

**Minutes of the
45th Annual Meeting
HOPEWELL
NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREEWILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES
1977**

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\$ 20.00

1stly - Nov - 10-11-78 - Duncan - Hamilton
Feb - 9-10 - - - - - Crutcher - Lowe

May - - - - - Lawton - ^{Greene 8}
Lowe 6
Blair 6

Introductions - Annual Royce Mc Clellan
Blair

Memorial - - - - - Spruce - - Blair -

Aug 10-11-78 **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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\$.67.
\$ 25.00

\$ 92.00
Slaggs

OFFICERS

Moderator *Blair* W.C. Hamilton
 Rt. 3, Ardmore, Okla. 73401 — 657-6295
 Asst. Moderator *White* ~~Barry Blair~~
 707 Patterson, Comanche, Oklahoma — 439-2311
 Clerk Naoma Mullins
 Rt. 1, Box 1, Ratliff City, Okla. 73081 — 856-3038
 Asst. Clerk *Jess McClanahan* ~~Fran Milner~~
 P.O. Box 131, Velma, Okla. 73091 — 444-2105
 Treasurer Vivian Lewis *acc*
 809 N. Elm St., Waurika, Okla. — 228-3420
 Asst. Treasurer Joyce Lewis
 Waurika, Okla.
 Reporter Juhree McClain
 Rt. 1, Box 111, Ratliff City, Okla. 73081 — 856-3554

EXECUTIVE BOARD

W. Smith
 Cleo Chism 5 years
~~Carroll Milner~~ *Harold Robinson* ~~4 years~~ 3
 J. T. McClanahan 3 years 2
~~Ward Fellebaum~~ *Ed Stagg* 2 years 2
 Noah Smith *Ralph Mullins* 1 year

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Hershel Lewis
 Wesley Hamilton 5 years
 Jess Gillaspay 4 years
 Beryl Blair 3 years
 Harvey White 2 years
~~Carroll Milner~~ 1 year

MISSION BOARD

Jess Gillaspay
 Harold Robinson 5 years 4
 Beryl Blair 3 years 3
 Ed Stagg 3 years 2
 Hershel Lewis 2 years 1
~~Jess Gillaspay~~ 1 year

CHRISTIAN TRAINING SERVICE BOARD

J. T. McClanahan
 Charles Jones 5 years 4
 Harold Robinson 4 years
 Ralph Mullins 3 years 3
 Cleo Chism 3 years 2
~~Carroll Milner~~ 2 year

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Ed Stagg
 Ed Stagg 5 years 1
 James Benge 4 years
~~Ed Stagg~~ *Jess McClanahan* 3 years
 Carroll Milner 2 years
 Ward Fellebaum 1 year

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

The first quarterly meeting of Hopewell No. 2 Association met with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Lawton on November 12, 1976.

Meeting called to order by the Assistant Moderator in absence of the Moderator.

Opening prayer by Brother Beryl Blair, singing led by Sister Geneva McKinney, Sister Robinson at the piano.

Special singing by a duet from the Countryside Church. There was a short testimony meeting led by Brother Briggs.

Brother Carroll Milner brought the message using St. John 8:30, Galatians 3:1, Hebrew 11:6 and 1 Peter 1:3.

Three churches represented, 19 present.

Dismissed in prayer by Brother Robert Montgomery.

Saturday morning November 13, 1976, called to order by the Assistant Moderator Brother Clate Briggs.

Brother Beryl Blair was appointed as Assistant Moderator for the day.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting were read and accepted.

Rules of Orders were read by acting Assistant Moderator Brother Beryl Blair.

COMMITTEES SELECTED

Resolution Committee: Wayne Anderson, Nora Truitt and Rosemary Christian.

Brother Jim Cearley was appointed to the Cred. Board for the day.

Divine Service Committee: Oleta Spruill, Harold Robinson and Vickie Boyer.

Divine Service Committee report called for Brother Hershel Lewis to be morning speaker.

Treasurer Report given and accepted. (See Reports.)

Camp Ground Report given and accepted. (See Reports.)

Executive Board Report accepted. (See Reports.)

Meeting adjourned until 11:00 o'clock service.

Morning Worship began with Sister Robinson at the piano and Brother Othel Kyle leading the singing. Specials from the Stobtown Church, the Duncan Church and Lawton. Brother Lewis brought the morning message using 1 Corinthians 12. Brother Chism dismissed in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Evening Services were opened by singing "Amazing Grace", prayer by Brother Watie Buttram, Brother Jim Cearley gave the evening devotion using Acts 8:35, Brother Cearley gave a talk on Hillsdale College.

Credentials Board report given and accepted. (See Reports.)

Resolution Committee report given and accepted. (See Reports.)

Motion made and carried that we buy insurance on the Camp Ground for six months. This is full coverage. Motion carried that the insurance premium be paid out of the General Fund. Motion carried that we transfer \$100.00 from the Camp Ground Fund to the General Fund in order to pay insurance and other small bills.

Motion carried that we adjourn until the next regular or called meeting. Dismissed in prayer by Brother Beryl Blair.

Assistant Moderator: Brother Clate Briggs
Clerk: Kate Briggs

Four churches present: Lawton, Country Side, Duncan, Stobtown

FIRST QUARTER

Balance in Bank	\$ 713.03
Outstanding	\$ 28.81
Working Balance	741.84

Income:

From Churches	\$1,324.45
Love Offering	84.85
Balance	2,151.14

Paid Out:

State Coop	\$209.72	
Foreign Missions	370.00	
Hilledale	261.93	
OG&E	23.35	
Love Offering	100.00	
(\$84.54 offering & \$15.15 from General Fund)		
Bro. Briggs	226.57	
(Heaters \$197.57 transfer from GF and \$30.00 from Surplus)		
OG&E	8.48	
State Delegates	120.00	
Total Expense		\$1,320.05
Balance		831.09
Camp Ground Fund	224.50	
CTS Fund	119.34	
Local Mission	20.96	
General Fund	466.59	
Working Balance		\$ 831.09

Treasurer: Vivian O. Lewis
Hopewell No. 2 Association
November 8, 1976

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 1976

CHURCH	STATE	COOP	F.M.	H.M.	L.M.	G.F.	C.T.S.	H.D.	C.G.	TOTAL
Countryside		\$ 27.50	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 2.74	\$ 61.00	\$ 2.76	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 105.00*
Countyline		34.18	00.00	00.00	3.41	63.68	3.43	6.84	6.83	118.37*
Duncan		58.04	00.00	00.00	5.81	73.22	5.81	11.60	11.60	166.08*
Lawton		90.00	00.00	00.00	9.00	86.00	9.00	18.00	18.00	230.00*
Midway		00.00	220.00	00.00	00.00	50.00	00.00	220.00	00.00	490.00*
Stobtown		00.00	150.00	00.00	00.00	65.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	215.00*
TOTAL		\$209.72	\$370.00	\$ 00.00	\$20.96	\$398.90	\$21.60	\$261.93	\$41.93	\$1,324.45
*Includes \$50.00 for Associational expenses from each Church at Annual										300.00
\$20.00 each church for State delegate										\$120.00
15.00 each church for minutes										90.00
30.00 surplus included in check written to C.G. Bldg. Fund										30.00
60.00 Surplus deposit into General Fund										60.00
										<u>\$300.00</u>

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

The Second Quarterly Meeting of Hopewell No. 2 Association met February 11, 1977 with the Duncan Eastside Free Will Baptist Church.

The meeting was called to order by the Assistant Moderator Brother Briggs.

Prayer by Brother Milner.

Special singing by Brother Jones from the Duncan Church.

A Testimony Meeting was led by Brother Blair.

Two special songs from the Lawton Church.

Message by Brother Briggs from Matthew 26:41 using as a text "The Battle of Life and Death."

Dismissed in prayer by Brother Aguirre.

Saturday morning Feb. 12, 1977, meeting called to order by Moderator Brother Harvey Aguirre.

Prayer by Brother Carroll Milner.

Reading of the letters accepted.

Delegates seated by Ordained.

Committees were appointed as follows:

DIVINE SERVICE COMMITTEE

Sister Alvis Christian
Brother Cleo Chism
Brother Edd Staggs

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Harold Robinson
Nora Truitt
Minnie Barnhill

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

Sister Olita Spruille
Sister Donna Gothard
Sister Laura Aguirre

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Sister Kate Briggs. Minutes received as read.

A letter from the Pauls Valley Church was read. Motion carried that the request be granted.

Brother Briggs letter of resignation was read and motion made to be accepted following the session today.

Rules of Order read by Assistant Moderator Brother Briggs.

Brother Roy Earley was selected to bring the 11:00 service.

A visitor Brother Edwin Wade presented the finance program from Hillsdale Bible College.

A special offering of \$76.20 was taken.

No unfinished business.

Brother Noah Smith and Brother Cleo Chism were appointed to the Credential Board for the day.

Treasurer report given and accepted.

Business adjourned until 1:00 P.M.

The 11:00 service was opened with Sister Robinson at the piano and Brother Briggs leading the song service.

A special song was given by Sister Vivian Lewis.

Another special was given by Brother and Sister Robinson.

Brother Roy Earley took his text from Psalms 23:1-3.

Sister Naoma Mullins dismissed the worship service and asked the blessing on the food.

The evening service opened by singing "Trust and Obey".

Brother Tag Kilgore brought the evening devotion from Matthew 9:35.

Credential Board report given and accepted. (See Reports).

Obituary Report given and accepted. (See Reports).

Resolution was that we apply the words of Brother Tag Kilgore to our lives.

Oral report from the Executive Board was received. (See Reports.)

Camp Ground Report given and accepted. (See Reports.) Report: Condition on Camp Ground and recommendations.

The amendment to the report that Brother Ed Staggs be Chairman of the Camp Ground Building Board and his wife as Treasurer.

Motion carried that Brother Ed Staggs be paid 10¢ a mile for work at Camp Ground to be paid from the Camp Ground Building Fund.

Camp Ground Building Board Election: Brother Cleo Chism and Brother Harold Robinson.

Motion carried that we take the monies from Local Missions, C.T.S. and Camp Ground funds to pay insurance.

Members To Fill The Briggs Job

C.E. Board: 1 year member Brother Roy Earley

C.T.S. Board: 3 year member Brother Cleo Chism

Credential Board: 1 year member Brother Ralph Mullins

Assistant Moderator Brother Carroll Milner.

Clerk Sister Naoma Mullins.

Next meeting at Countryside Church May 13-14.

Brother Noah Smith will bring opening message.

Meeting adjourned with a fairwell handshake to the Briggs.

A thanks was given to the host church for dinner.

Moderator: Brother Harvey Aguirre
Assistant Clerk: Sister Frances Milner

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATIONAL TREASURERS REPORT
February 10-11, 1977

Balance in Bank	\$ 831.09
Income from Churches	829.76
Working Balance	\$1,660.85

PAID OUT

State Coop	\$ 212.88
Foreign Missions	267.00
Hillsdale	164.57
OG&E	35.96
Pratt Ins.	506.17
Bro. Briggs	12.00
Sister Briggs	10.00

Total Paid Out 1,208.58

Balance \$ 452.27

Local Missions	\$ 42.14
C.T.S.	140.69
Camp Ground Fund	130.81
General Fund	138.58

Total in Bank 452.22

(5¢ short)

Treasurer: Vivian O. Lewis
Hopewell No. 2 Associational Treasurer
Dated: February 7, 1977

SECOND QUARTER REPORT

CHURCH	STATE COOP	CAMP GROUND	F.M.	H.M.	L.M.	C.T.S.	H.D.	GEN. FUND	TOTALS
Countyline	\$ 28.18	\$ 5.63	\$ 00.00	\$ 00.00	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.82	\$ 5.63	\$ 11.28	\$ 56.36
Countryside	41.25	8.25	00.00	00.00	4.11	4.14	8.25	16.50	82.50
Duncan	70.95	14.19	00.00	00.00	7.09	7.10	14.19	28.38	141.90
Lawton	72.50	14.50	00.00	00.00	7.26	7.24	14.50	29.00	145.00
Midway	00.00	00.00	122.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	122.00	00.00	244.00
Stobtown	00.00	00.00	145.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	15.00	160.00
TOTAL	\$212.88	\$42.75	\$267.00	\$00.00	\$21.28	\$21.30	\$164.57	\$100.16	\$829.76

ANNUAL TOTAL GIVING

Church	Total
Countyline	\$ 56.36
Countryside	82.50
Duncan	141.90
Lawton	145.00
Midway	244.00
Stobtown	160.00
	\$829.76

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

The Third Quarterly Meeting of Hopewell No. Association met May 13, 1977 with the Countryside Free Will Baptist Church.

The meeting was called to order by our Assistant Moderator Brother Carrol Milner.

Three churches of the association were present.

Sister Fran Milner at the piano and Sister Mary Head led in singing "I Am Resolved".

Prayer by Brother Ralph Mullins.

Next songs sung were "Where He Leads I'll Follow" and "Nail Scarred Hand".

A special in song was given by Sister Vivian Lewis "The Lighthouse".

Followed by the singing of "Amazing Grace" by everyone.

Prayer by Brother Carrol Milner.

Brother Noah Smith brought the evening message using Exodus 12:1-5 as his main text.

Dismissed in prayer by Brother Beryl Blair.

Saturday morning meeting called to order by Assistant Moderator Brother Carrol Milner with Sister Vivian Lewis at the piano and Sister Ruth Franklin leading in singing "Victory In Jesus".

Prayer by Brother Wesley Hamilton.

Letters from the churches called for. Five churches present.

Brother Beryl Blair was appointed to act as Assistant Moderator for the day.

Body called into conference, letters read and delegates seated by the ordained.

Minutes of the last meeting read and accepted.

Petition Letter asked for. — None

Rules of Order read by Brother Beryl Blair.

Committees were appointed as follows:

DIVINE SERVICE COMMITTEE

Sister Oleta Spruille
Sister Nora Truitt
Brother James Higgins

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Brother Hershel Lewis
Brother Harold Collier
Sister Donna Staggs

Brother Wesley Hamilton was selected to bring the morning message.

Brother Lonnie Davault gave an inspiring talk about the new Free Will Baptist work over the state.

Brother James Amick the Promotional Director from Hillsdale, gave a talk about the college.

The treasurers report was given and accepted. (See Reports.)

The meeting was dismissed in prayer by Brother Beryl Blair for a five minute break.

The 11:00 A.M. service was opened with Sister Vivian Lewis at the piano and Sister Ruth Franklin led "Where He Leads I'll Follow".

Prayer by Sister Dovie Spurgin.

Next song "My Faith Looks Up to Thee".

A special in song was given by Sister Hamilton "God Walks The Dark Hills".

Another special was given by Sister Vivian Lewis, Brother and Sister Tommy Lewis "In The Shelter of His Arms".

Services turned over to Brother Wesley Hamilton.

Prayer by Brother Hamilton.

Message taken from a greater portion of the 13th Chapter of 1st Corinthians.

Brother Ward Fellabaum dismissed the Worship Service and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

The afternoon session was opened by Brother Carrol Milner.

Sister Vivian Lewis at the piano and Sister Ruth Franklin led in singing "Sunlight".

A special in song was given by Mary Jones and the Lewis grandchildren, Stacy, Pat, Chris and Lisa Lewis "The Family of God".

Devotion by Brother Ed Staggs.

New business called for.

Motion carried that we, the Hopewell No. 2 Association grant Brother James Cearley a Letter of Recommendation to the First Oklahoma Association.

Motion carried that we grant Brother Howard Walker a Letter of Recommendation to another Association.

Motion carried that we have the 1978 Youth Camp and Annual Revival in conjunction starting June 19th and ending June 24.

No Executive Board Report.

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT

We the Credential Board examined Brother Wesley Hamilton and found him sound in doctrine and practices of the F.W.B. and recommend him into our association in full fellowship.

Signed:

Brother Carrol Milner

Brother Beryl Blair

Brother Ward Fellabaum

Resolution Committee Report given and accepted. (See Reports.)

Camp Ground Fund Treasurer Report given and accepted.

A vote of thanks was given to the ladies' of Countryside Church for the dinner meal.

Motion carried that we adjourn until the next regular or called conference.

Dismissed in prayer by Sister Nora Truitt.

Moderator: Brother Carrol Milner

Clerk: Sister Naoma Mullins

THIRD QUARTER

Balance February 1977	\$ 462.22
Income from Churches	1,016.62
Bro. Tommie Thomas (Utilities)	35.96
Working Balance	1,514.80

INCOME

Countyline	\$ 72.60
Countryside	55.00
Duncan	127.79
Lawton	153.23
Midway	458.00
Stobtown	150.00

Total Income	\$1,016.62
Bro. Tommie	35.96

TOTAL \$1,052.58

Balance forward	\$ 462.22
Total Accounted For	\$1,514.80

Dusbursments \$1,354.74

Balance \$ 159.96

PAID OUT

State Coop.	\$ 204.30
Foreign Missions	289.00
Hillsdale	344.88
OG&E	34.25
Water Co. (\$6. mo.)	18.00
Pratt Ins.	328.40
Aguirre Printing	135.00
Bank Charge	.91

Total Paid Out \$1,353.83

Total Expenses \$1,354.74

IN BANK

Local Missions	\$ 20.40
C.T.S.	20.46
C.G. Fund	24.57
General Fund	94.53

Total Cash Available May 14, 1977 \$ 159.96

Vivian O. Lewis
Hopewell No. 2 Association Treasurer
Dated: May 11, 1977

THIRD QUARTER REPORT

STATE		CHURCH	COOP	H.D.	F.M.	C.G.	L.M.	C.T.S.	GEN.	
									FUND	TOTAL
Countyline	\$ 36.29	\$ 7.28	\$ 00.00	\$ 7.26	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.65	\$ 14.50	\$ 72.60		
Countrywide	27.50	5.50	00.00	5.50	2.75	2.76	11.00	55.00		
Duncan	63.89	12.78	00.00	12.78	6.40	6.39	25.56	127.79		
Lawton	76.62	15.32	00.00	15.32	7.63	7.66	30.65	153.23		
Midway	00.00	304.00	154.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	458.00		
Stobtown	00.00	00.00	135.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	15.00	150.00		
TOTAL	\$204.30	\$344.88	\$289.00	\$ 40.86	\$ 20.41	\$ 20.46	\$96.71	\$1,016.62		

ANNUAL TOTAL GIVING

Church	Total
Countyline	\$ 72.60
Countrywide	55.00
Duncan	127.79
Lawton	153.23
Midway	458.00
Stobtown	150.00
	\$1,016.62

45th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF HOPEWELL NO. 2

The 45th Annual Association of Hopewell No. 2 Association convened at the Camp Ground August 18, 1977.

Called into session by the Moderator Brother Carrol. Milner.

Brother Harold Robinson introduced their new Pastor and Wife, Brother and Sister Harvey White of Lawton to the Association.

Prayer by Brother Ralph Mullins.

Brother J. T. McClanahan led the singing "I Feel Like Traveling On", "I Must Tell Jesus" and "I Am Thine O Lord".

The Executive Board was to meet after church.

Brother Carrol. Milner gave the devotion.

Special by Brother and Sister Harold Robinson, "I'll See You In The Rapture".

Sister Vivian Lewis, Brother and Sister Harold Robinson led the congregation in "He Touched Me".

The service was turned to Brother Ward Fellabaum to bring the evening message, using Acts 2:23, 1 Corinthians 6:1-5 and 1 Peter 4:17.

Dismissed in prayer by Brother Beryl Blair.

The meeting was called to order August 19, by Moderator Brother Carrol. Milner.

Sister Amelia McClanahan led in prayer.

Sister Vivian Lewis at the piano and Brother Beryl Blair led in singing "I Feel Like Traveling On".

Brother Harold Robinson gave the devotion 1 Peter 4:1-10.

Letters of the churches called for.

Letters read and accepted.

Delegates seated by Righthand of Fellowship by the ordained.

Minutes read and accepted.

DIVINE SERVICE COMMITTEE

Brother Ed Staggs
Sister Ann Christian
Sister Nora Truitt

Rules of Order read by acting Assistant Moderator Brother Beryl Blair.

Brother Harvey White, Pastor of the First Church of Lawton was selected to bring the 11 o'clock message.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

Brother Charles Jones
Sister Juhree McClain
Sister Kathy Davis

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Brother Wesley Hamilton
Sister Melissa Jones
Brother Maxie Roberts

The Letter of Recommendation for Brother Wesley Hamilton read.

New business called for.

Executive Board Reports given. (See Reports.)

Motion carried that we receive this report.

Motion carried to continue print National Guide Lines in District Minutes.

No report for C.T.S. Board and C.E. Board.

Building Committee Report given and accepted.

Thanks were given to everyone that worked at camp.

Association Treasurer Report given and accepted. (See Report.)

Dismissed in prayer by Brother Wesley Hamilton until the morning worship service.

Called to order by Assistant Moderator Beryl Blair with Sister Vivian Lewis at the piano and Sister Mary Hamilton led in singing "I Am Thine O Lord".

Prayer by Brother Noah Smith.

Next song "O I Want To See Him", "I Feel Like Traveling On" and "Send The Light".

Special song by Sister Vivian Lewis, "A Sermon In Song".

Special song by Sister Mary Hamilton "I Don't Need To Understand I Just Need To Hold His Hand".

Services turned to Brother Harvey White for the morning message using St. John 20:24-29.

Brother Carrol Milner dismissed in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Afternoon session opened with Sister Mary Hamilton at the piano and Sister Vivian Lewis led "Showers of Blessings".

Prayer by Brother Ed Staggs.

Brother Beryl Blair brought the devotion II Timothy 4:1-8.

QUARTERLY MEETING LOCATIONS AND DATES: AND FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS

Nov. 11-12, 1977	 Stobtown	 Brother Noah Smith
Feb. 10-11, 1978	 Duncan Eastside	 Brother Wesley Hamilton
May 12-13, 1978	 County Line	 Brother Carrol Milner

Annual Meeting August 10-11-12, 1978. Thursday night speaker Brother Harvey White, alternate Brother Wesley Hamilton, speaker for Memorial Service Brother Carrol Milner.

Alternate speaker for Quarterly Meeting will be pastor of host church.

Resolution Committee Report, read and tabled until Saturday.

We decided to order 150 District Minutes.

Motion carried that we have a Fellowship Service (Preaching & Singing) once a month on the first Saturday night of each month starting in September at 7:30 p.m. Amendment: That we go clockwise according to location, starting with Stobtown to Midway, Waurika, Lawton, Duncan, Countryside, County Line.

Motion carried that host church take care of Fellowship Service Program.

Motion carried that we elect Fellowship Service Director at Stobtown Church.

Motion carried that we adjourn conference 'til 9:30 Saturday morning.

Dismissed in prayer by Sister Juhree McClain.

Saturday Morning, August 20, 1977. Meeting called to order by Moderator Brother Carrol Milner with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano and Sister Mary White led in singing "Standing On The Promises", "I Feel Like Traveling On".

Prayer by Brother Harvey White.

Delegate seated that was not present yesterday.

Moderator Brother Carrol Milner gave a summary of the Quarterly Meeting Dates and Places.

Motion carried that we change the date formula for the Annual Meeting to second Thursday of August (on account of school).

Next years Annual Meeting will be August 10-11-12.

Motion carried that we have worship service on Friday night of our Annual Meeting.

Divine Service Committee will pick speaker for this service also.

Motion carried that we take the resolutions from the table.

Resolution that each church pay \$100.00 to be used only to pay insurance on the camp. (Carried.)

The resolution that we go according to I Timothy 3:1-3 on the State Resolution No. 3 on ordaining deacons and ministers. Rejected.

Dismissed in prayer by Brother James Bengé until the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

The 11 o'clock service was opened with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano and Sister Mary White led in singing "Are You Washed In The Blood".

Prayer by Sister Naoma Mullins.

Next song "Where The Soul Never Dies".

Special song by Brother Charlie Jones "Precious Memories".

Special song by Sister Mary, Gina and Randell White.

Moderator gave the Obituary Report, (See Report) and a moment of silent prayer was dedicated to their memory.

Sister Geniva Hughes sang "What Will I Leave Behind".

Brother Beryl Blair brought the Memorial Message using Revelation 14:12 & 13, St. Matthew 26:13 and Exodus 17:14.

There was a called meeting for the District Woman's Auxilliary.

Dismissed in prayer and blessing asked on the noon meal by Brother Noah Smith.

Saturday evening services opened with Sister Vala Robinson at the piano and Sister Mary White led in singing "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms".

Brother Cleo Chism led in prayer.

Brother James Bengé gave the devotion St. Matthew 21-22.

Motion carried that we receive the Credential Report. (See Report.)

Motion carried that the C.T.S. Board draw up plans for the '78 Youth Camp and bring back those plans to the November meeting.

Concession Stand Report given and accepted. (See Report.)

BOARD MEMBERS
EXECUTIVE BOARD

5 year member Brother Cleo Chism

CREDENTIAL BOARD

5 year member Brother Wesley Hamilton
2 year member Brother Harvey White

MISSION BOARD

5 year member Brother Harold Robinson
2 year member Brother Hershel Lewis

C.T.S. BOARD

5 year member Brother Charles Jones

C.E. BOARD

5 year member Brother Ed Staggs
4 year member Brother James Bengé

Treasurer: Vivian Lewis

Assistant Treasurer: Joyce Lewis

Clerk: Naoma Mullins

Assistant Clerk: Fran Milner

Moderator: Brother Wesley Hamilton

Assistant Moderator: Brother Beryl Blair

Association Reporter: Juhree McClain

Motion carried tht we elect a reporter to relate news articles from our Association to the State Offices. All news from churches.

Motion carried to elect Sister Juhree McClain.

Motion carried that the Executive Board look into the matter of one of our local churches dropping out of the Association and council with them. This church being Midway Church.

STATE DELEGATES

Brother Ed Staggs County Line
Brother Leonard Robinson Stobtown
Sister Fran Milner Countryside
Brother Harold Boestler Duncan
Brother Cleo Chism Lawton
Sister Janette Watkins Midway

STATE GENERAL BOARD MEMBER

Brother Carrol Milner

State Delegate Fee: \$20.00

Motion carried that we take a Love Offering for Brother and Sister Ed Staggs for the fine job done at the Camp Ground.

Motion carried that we dismiss this session with a handshake honoring Brother and Sister Staggs.

An offering of \$78.00 was taken up for the Staggs.

Moderator: Brother Carrol Milner
Clerk: Sister Naoma Mullins

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATIONAL TREASURERS REPORT
August 19, 20, 1977

INCOME

Countyline	\$ 313.63	
Countryside	325.00	
Duncan	535.75	
Lawton	716.05	
Midway	1,192.00	
Stobtown	675.00	
Total Giving	\$3,757.43	
Love Offering	84.85	
T. Thomas	35.96	
Total	3,878.24	
Brought Forward	741.84	
Working Balance		\$4,620.08

EXPENSE

State Coop	\$2,721.28	
Utilities	210.72	
Camp Ground Ins.	846.57	
State Delegates	120.00	
C.G. Heaters	226.57	
Aguirre Printing	215.00	
Love Offering (Briggs) ...	100.00	
Supplies	14.14	
Total Expense		\$4,454.28
Total Fund Balance		\$ 165.80
Balance in Bank		
Camp Ground Fund	\$ 42.62	
C.T.S.	42.32	
Local Mission	42.20	
General Fund	36.65	
	\$165.79	
	(1*)	

Vivian O. Lewis
Hopewell No. 2 Associational Treasurer
Dated August 18, 1977

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

June 1, 1977 to August 11, 1977

STATE			CAMP			
CHURCH	COOP	F.M.	L.M.	C.T.S.	HILLSDALE	G.F. GROUND TOTALS
Countyline	\$ 33.14	\$ 00.00	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.32	\$ 6.63	\$ 13.26 \$ 6.64 \$ 66.30
Countrywide	41.25	00.00	4.11	4.14	8.25	16.50 8.25 82.50
Duncan	49.99	00.00	4.99	5.01	10.00	19.99 10.00 99.98
Lawton	93.90	00.00	9.39	9.39	18.78	37.58 18.78 187.82
Midway	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00 00.00 00.00
Stobtown	00.00	135.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	15.00 00.00 150.00
TOTAL	\$218.28	\$135.00	\$21.80	\$21.86	\$43.66	\$102.33 \$43.67 \$586.60

ANNUAL TOTAL GIVING

Church	Total
Countyline	\$ 66.30
Countrywide	82.50
Duncan	99.98
Lawton	187.82
Midway	00.00
Stobtown	150.00
	\$586.60

OBITURARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Obituary Committee reports the following have passed from our midst to go be with the Lord.

Duncan Eastside	Bro. Junior Slade
Stobtown	Bro. Guy Denny
Countyline	Sister Ella McIlvain

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT

The Credential Board met with and examined Brother Harvey White and found him sound in Freewill Baptist doctrine and practice and recommend to accept him into the Hopewell No. 2 Association with full fellowship. We request that his church issue proper form filled out and signed by him to be sent to said association.

Brother Beryl Blair
Brother Noah Smith
Brother Carrol Milner

RESOLUTION REPORT

Be it resolved that we, the Hopewell No. 2 Association take an active part in the fight against blasphemy of the Lord. This being both that which is filmed and printed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met 7:30 p.m. July 25, 1977 at Countryside to discuss audit of books of Camp Ground and General Fund. We voted to meet at Duncan Eastside, 7:00 p.m., August 1. We will meet with Sister Lewis and Brother Staggs.

Members Present:
Brother Carrol Milner
Brother J. T. McClanahan
Brother Ward Fellabaum
Brother Noah Smith

The Executive Board met August 1, 1977 at Duncan Eastside Freewill Baptist Church and audited Association Treasury Books. We examined the books and found them in order.

Brother Ward Fellabaum, Secretary
Brother J. T. McClanahan, Member
Brother Noah Smith, Chairman

Also Executive Board examined Camp Ground Treasury books and found them in order and balance.

Executive Board met August 18, 1977 following regular services. We discussed reducing the five member boards to three members only. We also recommend that the minutes be printed containing the National Guide Lines.

Brother Carrol Milner
Brother J. T. McClanahan
Brother Ward Fellabaum
Brother Noah Smith
Brother Beryl Blair

CONCESSION STAND REPORT

Total monies taken in \$ 254.60

Paid Outs:

Duncan Candy	\$118.10
Coca Cola	48.70
Ice	6.00

Total Paid Out \$162.80

Net Gross \$ 81.90

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

We wish to thank our brothers and sisters in Hopewell No. 2 for the efforts they put forth in helping to make Youth Camp in 1977, a wonderful success. Looking forward with all faith and hope for another Victory in Jesus in 1978.

Humbly offered,
YOUR BUILDING COMMITTEE

INCOME: Churches	\$359.48
Womens Aux.	450.00
Individuals	171.56
Camp food sales & etc.	70.55
Cash turned in Bro. Briggs	242.04
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,293.63
EXPENSES: Paid Out	\$ 641.36
Balance in checking account	651.27

CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS LISTED BELOW

Midway	\$ 100.00
Countyline	166.67
Duncan E.S.	87.00
Lawton First	5.81
TOTAL	359.48

WOMENS AUX.:

Duncan E.S.	\$ 100.00
Lawton First	100.00
Countyline (\$50. Aux. & \$50. Church)	50.00
Countryside	100.00
Stobtown	100.00
TOTAL	\$450.00

INDIVIDUALS: (money refunded to camp)

Brother Briggs	\$ 26.05
Lewis, Waurika	45.51
Brother Hamilton	50.00
Sister O. Ford	50.00
TOTAL	\$171.56

Shower Curtains: Duncan Eastside

CHURCH

Midway F.W.B.
Rt. 1
Healdton, Okla. 73438
Ph. 673-2599

Countyline F.W.B.
Countyline, Okla.

Countryside F.W.B.
1½ Miles East of
Velma, Okla. 73091
Ph. 444-2105

Duncan Eastside F.W.B.
703 N. 13th
Duncan, Okla. 73533

First F.W.B.
105 24th St.
Lawton, Okla. 73505

Stobtown F.W.B.
Route 3
Ardmore, Okla. 73401

PASTOR

Ph. 673-2599

Ward Fellabaum
Box 63
Ratliff City, Okla. 73081
Ph. 856-3614

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

Beryl Blair
707 Patterson Ave.
Comanche, Okla. 73529
Ph. 439-2311

Harvey White
2328 Cornell
Lawton, Okla. 73505
Ph. 248-4782

W. C. Hamilton
Route 3
Ardmore, Okla. 73401
Ph. 657-6295

CLERK

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

Amelia McClanahan
Route 3, Box 88
Duncan, Okla. 73533
Ph. 444-2355

Mary Head
Box 143
Velma, Okla. 73091
Ph. 444-2470

Oleta Spruill
412 North Avenue
Comanche, Okla. 73529
Ph. 439-5186

Vala Robinson
409 S. 23 Place
Lawton, Okla. 73505
Ph. 355-1757

Shirley McClendon
Hoxbar Rt., Box 342A
Ardmore, Okla. 73401

OTHER ORDAINED MINISTERS

J. O. Hudson

Rt. 1
Healdton, Okla. 73438

673-2529

Noah Smith

Rt. 2 Box 232
Elmore City, Okla. 73035

~~788-4161~~

George McKinney

4328 Santa Fe
Lawton, Okla. 73501

357-3645

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ORDAINED DEACONS

Watie M. Buttram	2501 A. Ave. Lawton, Okla. 73505	353-4278
Cleo Chism	508 S. 13th St. Lawton, Okla. 73501	353-8482
Loray Spurgin	P.O. Box 842 Velma, Okla. 73091	444-2527
Forrest Cox	Rt. 1, Box 46 Ratliff City, Okla. 73081	444-2584
James Bengé	P.O. Box 363 Velma, Okla. 73091	444-2166
Ralph Mullins Sr.	Rt. 1, Box 1 Ratliff City, Okla. 73081	/ - 856-3038
Jess Gillaspy	Box 3 Countyline, Okla. 73025	856-3462
George Gillaspy	Rt. 1 Ratliff City, Okla. 73081	856-3141
J. L. McDaniel	Rt. 4 Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-1455
Hershel Lewis	809 N. Elm St. Waurika, Okla.	228-3420
Edmond Franklin	313 N. A Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-0777
Tommy Lewis	Waurika, Okla.	
Harold Boyrstler	721 N. 8th Duncan, Okla. 73533	255-7015
Z. E. Chadouin	Box 4 Alma, Okla. 73003	444-2583
Richard Watkins	Fox, Okla.	673-2798
Joel Harmon	Fox, Okla.	673-2312
Troy Lewellen	Box 201 Graham, Okla. 73437	673-2315
Troy Morris	Rt. 3 Ardmore, Okla. 73401	657-4513
Leonard Robinson	St. Rt. Lone Grove, Okla.	657-4742
Othel Kyle	Rt. 3, Box 41 Ardmore, Okla. 73401	546-6420
James Adams	Rt. 3, Box 169 Ardmore, Okla. 73401	657-4280

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 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 part 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 all 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 in 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 \$45.00 is to be sent to the Annual Session of this Association. (\$15.00 for Printing of the minutes and \$20.00 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 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 this 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. The Repentance of sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation.

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 grave 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 promise 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 principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society constantly pray 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; such 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 responsibilities 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 II: 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 his 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 a 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.

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 an 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.

The Candidate's Doctrinal Position

Closely related to the previous are (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.

