

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
First Oklahoma Association
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

Tecumseh Church, Tecumseh, Oklahoma, September 23
to 25, 1936.

The next session will convene with the Spring Hill
Church, East of Lexington, Oklahoma, on Wednesday
night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1937.

OFFICERS

Moderator—Elder A. B. Epperson, Tecumseh, Okla.

Assit. Moderator—Elder W. E. Dearmore,
Wanette, Okla.

Clerk—Earleen Paris, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Asst. Clerk—Callie Freeman, Norman, Okla.

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 brethren to seat in council
9. Appointment of committees
10. New business
11. Report of Committees
12. Miscellaneous business

MINUTES

Of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Session of the First Oklahoma Association

The First Oklahoma Association met in regular session with the Tecumseh Church, September 23-25, 1936.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE

Meeting opened with the singing of "Whiter Than Snow". A Praise Service was conducted by Brother O. D. Wade after which Brother E. E. Morris brought the message. Reading the text from Proverb 29:18. His subject was "Vision". The wonderful message was enjoyed by all.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The body came together with singing. All ministers and delegates were called to the altar and Elders King and Paul Purcell led in prayer.

Elder A. E. Downs read for a scripture, reading Psalms 1.

Moderator being present declared the Association in conference with clerk and assistant at desk.

The temporary committee on Divine Service was Elder Epperson, Brother White, Brother Perrin.

Church letters were called for and read as follows—Earlsboro, Wolf, Menniha, Pleasant Hill, North View and a verbal report of the Spring Hill Church was given by Brother Wilson.

By motion letters were received and delegates seated.

At this time a song was sung and delegates were given the right hand of fellowship.

Petitionary letters were called for and read. Liberty Hill Church was the only one. By motion we received their letter and seated the delegates.

At this time visiting and corresponding brethren were recognized. They were as follows:—

Elder Paul Purcell of Grand River Association;

Elder Will Bean, of First Mission;

Elder Harry Staires, also of the First Mission;

Corresponding Delegate Elder Ed. Morris of Dibble;

Elder Carter of Canadian;

Bro. Bryan Stacy, Asst. Clerk of the Dibble Association.

Each gave a report regarding their various Associations and by motion we accepted these reports and gave them along with the Liberty Hill delegates the right hand of fellowship.

At this time we knelt in prayer and asked God to direct us in the election of officers. Elder Harry Staires led this prayer.

Elder A. B. Epperson was elected Moderator.

Elder W. E. Dearmore, Assistant Moderator.

Earleen Paris, Clerk.

Callie Freeman, Assistant Clerk.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Resolution—B. C. Wilson, Ben Littleton, Homer Perrin.

Divine Service—Mattie Epperson, Homer Perrin and Brother White.

Sunday School—Lawton Hurst, Letha Yeager, Odessia Robinson.

Prayer Meeting—Claudia King, Oscar Followwell, Callie Freeman.

Mission—Ethel Perrin, Letha Long, Zona Reger.

Credential—John Karr, Alice Clark, Della Cluck.

Motion made that we adjourn.

Dismissed by Brother Carter.

11 O'CLOCK SERVICE

Came together with singing. Prayer by Elder Carter.

A special number in song was rendered by Brother Bryan Stacy, E. E. Morris and Earleen Paris.

Elder Othel Staires brought the message, "Love One Another, Even As I have Loved You."

He brought a wonderful message.

Brother John Karr dismissed.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called to order by singing. Elder Will Bean led in prayer. Brother Bryan Stacy read a portion of Psalms 34.

The addition of the Pleasant Hill letter was read at this time.

By a motion the moderator will appoint two committeemen to serve on a temporary examining council.

Those appointed were W. L. Bean and B. C. Munkus. W. E. Dearmore already being a member of that committee.

Resolution No. 1 was read and adopted.

The prayer meeting report was read and accepted.

Resolution No. 2 was read and adopted as a law.

By motion we accepted the actions of the quarterly meetings, during the past associational year. By motion at each association, there is to be a condensed form of the work done in the quarterly meetings read.

By motion the Association gave instructions to the clerk to write the clerk of Cleveland County to cancel the credentials of Brother Simpson. The Examining Council was dismissed to examine Brother Followwell.

Those appointed to be on other committees were:

Temperance—Sister Karr, Minta Mae Simpson, John Grizzle.

Obituary—Earl Stevenson, Ora Jackson, Sister Wilson.

Music—Mrs. Lansdown, Ruby Daniels, Alva Downs.

League—Brother Jay Freeman, Earleen Paris, Dorothea Howell.

Finance—Pete Conner, John Karr, Ben Littleton.

Sunday School report was read and accepted.

Home Mission report was read and accepted.

The Ordaining Council recommends that Brother Oscar Followwell be ordained for the ministry.

The Committee on Divine Service reports that Brother Paul Purcell will fill the stand at the night service.

By motion the churches are to renew the obligation of giving \$10.00 from each church toward building a new church at Pleasant Hill.

At this time Brother Oscar Followwell was ordained to the ministry with Brothers Homer Perrin, B. C. Munkus, and E. E. Morris, acting as Presbytery.

By motion the Association adjourned until Friday morning at 9 o'clock.

Dismissed by Callie Freeman.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Called together by singing. Elder Harry Staires led in prayer. After the wonderful song service, Brother Dewey Sharp of Wewoka led the testimony service which was soul-stirring.

Brother Paul Purcell took the stand. His text being Rev. 3:7-8. His message was one such that would touch the soul of lost men.

Dismissed by Brother Hampton Spencer.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The body came together by singing, "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship."

All delegates met in the altar for a prayer.

Brother Jay Freeman read Isa. 55:12-37; Psalms 23.

Minutes of the Thursday Session were read and adopted.

A verbal report of the New Bethlehem Church was given by Brother Masters. This report was adopted and delegates seated. The music report was read and accepted.

Brother Postum sang a special number.

The report of the Ladies Missionary Society of Tecumseh was read and accepted.

By motion the Moderator is to appoint delegates to the State Association. They are as follows: Mrs. J. W. Short, Frank Palmer, Naomi Snider, John Karr, Alice Clark, Ora Jackson, Callie Freeman.

Resolution No. 3, read and adopted.

By motion two new executive members were elected. The one that is in now will hold office one more year. The one receiving the highest number of votes will hold office three years. While the next will hold office only two years. Elder A. B. Epperson received the most votes. Elder Waddle, the next. Brother Pete Conner was already in office.

At this time the Association and quarterly meetings were placed.

Association meets with the Spring Hill Church.

First Quarterly Meeting at Wolf.

Second Quarterly Meeting at Earlsboro.

Third Quarterly Meeting at Pleasant Hill.

Elder B. C. Munkus is to preach the introductory sermon at the Association. Elder O. D. Wade alternate.

Elder A. E. Downs will bring the message at the first quarterly meeting. Elder W. E. Dearmore, alternate.

By motion, we adjourned for the 11 o'clock service.

Brother Postum dismissed.

11 O'CLOCK SERVICE

Called together by singing. Elder Will Bean filled the stand. Text found in I King 20:18. Subject, "Because They Said." He brought a wonderful message.

Elder Epperson dismissed.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met together by singing. Elder E. A. O'Donnell and Earleen Paris sang "The Home Coming Week."

Elder, Harry Staries read the Scripture Lesson: Matthew 3 and made a wonderful talk. At this time a great outpouring of the spirit was rained upon us and God saved one precious soul, with another at the altar.

By motion the ministers and deacons dispensed with their meeting until the first quarterly meeting.

Committee on Divine Service reported that Elder Paul Purcell would fill the stand through Sunday.

League report read and accepted. A League Program outline for Rally Day was read and adopted.

Resolution No. 4, read and adopted. It was ruled that the executive board appoint a man to comply with the above resolution.

Resolution No. 5, read and adopted.

A collection of \$5.54 was received for our out-going moderator. Elder Dearmore thanked the Lord for the offering.

Credential report read and accepted.

Temperance report read and accepted.

Obituary report read and accepted.

Two ministers reports were read and accepted.

By motion the resolution committee is to write the thanks and sentiment of the visitors which will be read at the beginning of the night service.

By motion the minutes were approved without being read.

By motion we adjourned until our next Association at Spring Hill in September, 1937.

Everyone left with a shout in their soul.

Brother Stevenson dismissed.

CHURCH LETTERS

Pleasant Hill—State of religion good. Members received this year, 12. Dismissed, 5. Baptised, 7. Total membership 60. Amount paid pastor, \$85. B. C. Munkus, pastor.

Tecumseh—State of religion good. Number received this year, 6. 1 death. Amount paid pastor, \$91.04. Amount for evangelists, \$20.50. Good Sunday School. A. B. Epperson, pastor.

Minneha—Good Sunday School. A Young Peoples' meeting of about 45 members. Singing is fair. J. G. Stone, pastor.

Spring Hill—State of religion good. Number resident members 60. Non-resident 55. Amount paid pastor, \$122.00. Pastor, M. M. McKee.

North View—Amount paid pastor, \$12.00. Expense of Church, \$3.00. Evangelistic work, \$2.50. Former pastor, Clyde Argo.

Wolf—State of religion good. Members received this year, 25. Baptised 7. Total membership, 25. Paid pastor \$27.66. Amount for evangelistic work, \$40.00. Amount for building and repairs \$160.00 A. D. Wade, pastor

Liberty Hill—State of religion good. Number of members, 16. A Young People's League. Amount paid pastor \$20.00. Amount for evangelistic work, \$5.86. Arthur Clarida, pastor.

Earlsboro—State of religion good. Members received this year, 45. Number baptised, 13. Number dismissed, 3. Total membership, 96. Amount paid pastor \$600.00. Amount for evangelistic work, \$112.00. O. H. Staires, pastor.

RESOLUTIONS

No. 1—Whereas the North View Church in conference has refused the so-called Holiness folk the use of the church and piano. Be it Resolved, That we as an Association, commend them for their action in the matter.
(Signed)—Committee.

No. 2—Be it resolved that all church property, be property of the Association of which it is a member, so long as it maintains Free Will Baptist Doctrine, supplied by Free Will Baptist ministers, that it is in fellowship. It shall be its own individual body, but when it fails to comply with such practice, it forfeits its right to such government and such property of the Association.

And that this Resolution become an Article in the Constitution.

No. 3—Be it resolved that we the First Oklahoma Association, request each church to require each member to pay five cents per month. The money collected to be sent to the Association Treasurer and be paid out to our needy ministers. More especially our old ministers when needed. The executive board to order such payments.

No. 4—As we feel the need of a Free Will Baptist Church in Shawnee. Be it resolved that this Association select a man to take the matter in hand and see what can be done and request that the brethren and sisters of the several churches co-operate with him with their prayers. And when asked by the executive board for an offering to finance the plan to give as much as the Lord leads.

No. 5—Be it resolved that the body of this Association go on record as thanking very deeply the good work of our retiring Moderator as he has been our Moderator for sixteen years. Present him with a free will offering, in our appreciation of his faithful service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Credential Report—We as a committee have questioned the delegates from the several churches of this Association and find the ministers in good standing.

(Signed)—Committee.

Home Mission—We the committee on home mission work submit the following. We urge all Free Will Baptist Churches to have a Women's Missionary Circle in the church for the benefit of the church and community. It will help the young women and girls to learn about their Savior. Many can be brought to Christ and much good can be done in helping the poor and needy. Many young women can be trained to carry on the mission work.

(Signed)—Committee.

Obituary—We the committee on Obituary report as follows:

God has called from our midst at Earlsboro Church—Atha Mae Boyd, Pleasant Hill; Mrs. Eula Cole and Audrey Dunaway, Spring Hill; Mrs. Roy Bailey, Mrs. Blanche Hollowell, infant of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hunt; Roy Waddle, brother of W. L. Waddle; North View, two granddaughters of Grandmother Howell; Liberty Hill, Mrs. Maud Gay; Box—Granville Tombs, infant child of Starling Ingle, and Allen Tombs; Tecumseh, Sister E. E. Trice; son of Mrs. Effie Childers; Grandmother Turner, mother of Letha Yeager; infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Jackson.

We realized that our loss is Heaven's gain.

(Signed)—Committee.

Temperance—We the Temperance Committee, beg to report as follows:

We believe 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 them brotherly and sisterly love and pray for them.

We trust that the pastor and members enforce this to the best of their ability.

(Signed)—Committee.

Music—We the Committee on Music, beg to report as follows:

We suggest that each church have choir practice at least once each week, and if they can, have a singing school once a year.

We think singing is the life of any service.

(Signed)—Committee.

Sunday School—We of the Sunday School Committee beg to report that we find each church represented in our Association has a Sunday School. We recommend that the teachers urge all pupils to stay for preaching services. And we also recommend that all teachers and officers be members of the Free Will Baptist Church if possible. We also urge members of the church to attend Sunday School.

(Signed):—Committee

Prayer Meeting—We the Prayer Meeting Committee wish to report that we believe prayer meetings should be held weekly in every church.

We believe it gives every Child of God a chance to do something for Him.

We urge all of God's people to attend prayer meeting.
(Signed):—Committee.

League Report—We the Committee on League Work report that we find each league as stated:

Spring Hill—Average attendance 45. Interest fair. Good singing.

Pleasant Hill—Good attendance. Good interest. Launching new Bible Study Program and Song Service to help the cause of Christ.

Box—No league as far as can be learned.

New Bethlehem—Good attendance. Interest fair.

Tecumseh—Good league. Very good interest. Attendance around 30.

Wolf—Good attendance and good interest. Average attendance, 25.

Earlsboro—No league.

Miniha—A good league.

We urge that all churches have an active Young People's League. The League has an influence on some one, probably that no one else can reach. A church with a bad league is in a bad shape. We also urge every league to be present at our League Rally in June. Also our State League Rally.

(Signed):—Committee.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

To the Free Will Baptist Association:

I have preached 90 sermons. Baptised 10. Married 5 couples. Received 7 members. Assisted in 4 revivals. Helped organize 1 church. Traveled 400 miles. Received \$20.00.

Arthur Clarida.

To the 39th Session of the First Oklahoma Association:

I have had the care of one church part of the year. I have preached 15 funerals. Married 7 couples. Served as Moderator of our Association the past year. Made several sick calls. Attended all the quarterly meetings. I ask your prayers that I may do more the next year.

W. E. Dearmore.

OUTLINE PROGRAM FOR LEAGUE RALLY

Opened with singing by choir.

Prayer of dedication for day.

Devotional.

Call to business by President.

Reading of letters from the several leagues.

Vote of approval or rejection.

Program to be rendered by local league.

Talk on league work by member.

Dismissed for dinner.

Called together by singing.

Bible drill and contest.

Any business discussion that arises.

Programs by visiting leagues if time permits.

Each league is to prepare and send to Rally a letter of report of interest, attendance, membership, etc.

Each league is to have ready to render a drama or pantomime from the Word of God as a part of their program.

The contest will cover the first four (4) Gospels of the Bible.

The plans are subject to amendment by committee, which shall be President, Vice-President and Secretary.

Minsters Present

E. E. Morris, Blanchard, Okla.

B. T. Stacy, Blanchard, Okla.

W. L. Bean, Cushing, Okla.

E. P. King, McCloud, Okla.

A. E. Downs, Earlsboro, Okla.

O. H. Staires, Earlsboro, Okla.

A. B. Epperson, Tecumseh, Okla.

O. D. Wade, Tecumseh, Okla.

Mattie Epperson, Tecumseh, Okla.

W. E. Dearmore, Wanette, Okla.

Paul Purcell, Wewoka, Okla.

Jay Freeman, Norman, Okla.

Arthur Clarida, Tecumseh, Okla.

B. C. Munkus, Norman, Okla.

Harry Staires, Drumright, Okla.

Gleanings from Fifth Sunday Meetings

1. Elder D. L. Simpson surrendered his credentials to the Spring Hill Church and the First Oklahoma Association cancelled them.

2. We wish to go on record as opposed to the repeal of the "18th Amendment."

3. Two petitionary churches were taken in during this associational year. Wolf and Liberty Hill.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting the meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer by the moderator, or whomsoever he may request.

2. All ordained or licensed ministers and ordained deacons in good standing in this association shall be invited to seats in the annual association.

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

4. No motion shall be discussed without 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 the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on 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 a majority of the 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 of the association for two or more sermons or equivalent devotional exercises during each day.

13. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the body.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session.

