

1927

# MINUTES

—of the—

## *Third Annual Session*

—of the—

## *Old Eureka Association*

(Since Division from the Roberts-McGee in 1924)

Of the Church of God Denominated Free Will  
Baptists, Convened with Buffington Church  
on Friday Night before the first Sunday in  
September, A. D. 1927

The next session will be held with Panther church  
near McCurtain on Friday night before the  
first Sunday in September, A. D. 1928.

Introductory sermon to be preached  
by Elder C. E. Kennedy, alter-  
nate Rev. L. R. Crumb

Elder T. O. Barnes	Moderator
Rev. T. M. Arnold	Assistant Moderator
Dovie La Faye	Clerk
Roy Hodges	Assistant Clerk

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.
2. Called to order by Moderator.
3. Letters called for and adopted.
4. Right hand of fellowship.
5. Electing officers.
6. Reading Rules of Order.
7. Petitionary letters.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. New Business.
11. Report of Committees.
12. Miscellaneous Business.

## RULES OF ORDER

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

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

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

4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.

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 a vote taken.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

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

9. All questions decided by a majority of the 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. In the future meetings of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons each day, or other equivalent devotional exercises.

13. The 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*

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## FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

The house was called to order by Elder C. E. Kennedy. After song service by the choir, had a united prayer and then devotional services were led by Rev. J. A. Claxton. Preaching services followed, conducted by Rev. Bart Clark. Adjourned to meet on Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock.

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## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The house was called to order by the moderator, Rev. T. M. Arnold. Singing by the choir and a prayer led by Rev. A. D. Wickham, then proceeded to business as follows:

The moderator called for church letters and received the following:

1, Hoyt—Bro. Gideon, Sister Heflin, Sister Holdrige. Alternates, Sister Bessie Moore and Sister Opal Carlton, Rev. L. R. Crumb, pastor, Sister Edris Holder, church clerk.

2, Perry—Sister Nellie LaFove, Sister Delia Roberts, Bro. C. Mount. Alternates: Bro. Floyd Keith, Sister Dovie LaFove, Rev. J. E. Yandell, pastor. Sister Etta Peck, church clerk.

3, Panama—Bro. Tom Williams, Sister Minnie

Kirby, Sister Elta Long. Alternates, Sister Madge Brasheers, Sister Irene Killgore, Bro. Jess Lamb. Rev. Barb E. Hickman, pastor. Sister Elta Long, church clerk.

4. Royal Oak—Sister Nettie Pitchford, Sister Lila Hanna, Sister Nance. Alternates, Sister Castle, Bro. Willie Stankewitz. Rev. C. E. Kennedy, pastor. Sister Maud Graham, church clerk. Post Office, Williams, Okla.

5. Oak Ridge—Bro. Evert Lee Master, Sister Ed Dixon, Bro. Tom Bartlett. Alternates, Sister Eva Robins, Bro. Roy Hodges, Rev. L. R. Crumb, pastor. Sister Eva Robins, church clerk.

6. Prairie View—Bro. Virgil Florence, Sister Mae Florence, Bro. J. M. Lewis. Alternates, Sister J. M. Lewis, Sister Ethel Turner. Bro. John Parsons, church clerk.

7. Cross Road—Bro. Venable, Sister Venable, Sister J. Robinson, Bro. J. Robinson, Bro. Loveless, Sister Loveless. Rev. J. E. Yandell, pastor. Bro. E. F. Arnold, church clerk.

8. Buffnigton—Sister Black, Bro. Black, Bro. J. M. Patton, Bro. West, Sister West, Bro. Colter. Rev. L. R. Crumb, pastor. Sister Jossie Patton, church clerk.

9. Prairie Grove—Bro. A. M. Smith, Sister Jennie Smith, Sister Nettie Colbert, Sister Maudie Thomason, Bro. John Anderson. Rev. T. O. Barnes, pastor. Sister Dovie Honeycutt, church clerk.

10. Shady Grove—Bro. Grayson Nicholas, Rev. W. J. Nance, pastor, Bro. Grayson Nicholas,

church clerk.

11 Rocky Point—Bro. Bud Cole, Bro. M. A. Adkinson. Rev. Barb E. Hickman, pastor. Bro. Jack Apple, church clerk.

Motion made and carried that we receive the letters of the old churches and seat the delegates.

Letters from new churches were called for, the following were received.

1, Panther—Sister Bertha Perdue, Sister Bertha Hinz, Sister Maudie McKee, Bro. Brassfield, Bro. Perdue. Rev. Barb E. Hickman, pastor. Sister Lenley, church clerk.

2, Christian Grove—Sister B. T. Kennedy, Sister Evans. Rev. L. B. Clark, pastor. Sister Ruth Evans, church clerk.

3, Horn Chapel—Bro. H. Maynard, Bro. F. Johnson, Sister D. Marrs, Sister C. Horn, Rev. C. E. Kennedy, pastor. Sister Mary Sanders, church clerk.

4, Murry Spurr—Bro. F. A. Morris. Rev. L. B. Clark, pastor. Sister Thelma Childress, church clerk.

Motion made and carried that we receive the letters of new churches and seat the delegates.

The officers for the ensuing year were then elected as follows:

Elder T. O. Barnes, Moderator; Rev. T. M. Arnold, Assistant Moderator; Sister Dovie La Fove, Clerk; Bro. Roy Hodges, Assistant Clerk.

The rules of order were then read by the

moderator, Elder T. O. Barnes. A motion was made and carried that we adhere strictly to the rules of order in all the business transactions.

A call for corresponding delegates was extended. In response, we received and seated Rev. J. M. Musgrave, , Bro. J. F. Musgrave, Eldre J. M. Roberts, Bro. and Sister W. J. Burke, Bro. Lester Burke, Sister Nettie Burke, from Grand River Association; Rev. and Sister J. A. Claxton, from the Gaines Creek Association.

Motion was made and carried to seat Rev. John S. Taylor as a visiting brother in our association.

The moderator appointed Brother W. L. Roberts, Bro. S. T. Standifer, Bro. J. F. Musgrave, as devotional committee.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn to meet again at 2:00 p. m.

The business session was followed by a short intermission. After which religious services were conducted by Rev. O. D. Wickham.

An announcement was made by the moderator that the congregation would not be dismissed until Association was over.

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### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House was called to order by the moderator, Elder T. O. Barnes. This was followed by a song, also a short prayer conducted by Rev. T. M. Arnold. Then proceeded to the appointment of the various committees as follows:

Committee on Sabbath Schools—Sister Black, Sister Claxton, Sister Standifer, Sister Etta Peck, Rev. J. A. Claxton, Bro. Virgil Florence.

Committee on Finance—Bro. Ollie Riddle, Bro. Jack Wallace, Bro. Joe Lemley, Bro. D. Black, Bro. Bud Cole.

Committee on Temperance—Bro. G. H. Young, Bro. Jim Maxwell, Rev. A. A. Holdridge, Sister Nettie Pitchford, Sister Hinz.

Committee on Query and Request—Bro. A. C. Keith, Rev. J. A. Claxton, Sister S. A. Lemley, Bro. C. C. Garland and Bro. W. M. LaFove.

Committee on Ministers and Deacons characters—Sister W. L. Roberts, Sister J. A. Claxton, Sister Ella Wallace, Bro. E. E. Colter, Sister Etta Peck.

Committee on Ministers Credentials—Elder J. M. Roberts, Rev. L. B. Clark, Rev. A. A. Holdridge, Rev. O. D. Wickham, Rev. L. R. Crumb, Bro. W. M. LaFove.

Committee on Books and Periodicals—Rev. Tom Anderson, Bro. M. A. Adkinson, Bro. J. E. Smith, Bro. J. Anderson, Sister Lee Master, Sister Minnie Kirby, Sister Jossie Patton, Bro. W. J. Burk.

Committee on Obituaries—Sister Maudie Thomason, Bro. J. E. Smith, Bro. J. J. Akins, Bro. J. L. Livesay, Sister Bertha Perdue, Bro. Tom Bartlett, Bro. Williams.

Committee on Resolutions—Bro. Jack Kinsey, Bro. J. W. West, Rev. H. O. Turner, Bro. W. H. Maynard, Sister Mount, Bro. Mount, Sis-



ter W. M. LaFove.

Committee on Home Missions—Bro. Evert Lee Master, Bro. Virgil Florence, Bro. Bart Roberts, Bro. J. A. Standridge, Bro. Floyd Johnson, Sister Lula Burk, Bro. J. M. Patton, Sister Dorothea Meyers, Sister Cherry Horn, Bro. Perdue, Sister Edna Johnson, Sister A. J. Dixon.

Committee on Bill of Arrangements—Rev. H. O. Turner, Rev. John S. Taylor, Rev. L. R. Crumb, Rev. J. M. Musgrave, Rev. L. B. Clark, Bro. G. E. Nicholas.

The business session was followed by religious service conducted by A. A. Holdridge.

Motion was made and carried to adjourn the business session until Monday morning at 9:00 o'clock.

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### SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICES

The meeting was called to order by moderator, singing by choir. Prayer by Elder T. O. Barnes, after which testimony services were conducted by Elder T. O. Barnes. There were one hundred and twenty-five testimonies given during the service.

An alter call was made by Elder T. O. Barnes and Rev. L. R. Crumb. Many souls were saved.

Motion made and carried we adjourn until Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock.

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES.

House was again called to order by moderator, Elder T. O. Barnes. Singing by choir, prayer by Elder J. M. Roberts, followed with testimony services led by Bro. W. L. Roberts.

The remaining time until 11:00 o'clock was spent in preaching services by Rev. T. M. Arnold. The 11:00 o'clock services were conducted by Rev. H. O. Turner followed by Rev. J. M. Musgrave.

The Devotional Committee reported Rev. O. D. Wickham, followed by Rev. J. A. Claxton, would preach memorial services at 3:30 o'clock.

Motion was made and carried that we adjourn until 3:30 p. m.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICES

Met as per adjournment. House called to order by the moderator, Elder T. A. Barnes. Quartet arranged by Rev. O. D. Wickham. Prayer by Sister Standifer, after which preaching services were conducted by Rev. O. D. Wickham, followed by Rev. J. A. Claxton.

A song was sung in memory of Grandma Barnes, also, Rev. O. D. Wickham read a poem that he had composed, himself, in memory of Grandma Barnes.

Motion made and carried that we adjourn to meet again at 7:30 o'clock.

## SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

Met at 7:30 o'clock. House called to order by the moderator. Singing by the choir and prayer by Elder J. M. Roberts. Followed with preaching services by Bro. T. O. Barnes.

After preaching services, communion and feet washing were taken by ninety-four members of the association.

Another service was conducted by L. R. Crumb. Five souls were saved. Motion made and carried that we meet again at 9:00 o'clock Monday morning.

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## MONDAY MORNING SESSION

At 9:00 o'clock the house was called to order by the moderator. Singing by the choir. Prayer by Elder J. M. Roberts. A call for committee reports was extended and received the following:

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## COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report as follows:

It is the duty of the Free Will Baptists to teach Free Will Baptist Literature for the purpose of supporting our own Publishing house. For we know we have the Bible doctrine. We believe that our Sunday School teachers should be Christians. We urge that all our Free Will Baptists be more zealous in Sunday School work

in the future realizing that Sunday School is the life of the church.

Sister Etta Peck, chairman.

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### COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance beg leave to report as follows:

Temperance implies that we should be free from intoxicating drinks of any kind. That we should use our efforts to get rid of whiskey and its makers. When it occurs in our observation by communing with the enforcement officers of our land. That we should not contract incident habits in our Divine Service, such as some deceivers of our country are now doing to an excess and thereby the influence of the true gospel is weakened; that we strictly adhere to temperance in its highest Bible sense with all the word implies and that we discourage all card parties, checker games, church swimming pools, Sunday ball games of any kind, and that abstain from all habits that disqualify us for the service for the Lord.

Sister Nettie Pitchford, chairman.

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### COMMITTEE ON QUERY AND REQUEST

We, your committee on Query and Request endorse last year's report with the following amendment:

We request that this body take charge of the disbanded church books and keep them in charge until the churches are reorganized.

We also recommend that Rev. H. O. Turner be ordained to the full work of the minister at this session of the Association.

Sister Standifer, chairman.

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### OLD REPORT

We, your committee on Query and Request urge and request that every deacon do his duty with regards to his church in the way of finance and raising funds for the support of his pastor. We also urge that each church have as many as five deacons. We request that each church send at least three dollars minute funds to the Association. We furthermore request that our clerk have our minutes published by our own Free Will Baptist press. We request that each church raise \$25.00 for the purpose of buying a tabernacle for this association. We request that the tabernacle be placed in the care of the Home Mission Board.

Bro. A. C. Keith, chairman.

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### COMMITTEE ON BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

We, your committee on books and periodicals beg leave to report as follows:

That we recommended the Bible to be used as our discipline and the only and infallible rule of our doctrine, faith and practice and urge all our members to use it as such. We recommend that all our members take a Free Will Baptist paper. We recommend that all our ministers,

deacons and lay members teach and practice our church covenant.

Sister Jossie Patton, chairman.

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#### COMMITTEE ON BILL OF ARRANGEMENTS

We, your Committee on Bill of Arrangements endorse last year's report with the exception of amending Resolution No. 2 and leave out last Resolution of last year's report.

Be it resolved that the doors of all church property belonging to the Free Will Baptists be open to all ministers in good standing with the Association, be it resolved that our young ministers be licensed to preach one year before being ordained.

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#### OLD REPORT

Taking into consideration surrounding circumstances and seeing the necessity of the rule governing the ministry, be it resolved, the association forbids its ministers, deacons and lay members of the several districts of the Association speaking disrespectfully of one another and any one found guilty of such conduct shall be liable to charges and dealt with as may be deemed necessary.

Be it resolved that we recommend that our ministers do not vary from the regular customs of the Free Will Baptists in regard to receiving and dismissing members. Furthermore, advise moderators of the churches, im-

press upon the churches the great necessity of observing all the rules of the Association.

Be it further resolved that any Elder taking an evangelistic work that it shall be the duty of each church to assist him in the work and this Association shall empower the moderator and clerk with authority to furnish the evangelist with recommendations if he is found worthy.

Resolved that we forbid the members of our churches from giving, going to or participating in play parties or dances and any found guilty of such offense shall be due the church acknowledgement or shall be considered by the body as a stranger, as these evil causes may cause many of our young people to forsake the right way and go off in sin.

Be it further resolved that we forbid any of our ministers or members of our churches of this association preaching sanctification or holiness as the second work of grace, separate and apart from regeneration or conversion.

Be it resolved that every member of all respective churches comprising the Eureka Association be requested to obey the commandments of God as recorded in first Cor. 16:2 II. Cor. 6:7 to lay in store as God has prospered them upon the first day of the week in their homes or churches, so as to be prepared to aid the ministers in publishing the gospel, to help the widows and the worthy poor.

## COMMITTEE ON MINISTER'S AND DEACON'S CHARACTERS

We, your committee on ministers and deacon's characters, beg leave to report as follows:

We find that all ministers and deacons except one are in good standing to the best of our knowledge. We find that one of our deacon brothers of Perry church has been walking disorderly and speaking disrespectfully and mistreating his brethren in the church and we ask the church to deal with him.

Bro. E. E. Colter, Chairman.

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## COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSION

We, your committee on Home Missions, beg leave to report:

We recommend that each church appoint at least three, as a committee to collect and cooperate with the Home Mission Board. With one acting treasurer and corresponding secretary.

Sister Lula Burk, Chairman.

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## COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your Committee on Resolution, beg leave to report:

At it is a law that no church is entitled to the association unless asked for in their letter,

We recommend that no church be granted the association unless their deacons and dele-



gates reside until the business session is over, unless unavoidably hindered.

Be it resolved that any church or churches verbally asking for the same be granted it upon the vote of the body.

#### COMMITTEE ON MINISTERS CREDENTIALS

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

After examination, we find all the ministers credentials orthodox.

Rev. O. D. Wickham, Chairman.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

X Panther	Hickman	\$ 2.50
X Rocky Point	.....	3.00
X Perry	Gandell	3.05
X Prairie View	Crumb	2.85
X Prairie Grove	.....	2.50
X Panama	Kennedy	2.50
X Shady Grove	Nance	2.50
X Royal Oak	Kennedy	2.50
X Cross Roads	Hickman	3.50
X Oak Ridge	Crumb	3.00
✓ Hoyt	.....	2.50
X Horn Chapel	Kennedy	3.00
X Baffington	.....	4.00
X Murry Spurr	L. B. Clark	2.50
X Christian Grove	L. B. Clark	2.50

TOTAL .....\$42.50

Bro. O. D. Riddle, Chairman

## COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

We, your Committee on Obituaries beg leave to report:

We sorrow because of loss of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Rev. Roy Kennedy of Christian Grove Church; Bro. Thomas Holdridge of Hoyt Church; Sister John Taylor of Prairie View Church; Sister Barnes, Sister Moore and Rev. Stankewitz of Royal Oak Church; Bro. Ted Shiplet from Murry Spurr Church; Sister Johnsie Howard of Buffington Church; Sister Noel of Prairie Grove Church; Sister Mary Keith of Perry Church; Sister McDonald and Sister Taylor of Panama Church.

Elder C. E. Kennedy, Chairman.

## REPORT OF ASSOCIATIONAL TREASURER

I beg leave to report as follows:

Money on hand at close of last as-

sociational year .....	\$40.35
Received from Cross Road Church.....	16.00
Received from Royal Oak Church .....	8.00

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TOTAL .....

\$64.35

Paid to Roy Roberts to aid in sickness, \$15.00, leaving a balance of \$49.35.

Bro. W. M. LaFove, Treasurer.

## REPORT FROM LAST YEAR'S CLERK

To the members of the Eureka Association:  
I beg leave to report as follows:

Amount collected for minutes \$47.65, plus  
\$4.00 collected for a ledger making a total of  
\$51.65.

Expense for minutes .....\$30.00  
Postage ..... .87

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TOTAL .....\$30.87

After deducting \$30.87, price for minutes,  
from \$51.65 ,we then have the remaining bal-  
ance of \$20.78.

Vera Gideon.

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#### · CALLED FOR MINISTER'S REPORT

Received the following:

I beg leave to report as follows:

I have preached 100 sermons, held two re-  
vival meetings, baptised none, pastored no  
churches. Helped hold two other revival meet-  
ings. Witnessed 30 conversions.

Pray for me that God may get Glory out of  
my life.

Rev. A. A. Holdridge, Hoyt, Okla.

I beg leave to report as follows:

I have preached 75 sermons, baptised 19,  
held two revival meetings, witnessed 57 con-  
versions, held 17 funerals, organized one Sun-  
day School at Bell Point. Married 12 couples,  
have traveled 800 or 900 miles. Received for  
my year's work \$42.90. My expenses being  
\$55.75. I have ordained two deacons at Blaine  
church, Bro. Russel and Bro. Shepherd. Ordain-  
ed Bro. Wood as a deacon for Jingle Mountain.

Presbytery: Bro. C. C. Garland and Bro. Loveless.

Rev. T. M. Arnold, Keota, Okla.

I beg leave to report as follows:

I have pastored two churches, held 5 revival meetings, preached 162 sermons, witnessed 154 conversions, baptised 126. Received for my labor from my churches and revival meeting, \$168.25. I have accepted two churches for the coming year.

Elder C. E. Kennedy, Salisaw, Okla.

I beg leave to report as follows:

I have pastored 3 churches the fourth one part of the year. I have received from Oak Ridge church \$106.70, Hoyt Church \$120.16, Buffington church \$71.50, from Prairie View Church \$13.50; total collections \$311.86. I have preached 176 sermons, directed 9 funerals, married four couples, witnessed 104 conversions, baptised 55.

Rev. L. R. Crumb, Stigler, Okla.

I beg to report as follows:

I have preached 34 sermons, held two funerals, traveled 1500 miles, held two revival meetings, witnessed 63 conversions, baptised one. My expenses have been \$70.00. I have received for my work \$4.01.

I beg leave to report as follows:

I have preached 34 sermons, held two revivals, witnessed 33 conversions, baptised 4, traveled 150 miles. Received for my labor,

Rev. Tom A. Anderson.

\$2.76.

Rev. John Anderson.

I beg leave to report as follows:

I have preached 93 sermons, witnessed 32 conversions, directed 3 funerals, have traveled 1500 miles. Received for my work \$9.75. I ask your prayers that God may use me more in the future than in the past.

Rev. W. J. Nance, Panama, Okla.

I beg leave to report as follows:

I have preached 106 sermons, directed 9 funerals, married 3 couples, witnessed 41 conversions, baptised 18, organized one church with 18 charter members. Received into different Free Will Baptist Churches 44 members.

Rev. L. B. Clark, Spiro, Okla.

To Eureka Association: I beg leave to report as follows:

I have pastored three churches, held four revival meetings and assisted in two more. I have witnessed 136 conversions, baptised 51, received into church 72, preached four funerals and married six couples.

Rev. Barb E. Hickman, Stigler, Okla.

A report of Corresponding Delegates was called for and received a report from Rev. O. D. Wickham of Grand River Association and Rev. J. A. Claxton from Gaines Creek Association.

The Moderator was given power to appoint the delegates to the State, Grand River and Gaines Creek associations.

The following delegates were appointed to

the Grand River Association, Rev. T. M. Arnold, Rev. O. D. Wickham, Sister Delia Roberts.

The following to Gaines Creek Association: Elder C. E. Kennedy, Rev. L. R. Crumb, Rev. A. A. Holdridge.

The following to the State Association: Rev. H. O. Turner, Bro. Luther Roberts, Sister Delia Roberts, Rev. L. B. Clark, Sister Etta Peck and Elder T. O. Barnes.

Motion made and carried that we send our minutes to Cushing, Okla., to be printed.

The fifth Sunday meetings were located as follows:

Horn Chapel, 1st; Elder Point, 2nd, and Prairie View, 3rd.

Motion made and carried that we omit the fourth and fifth Sunday meeting.

Motion made and carried that we send the next session of the Association to Old Panthor church, 1 mile west and 1 mile south from McCurtain on Ft. Smith Western Railroad.

Motion made and carried that we pay our clerk not less than \$10.00 per year for her work.

Motion made and carried that we extend our thanks to Buffington Church for their hospitality by reading a letter of appreciation prepared by Rev. J. A. Claxton and voice by the entire body of the Eureka Association as the following:

We, the delegated body of the Eureka As-

sociation extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the church and the good people of Buffington for their kind hospitality with which we have been entertained during the sitting of this association.

Motion made and carried that Elder C. E. Kennedy preach the introductory sermon and alternate Rev. L. R. Crumb.

Motion made and carried that Rev. H. O. Turner be ordained in his home Church, because of the request of Elder J. M. Roberts, to hear Elder C. E. Kennedy preach. Presbytery, Rev. L. R. Crumb, Elder C. E. Kennedy and Elder T. O. Parnes.

Preaching services were then directed by Elder C. E. Kennedy. Text: Matthew 16:16.

Motion made and carried to adjourn this session of the Eureka Association, to meet again at Old Panthor church, on Friday night before the first Sunday in September, 1928 A. D.

The Association was dismissed by Rev. J. A. Claxton.

## OUR MINISTERS

Rev. T. Anderson	
Rev. J. Anderson	
Rev. J. A. Claxton	Crowdre, Okla., Rt. 1
Elder T. O. Barnes	Stigler, Okla.
Elder C. E. Kennedy	Sallisaw, Okla.
Rev. L. R. Crumb	Stigler, Okla., Rt. 5
Rev. J. C. Dudley	
Rev. J. R. Stoughton	Keota, Okla., Rt. 1
Rev. W. J. Nance	Tahona, Okla.
Rev. T. M. Arnold	Keota, Okla.
Rev. J. H. Green	Bixby, Okla.
Rev. B. E. Hickman	Stigler, Okla.
Rev. R. D. Allen	Spiro, Okla., Rt. 1
Rev. H. O. Turner, licensed	Stigler, Okla., Rt. 1
Rev. L. B. Clark	Spiro, Okla.

## CONSTITUTION

From the long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, being regularly baptised or upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better church government.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by different churches in our union not exceeding three delegates from each church and on producing letters shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from the different churches are to express the number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letters of recommendation, the number dismissed, excluded, restored and those who have died since the Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened to be denominated the Gaines Creek Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of sundry churches in the Gaines Creek Association—the ass'n having no power to lord it over God's heritage nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

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

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to



the Association who 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.

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

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

8. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being at the discretion of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association on a book to be kept by the Association for this purpose.

10. 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.

11. Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a majority of the members present.

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 should help their pastor and if an evangelist should visit any destitute place and organize churches that we urge upon the people to assist the Evangelist so he can go and preach the word.

## 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. Romans 1:20, John 1:17, 17-21.

2. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testament is the word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. Second Timothy 3:16, Matt. 5:18.

3. We believe that God created man good, and 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 un-

able 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 should taste death for every man. Gen. 3:17, Heb. 2:9.

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

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God, if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3, I Peter 1:23.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon the merits of the Son of God. Jonah 4:11, Mark 10:14. Duet. 1:39.

7. We believe all Christians must 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 the right to the tree of life and enter through the gates into the city. Rev. 22:14, Matt. 24:13.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode; even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life, showed his humble example to his children and bids us walk therein. John 3:22, Romans 6:34-45, Matt. 28:19-20, Matt. 3:16.

9. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace in great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by 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 stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. I Cor. 12:13, Eph. 3:7, Rev. 22:17.

10. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper and washing the Saint's feet are divine ordinances and should be observed by all His children. Mark 14:22-23, John 13:4-14, Matt. 28:19-20, I Tim. 5:10.

11. We believe that none have a right to baptism, only those who have a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have the right to administer the same only those who have come under the hands of the presbytery of elders, and each church ought to have a pastor, deacons, and clerks chosen by the church, ought to have office during the good pleasure of same 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, and then it must 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 sitting forth the Lord's supper and washing the Saint's feet to let a man "examine himself and so let him eat." I Cor. 11:28. John 13:14.

13. We believe that the sanctification and Holiness is a Bible doctrine, that immortality is God dwelling in the light, so when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. "Death is swallowed up in victory." That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another and to study the happiness of the people of God in general and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God. Gal. 6:10, I John 2:9.

14. We believe in the resurrection of the dead of 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, Thes. 1:10, Rev. 20:12-13.

#### CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and having thus obtained justification by Faith in His name, we, as members of several churches that constitute the Gaines Creek Association of Free Will Baptists, adopt the following as our Church Covenant:

1. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common faith ever striving to keep the unity of spirit in the bonds of peace.

2. We will not speak evil of each other nor will we persecute or expose the faults of the weak members of our church; but will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instruction to Timothy, "That we will approve, rebuke and exhort" each other as members of a common brotherhood.

3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith. But we should remember that our relations to each other are closer and the obligations more binding than that

of a common bond of Christian Charity. In adopting this Covenant, we become as a family and assume in a Christian sense the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.

4. We will attend the stated meetings of our church unless we are providentially hindered, or uncontrollable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church. And we will prefer the service of our own church to that of any other and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the word of God to us.

5. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners; but will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the natural powers which the Lord has given us to praise His holy name. We will sing with those who sing and pray with those who pray.

6. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking by making visits to our neighbors, which is a double sin against the law of God for in so doing we fail to attend the house of the Lord and hinder those who might wish to do so. Let us remember the law of Moses which condemns Sabbath breaking, and the words of the inspired apostle which says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourself together as the manner of some is."

7. We will not neglect secret and public prayers and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord, and say, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

commonality of  
God dwelling  
in the light

## LETTER OF DISMISSAL

This is to certify that..... is a member in good standing of the Freewill Babbist Church of Christ at....., and as such we recommend him (or her) to the fellowship of God's people, and is dismissed from us when united with another church.

Done in Church conference this.....day of.....  
....., 19.....

....., Pastor ..... Clerk

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## FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1—Call Church Conference.
- 2—Call for peace of Church.
- 3—Call for visiting brethren to seats in Council.
- 4—Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
- 5—Unfinished Business.
- 6—New Business.
- 7—Are any sick or in distress?
- 8—What has been done for the support of the Ministry and other incidental expenses?

