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Paul Reeves

L. C. Roney

Minutes of the 1941 Session

MINUTES
OF THE
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

Mt. Harmony Church, near Strawberry,
Lawrence County, Arkansas

September 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1941

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Obie Eagan,	Saffell, Ark.
Ass't. Mod.,	W. A. Sneed,	Jonesboro, Ark.
Clerk-Treas.,	M. B. Williams,	Strawberry, Ark.
Ass't Clerk,	M. A. Scudder,	Hoxie, Ark.

The next annual session of the Association will convene with Pine Hill Church, near Sandtown, Independence County, Arkansas on Friday 11:00 a.m. before the second Sunday in September 1942.

1941 MINUTES OF THE POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION

The ministers, deacons and messengers of that part of God's family known as Free Will Baptists met with Mt. Harmony Church, near Strawberry, Lawrence County, Arkansas, in regular session on Thursday night September 4, 1941. The congregation was called together by song, prayer by Elder Joe Haltom, and the introductory sermon was preached by Elder M. G. King.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The congregation was called together by song directed by H. B. Doyle. Scripture lesson read from 13th chapter of First Corinthians, by moderator, Elder Obe Eagan, and prayer by Elder W. A. Sneed.

Letters from the different churches of the Association were received and read and their delegates were seated in Conference.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

Oak Grove	Josie King, Ora Richey, Winnie Richey.
Mt. Harmony	Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Crofton, Mrs. M. B. Williams.
Ballew's Chapel	Henry Doyle, Joe Woodruff, Esther Watkins.
Bethel	Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Adkisson.
Blackland Chapel	Lillian Martin, Blanche Rutledge.
Allen's Chapel	Jim Prentice, V. O. Tadlock, L. W. Cartwright.
Jonesboro	W. A. Sneed, Joe Haltom, T. J. Powell.
New Home No. 2	Mrs. H. A. Lewis.
Coffman	W. C. Doyle, M. A. Scudder.
Love Divine	Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Doyle.
Pine Hill	Mrs. Zelma Roach.
Pool's Chapel	Olen Pool, Laman Hastings.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elder Obie Eagan was re-elected Moderator and Elder W. A. Sneed was elected Assistant Moderator.

M. B. Williams was re-elected Clerk and M. A. Scudder was re-elected Assistant Clerk.

RECESS

The congregation was called together by song. Scripture lesson was read from 4th Chapter of Second Corinthians by Elder T. J. Powell and Prayer by Elder M. G. King.

Elder T. J. Powell preacher at 11:00 a.m. followed by Elder Joe Haltom.

Benediction by Elder M. G. King.

NOON

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by song directed by Austin Mullen. Scripture lesson read from 6th Chapter of Second Corinthians by Assistant Moderator, Elder W. A. Sneed. Prayer by Elder L. C. Doyle.

Letter from Quarterly meeting read and received and delegates seated.

A Petitionary letter from First Free Will Baptist of Jonesboro, asking to be admitted into the Polk Bayou Association, was read and received.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Divine Service J. H. Sides, Frank Richey and H. G. Adkisson.
Resolution Elders M. G. King, L. C. Doyle and T. J. Powell.
Finance Jim Prentice, J. T. Doyle and Joe Haltom.
Temperance Josie King, Blanche Rutledge and Mrs. M. B. Williams.

Sunday School Ray Watkins, Cleo Manuel and Alfred Martin.
Obituary A. F. Richey, Elder H. A. Lewis and H. H. Newberry.
Ordination Elders, H. A. Lewis, M. G. King, and L. C. Doyle.

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS

Obie Eagan, Saffell	Austin Mullen, Strawberry
M. G. King, Powhatan	L. C. Doyle, Newport, Rt. 2
J. W. Haltom, Jonesboro	W. A. Sneed, Jonesboro.
T. J. Powell, Jonesboro, Rt. 5	H. A. Lewis, Sage
W. M. Padgett, Smithville	

ENROLLMENT OF DEACONS

Cleo Manuel	J. H. Sides
Ray Watkins	L. H. Croom
Alfred Martin	Luther Reaves
V. Rutledge	H. H. Newberry
A. T. Richey	J. T. Doyle

Dismissed with prayer by Elder M. G. King.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Called together by singing. Prayer by Elder M. G. King. Scripture lesson read from 20th chapter of Revelation by Elder Austin Mullen. This was followed by devotional service and preaching by Elders Austin Mullen and M. G. King.

Benediction by V. Rutledge.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The congregation was called together by song directed by Austin Mullen. Scripture lesson read by the moderator from

24th Psalm and prayer by Elder John Riggs.

Reports of Ministers were read and received. Reports of all committees were read and received and the committees were discharged.

Pine Hill Church was chosen as a place for the next meeting of the Association. Elder Ray Watkins will preach the introductory sermon and Elder H. A. Lewis the memorial sermon.

Motion carried that the Association meet on Friday 11:00 a. m. instead of on Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1942.

RECESS

Song directed by H. B. Doyle. Scripture lesson from 12th Chapter of Ecclesiastes by Elder W. A. Sneed. Prayer by Elder M. G. King. Memorial sermon preached by Elder W. A. Sneed. Benediction by Elder H. A. Lewis.

NOON

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together by song directed by M. A. Scudder. Prayer by L. W. Cartwright.

Delegates to State Meeting elected as follows: H. G. Adkisson, Allen Hanshaw, M. A. Scudder, Faye Watkins and Lillian Martin; Alternates: Everette Neece, Olen Pool, Joe Woodruff, Mrs. Frank Richey and Zelma Roach.

Brother L. W. Cartwright and Brother Ray Watkins were ordained to preach.

Talks were made by Elders Ray Watkins, L. W. Cartwright and L. C. Doyle.

This closed the business part of the Association and was adjourned with prayer by Elder Roy Watkins.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened by singing. Prayer by J. L. Smith. Devotional service conducted by Elder L. C. Doyle. Scripture lesson 20th chapter of St. John and preaching by Elder H. A. Lewis.

REPORT OF MINISTERS

W. A. Sneed— Pastored one church, preached 160 sermons, married seven couples, held 19 funerals, money received \$313.25.

H. A. Lewis— Pastored 6 churches, preached 158 sermons, held seven revivals, witnessed 27 conversions, received 4 into church, baptised 13, conducted eight funerals, money received \$260.84.

M. G. King— Pastored one church, preached regularly at one other place, preached locally at 3 other places, helped in three revivals, witnessed 6 conversions, baptized 2, held 8 funerals, preached 77 sermons, money received \$154.72.

Obie Eagan— Pastored one church, witnessed four conversions, baptized two, preached 27 sermons, married one couple, funerals held two, received into church three, money received \$68.50.

L. C. Doyle— Pastored two churches, held three revivals, baptized 23, witnessed 36 conversions, preached 56 sermons, witnessed 40 additions to church, money received \$120.00.

Joe Haltom— Assisted in pastoring one church, preached 40 sermons, witnessed one conversion, conducted four funerals, married six couples.

T. J. Powell— Preached 36 sermons, assisted in one revival, witnessed 20 conversions, money received \$23.00.

John Riggs— Pastored one church, preached 48 sermons, held five funerals, married two couples, witnessed 12 conversions, baptized two, helped in three revivals, money received \$50.40.

Austin Mullen— Preached 31 sermons, assisted in six revivals, witnessed 14 conversions, money received \$12.00.

RESOLUTION

The pastor of each church urge the church to send delegates to the Association and also each church send \$2.00 to be used for minutes of the Polk Bayou Association. The State Association is asking for \$2.00 from each church also making a total of \$4.00 from each church.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Obituary— We find there has been nine deaths in our Association since our last meeting. Namely: Fannie Callahan, S. F. Huckaba, John Butts, Eliza Sim, Marion (Mat) Brook, Nora Ingram, Nettie Graham, Velma McTrigue, Verna Jones.

Temperance— We should abstain from all intoxicating drinks and not contact indecent habits and strictly adhere to temperance in the highest Bible sense.

Finance— There has been \$39.00 paid into the treasury in 1941. There was \$5.39 left in the treasury from 1940 making a total of \$44.39.

Sunday School— All pastors are urged to insist that Free Will Baptist literature be used in each Sunday School.

Final Resolutions— We thank the people of Mt. Harmony Church and Community for the hospitality shown during the Association.

REPORTS TAKEN FROM CHURCH LETTERS

LOVE DIVINE— Members 40, deacons 1, members died 2, Sunday school good, church clerk, Everette Neece, Hoxie, Ark.

BLACKLAND CHAPEL— Membership 54, members received 14, Sunday school, deacon one, League, Prayer meeting, church clerk, Opal Harris, Oil Trough, Ark.

COFFMAN— Members 42, minister one, members died two, deacons two, Sunday School, Church clerk Kent Benn, Hoxie, Ark.

POOL'S CHAPEL— Members 20, deacons two, Sunday School, Church clerk, A. L. Hasting.

OAK GROVE— Members 60, ministers one, Sunday school, deacon one, Church clerk P. D. Culver, Imboden, Ark.

ALLEN'S CHAPEL— Members 68, ministers one, deacons three, members received two, Sunday school, League, prayer meeting, Church clerk Mrs. J. J. Long, Batesville, Ark.

BETHEL— Members 55, ministers three, Sunday school, Church clerk Bethel Richardson, Lunenburg, Ark.

NEW HOME NO. 2— Members 42, ministers two, deacons 4, Sunday school, Church clerk, Addie Adkisson, Gid, Ark.

MT. HARMONY— Members 168, Ministers five, received members three, Sunday school members died one, deacons six, Church clerk W. B. Hardin, Sedgwick, Ark.

PINE HILL— Members 20, received two, died one, Church clerk, Ervin J. Baxter, Oneal, Ark., Rt. 1.

BALLEW'S CHAPEL— Members 83, received 15, died one, ministers one, deacons two, Sunday school, Church clerk, Daisy Dillon, Newport, Ark.

JONESBORO— Members 123, received four, died one, ministers three, deacons three, Sunday school, Prayer meeting, Church clerk, W. W. Barnett, 422 North Alice, Jonesboro, Ark.

WEAVER'S CHAPEL— Members 22, deacons two, ministers one, prayer meeting, Sunday school, church clerk Rae Fugett, Pfeifer, Ark.

CHURCHES BELONGING BUT NOT REPRESENTED AT ASSOCIATION

NEW HOME NO. 1— Church clerk, Dewitt Rowlett, Swifton, Ark.

MACEDONIA— Church clerk, Evans Craig, Mt. Pleasant, Ark.

All churches are urged to have delegates at the next association.

By-Laws

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

1. Convene on Friday 11:00 A. M. before the second Sunday in September, 1942.
2. Scripture 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 letter.
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 minister's 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 GOVERNMENT

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

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 ye 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, become a child of God and is disposed to serve Him. As babies 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 saint's feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be continued until His second coming. Mat. 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 the 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.