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**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION**  
**of**  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

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Held With  
**LOVE DIVINE CHURCH**  
Near Hoxie,  
Lawrence County, Arkansas  
September 7, 8, 9, 1945.

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**OFFICERS**

Moderator—Elder Henry Doyle, Newport.  
Ass't. Moderator—Elder Ray Watkins, Newport.  
Clerk and Treasurer—Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry.  
Ass't. Clerk—Elder Ray Watkins, Newport.

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The next annual session of the Association will convene with New Home No. 2 Church near Gid, Izard County, Arkansas, on Friday morning before the second Sunday in September 1946.

Elder H. A. Lewis to preach the introductory Sermon, with Elder L. C. Doyle as alternate.

**1945 MINUTES**  
**Of The**  
**POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION**  
**OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**P R O C E E D I N S**

**FRIDAY, 11:00 A. M. SESSION**

The ministers, deacons, and messengers of that part of God's family, known as Free Will Baptists, met with Love Divine Church, near Hoxie, Lawrence County, Arkansas, on September 7, 1945. The congregation was called together by singing directed by Brothers M. A. Scudder, Austin Mullen, H. B. Doyle and Everette Neece. Lesson read by Moderator, Elder Henry Doyle, from Psalm 37 and prayer by Elder M. G. King.

The minister, that was chosen last year to preach the introductory sermon at this time being absent, Elder L. C. Doyle was selected to deliver the message. He used for text: "For the wages of Sin is Death, but the Gift of God is Eternal Life Through Jesus Christ Our Lord." After the sermon there was a song by the congregation and christian handshake. Prayer of dismissal by Elder M. G. King.

After the morning service, which all seemed to enjoy, a good dinner was served at the church, with expression of thanks by Elder Ray Watkins.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

The congregation was called together by singing at 2 p. m. Scripture lesson by the Moderator from 23 Psalm. Prayer by Elder Ray Watkins.

Ministers, Deacons and Delegates enrolled.

**MINISTERS**

L. C. Doyle, Newport.	Henry Obarts, Hoxie.
M. G. King, Powhatan.	B. Woodruff, Newport.
Ray Watkins, Newport.	Earl Doyle, Hoxie.
Henry Doyle, Newport.	H. A. Lewis, Sage.
Austin Mullen, Strawberry.	M. A. Wolfe, Batesville.
O. Safirt, Newport.	Lonnie Palmer, Batesville.

## MINISTERS BELONGING BUT NOT PRESENT

Jeff Weaver, Batesville	J. H. Tinkle, McDougal.
W. M. Padgett, Lynn.	John Riggs, Batesville.
W. B. Hardin, Hoxie.	Owen Harvell, Lunenburg.
R. G. Sims, Mt. Pleasant.	W. A. Sneed, Jonesboro.
Lyle Cartwright, Batesville.	E. M. Phillips, Lunenburg.
Coy Staggs, Richmond, Calif.	O. B. Eagan, Saffell.

## DECEASED MINISTERS

J. D. Doyle, Walnut Ridge.

## DEACONS PRESENT

J. T. Doyle.	R. L. C. Walker.	
J. H. Sides.	Alfred Martin.	Cecil Garland.
B. A. Gibson.	O. H. Ditto.	V. Rutledge
Frank Richey.	Virgil Ross.	M. A. Wolfe.

## CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

1. Ballew's Chappell—Sisters Minnie Sexton, Lois Wagner, and Altha L. Summers.
2. Bethel—Brothers G. E. Richardson and Troy Sims.
3. Blackland Chappell—Brothers Edgar Parks and Lloyd Rutledge.
4. Coffman—Brothers W. C. Townsley and Eldridge Neece and Sister Faye Scudder.
5. Love Divine—Brother T. H. Oldham and Sisters Oldham, Lola Helms, Pearl Neece and Ira Bell Flannigan.
6. Macedonia—Brothers Frank Brooks and Noland Fulbright and Sister Velma Fulbright.
7. Mt. Harmony—Brothers Oral Gray, Hollie Hardin and H. B. Doyle.
8. New Home No. 2.—Brothers R. G. Sims and Laverne Sims.
9. Oak Grove—Sister Josie King and Ora Richey and Brother Rudolph Erwin.
10. Pool's Chappell—Brothers Virdell Russ and A. L. Hastings.
11. Weaver's Chappell—Sisters Elsie Riggs and Helen Palmer.

Letters from different churches were read and received and their delegates were seated in conference. There was also a letter from the White River Quarterly meeting which was

read and one delegate Brother Archie Warnick, was present from the Quarterly Meeting.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Elder Henry Doyle was re-elected Moderator and Elder Ray Watkins elected Assistant Moderator.

Mrs. M. B. Williams was re-elected Clerk and Treasurer and Elder Ray Watkins Assistant Clerk.

**The Following Committees were Appointed by the Moderator**  
**DIVINE SERVICE**—Brothers B. A. Gibson, J. H. Sides and Everett Neece.

**RESOLUTIONS**—Brothers Austin Mullen, B. Woodruff and M. A. Scudder.

**FINANCE**—Brothers J. T. Doyle, J. W. Sexton and H. B. Doyle.

**TEMPERANCE**—Brothers M. G. King, L. C. Doyle and Hollie Hardin.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**—Sisters Josie King, Minnie Sexton, and Faye Scudder.

**OBITUARIES**—Brothers Henry Obarts, Austin Mullen and T. H. Oldham.

**ORDINATION**—Elders Ray Watkins, L. C. Doyle and M. G. King.

Short talks were made by Brothers Archie Warnick, O. Safirt, and Henry Obarts. A song "In Gethsemane Alone" was directed by Elder L. C. Doyle.

The Divine Committee reported that Elder M. G. King preach Friday night. Conference adjourned until 9:30 a. m. Saturday. Benediction by Brother Archie Warnick.

### **FRIDAY NIGHT DIVINE SERVICE**

The service began with congregational singing. Prayer by Elder L. C. Doyle followed by Praise Service, conducted also by Brother Doyle.

Elder M. G. King read the Scripture Lesson from Revelation 6th Chapter, beginning with verse 12, and brought the message. He used as text, Matt. 24-37. "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Dismissed with prayer by Elder H. A. Lewis.

### **SATURDAY MORNING SESSION**

Called together by singing and lesson read by Moderator from Job 14 Chapter. Prayer by Elder B. Woodruff.



**Reports of Ministers Called for  
Intermission.**

**11 A. M. Divine Service**

A special number "Precious Memories" was rendered by Brothers M. A. Scudder, Virgil Ross, Austin Mullen, and L. C. Doyle with Sister Obarts at the organ.

Scripture from St. John 14 Chapter and memorial sermon by Elder Ray Watkins, after which there was a song by the congregation and a Christian handshake.

Benediction by Elder M. G. King.

Another splendid dinner was served at the church with expression of thanks by Elder L. C. Doyle.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

Opened by singing then prayer by Brother Archie Warnick.

**REPORT OF MINISTERS**

M. G. KING—Pastored 1 church, preached locally at 3 other places, preached 64 sermons, 9 funeral sermons, held and helped in 4 revivals, witnessed 27 conversions, baptized 12, money received \$262.58.

RAY WATKINS—Pastored 4 churches, preached 123 sermons, helped in 4 revivals, witnessed 41 conversions, baptized 14, preached 4 funeral sermons, married 1 couple, money received \$655.00.

H. A. LEWIS—Pastored 4 churches, preached 123 sermons, helped in 7 revivals, witnessed 60 conversions, baptized 35, received 7 into church, preached 5 funeral sermons, money received \$409.78.

HENRY OBARTS—Preached at Love Divine and Clear Lake and other places about 12 sermons, money received \$10.00.

L. C. DOYLE—Held 1 monthly appointment during the year, preached 24 sermons, held 1 revival, baptized 5, preached 12 funeral sermons, money received \$150.00.

LONNIE PALMER—Partly pastored 4 churches, helped in 3 revivals, witnessed 36 conversions, baptized 8, received into church 13, preached 2 funeral sermons, married 2 couples, money received \$200.00.

The following delegates were selected to represent us in the State meeting at Pocahontas: Brothers Everette Neece, Layman Roach, Arden Watkins, Noland Fulbright, and Cecil Doyle.

New Home No. 2 Church was chosen for the place of our next annual meeting. Elder H. A. Lewis to preach the introductory sermon with Elder L. C. Doyle as alternate.

Elder L. C. Doyle will preach the memorial sermon on Saturday at 11 a. m.

The Moderator called for reports of committees to be read. They were all read at this time except the Resolution of Thanks which was read Saturday night after the Divine Service. The committees were discharged.

RESOLUTIONS—We the Resolution Committee, believe that it is time to realize and teach the evil influence of moving picture shows. We can see they are robbing our churches of their attendants, our pastors of their salaries, and leading our children away from Christ and his loving influence. We desire that this matter be taken up in our Sunday Schools, prayer meetings, church meetings etc., for earnest discussion.

Austin Mullen, Chairman.

FINANCE—We, the Finance Committee, find there have been 11 churches represented at this associational meeting. Each church has paid \$4.00 and a donation of \$11.05 made which have a total of \$55.05. The clerk was due \$3.68 which after being paid leaves a balance of \$51.37. \$22.00 of this goes to the State Meeting, and \$29.37 is to be used in publishing our minutes of this meeting.

J. C. Doyle, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE—We, your committee on Temperance, submit the following: That in all things we will strive to exemplify our profession, by a corresponding practice, by abstaining from all sinful conformity to the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and an exemplary in all our deportment; That we will all abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors, and so much the more as we see the day approaching.

L. E. Doyle, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—We, your committee on Sunday Schools, recommend the Bible, King James Version, and the Free Will Baptist literature, and that the officers and teachers must be God loving people. We urge all parents to attend Sunday School each Sunday, not just church days, and take their children, not send them, that the work of God may be stamped in the children's hearts in their youth.

Mrs. Josie King, Chairman

OBITUARIES—We, your Obituaries Committee, find that death has called 7 of our members since our last meeting.

Sister Mary Cook, of Macedonia, Sister Bicie McCoy, of Ballew's Chapel Brothers J. D. Doyle Marshall Hoggard, John Sneed, of Mt. Harmony. Brother G. W. Obarts, of Coffman, and Sister Ethel Hastings of Pool's Chappel.

Henry Obarts, Chairman.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS—We, wish to express our heart felt thanks to the good people of Love Divine Church and Tarbor Grove Community, and surrounding communities, for their kind hospitality shown to each and everyone that attended this district meeting.

Austin Mullen, Chairman.

Brother Archie Warnick was licensed to preach and the license was issued by the clerk.

Brothers W. C. Townsley of Coffman Church and Everette Neece of Love Divine Church were ordained as deacons by the Ordination Committee.

The Divine Committee reported that Elders L. C. Doyle and H. A. Lewis preach Saturday night on "Communion and Feet Washing." Conference was adjourned, Benediction by Elder Lonnie Palmer.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT DIVINE SERVICE**

Singing by congregation, prayer by Elder M. G. King. Scripture lesson from 1st Cor. 11 chapter by Elder L. C. Doyle. Sermon on "Communion and Feet Washing" by Elders L. C. Doyle and H. A. Lewis, after which about 40 took part in The Lord's Supper and Feet Washing Service.

The Divine Committee reported that Elder O. Safirt would preach on Sunday, 11 a. m.

Prayer of Benediction by Elder Ray Watkins. A large part of the delegation returned to their homes on Saturday night,

CHURCHES REPRESENTED IN 1945—With their clerk's names and address: Ballew's Chapel, Earl Clark, Newport, Route 2. Bethel, Iva Adkinsson, Lunenburg. Blackland Chappel, Katherene Parks, Oil Trough. Coffman, M. A. Scudder, Hoxie, Route 1. Macedonia, Ethel Walker, Mt. Pleasant. Mt. Harmony. A. J. Willmuth, Strawberry, Route 1. New Hope, No. 2, Earle Sims, Gid. Oak Grove, Mrs. J. D. Melton, Powhatan. Pool's Chappel, C. O. Pool, Batesville, Route 2, Weaver's Chappel. Aileen Milligan, Batesville, Route 2.

## 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 Friday Morning 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 call 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.
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 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 Scripture, 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, 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 preserve 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 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. Mat. 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 judgement 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; 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 advance-  
ment 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Paid Pastor \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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

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

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

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