

**Minutes of the
44th Annual Meeting
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1976**

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Camp Ground Committee

Bro. Stagg Feb-76

Bro. Franklin - May 76 PR-21

See PR-17

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Bro. Ed Stagg

PO Box 44

County line 73025

856-3695

OFFICERS

Moderator. Harvey Aguirre
 Rt. 1, Healdton, Okla. 73438
 Asst. Moderator. ~~Clate W. Briggs, Jr.~~
 1213 S.W. 26th St., Lawton, Okla. 73051
 Clerk. Kate Briggs
 1213 S.W. 26th St., Lawton, Okla. 73051
 Asst. Clerk. Fran Milner
 P.O. Box 131, Velma, Okla. 73091
 Treasurer. Vivian Lewis
 703 N. 13th St., Duncan, Okla. 73533
 Asst. Treasurer. Joyce Lewis
 710 N. 14th St., Duncan, Okla. 73533

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Carroll Milner. 4 years
 J. T. McClanahan. 3 years
 Ward Fellabaum. 2 years
 Noah Smith. 7 years
 Byrl Blair. 5 years

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Jess Gillasp. 4 years
 Byrl Blair. 3 years
 Z. E. Chadioun. 2 years
 Carroll Milner. 2 years
 Clate Briggs. 1 year

MISSION BOARD

Byrl Blair. 4 years
 Ed Stagg. 3 years
 Ralph Mullins, Jr. 2 years
 Jess Gillasp. 2 years
 Edmond Franklin. 1 year

CHRISTIAN TRAINING SERVICE BOARD

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Harvey Aguirre. 5 years
 Biggs McClanahan. 5 years
 Carroll Milner. 2 years
 Ward Fellabaum. 1 year
 Clate Briggs. 1 year

44TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF HOPEWELL NO.2

The 44th Annual Association of Hopewell No. 2 convened at the camp ground, August 19, 1976.

Called to order by the Moderator Bro. Aguirre.

Bro. Carroll Milner led in prayer.

Bro. J.T. McClanahan led the singing.

Message by Bro. Blair using Luke 15: 11 -24.

Prayer by Bro. Briggs.

Dismissed with a song and an offering for the camp ground.

Friday, August 20, 1976. Called to order by the Assistant Bro. Clate Briggs. Opened with an Altar of Prayer. Scripture, Acts 2: 42-47.

Bro. Blair was appointed Assistant Moderator for the day.

Reading of church letters and seating of delegates. Reading of previous minutes. Motion carried to accept minutes as read. Reading of Rules of Order by Bro. Blair.

COMMITTEES SELECTED

Divine Committee. Bro. Ed Staggs, Sister Nora Truitt, and Bro. Leonord Walker.

Obituary Committee. Bro. Staggs, Bro. Walker, and Sister Mullins.

Resolution Committee. Bro. Jess Gillaspay, Bro. Noah Smith, and Sister Jane Walker.

Old Business. Motion made to bring a motion from the table and fully discuss it. Motion was for the Quarterly Meeting's to meet the 2nd Friday and Saturday. Motion carried.

New Business. Motion made that the Camp Ground Building Committee be empowered to use money in Camp Ground Fund for camp building's and all camp repairs and expenses. Motion carried.

Executive Board Report by Bro. Noah Smith. Report accepted. (See Reports.)

Motion made that we dismiss for the 11:00 Worship Service.

Bro. Briggs brought the message using 1 Samuel 10: 6, "Turned Out Man".

Service was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs and blessing asked on the noon meal.

Evening Service opened by singing "The Unclouded Day".

Devotion by Bro. Carroll Milner from Psalms 25: 1-9.

**QUARTERLY MEETING LOCATIONS AND DATES:
AND FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS**

Lawton Nov. 11-12, 1976. Speaker, Bro. Carroll Milner
Duncan Eastside Feb. 11-12, 1977 Speaker, Bro. Clate Briggs
Countryside May 13-14, 1977 Speaker, Bro. Noah Smith

Annual Meeting, August 17-19, 1977 at the camp ground. Opening Speaker Bro. Ward Fellowbaum. Memorial Service Speaker Bro. Byrl Blair.

Motion made that we have the Annual Association Revival with Youth Camp. (Carried.)

Motion made that the C.T.S. Board have the responsibility of all Youth Camp Arrangements.

Amendment that they (C.T.S. Board) report to the November Quarterly Meeting. (Carried.)

Camp Ground Report by Bro. Briggs, Motion carried to accept report and give a vote of confidence with it. (See Report.)

Motion made to adjourn until 7:30 Friday Night.

Friday Night Session opened with prayer by Bro. Carroll Milner.

Bro. Fellowbaum led the singing with Shelia Buttram at the piano. Special singing by a group from Healdton.

Bro. Briggs brought the message using 1 Timothy 6: 12, "Completing the Tasks."

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Raymond Channey.

Saturday, August 21, 1976. Opened with prayer by Bro. Noah Smith.

Song service was opened with Sister Vivian Lewis at the piano and Bro. Clate Briggs leading the songs.

The Moderator Bro. Harvey Aguirre declared the meeting in session.

New Delegates and Alternates were seated.

Reports were called for. Treasurer's Report was given and motion made and seconded to accept the report.

Motion carried that we make up the difference in the insurance bill and the Camp Ground Fund from the General Fund.

Motion carried that we take the Local Mission Fund and place it in the Camp Ground Fund to be used for purchasing hot water heaters.

Executive Board: 5 year member.Carroll Milner
Credential Board: 5 year member.Jess Gillaspay
Mission Board: 5 year member.Byrl Blair
Mission Board: 4 year member.Ed Staggs
C.T.S. Board: 5 year member.Harold Robinson
C.E. Board: 5 year member.Harvey Aguirre

STATE DELEGATES

Duncan.Roy Earley
Stobtown.Onalee Cearley
Lawton.Kate Briggs
Countryside.Fran Milner
Countyline.Ed Staggs
Midway.Bobby Staggs

State General Board Representative: Clate Briggs

Standing note of appreciation for last years work for Moderator.

Moderator.Harvey Aguirre
Assistant Moderator.Clate Briggs
Clerk.Kate Briggs
Assistant Clerk.Francis Milner
Treasurer.Vivian Lewis
Assistant Treasurer.Joyce Lewis

Motion carried that we put the extra \$5 from each church into the Camp Ground Building Fund.

Dismissed from Morning Worship with prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs.

Bro. Fellowbaum brought the Morning Message using Psalms 116: 15.

Prayer by Bro. Jim Cearly.

The 44th Annual Association came to a close with shouting and praising the Lord.

Moderator: Harvey Aguirre
Clerk: Kate Briggs

REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

We the Executive Board met June 10, 1976 to call the churches in conference to see if they were ready to start the work on the Camp Ground. The 21st of July was set to discuss the needs of the Camp Ground. All churches be present.

The Executive Board met July 19, 1976 at the Countryside F.W.B. Church.

Scripture reading 1 Timothy 1: 15.

Prayer by Bro. Fellabaum.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss selling the riding lawn mowers and the old pianos in the Girls Dorm.

The board decided to grant the Camp Ground Chairman the privilege of selling the riding mowers and reinvest the proceeds into two push mowers. Decided also to sell the old pianos in the Girls Dorm. and proceeds go to Camp Ground Fund.

The Executive Board met at the Camp Ground August 19, 1976 to elect a chairman for the coming year. Bro. Noah Smith was elected.

We the Executive Board recommend a love offering for Bro. and Sis. Clate Briggs to be used for a vacation. We did this to show the love and appreciation of the Association for the good work and loyalty. (at least \$100.00)

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT

We the Credential Board have examined Rev. Cearley and have found him sound in doctrine and practices of F.W.B. and recommend him into our Association in full fellowship.

Rev. Clate Briggs
Rev. Carroll Milner
Bro. Jess Gillaspay
Rev. Beryl Blair
Absent; Bro. Chadouin

Date: August 21, 1976

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATIONAL TREASURERS REPORT

.FOURTH QUARTER 1976

Balance in Bank..... \$ 604.97

Income for 4th Quarter;

Camp Ground Fund.....\$ 47.00
Local Missions., 23.47
C.T.S. 23.47
General Fund..... 108.99
State Coop.....234.92
Foreign Missions..... 278.73
Hillsdale 156.01

Total income..... \$ 872.59

Total working balance.....\$1,477.56

Paid Out;

State Co-op \$ 234.92
Foreign Missions..... 278.73
Hillsdale 156.01
O.G. & E. 14.85
V.O. Lewis-Services 80.00

Total Expenses..... \$ 764.51

Working Balance \$713.05

Camp Ground Fund..... \$ 182.17
General Fund..... 234.32
C.T.S. Fund 99.97
Local Mission 196.57

Balance in Oklahoma National Bank..... \$713.05

Vivian O. Lewis

Hopewell No. 2 Associational Treasurer

Dated: August 12, 1976

FOURTH QUARTER GIVING

CHURCH	STATE COOP	CAMP GROUND	F.M.	H.M.	L.M.	C.T.S.	HILLSDALE	GEN. FUND	TOTALS
Countryside	\$ 41.25	\$ 8.26	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.14	\$ 8.26	\$ 16.50	\$ 82.54
Countyline	24.77	4.96	19.73	00.00	2.44	2.44	4.97	9.93	69.24
Duncan	84.40	16.88	00.00	00.00	8.45	8.44	16.88	33.76	168.81
Lawton	84.50	16.90	00.00	00.00	8.45	8.45	16.90	33.80	169.00
Midway	00.00	00.00	109.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	109.00	00.00	218.00
Stobtown	00.00	00.00	150.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	15.00	165.00
TOTAL	\$234.92	\$47.00	\$278.73	\$ 00.00	\$ 23.47	23.47	\$156.01	\$108.99	\$872.57

ANNUAL TOTAL GIVING

Church	Total
Countryside	\$ 352.50
Countyline	347.83
Duncan	662.32
Lawton	771.00
Midway	814.10
Stobtown	775.00
	<u>\$3,722.75</u>

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Building Committee met with Ardmore Health Dept. on the 25th of May 1976 and found out what must be needed to bring our camp up to health standards, and during the months of June, July, and August have been preparing the camp renovation.

Listed below are the results of our renovation program:

Income:	Churches.	\$2049.73
	Individuals.	136.86
	Woman's Aux.	25.00
	Refund on pipes.	111.57
	Campground sales.	345.31
	Total Income	\$2668.47

Expenses: \$2635.93 (Checking Account) Total Expenses: \$3236.97

Balance in Checking Account: \$32.54 Balance in savings: \$12.52

ITEMS DONATED BY INDIVIDUALS OR CHURCHES: (This added to amount of checking account gives us, our total expense for Campground renovation.)

Water pipes and fitting. . . Countryside F.W.B . . . \$531.00

Doors and lights for dining hall. . . Countryside F.W.B.

Aluminum tin. . . Edmond Franklin. . . \$4.12

New gate. . . Ralph Mullins, Sr.

Rug for girls dorm. . . Jane Walker (Lawton)

Refrigerators. . . Hershel Lewis. . . J.T. McClanahan

Mower repair, texture nails. . . Rev. Smith. . . \$24.97

Plumbing supplies. . . Robinsons. . . \$8.41

~~12000~~
FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

The First Quarterly Meeting of the Hopewell No. 2 Association met November 14, 1976 with the County Line F.W.B.C.

(15)
The Moderator Bro. Aguirre opened the meeting by asking Bro. Carroll Milner to lead in prayer.

There were five churches represented.

Bro. Fellowbaum brought the message using 2nd Chronicles 32: 1-8.

Dismissed from the meeting by Bro. Noah Smith.

Saturday Morning, November 15, 1976. The meeting opened with Bro. Deatherage leading prayer.

Rules of Order read by Bro. Clate Briggs.

Letters read from the churches and delegates seated.

Stobtown Church sent their Pastor Bro. John Bullard to be examined for Hopewell No. 2 Association.

Two churches, Healdton and Ardmore, sent request to withdraw from Hopewell No. 2 Association as soon as a new Association was organized in Southern Oklahoma for Free Will Baptist.

Sister Vala Robinson was appointed as Assistant Clerk for this session.

A welcome was extended to visitors.

Request from Bro. Richard Gallant for a letter to the First Mission Association.

A thank you note was read from Bro. Lowe for money to help in the work at Pauls Valley.

Letter was granted to Bro. Gallant.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Divine Committee. Bro. John Wood, Bro. Harold Robinson and Bro. James Deatherage.

Obituary Committee. Bro. Ward Fellowbaum, Sister Minnie Barnhill, and Sister Oleta Spurill

Resolution Committee. Bro. Howard Walker, Z.E. Chadioun, and Bro. Jess Gillaspay.

Motion made to elect replacements for some vacancies on some boards.

Bro. Z.E. Chadioun elected to the four year position of the Credential Board.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay elected to the four year position of the Mission Board.

Sister Vivian Lewis as Assistant Treasurer.

Bro. Bullard was selected to bring the morning message.

Treasurer Report by Bro. Wilson.

Motion made that Tommy Thomas be caretaker of the camp ground and for him to take care of his own expenses. (Passed.)

Motion made that we meet the Second Friday and Saturday Nights for Quarterly Meetings. It was tabled until Annual Meeting.

State Meeting Report by Bro. Wilson.

Recessed for Morning Worship Hour by Bro. Troy Lewellen.

11:00 A.M. Worship Service opened by singing "I Must Tell Jesus", led by Bro. Briggs with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano. A special by the Lawton Church "A Light Guiding Me".

Message by Bro. Bullard using Mark 11: 12-22, titled "We Must Hear Jesus".

Dismissed in prayer and blessing asked on the food by Bro. Leroy Holman.

Afternoon Session opened with singing "Amazing Grace".

Devotion by Bro. Leroy Holman, Hebrew 2: 1. Prayer by Bro. Leroy Holman.

Obituary Committee Report. Credential Board Report. Report of Budget Committee. (See Reports.) Report from Camp Ground Fund, balance of \$626.04.

Next meeting to be at Lone Grove with out pastor at present. If any changes of place, clerk will be notified and will inturn notify all churches.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Wilson.

Moderator: Bro. Harvey Aguirre
Clerk: Sister Doris Deatherage

**TREASURERS REPORT
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASS'N**

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, 1975

Balance on Hand as of July 1, 1975	\$206.40
INCOME	<u>567.88</u>
WORKING BALANCE	\$774.28

PAID OUT:

Jack Richey	\$150.00
Love Offering	32.00
State Delegate Fee	90.00
State Ass'n Expense	90.00
Salary L. Wilson	75.00
Stamps	4.00
Wayne Wood Agency	10.00
Transfer to Camp Ground	<u>97.26</u>
	\$548.46

Balance in Gen. Fund	774.28
Less Money Paid Out	<u>548.46</u>

Balance as of October 1, 1975	225.82
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Paid Out to State & National Ass'n

LOCAL MISSIONS

947.26	State Coop	Balance	265.22
3159.18	Foreign Missions	Income	<u>24.07</u>
<u>1273.14</u>	Hillsdale		289.29
5379.58	TOTAL	Pd. to W. Lowe	100.00
		Transfer to	
		C.T.S.	<u>75.00</u>
			114.29

CAMP GROUND FUND

Balance	88.01
Income	79.20
Transfer from Gen. Fund	<u>97.26</u>
Working Balance	264.47

PAID OUT

Mowing	25.00
Insurance	209.00
O.G.E.	<u>9.07</u>

Total Pd. Out	243.07
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Balance on Hand	21.40
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CHURCH	STATE COOP	FOREIGN MISSIONS	HOME MISSIONS	LOCAL MISSIONS	C.T.S.	HILLSDALE	G.F.	CAMP GROUND	TOTAL
Ardmore	\$813.37	\$2933.13	\$ 15.00			\$1187.87	\$ 80.00		\$5029.37
Countryside	27.50			\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	5.50	61.00	\$ 27.50	132.50
Countyline	20.99			4.19	4.19	4.21	58.40		91.98
Duncan	71.94			14.38	14.38	14.40	78.78	40.90	234.78
Heraldton		15.25					50.00		65.25
Lawton		10.80	10.80		10.80	10.80	50.00	10.80	104.00
Lone Grove	13.46					40.36	50.00		103.82
Midway							50.00		50.00
Stobtown		200.00				10.00	70.00		280.00
TOTALS	947.26	\$3159.18	\$25.80	24.07	\$ 34.87	\$1273.14	\$548.18	\$ 79.20	\$6091.70

EACH CHURCH

\$15.00	Minutes
10.00	State Delegates
15.00	Evangelist
<u>10.00</u>	State Association Expense
50.00	

1/3

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT

We the Credential Board examined orally Rev. John Bullard, Pastor of Stobtown F.W.B. Church. We found him sound in doctrine and practices of F.W.B. He will fill out required questionnaire and forward it to Associate Clerk as soon as possible.

Signed:

Rev. Noah Smith (Chairman)

Rev. Clate Briggs

Rev. Carroll Milner

Bro. John Woods

Bro. Z.E. Chadouin

Date: November 15, 1975

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Budget Committee recommend to the Association the following budget for our Association:

State Co-op.	50%
Hillsdale.	10%
Camp Ground.	10%
Gen. Fund.	20%
C.T.S.	5%
Local Mission.	5%

No report from Resolution Committee.

Executive Board - oral report by Bro. Noah Smith. Report accepted.

Report from Camp Ground Fund, Balance \$626.04. Report accepted.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Wilson.

OBITURARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Duncan.	Sister Eva McDaniel
Armore.	Bro. Vernie Cypert
	Sister Irene Cypert

Signed:

Sister Oleta Spurill

Sister Minnie Barnhill

Bro. Ward Fellabaum

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

The Second Quarterly Meeting of Hopewell No. 2 Association of F.W.B. met February 13-14, 1976 with the Midway F.W.B.C.

Friday Night, February 13, 1976. Meeting called to order by the Moderator Bro. Aguirre.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay was song leader for the service. Special songs from the County Line and Lawton Church.

Bro. Noah Smith led a special prayer for the sick.

Bro. Aguirre brought the message using Ephesians 2: 1-10.

Dismissal prayer by Bro. Briggs.

Saturday, February 14, 1976. Meeting called to order with Bro. Blair leading in prayer.

Sister Vala Robinson was appointed Assistant Clerk.

Reading of church letters and seating of delegates. Visitors made welcome.

Reading of previous minutes. Reading of the Rules of Order by Bro. Briggs.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Divine Committee. Bro. Wayne Anderson, Bro. J.T. McClanahan, and Sister Joyce Lewis.

Obituary Committee. Sister Alice Spurgin, Bro. Harold Robinson, and Sister Posey.

Resolution Committee. Sister Oleta Spurill, Sister Kathy Elam, and Bro. Ed Staggs.

No unfinished business.

New business, election of Board Members.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

4 year member. Bro. J.T. McClanahan — 3
2 year member. Bro. Byrl Blair — 1
1 year member. Bro. John Bullard — 0

*Subject to Clerk
Aug 77*

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Bro. Noah Smith resigned from five years position, Bro. John Bullard replaced him.

1 year member. Bro. Jess Gillaspy

MISSION BOARD

5 year member. Bro. Ralph Mullins, Jr. 4
4 year member. Bro. Jess Gillaspy 3
3 year member. Bro. Edmond Franklin 2
2 year member. Bro. Hershel Lewis
1 year member. Bro. Ed Stagg 5

C.E.B. Board: 5 year member. Bro. Bill Payne

Assistant Clerk: Sister Francis Milner

Assistant Treasurer: Sister Joyce Lewis

Bro. Blair was selected to bring the morning message.

Sister Vivian Lewis suggested that the treasure salary go into the camp ground fund.

Report on C.E.P. by Bro. Conners.

Recessed for Morning Worship.

Prayer by Bro. J.O. Hudson.

Assembled for Morning Worship with Bro. Briggs leading the singing. Specials by the East Side Duncan Church and Lawton Church.

Message by Bro. Blair using Romans 1:14. "Debtors to our Lord Jesus Christ".

Prayer by Bro. Fellowbaum and blessing asked upon the noon meal.

The evening service began with Bro. Aguirre leading in prayer.

The Congregation sang "I Want to be a Worker". A special by Sister Lewis' grandson.

Devotion by Bro. Hudson using Romans 10: 1-6.

Obituary Report. Bro. Alex Barnhill of the Midway Church, Bro. Buck Gammon, and Sister Lydia Woodall of the Lawton Church had gone to be with the Lord.

Camp Ground Report by Bro. Briggs. Two members were elected to the Camp Ground Board, Bro. Bill Payne and Bro. Ed Staggs.

Announcements. Duncan Church has a new Pastor, Bro. Byrl Blair.

Singing at Country Side Church, March 13th and 27th.

Remember Bro. Lowe and his work at Pauls Valley.

Received an invitation to visit with the Arbuckle Association.

Motion made and seconded that each Pastor preach one night at the Camp Ground Revival. Authority was given the Moderator to appoint a Committee of Deacons to plan the service each night.

Dismissed by Bro. Chadouin.

Moderator: Rev. Harvey Aguirre

Clerk: Kate Briggs

OBITURARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Obituary Committe reports that seven have passed from our midst to go be with the Lord. We wish to pause for a few minutes in silence in remembrance of these Loved Ones.

Duncan-Eastside.	Sister Eva McDaniel
Midway.	Bro. Alex Barnhill
	Bro. El Posey
Lawton.	Bro. Buck Gammon
	Sister Lydia Woodall
Stobtown.	Sister T helma Rice
	Sister Delores Adams

Naomi Mullins
Ed Staggs
Leonard Walker

**TREASURERS REPORT
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSN.**

December '75, January & February '76

Balance received from L. Wilson January 76	\$ 207.66	(030 Surplus)
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Local Missions	\$ 125.94
CTS	28.26
Camp Grounds	41.52
General Fund	11.94

TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 207.66
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Received Jan. '76;

Stobtown (3 months)	\$ 165.00
Duncan (2 months)	96.15
Midway (1 month)	80.00
Countryside (1 month)	55.00

Total received	\$ 396.15
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Balance	\$ 603.81
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Paid out;

O.G. & E.	\$ 3.09	(paid from General Fund)
State Assn. Co-op Plan	75.59	
Foreign Mission	150.00	
Hillsdale	55.12	
Home Mission	40.00	

TOTAL PAID OUT	\$ 323.80
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Totals on Hand;

Camp Grounds	\$ 56.64
General Fund	54.08
CTS	35.82
Local Missions	133.50

WORKING BALANCE	\$ 280.01	(03c long)
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Vivian O. Lewis
Hopewell No. 2 Associational Treasurer
Dated: February 10, 1976

CHURCH	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	H.M.	L.M.	C.T.S.	HILLS- DALE	BEN. FUND	CAMP- GROUNDS	TOTAL
Countryside	\$27.50			\$2.75	\$2.75	\$ 5.50	\$11.00	\$ 5.50	\$ 55.00
Countyline									
Duncan	48.09			4.81	4.81	9.62	19.20	9.62	96.15
Lawton									
Midway (Jan.)			\$40.00			40.00			80.00
Stobtown (Dec. Jan & Feb.)	\$150.00	\$150.00					15.00		165.00
	\$75.59	\$150.00	\$40.00	\$7.56	\$7.56	\$55.12	\$45.20	\$15.12	\$396.15

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

The Third Quarterly Meeting of Hopewell No. 2 Association met May 14, 1976 with the Duncan Eastside F.W.B.C. Called to order by the Assistant Moderator Bro. Clate Briggs.

Opening prayer by Bro. McDaniel.

Bro. Byrl Blair brought the message using Matthew 16: 13-16, "Thou Art the Christ".

Friday, May 15, 1976. Called to order with prayer by the Moderator Bro. Aguirre.

Reading of letters from each church and seating of delegates.
Reading of previous minutes. Reading of Rules of Order by Bro. Briggs.
Visitors made welcome.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Obituary Committee. Sister Vera Hammers, Sister Jurhee McClain, and Bro. Ed Staggs.

Resolution Committee. Sister Ora Posey, Sister Onita Ford, and Sister Oleta Spurriel.

Divine Committee. Sister Minnie Barnhill, Sister Nora Truitt, and Sister Reba B.

No old business.

New business, election of members for boards.

Executive Board: 1 year member. Bro. Carroll Milner

Credential Board: 5 year member. Bro. Byrl Blair

C.E.B. Board: Bro. Biggs McClanahan

Bro. Carroll Milner was selected to bring the morning message.

Treasurer Report by Sister Lewis. (See Report.) Report from Camp Ground and Preachers and Deacons Meeting.

Bro. Edmond Franklin was elected to the Camp Ground Building Committee. Motion made that the Building Committee contact a Health Inspector to come out and inspect the camp site and recommend what should be done to bring the camp up to date. The Building Committee should make the decision about the water supply.

Youth Camp date definitely set for July 18-23, beginning Sunday 2:30 until Friday noon.

Motion made that the C.T.S. and C.E.B. Boards appoint a Director for Youth Camp.

Motion made to adjourn business til afternoon.

Dismissed by Bro. Hershel Lewis.

*Change
aug 76*

Worship Service began with singing led by Bro. Briggs.

Prayer by Bro. Aguirre.

Message by Bro. Carroll Milner, using James 3: 10-12, "Do My Words Help or Hinder?" A message that was inspiring to all.

Prayer by Bro. Milner. Blessing asked on the noon meal by Bro. Noah Smith.

Evening Session came to order with prayer by Sister Ford. Devotion and prayer by Bro. Aguirre.

Report from Credential Board. (See Report.)

Obituary Report. Bro. Posey from Midway Baptist Church, Sister Cooksey and Bro. Ballthorp had gone to be with the Lord. *Greta*

Executive Board Report. An oral report by Bro. Noah Smith.

Special thanks to the Duncan Church for a wonderful meal.

All churches of the association were represented.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Carroll Milner.

Moderator: Rev. Harvey Aguirre
Clerk: Kate Briggs

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT

We the Credential Board have meet with Bro. Tommy Lewis and Bro. Monte H. Boyrstler, and have found them sound in F.W.B doctrine and practices, recommend them to be ordained as deacons in Duncan F.W.B. Church.

Signed:
Carroll Milner
Jess Gillaspay
Beryl Blair
Clate Briggs
Absent: Bro. Chadouin

TREASURERS REPORT HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

Third Quarter 1976

Balance on Hand \$ 280.07

Income:

Countyline. \$186.59
 Countryside. 82.50
 Duncan. 162.59
 Lawton. 348.00
 Midway. 466.10
 Stobtown. 165.00
 Bro. T. Thomas. O.G.E. 3.09

Total Income. 1,413.86

Expenses:

O.G.E.. \$ 4.69
 Co-op State. 390.03
 Foreign Missions. 150.00
 Home Missions. 233.05
 Hillsdale. 311.19

Total Expenses. 1,088.96

Balance at closing of books, May 8, 1976. 604.97

On Hand:

Camp Ground Fund. \$134.34
 General Fund. 223.30
 C.T.S. 74.84
 Local Missions. 172.49

Working balance. \$ 604.97

Vivian O. Lewis
 Hopewell No. 2 Associational Treasurer
 Dated: May 8, 1976

CHURCH	STATE CO-OP	CAMP GROUNDS	F.M.	H.M.	L.M.	CTS	HILLSDALE	GEN. FUND	TOTALS
Countryside	\$ 41.35	\$ 8.25			\$ 4.12	\$ 4.12	\$ 8.25	\$ 16.41	\$ 82.50
Countyline	93.34	18.65			9.32	9.32	18.64	37.32	186.59
Duncan	81.34	16.25			8.12	8.12	16.45	32.31	162.59
Lawton	174.00	34.80			17.40	17.40	34.80	69.60	348.00
Midway				\$233.05			233.05		466.10
Stobtown			\$150.00					15.00	165.00
TOTALS	\$390.03	\$77.95	\$150.00	\$233.05	\$38.96	\$38.96	\$311.19	\$170.64	\$1,410.78
									<u>3.09</u>
									<u>\$1,413.87</u>

CALLED SESSION OF HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

June 21, 1976. Called Session of Hopewell No. 2 Association.
Purpose of the meeting to discuss the work to be done at the camp ground.

Called to order by the Moderator Bro. Harvey Aguirre. Prayer by Bro. Aguirre.

Camp Ground Report by Bro. Briggs. The Health Inspector had been out and his report was, water inadequate, city water would cost approximately \$125.00. Bob Milner said he would furnish the pipe.

Renovate all buildings, there had to be a covering on the dining and kitchen area. Paint in and out side of all building. Motion made and seconded to empower the Building Committee to use what money necessary to fix the camp.

Each church was asked to take a survey and see how many man hours could come from each church. All churches were represented and work was to began as soon as possibly.

Dismissed by Bro. Fellowbaum.

CHURCH NAME & ADDRESS	PASTOR	CLERK
Midway F.W.B. Rt. 1 Healdton, OK	Harvey Aguirre Rt. 1 Healdton, OK 73438 Ph. 673-2599	Francis Lewellen Box 201 Graham, OK 73437 Ph. 673-2315
Countyline F.W.B. Countyline, OK	Ward Fellabaum Box 63 Ratliff City, OK Ph. 856-3614	Amelia McClanahan Rt. 3 Box 88 Duncan, OK 73533 Ph. 444-2355
Countryside F.W.B. 1 1/2 miles East of Velma	Carroll Milner P.O. Box 131 Velma, OK 73091 Ph. 444-2105	Emma Combust Rt. 3 Box 1298 Duncan, Ok 73533 Ph. 444-2433
Duncan Eastside F.W.B. 703 N. 13th Duncan, OK 73533	Beryl Blair 707 Patterson Ave. Comanche, OK 73529	Vivian O. Lewis 703 N. 13th Duncan, OK 73533
First F.W.B. Church 105 24th Street Lawton, OK	Clate W. Briggs, Jr. 1213 S.W. 26th St. Lawton, OK 73501 Ph. 357-5394	Vala Robinson 409 S. 23rd Place Lawton, OK 73501 Ph. 355-1757
Stobtown F.W.B. Rt. 3 Ardmore, OK	Jim Cearley Rt. 3 Ardmore, OK 73401	Shirley McClendon Hoxbar Rt., Box 342 A Ardmore, OK 73401

HOPEWELL NO. 2 DEACONS

<i>Duncan</i>	J.L. McDaniel	Rt. 4	255-1455
	Hershel Lewis	Duncan, OK Box 908	255-5051
	Edmond Franklin	Duncan, OK 313 N. A	255-0777
	Tommy Lewis	Duncan, OK 710 N. 14th	255-2340
	Harold Boyrstler	Duncan, OK 721 N. 8th	255-7015
<i>Countyline</i>	Z.E. Chadouin	Duncan, OK Box 4	444-2583
	Ralph Mullins, Sr.	Alma, OK Rt. 1, Box 1	856-3038
	Jess Gillaspy	Ratliff City, OK Box 3	856-3462
	George Gillaspy	Countyline, OK Rt. 1	856-3141
<i>Midway</i>	Richard Watkins	Ratliff City, OK	
	Joel Harmon	Fox, OK	673-2798
	Troy Lewellen	Fox, OK	673-2312
	W.M. Buttran	Graham, OK	673-2315
<i>Lawton</i>	Cleo Chism	2601 A. Ave. Lawton, OK	353-4278
	Loray Spurgin	508 S. 13th Lawton, OK	353-8482
<i>Countyline</i>	Forest Cox	P.O. Box 842 Velma, OK	444-2527
	Guy Denny	Rt. 1, Box 46 Ratliff City, OK	657-4277
<i>Stalltown</i>	Troy Morris	Star Route Lone Grove, OK	657-4513
	Leonard Robinson	Route 3 Ardmore, OK	657-4742
	Othel Kyle	Star Route Lone Grove, OK	657-6420
	James Adams	Rt. 3, Box 41 Ardmore, OK	657-4280
		Rt. 3, Box 169 Ardmore, OK	

HOPEWELL NO. 2 MINISTER'S DIRECTORY X DENOTES PASTOR

Ministers		Address	Phone
Carroll Milner	X	P.O. Box 131 Velma, OK 73091	444-2105
Harvey Aguirre	X	Rt. 1 Healdton, OK 73438	673-2599
J.O. Hudson		Rt. 1 Healdton, OK 73438	673-2529
Ward Fellabaum	X	Box 63 Ratliff City, OK	856-3614
Beryl Blair	X	Comanche, OK	
Noah Smith		Rt. 2, Box 232 Elmore City, OK 73035	788-4161
Clate W. Briggs	X	1213 S.W. 26th St. Lawton, OK 73501	357-5394
George McKinney		4328 Sante Fe Lawton, OK 73501	357-3645
Jim Cearley	X	Rt. 3 Ardmore, OK 73401	657-6295

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 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 requirement 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.