
Minutes
Of The
Polk Bayou Association
of
Free Will Baptists
Held With
New Home No. 2 Church
NEAR GID
IZARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

SEPTEMBER 8, 9, 10, 1955

The next annual session of the Association will convene with the Pine Hill Church at 10:00 a. m. Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1956.

Elder Lonnie Clark will preach the introductory sermon.

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Elder Henry Doyle, Newport
Asst. Moderator.....Elder Ernest Elms, Batesville
Clerk and Treasurer.....Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry
Asst. Clerk.....Mrs. Ernest Elms, Batesville

PROCEEDINGS

The Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists met in regular annual session on September 9, 10, 11, 1955, with New Home No. 2 as host church. The entire 13 churches composing the Association were represented. 8 ministers, 10 deacons, 5 church clerks, and 29 delegates and a large number of visitors were present.

Friday A. M.

Congregational singing was enjoyed after which Moderator Ernest Elms read scripture lesson from Acts, 15 C, with remarks from the 10th verse. This was followed with united prayer led by Elder Carl Davis.

Bro. Owen Harvell preached at the 11 o'clock hour as the speaker, Elder Obie Eagan, and the alternate, Elder Lonnie Clark, were both absent.

Bro. Harvell read part of the 7th and all of 8th chapters of Hebrews. Prayer by Elder Henry Doyle. The service was closed with remarks from the moderator and benediction by Elder Carl Davis. Bro. Davis also expressed thanks for the food which was served on the church grounds.

Friday 1:00 P. M. Session

The congregation was called together by singing and scripture lesson read by asst. moderator, Elder Henry Doyle from Hebrews 1.

Bro. Alfred Myers led in prayer. First order of business was the enrollment of ministers, deacons and church clerks which is found elsewhere. Also reading of letters from churches, seating of delegates, then their enrollment.

Roll Call.

Election of officers.

Elder Henry Doyle was elected moderator, Elder Ernest Elms, assistant moderator. Mrs. M. B. Williams, retained as clerk; Mrs. Ernest Elms elected assistant clerk.

The newly elected moderator read the By-Laws and the church covenant, after which we all enjoyed a talk by Elder Carl Davis, visiting minister from Big Springs Association. Conference was adjourned until 9 a. m. Saturday. Benediction by Bro. G. E. Richardson.

Friday Night Divine Service

After congregational singing, Bro. Henry Doyle further introduced the service by reading scripture from Mark 12 and using as the theme of his message, "The Way." Bro. Carl Davis concluded the services.

Saturday 9:00 A. M.

Following several songs by the assembly the moderator took charge. Read St. John 17 followed with prayer by Elder Frank Danner visiting minister from Oklahoma. Tardy church letters were read received, and their delegates seated. At this time the following committees were appointed by the moderator. Divine Service—Sister Earl Sims, Sister Iva Adkisson and Bro. Horace Doyle.

Resolutions—Brethren Austin Mullen, Millard Williams, and B. A. Gibson.

Temperance—Brethren Henry Obarts, E. M. Phillips, and Frank Danner.

Finance—Brethren G. E. Richardson, Alfred Myers and Austin Mullen.

Obituaries—Brethren J. A. Roach, W. N. McCoy and Porter Hutchinson.

Sunday Schools—Sisters Gertie Doyle, Iva Adkisson, and Bro. Shelby Callahan.

Ordination, Standing Committee—Elders H. A. Lewis, Obie Eagan, and Owen Harvell.

Recess

11:00 A. M. Divine Service

The assembly was called together by singing, and according to previous arrangements of the Association a year ago, Elder Ray Watkins preached the memorial sermon, using scripture from Rev. 7-14.

Bro. J. A. Roach prayed the benediction and Elder Henry Obarts expressed thanks for the bountiful meal which was again served on the church grounds.

Saturday 1:30 P. M.

After some singing the assistant moderator, Bro. Elms, read Eph. 4:1-13. Prayer by Bro. Phillips.

Roll call.

Reports of committees were called for by moderator, which were read and committees discharged. Reports found elsewhere.

Moderator called for ministers' written reports. They were handed in, then read by clerk. They are found elsewhere.

Elder Owen Harvell was elected to fill the vacancy on the Executive Board caused by the expiration of the term of Bro. A. T. Blanks.

Executive Board

Elder Owen Harvell—5 years to 1960.

Elder Obie Eagan—4 years to 1959.

Bro. Millard Williams—3 years to 1958.

Elder H. A. Lewis—2 years to 1957.

Elder Ray Watkins—1 year to 1956.

Delegates and alternates were elected to represent in the Arkansas State Association as follows:

Delegates

Alternates

Bro. Roy Cooper.....	Bro. Lucian Davis
Sister Gertie Doyle.....	Bro. Almond Hasting
Bro. Alfred Myers.....	Sister Frankie Obarts
Bro. General Johnson.....	Bro. Owen Shaw
Bro. Lewis Croom.....	Sister Alice Oldham

Elder Owen Harvell was elected to serve on the Ordination Committee since the death of Elder M. G. King had created a vacancy on the standing committee.

Pine Hill was chosen as the host church for the Polk Bayou Association in 1956.

Elder Lonnie Clark will be the introductory speaker.

Elder Owen Harvell will preach the memorial sermon, Elder Ray Watkins, alternate.

Conference was adjourned until next year.

Christian handshake.

Benediction by Bro. Gilmore Adkisson.

A large part of the delegation returned to their homes Saturday afternoon.

Elder Ray Watkins preached on Saturday night.

Elder Owen Harvell and Elder Ernest Elms preached on Sunday, and this ended another session of the Polk Bayou Association.

Reports of Committees

Divine Service—We your committee, offer the following report: Ministers will fill the stand in the order named here: Friday, 11 a. m., Bro. Owen Harvell, introductory. Friday night, Bro. Henry Doyle and Bro. Carl Davis. Saturday, 11 a. m., the Memorial, Bro. Ray Watkins. Saturday night, Bro. Ray Watkins. Sunday, 11 a. m., Bro. Owen Harvell and Bro. Ernest Elms.

Resolutions—We your committee wish to present the following resolution: Be it resolved that we retain our articles of faith as they are and petition the Arkansas State Association to retain its articles of faith as they are, because we are opposed to forcing our ministers to preach tithing when they do not believe in it. Resolution adopted.

Finance—We your committee offer the following report: We received \$72.00 from twelve churches, and \$8.23 public donation and have given the total of \$80.23 to the treasurer.

Temperance—We your 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 acknowledgement to the church. Due to the fact that so many church members vote for liquor, we ask that any guilty of voting for intoxicating drinks, or sale of such, make acknowledgments to the church. 2 Cor. 6:17. 1 Peter 2:11. 1 Thes. 5:22. 1 Peter 1:6. 1 Cor. 9:25. Titus 2:2. Gal. 3:8 and 5:23.

Sunday Schools—We the Sunday Schools Committee believe that all Christians should go to Sunday School every Sunday. Especially parents go with their children—teach the importance of Sunday School to children at home, and encourage those who don't attend, to go.

Obituaries—We the committee wish to report as follows: We find 15 of our members have been claimed by death, but

feel our loss is heaven's gain. We extend sympathy to the bereaved.

Allen's Chapel—Bro. Lyle Cartwright and Sister Mary Haynie.

Ballew's Chapel—Bro. Bill McCoy, Bro. Frank Barnes, and Sister Bertha Cowell.

Blackland Chapel—Bro. Kenneth Green.

Bethel—Sister Fannie Meeks.

Coffman—Sister George Goodwin.

Macedonia—Bro. Frank Brooks, Bro. R. L. C. Walker.

Mt. Harmony—Sister Sibyl Stephens, Bro. Arthur Huskey.

Oak Grove—Bro. M. G. King.

Weaver's Chapel—Bro. Jeff Weaver, Bro. Tom Goforth.

Ministers Present

Henry Doyle—Newport.

Owen Harvell—Lunenburg.

Austin Mullen—Saffell.

Ernest Elms—Salado.

E. M. Phillips—Fort Branch, Indiana.

Ray Watkins—Newport.

Henry Obarts—Hoxie, Rt. 1.

Lonnie Clark—Mt. Pleasant.

Visiting Ministers

Carl Davis—Elizabeth, Ark.

Frank Danner—Oklahoma.

Deacons Present

Horace Doyle, B. A. Gibson, Jay Roach, Shelby Callahan, Millard Williams, Ernest Elms, E. E. Reed, Luther Croom, W. N. McCoy, Porter Hutchinson.

Delegates Present

Allen Chapel—Hoover Lewis, Owen Shaw, Edith Elms.

Ballew's Chapel—Roy Cooper.

Coffman—General Johnson, R. F. Townsley, Frank Obarts.

Island—Gertie Doyle, Maude Fletcher, Grace Goodwin.

Macedonia—Lora Fleetwood, Margie Reeves, Claude Anderson.

Mt. Harmony—Johnny Croom, Lewis Croom.

New Home No. 2—Abbie Adkisson, Addie Fitzsimmons, Myrtle Lewis.

Oak Grove—Lucian Davis, Alice Oldham.

Pine Hill—Ella Baxter, Emma Lee McDaniel.

Pool's Chapel—Alfred Myers, Almond Hastings, Dail Lesley.

Weaver's Chapel—Kate Dunagon.

Bethel—G. E. Richardson, Bethel Richardson.

Church Clerks Present

Earl Sims, Iva Adkisson, Zelma Roach, Myrl Anderson, Abbie Adkisson.

Ministers Reports

Pastored 3 churches, preached 144 sermons, helped in 4 revival meetings, held 3 funerals, married 3 couples, money received—between 3 and 4 hundred dollars.

Lonnie Clark.

Assisted in 5 revival meetings, witnessed 13 professions of faith, saw 4 baptized, taught 1 singing school, assisted in league work at home church and other churches, preached several sermons and sermonettes, gave away lots of tracts, did some personal work, and wrote 5 songs.

Austin Mullen.

Pastored 1 church, assisted in two revival meetings, conducted 7 funerals, money received \$275.00.

Owen Harvell.

Pastored 1 church, preached 87 sermons, held 1 revival meeting, and assisted in 1 other, witnessed 1 conversion, baptized 2, held 5 funerals and assisted in 1 other, married 1 couple, money received \$688.00.

Obie Eagan.

Preached 10 sermons, pastored no church, held no revival meetings, help received, none.

W. H. Obarts.

Pastored 2 churches, pastored 1 part of the year, preached 106 sermons, witnessed 7 conversions, received into membership 6, held 2 funerals, assisted in 2 others, baptized 3, married 2 couples, money received \$850.00.

Henry Doyle.

Pastored 1 church full time, helped in 1 revival meeting, did some radio work, preached 124 sermons, traveled 6,000 miles, witnessed several conversions, baptized 3, married 1 couple, money received \$1,168.00.

Grady Linebaugh.

Pastored 1 church half-time, preached 85 sermons, preached locally, conducted 9 funerals, married 2 couples, money received \$725.00.

Ray Watkins.

Clerk's Report

I have received \$80.23 from the Finance Committee and \$6.00 from Weaver's Chapel Church after the Association, total \$86.23 plus the \$4.00 in the treasury, \$90.23. \$39.00 was paid to the state clerk, which leaves \$51.23 to pay for the printing of the minutes.

Churches with Clerks' Names and Addresses

Allen's Chapel—Mrs. Opal Sturch, Salado, Batesville Rte.
Ballew's Chapel—Mr. Floyd Coleman, Newport.
Bethel—Mrs. Iva Adkisson, Gid.
Blackland Chapel—Mrs. Mabel Bennett, Oil Trough.
Coffman—Mr. Dennis Scudder, Hoxie, Rt. 1.
Island—Mrs. Joe Miller, Newport, Rt. 3.
Macedonia—Mrs. Myrl Anderson, Mt. Pleasant.
Mt. Harmony—Mrs. Billie Saffell, Strawberry Rte.
New Home No. 2—Mrs. Abbie Adkisson, Gid.
Oak Grove—Mrs. Walter Smith, Smithville, Rt. 1.
Pine Hill—Mrs. Zelma Roach, Batesville, Rt. 2.
Pool's Chapel—Mr. Laman Roach, Cave City, Rt. 2.
Weaver's Chapel—Alene Milligan, Batesville, Rt. 2.

Churches with Pastors' Names and Addresses

Allen's Chapel—Eld. J. W. Blanks, Newport, Rte. 2.
Ballew's Chapel—Eld. Clarence Burton, Grubbs.
Bethel—Eld. Carl Davis, Elizabeth.
Blackland Chapel—Eld. Henry Doyle, Newport, Rt. 2.
Coffman—Eld. Ray Watkins, Newport, Rt. 2.
Island—Eld. Henry Doyle, Newport Rt. 2.
Macedonia—Eld. Owen Harvell, Lunenburg.
Mt. Harmony—Eld. Grady Linebaugh, Walnut Ridge.
New Home No. 2—Eld. Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant.
Oak Grove—Name not given.
Pine Hill—Eld. Owen Harvell, Lunenburg.
Pool's Chapel—Eld. Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant.
Weaver's Chapel—Eld. Ernest Elms, Salado.

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.

1. 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 blessed 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.