



MINUTES
OF
TENTH & ELEVENTH ANNUAL
SESSIONS
OF
MARYLAND STATE
ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1976-1977

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.

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 and clerks 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

OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. Reed Mullins
Fairwood Church
6415 Ox Road
Fairfax Station, Va.

CLERK: Stanley Parnell

SECRETARY: Lillian Lockee

TREASURER: Cossie Meade

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Larry Green

NATIONAL OFFICES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Post Office Box 1088
Nashville, Tennessee 3702

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

MINUTES

Friday, June 25, 1976

9:00 a.m. Session

The Tenth Annual Session of the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists convened on Friday, June 25, 1976 at 9:00 a.m. at the Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Perryman, Maryland. The opening hymn, "The Solid Rock" was led by Brother Larry Green, Music Director. Host Pastor, Rev. Mike Hall, welcomed the Association to the Mt. Calvary Church and led in the opening prayer. Rev. Dewey Lockee brought the morning devotions. The Scripture reading was from John 8:31,32.

The Moderator, Rev. Reed Mullins, took charge and appointed Bro. L. D. Salyers as pro tem clerk, 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 carried that the letters be accepted as read and the ministers and delegates were seated for business.

The Moderator called for selection of a pro tem secretary and Steve Bevan was chosen to serve for the State Meeting.

The Moderator recognized visitor, Rev. James Earl Raper, from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greenville, Tennessee.

A Committee on Committees was appointed: William Steele as Chairman, Roger Mullins and Jennings Dotson. They were to appoint a Nominating Committee, a Camp Committee and a Resolutions Committee.

Moderator called for adopting the program for the State Meeting. It was moved and seconded that the program be adopted. An amendment to the motion was made allowing the Women's Auxiliary to have the 1:30 p.m. hour for their part instead of at 2:30 p.m. as listed on the program. The amendment was seconded and approved. The State Program was adopted with this change.

Moderator called for any old business. There was none. He then called for the Treasurer's Report. Bro. Cossie Meade, Treasurer, read the report for the of income and expenditures. There was a balance of \$550 on hand in the General Fund, and in the Delaware Mission Fund a balance of \$565.25. Motion made and carried to accept the report with the stipulation that at the next annual meeting the report be printed and distributed.

Rev. James Earl Raper from our Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greenville, Tennessee gave a report about the functioning of the Home. He expressed thanks to those who support the Home faithfully on a regular basis or on special project gifts.

Moderator called for the Executive Board Committee Report (from their meeting held Thursday evening, June 24). Bro. Reed Mullins read the report submitted by the Executive Board Committee. Moved and carried to accept report as read.

Recommendations: (1) That each standing Board, Committee and elected Official shall submit a financial report of the expenditures of the previous year and a projected budget for the coming year, no less than 30 days prior to the State Association and be submitted to the Budget Committee Chairman. This shall effect the Moderator, Clerk, Editor, Mission Board Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Board Chairman, Promotional Secretary and National General Board Member. Motion made and carried to adopt this recommendation. (2) It was recommended that we return to the non-subscription mimeographed system for our Maryland State Paper. Motion carried that we accept this recommendation. (3) Recommended that the Maryland State Paper be mailed in packets to the individual churches with the respective pastors requesting the number of copies needed. Motion carried. (4) Recommended that Rev. Vergel Maness be employed as our Maryland State Missionary to Delaware for another year according to the contract terms set for him by the Maryland State Association. Motion carried.

Moderator called for the Foreign Mission Report. Rev. Vergel Maness distributed the material sent from the Foreign Missions. Gifts from the Maryland Association for 1975 totaled \$3,769.47. Our quota was \$5,000.00. Our giving for 1976 through May has been \$1,596.92.

Bro. Maness also presented the Home Mission Report received from Rev. Roy Thomas, associate director of Free Will Baptist National Home Missions. He expressed thanks for the support given to the Delaware Project. A total of \$2,218.92 was received from Maryland State Association toward our quota of \$5,000.00

Motion made and carried that business be recessed until 1:30 p.m. for the Morning Worship Service.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Worship Service began with singing hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers". The speaker, Rev. Curtis Byrd spoke from a number of verses in Jeremiah. His text, Jeremiah 6:16. His topic was "America At the Cross Roads". Following the Invitation Song, "Just As I Am", Rev. Jennings Cole prayed the Benediction. Host Pastor, Rev. Mike Hall, invited all in attendance to the parsonage basement for a fellowship luncheon served by the host ladies.

1:30 p.m. Session

Conference reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Singing "At The Cross" led by Steve Bevan. Devotions were led by Rev. Elzo Bevan with Scripture reading from Deut. 28:1-13.

The program was turned over to the Woman's Auxiliary. A devotion was presented by Mrs. Louise Wampler on behalf of the Woman's Auxiliary. Patricia Mullins presented their state report. Following special singing by Paul Turner, an offering was taken as the congregation sang, "Glory to His Name".

Mrs. Lottie Horton, Maryland State Woman's Auxiliary President, introduced the speaker, Mrs. Cleo Pursell,

Executive Secretary of WNAC. In her report, she expressed thanks to those who had a part in the Woman's Auxiliary magazine writing and using the programs. Subscriptions have increased to some 16,500 using the magazine. Giving to missions from the Woman's Auxiliary National reached \$140,000.00 plus \$9,000.00 for student loans.

Leviticus 25:10 was Mrs. Pursell's subject - "Proclaim liberty throughout the land to the inhabitants thereof." Freedoms that are ours as Americans and freedoms that are ours as Children of God.

2:30 p.m. - Business Session

The Moderator called the business session back to order and called for a report from the Nominations Committee. The recommendations were acted upon as read. Bro. Lester Horton, Chairman, gave the report of recommendations to the conference from the Nominations Committee:

Moved and carried that Bro. Vergel Maness be Editor of the Maryland State Paper.

Moved and carried that Ralph Weaver be 1977 State Moderator.

Moved and carried that Miles Stanley Parnell be the State Clerk.

Moved and carried that Mrs. Lockee be State Secretary.

Moved and carried that Maryland State Association accept the resignation of William Steele from the position of State Promotional Secretary. The Association gave him a standing vote of thanks for his years of service.

Moved and carried that Bro. Reed Mullins be Promotional Secretary of Maryland State Association.

Moved and carried that the State Association accept the resignation of Rev. William Steele from the State Mission Board.

Moved and carried that the following be elected to the State Mission Board:

Rev. Lester Horton - 1 year term to expire 1977
Rev. Elzo Bevan - 2 year term to expire 1978
Rev. Arthur Click - 2 year term to expire 1978
Rev. Jim Hopson - 3 year term to expire 1979
Rev. Paul Turner - 3 year term to expire 1979

Moved and carried that the following be elected to the Budget Committee:

Bro. Delmer Miller - 1 year term to expire 1977
Rev. Jennings Dotson - 2 year term to expire 1978
Rev. Roger Millins - 3 year term to expire 1979

Moved and carried that Rev. Dewey Lockee replace Ralph Weaver as member of the Executive Board Committee to serve for a three year term.

Moderator called for the report from the Resolutions Committee. Rev. Curtis Byrd, chairman, read the report. Others serving on this committee were Rev. Ray Mullins and Bro. Delmer Miller.

Moved and carried that the resolutions presented by the Resolution Committee be sent back to the Committee for revision and rewording.

Moved that Article 2 of the Constitution be changed to include the clerk of each quarterly conference, with the ordained ministers, deacons and delegates for the business of the State Association. Tabled untill Saturday session.

Moved that Article 7 of the Constitution regarding starting time at 10:00 a.m. be changed to 9:00 a.m. Tabled until the Saturday Session.

Moved that the Maryland State Association hold their Annual Conference in 1977 with the Northern Virginia Quarterly Conference, Bethel Free Will Baptist Church as host church. Those dates will be June 24 & 25, 1977 with Executive meeting Thursday, June 23. Motion carried.

Report given by Rev. Vergel Maness, Home Missionary to Delaware, of God's blessings on their ministry of income and expenditures and of projected plans for a building program.

Motion carried to recess untill Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Youth Banquet

Gary Settle was Master of Ceremonies of the 1976 Youth Banquet held at Johnnie's Restaurant in North East, Maryland. Following the Scripture reading and prayer by Steve Bevan, a smorgasbord dinner was enjoyed by all those in attendance.

The Youth groups of the following churches gave a time of inspiration in song. Also, "Mr. Chips" was present with Rev. Maness. The choral groups were Fairwood Youth Choir Fairfax Station, Va.; Trinity Youth Choir, Darlington, Md.; Girl's Trio, Mt. Calvary of Perryman, Md.; Bethel Messengers, Woodbridge, Va.; and Steve and Sue Bevan and soloist, Randy Settle.

Rev. Ed Green was the special speaker on "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" from Isaiah 61:1.

Saturday, June 26, 1976

10:00 a.m. Session

The Saturday morning session opened with the congregation singing, "Rock of Ages." Morning devotions were brought by Rev. Ralph Weaver from Ecclesiastes 2:4-11.

Rev. Dale Burden from Cate Way Free Will Baptist College, Norfolk, Va. gave a report on the college ministry along with a slide presentation. He challenged us to pray and to financially assist them.

Other visitors recognized at this session were Rev. Don Hanna from Bloss Memorial, Arlington, Va. and Rev. W. C. Childers.

The Moderator called on Rev. Mike Hall to report on the Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. Our state is represented by eight students.

The Moderator gave the reports from the Executive Office, the Sunday School Department, the National Laymen's Board and Church Training Service.

A report from the Ministers' Conference held earlier at 9:00 a.m. was read by Rev. Jennings Dotson. The following suggestions were made to the Association:

1. Each Quarterly Conference to exchange preachers to invite a minister from another conference to come and preach at Quarterly Conference.
2. All reports to be limited to ten minutes.
3. All meetings to be started on time.

Moved and carried to receive this report.

Motion carried to remove for consideration business tabled at Friday session.

Item 1 - Regarding the Constitution change on Article 2, the Business of the Association is now conducted by ordained ministers, deacons and elected delegates, three from each church in the Quarterly Conferences. The change will include the clerk from each Quarterly Conference. Moved and carried that this change be adopted.

Item 2 - Constitutional change - Article 7 Association to convene on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. changed to read convene at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried to amend change to 9:00 a.m.

Item 3 - The Report from the Resolutions Committee:

- A. We, as Free Will Baptists, stand firm (against) the Government taking over control of raising our children. We, as Free Will Baptists, believe that the parents should continue to have

the right to mold the character of their children. (House Bill #2966; Senate Bill #626 Child and Family Services Act of 1975).

- B. We, as Free Will Baptists, take a firm stand (against) preachers who do not take a firm stand on the Virgin Birth of Jesus, the Shed Blood, the Death on the Cross and the Resurrection, and who do not believe the Bible to be the Inspired Word of God.
- C. We, as Free Will Baptists, take a firm stand (against) Prostitutes and Homosexuals and their having the freedom to demonstrate as they do today.
- D. We, as Free Will Baptists, take a firm stand (against) the FCC and Madelaine O'Hara and the Bill that she has before them now; some 27,000 signatures to ban Religious Programs from the radio.
- E. We, as Free Will Baptists, take a firm stand (against) any establishment having topless waitresses and nude dancers or go-go dancers.

Moved and carried to receive this report with the amendment that the report be specific and carry the aforementioned Bills before the House.

The State Finance Report from the Budget Committee was read by Rev. Jennings Dotson, committee chairman. Suggested ways for raising monies for the budget were also given.

Moved and carried to accept this report, but that next year's report be duplicated so that everyone has a copy in hand.

Motion carried that the responsibility for meeting the state financial budget be delegated back to the Quarterly Conference; each conference to have a quota on the basis of the number of churches in that conference.

Motion carried that the State Secretary send a letter of appreciation to Johnie's Restaurant for the fine job at the Youth Banquet.

Motion carried that Home Missions Treasurer be separate from the General Treasurer.

Motion carried that Emery Fortner be the Home Missions Treasurer.

Delegates to the National Association were nominated: Mrs. Alyne Maness, Mrs. Lottie Horton, Bro. Bill Brown, Mrs. Jane Brown. The General Board Member will be authorized in writing on the state report; letter to appoint the 5th delegate should someone else be able to attend the Association.

Rev. Vergel Maness was authorized to continue with the proposed building program at the Delaware Mission and to use Home Mission Funds from the National Office to move a family coming to assist with the work, the amount not to exceed \$750.00 and to be repaid into the account by designated funds.

Moved and carried that the Woman's Auxiliary's services are to be included in the State Association Program in the coming years and that their reports be included in the Annual State Minutes.

Motion made and carried that we adjourn for the Worship Service. The host pastor invited all to the parsonage basement following the service for a fellowship lunch before journeying home.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Congregation united in singing, "To God Be The Glory." Rev. W. C. Childers let in prayer. Mt. Calvary was commended for the spirit of fellowship throughout the conference.

Rev. Lester Horton spoke from John 8:31-36 - Text was "Free Indeed!"

An invitational song, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," was followed by prayer by Rev. Arthur Click. The conference was closed in benediction by Rev. William Steele.

MARYLAND STATE WOMEN'S AUXILLARY

Friday, June 25, 1976 9:00 A.M.

The Third Annual Meeting of the Maryland State Women's Auxiliary was held Friday, June 25, 1976, at the Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church, Perryman, Maryland.

We were graciously welcomed by the Mt. Calvary Auxiliary President, Mrs. Louise Wampler and in honor of our country's 200th birthday, we sang "America". Doris Robinson led in prayer and June Green gave an inspiring devotion from Galations 5:1 on "Liberty in Christ."

Our President, Mrs. Lottie Horton opened the meeting and introduced Mrs. Cleo Purcell, Executive Secretary of WNAC who was the guest speaker. She reported that WNAC now has over 8,000 members nationwide. She then answered questions from the ladies in attendance.

Doris Robinson, Mary Bevan and Louise Wampler were appointed to serve as Nominating Committee. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. We now have 120 members and our giving over the past year has exceeded \$6,000.00 with \$550.00 to Home Missions, \$570.00 to Foreign Missions, \$625.00 to Bible Colleges and \$360.00 to Children's Homes. Ways were discussed for beginning a State Treasury. It was decided that each District Auxiliary should discuss this at their next meeting - how to chanel some funds into a State Treasury. A motion was made and carried that all giving to Nashville or to Children's Homes should be made through the State Treasurer. The Nominating Committee made their recommendations and the following officers were elected to serve for the coming year: President Dortha Steele, Vice-President Judy Meade, Field Worker Lottie Horton, Assistant Field Worker Josephine Adams and Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Mullins.

Mrs. Vergel Maness thanked us for our support to the Missionary work in Delaware and reported that the church there was making good progress.

An offering of \$33.84 was taken for the Children's Home.

Forty-eight women registered, representing thirteen churches.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

MINUTES OF

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Convened June 24 & 25, 1977

at the

Bethel Free Will Baptist Church

Woodbridge, Va.

ELEVENTH

ANNUAL SESSION

Mrs. Vergal Mancos thanked us for our support to the Missionary work in Delaware and reported that the church there was making good progress.

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. Ralph Weaver
Woodhaven Road, Rt. 7
Martinsville, Va. 24112

CLERK: Mr. Stanley Parnell
1522 Maple Avenue
Perryman, Md. 21130

PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY: Rev. Reed Mullins
10705 Spruce Street
Fairfax, Va. 22030

SECRETARY: Mrs. Lillian Lockee
Rt. 3, Box 275
Franklinville, N.J. 08322

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Elzo Bevan
Bethel Church
3713 Old Davis Ford Road
Woodbridge, Virginia
Term expires: 1980

Rev. William Steele
1st FWB Church
942 Burks Hill Road
Bedford, Virginia
Term expires: 1980

Rev. Curtis Byrd
Trinity Church
Darlington, Maryland
Term Expires: 1978

Rev. Ray Mullins
Yorkshire Church
8102 E. Spruce St.
Manassas, Va.
Term expires: 1978

Rev. Dewey W. Lockee
Hope FWB Church
Willow Grove, N.J.
Term expires: 1979

MINUTES

Friday, June 24, 1977

9:00 a.m. Session

The 11th Annual Session of the Maryland State Association of Free Will Baptists convened on Friday, June 24, 1977 at 9:00 a.m. with the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, Woodbridge, Va. Session opened with congregational singing led by Steve Bevan, Music Director. Rev. Elzo Bevan, host pastor, welcomed the Association to Bethel Church. Rev. McMillen brought the morning devotions with Scripture reading Joshua 14:6-12 with the thought "Give Us This Mountain." - "Because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel."

The moderator, Rev. Ralph Weaver, then took charge and appointed Rev. Reed Mullins as clerk pro-tem, and as assistant moderator.

The Committee on committees was appointed - Bro. Steele, Bro. Meadows and Bro. Hobbs.

The moderator recognized visitors: Bro. Thigpen from the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Bro. Delmer Wood, Sunday School Department, National Office, and Rev. Dan Merkh, former missionary, now pastoring Free Will Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia.

The moderator called for the report from the General Board. The General Board of the Association had met Thursday evening and had heard the report of the Promotional Secretary, Rev. Reed Mullins; The State Paper, Rev. Vergel Maness, editor; the Treasurer's Report, Bro. Cossie Meade; and Home Missions Board Report, Rev. Lester Horton. They presented to the Association their General Board Report read by Rev. Vergel Maness. No action was taken on this report at this time. (Reports presented are at the end of these minutes.)

Letters from the Northern Virginia and Maryland-New Jersey Quarterly Conferences were presented and read. They were accepted as read, except changing the amount

sent to the Association from Maryland-New Jersey Conference from \$15 per church to \$20.00.

Letter from New River Conference mailed to Secretary, not available to be read. Delegates presented and seated in conference.

Dr. Charles Thigpen, Dean of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee gave a report of the students accomplishments, and a resume of gifts to General Fund. Gifts recorded from our state this year through April 1977 were \$275.89. Suggested quota from June 1977 - May 1978 was \$450.00. Of the 619 students enrolled at the college this year five were from our association.

Bro. Delmer Wood gave the report from the Sunday School Department: "This year marks the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the Free Will Baptist Denomination. In this anniversary year you are challenged to double your present Sunday School enrollment -- by 1980." We were encouraged to send for a bi-monthly publication SCOPE published free from this department.

Bro. Wood also gave the report of Master's Men from Lloyd Olsan, General Director of the National Layman's Board, encouraging the churches to establish a local chapter of layman Master's Men in their churches, for spiritual development of the laymen and involvement in providing tools and books for our Free Will Baptist missionaries.

Rev. Vergel Maness gave report as Maryland State Association Home Missionary - "Delaware Project." Of the persons attending services held at the school - May 1976 (attendance 35 - 40) has been a 50% change over, average attendance March 1977 - 50. Continue to uphold work in prayer. Maryland State Association churches and individuals in past year gave \$6,628.90 toward missionary support. Motion carried to adopt report as presented.

Rev. James Earl Raper from our Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Greenville, Tennessee gave a report.

Bro. Steele gave a report on the Bedford Mission Project. Address: First Free Will Baptist Church, 942 Burks Hill Road, Bedford, Virginia 24523.

Business session recessed for Worship Service, to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Billy Smith presided over the Worship Service and opened it with prayer by Rev. Jim Hopson. There was congregational singing and an offering received. Rocky Rains sang a special "See You in the Rapture." Rev. William Steele spoke from Ephesians 5:17, "Be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." His text was "Discerning the Lord's Will." The invitational hymn was "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." Rev. Curtis Byrd gave the Benediction and Thanks for the food. Host Pastor Rev. Bevan invited all to a fellowship luncheon provided by the ladies of host church.

1:30 Session

Opened with congregational singing, "He Keeps Me Singing" led by Steve Bevan. Moderator called session to order. Bro. Byrd was appointed to fill Bro. Hobbs position on Committee on Committees.

Mrs. Steele then was called upon as Woman's Auxiliary President to lead their program. After congregational singing "Sunlight" and "At the Cross" Mrs. Patricia Mullins, Secretary-Treasurer gave their annual report. (This report is filed with a report of their Morning Session with these minutes.) Their report was received as read.

Rev. Dan Merkh was called upon to present the afternoon message. His text was "Dominated by the Lord's Will"- Luke 22:42. Invitation song "I Surrender All."

Moderator continued the business session with report from Committee on Committees.

SATURDAY BUSINESS SESSION JUNE 25, 1977

9:00 A.M. Session

Session was opened with congregational singing "I want to be a Worker". Rev Jennings Dotson brought a brief devotional with text Acts 7:51-60.

Moderator, Rev. Ralph Weaver recognized visitors, Rev. Herman Hersey, Board of Retirement; John Murray for Foreign Missions Department; and Bro Hannah from Bloss Memorial FWB. Church.

Bro. Hersey presented the report from The Department of Retirement and Insurance. Many churches contribute \$25.00 each month to provide retirement benefits for their pastor or other employees.

Resolutions Committee - Roger Mullins, Chairman; Dewey Locke and Delmer Miller.

Nominating Committee - Jim Hopson, Chairman; Jim Angel, and Clyde Settle.

Miscellaneous Business - Rev. Jimmy Hopson gave his correct address - Rt. 4, Box 202, Sparta, N. Carolina 28675

Motion carried to recess until 9:00 a.m. Saturday mornin

YOUTH BANQUET

The Youth Banquet was held Fridan night at 7:30 P.M. at Botts Fire Hall, Woodbridge, Virginia. Norman Boyd led in prayer for the meal.

After a delicious meal Steve Bevans led in singing "Amazing Grace", and Eric Godfrey took over as Master of Ceremonies. Reed Mullins led in prayer.

Special music was presented by - the Trinity singers, Danny Strouth from Fairwood, the Bethel Quartet, and Charlotte Seckulick accompanied by Sue Williams from Bethel.

Rev. Dale Burdan broought the evening message with text Matthew 16:24 - Doing The Lord's Will.

Rev. Roy Thomas gave report on Home Missions. 40 couples presently serving as Home Missionaries. Maryland State Association quota - \$8,000.00.

Bro. Murray, Missionary to France, gave report for Foreign Missions Department. 99 missionaries serving in eight countries of the world. Covet prayers and support for new appointees. Maryland State yearly quota - \$7,000.00; Maryland State giving for 1976 - \$4,019.00.

Report of Budget Committee was read by Jennings Dotson. Proposed Budget from General Board was presented and Treasurer's Report. Moved and carried to adopt Budget presented by General Board. See General Board Report for recommendation of 3% support for State Budget.

Report of State Mission Board was presented by Rev. Lester Horton. (Report filed with these minutes.) Report adopted as read.

An addition to the Constitution was presented outlining the Functions of the General Board. It was moved and carried that this addition entitled "General Board" become a part of the Constitution.

The Resolutions Committee report was presented and read by Rev. Roger Mullins:

We of the Resolutions Committee

- A. Being conscious of the fact that this association has no authority to interfere with the affairs of the churches that constitute this association

And WHEREAS this association has a sincere desire for fellowship with all the churches, ministers and delegates

And WHEREAS this association exists only as the churches and ministers support it with their attendance and involvement

And WHEREAS we are aware of the tremendous potential God has given us, and accepting the challenge to further the work of Christ, and Free Will Baptist
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That we encourage all our churches to represent with a delegation at each session,
- 2 That we encourage all pastors and churches not to schedule an event or activities that would be in conflict with the established dates for this association to convene,
3. That we encourage all pastors to keep their churches informed and to promote this association's efforts through each local church,
4. That we encourage all ordained personnel (ministers and deacons) to be present at each annual meeting of this association.

B. In view of the Divine order of the Holy Scriptures, of God, Christ, man and woman, and the position of womanhood to be honored as the weaker vessel

And WHEREAS there is a nationwide movement to amend the constitution of the United States to adopt the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) which would place women on an equal basis with a man therefore violating the teaching of Scripture

And WHEREAS if this amendment is adopted it will endanger the Social Security Program for Women, also eliminating separation on the basis of sexes in Prison Institutions, Hospitals, Public Facilities, etc.

And WHEREAS if this amendment is passed Homosexuals will be permitted to marry and adopt children, therefore destroying the morals and Lifestyle of our

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Friday, June 24, 1977

The fourth annual meeting of the Maryland State Woman's Auxiliary was held June 24, 1977 at the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, Woodbridge, Virginia.

We were welcomed by Bethel's President, Gladys Hodgson, and devotions were given by Nancy Meade on Martha's Good Works vs. Mary's Worship From the Heart.

President Dortha Steele called the meeting to order and introduced our guest speaker, Mrs. Margaret Merkh, former missionary to France. Mrs. Merkh read several scriptures relating to "Knowing the Will of God for Your Life" and then told how God had moved and directed in her and her husband's life. She told how God had used them in foreign countries such as Africa and France as well as here in the United States. She touched our hearts about praying for all our missionaries.

The business session was started by appointing a Nominating Committee consisting of Mary Bevan, Laura McMillan and Gay Settle. The minutes of last year's meeting were read and approved by the body. The following delegates were recognized: Evelyn Strouth, Elizabeth Bowman, Mary Bevan, Carrie Dale, Louise Wampler, Gay Settle and Phyliss McMillan. The yearly reports were approved as read. We now have 109 active members, 9 local auxiliaries, and 3 district auxiliaries.

The following is the Financial Giving for the year:

Home Missions	\$1,031.92
Foreign Missions	606.89
Bible College	257.50
WNAC Co-Laborer Offering	188.05
Children's Home	170.00
Literature & Supplies	168.41
Local Church Activities	4,813.03
Other Special Offerings	634.98
State & Local Dues	190.00
Total	\$8,169.78

Non-cash gifts to Children's Home \$263.00

REGISTRATION ATTENDANCE

The amount in our State Treasury is \$150.00 with no expenses to date. The Treasury was just started during this year.

Mrs. Lottie Horton was elected to serve two years on the National Nominating Committee.

At the recommendation of the Nominating Committee the following officers were elected for the following year:

President - Mrs. Alynne Maness
Vice President - Mrs. Dortha Steele
Secretary-Treasurer- Mrs. Patricia Mullins
Field Worker - Mrs. Lottie Horton

The following were elected to serve as Nominating Committee for next year: Laura McMillan, Louise Wampler and Nancy Meade.

The following were asked to serve as delegates to the National Association: Josephine Adams, Phyliss McMillan, Mary Bevan, Mary Cox, and Virginia Long. Their registration fee of \$3.00 each to be paid by the State Treasury.

An offering of \$20.64 was taken, and decided that we send it to WNAC in Nashville.

Mrs. Doris Raper from the Children's Home in Greenville, Tennessee visited with us.

We were then adjourned.

Patricia Mullins
Secretary-Treasurer

REGISTERED ATTENDANCE

MINISTERS

Elzo M. Bevan
Tommy Meade
Steve Bevan
E. E. McMillen
William Steele
James Blott
Lester Horton
Delmas Meadows
Reed Mullins
Alex Sekulich
George Meade
Cecil Presley

Jimmy Hopson
Roger Mullins
Ray Mullins
Dewey Lockee
Billy A. Smith
Curtis Byrd
Dwight Ferguson
W. L. Cave
John D. Murray
Roy Thomas
Vergel A. Maness

DEACONS

Delmer Miller
Cossie Meade
Theodore Dale

Clyde Settle
Eugene Wampler
Charles Shofferd

DELEGATES

Laura A. Andrews
James A. Angel
Normie Byrd
Mrs. Dot Cave
James R. Cox
Deborah Horsley
Jean B. Jones
Thelma Kanode
Lillian V. Lockee
Stanley Parnell

Nancy L. Meade
Marie Miller
Stella Mullins
Rock (Bill) Rain
Julia Shaffer
John Sharp
Marcella Smith
Deborah J. Snow
Minnie Weaver

WMAU Co-Laborer Offering	257.50
Children's Home	188.05
Literature & Supplies	170.00
Local Church Activities	14.51
Other Special Offerings	4,813.03
State & Local Dues	634.96
Total	190.00
	\$8,169.78

Non-cash gifts to Children's Home \$263.00

VISITORS

Phyllis McMillen
Daniel J. Merkh
Margaret Merkh
Ruby Angel
Lisa Anne Boyd
Buerhetta Boyd
Alyne Maness
Charles A. Thigpen
Patricia Mullins
Carrie Dale
Ina Dotson
Carol Adams
Josephine Adams
Barbara Boyd
Muriel Dolinger
Rhonda Mullins
Houston Mullins
Delbert E. Wood
Pansy Murray

Louise Wampler
Gay Settle
James Earl Eaper
Rhonda Evans
Mrs. James Raper
Diana Turner
Doris Robinson
Tina Cave
Sandra Cave
Barbara Cave
Lois Corwin
Marie Hale
Pat Murray
John Murray
Boyd Sville
Brenda G. Settle
Sorita Presley
Elmer G. Phillips
Edith L. Phillips

REPORT TO MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION

FREE STATE PROGRESS PAPER

June 1977

The paper has been published this past year with great difficulty. The repair of the Roneo caused extra expense. However the machine is just not capable of printing an acceptable paper.

Expense Accounts:

Repair	\$ 80.95
Paper & Supplies	137.30
Postage	59.93
Checks (Bank)	3.68
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	\$281.86

Stamps on hand - 30 @ .13¢ = \$3.90

Receipts	\$330.46
Expended	381.86
	<hr/>
Balance	\$ 48.60

Vergel A. Maness, Editor
Free State Progress

Report submitted to General Board in Session June 23, 1977.

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 1, 1976 to May 1, 1977

Receipts:

Maryland State Association General Fund \$1757.95

Delaware Project 2552.39

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$4310.34

(Received in June 1977 to date) 103.80

\$4414.14

Expenditures:

Maryland State Association Expenses \$1089.77

State Paper Expenses & Repair of
Machine 419.71

National Association Expenses
(Board Member, Missionary
& Delegates) 250.00

Mission Board Expenses 40.58

National Association Fees 80.00

Bedford Mission 200.00

Treasurer & Stamps 30.00

State Meeting Expenses 69.48

Delaware Project \$2552.39

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$3642.16

RECEIPTS plus Existing Balance in May 1976 \$4948.46

Minus Expenditures 3642.16

Amount in Treasury to date \$1306.30

Report submitted to General Board in Session June 23,
1977.

GENERAL BOARD REPORT

Moderator opened meeting; Rev. Ralph Weaver
Board meeting opened by prayer by Rev. William Steele.
Motion made and carried to receive Rev. Steele to the
Board as representative from the New River Conference.

Members present:

Moderator: Rev. Ralph Weaver

Executive Board: Rev. Elzo Bevan

Members-at-Large:

Rev. William Steele, New River Conference

Rev. Vergel Maness, New Jersey-Maryland Conference

Rev. Delmar Meadows, Northern Virginia Conference

Bro. James Angel, Northern Virginia Conference

Chairman of Board: Rev. Lester Horton, State
Mission Board

1. Recommended that the 3% support be revitalized and that each conference return and implement the 3% support from each member church to be sent in quarterly. This is to be applied toward the state budget.
2. Financial Report received and recommended that \$685.00 which represents 1/3 of the undesignated income from the balance \$1306.40 be transferred to the State Home Mission Board Treasury as per minutes.
3. Received Report of State Paper and recommend to cease the publication of the State Paper and include more detailed information in the State Minutes from the Local Conferences.
4. Budget Committee Report received, revised and adopted. Separate sheet for details are submitted. Recommend the raising of General Board Member expense money to \$250.00 for National Association.
5. Maryland State Home Mission Board Report received, discussed and adopted to be presented to the Association.
6. Missionary Report received as information.
7. Motion made and carried to adjourn.

REPORT FROM THE STATE MISSION BOARD

Recommendations from the State Mission board are as follows:

1. That Bro. Maness' contract be renewed for another year. In no way should the missionary's personal salary be less than what he is presently receiving.
2. That we reevaluate the rise in hospitalization insurance and pay the full amount of \$66.75 for Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage.
3. That since the church now owns the parsonage and will be making the payments on the property through the Bond Program plus the additional \$6,000.00 indebtedness that they have assumed, that the \$300.00 per month housing allowance be cut in half, since this is approximately what Bro. Maness was paying per month on the property, leaving \$150.00 per month to cover utilities. This would become effective August 1, 1977.
5. That since \$150.00 has been deleted from the housing allowance that \$50.00 per month be added to Bro. Maness' salary effective August 1, 1977. That the church set as their first goal in assuming a portion of their pastor's support, thus relieving the utility expenses on the parsonage by September 1, 1977, at which time another \$50.00 per month will be added to Bro. Maness' salary.
6. We recommend that the \$100.00 be given toward expenses to the National association as agreed in the original contract.
7. That the project be evaluated on or about January 15, 1978 for further considerations that may be deemed feasible at that time.

8. That all parties involved recognize that we can only fulfill the above recommendations as the Lord provides the funds. Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that since this project was originally adopted by this State Association that we commit ourselves anew to the task of seeing this work successfully continue by earnest prayer and financial support from every church in our State Association.

Prayerfully submitted by the Maryland State Home Missions Board of Free Will Baptist Board Members:

Term Expires

Jim Hopson	1978
Arthur Click	1978
Paul Turner	1979
Elzo Bevan	1978
Lester Horton, Chairman	1980

MARYLAND STATE ASSOCIATION

PROPOSED BUDGET 1977-78

CONVENTION EXPENSES	\$ 195.00
GENERAL BOARD MEMBER'S NATIONAL EXPENSE	250.00
GIFTS TO NATIONAL DELEGATES (\$30.00 each)	150.00
STATE PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY	600.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	804.00
SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR HOME MISSIONARY	12,201.00
MISSION BOARD EXPENSES	400.00
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TOTAL	\$14,600.00
LESS DESIGNATED GIVING TO MISSION PROJECT	9,600.00
NET STATE BUDGET	<hr/> \$ 5,000.00

