
Minutes
Of The
Polk Bayou Association
Of
Free Will Baptists

Held With
Allen's Chapel Church
Near Salado, Arkansas

JULY 10, 1965

The 1966 session of the Association will be held with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Batesville in Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, beginning at 9:00 a. m. Saturday before the second Sunday in July.

REV. HOOVER LEWIS, Moderator
Newport Route
Batesville, Arkansas

MRS. M. B. WILLIAMS, Clerk and Treasurer
Strawberry, Arkansas

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OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. Hoover Lewis.....Newport Rt., Batesville
Asst. Moderator, M. B. Williams.....Strawberry
Clerk & Treasurer, Mrs. M. B. Williams.....Strawberry
Asst. Clerk, Mrs. Robbie Snelgrove.....Oil Trough

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. R. A. Francis, 5 years, 1970.....Box 45, Grubbs
Rev. J. W. Blanks, 4 years, 1969.....Batesville Rt., Salado
Deacon M. B. Williams, 3 years, 1968.....Strawberry
Rev. J. W. Roach, 2 years, 1967.....Rt. 1, Batesville
Rev. Ray Watkins, 1 year, 1966.....Rt. 2, Newport

C. T. S. BOARD

Rev. Obie Eagan.....Smithville
Rev. Jimmy Richardson.....Batesville Rt., Salado
Rev. Hoover Lewis.....Newport Rt., Batesville

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Batesville First F. W. B. Church

MEMORIAL SPEAKER

Rev. J. W. Blanks

ALTERNATE

Rev. Ray Watkins

**PASTORS AND CHURCH CLERKS
OF POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION**

ALLEN'S CHAPEL—Rev. J. W. Blanks, Rt., Salado; Mrs. Opal Sturch, Batesville Rt., Salado.

BALLEW'S CHAPEL—Rev. R. A. Francis, Box 45, Grubbs; Mr. Raymond Clark, Rt. 1, Tuckerman.

BATESVILLE FIRST F.W.B.—Rev. Hoover Lewis, Newport Rt., Batesville; Mrs. Cleva Lesley, Rt. 2, Box 148, Batesville.

BETHEL—Clara Tate, Melbourne.

BLACKLAND—Rev. Billy D. Willhite, Rt. 2, Newport; Mrs. Mabel Huckaba, Oil Trough.

COFFMAN—Rev. Lowell Graham, Hoxie; Wilma Oldham, Box 23, Hoxie.

ISLAND—Rev. Henry Doyle, Neill St., Newport; Mrs. Eva Miller, Rt. 4, Box 318, Newport.

MACEDONIA—Rev. J. W. Roach, Rt. 1, Batesville; Hazel Hall, Mt. Pleasant.

MT. HARMONY—Mrs. Lorene Doyle, Strawberry.

NEW HOME—Rev. Lonnie Clark, 227 E. Carter St., Batesville; Mrs. Earle Sims, Mt. Pleasant.

NEWPORT FIRST F.W.B.—Rev. Wm. J. Mishler, Normandy Acres, Newport; Norma Johnson, 1405 Fairway, Newport.

OAK GROVE—Rev. Lowell Graham, Hoxie; Miss Olena Smith, Powhatan.

OAKLAND—Rev. Henry Obarts, 1000 Walnut St., Newport; Mrs. Lorene Burrow, Bradford, Rt. 2, Box 50.

POOL'S CHAPEL—Rev. Jimmy Richardson, Batesville Rt., Salado; Mr. Laman Roach, Rt. 2, Box 174, Cave City.

TUCKERMAN FIRST F.W.B.—Rev. Ray Watkins, Rt. 2, Newport; Mrs. Fay Vines, Rt. 1, Box 90, Tuckerman.

WEAVER'S CHAPEL—Mrs. Alene Milligan, Rt. 2, Batesville.

PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, 9:00 A. M., July 10, 1965

The annual session of Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists met with Allen's Chapel near Batesville, Arkansas.

Hymns "Amazing Grace" and "Oh I Want to See Him" were led by Rev. Ernest Elms with Mrs. R. A. Francis as pianist.

Moderator Rev. Hoover Lewis read I Timothy, Chapter 2, then called the ordained to the altar for prayer which was offered by Rev. H. A. Lewis, father of the moderator.

Letters from fifteen of the sixteen churches were read by the clerk and received by motion and sccond from the congregation.

Delegates were seated by the usual custom, right hand of fellowship. Hymn "I'll Live In Glory" directed by Rev. Ernest Elms with Mrs. R. A. Francis at the piano.

Prayer was led by Rev. R. A. Francis. The moderator appointed the following committees:

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—Estelle Bradley, Dewayne Blanks, Oma Fulbright.

CHURCH—Rev. H. A. Lewis, M. B. Williams, Cleo Manuel.

TEMPERANCE—Olene Huskey, George Tubb, Robbie Snellgrove.

FINANCE—G. E. Richardson, Garry Whybrew, Fannie Welch.

OBITUARIES—Ernest Heigwood, Owen Burrow, Alice Russell.

RESOLUTIONS—Rev. Wm. J. Mishler, Rev. Ray Watkins, Rev. W. H. Doyle.

Officers were re-elected by acclamation as follows:

Moderator, Rev. Hoover Lewis; Asst. Moderator, Deacon M. B. Williams; Clerk and Treasurer, Mrs. M. B. Williams; Mrs. Robbie Snellgrove was elected assistant clerk to replace Mrs. Ruth Leonard, who was absent.

Rev. R. A. Francis was elected to a five year term on the Executive Board to replace Deacon Earl Clark, whose time had expired.

Rev. Lonnie Coffmann, pastor of South Heights Free Will Baptist Church in Searcy, led in prayer. He was accompanied to the meeting by his wife and a deacon of the church in Searcy, Howard Johnston.

RECESS

11:00 A. M.—Divine Service

Called to worship by "Old Gospel Shipp, "I Want to be Ready to Meet Him," and "Blessed Assurance" led by Geraldine Johnston, Mrs. Francis, pianist. Rev. Henry Doyle offered prayer.

Rev. Ray Watkins read Proverbs 14:32 "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death" and gave the memorial message.

Remarks by moderator.

The host pastor, Rev. J. W. Blanks, made announcements concerning the noon meal. Benediction and blessing on food pronounced by Rev. Wm. J. Mishler.

NOON

1:15 P. M.

"Oh Say But I'm Glad" was directed by Ernest Elms with Ruth Leonard, pianist. Rev. R. A. Francis gave the devotional by reading Romans 5, followed by comments. Rev. J. W. Blanks led in prayer.

DELEGATES TO THE ARKANSAS STATE ASSOCIATION

Delegates	Alternates
Fannie Welch	Elsie Boyd
Geraldine Johnston	Delcie Blanks
Olene Huskey	Alma Huskey
Alice Russell	Cleva Lesley
Dewayne Blanks	Preston Coles

Invitation to meet with the First F. W. B. Church in Batesville for the 1966 session of the Association was accepted.

Rev. J. W. Blanks selected as Memorial Speaker, Rev. Ray Watkins, alternate.

Reports from different committees were read at this time.

Motion and second to receive reports and discharge committees carried. Committees were discharged.

A rising vote of thanks at this time for officers and the work they do.

Motion sustained to receive a public donation to help cover expense of minutes and state meeting. \$23.02 was received.

Benediction by Dewayne Blanks.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Sunday Schools

We, the Sunday Schools committee find that fifteen (15) churches reported Sunday Schools, with an enrollment of 1,291, a loss of one Sunday School and a loss of 78 attendants.

We need to start a Teachers' Training program, also a visitation program, and too, when someone is absent from our Sunday School let them know by visitation or by a card that they are missed.

Estelle Bradley, Chm.
Dewayne Blanks
Oma Fullbright

Church Committee

We find there were fifteen churches reported. One church failed to send a report. Fourteen (14) of the churches reporting have pastors and a total membership of 1,439 in the 15 churches. Members received the past year, 62. Dismissed 9 and twelve deaths reported. Spent for building and repairs, \$7,366.22.

Rev. H. A. Lewis, Chm.
Cleo Manuel
M. B. Williams

Temperance Committee

We, your committee, recommend that more emphasis be placed on the following: That each Free Will Baptist in keeping with our church covenant, accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, in keeping the "Unity of the Spirit". "United we stand, divided we fall."

We believe that we should abstain from all appearance of evil in deeds, thoughts and words, so that we shall not hinder the cause of Christ.

Mrs. Olene Huskey, Chm.
George Tubbs
Mrs. Robbie Snelgrove

Finance Committee

We, your committee find that fourteen (14) churches have responded with a total of \$117.00, a public donation of \$23.02 was also given, making a total of \$140.02.

G. E. Richardson, Chm.
Garry Whybrew
Mrs. Fannie Welch

Obituaries Committee

We, the committee find that God in His wisdom has seen fit to call from labor to reward 12 of our number since our last yearly meeting as follows:

Batesville First Church—William P. Price.

Bethel—Martha Tate.

Coffman—R. F. Townsley.

Macedonia—Loren Craig.

Mt. Harmony—Cleva Davis, Restess Long, and Bonnie Sullivan.

Newport—Earl Cummings.

POOL'S CHAPEL—Tom Clark and A. L. Hastings.

TUCKERMAN FIRST CHURCH—Frances Huskey, and Minnie McLaughlin.

Motion sustained to take each resolution separately. The resolutions were read by Chairman Wm. J. Mishler and were voted on and passed by the body.

Be it resolved that the moderator of the Polk Bayou Association appoint a committee of three for the purpose of organizing a District C.T.S. Rally.

Be it further resolved that this committee work in conjunction with the Arkansas State Association C.T.S. Board.

We further recommend that this Rally meet semi-annually.

The moderator appointed Rev. Wm. J. Mishler, Rev. J. W. Blanks and Rev. R. A. Frances to serve on the District C.T.S. Board.

Be it resolved that this body give a rising vote of thanks to the host church for their splendid hospitality shown during this associational meeting.

Rev. Wm. J. Mishler

Rev. Ray Watkins

Rev. Henry Doyle

Motion sustained that each church with a membership of fifty (50) or less send four (\$4) yearly for associational expenses, and each church with membership above fifty (50) send four (\$4) per fifty (50) memberships.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Received from 14 churches	\$ 117.00
Offering	23.02
Received from Bethel Church later	9.00
Balance in treasury	4.45

TOTAL.....\$153.47

Expenditures

To Arkansas State Association toward expense of State meeting	\$ 45.00
Toward printing of State meeting	36.00

TOTAL.....\$ 81.00

Balance on hand for printing Minutes of the Polk Bayou Association	\$ 72.47
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MINISTERS PRESENT

H. A. Lewis, Batesville Route, Salado.
Henry Doyle, Neill St., Newport.
Ray Watkins, Route 2, Newport.
Hoover Lewis, Newport Route, Batesville.
Wm. J. Mishler, Normandy Acres, Newport.
Ernest Elms, Oil Trough.
R. A. Francis, P. O. Box 45, Grubbs.
Lonnie Clark, 227 E. Carter St., Batesville.

VISITING MINISTERS

Lonnie Coffman, Searcy.
Gaylord Huckaba, Myrtle, Missouri.
Glenn Murray, Alton, Missouri.

Ministers Belonging But Not Present

Billy Willhite, Route 2, Newport.
J. W. Roach, Route 1, Batesville.
Archie Warnick, Hoxie.
Obie Eagan, Smithville.
Jimmy Richardson, Newport Route, Batesville.
Henry Obarts, 1000 Walnut St., Newport.
John Riggs, Route 2, Batesville.
Lowell Graham, Hoxie.
Bea Woodruff, Route 2, Newport.
Edgar Phillips, Guion.
Othaniel Safirt, Grubbs.
Coy Staggs, Batesville Route, Salado.
Kenneth Manuel, Nashville, Tennessee.
Tommy Manuel, Nashville, Tennessee.
Licentiate Ronnie Blanks, Nashville, Tennessee.

DEACONS PRESENT

Cleo Manuel, Charles McLaughlin, Millard Williams, Lewis Adkisson, Virgil Odglen, Ernest Elms, R. V. Richardson.

Visiting Deacon

Howard Johnson, Searcy.

CHURCH CLERKS PRESENT

Lorene Burrow, Earle Sims, Laman Roach, Hazel Hall, Cleve Leslie, Eva Miller.

DELEGATES PRESENT

ALLEN'S CHAPEL—Dewayne Blanks, Larry Barber, Elaine Tucker.
BALLEW'S CHAPEL—Fannie Welch, George Tubbs, Judy Tubbs.
BATESVILLE FIRST CHURCH—Alice Russell, Oma Fullbright, Bessie Lewis.
BLACKLAND—Lois Ann Morris, Robbie Snelgrove, Dessie Huckaba.
COFFMAN—Leon Colbum, Patsy Colbum, Jessie Fern Oldham.
ISLAND—Owen Burrow, Eddie Hamilton, Tempy Burrow.
MACEDONIA—Vina Harvell, Clara Copeland, Pearl Brooks.
MT. HARMONY—Olene Huskey.
NE WHOME—G. A. Richardson.
NEWPORT FIRST CHURCH—Garry Whybrew, Larry Doyle, Hazel Coleman.
OAK GROVE—Durene Morgan, Billy Joe Morgan, Oma Smith.
OAKLAND—Claude Clerk, Opal Jackson.
POOL'S CHAPEL—Earnest Heigwood.
TUCKERMAN—Estelle Bdaley, Mae Waddill, Pearl Gray.

SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES

Pastors' Salaries	\$16,222.16
Evangelistic work	1,077.66
Building and Repair	7,258.78
Literature	1,519.83
Miscellaneous	4,741.28
Other	1,568.95
TOTAL	\$32,388.66

SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES

Cooperative Plan	\$843.94
Foreign Missions	559.25
Home Missions	70.67
Associational Projects	56.00
State and National Projects	59.72
Other	86.35
TOTAL	\$1,687.96

MEMBERSHIP

Resident	1,112
Non-Resident	507
TOTAL	1,629

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 Saturday 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. Enrollment of ministers and deacons.
5. Call for letters from quarterly meetings belonging to the Association.
6. Call for letters from churches belonging to the Association.
7. Call for petitionary letter.
8. Letters read, received and delegates and church clerks given the right hand of fellowship.
9. Enrollment of delegates and clerks.
10. Clerk call the roll.
11. Elect a moderator.
12. Elect an assistant moderator.
13. Invite all visiting ministers and deacons to enroll.
14. Invite all Christians to take a seat in council.
15. Read the Constitution and By-Laws.
16. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Resolutions, (b) Finance, (c) Temperance, (d) Sunday School, (e) Obituary, (f) Ordination.
17. Call for report of outstanding committees.
18. Call for unfinished business.
19. Call for appeals from quarterly meetings & churches.
20. Call for Ordination of Ministers and Deacons.
21. Call for Ministers' written reports.
22. Elect delegates to the State Association.
23. Call for report of different committees.
24. Call for someone to preach the memorial sermon.
25. Discharge all committees chosen for this season.
26. 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 all appearances 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 faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances 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.

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 the 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 of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles 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.

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 the World, and may the God of Peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our 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; but 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 end of the earth, for I am God, and besides 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 babies 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 this 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. Ep. 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; I Tim. 4:15-16.

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.