

"MINUTES"

of

EIGHTH & NINTH ANNUAL  
SESSIONS

of

MARYLAND STATE  
ASSOCIATION

of



FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1974-1975



MINUTES

Friday, 21 June 1974 - 10:00 a.m. Session

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Convened

21 & 22 June 1974

At The

Fairwood Church

Fairfax Station, Virginia

Rev. Elzo Bevan - Moderator

## MINUTES

Friday, 21 June 1974 - 10:00 a.m. Session

The Eighth Annual Session of the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists convened on Friday, 21 June 1974, at 10:00 a.m. at the Fairwood Church, Fairfax Station, Virginia. The opening hymn, "How Firm A Foundation," was led by Bro. Cossie Meade. Host Pastor, Rev. Lester Horton, welcomed the Association to the Fairwood Church and read Psalm 26. The Clerk took charge and read in the first chapter of Philippians and asked Rev. William Steele to lead the congregation in prayer. The Moderator, Rev. Elzo Bevan, then took charge and called the Business Session to order.

The Moderator called for the reading of the Conference letters. The Northern Virginia Conference and Maryland-New Jersey Conference letters were read; the New River Conference letter was unavailable at the time. It was moved and seconded that these letters be accepted as read and the delegates be seated in the body for business. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded that the New River delegates be seated in the body. Motion carried.

The Moderator then recognized the following visitors from the National Association: Rev. Robert Shockey, Director of Home Missions; Rev. Herman Hersey, Director of the Board of Retirement and Insurance; and Bro. Kenneth Lane, National President of Master's Men.

Rev. Hersey gave a report from the Board of Retirement and Insurance. Moved, seconded and motion carried to accept this report.

The Moderator appointed Rev. William Steele as Assistant Moderator and appointed the Committee on Committees as follows: Rev. Lester Horton, Chairman; Rev. Curtis Byrd and Bro. Delmer Miller.

Rev. John Hall, Jr. gave a report on the progress of the Maryland State Camp. It was moved and seconded that we receive this report and pay the expenses of the camp survey. Motion carried.

Bro. Cossie Meade gave the Maryland State financial report. It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be accepted as read.

Rev. William Steele gave reports from the Executive Board of the Maryland State Association, the National Executive Office, and the Home Mission Project for Wilmington, Delaware. Moved and seconded that the three reports be accepted. Motion carried.

Bro. Eugene Wampler, Maryland State Director of Finance, reported that Maryland gave \$7,100 to National work this past year. It was noted that all monies sent to National Departments should either go through Bro. Wampler or he should be notified of each gift sent directly so that he might keep an accurate record of Maryland's giving. Moved, seconded and carried to accept Bro. Wampler's report.

Moved and seconded that Business Session be adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.

#### 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. John Hall, Jr. conducted the devotional and read from I Corinthians 13:4-7. Bro. George Meade led the congregation in singing "Just a Little Talk With Jesus." An offering of \$76.54 was received for the Executive Board of the National Association in Nashville, Tenn. Special music was provided by the New Home Trio. Rev. Ralph Weaver brought the message on the subject "The Church and Its Program," with his text being Matthew 28:19 & 20 and Mark 16:15-18. Rev. Wright, visiting pastor from Alexandria, Virginia, offered the Benediction.

#### 1:30 p.m. Session

The conference resumed with the congregation singing "At Calvary," led by Sis. Nancy Meade. The Moderator took charge, acknowledged that this portion of the service was sponsored by the Maryland State



Woman's Auxiliary, and turned the service over to Sis. Lottie Horton, President of the Maryland State Woman's Auxiliary. Sis. Horton introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Herman Hersey, Director of the Board of Retirement and Insurance for the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Nashville, Tenn. Rev. Hersey's text was II Corinthians 5:14-21 and he spoke on the subject "The Privilege of the Church."

Sis. Nancy Meade gave the State Woman's Auxiliary report. Sis. Horton then recognized Mrs. Brenda Spruill NAC Field Worker from Nashville, Tenn. who gave a report on Woman's Auxiliary work at the National level. An offering of \$36.31 was received for Bro. Hersey.

The Moderator then took charge and asked Rev. John Hall, Jr. for a report of FWB Bible College progress. Rev. William Steele gave a report from the Foreign Missions Department. It was moved and seconded that these reports be accepted. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the State Association be held at the Woodland Heights FWB Church in Martinsville, Virginia in June of 1975. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the Business Session be recessed until Saturday morning. Motion carried.

### Ministers Conference

All ordained ministers met at 6:00 p.m. at the Robinson High School for the Ministers Conference.

### Youth Banquet

The 1974 Youth Banquet was held at the Robinson High School. Special music was provided by the Bethel Messengers, the Woodland Heights Trio, the Fairwood Choir, and the Mt. Calvary Quartet. Rev. Robert Hoke, Director of the National Home Mission Department, brought the message on the subject "The Potential of the Church," taking his text from I Samuel.

Saturday, 22 June 1974 - 10:00 a.m. Session

The Saturday morning session was opened with the congregation singing "The Lily of the Valley." Rev. Curtis Byrd conducted the devotional and read from Psalm 27:1-14.

The Moderator opened the Business Session by calling for miscellaneous business. Rev. William Steele raised the question of a Maryland State missionary to begin a new mission work possibly in Delaware. He indicated that he had received an incomplete response on the questionnaires that were sent out, but he felt that we should push this project between Maryland State and the National Home Missions Department. It was then moved and seconded that we adopt the Delaware Joint Home Missions Project. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that \$1,000 be taken from the State treasury and sent to the National Home Mission Board to serve as a nest egg for the Delaware Project. Motion carried.

It was then moved and seconded that we establish a State Home Mission Board. Motion carried. This was referred to the Nominating Committee.

It was moved and seconded that the Youth Banquet be a State project rather than being handled solely by the individual conferences. Motion carried.

The following was reported from the Ministers Conference: The Ministers Cards were approved with one exception. The Ministers Conference recommended that the State approve the Ministers Reports with the exception of Rev. Paul Kirk and that he be given a letter of explanation. They also discussed approving the letters prior to the State meeting so that the Clerk would have time to make up a summary letter. In addition, they recommended that the Executive Board of the host conference serve as a Credentials

Committee and that the letters be forwarded from the Conference Clerks to prepare a summary to be sent to the State Clerk. It was moved and seconded that the recommendation be adopted. Motion carried.

Rev. Horton offered a substitute motion that the expense money normally given to the General Board Member be split between he and Bro. Steele with \$100 added to the amount. Motion seconded and carried.

Rev. Robert Shockey gave a report on the National Home Mission Department. Moved, seconded and carried to accept his report.

Moved, seconded and carried that the Business Session recess until after the Worship Service.

#### 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

The devotional was brought by Rev. Jim Hopson. Special singing was provided by the New Home Trio. Rev. John Hall, Jr. brought the message from I Peter 1: on the subject "The Church and Its Provisions."

#### 12:30 noon Session

Rev. Steele gave the following report from the Nominating Committee: Recommend that Rev. Elzo Ivan's and Bro. Eugene Wampler's terms be renewed on the Executive Board. Recommend the following persons for the State Home Mission Board, in rotational terms: Bro. Cossie Meade, Treasurer, 3 years; Bro. Silas Casteel, 3 years; Rev. William Steele, 3 years; Rev. Jim Hopson, 2 Years; Rev. Curtis Ford, 1 Year. The committee also recommended that the State Clerk/Treasurer job be separated. They recommended Bro. Gary Settle for Clerk. The committee further recommended that Rev. John Hall, Jr. serve as the next Moderator. Motions were made, seconded and carried to accept all recommendations of the Nomination Committee.

Rev. Dwite Ferguson gave the report from the Resolutions Committee. They recommend that the State Association adopt the following resolutions:

(1) We are opposed to the movies being shown on TV and do not watch them,

(2) We are opposed to legalized abortion;

(3) We are opposed to pornography;

(4) We are opposed to the Charismatic Movement in the Free Will Baptists denomination.

It was moved and seconded that these resolutions be adopted. Motion carried. Further moved and seconded that these resolutions be printed in the State Paper. Motion carried.

Report was given by the Finance Committee, with the recommendation that the State Association give each Bible College student \$50, as has been our policy in the past. Moved and seconded to accept this recommendation. Motion carried.

Delegates to the National Association were taken from among those planning to attend. Those chosen to represent the Maryland State Association were Bro. Kyle Sexton, Bro. Stanley Parnell, Sis. Sharon Hall, Sis. Lottie Horton, and Sis. Linda Mullins. It was moved and seconded that the Moderator serve as Chairman for our delegation to the National Association. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that each delegate be given \$25 to help with the expenses of their trip to the National. Motion carried.

Bro. Cossie Meade was given a standing vote of thanks for his years of service as Clerk for the Maryland State Association.

It was moved and seconded that the Maryland State Association be adjourned until June of 1975. Motion carried.



# 1974 MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION REGISTERED MINISTERS, DEACONS AND DELEGATES

Rev. Lester Horton	Bennie A. Mullins
Rev. Elzo Bevan	Amos Lane
Rev. Ray Mullins	Eugene Wampler
Rev. Jimmy Hopson	Delmar H. Miller
Rev. Curtis Byrd	Curtis Stallard
Rev. John Hall, Jr.	Theodore Dale
Rev. Herman L. Hersey	Gregory Sturgill
Rev. Daryl Long	Miss Jones
Rev. Dwite Ferguson	Wanda Addington
Rev. Houston Mullins	Patsy Poole
Rev. William Steele	Charles H. Shaffer
Rev. G. W. Meade	Marie Miller
Rev. Tommy Meade	Linda Miller
Rev. Delmas Meadows	Lorrah Skaggs
Rev. D. W. Lockee	Mrs. Ralph Weaver
Rev. Lester Robinson	Bernice Gauldin
Rev. Thurman Mullins	Steve Mullins
Rev. Don Hanna	Lillian Lockee
	Margie Mullins
Kyle Sexton	Mark Atwood
Curtis J. Ashley	George R. Salyers
James D. Moore	Cossie Meade
Robert Ghoad	Vernon F. Groves
Billy Poole	Linda Mullins
Julia Shaffer	James Rudd
Dortha Steele	Brady R. Miller
Pat Evans	Ruth Salyers
Stella Mullins	Pearl Ferguson
Donald Brooks	Judy Neal
	Stanley Parnell

MINUTES

Friday, 20 June 1975 - 10:00 a.m. Session

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**NINTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**OF THE**

**MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION**

**OF**

**FREE-WILL BAPTISTS**

**Convened**

**20 & 21 June 1975**

**At The**

**Woodland Heights Church**

**Martinsville, Virginia**

**Rev. John Hall, Jr. - Moderator**

**Gary Settle - Clerk**

**Cossie Meade - Treasurer**

**Jack Horsley - Music Director**

## MINUTES

Friday, 20 June 1975 - 10:00 a.m. Session

The Ninth Annual Session of the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists convened on Friday, 20 June 1975, at 10:00 a.m. at the Woodland Heights Church, Martinsville, Virginia. The opening hymn, "To God Be The Glory," was led by Brother Jack Horsley, Music Director. Host Pastor, Rev. Ralph Weaver, welcomed the Association to the Woodland Heights Church. Pastor Weaver led the opening prayer and introduced Rev. Jim Hopson to bring the devotional and scripture reading. Psalm 19 was the devotional text.

Pastor Weaver introduced the Moderator, Rev. John H. Jr. The Moderator took charge and called for the reading of the Conference Letters. The Clerk read the letters from the three Conferences: Northern Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, and New River. Moved and seconded that the letters be accepted as read, and the delegates and ministers were seated in the body for business. Motion carried.

The Moderator then recognized the visitors from the National Association: Rev. Rufus Coffey, Rev. Johnathon Thigpen, and Bro. Don Robirds.

Rev. Thigpen was called upon to give a report from the Church Training Service Department. He displayed the new materials now available for our youth and emphasized the National Youth Conference to be held at the National Association in Dayton, Ohio. Moved, seconded and carried to accept his report.

The 1975 Maryland State Association Program was presented. Moved, seconded and carried to adopt the program.

Brother Cossie Meade gave the Maryland State financial report. Moved and seconded that the report be accepted as read. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the Business Session be adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Worship Service began with the singing of "To The Regions Beyond." The Keynote Speaker, Rev. Elzo Bevan, took his text from Matthew 10:42 and spoke on "In No Wise Lose His Reward." Rev. Lester Horton prayed the Benediction. Host Pastor, Rev. Weaver, invited all in attendance to their Fellowship Hall for lunch.

1:30 p.m. Session

Conference resumed with special singing by a ladies group from the Woodland Heights Church. Pastor Weaver then introduced the New Jerusalem Quartet, also from Woodland Heights. The afternoon devotional and prayer were conducted by Rev. Ray Mullins, who read from Isaiah 53.

The Afternoon Business Session was then called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Hall.

Rev. Rufus Coffey presented a report from the Executive Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Moved, seconded and carried to accept Rev. Coffey's report.

Rev. Elzo Bevan gave the report on committees and recommended the following to the Conference:

Nominating Committee: Rev. Lester Horton  
Rev. Dwite Ferguson  
Rev. Roger Mullins

Camp Committee: Rev. William Steele  
Bro. Stuart Goins  
Bro. Kyle Sexton

Resolutions Committee: Rev. Reed Mullins  
Rev. Lester Robinson  
Rev. Ralph Weaver

Moved and seconded to accept the recommendation.  
Motion carried.

Moderator called for Old Business. It was



recommended to hold the report on Project Delaware until Saturday's session.

It was moved and seconded to move to New Business. Motion carried.

Rev. Lester Horton made a motion for a Constitutional change, affecting Article 3, to state: "The Clerk, Treasurer, and Secretary will be elected every two (2) years." Motion made, seconded and carried to table until Saturday's session.

Moved to make the State newspaper, "Free State Progress," subscriptionary, with a cost of \$2.00 per yearly subscription for the purpose of covering the expense of printing and distribution. Motion seconded and carried.

Moved that each Quarterly Conference include \$20.00 per member church with their State report. Purpose was to cover the expense of the State Association. Motion seconded and carried.

Moved that we adopt the practice of designating Friday's offering to the Maryland State Treasury and that an offering be received at the Youth Banquet designated for Free Will Baptist Missions, effective 1976. Motion also included that the 1975 Banquet offering go to the Delaware Project. Motion seconded. After discussion, moved to previous question. Motion seconded and carried. Previous motion defeated.

Bro. Don Robirds presented reports on the National Foreign Missions Department and the Sunday School Department.

Bro. Eugene Wampler then gave the State financial report.

Sis. Lottie Horton and Mrs. James E. Raper (Childrens Home, Greenville, Tenn.) spoke briefly on the Woman's Auxiliary. Sister Pat Mullins gave a full report.

Rev. Rufus Coffey brought the message in the afternoon worship hour. An offering was then received for

the National Office.

The Conference stood in recess until the scheduled Saturday morning session.

### Ministers Conference

All ordained ministers met for the Ministers Conference at 4:15 p.m.

### Youth Banquet

The 1975 Youth Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn Banquet Room, Martinsville, Virginia. Special singing was provided by groups from Woodland Heights, Fairwood, Oak Crest, Mt. Calvary, and other conference churches.

A special Honorary Award was presented to Rev. W. C. Childers, founder of the Maryland State Association. Rev. James K. Childers was the special speaker, and he spoke from Colossians 2:18 on the subject "Let No Man Beguile You of Your Reward."

### Saturday, 21 June 1975 - 10:00 a.m. Session

The Saturday morning session opened with the congregation singing "All Hail the Power." The morning devotional was brought by Bro. Eugene Wampler from Genesis 15, and morning prayer was led by Rev. W. C. Childers. Special music was presented by Timmy Gauldin with a piano instrumental.

The conference was called to order, and Rev. Vergel Maness gave a report on the Delaware Project.

Rev. Elzo Bevan then gave a report on the Board of Retirement and Insurance and on the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept these reports.

Motion was made to designate morning offering to Project Delaware rather than to the Children's Home,

as had been done in the past. Motion was seconded and carried.

Moved that the State Association reimburse Rev. Maness \$275.00 to cover his loss of salary. Motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. Curtis Byrd challenged the Association to increase our giving to the Delaware Project.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to remove business from the table. Motion to change Article 3 was then discussed. Change stated: "The Clerk, Treasurer, and Secretary will be elected every two (2) years." Motion was seconded and carried.

The Moderator then called on Rev. Reed Mullins to give a report on the Ministers Conference. The Ministers Conference made the following recommendations:

- (1) That the responsibility of issuing Minister's good-standing cards be given to the respective Quarterly Conference.

- (2) That the Executive Committee be enlarged to include the State Moderator, Clerk, two (2) representatives elected from each district, the chairman of each standing board, and five (5) members elected from the body at large. All boards must submit a written report to the Executive Committee for consideration before the annual State meeting. This board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday prior to the State meeting. Motions to accept these recommendations were seconded and carried, respectively.

The Finance Committee report was given by Bro. Thompson, and the following recommendations were made:

- (1) That the Conference give a love offering of \$25.00 to each Conference speaker.

- (2) That the State Association give each delegate to the National Association \$25.00 to help out with their expenses.

(3) That the State Association give \$150.00 to Rev. Lester Horton toward his expenses at the National Association as a member of the General Board.

(4) That the Saturday morning offering be matched by the State Treasury to go to Project Delaware.

(5) That the Conference appoint a Finance Committee to propose a 1976-77 Budget and to be responsible for making fund raising recommendations to local conferences.

It was moved to accept the report. Motion seconded and carried. Also moved, seconded and carried to accept recommendations 1 through 5, respectively.

Substitute motion was made to retain the present Finance Committee, adding the Finance Director and the State Treasurer, with a rotating board. Motion was seconded and carried.

The Camp Committee report was given by Rev. William Steele. The following recommendations were made:

(1) That Rev. John Hall, Jr. secure facilities for two (2) weeks of camp for 1976; a junior week and a senior week. Churches will provide the staff.

(2) That the churches provide the funds to relieve the State of the expense.

(3) That Rev. John Hall, Jr. be the State Camp Director.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept this report. Motions were then made, seconded and carried to accept recommendations 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Rev. Lester Horton, chairman of the Resolutions and Nominating Committee, then gave their report with the following recommendations:

(1) That Rev. Ray Mullins and Rev. Curtis Byrd fill the vacancies on the Executive Board.



(2) That Rev. John Hall, Jr. fill the vacancy on the Home Mission Board. Moved, seconded and carried to accept this report. Also moved, seconded and carried to accept the recommendations.

The Moderator called for a recess of the Business Session until after the Worship Service.

### 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

An offering of \$255.93 was received for the Delaware Project. Special singing was provided by singers from the New Home Church. Rev. Lonnie Graves, pastor of the Fellowship FWB Church in Durham, N.C., was the guest speaker for Saturday's Worship Service. Rev. Graves spoke from Matthew 5 and Luke 15 on "The Five Crowns."

### 12:30 noon Session

The Moderator called the business session back to order.

Rev. Reed Mullins was nominated by the Nominating Committee for the position of Moderator for 1976. The nomination was seconded and carried.

The floor was then opened for nominations for General Board Member for the National Association. Rev. Lester Horton was nominated. Motion seconded and carried.

Rev. William Steele gave a financial report on the expenses of the State meeting, which totaled \$76.76. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept report.

The body received the following report from the Resolutions Committee:

"We the Resolutions Committee do recommend to the Maryland State Association that we adopt these resolutions:

(1) We as Free Will Baptists resolve to make our churches and people more aware of our missionary

outreach and obligation to God and each other.

(2) We resolve that we will strive for the betterment of our community by a personal dedication to moral and spiritual standards that are required of a true Christian."

Motion was made to print the minutes of this conference in booklet form and to distribute in 90 days. The 1974 minutes will be included in this booklet. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion was made to grant request to hold the Maryland State Association at the Mt. Calvary FWB Church in Perryman, Maryland, in 1976. Motion seconded and carried.

It was moved that our General Board Member, Rev. Horton, be given a letter of authority to replace delegates to the National Association as a standard procedure. Motion was seconded and carried.

The floor was opened for nominations for delegates to the National Association. Nominees were: Bro. Kyle Sexton, Sis. Dortha Steele, Sis. Sharon Hall, Sis. Ralph Weaver, Sis. Lottie Horton. Motion was made, seconded and carried that nominees serve as delegates.

It was moved that the Moderator serve as chairman of the Executive Board. Motion was seconded and carried.

Motion was made to adjourn until 1976. Motion seconded and carried.

Appreciation was expressed to the Woodland Heights Church for an outstanding job as host church. The closing song was "I'll See You in the Rapture."

1975 MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED MINISTERS, DEACONS AND DELEGATES

Rev. Vergel Maness	James Moore
Rev. Curtis H. Byrd	Marie Goff
Rev. Lester Horton	Wilton Goff
Rev. Ray Mullins	William Rice
Rev. William Steele	Richard Rice
Rev. Elzo Bevan	Lottie Horton
Rev. Ralph Weaver	David Long
Rev. John Hall, Jr.	Stanley Parnell
Rev. Rufus Coffey	Clyde Settle
Rev. Jimmy Hopson	James G. Cox
Rev. Don Sturgill	Emma Goff
Rev. Roger Mullins	Chester Mull
Rev. W. C. Childers	Alvis Goins
Rev. James K. Childers	Ruth Salyers
Rev. Lester Robinson	John Hodges
Rev. Troy Hall	Stella Mullins
Rev. Lonnie Graves	Shirley Bowden
Rev. Houston Mullins	David Fecasi
Rev. Reed Mullins	Wayne Mullins
	Harold Belcher
Ernie Williams	Frances Newman
Delmas Meadows	Cossie Meade
Theadora Dale	Lillian Petty
Jennings Cole	Ruth Jackson
Kenneth Williams	Lucille Meade
Diane Deese	Helen Hamm
Linda Mullins	Bohhy Hamm
Judy Meade	Rita Ashley
Curtis Ashley	Roscoe Call
Eugene Wampler	Joyce Sexton

