

Elmer E. Morris

MINUTES

OF THE

38 th ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

KNOWN AS

Freewill Baptists

Convened With Pleasant Hill Church
From Sept. 18th to 20th, 1935

The 39th. Session Will Convene With Tecumseh Church
At Techumseh Okla.
Wednesdry Night, Sept, 23rd 1936

MODERATOR
CLERK

W.E DEARMORE
PETE CONNER

Order Of Business

1. House called to order by Moderator
2. Letters called for and adopted.
3. Right hand of fellowship given.
4. Officers elected.
5. Reading of rules of order.
6. Petitionary letters.
7. Introductory Sermon.
8. Invite visiting Brethern to seat in Council.
9. Appointment of Committees.
10. New business.
11. Report of Committees.
12. Miscellaneous business.

Minutes of the Thirty-Eight Annual Session of the First Oklahoma Association which convened with the Pleasant Hill Church at Norman Okla. Sept. 18th, 1935.

Wednesday evening Service opened with singing Moderator W. E. Dearmore in chair. A short Praise Service was held after which Bro John Bean took the stand. He preached a splendid Message from the Text Heb.11-6.

Motion made and carried that we adjourn until Thursday mornin 10 o'clock.

Thursday morning Service opened by singing hymn no.72 after which Moderator took charge. Devotional led by Bro. Dearmore. Scripture Lesson Romans 8. Prayer by Sister Alice Clark. There being a quorum present the Association was called in conference Alice B Clark Clerk at the Desk Earline Paris appointed assistant

The Church letters were read and received Delegates seated
There was a general handshake after which Bro, Wilson led in Prayer

Election of officers for the coming year were as following, W.E. Dearmore Moderator, W.L.Bean asst. moderator, Pete Conner clerk and Earline Paris asst. clerk

There were nomination for a member of the executive board Bro. Pete Conner was elected.

Visiting brethren from other Association were invited to seats in council with all privileges, except voting.

Adjourned by motion until 10'oclock Preaching at 11'oclock by Bro Will Bean.

Thursday afternoon service called by singing Near the cross
Bro. Wenston Lawless conducted the Devotional by reading
Romans 12 and leading a short praise service.

Prayer by Bro. O'Donnell.

Minutes of morning session read and approved.

Committees appointed were as follows: Resolution,
A.B.Epperson, E A.O Donnell and I.B.Dunaway.

Sunday School. Ada Dearmore, Alva Downs & Alice B
Clark.

Temperance-Mrs.Lela Williams, Ora Jackson, & Betty
Thompson.

Music. Earleen Paris, Mrs.W.L.Bean & Mattie Epperson

Prayer Meeting Faye Wilson, Ola Smithy & Nova Dunway

Obituary Joe Guinn, B F.Littleton & Wenston Lawless.

Ministerial Standing, B C.Wilson, B.F.Maxwell & Raymond
Hunt.

League. Cass Pingston, Gladys Shinn Minnie Grizzle, &
Sister Hunt.

Pulpit. Bro.B C.Wilson, Arthur Downs, & Luther Bivens.

Recess for twenty minutes - Called to-gather by singing
Amazing Grace.

A Letter from North View Church was received and
delegates seated.

Committee Reports.

Music — We of the Music Committee wish to report that the
Box church has had two singing schools, intalled a new piano and
has advanced greatly in the last year.

Tecumseh wishes to reports that the choir is improving.

Northview has a good choir.

Earlsboro reports a good choir.

Pleasant Hill reports that their singing is fair.

New Bethlehem reports good singing.

Oak Grove reports that singing is fair.

Spring Hill reports that thier singing is fair.

We urge that each church has one or more singing schools a year, and have choir practice once a week. Signed

Sister W. L. Bean.

Mattie Epperson.

Earline Paris.

Sunday School.

We the committee on Sunday School beg to report, we find each church represented has a growing Sunday School We recommend the use of Free Will Baptist church members for officers and teachers in our Sunday Schools.

Signed

Alice B. Clark.

Ada Dearmore.

Alva Downs.

Temperance

We the Temperance committee beg to report as follow; We believe that any true child of God, born of the spirit will refrain from intoxicating drinks and help hold up the moral standard of the church. We insist that if any of our members be seen intoxicated that it is our duty to lift them up as Christ did and not cast them down. Also show to him our brotherly and sisterly love and Pray for them We trust that the Pastors and members enforce this to the best of their ability.

Signed

Ora Jackson

Lela Williams

Betty Thompson

Prayer Meeting

We the committee on Prayer meeting wish to urge each church to continue Prayer meeting at least once a week and also urge all to attend as Prayer is strengthening to us all. Signed

Fay Wilson

Nova Dunnaway

Ola Smithey

Obituary

We the committee on Obituary report as follows; God called from us Bro Leslie Stevenson of Earlsboro, Joe Shears of Pleasant Hill- Billy Edward, grandson of Bro&Sis A.B Epperson, Charles M. Yeager infant grandson of Bro Will Yeager, Infant child of Bro&Sis Ingle of Box church, Infant child of Bro&Sis Hunt of Spring Hill church
Signed Weston Lawles Joe Guin.

League

We the committee on League beg leave to report as follow: We find that most all have League in our Association. Some good interest and some fair, realizing the League is good work. We urge each church and Pastor to do all they can to get young people organized in the work. We think it very advisable that all League officers and teachers be members of the church.

The League as part of the church should always be subject to the church and avoid the tendency to become an independent body.

That they guard more closely the spiritual welfare and keep themselves unspotted from the world and keep more close to God.

Signed

Georgia Hurst

Each of the above reports read and adopted. The Pulpit committee reports that Bro. Dunnaway will bring the message at the night service. Motion made and carried that we adjourn until 9:00 o'clock Friday morning, Dismissed by Sister Maxwell.

Friday morning service opened by singing On Jordan's Stormy Banks Devotional lead by Farline Paris reading 1st Cor 12. Prayer by Bro. Morris. Visiting brethren, Bro. Ed Morris, Clay Ritchie, & Arthur Hearin, from Dibble Association were extended the right hand of fellowship. A report from that Association was given.

Pulpit committee reports that Sis. Mattie Epperson will bring the message at the 11 o'clock service.

Motion made and carried that we elect corresponding delegate to the Dibble Association. Pete Conner was elected. Delegates to the State Association were Sister W. L. Bean, Ada Dearmore, Earline Paris, Alva Downs and Cra Jackson.

The Thirty-ninth annual association is to be held at Tecumseh Okla. Bro. Clyde Argo will preach the introductory sermon, with Bro. O. D. Wade as alternate.

The Quarterly meetings are to be held as follows; first at Earlshoro, second New Bethelham and third at Spring Hill Bro. Waddell will preach the introductory sermon at the 1st quarterly meeting with Joy Freeman alternate. Recess for ten minutes.

Called to gather by singing Jesus is all the world to me. Resolution no 1&2 were read and adopted, Bro. John Bean requested that the clerk be granted the privilege to write to the county clerk and cancel his credentials. This was voted on and apposed. Motion made that we adjourn until 1:30. Dismissed by Bro. Waddell. Sister Epperson preached a wonderful sermon at 11:00 o'clock service.

Friday afternoon services opened by singing What a Friend Devotion: 1 conducted by Moderator reading Psalm 1. Prayer by Sis. Thompson A special song was rendered. Minutes of the morning Session read and accepted.

The Quarterly meetings are to be held Friday night before each 5th Sunday.

Resolutions no 3,4.&5 were read and adopted. Ministerial Standing reports from each of the following W.E. Dearmore, W.L.Waddle and I.B. Dunnaway.

The ordaining council has recommended Bro. Wenston Lawles for ordination to the ministry. Bro Joy Freeman will be examined and both will be ordained at the night service. Pulpit committee reports that Bro Epperson will fill the pulpit at the night service.

Bro Will Bean was elected or the Association Evangelist. Resolution no 6 read and adopted. Report of the minute money was given by the clerk that made \$12.00. \$10;50 was made up during the Association. Making a total of \$22;50. Motion made and carried that we adjourn. Dismissed by Bro Dearmore

Pastors Report

I have Pastored one church full time, preached 160 sermons, witnessed 20 conversion, preached 15 funerals, married 6 couples Served as moderator in the Oklahoma Association received \$100;00 for service Bro Dearmore

I have pastored one church giving half time, Conducted one revival, helped in one. Witnessed several conversion Baptized 12 Preached 2 funerals. married 2 couples and received \$96;00. W L. Waddle Lexington Okla.

I have pastored one church, preached 60 sermons, have received about \$75;00 for my labors, have received four in to the church Dont have a definite record of conversions or miles traveled' have conducted one revival and help with one, Pray for me that I may do more next year. I.B. Dunnaway

Resolutions

No 1 Be it resolved that we adhere strickly to our Treatise Sec 1, act 1 chapter 2 page 59.

Subject Relation to the church

Every Pastor is required to be a member of a church, and no person is recognized as member or minister of the denomination, who is not a member of some church in regular standing in the denomination.

Be it further resolved that if any minister refuses to affiliate or take membership with a church in regular standing, that we refuse to recognize him, or his work, and that he or she cease to be identified as a Free Will Baptist minister.

No. 2 Resolved that we the First Okla. Association of Free Will Baptist go on record as opposed to the doctrine of the modern theory of pre-milennialism as taught by some Free Will Baptist preachers. Modern Holiness, Later Day Saints Seventh, Day Adventist, other Baptist Bodies. Pastor Russel's literature and Judge Rutherford.

Furthermore if any church, or minister is found to sanction, preach or teach a personal literal reign of a thousand year Christ on earth that they be charged with heresy, and be remanded and if they refuse correction that they be excluded from the church as a heretic

No 3 Resolved that Friday afternoon of each session of the First Okla. Association be spent in a preacher and deacon conference to discuss doctrinal questions

No 4 Resolve That any applicant for license, ordination first show an interest in their calling by attending the quarterly meetings and association and if they do not attend under normal conditions that we refuse to grant credentials to licensees or aspirants to ordination

No 5 Resolved that we urge our deacon and preachers to examine strange preachers to see if they are preaching sound doctrine, before giving them a monthly date to preach.

No 6 Be it resolved that beginning now, we adhere to article 3 of sec. 2 page 62 of our treaties and that our moderator and clerk of our association see that this article is carried out.

Church Letters

Pleasant Hill Church, delegates were Lawton Hurst, Dennial Grizzle and Minnie Grizzle. State of religion—fair, members received 4, dismissed none. One died Bro Joe Shears. 66 resident member, 13 non resident. Good prayer meeting and Sunday School with a average of 30, paid pastor \$56 00, paid evangelist \$16;77. Incidental expenses \$21,60. Have called E. E. Morris minister; I B Dunn, away, John Alsup, Oscar Followell & Clyde Agro. Licensee Joy Freeman and W. E. Hodam. We request you to ordain Bro Joy Freeman, clerk Georgia Hurst.

Spring Hill Church delegates; Roy Thompson, Raymond Hunt and Joe Guin. 136 Resident members. 44 non-resident member State of religion fair, number in Sunday School 65; number in prayer meeting 25, number in young peoples league 40. Minute money \$2.00. We recommend Bro Jim Owens be ordained to the ministry. Pastor for coming year E.E. Morris, Present Pastor Lonie Ward. Ordained ministers D.L. Simpson, J.F. Hagger, W.C. Keyton J. A. Bullard & W.L. Waddle. Licensed ministers Jim Owens Moderator D.L. Simpson Clerk R A Bailey.

North View Church delegates; Frank Keifer, Mary Littleton, and Ida Maxwell, Resident members 35. State of religion good, number in Sunday School 25, number in prayer meeting 20 Amount paid Pastor \$30.00. Incidentals \$9.00. Value of church property \$1,000. Moderator Clyde Argo Clerk Letha Long.

Box church delegates Ada Dearmore and Sister Thompson Resident members 40 non-resident 40. Number dismissed 1 State of religion good. Number in Sunday School 50. Prayer meeting 50, Young peoples League 50, paid pastor \$50.00 Incidentals \$15.00 Ordained minister T.C. Christain W.E. Dearmore Moderator clerk Ambie Tanner

Earlsboro church delegates Mrs. Coley, Downs, and Bean alternates Mrs. Stevenson Newman and Robinson. State of religion good Members received this year 20, baptized 15. Total membership 65 No. in Sunday School 40, paid pastor \$600.00, paid evangelist \$80.00 minute money \$4.00. Ordained minister Sister L. A. Bashaw, Moderator W.L. Bean, clerk Lester Lemons.

Tecumseh church delegates Sister Williams, Charley Paris, Alice Abbott, alternates Earline Paris, Ora & Doc Jackson. Received 4 baptized 2 dismissed 2. Condition of Sunday School good average no. of pupils 50. Paid pastor \$35.00 Evangelist \$46.00. Incidental \$22.00. Present pastor O.D. Wade, pastor called A. B. Epperson. Ordained ministers Bro Wade and Sister Epperson. moderator Rev. Wade. clerk Della Cluck

Oak Grove church delegates L.L. Tallant, Walter Wiggenton, Opal Lawles & Mollie Rowe, Sunday School with 40 enrolled, 32 resident members 22 non-resident, received 6, dismissed 3, Ordained minister V.A. Florence. Licensed minister Winston Lawles, whom we request to be ordained Moderator Virgle Florence clerk Mollie Rowe.

RULES OF ORDER.

- 1 At every calling the meeting shall be opened, and closed with prayer by the moderator, or whomsoever he request.
- 2 All ordained or licensed ministers and deacons in good standing in this Association shall be invited to seats in the annual association.
- 3 Those who speak shall rise and address the moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
- 4 No motion shall be discussed without first being seconded.
- 5 When a motion has been made and seconded; the moderator shall ask: Any discussion or remarks? If none, the question shall be disposed of as usual.
- 6 If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and vote taken separately.
- 7 Motions made and lost shall not be recorded in the minutes unless ordered by the party making the motion.
- 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 the majority of members present.
- 10 No member shall be absent while in session without leave of the moderator, and if so, his name shall be left off the minutes.
- 11 Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected, if necessary before the close of the association.
- 12 Arrangements shall be made at each session, for two or more sermons or equivalent devotional exercises during each day.
- 13 The rules of order shall be read from the chair immediately after the organization of the body.
- 14 Alternation may be made in these rules at any regular session.

ARTICLE OF FAITH

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

2 There is one true and living God, revealed in nature as the Creator Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3 Christ is God manifest in the flesh, in his divine nature truly God, in human nature truly man. The mediator between God & man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4 The Holy Spirit, The Scripture 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 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 man requires.

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

7 The Work Christ, The Son of God, 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 condition 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 Saviour 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 Continue in faith and obedience until death.

9 Election, God determineth 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 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 drink of the water of life freely.

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

13 Gospel Ordinance, Baptism, or immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated.

14 The Christian Sabbath, The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment 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 teaching of the New Testament. Therefore we are opposed 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 do evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, the righteous into eternal life.

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, 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 the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligation 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 Scripture, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, good works endeavor to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, public worship, and the observation of the ordinance of the Gospel, nor 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 the educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and 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.

