
MINUTES
Of The
POLK BAYOU ASSOCIATION
Of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
HELD WITH
First Free Will Baptist Church
In
BATESVILLE
Independence County
Arkansas

The next annual session of the Association will be held on Saturday before the second Sunday in July, 1981, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Place to be selected later.

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

REV. DAVID WALTRIP, Assistant Moderator
P. O. Box 20
Saffell, Arkansas

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

MRS. ANN DOYLE, Assistant Clerk
Strawberry, Arkansas

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. Russell Johnson ----- P. O. Box 9, Grubbs

Ass't. Moderator, Rev. David Waltrip ----- P. O. Box 20, Saffell

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

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Jerry Taylor, 5 years, 1985 ----- Batesville

Rev. David Waltrip, 4 years, 1984 ----- Saffell

Rev. J. W. Blanks, 3 years, 1963 ----- Batesville

Rev. Jimmy Richardson, 2 years, 1982 ----- Batesville

Rev. Floyd Medlock, 1 year, 1981 ----- Bradford

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Russell Johnson ----- Grubbs

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

Rev. Boyce Williams ----- Cave City

CHURCHES, PASTORS AND CHURCH CLERKS

1. Allen's Chapel ----- Rev. J. W. Blanks, Rt. 5, Batesville
Linda Galloway, Rt. 5, Batesville
2. Ballew's Chapel ----- Rev. Russell Johnson, Grubbs
Mrs. Colleen McCoy, Rt. 2, Newport
3. Batesville First F.W.B. ----- Rev. Glenn Murray, 430 Blossom Drive,
Batesville, Mrs. Vaughn Ruminer, 1970 Porter St., Batesville
4. Blackland Chapel ----- Dwayne Roper, Star R., Box 3A, Oil Trough
Mrs. Mabel Huckaba, Star Rt., Box 1, Oil Trough
5. Cave City First F.W.B. -- Rev. Boyce Williams, Matlock Rd., Cave City
Mrs. Glyndene Deaton, Rt 2, Box 64, Cave City
6. Coffman ----- Rev. J. W Russell, 609 West Gum St., Walnut Ridge
Mrs. Irene Crider, Rt. 1, Box 250 AB, Hoxie
7. East Batesville F.W.B. ----- Mrs. Paul Kelly, Rt. 7, Box 631-A, Batesville
8. Grace F.W.B. ----- Rev. Ronald Hutson, 1114 Malcolm, Newport
Betty Bowden, 3801 Daniel St. Newport
9. Macedonia ----- Betty Johnson, P. O. Box 102, Mt. Pleasant
10. Mt. Harmony ----- Rev. David Waltrip, P. O. Box 20, Saffell
Mrs Lorene Doyle, Strawberry
11. New Home ----- Rev. Charles Nichols, Mt. Pleasant
Mrs. Kenneth Morrison, Rt. 1, Box 22A29, Melbourne
12. Newport First F.W.B. ----- Mrs. Robin Glaz, P. O. Box 2, Diaz
13. Oakland ----- Rev. Billy Fox, Rt 2, Bradford
Carolyn Reed, Rt. 2, Box 58, Bradford
14. Oak Grove ----- Rev. Bobby Doyle, Jonesboro
Mrs. Oma Smith, Rt. 1, Smithville
15. Pool's Chapel ----- Rev. J. W. Roach, Rt. 1, Batesville
Mrs. Ernest Haigwood, P. O. Box 3743, Batesville
16. Tuckerman First F.W.B. ----- Rev. David Winfrey, Tuckerman
Mrs. Fay Vines, P. O. Box 427, Tuckerman
17. Weaver's Chapel ----- Rev. Jerry Taylor, Rt. 2, Batesville
Mrs. Billie Clark, Rt. 1, Box 175, Batesville
18. Bradford First F.W.B. ----- Rev. Floyd Medlock, Rt. 2, Bradford
Wanda Snelson, Box 239, Bradford

PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, July 12, 1980, 9:30 A.M.

The Polk Bayou Association met in regular session with First Free Will Baptist Church in Batesville.

Horace Doyle directed two congregational numbers "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder" and "When We All Get To Heaven". Francis Smith served as pianist. Rev. Billy Fox offered prayer.

After remarks by the moderator Bro. Fred Scott gave the devotional reading Samuel 17:47, and concluded with prayer.

After prayer requests were given the ordained met at the altar for prayer which was led by Rev. Russell Johnson.

The moderator appointed a committee on committees as follows: Rev. Russell Johnson, Rev. Herman Lewis and Ealem Doyle.

A petitionary letter was read from the newly organized First Free Will Baptist Church at Bradford, asking admittance into the fellowship of Polk Bayou Association.

The letters from the different churches were read and accepted and the delegates seated.

Rev. Billy Fox and Rev. Ronald Hutson, new pastors in the association, gave a short testimony and Rev. R. E. Helsey and Mrs. Helsey from Mansfield, Missouri, were recognized.

Committees were appointed by the chairman Rev. Russell Johnson as follows:

Sunday Schools	Robbie Snelgrove, Stanley Fulbright, and Janice Sykes
Temperance	John Lau, Boyce Williams and Leamon Richardson
Obituaries	Linda Waltrip, Lorene Doyle and Lena Clark
Resolutions	J. W. Blanks, George Tubbs and Charles Nickols.

The report of the district Woman's Auxiliary was read at this time. Report found elsewhere.

ELECTION

Rev. Jerry Taylor was elected to a 5 year term on the Executive Board.

Rev. Russell Johnson, Rev. J. W. Blanks and Rev. Boyce Williams were elected as the Ordaining Council for one year.

OFFICERS

Moderator	Rev. Russell Johnson, Grubbs
Assistant Moderator	Rev. David Waltrip, Saffell
Clerk and Treasurer	Mrs. M. B. Williams, Strawberry
Assistant Clerk	Mrs. Ann Doyle, Strawberry

Delegates to Arkansas State Association: Lorene Doyle, Rachel Murray, Fred Scott, Jo Ann Daugherty, Linda Waltrip.

Prayer by Bob Huckaba

RECESS

11:00 A.M. Divine Service

Rev. Glenn Murray directed two numbers with his wife, Rachel at the piano, "Family of God" and "The Longer I Serve Him."

Prayer, Rev. Lonnie Palmer, Jr.

The offeratory prayer was given by Bro. Kenneth Ruminer. Offering \$100.31.

The guest speaker, Rev. R. E. Helsey of Mansfield, Missouri, was introduced. He prayed then, read Judges 16:15 and told how Solomon's strength went from him. One cannot have power with God and break the covenant. An invitational number "All To Jesus I Surrender" was sung followed with altar prayer of rededication.

After congregational number "Oh How I Love Jesus", Rev. Herman Lewis prayed the benediction and asked the blessing on the food.

NOON

1:30 P.M.

The assembly was called together by congregational singing "I'll Fly Away" and "Oh What Singing" directed by Rev. R. E. Helsey with Frances Smith at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Jerry Taylor.

Reports were given which are found elsewhere. Prayer by Rev. Charles Nichols.

The speaker, Rev. Billy Fox was introduced and after giving his version of "The Cross", in song, he read I John 83:1 and brought a very good message. He left this thought with the congregation, "It Is Time To Get Excited About God's Word" and closed with prayer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunday School — We, the committee, find that 17 Sunday Schools reported with an enrollment of 1,345 and an average attendance of 1,076.

COMMENTS:

Pray for your Sunday School superintendent, teachers, your pastor and other church leaders and be sure you are in attendance at every service. Someone is following your example, so set a godly example in your daily life.

Robbie Snelgrove, Chairman
Stanley Fulbright
Janice Sykes

Temperance — We, the temperance committee further commend the stand against the sale, sanction on use of intoxicating beverages as is pointed out in the Polk Bayou Association minutes of 1979.

John Lau, Chairman
Boyce Williams
Leamon Richardson

Obituaries — We, the committee, find that God in his Divine love has called 18 of our brothers and sisters home. Rev. 14:13B. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, said the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Linda Waltrip, chairman
Lorene Doyle
Lena Clark

DECEASED

Allen's Chapel	-----	Preston Coles, Robert Nelson, Jasper Ray, Jess Young, Dewey Lusk
Ballew's Chapel	-----	Elsie Boyd, Elaine Odglen, Jess Tubbs, Ollie Caperton
Blackland Chapel	-----	Ricky Fike
Mt. Harmony	-----	Cecil Terry
Pool's Chapel	-----	Alma Lassiter
Tuckerman First F.W.B.	-----	Ruby Sharp, Allie Cason
Cave City First F.W.B.	-----	Clyde McLure
Newport First F.W.B.	-----	2 unlisted names
Oak Grove	-----	1 name unlisted

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We, the Executive Committee, of the Polk Bayou Association, having examined the pastor and delegates of the new church at Bradford, according to the by-laws and requirements of the association, recommend that the First Free Will Baptist Church at Bradford be received into the fellowship and communion of the association.

Motion and second to receive the church carried, and the church was accepted.

J. W. Blanks, chairman
David Waltrip
Lonnie Palmer Jr.

REPORT OF ORDAINING COUNCIL

1. We, the ordaining council met with Bro. Billy Fox at the request of the Oakland Church, to receive him into our association. We recommend that he be received into our fellowship pending a letter of recommendation from the Arbuckle Association in Oklahoma.
2. The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Charles Nickols at the request of the New Home Church that he be received into the fellowship of our association. We recommend that he be received into our fellowship pending a letter of recommendation from his home association.

3. The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Ronnie Hutson at the request of the Grace Free Will Baptist Church to receive him into the fellowship of our association. We recommend that he be received into our fellowship pending a letter of recommendation from the Social Band Association.

J. W. Blanks, chairman
David Waltrip
Glenn E. Murray

Report of Polk Bayou District Woman's Auxiliary

Actual cash disbursed through the District to the State -----	\$2,369.81
Miscellaneous -----	46.37
Total -----	\$2,416.18

Disbursed through the local treasurer

Literature, Church Activities, etc. -----	\$2,072.31
Sent direct to foreign and home missions, and Boys' Ranch -----	\$ 395.25
Non Cash,	
Miscellaneous,	
Cards, Flowers, Food, Clothing, etc. -----	\$9,331.56
Children's Home -----	25.00
Provision Closet -----	205.03
Total -----	\$9,561.59

Grand Total disbursed -----	\$14,445.33
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Motion sustained to pay R. E. Helsey, guest speaker \$100.00.

After announcements, conference adjourned to meet with the Allen's Chapel October 11, 1980, Rev. Bobby Doyle, speaker.

MINISTERS ATTENDING

Rev. J. W. Blanks	Rev. Ronald Hutson
Rev. Russell Johnson	Rev. David Waltrip
Rev. Glenn E. Murray	Rev. Charles Nicholas
Rev. H. A. Lewis	Rev. Billy Fox
Rev Boyce Williams	Rev. J. W. Roach
Rev. J. W. Russell	Rev. Jerry Taylor
Rev. Lonnie Palmer Jr.	Rev. Floyd Medlock
Rev. Kenneth Manuel	
Licentiate Curt Billins	

DEACONS PRESENT

George Tubbs	Horace Doyle
John Lau	Lloyd Chambliss
George Snelgrove	Arvil Satterwhite
Harold Howard	Laman Hastings
Ealem Doyle	J. M. Curl

CHURCH CLERKS

Mrs. Vaughn Ruminer
Betty Bowden

Lorene Doyle
Billie Clark

DELEGATES

Allen's Chapel — Leamon Richardson, Molly Richardson, Stanley Fulbright

Ballew's Chapel — Lena Clark, Ethel Safirt, Vonda Johnson

Batesville First — Jo Ann Daughrity, Rachel Murray, Fred Scott

Blackland Chapel — Nen Freeman, Dessie Freeman, Robbie Snelgrove

Cave City First — Arnold Huskey, Johnny Conyers, Jamesetta Carter

Coffman — Vella Russell, Ruby Swartzlander

East Batesville — Ruth Gay

Grace — Darlene Hutson

Macedonia — Pearl Brooks

Mt. Harmony — Lorena Sharp, Linda Waltrip, Jane Reaves

New Home — Phylis Brooks, Diana Ring, Agnas Sipes

Oakland — Anita Poe, Debra Padgett, Linda Padgett

Oak Grove — Lois Richey, Gary Lawson, Luther Voyles

Pool's Chapel — Alvie Stroud, Winonia Stroud, Juanita Hastings

Tuckerman First — Pearl Gray, Janice Sykes, Ruth Coleman

Weaver's Chapel — Marilyn Taylor, Sky Clark

MINISTERS BELONGING NOT PRESENT

Rev. Ray Watkins
Rev. Jimmy Richardson
Rev. Henry Doyle
Rev. Archie Warnick
Rev. Ottis Richey
Rev. Henry Obarts
Rev. Don Umfleet

Rev. Ernest Elms
Rev. Billy Willhite
Rev. Othaniel Safirt
Rev. Gaylord Huckaba
Rev. Bill Adcock
Rev. Dwayne Roper
Rev. Bernard Roberts

FINANCIAL REPORT

Spent for Local Causes

Pastors' Salaries	\$100,205.00
Evangelistic Work	8,372.00
Building and Repair	100,514.00
Literature	14,182.00
Other	80,787.00
Total	\$304,060.00

Spent for Outside Causes

Cooperative Plan	\$12,401.00
Foreign Missions	4,949.00
Home Missions	6,002.00
Education	263.00
Orphanage	94.00
District Projects	223.00
State and National Projects	360.00
Other	2,231.00
Total	\$26,524.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand July 1, 1979	\$ 68.09
Received from churches in 1979	1,040.00
Special Offerings	269.65
TOTAL	\$1,377.74

EXPENDITURES 1979

Silver Tray (gift for clerk) -----	\$ 62.00
Arkansas State Association of F.W.B. -----	340.00
Fees to National Association of F.W.B. -----	15.00
Youth Rally at Weaver's Chapel -----	25.00
To Riverside Graphics for Minutes -----	173.04
Swimming Pool at Youth Camp -----	100.00
To Norman Richards Account -----	300.00
Support Service Center, Batesville -----	18.30
Youth Camp -----	250.00
Speaker Terry Forrest -----	75.00
Letter Forms, Paper, Envelopes, Postage -----	14.04
TOTAL -----	\$1,372.38
Balance on Hand July 1, 1980 -----	\$ 5.36

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 II. 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 name 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 XI. 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.

ARTICLE 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 his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither be present, then the senior minister in year 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 motion 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 over 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. **Perserverance.** 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."