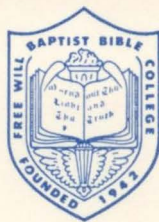


Minutes
OF
Green Country Association
OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION**

**WHEN CONVENED SEPTEMBER 15-16, 1972 AT
FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
VIAN, OKLAHOMA**



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Mr. R. E. Spencer

Minutes of The
First Annual Session

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First Annual Session

OF

Green Country Association
Free Will Baptist

When convened September 15-16, 1972, at

First Free Will Baptist
Church

Vian, Oklahoma.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Rev. Coolidge Manes-----Moderator
Rev. Layman Garrison----Ass't. Moderator
Bill London-----Clerk
Virginia Garrison-----Ass't. Clerk
Donald F. Mathews-----Treasurer
Lena Garrison-----Ass't. Treasurer

Green Country Association Is A Member
Of State And National Associations Of
Free Will Baptists.

The Oklahoma State Executive Board met with Delegation from the Vian Free Will Baptist Church, The House of Prayer Free Will Baptist Church, The Maple Free Will Baptist, and Reverend Parrish of the Mineral Springs Free Will Baptist Church upon the request of these churches that desired to form an Association and join the State of Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Association. (By letter from Rev. C.C. Manes to Rev. Homer Young Sept. 23, 1971. The letter was filed by Clerk of Executive Board.

Board members present:

Rev. Clarence Shepard, Rev. Ray Gwartney, Rev. Lonnie Davault, Rev. John West, Rev. James Cearley, and the State of Oklahoma Executive Secretary, Rev. Homer Young.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Clarence Shepard, chairman of the Oklahoma State Executive Board.

The congregation sang "The Gloryland Way" and "It must have been the Lord". Brother Lonnie Davault brought the devotion using St. Luke 9:23 "The Test of Fellowship" as his text.

The moderator called for names of pastors present who wished to form an association with delegation. Rev. C.C. Manes, pastor of Vian Free Will Baptist Church, delegates Bro. Bill London, Bro. Bill Hutchings, Bro. Farrell Mathews, Bro. Phillip Holt, Rev. Laymon Garrison, pastor of the Maple Free Will Baptist Church located five miles north, one mile west of Muldrow, Oklahoma, delegates Bro. Walter Riggs, Bro. Leonard Burrow, and Orvil Lee Ross.

Rev. Garner Garrison (not an ordained minister) pastor of The House of Prayer Free Will Baptist Church located six miles north of Gore, Oklahoma, Bro. Lonzo Smith, and Bro. Ray Deen. These brethren were invited to sit together by moderator stating purpose to be examined by the Executive Board of State of Oklahoma for purpose of organizing a District Association. Section five of Robert Rules of Order was read by Moderator from National Free Will Baptist Treatise.

The purpose of organization was called for by the moderator. Rev. C.C. Manes stated "These Churches are isolated from any association and felt they should form an association. Rev. Laymon Garrison stated that his church was not affiliated with and District Association. Bro. Garner Garrison stated that we wish to promote harmony of the Churches of this area and also reach into other areas.

Ministers and delegates were investigated by Executive Board concerning Free Will Baptist Doctrine.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved that we proceed to organize an association. The Bible was presented by Rev. John West. Bylaws and Constitution of National Association Treatise 1958 Edition pp 85 and 86 were read and accepted as Bylaws and Constitution.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved that the name of the newly formed association be named Green Country Free Will Baptist District Association of Oklahoma State Association.

Nomination was then opened for Associational officers. Officers elected were as follows:

Moderator---Rev. C.C. Manes, Vian, Oklahoma
Assistant Moderator---Rev. Laymon Garrison, Route One Vian, Oklahoma.
Clerk---Bro. Bill London, Route one, Vian, Oklahoma
Assistant Clerk---Sis. Virginia Garrison, Vian, Okla.
Treasurer---Bro. Farrell Mathews, Box 4, Gore Okla.
Assistant Treasurer---Sis. Lena Garrison Route one, Gore, Oklahoma.

Executive Board:

Five Years---Lonzo Smith
Four Years---Walter Riggs
Three Years---Garner Garrison
Two years---Laymon Garrison
One year---C.C. Manes

The Free Will Baptist Treatise was presented by Rev. Lonnie Davoult and adopted. The right hand of fellowship was extended to delegation by members of Oklahoma State Executive Board. Prayer of consecration led by Rev. Homer Young.

Motion was made and seconded to accept "Give the clerk power to petition Oklahoma State Association for membership".

Motion made and seconded to adopt the cooperative plan of support which means sending 75 per cent of associational income to State Association and retaining 25 per cent in association.

Motion made to adjourn conference. Benediction by Rev. John West, Rev. Clarence Sheperd, moderator, and Rev. James Cearly, Clerk.

1972-1973 OFFICERS, GREEN COUNTRY ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST:

MODERATOR: Rev. Coolidge Manes, Vian, Oklahoma

ASSISTANT MODERATOR: Rev. Layman Garrison,
Route 1, Vian, Oklahoma

CLERK: Bill London, Route 1, Gore, Oklahoma

ASSISTANT CLERK: Virginia Garrison, Route 1 Vian,
Oklahoma

TREASURER: Lena Garrison, Route 1, Gore, Oklahoma

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Helen Thomas, Route 1,
Gore, Oklahoma

REPORTER: Faye Emberton, Muldrow, Oklahoma

ASSISTANT REPORTER: Helen Swon, Vian, Oklahoma

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Rev. Tommy Ballard, Five years

Rev. Lonzo Smith, Four years

Walter Riggs, Three years

Rev. Garner Garrison, Two years

Rev. Layman Garrison, One year

EXAMINING BOARD

Rev. M.C. Parrish, Three years

Rev. Layman Garrison, Two years

Rev. Coolidge Manes, One year

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Helen Swon, Three years
Helen Thomas, Two years
Bill Hutchings, One year

The Green Country Association met September 15, 1972 with regular worship service opening with prayer by Brother M.C. Parrish. The song service was led by Sister Loretta Hutchings. Devotional service was led by Brother Laymon Garrison. The message was brought by Brother Tommy Ballard.

We re-convened September 16, 1972 at 10:00 A.M. The business session was opened with prayer by Brother Lonzo Smith. Rules of Order were read by Brother Coolidge Manes.

Letters from Maple, House of Prayers, Vian and Mineral were read. Maple sent Bro. Arvill Ross and Wadie Riggs to be examined as deacons. The House of Prayers sent Brothers Frank Thomas and Alfred Holman to be ordained as ministers. They sent Brother Ray Deen to be ordained as a deacon. Vian sent Tommy Ballard to be ordained as Minister.

Motion carried that Laymon Garrison select resolution and pulpit committee.
They were as follows:

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:

Wesley Owens
Walter Riggs
Frank Thomas

PULPIT COMMITTEE:

Garrett Hutchings
Watie Donelson
Gene Emberton

Motion carried that we select a committee to make up a book of minutes from our first year's meetings.

COMMITTEE:
Laymon Garrison
Bill London
Virginia Garrison

Motion carried that we elect a director and assistant director for our youth camp next year.

DIRECTOR:
Garner Garrison
ASS'T. DIRECTOR Bill Rogers
PRESIDENT Laymon Garrison

Motion carried that we select a committee of three to be responsible for literature, treasury, and advertising of our youth camp.

LITERATURE: FERN REAL

TREASURER: Bill London

ADVERTISING Barbara Ballard

A financial report was read by Helen Thomas which read as follows:

Balance June 17, 1972	\$256.83
Church Camp Offering	90.50
Paid Church Off	90.50
Receipts from Churches	449.17
Paid out-'Phone Bill	20.00
State Association	336.88
Balance August 31, 1972	349.12
Ledger Receipts	\$1,851.92
Bank Deposits	1,672.83
	179.09
Ledger Disbursements	\$1,502.80
Checks (incl. last Pymt to Assoc.)	1,323.71
	179.09
Cash Payments	
Ledger Book	1.25
Rm. & Bd. for Evangelist	87.26
Youth Camp	90.58
	179.09

Motion carried that we retain the auditing committee with three years tenure with one leaving each year.

Those chosen: Bill Hutchings, one year, Helen Thoman, two years and Helen Swon, three years.

Motion carried that we select three men for an examining committee:

M.C. Parrish---Three years

Coolidge Manes--One year

Laymon Garrison--Two years.

We re-convened at 2:15. The examining board found all the candidates pleasing. Motion carried that we accept them.

Tommy Ballard was elected as five year man for the Executive Board by acclamation.

It now stands as follows:

Tommy Ballard--Five years

Lonzo Smith--Four years

Walter Riggs--Three Years

Garner Garrison--Two Years

Laymon Garrison--One Year.

The Pulpit Committee chose Brother M.C. Parrish for the evening message.

Motion carried that Faye Emberton be elected by acclamation for reporter and Helen Swon as her assistant.

The clerk, Bill London, and assistant Virginia Garrison were retained.

Moderator Brother Manes and his assistant Laymon Garrison were retained in office.

Meetings for the coming year are as follows:

December-----Mineral

March-----Maple

June-----House of Prayer

September-----Vian.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. House called tor order by Moderator.
2. Rules of Order read.
3. Call for letters from churches.
4. Seating of delegates.
5. Right hand of fellowship given to delegates.
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Appointment of committees.
8. Election of Officers.
9. New business.
10. Adjournment of association.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every meeting, business shall be opened and conducted by prayer by the Moderator, or whosoever he may request.
2. Those who wish to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all discussions.
3. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.
4. When motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes the discussion, the Moderator shall put the question; "Shall it be discussed?" If negative the question shall not be discussed.
5. If any proposition or motion under discussion contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.
6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.
7. No one shall speak more than twice on any question without special leave of the Moderator.
8. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

9. The Moderator shall object to any discussion not carried on in a Christian spirit.
10. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.
11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the association, if necessary.
12. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.
13. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

BY LAWS OF THE GREEN COUNTRY ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST.

1. This association shall be known as "The Green Country Association of Free Will Baptist".
2. This association shall be composed of members chosen by each church that is in good standing with this association, not to exceed three delegates from each church, and on producing letters shall be entitled to vote; also all ordained ministers, deacons, and their wives.
3. This association shall not have power to usurp authority over or legislate to any member church, but shall act as an advisory council only.
4. No changes shall be made in the rules or constitution of this association without consent of two-thirds majority vote by members present at any regular session of the association.
5. This association forbids our ministers to teach or preach sanctification as a second definite work of grace, separate and apart from the regeneration of holiness, or conversion; or that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of the Holy Ghost. We believe in the spiritual gifts outlined in 1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13, and 14.
6. The executive Board shall constitute the association when the association is not in session.
7. This association shall have an Examining Committee consisting of three (3) regularly ordained Free Will Baptist ministers.

8. The Examining Committee shall examine ministers at the request of the church which the candidate is a member to be licenced for one (1) year.

9 The Examining Committee shall examine at the end of one (1) year for ordination at the request of the church which minister or deacon is member.

10. The Examining Committee shall examine any ordained minister or deacon coming into this association.

11. Be it resolved that we do not ordain any minister until he has a work.

50 12. Money other than allotted funds shall be divided ~~75~~ percent to the co-operative plan and ~~25~~ per cent kept in the association. 50

13. This association preaches and practices the praying for the sick by laying on of hands and anointing with oil as stated in James 5:14.

14. This association adopts the Free Will Baptist Treatise as rule, faith, and practice.

15. This association adopts the Free Will Baptist church covenant as stated in the treatise.

16* Association Youth Rally monthly, second Saturday night, rotate between churches.

17. Association Treasurer's books be audited annually, during month before annual associational meeting.

*No. 16 ammended to read: Every third month on second Saturday night, beginning May 1972 at Mineral Springs.

TEMPERANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That our churches co-operate with the Sooner Alcoholic and Narcotic Education, Inc., and that our pastors warn their people, especially the youth, of the dangers of using alcholic beverages, narcotics, barbituates, and other harmful drugs.

2. We do not condone the use or sale of tobacco, alcholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance

harmful to the body, and that our ministers and deacons set the example of total abstinence.

3. That our churches conform to modest dress using 1 Peter 3:3-7 as our guide.

4. That we oppose any type of gambling, whether it be raffles, parimutual betting, questionable contest, or card playing.

5. That we oppose pornography, and support efforts to stop sale of this type of literature.

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 avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanctions of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men".

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

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able to promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprise 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.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprise, the support of missions, the success of Sabbath 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. God: We believe in one true and living God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit equal in divine essence, power and glory. St. John 1:1, 1 Cor. 8:6, 1 John 5:7, and St. John 10:30.

2. We believe the Bible which is composed of scriptures of the Old and New Testament was given by inspiration of God; and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, and only infallible rule of faith and practice; 11 Peter 1:19-21; 11 Tim. 3:14-17, Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

3. We believe that God created man good, gave him a just law which he should be governed with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong, but our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls. Voluntarily transgressed the law of God. Fell with all their posterity under the just penalty of the same, and was unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming of Christ. Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:16-17; Rom. 11:11-35; Psal. 37:23-34; Heb. 2:9-10.

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

5 We believe that all persons dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any acts on their part. That persons coming to years of accountability, transgressing the law of God must upon their part exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the lamb and are planted in the kingdom of Christ. St. John 3; Matt. 10:13-2; 11 Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3; Col. 1:13.

6. We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace and in knowledge of the truth that God's grace is sufficient to help them overcome all the obstacles of life and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell or in His eternal abode are not able to pluck them from his hand so long as they walk in the path of duty, but those who sidestep and willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty they would backslide, and if persists continually, would be eternally lost. 11 Cor. 9:10; 1 Peter 1:4-8; 1 Peter 2-2; Romans 8:35-39; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Hebrews 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:6; 1 Tim. 4:12; Heb. 3:12; Matt. 12:31-32.

7. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost. In which is represented the burial and resurrection of Christ, and only those who have come under the presbytery of elders are qualified to administer the same. Any church found guilty will be dealt with and excluded from the Association. Matt 3:14-16; 1 Peter 3-21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10-47; Matt. 28:19.

8. We believe that the Lords Supper and washing of feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ. The Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him until He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper, and that right is a birthright. Let a man examine himself and so let him eat. The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until his coming. Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-8; Matt. 26:26-29.

9. We believe in a divine call of ministry, that God in his goodness and power of grace impresses

His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent the call becomes irresistible with personal conviction so that they yield to the call and exercise their native gifts according to the scriptures with a full reliance upon Him. He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and bless their labors according to His purpose. Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 13:42-48; Matt. 28:19.

We believe that sanctification is the work of God's grace by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 6:11; 11 Thes. 2:13; St. John 17:17; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 1 Thes. 5:19-23; 11 Tim. 2:20-21.

11. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the righteous and the unrighteous when the resurrection shall take place. The soul and the body shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever, but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment. Matt. 28:6; St. John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; Rev. 20:15; Mark 9:43-44.

12. We believe the soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into conscious state of happiness or misery according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil 1:23; Luke 23:42; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

13. We believe that the invisible or spiritual church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation, from righteous Abel to the restitution for all things from every kindred nation, tongue and people. The visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rule of the gospel. Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 Peter 2:5; Acts 2:47; Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; John 1:10; Matt. 18:17.

14. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness. 11 Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:3-23; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:1-8; 11 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13.

