

MINUTES
—OF—
THE 34th. ANNUAL SESSION OF THE
FIRST
OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

—OF—
FREE WILL BAPTIST
Held with Spring Hill Church near Lexington, Okla.
SEPTEMBER, 24, 25, 26, 27 1931

The next session will convene with Pleasant Hill Church 4 miles North and 5 miles East of Norman on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September 1932.

OFFICERS

Eld. W. E. Dearmore, Moderator,	.	Tribbey, Oklahoma
Eld. G. H. Johnson, Asst. Mod.	.	Drumright, Okla.
Eld. A. B. Epperson, Clerk	.	Tecumseh, Okla.
Eld. I. B. Dunaway, Asst. Clerk	.	Watonga, Okla.

MINUTES

Of the Thirty fourth Annual Session of the

FIRST OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

The First Oklahoma Association met in regular session with Spring Hill Church September 24-27 1931. Introductory sermon by Eld. G. H. Johnson of Drumright. Text Deut. 11-27. After which the body was called to order by the moderator and the church letter called for. Box, Spring Hill, Liberty, North View, New Bethlehem Pleasant Hill, Earlsboro Tecumseh College and Cordell, letters read and delegates seated. The hand of fellowship was given with an old fashion hand shake after which the officers for the coming year was elected. Eld. W. E. Dearmore, Moderator; Eld. G. H. Johnson, Ast. Moderator; A. B. Epperson, Clerk; I. B. Dunaway, Ast. Clerk.

Letter from Liberty Hill; State of religion good, number recieved 3; dismissed 2; total membership 85; amount paid pastor \$30.81 amount for building \$100; Sunday School good; value of property \$650; Elder Carter is pastor.

Cordell Church: State of religion good; members received 0; dismissed 0; total membership 30; I. B. Dunaway pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church; State of religion good; members recieved this year 15; number baptized 9; number died 2; prayer meeting and Sunday School good; membership 74 in church.

Earlsboro Church; State of religion good; members recieved this year 97; number baptized 48; number dismissed 5; total membership 109; prayer meeting good; Sunday School good; A. B. Epperson pastor.

Spring Hill Church: State of religion good; number recieved this year 39; number baptized 24; number died 1; total membership 90; amount paid pastor \$90; amount for evangelistic \$40; prayer meeting good; Sunday School good; E. E. Morris pastor.

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North View: State of religion good; number recieved this year 29; number baptized 21; number died 1; total membership 39; amount paid pastor \$22.35; amount for evangelistic work \$39.35 amount for insidentials \$85 value of church property \$1,000; Sunday School good prayer meeting good; D. L. Simpson pastor.

Box Church: State of religion good; members recieved this year 1; number dismissed 6; number died 1; number reclaimed 4; total membership 110; prayer meeting good; Sunday School good, paid pastor \$29.38, evangelist \$5, Eld. W. G. Fields pastor.

New Bethlehem Church: State of religion good, number recieved this year 10, number baptized 8, total membership 50, prayer meeting good, Sunday School good, paid pastor \$20, paid evangelist \$25, W. L. Waddle pastor.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Friday morning session called together by singing. Moderator in chair. Devotional by Sister Alice Caskey, Reading of rules of order by moderator. Appointment of committee

Committee on resolution — L. J. Florence, J. D. Anderson, I. B. Dunaway

Committee on Ministerial standing—B. C. Wilson, B. L. Lawless Roy Thompson.

Committee on Sunday School — W. L. Waddle, V. A. Florence J. K. Hayter.

Committee on Finance — T. L. Fry, J. R. Garrett, Arthur Clarada.

Committee on Mission — Ada Dearmore, Mrs. I. B. Dunaway May Florence.

Pulpit Committee - - J. D. Anderson, Sister Alice Caskey, Mrs. I. B. Dunaway.

Committee on Obituary - - Homer Perrin, G. H. Johnson, Tom Fletcher.

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Committee on Temperance - - Miss I. D. Anderson, Mrs. B. C. Wilson, Pearl Fry.

Committee on Preyer Meeting - - Altus Austin, Opal Boyd and Earleen Wade.

Committee on Music - - Olen Sangster, Evelyn Jett and Lenora Cartmill.

Corresponding Messengers - - G. D. Florence of Grand River Association, Eld. W. M. Coggins of Center, L. E. Ward and E. E. Morris of Dibble besides some others that I don't have their names.

Motion to adjourn to 1:30 p. m., preaching by I. B. Dunaway

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Friday afternoon session come together by singing, devotional service by J. M. Alsup.

Motion to elect an ordaining counsil, W. E. Dearmore, I. B. Dunaway, elect. Arthur Clarada and Virgil Florence were examined and ordained to the ministry. Bros. George Argo and Homer Perrin and Tom Maxwell were ordained to office of deacons.

Motion to adjourn until 9 a.m. Saturday. Eld. Florence- Hagar to fill stand at 8 p. m.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Saturday morning session come together by singing, Moderator in chair, devotional by brother Bailey.

Motion that we elect corresponding delegates to as many associations as we can get to. Dibble, Dearmore, Washita, Dunaway, Missouri, Johnson, Grand River, Florence, Eureka, Florence, Cana, Dearmore, Robert McGee, Wilson and Morris, Beulah, Maxwell Center, Fry and Waddle; Southern Lawless and Dearmore; Hopewell Fry and Hagar. Delegates to state meeting, Tom Fry, J. D. Anderson, Winnie Alsup, Ada Dearmore, B. C. Wilson. Report of prayer Meeting adopted.

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RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No 1. — Quarterly meeting to convene on Thursday night instead of Friday night, also that three fourths of the time be given to study and discussion of Bible topics, and urge our preachers and deacons to come.

Resolution No 2. — We urge that our pastors, preach at least one sermon a year on our Church Covenant and urge all members to read and study the Covenant.

Resolution No 3. — That the quilt that now belongs to us, be given to the Moderator as a reward for his faithfulness in choir.

Resolution No 4. — A program committee be selected for the purpose of arranging a program for the quarterly meeting. It shall be his duty to submit a program to this body for the first quarterly meeting, then at each quarterly meeting a program be submitted for the next quarterly meeting.

Resolution No 5—We certainly thank the good people of Spring Hill for their kindness to us, we sure did enjoy ourselves while with them, and if everyone didn't have a good time it was their own fault, this was one of the best we have ever had, if not the best.

Eld. Virgil Florence, submitted a special request that our preachers and deacons be present if possible, if not send letter.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Report of Evangelistic Committee --- We recommend that our preachers go out by twos, into new fields and hold meetings and organize churches, assigned by committee. W. L. Waddle, J. P. Fry, I. B. Dunaway, Virgil Florence, A. B. Epperson, Auther Clarada, W. E. Dearmore, J. F. Hagar, Earnest Johnson and F. C. Christian J. M. Alsop, D. L. Simpson G. H. Johnson W. C. Keylon and B. C. Wilson. Committee We also recommend that we have a camp meeting begin on Sunday night before the Association and last through same

Report of Committee on Prayer Meeting: --- Report our church

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es having good prayer meeting, with good crowds, and good interest Earleen Wade, Altus Austin and Opal Boyd.

We urge that every church that doesn't have choir practice have it once a week or at least twice every month. Evelyn Jett Olen Sangster and Lenora Cartmill, Committee

Report of Committee on Finance --- Box \$2.25 Bethlehem \$2.06 Cordell \$2.75 North View \$4.50 Spring Hill \$3.00 Earlsboro \$5.00 Pleasant Hill \$2.50 Liberty \$3.00 Tecumseh \$1.50 State Minutes \$3.25. Auther Clarada Committee.

Voted that the association be held with Pleasant Hill Church next year at regular time. Introductory sermon by Virgil Florence A. B. Epperson alternate, motion to adjourn until 1:30 p. m. Preaching by Fry and Clarada. Motion to retain our Execution Board.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

Saturday evening session come together by singing, devotional by sister Ora Newall. First 5th Sunday meeting to be held with Box Church on Thursday night before the 5th Sunday in November 1931. The second 5th Sunday meeting will be held with New Bethlehem Church beginning on Thursday night before the first fifth Sunday in 1932. The third 5th Sunday meeting will be held with North View Church on Thursday night before the second fifth Sunday in 1932. Arthur Clarada is to preach the introductory sermon at the fifth Sunday meeting at Box.

Report of committee on Obituary-- We find that God has seen fit to call from our midst Rev. Jake Grizzle, and the baby of George Grizzle; of Pleasant Hill Church, Mrs. Edith Newville and her infant son and Brother Jim Owens infant daughter of Spring Hill Church and sister Joe Stevenson of North View Church. Brother L. V. Henry of Box Church.

We must bow our heads in humble submission to his will knowing he doeth all things well.

Ministers report -- I have kept my appointment, been sick a good deal, preached 50 sermons, married 5 couples, funerals 10,

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held one meeting, witnessed 10 saved. I have visited the sick and helped the poor in other ways. W. E. Dearmore.

Churches pastored two, meetings held two, baptized 28, money recieved \$130, expense \$80, funerals 2 Married 2 Couple W. L. Waddle.

I have preached 55 sermons, baptized 5, married 2 couples recieved 9 members, assisted in revival work, and recieved \$2.25 J. M. Alsup.

Meetings held 5, conversions 63, pastored 1 church, funerals 11 married 4 couples, traveled 3000 miles, preached 129 sermons, money received \$100, money paid out \$200. G. H. Johnson

We only had a few reports from the ministers and part of them were not signed.

Ministers present at the association were, Edna Hunt, Stratford Frank Lee, Lindsey, O. C. Diskin, Norman, W. M. Coggins, Blanchard, I. B. Dunaway, Watonga, E. E. Morris and L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Virgil Florence, Watonga, D. L. Simpson, M. Strawn, W. L. Waddle, J. F. Hagar, Lexington, J. P. Fry, Asher, W. E. Dearmore Tribbey, J. M. Alsup, Norman, Arthur Clarada, A. B. Epperson Tecumseh, E. D. Johnson, Trousdale, T. C. Christian, Wanette.

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 glori-

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fied and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all 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 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 effected 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: Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and 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 domination of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance of faith 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 the 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 is 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.

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12. **Perseverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have 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, Judgment, 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 will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist) being regularly baptized upon a profession of faith in our Lord 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, to therefore ordain this Constitution for our better associational government.

Art. 1. Membership. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by 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

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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 First Oklahoma Association of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), 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, the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since the last Association. The churches in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who have died during the year that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. Officers. The Association shall have a moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected at each annual session by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 5. New Churches. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to this association who petition by letter and delegates, if upon examination they are found to be orthodox, 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 first been discussed 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 number of members in each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the society.

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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.

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 rise 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 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, or speak more than five minutes.

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.

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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. 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.

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 amusement 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 faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the scriptures, secret prayer, family devotion, 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 forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences public worship, and the observances 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 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 bond 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 able, pro-

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mote the success of the church and of the gospel. We will every where hold Christian principals 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.

QUESTIONS

Questions to be used in examining candidates for ordaining Ministers.

1. What do Freewill Baptist teach concerning God?
2. Is this doctrine supported by the Bible? Give scriptural evidence
3. Do you know of any scriptures that teach other than that or that seems to teach any other thought?
4. Have you prayerfully searched the scriptures on this subject
5. What is the Bible?
6. What do we teach concerning the Bible? Give scriptural proof of this doctrine.
7. What do we teach as to the creation of, and the original state, and the fall of man?
8. Is this doctrine in accord with the Bible?
9. Does the original fall of man effect his posterity? How?
10. How was pardon of sin effected, and on what condition?
11. What do we teach concerning the doctrine of regeneration?
12. Are there any conditions on the individuals part connected with the new birth? State some of them and give scriptural evidence.
13. How are infants and idiots saved? Mark 10;14.
14. What is necessary to ultimate our final salvation?

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15. Is there an opposing theory? Have you carefully and prayerfully searched the scriptures for light on both sides of this subject?

16. Are there any questions in your mind as to which theory is right?

17. What do we believe about water baptism?

18. How do you know God has called you to preach the gospel

19. How are preachers qualified to preach?

20. Upon what do you rely for your qualification?

21. What are the devine ordinances?

22. What are your convictions as to their observance?

23. What do we teach concerning the resurrection?

24. Do you think this is in accord with the Bible?

25. State fully your belief on the thousand years of Christ's personal rein on earth.

26. What is your belief about the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

27. State your belief on the doctrine of sanctification?

28. What do you think of the present day miracles, devine healing and the gift of tongues?

29. What has determined your opinion?

30. What according to the Bible has been the purpose all through the ages?

31. By what power are miracles preformed if preformed at all in our day?

32. Give some of the Bible warnings of latter day deceptions?

33. Are these questions clear in your mind? If not you have the privilege of calling for help.

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LETTER OF DISMISSAL

This is to certify that.....
is a member in good standing of the Freewill Baptist Church of
Christ at
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

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?

THE O K PRINTRY, SHAWNEE, OKLA.