

MO-ARK DISTRICT OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

Minutes: January 17, 2015

The meeting of the MO-ARK District of Free Will Baptists was convened at the Bailey FWB Church on Saturday, January 17, 2015.

The Moderator called for the piano player and song leader to come forward. The congregation sang page 8 "He Set Me Free", page 27 "Mansion Over the Hilltop" and page 23 "When He Reached Down His Hand For Me".

The Moderator welcomes all those that have come and asks that Bro. Johnny Holesapple Sr. to lead with an opening prayer.

The Clerk reads from Isaiah 42:16, "The I will promises of God"

The Moderator invites all visiting brothers and sisters to enjoy the conference.

The Moderator asks for the minutes of the previous meeting to be read by the Clerk. The Moderator then asked if there was any discussion regarding the reading of the minutes.

An error with the ending balance and amounts of deposits in the Treasures Report was cited, along with an error stating Koshkonong as the name of the church being thanked for hosting the September meeting. The clerk will make the corrections of the errors as noted.

Moderator asked for a motion to approve the minutes as read, with the corrections as noted.

Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes as read with corrections.

The Moderator asks for the reading of the Church letters. The Church letters were read by the Clerk as follows:

Bailey FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$50.00
Cotton Creek FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$50.00
West Plains First FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$50.00 Requested to host the May meeting
Koshkonong FWB church	sent 2 delegates and \$50.00
Lingo FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$50.00
Shiloh FWB church	sent 2 delegates and \$50.00
Mt. Zion FWB church	sent 0 delegates and \$60.00 Requested to host the May meeting
Mammoth Springs FWB church	sent 0 delegates

The Moderator asked for a motion to approve the church letters as read. Motion was made, seconded and carried to receive the church letters as read and to seat the delegates.

Delegates were seated with a word of prayer led by Bro. Stan Bunch.

Having been properly seated, the delegates may now participate in the business portion of the meeting.

Refer Church request:
None to refer.

Election of speaker for the next meeting:

The floor was open to receive nominations for a speaker at the May 16th meeting. Bro. Ronnie Blanks was nominated. Moderator gave sufficient time, and then called for a vote of the delegates for Bro. Ronnie Blanks as the speaker at the May 16th meeting. Bro. Ronnie Blanks was elected as the next speaker.

Filling of vacancies in offices and standing committees:
None

The Moderator calls for Petitionary letters and corresponding messengers:

Bro. Stan Bunch, Executive Secretary of the State Association spoke about the Panama Convention where they handed the baton over to the Panamanian church. The Panama churches are now led 100% by Panamanians. He made available copies of a letter from the state office as a handout.

He listed Co-Op totals, including those from the Mo-Ark District Association, and said he appreciates the giving to support youth camp, missions work, youth conferences and other State activities. He noted that Co-Op giving was \$28,000 above that that was expected; and that number only represents the Co-Op giving. He expressed the desire to work with church revitalization, to help experience genuine revival in the churches.

He spoke about the training and outreach to try and keep the churches solvent and keep them from closing their doors.

He commented on the numbers of new converts and baptizing's that had occurred in the Mo-ark District Association, and he also stressed that praying for souls to be brought to Christ is most important, and we should be in constant prayer for the lost. He said we need to challenge ourselves to reach out to the lost for salvation. He said *"God is building his church and wants us to be bold and be involved in building His church"*. He spoke about all the retreats and gatherings that are listed in the Gem, and about the National Association Convention coming to Kansas City. He also asked that to help the State defray the cost of hosting the National Convention, that the churches are requested to send at least \$200.

He challenged the pastors of our churches to pray and fast, stating that *"results could be amazing"*. He mentioned that the scripture says in the last days perilous times will come; *"Who would have ever thought that we would be facing the kinds of things that we do today. Persecution will come, and we need to be aware and prepare. We need to unite forces to try and come together to stay focused and strong against persecution."*

He also asked the churches to please send group pictures of the youth and various activities, so they can include them in the Gem.

Bro. Frank Webster was the next speaker, and he said that he brought prayer cards and posters to hand out. He gave a big thank you for your help in spreading the gospel, and he noted that *"We're finding more and more young folks that have never heard even the simplest stories from the Bible: Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Whale, David and Goliath etc."* He challenged pastors and laypersons to work to get the gospel message out to those who don't know about God or the Bible. He said *"You don't have to preach, just spend time in conversation about God and about the Bible."*

He commented that America is number 3 in the world for missionaries, and that united we can send more missionaries to spread the gospel to the world, and that we need to especially focus on that need. He said *"We do a good job in Missouri, but we can do better. Imagine if just 20 more churches gave to the Sho-Me plan, how much more we could do to reach others for the Lord."*

He stressed that if you have any questions for how to accomplish doing more, let us know.

Unfinished business was called for by the Moderator:

No unfinished business was noted.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Treasurer's report:

The Moderator asked for the reading of the Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2803.49 after deposits were made from the May 19, 2014 meeting. A check was written to the Missouri State Association for \$1050.00, which brought the balance to \$1753.49. On September 20, 2014, a deposit was made for \$310.00, bringing the balance to \$2063.49. On September 24, 2014 a check was written to Terri Honeycutt for \$63.05 for copies, bringing the balance to \$2000.44 as of the January meeting. Motion made, seconded and carried to receive the Treasurer's Report as given.

Setting the location of the May Meeting:

Both the West Plains First FWB church and the Mt. Zion FWB church requested to host the May meeting. A vote was taken, and the West Plains First FWB church was elected to host the May meeting to be held on Saturday the 16th at 6 p.m.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Conference had a short 10 minute recess. The dismissal prayer was led by Bro. Clifford Mitchener.

Worship Service:

The Moderator called the meeting back to order with the song leader and pianist asked to come forward. The congregation sang page 102 "Well Done My Child"

Bro. Russell Hensley preached the message from Matthew Chapter 27, verses 57-66; "Satan's Lies and their Consequences"

Announcements:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to offer a vote of thanks to the Bailey church for hosting the January 2015 meeting.

Adjournment:

The January meeting of the MO-ARK District of Free Will Baptists was adjourned in prayer led by Bro. Darrell Strain.

OFFICERS & STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darrell Strain, Phil Vance, Clifford Mitchener, Matthew Bowers, Jim Kelly, Russell Hensley, Charles D. Melton

DEACONS PRESENT:

Lonnie Linson, Dave Holman, Jim Kelly, Charles D. Melton, Junior L. Brown

MINISTERS PRESENT:

Darrell Strain, Johnny Holesapple Sr., Russell Hensley, John Holesapple

CHURCH CLERKS PRESENT:

MO-ARK DISTRICT OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

Minutes: May 16, 2015

The meeting of the MO-ARK District of Free Will Baptists was convened at the West Plains First FWB Church on Saturday, May 16, 2015.

Moderator called for the piano player and song leader to come forward. The congregation sang "He is Able to Deliver Thee", and "At the Cross" led by the song leader.

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk.

Prayer was led by Bro. Jim Walker

A Clerk led a short devotion "Motivation - It's not about Me" using 1 Corinthians 10:31 and John 12:43 as the scripture reference.

Church letters were read by the Clerk as follows:

Bailey FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$150.00
Cotton Creek FWB church	sent 2 delegates and \$100.00
Koshkonong FWB church	sent 2 delegates and \$50.00
West Plains First FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$50.00
Lingo FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$50.00. They requested to host the September meeting.
Mt. Zion FWB church	sent 2 delegates and \$60.00
Shiloh FWB church	sent 0 delegates
Mammoth Springs FWB church	sent 0 delegates

Motion was made, seconded and carried to receive the church letters as read and seat the delegates.

Delegates were seated with a word of prayer led by Bro. Jim Kelly

Having been properly seated, the delegates may now participate in the business portion of the meeting.

The Moderator asks if the conference can skip the reading of the previous meeting minutes. A Motion was made, seconded and carried to skip the reading of the previous meeting minutes.

Refer Church request:

The Moderator requested that a third representative be asked to serve on the Ordination Committee during today's conference. The Moderator then requested the Ordination Committee to be excused to review Bro. Jim Kelly for the purpose of licensing him to preach.

Election of speaker for the next meeting:

The floor was open to receive nominations for a speaker at the September 2015 meeting. Bro. Jim Kelly was nominated. Moderator gave sufficient time, and then called for a vote of the delegates for Bro Jim Kelly as the speaker at the September 19th. meeting. Bro. Jim Kelly was elected to speak at the September meeting.

Filling of vacancies in offices and standing committees: None

Moderator called for Petitionary letters and corresponding messengers.

Bro. Leroy Blankenship spoke about taking a missionary trip to Africa. He commended the First FWB church for the work they did in getting into their new building.

Bro. Blankenship had a handout "God loves the World" that is about the Free Will Baptist work in Africa, and he also said it was good to be back home at the Pleasant Ridge church where he is currently pastoring.

He stated that he would be leaving Dallas on the 27th of May to go to Africa with 6 others, fly into Johannesburg South Africa then on to Zimbabwe. While there they will be doing soul winning, and will do their best to get a church established since a pastor has already been called from South Africa for this church.

He mentioned that he had received correspondence a few days ago, and they will be going into a place where there has never been a missionary before. They understand that there will probably be a mixed response from natives due to their fear of foreigners, and he asks for prayer.

He stated that he had received invites for the past 3 years and had declined. He has now reconsidered going because the Lord impressed upon him that this was the Lords will, and if he said no again, he would be saying no to God. He knows the the Lord will bless the efforts of his servants, and the Lord will keep them safe as they go about trying to save souls. He again emphasized the need for prayer.

Unfinished business was called for my the Moderator:

No unfinished business was noted.

Committee reports:

The report from the Auditing Committee was read stating they had examined the treasurer's books and have found them without fault. Motion made, seconded and carried to receive the Auditing Committee Report as read.

The Ordaining Committee report was read stating the they had examined Bro. Jim Kelly, who has been an ordained deacon in a FWB church for many years, and have found him sound in doctrine and they recommend him for licensing for one year. Motion made, seconded and carried to receive the Ordaining Committee Report as read.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was given showing a balance of \$2000.44, after deposits totaling \$510.00 from the MO-ARK District churches at the January meeting.

This brought the total balance to \$2510.44 as of the May meeting.

With checks totaling \$610.00 from the MO-ARK District churches for this meeting, we now have a current total balance of \$3120.44.

Motion made, seconded and carried to receive the Treasurer's Report as given.

Set location of the September Meeting:

The Lingo FWB church requested to host the September 2015 District meeting.

Motion made, seconded and carried for the Lingo FWB church to host the September 2015 meeting to be held on Saturday September 19, 2015, at 6 p.m.

Election of Delegates to State Association Meeting.

Bro. Ronnie Blanks was nominated as delegate to the State Meeting to be held in June, and that he be allowed to add names of others as delegates who are in attendance at the State Meeting. Bro. Ronnie Blanks was elected as delegate to the State Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was brought to the attention of the conference that the Mammoth Springs FWB church has not been at the last 2 meetings because Bro. James Lee Reed has had medical issues. Bro. Darrell Strain said that he asked Bro. James Lee if they had closed the church because they didn't have enough attending at present to have a church. Bro. James Lee said they haven't had enough in attendance to submit a church letter and that they are not disbanding and hope to begin holding regular services again, but to please remove the Mammoth Springs FWB church from the Mo-Ark District Association list as an active ministry for now. A motion was made, seconded and carried to remove the Mammoth Springs FWB church from the Mo-Ark District Association list.

A question was asked if they could come back into the Mo-Ark Association, and it was said that they could.

It was noted that after the removal of the Mammoth Springs FWB church from the Association list, it will leave 7 active churches in the Mo-Ark District Association. It was then that the treasurer was asked to only write a check for the representation of 7 churches total in the Mo-Ark District Association, at \$150.00 each.

An observation was made by the Moderator regarding the new West Plains First FWB church building and the work that has been accomplished. The Moderator asked for a motion and second to thank the West Plains First FWB church for hosting the meeting.

The Moderator asked for nomination of a representative from Mo-Ark District Association to serve as a general board member to the state. Bro. Darrell Strain was nominated. Motion made, seconded and carried to elect Bro. Darrell Strain as a state general board member representing the Mo-Ark District Association.

Conference has a short 10 minute recess.

WORSHIP SERVICE:

Meeting resumes with congregation singing "Joy Unspeakable"

Bro. Ronnie Blanks preached the message from Matthew 27:45-46, "The Why Questions of Life - Why Me."

ADJOURNMENT:

The May meeting of the MO-ARK District of Free Will Baptists was adjourned in prayer led by Bro. Scott Cline

OFFICERS & STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darrell Strain, Matthew Bowers, Phil Vance, Scott Cline, Russell Hensley, Brad Johnson, Clifford Mitchener, Jim Kelly, Charles D. Melton

CHURCH CLERKS PRESENT:

Wanda Melton

DEACONS PRESENT:

Lonnie Linson, Dave Holman, Charles D. Melton, Jim Kelly, Junior L. Brown

MINISTERS PRESENT:

Darrell Strain, Ron Blanks, Leroy Blankenship, Russell Hensley

MO-ARK DISTRICT OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

Minutes: September 19, 2015

The meeting of the MO-ARK District of Free Will Baptists was convened at the Lingo FWB Church on Saturday, September 19, 2015.

The Clerk called the meeting to order. He asked for prayer requests and then called on Bro. Ronnie Blanks to lead in an opening prayer. The Clerk then called for the piano player and song leader to come forward.

The congregation sang "Standing on the Promises" from the hymnal, led by the song leader.

A Clerk gave a short devotion titled "Follow Me", using John 21:15-22 as the scripture reference.

The Moderator invites all visiting brothers and sisters to enjoy the conference

The Moderator asked if the minutes from the previous meeting needed to be read by the Clerk since everyone had a copy. There was no response from the body, so the Moderator ask for the minutes of the previous meeting to be read by the Clerk. After the reading, the Moderator asked if there was any discussion of the minutes. He then asked for a motion to approve the reading of the minutes. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes as read.

The Moderator asks for the reading of the Church letters. Church letters were read by the Clerk as follows:

Bailey FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$250.00
Cotton Creek FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$50.00
Koshkonong FWB church	sent 2 delegates and \$50.00
West Plains First FWB church	sent 2 delegates and \$50.00
Lingo FWB church	sent 3 delegates and \$50.00
Mt. Zion FWB church	sent 2 delegates and \$60.00
Shiloh FWB church	sent 1 delegate and \$25.00

Motion was made, seconded and carried to receive the church letters as read and seat the delegates.

Delegates were seated with a word of prayer led by Bro. Scott Cline.

Having been properly seated, the delegates may now participate in the business portion of the meeting.

Refer Church request: None to refer.

Election of speaker for the next meeting:

The floor was open to receive nominations for a speaker at the January 2016 meeting. Bro. Russell Hensley was nominated. Moderator gave sufficient time, and then called for a vote of the delegates. Bro. Russell Hensley was elected to speak at the September meeting by a vote of the body.

Filling of vacancies in offices and standing committees: no vacancies to fill.

Moderator called for Petitionary letters and corresponding messenger: no letters or messengers.

Unfinished business was called for by the Moderator: no unfinished business.

Committee reports: no committee reports.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported a beginning balance totaling \$2510.44. The Treasurer then reported that he wrote a \$1050.00 check to the State Association for dues. That resulted in a new balance of \$1460.44. After depositing the checks totaling \$610.00 from the churches at the May meeting, that brought the balance to \$2070.44. The churches gave checks totaling \$335.00 at the September meeting, along with an additional \$200.00 from the Bailey church for dues the State pays for hosting the National meeting. All the checks combined from the September meeting resulted in a total of \$535.00 from the association churches. When deposited, they will bring the account total to \$2605.44 as of the September meeting.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report as given.

Setting the location of the January 2016 Meeting:

The Cotton Creek FWB church requested to host the January 2016 District meeting. Motion made, seconded and carried for the Cotton Creek FWB church to host the next meeting to be held on Saturday, January 16, 2016, at 6 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers:

The floor was opened for nominations to fill terms that are to expire for Officers and Standing Committee members.

For the position of Moderator:

Bro. Darrell Strain was nominated, but indicated that he believed he had already reached the maximum time allowed per Articles 10 and 17 of the Standing Rules section of the Mo-Ark District Association Constitution. Bro. Ronnie Blanks was then placed in nomination for the position of Moderator, but he too indicated that he had already served the maximum time allowed by the Association Constitution. Bro. Russell Hensley was then placed in nomination for the position of Moderator, and after sufficient time, was elected by the body.

For the position of Assistant Moderator:

Bro. Darrell Strain was placed in nomination for the position of Assistant Moderator, and after sufficient time, was elected by the body.

For the position of Clerk:

Bro. Phil Vance was placed in nomination for the position of Clerk, and after sufficient time, was elected by the body.

For the position of Treasurer:

Bro. Matthew Bowers was placed in nomination for the position of Treasurer. Bro. Matthew indicated that he too had served in the position of Treasurer for the maximum time allowed per our Association Constitution. It was noted that this position had a very unique requirement in that it would require a lot of inconvenience to have to get new signatories on the Mo-Ark Association bank account every time the treasurer was changed. It was pointed out that the Executive Committee had the ability to change the various Article language in the Standing Rules section of the Mo-Ark District Association Constitution. The Moderator suggested that we table and re-visit this issue after we have elected the new Officers and Standing Committee members at this stage of the meeting. Bro. Scott Cline was then placed in nomination for the position of Treasurer, and after sufficient time, was elected by the body as Treasurer.

For position of Assistant Treasurer:

Bro. Matthew Bowers was placed in nomination for the position of Assistant Treasurer, and after sufficient time, was elected by the body as Assistant Treasurer..

For the Auditing Committee:

Bro. Brad Johnson was placed in nomination to serve on the Auditing Committee, and after sufficient time, was elected by the body, with his term to expire in 2018.

For the Executive Committee:

Bro. Charles Melton was placed in nomination to serve on the Executive Committee, and after sufficient time, was elected by the body, with his term to expire in 2020.

For the Ordaining Credential Committee:

Bro. Darrell Strain was placed in nomination to serve on the Ordaining Credential Committee, and after sufficient time, was elected by the body, with his term to expire in 2018.

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion of the matter of term limits for Officers and Standing Committee members. It was determined that the Executive Committee would be given the responsibility to draft a proposal, to be presented at the Mo-Ark District Association meeting when convened in January 2016 regarding amending the term limits as defined in Articles 10 and 17 of the Standing Rules section of the Mo-Ark District Association Constitution. During the January 2016 meeting, the duly recognized delegates from each represented church, and standing committee members present during that meeting, would consider the draft proposal addressing term limits, and reach a majority consensus to either amend, accept or reject the proposal affecting Articles 10 and 17 of the Standing Rules section of the Mo-Ark District Association Constitution.

A few members of the Executive Committee briefly met during the recess and agreed to establish a meeting time for drafting a proposal for amending Articles 10 and 17 of the Standing Rules section of the Mo-Ark District Association Constitution, to be presented for consideration at the next Mo-Ark District Association meeting in January.

The Moderator asked for a motion and a second to thank the Lingo FWB church for hosting the September meeting.

The Moderator also gave a brief summary of what he observed as a general board member during the State Association meeting.

Conference has a short 10 minute recess.

WORSHIP SERVICE:

Meeting resumes with congregation singing "What A Day That Will Be"

Bro. Jim Kelly preached the message from Luke 14:16-24.

ADJOURNMENT:

The September 2015 meeting of the Mo-Ark District of Free Will Baptists was adjourned in prayer led by Bro. Willie Beal.

OFFICERS & STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darrell Strain, Matthew Bowers, Phil Vance, Scott Cline, Russell Hensley, Jim Kelly, Charles D. Melton

CHURCH CLERKS PRESENT:

Wanda Melton
Brendia Newman
Betty Kernodle

DEACONS PRESENT:

Lonnie Linson, Charles D. Melton, Jim Kelly, Junior L. Brown

MINISTERS PRESENT:

Darrell Strain, Ron Blanks, Russell Hensley