

MINUTES

OF THE

GRAND RIVER FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

(Third, Fourth and Fifth Sessions)

When Held At
NEW HOGAN CHURCH

June 13 and 14, 1950

PEGGS CHURCH
September 12 and 13, 1950

LOWERY CHURCH
December 12 and 13, 1950

Calendar of sessions for 1951 will be found in
the Minutes of the Lowery Conference.

OFFICERS

Eld. Virgil Florence Chairman
Eld. Carl Hembree Ass't Chairman
Eld. Ed S. Sunday Clerk
Eld. Walter Dobbs Ass't Clerk

MEMBERS 22

Minutes of Ministers Conference when convened at the Peggs Freewill Baptist church, September 12 and 13, 1950, 4th Session.

TUESDAY EVENING

September 12, 1950

Notes were taken on the evening services. A good service was enjoyed by everyone present.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

September 13, 1950—A. M.

With the chairman in charge the service was opened by singing "I'll Live On," in Favorite Songs and Hymns. Prayer by Brother T. E. Deardeuff. Song "Some Day." Scripture reading, 1 Cor. 12: 18th chapter. Prayer by Brother Virgil Florence. Motion and second to grant chairman power to appoint assistant chairman, pro-tem. Motion carried. Motion and second to receive letters of recommendation for Bro. Jake Gage, Bro. J. J. Keys, Bro. T. E. Deardeuff and Bro. C. A. Headrick and place their names on the roll. Motion carried. Motion and second to seat the deacons and give them a right to vote in this conference. Motion carried.

Motion and second to give chairman and assistant chairman to appoint devotional committee. Motion and carried. The devotional committee appointed were: Bro. Orville Rice, Bro. C. R. Dobbs and Bro. John Cotner. Motion and second to elect officers for the coming year. Motion carried.

Nominations were declared in order. Bro. Virgil Florence was nominated for chairman. Motion and second that nominations cease, and proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried. Bro. Florence is elected chairman. Bro. Carl Hembree was elected assistant chairman by acclamation. Bro. Ed S. Sunday was elected clerk by acclamation. Bro. Walter Dobbs was elected assistant by acclamation. Devotional committee report that Bro. Bill Ketchum and Bro. Jake Gage will bring the message at the

11 o'clock service. Motion and second to grant chairman and assistant chairman power to appoint resolutions committee. Motion carried. The committee appointed: Bro Deardeuff, Bro. Keys and Bro. Gage.

11 O'CLOCK SERVICE

This was a good service and the spirit was manifested in marvelous way. Evaryone enjoyed the service. Dismissed by prayer.

NOON RECESS

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

1:30 P.M.

Conference was called in session by singing "Just look for me at the Gate," and "Be a Light." Scripture reading, 1 Pet. 5:15 by Bro. Boswell. Nomination in order for credential committee.

Bro. Boswell, Bro. Riddle and Bro. Ketchum were nominated. Motion and second cease and proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried. Motion and second to adopt resolution number 1 for discussion.

Resolution: Is it scriptural for any one to be ordained or officiate in a church as a preacher or deacon who has more than one living companion? Author—Carl Hembree. This was an interesting discussion. Motion and second to pass resolution. Motion carried. Motion and second to adopt resolution number 2 for discussion. Motion carried.

Resolution: That we discuss Romans 6:3-4. Author—Dixon Gurley. This, too, was a very interesting discussion. Motion and second to close discussion. Motion carried. Motion and second to discuss resolution number 3. This resolution corresponded to resolution number 1. A motion and second was made to table resolution number 3 to the next ministers conference. Motion carried. The next conference will be at the Lowery Freewill Baptist church, December 12 and 13, 1950.

Bro. Eugene Riddle and Bro. Dixon Gurley were elected to bring the introductory message.

Motion and second to adjourn. Motion carried. Dismissed by prayer.

MINUTES OF MINISTERS CONFERENCE

when convened with the New Hogan Freewill Baptist church. 3rd Session.

JUNE 13, 1950

Tuesday Evening, 7:30 p. m.

No notes were taken of this evening's service; but a good service was reported.

JUNE 14, 1950

Wednesday Morning, 10:30 a. m.

Services began by singing songs number 70 and 71 in World Wide Songs, with Sis. Eugene Riddle at the piano. Scripture reading. Isa. 64:1-4, followed with prayer by Bro. Virgil Florence. Song number 154. Short talks were made by members of the conference and then were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Harris Gurley.

11:00 A. M. SERVICE

Bro. Ed Sunday and Bro. Bob Howard were to bring the introductory message. Bro. Howard was not present and Bro. Eugene Riddle followed Bro. Sunday in bringing the message. Closed with song, "We'll Work 'till Jesus Comes." Prayer by Bro. Oren Estes.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

1:15 P. M.

The chairman in charge, afternoon services began with opening song number 64. Scripture reading and prayer by Bro. Dixon Gurley. Conference called to order. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The Constitution and by-laws were read.

Motion made and seconded to seat the deacons in this conference. Carried.

Call for new business. Letter of recommendation for Bro. Paul Griggs to join this

conference was read and accepted by motion and second. Bro. Griggs' name added to minister's roll.

Motion and second to accept letter of recommendation, in this conference, that Bro. Eugene Riddle to be examined for the ministry. Carried. Examining committee were: Bro. Virgil Florence, Bro. Albert Boswell and Bro. Ed Sunday. The examining committee found Bro. Eugene Riddle to be orthodox in the Faith, Doctrine and Practice of the Freewill Baptists, and recommended him worthy for ordination. Report accepted by motion and second.

Nearing the close of this conference, an invitation was extended by Bro. Dixon Gurley that next conference go to Peggs. A motion and second was made that our next conference would meet at Peggs, Oklahoma, September 12 and 13, 1951.

Bro. Virgil Florence and Bro. Dixon Gurley were elected to bring the introductory message.

Conference adjourned.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

7:30 P. M.

No notes were taken of this service, clerk being absent, but a wonderful service was reported and the spirit was manifested in marvelous ways.

MINUTES OF MINISTERS CONFERENCE

When convened at Lowery Freewill Baptist church December 12 and 13, 1950. 5th Session.

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 12

7:30 P.M.

The evening service began with singing led by Bro. Cleveland. Bro. Jake Gage took charge of services. Prayer by Bro. Eugene Riddle. Song service continued. Prayer by Bro. E. B. Condit. Bro. Bill Ketchum delivered the message. The Spirit of God wonderfully blessed—one soul was saved. The congregation gave him the hand of

Christian fellowship. Bro. Gage closed the service with thanks to God.

WEDNESDAY, MORNING, DECEMBER 13

Services were called together by singing led by Bro. Bill Ketchum. Prayer by Bro. Luther Jones. Bro. Carl Hembree, the assistant chairman took charge. Scripture reading 1 Pet. 5:1-4. The clerk and assistant clerk being absent, Bro. E. B. Condit was elected clerk pro-tem. Rules of order were read by Bro. Hembree.

Members present were: Bro. Bill Ketchum, Bro. Albert Boswell, Bro. Eugene Riddle, Bro. Carl Hembree, Bro. Dixon Gurley, Bro. Jake Gage and Bro. E. B. Condit. Visiting minister present was Bro. Luther Jones, and visiting deacons present were: Bro. Adrian Condit, Bro. W. C. Condit and Bro. Don Jones.

Motion and second was made to seat visiting brethren in conference. Motion carried. The right hand of fellowship was given them by the assistant chairman.

A motion and second was made to give Bro. Gage vote and voice in this conference. (Bro. Gage's letter is in the clerk's files, but he has no card). Motion carried.

Motion and second was made to grant the chairman power to appoint the committees as needed during the conference. Motion carried. The devotional committee appointed were: Bro. W. C. Condit, Bro. Don Jones and Bro. Duncan. The resolutions committee appointed were: Bro. Bill Ketchum, Bro. Albert Boswell and Bro. Dixon Gurley.

Motion and second to adjourn until 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.

11 O'CLOCK SERVICE

Singing was led by Bro. Gage. Prayer by Bro. Boswell. Bro. Hembree then turned the service to Bro. Gene Riddle after the song "Heaven" was sung.

Bro. Eugene Riddle used for his Scripture

reading Ephesians 3rd chapter. A wonderful message was heard and enjoyed by all present. Bro. Dixon Gurley continued the service. The same wonderful service prevailed with the power of God manifested in glorious way. Service closed with song, hand-shake and prayer.

Report of devotional committee. Bro. Albert Boswell and Bro. Luther Jones were selected the afternoon message. Bro. Jake Gage and Bro. E. B. Condit to bring the evening message.

— R E C E S S —

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

1:30 P. M.

Service began with singing. Devotional reading, 2 Cor. 6th chapter, by Bro. Gage. Prayer by W. C. Condit. Motion and second to enter into conference. Motion carried. Devotional committee report was given again for the benefit of the congregation. A talk was given by the chairman on our minutes of the seriousness and the responsibility of we ministers.

Motion and second was made that our next Ministers Conference go to Haskell, March 13 and 14, 1951. Motion carried.

Motion and second was made that Bro. Gage and Bro. Hembree preach the introductory message at the next conference. Motion carried. Motion and second made that we place the next three conferences in order and insert the action in the minutes. Motion carried. The order of conferences for 1951 is as follows:

1. Haskell church, March 13 and 14, 1951.
2. Archer church, June 12 and 13, 1951.
3. Shahau church, September 11 and 12, 1951
4. Little Rock church, Dec. 11 and 12, 1951.

All motions regarding the foregoing information were made in proper order.

A motion and second was made to discuss resolution by Bro. Don Jones. Motion carried.

Resolution number 1: "Be it resolved that this ministers conference discuss smoking in the house of God, and what does the Scripture

teach concerning it." Bro. Don Jones opened the discussion and in ensuing talks made by different ministers the general opinion rendered is against smoking in the house of God. Motion, and second made to close discussion. Motion carried.

Resolution number II: Author, Bro. Gurley. "Be it resolved that we discuss Matt. 13:26-30. "Was Christ referring to the Spiritual Church?" Motion and second was made that this resolution be tabled until next session. Motion carried.

Motion and second made to adjourn conference. Motion carried.

The afternoon preaching service began with special singing. Bro. Boswell used 1 Cor. 3rd chapter for his scripture reading. Prayer by Bro. Gage. Text for sermon: "Build on a Solid Rock, which is Christ Jesus." A great service was enjoyed and the presence of God was felt. A song was sung and an old-time hand shake followed the wonderful sermon. There was much rejoicing in this service. Closed with prayer of thanks to God.

This ministers conference has been a blessing to all present.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE

7:30 P. M.

Congregation called together by singing. Prayer by Bro. Dixon Gurley. The evening message was brought by Bro. E. B. Condit and Bro. Jake Gage. This was a good service and a good crowd was present.

MINISTERS ROLL

1. Eld. Virgil Florence 1170 N. Birmingham
Place Tulsa, Okla.
2. Eld. Jake Gage Pryor, Okla.
3. Eld. Eugene Riddle Haskell, Okla.
4. Eld. Al Reynolds Bixby, Okla.
5. Eld. Virgil Reynolds Bixby, Okla.
6. Eld. Carl Hembree Cushing, Okla.
7. Eld. Walter Dobbs Rt. 1, Mounds, Okla.

8. Eld. R. J. Howard Mounds, Okla.
9. Eld. T. E. Deardeuff Peggs, Okla.
10. Eld. Ed. S. Sunday Box 313, Bixby, Okla.
11. Eld. Albert L. Boswell, Rt. 1, Locust Grove,
Okla.
12. Eld. Joe Eddings Pryor, Okla.
13. Eld. Bill Ketchum Rt. 1, Coweta, Okla.
14. Eld. E. B. Condit Rt. 1, Salina, Okla.
15. Eld. Ancil Mashburn Coweta, Okla.
16. Eld. Harve Mashburn Haskell, Okla.
17. Eld. Jess D. Stepp Box 266, Haskell, Okla.
18. Eld. Dixon Gurley110 S. Orphan, Pryor,
Okla.
19. Eld. Elmo Able Broken Arrow, Okla.
20. Eld. Paul Griggs Pryor, Okla.
21. Eld. C. A. Headrick Peggs, Okla.
22. Eld. J. J. Keys Peggs, Okla.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1

This conference shall be called the Ministers Conference of the Grand River Association of Free Will Baptist. It shall be composed of Ministers of the Grand River Association who are in good standing with their respective Churches.

ARTICLE 2

Officers of this Conference shall be composed of a chairman, Assistant Chairman, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, who shall be elected annually at the last session of each calendar year.

ARTICLE 3

This Conference reserves the right to discipline its membership. All members of this conference should carry credentials of identification endorsed by the Chairman and Clerk.

ARTICLE 4

This Conference shall meet quarterly. Place and date to be designated by the body in session.

ARTICLE 5

This Constitution may be amended at any regular session by a two-third majority vote of members present.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

It shall be the duty of the clerk of this conference to ascertain if a quorum is present. If a quorum is present the clerk, or assistant clerk, or if neither is present the senior minister shall then take charge. If neither are present the senior minister shall moderate until the arrival of the presiding officers.

ARTICLE II

Ministers wishing to become members of this conference shall present themselves with letters of recommendation from their respective church of which they are a member, which shall be accepted by this body, after which the clerk shall enroll them.

ARTICLE III

At each session the ministers of the conference shall present themselves with proper evidence of their right to seats therein. In case of questionable representation the case under question shall be referred to a credential committee.

ARTICLE IV

This conference shall have the power at any sitting, by motion and second, and vote of two-thirds majority of members present, to seat our deacon brethren, of the Grand River Association, and give them a right to vote.

ARTICLE V

Those who wish to speak in this conference shall obtain the floor by first addressing the chair as brother chairman. No one shall be allowed to proceed further until properly recognized by the chairman. (Chairman shall respond by repeating the name of the speaker; if the speaker's name is unknown, he may reply in the following manner: "proceed," "continue," or "you are at liberty.")

ARTICLE VI

Subject matter in all motions must be clearly stated before discussions are allowed to proceed.

Motions containing two or more points shall be divided at the request of any member present.

ARTICLE VII

When any member of this conference becomes heretical or corrupt in doctrine or practice; this conference, on being appraised of the fact, according the First Timothy, Chapter Five, and Verse Nineteen: (Against an elder receive not an accusation but before two or three witnesses). Investigates the matter and after suitable labor and gospel steps have been taken, if unsuccessful, withdraws fellowship, and reports same to his respective church. (Tim. 6-3,4,5.)

ARTICLE VIII

Each conference shall be opened by reading a portion of God's word and prayer, and each session shall be closed with prayer.

ARTICLE IX

By two-thirds vote of the members present a ruling of the chairman may be overruled.

ARTICLE X

This conference shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee as a whole.

ARTICLE XI

No member shall absent himself from the conference during its meetings without permission from the chairman.

ARTICLE XII

All items of business shall be brought before the body by motion and second.

(Subjects For Discussion)

All questions presented to this conference for discussion must first pass through the Resolution committee and must refer to subjects as set forth in Free Will Baptist treaties. (Page 50, section 2.)

ARTICLE XIII

This conference shall elect ministers to bring the introductory message on Wednesday at the 11:00 o'clock service.

COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and being called and chosen to the Ministry, we give ourselves to one another, by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by the grace of God to love and support our brother minister to the advancement of the Gospel and the Glory of God.

We will not be partakers of any sinful amusement, neither shall we conduct ourselves in any manner at any time that will bring reproach on the ministry or hinder God's cause.

We agree to faithfully discharge our obligations and duties, to study to show ourselves approved, unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

We are willing by self denial, to promote the Gospel, and by faith, endeavor to "Grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We agree to reprove with meekness and to watch over one another in love and affection, endeavor to keep the unity of the "Spirit" in the bonds of peace. To be careful of one another's happiness, reputation, and ministerial success. Seek to strengthen and encourage one another, and at all times promote the success of the church and the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour. We will at all times hold Christian principles sacred, and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief mission in life to carry God's eternal message to those who are dead in sin, that they may be resurrected by "Saving Grace."

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of Educational and Denominational Enterprises, constantly praying and toiling for greater achievements for Christ. May the God of Peace sanctify us blameless unto the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

