



Minutes

New Hope Association Free Will Baptists

1976

NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

**First Free Will Baptist Church
Searcy, Arkansas
July 24, 1976**

M I N U T E S
OF THE
NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF
Free Will Baptists
OF
New Hope Association

CONVENED WITH THE
First Free Will Baptist Church
Searcy, Arkansas
July 24, 1976

The next regular session will convene with Center Point Free Will Baptist Church at Vilonia, Arkansas, July 23, 1977.

1 9 7 7 O F F I C E R S

Moderator

Rev. Howard Hensley Searcy, Arkansas

Assistant Moderator

Rev. Sidney Sawrie Vilonia, Arkansas

Clerk - Treasurer

Alene Coffman 113 Highland Drive, Searcy, Arkansas

Assistant Clerk - Treasurer

Betty Dixon Rose Bud, Arkansas

PROCEEDINGS

The 1976 annual session of the New Hope Association of the Free Will Baptists met with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Searcy, July 24, 1976.

Opened with singing hymn, "In the Old Time Way," led by James Sawrie, with Shirley Sawrie as the pianist.

The meeting was called to order by the clerk, Alene Coffman.

The moderator, Rev. Sidney Sawrie, read Scripture from Phil. 2:1-7 and gave an admonition to be in one mind and one accord in the Spirit of Christ. Rev. Lawnie Coffman led in prayer.

The church letters were read and the delegates seated as the congregation sang the hymn, "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms." Committee members were appointed by the moderator. Business committee: Rev. Chester Weir, Rev. James Turner, Gearld Hall. Obituary committee: Russell Palmer, Juanita King, Modean Johnston.

Rev. Charles Harris, Home Missionary to the state of Colorado, spoke briefly on the need of Free Will Baptist Churches being established in this state. Rev. Harris read Scripture from Psalms 68:11.

WORSHIP SERVICE — 11:00 A. M.

The worship service opened with salutes and pledges to the United States flag and the Christian flag, in keeping with the Bicentennial of our nation. Rev. Lawnie Coffman led in this service. The Star Spangled Banner was sung by Jannie Hannah. Rev. Howard Hensley presented a certificate of appreciation to Rev. Jesse Pratt, a senior minister, for his faithfulness for 41 years preaching the gospel of Christ. The memorial message by Rev. Howard Hensley in memory of those who deceased in the past year. He took his text from Exodus 16:6-7, 10, "to die and to live." Rev. Roy Wilson led in prayer.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Session opened with singing hymn, "I Am Resolved."

Rev. John Parks led in prayer. Devotions were given by Rev. Roy Wilson. He read scripture from Exodus 17:8-11.

A motion was carried to receive the executive board's report with the recommendations.

A motion was carried to receive the business committee's report with recommendations. A committee was elected to propose a plan to create more interest in the district meetings. Those elected were as follows: Rev. Howard Hensley, Debbie Burlison, Arlis Dickens. A motion was carried to receive the resignation of Rev. Raymond Patrick on the executive board. The host church was

given a rising vote of thanks for the noon meal and the Christian hospitality. Rev. Mike Mize and Rev. Howard Hensley were elected to serve on the executive board. Mildred Sowell gave a report on the District Woman's Auxiliary work. A motion was carried to print the report of the District Woman's Auxiliary in the minutes.

Rev. Roy Wilson was elected to speak at next session; R. H. McCuin, alternate. Rev. Lawnie Coffman presented a request for help from our black Free Will Baptists in Brinkley, Ark. A vote was carried to accept them into the New Hope Association if requested.

The five delegates selected to represent this association at the state convention were as follows: Margie Teague, Waymon Pearson, Lonnie Barr, James Holleman, and Velma Holleman.

A motion was carried to take funds out of the quarterly meeting treasury if needed to print the annual minutes.

A motion was carried to receive an offering for the black Free Will Baptist Church in Brinkley, Ark. Rev. Jesse Pratt spoke briefly to thank the association for the certificate of honor given to him in this session. The Center Point Church at Vilonia will host the next session in 1977. An offering of \$84.47 was received for the Brinkley church. Benediction by Russell Palmer.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORT

Executive Board

We recommend that Rev. Roy Wilson be received into our association pending a letter of recommendation from his association.

We recommend that Rev. Dwight Christian be received into our association pending a letter from his association.

We have revoked the credentials of Pinkney Rutherford at the White County Courthouse as requested by the association.

Business Committee

Be it resolved that this body appoint a committee to propose ways to increase the interest of the churches in this association to attend the district meetings.

That the host church be given a rising vote of thanks for the noon meal and kind hospitality.

Obituary Committee

We find that six have been called from our presence to their reward: Arch Hare, Sidney Wortham, Penny Fortson, Roy Forbes, Cecil Porter, Mrs. Erman Castleberry.

Quarterly Meeting Report

The first quarterly meeting for 1976 met with the Greenbrier church in Greenbrier January 24, 1976. There were 12 churches

represented. Monies received for representation fees with letters, \$1,112.30. Paid out cooperative plan \$731.28. Paid \$50.00 to the Christian Workers Institute. Clerk's fee and expense \$42.68.

The second quarterly meeting convened with the Mt. Bethel church in Rose Bud April 24, 1976. There were 13 churches represented. Monies received with letters, \$798.51. Paid out Cooperative Plan \$588.38. Hillsdale Bible College \$100.00. Clerk's fee and expense \$27.81.

The third quarterly meeting will be held at Soda Valley church October 23, 1976.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY REPORT

The New Hope District Woman's Auxiliary meets quarterly on Friday night before the second Sunday in January, April, July, October. The purpose of the Woman's Auxiliary is to help the Christian woman find her place of service in the great commission. The district has six local auxiliaries enlisted. The annual meeting was held at the Greenbrier church July 9, 1976. New officers were elected as follows: President, Mildred Sowell; Vice President, Alene Coffman; Secretary, Judy Pearson; Treasurer, Bessie Gray; Field Worker, Shirley Sawrie; Mission Prayer chairman, Charlene Hensley; Mission Study chairman, Audry Cotton; Mission Action chairman, Earie Dempsey. Rev. Sidney Sawrie was the speaker on the theme, "Fruits of the Spirit." The next meeting will be held at the Eighteenth Street church in North Little Rock, October 8, 1976.

Churches	Delegates	Representation
Friendship	Ann Smith, Blanch Summer, Jayne Hannah	\$ 32.00
Greenbrier	Marilyn Wilson, Agnes Graham, Juanita King	32.00
Mt. Carmel	Terry Paintin, Lois Paintin, Loyce Teague	32.00
Soda Valley	Pat Hall, Betty Edgmon, Mildred Turney	32.00
Center Point	Lorene Fowlkes, Helen Mize, Pat Mize	32.00
Liberty Hill	Shirley Turner, Nelda English	32.00
Bethel	Artie Lawson, Donnie Harmon	32.00
New Heart	Russell Palmer, Dwade Hall, Patti Graham	32.00
Mt. Bethel	Lucy Barr, Dena Gill, Lonnie Barr	32.00
Sharon	Vada Parks, Pauline Arnett, Debbie Arnett	32.00
Searcy, First	Jim Holleman, Velma Holleman, Paulene Wilson	32.00
South Heights	Modene Johnston, Juanita Lovell, Mae Rhodes	32.00
18th Street, N. L.R.	Susan Dickens, Dwight Christian	32.00
		<hr/>
		FEES \$416.00

FINANCIAL REPORT

South Heights Cooperative	\$ 257.70
Mt. Carmel Cooperative	167.28
Eighteenth Street Cooperative	138.00
Foreign Missions	147.97
Offering	84.47
Refund Institute	21.65
Representation Fees	416.00
<hr/>	
	1,233.07
Balance Brought Forward	94.55
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$1,327.62

Expenditures

State Fees	\$ 275.00
Arkansas Free Will Baptist	581.20
Brinkley Free Will Baptist Church	84.47
Clerk's Fee	30.00
Printing Minutes	164.80
Postage	3.86
Executive Board Filing Fee	2.00
<hr/>	
BALANCE IN TREASURY	\$186.29

—ALENE COFFMAN, Clerk-Treasurer

CHURCHES	Total Expenditures	Paid Pastor	Building and Repair	Foreign Missions	Home Missions	Value of Church Property	Value of Parsonage Property	Total Spent For All Outside Causes
South Heights	\$16,478.39	\$6,270.00	\$	\$2,149.84	\$ 187.55	\$ 50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$3,108.45
Searcy, First	35,665.00	8,320.00	6,182.00	719.00	175.00	103,500.00	23,500.00	3,934.00
Center Point	25,653.60	7,150.00	6,894.37	880.00	2,644.35	80,000.00	18,000.00	6,012.23
Greenbrier	12,945.93	4,835.00	3,730.10	524.08		32,000.00	20,000.00	1,645.64
Mt. Bethel	9,864.00	6,110.00	1,402.00			35,000.00	15,000.00	9,864.00
Soda Valley	4,738.29	2,080.00	12.98			30,000.00		355.00
18th Street, N. L. R.	1,404.08	1,025.00		134.97		35,000.00		379.08
Sharon	4,030.63	2,600.00	60.65	120.00		7,500.00		333.79
Liberty Hill						1,300.00	3,000.00	
Bethel	1,548.56	480.00	399.91		57.00	5,000.00		107.00
Friendship	9,976.00	3,177.00	600.00	372.00		30,000.00		1,114.00
Mt. Carmel	3,874.98	1,080.00	650.00	420.00		40,000.00		1,474.98
New Hart	5,495.83	1,865.00	2,551.00			9,000.00	16,000.00	554.83

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	Membership	Members Received	Ordained Ministers	Deacons	Sun. School	Sun. School Enrollment	C. T. S.	C. T. S. Enrollment	Woman's Auxiliary	Auxiliary Membership	Mid-Week Service	Master's Men
South Heights	Lawnie Coffman	Bessie Gray	164	12	2	4	1	105	1	40	1	14	1	
Searcy, First	Howard Hensley	Judy Pearson	98	13	1	3	1	115	1	65	1	11	1	1
Center Point	Sidney Sawrie	Mildred Sowell	156	10	1	4	1	118	1	78	1	23	1	
Greenbrier	Roy Wilson	Cloedean Scrogin	92	9	6	6	1	60	1	30	1	12	1	
Mt. Bethel	R. H. McCuin	Iva Turner	129	10	2	5	1	75	1	45	1	10		1
Soda Valley	Curtis Lybarger	Lottie Woodrum	78	3		5	1	58						
18th Street, N. L. R.	Patrick Dickens	Betty Schlattman	70	2	3	3	1	31	1		1	8	1	
Sharon	John Parks	Brenda Atkinson	46		1	4	1	30					1	
Liberty Hill	Donald Turner	Beatrice Carter	85	12	2	2	1	50						
Bethel	Donald Starkey	Regenia Moss	41	1		3	1	38						
Friendship	Mike Mize	Janice Burlison	75	20	2	7	1	85	1	48				
Mt. Carmel	Chester Weir	Helen Barnes	64		1	5	1	75	1	40				
New Heart	Faber Hall	Ann Palmer	77	4	2	3	1	58	1	38			1	

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE NEW HOPE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

PREAMBLE: From long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist Churches of this district, having been baptized by immersion upon profession of our faith in Christ, as Saviour and Lord, and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among our churches, do, for the purpose of coordinating our efforts for the extension of the Kingdom of God, ordain this Constitution and its affixed By-laws for the betterment of our Association.

ARTICLE I

Name: This organization shall be called the New Hope Association of Free Will Baptists, affiliated with the State Association of Free Will Baptists of Arkansas.

ARTICLE II

Purpose: The purpose of this body shall be to unify the work of the churches composing said body in extending the Kingdom of God on earth.

ARTICLE III — COMPOSITION AND REPRESENTATION

Section 1. The members of this body shall be all ordained ministers, deacons, church clerks and elected delegates who are in good standing with their respective churches.

Section 2. Each church shall be allowed to represent with three (3) elected delegates. A letter from each church will accompany said delegates. If only part of the elected delegates of a church are present, those present may fill vacancies with other members of their church who are present. Any delegation not having a letter from their church shall be allowed to prepare a letter and present it to the body for its approval.

Section 3. Churches desiring membership in our Association must come with recommendation from the Association to which they have held membership. New Churches, when properly organized, shall be accepted by majority vote of the body providing they have complied with requirements of this Association.

Section 4. Ministers and deacons coming from another body must be examined and meet the requirements of our Association.

ARTICLE IV

Discipline: See the National Treatise, Practices Division, chapter three (3), all parts listed there. This body believes in and practices congregational government.

ARTICLE V

Finance: This Association shall be financed by offerings and twelve dollars (\$12.00) from each church belonging to said Association, in addition to what is required by the State Association for entertaining and minutes.

ARTICLE VI

Officers: The officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer to be elected annually.

ARTICLE VII — BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. This body shall have an Executive Board as its only standing board. This board will help coordinate the work of the association and investigate any irregularity in the churches belonging to the body.

Section 2. Any committee needed shall be elected by the body.

ARTICLE VIII — ORDINATION

Section 1. Ministers who have been licensed for one year, and deacons who have been approved by their local church are sent to the conference by the church for examination before being ordained.

Section 2. Ministers to be licensed or ordained and deacons to be ordained shall have the privilege of being ordained in their local church, by a presbytery of their choice, said presbytery shall be members of the New Hope Association.

Section 3. No prospective minister, deacon or those already ordained coming from the churches of this body or other states, associations, or denominations, who has more than one living wife shall be ordained or approved by this board.

ARTICLE IX

Meeting: This Association shall meet annually on Saturday before the last Sunday in July at the place elected by the body.

ARTICLE X

Rules for Conducting Business: The rules set forth in the State minutes and proper parliamentary procedure shall be used.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments: This constitution may be amended or altered by a majority vote of members voting at any regular session of the body provided said amendments or alterations have been presented in writing at the last regular session of this body.

BY-LAWS

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference and if a quorum is present the moderator, or in his absence the assistant moderator, shall take charge, and if neither of them is present the senior minister in years of service shall act as moderator.

2. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any one board, committee, or office, provided the person nominated be elected.

3. A majority of all votes cast on any subject or discussion shall be final.

4. The officers of this body shall be nominated from the floor.

5. A permanent file shall be kept by the clerk of all past minutes and this file shall be passed on to each succeeding clerk henceforth. The clerk shall be paid thirty dollars (\$30.00) for his or her services.

6. This body requests that all churches of this body require their pastors to be a member of the church he serves unless he pastors in two (2) associations or two (2) different churches. However, he can only hold membership in one church and one Association.

7. The speaker for the Memorial Service shall be elected during the regular business session of the Association.

8. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of the body by a majority (51%) of the members present who vote.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages and to provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scripture, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to

"grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the spirit" in the bonds of peace. To be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

Rev. Lawnie Coffman	113 Highland, Searcy
Rev. Jessie Pratt	Rose Bud
Rev. Donald Starkey	Rose Bud
Rev. Roy Wilson	Greenbrier
Rev. Sidney Sawrie	Vilonia
Rev. Chester Weir	2313 Linda Lane, Jacksonville
Rev. Curtis Lybarger	Greenbrier
Rev. R. H. McCuin	Rose Bud
Rev. Faber Hall	Rose Bud
Rev. John Parks	Morrilton
Rev. Norman Richards	Mission Protestante, B. P. 20, Bouna Republique de Cote D'Lvoire, Afrique
Rev. Mike Mize	Route 2, Greenbrier
Rev. R. E. Pruitt	Route 4, Searcy
Rev. Silveston Gwatney	Conway
Rev. Roger Bomar	Rose Bud
Rev. Howard Hensley	Route 2, Searcy
James Donald Turner	Rose Bud

STANDING BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Executive Board

Rev. R. H. McCuin	1980
Rev. Sidney Sawrie	1979
Rev. Howard Hensley	1978
Rev. Faber Hall	1977
Rev. Mike Mize	1976

Executive Committee Woman's Auxiliary

Mildred Sowell	1976
Alene Coffman	1976
Judy Pearson	1976
Bessie Gray	1976
Shirley Sawrie	1976
Audrey Cotton	1976
Charlene Hensley	1976
Earie Dempsey	1976