



The 104th Annual Session of the
**CONVENTION OF
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

May 18-19, 2016

*Growing in Grace
Through Community Service*

II Corinthians 9:8-9

OFWB



Growing in Grace

Ministry and Conference Report Book

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Convention Of Original Free Will Baptists



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*MINUTES of the 146th ANNUAL SESSION
of the
PEE DEE ASSOCIATION
of
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS
in session at
Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church
Johnston County, North Carolina*

October 17, 2015

The next session will be held at Mission Valley Original Free Will Baptist Church (Columbus County) on the Saturday before the third Sunday in October 2016 (October 15, 2016) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

MODERATOR: Rev. Dean Cartrette

CLERK: Dr. Danny D. McPherson

ASST. MODERATOR: Rev. Heath Conner

TREASURER: Ron Settle

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Tabor City, NC 28463
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Tabor City, NC 28463

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William E. Ward
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LICENTIATE(S)

Drake Harper

Paul Lambert

Jeff Westerfield

Sonny Williams

MEMBER CHURCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

(for year ending June 30, 2015)

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>
Beaverdam	Rev. Buddy Seay
Branch Chapel	Rev. Rickey Evans
Cypress Creek	Rev. Eddie Carter
Emerson	Rev. Heath Conner
Freedom	Rev. Jackie Strickland
Little Bethel	Rev. Dean Cartrette
Macedonia	Rev. Jamey Ward
Mission Valley	Vacant
Mt. Beulah	Rev. William Hearl
Mt. Calvary	Rev. Jimmy McNeill
Mt. Olive	Vacant
Oak Grove	Rev. Henry Ward
Pine Level	Vacant
Pireway	Vacant
Pleasant Meadow	Rev. George Benton
Thomasboro	Rev. Dallas Byrd
Trinity	Rev. Larry Greenwood
White Oak	Rev. Dr. Bobby Carden

PROCEEDINGS

The One Hundred Forty-sixth Annual Session of the Pee Dee Association of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina convened at Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Johnston County, NC October 17, 2015.

The session opened as the congregation sang "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms." Moderator Rev. Dean Cartrette called the meeting to order and gave the devotional services, taking his text from Romans 3: 9 – 20. Rev. Hollon Norris led the congregation in altar prayer.

Rev. Rickey Evans, pastor of Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, gave the welcome address with response by Rev. Jackie Strickland.

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 delegates, except Mt. Beulah which was represented with letter only.

The roll of ministers was called; Revs. Buster Benton, Gary Bryan, Tommy Bryson, Pete Cribb, William Hearl, Dewey Hilbourn, William Priest, Robert Sellers, Edward Spivey, and Clifford Strickland were absent. Excuses were offered in behalf of Revs. Buster Benton, Gary Bryan, Tommy Bryson, Pete Cribb, William Hearl, Dewey Hilbourn, William Priest, and Edward Spivey. Rev. Donny Jernigan made a motion to grant their requests (second by Rev. James Howard Nobles). Motion carried. The moderator called for a moment of silence in memory of Rev. Brooks Sykes, a long-time minister of the Pee Dee Association who died since the 2014 annual meeting.

The moderator appointed the following committees:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Paul Nobles, Patricia Settle, & Luby Tyner, Jr.

OBITUARY: Elgin Cribb, Kathy Meares, & Jamie Simmons

RESOLUTION: Randy C. Earp, Woodie Etheridge, & Ken Nealey

Rev. Buddy Sasser, Convention Services Director, brought greetings on behalf of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and shared that the Convention headquarters office would be moving from Ayden to the campus of the University of Mount Olive (201 West James Street; Mount Olive, NC) effective January 2016. Rev. Sasser also mentioned that the Free Will Baptist Press was currently undergoing a financial review.

Rev. Al Warrick, president of the Convention, updated delegates on the current strategic planning process and the Wall of Honor located at the Convention headquarters.

Representatives from denominational enterprises gave brief reports on the work of their particular ministries:

Gary Lee—Children's Home: shared current status of the ministry;

Tim Heath—Home Missions: reviewed services available to Free Will Baptists;

Gail Heath—Ministry of Christian Education: shared that former director Mrs. Mary Dudley has retired and then reviewed the ministry's services as well as information regarding the annual Life Conference—March 5 (encouraged churches to enter nominations for the Sunday school superintendent of the year and Sunday school teacher of the year—January 31, 2016 deadline); and

Rev. John Blackwell—University of Mount Olive: growth in student enrollment and learning opportunities for those interested.

Rev. Rickey Evans moved to accept the reports as information; motion was seconded and carried.

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. Rev. Jamey Ward offered prayer.

Church letters were called for and read by the clerk.

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

REPORTS

RESOLUTION

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randy C. Earp
Woodie Etheridge
Ken Nealey

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

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,

Paul Nobles
Patricia Settle
Luby Tyner Jr.

Report was received, and the committee was dismissed by motion of Rev. Sonny Williams.

OBITUARY

We, your committee, regret that to the best of our knowledge, we had 27 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,
Elgin Cribb
Kathy Meares
Jamie Simmons

Report was received, and the committee was dismissed by motion of Bro. J.R. McPherson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning balance (October 18, 2014)	2997.57
Deposit from association	1811.00
Total (October 24, 2014)	\$4808.57
Checks for the past year	
# 472 Dr. Danny McPherson	75.00
# 473 Rev. Dean Cartrette	75.00
# 474 Freedom OFWB Church	1000.00
# 475 Ron Settle	75.00
# 476 OFWB Children's Home	216.00
# 477	Void
# 478 Tip Top Florist	95.00
# 479 Budget Printing	480.38
# 480 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists (yearbooks)	240.00

TOTAL CHECKS FOR LAST YEAR \$2256.38

Balance (October 17, 2015) \$2552.19

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Settle, Treasurer

Treasurer's report was accepted by motion of Rev. Jamey Ward.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Sonny Williams on December 9, 2014 after receiving a letter from Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church asking the Council to examine Bro. Williams for a minister's license. The Council questioned Bro. Williams on biblical truths and Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The Council approved Bro. Sonny Williams as a licensed minister for one year.

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Jeff Westerfield on December 9, 2014 after receiving a letter from Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church asking the Council to examine Bro. Westerfield for a minister's license. The Council questioned Bro. Westerfield on biblical truths and Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The Council approved Bro. Jeff Westefield as a licensed minister for one year.

The Ordaining Council met with Rev. Paul Lambert on March 3, 2015 after receiving a letter from Mission Valley Original Free Will Baptist Church stating that Rev. Lambert had joined Mission Valley OFWB Church on February 15, 2014 and that Mission Valley would like to consider Rev. Lambert as a pastor. Rev. Paul Lambert was recommended to the Council as in good standing with A Touch of Christ Ministries, Inc. Independent Free Will Baptist Church. The Council questioned Rev. Lambert on biblical truths and Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The Council approved Rev. Paul Lambert as a licensed minister for one year.

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Drake Harper on August 28, 2015 after receiving a letter from Cypress Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church asking the Council to examine Bro. Harper for a minister's license. The Council questioned Bro. Harper on biblical truths and Free Will Baptist doctrine and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The Council approved Bro. Drake Harper as a licensed minister for one year.

Respectfully submitted,

The Pee Dee Association Ordaining Council
Rev. Dallas Byrd, Clerk

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is thankful that, to the best of our knowledge, all is well among our churches. Still, we urge ministers and local congregations to remain faithful in their unity of the spirit, in their commitment to the local church, in their ministry to the saved and unsaved, and above all, in their absolute devotion to God.

The Executive Committee met jointly with the Ordaining Council on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 (7:00 p.m.) at Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church. Also in attendance was Rev. Donny Jernigan representing the Executive Committee of the Convention. Rev. Jernigan gave an update on the strategic planning process sponsored by the Convention. He also shared that the Free Will Baptist headquarters is moving from Ayden, NC to the University of Mount Olive.

The Executive Committee considered the vacancy to the Pee Dee Association Board of Trustees due to the resignation of Isaac Norris Jr. Rev. Dr. Bobby Carden made a motion, seconded and carried, to recommend Bro. G. C. Bryan to the Association as Norris's replacement. Motion carried.

McPherson shared that this was the year to elect officers and asked if everyone was willing to continue to serve if asked by the Association. Rev. Carden indicated that due to age and the growth in his evangelistic ministry, he would prefer not to be re-elected and made a motion (seconded and carried) that the Executive Committee recommend Rev. Buddy Seay to fill the Assistant Moderator's position if the Association should decide.

Rev. Eddie Carter was selected to deliver 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

Rev. Rickey Evans made a motion to accept the report; motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. George Benton moved to omit the reading of the 2014 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

Rev. Hollon Norris made a motion to authorize/extend the right hand of fellowship to Rev. William Priest in his absence. Motion carried. NOTE: Inadvertently, Rev. Priest did not receive the right hand of fellowship in 2014, and because he was unable to be present at the 2015 Association meeting, the right hand of fellowship was offered in his absence.

NEW BUSINESS

Danny McPherson read a note of thanks from Freedom OFWB Church, expressing their appreciation for the \$1000 contribution to their building project.

McPherson also expressed thanks to so many who participated in the September 2014 Pee Dee Strategic Planning Task Force meeting. It was a great meeting. As the process continues, the Convention Task Force is searching for “experts” from our Association and local churches in the areas of Outreach, In-reach, and Youth Development. He asked that delegates and ministers give him the names of those in their local churches who might be interested in contributing to the work of these statewide groups. Rev. Bobby Carden made a motion to receive the report as information. Motion carried.

McPherson shared a copy of Beaverdam OFWB Church's Constitution & Bylaws. He encouraged all churches within the Association to review their current bylaws in light of many of the social and political issues that Christian churches face today in the twenty-first century—issues that are contrary to God's Holy Word. McPherson indicated that Beaverdam's Constitution & Bylaws had been approved by the church conference and was currently being reviewed by the Christian Law Association. If and when any revisions are approved based on the review, McPherson shared that the Pee Dee Executive Committee would host a meeting for all interested churches at which time the process for developing/revising bylaws could be reviewed and each church could receive a copy of Beaverdam's Constitution & Bylaws if desired.

McPherson read a letter from Isaac Norris Jr. asking that the Association accept his resignation from the Pee Dee Association Board of Trustees. Rev. Larry Greenwood made a motion to accept his resignation. Motion carried.

Rev. Bobby Carden made a motion to fill the vacancy on the Pee Dee Association Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

The moderator opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy on the Pee Dee Association Board of Trustees. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Rev. Carden nominated Bro. G.C. Bryan. There were no other nominations. Bro. J.R. McPherson moved to close the nominations and elect Bro. G.C. Bryan. Motion carried.

Rev. Hollon Norris made a motion requesting that in the future, the Ordaining Council include in their report to the Association that the right hand of fellowship be extended to ordained ministers. Motion carried.

Rev. Hollon Norris made a motion to give the Ordaining Council the authority to investigate any minister who is reported for any violation of church doctrine, biblical principles, or policies/procedures of the Original Free Will Baptists whether the allegations are written or not written. Motion was seconded. Bro. G.C. Bryan noted that the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists* already outlines procedures related to ministerial issues/accusations and questioned the need for something other than that which is already in place. Rev. James Howard Nobles, chairman of the Ordaining Council, also referred to the procedures currently prescribed in the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists* and cautioned the Association to consider very carefully policies/procedures in addition to those already in place. Rev. Rickey Evans made a motion to lay this motion (issue) on the table until such time that the Ordaining Council could consider the issue and bring a recommendation to the Association. Motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. Larry Greenwood moved to select a home for the annual meeting in 2016. Motion carried. Bro. Mike Worley invited the Association to meet at Mission Valley Original Free Will Baptist Church for the 2016 annual meeting scheduled for October 15, 2016. Rev. James Howard Nobles moved that the invitation be accepted; motion carried.

Danny McPherson made a motion to elect Association officers for the next two-year period. Motion carried.

The moderator opened the floor to elect officers:

- Moderator: Rev. George Benton made a motion to elect Rev. Dean Cartrette as moderator. Motion carried.
- Assistant moderator: Rev. Hollon Norris made a motion to elect Rev. Heath Conner as assistant moderator. Motion carried. (NOTE: Earlier in the Executive Committee's report, McPherson noted that Rev. Carden preferred not to be re-elected due to age and the growth in his evangelistic ministry.)
- Treasurer: Rev. Larry Greenwood made a motion to elect Ron Settle as treasurer. Motion carried.
- Clerk: Rev. Heath Conner made a motion to elect Danny McPherson as clerk. Motion carried.
- Member-at-large: Rev. Jamey Ward made a motion to elect Rev. Larry Greenwood as member-at-large. Motion carried.

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

Rev. Rickey Evans presented and reviewed a salvation track that he uses at Branch Chapel and made copies available to other Association churches.

Rev. Donny Jemigan announced that he had asked Rev. Buddy Seay to represent the Pee Dee Association on the Convention "Articles of Faith" task force/committee and had asked Rev. Rickey Evans to represent the Pee Dee Association on the Convention "Vision and Mission" task force/committee.

Danny McPherson moved that the Association give Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality. Motion carried.

Rev. James Howard Nobles moved to recess out of business, to have lunch, and to return after lunch for worship service. Motion carried.

The moderator returned thanks for the lunch prepared by Branch Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Following lunch, the Association reconvened for worship service, and Rev. Eddie Carter delivered the message.

The session was adjourned by benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dean Cartrette
Moderator

Dr. Danny D. McPherson
Clerk