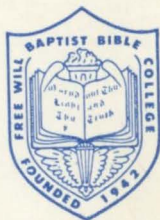


**MINUTES OF THE
TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION
OF
FREEWILL BAPTISTS**

**Held with the Berea Church, Beginning Wednesday
Night, August 9th, 1922.**



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Kenneth Brandon

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION OF FREEWILL BAPTISTS

**Held with the Berea Church, Beginning Wednesday
 Night, August 9th, 1922.**

After enjoying a good song service by request of our moderator, Bro. J. E. Howell, Bro. E. V. Singleton preached the introductory sermon. Text: Ez. 40:4-5-6.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

House called to order by our moderator, Rev. J. E. Howell. Scripture lesson 34th Psalm by Rev. J. H. Burr. Prayer by Rev. J. E. Howell.

Clerk being absent, Sister Pearl Luster was appointed clerk pro tem, Sister Wilson appointed reading clerk.

Letters and Delegates Present

Church	Delegates
Berea----	Sisters Darr and Lark Wilson, Brother Edward Jones
Non-----	Represented by Brother S. B. Rush
Gatewood-----	Sister Pearl Luster and Brother L. Morgan
Hopewell-----	Lanie Sims
Friendship-----	Rallie McBee
Mt. Hope-----	A. J. Hoggins
Denison, Tex.-----	P. H. Coffman
Oil View-----	R. B. Ellis
Social Ridge-----	M. B. Bushaw
Beulah-----	Joe Hughes

Motion and second to let Brother Easley represent Province church at this association.

Minute Money, \$1.50.

Petitionary letters were read and received from the churches of Gatewood, McCall's Chapel, Friendship, the church at Denison, Texas, asked a seat in our association. They were received with open arms.

Letters received and delegates seated.

Election of Officers

Moderator ----- Rev. J. E. Howell
Assistant Moderator ----- Rev. E. V. Singleton
Clerk ----- Sister Pearl Luster
Assistant Clerk ----- Sister Mary Wilson
Treasurer ----- Bro. S. B. Rush
Appointing the Divine Committee—Bro. Mike Webb, Bro. Jim Bice,
Bro. L. A. Wilson.

Reading of rules of order.

Motion and second to adjourn for Divine services at eleven o'clock.

Prayer by Bro. J. D. Cook.

Preaching by Bro. J. D. Cook; text 1st Peter 4:14.

Song—"Sweet bye and bye."

Prayer by Rev. G. W. Hanks.

Motion and second to meet Thursday evening at 3 o'clock.

Thursday Evening Session

House called to order by our moderator, Rev. J. E. Howell. Scripture lesson 8th chapter of Romans and prayer by Bro. Jim Bice.

Committees Appointed

Resolutions—Bros. S. B. Rush, Joe Hughes and R. P. White.

Sunday School—Sister Darr, Sister Luster and Bro. L. A. Wilson.

Temperance—Bros. J. H. Burr, J. W. Coffman and Sister Hanna Williams.

Obituaries—Bros. G. W. Hanks, M. H. Webb and Joe Hemingway.

Finance—Bros. J. D. Cook, J. L. Tatum and R. B. Ellis.

Credentials—Bros. E. V. Singleton, L. A. Wilson, J. T. Gaultner, A. D. Luster, J. F. Bice, O. P. Davis, G. W. Hanks and J. H. Burr.

Motion and second to appoint a committee to see Bro. Hoggins about restoring to him his credentials.

Committee appointed—Bro. S. B. Rush, Rev. J. A. Williams, Rev. J. H. Burr, to report Friday morning.

Resolution No. 1 read and discussed report of committee.

Motion and second to receive the report of committee, and license Bro. Hoggins for the next twelve months and discharge the committee.

The clerk proceeded to write the license.

Motion and second to adjourn for Divine services Thursday night.

THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION

After enjoying a good song and prayer service preaching by Bro. G. W. Hanks, Scripture lesson, 49th Psalm; text Acts 16:21.

Prayer by Bro. S. B. Rush.

Friday Morning Session

House called to order by our moderator, Bro. J. E. Howell. Song, "Are you washed in the blood?" Prayer by Bro. J. D. Cook. Scripture lesson read by Bro. Joe Hemingway, the 8th chapter of St. John.

Resolution No. 1 read and adopted.

Resolution No. 2 read but not carried.

Resolution No. 3 read, discussed and adopted.

Resolution No. 4 read, discussed and adopted.

Motion and second to adjourn for Divine services at 11 o'clock.

Prayer by Bro. J. D. Cook. Song: "That home of the soul." Prayer by Bro. S. B. Rush. Preaching by Bro. J. H. Burr, text Psalms 34:7. Prayer by Bro. Singleton.

Friday Evening Session

House called to order by our moderator, Bro. J. E. Howell. Scripture lesson 13th chapter of 1st Cor., and prayer by Bro. S. B. Rush. Roll of ministers, deacons and delegates as follows:

Ministers

Elder A. J. Hoggins, Newport, Okla.
Elder G. W. Hanks, Wilson, Okla., Rt. 1.
Elder J. A. Williams, Atoka, Okla., Rt. 2.
Elder J. H. Burr, Durant, Okla., Rt. 2.
Elder J. T. Gaultney, Atoka, Okla., Rt. 2.
Elder J. E. Howell, Non, Okla.
Elder E. V. Singleton, Atwood, Okla., Rt. 1.
Elder J. D. Cook, Atwood, Okla., Rt. 1.
Elder W. C. West, Wilson, Okla., Rt. 1.
Elder G. W. Hicks, Wilson, Okla., Rt. 1.
Elder A. L. Clark, Joiner City, Okla.
Elder E. N. Sanders, Atwood, Okla., Rt. 1.
Elder J. W. Bivins, Stuart, Okla.
Elder R. S. Hicks, Ada, Okla.
Elder G. V. Howell, Stuart, Okla.

Deacons

Bro. S. B. Rush, Non, Okla.
Bro. J. F. Bice, Atwood.
Bro. J. T. Butler, Ardmore, Okla., Rt. A, Box 129.
Bro. R. P. White, Atwood, Okla.
Bro. W. E. Bentley, Denison, Texas.
Bro. P. H. Coffman, Denison, Texas.
Bro. A. D. Luster, Allen, Okla., Rt. 2, Box 23.
Bro. H. W. Williams, Atoka, Okla., Rt. 2.
Bro. J. A. Easely, Province, Okla.
Bro. M. H. Webb, Kenefick, Okla.
Bro. L. A. Wilson, Atoka, Okla.
Bro. O. C. Bonham, Atoka, Okla.
Bro. O. R. Davis, Stuart, Okla.
Bro. A. J. Cook, Lone Grove, Okla.
Bro. G. W. Christian, Mila, Okla.
Bro. T. S. Burns, Wirt, Okla.
Bro. Herbert Welch, Wirt, Okla.
Bro. J. S. Huddleston, Non, Okla.
Bro. J. W. Sharokley, Kenefick, Okla.
Bro. E. A. Russell, Non, Okla.
Bro. R. R. Pryor, Coleman, Okla.
Bro. J. L. Murphy, Orr, Okla.
Bro. Joe Chaffin, Atwood, Okla.
Bro. W. H. Peters, Calvin, Okla.
Bro. Lee Farris, Calvin, Okla.
Bro. J. R. Benson, Allen, Okla.
Bro. J. R. Jackson, Allen, Okla.
Bro. W. A. Webb, Allen, Okla.

Resolution No. 5 read and adopted.

Called for new business.

Motion and second to adjourn for Divine services Friday night to meet at 9 o'clock Saturday morning. Friday night preaching by Bro. J. E. Howell, text Jonah 2:9; prayer by Bro. J. E. Howell.

Saturday Morning Session

House called to order by our moderator, Bro. J. E. Howell. Scripture; Ecc. 12th chapter and prayer by Bro. R. P. White. Resolution No. 6 read but not carried.

Motion and second to receive the report of the committee on the Articles of Faith and discharge the committee.

Motion and second to receive the report of committee on obituaries and discharge the committee.

Motion and second to receive the report of the committee on Sunday Schools and discharge the committee.

Motion and second to receive the report of the Finance Committee and discharge the committee.

Motion and second to adjourn for Divine service to meet at 3 o'clock Saturday evening.

Prayer by Bro. J. A. Williams.

Preaching by Bro. Tatum; lesson text 73rd Psalm.

Saturday Evening Session

House called to order by our moderator, Bro. J. E. Howell.

Song—"How firm a foundation."

Scripture lesson—5th chapter of James, by Bro. A. J. Hoggins; prayer by Bro. G. W. Hanks.

Motion and second to receive the reports. Reports received and committees discharged.

Motion and second to receive Bro. Tatum for the next year as our evangelist on the same terms as last year.

Motion and second that Bro. Howell make a statement of the Province church of last association. Bro. G. W. Hanks has proved innocent of what has been told on him, he is a clean minister and we hold him in our association in full fellowship. He has proved to be a fine man.

Motion and second to write a resolution of thanks to the church and the people around here. The resolution was written by the committee appointed.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

We do not find any of our ministers carrying credentials unworthily but one, and he has lost his credentials.

Motion and second to receive the report of the committee and discharge the committee.

Printing committee appointed as follows:—Bro. A. D. Luster, Bro. S. B. Rush and Sister Pearl Luster.

Bro. G. W. Hanks was appointed to preach the introductory sermon at Denison, Texas, in 1923; Bro. J. E. Howell, alternate.

Motion and second to receive the resolutions of thanks, resolution received.

Motion and second that the first fifth Sunday meeting be at Beulah in October, 1922. Second at Social Ridge beginning on Thursday night, December 28, 1922. Third at Non beginning on Thursday night. Fourth at Gatewood.

Delegates appointed to the state association as follows: Bros. J. H. Burr, S. B. Rush and J. F. Bice.

Motion and second to let the printing committee arrange the minutes and omit the reading of the minutes.

Motion and second to adjourn until Wednesday night before the first Sunday in Sept., 1923, to meet with the Denison church at Denison, Texas.

Prayer by Bro. J. H. Burr.

Resolutions

No. 1—Be it resolved that if we find any of our preachers or members teaching or practicing sanctification as a second work of grace that we withdraw from any such person or church practicing or holding members of the same.—S. B. Rush, Chairman.

No. 2—Not carried.

No. 3—Be it resolved that we, the Hopewell Association, leave out of our minutes resolution No. 2 in last year's of the association held at Beulah.—S. B. Rush, Chairman.

No. 4—We, the Sunday School committee, be it resolved, that our churches known as the Freewill Baptists, use the Freewill Baptist literature, so far as it is in reason.—S. B. Rush.

No. 5—Be it resolved, that the members, preachers and all deacons, hold up our preachers standing as ministers until the church in which he is a member has investigated the cause and reported to the credentials committee any time we find any member, deacon or preacher talking disrespectfully that charges be brought against them. Be it further resolved, that the church in which he or she is a member shall bring charges against them.—S. B. Rush, Chairman.

Resolution of Thanks

Be it resolved, that Association extend its hearty thanks to the good people around Berea church. Not only have the Free Will Baptists been hospitable but we are indebted to one and all for the many pleasant hours spent within their homes as brethren and friends. We, as one and all, express our sincere appreciation for your hospitality and pray that you may receive your reward and that we may meet you in heaven.—A. D. Luster, Chairman.

Sunday School Committee Report

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, approve the resolution or Sunday School report as it appears in the last minutes, with the amendment Resolution No. 4 adopted.—L. A. Wilson, Chairman; Sister Darr, Sister Luster.

Report of Committee on Obituaries

We, your committee on Obituaries, beg leave to report as follows: Our Divine Creator has through His all wise providence seen fit to call home our Sister Canda Pettie of Oil View church, and Sister Susan R. Wilson of Berea church. Resolved: That we as an association, express our heartfelt sympathy to the relatives and pray God's blessings to rest and abide with them.—G. W. Hanks, Chairman.

Finance Report

Finance committee calls for report on the treasurer, S. B. Rush.

We suggest that each church of the association see after the support of their pastor and that the pastors and churches show more interest in the support of the evangelist. Resolved, that we try and support our evangelist for the ensuing year.—R. B. Ellis, Chairman.

In treasury, 1921	-----	\$38.00
Paid out for minutes	-----	30.00
Paid out for postage	-----	1.00

Balance	-----	7.00
Amount received in 1922	-----	\$24.25
Amount in treasury in 1922	-----	31.25

Church Covenant

Believing that the union of Christians in a visible church is sometimes by the teachings of Christ and the practice of the Apostles, that it is adopted to promote piety, and increase Christian influence.

We do now heartily enter into our church Covenant before God and each other.

That we will take the New Testament of our Lord as a disciple and guide in all things pertaining to the church and do recognize in it an infallible rule, and will teach and affirm what is therein taught in precept and example, rejecting all other discipline and traditions and will meet in conference once in each month, and we will constantly strive to maintain true piety in our own heart. To keep ourselves in vital communion with our Heavenly Father and commend to others our Lord, not only in word but by means of a devoted spirit, a holy example, always careful of each other's reputation and usefulness.

We will watch over each other in the spirit of true charity, seeking to bear each other's burdens, assist those in need, strengthen the weak, encourage the despondent, sympathize with the sorrowful, reprove the erring, win back the straying to duty and aid in maintaining wholesome discipline, receive Christian admonition and reproof in meekness, keep the unity of the heart in the bonds of peace, and cheerfully submit such regulations as the majority may approve. We will contribute according to our ability for the support of a faithful ministry, maintain secret congregational prayer and aid by our presence and otherwise in sustaining public and social worship and in giving success to the various means of grace. We will give an active and conscientious support to the great cause that aims to promote morality and Christian influence, such as home culture, temperance, Sabbath Schools, education, and we will refuse all sanction to such worldly amusements and indulgence which tend to lessen true piety in ourselves or weaken Christian influence over others so that religion be not reproached on our account. We will ever hold Christian objects supreme, counting it our chief aim in life to spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hopewell Association of Free Will Baptists.

To the District Court of _____ County:

This instrument of writing certifies that the credentials of _____ have been annulled and prohibited by this Association from preaching in the name of Free Will Baptists.

_____ Moderator.

_____ Clerk.

Moved and carried that the form reported by the committee be adopted and the committee discharged.

Resolution No. 7

We, your committee on resolutions, recommend that each church pay \$5.00 for the expense of delegates to the Stat Association, and help pay for the State Minutes.—S. B. Rush, Chairman.

Constitution

We, the members of the Church of Christ, known as the Free Will Baptists, being regularly baptised upon a profession of our faith in Christ and convinced of the necessity of a combination of 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 government as an Association.

1—This Association shall be composed of all the ordained authority in its bounds assisted by the several church clerks and delegates chosen by each church, not to exceed three in number.

2—The letters from the different churches must be read: Number in fellowship, number by confession of faith, number by letter, number by recommendation, number dismissed, number excluded, number died since last Association.

3—The members thus chosen shall be known as the Hopewell Association of Free Will Baptists, composed of sundry churches in Oklahoma. The Association shall have no power to lord over God's heritage, or have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, but reserves the right to withdraw from any church that becomes disorderly.

4—The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the body.

5—Newly constituted churches may be admitted by petitionary letters, and if upon examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they be received and given the right hand of fellowship.

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

7—Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it is withdrawn by the member who made it.

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

9—Each ordained Minister shall maintain membership of some local church, and if he should have a letter and should hold same for a period of twelve months when conveniences and opportunities are afforded, then his name shall not appear on the "Roll of Ordained Ministers" in this Association.

10—Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary, by a majority of the members present.

Articles of Faith

1—We believe in the true and living God, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are equal in divine essence, power and glory. Rom. 1:20; John 1:1.

2—We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Tim. 3:16-17.

3—We believe God created man 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 whereby all mankind are sinners, not

by constraint but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall, and man is unable to save himself with his own person; but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory; that He, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man. Gen. 1:31 Heb. 3:9-12.

4—We believe that Christ by his suffering, death and resurrection, purchased our pardon and offered it free to all on the principles of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. He commands men everywhere to repent. Therefore he saith: "Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth; for I am God and there is none other." Matt. 7:7; Isa. 45:22; Acts 20:21.

5—We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit if they inherit eternal life. John 3-5-6; Rom. 5:1, 13.

6—We believe that infants are saved upon the merits of the Son of God. Mark 10-13-16.

7—We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the Tree of Life and enter in through the gates to the city." Rev. 22:14.

8—We believe that God in his goodness displays the power of Grace in calling and qualifying His servants by the teachings of the Holy Ghost, and by His instruction of His blessed word, to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. I Cor. 12:8; Eph. 3:7.

9—We believe that baptism, the washing of saints' feet, the Lord's Supper, keeping the Lord's day holy, abstaining from worldly lusts and carnal cares and assembling ourselves together is an ornament which prepares and beautifies the soldier of the cross to march onward in the army of the Lord. Matt. 28:19-20.

10—We believe that immersion is the apostolic mode of baptism; that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His followers and bids us walk therein. John 3:23; Matt. 3:16.

11—We believe that none have the right to baptism only those who have a living hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, and none have a right to administer the same only those who are called of God and come under the hands of the presbytery. Mark 16:16; I John 5:1.

12—We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God; the unjust to shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matt. 25:41-46; II Thes. 1:4-11; Rev. 20:10.

13—We believe we are saved by grace through faith. Eph. 2:8; John 1:7.

Permanent Order of Business

- 1—Introductory sermon.
- 2—Inviting visiting brethren and delegates to seats.
- 3—Reading letters from churches.
- 4—Reading petitionary letters.
- 5—Election of officers for ensuing year.
- 6—Reading of rules of order.
- 7—Appointing committees.
- 8—Unfinished business.
- 9—Resolutions and discussions.
- 10—New business.
- 11—Reading and adoption of minutes.
- 12—Adjournment.

Letters of Dismissal

This is to certify that Brother _____
is hereby dismissed in full fellowship in the Church of Christ at
_____ and as such we recommend him
to the fellowship of God's people. Done in church conference.

Clerk.

Moderator.

Form of Church Business

- 1—Called into conference by the Moderator.
- 2—Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
- 3—Call for peace of church.
- 4—Invitations for members.
- 5—New business.
- 6—References.
- 7—Reading and adopting minutes of last meeting.
- 8—Does anyone know of a sick member or anyone that needs help?

RULES OF ORDER

- 1—At every sitting business shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Moderator or whoever he may request.
- 2—Visiting members invited to seats may take part in discussion, but are not to vote.
- 3—Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.
- 4—When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes discussion, the Moderator shall put the question: "Shall it be discussed?" If negative, the question shall be dismissed.
- 5—If any proposition under debate 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 subject without the leave of the Moderator.
- 8—All questions shall be decided by a majority of all members present.
- 9—No one shall absent himself without the leave of the Moderator.
- 10—Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected, if necessary, before the close of the Association.
- 11—In the sessions of the Association arrangements shall be made so as to have two or more sermons a day, or their equivalent devotional services.
- 12—The rules of order shall be read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.
- 13—Alterations may be made to these rules at any regular meeting of the Association.

Form of Letter of Association

Oklahoma, County of _____. We, the church in Christ _____ to the Association of Free Will Baptists, when assembled with the church in Christ at _____, Greetings. We send as delegates from our church Bros. _____ whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations. (Add statistical report, state of religion, post office address, etc.)

Sunday School Committee Report

Resolved, that we, your committee on Sunday Schools, insist that the Sunday School be considered an auxiliary of the Church and comes under the supervision of the Pastor, and we insist that he use every effort possible to further the same and to arouse an interest among the parents is the thing most needed. The Scriptural charge to bring up the child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, is to the parents, and we believe the best way to do this is to go with them instead of sending them to Sunday School. We offer the following evidence to prove the importance of the Sunday School: From 75 to 90 per cent of the present church membership comes from the Sunday School and that 85 to 90 per cent of those united with the church under the age of 17. We believe that knowledge of the Scripture is responsible for these conditions and that outside of the home, the Sunday School is the best means of imparting this knowledge.—L. A. Wilson, Chairman; Sister Darr, Sister Luster.

Name of Minister		Sermons Preached		Miles Traveled		Funerals		Marriages		Members Received		Baptized		Amt. Received	
W. C. West	20														
G. W. Hanks	120			920		4		5		34		14		\$89.50	
J. H. Burr	72			722		1		2				4		40.80	
J. L. Tatum	120			1200		2		2		80				50.00	

FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Miss Pearl Luster, Clerk

Rev. J. E. Howell, Moderator

