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Minutes

48th Annual Meeting

Hopewell

No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

1980

Minutes of the
48th Annual Meeting
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1980

OFFICERS

Moderator Mike Richardson
P.O. Box 31, Countyline, OK 73025
Phone: 856-3966

Assistant Moderator W. C. Hamilton
Route 3, Box 154C, Ardmore, OK 73401
Phone: 657-6295

Clerk Naoma Mullins
Route 1, Box 1, Ratliff City, OK 73081
Phone: 856-3038

Assistant Clerk Teresa McClanahan
Route 3, Box 88, Duncan, OK 73533
Phone: 444-2355

Treasurer Robert Wright
Box 172, Graham, OK 73437
Phone: 673-2123

Assistant Treasurer Juanita Lowe
Route 1, Healdton, OK 73438
Phone: 673-2599

Reporter Juhree McClain
Route 1, Box 111, Ratliff City, OK 73081
Phone: 856-3554

ELECTION OF BOARDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

J. T. McClanahan	5 years
Ralph Mullins, Sr.	4 years
Noah Smith	3 years
Cleo Chism	2 years
Harold Boerstler	1 year

CREDENTIAL BOARD

David Gardner	5 years
Mike Richardson	4 years
Paul Wood	3 years
W. C. Hamilton	2 years
Jess Gillaspay	1 year

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Called to order by the Moderator.
2. Called into conference, or vote to go into conference.
3. Call for peace of the church (All who are at peace with God and each other, hold up your right hand.)
4. Visiting brethren invited to seat in council (visiting members from other Free Will Baptist churches allowed).
5. Reading of minutes of last church conference.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Reports of delegates to Association or Quarterly meeting.
9. Are there any sick or in distress?
10. Support of ministry and other expenses.
11. Call for confession.
12. Invitation for members.
13. Adjournment.

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

November 9-10, 1979

Friday night service of the first quarterly meeting of the Hopewell No. 2 Association when meeting with the Stobtown Church.

Called to order by our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe. Prayer by Bro. Leonard Robinson.

With Sis. Carol Higgins at the piano, Sis. Bobbie Howell led the singing. We sang Victory in Jesus, Amazing Grace, and I'll Fly Away.

Prayer by Bro. David Gardner.

Bro. Lonnie DeVoult gave a talk on the work that is going on in the State and National.

Special singing by Bro. Mike Richardson, Bro. & Sis. Ed Staggs, and Sis. Naoma Mullins, My God is Real.

Special by Bro. & Sis. W. L. Lowe and their daughter, Ann, Peace and Contentment.

Testimony Service.

Service turned to Bro. Mike Richardson to bring the message. He used as his main text Jude 3:4.

Bro. Mike Richardson led in prayer.

Announcements.

Four churches represented: Stobtown, Midway, Countyline, Duncan East Side.

Bro. Lonnie DeVoult dismissed in prayer.

Saturday morning service called to order by our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe.

With Sis. Sue Mullins at the piano, Bro. Luther Gaines led the singing. First song was Amazing Grace. Prayer by Bro. Carl Walters. Next song was I Am Thine O Lord.

The Moderator declared the body in session.

Reading of the letters by Sis. Shirley McClendon and accepted.

With Sis. Sue Mullins at the piano, Bro. Luther Gaines led To God Be The Glory, while

giving the Delegates the right hand of fellowship.
Minutes read by Sis. Naoma Mullins and accepted.

Bro. W. L. Lowe and Bro. Beryl Blair selected the Divine Committee: Bro. Robert Wright, Sis. Nora Truitt, Bro. Harold Boerstler.

Petitionary letter from the Lone Grove Church to come into our association. The Lone Grove letter was read and accepted.

The Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Motion carried we accept Bro. W. C. Hamilton back into our association.

Bro. W. L. Lowe asked to resign from the Credential Board as he is Moderator. Carried.

Bro. W. C. Hamilton was nominated and elected for the 3-year man on the Credential Board.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Bro. W. L. Lowe and Bro. Beryl Blair selected the committees.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Teresa McClanahan, Sis. Cathy Elam, Sis. Debbie Denhim.

Resolution Committee: Sis. Karen Wright, Sis. Juhree McClain, Bro. Paul Wood.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Maxine Balthrop, Bro. Robert Wright, Sis. Vera Hammer.

The Credential Board met at this time with Bro. Carl Walters to examine him to come into our association.

Bro. David Gardner, Pastor of the Lone Grove Church, to be examined to come into our association.

Sis. Sue Mullins gave a report on Hillsdale. Enjoyed it.

Old business called for.

Oral report given on the girls new dormitory.

Associate Treasurers report given by Bro. Robert Wright and accepted.

Recess - Dismissed by Bro. Dale Howell.

Bro. W. L. Lowe brought us back together.

With Sis. Sue Mullins at the piano, Bro. Luther Gaines leading the singing, I'm On The Sunny Side.

Bro. Cleo Chism led in prayer.

We sang Heaven's Jubilee, Down on My Knees.

Special singing by the Countyline Church, There Is A River.

Special by Sis. Debbie Denhim, Jesus Is Right For Everything Wrong in Our Life.

Special by Sis. Mary Hamilton, I Just Feel Like Something Good is Bound to Happen.

Services turned to Bro. Carl Walters for the morning message. He used as his main text First Corinthians 2:9-10.

Dismissed in prayer and blessing asked for the noon meal by Bro. Leonard Robinson. Meet back at 1:00.

Our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe, called us back together. With Sis. Sue Mullins at the piano, Bro. Luther Gaines led I'll Be Listening.

Sis. Teresa McClanahan was appointed to take Sis. Shirley McClendon's place for the rest of the day.

Prayer by Bro. Noah Smith.

Special song by Bro. & Sis. Robert Wright, The Family of God.

Bro. David Gardner brought the devotion from Acts 8:14-22.

Camp Ground Treasurers Report by Sis. Bobbie Staggs. Accepted.

Credential Board Report given and accepted.

Bro. Robert Wright requested his license to be extended another year unless needed before then.

Executive Board Report given by Bro. Noah Smith and accepted.

Obituary Report given and accepted. Silent prayer concluded by Bro. Paul Wood. See report.

Temperance Committee report read and accepted. See report.

Resolution Committee report read and tabled

until the Camp Ground Board comes up with a recommendation. Resolution about movies read and accepted. See report.

Miscellaneous Business.

Bro. Robert Wright has not been bonded as yet.

Bro. Noah Smith resigned his elected position as State General Board member for Hopewell No. 2 Association. Nominations now in order for General Board member. Bro. Paul Wood and Bro. Ed Staggs were nominated; Bro. Staggs was elected.

The host church was given a standing vote of thanks for the fine meal.

Motion made and seconded we give \$100 to the College. Carried.

Motion made and seconded we adjourn. Carried.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Dale Howell.

Moderator-Bro. W. L. Lowe

Clerk-Sis. Naoma Mullins

REPORTS

CAMPGROUND FUND REPORT

First Quarter

Total balance left in fund last Qtr. \$ 7,384.00

Income this quarter:

Refund on camp groceries	15.84
Refund on campers insurance	29.00
Countyline	95.23
East Side	73.38
Total Income	<u>213.45</u>

Expenses this quarter:

E. McEneath	200.00
Preferred Risk Insurance	257.00
Woolworth	3.85
Preferred Risk Insurance	27.00
Total Expenses	<u>487.85</u>

Balance left in checking this quarter 7,109.60

Balance left in savings this quarter 10,269.53

Total balance left in fund \$17,379.13

/s/ Building Committee & Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT
First Quarter

Balance carried forward		\$1,484.68
Received from Churches		<u>1,224.26</u>
Working Balance		\$2,708.94
Expenses:		
State Delegates	\$120.00	
Water Department	21.00	
OG&E	104.03	
Rays Office Supply	8.82	
State givings	<u>736.12</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>989.97</u>
Balance left in Fund		\$1,718.97

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We should refrain from all appearances of evil. We should take a stand against evil and filth on T.V. and in shows. /s/ Robert Wright, Vera Hammers, Maxine Balthrop.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Whereas the cost of tearing down the girls' dorm for use in a new building is so great; be it resolved that the building be sold to be moved or torn down and the money be used in building a new dorm. (TABLED)

Be it resolved that we go on record against the movie, FLESH AND BLOOD, and all movies that depict Jesus as anything except the Savior of the world. /s/ Karen Wright, Juhree McClain, Paul Wood.

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT

We, the Credential Board, have met with Bro. David Gardner and found him sound in Free Will Baptist doctrine and recommend him to be granted full fellowship with this association. /s/ Beryl Blair, W. C. Hamilton, Paul Wood, Jess L. Gillaspy, Mike Richardson.

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FIRST QUARTER

CHURCH	COOP	F.M.	H.M.	HILLS-			CTS	C.G.	GEN. FUND	TOTAL
				DALE	L.M.					
Countyline	44.48		4.47	8.90	17.78	4.45	8.90	62.78	151.76	
Countryside	13.75		1.37	2.75		1.38	2.75	55.50	77.50	
Duncan	17.51		1.75	3.50		1.76	3.50	52.00	80.02	
Lawton	116.34		11.64	23.26		11.63	23.27	91.56	277.70	
Midway		143.00		143.00				45.00	331.00	
Stobtown		135.00	65.40					60.00	260.40	
Ed Staggs					45.88				45.88	
TOTALS	192.08	278.00	84.63	181.41	63.66	19.22	38.42	366.84	1,224.26	

Credential Board Report Cont'd.

We, the Credential Board have met with Bro. Carl Walter and found him sound in Free Will Baptist doctrine and recommend him to be granted full fellowship with this association. /s/ Beryl Blair, Paul Wood, W. C. Hamilton, Jesse L. Gillaspy, Mike Richardson.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Doc Ingles, from the Lone Grove FWB Church, and Lynn Lewis, from the Duncan Eastside FWB Church. /s/ Debbie Denham, Kathy Elam, Teresa McClanahan.

CALLED MEETING December 29, 1979

Our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe, called the meeting to order.

With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro. Ralph Mullins led Amazing Grace.

Prayer by Bro. W. C. Hamilton.

Bro. W. L. Lowe declared the body in conference.

We had delegates from Stobtown, Midway, Countyline, Country Side, Duncan East Side.

Bro. Ed Staggs presented all the plans and bids from 4 contractors.

We want to specify the time to get it finished so that we have it ready in time for camp.

Motion carried we recess for 5 minutes to discuss which building we like best.

Bro. W. L. Lowe brought us back together. Discussed the buildings to see which one is best.

Motion carried we decide which building we want. Motion made and seconded we get the cement block building, \$10,977.50. Carried.

Motion carried we turn this back to the Camp Ground Board.

Motion made and seconded we adjourn. Carried.
Announcements.

Dismissed with Altar of Prayer led by Bro. Ralph Mullins.

Moderator--Bro. W. L. Lowe
Clerk--Sis. Naoma Mullins

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING February 8, 1980

The Friday night service of the Second Quarterly Meeting of the Hopewell No. 2 Association, when meeting with the Duncan East Side Church.

Called to order by Assistant Moderator, Bro. Beryl Blair. With Bro. Marshall Robinson playing the guitar, Sis. Reba Boerstler led Victory in Jesus.

Prayer by Bro. Myrl Kellet.

We sang O I Want to See Him and He Set Me Free.

Bro. Ed Staggs led Testimony Service. Special singing by Charlene, Marshall and Lisa Robinson, The Sun Is Coming Up In The Morning, New Jerusalem, I Believe.

Bro. Beryl Blair brought the message from Phil. 3:3, 20 and Col. 3:2-3.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Cleo Chism.

No Service - February 9

February 16, 1980, Saturday morning service called to order by our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe.

With Sis Karen Wright at the piano, Bro. J. T. McClanahan led Victory in Jesus.

Prayer by Bro. Bobby Wright.

Moderator declared the body in conference.

Letters read by Sis. Teresa McClanahan.

With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro.

J. T. McClanahan led Revive Us Again, while giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship. Minutes read by Sis. Naoma Mullins and accepted. The called Conference minutes read and accepted. Petitionary Letter--The Countyline Church petitions the Hopewell No. 2 Association to license Bro. Edward Staggs.

Bro. W. L. Lowe and Bro. Beryl Blair selected the Divine Service Committee: Bro. J. T. McClanahan, Sis. Ora Posey, Sis. Deloris Gillaspay, to be excused to select the 11:00 speaker.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Bro. Bobby Wright is to be bonded. It is required that he has someone to countersign his checks. Motion carried that we table this until our next annual conference.

Bro. Myrl Kellet will bring the morning message.

Bro. Beryl Blair gave Bro. Luther Eason, the delegate of Duncan East Side the right hand of fellowship.

Bro. W. L. Lowe and Bro. Beryl Blair selected the committees.

Resolution Committee: Bro. Bobby Wright, Bro. Bill Roberts, Bro. Luther Eason.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Karen Wright, Sis. Beverly McClennahan, Sis. Cornelia Ivy.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Cathy Davis, Bro. David Gardner, Sis. Oleta Spruill.

Motion carried to open the bid on the girls' old dormitory. Mr. J. D. Lumbert's bid was \$500. Motion carried we accept this bid.

Motion carried we give Mr. Lumbert until April 1 to have the building moved and cleaned up.

The Camp Ground Board will take care of the bid on the girls' new dormitory and dispose of the old building, too.

Camp Ground Treasurer's report given by Sis. Bobbie Staggs and accepted.

Association Treasurer's report given by Bro. Bob Wright and accepted.

Motion carried to start a separate savings account for Local Missions.

Letter of Recommendation read for Bro. Mike Richardson.

Bro. W. C. Hamilton dismissed in prayer for a 15-minute recess before the 11:00 service.

Bro. W. L. Lowe brought us back together. With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro. J. T. McClanahan led Showers of Blessings.

Prayer be Bro. Mike Richardson.

We sang The Comforter Has Come and The Old Account was Settled.

Special Song from the Countyline Choir, Glad Reunion Day and No Tears in Heaven.

Special by Bro. & Sis. Bobby Wright, Alleluia and I've Been Redeemed.

Special by Bro. W. C. Hamilton & group, What a Day. The congregation sang He is Lord.

Prayer by Bro. Paul Wood.

Services turned to Bro. Myrl Kellet to bring the morning message. He used as his main text St. John 21:4-6--A Closer Look.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs, including in his prayer a blessing on the noon meal.

Bro. W. L. Lowe brought us back together. With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro. J. T. McClanahan led It Is Well With My Soul.

Bro. Ed Staggs brought the devotion from Ezekiel 37:1-4.

Prayer by Bro. Harold Boerstler.

The Credential Board Report was read and accepted. See report.

The Resolution Committee Report was read and accepted. See report.

The Temperance Committee Report was read and accepted. See report.

The Executive Board Report given by Bro. Noah Smith and Bro. J. T. McClanahan was accepted. See report.

Motion carried to add Lone Grove Church to our Fellowship Meetings. They will be after Stobtown.

Motion carried to release the committees for the day.

Volunteers for the Youth Camp Director called for.

Motion carried we elect a Youth Camp Director. Bro. W. C. Hamilton was elected and Bro. Bobby Wright will be the Assistant Director.

Motion carried we have Youth Camp 7 days instead of 2 weeks, and that the Church Education Board and Youth Director select the curriculum.

Motion carried to elect a man on Church Education Board to take Bro. Charley Jones place until the Annual Meeting in August.

Bro. David Gardner was elected.

Motion carried to purchase a few cots for Youth Camp.

Motion carried to take up a Love Offering and \$100 out of Association Treasure for Bro. Beryl Blair and Family--the offering was \$138.05.

Motion carried to give the host church a standing vote of thanks for the fine meal.

Announcements.

Motion carried to adjourn until the next regular or called conference.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Noah Smith.

Moderator--Bro. W. L. Lowe

Clerk--Sis. Naoma Mullins

CAMPGROUND REPORT - SECOND QUARTER

Balance brought forward	\$ 7,109.60
Income this quarter:	
Countyline	93.76
Duncan	59.68
Interest earned on savings	<u>258.33</u>
Total income this quarter	411.77
Expenses this quarter:	
Wooldridge Grocery	<u>11.00</u>
Total expenses this quarter	11.00
Balance left in checking this quarter	7,252.04
Balance left in savings this quarter	<u>10,527.86</u>
Total balance left in Fund	<u>\$17,779.90</u>

/s/ Building Committee & Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT - SECOND QUARTER

Carried Forward	\$1,718.97
Received from Churches	<u>1,172.65</u>
Working Balance	\$2,891.62
Expenses:	
Hillsdale	200.00
OG&E	9.55
Water	30.00
Minutes	160.00
State Giving	<u>905.42</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,304.97
Balance	<u><u>\$1,586.65</u></u>

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

Meeting: December 18, 1979. Bro. Ralph Mullins read from Psalm 34:1-6, and opened meeting by prayer. Meeting was called to discuss building for Campground. Bro. Ed Staggs presented plans for a concrete building and a metal building: price of metal building, \$13,700; price of concrete building

GIVING BY CHURCHES - SECOND QUARTER

CHURCH	COOP	F.M.	H.M.	HILLS- DALE	L.M.	CTS	C.G.	GEN. FUND	TOTAL
Countyline	35.80		3.58	7.17	14.32	3.58	7.16	14.32	85.93
Countryside	27.50		2.75	5.50		2.75	5.50	11.00	55.00
Duncan	29.84		2.98	5.97		2.98	5.97	11.94	59.68
Lawton	134.65		13.46	26.93		13.47	26.93	53.86	269.30
Lone Grove	57.91		5.80	11.58		5.79	11.58	23.17	115.83
Midway		222.00		222.00					444.00
Stobtown		90.00			42.91			10.00	142.91
TOTALS	285.70	312.00	28.57	279.15	57.23	28.57	57.14	124.29	1,172.65

Executive Board Report Cont'd. from page 14

was \$11,000. The Executive Board voted to build a block building, pending approval at the next quarterly meeting. They also voted to sell old girls' dorm, pending approval at the next quarterly conference. All 5 members of the Executive Board were present. Motion carried to adjourn. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs. /s/ J. T. McClanahan, Montie H. Boerstler, Noah R. Smith, Ralph H. Mullins, Cleo Chism.

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT

We, the Credential Board have examined Bro. Ed Staggs and found him sound in doctrine and recommend him to be licensed into the gospel ministry for one year. /s/ W. C. Hamilton, Mike Richardson, Beryl Blair, J. L. Gillaspay, Paul Wood.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Be it resolved that we strive to be better Christians and work harder for our churches and association to grow. /s/ Robert Wright, Bill Roberts, Luther Eason.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We recommend that our churches become more familiar with drugs and alcohol. We should watch how we conduct ourselves in public. We should work to get prayer back in schools. /s/ David Gardner, Kathy Davis, Oleta Spruill.

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

May 9, 1980

Friday night service of the Third Quarterly Meeting of the Hopewell No. 2 Association, when

meeting with the Countyline Church.

Called to order by our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe. Prayer by Bro. Jess Gillaspy. With Bro. Mike Richardson and Bro. Marshall Robinson playing the guitars, Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing. We sang To God Be The Glory and Amazing Grace.

Testimony Service.

Special singing by Bro. & Sis. Mike Richardson, Consider The Lillies and The First Look.

Bro. & Sis. Marshall Robinson and daughter, Lisa, sang I Believe He's Coming Back and New Jerusalem. More testimonies.

Bro. W. L. Lowe turned the service to Bro. Myrl Kellet to bring the message. He used as his main text Romans 6:5--Planted Together.

Announcements.

Dismissed with Altar of Prayer by Bro. Ralph Mullins.

Four churches present: Midway, Duncan East Side, Lawton, Countyline.

Saturday morning service called to order by our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe.

Prayer by Bro. J. T. McClanahan. With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro. Othel Kyle led Victory in Jesus.

Sis. Teresa McClanahan was appointed to be the assistant clerk for the day.

Letters read by Sis. Teresa McClanahan and accepted.

A special request made from Lawton was accepted.

While giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship, Bro. Othel Kyle led I Would Not Be Denied. Piano was played by Sis. Teresa McClanahan.

Bro. Myrl Kellet was elected assistant moderator for the day. Appointing of Committees:

Divine Committee: Bro. J. T. McClanahan, Bro. Ed Robinson, Sis. Dalphine Cox.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Amelia McClanahan, Bro. Billy Christian, Sis. Bobbie Staggs.

Temperance Committee: Bro. Brad Utley, Bro. Sam Staggs, Sis Vali Hayes.

Resolution Committee: Bro. W. C. Hamilton, Bro. Othel Kyle, Bro. Hershel Lewis.

Bro. Myrl Kellet gave Sis. Geneva Hughes and Bro. Lyndon Hughes the right hand of fellowship.

Minutes read by Sis. Naoma Mullins and accepted.

The Divine Committee was dismissed to select the morning speaker.

Bro. Myrl Kellet read the rules of order.

Visitors welcomed by Bro. W. L. Lowe. Bro. Thomas Neil will bring the morning message.

Association Treasurer's report read by Bro. W. L. Lowe and accepted.

Executive Board Report--Oral report given by Bro. Noah Smith.

Camp Ground Board Report--given by Sis. Bobbie Staggs. Accepted.

Sis. Bobbie gave a list of things that need to be done at the Camp Ground.

Bro. Leonard Robinson's bid was read--the other bid didn't come through.

Bro. Leonard Robinson will build the girls' new dorm. Carried.

Motion carried we build a barbwire (4 strands) fence with steel posts on the west side of the Youth Camp.

Motion carried that we set the date for Youth Camp the last full week in July. Motion made and seconded to withdraw previous motion and to pray about this until the afternoon.

Committees were asked to meet during the noon hour. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Noah Smith.

Following a short recess, Bro. W. L. Lowe brought us back together. With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro. Ralph Mullins led To My Wonderful Lord. Prayer by Bro. Troy Morris.

Next song, Have Faith In God.

Special by the Countyline Choir: Peace Like a River and I'd Rather Have Jesus.

Special by the Stobtown Choir: Maybe It's You or Maybe It's Me.

Special by Bro. Othel Kyle, I'm Free Again.

Prayer by Bro. Paul Wood.

Services turned to Bro. Thomas Neil. Bro. Neil used as his main text I Samuel 17:38-51 and Acts 13:44, 52.

Motion carried that Bro. W. L. Lowe should appoint 3 men to serve on Credential Board for today. They are Bro. Noah Smith; Bro. Troy Morris, Bro. Myrl Kellet.

Bro. Hershel Lewis led in prayer, including the blessing on the noon meal.

Our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe called us back together. With Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano, Bro. Othel Kyle led Our God Is Able To Deliver Thee. Prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs. Next song, When I See The Blood.

Bro. Ralph Mullins gave the devotion using I John 4:7-12.

Motion carried to have Youth Camp July 27-August 1.

Motion carried to get an Evangelist for Youth Camp. Nominations in order for Evangelist. Bro. Raymond Deece was nominated and elected. Motion carried to have Bro. W. C. Hamilton contact someone else if Bro. Deece can't come.

Motion carried to pay Evangelist \$250.

If Hopewell No. 1 kids come to Youth Camp, motion carried we charge them \$15 each.

Motion carried that Bro. W. C. Hamilton get the forms made.

Motion carried Bro. W. C. Hamilton get literature and whatever he needs for Camp. Work day set for May 24.

Obituary Committee Report: None--praise the Lord.

Temperance Committee: Read & Accepted. See reports.

Resolution Committee: Read & Accepted. See reports.

Credential Board Report: Read & accepted. See reports.

Motion made we accept these reports and release the committees. Carried.

A standing vote of thanks was observed for the fine meal.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Carried.

Announcements--Fellowship will be at Lawton. A revival at the Mission in Lawton. A Puppet Show from Duncan Youth will be at Lawton, May 23, 7:30 p.m.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Mike Richardson.

Moderator--Bro. W. L. Lowe

Clerk--Sis. Naoma Mullins

CAMP GROUND REPORT - THIRD QUARTER

Total balance brought forward	\$ 7,252.04
Income this quarter:	
Countyline	91.35
Duncan	54.59
J. D. Lumbert (Girls' Dorm)	500.00
Interest on savings	131.59
Total Income this quarter	<u>786.54</u>
Expenses this quarter:	
Wooldridge Grocery	38.00
Total Expenses	<u>38.00</u>
Balance left in checking this quarter	7,859.98
Balance left in savings this quarter	10,659.43
Total balance left in Fund	<u>\$18,519.43</u>

GIVING BY CHURCHES - THIRD QUARTER

CHURCH	HILLS-					C.G.	GEN. FUND	TOTAL
	COOP	F.M.	H.M.	DALE	L.M.			
Countyline	59.75		6.05	11.95	23.88	5.97	23.89	143.37
Countryside	41.25	44.00	4.11	8.25		4.14	16.50	126.50
Duncan	75.25		7.52	15.07		7.51	30.09	150.49
Lawton	104.28		10.43	20.85		10.43	41.71	208.55
Lone Grove	122.73		12.27	24.55		12.26	49.09	245.44
Midway		230.00		230.00				460.00
Stobtown		135.00			50.92		15.00	200.92
TOTALS	403.26	409.00	40.38	310.67	74.80	40.31	176.28	1,535.27

TREASURER'S REPORT - THIRD QUARTER

Carried forward		\$1,586.65
Received from Churches		<u>1,535.27</u>
Working Balance		\$3,121.92
Expenses:		
Beryl Blair	100.00	
Water	30.00	
Post Office (stamps)	15.00	
State Giving	<u>1,163.31</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>1,308.31</u>
Balance		\$1,813.61
Bank Balance:		
Local Missions	905.35	
CTS	324.60	
Campground	197.32	
General Fund	<u>496.81</u>	
TOTAL		<u>\$1,924.08</u>

OBITUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

No deaths--Praise the Lord.

CREDENTIAL BOARD REPORT

We, the Credential Board have examined Bro. Thomas Neal and have found him sound in doctrine and recommend him to be licensed to preach. /s/ Paul Wood, W. C. Hamilton, Mike Richardson, Noah R. Smith, Troy Morris.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

There will be a petition coming up to try to put beer under the control of the Alcohol and Beverage Control Board. This will involve trying to remove beer from Grocery stores, Quik-Checks, 7-11's, etc. and putting in liquor stores only. Our churches need to make a stand on this and to pray about this. /s/ Vali Hayes, Sam Staggs, Brad A. Utley.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Whereas support for Local Missions has been neglected; be it resolved that each church be encouraged to reconsider the proposition to send one percent of their monthly offering to support Local Missions. /s/ Paul Wood, W. C. Hamilton, Othel Kyle.

THE 48th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF HOPEWELL NO. 2 CONVENED AT THE CAMP GROUND August 8, 1980

Called into session by our Moderator, Bro.
W. L. Lowe.

With Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano, Bro.
Ralph Mullins led Amazing Grace. Prayer by Bro.
Noah Smith. We sang Tell It To Jesus, Won't It
Be Wonderful There.

Special singing from the Countyline Church:
I'd Rather Have Jesus, Standing on the Solid Rock.

Testimonies given.

Special song from Lawton, Bro. & Sis. Harold
Robinson, The Potter and the Clay. Special by
the Healdton Church, I'll Meet You by the River.

More Testimonies. Special by the Duncan East
Church, In The Garden.

Services turned to Bro. Beryl Blair to bring
the evening message.

With Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano, Bro.
Ralph Mullins led O How I Love Jesus, while we
had an old-fashioned hand shake.

Prayer by Bro. W. L. Lowe.

Bro. Beryl Blair used as his main text St.
Matthew 21:28, 25:15.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Ralph Mullins.

Four churches represented: Midway, Countyline,
Duncan East, Lawton. Visitors from the Healdton
Church.

August 9, 1980

Saturday morning session opened by our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe.

With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro. Luther Gaines led When I See the Blood.

Prayer by Bro. Myrl Kellet.

Letters read by Sis. Teresa McClanahan.

Accepted.

With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro. J. T. McClanahan led Trust and Obey, while giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

Prayer by Bro. Mike Richardson.

Bro. W. C. Hamilton will be assistant moderator for today.

Minutes read by Sis. Naoma Mullins. Accepted.

Bro. W. C. Hamilton read rules of order.

A petitionary letter from the Healdton Church was read. Question asked: Do we accept them all at the same time, or do we accept the church and then the Pastor?

Motion made and seconded to table until next quarterly meeting while we have time to find out more about the church and pastor. Carried.

Visitors welcomed.

Committees were appointed.

Resolution Committee: Sis. Nora Truitt, Sis. Karen Wright, Sis. Maxine Balthrop.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Jerry Gaines, Bro. Brad Utley, Sis. Shirley McDaniel.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Vala Robinson, Sis. Juhree McClain, Sis. Cornelia Ivy.

Motion made and seconded we do something to the boys' rest room so the water from the showers will drain properly.

Camp Ground Report given by Sis. Bobbie Staggs. Accepted.

Recess until 11:00 service.

Bro. Brad Utley dismissed in prayer.

Our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe brought us back together. With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the

piano, Bro. Luther Gaines led I'll Be Listening. Bro. Jess Gillaspy led in prayer. We sang Just Over In The Gloryland and We'll Work Til Jesus Comes.

Special singing by Bro. Brad Utley and Bro. Thomas Neil, They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love.

Special by the Countyline Church, Won't It Be Wonderful There.

Special by Bro. David Gardner, Sis. Naomi Smith, and Bro. Luther Gaines, Come Unto Me.

Special by Bro. & Sis. Ed Staggs and Sis. Reba Boerstler, I'll Fly Away.

Special by Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson, The Rose Among The Thorns.

Bro. Mack Balthrop gave his testimony. Services were turned to Bro. Robert Wright to bring the Memorial Message.

The Congregation stood and had a moment of silent prayer, concluded by Bro. W. C. Hamilton in memory of those that have gone home to be with the Lord.

Bro. Robert Wright used Malachi 1:6-14 as his main text.

Bro. Myrl Kellet led in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Resume the meeting at 1:00.

Our Moderator, Bro. W. L. Lowe called us back in session. With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, Bro. Luther Gaines led Leaning On the Everlasting Arms and I Love to Walk With Jesus.

Bro. David Gardner brought the devotion from II Chronicles 2:12-15.

Resolution Committee Report; Read and accepted. See reports.

Temperance Committee Report: Read and accepted. See reports.

Executive Board Report given by Bro. Noah Smith. They met with the Healdton church last night.

Mission Board Report called for--didn't meet.
Church Education Board Report called for--
didn't meet.

Motion carried we keep Executive Board, Credential Board and Camp Ground Board and drop the Mission Board and Church Education Board.

Miscellaneous business called for.

Bro. Ed Staggs resigned off of the Camp Ground Board as Chairman.

Motion carried we give \$350 to Bro. & Sis. Ed Staggs as a love offering for the fine job they did.

Association Treasurer's Report given by Bro. Robert Wright. Accepted.

Election of Board Members:

Camp Ground Board: Bro. Luther Gaines was elected to take Bro. Edmond Franklin's place as he has been ill for such a long time.

Executive Board: 5-year man, J. T. McClanahan

Credential Board: 5-year man, David Gardner

General Board Member: Ed Staggs

Election of Officers:

Reporter: Sis. Juhree McClain

Treasurer: Bro. Robert Wright

Assistant Treasurer: Sis. Juanita Lowe

Clerk: Sis. Naoma Mullins

Assistant Clerk: Sis. Teresa McClanahan

Moderator: Bro. Mike Richardson

Assistant Moderator: Bro. W. C. Hamilton

Quarterly Meetings--location, dates, and Friday night speakers.

Nov. 7,8--Midway--Bro. David Gardner

Feb. 13,14--Lone Grove--Bro. W. C. Hamilton

May 8,9--Countyline--Bro. Ed Staggs

Aug. 7,8--Camp Ground--Bro. W. L. Lowe; Saturday morning Memorial Speaker--Bro. Mike Richardson

Motion carried we release the committees for the day.

125 Minutes are to be printed.

Motion carried to adjourn. Dismissed in
prayer by Bro. Jess Gillaspy.

Moderator--Bro. W. L. Lowe
Clerk--Sis. Naoma Mullins

TREASURER'S REPORT - FOURTH QUARTER

Balance brought forward	\$1,484.68
Received from Churches	<u>5,471.90</u>
Working Balance	6,956.58
Expenses:	
OK State Association	3,980.45
OG&E	127.76
Water	92.00
Hillsdale (Gift)	200.00
Printing	162.13
Love Offering	300.00
State Delegates	120.00
Miscellaneous	23.82
Transfer to Local Missions	<u>975.68</u>
Total Expenses	<u>5,981.84</u>
Balance	<u>974.74</u>
Bank Balance:	
CTS	356.88
Camp Ground	309.78
General Fund	<u>308.08</u>
Total	<u>974.74</u>
Local Missions Account	709.66
Received: Countyline	75.24
Stobtown	171.64
Bro. Staggs	<u>45.88</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$1,002.42</u>

CAMP GROUND REPORT - FOURTH QUARTER

Balance brought forward	\$18,519.43
May 1 - on hand	<u>7,859.98</u>
Deposits	<u>9,759.77</u>
Total	17,619.75
Paid Out	<u>16,636.26</u>
Total on hand	<u>\$ 983.49</u>

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FOURTH QUARTER

CHURCH	COOP	F.M.	H.M.	HILLS-		L.M.	CTS	C.G.	GEN.	
				DALE					FUND	TOTAL
Countyline	48.16		4.83	9.64	19.26	4.82	9.63	19.27	115.61	
Countryside	27.50		2.74	5.50		2.76	5.50	11.00	55.00	
Duncan	5.86		.59	1.17		.59	1.17	2.35	11.73	
Lawton	165.62		16.57	33.13		16.55	33.13	66.25	331.25	
Lone Grove	111.76		11.18	22.35		11.17	22.35	44.71	223.52	
Midway		287.00*		287.00					574.00	
Stobtown		135.00			77.81			15.00	227.81	
TOTALS	358.90	422.00	35.91	358.79	97.07	35.89	71.78	158.58	1,538.92	

*Project 5,000

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

We resolve that each church of the Association take a stand against social drinking; also, watching TV Programs which are immoral, obscene, violent and anti-christ. /s/ Karen Wright, Nora Truitt, Maxine Balthrop.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

I. Be aware that liquor by the drink is coming up for vote again. Each person be prepared to vote against the Bill.

II. Be aware that there are those trying to destroy the Holy City, near Lawton. Petitions are available to sign to preserve this city.

III. Be aware that Madalyn O'Hara is trying to take religious services off of radio and TV. /s/ Juhree McClain, Vala Robinson, Cornelia Ivey.

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Lone Grove FWB P.O. Box 325 Lone Grove, OK 73443	David Gardner P.O. Box 161 Lone Grove, OK 73443 Ph: 657-4430	Mary Beth Bray Rt. 3, Box 31C Ardmore, OK 73401 Ph: 657-4908
Stobtown FWB Rt. 3, Box 154C Ardmore, OK 73401 Ph: 657-6295	W. C. Hamilton Rt. 3, Box 154C Ardmore, OK 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Shirley McClendon Hosbar Rt. 342A Ardmore, OK 73401 Ph: 226-5013
Midway FWB Route 1 Healdton, OK 73438 Ph: 673-2599	W. L. Lowe Route 1 Healdton, OK 73438 Ph: 673-2599	Frances Lewellen Box 201 Graham, OK 73437 Ph: 673-2315
Countyline FWB P.O. Box 236 Countyline, OK 73025	Mike Richardson P.O. Box 31 Countyline, OK 73025 Ph: 856-3966	Amelia McClanahan Rt. 3, Box 88 Duncan, OK 73533 Ph: 444-2355
Countryside Box 907 Velma, OK 73091 Ph: 444-3530	Paul Wood Box 907 Velma, OK 73091 Ph: 444-3530	Nina Benge Box 363 Velma, OK 73091 Ph: 444-2166
Duncan East Box 1413 Duncan, OK 73533	Ed Staggs 308 S. 9th St. Marlow, OK 73055 Ph: 658-3228	Ruth Franklin 313 11A St. Duncan, OK 73533 Ph: 255-0777
Lawton First 2603 A Avenue Lawton, OK 73505 Ph: 355-4668	Myrl Kellet 2603 A Avenue Lawton, OK 73505 Ph: 355-4668	Wanda Kellet 2603 A Avenue Lawton, OK 73505 Ph: 355-4668

OTHER ORDAINED MINISTERS

J. O. Hudson	Route 1 Healdton, OK 73438	673-2529
Hershel Lewis	803 N. Elm St. Waurika, OK 73573	228-3420
Royce McClendon	Hoxbar Rt., Box 342A Ardmore, OK 73401	226-5013
Howard Walker	2816 San Saba Ft. Worth, TX 76114	817-625-4706

LICENSED MINISTERS

Thomas Neil	20 Mission Blvd., #H1 Lawton, OK 73505	248-6550
Robert Wright	Box 172 Graham, OK 73437	673-2123

ORDAINED DEACONS

Troy Morris	Route 3 Ardmore, OK 73401	657-4513
Leonard Robinson	Star Route Lone Grove, OK 73443	657-4742
Othel Kyle	Route 3, Box 41 Ardmore, OK 73401	657-6420
Marshall Mitchell	Route 3 Ardmore, OK 73401	657-4252
Troy Lewellen	Box 201 Graham, OK 73437	673-2315
Joel Harmon	Fox, OK 73435	673-2312

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

Richard Watkins	Box 235 Fox, OK 73435	673-2798
Ralph Mullins, Sr	Route 1, Box 1 Ratliff City, OK 73081	856-3038
Jess Gillaspy	Box 3 Countyline, OK 73025	856-3462
Sam Staggs	Box 126 Countyline, OK 73025	
J. T. McClanahan	Route 3, Box 88 Duncan, OK 73533	444-2355
Forest Cox	Route 1, Box 46 Ratliff City, OK 73081	444-2584
Loray Spurgin	P.O. Box 842 Velma, OK 73091	444-2527
James Benge	P.O. Box 363 Velma, OK 73091	444-2166
Edmond Franklin	313 North A Duncan, OK 73533	255-0777
Harold Boerstler	721 North 8th Duncan, OK 73533	255-7015
Cleo Chism	508 S. 13th St. Lawton, OK 73501	353-8482

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.

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 Jesus 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 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 in 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 everywhere hold Christian principle 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 schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto 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.

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.

