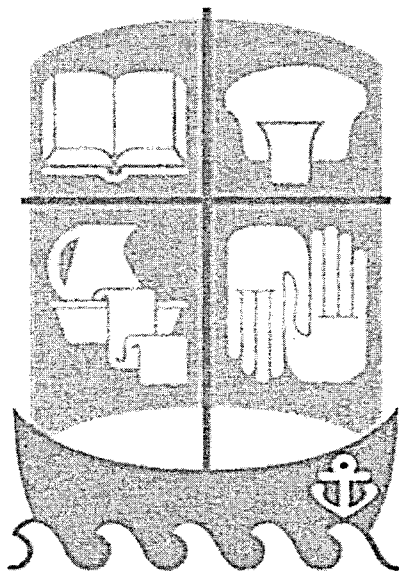




*Polk Bayou Association of Free Will
Baptists*

Annual Minutes
April 2023-January 2024

Meeting Held at
Allen Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
January 13, 2024

Additional Ministers

Tommy Bible (Sunny Side General Baptist Church)

(501)344-2121

Gary Elder (Generations)

(405)795-0116

Patrick Holland (Cave City 1st)

(479)209-4262

Commie Loggains (Quail Valley)

(870)834-5395

Shawn McKinney (Cave City 1st)

(870)307-5272

Jimmy Wisdom (New Bethel)

(870)938-2123

Officers of the Polk Bayou Association

(2024)

Moderator	Jason Sullivan
Assistant Moderator	Tim Landers
Clerk/Treasurer	Andy Haskins
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	Greg Tucker

Executive Board

2029, 5 Year	Stanley Vandergrift
2028, 4 Year	Robert Jones
2027, 3 Year	John Neal
2026, 2 Year	Greg Tucker
2025, 1 Year	Commie Loggains

Ordaining Council

2027, 3 Year	Steve Trail
2026, 2 Year	Kenny Bible
2025, 1 Year	Robert Jones

Youth Committee

2027, 3 Year	Sterling Hastings
2026, 2 Year	Trent Bradley
2025, 1 Year	Greg Tucker

Nominating Committee

1 Year	Robert Brokaw
1 Year	Kimberly Studdard
1 Year	Lisa Headley

Church Directory

Pastor

Clerk

Allen Chapel

Tim Landers
84 Jill Circle
Batesville, AR 72501
(870)495-8165
timotheous85@yahoo.com

Linda Galloway
180 T&J Circle
Batesville, AR 72501
(870)251-1530

Ballew's Chapel

Andy Haskins
8839 Highway 37 N.
Newport, AR 72112
(870)512-9541
pastorandy1984@gmail.com

Lisa Clark
411 Jackson 221
Newport, AR 72112
(501)412-6221

Generations Church

Jeff Elder
1695 Bogey St.
Batesville, AR 72501
(918)230-5565
jeff.elder@thegenerationschurch.org

Jackie Elder
290 S. Central Ave.
Batesville, AR 72501
(479)250-5460

Blackland Chapel

Stanley Vandergrift
959 Blackland Rd.
Oil Trough, AR 72564
(870)307-2367
vandergriftdora.stanley@gmail.com

Linda Freeman
2659 Blackland Rd.
Oil Trough, AR 72564
(870)264-3745

Cave City 1ST

Trent Bradley
P.O. Box 142
Cave City, AR 72521
(870)613-0796
bigtfarms@yahoo.com

Madison Holland
2005 Cold Creek Ln.
Cave City, AR 72521
(870)283-9410

Grace

John Neal
2507 S. Main St.
Newport, AR 72112
(870)307-8834
mkneal5963@att.net

Kaye Neal
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Newport, AR 72112
(870)307-8811

Harmony

Elaine Moody
1015 Gray St.
Mtn. Home, AR 72653
(870)580-0303

Macedonia

Bobby Shepherd
895 Miller Creek Rd.
Batesville, AR 72501
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bobby.shepherd90@gmail.com

J.C. Craig
P.O. Box 81
Mt. Pleasant, AR 72561
(870)346-5665

Mt. Harmony

Greg Tucker
444 Hwy 25
Saffell, AR 72572
(615)856-8829
pastortucker79@gmail.com

Angela Burrow
321 Lawrence 225
Black Rock, AR 72415
(870)243-1112

Mt. Home 1st

Brenan Clyatt
1306 E. 9th St.
Mtn. Home, AR 72653
(386)266-2305
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Greg Davis
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Mtn. Home, AR 72653
(870)404-4084

New Bethel

Steve Trail
1813 Ashley St.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476
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Vaunita Morrison
452 Quail Valley Rd.
Melbourne, AR 72556

Newport 1st

Barbara Bradley
1208 Nancy Ave.
Newport, AR 72112
(870)523-5749

Oak Grove

Rachel Capps
12 Lawrence Rd. 270
Smithville, AR 72466
(501)545-4774

Quail Valley

Robert Jones
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Alisha Jones
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Tuckerman 1st

Jason Sullivan
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Tuckerman, AR 72473
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jason.sully@me.com

Brynn Bowen
101 Nora
Tuckerman, AR 72473
(870)217-3119

Weaver's Chapel

Dustin Crawford
1869 Batesville Rd.
Batesville, AR 72501
(870)799-7863
dhcrawford76@gmail.com

Robin Tate
1085 Pfeiffer Rd.
Batesville, AR 72501
(870)307-9865

Minutes

April

The Polk Bayou Association met at the Quail Valley Free Will Baptist Church on April 8, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by our Moderator, Bro. Tim Landers. Bro. Robert Jones welcomed us and brought the morning devotion asking the question "How Devoted Are We?" Bro. Bobby Shepherd led us in Prayer.

After reading from our Constitution, Bro. Tim seated the delegates.

The Minutes from the last meeting and Treasurer's Report were read and approved.

In Old Business the Scholarship fund was approved with the addition of a letter of recommendation from any applicants pastor being added to the application process.

Our Offering Emphasis for the next meeting was determined to be the newly approved Scholarship fund.

The Youth Board reported that the Association was represented well at the CTS expo, and \$500 was awarded to Loren Davis for Truth and Peace Fees from the Youth Account.

Bro. David Taylor encouraged us to attend the State Meeting in May, National Association Convention in July, the Arkansas Women's Ministry Meeting in September, the State Minister's Retreat in September, the Theological Symposium in October, and the National Leadership Conference in December.

Corwin Morris expressed thanks for the \$500 awarded to him for Truth and Peace and shared how he has been impacted by this program in years past.

After Bro. Lester King and Bro. Stanley Vandergrift resigned from the Youth Board, Bro. Greg Tucker was selected to serve the remaining year of Bro. Lester's term and Bro. Sterling Hastings was selected to serve the 2 years remaining on Bro. Stanley's term.

Bro. Dustin Crawford brought the sermon entitled "Beautiful Feet," from Romans 10:15, challenging us to faithfully Preach the Word!!

The offering received for the Scholarship Fund was \$385.

We had 37 people in attendance.

July

The Polk Bayou Association held their regular quarterly meeting on July, 8th 2023 at the Tuckerman Free Will Baptist Church. Bro. Jason Sullivan brought our morning devotion from Psalm 27:1-3 and encouraged attendees to have a "Deep Settled Confident Hope in the Promises of God." Bro. Tim Landers opened the Meeting by reading from the Church Covenant and we were led in a time of prayer by Bro. Stanley Vandergrift.

We had 29 registered attendees and received an offering in the amount of \$477, which was designated to our new Scholarship Fund. Our offering designation for the next meeting would be the Scholarship Fund as well.

The Mission Board Reported that our Hispanic Works in the State are continuing to flourish, a Partnership has been established between North American Ministries and The State of Arkansas Free Will Baptist to build a school in Puerto Rico meeting a huge need that has been felt in the aftermath of hurricane devastation.

A sponsorship of \$500 was awarded to Robin Anderson from New Bethel for a Mission Trip she would be taking to Jamaica.

The CE Board encouraged our Pastors to attend the Ministers Retreat, and the Youth Board reported that they were considering organizing an Polk Bayou Association Mission Trip.

Bro. Chase Duncan was examined by the Ordaining Council and was approved by a vote of the body for Ordination as a Minister. Bro. Chase has been officially ordained and has been hired by the Jonesboro First Free Will Baptist Church as their Associate Pastor.

Bro. Tim Landers brought our message for the day. He preached a message entitled "Keys to an Elevated Prayer Life" from James 5:16-17.

October

The Polk Bayou Association held their regular quarterly meeting on October 7, 2023 at the Weaver's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. Bro. Dustin Crawford brought our morning devotion from Philippians 1:8-11 and encouraged be Sincere, Correct and Pure. Bro. Tim Landers opened the meeting by reading from the Polk Bayou Constitution and we were led in a time of prayer by Bro. Stanley Vandergrift.

We had 30 registered and received an offering in the amount of \$163, which was designated for our Scholarship Fund. It was decided that our offering emphasis for our January Meeting be for Bro. Kevin Barnett who would be our guest speaker.

Bro. Steve Trail brought our morning message entitled the Pursuit of His Presence from 1 Chronicles 16:11.

January

Our yearly meeting was held on January 13, 2024 at Allen Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. We had 52 registered attendees and received an offering of \$500.

Moderator and Host Pastor, Bro. Tim Landers called the meeting to order and lead the congregation in song. Our Speaker for the day was Bro. Kevin Barnett who Pastors the Sutton Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas, AR. Bro. Kevin presented his vision for D-Groups in the local church. He gave his presentation in two sessions including a couple of testimonials from members of the Sutton Church.

In between the two sessions, the association business was transacted. After the reading of the Minutes from our last meeting and Treasurers report both were approved as read.

Bro. Travis Alexander, State Missions Director, addressed the body sharing that Acts 1:8 giving has been down. He also reported on the ongoing work at Genesis Academy in Puerto Rico.

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Patrick Holland and recommended to the association that he be licensed as a minister. This was confirmed by the voting body.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on April, 13th, 2024 at Ballew's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church with Bro. Gary Elder serving as our speaker and Bro. Bobby Shepherd serving as the alternate. The offering emphasis for the April Meeting will be Acts 1:8.

Officers, Board Members, and Nominating Committee were elected and appointed as follows:

Moderator: Bro. Jason Sullivan

Asst. Moderator: Bro. Tim Landers

Clerk/Treasurer: Bro. Andy Haskins

Asst. Clerk/Treasurer: Bro. Greg Tucker

Executive Board: Bro. Stanley Vandergrift - 2029

Youth Board: Bro. Sterling Hastings - 2027

Ordaining Council: Bro. Steve Trail – 2027

Nominating Committee for 2024: Bro. Robert Brokaw, Sis. Kimberly Studdard, Sis. Lisa Headley

The following reports were submitted by the designated committee members.

Committee on Committees

Sis. Sarah Moore, Bro. Stanley Vandergrift, Bro. Trent Bradley

Resolution Committee

We resolve to encourage our membership to devote themselves to prayer, to faithful church attendance and to build stronger discipleship methods and to support local district, state and national ministries.

Bro. Bobby Shepherd, Sis. Linda Freeman, Bro. Lester King

Temperance Committee

We, the Temperance Committee, encourage all our members to strive for revival in our churches. We would like to apply what we learned here today to help achieve that goal. We want to continue to love one another and bring unity as well as a closer relationship with Christ.

Bro. John Neal, Sis. Dora Vandergrift, Bro. Henry Headley

Obituary Committee

In the last year we have lost 12 members from our churches.

Allen Chapel – Flora Carey

Ballew's Chapel – Mary Lois Kinard

Blackland Chapel – Alma Marie Rice

Cave City – Robert "Bobby" Deaton; Ruby Maupin; Edward "Ed" Kegley; Tim Lindsey

Mt. Harmony – Lorena Louise Hubbard

Quail Valley – Evelyn Williams; Lonnie Schrum

Tuckerman – Sonny Wayland; Mike Mitts

John 11:25-26

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Sis. Vernetta Morris, Sis. Janet Swaim, Bro. Michael Bratcher

Constitution

Preamble

From experience, we the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination, being regularly baptized upon a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us; therefore, we proposed to maintain and keep 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 Baptist, affiliated with the State Association of Free Will Baptist of Arkansas, which is a member of the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

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 Baptist.

Article III. Representation

Section I-The voting members of this Association shall be the ordained ministers whose credentials are held by the Polk Bayou Association, deacons who are in good standing, and 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 Rule of Standing Boards

Section I-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 an emergency situation, 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, each of whom shall serve for three (3) years. This board shall be arranged whereby one member shall be appointed by the moderator annually. This board shall examine all applicants for licensing and ordinations (see Article XIV, Section 5). After examination the Ordaining Council shall report their findings to the Association for their final consideration. Further more it shall be the duty of the Ordaining Council, in the spirit of meekness seeking to come alongside our brother, to endeavor to contact any Ordained man who is a member of the Polk Bayou Association that has been divorced.

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 Baptist 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 of 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 by God; 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 session of this Association shall meet quarterly on Saturday before the second (2) Sunday in January, April, July, and October with such churches on rotation by alphabetical order.

In the event that a church cannot host that particular meeting or in the event of bad weather, holidays, or other reasons necessary the meeting may be changed by the Executive Board.

The January 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.

Article XIV. Ordained Personnel

This Association accepts the wording of the Epistles to Timothy and Titus as authoritative, namely, the interpretation of the phrase

- I. "The husband of one wife" to mean that divorced personnel should not be ordained (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). Therefore, we refuse to license, ordain, or accept into our Association as ordained, any man who has been divorced. To remain consistent with the Bible and in following past observed practices, should any ordained man which is a member of the Polk Bayou Association become divorced, he should surrender his credentials without discord.
2. That we accept God's Word as authoritative in not allowing double standards and that we also refuse to license, ordain, or accept into our Association as ordained, any man who has married a divorced woman.
3. To insure that sound doctrine and ethical practices continue to be taught in our churches, all pastors of affiliated churches within this Association must appear before the Ordaining Council within six (6) months of assuming position with their church. Any church failing to do so shall be contacted by the Ordaining Council before any action is taken by the Association.
4. Because Deacons are standing delegates at the district, state and national levels, all deacons who come into the Association from another Association or denomination must be recommended by the local church, appear before the Ordaining Council, and be approved by the Association.
5. The following steps must be taken by a church who wishes to license a minister or ordain a minister or deacon.
 - A. The applicant must be approved by their local church.
 - B. The applicant will fill out the questionnaire approved by the Association and send it to the members of the Ordaining Council two weeks before the Associational meeting in which they will be examined.
 - C. The applicant will be examined by the Ordaining Council, which will make a recommendation to the Association for final approval.
 - D. After approval by the Association the church may ordain the applicant at their convenience.

By-Laws

- I. 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, 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 a devotion and a sermon at each session of the Association.
10. The moderator shall announce just before adjournment who shall preach at the next meeting.
- II. Changes may be made in these By-laws at any regular session of the Association by a majority vote of members present.

Articles of Faith

1. **The Bible:** The Scripture of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practices.
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 Savior and Lord.
4. **The Holy Spirit:** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit 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 is the ground of salvation by faith.
8. **The Terms of Salvation:** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith of the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior 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. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience unto 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 become his elect.
10. **Freedom of 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. **Perseverance:** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.
13. **Gospel Ordinance:** Baptism or the immersion of believers in water and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated by the Gospel. Feet Washing an ordinance teaching humility is of universal obligation, and is 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 (Matt. 23:23), 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 16:2a).
15. **The Christian Sabbath:** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment's and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.
16. **Resurrection, Judgement, 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."

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 appearance 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 and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle 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.

