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**MINUTES**  
Of The  
**POKE BAYOU ASSOCIATION**  
Of  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
HELD WITH  
**Oak Grove Church**  
NEAR  
Lawrence County  
LYNN, ARKANSAS  
July 8, 1978

The next session of the Association will be held on Saturday before the second Sunday in July, 1979 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Place to be selected later.

REV. RANDY SCOTT, Moderator  
Tuckerman, Arkansas

REV. GLENN MURRAY, Assistant Moderator  
430 Blossom Drive  
Batesville, Arkansas

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

MRS. ANN DOYLE, Assistant Clerk  
Strawberry, Arkansas

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## OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. Randy Scott ----- Tuckerman

Ass't. Moderator, Rev. Glenn Murray ----- 430 Blossom Dr., Batesville

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

Assistant Clerk, Mrs. Ann Doyle ----- Strawberry

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. J. W. Blanks, 5 years, 1983 ----- Batesville

Rev. Jimmy Richardson, 4 years, 1982 ----- Batesville

Rev. Floyd Medlock, 3 years, 1981 ----- Bradford

Rev. Lonnie Palmer, Jr., 2 years, 1980 ----- Batesville

Rev. David Waltrip, 1 year, 1979 ----- Saffell

## ORDAINING COUNCIL

To be appointed by moderator

# CHURCHES, PASTORS AND CHURCH CLERKS OF POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION

1. Allen's Chapel ----- Rev. J. W. Blanks, Rt. 5, Batesville  
Linda Galloway, Rt. 5, Box 226, Batesville
2. Ballew's Chapel ----- Rev. Dale Pitts, Rt. 2, Box 435, Newport  
Mr. Glen Odglen, Rt. 2, Box 393, Newport
3. Batesville First F.W.B. -- Rev. Glenn Murray, 430 Blossom Dr. Batesville  
Mrs. Vaughn Ruminer, 1970 Porter St., Batesville
4. Blackland Chapel ----- Mrs. Mabel Huckaba, Oil Trough
5. Cave City First F.W.B. ----- Rev Jimmy Richardson, Denison Heights,  
Batesville  
Mrs. Glyndene Milligan, Rt. 2, Box 24D1, Cave City
6. Coffman ----- Rev. J. W. Russell, 609 W. Gum St., Walnut Ridge  
Mrs. Irene Crider, Rt. 1, Box 250 AB, Hoxie
7. Madeconia ----- Betty Jo Johnson, P. O. Box 102, Mount Pleasant
8. Mt. Harmony ----- Rev. David Waltrip, Saffell  
Mrs. Lorene Doyle, Strawberry
9. New Home ----- Kenneth Morrison, Melbourne
10. Newport First F.W.B. ---- Rev. Wm. Adcock, 710 S. State St., Newport  
Mrs. Donnie M. Woodruff, 1508 McLain, Newport
11. Oakland ----- Rev. Floyd Medlock, Rt. 2, Bradford  
Carolyn Reed, Rt. 2, Bradford
12. Oak Grove ----- Mrs. Oma Smith, Rt. 1, Smithville
13. Pool's Chapel ----- Rev. J. W. Roach, Rt. 1, Box 538, Batesville  
Mrs. Ernest Haigwood, P. O. Box 3743, Batesville
14. Tuckerman First F.W.B. -- Rev. Randy Scott, P. O. Box 418, Tuckerman  
Mrs. Fay Vines, P. O Box 427, Tuckerman
15. Weaver's Chapel ----- Rev. Jerry Taylor, Rt. 2, Box 200A, Batesville  
Mrs. Billie Clark, Rt. 1, Box 175, Batesville
16. East Batesville ----- Rev. Lonnie Palmer, Jr., Route 4, Batesville  
Mrs. Wilma Manuel

## PROCEEDINGS

9:30 A.M.

The service began with congregational singing "I Will Not Be A Stranger" and "I'm Too Near To Heaven To Turn Back Now", directed by Bro. Virgil Ross with Mrs. Rachel Murray at the piano.

Prayer by Rev. Glenn Murray.

The moderator read Psalm 34 and said "The Lord allows problems and troubles to come to us but he also delivers us through them.

After prayer requests were made known, the ordained met at the altar for prayer which was led by Rev. J. W. Russell and concluded by Bro. John Lau.

The church letters were read and received. The minutes of the last meeting read and the treasurer's report given.

Bro. James Morgan of Newport, member of the Jackson County Historical Society and Rev. David Joslin of Conway, promotional director of Free Will Baptists for the state of Arkansas, were introduced.

Bro. Joslin gave a report of the state work and also suggested that the Executive Board adopt a standard questionnaire approved by the state for prospective ministers and deacons to fill out before being ordained.

Prayer by Rev. David Waltrip.

### Recess

### 11 A.M. Divine Service

The assembly was called together by singing "Glad Reunion Day", directed by Bro. Horace Doyle, Mrs. Rachel Murray, pianist.

Prayer by Bro. Nen Freeman.

"Victory in Jesus" and "Everybody will Happy Over There" were sung and an offering of \$62.38 was given.

Special number "Pick up the Broken Pieces" was rendered by Rev. and Mrs. Glenn Murray.

The speaker, Rev. Albert Tiner was introduced. He read 1st Peter 1:14-16 and offered prayer. He also mentioned a saying the world is so churchy and the church so worldly it is hard to tell the difference. Are we acceptable unto God? Are our churches acceptable unto Him? Eph. 4:24. Put on the new man. II Peter 2:21, if a man purge himself from these he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the master's use.

Song "Come Unto Me" by congregation.

In the absence of Rev. Floyd Medlock the moderator appointed Rev. William Adcock to serve on the ordaining council with Rev. J. W. Blanks and Rev. Randy Scott in the questioning of Bro. Conway Coles and Bro. Austin Rowlett who had been selected to be deacons in the Cave City F.W.B. church.

Noon

1:00 P.M.

"Joy Unspeakable" and "I Want to Know More" were directed by Bro. Virgil Ross with Mrs. Rachel Murray as pianist.

Rev. Jimmy Richardson gave the devotional reading from II Samuel 23:10.

In the business session the following reports were given:

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met with the East Batesville Mission on June 9 for the purpose of examining them for membership in the Polk Bayou Association and also for organization to a regularly established Free Will Baptist Church.

We, the Executive Board, find them to be properly organized and adhering to the Faith and Practice of Free Will Baptists as specified in the Treatise. We recommend that they be received into full fellowship by the association.

Rev. J. W. Blanks, Rev. Randy Scott, Rev. Steve Trail, Rev. Floyd Medlock, Rev. Jimmy Richardson.

The East Batesville church was received into the fellowship of the association

The Executive Board met June 15 at the Mt. Harmony Free Will Baptist Church for the purpose of reconstructing the constitution of the Polk Bayou Association.

We recommended the adoption of the proposed constitution as presented to the body today, and that it be printed in the minutes. Motions made, seconded and carried to accept the two reports given by the Executive Board.

Ordaining Council's Report — We, the ordaining council, recommend that Bro. Austin Rowlett and Bro. Conway Coles be ordained as Free Will Baptist Deacons. The ordination service to be conducted at the convenience of the Cave City F.W.B. Church.

Rev. Randy Scott

Rev. J. W. Blanks

Rev. Bill Adcock

The following committee reports were given:

Sunday Schools — We, the committee, find that the number of Sunday Schools reporting are 15. The enrollment is 1,344, average attendance is 1,044. We suggest each Sunday School have a visitation program, and have well qualified teachers.

Rachel Murray, Pearl Neece,  
Maggie McLaughlin

Temperance — We, the committee, recommend that all christians watch the things they do, things they say, and what they are. To others the wrong shows more than the right. There is always someone watching.

Debbie Padgett, Dorothy Shaw,  
Luther Voyles

Obituaries — We, the committee find that God in his infinite wisdom has called from our midst 18 members since our meeting last year. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Allen's Chapel — Walter Horn

Ballew's Chapel — Annie Evans' Woodard — Tom Vines

Batesville First — Clay Finister — Ella Baxter, Idell Bettis — Warren Hollowell

Blackland Chapel — Ben Morris

Macedonia — Nellie Jones

Mt. Harmony — Ora Huskey

Newport First — Lloyd Mantooth — Jessie Drummond

Oak Grove — Margarette Davis

Tuckerman First — Henry Harbison, Rosie Haner, Bea Taylor (Deacon)

Weaver's Chapel — James Rodger, Lillian Williams

After a few minutes of silent prayer, Bro. David Waltrip led the memorial prayer.

Resolutions — Be it resolved that this body give a standing vote of thanks to the officers of this association and to the standing boards for the wonderful way in which the business of the association has been conducted the past year. Also to the Oak Grove Church for their hospitality and the good food served.

Ray Starnes, Hazel Coleman  
Andrew Rowlett

## DIGEST REPORT

Churches reported, 15; Membership, 1,650; Sunday School enrollment, 1,354; average attendance, 1,047; C.T.S. enrollment, 526; average attendance, 367; Woman's Auxiliary enrollment, 133; average attendance, 109; master's men enrollment, 92; average attendance, 72; mid week average attendance, 259.

Delegates to the State Association were elected: Mirl Coles, August Rowlett, Marilyn Taylor, Rachel Murray, Jimmy Crabtree.

In the election of officers Rev. Randy Scott for moderator and Rev. Glenn Murray for assistant moderator were elected unanimously. Mrs. M. B. Williams, clerk and treasurer and Ann Doyle assistant clerk were retained.

Rev. J. W. Blanks whose term had expired was re-elected to a 5 year term on the Executive Board. Rev. Lonnie Palmer Jr. was elected for 2 years to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Steve Trail who had moved away. Rev. David Waltrip was elected to fill the 1 year unexpired term of Rev. Randy Scott who had been elected as moderator.

A motion was sustained to elect 3 counselors or youth directors to work with the youth of the association. This organization is to meet quarterly, a few days before the meeting of the association. The date of the meeting to be set by the committee. The association will pay \$25.00 toward the expenses of each meeting. Rev. David Waltrip, Rev. Jerry Taylor and Rev. Bill Adcock were elected to serve 1 year.

Conference adjourned to meet with Weaver's Chapel Church on October 7, 1978. Rev. Lonnie Palmer will be the speaker. Rev. Glenn Murray is alternate.

Rev. Philip Ange gave the benediction.

## MINISTERS PRESENT

Rev. J. W. Blanks	Rev. David Waltrip
Rev. Dale Pitts	Rev. Bill Adcock
Rev. Ray Watkins	Rev. Henry Doyle
Rev. Glenn Murray	Rev. Randy Scott
Rev. Albert Tiner	Rev. Jerry Taylor
Rev. Jimmy Richardson	Rev. Phillip Ange
Rev. Lonnie Palmer Jr.	Rev. David Joslin
Rev. J. W. Russell	Rev. J. W. Russell



## MINISTERS BELONGING BUT NOT PRESENT

Rev. H. A. Lewis	Rev. Henry Obarts
Rev. Floyd Medlock	Rev. J. W. Roach
Rev. Kenneth Manuel	Rev. Otis Richey
Rev. Steve Trail	Rev. Archie Warnick
Rev. Ernest Elms	Rev. Billy Willhite
Rev. Gaylord Huckaba	Rev. O. Safirt

## DEACONS PRESENT

John Lau	Charles McLaughlin
Everette Neece	J. A. Roach
Horace Doyle	Walter Smith
Gerphus Huskey	Virgil Ross
Harold Howard	Wilson Sturch

## CHURCH CLERKS PRESENT

Mabel Huckaba	Billie Clark
Lorene Doyle	Oma Smith

## DELEGATES PRESENT

Allen's Chapel — Ray Starnes, Lemon Richardson, Preston Coles.  
Ballew's Chapel — Horace Montgomery, Ralph Welch, Pat Pitts.  
Batesville First — Lillian Martin, Rachel Murray, Audrey Shultz.  
Blackland Chapel — Nen Freeman, Dessie Freeman, Lorine Shaw.  
Cave City First — Delores Richardson, Mrs. Harris, Vleva Coles.  
Coffman — Almus Crider, Pearl Neece, Pauline Richey  
Mt. Harmony — Maggie McLaughlin, Dorothy Shaw, Olene Huskey.  
Newport First — Hazel Coleman, Tippy Burrow.  
New Home — Dempo England.  
Oak Grove — Luther Voyles, Lois Richey.  
Oakland — Duke Rice, Alma Rice, Debbie Padgett.  
Pool's Chapel — Johnny Carter, Glenna Haigwood.  
Tuckerman First — Andrew Rowlett, Hazel Rowlett, Pearl Gray.  
Weaver's Chapel — Leona Brokaw, Cleva Lesley, Marilyn Taylor.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Spent for Local Causes

Pastors' Salaries	\$ 76,165.00
Evangelistic Work	4,914.00
Building and Repair	57,386.00
Literature	7,928.00
Other	50,132.00
TOTAL	\$196,525.00

### Spent for Outside Causes

Cooperative Plan	\$ 8,477.00
Foreign Missions	5,346.00
Home Missions	5,151.00
Associational Projects	1,106.00
State and National Projects	1,345.00
Educational	785.00
Orphanage	50.00
Other	1,095.00
TOTAL	\$23,355.00

Grand Total \$219,880.00

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand July 1, 1977	\$ 233.00
Dues and Offering in July, 1977	490.86
Dues and Offering in October	151.88
Dues and Offering in June, 1978	150.00
Dues and Offering in April	153.07
Dues and Offering in July	473.39
TOTAL	\$1,652.20

## EXPENDITURES

To Riverside Graphics for Minutes October, 1977	-----\$ 138.54
National Home Missions (Bob Francis)	----- 100.00
Paving Project	----- 100.00
Flowers for Ministers in Hospital	----- 20.00
State Home Missions	----- 250.00
East Batesville Church and Grace Church	----- 100.00
Mileage to Executive Board Members	----- 77.12
Arkansas Free Will Baptists Association July, 1977	----- 315.00
Envelopes and Postage	----- 9.00
TOTAL	----- \$1,109.66
Balance on Hand August 1, 1978	----- \$ 542.54

## CONSTITUTION OF THE POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

PREAMBLE: From experience, we the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination, being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us; therefore, we propose to maintain and keep the orders and rules of this Association according to the following planned form of government:

### ARTICLE I. Name

This organization shall be called the Polk Bayou Association of Free Will Baptists, affiliated with the State Association of Free Will Baptists of Arkansas, which is a member of the National Association Free Will Baptists.

### ARTICLE II. Composition

This Association shall be composed of such well regulated Free Will Baptist churches as subscribe (agree) with the doctrine and practices as stipulated in the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists.

### ARTICLE III. Representation

Section 1 — The voting members of this Association shall be the regularly ordained ministers, deacons, and the church clerks belonging to any church composing this body.

Section 2 — Each local church holding membership in this Association shall be entitled to three (3) lay delegates at large.

### ARTICLE IV. Officers

The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, an assistant moderator, a clerk and treasurer, and an assistant clerk and treasurer who are to be elected annually by this body.

### ARTICLE V. Duties and Rules of Standing Boards

Section 1 — This Association shall have an Executive Board composed of five (5) members, each of whom shall serve for five (5) years. This board shall be arraigned whereby one member shall be elected annually. In case of emergency situations, the Executive Board shall have the authority to call the Association in conference by notifying each member church at least ten (10) days prior to the conference.

Section 2 — This Association shall have an Ordaining Council consisting of three (3) members appointed annually by the moderator. This board shall examine all applicants for licensing and ordination as recommended by the local churches and shall report to the Association their findings.

### ARTICLE VI. Letters

Each church that is a member of this Association shall be represented by letter at each session of this Association giving names of delegates, ordained ministers, deacons, church clerk, members received, excluded, deceased, and monies spent for local and outside causes.

### ARTICLE VII. New Churches

Any church desiring membership in this body shall send delegates bearing a petitionary letter to the Association. If any church, upon examination by the Executive Board, is found to be properly organized, in good standing with member churches, and willing to adhere to the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists as specified in the Treatise, they shall by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of this body be received into full fellowship.

## ARTICLE VIII. Motions

Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless it is withdrawn by the member making said motion.

## ARTICLE IX. Minutes

The Association is to endeavor to furnish the member churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church.

## ARTICLES X. Clerks Duties

It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a regular file of all minutes. Also, the clerk shall be responsible for the disbursement of money at the direction of the Association.

## ARTICLE XI. Power of Association

The Association shall have power to discipline its churches, and to exclude them for disorderly walk, if labor proves unsuccessful; to ordain deacons, to license and ordain ministers, such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of the church to which such persons belong; to settle such questions of doctrine as the churches may refer to it; to any rules or by-laws necessary to the regulation and not inconsistent with this Constitution; but in no case shall this Association reverse a decision or in any way interfere with the internal regulation of a local church, nor hold any ecclesiastical power over the churches composing this Association.

## ARTICLE XII. Meetings

The sessions of this Association shall meet quarterly on Saturday before the second (2nd) Sunday in January, April, July, and October with such churches as call for it by letter. The July meeting shall serve as the yearly meeting of the Association.

## ARTICLE XIII. Constitutional Changes

This constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members voting at any regular session.

## 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 be 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 membership present.

5. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member of 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.

## 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 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. **The Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit and all the attributes of God.

5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for as the highest welfare of men requires.

6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.

7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free, and the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: (a) Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. (b) Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God. (c) Continuance in faith and obedience until death.



9. **Election.** God determine from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men became His elect.

10. **Freedom of the Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. **Preserverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life promise of eternal salvation.

13. **Gospel Ordinances.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, to be ministered to all true believers.

14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 22:23), and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." (I Corinthians 16:2).

15. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. **Resurrection, Judgment, and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."