

**1996-97
YEARBOOK
FOR
ORIGINAL
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

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Convention
of
Original Free Will Baptists
Ayden, North Carolina

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of Original Free Will Baptists
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MINUTES
of the
127th ANNUAL SESSION
of the
PEE DEE ASSOCIATION
of
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Met in Session with
Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church
Columbus County, North Carolina
October 16, 1996

The next session will be held with Pireway Free Will Baptist Church in Columbus County, North Carolina, on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1997 (October 18, 1997), beginning at 9 a.m.

Pee Dee Association Officers

Moderator: William J. Godwin, 726 Woodrow Cribb Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432
Clerk: Danny D. McPherson, 69 Brice Ward Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431
Treasurer: Ron Settle, Rt. 2, Box 283-A, Whiteville, NC 28472

Executive Committee

The Reverend William J. Godwin, 726 Woodrow Cribb Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432
The Reverend Dean Cartrette, 409 Porter Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
Danny D. McPherson, 69 Brice Ward Rd., Charbourn, NC 28431
Ron Settle, Rt. 2, Box 283-A, Whiteville, NC 28472
The Reverend Bobby Carden, P. O. Box 734, Bladenboro, NC 28320

Home Missions Committee

The Reverend George Benton, 305 E. Walter St., Whiteville, NC 28472
Jerry Bryan, 125 Bryan Rd., Bladenboro, NC 28320
Bud Williams, Tabor City, NC 28463

Investigation Committee

Horace Cartrette, Rt. 1, Chadbourn, NC 28431
The Reverend Dale Manning, P. O. Box 274, Clarendon, NC 28432
The Reverend Casey Norris, 1152 Todd Town Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432

Ordaining Council

The Reverend James B. Hardee, Box 43, Elizabethtown, NC 28337
The Reverend Dallas Byrd, 177 Elbow Rd., Hallsboro, NC 28442
The Reverend Hollan Norris, 8703 Old Stake Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
The Reverend Garland Suggs, 1280 Crusoe Island Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472
The Reverend James Howard Nobles, 122 Mercer Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431

Custodians

Carson McPherson, Rt. 1, Chadbourn, NC 28431
D. F. Hester, Bladenboro, NC 28320
Shelton Sarvis, Tabor City, NC 28463
F. J. Lee, Nakina, NC 28455

Ordained Ministers

Kim Barnes, Rt. 1, Box 72, Clarendon, NC 28432
 George Benton, 305 E. Walter St., Whiteville, NC 28472
 Joseph Benton III, Rt. 8, Box 319, Conway, SC 29526
 Tony Buffkin, 1476 Hwy. 646, Loris SC 29569
 Dallas Byrd, 177 Elbow Rd., Hallsboro, NC 28442
 Bobby Carden, P. O Box 734, Bladenboro, NC 28320
 Dean Cartrette, 409 Porter Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
 Wadus Earl Clewis, 175 Chair Factory Rd., Nakina, NC 28455
 Pete Cribb, Rt. 3, Box 298-A, Whiteville, NC 28472
 Freddie Edwards, 1799 Guyton Rd., Bladenboro, NC 28320
 William J. Godwin, 726 Woodrow Cribb Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432
 Larry Greenwood, 6083 Swamp Fox Hwy. West, Tabor City, NC 28463
 James B. Hardee, Box 43, Elizabethtown, NC 28337
 Charles Hilbourn, 392 Mollie Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472
 Dewey Hilbourn, Rt. 1, Box 291, Tabor City, NC 28463
 Claude Housand, Rt. 1, Longs, SC 29586
 Jerome Jenrette, Rt. 1, Ash, NC 28420
 Michael Lyles, 401 Sandy Bluff Rd., Green Sea, SC 29545
 Dale Manning, P. O. Box 274, Clarendon, NC 28432
 Tommy Martin, 1388 Ward Town Rd. South, Whiteville, NC 28472
 Terry Wade Nealey, Rt. 1, Box 244-A, Chadbourn, NC 28431
 James Howard Nobles, 122 Mercer Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431
 Casey Norris, 1152 Todd Town Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432
 Hollan Norris, 8703 Old Stake Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
 Robert Sellers, Rt. 2, Tabor City, NC 28463
 Archie Smith, Rt. 1, Box 139-B, Clarendon, NC 28432
 Garland Suggs, 1280 Crusoe Island Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472
 Daniel Tyler, Jr., P. O. Box 267, Clarendon, NC 28432
 William E. Ward, 120 Peachtree Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Honorary

Wade T. Jernigan, Pecan Tree Estates, No. 2, Lexington, OK 73051

Licentiates

Gary Bennett
 Timmy Soles

Proceedings

The One Hundred Twenty-seventh Annual Session of the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina convened at Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church in Columbus County, North Carolina, on October 19, 1996.

This session was opened with the congregation singing "Amazing Grace." The Reverend William J. Godwin conducted the devotional services, using 1 Thessalonians 1:1, recognizing churches for their positive work, both in the Pee Dee Association and across the world. Altar prayer was led by the Reverend Wade Jernigan.

The welcome address was given by Woody Etheridge, with response by the Reverend Bobby Carden.

The Moderator welcomed everyone and invited visitors to sit with us during this session. He announced the house in order for business.

The roll of churches was called and all churches were represented by letter.

The roll of ministers was called and the Reverends Kim Barnes, Joseph B. Benton, III, Freddie Edwards, Dewey Hilbourn, Claude Housand, Michael Lyles, Archie Smith, and Gary Bennett were absent. Based on reasons given by various persons, Edwards, Hilbourn, Lyles, and Bennett were excused.

Petitionary letters were called for and there were none.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees:

Devotional: Woody Ethridge, Vernon Hinson, and Owens Ward

Periodical: Gary Cribb, Isaac Norris, and Horace Hardie

Educational: Randy Spivey, James Carroll, and Bernice Suggs

Sunday School: Robert Benton, Lynn Ward, and Elgin Cribb

Ministerial: Daniel Tyler, Jr., Robert Sellers, and Casey Norris

Obituary: David Pitsinger, Frank Smith, and Paul Davis

Resolution: Charles Powell, Gary Davenport, and Roger Walton

Finance: Roger Tyler, Bruno Godwin, and Mike Worley

Home Missions: Standing committee composed of George 3XBenton III, Jerry Bryan, and Bud Williams

Investigation: Standing committee composed of Casey Norris, Horace Cartrette, and Dale Manning

The Devotional Committee returned and gave the following report: We, your committee, beg leave to report that the Reverend Bruce Dudley will bring the morning message.

Respectfully submitted,

Woody Etheridge

Vernon Hinson

Owens Ward

The Devotional Committee report was received on motion by Elgin Cribb and the Committee was dismissed.

The Reverend Scott Sowers, executive administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, reported on the work of the Convention and highlighted projects of particular denominational enterprises. He reviewed the Task Force report, Project Solution, compiling findings of the study which examined the work and the effectiveness of the Free Will Baptist denomination and its ministries. Also, Sowers discussed Dr. Michael Pelt's newly published book, *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*. Additionally, he summarized reports for the enterprises, including Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Children's Home, Retirement Homes, Mount Olive College, Free Will Baptist Press, Church Finance Association, Cragmont, Minister's Program, and Sunday School Ministry. Visiting the Association from respective ministries were Bruce Dudley (Retirement Homes), David C. Hansley (Home Missions), Frank Harrison (Mount Olive College), Mary Dudley (Sunday School Board), and Tracy McCoy (Press). Mr. Hansley indicated that if any church had need of *FWB Hymnals* that a representative should see him; hymnals are available. Reports were received as information on motion by the Reverend George Benton.

The congregation sang "A Wonderful Savior" and an offering was received for the Children's Home.

Church letters were called for and read by the Clerk.

The body was dismissed for a short recess with prayer by the Reverend William J. Godwin.

The Association reassembled for the morning message. Following prayer, the Reverend Bruce Dudley brought a message entitled "The Real Church: The Church of the Living God," using Matthew 16:17 as his text.

The Association was dismissed for lunch with prayer. The Reverend Garland Suggs gave thanks for the lunch.

The Association reassembled with the recitation of John 3:16 and altar prayer by the Reverend William J. Godwin.

The house was announced in order for business by the Moderator. He called for committee reports and they were read by the Clerk.

Reports

Periodical

We, your committee, beg leave that we recommend to all our churches that we use the King James Version of the Holy Bible in our churches for both teaching and preaching, and that we use literature printed by the Free Will Baptist Press in all our churches.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Cribb
Horace Hardie
Isaac Norris

Report was received and the Committee dismissed on motion by Bruno Godwin.

Educational

We, your committee, beg leave to report that the first priority in education shall be the teaching of the King James Version of the Bible, God's Word, in the home, the church, and schools, such as Mount Olive College. We encourage our ministers to further their education at Mount Olive College; and as Free Will Baptists, we ought to support Mount Olive College. We also encourage our teachers and superintendents to participate in the certification program organized by the Sunday School Board, as well as other programs taught by the Free Will Baptist organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
James E. Carroll
Bernice Suggs
Randy Spivey

Report was received and the Committee discharged on motion by the Reverend Tommy Martin.

Sunday School

We, your committee, recommend to all our churches in the Association that they strive prayerfully and carefully to promote and maintain an effective Sunday School. We further recommend that the Sunday School use every means possible, within the will of God, to encourage and help the youth and new converts. Extreme care should be taken to select Christian officers and teachers. Finally, we recommend that our Sunday Schools use literature printed by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation (Ayden, NC).

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Benton
Elgin Cribb
Lynn Ward

Report was received and the Committee dismissed on motion by Roger Walton.

Resolutions

We, your committee, report that there were no resolutions presented today.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Davenport
Roger Walton
Charles Powell

Report was received and the Committee dismissed on motion by the Reverend George Benton.

Ministerial

We, your committee, beg leave to report that to the best of our knowledge, all ministers are in good standing at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey Norris
Daneil Tyler, Jr.
Robert Sellers

Report was received and the Committee dismissed on motion by the Reverend Terry Wade Nealey.

Obituary

We, your committee, regret to report that to the best of our knowledge, we had 35 deaths during this past year.

We ask the congregation to stand and pause in silent prayer in memory of these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
David Pitsinger
Paul Davis
Frank Smith

Report was received and the Committee dismissed on motion by Gary Cribb.

Finance

We, your committee, beg leave to report the following:

Old Funds	\$1,882.78
New Funds	<u>1,121.05</u>
Total	\$3,003.83

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Worley
Roger Tyler
Bruno Godwin

Report was received and Committee dismissed on motion by the Reverend Dean Cartrette.

Home Missions Treasurer's Report

We, your committee, beg leave to report to the Pee Dee Association that we have \$254.10 in the treasury. No checks have been written and no deposits have been made.

Respectfully submitted,
George W. Benton
Bud Williams
Jerry Bryan

Report was received on motion by the Reverend Dean Cartrette.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance—October 14, 1995	\$2,476.49
Deposit from Association	1,107.78
Total in Account—October 16, 1995	<u>\$3,584.27</u>
Check 146—William J. Godwin	30.00
Check 147—Danny McPherson	30.00
Check 148—Ronny Settle	30.00
Check 149—Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes	1,000.00
Check 150—FWB Press	26.49
Check 151—Void	
Check 152—Convention of OFWB	<u>585.00</u>
Total Checks Written for 95-96	<u>\$1,701.49</u>
Balance as of October 19, 1996	\$1,882.78

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Settle, *Treasurer*

Treasurer's report was accepted on motion by the Reverend Tommy Martin.

Ordaining Council

On November 26, 1995, the Ordaining Council met with the Reverend Larry Greenwood after he had served one year as a licensed minister. He was given an examination for ordination. He met or exceeded the requirements set forth by the Pee Dee Association for ordained ministers. Ordination services were held at Trinity Original Free Will Baptist Church on December 6, 1995.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend James B. Hardee, *Chairman*
The Reverend Garland Suggs, *Secretary*

Report was accepted on motion of the Reverend George Benton.

Motion by the Reverend Garland Suggs to extend the "right hand of fellowship" to the Reverend Larry Greenwood. Motion carried.

The Reverend Hollan Norris gave an oral addendum to the Ordaining Council report stating that the Council also met with Timmy Soles of Little Bethel Free Will Baptist Church. The Council questioned him regarding his beliefs and found him sound in faith and doctrine and approved him as a licensed minister for one year. By motion of the Reverend Casey Norris the addendum was approved.

Executive

We, your committee, beg leave to report that on July 14, 1996, a letter was received from the Central Conference of Free Will Baptists requesting a letter giving the standing of the Reverend Neil Harrelson with our Association as he had united with that Association. The Moderator contacted the members of this committee, and they approved the request of the letter giving his standing with this Association. A letter was written and sent to the Central Conference of Free Will Baptists on September 10, 1996, stating that the Reverend Neil Harrelson was in good standing with the Pee Dee Association.

Futhermore, the Reverend Donald White (Tabor City, NC) returned his license (Certificate of Ordination) to the Moderator. The Moderator accepted the aforementioned license and filed it with the Association Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,
William J. Godwin, *Moderator*
Dean Cartrette, *Assistant Moderator*
Danny D. McPherson, *Clerk*
Ron Settle, *Treasurer*
Bobby Carden, *Member-at-Large*

Report was received by motion of the Reverend Hollon Norris.

Investigation

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we did not have to perform any investigation during the past year. Please remember your Investigation Committee in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Dallas Byrd
James Howard Nobles

Report was received on motion of the Reverend Dallas Byrd.

The reading of the Minutes was omitted on motion by the Reverend James B. Hardee and vote of the Association.

Old or Unfinished Business--None**New Business**

The Reverend Hollan Norris made a motion to select a home for the Association meeting in 1997. Motion carried. Delegates from Pireway Free Will Baptist Church invited the Association to their church for the 1997 Association meeting. The Reverend Garland Suggs made a motion to accept the invitation and the motion carried.

The Reverend Hollan Norris moved to pay the officers the same as usual. Motion carried.

The Reverend James B. Hardee noted that with the Reverend J. W. Bryd's death and the Reverend Neil Harrelson's uniting with another conference, two vacancies exist on the

Ordaining Council. The Association had to decide whether to leave the Council with three persons or to fill the two vacancies. The Reverend Terry Wade Nealey moved to fill the vacancies and the motion passed. The Reverend Hollan Norris moved to replace the vacant positions of J. W. Byrd and Neil Harrelson with the Reverends James Howard Nobles and Dallas Byrd. The motion passed.

The Moderator then noted that because the Reverends James Howard Nobles and Dallas Byrd were on the Investigation Committee (a standing committee), they would have to resign that Committee. (Their pleasure was to serve on the Ordaining Council.) The Reverend James B. Hardee moved to replace the Reverends James Howard Nobles and Dallas Byrd. The motion passed. The Reverends Casey Norris and Dale Manning were nominated and approved to fill the vacancies on the Investigation Committee.

Roger Walton moved to give \$1,000 from Association funds to the Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes. The motion passed. The Reverend Bruce Dudley, director of Retirement Homes, expressed appreciation for this contribution plus other financial and spiritual support from the Pee Dee Association.

The Reverend Tommy Martin asked officials and members of the Association to consider abstaining from smoking.

Elgin Cribb moved that the Association give a standing vote of thanks to Macedonia for hosting the meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by the Reverend Hollan Norris that if there was no other business to come before the Association that the meeting be adjourned by benediction. Motion carried and the Association was dismissed with prayer by the Reverend Norris.

Respectfully submitted,
William J. Godwin, *Moderator*
Danny McPherson, *Clerk*

Churches	1995 Members	Gain		Lost		Net Change	1996 Members	Sunday School	Active	Inactive	Avg. SS Atten.	Avg. MW Atten.
		Baptism	Letter	Other	Deceased							
White Oak Grove							131	93	83	48	50	50
Wildwood							25		25			25
Wintergreen	332	3			5	4	(6)	326	140		100	125
Eastern Totals	8411	204	114	22	107	76	231	10226	3983	3608	2766	5125
Pee Dee Association												
Beaverdam	711	16			18	6	2	(10)	701	384	384	389
Charity	11	6					6	17	23		16	16
Cypress Creek	154	9	4		3	2	8	162	125	149	13	115
Emerson	108	3	5	1		2	(6)	102			138	130
Little Bethel	58	2					2	60	62		45	42
Macedonia								109	50	75	34	50
Mission Valley	92	12				8	4	96	89		75	75
Mt. Beulah	55	8	1		2		7	62	72		56	40
Mt. Calvary	109	7				1	6	115	74	54	61	48
Mt. Olive	90					1	8	(9)	81	59	52	50
Oak Grove	211		2		3		(1)	210	72	143	67	72
Pleasant Meadow												
Pine Level	32	1		1			2	34	40		32	32

Churches	1995		Gain		Lost		Net Change	1996 Members	Sunday School	Active	Inactive	Avg. SS Atten.	Avg. MW Atten.
	Members	Baptism	Letter	Other	Deceased	Letter							
Prieway								15	32	15	20	30	30
Thomasboro	15							63	68			68	68
Trinity	64	2		1		4		8	106	106	60	45	65
White Oak	98	14			5	1							

Piedmont Conference

Christ								7		172	43	45	225	38	52
East Rockingham		9			2					140					
Faith										32					
Friendly Chapel										20				40	40
Hickory Grove								2	(1)	39	42			30	45
High Point	40			3	1	1				60					
House of Prayer															
Moorcove															
Mt. Olive															
New Hope															
Wayside Tabernacle		6		10	2			14		105	65				