

MINUTES

**HOPEWELL**

**NO. 2**

**ASSOCIATION**

FREE WILL BAPTIST  
CHURCHES

76<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
**2008**

**MINUTES OF THE 76<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES  
2008**

**INDEX**

**BOARDS & OFFICERS**

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Church Directory Information        | 2     |
| Association Officers                | 3     |
| Executive Board                     | 4     |
| Credential Board                    | 4     |
| Youth Association Board             | 4     |
| Ordained & Licensed Ministers       | 4     |
| Ordained Deacons                    | 5 - 6 |
| Women's Auxiliary Events & Officers | 6 - 7 |

**MEETINGS**

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| First Bi-Annual Meeting         | 8 - 10  |
| Annual Meeting                  | 10 - 12 |
| Annual Treasurer's Reports      | 13 - 14 |
| Annual Report to State Meeting  | 15      |
| Women's Auxiliary Annual Report | 16      |

**INFORMATION**

|                                        |         |
|----------------------------------------|---------|
| Order of Business                      | 17      |
| Rules of Order                         | 17 - 18 |
| Government of the Churches             | 18      |
| By-Laws of Hopewell No. 2              | 19 - 20 |
| Constitution of Hopewell No. 2         | 20 - 22 |
| Articles of Faith                      | 22 - 24 |
| Church Covenant                        | 24      |
| National Guideline of Ordination       | 25 - 29 |
| Questions on Doctrine                  | 30      |
| Questions for Ministers to be Ordained | 31 - 32 |
| Items of Importance 1933 - 2008        | 33 - 35 |

## HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION

### DIRECTORY INFORMATION

| CHURCH                                                                                               | PASTOR                                                                                                         | CLERK                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>COUNTRYSIDE</b><br>PO BOX 235<br>VELMA, OK 73491<br>PHONE: (580) 444-3530                         | <b>GARLAND DAVIDSON (SUE)</b><br>PO BOX 235<br>VELMA, OK 73491<br>PHONE: (580) 444-3530                        | <b>SHERRIE SMITH</b><br>RT. 5, BOX 38 C<br>DUNCAN, OK 73533<br>PHONE: (580) 470-9441<br><a href="mailto:ssmith@velma-alma.k12.ok.us">ssmith@velma-alma.k12.ok.us</a>   |
| <b>COUNTYLINE</b><br>165 OLD HWY 7<br>PO BOX 236<br>COUNTYLINE, OK 73425                             | <b>ED STAGGS (BOBBIE)</b><br>5624 SE 2 <sup>ND</sup> STREET<br>MIDWEST CITY, OK 73110<br>PHONE: (405) 737-2190 | <b>BECKY HATTON</b><br>PO BOX 1<br>TUSSY, OK 73488<br>PHONE: (580) 856-3481                                                                                            |
| <b>HEALDTON FIRST</b><br>700 E LINCOLN<br>PO BOX 779<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438<br>PHONE: (580) 229-0397  | <b>VACANT</b>                                                                                                  | <b>JANETTE WATKINS</b><br>PO BOX 235<br>FOX, OK 73435<br>PHONE: (580) 673-2798                                                                                         |
| <b>IRON CHAPEL</b><br>21949 MAY AVENUE<br>PURCELL, OK 73080<br>PHONE: (405) 344-6311                 | <b>JOEY HOWETH (PEGGY)</b><br>21626 160 <sup>TH</sup> ST<br>PURCELL, OK 73080<br>(580) 527-5133                | <b>LORETTA HACKER</b><br>PO BOX 547<br>NICOMA PARK, OK 73066<br>PHONE: (405) 769-4622                                                                                  |
| <b>LAWTON FIRST</b><br>10 SOUTH 24 <sup>TH</sup> STREET<br>LAWTON, OK 73505<br>PHONE: (580) 355-4668 | <b>MYRL KELLETT (WANDA)</b><br>2603 SW "A" AVENUE<br>LAWTON, OK 73505<br>PHONE: (580) 355-4668                 | <b>WANDA KELLETT</b><br>2603 SW "A" AVENUE<br>LAWTON, OK 73505<br>PHONE: (580) 355-4668<br><a href="mailto:wandaok@juno.com">wandaok@juno.com</a>                      |
| <b>MIDWAY</b><br>16642 HIGHWAY 76<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438<br>PHONE: (580) 673-2599                     | <b>PAUL UNDERWOOD (EDITH)</b><br>PO BOX 713<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438<br>PHONE: (580) 229-1144                     | <b>ELAINE GLENN</b><br>518 S 3 <sup>RD</sup> STREET<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438<br>PHONE: (580) 229-2682<br><a href="mailto:glenns72@cebridge.net">glenns72@cebridge.net</a> |
| <b>STOBTOWN</b><br>1101 MERIDIAN<br>ARDMORE, OK 73401<br>PHONE: (580) 657-6295                       | <b>ROYCE MC CLENDON (SHIRLEY)</b><br>PO BOX 1604<br>LONE GROVE, OK 73443<br>PHONE: (580) 657-8214              | <b>ANN CHRISTIAN</b><br>2051 JEHOVAH ROAD<br>ARDMORE, OK 73401<br>PHONE: (580) 657-2218                                                                                |

## **ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

**MODERATOR**  
PO BOX 713  
HEALDTON, OK 73438

**ASST. MODERATOR**  
PO BOX 235  
VELMA, OK 73491

**CLERK**  
PO BOX 143  
VELMA, OK 73491

**ASST. CLERK**  
PO BOX 766  
VELMA, OK 73491

**TREASURER**  
PO BOX 766  
VELMA, OK 73491

**ASST. TREASURER**  
PO BOX 334  
VELMA, OK 73491

**REPORTER**  
PO BOX 42  
VELMA, OK 73491

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
21626 160<sup>TH</sup> ST  
PURCELL, OK 73080

**PAUL UNDERWOOD**  
PHONE: (580) 229-1144  
EMAIL: [paeu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paeu@sbcglobal.net)

**GARLAND DAVIDSON**  
PHONE: (580) 444-3530

**MARY HEAD**  
PHONE: (580) 444-2470  
EMAIL: [mlhead@msbit.us](mailto:mlhead@msbit.us)

**SUZY GRUNDY**  
PHONE: (580) 656-0062  
EMAIL: [suzyg73491@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyg73491@yahoo.com)

**TEMPLE LEE GRUNDY**  
PHONE: (580) 656-5549  
EMAIL: [tns@msbit.net](mailto:tns@msbit.net)

**DONNA RIFFE**  
PHONE: (580) 467-4457  
MAIL: [donnariffe@yahoo.com](mailto:donnariffe@yahoo.com)

**RENEE HENSON**  
PHONE: (580) 252-1579  
EMAIL: [rhenson@firstcallwellsvs.com](mailto:rhenson@firstcallwellsvs.com)

**JOEY HOWETH**  
PHONE: (580) 527-5133

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| JOEY HOWETH      | 5 YEAR |
| RANDY SMITH      | 4 YEAR |
| GARLAND DAVIDSON | 3 YEAR |
| JIM McLAUGHLIN   | 2 YEAR |
| ROYCE McCLENDON  | 1 YEAR |

### CREDENTIAL BOARD

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| TROY LEWELLEN    | 5 YEAR |
| SCOTT BATTICE    | 4 YEAR |
| MARK KELLETT     | 3 YEAR |
| ROYCE MC CLENDON | 2 YEAR |
| JIM MC LAUGHLIN  | 1 YEAR |

### YOUTH ASSOCIATION BOARD

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| TEMPLE LEE GRUNDY | CHAIRMAN    |
| RENEE HENSON      | COUNTRYSIDE |
| JIM MC LAUGHLIN   | STOBTOWN    |

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

|                  |                |                      |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| DEVLON FORD      | (580) 657-3611 | PO BOX 384           |
| CHURCH: STOBTOWN |                | LONE GROVE, OK 73443 |

|                     |                |                        |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| JOHN GILMORE        | (580) 255-4802 | 532 N 20 <sup>TH</sup> |
| CHURCH: COUNTRYSIDE |                | DUNCAN, OK 73533       |

|                |                |                  |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| MARK KELLETT   | (580) 355-8622 | 4702 DREXEL      |
| CHURCH: LAWTON |                | LAWTON, OK 73501 |

|               |                |                   |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| SCOTT BATTICE | (580) 465-2352 | 125 "D" ST S.W.   |
|               |                | ARDMORE, OK 73401 |

## ORDAINED DEACONS

|                                                  |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>LORAY SPURGIN</b><br>CHURCH: COUNTRYSIDE      | (580) 444-2527 PO BOX 842<br>VELMA, OK 73491            |
| <b>RALPH MULLINS, JR.</b><br>CHURCH: COUNTRYSIDE | (580) 856-3290 PO BOX 36<br>RATLIFF CITY, OK 74081      |
| <b>RANDY SMITH</b><br>CHURCH: COUNTRYSIDE        | (580) 470-9441 ROUTE 5, BOX 38 C<br>DUNCAN, OK 73533    |
| <b>EDDIE CROWSON</b><br>CHURCH: COUNTRYSIDE      | (580) 673-2109 PO BOX 802<br>VELMA, OK 73491            |
| <b>VON COLVIN</b><br>CHURCH: COUNTYLINE          | (580) 856-3581 PO BOX 234<br>COUNTYLINE, OK 73425       |
| <b>J. T. MC CLANAHAN</b><br>CHURCH: COUNTYLINE   | (580) 444-2355 ROUTE 3, BOX 88<br>DUNCAN, OK 73533      |
| <b>JEFF HARVEY</b><br>CHURCH: HEALDTON           | (580) 229-1328 832 DANIEL STREET<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438  |
| <b>W. E. LEWIS</b><br>CHURCH: HEALDTON           | (580) 673-2289 27696 STATE HWY 53<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438 |
| <b>BRAD MULLINS</b><br>CHURCH: HEALDTON          | (580) 229-0987 PO BOX 284<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438         |
| <b>TED WALLER</b><br>CHURCH: HEALDTON            | (580) 229-9969 213 E FIRST STREET<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438 |
| <b>RICHARD WATKINS</b><br>CHURCH: HEALDTON       | (580) 673-2798 PO BOX 235<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438         |
| <b>EARL HACKER</b><br>CHURCH: IRON CHAPEL        | (405) 769-4622 PO BOX 547<br>NICOMA PARK, OK 73066      |
| <b>TROY HACKNEY</b><br>CHURCH: IRON CHAPEL       | (405) 344-7111 21153 MAY AVENUE<br>PURCELL, OK 73080    |

|                                               |                |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>TROY LEWELLEN</b><br>CHURCH: MIDWAY        | (580) 673-2315 | PO BOX 201<br>GRAHAM, OK 73437           |
| <b>TERRY PIERSON</b><br>CHURCH: MIDWAY        | (580) 673-2109 | PO BOX 6<br>GRAHAM, OK 73437             |
| <b>KENNETH GLENN</b><br>CHURCH: MIDWAY        | (580) 229-2682 | PO BOX 518<br>HEALDTON, OK 73438         |
| <b>JIM MC LAUGHLIN</b><br>CHURCH: STOB TOWN   | (580) 657-3762 | PO BOX 1622<br>LONE GROVE, OK 73443      |
| <b>MARSHALL MITCHELL</b><br>CHURCH: STOB TOWN | (580) 657-4252 | 1643 ASHTON ROAD<br>ARDMORE, OK 73401    |
| <b>LEONARD ROBINSON</b><br>CHURCH: STOB TOWN  | (580) 657-4742 | 7785 N NEWPORT ROAD<br>LONE GROVE, 73443 |

#### DISTRICT AUXILIARIES

|                                                                                |            |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| MARCH 28, 2009                                                                 |            | MIDWAY           |
| MAY 1 & 2, 2009                                                                | RETREAT    | TULSA            |
| JUNE 20, 2009                                                                  |            | LAWTON           |
| SEPTEMBER 12, 2009                                                             | ANNUAL     | COUNTRYSIDE      |
| (DISTRICT MEETINGS BEGIN AT 10 AM & EACH CHURCH PROVIDES THE PROGRAM & LUNCH.) |            |                  |
| OCTOBER 12, 2009 1 PM                                                          | STATE OWAC | HILLSDALE, MOORE |

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

**2008 - 2010 OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

PO BOX 207  
HEALDTON, OK 73438

**RHONDA ADDINGTON**

PHONE: (580) 229-0142 / 504-0389  
EMAIL: [rhondaaddington@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhondaaddington@sbcglobal.net)

**VICE PRESIDENT**

PO BOX 471  
VELMA, OK 73491

**RENEE' HENSON**

PHONE: (580) 252-1579 / WK 444-2520  
EMAIL: [rhenson@firstcalhwellsvc.com](mailto:rhenson@firstcalhwellsvc.com)

**SECRETARY**

PO BOX 713  
HEALDTON, OK 73438

**EDITH UNDERWOOD**

PHONE: (580) 229-1144  
EMAIL: [emu46@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emu46@sbcglobal.net)

**TREASURER**

2512 SW "A" AVENUE  
LAWTON, OK 73505

**SHELIA ROOKER**

PHONE: (580) 357-8755 / 585-0902  
EMAIL: [srooker@sirinet.net](mailto:srooker@sirinet.net)

**ASST. TREASURER**

4702 SE DREXEL  
LAWTON, OK 73501

**CHRISTY KELLETT**

PHONE: (580) 355-8622 / 695-1082  
EMAIL: [mack3897@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mack3897@sbcglobal.net)

**PRAYER CHAIRMAN**

PO BOX 6  
GRAHAM, OK 73437

**DIANN PIERSON**

PHONE: (580) 673-2109  
EMAIL: [diann@starband.net](mailto:diann@starband.net)

**STUDY CHAIRMAN**

1221 SW 26<sup>TH</sup> PLACE  
LAWTON, OK 73505

**MARIA AYALA**

PHONE: (580) 357-9469  
EMAIL: [jfaleon42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jfaleon42@sbcglobal.net)

**FIELD WORKER**

3104 NW FERRIS  
LAWTON, OK 73505

**DIANNA SMALES**

PHONE: (580) 353-4364  
EMAIL: [dismales@yahoo.com](mailto:dismales@yahoo.com)

## **BI-ANNUAL MEETING**

March 7 - 8, 2008

### **Friday, March 7, 2008**

Friday, March 7, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., the Hopewell #2 Association convened at Healdton First Freewill Baptist Church. Brother Paul Underwood, Moderator, opened the evening services. Brother Scott Battice led in prayer.

Brother Terry Pierson led the congregation in singing: "Count Your Blessings" and "Victory in Jesus" with Sister Diane Pierson at the piano. Special Singing by: Brother David Lomenick "Because He Lives".

Brother Mike Wade, State Executive Secretary, and Brother Brad Ransom, State Missions Director attended the evening service. They shared information on our churches, and missions. They encouraged the congregation to continue praying and giving to T.S.P.

Brother Mark Kellett brought the message "If you love Jesus, why do you hurt Him?" from Matthew 27: 17-30.

Dismissed in prayer by Brother Myrl Kellett.

### **Saturday, March 8, 2008**

The Saturday services were opened by Moderator, Brother Paul Underwood with Brother Mark Kellett leading in prayer.

Brother Joey Howeth admonished the association from II Timothy 2:19

Letters were called for and read from seven churches. The delegates were seated after a Right Hand of Fellowship was given while singing "When We All Get to Heaven", led by Brother Terry Pierson with Diane Pierson at the piano.

The minutes were read and received.

There were no Petitionary letters:

Other letters: The Oklahoma State Historical Commission is working on a one hundred year history of Free Will Baptist in Oklahoma. A request was made for anyone in the district association who has any pictures or historical facts about our Free Will Baptist heritage to contact Nancy Draper, Library Director, at Hillsdale FWB College. The information should reach her office by May 1, 2008.

Brother Scott Battice read the **Rules of Order**.

Visitors were invited to be seated in council. (Brother Bob Thompson from Hillsdale)

### **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

| <b><u>Divine</u></b> | <b><u>Resolution</u></b> | <b><u>Temperance</u></b> | <b><u>Obituary</u></b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Shelia Rooker        | Gilbert Ortiz            | Kay Ortiz                | Temple Grundy          |
| Renee Henson         | Harold Waite             | Shari Waite              | David Dorman           |
| Rhonda Addington     | Leon Addington           | Kathy Nordman            | Dewinda Ford           |

A fifteen minute break was given for committees to meet.

The Divine Committee selected Brother Bob Thompson as the morning speaker.

Motion carried to accept the Treasurer's Report given by Brother Temple Lee Grundy with a balance on hand of \$5,721.14. Brother Temple Lee suggested we invest a portion of our excess funds into an interest bearing account. Brother Garland Davidson made a motion to move one half of our excess funds to such an account, seconded by Ed Staggs, motion carried.  
There was no unfinished business in need of action.

#### New Business:

- 1) Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee report and adopted the business item by item.
  - a) Drug Problems.
  - b) Parents need to discuss this subject with their children more often.
  - c) Helping them to understand how big the problem is for the family.

Matthew 11:28 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls,

- 2) Motion carried to receive the Temperance Committee report and adopt them item by item.

- a) Pray that our faith grows stronger daily.
- b) Pray for our upcoming elections, to make wise decisions and vote.
- c) Pray for the safety of our men and women in the Armed Services.
- d) Pray for our country's economic situation.
- e) Pray for our educators and the education system.
- f) Pray for the morality of our young and old.
- g) Pray for the "Family System".
- h) Pray for our Churches and Leaders.
- i) Pray for our Government and Lawmakers.

- 3) Motion carried to accept the Obituary Committee report.

From Healdton: Bob Gaither and Fred Ferguson.  
From Midway: Bert Williamson and Gordon Sundin.  
From Stobtown: Gerald Miler and Larry Krohn  
From Iron Chapel: Cindy Murdock

The congregation stood for a moment of silence and prayer was led by Brother Paul Underwood, in remembrance of these who have gone on to be with the Lord.

- 4) Miscellaneous Business: Brother Bob Thompson spoke to the congregation on behalf of Hillsdale FWB College. He encouraged our continued prayer and financial support for the college.

#### Announcements:

Tonight: Gospel Singing at Healdton FWB Church beginning at 6:30 p.m.

June 2 - 6, 2008 - Youth camp for children age eight and up. Younger children must have a sponsor. Also anyone wanting to help with camp is encouraged to do so.

April 4 - 5, 2008. OWAC Ladies Retreat.

Ladies District Auxiliary meeting for April will be at Midway Free Will Baptist Church

April 6 - 9 - Brother Connie Cariker will hold a revival at Countryside FWB Church.

Motion carried to adjourn and go into worship service.

Worship services were opened by Brother Paul Underwood, with Troy Lewellan leading in prayer. Brother Terry Pierson led the congregation in singing "Gloryland Way", "When I See The Blood" and "Come and Dine", with Diane Pierson at the piano.

Special Singing by: Sister Renee Henson "Amazing Grace" and Brother Brad Mullins "The Party's Over."

Brother Bob Thompson brought the message from Ecclesiastes entitled "Life Lessons". Brother Scott Battice dismissed in prayer.

Mary Head, Clerk  
Suzy Grundy, Assistant Clerk  
Paul Underwood, Moderator

## **76<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**August 08 – 09, 2008**

### **Friday, August 08, 2008**

The Hopewell # 2 Association convened its annual meeting at Countryside Freewill Baptist Church on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Services were opened by the Moderator, Brother Paul Underwood. Brother Garland Davidson led in prayer. The congregational singing was led by Brother Randy Smith and he was assisted by Sister Joyce Mullins at the piano. Songs were "Dwelling in Beulah Land" and "Deeper Deeper".

Special Singing was presented by the Countryside Praise Team - "Loving God", and "Sweet By and By". The congregation joined the Praise Team in singing "I Love You Lord". Brother Randy Smith led in prayer.

Brother Hyatt spoke regarding Harvest Children's Free Will Baptist Ministries in Mexico.

Brother Scott Battice brought the message from Romans Chapter 1: Verses 8 – 17 entitled "Jesus Christ, the unchanging Gift."

Brother Paul Underwood led in prayer for those requesting special prayer.

Brother Garland Davidson dismissed the group in prayer.

### **Saturday, August 09, 2007**

The services were opened by the Moderator, Brother Paul Underwood with Brother David Lominick leading in prayer. Brother Mark Kellett admonished the Association from Psalms 143:10. Letters were called for and read from 6 churches. The right hand of fellowship was given while singing "Gloryland Way" led by Brother Terry Pierson, with Sister Diane Pierson at the piano.

The minutes were read and received.

Petitionary letters were read from:

- 1) Midway Free Will Baptist Church. Requesting the next Annual Meeting in August 2009 be hosted by their Church.

Other letters:

- 1) Healdton First Free Will Baptist Church requested prayer from the Association in their search for a new Pastor.

Rules of Order were read by Brother Joey Howeth.

All visitors were invited to be seated in council. Brother and Sister Bivens, missionaries to Mexico, were among those visiting. Brother Bivens spoke about their work in Mexico.

The appointment of committees was as follows:

**Resolution**

Velda Perdue  
David Dorman  
Lewella Abreo

**Temperance**

John Perdue  
Anita Lominick  
Kathy Dorman

**Obituary**

Glenda Knipe  
Shelia Rooker  
David Lominick

There was a short break for the committees to meet.

The **Treasurer's** report was read by Temple Lee Grundy with a balance on hand of \$6,246.24.

Under New Business:

- 1) Motion carried to receive the Executive Board Report from the Auditing Committee. The report stated the committee had met at 11:45 a.m. on August 11, 2007. The Association Treasurer's books were audited and found to be in good order.
- 2) Motion carried to receive the **Resolution Committee** report. A recommendation was made that as an Association we recognize and uphold the resolutions found in the 2005 Free Will Baptist Year Book page A 69-70 concerning same sex marriage.
- 3) Motion carried to receive the **Temperance Committee** report: We admonish the Church to read, study, meditate and share Matthew 6:33 - 34, and 1 Peter 5: 5 - 11.
- 4) Motion carried to receive the **Obituary Committee** report: Sister Minnie Chandler and Brother Beau Chandler from Countyline, and Brother Harold Waite from Iron Chapel. There was a moment of silence and prayer was led by Brother Terry Pierson in remembrance of these who have gone on to be with the Lord.

**Election of Officers**

Moderator:

Asst. Moderator:

Clerk:

Asst. Clerk:

Treasurer:

Asst. Treasurer:

Reporter:

Parliamentarian:

Executive Board, 5 Year Man:

Credential Board, 5 Year Man:

General Board Member, 2009

Paul Underwood

Garland Davidson

Mary Head

Suzy Grundy

Temple Lee Grundy

Donna Riffe

Renee Henson

Joey Howeth

Joey Howeth

Troy Lewellen

Paul Underwood

Bi-Annual Meeting will be on March 6 & 7, 2009 at Iron Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. The Friday night speaker will be selected by the Moderator calling the State office to ask who would be available to speak for this meeting only. Motion carried to have the Executive Board and the Moderator determine the amount to pay the speaker.

The Annual meeting will be at Midway Freewill Baptist Church on August 14 & 15, 2009. The Friday night speaker will be Brother Mark Kellett. The Saturday morning Memorial speaker will be Brother Garland Davidson.

All meetings begin as follows unless otherwise stated. Friday night services will begin at 7:30 P.M. and the Saturday business meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M.

**Announcements:**

Open house at Midway Free Will Baptist Church tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. District Ladies Auxiliary will meet at Countryside Free Will Baptist Church on September 13, 2008. The Election of Officers will be included at this meeting.

September 28<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 – Brother Connie Cariker will be in Revival at Lawton.

October 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Brother Ruedell Smith will be in Revival at Countryside.

May 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> –State Women Active for Christ retreat at Tulsa.

Motion carried to adjourn business and go into the worship service. Brother Mark Kellett led in prayer. Worship service opened with the Congregation singing "O Happy Day" and "Victory in Jesus" led by Brother Terry Pierson with Sister Diane Pierson at the piano. Special singing by: Sister Renee Henson singing "I'd Rather Have Jesus".

Brother Ed Staggs brought the message from Matthew 26:13 entitled "God's Work."

The service was dismissed in prayer by Brother Garland Davidson.

Mary Head, Clerk  
Suzi Grundy, Assistant Clerk  
Paul Underwood, Moderator

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION  
AUGUST 2007 - MARCH 2008  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

| CHURCH        | TOTAL<br>RECEIVED  | STATE<br>CO-OP     | TSP &<br>MISSIONS  | HILLSDALE          | GENERAL<br>FUND    | RAINBOW   |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| COUNTRYSIDE   | \$ 2,594.08        | \$ 338.73          | \$ 700.00          | \$ 1,225.00        | \$ 330.35          |           |
| COUNTYLINE    | \$ 1,295.18        | \$ 490.79          | \$ 409.86          | \$ 150.00          | \$ 224.53          |           |
| HEALDTON      | \$ 935.00          | \$ -               | \$ 190.00          | \$ 725.00          | \$ 20.00           |           |
| IRON CHAPEL   | \$ 2,587.00        | \$ -               | \$ 329.00          | \$ 269.35          | \$ 190.00          | \$ 733.00 |
| LAWTON        | \$ 1,290.00        | \$ 600.00          | \$ 300.00          | \$ 200.00          | \$ 190.00          |           |
| MIDWAY        |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |           |
| STOBTOWN      | \$ 190.00          | \$ -               | \$ -               | \$ -               | \$ 190.00          |           |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>\$ 8,891.26</b> | <b>\$ 1,429.52</b> | <b>\$ 2,463.86</b> | <b>\$ 2,930.00</b> | <b>\$ 1,334.88</b> |           |

BEGINNING BALANCE August 4, 2007 \$ 5,985.53

INCOME FROM CHURCHES \$ 8,891.26

SUBTOTAL \$ 14,876.76

EXPENSES

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| STATE CO-OP                     | \$ 1,429.52 |
| TSP MISSIONS                    | \$ 2,463.86 |
| HILLSDALE                       | \$ 2,930.00 |
| CLERK EXPENSES                  | \$ 21.62    |
| STATE & NATIONAL FEES           | \$ 1,050.00 |
| KWIK KOPY - PRINTING OF MINUTES | \$ 227.65   |
| RAINBOW                         | \$ 733.00   |

LESS EXPENSES \$ 9,155.65

ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - February 29, 2008 \$ 5,721.14

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 ASSOCIATION  
MARCH - AUGUST 2008  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

| CHURCH        | TOTAL<br>RECEIVED   | STATE<br>CO-OP     | TSP &<br>MISSIONS  | HILLSDALE          | RAINBOW<br>MINISTRIES | GENERAL<br>FUND  |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| COUNTRYSIDE   | \$ 1,870.69         | \$ 412.98          | \$ 500.00          | \$ 875.00          | \$ -                  | \$ 82.71         |
| COUNTYLINE    | \$ 991.48           | \$ 561.53          | \$ 242.46          | \$ 125.00          | \$ -                  | \$ 62.39         |
| HEALDTON      | \$ 670.00           | \$ -               | \$ 480.00          | \$ -               | \$ -                  | \$ 190.00        |
| IRON CHAPEL   | \$ 2,757.00         | \$ -               | \$ 591.00          | \$ 591.00          | \$ 1,575.00           |                  |
| LAWTON        | \$ -                | \$ -               |                    | \$ -               | \$ -                  | \$ -             |
| MIDWAY        | \$ 9,000.00         | \$ 8,090.00        | \$ 420.00          | \$ 200.00          | \$ 100.00             | \$ 190.00        |
| STOBTOWN      | \$ -                | \$ -               | \$ -               | \$ -               | \$ -                  | \$ -             |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>\$ 15,289.17</b> | <b>\$ 9,064.51</b> | <b>\$ 2,233.56</b> | <b>\$ 1,791.00</b> | <b>\$ 1,675.00</b>    | <b>\$ 525.10</b> |

**BEGINNING BALANCE - February 29, 2008** **\$ 5,721.14**

**INCOME FROM CHURCHES** **\$ 15,289.17**

**SUBTOTAL** **\$ 21,010.31**

**EXPENSES**

STATE CO-OP \$ 9,064.51

TSP MISSIONS \$ 2,233.56

HILLSDALE \$ 1,791.00

CLERK EXPENSES \$

RAINBOW MINISTRIES \$ 1,675.00

**LESS EXPENSES** **\$ 14,764.07**

**ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - AUGUST 6, 2008** **\$ 6,246.24**

# ANNUAL LETTER FROM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION TO STATE ASSOCIATION

HOPEWELL NO. 2

TO

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF FWB

(NAME OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATION)

(NAME OF STATE ASSOCIATION)

MEETING AT Ada First Free Will Baptist Church

ON

October 13 - 15, 2008

PERIOD OF TIME THIS REPORT COVERS

FROM

August 2007

TO

August 2008

PRESENT MODERATOR'S NAME PAUL UNDERWOOD

PHONE (580) 229-1144

MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 713

CITY HEALDTON

STATE OKLAHOMA

ZIP 73438

DELEGATES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## A. CHURCH CHARACTERISTICS

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES 7

2. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN: CITY/TOWN 2

RURAL 5

3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES REPORTING 6

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH: FULL TIME PASTORS 5

BI-VOCATIONAL PASTORS 2

## C. STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

1. TOTAL INCOME OF ALL CHURCHES (5 REPORTED) \$ 172,979.81

2. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH BUDGETS 0

## E. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF ORDAINED MINISTERS\* 9

LICENSED MINISTERS\* 0

2. TOTAL NUMBER OF ORDAINED DEACONS 13

3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH: DAY CARES 0

KINDERGARTENS 0

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS 0

BIBLE INSTITUTES 0

COLLEGES 0

## B. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF BAPTISMS 10

2. TOTAL MEMBERS ADDED 16

3. TOTAL MEMBERS LOST 2

4. TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 527

(5 REPORTED)

## D. BUILDING INFORMATION

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES WITH PARSONAGES 4

2. TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CHURCH PROPERTY, INCLUDING PARSONAGES \$ 1,183,000.00

TOTAL ENROLLMENT:

4. SUNDAY SCHOOL 314

5. CTS 56

6. WNAC 0

7. MASTER'S MEN 0

NUMBER OF STATE ASSOCIATION MINUTES REQUESTED

18

SIGNED: CLERK'S NAME Mary L. Head

PHONE (580) 467-3379

MAILING ADDRESS P. O. Box 143

gclittle@texhoma.net

CITY Velma STATE OKLAHOMA

ZIP 73491

**HOPEWELL NO. 2 WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST**  
(DISTRICT CONVENTION NAME)

|                              | <u>YEAR BEGINNING<br/>SEPTEMBER, 2007</u> | <u>YEAR ENDING<br/>SEPTEMBER, 2008</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>LOCAL GROUPS</b>          |                                           |                                        |
| NUMBER AT BEGINNING OF YEAR  | 3                                         | 3                                      |
| NUMBER ADDED (COUNTRYSIDE)   | 0                                         | 0                                      |
| NUMBER LOST                  | 0                                         | 0                                      |
| TOTAL GROUPS AT END OF YEAR  | 3                                         | 3                                      |
| <b>MEMBERSHIP</b>            |                                           |                                        |
| NUMBER AT BEGINNING OF YEAR  | 30                                        | 32                                     |
| MEMBERS ADDED                | 2                                         | 0                                      |
| MEMBERS LOST                 | 0                                         | 2                                      |
| TOTAL MEMBERS AT END OF YEAR | 32                                        | 30                                     |

**MEMBERSHIP DUES PAID (\$15.00 NATIONAL)** \$ 450.00

**2009 DELEGATE TO NATIONAL CONVENTION**

|       |                |                    |                    |
|-------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| NAME  | WANDA KELLETT  | ADDRESS            | 2603 SW "A" AVENUE |
| PHONE | (580) 355-4668 | CITY / STATE / ZIP | LAWTON, OK 73505   |

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**BEGINNING BALANCE SEPTEMBER 21, 2007** \$ 55.76

**INCOME:**

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| COUNTRYSIDE WAC    | \$ 164.50 |
| LAWTON WAC         | \$ 809.60 |
| MIDWAY WAC         | \$ 139.50 |
| DISTRICT OFFERINGS | \$ 210.36 |
| INTEREST           | \$ .04    |

**TOTAL INCOME** \$ 1,324.00

**SUBTOTAL** \$ 1,379.76

**EXPENSES:**

|      |                                       |           |
|------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| OWAC | MEMBERSHIP DUES (2008 - 30 @ \$15.25) | \$ 457.50 |
| OWAC | SCHOLARSHIP FUND                      | \$ 25.00  |
| OWAC | HOST FUND                             | \$ 100.00 |
| OWAC | WAC NATIONAL OFFICE                   | \$ 115.36 |
| OWAC | TSP                                   | \$ 207.60 |
| OWAC | PROJECT - HILLSDALE - GIRLS' LOUNGE   | \$ 50.00  |
| OWAC | PANAMA SEMINARY                       | \$ 125.00 |
| OWAC | WNAC 20 / 20 / 20 PROJECT             | \$ 79.00  |
| OWAC | HM - DON BAILEY - SAN ANTONIO         | \$ 91.00  |

**LESS TOTAL EXPENSES** \$ 1,159.46

**ENDING BALANCE ON HAND - SEPTEMBER 21, 2008** \$ 129.30

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Introductory Semon
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 & other letters called for
7. Reading of the Rules of Order
8. Invite visitors to be seated in council
9. Appointment of Committees
10. Report of Treasurer
11. Unfinished Business
12. New Business
13. Reports of Boards
14. Reports of Committees
15. Miscellaneous Business
16. 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. 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.
15. The Rules of Order shall distinctly be read from the chair immediately after organization.
16. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

### **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, any member of the Executive Board, the Pastor of the local Church where the meeting is being held, or the Clerk, 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 Clerk and Assistant Clerk 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 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.
10. A fee of \$190.00 is to be sent to the Annual Session of this Association. (\$40.00 for printing of the minutes, \$50.00 for the State Delegate fee and \$100.00 for the National Delegate fee.)
11. The Treasurer of this Association shall submit a written report at each session. If a written report is not given, a new Treasurer will be elected. All Treasurer's books are to be audited yearly during the first week of September by the Executive Board.
12. 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.

13. 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 known 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, Mission Board and Camp Ground Board. Each Board shall consist of five members as to have one (1) member retiring each year.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

This Board shall be composed of five (5) ordained Ministers or Deacons, 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 when it is not in session. It shall be bound to carry out the directions of the Association and 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 the Bi-Annual meeting 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 (5) 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 Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule 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 Father, Son and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.
3. **CHRIST** - Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is 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 the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of Grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men 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, sufferings, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free; and is the ground of salvation of faith.
8. **THE WORKS OF SALVATION** - The conditions of salvation are:
  - A. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it.
  - 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 unto 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, 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 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, is of universal obligation, and is to be administered to all true believers.
15. **TITHING** - God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" (1 Corinthians 16:2a).

16. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH** - The divine law requires that one (1) day in seven (7) be set apart from the secular employments 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 those who 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 Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His grace, 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, 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 the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ".

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for Church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the Church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness; and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace; to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the Church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of Peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# **NATIONAL GUIDELINE OF ORDINATION TO THE MINISTRY IN THE FREE WILL BAPTIST DENOMINATION**

## **PREFACE**

This 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 (1) 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 recommendations to be acted upon by the Association as a body. If a recommendation is made and approved that the candidate be ordained, the actual service of ordination soon follows. (In some cases, the committee for examination will recommend some further studies for the candidate before he should be ordained. In which case, his license will be renewed until the suggestions are followed and another examination made, or in some cases, the committee should recommend that the candidate completely withdraw for consideration as an ordained Minister, in which case his license should not continue to be renewed.)

It should be noted here that in at least one or two areas, a recommendation for ordination does not have to be approved by the Associational body as a whole. Such a practice tends to forget that ordination, after all, is done by the Churches, not the ministry.

7. The procedure for setting up the ordination service varies considerably.
  - A. In many Associations, the same committee that made the examination arranges and conducts the ordination service.
  - B. In some areas, the 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, 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 two (2) 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 knowledge. 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 on 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.

### QUESTIONS ON DOCTRINE

- 1) Do you believe that the Scripture, the Old and New Testaments, are the infallible Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Do you believe in the Trinity? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Name the God Head: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Is salvation obtained through the Blood of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Name the condition of salvation: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Do you believe that speaking in an unknown tongue is evidence of having received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Do you believe in a second definite work of Grace or Baptism in the Holy Ghost, separate and apart from regeneration? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) What composes the body of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Does the Bible teach that God has an organized visible Church on this earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Do you believe that Baptism is a Gospel Ordinance? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Who are the proper subjects for Baptism? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Do you believe that Immersion is the proper method of water baptism? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Do you believe that the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing are divine ordinances and should be observed repeatedly? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) A. Do you teach and practice these ordinances? \_\_\_\_\_  
B. Do you practice the ordinances at night? \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) Do you believe in the possibility of apostasy? \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) Do you believe in the resurrection of the bodies of all men? \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) Do you believe that there will be a judgment when time and man's probation will close forever and then all will be judged according to their works? \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) Do you believe that immediately after the judgment that the righteous will enter into eternal life, and the wicked into a state of endless punishment? \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) Do you believe that Christ at His second coming will close the gospel dispensation, glorify His saints, and judge the world? \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge myself to teach and defend the Free Will Baptist Doctrine to the best of my ability. If at any future time I preach or teach any doctrine contrary to the Free Will Baptist Articles of Faith, I will surrender my credentials to the Association of which I am a member.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS TO BE ORDAINED

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MEMEBER OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH

- 1) Do you have a license? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) If you have a license, how long have you carried it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) By what Association was it issued? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) How many sermons have you preached? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Where are you preaching now? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Why do you want to be ordained? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Are you married? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) If you have been married more than once, is a former companion living? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) How many children do you have? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Is your wife a member of a Free Will Baptist Church? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) How long have you been a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) How long have you been a Free Will Baptist? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) Is your wife willing that you be ordained? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) Do you or your wife have any habits that would hinder your ministry? \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) If you have belonged to other denominations, give the name of each and the length of time with each: \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) In your opinion, what is God's plan for financing His Work? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 17) Do you tithe to the Church you are a member of? \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) Are you willing to make any sacrifice that may be involved in this ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

- 19) Are you willing to abstain from any indulgences that might hinder your effective influence in the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) Will your financial circumstances hinder you in taking the pastoral care of a Church? \_\_\_\_\_
- 21) How much education do you have? \_\_\_\_\_
- 22) Have you had any special training in doctrinal and pastoral theology? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 23) Have you had any course of study in Homiletics? \_\_\_\_\_
- 24) Do you have plans to better qualify yourself for the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_
- 25) If so, what are your plans? \_\_\_\_\_
- 26) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to the ministry? \_\_\_\_\_
- 27) Would you be willing to continue preaching under license if this committee felt that it was best?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 28) Have you completed the Minister's Preparation Course? \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE FROM OLD MINUTES 1933 - 2008

- 1944 Motion carried that this Association not ordain anyone to ministry of the Gospel who is not a member of some Free Will Baptist Church in good standing & has been licensed to preach for one year & proven worthy of ordination & recommended by his Church for ordination.
- 1959 Motion carried that the Moderator be an ordained Free Will Baptist Minister or Deacon in good standing in the Association.
- 1961 Motion carried that any Minister coming to our Association from another Oklahoma Association, who is in good standing with the Association that he is leaving, be examined by the Ministers & Deacons Conference (now the Credential Board).
- 1966 Motion carried that any member coming from another faith must prove themselves for one year before holding office in this Association.
- 1968 Motion carried that new officers take their office immediately after the closing of business of the annual Association meeting.
- 1972 Adopted the National Ordination Guidelines.  
Motion carried to print the Women's Auxiliary report in the minutes.  
Adopted the Constitution from the First Oklahoma Association with August designated as the annual session. (Listed under NAME in Constitution.)  
Motion carried that the Camp Ground Board be given the authority to have their own Treasurer & handle the finances.
- 1973 Adopted the State Articles of Faith.
- 1978 Motion carried that we start our Annual meeting on Friday night with worship service & that all business be conducted on Saturday.
- 1979 Motion carried to record the starting time of our quarterly & annual meetings be as follows: Day services begin at 9:30 AM & Night services begin at 7:30 PM.
- 1982 Motion carried that when a member is elected to an office, board or committee, that he or she must be present.

- 1985 Motion carried to accept the recommendation from the Executive Board on the revision of the Cooperative giving in the Association. Revisions as follows: 60% to Co-op, 20% to General Fund & 20 % to Camp Ground Fund. This does not affect designated giving.
- 1989 Motion carried that the month of June be designated as Youth Camp Month.
- 1990 Motion carried that this Association will not ordain any Minister unless the work necessitates it.  
Motion carried that the Standing Camp Ground Board be made a permanent Board consisting of five members & that the 1 year man on that Board will be the Chairman.
- 1994 Note: Each Church will pay \$125 to help with Youth Camp. Each camper will pay \$5.00 fee.
- 1995 Motion carried that all moneys paid to the different projects & funds of the Denomination & Association go through the Association Treasurer, including church fees, CO-OP, camp ground, youth camp funds, etc., to be properly reported on the financials.  
Motion carried to pay all future Youth Camp Evangelists \$400.00, beginning in 1996.
- 1996 Motion carried to increase the amount paid for expenses of the General Board Member from \$100.00 to \$300.00.  
Motion carried to have semi-annual Association meetings.  
The one year man on each board will be chairman of each board.
- 1997 Reminder that all future candidates for licensing & ordination must complete Questionnaire for Ordination prior to coming before the Credential Board.
- 2002 Motion carried to adopt the Credential Board recommendation that any individual new to Free Will Baptist that desires to join this Association should receive & complete the State Questionnaire for Ordination prior to being considered for ordination.
- 2003 Motion carried to update the Rules of Order, By-Laws and Constitution.

2005 Motion carried to transfer the Youth Camp building & land to the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptist.

Motion carried to retain the current Camp Ground Board until the transfer of property is complete & at which time, it will be removed from the Constitution.

2006 Motion carried to accept the recommendation from the Resolution Committee to revise the Cooperative giving of the Association to 90% to State Co-op & 20% to Association General Fund. This does not affect designated giving.

Motion carried to accept the recommendation from the Resolution Committee to change our Annual meeting to the second weekend in August.

2007 Motion carried to accept the Executive Board guidelines as follows:

a) The Resolution Committee should make suggestions but not dollar amounts.

b) The Temperance Committee should have Spiritual recommendations as Resolution is more physical.

c) The Divine Committee should continue to do as they have in the past.

d) No more than one person from each church should be on each committee. The Moderator and Assistant Moderator will choose these committees.

2008 Motion carried to receive the Resolution Committee recommendation to uphold the resolutions found in the 2005 Free Will Baptist Year Book pages 69-70 concerning same sex marriages.

