

MINUTES
of the
Forty-Seventh Annual Session
of the
ROCKFISH CONFERENCE
of the
Original Free Will Baptists



Held with
ST. JOHN FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Patrick, South Carolina
October 8, 1955

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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. Lillie Mae Bunnell, Route 2, Box 48-A, Parkton, N. C.

CHURCHES, CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES.

Sandy Grove—Mrs. Ellen Thames, Route 1, Parkton, 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—Mrs. Margaret Brigman.
Bethlehem—Albentia Hunt. (Write to Rev. H. S. Clark, Route 1, Gibson, N. C.)

ORDAINED MINISTERS

W. R. Floyd, Route 2, Hamlet, 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.
G. W. Huestas, Patrick, S. C.
W. M. Lovick, Cumberland Mills, N. C.
Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.
Sam Parks, General Delivery, East Rockingham, N. C.
C. B. Hopkins, Rockingham, N. C.
Charles Maness, 10 East Wade St., Wadesboro, N. C.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. W. R. Floyd, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.
Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.
Rev. R. R. Sheppard, P. O. Box 284, Hamlet, N. C.
Rev. Charles Maness, 10 East Wade St., Wadesboro, N. C.
Rev. C. B. Hopkins, Rockingham, N. C.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. W. R. Floyd, *Chairman*, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.
Rev. Steve English, *Assistant Chairman*, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.
Mr. William H. Edwards, Route 1, Hope Mills, N. C.
Mr. Wesley McLain, Route 2, Patrick, S. C.
Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

SABBATH SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Jesse Lee, *Chairman*, Route 3, Fayetteville, N. C.
Mr. Bill Bunnell, Route 2, Box 48-A, Parkton, N. C.

EDUCATION BOARD

Mrs. Steve English, *Chairman*, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.
Mr. Wesley McLain, Route 2, Patrick, S. C.

ORPHANAGE BOARD

Rev. Lee Therrell, *Chairman*, 606 Holly Ave., Kannapolis, N. C.
Mr. J. W. McLain, Patrick, S. C.

MISSION BOARD

Rev. J. W. Sanford, *Chairman*, Route 1, Box 261, Rockingham, N. C.
Martha Carpenter, Hamlet, N. C.

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Rev. W. M. Lovick, *Chairman*, Cumberland, N. C.
Leona Bunnell, Route 2, Parkton, N. C.

PROCEEDINGS

The forty-seventh annual session of the Rockfish Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of the state of North Carolina met with St. John Free Will Baptist Church, Patrick, S. C., on October 8, 1955.

MORNING SESSION

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. W. R. Floyd at 9:15 a. m.

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

Devotions by Rev. Angus Prevatt, reading from Colossians 3, beginning with Verse 1.

Welcome address by the pastor of the host church, the Rev. Lee Therrell, with response by the Rev. W. R. Floyd.

The visiting ministers that were present are as follows: Revs. Lee Therrell, Piedmont Association; R. H. Jackson, Orphanage; N. B. Barrow, Lucama, N. C.; C. B. Hopkins, Piedmont Association; Sam Parks, Piedmont Association; Charles Maness, Piedmont Association.

The delegates from the various churches were recognized and welcomed at this time. Those present were: Sister Martha Carpenter, Highland Pines; Sister Juanita Floyd, Highland Pines; Sister Stella English, Highland Pines; Brother J. E. Gainey, St. John; Sister Ethel Chavis, Mt. Calvary; Sister Hattie Sweatt, Mt. Calvary; Sister Lillie Bunnell, Hickory Grove; Sister Leona Bunnell, Hickory Grove; Sister Thelma Bunnell, Hickory Grove; Sister Ethelyn Sheppard, Hickory Grove.

At this time a memorial service was held in memory of our beloved sister, Mrs. Mattie Norton, one who never failed to serve when called upon. Her faithfulness is an example for us all. Sister Norton was the conference treasurer when taken from our midst.

At 9:45 a. m. a business session was held. The clerk read the minutes of last year's meeting.

The roll was called of ministers. Those present were: Revs: Angus Prevatt, R. L. Clark, R. R. Sheppard and J. D. Liles.

A call was made for church letters and the churches that were represented were: Highland Pines, Sandy Grove, Hickory Grove, St. John and Mt. Calvary. Each letter was read by the clerk to the assembly. A motion was made and carried to receive church letters as read. (See church letters.)

A pulpit committee was appointed by the moderator as follows: Rev. J. D. Liles, Rev. Sam Parks and Sister Thelma Bunnell.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

This is the report that was read by the clerk and is as follows:

To the Rockfish Conference, when assembled on October 8, 1955, we, your executive board, do make the following report:

1. During this conference year we met with the Free Will Baptist Church at Antioch, N. C., for the purpose of that church becoming a member of the Rockfish

Conference. After learning of a controversy within that church, we informed the church to settle its difficulty, then present itself for membership.

2. We also bought ourselves together this conference year and outlined a program for the annual meeting which we present to you.

3. We also drew up a constitution and bylaws which we pray that you will adopt.

Yours in Christ,

REV. W. R. FLOYD, *Chairman*

Motion made and seconded to adopt the report of the executive board, following with a discussion of the executive board's report.

Motion was made and carried to adopt parts 1 and 2 of the executive board's report and to table part 3 until the afternoon session.

ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT

We, your ordaining council, do make the following report:

We have met with each quarterly union, and during this conference year the following have been made known to us that they wish to unit with the Rockfish Conference: Revs. Paul Brown, Sam Parks, C. B. Hopkins and Charles Maness. We, the ordaining council, have accepted the above named ministers for membership.

We pray that you will adopt our report.

Report of the ordaining council was read by the clerk.

Yours in Christ,

REV. W. R. FLOYD, *Chairman*

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the report of the ordaining council. An open discussion was made on the ordaining council's report. The motion was carried to adopt the report of the ordaining council as read.

At this time a letter was presented to the conference by a member of Mount Moriah Church, Hamlet, N. C. The letter from Mount Moriah read as follows:

We, the members of Mt. Moriah Church, wish to withdraw from the Rockfish Conference for the present time.

Done by order of Mt. Moriah Church the 3rd day of October, 1955.

MRS. RUTH JENKINS, *Clerk*

Motion was made and carried to receive the letter from Mt. Moriah. Motion was made and seconded to grant a letter of dismissal to Mt. Moriah Church. Following a discussion on the motion to grant the letter, a motion was carried to grant the letter asked by the Mt. Moriah's representative.

PULPIT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

We, your pulpit committee, do request that Rev. Ralph Sheppard bring the morning sermon if Rev. R. H. Jackson fails to keep his appointment.

REV. J. D. LILES, *Chairman*

Motion was made and carried to grant the clerk the right to include in our minutes all information received by the clerk from all departments of our denomination.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK WORSHIP HOUR

Special singing was rendered by a trio composed of Juanita Floyd, Martha Carpenter and Stella English.

Superintendent of the orphanage, Rev. R. H. Jackson, gave the orphanage report. Rev. Jackson stressed the need for us to give generously to our children at the home, not only our money but of the other things needed to sustain life, such as clothing, food and other commodities. An offering for the home was taken which amounted to \$17.01. Following this a song was sung by the congregation, "Revive Us Again." The sermon for the worship hour was then delivered by Mr. Jackson. The Scripture reading was taken from Genesis 10, beginning with the 31st verse. His text was "Go and Do for the Lord." After the message the Rev. Mr. Brown offered a prayer.

Motion was made and carried to adjourn.

Rev. Lee Therrell invited everyone to stay for dinner, and seemingly everyone enjoyed the wonderful meal served by the members of the St. John Church.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session opened with a song by the congregation, "Standing on the Promises," followed with prayer by the Rev. N. B. Barrow.

The following reports were given: National Convention, Rev. R. R. Sheppard; State Convention, Rev. W. R. Floyd; State Missions, Rev. N. B. Barrow.

BUSINESS SESSION

A call was made for reports of the appointed committees.

Sabbath School—None.

Education—We, your committee on education, find that in our present age we need to educate ourselves through the various mediums of learning so as we should not be ashamed to speak before our fellow men, also to prepare us to be able to read and understand God's Word more thoroughly. Our Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, is now offering a correspondence course to those interested. Write Free Will Baptist Bible College, 3609 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee, for particulars. We also have our Mt. Olive College at Mount Olive, North Carolina.

MRS. STELLA ENGLISH, *Chairman*

Orphanage—We, your committee on orphanage, recommend that all the churches of the conference give all possible aid to our orphanage home at Middlesex, N. C., and for all that can to visit the home so you can fully understand the needs.

MR. WESLEY McLAIN, *Chairman*

Missions—We, your committee on mission, recommend that each church grant time to hear the mission committee at least twice a year discuss the program on missions, for we think it a most worthy cause.

REV. ANGUS PREVATTE, *Chairman*

Superannuation—None

A motion was moved and carried to adopt the committees' reports.

There was a request for letters of dismissal by Rev. Angus Prevatte and Rev. J. D. Liles. A motion was moved and carried to grant these letters as requested.

There was a discussion on part 3 of the executive board's report concerning the proposed constitution of the Rockfish Conference. A motion was moved and carried to adopt the proposed constitution and bylaws of the conference as corrected.

A motion was moved and carried that we print the constitution and the bylaws in the minutes of each annual conference hence hereafter.

The election of officers to fill the vacancies caused by death and resignations was as follows: ordaining council, Rev. Charles Maness and Rev. C. B. Hopkins; executive board, Rev. Paul Brown; treasurer, Mrs. Lillie Mae Bunnell.

Highland Pines Church invited the conference to meet with it for the 1956 session. A motion was made and carried to accept Highland Pines' invitation.

The forty-eight annual session of the Rockfish Conference will, by the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, convene with Highland Pines Free Will Baptist Church, Hamlet, North Carolina, on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1956.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn.

The body was dismissed with prayer by the Rev. Charles Maness.

Note: The clerk takes this privilege to thank the people of St. John's Church for the hospitality shown to the Rockfish Conference.

WILLIAM H. EDWARDS, *Clerk*

CHURCH LETTERS

St. John: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with St. John Church at Patrick, S. C., October 8, 1955, we send as delegates our beloved brethren: J. E. Gainey, Erby Gainey and William Brock, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received passed twelve months, 26; baptized, 9; dismissed, 4; total membership, 93; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 85; number of officers, 5; number of teachers, 5.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$460.00; paid evangelist, \$50.00; home missions, \$100.00; orphanage, \$100.00; building and repairs, \$1,073.35; for publication, \$93.40; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Lee Therrell, Kannapolis, N. C.; G. W. Huestas, Route 1, Patrick, S. C.; Jessie Brown, Route 2, Chesterfield, S. C.

Pastor's name, Rev. Lee Therrell.

Done by order of St. John Free Will Baptist Church assembled in conference this second day of October, 1955.

REV. LEE THERRELL, *Moderator*

BETTY OLIVER, *Clerk*

Remarks: We are proud of our pastor and the good work he is doing in our church. We have called Rev. Therrell for pastor for the coming year.

Mt. Calvary: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the St. John Church at Patrick, S. C., October 8, 1955, we send as delegates our beloved brother and sisters: W. F. Peele, Ethel Chavis and Hattie Swatt, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received passed twelve months, 34; baptized, 9; dismissed, 4; total membership, 46; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 86; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 5.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$530.00; paid evangelist, \$40.00; home missions, \$50.00; building and repairs, \$693.50; for publication, \$18.85; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: S. M. Parks, East Rockingham, N. C.; Talmadge Brown, Rockingham, N. C.; Daniel Bowen, Route 1, Rockingham, N. C.

Done by order of Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church assembled in conference this second day of October, 1955.

REV. C. B. HOPKINS, *Moderator*

MRS. MARGARET BRIGMAN, *Clerk*

Hickory Grove: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the St. John Church at Patrick, S. C., October 8, 1955, we send as delegates our beloved brothers and sisters: C. W. Lee, Lillie Bunnell, Leona Bunnell, Marlene Quick, Ethelyn Sheppard and Thelma Bunnell, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received passed twelve months, 23; died, 1; total membership, 46; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 90; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 3.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$314.97; paid evangelist, \$30.00; building and repairs, \$400.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00; paid orphanage, \$69.39.

Ministers belonging to our church: R. R. Sheppard, Hamlet, N. C., and W. M. Lovick, Cumberland, N. C.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. R. R. Sheppard, Hamlet, N. C.

Done by order of Hickory Grove Church assembled in conference this second day of October, 1955.

R. R. SHEPPARD, *Moderator*

E. H. BRYANT, *Clerk*

Highland Pines: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the St. John Church at Patrick, S. C., October 8, 1955, we send as delegates our beloved sisters: Martha Carpenter, Juanita Floyd and Stella English, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received passed twelve months, 7; baptized, 7; total membership, 85; condition of prayer meeting, wonderful; condition

of Sunday school, fair; average number of pupils, 82, numbers of officers, 14; number of teachers, 12.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$3,380; paid evangelist, \$75.00; home missions, \$50.00; foreign missions, \$20.00; building and repairs, \$700.00; for publication, \$75.00; Enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Minister belonging to our church: Frank Sanford, Hamlet, N. C.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. Winford Floyd, Hamlet, N. C.

Done by order of Highland Pines Church assembled in conference this tenth day of October, 1955.

WINFORD FLOYD, *Moderator*
MYRTLE COVINGTON, *Clerk*

Sandy Grove: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the St. John Church at Patrick, S. C., October 8, 1955, we send as delegates our beloved brethren: J. R. Johnson and Jeremiah Budd, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received passed twelve months, 3; baptized, 3; total membership, 61; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 40; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 5.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$185.10; paid evangelist, \$49.07; home missions, \$6.00; orphanage, \$10.00; for publication, \$16.00, enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Angus Prevatte, 420 W. Donaldson Ave., Raeford, N. C.; A. J. Pearson, St. Pauls, N. C.; C. W. Bennett, Route 2, St. Pauls, N. C.

Pastor's name and address: Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Done by order of Sandy Grove Church assembled in conference this sixth day of October, 1955.

WILLIAM H. EDWARDS, *Moderator*
MRS. ELLEN THOMAS, *Clerk*

CONSTITUTION

OF THE ROCKFISH CONFERENCE OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA

From experience, we, the members of the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists, 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 as a church, and wishing to promote ourselves in state convention and national convention work for the salvation of souls and a greater denomination, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better conference government:

- Article 1: This conference shall be called the Rockfish Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.
- Article 2: The offices of this conference shall be a moderator, vice-moderator, clerk and treasurer, and are to be elected for a term of two years, with election occurring on even years at the close of the session.
- Article 3: This conference shall be composed of delegates, elected or appointed by the Free Will Baptist churches who are members of this conference, and ministers, both licensed and ordained, who are members of this conference.
- Article 4: Each church shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for every twenty-five members over fifty.
- Article 5: This conference shall meet once each year on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in October, or at such time and place as may be decided upon at the preceding session.
- Article 6: The churches united with this conference shall send, by the hands of their delegates, a full account of all work done by them during the conference year (October through September), and all such statistics and information as will be interesting and helpful.
- Article 7: The executive board shall consist of three members elected by the conference, one for one year, one for two years and one for three years. The conference officials are members ex-officio of the executive board. The executive board shall have interim authority.
- Article 8: The conference may withdraw from any church, after investigation has been made, that becomes disorderly or refuses to represent by letter or delegation.
- Article 9: This conference assumes no higher authority than an advisory council.
- Article 10: The ordination council shall consist of five ministers to be elected by the conference annually. The council shall select its chairman from these five.
- Article 11: All committees shall be appointed by the committee on committees. The committee on committees is to be appointed by the moderator at the beginning of the session.

- Article 12: The Discipline of the Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina is to be used by all churches retaining membership in this conference.
- Article 13: This conference shall in no wise interfere with the business of any church unless that church, being a member of this conference, shall abuse the rights of this conference as set forth in its constitution rules or the Discipline of the Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.
- Article 14: This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the conference by a two-thirds vote of the delegates and ministers attending, providing a motion of such change has been given in writing during the first setting of said meeting after permanent organization.

RULES

- Rule 1: The ordination council, executive board and all committees must give a written report of their work annually to the conference.
- Rule 2: The union is to function for the sole purpose of fellowship between our sister churches. The union shall select its own officers, meet as often as is agreed upon by the union in session and make reports of proceedings to the annual conference. This report of proceedings, if adopted, will be printed in the minutes.
- Rule 3: The chairman of each board or committee is to be the treasurer of its funds.
- Rule 4: The general fund is to consist of money paid to the annual conference. The amount of money to be paid shall be not less than ten dollars per church. The clerk shall be expected to notify any church that fails to pay its ten dollars annually.
- Rule 5: Ministers wishing to unite with this conference might do so after being approved by the ordination council.
- Rule 6: Any person wishing to be licensed or ordained to preach the gospel must take steps as set forth in the Rules of Church Discipline.
- Rule 7: Every member wishing to speak must rise first and address the moderator.
- Rule 8: Any minister causing disturbance in a sister church shall be investigated and dealt with by the ordaining council.
- Rule 9: Any church wishing to unite with the conference must first present itself before the executive board. After approving the church, the executive board shall proceed to give the right hand of fellowship subject to the approval of the conference.

