

Minutes

Hopewell No. 2 Association

**FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES**

51st Annual Meeting

1983

Minutes of the
51st Annual Meeting
HOPEWELL No. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1983

OFFICERS

Moderator Warren Green
Rt. 3, Box 154 c, Ardmore, Ok. 73401
Phone: 657-6295

Assistant Moderator Beryl Blair
707 Patterson, Comanche, Ok. 73529
Phone: 439-2311

Clerk Wanda Kellett
2603 A Avenue, Lawton, Ok. 73505
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Assistant Clerk Teresa Keck
P. O. Box 993, Velma, Ok. 73091
Phone: 444-2350

Treasurer Juanita Lowe
Rt. 1, Box 76, Healdton, Ok. 73438
Phone: 673-2599

Assistant Treasurer W. L. Lowe
Rt. 1, Box 76, Healdton, Ok. 73438
Phone: 673-2599

Reporter Susie Robinson
Rt. 3, Box 144, Ardmore, Ok. 73401
Phone: 657-4192

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Bullard	5 Years
Royce McClendon	4 Years
Warren Green	3 Years
J.T. McClanahan	2 Years
Ralph Mullins, Sr.	1 Year

CREDENTIAL BOARD

J. W. Craft	5 Years
Myrl F. Kellett	4 Years
W. L. Lowe	3 Years
David Gardner	2 Years
Ralph Mullins, Sr.	1 Year

CAMP GROUND STANDING BOARD

Robin Cousino
208 Sinclair St., Healdton, Ok. 73438
Phone: 673-2599

Jerry Anderson
Rt. 1, Box 462-B, Newcastle, Ok. 73065
Phone: 392-5531

Harold Robinson, Chairman
409 S.W. 23rd Place, Ok. 73505
Phone: 355-1757

Doug Hudson
P.O. Box 205, Lone Grove, Ok. 73443
Phone: 657-4150

CAMP GROUND STANDING BOARD - Continued

Jess Gillaspy, Treasurer

Box 3, County Line, Ok. 73025

Phone: 356-3462

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Juanita Lowe

Rt. 1, Box 76, Healdton, Ok. 73438

Phone: 673-2599

Vice President and

Field Worker Diann Pierson

Box 6, Graham, Ok. 73437

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Secretary Judy Kyle

Rt. 3, Box 143 A, Ardmore, Ok. 73401

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Treasurer Susie Robinson

Rt. 3, Box 144, Ardmore, Ok. 73401

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Action Chairman Frances Lewellen

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Study Chairman Wanda Kellett

2603 A Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73505

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Prayer Chairman Gehree McLain

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FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
November 12-14, 1982
Stobtown

Friday, 7:30 p.m., November 12, 1982,
the meeting was called to order by Bro.
David Gardner.

Bro. Jess Gillaspy led, There is Power
In The Blood, with Sis. Shirley McClendon
at the piano.

Prayer by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Singing continued with, I Must Tell
Jesus and Bring Them In.

Special Singing by Bro. and Sis.
Harold Robinson, I Know He Heard My Prayer,
County Line Church, I've Never Been Sorry
and I Want To Stroll Over Heaven.

While Sis. Shirley McClendon sang,
Just Any Day Now, there was a fellowship.

Altar of Prayer led by Bro. David
Gardner.

Bro. Brad Utley brought the evening
message entitled, "Ministering Unto The
Lord, using Acts 13:1-3.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Dale
Howell.

Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., Novem-
ber 13, 1982, Bro. David Gardner called
the meeting to order.

Bro. Jess Gillaspy led, Victory In
Jesus, I Would Not Be Denied and Just A
Little Talk With Jesus, with Sis. Shirley
McClendon at the piano.

Bro. Royce McClendon led in Prayer.

Letters read by Teresa Keck from the
seven Churches present.

Motion carried to accept letters as
read and to seat the Delegates. Right

hand of fellowship was given.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read.

Petitionary letters from County Line Church requesting that Bro. Jerry L. Anderson, pastor be examined for acceptance into Hopewell No. 2 Association.

Lawton First Free Will Baptist Church, requested that Bro. Gary Newnum be examined for licenses to preach for one year, and that Bro. Danny Delcour be examined for licenses to preach for one year.

Lone Grove Free Will Baptist Church requested Gerald Robsion be examined for Ordination as a Deacon, after being on trial for one year.

Rules of Order were read by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. David Gardner invited the visitors to seat in council.

Committees appointed as follows:
Divine Committee: Luther Gaines, Delores Gillaspay, and Ann Christian.

They were dismissed to select the morning Speaker. Bro. Jerry Anderson was selected.

Resolution Committee: Diann Pierson, Temple Grundy and Gary Newnum.

Obituary Committee: Kim Miller, Phillip Howell and Emma Combest.

Temperance Committee: Cindy Staggs, Bum Emerson and Johnnie Grundy.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurers Report given by Sis. Juanita Lowe with a balance on hand of \$1406.26 and the Local Missions Fund of \$2074.13.

Old Business:

Motion carried that each Church send \$20.00 to help build the room at the south west corner of the tabernacle.

Motion carried that \$1000.00 be taken out of the Camp Ground Savings Account and it be put into the Camp Ground Checking Account.

Motion carried to accept the resignation of Luther Gaines off of the Standing Camp Ground Board.

Bro. Temple Grundy was elected by acclamation to fill the vacancy on the Camp Ground Board.

Motion carried to adjourn until the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

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

Morning Worship began with singing, Where We'll Never Grow Old and Amazing Grace, led by Bro. Jess Gillaspay, with Sis. Mary Beth Bray at the piano.

Special singing, Sis. Glenda Delcour, Whatever It Takes and Sis. Terry Gardner, It's Jesus and Me.

The Message was brought by Bro. Jerry Anderson on Obedience, from II Kings 5:1-14.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Jess Gillaspay for lunch.

The assistant Moderator, Bro. Beryl Blair called the business to order at 1:15 p.m.

With Sis. Diane Pierson at the piano, Bro. J.T. McClanahan led the singing of Power In The Blood, Won't It Be Wonderful There and He Set Me Free.

Bro. John Bullard led in Prayer.

Special singing by Bro. Jerry Anderson, I'll Fly Away, Matthew 24, and I Would Not Be Denied.

New Business:

Credential Board recommendations:

1. We have examined Bro. Jerry Anderson and find him sound in doctrine and accept him into full fellowship of the Hopewell No. 2 Association upon a letter of recommendation from his Association.

Motion carried to receive the recommendation.

2. We have examined Bro. Gary Newnum and find him sound in doctrine and recommend him to be licensed for one year.

Motion carried to receive the recommendation.

3. We have examined Bro. Danny Delcour and find him sound in doctrine and recommend him to be licensed for one year.

Motion carried to receive the recommendation.

4. We have examined Bro. Gerald Robinson and find him sound in doctrine and recommend him to be ordained as a Deacon.

Motion carried to receive the recommendation.

Signed: Bro. D.G. Gardner, Bro. W.L. Lowe, Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, and Bro. J. L. Gillaspy.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee Report. Bro. Lee Battles deceased from Lone Grove. A moment of silent prayer, with Bro. John Bullard concluding the prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report: 1. That each Church pray and work toward getting more young people into our Churches. 2. That we work toward more fellowship between our Associational Churches.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee Recommendations: 1. To support the Revivals of all Churches within the

Association and to improve Associational unity.

Motion carried to release the Committees.

Motion carried to establish a three man Local Mission Board.

Motion carried to rescind the above motion on establishing a three man Local Mission Board.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissed in Prayer by Bro. Jess Gillaspay.

Bro. David Gardner then had an Altar of Prayer.

Bro. Myrl Kellett, Brought a Devotion from II Kings 6:17, entitled the, Upper Forces.

The meeting was dismissed in Prayer by Bro. Gary Newnum.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT First Quarter

Income from Churches	\$2417.71
Balance in Association Fund	1406.26
Local Missions	2074.13

Expenses:

State Giving	\$1542.00
Assoc. Evangelist	200.00
Campground Board	262.34
OG&E	161.42
Water Dept.	319.00
Ledger Sheets	11.18
State Delegate fees	<u>245.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$1406.26

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FIRST QUARTER

CHURCH	RE- ceived	State CO-OP	F. M.	S.M.	Hills Dale	Camp Ground	G.F.	L.M.	H.M.
Country Side	132.50	41.25			8.25	8.25	70.64		4.11
County Line	196.37	58.90			11.78	11.79	84.46	23.55	4.11
Duncan	76.00					21.00	55.00		
Lawton	635.29	275.15			55.03	85.03	192.57		27.51
Lone Grove	136.90	50.95			10.19	10.19	60.48		5.09
Midway	907.90		381.45	115.00	356.45		55.00		
Stob Town	306.08		135.00			101.08	70.00		
Mrs. Noah Smith	50.00					25.00	25.00		
In- terest	26.71							26.71	
Totals	2467.75	426.25	516.45	115.00	441.70	262.34	613.15	50.26	42.60

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING
February 11-12, 1983
Duncan

Friday, February 11, 1983, 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association began the evening services with Bro. Beryl Blair calling on Bro. Cleo Chism to lead in prayer.

With Teresa Keck at the piano, Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing, Victory In Jesus, The Gloryland Way, I Want To Know More About My Lord and I'd Rather be An Old Time Christian.

Bro. Gibson led in Prayer.

The County Line Church sang, I Want To Stroll Over Heaven. Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson sang, Wait A Little Longer Please Jesus.

Message was brought by James Benge, from Philippians 2:1-12.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Myrl F. Kellett.

Saturday, February 12, 1983, 9:30 a.m. the Business Meeting was called to order by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Teresa Keck at the piano, Bro. J.T. McClanahan led the singing, Breathe On Me.

The seven Church letters were read by Teresa Keck.

Motion carried to receive the letters and seat the delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given while Bro. J.T. McClanahan led the singing of, How Great Thou Art.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read.

Petitionary letters were read from Lawton for Bro. Warren Green to be examined and received into the fellowship as an ordained

Minister.

Eastside Duncan requested that Rev. J.W. Craft be examined as a Minister into the fellowship of the Association.

Motion carried to receive the letters.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Visitors were invited to seat in council.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Divine Committee: Kim Miller, Maxine Balthrop, and Diane Pierson.

Resolution Committee: Roy Early, Danny Delcour and Richard Emberly.

Obituary Committee: Cindy Staggs, Judy Kyle and Reshinda Anderson.

Temperance Committee: Geneva Hughes, Helen Kyle, and Glenda Delcour.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurers report by Sis. Juanita Lowe, with a balance on hand of \$1310.45.

Letters of recommendation were read for Bro. Jerry Anderson and Bro. John Bullard, from their Associations and received.

Motion carried to adjourn until 11:00 a.m. Worship.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. J.W. Craft.

Reconvened at 11:00 a.m. with singing, Standing on The Promises, led by Bro. J.T. McClanahan, with Teresa Keck at the piano.

Special singing by Terry Pierson, Jesus Is Precious, Rev. Jerry Anderson, When We All Get To Heaven and Count Your Blessings.

Bro. Warren Green, brought the morning Message entitled, "The Word of God," Proverbs 30:5 and John 1:1-2.

Dismissed for lunch with Bro. Myrl F. Kellett praying the benediction.

Business resumed at 1:10 p.m., with singing, To God Be The Glory, with Bro. J.T. McClanahan.

Bro. Harold Robinson led in Prayer.

Bro. Gary Newnum gave the Devotional from Hebrews 12:1-2.

Bro. Jerry Anderson and the County Line Church, sang, At The Cross and Send The Light.

Bro. Jerry Anderson sang, Matthew 24.

Motion to rent the Camp Ground to different Christian Denominations.
Seconded.

Motion carried to table the above motion until the Executive Board finds out if this would affect the insurance on the Camp Ground.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurers report given by, Bro. J.L. Gillaspy with a balance of \$2140.05 on hand.

Sis. Juanita Lowe, announced the Hopewell No. 2 Woman's Auxiliary Prayer Retreat, June 3-4, 1983 at the Camp Ground.

Camp Ground Report was given by Bro. Harold Robinson and received.

Motion carried to receive the Cred-ential Report, recommending the acceptance of Bro. Warren Green and Bro. J.W. Craft, into the fellowship of the Association upon a letter of recommendation from their Association.

A letter from Bro. Warren Green's Association and Church in Tennessee was read and received.

Motion carried to have Youth Camp, June 12-17, 1983

Motion carried that Bro. Jerry Anderson be the Youth Camp Director.

Motion carried to have an Evangelist outside of the Association and that he be paid \$200.00.

Bro. Millard McGuire was elected by acclamation as the Evangelist.

Report of Committees were given as follows:

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee, Sis. Birdie Cypert from Lone Grove was deceased.

A moment of silent prayer with Bro. Myrl Kellett, concluding the prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee recommendations.

1. That our Churches take a definite stand against parimutual betting.

2. That ladies wearing pants in the Church services be discouraged.

3. That our Churches support prayer in our Schools.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee recommendations.

1. That we try to have total participation from all Churches in all activities of the Association, such as, Ministers and Deacons Conferences, Camp Ground Activities, Associational Meetings and Woman's Auxiliary.

Announcements:

Ministers and Deacons Meeting, April 30, 1983, at Lawton.

Motion carried to release the Committees.

Motion carried to adjourn.

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

Bro. Beryl Blair, Asst. Moderator
Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT
Second Quarter

Income from Churches	\$2208.00
Balance in Association Fund .	1310.45
Local Missions balance . . .	2117.03

Expenses:

Minutes	\$ 273.60
State Giving	1746.13
Campground Board .	203.80
OG&E	50.28
Water Dept.	<u>30.00</u>
Total Paid Out. . . .	\$2303.81

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING
May 13-14, 1983

May 13, 1983, the Hopewell No. 2 Association, meeting was called to order by Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Prayer led by, Bro. Ralph Mullins.

Bro. Rocky Keck, led the singing of Near the Cross, Victory In Jesus; When We All Get to Heaven, and This Little Light of Mine, with Sis. Teresa Keck at the piano.

Testimony Service was led by Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Special singing by, Sis. Judy Baldwin, Put Some Lillies In My Valley. Rocky and Teresa Keck, I Know Who Holds Tomorrow. Bro. and Sis. Ralph Mullins and Bro. Jess Gillaspay, What A Day That Will Be. Melody Craft, Welcome. Teresa Keck and Reshinda Anderson, He's My Friend, He's My Lord.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, brought the evening Message from the Scripture text,

GIVING BY CHURCHES - SECOND QUARTER

CHURCH	Re- Ceived	State CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	Hills Dale	Camp Ground	G.F.	L.M.	H.M.
Country Side	82.50	41.25			8.25	8.25	20.64		4.11
County Line	93.28	38.87			7.77	7.77	19.44	15.54	3.89
Lawton Lone Grove	354.76	177.37			35.48	35.48	88.69		17.74
	477.22	228.61			45.72	65.72	114.30		22.87
Midway Stob Town In- Terest	999.20		454.60	110.00	414.60	20.00			
	216.58		135.00			66.58	15.00		
	27.36							27.36	
Totals	2250.90	486.10	589.60	110.00	511.82	203.80	258.07	42.90	48.61

Third Quarterly Meeting continued.

Ezekiel 22:30, titled, God's Looking For A Man.

Sis. Wanda Kellett dismissed in prayer.

May 14, 1983, 9:30 a.m., the Quarterly meeting reconvened with Bro. David Gardner calling the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer by, Bro. W.L. Lowe.

Bro. Jess Gillaspy led the singing, Just Over In Gloryland and Victory In Jesus, with Diane Pierson at the piano.

Bro. Warren Green led in prayer.

Sis. Teresa Keck read the Church letters. Those reporting, Lawton, Midway, Duncan, County Line, Lone Grove and Stobtown.

Motion carried to receive the letters and seat the Delegates while Sis. Teresa Keck, played Amazing Grace.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read.

Motion carried to receive the Petitionary letter from Midway for Bro. Terry Pierson to be examined for Ordination as a Deacon.

Note: Lone Grove Church reported that Bro. Gerald Robsion and Bro. Carlos Ramon, resigned as Deacons.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Visitors were invited to seat in council.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Divine Committee: Delores Gillaspy, Kim Miller, and Harold Robinson.

The Speaker chosen for the morning message was Bro. Leon Baldwin.

Resolution Committee: Jerry Streatly, Terry Pierson, and David Fullingim.

Obituary Committee: Diane Pierson, Karen Howell, and Cora Robbins.

Temperance Committee: Kathy Elam, Judy Kyle, and Reshinda Anderson.

Treasurers report was given by Sis. Juanita Lowe with \$1587.99 balance on hand. Local Missions balance on hand \$2155.22. Motion carried to receive the report.

The 11:00 a.m. worship begin with Bro. Jess Gillaspay leading singing of Just A Little Talk With Jesus and I'll Be Listning, with Sis. Diane Pierson at the piano.

Special singing by Stobtown, That Glad Reunion Day.

Bro. Leon Baldwin brought the message from the Scripture Text, Proverbs 29:18, titled "With No Vision The People Perish."

An altar of prayer followed with a testimony service led by Bro. David Gardner.

Bro. Harold Robinson dismissed in prayer and ask the blessing on the noon meal.

The business reconvened at 12:30 p.m.
Unfinished business:

Letter of recommendation fro Bro. J.W. Craft was read from his local Church in Ohio.

Letter of recommendation was read for Bro. Jerry Anderson from the Canadian Association.

New Business:

Motion carried to remove Bro. Mike Richardson from the Credential Board.

Bro. Ralph Mullins was elected to the Credential Board as the two year man.

Motion carried that the Executive Board visit the Country Side Church to see why they have not been represented by letter the last two Associational Meetings.

Motion carried that the Executive Board dispose of the old piano at the Camp Ground.

The Ministers and Deacons ask the Associational Churches to help purchase another piano. (It was purchased from Danny and Glenda Delcour of Lawton for \$300.00.)

Motion carried to have a four night Revival before the Annual Business Meeting. Date: August 8-11, 1983, 7:30 p.m.

Bro. Leon Baldwin was elected by acclamation for the Evangelist.

Announcement from County Line that everyone was invited to their Youth Service the last Saturday in June at 7:30 p.m.

Board Reports:

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurers report with \$1991.86 balance from Savings and Checking account.

Bro. Harold Robinson, chairman of the Camp Ground Board gave a report on the work and progress of the Youth Camp. He commended those who helped labor on this project. Liability Insurance covers the children in all areas of the Camp Ground. Motion carried to receive the report.

Motion carried to receive the Cred-

ential Board report and accept the reco-
mmendations.

We the Credential Board have examined Terry Pierson and have found him sound in doctrine and recommend him for Ordination as a Deacon. Signed, David L. Gardner, Jess Gillaspy, W. L. Lowe and Myrl F. Kellett.

Motion carried to receive the Obit-
uary report as follows, Bro. Fred Nord-
man and Sis. Louise Heath from County
Line and Bro. Claud Miller from Stobtown.
A moment of silent prayer was offered
with Bro. Beryl Blair concluding the
prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Temp-
erance Committee recommendations.

We recommend that we as Christians
should live according to the true Word of
God, as the Scriptures teach, in conver-
sation, deeds, also in actions and to
refrain from all appearance of evil.

Motion carried to receive the Resol-
ution Committee report and adopt the
business item by item.

1. That we set a date for the
Churches of the Association to meet at
the Camp Ground for singing, preaching,
and dinner on the ground. Date: August
6, 1983, starting at 10:00 a.m. Speaker
will be selected that day.

2. That we have a Youth Rally the
Saturday following the Quarterly Meeting
beginning after the Annual Business Meet-
ing at the Camp Ground.

3. That the Youth Rally meet there-
after at the Church where the Quarterly
Meeting met the Saturday before.

4. That we devote more time toward
our youth.

Sis. Sheila Anderson was elected by acclamation for Youth Rally Co-Ordinator.
Motion carried to release the Committees.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Bro. Jerry Anderson dismissed in prayer.

David Gardner, Moderator
Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT Third Quarter

Income from Churches	\$2545.05
Balance in Association Fund . .	1587.99
Local Missions	2155.22

Expenses:

State Givings	\$1814.96
Campground Fund	372.63
OG&E	50.47
Water Dept.	30.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$2268.06</u>

THE 51st ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF HOPEWELL NO. 2 CONVENED AT THE CAMP GROUND August 12-13, 1983

August 12, 1983, 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association yearly conference was called to order by Bro. David Gardner. Prayer led by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. Rock Keck led the singing, Victory In Jesus, We'll Work Til Jesus Comes, and Hand In Hand With Jesus. Sis. Teresa Keck at the piano.

Testimony service led by Bro. David Gardner.

Special singing by Bro. Harold Robinson

GIVING BY CHURCHES - THIRD QUARTER

CHURCH	Re- Ceived	State CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	Hills Dale	Camp Ground	G.F.	L.M.	H.M.
Country Side	82.50	41.25			8.25	8.25	20.64		4.11
County Line	219.14	90.47			18.09	18.09	45.25	38.19	9.05
Duncan	42.00					42.00			
Lawton	1053.95	341.98	200.00		68.40	238.40	170.98		34.19
Lone Grove	464.45	232.21			46.44	46.44	116.14		23.22
Midway	652.30		328.65	65.00	258.65				
Stob Town	69.45		45.00			19.45	5.00		
Totals	2583.79	705.91	573.65	65.00	399.83	372.63	358.01	38.19	70.57

Bro. and Sis. Myrl F. Kellett, There Is A River, County Line Church, Don't You Want to Go and My God Is Real. Bro. and Sis. Rocky Keck, Leave It There and Bro. and Sis. W.L. Lowe and Bro. and Sis. Robin Cousino, O How I Love Jesus.

Bro. W. L. Lowe brought the evening message from the Scripture text I Corinthians 13:13, entitled, "Love".

Altar call was given while singing Just As I am.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay dismissed in prayer.

August 13, 1983, 9:30 a.m., Bro. David Gardner called the meeting to order. Bro. Jess Gillaspay led the singing, I'll Be Somewhere Listening and He Set Me Free. The pianist was Sis. Burneze Mullins.

Prayer by Bro. Warren Green.

Letters were read from all seven Churches by Sis. Teresa Keck.

Motion carried to receive the letters and to seat the delegates.

Right hand of fellowship was given as Sis. Teresa Keck played Amazing Grace.

No Petitionary letters.

Bro. Cleo Chism submitted a letter of resignation, from the Standing Camp Ground Board, because of illness in the family.

Motion carried to receive the letter of resignation.

Letter from the Executive Board of their visit to Country Side Church was read and received as a point of information.

Visitors were invited to seat in council. Guests were Bro. N. R. Smith,

Sis. Noah Smith and her Grand Daughter.
Committees were appointed as follows:
Resolution Committee, Bro. J. W.

Craft, Bro. Gary Newnum and Sis. Shirley
McDaniels.

Obituary Committee, Sis. Donna
Hudson, Sis. Burneze Mullins and Bro.
Robin Cousino.

Temperance Committee, Bro. Harold
Robinson, Sis. Kim Miller, and Sis.
Delores Gillaspy.

Motion carried to receive the Treas-
urers report given by Sis. Juanita Lowe
with \$1769.98 balance on hand. Local
Mission Fund balance \$2233.23.

Bro. N. R. Smith spoke concerning
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and
the building progress of the State Office.

Motion carried to recess until 11:00
o'clock worship and to resume business
at 1:00 p.m.

Worship service was opened with sing-
ing, Just A Little Talk With Jesus, I'll
Fly Away, Victory In Jesus and When We
All Get To Heaven, led by Bro. Jerry And-
erson, with Sis. Teresa Keck at the piano.

Special singing by, Bro and Sis.
Harold Boerstler, In The Garden, Sis.
Shirley McDaniels, After All, and the
County Line Church, I've Never Been Sorry
and I'll Meet You By The River.

Prayer by Bro. John Bullard.

The message was brought by Bro. David
Gardner from James 3:5-8.

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

Business resumed at 1:00 p.m.

Motion carried to give \$400.00 for

Choir Robes for Hillsdale.

Motion carried that any Minister or Deacon that is absent two meetings without written excuse lose the right to vote in the Association until they come to the Association in person and apologize.

Motion carried the Association set the work days for the Youth Camp Grounds.

Motion carried to have Youth Camp June 11-15, 1984.

Motion carried to have a four night Revival preceding the August 10-11, 1984 Associational Meeting.

Motion carried that we elect an Evangelist at the next Associational Meeting.

Motion carried to accept the tent from the Lawton Church.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Board Treasurer report of \$1175.86 balance on hand given by Bro. Jess Gill-aspay.

Bro. Jerry Anderson gave an oral report on the Youth Encampment. A great Revival, with 63 Born Again experiences or rededications.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary report as follows: Seth Staggs, Fred Nordman, Louise Heath and Ona Southern, County Line. Claud Miller, Stobtown. Birdie Cypert and Lee Battles, Lone Grove. A moment of silent prayer with Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, concluding the prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report as follows:

1. That Christians should take a stand against liquor by the drink and do whatever possible to promote its defeat.

2. To promote prayers in School.

3. That each Church be reminded the importance of supporting the Association.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report as follows:

1. To have a petition from each Church in the Association and it be sent to the Honorable George Nigh to stop Madeline O'Hare from taking prayer off of Commercial Airlines.

Motion carried to set a Youth Camp work day October 1, 1983.

Motion carried that the Camp Ground Board be given authority to repair or rebuild the kitchen so as to be insured and useable.

Motion carried that if the Board exceeds the funds in the Treasurer, that they get an estimate and so inform the Associational Churches and they in turn supply the funds.

Motion carried to elect an Executive Board member in place of James Benge.

Bro. Warren Green was elected as the three year man.

Bro. John Bullard was elected for the five year man.

Bro. Jerry Anderson was elected to the Standing Camp Ground Board in place of Bro. Cleo Chism.

Bro. Robin Cousino was elected to the Standing Camp Ground Board in place of Bro. Billy Christian.

Bro. Doug Hudson was elected to replace Bro. Temple Grundy on the Standing Camp Ground Board.

Election of Officers as follows:

Reporter Susie Robinson

Treasurer Juanita Lowe
 Asst. Treasurer . . . W. L. Lowe
 Clerk Wanda Kellett
 Asst. Clerk Teresa Keck
 Moderator Warren Green
 Asst. Moderator . . . Beryl Blair

Associational Meetings and Speakers
 were selected as follows:

November 11-12, 1983, Stobtown,
 speaker, Bro. J.W. Craft.

February 10-11, 1984, Midway,
 speaker, Bro. Jerry Anderson.

May 11-12, 1984, Eastside Duncan,
 speaker, Bro. Warren Green.

August 10-11, 1984, Camp Ground,
 Friday night speaker, Bro. Myrl F. Kellett,
 Memorial Speaker, Saturday morning,
 Bro. John Bullard.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett was elected as
 the General Board member for the State
 Association Meeting for 1984.

Announcements: Youth Rally at Youth
 Camp, August 20, 1983, 7:30 p.m.

Woman's Auxiliary Prayer Retreat,
 September 23-24, 1983, at Camp Ground,
 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Friday.

Minutes were read before adjournment.

Motion carried to adjourn.

David Gardner, Moderator

Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURERS REPORT - FOURTH QUARTER

Received	\$3300.26
Balance in Association Fund . .	1769.98
Balance in Local Mission Fund .	2233.23

Expenses:

Lawton Church (Piano) . .	\$ 50.00
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Treasurers report - fourth quarter cont.

State Giving	\$2442.98
Campground Fund	378.77
OG&E	174.22
Water Dept.	69.25
Book Store	<u>3.05</u>
Total Paid Out	\$3118.27

YEARLY REPORT, August 1982 - 1983.

Total Received	\$10,471.35
Total Paid Out	10,431.08

Balance in Association Acct.	\$1769.98
Balance in Local Missions Acct.	2233.23

HOPEWELL NO. 2 MINISTERS AND DEACONS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

Moderator	Beryl Blair
Secretary & Treas. .	Ralph Mullins
Asst. Sec.& Treas.	J.T. McClanahan

MEETINGS:

October 22, 1983---	7:00 p.m.
January 28, 1984---	7:00 p.m.
April 28, 1984----	7:00 p.m.
July 28, 1984-----	7:00 p.m.

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FOURTH QUARTER

CHURCH	Re- Ceived	State Co-Op	F.M.	S.M.	Hills Dale	Cmp Ground	G.F.	L.M.	H.M.
Country Side	82.50	41.25			8.25	8.25	20.64		4.11
County Line	127.18	52.99			10.60	10.60	26.50	21.18	5.31
Lawton	599.17	299.58			59.92	59.92	149.80		29.95
Lone Grove	826.21	413.09			82.62	82.62	206.57		41.31
Midway	1319.00		589.50	60.00	519.50	150.00			
Stob Town	367.38		225.00			117.38	25.00		
In- Terest	56.83							56.83	
Totals	3378.27	806.91	814.50	60.00	680.89	428.77	428.51	78.01	80.68

GIVING BY CHURCHES - YEARLY REPORT

Church	Re- Ceived	State Co-op	F.M.	S.M.	Hills Dale	Camp Ground	G.F.	L.M.	H.M.
Country Side	380.00	165.00			33.00	33.00	132.56		16.44
County Line	635.97	241.23			48.24	48.25	175.65	98.46	24.14
Duncan	118.00					21.00	97.00		
Lawton Lone Grove	2643.17	1094.08	200.00		218.83	418.83	602.04		109.39
Midway Stop Town	3878.40	924.86	1754.20	350.	184.97	204.97	497.49		92.49
Other	50.00								
In- terest	110.90							110.90	
Totals	10680.71	2425.17	2494.20	350.	2034.24	1225.54	1699.74	209.36	242.46

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Countyline P.O. Box 236 Countyline, Ok. 73025	Jerry Anderson Rt.1, Box 462B Newcastle, Ok. 73065 Ph: 392-5531	Amelia McClanahan Rt.3, Box 88 Duncan, Ok. 73533 Ph: 444-2355
Countryside Box 235 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-3530	John Bullard Box 919 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-3530	Dalphine Cox Ratliff City, Ok. 73081 Ph: 444-2363
East Duncan 1313 Chestnut Box 1413 Duncan, Ok. Ph: 252-0519	Beryl Blair 707 Patterson Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-2311	Jerri Strealy 107 W. Elder Duncan, Ok. 73533 Ph: 252-0607
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, Okla. 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 31C Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-4192
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 154C Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Warren Green Rt.3, Box 154C 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	Duncan, Okla.	
Howard Walker	2816 San Saba Ft. Worth, Tx. 76114	817-625-4706
Brad Utley	909 City Ave.#162 Moore, Ok. 73160	794-1412

LICENSED MINISTERS

Gary Newnum	6603 B McGlachlin Ft.Sill, Ok. 73503	357-3406
Danny Delcour	496-74-8180 4th U.S.A. Fad. A.P.O. N.Y 09078	

ORDAINED DEACONS

Harold Boerstler	721 N. 8th Duncan, Ok.73533	255-7015
Cleo Ghism	508 S. 13th Lawton, Ok.73501	353-8482
Forest Cox	Rt.1, Box 46 Ratliff City, Ok. 73081	444-2584

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

Billy Christian	St.Rt., Box 17 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-4842
Luther Eason	Rt. 2 Duncan, Ok.	252-0239
Jess Gillaspay	Box 3 Countyline, Ok. 73025	856-3462
Dale Howell	St.Rt., Box A104 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-3836
Othel Kyle	Rt.3, Box 41 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
Terry Pierson	Box 6 Graham, Ok. 73437	673-2109

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

Ed Roberson	1122 Maple Lawton, Ok. 73502	357-4058
Leonard Robinson	St. Rt. Box 20 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-4742
Loray Spurgin	Box 242 Velma, Ok. 73091	444-2527
Sam Staggs	Box 126 County Line, Ok. 73025	
Richard Watkins	Box 235 Fox, Ok. 73435	673-2798

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 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 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.

