

MINUTES OF
MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

SEVENTH
ANNUAL SESSION

CONVENED

June 22 & 23, 1973

at the

TRINITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Darlington, Maryland

The Eighth Annual Session

will meet

June 21 & 22, 1974

at the

FAIRWOOD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. Dwite Ferguson
Oakcrest Church
Bassett, Virginia

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Rev. Ralph Weaver
Woodland Heights Church
Term Expires: 1976

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

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 congregational singing, "I Want To Know More About My Lord". The host pastor, Bro. Curtis Byrd, welcomed the Association to Trinity Church. Bro. Lester Horton led the opening prayer. Scripture reading in I John, Chapter 3 by Bro. Ralph Weaver. The Moderator, Bro. Dwite Ferguson, then took charge and called the Association to order. He asked for a few moments of silent meditation in memory of members of our Association who have gone to be with the Lord and no longer assemble with us.

The Moderator asked that Conference letters be given to the Clerk and requested that the Clerk read the list of delegates from these letters. Moved and seconded that delegates be seated in the body. Motion carried.

Moderator asked that the Clerk read the Conference letters. Moved and seconded that we accept these letters as read. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Moderator be given the authority to appoint any necessary committees. Motion carried. Moderator appointed Bro. John Hall, Jr. as Assistant Moderator. Moderator appointed Bro. Jack Whited, Bro. Bobby Beavers, and Bro. Curtis Ashby as Committee on Committees.

Moved and seconded that we adopt the program proposed by the Maryland--New Jersey Conference. Motion carried.

Moderator asked for any old business. Bro. Elzo Bevan noted that there was no old business in the Minutes.

Moderator asked if there were any representatives of the National Association. Noted that there were none present at that time but Bro. Lester Horton indicated that he had received a letter of greeting from Bro. Coffey of the Executive Dept. Bro. Bevan reported that he had received a letter from Bro. Roy Thomas of the Home Mission Board. Copies of both letters were available in the back of the church.

Bro. Wampler gave Director of Finance report and State Clerk gave financial report.

Moderator indicated that he had been given a report on the last 8 months of Bro. Clate Kilby's ministry, which he could not locate. He asked Sis. Kilby if she could give a short report from memory. Sis. Kilby indicated that this report was the best of Bro. Kilby's ministry--that these 8 months were the most fruitful for the Lord.

Moderator asked for report from State Promotional man, Bro. Bill Steele. Bro. Steele gave a short financial report on publication expenses for the State paper. Bro. Steele indicated he was resigning the position of Editor of State paper. He would consider remaining State Promotional man if the two jobs were separated. Bro. Steele also reported on the recurring problem we experience in having our giving credited to the Maryland State Association. Bro. Horton noted that for the benefit of churches engaged in building programs, etc., the State Promotional man can put them in contact with companies which save them money on church furniture, carpeting, etc.

Bro. Bevan indicated that it is time Maryland State Association put a man into the field full time to build a Free Will Baptist Church in the Maryland State Association area.

Bro. Horton spoke on the subject, stating that we should pray that GOD would speak to the heart of some minister in our Association in regard to fulfilling this. Bro. Bevan requested permission to speak again on the subject. He indicated that this had been his intention also. He stated that he had spoken with Bro. Roy Thomas of the Home Mission Board on this subject and that Bro. Thomas indicated that the Home Mission Board would be more than willing to work with Maryland State in a cooperative effort to put a man in the field.

Bro. Steele asked whether or not his resignation as editor of State paper should be taken up at this time. Moderator noted this would fall under new business to be covered in the afternoon session.

Moved and seconded business recess for worship service. Business to reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE

Opened with congregational singing "I Want To Be Ready." Moderator then turned the service to Bro. Ertle Dial for the message. Text of Bro. Dial's message was "Man in Fellowship with God", Scripture II Corinthians 6:14--18.

2:00 p.m. SESSION

Opened with congregational singing, "I Am Resolved." Bro. Bill Steele read scripture lesson from II Corinthians 5:9--21. Prayer led by Bro. Bevan. Moderator called session to order and asked for any new business.

Bro. Steele submitted his resignation as Editor of the State paper. Moved and seconded that we accept his resignation. Motion carried.

Floor opened for nominations to fill position of Editor. Bro. John Hall, Jr. nominated. Moved and seconded that nominations cease. Bro. Hall elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the issue of State Promotional man be tabled until Saturday morning session. Motion carried.

Bro. Steele noted that we need to do something about getting a new machine to print State paper. Suggested we should perhaps check with Sunday School Department or local printing shop as to having them printed for us. Moved and seconded that Bro. Steele call Sunday School Department (State to pay for call) to see what it would cost (approximately) to have them print and mail the State paper for us. Motion carried. Bro. Steel asked that he be excused to make this call.

Bro. Hall brought up the question of our providing youth camp for our young people. He indicated that the Maryland--New Jersey Conference had appointed two couples and himself to look into this question. He asked Sister Lochee and Sister Wampler to give a report on what they had found out.

Sis. Wampler indicated that the camp she had checked about in Bel Air, Maryland, indicated that they do lease their facilities to other users and this would be the simplest and least expensive way for us to provide camp facilities. Moved and seconded that Maryland State Association try to rent these facilities for camp in 1974. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we table question of Camp Director until Saturday session. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we retain Bro. Horton for two years more as General Board member. Motion carried.

Noted that someone is needed to fill Bro. Steele's position on Executive Board as his term expires this year. Bro. Ralph Weaver nominated. Moved and seconded that nominations cease and Bro. Weaver be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we receive an offering at the end of this afternoon session to go into State treasury. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the State Association go to the Northern Virginia Conference next year, to be held at the Fairwood Church. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that discussion on a Maryland State missionary be tabled until Saturday session. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded we take an offering during Saturday session to be given to the Executive Department of the National Association. Motion carried.

Question of next year's moderator taken up. Bro. Elzo Bevan nominated. Moved and seconded that nominations cease and Bro. Bevan be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

Moderator asked Sis. Brenda Spruill, Field Worker for WNAC, to give a report on Woman's Auxiliary work.

Bro. Wayne Spruill, of the Foreign Mission Department, gave a report on CONTACT, HEARTBEAT, and MISSION GRAMS.

Moved and seconded that we table question of publishing State paper until Saturday session when Clerk could give a report on approximate cost per year to publish it as it has been done in the past. Bro. Steele reported that the Sunday School Department had given an approximate cost of \$600 per year for printing and mailing 450 copies. Motion carried to table this question until Saturday Session.

Moved and seconded we recess business session until Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Offering received for Maryland State Treasury.

Closed with congregational singing "The Love of God".

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEETING

We were privileged to have Sis. Brenda Spruill, Woman's National Auxiliary Convention, of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Nashville, Tennessee, to help with the organization of a State Woman's Auxiliary. Sis. Spruill gave a short talk on the WNAC, why it exists and what its purpose is. She then explained how WNAC is organized from local auxiliaries up to the National level.

The Maryland State Woman's Auxiliary was organized and the following officers were elected:

President : Sis. Lottie Horton
Vice President : Sis. Dortha Steele
Secretary Treasurer: Sis. Pat Mullins
Field Worker : Sis. Nancy Meade

YOUTH BANQUET

The Youth Banquet was held on Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. After a delicious meal, Bro. Eddie Greene took the floor as Master of Ceremonies for the program.

Bro. Greg Bevan read the Scripture and led in prayer. Special singing was provided by the Mount Calvary Youth Choir, the Christian Echoes and Steve and Sue Bevan, from the Bethel Church, the Trio from Oakcrest Church, and the Boys' Quartet from Mount Calvary Church.

The message of the evening was brought by Rev. Keith Kennemer.

SATURDAY BUSINESS SESSION, 23 June 1973

Opened with singing "At The Cross". Scripture reading was Luke 24:36--53 by Bro. Bevan. Prayer led by Bro. Virgil Manness of the Bloss Free Will Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia. Moderator asked Bro. Manness to give a word of testimony.

Also recognized Bro. Ruble Burgess of the Community Free Will Baptist Church, Beerfield, New Jersey. Moderator asked for nominations for delegates to the National Association. Asked that those planning to attend stand and be recognized. Nominations were received. Moved and seconded that the nominations cease and the following people serve as delegates. Motion carried.

Sis. Dortha Steele
Sis. Sue Bevan
Sis. Sharon Hall
Sis. Doris Robinson
Bro. Clarence Robinson

Moderator read the minutes of the Ministers' Conference.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Bobby Beavers serve as Youth Camp Director. Motion amended to include Bro. Beavers' wife. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Bro. Eddie Greene serve as Assistant Camp Director. Substitute motion made and seconded that three persons, representing the three conferences in the Maryland State, serve as an Advisory Board for the Youth Camp. Bro. Manness advised that this committee should be made up of men, due to the variety of problems to be handled and probable late night meetings which could occur. Bro. Bevan moved the previous question. Substitute motion carried. Nominations received to comprise this Board were:

Bro. Eddie Greene	- Maryland - New Jersey
Bro. Greg Bevan	- Northern Virginia
Bro. Dwite Ferguson	- New River

Moved and seconded that nominations cease. Motion carried. The three men nominated will serve as Advisory Board for the Youth Camp.

Moved and seconded that we accept recommendations of Ministers' Conference that Bro. Hall check into local print shops as to the cost of updating our State paper, and that the Executive Board be authorized to make the final decision in this matter. Motion carried.

Recommended by the Ministers' Conference that the State Paper be furnished with a message of not more than 400 words each quarter by the Quarterly Conferences in rotation, beginning with the Maryland-New Jersey Conference.

Moved and seconded that we accept this recommendation. Motion carried.

Ministers' Conference recommended that we retain Bro. Steele as State Promotional man. Motion carried. Moved and seconded that Bro. Greg Bevan and his wife handle the printing of the Minutes and that these Minutes be printed within 90 days and be mailed directly to each church. Motion carried. Bro. Greg Bevan stated that more care should be taken in filling out the Conference letters so that a better State report could be put into the Minutes. Some discussion followed regarding the use of standardized form letters for this purpose.

Moved and seconded that the State recommend that all Quarterly Conferences use the new four sheet standardized form for reporting our work. Motion carried.

Sister Lottie Horton reported that the Maryland State Woman's Auxiliary was organized on Friday afternoon.

Moved and seconded that the question of a State Missionary be deferred for another year and that the Promotional Director promote this idea throughout the Association this year. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we rescind yesterday's motion to receive an offering for the National Executive Office and instead take a love offering for Bro. Eddie Greene, who will be going as a Home Missionary to Clovis, New Mexico. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that State recommend that all Quarterly Conferences encourage their churches to send an offering to Bro. Bobby Beavers for a separate Youth Camp fund. Bro. Bevan made an amendment to this motion that the State put a cushion fund of \$200 into the Youth Camp fund, to be repaid when the Camp begins collecting fees next year. Amendment carried. Original motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we give each of our Free Will Baptist Bible College students \$50. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn business session until next year at the Fairwood Church, Fairfax Station, Virginia. Motion carried.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Opened with congregational singing "Glad Reunion Day". Message brought by Bro. Henry Van Kluyve, Foreign Missions Department, Nashville, Tennessee, from II Kings 6:24--7:20.

Bro. Eddie Greene
Bro. Greg Bevan
Bro. Lottie Horton
Bro. Henry Van Kluyve
Bro. Bobby Beavers
Bro. Steele
Bro. Hall
Bro. Greg Bevan
Bro. Eddie Greene
Bro. Lottie Horton
Bro. Henry Van Kluyve
Bro. Bobby Beavers
Bro. Steele
Bro. Hall

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

Local Causes:

Pastors' Salaries	Paid Evangelists	Building & Repairs	Publication & Literature	Maryland State Assn.	Miscellaneous
\$20,397.15	\$3,193.72	\$42,631.30	\$2,877.41	\$479.76	\$16,772.69

Outside Causes:

Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Children's Home
\$657.51	\$1,866.76	\$497.00

MARYLAND--NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE

Local Causes:

Pastors' Salaries	Paid Evangelists	Building & Repairs	Publication & Literature	Maryland State Assn.	Miscellaneous
\$3,214.33	\$952.06	\$839.76	\$1,469.29	\$145.06	\$5,574.13

Outside Causes:

Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Children's Home
\$211.82	\$39.77	\$94.73

NEW RIVER CONFERENCE

Local Causes:

Pastors' Salaries	Paid Evangelists	Building & Repairs	Publication & Literature	Maryland State Assn.	Miscellaneous
\$9,287.97	\$1,280.28	\$7,087.33	\$1,708.88	\$181.91	\$2,461.80

Outside Causes:

Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Children's Home
\$2,392.28	\$320.26	\$331.42

