

Minutes of The
John Wheeler Association
of
Free Will Baptist
1984
Proceedings of The
106th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION

CONVENED WITH THE
VALLEY VIEW FREE WILL BAPTIST
Abingdon, Va.

SATURDAY, OCT. 6, 1984

THE 1985 SESSION WILL CONVENE WITH THE
SHILOH FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

SATURDAY BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN MAY 1985

Minutes of The
John Wheeler Association
of
Free Will Baptist
1984

Proceedings of The
106th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

MODERATOR REV. ELMER CARDWELL, JR.
Rt. 2
Saltville, Va. 24370
(703) 496-4295
CLERK BRO. DONALD WHITE
1762 Pittstown Rd.
Bristol, Va. 24201
(703) 669-3604

HOME MISSION BOARD

Walter Statzer 238 Meadowcrest Dr., Bristol, Va.

TRUSTEES

Rev. Walter Statzer 238 Meadowcrest Dr., Bristol, Va.
Rev. Kyle French P.O. Box 87, Chilhowie, Va.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Kenneth Shaffer 1208 Virginia Ave., Bristol, Tn. 37620
Bro. John Calhoun 4173 Reedy Creek Rd., Bristol, Va. 24201
Rev. Howard Campbell Rt. 3, Bristol, Tn. 37620
Rev. Jennings Wilson Box 71N, Chilhowie, Va. 24319
Rev. Willis Osborne Marion, Va. 24354

PROCEEDINGS

The one-hundred and sixth annual session of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Valley View Free Will Baptist Church, Abingdon, Va. on Saturday, October 6, 1984.

Opening song, "I'm In The Glory Land Way" led by Brother Conley Harless.

Rev. Clyde Gamble, pastor at Valley View gave the welcome.

Rev. Roger Ball, assistant clerk-treasurer, opened the meeting by reading Galatians 3:11-14. Prayer was led by Rev. Jennings Dotson.

Registration was held while extending the right hand of fellowship. All were in fellowship.

A motion was made to enter into conference. Standing delegates were enrolled with 13 ministers and 7 deacons present.

Letters from quarterly meetings were read by the assistant clerk.

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORTS

NORTHEASTERN QUARTERLY

Moderator Rev. David Neitch, Rt. 5, Marion, Va. 24354
Clerk Sis. Lottie Cardwell, Rt. 2 Box 88, Saltville, Va. 24370

List of Delegates: Brother Mark Holmes

Number of Churches	6
Church Membership	590
Members received by profession of faith	77
Members dismissed by letter	5
Sunday School enrollment	668
Mid-week service average attendance	245
Number of ordained ministers	18
Number of ordained deacons	21

FINANCIAL REPORT

SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES

Pastor's salary	\$34,927.40
Evangelistic work	\$ 4,421.93
Building and repair	\$27,656.77
Literature	\$ 4,945.83
Other	\$14,090.65

TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES \$86,042.65

SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES

Foreign missions	\$ 1,602.54
Home missions	\$ 1,743.25
Education	\$ 1,820.00
Free Will Baptist Home for Children	\$ 2,199.15

TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES \$ 7,364.94

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$93,407.52

SOUTHWESTERN QUARTERLY

Moderator Brother Donald White, 1762 Pittstown Rd., Bristol, Va. 24201

Clerk Brother John C. Calhoun, 4173 Reedy Creek Rd., Bristol, Va. 24201

LIST OF DELEGATES: Brothers Tim Bebbler, Marty Fleenor and Steve Johnson; Sisters Jo Ann White and Linda Fleenor

STATISTICS

Number of churches	8
Church membership	718
Number of ordained ministers	21
Number of licensed ministers	2
Number of ordained deacons	26
Enrollment of Sunday School	767
Average attendance of Sunday School	622

Enrollment of Church Training Service	92
Average attendance of Church Training Service	80
Enrollment of Ladies Auxiliaries	75
Average attendance of Ladies Auxiliaries	68
Enrollment of Masters Men	27
Average attendance of Masters Men	18
Mid-week service average attendance	225

FINANCIAL REPORT

SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES

Pastor's salaries	\$43,997.52
Evangelistic work	\$ 4,406.06
Building and repair	\$98,267.24
Literature	\$ 4,456.93
Other	\$ 0.00

TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES \$177,048.50

SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES

Foreign missions	\$ 1,491.52
Home missions	\$ 1,990.15
Education	\$ 37.00
Free Will Baptist Home For Children	\$ 522.88

TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES \$ 4,041.55

A motion was made and accepted to receive the minutes as read.

The Executive Board was then seated. Rev. Walter Statzer, Rev. Johnny Hooker, Re. Leroy Fleenor and Bro. Cam Miller were selected to serve with Rev. Kenneth Shaffer on the Executive Board, protem for this session only.

The treasurer's report was read.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand — Oct. 1, 1983	\$ 586.63
Received from Northeastern Quarterly (Oct. 1, 1983)	\$ 440.00
Received from Southwestern Quarterly (Oct. 1, 1983)	\$ 360.00
Offering from Ministers and Deacons Conference (Sept. 30, 1983)	\$28.45
Offering from 105th Session (Oct. 1, 1983)	\$ 30.06

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 858.51

TOTAL \$1,445.14

EXPENDITURES

1984 Sunday School Retreat	\$100.00
Printing of 1983 Minutes	\$195.00
State Fees	\$160.00
National Fees	\$160.00
Postage	\$ 10.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$625.00

Balance on hand Oct. 6, 1984 \$ 820.14

A motion was made and passed to accept the report as read.

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELISTS

Sis. Lottie Cardwell — Northeastern Quarterly

Thursday's meeting was a good one. It helps the teacher to realize the need. It's the pastor's and superintendent's responsibility to encourage the teachers to attend.

The purpose of the workshop is to reach souls for Christ.

We will be mailing copies of the topics covered in this years workshop to Sunday School workers in each local church.

There is a need for Bible School workshops. They need not be expensive. Sis. Lottie can do three Bible Schools annually.

Plans are in the making for a Sunday School retreat in 1985.

Get involved in the Sunday School work. It's an important work. It has a purpose.

Sis. Lottie conducted 1 workshop, 1 retreat and 3 Bible Schools in 1984.

NO REPORT FROM SOUTHWESTERN QUARTERLY

A motion was made and passed to hold the Sunday School Retreat as in the past.

A motion was made and passed for Sister Lottie to send out the copies from the Sunday School Workshop to the Sunday School superintendents of each church.

Comments by the Moderator on Free Will Baptist Camp Jacob.

This years camp was a good success. This was a 2 week camp. Attendance 30 to 40 each week. Price was \$35.00 - \$40.00 per child. Further information can be obtained from Jim Cox.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made to amend constitution article 3 to read that the clerk shall be elected to serve a four-year term.

Offering of \$22.48 was received while singing Heaven's Jubilee.

Testimonies were given.

Song "Then Came The Morning" was sung by Bro. Mark Holmes.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Item 1. That Kenneth Shaffer be entrusted to serve a five year term on the Executive Board to expire in 1989. He will replace Rev. Kenneth Shaffer who's term expires today.

Item 2. That the 107th session convene with the Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church.

Item 3. That Walter Statzer serve as Moderator for the 107th session.

Item 4. We recommend that the clerk be given permission to purchase a used electric typewriter for \$75.00 and to sell the old one that we own now.

All of these were passed.

Item 5. We recommend that the meeting time of John Wheeler Association be changed from Saturday before the first Sunday in October to Saturday before the first Sunday in May.

Discussed and passed. Item 5 is to take effect in 1985.

Item 6. We recommend to this Association to appoint a committee of 7 members to take the Minister's Questionnaire and explain or give the standing or belief of The John Wheeler Association on each question asked on this questionnaire. We recommend this committee be appointed today and to start work on this immediately and report back to this Association at our regular meeting next May. Concerning the ordination of Bro. David Whitt. Since we do not have anything spelled out on most of the questions on the Minister's Questionnaire, we do not feel we can give direct advice on this matter. However, we recommend that the quarterly meeting will consider this matter further and use their own discretion on this matter and how to handle it.

Motion made and passed to accept this recommendation. The committee members are as follows:

Rev. Walter Statzer	Rev. Bob Surber	Rev. David Neitch
Rev. Kyle French	Rev. Johnny Hooker	
Rev. Clyde Gamble	Rev. Jennings Dotson	

Motion made and passed to give Clerk the authority to word the Minutes accordingly. Also to have 300 copies of the minutes printed.

Rising vote of thanks to Valley View Free Will Baptist for their hospitality.

Dismissal prayer by Bro. James White.

TERMS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD EXPIRE AS FOLLOWS

Bro. John Calhoun	1985
Rev. Howard Campbell	1986
Rev. Jennings Wilson	1987
Rev. Willis Osborne	1988
Rev. Kenneth Shaffer	1989

MINISTERS WHO BELONG TO THE JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION

Name	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions to Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Marriages Solemnized	Miles Traveled	Money Received	Phone
Rev. Herbert Adams	98	2	2	34	X	X	X	X	1	X	\$1,233.95	669-2426
Rev. Roger Ball	67	1	1	4	X	X	X	1	2	X	1,336.65	466-2806
Rev. Howard Campbell	114	1	2	X	1	4	X	12	8	X	878-3953	496-4295
Rev. Elmer Cardwell, Jr.	25	X	X	3	X	X	X	X	1	X	3,456	944-3573
Rev. Bobby Collins	60	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			323-8026
Rev. Leroy Fleenor	80	1	X	15	X	6	X	1	4	X	5,200	646-3824
Rev. Kyle French	125	1	3	35	7	5	X	7	7	X	1,767.00,	466-2945
Rev. Clyde Gamble	74	1	X	X	8	8	X	1	4	X	400.00	669-5771
Rev. Homer Goodson	X	1	1	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	1,204.00	944-3573
Rev. Curtis Haven	60	X	2	1	X	X	X	2	X	3500		323-7892
Rev. Johnny Hooker	52	1	1	10	X	2	X	1	X	X		
Rev. Charles Lovelace	48	X	1	5	X	2	X	X	X	X		
Rev. Shelton Norris	123	1	1	9	7	6	X	1	5	23,950	9,300.00	878-3615
Rev. Willis Osborne	145	2	1	41	23	27	0	1	3	11,695	4,957.08	
Rev. Gary Rowlette	58	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	2	X		
Rev. Clifton Rush	X	1	X	X	X	4	X	2	X	X	100.00	878-3293
Rev. Kenneth Shaffer	80	1	2	6	0	3	X	1	1	X	1,800.00	538-6822
Rev. Lee Statzer	66	X	2	X	X	21	X	X	1	X	607.25	669-1805
Rev. Walter Statzer	187	1	2	X	11	X	X	17	15	X		669-1805
Rev. Bob Surber	152	1	2	26	14	11	X	12	6	X		496-7316
Rev. John Taylor	14	1	X	1	X	X	X	1	1	X	125.00	889-1552
Rev. Clifton Vanover	3	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	1	X		878-4675
Rev. James Wile, II	40	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	350	400.00	669-8577
Rev. Byron David Whitt	25	1	1	3	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Rev. Jennings Wilson	X		1	27	8	X	X	14	19	X	1,458.80	646-3382

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP

Opening Song "Showers of Blessings" led by Rev. Walter Statzer.

Song "Thanksgiving" led by Sis. Pam Frye

Opening remarks by Sis. Lottie Cardwell.

Opening prayer led by Rev. Bobby Collins.

Ephesians 4:11-14 was read by Sis. Lottie with further comments on the purpose of the teacher, importance of the teachers dedication, prayer and visitation. Sunday School is not for discussing controversy, gossiping or prayer meeting.

Rev. Walter Statzer then took charge speaking on Sunday School Superintendents, 2 Supt. were present. I Timothy 3:1-7 Qualification for Bishops well suited for Sunday School Supt. He must be dedicated, able to set an example. Rev. Statzer then presented some literature and teaching aides from the Nursery class.

Sis. Lottie took charge discussing ways to encourage more participation in Sunday School Workshop. Lottie then gave out leaflets about beatitudes for teachers.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. James White, II.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The John Wheeler Association ministers and Deacons conference met with the Valley View Free Will Baptist Church, Friday, Oct. 5, 1984.

Opening song "At Calvary" led by Rev. James White II.

Alter prayer was led by Rev. Shelton Norris.

Scripture II Peter 1:1-11 was read by the clerk.

Motion was made and passed to enter into conference.

Motion was made and passed that Rev. Kyle French serve as Moderator Protem in the absence of Rev. Bob Surber.

Fellowship was taken with all in fellowship.

After comments by the Moderator the 1983 minutes were read.

Rev. James Raper from the Free Will Baptist Home for Children brought greetings from the home. All the glory for the home success must go to God. He has been good and met the needs at the home. John Wheeler Association increased in giving over the previous year in excess of \$300.00.

Introduction of young men from the home were made. The Home is over 45 years old and serves both boys and girls. They have been operating a school on campus for 5 years. Farming limited hay, corn and cows. Continue to pray for the support of the Home.

Ministers Card from 1983 were read. There were 25 presented.

Motion was made and passed to accept the cards as read.

A motion was made and passed to accept a verbal recommendation by Lottie Cardwell for the Northeastern Quarterly Ministers.

The Ministers cards were given.

Ministers roll was called and addresses checked. Eight Ministers present, seven Deacons present, 17 visitors present.

Motion made and passed that Rev. Clyde Gamble serve as Moderator for the 1985 session.

Motion made and passed for Rev. Gamble to select the speaker for that session.

The service was then turned over to Rev. James White, II who brought an awakening message from Ezekiel 5:5-9. Using as a text "This is Jerusalem — this is America." Message was closed with alter prayer, led by Rev. Clifton Rush.

The moderator then took charge commenting on the message.

The moderator gave thanks for the offering. Offering of \$26.67 was received. Love offering for reimbursement of Children's Home travel expenses of \$48.85 was received.

Minutes were read for approval. Motion was made to accept minutes as read. Motion passed.

Motion was made and passed to dismiss until Saturdays session.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. James Raper.

YEARLY MEETING OR ANNUAL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. This yearly meeting or association shall be called the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Free Will Baptist quarterly meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this constitution.

ARTICLE 2. The conference of this yearly meeting or association shall consist of delegates from the several quarterly meetings of which it is composed; every quarterly meeting being entitled to one delegate, every quarterly meeting containing five hundred members to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional five hundred members.

ARTICLE 3. The officers of this yearly meeting or association shall

be a clerk treasurer elected to serve a 4-year term and a moderator who shall be chosen at every session of the yearly meeting or association, with assistants, as may be found necessary.

ARTICLE 4. Any well-organized and well-regulated Free Will Baptist quarterly meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the practices and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination as published in the Treatise of their faith and in the minutes of the National Association and are in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application and by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

ARTICLE 5. This yearly meeting or association shall have power to discipline the quarterly meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walks if labor proves unsuccessful, but in no case to reverse their decisions nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

ARTICLE 6. The sessions of this yearly meeting or association shall be held on _____, at which time it shall be the duty of the quarterly meetings of which this yearly meeting or association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegate, and report their standings, prospects and statistics; at which time the association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to it by its respective quarterly meetings, and transact such other business not repugnant to this constitution nor to the practices of the denomination, or in its judgement may promote the cause of Christ and the interests of the church and quarterly meetings within the limits of this yearly meeting or association.

ARTICLE 7. This yearly meeting or association shall have power to adopt any regulations or bylaws, not inconsistent with this constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

ARTICLE 8. This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the yearly meeting or association at any regular session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing and recorded at the next previous session.

ARTICLES 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 to supremely 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 Saviour and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.
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, 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, inherit 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 by faith.
8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are:
 - (1) Repentance of sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it.
 - (2) Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour 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.
 - (3) Continuance in faith and obedience until death.
9. **ELECTION.** God determines from the beginning to save all who should comply with the condition of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. **FREEDOM OF THE 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 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. **PERSERVERANCE.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.
13. **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, or ordinance teaching humility or universal obligation, is to be ministered to all true believers.
14. **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, . . ."
(I Corinthians 16:2).

15. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.** The divine law required that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements; for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communication with God.
16. **RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT, 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 will "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, 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 the 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 Saviour 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, to promote the success of the church and of the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles 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 education 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.

