

MINUTES

HOPEWELL
No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

66th Annual Meeting

1998

**MINUTES OF THE 66TH ANNUAL MEETING
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1998**

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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

MODERATOR - - - - -	L. T. WOODALL
ROUTE 6, BOX 224	PHONE:
DUNCAN, OK 73533	(580) 255-1725
ASST. MODERATOR - - - - -	DAVID GARDNER
HCR 62, 107 ASTOR	PHONE:
LONE GROVE, OK 73443	(580) 657-2971
CLERK - - - - -	WANDA KELLETT
2603 SW 'A' AVENUE	PHONE:
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ASST. CLERK - - - - -	SHELIA ROOKER
2512 SW 'A' AVENUE	PHONE:
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TREASURER - - - - -	DUSTIN B. GARDNER
HCR 62, 107 ASTOR	PHONE:
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ASST. TREASURER - - - - -	DAVID GARDNER
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REPORTER - - - - -	DIANN PIERSON
P. O. BOX 6	PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437	(580) 673-2109
PARLIAMENTARIAN - - - - -	BERYL BLAIR
707 PATTERSON	PHONE:
COMANCHE, OK 73529	(580) 439-2311

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

CREDENTIAL BOARD

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

CAMP GROUND BOARD

DUSTIN GARDNER- - - - -	5 YEARS
HCR 62, 107 ASTOR	PHONE:
LONE GROVE, OK 73443	(580) 657-2971
TEMPLE GRUNDY- - - - -	4 YEARS
P. O. BOX 688	PHONE:
VELMA, OK 73091	(580) 444-2397
DARRYL ROBINSON- - - - -	3 YEARS
6021 SW ATTERBURY	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(580) 536-0370
DON GILMORE - - - - -	2 YEARS
2001 W WALNUT	PHONE:
DUNCAN, OK 73533	(580) 255-2560
LEON ADDINGTON - - - - -	1 YEAR
P. O. BOX 205	PHONE:
FOX, OK 73435	(580) 673-2405
IMOGENE WOODALL - - - - -	TREASURER ONLY
ROUTE 6, BOX 224	PHONE:
DUNCAN, OK 73533	(580) 255-1725

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
COUNTRYSIDE PO BOX 235 VELMA, OK 73091 PHONE: (580) 444-3530	CARROLL MILNER ROUTE 3, BOX 98 ADA, OK 74820 PHONE: (580) 436-6193	CATHY LITTLE ROUTE 3, BOX 126-A DUNCAN, OK 73533 PHONE: (580) 444-3549
COUNTYLINE PO BOX 236 COUNTY LINE, OK 73025 PHONE: (580) 856-3543	JOHN BALLARD ROUTE 3, BOX 366 BLANCHARD, OK 73010 PHONE: (405) 222-0268	BECKY HATTON PO BOX 1 TUSSY, OK 73488 PHONE: (580) 856-3481
GRACE 401 PATTERSON COMANCHE, OK 73529 PHONE: (580) 439-2311	L.T. WOODALL ROUTE 6, BOX 224 DUNCAN, OK 73533 PHONE: (580) 255-1725	IMOGENE WOODALL ROUTE 6, BOX 224 DUNCAN, OK 73533 PHONE: (580) 255-1725
LAWTON FIRST 10 S 24TH STREET LAWTON, OK 73505 PHONE: (580) 355-4668	MYRL KELLETT 2603 SW "A" AVENUE LAWTON, OK 73505 PHONE: (580) 355-4668	WANDA KELLETT 2603 SW "A" AVENUE LAWTON, OK 73505 PHONE: (580) 355-4668
LONE GROVE PO BOX 325 LONE GROVE, OK 73443 PHONE: (580) 657-3246	BILL HOLDER 3 CHEROKEE, BOX 20115B HEALDTON, OK 73438 PHONE: (580) 229-2279	MARY BETH BRAY ROUTE 3, BOX 31 C ARDMORE, OK 73401 PHONE: (580) 657-4908
MIDWAY HC 83, BOX 2400 HEALDTON, OK 73438 PHONE: (580) 673-2599	CHARLES NEWELL ROUTE 1, BOX 76 RATLIFF CITY, OK 73081 PHONE: (580) 856-3667	RHONDA ADDINGTON PO BOX 205 FOX, OK 73435 PHONE: (580) 673-2405
STOBTOWN ROUTE 3, BOX 134 A ARDMORE, OK 73401 PHONE: (580) 657-6295	DAVID GARDNER HCR 62, 107 ASTOR LONE GROVE, OK 73443 PHONE: (580) 657-2971	ANN CHRISTIAN ROUTE 3, BOX 134 A ARDMORE, OK 73401 PHONE: (580) 657-2218

ORDAINED MINISTERS

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707 PATTERSON
COMANCHE, OK 73529

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ROUTE 1, BOX 225
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HCR 62, 107 ASTOR
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DUGAN MC DONALD
PHONE: (580) 252-0701

1906 WINDSOR
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TOM STANLEY
PHONE: (580) 252-1252

103 E WALNUT
DUNCAN, OK 73533

DON ZICKEFOOSE
PHONE: (580) 357-9788

1930 MONROE
LAWTON, OK 73501

ORDAINED DEACONS

VON COLVIN
PHONE: (580) 856-3581

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FOREST COX
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518 SW 3RD
HEALDTON, OK 73438

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DALE HOWELL
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STAR ROUTE, BOX A 104
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BOX 842
VELMA, OK 73491

JIMMY TATE
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ROUTE 3, BOX 53 B
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DAVID WATSON
PHONE: (580) 673-2635

P. O. BOX 212
FOX, OK 73435

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - - - - -	SHELIA ROOKER
2512 SW 'A' AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(580) 357-8755
VICE-PRESIDENT - - - - -	RHONDA ADDINGTON
P. O. BOX 205	PHONE:
FOX, OK 73435	(580) 673-2405
SECRETARY - - - - -	TERRY NEWELL
P. O. BOX 94	PHONE:
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TREASURER - - - - -	FRANCES LEWELLEN
P. O. BOX 201	PHONE:
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CO - TREASURER - - - - -	DIANN PIERSON
P. O. BOX 6	PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437	(580) 673-2109
MISSION STUDY - - - - -	MARIA AYALA
1221 SW 26TH PLACE	PHONE:
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MISSION ACTION - - - - -	KIM ROBINSON
6021 SW ATTERBURY	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(580) 536-0370
MISSION PRAYER - - - - -	BARBARA DAVIS
72 NW 24TH	PHONE:
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FIELD WORKER - - - - -	SHERRY HENLEY
2307 NE 36TH	PHONE:
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HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
JULY 27, 1998 - FEBRUARY 28, 1998
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	TOTAL RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F + S + H MISSIONS	REP FEE	HILLSDALE	CAMP GROUND	GENERAL FUND
COUNTYLINE	\$624.38	\$234.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$311.28	\$79.02
COUNTRYSIDE	\$2,632.15	\$1,245.27	\$41.75	\$140.00	\$250.00	\$540.07	\$415.06
EASTSIDE	\$146.11	\$87.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29.22	\$29.22
GRACE	\$893.09	\$451.86	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$150.62	\$150.61
LAWTON	\$615.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$205.00	\$80.00
LONE GROVE	\$611.01	\$312.61	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$104.20	\$104.20
MIDWAY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
STOBTOWN	\$433.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$0.00	\$258.73	\$35.00
TOTALS	\$5,955.47	\$2,571.49	\$41.75	\$600.00	\$250.00	\$1,599.12	\$893.11

BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 27, 1997

\$4,453.08

INCOME FROM CHURCHES

\$5,955.47

EXPENSES:

STATE CO-OP \$2,571.48

MISSIONS \$41.75

CAMPGROUND \$1,599.12

HILLSDALE \$250.00

ASSOCIATION EVANGELIST \$400.00

STATE REPRESENTATION FEE \$400.00

STATE DELEGATE EXPENSE \$300.00

MINUTES PRINTED \$250.00

STAMPS & ENVELOPES \$19.40

REPRESENTATIVE FEE \$600.00

COUNTRYSIDE - REVIVAL ELECTRICITY \$100.00

LESS EXPENSES

\$6,531.75

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1998

\$3,876.80

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 1, 1997 - FEBRUARY 28, 1998
CAMPGROUND TREASURER'S REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE - AUGUST 1, 1997	\$1,074.85
INCOME FROM CHURCHES	\$1,653.86
SUBTOTAL	\$2,728.71
EXPENSES:	
OG&E - ELECTRIC	\$433.38
WESTERN CARTER CO - WATER	\$60.00
WOOLSEY'S SUPPLIES & COPIES	\$9.04
POSTAGE STAMPS	\$6.40
YOUTH STAMPS	\$24.86
GORDON WHITE LUMBER	\$9.49
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$543.17
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1998	\$2,185.54

**FELLOWSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 1997**

The Hopewell No. 2 Association met at 6:30 p.m. at the Countryside Church on Saturday, November 8, 1997, with Bro. Carroll Milner acting as Moderator.

A wonderful dinner was served with the banquet tables decorated in seasonal arrangements by the Countryside Church.

Bro. Toby Youngblood led in prayer and introduced the Hillsdale Quartet. The Quartet rendered the music for the evening.

Bro. Youngblood gave a promotional speech about Hillsdale and brought his message from Matthew 28 : 19 - 20. He concluded in prayer.

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

Bro. Carroll Milner dismissed the meeting.

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

**FIRST BI-ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 6 - 7, 1998**

On Friday, March 6, 1998, the Hopewell No. 2 Association convened at 7:30 p.m. at the Lone Grove Free Will Baptist Church for evening worship.

The services were opened by Bro. L.T. Woodall. Bro. David Gardner led in prayer.

The congregational singing was led by Bro. Terry Pierson, with Sis. Mary Beth Bray at the piano. The songs were: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "Victory In Jesus". Prayer was led by Bro. Bill Holder.

Special singing: Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson - "Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?", Bro. Dustin Gardner - "Consider The Lilies", Sis. Cecile Adams - "Never Thirst Again" and Sis. Christy Newell - "You Are There". There was a special altar of prayer for Bro. Beryl Blair.

Bro. Chuck Newell brought the message from Jeremiah 1:1-10 & 50:4-6, entitled "Who We Are In Christ". He concluded the message playing the guitar and singing "Don't Go Home Tonight Unserved". Bro. Dale Howell dismissed in prayer, with fellowship following the service.

The Saturday morning service on March 7, 1998, began at 9:30 a.m., with Bro. L.T. Woodall opening the business meeting. The congregation was led in singing "When We All Get To Heaven" and "There Is Power In The Blood" by Sis. Imogene Woodall, with Sis. Mary Beth Bray at the piano. Bro. Dustin Gardner led in prayer.

Bro. L.T. Woodall admonished the Association from Isaiah 6:1-9.

Motion carried to receive letters from seven churches and seat the delegates. Duncan was not in attendance.

Motion carried that the Moderator, Bro. L.T. Woodall, appoint an Assistant Moderator for the day. Bro. David Gardner was appointed.

A right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates while singing "Just Over In The Glory Land Way" led by Sis. Imogene Woodall, with Sis. Mary Beth Bray at the piano.

Bro. Carroll Milner gave a short report from the 1933 minutes of the Hopewell No. 2 Association.

Motion carried to receive the minutes as read.

Motion carried to receive the Petitionary letter as read. Stobtown recommended that Bro. Dustin Gardner be examined for ordination.

Bro. L.T. Woodall appointed Bro. Loray Spurgin, Bro. Troy Lewellen and Bro. Bill Holder to assist on the Credential Board for the day with acting members, Bro. Carroll Milner and Bro. David Gardner.

Bro. David Gardner read the Rules of Order.

Visitors were invited to be seated in council.

The committees were appointed as follows:

<u>Divine</u>	<u>Resolution</u>
(1) Sis. Valerie Richardson	Sis. Nadine Nix
(2) Sis. Barbara Davis	Sis. Cecile Adams
(3) Bro. Gilbert Gardner	Sis. Loretha Pierson
<u>Temperance</u>	<u>Obituary</u>
(1) Sis. Jackie Worthly	Bro. Dustin Gardner
(2) Sis Maria Ayala	Sis. Louella Pierson
(3) Sis. Joyce Combs	Sis. Jaymalee Christian

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Bro. Loray Spurgin, with a balance on hand of \$3,876.80.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer's report given by Sis. Imogene Woodall, with a balance on hand of \$2,185.54.

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

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Committee report given by Sis. Diann Pierson. The director will be Bro. Troy Lewellen, and the theme will be "Step By Step".

Bro. David Gardner gave a report on the unfinished business regarding bids for a metal building for the Camp Ground. The bids were for a 40 X 60 metal building with 10 foot walls. Unfinished building bids were \$18,100 - \$22,500 and finished building bids were \$40,000 - \$45,000.

Bro. Loray Spurgin gave a report on the unfinished business regarding the receivership of the Camp Ground property. No living heirs could be found.

Motion carried to dismiss for 15 minute break for committees and Credential Board to meet. Bro. Von Colvin led the dismissal prayer.

Business resumed at 11:00 a.m., with the congregation singing "Love Lifted Me" led by Sis. Imogene Woodall, with Sis. Mary Beth Bray at the piano.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board's recommendation that Bro. Dustin Gardner be ordained.

Bro. Carroll Milner brought a brief report on the Oklahoma Total Support Program for missionaries.

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

(1) Recommend to accept the bid to build a concession stand at the Camp Ground. The bid was for \$500.00 plus materials. Estimated completion price of \$850.00 - \$900.00 includes concrete floor, wood building large enough for two people with plenty of space for soft drinks, candy, etc. with a lift up front window. Sis. Imogene Woodall will oversee the project. This will be paid out of the Camp Ground Treasury.

(2) Recommend that we support the Oklahoma Total Support Program for missionaries, and to send an offering of \$250.00 from the Association Treasury.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report that "We recommend, the Church Sanctuary be revered at all times (be quiet and listen to the Word of God), and that we exercise more parental supervision in what our children watch on television." Gal. 5:25 and 2 Peter 1:5-6.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report of the following deaths: Countyline - Bro. Jim Combs, Bro. Jimmy Garrett, Sis. Pearl Lumbert, Sis. Inez Staggs and Sis. Mabel Hendrix; Midway - Sis. Lavern Hill. There was a moment of silence with Bro. Carroll Milner concluding in prayer.

Bro. L.T. Woodall recommended that the churches send a love offering to Bro. Beryl Blair, Comanche, to help with his medical and travel expenses.

The business meeting was dismissed.

Bro. Bill Holder welcomed the Association to his Church. Bro. L.T. Woodall opened the worship service, with Bro. J. W. Craft leading in prayer.

The congregation sang "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" led by Sis. Imogene Woodall, with Sis. Mary Beth Bray at the piano.

Special singing: Sis. Cecile Adams - "Not Too Far From Here" and the Lawton Trio (Sis. Wanda Kellett, Sis. Barbara Davis and Sis. Shelia Rooker) - "Sheltered In The Arms of God".

Bro. David Gardner brought the message from John 14:15 & 23 entitled "Prove It - Prove Yourself To God". Invitational songs were "I Am Thine, O Lord" and "O How I Love Jesus" led by Sis. Imogene Woodall, with Sis. Mary Beth Bray at the piano.

Sis. Wanda Kellett dismissed in prayer. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch and fellowship.

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

REVIVAL & ANNUAL MEETING JULY 27 - AUGUST 1, 1998

The Association Revival met at 7:30 p.m. nightly, with different Ministers rendering the evening message.

Monday, July 27, 1998: Bro. L. T. Woodall led the services. Bro. Chuck Newell led the opening prayer.

Bro. Terry Pierson led the congregation singing: "Standing On The Promises", "A New Name In Glory", "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms", and "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder". Sis. Diann Pierson played the piano. Bro. Dustin Gardner led in prayer. Special singing: Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson - "Ready To Go", Sis. Anna Janz - "God Walks The Dark Hills" and Bro. Terry Pierson - "I Need The Prayers".

Bro. David Gardner brought the message from I Corinthians 3:1-7, entitled, "Get Off The Milk and Grow In God." Invitation song was "Search Me, O God". The services were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Beryl Blair. 39 in attendance.

Tuesday, July 28, 1998: Bro. L.T. Woodall opened the services with Bro. Troy Lewellen leading in prayer. Bro. Terry Pierson led the singing, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. The songs were: "Whosoever Meaneth Me", "Victory In Jesus", "A New Name Written Down" and "I've Been Redeemed". Special singing by: Sis. Amy Sanders, "I Am Your Child", and Sis. Kristen and Bro. Micah Newell, "You Are There" and "Lessons Of Love".

Bro. Chuck Newell brought the message from I Corinthians 2:1-10, Romans 3:23, Eph. 2:-8-9, I Peter 3:18 and Acts 16:31 entitled, "We Need A Savior." The invitation song was rendered by Bro. Micah Newell, "Just To Be With You". Bro. Loray Spurgin dismissed in prayer. 44 in attendance.

Wednesday, July 29, 1998: Bro. L.T. Woodall opened the services, with Bro. J. T. McClanahan leading in prayer. Bro. Terry Pierson led the singing: "Joy Unspeakable", "Stand Up For Jesus", "I Would Not Be Denied" and "On Jordan's Stormy Banks". Sis. Diann Pierson played the piano. Special singing: Sis. Amy Sanders - "He'll Do It Again", Sis. Rhonda Addington - "There Is A Way", Sis. Gayla Kelly - "In The Beginning Of Time" and the Countyline Church - "Stroll Over Heaven".

Bro. Beryl Blair brought the message from Psalm 9: 15-17, I Cor. 2:8, Mark 9:43-44, Luke 20:33-35, Rev. 7:17 & 21:1, Matt. 25:29-30 & 46, and Luke 17:10, entitled "Salvation Will Change Your Attitude Here and Heaven Will Change Your Atmosphere There." Invitational song: "I Surrender All". Dismissal prayer by Bro. John Gilmore. 53 in attendance.

Thursday, July 30, 1998: Service was opened by Bro. Chuck Newell. Sis. Rusty Blair led the singing: "Come Unto Me", "In The Shadow Of The Cross", and "I'll Be Listening". Sis. Shelia Rooker played the piano. There were prayer requests taken, followed by an altar of prayer. Special singing: Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson - "I Can't Even Walk Without You Holding My Hand" and Sis. Shelia Rooker - "Until You've Known the Love of God".

Bro. Tom Stanley brought the message from Acts 2, Romans 10:13, Luke 19:10, Matt. 9:9 and John 11:17, entitled "Is It Well With Your Soul?". Sis. Anna Janz sang the song before his message. Sis. Wanda Kellett dismissed in prayer. 21 in attendance.

Friday, July 31, 1998: Bro. Chuck Newell opened the services and led the congregation in prayer. Bro. Terry Pierson led the singing: "My Sins Are Gone", "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms", "The Gloryland Way" and "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder". Sis. Diann Pierson played the piano. Bro. Rob Rooker led in prayer. Special singing by: Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson - "What A Lovely Name", Bro. Terry Pierson - "The Anchor Holds" and Sis. Kristin Newell - "There's A Light". There was an altar of prayer before the ministering of the Word.

Bro. Carl Chesher, President of the Hillsdale College, gave a short report regarding the college. He then brought the message entitled, "Commitment", from Romans 12:1 - 2. Bro. Chuck Newell sang the invitation song "Don't Go Home Tonight Unserved", then dismissed the service in prayer. 34 in attendance.

66TH ANNUAL BUSINESS

Saturday, August 1, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. the meeting was opened by Bro. L. T. Woodall. Bro. Terry Pierson led the congregation singing: "Heaven's Jubilee" and "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes". Sis. Diann Pierson played the piano. Bro. Bill Holder led in prayer.

Bro. L. T. Woodall admonished the Association from Gal. 1:10 and Acts 2:35. Bro. David Gardner led in prayer, then was appointed by Bro. L. T. Woodall to be acting Assistant Moderator for the meeting.

Letters were called for, read and received from 7 churches. A right hand of fellowship was given the delegates while singing "When We All Get To Heaven". A special welcome was given to the new Pastor of Countyline, Bro. John & Sis. Margaret Ballard.

Minutes were read and received.

The Countyline Church sent a Petitionary letter recommending that their new Pastor, Bro. John Ballard, be examined for acceptance into the Association. Bro. Troy Lewellen was appointed to serve on the Credential Board for this examination.

A letter was received from Bro. J. T. McClanahan, resigning from the Camp Ground Board.

Rules of order were read by Bro. David Gardner. Visitors were invited to be seated in council.

The appointment of committees were as follows:

	<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Temperance</u>	<u>Obituary</u>
1)	Sis. Joyce Combs	Bro. Cecil Janz	Sis. Ruby Miller
2)	Bro. Gilbert Gardner	Sis. Kim Robinson	Sis. Amy Sanders
3)	Bro. Rob Rooker	Bro. Don Gilmore	Jaymalee Christian

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Bro. Loray Spurgin, with a balance on hand of \$4,218.24.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report for the Eastside Duncan Church given by Bro. Loray Spurgin, with a balance on hand of \$383.46 in the checking account and \$644.99 in the savings account.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer's report given by Sis. Imogene Woodall, with a balance on hand of \$1,088.95 and a balance on hand of \$51.70 in the new Camp Ground Building Fund.

Bro. Dustin Gardner gave a report on the Youth Camp. Bro. Mack Word was the director and Bro. Toby Youngblood was the evening evangelist. Both did an excellent job. There was a total of 39 campers, with 17 people being saved or rededicating their lives.

Motion carried to receive the Executive Board report of business that was transacted as the acting body of the Hopewell No. 2 Association on May 15, 1998, at the Eastside Duncan Church. At the request of the Moderator, Bro. L. T. Woodall, and the Executive Board, Bro. Jack Richey, State Executive Secretary, was the Moderator for this meeting.

- 1) Motion carried to accept the responsibility of the Eastside Free Will Baptist Church property and assets, located in Duncan.
- 2) Motion carried to accept the recommendation by the Eastside Church of the assets going to the Youth Camp for the construction of a building and upgrading of the sewer system as required for the new building.
- 3) Motion carried to grant membership letters to the current members in good standing of the Eastside Church that would be good for six months, until November 15, 1998.
- 4) Motion carried to sell the property and assets of the Eastside Church.
- 5) Motion carried to have an appraisal done on the Eastside Church and property. This will be handled by Bro. Loray Spurgin.
- 6) Motion carried for Bro. Loray Spurgin to be added to the current bank accounts held by the Eastside Church and to have a separate reporting from the Treasurer of this account. Bro. Cecil Janz will continue to handle the accounts until the changes can be made. The Clerk will prepare the necessary letters to the bank and all utility companies.
- 7) Motion carried to have Bro. Mack Word as the Youth Camp Director for 1998, replacing the Lewellen's, who resigned. Bro. Word has already been notified and agreed.

NOTE: Information was given concerning Bro. Dean Thompson, Youth Camp Evangelist, who was having surgery for tumors in his bladder. Continued prayer was requested on his behalf. If he is unable to fulfill his position as Evangelist, the Youth Camp Director and the Youth Camp Ground Board will find a replacement.

Bro. Jack Richey thanked the members of the Association who came to support the Eastside Church members during their disbandment meeting. The meeting was adjourned in prayer.

Executive Board Members present: Bro. Myrl Kellett, Bro. Loray Spurgin & Bro. Jimmy Tate. Others present: Bro. L. T. Woodall, Moderator, Sis. Imogene Woodall, Youth Camp Treasurer, and Sis. Shelia Rooker, Assistant Clerk.

Bro. Dustin Gardner gave information that Bro. Mack Word could replace the PVC water pipes at the Camp Ground if the pipe could be purchased. The labor and use of a ditch digger would be donated. He was referred to the Camp Ground Board.

Motion carried to accept the resignation letter from Bro. J. T. McClanahan from his position on the Camp Ground Board.

Motion carried to place Bro. Don Gilmore on the Camp Ground Board.

Bro. Myrl Kellett led in prayer before the break taken at 10:45 a.m.

The business meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m., with the congregation singing "He Set Me Free" and "There Is Power In The Blood".

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board report to accept Bro. John Ballard into the Association.

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

(1) Point of information: The Camp Ground is in need of a refrigerator to be used in the concession stand. If anyone has one, a donation would be greatly appreciated.

(2) Recommend that the camper fee for Youth Camp be increased from \$5.00 per camper to \$10.00.

(3) Recommend that the Association send a love offering of \$50.00 to Bro. Carl Chesher for preaching Friday night, July 31, 1998, at the Association Revival.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report: Read Eph. 4:1-4. The Word of God speaks clearly and more concise than we ever could. This Word is life and truth. We should encourage our Sunday School classes to memorize scripture, from the children to the older adults. John 1:1-3 & Phil. 4:13.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report of there being no new deaths since the last meeting. Those from the last meeting were: Countyline - Bro. Jim Combs, Bro. Jimmy Garrett, Sis. Pearl Lumbert, Sis. Inez Staggs and Sis. Mabel Hendrix; Midway - Sis. Lavern Hill.

Motion carried that the Executive Board oversee the disposal of the building and contents of the Eastside Duncan Church.

Motion carried that the Executive and Camp Ground Boards work together in planning the new building for the Camp Ground. Plans are to be brought back to the Association, at the next regular meeting, or if necessary, a special called meeting.

Election of Officers:

Moderator:	Bro. L. T. Woodall
Asst. Moderator:	Bro. David Gardner
Clerk:	Sis. Wanda Kellett
Asst. Clerk:	Sis. Shelia Rooker
Treasurer:	Bro. Dustin Gardner
Asst. Treasurer:	Bro. David Gardner
Reporter:	Sis. Diann Pierson
Parliamentarian:	Bro. Beryl Blair
Executive Board, 5 year:	Bro. David Gardner
Credential Board, 5 year:	Bro. Myrl Kellett
Camp Ground Board, 5 year:	Bro. Dustin Gardner
Camp Ground Board, 2 year:	Bro. Don Gilmore
General Board Member, 1999:	Bro. Myrl Kellett
Alternate:	Bro. Dustin Gardner

Motion carried to have an Association Fellowship on November 7, 1998, at Stobtown.

Motion carried that Youth Camp be held May 30 - June 4, 1999.

Motion carried that Bro. Mack Word and Bro. Troy Lewellen be the Youth Camp directors.

Motion carried that Bro. Toby Youngblood be the evening Evangelist at Youth Camp. He was contacted August 26, 1998, and accepted the invitation.

Motion carried that the evening Evangelist be paid \$400.00 plus love offerings, and that the morning speakers be paid \$50.00 each per day.

Motion carried to retain the Youth Camp Committee of five, to select the cooks, teachers and theme. Committee: Sis. Diann Pierson, Chairman, Sis. Kim Robinson, Sis. Wanda Kellett, Sis. Imogene Woodall and Sis. Rhonda Addington.

Motion carried that the Bi-Annual meeting be held March 5-6, 1999, at Midway. Bro. John Ballard was selected as the Friday evening speaker.

Motion carried to have the Annual Association Revival on August 2 - 6, 1999 and the Annual Business on August 7, 1999, at the Camp Ground. If the new building is not ready, it will be at Midway. The Evangelist will be Bro. Millard McGuire. Note: Bro. McGuire was contacted and accepted the invitation. The alternate is Bro. Carl Chesher. The Executive Board will contact Hillsdale to get a young preacher to be the Saturday morning Memorial speaker.

Motion carried to adjourn the business at 12:30 p.m., with a 15 minute break before the Worship service. Bro. Don Zickefoose dismissed in prayer.

The Worship service began at 12:45 p.m., with Bro. L. T. Woodall leading the service. Sis. Wanda Kellett led in prayer. "I Want To Know More About My Lord" was led by Bro. Terry Pierson, with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Special singing by: Sis. Kim & Kali Robinson - "What A Mighty God We Serve", the Lawton Trio (Sis. Wanda Kellett, Sis. Barbara Davis and Sis. Shelia Rooker) - "I Found The Lily In My Valley" and Bro. Terry Pierson - "What If I Give All?".

Bro. Myrl Kellett brought the message from 2 Cor. 5:1, John 14:6, 1 Thess. 4:13-18 and Psalm 23 entitled, "This House We Live In". Bro. Beryl Blair dismissed in prayer, asking the blessing on the lunch.

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

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 28 - JULY 31, 1998
CAMPGROUND TREASURER'S REPORT**

BEGINNING BALANCE - FEBRUARY 28, 1998	\$2,185.54
INCOME FROM CHURCHES	\$1,790.31
INCOME FROM CAMP CONCESSION STAND	\$275.72
SUBTOTAL	\$4,251.57
EXPENSES:	
OG&E - ELECTRIC	\$295.60
WESTERN CARTER CO - WATER	\$60.00
WOOLSEY'S COPIES	\$2.43
POSTAGE STAMPS	\$6.40
INSURANCE	\$102.00
CHECKS - NEW BLDG. FUND	\$10.00
PREACHERS - NOON SERVICE	\$200.00
BRO. TOBY YOUNGBLOOD	\$450.00
GORDON WHITE LUMBER	\$42.01
NEW CONCESSION STAND	\$1,000.00
HOWARD'S MUSIC	\$150.00
FOOD, SUPPLIES & REPAIRS	\$844.18
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,162.62
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 1998	\$1,088.95

NOTE: ALL ICE DONATED BY GLEN HURST AT MARTY'S

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 28 - JULY 15, 1998
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	TOTAL RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F + S + H MISSIONS	REP FEE	HILLSDALE	CAMP GROUND	GENERAL FUND
COUNTYLINE	\$398.84	\$119.47	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$159.55	\$39.82
COUNTYRYSIDE	\$2,169.71	\$926.85	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$433.93	\$308.93
EASTSIDE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
GRACE	\$721.37	\$432.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$144.27	\$144.27
LAWTON	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
LONE GROVE	\$367.10	\$220.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$73.42	\$73.42
MIDWAY	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	
STOBTOWN	\$228.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$203.54	\$25.00
TOTALS	\$4,010.56	\$1,699.41	\$580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,139.71	\$591.44

BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1998

\$3,876.80

INCOME FROM CHURCHES

\$4,010.56

EXPENSES:

STATE CO-OP

\$1,699.41

MISSIONS - DELINQUENT ACCOUNT

\$250.00

CAMPGROUND

\$1,139.71

TSP MISSIONS

\$580.00

LESS EXPENSES

\$3,669.12

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 15, 1998

\$4,218.24

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
MAY 27, 1998 - JULY 15, 1998
EASTSIDE CHECKING ACCOUNT**

BEGINNING BALANCE - MAY 27, 1998	\$732.02
INCOME	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL	\$732.02
EXPENSES:	
CHURCH INSURANCE PREMIUM	\$224.50
ARKLA GAS	\$38.05
DUNCAN BANNER	\$6.30
COTTON ELECTRIC	\$64.76
DUNCAN UTILITIES	\$14.95
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$348.56
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 15, 1998	\$383.46
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 15, 1998 - SAVINGS ACCT.	\$ 644.99

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
MAY 18, 1998 - JULY 31, 1998
CAMPGROUND BUILDING FUND**

BEGINNING BALANCE - MAY 18, 1998	\$0.00
INCOME :	
FROM CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$10.00
RESER FUNERAL HOME	\$25.00
BILL & TINKY NEEDHAM	\$25.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$60.00
EXPENSES:	
CHECKS	\$8.30
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8.30
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 1998	\$51.70

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

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.

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 it's request.

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.

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.

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.

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." - I 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 ORDAINATION

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 just anyone, 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.

