

Minutes

Hopewell No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

60th Annual Meeting

1992

MINUTES OF THE
60th ANNUAL MEETING
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1992

- OFFICERS -

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

Assistant Moderator Ed Staggs
P.O. Box 34, Countyline, Ok. 73025
Phone: 856-3384

Clerk Charlene Robinson
1007 I. Ave., Lawton, Ok. 73501
Phone: 248-3536

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

Treasurer Loray Spurgin
Box 842, Velma, Ok. 73091
Phone: 444-2527

Assistant Treasurer Mary Head
P.O. Box 143, Velma, Ok. 73091
Phone: 444-2470

Reporter Frances Lewellen
Box 201, Graham, Ok. 73437
Phone: 673-2315

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Troy Lewellen	5 Years
Loray Spurgin	4 Years
Myrl Kellett	3 Years
J.W. Craft	2 Years
Beryl Blair	1 Year

CREDENTIAL BOARD

Myrl Kellett	5 Years
Bill Holder	4 Years
Dugan McDonald.	3 Years
Ed Staggs	2 Years
Don Zickefoose.	1 Year

CAMPGROUND BOARD

Beryl Blair	5 Years
707 Patterson, Comanche Ok. 73529	
Phone: 439-2311	
L.T. Woodall	4 Years
Rt. 6, Box 224, Duncan, Ok. 73533	
Phone: 255-1725	
Terry Pierson	3 Years
Box 6, Graham, Ok. 73437	
Phone: 673-2109	
Don Zickefoose.	2 Years
1912 Garfield, Lawton, Ok. 73501	
Phone: 355-8242	
Marshall Robinson	1 Year
1007 I. Ave.	
Lawton, Ok 73501	
Phone: 248-3536	

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

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

Vice-President. Cathy Little
Rt. 3, Box 120X, Duncan, Ok. 73533
Phone: 444-3549

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

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

Mission Action. Barbara Davis
13 Ruth, Healdton, Ok. 73438
Phone: 229-0007

Mission Study Fran McDonald
HC 63, Box 2400, Healdton, Ok. 73438
Phone: 673-2599

Mission Prayer. Nadine Nix
Rt. 3, Box 231, Duncan, Ok. 73533
Phone: 444-2537

"A NEED FOR SPIRITUAL VITAMINS"

October 10, 1992 at Midway, 9:30 a.m.

January 9, 1993 at Countryside, 9:30 a.m.

April 3, 1993 at Midway, 9:30 a.m.

July 10, 1993 at Countryside, 9:30 a.m.

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
November 8-9, 1991
Comanche

Friday, November 8, 1991, Hopewell No. 2 Association Quarterly Conference was opened by Moderator, Bro. Dugan McDonald. Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano, Bro. Don Zickefoose led the congregational singing of "Kneel at the Cross", "I'll Be Satisfied" and "Heaven's Jubilee". Prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs.

Special music by Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, "Lazarus Come Forth", Sis. Mary White, "When He Sees Me", Bro. Marshall and Sis. Charlene Robinson, "There Will Be Sunshine" and "I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy", Bro. Don Zickefoose, "That's Just His Way of Telling Me He Loves Me" and "I Thank You Jesus". Prayer by Bro. Dugan McDonald.

Congregational song, "Amazing Grace" was sung during a Fellowship handshake by all.

Message was brought by Bro. Harvey White, Pastor of Lone Grove Free Will Baptist Church from Acts 2:38, titled "Back to the Early Church".

The invitational Hymn was sung by Sis. Mary White, "The Same Road".

Announcements: The Brashear family will be at Grace Free Will Baptist Church, Nov. 23, 1991, 7:30 p.m.

Evening Service was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Saturday, November 9, 1991, 9:30 a.m. meeting was called to order by Moderator, Bro. Dugan McDonald.

Bro. Don Zickefoose led congregational singing of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms",

Diann Pierson at the piano. Prayer by Bro. J.W. Craft.

Bro. Dugan McDonald brought the devotional from Matthew 21, concluding with prayer.

Letters were read from seven churches, delegates were seated by giving the right hand of fellowship, while Bro. Don Zickefoose led singing, "I Heard an Old, Old Story", with Diann Pierson at the piano. Churches represented were Countryside, Countyline, Eastside Duncan, Grace of Comanche, Lawton First, Lone Grove and Midway.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Aug. 8-9, 1991, were read and received.

Ronnie Hayes presented the cost of printing the 1991 Minutes, \$75.00 to the Healdton Herald for the cover and binding, \$150.00 to Midway Church for paper and supplies for printing. Total cost \$225.00. Motion carried to approve cost of printing the minutes and payment to be made to Healdton Herald and Midway Church.

Petitionary letter was read from Dibble Association requesting letter of good standing for Bro. Harold Boerstler. Motion carried to grant a letter.

Letters read and received as information from Hillsdale College and the National Home Mission Board.

Rules of Order were read by Assistant Moderator, Bro. Beryl Blair.

Appointment of Committees as follows:
Divine Committee, Nadine Nix, Kenneth Lewis, & Charlene Robinson. Resolution Committee, Kim Robinson, Loray Spurgin, & David Waldrep. Obituary Committee, Elsie Garrett, Marlon Robinson, and Sherry Youngblood. Temperance

Committee, Emma Combest, J. W. Craft, and Vali Hayes.

The Divine Committee selected Bro. Bill Holder to bring the morning message.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurers report as given by Vali Hayes of \$290.23 balance on hand.

Credential Board report was given by Bro. Dugan McDonald. It was reported Bro. Bill Holder, recently ordained, has been called to pastor Countryside Church.

Sis. Cleo Spurgin, Woman's Auxiliary President, reported the District Auxiliary met in January. Missionaries to Ivory Coast, Glenda Leatherbury and Jaylyn Martens were Speakers.

General Board Member, Bro. Myrl Kellett, gave report on the State Meeting and distributed a "Digest of Reports" of the meeting to the Churches. Wanda Kellett gave a report on the State WNAC meeting and distributed material on State Projects and new State Officers. She encouraged all Churches to participate in the District Auxiliary.

Ronnie Hayes requested all Churches to turn in the information sheets for the District Newsletter.

Bro. Beryl Blair welcomed the Association to Grace Church for the Quarterly Meeting in their newly acquired building.

Business was adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Dale Howell.

The Morning Worship Service began at 11:00 a.m. with Bro. Dugan McDonald in charge. Prayer by Bro. McDonald. Bro. Don Zickefoose led singing of "I'll Fly Away", "Just Over in the Gloryland", "I Would Not Be Denied", and

"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder", Diann Pierson at the piano. Special music was brought by Bro. & Sis. Marshall Robinson and Sis. Kim Robinson, "I Am Blessed", Bro. Don Zickefoose, "Homecoming In Heaven" and "It is No Secret What God Can Do". Prayer by Bro. Ralph Mullins.

The message was brought by Bro. Bill Holder, from Philippians 3:10-11, Romans 12:1. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Myrl Kellett.

Business resumed at 1:00 p.m. with singing "Heavens Jubilee" led by Bro. Don Zickefoose, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs. Devotion given by Bro. Ed Staggs from John 11:14.

Committee Reports as follows:

Resolution: No resolutions.

Obituary: Edward Bray, Lone Grove, Bro. James Waldrep, Eastside Duncan, and Ruby Parsons, Countryside.

Temperance: Encourage other Christians to be faithful by each of us setting the example of faithfulness to our Church and the Lord.

Campground Board recommended a change in the dress code to state, (SHORTS ABOVE THE KNEE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.) Motion carried to accept the Campground Boards recommendation.

Motion carried to set date for Youth Camp for June 7-12, 1992.

Motion carried to adjourn. Dismissed in prayer.

Bro. Dugan McDonald, moderator
Sis. Frances Lewellen, clerk

HOPEWELL #2 ASSOCIATION
1ST QUARTER 91-92

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand, Aug. 10-91	\$ 265.29
Income from Churches	2,467.08
Offering from Aug. Meeting (for Connie Cariker)	25.00
Sub-total	\$2,757.37
Less Expenses	2,467.14
Check Printing Charge	\$ 11.85
Connie Cariker	25.00
Water	56.50
OG&E	398.17
State Giving	1,570.35
Camp Ground	289.52
Postage	15.75
Myrl Kellett (State Meeting)	100.00
Balance on Hand-Nov. 9-91	\$ 290.23

HOPEWELL #2 ASSOCIATION
1ST QUARTER 91-92
TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>STATE FOREIGN</u>	<u>HOME</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>HILLS-</u>	<u>CAMP</u>	<u>GEN.</u>
		<u>CO-OP</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>DALE</u>	<u>GROUND</u>	<u>FUND</u>
Countryside	175.00	30.00				10.00	135.00
Countyline	146.66	43.00				14.33	89.33
Duncan	214.75	53.85				17.95	142.95
Grace	386.82	178.58				41.62	166.62
Lone Grove	425.91	210.55				70.18	145.18
Lawton	200.00	120.00				40.00	40.00
Midway	705.45		141.09	141.10	70.54	211.64	70.54
Stobtown	212.49		90.00			24.90	97.59
TOTALS	\$2,467.08	\$635.98	\$231.09	\$141.10	\$70.54	\$211.64	\$289.52
							\$887.21

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING
February 7-8, 1992
Lawton

Friday, February 7, 1992, Hopewell No. 2 Quarterly Conference was opened by Moderator, Bro. Dugan McDonald. A welcome was given to the visitors and the Churches represented.

Bro. Marshall Robinson led "Showers of Blessings", Sis. Sheila Rooker at the piano. Bro. L. T. Woodall led in prayer. Other songs were "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms", and "Nothing But The Blood". Special music by Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson, "The Cross in the Middle", Bro. Don Zickefoose, "This Could be the Hour", Bro. and Sis. Marshall Robinson, Darryl, Kim and Marty, "Standing on Holy Ground", and "Headed for Glory".

Bro. Bill Holder brought the message from I Cor. 1:18, entitled, "Jesus and the Cross". Invitation song, "Kneel at the Cross", was led by Bro. Darryl Robinson, with Sis. Sheila Rooker at the piano. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Saturday, February 8, 1992, 9:30 a.m., meeting was opened with singing, led by Bro. Marshall Robinson, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Bro. Dugan McDonald brought the devotion from Acts 3:22, concluding with prayer.

Letters were called for, read and received from six Churches, Lawton First, Countyline, Eastside Duncan, Grace, Countryside, and Midway. Right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates while Bro. Marshall Robinson led singing, "I Want to be a Worker", with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Minutes of November conference were read and approved.

Letters of information were read from Hillsdale College, Eastside Duncan and Bro. Earnest Harrigan of Beacon, Mo., concerning Missionary funds and methods of dispersing the funds to the Missionaries. Letters were accepted as information.

Bro. Beryl Blair, Assistant Moderator read the Rules of Order.

Moderator, Bro. Dugan McDonald, welcomed the visitors and invited them to take part in discussions. Bro. Jack Richey was recognized from Hillsdale College.

Appointment of Committees as follows:
Resolution Committee: Elsie Lewis, Bill Holder and Charlene Robinson. Obituary Committee: Tonya Allen, Mary Head, and Kim Robinson. Temperance Committee: Kenneth Glenn, Don Zickefoose, and Elsie Garrett. Divine Committee: Wanda Kellett, Barbara Davis, and Joyce Combs. Bro. Jack Richey was selected as the morning Speaker.

Treasurers Report accepted as given by Sis. Vivian Lewis of \$136.59 balance on hand.

Bro. Jack Richey, Director of Public Relations, Hillsdale College gave a report from the College. "Have a Heart for Hillsdale" is the theme for this years fund raising campaign.

Motion carried to participate in a "Hillsdale College Week". With services at a different Church each night of the week.

Motion carried to designate March 29th through April 4th, as Hillsdale College Week.

Motion carried to select schedule dates by a drawing. Days of the week written on slips of paper were drawn out by a member

of each Church represented. Schedule as follows, Monday-Midway, Tuesday-Lawton, Wednesday-Grace, Thursday-Countyline, Friday-Countryside, Saturday-Eastside Duncan. Sunday A.M. and P.M. were not drawn.

Moderator was instructed to contact Churches not present, Stobtown and Lone Grove, to invite them to participate by choosing one of the Services on Sunday. Completion of the scheduling was left to the discretion of the Moderator.

Board Reports:

Executive Board met twice concerning the appointment of an Acting Treasurer due to the resignation of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Vivian Lewis was interviewed and appointed as Acting Treasurer until the next meeting of the Association.

Camp Ground Treasurer report was given with \$1700.00 balance on hand.

Sis. Cleo Spurgin, Woman's Auxiliary President, reported the District Auxiliary had met at Countryside in January. The program was a Bible Study and discussion led by Sis. Frances Lewellen.

Dismissed from business until 1:00 p.m. Prayer by Bro. Troy Lewellen.

Morning Worship Service was opened by Bro. Dugan McDonald. Prayer by Bro. Don Zickefoose. Bro. Marshall Robinson led singing, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Songs, "At Calvary", "Joy Unspeakable", "There Is Power in the Blood", and "Heavenly Sunlight". Prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs.

Special Music by Sis. Barbara Davis and Sis. Diann Pierson, "What A Day That Will Be", Bro. Don Zickefoose, "The Family Bible",

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Charlene Robinson,
"Paid in Full By the Blood of the Lamb",
and Sis. Charlene, Kim, and Darryl Robinson,
"My Foot's On The Rock".

The message was brought by Bro. Jack Richey from Psalms 122:1, titled "Attitude of Gladness in Serving God". Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Bill Holder.

Afternoon business resumed at 1:00 p.m. with singing led by Bro. Marshall Robinson, Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Song "Love Lifted Me". Prayer by Bro. Dugan McDonald. Devotion by Bro. Don Zickefoose from Matthew 6:25 and Hebrews 11:6.

Committee Reports as follows:

Resolution Committee: We the Resolution Committee request that it be resolved by all Churches to strive to attend the Hillsdale College Week Meetings at the Churches in our Association. Obituary Committee: Eastside Duncan reported the loss of Sis. Eason.

Motion carried to accept the resignation of Sis. Vali Hayes as Treasurer and Bro. Ronnie Hayes as Assistant Treasurer.

Sis. Vivian Lewis was elected as Association Treasurer. Bro. Loray Spurgin was elected as Assistant Treasurer.

Motion carried to accept the resignation of Bro. Ronnie Hayes as 5 Year Member on Campground Board, and Newsletter Editor.

Motion carried to refer to the Executive Board, for further study, the position of Newsletter Editor.

Bro. L. T. Woodall elected to serve as 5 year Member on Campground Board.

Motion carried to adjourn with altar of

prayer for the sick. Those mentioned were Brothers Ralph Mullins, Joe Blair, Harvey Clark and family members of Bro. L.T. Woodall, Bro. Dugan McDonald and Sis. Vala Robinson.

Announcements: Minister and Deacons meeting at Midway Church in April. Association meeting in May at Lone Grove.

Bro. Dugan McDonald, moderator
Sis. Frances Lewellen, clerk

HOPEWELL #2 ASSOCIATION
2ND QUARTER 91-92

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand-Dec. 13-91		\$ 90.23
Income from Churches		1,495.48
Sub-Total		1,585.71
Less Expenses		1,449.12
Water	\$ 78.50	
O.G.&E.	111.82	
State	992.86	
Campground Treasury	246.04	
Checks & S.C.	19.90	
Balance on Hand-Jan. 31-92		\$ 136.59

HOPEWELL #2 ASSOCIATION
2ND QUARTER 91-92
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	INCOME	STATE CO-OP MISSION	HOME MISSION	STATE MISSION	HILLS- DALE	CAMP GROUND	GEN. FUND
Countyline	59.89	35.95				11.97	11.97
Countryside	116.00	69.60				23.20	23.20
Duncan	129.35	77.61				25.87	25.87
Grace	327.98	196.80				65.59	65.59
Lawton	133.00	79.80				26.60	26.60
Lone Grove	215.18	129.10				43.04	43.04
Midway	380.00	76.00	76.00	38.00	114.00	38.00	38.00
Stobtown	134.08	100.00				11.78	22.30
TOTALS	\$1,495.48	\$588.86	\$176.00	\$76.00	\$38.00	\$114.00	\$246.04
							\$256.57

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING
May 1-2, 1992
Lone Grove

May 1, 1992, 7:30 p.m., Hopewell No. 2 Association convened for regular business at Lone Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Bro. Beryl Blair, Assistant Moderator in charge of the service. The Service opened with an Altar of Prayer. Congregational singing was led by Pat Thetford, with Sis. Mary White at the piano. Special singing by Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson and Sis. Mary White. Bro. Ed Staggs brought the message from Exodus 4:10-11, entitled "Oh My Lord Who Speaks, to the dumb, deaf, seeing and the blind". Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Harvey White.

Saturday, May 2, 1992, 9:30 a.m. business was called to order by Bro. Beryl Blair, Asst. Moderator. Congregational singing led by Bro. Marshall Robinson, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Songs were "Victory in Jesus" and "Just a Little Talk with Jesus" Prayer by Bro. Burton Perry.

Letters were read from seven Churches and delegates seated. Right hand of fellowship was given as Bro. Marshall Robinson led singing of "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart"; with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Minutes were read and received.

Bro. Harvey White was appointed as Assistant Moderator for this session.

Petitionary letter read from Eastside Duncan requesting Bro. Harvey Clark to go before the Credential Board to be examined for license to preach the Gospel. Motion carried to receive the letter.

Thank you card from Sis. Mullins was read.

Divine Committee was appointed and excused to select a Speaker for the morning worship service.

Bro. Harvey White, read the Rules of Order.

Visitors were welcomed and invited to join in discussion. Bro. Burton Perry State Mission Board was welcomed and invited to speak.

Committees appointed as follows:
Resolution Committee: Dale Howell, chairman, Myrl Kellett, and J.W. Craft. Obituary Committee: Tonya Allen, chairman, Charlene Robinson, and Loretha Pierson. Temperance Committee: Bill Holder, chairman, Nadine Nix, and Elsie Garrett. Divine Committee: Joyce Combs, chairman, Gilbert Gardner, and Marilyn Clark. The Committee selected Bro. Don Zickefoose as speaker for the morning worship service.

Treasurer report of \$345.00 balance on hand was given and accepted.

Bro. Ed Staggs as ask to speak to the water department concerning the higher than usual water bills for the Campground.

Motion carried to fill vacant positions on Credential Board, 5 year man, and Executive Board, 3 year man.

Bro. Bill Holder elected for the 5 year position on the Credential Board. Bro. J. W. Craft elected for the 3 year position on the Executive Board.

Business adjourned until 1:15 p.m.

Worship Service began with singing led by

Bro. Marshall Robinson, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Special music by Sis. Cathy Little and Bro. Don Zickefoose. Prayer led by Bro. Harvey Clark.

Bro. Don Zickefoose brought the message from Matthew 24:4-31 and John 14:1-3. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs.

The business session was called to order by Asst. Moderator Bro. Beryl Blair. Congregational song led by Bro. Marshall Robinson, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Prayer by Bro. J. W. Craft.

Board Reports as follows:

Campground Board: Bro. Terry Pierson gave Campground Treasurer Report of \$2600.00 balance on hand. He also reported a need for Youth Camp workers and requested Church representatives pick up Camp applications and medical forms to take to their respective Churches. Report accepted.

Credential Board: We recommend that Bro. Harvey Clark preach one year before being licensed. Motion carried to receive commendation.

Committee Reports as follows:

Resolution: No. 1, Be it resolved that the utilities be turned off at the Camp Ground after the Annual Association meeting and turned back on prior to the preparation for Youth Camp. The Camp Ground Board to be overseers of this action. Motion carried to approve this resolution. No. 2, Work to get our Association to work together, in one mind and one accord. Pray for our country to turn back to God and seek His leadership. Motion carried.

Temperance: Teach our children the im-

portance of practicing abstinence in view of the AID'S epidemic and the coming judgement. Motion carried to accept this report.

Obituary Committee: Those loved ones who have gone on during the past four months were Bro. J. O. Hudson, Midway, Bro. Ed Bray, Lone Grove, Bro. Ralph Mullins, Countyline, and Sis. Cordelia Lanfair, Countryside. A moment of silent prayer was observed.

Motion carried to elect Sis. Mary Head as Assistant Treasurer.

Motion carried to adjourn. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Troy Lewellen.

Bro. Dugan McDonald, moderator
Sis. Frances Lewellen, clerk

HOPEWELL #2 ASSOCIATION
3RD QUARTER 92

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand-Feb. 5-92	\$ 322.06
Less Expenses	
O.G.&E.	111.32
Water	59.75
Postage	27.00
Balance on Hand - April 25, 1992	\$ 345.00

HOPEWELL #2 ASSOCIATION
3RD QUARTER 92
TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>STATE CO-OP</u>	<u>CAMP GROUND</u>	<u>GEN. FUND</u>	<u>HILLSDALE</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>
Countyline	39.38	23.33	7.86	7.86		
Countryside	199.05	30.00	10.00	10.00	89.50	60.00
Duncan	78.30	34.90	8.30	15.02	20.00	
N O. Grace	355.27	213.15	71.05	71.06		
Lawton	231.00	138.60	46.20	46.20		
Lone Grove	102.21	61.21	20.41	20.41		
Midway	125.00		12.50	12.50	37.50	62.50
Stobtown	83.45		27.97	20.48		35.00
TOTAL	\$1,213.66	\$501.27	\$204.29	\$203.53	\$147.00	\$157.50

ANNUAL ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING
August 7-8, 1992
Campground

Friday, August 7, 1992, Hopewell No. 2 Association Annual Meeting was opened with Bro. Beryl Blair in charge of the service. Prayer was led by Bro. Harold Boerstler. Congregational singing was led by Bro. Terry Pierson, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the Keyboard. Special music was brought by Sis. Kathy Little and Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson. Prayer by Bro. Troy Lewellen.

Bro. Wade Jernigan brought the message from John 4:14, entitled "A Well of Water". Service dismissed with prayer by Bro. Loray Spurgin.

Saturday, August 8, 1992, 9:30 a.m., the business session was called to order by Moderator Bro. Dugan McDonald. Bro. McDonald gave a devotion from Jeremiah 18. Congregational singing was led by Bro. Don Zickefoose, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the keyboard.

Letters from eight Churches were read and received. The right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates, while Bro. Don Zickefoose led singing, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the keyboard.

Minutes of the May Quarterly Meeting were read and accepted.

Rules of Order were read by Bro. Beryl Blair.

Petitionary letter from Lone Grove Church was read with request from Bro. Harvey White that his name be removed from the Credential Board because of his moving out of the Association. Motion carried to grant the request.

Petitionary Letter from Duncan Eastside Church, requested the Association reconsider the decision requiring Bro. Harvey Clark preach one year before being licensed. Motion carried to stand by the Associations decision voted in May Quarterly Meeting.

Motion carried to grant the request from Grace Church that Bro. Kenneth Lewis be examined by the Credential Board for Ordination as a Deacon.

Motion carried to recommend the Churches make it a standing practice to send \$50.00 yearly for the Associational Evangelist.

Motion carried to have the Associational Revival in a Church instead of the Campground.

Motion carried to have the Yearly Association Meeting in a Church instead of the Campground.

Motion carried for the 1993 Yearly Association Meeting be at Grace Church, Comanche and to rotate from there to the other Churches in alphabetical order.

Motion carried to have the Associational Revival at Grace Church, Comanche.

Appointment of Committees:

Resolution: Bro. J.W. Craft, Chairman, Sis. Joyce Combs, and Bro. Marshall Robinson.

Obituary: Bro. Gilbert Gardner, Chairman, Sis. Alice Spurgin, and Bro. Kenneth Glenn.

Temperance: Sis. Bobby Staggs, Chairman, Sis. Elsie Lewis, and Sis. Tonya Allen.

Business dismissed until 1:00 p.m. with prayer by Bro. Don Zickefoose.

Morning worship service began with prayer by Bro. Ed Staggs. Bro. Marshall Robinson led congregational singing, with Sis. Vala Robinson at the Keyboard. Names of those who had died during the past year were read and a moment of silent prayer was observed

in remembrance. Prayer was closed by Bro. Myrl Kellett. Special music was brought by Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson and Bro. Don Zickefoose.

The Memorial message was brought by Bro. Beryl Blair from Exodus 3:11-15, Phil.2:5, and Heb. 5:8. Dismissed with prayer led by Bro. Harold Robinson.

Afternoon business opened with prayer by Bro. Dugan McDonald. Special music by Bro. and Sis. Marshall Robinson.

Treasurer report was given by Bro. Loray Spurgin with \$146.38 balance on hand. Report was accepted.

Board Reports:

Campground Board: The Campground Board met on July 25, 1992 at Countyline Church and discussed the building of sidewalks at the Campground. Motion was made by Bro. L.T. Woodall and second by Bro. Don Zickefoose to recommend to the Association that sidewalks be built at the Campground. All Board members present voted yes. Those present were Bro. Beryl Blair, Bro. Marshall Robinson, Bro. Don Zickefoose, and Bro. L.T. Woodall. When recommendation was read to the Association an estimated cost of \$600.00 for construction of the sidewalks was given by the Board. Motion carried to accept this report and allow sidewalks to be built from Campground funds.

Credential Board: The Credential Board finds Bro. Kenneth Lewis sound in doctrine and faith and recommend he be ordained for the office of Deacon at his and the Grace Church's pleasure. Motion carried to accept this report.

Motion carried to have a yard sale at the Campground to dispose of items no longer needed by the Camp, also, the Churches

contribute items to put in the sale. Sis. Bobby Staggs was appointed to organize this activity.

Committee Reports:

Resolution: Be it resolved that we as Christians reaffirm our stand on Christian principles and Godly standards. 2. Be it resolved that each Church strive to generate more interest in the Associational Meetings and Activities. 3. Be it resolved that we pray for one another and visit the sick. Motion carried to accept this report.

Temperance Committee: Recommend that we honor and glorify our God by attending all Church and Associational Meetings as much as possible, remembering Christ's appointment at Golgotha, Heb. 6:11-15, and Romans 1:22 was read.

Motion carried to ask Bro. Bill Griffin, to be Evangelist for the 1993 Association Revival. Bro. Myrl Kellett will be the alternate.

Quarterly meeting dates and speakers set as follows: November 13-14, 1992, Midway Church, speaker, Bro. L.T. Woodall. February 12-13, 1993, Stobtown Church, speaker Bro. J. W. Craft. May 7-8, 1993, Countryside Church, speaker Bro. Ed Staggs. August 6-7, 1993, Annual Meeting, Comanche Church, Memorial Service speaker, Bro. Myrl Kellett, alternate Bro. Dugan McDonald.

Motion carried to receive a Special Love Offering for the J.T. McClanahan family.

Motion carried to approve transfer of Newsletter fund balance being held by Midway Church, to the Association Treasurer.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Moderator: Bro. Beryl Blair
Asst. Moderator: Bro. Ed Staggs
Clerk: Sis. Charlene Robinson
Asst. Clerk: Sis. Wanda Kellett
Treasurer: Bro. Loray Spurgin
Asst. Treasurer: Sis. Mary Head
Reporter: Sis. Frances Lewellen

General Board Member (1993) Bro. Myrl Kellett

Youth Camp Director: Bro. Beryl Blair
Asst. Youth Camp Director: Bro. L.T. Woodall

5 Year Executive Board Member: Bro. Troy
Lewellen.

5 Year Credential Board Member: Bro. Myrl
Kellett

1 Year Credential Board Member: Bro. Don
Zickefoose

5 Year Campground Board Member: Bro. Beryl
Blair

Announcements:

Motion carried to adjourn.

Prayer of dismissal by Bro. J. W. Craft.

Bro. Dugan McDonald, Moderator

Sis. Frances Lewellen, Clerk

HOPEWELL # 2 ASSOCIATION
4TH QUARTER 91-92

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand May 1, 1992	\$ 181.10
Income from Churches	\$2,487.21
Sub-Total	\$2,668.31
Less Expenses	2,522.55
Water	\$ 108.50
OG&E	340.42
State	1,539.09
Campground	534.54
Balance on Hand Aug. 1, 1992	\$ 146.38

HOPEWELL #2 ASSOCIATION
4TH QUARTER 91-92
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	INCOME	CO-OP MISSION	HOME MISSION	STATE MISSION	HILLS-DALE	CAMP GROUND	GEN. FUND
Countyline	67.68	39.57				13.53	13.53
Countryside	178.36	45.00	30.00	48.36	25.00	15.00	15.00
Duncan							
Grace	335.00	201.00				67.00	67.00
Lawton	439.00	158.00		(Ass. Evangelist) 50.00		177.80	52.80
Lone Grove	348.00	69.80				123.30	75.90
Midway	1,090.29		238.06	238.06	119.03	356.08	119.03
Stobtown	28.88					18.88	10.00
TOTALS	\$2,487.21	513.37	268.06	238.06	167.39	381.08	534.54
							403.26

ORDAINED MINISTERS

J.W. Craft Rt. 1 Box 225
Phone: 439-6341 Comanche, Ok.
73529

David Gardner Star Rt. 107 Astor
Phone: 657-4430 Lone Grove, Ok.
73443

Bill Holder Box 20115
Phone: 229-2279 3 Cherokee,
Healdton, Ok. 73438

Don Zickefoose 1912 Garfield
Phone: 355-8242 Lawton, Ok.
73501

ORDAINED DEACONS

Forest Cox Rt. 3
Duncan, Ok.
73533

Luther Eason Rt. 5 Box 7E
Phone: 252-0239 Duncan, Ok.
73533

Dale Howell Star Rt. Box A104
Phone: 657-3836 Lone Grove, Ok.
73443

Othel Kyle Rt. 3 Box 31
Phone: 657-6420 Ardmore, Ok.
73401

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

Kenneth Lewis	.105 Cheyenne
Phone: 439-5164	Comanche, Ok.
	73529
J.T. McClanahan	.Rt. 4
Phone: 444-2355	Velma, Ok.
	73091
Troy Morris	.Tr. 3 Box 155
Phone: 657-4513	Ardmore, Ok.
	73401
Terry Pierson	.Box 6
Phone: 673-2109	Graham, Ok.
	73437
Leonard Robinson.	.Rt. Box 20
Phone: 657-4742	Lone Grove, Ok.
	73443
Loray Spurgin	.Box 842
Phone: 444-2527	Velma, Ok.
	73091
Sam Staggs.	.Box 126
Phone: 856-3581	Countyline, Ok.
	73025
David Watson.	.Box 212
Phone: 673-2635	Fox, Ok.
	73435

MINISTERS AND DEACON OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

Beryl Blair	Moderator
Dugan McDonald	Secretary-Treasurer

MEETINGS

October 24, 1992	7:30 P.M.
January 23, 1993	7:30 P.M.
April 24, 1993	7:30 P.M.
July 24, 1993	7:30 P.M.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Countryside P.O. Box 235 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-3530		Cathy Little P.O. Box 834 Velma, Ok. 73091 Ph: 444-3549
Countyline P.O. Box 236 Countyline, Ok. 73025	E.L. Staggs P.O. Box 34 Countyline, Ok. 73025 Ph: 856-3384	Gearldine Staggs P.O. Box 126 Countyline, Ok. 73025 Ph: 856-3581
Eastside 1313 E. Chestnut Duncan, Ok. 73533		Marilyn Clark 1313 E. Chestnut Duncan, Ok. 73533
Grace 411 Patterson Comanche, Ok. 73529	Beryl Blair 707 Patterson Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-2311	Geneva Hughes Rt. 1 Box 307 Comanche, Ok. 73529 Ph: 439-5241
Lawton First 10 So. 24th Lawton, Ok. 73505 Ph: 355-4668	Myrl Kellett 2603 A Ave. Lawton, Ok. 73505 Ph: 355-4668	Wanda Kellett 2603 A Ave. Lawton, Ok. 73505 Ph: 355-4668
Lone Grove P.O. Box 325 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443	Harvey White P.O. Box 325 Lone Grove, Ok. 73443 Ph: 657-3246	Mary Beth Bray Rt. 3 Box 31-C Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-4908
Midway HC 63 Box 2400 Healdton, Ok. 73438 Ph: 673-2599	Dugan McDonald HC 63 Box 2400 Healdton, Ok. 73438 Ph: 673-2599	Elaine Glenn 518 S.W. 3rd Healdton, Ok. 73438 Ph: 229-2682
Stobtown Rt. 3 Box 154C Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-6295	Royce McClendon Rt. 2 Box 275C Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-8214	Ann Christian Rt. 3 Box 134A Ardmore, Ok. 73401 Ph: 657-2218

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.

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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 Associational Officers and Board Members, 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 \$75.00 is to be sent to the Annual Session of this Association. (\$40.00 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.

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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.

—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 simple 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.

