

MINUTES
OF THE
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Held With
NEW HOME NO. 2 CHURCH

Near Gid
Izard County, Arkansas

September 6, 7, 8, 1946

OFFICERS

Moderator—Elder Henry Doyle, Newport.

Ass't Moderator—Elder H. A. Lewis, Sage.

Clerk and Treasurer—Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry.

Ass't Clerk—Harold Howard, Saffell.

The next annual session of the Association will convene with The Island Church, below Newport, Jackson County, Arkansas, on Friday morning before the second Sunday in September 1947.

Elder Othaniel Safirt to preach the introductory sermon, with Elder H. A. Lewis as alternate.

1946 MINUTES
of the
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
PROCEEDINGS

Friday 11 A. M. Session

The ministers, deacons, delegates and church clerks of that part of God's family known as Free Will Baptists met with New Home No. 2 Church near Gid, IZARD County, Arkansas, on September 6, 1946. The service was opened with singing and continued by the reading of First Psalm by Moderator, Elder Henry Doyle and prayer by Elder M. G. King.

Elder H. A. Lewis preached the introductory sermon after reading from 2nd Timothy 4 chapter. Text 2nd Timothy 4:2; "Preach the Word." Benediction by Bro. B. A. Gibson.

Friday P. M. Session

The assembly was called together by singing, after which the moderator read Psalm 23. Prayer by Bro. John Riggs. The ministers, deacons, delegates, and church clerks enrolled as follows:

Ministers

L. C. Doyle, Newport; Owen Harvell, Lunenburg; M. G. King, Powhatan; Austin Mullen, Strawberry; W. C. Keylon, Union; Henry Doyle, Newport; John Riggs, Batesville, Rt. 2; H. A. Lewis, Sage; O. Safirt, Grubbs; M. A. Wolfe, Batesville; B. Woodruff, Newport, Rt. 2; J. W. Blanks, Newport; Archie Warnick, Mt. Pleasant.

Ministers belonging but not present:

Ray Watkins, Newport; W. B. Hardin, Hoxie; O. B. Eagan, Saffell; Henry Obarts, Hoxie; W. M. Padgett, Tuckerman; Earl Doyle, Hoxie; Jeff Weaver, Batesville; Lonnie Palmer, Batesville; R. G. Sims, Mt. Pleasant; J. H. Tinkle, Corning; Lyle Cartwright, Batesville; E. M. Phillips, Portland, Oregon; Coy Staggs, Batesville; H. H. Ring, Lake City.

Deceased minister—W. A. Sneed, Jonesboro.

Deacons Present

W. N. McCoy, Newport; A. F. Richey, Smithville, Rt. 1; T. J. Adkisson, Lunenburg; R. B. Richardson, Batesville; B. A. Gibson, Lunenburg; R. L. C. Walker, Mt. Pleasant; M. A. Wolfe, Batesville.

Church Clerks Present

Billie Marie Hutchison, Robbie Dale, Donald Dean Anderson, Bill Richey, Iva Adkisson, Earl Sims.

Letters from the different churches were read and received and their delegates seated in conference in the usual manner—by right hand of fellowship. They were as follows:

1. Allen Chapel—Geraldine Johnson, and Ruthie Mae Leonard.
2. Ballew's Chapel—Waymon Woodruff, Stella Blanks, and Mrs. Virgil Odglen.
3. Bethel—Gilmore Adkisson, and Troy Sims.
4. Blackland Chapel—Lillian Martin, and Mrs. Rutledge.
5. Keylon Chapel—Mae Keylon and George Dale.
6. Macedonia—Charlie Brooks and Arch Craig.
7. Mt. Harmony—Sidney Husky, Harold Howard, and H. B. Doyle.
8. New Home No. 2—Rucker Sims, and Viola Coleman.
9. Oak Grove—Mrs. Ara Richey, Mrs. Josie King, Berniece Richey, and Marvin Jean.
10. Pool's Chapel—Alvis Lassiter and Alma Lassiter.
11. The Island Church—Mrs. Neal Reid and Mrs. Maud Fletcher.

Two churches, Coffman and Love Divine were not represented but mailed their church letters and fees to the clerk later.

A motion carried to accept the newly organized church, 'The Island Church,' into the association so it was accepted.

Election of Officers

Moderator—Elder Henry Doyle.

Ass't Moderator—Elder H. A. Lewis.

Clerk and Treasurer—Mrs. M. B. Williams.

Ass't Clerk—Harold Howard.

The moderator read the By-Laws and appointed the following committees:

(a) Divine Service—H. B. Doyle, B. A. Gibson, and A. F. Richey.

(b) Resolutions—Elders M. G. King, John Riggs, and O. Safirt.

Saturday 9 A. M. Session

Opened by class singing. Scripture 1st. Cor. 15 chapter, by moderator. Prayer by M. A. Wolfe.

Delegates to represent us in the State Association were elected as follows. Mabel Dean Woodruff, Laymon Roach, Maude Fletcher, Josie King, and Rucker Sims.

The Island Church, near Newport, Jackson County, Arkansas, was selected as the next meeting place for the Polk Bayou Association.

Intermission

11 o'clock Service

Congregational singing. Prayer by Bro. Keylon. Memorial sermon by Eld. L. C. Doyle. Prayer of benediction by Elder H. A. Lewis.

Splendid dinner at church. Thanks expressed by Bro. Keylon.

(c) Finance—Austin Mullen, J. W. Blanks, and Rucker Sims.

(d) Temperance—Elders L. C. Doyle, H. A. Lewis, and W. C. Keylon.

(e) Sunday Schools—Mrs. M. G. King, Mrs. Maude Fletcher, and Mrs. H. A. Lewis.

(f) Obituaries—Archie Warnick, Marvin Jean, and Waymon Woodruff.

(g) Ordination—H. A. Lewis, L. C. Doyle, and M. G. King.

A talk was given at this time by Elder W. C. Keylon. Conference was adjourned until 9 a. m. Saturday. Benediction by Bro. Warnick.

Friday Night Divine Service

Opened by congregational singing and prayer by Bro. Keylon. Elders Owen Harvell and M. G. King brought the message. Scripture lesson St. John 10:1-18. Text St. John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Saturday Afternoon

19 Psalm read by moderator. Prayer Bro. Warnick.

Elder Othaniel Safirt was selected to preach the introductory sermon in 1947 with Eld. H. A. Lewis alternate.

Eld. M. G. King will preach the memorial sermon on Saturday, 11 a. m. with Eld. Ray Watkins as alternate.

The following committees reported and were discharged.

Finance—We, the finance committee, find there have been 11 churches represented and we received \$40.00.

Austin Mullen, J. W. Blanks, and Rucker Sims.

Sunday Schools—We, the Sunday Schools committee wish to report that churches which have Sunday Schools seem to remain more active. So we recommend that all churches should have Sunday Schools and use Free Will Baptist literature as far as is possible. We believe that all children should be in Sunday School each Sunday and their parents go with them.

Mrs. Josie King, Mrs. Maud Fletcher and Mrs. Francis Lewis

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. C. Doyle, H. A. Lewis, and W. C. Keylon.

Obituaries—We, the obituaries committee find that death has called 12 of our brethren and sisters since our last meeting. We feel our loss is heaven's gain. They are as follows: Brethren H. H. Adkisson and Elmer Fitz Simmons of New Home No. 2. Sister Frances Padgett of Mt. Harmony.

Bro. W. A. Sneed, Jonesboro. Brother J. P. Richey, Sister Della Parker, Oak Grove. Brethren Spy Ward and McKinley Pierson, Bethel. Sisters W. A. Bradley and Tennie Ballew and brethren John Summers and Lawrence Runnels, Ballew's Chapel.

We also request that each boy in service, that gave his life for our freedom, that we might worship God, according to the dictates of our conscience, be remembered in the memorial service.

Archie Warnick, Marvin Jean, and Waymon Woodruff.

Clerk's Report

Received \$40.00 from the finance committee at the Associational meeting and \$12.00 from other churches, Coffman, Love Divine and Keylon Chapel Churches, after the meeting. Total \$52.00. Paid \$26.00 to the State meeting. \$26.00 left in treasury. \$4.50 balance from minute fund 1945. \$30.50 total amount for minutes of 1946 meeting of Polk Bayou Association.

Report of Ministers

L. C. Doyle—Pastored 2 churches and had 1 regular appointment. Held 3 revivals and helped in 2 others. Members received 38. Baptized 13. Sermons preached 56. Funerals held 16. Organized 1 church. Money received \$464.45.

M. G. King—Pastored 1 church, preached locally at 3 other places. Held 2 revivals. Witnessed 10 professions. Baptized 9. Preached 45 sermons. Held 7 funerals. Money received \$282.10.

W. C. Keylon—Helped in 3 revivals. Witnessed 4 conversions. Sermons preached 100. Held 1 funeral. Married 2 couples. Money received \$83.83.

H. A. Lewis—Pastored 4 churches. Preached some locally. Helped in 7 revivals. Witnessed 12 conversions. Members received 2. Funerals held 4. Money received \$597.32.

Ray Watkins—Pastored 4 churches. Helped in 4 revivals. Baptized 40. Preached 130 sermons. Funerals held 8. Married 4 couples. Money received \$687.15. Gave \$84.00 to the churches.

Austin Mullen—Preached 103 sermons. Conducted 43 prayer meetings and devotional services. Pastored 1 church. Helped in 7 revivals. Witnessed 30 conversions. Distributed 30,000 pieces of religious literature, booklets, wall mottoes, calendars, testaments, etc. Money received \$107.50.

Owen Harvell—Pastored 2 churches. Preached 61 sermons. Funerals held 2. Members received 4. Baptized 2. Revivals held with assistance 2. Money received \$207.50.

Name omitted—Preached at 2 places. Pastored no church. Helped in 2 revivals, Preached 20 sermons. Baptized 3. Money received \$65.00.

Short talks were made by Brethren J. W. Blanks and Archie Warnick preceeding their ordination to the ministry which was performed during this session by the Ordination Committee.

A special number "Hallelujah Morning" was very well rendered at this time by Bro. Bill Richey and daughter Berniece.

Conference was adjourned to meet on Friday morning before the second Sunday in September 1947, with The Island Church below Newport, Jackson County, Arkansas.

SATURDAY NIGHT DIVINE SERVICE

Congregational singing. Prayers, Brethren Elvie Craig and B. A. Gibson. Devotional service conducted by Eld. H. A. Lewis. Message by Bro. Keylon. Scripture Romans 8. Benediction Bro. Archie Warnick.

A large part of the delegation returned to their homes on Saturday night.

Elders L. C. Doyle and H. A. Lewis continued the services through the week following with a revival meeting.

Churches with their clerk's name and address:

Allen Chapel—Mrs. J. J. Long, Batesville.

Ballew's Chapel—Earl Clark, Newport Rt. 2.

Bethel—Iva Adkisson, Lunenburg.

Blackland Chapel—Mable Bennett, Oil Trough.

Coffman—Park Jeffery, Hoxie Route 1.

Keylon Chapel—Robbie Dale, LaCrosse.

Love Divine—Everett Neece, Hoxie Route 1, Box 105.

Macedonia—Donald Dean Anderson, Mt. Pleasant.

Mt. Harmony—A. L. Willmuth, Strawberry Route 1.

New Home No. 2—Earl Sims, Gid.

Oak Grove—Bill Richey, Eaton.

Pool's Chapel—C. O. Pool, Route 2, Batesville.

The Island Church—Billy Marie Hutchison, Newport, Route 3,
Box 214.

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. 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 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 of 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 and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works to the study of the Scripture, secret prayer, family devotions, 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 the 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 scripture 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 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; 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 members being admitted into church by the right hand of fellowship. 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 literature _____.

Paid Pastor _____.

When church was organized _____.

Moderator _____.

Church Clerk _____.

Clerk's Address _____.

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