

Minutes
Of The
Polk Bayou Association
Of
Free Will Baptists

Held With
Mt. Harmony Church
AT SAFFELL

LAWRENCE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

SEPTEMBER 12, 13, 14, 1952

The next annual session of the association will convene with the Oak Grove Church, about 2 miles north of Eaton on highway 25, Lawrence County, Arkansas, at 10:00 A. M. on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1953.

Brother Ernest Elms will preach the introductory sermon. Eld. J. W. Blanks is alternate.

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Elder Henry Doyle, Newport
Assistant Moderator.....Elder M. G. King, Powhatan
Clerk and Treasurer.....Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry
Assistant Clerk.....Sidney Byrd, Newport

**1952 MINUTES OF THE POLK BAYOU
ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

PROCEEDINGS

The Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists met in regular session, on Friday morning at 10:00 o'clock, September 12, 1952, with the Mt. Harmony Church.

The congregation sang several songs and a few remarks were made by Eld. Henry Doyle.

In the absence of both the moderator and assistant moderator, Elder M. G. King, the senior minister in years, of service had charge of the session and opened by reading St. John, 14 chapter, and leading in the prayer which followed.

On account of the condition of health Bro. L. C. Doyle, was not present to deliver the introductory sermon as had been previously arranged.

The alternate Bro. Ray Watkins also being absent, the congregation voted unanimously for Bro. Henry Doyle to preach the introductory sermon. It was concluded by Bro. King with a Christian hand shake.

Benediction by Bro. W. N. McCoy.

Friday, 2:00 P. M. Session

Congregational singing.

Scripture by Bro. King, James 1st. Chapter .

Prayer, Bro. W. T. Goodwin.

Conference was declared for the transaction of any business that might come before the body.

Enrollment of ministers and deacons was the first order of business.

Ministers:

M. G. King, Powhatan

Henry Doyle, Newport

Ray Watkins, Newport

Austin Mullen, Strawberry

J. W. Blanks, Newport

Lyle Cartwright, Batesville

W. H. Obarts, Black Rock

Visiting Minister

Grady Linebaugh, Walnut Ridge

Deacons

J. W. Sexton	Bland Richardson
L. H. Croom	Ernest Elms
W. N. McCoy	Leonard Milligan
A. F. Richey	Virgil Ross
Harold Howard	Shelby Callahan
Troy Sims	H. H. Newberry

Call for letters from quarterly meetings, none received.

Call for letters from churches, 5 were read and received and their delegates were seated in conference by the usual custom, right hand of fellowship by moderator.

The election of officers was next. Elder Henry Doyle elected moderator Elder M. G. King, Assistant Moderator; Mrs. M. B. Williams, retained Clerk and Treasurer; Sidney Byrd, Assistant Clerk.

The newly elected moderator took charge and read the By-Laws, then appointed the following committees.

Divine Service

Brethren, Virgil Odglen, Luther Voyles, and L. H. Croom.

Finance

Brethren J. W. Sexton, A. F. Richey, and W. T. Goodwin.

Sunday Schools

Sisters Josie King, Modena Voyles and Mary Cantwell.

Obituaries

Brethren Austin Mullen, Ernest Elms, and Preston Cole.

Resolutions

Brethren W. H. Obarts, Lyle Cartwright and Shelby Callahan.

Temperance

Brethren M. G. King, W. T. Goodwin, and L. H. Croom.

Motion made and seconded to do away with the business committee and let the Resolutions Committee do work of both. motion carried.

Conference adjourned to meet back at 9:00 A. M. Saturday.

Benediction, Millard Williams.

Delegates

Sadie Starnes, Margie Flemming, Kathryn Starnes, Lee Phillips, Edgar Manuel, W. T. Goodwin, Auttie Manuel, G. E. Richardson, Hattie Sims, Luther Voyles, Modena Voyles, Valie Callahan, Iveron Harris, Gerphus Huskey, Bill Hendrick, Preston Cole, Merle Cole, Edith Elms, Minnie Hastings, Juanita Hastings, Norene Montgomery, Virgil Odglen, Elwood Vines, Mary Cantwell, Mae Waddill, Melvin Guntharp, Charles Barnhill, Jack Tolbert, Wanda Robertson.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Divine Service

Congregational singing.

Psalm I read by Moderator.

Prayer, Elder Ray Watkins.

Text, Galations, 6:7-8. Sermon by Elder Henry Doyle followed by Elder Ray Watkins.

Benediction.

SATURDAY 9:00 A. M.

Opened by singing. Scripture reading, Romans 8:1-14 and prayer by Assistant Moderator, Elder M. G. King.

The moderator called for tardy letters from churches. Several were read, received and delegates seated in conference.

Delegates to the State Association were elected as follows:

Virgil Odglen, Valie Callahan, Horace Doyle, Geraldine Johnson, Gertie Doyle.

Alternates:

Mary Cantwell, Winnie Stay, Floyd Huskey, Merle Cole, Grace Goodwin.

Conference adjourned until 1:30 P. M.

Intermission

Assembly called together by singing.

Prayer, Bro. Ernest Elms.

Scripture, Hebrews 11:13-16, 26, 27 and memorial sermon given by Eld. Ray Watkins, concluded by Bro. King.

Benediction, Bro. J. F. Richey.

NOON

Dinner was served on the church ground. Thanks expressed by Eld. M. G. King.

SATURDAY, 1:30 P. M.

Called together by singing. The moderator read Romans 12. Followed with prayer by Bro. J. L. Smith, visitor.

Report of committees call for, received and the committees discharged. Reports found elsewhere in this minute.

Three churches asked for the next association, Oak Grove, New Home No. 2, and Pools Chapel.

Oak Grove was chosen. Bro. Ernest Elms will preach the introductory sermon. Bro. J. W. Blanks as alternate.

Elder Grady Linebaugh will preach the memorial sermon on Saturday, 11:00 A. M. with Elder Lyle Cartwright alternate.

A motion carried to grant Elder Austin Mullen, Clerk of the quarterly meeting, the authority to fill out ordination papers for the following deacons, Arvil Satterwhite, Troy Sims, L. H. Croom and Harold Howard.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Resolutions

We your committee offer the following: The moderator appoint a committee of five to meet and work out a program to

be presented to this body laying out a program to set forth some goals to work toward in this association.

The following committee was appointed: Millard Williams, Henry Doyle, Troy Sims, Lyle Cartwright and A. L. Hastings.

Temperance

We your Temperance Committee 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 acknowledgements to the church. We also urge that our members abstain from all worldly pleasures, and ungodly conversation, and let our lights so shine that the world may know we are his disciples or christians.

Finance

We the finance committee have received \$55.50 from the ten churches reporting at this associational meeting and have given the amount to the treasurer.

Sunday Schools

We the Sunday Schools Committee urge that each church have a two weeks Vacation Bible School once each year. That we put our Sunday School before all trips and visits and anything that might interfere. That we be found faithful.

We insist that Free Will Baptist Literature be used in our Sunday Schools if possible and that we as parents, go with and not send our children to Sunday School.

Obituaries

We the Obituary Committee find 8 persons have been called from our midst since our last meeting as follows.

Oak Grove—Bro. Joe Willie Parker, Sisters Lucinda Beary and Rittie Davis.

Mt. Harmony—Bro. David Huskey.

Ballews Chapel—Sister Janie McCall.

Allen Chapel—Sister Rita Ann Porterfield.

Weaver's Chapel—Bro. Elvira Goforth and Bro. Charles Reynolds.

Final Resolution

Be it resolved that we extend our thanks to this church and community for their kind hospitality and good treatment to us during our stay with you and wish God's blessing to rest on you.

Miscellaneous

The clerk received \$6 from the Pine Hill Church in a letter from their church clerk after the association, making a total of \$61.50 now in treasury. \$30.25 will be sent to the state meeting the remainder will be used to print these minutes.

Each church in the Polk Bayou Association is supposed to pay \$6.00 yearly to the Association.

The clerk will order letter forms and send to each church clerk one to be filled out for the next yearly meeting.

Confrence was adjourned to meet with Oak Grove Church on Friday morning bfore the Second Sunday in September, 19-53.

The afternoon session was closed by singing In Gethsemane Alone and dedicating it to Elder L. C. Doyle of Newport who could not attend the meeting of the Association on account of his health. The Association is very grateful to Bro. Doyle for what he means to it, and the wonderful way in which he has helped it to keep on keeping on. A special donation was given for him which amounted to \$27.00.

Benediction, Elder Grady Linebaugh.

Saturday Night Divine Service

Congregational singing.

Prayer, Elder Grady Linebaugh.

Devotional conducted by Elder Austin Mullen.

Scripture, St. John 10:1-13 and sermon by Elder Lyle Cartwright.

Benediction, Horace Doyle.

Ministers Reports

Ray Watkins—Pastored 3 Churches, preached 179 sermons, married 3 couples, held 4 funerals, helped in 5 revivals wit-

nessed 37 conversions, baptized 30, money received \$1,507.00.

Henry Doyle—I wish to hand in this as my report. Hoping and praying that if it is God's will next year and on out to the end of the journey I may have a better report.

Preached 40 sermons, received \$215.00.

J. W. Blanks—Pastored no churches, preached regularly at one place, part time at two other places, preached 28 sermons, married 2 couples, received \$98.00.

Austin Mullen—Assisted in 4 revivals, preached about 50 sermons and sermonettes at church and league. Witnessed 7 conversions, assisted in 2 Bible Study programs, conducted 1 prayer meeting at home church, helped in devotional at Missionary Baptist Church, Saffell. Gave away approximately 5000 tracts, cards, etc.

W. H. Obarts—Pastored 1 church, Oldham's Chapel, helped in 3 revivals, witnessed 11 conversions, received into fellowship at Oldham's Chapel Church 16, baptized 15, preached 45 sermons, married 1 couple, money received \$103.40.

CHURCHES WITH CLERKS NAME AND ADDRESS

Allen Chapel—Mrs. Opal Sturch, Salado, Batesville Rt.

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

Bethel—Miss Inez Adkisson, Lunenburg.

Blackland Chapel—Mabel Bennett, Oil Trough.

Coffman—Mrs. Jewell Johnson, Hoxie Rt. 1.

Island—Mrs. Joe Miller, Newport Rt. 3, Box 356.

Keylon Chapel—Robbie Dale, LaCrosse.

Macedonia—Mrs. Vina Harvell, Mt. Pleasant.

Mt. Harmony—Mr. A. J. Willmuth, Strawberry.

New Home No. 2—Mrs. Abbie Adkisson, Gid.

Oak Grove—Mr. Marvin Jean, Imboden.

Oldham's Chapel—Mr. Leonard Milligan, Black Rock.

Pine Hill—Mr. Ervin J. Baxter, Batesville, Rt. 1.

Pool's Chapel—Mr. Laman Roach, Cave City, Rt. 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 then 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.

10. Arrangements shall be made to insure at least two sermons each day of each session of the Association.

1. 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.
14. Elect an assistant moderator.
15. Invite all visiting ministers and deacons to enroll.
16. Invite all Christians to take a seat in council.
17. Read the Constitution and By-Laws.
18. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Divine Service, (b) Resolutions, (c) Finance, (d) Temperance, (e) Sunday School, (f) Obituary, (g) Ordination.
19. Call for report of outstanding committees.
20. Call for unfinished business.
21. Call for appeals from quarterly meetings and churches.
22. Call for ordination of ministers and deacons.
23. Call for ministers' written reports.
24. Elect delegates to the State Association.
25. Call for report of different committees.
26. Call for someone to preach the introductory sermon at the next session.
27. Discharge all committees chosen for this session.
28. 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 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.

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; I 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. II 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 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; 3:16-17; 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 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 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 4:36; I 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. I Cor. 6:11; Rom. 7:7-25; Phil. 3:21; I 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." I Cor. 10:12-13; Rev. 22:14; Rom. 11:20-21; Hebrews 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 contained 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; I 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; II Thes. 1:8-9; Rev. 14:11; 21:18; Luke 16:23; II 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; I Tim. 1:15-16; I 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. II Tim. 2:15; I Cor. 16:1-2.