

# **MINUTES**

**Of The**

**POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION**

**FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Held With**

**Weaver's Chapel Church**

**Near Batesville**

**Independence County, Arkansas**

**September 10-11-12, 1943**

## **OFFICERS**

**Moderator—Ray Watkins, Newport, Ark., Rt. 2.**

**Ass't. Moderator—M. G. King, Powhatan, Ark.**

**Clerk & Treasurer—A. T. Blanks, Newport, Ark., Rt. 2.**

**Ass't. Clerk—M. B. Williams, Strawberry, Ark.**

**The next annual session of the Association will convene with Black Sand Chapel near Oil Trough, Ark., on Friday morning before the Second Sunday in September, 1944.**

## PROCEEDINGS

### Friday, 11 a. m. Session

The Ministers, Deacons and Messengers of that part of God's family known as Free Will Baptists met with Weaver's Chapel church near Batesville, Independence County, Ark., Sept. 10, 1943. The congregation was called together by song. The Moderator, M. G. King, read for scripture lesson, 5th chapter Ephs. Prayer by Moderator.

Eld. Austin Mullens preached the introductory sermon, using Rev. 21-1, 10. Eld. M. G. King followed.

### Friday Afternoon Session

Called together by song, directed by Eld. Austin Mullens. Scripture reading by Moderator, Mat. 5. Prayer by Eld Carl Davis. The following officers were elected:

Eld. Ray Watkins, Moderator; Eld. M. G. King, Ass't. Moderator; A. T. Blanks, Clerk; M. B. Williams, Ass't. Clerk.

### Committees Appointed

Divine Service: Bros. L. H. Crooms, A. F. Richey, B. A. Gibson.

Resolutions: Elds. L. C. Doyle, Ofie Eagan, E. M. Phillips.

Sunday Schools Sisters Lucy Williams, Gertie Eagan, Bro. Austin Mullen.

Obituary: Mrs. H. A. Lewis, Bro. Othinal Safirt, Bro. Orie Prince.

Finance: Bros. Henry Doyle, Alfred Martin, Carl Davis.

Temperance: V. E. Ross, Ottis Gray, H. G. Adkisson.

Ordination: Elds. M. G. King, Obie Eagan, H. A. Lewis.

Final Resolutions: Elds. H. A. Lewis, B. Woodruff, Mrs. M. G. King.

By-Laws read by Clerk.

Ministers, Deacons, delegates enrolled.

Ministers and their address:

L. C. Doyle, Newport, Ark.; M. A. Wolfe, Batesville, Ark.; H. A. Lewis, Sage, Ark.; Ray Watkins, Newport, Ark.; Henry Doyle, Newport, Ark.; M. G. King, Powhattan, Ark.; Obie Eagan, Saffell, Ark.; E. M. Phillips, Lunenburg, Ark.; Owen Harvel, Lunenburg, Ark.; J. M. Weaver, Batesville, Ark.; Lonnie Palmer, Batesville, Ark.; Othinal Safirt, Newport, Ark.; Coy Staggs, Batesville, Ark.

W. B. Hardin reported by letter.

Eld. Carl Davis from Big Spring Ass'n. address—Elizabeth, Ark.

### Churches, Deacons and Church Clerks

WEAVER'S CHAPEL—Steve Goforth and Jake Milligan, Deacons; Ray Fugette, Batesville, Ark., Clerk.

BETHEL—J. H. Tinkle, J. H. Meeks, and B. A. Gibson, Deacons;

Hattie Sims, Lunenburg, Ark., Clerk.

NEW HOME NO. 2—H. C. Lewis, E. E. Reid, T. H. Adkisson, H. H. Adkisson, Deacons; Addie Adkisson, Gid, Ark., Clerk.

BLACK LAND CHAPEL—V. Rutledge and Alfred Martin, Deacons; Opal Harris, Oil Trough, Ark., Clerk.

MACEDONIA—R. L. C. Walker and Walter Hall, Deacons; Evans Craig, Mt. Pleasant, Ark., Clerk.

ALLEN'S CHAPEL—Joe Owens, Bland Richardson and Cleo Manuel, Deacons; Mrs. J. J. Long, Batesville, Ark., Clerk.

OAK GROVE—A. F. Richey and Virgel Ross, Deacons; P. D. Culver, Imboden, Ark., Clerk.

POOL'S CHAPEL—M. A. Wolfe and Leamon Hastin, Deacons; Elmer Hastin, Batesville, Ark., Clerk.

PINE HILL—J. H. McTigue and Ervin Baxter, Deacons; Wilford Cantrel, Batesville, Ark., Clerk.

COFFMAN—E. E. Ingram and Cecil Garland, Deacons; M. A. Scudder, Hoxie, Ark., Clerk.

MT. HARMONY—J. H. Sides, L. H. Crooms and Luther Reeves, Deacons; A. J. Wilmouth, Strawberry, Ark., Clerk.

ARBOR GROVE—Theodore Doyle, Deacon; J. T. Doyle, Hoxie, Ark., Clerk.

BALLEU'S CHAPEL—A. T. Blanks and Joe Woodruff, Deacons; Daisy Dillon, Newport, Ark., Clerk.

#### Enrollment of Churches and Delegates

BALLEU'S CHAPEL—Orie Prince, Ella B. Blanks, Delsis Woodruff.

WEAVER'S CHAPEL—Emiley Rodgers and Sarah Weaver.

MACEDONIA—Claude Anderson and Muriel Anderson.

POOL'S CHAPEL—Gladys Pool and Eva Roach.

NEW HOME NO. 2—Rucker Sims and Lewis Adkisson.

ALLEN'S CHAPEL—J. M. Milligan and J. J. Long.

BETHEL—G. E. Richardson and H. G. Adkisson.

BLACK LAND CHAPEL—Carl Turner and Ira Moss.

MT. HARMONY—H. B. Doyle, Hal Wilmouth, Otis Gray, Alafair Reeves, Ivon Harris.

ARBOR GROVE—Alfred Flannigan and Mrs. Alfred Flannigan.

OAK GROVE—Mrs. M. G. King, Mrs. A. F. Richey, Mrs. Hilborn.

COFFMAN—Reported by letter.

Divine Committee reported that Bros. Henry Doyle and Ray Watkins preached Friday night. We had several songs. Dismissed by Bro. B. Woodruff.

We met for services Friday night with a large crowd and good singing. A wonderful message by the selected Brothers. Dismissed by Bro. Carl Davis.



### Saturday Morning Session

Opened with song directed by Bro. H. B. Doyle. Moderator read scripture lesson 1st. Cor. 13. Prayer by Bro. Obie Eagan.

Call for letters from quarterly meetings. White River quarterly meeting reported and delegates seated in conference.

Moderator called for committee's report.

Resolution Committee reported as follows:

Whereas there arises between the yearly meeting a need of ordaining a minister or deacon, therefore be it resolved by this body that th pastor of any Free Will Baptist church under its jurisdiction with two other ministers or deacons may perform this duty.

We were dismissed by Bro. L. C. Doyle.

The 11 a. m. service began with singing. Bro. B. Woodruff preached the Memorial sermon, which was very inspiring. We had a song title "Every Body will be Happy Over There". Dismissed by Eld. M. G. King.

### Saturday Afternoon Session

Having enjoyed a splendid dinner at the church prepared by the good people of Weaver's Chapel church, we were called together by song, directed by V. E. Ross. Moderator read for scripture lesson Psalms, 19th chapter. Prayer by Bro. L. C. Doyle. All committees reported as follows and discharged.

Divine: Reported Eld. L. C. Doyle preached Saturday night.

Obituary: We find their have been four deaths since our last meeting. Sister Ida Ring of Oak Grove, Sister Marjorie Crooms, Bros. W. W. Huskey and S. A. Snead of Mt. Harmony. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Temperance: We the temperance committee find that since the repeal of the 18th amendment that the devil has been turned loose on every hand and as members of the Free Will Baptist church, we urge all Christians to fight against such terrible stuff and pray for each other, so help us God.

Sunday School: We your committee on Sunday School wish to submit the following report. We think it very necessary that each church have a Sunday School and if there be those who do not have, we think the pastors of these churches urge them to organize at once.

Finance: We the Finance committee find that there have been \$37.80 paid in the treasury.

### Clerk's Report

Money turned in at 1942 Ass'n. ....	\$37.81
Money in Treasury .....	7.00
Sent to State Meeting, 1942 .....	21.00
Minutes printed, 1942 .....	22.00
Total paid out, 1942 .....	43.00
Money in Treasury, 1942 .....	1.81

Eleven churches were represented at 1943 Ass'n., each paying \$4.00 for expenses. Total \$44.00.

### Minister's Yearly Report

Owen Harvel: Preached 24 sermons, baptized one. Money received, \$12.00.

Eld. M. G. King: Pastored one church, preached locally at 4 places, preached 53 sermons, held 9 funerals, helped in 4 revivals, witnessed 11 conversions, married a number of couples. Money received, \$166.61.

Eld. H. A. Lewis: Pastored 5 churches, preached some at three other places, was in 7 revivals, preached 147 sermons, witnessed 61 conversions, received 19 into church, baptized 42, preached 4 funerals. Money received \$537.81.

Eld. Austin Mullen: Preached 42 sermons, helping in 6 revivals, witnessed 50 conversions. Money received \$21.00.

Eld. Obie Eagan: Pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 revivals, witnessed 7 professions, preached 60 sermons, baptized 7, received in church 9, preached 10 funerals. Money received \$180.31.

Eld. E. M. Phillips: Had no regular work, preached 6 sermons, received no money, in bad health, pray for me.

Eld. L. C. Doyle: Have assisted in two revivals, witnessed 34 professions, baptized none, held 15 funerals, married 2 couples, preached 35 sermons, pastored no churches. Money received \$175.00.

Eld. Ray Watkins: Have pastored 3 churches, preached some locally, preached 62 sermons, witnessed 46 conversions, baptized none, married one couple. Money received \$179.00.

Eld. M. A. Wolfe: Pastored no churches, preached none, received no money.

Eld. J. M. Weaver: No report.

Eld. Lonnie Palmer: No report.

Eld. Carl Davis: Visiting minister, preached 194 sermons, held 2 funerals, gave 10 Sunday school lectures, pastored 5 churches, witnessed 9 conversions, received 9 into church, baptized 9, traveled 4,805 miles. Money received \$321.00.

The Ordaining Council ordained Bros. Henry Doyle, Othaniel Safirt of Balleu's Chapel and Coy Staggs of Allen's Chapel, to preach the gospel. Also ordained Virgel Ross as deacon of Oak Grove.

Blackland Chapel, near Oil Trough, was selected for the next Association, 1944. Eld. M. G. King to preach introductory sermon.

Eld. Ray Watkins to preach the Memorial sermon, Saturday at 11 a. m. at next Association.

Eld. L. C. Doyle preached Saturday night, after which a large number took part in the communion and feet washing service.

The business of the Association closed with the reading of final resolution.

We your committee of final resolutions beg to report this meeting has been such an inspiration to our souls, we feel under many renewed obligations to thank God the great Father in Heaven for this meeting, and His presence in our souls and we can feel sure that the remembrance of this meeting will long live in the hearts of those who have attended. We also want to express our thanks to the officers of this body for their untiring efforts and to the good people of this community for their love and friendship, and their hospitality shown us during this meeting.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. H. A. Lewis.

Ray Watkins—Moderator.

A. T. Blanks—Clerk.

#### 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, (j) 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. Adourn 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, 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 3:16-7; 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 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. 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 into everlasting happiness. Eccl. 1:14; Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Thes. 1:8-9; the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment and the righteous 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.

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 litera-

ture .....

Paid pastor .....

When church was organized .....

Moderator .....

Church Clerk .....

Clerk's Address .....

Please give name and address of ministers on back of letter.