

MINUTES
Of The
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
Of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Held With
ALLEN'S CHAPEL CHURCH

Near Batesville
(Independence County, Arkansas

September 9, 10, 11, 1949

The next annual session of the Association will convene with Macedonia Church near Mt. Pleasant, Izard County, Arkansas, on Friday morning before the second Sunday in September 1950.

Elder Lyle Cartwright is to preach the introductory sermon
Elder Henry Doyle is alternate.

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Elder Ray Watkins, Newport, Ark.
Assistant Moderator.....Elder Henry Doyle, Newport, Ark.
Clerk and Treasurer.....Lucy Williams, Strawberry, Ark.
Assistant Clerk.....Sidney Byrd, Newport, Ark.

**1949 Minutes Of The
Polk Bayou Association
Of Free Will Baptists**

PROCEEDINGS

The annual session of the Free Will Baptist, Polk Bayou Association convened with Allen's Chapel Church, near Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, Friday, September 9, 1949 at 10:00 o'clock.

Friday Morning Session

The meeting was opened by class singing, after which the moderator, Bro. Henry Doyle, read for scripture lesson Psalm 126, followed by prayer led by Bro. M. G. King.

Bro. Ray Watkins preached the introductory sermon. Text Proverbs 11:30; "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

Song and christian handshake. Benediction by Bro. Coy Staggs.

Friday Afternoon Session

The service was opened by singing. The moderator read Romans 8:1-16, followed with prayer by Bro. H. A. Lewis.

The association was seated in conference to transact the following business.

Enrollment of ministers, deacons, and delegates.

Church letters were read and received and their delegates seated in conference, by the right hand of fellowship.

Ministers

L. C. Doyle, Newport.	Lyle Cartwright, Batesville,
M. G. King, Powhatan.	Rosie Route.
Ray Watkins, Newport, Rt. 2.	Coy Staggs, Salado, Batesville
Henry Doyle, Newport, Rt. 2.	Route.
Henry Obarts, Black Rock.	Bee Woodruff, Newport, Rt. 2.
	H. A. Lewis, Sage.

Visiting Ministers

Carl Davis, Elizabeth, Ark.	Owen Love (Methodist,
	Batesville.

Ministers Belonging but Not Present

W. M. Padgett, Tuckerman.	R. G. Sims, Mt. Pleasant.
O. B. Eagan, Saffell.	J. H. Tinkle, Corning.
W. B. Hardin, Hoxie.	E. M. Phillips, Banks, Oregon.
Earl Doyle, Hoxie.	H. H. Ring, Lake City.
Austin Mullen, Strawberry.	Owen Harvell, Lunenburg.
O. Safirt, Grubbs.	W. C. Keylon, Union.
Jeff Weaver, Batesville.	John Riggs, Batesville, Rt. 2.
M. A. Wolfe, Batesville.	Archie Warnick, Mt. Pleasant.
Lonnie Palmer, Batesville.	

Deacons Present

Cecil Garland.	Lloyd Mantooth.
R. B. Richardson.	C. H. Davis.
John Reid.	R. L. C. Walker.

Delegates

Allen's Chapel:—Bro. Porter Bowman, Bro. Wilfred Robbins, and Sister Noma Manuel.

Ballew's Chapel:—Bro. Virgil Odglen, Bro. J. H. Allen, and Bro. Raymond Clark.

Blackland Chapel:—Bro. Lloyd Rutledge, and Bro. Bobby Huckaba.

Island Church:—Bro. Porter Hutchinson, Bro. Mason Thomas, and Sister Grace Goodwin.

Macedonia:—Sister Lizzie Reaves, and Mrs. S. A. Smith.

Mt. Harmony:—Bro. Lewis Croom, Bro. Horace Doyle, and Sister Lucy Williams.

New Home No. 2:—Bro. Lewis Adkisson, and Sister Abbie Adkisson.

Oak Grove:—Sister Josie King, Sister Dora Sharp, and Bro. Will Sharp.

Pool's Chapel:—Bro. Olen Pool, Bro. Alfred Myers, and Sister Nevaline Myers.

Pine Hill:—Bro. Jim McTigue, and Bro. Clyde Crafton.

Coffman:—

Mt. Vernon:—

Bethel:—Bro. G. E. Richardson, and Sister Hattie Sims.

Election of Officers

Moderator.....Elder Ray Watkins
Assistant Moderator.....Elder Henry Doyle
Clerk and Treasurer.....Lucy Williams
Assistant Clerk.....Sidney Byrd

Appointment Of Committees by the newly elected moderator

Elder Ray Watkins

Divine Service:—Bro. Porter Bowman, Bro. Olen Pool, and Sister Grace Goodwin.

Resolutions:—Bro. H. A. Lewis, Bro. Henry Doyle, and Bro. Henry Obarts.

Finance:—Bro. Horace Doyle, Bro. Lloyd Mantooth, and Bro. Bland Richardson.

Temperance:—Bro. Henry Doyle, Bro. M. G. King, and Bro. Lyle Cartwright.

Sunday Schools:—Sister Josie King, Sister Noma Manuel, and Sister Nevaline Myers.

Obituaries:—Bro. J. H. Allen, Bro. Mason Thomas, and Bro. Cecil Garland.

Business:—Bro. H. A. Lewis, Bro. L. C. Doyle, and Bro. Lyle Cartwright.

Ordination:—Standing committee.

Song directed by Elder L. C. Doyle.

Adjourned until 10:00 a. m. Saturday.

Benediction by Bro. Henry Obarts.

Friday night, Divine Service

Opened by congregational singing, prayer by Bro. Carl Davis.

Scriptural reading, St. John 1:1-14 and devotional service conducted by Bro. Owen Love. Prayer, Bro. M. G. King. Text, 2nd Cor. 8:9. Message by Bro. King, and Bro. L. C. Doyle.

Concluded by the moderator.

Prayer of dismissal, Bro. Lyle Cartwright.

Saturday morning Session

The assembly was called together by singing. Scripture: St. John 2:1-11 read by moderator, Eld. Ray Watkins. Prayer, Bro. Owen Love. Called for tardy letters which were read and received.

11:00 A. M. Session

Scripture Job 14, by Bro. H. A. Lewis.

Prayer, Bro. L. C. Doyle. Text, Philippians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Bro. Lewis brought the Memorial message, followed by song and benediction by Bro. M. G. King.

A good meal was served at the church with thanks expressed by Eld. L. C. Doyle.

Saturday afternoon session

Called together by class singing.

The moderator read from Acts 10:34-48. Prayer, Bro. Coy Staggs.

The ministers gave their reports which are found elsewhere in the minutes.

The reports of different committees were received at this time and committee discharged.

Elder Lyle Cartwright was selected to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Polk Bayou Association with Elder Henry Doyle as alternate.

Elder Owen Harvell was selected to preach the memorial sermon with Elder Ray Watkins as alternate.

Macedonia Church, near Mt. Pleasant, was chosen as the meeting place for the next association.

Delegates to the State Association Sister Minnie Hasting, Sister Jeraldine Johnson, Sister Imogene Mantooth, Bro. Lewis Adkisson and Bro. Jim McTigue. Adjourned.

Benediction, Elder Othaniel Safirt.

Saturday night divine service

Service opened by congregational singing. The junior class repeated the Lord's Prayer directed by Loretta Bowman. Prayer by Sister Love. Bro. Lyle Cartwright conducted the devotional service.

Eld. Carl Davis read scripture from Amos 4, and brought the message. Text, St. John 12:37. Concluded by moderator with Christian handshake.

Conference was adjourned until Friday morning before the second Sunday in September, 1950.

Prayer of dismissal Elder H. A. Lewis.

Bro. B. Woodruff preached at 11:00 a. m. on Sunday.

Churches with the clerk's name and address

Allen's Chapel.....	Ruth Leonard, Salado
Ballew's Chapel.....	Earl Clark, Newport, Rt. 2
Bethel.....	Bethel Richardson, Gid
Blackland Chapel.....	Mabel Bennett, Oil Trough
Coffman.....	Park Jeffery, Hoxie, Rt. 1
Island.....	Mrs. Joe Miller, Newport, Rt. 3, Box 356
Keylon Chapel.....	Robbie Dale, LaCrosse
Love Divine.....	Everette Neece, Hoxie, Rt. 1, Box 105
Macedonia.....	Donald Dean Anderson, Mt. Pleasant
Mt. Harmony.....	A. I. Willmuth, Strawberry
Mt. Vernon.....	Mrs. Merle Robertson, Black Rock
New Home No. 2.....	Earl Sims, Gid
Oak Grove.....	Marvin Jean Imboden
Pine Hill.....	Ervin J. Baxter, Batesville, Rt. 1
Pool's Chapel.....	Laymon Roach, Cave City, Rt. 2, Box 62
Weaver's Chapel.....	

Report of Ministers

L. C. Doyle:—Pastored 1 church, held 1 meeting, preached 45 sermons, held 10 funerals, received into church 3 members. Money received \$247.85.

M. G. King:—Preached 42 sermons, held 3 funerals, baptised 2, witnessed 4 professions, helped in 2 meetings, preached some locally at 5 churches, pastored no church the full year. Money received \$255.47.

W. C. Keylon:—Pastored 1 church, preached some locally, helped in 3 meetings, preached 48 sermons, witnessed 4 conversions, married 2 couples. Money received \$164.00.

H. A. Lewis:—Pastored 4 churches, preached some locally, helped in 8 meetings, preached 172 sermons, preached 2 funerals, witnessed 35 conversions, received into church 27 members, baptized 18, organized 1 church. Money received \$1,139.24.

Henry Doyle:—Pastored 1 church, preached 25 sermons, witnessed 10 conversions, money received about \$200.00. My voice was insufficient to preach nearly half of this year. Hope and pray to have a better report next year.

Ray Watkins:—Pastored 3 churches, preached 82 sermons, assisted in 4 meetings, baptized 29 upon profession of faith, held 3 funerals, married 3 couples. Money received \$620.00.

Owen Harvell:—Preached 21 sermons, made 11 trips. Received fruit and other gifts about \$12.00. Money received \$122.15.

Henry Obarts:—Pastored 1 church, preached some at other places, preached 40 sermons, married 2 couples, held 1 funeral, held 1 meeting. Money received \$90.00.

Coy Staggs:—Helped in 1 meeting, married 2 couples. Been in Sunday School regularly.

Reports of Committees

Sunday Schools:—We the Sunday Schools Committee wish to urge each church to have an active Sunday School. We believe that every child should be in Sunday School every Sunday if possible. But we do not like to see them sent alone. We request that parents take their children instead of sending them.

Temperance:—We your committee on Temperance beg leave to report as follows: That we should be free from all intoxicating drinks of any kind, and that any members of our churches being found guilty should make acknowledgment to the church. Scripture: 2nd Cor. 6:17; 1st Thess. 5:22; 1st Peter 2:11; 2nd Peter 1:6; 1st Cor. 9:25; Gal. 5:23; Titus 2:2; and Gal. 3:8.

We also urge that our members abstain from all worldly pleasures and ungodly conversations, and let our lights so shine that the world can know we are disciples or christians.

Obituaries:—We the Obituaries Committee find there has been 6 deaths in our association, namely: Bro. J. H. Sides (dea-

con), Bro. I. E. Sharp, Sister Margaret Sharp, and Sister Julia Winn all of Mt. Harmony Church; Sister Cora Barnett of Pool's Chapel; and one member of Ballew's Chapel Church.

Finance:—We, your Finance Committee, have received \$5.00 each from 12 churches, making a total of \$60.00. \$24.00 of this is to be paid to the State Association and \$36.00 kept in the treasury of the Polk Bayou Association for the printing of minutes of this meeting.

Final Resolution:—We the Resolutions Committee wish to submit the following report. We wish to thank the good people of Allen's Chapel and surrounding community for making their homes our homes during this meeting and pray that God's richest blessings rest upon them now and forever more.

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 every where 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 angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory; that the fall. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than 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. 4:7; 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. 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; 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
_____, 19____, 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 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.