

MINUTES

HOPEWELL

No. 2 Association

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

67th Annual Meeting

1999

**MINUTES OF THE 67TH ANNUAL MEETING
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
1999**

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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

MODERATOR - - - - -	DAVID GARDNER
HCR 62, 107 ASTOR	PHONE:
LONE GROVE, OK 73443	(580) 657-2971
ASST. MODERATOR - - - - -	L.T. WOODALL
ROUTE 6, BOX 224	PHONE:
DUNCAN, OK 73533	(580) 255-1725
CLERK - - - - -	WANDA KELLETT
2603 SW 'A' AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(580) 355-4668
ASST. CLERK - - - - -	SHELIA ROOKER
2512 SW 'A' AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(580) 357-8755
TREASURER - - - - -	JOYCE MULLINS
ROUTE 1, BOX 213	PHONE:
RATLIFF CITY, OK 73481	(580) 856-3290
ASST. TREASURER - - - - -	MARY HEAD
P. O. BOX 143	PHONE:
VELMA, OK 73091	(580) 444-2470
REPORTER - - - - -	DIANN PIERSON
P. O. BOX 6	PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437	(580) 673-2109
PARLIAMENTARIAN - - - - -	CARROLL MILNER
ROUTE 3, BOX 96	PHONE:
ADA, OK 74820	(580) 436-6193

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

CREDENTIAL BOARD

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

CAMP GROUND BOARD

TERRY PIERSON- - - - - 5 YEARS
P. O. BOX 6 PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK. 73437 (580) 673-2109

DUSTIN GARDNER- - - - - 4 YEARS
HCR 62, 107 ASTOR PHONE:
LONE GROVE, OK 73443 (580) 657-2971

DAVID GARDNER- - - - - 3 YEARS
HCR 62, 107 ASTOR PHONE:
LONE GROVE, OK 73443 (580) 657-2971

DARRYL ROBINSON- - - - - 2 YEARS/ASST. TREAS.
6021 SW ATTERBURY PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505 (580) 536-0370

DON GILMORE - - - - - 1 YEAR
2001 W WALNUT PHONE:
DUNCAN, OK 73533 (580) 255-2560

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 96 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: NONE	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	ED STAGGS 5624 SE 2ND STREET MIDWEST CITY, OK 73110 PHONE: (405) 737-2190	MARY BETH BRAY ROUTE 3, BOX 31 C ARDMORE, OK 73401 PHONE: (580) 657-4908
MIDWAY HC 63, BOX 2400 HEALDTON, OK 73438 PHONE: (580) 673-2599	CHARLES NEWELL ROUTE 1, BOX 76 RATLIFF CITY, OK 73081 PHONE: (580) 856-3667	TERRI NEWELL PO BOX 94 RATLIFF CITY, 73081 PHONE: (580) 673-2599
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

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - - - - -	SHELIA ROOKER
2512 SW 'A' AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(580) 357-8755
VICE-PRESIDENT - - - - -	WANDA KELLETT
2603 SW "A" AVENUE	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(580) 355-4668
SECRETARY - - - - -	TERRY NEWELL
P. O. BOX 94	PHONE:
RATCLIFF CITY, OK 73081	(580) 673-2599
CO - TREASURER - - - - -	FRANCES LEWELLEN
P. O. BOX 201	PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437	(580) 673-2315
CO - TREASURER / FIELD WORKER - - - - -	DIANN PIERSON
P. O. BOX 6	PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437	(580) 673-2109
MISSION PRAYER / STUDY - - - - -	KIM ROBINSON
6021 SW ATTERBURY	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505	(580) 536-0370
MISSION ACTION - - - - -	BARBARA DAVIS
1401 SW 'B' AVENUE, APT. 225	PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73501	(580) 357-4954

ORDAINED MINISTERS

DUSTIN GARDNER	HCR 62, 107 ASTOR
PHONE: (580) 657-2971	LONE GROVE, OK 73443
ROYCE MC CLENDON	ROUTE 2, BOX 275 C
PHONE: (580) 657-8214	ARDMORE, OK 73401
DUGAN MC DONALD	1906 WINDSOR
PHONE: (580) 252-0701	DUNCAN, OK 73533
TOM STANLEY	103 E WALNUT
PHONE: (580) 255-1274	DUNCAN, OK 73533

ORDAINED DEACONS

VON COLVIN
PHONE: (580) 856-3581

FOREST COX
PHONE: (580) 444-2584

KENNETH GLENN
PHONE: (580) 229-2682

DALE HOWELL
PHONE: (405) 657-3836

CECIL JANZ
PHONE: (580) 255-1252

OTHEL KYLE
PHONE: (580) 657-6420

TROY LEWELLEN
PHONE: (580) 673-2315

KENNETH LEWIS
PHONE: (580) 439-5164

J. T. MC CLANAHAN
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RALPH MULLINS, JR.
PHONE: (580) 856-3290

TERRY PIERSON
PHONE: (580) 673-2109

LEONARD ROBINSON
PHONE: (580) 657-4742

LORAY SPURGIN
PHONE: (580) 444-2527

JIMMY TATE
PHONE: (580) 657-3899

P. O. BOX 234
COUNTYLINE, OK 73425

ROUTE 1, BOX 46
RATCLIFF CITY, OK 73481

518 SW 3RD
HEALDTON, OK 73438

STAR ROUTE, BOX A 104
LONE GROVE, OK 73443

1318 COTTON HILLS DRIVE
DUNCAN, OK 73533

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

ROUTE 1, BOX 213
RATLIFF CITY, OK 73481

P. O. BOX 6
GRAHAM, OK 73437

HC 62, BOX 1300
LONE GROVE, OK 73443

BOX 842
VELMA, OK 73491

ROUTE 3, BOX 53 B
ARDMORE, OK 73401

FELLOWSHIP MEETING NOVEMBER 7, 1998

The Hopewell No. 2 Association met at 7:00 p.m. at the Stobtown Free Will Baptist Church, with Bro. David Gardner as acting Moderator.

Bro. Craig Adams led in prayer.

Congregational singing, "At The Cross", "When The Roll is Called Up Yonder", "I'll Meet You In The Morning", and "Victory In Jesus", was led by Sis. Donna Gothard, with Sis. Tinky Needham at the piano.

Special singing by Sis. Cecile Adams, "Where Ever You Are" and "Peace In The Valley", Sis. Terry Gardner, "Serenaded By Angels" and Sis. Maria Applegate, "The Old Country Church" and "Matthew Twenty Four".

Bro. David Gardner brought the evening message from II Chronicles 14:7-16, and was followed by prayer for those that needed a miracle.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Jimmy Tate.

A wonderful fellowship followed with refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall, decorated with a fall theme.

Only three Churches were represented: Stobtown, Lawton, and Lone Grove.

Bro. David Gardner, Acting Moderator
Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

FIRST BI-ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 5 - 6, 1999

On Friday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association convened at the Midway Free Will Baptist Church with the Moderator, Bro. L. T. Woodall, opening the Worship Service. Bro. Chuck Newell led in prayer.

Bro. Terry Pierson led the congregation singing, "Victory In Jesus", "Where The Soul Never Dies", "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms" and "Since I Have Been Redeemed" with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Special singing by Bro. Terry Pierson - "I Don't Know About Tomorrow", Bro. Tom Stanley - "I Saw A Man", and Sis. Kristen Newell - "You Were There".

Bro. David Gardner led in prayer.

Bro. John Ballard brought the evening message from Matthew 27:57-66 and Luke 11:17, entitled, "From Within The Tomb."

Bro. Pierson led the invitation song, "Search Me", with Sis. Pierson at the piano. Bro. Myrl Kellett dismissed in prayer.

On March 6, 1999, the Saturday morning Business opened at 9:30 a.m. with the congregation singing, "Praise the Lord" led by Bro. Terry Pierson with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Bro. Troy Lewellen led in prayer.

Bro. L. T. Woodall admonished the Association from I Corinthians 3:9, with Bro. Carroll Milner leading in prayer.

Letters were read and received from the seven Churches. The Delegates were given a right hand of fellowship while singing, "Just Over In The Gloryland".

Motion carried to receive the Minutes as read.

Request from the Lone Grove Church to pray for a Pastor.

Rules of Order were read by Bro. David Gardner.

Visitors were invited to be seated in council.

Motion carried to receive the Letter of Resignation from Bro. Dustin Gardner as Treasurer. Sis. Joyce Mullin was elected as Treasurer.

Appointment of Committees as follows:

Divine

- (1) Sis. Barbara Davis
- (2) Sis. Audra Francis
- (3) Bro. Cecil Janz

Resolution

- Sis. Donna Riffe
- Sis. Lewella Pierson
- Sis. Maria Ayala

Temperance

- (1) Sis. Valerie Richardson
- (2) Sis. Sheila Inman
- (3) Sis. Dianna Smales

Obituary

- Bro. Terry Pierson
- Bro. Tom Stanley
- Bro. Chuck Newell

Bro. Carl Cheshier was chosen to be the morning speaker.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by the Clerk, with a balance on hand of \$4,977.32. Duncan Eastside expenses paid out: Duncan Utilities: \$139.74, Cotton Electric, \$180.34 and Church Mutual Insurance, \$427.50.

Motion carried to receive the Campground Treasurer's report given by Sis. Imogene Woodall of a balance on hand of \$1,712.40 and the Special Building Fund account of \$531.70 balance on hand.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Board Report, that the refrigerator from the Eastside Church was taken to the Camp Ground and the pews and other furniture are stored at the Grace Free Will Baptist Church.

Bro. Loray Spurgin led a special prayer in remembrance of Bro. Beryl Blair.

Special guest, Bro. Carl Cheshier, gave a report on Hillsdale, regarding the Five year Accreditation, Four year Business and Accounting Degrees available. The upcoming First Annual Auction was to be held on May 25th for a fund-raiser.

The Campground Board and Bro. Troy Lewellen, Youth Camp Director, are to find a replacement for Bro. Mack Word, who has moved to Colorado. The person selected will be the Assistant Director.

Motion carried to have a ten-minute break for the Committees to meet. Business resumed at 11:05 a.m. Prayer was led by Sis. Diann Pierson.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report and adopt business item by item. (1) To receive an offering for Hillsdale Have a Heart campaign. (The total offering was \$190.00.) (2) That the Association Body encourage the Camp Ground Board to plan and design a building for the Camp Ground. It should not only fit our needs, but should fall within the \$35,000.00 maximum expense. This will allow them to speed up the process for its completion.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report as follows: (1) For Youth and Adults to learn and study the Romans Road to Salvation. (2) Limit time in front of the television and increase time in prayer and Bible study. (3) Encourage our Youth to pray at mealtime, taking turns within each family.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report, that Sis. Alta Brown, Bro. Perry Whittington and Rev. Beryl Blair from Grace and Bro. Milton Whitson, Stobtown, have deceased. There was a moment of silent prayer, concluded by Bro. David Gardner.

Motion carried to waive Number 12 of the By Laws, concerning Bonding of the Treasurer.

Sis. Barbara Davis challenged the Churches to send \$100.00 each to the Camp Ground Building Fund.

Election of Officers:

Parliamentarian - Bro. Carroll Milner,

Executive Board 4 Year Man - Bro. Troy Lewellen

Credential Board 4 Year Man - Bro. Terry Pierson.

Bro. Woodall immediately called on Bro. Carl Cheshier to bring the morning message. It was taken from Deut. 10:12-13, entitled, "A Question of Requirements," and concluded in prayer.

Bro. Chuck Newell dismissed the Association, praying over the lunch following.

Bro. L. T. Woodall, Moderator

Sis. Wanda Kellett, Clerk

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
JULY 25, 1998 - FEBRUARY 28, 1999
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	TOTAL RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F + S + H MISSIONS	TSP	HILLSDALE	CAMP GROUND	GENERAL FUND	REP FEES/ REVIVAL
COUNTRYSIDE	\$1,806.93	\$784.17	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$261.38	\$261.38	\$0.00
COUNTYLINE	\$930.27	\$165.96	\$134.00	\$160.00	\$55.00	\$253.06	\$162.25	\$0.00
GRACE	\$865.51	\$447.31	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$149.10	\$149.10	\$0.00
LAWTON	\$808.30	\$145.98	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$173.66	\$48.66	\$140.00
LONE GROVE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MIDWAY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
STOBTOWN	\$394.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$239.84	\$65.04	\$90.00
TOTALS	\$4,805.89	\$1,543.42	\$134.00	\$1,080.00	\$55.00	\$1,077.04	\$686.43	\$230.00

BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 25, 1998

\$4,218.24

INCOME FROM CHURCHES

\$4,805.89

LESS EXPENSES

\$4,123.81

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1999

\$4,900.32

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 1, 1998 - FEBRUARY 28, 1999
CAMPGROUND TREASURER'S REPORT**

BEGINNING BALANCE - AUGUST 1, 1998	\$1,088.95
INCOME FROM CHURCHES	\$1,347.03
SUBTOTAL	\$2,435.98
EXPENSES:	
OG&E - ELECTRIC	\$307.94
WESTERN CARTER CO - WATER	\$70.00
WOOLSEY'S SUPPLIES	\$11.70
U-HAUL & LABOR (DUNCAN CHURCH)	\$333.94
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$723.58
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1999	\$1,712.40

CAMPGROUND BUILDING FUND REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE - AUGUST 1, 1998	\$0.00
INCOME:	
DONATIONS	\$51.70
ITEMS SOLD FROM DUNCAN CHURCH:	\$480.00
SONG BOOKS	\$180.00
PIANO	\$150.00
ORGAN	\$150.00
SUBTOTAL	\$531.70
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1999	\$531.70

REVIVAL & 67TH ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2-6, 1999

The Association Revival met nightly at 7:30 p.m. at Midway Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Millard McGuire as the Evangelist.

Monday, August 2, 1999: Bro. L.T. Woodall led the services. Bro. Chuck Newell led the opening prayer.

Bro. Terry Pierson led the congregation singing, "My Sins Are Gone", "Living By Faith", and "I Shall Not Be Moved", with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Special singing by: Kali Robinson - "Whisper A Prayer" and Kristen Newell - "Walking In The Steps Of The Son". The McGuire's ministered in song, "What A Day", "He Is More Precious Than Gold" and "What Will You Do?".

Bro. McGuire brought the message from Ephesians 1:1, 1:9-23 and Galatians 4:4, entitled, "Fullness Of Times". The invitational song was "Just As I Am", with everyone called into an altar of prayer for Revival in our Churches and was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Kenneth Glenn. There were 53 in attendance.

Tuesday, August 3, 1999: The service was opened by Bro. L.T. Woodall. Bro. Myrl Kellett led in prayer. The Congregational singing of "O, How I Love Jesus", "A Shelter In The Time Of Storm", "I Want To Know More About My Lord" was led by Bro. Terry Pierson with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Special singing by Kristen Newell - "We Will Fly" and Bro. and Sis. Terry Pierson - "Til The Storm Passes By". The McGuire's sang: "I'm Too Near Home", "There Shall Be Shouting On The Hills Of Glory" and "He Is More Precious Than Gold".

Bro. McGuire brought the message from Ephesians 3:1-9, entitled, "By Revelation the Mystery Was Made Known". The invitational song was "More About Jesus". Dismissed in prayer by Sis. Wanda Kellett. There were 41 in attendance.

Wednesday, August 4, 1999: Bro. L.T. Woodall opened the service, with Bro. Terry Pierson leading the congregational singing, "Joy Unspeakable", "I'll Fly Away" and "O, I Want To See Him", with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Bro. J. T. McClanahan led in prayer. Special singing was by Micah and Kristen Newell - "A Poor Wayfaring Stranger". The McGuire's sang: "I Want To Stroll Over Heaven With You", "This Is Like Heaven To Me" and "At The Cross". Sis. Frances Lewellen led in prayer.

Bro. McGuire brought the message from Titus 3:1-10, entitled, "Hear It Again For The First Time". The invitational song was "Have Thine Own Way". Bro. Dustin Gardner dismissed in prayer. There were 41 in attendance.

Thursday, August 5, 1999: Bro. Woodall opened the services and called on Bro. Marvin Harris to pray. Bro. Terry Pierson led the singing, "A New Name Written Down In Glory", "Victory In Jesus", and "Are You Washed In The Blood?" with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. Prayer was led by Bro. Harold Boerstler. Special singing by: Bro. and Sis. Harold Robinson - "What A Lovely Name", Tinky Needham, Terry and Diann Pierson - "I'd Rather Have Jesus" and Micah Newell - "Beulah Land". A love offering was received. Prayer was led by Bro. Myrl Kellett. The McGuire's sang: "On My Fathers Side", "Let The Waters Flow", "This Is Just What Heaven Means", and "I Am Blessed".

Bro. McGuire brought the message from John 12:17, entitled, "We Would See Jesus". The invitation song by the McGuire's was "I'd Like To Kneel Down". There was an altar service, with Bro. Ed Staggs dismissing the service in prayer. 54 in attendance.

Friday, August 6, 1999: The services were opened by Bro. L.T. Woodall with Bro. Carroll Milner leading in prayer. The congregation singing was led by Bro. Terry Pierson, "The Lily Of The Valley", "Standing On The Promises" and "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms", with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano. A love offering was received, with Bro. David Gardner leading in prayer. Special singing: Sis. Terry Gardner - "I Believe", and Sis. Rhonda Addington, "Somebody Loves Me". Bro. Charles Denny led in prayer. The McGuire's sang: "On My Father's Side", "This Is What Heaven Means To Me" and "When I Get To That Heavenly Shore".

Bro. McGuire brought the message from Revelations 2:16-17 and Exodus 28:30, entitled, "Receiving A New Name". Bro. Chuck Newell sang the invitation song, "Don't Go Home Tonight Unsaved".

A right hand of fellowship was given to the McGuire's, while singing "Revive Us Again". Bro. Darryl Robinson dismissed in prayer. 76 in attendance. There was a total of \$280.17 in Love Offerings received, with the \$400.00 from the Treasury, totaling \$680.17 given to Bro. McGuire.

67TH ANNUAL BUSINESS

On Saturday, August 7, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., the meeting was opened by Bro. L.T. Woodall. Bro. Terry Pierson led the congregation in singing "To God Be The Glory", with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Bro. Myrl Kellett gave a devotion from Galatians 6:1-10, concluding with prayer.

Letters were read and received from seven Churches. The right hand of fellowship was given to the Delegates while singing, "The Gloryland Way".

Minutes were read and received.

The Lone Grove Church announced their new Pastor and wife was Bro. and Sis. Ed Staggs. They requested prayer for their Church to grow. The Countyline Church requested prayer for Bro. John Ballard and Bro. Von Colvin. The Countryside Church requested the March meeting be held at their Church.

A petitionary letter from Grace Free Will Baptist Church requested that Bro. Cecil Janz be examined for ordination as Deacon.

Bro. Jimmy Tate's letter of request was granted, as follows: Due to sickness in my family, I could not be here today, but it is my wish to become the five-year man on the Executive Board.

Bro. David Gardner read the Rules of Order.

Visitors were invited to be seated in council. Bro. David Mingus from the Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College was introduced as the morning speaker and invited to participate in discussion.

The appointment of committees were as follows:

	<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Temperance</u>	<u>Obituary</u>
(1)	Audra Frances	Barbara Davis	Jaymalee Christian
(2)	Johnnie Grundy	Joan Butler	Anna Janz
(3)	Cecil Janz	Maria Ayala	Micah Newell

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Sis. Joyce Mullins with a balance on hand of \$6,171.59, and Savings account balance of \$967.89.

Motion carried to receive the Campground Treasurer's report given by Sis. Imogene Woodall of \$1,105.50 balance on hand and Special Building Fund account of balance on hand of \$631.70.

Motion carried to receive the Youth Camp Director's report given by Bro. Troy Lewellen of thirty-five kids and twenty adults at Youth Camp.

Motion carried to receive the Executive Board report and adopt business item by item. (1) That the money received from the buyer of the Eastside Free Will Baptist Church in the amount of \$31,348.56 and \$53.94, totaling \$31,401.50, be placed in the Youth Camp Special Building Fund Account. (2) That the earmarked money for the new Youth Camp Building that is currently in the Hopewell No. 2 Association Treasury, be transferred into the Youth Camp Special Building Fund Account. (3) That the Executive Board and the Camp Ground Board are to get exact bids on different buildings, meeting in the near future, arriving at a proposal to be presented to the Association in a special called Business meeting, according to the Minutes.

Point of information: Sis. Wanda Kellett encouraged all Churches to be incorporated and have papers filed in their local County Courthouse.

Motion carried to add Darryl Robinson as the second signature on the Camp Ground Checking and the Special Building Fund accounts.

Motion carried that \$32,000.00 be placed into an interest bearing account, until the funds are needed for the new building.

Motion carried to take a 15-minute break at 11:00 a.m., giving time for the Committees to meet. Bro. Terry Pierson dismissed in prayer.

The business resumed at 11:15 a.m. with Bro. Chuck Newell leading in prayer.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board report to recommend Bro. Cecil Janz be ordained as a Deacon, finding him sound in the Free Will Baptist doctrine and leaving his ordination at the discretion of the local Church.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report of no business.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report: Reading of Colossians 4:2-6. Maintaining that we still consider the Ten Commandments as the rules of life for Christians. To have a victorious Christian life, we encourage the Youth also to apply these Commandments to their lives. Also reading Exodus 20:3-17.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee Report of those being deceased: Rev. Beryl Blair, Sis. Alta Brown and Bro. Perry Whittington, Grace, Bro. Milton Whitson, Stobtown, Sis. Faye Little, Countryside and Sis. Eunice Woods, Countyline.

Motion carried to receive Bro. Temple Grundy's resignation from the Camp Ground Board.

Motion carried that Youth Camp be held when the new building is done, but that it is set tentatively on June 4-9, 2000. Elected Youth Directors are Bro. Darryl Robinson, Director, and Bro. Dustin Gardner, Assistant. The Youth Camp Evangelist will be Bro. Dustin Gardner. Note: Night Evangelist to be paid \$400.00, plus love offerings.

The Bi-Annual Meeting will be March 3-4, 2000, at the Countryside Free Will Baptist Church.

The Annual Association Revival and Business be held on July 31-August 5, 2000, at the Countryside Free Will Baptist Church, unless there is a new building at the Camp Ground.

The Associational Evangelist will be Bro. Carl Cheshier and Bro. Toby Youngblood as the alternate. Note: Bro. Cheshier has been contacted and accepted the invitation.

A special vote was taken to allow Sis. Mary Head to become the Assistant Treasurer, since she was not in attendance, because of her job.

Motion carried that Bro. Carroll Milner be the Memorial Speaker at the Annual Business meeting.

Election of Officers:

Moderator:	Bro. David Gardner
Asst. Moderator:	Bro. L.T. Woodall
Clerk:	Sis. Wanda Kellett
Asst. Clerk:	Sis. Shelia Rooker
Treasurer:	Sis. Joyce Mullins
Asst. Treasurer:	Sis. Mary Head
Reporter:	Sis. Diann Pierson
Parliamentarian:	Bro. Carroll Milner
Executive Board, 5 year man:	Bro. Jimmy Tate
Credential Board, 5 year man:	Bro. David Gardner
Campground Board, 5 year man:	Bro. Terry Pierson
Campground Board, 3 year man:	Bro. David Gardner
General Board Member, 2000:	Bro. Myrl Kellett
General Board Alternate:	Bro. Carroll Milner

It was requested that the Parliamentarian, Bro. Carroll Milner, be allowed to speak to the Association at the next business meeting before the business begins.

Motion carried that a caretaker (possibly paid) be placed in charge and be responsible for the Camp Ground once the new building is completed.

Motion carried that the Executive Board and the Camp Ground Board bring a recommendation to the Association regarding having a Camp Ground caretaker.

Motion carried that there be a Youth Camp Committee to organize and plan the Youth Encampment. Members are: Countryside - Donna Riffe, Chairman, Lawton - Kim Robinson, Comanche - Imogene Woodall, Midway - Lewella Pierson, Lone Grove - Bobby Staggs, Stobtown - Jaymalee Christian and Countyline - Becky Hatton.

Bro. Carroll Milner challenged all the Churches to donate things for New Camp Ground Building.

Motion carried to adjourn business and go into Worship Service. The dismissal prayer was led by Bro. Ed Staggs.

Bro. L.T. Woodall led the memorial prayer, before turning the services over to Bro. David Mingus, who brought the message from Galatians 3:1, Deut. 1:26-33 and I John 4:8-9 entitled, "Failure Can Be Turned Into Success".

Kali Robinson sang "The Great Adventure".

Bro. Myrl Kellett dismissed in prayer and asked the Lord's blessing on the noon meal.

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

Note: August 10, 1999, information was received from Keith Burden, Clerk of the State Association of Free Will Baptist stating that the fees are now \$75.00 per Church (\$25.00 for State and \$50.00 for National delegate fees). By-law number 11 will need to be revised.

Note: Need to make change in Constitution under Name regarding number of meetings per year.

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 28 - JULY 31, 1999
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	TOTAL RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F + S + H MISSIONS	TSP	HILLSDALE	CAMP GROUND	GENERAL FUND	REP FEES/ REVIVAL
COUNTRYSIDE	\$2,303.07	\$1,021.84	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$340.61	\$340.62	\$0.00
COUNTYLINE	\$771.59	\$120.42	\$270.50	\$80.00	\$100.00	\$160.53	\$40.14	\$0.00
GRACE	\$659.10	\$347.43	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$115.81	\$115.86	\$0.00
LAWTON	\$227.50	\$136.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45.50	\$45.50	\$0.00
LONE GROVE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MIDWAY	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
STOBTOWN	\$364.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$339.13	\$25.00	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$4,565.39	\$1,626.19	\$270.50	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	\$1,001.58	\$567.12	\$0.00

BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 28, 1999 \$4,900.32

INCOME FROM CHURCHES \$4,565.39
RENT FROM DUNCAN BUILDING \$800.00
REIMBURSEMENTS \$9.79
TOTAL INCOME \$5,375.18

EXPENSES:

STATE CO-OP \$1,626.19
MISSIONS - STEVE ROBINSON \$335.50
CAMPGROUND \$1,001.58
TSP MISSIONS \$1,000.00
HILLSDALE \$100.00
DUNCAN UTILITIES \$27.44
POSTAGE \$13.20

LESS EXPENSES \$4,103.91

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 1999 \$6,171.59

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 28 - JULY 31, 1999
CAMPGROUND TREASURER'S REPORT**

BEGINNING BALANCE - FEBRUARY 28, 1999	\$1,712.40
INCOME FROM CHURCHES	\$1,852.25
SUBTOTAL	\$3,564.65
EXPENSES:	
OG&E - ELECTRIC	\$314.92
WESTERN CARTER CO - WATER	\$50.00
WOOLSEY'S	\$4.32
SUPPLIES	
FOOD FOR CAMP	\$943.78
INSURANCE FOR	\$102.00
CAMP	
GORDON WHITE - REPAIRS	\$160.38
ICE	\$10.67
CONCESSION STAND SUPPLIES	\$207.98
RETURNED CHECK FEE	\$13.00
(CAMPER)	
CAMP EVANGELIST	\$650.00
CONCESSION STAND KEYS	\$2.10
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,459.15
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 1999	\$1,105.50
* OTHER ICE DONATED BY GLENN HURST AT MARTY'S	

CAMPGROUND BUILDING FUND REPORT

BEGINNING BALANCE - FEBRUARY 28, 1999	\$531.70
INCOME:	
LAWTON FIRST	\$100.00
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 1999	\$631.70

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 be seated 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 debates on all subjects and to vote.
3. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.
4. The Moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit.
5. No motion shall be discussed without a second.
6. When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If a negative answer is given from the voting delegation, the question shall be dismissed.

7. A ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the members present.
8. No question from any Church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has 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 exercise 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 their 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. The Association shall approve these rules, being subject to change with a yearly re-evaluation.
4. This Board, with the Youth Camp Directors, will prepare a schedule for Youth Camp, to be approved by the Association in March. The Association shall approve this schedule, being subject to change with yearly re-evaluation.
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.

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 the 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 Church gives all persons the right hand of fellowship.

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 is 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 the National Delegate fee.)

12. The Treasurer of this Association shall be bonded in the amount of \$2,500.00. He or she 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 on behalf of the Association. It 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. 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. He is 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 assign 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 grounds 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.

By His grace, we promise 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; to abstain 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; 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 hold Christian principle sacred everywhere 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 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 Ministers lies in the local Church. In practice, however, some local Free Will Churches work together in the matter of ordination by delegating the authority of ordination to the Association of Churches in which the local Church holds membership. The true source of this authority should never be lost sight of.

THE PROCEDURE FOR ORDINATION

In some areas of the denomination, ordination follows a procedure at least similar to the following outline:

1. The individual, acknowledging his call from God, makes known his calling and desire for ordination to the local Church of which he is a member.
2. The local Church led by the Holy Spirit to recognize that the individual does, indeed, appear to possess the gift, proceeds to have the candidate "licensed".
 - A. In many areas, the local Church grants this "license" directly.
 - B. In other areas, the local Church files a petition with the Association that this "license" be granted.

Generally, there is no formal examination of a candidate involved for licensing. The request or action of the local Church is all that is necessary at this stage. (For this reason, local Churches should "license" or request license only after being firmly convinced the candidate has been called by God.)

3. The license issued in the preceding step is in force for a period of one year and may be renewed annually if the licentiate is not ready for ordination. This renewal must be made by the 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 makes its 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 after all, ordination 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 the 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 as an immature Christian nor in the 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 candidate's level of Biblical knowledge. 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.

