

Duplicate

MINUTES

of the

Forty-Third Annual Session

of the

Church of God (Denominated)

FREE WILL BAPTIST

of the

GAINES CREEK ASSOCIATION

Held with the Crowder Church August 12, 13, & 14, 1954

THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD WITH THE NALE CHURCH
ON THURSDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN AUG. 1955

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OFFICERS

Rev. Cliff Myres	Moderator
Rev. R. A. Venable	Assistant Moderator
Sister Lorene Stacy	Clerk
Sister Opal Hickman	Assistant Clerk

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whosoever he may request.
2. Ministers present invited to seat are allowed to take part in debate on all subjects and to vote
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 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. Motion 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

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| 1. House called to order | 5. Reading of Rules of Order |
| 2. Letters called for and adopted | 6. Petitionary letters |
| 3. Right hand of fellowship | 7. Invite visiting brethren to seat |
| 4. Election of Officers | 8. Appointment of Committees |
| | 9. New business |
| | 10. Report of committees |
| | 11. Miscellaneous business |

THURSDAY NIGHT

The Gaines Creek Association met and convened, Thursday night August 12, 1954 at the Crowder Free Will Baptist Church, congregational singing no. 98. "It Won't be Very Long." Prayer by Brother Holdridge from the Eureka Association. The preaching service was conducted by Rev. Cliff Myers of Tannehill. His text was: "If I do Not The Things of My Father believe Me Not", which is found in John. The song, "Softly and Tenderly" as the invitation song. Dismissed by Bro. Alex Shrophshire.

FRIDAY MORNING

House called to order by Rev. Jess Henson. Prayer by Rev. Harry Lee. Motion was made to enter into conference. Rules of order read by Rev. Jess Henson, moderator called for letters and received.

Lone Oak delegates, Sister Fannie McCracken, Sister Mary Cox and Bro. Howard Cox. Nale Delegates: Sister Hessie Nale, Sister Vera Masters and Sister Rosa Dassler.

Crowder Delegates: Bro. Al Williams, Sister Al Williams, Bro. Joe Holloway, Sister Ellen Norwood, Sister Eddie Eldridge.

Lone Oak Delegates: Sister Lorene Stacy, Sister Lillian Lott, Sister Neoma Bowen, Bro. Finis Hickman.

Tannehill delegates: Bro. Bud Grey, Bro. Bill Wise.

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 house now being organized, the following officers were elected. Rev. Cliff Myers Moderator, Rev. R. A. Venable, Assistant Moderator Sister Lorene Stacy, Clerk Sister Opal Hickman, Ass't. Clerk. Moderator invited all visiting Brothers and Sisters to seat in council.

Motion made and seconded to take a five minutes recess. Called together by singing congregation song. The Devotional was given by Bro. Bryant of McAlester Church. Preaching was by Rev. Holdridge.

Motion was made and seconded that the session adjourn until 1:30 pm.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Session Services opened with singing. Prayer was offered by Sister Lillian Lott. Scripture Reading Psalms 1 by Rev. Harry Lee.

The following committees were then appointed by the Moderator and the Assistant:

Examining The Reverends Walter Boyd, Harry Lee, Jess Henson.

~~Sunday School~~:-- Sister Rosa Dassler, Bro. Grey, Sister Lelia White, Bro. Al Williams, and Rev. Jess Henson.

Resolutions:-- Rev. Walter Boyd, Bro. W. T. White, Sister Lillian Lott. Sister Imogene Lee and Sister Betty Dassler.

Temperance:-- Bro. Howard Cox, Bro. Finis Hickman, Bro. Bud Grey, Sister Vera Masters, Sister Eddie Eldridge.

Obituary:-- Bro. Bud Grey, Sister Mary Cox, Sister Ellen Norwood and Bro. Alex Shropshire.

Omission:-- Rev. Harry Lee, Rev. Jess Henson, Rev. Walter Boyd, Bro. W. T. White, Bro. Bud Grey.

League:-- Sister Ellen Eldridge, Sister Vera Masters, Sister Effie Lott, Sister Fannie McCracken, Sister Mary Cox, Sister Imogene Lee.

Finance:-- Bro. W. T. White, Bro. Al Williams, Rev. Walter Boyd, Rev. Harry Lee, Bro. J. P. Billings.

Ministers and Deacons Character and Credentials, Bro. Al Williams, Sister Fannie McCracken, Sister Sudie Venable, Sister Lillian Lott, Sister Lelia White

Motion made and seconded that a committee be appointed to take to state association matter of Deacons without credentials.

Motion made to suspend business until nine-thirty Saturday morning. The closing prayer was by Sister McCracken.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Friday night service came together with the singing of "Power in the Blood". Prayer was by Bro. Davidson, and the Devotional by Rev. Walter Boyd. The message was brought by Rev. Austin Jensen, followed by Rev. Holdridge. Bro. Barlow dismissed.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Saturday Morning Session was called to order by the Moderator. The Devotional reading was by Rev. Cliff Myers. The moderator called for reports and received as follows:

Examining:- Brothers to be ordained as Deacons found in good standing.

Sunday School:- We, your committee on Sunday School, beg to report that we find all Sunday Schools to be in fair condition. We recommend that each Sunday School encourage visitors through the assets of the schools. Bro. Jess Henson, Chairman.

Obituary:- We, the committee on Obituary, beg leave to report that we sorrow over the loss of Sister Davidson, but we know that our loss is Heaven's gain. The Crowder Church requested that the song "I'll Fly Away" be sung in remembrance of her. Bro. Bud Grey, Chairman

Finance:- We, the Finance Committee, recommend that each church that did not send \$10.00 with the church letter do so immediately and that they send \$10.00 with letters each year hereafter, to be used by the clerk for incidental expenses and send money with letter to State Association.

Rev. Harry Lee, Chairman

Omission:- We, your Committee, beg to report that we urge all churches to have ordination blanks on hand when ordaining ministers and Deacons so that they may record them; and we urge all pastors to preach on tithing semi-annually. Furthermore, that our churches be more self-supporting.

Rev. Jess Henson.

Motion was made and passed to grant the clerk the right to order ordination blanks for deacons and ministers.

Temperance:- We, your committee beg leave to report as follows: That we abstain from all appearance of evil and that we use our influence to destroy strong drink and keep in touch with the law of our country, in order that we may live lives sound and Godly as become Saints. Sister Eddie Eklridge. Chairman

League:- We, the League Committee, suggest that the League have rallies on every fifth Sunday. That a program banner be purchased for the purpose of giving to the League presenting the best program. That the League be organized into a body with officers. That every older person in the association be urged to get behind his local league as well as the rallies and help in every way possible.

Meeting was called to order by singing song No. 68. The devotional was by Bro. Alex Shropshire. Preaching was by Rev. Walter Boyd Scripture was John 14 1-2 followed by a song by Jess Henson, "When I Make the Last Move".

Motion was then made and seconded to adjourn until one o'clock pm Bro. Williams dismissed the membership.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

At One O'Clock the session opened with congregational singing. The prayer was led by Bro. Bud Grey. The Devotional was by Rev. Harry Lee. Resolution Committee gave this report:

We, your committee on resolutions, beg to report as follows: Each Church shall call its Pastor before the meeting of the association and they shall make every possible effort to care for their Church Bro. W. T. White

It was voted to hold the next Fifth Sunday Meeting at Lone Oak on Friday night before August 29th. Rev. Harry Lee was elected to bring the message and Rev. R. A. Venable was named alternate.

It was voted that the association meeting in 1955 be held at Nale on Thursday night before the third Sunday in August. Rev. Jess Henson to bring the message with Rev. Walter Boyd to be the alternatae

The following were ordained as deacons: Bro. Bill Wise from the Tannehill Church, who chose as ordaining council Rev. Harry Lee, Rev. R. A. Venable and Rev. Jess Henson. The charge was read by Rev. Jess Henson -- 1st Timothy - 3rd chapter.

Bro. Johnie McCadoo from the Nale Church, who chose, as ordaining council Rev. R. A. Venable, Rev. Barb Hickman and Rev. Jess Henson. The charge was read by Rev. Henson -- 1st Timothy - 3rd chapter.

Motion was made and seconded to give clerk and assistant power to print minutes.

The closing message was given by Rev. Harry Lee using scripture John 13:34 The devotional was given by Rev. R. A. Venable

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn this session until next Association Meeting Time. Bro. Rodden dismissed

Second fifth Sunday meeting will be held at Lone Grove, the third at Crowder and the fourth at Nale.

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE. From long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination, being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a church; and to preserve and maintain correspondence and co-ordination with us, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better denominational government.

Article I

NAME: This organization shall be known as the OKLAHOMA STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS.

Article II

PURPOSE: The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify the work of the various bodies composing this State Association, and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the Kingdom of God in connection with the various bodies in the Association, or that may hereafter be represented therein.

Article III

REPRESENTATION: This association shall be composed of all Ordained Ministers and Deacons with membership in some local Church which is a member of a district association with membership in the State Association and an equal number of delegates, equal with the number of Churches composing said Association and the delegates shall be endorsed by their respective association.

Article IV

FINANCE: Each association shall send Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each elected delegate.

Article V

DISCIPLINE: This State Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or practices that may properly come before it from any of the bodies composing said organization, furthermore if there be any question of discipline, doctrine or practices on the part of a subordinate association, delegates of that association shall not be seated until these questions have been settled to the satisfaction of the Credential Committee.

SEC. 2: Decisions of the Credential Committee may be appealed. All appeals coming before the State Association when sitting in a Committee as a whole. (2) By a special committee whose report shall be voted on without discussion.

Article VI

OFFICERS: The officers of the State Association shall consist of a Moderator, and Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, and Assistant Clerk, and an Executive Secretary who shall also serve as Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the close of each regular session.

SEC 2: Committees, as necessary, shall be appointed by the Moderator, unless otherwise provided for, and shall hold office until their work is completed, or until their successors are elected.

Article VII

BOARDS: All standing boards shall be composed of Five (5) members who shall serve terms of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 year, exclusive of the General Board which shall be composed of one member from each subordinate association and the chairman of each standing board. The standing boards shall include the Executive Board, Mission Board, Christian Education Board, Publication Board, Superannuation Board, Sunday School Board, and the League Board.

Article VIII

DUTIES AND RULES OF STANDING BOARDS: 1. **Executive Board.** To this board is delegated the power to act in behalf of and for the State Association from one meeting to another for said Association, and shall have the power and authority to select such officers as might be deemed best for its own government and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the State Association. The board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body. To this Executive Board is further designated power to collect fund and employ and superintend such work for the field as may seem best, and the means on hand may warrant. They shall deliver Oil and Gas leases upon any real property owned by the association, for bonuses and rentals as in the discretion of said Board.

This Executive Board shall keep a record of all work done, money raised, meetings held, and make a full and complete report to the regular meeting of the Association and shall further receive, hold, manage, use, control, and convey any property entrusted to said State Association.

The chairman and secretary of said Executive Board shall sign all deeds and bonds, notes, etc., and any other papers by which the State Association is to become legally held.

The Board shall have the power to call the Association in conference by notifying each subordinate Association at least Ten (10) days prior to conference.

2. **General Board.** It shall be the duty of this board to meet with the executive board one day preceding the State Association to hear the reports of the Standing Boards and to make recommendations to the state associations. They shall also serve as a Credential Committee.

3. **Missions Board.** It shall be the duty of this board to work in connection with the national, foreign and home mission boards, and to promote an active missionary program in and for the State of Oklahoma. They shall elect a treasurer who shall handle all mission money.

It will also be their responsibility to investigate and assist, if necessary, any new church. This board should thoroughly investigate the ability of a church to support an organization before assistance is pledged.

4. **Christian Education Board.** It shall be the duty of this Board to promote and encourage religious training in connection with our denominational institutions, and to encourage and plan Worker's Institutes. They shall also be charged with the responsibility of raising funds to promote Christian Education.

5. **League Board.** It shall be the duty of the State League Board to plan and assist in every way possible the League work throughout the state. It will also be their responsibility to promote an active League work in each subordinate association and to encourage League Rallies.

6. **Sunday School Board.** Their duties shall include the planning and operation of the State Sunday School convention and the encouragement of the organization of district conventions. They may carry through any plans they think wise to actively promote Sunday School work in the State.

7. **Superannuation Board.** This Board, working in cooperation with the National Superannuation Board and district boards, shall provide a definite program of support for retired ministers.

8. **Publication Board.** This Board shall have under their direction the printing of tracts, papers, books, pamphlets, etc., and shall encourage proper advertising in the local church.

Article IX

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the State Association by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

Free Will Baptists

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE**—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD**—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. **CHRIST**—Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified and is our ever-present Savior and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the 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 highest welfare of man requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN**—Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST**—The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION**—The conditions of salvation are: 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 Savior and Lord, with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION**—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ, men become His elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF WILL**—The human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield 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 take of the water of Life freely.

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

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES**—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **TITHING**—God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament: Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:33) and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." 1 Cor. 16:2.

15. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH**—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. **RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION**—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked shall "go-away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

