

Do d f

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
NORTHWEST BRAZOS ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

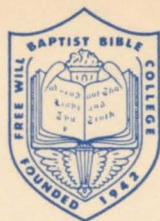
Convened With
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Of
VERNON, TEXAS
August 29 - 31, 1950

Will convene with the Memphis Church on Tuesday before the First Sunday in September, 1951.

o ————— o

MODERATOR Rev. H. H. HASTON
ASSISTANT REV. M. T. HOLLEY
CLERK SIS. WILLIE BELL NALL
ASSISTANT SIS. EUNICE HASTON

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM—MONETT, MO.



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. Damon Dodd

PREFACE

Long live the 41st Annual Session of the Northwest Brazos Association. The fellowship and harmony was truly great.

On looking back over the past year, and considering our mistakes and successes I hope this year will be a greater year for our Lord.

I will say to each member of the association that time and tide waits for no one. We only have one hour; God has eternity.

We have the greatest opportunity that we have ever had, and with opportunity comes responsibility. Let us work while it is called day, for the night cometh when no man can work.

Your humble servant,

Rev. H. H. Haston

: : — — — — : : — — — — : :

PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, August 29th

Moderator called Association to order. Moved and seconded we go into business of Association. Moderator read 12th chapter of Romans. Prayer by Rev. M. T. Holley.

Moderator called for reading of church letters. The following churches responded: Vernon, Crowell, Memphis, Salt Creek. Letters accepted and delegates seated. Hand of fellowship extended to delegates and ministers. Prayer by Rev. C. J. Turrentine.

Report of Memphis Church:

Delegates—Sis. T. H. Gilchrest, Sis. Gladys Jones, Sis. Dorothy Ward.

Members	21
Value of church property	\$1,200.00
Paid pastor	198.59
Evangelistic work	57.00
Building repairs	132.91
Utilities	20.00

Sub. pastor	42.76
Orphan's Home	78.74
Literature	12.00
Incidentals	13.00
Foreign Mission itinerary	3.00

Report of Vernon Church:

Delegates—Bro. W. O. Kennedy, Bro. Eugene Fox, Sis. Lula Cocks.

Members active	77
Paid pastor	\$321.35
Minutes	8.00
Evangelist	164.50
Orphan's Home	92.65
Foreign Missions	25.00
Building repairs	161.21
Advertisement for revival	31.90
Publication	22.94
Miscellaneous	86.47
Janitor	33.50
Expense for delegates at Crowell	5.00
Total expense	953.06
Total income	895.90

Report of Crowell Church:

Delegates—Sis. Pauline Wheeler, Sis. Jim Polk, Sis. Pearl Beesinger, Sis. Roland Beesinger.

Members	70
Evangelistic work	\$ 31.00
Value of church property	3,000.00
Paid pastor	578.96
Paid on church	525.00
Other expenses	110.00
Janitor	48.00
Foreign missions	19.17
Orphan's Home	12.25
Gas and lights	26.00

Rules of order read by Moderator. Motion carried that we receive Rev. and Mrs. C. J. Turnetine of Fort Worth, Texas to sit in council with us.

Motion carried that we give Moderator power to appoint committees.

Committees:

Pulpit—Sis. Polk, Sis. Ward, Bro. W. O. Kennedy.

Temperance—Sis. Gladys Jones, Rowland Beesinger,
Rev. Heber Johnson.

Resolution—Bros. W. O. Kennedy, E. J. Ward, Rev.
M. L. Holley, Rev. W. W. Winters

Sunday School—Sis. Dorthy Ward, Sis. Pauline
Wheeler, Rev. Rufus Nall.

Obituary—Sis. Mae Haston, Lula Cocks, Pearl Bee-
singer, Bro. Eugene Fox.

Finance—Bro. Estes, Rev. M. L. Holly, Rev. Heber
Johnson.

Time for morning service set at 10:00 o'clock. Rev.
W. W. Winters preached opening sermon. Romans 1:1.

Pulpit committee reported that Rev. C. J. Turrentine
of Fort Worth bring message on Wednesday morning.
Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Rufus Nall.

Wednesday. August 30th

Services started with song by class and prayer by
Rev. Heber Johnson. Moderator read scripture devotional
91st Psalm.

Minutes of last Quarterly Meeting read and approved.

Good Creek Church read and accepted. The same
committee, Rev. H. H. Haston and Rev. Rufus Nall, will
finish work of Good Creek Church which is abandoned.

Orphan's Home needs discussed. Rev. Rufus Nall plans
to go to Home on the 2nd Tuesday night of Sept., 1950.

Pulpit Committee reported that Rev. Rufus Nall
would bring the ordination sermon. The Ordaining Com-
mittee being Rev. Haston, Rev. Holley, Rev. Rufus Nall.

Rev. C. J. Turrentine advised that each family of the
association subscribe for the Free Will Baptist Gem. Ad-
vised each church to have a reporter, and the preachers,
especially Rev. Holley and Rev. Haston, have a sermon
published.

Motion carried that business adjourn for service. Time
set for afternoon service at 1:30.

Rev. C. J. Turrentine brought a very inspiring mes-
sage from 9th chapter of Matthew. He dedicated his
sermon to Rev. A. J. Edmondson, founder of the Vernon

Church. Dismissed for lunch hour in prayer by Rev. M. T. Holley.

Wednesday Afternoon

Services started with song, "I'll Fly Away," and paryer by Rev. Rex. Weatherman.

Moderator read scripture reading, Hebrews 12:1, 2.

Motion carried that we receive Rev. Rex Weatherman to sit with us in council.

Reports of the committees called for, read and accepted.

Temperance Report:

We, the Temperance Committee, resolve to be temperate in all things, especially worldly things, alcohol and sinful amusements.

{ Rev. Heber Johnson
Sis. Roland Beesinger
Sis. Gladys Jones

Obituary Report:

We, the Obituary Committee, are sad to report that we have one death in our association. Sis. Kitty Read Polk of the Crowell church. Our loss is heavens gain.

{ Sis. Pearl Beesinger
Sis. Mae Haston
Bro. Eugene Fox

Sunday School Report:

We, the Sunday School committee, report that we have a membership of 135, and a regular attendance with good interest shown each Sunday.

{ Sis. Pauline Wheeler
Sis. Dorothy Ward
Rev. Rufus Nall

Resolution Report:

We, your resolution committee, resolve the following:

No. 1—We resolve that this association render thanks to the good people of Vernon for their hospitality, and their brotherly and sisterly kindness.

No. 2—We resolve that this association take up the

question of a building fund to be handled by a committee elected by the association.

No. 3—We resolve that this association elect a home missionary, and that he will have the support of the association.

{ Rev. M. L. Holley
{ Rev. E. J. Ward
{ Rev. W. O. Kennedy

Motion carried that the expired executive committee member be elected. Motion carried that Rev. H. H. Haston be elected. The executive committee being Rev. M. L. Holley, Rev. H. H. Haston, Bro. J. B. Estes.

Motion carried that the association print 100 minutes. Motion carried that the Free Will Baptist Gem do our printing. Motion carried that Rev. H. H. Haston, Rev. Rufus Nall, and Willie B. Nall be our printing committee.

Motion carried that we adjourn business for the afternoon message. Song by class. Prayer by Sis. Edith Ward. Rev. Nall brought the message, scripture text Luke 12th chapter.

After the message Moderator ask Rev. Rex Weatherman to bring talk about Orphans Home. Time set for night service 7:45. Dismissed by prayer by Rev. M. L. Holley.

Wednesday Night

Service started by song by class and prayer by Bro. J. B. Estes.

Bro. Rex Weatherman showed some interesting pictures of the children of the Home and what they were doing.

Song and prayer by Bro. Owen Washburn. Rev. H. H. Haston brought Ordination message. Scripture being 10th chapter Hebrews and 6th chapter of Acts. The presbytery ordained Bro. E. J. Ward to the office of deacon of the Memphis Church, by laying on of hands and prayer.

Special collection took up for Orphan's Home.

Pulpit committee report that Rev. M. L. Holley bring morning service.

Dismissed by Rev. Rufus Nall.

Thursday Morning August 31st

Service started by song and prayer by Bro. W. D. Haston.

Moderator read opening scriptuer, 13th chapter of Matthew.

Article III of constitution read and explained by Moderator.

Motion carried that Sis. Eunice Haston and Sis. Willie B. Nall be the state delegates.

Motion carried that business adjourn for service. Rev. M. L. Holley brought morning service. Dismissed by Sis. Lamb.

Thursday Afternoon

Services started by song and prayer by Bro. J. B. Estes.

Motion carried that Rev. H. H. Haston, Rev. W. W. Winters, Rev. Rufus Nall be the building fund committee. Rev. Haston, chairman, Rev. Winters, Treasurer.

Motion carried that Rev. M. L. Holley be our home missionary and to have the support of the association.

Motion carried that the next Quarterly Meeting be at Memphis, Friday night before 5th Sunday in October.

Motion carried that the next Yearly Meeting be at Memphis.

Motion carried that Rev. H. H. Haston be our Yearly Moderator. Motion carried that Willie B. Nall be Yearly Clerk.

Motion carried that Gerldine Ward, Stinnett, Texas, Box 92 be our Yearly Treasurer.

Motion carried that Rev. Rufus Nall be next Quarterly Moderator.

Bro. J. B. Estes brought evening devotional. Motion carried that committees be released.

Motion carried that business adjourn until our next meeting.

Ordained Ministers of the Association: Rev. T. P. Curley, 1229 East First St., Tulsa, Okla.; Rev. Mrs. J. B. Estes, Memphis, Texas; Rev. H. H. Haston, Route 2, Paducah, Texas; Rev. M. L. Holley, New Deal, Texas; Rev. W. W. Winters, Vernon, Texas; Rev. Heber Johnson, Route 2, Vernon, Texas; Rev. Rufus Nall, Gen. Del. Benjamin, Texas; Rev. Clark Brown, Crowell, Texas;

Licensed Ministers: Rev. Owen Washburn, Crowell, Texas; Rev. John Rogers, Big Springs, Texas; Rev. W. D. Haston, Chalk, Texas.

Ordained Deacons: Bro. J. W. Golden, Crowell, Texas; Bro. J. R. Webster, Crowell, Texas; Bro. Andy Hinkce, Crowell, Texas; Bro. J. B. Estes, Memphis, Texas; Bro. E. J. Ward, Box 92, Stinnett, Texas.

RULES OF ORDER

1. Every session shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

3. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

4. When a motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be separated by vote on request of any member.

5. Motion lost shall not be recorded.

6. No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without leave of the Moderator.

7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

8. No one shall leave the association without permission of the Moderator.

9. Arrangements shall be made for two or more sermons each day of the Association, or other equivalent services.

10. The Rules of Order shall be read by the Moderator immediately after the organization of the Association.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these are equal in Divine Essence, Power and Glory. Rom. 1:20; John 1:1.

2. We believe that Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the written and revealed Word of God and infallible rules of faith and practice. II Tim. 3:16, 17.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy; but that he voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of

God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall of Adam, and that man is not able to save himself; but we see Jesus, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory that He, by the Grace of God, tasted death for every man. Matt. 1:21; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His burial and resurrection, purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon the condition of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore He saith: "Look upon Me and be saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else." Matt. 4:17; Isa. 45:22; Acts 20:21; Acts 17:30.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3; Rom. 5:1-13.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved by the merits of the Son of God. Jonah 4:11; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:10.

7. We believe that all Christians persevere in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life, for blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the Tree of Life and enter in through the gates of the city. Rev. 22:14.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the Apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children and bid us walk therein. John 2:22; Matt. 3:16; Rom. 6:2-5; Matt. 28:15-20.

9. We believe that God, in His goodness, displays His powers of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teachings of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of His blessed word to go forth and preach life and salvation. He bids us freely to come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own rejection and sinful refusal to come. I Cor. 12:3; Eph. 3:8; Rev. 22:17; Isa. 55:1.

10. Sec. 1. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints' feet to be Gospel ordinances. John 13:4,5.

Section 2. We believe the keeping of the Lord's Day holy and abstaining from worldly lust and carnal cares, and the assembling ourselves together is an ornament which prepares and beautifies the Soldiers of the Cross to march on in the army of the Lord. Matt. 26:28.

11. We believe that none have a right to baptism only those who have living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have a right to administer the ordinances only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the Presbytery of Elders; and each church ought to have a pastor, deacons and clerk chosen by the church, and continue the same in office during the good pleasure of the same; and in dealing with disorderly members reference should be made to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other Scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous. Tit. 1:5; Acts 14:23; II Cor. 6:6.

12. We believe it to be the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and it is the duty of the pastor when setting forth the Lord's Supper and washing the Saint's feet to invite all Christians. Heb. 10:26; I Cor. 11:27, 28.

13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, of both just and unjust—the resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God. The unjust to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. II Thess. 1:4-11; Rev. 20:10 and 11:12; John 19:26.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of expiience, we, the Church 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 union and communion amongst us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, and we do hereby adopt this Constitution for our church government.

1. The Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the different churches in our union and not exceeding four from each church, and, on producing letter, shall be entitled to seat.

2. Letters from the different churches shall express their number of members, number received by experience,

letter of recommendation, dismissed, excluded, restored, and those who have died since our last Association.

3. The members thus chosen to be denominated the Northwest Brazos Association of Free Will Baptists.

4. This body shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor have ecclesiastical power over churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly. However, the Association shall have the power, for good cause, to revoke the license or credentials of any minister, licensed or ordained by any church within its jurisdiction, and to exclude the delegates from its session when they, or church, become disorderly or fail to keep good report.

5. The Association to have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, chosen by vote of members present.

6. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which shall petition by letter and delegates, and if, upon examination, they be found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the body extending the hand of fellowship.

7. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has first been discussed in its own church.

8. Every oral motion, seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the members who made it.

9. The Clerk shall assign each church its quota of minutes.

10. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book kept for that purpose.

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

12. No amendment shall be made to this Constitution without first being adopted by three-fourths of the churches in the Association.

13. The Presbytery is composed of all the ordained authorities in the Association. Any three members of the Presbytery may ordain a minister to preach the Gospel.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, through Jesus Christ, and adopted the foregoing practice as our confession of faith we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God and agree to the following Church Covenant:

1. We solemnly covenant before God that we will strive, by His assisting grace, to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice. We covenant and agree as members of the church and as Christians to watch over each other in love for the mutual upbuilding of the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace, to be careful of each others reputation, to confess our faults one to another, to strengthen the feeble and kindly admonish the erring, and to labor together for the upbuilding of the church, the denomination and the salvation of sinners.

2. We promise that we will faithfully and constantly maintain family prayer and religiously instruct those under our care.

3. We covenant and agree to use our influence to sustain the regular public worship of God, contributing according to our ability and circumstances for the support of the ministry and other church expenses among us that we will be benevolent to the needy, and especially to the poor of the church.

4. We promise that as far as we shall be able we will attend upon public worship and the social meetings of the church and regularly report ourselves at monthly conferences, and that we will walk in all the ordinances of the Lord's House.

5. And we covenant and agree that we will abstain from all vain amusements and simple conformities to the world, that we will not traffic in the use, nor furnish to others, intoxicating beverages, and that we will sustain the benevolent enterprises of our denomination as missions, education, Sabbath schools, moral reform, and all others that tend to the glory of God and the welfare of men. And may the God of Peace sanctify us Holy, preserve us blameless until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ that we may join the glorified around the throne of God in escribing blessings, honor, glory and power to Him that sitteth on the throne and the lamb, forever. Amen.

