

MINUTES
of the
FIRST OKLAHOMA
ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1953



Proceedings of The
56th Annual Session



Convened at
Free Will Camp Ground
9 Miles West of Tecumseh
(On Highway 9)

E. L. Ketchum

MINUTES

of the

First Oklahoma Association

of

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CONVENED AT

Free Will Baptist Camp Ground 9 Miles West of Tecumseh on Hiway 9

REV. DELBERT AKINS Moderator
Tecumseh, Oklahoma

REV. PAUL E. RUSSELL Assistant Moderator
1111 E. 11th, Shawnee, Okla.

MRS. FLOYD CASH Clerk
536 N. Douglas, Shawnee, Okla.

MRS. BOB DUNCAN Assistant Clerk
Norman, Okla.

E. C. KETCHEM Treasurer
1542 E. Whittaker, Shawnee, Okla.

The Quarterly Conferences Will Convene at the Camp Ground
Nine (9) Miles West of Tecumseh:

1st—Nov. 19-20, 1953; 2nd—Feb. 18, 1954; 3rd—May 15-16, '54

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Bob Duncan, Norman, Okla.1953-56
E. C. Ketchem, Shawnee, Okla.1950-55
Rev. Vard Wood, Shawnee1953-57
W. W. Hunt, Midwest City1953-56
Rev. E. E. Morris, Oklahoma City1952-55

LEAGUE BOARD

Rev. Delbert Akins, Tecumseh1953-58
Barney Mangham, Oklahoma City1953-57
Rev. Melvin Shelton, Seminole1953-56
Rev. Paul E. Pursell, Shawnee1953-55
Rev. J. R. Hall, Midwest City1953-54

LEAGUE OFFICERS

Mr. and Mrs. Oris Doss, Oklahoma City General Sponsor
Norman Ray, Oklahoma City President
Rev. Bob Duncan, Norman Vice President
Jo Tatum, Oklahoma City Recording Secretary
Peggy Morris, Oklahoma City Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Bob Duncan, Norman Treasurer
Rev. Homer Young, Henryetta Chorister
Pat Smoot, Oklahoma City Pianist
Burney Maugham, Oklahoma City Camp Ground Supt.
Rev. Delbert Akins, Tecumseh Asst. Supt.

DORMITORY SPONSORS

Rev. Bob Duncan, Rev. Jack Dodson, Junior Boys.
Rev. Delbert Akins, Rev. Homer Young, Senior Boys.
Mrs. Fern Duncan, Mrs. Opal O'Donnell, Junior Girls.
Mrs. Alice Holliday, Rev. Cleo Pursell, Senior Girls.

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Rev. Cleo Pursell President
Mrs. Peggy Blackburn Vice President
Mrs. Alice Holliday Youth Chairman
Mrs. Vivian Ketchem Study Course Chairman
Mrs. Mildred Cash Program Chairman
Mrs. Nettie Barnette Benevolence Chairman
Mrs. Opal O'Donnell Secretary-Treasurer

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. A. B. Epperson Tecumseh, Okla.
Rev. Mattie Epperson Tecumseh, Okla.
Rev. Cleo Pursell Shawnee, Okla.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Ed Warner Oklahoma City
Rev. A. B. Epperson Earlsboro, Okla.
W. W. Hunt Oklahoma City
Joan Percy Oklahoma City
Mrs. A. McReynolds Oklahoma City

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Tom Anglin Shawnee, Okla.
Mrs. C. E. Green Shawnee, Okla.
Bobby Nicholsen Seminole, Okla.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Orvil Ray Oklahoma City
Willis Car Tecumseh, Okla.
Mrs. Roy Waddle Norman, Okla.

DIVINE SERVICE COMMITTEE

T. Watson	Seminole, Okla.
Bobby Nicholson	Seminole, Okla.
Mrs. Trula Thompson	Lexington, Okla.
John Blackburn	Henryetta, Okla.
Mrs. Willie Gilliland	Wolf, Okla.
Mrs. M. Akins	Midwest City, Okla.

Monday Night Service—Following Women's Auxillary Day

Services opened by singing "Just Over in the Glory Land," led by Rev. Bailey Thompson; Sister Cleo Purcell, pianist. Song, "When the Roll"—Devotional by Sister Louise Womack. Quartette, Rev. Bailey Thompson, Delbert Akins, Mrs. Fern Dunca and Mrs. Floyd Cash, "The Son Hatth Made Me Free." Solo by Rev. Delbert Akins, "My God Is Real."

Rev. Bob Duncan read Jude for scripture lesson, using for text: "Let us contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints." A very inspirational message admonishing us to be faithful. Benediction by Rev. Bailey Thompson.

The 56th Annual Session of the First Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptists when convened at Camp Ground August 11, 1953, opened by singing, "I'm Not Ashamed," led by Rev. Homer Young. Sister Cleo Pursell, pianist. Song, "I'm Bound for the Promised Land." Prayer by Rev. A. B. Epperson. Conference called to order by Assistant Moderator, Rev. Delbert Akin.

Letters called for and read. Motion to accept same and seat the delegates sustained. Song, "When the Roll Is Called"—right hand of fellowship extended elected delegates. Nomination declared in order for election of officers: Rev. Delbert Akins, moderator; Rev. Paul E. Pursell, assistant moderator; Mrs. Floyd Cash, clerk; Mrs. Bob Duncan, assistant clerk; and E. C. Ketchum, treasurer.

Reading of by-laws by assistant moderator. Petitionary letters called for. Shawnee Free Will Baptist Church presented letter for admission. Same accepted and delegates seated. Visiting brothers and sisters invited to seat in council. Rev. Paul E. Pursell introduced as new member of association. Rev. Pursell is pastor of Shawnee First Free Will Baptist Church.

Two members of Executive Board to be elected. Rev. Vard Wood and Rev. Bob Duncan elected. Motion that moderator and assistant moderator appoint committees.

Divine Service Committee—See Committees.

Business Committee—See Committees.

Auditing Committee—See Committees.

Obituary Committee—See Committees.

Motion to adjourn until 1:30 p. m. Dismissed in prayer by Brother Lester Maynard.

Tuesday Morning

Worship Service opened by singing, "I'll Make It My Home," led by Rev. Homer Young; Sister Cleo Pursell, pianist. Prayer by Sister Della Cluck. Song, "I Love My Savior," and "Anywhere Is Home." Solo, "Pearly White City," by Fern Ray. Quartette, "Peace Like a River." Rev. Delbert Akin, Rev. Homer Young, Lester Manard and Sister Elba Simpson.

Moderator introducing Rev. Paul E. Persel as speaker for the introductory message. Rev. Pursell read Ezra 1:3, using for text, "The Secret of Success in the Lord's Work." An instructive and inspirational message on building for God. Invitation hymn, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Benediction and blessing on noon day refreshments by Brother Arch Wilson.

Tuesday Afternoon

Business session opened by singing "Everybody Will Be Happy" and "Some Glad Day," led by Sister Mildred Cash. Sister Cleo Pursell, pianist. Prayer by Brother Arlie Maxwell. Letter from Rev. George Scott read, requesting a letter from our association. Motion to grant same. Duet, "I'm Not Afraid to Go" by Rev. and Mrs. Bob Duncan. Quartette, "I Can Tell You the Time," by Fern Ray, Sister Elva Simpson, Rev. Homer Young and Rev. Delbert Akin.

Report of Executive Board by Clerk E. C. Ketchem read and motion to accept same.

A rising vote of thanks to Executive Board and Brother A. O. Maxwell in appreciation of their work on Camp Ground. See committee reports.

Tuesday Evening

Worship service called to order by moderator. Singing led by Rev. Homer Young. Rev. Cleo Pursell, pianist. Prayer by Brother A. Maxwell. Special song, "Camping in Canaan." Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cain, Rev. Delbert Akin and Brother Dink Russell. They also sang "Victory in Jesus." Prayer by Brother Lowell Bates. Special song, "Just a Little Talk With Jesus" and "I Want to Know More" by Mrs. Young, Rev. Homer Young, Johnnie Joe Young and Mrs. Bob Duncan.

Song, "I Looked Up" and "Mansion Over the Hill Top," by Duncan Trio, Ronnie, Donnie and Rickey.

Moderator introduced Rev. J. R. Hall as speaker of the hour. Rev. Hall read Acts 2:37 through 4:7, as scripture lesson, using for a text "Aiming at the heart." An inspirational message. Dismissed in prayer by Brother Paul Pursell.

Wednesday Morning

Session opened by singing "I'm Going That Way," led by

Rev. Homer Young, Sister Cleo Russell, pianist. Prayer by Brother Jack Mangham. Sister Vivian Ketchem and Sister George Ray appointed to fill vacancy on Divine Service committee. Credentials committee reported. (See committee reports.) Divine Service committee reported that Rev. Clay Richey, from Dibble association would bring the morning message. Letter from Earlsboro church read and accepted. Rev. E. Morris, Rev. Bob Duncan and Rev. V. Wood resigned from Credential committee. Sister Epperson, Rev. A. B. Epperson and Rev. Cleo Pursell elected to fill vacancy.

Delegates to state association elected as follows: Barney Mangham, E. C. Ketchem, W. W. Hunt, Sister Garda Price and Sister Lorene Borden, from association. From the following churches: Sister Alice Holiday, Capitol Hill; Frances Underwood, Sunny Lane; Ed Warner, Central Avenue; John Straughn, Spring Hill; Brother Chaffin, Tecumseh; Mrs. Floyd Cash, Shawnee First Free Will Baptist; Sister Bonnie Argo, Norman, and Sister Lena Wood, Shawnee church.

Report of National association by Rev. E. E. Morris, national moderator. Introductory speaker for year '54, Rev. Melvin Shelton; alternate, Rev. Delbert Akins.

Be is resolved that Executive, namely, Rev. W. V. Wood, Brother E. C. Ketchem, Brother W. W. Hunt, Rev. E. E. Morris and Rev. Bob Duncan be authorized to sell and convey title to west 100 acres at said present camp ground at the original price. Motion by Barney Mangham. Seconded by Rev. Paul Pursell. Carried.

Women's Auxiliary report read and accepted. (See reports.)

League report read and motion to accept same with amendment that the clause reading church pay \$4.50 and pupil \$3.00, be stricken from record. Motion sustained.

Motion carried that League Board be elected to serve 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 years, respectively. (See League Board.)

Quartet, "Lokking for a City" and "The Glory Did Roll" by Sisters Elba Simpson, Sister Fern Ray, Rev. Homer Young and Rev. Delbert Akin.

Motion that we pay \$100.00 per month and furnish home for caretaker of camp ground. Carried. Motion to adjourn until 1 p. m.

Dismissed in prayer by Brother Watson.

Wednesday 11:00 A. M.

Worship service opened by singing "A Soul Winner," led by Rev. Homer Young; Sister Cleo Pursell, pianist. Prayer by Sister Epperson. Songs, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "Ready." Prayer by Rev. Lonnie DaVault. Song, "Oh, How I Love eJesus," by Duncan Trio. Rev. Clay Richey from Dibble association introduced as speaker of the hour by Clerk. Rev. Richey read I Timothy 6:1-19, using for subject "Eternal Life." A good message on reward and hope of eternal life. Dismissed in prayer and blessings on noon-day meal by Rev. Lonnie DaVault.

Wednesday, 1:00 P. M.

Business session opened by singing, "I'm Going That Way" led by Rev. Melvin Shelton; Sister Cleo Pursell, pianist. Prayer by Brother L. P. Phillips.

Motion that all Quarterly Conferences be held at Camp Ground, namely, Nov. 19, 20; Feb. 18, 19; and May 16, 16. Motion sustained.

Motion each church bring their lunch and all eat together. Carried.

Speaker for First Quarterly meeting: Sister Cleo Pursell.

Motion carried that Executive Board work out a plan and notify each church as to caretaker's pay.

A rising vote of thanks to Tecumseh Church for their preparation of the food.

Motion to adjourn until 1954 session.

Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Melvin Shelton.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Report of Business Committee

(1) Be it resolved that no one person will serve on two boards or committees at the same time whether elected or appointed. Carried.

(2) Be it resolved that the Camp Meeting and Youth Encampment begin on Monday, August 2, 1954. The speaker to be the one selected by the Youth. The Association will convene August 9 through 11. Ladies Auxiliary Day will be the 9th, and Association, 10th and 11th.

The Credentials committee recommended the licensing of Brothers Gene Womack, Lester Maynard, Albert Hunt and Sherman Reese to preach gospel for one year.

The ordination of Brother Earl Judd, Homer Young and LeRoy Bowers to preach the gospel. That the body return Brother Roy Waddle his credentials.

Obituary Committee

We, the Obituary committee, find that God in His infinite wisdom has called home our brothers and sisters—Spring Hill Church: Brothers Ben Bennett and Monroe Thomplinson; Capital Hill Church, Brothers Davis and Woody; Walf Church, Brother Newt Northam. Tecumseh Church, Sister Pearl Macy and Brother Homer Rogers. Pleasant Hill, Sister Teul; Central Avenue, Brother Foutch; Earlsboro, Brother Clyde Boyd. A moment of silent prayer concluded by Rev. A. B. Epperson in memory of our departed ones.

Auditing Committee

The Auditing committee reported as follows: "We, the Auditing committee, report that we find the books to be in order.

Executive Board

Executive Board Reports that they sold Shawnee Camp Ground for \$9,500.00 and purchased present Camp Ground for \$5,000.00.

League Report

MINUTES OF THE YEARLY BUSINESS MEETING

August 8, 1953

Minutes of the Leagues of the First Oklahoma Association when convened at our Camp Ground, 9 miles west of Tecumseh on Highway 9, on August 8, 1953.

Meeting was opened by singing "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There" led by Brother Homer Young with Pat Smoot playing the piano.

Rev. E. E. Morris led in prayer.

Brother Young led in singing "Joy Unspeakable" with Pat Smoot playing. "Won't It Be Wonderful There?" was then sung.

Brother Oris Doss made opening remarks.

President Norman (Curly) Ray took charge and opened the business session.

President Ray called for letters.

Letters were read as follows:

League	Attendance	Tithes
Tecumseh—Fair		\$2.00
Central Avenue—46		2.94
Spring Hill—30		1.00
Capitol Hill—40		14.46
Norman—64		5.89

The letters were accepted as read. Total tithes: \$26.29.

Jo Ann Piercey read the minutes of the previous League Rally.

Minutes were approved of as read.

Sister Edna DaVault read the treasurer's report. Report was received as read.

Election of officers was as follows: General sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Oris Doss; president, Norman (Curly) Ray; Vice President, Rev. Bob Duncan; Recording Secretary, Jo Tatum; Corresponding Secretary, Peggy Morris; Treasurer, Sister Fern Duncan; Chorister, Rev. Homer Young; Pianist, Pat Smoot; Camp Ground Superintendent, Rev. Delbert Akins.

Dormitory sponsors were elected as follows: Junior Boys, Rev. Bob Duncan and Rev. Jack Dodson; Senior Boys, Rev. Delbert Akins and Rev. Homer Young; Junior Girls, Sister Fern Duncan and Sister Opal O'Donnell; Senior Girls, Sister Holliday and Sister Cleo Purcell.

Motion carried that the president be allowed the privilege of appointing the Business committee. He appointed the following: Delbert Akins, Lloyd Plunkett, Bob Duncan, Jo Tatum and Bobby Nicholson.

A motion carried that the Business committee act as the auditing committee.

Gail McClellan was elected to bring the response to the welcome at the next League Rally.

Rev. Delbert Akins was elected to be the speaker at the next rally.

Rev. Melvin Shelton was elected to be the alternate speaker at the next rally.

Motion made that we adjourn until 11:00 worship service.

Sister Edna DaVault dismissed in prayer.

11:00 A. M. Worship Service

Rev. Homer Young led the congregation in singing "The Way of the Cross Leads Home" and "I'm Not Ashamed."

Sister Holliday led in prayer.

Brother Young led in singing "I Love My Savior, Too" and "His Way With Thee."

A quartet composed of Frances Mullins, Martha Ramsey, Paul Don Stark and Glynna Ramsey sang "Beyond the Sunset," accompanied by Jo Tatum.

Gerald Maugham played "Someone to Care" on his steel guitar, accompanied at the piano by Jo Tatum.

"There Shall Be Showers of Blessings" was led by Homer Young with Jo Tatum playing.

Rev. Vard Woods took the stand and brought a message on the reward of those who remember God, their Creator, in the days of their youth.

Rev. Melvin Shelton dismissed in prayer.

1:00 P. M. Session

Rev. Delbert Akins led in singing "God Put a Rainbow in the Cloud" with Jo Tatum playing.

Rev. Damon C. Dodd was elected as evangelist and teacher for 1954 Youth Camp.

Report of Business Committee

Item 1—We, the Business committee, resolve that we extend our encampment in 1954 to 10 days, starting on Thursday and ending on Saturday week, Thursday being registration day. Motion carried to accept the recommendation.

Item 3—Resolve that we let the Camp Ground Director have charge of hiring the cooks for next year's Youth Encampment. Motion carried to accept recommendation.

Item 4—Resolve that we refer the election of the League Board to the Association.

Motion carried that the recommendation be accepted with amendment to read as follows: Resolve that we refer the election of the League Board to the Association and that a permanent board be elected to rotate for one, two, three, four and five years.

Item 5—We, the Business committee, working as an auditing committee, find the treasurer's books in order. Motion carried that we accept this recommendation.

Item 6—Recommend that the present system of the judging of plays and presentation of programs be retained, and that the present judges be retained. Motion carried that we accept this recommendation.

Item 7—Resolve that next year our rallies be held at camp ground and that we register in for rallies on Saturday afternoon, having a worship service Saturday night and that our business session be held on Sunday morning; that the responsibility for feeding and provisions for bunks be given to the officers and League Board along with the planning of the program for the rally. Motion carried that we accept this recommendation.

Item 8—Recommend that the League rallies be Nov. 29, 1953; Feb. 28, 1954; and May 30, 1954. Motion carried that we accept this recommendation.

Item IX—Recommend that the officers and League Board select the teachers and plan the program for next year's youth encampment. Motion carried to accept this recommendation.

Item 10—Recommend that the Leagues send \$5 a month for evangelist and camp ground upkeep, and that this money be sent along with the letter from each League and tithes to

each rally. Motion carried to accept recommendation.

Rev. E. E. Morris was elected by acclamation to bring the introductory message on Saturday night, Nov. 28, 1953.

Motion carried that the president be responsible for getting permanent banners.

Letter from Wolf league was read. Average attendance of 15 and tithes were \$2.38. Letter was accepted as read.

Minutes of the League Officers' and League Board meetings of the past year were read as follows:

LEAGUE OFFICERS AND BOARD MEETING AT PLEASANT HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

March 16, 1953

Rev. Bailey Thompson led in singing "It's An Unfriendly World," with Carolyn Hurst playing the piano. This was followed by "I'll Carry the Load" and "I'm Glad That Jesus Came."

Brother Perry Argo led in prayer.

Brother Curly Ray took charge and opened the business session.

Dr. Homer Willis from Paintsville, Ky., was nominated by Rev. Lonnie DeVault to be the evangelist and teacher to replace Rev. Damon C. Dodd in the 1953 Youth Camp. Rev. Willis was elected by acclamation.

Motion was made that we pay Brother Willis \$15 a day and his room and board. Motion was seconded. An amendment was made that we pay the above mentioned expenses plus the traveling expenses. Motion carried with amendment.

A motion was made that four ladies be hired to have complete charge of the kitchen except for planning the menu for Youth Camp, and pay them \$50 apiece. Motion carried.

A motion carried that Rev. Wade Jernigan teach Church Discipline, Rev. Delbert Akins teach Evangelism, Rev. Homer Young teach Rudiments of Music, and that Rev. Homer Willis, visiting evangelist, teach Free Will Baptist Doctrine to all classes.

A motion was made that Brother Curly Ray appoint three men to work out a skeleton program for Youth Camp to be presented at our next meeting. Motion carried.

Brother Ray appointed Rev. Bailey Thompson, Rev. Bob Duncan, and Brother Oris Doss.

A motion carried that we have camp ground recreational supervisors.

It was decided that the theme for the next rally will be "Limiting God Through Our Lives," taken from Psalms 78:41.

A motion carried that we adjourn.

Rev. Bailey Thompson dismissed in prayer.

**LEAGUE OFFICERS AND LEAGUE BOARD MEETING AT
THE NORMAN FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

May 31, 1953

Rev. E. E. Morris was elected as teacher at Youth Camp to teach Church Discipline.

Brother Oris Doss and Sister Holliday were elected to supervise the recreation.

Next meeting of the Board and officers was set for June 13, 1953, at Spring Hill.

LEAGUE BOARD MEETING AT NORMAN CHURCH

July 2, 1953

Motion made and accepted that the League Board grant to the Executive Board of the First Oklahoma Association \$335.00 to pay for pressure pump, at Camp Ground located 9 miles west of Tecumseh on Highway 9.

Motion made and seconded to accept Sister Tatum's resignation as Senior Girls' dormitory sponsor. Carried.

Sister Fern Duncan was nominated and elected by acclamation to replace Sister Tatum as Senior dormitory sponsor.

Motion carried that registration of Leaguers begin Sunday, August 2, 1953, at 2 p. m.

Motion carried that Brother Barney Mangham and Brother Oris Doss recommend to the Executive Board that Executive Board borrow enough money to complete rest rooms in girls' dormitory.

**LEAGUE OFFICERS AND LEAGUE BOARD MEETING AT
CAPITOL HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

July 23, 1953

Meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Lonnie DaVoult.

Rev. Delbert Akins took charge and presided in the absence of President Curly Ray.

Report of the last Board meeting was read by Rev. Bob Duncan.

It was decided that registration for Youth Camp would not begin on Sunday, August 2, because of interference with the services in the churches on Sunday night.

Motion carried that the outlined program presented to meeting be approved as the official program for the youth camp.

Motion carried that girls be allowed to wear jeans during the recreational period.

Motion made that Sister Edna DaVoult be charged with the responsibility of registration. Motion carried with amend-

ment that gave her authority to choose anyone to help her that she wanted.

Motion carried that we adjourn.

Rev. Delbert Akins dismissed in prayer.

President, Norman (Curly) Ray.

Recording Secretary, Jo Tatum.

YEARLY REPORT FOR 1953 YOUTH CAMP

Registration Fees Received	\$532.50	
Extra Meals	24.50	
TOTAL		\$557.00
	\$557.00	
Amount Paid Out	534.93	
TOTAL Balance		\$ 23.07
Offerings	88.34	
Making Total		\$111.41
Total Cash Received		\$794.32
Expenses		535.72
Leaving Balance of		\$258.60

which was turned over to Treasurer August 8, 1953.

This does not include \$44.30 worth of groceries that was invoiced to Rev. Delbert Akins for Association.

DISTRICT CONVENTION—AUGUST 10, 1953 AT CAMP GROUND

Sister Peggy Blackburn acted in president's place as she was unable to attend.

Sister Fern Duncan led us in two songs, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "Wonderful Words of Life."

Prayer, Brother Purcell.

Devotional was given by Sister Vivian Ketchem. 8c Psa. and 4v and Job 40c 2v. Why God is so mindful of us, as well as He was of Job.

Welcome, Sister Louise Womack; prayer, Sister Duncan; response, Sister Virginia Johnston; motion carried that the committees be appointed. Registration committee, Sister Heffington and Sister Duncan; Business committee, Sisters Womack, Martin, Holiday.

Motion carried by acclamation—Sister Cleo Purcell.

We sang "An Empty Mansion" and "To the Work." Special by Calitol Hill ladies, "He Whispers Sweet Peace to Me."

Prayer, Brother Ed Morris; Sister Cleo Purcell, Isaiah 60:1-4; John 4:35; Matt. 14:15. Look upon the world as needing the gospel, how to meet the need through personal services; dismissed by Brother Duncan and blessing on the food.

Afternoon Session

Opened by song, "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Special by Duncan Trio. Scripture reading by Sister Borden. Psalms 24:1-4. Altar prayer.

Reading of minutes of previous meeting and Treasurer's report. Motion carried to accept same.

Report on. Registration—32.

Recommendation from Business committee. Manual Study course by Sister Purcell, Aug. 27 at Camp Ground. Motion carried. Motion carried to send \$25 for missions.

Standing vote of thanks to Tecumseh church for hospitality. Motion carried \$10 for minute money.

Reports from Norman, Seminole, Capitol Hill, Wolf, Central, Shawnee.

Election of officers for following year: President, Sister Cleo Pursell; Vice Chairman, Sister Peggy Blackburn; Youth Chairman, Sister Alice Holliday; Study Course Chairman, Sister Vivian Ketchem; Program Chairman, Sister Mildred Cash; Benevolence Chairman, Sister Nettie Barnett; Secretary and Treasurer, Sister Opal O'Donnell.

Accepted report of Auditing committee. Books reported in good order.

Election of delegates to State Convention at Norman: Sisters, Ward, Edna Lou Vaughn, Vernice Martin, Fern Duncan, Mary Shelton.

First Oklahoma Associatoin Dist. Auxillary Treasurer's Report July, 1952 to July, 1953

Co-Labor Fund	\$199.00	
Orphanage	101.50	
Missions	200.23	
Literature	62.47	
National Hdq. Bldg. Fund	30.00	
Bible College	25.00	
Hammon Organ Fund	16.00	
Check Book	2.00	
Minute Money	10.0	
Gifts to Ministers	25.00	
State Tithe	1.84	
State Dues	12.20	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$685.24
Total Receipts	\$766.08	
Disbursements	685.24	
Balance in Treasury		\$ 80.84

Secretary-Treasurer Opal O'Donnell

CHURCH LETTERS

Tecumseh: State of religion good, prayer meeting good, members received 40, dismissed 3, died 2, resident members 101, non-resident 52; total 153. Condition of Sunday School good, average number of pupils 88, officers 4, teachers 6. Paid pastor \$2160.00. Building and repairs \$1,162.15; orphanage \$98.26; miscellaneous \$71.76. Value of church property \$14,662.00. Rev. Delbert Akins, pastor; Vivian Davis, clerk.

Shawnee First Free Will Baptist: State of religion good; members received 27, baptized 3, dismissed 20, died 0. Resident members 83; non-resident members, 31; condition of prayer meeting good, Sunday School good, average number of pupils 83, officers 4, teachers 7. Paid pastor \$2,240.00. Evangelist \$137.50. Missions \$281.79. Building and repairs \$672.00; Education \$140.00; Publication, \$25.75; value of property, \$15,000.00. Paul E. Pursell, pastor. Mrs. Floyd Cash, clerk.

Earlsboro: State of religion good; total number of members 50; died 1; condition of Sunday School fair; number of officers 3; teachers 2. Paid pastor \$780.00; building and repair \$169.27; publication \$21.02; value of property \$1,000.00. A. B. Epperson, pastor; Mrs. H. E. Stevenson, clerk.

Sunny Lane: State of religion good, members 100; baptized 14; dismissed none; died none. Condition of prayer meeting, good; Sunday School good; average number of pupils 115; officers 3; teachers 5. Paid pastor \$2,075.00; evangelist \$165.10. Building and repairs \$1,250.00; education \$51.86; publication \$100.00. Pastor J. R. Hall; Mrs. Kathryn Layton, clerk.

Pleasant Hill: State of religion good; members received 4; dismissed 4; died 1. Total membership 59. Condition of prayer meeting good; Sunday School fair. Average number pupils 35; officers 6; teachers 4; paid pastor \$1,415.00; evangelist \$60.00. Missions, \$141.74. Building and repair \$907.24. Education \$60.90; publication \$12.00. Value of property \$5,500. Bailey Thompson, pastor; Louise Allen, clerk.

Seminole: State of religion good; members received 4; baptized none, dismissed none, died none. Total membership 88. Condition of prayer meeting good; Sunday School good; average number pupils 75; officers 3; teachers 5. Paid pastor \$1920.00; evangelist \$100.00; mission \$95.30; education \$96.30; publication \$49.18; value of property \$5,000.00. Melvin Shelton, pastor; Nancy Snow, clerk.

Spring Hill: State of religion, good; members received, 11; dismissed, 5; died, 2; total membership, 77. Condition of prayer meeting, good; Sunday School, good; average number pupils, 85; officers, 4; teachers, 7; paid pastor \$1,608.50. Evan-

gelist, \$200.00; missions, \$74.25; building and repairs \$224.70; love offering \$91.70; one-half acre land, \$50.00; miscellaneous, \$237.25; property value \$4,400.00. Vard Wood, pastor; Trula Thompson, clerk.

Capitol Hill: State of religion, good; members received, 40; baptized, 30; died, 2; total, 403; condition of prayer meeting, fair; Sunday School good; average number pupils, 225; officers, 12; teachers, 10 paid pastor \$3,800.00 evangelist, \$175.00; publication, \$225.00; value of church property, \$30,000.00; paving, \$954.00; organized mission work at Del City.

Pleasant Grove: State of religion, good; members received, none; died, none; dismissed, none; total membership, 25. Condition of Sunday School, fair; average number pupils, 16; officers, 2; teachers, 3; paid pastor, \$162.50; building and repairs, \$23.45; education, \$6.36. A. L. McReynolds, pastor; Mary Joy, clerk.

Central Avenue: State of religion, good; members received, 20; baptized, 1; dismissed, 14; died, 1. Resident members, 86; non-resident, 70; total, 156. Condition of prayer meeting, fair; Sunday School, good; average number of pupils, 89; officers, 5; paid pastor \$3,435.00; evangelist, \$180.00; building and repairs, \$3,205.00; incidentals, \$1,378.89; missions, \$527.59; education, \$188.52; publication, \$148.75. Rev. Jack Dodson, pastor; uJanita Warner, clerk.

Norman Church: State of religion, good; members, 139; received, 40; baptized, 10; condition of prayer meeting, good; Sunday School, good; average number pupils, 107; teachers, 8; officers, 3. Paid pastor, \$2,645.00; evangelist, \$337.10; missions, \$99.75; building and repairs, \$3,168.15; education, \$302.67; miscellaneous, \$470.34; children's home, \$102.40; value of property, \$29,050.00. Bob Duncan, pastor; Martha Miller, clerk.

Henryetta Church: State of religion, good. Members received, 15; baptized, 6; dismissed, 4; total, 66. Condition of prayer meeting, good; average number pupils, 48; officers, 2; teachers, 6; paid pastor \$1,820.00; evangelist, \$100.00; missions, \$55.98; building and repair, \$500.00; value of property, \$4,000.00; homer Young, pastor. Claude Daniel, clerk.

Wolf Church: Number members, 82; received, 28; dismissed, 11; died, 1; Sunday School average number of pupils, 41; officers, 6; teachers, 4; Paid pastor, \$1,265.00; evangelist, \$372.81; education, \$64.40; Children's Home, \$88.00; building and repairs, \$159.94. Property value, \$3,000.00; Cecil McKenzie, pastor; Cecil R. Siler, clerk.

Shawnee Free Will Baptist Church: State of religion,

good; members received, 41; died, none; dismissed, none; condition of Sunday School, good; average number pupils, 45; officers, 2; teachers, 5. Condition of prayer meeting, good. Paid pastor, none; evangelist, none; missions, none. Vard Wood, pastor; Dorris Tate, clerk.

Ordained Ministers Belonging to Our Association

Akin, Rev. Delbert, Tecumseh
Argo, Rev. Perry, Norman
Argo, Rev. Clyde, Moore
Bulard, Rev. J. A., Lexington
Barbee, Rev. Richard, Blanchard
Bean, Rev. Will, Okla City
Bean, Rev. J. E., Okla City
Bowers, Rev. LeRoy, Tecumseh
Duncan, Rev. Bob, Norman
DaVoult, Rev. Lonnie, Nashville, Tenn.
Dodson, Rev. Jack, Okla City
Epperson, Rev. Mattie, Tecumseh
Hurd, Rev. George, Tecumseh
Harmon, Rev. Cecil, Okla City
Hagar, Rev. J. F., Noble
Hadam, Rev. W. E., Moore
Hall, Rev. J. R., Del City
Johnston, Rev. I. N., Seminole
Land, Rev. W. A., Okla City
McKenzie, Rev. Cecil, Wolf
McRéynolds, Rev. Alvis, Okla City
McAffrey, Rev. Alvis, Lexington
Miller, Rev. Josie, McLoud
Morris, Rev. E. E., Okla City
Owens, Rev. Jim, Norman
Pursell, Rev. Paul E., Shawnee
Pursell, Rev. Cleo W., Shawnee
Smithey, Rev. Ira, Okla City
Sparks, Rev. Lewis, Jr., Shawnee
Shelton, Rev. Melvin, Seminole
Thompson, Rev. Bailey, Norman
Waddle, Rev. Carl, Okla City
Waddle, Rev. Roy, Norman
Waddle, Rev. Luther, Norman
Wood, Rev. Lynn, Okla City
Wood, Rev. W. V., Shawnee
Wilson, Rev. V. L., Seminole
Walters, Rev. Carl, Shawnee
Young, Rev. Homer, Henryetta

Licensed Ministers

Doke, Dan, Okla City
Hurst, J. T., Okla City
Hurst, Philmore, Norman
Hunt, Albert, Del City
Judd, Earl, Del City
Maynard, Lester, Okla City
Reese, Sherman, Okla City
Van Horn, Ronnie, Okla City
Womack, Gene, Shawnee

CONSTITUTION OF THE FIRST OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE: From long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist, realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a group of churches, do hereby ordain this constitution for our progress and to perpetuate better associational government.

Article I

NAME: This Association shall be known as the First Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptists of the State of Oklahoma.

Article II

MEMBERSHIP: This Association shall be composed of Free Will Baptist Churches who maintain Gospel order and agree with denominational doctrine and practices; and favor the enterprises that have been endorsed by this Association.

Article III

DELEGATES: The members of this Association shall be ministers, deacons, and church clerks belonging to any church in this association; also three delegates from each local church in this association; also three delegates from each local church. There must be a quorum of at least five churches present and a written record made of all transactions. No member of the executive board shall delegate authority to any other member of said board to cast his vote for him in anything. The board shall have the power to call all the Association in conference by notifying each church ten days prior to conference and they shall have the authority to change quarterly meetings or association if the place where said quarterly meetings or associations is to meet is not able to care for the meeting, and their decisions shall be final. This must be done in time to notify each church.

Article IV

OFFICERS: The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer and executive board consisting of five members. The board members to be elected so as to require one to be elected each year. To this board is delegated power to act in behalf of and for the First Oklahoma Association from one meeting to another of said Association, and shall have power and authority to elect such officers as might be deemed best for its own government and to carry out the plans and undertakings of First Oklahoma Association. The board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body.

To this executive board is further delegated power to collect funds and employ and superintend such work for the field as may seem best, and the means on hand may warrant. They shall have power to convey or mortgage any real estate or associational property. This executive board shall keep a record of all work done, money raised, meetings held, and make a full and complete report to the next regular meeting of the Association and shall further receive, hold, manage, use, control, and convey any property entrusted to said Association for any purpose in accordance with the purpose of the donor or donors and in no case divert it from its original object.

The chairman and treasurer of said executive board shall sign all deeds and bonds, notes, etc., and any other papers by which First Oklahoma is to become legally held. It shall be the duty of this executive board to meet at each regular or adjourned session and as often as may be necessary, and any member absenting himself from the meetings three times may be dropped from the board and his successor elected. No meeting of the executive board shall be legal unless at least three must be present.

Article V

NEW CHURCHES: Any regularly organized Free Will Baptist Church (Treatise Page 42, 1947), who desires to unite with First Oklahoma Association may be received by letter and elected delegates.

Article VI

QUESTIONS: No questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered in its own church.

Article VII

PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE: Any church that is a member of the First Oklahoma Association that fails to have a pastor for two years becomes the property of said Associa-

tion; however, that at anytime during this two years it will be the business of the executive board to assist such a church in securing a pastor or if need be, in finance; or if a condition should arise that it would not be advisable for this church to continue its work, it would be the board's duty to take charge of said property.

Article VIII

CREDENTIALS: When a church desires that one of its members should be examined for license or ordination, it shall be the duty of the council in the examination to find out as nearly as possible if the candidate is qualified.

The candidate is to be examined by a set of questions. We recommend these questions and unless they are answered scripturally and satisfactory to the approval of the board, they will not be licensed or ordained.

A:

1. Are you in regular church attendance?
2. How many times have you been in church this year?
3. Do you attend prayer meeting?
4. Do you support the church with tithes and offerings?
5. How many have been saved under your ministry?
6. How many times have you preached in the last six months?
7. Do you have regular appointments?
8. How much time do you give to study of the Gospel?
9. What are your convictions and purposes as a minister.

B: REPUTATION:

1. This information shall be learned from the delegates from his respective church.
2. As to the report from within and without the church, this should consist of kindness, meekness and love.
3. Is GOD first and above all in your life?

C: DOCTRINE—Consisting of Doctrine.

1. Father, Son and the Holy Ghost.
2. Divine Government and Providence.
3. Primitive state of man and fall.
4. Atonement.
5. Call to the ministry.
Question: How do you know that GOD called you to the ministry?
6. Bible Repentance.
7. Justification and Sanctification.
8. Faith and Regeneration.
9. Perseverance of the saint.
10. Lord's Day.
11. The Church.

12. Tithing.
13. Ordinances of the Gospel.
 - a. Lord's Supper.
 - b. Baptism.
 - c. Feet Washing.
14. Death.
15. Second Coming of Christ.
16. The Judgment.
17. Duties of the Minister.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the infallible Word of God, and the only safe rule of faith and practice. II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21.

2. That there is but one true and living God, and in the God Head of Divine Essence, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Gen. 17:1; I John 5:7.

3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures and cannot extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature. Pho. 5:1-19.

4. That salvation, regeneration, sanctification, justification and redemption are by life, death, resurrection, ascension, and intercession of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12; Titus 3:5.

5. That the joys of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal. Matt. 25:46.

6. That he that shall endure to the end the same shall be saved. Matt. 24:13; Rev. 2:10.

7. That baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the saints' feet are the ordinances of Jesus Christ, appointed in the church, and none but true believers are proper subjects, and the only proper mode of baptism is immersion. Mark 1:4-9-10; Luke 23:30; John 13:14.

8. We believe in the sanctity of the first day of the week or the Lord's day, and that it ought to be observed and spent in the public worship of God, and that on it, we should abstain from our worldly concerns except in cases of necessity and mercy. Ex. 31:15; Deut. 5:12; Matt. 12:12.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the body, both the just and the unjust, but every one in his own order; those who have done evil to the resurrection of damnation, and that God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:34; John 5:28; I Thes. 3:16.

10. 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 singly engage to promote the honor of God. John 13:35; Gal. 6:10.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man; yet none can partake of His divine benefit only by his repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, infants and idiots excepted. Acts 20:21; Tim. 2:5-6; John 3:14-16; I Peter 3:21.

12. We believe that the Lord's people are one in Him, and therefore should be one at His table. I Cor. 1:1-11; 27-28; John 17:11.

BY-LAWS

1. The moderator or assistant moderator, or in their absence, the oldest minister present, shall call the Association into conference.

2. Each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3. Five members from two or more churches shall constitute a quorum. A less number may adjourn until such quorum is present.

4. Visiting brethren are invited to seats as advisory members.

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

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 separately.

7. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the moderator.

9. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in Christian spirit.

10. The ruling of the moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

11. Any minister opposed to any of the enterprises endorsed by the Association will not be entitled to a seat in Conference and we will not seat any minister in this Association that teaches the Baptism of the Holy Ghost separate from regeneration or the birth of the Spirit.

12. No question from any church shall come under the

consideration of the Association unless it has been first discussed in its own church.

13. At each Association arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent devotional exercises each day.

14. When a church has died (had no pastor for two years), the Association has the power to take possession of that church property to protect the welfare of the denomination.

15. The voting body of the First Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptists, shall be ordained ministers, ordained deacons, regularly elected delegates, and church clerks, who are members of the Free Will Baptist Churches, of said Association in good standing.

FREE WILL BAPTIST 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 void 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 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 of the Gospel.

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

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship,, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gos-

pel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, or its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the 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.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read, and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating delegates.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Petitionary Letters called for.
7. Reading Rules of Order.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of Committees.
10. Unfinished Business.
11. New Business.
12. Reports of Committees.
13. Miscellaneous Business.

