

MINUTES

HOPEWELL
NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCHES

68th Annual Meeting

2000

MINUTES OF THE 68TH ANNUAL MEETING HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES 2000

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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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

ASST. MODERATOR - - - - - CARROLL MILNER
1127 N 9TH
PURCELL, OK 73080
PHONE:
(405) 527-3093

CLERK - - - - - WANDA KELLETT
2603 SW 'A' AVENUE
LAWTON, OK 73505
PHONE:
(580) 355-4668

ASST. CLERK - - - - - SHELIA ROOKER
2512 SW 'A' AVENUE
LAWTON, OK 73505
PHONE:
(580) 357-8755

TREASURER - - - - - JOYCE MULLINS
ROUTE 1, BOX 213
RATLIFF CITY, OK 73481
PHONE:
(580) 856-3290

ASST. TREASURER - - - - - MARY HEAD
P. O. BOX 143
VELMA, OK 73091
PHONE:
(580) 444-2470

REPORTER - - - - - DIANN PIERSON
P. O. BOX 6
GRAHAM, OK 73437
PHONE:
(580) 673-2109

PARLIAMENTARIAN - - - - - W.C. HAMILTON
BOX 878
CALERA, OK 74730
PHONE:
(580) 434-8017

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

CREDENTIAL BOARD

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

CAMP GROUND BOARD

ED STAGGS	-----	5 YEARS
5624 SE 2ND STREET		PHONE:
MIDWEST CITY, OK 73110		(405) 737-2190

TERRY PIERSON	-----	4 YEARS
P. O. BOX 6		PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437		(580) 673-2109

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

DAVID GARDNER	-----	2 YEARS / ASST. TREASURER
HCR 62, 107 ASTOR		PHONE:
LONE GROVE, OK 73443		(580) 657-2971

DARRYL ROBINSON	-----	1 YEAR
6021 SW ATTERBURY		PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505		(580) 536-0370

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 1127 N 9TH PURCELL, OK 73080 PHONE: (405) 527-3093	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) 439-5164	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
HEALDTON FIRST 219 S 6TH STREET HEALDTON, OK 73438 PHONE: (580) 229-0397	W.C. HAMILTON BOX 878 CALERA, OK 74730 PHONE: (580) 434-8017	JANETTE WATKINS BOX 235 FOX, OK 73435 PHONE: (580) 673-2798
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	-----	JANETTE VICTORINO
504 W SINCLAIR		PHONE:
HEALDTON, OK 73438		(580) 229-1898
SECRETARY	-----	CHRISTY KELLETT
4702 SE DREXEL		PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73501		(580) 355-8622
CO - TREASURER	-----	FRANCES LEWELLEN
P. O. BOX 201		PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437		(580) 673-2315
CO - TREASURER	-----	DIANN PIERSON
P. O. BOX 6		PHONE:
GRAHAM, OK 73437		(580) 673-2109
ACTION CHAIRMAN	-----	BARBARA DAVIS
1401 SW 'B' AVENUE, APT. 225		PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73501		(580) 357-4954
PRAYER CHAIRMAN	-----	JACKIE WORTHY
1218 SW 26TH PLACE		PHONE:
LAWTON, OK 73505		(580) 591-0739
STUDY CHAIRMAN	-----	RHONDA ADDINGTON
RT 1, BOX 730 B		PHONE:
MARIETTA, OK 73448		(580) 276-5086
FIELD WORKER	-----	GENNY WHITT
504 W SINCLAIR		PHONE:
HEALDTON, OK 73438		(580) 229-1898

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
TOM STANLEY	-----	103 E WALNUT
PHONE: (580) 255-1274		DUNCAN, OK 73533
HARVEY WHITE	-----	507 N BROADWAY
PHONE: (580) 657-4058		LONE GROVE, OK 73443

ORDAINED DEACONS

VON COLVIN	P. O. BOX 234
PHONE: (580) 856-3581	COUNTYLINE, OK 73425
KENNETH GLENN	518 SW 3RD
PHONE: (580) 229-2682	HEALDTON, OK 73438
DALE HOWELL	STAR ROUTE, BOX A 104
PHONE: (405) 657-3836	LONE GROVE, OK 73443
CECIL JANZ	1318 COTTON HILLS DRIVE
PHONE: (580) 255-1252	DUNCAN, OK 73533
OTHEL KYLE	ROUTE 3, BOX 31
PHONE: (580) 657-6420	ARDMORE, OK 73401
TROY LEWELLEN	P. O. BOX 201
PHONE: (580) 673-2315	GRAHAM, OK 73437
KENNETH LEWIS	105 CHEYENNE
PHONE: (580) 439-5164	COMANCHE, OK 73529
W.C. LEWIS	HC 63, BOX 1000
PHONE: (580) 673-2289	HEALDTON, OK 73438
J. T. MC CLANAHAN	ROUTE 3, BOX 88
PHONE: (580) 444-2355	DUNCAN, OK 73533
RALPH MULLINS, JR.	ROUTE 1, BOX 213
PHONE: (580) 856-3290	RATLIFF CITY, OK 73481
TERRY PIERSON	P. O. BOX 6
PHONE: (580) 673-2109	GRAHAM, OK 73437
LEONARD ROBINSON	ROUTE , BOX 20
PHONE: (580) 657-4742	LONE GROVE, OK 73443
LORAY SPURGIN	BOX 842
PHONE: (580) 444-2527	VELMA, OK 73491
JIMMY TATE	ROUTE 3, BOX 53 B
PHONE: (580) 657-3899	ARDMORE, OK 73401
RICHARD WATKINS	BOX 225
PHONE: (580) 673-2798	FOX, OK 73435

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
JULY 31, 1999 - FEBRUARY 29, 2000
TREASURER'S REPORT**

CHURCH	TOTAL RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F + H MISSIONS	TSP	HILLSDALE	CAMP GROUND	GENERAL FUND
COUNTRYSIDE	\$3,511.89	\$1,273.15	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$600.00	\$424.37	\$514.37
COUNTYLINE	\$1,724.62	\$239.86	\$611.65	\$180.00	\$225.00	\$308.59	\$159.52
GRACE	\$1,503.86	\$722.32	\$0.00	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$240.77	\$380.77
LAWTON	\$5,913.00	\$58.80	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$5,144.60	\$209.60
LONE GROVE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MIDWAY	\$215.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$90.00
STOBTOWN	\$490.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$455.92	\$35.00
TOTALS	\$13,359.29	\$2,294.13	\$611.65	\$1,340.00	\$1,025.00	\$6,699.25	\$1,389.26

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

INCOME FROM CHURCHES \$13,359.30

EXPENSES:

STATE CO-OP	\$2,294.13
MISSIONS - STEVE ROBINSON	\$611.65
CAMPGROUND	\$6,699.25
TSP MISSIONS	\$1,340.00
HILLSDALE	\$1,025.00
TRANSFER TO CAMPGROUND	\$800.00
REVIVAL EVANGELIST - BRO. McGUIRE	\$400.00
ANNUAL SPEAKER - BRO. DAVID MINGUS	\$100.00
STATE & NATIONAL FEES	\$525.00
GENERAL BOARD MEMBER EXPENSE	\$300.00
PRINTING OF MINUTES	\$245.50

LESS EXPENSES \$14,340.53

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 29, 2000 \$5,190.36

HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2000
TREASURER'S REPORT

CHURCH	TOTAL RECEIVED	STATE CO-OP	F + S + H MISSIONS	TSP	HILLSDALE	CAMP GROUND	GENERAL FUND
COUNTRYSIDE	\$2,388.57	\$833.15	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$277.71	\$277.71
COUNTYLINE	\$675.03	\$90.55	\$123.60	\$185.00	\$125.00	\$120.70	\$30.18
GRACE	\$836.27	\$441.75	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$147.26	\$147.26
LAWTON	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
LONE GROVE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MIDWAY	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
STOBTOWN	\$463.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$283.87	\$180.00
TOTALS	\$4,913.74	\$1,365.45	\$123.60	\$1,085.00	\$625.00	\$954.54	\$760.15

BEGINNING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 29,2000 \$5,190.36

INCOME FROM CHURCHES \$4,913.74

EXPENSES:

STATE CO-OP	\$1,365.45
MISSIONS - STEVE ROBINSON	\$123.60
CAMPGROUND	\$954.54
TSP MISSIONS	\$1,085.00
HILLSDALE	\$625.00
HILLSDALE - HAVE A HEART	\$200.00
DUSTING GARDNER - SCHOLARSHIP	\$200.00
WANDA KELLETT - MAILING OF MINUTES	\$8.76
POSTAGE	\$13.20

LESS EXPENSES \$4,575.55

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - AUGUST 1, 2000 \$5,528.55

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 1, 1999 - FEBRUARY 29, 2000
CAMPGROUND TREASURER'S REPORT**

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE - AUGUST 1, 1999	\$1,105.50
INCOME FROM CHURCHES	\$1,951.85
SUBTOTAL	\$3,057.35
EXPENSES:	
OG&E - ELECTRIC	\$259.55
WESTERN CARTER CO - WATER	\$83.25
WOOLSEY'S SUPPLIES	\$7.06
TRANSFER TO BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT	\$150.00
POSTAGE	\$33.00
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$532.86
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 29, 2000	<u>\$2,524.49</u>

BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE - AUGUST 1, 1999	\$631.70
INCOME:	
DISTRICT	\$1,672.94
ROB & SHELIA ROOKER	\$100.00
LAWTON FIRST WOMEN'S AUXILIARY	\$200.00
MIDWAY	\$100.00
STOBTOWN	\$2,000.00
ROOKER'S IN HONOR OF KELLETT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY	\$100.00
LAWTON FIRST	\$5,000.00
TRANSFER FROM CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$150.00
SALE OF EASTSIDE CHURCH	\$31,348.56
REIMBURSEMENT ON FILING FEE	\$55.50
TOTAL INCOME:	\$40,727.00
SUBTOTAL	\$41,358.70
TRANSFER TO MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$ (32,000.00)
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 29, 2000	<u>\$9,358.70</u>

BUILDING FUND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE - AUGUST 17, 1999	\$32,000.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$772.05
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - FEBRUARY 29, 2000	<u>\$32,772.05</u>
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL 3 CAMPGROUND ACCOUNTS	<u>\$44,655.24</u>

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 29 - JULY 31, 2000
CAMPGROUND TREASURER'S REPORT**

CHECKING ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE - FEBRUARY 29, 2000		\$2,524.49
INCOME FROM CHURCHES		\$916.86
SUBTOTAL		\$3,441.35
EXPENSES:		
OG&E - ELECTRIC	\$186.04	
WESTERN CARTER CO - WATER	\$60.00	
WOOLSEY'S SUPPLIES	\$6.48	
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES		\$252.52
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 2000		\$3,188.83

BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE - FEBRUARY 29, 2000		\$9,358.70
INCOME: BILLIE RUTH BLACKBURN		\$25.00
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 2000		\$9,383.70

BUILDING FUND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

BEGINNING BALANCE - FEBRUARY 29, 2000		\$32,772.05
INTEREST INCOME		\$819.57
ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - JULY 31, 2000		\$33,591.62
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL 3 CAMPGROUND ACCOUNTS		\$46,164.15

**BI – ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 3-4, 2000**

On Friday, March 3, 2000, at 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell No. 2 Association convened at the Countryside Free Will Baptist Church, with the Moderator, Bro. David Gardner, opening the Worship Service. Bro. Myrl Kellett led in prayer.

Sis. Imogene Woodall led the congregation singing, "There Is Power In The Blood," "He Set Me Free," and "Amazing Grace," with Sis. Tinky Needham at the piano.

Special singing by Sis. Marie Applegate – "Will The Circle Be Unbroken," "Wait A Little Longer," "Matthew Twenty-Four," and "Don't Overlook Salvation." Bro. David Gardner, "I Don't Understand."

Bro. David Gardner brought the evening message from Mark 10:17-22, entitled, "Are You Sold Out For Jesus?" The invitation song was sung by Sis. Marie Applegate, "Because He Lives."

Bro. Loray Spurgin dismissed in prayer.

On March 4, 2000, the Saturday morning Business opened at 9:30 a.m., with Bro. Myrl Kellett leading in prayer. The congregation singing, "Revive Us Again" was led by Sis. Imogene Woodall, with Sis. Joyce Mullins at the piano.

Bro. David Gardner admonished the Association from John 1:1.

Letters were read and received from six Churches. The Delegates were given a right hand of fellowship while singing, "In The Gloryland Way."

Motion carried to receive the Minutes as read.

Motion carried to receive the Petitionary letter from the First Free Will Baptist Church, of Healdton, OK, to be received into the Hopewell No. 2 Association. Note: The Church was originally a member of the Arbuckle Association, of which has been dissolved. The letter was signed by Bro. W.C. Hamilton, the Pastor, Sis. Janette Watkins, the Clerk, and Sis. Tracy Johnson, the Treasurer.

Bro. W.C. Hamilton gave a report of the Church's growth, the purchasing of land to build a new sanctuary, and encouraging everyone to support this new adventure.

Bro. Mike Wade, Representative from the Hillsdale College, spoke concerning the College, their plans for a new Chapel Building, encouraging the Association to support "Have A Heart For Hillsdale" and the project "A Bid For The Future," April 28, 2000. The Association is ask to donate items to be auctioned at this time. These items are to be taken to the College by April 15, 2000. Bro. and Sis. Myrl Kellett are the Chairmen for the Hopewell No. 2 Association.

Bro. Jim Puckett, Director of State Missions, gave a report on the Total Support Program for Missions. He handed out material and a film for each Church.

The Rules of Order were read by Bro. L.T. Woodall.

Visitors were invited to be seated in Council.

Bro. Carroll Milner spoke regarding the Parliamentary procedures.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES:

Divine:	1. Sis. Nadine Nix	2. Sis. Kim Robinson
	3. Sis. Barbara Wilkins	
Resolution:	1. Sis. Becky Hatton	2. Sis. Imogene Woodall
	3. Sis. Lewella Pierson	
Temperance:	1. Sis. Marie Applegate	2. Bro. Don Gilmore
	3. Sis. Jackie Worthy	

Obituary: 1. Sis. Christy Kellett 2. Sis. Rejeanna Heath
 3. Sis. Rhonda Addington

Motion carried to receive the Divine Committee report: Bro. Jim Puckett was chosen as the Morning speaker.

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Sis. Joyce Mullins with a balance on hand of **\$5,190.36.**

Motion carried to receive the Campground Treasurer's report given by Sis. Imogene Woodall with a balance on hand of **\$2,524.49** in the Checking and a balance on hand in the Special Building Money Market Account of **\$32,772.05** and **\$9,358.70** in the Special Building Fund Account. The Special Accounts combined total **\$42,130.75.**

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Board and Executive Board report given by Bro. Jimmy Tate. He gave a report on the attorney's opinion on the existing Deed of the Camp Ground. It was in order and was the property of the Hopewell No. 2 Association. He gave partials bids on a building 40 X 80 and a lagoon 80X 80.

Motion carried to build on the existing Campground property.

Prayer of dismissal by Bro. Carroll Milner before a fifteen minute break.

Motion carried to change By-Law number 11 to a fee of \$115.00 to be sent to the Annual session of this Association: \$40.00 for printing of Minutes, \$25.00 for State Delegate fee, and \$50.00 for the National Delegate fee.

Motion carried to give Bro. Dustin Gardner \$200.00 toward his tuition in attending Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College these past two years.

Motion carried to receive the Credential Board report as follows: We, the Credential Board, find Bro. W.C. Hamilton sound in Free Will Baptist doctrine, recommending him to be received into our fellowship. Requesting a letter of recommendation from First Mission Association. Signed: Bro. Carroll Milner, Bro. Myrl F. Kellett, and Bro. David Gardner.

Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committees report and adopt business item by item: 1. Motion carried to give \$200.00 to Have A Heart for Hillsdale. 2. Motion carried to revise the Constitution under “Name” regarding the Quarterly meetings. Changing it to “It shall meet two times each year with the August session designated as the Annual session. The Bi-Annual conference shall possess the same authority as the Annual session, except for the election of Officers and Board Members.”

Motion carried that the Constitution change be tabled until the August Conference.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report as follows: 1. We recommend putting more effort into teaching the younger children about God. 2. Recommend we have more family entertainment with Godly values. 3. Recommend we bring back respect to Elders, such as saying “yes, ma’am” and “yes, sir.” “We should have an overall God-oriented society, starting in the House of God, challenging the House of God to pray earnestly for the younger generation, and likewise, being good examples.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Committee report as follows: Mike Brightman and Lola Gillian, Lawton, Virgil Allen, Stobtown, and Forest Cox, Countryside. There was a moment of silent prayer, with W.C. Hamilton concluding the prayer.

Announcements: Annual Revival of the Association in August with Bro. Carl Cheshier as Evangelist. Grace Revival on March 20-24 with Bro. Millard McGuire. Lawton Revival with Bro. Jeff

Phillips. On April 28, at the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, there will be a special called State Meeting at 4 p.m., regarding building of a Literature Building.

Motion carried to adjourn and go into Worship Service.

Services were opened by Bro. David Gardner. Congregation singing, "Kneel At The Cross," "I'll Fly Away," and "Amazing Grace," led by Sis. Imogene Woodall with Sis. Tinky Needham at the piano.

Special singing by: Sis. Joyce Mullins, "On Crucifixion Day," Sis. Kathy Little, "At The Foot Of The Cross," and Marie Applegate, "Will You Be Ready To Go Home?" and "The Old Country Church."

Bro. Jim Puckett brought the message from Genesis 12:1-3, entitled, "Our Covenant Relationship With God." Bro. Puckett concluded the message with prayer.

Meeting was dismissed in prayer by Bro. L.T. Woodall asking the blessing on the noon meal.

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

REVIVAL & 68TH ANNUAL MEETING JULY 31 – AUGUST 4, 2000

The Association Revival met nightly at 7:30 p.m. at the Country-side Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Carl Cheshier as the Evangelist.

Monday, July 31, 2000: Bro. Loray Spurgin led the services.

Sis. Cleo Spurgin led the congregation singing, "He Abides" and "Living By Faith," with Sis. Joyce Mullins at the piano.

Bro. Troy Lewellen led in prayer.

Special singing by: Bro. & Sis. Harold Robinson, "Ready to Go" and Sis. Joyce Mullins, "God Has Provided a Lamb."

Bro. Loray Spurgin called for a word of silent prayer for each soul to experience Revival. Bro. Myrl Kellett concluded the prayer.

Bro. Cheshier brought the message from Matthew 9:35-38, entitled "Lift Up Your Eyes." He concluded his message with prayer. The invitation song, "Just As I Am," was sung with those coming to pray.

Prayer of dismissal was by Bro. Ralph Mullins, Jr.

Tuesday, August 1, 2000: The service was opened by Bro. Loray Spurgin, with Bro. Chuck Newell leading in prayer.

The congregational singing of "Dwelling In Beulah Land" and "Blessed Assurance" was led by Sis. Cleo Spurgin, with Sis. Joyce Mullins at the piano.

Special singing by: Sis. Kim Robinson – "He Hung The Moon," Sis. Kali Robinson – "The Great Adventure," Sis. Becky McClanahan – "In God's Greener Pastures," and Sis. Donna Riffe and Sis. Cindy Sanner – "If My People Will Pray."

Sis. Mary Head led in prayer.

Bro. Cheshier brought the message from Philippians 2:5-11, entitled "The Mind of Christ." Bro. Cheshier concluded his message with prayer. The invitational song was "Have Thine Own Way."

A love offering of \$138.00 was taken for the Evangelist. Bro. Myrl Kellett prayed over the offering.

Wednesday, August 2, 2000: Services were opened by Bro. Loray Spurgin. Bro. Dewayne Richardson led in prayer.

The congregation sang, "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" and "Deeper, Deeper" with Sis. Cleo Spurgin leading and Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Bro. J.T. McClanahan led in prayer.

Special singing by: Sis. Cindy Sanner, Sis. Donna Riffe, and Sis. Renee Henson - "Peace In The Valley" and Sis. Cathy Little - "At The Foot Of The Cross."

Bro. Carl Cheshier brought the message from Luke 16:19-24, entitled "Lazarus and the Rich Man." "Just As I Am" was the invitation song and Bro. John Ballard dismissed in prayer.

Thursday, August 3, 2000: The Worship Service was opened by Bro. Loray Spurgin, with Bro. Darryl Robinson leading in prayer.

Bro. Terry Pierson led the congregation singing, "A New Name Written Down In Glory," "Victory In Jesus," "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms," and "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus."

Bro. Larry Sanner led in prayer.

Special singing by: Sis. Shelia Rooker - "God of The Mountain," and Sis. Donna Riffe, Sis. Sandy Sanner and Sis. Cathy Little - "Listen to Our Hearts."

Bro. Carl Cheshier brought the message from Exodus 3:10 entitled, "A Call To Involvement," concluding with prayer. "Have Thine Own Way" was sung for the invitation.

A Love Offering of \$90.00 was taken, while the congregation sang "When We All Get To Heaven."

There was an altar of prayer with Bro. Ed Staggs beginning the prayer and Bro. Myrl Kellett concluding it.

Friday, August 4, 2000: The worship service was opened by Bro. David Gardner with Bro. Myrl Kellett leading in prayer.

Bro. Terry Pierson led the congregation singing, "Standing On The Promises," "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," "I Want To Know More About My Lord," and "To Canaan Land" with Sis. Diann Pierson at the piano.

Bro. Carroll Milner led in prayer.

Special singing by: Sis. Joyce Mullins – "God's Grace is Sufficient For Me," and Sis. Renee Henson – "I've Been To The Potter's House."

Bro. Carl Cheshier brought the message from Amos 4:12 entitled "Prepare To Meet Thy God." He concluded in prayer. The invitation song, "Cleanse Me," was sung with Bro. Terry Pierson dismissing in prayer.

68th ANNUAL BUSINESS

On Saturday, August 5, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., the meeting was opened by Bro. David Gardner with Bro. W.C. Hamilton leading in prayer.

Bro. Carroll Milner was appointed as the Assistant Moderator for the day.

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

Motion carried to receive the Minutes as read.

A letter of request was read and received from the Grace Free Will Baptist Church to have the Annual Association Meeting in August, 2001.

Motion carried to receive the Letter of Recommendation for Bro. W.C. Hamilton from the First Mission Association.

Bro. Carroll Milner read the Rules of Order.

Visitors were invited to be seated in council.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES:

- Resolution: 1. Bro. Ray Christian 2. Sis. Sheila Inman
 3. Sis. Nadine Nix
- Temperance: 1. Sis. Patty Howell 2. Sis. Christy Kellett
 3. Bro. Fred Ferguson
- Obituary: 1. Sis. Dewinda Ford 2. Sis. Jackie Worthy
 3. Sis. Betty Solie

Motion carried to receive the Treasurer's report given by Sis. Joyce Mullins, with a balance on hand of \$5,528.55.

Motion carried to receive the Camp Ground Treasurer's report given by Sis. Wanda Kellett, with a balance on hand of \$3,188.83 in Checking, \$9,383.70 in the Special Building Fund Account and \$33,591.62 in the Money Market Account. The two Building Fund Accounts total \$42,975.32.

Bro. Jack Richey was invited to speak on behalf of Hillsdale and the Have-A-Heart program. He petitioned the Association to set a goal of \$3500.00 for Have-A-Heart to be given by May, 2001. Bro. Richey also announced that he was Interim Pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Duncan, OK.

Motion carried for a 15 minute break at 10:30 a.m. for the Committees to meet with Bro. Chuck Newell dismissing in prayer.

Business resumed at 10:50 a.m. with Bro. Jack Richey leading in prayer.

Motion carried to remove the unfinished business from the table of revising the Constitution under "Name" regarding the Quarterly meetings. Motion carried to change it to "It shall meet two times each year with the August session designated as the Annual session. The Bi-Annual conference shall possess the same authority as the Annual session, except for the election of Officers and Board Members."

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

1. Motion carried to send \$1,000.00 gift from the General Fund of the Association to Hillsdale College for our new Building. 2. Motion carried for the Pastors of the Association, the Board Members and Clerks meet before the 2001 Annual Business to update the By-Laws and the Constitution, and bring recommendations to the Annual Business meeting. 3. Motion carried that the Association accept the Hillsdale Have - A - Heart challenge of \$3,500.00 to be given from our Association Churches by May, 2001. 4. Motion carried to have each Church teach their people about District meetings, educating them about committees, etc.

Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee recommendations as follows:

1. That we encourage each of us to teach our Youth about temperance in all things. As we encourage, we also need to be an example of temperance and to show self-control in all that we do every day.

Motion carried to receive the Obituary Report of Sis. Emma Combest, Countryside, having passed away. There was a moment of silent prayer, with Bro. Carroll Milner concluding the prayer.

Motion carried that all money, except \$2,000.00, in the Camp Ground Special Building Fund Account, be added to the Special Money Market Account in the sum of \$7,383.70.

Motion carried that the Clerk check into different rates on Money

Market Accounts versus C.D. percentage rates, time limits to obtain, etc. and bring a report to the Board.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Moderator:	Bro. David Gardner
Asst. Moderator:	Bro. Carroll Milner
Clerk:	Sis. Wanda Kellett
Asst. Clerk:	Sis. Shelia Rooker
Treasurer:	Sis. Joyce Mullins
Asst. Treasurer:	Sis. Mary Head
Reporter:	Sis. Diann Pierson
Parliamentarian:	Bro. W.C. Hamilton
Executive Board, 5 year:	Bro. Chuck Newell
Credential Board, 5 year:	Bro. Carroll Milner
Campground Board, 5 year:	Bro. Ed Staggs
General Board Member, 2001:	Bro. Carroll Milner

The bi-annual meeting will be at Stobtown on March 2-3, 2001. The Friday night speaker will be Bro. W.C. Hamilton with the service beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Motion carried not to have an Annual Association Revival.

The Annual Association Business will be August 3-4, 2001, at Grace in Comanche, OK. The Friday night speaker will be Bro. Carroll Milner. The Saturday Morning Memorial Speaker will be Bro. David Gardner.

Motion carried to retain the following: 1. 2000 Youth Camp Directors, Bro. Darryl Robinson and Bro. David Gardner, Asst., 2. The Evangelist, Bro. Dustin Gardner, 3. The Youth Camp Planning Committee, with the exception of Jamalee Christian, who was replaced by Cecile Adams. The Planning Committee will organize and plan the Youth Encampment. The members are: Donna Riffe, Chairman, Kim Robinson, Imogene Woodall, Lewella Pierson, Bobby Staggs, Cecile Adams and Becky Hatton.

Announcement: District Woman's Auxiliary will be on September 9, 2000, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Midway.

Motion carried to adjourn and go into the Worship Service at 12:00 p.m.

Services were opened by Bro. David Gardner with Bro. Terry Pierson leading the singing of "Sunlight" and "I'll Fly Away," with Sis. Joyce Mullins at the piano.

Special singing by: Sis. Joyce Mullins - "These Are They."

Bro. Carroll Milner brought the message from Amos 8:11-13, entitled "The Old Rusty Sword." He concluded his message with prayer.

There was special prayer for Bro. Homer Young, which was led by Bro. Ed Staggs. A wonderful lunch and fellowship followed.

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

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, de-

cisions, 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 Association 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 \$115.00 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 \$50.00 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 fel-

lowship 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 two times each year with the August session designated as the Annual Session. Each bi-annual 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

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 pro-

cedure 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 Association 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 Association 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 of 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.

