



Minutes

Of The

Polk Bayou Association

Of

Free Will Baptists

Held With

Pine Hill Church

NEAR SANDTOWN, ARKANSAS

SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 9, 1956

The next session of the Association will be held with Ballew's Chapel Church near Grubbs, Jackson County, Arkansas, at 10:00 a. m., Friday, before the second Sunday in September, 1957.

Rev. Austin Mullen will be the introductory speaker, with Rev. Obie Eagan, alternate.

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Rev. Clarence Burton, Grubbs
Ass't. Moderator.....Rev. Henry Doyle, Newport
Clerk and Treasurer.....Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry
Ass't. Clerk.....Mr. Harold Howard, Saffell



PROCEEDINGS

The 1956 annual session of the Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists was held with the Pine Hill Church on September 7, 8, 9. One new church was organized in the Association during the year which made a total of 14. All were represented by letter and delegates. The new church is in Newport. 8 ministers, 10 deacons, 8 church clerks, 30 delegates and a large number of visitors were present for the meeting.

Friday A. M.

The session was opened with congregational singing after which moderator Rev. Henry Doyle, read Gal. 3:24-29. The ordained met in the altar for prayer which was led by Rev. W. C. Keyton and concluded by Rev. H. A. Lewis.

Rev. Lonnie Clark read Matt. 7, and used Gal. 3:1 as text. The theme of sermon "How Foolish We, As Christian, Can Be." Rev. Carl Davis led in prayer. Rev. H. A. Lewis concluded the sermon. Benediction by Rev. Clarence Burton.

Friday 2:00 P. M.

The assembly was called together by singing after which moderator read Romans 12.

Prayer by Rev. Carl Davis.

Ministers and deacons were enrolled.

Letters read and received by the body.

Delegates and church clerks were seated by the usual custom, right hand of fellowship.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rev. Clarence Burton, Moderator.

Rev. Henry Doyle, Assistant Moderator.

Mrs. M. B. Williams, Clerk and Treasurer.

Mr. Harold Howard, Assistant Clerk.

The newly elected moderator took charge and the following committee were appointed by the assistant moderator.

(a) Divine Service—Bro. Jay Roach, Bro. Marvin Jeans, and Bro. Jim McTigue.

(b) Resolution—Bro. Millard Williams, Rev. H. A. Lewis, and Bro. Jay Roach.

(c) Finance—Rev. Austin Mullen, Rev. Lonnie Clarks, and Bro. Ervin Baxter.

(d) Temperance—Rev. W. C. Keylon, Rev. Morris Tucker, and Bro. Lewis Croom.

(e) Sunday Schools—Sister Geraldine Johnston, Sister Gerald Rollins, and Sister Zelma Hutchison.

(f) Obituaries—Bro. Virgil Ross, Bro. Laman Hastings, and Bro. Roy Cooper.

(g) Ordination—Standing Committee—Rev. H. A. Lewis, Rev. Obie Eagan, and Rev. Owen Harvell.

Rev. Carl Davis gave a talk and reported on (Big Springs) his Association. Benediction by Harold Howard.

Friday Night Divine Service

Rev. Clarence Burton and Rev. Carl Davis conducted the services.

Rev. Burton read II Kings 6:8-17. Theme: Lord Open Our Eyes.

Saturday 9:00 A. M.

Congregational singing.

Prayer by Rev. Morris Tucker.

Devotional, Psalm 23 by Millard Williams.

Prayer by Sister Geraldine Johnston.

Tardy letters were read and delegates seated.

Recess

Singing.

Prayer by Rev. J. W. Blanks.

Duet, "When I See The Blood," by Ramona Ann and Bonnie Route.

Preceding the memorial sermon the congregation sang "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be."

Prayer by Rev. H. A. Lewis.

Scripture, 1st Cor. 15 C. and sermon by Rev. Henry Doyle.

Benediction by Rev. Lonnie Clark.

Lunch was served on the church ground with thanks expressed by Rev. W. C. Keylon.

Saturday 1:30 P. M.

Devotional by Rev. J. W. Blanks, II Cor. 12:9-12.

Prayer by Bro. Cleo Manuel.

Reports of committees received and committees discharged.

Written reports of ministers received. All reports found elsewhere in this minute.

Motion and second that each church pay according to membership for expense of printing minutes. Carried.

Motion sustained for organization of Sunday School Convention. The meeting for the organization was set for Saturday night, October 20, 1956, at Allen Chapel Church.

Rev. J. W. Blanks was elected to fill vacancy on the Executive Board caused by the expiration of the term of Rev. Ray Watkins.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. J. W. Blanks	1956-1961
Rev. Owen Harvell	1955-1960
Rev. Obie Eagan	1954-1959
Bro. Millard Williams	1953-1958
Rev. H. A. Lewis	1953-1957

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

Delegates

Sister Geraldine Johnston
Sister Estelle Doyle
Sister Donna Safirt
Sister Lois Satterwhite
Sister Gertie Doyle

Alternates

Sister Willia Jean Lewis
Bro. Roy Cooper
Sister Inez Huckaba
Sister Juanita Hastings
Sister Merle Coles

Ballew's Chapel Church was chosen as the 1957 meeting place for the Association. Rev. Austin Mullen will be the introductory speaker. Rev. Obie Eagan is alternate.

Rev. Herman Lewis will preach the memorial sermon, with Rev. J. W. Blanks as alternate.

A standing vote of thanks was given to the host church, Pine Hill, for such fine fellowship, food, etc., they had given to help make the meeting so successful.

Rev. W. C. Keylon and Rev. H. A. Lewis preached on Saturday night.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Divine Service—We your committee, report as follows: Ministers will fill stand in order named here. Friday, 11 a. m., Rev. Lonnie Clark, introductory. Friday night, Rev. Clarence Burton and Rev. Carl Davis. Saturday, 11 a. m., Rev. Henry Doyle, memorial. Saturday night, Rev. W. C. Keylon and Rev. H. A. Lewis.

Resolutions—We the committee on resolutions wish to report that we have no resolutions to present to the body.

Finance—We, your committee, report as follows: We received \$62.00 from 11 churches and a public offering of \$17.72. Total \$79.72. We have given it to the treasurer.

Temperance—We, the committee, recommend that all our members do all in their power to discourage the use of intoxicating drink of any kind. We suggest that the ministers preach at least one sermon each year against such. Not only do we recommend temperance against alcohol, but against all evil and sin. Be temperate in all things.

Sunday Schools—We, your committee, are happy to report: We find 774 Sunday School pupils reported from 12 churches. Two churches reported having no Sunday School. We recommend Polk Bayou Association to organize a Sunday School convention, where more work for our Lord can be done. We believe having a special convention for Sunday School purposes alone, will help us become more familiar with the work and we can render better services.

REPORT OF TREASURER

The Finance Committee gave me \$79.72 and I received \$16.00 from 3 churches later, with the \$5.91 in the treasury,

making a total of \$101.63. I paid \$42.00 to the Arkansas State Association, leaving \$59.63 in the treasury to pay for printing these minutes.

Obituaries—We, the committee wish to report as follows: We find 10 of our members have been claimed by death, but feel our loss is heaven's gain.

Allen's Chapel—Bro. John Haynie.

Blackland Chapel—Bro. Finis Harris, Sister Ruby Moss.

Bethel—Bro. Perry Neel.

Macedonia—Bro. Ezra Brooks.

Mt. Harmony—Rev. W. B. Hardin, Bro. Robert Callahan, Bro. Cal Woosley, Sister Pearl Doyle.

New Home No. 2—Sister Lillie Keller.

MINISTERS REPORTS

Clarence H. Burton—Pastored 1 church full time, baptized 20, held 4 revivals, 2 funerals, received salary of \$2,600.00.

Grady Linebaugh—Pastored 2 churches, helped in 4 meetings, baptized 10, held 3 funerals, received as salary and gifts, \$1,486.50.

Henry Doyle—Pastored 1 church, assisted in two revivals, baptized 1, held 3 funerals, witnessed 10 professions, received into membership 2, preached about 80 sermons, money received approx. \$300.00.

J. W. Blanks—Pastored 2 churches, each halftime, preached 121 sermons, witnessed 31 conversions, received 41 into fellowship, baptized 13, held 1 funeral, married 3 couples, held 1 revival, assisted in 2 others, money received \$1,165.00.

Austin Mullen—Pastored 1 church halftime, another halftime for 5 months, preached 51 sermons, assisted in 4 revivals, witnessed 15 professions, wrote 5 songs and distributed numerous tracts and religious literature.

Lonnie Clark—Pastored 2 churches, had 2 monthly appointments in other churches, helped in 4 revivals, witnessed 9 conversions, received 2 into membership, held 1 funeral, married 7 couples, money received \$510.76.

Obie Eagan—Pastored no church nor held any funerals, preached 6 sermons, married 1 couple, received \$19.65.

W. H. Obarts—Pastored 1 church halftime from February until April, then full time the remainder of year, preached 46 sermons, witnessed 9 conversions, baptized 2, received 4 into membership, married 1 couple, money received \$460.00.

Ministers Present

Henry Doyle, Newport
Austin Mullen, Newport Rte,
Batesville
Clarence Burton, Grubbs
Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant
Herman Lewis, Newport Rte,
Batesville
Morris Tucker, Oil Trough
J. W. Blanks, Newport
W. C. Keylon, Union

Visiting Ministers

Carl Davis, Elizabeth

Ministers Absent

Edgar Phillips, Guion

Ernest Elms, Batesville
Coy Staggs, Batesville
Ray Watkins, Newport
Othaniel Safirt, Newport
Owen Harvell, Melbourne
J. H. Tinkle, Corning
D. W. Pinkston, Hoxie
Henry Obarts, Hoxie
Archie Warnick, Walnut
Ridge, Rt. 3
Obie Eagan, Saffell
Grady Linebaugh, College
City
Henry Ring, Monette
M. A. Wolfe
Bee Woodruff, Newport
Gaylord Huckaba, Oil Trough

DEASONS PRESENT

W. F. Richey
Jay Roach
Harold Howard
Horace Doyle
Alfred Myers

Millard Williams
Laman Hastings
Ervin Baxter
Virgil Ross
Cleo Manuel

CHURCH CLERKS

Hettie Jeans
Mabel Huckaba
Myrl Anderson
Iva Adkisson

Avanell Saffell
Laman Roach
Earle Sims
Zelma Roach, assistant

DELEGATES

Hoover Lewis, Geraldine Johnston, Howard Trent, Shirley Smith, Roy Cooper, Donna Mae Safirt, Gilmore Adkisson, Arlin Tucker, Francis Martin, R. F. Townsley, Jewell Reynolds, Eddie Hamilton, Pauline Washam, W. T. Goodwin, Vina

Harvell, Lewis Croom, Mabel Croom, Ann Doyle, C. L. Davis, Marvin Jeans, Flossie Davis, Jim McTigue, Nellie Stout, Juanita Hastings, Clyde Mae Music, Belvia Campbell, Kate Dunagan, Clyde Reynolds, Gertie Doyle, Zelma Hutchinson, Inez Huckaba.

Churches with Pastors' and Clerks' Names & Addresses

Allen's Chapel—Rev. J. W. Blanks, Newport; Mrs. Opal Sturch, Salado, Batesville Rte.

Ballew's Chapel—Rev. Clarence Burton, Grubbs; Mr. Floyd Coleman, Newport.

Bethel—Not supplied; Mrs. Iva Adkisson, Gid.

Blackland Chapel—Rev. Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Mabel Huckaba, Oil Trough.

Coffman—Rev. Ray Watkins, Newport; Mr. Dennis Scudder, Hoxie, Rt. 1.

First Free Will Baptist Church of Newport—Rev. J. W. Blanks, Newport; Miss Ethel Doyle, 1005 McLain, Newport.

Island—Rev. Henry Obarts, Hoxie; Mrs. Joe Miller, Newport.

Macedonia—Rev. Austin Mullen, Newport Rte., Batesville; Mrs. Myrl Anderson, Mt. Pleasant.

Mt. Harmony—Rev. Obie Eagan, Saffell; Mrs. Billie Saffell, Saffell.

New Home No. 2—Rev. Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Earle Sims, Mt. Pleasant.

Oak Grove—Rev. H. A. Lewis, Newport Rte., Batesville; Mrs. Marvin Jeans, Imboden.

Pine Hill—Rev. Lonnie Clark, Mt. Pleasant; Mr. Roy McTigue, Batesville, Rte. 1.

Pool's Chapel—Rev. Owen Harvell, Melbourne; Mr. Laman Roach, Cave City Rt. 2.

Weaver's Chapel—Rev. Austin Mullen, Newport Rte., Batesville; Mrs. Alene Milligan, Batesville Rt. 2.

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.

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

10. The moderator shall announce just before adjournment who shall preach at the next meeting.

11. 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.