

Alma G. Kesson

MINUTES
OF THE
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH
ISLAND CHURCH
NEAR NEWPORT,
JACKSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
SEPTEMBER 12, 13, 14, 1947

OFFICERS

Moderator Elder Owen Harvell, Lunenberg, Ark.
Ass't Mod. Eld. Henry Doyle, Newport, Ark.
Clerk & Treasurer Bill Richey, Eaton, Ark.
Ass't Clerk Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry, Ark.

The next annual session of the Association will convene with Pool's Chapel Church near Sandtown, IZARD COUNTY, Arkansas, on Friday morning before the second Sunday in September, 1948.

Elder Owen Harvell is to preach the introductory sermon; Eld. Obie Eagan is alternate.

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 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 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.

1947 MINUTES
OF THE
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

PROCEEDINGS

Friday 10:00 A. M. Session

Singing by Choir and Scripture (Matt. 5: 1 & 18) read by Moderator H. Doyle. The congregation was then called to prayer, led by Eld. Obie Eagan.

Next Eld. O. Safirt laid the foundation for his introductory sermon by reading second chapter of Hebrews. Prayer was again made by Eld. M. G. King.

After this Eld. O. Safirt chose, "Take Heed," Heb. 2-1 as his text and brought a very nice message. Eld. M. G. King followed Bro. Safirt and gave to all a spiritual uplift.

Benediction was then spoken by Eld. Owen Harvell.

At noon the delegates were whisked away to the homes of the immediate community. At 2.00 o'clock p. m., they had returned to the church. All reported splendid "dinners" and hospitality up to par value for Southern Homes.

Friday 2:00 P. M. Session

Congregational singing was the beginning feature of this session. Then Eld. H. Doyle, still acting as moderator, read Psalms, 1st chapter, after which the congregation was called to prayer.

At this time the business of the Association got under way by enrollment of ministers, deacons, delegates, and church clerks.

Ministers Present

L. C. Doyle, Newport, Ark.; M. G. King, Powhatan, Ark.; Obie Eagan, Saffell, Ark.; Henry Doyle, Newport, Ark.; O. Safirt, Newport, Ark.; B. Woodruff, Newport, Ark.; Austin Mullen, Strawberry, Ark.; Owen Harvell, Lunenburg, Ark.; W. C. Keylon, Union, Ark.; M. A. Wolfe, Batesville, Ark.; John Riggs, Batesville, Ark., Rt. 2; J. W. Blanks, Newport, Ark.; Lonnie Palmer, Batesville, Ark., Rt. 2.

Deacons Present

M. N. McCoy, Newport, Ark.; Cleo Manuel, Batesville, Ark.; Everette Neece, Hoxie, Ark., Rt. 1; Lloyd Mantooth, Newport, Ark.; Bert Gibson, Lunenburg, Ark.; Virgil Ross, Eaton, Ark.; Troy Sims, Gid, Ark.; John Reed (address not given); R. L. C. Walker, Batesville, Ark.; M. A. Wolfe, Batesville, Ark.; A. T. Blanks, Grubbs, Ark.; Joe Woodruff, Grubbs, Ark.; Dewitt Rowlett, Swifton, Ark.

Clerks Present

Everette Neece, Hoxie, Ark., Rt. 1; Layman Roach, Sandtown, Ark.; Bill Richey, Eaton, Ark.

Delegates Present

Oak Grove—Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sharp and Marvin Jean.

Mt. Harmony—Sidney Huskey, H. B. Doyle and Allen Hanshaw.

Allen Chapel—Christine Hartline and Naomi Manuel.

Love Divin—Jessie Garland, Lloyd Goodwin and Lucille Goodwin.

Coffman—Mrs. Cecil Garland.

New Home No. 2—Abbie Adkisson.

Island—Bro. Goodwin, Dolph Goodwin and Mason Thomas.

Ballews Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Virgie Odglen and Stella Blanks.

Bethel—G. E. Richardson and Hattie Sims.

Black Land Chapel—Bessie Rutledge and Mildred Rudell.

Macedonia—Nona Conyers and Lizzie Reeves.

Pool's Chapel—Arvil Satterwhite, Leonard Love, and Uva Love.

Pine Hill—J. E. McTigue and Zelma Roach.

New Home No. 1—Dewitt Rowlett (registered in Saturday A. M. session.)

Election of Officers

Moderator—Elder Owen Harvell.

Ass't Mod.—Elder Henry Doyle.

Clerk & Treasurer—Bill Richey.

Ass't. Clerk—Mrs. M. B. Williams.

Visiting ministers invited to register. There were none present.

Christians were invited to take seat in council.

The following committees were appointed:

(a) Divine Service—B. A. Gibson, H. B. Doyle and John Ried.

(b) Resolutions—L. C. Doyle, M. G. King and Obie Eagan.

(c) Finance—W. N. McCoy, Sidney Huskey and G. E. Richardson.

(d) Temperance—W. C. Keylon, Virgil Ross and B. Woodruff.

(e) Sunday school—Mrs. M. B. Williams, Mrs. Cecil Garland and Nona Conyers.

Obituaries—Mrs. Bill Sharp, Mrs. Lloyd Mantooth and Abbie Adkisson.

Standing Committee on Ordination—H. A. Lewis, L. C. Doyle and M. G. King.

Business—L. C. Doyle, M. G. King and Obie Eagan.

Calls were made as follows:

Report of Outstanding Committees—None.

Unfinished business—None.

Appeals from Quarterly Meetings—None.

Conference was adjourned until 9:00 o'clock, Saturday A. M.

Following adjournment homes for visiting delegates were assigned and all went away for the evening meal. About 7:00 o'clock P. M. the delegates—refreshed by royal hospitality of homes visited—and people of the Island community gathered back at the church for the evening service.

Friday Night Divine Service

Singing by congregation; devotional service led by W. C. Keylon. A letter from Bro. H. A. Lewis—in Batesville hospital—was received and read by Elder Lewis Doyle. Bro. Lewis was to undergo an operation for appendicitis. He asked that prayer be made in his behalf. The congregation was immediately called to prayer and neighbors, friends and brethren intreated the Heavenly "Physician" to restore our afflicted brother.

Following this season of prayer, Elder Obie Eagan took the stand and read for scripture lesson—1st Cor. 3: 1-11 verses. For a theme he then chose "The One Foundation" and brought a splendid message.

Benediction was then pronounced by Virgil Ross.

SATURDAY, 9 A. M.

Singing by congregation and scripture lesson (St. John 15: 1-20) read by the moderator, Elder Owen Harvell. Prayer by Elder M. A. Wolfe.

Ministers who were present reported as follows:

Obie Eagan—Preached 20 sermons, held four funerals, was in one revival, witnessed thirty professions, received thirty into church, baptized twenty-six and married two couples. Money received \$174.50.

W. C. Keyton—Pastored one church, preached some locally, witnessed forty-nine conversions, preached fifty-nine sermons, received two into the church, preached one funeral and married three couples. Money received \$295.88.

Lonnie Palmer—Preached several sermons, witnessed several conversions, helped in several revivals, married several couples, preached several funerals, traveled several miles. No finance report.

L. C. Doyle—Pastored three churches, held four revivals, witnessed nineteen conversions, baptized five, held eleven funerals, and preached eighty sermons. Money received \$545.80.

Owen Harvell—Pastored three churches, helped in three revivals, preached ninety sermons, held three funerals, and married one couple. Money received \$369.59.

M. G. King—Preached fifty-nine sermons, funerals seven, miles traveled unknown, married several couples, served as assistant pastor of my home church (Oak Grove), preached regularly at two places and some locally, helped in three revivals and witnessed five professions. Money received \$370.27.

H. A. Lewis—Pastored four churches, preached locally, witnessed fifty-nine conversions, preached 151 sermons, received fourteen into church, baptized sixteen and preached five funerals. Money received \$980.69.

Bros. B. Woodruff and John Riggs made oral reports. There may have been other oral reports that we failed to get.

Austin Mullen—Assisted in five revivals, preached thirty-seven sermons, witnessed 113 professions, conducted several prayer meetings, and gave away about 30,000 tracts. Money received \$77.00.

Delegates to State Association Were Chosen as Follows:

Horace Doyle, Orville Satterwhite, Ruthie Mae Leonard, Maude Fletcher and Stella Blanks.

Alternates were: Mrs. Lloyd Mantooth, Mrs. Cleo Manuel, Mrs. Virgie Odglen, Sidney Huskey and Leonard Love.

Report of Committees:

Finance—A collection of \$53 was received and given to the clerk of this association. The committee was discharged.

Sunday school—We, the Sunday school committees, think each church should have a Sunday school. Children who are trained to go to Sunday school are interested in the work of the church. We urge parents to attend regularly with their children. Also, we recommend that Free Will Baptist Literature be used in all our churches if there be no contentions to do otherwise. (Committee was then discharged.)

Resolutions—Be it resolved that all our churches petition our statesmen and congressmen to combine Father's and Mother's Day so as to be observed upon same day. (Requested from Quarterly Meeting at Pool's Chapel held 5th Sunday in August, 1947.)

Final Resolutions—We want to thank the good people of the Island Church and the surrounding neighborhood, and our Heavenly Father for the hospitality you have shown us in opening the doors of your church and homes to us. We bid you God's speed in all your labors for good.

Obituaries—We, the obituaries committee, find that death has called 10 of our brethren and sisters since our 1946 meeting. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain. The deceased are: From Ballew's Chapel, Bro. Fred Summers, Sister Beulah Dillon and Sister Fred Simmons; from Macedonia, Bro. Frank Craig; from Bethel, Bro. John Meeks; from Mt. Harmony, Sister Dr. Hardin, Sister Woosley, Bros. Jim Hennessee and Jeff Doyle.; from Pool's Chapel, Sister Dora Pool.

Temperance—We, your committee on temperance, submit the following:

In all things we should strive to exemplify our profession by abstaining from all sinful conformity to the world—just in dealings, faithful in engagements, exemplary in deportment, and doing our utmost in minimizing the curse of intoxicating liquors—so much the more “as we see the day approaching.”

After the committees had reported the conference recessed for fifteen minutes.

Saturday 11 O'clock Service

Singing by congregation and memorial sermon by Elder M. G. King. Scripture texts read: St. Jno. 14: 1-3; 2nd Cor. 5-1; and Mali. 3:16. Subject: “A Book of Remembrance is Kept of Them.”

After the Scripture texts were read the congregation was called to prayer by Elder L. C. Doyle. After prayer the Oak Grove quartet sang a number entitled “Where No Parting is Known.”

Bro. King then brought a message in memory of those who had passed from us in the past year.

After benediction, a very delicious, wholesome, and abundant dinner was served on the church campus. Elder W. C. Keylon worded our thanks for the blessed food.

Saturday P. M. Session

Elder L. C. Doyle—stimulated by the good dinner and social visits during the noon hour—sprang to the floor and led the congregation in a spiritual song service.

The moderator read Eph. 6:10-19 and called us to prayer.

After prayer the various committees made their reports. (See committee reports).

Pool's Chapel was given the next annual association.

Owen Harvell chosen to preach introductory sermon for next meeting.

Obie Eagan chosen as alternate.

Motion made and carried that delegates to State Association pay own expenses.

Cleo Manuel chosen to take delegates to Fort Smith meeting. To leave Batesville about 10:00 o'clock on October 2nd.

Motion made and carried to give 5 minutes each to ministers who had not featured in the programs up to this time.

Those who spoke were: Elders John Riggs, J. W. Blanks, Austin Mullen, M. A. Wolfe, B. Woodruff and W. C. Keylon.

Lonnie Palmer was selected by committee to preach Saturday evening and W. C. Keylon selected to preach Sunday at eleven o'clock service.

Oak Grove quartet sang a farewell number entitled, "If We Never Meet Again This Side of Heaven."

After this several appropriate numbers were sung by the congregation and fellowship with parting handshakes gave expression of our reluctance to leave this sanctuary.

Benediction was impressively spoken by Eld. B. Woodruff.

Thus another business session of The Polk Bayou Association is kept in "books of remembrance."

Saturday Night Divine Service

Singing was the beginning feature. Three quartet numbers were rendered. Prayer by R. L. C. Walker and Lonnie Palmer. Scripture lesson taken from third Chapter of Romans and sermon by Bro. Lonnie Palmer. His text was: "The Lord," Prayer of benediction by Bro. Goodwin. (This report was by Mrs. M. B. Williams and mailed to me. Thank you, Mrs. Williams.)

Divine Services through Sunday as reported to me by letter from Eld. L. C. Doyle:

"We had a big crowd Saturday night and a good service.

Sunday at 11 o'clock another good service; three additions to the church. Sunday evening a good baptismal service and Sunday night another good service with a good crowd." (Thank you, Bro. Doyle for sending me this report.)

Clerk's Report

I have carefully checked and compiled all data collected; made report to State Association sending therewith \$29 which was 50% of funds received from finance committee; paid deficit of \$2.24 to Mrs. M. B. Williams (this amount due her to balance book for 1946). This leaves \$26.76 on hands to apply on minute fund for 1947. Will do our best to make this cover cost. Hope to have booklets in time for next quarterly meeting.

To have served in this task has been a real pleasure and since SERVICE should be our Church Motto, may I look forward expectantly?

Your clerk,

Bill Richey.

P.S.: Oct. 19th received \$2.00 from Keylon's Chapel by Eld. Owen Harvell.

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 an 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.