

MINUTES of the 153<sup>rd</sup> 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 15, 2022

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 2023 (October 14, 2023) beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**PEE DEE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

**MODERATOR:** Rev. Dean Cartrette

**ASST. MODERATOR:** Rev. Heath Conner

**CLERK:** Dr. Danny D. McPherson

**TREASURER:** Ron Settle

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**MODERATOR**

Rev. Dean Cartrette  
409 Porter Rd. Tabor City, NC 28463  
910 377-2409

**ASSISTANT MODERATOR**

Rev. Heath Conner  
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**MEMBER AT LARGE**

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910 840-2034

**ORDAINING COUNCIL**

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Rev. Jeff Westerfield  
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Selma, NC 27576  
301 751-6037

Rev. Sonny R. Williams, Jr.  
43 Phillips Road  
Selma, NC 27576  
919 634-8578

**LICENTIATE(S)**

Rev. Tommy Worley  
2060 Old Cribbtown Rd. Chadbourn, NC 28431  
910 653-5041, 910 234-0535

**MEMBER CHURCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

(for year ending June 30, 2022)

**CHURCH PASTOR**

Beaverdam	Rev. F. 'Buddy' Seay, Jr.
Cypress Creek	Rev. Jeff Barton
Emerson	Rev. Heath Conner
Freedom	Rev. Eugene Gaskin
Little Bethel	Rev. Dean Cartrette
Macedonia	Rev. Jamey Ward
Mission Valley	Rev. Paul Lambert
Mt. Beulah	Vacant
Mt. Calvary	Rev. Jimmy McNeill
Mt. Olive	Rev. Timmy Locklear
Oak Grove	Rev. Jackie Strickland
Pine Level	Vacant
Pireway	Vacant
Pleasant Meadow	Vacant
Thomasboro	Rev. Dallas Byrd
Trinity	Rev. Larry Greenwood
White Oak	Rev. Dr. Bobby Carden

**PROCEEDINGS**

The One Hundred Fifty-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 15, 2022.

The session opened as the congregation sang "Since Jesus Came into My Heart." Moderator Rev. Dean Cartrette called the meeting to order and gave the devotional services, taking his text from Numbers 13: 1 – 3. Brother Elgin Cribb led the congregation in prayer.

Rev. Jackie Strickland, pastor of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, gave the welcome address with response by Rev. Buddy Seay.

The moderator welcomed everyone and invited visitors to enjoy the Association activities but reminded them that they could participate in any business. Afterwards, the moderator announced the house in order for business.

The clerk reviewed a printed preliminary agenda which had been distributed to all delegates and guests. He also shared that Assistant Moderator Rev. Heath Conner was substituting as treasurer due to Brother Ron Settle's absence.

The roll of churches was called. With the exception of Pireway, all churches were represented by letter but some with no delegates. Pireway was represented by delegates and later submitted its annual letter/report.

The roll of ministers was called. Revs. George Benton, Joseph B. Benton, Gary Bryan, Tommy Bryson, Pete Cribb, Rickey Evans, Drake Harper, William Hearl, Donny Jernigan, Jimmy McNeill, Hollon Norris, Edward Spivey, Clifford Strickland, William E. Ward, Jeff Westerfield, and Sonny R. Williams, Jr. were absent. Excuses were offered in behalf of Revs. George Benton, Joseph B. Benton, Tommy Bryson, Pete Cribb, William Hearl, Jimmy McNeill, Jeff Westerfield, and Sonny R. Williams, Jr. Rev. Derek Batten made a motion, which was properly seconded, to grant their requests. Motion carried.

The moderator appointed the following committees:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Ronnie Barnhill, Ricky Fowler, & Jackie Spivey

OBITUARY: Tommy Cribb, William Ward, & Sparky Wilson

RESOLUTION: Harold Pait, Harry Ranson, & Wayne Tyler

The moderator invited representatives from the denominational ministries to present their reports.

Those who reviewed the work of their ministries included the following:

Gail Heath—Ministry of Christian Education

- o shared that the Ministry of Christian Education is still trying to assist all churches in restarting Sunday School and providing literature to smaller churches.
- o noted that the ministry funded sixteen camp scholarships to Camp Vandemere and Cragmont.
- o shared that the "Rock Solid" seminar for Sunday School teachers (offered on a Saturday) is available to the Pee Dee Association at a cost of \$10 per participant.
- o reminded everyone that March 4, 2023 is the date for the annual Life Conference and that nominations are encouraged for the "Sunday School Teacher of the Year" and "Sunday School Superintendent of the Year."

Dr. Franklin Baggett—Church Planting and Renewal

- o shared the need for church planting in targeted areas of North Carolina.

Dr. John Hill—Free Will Baptist Press, Cross and Crown, & Foreign Missions

- o RE: Free Will Baptist Press & Cross and Crown: Dr. Hill shared that the Press has a "focus on King James-only materials" and is willing to assist churches in receiving such literature.
- o RE: Foreign Missions: At the time of this report, the Joneses are in Bulgaria assisting Ukrainian refugees. The Joneses plan to retire at the end of 2022, at which time Dr. Hill will serve as interim director.

David Lee McPherson—Pee Dee Association Trustee on the University of Mount Olive Board of Trustees

- o shared that the University's enrollment has increased by five percent from the previous year and that currently there are 920 students enrolled in the "traditional" campus program.
- o indicated that the University's weekly chapel programs, as well as the spring and fall revivals, are well attended. At the most recent revival, twenty students accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- o noted that there is growing interest in the University's aviation and nursing programs.
- o asked churches to consider sponsoring a "UMO Sunday" at which University representatives could share information about the University, and churches could consider receiving a free will offering to support the school.

All presenters asked for prayer, and all emphasized that their main purpose is to seek the unsaved and to bring them to salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. F. 'Buddy' Seay moved to accept the reports and presentations as information; motion was seconded and carried.

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

The clerk called for and read church letters/annual reports.

Following the morning recess, the moderator called the house back to order and re-convened with prayer.

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,

Harold Pait

Harry Ransom

Wayne Tyler

Rev. Derick Batten made a motion (seconded & carried) to accept the report and to dismiss the committee.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

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

Also, as our churches discuss ways to strengthen their Sunday Schools and other Christian education programs, we encourage church officials to contact the Free Will Baptist Ministry of Christian Education for suggestions and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronnie Barnhill

Ricky Fowler

Jackie Spivey

Rev. Jamey Ward made a motion (seconded & carried) to accept the report and to dismiss the committee.

### **OBITUARY**

We, your committee, regret to report that to the best of our knowledge, we had 28 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,

Tommy Cribb

Lynn Ward

Sparky Wilson

Rev. Jacob Cribb made a motion (seconded & carried) to accept the report and to dismiss the committee.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning balance (October 16, 2021)..... 2539.65  
Deposit from Association (December 13, 2021)..... 1645.00  
TOTAL ..... \$4184.65

Checks for the past year

# 534 Dr. Danny McPherson..... 125.00  
# 535 Rev. Dean Cartrette..... 125.00  
# 536 Void.....  
# 537 Rev. Jeff Burton ..... 100.00  
# 538 Ron Settle ..... 125.00  
# 539 Children's Home ..... 320.00  
# 540 Budget Printing ..... 565.78  
# 541 Cross and Crown ..... 61.99  
# 542 Cross and Crown ..... 27.71  
# 543 Convention of OFWB (yearbooks) .... 410.00  
TOTAL CHECKS ..... \$1860.48  
Balance (October 15, 2022)..... \$2324.17

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Settle, Treasurer

Rev. Derick Batten made a motion (seconded & carried) to accept the treasurer's report.

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

The Pee Dee Ordaining Council met at Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church on February 1, 2022 to review the Ordaining Council's Examination for Candidates for Ordination. After all records were lost in a house fire, Rev. Buddy Seay found a copy of the examination in Rev. Jackie Godwin's files. The Ordaining Council reviewed and updated the examination. Brother Danny McPherson put the exam file on computer discs and made copies for all Ordaining Council members.

The Council met on March 27, 2022 after receiving a letter from Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church asking the Council to examine Bro. Tommy Worley for a minister's license. The Council questioned Bro. Worley on church doctrine and biblical truths and found him to be sound in faith and doctrine. The Council approved Bro. Tommy Worley as a licensed minister for one year.

Also on March 27, 2022, the Council considered a letter from the Eastern Conference asking for a letter of good standing from the Pee Dee Association for Rev. Johnny Johnson. The Council approved Rev. Johnny Johnson as being in good standing with the Pee Dee Association and its churches.

Also at its March 27, 2022 meeting, the Council considered a letter from the Central Conference of South Carolina asking for a letter of good standing from the Pee Dee Association for Rev. Eddie Carter. The Council approved Rev. Eddie Carter as being in good standing with the Pee Dee Association and its churches.

Respectfully submitted,

The Pee Dee Association Ordaining Council

Rev. Dallas Byrd, Clerk

Rev. Dallas Byrd moved to accept the report. Motion was seconded and carried.



## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Though the challenges of Covid 19 have tested local congregations during the last couple of years, the Executive Committee is thankful that, to the best of our knowledge, the spirit and commitment of our congregations are strong. As our churches have resumed services, we realize some congregants may not have returned yet. However, we suggest that pastors and church leaders continue their efforts to contact those who may not have returned, as well as others within our communities, to let them know that we love and miss them and to encourage them to be with us in services.

Likewise, 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 Saturday, October 16, 2021 (12:00 p.m.) at Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church after receiving a letter from White Oak Original Free Will Baptist Church stating their intent to withdraw from the NC Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, the Pee Dee Association, and Union 1. The Executive Committee chose to send a letter to the pastor and clerk asking for additional information.

The Executive Committee met via phone on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 after receiving a letter from White Oak Original Free Will Baptist Church stating the church's action to rescind their earlier intention and expressing their gratefulness "for the love and consideration that the [Association and Union] had provided" for many years. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to accept the letter rescinding the earlier request and asked the clerk to send a letter to the church stating the Committee's action and their joy that the White Oak church family would continue to be valued members of our Association.

The Executive Committee and the Ordaining Council met jointly on Sunday afternoon, September 11, 2022 (2:00 p.m.) at Beaverdam Original Free Will Baptist Church. Members of the Ordaining Council present included Rev. Dallas Byrd, Rev. Buddy Seay, & Rev. Jamey Ward. Members of the Executive Committee who were present included Rev. Dean Cartrette, Rev. Heath Connor, Rev. Larry Greenwood, & Dr. Danny McPherson. Brother Ron Settle was absent.

The moderator welcomed everyone and shared a devotion from Isaiah 6: 1 – 4, after which Rev. Jamey Ward led the group in prayer.

The clerk shared various updates and then noted that the Executive Committee should discuss whether or not to plan for lunch. The consensus of all present was to speak with Rev. Jackie Strickland, pastor of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, and to indicate that the church could prepare lunch if they chose to do so.

The Ordaining Council shared the names of ministers transferring from the Pee Dee Association as well as one licentiate.

After discussing other general matters and there being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

This report of the Executive Committee is respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dean Cartrette, Moderator

Dr. Danny McPherson, Clerk

Rev. Buddy Seay moved to accept the report; the motion was seconded & carried.

Rev. Jamey Ward moved to omit the reading of the 2021 Association minutes because the Association printed the 2021 minutes and made copies available to all churches. Plus, the minutes are available in the Convention *Yearbook*. Motion carried.

## **OLD or UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## NEW BUSINESS

The moderator reminded delegates and guests that the State Convention is currently examining and revising the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists*. Rev. F. 'Buddy' Seay (Ordaining Council) and the moderator, Rev. Dean Cartrette (Executive Committee), represent the Pee Dee. Rev. Cartrette indicated that various sub-committees review specific sections of the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists*, after which the entire committee reviews, discusses, and prepares any "final" recommended changes. Once the committee has completed the entire process, the final product will be reviewed at various levels including the Conference/Association level. The intent is for all Free Will Baptists to have an opportunity to review the product before final action is taken.

In other new business, the clerk read an email dated October 11, 2022 from Rev. Kenneth Woolwine "resigning from the Ordaining Council due to relocation." Rev. Jacob Cribb made a motion, seconded and carried, to accept Rev. Woolwine's resignation.

Rev. F. 'Buddy' Seay shared a report from the Ordaining Council regarding filling vacancies on the Council due to Rev. Kenneth Woolwine's resignation and relocation and the death of Rev. James Howard Nobles. Rev. Seay stated that the Council was recommending Rev. Paul Lambert and Rev. Timmy Locklear to fill those vacancies and made a motion to that effect. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

At that time, delegates and ministers expressed sincere words of honor and respect for Rev. James Howard Nobles who pastored churches with the Association and was a longtime member and chairman of the Ordaining Council. His wisdom and Godliness will be greatly missed.

Rev. Derick Batten made a motion (seconded & carried) to pay officers as usual. Rev. Jacob Cribb made a motion (seconded & carried) to select a home for the 2023 annual meeting.

The pastor and delegates from Mission Valley Original Free Will Baptist Church invited the Association to meet there for its 2023 annual meeting scheduled for October 14, 2023. Brother Danny McPherson moved that the invitation be accepted; motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. Jamey Ward moved to give Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church a standing vote of thanks for their hospitality. Motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business, Rev. Jackie Strickland made a motion (seconded & carried) to adjourn the business portion of the annual meeting & to enter worship service. Rev. Paul Lambert, pastor of Mission Valley Original Free Will Baptist Church, delivered the morning message.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dean Cartrette, Moderator

Dr. Danny D. McPherson, Clerk