

Minutes

Hopewell No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

56th Annual Meeting

1988

MINUTES OF THE
56th ANNUAL MEETING
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1988

- OFFICERS -

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

Assistant Moderator Harvey White
Rt. 3 Box 154C, Ardmore, Ok. 73401
Phone: 657-6295

Clerk Wanda Kellett
2603 A Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73505
Phone: 355-4668

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

Treasurer Sheila Rooker
2512 A Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73505
Phone: 357-8755

Assistant Treasurer Rob Rooker
2512 A Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73505
Phone: 357-8755

Reporter Bobbie Staggs
P.O. Box 156, County Line, Ok. 73025
Phone: 856-3978

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Harvey White	5 Years
Myrl F. Kellett	4 Years
W. L. Lowe	3 Years
David Gardner	2 Years
Ed Staggs	1 Year

STANDING CAMP GROUND BOARD

Rob Rooker

2512 A Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73505

Phone: 357-8755

Jimmy Tate

Rt. 3, Box 53 B, Ardmore, Ok. 73401

Phone: 657-3899

Richard Emberling, Treasurer

512 Stanolind, Healdton, Ok. 73438

Phone: 229-1428

Harold Boerstler

721 N. 8th, Duncan, Ok. 73533

Phone: 255-7015

Terry Pierson

Box 6, Graham, Ok. 73437

Phone: 673-2109

Jess Gillespy, Honorary Member.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President Cleo Spurgeon
Box 842, Velma Ok. 73091
Phone: 444-2527

Vice President. Dianne Pierson
Box 6, Graham Ok. 73437
Phone: 673-2109

Secretary Wanda Kellett
2603 A Avenue, Lawton Ok. 73505
Phone: 355-4668

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

Field Worker. Juanita Lowe
HC 63, Box 2400, Healdton Ok. 73438
Phone: 673-2599

Mission Action. Cindi Staggs
2426 SW H Ave., Lawton Ok 73505
Phone: 355-9238

Mission Prayer Nora Truitt
Rt.1 Box 47, Ratcliff City Ok. 73081
Phone: 444-2694

Mission Study Lynne Truax
4820 SE Brown, Lawton Ok. 73501
Phone: 248-8499

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
November 13-14, 1987
Comanche

Friday, November 13, 1987, 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association, convened for the regular business, at Grace Free Will Baptist Church, at Comanche, Oklahoma.

The meeting was called to order by, Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, led the singing, When We All get to Heaven, Won't it be Wonderful There, and The Blood that Stained the Old Rugged Cross, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Bro. Ed Staggs, led in prayer.

Special singing by, Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson, Sometimes a Mountain, Melissa Blair, The Suns Coming Up, Sis. Hornbeck, My Lord Keeps a Record, Bro. & Sis. Myrl Kellest, I'm Building a Bridge and Just Steal Away and Pray, Countyline Church, I Want to Stroll Over Heaven and the Congregation concluded the special singing with He Set Me Free.

Bro. Mark Paxton, brought the message entitled, Watchwords for the Christian, Revelations 3:7-13.

Song of invitation, Just As I Am.

Bro. Harold Boerstler dismissed in prayer.

Saturday, November 14, 1987, 9:30 a.m., business began, with Bro. Beryl Blair, calling the meeting to order.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, led the singing, Since Jesus Came Into My Heart and I'll Fly Away, with Sis. Vala Robinson, at the piano.

Bro. Harvey White, led in prayer.

Motion carried to receive the eight letters from the Churches.

Right hand of fellowship was given, while Bro. Ralph Mullins led, What a Friend, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Motion carried to receive the Minutes as read.

Motion carried to receive the Petitionary letter from the Lone Grove Church, that Bro. Jerry Woods go before the Credential Board to be examined, to be received into fellowship of the Association.

Motion carried to receive the letter of recommendation from Hopewell No. 1, for Bro. Harvey White.

Motion carried to grant Bro. Roger Arter, a letter of recommendation to Dibble Association.

Rules of order were read by, Bro. Harvey White.

Visitors were invited to seat in council.

Appointment of Committees as follows:
Resolution Committee: Bro. Ralph Mullins, Bro. Richard Emberling and Sis. Fern Harris.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Janetta Tate, Sis. Myrtle Norton and Bro. Floyd McDaniels.

Temperance Committee: Bro. Rob Rooker, Sis. Michelle Blair and Bro. Joe Howell.

Divine Committee: Bro. Terry Pierson, Sis. Dolores Gillaspay and Sis. Vala Robinson.

Bro. Jerry Woods was chosen as the 11:00 a.m. Worship speaker.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report of \$382.16, balance on hand, given by Sis. Juanita Lowe. She also read a Thank you note from the Living Word Tabernacle for the use of the Camp Ground.

Motion carried to remove the tabled motion about a ten day Youth Encampment. It was defeated.

Motion carried to have Youth Encampment, June 12-17, 1988.

Motion carried the Camp Ground Board be allowed to pay in addition to the \$200.00 a week set salary, if they deem it necessary.

Motion carried to replace Daryl Russell on the Standing Camp Ground Board. Bro. Rob Rooker was elected.

Motion carried to replace Charles Denny on the Standing Camp Ground Board. Bro. Harold Boerstler was elected.

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

Bro. Beryl Blair led the Worship Service.

Bro. Rob Rooker, led in prayer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, led the singing, In the Gloryland Way, That's Him, Heavens Jubilee and When All of Gods Singers Get to Heaven, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Special singing, Sis. Michelle Blair, When He was on the Cross, Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, Somebody Touched Me, Bro. & Sis. Mark Paxton, Our God Reigns and Sis. Mary White, Over the Next Hill.

Prayer by Congregation, concluded by Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, for friends and relatives of Bro. E.K. Gibson, who passed away this morning.

The message was brought by Bro. Jerry Woods, entitled, Discipleship, from Mark 10:29-30.

Bro. Mark Paxton dismissed in prayer.

Business resumed at 1:00 p.m., with singing, Just a Little Talk with Jesus and What a Saviour, led by Bro. Ralph Mullins and sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Prayer by Bro. Richard Emberling.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer's report of \$1333.09, balance on hand, given by Bro. Richard Emberling.

Motion carried to receive the General Board report from the State Association, by Bro. Myrl F. Kellett.

Motion carried to receive the Youth Camp Directors report of 102 youth registered and approximately 140 in attendance daily.

Bro. Dean Stone will not be available as the Youth Camp Evangelist.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board report, that Bro. Jerry Woods is sound in doctrine and that he be received into Fellowship, upon a letter of recommendation from his former Association. Signed: Bro. Edward Staggs, Bro. Beryl Blair and Bro. Myrl Kellett.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report as follows: 1. That everyone in Hopewell No. 2 Association strive to show our love for each other. 2. That each Pastor pay close attention to the pure doctrine.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary report of no deaths.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report that leaders of our churches set examples for proving what is Holy and acceptable unto God.

Motion carried to receive the report from Bro. Mark Paxton, on the schedule of events for the Youth Meetings for the upcoming year as follows: January 9, 1988 meeting at Stobtown for a lock-in, at the Ardmore YMCA. April 9, 1988, Midway, for a Talent Show. July 8, 1988, Lawton for a Film Festival.

Motion carried that the Executive Board and Camp Ground Board decide whether to sell the Stock panels at the Camp Ground.

Right hand of fellowship was given to Bro. Jerry Woods, the new pastor at Lone Grove, while singing Amazing Grace.

Motion carried to adjourn at 2:15.

Bro. Beryl Blair, moderator

Sis. Wanda Kellett, clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income from Churches	\$2904.83
Balance in Ass'n Fund	382.16

Expenses:

Ass'N Evangelist	\$ 300.00
General Board Exp.	100.00
State Ass'n dues.	280.00
Ass'n minutes	250.00
State givings	1752.00
OG&E	187.22
Water department	42.50
Campground fund	485.72
Total paid out	<u>\$3397.44</u>

CAMPGROUND FUND

Balance forward	\$ 858.78
Total Deposits	535.94
Total	<u>\$1394.72</u>
Less pay outs	61.63
Balance on hand	<u>\$1333.09</u>

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FIRST QUARTER

CHURCH	RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country side	\$ 82.50	16.50				5.50	60.50	
County Line	105.22	30.14				10.04	65.04	
Eastside	180.00					125.00	55.00	
Lawton	561.00	303.60				101.20	156.20	
Lone Grove	506.86	271.12				90.37	145.37	
Midway	1083.26		95.00	77.62	389.01	77.62	55.00	389.01
Stob town	310.99		180.00			55.99	75.00	
Comanche	75.00					20.00	55.00	
TOTALS	\$2904.83	621.36	275.00	77.62	389.01	485.72	667.11	389.01

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

February 12-13, 1988

Duncan

February 12, 1988, 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association convened for regular business at Eastside Duncan.

Meeting was called to order by, Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. Marshall Robinson, led the singing, I Love to Walk with Jesus, Tell it to Jesus, and Heaven's Jubilee, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Bro. Myrl Kellett led in prayer.

Special singing, Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson, Steppin in the Steps of Jesus, Countyline, I'm Bound for the Kingdom, and Bro. & Sis. Marshall Robinson, There is Power in Prayer and The Blood of the Lamb.

An altar of prayer led by, Bro. J. W. Craft.

Bro. Dugan McDonald, brought the message from II Corinthians 5:10-11, entitled, I Know a Man Who Can.

Bro. Ed Staggs dismissed in prayer.

February 13, 1988, 9:30 a.m. business was called to order by, Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing, Amazing Grace and He Set Me Free, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Bro. Connie Carriker led in prayer.

Letters from seven Churches were read and received.

Right hand of fellowship was given while singing, What A Friend, led by Bro. Ralph Mullins, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Minutes were read and received.

Rules of order were read by Bro. Harvey White.

Visitors were invited to seat in council.

Bro. Connie Carriker spoke, concerning the State work, especially encouraging Co-Operative giving.

Appointment of Committees as follows:
Resolution Committee: Sis. Sheila Rooker, Bro. Othel Kyle and Bro. J.W. Craft.
Obituary Committee: Sis. Nora Truitt, Bro. David Waldrep and Sis. Joyce Combs.
Temperance Committee: Sis. Kelcyne Taylor, Bro. Ed Staggs and Sis. Debra Paxton.
Divine Committee: Bro. Harold Boerstler, Bro. Harold Robinson and Sis. Delores Gillaspay.

Bro. Harvey White was chosen as the speaker for the Morning Worship.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report of \$445.65 balance on hand, given by Sis. Lynne Truax, submitted by Sis. Juanita Lowe.

Motion carried to receive the Executive and Standing Campground Boards, recommendation, to keep the Stock Panels of the Camp Ground.

Motion carried to break until 11:00 a.m. Worship and to resume business at 1:00 p.m.

Worship Service, opened with Chaplin Conlin, leading in prayer.

Bro. Othel Kyle, led singing, Just a Little Talk, Just Over in Gloryland and Heaven's Jubilee, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Special singing, Grace Youth, Standing on the Rock, Countyline, Victory in Jesus, Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson, He Reached Down and Bro. & Sis. Myrl Kellett, Heaven's More Than A Dream.

Bro. Harvey White, Brought the message from I Corinthians 3:10 and II Peter 3:10, entitled, How to Build a Church.

Invitational song, Just as I Am.

Bro. James Waldrep, dismissed in prayer, with the Blessing on the noon meal.

Business resumed at 1:00 p.m., with singing, Where We Will Never Grow Old, with Bro. Ralph Mullins, leading and Sis. Florene Waldrep, at the piano.

Sis. Mary White sang, I Won't Have to Worry and Sis. Debra Paxton, It's So Peaceful. Bro. Mark Paxton prayed.

Chaplin Bill Conlin, gave his personal testimony, with a Devotional, from Proverbs 3:1-2.

Bro. Harold Boerstler gave a partial Campground Board report on the Insurance cost for a year.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report as follows: That Free Will Baptist doctrine be explained in detail to new members, so they may have a full understanding of what Free Will Baptist believes. We need to live and stand on our beliefs and teach the pure doctrine of the Bible.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report, that Bessie White, Countryside and Nellie Christian, Stobtown have deceased. There was a moment of silent prayer, concluded by, Bro. Othel Kyle.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report as follows: 1. That each Church carefully examine the views of each Presidential candidate regarding their stand on abortion, gay rights, ERA and any other moral issue and that these views be given serious and prayerful consideration as we vote in the coming elections. 2. That each Church in the Hopewell No. 2 Association reaffirm our position as being opposed to homosexuality, drug abuse, divorce, immorality, in both movies and television programming, and all other immoral issues.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion carried to take up a Benevolent Fund offering for the State Ministers.

Motion carried to release the Committees.

Dismissal prayer by Bro. Myrl Kellett.
Adjournment at 2:00 p.m.

Bro. Beryl Blair, moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income from Churches \$2839.36
Balance in Ass'n Fund 445.65

Expenses:

Check printing	\$ 6.14
OG&E	110.98
Water Dept.	76.75
Campground	531.20
State giving	2050.80
Total paid out	<u>\$2775.87</u>

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

May 13-14, 1988

Countyline

May 13, 1988, 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association met at the Countyline Free Will Baptist Church for its regular conference.

Bro. Beryl Blair opened the service.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, led the singing, I'll Live In Glory, Come and Dine, and Victory In Jesus, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

There was an altar of prayer, with Bro. Myrl Kellett leading the prayer.

Special singing by Sis. Michele Blair,

GIVING BY CHURCHES - SECOND QUARTER

CHURCH	RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country side	\$ 27.50	16.50				5.50	5.50	
County Line	37.65	22.59				7.53	7.53	
Eastside	187.00					147.00	40.00 Ben: 89f	
Lawton	886.00	531.60				177.20	177.20	
Lone Grove	287.56	156.40	27.00			52.13	52.13	
Midway	1215.32		90.00	93.61	469.05	93.61		469.05
Stob town	198.23		135.00			48.23	15.00	
Comanche								
TOTALS	2839.36	727.09	252.00	93.61	469.05	531.20	297.36	469.05

He Grew The Tree, and Bro. & Sis. Ralph Mullins, Gone.

The Congregation sang, Heaven's Jubilee, while everyone fellowshiped.

Bro. W.L. Lowe, brought the message entitled, Good Times and Bad Times, from the Scripture, Eccl. 9:11-12, Eph. 6:13, and Hosea 10:12. Following the message he called for an altar of prayer, which concluded the service.

May 14, 1988, 9:30 a.m. Bro. Beryl Blair, called the business to order. He appointed Bro. Mark Paxton as the assistant Moderator, for the day.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led, Saved By The Blood, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Bro. Mark Paxton led in prayer.

Motion carried to receive the seven Church letters and seat the Delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given while singing, Glad Reunion Day.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read.

Bro. Mark Paxton read the rules of order.

Visitors were invited to seat in council. Bro. Alan Mabra was introduced and ask to speak on the new work at Woodward, Okla. Every Church was encouraged to support this work.

Appointment of Committees as follows:
Divine Committee: Sis. Delores Gillaspy, Bro. Dale Howell and Sis. Myrtle Norton.
Resolution Committee: Bro. Richard Emberling, Sis. Sheila Rooker and Sis. Nora Truitt.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Joyce Combs, Sis. Pat VanBebber and Bro. Harold Boerstler.

Temperance Committee: Bro. Rob Rooker,

Bro. John Truax and Sis. Nadine Nix.

Bro. Alan Mabra, was chosen for the morning speaker.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Sis. Juanita Lowe, with \$578.44, balance on hand.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer's report given by Bro. Richard Emberling of \$1311.17, balance on hand.

Motion carried to receive the Youth Camp Board report, reminding each Church of their responsibility of preparing the Camp for Youth encampment. Also \$125.00 per Church, plus \$5.00 per Camper.

Motion carried to recess until 11:00 a.m. Worship and to resume business at 1:15 p.m.

11:00 a.m. Worship begin with Bro. Don Zickefoose, leading prayer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing, I'll be Listening, Hand in Hand, and Leave it There, with Sis. Vala Robinson, at the piano.

Special singing, Countyline, I Want to Stroll Over Heaven, Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson, Golden Tomorrow, Sis. Michelle Blair, Two Winning Hands, The Marshall Robinson family, The Lighthouse and The Sun's Coming Up, and Bro. Daryl Robinson, Call Me By Name.

Bro. Alan Mabra, brought the message entitled, Can He Count On Me?, from II Corinthians 5:14-15.

Bro. Loray Spurgeon, dismissed in prayer, with the Blessing on the noon meal.

Business resumed at 1:15 p.m., with Bro. Marshall Robinson leading, When the Roll is Called up Yonder and When We All get to Heaven, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Bro. James Waldrep led in prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee recommendations item by item, they carried as follows. 1..Each member and each Church support all aspects of the Association and reach out to save lost souls 2. That the Association will not hear any charges brought against a member or Church unless it has first been brought before the Executive Board.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report of one death from Stobtown, Sis. Nellie Christian. There was a moment of silent prayer, with Bro. W.L. Lowe concluding the prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report as follows: 1. That Christians should present their bodies as a living sacrifice proving what is Holy and acceptable unto God. 2. That all Christians should abstain from all appearance of sin and be not partakers with the rest of the world, but should be examples to the world.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion carried to receive a love offering for, Bro. Mark Paxton.

Bro. Myrl Kellett led the offertory prayer.

Bro. Marshall Robinson led, Send the Light.

\$173.00 was received.

A fellowship followed while singing, I Love to Walk with Jesus.

Just before dismissal there was a prayer for the sick, Sis. Naomi Mullins and Bro. James Waldreps grandson.

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

Bro. Beryl Blair, moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, clerk

GIVING BY CHURCHES - THIRD QUARTER

CHURCH	RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country side	\$							
County Line	69.26	41.58				13.84	13.84	
Eastside	110.00	22.80				79.60	7.60	
Lawton	895.00	417.00				139.00	339.00 Ben. Off.	
Lone Grove	483.64	290.20				96.72	96.72	
Midway	1019.12		90.00	77.42	387.14	77.42		387.14
Stob town	212.32		135.00			62.32	15.00	
Comanche								
Ben. Off.	64.00							
TOTALS	2853.34	771.58	225.00	77.42	387.14	468.90	472.16	387.14

TREASURER's REPORT

Income from Churches	\$2353.34
Balance in Ass'n Fund	578.44

Expenses:

OG&E	\$ 109.37
Water Dept.	30.00
State givings	2112.28
Campground Fund	468.90
Total Paid out	<u>\$2720.55</u>

CAMPGROUND FUND

Balance brought forward	\$2440.10
Less Pay Outs	<u>1128.93</u>
Balance on hand	<u>\$1311.17</u>

THE 56th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF HOPEWELL NO. 2 CONVENED AT THE CAMP GROUND August 12-13, 1988

At 7:30 p.m., the services were opened by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. Doug Christian led in prayer.

Bro. Ralph Mullins led the singing, I'll Fly Away, He Set Me Free and I'll Live On, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Special singing, Bro. Doug Christian, I'll Rise again, Bro. Don Zickefoose, How Sweet the Name, and One day at a Time, and Bro. Blair & Sis. Boerstler, I Need No Mansion.

Bro. Ken Stevens, brought the evening message from Romans 5:1-10 entitled, Triumphs of Faith.

A love offering of \$33.08 was taken in addition to the \$300.00 salary.

Bro. Beryl Blair dismissed in prayer.

Saturday morning business was called to order by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. Don Zickefoose led the singing, In The Sweet By an By and Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Bro. Loray Spurgeon led in prayer.

Motion carried to receive the eight letters from the Churches and seat the delegates.

Right hand of fellowship was given while Bro. Doug Christian led the singing, Amazing Grace, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Motion carried to receive the Minutes as read.

Motion carried to receive the letter of recommendation for Bro. Jerry Woods, from the First Mission Association of Free Will Baptist of Sapulpa, Okla.

Motion carried to send a letter of recommendation to the Franklin Conference, Whiteall, Ohio, for Bro. Mark Paxton.

Rules of order was read by Bro. Harvey White.

Visitors were invited to seat in council.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Resolution Committee: Loray Spurgin, Rob Rooker, and Jimmy Tate.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Nadine Nix, Sis. Beulah Sowles and Bro. Lewis Howell.

Temperance Committee: Bro. Don Zickefoose, Bro. Ed Staggs and Jehree McClain.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Sis. Frances Lewellen, with a balance on hand of \$324.82.

Motion carried to take a break before the morning Worship. Dismissed with an altar of prayer for those with special needs.

11:00 a.m. Worship was conducted by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. J. W. Craft led in prayer.

Bro. Terry Pierson led the singing, Heaven's Jubilee, When the Roll is called Up Yonder, We'll Work Til Jesus Comes, and the Lily of the Valley, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Special singing, Bro. Don Zickefoose, I Would Not Be Denied and He's Coming Soon, Cindi Staggs and Kim Lichtscheidl, There's Power in Prayer.

Bro. Myrl Kellett, brought the morning message from Exodus 12:14, entitled, A Night to Remember.

Invitational song: I need Thee Every Hour.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Harvey White.

Business resumed at 1:00 p.m.

Prayer by Bro. Troy Lewellen.

Bro. Terry Pierson, led the singing, I Will Sing the Wondrous Story and Stand Up for Jesus, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Bro. Don Zickefoose, brought the devotional from Acts 17:22-30.

Bro. Ralph Mullins gave an oral report from the Executive Board.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report, that Sis. Josey Staggs expired from the Countyline Church. A moment of silent prayer with Bro. Ralph Mullins concluding the prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report as follows: 1. That the Association charge \$40.00 a day or \$150.00 per week for use of the Camp Ground, to defray cost of utilities by an Organization

other than Member Churches of Hopewell No 2 Association, plus a deposit of \$100.00 in case of property damages, which will be refunded upon inspection by the Youth Camp Caretaker. 2. That a member of the Camp Ground Board be designated as Caretaker of the Camp Ground with the responsibility of seeing to the turning on and off of utilities, also this person will be notified any time the Camp Ground is being used. 3. That any Ordained that absent themselves from two Association Meetings in succession, will not have a vote in the Association, until such a time they come, attend one meeting and apologize to the Association.

Temperance Committee report: None.

Motion carried to have an Association - al Revival beginning August 6-13, 1989, at the Camp Ground.

Motion carried that each Church be appointed their night as they appear in the minutes.

Motion carried to advertise in the Newspapers and print up a 1000 tracts.

Grace Free Will Baptist pledged \$25.00 toward printing of Tracts and Newspaper advertisement.

Note: Next Association meeting will designate someone for Revival advertising and printing of tracts.

Motion carried to replace Bro. Floyd McDaniels on the Standing Camp Ground Board. Jimmy Tate was the replacement.

Motion carried to place Bro. Terry Pierson, on the Standing Camp Ground Board and that Bro. Jess Gillespy remain as an Honorary member.

Motion carried that the Camp Ground Board Members act as the Caretaker of the Youth Camp.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Bro. Beryl Blair was elected as the five year man on the Executive Board.

Bro. Harvey White was elected as the five year man on the Credential Board.

Moderator, Bro. Beryl Blair, Assistant Moderator, Bro. Harvey White.

Clerk, Sis. Wanda Kellett, Assistant Clerk, Sis. Lynne Truax.

Treasurer, Sis. Sheila Rooker, Assistant, Bro. Rob Rooker.

Reporter, Sis. Bobbie Staggs.

General Board Member for 1989, Bro. Ralph Mullins.

ASSOCIATIONAL MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:

Starting time, Friday nights, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m.

November 11-12, 1988, place Midway, Speaker, Bro. John Beverly.

February 10-11, 1989, place, Stobtown, Speaker, Bro. Don Zickefoose.

May 12-13, 1989, Place, Grace Comanche, Speaker, Bro. Harvey White.

August 11-12, 1989, Place, Camp Ground, Speaker, Midway Pastor. Friday night.

Saturday morning Speaker, Bro. Dugan McDonald.

Motion carried to select Youth Camp Directors and Dates in Nov. District Meeting.

Motion carried to adjourn.

Bro. John Beverly dismissed in prayer.

Bro. Beryl Blair, moderator

Sis. Wanda Kellett, clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income from Churches	\$2734.99
Balance in Ass'n Fund	324.82

Expenses:

Campground	\$ 720.88=
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Treasurer's report continued:

State giving	\$1781.62
Water Dept.	201.00
OG&E	285.11
Total paid out	<u>\$2988.61</u>

YEARLY REPORT
August 1987 - 1988

Balance brought forward	\$ 874.77
Received	11332.52
Total	<u>\$12207.29</u>
Paid out	11882.47
Balance on hand	<u>\$ 324.82</u>

MINISTERS AND DEACONS - OFFICERS & MEETINGS

Moderator Beryl Blair
Secretary & Treasurer . . Ralph Mullins

Meetings:

October 22, 1988-----7:30 p.m.
January 23, 1989-----7:30 p.m.
April 22, 1989-----7:30 p.m.
July 22, 1989-----7:30 p.m.

"I am the bread of Life: he that
cometh to me shall never hunger.."
John 6:35

"Come unto me, all ye that labour.."
Matt. 11:28

"Whosoever believeth on me should
not abide in darkness." John 12:46

"Ye shall know the truth and the
truth shall make you free." John 8:32

GIVING BY CHURCHES - FOURTH QUARTER

CHURCH	RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country side	\$							
County Line	73.36	44.01				14.66	14.69	
Eastside	190.00	39.00				138.00	13.00	
Lawton	761.00	381.60				252.20	127.20	
Lone Grove	337.97	202.78				67.59	67.60	
Midway	1000.06		90.00	75.83	379.20	75.83		379.20
Stob town	147.60		90.00			47.60	10.00	
Comanche	225.00		100.00			125.00		
TOTALS	2734.99	667.39	280.00	75.83	379.20	720.88	232.49	379.20

GIVING BY CHURCHES - YEARLY REPORT

CHURCH	RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F.M.	S.M.	HILLS DALE	CAMP GROUND	G.F.	H.M.
Country side	\$ 110.00	33.00				11.00	66.00	
County Line	285.49	138.32				46.07	101.10	
Eastside	667.00	61.80				489.60	115.60 Ben. Off.	
Lawton	3103.00	1633.80				669.60	799.60 Ben. Off.	
Lone Grove	1616.13	920.50	27.00			306.81	361.82	
Midway	4317.76		365.00	324.48	1624.40	324.48	55.00	1624.40
Stob town	869.14		540.00			214.14	115.00	
Comanche	280.00		100.00			125.00	55.00	
OTHER Benevol.	84.00					20.00		
TOTALS	11332.52	2787.42	1032.00	324.48	1624.40	2206.70	1669.12	1624.40

CHURCH

PASTOR

CLERK

Countryside Box 235 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-3530	John Beverly Box 235 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-3530	Emma Combest Rt. 3 Box 129-B Duncan, Ok. 73533 Ph: 444-2433
County Line Box 236 County Line, Ok. 73025	Edward Staggs Box 156 County Line, Ok. 73025 Ph: 856-3978	Gearldine Staggs Box 126 County Line, Ok. 73025
East Duncan 1313 Chestnut Box 1413 Duncan, Ok. 73533 Ph: 252-0519	James Waldrep 307 N. D St. Duncan, Ok. 73533 Ph: 252-4706	Reba Boerstler 721 N.8th St. Duncan, Ok. 73533 Ph: 255-7015
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 Box 325 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443 Ph: 657-3246	Arley Atchley 201 Fruit St. Lone Grove, Ok. 73443 Ph: 657-3246	Mary Beth Bray Rt.3 Box 31-C Ardmore, Ok. 43401 Ph: 657-4908
Midway HC-63 Box 2400 Healdton, Ok. 73438 Ph: 673-2599	W. L. Lowe HC-63, Box 2400 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	Harvey White Rt.3 Box 154C Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Ann Christian Rt.3 Box 134A Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-2218
Grace Box 132 Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-2311	Beryl Blair 707 Patterson Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-2311	Geneva Hughes Rt. 1 Box 307 Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-5241

ORDAINED MINISTERS

J. W. Craft	Rt. 1 Box 225 Comanche, Ok.73529	439-6341
J. O. Hudson	HC 63 Healdton, Ok.73438	673-2524
David Gardner	Star Rt.107 Astor Lone Grove, Ok.73443	657-4430
Royce McClendon	Rt. 2 Ardmore, Ok.73401	657-8214

LICENSED MINISTERS

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

Harold Boerstler	721 N.8th Duncan, Ok.73433	255-7015
Cleo Chism	508 S. 13th Lawton, Ok.73501	353-8482
Billy Christian	Star Rt. Box 17 Lone Grove, Ok.73443	657-4842
Forest Cox	Rt. 1 Box 46 Ratliff City, Ok.73081	444-2484
Luther Eason	Rt. 5 Box 7E Duncan, Ok.73533	252-0239
Jess Gillaspy	Box 3 Countyline, Ok.73025	856-3462
Dale Howell	St. Rt. Box A104 Lone Grove, Ok.73443	657-3836

ORDAINED DEACONS - continued

Othel Kyle	Rt.3 Box 31 Ardmore, Ok.73401	657-6420
Troy Lewellen	Box 201 Graham, Ok.73437	673-2315
Ralph Mullins	Box 275 Ratliff City, Ok.73081	856-3038
Marshall Mitchell	Rt.3 Ardmore, Ok.73401	657-4252
Troy Morris	Rt. 3 Box 155 Ardmore, Ok.73401	657-4513
Terry Pierson	Box 6 Graham, Ok.73437	673-2109
Leonard Robinson	Rt. Box 20 Lone Grove, Ok.73443	657-4742
Loray Spurgin	Box 842 Velma, Ok.73091	444-2527
Sam Staggs	Box 126 Countyline, Ok.73025	
Richard Watkins	Box 235 Fox, Ok.73435	673-2798

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH **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 Baptists believe in a divinely-called ministry.

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

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

ment have recognized that the one ordained is gifted and capable to minister.

No group responsible for ordination would presume to imply that it is infallible. Candidates genuinely possessing the gift may on occasion be rejected, but although this is true the ordaining councils must not simply decide to ordain anyone just because he desires it.

The Responsibilities of Ordination.

The Candidate who has been ordained continues to have certain responsibilities relating to those who have ordained him, in addition to his obvious responsibilities to the Lord who has called him.

First, he should report regularly to the body with which he holds ordination. Second, he should submit to any call issued by the body for disciplinary purposes. If he shows himself, by conduct or doctrine, to be unworthy or continuing as ordained, he should willingly relinquish his ordination certificate to those who have the authority and having followed the correct procedures—request it.

The Transfer of Ordination

Moving about from one place to another in the denomination often involves transferring ordination from one association to another. A minister in good standing in one association is usually granted confirmation of his ordained status in another association with a minimum of procedural requirements. But caution should be followed so that two definite responsibilities are observed.

- (1) The association from which a minister is transferring has the shared responsibilities to inform the new association if there were any questions at all about the minister's standing; conduct, or doctrine.
- (2) The association to which the minister is transferring should make sure by whatever means are necessary, that the minister has left his former association in good standing, and is worthy by conduct and doctrine, of ordination.

PART II: STANDARDS FOR ORDINATION

Obviously, there is considerable variety within the Free Will Baptist denomination in reference to requirements for ordination. The following outline will deal with the areas generally agreed to be most important.

1. General Qualifications of Character and Conduct

The earlier portion of this booklet has made clear that the primary requirements is that the evidence given in the candidate's life be such as to convince those who observe—both in the candidate's local church and in a broader area that he possesses the gift and calling of God.

Obviously, the official recommendation of the local church should not be given to a candidate unless that recommendation can be fully relied on to mean that the candidate, by sufficient length of time, has given full assurance to the members of the church that he meets the standards of these Biblical lists.

2. The Candidate's Business Relationships

One of Paul's specific requirements is that the ministers "have a good report on them which are without," (1 Tim. 3:7). In reference to this, a matter of great importance is the candidate's financial reputation. The "Ministry" has been blighted by men who do not pay their bills. Every effort should be made to make sure the candidate is scrupulously careful to keep his finances in order.

To aid in achieving this assurance, several Free Will Baptist ordaining groups are now requiring the candidate to submit several credit references, and then perhaps even the credit bureaus are closely checked.

3. The candidate's Ministerial Activities

There have been far too many Free Will Baptist persons ordained as "preachers" who almost never preach or perform any real ministry for which ordination is required. Every effort should be made to be sure the candidate is actually going to be involved in ministerial duties. Indeed, he should already be manifesting ministerial abilities in some degree.

This need has brought more and more of our ordaining groups to follow this practice of only renewing license and not actually ordaining until a candidate actually gets involved in a specific "ministry" like pastoring, regular evangelistic work, missionary labor, or other types of church employment needing ordination. Perhaps this reflects Paul's requirement that the individual to be ordained not be a "novice"—neither immature as a Christian nor in Christian Service.

4. The Candidate's Marital Status

Perhaps one of the touchiest areas in connection with ordination requirements concerns divorce and remarriage. Paul says "the husband of one wife." Most groups do not take this to mean a single man cannot be ordained, but only that if he is married, he must not be a polygamist.

In a few areas, a person divorced and remarried might be ordained, although this is not true in most places. Whether this is right and good is a matter that needs a great deal of careful study across the whole denomination.

5. The Candidate's Sex

Throughout the years, a few women have been ordained to the ministry in the denomination and a few are currently active. The general trend however, has been in the opposite direction; and most areas will not now ordain women.

6. The Candidate's Education

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

7. The Candidate's Biblical Knowledge

It is absolutely necessary that a minister have a good general knowledge of the word. Therefore, procedures are always in order among ordaining councils that will help them determine the level of Biblical knowledge possessed by the candidate. This is, indeed, one of the main purposes of the examination. When administered well, oral examinations along this line can be sufficient, but the trend now in many areas is to go to some type of written examination covering Biblical knowledge. Such examinations, whether written or oral, should cover (1) knowledge of general Biblical facts and (2) ability to explain basic Biblical concepts. In order to cover these matters well, such examinations have to be carefully planned. And the ordainers should have recommendations about specific studies the candidate can get involved in to prepare him for these examinations—both

before his first examination, and in preparation for a second examination if he fails to satisfy them the first time.

Please note that there has been included an Appendix 1 of this booklet, a sample examination covering this area (and the next). This examination is much like one in actual use by one ordaining group in the Free Will Baptist denomination.

8. The Candidate's Doctrinal Position

Closely related to the previous are (Biblical knowledge) is the matter of the candidate's doctrinal position and understanding. By actual examination (again, either orally or, perhaps better, in writing) the ordainers should be completely satisfied on these counts:

- (1) that the candidate is doctrinally sound and holds a clear-cut position in agreement with basic fundamentals of Christianity;
- (2) that the candidate is denominationally sound and holds a clear-cut position in agreement with the distinctive doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination;
- (3) that the candidate not only knows the right words, but understands and can satisfactorily explain the doctrines involved in the two areas just mentioned.

Again, please note that Appendix 1 of this booklet contains a sample examination covering this area and the previous one. The examination is much like the one in actual use by one ordaining group in the denomination.

