

*H. H. Adkinson*

# MINUTES

OF THE

## POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION

OF

# FREE WILL BAPTIST

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HELD WITH

Allen's Chapel, near Batesville, Independence County,  
Arkansas, September 7, 8, 9 and 10, 1939

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### OFFICERS

Moderator,	L. C. Doyle,	Newport, Ark.
Ass't. Mod.,	M. G. King,	Powhatan, Ark.
Clerk-Treas.,	M. B. Williams,	Strawberry, Ark.
Ass't. Clerk.,	W. B. Hardin,	Strawberry, Ark.

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The next annual session of the Association will convene with Ballew Chapel, near Grubbs, Arkansas, on Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1940.

# 1939 Minutes of the Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists

## PROCEEDINGS

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### THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The ministers, deacons and messengers of that part of the CHURCH OF GOD, commonly known as the POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS, met with Allen Chapel church, near Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, in regular annual session on Thursday night, September 7, 1939.

The congregation was called to order by singing and Bro. H. A. Lewis preached the introductory sermon.

### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The congregation was called together by singing. Moderator H. A. Lewis opened the conference by reading the 13th chapter of first Corinthians, followed by prayer led by Elder M. G. King.

Ministers enrolled as follows: M. A. Wolfe, Batesville, Ark., Rt. 2; H. A. Lewis, Sage, Arkansas; M. G. King, Powhatan, Arkansas; Obie Eagan, Saffell, Arkansas; L. C. Doyle, Newport, Arkansas; W. B. Hardin, Strawberry, Arkansas; Owen Harvill, Lunenberg, Arkansas; Carl Davis, visiting preacher, of Elizabeth, Arkansas.

Deacons enrolled as follows: M. A. Wolfe, B. A. Gibson, J. H. Meeks, J. H. Sides, J. Roach, W. O. Baxter, A. T. Richey, V. Rutledge, Vester Huckaba, L. H. Croom, R. L. C. Walker, Joe Owens, Bland Richardson.

The moderator called for letters from the various churches belonging to the association. The following churches responded and their messengers were seated in conference:

### DELEGATES

Oak Grove—Oris Richey, Josie King and Sister A. Richey.

Macedonia—Nona Conyers and Margie Reaves.

Weaver's Chapel—Christene Milligan, Zeda Mae Goforth.

New Home No. 2—Francis Lewis and Emma Adkisson.

Coffman—Cecil Doyle.

Black Land Chapel—Carl Turner and Elsie Turner.

Pool's Chapel—La Marke Hastings, Eva Roach.

Allen Chapel—Cleo Manvel, Jess Long.

Bethel Church—Elgie Byler, Garland Mankin.

Ballew's Chapel—Ethel Hoyle, Beulah Dillion, Fay Watkins, G. T. Blanks.

Mt. Harmony—Lewis Croom, I. E. Sharp, A. I. Willmuth.

Arbor Grove—Represented by verbal report by Bro. M. G. King.

Pine Hill—Reported by Bro. J. Roach.

New Home No. 1—Represented by Bro. L. C. Doyle.

Letters from the different churches were read and received. The roll was called and the ministers, deacons and delegates were seated in conference.

Elder L. C. Doyle was elected moderator and Elder M. G. King assistant moderator.

M. B. Williams was elected clerk and W. B. Hardin assistant clerk.

Song by choir and Christian fellowship extended.

### COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Divine—B. A. Gibson, J. H. Sides and O. V. Tadlock.

Resolution—Obie Eagan, J. H. Meeks, M. A. Wolfe.

Sunday School—R. L. C. Walker, Austin Mullen and W. O. Baxter.

Temperance—Ed Roach, Carl Davis, V. Rutledge.

Obituary—Mrs. M. G. King, Eva Roach and Beulah Dillon.

Ordination—W. B. Hardin, M. G. King, Obie Eagan.

Final Resolutions—Fay Watkins, Cinda Pool and Norma Williams.

Finance—A. I. Willmuth, A. F. Richey, J. Roach.

### RECESS

Called together by song. Scripture lesson read from the first chapter of Romans, after which Bro. Eagan and Bro. M. G. King preached. Dismissed by prayer by Bro. Carl Davis.

### FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

Called together by song.

Letter from White River Quarterly Conference read and Bro. H. G. Adkisson, Floyd Lewis and Ed Roach received as delegates and seated in conference.

Petition from Black Land church read, received and delegates seated at this time.

The By-Laws were read by assistant clerk.

Reading of ministers' reports. Reports read and received.

Clerk's report read and received.

Divine Committee's report read and received.

The Divine Committee selected Bro. Carl Davis to preach at 7:45.

Conference adjourned until 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by song. Scripture lesson read from the 23rd Psalm. Prayer by Bro. Gibson.

Election of delegates to State Association—H. B. Doyle, M. A. Scudder, A. L. Blanks, G. E. Richardson and Jess Long.

Motion made to send Bro. W. B. Hardin to preach at New Home No. 1 and try to get church better organized. Motion carried.

Report of Resolutions Committee received. Motion No. 1, an act to encourage pastors to put on "Better Attendance Drives." Voted and received.

Motion No. 2, ministers be asked to give number of Sunday school lectures made during the year, in their reports. Resolution adopted.

Resolution No. 3. That pastors refrain from letting transient preachers use their pulpits unless they can prove they are orthodox in the faith. Resolution adopted.

## RECESS

Called together by song, after which Bro. L. C. Doyle preached a memorial sermon.

Dismissed by Bro. M. G. King.

## SATURDAY EVENING SESSION

Opened by singing. Moderator read second chapter of Timothy, followed by prayer.

Singing by quartette, composed of M. A. Scudder, Austin Mullen, Norma Louise Williams and A. T. Blanks.

Trio by Crowell sisters.

H. A. Lewis elected to preach introductory sermon at next Association. Bro. Eagan elected alternate. Bro. M. G. King elected to preach memorial sermon at the 1940 session.

The ordination committee at this time examined Bro. Austin Mullen and recommended that he be licensed to preach for one year, after which Bro. Mullen gave a short talk on "Religion."

Report of final resolution received at this time and committee discharged.

Motion carried to adjourn until Tuesday night before the second Sunday in September, 1940.

Dismissed by M. A. Wolfe.

L. C. Dolye, Moderator.  
M. B. Williams, Clerk.

## MINISTER'S REPORTS

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**Owen Harvell**—Sermons preached 35, churches pastored 3, baptised 9, money received \$20.75.

**H. A. Lewis**—Sermons preached 178, conversions witnessed 40, baptised 8, received into church 13. Held seven revivals and four funerals. Pastored four churches. Money received \$251.21.

**M. G. King**—Pastored one church, three open appointments. Helped in four revivals. Witnessed eight professions. Held eight funerals. Preached 78 sermons. Money received \$155.62.

**M. A. Wolfe**—Pastored one church. Preached 24 sermons, held three revivals, witnessed one conversion, received one into church. Baptised four, held one funeral. Money received \$2.85.

**Obie Eagan**—Pastored one church, held one revival, assisted in one revival, witnessed seven professions, held three funerals, married one couple, preached 31 sermons. Money received \$45.85.

**L. C. Doyle**—Pastored three churches, held four meetings, baptised 10, received into church 15, preached 95 sermons, married four couples, preached 20 funerals, received \$181.40.

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## CHURCHES REPRESENTED AT THE 1939 POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION

Churches represented at the 1939 Polk Bayou Association, their clerks and their addresses:

Mt. Harmony, W. B. Hardin	Strawberry, Ark.
Ballew Chapel, Daisy Dillon	Newport, Ark.
Bethel, Bethel Richardson	Gid, Ark.
Allen Chapel, Mrs. J. J. Long	Batesville, Ark.
Pool's Chapel, Nora Baxter	Batesville, Ark.
Black Land Chapel, Opal Harris.	
Coffman, M. A. Scudder	Hoxie, Ark.
New Home No. 2, Addie Adkisson	Gid, Ark.
Weaver Chapel, Rae Fugett	Batesville, Ark.
Macedonia, Evans Craig	Mt. Pleasant, Ark.
Oak Grove, Douglas Culver	Imboden, Ark.
Love Divine, J. T. Doyle	Hoxie, Ark.
New Home No. 1, Dewitt Rowlett	Swifton, Ark.

Minute fund from various churches: New Home No. 2 \$2.00, Mt. Harmony \$2.15, Pool's Chapel \$2.50, Bethel \$1.12, Ballew Chapel \$2.00, Allen Chapel \$2.00, Oak Grove \$2.00, Coffman \$2.00, Love Divine \$1.00.

## BY-LAWS

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1. The moderator or assistant moderator, and in their absence, the clerk shall call the Association into conference, and if a quorum be present, the moderator, and in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither are present, then the senior minister in years of service shall act as moderator.

2. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and prayer and closed by prayer.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be stopped at any time by a majority vote of the members present.

5. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

7. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the body.

8. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present.

9. No member shall absent himself without leave of the moderator.

10. Arrangements shall be made to insure at least two sermons each day of each session of the Association.

11. The moderator shall announce just before adjournment who shall preach at the next meeting.

12. Changes may be made in these By-Laws at any regular Session of the Association by a majority vote of members present.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE ASSOCIATION

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1. Convene on the Thursday night before the second Sunday in September.
2. Scriptural reading and prayer.
3. Association called to order by the moderator or assistant moderator, in their absence the clerk.
4. Moderator calls for introductory sermon.
5. Introductory sermon.
6. Enrollment of ministers and deacons.
7. Call for letters from quarterly meetings belonging to the Association.
8. Call for letters from churches belonging to the Association.
9. Call for petitionary letters.
10. Letters read, received and delegates and church clerks given the right hand of fellowship.
11. Enrollment of delegates and clerks.
12. Clerk calls the roll.
13. Elect a moderator.
14. Elect an assistant moderator.
15. Elect assistant clerk.
16. Invite all visiting ministers and deacons to enroll.
17. Invite all Christians to take a seat in council.
18. Read the Constitution and By-Laws.
19. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Divine Service, (b) Resolutions, (c) Finance, (d) Temperance, (e) Sunday School, (f) Obituaries, (g) Ordination, (h) Business, (i) Final Resolutions.
20. Call for report of outstanding committees.
21. Call for unfinished business.
22. Call for appeals from quarterly meetings and churches.
23. Call for ordination of ministers and deacons.
24. Call for ministers' written reports.
25. Elect delegates to the State Association.
26. Call for reports of different committees.
27. Call for someone to preach the introductory sermon at the next session.
28. Discharge all committees chosen for this session.
29. Adjourn with prayer.

## CHURCH COVENANT

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Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence to Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinance of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

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1. We believe in one true and living God—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—and these three are equal in divine essence, power and glory. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7; 1 Cor. 8:6; John 10:30.

2. We believe that the scriptures in the Old and New Testaments are the words of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Timothy 4:2; 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments, whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory; that He, by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; 3:6; John 3:16-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His death, burial and resurrection purchased our pardon and offers it freely to all upon the principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent, "Therefore look unto me all ye ends of the earth, for I am God, and besides me there is none else." Rom. 5:6-21; Mt. 4:7; Isa. 45:22; Heb. 11:16.

5. We believe that all adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 1:6-14; Titus 3:5; John 3:1-12; Rom. 8:9.

6. We believe that regeneration is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Ghost whereby the penitent sinner receives a new life, becomes a child of God and is disposed to serve Him. As babes require food for bodily development, so the new born babe in Christ requires spiritual food, that he may develop by a gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:3; Ezek. 36:26-27; Titus 3:5; Gal. 5:1-21; Eph. 2:10; John 1-12; Matt. 13:31; Mark 4:26; 1 Peter 2:3.

7. We believe that the doctrine of sanctification or holiness in this life as taught in the Bible is applicable to the soul or inner man, and to it alone, and that the sanctification of the body will not take place until the resurrection of the dead, when this mortal shall put on immortality and this corruptible body shall put on incorruption. 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 7:7-25; Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:44.

8. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life, for "Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city." 1 Cor. 10:12-13; Rev. 22:14; Rom. 11:20-21; Heb. 10:26; John 15:2-6.

9. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of men and women who have obtained fellowship with each other and given themselves to the Lord, and one another, having agreed to keep up Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel. Matt. 18:16-20.

10. We believe that the invisible church is the family of God; composed in the aggregate of all redeemed from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things from every nation, kindred and tongue. Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Heb. 12:33; Acts 10:34-35; Eph. 1:22.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and that the government thereof is within the body. Eph. 2:23; Col. 1:18-21; Matt. 18-17.

12. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is the new life, showed this example to His children and bade them walk therein. Matt. 3:5-16; 28:19-20; Mark 1:8-11; Act. 8:38; Rom. 6:16.

13. We believe that baptism, the Lord's Supper and the Washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be continued until His second coming. Matt 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5.

14. We believe that only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ have a right to baptism, and only those who have been called of God and have come under the Presbytery of elders have a right to administer the same. Titus 1:16; Mark 16:16; Matt 3:8-9; Acts 10:47; 1 Tim. 4:14-16.

15. We believe that the soul is immortal, hence does not die, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9.

16. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to the deeds done in th body, whether good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment and the righteous into everlasting happiness. Eccl. 1:14; Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Thes. 1:8-9; Rev. 14:11; 21:8; Luke 16:23; 2 Cor. 5:10.

17. We believe that God in His goodness displays power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by instruction of His blessed Word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely to come and nothing prevents the salvation of any one but his own stubborn and sinful refusal to come. Acts. 9:15; 1 Tim. 1:15-16; 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:23.

18. We believe in a divine call to the ministry, that the minister shall heed the admonition of Paul to Timothy to study the Scriptures that the church donate of their substance as the Lord prospers them to the support of their pastors, that said ministers may have better opportunities to store their minds with spiritual food that is necessary to Christian development. To this end we recommend that each church have a finance committee of three to consist of two deacons and a clerk to collect and store such funds. 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

## FORM OF LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

To the Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptist:

We, the members of \_\_\_\_\_  
Church, in church conference on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 194\_\_\_\_, have selected \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ as delegates to represent us in your honorable body.

Church on September \_\_\_\_\_, 194\_\_\_\_, bidding you God's  
speed in all your labor for the advancement of the cause of  
Christ and His Kingdom.

Our church is composed of \_\_\_\_\_ members, \_\_\_\_\_  
ministers. We received last year by experience \_\_\_\_\_,  
by recommendation \_\_\_\_\_, by letter \_\_\_\_\_, all mem-  
bers being admitted into church by the right hand of fellow-  
ship. Dismissed by letter \_\_\_\_\_, excluded \_\_\_\_\_, died  
\_\_\_\_\_. Our retiring pastor is Elder \_\_\_\_\_,  
our pastor elect is Elder \_\_\_\_\_.  
Deacons \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Our regular church day is \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday. Our church  
is in \_\_\_\_\_ condition: Sunday school \_\_\_\_\_,  
prayer meeting \_\_\_\_\_, League \_\_\_\_\_,  
families taking church paper \_\_\_\_\_, meetings held  
during the year \_\_\_\_\_, using F.W.B., Sunday school lit-  
erature \_\_\_\_\_, Co. \_\_\_\_\_.

Paid pastor \_\_\_\_\_.

When church was organized \_\_\_\_\_.

Moderator \_\_\_\_\_.

Church Clerk \_\_\_\_\_.

Clerk's Address \_\_\_\_\_.