

**MINUTES
of the
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
1972**



40th ANNUAL SESSION

OFFICERS

Moderator Rev. E. E. Morris
 1302 W. 13th. Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086
 Assistant Moderator Rev. Milburn Wilson
 706 D N. W. Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401
 Clerk Vivian O. Lewis
 703 N. 13th Duncan, Oklahoma 73533
 Assistant Clerk Mary Ann Gallant
 314 S. 4th Healdton, Oklahoma 73438
 Treasurer Charlene Ingram
 611 Carter, Healdton, Oklahoma 73438
 Assistant Treasurer Rev. Richard Gallant
 314 S. 4th. Healdton, Oklahoma 73438

BOARDS

State General Board . . Member Richard Gallant

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jay Crisp 5 yrs.
 Zealous Chadion 4 yrs.
 Mike McComeer 3 yrs.
 W. L. Lowe 2 yrs.
 Rev. Noah Smith 1 yr.

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Rev. Clate Briggs 5 yrs.
 Bro. Troy Lewellen 4 yrs.
 Rev. Noah Smith 3 yrs.
 Bro. Marlin Bevins 2 yrs.
 Rev. James Deathrage 1 yr.

MISSION BOARD

Rev. James Deathrage 5 yrs.
 Rev. Milburn Wilson 4 yrs.
 Bro. Marlin Bevins 3 yrs.
 Rev. Richard Gallant (Sec. Tres.) 2 yrs.
 Bro. John Woods 1 yr.

CHRISTIAN TRAINING SERVICE BOARD

Rev. Harvey Aguirre 5 yrs.
 Rev. Dean Thompson (Sec. Tres.) 4 yrs.
 Bro. Hershel Lewis 3 yrs.
 Rev. Clate Briggs 2 yrs.
 Rev. Carroll Milner (Chairman) 1 yr.

QUARTERLY SESSIONS

First	Eastside Duncan	Nov. 10, 11, 1972
Second	Lone Grove	Feb. 9, 10, 1973
Third	Lawton	May 11, 12, 1973

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Church name & address	Pastor's Name and address	Clerk's name & address
1. Lone Grove FWB Lone Grove, Oklahoma	James Deathrage Lone Grove Oklahoma	Vestel Stubblefield Lone Grove, Oklahoma
2. Countyline FWB Countyline, Oklahoma 73025	Ward Fellobaum Box 63 Ratliff City, Okla.	Oma Gillispy Route 3 Countyline, Okla. 73025
3. First FWB 219 S. 6th Healdton, Oklahoma	Richard Gallant 314 S. 4th Healdton, Okla. 73438	Bernadett Tucker 6 Lincoln Ave. Healdton, Okla. 73438
4. Stobtown FWB Route 3 Ardmore, Okla. 73401	W. L. Lowe Route 3 Box 154A Ardmore, Okla. 73401	Earletta Payne Box 253 Lone Grove, Okla. 73443
5. Lawton First FWB 10 S. 24th Lawton, Okla. 73501	Clate Briggs 2328 Cornell Lawton, Okla. 73501	Ouida Chism 508 S. 13th Lawton, Okla. 73501
6. Eastside FWB Chestnut at N. St. Duncan, Okla. 73533	Dean Thompson 505 S. 11th Duncan, Oklahoma 73533	Vivian O. Lewis 703 N. 13th Duncan, Okla. 73533
7. Santa Fe FWB SE of Velma, Okla.	Carroll Milner Box 172 Ratliff City, Okla.	Emma Combest Route 3 Box 129B Duncan, Okla. 73533
8. First FWB-Sulphur 1300 W. 13th Sulphur, Okla. 73086	E. E. Morris 1302 W. 13th Sulphur, Okla. 73086	Ella Mae Stout Route 2 Sulphur, Okla. 73086
9. Midway FWB Route 3 Healdton, Okla. 73438	Harvey Aguirre Route 3 Healdton, Okla. 73438	Francis Lewellen Gram, Okla
10. Ardmore First FWB Grand Avenue Ardmore, Okla. 73401	Milburn Wilson 706 D. N.W. Ardmore, Okla. 73401	Leon Price Route 1 Box 87 3 Ardmore, Okla. 73401

PROCEEDINGS

The 40th Annual session of Hopewell no. 2 Association when convened at the Camp Grounds on Aug. 24, 25, & 26th. 1972.

INTRODUCTORY Service called to order by Moderator Bro. W. L. Lowe congregational singing led by Bro. Clate Briggs, Doris Deathrage at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Noah Smith.

We had two special songs "I need no mansion here below" and There is a great day coming " Bro. E. E. Morris prayed.

Bro. Ward Fellobaum delivered the introductory message using 1 Kings, 8: 65-66 . . . " And they went into their tents and were glad of heart" The closing prayer was let by Bro. P. B. Truitt.

The Friday morning session was opened by singing "I'm in the Glory Land way . Bro. Richard Gallant directed and Joyce Mullins at the piano. prayer by Rev. E. E. Morris.

The Moderator Rev. W. L. Lowe introduced visiting brethren .

Letters from the churches were called for and read, Names of delegates were read and they were given a hand of fellowship, after being accepted by a vote of the body.

Rev. E. E. Morris was appointed Parliamentarian, and read the Rules of Order.

Bro. John Woods was appointed to set on the Credential Committee for the day.

Appointment of Committees:

Divine Committee; Emlie Palmer, Sulphur- Marjory Dovie Stobtown- and Harold Robinson, Lawton.

Rev. E. E. Morris was selected to bring the Morning Message.

Resolution Committee; Vernie Cypert- Ardmere, Hershel Lewis, Duncan And Wadie Buttrum, Lawton.

Education Committee; Joyce Mullins, Stobtown, Myrtle Norton, Santa Fe- Clate Briggs, Lawton.

Obituary Committee; Tenie Gillispie, Countyline- Ora Smith Santa Fee & Stella Burks, Healdton.

Temperance Committee; Ruth Morris, Sulphur- Vada Fletcher, Midway and Doris Deathrage, Lone Grove.

Motion carried to adopt the Resolution no. 2 from the Quarterly meeting and print the minutes from the Quarterly Meetings in the Annual Minutes.

Rev. Morris gave a report on the funds in the Camp Grounds treasury Motion carried to accept.

Dismissed for recess by Hershel Lewis.

11:00 A. M. The song " Showers of Blessings " opened the morning service, Rev. Fellobaum prayed, another song was "Amazing Grace".

Rev. E. E. Morris delivered the morning message using Romans 13;12 stressing children of God will walk in light, and not in darkness .. Forbearing on another.. putting on Charity.

Dismissal prayer Rev. Gallant.

Friday 1:00 P.M. "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus" was the opening song, Rev. Carroll Milner gave the afternoon devotional from 2 Cor. 2:14- saying I will hear them if they, My people will call on me'. We must realize we are sick before we can be healed.

Rev. E. E. Morris reported on his finding on looking into the deed on the Camp Grounds, Motion and carried to accept the report.

Rev. Richard Gallant read a list of food items left from the Youth camp, Motion carried to give this food to Hillsdale College.

Rev. Gallant gave a treasurer report on Hopewell No. 2, Motion carried to accept. (see reports)

Rev. Gallant then gave the report on the finances of the Mission Board motion carried to accept, (see reports)

Rev. Gallant read the Camp Ground Treasurer report , Accepted, (see reports.)

The Report from the Credential Board was accepted at this time, (see reports)

Education Committee report accepted; (see reports)

Temperance Committee read and accepted. (see reports)

The letters requesting the selling of the Camp Grounds from the Ardmore and Healdton Church were read, Motion carried to accept the Ardmore letter and accept their request. (Rejected)

Rev. Morris gave a report on the importance of maintaining and keeping the Grounds and the upkeep, repairs and ect.

Motion and second to give the Camp Grounds Board of Trustees the authority to get a clear title, also to give them the authority to spend up to Ten Thousand (\$ 10,000.00) Dollars on the property, securing the loan on the property if necessary.

SATURDAY Morning Aug. 26, 1972

This session opened with singing " I'll be satisfied " Rev. Milburn Wilson prayed.

Rev. Richard Gallant gave an oral report from the Christian Education Board.

Bro. Z. Chadoun gave the report from the executive Board. Motion carried to accept, (see reports)

Dates Announced for the Mission Conference in Hopewell no. 2, as October 5th. through 15th, 1972 - Speakers Rev. Earnie Deeds- Brazil, Rev. Lonnie Sparks, Africa and Rev. Henry VanKlyve, Nashville.

Motion carried to print the Womans Auxiliary report in the minutes.

Rev. Clarence Harron from Hillsdale College gave a report on the school reporting 110 students enrolled also 30 enrolled in extension work, (total 140)

Resolution No. 1 read, move and second to accept, (see report section)

Motion carried to adopt the Questioner for Ministers and Deacons.

Motion carried that the Chair appoint a Committee to bring in the duties for all boards.

Committee Appointed; Rev. E. E. Morris, Bro. Mike McComber, Rev. Milburn Wilson, Rev. Richard Gallant and Rev. Noah Smith.

Move and second to postpone the vote on motion carried over from Friday P. M. service, concerning the Campground Board of Trustees securing loan and clear title on property. M C.

MEMORIAL SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

Bro. Zelous Chadouin directed the singing of "Never Grow Old" with Joyce Mullins playing the piano.

The Obituary report read by Rev. Fellobaum, after a moment of silent prayer, Rev. Milburn Wilson led the assembly in a Memorial Prayer.

Song; "When we all get to Heaven".

Bro. Mike McComber sang "The Haven of rest". Rev. Richard Gallant delivered the memorial message, using the scripture Matt. 16; 16-18 stressing the point, that those gone on would admonish us all to give our all in His service, and spoke on the importance of being in one accord.

Dismissed by Rev. Harvey Aguirre.

SATURDAY P.M. AUG. 26, 1972

Rev. Clate Briggs led the song "Trust and Obey" Vola Robinson played the piano.

Rev. Dennis Teague, Ardmore gave the afternoon devotional from Col. 1; 14.

Move to accept the obituary report. (see reports) MC.

Motion carried to accept Rev. Morris resignation from the Camp Ground Board.

Quarterly meeting set, and speakers elected; as follows;

First Quarterly meeting Nov. 10, 11, 1972 at Eastside Duncan,

Introductory speaker, Rev. Harvey Aguirre

Second; Feb. 9, 10, 1973 at Lone Grove Church,

Introductory speaker Rev. Dennis Teague.

Third; May 11, 12, 1973 at Lawton

Introductory speaker Rev. W. L. Lowe

Annual Introductory speaker; Rev. Carroll Milner - Alternate Rev. Noah Smith.

Memorial Speaker - Rev. Milburn Wilson, Alternate Rev. James Deathrage.

Election of Boards; CTS Board - Hershel Lewis . . . 3 yrs.

Carroll Milner . . . 1 yr.

Board on Christian Education . . . Harvey Aguirre . . . 3 yrs.

Mission Board James Deathrage . . . 5 yrs.

Camp Grounds Board James Deathrage . . . 3 yrs.

Camp Grounds Board E. E. Morris 2 yrs.

Motion carried to increase the Camp Ground Board to five (5) men.

Mike McComber elected to 5 yrs.

Clate Briggs elected to 4 yrs.

Motion carried that the Camp Ground Board be given the authority to have their own Treasurer, and handle the financial

Elected to Credentail Board . . . Noah Smith 3 yrs.

" " Executive Board . . . Jay Crisp 5 yrs.

District Officers Elected;

Moderator Rev. E. E. Morris

Asst Moderator Rev. Milburn Wilson

Clerk Vivian O. Lewis

Asst. Clerk Mary Ann Gallant

Treasurer Charlene Ingram

Asst. Treasurer. Richard Gallant

Motion carried that the Assistant Treasurer be bonded at his request.
Rev. Richard Gallant was elected to General Board Member to the State
Motion carried to commend all Boards, Officers and/or workers and a
vote of thanks for their service.

Move and second to give a vote of thanks to Moderator Rev. Lowe for the
way he kept order and love in this session, MC

Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissal Prayer - Rev. Gallant

ANNUAL REPORTS: CREDENTIAL BOARD

We the Credential Board recommend the following, Having examined
Rev. Harvey Aguirre,, Finding him sound in Faith and Practice, in Free Will
Baptist doctrine, recommend that he be accepted in Hopewell No. 2 Assn.

Having wxamined Rev. Dennis Teague and found him sound in Faith and
Practice of Free-Will Baptice doctrine, recommend that he be accepted
into full fellowship of Hopewell No. 2.

Signed; James Deathrage, John Wood
and Noah R. Smith

EXECUTIVE BOARD

We met in Ardmore on July 10,1972, The meeting of the Executive Board
opened with prayer by Rev. W. L. Lowe, Moderator, Motion Carried to
move the Annual Session of Hopewell No. 2 from Aug. 17,18 & 19,1972 to
Aug. 24,25 & 26,1972. The reason being; The Annual Youth Camp will be
Aug. 14 through the 18th. Dismissal Prayer by Rev. Noah Smith.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. Zelous Chadion, Chairman
Rev. Noah Smith, Member
Rev. W. L. Lowe, District Moderator

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

We recommend that all Churches support and back the Christian Education
Board in all endeavors, and further recommend that all churches back the
Hillsdale College to help new Ministers to better their education.

Rev. Clate Briggs
Sister Mullins
Sister Norton

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE;

We the Resolution Committee recommend that the Questioner for License-
ing and Ordination for Deacons and Ministers be brought before the Annual
Session.

Signed; Bro. Vernie Cypert
Bro. Hershel Lewis
Bro Wadie Buttrum

OBITUARY COMMITTEE;

Bro. John McElvain Countyline- Sister Ellen Williamson Midway
Bro. Jim Gillaspay Bro. J. A. Elliston . Sulphur
Sister Marie Green Stobtown
Sister Mimi Kyle
Bro. Ben Brewer

We the Committee recommend a silent prayer to pay tribute to the deceased.

Committee; Sister Ora Smith
Sister Tennie Gillispy
Sister Stella Burke

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE;

We recommend that as Christians we live according to the true word of God, As the scriptures teach, In conversation and deeds, also in action and refrain from all sinful amusements, and abstain from all appearances of evil. 1 Thes; 5;22.

Signed; Sister Ruth Morris
Sister Vada Fletcher
Sister Doris Deathrage

Monies received in letters;	Minutes	State Delegates
Lone Grove	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Stobtown	10.00	10.00
Duncan	- - -	10.00
Santa Fe	5.00	10.00
Healdton	10.00	10.00
Lawton	10.00	10.00
Ardmore	10.00	10.00
Countyline	10.00	10.00
Midway	- - - -	10.00
Sulphur	- - - -	10.00

STATE DELEGATES

Lone Grove	Doris Deathrage
Stobtown	Juanita Lowe
Duncan	Vivian Lewis
Santa Fe	Francis Milner
Healdton	Mary Ann Gallant
Lawton	Cleo Chism
Ardmore	Dennis Teague
Countyline	Frankie Fellobaum
Midway	Mary Aguirre
Sulphur	Ruth Morris

YOUTH ENCAMPMENT REPORT

Camp ground Board report- from July - Aug 21,1972. Hopewell No.2 Association

Money received from treasurer\$ 521.83

Enrollment and desert fund 590.00

Pop and Candy 1180.46

\$1292.29

Evangelist 150.00

Cooks 140.00

Camp Director 75.00

Lake Murray 114.50

Insurance 20.40

Pop 76.05

Milk and food 117.15

Groceries 224.30

Meats 40.22

Groceries 58.97

Ice 19.80

Groceries 6.65

Fly Spray 8.11

\$ 1,051.15

Money received \$ 1,292.29

Paid out 1,051.15

In treasurer 241.14

The \$76.05 for pop and \$36.00 for candy should not be added to the food bill.

For the pop stand it cost \$ 76.05 for pop

36.00 for Candy

\$112.05

\$180.00

112.05

67.95 profit

Troy Lewellen
Zealous Chaudoin
Edward E. Morris

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

TREASURER REPORT

GIVING BY CHURCHES (August 1, 1971 - July 30, 1972)

Churches	CO-Op	Fr Miss	Hm Miss	Local Miss	Camp Ground	OBC	Gen Fund	Total
Ardmore	1281.89	1548.26				1502.38	30.00	4362.53
County L.	196.70			39.34	98.31		89.08	423.43
Duncan	446.65	83.00		89.25	223.30		154.02	996.22
Healdton	52.63	248.00	21.00	10.52	26.31	204.24	30.54	593.24
Lawton	30.00	87.20		6.00	40.00		14.00	177.20
Lone Grv.	126.73	648.29		25.34	63.33	294.10	53.14	1210.93
Midway	103.38	263.21		20.68	51.69	26.78	46.00	511.74
Santa Fe	42.50	50.00		8.50	61.25		22.75	185.00
Stobtown		404.50			110.00	13.00	90.00	617.50
Sulphur		146.83	103.62		80.00	120.00	45.00	495.45
TOTAL	2280.48	3479.29	124.62	199.63	744.19	2160.50	574.53	9573.24

RECEIPTS

Balance Aug. 1, 1971	307.39
Giving by Churches	9,537.34
Commanche Church	2,210.32
Mission Rally	13.66
Nov. Qtr. Meeting	37.85
Campground Reimbursement	80.00
Hillsdale Banquet	242.50
Farm Bureau Ins. Refund and	2.74

TOTAL INCOME 12,467.70

TOTAL PAID OUT 12,435.29

BALANCE IN TREASURY 32.41

PAID OUTS

Oklahoma State Association ciation	
CO-Op	2,280.48
Foreign Missions	3,492.95
Home Missions	124.62
Hillsdale College	2,813.90

Total Denominational causes 8,757.89

LOCAL EXPENSES

Camp Ground	744.19
Local Missions	2,371.22
Phone Calls	4.90
C.T.S. Office	8.80
Littles Printing	7.65
Murray County Ins.	80.00
State Delegates Fees	120.00
General Board Member	20.00
Postage	1.14
Morgan Co. (Minutes)	172.00
Wayne Wood (Trea Bond)	10.00
Northside Clinic (Lonnie Palmer)	49.50
Oklahoma Vending Co.	75.00
Lake Murray State Park	13.00

- 9 - TOTAL LOCAL EXPENCES 3,677.40

MISSION BOARD TREASURY REPORT

August 1, 1971 — July 30, 1972

Balance August 1971	126.69		
Received from Co-Op	199.63		
Received from Comanche	2,210.32		
TOTAL	2,536.44	Total	2,536.44
PAID OUT			
Hillsdale College	2,165.00		
Lonnie Palmer	100.00		
Mileage and expence selling Comanche property	199.50		
Postage	7.00		
TOTAL	2,471.50	Total	2,471.50
			64.94

BALANCE in Treasury

CAMPGROUND TREASURER REPORT

August 30, 1971 — July 30, 1972

Balance Aug. 1971	113.43
Received from Co-Op and Designated giving	<u>744.19</u>
TOTAL	857.62
PAID OUT	
Farm Bureau Ins.	226.73
O.G.&E.	14.52
Free Will Baptist Book Store	32.70
Duncan Meat Co.	3.50
TOTAL	<u>277.45</u>

BALANCE In Treasury 580.17

WOMANS ANNUAL DISTRICT SESSION;

The Hopewell No. 2 Womans Auxiliary met at the Midway Church on July 7, 1972 for the annual conference,

Opening songs were "Wonderful Grace of Jesus" and "He Lives".

Prayer by Sister Ora Smith.

Special Music by Daisy Talkofer and Sherril Zak from Lawton,

Vivian Lewis President presided, The spirit of the Lord was truly present, Rev. Carroll Milner brought a wonderful message on the "Sower and tares." Sister Milner gave the welcome.

We then entered into the business session, Reports from the various Churches were given, The District Treasurer report was given, reporting 48 active members and \$252.00 sent to the State for Allactions and representation fees.

Nominations were from the floor, since the Nomination Committee could not meet, Officers Elected

President Vivian Lewis
703 N. 13th Duncan, Oklahoma 73533
Phone 255-5051

Vice President Ruth Morris
1302 W. 13th Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086
Phone

Secretary Kate Briggs
2328 Cornell, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
Phone 357-8463

Asst. Secretary Mary Ann Gallant
314 South 4th Healdton, Oklahoma 73438
Phone 229-0397

Treasurer Ruth Franklin
313 North A, Duncan, Oklahoma 73533
Phone 255-0777

Field Wkr. Ruth Morris

Mission Study Chirman Mary Aguirre
Route 3, Healdton, Oklahoma 73438
Phone

Mission Prayer Chairman Jauanita Lowe
Route 3, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401
Phone 657-6295

Mission Action Chairman Sherril Zak
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
Phone

Motion Carried that the Resolution Committee stand for the next three (3) months

Motion carried to send \$20.00 to the James Nason Account.

Total present 43 Lawton winning the Attendance banner,

Dismissal prayer; Wanda Kellett.

CALLED CONFERENCE Sept. 7, 1972 Meeting at the Camp Grounds

Singing directed by Bro. Mike McComber, Prayer Rev. Dean Thompson
Rev. Leroy Holman brought a beautiful devotional using Romans 8;28,
an altar of prayer was called for, for the Deacons and Ministers, Praying
for the leadership of the Lord in this session.

Moderator Rev. E. E. Morris declared this assembly into conference.

Motion carried to suspend the Rule.

The Clerk read the Constitution from First Oklahoma Association, Move
and second to adopt this constitution, MC.

Motion carried to accept Article VI in the above read constitution.

A resolution from the Camp Ground Board read and accepted. (see No. 1
Resolution for called conference)

Resolution No. 2, from Camp Ground Board read and accepted.(see reso
resolutions)

Elected to the CTS Board . . . Rev. Dean Thompson . . . 4 yrs.

Rev. Harvey Aguirre . . . 5 yrs.

The Christian Education Board resigned giving place to the CTS Board.

Recommendation No. 3 from this Assembly that each church send Ten dollars
(\$10.00) a month to the CTS Board for the Youth Camp use. Accepted.

Recommendations from the Credential Board read and accepted (see
called conference reports)

Elected to the Credential Board ..Bro. Troy Lewellen 4 yrs.

Rev. Clate Briggs 5 yrs.

We sang " Amazing Grace ".

A testimony was enjoyed by all.

For dismissal of this Assembly we all joined in singing " Tis the old
time religion".

CALLED CONFERENCE REPORTS:

No. 1 Resolution - Since the business of the Camp Grounds belongs to the
Executive Board and they have the authority to convey and handle all legal
transactions; therefore, the Campground Board feels like there is no further
need for this board, Be it resolved they discontinue this board and turn
their money and records to the Executive Board.

Signed; Campground Board:

E.E. Morris

Clate Briggs

James Deathrage

Mike McComber

No. 2 - We recommend the \$274.20 be turned over to the CTS Board, that
we now we now have in the Campground Board treasurer. (from Campground
Board)

No. 3 Recommendation from this Assembly that each church send \$10.00
a month to the CTS Board for Youth Camp use.

No. 4 - After examining Bro. Bob Seward and Bro. Wayne McCrackin and
finding them sound in doctrine and faith we recommend that they be or-
dained as Deacons.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

First Quarterly Meeting at Lone Grove, on Nov. 12,13,1971
Meeting called to order by Moderator Bro. W. L. Lowe, Song "Standing on the Promises " led by Bro. Richard Gallant, Prayer by Bro. Merle Wilson.

Bro. Mike McComber sang "The Haven of rest " Sister Mary Beth Bray sang " Now I have everything "

Bro. Deathrage brought the message using the scripture Zep. 3; 10-20

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. John Woods

SATURDAY MORNING

Services opened with Bro. Gallant leading the congregational singing.

Letters called for and read - Move to receive the letters and seat the delegates . . a hand of fellowship was given the delegates while we sang " Praise Him " Prayer by Bro. Clate Briggs.

Bro. James Deathrage read the rules of order.

Committees appointed; Divine; Harold Roberson-Lawton

Bro. Thornberry Lone Grove

Sister Payne Healdton

Resolutions;

Sister Essie Roberts

Midway

Sister Oleta Spruiell

Duncan

Bro. Vernie Cypert

Ardmore

Letter read from First Oklahoma Assn. Recommending Bro. Milburn Wilson

Motion carries to table the item on the date for the next year Associational revival.

Rev. James Deathrage was elected to fill the 2 year man on the Credential Board to replace Doyal Cox.

Bro Jay Crisp was elected to one year man on the Executive Board.

Treasurer's report was given by Bro. Richard Gallant, Motion carried to accept same.

Recessed for 11:00 A. M. Services.

Richard Gallant opened the service with leading the song

" When we all get to Heaven " Sandy Scroggins at the piano.

Prayer Bro. Willard Sample

Sister Mary Beth Bray sang " Fill my cup Lord" Mary Beth & Jean

Bennett sang " He is all I need " Vivian Lewis H Sandy Scroggins sang

" I need Him again to-day".

Bro. Earl Scroggins spoke from 2 Tim. 3; .. on being leaders equipped to lead . . be led . . and to know His Word.

Prayer by Bro. Scroggins

Dismissal prayer by Bro. Ward Fellobaum

The afternoon service was opened with singing, " I love to tell the Story"

Bro. Milburn Wilson gave the devotional Rev. 2;4 Prayer by Bro. Wilson

Motion carried to take from the table the item concerning the National Guideline for Ordination. Motion carried to adopt the guideline in Hopewell No. 2.

Motion carries to print these National Guidelines in our assn Minutes.

Resolution No. 1 Adopted. (see resolutions)

Resolution No. 2 Adopted. (see resolutions)

Motion carried to pay for doctor bill for Bro. Lonnie Palmer and each church to pay (\$5.00) five dollars on this bill.

Motion carried to dismiss our committee for this session.

The Assistant Moderator gave thanks to all for the splended cooperation in the business , for message, and singing and lunch.

An offering of \$33.85 was received for the general fund, while singing " The old rugged cross " Bro. Rickey Mullins ask God's blessing on the offering.

Testimony and comments were given by several, and enjoyed by all.

Motion carried to adjourn..

Dismissal prayer by Bro. John Woods.

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT: We the credential Board have examined Bro. Earl Scroggins and Bro. Merle Wilson and find them to be sound in doctrine and faith, and recommend them to be received into full fellowship in Hopewell No. 2.

Resolution No. 1 - Be it resolved that we in Hopewell No. 2 Association of Free Will Baptist go on record as being in favor of State Question No. 478, and that we publish our support of this question in The Daily Ardmoreite, The Duncan, Banner and lawton News Paper.

Resolution No. 2 - Be it resolved that this Quarterly meeting recommend to the Annual Association that we have printed in the minutes the .minutes of the Quarterly meeting as well as the Annual Meeting.

THE SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING DISMISSED because of ice on highways:

THE THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING on May 12,13,1972 at Healdton, Oklahoma
The introductory service begin with singing led by Bro. Marlin Bevins, with Juanita Lowe at the piano.

Prayer by Bro. Merle Wilson. Other songs " When the roll is Called up yonder and " Amazing Grace " Prayer by Bro. E. E. Morris

Testimony service led by Bro. Noah Smith.

Message by Bro. Richard Gallant title " The Shepherd and His sheep " using Acts 20; 28. The message was most inspiring, Stating Christ is the chief Shepherd and pastors are appointed shepherds.

SATURDAY MORNING service; May 13,1972 Bro. Gallant led the singing Doris Deathrage at the piano, singing " A child of the King " and " To God be the Glory " Prayer by Bro. Clate Briggs.

Letters called for and read; Motion carried to accept letters and seat the delegates with a right hand of fellowship.

Motion carried that the Moderator appoint an Assistant Moderator for the day. Bro. Richard Gallant was appointed.

Committees Appointed;

Divine Committee; Naomi Mullins, Doris Deathrage, & Jeanita Hardin
Reso. Committee; Troy Morris Jr., Marlin Bevins & Stella Burke

Letters read from Sulphur asking that Rev. E.E. Morris be accepted into Hopewell No.2 Association.

Letter read from Ardmore church asking that Bro. Leroy Holman be accepted into Hopewell No. 2 Association.

Rules of order were read by Bro. Milburn Wilson

Treasurers report read by Bro. Gallant, Motion carried to accept.

Bro. Milburn Wilson gave the treasurers report for the Mission Board and announced the Mission Conference Oct. 8-15, 1972 with Missionaries Earnie Deeds, Lonnie Sparks and Henry Van Klyve will speak in the different churches on these dates.

The Christian Training Service conference will be held on Nov. 27 through Dec. 1, 1972 Malcomb Fry will be in our association at this time.

Motion carried to accept Bro. Milburn Wilsons resignation from CTS Board. Bro. Earl Scroggins was elected to fill this office.

Bro. Earl Scroggins gave a report on the youth camp and the dates, Camp to begin June 18, 1972 and recommended a change in salaries as follows.

Cook; \$75.00	Director \$75.00
Asst. Cook \$65.00	Evangelist \$150.00

Motion carried to accept thei recommendation.

We sang " Power in the blood " led by Bill Kinsey, Prayer by John Woods.

We opened the 11:00 Service with singing " He keeps me singing " prayer by Bro. Jay Crisp.

Jenita Hardin sang " Blessed Redeemer " Donna Hicks sang " Lord I need you again today " The Healdton Quartet sang " What a day that will be " Richard and Mary Ann Gallant sang, " The King is coming."

Bro. Carroll Milner brought the message from Acts, 20:28 - Peter 5; 1-4 and 1 John 2;18, A testimony service was enjoyed.

Dismissal prayer and grace on lunch, Bro. Leroy Holman.

SATURDAY; P. M. with Sandy Scroggins at the piano, Bro. Gallant led " Wonderful Grace of Jesus "

Devotion by Bro. Merle Wilson reading from 1 Thes.

Report from the Credential Committee read and accepted.

The resignation from Dale Howell from the Camp Ground Committee was read and motion carried to accept, Bro. E. E. Morris was elected as replacement.

Questionnaires for both Ministers and Deacons were read as information, to be put in the hands of all churches before the Annual Associational meeting.

Report from State ministers conference on " Preaching the everlasting Word " was read by Bro. Lowe(Given as information)

Motion carried not to have an Associational Revival this year

Motion carried to dismiss resolution committee.

Request from Midway Church that Bro. Carroll Milner be Examined for license.

A report was read from the State Health Department on the State of camp grounds.

Motion carried that CTS Board find a place for the youth camp this year and set a date.

Motion carried that Camp Ground Board see what is needed to bring the Camp Grounds up to standard and give estimate in dollars and cents.

Credential Board recommended that Bro. Carroll Milner be license to preach. Accepted.

Move and seconded to adjourn.

Dismissed with alter of prayer for the Ill and sick in spirit.

Period of time covered in this report:
 From July, 71 to July, 72
 GENERAL INFORMATION TO THE STATE 17-19, 72
 ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING
 Name of organization reporting:
Hopewell # 2
 Moderator's name and address:
Rev. E.E. Morris
1302 W. 13th. Sulphur, Oklahoma
 Clerk's name and address:
Vivian O. Lewis
703 N. 13th. Duncan, Oklahoma 72533

STATISTICS

Number of churches	- - - -	<u>10</u>
Number of parsonages	- - - -	<u>7</u>
Number of ordained ministers	- - - -	<u>15</u>
Number of licensed ministers	- - - -	<u>3</u>
(List names and addresses on back if desired)		
Number of ordained deacons	- - - -	<u>33</u>
Number of the following auxiliaries:		
<u>10</u> Sunday Schools	-----	YPAs
<u>5</u> Leagues	-----	Boy's Auxs.
<u>8</u> Woman's Auxs.	-----	Master's Men
GTAs	-----	<u>10</u> Prayer Meetings
Church Membership	- - - -	<u>983</u>
Resident	- - - -	<u>142</u>
Non-Resident	- - - -	<u>241</u>

Members received	- - - -	<u>166</u>
By profession of faith	- - - -	<u>113</u>
By letter	- - - -	<u>32</u>
By statement of faith	- - - -	<u>21</u>
Members Dismissed	- - - -	<u>56</u>
By letter	- - - -	<u>35</u>
Excluded	- - - -	<u>14</u>
Deceased	- - - -	<u>7</u>
Sunday School Enrolment	- - - -	<u>747</u>
League Enrolment	- - - -	<u>181</u>
Woman's Auxiliary membership	- - - -	<u>48</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total giving in the churches	- - - -	<u>\$99,685.00</u>
General Offering	- - - -	\$-----
Building Fund	- - - -	\$-----
Spent for local causes—		
Pastor's salary	- - - -	<u>\$35,723.00</u>
Evangelistic work	- - - -	<u>\$1,587.00</u>
Bldg. & Repair	- - - -	<u>\$18,339.35</u>
Literature	- - - -	<u>\$3,470.31</u>
Advertising (radio programs, etc.)	- - - -	<u>\$279.00</u>
Miscellaneous	- - - -	\$-----
Other	- - - -	\$-----
Total local expenditures	- - - -	<u>\$58,661.00</u>
Spent for outside causes—		
Cooperative Plan or Unified Program	- - - -	<u>\$2,824.48.</u>
Foreign missions	- - - -	<u>\$1,649.56</u>
Home missions	- - - -	<u>\$160.82</u>
Education	- - - -	<u>\$646.47</u>
Orphanage	- - - -	\$-----
Superannuation	- - - -	\$-----
Assoc. projects	- - - -	<u>\$361.00</u>
State & Natl. projects	- - - -	<u>\$1,930.00</u>
Other	- - - -	\$-----
Total outside expenditures	- - - -	<u>\$221,000.00</u>
Value of associational property	- - - -	\$-----
Value of church property	- - - -	\$-----
Value of parsonage property	- - - -	<u>\$40,500.00</u>
Amount enclosed with letter for minutes, fees, etc. Delegates	- - - -	<u>\$100.00</u>

General Board Member 73 Richard Gallant

Ministers Roll

Aguirre, Harvey	Route 3, Healdton, Oklahoma 73438	
Blair, Burl	704 Oak Main, Comanche, Okla. 73529	
Briggs, Clate	2328 Cornell, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501	
Deathrage, James	Lone Grove, Oklahoma 73443	
Fellobaum, Ward	Box 63, Ratliff City, Oklahoma 73081	
Foust, O. H.	19 - 6th N. W. Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	
Gallant, Richard	314 S. 4th., Healdton, Oklahoma 73438	
Hill, Dock	Davis, Oklahoma	
Holman, Leroy	1025 B. S.W. Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	
Howell, Louis	Lone Grove, Oklahoma 73443	
Kellett, Myrl	2603 A Ave. Lawton, Oklahoma 73501	
Lowe, W. L.	Route 3, Box 154A, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401 657-6295	
Milner, Carroll	Box 17 Ratliff City, Oklahoma 73081	
Morris, E. E.	1302 W. 13th Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086	
Smith, Noah	Route 4, Box 95, Elmore City, Oklahoma 73035	
Teague, Dennis	706 D- N.W. Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	
Thompson, Dean	505 S. 11th Duncan, Oklahoma 73533	
Wilson, Milburn	706 D- N.W. Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	

Deacons

Othal Kyle	Route 3 Ardmore, Okla. 73401	657-6420
Troy Morris	Route 3 Ardmore, Okla. 73401	657-4513
Guy Denny	Star Route Lone Grove, Okla. 73443	657-4277
Leonard Robinson	Star Route Lone Grove, Okla. 73443	657-4742
James Adams	Route 3 Ardmore, Okla. 73401	
Joe Balthrop	Route 3 Ardmore, Okla. 73401	
Forest Cox	Alma, Oklahoma 73001	856-3723
Leroy Spurgin	Route 3 Duncan, Okla. 73533	
Zelous Chaudoin	Box 4, Alma, Okla. 73001	
Ray Spurgin	Loco, Oklahoma	
Ralph Millins	Route 1, Box 210B Alma, Okla.	856-3038
C. L. Lemming	Route 2 Sulphur, Okla. 73086	622-3954
Glen Lemming	Route 2 Sulphur, Okla. 73086	622-3954
Wayne McCrackin	Sulphur, Okla. 73086	
Bob D. Seward	Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086	
Mike McComber	909 10th N. W. Ardmore, Okla. 73401	223-1383
John Wood	1107 Bailey, Ardmore, Okla. 73401	223-5955
Jay Crisp	1105 Wolvertan Ardmore, Okla. 73401	
Herb Welch	500 12th S. E. Ardmore, Okla. 73401	
Fred Hodges	904 Q. N.W. Ardmore, Okla. 73401	
R. L. West	520 F. N. W. Ardmore, Okla 73401	
John Jeter	8 Town & Country Ardmore, Okla. 73401	
Dale Howell	Lone Grove, Okla. 73443	
J. L. McDaniel	Route 3 Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-1455
Hershel Lewis	703 N. 13th Duncan, Oklahoma 73533	255-5051
Tommy Pannell	100 Lakewood Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-3500
Adrain Scott	2212 Ceder Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-1211
Cleo Chism	508 S. 13th Lawton, Okla. 73501	353-8482
W. M. Buttrum	2501 A. Ave. Lawton, Okla. 73501	353-4278
M. M. Bevins	Wert, Oklahoma	
Richard Watkins	Box 235 Fox, Oklahoma	
Joel Harman	Box 144 Graham, Oklahoma	
Troy Lewellen	Box 201 Graham, Oklahoma	673-2315

CONSTITUTION
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

PREAMBLE; From long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination, realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a group of churches, do hereby ordain this constitution for our progress and do perpetuate better association government.

NAME; This Association shall be known as Hopewell No. 2 Association of Free Will Baptist of the State of Oklahoma, It shall meet four times each year with the August session designated as the annual session. Each quarterly conference shall possess the same authority as the annual session except the election of Officers and Board members.

MEMBERSHIP; This Association shall be composed of Free Will Baptist churches which maintain Gospel order and agree with denominational doctrine and practices; and favor the enterprises that have been endorsed by the Association.

Voting representation, at any session, shall be as described in article 14 of the By-Laws.

There must be a majority of the Member Churches present for a quorum to be constituted. A written record shall be made of all transactions.

OFFICERS; The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk and treasurer, all of whom shall be elected at the annual session.

NEW CHURCHES; Any regular organized Free Will Baptist Church (Treatise pp. 41,42) desiring to unite with the Association may do so by presenting a petitionary letter and being examined by the Executive Board. A majority vote is necessary for their acceptance into the Association.

BOARDS; The following standing boards shall be elected in the annual session. Each board shall consist of five (5) members elected as to have one member retiring each year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD; The Executive Board is delegated power to act in behalf and for the Hopewell No. 2 Association from one meeting to another and, shall have the power and authority to elect such officers as might be deemed best for its government and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the Hopewell No. 2 Association, The board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body.

The board is further delegated power to collect funds and employ and superintend such work for the field as may seem best, and the means on hand may warrant. It shall have power to convey or mortgage any real estate or Associational property. This executive board shall keep a record of all work done, monies raised, meetings held, and make a full and complete report to the next regular meeting of this Association and shall further receive, hold manage, use, control, and convey property entrusted to said Association for any purpose in accordance with

The purpose of the doner or doners, and in no case divert it from its original object.

The Chairman and clerk of said executive board shall sign all Deeds, and bonds, notes, etc.; and any other papers by which the Hopewell No.2 association is to become legally responsible. It shall be the duty of this Board to meet as often as may be necessary and any member absenting himself, from three (3) successive meetings may be dropped from the board, and his successor elected. No member of the Executive board shall delegate authority to any other member of said board to cast his vote for him in anything. The executive board shall have power to call the Association into conference by notifying each church, ten (10) days prior to the conference; and, they shall have the authority to change quarterly meetings or association if the place where said meeting or Association is to meet is not able to care for the meetings; and their decisions shall be final. This must be done in time to notify each church. No meeting of the Executive Board shall be legal unless at least three (3) members are present.

CREDENTIAL BOARD; The credential Board shall examine ministers for license and ordination, It shall also examine Deacons sent to the Association by the member churches. In case of discipline this board shall have the authority to labor with the ordained of this Association.

CHURCH TRAINING SERVICE BOARD; The Church Training Service Board shall plan church training rallies and youth activities of the Association. This board shall also plan the annual youth encampment with the authority to appoint and employ necessary personnel.

The Board shall give an itemized account of youth activities and expenditures to the annual conference.

MISSION BOARD; The mission board will assist any worthy mission work within the bounds of Hopewell No. 2 Association. The Annual Missionary conference of the Association will be planned and supervised by the Mission Board. The Mission program of the denomination shall be kept before the Hopewell No. 2 Association and special drives shall be presented by this board.

MASTERS MEN BOARD; The Master's men board will work in cooperation with the State and National Master's Men Organization in the promotion of local Master Men's chapters in the churches of Hopewell No. 2 Assn. It shall be the duty of the board to promote and maintain a district masters mens organization, cooperating with the officers of said organization.

PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE; Any church that is a member of Hopewell No. 2 Association that fails to have a pastor for two (2) years becomes the property of said Association; however at any time during the two years it will be the business of the Executive board to assist such church in securing a pastor and helping it to maintain services that would prohibit the Board's need to take charge of the property.

CREDENTIALS; When a church desires that one of its members should be examined for license or ordination, it shall be the duty of the council in the examination to determine the candidates qualifications.

The candidates to be examined by a set of questions and if they are answered scripturally and satisfactorily to the approval of the Credential board, he will be recommended to the body for license or ordination, A majority vote of the body shall be final authority.

RULES OF ORDER

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

—Matt. 10-22 2 Pet. 1-4 to 10 Hebb: 4 to 6. 2 Pet 2-20-21

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, arrangements 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 received 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 fellowship is given all persons 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.

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. Petitory 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

(1) We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and these are equal in Divine essence, power and Glory Romans 1-20: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God head; so that they are without excuse:"

I John 1:1: "That which was from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and our hands have handled, of the work of life."

2: "(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)"

3: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His son Jesus Christ."

I John 5:6: "This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the spirit that beareth witness, because the spirit is true."

7: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: And these three are one."

John 17:21: "That they all may be one; as thou,

Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: That the world may believe that thou has sent me."

22: "And the glory which thou givest me I have given them: that they may be one, even as we are one:"

23. "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

(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-

2 Tim. 3:16: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

17: "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

2 Pet: 1:18. "And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the mount."

19: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts;"

20: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy, of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

21: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

(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: "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

8: "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden,"

9: "And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?"

10: "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11: "And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"

12: "And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."

13. "And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

14: "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life."

15: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

16: "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

17: "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life:"

Ecc. 7:29: "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

Rom. 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Rom. 7:7: "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die."

Heb. 2:9. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

Gal. 3:22: "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

(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, therefore He saith: "Look unto me and be saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else."

Isa. 45:22: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: For I am God, and there is none else."

2^d Cor. 5:14: "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead."

15: "And that he died for all, that they which lived should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto them which died for them, and rose again."

Isa. 53:5: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

7: "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

I Tim. 4:9: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation."

10. "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those that believe."

Act 17:28: "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."

29: "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."

30. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

31: "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead?"

Acts 20:20: "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,"

21: "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Cor. 15:12: "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?"

13. "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:"

14: "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

15: "Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not."

16: "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:"

17: "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."

18: "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

19: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

20: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept."

21: "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead."

(5) We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life—

John 3:1: "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:"

2: "The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him,"

3: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4: "Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

5: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

6: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

7: "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

8: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

9: "Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?"

10: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?"

(6) We believe that infants are saved by the merits of the Son of God—

Mark 10:13: "And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them."

14: "But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

15: "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

16: "And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Matt. 18:1: "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

2: "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,"

3: "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter in to the kingdom of heaven."

4: "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

(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. 10:21: "And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death."

22: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

2 Pet. 1:4: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding

great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

5: "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;"

6. "And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;"

7: "And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

8: "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

9: "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

10: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

Hebrews 6:4: For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5; And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.

6; If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

II Pet. 2:20: For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21: For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22; But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

I Tim. 1:19: Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith made shipwreck:

Matt. 10:22: And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

(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-

Matt. 3:13: "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him."

14; "But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?"

15; "And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

16; "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him."

Matt. 28:19: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

20; "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Acts 8:36: "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

37; "And Phillip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

38: "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

39: "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

(9) We believe that God in his goodness calls and to a great degree qualifies his servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost, and by the instructors 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.

John 14:26: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Heb. 5:4: "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron"

I Tim. 1:9: "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

10; "For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;"

11; "According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust."

(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.

I Cor. 11:20: "When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper."

21: "For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken."

22; "What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not."

23; "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:"

24; "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

25; "After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

26; "For as often as ye eat this bread, and dring this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

27; "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."

28; "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

29; "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

Rom. 6:4: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

5; "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"

I Pet. 3:21: "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

22; "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."

Matt. 28:19: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;"

20; "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen".

John 13:13: "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am."

14; "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

15; "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

16; "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him."

17; "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

(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 shall be unanimous.

Tit. 1:5: For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:"

Acts 14:23: "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."

II Thess. 3:6: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

7; "For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;"

(12) We believe it to be the duty of each church to assemble themselves together in conference 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: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

John 13:14: "If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

Heb. 10:23: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised:)"

24; "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:"

25; "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

(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: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

I John 2:9: "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now."

John 17:19: "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

John 15:3: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

I Pet. 3:15: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

Heb. 12:10: "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might

be partakers of his holiness."

11; "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

12; "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;"

13; "And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14; "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

15; "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;"

Gal. 6:10: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

(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.

John 5:28: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,"

29; "And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Dan. 12:1: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

2; "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

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 the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake 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, promote the success of the Church and of the Gospel.

We will every where hold Christian principal 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, the success of Sunday School, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world and may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless up to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NATIONAL GUIDELINE

OF ORDINATION

ORDINATION TO THE MINISTRY
IN THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST DENOMINATION
PREFACE

This little booklet has been prepared by the Executive Committee of the General Board of the National Association, and has been approved by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

It must be clearly understood that this booklet is intended to be descriptive and not legislative. Nobody can set ordination requirements for the denomination as a whole; each ordaining body across the denomination has full liberty to follow whatever practices it chooses.

From time to time, however, various persons engaged in exercising ordaining responsibilities are desirous of knowing what is being practiced abroad in the denomination. For that reason this booklet has been prepared. The Executive Committee trusts that the suggestions and descriptions will be helpful for those who wish help.

PART 1: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

THE AUTHORITY TO ORDAIN

Free Will Baptist, committed to doctrine of congregational church government, understand that the authority to ordain ministers lies in the local church. In practice, however, some local Free Will Churches work together in the matter of ordination by delegating the authority of ordination to the association of churches in which the local church holds membership. the true source of this authority should never be lost sight of.

THE PROCEDURE FOR ORDINATION

In some areas of the denomination, ordination follows a procedure at least similar to the following outline.

1. The individual, acknowledging his call from God, makes known his calling and desire for ordination to the local church of which he is a member.
2. The local church, led by the Holy Spirit to recognize that the Individual does, indeed, appear to possess the gift, proceeds to have the candidate "licensed".
 - a. In many areas, the local church grants this "license" directly.
 - b. In other areas, the local church files a petition with the association that this "license" be granted.

Generally, there is no formal examination of a candidate involved for licensing. The request or action of the local church is all that is necessary at this stage. (For this reason, local churches should "license" or request license only after being firmly convinced the candidate has been called by God)

3. The license issued in the preceding step is in force for a period of one year, and may be annually renewed if the licentiate is not ready for ordination. This renewal must be made by action or request of the local church.
4. Near the end of the licensing year, if the candidate feels he is ready for ordination, he again approaches his local church and signifies this, The local church, if it also feels the candidate may be ready, now files a petition with the association that the candidate be examined for ordination.

5. Having received petition from the local church, the association's ordaining committee proceeds to "examine" the candidate. In reference to this step in the procedure, it should be noted that the details of the practice differ considerably from one place to another, But the basic practice is the same. Each association has some level of organization (a presbytery, ordination council or committee, etc.) which conducts the examination. and many groups require that a candidate fill out a formal "application" at this stage. This application should cover basic information on the candidate. The national bookstore has applications forms for sale.
6. The ordination committee reports the results of its examination to the association as a whole, and makes recommendations to be acted upon by the association as a body. If a recommendation is made and approved that the candidate be ordained the actual service of ordination soon follows. (In some cases, the committee for examination will recommend some further studies for the candidate before he should be ordained, in which case his license will be renewed until the suggestions are followed and another examination made, or, in some cases, the committee should recommend that the candidate completely withdraw for consideration as an ordained minister, in which case his license should not continue to be renewed.)
7. The procedure for setting up the ordination service varies considerably.
 - a. In many associations the same committee that made the examination, arranges and conducts the ordination service.
 - b. In some areas, the associational recommendation is directed back to the local church and the local church arranges and conducts the ordination service.
 - c. In some areas, the candidate is permitted to choose some or all of a committee of ministers to arrange and conduct the ordination service.

It should be noted here that in at least one or two areas, a recommendation for ordination does not have to be approved by the associational body as a whole. Such a practice tends to forget that ordination, after all, is done by the churches, not the ministry.

In all areas, the service is conducted by ministers as the ordained representatives of the churches, and includes the "laying on of hands" as signifying the candidate's to the gospel ministry.

The Meaning Of Ordination

There are some groups that do not practice any kind of official "ordination". Free Will Baptist are not among these, but it should not be inferred that Free Will Baptists believe the "church" gives a man authority to preach. The authority for a man to preach lies solely with God. Free Will Baptist believe in a divinely-called ministry.

Yet the visible church always finds itself called on to pass judgment on the exercise of ALL spiritual gifts, the ministry included. The injunction of the Bible is everywhere "Try the spirits." It is not sufficient that a man gain hearing simply because he says he is called by God and is bringing God's message.

Ordination then, is simply the church's official recognition that a man does indeed possess the gift and calling of God to the ministry and is therefore entitled to be heard as such. As indicated in the previous discussion of ordination procedure, there are really two levels of direct responsibility in ordination; the local church, primary, the associational ordination apparatus, secondary. Both levels should be thoroughly convinced, based on the evidence seen in life, ministry and knowledge, that the candidate has the required gift. And the general public should always be able to rely upon the fact of ordination as a clear sign that many Christians of mature judgment have recognized that the one ordained is gifted and capable to minister.

No group responsible for ordination would presume to imply that it is infallible. Candidates genuinely possessing the gift may on occasion be rejected, but although this is true the ordaining councils must not simply decide to ordain anyone just because he desires it.

The Responsibilities of Ordination

The Candidate who has been ordained continues to have certain responsibilities relating to those who have ordained him, in addition to his obvious responsibilities to the Lord who has called him.

First, he should report regularly to the body with which he holds ordination.

Second, he should submit to any call issued by the body for disciplinary purposes. If he shows himself, by conduct or doctrine, to be unworthy or continuing as ordained, he should willingly relinquish his ordination certificate to those who have the authority and having followed the correct procedures—request it.

The Transfer of Ordination

Moving about from one place to another in the denomination often involves transferring ordination from one association to another. A minister in good standing in one association is usually granted confirmation of his ordained status in another association with a minimum of procedural requirements. But caution should be followed so that two definite responsibilities are observed

- (1) The association from which a minister is transferring has the shared responsibility to inform the new association if there were any questions at all about the minister's standing; conduct, or doctrine.
- (2) The association to which the minister is transferring should make sure by whatever means are necessary, that the minister has left his former association in good standing, and is worthy by conduct and doctrine, of ordination.

PART 11: STANDARDS FOR ORDINATION

Obviously, there is considerable variety within the Free Will Baptist denomination in reference to requirements for ordination. The following outline will deal with the areas generally agreed to be most important.

1. General Qualifications Of Character And Conduct

The earlier portion of this booklet has made clear that the primary requirements is that the evidence given in the candidate's life be such as to convince those who observe - - both in the candidate's local church and in a broader area that he possesses the gift and calling of God.

More specifically, the character and conduct of the candidate should be above reproach. To begin with, the Bible itself furnishes a list of standards in this area, and this list should be carefully checked. (1 Tim. 3: 1-7; Titus 1: 5-9. All persons responsible for examining candidates should make sure, either by their own personal knowledge, or by interviewing enough persons with direct knowledge, that the candidate meets the standards of these Biblical passages.

Obviously, the official recommendation of the local church should not be given to a candidate unless that recommendation can be fully relied on to mean that the candidate, by sufficient length of time, has given full assurance to the members of the church that he meets the standards of these Biblical lists.

2. The Candidate's Business Relationships

One of Paul's specific requirements is that the ministers " have a good report on them which are without", (1 Tim. 3:7). In reference to this, a matter of great importance is the candidates financial reputation. The "Ministry" has been blighted by men who do not pay their bills. Every effort should be made to make sure the candidate is scrupulously careful to keep his finances in order.

To aid in achieving this assurance, several Free Will Baptist ordaining groups are now requiring the candidate to submit several credit references, and then - - perhaps even the credit bureaus are closely checked.

3. The Candidate's Ministerial Activities

There have been far too many Free Will Baptist persons ordained as "preachers" who almost never preach or perform any real ministry for which ordination is required. Every effort should be made to be sure the candidate is actually going to be involved in ministerial duties. Indeed, he should already be manifesting ministerial abilities in some degree.

This need has brought more and more of our ordaining groups to follow the practice of only renewing license and not actually ordaining until a candidate actually gets involved in a specific "ministry" like pastoring, regular evangelistic work, missionary labor, or other types of church employment needing ordination. Perhaps this reflects Paul's requirement that the individual to be ordained not be a "novice"--neither immature as a Christian nor in Christian Service.

4. The Candidate's Marital Status

Perhaps one of the touchiest areas in connection with ordination requirements concerns divorce and remarriage. Paul says "the husband of one wife". Most groups do not take this to mean a single man can not be ordained, but only that if he is married, he must not be a polygamist.

In few areas, a person divorced and remarried might be ordained, although this is not true in most places. Whether this is right and good is a matter that needs a great deal of careful study across the whole denomination.

5. The Candidate's Sex

Throughout the years, a few women have been ordained to the ministry in the denomination and a very few are currently active. The general trend however, has been in the opposite direction; and most areas will not now ordain women.

6. The Candidate's Education

To our knowledge there are no specific educational requirements connected with ordination that are generally followed across the denomination, and probably there never should be. In order to raise the level of Biblical knowledge (see the next section), however, there are a few areas now requiring the completion of certain Bible correspondence courses as a minimum before ordination.

7. The Candidate's Biblical Knowledge

It is absolutely necessary that a minister have a good general knowledge of the word. Therefore, procedures are always in order among ordaining councils that will help them determine the level of Biblical knowledge possessed by the candidate. This is, indeed, one of the main purposes of the examination.

When administered well, oral examinations along this line can certainly be sufficient, but the trend now in many areas is to go to some type of written examination covering Biblical knowledge. Such examinations, whether written or oral, should cover (1) knowledge of general Biblical facts and (2) ability to explain basic Biblical concepts. In order to cover these matters well, such examinations have to be carefully planned. And the ordainers should have recommendations about specific studies the candidate can get involved in to prepare him for these examinations--both before his first examination, and in preparation for a second examination if he fails to satisfy them the first time.

Please note that there has been included as Appendix 1 of this booklet, a sample examination covering this area (and the next). This examination is much like one in actual use by one ordaining group in the Free Will Baptist denomination.

8. The Candidate's Doctrinal Position

Closely related to the previous area(Biblical knowledge) is the matter of the candidate's doctrinal position and understanding. By actual examination(again,either orally or,perhaps better, in writing) the ordainers should be completely satisfied on these counts:

- (1) that the candidate is doctrinally sound and holds a clear-cut position in agreement with basic fundamentals of Christianity;
- (2) that the candidate is denominationally sound and holds a clear cut position in agreement with the distinctive doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination;
- (3) that the candidate not only knows the right words, but understands and can satisfactorily explain the doctrines involved in the two areas just mentioned.

Again, please note that Appendix 1 of this booklet contains a simple examination covering this area and the previous one. The examination is much like the one in actual use by one ordaining group in the denomination.

APPENDIX 1

A SAMPLE ORDINATION EXAMINATION

Examination practices vary widely within the denomination, but all candidates for ordination should be examined carefully. Following are some suggested questions that may be used by ordaining groups as a means for determining the candidate's sincerity, conviction of call, and knowledge in the basic areas of Biblical and denominational teachings.

The questions may be used for oral or written examination; other questions, offered by members of the particular ordaining council, may be added or substituted as felt needed.

General

Briefly tell of your conversion and give reasons for your assurance of salvation. How long have you been a Free Will Baptist?

Why do you want to be ordained?

Give a short account of your call to preach.

Do you meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3: 1-7?

Do you have a family? ----- Number of children -----

Have you or your wife ever been divorced? -----

What is the extent of your education? Elementary grades ---- High school -----

College ----- Other -----

What is your attitude toward intoxicating beverages, tobacco, drugs or worldly amusements?

Doctrine

Do you believe without reservation that the Bible is the verbally inspired infallible Word of God and that it is the only rule of faith and practice?

What do you believe about evolution and the Genesis account of Creation?

What is the gospel?

What is salvation?

How would you proceed to explain the way of salvation to a lost person?

Explain your views on baptism?

What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?

Should feet washing be observed? Explain?

What so you believe about apostasy and the perseverance of the believer?

Give your interpretation of the following doctrines.

God

Diet of Christ

The Virgin Birth of Christ

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Repentance

Faith

Justification

Regeneration

Atonement

Sanctification

Final Judgement

Heaven

Hell

Satan

Second Coming

Resurrection

What is the Church?

Who is eligible for membership?

How should the church discipline a member?

How should the work of the church be financed?

What are the duties of a Minister?

What is the mission of the church in the light of Matt. 28: 19, 20?

Denomination

Who is a Free Will Baptist?

What is meant by the term 'free moral agent'?

Have you read the Treatise completely and do you subscribe to the doctrines and practices that are outlined in it?

Is there anything in the treatise that you do not believe or would not teach?

If you ever changed your views on any of these doctrines what would you do?

What are the grounds for relinquishing your ordination credentials?

What is the relationship of the local church to the denomination?

Give three character and three credit references.

Do you solemnly pledge to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints and faithfully uphold the Free Will Baptist doctrines outlined in the Treatise?

