

72

MINUTES OF  
SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF  
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Convened 23 & 24 June 1972

At The  
OAKCREST  
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
Bassett, Virginia

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OF  
SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF  
ORIGINAL  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CONVENED  
23 & 24 JUNE 1972  
AT THE  
OAKCREST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
BASSETT, VIRGINIA

The Seventh Session of the Maryland State Association will convene  
22 & 23 June 1973, with the Trinity Church, Darlington, Maryland.

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. Lester Horton  
Fairwood Church  
6415 Ox Road  
Fairfax Station, VA

CLERK: Mr. Cossie Meade  
249 Cabbel Drive  
Manassas Park, VA

PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY: Rev. William Steele  
Chestnut Hill Church  
Big Island, VA

SECRETARY: Miss Nancy L. Meade  
249 Cabbel Drive  
Manassas Park, VA

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Elzo Bevan  
Bethel Church  
3713 Davis Ford Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia  
Term Expires: 1974

Rev. Dwite Ferguson  
Oakcrest Church  
Bassett, Virginia  
Term Expires: 1975

Rev. William Steele  
Chestnut Hill Church  
Big Island, Virginia  
Term Expires: 1973

Rev. Curtis Byrd  
Trinity Church  
Darlington, Maryland  
Term Expires: 1975

Bro. Eugene Wampler  
Welcome Home Church  
Bel Air, Maryland  
Term Expires: 1974

NATIONAL OFFICES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
POST OFFICE BOX 1088  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202

Address above can be used for following departments:

Board of Foreign Missions  
Home Missions - Church Extension  
Sunday School Department  
Executive Church Bonds  
Church Training Service  
Retirement and Insurance  
Laymen's Board  
Woman's Auxiliary

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE  
3606 WEST END AVENUE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37205

FREE WILL BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN  
ROUTE 9  
GREENVILLE, TENNESSEE 37743

## THE MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

1. The clerk or his assistant or in their absence the senior minister in years shall call the Association to order if a quorum is present. The Moderator or in his absence the Assistant Moderator shall take charge. If neither is present, a Moderator Pro Tem shall be elected.
2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to enroll the ordained personnel and delegates to this Association who shall sign the register upon arrival with name, address, and Quarterly Meeting they represent. Visitors will also be registered.
3. It shall be the duty of each Quarterly Meeting belonging to this Association to send a letter to each annual meeting of this Association reporting in the same its statistics and benevolent work. Any Quarterly Meeting belonging to this Association may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.
4. Each session shall be opened by Scripture reading and prayer and shall be closed with prayer.
5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present a ruling of the Moderator can be overruled.
6. The Moderator shall have the same privileges to speak as any other person, provided the Chair is filled.
7. This Association may correspond by letter or otherwise with other religious bodies.
8. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

9. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in discussion by obtaining permission from the Moderator and properly identifying themselves.
10. Anyone desiring to speak shall stand and address the Moderator by the appellation "Brother Moderator" but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.
11. It shall be the duty of each member of the Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting. Anyone wishing to retire should first obtain permission from the Moderator.
12. The Moderator of this Association must be an ordained minister and no person may be Moderator more than twice in succession.
13. The Moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.
14. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee provided the person nominated be elected.
15. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to seat delegates in a body in a designated section at the beginning of each session.
16. Five members or a majority of the resident members present shall constitute a quorum in conference.
17. Each minister shall make a yearly report to the Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting of which he is a member prior to the State Association. Good Standing Cards will be issued only to those that report.

## CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

We the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination, being baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a State Association and to preserve and maintain correspondence and coordination among us, do therefore adopt this Constitution for our better denominational government.

1. This yearly meeting shall be called the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists 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.
2. The business of this Association shall be conducted by the ordained ministers and deacons and elected delegates who are members of a Quarterly Meeting within this Association. Each Quarterly Meeting is entitled to three delegates from each church, in addition to the ordained personnel who are standing delegates.
3. The officers of this Association shall be Clerk, Treasurer, and Secretary who shall retain that office until terminated by this Association or themselves. The Moderator shall be elected at the close of the annual meeting of this Association.
4. Any well-organized Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting composed of such church as conform to the usages and adopt the doctrines and the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association may at any time, upon application and by majority vote of this Association, become a member thereof.

5. From this time (June 1970) forward, any minister or deacon applying for membership in this Association must first meet the qualifications set forth in First Timothy, Chapter 3 and Titus, Chapter 1. No minister or deacon shall hold membership in this Association if he or his wife have a living companion from a previous marriage.
6. This Association shall have authority to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed and exclude them for practices contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association.
7. The annual meeting of this Association shall convene on Friday morning at 10 o'clock before the fourth Sunday in June and shall have power to adopt any regulations or by-laws not inconsistent with the Constitution which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.
8. This Association shall not recognize any minister or delegate unless they comply with the Constitution and By-Laws thereof.
9. Parliamentary procedure will be governed by "Robert's Rules of Order."

#### DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists, any assets of the organization then remaining shall be conveyed to such organizations then existent dedicated to similar objectives to those of this organization, selected by the Executive Board at the time of dissolution, which organization must be exempt under Section 501 (E)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended or under successor provisions of the Code as may be in effect at the time of dissolution.

## MINUTES

Session opened with singing "Send The Light." Clerk read scripture Galatians 1:1-11. Clerk turned it over to Brother Steele, as the eldest minister present for election of moderator.

Bro. Steele called for Host Pastor, Bro. Dwite Ferguson to give welcome and have prayer. Bro. Ralph Weaver, Woodland Heights Baptist Church, led the opening prayer.

Nominations taken for Moderator. Bro. Lester Horton nominated. Moved and seconded nominations cease. Carried. Bro. Horton elected. Moderator took charge and called for Conference letters.

Letters brought forward and read by the Clerk. Delegates called forward, given the right hand of fellowship and seated in the voting body. Moved and seconded that Conference clerks (or in their absence, an ordained deacon from that Conference) be allowed to substitute delegates for those unable to attend due to the flood disaster. Motion carried.

Moderator called for Visiting Ministers - Welcomed Bro. Joe Hurst of the Sunday School Department, and Bro. Ralph Weaver of the Woodland Heights Baptist Church.

Moderator appointed Bro. Dwite Ferguson as Assistant Moderator.

Moderator asked for Committee Reports. None given.

Moderator called for new business. Moderator asked Bro. Hurst to give report on the work of the Sunday School Department. Moved and seconded we give a vote of appreciation for Bro. Hurst's report. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded we adopt the proposed program - changes due to absences at option of Moderator. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that election of committee replacements be tabled until Saturday morning session. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Registration for State Association begin at 9:00 a.m. and conference convene at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried. Offering for Children's Home to be taken in Saturday session.

Moderator welcomed Bro. Jim Cox of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Roanoke, Virginia.

Moved and seconded we recess for Worship Service. Business to reconvene at 2:00 p.m. Motion carried. Moderator turned the service over to Bro. Hale Skeleton to conduct devotional.

#### MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Bro. Skeleton read I Thessalonians 4:13-18, and had prayer. Special singing by different groups. Bro. Skeleton turned the service to Bro. Lester Horton for the message.

Bro. Horton preached on the theme - "Go Ye" from Mark, Chapter 16. Worship service closed with singing "Nothing Between." Benediction by Bro. Sid Brooks.

#### 2:00 P.M. SERVICE

Opened with singing "If Jesus Goes with Me, I'll Go." Prayer by Bro. Jim Cox.

Scripture reading by Bro. Sid Brooks, Matthew 9:35-38, John 4:35-36.

Moderator called for Reports. Bro. Joe Hurst talked on State Book Stores. Bro. Steele gave a report from Foreign and Home Missions. Bro. Wampler gave Director of Finance report. Sisters Dortha Steele, Lottie Horton, and Pat McMillan spoke on Woman's Auxiliary. Bro. Steele spoke on Master's Men.

Moderator asked Bro. Jim Cox to give report on the progress of the Roanoke Church.

Clerk gave financial report on Promotional Secretary. Clerk reported approximately \$2,000 in Treasury.

Bro. Steele submitted his resignation as Promotional Secretary and Editor of the State Paper. Reluctantly moved and seconded we accept said resignation. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Promotional Secretary be elected to a five year term. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Clerk and Board Member work out an equitable system for coverage of Board Member's trips - allowing air fare, motel, meals, and taxi fare to and from airport, etc. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the Maryland State Association meet next year at the Trinity Church, Darlington, Maryland.

Moved and seconded that the business session be adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Saturday. Youth Banquet to be held Friday night, 7:00 p.m. at the Dutch Inn, Collinsville, Virginia. Bro. Jim Cox was the guest speaker.

#### SATURDAY BUSINESS SESSION

24 June 1972

Opened with singing "Ready." Scripture reading by Bro. Stanley Parnell, I Corinthians 3:5-14. Prayer led by Bro. Clate Kilby.

Moderator asked Rev. Charles Thigpen to represent Free Will Baptist Bible College. He also represented our National offices.

Moderator welcomed visiting minister - Bro. Neil Harting, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Moderator asked Bro. Ferguson to give report from Minister's Meeting. Moved and seconded that Executive Board of the State Association meet with the Executive Board of the Maryland - New Jersey Conference in regard to by-laws and withdrawal of ministers' credentials and that no action be taken regarding this until this meeting be held. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded we give \$200 to Elkton Church with stipulation that it will be deeded to Free Will Baptists. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded we give Project Roanoke \$200. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the Executive Board be granted authority to aid the work in Stephen City should it materialize in the amount of \$200. Also with stipulation the property be deeded to Free Will Baptists. Motion Carried.

Election held to fill vacancies on Executive Board. To fill Bro. Johnnie Skeens position - Bro. Skeens nominated and Brother Dwite Ferguson nominated. Moved and seconded that nominations cease. Bro. Ferguson elected. For Bro. Byrd's position - Bro. Byrd nominated and Bro. Skeens nominated, but declined. Bro. Byrd elected. Both of these terms expire in 1975.

Questions of filling position of Promotional Secretary and Editor of State Paper taken up. Moved and seconded that we retain Bro. Steele as Promotional Secretary with the option that he be allowed to resign next year, in the event that he is not physically able to continue. Nominations for moderator for next year. Bro. Dwite Ferguson nominated. Moved and seconded that nominations cease. Bro. Ferguson elected.

Bro. Steele gave talk on Cooperative Plan Giving.

Moved and seconded that we give \$50.00 each to the seven Maryland State Association students attending Free Will Baptist College. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that those present today who have indicated they will attend the National Association represent the State Association and that Bro. Horton be granted authority to make changes necessary at the National Association.

Moved and seconded that we give \$25.00, for expenses, to each of our delegates to the National Association. Motion carried.

Minutes read. Moved and seconded that we accept minutes as read with any additions voted hereafter. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we ask Bro. Greg Bevan to assist in printing of minutes along with Sisters Becky Wampler and Ruth Jackson. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Steele send History of Maryland State Association to Dr. Picirilli to be included in History of Free Will Baptists. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn until our Annual Session in 1973 at the Trinity Church, Darlington, Maryland. Motion carried.

#### WORSHIP SERVICE

Bro. Johnnie Skeens conducted devotional. Scripture reading - I Timothy 4:12. Singing by youth of all churches and Mt. Calvary group. Prayer led by Bro. Skeens.

Offering taken for Childrens' Home was \$65.66.

Message "The Church's Main Line" from Matthew 28:18-20 by Bro. Thigpen. Invitation - "Trust and Obey."

Benediction.

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL REPORT

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

Local Causes:

Pastors' Salaries	Paid Evangelists	Building & Repairs	Publication & Literature	Maryland State Association	Miscellaneous
\$17,939.57	\$2,090.94	\$19,795.30	\$1,990.00	\$575.30	\$15,108.95

Outside Causes:

Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Children's Home
\$420.00	\$344.00	\$558.97

MARYLAND-NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

Local Causes:

Pastors' Salaries	Paid Evangelists	Building & Repairs	Publication & Literature	Maryland State Association	Miscellaneous
\$5,055.19	\$1,070.36	\$2,244.10	\$999.92	\$234.29	\$4,373.34

Outside Causes:

Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Children's Home
\$85.00	\$160.00	\$220.05

NEW RIVER CONFERENCE

Local Causes:

Pastor's Salaries	Paid Evangelists	Building & Repairs	Publication & Literature	Maryland State Association	Miscellaneous
\$5,908.75	\$1,266.96	\$2,594.15	\$706.22	\$362.45	\$3,243.50

Outside Causes:

Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Children's Home
\$245.42	\$253.13	\$135.00

## MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION

## STATISTICS

<u>NO. OF CHURCHES</u>	<u>CHURCH MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>MEMBERS RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHURCHES ORGANIZED</u>	<u>ORDAINED MINISTERS</u>	<u>ORDAINED DEACONS</u>	<u>LICENSED MINISTERS</u>	<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</u>
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## NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

7 1 (parsonage)	595	109	0	22	21	6	542
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## MARYLAND-NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

3 1 (parsonage)	192	42	0	2			244
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## NEW RIVER CONFERENCE

4	370	0	0	9	12	1	299
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## LIST OF DELEGATES

<u>NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE</u>	
Beulah Adkins	Welber Longerbeam
Allen Bartley	Nancy Meade
Ralph Cave	Edith Miller
Emma Good	Merl Miller
Cecil Green	Willie Mullins
Myrtel Green	Charles Schaffer
Judy Jackson	Emily Shifflett
Ruth Jackson	Jimmy Stanley
David Lang	Jack Whited

<u>MARYLAND-NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE</u>
Bobby Beavers
Patricia Beavers
Judy Helman
Amos Lane
Beulah Lane
Jo Ann Moore
Stanley Parnell
Pat Poole
Nora Sutton

<u>NEW RIVER CONFERENCE</u>
Curtis Ashley
Janice Ferguson
Pearl Ferguson
Erma Goff
Brady Miller
Mae Miller
Marie Miller
Laura McMillan
Pat McMillan
Dorthea Steele
Gregory Sturgill

