

Minutes
of the
Polk Bayou Association
of
Free Will Baptist Church
held with
Pine Hill Church

NEAR BATESVILLE,
INDEPENDENCE COUNTY, ARKANSAS,
September 4, 5, 6, 1942

OFFICERS

MODERATOR.....M. G. King, Powahatan, Ark.
ASS'T. MODERATOR.....H. A. Lewis, Sage, Ark.
CLERK-TREASURER.....A. T. Blanks, Newport, Ark.
ASS'T. CLERK.....Othinal Saifert, Newport, Ark.

The next annual session of the association will convene with Weavers Chapel Church near Pfeifer, Ark. on Friday morning before the second Sunday in September, 1943.

1942 MINUTES OF THE POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY MORNING

The ministers, deacons and messengers of that part of God's Family, known as FREE WILL BAPTIST, met with Pine Hill Church, near Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, in regular annual session, Friday morning, September 4, 5, 6, 1942. The congregation was called together by song and prayer by Brother M. Y. King, and the introductory sermon was preached by Brother Ray Watkins. The lesson read from Jeremiah 6 and 16.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

BALLEWS CHAPEL—Esier Watkins, Vay and Fay Watkins, and Lena Clark.

BETHEL—Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Lewis.

WEAVERS CHAPEL—Lula and Geniva Goforth.

MACEDONIA—Addie Ramis and Frank Crook.

OAK GROVE—Mrs. A. F. Richie and Mrs. M. G. King.

ALLENS CHAPEL—J. M. Milligain and Mrs. J. J. Song.

BLACK LAND—Lloyd Ruthledge and R. A. Wair.

PINE HILL—Buster McGuire and Willford Cantrell.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elder M. Y. King was elected Moderator, H. A. Lewis was elected Ass't Moderator, A. T. Blanks was elected Clerk and Othinal Saifirt Ass't Clerk.

NOON

Friday Afternoon Session

Opened by song, directed by Brother Austin Mullens. Scripture Lesson read from Psalms, 34 Chapter. Prayer by Brother B. Woodruff. The Watkins sisters, known as the Blue Bird Quartet rendered several beautiful numbers.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

DEVINE SERVICE—Ernie Lewis, J. M. Meels and Henry Dayle.

RESOLUTION—H. A. Lewis, Ray Watkins and Austin Mullens.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Sister Vay Watkins, Ernie Lewis and John McTingue.

TEMPERANCE—B. Woodruff, J. M. Meeks, and John Riggs.

OBITUARY—Sisters Vay Watkins, M. G. King and Winnie Richie.

FINANCE—B. A. Gifford, Carl Davis and Sister Watkins.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS—F. F. Crook, Alford Martin and Sister J. J. Long.

ORDINATION—not appointed.

White River Quarterly Meeting read and Buster McGuire and Cay Staggs seated as Delegates, by-laws read by Clerk Enrollment of Ministers, M. Y. King, Powhatan, Ark.; H. A. Lewis, Sage, Ark.; B. Woodruff, Newport, Ark. Rt. 2; Ray Watkins, Newport, Ark., Rt. 2; Austin Mullens, Strawberry, Ark.; John Riggs, Batesville, Ark., Rt. 1, visiting Ministers.

Carl Davis, Elizabeth, Ark. Deacons enrolled—B. A. Gibson, Sunnenburg, Ark., J. M. Meeks, Sunnenburg, Ark., J. H. McIntinjal, O'Neal, Ark., Henry Rayle and A. T. Blanks, Newport, Ark., Rt. 2.

Devine Service reports that Brother Carl Davis preached Friday night and the Blue Birds sang another special number, "The Old Time Religion Is Mine". Dismissed by song, "Throw Out the Life Line". Prayer by Brother Ray Watkins.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Called together by song directed by Austin Mullens. Scripture Lesson read from First Timmothy, third chapter. Sermon by Elder Carl Davis. Dismissed with prayer by Brother B. Woodruff.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The congregation was called together by song led by M. Y. King. The Scripture Lesson read by Moderator from First Corinthians, 13th Chapter. Prayer by Brother Wolf. Several songs were sung, followed with prayer by Brother Crafton.

RECESS

Congregation called together with song directed by Ray Watkins. Memorial sermon preached by Brother H. A. Lewis. Scripture Lesson read from the fifth chapter, Second Corinthians, 1-20. Dismissed with prayer by Brother H. A. Lewis.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together by song and prayer by Brother H. A. Lewis. Reports of committees read, received, and discharged. Weavers Chapel was chosen the place for the next meeting of the Association. Brother Austin Mullins will preach the introductory sermon. This closed the business of the Association and it was adjourned with prayer by Brother John Riggs.

REPORT OF MINISTERS

Austins Mullens assisted in 5 revivals, witnessed 41 conversions, preached 30 Sermons, received \$24.00.

Ray Watkins preached 25 Sermons, helped in 2 Revivals, witnessed 17 Conversions and baptised 4.

B. Woodruff preached 24 Sermons, helped in 3 Revivals, witnessed 17 Conversions, baptised 6, held 3 Funerals, married 2 couples and received no money.

John Riggs pastored 3 churches, preached 77 sermons, held 2 Revivals, witnessed 6 Conversions and baptised 3. Held 1 Funeral, married 1 couple and received \$121.38.

M. G. King pastored 1 church, also preached this summer at Little Brown School House, held 2 Revivals. Has preached at Satley, at four other places, preached 54 sermons, held 4 funerals, witnessed 22 conversions and received \$104.18.

Monroe Wolf pastored no churches, preached 2 sermons, helped in one revival, witnessed 2 conversions, married none, held no funerals and received none.

H. A. Lewis sermons preached 156, witnessed 27 conversions, received 8 in church, baptised 3, has been in 8 revivals, has received \$450.64.

Carl Davis, visiting minister pastored 4 churches, preached 236 sermons, held 3 funerals, witnessed 65 conversions and received 21 in the church, baptised 21 and received \$114.55, other places \$96.98. Total \$210.53.

RESOLUTION PASSED

That all Ordained Ministers of the Polk Bayou Association received by themselves or by a messenger from their home church, a written certificate from this body yearly.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

Obituary

We find that there have been 3 deaths in our Association since our last meeting, namely Sister John Butts, I. French and Brother Mauldin Martin.

Finance

There has been \$37.81 paid into the treasury in 1942

Temperance

We find that since the repeal of the 18th Amendment, that the Devil has been turned loose on all hand, and that now we should abstain from all intoxicating drinks and not contact indecent habits and be more for temperance in the highest Bible sense.

FINAL RESOLUTION

We thank the good people of Pine Hill Church and Community for the hospitality and kindness showed us during the Association.

CHURCHES REPRESENTED AT THE 1942 POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION

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|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ballews Chapel | Daisy Dillon, Newport, Ark. |
| Allens Chapel | Mrs. J. J. Long, Batesville, Ark. |
| Bethel | Bethel Richardson, Lonenburg, Ark. |
| Weavers Chapel | Rae Fugett, Pfeifer, Ark. |
| Macedonia | Evans Craig, Mount Pleasant, Ark. |
| Oak Grove | P. D. Culver, Imboden, Ark. |
| Black Land Chapel | Opal Harris, Oil Trough, Ark. |
| Pine Hill | Wilford Cantrell, Batesville, Ark. |

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 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 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 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

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 obligation 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 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; Mat. 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. Ep. 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 the 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 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. 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 oportunities 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.