

Original Free Will Baptists



YEARBOOK

1999

For July 1, 1998, Through
June 30, 1999

**1998-99
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
129th ANNUAL SESSION
of the
PEE DEE ASSOCIATION
of
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS
in session at
Beaverdam Free Will Baptist Church
Columbus County, North Carolina
October 18, 1998**

The next session will be held at Cypress Creek Free Will Baptist Church (Columbus County) or the Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1999 (October 16, 1999) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. William J. Godwin, 726 Woodrow Cribb Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432

CLERK: Dr. Danny D. McPherson, 69 Brice Ward Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431

TREASURER: Ronny Settle, Route 2, Box 283-A, Whiteville, NC 28472

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. William J. Godwin, 726 Woodrow Cribb Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432

Rev. Dean Cartrette, 409 Porter Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463

Dr. Danny McPherson, 69 Brice Ward Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431

Ronny Settle, Route 2, Box 283-A, Whiteville, NC 28472

Rev. Bobby Carden, PO Box 734, Bladenboro, NC 28320

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. 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, Route 1, Chadbourn, NC 28431

Rev. Larry Greenwood, 6083 Swamp Fox Hwy. W., Tabor City, NC 28463

Rev. Casey Norris, 1152 Todd Town Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Dallas Byrd, 177 Elbow Rd., Hallsboro, NC 28442

Rev. James B. Hardee, Box 43, Elizabethtown, NC 28337

Rev. James H. Nobles, 122 Mercer Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431

Rev. Hollan Norris, 8703 Old Stake Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463

Rev. Garland Suggs, 1280 Crusoe Island Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472

CUSTODIANS

D.F. Hester, Bladenboro, NC 28320

F. J. Lee, Nakina, NC 28455

Carson McPherson, Route 1, Chadbourn, NC 28431
Shelton Sarvis, Tabor City, NC 28463

ORDAINED MINISTERS

George Benton, 305 E. Walter St., Clarendon, NC 28432
Joseph B. Benton, II, Route 6, Box 319, Conway, SC 29526
Tony BufBcin, 1476 Hwy. 646, Loris, SC 29569
Tommy Bryson, 1388 Ward Town Rd. S., Whiteville, NC 28472
Dallas Byrd, 177 Elbow Rd., Hallsboro, NC 28442
Bobby Carden, PO 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, Route 3, Box 298A, 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. W., Tabor City, NC 28463
James B. Hardee, PO Box 43, Elizabethtown, NC 28337
Charles Hilburn, 392 Mollie Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472
Dewey Hilbourn, Route 1, Box 291, Tabor City, NC 28463
Claude Housand, Route 1, Longs, SC 29586
Jerome Jenrette, Route 1, Ash, NC 28420
Michael Lyles, 401 Sandy Bluff Rd., Green Sea, SC 29545
Tommy Martin, 1388 Ward Town Rd. S., Whiteville, NC 28472
Terry Wade Nealey, Route 1, Box 255A, Chadbourn, NC 2843
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, 907 Stake Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
Archie Smith, Route 1, Box 139B, Clarendon, NC 28432
Timothy Ray Soles, 1929 W. Dogwood Rd., Loris, SC 29545
Garland Suggs, 1280 Crusoc Island Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472
Daniel Tyler, Jr., PO Box 267, Clarendon, NC 28432
William E. Ward, 120 Peachtree Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

HONORARY MINISTER

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

LICENSED MINISTERS

Gary Bennett
Charles Cribb

PROCEEDINGS

The One Hundred Twenty-ninth Annual Session of the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina convened at Beaverdam Free Will Baptist Church in Columbus County, NC October 17, 1998.

The session opened as the congregation sang "Jesus is the One." Rev. William J. Godwin conducted the devotional services, taking his text from Psalm 57. Altar prayer was led by Rev. Bobby Carden. Dr. Danny D. McPherson, member of Beaverdam Free Will Baptist Church gave the welcome address, with response by Rev. Robert Sellers.

The moderator welcomed everyone and invited visitors to enjoy the association activities, but reminded them that they could not take part in any business. 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 Revs. Joseph B. Benton, 111; Tony Buffkin; Claude Housand; Jerome Jenrette, Wade Jernigan; Tommy Martin; William E. Ward; and Archie Smith were absent. Petitions for excuse were given for Revs. Benton and Ward. Rev. George Benton made a motion to excuse those for whom excuses were made. Those were excused.

Petitionary letters were called for, and there were none.

The moderator then appointed the following committees:

DEVOTIONAL: Owens Ward, Horace Hardie, and Isaac Norris Jr.

PERIODICAL: John Byrd, Anna Etheridge, and Donnie Fowler

EDUCATIONAL: Jerry Buffkin, Craven Phillips, and Robert Benton

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Lynn Ward, Clyde Reaves, and Halford Small

MINISTERIAL: Junior Tyler, Earl Clewis, and Robert Sellers

OBITUARY: GC Bryan, Jr., Harris Blanton, and Alice Canady

RESOLUTION: Tony Smith, Melton McPherson, Rosalie Edwards

FINANCE: James Carroll, Jr., Heath Conner, and Bobby Cribb

HOME MISSIONS: Standing committee composed of George Benton, Jerry Bryan, and Bud Williams

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

The Devotional Committee returned and gave the following report: We, your committee, beg leave to report that the Rev. Bobby Taylor, Director of the Children's Home, will bring the morning message.

Respectfully submitted,

Owens Ward

Isaac Norris, Jr.

Horace Hardie

The Devotional Committee report was received on motion of Rev. Billy Hardee, and the committee was dismissed.

Rev. David Charles Hansley, General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, reported on the work of the convention and highlighted projects of particular denominational enterprises. He encouraged all churches to pray for the ministries of the Free Will Baptists and to discover avenues by which each church could enhance its spiritual mission. Rev. Hansley summarized the current projects of the Church Finance, Ministers Program, and Cragmont Assembly ministries. Afterwards, representatives from the other denominational enterprises gave a brief report on the efforts of their particular ministries. Visiting the association from denominational ministries were Bruce Dudley (Retirement Homes), Frank Harrison (Mount Onve College), Mary Dudley (Sunday School Board), Al Markuson (Home Missions), Edmund Gonzalez (Foreign Missions), Dr. Bobby Taylor (Children's Home), and Mike Scott (Free Will Baptist Press). Rev. Billy Hardee moved to accept the reports as information; motion was properly seconded and passed.

The congregation sang "Amazing Grace" and collected an offering for the Children's Home (\$150.49).

Church letters were called for and read by the clerk

Delegates and guests were dismissed for a short recess with prayer by Rev. William J. Godwin.

The association reassembled for the morning message. Following prayer, Rev. Bobby Taylor delivered a sermon using 11 Timothy 1:7 as his text. The message encouraged all believers to have "courage to make a difference."

The association was dismissed for lunch with prayer. Rev. Wade Nealey returned thanks for lunch.

After lunch, the association reconvened, singing "I Feel Like Traveling On." Danny McPherson led delegates and visitors in prayer.

The moderator announced the house in order for business. He called for committee reports, and they were read by the clerk.

REPORTS

PERIODICAL

We, your committee, beg leave to report 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 likewise that we use literature printed by the Free Will Baptist Press in all our churches.

Respectfully submitted,
John Byrd
Anna Etheridge
Donnie Fowler

Report was received, and the committee was discharged by motion of Rev. Casey Norris.

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 Holy 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 organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Craven Phillips
Robert Benton
Jerry Buffkin

Report was received, and the committee was discharged by motion of Rev. Dean Cartrette.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Respectfully submitted,
Clyde Reaves
Halford Small
Lynn Ward

Report was received, and the committee dismissed by motion of Rev. George Benton

RESOLUTION

We, the resolution committee, submit the following resolution:

Be it resolved that each church in the Pee Dee Association begin a weekly visitation program to support the Harvest 2000 campaign, to increase Sunday School enrollment, and to assist new converts.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Smith
Melton McPherson
Rosalie Edwards

The report and resolution were accepted, and the committee was dismissed by motion of Rev. Bobby Carden.

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,
Rev. Earl Clewis
Rev. Junior Tyler
Rev. Robert E. Sellers

Report was received, and the committee dismissed by motion of Rev. Wade Nealy.

OBITUARY

We, your committee, regret to report that to the best of our knowledge, we had 17 deaths during the past year. We ask the congregation to stand and pause in silent prayer in memory of these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Canady

Harris Blanton
G. C. Bryan, Jr.

Report was received, and the committee dismissed by motion of Rev. Timothy Soles.

FINANCE

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

Old funds ----- 971.96
New funds ----- 1110.50
TOTAL ----- \$2082.46

Respectfully submitted,
James Carroll, Jr.
Heath Conner
Bobby K. Cribb

Report was received, and the conunittee was dismissed by motion of Rev. Larry Greenwood.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning balance (October 18, 1997)	1157.78
Deposit from association	1147.97
Balance (October 20, 1997)	2305.75

Checks for the past year	
# 160 William J. Godwin	30.00
# 161 Danny D. McPherson	30.00
# 162 Ronny Settle	30.00
# 163 Children's Home	156.80
# 164 Retirement Home	500.00
# 165 Convention of Free Will Baptists	26.99
# 351 Press	560.00

Total checks written during 1997-98	\$1333.79
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Balance (October 17, 1998)	\$971.96
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Respectfully submitted,
Ronny Settle, Treasurer

Treasurer's report was accepted by motion of Rev. Dean Cartrette.

HOME MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we have \$255.87 in the treasury. No financial transactions occurred during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. George W. Benton, Treasurer
Jerry Bryan

Report was received by motion of Rev. Billy Hardee.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

On July 5, 1998, the council met with the Rev. Tommy Bryson after receiving a letter from Cypress Creek Church concerning his pastoral work there. After serving two terms at Cypress Creek previously and receiving letters of recommendation, Rev. Bryson was reinstated as an ordained minister of the Pee Dee Association.

On August 16, 1998, the council met with Charles Vernon Cribb after receiving a letter from Beaverdam Church concerning his call into the ministry. The council questioned him about his beliefs and found him sound in faith and doctrine and approved him as a licensed minister for one year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James B. Hardee, Chairman Rev. Garland Suggs, Secretary

Report was accepted by motion of Rev. George Benton.

Rev. Billy Hardee moved that Rev. Tommy Bryson be received into the full fellowship of the association and that he receive the right hand of fellowship and that Rev. Charles Cribb be accepted as a licensed minister for one year. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE

We, your committee, report the following actions of the Pee Dee Association Executive Committee this past year.

First, having received a May 28, 1998 letter of charges signed by eleven members of Mt. Beulah Original Free Will Baptist Church, the moderator convened the Executive Committee to discuss the matter. Members of the committee agreed that an investigation was warranted. Therefore, on June 25, 1998, the Executive Committee met with twelve members of Mt. Beulah Original Free Will Baptist Church, along with the church's pastor, Rev. Earl Clewis, and Rev. Hollan Norris who had conducted the church's most recent conference. Subsequent to that meeting, members of the Executive Committee met with other church members, the deacon board (collectively and individually), the current pastor, and the newly elected pastor to conduct an exhaustive investigation of the stated charges. Members of the committee attended and conducted services during the investigation period.

Having completed its investigation, the Executive Committee met with the membership of Mt. Beulah Original Free Will Baptist Church in a call conference on Wednesday, August 5 (7:30 PM). At that time, the committee made the following decisions and recommendations:

Having received a written request from members of Mt. Beulah Original Free Will Baptist Church and having conducted an extensive, lengthy, and exhaustive investigation of the concerns indicated in the letter, members of the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Association present the following "decisions and recommendations" as authorized by the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists*:

1. That the May 13, 1998 vote electing Rev. Larry Greenwood as pastor of Mt. Beulah Original Free Will Baptist Church was and is an official vote and that effective August 13, 1998, Rev. Greenwood becomes the pastor of the church.
2. That the board of deacons and pastor of Mt. Beulah OFWB Church work harmoniously and in a spirit of love and unity and in accordance with guidelines specified on pages 69 and 70 of the *Articles of Faith* for the spiritual growth and welfare of the church.
3. That all church members and the local congregation prayerfully support their board of deacons and pastor and that they "observe and conduct themselves according to the Scriptures and the Church Covenant" (*Articles of Faith*).
4. That the church membership participates in a comprehensive study of the Church Covenant and the *Articles of Faith* to be conducted by the Executive Committee during Sunday evening Bible studies.
5. That the board of deacons and pastor participate with members of the Executive Committee beginning January 1999 to prepare church by-laws and a constitution for review by the entire Executive Committee and approval by the Mt. Beulah OFWB Church membership.
6. That until the church by-laws and constitution are established all programs, activities, functions and purchases involving or relating to Mt. Beulah OFWB Church be approved by the pastor and board of deacons collectively or be approved in church conference.
7. That no business be conducted during any church service, but that all such business is conducted as a part of regularly scheduled or specifically called conferences only (page 75, *Articles of Faith*).
8. That only the pastor, deacons, licensed minister, or an individual approved by the pastor and deacons collectively are allowed to conduct worship services and/or preach.
9. That all members unite in a spirit of God's love to do as the Apostle Paul commanded, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32; Church Covenant; & page 32, paragraph one of the *Articles of Faith*).

10. That Rev. William J. Godwin conducts and/or organizes a revival for Mt. Beulah OFWB Church the week of August 17-22.

11. That a member or members of the Executive Committee attend all church conferences beginning August 1998 through August 1999 to hear an oral report from the board of deacons regarding the progress of the recommendations listed in this document.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. William J. Godwin, Moderator

Rev. Dean Cartrette, Assistant Moderator Mr. Ron Settle, Treasurer

Rev. Bobby Carden, Member at Large Dr. Danny D. McPherson, Clerk

The church approved the committee's decisions and recommendations by a vote of 16 in favor to 13 opposed. Following the call conference, the committee met again with the church's deacon board. At that time, the board requested that the Executive Committee conduct the church's regularly scheduled conference scheduled for Wednesday, August 12; the committee agreed.

At the August 12th conference, once "new business" was announced, approximately 13 members asked that their names be removed from the Mt. Beulah Original Free Will Baptist Church membership. Their requests were granted.

Under the direction of the newly elected pastor, the Executive Committee's decisions and recommendations are being implemented.

Second, the clerk received a request from the Central Association of Original Free Will Baptists indicating that Rev. Dale Manning had united with their association and requesting a letter of his standing in the Pee Dee Association. The clerk issued a letter to the Central Association indicating that at the time of request, Rev. Manning was a licensed minister with the Pee Dee Association in good standing.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. William J. Godwin, Moderator

Rev. Dean Cartrette, Asst. Moderator

Dr. Danny D. McPherson, Clerk

Ronny Settle, Treasurer

Rev. Bobby Carden, Member at Large

Report was received by motion of Rev. Garland Suggs.

INVESTIGATION

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

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dale Manning

Rev. Casey Norris

Report was received by motion of Rev. Larry Greenwood.

The reading of the minutes was omitted by motion of Rev. Garland Suggs.

OLD or UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Billy Hardee thanked everyone for past contributions made to the Retirement Home ministry. He indicated that the ministry was moving to a more solid financial position. Rev. Hardee then moved that the association contribute \$500 to the Retirement Home. Motion carried.

Rev. Dean Cartrette moved to select a home for the association meeting in 1999. Motion carried. Rev. Tommy Bryson volunteered Cypress Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church for the 1999 association meeting scheduled for October 16, 1999.

Rev. Billy Hardee moved to pay the officers the same as usual. Rev. Hollan Norris moved to amend the motion to increase officers' pay from \$30.00 to \$50.00. The amendment passed and then Rev. Hardee's motion passed.

Rev. James Howard Nobles moved to fill the position on the Investigation Committee left vacant when Rev. Dale Manning moved into the Central Conference. Motion passed. Rev. Larry Greenwood was nominated. With no other nominations, Rev. Greenwood was elected by acclamation.

Rev. Garland Suggs moved that the association give Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality. Motion carried.

Rev. James B. Hardee moved that if there was no other business to come before the association that the meeting adjourn by benediction. Motion carried and the association was dismissed with prayer.

Dr. Danny D. McPherson, Clerk

CHURCHES	1998 Membership	GAIN				LOSS				Net Change	Sunday School	Avg. SS Attend.	Avg. MW Attend.
		Active	Inactive	Baptism	Letter	Other	Deceased	Letter	Other				
Pee Dee Association													
Beaverdam	704			20	2		5			721	398	398	350
Charity	13									19		19	19
Cypress Creek	164	73					2		89	73	75	65	65
Emerson	103			4		2	2	1	4	102	141	136	132
Little Bethel	54			2		1			1	56	67	45	42
Macedonia	119	43	73	1			2		2	116	45	55	50
Mission Valley	96			5		6	1	2		104	117	90	85
Mt. Bethel													
Mt. Calvary	113	51	59				1	2		110	78	50	54
Mt. Olive	90	33	54				1	1	1	87	55		
Oak Grove	214	152	170	4	10		4		2	222	75	75	83
Pine Level													
Pineyway													
Pleasant Meadow													
Thomasboro	13	13		2			1			14	32	30	30
Trinity	68			4				2		72	72	72	72
White Oak	112	56	58	6				4		114	70	55	70
Pee Dee Totals	1863	421	414	48	12	9	19	12	99	1810	1225	1090	1052