

Minutes

Hopewell No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

50th Annual Meeting
Golden Anniversary
1982

Minutes of the
50th Annual Meeting
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1982

OFFICERS

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Assistant Treasurer W. L. Lowe
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Reporter Juhree McClain
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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Royce McClendon	5 Years
James Bengé	4 Years
J. T. McClanahan	3 Years
Ralph Mullins, Sr.	2 Years
Harold Boerstler	1 Year

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Myrl F. Kellett	5 Years
W. L. Lowe	4 Years
David Gardner	3 Years
Mike Richardson	2 Years
Jess Gillaspy	1 Year

CAMP GROUND STANDING BOARD

Billy Christian
Star Rt., Box 17, Lone Grove, Ok. 73443

Cleo Chism
508 S. 13th, Lawton, Ok. 73501

Harold Robinson
409 S.W. 23rd Place, Ok. 73505

Luther Gaines
Rt. 3, Ardmore. Ok. 73401

Jess Gillaspy, Treasurer
Box 3, County Line, Ok. 73025

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Juanita Lowe
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Prayer Chairman Naomi Mullins
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FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
November 13-14, 1981

Friday 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, 1981, the meeting was called to order by Bro. David Gardner.

Prayer by Bro. W. L. Lowe.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay led, When We All Get To Heaven, Standing On The Promises, and Joy Unspeakable.

Bro. David Gardner brought the evening message using Luke 18:18-24, as the Scripture Text.

Altar of Prayer led by Bro. David Gardner.

Announcements made, followed by a Testimony Service.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay dismissed in Prayer.

Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 14, 1981, Bro. David Gardner called the Business to order.

Bro. W. L. Lowe, led in Prayer.

Letters read by Teresa McClanahan and motion carried to accept letters as read and seat the Delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read. Note: In the 1981 minutes the Annual Meeting be corrected to Aug. 13-14.

Petitionary letter from Duncan Church requesting that Bro. Luther Eason be examined as a Deacon.

Delegates from Country Side were seated with a right hand of fellowship.

It was decided that Bro. David Gardner would become Moderator and than an assistant Moderator would be elected. Bro. Beryl Blair was nominated. Motion carried to elect by acclamation.

Committees appointed as follows:

Divine Committee: Sis. Delores Gillaspay, Bro. Temple Grundy, Sis. Jerry Strealy.

They were dismissed to select the morning Speaker.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Resolution Committee: Bro. Danny Turner, Sis. Kathy Elam, Sis. Cornelia Ivey.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Johnny Grundy, Bro. Harold Robinson, Bro. Luther Eason.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Juana Robsion, Bro. Gerald Robsion, Sis. Cora Robbins.

Prayer Request was made for the sick of the Association.

A Thank You note was read from the Claudis Mullins family for Love Offering and Prayers.

Old Business:

The heating for the girl's dorm was discussed.

Motion carried to have the February Business Meeting at the Midway Church.

Motion carried for each Church to bring their own food.

Bro. W. L. Lowe was selected to bring the morning Message.

New Business:

Question asked where to send the Camp Ground Funds.

Motion carried to raise from ten cents a mile to fifteen cents a mile.
(page 37)

The Camp Ground Board was instructed to meet and elect their own Treasurer. They met and voted that Bro. Dale Howell and his wife be the Treasurer of the Camp Ground Board.

Motion carried that we send \$35.00 per Church to State Association, for State and National Convention fee. Note: By-laws to be changed to \$55.00 on page 37.

Motion carried to adjourn til 11:00 a.m. worship.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Danny Turner.

Bro. David Gardner opened the worship service with a testimony service.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay led, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms, and When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder.

Bro. W. L. Lowe brought the message from John 5:14, and ended the message with everyone praying.

Bro. Beryl Blair dismissed in Prayer, asking the blessing on the Noon meal.

Convened back into conference at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Reports read and accepted: Obituary report received with a moment of silent Prayer with Bro. Harold Robinson ending the Prayer. Those deceased, Monty Pannell and Chester Welch.

Credential Board recommended that Bro. Luther Eason be ordained as a Deacon at Eastside Duncan, as they found him sound in doctrine.

Resolution Committee recommended that we try harder to do God's will in our Churches.

The Temperance Committee recommended that our Churches become more familiar with drugs and alcohol abuse. We should watch how we conduct ourselves in public. We should work to get prayer back in schools. Adopted from 1980 minutes, page 16.

Motion carried to release the above Committees.

Motion carried to receive the Associational Treasurers report with a balance on hand in Associational Fund of \$1458.62 and and \$1620.74 in Local Missions Fund.

Motion carried for each Church to send \$20.00 to help get the Camp Ground Fund out of red.

Motion carried that the Ministers and Deacons meet at the County Line Free Will Baptist Church to see what to do about the Ministers and Deacons Conference.

Motion carried to meet the first Saturday night in December at 7:30 p.m.

Discussed having a speaker and a four night Revival before the yearly conference. Think about this, pray until the next quarterly conference.

Motion carried that Bro. Gardner let each Church know if Bro. Dale Howell accepts Camp Ground Board Treasurer.

Motion carried to adjourn until next Quarterly Meeting at Midway Free Will Baptist Church.

A Hand of Thanks was given for the ladies serving lunch.

Dismissed in Prayer by Bro. W. L. Lowe.

Bro. David Gardner, Moderator

Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

First Quarter

Income from Churches	\$1909.45
Balance in Association Fund	1458.62
Local Missions	1620.74
C.T.S.	457.20
CampGround Fund	-22.24

Expenses::

OG&E	\$ 119.24
Ed Staggs	175.00
Water	30.50
State Giving	1259.86
Delegates Fees	210.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$1794.60</u>

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FIRST QUARTER

CHURCH	CO-OP	F.M.	Jimmy Smith	Hills- Dale	CTS	Camp Ground	Gen. Fund	L.M.	H.M.
Country Side	41.25			8.25	4.14	8.25	66.50	26.08	4.11
County Line	65.03			13.01	6.48	13.01	71.02		6.50
Duncan	18.00			3.60	1.80	3.60	52.20		1.80
Lawton									
Lone Grove	151.01			30.20	15.11	30.21	100.41		15.10
Midway		331.00	105.00	331.00			45.00		
Stob Town		135.00					65.00	95.78	
Totals	275.29	466.00	105.00	386.06	27.53	55.07	445.13	121.86	27.51

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING
February 12-13, 1982

Friday, February 12, 1982, 7:30 p.m.
the Hopewell No. 2 Association began the
Quarterly Meeting at the Midway Free Will
Baptist Church, with the Moderator, Bro.
David Gardner calling the Service into
order.

Bro. Gardner ask for a motion to elect
a speaker for the evening Worship.

Bro. Royce McClendon was elected.

With Shirley McClendon at the piano,
Bro. Jess Gillaspy led, My Wonderful Lord,
Victory In Jesus, and I Would Not be
Denied.

Bro. W. L. Lowe led in Prayer.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Vala Robinson
sang, Be Ready To Go.

Bro. David Gardner and Sis. Shirley
McClendon sang, The Third Man Upon The Cross.

Bro. Royce McClendon brought the
message from the text Jonah 4:1-7.

Testimony Service was led by Bro.
David Gardner.

Special Prayer requests were taken
with everyone praying at the altar.

Bro. Ralph Mullins dismissed in Prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Saturday, February 13, 1982, 9:30 a.m.

Bro. Beryl Blair, assistant Moderator
called the Meeting to order.

With Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the
piano, Bro. J.T. McClanahan led, Walking
In Sunlight.

Bro. David Gardner began the order of
Business.

Sis. Teresa McClanahan read the letters
from the Churches, County Line, Country Side,
Midway, Lawton, Lone Grove and Stobtown.

Duncan was represented, but no letter.

Motion carried to receive letters as read and to give right hand of fellowship to the Delegates.

Minutes of the last meeting read by Sis. Wanda Kellett. Motion carried to receive minutes as read.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Request for a letter of recommendation for Bro. Bill Shea, was read from Dibble Association. Motion carried to send a letter of recommendation.

Request for a letter of recommendation for Bro. W.C. Hamilton was read from Hope-well No. 1 Association. Motion carried to grant a letter of recommendation.

Visiting Brethern were welcomed and invited to seat in Council.

Request from the Lawton Church that Bro. Brad Utley be examined for ordination as a Minister. Granted.

Request from the Lone Grove Church that Bro. Carlos Ramon be examined for ordination as a Deacon. Granted.

Request from the Stobtown Church that Bro. Kenneth Mize be examined for ordination as a Minister. Granted.

Request from the Midway Church that Bro. Richard Watkins be examined for ordination as a Deacon. Granted.

Committees Appointed:

Divine Committee: Bro. Richard Watkins, Bro. Harold Robinson, Sis. Debbie Denham.

They were excused to select the morning Speaker. Bro. Kenneth Mize was selected.

Resolution Committee: Bro. J. T. McClanahan, Bro. Danny Turner, Sis. Nora Truitt.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Delores Gillaspay, Sis. Judy Kyle, Sis. Kathy Elam.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Barbara Ramon, Sis. Diane Pierson, Sis. Myrtle Norton.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bro. Dale Howell Did not accept the Camp Ground Board Treasurer. Camp Ground Board will have to elect another Treasurer.

Motion carried to have a four night Revival before the Annual conference, beginning August 9, 1982.

Bro. Brad Utley was elected as the Evangelist. Bro. Wade Jernigan was elected as the alternates.

Bro. Lonnie DaVoult was invited to speak. He gave an oral report on the State work.

Motion carried to correct By-Law No. 11 on page 37, from \$55.00 to \$50.00.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Sis. Juanita Lowe with a balance on hand of \$1357.09.

Motion carried to adjourn till 1:00 p.m., with a fifteen minute break before 11:00 o'clock worship service.

Worship Service began with Sis. Teresa McClanahan at the piano, and Bro. J.T. McClanahan leading, When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder, He Lives, and I Will Sing The Wondrous Story.

The Stobtown Church sang, I Searched For Him and Touring That City.

Bro. Brad Utley sang, Amazing Grace.

Bro. David Gardner, Carlos Ramon and Dan Turner sang, Down On My Knees.

Bro. Kenneth Mize brought the morning message from the Scripture Text, John 15: 1-16.

Business resumed by Bro. Beryl Blair, asking for a congregational song, led by Bro. J.T. McClanahan, He's So Precious To Me.

Bro. Dan Turner led in Prayer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bro. Myrl Kellett was elected to replace Bro. W.C. Hamilton on the Credential Board as a one year man.

Motion carried to take up an offering to get the Camp Ground Funds out of the red and pay the bills.

Motion carried to pay the Camp Ground Fund bills out of the General Fund.

Motion carried that the C.T.S. Fund be deleted and the C.T.S. Funds be channeled into the General Fund.

Motion carried to have Youth Encampment June 21, 1982 thru June 25, 1982.

Motion carried that Bro. Royce McClendon be Youth Camp Director.

Motion carried that Camp Ground Board select an alternate if Bro. McClendon becomes unavailable.

Motion carried that each Church be responsible for a Minister on an appointed night of the Youth Encampment. The Director will make schedule and notify the Churches.

Motion carried to receive Temperance Committee report:: Each Christian and each Church pray about getting prayer back into the Schools.

Motion carried to receive Resolution Committee report: 1. That when a member is elected to an office, Board or Committee that he or she must be present. 2. That we study our Bibles to find God's will for our lives.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board report: We the Credential Board have examined Bro. Brad Utley and find him sound in doctrine and recommend him to be ordained for the Ministry.

We the Credential Board have examined Bro. Carlos Ramon and find him sound in doctrine and recommend him to be ordained as a Deacon.

We the Credential Board have examined Bro. Richard Lynn Watkins and find him sound in Doctrine and recommend him to be ordained as a Deacon.

We the Credential Board have examined Bro. Kenneth Mize and have found him sound in Doctrine and recommend him to be ordained for the Ministry.

Signed: Bro. David Gardner, Bro. Jess Gillaspay and Bro. W.L. Lowe.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report: Leonard Clinton deceased from the Stobtown Church. A moment of silent prayer, Bro. W. L. Lowe concluded the prayer.

Bro. Brad Utley brought the Devotional from I Corinthians 13:1.

Note: Pray and think about what we are going to pay the Evangelist for the Annual Meeting.

Motion carried to release the Committees.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. J.T. McClanahan.

Note: \$10.00 to be sent to State by July 1, 1982 for each Church to cover State Expense for Convention.

Bro. David Gardner, Moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT Second Quarter

Income from Churches	\$1652.40
Balance in Association Fund .	1357.09
Local Missions	1749.08
C.T.S.	485.53
Camp Ground Fund	-35.38

continued next page

TREASURER'S REPORT
Second Quarter
continued

Expenses:

OG&E	\$ 58.27
Water	31.50
Minutes	220.00
Cleaning	25.00
State Giving	<u>1419.16</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$1753.93</u>

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING
May 7 -8, 1982

May 7, 1982, the Friday evening services were called to order by Bro. David Gardner.

Prayer by Bro. Royce McClendon, Bro. Jess Gillaspy led the singing, Standing On The Promises, More About Jesus, and Amazing Grace, followed by a Testimony Service.

Bro. David Gardner read a poem, "Excuses."

The service was then turned to Bro. W. L. Lowe for the evening message. Scripture text, Ephesians 4:1. Title of the message, Walking Worthy.

Announcements were made and the services were dismissed in prayer by, Bro. Beryl Blair.

May 8, 1982, 9:30 a.m. the Quarterly Meeting convened, with Bro. David Gardner calling the meeting to order.

Bro. Jess Gillaspy led, I'll Be Listening.

Bro. Myrl Kellett led in Prayer.

The singing continued with singing, I'll Fly Away and Just Over In Gloryland.

GIVING BY CHURCHES - SECOND QUARTER

CHURCH	CO-OP	F.M.	H.M.	Jimmy Smith	Hills- Dale	CTS	Camp Ground	Fund Gen.	L.M.
Country Side	41.25		4.11		8.25	4.14	8.25	16.50	
Country Line	50.08		5.02		10.02	5.01	30.01	20.04	20.05
Duncan	27.50		2.75		5.50	2.75	5.50	11.00	
Lawton									
Lone Grove	164.36		16.44		32.88	16.43	32.87	65.74	
Midway		405.50							
Stob Town		135.00		105.00	405.50			15.00	86.69
In- Terest									21.60
Totals	283.19	540.50	28.32	105.00	462.15	28.33	76.63	128.28	128.34

Third Quarterly Meeting continued.

The Church letters were read by Teresa McClanahan. Motion carried to receive the letters and seat the delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given as Bro. Jess Gillaspay led, Amazing Grace. All seven Churches were represented.

Motion carried to receive minutes as read.

Motion carried to receive letter of resignation of Bro. Dale Howell from the Camp Ground Board, effective immediately.

Divine Committee appointed: KIM Miller, Vala Robinson and Delores Gillaspay.

The Committee was dismissed to select the morning speaker. The selection was James Bengé.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Visitors were welcomed to seat in Council.

Resolution Committee Selected: Bro. Gerald Robison, Sis. Linda Combs, Bro. Bill Roberts.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Cornelia Ivy, Bro. Danny Turner and Bro. Harold Robinson.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Jerry Strealy, Terry Pierson, and Debbie Denham.

Unfinished Business: Motion carried to pay the Evangelist for the Annual Association Meeting, \$200.00.

Motion carried to select a Memorial Speaker for Saturday morning. Bro. Royce McClendon was elected by acclamation.

New Business:

Treasurers report was given by Sis. Juanita Lowe with a balance on hand \$2006.61. Motion carried to receive the report.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay gave a report on

Camp Ground with \$1007.86 in Savings and \$44.97 in Checking account.

Motion carried to take the present money of \$249.29 of the CO-OP giving and the 10% in the future to be channeled into the Camp Ground Board Fund.

Motion carried to transfer the Camp Ground Savings into the Camp Ground Checking Account.

Bro. Billy Christian was elected by acclamation to fill the vacancy on the Camp Ground Board.

Services were turned to Bro. James Benge for the Morning Worship. He led in Prayer. Scripture Text for the Message was John 13:34-35. Title of Message was "Public Relations Program."

Bro. Royce McClendon dismissed in Prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Bro. David Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Report, followed by silent Prayer with Bro. Myrl F. Kellett ending the Prayer. Those deceased: Bro. Virgil Walker, Lawton, Bro. Noah Smith and Sister Hudson from Midway.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Report, as follows: Be it resolved that we use every available means to promote Church growth and attendance.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee Report, as follows: Strive to have more love in our daily conduct as a Christian, using the Scripture, John 13:34-35. Rid literature and media of pornography. Take more interest in our Churches, fellowshipping together as a whole.

Motion carried to release the Committees.
No Board Reports.

Motion carried to get solid steps for the Kitchen.

Motion carried to empower the Camp Ground Board to spend whatever monies necessary to repair the Camp ground.

A hand of appreciation was given the ladies for the noon meal.

Bro. Harold Robinson thanked each Church for the fine turn out on the work day at the Camp Grounds.

Bro. David Gardner brought a Devotional from the first chapter of Job, followed by an altar of Prayer.

Announcements were made. Ministers and Deacons Meeting in Lawton, the last Saturday night in July.

Brad Utley to be ordained in Lawton May 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried to send Bro. Wade Jernigan \$250.00 from the Association.

Motion carried to adjourn.

David Gardner, Moderator
Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT Third Quarter

Income from Churches	\$2599.00
Balance in Association Fund . .	2006.61
Local Missions	1893.85
Camp Ground	213.91

Expenses:

OG&E	\$ 50.53
Water	30.00
Cleaning	25.00
State Giving	1843.95
Total Expenses	<u>\$1949.48</u>

GIVING BY CHURCHES - THIRD QUARTER

CHURCH	CO-OP	F.M.	Jimmy Smith	Hills- Dale	Camp Ground	Gen. Fund	L.M.	H.M.
Country Side	41.25			8.25	8.25	20.64		4.11
Country Line	34.00			6.80	6.80	17.00	13.59	3.40
Lawton	778.79			155.76	155.75	389.38		77.88
Lone Grove	127.47			25.49	25.49	63.74		12.75
Midway		194.00	65.00	174.00				
Stob Town		135.00				15.00	107.81	
In-terest							23.37	
Offer-ing					53.00			
Totals	981.51	329.00	65.00	370.30	249.29	505.76	144.77	98.14

THE 50th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF
HOPEWELL NO. 2 CONVENED AT THE CAMP GROUND
August 13 - 14, 1982

The Hopewell No. 2 Annual Business Meeting began August 13, 1982 at 7:30 p.m., was called to order by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. N. R. Smith led in Prayer.

Bro. J. T. McClanahan led the singing, I Would Not Be Denied, I Shall Not Be Moved, and Higher Ground. Teresa Keck at the piano.

Bro. N. R. Smith gave a report on Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

Special Songs by Bro. Jeff Phillips, I've Got More to Go To Heaven For, Bro. Allie Pollard, It's Better Than Gold, and Bro. Brad Utley, 25th Psalm.

Bro. Lonnie DeVault brought the evening Message from, Genesis 24:63-65. He closed in Prayer.

Recognition was given Hopewell No. 2 for it's 50th Anniversary. Minutes were displayed from the beginning year of 1932. Scripture Theme for the 50th Session was Lev. 25:9-12, A Jubilee shall that fiftieth year be . . . Thou shalt cause the Trumpet of the Jubilee to sound . . . Proclaim Liberty . . . For it shall be Holy unto you.

Bro. W. L. Lowe dismissed in Prayer.

August 14, 1982 at 9:30 a.m. the Association reconvened.

Bro. David Gardner called the meeting to order.

Bro. Terry Pierson led, Victory In Jesus. Diane Pierson at the piano.

Bro. W. L. Lowe led in Prayer.

Letters were read from the seven Churches present. Motion carried to receive the letters and seat the delegates.

The right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates as Bro. J.T. McClanahan led, More About Jesus. Sis. Diane Pierson at the piano.

Minutes were read and approved.

A Petitionary letter was read from Country Side Free Will Baptist Church requesting that Rev. John Bullard be examined for acceptance into the Association with full fellowship.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Visitors were invited to seat in Council.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Resolution Committee: Roy Early, Kim Miller, Nora Truitt.

Obituary Committee: Ora Smith, Teresa Newnum, Delores Gillaspy.

Temperance Committee: David Fullingim, Jeff Phillips and Terry Pierson.

Treasurers report was received with a balance of \$1729.71 in Associational Account and \$2023.87 balance on hand in Local Mission Account.

No unfinished Business.

New Business.

Motion carried that the cattle owners fence the tabernacle off and let their cattle graze on the Camp Ground.

Bro. Jess Gillaspy gave a Camp Ground Treasurer report with \$528.94 balance on hand. Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground report.

Bro. Dale Howell led in prayer before a fifteen minute recess.

The 11:00 o'clock Memorial Service was opened by singing, Standing On The Promises, led by Bro. J. T. McClanahan. Teresa Keck at the piano.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett led in Prayer.

Special singing, Bro. Jeff Phillips, Born Again, Bro. and Sis. Harold Boerstler, In The Garden, Bro. Allie Pollard, One Of His Own, The Stobtown Church, Touring That City and Sis. Shirley McClendon, It Took a Miracle.

Bro. Royce McClendon brought the message from Luke 24:36-43.

Bro. Gerald Robinson dismissed in Prayer for the noon meal.

The conference readjourned at 1:00 p.m. with singing In The Sweet By and By, led by Bro. J. T. McClanahan.

Brad Utley led in Prayer.

Committee Reports as follows:

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Report of those who have deceased the past year, Bro. Noah Smith, Bro. Virgil Walker, Sis. Hudson, Bro. Leonard Clinton, Bro. Monty Pannell, Chester Welch and Judy Sutherland. There was a moment of silent prayer with Bro. Dale Howell ending the Prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report, that the Association as a whole support any effort to put Prayer back into schools and voice our opinion and vote against para-mutual betting.

Motion carried to receive Resolution Committee recommendations, 1. To try to help stop legalization of Para-Mutual betting in Oklahoma. 2. To try to improve attendance at our Associational Meetings. 3. To promote better attendance in our Sunday Schools.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board Report and accept the Board's recommendation, Bro. John Bullard was found sound in doctrine and recommend that he be accepted into full fellowship of the Association, upon receiving a letter of recommendation from the Association and Church he last pastored. Signed, David

Gardner, W. L. Lowe, Jess Gillaspy, and Myrl F. Kellett.

Motion carried to release the Committees.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion carried to build a room at the southwest corner of the tabernacle for piano and song books.

Motion carried that each Church donate two panels to help put a fence around the tabernacle and septic tank.

Motion carried that each Church send \$30.00 to Bro. Jess Gillaspy, the Camp Ground Treasurer to buy these panels.

Motion carried to sell the Water Pump on the Camp Ground if the Association isn't going to use it.

Motion carried that the Executive Board get a price for the Pump and sell it.

Motion carried to do something with the stove in the Kitchen.

Motion carried to have November Meeting at Stobtown.

Motion carried to have the February Meeting at Eastside Duncan.

Motion carried to have the May Meeting at County Line.

Motion carried that Bro. Myrl Kellett be the General Board Member to the Oklahoma State Association for 1983.

Speakers elected for the Friday night Association Meetings.

November 12-13, 1982, Brad Utley, Stobtown

Feb. 11-12, 1983, James Benge, Duncan

May 13-14, 1983, Myrl F. Kellett, Countyline

Aug. 12, 1983, W. L. Lowe, Camp Ground

Aug. 13, 1983, David Gardner, Annual Memorial Speaker, Camp Ground.

Election of Officers

Reporter Juhree McClain

Treasurer Juanita Lowe
 Asst. Treasurer. . . . W. L. Lowe
 Clerk. Wanda Kellett
 Asst. Clerk. Teresa Keck
 Moderator David Gardner
 Asst. Moderator Beryl Blair.

Motion carried to adjourn.

A Hand of Appreciation was given to
 the ladies for the noon meal.

Bro. Jess Gillaspy dismissed in Prayer.
 David Gardner, Moderator
 Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURERS REPORT--FOURTH QUARTER

Received \$2606.16
 Balance in Ass'n Fund 1729.71
 Local Missions 2023.87

Expenses:

State Giving \$1823.82
 Wade Jernigan 250.00
 Campground Board 700.25
 OG&E 73.99
 Water 10.00
 Cleaning Camp 25.00
 Total Expenses \$2883.06

YEARLY REPORT, Aug. 8, 1981 - Aug. 8, 1982

Total Received \$9183.55
 Total Paid Out 8381.07
 Balance in Association Account . . \$1729.41
 Balance in Local Missions Acct. . . 2023.87

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FOURTH QUARTER

CHURCH	CO-OP	F.M.	H.M.	Jimmy Smith	Hills- Dale	Camp Ground	Gen. Fund	L.M.
Country side	8.25		4.11	120.00	8.25	8.25	20.64	
County Line	71.23		7.12		14.25	14.24	35.61	28.48
Duncan	10.75		2.15		2.15	123.65	5.37	
Lawton	255.96		25.59		51.19	151.19	128.00	
Lone Grove	172.75		17.27		34.55	34.55	86.38	
Midway		423.16			383.16	100.00		
Stob								
Town		180.00				54.46	20.00	76.15
In- terest								25.39
Totals	551.94	603.16	55.17	120.00	493.55	486.34	296.00	130.02

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Countyline P.O. Box 236 Countyline, Ok. 73025		Gearldine Staggs Box 126 Countyline, Ok. 73025
Countryside Box 235 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-3530	John Bullard Box 919 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-3530	Nina Bengé Box 363 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-2166
East Duncan 1313 Chestnut Box 1413 Duncan, Ok. Ph: 252-0519	Beryl Blair 707 Patterson Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-2311	Geneva Hughes Rt.1, Box 126 Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-5241
Lawton First 10 S. 24th Lawton, Ok. 73505 Ph: 355-4668	Myrl Kellett 2603 A Ave. Lawton, Ok. 73505 Ph: 355-4668	Wanda Kellett 2603 A Ave. Lawton, Ok. 73505 Ph: 355-4668
Lone Grove P.O. Box 325 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443 Ph: 657-3246	David Gardner P.O. Box 161 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443 Ph: 657-4430	Mary Beth Bray Rt.3, Box 310 Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-2798
Midway Rt.1, Box 76 Healdton, Ok. 73438 Ph: 673-2599	W.L. Lowe Rt.1, Box 76 Healdton, Ok. 73438 Ph: 673-2599	Janette Watkins Box 235 Fox, Ok. 73435 Ph: 673-4192
Stobtown Rt.3, Box 1540 Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Royce McClendon Rt.3, Box 1540 Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Susie Robinson Rt.3, Box 144 Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-4192

OTHER ORDAINED MINISTERS

J.O. Hudson	Route 1 Healdton, Ok.	73438	673-2529
Hershel Lewis	Box 224 Hastings, Ok.	73548	
Kenneth Mize	Ardmore, Ok. 73401		
Mike Richardson	P.O. Box 31 Countyline, Ok. 73025		835-3966
Howard Walker	2816 San Saba Ft. Worth, Tx. 76117		817-625-4706
Brad Utley	Hillsdale College Moore, Ok.		

LICENSED MINISTERS

James Benge	Box 363 Velma, Ok.	73091	444-2166
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ORDAINED DEACONS

Harold Boerstler	721 N. 8th Duncan, Ok.	73533	255-7015
Cleo Chism	508 S. 13th Lawton, Ok.	73501	353-84-82
Forest Cox	Rt.1, Box 46 Ratliff City, Ok. 73081		444-2584
Billy Christian	St.Rt., Box 17 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443		657-4842

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

Jess Gillaspy	Box 3 County Line, Ok. 73025	856-3462
Dale Howell	St.Rt., Box A104 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-3836
Othel Kyle	Rt.3, Box41 Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-6420
Troy Lewellen	Box 201 Graham, Ok.73437	673-2315
J.T. McClanahan	Rt.3, Box 88 Duncan, Ok.73533	444-2355
Marshall Mitchell	Rt. 3 Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-4252
Troy Morris	Rt.3, Box 155 Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-4513
Ralph Mullins	St.Rt. 1, Box 1 Ratliff City, Ok. 73081	856-3038
Ed Roberson	1122 Maple Lawton, Ok.73502	357-4058
Leonard Robinson	St.Rt. Bx 20 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-4742
Loray Spurgin	Box 242 Velma, Ok. 73991	444-2527

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

Sam Staggs	Box 126 County Line, Ok. 73025	
Richard Watkins	Box 235 Fox, Ok. 73435	673-2798
Luther Eason	Rt. 2 Duncan, Ok.	252-0239

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 & other expenses.
11. Call for confession.
12. Invitation for members.
13. Adjournment.

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 ministers 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

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 fifteen cents (15¢) 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 \$50.00 is to be sent to the Annual Session of this Association. (\$20.00 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 grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.
13. **BACKSLIDING AND APOSTASY**—A person who has been regenerated or born again and is living in unconfessed, unforgiven sin, is rebellious to the principles of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and therefore is a backslider in a lost condition who must repent and be restored to the right relationship with God or be eternally lost.

We recognize, according to Hebrews 6:4-6, that it is possible for a person to get in the condition that he could never return to Christ. This, we believe, is Apostasy; however, we also recognize that a regenerate person can fall into sin, be in a lost condition and still not be an apostate. This person, through repentance, can be reconciled to God.
14. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES**—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.
15. **TITHING**—God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament: Jesus Christ endorsed in the Gospel (Matt. 23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him."—I 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 Baptists are not among these, but it should not be inferred that Free Will Baptists believe the "church" gives a man authority to preach. The authority for a man to preach lies solely with God. Free Will Baptists believe in a divinely-called ministry.

Yet the visible church always finds itself called on to pass judgment on the exercise of ALL spiritual gifts, the ministry included. The injunction of the Bible is everywhere "Try the spirits." It is not sufficient that a man gain hearing simply because he says he is called by God and is bringing God's message.

Ordination then, is simply the church's official recognition that a man does indeed possess the gift and calling of God to the ministry and is therefore entitled to be heard as such. As indicated in the previous discussion of ordination procedure, there are really two levels of direct responsibility in ordination; the local church, primary, the associational ordination apparatus, secondary. Both levels should be thoroughly convinced, based on the evidence seen in life, ministry and knowledge, that the candidate has the required gift. And the general public should always be able to rely upon the fact of ordination as a clear sign that many Christians of mature judg-

ment 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 this 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 few are currently active. The general trend however, has been in the opposite direction; and most areas will not now ordain women.

6. The Candidate's Education

To our knowledge there are no specific educational requirements connected with ordination that are generally followed across the denomination, and probably there never should be. In order to raise the level of Biblical knowledge (see the next section), however, there are a few areas now requiring the completion of certain Bible correspondence courses as a minimum before ordination.

7. The Candidate's Biblical Knowledge

It is absolutely necessary that a minister have a good general knowledge of the word. Therefore, procedures are always in order among ordaining councils that will help them determine the level of Biblical knowledge possessed by the candidate. This is, indeed, one of the main purposes of the examination. When administered well, oral examinations along this line can 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.

8. 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 sample 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.

