

MINUTES

of the

FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

EASTERN CONFERENCE

of the

**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

PROCEEDINGS

of the

FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

held at

**NEW PROSPECT FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
PAMPLICO, S. C.
OCTOBER 28, 1973**

REV. JOSEPH L. CAGLE, Moderator

CARLISLE JONES, Clerk

**The next session will convene at Mill Branch
Free Will Baptist Church in Johnsonville, S. C.**

September 29, 1973

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and uphold conformity to the world, from all sanctions of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church, conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pray according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "Keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace. To be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday School, and evangelistic efforts for the Salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

EASTERN CONFERENCE OF THE
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The fifty-seventh annual session of the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of South Carolina convened Saturday, October 28, 1972, at 10:00 A.M. with the New Prospect Church, Route 2, Pamplico, S. C.

The meeting was called in session by Moderator, Rev. Joseph Cagle. Brother Cagle led the congregation in song number 21, "Standing On The Promises", followed with prayer by Brother LeWayne Poston. Brother Mancy Noles gave the morning devotion, scripture Ecclesiastes 1:4-7.

Business:

Brother Wendell Ard, Reading Clerk, read the rules of decorum.

The Moderator gave his address, recognized the delegates, welcomed all visitors and invited them to sit with us in this meeting and extended them all rights except voting.

The minutes of the fifty-sixth meeting were approved as read.

There was a motion that the chair appoint the various committees. M.S.C. Finance Committee: Brothers G.F. Hayes, Wallace Stone, and Rutledge Alford. Sunday School and Temperance: Brothers Wayne Watson, Myrlee Benton, and William Wise. Mission and Education: Brothers Frank Woodbury, Tommy Poston, and LeWayne Poston. Investigation Committee: Brothers T. C. Farmer, James Powell, and Carlisle Jones.

The roll call of ministers was called with fifteen present, three absent. There was an invitation given to any minister who may wish to unite with this body.

There was a motion that only the name of the church pastor and delegate be read from the church report. M.S.C.

The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$645.84.

The Moderator asked for a short recess. Dismissed in prayer by Brother Hoyt Powell.

The morning worship service began with the congregation singing song number 113, "At the Cross". Rev. Paul Clayton brought the morning message, scripture Galations 2:16-20. His subject was "I am Crucified with Christ". The worship service was closed with the congregation singing "God Be With You".

Brother Joseph Cagle made the announcement concerning the noon meal. Dismissed in prayer by Brother Jack Evans. Brother Wayne Watson asked God's blessings on the food and partakers.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon service began with the congregation singing song number 361, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arm". Brother James Powell gave the afternoon devotion, Daniel 6:26.

Business:

The Moderator asked for the reports.

The Finance Committee Report was read. There was a motion that we accept the report and release the Committee. M.S.C. (See Report)

The Mission and Education Report was read and it was adopted. M.S.C. (See Report)

The Sunday School and Temperance Report was read. There was a motion to accept the report. M.S.C. (See Report)

There was a motion that Article III of the constitution of this conference be changed to read: "Any Brother desiring to be licensed or ordained must have a letter of recommendation from the church of which he is a member. Said church must be a member of the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of South Carolina." M.S.C.

There was a motion that Numbers 1 and 2 of the bylaws of this conference be changed to read: Number 1 - "No minister of the Eastern Conference shall pastor a church that is not in fellowship with the Original Free Will Baptist denomination." Number 2 - "No brother shall receive credentials except he has been a member of a church in the Original Free Will Baptist denomination in said conference for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months or more, preceeding his recommendation for licenses. He must be licensed twelve (12) consecutive months before he can be ordained."

There was a motion that we proceed to purchase four lots in the Goose Creek area. M.S.C.

Brother Carlisle Jones was elected to represent the Conference at the State Association.

The following were nominated from the floor: Moderator, Rev. Joseph Cagle; Assistant Moderator, Rev. Paul Clayton; Secretary and Treasurer, Carlisle Jones; Reading Clerk, Wendell Ard; Ordaining Council, Rev. Joseph Cagle. These were elected.

A rising vote of thanks was given to the host church for their hospitality.

A motion was carried to adjourn this meeting to meet again September 29, 1973 with the Mill Branch church, Route 1, Johnsonville, S. C.

Brother Melvin Adams dismissed in Prayer.

Rev. Joseph Cagle, Moderator
Brother Carlisle Jones, Clerk

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Sunday School and Temperance Committee, recommend that we adopt last year's report with the following additions: That our teachers not only be Christians, but be tithers and stress tithing to their classes; that the pastor or superintendent have some type of study course at least once a year to train teachers so they will better teach the word of God.

1. That we as Christians lead the way by bringing all our families every Sunday.
2. That our Sunday School be promoted as well as attended by every Christian studying every lesson. An informed Christian is a better Christian.
3. That we support our Sunday School Convention with church prayer and attendance.
4. That we elect Christian teachers who will fulfill their obligations to the class and to God.

CONCERNING TEMPERANCE

1. That we follow Paul's teaching in Galations 2:20 and crucify ourselves that Christ be shown to a lost world through our daily lives.
2. That we day by day live to let Christ shine in our lives to show our families and friends and the world that we serve Christ.
3. We further suggest that this report be acted upon and not set under a bushel.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Wayne Watson
Brother William Wise
Brother Myrlee Benton

REPORT OF MISSION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We, your Mission and Education Committee, make the following report: "That we trust in Almighty God to give all of us as Christians and Free Will Baptists the desire and strength to evangelize our communities; also the burden to see that those abroad have the opportunity to hear the gospel."

Concerning education, we advocate that all preachers and teachers study the word of God that we will be able to preach and teach them the truth. We pray that all churches will preach that this is our duty as servants of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. LeWayne Poston
Brother Frank Woodbury
Brother Tommy A. Poston

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Finance Committee, make the following report:

Balance on Hand.....	\$645.84
Received from Churches	\$ 160.00
Received from Ministers	15.00
Total Received	<u>175.00</u>
Total Balance on Hand and Received	<u>\$820.84</u>

Disbursements:

Clerk Hire.....	<u>20.00</u>
Balance on Hand	<u>\$800.84</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Brother Wallace Stone
Brother Rutledge Alford
Brother George F. Hayes

REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

We, your Investigating Committee, make the following report:

"We find all excuses offered acceptable, with peace and harmony among the brethren."

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. T. C. Farmer
Rev. James Powell
Brother Carlisle Jones

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Joseph Cagle	3 Years
Rev. Hoyt E. Powell.....	2 Years
Rev. Paul Clayton.....	1 Year

LIST OF CHURCHES, PASTORS, CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

- Happy Home - Rev. Robert Baker
Omeca McCutcheon, Andrews, S. C.
- Hill Side - Rev. Gene Ramsey
Joseph A. Timmons, 109 Woodburn Dr., Florence, S. C.
- Mill Branch - Rev. Paul Clayton, Johnsonville, S. C.
T. M. Jones, Johnsonville, S. C.
- New Prospect - Rev. Joseph Cagle, Route 2, Pamplico, S. C.
Carlisle Jones, Route 2, Pamplico, S. C.
- St. John - Rev. James Powell, Rt. 1, Box 131, Cowards, S. C.
Emerson Hayes, Route 2, Scranton, S. C.
- Sweet Home - Rev. Oscar Tedder, Andrews, S. C.
Archie Huggins, 2820 Rivers Ave., Charleston, S. C.
- Williams Hill - Rev. Wayne Watson, Hemingway, S. C.
T. B. Williams, Hemingway, S. C.
- Grace - Rev. Hoyt E. Powell, P.O. Box 248, Manning, S. C.
Blanche Bryant, Bradham Ave., Manning, S. C.

LIST OF MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

- Rev. Melvin Adams, 301 Ruth St., Lancaster, S. C.
- Rev. Wendell Ard, Andrews, S. C.
- Rev. Joseph Cagle, Route 2, Pamplico, S. C.
- Rev. Paul Clayton, Johnsonville, S. C.
- Rev. Jack Evans, Route 1, Pamplico
- Rev. T. C. Farmer, Route 1, Johnsonville
- Rev. James Pierce, Route 3, Box 181-A, Timmonsville, S. C.
- Rev. Hoyt Powell, P. O. Box 248, Manning, S. C.
- Rev. LeWayne Poston, Route 1, Johnsonville, S. C.
- Rev. Theron Scott, Hemingway, S. C.
- Rev. Paul Sheehan, P. O. Box 245, Turbeville, S. C.
- Rev. Oscar Tedder, Route 1, Box 333-C, Andrews, S. C.
- Rev. Charlie Tyler, 35 Suffolk St., Charleston Heights, S. C.
- Rev. Liston Williams, Route 2, Hemingway, S. C.

Licensed

- Rev. James Powell, Route 1, Box 131, Cowards, S. C.
- Rev. Nancy C. Noles, Route 5, Box 170, Sumter, S. C.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

CHURCHES	DELEGATES	Total on Roll Beginning of Year	By Letter	By Baptism	By Restoration	Total	By Letter	By Expulsion	Died	Total	Total on Roll at End of Year
Happy Home	Omeca McCutcheon, Rutledge Alford	48	2	0	0	2	2	0	3	5	42
Hill Side	Frank Woodbury, Danny Stone	59	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	58
Mill Branch	Mac Roy Richardson, Tommy Poston	94	1	3	0	4	4	0	1	5	93
New Prospect	G. F. Hayes, Wallace Stone	168	7	35	0	42	0	0	1	1	209
St. John	Myrlee Benton, William Wise	75	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	75
Sweet Home	Tommy Martin	30	0	9	0	9	9	0	0	9	30
Williams Hill	Eugene Harrelson, Z. G. Tanner	69	4	5	0	9	2	2	4	8	66
Grace	Welton Locklair, Mrs. Hoyt Powell	0	(New Wprk)								11
	Total	543	16	53	0	69	18	2	11	31	584

FINANCIAL REPORT

CHURCHES	Total Received And on Hand	Pastor	Charity	Repairs	Total Expenses For Year	Balance in Treasury	Total Value of Church and Property
Happy Home	\$ 8,195.85	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 307.80	\$ 3,423.16	\$ 7,750.84	\$ 445.01	\$ 31,000.00
Hill Side	6,496.52	1,310.00	284.19	2,145.19	4,924.71	1,553.33	42,000.00
Mill Branch	14,650.59	3,175.00	805.98	4,260.00	11,470.29	3,180.30	50,000.00
New Prospect	39,836.52	3,960.00	823.01	7,333.50	20,172.38	19,664.14	49,229.18
St. John	4,730.16	1,577.50	672.00	302.23	3,327.47	1,402.69	12,600.00
Sweet Home	4,732.97	2,120.00	1,522.80	284.75	4,732.97	(342.21)	1,200.00
Williams Hill	8,904.01	5,400.00	705.87	67.39	7,355.47	1,548.54	51,500.00
Grace	1,277.36	-0-	-0-	-0-	272.59	1,004.77	-0-
Total	\$88,823.98	\$20,542.50	\$5,121.65	\$17,816.22	\$60,006.72	\$28,456.57	\$237,529.18

CONSTITUTION OF THE EASTERN CONFERENCE
OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

ARTICLE I

This conference shall be called the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II

The officers of this conference shall be: a moderator, a clerk, reading clerk, treasurer, and an Ordaining Council consisting of three (3) duly ordained ministers to be elected or re-elected yearly.

ARTICLE III

Any brother desiring to be licensed or ordained must have a letter of recommendation from the church of which he is a member. Said church must be a member of the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of South Carolina.

ARTICLE IV

A minister coming from another conference or association must come by letter from his former conference or association.

ARTICLE V

Each minister duly licensed or ordained of said conference may have the privilege to vote.

ARTICLE VI

This constitution shall be revised at any annual conference by a vote of two-thirds majority.

BYLAWS

1. No minister of the Eastern Conference shall pastor a church that is not in fellowship with the Original Free Will Baptist denomination.
2. No brother shall receive credentials except he has been a member of a church in the Original Free Will Baptist denomination in said conference for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months or more preceeding his recommendation for licenses. He must be licensed for twelve (12) consecutive months before he can be ordained.
3. He that desires to be licensed must come with a letter of recommendation stating whether or not he has tithed during said period, signed by his pastor and church treasurer. Also bringing a personal record of his work to be presented to the ordaining council. The same applies to his ordination.

4. Any minister who makes a shipwreck of his life or brings a reproach upon himself or conference, the accuser shall present a written charge properly signed to the Ordaining Council, if proven guilty shall surrender his credentials for a period of six (6) months on first offense. The penalty for second offense is the surrender of credentials for two (2) years.
5. From this, The Lord's Day—December 7, 1963, the Ordaining Council shall not license, ordain, or accept anyone who has two (2) living wives, or if wife has two (2) living husbands. Scripture: Titus 1:6; I Timothy 3:1-2.
6. Each minister of the said conference must report in person or by letter to each union or conference. All ministers who fail to conform to this ruling will have to surrender his credentials and go before the Ordaining Council before they can be reinstated. But, in case of an emergency, a minister has one week from date of the conference to send in his excuse.
7. These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any regular conference.
8. All visiting ministers will be given a seat in our conference with this restriction—they will not be privileged to vote.
9. The dues of this conference are one dollar (\$1.00) per quarter; payable each quarter at the regular conference.
10. The clerk is to inform the Ordaining Council of all ministers of said conference who do not conform to rule number six of these bylaws.
11. The minutes of all ministers' meetings are to be published in the Association minutes rather than just the minutes of the annual meeting as has been done in previous years.
12. A committee is to be appointed to judge whether or not the excuse of absent ministers is to be accepted. The committee shall consist of the clerk and two ministers of our conference. If any excuse is rejected, the sender is to be notified and more information is to be asked for.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. There shall be no conversation by the members, one with another so as to interrupt business while in session.
3. Every member speaking shall first rise and address the moderator.
4. No member shall interrupt another member while they are speaking.
5. We shall admit no other title while in session but that of "Brother."
6. Every member speaking shall attend to the subject under consideration.
7. No member shall speak more than twice on any one subject.
8. Every motion made and seconded shall be attended unless withdrawn by the person who made it.
9. No member shall absent himself from the body without leave of the moderator.
10. On motion made where the vote of the body is taken a majority shall prevail.
11. The moderator shall have the same privilege to speak as any other member, provided the chair is filled.
12. Any members transgressing the above rules shall be admonished by the moderator.
13. Not less than nine members shall constitute a quorum.

