

**M I N U T E S**  
of the  
Forty-Sixth Annual Session  
of the  
**ROCKFISH CONFERENCE**  
of the  
Original Free Will Baptists



Held with  
**MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH**  
Richmond County, Hamlet, N. C.  
October 9, 1954

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Forty-Sixth Annual Session  
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MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH

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## OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. W. R. Floyd, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Assistant Moderator, Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Secretary, Mr. W. H. Edwards, Route 1, Hope Mills, N. C.

Treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Norton, Hamlet, N. C.

## CHURCHES — CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

Sandy Grove—Mrs. Ellen Thames, Route 1, Parkton, N. C.

Mt. Moriah—Mrs. Mattie Norton, Hamlet, N. C.

Highland Pines—Mrs. E. R. Covington, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Hickory Grove—Mr. Ed Bryant, Route 3, Fayetteville, N. C.

St. John—Mrs. W. M. Myers, Patrick, S. C.

Mt. Calvary—Mr. Danny Sanford.

Bethlehem—Albentia Hunt (Write Rev. H. S. Clark, Route 1, Gibson, N. C.)

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

Angus Prevatte, 420 West Donaldson Avenue, Raeford, N. C.

Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

C. W. Bennett, Route 2, St. Pauls, N. C.

R. L. Clark, Hamlet, N. C.

A. J. Pearson, St. Pauls, N. C.

J. H. Tyson, Raeford, N. C.

Frank Sanford, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

J. W. Sanford, Route 1, Box 261, Rockingham, N. C.

H. S. Clark, Route 1, Gibson, N. C.

R. R. Sheppard, P. O. Box 284, Hamlet, N. C.

J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.; Telephone 1273 W.

G. W. Huestas, Patrick, S. C.

W. M. Lovick, Cumberland Mills, N. C.

## ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. W. R. Floyd, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Rev. J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.

Rev. R. R. Sheppard, P. O. Box 284, Hamlet, N. C.

Mr. H. P. Hodges, Route 2, Box 42, Hamlet, N. C. (Deacon)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. W. R. Floyd, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C. (Chairman)

Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C. (Assistant Chairman)

Mr. Wm. H. Edwards, Route 1, Hope Mills, N. C.

Rev. J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.

Mr. Wesley McLain, Route 2, Patrick, S. C.

## APPOINTED COMMITTEES

### Sabbath School

Rev. J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C. (Chairman)  
Mr. Jesse Lee, Route 3, Fayetteville, N. C.

### Education

Mrs. Bernice Norton, 622 Washington Avenue, Hamlet, N. C. (Chairman)  
Mrs. Stella English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

### Orphanage

Mr. Wesley McLain, Route 2, Patrick, S. C. (Chairman)  
Mrs. Mattie Norton, Hamlet, N. C.

### Missions

Rev. Angus Prevatte, 420 West Donaldson Avenue, Raeford, N. C. (Chairman)  
~~Rev. J. W. Sanford, Route 1, Box 261, Rockingham, N. C.~~

### Superannuation

Doris Hearne, Route 2, Box 94, Rockingham, N. C. (Chairman)  
Rev. W. M. Lovick, Cumberland Mills, N. C.

## PROCEEDINGS

The Forty-Sixth Annual Session of the Rockfish Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of the state of North Carolina met with Mount Calvary Church, Richmond County, Hamlet, N. C., on October 9, 1954.

### MORNING SESSION

The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Reverend J. W. Sanford, at 9:30 a. m.

Song by the congregation—"Just as I Am."

Prayer—Reverend Angus Prevatte.

Song by the congregation—"I Feel Like Traveling On."

Fellowship was enjoyed by all present by greeting and shaking of hands.

Visiting ministers were recognized and made welcome. They were as follows: Reverend Paul Brown, Piedmont; Rev. J. C. Rogers, Piedmont; Reverend C. B. Hopkins, Piedmont; Reverend A. C. Alford, Pee Dee; Reverend W. R. Floyd, Piedmont.

The roll was called of ministers belonging to the Rockfish Conference, and those present were: Angus Prevatte, Steve English, R. L. Clark, J. W. Sanford, R. R. Sheppard, and J. D. Liles.

The following delegates were present: Reverend W. R. Floyd, Sister Bernice Norton, Brother Hubert Norton, Sister Ada Norton, Sister Wesley McLain, and Sister Ruth Jenkins.

Reverend C. B. Hopkins read Psalm 139 as a devotional Bible reading.

The moderator appointed the Devotional Committee as follows: Mrs. Wesley McLain, Mrs. Mattie Norton, and Reverend Steve English.

Reverend W. R. Floyd, delegate from the Highland Pines Church, spoke at this time of his trip to the State Convention. Reverend Floyd also stated that our quota of funds to be raised for our orphanage this next year was the sum of \$1,000.00. He urged the pastors of the churches and everyone to get out and fight to put this cause over the top.

The Devotional Committee reported as follows:

We, the Devotional Committee, request that Reverend W. R. Floyd preach at the morning worship hour.

A motion was made and carried that the clerk notify the various committees to have their reports ready for the next session with the following amendment: The clerk must notify each committee not less than thirty days before next conference.

Reverend R. R. Sheppard reported that Piney Plains Church had withdrawn themselves from the Rockfish Conference and requested that the name of the church be removed from the roster of the Rockfish Conference.

A motion was made and carried that Piney Plains Church be removed from our list of churches this ninth day of October, 1954.

A motion was made and carried that each church clerk write to the Conference clerk and give the evaluation of its church property, this action to be taken before the minutes are published so that the information could be included as information for state and national statistics.

A motion was made and carried to reduce the fee paid the clerk from \$15.00 per year to \$10.00 per year (Requested by present clerk).

The treasurer reported as follows:

Collections from churches .....	\$45.00
Collection at Conference for superannuation, Oct. 10, 1953 .....	10.10
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Total collections .....	\$55.10
Paid clerk .....	\$15.00
Paid for minutes and postage .....	35.34
Paid to superannuation .....	10.00
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Total paid out .....	\$60.34

A call was made for church letters, and letters from the following churches were read: Mount Moriah, Mount Calvary, Bethlehem, Sandy Grove, St. John, Highland Pines, and Hickory Grove.

A motion was made and carried that the letters be received as read (See church letters).

At this time the conference was recessed until 11:00 a.m.

Song by the congregation—"When the Roll is Called up Yonder."

Prayer—Reverend Paul Brown.

Song by the congregation—"What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Sermon— Reverend W. R. Floyd from Job 23:10. His topic was: "Seemingly We Have Lost; However, We Have Won." Reverend Floyd sang what he said was his favorite song: "I'd Rather Have Jesus." He sang the song well, and delivered a wonderful sermon.

Song by the congregation—"Stand By Me."

The body was dismissed for lunch with prayer by W. H. Edwards.

A very fine lunch was served at the church. The conference thanks those who gave time and goods to make the dinner possible.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

The conference reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Song by the congregation—"When We All Get to Heaven."

Prayer—Brother Jesse Lee.

Devotional Bible reading—Reverend J. D. Liles read Ephesians 2.

A motion was made, amended and carried as follows: A program be made and followed at our next session, the executive committee making the program.

Officers were elected (See Officers).

The Executive Committee was elected (See Executive Board).

The Ordaining Council was elected (See Ordaining Council).

At this time the request of Reverend J. A. Atkinson was brought before the conference. Reverend Atkinson was not present but Reverend Steve English, Reverend R. R. Sheppard, and Brother Jesse Lee all stated that Reverend Atkinson requested that his name be removed from the list of ministers belonging to the Rockfish Conference.

A motion was made and carried that the name of Reverend J. A. Atkinson be removed from our roll of ministers.

Brother W. M. Lovick of Cumberland Mills, N. C., after passing the requirements necessary to become a Free Will Baptist minister, was ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands by the ministers of the ordaining council present. Reverend W. M. Lovick was given his Certificate of Ordination, October 9, 1954.

A motion was made and carried to accept invitation extended by the delegates from St. John Church to hold the next session of the Conference at St. John Church.

The forty-seventh annual session of the Rockfish Conference will, by the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, convene with St. John Free Will Baptist Church, Patrick, S. C., on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1955.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn.

The body was dismissed with prayer by Reverend Paul Brown.

### CHURCH LETTERS

**Mt. Moriah:** To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists, when convened with the Mt. Calvary Church at Hamlet, N. C., October 9, 1954, we send as delegates our beloved sisters, Ruth Jenkins and Bernice Norton, with Hubert

Norton as alternate, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, good; number died, 2; total membership, 20; condition of Sunday school, fair; average number of pupils, 25; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 3.

Finances: paid pastor, \$229.25; foreign missions, \$11.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00; paid orphanage, \$58.00; paid superannuation, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Reverend R. L. Clark, Route 1, Hamlet, N. C.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. J. W. Sanford, Airport Rd., Rockingham, N. C.

Done by order of conference this third day of October, 1954.

Reverend David Liles, Moderator.

Mrs. Mattie Norton, Clerk.

**Mt. Calvary:** To the Rockfish Conference (Association) of Free Will Baptists, when convened with the Mt. Calvary Church at Rockingham, N. C., October 9, 1954, we send as delegates our beloved sisters, Ada Norton and Viola Ford, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, good; members received this year, 3; total membership, 56; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 40; number of officers, 2; number of teachers, 4.

Finances: paid pastor, \$480.00; paid evangelist, \$75.00; paid for building and repairs, \$360.00; paid for publication, \$8.00; amount enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Pastor's name and address: Reverend J. W. Sanford, 911 Airport Road, Rockingham, N. C.

Ministers belonging to our church: Ralph Shennard and Thomas Williams.

Done by order of Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church in conference this eighteenth day of September, 1954.

Reverend J. W. Sanford, Moderator.

Dannie Sanford, Clerk.

**Bethlehem:** To the Rockfish Conference (Annual Conference) of Free Will Baptists, when convened with Mount Calvary Church at Rockingham, N. C., October 9, 1954, we send as delegates our beloved brethren, Frank and Thomas Hunt, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, fair; members received past three months, 1; died, 1; total membership, 14.

Finances: paid pastor, \$234.30; enclosed for minutes, \$2.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. H. S. Clark, Gibson, N. C.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. H. S. Clark, Gibson, N. C.

Done by order of Bethlehem Church in conference this second day of October, 1954.

Remarks: We have called the Rev. H. S. Clark to serve as pastor for the year of 1955.

Rev. H. S. Clark, Moderator.  
Albentia Hunt, Clerk.

**Sandy Grove:** To the Rockfish Association of Free Will Baptists, when convened with Mt. Calvary Church at Hamlet, N. C., October 9, 1954, we send as delegates our beloved brother, Jerry Budd, and sister, Lynez Johnson, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, good; total membership, 58; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 45; number of officers, 4; number of teachers, 4.

Finances: paid pastor, \$120.00; paid for publication, \$16.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Angus Prevatte, Raeford, N. C.; Rev. C. W. Bennett, St. Pauls, N. C.; Rev. A. J. Pearson, St. Pauls, N. C.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. Steve English, Rockingham, N. C.

Done by order of Sandy Grove Church in conference this third day of October, 1954.

Wm. H. Edwards, Moderator.  
Mrs. Ellen Thomas, Clerk.

**St. John:** To the Rockfish Conference (Yearly Meeting) of Free Will Baptists, when convened with Mt. Calvary Church at Rockingham, N. C., October 9, 1954, we send our beloved sister, Mary Lizzie McLain, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, good; members received past three months, 2; baptized, 2; total membership, 80; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 65; number of officers, 5; number of teachers, 5.

Finances: paid pastor, \$275.00; paid evangelist, \$50.00; paid home missions, \$50.00; paid visiting pastors, \$75.00; building and repairs, \$25.00; for publication, \$52.00; enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. G. W. Huestas, Rev. Jessie Brown, Rev. Steve English.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. Steve English, Hamlet, N. C.

Done by order of St. John Church in conference this eleventh day of October, 1954.

Rev. Steve English, Moderator.  
Mrs. W. M. Myers, Clerk.

Remarks: There has been the amount of \$532.60 which has passed through the treasury of our church this year.

**Highland Pines:** To the Rockfish Conference (Annual Conference) of Free Will Baptists, when convened with the Mount Calvary Church at Rockingham, N. C., October 9, 1954, we send as delegates our beloved sister, Stella English, and bro-



ther, W. R. Floyd, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, good; members received past three months, 7; baptized, 4; dismissed, 1; died, 1; total membership, 94; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 87; number of teachers, 6.

Finances: paid pastor \$3,380.00; paid evangelist, \$175.00; paid home missions, \$460.00; building and repairs, \$660.00; education, \$98.00; publication, \$7.00; enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Frank Sanford, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.; Rev. David Liles.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. W. R. Floyd, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Done by order of Highland Pines Church in conference this ninth day of October, 1954.

W. R. Floyd, Moderator.

Mrs. E. R. Covington, Clerk.

**Hickory Grove:** To the Rockfish Conference (Annual Meeting) of Free Will Baptists, when convened with Mount Calvary Church at Rockingham, N. C., on October 9, 1954, we send as delegates our beloved Jesse Lee, Andrew Ratty, and Nannie Bunch, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, good; members received past three months, 5; baptized, 1; dismissed, 10; total membership, 24; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 65; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 3.

Finances: paid pastor, \$133.05; paid evangelist, \$2.30; building and repairs, \$426.95; enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. Angus Prévatte, Raeford, N. C.

Done by order of Hickory Grove Church in conference this third day of October, 1954.

Angus Prevatte, Moderator.

Ed Bryant, Clerk.

Remarks: We have called Rev. Angus Prevatte as our pastor for the coming year.

