

Minutes of the

42nd Annual Meeting

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

1974

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OFFICERS

Moderator	706 D N. W., Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	Milburn Wilson
Assistant Moderator	Route 3, Box 154 A, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	W. L. Lowe
Clerk	2328 Cornell, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501	Kate Briggs
Assistant Clerk	Route 3, Box 154 A, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	Juanita Lowe
Treasurer	314 S. 4th, Healdton, Oklahoma 73438	Richard Gallant
Assistant Treasurer	706 D N. W., Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	Leota Wilson

BOARDS

State General Board	Member	Carroll Milner (1975)
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EXECUTIVE BOARD

W. L. Lowe	5 years
Rev. Noah Smith	4 years
Jay Crisp	3 years
James Deatherage	2 years
Mike McComber	1 year

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Clarence Leming	5 years
Rev. Orville Romine	4 years
Rev. Clate Briggs	3 years
John Wood	2 years
Rev. Noah Smith (Chairman)	1 year

MISSION BOARD

Rev. Richard Gallant	5 years
Bro. John Wood	4 years
Rev. James Deatherage	3 years
Rev. Milburn Wilson	2 years
Bro. Marlin Bevins	1 year

CHRISTIAN TRAINING SERVICE BOARD

Rev. Clate Briggs	5 years
Rev. Carroll Milner (Chairman)	4 years
Rev. Harvey Aguirre	3 years
Harold Robinson	2 years
Bro. Hershel Lewis	1 year

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Bro. Carroll Milner	5 years
Bro. Milburn Wilson	1 year
Bro. Harvey Aguirre (Sec. Treas.)	2 years
Bro. Clate Briggs	3 years
Rev. W. L. Lowe	4 years

ANNUAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Thursday Night, August 15, 1974. The 42nd Annual Association of the Hopewell No. 2 Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Milburn Wilson.

Congregational singing was led by Rev. Richard Gallant. Prayer by Bro. McDonald. Special singing from the Stobtown, Ardmore, Sulphur, and Healdton Churches.

Message by Rev. Bailey Thompson, using II Kings 1:1-8 and Gal. 5:16-22. A very inspiring message on "How We as Christians are Identified".

Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Orville Romine.

Friday Morning, August 16, 1974. Opened with Congregational singing led by Rev. Richard Gallant. Welcome by the Moderator, Rev. Milburn Wilson. Rev. W. L. Lowe brought the devotional using Col. 2:6. Prayer by Rev. Lowe.

Letters called for and read. Seating of delegates. Reading of minutes from last Quarterly Meeting. Approved as read.

Rules of order read by Rev. Lowe. Visitors welcomed (Rev. and Sister Dennis Teague).

Appointment of Committees

Resolution Committee: Sister Lillie Gettens, Rev. Carroll Milner, and Bro. John Wood.

Obituary Committee: Rev. Harvey Aguirre, Sister Ava Clinton, and Bro. Vernie Cyprust.

Temperance Committee: Rev. Ward Fellabaum, Rev. Orville Romine, and Sister Alice Spurgeon.

Education Committee: Bro. Pascell Triuett, Rev. Richard Gallant, and Sister Jurhee McClain.

Budget Committee: Rev. Wilson, Rev. Milner, Rev. Gallant and Rev. Briggs.

Partial report of Executive Board received. (See Reports)

Youth Camp report received. (See Reports)

Dismissed for Worship Service by Rev. Wilson.

11 O'Clock Worship Service. - Began by singing "Trust and Obey". Prayer by Rev. Dennis Teague. Special singing by Rev. Tim Eaton.

Rev. Bailey Thompson brought the message using Titus 2:11-15 and II Peter 3:12 and Phil. 3:20.

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Tim Eaton.

Friday Afternoon Session - Began with congregational singing "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus". Devotional by Rev. Dennis Teague using Romans 10:13-14. Prayer by Rev. Teague.

Report of Executive Board continued and accepted.

Mission Board report by Rev. Milburn Wilson. Mission conference will be Oct. 13-20, with Missionaries Dennis Teague, Archie Mayhew and Herbert Wald. Rev. Henry Van Kluyve and Rev. Reford Wilson will also be here. He also asked that we rally to the need of our Missionary Rev. Palmer who is in need of repairs on his aircraft. (\$800.00).

Motion made and carried that we support Rev. Dennis Teague until he returns home on furlough. (\$1,200.00 per month.)

Credential Board Report. Partial report accepted. (See Reports)

Christian Education Board Report. No report.

Woman's Auxiliary Report. Report accepted. (See Reports)

Preachers and Deacons Meeting Report. Report accepted.

Resolution Committee Report. Report accepted. (See Reports)

Motion made and carried that we include a more detailed statistical report of each church in our Annual Meeting Minutes.

Historical Report given by Rev. Harvey Aguirre.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Truitt.

Friday Night, August 16, 1974. Began with singing, "All Hail the Power". Prayer by Bro. Mike McCumber. Rev. Devault was present and spoke briefly about the work of State Department. Special singing by Sister Barton, the Haldton Quartet, and the Ardmore Choir.

Rev. Bailey Thompson spoke about Hillsdale College before bringing the message using Isaiah 9:6, "What a Wonderful Savior".

Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Dusty Cooksey.

Saturday Morning, August 17, 1974. Began with the congregation singing "Send the Light". The Moderator, Rev. Wilson introduced the speaker from Hillsdale College, Bro. Cooksey, to bring the morning devotion. He spoke briefly on the needs of Hillsdale.

Delegates from the Duncan Church and Alternates from other churches were given the right hand of fellowship.

Setting of Quarterly Sessions

First	Haldton	Nov. 8, 9, 1974
Second	Duncan Eastside	Feb. 7, 8, 1975
Third	Country Side	May 8, 9, 1975

Annual Session Aug. 14, 15, 16, 1975. With a weeks revival beginning Aug. 11. Each Church is to send \$15.00 to help pay the evangelist. Rev. Richard Gallant is in charge of the music. Bro. Jack Richey to be the Evangelist. Alternate Rev. Rudell Smith. Rev. Harvey Aguirre will bring the Memorial Service message.

Temperance Committee Report. Report read and accepted. (See Reports)

Church Training Service Report. Read and accepted. (See Reports)

Education Committee Report. Read and accepted. (See Reports)

Motion made that the Budget Committee have time to study and evaluate the budget. Carried.

Bro. Troy Lawellen offered his resignation from Credential Board. Accepted.

Election of Officers.

Board members that were elected this session.

Executive Board. Rev. W. L. Lowe, 5 Years. Rev. James Deatherage, 2 Years.

Credential Board. Bro Clarence Leming, 5 Years. Bro. John Wood, 2 Years.

Mission Board. Rev. Richard Gallant, 5 Years.

C.T.S. Board. Rev. Clate Briggs, 5 Years. Bro. Harold Robinson, 2 Years.

C.E. Board. Rev. Carroll Milner, 5 Years.

11 O'Clock Worship Service. Called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Wilson. Sister Carol Teague sang a special.

Rev. W. L. Lowe brought the Memorial Service message using John 8:51 and Luke 20:30. Nine brothers and sisters have been called home from our Association.

Dismissal from the 42nd Annual Association of Hopewell No. 2. Prayer by Rev. Orville Romine.

Moderator, Rev. Milburn Wilson
Clerk, Sister Kate Briggs

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

First	Healdton	November 8-9, 1974
Second	Duncan East Side	February 7-8, 1975
Third	Country Side	May 8-9, 1975

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Executive Committee	Rev. W. L. Lowe - 5 years Rev. James Deatherage - 2 years
Credential Board	Bro. Clarence Leming - 5 years Bro. John Wood - 2 years
Mission Board	Rev. Richard Gallant - 5 years
Church Training Service Board	Rev. Clata Briggs - 5 years Bro. Harold Robinson - 2 years
Christian Education Board	Rev. Carroll Milner - 5 years
Moderator	Milburn Wilson
Assistant Moderator	W. L. Lowe
Clerk	Kate Briggs
Assistant Clerk	Juanita Lowe
Treasurer	Richard Gallant
Assistant Treasurer	Leota Wilson

REPORTS

Resolution Committee Report:

1. Be it resolved: That in the 1975 Annual Session of this Association that we give special recognition to all our members who have been Free Will Baptists for 50 years or more. That a committee be elected to make plans for the Annual Service. That \$100.00 be allowed for expenses. That we include all charter members of this Association.

(Committee: Rev. Ward Fellabaum, Rev. Harvey Aguirre, Rev. Milner)

2. Be it resolved: That we encourage our Mission Board to see about the establishing of a New Free Will Baptist work in Hugo, Oklahoma.

3. Be it resolved: That we extend to Hopewell No. 1 Association a concern and fellowship. That we send a delegation to Hopewell No. 1 Association at their next Quarterly Meeting.

(Delegates Rev. Noah Smith, Rev. Lowe, Rev. Barton, and Rev. Wilson)

4. Be it resolved: That we join with the Lone Grove Church and take a stand against Bill 498, Pari-mutuel gambling.

Lillie Mae Gettens
Carroll Milner
John Wood

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We the Obituary Committee report that 9 brothers and sisters have passed from our midst to the presence of our Lord. We wish to observe a few minutes of silence in remembrance of these loved ones.

Bro. M. J. Alton ----- Midway
Sister Ella Budd ----- Lawton
Sister Dickson ----- Ardmore
Bro. Sila McCracken --- Sulphur
Bro. Johnny Gibson -- Healdton
Bro. Rockey Muse ---- Stobtown
Bro. George Trulitt ---- Country Side
Bro. Roy Spurgin ----- Country Side
Sister Virginia Salmon- Duncan

Signed: Harvey Aguirre
Ava Clinton
Vernie Cypert

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We recommend that we adopt the report as stated in the 1973 (see old minutes) Minutes with this amendment that we go on record as an association being against Bill No. 498, concerning pari-mutuel betting and gambling.

Signed: Orville Romine
Ward Fellabaum

CREDENTIAL BOARD COMMITTEE

We the Credential Board have re-examined Bro. William Chandler, and have found him sound in doctrine and recommend that his license be extended for one year (August 1975) to preach the gospel.

Signed: Noah Smith
Clate Briggs
Orville Romine

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We recommend that all churches support and take part in the various educational programs of our denomination and further recommend that all our churches support Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College with their finances and their young people. We recommend that the local church educate its people to the dangers of using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. We further recommend that the local church encourage its individual school system that they include the Genesis Account of Creation in their teachings of the Origin of Man.

Education Committee:
Bro. Paschal Truitt
Sister Jurhee McClain
Bro. Richard Gallant

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

We the Executive Board of Hopewell No. 2 Association met at the Healdton church and audited the treasurer records. We found the records to be in perfect order, accounts receivable and disbursements in order and the treasurer properly bonded.

We recommend the appointment of a committee to evaluate the budget. This committee should consist of the Chairman of the Mission Board, CTS Board, the Treasurer and two members of the body.

We wish to compliment the Treasurer Bro. Richard Gallant for the fine records.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. Noah Smith
Bro. W. L. Lowe
Bro. Mike McCumber
Bro. Jay Crisp

As of 8-17-74 I am resigning from the Executive Board.

Yours truly,
Bro. Chaudion

LOCAL MISSION FUND

Balance 1973	\$ 41.80	
Receipts	<u>316.31</u>	
Total		\$358.11
Disbursements:		
Mission Conference Expenses:		
(Mileage & Phone Bills)	96.73	
Home Missions	100.00	
Foreign Missions	<u>100.00</u>	
Total		<u>296.73</u>
BALANCE IN BANK		\$ 61.38

TREASURER REPORT

CTS REPORT:

Balance	\$418.19	
Income (Received from Co-Op)	439.51	
Concession	<u>126.00</u>	
Total		\$983.70
Paid Out:		
Mileage	115.00	
Lake Murray Deposit	56.00	
Postage	20.00	
CTS Pins	4.40	
Youth Dinner at Ardmore	49.00	
Lake Murray Park Lease	336.19	
Youth Camp	<u>189.09</u>	
Total		<u>769.68</u>
Balance		214.02
Ice Co. Extra		<u>.50</u>
BALANCE IN BANK		\$214.52

Recommend:

That a member of the CTS Board go to the State Parks Dept. and see about getting the date that we wish for our Youth Camp 1975.

GIVING BY LOCAL CHURCHES:

	Co-Op	Fr. Miss.	Hm. Miss.	Local Miss.	C.T.S.	Hillsdale	Gen. Fund	Camp	Total
Ardmore	1,932.63	4,448.65	53.00			3,423.11	110.00		9,967.39
County Line	173.86	38.86	27.00	34.69	34.69	34.69	69.79		413.58
Country Side	94.26	90.00	115.00	18.85	18.85	18.85	37.72		393.53
Duncan	469.73	18.72	43.47	93.88	93.88	93.88	187.56	94.74	1,095.88
Healdton		321.23	97.36			227.23	20.00		665.82
Lawton	34.30	248.95	212.95	6.90	130.10	164.85	20.00	166.75	985.00
Lone Grove	84.73	447.31	162.00			254.26	20.00		968.30
Midway		419.76	48.46			530.00	20.00		1,018.22
Stobtown		525.00	42.50			80.00	75.00		722.50
Sulphur	804.91	192.07	24.38	161.99	161.99	287.39	339.15		1,971.88
TOTALS	3,594.62	6,750.55	826.12	316.31	439.51	5,114.26	899.22	261.49	18,202.08

OUTSIDE GIVING:

Oklahoma State Association	
Co-Op	3,594.62
Hillsdale	5,114.26
National Association	
Foreign Mission	6,750.55
Home Mission	826.12
TOTAL	16,285.55

GENERAL FUND

Balance 1973	66.66
Receipts	899.22
TOTAL	965.88
Disbursements	856.93
BALANCE	108.95

LOCAL EXPENSES:

General Fund Disbursements:

State Delegate Fees	100.00
State Association	100.00
Jiffy Printers	216.11
Treasurer Salary	300.00
Mileage (Const. Committee)	55.00
Check Book	5.90
Vivian Lewis (Supplies)	7.03
Harvey Aguirre (letters)	7.00
Texoma Office (Paper)	18.50
Postage	18.00
Treasurer Bond	10.00
Supplies	6.40
Phone Bill	12.99
TOTAL	856.93

YOUTH CAMP REPORT

August 15, 1974

To: The Hopewell No. 2 Association

Youth Camp was held at Lake Murray State Park June 30-July 5; camp this year was a wonderful experience with 122 taking part. There were 82 campers, 12 pre-campers, and a staff of 28 workers. I would like to take this time to thank each worker for a job well done.

The greatest blessing of camp was the services as Bro. Bill Jones, President of Hillsdale College, blessed our hearts with the message from God's word. By the end of the week a total of 43 decisions were made, 14 first time and 29 rededications. We give the Lord the praise and glory for this.

At the bottom of this report is a financial statement.

Richard Gallant,
Camp Director

Money Received:

Fees	\$1,218.75
C.T.S.	189.09 (transferred from C.T.S. Account)
TOTAL	\$1,407.84

Paid Out:

Food	\$ 528.41
Cooks	255.00
Evangelist	190.00
Director	125.00
Ice Plant	74.25
Insurance	30.50
Recreation & Supplies	98.73
Johnson Eck	
Drug Store	21.95
Materials	19.00
Harvey Aguirre	
Printing	65.00
TOTAL	\$1,407.84

CAMP GROUND FUND REPORT

Balance 1973	\$487.46	
Received from churches	261.49	
Center Association (Beds)	<u>144.00</u>	
TOTAL		\$892.95
Disbursements:		
Insurance	418.00	
Insurance Dues	15.00	
O.G. & E.	16.21	
Boyd Blevins (mowing)	<u>50.00</u>	
TOTAL		<u>499.21</u>
BALANCE ON HAND		\$393.74

STATISTICS

Number of churches	10
Number of parsonages	8
Number of ordained ministers	15
Number of licensed ministers	4
Number of ordained deacons	34

Number of the following auxiliaries:

- 10 Sunday Schools
- 4 Church Training Services
- 6 Women's Auxiliaries
- 10 Prayer Meetings

Church Membership	1,327
Resident	1,073
Non-Resident	254
Members Received	139
Members Dismissed	41
Deceased	9
Sunday School Enrollment	907
Church Training Service	207
Woman's Auxiliary Membership	46
Total given in the churches	\$142,321.77

State Delegates Are:

Stobtown	Sister Juanita Lowe
Country Side	Sister Franci Milner
Healdton	Sister Mary Ann Gallant
Sulphur	Sister Betty Romine
Ardmore	Sister Leota Wilson
Lawton	Bro. George McKinney
County Line	Sister Majorie Walker
Midway	Sister Kate Briggs
Duncan	Bro. J. L. McDaniel
Lone Grove	Sister Doris Deatherage

Ladies Auxiliary of Hopewell No. 2

The Ladies Auxiliary of Hopewell No. 2 met at the Country Side Church.

We had Election of Officers and those that were elected are:

President	Jurhee McClain, Route 1, Alma, Oklahoma
Vice-President	Kate Briggs, 2328 Cornell Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
Secretary	Kathy Elam 2327 Cornell, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
Assistant Secretary	Mary Head, General Delivery, Velma, Oklahoma 73091
Treasurer	Ruth Franklin, 313 N. A, Duncan, Oklahoma 73533
Assistant Treasurer	Jeanita Hardin, 1904 Walnut, Duncan, Oklahoma 73533
Field Worker	Wanda Kellett, 2603 A Ave., Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
Assistant Field Worker	Nora Truitt, Rt. 1, Alma, Oklahoma
Mission Study Chairman	Jeanita Thompson, 5056 11, Duncan, Oklahoma 73533
Assistant Mission Study Chairman	Frances Milner, Box 172, Ratliff, Oklahoma 73081
Prayer Chairman	Juanita Lowe, Rt. 3, Box 154 A, Ardmore, Okla. 73401
Assistant Prayer Chairman	Frances Lewellen, Box 201, Graham, Oklahoma 73437
Action Chairman	Betty Romine, 1302 N. 13th St., Sulphur, Okla. 73091
Assistant Action Chairman	Geneva McKinney, 4328 Santa Fe, Oklahoma 73501

Bro. Dean Thompson brought the message taken from Jonah 3:12. Closed in Prayer by Sister Kate Briggs.

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

The First Quarterly Meeting was conducted at the Stobtown Free Will Baptist Church on Nov. 9, 10, 1973.

Meeting called to order by the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Lowe. Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing with Sister Deatherage at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Noah Smith. Special singing from the Lawton Free Will Baptist Church. A testimony meeting was held by Rev. Deatherage.

Message was brought by Rev. Junior Barton, "The Visitation of God" using Luke 19:41-44.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Chaudion.

Saturday Morning, November 10, 1973. Meeting called to order by the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Lowe. Bro. Luther Gains led the singing with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano. Devotion was brought by Rev. James Deatherage using Psalms 39.

Letters were called for and read. Moved to receive the letters and to seat the delegates. They were given the right hand of fellowship. Rev. Dean Thompson introduced the visiting minister, Rev. McGuire.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. Rules of Order were read by Rev. Lowe.

Appointment of Committees:

Divine Service Committee: Sister Ivvy, Bro. Jay Crisp, Sister Myrtle McCumber.

Resolution Committee: Rev. Carroll Milner, Bro. Harold Robinson, and Bro. Othal Kyle.

Obituary Committee: Rev. Harvey Aguirre, Bro. John Wood, Sister Crisp.

Rev. McGuire was selected to bring the morning message.

Motion made and carried to accept the Revised Constitution and By-Laws, Rules of Order, and Order of Business.

Recessed for the Morning Worship. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. John Wood.

11 O'Clock Worship Service. Service opened with the congregation singing with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Aguirre. Lawton Church brought a special, "There is a Light Guiding Me". Rev. Dean Thompson brought a special "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus".

Rev. Thompson introduced the morning speaker, Rev. McGuire. His message was a wonderful message using Matt. 13:47-49. Song of invitation, "I Surrender All".

Dismissed for the noon meal, prayer by Rev. Carroll Milner.

Evening Session. Opened with the congregation singing, "A Soul-Winner for Jesus," led by Bro. Luther Gains with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano. Devotion and prayer by Rev. Wilson using Nehemiah 8:1-6.

Time was taken to finish reading the By-Laws and Rules of Order. Motion to accept.

Executive Board Report. Motion to accept. Motion made and accepted that the money from the campground beds be turned back into the campground fund. Motion made and accepted that the Treasurer's Report be tabled until next session.

C.T.S. Report made and accepted.

Mission Board Report made and accepted.

Obituary Board Report made and accepted.

Resolution Committee Report made and accepted.

Historian Report was given by Rev. Harvey Aguirre. Each church is asked to get a history of their church and send it to Rev. Aguirre in the month of November 1973.

Election of members to Christian Education Board.

Rev. James Deatherage	5 Years
Rev. Clate Briggs	4 Years
Rev. Harvey Aguirre	3 Years
Rev. Milburn Wilson	2 Years
Rev. Carroll Milner	1 Year

Motion made and carried to adjourn. Dismissed in prayer.

REPORTS

Executive Board Report:

We the Executive Board met and discussed the beds that the Center Assoc. had borrowed from the campground. The chairman of the Board, Rev. Noah Smith met with the moderator of the Center Assoc. and discussed with him what to do about the beds.

It was agreed between Rev. Smith and Rev. Shivers, the Moderator, of the Center Assoc. to wait until our Association meeting in Nov. 1973.

Rev. Noah Smith
Rev. Lowe
Bro. Crisp

C.T.S. Report Brought forward	\$418.19
Payed out	<u>115.00</u>
Bal.	303.19
Received	<u>103.69</u>
Bal. Nov. 1973	\$406.88

Preachers and Deacons Report Balance \$38.23

Credential Board Report:

1. We the Credential Board met at the campground on Aug. 27, 1973 to discuss what to do on motion passed by the Association to find out the standing of one of the members of the Executive Board. The Board voted to go to Country Side Church and meet with church officials. All Board members were present.

2. We the Credential Board met Aug. 28, 1973 at the Country Side Free Will Baptist Church with Church Officials. We were told by them that said member was in good standing with the church. One Board member, Bro. Troy Lewellen, was absent at this meeting.

Rev. Noah Smith
Rev. Romine
Rev. Briggs

We the Credential Board have examined Bro. Ralph Mullins, Jr., and have found him sound in doctrine and recommend him for ordination as a Deacon.

We the Credential Board have examined Rev. Dean Thompson and have found him sound in doctrine and recommend that he be accepted into full fellowship of the Association.

Rev. Noah Smith, Chairman

Resolution Committee Report:

Be it resolved: That we encourage our young people to support the Youth Fellowship. The next fellowship will be held at the Healdton Church. Rev. Rudell Smith will be the speaker, Dec. 1, 1973.

Obituary Committee Report:

We the Obituary Committee with regret and yet rejoicing report that two of our members are no longer with us, they are with the Lord. Bro. Johnnie Gibson, Healdton and Sister Ann Rich, Ardmore. We recommend a moment of silent prayer for these two.

John Wood
Mrs. Jay Crisp
Harvey Aguirre

Visiting brethren, Rev. McGuire.

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

The Second Quarterly meeting was convened at Sulphur Feb. 8, 9, 1974.

Friday Night, Feb. 8, 1974. Meeting called to order by Rev. W. L. Lowe. Bro. Frank Hunt led the singing with Sister Claranda Day at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Ralph Mullins. Scripture reading from Revelation Ch. 4, by Rev. Lowe. Specials were brought by the Sulphur, Stobtown, and County Line Churches.

Rev. Romine brought the message, "The Need of the Hour", using scriptures from Acts 1:12-14, and Acts 2:37-47.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Lemings.

Saturday Morning, Feb. 9, 1974. Opened with Rev. Gallant leading the singing with Starlett Shipp at Organ and Marlon Kerr at the piano. Devotion by Rev. Deatherage using Romans 13:1-14. Prayer by Rev. Barton.

Called to order by the moderator, Rev. Wilson. Letters called for and read. Delegates received and given the right hand of fellowship by all of the ordained present.

Reading of the Minutes. Received as read. Rules of Order read by Rev. Lowe. Visitors welcomed, Rev. Jerry Rhoads and family and the New Life Singers from Hillsdale College.

Appointment of Committees

Resolution Committee: Bro. Harold Robinson, Rev. Romine, Bro. Leming.

Divine Service Committee: Sister Wood, Sister Deatherage, Bro. Hunt.

Rev. Rhoads spoke briefly from Rom. 6 and also told of activities of Hillsdale College.

Singing by the New Life Singers.

Treasurer Report. Report given by Rev. Gallant, read and accepted.

Campground Report. Report by Rev. Gallant, read and accepted.

Mission Board Report. Report by Rev. Gallant, read and accepted.

Appointment of two members to the Credential Board for today. Bro. Deatherage and Bro. Wood.

Rev. Deatherage resigned from the C.E. Board. Rev. Lowe elected to take his place.

Dismissed for recess by Bro. Wood.

11 O'Clock Worship Service. Rev. Richard Gallant led congregation in singing "Oh How I Love Jesus". Special singing by the New Life Singers. Special by Bro. John Wood.

The morning message by Rev. Aguirre, using Exodus 14:1-18, "Go Back, Stand Still, Go Forth".

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Briggs.

Afternoon Session. Called to order with Rev. Gallant leading the congregation in singing, "He Lives". Special singing by the New Life Singers. Rev. Tim Eaton, from Ardmore, brought a special song. Devotion by Rev. Milner using Isaiah 12:1-3.

C.T.S. Report by Rev. Thompson. Read and accepted.

Executive Board Report read and accepted.

Resolution Committee Report read and accepted.

Credential Board Report read and accepted.

Mission Board Report read and accepted.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Sulphur Church.

Rev. Aguirre gave a report on the growth of the History of Free Will Baptist. Sister Rhoads gave a report on the Women's Auxiliary.

Motion to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Gallant.

Moderator, Rev. Wilson
Clerk, Sister Kate Briggs

REPORTS

Church Training Service Board Report by Rev. Dean Thompson.

Youth camp will be June 28, to July 5, 1974 at Lake Murray State Park, Youth Camp No. 3. Rev. Richard Gallant will be Camp Director. Rev. Bill Jones will be the evangelist. Fees are \$13.50.

Executive Board Report:

Rev. Noah Smith met at the Campground with Bro. Chaudion the last of November 1973 and cleaned the campground, drained all of the water pipes and heaters. Also met December 1973 and burned the grass around the camp west of the road.

Rev. Noah Smith
Rev. W. L. Lowe

Credential Board Report:

We the Credential Board have examined the following brethren and we recommend the following:

Bro. Lester Stout, Bro. George McKinney, Bro. Howard Walker, all three be licensed to preach the Gospel for one year.

Bro. Junior Barton to be ordained to preach the Gospel.

Bro. Tim Eaton to be received into the Association upon his receiving a letter of recommendation from Indian Creek Association. The letter has been received.

Rev. Briggs
Rev. Smith
Rev. Deatherage
Rev. Romine
Bro. Wood

Mission Board Report:

A Missionary Conference in Hopewell No. 2 Association will be conducted Feb. 10-17. Home Missionaries from Mexico will be here.

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

The Third Quarterly Meeting was conducted at the County Line Free Will Baptist Church, May 10-11, 1974.

Friday Night, May 10, 1974. Meeting called to order by Rev. W. L. Lowe. Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano. Special singing by the Lawton Trio, Bro. and Sister Mullins from the County Line Church sang a special.

Message by Rev. Ward Fellabaum using II Peter 3:8, 9.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Jess Gillaspy.

Saturday Morning, May 11, 1974. Opened by singing "Joy Unspeakable" led by Rev. Gallant. Scripture I John 1:4 read by Rev. Lowe. The Moderator, Rev. Wilson called the meeting to order. Letters from each church were read and accepted. All delegates were given the right hand of fellowship by all the ordained.

The minutes were read of the last meeting and were accepted with the correction that Rev. Deatherage resigned from the C. E. Board and not the C.T.S. Board.

Rules of Order were read by Rev. Lowe.

Appointment of Committees

Divine Service Committee: Rev. Aguirre, Bro. Denney, Rev. Eaton.

Resolution Committee: Rev. Thompson, Rev. Romine, Sister Truitt.

Treasurers Report, Campground Report and Mission Board Report were given by Rev. Gallant. All reports read and accepted.

Church Training Service Report by Rev. Thompson read and accepted.

Rev. Gallant gave a short talk encouraging all pastors to encourage their young people to attend Youth Camp.

Motion made and accepted that the Treasurer, Clerk, and Moderator take care of the advertising of the Camp Revival.

Rev. Gallant was chosen to bring the morning message.

Dismissed in pray by Rev. Briggs.

11 O'Clock Worship Service. Bro. Buttram led the singing with Sister Robinson at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Noah Smith. Special song by Rev. Thompson. Special song by Sister Gammon.

Rev. Gallant delivered a very inspiring message using Luke 4:18 and Romans 10:13, 14.

Rev. Fellabaum dismissed and asked the blessing on the food.

Saturday Afternoon Session. Called to worship with Bro. Buttram leading the singing with Sister Robinson at the piano. Devotion brought by Rev. Deatherage using Acts 4:5-12.

Motion made and accepted that all churches having candidates for deacon or Minister fill out all forms one month before the Quarterly Meeting or Annual Meeting. Amended: That all candidates meet with the Credential Board on Friday before the Quarterly or Annual Meeting.

Motion made and accepted that the Association send a letter of Recommendation for Rev. Lewis Howell to the West Fork District Association in Wichita Falls, Texas.

A standing vote of thanks was given to the County Line Church.

Motion made and accepted to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Briggs.

Reports:

C.T.S. Board voted at the last meeting to pay for the New Life Singers dinner and voted to raise the Youth Camp fee to \$13.50. Balance on hand at last meeting \$444.61. Received \$93.29. Payed out \$49.00 for the New Life Singers dinner. Received \$45.43. Balance on hand \$534.33.

Dean Thompson

CHURCH PASTORS & CLERKS

Church name & address	Pastor's name & address	Clerk's name & address
Lone Grove FWB Lone Grove Oklahoma	James Deatherage Box 349, Lone Grove, Oklahoma 73443	Vestle Stubbelfield Lone Grove, Oklahoma 73443
Countyline FWB Countyline, Oklahoma	Ward Fellabaum Box 63, Ratliff City, Oklahoma	Oma Gillispy Box 3, Countyline, Oklahoma
First FWB Church 219 South 6th Healdton, Oklahoma	Richard Gallant 314 South 4th Healdton, Oklahoma	Charlie Truitt 311 Kewanee Healdton, Okla. 73438
Stobtown FWB Route 3 Ardmore, Oklahoma	W. L. Lowe Route 3, Box 154A Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	Earletta Payne Box 253 Lone Grove, Oklahoma 73443
First FWB Church 10 South 24th Lawton, Oklahoma	Clate W. Briggs 2328 Cornell Lawton, Okla. 73501	Vala Robinson 409 S 23rd Place Lawton, Okla. 73501
Eastside FWB Chestnut & Nu Duncan, Oklahoma		Vivian Lewis 703 N 13th Duncan, Okla. 73533
Country Side FWB 1½ miles east of Velma	Carroll Milner P. O. Box 131 Velma, Okla. 73091	Emma Combust Route 3, Box 129B Duncan, Okla. 73091
First FWB Church Grand Avenue Ardmore, Oklahoma	Milburn Wilson 706 D North West Ardmore, Okla. 73401	Leon Price Box 1243 Ardmore, Okla. 73401
Midway FWB Church Route 1 Healdton, Oklahoma	Harvey Aguirre Route 1 Healdton, Okla. 73438	Francis Lewellen Box 201 Graham, Okla. 73437
First FWB Church West 13th Sulphur, Oklahoma	Orville Romine 1302 W. 13th Sulphur, Okla. 73086	Ella Mae Stout Route 2 Sulphur, Okla. 73086

MINISTER'S DIRECTORY

Harvey Aguirre	Route 1, Healdton, Okla. 73438	673-2599
Junior Barton	Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	226-2759
Clate W. Briggs	2328 Cornell, Lawton, Okla. 73501	357-8463
William Chandler	734 4th NE-Ardmore, Okla. 73401	226-0804
James Deatherage	Lone Grove, Okla. 73443	657-4518
Ward Fellabaum	Box 63, Ratliff City, Okla.	856-3614
Richard Gallant	314 South 4th, Healdton, Okla.	229-0397
J. H. Hill	Davis, Okla.	
Leroy Holman	905 B. S.E., Ardmore, Okla. 73401	226-1423
J. O. Hudson	Route 3, Healdton, Okla. 73438	
Myrl Kellett	2603 A Avenue, Lawton, Okla. 73501	353-4827
Jim Kennedy	23 M S.W., Ardmore, Okla. 73401	226-2924
W. L. Lowe	Route 3, Box 154A, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401	657-6295
Carroll Milner	P. O. Box 131, Velma, Okla. 73091	444-2105
Orville Romine	1302 N. 13th St., Sulphur, Okla. 73086	622-5526
Noah Smith	Route 2, Elmore City, Okla.	788-2766
Dennis Teague	Ardmore, Okla. 73401	
Tim Eaton	Box 1243, Ardmore, Okla. 73401	226-2762
Milburn Wilson	706 D N.W., Ardmore, Okla. 73401	266-0652

ORDAINED DEACONS

Othel Kyle	Rt. 3, Ardmore, Okla. 73401	657-6420
Troy Morris	Rt. 3, Box 155, 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	Rt. 3, Ardmore, Okla. 73401	657-4280
Joe Balthrop	Rt. 3, Ardmore, Okla. 73401	657-4451
Marlin Bivens	Box 855, Healdton, Okla.	
Howard Burke	Mockingbird Lane, Healdton, Okla.	
Dale Howell	Lone Grove, Okla. 73443	
W. M. Buttram	2501 A Ave., Lawton, Okla. 73501	353-4278
Buck Gammon	1212½ Taylor, Lawton, Okla. 73501	357-2394
Ralph Mullins	Box 210B, Rt. 1, Alma, Okla.	
George Gillaspay	Rt. 1, Alma, Okla.	
Jess Gillaspay	Box 3, County Line, Okla.	
C. L. Leming	Rt. 2, Sulphur, Okla. 73086	622-3854
Wayne McCurken	Rt. 2, Sulphur, Okla. 73086	622-3907
Bob Seward	5525 Dimple, Okla. City, Okla.	
W. T. Miller	1519 W. Wyon, Sulphur, Okla.	622-2768
Joel Harmon	Graham, Okla. 73437	673-2312
Richard Watkins	Fox, Okla. 73435	673-2798
Troy Lewellen	Box 201, Graham, Okla. 73437	673-2315
LoRay Spurgin	P. O. Box 842, Velma, Okla. 73091	444-2527
Forest Cox	Rt. 1, Alma, Okla. 73001	444-2584
Roy Spurgin	Loco, Okla.	
Hershel Lewis	703 No. 13th, Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-5051
J. L. McDaniel	Rt. 4, Duncan, Okla. 73533	
Tommy Pannell	Rt. 1, Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-3500
Edmond Franklin	313 No. A, Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-0777
Mike McCumber	913 Bixly, Ardmore, Okla. 73401	223-1383
John Wood	1107 Baily, Ardmore, Okla. 73401	223-5955
John Jeter	8 Town & Country Cr., Ardmore, Okla. 73401	226-0203
Troy Morris, Jr.	Star Route, Lone Grove, Okla. 73443	657-4747
Ralph Mullins, Jr.	Route 1, Alma, Okla.	856-3290

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every setting of the Association, business shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Moderator or whosoever he may request.
2. All standing delegates and elected delegates present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects and to vote.
3. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.
4. The Moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit.
5. No motion shall be discussed without a second.
6. 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 answer is given from the voting delegation the question shall be dismissed.
7. A ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the members present.
8. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first discussed in its own church.
9. 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.
10. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.
11. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.
12. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.
13. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.
14. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association.
15. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangements shall be made to assure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, and the chair shall announce, just before adjournment, who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.
16. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization.
17. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon
2. House called to order by the Moderator
3. Letters called for and read and received
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of the delegates
5. Reading of Minutes
6. Petitionary letters called for
7. Reading Rules of Order
8. Invite visitors to seats in council
9. Appointment of Committees
10. Unfinished Business
11. New Business
12. Reports of Boards
13. Reports of Committees
14. Miscellaneous Business
15. Election of Officers

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.

CONSTITUTION OF THE 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 associational government.

NAME

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

PURPOSE

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

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 Four (4) of the By-Laws.

NEW CHURCHES

Any regular organized Free Will Baptist Church desiring to unite with this Association may do so by presenting a petitionary letter and being examined by the Executive Board of the Association. A majority vote of this Association is necessary for the acceptance of any church into the association.

DISCIPLINE

This Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or practices that may properly come before it from any of the bodies composing said organization. Furthermore, if there be any question of discipline, doctrine or practices on the part of an affiliated church, delegates of that church shall not be seated until these questions have been settled to the satisfaction of the Credential Board.

Section 2: Decisions of the Credential Board may be appealed in this manner. All appeals shall come before the body of the Hopewell No. 2 Association.

OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, all whom shall be elected at the annual session.

Section 2: In the event of a vacancy occurring between sessions, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy until the next session.

BOARDS

The following standing Boards shall be elected in the Annual Session: Executive Board, Credential Board, Church Training Board, Christian Education Board, Mission Board. Each Board shall consist of five members as to have one member retiring each year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

This Board shall be composed of five members who are members of an affiliated church, in good standing with their church and faithful in attendance and support. They shall be elected at the discretion of this Association. It shall be the duty of this Board to act in behalf of the Association when it is not in session. It shall be bound to carry out the directions of the Association and shall hold itself bound by every consideration of morality and honor to carry out the wishes of this Association and to act under its instructions in whatever technical rights, civil laws and the decisions of courts may give it in certain emergencies. It shall be the duty of this board to sign their signatures to any and all papers concerning properties, indebtedness, bonds, or other legal documents pertaining to the execution of the will of the Association. No member of the Executive Board shall delegate authority to any other member of said Board to cast his vote for him in any matter. The Executive Board shall have the power to call the Association into conference by notifying each church, ten days prior to the conference; and, they shall have the authority to change quarterly meetings or the annual meeting if the place where said meeting is to be held is unable to care for the meeting. No meeting of the Executive Board shall be held unless there is a quorum present of three members. This Board shall make a full report in writing of its activities at each session.

CREDENTIAL BOARD

The Credential Board shall be composed of five ordained members of this Association who are members of an affiliated church, in good standing with their church and faithful in attendance and support. The credential board shall examine minister for license and ordination. It shall be the duty of this Board to examine all ordained ministers who wish to unite with this association. It shall also be the responsibility of this Board to examine

candidates for the office of Deacon who are sent from their churches before this Association. In cases of discipline this board shall have the authority to labor with the ordained of this association.

CHURCH TRAINING SERVICE BOARD

This Board shall be composed of five members who are members of an affiliated church, in good standing with their church and faithful in attendance and support. The duties of this Board shall be to plan and assist in organizing and sustaining a strong Church Training Service in every Church in the Association. This Board shall plan, co-ordinate and conduct the Youth Camp program of this Association, they shall have full power to employ the needed staff for such a camp. This board shall keep an accurate record of all meetings, decisions, work done, funds received and disbursed and shall make a report in writing at each Annual Session of the Association. All records shall be available to this Association at its request.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

This Board shall be composed of five members who are members of an affiliated church, in good standing with their church and faithful in attendance and support. The duties of the board shall be to promote Teacher Training in every Church of the association by clinics, seminars, institutes and conventions, on local and district levels. This board shall keep an accurate record of all meetings, decisions, work done, funds received and disbursed and shall make a report in writing at each annual session of the Association. All records shall be available to this Association at its request.

MISSION BOARD

This board shall be composed of five members who are members of an affiliated church, in good standing with their church and faithful in attendance and support. It shall be the duty of this board to labor to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the uttermost parts of the Earth. In accomplishing this, they are to endeavor to establish missions and churches in communities within the bounds of this Association with whatever moral and financial assistance that may be theirs. In cases of churches failing to function, whatever assistance deemed appropriate shall be rendered to maintain the effective witness of that church by direct labor with the church. The promotion of Missionary endeavors from a local, state or national level shall come within the scope of endeavor of this board. This board shall assist in maintaining prayer and financial support of missionary enterprises through whatever channels are available.

PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE

Any church that is a member of the Hopewell No. 2 Association that shall become extinct, or that has or shall cease to function and use its property, shall be taken charge of by this Association, in accordance with the laws of the State of Oklahoma. Every endeavor shall be made by this Association to keep any church from becoming extinct.

VACANCIES

Vacancies shall occur when a member moves from the territorial bounds of this Association or by death, by resignation or by removal from office by this Association. In the event of disciplinary action where charges concerning misconduct, doctrine or practice shall have been lodged against a member of any Board, or officer, his office shall be held in abeyance until such charges shall be concluded or as determined by this Association. All boards shall have power to fill vacancies arising between sessions of this Association. Such appointment shall terminate at the next session of the Association and shall be filled by this Association.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Elected delegates to the last session of the Association shall be retained as standing delegates for special called sessions.

DISSOLUTION

Should this Association cease to function, all properties and holdings shall go to the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptist after all creditors are satisfied and indebtedness cleared.

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds majority vote of members present in writing to the body one day in advance.

BY-LAWS OF

THE HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

1. The Moderator or Assistant Moderator shall call the Association into conference. In their absence the senior minister, in years, shall call the Association into conference and the body shall elect a moderator to serve for that session.
2. The Clerk of the Association shall have the duty of enrolling the delegates from the churches of this Association, who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein.
3. It shall be the duty of every church belonging to this Association to send a letter to every session of this Association reporting in the same the spiritual condition of the church and the list of delegates. Any church belonging to this Association which shall fail to report itself for one year may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.
4. The voting body of this Association shall consist of all ordained ministers and their wives, all ordained deacons and their wives, local church clerks, and three elected delegates from each church affiliated with this Association.
5. Any standing or elected delegate to this Association who is opposed to the doctrine of the National Association of Free Will Baptist, as set forth in the Treatise, will not be entitled to a seat in conference.
6. A majority of the Churches of this Association shall constitute a quorum, a lesser number shall adjourn until such a quorum is present.
7. Visiting brethren are invited to seats as advisory members, but may not vote on any question.
8. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member to a Board or Committee, provided the person nominated be elected.
9. All Boards and Committees of this Association shall be paid for travel to and from meetings at the rate of ten cents (10¢) per mile.
10. All Officers and Board Members of this Association must be faithful in attendance and support to their local church. Failure to comply will result in dismissal from their office.
11. A fee of \$35.00 is to be sent to the Annual Session of this Association. (\$15.00 for Printing of the minutes and \$10.00 for State Delegate fee, \$10.00 State Association expenses.)
12. The Treasurer of this Association shall be bonded in the amount of \$2,500.00. He is to submit a written report at each session. If a written report is not given a new treasurer will be elected.

13. It shall be the duty of all boards to meet as often as may be necessary and any member absenting himself, for three successive meetings may be dropped from the Board and his successor elected.
14. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE** - The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rules of faith and practice.
2. **GOD** - There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, preserver and Righteous Governor of the Universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.
3. **CHRIST** - Christ is God manifest in the flesh: In His divine nature truly God, in His Human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified is our ever-present Saviour and Lord.
4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT** - The Scriptures assigns to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of all men.
5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD** - God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of Grace, not otherwise provided for as highest welfare of man requires.
6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN** - Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin, and become guilty before God.
7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST** - The Son of God, by His Incarnation, life, suffering, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation of faith.
8. **THE WORK OF SALVATION** - The conditions of salvation are:
 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciations of it.
 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord, with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit: freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God.
 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.
9. **ELECTION** - God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ, men become His elect.
10. **FREEDOM OF WILL** - The Human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.
11. **SALVATION FREE** - God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.
12. **PERSEVERANCE** - All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.
13. **BACKSLIDING AND APOSTASY** - A person who has been regenerated or born again and is living in unconfessed, unforgiven sin, is rebellious to the principles of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and therefore is a backslider in a lost condition who must repent and be restored to the right

relationship with God or be eternally lost.

We recognize, according to Hebrews 6: 4-6, that it is possible for a person to get in the condition that he could never return to Christ. This, we believe, is Apostasy; however, we also recognize that a regenerate person can fall into sin, be in a lost condition and still not be an apostate. This person, through repentance, can be reconciled to God.

14. GOSPEL ORDINANCES - Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel: Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.
15. TITHING - God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament: Jesus Christ endorsed in the Gospel (Matt. 23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." 1 Cor. 16: 2.
16. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH - The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from the secular employment and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.
17. RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION - The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation: then the wicked shall "Go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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 tolling 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 that 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 application 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.)

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.

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.

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 candidate's 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 cannot 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.

