

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



**2003
YEARBOOK**

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2004

Convention
of
Original Free Will Baptists
Ayden, North Carolina

**2003
YEARBOOK
FOR
ORIGINAL
FREE WILL
BAPTISTS**

Compiled by
Mrs. Andrea Cox

Printed by
Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.
Ayden, North Carolina

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2004

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***MINUTES of the 134th ANNUAL SESSION
of the
PEE DEE ASSOCIATION
of
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS
in session at
Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church
Bladen County, North Carolina***

October 18, 2003

The next session will be held at Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church (Columbus County) on the Saturday before the third Sunday in October 2004 (October 16, 2004) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. William J. Godwin, 726 Woodrow Cribb Rd., Clarendon, NC 28432
ASST. MODERATOR: Rev. Dean Cartrette, 409 Porter Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
CLERK: Dr. Danny D. McPherson, 69 Brice Ward Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431
TREASURER: Ronny Settle, 2651 Whitehall Rd., 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 D. McPherson	69 Brice Ward Rd.	Chadbourn, NC 28431
Ronny Settle	2651 Whitehall Rd.	Whiteville, NC 28472
Rev. Dr. Bobby Carden	PO Box 734	Bladenboro, NC 28320

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Dallas Byrd	PO Box 57	Clarendon, NC 28432
Rev. Larry Greenwood	1783 Swamp Fox Hwy.	Tabor City, NC 28463
Rev. James H. Nobles	122 Mercer Rd.	Chadbourn, NC 28431
Rev. Hollon Norris	8703 Old Stake Rd.	Tabor City, NC 28463
Rev. Garland Suggs	1280 Crusoe Island Rd.	Whiteville, NC 28472

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

F. J. Lee		Nakina, NC 28455
Marvin McPherson	1128 Garland Duncan Rd.	Chadbourn, NC 28431
Isaac Norris, Jr.	8195 Old Stake Rd.	Tabor City, NC 28463
Nelson D. Soles	1175 Carolina Rd.	Tabor City, NC 28463

ORDAINED MINISTERS

George Benton, 305 E. Walter St., Whiteville, NC 28472
Joseph B. Benton, III, Route 6, Box 319, Conway, SC 29526
Gary Bryan, 1902 Horseshoe Rd., Bladenboro, NC 28320
Tommy Bryson, 241 Soles Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472
Dallas Byrd, PO Box 57, Clarendon, NC 28432
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
Charles V. Cribb, 4144 Beaverdam Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431
Pete Cribb, 18981 Peacock Rd., 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
Dewey Hilbourn, Route 1, Box 291, Tabor City, NC 28463
Claude Housand
Michael Lyles, 401 Sandy Bluff Rd., Green Sea, SC 29545
Terry Wade Nealey, 190 Garland Duncan Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431
James Howard Nobles, 122 Mercer Rd., Chadbourn, NC 28431
Hollon Norris, 8703 Old Stake Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
Clyde Reaves, 394 Indigo Flats E., Tabor City, NC 28463
Robert Sellers, 907 Stake Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
Timothy Ray Soles, 1929 W. Dogwood Rd., Loris, SC 29545
Edward Spivey, 355 Spivey Rd., Tabor City, NC 28463
Garland Suggs, 1280 Crusoe Island Rd., Whiteville, NC 28472
Daniel Tyler, Jr., PO Box 267, Clarendon, NC 28432
William E. Ward, 5360 Peachtree Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

HONORARY MINISTER

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

LICENTIATE(S)

Rusty Rogers, 1079 Richardson Rd., Bladenboro, NC 28320

PROCEEDINGS

The One Hundred Thirty-fourth Annual Session of the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina convened at Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church in Bladen County, NC October 18, 2003.

The session opened as the congregation sang "Revive Us Again." Moderator Rev. William J. Godwin called the meeting to order. Rev. Dr. Bobby Carden conducted the devotional services, taking his text from Isaiah 40:28-31. Rev. Larry Greenwood led the congregation in altar prayer.

Rev. Larry Greenwood, pastor of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, gave the welcome address with response by Rev. Dallas Byrd.

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, Tommy Bryson, Wade Earl Clewis, Claude Housand, Wade Jernigan, Wade Nealey, Hollon Norris, Timothy Soles, and William Ward were absent. Petitions for excuse were given for Revs. Benton, Clewis, Norris, and Ward. Rev. James Howard Ward made a motion to grant their request. The motion carried.

The moderator appointed the following committees:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Robert Benton, GC Bryan, & Harry Ransom

OBITUARY: Jimmy Russ, Harold Dean Singletary, and Bobby Taylor

RESOLUTION: Rev. Charles Cribb, Rev. Freddie Edwards, & Rev. Dewey Hilbourn

Representatives from denominational enterprises gave brief reports on the efforts of their particular ministries. Rev. Fred Baker, President of the Convention, first addressed the association bringing greetings on behalf of the convention. Visiting the association from denominational ministries were Rev. Bruce Dudley (Retirement Homes), Mary Dudley (Sunday School Board), Rev. Bryant Hines, and Graham Lane (Home Missions). In the absence of other denominational directors, Mary Dudley also updated the Association on the activities of the Free Will Baptist Press and Foreign Missions. Dr. Danny D. McPherson gave the Mount Olive College report, especially thanking the Association for its recent support of the Pee Dee Association MOC Bridge Builders Dinner. As Pee Dee Association representative on the Children's Home Board, Ron Settle gave that report. Rev. Baker expressed grateful appreciation to the Association for the financial and food support provided to recent victims of Hurricane Isabel. He also noted that the Convention was in the process of employing a General Administrator of the Convention. Rev. Garland Suggs moved to accept the reports as information; Rev. Dean Cartrette seconded motion, and it passed.

The congregation sang a hymn and collected an offering for the Children's Home.

Following a brief morning recess, the moderator called the house back to order and asked Rev. Dewey Hilbourn to open the session with prayer.

Church letters were called for and read by the clerk.

The moderator called for the clerk to read the reports of the committees.

REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We, your committee, recommend that all our churches, homes, and schools use the King James Version of the Bible. We further encourage our ministers to further their education at Mount Olive College and be active in supporting the college and its ministries. We also encourage our teachers and superintendents to participate in the certification program organized by the Sunday School Board. Finally, we recommend that our Sunday Schools use literature printed by the Free Will Baptist Press (Ayden, NC).

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Benton
GC Bryan
Harry Ransom

Report was received, and the committee was dismissed by motion of Hoyt McPherson.

RESOLUTION

We, the resolution committee, have no resolutions to bring at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Charles Cribb
Rev. Freddie Edwards
Rev. Dewey Hilbourn

Report was received, and the committee was dismissed by motion of Rev. Dallas Byrd.

OBITUARY

We, your committee, regret to report that to the best of our knowledge, we had 24 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,
Jimmy Russ
Harold Dean Singletary
Bobby Taylor

Report was received, and the committee was dismissed by motion of Rev. James Howard Nobles.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning balance (October 19, 2002)	\$ 1017.33
Deposit from association	1409.82
Total	\$2,427.15

Checks for the past year	
# 380 Rev. William J. Godwin	50.00
# 381 Dr. Danny McPherson	50.00
# 382 Mount Olive College	500.00
# 383 Ron Settle	50.00
# 384 Children's Home	157.32
# 385 Danny McPherson	58.36
# 386 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists	630.00
# 375 Press	24.18

Pee Dee Association

Total checks written during 2002-03	\$1519.86
Balance (October 18, 2003)	\$ 907.29

NOTE: Receipts from October 18, 2003 are not included.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Settle, Treasurer

Treasurer's report was accepted by motion of Rev. Michael Lyles.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

The council met November 1, 2002, after receiving a letter from White Oak Original Free Will Baptist Church asking the Council to examine Brother Rusty Rogers for licensure. The Council questioned Bro. Rogers concerning church doctrine and biblical truths and found him sound in faith and doctrine. The Council approved Bro. Rogers as a licentiate minister for one year.

The Council met with Rev. Gary Bryan on June 28, 2003, after receiving a letter from Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church recommending Rev. Bryan for ordination. Rev. Bryan successfully passed all tests, and his ordination service was scheduled for June 29, 2003 at Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church. The Council met with Rev. Bryan for his ordination service as planned on June 29, 2003. Rev. Bryan met or exceeded the requirements of the Council, and at such time the Council issued ordination credentials to Rev. Bryan.

The Ordaining Council met with Rev. Jackie Strickland on September 19, 2003, after having received a letter from Pine Level Original Free Will Baptist Church recommending Rev. Strickland to the Council to become a licensed minister of the Original Free Will Baptists. The Council questioned Rev. Strickland concerning Original Free Will Baptist doctrine, and by a unanimous decision recommended that Rev. Strickland wait approximately nine additional months, which will have allowed him to be a member of Pine Level Original Free Will Baptist Church for one year. This time will also give Rev. Strickland additional opportunity to become acquainted with Original Free Will Baptist doctrine. The Council will schedule another meeting with Rev. Strickland at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Hollon Norris, Chairman
Rev. Dallas Byrd, Secretary

Rev. Garland Suggs moved (seconded by Rev. Dean Cartrette) to accept the report and to extend the hand of welcome to Rev. Rogers (licentiate) and the hand of fellowship to Rev. Bryan (ordained minister). The motion carried.

Rev. Gary Bryan was extended the hand of fellowship, and Rev. Rusty Rogers was given the hand of welcome by the association.

EXECUTIVE

We, your committee, report that having received a letter of charges (dated January 23, 2003) signed by members of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, the Executive Committee met collaboratively with the Ordaining Council on multiple occasions to investigate the charges. Furthermore, the Executive Committee conducted two called conferences, the last at which we issued the following decisions and report.

March 27, 2003

To the Membership of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church:

Having received charges in a letter dated January 23, 2003 signed by members of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church; and

Having met individually and collectively with members of both existing factions in Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church; and

Having attended many of the church services within the past month; and

Having met in a called conference with the church membership on Wednesday, February 26, 2003; and

Having spent many hours in prayer, investigation, and deliberation with the Ordaining Council of the Pee Dee Association related to the current situation in Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church;

The Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists (in consultation with the Ordaining Council) therefore, issues the following actions effective immediately:

1. Rev. Davin Johnson's services as pastor of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church are terminated immediately, and he is directed to surrender his Pee Dee ministerial license to the clerk of the Pee Dee Association no later than Monday, March 31, 2003.
2. Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church is directed to pay Rev. Davin Johnson his full salary plus applicable benefits for a period of 90 days with the full amount payable to Rev. Johnson on or before Monday, March 31, 2003.
3. Brother GC Bryan is censured for behavior unbecoming to a church member and is, therefore, placed on probation for a period of one year from this date during which he is suspended from holding any office/position in the church nor serve in any capacity but must refrain from outbursts, disruptions, and any action unbecoming to a Christian or church member.

Pee Dee Association

4. The current Board of Deacons is abolished, and the following persons will serve as an acting Board of Deacons: Elwood Bryan; Jimmy Edwards, David Pait, Fred Pait, and Jack Thompson.
5. The Executive Committee will meet with representatives of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church to develop a constitution and by-laws which will be presented to the full church membership for action.
6. The Executive Committee appoints Rev. Larry Greenwood to serve temporarily as interim pastor effective immediately with a salary to be negotiated by Rev. Greenwood and the newly appointed board of deacons and to be approved by the Executive Committee.
7. A copy of this letter shall be recorded in the official minutes of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church and a copy of the official minutes shall be submitted to the clerk of the Pee Dee Association.

Prayerfully submitted,

Members of the Pee Dee Executive Committee

Rev. William J. Godwin, Moderator

Rev. Bobby Carden, Member at Large

Rev. Dean Cartrette, Asst. Moderator

Danny D. McPherson, Ed. D.; Clerk

Ron Settle, Treasurer

Members of the Pee Dee Ordaining Council

Rev. Dallas Byrd

Rev. Larry Greenwood

Rev. James Howard Nobles

Rev. Hollon Norris

Rev. Garland Suggs

Prior to the March 27, 2003, the Executive Committee and Ordaining Council met first with Rev. Johnson to share the decision, next with Bro. GC Bryan, and then with the church membership in called conference. All actions of the Executive Committee have been implemented.

Secondly, the Executive Committee (by consensus) appointed Rev. Dean Cartrette to preach the Association message.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. William J. Godwin, Moderator
Rev. Dean Cartrette, Assistant Moderator
Mr. Ron Settle, Treasurer
Rev. Dr. Bobby Carden, Member at Large
Dr. Danny D. McPherson, Clerk

Report was received by motion of Rev. Garland Suggs.

Rev. James Howard Nobles moved (seconded by Rev. Carden) that because the minutes had been and are available in the *Yearbook* to omit the reading of the 2002 minutes. Motion carried.

OLD or UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Robert Sellers moved to select a home for the association meeting in 2004. Motion carried. Rev. William J. Godwin invited the Association to meet at Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church for the 2004 association meeting scheduled for October 16, 2004. Rev. Garland Suggs moved that the invitation be accepted, and it carried.

Rev. James Howard Nobles moved to pay the officers the same as usual. The motion passed.

Rev. James Howard Nobles moved that the Association give Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality. Motion carried.

Rev. Bobby Carden moved that the Pee Dee Association become a Mount Olive Bridge Builder by donating \$500 to the Pee Dee Association Bridge Builder Campaign. Rev. James Howard Nobles seconded the motion, and it passed.

Rev. Bobby Carden moved that the Association compensate Rev. Garland Suggs for mileage costs at a rate of .25 per mile for his travel incurred as the Pee Dee representative to the Convention's Executive Committee. Rev. James Howard Nobles moved to amend the original motion to reimburse Rev. Garland Suggs for actual costs incurred for his travel as Pee Dee representative to the Convention's Executive Committee. The amendment carried, and the motion as amended carried.

Rev. James Howard Nobles moved that the Association contribute \$200 to Charity Original Free Will Baptist Church to assist with immediate roof needs. The motion carried.

Rev. James Howard Nobles moved to consider the business of electing officers of the Association for 2003-04 and 2004-05. Motion carried. Prior to nominations, Rev. William J. Godwin expressed his appreciation for the 25 years (1978-2003) he had been allowed to serve as association moderator but asked that his name not be placed in nomination. The following officers were selected: Moderator—Rev. Dean Cartrette; Assistant Moderator—Rev. Dr. Bobby Carden; Treasurer—Mr. Ron Settle; Clerk—Dr. Danny D. McPherson; and Member at Large—Rev. Larry Greenwood.

Pee Dee Association

Rev. Robert Sellers moved that the Association give a standing vote of appreciation to Rev. William J. Godwin for his many years as moderator of the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists. Motion carried.

Rev. Larry Greenwood moved to adjourn out of business and enter into the worship service. Motion carried. Rev. Dean Cartrette delivered the morning message—"Mending Our Nets" with text taken from Mark 1: 18-20.

Rev. Charles Cribb gave the blessing for lunch provided by Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church and dismissed the Association with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. William J. Godwin
Moderator

Dr. Danny D. McPherson
Clerk

CHURCHES	2003	Active	Inactive	GAIN			LOSS			Net Change	Sunday School	Avg. SS Attend.	Ave. MW Attend.
				Baptism	Letter	Other	Deceased	Letter	Other				

Paul Palmer Conference

Jakin	45	15	30	0	0	0	1	1	0	43	19	13	27
Zion													
Paul Palmer Totals	45	15	30	0	0	0	1	1	0	43	19	13	27

CHURCHES	2003	Active	Inactive	GAIN			LOSS			Net Change	Sunday School	Avg. SS Attend.	Ave. MW Attend.
				Baptism	Letter	Other	Deceased	Letter	Other				

Pee Dee Association

Beaverdam	733			7	3	1	9	4	8	723		389	389
Charity	14									14	14	10	12
Cypress Creek	85	85	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	78	76	55	50
Emerson	108	108		5	1	4	2	0	4	112	145	147	147
Little Bethel	52	52		0	0	0	0	0	0	52	54	34	30
Macedonia	100	46	54	3	0	2	0	1	4	100	43	48	48
Mission Valley	124	78	46	0	0	0	0	0	5	119	128	90	85
Mt. Beulah	35	33	2	0	0	0	0	1	6	35	30	35	35
Mt. Calvary	117	55	62	0	0	0	1	1	0	115	79	54	55
Mt. Olive	42	42		0	1	0	1	1	0	41	50	46	
Oak Grove	227	124	103	9	6	0	3	0	0	239	124	81	84
Pine Level													
Pineyway													
Pleasant Meadow													
Thomasboro	16	11	5	1	0	1	1	0	0	17	17	15	16
Trinity	36	25	11	3	4	2	1	0	3	41	38	36	40
White Oak	119	55	64	7	2	0	1	2	0	126	82	56	85
Pee Dee Totals	1808	714	347	35	17	10	19	13	36	1810	880	1094	1076