

R. C. Doyle

MINUTES
Of The
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
Of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Held With
MACEDONIA CHURCH
Near Mt. Pleasant
Izard County, Arkansas
September, 8, 9, 10, 1950.

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, 1951.

Eld Owen Harvell will preach the introductory sermon. Eld. L. C. Doyle is alternate.

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Elder Henry Doyle, Newport
Ass't Moderator.....Elder Owen Harvell, Lunenburg
Clerk and Treasurer.....Lucy Williams, Strawberry
Assistant Clerk.....Sidney Byrd, Newport

**1950 MINUTES OF THE POLK BAYOU
ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

PROCEEDINGS

On Friday morning, September 8th, the Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists met with Macedonia Church, near Mt. Pleasant, Arkansas, in regular annual session. Due to inclement weather the congregation was small.

Bro. Archie Warnick led the congregation in singing, followed with prayer by Bro. Carl Davis.

In the absence of the moderator, the house was called to order by assistant moderator Elder Henry Doyle, who read St. John 15:1-14.

Prayer, Bro. W. C. Keylon.

The assistant moderator then called for the introductory sermon which was given by Eld. Lyle Cartwright as had been previously arranged. Bro. Cartwright read St. John 15: 1-9.

Prayer, Bro. L. C. Doyle. Text St. John 15: 1. "I am the vine" concluded by Bro. Henry Doyle. Song and Christian handshake. Benediction, Bro. Austin Mullen.

Noon.

Friday Afternoon Session

The assembly was called together by singing at 1:30.

Matthew 3rd Chapter was read by assistant moderator.

Prayer, Bro. Austin Mullen

Poem, 'What Then' was read by Eld. Henry Doyle who then declared conference to transact business as follows:

Call for enrollment of Ministers and deacons.

Ministers Present

L. C. Doyle, Newport,
W. C. Keylon, Union,
Henry Doyle, Newport, Rte. 2,
Lyle Cartwright, Batesville, Rosie Route,
Austin Mullen, Strawberry,
Archie Warnick, Mt. Pleasant,
R. G. Sims, Mt. Pleasant,
M. G. King, Powhatan,
Owen Harvell, Lunenburg,
John Riggs, Batesville, Rte. 2,
Lonnie Palmer, Batesville.

Visiting Ministers

Carl Davis, Elizabeth.

H. A. Lewis, Santa Paula, California.

Ministers belonging but absent:

Ray Watkins, Newport, Rte 2,

Henry Obarts, Black Rock,

Coy Staggs, Salado, Batesville Route.

B. Woodruff, Newport, Rte 2,

W. M. Padgett, Tuckerman,

O. B. Eagan, Saffell,

W. B. Hardin, Hoxie,

Earl Doyle, Hoxie Route,

O. Safirt, Grubbs,

Jeff Weaver, Batesville,

J. H. Tinkle, Corning,

E. M. Phillips, Banks, Oregon,

H. H. Ring, Monette.

Deacons Present

Troy Sims,
Olen Dale,
Alfred Martin,

Laman Hasting,
Ervin J. Baxter,
Virgil Ross.

Churches and Delegates

1. Allens Chapel—Sister Irene Haynie, Sister Naomi Manuel, and Bro. Gerald Harris.

2. Bethel—Bro. G. E. Richardson and Sister Sibyl Harvell.

3. Blackland Chapel—Bro. J. W. Green and Sister Eula Green.

Island—Bro. W. T. Goodwin and Bro. Porter Hutchinson.

5. Macedonia—Sisters Myrl Anderson, Charline Shaw, and Lora Fleetwood.

6. Mt Harmony—Brethren Otis Gray, Chester Whitmire, and Allen Hanshaw.

7. New Home No. 2—Bro. Walter Adkisson, and Sister Zelma Adkisson.

8. Oak Grove—Sisters Dora Sharp, and Lorene Voyle and Bro. Will Sharp.

9. Brethren Jim McTigue and Everette Dale.

10. Pool's Chapel—Brethren Warren Roach, Almond Hastings, and Sister Lois Roach.

Call for letters from Quarterly Meetings. None received.

Call for letters from churches. Only three were received. The other eight were handed in on Saturday. The three were read and received by the body and their delegates seated in conference by the right hand of fellowship from the moderator as is the usual custom.

On account of the small number present, it was decided by motion an second, that a moderator not be elected at this time, but wait until Saturday morning.

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

Divine Service—Bro. Ottis Gray, Bro. Olen Dale, and Bro. Will Sharp.

Resolutions—Bro. Lyle Cartwright, Bro. Austin Mullen, and Bro. R. G. Sims.

Finance—Bro. Allen Hanshaw, Bro. Laman Hastings, and Bro. Will Sharp.

Temperance—Bro. W. T. Goodwin, Bro. Austin Mullen, and Bro. Owen Harvell.

Obituary—Sister Ruth Leonard, Sister Mabel Bennett, and Bro. Virgil Ross.

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

Call for ministers' reports which were received and read and are found elsewhere in this copy.

Conference adjourned until 9 a. m. Saturday.

Benediction by Bro. R. G. Sims.

Friday Night Divine Service

Opened by congregational singing and prayer by Bro. Owen Harvell. Text: Hebrew 11: 4, by Bro. Carl Davis followed with prayer by Bro. W. C. Keylon.

The sermon was delivered by Bro. Davis and Bro. Keylon as had been arranged by the Divine Service Committee.

Prayer of dismissal by Bro. H. A. Lewis.

The entire congregation was very glad to see Bro. H. A. Lewis as he had been in California almost a year and just arrived during the Friday night service.

Saturday, 9 A. M. Session

The assembly was called together by singing. Eld. Henry Doyle read St. John 14: 6.

Prayer by Bro. Tom Goforth.

Call for tardy letters which were read and received and the delegates were given right hand of fellowship.

Election of Officers

Moderator—Elder Henry Doyle.

Assistant Moderator—Elder Owen Harvell.

Clerk and Treasurer—Mrs. Lucy Williams, retained.

Assistant Clerk—Sidney Byrd, retained.

The Island Church was chosen as the host church for the next meeting of the Association.

Elder Owen Harvell was selected to preach the introductory sermon in 1951 with Elder L. C. Doyle as alternate.

Election of Delegates to State Association

Delegates

Alternates

Bro. Johnny Croom,
Bro. Warren Roach,
Sister Ruth Leonard,
Bro. G. E. Richardson,
Sister Lillian Martin,

Bro. Floyd Huskey,
Sister Audrey Roach,
Sister Merle Cole,
Bro. Elvie Lewis,
Sister Mabel Bennett.

Conference adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

Recess.

11 O'Clock Divine Service

Called together by singing. Scripture reading I Thessalonians 4: 13-18, by Bro. Owen Harvell. Prayer by Bro. L. C. Doyle. Text: Rev. 14: 13. Memorial Sermon by Bro. Harvell followed by Bro. L. C. Doyle.

Prayer of dismissal by Bro. M. G. King.

A splendid dinner was served at the church with thanks expressed by Eld. L. C. Doyle.

Saturday 1:30 Session

Opened by singing. The new assistant moderator read Romans 5.

Prayer by Bro. Lyle Cartwright.

Call for someone to preach Memorial Sermon, 1951.

Elder Lyle Cartwright was chosen with Elder M. G. King, alternate.

Reports of Committees were read and accepted. Committees discharged. Reports found elsewhere.

Motion to empower clerk to distribute minutes to church according to number of members in each church.

Motion for Elder L. C. Doyle to renew his contract to broadcast and that we will support it. Carried.

Bro. L. C. Doyle asked each church to take a public donation, once each month, for the broadcast.

Conference adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock a. m. Friday before the Second Sunday in September 1951, with the Island Church, three miles below Newport.

Benediction by Bro. Virgil Ross.

Elder H. A. Lewis preached on Saturday night.

Reports Of Committees

Sunday Schools—We, the Sunday School Committee urge that each Church have Sunday School and that parents attend along with their children. That each study the Sunday School lesson, for the Bible teachers that we should study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We feel that each Church could be strengthened by the use of Free Will Baptist Literature.

Obituaries—We, the Obituaries Committee, find that there have been six deaths in our Association the past year. Namely: Bro. Hiram Tate from Bethel Church, Bro. J. M. Milligan, and Bro. Charles Lester, Allen's Chapel; Sister Willie Oldham, Oak Grove, and Sister Garrison of Pine Hill.

Temperance—We, your Temperance Committee beg to submit our report as follows: We realize evil abounds as never before, and that Christians should be very careful not to partake of worldly things for we are His witnesses.

We believe that God has created and given to man, everything that is necessary to his personal good, and happiness in every way. And we believe that alcohol in any form of drink or

beverage is man's manufacture, and one drink, one swallow, or one drop, taken as drink or beverage is Sin.

We believe that Christians should not attend worldly moving picture shows. We believe they are controlled by evil forces, and are not good, because they were not created by God.

We suggest temperance in its fullest term in everything we do for God' Glory.

Finance —We, the Committee on Finance, submit the following in appreciation to the many churches for their response to the fund. Eleven churches paid \$5.00 each and one paid \$6.00 making a total of \$61.00.

Ministers Reports

L. C. Doyle, Newport. Greetings to the brotherhood, I have pastored 1 Church, received into the body 10 members. Preached 20 sermons. Conducted 45 broadcasts. Held 6 funerals, married 4 couples. Received from Island \$212.75. Yours for the Lord.

W. C. Keylon, Union: Pastored no church. Helped in 5 revivals, preached 68 sermons. Witnessed 12 conversions. Married 2 couples. Held 2 funerals. Money received \$147.07.

Owen Harvell, Lunenburg: Pastored 5 churches. Helped in 4 revivals. Baptized 15. Members received 6. Funerals conducted 5. Sermons preached 95. Money received \$487.17.

Obie Eagan, Saffell: Pastored 2 churches. Preached at 1 other church each month. Sermons preached 54. Witnessed 14 professions. Baptized 14. Assisted in 2 revivals. Held 10 funerals. Married 2 couples. Money received \$387.60.

H. A. Lewis, Santa Paula, California: Pastored 1 church, full time. Preached 116 sermons. Witnessed 33 conversions. Baptized 24. Received 33 into the church. Helped ordain 3 deacons and two ministers. Helped organize 1 association. Had 2 church weddings. Money received \$1,433.47.

Carl Davis, Elizabeth (Big Springs Association): Pastored 7 churches. Preached 225 sermons. Witnessed 12 conversions. Baptized 3. Held 3 funerals. Married 2 couples. Money received \$801.36.

Churches With the Clerk's Name and Address:

Allen's Chapel—129 Mem. 3 Dea. 2 Min. Ruth Leonard, Salado, Batesville Route.

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

Bethel—73 Mem. 3 Dea. 3 Min. Bethel Richardson, Gid.

Blackland Chapel—63 Mem. 3 Dea. Mabel Bennett, Oil Trough.

Coffman—Park Jeffery, Hoxie Route 1.

Island—74 Mem. 3 Dea. Mrs. Joe Miller, Newport, Rte. 3, Box 356.

Keylon Chapel—38 Mem. 2 Dea. Mrs. Robbie Dale, La-Crosse.

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

Macedonia—80 Mem. 2 Dea. 1 Min. Vina Harvell, Mt. Pleasant.

Mt. Harmony—210 Mem. 4 Dea. 4 Min. A. I. Willmuth, Strawberry, Rt.

New Home No. 2—65 Mem. 2 Dea. Earl Sims, Gid.

Oak Grove—93 Mem. 2 Dea. 2 Min. Marvin Jean, Imboden.

Pine Hill—32 Mem. 3 Dea. Ervin J. Baxter, Batesville, Rte. 1.

Pool's Chapel—52 Mem. Laman Roach, Cave City Rte. 2, Box 62.

Weaver's Chapel—Alene Milligan, Batesville.

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 rise 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 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 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.

15. Elect an assistant moderator.

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 report of different committees.

27. Call for someone to preach the introductory sermon at the next session.

28. Discharge all committees chosen for his 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; 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 his 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 beside 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; 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 receive 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 gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:3; Ez. 36:26-27; Titus 3:5; Gal. 5:21; 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 of 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 his 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 "Bles-

sed 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 23:43; 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; 21:18; 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 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 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.