

MINUTES

of the

HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION

No. 2

of

Free Will Baptist

1953

PROCEEDINGS

of the

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

Convened with

Stobtown Free Will Baptist Church

MINUTES
of the
TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
of the
Hopewell Association No. 2
Free Will Baptist

Held With
STOBTOWN FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Beginning Thursday Night, August 27, 1953

OFFICERS

Moderator

Bro. E. S. Sunday
Box 241, Healdton, Okla.

Assistant Moderator

Bro. A. L. Boswell
Box 411, Velma, Okla.

Clerk

Sister Osie Higgins
Route 1, Sulphur, Okla.

Assistant Clerk

Bro. L. R. Howell
115 E Street N.W.
Ardmore, Okla.

The twenty-second annual session
will convene on Thursday night
before the fourth Sunday in August, 1954

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning

Service was opened by singing "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms." Devotional by Bro. Roy Hearon from I Timothy 4th chapter.

House was called to order by Moderator Bro. E. S. Sunday and declared the association in conference, to transact business.

Church letters were called for and read as follows: Duncan, Clemscott, Ardmore, Lone Grove, Santa Fe, Stobtown, Sulphur and Healdton.

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

Right hand of fellowship was extended the delegates.

Money received for minutes

Duncan Church	-----	\$10.00
Clemscott Church	-----	10.00
Ardmore Church	-----	9.00
Lone Grove Church	-----	5.00
Santa Fe Church	-----	10.00
Stobtown Church	-----	10.00
Sulphur Church	-----	17.50
Healdton Church	-----	10.00

Officers elected as follows: Moderator, Bro. E. S. Sunday; assistant, Bro. A. L. Boswell; clerk, Sister Osie Higgins; assistant, Bro. L. R. Howell; treasurer, Bro. Noah Smith. Motion carried that the moderator and assistant moderator appoint all committees. Those appointed on Divine Arrangements were as follows: Bro. Johnie Gilmore, Sister Alma Furgerson, Sister Linnie Sparks. Devotional committee selected Bro. E. J. Wilson to bring the 11:00 o'clock message.

Rules of Order were read by Moderator Bro. E. S. Sunday.

Dismissed for divine service by Bro. J. O. Hudson. Bro. Wilson brought a wonderful message from

Luke, 10th chapter. Using for a subject, The Jericho Road, "Which Side Are You On."

Friday Afternoon

Several songs were selected, led by Bro. Othel Kyle. Bro. Sunday read for devotional from the 2 chapter of Phillipians. Prayer by Bro. Eslick.

Assistant moderator took charge of services.

Appointment of committees next item of business.

Educational Committee—

Sister Bill Ritter
Sister Zelta Brewer
Sister Matilda Purser

League Committee—

Bro. Orbie Butler
Bro. Johnie Gilmore
Sister Noah Smith

Sunday School Committee—

Bro. E. J. Wilson
Sister D. L. Crook
Bro. Henry Christian

Obituary Committee—

Bro. H. J. Eslick
Bro. C. M. Burdue
Bro. Charlie Powell

Resolution Committee—

Bro. Earl Guinn
Bro. J. O. Hudson
Bro. G. W. Hanks

Temperance Committee—

Bro. A. L. Furgerson
Bro. N. C. Ballew
Bro. C. C. Higgins

Unfinished business was called for. A report was given by Bro. Sunday and Bro. Smith on camp ground committee, after a lengthy discussion by body on this subject.

Motion carried we build on ground north of Healdton, Okla., providing the ground can be acquired.

Motion carried we appoint one member from each

church in association on a camp ground committee. Those appointed were:

Bro. Johnie Gilmore	-----	Santa Fe Church
Bro. Othel Kyle	-----	Stobtown Church
Bro. Noah Smith	-----	Clemscott Church
Bro. Harvey Eslick	-----	Healdton Church
Bro. Edd Wilson	-----	Ardmore Church
Bro. J. L. Stubblefield	-----	Lone Grove Church
Bro. C. C. Higgins	-----	Sulphur Church
Bro. Lionel Cooksey	-----	Duncan Church

It was recommended the committee meet as soon as possible to make plans.

Resolution No. 1 was read and adopted. (See resolution)

Resolution No. 2 read and adopted.

Resolution No. 3 read and adopted.

Resolution No. 4 rejected.

Resolution No. 5 read and adopted.

Committee on Divine Arrangements were dismissed to select a minister to preach the evening message. They selected Bro. A. L. Boswell to bring the evening message.

Examining committee appointed to examine three men for ordination are as follows: Bro. E. J. Wilson, Bro. J. O. Hudson, Bro. Roy Hearon.

Committee was dismissed to examine three men to be ordained as deacons in Stobtown church.

Next item of business is to select a place for the next association to meet providing we do not have a centralized meeting place by then. Ardmore was selected as the place, which will meet on Thursday night before the 4th Sunday in August, 1954.

Examining committee report they find Bro. Othel Kyle, Bro. Troy Morris and Bro. Orbie Butler are sound and orthodox and fit subjects to be ordained as deacons.

Motion carried we adjourn business session until Saturday morning 9:30 o'clock.

After congregation sang "Watching You." Dismissed in prayer by Bro. E. J. Wilson.

Friday Night

Services were opened by singing "Some Day." Prayer by Bro. Fellowbaum. Bro. Boswell delivered a wonderful message on Repentance, Scripture Luke 13: 1-5; Romans 6:23.

Bro. Roy Hearon took charge of the ordination service, reading from the 2nd Timothy, 2nd Chapter, verses 1-9, after which Bro. Othel Kyle, Bro. Orbie Butler and Bro. Troy Morris were ordained as deacons of the Stobtown church. Services were dismissed by Bro. Guinn.

Saturday Morning

Services were opened by singing "Blessed Assurance." Prayer by Bro. H. L. Christian.

Bro. E. J. Wilson was elected as associational evangelist. Bro. E. S. Sunday as alternate.

Motion carried each church send \$10 or more for expenses of the associational revival.

Bro. Hudson was elected as speaker for the introductory message of the next association, Bro. McClendon as alternate speaker.

First quarterly meeting was placed at Sulphur, which will be on Friday night before fourth Sunday in November. Bro. E. S. Sunday was elected as introductory speaker.

Motion carried we call our meetings quarterly meetings instead of 5th Sunday meetings.

Motion carried the quarterly meetings be each month divisible by three beginning from August.

Motion carried we meet on Friday night before the fourth Sunday of each quarter.

Bro. R. L. Howell was elected on executive board as 5-year members. Bro. C. C. Higgins was elected as 3-year member of orphanage board. Bro. Noah Smith was elected on credential board as 3-year member.

Dismissed for 11:00 o'clock service.

Services were opened by singing. This being a

memorial service, Bro. Hanks called for a moment of silent prayer in memory of the departed ones of our association, after which Bro. Boswell led in prayer, song "Precious Memories."

Bro. Hanks brought a good message using a text from the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians.

Dismissed for noon hour by Bro. Fellowbaum.

Afternoon services were opened by singing "Jesus Saves." Devotional by Bro. Sunday from the 1st chapter Colossians. Prayer by Bro. Boswell.

Report was given by Sunday school committee. It was accepted (see reports). Report was given by League committee. It was accepted (see report).

Report was given by Educational committee. It was accepted (see reports).

Report was given by Obituary committee. It was accepted (see reports).

Report was given by Temperance committee. It was accepted (see report).

Report was given by Treasurer, it was accepted. (see report)

Report was given on revival by Bro. Sunday. A good associational revival was reported.

Motion carried the temporary committees be dismissed.

Report of Ladies Auxiliary work was read and accepted. (see report)

Motion carried we give the Stobtown church a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality.

Motion carried we adjourn until next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunday School Committee

We the Sunday School Committee wish to report the following:

That each church have and attend Sunday School, and use Free Will Baptist literature.

We suggest that all teachers and officers be Free Will Baptist and members of your church.

We urge that parents go with their children to Sunday School, take part and be on time.

We urge a Sunday School training course for teachers of all the churches where possible.

League Committee

We your committee on League report on the following:

We recommend that each Free Will Baptist church have a League, which should be organized according to the rules given in our Free Will Baptist League Manuel, with all officers Free Will Baptists.

We urge that all Leagues be represented in district League rallies and also give its full support to the state and national rallies.

We ask the older church members to give more attention and co-operation to our League and bear in mind that the Leagues of today will be the church of tomorrow.

We urge each pastor to extend their fullest co-operation to the League work.

Each League help financially as they can on the camp grounds.

Educational Committee

We the committee on Education recommend that each church have a daily Vacation Bible School for the purpose of interesting our children in the Bible.

We also urge each church systematically support our Free Will Baptist College and also encourage our young people to attend.

We further recommend that each church sponsor a teachers training course.

We recommend that members of our church study our treatises and acquaint themselves fully with the doctrine of the Free Will Baptist.

Obituary Committee

We your committee on Obituary, are sorry to report the passing from this life the following: Sister Maude Holley, Ardmore Church; Bro. Wagenseller, Healdton Church; Bro. and Sister Ramond Smith, Stobtown Church; Sister Willie Armstrong, Lone Grove Church. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

Temperance Committee

We your Temperance Committee report the following:

We urge our ministers to preach more against the use and sale of intoxicants and that our young people be instructed of the evil and danger of their body and soul that it will bring to them.

And that each member of the Free Will Baptist support their pastors in this fight.

Resolution Committee

No. 1.

Be it resolved: that the association forbid the ministers of Hopewell Association No. 2 speaking disrespectfully of one another and anyone found guilty of such conduct shall be liable to charge and dealt with as may be deemed necessary.

No. 2.

Be it resolved: that any one of our preachers or churches found to be tolerating the doctrine of unknown tongues shall be guilty of heresy and shall be required to make acknowledgements to this body or stand suspended.

No. 3.

Be it resolved: that we forbid our ministers or members of our churches of this association, preaching or teaching sanctification as a second definite work of grace, separate or apart from regeneration of holiness or conversion.

No. 4 not accepted.

No. 5.

Be it resolved: that this association dissolve the associational Revival committee and at each setting of the association elect an evangelist to conduct our associational Revival, and that each church aid in defraying the expense of the revival according to amount set by association.

No. 6.

Be it resolved: that the association participate in communion and feet washing service on Saturday night of each quarterly meeting, and that the association not be dismissed until after the Saturday night service.

Woman's Auxiliary Report

The Woman's Auxiliary met for their yearly meeting July 10th with Stobtown Church.

Services were opened by singing. Devotional was read by Sister Louise Cooksey of Duncan Church. Prayer by Bro. J. O. Hudson.

There were four churches represented: Duncan, Ardmore, Stobtown and Sulphur. Each church gave a report of their year's work.

Bro. J. O. Hudson brought a good message at the 11:00 o'clock hour.

Officers elected for the coming year:

President—Osie Higgins, Rt. 1, Sulphur, Okla.

Vice President—Lee Guinn, 219 10 Ave. N.E. Ardmore

Study Chairman—Mrs. E. V. Wilson, 411 C St. S.W., Ardmore

Program Publicity Chairman— Louise Cooksey, 404 Main, Duncan, Okla.

Personal Service Chairman—Emily Palmer, 1024 W. 11th St. Sulphur

Secretary-Treasurer—Audine Nelson, Rt. 1, Sulphur

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer—Beulah McGee.

The first quarterly meeting of the Auxiliary will be the second Friday in October at Ardmore Church.

We'd like to urge all our churches to organize an auxiliary.

CHURCH LETTERS

Santa Fe Church

Letter from Santa Fe Church to the yearly meeting of the association when convened with Stobtown Church.

We send as delegates our beloved Bro. Garrett Hurst, Sis. Alice Spurgin, Sis. Gilmore. Alternates: Bro. John Gilmore, Sis. Chadain, Sis. Lois Fulsher.

State of religion, good: Residential members, 30; non residential 8. Condition of prayer meeting fair. Of Sunday School fair. Average number of pupils 30. Of officers 3. Of teachers 4. Paid pastor \$900. Amount for publications and literature \$43.36. For children's home \$120. Miscellaneous \$115. Amount enclosed for minutes \$10.

Pastor's name and address—Bro. A. L. Boswell, Box 411, Velma, Okla.

Minister belonging to our church: Bro. Ward Fellabaum, Box 123, Fox, Okla.

Names and addresses of our deacons—

Bro. Roy Spurgin, Commanche, Okla., Star Route.

Bro. Charley Cooksey, Velma, Okla.

Bro. Floyd E. Carroll, Duncan, Rt. 3.

Bro. Less Dunn, Ringling, Okla.

Bro. Vess Rozzell, Temple, Okla.

Done by order of church assembled in conference this 19th day of August 1953.

Rev. L. A. Boswell, Moderator
Sister Garrett Hurst, Clerk.

Duncan Church

August 20, 1953

To the yearly meeting of Hopewell No. 2 Association of Free Will Baptist when convened with the Stobtown Free Will Baptist Church at Stobtown, Okla.

August 27, 1953, we send delegates from our church, Sister Burch, Sister Barnes and Sister Jones. Alternates: Sister Womack, Sister Hardin and Sister Moonce, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good.

Members received past 3 months 5.

Baptized none; dismissed 4. Died none. Total membership 61. Condition of prayer meeting good. Condition of Sunday School good. Average number pupils 90. No. of officers 3. No. of teachers 7. Paid pastor \$390. Paid evangelist \$150. Home missions \$12.00. Foreign missions \$7.00. Building and repair \$340. For education \$40.00. For publication \$7.40. Enclosed for minutes \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church—Bro. Roy Hearon (Pastor), Elm and S. 1st, Duncan.

Jimmie McClendon, 1212 N. 8th, Duncan.

Deacons elect—Bro. Beauford Mounce, Bro. L. H. Foster, Bro. Howard Barker. Ordained Deacon—Lionel Cooksey.

Done by order of Duncan First Free Will Baptist Church assembled in conference this 20th day of August, 1953.

Rev. Roy Hearon, Moderator
Mrs. Jerry Rhodes, C. Clerk

Stobtown Church

Letter from the Stobtown Church of God denominated Free Will Baptist to the Hopewell Association No. 2 when convened with the Free Will Baptist Church at Stobtown, we send as our delegates Sis. Thelma Rice, Bro. and Sis. Ben Brewer. Alternates: Sis. Bertha McGee, Bro. Grant Adams, and Sis. Artie McClannas whom we pray you will receive to aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received by letter 3. Experience in grace 8. Dismissed 10. No. died 2. Resident members 54. Condition of prayer meeting good. Of young people's meeting good. Of Sunday

School good. Average no. pupils 68. No. of officers 3. Of teachers 5. Paid pastor \$815.70. Amount for building and repair \$300. For incidentals \$154.49. Value of church property \$2,000. Miscellaneous expenses \$113.12. Amount enclosed for minutes \$10.

Our church request our Deacons elect to be examined for ordination—Bro. Orbie Butler, Bro. Othal Kyle and Bro. Troy Morris.

Pastor's name and address.

Bro. Earl Guinn, 219 10th Ave. N.E. Ardmore

Deacons—

Bro. Henry Christian, Lone Grove, Okla.

Bro. James Adams, Wilson, Okla.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this 9th day of July 1953.

Bro. Earl Guinn, Moderator
Sister Connie Morris, C. Clerk

Clemscott Church

Letter from the Clemscott Church of God denominated Free Will Baptist to the Hopewell Association No. 2. when convened with Stobtown Church.

We send as delegates our beloved Sis. Smith, Sis. Seiler and Bro. Smith. Alternates: Bro. Charley Powell, Sis. Frances Lewellen and Sis. Jubree McClain whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received this year 5. Dismissed by letter 5. Died none. Resident members 82. Non resident 46. Total membership 128. Condition of prayer meeting good. Sunday School good. Average no. pupils 50. Teachers and officers 6. Condition of League good. Amount paid pastor \$1,900. For evangelist work \$122.50. Children's home \$73.77. Home missions taken in for year \$932.57. Home mission paid our for church repairs \$594.81. Bible college \$69. Miscellaneous expenses \$206.79. Publications and literature \$38.88. Value of church property \$5,000: Amount enclosed for minutes \$10.

Deacons—Bro. John Wood, Healdton, Okla.

Ministers—Bro. L. Maynard, Commanche, Okla.

Pastor—Bro. J. O. Hudson, Clemscott, Okla.

Done by order of Clemscott Free Will Baptist Church assembled in conference this 17th day of August 1953.

Bro. John Woods, Moderator.

Sister John Woods, Clerk

Healdton Church

To the Hopewell Association No. 2 of Free Will Baptist when convened with the Stobtown Church August 28 and 29, 1953.

We send as delegates Bro. Bill Ritter, Sis. Grace Brandon, Sis. Hazel McElvany. Alternates: Sis. Reba Ritter, Bobby Crook and L. E. Pool, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Condition of prayer meeting good. Condition of Sunday School good. Average no. in League 55. Members received past year 15. Baptized 11. Dismissed 2. Died 1. Total membership 102. Average in Sunday School 66. No. of officers 2. No. of teachers 7. Paid pastor \$2,744. Paid Evangelist \$195. Missions \$60. Children's home \$174.04. Building and repair \$5,377.54. For education \$60. For publication \$140.43. Enclosed for minutes \$10. Miscellaneous expenses \$153.96. Total expenses \$9,314.96.

Ministers belonging to our church—

Bro. Bill Ritter

Pastor Bro. Ed Sunday, Box 241, Healdton, Okla.

Deacons—Marlin Bivens, Jay Crisp, W. A. DeHart J. E. Slate, Harvey Eslick, N. C. Ballew.

We ask for the next yearly association and also we recommend Bro. Bill Ritter as a delegate to the state association.

Done by order of Healdton Free Will Baptist Church assembled in conference this 5th day of August.

Rev. Ed Sunday, Moderator

Sis. Myrtle Ballew, Clerk

Lone Grove Church

Letter from the Church of God denominated Free Will Baptist at Lone Grove to Hopewell No. 2 annual association of Free Will Baptist when convened with the Stobtown Church.

We send as delegates our beloved Bro. Burdue, Sis. Murel Potts. Alternate: Bro. W. H. Stubblefield, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received by experience in grace 1. Dismissed 2. Died 1. Condition of Sunday School fair. Paid Evangelist \$93. Paid children's home \$52.17. Home missions \$20.03. Value of church property \$4,000. Paid pastor \$180. Amount enclosed for minutes \$5.

Pastor's name and address—

Rev. G. W. Hanks, Lone Grove, Okla.

Deacons—

Bro. Herb Welsh, Ardmore; Bro. Lenard Moore, Big Canyon, Okla.

Done by order of church assembled in conference this 23 day of August 1953.

Rev. G. W. Hanks, Moderator
Sister Estelle Raines, Clerk
Lone Grove, Okla., Box 86

Ardmore Church

To the association of Free Will Baptist when convened with the Free Will Baptist Church at Stobtown August 28 and 29, 1953.

We send as delegates our beloved brethren J. E. Morrison, Albert Furgerson and Sis. Arizona Jones. Alternates: Virginia Howell, Laura Roberts and Alma Furgerson, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received past 3 months 5. Baptized 4. Dismissed 2. Died 1. Total membership 65. Condition of prayer meeting fair. Condition of Sunday School good. Average no. pupils 80. No.

of officers 5. No. of teachers 7. Paid pastor \$1,530. Paid evangelist \$275.04. Children's home \$74.15. Missions \$135.68. Building and repair \$1,416.52. Publication \$46.70. Enclosed for minutes \$9.00.

Deacons belonging to our church—

J. A. Easley, 1116 4th N.E. Ardmore

Herman Green, Rt. 2, Ardmore

Y. S. Rich, Rt. 1, Ardmore

R. L. Howell, 115 E N.W. Ardmore

Pastor's name and address—

Rev. E. J. Wilson, 411 C S.W. Ardmore.

We would like to invite the association to Ardmore Church for the next association.

Done by order of Ardmore First Free Will Baptist Church when assembled in conference this 3rd day of August 1953.

Rev. E. J. Wilson, Moderator
Inez Howell, Clerk

Sulphur Church

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Sulphur sends greetings to the Hopewell Association No. 2 when convened in yearly meeting with Stobtown Free Will Baptist Church.

We send as delegates from our church Sis. Vida Duckworth, Sis. Matilda Purser and Sis. Linnie Sparks whom we pray you will receive to aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of religion good. Members received by letter this year 21. By experience in grace 24. Dismissed 12. No. resident members 178. No. non resident members 4. Total membership 272. Average league attendance 67. Condition of prayer meeting good. Average attendance in Sunday School 120. No. officers 4. No. teachers 12. Paid pastor \$3,160. Building \$1,042.56. Education \$208.60. Evangelist \$225. Maintenance \$1,472.17. Publications \$309.77. Missions \$598.75 Miscellaneous \$212. Value of church property \$35,000.

Enclosed for minutes \$17.50. \$12.50 for association minutes and \$5. for state minutes.

We ask for the next association.

Names of ministers belonging to our church—

Bro. W. S. Mooneyham. Bro. Lonnie Sparks, Bro. J. H. Hill.

Deacons belonging to our church—

G. O. Palmer, Sulphur, Rt. 1,

D. E. Clark 522 E. Muskogee

A. L. Worstell, Sulphur, Rt. 1.

M. L. Bonds, 1100 W 13th.

C. C. Higgins, Sulphur, Rt. 1.

R. D. Norwood, 112 E. Wynn, Sulphur.

We recommend Linnie Sparks as delegate to state association, Esther Bonds as alternate.

Done by order of Sulphur First Free Will Baptist Church when assembled in conference August 4, 1953.

Bro. M. L. Bonds, Moderator, protem
Osie Higgins, Clerk

Executive Board

Bro. Marlin Bivens -----	1
Bro. Henry Christian -----	2
Bro. Troy Morris -----	3
Bro. Roy Hearon -----	4
Bro. R. L. Howell -----	5

Orphanage Board

Bro. H. L. Christian -----	1
Bro. John Wood -----	2
Bro. C. C. Higgins -----	3

Credential Board

Bro. H. L. Christian -----	1
Bro. John Wood -----	2
Bro. Noah Smith -----	3

Camp Ground Board

Bro. Johnie Gilmore -----	Santa Fe Church
Bro. Othel Kyle -----	Stobtown Church
Bro. Noah Smith -----	Clemscott Church

Bro. Harvey Eslick	Healdton Church
Bro. E. J. Wilson	Ardmore Church
Bro. J. L. Stubblefield	Lone Grove Church
Bro. C. C. Higgins	Sulphur Church
Bro. Lionel Cooksey	Duncan Church

Roll of Ministers

Rev. G. W. Hanks	Lone Grove, Okla.
Rev. T. Maynard	Commanche, Okla.
Rev. J. O. Hudson	Clemscott, Okla.
Rev. E. S. Sunday,	Healdton, Box 241
Rev. E. J. Wilson	Ardmore, 411 C St. S.W.
Rev. Earl Guinn	Ardmore, 219 10 Ave. N.W.
Rev. Ward Fellahaum	Fox, Okla. Box 123
Rev. L. A. Boswell	Velma, Box 411
Rev. Roy Hearon	Duncan, Elm and S. 1st
Rev. Jimmie McClendon	Duncan, 1212 N. 8th
Rev. Bill Ritter	Healdton, Okla.
Rev. Lonnie Sparks	Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. W. S. Mooneyham	Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. J. H. Hill	Sulphur, Okla.

Church Clerks

Healdton—Sister Myrtle Ballew, Box 612, Wirt, Okla.
 Clemscott—Sister John, Healdton, Okla.
 Stobtown—Sister Connie Morris, Rt. 2, Ardmore, Okla.
 Lone Grove—Sister Estella Raines, Box 86, Lone Grove, Okla.
 Santa Fe—Sister Garrett Hurst, Velma, Okla.
 Duncan—Sister Jerry Rhodes, 105 N. D St, Duncan
 Ardmore—Sister Inez Howell, 115 E St. N.W., Ardmore
 Sulphur—Sister Louise Johnson, Rt. 1, Sulphur, Okla.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report from Sept. 1952 to August 28, 1953

In treasure Sept. 1952	\$160.78
Received	156.00
Total in treasure	\$316.78

Paid out -----	134.00
Balance -----	\$182.78
Received August 28, 1953 -----	81.50
Total in treasure -----	\$264.28

STATISTICAL REPORT

Churches 8, Members 512, Ministers 14, Deacons 31. Paid pastors \$11,619.70, Paid evangelist \$1,060.54. Paid children's home \$486.13. Value of church property \$46,00.00. Building and repair \$9,296.43. Miscellaneous \$800.87. Missions \$697.78. Bible College \$69. Literature \$351.96.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and these three are equal in Divine essence, power and glory—Romans 1:20, I John 1:7, John 17:21.

2. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice—Matt. 5:8; II Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man 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, whereby all mankind are sinners; not by constraint, but by choice; being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the 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. 3:7-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His death, burial, and resurrection, purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon the principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent, there-

fore He saith: "Look unto me and be saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else"—Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Acts 20:2-21; Acts 17:30.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life—John 3:3.

6. We believe that infants are saved by the merits of the Son of God—John 4:11; Deut. 1:39; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16.

7. We believe that all Christians should persevere 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 the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the city—Matt. 24:13; Rev. 22:14.

8. We believe that Baptism by immersion is the Apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water; and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children, and bids us walk therein—John 3:22; Matt. 3:16; 28:19-20; Romans 6:2-5.

9. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost, and by the instructions of His blessed Word, to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. He bids us freely to come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come—I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 3:7; Rev. 22-17; Isa. 55:1.

10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saint's feet are Divine ordinances and should be observed by all His children — Mark 14:22; John 3:4-14; Matt. 28:19-20; I Tim. 5:10.

11. We believe that none have a right to Baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have the right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the Presbytery of Elders; and each church ought to have a pastor, deacons, and clerk, chosen by the church and continuing in office

during the good pleasure of the same; and in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew, and other Scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases, a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous—Tit. 1:5; Acts 14:23; II Cor. 6:6.

12. We believe it to be the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's Supper to "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat"—I Cor. 11:28; John 13:14; Heb. 10:25.

13. We believe that 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 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 the damnation, then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers and deacons present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates 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 a second.
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 or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.
7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.
8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.
9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all 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. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangement shall be made to assure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce, just before adjournment, who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.
13. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization.
14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCHES

The local church is an independent body so far as relates to its own government, the transaction of its own business, the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members.

Persons who give evidence of piety are recieved to membership by a vote of the church; and if not baptized, on condition of being baptized. If objections are made, they should be stated to the church; and if objections are judged valid, the candidate should not be received into fellowship. The right hand of fel-

lowship is given all persons received by the church.

Persons expelled from sister churches for any cause or for immorality, should not be received until first giving satisfaction.

Letters of dismissal and commendation are granted to members in good standing, by a vote of the church, on their removal from its limits. Ministers are received and dismissed by letter, as other members are, except when they come or go to other denominations, in which case a council of ministers should be called respecting the action.

It is the duty of the church to unite with some Association and represent itself regularly by delegates and letter.

No person shall be a delegate from a church, unless he or she is a member and appointed by the church he or she claims to represent.

CHURCH LETTER

Letter from _____ Church to the

(Please state whether Quarterly or Yearly Meeting of Association), when convened with _____
Church at _____

We send as delegates our beloved:

State of religion, _____; members received by letter, _____; by recommendation or by experience in grace, _____; dismissed, _____; number died, _____; total membership, _____; condition of prayer meeting, _____; of Sunday School, _____; average number of pupils, _____; number of officers, _____; of teachers, _____; paid pastors, \$ _____; paid evangelist, \$ _____; amount for building and repair, \$ _____; for incidentals, \$ _____; value of church property, \$ _____; mis-

cellaneous expense, \$-----; amount enclosed for minutes, \$-----.

Pastor's name and address:

Name and address of ministers and deacons:
Ministers:

Deacons:

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this ----- day of -----, 19-----.

-----, Moderator
-----, Clerk

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Called to order by the Moderator.
2. Called into conference, or vote to go into conference.
3. Call for peace of the church (All who are at peace with God and each other, hold up your right hand.)

4. Visiting brethren invited to seat in council (Visiting members from other Free Will Baptist churches allowed.)
5. Reading of minutes of last church conference.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Reports of delegates to Association or Quarterly Meeting.
9. Are there any sick or in distress?
10. Support of ministry and other expenses.
11. Call for confession.
12. Invitation for members.
13. Adjournment.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptists), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better church government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP—This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME—The members thus chosen and assembled with the ministers and deacons to be denominated the Hopewell Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the several churches of our union, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. LETTERS—Letters from the different churches represented are to express their number

in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration of denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. Churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. OFFICERS—The Association to have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 5. NEW CHURCHES—Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter 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.

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

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

Art. 8. MINUTES—The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in the proportion to the amount paid by each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. CLERK—It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. SIGNATURES — 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.

Art. 11. AMENDMENTS—Amendments to this

Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.

AMENDMENT No. 1—Each ordained minister shall be a member of a church in the bounds of the Association, and if she should hold his letter for a period of three months, when opportunity affords him, he shall surrender his credentials to the quarterly meeting.

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 all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree 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 in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, 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 spirit in the bonds of peace, to be careful for one another's happiness and reputation, and to seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere

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

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions and the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

