

Minutes

Hopewell No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

53rd Annual Meeting

1985

MINUTES OF THE
53rd ANNUAL MEETING
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1985

- OFFICERS -

Moderator Jerry Anderson
5740 12th Ave. N. W., Norman, OK. 73109
Phone: 360-2998

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

Clerk Wanda Kellett
2603 A Avenue, Lawton, OK. 73505
Phone: 355-4668

Assistant Clerk Burneze Mullins
P. O. Box 42, Countyline, OK. 73025
Phone: 856-3867

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

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

CREDENTIAL BOARD

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

STANDING CAMP GROUND BOARD

Steve Robinson

Rt. 3 Box 144, Ardmore, OK. 43401

Phone: 657-4192

Jerry Anderson

5740 12th Avenue N. W., Norman, OK. 73109

Phone: 360-2998

Richard Emberling, Treasurer

512 Stanolind, Healdton, OK. 73438

Phone: 229-1428

Doug Hudson

F. O. Box 205, Lone Grove, OK. 73443

Phone: 657-4150

Jess Gillaspy

Box 3, Countyline, OK. 73025

Phone: 356-3462

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Vali Hayes
Rt. 1, Healdton, Ok. 73438
Phone: 673-2497

Vice President &
Field Worker Juanita Lowe
Rt. 1, Box 76, Healdton, Ok. 73438
Phone: 673-2599

Secretary Lynne Truax
4820 S.E. Brown Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73501
Phone: 248-8499

Treasurer Francis Lewellan
Box 201, Graham, Ok. 73437
Phone: 673-2315

Action Chairman Renee DeBerry
817 16th N.W., Ardmore, Ok. 73401
Phone:

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

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

THEME

"Without Vision People Perish."

MEETINGS

10-19-85, Lawton, The Church's Vision
1-18-86, Midway, The Believer's Vision
3-8-86, Midway, District Workshop/Retreat
4-19-86, Countryside, World Vision
7-19-86, Lone Grove, A Vision of the Future

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
November 9-10, 1984
Midway

Friday, November 9, 1984, 7:30 p.m. at Midway Free Will Baptist Church the Hopewell No. 2 Association convened for the Quarterly Conference.

Bro. Jerry Anderson called the meeting to order.

Bro. Beryl Blair led in Prayer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing, Hand In Hand With Jesus, Where We'll Never Grow Old, He Set Me Free and My God Is Real, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Bro. Charles Crenshaw led in prayer.

Special singing by Countyline, I Won't Have to Worry and Glad Reunion Day. Bro. Ralph Fletcher sang, A Little Bit of Heaven.

There was a Testimony Service and then the congregation sang, I Am Bound for the Promised Land.

Bro. Tommy Brown, brought the message from Romans 14:13, and Matthew 18:6.

Love Lifted Me, was sang while the altar service was given.

Bro. J.W. Craft dismissed in Prayer.

Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., November 10, 1984, Bro. Jerry Anderson called the Business meeting to order.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led the songs, Victory In Jesus, and I'm in the Gloryland Way, with Sis. Lillie Emberling at the piano and Diann Pierson at the organ.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett led in prayer.

Letters were read from the seven Churches by Sis. Burneze Mullins.

Motion carried to receive the letters and seat the Delegates.

Right hand of fellowship was given while Bro. Ralph Mullins led Stand Up For Jesus, with Sis. Lillie Emberling at the piano and

Sis. Diann Pierson at the organ.

Motion carried to receive the Petitionary letter from Country Side that Bro. Charles Crenshaw be examined to be accepted into fellowship as a Minister into the Association.

Letter of recommendation was read from Eureka Association for Bro. Tommy Brown.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Appointment of Committees as follows:
Divine Committee: Delores Gillaspy, Susie Robinson and Sheryl Smith.

Bro. Charles Crenshaw was selected for the morning speaker.

Resolution Committee: Shirley McDaniels, Steve Robinson and DeWinda Ford.

Obituary Committee: Richard Emberling, Emma Combest and Cindy Staggs.

Temperance Committee: Harold Robinson, Debbie Torres and Wilma Spires.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurers report of \$1363.08 balance on hand, Local Missions balance \$2412.27, given by Sis. Juanita Lowe.

Unfinished Business:

Motion carried to transfer Local Missions Fund into the Camp Ground Treasurer Fund.

New Business:

Motion carried that the Pooleville Community Church be allowed to use one of the Dormitories for Worship Services for approximately six months.

A report was given by Bro. David Gardner that Bro. Doug Hudson would like to continue on the Camp Ground Board.

Motion carried to receive 50 joints of pipe from the Mobil Oil Company as a gift.

Motion carried to elect an Executive Board member in place of Bro. John Bullard the four year man.

Bro. Tommy Brown was elected by acclamation as the four year man.

Bro. Charles Crenshaw dismissed in prayer for a recess before morning worship.

Morning Worship was opened with prayer by Bro. J. W. Craft.

Sis. Cindy Staggs, led the singing, When We All Get To Heaven, The Unclouded Day, I've Never Been Sorry and I'll Fly Away, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano and Sis. Lucinda Anderson at the organ.

Bro. Steve Robinson led in prayer.

Special singing by Stobtown, At The Cross, Midway, In The Garden and Cindy Staggs, It Is My Turn, and Countylane, A Little Talk With Jesus.

Bro. Charles Crenshaw preached from the Scripture text, Daniel 3:19-25.

Dismissal prayer for lunch was offered by Bro. Tommy Brown.

Business resumed at 1:00 p.m. with prayer led by Bro. Jess Gillaspy.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led, Joy Unspeakable and Won't It Be Wonderful There, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurers report given by Bro. Jess Gillaspy with a balance of \$852.70 on hand.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Boards recommendation that Bro. Charles Crenshaw was sound in Doctrine and to be accepted in full fellowship with a promise of a letter of recommendation from Cave's Spring Association in Missouri. Signed: Bro. W. L. Lowe, Myrl F. Kellett, David Gardner, J.W. Craft and Bro. Tommy Brown.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett gave a report from the General Board from the State Association.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report that Bro. Hershall Lewis, Eastside Duncan had deceased. There was a

moment of silent prayer, with Bro. W. L. Lowe concluding the prayer.

Motion carried to receive the recommendations of the Temperance Committee as follows:

1. That Free Will Baptist stand against abortion.

2. That we remember to vote against the liquor by the drink in each County.

Motion carried to receive the Resolutions Committee report and adopt them item by item.

1. That the transferred Funds from the Local Missions be designated for use of Camp Ground improvements.

2. That the Association Body participate more actively in supporting our Youth at Youth Camp.

Motion carried to adjourn at 1:45 p.m.

Bro. Jerry Anderson, Moderator

Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURE'S REPORT

First Quarter

Income from Churches	\$3735.29
Balance in Ass'n Fund.	1153.08
Local Missions Fund.	2412.27
Camp Ground Funds.	209.13
Expenses:	
Ass'n Evangelist.	\$ 200.00
Cleaning of Campground.	25.00
Copies and stamps	9.00
State Delegates Fees.	245.00
Checks.	5.12
100 Minutes	225.00
OG&E.	78.64
Water Department.	30.00
State Givings	2563.97
Campground Fund	240.41
Total Paid Out.	<u>\$3622.14</u>

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FIRST QUARTER

CHURCH	RE- CEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS- DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country Side	77.50	13.75			2.75	2.75	56.88	1.37
County Line	103.71	26.86			5.37	5.37	63.42	2.69
Duncan	50.00						50.00	
Lawton	1018.13	262.00			252.40	291.53	186.00	26.20
Lone Grove	616.89	290.94			58.19	58.19	180.48	29.09
Midway	1552.36		743.68	105.00	653.68		50.00	
Stob town	196.70		90.00			41.70	65.00	
Noah Smith	120.00					50.00	70.00	
Totals	3735.29	593.55	833.68	105.00	972.39	449.54	721.78	59.35

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

February 8-9, 1985

Eastside Duncan

Friday, February 8, 1985, 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association convened for the Quarterly Conference at Eastside Duncan.

Services were called to order by Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Bro. Myrl Kellett led in prayer.

Bro. Marshall Robinson led the singing, He Set Me Free, When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, and Tell It To Jesus, with Sis. Juanita Lowe at the piano.

Special music, by Bro. Marshall and Sis. Charlene Robinson, Angels All Around Us, Lisa and Charlene Robinson, Walk Right Out of This Valley, The Countyline Church, Gloryland Way and Lola and Melody Craft, I've Been Waitin.

An Altar of Prayer.

Bro. W. L. Lowe brought the evening message from II Thess. 1:7-8 and I Peter 4:17-18.

Dismissal prayer by Bro. Ralph Mullins.

February 9, 1985, 9:30 a.m. the Business was called to order by Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led singing, Bringing In The Sheaves and Jesus Is Passing This Way, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Bro. Jerry Anderson read I John 4:6-17.

Bro. I. K. Gipson led in prayer.

Sis. Burneze Mullins read the seven Church letters.

Motion carried to receive the letters and seat the delegates.

The right hand of fellowship was given while Bro. Ralph Mullins led Amazing Grace, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Petitionary letter from Country Side was read with a motion that carried to receive the request and to act upon it at 1:00 p.m.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Visitors were invited to seat in council. Those in attendance were Bro. James Waldrep, Bro. N. R. Smith, Bro. Burton Perry and Bro. I. K. Gipson.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Divine Committee: Beulah Sowles, Myrtle Norton, and Melody Craft.

They were dismissed to select the morning speaker. Bro. James Waldrep was selected.

Resolution Committee: John Truax, Steve Robinson and Jerri Strealy.

Obituary Committee: Susie Robinson, Emma Combest and Johnny Williamson.

Temperance Committee: Dewinda Ford, Carol Vaughn and Wilma Spires.

Sis. Juanita Lowe gave the Treasurer's report with a balance on hand of \$745.74.

Motion carried that the Executive Board examine the Co-op Plan in the District and recommend the revision to the District.

Amendment to the above motion carried that a report be sent to each Church before the next Quarterly Meeting.

Bro. N. R. Smith spoke concerning Hillsdale, also on making out a will and the advantages of making one.

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

The Worship Service, began with singing, Come Unto Me, and Blessed Assurance, with Bro. Ralph Mullins leading and Sis. Burneze Mullins at the Piano.

Prayer by, Bro. Myrl F. Kellett.

Special music, Sis. Reshinda Anderson played, Gone, Countyline Church, sang, Gone, Bro. Burton Perry, I'd Rather Have Jesus, Duncan Church, How Great Thou Art and I Need No Mansion Here.

Bro. James Waldrep brought the message from the Scripture text, II Timothy 4:1-8.

Dismissal prayer by, Bro. W. L. Lowe.

The Business resumed at 1:00 p.m.

Bro. J. W. Craft led in prayer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led, Glory To His Name and I Love to Tell The Story, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Motion carried to table the Petitionary Letter from Countryside Free Will Baptist Church until next Quarterly Meeting, meanwhile that the Petition be sent to each Church for consideration and how to vote on it.

The Petition as follows:

We the members of the Countryside Free Will Baptist Church petition the Quarterly Conference for the following change in procedure. Believing the Church has the right to instruct the Delegates on how to vote on issues, we suggest that a Committee be formed to list all new Business to be conducted by the upcoming Quarterly Conference. The rules governing the Committee are as follows:

1. Each Church or any member thereof must send all new Business to the Committee members not later than fourteen days prior to the Quarterly Conference. Any items received after set date will be considered business for the next Quarterly Conference following.

2. The Committee must meet and send list of all new Business to Churches seven days prior to Quarterly Conference in order that the Churches may decide how to instruct Delegates to vote.

3. Exceptions to this rule if adopted may be granted by 80% vote of Delegates seated by the Quarterly Conference and standing Delegates present.

Bro. Burton Perry spoke on the State Home Missions, also about the State Walk-a-thon for \$100,000.00 Project for buying land in different cities for Churches to be established in the future.

Motion carried that, May 20-24, 1985, be set aside for the Living Word Tabernacle to have a Revival at the Youth Camp.

Bro. Jess Gillaspy, gave the Camp Ground Treasurer's report with \$3782.43, balance on hand. Motion carried to receive the report.

Motion carried to receive the CampGround Board report given by Bro. Steve Robinson.

Motion carried to receive the Executive Board report given by Bro. Ralph Mullins.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report of Oleta Spruill, Duncan and Bro. Dub Denham, from the Lone Grove Community, being deceased. There was a moment of silent prayer, with Bro. Steve Robinson, concluding the Prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report as follows.

1. Take a negative stand on the Lottery.
2. Take a negative stand on Liquor by the drink on each County level.
3. Take a negative stand on Horse Racing and Paramutual Betting on the County level.
4. Involve ourselves with our Children's Education as to what they are being taught in class that would go against the Christian beliefs, we are teaching in Church and at home.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee as follows.

To get more attendance in Ministers and Deacon's Meetings, also Quarterly Meetings.

To help another Church in the Association that may be in need whatever the reason.

Motion carried to adjourn. Adjournment at 2:20 p.m.

Bro. Jerry Anderson, Moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

GIVING BY CHURCHES - SECOND QUARTER

CHURCH	RE- CEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country Side	55.00	27.50			5.50	5.50	13.76	2.74
County Line	124.00	62.01			12.40	12.40	30.99	6.20
Duncan								
Lawton	564.00	282.00			56.40	56.40	141.00	28.20
Lone Groves	348.84	174.42			34.88	34.88	87.21	17.45
Midway	945.28		482.64	30.00	432.64			
Stob town	265.04		180.00			65.04	20.00	
Living Wd. Tab.	100.00						100.00	
Lone Grove WA	100.00					100.00		
Totals	2502.16	545.93	662.64	30.00	541.82	274.22	392.96	54.59

TREASURER'S REPORT
Second Quarter

Income	\$2502.16
Balance in Ass'n Fund	1153.95
Local Missions	2456.88

Expenses:

State Givings	\$1834.98
Campground Insurance	704.00
Campground Fund	274.22
OG&E	67.17
Water Dept.	30.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$2910.37</u>

Association Fund	\$ 745.74
Campground Fund	209.13

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING
May 10-11, 1985

May 10, 1985, 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association convened for the Quarterly Conference, at Countyline Free Will Baptist Church.

Services were called to order by Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Bro. Harold Boerstler led in Prayer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano and Sis. Reshinda Anderson at the organ. How Great Thou Art, My Wonderful Lord, and When We All Get to Heaven, and Revive Us Again.

Prayer by, Bro. W. L. Lowe.

Special music, Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, Sweetest Words, Sis. Reshinda Anderson, piano solo, Sweet Beulah Land, Sis. Cindy Staggs and Sis. Tammy Youngblood, I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy.

Bro. Jerry Anderson, brought a short Devotional from Psalms 31:23-24, followed by a Testimony Service.

Bro. J. W. Craft led in Prayer.

Bro. Steve Robinson, brought the evening message from John 13:15.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, dismissed in Prayer.

May 11, 1985, Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m., the Business Meeting convened.

Bro. Jerry Anderson, called the meeting to order.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, led the singing, I'll Fly Away and I'm Bound For The Kingdom, with Sis. Burneze Mullins, at the piano.

Seven Church letters were read by Sis. Burneze Mullins.

Motion carried to receive the letters and seat the Delegates.

Right hand of Fellowship was given while Bro. Ralph Mullins led, Victory In Jesus, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Petitionary letters read from Midway, that Bro. Richard Emberling be licensed to preach the Gospel. Lawton, that Rev. James Waldrep, be examined by the Credential Board for fellowship into the Hopewell No. 2 Association. Stobtown, that we extend, Bro. Steve Robinson's licenses. Country Side, that the Association do not extend the six months agreement with the Church using the Camp Ground at present.

Motion carried to receive the letters and accept the petitions item by item.

Motion carried to grant a letter of recommendation for Bro. John Bullard to the Kansas City District Association.

Letter of recommendation was received for Bro. Charles Crenshaw from Cave Springs Association in Missouri.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read.

Visitors were invited to seat in Council.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Divine Committee: Harold Boerstler, Vala Robinson and Melodye Craft.

Bro. Richard Emberling was chosen for the morning speaker.

Resolution Committee: Emma Combest, Lillie Emberling, and Harold Robinson.

Obituary Committee: Myrtle Norton, Arvy Howell, and Judy Kyle.

Temperance Committee: Susie Robinson, Nora Truitt, and Charlie Howell.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurers report given by Bro. W. L. Lowe with \$1205.56 balance on hand.

Unfinished Business:

Motion carried to take the Petitionary Letter from Countryside off the table. Motion carried not to adopt the recommended Petitions.

Motion carried to elect a Youth Camp Evangelist. Bro. Leonard Cook, is the Evangelist.

Motion carried that Bro. Steve Robinson select the speaker for Youth Camp on Friday night if Bro. Cook cannot be there.

Motion carried that Bro. W.C. Hamilton be the alternate Evangelist and if he isn't available that Bro. David Gardner would be the Evangelist.

Motion carried to accept the recommendation from the Executive Board on the Revision of the Co-operative Giving in the Association.

Revisions as follows: 60% to Co-op, 20% to General Fund and 20% to Camp Ground Treasurer. This does not affect the designated giving.

Business was adjourned until 1:30 p.m.

The 11:00 o'clock worship service was opened with singing, Redeemed, To God Be Glory and One Day, led by Bro. Ralph Mullins, with Sis. Burneze Mullins, at the piano and Sis. Reshinda Anderson at the organ.

Prayer by Bro. Richard Emberling.

Special Music, Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson and Wanda Kellett, God Delivers

Again, Countyline Youth, Feeling Mighty Fine, Missy Blair, Build My Mansion Next Door To Jesus, Sis. Cindy Staggs, A Love O My Own, Bro. Steve Robinson, An Altar of Prayer.

Bro. Richard Emberling, brought the morning message from, Romans 12:1, entitled, God's Requirements.

Bro. W. L. Lowe, dismissed in prayer and asked the Blessing on the noon meal.

Business resumed at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer by Bro. Tommy Brown.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, led the singing, I've Never Been Sorry and Hand In Hand With Jesus, with Sis. Burneze Mullins, at the piano and sis. Reshinda Anderson at the organ.

Bro. Jerry Anderson, sang a special, Matthew 24.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Board and Youth Camp Director, Bro. Steve Robinsons report. Every Saturday, will be work day until Youth Camp. He reported that seven Shower Stalls had been purchased to install.

Bro. Jess Gillaspys's, Camp Ground Treasurer's report of \$3933.30 balance on hand was received.

Motion carried to receive Bro. Jess Gillaspys resignation as Camp Ground Board Treasurer and he was given a rising vote of Thanks.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Obituary Committee: No deaths.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committees report: 1. Stand against liquor by the drink and drugs. 2. Stand against Lotteries in Oklahoma. 3. Stand against betting and horse racing. 4. Show more Brotherly love and fellowship more with Sister Churches.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report as follows. 1. That each Church encourage more participation in every

GIVING BY CHURCHES - THIRD QUARTER

CHURCH	RE- CEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS- DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country side	82.50	13.75	55.00		2.75	2.75	6.88	1.37
Country line	84.75	42.38			8.47	8.47	21.20	4.23
Duncan								
Lawton	578.00	289.00			57.80	57.80	144.50	28.90
Lone Grove	511.83	255.92			51.19	51.19	127.94	25.59
Midway	1438.02		724.01	90.00	624.01			
Stob town						45.01	15.00	
Midway	195.01		135.00			100.00		
Womans A.	100.00							
Lawton							100.00	
Womans A.	100.00						240.47	
Living Word Tab.	240.47							
Totals	3330.58	601.05	914.01	90.00	744.22	365.22	555.99	60.09

aspect of the Association Meetings.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Boards recommendations as follows. That Bro. Richard Emberling be licensed by the Association to preach. That Bro. James Wal-drep be accepted into full fellowship of the Association. Signed: Bro. Tommy Brown, Bro. W. L. Lowe, Bro. David Gardner, Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, and Bro. J. W. Craft.

Motion carried to adjourn at 2:15 p.m.

Bro. Jerry Anderson, Moderator

Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

Third Quarter

Income from Churches	\$3330.58
Balance in Ass'n Fund	1205.56
Campground Fund	209.13

Expenses:

State Givings	\$2409.37
Campground Fund	365.22
OG&E	66.17
Water Dept.	30.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$2870.76</u>

THE 53rd ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF HOPEWELL NO. 2 CONVENED AT THE CAMP GROUND August 9-10, 1985

August 9, 1985, the Hopewell No. 2 Association Yearly Conference was called to order by, Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Bro. Steve Robinson, led in prayer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, led, I'm Bound For the Kingdom, I've Never Been Sorry, Amazing Grace, and My God Is Real, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Special singing by, Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, Sweet Beulah Land, Bro.

Marshall, Sis. Charlene and Lisa Robinson, You Weren't Ashamed of My Chains and Angels All Around You, Sis. Cindy Staggs, Someone Loved Me, and Countyline Church, Glad Reunion Day.

Bro. Jerry Anderson read from the Scripture, Luke 12:22-34, followed by a Testimony service.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, brought the evening Message from Luke 5:1-11, entitle, "Does It Pay to Obey God?"

Bro. John Gibson, dismissed in prayer.

Saturday morning, August 10, 1985, 9:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, led, Standing On The Promises, I'll Live In Glory, and Down On My Knees, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Prayer by Bro. J. W. Craft.

The Moderator admonished the Association from, I John 4:7 and John 14:12.

Motion carried to receive the letters from the seven Churches and to seat the Delegates.

Right hand of fellowship was given while Bro. Ralph Mullins, led the singing of What A Friend We Have In Jesus, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Minutes were read and approved.

Motion carried to receive the Petitionary letter from the Stobtown Church that Bro. Steve Robinson, go before the Credential Board to be examined for ordination as a Minister.

Motion carried to grant Bro. Brad Utley a letter of recommendation to the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist, Grand Prairie, Texas.

Bro. Beryl Blair read the rules of order.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Obituary: Lillie Emberling, Cindy Staggs, and Delores Gillaspay.

Temperance: Shirley McDaniel, Don Smith and Susie Robinson.

Resolution: Melodye Craft, Steve Robinson, and Harold Robinson.

Motion carried to have a break before 11:00 a.m. worship.

The 11:00 a.m. Worship Service opened with Congregational singing, Press Along To Gloryland, He Set Me Free, Love Lifted Me and We'll Work til Jesus Comes, led by Bro. Ralph Mullins and Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Special singing, Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, When I Receive My Robe and Crown, Sis. Shirley McDaniels, Something I Can Feel, Cindy Staggs, Someone To Care, and the Mullins Family, I Won't Have To Worry.

Bro. Jerry Anderson read those that had deceased the past year, Earl Miller, Countyline, Hershell Lewis and Oleta Spruill, Duncan, Dub Denham, Lone Grove and Mark Hodges, Stobtown, there was a moment of silent prayer with Bro. Charles Crenshaw, concluding the prayer.

Sis. Geneva Hughes sang, What Will I Leave Behind.

Bro. Beryl Blair, brought the Memorial message from Joshua 4:19-24, entitled, "What Are We Going To Leave Behind."

Bro. Richard Emberling dismissed in prayer.

Business resumed at 1:20 p.m.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms, and Just Over In Gloryland, with Sis. Burneze Mullins at the piano.

Sisters Melodye and Lola Craft sang, The Sun's Coming Up.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report of \$1472.01 balance on hand by Sis. Juanita Lowe.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer's report of \$2536.39 bal-

ance on hand given by Bro. Richard Emberling.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Board report by Bro. Steve Robinson.

Motion carried to receive the Youth Directors report of 93 registered Campers for Youth Camp by Bro. Steve Robinson.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board recommendation, that Bro. Steve Robinson, was found sound in Doctrine and that he be ordained as a Minister of the Gospel. Signed: Bro. David Gardner, Bro. J. W. Craft, and Bro. Myrl F. Kellett.

Report of Committees:

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report as follows. 1. Go home to our Churches and encourage them to support the Association and Camp Ground activities, so that the Free Will Baptist Movement, will not become paralyzed because of lack of Youth in the Church and their participation in the Church and Associational activities.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report. Note: Action was taken in the 11:00 a.m. Worship.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report as follows. 1. Take a stand against liquor by the drink vote in County Elections. 2. Stand against immorality and profanity in all Music and everything.

Motion carried to build the (20) Bunk Beds 10 per dorm.

Motion carried that each Church that can donate \$250.00 to build Bunk Beds and others donate what they can.

Election of Officers and Board Members:

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett was elected as the five year man on the Executive Board.

Bro. David Gardner was elected as the five year man on the Credential Board.

Bro. Jerry Anderson was elected as Moderator.

Motion carried to retain the remaining Officers as they were.

Assistant Moderator, Bro. Beryl Blair.

Wanda Kellett, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Burneze Mullins.

Treasurer, Sis. Juanita Lowe, Assistant Treasurer, Bro. W. L. Lowe.

Reporter, Sis. Susie Robinson.

Motion carried to retain the Youth Director, Steve Robinson and the Assistant Youth Director, Bro. Richard Emberling.

Motion carried that we bring recommendations for Youth Camp Evangelist in November.

Motion carried that we pay Youth Camp Evangelist \$200.00 and that it be a standing item of Business.

Motion carried that the \$200.00 come from the Camp Ground Treasurer.

Associational Meetings and Speakers
were selected as follows:

November 8-9, 1985, Lone Grove, Speaker, Bro. James Waldrep.

February 7-8, 1986, Duncan Eastside, Speaker, Bro. Charles Crenshaw.

May 9-10, 1986, Lawton, Speaker, Bro. David Gardner.

August 8-9, 1986, Youth Camp Grounds, Speaker, Friday night, Bro. Steve Robinson, Saturday morning, Bro. Jerry Anderson.

Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, was elected General Board Member.

Motion carried to pay the General Board Member \$100.00 expense to the State Meeting.

Motion carried to adjourn at 2:25 p.m.

Bro. Jerry Anderson, Moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk.

TREASURER'S REPORT Fourth Quarter

Income from Churches \$3208.17
Balance in Ass'n Fund 1472.01

Expenses:

Bookstore \$ 21.52
Water Dept. 88.50
OG&E 203.70
State Giving 2112.77
Campground Fund 724.36
Total Expenses \$3150.85

YEARLY REPORT August 1984 - 1985

Total Received \$12776.20
Total Paid Out 12554.12
Balance 1472.01
Local Missions fund transferred . 2456.88

HOPEWELL NO. 2 MINISTERS AND DEACONS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS:

Moderator Beryl Blair
Secretary & Treasurer . . Ralph Mullins

MEETINGS:

October 26, 1985-----7:30 p.m.
January 25, 1986-----7:30 p.m.
April 26, 1986-----7:30 p.m.
July 26, 1986-----7:30 p.m.

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FOURTH QUARTER

CHURCH	Re- CEIVED	STATE CO-OF	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS- DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country Side	27.50		27.50					
County line	194.61	116.77				38.92	38.92	
Duncan	55.00						55.00	
Lawton	1031.00	543.60				306.20	181.20	
Lone Grove	634.28	365.58				146.85	121.85	
Midway	969.32		366.35	291.62	311.35			
Stob town	121.46		90.00			21.46	10.00	
Living Word Tab.	175.00						175.00	
Totals	3208.17	1025.95	483.85	291.62	311.35	513.43	581.97	

GIVING BY CHURCHES - YEARLY REPORT

CHURCH	RE- CEIVED	STATE CO-OF	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS- DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country Side	242.50	55.00	82.50		11.00	11.00	77.52	5.48
County line	507.07	248.02			26.24	65.16	154.53	13.12
Duncan	105.00						105.00	
Lawton	3191.13	1376.60			366.60	711.93	652.70	83.30
Lone Grove	2111.84	1086.86			144.26	291.11	517.48	72.13
Midway	4904.98		2316.68	516.62	2021.68		50.00	
Stob- town	778.21		495.00			173.21	110.00	
Living Word Tab.	535.47						535.47	
Mrs. Noah Smith	100.00					50.00	50.00	
Hopewell #2 WA	300.00					300.00		
TOTALS	12,776.20	2766.48	2894.18	516.62	2569.78	1602.41	2252.70	174.03

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Countryside Box 235 Velma, OK 73019 Ph: 444-3530	Charles Crenshaw F.O. Box 1073 Velma, OK 73091 Ph: 444-3530	Dalphine Cox Rt. 1 Box 45B Ratliff City OK 73081 Ph: 444-2363
Countyline Box 236 Countyline, OK 73025	Jerry L. Anderson 5740 12th Ave. N.W. Norman, OK 73109 Ph: 360-2998	Burneze Mullins Box 42 Countyline, OK 73025 Ph: 856-3867
East Duncan Box 1413 1303 Chestnut Duncan, OK 73533 Ph: 252-0519	J. W. Craft Rt. 1 Box 225 Comanche, OK 73529 Ph: 439-6341	Jerri Strealy 107 W. Elder Duncan, OK 73533 Ph: 252-0670
Lawton First 10 So. 24th St. 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 Star Rt. 107 Astor 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: 673-2798	W. L. Lowe Rt. 1 Box 76 Healdton, OK 73438 Ph: 673-2599	Janette Watkins Box 235 Fox, OK 73435 Ph: 673-2798
Stobtown Rt. 3 Box 154C Ardmore, OK 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Victor Cook Rt. 3 Box 154C Ardmore, OK 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Ann Christian Rt. 3 Box 134A Ardmore, OK 73401 Ph: 657-2218

OTHER ORDAINED MINISTERS

Beryl Blair	707 Patterson Comanche, Ok. 73529	439-2311
Royce McClendon	Rt. 2, Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-8214
Gary Newnum	Hq. AFCENT Reserve Corp. APO, NY 09145	
Steve Robinson	Rt. 3, Box 144 Ardmore, Ok. 43401	657-4192
James Waldrep	120 N.W. 44th St. Lawton, Ok. 73505	357-3751

LICENSED MINISTERS

Richard Emberling	512 Stanolind, Healdton, Ok. 73438	229-1428
-------------------	---------------------------------------	----------

ORDAINED DEACONS

Ralph Mullins	Box 275 Ratliff City, Ok. 73081	856-3038
Jess Gillaspy	Box 3 Countyline, Ok. 73025	856-3462
Sam Staggs	Box 126, Countyline, Ok. 73025	
Loray Spurgin	Box 842 Velma, Ok. 73091	444-2527
Forest Cox	Rt. 1, Box 46 Ratliff City, Ok. 73081	444-2584

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

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 31 Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-6420
Leonard Robinson	Rt. Box 20 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-4742
Marshall Mitchell	Rt. 3, Ardmore, Ok. 73401	657-4252
Troy Lewellen	Box 201 Graham, Ok. 73437	673-2315
Terry Pierson	Box 6 Graham, Ok. 73437	673-2109
Richard Watkins	Box 235 Fox, Ok. 73435	673-2798
Billy Christian	Star Rt. Box 17 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	657-4842

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 Baptists are not among these, but it should not be inferred that Free Will Baptists believe the "church" gives a man authority to preach. The authority for a man to preach lies solely with God. Free Will 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.

