

Richardson

Gilmore Addison
MINUTES

Of The

POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION

OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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Held with Pool's Chapel Church, near Sandtown,
Izard County, Arkansas
September 10, 11, 12, 1948

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The next annual session of the Association will convene with Allen's Chapel Church, near Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, on Friday morning before the second Sunday in September, 1949. Elder Ray Watkins is to preach the introductory sermon.

OFFICERS

Moderator—Elder Henry Doyle, Newport, Ark.
Ass't. Moderator—Elder Owen Harvell, Lunenburg, Ark.
Clerk and Treasurer—Sidney Byrd, Newport, Ark.
Ass't. Clerk—Mrs. Arden Watkins, Newport, Ark.

1948 MINUTES
OF THE
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

PROCEEDINGS

The annual session of the Free Will Baptist Polk Bayou Association convened with Pool's Chapel Church, near Sandtown, Izard County, Arkansas, Friday, September 10, 1948 at 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The assembly was opened with class singing. The moderator being absent, assistant moderator, Henry Doyle, read a Scripture lesson, 15th chapter of St. John. Prayer by Elder M. G. King. Elder Owen Harvell preached the introductory sermon. Scripture lesson, Hebrews 1st chapter. Prayer by Elder L. C. Doyle; text, Hebrews 1:13-14. Song and handshake. Dismissed by Elder Henry Doyle.

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FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The business session opened by song. Scripture, 2nd Cor. 4th chapter was read by moderator, Owen Harvell. Prayer by Elder Obie Eagan. The clerk being absent, Sidney Byrd was elected clerk. The roll of church letters was called for. The following were presented and their delegates seated in conference by the right hand of fellowship:

Pool's Chapel—Savannah Lassiter and Almond Hastings.

Mt. Harmony—Chester Whitmire, H. B. Doyle, and Allan Handshaw.

Blackland Chapel—Bobbie Huckaba and Blanche Rutledge.

Oak Grove—Will Sharp, Mrs. Will Sharp, and Mrs. M. G. King.

Ballew's Chapel—Virgil Ogdlen, Elaine Ogdlen, and Mary Woodman.

Pine Hill—Ella Baxter, Zelma Roach, and Jim McTigue.

Island Church—Maude Fletcher and W. T. Goodwin.

Allan's Chapel—Geraldine Johnson and Ruthie Mae Leonard.

Macedonia—Lizzie Reaves and Myrl Anderson.

Mt. Vernon—Dorothy Starnes and Mary Edith Robertson.

Bethel Church—Syble Harvell and Inez Adkisson.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elder Henry Doyle was elected moderator, and Elder Owen Harvell, assistant moderator. Sidney Byrd was retained as clerk.

The following committees were appointed by the moderator:

Divine Service—Allan Hanshaw, W. N. McCoy, and A. L. Hastings.

Resolution—M. A. Wolfe, Lyle Cartwright, and Marvin Jean.

Finance—Virgil Ogdlen, Chester Whitmire, and Geraldine Johnson.

Temperance—Obie Eagan, H. A. Lewis, and Kern Johnson.

Sunday School—Ruthie Leonard, Maude Fletcher, and Mary Woodman.

Obituary—Elaine Odglen, John Reid, and Horace Doyle.

Motion and second to adjourn until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

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FRIDAY NIGHT DIVINE SERVICE

The service was opened with singing, followed by prayer by Elder H. A. Lewis. Elder Othaneil Safirt brought the message, using Scriptural lesson, Romans 9: 1-18. Theme: "Ministering of God's will." Concluded by Elder Lyle Cartwright. Benediction, M. A. Wolfe.

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SATURDAY MORNING

The business session opened with singing, directed by L. C. Doyle, Horace Doyle, H. A. Lewis, and Austin Mullins. The moderator read for lesson, Timothy 4th chapter. The prayer was led by Elder H. A. Lewis. The roll call of minister and deacons were made as follows:

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MINISTERS

L. C. Doyle, Newport; Austin Mullins, Strawberry; M. G. King, Powhatan; Owen Harvell, Lunenburg; H. A. Lewis, Sage; W. C. Keylon, Union; W. H. Doyle, Newport; W. A. Wolfe, Batesville; Ray Watkins, Newport; Lyl Cartwright, Batesville; Lonnie Palmer, Batesville; Kern Johnson, Batesville; Obie Eagan, Saffell; Henry Obart, R. 1, Black Rock; O. Safirt, Grubbs; Bee Woodruff, Newport.

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DEACONS

J. Roach, Erwin Baxter, Virgil Ross, Laman Hastings, Alfred Martin, Troy Sims, C. H. Davis, R. L. C. Walker, Cleo Manual, John Reid, Monroe Wolfe, W. N. McCoy.

Recess.

Opened by song and Scripture lesson read by moderator. Prayer. Elder L. C. Doyle preached the memorial sermon, reading Romans 5: 1-6; text, Justification by Faith. Concluded by Elder Obie Eagans. Song and handshake. Benediction by Elder W. C. Keylon.

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Called together by congregational singing, directed by Virgil Ross. Moderator read for Scripture lesson, Acts 1: 1-17. Prayer by Elder Ray Wat-

kins. Sister Arden Watkins was elected assistant clerk. Ministers' reports were read as follows:

L. C. Doyle—Churches pastored, 2. Sermons preached, 40. Meetings held, 1. Baptized, none. Conducted funeral services, 6. Money received, \$550.00.

M. G. King—Sermons preached, 71. Witnessed 6 conversions. Baptized, none. Held 6 funerals. Received, \$463.25.

H. A. Lewis—Pastored 4 churches. Preached 155 sermons. Held 6 revivals and assisted in 3 others. Witnessed 51 conversions. Baptized 27. Conducted 5 funerals. Received \$1,020.29.

Obie Eagans—Pastored 1 church. Preached 50 sermons. Held 7 funeral services. Married 4 couples. Received \$452.75.

W. C. Keyion—Pastored 1 church. Preached 40 sermons. Witnessed 2 conversions. Received 3 into the church. Married 1 couple. Received \$172.90.

Henry Obarts—Helped organize Mt. Vernon Church. Pastored 1 church. Preached 75 sermons. Assisted in 1 revival. Witnessed 4 conversions. Received 9 into the church. Baptized 7. Received \$234.59.

Owen Harvell—Sermons preached, 73. Churches pastored, 3. Assisted in revivals, 4. Baptized, 28. Funerals conducted, 2. Money received, \$360.00.

Henry Doyle—Pastored 1 church. Preached 40 sermons. Baptized, 10. Received \$206.65.

Austin Mullins—Assisted in 4 revivals. Witnessed 17 conversions. Taught 3 singing schools. Distributed \$50,000 tracts, and receive \$220.00.

Delegates elected to represent us in the Annual State Association were: Arden Watkins, Horace Doyle, Leonard Roach, Sister H. A. Lewis, and Geraldine Johnson.

Reports of the committees were made as follows and the committees discharged:

Sunday School—We believe that all churches should have Sunday School and that they should be more active; and that all our churchse should use Free Will Baptist Literature if possible. We think all children should be taken to Sunday School and not sent.

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."

Obituary—We find there has been 5 deaths in our Association since our last meeting: Sister Emma Lesley, of Pine Hill; Brother Lum Lancaster, of Ballew's Chapel; Brother Charlie Brooks, of Macedonia; Sister Nervil Miller, of Pool's Chapel; and Brother Sid Harding, of Mt. Harmony.

Finance—A collection of \$70.00 was received and given to the clerk of this Association.

Final Resolution—Be it resolved, That we extend to the people of Pool's Chapel our sincere thanks for their hospitality in making their

homes our homes while in their midst. We pray God's blessings on all the people in this community.

Allen's Chapel, near Batesville, Arkansas, was selected for the next Association. Rev. Ray Watkins was selected to preach the introductory sermon. Rev. H. A. Lewis was elected to preach the memorial sermon Saturday at 11 o'clock at the next annual meeting.

Motion carried to adjourn until Friday morning before the second Sunday in September, 1949.

Dismissed by song.

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SATURDAY NIGHT DIVINE SERVICE

The service began with singing by the congregation. Some special numbers were given. Prayer. Devotional services were conducted by Brother W. C. Keylon. Elder Ray Watkins delivered the message, using 1 Cor. 11: 20-30 for Scripture; text, Communion. Elder M. G. King ably followed with a sermon on feet washing; read from John 13: 1-13. A large number participated in the Lord's Supper and Feet-washing Services. A song and Christian handshake closed the service. Most of the delegation returned to their homes on Saturday night.

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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 letters.
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 Saviour 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.

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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; Matt. 4:17; 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. 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. 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; Acts 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 23:45; 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 ever lasting 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 Baptists:

We, the members of _____ Church, in church conference on the _____ day of _____, 19____, have selected _____ and _____

_____ as delegates to represent us in your honorable body.

Bidding you God's speed in all your labors for the advancement of the cause of Christ and His Kingdom.

Our church is composed of _____ members, _____ minis-
ters. We received last year by experience _____, by recommenda-
tion _____, 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 regu-
lar 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.