

Minutes of the

43rd Annual Meeting

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

1975

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OFFICERS

Moderator Harvey Aguirre
Rte. 1, Healdton, Okla. 73438
Asst. Moderator Clate W. Briggs, Jr.
1213 S.W. 26th St., Lawton, Okla. 73501
Clerk Kate Briggs
1213 S.W. 26th St., Lawton, Okla. 73501
Asst. Clerk Coris Deatherage
Wilson, Oklahoma
Treasurer Leota Wilson
706 D N.W., Ardmore Okla. 73401
Asst. Treasurer Bob Littlefield
Lone Grove, Okla. 73443

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ward Fellabaum	5 years
Mike McCumber	4 years
Noah Smith	3 years
Jay Crisp	2 years
James Deatherage	1 year

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Noah Smith	5 years
Bob Littlefield	4 years
Carroll Milner	3 years
Clate Briggs	2 years
John Wood	1 year

MISSION BOARD

Howard Walker	5 years
Richard Gallant	4 years
John Wood	3 years
James Deatherage	2 years
Milburn Wilson	1 year

CHRISTIAN TRAINING SERVICE BOARD

Ralph Mullins	5 years
Clate Briggs	4 years
Carroll Milner	3 years
Harvey Aguirre	2 years
Harold Robinson	1 year

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Milburn Wilson	5 years
Carroll Milner	4 years
Ward Fellabaum	3 years
Clate Briggs	2 years
Harvey Aquirre	1 year

ANNUAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The 43rd Annual Meeting of Hopewell No. 2 Association convened at campground August 14, 1975. The meeting was called in to session by the Moderator, Rev. Milburn Wilson.

Bro. Richard Gallant was in charge of the music. Special singing by Bro. Crisp and a lady from the Duncan Church.

Bro. Jack Richey spoke briefly about Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

Bro. Richey brought the message using Genesis 5: 21-24, Enoch and God. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Junior Barton.

Friday Morning August 15, 1975. Began with Bro. Richard Gallant leading the singing with Sister Deatherage at the piano. Devotion by Bob Littlefield, Jonah 1-12.

Business session called to order by the Moderator, Bro. Milburn Wilson. He appointed Bro. Clate W. Briggs, Jr. as Assistant Moderator for this session. Sister Detherage was also appointed by Moderator to serve as Assistant Clerk.

Letters read and delegates seated. Rules of Order read by Bro. Briggs. Letter of resignation read from Bro. and Sister Lowe. Accepted.

Financial Report of Youth Camp given by Bro. Gallant. Accepted.

C.T.S. Treasurer Report given by Bro. Harvey Aguirre. Accepted.

Mission Board Report given by Bro. Wilson. Accepted.

Sister Sue Mullins was going to the Virgin Islands, the Teagues are on their way to France. Mission Board members went to Hopewell No. 1 to try to establish fellowship and to talk to them about joining in the state work. Reported work at Hugo lacks interest.

C.E.B. Report given by Bro. Briggs. Accepted.

Treasurer Report given by Bro. Wilson. Books had been audited and found in order.

Motion made to accept Bro. Lowe's resignation from all boards. Motion made to help the work in Pauls Valley with finance \$100. Accepted.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Board: 5 year member.....Bro. Ward Fellabaum
Executive Board: 4 year member.....Mike McCumber

Credential Board: 5 year member.....Bro. Noah Smith
 Credential Board: 4 year member.....Bob Littlefield
 Credential Board: 3 year member..... Bro. Carroll Milner

MISSION BOARD: Bro. Howard Walker

C.T.S. Board: 1 year member.....Ralph Mullins
 C.E.B. Board: 5 year member.....Bro. Milburn Wilson
 C.E.B. Board: 3 year member.....Bro. Ward Fellabaum

QUARTELY MEETING LOCATIONS AND DATES:
 And FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS

Countyline.....Nov. 14-15, 1975	Bro. Bob Littlefield
Lone Grove.....Feb. 13-14, 1976	Bro. Howard Walker
Duncan Eastside..May 14-15, 1976	Bro. Stobtown, Pastor

Annual Meeting at the campground: August 19-21, 1976.
 Associational Revival to start 16-20, with Bill Jones Speaker,
 Alternate, Bro. Ruedell Smith, Bro. Fellabaum, Memorial Speaker.

Ministers and Deacons report given by Bro. Howard Walker, they
 voted to raise \$1000.00 for Hillsdale Four Plex.

Next meeting to convene at Midway Free Will Baptist Church
 October 25, 1975.

Womens Auxillary Report read and accepted.

Dismissed for morning worship by Bro. John Wood.

Morning Worship Service opened with Bro. Briggs leading the
 singing with Sister Deatherage at the piano. Bro. Jimmy Smith
 brought the message using Matthews 16: 24, People Jesus used.

Dismissed for lunch by Bro. Hunter.

Afternoon Session began leading the singing with Shelia Buttram.
 Devotion by Bro. Gallant using I Peter 3: 15, Reason for our Hope
 -Faith.

State Delegates appointed and accepted.

Country Side	Francis Milner
Healdton	Mary Ann Gallant
Ardmore	Leota Wilson
Lawton	Kate Briggs
Countyline	Sister Fellabaum
Midway	Jurhee McClain
Duncan	Ruth Franklin
Lone Grove	Cindy Littlefield
Stobtown	

Read letter from Center Association asking for a letter for Sulpher Church. Motion carried to send letter to read as follows: We the Hopewell No. 2 Association having sorrowful regrets the Sulpher Church did not find the fellowship with us they desired. "After We" the Moderator and Chairman of the Executive Board labored with their Pastor to reestablish fellowship and yet the Sulpher Church desires to unite with the Center Association. We grant their desire by recommending them to Center Association as a Church in good standing. The Executive Board: James Deatherage, Jay Crisp, Noah Smith, Harvey Aguirre.

New Business: Motion made that all interested parties to rally to achieve this goal of building at our campground the following: One boys dorm, Cap. 75, one girls dorm, Cap. 75, one kitchen and dining room to seat 200, one wash room for boys, one wash room for girls. All the facilities to be placed on concrete slabs with block walls. (Passed).

Building Commette: Bro. Briggs, Bro. Smith, Bor. Milner, Bro. Walker, appoinyed by the Body. (Passed)

Friday Night Meeting: Called to order by Bro. Briggs. Singing led by Bro. Ralph Mullins. There was an Alter of Prayer and Testimony Meeting. Special singing by the Robinsons and the Countyline Church.

Bro. Jimmy Smith brought the message using Eph. 3: 14-19. A Love Offering was given for Bro. Jimmy.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Harold Robinson.

Saturday, August 16, 1975: Opened with Bro Gallant leading the singing. Bro. Milburn Wilson the Moderator brought the Devotion using Psalms 118 and 133.

Voted to ask for State Association 1977 Session to be held at Ardmore, Oklahoma. (Passed).

Executive Board Report.. Oral Report by Bro. Noah Smith.

Temperance Committee Report. Accepted.

Obituary Report. Accepted.

Motion made to take \$75.00 from Local Mission Funds and put into C.T.S. Fund to pay remaining bills for camp. (Carried). Committee to study budget: Bro. John Wood, Bro. Briggs, Bro. Deatherage, Bro. Harvey Aguirre, and Bro. Ward Fellabaum.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Moderator	Harvey Aguirre
Asst. Moderator	Clate Briggs
Clerk	Kate Briggs
Asst. Clerk	Doris Deatherage
Treasurer	Sister Leota Wilson
Asst. Treasurer	Bob Littlefield

Motion to give Bro. Wilson a standing vote of thanks for past Moderator.

Members of forty years or more being Free Will Baptist to have pictures taken.

Dismissal for Morning Worship Service.

Worship Service opened with Bro. Briggs leading the singing. A special song by Grandchildren of Bro. and Sister Hershal Lewis of Duncan. Memorial Services by Bro. Harvey Aguirre, Haggi 2: 1-4.

There were eight present that had been Free will Baptist for over forty years.

Dismissal of the 43rd Annual Meeting by Bro. Milburn Wilson.

COMMITTEES:

Resolution: Bro. Buttram, Cam Hunter, James Deatherage

Obituary: Noah Smith, Bob Littlefield, Jay Crisp

Temperance: John Wood, Richard Gallant, Ward Fellabaum

REPORTS

Temperance Committee Report: As Temperance if a scriptural admonition to all Christians of every age to live Holy and Temperate lives. We ask that all of God's children to abstain from all things that tend to destroy our influence as a witness for God, and bring shame upon him, we believe this includes our obedience to the laws of our nation, in so far as possible and that we pray daily that the Lord will give us strength and courage to meet the temptations of this generation with victory ours through Christ our Lord.

Bro. John Wood, Bro. Richard Gallant, Bro. Ward Fellabaum

Obituary Report: We the Obituary Committee report that four Brethren 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. Jack Wellinton.....Lawton
 Bro. James Dock Morris.....Duncan
 Bro Herman Anthony.....Ardmore
 Bro. Vernon Caswell.....Lone Grove

Signed:

Bob Littlefield
 Noah Smith
 Jay Crisp

AUXILLARY REPORT

June 6, 1975. The Ladies Auxillary of Hopewell No. 2 met at the Country Side Church.

The President opened the meeting with Sister Robinson at the piano and Sister Cleo Spurgin leading the singing, "Love Lifted Me" and "Haven of Rest". Led in prayer by Sister Franklin.

Secretary's Report read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report read and accepted.

Local Reports read and accepted. Lawton had the program which is about Missionaries.

With Sister Robinson at the piano and Sister McKinney leading the singing, "Work for the Night is Comming". Special by Sister Gammon and Sister Madell Buttram, "Ready". Poems read by Sister Briggs, Sister Robinson, and Sister Buttram which were written by Rev. McKinney. Offering taken with Sister Robinson at the piano and Sister Truitt blessing the offering

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President	Jurhee McClain
Vice President	Kate Briggs
Secretary	Kathy Elam
Assistant Secretary	Mary Head
Treasurer	Ruth Franklin
Assistant Treasurer	Shirley Lewis
Field Worker	Geneva McKinney
Assistant Field Worker	Nora Truitt
Mission Study Chairman	Francis Milner
Prayer Chairman	Cleo Spurgin
Action Chairman	Emma Combest

Motion made and seconded to have the next meeting at the Duncan Church.

Motion made and seconded to have Sister Lewis install the new Officers at the next meeting.

Bro. Briggs led in an alter of prayer for dismissal.

District Secretary
Kathy Elam

TREASURERS REPORT
Hopewell No. 2 Association
For January, February, & March

PAID OUT STATE & NATIONAL ASS'N

Co-op	1044.96
Foreign Missions	2307.21
Home Missions	75.00
Hillsdale	<u>2003.79</u>
TOTAL	\$5430.96

GENERAL FUND

Balance Forward	91.70
Income	<u>176.29</u>
Working Balance	\$267.99

PAID OUT:

Treasurer's Salary	75.00
Hillsdale (K. Kenemer)	67.00
F.W.B. Book Store	4.50
(Ordination Papers)	
Duncan Church	5.00
(Ardmore Fee's)	
Ray's Office Supply	11.70
Stamps	<u>4.00</u>
BALANCE	\$100.79

LOCAL MISSION FUND

Balance Forward	114.68
Income	<u>70.61</u>
Balance as of April 1st	\$185.29

CAMP GROUND FUND

Balance Forward	21.48
Income	<u>36.81</u>
TOTAL	58.29
Paid to O.G. & E.	<u>1.01</u>
BALANCE	\$57.28

TREASURERS REPORT HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASS'N March, April, May, June, 1975

Paid Out to State and National Association

Coop	1600.15
Foreign Missions	5376.02
Home Missions	136.33
Hillsdale	<u>2585.92</u>
TOTAL	9698.42

GENERAL FUND

Balance Brought Forward	100.79
Income	<u>235.27</u>
Working Balance	336.06

PAID OUT

Treasurer's Salary	100.00
Kate Briggs	5.00
Phone Calls	13.27
Book Store	2.00
Cks. - Pd. in March	<u>9.35</u>
	129.62

Balance in General Fund 206.44

LOCAL MISSIONS FUND

Balance Forward	185.29
Income	<u>79.93</u>
TOTAL	265.22

CAMP GROUND FUND

Balance Forward	57.28
Income	<u>53.41</u>
Working Balance	110.69

PAID OUT

OG & E	5.18
Okla. Farm Bureau Ins. Co.	<u>17.50</u>
TOTAL	22.68

Balance on Hand	88.01
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REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1974 THRU JUNE 30, 1975

Paid Out State & National Association

Coop	2495.11
Foreign Missions	7833.23
Home Missions	211.33
Hillsdale	<u>4588.71</u>
TOTAL	15129.38

MONEY ON HAND

C.T.S.	131.82
General Fund	206.44
Local Missions Fund	265.22
Camp Ground Fund	<u>88.01</u>
Money on Hand	691.49

C.T.S. REPORT

Nov. 15, 1974		\$347.85
Feb. 14, 1975	Valentine Banquet	140.00
March 3, 1975		<u>118.11</u>
		\$605.96

Paid Out:

Ck. No. 101	Steve Davis	\$100.00
Ck. No. 102	Deposit Lake Murray	43.00
	Youth Camp	
Ck. No. 103	Ramada Inn	175.00
	Valentine Banquet	
Ck. No. 104	Ardmore Piper Inc.	4.03
Ck. No. 105	Richard Gallant	142.22
Ckl No. 106	Mead's Bread	<u>29.70</u>
		\$496.95

Harvey Aguirre

\$109.01
<u>139.90</u>
\$248.90

CHURCH	STATE COOP	F.M.	H.M.	L.M.	CTS	HILLSDALE	GEN. FUND	CAMP GROUND	TOTAL
Ardmore	1703.52	7203.97	77.93			3922.23	80.00		12987.65
Countryside	68.75		40.00	13.75	13.75	13.75	27.50		177.50
Countyline	55.76			11.13	11.13	11.19	22.31		111.52
Duncan	149.93			29.96	29.97	29.99	59.94	41.82	341.61
Healdton	91.75	98.86		13.35	13.35	171.85	26.70		415.86
Lawton		70.40	43.40	5.00	43.00	43.40	10.40	48.80	264.00
Lone Grove	46.12	30.00	50.00	1.50	1.50	161.40	3.02		293.54
Midway		30.00							30.00
Stobtown		400.00				60.00	30.00		490.00
Sulphur	379.28			75.85	75.85	175.9	151.69		858.57
TOTAL	2495.11	7833.23	211.33	150.54	188.55	4589.71	411.56	90.22	15970.25

REPORT FOR DEC. 1974 THRU JUNE 30, 1975

YOUTH CAMP FINANCIAL REPORT

Income from fee's and concession's	1215.24
Received from C.T.S. Fund	<u>174.95</u>
Total Income	1390.19

EXPENSES:

Evangelist	200.00
Cooks & Dishwashers	255.00
Director	125.00
Life Guard	20.00
Food	467.61
Ice	76.00
Concession Stand	214.10
Insurance	55.20
Lit. & Materials	68.00
Camp Rent	<u>208.43</u>

Total Expense	1689.34
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Income	<u>1390.19</u>
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Camp Cost	299.15
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Registration Information

Campers	72
Pre-Campers	3
Sponsors	<u>17</u>
Total	92

We praise the Lord for 37 decisions for Christ.

STATISTICS

Number of churches.	9
Number of parsonages.	8
Number of ordained ministers.	15
Number of licensed ministers.	1
Number of ordained deacons.	27

Number of the following auxiliaries:

Sunday Schools. 9
C.T.S. 5
Woman's Auxs. 4
Prayer Meetings. 9

Church Membership 1,130

Resident. 983

Non-Resident. 163

Members recieved. 198

By profession of faith. 81

By letter. 117

Members dismissed. 38

By letter. 34

Deceased. 4

Sunday School Enrolment. 1,052

C.T.S. Enrolment. 250

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total giving in the churches \$148,206.00

Spent for local causes-

Pastor's salary. \$35,092.55

Evangelistic work. \$49,782.00

Bldg. & Repair. \$19,279.60

Total local expenditures. . . \$104,154.92

Spent for outside causes-

Cooperative Plan

or Unified Program. \$4,374.76

Foreign missions. \$10,419.02

Home missions. \$448.54

Other.

Total outside expenditures . . \$22,577.45

Value of church property. . . \$464,829.00

Value of parsonage property . \$77,759.00

FIRST QUARTELY MEETING

The First Quartely Meeting of Hopewell No. 2 Association met at the Healdton Free Will Baptist Church November 8-9, 1974.

The Friday Night Services began with Bro. Gallant leading the singing with Sister Teague at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Howard Walker. Bro. Lowe gave the welcome.

Special singing by Bro. and Sister Gallant. Prayer by Bro. Deatherage.

Message was brought by Bro. Tim Eaton, using Habakkuk 1: 1-4, "The Man Who Inquired of God".

Prayer by Bro. Teague.

There were eight churches represented.

Dismissal by Bro. Ralph Mullins.

Saturday Morning. Bro. Lowe called the meeting to order. Bro. Gallant leading the singing with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Carroll Milner. Devotion brought by Bro. Dennis Teague, using 1 Cor. 13:1-8.

Sister Vala Robinson was appointed as Assistant Clerk for the day and Bro. Gallant as Assistant Moderator.

Letters called for and delegates seated. Rules of Order read by Bro. Gallant.

Reading of Minutes of last meeting approved as read. Committes appointed for the day.

Divine Services: Paschall Truiett John Wood, Jay Crisp.

Resolution: Harold Robinson, Howard Burke, Joyce Lewis.

Visitors: Bro. Jimmy Parker and wife Robin, Bro. DeVault and Bro. Jerry Rhoades.

Bro. Lonnie Devault and Jerry Rhoades brought reports from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

Bro. Harvey Aguirre was chosen to bring the morning message.

Bro. Deatherage was appointed to serve on the Credential Board for the day. No reports from C.T.S. or Executive Board. Treasurer report by Bro. Gallant excepted. (See Reports)

Recesses for Morning Service. Dismissed by Guy Denny.

Called to Morning Worship with the Congregation singing "Joy Unspeakable". Bro. Harvey Aguirre brought the message using Joshua 14: 6-14. Prayer by Bro. Briggs.

REPORTS

Reports of Credential Board: We recommend that Bro. Parker be ordained as a Deacon. (See Reports)

Reports from the Eastside Free Will Baptist Church that they have elected Rev. Noah Smith as their Pastor November 6, 1974.

Dismissal for lunch.

Afternoon Session. Opened with singing "Sunlight", prayer by Bro. Lonnie Devault.

Report of Resolution Committee accepted. No resolutions.

Motion made to send a letter to each church, asking that they take a stand against the Equal Rights Amendment.

Finance Report from C.T.S. Board accepted. (See Reports)

Unfinished Business: Budget Committee: Briggs, Milner, Wilson, Gallant. Motion made that Moderator appoint three men for Committee, Orville Romine, Tim Eaton, and Jay Crisp. Motion made and carried that Association purchase a full page ad in the Harvester, for the College Yearbook. (\$50:00)

Credential Board: We recommend that Bro. Jimmy Parker be ordained as a Deacon.

Signed:

Bro. Smith
Bro. Romine
Bro. Woods
Bro. Deatherage
Bro. Briggs

C.T.S. Finance Report: Turned over from Rev. Dean Thompson \$214.52, recieved from Hopewell No. 2 \$129.15, recieved for equipment \$5.00. Total \$348.67, November 8, 1974.

Harvey Aguirre Treasurer.

Moderator: Bro. Lowe
Clerk: Kate Briggs

SECOND QUARTELY MEETING

The Second Quartley Meeting of Hopewell No. 2 Association met at the Eastside Free Will Baptist Church at Duncan, Oklahoma, Friday, February 7, 1975.

Meeting called to order by the Pastor, Rev. Noah Smith. Bro. Chadouine leading the singing with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano. Opening prayer by Bro. Orville Romine. Special singing by different churches followed by a Testimony Meeting led by Bro. Walker.

Bro. Romine brought the message using Proverbs 6: 9-11. The message was spiritual and refreshing.

Saturday Morning: The business session of Hopewell No. 2 Association met with Ducan Eastside Free Will Baptist Church, February 7-8, 1975.

Service began with singing "Victory In Jesus", led by Bro. Gallant, with Sister Donna Hicks at the piano.

Prayer by Bro. Romine. Bro. William Chandler, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist Student, brought the Devotional using Romans 8: 28.

Bro. Milburn Wilson, Moderator, called the session to order. Letters from eight churches read and accepted. Delegates seated with right hand of fellowship. (Lone Grove Church not represented.)

Minutes of last meeting read and accepted. Rules of Order read by Bro. Lowe.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Divine Services: Bro. Orville Romine, Bro. Carroll Milner, Sister Naomi Mullins.

Resolution: Bro. Hershell Lewis, Bro. James Deatherage, Bro. Richard Gallant.

Bro. Carroll Milner and Bro. Richard Gallant were appointed to serve on Credential Board this session.

Visitors: Bro. Bill Jones, President of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, gave a report on the college.

Bro. Briggs gave report on the Sunday School Revival at Lawton Church. Motion made to pay the \$67.00 expense of this Sunday School Revival at the Lawton Church from the General Fund. Carried.

Treasurer Report given by Bro. Gallant read and accepted. Bro. Richard Gallant resigned from the Treasurer, accepted. With this a standing vote of confidence for him in a job well done.

Dismissed by Bro. Noah Smith.

Morning Worship Service: Began with Congregation singing "Glory To His Name" led by Bro. Richard Gallant, with Sister Donna Hicks at the piano. Special singings: "Won't It Be Wonderful There", by the Lawton Church, and two songs by the Healdton Church, "Ten Thousand Years", and "Redemption Draweth Nigh".

Bro. Bill Jones brought a wonderful message using Acts 2: 1-3, and Phillipians 1: 9-10, 3: 20, and Acts 4: 29.

Dismissed by Bro. Noah Smith.

Afternoon Session: Began with Devotional and prayer by Bro. George McKinney, using I Timothy 2: 1-6.

No resolution given.

Sister Leota Wilson, Assistant Treasurer, was elected to be the District Treasurer, 706 D. N.W., Ardmore, Oklahoma, 73401.

Bro. Clate W. Briggs, Jr. was elected to be the Assistant Treasurer.

Executive Board had not met. C.T.S. Report given by Bro. Carroll Milner. Dates August 4-8 at Lake Murry. Enrollment Fee \$13.50 with Richard Gallant as Director of our Youth Camp.

Credential Board Report. Accepted. (See Reports)

Motion made to adjourn. Prayer by Bro. Romine.

REPORTS

REPORTS: Credential Board: We the Credential Board have examined Bro. Walker and Bro. McKinney and we find both sound in doctrine and practices of Free Will Baptists and we recommend both to be ordained as Ministers in Free Will Baptist Denomination.

Rev. Noah Smith, Rev. Carroll Milner, Rev. Clate Briggs,
Rev. Richard Gallant, Rev. Orville Romine.

Moderator: Rev. Milburn Wilson
Clerk: Kate Briggs

THIRD QUARTELY MEETING

The Third Quartely Meeting of the Hopewell No. 2 Association met at the Country Side Free Will Baptist Church May 9, 1975.

Meeting opened by Bro. Milner. Sister Cleo lead the singing with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Ralph Mullins. Special singing by Bro. and Sister Robinson, Lawton.

Message by Bro. Clate W. Briggs Jr., using II Cor. 5: 17.

Dismissal by Bro. Noah Smith.

Saturday May 10, 1975: Opened with Bro. Gallant leading the singing, Devotional by Bro. George McKinney, and prayer by Bro. McKinney.

Meeting called to order by the Moderator, Bro. Milburn Wilson

Minutes read and accepted. Reading of church letters and seating of delegates by right hand of fellowship.

COMMITTEES

Divine Services: Harold Robinson, Harvey Aguirre and Harvey Clark.

Resolution: Truitt, Feilds, and Dover.

Rules of Order read by Bro. Lowe.

Report of Credential Board. (See Reports)

Vote of confidence given to the Credential Board, that the motion concerning Ministers and Deacons be carried out or be carried over until next meeting.

Treasurer Report: Read and accepted.

Letter read from the Sulpher Church informing Hopewell No. 2 Association they had petitioned the Center Association. Motion made that this association give the authority to the Moderator and the Executive Board to write a letter to the Center Association concerning the reason of said church leaving Hopewell No. 2 Association.

Dismissal by Bro. Briggs.

Morning Worship Service: Opened with Bro. Briggs leading the singing. Alter of prayer led by Noah Smith. Special singing by the Country Side Free Will Baptist Church and the Lawton Church.

Bro. George McKinney from the Lawton Church brought the morning message using Gen. 2: 7, 1 Kings 17: 21 and Peter 1: 23.

Dismissed by Bro. Lowe.

Afternoon Session: Opened with Bro. Briggs leading the singing. Devotion by Bro. Lowe using II Cor. 5: 14-21. Prayer by Bro. Lowe.

C.T.S. Report accepted as read.

Mission Report given and accepted.

A standing vote of thanks given to the Country Side Church.

Motion made to adjourn. Dismissed by Bro. Aguirre.

REPORTS

Credential Board Report: We the members of the Credential Board met with Bro. Bob Littlefield on May 10, 1975 at the Country Side Free Will Baptist Church and we found him sound in Free Will Baptist Doctrine and teachings, we recommend that he be accepted by this Association with full fellowship.

Recommend that names of Ministers or Deacons be sent to Credential Board, one month before coming meeting, with questionnaire filled out by the candidate.

Signed:

Rev. Carroll Milner
Rev. Noah Smith
Rev. Clate W. Briggs, Jr.

Moderator: Rev. Milburn Wilson
Clerk: Kate Briggs

CHURCH NAME & ADDRESS

PASTOR

CLERK

Lone Grove FWB
Lone Grove, Okla.

Bob Littlefield
Lone Grove, Okla.
Ph. 657-4578

Mrs. Pat Thetford
Box 1063
Ardmore, Okla. 73401

Countyline FWB
Countyline, Okla.

Ward Fellabaum
Box 63, Ratliff City
Okla. Ph. 856-3614

Oma Gillispy
Box 3, Countyline, Okla
Ph. 444-3795

First FWB Church
219 South 6th St.
Healdton, Okla.

Richard Gallant
314 S. 4th St.
Healdton, Okla. 73438
Ph. 229-0397

Charlie Truitt
311 Kewanee St.
Healdton, Okla.
Ph. 229-1196

Stobtown FWB Church
Rt. 3, Ardmore, Okla.

First FWB Church
10 S. 24th Street
Lawton, Okla.

Clate W. Briggs, Jr.
1213 SW 26th St.
Lawton, Okla. 73501
Ph. 357-5394

Vala Robinson
409 S. 23rd Place
Lawton, Okla.
Ph. 355-1757

Eastside FWB Church
Chestnut and North
Duncan, Okla.

Noah Smith
807 Mulberry
Duncan, Okla. 73533
Ph. 255-2203

Vivian Lewis
703 N. 13th St.
Duncan, Okla.
Ph. 255-5501

Country Side FWB
1½ M. East of Velma

Carroll Milner
P.O. Box 131
Velma, Okla. 73091
Ph. 444-2105

Emma Combust
Rt. 3, Box 129B
Duncan, Okla.
Ph. 444-2433

First FWB Church
Grand Avenue
Ardmore, Okla.

Milburn Wilson
706 D. N.W.
Ardmore, Okla. 73401
Ph. 226-0652

Leon Price
Box 1243
Ardmore, Okla. 73401
Ph. 673-2315

Midway FWB Church
Rt. 3
Healdton, Okla.

Harvey Aguirre
Rt. 1
Healdton, Okla. 73438
Ph. 673-2599

Francis Lewellen
Box 201
Graham, Okla. 73437
Ph. 673-2315

HOPEWELL NO. 2 MINISTER'S DIRECTORY

X DENOTES PASTOR

Carroll Milner	X	P.O. Box 131 Velma, Okla. 73091	444-2105
Bob Littlefield	X	Lone Grove, Okla. 73443	
Harvey Aguirre	X	Rt. 1 Healdton, Okla.	673-2599

J.P. Hudson		Rt. 1	
Ward Fellabaum	X	Healdton, Okla. Box 63	856-3614
Howard Walker		Ratliff City, Okla Box 103	856-3943
Clate Briggs	X	Ratliff City, Okla 1213 S.W. 26th St.	357-5394
George McKinney		Lawton, Okla. 73501	
		4328 Sante Fe	357-3645
		Lawton, Okla. 73501	
Noah Smith	X	807 Mulberry	255-2203
		Duncan, Okla.	
Richard Gallant	X	314 S. 4th St.	229-0397
		Healdton, Okla.	
Milburn Wilson	X	706 D. N.W.	226-0652
		Ardmore, Okla.	
James Deatherage	X	Wilson, Okla.	668-2089
William Chandler		734 4th N.E.	226-0804
		Ardmore, Okla.	
Leroy Holman		905 B S.E.	226-1423
		Ardmore, Okla.	
Jim Kennedy		23 M S.W.	226-2924
		Ardmore, Okla,	
Tim Eaton		Box 1243 N.W.	226-2762
		Ardmore, Okla.,	
Dennis Teague		France	

ALL MINISTERS ABOVE ARE ORDAINED

HOPEWELL NO. 2 DEACONS

Z.E. Chadoiun	Alma, Oklahoma	444-2583
Troy Morris, Sr.	Rt. 3, Box 155	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	657-4513
Leonard Robinson	Star Rt.	
	Lone Grove, Oklahoma	657-4742
Joe Balthrop	Rt. 3	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	657-4451
Ralph Mullins, Sr.	Ratliff City, Oklahoma	856-3290
Othel Kyle	Rt. 3	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	657-6420
Guy Denny	Star Rt.	
	Lone Grove, Oklahoma	657-4277
James Adam	Rt. 3	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	657-4280
Troy Morris, Jr.	Star Rt.	
	Lone Grove, Oklahoma	657-4747
W.M. Buttram	2601 A. Ave.	
	Lawton, Oklahoma	353-4278
Buck Gammon	1212½ Taylor	
	Lawton, Oklahoma	357-2394
Larry Spurgin	P.O. Box 842	
	Velma, Oklahoma	444-2527

Dale Howell	Lone Grove, Oklahoma	
Joel Harmon	Fox, Oklahoma	673-2312
Ralph Mullins, Sr.	Rt. 1, Box 1	
	Ratliff City, Oklahoma	856-3038
Jess Gillaspay	Box 3	
	Countyline, Oklahoma	444-3795
Hersel Lewis	703 N. 13th St.	
	Duncan, Oklahoma	255-5051
Forest Cox	Rt., Box 46	
	Ratliff City, Oklahoma	
Troy Lewellen	Box 201	
	Graham, Oklahoma	673-2315
Richard Watkins	Fox, Oklahoma	673-2798
George Gillaspay	Rt. 1, Box 110	
	Ratliff City, Oklahoma	856-3141
Edmond Franklin	313 N. A	
	Duncan, Oklahoma	255-0777
J.L. McDaniel	Rt. 4	
	Duncan, Oklahoma	255-1455
Marlin Bivens	Box 855	
	Healdton, Oklahoma	229-1678
Mike McCumber	913 Baily	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	223-1383
John Wood	1107 Baily	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	223-5955
Howard Burke	Mockingbird Lane	
	Healdton, Oklahoma	
John Jeter	8 Town & Country Circle	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	226-0203
Jay Crisp	1105 Wolverton	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	223-5722
Herb Welch	500 12th S.E.	
	Ardmore, Oklahoma	223-1913

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 shall 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 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 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 Baptists 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 Baptists 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.

