

Minutes

Hopewell No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

52nd Annual Meeting

1984

MINUTES OF THE
52nd ANNUAL MEETING
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1984

- OFFICERS -

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

Assistant Moderator Beryl Blair
707 Patterson, Comanche, Ok. 73529
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Clerk Wanda Kellett
2603 A Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73505
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Assistant Clerk Burneze Mullins
P.O. Box 42, Countyline, Ok. 73025
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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. 43401
Phone: 657-4192

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Tommy Brown	5 Years
J. W. Craft	4 Years
Myrl F. Kellett	3 Years
W. L. Lowe	2 Years
David Gardner	1 Year

STANDING CAMP GROUND BOARD

Steve Robinson

Rt. 3, Box 144, Ardmore Ok. 43401
Phone: 657-4192

Jerry Anderson

Rt. 1, Box 462-B, Newcastle, Ok. 73065
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Richard Emberling

512 Stanolind, Healdton, Ok. 73438
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Doug Hudson

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

Jess Gillaspay, Treasurer

Box 3, Countyline, Ok. 73025
Phone: 356-3462

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Juanita Lowe
Rt. 1, Box 76, Healdton, Ok. 73438
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Vice President &
Field Worker Diann Pierson
Box 6, Graham, Ok. 73437
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Secretary Judy Kyle
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Treasurer Susie Robinson
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Action Chairman Terri Gardner
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Study Chairman Wanda Kellett
2603 A Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73505
Phone: 355-4668

Prayer Chairman Gehree McLain
Rt. 1, Box 111, Ratliff City, Ok. 73081
Phone: 856-3554

* THEME *

"Being Filled With The Spirit."

Eph. 5:8

John 14:16-17

MEETINGS

10-27-84, Lawton, The Holy Spirit A Leader.
1-19-85, Country Side, The Holy Spirit Prays.
3-16-85, Midway, Evidence of the Spirit.
4-20-85, Lone Grove, Spirit of Love.
7-20-85, Stobtown, Spirit of Guidance.

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
November 11-12, 1983
Stobtown

Friday, 7:30 p.m., November 11, 1983,
Bro. Warren Green opened the Service with
the reading of Psalm 100.

Bro. Beryl Blair led in prayer.

Bro. Rocky Keck led the singing, My
God Is Real, Glad Reunion Day and I Want
To Know More About My Lord, with Sis. Teresa
Keck at the piano.

Special singing by Bro. and Sis.
Marshall Robinson, Make Room In The Life
Boat and I Couldn't Make It Without Him,
Countyline Church, I Want To Stroll All
Over Heaven and Stobtown, I Shall Not Be
Moved and Standing On The Solid Rock.

Bro. J.W. Craft brought the evening
Message from II Peter 2:14-17.

Invitational song was Just As I Am.

Bro. Myrl Kellett dismissed in prayer.

Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., Nov.
12, 1983, Bro. Warren Green called for a
motion to go into conference.

Motion carried to go into conference.

Bro. W. L. Lowe led in prayer.

Bro. Warren Green, selected Bro. W.L.
Lowe as the Assistant Moderator for the day.

Bro. Luther Gaines led, Come and Dine,
and I'll Be Listning, with Sis. Mary Beth
Bray at the piano.

Sis. Teresa Keck read six Church letters.
Eastside Duncan did not have a letter.

Motion carried to seat the Delegates.
The right hand of fellowship was given while
Sis. Teresa Keck played, There Is Power In
The Blood.

Minutes were read and approved.

Petionary letters from Lawton was read
and received.

Motion carried to extend Bro. Gary Newnum's licenses for three months.

Motion carried to extend Bro. Danny Delcour's licenses for one year.

Letter of resignation from the Executive Board by Bro. Royce McClendon was read. Motion carried to accept his resignation.

Letters from Bro. Dale Howell and Bro. Beryl Blair, excusing them from the conference was read and accepted.

Bro. W.L. Lowe read the rules of order.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Divine Committee: Cindy Staggs, Donna Hudson and Nora Truitt.

Resolution Committee: Luther Gaines, Marshall Robinson and Crystal Cousino.

Obituary Committee: Kim Miller, Harold Robinson and Doug Hudson.

Temperance Committee: Myrtle Norton, Donna Gothard and Charlene Robinson.

The Divine Committee was dismissed to select a morning speaker. Bro. Myrl F. Kellett was selected.

Unfinished Business:

Bro. Dale Vanderburg was elected for the Associational Evangelist in August. The Alternate, Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Motion carried to pay the Evangelist \$200.00 plus love offerings.

New Business:

Motion carried to receive the Treasurers report given by Bro. W. L. Lowe with a balance on hand of \$1727.49 and \$2251.82 balance on hand in the Local Missions Fund.

Motion carried that the Executive Board investigate the ownership of the Camp Ground and that evidence of ownership be sent to each Church.

Motion carried to accept Camp Ground Treasurers report of \$547.54 balance on hand. Note: \$689.00 Insurance due.

Bro. Harold Robinson Camp Ground Board Chairman gave an oral report and then resigned from the Board for lack of support on Camp Ground projects.

Motion carried to receive his resignation.

Motion carried to adjourn for morning Worship.

The service opened with singing led by Bro. Luther Gaines, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms, In The Shadow of The Cross and That's Him, with Sis. Mary Beth Bray at the piano.

Special singing by Bro. and Sis. Marshall Robinson, I Wish I Had Done More, Sis. Crystal Cousino and Sis. Debbie Torres, One Day Too Late and Bro. and Sis. Myrl Kellelt, I'm Building A Bridge.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellelt, Brought the morning Message from II Timothy 4:2, entitled "Preach The Word."

Bro. John Bullard dismissed in prayer and asked the Blessing upon the noon meal.

The Conference resumed business at 1:00 p.m.

Reports of Boards:

Motion carried to receive the General Board report given by Bro. Myrl Kellelt.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committees recommendations.

1. That all members take a stand and vote against paramutual betting.

2. That all members take a stand and vote against liquor by the drink.

3. That all members work to have alcoholic beverage commercials taken off the air.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report of no deaths.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report that we as Christians, study our Bibles more, show more Brotherly Love, one to another and keep ourselves as Christians should be and witness to the lost.

Motion carried that Bro. Jess Gillaspy be paid \$25.00 for hauling building material to the Camp Ground.

Motion carried that the motion on page 24 of the 1983 minutes be voided that reads 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 to record Woman's Auxiliary and Ministers and Deacons Officers in the minutes.

Motion carried that the Associational Treasurer pay the Insurance on the Camp Ground Buildings.

Bro. W.L. Lowe was elected to the Executive Board for the four year man.

Bro. Warren Green was elected to the Standing Camp Ground Board.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Bro. Warren Green, Moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

First Quarter

Income from Churches	\$2952.94
Balance in Ass'n Fund.	1727.49
Local Missions	2251.82
Expenses::	

Hillsdale (Choir Robes). . . \$	400.00
Cleaning Campground	25.00
State Delegates Fees	245.00
State Giving	2035.65
Campground Fund	193.15
OG&E	58.63
Water Department	30.50
Copies	3.50
Stamps	4.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$2995.43</u>

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
Country line	161.60	46.50			9.30	9.30	73.26	18.59	4.65
Duncan	100.00					50.00	50.00		
Lawton	519.00	232.00			46.40	46.40	171.00		23.20
Lone Grove	446.92	198.46			39.69	39.69	149.24		19.84
Midway	1322.00		631.00	90.00	551.00		50.00		
Stob town	189.51		90.00			39.51	60.00		
Noah Smith	100.00						100.00		
Totals \$2971.53	518.21	721.00	90.00	654.64	193.15	724.14	18.59	51.80	

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

February 10-11, 1984

Midway

Friday, February 10, 1984, 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association began the evening services with Bro. Beryl Blair calling on Bro. W.L. Lowe to lead in prayer.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay led the singing, In The Shadow of the Cross, I'll Be Listning and Won't It Be Wonderful There, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

An Altar of Prayer was led by Bro. Troy Lewellen for the sick and the Quarterly Meeting.

Special Singing by Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, Two Winning Hands and Midway Church, To God Be Glory.

Bro. Jerry Anderson brought the evening Message, "Be Converted to Jesus," from Psalms 39:1-13.

Bro. J.W. Craft dismissed in prayer.

February 11, 1984, Saturday morning at 9:30 the regular business convened with Bro. Beryl Blair calling the meeting to order.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay led the singing, How Great Thou Art, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Bro. Earl Scroggins led in prayer.

Letters were read from seven Churches by Teresa Keck.

Motion carried to receive the Letters and seat the Delegates.

Bro. Jess Gillaspay led, Amazing Grace, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano, while right hand of fellowship was given to the Delegates.

Motion carried that Bro. Myrl Kellett act as the Assistant Moderator for the day.

Minutes were read and approved.

Petitionary letters were read.

The Lawton Church requested that Bro. Gary Newnum be examined for ordination as a Minister.

Rules of order were read by Bro. Myrl Kellett.

Visitors were invited to seat in council.

Appointment of Committees as follows:
Divine Committee: Sis. Delores Gillaspay, Bro. Harold Robinson and Sis. Judy Kyle.

Bro. Earl Scroggins was chosen for the morning Speaker.

Resolution Committee: Sis. Cora Dobbins, Sis. Myrtle Norton and Sis. Juanna Robsion.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Nora Truitt, Sis. Emma Combest and Sis. Tina Hudson.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Vicki Webb, Sis. Vala Robinson and Sis. Edith Roberts.

Old Business:

No action taken on the ownership of the Camp Ground.

Unfinished Business:

Motion carried that Bro. Earl Scroggins be the Youth Camp Evangelist. Alternate, Bro. Joe Blair.

Motion carried that Bro. David Gardner be the Youth Camp Director and that Bro. Marshall Mitchell be the Assistant.

Motion carried that each Church contribute to pay for the Evangelist.

Motion carried that each Church pay \$30.00 for the Evangelist, making a total of \$210.00.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurers report with a balance on hand \$1007.58. Local Missions balance on hand \$2322.57.

A Thanks was given from Hillsdale College for the donations from the District on the Choir Robes.

Motion carried to fill two vacancies on the Executive Board.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett was elected as the two year man.

Bro. J. W. Craft was elected as the three year man.

Motion carried to recess for the 11:00 a.m. worship and to resume business at 1:00 p.m.

Bro. Myrl Kellett dismissed in prayer.

The Worship Service opened with Bro. Jess Gillaspay leading the Songs, In The Shadow of the Cross, Victory in Jesus and Power in the Blood, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Bro. David Gardner led in prayer.

Special singing, Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, I'll Take Jesus, Countyline, The Gloryland Way and the Stobtown Church, Maybe It's you and Maybe It's Me, and I Want to be Ready to Meet Him.

Bro. Gary Newnum led in prayer.

Bro. Earl Scroggins brought the message from Genesis 50:22-26, entitled "Looking for a Better Land."

Bro. J. W. Craft dismissed in prayer and blessed the Noon meal.

The Business resumed at 1:00 p.m., with singing Heavenly Sunlight, Bro. Jess Gillaspay leading and Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Prayer by Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Bro. Earl Scroggins, the Assistant Moderator of the State of Oklahoma, showed slides on the new Library Project at Hillsdale College.

Report of Boards:

The Camp Ground Treasurer, Bro. Jess Gillaspay gave a balance on hand of \$739.78. Also he received a letter from the Insurance Company on what had to be done before the Kitchen could be insured.

Executive Board report was given by Bro. W. L. Lowe, stating that Bro. Ralph Mullins was Chairman and that they would meet again soon.

Motion carried to receive the Credent-
ial Board recommendation that Bro. Gary Newnum be ordained as a Minister.

Signed: Bro. David Gardner, Bro. J. W. Craft, Bro. W. L. Lowe, and Bro. Myrl Kellett.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report as follows:

1. To vote against any betting or gambling.
2. To try to get prayer back in schools.

Motion carried to receive the Obit-
uary Committee report, Bro. Marvin Combest, Country Side and Sis. Opal Donham from Stobtown had deceased. A moment of silent prayer was offered with Bro. Harold Robinson concluding the prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Temp-
erance Committee report as follows:

1. Take stand against betting and horse racing.
2. Stand against Lotteries in Oklahoma.
3. Stand against liquor and drugs.
4. Stand against immorality on Television.

Motion carried to release Committees.
Miscellaneous Business:

Motion carried to send \$200.00 to the Hillsdale Library Project, from the Associational Treasurer.

Motion carried to cease having Youth Rallies and that Sister Sheila Anderson be released as Youth Director.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Bro. Harold Boerstler dismissed in prayer.

Adjournment at 2:00 p.m.

Bro. Beryl Blair, Moderator
Wanda Kellett, Clerk

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	67.06	27.94			5.59	5.59	13.99	11.17	2.78
Duncan									
Lawton	672.00	336.00			67.20	67.20	168.00		33.60
Lone Grove	532.62	242.92	46.75		48.59	48.59	121.48		24.29
Midway	1116.00		558.00	75.00	483.00				
Stob town	202.93		135.00			52.93	15.00		
In- terest	59.58							59.58	
Totals	2732.69	648.11	739.75	75.00	612.63	182.56	339.11	70.75	64.78

TREASURER'S REPORT

Second Quarter

Income from Churches	\$2661.94
Balance in Ass'n Fund	1007.58
Local Missions	2322.57

Expenses:

State Giving	\$2140.27
Campground Insurance	689.00
Ass' n Minutes	290.00
Campground Fund	181.87
OG&E	50.71
Water Dept.	30.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$3381.85</u>

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

May 11-12, 1984

Duncan

Friday, 7:30 p.m., May 11, 1984,
Bro. Beryl Blair called the meeting to order.

Bro. Ralph Mullins prayed, then led the singing of Trust and Obey, Tell Me The Story of Jesus and I Want To Know More About My Lord, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

There was a fellowship service, while singing, He Set Me Free.

Special singing by Countyline, I've Never Been Sorry, Vesta Roberts and Audry Roberson sang, No Measure of Time, Marshall and Charlene Robinson, I Needed You and Make Room In The Life Boat.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett led in prayer.

Bro. J. W. Craft brought the message, Nothing Shall Separate Us from the Love of God, Romans 8:25-29.

Bro. Harold Robinson dismissed in prayer.

Saturday morning, 9:30 p.m. May 12, 1984, the meeting was called to order by

Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. David Gardner led in prayer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led, Praise Him,
with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Letters were read by Sis. Burneze Mullins from six Churches. Delegates were seated while singing, Amazing Grace, led by Bro. Ralph Mullins, with Sis. Hughes at the piano.

Bro. David Gardner was Assistant Moderator for the day.

Minutes were read and approved.

Petitionary letter was read from Stobtown that Bro. Steve Robinson be licensed to preach the Gospel.

Rules of order were read by Bro. David Gardner.

Visitors were invited to seat in council.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Divine Committee: Sis. Delores Gillasp, Bro. Bill Roberts, and Judy Kyle.

Bro. Steve Robinson was selected for the morning message.

Resolution Committee: Bro. Lendon Hughes, Sis. Vesta Roberts and Sis. Lilly Emberling.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Cora Dobbins, Bro. Donnie Hudson and Sis. Donna Gothard.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Tonya Allen, Sis. Kathy Elam and Sis. Kimberly Mullins.

Bro. Richard Emberling was elected to serve on the Standing Camp Ground Board in place of Bro. Warren Green.

Motion carried that Russell Owens be granted permission to use the Camp Ground for an area Revival and they pay for the lights and water and acquire their own Insurance.

Sis. Juanita Lowe gave the Treasurers report with \$1053.39 balance on hand and \$2337.83 balance on hand in the Local Missions Fund. Motion carried to receive the report.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer report of \$831.94 balance on hand, given by Bro. Jess Gillaspy.

Motion carried the Camp Ground Board elect their own Chairman and Treasurer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins gave an oral report about the Deed to the Camp Ground.

Motion carried for a five minute recess before the 11:00 a.m. worship.

Service opened with prayer by Bro. James Waldrep.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led, He Lives, The Glory Land Way and He Set Me Free, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Prayer by Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Special singing by Sis. Audry Roberson and Sis. Vesta Roberts, I'd Never Miss Heaven for the World, Stobtown Church sang, I'll Fly Away and An Unclouded Day.

Bro. Steve Robinson brought the Message from I Peter 2:9-10 and Genesis 1:26-27.

Bro. W. L. Lowe dismissed in prayer for the noon meal.

Business resumed at 1:00 p.m.

Prayer by Bro. Jess Gillaspy.

Reports of the Boards:

Motion carried to accept the Credent-
ial Board recommendation, that Bro. Steve Robinson be licensed to preach the Gospel for one year. Signed: Bro. J. W. Craft, Bro. W. L. Lowe, Bro. David Gardner and Bro. Ralph Mullins.

No Resolutions.

Motion carried to receive the Obit-
uary Committees report that Claud Heath, Countyline and Ronnie Young, Stobtown had deceased. There was a moment of silent prayer.

No Temperance report.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion carried that no smoking be

allowed on the Camp Ground during Youth Camp.

Motion carried that no tobacco be used during Camp at all.

Bro. David Gardner was elected by acclamation as Youth Camp Evangelist.

Bro. Marshall Mitchell will be the Youth Camp Director.

Bro. Steve Robinson was elected by acclamation to be the Assistant Youth Camp Director.

Motion carried to dismiss the Committees.

Ministers and Deacons meeting will be in Lawton, July 28, 1984.

Prayer was requested for Charity Linton, Lawton, and Sis. Spruill of Duncan.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissal prayer by Bro. Ed Roberson.

Bro. Beryl Blair, Moderator

Sis. Naomi Mullins and Sis.

Burneze Mullins, acting Clerks for the day.

TREASURER' S REPORT Third Quarter

Income from Churches	\$2910.14
Balance in Ass'n Fund	1053.39
Local Missions Fund	2337.83

Expenses:

State Givings	\$2198.90
Hillsdale Bldg. Fund	200.00
Campground Fund	381.81
OG&E	53.62
Water Department	30.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$2864.33</u>

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	55.00	27.50			5.50	5.50	13.76		2.74
County Line	91.58	38.16			7.63	7.63	19.08	15.26	3.82
Duncan									
Lawton	808.00	304.00			60.80	260.80	152.00		30.40
Lone Grove	521.17	260.59			52.12	52.12	130.28		26.06
Midway	1244.58		627.29	65.00	552.29				
Stob Town	205.07		135.00			55.07	15.00		
Totals	2925.40	630.25	762.29	65.00	678.34	381.12	330.12	15.26	63.02

THE 52nd ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF
HOPEWELL NO. 2 CONVENED AT THE CAMP GROUND
August 10-11, 1984

August 10, 1984, 7:30 p.m., the Hope-
well No. 2 Association yearly conference
was called to order by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Prayer by Bro. Myrl F. Kellett.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing,
I am Thine O Lord, When We All Get To
Heaven, Victory In Jesus and Higher Ground,
with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Special singing by the Minister and
Deacons wives, In The Garden, Michell &
Blair, He's Everything To Me, Bro. and
Sis. Harold Robinson, Two Winning Hands,
Bro. and Sis. Dale Vanderburg, Is My Lord
Satisfied With Me.

Bro. Dale Vanderburg, the Association-
al Evangelist, brought the evening message
entitled, "Heaven or Hell, Where are you
Going?" Scripture Text, John 5:28-29,
Rev. 21:1-8.

While singing, Amazing Grace, the
right hand of fellowship was given Bro.
and Sis. Dale Vanderburg.

Bro. Ralph Mullins dismissed in
prayer.

August 11, 1984, Saturday morning
at 9:30 a.m., Bro. Beryl Blair called the
meeting to order. Sis. Reba Boerstler led
the singing, When The Roll Is Called Up
Yonder and When They Ring Those Golden
Bells, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the
piano.

Prayer led by Bro. N.R. Smith.

The seven Church letters were read
by Sis. Teresa Keck.

Motion carried to receive the letters
and seat the Delegates. Right hand of

fellowship was given while Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing, Come and Dine, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read.

Motion carried that Bro. Ralph Mullins serve as Assistant Moderation for the day.

Petionary letters were read from Stobtown, that Bro. Tommy Brown be received into the fellowship as an Ordained Minister.

The Countyline Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist request that you add to your agenda under new business, for deliberation the following; 1. Transfer of funds from Local Mission Fund to the Camp Ground Fund. 2. Last Associational financial report shows that the Countyline Church is the only Church supporting the Local Missions Fund, therefore we the Countyline Church recommend these funds be transferred to the Camp Ground account so that better use can be made with these funds. 3. During our regularly called business meeting August 1, 1984, the Countyline Church has moved that we discontinue support of the Local Missions Account until something positive is being done with our support.

Bro. Ralph Mullins read the rules of Order.

Visitors were invited to seat in council. Bro. N.R. Smith and Sis. Noah Smith were guests.

Appointment of Committees as follows:
Resolution Committee: Steve Robinson, Bro. Harold Robinson, and Gilbert Gardner.
Obituary Committee: Sis. Emma Combest, Sis. Vala Robinson and Sis. Melodye Craft.
Temperance Committee: Rev. John Bullard, Bro. Harold Boerstler and Sis. Delores Gillaspy.

Bro. N. R. Smith spoke on Hillsdale and the need of funds for the new Library Building.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurers report with \$1249.93 balance on hand. Local Mission fund balance \$2412.27.

Motion carried to recess until 11:00 a.m. worship.

The 11:00 a.m. Worship Service opened with congregational singing, When The Saints Go Marching In, When We All Get To Heaven and I'll Fly Away led by Bro. Ralph Mullins, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Special singing by Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, I'll Take Jesus, Countyline, I Want To Stroll Over Heaven With You, and My God Is Real, Shirley McDaniels, Thirty Pieces of Silver, Stobtown, This World Is Not My Home, and Steve Robinson, He is Jehovah.

Bro. John Bullard brought the Memorial Message entitled, "The Manifestation of Christ." The Scripture text I John 2:28.

Dismissal prayer for lunch was by Bro. Ralph Mullins.

Business resumed at 1:20 p.m., with singing, Unclouded Day led by Bro. Ralph Mullins, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Bro. Richard Emberling brought the devotion from John 10:10 and Romans 6:10-13.

New Business:

Bro. Ralph Mullins gave a report from the Executive Board, that a copy of the Camp Ground Deed had been mailed to all the Churches and one to the Associational Clerk.

Motion carried that the Association have a Camp Meeting beginning June 3, 1985, selecting the speaker each service by putting the names of all the preachers in a hat and draw a name two hours before time to preach.

Motion carried to have Youth Camp June 16-21, 1985.

Motion carried to have a Youth Retreat in September with Bro. Steve Robinson in charge. Bro. Steve will set the date.

Motion carried to have Bro. Steve Robinson as the Youth Camp Director in June, 1985.

Motion carried that Bro. Richard Embertling be the Assistant Youth Camp Director.

Motion carried to receive the Youth Camp Directors report on the income and expenses of the Youth Camp. Total expense \$803.55.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer report of \$396.47 balance on hand, given by Bro. Jess Gillaspay.

Motion carried to receive the Credentia
l Board recommendation, having examined Bro. Tommy Brown, found him sound in doctrine and recommend that he be received into full fellowship upon receiving a letter of recommendation from Eureka Association. Signed: Bro. David Gardner, Bro. W. L. Lowe, Bro. Ralph Mullins Sr., Bro. J. W. Craft, and Bro. Myrl F. Kellett.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report as follows, those deceased, Lawton, Laberta Koontz and Edith Cummins, Stobtown, Ronnie Young and Opal Donham, Midway, Terry Harmon and Essie Roberts Kilcrease. A moment of silent prayer, concluded by Bro. Myrl F. Kellett.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report, that each one take a definite stand against liquor by the drink and vote no on the ballot.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report and accept it item by item.

1. Motion carried to receive the first recommendation that By-Laws of No. 2, number 11, the fee of \$50.00 be raised to \$55.00. (Refer to page 38 of 1983 minutes.)

2. Motion carried that Youth Camp Fees for the Campers be raised to \$125.00 per Church instead of \$100.00.

3. Motion and second that the letter of recommendation from the Countyline Church be considered and some sort of action be done, and that action being to transfer funds from Local Missions to the Camp Ground Fund.

Motion carried to table the above motion until the next quarterly meeting.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion carried that Bro. Doug Hudson's pastor contact him to see if he would like to continue to serve on the Standing Camp Ground Board.

Election of Officers and Board Members:

Motion carried that Bro. Robin Cousino be replaced on the Standing Camp Ground Board.

Bro. Steve Robinson was elected to the Standing Camp Ground Board.

Bro. Ralph Mullins Sr., was elected as the five year man on the Executive Board.

Bro. Tommy Brown was elected as the five year man on the Credential Board.

Motion carried to retain Sis. Susie Robinson as Reporter.

Motion carried to retain Bro. W. L. Lowe as Assistant Treasurer.

Motion carried to retain Sis. Wanda Kellett as Clerk.

Sis. Burneze Mullins was elected by acclamation as the Assistant Clerk.

Bro. Jerry Anderson was elected Moderator.

Associational Meetings and Speakers were selected as follows:

November 9-10, 1984, Midway, Speaker, Bro. Tommy Brown.

February 8-9, 1985, Eastside Duncan, Speaker, Bro. W. L. Lowe.

May 10-11, 1985, Countyline, Speaker, Steve Robinson.

August 9-10, 1985, Camp Ground, Friday night Speaker, Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, Saturday morning Speaker, Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett was elected the General Board Member for the State Association meeting in 1985.

Minutes were read by Sis. Wanda Kellett.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Prayer by Bro. Harold Robinson.

Bro. Beryl Blair, Moderator

Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fourth Quarter

Income from Churches	\$2741.29
Balance in Ass'n Fund	1249.93
Local Missions Fund	2412.27

Expenses:

State givings	\$1888.59
Campground Fund	428.37
OG&E	133.04
Water Dept.	94.75
Total Expenses	<u>\$2544.75</u>

YEARLY REPORT, August 1983 - 1984

Total Received	\$11266.31
Total Paid Out	11786.36

Balance in Association Acct. .	\$1249.93
Balance in Local Missions Acct.	2412.27

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FOURTH QUARTER

Church	Re- ceived	State Co-op	F.M.	S.M.	Hills- dale	Camp Ground	G.F.	L.M.	H.M.
Country Side									
County Line	84.63	37.55			7.50	7.50	18.80	9.52	3.76
Duncan									
Lawton	688.00	344.00			68.80	68.80	172.00		34.40
Lone Grove	734.17	317.09			63.42	163.42	158.53		31.71
Midway	900.36		387.68	60.00	352.68	100.00			
Stob Town	288.65		180.00			88.65	20.00		
Int. Camp-use	64.92 55.00						55.00	64.92	
Totals	2815.73	698.64	567.68	60.00	492.40	428.37	424.33	74.44	69.87

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	270.00	110.00			22.00	22.00	105.04		10.96
Country Line	404.87	150.15			30.02	30.02	125.13	54.54	15.01
Duncan	100.00					50.00	50.00		
Lawton	2687.00	1216.00			243.20	443.20	663.00		121.60
Lone Grove	2234.88	1019.06	46.75		203.82	303.82	559.53		101.90
Midway	4582.94		2203.97	290.00	1938.97	100.00	50.00		
Stob town	886.16		540.00			236.16	110.00		
Int.	124.50							124.50	
Other-	155.00						155.00		
Total	\$11445.35	2495.21	2790.72	290.00	2438.01	1185.20	1817.70	179.04	249.47

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Countyline P.O. Box 236 Countyline, Ok. 73025	Jerry Anderson Rt.1, Box 462B Newcastle, Ok. 73065 Ph: 392-5531	Burneze Mullins Box 42 Countyline, Ok. 73025 Ph: 856-3867
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 Rt. 1, Box 45B Ph: 444-2363
East Duncan 1313 Chestnut Box 1413 Duncan, Ok. Ph: 252-0519	J. W. Craft Rt.1, Box 225 Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-6341	Geneva Hughes Rt.1, Box 307 Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-5241
Lawton First 10 S. 24th Lawton, Ok. 73505 Ph: 355-4668	Myrl F. 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 31 C Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-4908
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: 673-2298
Stobtown Rt.3, Box 1540 Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Tommy Brown Rt.3, Box 1540 Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Ann Christian Rt.3, Box 134A Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-2218

OTHER ORDAINED MINISTERS

Howard Walker	2816 San Saba Ft. Worth, Tx.	817-625-4706
Beryl Blair	707 Patterson Comanche, Ok.	439-2311 73529
Gary Newnum	Hq. AFCENT Reserve Corp. APO, NY	09145
Royce McClendon	Rt. 3, Box Ardmore, Ok.	657-8214 73401
Kenneth Mize	827 Douglas Blvd. Ardmore, Ok.	226-6826

LICENSED MINISTERS

Danny Delcour	496-74-8180 4th U.S.A. Fad. A.P.O. N.Y.	09078
Steve Robinson	Rt.3, Box 144 Ardmore, Ok.	657-4192 73401

ORDAINED DEACONS

Ralph Mullins	Box 275 Ratliff City, Ok. 73081	856-3038
Jess Gillaspay	Box 3 Countyline, Ok. 73025	856-3462
Sam Staggs	Box 126 Countyline, Ok. 73025	

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

Loray Spurgin	Box 842 Velma, Ok. 73091	444-2527
Forest Cox	Rt. 1 Box 46 Ratliff City, Ok. 73081	444-2584
Harold Boerstler	721 N. 8th Duncan, Ok. 73533	255-7015
Luther Eason	Rt. 5, Box 7 E Duncan, Ok. 73533	252-0239
Cleo Chism	508 S. 13th Lawton, Ok. 73501	353-8482
Dale Howell	St. Rt., Box A104 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-3836
Troy Morris	Rt. 3, Box 155 Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-4513
Othel Kyle	Rt. 3, Box 41 Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-6420
Leonard Robinson	Rt. Box 20 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-4742
Marshall Mitchell	Rt. 3 Box Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-4252
Billy Christian	Star Rt. Box 17 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-4842
Troy Lewellen	Box 201 Graham, Ok. 73437	673-2315

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

Terry Pierson	Box 6 Graham, Ok. 73437	673-2109
Richard Watkins	Box 235 Fox, Ok. 73435	673-2798

HOPEWELL NO. 2 MINISTERS AND DEACONS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

Moderator Beryl Blair
Secretary & Treas. . Ralph Mullins

MEETINGS:

October 27, 1984----7:00 p.m.
January 26, 1985----7:00 p.m.
April 27, 1985-----7:00 p.m.
July 27, 1985-----7:00 p.m.

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 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 \$55.00 is to be sent to the Annual Session of this Association. (\$20.00 for printing of the minutes and \$25.00 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 Baptist believe in a divinely-called ministry.

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

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

