

THE 101ST ANNUAL SESSION

*of the
Convention of
Original Free Will Baptists*

*Being People of Service
In the Church
Acts 1:8*

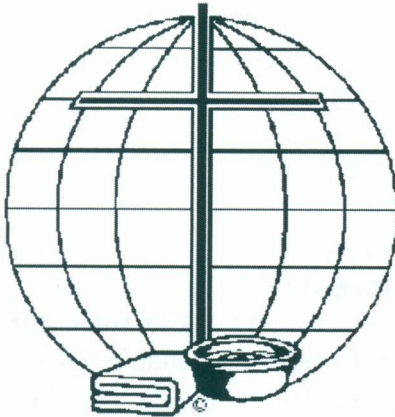


2013

Ministry and Conference Report Book

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Convention Of Original Free Will Baptists



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Pee Dee

*MINUTES of the 143rd 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 20, 2012

The next session will be held at Emerson Original Free Will Baptist Church (Columbus County) on the Saturday before the third Sunday in October 2013 (October 19, 2013) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. Dean Cartrette

CLERK: Dr. Danny D. McPherson

ASST. MODERATOR: Rev. Dr. Bobby Carden

TREASURER: Ron Settle

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910 874-4112

PROCEEDINGS

The One Hundred Forty-Third 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 20, 2012.

The session opened as the congregation sang "Amazing Grace." Moderator Rev. Dean Cartrette called the meeting to order gave the devotional services, taking his text from Zechariah 13: 7 – 9. Rev. Eddie Carter led the congregation in altar prayer.

Brother Jerry Bryan of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church gave the welcome address with response by Bro. Mike Worley.

The moderator welcomed everyone and invited visitors to enjoy the association activities but reminded them that they could not take part in any business. Afterwards, the moderator announced the house in order for business.

The roll of churches was called, and all churches were represented by letter and/or delegates.

The roll of ministers was called; Revs. Buster Benton, Gary Bryan, Freddie Edwards, Robert Sellers, & Edward Spivey were absent. Excuses were offered for Revs. Buster Benton, Freddie Edwards, Robert Sellers, & Edward Spivey. Rev. George Benton made a motion to grant their requests (second by Rev. James Howard Nobles). Motion carried.

The moderator appointed the following committees:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Shelby Causey, Jimmy Edwards, & Ricky Fowler

OBITUARY: Linda McLawhorn, Mark Powell, & Patricia Settle

RESOLUTION: Rev. George Benton, Woodie Etheridge, & Ken Nealey

Representatives from denominational enterprises gave brief reports on the efforts of their particular ministries. Rev. James Howard Nobles, Pee Dee representative on the NC Convention Executive Committee, addressed the association bringing greetings on behalf of the convention, after which the following persons reported on behalf of their ministries:

Dr. Phillip Kerstetter—Mount Olive College: reviewed current status of the college;

Harold Jones—Foreign Missions: asked church representatives to invite him to visit and speak at their churches;

Gary Lee—Children's Home: reviewed the expansion of services; and

Rev. Jeff Daughtry—Free Will Baptist Press: shared press and printing opportunities.

Sister Linda McLawhorn moved to accept the reports as information; motion was seconded and passed.

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

Church letters were called for and read by the clerk.

Following a brief morning recess, the moderator called the house back to order. Rev. Bobby Carden offered prayer.

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

REPORTS

RESOLUTION

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. George Benton

Woodie Etheridge

Ken Nealey

Report was received, and the committee dismissed by motion of Rev. Hollon Norris.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We, your committee, recommend that all our churches, homes, and schools use the King James Version of the Bible and that all literature distributed in our churches be of the King James Version only. We also request that more material referring only to the King James Version be made available to local churches and that the material be free of references to other biblical versions.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Causey

Jimmy Edwards

Ricky Fowler

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

OBITUARY

We, your committee, regret to report that to the best of our knowledge, we had 20 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,
Linda McLawhorn
Mark Powell
Patricia Settle

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning balance (October 15, 2011)	2249.92
Deposit from association	1629.10
Total (October 17, 2011)	\$3879.02

Checks for the past year

# 448 Dr. Danny McPherson	50.00
# 449 Rev. Dean Cartrette	50.00
# 450 Ron Settle	50.00
# 451 Children's Home	175.10
# 452 Home Missions (disaster kits)	500.00
# 453 Budget Printing	384.30
# 454 Dr. Danny McPherson (postage)	84.47
# 455 Beaverdam FWB Church (memorial/Rev. WJ Godwin)	100.00
# 456 OFWB Press	10.14
# 457 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists (yearbooks)	<u>210.00</u>

Balance (October 20, 2012)	\$2265.01
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Respectfully submitted,
Ron Settle, Treasurer

Treasurer's report was accepted by motion of Rev. George Benton.

NOTE: *Because the information contained in the Executive Committee and Ordaining Council's reports would require action by the Association and one action being contingent upon the other's acceptance, the reports of the Ordaining Council and the Executive Committee were included in New Business.*

Rev. Hollon Norris moved to omit the reading of the 2011 Association minutes because minutes are printed annually and made available to all churches and are also available via the *Yearbook*. Motion carried.

OLD or UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meetings and actions of the Executive Committee include the following (NOTE: Complete minutes of each meeting are available from the clerk, Dr. Danny McPherson):

July 5, 2012

The Executive Committee and Ordaining Council met jointly to discuss and review various situations.

1. McPherson indicated that the Executive Committee had received a petitionary letter date May 20, 2012 from Freedom OFWB Church requesting to move its membership from the Central Conference of South Carolina to the Pee Dee Association. The Executive Committee took action to send a letter to Central Conference of South Carolina indicating that Freedom has petitioned to join the Pee Dee and that the Executive Committee was considering their request, and, in compliance with the *Articles of Faith*, was conducting an investigation. The clerk was asked to contact & to plan a meeting with the pastor and church officials of Freedom OFWB Church. ***NOTE: Appropriate correspondence was mailed to the moderator and clerk of the Central Conference of South Carolina on July 11, 2012.***
2. Rev. James Howard Nobles indicated that Branch Chapel FWB Church of the Western Conference had expressed interest in transferring membership from the Western Conference to the Pee Dee Association. The Executive Committee asked Nobles to share with those who contacted him that if Branch Chapel desired to pursue a transfer of membership from the Western Conference to the Pee Dee Association, they should send an official petitionary letter to the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee.
3. The Ordaining Council and Executive Committee agreed to meet together quarterly with one meeting to be held just prior to the annual meeting in October.

July 19, 2012 and August 6, 2012

1. The Executive Committee met with the Mt. Calvary Original FWB Church Board of Deacons on July 19, 2012 and with Rev. Jimmy McNeill and the Mt. Calvary deacon board on August 6, 2012. At the initial meeting, the Executive Committee asked the deacon board to share the situation regarding the

pastorate along with other information regarding the church's current status, which they did. After hearing the deacons' report and discussing the situation extensively, the Executive Committee shared & explained church and pastoral expectations for compliance regarding the church pastorate; the Committee committed itself to support and assist Mt. Calvary during its time without a permanent pastor; and that contingent upon church and ministerial compliance with the Committee's expectations, the Executive Committee would advocate for the church.

2. The Executive Committee met with Rev. Jimmy McNeill and the Mt. Calvary deacon board on August 6, 2012. Upon the Committee's request, Rev. McNeill reviewed his ministerial experiences and background, indicating that he had been preaching for five years and was originally ordained as an Independent Baptist minister—ordination and membership at Riverside Independent Baptist Church but has now joined Mt. Calvary Original Free Will Baptist Church and will pursue ordination as a Free Will Baptist minister of the Pee Dee Association. For informational purposes only, the Executive Committee questioned Rev. McNeill regarding biblical and spiritual truths as well as the basic precepts of the Original Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him solid in all. Rev. McNeill indicated that he understood and appreciated the Committee's vigilance in this matter and was willing to work with the Executive Committee and Association in order to comply, believing strongly that God had directed him and his family to Mt. Calvary. Dr. McPherson again explained expectations and requirements regarding the pastorate at Mt. Calvary and extended the Committee's appreciation to Rev. McNeill for his graciousness and understanding which, in part, confirmed what the Mt. Calvary board of deacons had expressed concerning Rev. McNeill.

August 6, 2012

Also on August 6, 2012 in a second session, the Executive Committee met with Rev. Mike Lyles and officials of Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church regarding their request to transfer membership from the Eastern Conference of South Carolina to the Pee Dee Association of the NC Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Rev. Lyles and church officials reviewed the reasons for their request as well as the church's current status. Members of the Executive Committee questioned the pastor and officials regarding biblical truths and principles as well as adherence to the doctrine and governance of the NC Original Free Will Baptists.

Subsequent to the joint meeting, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the Association approve Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church's request for membership into the Pee Dee Association of NC Original Free Will Baptists, contingent upon a letter of good standing and "release" from the Eastern Conference of South Carolina.

September 17, 2012

The Executive Committee received a letter dated August 19, 2012 from Branch Chapel Free Will Baptist Church (Selma, NC) of the Western Conference of North Carolina requesting "to transfer membership from the Western Conference to the Pee Dee Association." On September 17, 2012, the Executive Committee, along with Rev. Dallas Byrd representing the Ordaining Council, met with Rev. Rickey Evans, pastor of Branch Chapel; Mrs. Tammie Hicks, clerk; and all twelve members of the Branch Chapel Board of Deacons. Branch Chapel officials reviewed the reasons for their request as well as the church's current status. ***NOTE: Appropriate correspondence was mailed to the moderator and clerk of the Western Conference of North Carolina on September 11, 2012.***

The Executive Committee questioned Rev. Evans, Mrs. Hicks, and the deacons extensively regarding Branch Chapel's knowledge of and adherence to biblical truths, Free Will Baptist doctrine, church governance, and the *Articles of Faith* as well as policies and practices of the Pee Dee Association.

Following the joint meeting, members of the Executive Committee felt positive regarding Branch Chapel; however, the Committee felt the need to meet with the Ordaining Council as part of its deliberation, so a joint meeting with the Pee Dee Ordaining Council was arranged for Sunday, September 23, 2012.

September 23, 2012

The Executive Committee and Ordaining Council met jointly Sunday, September 23, 2012 to discuss the possible ordination of Rev. Rickey Evans as a Free Will Baptist minister of the Pee Dee Association contingent upon Branch Chapel Free Will Baptist Church's transfer into the Pee Dee Association and found him eligible for consideration.

October 15, 2012

1. McPherson shared that Rev. Mike Lyles had provided letters of good standing from Central Association of South Carolina for both the church and for himself. McPherson gave the letter for Rev. Lyles to Rev. Dallas Byrd, clerk of the Ordaining Council.

Rev. Carden made a motion (seconded by Dr. McPherson) to recommend the following to the Association:

WHEREAS the Executive Committee received a petitionary letter from Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church requesting membership in the Pee Dee Association from the Central Conference of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has conducted an official investigation and found Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church sound in doctrine and biblical truths; and

WHEREAS church practices and governance at Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church appear to be consistent with those of the Pee Dee Association; and

WHEREAS the Central Conference of South Carolina has issued a letter of good standing regarding Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church acknowledging this petitionary request and releasing the church from membership in the Central Conference of South Carolina;

THEREFORE, the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Association recommends that the Association approved this petitionary request and grant Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church membership into the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists.

2. Members discussed that not knowing the final disposition of situation between Branch Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and the Western Conference, the Executive Committee cannot make a final recommendation to the Pee Dee Association at its 2012 Annual Meeting. However, if and when the situation is disposed by both Branch Chapel and the Western Conference, then the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Association will take appropriate action.

3. The Executive Committee unanimously selected Rev. Jamey Ward to bring the Association message.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dean Cartrette, Moderator

Rev. Bobby Carden, Assistant Moderator

Ron Settle, Treasurer

Rev. Larry Greenwood, Member at large

Dr. Danny McPherson, Clerk

Dr. McPherson offered the following resolution & action for the petitionary letter dated May 10, 2012 from Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church:

WHEREAS the Executive Committee received a petitionary letter from Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church requesting membership in the Pee Dee Association from the Central Conference of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has conducted an official investigation and found Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church sound in doctrine and biblical truths; and

WHEREAS church practices and governance at Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church appear to be consistent with those of the Pee Dee Association; and

WHEREAS the Central Conference of South Carolina has issued a letter of good standing regarding Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church acknowledging this petitionary request and releasing the church from membership in the Central Conference of South Carolina;

THEREFORE, the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Association recommends that the Association approved this petitionary request and grant Freedom Original Free Will Baptist Church membership into the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists.

Rev. Larry Greenwood made a motion to accept the recommendation; motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. McPherson offered the following resolution & action for the petitionary letter dated August 19, 2012 from Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church:

WHEREAS the Executive Committee received a petitionary letter from Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church requesting to transfer its membership to the Pee Dee Association from the Western Conference of North Carolina; but

WHEREAS the Executive Committee has received no notification of the final disposition of the situation between Branch Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and the Western Conference;

THEREFORE, the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Association cannot make a final recommendation to the Pee Dee Association at its 2012 Annual Meeting. However, if and when the situation is disposed by both Branch Chapel and the Western Conference, then the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Association will take appropriate action.

Rev. Larry Greenwood made a motion to accept the recommendation; motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. James Howard Nobles then moved to accept the report in its entirety. The motion carried.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Heath Conner on March 27, 2012, after receiving a letter from Mt. Calvary OFWB Church asking the council to examine Bro. Conner for a minister's license. The council questioned Bro. Conner on biblical truths and Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The council approved Bro. Heath Conner as a licensed minister for one year.

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Donny Jernigan on March 27, 2012, after receiving a letter from White Oak OFWB Church asking the council to examine Bro. Jernigan for a

minister's license. The council questioned Bro. Jernigan on biblical truths and Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The council approved Bro. Donny Jernigan as a licensed minister for one year.

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. William Priest on August 14, 2012, after receiving a letter from White Oak OFWB Church asking the council to examine Bro. Priest for a minister's license. The council questioned Bro. Priest on biblical truths and Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The council approved Bro. William Priest as a licensed minister for one year.

The Ordaining Council met with Rev. Tommy Bryson on September 11, 2012, after receiving a letter from Mt. Olive OFWB Church stating that Rev. Bryson has joined Mt. Olive OFWB Church and would like to transfer his membership as an ordained minister from the Central Conference to the Pee Dee Association. The council questioned Rev. Bryson on biblical truths and Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The council recommended that Rev. Bryson be given a certificate of ordination pending a letter of good standing from the Central Conference. At this time, the council will schedule another meeting with Rev. Bryson.

The Ordaining Council met with Rev. Clifford Strickland on September 11, 2012, after receiving a letter from Pine Level OFWB Church asking the council to meet with Rev. Strickland since Pine Level OFWB Church would like to choose Rev. Strickland as their pastor. The council questioned Rev. Strickland on biblical truths and FFWB doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The council recommended that Rev. Clifford Strickland be given a certificate of ordination pending a letter of good standing from the Central Conference. At this time, the council will schedule another meeting with Rev. Strickland.

The Ordaining Council met with Rev. Clifford Strickland on October 17, 2012, after receiving his letter of good standing from the Central Conference. The council issued a Pee Dee Certificate of Ordination to Rev. Clifford Strickland.

The Ordaining Council met with Rev. Tommy Bryson on October 17, 2012, after receiving his letter of good standing from the Central Conference. The council issued a Pee Dee Certificate of Ordination to Rev. Tommy Bryson.

The Ordaining Council met with Rev. Mike Lyles on October 17, 2012, after receiving a letter stating that Rev. Lyles would like to join the Pee Dee Association as a licensed minister IF the Pee Dee Association grants Freedom FFWB Church's request to join the Pee Dee Association as a member church—that action to be taken at the annual meeting on Saturday, October 20, 2012. The council questioned Rev. Lyles on biblical truths and FFWB doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. Since Rev. Mike Lyles brought with him his letter of good standing from the Central Conference of South Carolina on Saturday, October 20, 2012, the council recommends that we issue a Pee Dee Certificate of Ordination to Rev. Mike Lyles, PENDING action by the Pee Dee Association accepting Freedom OFWB Church into the Pee Dee Association as a

member church on Saturday, October 20, 2012. Subsequent to that action by the Association, the council will issue a Pee Dee Certificate of Ordination to Rev. Mike Lyles.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dallas Byrd, Secretary

Rev. Hollon Norris moved to accept the report. The motion carried.

Rev. Hollon Norris moved that the Association extend the right hand of fellowship to members of Freedom OFWB Church and to Rev. Tommy Bryson, Rev. Eddie Carter, Rev. Clifford Strickland, Rev. Heath Connor, Rev. Donny Jernigan, and Rev. William Priest (Connor, Jernigan, & Priest as one-year licentiates). Motion carried.

Rev. George Benton moved to select a home for the association meeting in 2013. Motion carried. Rev. Hollon Norris invited the Association to meet at Emerson Original Free Will Baptist Church for the 2013 annual meeting scheduled for October 19, 2013. Rev. James Howard Nobles moved that the invitation be accepted; motion carried.

Rev. James Howard Nobles moved to pay the officers the same as usual; motion carried.

Rev. George Benton moved that Rev. James Howard Nobles continue to serve as the Pee Dee representative to the Executive Committee of Original Free Will Baptists. Motion seconded and carried.

Rev. Hollon Norris made a motion (seconded and carried) to take action filling the vacancy on the Ordaining Council. Rev. James Howard Nobles indicated that Council members had met and discussed the vacancy and had spoken with Rev. Buddy Seay as the replacement. Rev. Nobles made a motion (seconded by Rev. Larry Greenwood) recommending that Rev. Seay serve as a member of the Pee Dee Ordaining Council. Motion carried.

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. Hollon Norris moved to recess out of business and to enter into worship service. Motion carried. Rev. Jamey Ward delivered the morning message.

Following the message, the moderator returned thanks for the lunch prepared by Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church and adjourned the annual meeting by benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dean Cartrette, Moderator

Dr. Danny D. McPherson, Clerk