
MINUTES
Of The
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
Of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Held With
First Free Will Baptist Church of Batesville
1101 Brooks Street
BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS
JULY 9, 1966

The 1967 session of the Association will be held with the New Home Free Will Baptist Church near Gid, IZARD 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. Geraldine Johnston ----- Batesville Rt., Salado

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Kenneth Doggett, 5 years, 1971 ----- South State St., Newport
Rev. R. A. Francis, 4 years, 1970 ----- Box 45, Grubbs
Rev. J. W. Blanks, 3 years, 1969 ----- Batesville Rt., Salado
Deacon M. B. Williams, 2 years, 1968 ----- Strawberry
Rev. J. W. Roach, 1 year, 1967 ----- Rt. 1, Box 175A, Batesville

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. J. W. Blanks ----- Batesville Rt., Salado
Rev. Kenneth Doggett ----- South State St., Newport
Rev. W. H. Doyle ----- Newport

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

New Home Church

MEMORIAL SPEAKER

Rev. Kenneth Doggett
Rev. Obie Eagan, alternate

PASTORS AND CHURCH CLERKS
OF POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION

- 1—ALLEN CHAPEL—Rev. J. W. Blanks, Batesville Rt., Salado. Mrs. Opal Sturch, Batesville Rt., Salado.
- 2—BALLEW'S CHAPEL—Rev. R. A. Francis, Box 45, Grubbs. Mr. Raymond Clark, Rt. 1, Tuckerman.
- 3—BATESVILLE FIRST F. W. B.—Rev. Hoover Lewis, Newport Rt., Batesville. Mrs. Vaughn Ruminer, 1970 Porter St., Batesville.
- 4—BETHEL—Rev. Lonnie Clark, 227 E. Carter St., Batesville. Mrs. Clara Tate, Melbourne.
- 5—BLACKLAND CHAPEL—Rev. Billy Willhite, Rt. 2, Newport. Mrs. Mabel Huckaba, Oil Trough.
- 6—COFFMAN—Rev. Henry Cables, Jonesboro. Mrs. Wilma Oldham, Box 23, Hoxie.
- 7—ISLAND—W. H. Doyle, Newport. Mrs. Eva Miller, Rt. 4, Box 318, Newport.
- 8—MACEDONIA—Rev. J. W. Roach, Rt. 1, Box 175A, Batesville. Mrs. Hazel Hall, Mt. Pleasant.
- 9—MT. HARMONY—
Mrs. Lorene Doyle, Strawberry.
- 10—NEW HOME—Rev. Lonnie Clark, 227 E. Carter St., Batesville. Miss Bethel Richardson, Melbourne.
- 11—NEWPORT FIRST F. W. B.—Rev. Kenneth Doggett, South State St., Newport. Mrs. Hugh Johnson, 1405 Fairway, Newport.
- 12—OAK GROVE—
Mrs. Oma Smith, Rt. 1, Smithville.
- 13—OAKLAND—Rev. Gaylord Huckaba, Oil Trough. Mrs. Lorene Burrow, Rt. 2, Box 50, Bradford.
- 14—POOL'S CHAPEL—Rev. Jimmy Richardson, Batesville Rt., Salado. Mr. Laman Roach, Rt. 2, Box 174, Cave City.
- 15—TUCKERMAN FIRST F. W. B.—Rev. Ray Watkins, Rt. 2, Newport. Mrs. Fay Vinles, Rt. 1, Box 90, Tuckerman.

PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, July 9, 1965 — 9:00 A. M.

The Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists met in regular annual session with the First F.W.B. Church in Batesville.

Brother Kenneth Ruminer directed the songs, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," "Victory in Jesus" and "Onward Christian Soldiers." LaDonna Lewis served as pianist. Bro. G. E. Richardson led in prayer.

After remarks by Moderator, Rev. Hoover Lewis, he read Ephesians 3:14-15 and Hebrews 13:1, followed with altar prayer of the ordained led by Rev. Obie Eagan.

Letters from fourteen of the fifteen churches were read by clerk, and received by motion and second from the congregation.

Visiting ministers were introduced, Rev. Clayton Crafton, Claremore, Okla.; Rev. Kenneth Riggs, Nashville, Tenn.

In the absence of Oak Grove's church letter a motion was sustained to accept their delegate who was present. Delegates were seated by the right hand of fellowship while the congregation sang "More About Jesus."

The following committees were appointed by the moderator:

RESOLUTIONS—Rev. Obie Eagan, Rev. H. A. Lewis, Rev. J. W. Blanks.

TEMPERANCE—Mrs. Stella Blanks, G. E. Richardson, J. M. Curl.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—Mrs. Lena Clark, Mrs. Estell Bradley, Mrs. Lorena Crabtree.

FINANCE—Mrs. Willia Jean Lewis, Mrs. Lee Staggs, Mrs. Zelma Roach.

CHURCH—Mrs. Delcia Blanks, Mrs. Margie Pool, Mrs. Gertie Doyle.

OBITUARIES—Mrs. Irene Haynie, Mrs. Olene Huskye, Mrs. Pearl Gray.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were re-elected by acclamation:

Moderator, Rev. Hoover Lewis; Asst. Moderator, Deacon M. B. Williams; Clerk and Treasurer, Mrs. M. B. Williams; Mrs. Geraldine

Johnston was elected assistant clerk to replace Mrs. Robbie Snellgrove who was absent.

Rev. Kenneth Doggett was elected to a five year term on the Executive Board to replace Rev. Ray Watkins whose term had expired.

The moderator, Rev. Hoover Lewis, stated that Rev. Jimmy Richardson wished to resign from the Ordaining Council, due to his not being privileged to attend the meetings of the association regularly.

Comments were made by Rev. R. A. Francis, Rev. Obie Eagan, and Rev. J. W. Blanks on the abolishment of the standing Ordaining Council.

A motion was sustained to abolish the Ordaining Council. Then an amendment was attached as follows: "That the moderator appoint, at each yearly meeting of the association, a committee of three to serve on the Ordaining Council for the ensuing year."

Rev. J. W. Blanks, Rev. Kenneth Doggett and Rev. Henry Doyle were appointed to serve until July, 1967.

RECESS

Divine Service — 11:00 A. M.

The assembly was called together by congregational singing directed by Virgil Ross with Mrs. Hoover Lewis, pianist. Hymns, "This Is My Story," "I want to be Ready to Meet Him" and "Mansion Over the Hilltop" were sung.

Prayer led by Rev. Clayton Crafton of Oklahoma. The moderator introduced the speaker, Rev. J. W. Blanks, who read Rev. 14:13 and II Corinthians 5:2. He brought a very appropriate memorial message and closed with prayer. The song "Heavens Jubilee" was sung followed with benediction and blessing on the noon meal by Rev. Kenneth Doggett.

NOON

1:15 P. M.

The afternoon session was begun with singing "Come Unto Me" directed by Bro. Kenneth Ruminer with Miss Lau at the piano. Scripture John 3:16 was read by assistant moderator and prayer by Rev. Kenneth Riggs.

The following delegates were elected to attend the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists on August 24, 25, and 26: Mrs. Irene Haynie, Bro. J. M. Curl, Mrs. Stella Blanks, Mrs. Willia Jean Lewis and Mrs. Olene Huskey. Alternates elected were, Mrs. Mabel Huckaba, Mrs. Pearl Gray and Mrs. Bonnie Brown.

New Home church was chosen as the meeting place for the Association in 1967.

Rev. Kenneth Doggett was selected to preach the Memorial sermon. Rev. Obie Eagan is alternate.

Reports of the different committees were given and received and the committees discharged, reports found elsewhere.

After the Finance Committee gave its report, it was recommended that the district clerk write each church clerk giving explanation of the amount due from their church according to the motion passed in 1965.

Rev. Kenneth Doggett, member of the State Misions Board, gave a report on the new churches in our state and explained the "New Church Club" plan.

Rev. Kenneth Riggs spoke about the National Association which would be meeting in the capitol city, Little Rock, and urged all to attend.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

SUNDAY SCHOOLS: We the Sunday Schools Committee find that fifteen (15) churches reported Sunday School, with an enrollment of 1,255, a loss from last year of thirty-six (36) in attendance.

When one is absent more than one or two Sundays, we should let them know they are missed, either by visitation or card.

Some churches did this the past year and it has worked. We had a loss of 36 the past year and the year before the loss was 78.

Mrs. Lena Clark, Chmn.

Mrs. Estell Bradley

Mrs. Lorena Crabtree

CHURCH COMMITTEE: We the committee find 11 churches were represented by letter and delegates, 3 by letter without delegates, and 1 by delegate without letter. Total membership 1,647. Received 61, and deceased 10.

Mrs. Delca Blanks, Chmn.
Mrs. Margie Pool
Mrs. Gertie Doyle

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE: We your committee submit the following suggestion, that each Free Will Baptist use their privilege as a citizens of this country to vote against the sale of intoxicating beverages and to abstain from the use thereof.

We also recommend that each church in this association take a strong stand against legalizing gambling in the state and exercise the Christian duty to vote against it in the November General Election.

Mrs. Stella Blanks, Chmn.
G. E. Richardson
J. M. Curl

FINANCE COMMITTEE: We the committee find the following has been spent for the advancement for the cause of Christ.

Total Offering -----	\$46,920.84
Pastors' Salaries -----	20,721.62
Evangelistic Work -----	1,381.93
Missions -----	1,432.19
Cooperative Plan -----	1,839.85

We also find that a total of \$122.00 was sent in from the different churches.

Mrs. Willia Jean Lewis, Chmn.
Mrs. Lea Staggs
Mrs. Zelma Roach

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Be it resolved that this body give a rising vote of thanks to the host church for their wonderful hospitality shown during this association.

Rev. Obie Eagan, Chmn.
Rev. H. A. Lewis
Rev. J. W. Blanks

OBITUARIES COMMITTEE: We the committee find that God has seen fit to call from labor to reward, 10 of our members. They rest from their labor and their works do follow them. Rev. 14:13, "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is still day. The night cometh when no man can work."

For those we mourn today. There is no time to be redeemed. Night has come. Some one must take their places. There is a cross to bear that we a crown may wear. Will you be the one to bear the cross?

Mrs. Irene Haynie, Chmn.
Mrs. Olene Huskey
Mrs. Pearl Gray

BALLEW'S CHAPEL: Deacon A. T. Blanks, Sr., Henry Lancaster.

BATESVILLE: Ray Turner.

BETHEL: A. D. Neal.

BLACKLAND: Mrs. Blanche Rutledge.

MT. HARMONY: Mrs. Dora Long.

NEWPORT: Mrs. Velma Manuel.

POOL'S CHAPEL: Fletcher Welch.

TUCKERMAN: Mrs. Bea Taylor, Doris Henderson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Received from churches July 9	\$122.00
Received later in mail from churches	84.00
Balance in Treasury	1.07

TOTAL	\$207.07

Expenditures

To Arkansas State Associational toward	
expense of State meeting	\$ 45.00
Toward printing of State Minutes	36.00
Postage50

TOTAL	\$ 81.50
Balance in Treasury for printing minutes of the	
Polk Bayou Association	\$125.57

MINISTERS PRESENT

H. A. Lewis	Batesville Rt., Salado
Henry Doyle	Neill Street, Newport
Obie Eagan	Smithville, R.F.D.
Hoover Lewis	Newport Rt., Batesville
J. W. Blanks	Batesville Rt., Salado
Ernest Elms	Oil Trough
R. A. Francis	P. O. Box 45, Grubbs
Kenneth Doggett	South State St., Newport
Lonnie Clark	227 E. Carter St., Batesville

VISITING MINISTERS

Clayton Crafton	Claremore, Oklahoma
Kenneth Riggs	Nashville, Tennessee

LICENTiate—J. M. Curl.

MINISTERS BELONGING — Not Present

Ronald Blanks	Nashville, Tennessee
Gaylord Huckaba	Oil Trough
Kenneth Manuel	Nashville, Tennessee
W. H. Obarts	1000 Walnut St., Newport
E. M. Phillips	Guion
John Riggs	Route 2, Batesville
Jimmy Richardson	Newport Rt., Batesville
J. W. Roach	Rt. 1, Batesville
Coy Staggs	Batesville Rt., Salado
Othaniel Safirt	Grubbs
Ray Watkins	Route 2, Newport
Bea Woodruff	Route 1, Tuckerman
Archie Warnick	Hoxie
Billy Willhite	Route 2, Newport

DEACONS PRESENT

Jay Roach, Millard Williams, Earl Clark, Kenneth Ruminer, Ernest Elms, Wilson Sturch, B. A. Gibson, Lewis Adkisson, Virgil Ross, George Tubbs.

CHURCH CLERKS PRESENT

Batesville First Church	Mrs. Vaughn Ruminer
Blackland Chapel	Mrs. Mabel Huckaba

Island	Mrs. Eva Miller
Mt. Harmony	Mrs. Lorene Doyle
New Home	Miss Bethel Richardson
Oakland	Mrs. Lorene Burrow
Pool's Chapel	Mrs. Laman Roach

DELEGATES PRESENT

ALLEN'S CHAPEL: Delca Blanks, Irene Haynie, Ann Robins.

BALLEW'S CHAPEL: Lena Clark, Stella Blanks, Bonnie Brown.

BATESVILLE FIRST CHURCH: Bessie Lewis, Margie Pool, Willia
Jean Lewis.

BACKLAND CHAPEL: Lea Staggs, Lois Morris, Jean Hightower.

ISLAND: Gertie Doyle.

MT. HARMONY: Lorena Crabtree, Olene Huskey, Alma Huskey.

NEW HOME: Iva Adkisson, G. E. Richardson.

NEWPORT FIRST CHURCH: Hugh Johnson.

OAK GROVE: Flossie Davis.

OAKLAND: Dorothy Poole, J. M. Curl, Doris Curl.

POOL'S CHAPEL: Zelma Roach, Lois Roach, Juanita Hastings.

TUCKERMAN FIRST CHURCH: Estelle Bradley, Pearl Gray, Nellie
Doss.

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 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) Fiance, (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 and 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 yet 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. 1:8-21; 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. 4:15-16.

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.