

MINUTES

HOPEWELL
No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

65th Annual Meeting
1997

**MINUTES OF THE 65TH ANNUAL MEETING
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1997**

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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

MODERATOR - - - - - L. T. WOODALL
ROUTE 6, BOX 224 PHONE:
DUNCAN, OK 73533 (405) 255-1725

ASST. MODERATOR - - - - - CHUCK NEWELL
ROUTE 1, BOX 76 PHONE:
RATCLIFF CITY, OK 73081 (405) 856-3667

CLERK - - - - - WANDA KELLETT
2603 SW 'A' AVENUE PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505 (405) 355-4668

ASST. CLERK - - - - - SHELIA ROOKER
2512 SW 'A' AVENUE PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505 (405) 357-8755

TREASURER - - - - - LORAY SPURGIN
P. O. BOX 842 PHONE:
VELMA, OK 73091 (405) 444-2527

ASST. TREASURER - - - - - MARY HEAD
P. O. BOX 143 PHONE:
VELMA, OK 73091 (405) 444-2470

REPORTER - - - - - JOHNNIE GRUNDY
P. O. BOX 688 PHONE:
VELMA, OK 73091 (405) 444-2397

PARLIAMENTARIAN - - - - - CARROLL MILNER
ROUTE 3, BOX 96 PHONE:
ADA, OK 74820 (405) 436-6193

EXECUTIVE BOARD

BERYL BLAIR - - - - -	5 YEARS
LORAY SPURGIN - - - - -	4 YEARS
MYRL KELLETT - - - - -	3 YEARS
JIMMY TATE - - - - -	2 YEARS
DAVID GARDNER - - - - -	1 YEAR

CREDENTIAL BOARD

BERYL BLAIR - - - - -	5 YEARS
CHARLES NEWELL - - - - -	4 YEARS
CARROLL MILNER - - - - -	3 YEARS
DAVID GARDNER - - - - -	2 YEARS
DON ZICKEFOOSE - - - - -	1 YEAR

CAMP GROUND BOARD

TEMPLE GRUNDY- - - - -	5 YEARS
P. O. BOX 688	PHONE:
VELMA, OK 73091	(405) 444-2397
DARRYL ROBINSON- - - - -	4 YEARS
1614 SW 'B' AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73501	(405) 248-5921
J. T. MC CLANAHAN - - - - -	3 YEARS
ROUTE 3, BOX 88	PHONE:
DUNCAN, OK 73533	(405) 444-2355
LEON ADDINGTON - - - - -	2 YEARS
P. O. BOX 205	PHONE:
FOX, OK 73435	(405) 673-2405
DAVID GARDNER - - - - -	1 YEAR
STAR ROUTE 107 ASTOR	PHONE:
LONE GROVE, OK 73443	(405) 657-2971
IMOGENE WOODALL - - - - -	TREASURER ONLY
ROUTE 6, BOX 224	PHONE:
DUNCAN, OK 73533	(405) 255-1725

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - - - - -	SHELIA ROOKER
2512 SW 'A' AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(405) 357-8755
VICE-PRESIDENT - - - - -	RHONDA ADDINGTON
P. O. BOX 205	PHONE:
FOX, OK 73435	(405) 673-2405
SECRETARY - - - - -	TERRY NEWELL
P. O. BOX 94	PHONE:
RATCLIFF CITY, OK 73081	(405) 673-2599
TREASURER - - - - -	FRANCES LEWELLEN
P. O. BOX 201	PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437	(405) 673-2315
CO - TREASURER - - - - -	DIANN PIERSON
P. O. BOX 6	PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437	(405) 673-2109
MISSION STUDY - - - - -	MARIA AYALA
1221 SW 26TH PLACE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(405) 357-9469
MISSION ACTION - - - - -	KIM ROBINSON
1614 SW 'B' AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73501	(405) 248-5921
MISSION PRAYER - - - - -	BARBARA DAVIS
1612 SW 'B' AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73501	
FIELD WORKER - - - - -	SHERRY HENLEY
2307 NE 36TH	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73507	(405) 355-5702

ORDAINED MINISTERS

J. W. CRAFT
PHONE: (405) 439-6341

ROUTE 1, BOX 225
COMANCHE, OK 73529

ROYCE MC CLENDON
PHONE: (405) 657-8214

ROUTE 2, BOX 275
ARDMORE, OK 73401

DUGAN MC DONALD
PHONE: (405) 252-0701

1906 WINDSOR
DUNCAN, OK 73533

DON ZICKEFOOSE
PHONE: (405) 357-9788

1912 GARFIELD
LAWTON, OK 73501

LICENSED MINISTERS

DUSTIN GARDNER
PHONE: (405) 657-2971

STAR ROUTE, 107 A
LONE GROVE, OK 73443

ORDAINED DEACONS

VON COLVIN
PHONE: (405) 856-3581

FOREST COX
PHONE: (405) 444-2584

KENNETH GLENN
PHONE: (405) 229-2682

DALE HOWELL
PHONE: (405) 657-3836

OTHEL KYLE
PHONE: (405) 657-6420

TROY LEWELLEN
PHONE: (405) 673-2315

KENNETH LEWIS
PHONE: (405) 439-5164

J. T. MC CLANAHAN
PHONE: (405) 444-2355

TERRY PIERSON
PHONE: (405) 673-2109

LEONARD ROBINSON
PHONE: (405) 657-4742

LORAY SPURGIN
PHONE: (405) 444-2527

JIMMY TATE
PHONE: (405) 657-3899

DAVID WATSON
PHONE: (405) 673-2635

P. O. BOX 234
COUNTYLINE, OK 73025

ROUTE 1, BOX 46
RATCLIFF CITY, OK 73081

518 SW 3RD
HEALDTON, OK 73438

STAR ROUTE, BOX A 104
LONE GROVE, OK 73443

ROUTE 3, BOX 31
ARDMORE, OK 73401

P. O. BOX 201
GRAHAM, OK 73437

105 CHEYENNE
COMANCHE, OK 73529

ROUTE 3, BOX 88
DUNCAN, OK 73533

P. O. BOX 6
GRAHAM, OK 73437

ROUTE , BOX 20
LONE GROVE, OK 73443

BOX 842
VELMA, OK 73091

ROUTE 3, BOX 53 B
ARDMORE, OK 73401

P. O. BOX 212
FOX, OK 73435

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
COUNTRYSIDE PO BOX 235 VELMA, OK 73091 PHONE: (405) 444-3530	CARROLL MILNER ROUTE 3, BOX 96 ADA, OK 74820 PHONE: (405) 436-6193	CATHY LITTLE ROUTE 3, BOX 126-A DUNCAN, OK 73533 PHONE: (405) 444-3549
COUNTYLINE PO BOX 236 COUNTY LINE, OK 73025 PHONE: (405) 856-3543	L.T. WOODALL ROUTE 6, BOX 224 DUNCAN, OK 73533 PHONE: (405) 255-1725	BECKY HATTON PO BOX 103 TUSSY, OK 73088 PHONE: (405) 856-3481
EASTSIDE 1313 E CHESTNUT DUNCAN, OK 73533 PHONE: (405) 255-4686	TOM STANLEY 103 E WALNUT DUNCAN, OK 73533 PHONE: (405) 255-1274	ANNA JANZ 1318 COTTON HILL DRIVE DUNCAN, OK 73533 PHONE: (405) 255-1252
GRACE 401 PATTERSON COMANCHE, OK 73529 PHONE: (405) 439-2311	BERYL BLAIR 707 PATTERSON COMANCHE, OK 73529 PHONE: (405) 439-2311	ELSIE LEWIS 105 CHEYENNE DRIVE COMANCHE, OK 73529 PHONE: (405) 439-5164
LAWTON FIRST 10 S 24TH STREET LAWTON, OK 73505 PHONE: (405) 355-4668	MYRL KELLETT 2603 SW "A" AVENUE LAWTON, OK 73505 PHONE: (405) 355-4668	WANDA KELLETT 2603 SW "A" AVENUE LAWTON, OK 73505 PHONE: (405) 355-4668
LONE GROVE PO BOX 325 LONE GROVE, OK 73443 PHONE: (405) 657-3246	BILL HOLDER 3 CHEROKEE, BOX 20115B HEALDTON, OK 73438 PHONE: (405) 229-2279	MARY BETH BRAY ROUTE 3, BOX 31 C ARDMORE, OK 73401 PHONE: (405) 657-4908
MIDWAY HC 63, BOX 2400 HEALDTON, OK 73438 PHONE: (405) 673-2599	CHARLES NEWELL ROUTE 1, BOX 76 RATLIFF CITY, OK 73081 PHONE: (405) 856-3667	RHONDA ADDINGTON PO BOX 205 FOX, OK 73435 PHONE: (405) 673-2405
STOBTOWN ROUTE 3, BOX 134 A ARDMORE, OK 73401 PHONE: (405) 657-6295	DAVID GARDNER STAR ROUTE 107 ASTOR LONE GROVE, OK 73443 PHONE: (405) 657-2971	ANN CHRISTIAN ROUTE 3, BOX 134 A ARDMORE, OK 73401 PHONE: (405) 657-2218

YOUTH CAMP GROUND BOARD RULES

1. This Board shall be composed of five (5) members, who are members of local churches and are in good standing with the church and the Association. They shall be elected at the discretion of the Association.
2. It is the duty of this Board that they "shall be available to assist" the elected Youth Camp Directors in planning, coordinating and conducting the yearly Youth Camp.
3. This Board shall prepare a Standing Order of Rules for the campers of the Youth Camp, to be approved by the Association in March. These rules, being subject to change with a yearly re-evaluation, shall be approved by the Association.
4. This Board, with the Youth Camp Directors, will prepare a schedule for Youth Camp, to be approved by the Association in March. This schedule, being subject to change with yearly re-evaluation, shall be approved by the Association.
5. This Board, along with the Youth Camp Directors, will oversee the purchasing of food and supplies for the Youth Camp. The Head Cook should be consulted, making a list of any necessary items, and invited to assist in the purchasing.
6. If at any time a Youth Camp Evangelist, for any reason, is not available, this Board and the Youth Camp Directors, shall have the authority to replace him.
7. This Board should re-assess the Youth Camp fees yearly and advise the association of necessary changes.
8. This Board will instruct the Association yearly of necessary standards to meet the State Health inspection.
9. This Board will select their own officers, such as Chairman (if One Year Man is not present), Treasurer, etc., and will act as caretaker of the Camp Grounds, responsible for turning on and off utilities, etc. (The Board is to be notified of intended use of grounds at any time.)
10. This Board will oversee the upkeep of the Hopewell No. 2 Camp Ground, advising the Association of necessary repairs, promoting financial support and labor for said enterprises.
11. This Board shall keep an accurate record of all meetings, decisions, work done and funds received and disbursed and shall make a written report at each meeting of the association. All records shall be available to the Association at its request.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 1996

The Hopewell No. 2 Association met at 6:00 p.m. at the Countryside Church on Saturday, November 2, 1996, with Bro. Carroll Milner acting as moderator.

Bro. Chuck Newell led in prayer. The Countryside Church served a wonderful fellowship dinner.

Bro. Terry Pierson led the singing of "O, How I Love Jesus" and "When We All Get to Heaven" with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Churches in attendance were Midway, Lawton, Comanche, Countyline and Countryside.

Special singing: Christian & Michael Newell - "Listen As They Drove The Nails" and "Wayfaring Stranger", The Terry Pierson Family - "Way Down Deep Inside", Countryside Trio of Mary Head, Donna Riff & Cindy Sanner - "He Grew The Tree", Cindy Sanner & Donna Riff - "If My People Will Pray" and Kathy Little - "Could You Walk A Mile?".

Bro. Carroll Milner gave a message with three short stories: (1) Kindness in an Old Rusty Chevrolet - Matthew 25 : 25 - 40, (2) Rejected Love and (3) The Other Side.

Bro. Carroll Milner concluded the meeting with prayer.

Bro. Carroll Milner, Asst. Moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

**FIRST BI-ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 1997**

On Friday, February 28, 1997, the Hopewell No. 2 Association convened at 7:30 p.m. at the Lawton First Free Will Baptist Church for evening worship.

Bro. L.T. Woodall opened the services. Bro. Beryl Blair led in prayer.

Bro. Terry Pierson led the congregational singing of "Whosoever Meaneth Me", "Standing on the Promises" and "Living By Faith" with Sis. Shelia Rooker at the piano. Bro. Myrl Kellett led in prayer.

Special singing: Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson - "Walking My Lord Up Calvary's Hill", Sis. Kim Robinson - "Broken & Spilled Out", Sis. Barbara McLeary & Sis. Nigel Callaway - "Just A Little Talk With Jesus" and Bro. Don Zickefoose - "God on the Mountain".

Bro. Milo Miller brought the evening message from John 14 : 1 - 6 entitled, "God Will Make A Way" - (1) Depend on God - Romans 8 : 31, (2) Desire Him - Matthew 6 : 33, and (3) Die to Him - Galatians 2 : 20.

The invitational song was "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus". Bro. Loray Spurgin dismissed in prayer.

The Saturday morning service on March 1, 1997, began at 9:30 a.m. Bro. L.T. Woodall opened the business meeting.

The congregation was led in singing of "What A Day That Will Be" by Bro. Don Zickefoose with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano. Prayer was led by Bro. Chuck Newell.

Bro. Carroll Milner admonished the Association from Luke 15 : 1 - 10, "Has The Church Lost It's Joy?".

Motion carried to go into business.

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

A right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates while singing "Come Unto Me" led by Bro. Don Zickefoose with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read.

Motion carried to receive the Petitionary letters as read. Countyline informed the Association that they had set aside Bro. Jim Combs for a one year trial as a deacon. Stobtown sent Bro. Dustin Gardner to be examined to be licensed to preach the Gospel for one year.

Motion carried to receive the letter from Bro. Dale Howell and to accept his resignation as the three year man on the Executive Board.

Bro. Carroll Milner read the Rules of Order.

Visitors were invited to be seated in council. Bro. Jack Richey, State Executive Secretary, was welcomed and given time to speak on Co-op giving, the Book Store property being sold and the Book Store moving to their new location, retreat for the Ministers to be held March 6 - 8, 1997, and on Hillsdale College. He reported that Bro. Jim Shepard resigned as the president of Hillsdale. He also requested prayer for Pastors to go to the 20 churches that are currently without Pastors. The Senior Retreat will be held March 16 - 18, 1997.

The committees were appointed as follows:

Divine

- (1) Bro. Von Colvin
- (2) Sis. Temple Grundy
- (3) Bro. Gilbert Gardner

Resolution

Sis. Sherry Henley
Sis. Joyce Combs
Bro. Dustin Gardner

Temperance

- (1) Sis. Ruby Miller
- (2) Sis. Nadine Nix
- (3) Bro. Cecil Janz

Obituary

Bro. David Gardner
Bro. Jim Combs
Bro. Juan Ayala

Prayer for the sick was led by Bro. David Gardner.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Bro. Loray Spurgin with a balance on hand of \$3,267.79.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer's report given by Bro. Jimmy Tate with a balance on hand of \$3,061.24.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Board report given by Bro. Jimmy Tate that the Youth Encampment theme will be "Commandments - Not Compromise".

Motion carried to have a twenty minute break.

Business resumed at 11:10 a.m. with Bro. Jack Richey leading the congregation in singing "Jesus Saves", with Sis. Vala Robinson at the piano. Sis. Wanda Kellett led in prayer.

Motion carried to receive the recommendations of the Camp Ground Board to install two new basketball goals, gravel for the entry road, to build a new concession stand, to sell or junk any old equipment not in use, install attic fans in the dorms and do other repairs as needed.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board's recommendation of licensing Bro. Dustin Gardner for one year to preach the Gospel.

A reminder was given by the Asst. Moderator that the future candidates for licensing and ordination fill out the Questionnaire for Ordination from the State Minutes prior to coming before the Credential Board.

Motion carried to receive the Divine Committee report that Bro. David Gardner be the morning speaker.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report and to adopt the item of business: (1) That \$250.00 be sent to the Hillsdale Loan Fund from the General Fund of the Association Treasury.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report that "We, as parents and grandparents, need to take charge of the activities our children and grandchildren are involved in and would like to challenge each of us to a greater observation of television viewing, reading, radio and videos in our homes".

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report of the following who have gone on to be with our Lord: Bro. Thelton Brown - Lawton and Bro. McBride Balthrop - Countyline. There was a moment of silent prayer with Bro. Loray Spurgin concluding the prayer.

Bro. Tom Stanley informed us that the Chestnut Avenue Free Will Baptist Church had to go back to its original name of Eastside - Duncan, because of legal technicalities.

Bro. Jimmy Tate was elected as the three year man on the Executive Board.

Motion carried to dismiss the business and to go into the morning worship at 11 : 30 a.m.

Morning services began with Bro. Tom Stanley leading in prayer.

Congregational singing of "I'll Fly Away" and "In The Sweet By And By" was led by Bro. Don Zickefoose with Sis. Shelia Rooker at the piano.

Special singing: Bro. & Sis. Darryl Robinson - "Foot on the Rock", Lawton Ladies Quartet of Sis. Sherry Henley, Sis. Barbara McLeary, Sis. Wanda Kellett & Sis. Shelia Rooker - "Sheltered in the Arms of God", Bro. Don Zickefoose - "Far Away", Bro. Jack Richey - "There's A Light Guiding Me", and Bro. David & Dustin Gardner & Bro. Jimmy Tate - "Turn Your Radio On".

Bro. David Gardner brought the message from Matthew 13 : 58 and Mark 9: 24 entitled "I Don't Believe".

The invitational song was "There's A Great Day Coming". There was an altar of prayer with testimony service. Sis. Rhonda Addington sang "Walk Around Me Jesus".

Bro. Dustin Gardner dismissed in prayer. A great fellowship and lunch was enjoyed by all.

Bro. L.T. Woodall, Moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 12 - JULY 27, 1997
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	TOTAL RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F + S + H MISSIONS	REP FEE	HILLSDALE	CAMP GROUND	GENERAL FUND
COUNTYLINE	\$857.06	\$222.07	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$420.96	\$74.03
COUNTRYSIDE	\$1,404.64	\$842.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$280.93	\$280.92
EASTSIDE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GRACE	\$892.63	\$235.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$78.52	\$78.52
LAWTON	\$200.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
LONE GROVE	\$361.31	\$141.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$172.26	\$47.26
MIDWAY	\$765.00	\$120.00	\$300.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$165.00	\$40.00
STOBTOWN	\$207.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$182.91	\$25.00
TOTALS	\$4,688.55	\$1,682.24	\$300.00	\$280.00	\$500.00	\$1,340.58	\$585.73

BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 12, 1997

\$3,267.79

INCOME FROM CHURCHES

\$4,688.55

EXPENSES:

STATE CO-OP

\$1,682.24

MISSIONS

\$300.00

CAMPGROUND

\$1,021.02

HILLSDALE

\$500.00

LESS EXPENSES

\$3,503.26

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 27, 1997

\$4,453.08

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 28 - JULY 31, 1997
CAMPGROUND TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE - FEBRUARY 28, 1997		\$3,061.24
INCOME FROM CHURCHES		\$1,021.02
SUBTOTAL		\$4,082.26
EXPENSES:		
OG&E - ELECTRIC	\$195.15	
WESTERN CARTER CO - WATER	\$50.00	
WOOLSEY'S COPIES	\$3.80	
POSTAGE STAMPS	\$6.40	
YOUTH CAMP EXPENSES	\$2,752.06	
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES		\$3,007.41
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1997		\$1,074.85

65TH ANNUAL MEETING

August 1-2, 1997

Countryside

The Association Revival began on July 28, 1997, with Bro. Millard McGuire, as the Evangelist. There was full house every night, wonderful congregation singing, special numbers and the McGuire's rendering a nightly concert before each message.

Bro. McGuire's theme message, Monday night was, "Breaking Up The Fallow Ground," Hosea 10 : 12, Joel 1 : 15 - 17, Zechariah 10 : 1, Psalm 72 : 6, and 126 : 5 - 6. Tuesday night was, "The Entrance," from II Peter 1 : 10 - 19, and Matthew 17 : 1 - 4. Wednesday night was, "Divine Nature," from II Peter 1 : 3 - 8. Thursday night was, "How To Discern Between Good and Evil" from Hebrews 5 : 8-14, 6 : 1-3 and 12 : 1-2.

Bro. Jack Richey, State Executive Secretary, brought a report from the State Office, that Bro. Carl Cheshier is the new Hillsdale President, Bro. Bill Jones is the new State Home Missions Director, and that the State Meeting would be October 13-16, 1997, at Fountain Head Lodge.

On Friday night, August 1, 1997, 7:30 p.m., the Yearly Association Meeting, opened with Bro. L.T. Woodall leading the service.

Twelve Churches were represented. Those visiting were Crystal Hills and Brockland Free Will Baptist Churches from Lawton, Oklahoma, and the First Baptist Church from Countyline, Oklahoma.

Bro. Rodger Arter led in prayer. Sis. Imogene Woodall led the congregation in singing "There Is Power In The Blood" and "Heaven's Jubilee" with Sis. Shelia Rooker at the piano. Special singing by the Countryside Trio - "Wait For The Light To Shine" and Sis. Kim Robinson - "The Blood Will Never Lose It's Power".

Bro. Dean Thompson led in prayer.

Bro. and Sis. Millard McGuire sang, "Let The Waters Pour", "On My Father's Side" and "Bring My Children Home". Bro. McGuire, brought the message from, I Peter 1 : 2 - 12 and Romans 13 : 11 - 12, entitled "Your Inheritance."

Invitational song was "Just As I Am", with Bro. Myrl Kellett, concluding in prayer.

Total Love Offering for Evangelist \$418.58, making a total \$818.58, with the \$400.00 from the Treasury.

Saturday morning business opened at 9:30 a.m., with Bro. L.T. Woodall admonishing the Association from Ephesians 3 : 20 - 21 and 4 : 1 - 6.

Bro. Don Zickefoose led the congregation singing, "In the Sweet By and By" and "Heaven's Jubilee", with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Bro. Dustin Gardner led in prayer.

Motion carried to receive the seven letters from the Churches and to seat the Delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given while singing, "Just Over In The Gloryland".

Motion carried to receive the Minutes as read.

Motion carried to receive the Petitionary letter from Countyline requesting that Bro. Von Colvin be examined for Deacon Ordination.

Motion carried to receive letter of resignation from Bro. Don Zickefoose as the 3 year member on the Camp Ground Board.

Motion carried to receive letter of proposal for activity at the Youth Camp from Bro. Gerald King and to refer it to the Camp Ground Board to be acted upon.

Bro. Carroll Milner read the Rules of Order.

Visitors were invited to seat in Council.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

	<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Temperance</u>	<u>Obituary</u>
(1)	Bro. Cecil Janz	Bro. Von Colvin	Sis. Barbara Davis
(2)	Bro. Temple Grundy	Bro. Leon Addington	Bro. Dustin Gardner
(3)	Sis. Joyce Combs	Sis. Anna Janz	Sis. Kim Robinson

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report of \$4,453.08 balance on hand given by Bro. Loray Spurgin.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer's report of \$1,074.85, balance on hand given by Sis. Imogene Woodall.

Motion carried to receive the Youth Encampment report of 55 Campers, 27 saved and rededicated given by Bro. Dustin Gardner.

Motion carried that Youth Camp be held May 31 through June 5, 1998.

Motion carried that Committee of five be elected to select Directors, Cooks and Teachers. The Committee consisted of: Sis. Diann Pierson, Chairman, Sis. Kim Robinson, Sis. Wanda Kellett, Sis. Imogene Woodall and Sis. Rhonda Addington.

Motion carried for 5 young Preachers to be asked to preach in the morning services at Youth Camp.

Bro. Dean Thompson was elected as the Youth Camp Evangelist. NOTE: Bro. Thompson was contacted on August 9, 1997, and accepted. His phone number is (405) 255-6696 and address is 1920 Chisholm Drive, Duncan, OK 73533.

Motion carried that the Evangelist be paid \$400.00 with a Love offering and the morning speakers be given \$50.00 each.

Motion carried that the Semi-Annual Association Meeting be March 6 - 7, 1998, at Lone Grove. The Friday evening speaker will be Bro. Chuck Newell.

Motion carried the Annual Association Revival be held July 27 - 31, 1998, and Annual Business be on August 1, 1998, at the Grace Free Will Baptist Church, Comanche.

Motion carried that the Association Pastors be the Evangelist. Those selected were Bro. Carroll Milner, Monday, Bro. Chuck Newell, Tuesday, Bro. Beryl Blair, Wednesday, Bro. L.T. Woodall, Thursday, and Bro. Tom Stanley, Friday.

Bro. Myrl Kellett was selected for the Memorial Speaker on Saturday.

Motion carried to have an Association Fellowship to be held at Countryside on November 1, 1997.

Motion carried that Bro. Carroll Milner, Bro. Chuck Newell and Bro. Loray Spurgin, serve as a Committee to plan and execute services for the Association Fellowship.

Motion carried to take a break at 11:05 a.m. Bro. Beryl Blair dismissed in prayer.

Business resumed at 11:30 a.m. with the congregation singing, "Where We Shall Never Grow Old".

Bro. Tom Stanley led in prayer.

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

(1) That the Camp Ground Board study, execute plans and get bids for a Metal Building to replace the existing kitchen and dining area. Large enough for kitchen facilities, two bathrooms, dining area, with dining area capable of housing a Worship Service and even possible to have folding doors as dividers to have classrooms.

This facility could be used for Association Revivals, Woman's Auxiliary Meetings, etc. Suggested size was 40 X 60 or 40 X 80. The bids to be bought to the March Business.

(2) That we have a stronger commitment to work in our Churches and witness to the lost. Also work with our new converts to help them mature into strong workers for the Lord.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report as follows: That parents would be welcomed as they bring their children to Sunday School. That we should be neat and orderly and in a Godly manner present ourselves in the presence of the Church.

Motion carried to receive the recommendation of the Credential Board, that Bro. Von Colvin has been examined and found to have a very kind Spirit and qualified to fill the Office of a Deacon. Those examining Bro. Von Colvin were Bro. Chuck Newell, Bro. Don Zickefoose and Bro. Carroll Milner.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary report as follows: Bro. Thelton Brown, Bro. Hall Creel, and Sis. Wanda Welch, Lawton. Bro. Sam Staggs, Bro. McBride Balthrop and Sis. Cornelia Ivey, Countyline. Sis. Patsy Maxwell and Sis. Eva Strickland, Countryside. Sis. Dora Lee, Comanche. Sis. Esther Dixon, Midway. Bro. Luther Eason, Eastside. There was a moment of silent prayer and the morning Message gave a Memorial for those that have passed on to the other side.

Note: Bro. Loray Spurgin to get information on who would be in Receivership on Camp Ground property.

Election of Officers:

Moderator:	Bro. L. T. Woodall
Asst. Moderator:	Bro. Chuck Newell
Clerk:	Sis. Wanda Kellett
Asst. Clerk:	Sis. Shelia Rooker
Treasurer:	Bro. Loray Spurgin
Asst. Treasurer:	Sis. Mary Head
Reporter:	Sis. Johnnie Grundy
Parliamentarian:	Bro. Carroll Milner
Executive Board 5 year:	Bro. Beryl Blair
Credential Board 5 year:	Bro. Beryl Blair
Camp Ground Board 5 year:	Bro. Temple Grundy
Camp Ground Board 2 year:	Bro. Leon Addington
General Board Member 1998:	Bro. L. T. Woodall

Bro. Cecil Janz dismissed in prayer for a five minute break before Worship Service.

Worship Service began at 12:20 p.m., with Bro. L. T. Woodall leading the Service. "I'll Fly Away" and "The Gloryland Way", were led by Bro. Don Zickefoose with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Sis. Amy Woodall sang, "He'll Do It Again".

Bro. Beryl Blair bought the Memorial Message from Matthew 26 : 6 - 13, 25 : 40, and Hebrew 6:10, entitled "A Memorial Unto God."

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Carroll Milner. Lunch was enjoyed by all.

Bro. L. T. Woodall, Moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 1, 1996 - FEBRUARY 12, 1997
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	TOTAL RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F + S + H MISSIONS	REP FEE	HILLSDALE	CAMP GROUND	GENERAL FUND
COUNTYLINE	\$896.70	\$187.44	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$304.77	\$64.49
COUNTRYSIDE	\$1,800.49	\$996.27	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$332.11	\$332.11
EASTSIDE	\$297.95	\$178.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59.59	\$59.59
GRACE	\$807.48	\$367.48	\$55.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$122.50	\$122.50
LAWTON	\$515.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$0.00
LONE GROVE	\$931.32	\$474.78	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$158.27	\$158.27
MIDWAY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
STOBTOWN	\$207.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$172.66	\$35.00
TOTALS	\$5,256.60	\$2,204.74	\$55.00	\$700.00	\$250.00	\$1,274.90	\$771.96

BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 1996

\$3,262.48

INCOME FROM CHURCHES

\$5,256.60

EXPENSES:

STATE CO-OP	\$2,204.74
MISSIONS - RANDLE	\$55.00
CAMPGROUND	\$1,274.90
HILLSDALE	\$250.00
ASSOCIATION EVANGELIST	\$400.00
STATE REPRESENTATION FEE	\$400.00
STATE DELEGATE FEE	\$300.00
MINUTES PRINTED	\$250.00
STAMPS	\$16.65
COUNTRYSIDE - REVIVAL ELECTRICITY	\$100.00

LESS EXPENSES

\$5,251.29

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 12, 1997

\$3,267.79

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 1, 1996 - FEBRUARY 28, 1997
CAMPGROUND TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE - JULY 30, 1996	\$1,773.18
CORRECT ADDITION ERROR	\$0.03
INCOME FROM CHURCHES	\$1,668.73
SUBTOTAL	\$3,441.94
EXPENSES:	
OG&E - ELECTRIC	\$221.22
WESTERN CARTER CO - WATER	\$70.00
WOOLSEY'S SUPPLIES & COPIES	\$14.92
BRIEF CASE	\$39.96
POSTAGE STAMPS	\$12.80
NEW CHECKS	\$13.71
GORDON WHITE LUMBER	\$8.09
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$380.70
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1997	\$3,061.24

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 debated 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 have first been discussed in its own church.
9. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two (2) 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 members 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 (2) 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 distinctly be 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, read and received
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of the delegates
5. Reading of the Minutes
6. Petitionary letters called for
7. Reading of the 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 related 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 THE 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 know as the Hopewell No. 2 Association of Free Will Baptist of the State of Oklahoma. It shall meet four times each year with the 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 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, Treasurer and 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 and 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 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 (3) 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 Baptists 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 the members present in writing to the body one day in advance.

**BY-LAWS OF THE
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 (3) 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 questions.
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 (15) cents 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 \$90.00 is to be sent to the Annual Session of this Association. (\$40.00 for printing of the minutes, \$25.00 for the State Delegate fee and \$25.00 for 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 (3) 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.

ARTICLE 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 is glorified as our ever-present Savior 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 WORKS OF SALVATION** - The conditions of salvation are:
 - A. The Repentance of sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation.

B. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior 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.

C. 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 IS 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 (Matthew 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." - 1 Corinthians 16 : 2.

16. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH** - The divine law requires that one day in seven (7) 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 Savior 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 to 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 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 Baptists, committed to doctrine of congregational church government, understand that the authority to ordain ministries 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 area 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 renewed annually 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. 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 make 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 that "laying on of hands" as signifying the candidate's call to the Gospel ministry.

THE MEANING OF ORDINATION

There are some groups that do not practice any kind of official "ordination". Free Will Baptists are not among these, but it should not be inferred that Free Will Baptists believe the "church" gives a man authority to preach. The authority for a man to preach lies solely with God. Free Will 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 the ordination procedure, there are really two levels of direct responsibility in ordination: the local church - primary, and 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. The general public should always be able to rely upon the fact of ordination as a clear sign that many Christians of mature judgment 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. 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 himself 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 to 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. Caution should be followed so that tow definite responsibilities are observed.

A. 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.

B. 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 2: 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.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS OF CHARACTER AND CONDUCT

The earlier portion of this booklet has made clear that the primary requirement 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 possess 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.

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 Timothy 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.

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 Christian nor in Christian service.

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 can not 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.

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.

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.

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 concepts. Such examinations, whether written or oral, should cover:

- A. Knowledge of general Biblical facts
- B. Ability to explain basic Biblical concepts.

In order to cover these matters well, such examinations have to be carefully planned. The ordainers should have recommendations about specific studies the candidate can get involved in to prepare him for the 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.

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 one these counts:

- A. That the candidate is doctrinally sound and holds a clear-cut position in agreement with basic fundamentals of Christianity.
- B. That the candidate is denominationally sound and holds a clear-cut position in agreement with the distinctive doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination.
- C. That the candidate not only know the right words, but understands and can satisfactorily explain the doctrines involved in the two areas just mentioned.

