

MINUTES
OF THE
ORGANIZATION
and
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Eastern Oklahoma Association
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

Cotton Wood Church, three miles east and two miles south of Muldrow, Oklahoma, beginning on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in August, 1940.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Rev. I. B. Dunaway, Stillwell, Okla.
Ass't. Mod.,	Rev. Fred C. Jones, Haskel, Okla.
Clerk,	Mrs. Norma Wilson, Muldrow, Okla.
Ass't. Clerk,	Mrs. Pearl Riggs, Muldrow, Okla.

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The Organization of Our Association

March 30, 1940

We, the churches of God, known as the Free Will Baptists, according to previous arrangement, met with the Mineral Springs Church on Saturday morning before the fifth Sunday in March, 1940, at 9:00 o'clock, to organize ourselves (five churches) into an Association.

Services opened with singing.

Prayer by Rev. W. S. Copeland.

A portion of Scripture read by Rev. I. B. Dunaway.

Motion carried that we proceed with the organization.

Motion carried that we elect officers for the coming year. I. B. Dunaway was elected moderator; Rev. Fred C. Jones, assistant moderator; Sister Norma Wilson, Clerk; and Sister Pearl Riggs, assistant clerk.

A committee from our three sister Associations was appointed as follows: Rev. Fred C. Jones, Rev. I. B. Dunaway, Rev. W. S. Copeland and Rev. J. F. Ramsey.

Motion carried that we adjourn for the eleven o'clock service to meet back at 1:30 o'clock.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Congregation called together with singing.

Prayer by Bro. Bellar.

Preaching by Rev. J. F. Ramsey; followed by W. S. Copeland.

Closed with old-time song and Christian handshake.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Service opened with a song.

Scripture read by Bro. Marion Calhoun.

Prayer also by Bro. Calhoun.

The Constitution and By-Laws were read.

Motion carried that we adopt them, with the exception of a few changes to be made in them.

Motion carried that we adopt the name of our Association as the Eastern Oklahoma Association.

The right hand of Christian fellowship was extended to all the churches.

The consecration prayer was given by W. S. Copeland.

An executive board of three members was elected as

follows: Bro. Marion Calhoun, 3 years; Bro. Harrison Pendergrass, 2 years; and Bro. Virgil Copeland, 1 year.

Motion carried that our boundary lines should be as follows: The Arkansas river on the south, the Arkansas state line on the east, the Grand River Association line on the west, and the north line of Adair County on the north.

Motion carried that our meetings shall begin on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in August each year.

Motion carried that we carry the printing of this minute over until after the meeting of our first Association which will meet with the Cotton Wood Church, about six miles southeast of Muldrow, Oklahoma, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in August, 1940.

Rev. Fred C. Jones will preach the Introductory Sermon, followed by Bro. Virgil Copeland.

Motion carried that we extend our thanks to our clerk for the writing and preparing of this Minute.

Motion carried we extend our "heart-felt thanks" to this church and community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

Motion carried that we adjourn to meet again in August, 1940.

Closed with a song and old time Christian handshake.

Rev. I. B. Dunaway, Moderator

Norma Wilson, Clerk.

ASSOCIATIONAL PROCEEDINGS

The First Annual Session of the Eastern Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptists, assembled with the Cotton Wood Church on Thursday night, August 22, 1940.

The house was called to order by Rev. W. S. Copeland. Song service in charge of Bro. Kelton.

Prayer by Bro. Bellar.

Rev. I. B. Dunaway brought us a real good sermon; followed by Rev. W. S. Copeland.

Motion carried that we postpone the election of officers and appointment of committees until Friday morning.

Motion carried that we meet at 8:30 a.m. Friday. Dismissed by Rev. I. B. Dunaway.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Service opened with singing.

Prayer by Sister Norma Wilson.

Scripture reading, 1st Psalms, read by Moderator.

There were three churches present at this time and one visiting church.

Called for the letters and received two, Copeland and Mineral Springs; also a statement from the Shady Grove church.

Motion carried that we receive the letters and seat the delegates.

We were very glad to have a sister church with us from the Zion Hope No. 2 Association. The right hand of fellowship was given the church by the Moderator.

All visiting churches, brethren and sisters, were invited to a seat with us.

Rev. I. B. Dunaway was elected moderator; Rev. W. S. Copeland, assistant moderator; Sister Norma Wilson, clerk; and Sister Evelyn Burris, assistant clerk.

Consecration prayer by Rev. W. S. Copeland.

Letter from Stony Point Church read.

Motion carried that we receive the letter and seat the delegates. The right hand of fellowship extended to them by the Moderator.

Motion carried that we give the Moderator the right to appoint the committees.

Appointment of Committees

Divine Service—Bro. Linzie Ray, Chairman; Bro. Harrison Pendergrass and Bro. Thomilson.

Bill of Arrangements—W. S. Copeland, Chairman; Bro. Virgil Copeland and Bro. O'Donald.

Sunday School—Bro. Charles Pendergrass, Chairman; Sister Loy Beaty and Sister Floy Peters.

Obituary—Bro. Campbell Bellar, Chairman; Sister W. H. Irvin and Sister Baker.

Freacher and Deacon—Bro. Marvis Calhoun, Chairman; Bro. Riley Wilson and Bro. W. H. Irvin.

Quest and Query—Rev. W. S. Copeland, Chairman; Sister Floy Peters and Sister O'Donald.

Temperance—Bro. Virgil Copeland, Chairman; Bro. Fred Peters and Sister Adalee Kieter.

Finance—Sister Pearl Riggs, Chairman; Sister Anne Belle Beaty and Bro. Cameron.

The Minutes of the organization of our Association read and accepted.

Copeland Church letter read, received and delegates seated. The right hand of fellowship given them by the Moderator.

Seven Oak Church letter read.

Motion carried that we receive them as corresponding delegates. The right hand of fellowship extended to them by the Moderator.

Motion carried that we adjourn for preaching service to meet at 1:30 o'clock p. m.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Congregation called together by a song.

Prayer by Charles Pendergrass.

A wonderful sermon was delivered by Rev. Boggs, text was in first chapter of Job; followed by Rev. J. F. Ramsey.

Closed by a song and handshake.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Congregation called together by singing.

Psalms 133 read by Rev. Virgil Copeland.

Prayer by Bro. Johnson.

History of the Free Will Baptists read by Moderator.

Reports of all committees handed in except the reports on Divine Service, Finance and Preacher and Deacon. The other reports were received and adopted, and the committees were discharged.

Motion carried that we adjourn the business session until Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

Closed by handshake and prayer by Rev. Boggs.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Congregation called together by singing.

Prayer by Rev. Virgil Copeland.

Jeremiah 23 read by Moderator.

Motion carried that we limit the speakers to ten minutes at a time in discussing the two questions left over from Friday afternoon.

Question No. 1—The discussion of Matthew 24:40-41. After being discussed the question was disposed of.

Question No. 2— (question by J. F. Ramsey) If a Christian boy is drafted into the army, takes up arms and kills someone, who is responsible for the crime? After being discussed, motion carried that we dispose of it.

Motion carried that the business session adjourn for the preaching service and meet at 1:00 o'clock p.m.

Dismissed by Rev. W. S. Copeland.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Congregation called together by singing.

Prayer by Sister J. F. Riggs.

A portion of 1 Cor. 10 was read by Rev. Virgil Copeland.

Sermon by Rev. Virgil Copeland; followed by Rev. I. B. Dunaway.

The love of God was wonderfully manifested at the close of this service in the song and handshake.

A wonderful dinner was enjoyed by all.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Congregation called together by singing.

Prayer by Sister Norma Wilson.

Conference declared in session by Moderator.

The other three committee reports received and adopted, and the committees discharged.

Motion carried that we have three hundred (300) Minutes printed.

Motion carried that the Moderator, with the assistance of the Clerk, superintend the printing of the Minutes, and that they be given the right to put into book form, this Minute and the Treatise of the 1916 adoption with the exception of a few changes.

Motion carried that we represent in the Oklahoma State Association by petitioning letter and delegates.

Motion carried that we give the Moderator the right to appoint delegates to the State Association. Bro. Riley Wilson, Bro. W. H. Irvin and Sister Benard.

Our next Association will meet with Mineral Springs Church, three miles north of Muldrow, Oklahoma, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in August, 1941.

Motion carried that we elect by acclamation, Rev. Virgil Copeland to serve for three years on the Executive Board.

Motion carried that this Association demand every Free Will Baptist Minister to affiliate with some church or give up his credentials. A committee was appointed to attend to this matter as follows: Bro. Riley Wilson, Bro. Marion Calhoun and Bro. W. H. Irvin.

Motion carried that we send delegates to represent us in the Eureka, Roberts-McGee, and Zion Hope No. 2 Associations. Delegates to Eureka Association: Bro. Marion Calhoun and Rev. Virgil Copeland. Delegates to Roberts-McGee Association: Bro. Linzie Ray and Rev. W. S. Copeland. Delegates to Zion Hope No. 2 Association: Rev. W. S. Copeland.

At our next Association, Rev. W. S. Copeland will preach the Introductory Sermon; followed by Rev. Virgil Copeland.

Motion carried that we extend to the people of this church and community our thanks and appreciation for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

Motion carried that we adjourn this session of our Association to meet again with Mineral Springs Church in August, 1941, and that the preachers urge all delegates to go on Thursday night and stay until Sunday night.

Business session closed by singing "Till We Meet Again" and with a handshake.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Service opened with singing and prayer.

A wonderful sermon delivered by Rev. Don Bias, followed by Rev. W. S. Copeland.

Communion and feet washing service.

Closed with a song and handshake.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIVINE SERVICE—Friday eleven o'clock service, Rev. Boggs; followed by Rev. J. F. Ramsey. Friday night, visiting ministers Rev. Joel Burr and Rev. Sam Robertson. Saturday eleven o'clock service, Rev. Virgil Copeland; followed by Rev. I. B. Dunaway. Saturday night, Rev. Don Bias; followed by W. S. Copeland.

Linzie Ray, Chairman.

BILL OF ARRANGEMENTS—We beg leave to report that we recommend the adoption of the Articles of Faith, Church Covenant and the Constitution that are printed in the treatise of 1916.

W. S. Copeland, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—We recommend that everyone attend and take part in Sunday School, for it is an inspiration to church work and a training for the younger generations; also that we help support our own publishing houses by using their literature. We believe all teachers should be Christians.

Charles Pendergrass, Chairman.

OBITUARY—We find there has been no deaths in the churches since we last met.

Campbell Bellar, Chairman.

PREACHER AND DEACON—We find all our preachers and deacons are in good standing except one deacon and one preacher, of whom we ask the churches to take this matter up with the Association.

Marion Calhoun, Chairman.

QUEST AND QUERY—Question No. 1, Discussion of Matthew 24:40-41. Question No. 2, If a Christian boy be drafted into the army and take up arms and kill some one, who will be responsible for the crime?

Rev. W. S. Copeland, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE—We urge that we should always be free from intoxicating drinks. If any member be found guilty of such, he shall be reported to the church. We also urge that our members abstain from breaking any ruling of the Treatise. We believe we shou'd be temperate in all things.

Rev. Virgil Copeland, Chairman.

FINANCE—Money given by each church for printing of Minutes:

Mineral Springs	\$ 8.00
Copeland	6.00
Stony Point	4.00
Cotton Wood	2.58
Shady Grove	2.50
Total	\$23.38

Sister Pearl Riggs, Chairman.

ASSOCIATION ENROLLMENT

Ministers

Rev. W. S. Copeland	Route 3, Muldrow, Okla.
Rev. I. B. Dunaway	Route 2, Stillwell, Okla.
Rev. Virgil Copeland	Route 4, Sallisaw, Okla.

Deacons

W. C. Bellar	Muldrow, Okla.
W. H. Pendergrass	Route 4, Muldrow, Okla.
Monroe Thomlison	Short, Okla.
Jim Chandler	Route 2, Muldrow, Okla.
Ike Cameron	Route 4, Sallisaw, Okla.
Charley Wann	Route 2, Muldrow, Okla.
Linzie Ray	Rural Route, Muldrow, Okla.
H. B Richardson	Short, Okla.

Church Clerk Enrollment

Mineral Springs—Mrs. Norma Wilson, Route 4, Muldrow, Okla.
Copeland—Marion Calhoun Route 4, Sallisaw, Okla.
Stony Point—Mrs. O. L. Biard, Rural Route, Stillwell, Okla.
Cottonwood—Linzie Ray Rural Route, Muldrow, Okla.
Shady Grove—Mrs. Minnie Baker Short, Okla.

Church Delegates

Mineral Springs—Bro. Riley Wilson, Bro. Charles Pendergrass and Sister Pearl Riggs.
Copeland—Bro. Marion Calhoun and Bro. Cameron.
Shady Grove—Sister Minnie Baker, Sister Thomlison and Sister Renard.
Stony Point—Bro. W. H. Irvin, Sister W. H. Irvin and Sister Loy Beaty.
Cotton Wood—Sister Jannie Wann, Sister Violet Webb and Sister Bob Murphy.

Church Membership

Mineral Springs	46
Copeland	14
Cotton Wood	17
Stony Point	12
Shady Grove	10
Total Membership	99

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 church in conference this
day of, 19....

....., Moderator

....., Clerk

CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION

..... church of the Eastern
Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptists, when assembled
with church. We send as delegates
from our church
whom we pray you to receive to sit with you and aid you
in your deliberations. Statistical report is as follows: State
of religion, number of prayer meetings, state of
Sunday school, number of members, number ex-
cluded, number dismissed, number died,
number received since last Association, days of meet-
ing, minute funds We have elected
Rev. for our pastor
for the ensuing year.

Done in church conference this the day
of, 19....

....., Moderator

P. O.

....., Church Clerk

P. O.

LETTER OF DISMISSAL

This certifies that is a member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist Church at and as such we recommend him to the following of God's people.

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

....., Moderator
....., Clerk

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Read letters from the churches.
2. Election of officers.
3. Receptions of new members.
4. Invitation of visiting brethren to take seat.
5. Call for correspondence.
6. Appointment of committees.
7. Call for reports of committees.
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. Appointment of correspondents.
10. Time and place of holding next session.
11. Election of ministers to preach the Introductory Sermon.
12. Adjournment of the Association.

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 and deacons present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.
3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.
4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.
5. When a motion has 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 if necessary before the close of the Association.

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 organization of the Association.

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

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better Church government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members, when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME. The members thus chosen and assembled with the ministers and deacons, to be denominated the Eastern Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the several churches of our union, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. LETTERS. Letters from the different churches representing are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration or denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. Churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. OFFICERS. The Association to have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 5. NEW CHURCHES. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. QUESTIONS. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered in its own church.

Art. 7. MOTIONS. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 8. MINUTES. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the amount paid by each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. CLERK. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. SIGNATURES. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

Art. 11. AMENDMENTS. Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.

Resolved, That we earnestly request all of our ministers and deacons and churches composing this Association to co-operate with each other and to assist in every way they can to help further the Gospel, and that each church shall help their pastor and, if an evangelist should visit any destitute place and organize churches, that we urge the people to assist the cvangelist so he can go and preach the Word

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE.— The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. GOD.— There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. CHRIST.— Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT.— The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.— God exercises a wise and

benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.—Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. THE WORK OF CHRIST.—The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION.—The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord, with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. ELECTION.—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. FREEDOM OF WILL.—The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

11. SALVATION FREE.—God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of Life freely.

12. PERSEVERANCE.—All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES.—*Baptism*, or the immersion of believers in water, and the *Lord's Supper*, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel: *Feet Washing*, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

15. WAR.—War destroys the lives of the innocent, and is contrary to the New Testament, therefore, we are opposed to war.

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION.—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked shall "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

FREE WILL BAPTIST 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 the 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 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.

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 Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget 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.

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 souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

