

John Riggs Book,

## **Minutes**

Of The

## **Polk Bayou Association**

Of

## **Free Will Baptists**

Held With

## **Oak Grove Church**

NEAR EATON

LAWRENCE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 1953

The next annual session of the association will convene with the Pool's Chapel Church near Sandtown at 10:00 A.M., Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1954.

Elder J. W. Blanks will preach the introductory sermon. Elder H. A. Lewis is alternate.

### **OFFICERS**

Moderator.....Elder Henry Doyle, Newport  
Assistant Moderator.....Elder Austin Mullen, Strawberry  
Clerk and Treasurer.....Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry  
Assistant Clerk.....Ralph Welch, Newport

---

---

## PROCEEDINGS

The ministers, deacons, church clerks, and elected delegates, composing the Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists, met in regular annual session with Oak Grove Church on September 11-13, 1953.

The session was represented by an elected delegation from thirteen of the fifteen churches in the district association.

Weaver's Chapel Church and Keylon's Chapel Church did not send a delegation.

### FRIDAY A.M. SESSION

Congregational singing was directed by Brethren Virgil Ross, Horace Doyle, Ralph Welch, Earl Clark, and Rev. Reford Wilson. Pianist, Sister Mahala Ross.

The moderator read, Romans 12, followed with prayer by Bro. M. G. King.

Recess.

### 11:00 A.M. Divine Service

Elder Ernest Elms brought the introductory sermon as had been previously arranged. He read scripture from Romans 12:1-2 and Matthew 7th chapter. The subject, "Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen." Rev. George W. Scott concluded the service.

Song and Christian handshake.

Benediction, Rev. E. E. Morris.

Noon.

### 2:00 P.M. Friday

The assembly was called together by singing.

Scripture, James 4:1-10 by assistant moderator Rev. M. G. King.

Prayer led by Rev. Henry Obarts. The moderator, Rev. Henry Doyle took charge and opened conference.

First order of business was the enrollment of ministers and deacons present.

#### Ministers:

H. A. Lewis, Batesville

M. G. King, Powhatan

Henry Obarts

Lyle Cartwright

Ernest Elms

J. W. Blanks  
Obie Eagan, Hammond, Indiana  
Henry Doyle, Newport  
Austin Mullen, Strawberry  
Archie Warnick, Mt. Pleasant  
Ray Watkins, Newport  
W. B. Hardin, Hoxie  
Deceased Minister, L. C. Doyle, Newport

**Visiting Ministers:**

Reford Wilson, Pocahontas  
E. E. Morris, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
George W. Scott, Myrtle, Missouri  
George Million, Pocahontas  
Grady Linebaugh, Walnut Ridge  
Oppie Hargraves, Mountain Home

**Deacons:**

W. N. McCoy	Millard Williams
A. T. Blanks	Jay Roach
Shelby Callahan	L. H. Croom
A. F. Richey	Dene Tucker
Virgil Ross	Laman Hastings
Horace Doyle	T. J. Adkisson
Jackson Sexton	B. A. Gibson
Gerphus Huskey	Cleo Manuel

**Visiting Deacons:**

Daniel McNutt	Dolph McNutt
---------------	--------------

The moderator called for the letters from the different churches belonging to association, letters received and the delegates and church clerks were seated in conference as is the usual custom, by the right hand of fellowship.

Delegates and church clerks registered. Delegates Bro. Ralph Welch, Bro. Earl Combs, Bro. Virgil Odglen, Sister Mahala Ross, Bro. Walter Smith, Sister Oma Smith, Sister Ethel Doyle, Sister Gertie Doyle, Bro. Lewis Croom, Bro. Columbus Huskey, Bro. Bill Hendrix, Bro. Tom Hamilton, Sister Zelma Roach, Bro. J. W. Green, Bro. Frank Brooks, Sister Iva Adkisson, Sister Zelma Roach, Sister Rachel Adkisson, Bro. Louis Adkisson, Bro. Almon Hastings, Bro. Alfred Myers, Sister Lee Phillips, Sister Margie Flemming,

Sister Lela Milligan, Bro. Harvey Oldham, Bro. Park Jeffery, Bro. Leroy Scudder, Bro. R. F. Townsley, Bro. Ralph Pierce, Sister Madeline Pierce, Bro. Gerald Harris, and Sister Lou Ella Oldham.

Church Clerks—Sister Valie Callahan, Bro. Earl Clark, Sister Eva Miller, Sister Mabel Bennett, Sister Vera Johnson, Sister Inez Adkisson, Sister Abbie Adkisson.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rev. Henry Doyle.....Moderator  
Rev. Austin Mullen.....Assistant Moderator  
Mrs. M. B. Williams.....Clerk and Treasurer  
Ralph Welch.....Assistant Clerk

The moderator read the by-laws then appointed the following committees.

Resolutions: Rev. H. A. Lewis, Rev. Obie Eagan, Rev. Henry Obarts.

Finance: Bro. Horace Doyle, Bro. W. N. McCoy, Bro. Virgil Ross.

Divine Service: Bro. Earl Clark, Bro. Millard Williams, Bro. Lewis Croom.

Temperance: Rev. M. G. King, Sister Valie Callahan, Bro. A. T. Blanks.

Sunday Schools: Bro. Columbus Huskey, Bro. Earl Combs, Rev. Ernest Elms.

Obituary: Rev. J. W. Blanks, Bro. Frank Richey, Bro. Virgil Odglen.

Ordination: Standing Committee—Rev. M. G. King, Rev. H. A. Lewis, Rev. Obie Eagan.

In the unfinished business called for, Rev. Obie Eagan was elected to fill the vacancy in the Ordination Committee created by the death of Rev. L. C. Doyle who was one of the committeemen.

Motion that moderator appoint a committee of three to visit Bethel, Weaver's Chapel and Keylon's Chapel Churches to try to get them into action again. Motion carried.

Bro. H. A. Lewis, Bro. Lyle Cartwright and Bro. Ernest Elms were appointed on that committee.

Motion to elect a Home Mission Treasurer, motion carried. Mrs. Valie Callahan elected Home Mission Treasurer.

Conference adjourned until 9:30 A.M. Saturday.

## **FRIDAY NIGHT DIVINE SERVICE**

The message was given by Rev. Obie Eagan. Scripture lesson from Matthew 5 and Psalm 1.

Subject, Blessed is the man.

Rev. W. B. Hardin also gave a talk.

### **9:30 A.M. Saturday**

Called together by singing.

Scripture, by Assistant Moderator Rev. Austin Mullen from James.

Prayer by Bro. M. G. King.

Call for tardy letters, which were read and received.

Motion to seat visiting ministers and deacons as advisory members. Motion carried. Visiting ministers and deacons seated as advisory members.

Adjourned, recess.

### **11:00 A.M. Service**

The assembly was called together by singing. Prayer, Rev. E. E. Morris, Scripture Acts 2:22-32. Text Acts 2:29. Memorial Sermon by Rev. Grady Linebaugh. Prayer Rev. Reford Wilson, concluded by moderator.

Benediction by Rev. Obie Eagan.

Dinner served on the church yard. Thanks expressed by Rev. E. E. Morris.

### **Saturday 2:00 P.M. Session**

Assistant Moderator read Proverbs 28:18-28.

Bro. Raymond McNutt, member of the Board of Trustees introduced a group of young leaguers from Mt. Zion Church in Social Band Association. Clyda Mae Stafford, Jo Ann Johnson, Genette Johnson, Ramona McNutt, and James Evans. These members gave a sword drill with Bro. Grady Linebaugh in charge.

Sisters Geraldine Johnson, Ruth Leonard, Bro. Wilson, Bro. Evans and Bro. Morris, talked briefly on League work, its benefit, the progress and also mentioned the camp at Conway.

Moderator in charge.

A wonderful talk was given by Rev. E. E. Morris followed by an old time handshake.



The committee gave their reports and were discharged. Reports found elsewhere.

Pools Chapel Church was chosen for the host church for the next associational meeting. Rev. J. W. Blanks will preach the introductory sermon. Rev. H. A. Lewis is alternate.

Rev. Obie Eagan will preach the memorial sermon. Rev. Ray Watkins is alternate.

Delegates to the Arkansas State Association were elected as follows. Bro. Ralph Welch, Sister Geraldine Johnson, Sister Grace Goodwin, Bro. Johnny Croom, Sister Inez Adkisson.

Alternates, Sister Rachel Adkisson, Bro. Virgil Odglen, Sister Ethel Doyle, Sister Olene Huskey, Sister Ruth Satterwhite.

Motion to elect an Executive Board, motion carried. Executive Board elected as follows:

M. B. Williams for 5 years.

H. A. Lewis for 4 years.

Ray Watkins for 3 years.

A. T. Blanks for 2 years.

Owen Harvell for 1 year.

Called for ministers written reports, none received.

#### **Saturday Night Divine Service**

Rev. H. A. Lewis and Rev. Henry Doyle brought the message on Lord's Supper and Feet Washing using scripture from Matthew 26:42-46 and John 13.

#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Resolutions 1. Be it resolved that the Free Will Baptist Association locally known as the Polk Bayou Association elect an Executive Board to be composed of five members, one for five years, one for four years, one for three years, one for two years and one for one year. Thereafter one shall be elected each year for a term of five years.

No. 2. Be it resolved that all Free Will Baptist ministers preach and erect an altar of prayer in the churches, and that they admonish sinners to repent.

FINANCE—We your finance committee wish to make the following report.

Eleven of the churches represented in this associational meeting have paid in \$63.50. Then a public donation of \$18.60

was made. We have given the total amount of \$82.10 to the treasurer.

**TEMPERANCE**—We your Temperance committee beg leave to report as follows: That we should be free from all intoxicating drinks of any kind, and we urge that all Christians, when they have the opportunity, use their right as a voter to always vote against legal sale of liquor.

**SUNDAY SCHOOLS**—We the Sunday Schools committee urge that each church labor to keep a growing Sunday School, that parents not send, but take their children to Sunday School, and that where possible use Free Will Baptist literature.

**OBITUARIES**—We your committee submit the following: We find that the Lord has called from labor to reward 10 of our number, namely, Elder L. C. Doyle, Bro. H. H. Newberry, (Deacon) Sisters, Mary Sides, Nellie Winn, Pearly Richardson, Lois Pierce and Mamie Stroud King, Brethren, Franklin Lewis, J. H. McTigue, and Earl Jones.

We regret their passing but feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

**DIVINE SERVICE**—We your committee recommend that the following fill the stand in the order named here. Friday at 11:00, Rev. Ernest Elms, Friday night, Rev. Obie Eagan, Saturday 11:00 Rev. Grady Linebaugh, Saturday night Rev. H. A. Lewis and Rev. Henry Doyle, Sunday 11:00 Rev. O. D. Winfrey.

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

Macedonia Church sent \$5 in after the association making a total of \$87.10 in the treasury. \$39.00 of this was paid to the Arkansas State Association leaving \$48.10 in the treasury for printing minutes.

### **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—Mrs. Mabel Bennett, Oil Trough.

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

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

Keylon Chapel—Robbie Dale, LaCrosse.

Macedonia—Myrl Anderson, Mt. Pleasant.

Mt. Harmony—Mrs. Billie Saffell.  
New Home No. 2—Mrs. Abbie Adkisson, Gid.  
Oak Grove—Mrs. Valie Callahan, Black Rock.  
Oldham Chapel—Kathryn Starnes, Black Rock.  
Pine Hill—Ray McTigue, Batesville, Rt. 1.  
Pool's Chapel—Mr. Laman Roach, Cave City, Rt. 2.  
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.

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.
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 teaching of the Holy Ghost and by instruction of His bles-



sed word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely to come and nothing prevents the salvation of anyone 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.