
MINUTES
Of The
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
Of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
First Free Will Baptist Church
In
TUCKERMAN
Jackson County
Arkansas
July 7, 1979

The next session of the Association will be held on Saturday before the second Sunday in July, 1980, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Place to be selected later.

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

REV. RUSSELL JOHNSON, Assistant Moderator
P. O. Box 9
Grubbs, Arkansas

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

MRS. ANN DOYLE, Assistant Clerk
Strawberry, Arkansas

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. Glenn Murray ----- 430 Blossom Dr., Batesville

Ass't. Moderator, Rev. Russell Johnson ----- P. O. Box 9, Grubbs

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

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. David Waltrip, 5 years, 1984 ----- Saffell

Rev. J. W. Blanks, 4 years, 1983 ----- Batesville

Rev. Jimmy Richardson, 3 years, 1982 ----- Batesville

Rev. Floyd Medlock, 2 years, 1981 ----- Bradford

Rev. Lonnie Palmer Jr., 1 year, 1980 ----- Batesville

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. J. W. Blanks ----- Batesville

Rev. Glenn S. Murray ----- Batesville

Rev. David Waltrip ----- Saffell

CHURCHES, PASTORS, AND CHURCH CLERKS

1. Allen's Chapel ----- Rev. J. W. Blanks, Route 5, Batesville
Linda Galloway, Rt. 5, Box 226, Batesville
2. Ballew's Chapel ----- Rev. Russell Johnson, P. O. Box 9, Grubbs
Mrs. Colleen McCoy, Rt. 2, Box 468, Newport
3. Batesville First F.W.B. -- Rev. Glenn Murray, 430 Blossom Dr., Batesville
Mrs. Vaughn Ruminer, 1970 Porter St., Batesville
4. Blackland Chapel ----- Rev. Dwayne Roper, Oil Trough
Mrs. Mabel Huckaba, Oil Trough
5. Cave City First F.W.B. -- Rev. Jimmy Richardson, Dennison Hgts., Batesville
Glyndene Milligan, Rt. 2, Box 64, Cave City
6. Coffman ----- Rev. J. W. Russell, 609 W. Gum St., Walnut Ridge
Mrs. Irene Crider, Rt. 1, Box 383, Batesville
7. East Batesville ----- Rev. Lonnie Palmer Jr., Rt. 4, Batesville
Mrs. Wilma Manuel, Rt. 7, Box 383, Batesville
8. Grace ----- No Pastor
Betty Bowden, 3801 Daniel, Newport
9. Macedonia --
Betty Jo Johnson, P. O. Box 102, Mount Pleasant
10. Mt. Harmony ----- Rev. David Waltrip, Saffell
Mrs. Lorene Doyle, Strawberry
11. New Home ----- Rev. Charles Nichols, Mount Pleasant
Mr. Kenneth Morrison, Melbourne
12. Newport First F.W.B. ----- Rev. Wm. Adcock, 710 S. State St., Newport
Mrs. Robin Glaz, P. O. Box 2, Diaz
13. Oakland ----- Rev. Floyd Medlock, Route 2, Bradford
Carolyn Reed, Route 2, Bradford
14. Oak Grove --
Mrs. Oma Smith, Route 1, Smithville
15. Pool's Chapel ----- Rev. J. W. Roach, Rt. 1, Box 538, Batesville
Mr. Ernest Haigwood, P. O. Box 3743, Batesville
16. Tuckerman First F.W.B. -- Rev. Don Umfleet, P. O. Box 418, Tuckerman
Mrs. Fay Vines, P. O. Box 427, Tuckerman
17. Weaver's Chapel ----- Rev. Jerry Taylor, Rt. 2, Box 200A, Batesville
Mrs. Billie Clark, Rt. 1, Box 175, Batesville

PROCEEDINGS

9:30 A.M.

The opening songs by the congregation were led by Ealem Doyle, "Amazing Grace" and "Are You Washed in the Blood". Mrs. Hazel Rowlett served as pianist throughout the day.

Prayer Dwayne Jones.

The moderator, Rev. Glenn Murray, read I Corinthians, chapter 4:1-5. He said ministers are to give an account to Christ first, then to the church and others.

If we are stewards, then let us be faithful. Our responsibility is to God first then to His cause.

The ordained met at the altar for prayer which was directed by Rev. Lonnie Palmer Jr.

The letters from the churches were read and received and the delegates seated.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Sunday Schools ----- Lillian Martin, Jackie Owens and Demps England
Temperance ----- Lonnie Palmer Jr., Harold Howard, and Dwayne Jones
Obituaries ----- Linda Waltrip, Marilyn Taylor and Glenda Milligan
Resolution ----- Floyd Medlock, Curt Billins and Horace Doyle

At this time a silver tray was presented to the clerk Mrs. M. B. Williams, who had served for 35 years as clerk and treasurer of the association.

Officers were also elected at this time.

Moderator ----- Rev. Glenn Murray, Batesville

Assistant Moderator ----- Rev. Russell Johnson, Grubbs

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

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

Prayer by Rev. Jerry Taylor

RECESS

The moderator left for Missouri to conduct or attend funeral services for a former member there and the assistant moderator had charge of the business the remainder of the day.

The assembly was called together by singing "I Love to Tell My Story" and "I am Resolved" directed by Horace Doyle.

Rev. David Waltrip led the offeratory prayer.

Offering received was \$64.24.

A motion was sustained to pay for the silver tray with the offering.

Prayer, Rev. Ray Watkins.

11:00 A.M. DIVINE SERVICE

The assistant moderator, Rev. Russell Johnson introduced the speaker Rev. J. W. Blanks, who read Jeremiah 37:17 and told how Jeremiah took a stand for God, and that ministers take in Truth from God and give it out to man.

He also used II Chronicles 7:14 and Ezekiel 18. He said the greatest evangelist is not the preacher — but you and I and now is the time.

Benediction — Ealem Doyle.

NOON

1:00 P.M.

“At the Cross” and “Joy Unspeakable” were directed by Ealem Doyle — Prayer offered by Rev. Bill Adcock.

The ordaining council had met with Rev. Dwayne Roper on April 30 and questioned him. They recommended him for membership into Polk Bayou Association. He was accepted.

The ordaining council met with Brother De Voe Sodon at the request of the Tuckerman Church and examined him for deacon in the Tuckerman Church. The council Rev. J. W. Blanks, Rev. Glenn E. Murray and Rev. David Waltrip recommended that he be ordained. He was at this session.

The charge was given by Rev. Don Umfleet. He used Acts 6:1-4, 6, 7. Rev. Ray Watkins offered prayer. Others having part in the “laying on of hands” were Rev. J. W. Blanks and Rev. David Waltrip.

The following committee reports were given:

Sunday Schools — We, the committee find that 17 Sunday Schools reported with an enrollment of 1,393, and average attendance of 1,061.

We recommended each church send the letter and report the enrollment and average attendance of the Sunday School, urge each pupil to read the daily Bible readings so we may cover the entire Bible in seven years in Sunday School.

To study the lesson is the only way to grow in the knowledge of the Bible. Also encourage a greater number in the church to attend Sunday School.

Lillian Martin, Chmn.
Jackie Owens
Demps England

Temperance — We the temperance committee commend the work being attempted by the committee headed by Bro. Terry Forrest to prevent licensing of private clubs to sell liquor in any dry county. We recommend the support of this committee both actively and financially by our people. We further recommend that our people, not only abstain from all intoxicating drinking and drugs, but to strongly condemn the use and sale of such by others.

Lonnie Palmer Jr., chmn.
Dwayne Johnson
Harold Howard

Obituaries — We, the committee, find that God in His divine love has called 21 of our brothers and sisters home. Psalm 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Allen's Chapel — (1) — Baryl Balser

Batesville First — (2) — Mrs. Regina Patterson, Mrs. Hester Lesley

Cave City First — Rev. Johnny Foy

Coffman — Virginia Erwin, W. C. Townsley, Deacon

Macedonia — Hattie Stokes, Ethel Walker

Mt. Harmony — Thurman Polston, Dona Huskey, Tom Allen, Bill Hendrickson

Oak Grove — Charlie Davis, Margaret Davis

Pool's Chapel — W. E. Montgomery, Deacon

Tuckerman First — Otho Richards, Jess George, Gertie Dunn, Gordon Howard, Nettie Hayes, John Langley.

Resolutions — We, your committee, resolve that we give a standing vote of thanks to the officers of our association, for a job well done in the past year and also to the Tuckerman church for their fine hospitality in the yearly meeting. Above all thanks to the Lord for giving us such a great association.

Floyd Medlock, chmn.
Curt Billins
Horace Doyle

DIGEST REPORT

Churches reported, 17; Membership, 1,767; Sunday School enrollment, 1,405; Average attendance, 1,084; C.T.S. enrollment, 502; Average attendance, 382; Woman's Auxiliary enrollment, 156, average attendance, 114; Master's Men enrollment, 95; Average attendance, 71; Mid Week average attendance, 420.

Delegates to the state association were elected. Gloria Umfleet, Delsa Blanks, Elizabeth McLain, Lorene Doyle, Linda Waltrip.

Rev. David Waltrip whose term had expired was re-elected to a 5 year term on the Executive Board.

Mt. Harmony was chosen as the meeting place in October. Rev. Lonnie Palmer Jr. was chosen as speaker in that meeting.

After announcements were made the congregation sang "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and conference adjourned to meet with the Mt. Harmony F.W.B. church on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1979.

MINISTERS PRESENT

Rev. J. W. Blanks	Rev. David Waltrip
Rev. Russell Johnson	Rev. William Adcock
Rev. Ray Watkins	Rev. Don Umfleet
Rev. Glenn E. Murray	Rev. Jerry Taylor
Rev. Lonnie Palmer Jr.	Rev. Floyd Medlock
Rev. Henry Doyle	

MINISTERS BELONGING BUT NOT PRESENT

Rev. Ernest Elms	Rev. J. W. Roach
Rev. Othaniel Safirt	Rev. J. W. Russell
Rev. H. A. Lewis	Rev. Odis Richey
Rev. Dwayne Roper	Rev. Henry Obarts
Rev. Gaylord Huckaba	Rev. Kenneth Manuel
Rev. Jimmy Richardson	Rev. Archie Warnick
Rev. Bernard Roberts	Rev. Billy Willhite

DEACONS PRESENT

W. N. McCoy

Harold Howard

John Lau

Horace Doyle

Conway Coles

Charles McLaughlin

Billy D. Smith

Glendon Pool

Jay Roach

CHURCH CLERKS PRESENT

Ernest Haigwood

Billie Clark

Robin Glaz

Fay Vines

Lorene Doyle

DELEGATES PRESENT

Allen's Chapel — Jackie Owens

Ballew's Chapel — Frank Saffell, Rita Saffell, Esther Watkins

Batesville First — Curt Billins, Estel Walden, Berna Dene Walden

Blackland Chapel — Lois Morris, Natalie Roper, Freda Deason

Cave City First — Dwayne Jones, Gracie Jones, Glenda Milligan

Grace — Mike Bowden, Woodrow Hodge

Mt. Harmony — Magie McLaughlin, Jane Reaves, Linda Waltrip

New Home — Demps England

Newport — Evelyn Baker, Donnie Woodruff, Tippy Burrow

Oakland — Beverly Sizemore, Debora Sizemore, Gale Medlock

Pool's Chapel — Glenna Haigwood, Zelma Roach

Tuckerman First — Elizabeth McLain, Alta Taylor, Pearl Gray

Weaver's Chapel — Marilyn Taylor, Margie Pool, Linda Moser

FINANCIAL REPORT

Spent for Local Causes

Pastors' Salaries -----	\$ 99,037.00
Evangelistic Work -----	6,355.00
Building and Repair -----	174,083.00
Literature -----	8,382.00
Other -----	70,300.00
TOTAL -----	\$358,157.00

Spent for Outside Causes

Cooperative Plan -----	\$ 9,395.00
Foreign Missions -----	1,861.00
Home Missions -----	6,743.00
Associational Projects -----	487.00
State and National Projects -----	1,563.00
Educational -----	275.00
Orphanage -----	118.00
Other -----	1,064.00
TOTAL -----	\$ 21,506.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand July 1, 1978 -----	\$ 80.06
Received from churches in 1978 -----	656.00
Special Offerings -----	284.74
TOTAL -----	\$ 1,020.80

EXPENDITURES 1978

To Riverside Graphics for Minutes -----	\$ 157.59
Paper, Envelopes and Postage -----	24.29
Pioneer Work at Ash Flat -----	300.00
Two Youth Rallys -----	50.00
Arkansas State Association of F.W.B. -----	320.00
TOTAL -----	\$ 951.88
Balance on Hand July 1, 1979 -----	\$ 69.80

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 arranged 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. Clerk's 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 determined 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."