and family prayer and aid by our presence in sustaining public worship. We will refuse all sanction to all worldly amusements that tend to lessen true piety in ourselves to others, or weaken Christian influence, so that the religion of our Master be not reproached on our account.

Art. 4. May He who has promised His help, enable us to keep this covenant, and grant us to be faithful in all things, until He shall gather us unto Himself and crown us with final victory. Amen.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist) are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches into an associational body, for the purpose of perpetuating a union and communion, and to maintain a correspondence with each other, and for the dissemination of our doctrine, and the upbuilding of Christianity; and to maintain a general oneness of faith and practice. Therefore, we do ordain the following constitution of our Associational Government.

1. This Association shall be known as the Eastern Oklahoma Association of the Church of God, (denominated Free Will Baptist) and shall be composed delegates chosen by the various churches of the Association, and ordained ministers and deacons who are members of the churches in the Association.

2. This associational body shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, and shall have no ecclesiastical power over the churches composing this body, except that it shall have the right to expel any church becoming disorderly.

3. This Association shall have a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Recording Clerk, and a Treasurer; which shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

4. Letters from the churches of this Association shall show the number of members in fellowship, the number received during the past year, by experience, by recommendation, and how many have been dismissed, excluded and died. They shall show also, how many ministers are members of their church, if any, and whether or not they are in good standing as such. They shall state the time of their regular meetings, and whether or not they have an established Sunday school and prayer meeting, and shall give the names of their Moderator and Clerk, and their post office addresses.

5. Newly constituted churches desiring admittance into this Association, shall send duly chosen delegates, bearing petitionary letter, asking for admittance. And if, upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association by a vote of the body, and the hand of fellowship extended to them.

6. All motions, when seconded, shall come under the consideration of this body; unless withdrawn by the ones making and seconding them.

7. No questions or differences, arising in any of the churches of this Association, shall be taken under consideration by this body, until it has first been duly considered by the church in which it originated.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

From _____ to the Church of God (denominated
Free Will Baptist) Eastern Okla. Association. Dear Brethren: We send as
delegates to your body, Brothers _____

Days of meeting _____

Present Pastor _____

Pastor elect _____

(If any minister belonging to the body state here)

(Here give the standing and state whether worthy or unworthy of certificate)

Members received _____ by letter _____ by statement _____

excluded _____ dismissed by letter _____ died _____

Total membership _____ paid pastor \$ _____ for Minutes

\$ _____ Associational purposes \$ _____ Number enrolled in

Sunday School _____ We have _____ prayer meeting _____

Remarks _____

Done in conference by the set _____ before

the _____ Lord's Day in _____, 19 _____

_____ Clerk. _____ Moderator.

LETTER OF DISMISSION

A _____ B _____, 19 _____

This Certifies that _____

is a regular member of the Free Will Baptist church at _____

_____ in good standing;

as such we recommend _____ to the fellowship of God's people.

Done in conference at _____

_____ Pastor.

_____ Clerk.

FORM OF DEACON'S LETTER

This is to certify that Brother _____
is a worthy deacon of our church and we recommend him as being worthy of
his calling.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference, this _____
day of _____, 19 _____.

_____ Pastor.

_____ Clerk.

