

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
GAINESCREEK ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

Red Oak Church, Thursday Night Aug. 18 to 20 A. D. 1938

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. J. R. Evans,	N. McAllister, Rt. 1
Ass't. Mod. Eld. J. M. Snowder,	Scippio, Okla.
Clerk & Treasurer, Tillie Oliver,	Scippio, Okla.
Ass't. Clerk, Marie Roberts,	Canadian, Okla.

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RULES OF ORDER

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

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

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

4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition as motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

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

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association if necessary.

12. In the future meetings of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons each day or other equivalent devotional exercises.

13. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.

14. Alteration may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. House called to order.

2. Letters called for and adopted.

3. Right hand of fellowship.

4. Election of officers.

5. Reading of Rules of Order.

6. Petitionary letters;
7. Invite visiting brethren to seat in council.
8. Appointment of committees.
9. New business.
10. Report of committees.
11. Miscellaneous business.

Proceedings
of the
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
GAINES CREEK ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICES

House called to order by Elder Tommie Roberts. The Moderator and Assistant being absent. Opening song, "Tell It To Jesus." Prayer by Elder J.M. Snowder.

Devotional services were conducted by Elder S. H. Braden. After which the message was brought by Elder Jess Henson. Scripture reading: Genesis-28th chapter.

Dismissed by Elder J. M. Snowder.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by Elder J.R. Evans, Moderator and Assistant being absent. Singing by choir, followed by a united prayer.

Eld. J. A. Claxton being the oldest minister took charge. Scripture reading 21st. chapter of Rev. by Moderator. Moderator called for letters from old churches and recieved:

1. Tannie Hill. Bro. Donnie Langham, Bro. and Sister Frank James, Sister Mamie Arpelar, Sister Talbot.

2. Scipio: Bro. and Sister Ray Weddle, Bro. and Sister Jim Gilstrap, Bro. and Sister D. W. Clifton, Sister Lecta Clifton.

3. Nale: Sister Lelia White, Sister Vaught, Sister Cooper, Sister Blevins, Sister W. T. White.

4. Red Oak: Bro. Burkes, Sister Pryor, Bro. H. A. Williams.

5. Spring Hill - Verbal report.

6. Plain View - Verbal report.

7. Blue Mountain - Bro. Burl Maddux, Bro. Erwin Smith, Sister Florence Gragg, Alternates. Sister Erwin Smith, Sister Burl Maddux, Sister Flossie Counts.

Motion made and carried we receive the letters as read and seat the delegates.

The right hand of fellowship was given all delegates present.

The Association now being organized the following officers were elected.

Moderator, Eld. J. R. Evans, Assistant Moderator, Elder J. M. Snowden, Clerk and Treasurer, Tillie Oliver, Assistant Clerk, Marie Roberts.

Moderator called for corresponding delegates and received as follows:

Eld. H. O. Turner, Eureka.

Eld. J. E. Yandell, Roberts McGee.

Eld. E. A. O'Donnell, First Mission, uninstructed.

Motion made and carried we seat them in council. Moderator extended to them the right hand of fellowship.

APPOINTMENT of COMMITTEES

The following committees were then appointed by Mod. and Assistant;

DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE---Eld. Kamplain, Sister Leila Clifton, Bro. Frank James.

SABBATH SCHOOLS--- Sister Flossie Counts, Sister Bertha Evans, Sister Bryant, Sister Annie Wikerson.

BILL of ARRANGEMENT---Elder J. E. Yandell, Bro. D. W. Clifton, Eld. J. A. Claxton, Eld. Willie Sanders.

TEMPERANCE---Bro. John Smith, Bro. Ben Hickman, Elder Walter Boyd, Elder Leon Salters, Sister W. T. White, Sister Florence Gragg.

QUARRY and REQUEST---Bro. Edd Wright, Bro. W. T. White, Bro. Mantooth, Bro. Geo. Bailey.

OBITUARY---Sister Bertie Clifton, Sister Frank James, Bro. John Smith, Bro. H. A. Williams, Eld. Jess Henson.

MINISTERS' and DEACONS' CHARACTERS and CRED-

NTIALS—Bro. Jim Gilstrap, Bro. Burke, Sister Lecta Clifton, Eld. J. E. Yandell, Sister Clarence Sanders.

FINANCE—Bro. H. A. Williams, Bro. Small, Eld. S. H. Braden, Elder Norman Cathey, Sister S. H. Braden.

By motion business was suspended until 2:00 o'clock Friday afternoon. Dismissed by H. O. Turner.

The business session was followed by a short intermission after which congregation came together by singing. Prayer by Sister Lelia Clifton. Everyone enjoyed a special song rendered by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell and his two daughters, Cleola and Mary Florence.

The message was brought by Elder E. A. O'Donnell. Sub. "The Word" Scripture reading, John 6-63. Dismissed by Eld. Ora Gragg.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by Mod. Singing by the choir. Prayer by Eld. J. M. Snowder.

Moderator called for reports and received as follows:

REPORTS

Report on Sabbath Schools:

We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report as follows: We adopt last year's report with the following amendment, we ask the children to persuade their parents to come to Sunday School.

Old report—We believe it is the duty of each church to maintain a Sabbath School. Let it be understood we, as children of God, recommend union as the base of all the people of God our Father in Heaven. That we use Free Will Baptist literature when possible, and we unite with our efforts to keep our children in Sunday School, that it might be the means of bringing them to Christ.

Sister Flossie Counts; Chairman.

Bill of Arrangements.

We your committee on bill of arrangements beg leave to report as follows: We find so many of our churches without pastors and so many of our ministers idle, we request that our churches call pastors and take care of them in a financial way, so they can go preach.

We recommend that each member lay by in store on the first day of the week as taught in First Cor. 16:2. Second Cor. 9:5-6-7.

Elder J. E. Yandell, Chairman.

Devotional committee reported—Elder Clifford Meyers to conduct the devotional services, and Elder H. O. Turner to bring the message Friday night.

Motion made and carried we suspend business until 9 o'clock Saturday Morning.

Dismissed by Elder Willie Sanders.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

House called to order by Moderator. Singing by Choir. Prayer by Elder Kampplain.

Elder Clifford Meyers took charge of the devotional services. Many wonderful testimonies were given.

The message was brought by Elder H. O. Turner.

Scripture reading—Ezekiel 22:30.

Concluded by Elder J. M. Snowden.

Dismissed by Elder J. M. Snowden.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by Mod. Singing by choir. Prayer by Bro. Ben Hickman.

Elder Tommie Roberts read the 17th chapter of Matt. as a scripture lesson.

The right hand of fellowship was extended all delegates who had come in since Friday morning.

Moderator took up business where left off Friday afternoon.

Received the report on Temperance—We your committee on temperance beg leave to report as follows—That we strictly abstain from breaking of the Sabbath; such as fishing and hunting.

Temperance implies that we should be free from intoxicating drinks of any kind, that we use our efforts to get rid of whiskey and its makers, when it occurs in our observation, by communicating with the enforcement officers of our land. That we should not contract indecent habits in our Devine services, such as some deceivers of our country are now doing to an excess, and thereby the influence of the true Gospel is weakened. That we adhere to temperance in the highest Bible sense. That we obtain from the very appearance of evil.

Bro. J. B. Hickman, Chairman.

Committee on Divine Services reports Elder J. E. Yandell

to bring the message at 11:00 and that he use "The Origination and Perputation of the Church as a subject.

Motion made and carried we suspend business until 2:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

Dismissed by Elder Tommie Roberts.

The business session was followed by a short intermission after which congregation came together by singing. Prayer by Elder J.E. Yandell, who also brought the message. Subject the "Origination and Perputation of the Church." Scripture reading--St. Mark 13-34. The message was very much enjoyed by all present. Dismissed by Elder J.R. Evans.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by Moderator. Singing by choir. Prayer by Elder Ora Gragg. Moderator omitted Scripture reading. Took up business where left off before noon.

Report on Quarry and Request.

We your committee on Quarry and Request beg leave to report as follows, we ask that all Free Will Baptist Ministers make a report of their success to the next session of the Association.

Also that the names of all the committee be put in the minutes.

Bro. Lee Mantooth, Chairman.

Report on Minister and Deacons---Characters and Credentials.

We your committee on Ministers and Deacons Characters and Credentials beg leave to report as follows--Having examined Credentials of Ministers present we find them all legally ordained and in good standing.

We your committee on obituary beg leave to report as follows--We sorrow because of the loss of our dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we pray that the richest of blessings rest upon the broken hearted.

Sister Flossie Count's baby Joy--Died July 11, 1938--Blue Mountain Church.

Bro. J.M. Sanders, Died Nov. 19, 1937, Red Oak Church
Infant baby of Bro. and Sister Wilson Clifton, Died Scipio Church.

Elder Jess Henson, Chairman.

Report on Finance

We your committee on finance beg leave to report as follows
We find that each church paid the sum opposite their names
for minute money.

Red Oak	\$2.25
Scipio	\$3.25.
Blue Mountain	\$3.60.
Nale	\$3.25.
Tamie Hill	\$2.25.
Spring Hill	\$1.00.
Bro. Bryant donated	.50
Sister Davis donated	.50
Other donations	\$1.15.
Total	\$18.00

Elder Norman Cathey, Chairman.

By motion all reports were received and committees were discharged.

The following corresponding delegates were appointed to Eureka association. Elder J.R. Evans, Elder Ora Gragg, Elder and Sister Tommie Roberts, Bro. Edd Wright

To Roberts McGee-- Elder J.A. Claxton, Elder S.H. Braden.

The delegates were then appointed to represent us in the State Association when convened with Dibble Church on Tuesday night before the 4th Sunday in Oct. 1938.

To: wit- Elder J.R. Evans, Elder Tommie Roberts. \$4.63 was collected to send as minute money.

The 5th Sunday meetings were then located as follows--

First---Tammie Hill---Second---Nale --Third-- Red Oak.

Fourth--- Scipio.

Saturday night services

House called to order by Moderator: sining by choir followed by a united prayer. After which Elder Norman Cathey took charge of the devotional services.

The message was brought by Elder J.R. Evans.

Subject-- "That God cannot lie." Scripture-- Titus Ist chapter 1-2-3- verses.

Dismissed by Elder Shelton.

Sunday morning Services: House called to order by Elder Tommie Roberts. Opening song; "Father Along." The singing was followed by a united prayer.

Elder Tommie Roberts led Memorial services. Concluded by Elder J.A. Claxton.

Dismissed by Bro. Jewel McCullar.

OUR MINISTERS PRESENT

Elder J.R. Evans----N. McAlester, Okla. Route 1

Elder Clifford Myres----Scipio, Okla.

Elder S.H. Braden----Indianola, Okla.

Elder J.A. Claxton----Indianola, Okla.

Elder Clarence Sanders---Canadian, Okla.

Elder Willie Sanders---Canadian, Okla.

Elder Norman Cathey----N. McAlester, Okla. Route 1.

Elder Jess Henson---Haywood, Okla.

Elder Walter Boyd----McAlester, Okla.

Elder W.T. Roberts---Canadian, Okla.

Elder Robert Leon Salters---Canadian, Okla.

Elder Ora Gragg---Hartshorne, Okla.

VISITING MINISTERS

Elder H.O. Turner---Stigler, Okla.

Elder E.A. O'Donnell---McLoud, Okla.

Elder J.E. Yandell---Red Oak, Okla.

Elder William G. Shelton---Durant, Okla.

Elder E.H. Tarwater---Kiowa, Okla.

Elder John Logan---Haywood, Okla.

The next session of the association will convene with Blue Mountain Church $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south east of Hartshorne, on Thursday night before the 3rd Sunday in Aug. A. D. 1939.

Elder Tommie Roberts was elected to preach the introductory sermon at the next Association. Elder Ora Gragg, alternate.

Motion made and carried that the clerk select subjects to be discussed in the fifth sundays meetings also that she select the Ministers to discuss them and notify them. Each member in Association is asked to select subjects they would like to hear discussed and mail to clerk.

By motion the clerk was given the remaining balance after minutes are paid for and mailed out. Also she was given \$3.25 at association for services.

Elders William G. Shelton and E. H. Tarwater were received in counsel. And old time handshake was vey much enjoyed by all present and one precious soul redicated his life to God.

Clerk was to have Elder O'Donnell to print minutes.

Moderator--Elder J. R. Evons.

Clerk-- Tillie Oliver.

CONSTITUTION

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

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

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

3. The members thus chosen and convened to be de nominated the Gains Creek Association of Free Will Baptists

being composed of sundry churches in the Gains Creek Association the ass'n having no power to lord it over God's heritage nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

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

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association who are to petition by letters and delegates and if upon examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

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

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

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

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

10. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

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

Resolved, that we earnestly request all of our ministers and deacons and churches composing this Association to co-operate with each other and to assist in every way they can to help further the gospel and that each church should help their pastor and if an evangelist should visit any destitute place and organize churches that we urge upon the people to assist the Evangelist so he can go and preach the word.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, Father Son, and Holy Ghost and these three are one in divine essence power and glory. Rom. 1:20, John 1:17-21.

2. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testament is the word of God and the only infalable rule of faith and practice. 2nd Tim. 3:16 Mat. 5:18.

3. We believe that God created good and gave him Holy Commandments whereby he should live holy but man voluntarily disobeyed the Commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same; where by all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by fall, and that man is unable to save himself with his own power, but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory, that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Gen. 3:17, Heb. 2:9.

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

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God. Jonah 4:11, Mark 10:14, Deut. 1:39.

6. We believe that all Christians must preserve in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life, for "blessed are they that do His Commandments that they may have right to the tree of life and enter through the gates into the city. Rev. 22:14, Matt. 24:13.

7. We believe that Baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode; even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life, showed his humble example to His children and bids us walk therein. John 3:22, Romans 6:34-45, Matt. 29:19-20, Matt. 3:16.

8. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace in great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the in-

struction of His word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely come and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. I Cor. 12-13, Eph. 3:7, Rev. 22:17

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

11. We believe that none have a right to baptism, only those who have a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have a right to administer the same only those who have come under the hands of the presbytery of elders and each church ought to have a pastor, deacons, and clerks chosen by the church, ought to have office during the good pleasure of same in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other scriptnres relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, and then it must be unanimous. Titus 1:5, Acct 14:23, 2 Cor. 6:6

12. We believe it is the duty of each church to essemble themselves together once a month and it is the duty of the paster of the church when sitting fourth the Lord's Supper and washing the Saint's feet to let a man "examine himself and so let him eat." 1 Cor. 11:28, John 13:14.

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

14. We believe in the resurrection of the dead of both the just and the unjust; the resurrection of the just to glory and Immortality in the presence of God; the unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. Mat.

CHURCH COVENANT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

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

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

Motion made and carried we enter into conference to transact any business which might come before the body.

3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith. But should remember that our relations to each other are closer and obligations more binding than that of a common bond of Christian Charity. In adopting this Covenant, we became as a family and assume in a christain sense the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.

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

5. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord.

by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners; but will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the natural powers which the Lord has given us to praise His holy name. We will sing with those who sing and pray with those who pray.

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

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

LETTER OF DISSMISSAL

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

Done in Chhrrch conference this day of.....
....., 19.....
....., Pastor....., Clerk

FORM OF CHURCH CONEERENCE

- 1—Call Church Conference.
- 2—Call for peace of Church.
- 3—Call for visiting bretheren 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?

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

Post Office.....

Date.....

We, the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist),
worshipping at....., met in conference and
elected the following delegates to represent us in the Gaines
Creek Association when convened with.....
Church, whom we pray you to seat to aid in all your deliber-
ations, to-wit:.....

Statistics

State of Religion.....

Sunday School.....

Prayer Meeting.....

Meeting Days.....

We paid our pastor, Eld.....

Called Eld..... as our pas-
tor for the ensuing year.

Ordained as Deacons.....

Resident Members.....Non Resident Members.....

Received by confession.....; By Letter.....

Total Membership.....

We ask for the next session oi the.....

We ask for the 1st.____ 2nd.____ 3rd.____ Quarterly
Meeting

Elder____ We send \$____ Minute money
Moderator

____ Church Clerk

CHURCHES	Pastors	CHURCH CLERK
Blue Mountain,	W. T. Roberts	Lola Gragg
Spring Hill.	None	C. C. Cromwell
Red Oak	Ora Gragg	Hazel Williams
Nale	W. D. Higgins	Lelia White
Scipio	J. E. Yandell	Tillie Oliver
Plain View	None	Keddie Blevins
Tannie Hill	W. T. Roberts	Bertha Evans
Total		

Membership					
Received					
Disssmised					
Died					
Average S. S. Att'd					
State of Religion.					
27	0	0	0	0	40
18	0	0	0	0	Fair
50	0	0	1	30	Good
41	0	0	0	45	Good
152	0	6	0	35	Fair
12	0	0	0	25	Good
300	0	6	1	175	

