

MINUTES

Of The

Free Will Baptist New Hope Association

HELD WITH
MT. BETHEL CHURCH
ROSE BUD
SEPTEMBER 18, 1954

The next annual session will be held with the First Free Will Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas, September 17, 1955.

OFFICERS

Eld. Curtis Lee Lybarger, Rose Bud ----- Moderator
Eld. Homer Parker, Little Rock ----- Ass't. Moderator
Sidney Sawrie, Greenbrier ----- Clerk

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eld. Jesse E. Pratt, Rose Bud; Eld. Homer Parker, Little Rock; Eld. R. G. Lane, Conway; Eld. Lonnie Coffman, Searcy; Eld. R. E. Pruett, Searcy.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1954 ARKANSAS NEW HOPE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

The ministers, deacons, associational clerk and delegates of that part of God's family known as Free Will Baptist met with Mount Bethel Church at Rose Bud, Arkansas, in regular annual session, September 18, 1954.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was opened with congregational singing, prayer by Bro. W. F. Pritchett, and Bro. R. G. Lane reading Philippians 3:13 as a scripture lesson.

Letters from the different local churches were received, read, and their ministers, deacons, delegates, and associational clerk were seated in conference in the usual manner.

GREENBRIER--Delegates: Sister Margret McGeehee; Sister Shirley Sawrie; Bro. Leonard Dempsey.

MT. CARMEL--Delegates: Sister Linnie Sellers; Sister Nancy Barnes; Sister Ada Dickson.

LIBERTY HILL--Delegates: Donald Gray; Clumbus Johnson; Delbert Bostic.

SEARCY--Delegates: Sister Cordie Pruett; Sister Dorothy Cohorn; Sister Thelma Pettus.

FRIENDSHIP--Delegates: Sister Nellie Hartsfield; Sister Maxine Dixon; Sister Maude Allen.

CENTER POINT #2--Delegates: Sister Nora Bishop; Sister A. D. Furgerson; Sister Bessie Phipps.

BETHEL--Delegates: Mrs. Massie Clay; Mrs. Melba Moss; Mrs. Chlois Covington.

SODA VALLEY--Delegates: Bro. Haze Roberts; Sister Letha Roberts; Sister Lottie Jo Woodrome.

NEW HEART--Delegates: Bro. Clifford Gill; Sister Deno Gill; Sister Bernice Thacker.

MT. BETHEL--Delegates: Sister Pauline Wilson; Sister Marrie Turner; Sister Wanda Fay Wortham.

CENTER POINT #1--Delegates: Sister Eula Jean James; Sister Betty Vaughan; Sister Elsie Balentine.

NORTH LITTLE ROCK--Delegates: Sister Mona Hinds; Bro. James Clark; Sister Rachell Parker.

CONWAY--Delegates: Bro. Clifford Sawrie; Bro. Billy Nichols; Sister Ollie Lane.

The Association further organized by the electing of the following officers:

Eld. Curtis Lee Lybarger - Moderator; Eld. Homer Parker - Ass't Moderator; Sidney Sawrie - Clerk.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Business--Rev. R. E. Pruett; Sister Cotton; Rev. Pritchett.

Sunday School--Sister A. D. Furgerson; Sister Ollie Lane; Bro. Clifford Sawrie.

Resolution--Bro. Lonnie Coffman; Sister Wilson; Sister Hinds.

Obituary--Rev. R. G. Lane; Sister Erie Dempsey; Sister Shirley Sawrie.

11:00 O'CLOCK SERVICE

Song service in charge of Sidney Sawrie. Quartet, by the Sawrie family, "Some one to care". Memorial Sermon by Eld. Lonnie Coffman. Scripture lesson John 5:4. Benediction was given by Eld. J. H. Hartsel.

NOON

A delicious meal was served at the church.

Invocation by Eld. Walter Baker.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Assembled with song "Where he leads me I'll follow" conducted by Bro. L. F. Sawrie.

Prayer by W. F. Pritchett.

Reading of Rules of Order by Ass't Moderator.

Moderator declared the Association open for any business that may come before it.

Motion carried that ordination of deacon certificate be given to Bro. Amos Cohorn, also to the deacons who have not received their certificates.

Motion carried that the district Association make a plea through the State Association for financial help from the National Home Mission Board for the First Free Will Baptist Church of North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The EXAMINING COUNCIL FOR ORDINATION: R. G. Lane, Jesse E. Pratt, Lonnie Coffman, R. E. Pruett, Homer Parker, We your Executive Board wish to submit the following report. We have examined Bro. Lawson for ordination for deacon and find him sound in the faith and recommend him for ordination.

Bro. Robert Lawson was ordained as deacon.

Motion carried that each church of this Association shall send \$4.00 for her support.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Executive Board--Annual report of the Executive Board of the New Hope Association. We your Executive Board report that we have organized three (3) new churches and have licenced and later ordained Bro. Pritchett. Also we have ordained fourteen (14) deacons and licenced Bro. Marrion Pettus to preach the gospel.

We were called upon to act as a board of orbitration at the First Free Will Baptist Church at Searcy, the board approved the action of the church. (?)

We remain at your service ever ready to do that which we believe to be right in the sight of God.

Sunday School--We find in our 13 churches membership of 840 and a average attendance of 557.

Of our 13 sunday schools we find that all but one use Free Will Baptist literature.

We would ask that every sunday school use our literature as much as possible.

Obituary--Those departed from our midst since our last Yearly Association: Bro. Claud Norton, Bro. Austin Jones, Sister Edna Selvage.

RESOLUTIONS 1954

No. 1--Be it resolved that we have a minute printed of the New Hope Associational meeting including the Constitution, By Laws and resolutions that have been passed in the Association.

No. 2--We ask that our yearly officials be elected at the end of each setting and hold through the next meeting.

Resolution of thanks--Be it resolved that we the Resolution Committee wish to thank the people of the Mt. Bethel Church and surrounding community for the hospitality shown us while in this community and that we pray God's blessings on the entire community.

Mrs. Ethel Wilson, Mrs. Hines, Rev. Coffman.

Delegates were appointed for the State Association. Those appointed were: Sister Ethel Wilson, Sister Marrie Turner, Sister Coffman, Sister Furgerson, Bro. Clifford Sawrie.

The Moderator declared nominations in order for home of next Association. The First Free Will Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas was selected to meet in 1955. Eld. W. F. Pritchett to preach the memorial sermon at the 11:00 o'clock hour and Eld. R. C. Pruett as alternate.

Bro. Lonnie Coffman was elected as contact man for the New Hope Association.

Motion carried to adjourn the business session until next yearly meeting.

Devotional conducted by Sister Wilson.

Benediction was given by Eld. R. G. Lane.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.

2. Association called to order by Moderator, in his absence, the Assistant Moderator, or Clerk.

3. Letters from the churches of this Association called for, read and messengers invited to seats.

4. Right hand of fellowship.

5. Call for letters from newly organized churches.

6. Corresponding Associations.

7. Election of permanent officers.

8. Reading Rules of Order and minutes of last Association by the chair or Clerk.

9. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Resolution; (b) Finance; (c) Divine Service; (d) Temperance; (e) Sabbath Schools; (f) Obituary; (g) Non-represented and Union of Churches.

10. Report of Committees appointed at last Association and other unfinished business.

11. Report of new committees.

12. New business.

13. Adjournment.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experiences we, the Churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and a communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, we therefore propose to keep orders and rules of our Association, according to the following plan or form of government:

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our Union, and each church is entitled to three messengers. All ordained ministers, deacons, yearly meeting clerk of our faith and order in the bounds of the New Hope Association shall be members, when present.

2. Letters from the different churches shall be prepared, read to and approved by each church conference assembled, signed by the Moderator and clerk before presentation to the Association. Also to express their number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letter, recommendation or restoration, dismissed, excluded, and that have died since the last Association. Also the amount paid the pastor.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, to be denominated the New Hope Association of Free Will Baptist, being composed of the churches of parts of White, Faulkner, Cleburne, and Pulaski counties, The Association to have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power over churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

4. The Association shall have a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

5. New churches may be admitted into the Association by letter or by delegates, if found to be orthodox in the faith of the Free Will Baptists, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the member making it.

7. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of this Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being made at the discretion of the Association.

8. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the Minutes, and that we pay our Clerk \$5.00 for his services, and urge that the Minutes be printed and mailed within 60 days after the Association, and that we urge each minister furnish a written report of his year's work, and especially those having care of churches.

9. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

10. The Association shall have a fund for her support, which shall be supplied by voluntary contributions of \$4.00 from each of the different churches, whose duty it shall be to send it by the hands of the messengers, which money sent shall be deposited in the hands of the treasurer for that purpose, and he shall be accountable to the Association for all money received by him until paid out as they may direct.

11. The Association, in case of failure of any church to attend may inquire into the cause.

12. It is the duty of the Association to see after the union of the churches.

13. It is the sense of this Association that ministers are received and dismissed by letter as other members, except when they go to other denominations; in which case a council of ministers should be called to advise respecting the action contemplated.

14. This Association shall maintain a committee of five, to be elected by this body, which shall be known as the Executive Board for Ordination.

Those who are to be ordained:

(1) Must have preached for one year in the bounds of this Association.

(2) Must be set apart, and have the endorsement for ordination by the church of which they are a member.

(3) Must have the endorsement of the ordaining council, or a majority vote of a legally called meeting of the council.

(4) Lack of endorsement by either of the above authorities will hold up any ordination.

(5) No one can serve on the committee unless he fully believes in this plan of this work.

(6) This committee shall report to this body, while in session, the misconduct or disregard of any rule, ordinance, set forth and practiced by the New Hope Association, and said party shall be dealt with accordingly.

15. Be it resolved that all licenced or ordained ministers be required to be active in the ministry for the Free Will Baptist in our Association, health permitting, and if any minister neglects the ministry for a period of one year it will be considered sufficient reason to discipline them.

16. Amendments to this plan of government may be made at any time when a majority may deem it necessary.

ARKANSAS NEW HOPE ASSOCIATION ARTICLES OF FAITH

(Reported by Committee and Adopted by Convention)
(See Report of Committee)

1. GOD--We believe in one true and living Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine essence, Purpose, Power and Glory. St. John 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 John 5:7; St John 10:30.

2. CHRIST--We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine son of God. With the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to his earth. Took upon himself the form of humanity, sin accepted, by being born to the Virgin Mary, manifested his power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's new tomb, arose from the dead the third day, completing the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with his disciples, publicly ascended

up to heaven, and that he will descend again to gather his jewels home. Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Math. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-41.

3. HOLY SPIRIT--We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages and especially since the ascension of the Son back to the Father, and its coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up its office work among all nations of people as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide. Judges 6:34; 11-29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Eph. 4:30; Acts 8:17-20.

4. THE BIBLE--We believe the Bible which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments was given by Inspiration of God, is our waybill from earth to heaven, and only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Peter 1:19-21; II Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. THE FALL OF MAN--We believe that God created Man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed, with promises of reward for faithfulness and with penalties and punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of Souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of God, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave to them the hope of salvation through the coming CHRIST. Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:16-17; Rom 11:11-35; Psalms 37:23-24; Rom. 5:18.

6. REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION--We believe that Jesus Christ by his birth, death, burial and resurrection and ascension, paid the purchase price of the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come to Him upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above. Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; St. John 3:16; Isa. 45:22.

7. CONDITION OF SALVATION--We believe that all persons dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any act upon their part; that persons coming of the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ. John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; II Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. SALVATION FREE--We believe that God desires the salvation of all; Christ died for all; the gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whomsoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the gospel. I Peter 1:9-13, 25; 2:9-24-25; Rev. 22:17.

9. BAPTISM--We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, in which is represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin and only those who have come under the presbytery of elders are qualified to administer the same. Matt. 3:14-15-16; I Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Math. 28:19.

10. COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING-- We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet are ordinances of the gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate his broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of him till he comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming. Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-18; Matt. 26:27, 28, 29.

11. THE SABBATH--We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted. Exodus 20:11; Exodus 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. CALL TO THE MINISTRY--We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in his goodness and power of grace, impresses His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise their native gifts according to the scriptures with a full reliance upon Him; He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to his purpose. Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matt. 28:19

13. THE INVISIBLE CHURCH--We believe that the Invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous able to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people. Ephes. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; I Peter 2:5; Ephes. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18.

14. THE VISIBLE CHURCH--We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the gospel: II Thes. 1:1; Acts 16:5; Third John 1:10, Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:4-11-20.

15. PERSEVERANCE--We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in Hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from his hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide and if persistently continued, would be eternally lost. Second Cor. 9:10; Second Peter 1:4-8; I Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy: Second Peter 1:8-9; First Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; First John 5:16; Heb. 6:16; First Tim 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32.

16. CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH--We believe that Christ is the great head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body. Col. 1:18-19; Matt. 16-18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Ephes. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. SANCTIFICATION--Sanctification is a work of God's grace by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration. The Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 6:11; II Thes. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil 3:21; Sec. Thes. 5:19-23; St John 17:17-19; Sec. Tim. 2:20-21.

18. THE SOUL--The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into conscious state of happiness or misery according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

19. THE RESURRECTION--We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of righteous and wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be reunited, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment Matt. 28:6; St. John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:51-58.

JUDGEMENT--We believe that there will be a general, universal judgement, when all men shall be judged according to their works whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment and the righteous into eternal happiness. II Thes. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Acts 17:31

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded with a prayer.
2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided.
3. All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be shut off at any time by a majority of the members of the Association.
4. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.
5. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the Minutes, unless so ordered at the time.
6. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the body.
7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.
8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.
9. Arrangements shall be made so as to insure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto in addition to the business session each day, and the Moderator announce at the adjournment of each business session who is to have charge of said service.
10. Altercations may be made in these rules at any regular meeting of the Association.

MINISTER'S DIARY

Curtis Lee Lybarger,	-----	Rosebud
R. E. Pruett,	-----	Searcy
Jesse E. Pratt,	-----	Rosebud
J. H. Hartsell,	-----	Romance
John Pate,	-----	Vilonia
W. B. Maddock,	-----	Searcy
Lonnie Coffman,	-----	Searcy
R. G. Lane,	-----	Conway
W. F. Pritchett,	-----	Conway
Ed Hall,	-----	Greenbrier
J. M. Holleman,	-----	Rosebud
Jack Barnard,	-----	Vilonia
A. L. Mote,	-----	Beebe
Homer Parker,	-----	Little Rock