

MINUTES

of the

Fifty-Third Annual Session

of the

ROCKFISH CONFERENCE

of the

Original Free Will Baptists

Held with

SANDY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Route 2, St. Pauls, Robeson County
North Carolina

October 7, 1961

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SANDY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Route 2, St. Pauls, Robeson County, North Carolina
October 7, 1961

OFFICERS

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

Assistant Moderator—Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.

Secretary-Treasurer—William H. Edwards, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.

CHURCHES, CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

Sandy Grove—Mrs. Marion L. Johnson, Route 1, Hope Mills, N. C.

Hickory Grove—Mrs. Dorothy Sandy, Route 3, Box 376, Fayetteville, N. C.

Glenwood—Mr. Alex B. Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

Mount Calvary—Eula Jenkins, Route 1, Box 185-X, Hamlet, N. C.

Mount Moriah—Mrs. Ruth Jenkins, Route 2, Box 42, Hamlet, N. C.

Bethlehem—Miss Daisy Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.

Highland Pines—No Report.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

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

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

Rev. C. W. Bennett, Box 29 E. Broad Street, St. Pauls, N. C.

Rev. R. L. Clark, Route 1, Box 481-M, Hamlet, N. C.

Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

Rev. Charles Maness, 123 W. Martin Street, Wadesboro, N. C.

Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.

Rev. Hamp Wallace, Route 1, Box 404, Wadesboro, N. C.

Rev. Angus Prevatt, 713 Hawkins Avenue, Sanford, N. C.

Rev. E. P. Pierce, Route 1, Hartsville, S. C.

Rev. Stanley Parkey, P. O. Box 588, Spring Lake, N. C.

LICENTIATE

Rev. C. T. Hall, 408 Cedar Creek Road, Fayetteville, N. C.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Angus Prevatt, 713 Hawkins Avenue, Sanford, N. C.

Rev. Charles Maness, 123 W. Martin Street, Wadesboro, N. C.

Rev. R. L. Clark, Route 1, Box 481-M, Hamlet, N. C.

Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

Rev. Hamp Wallace, Route 1, Box 404, Wadesboro, N. C.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.

Rev. E. P. Pierce, Route 1, Hartsville, S. C.

Mr. W. H. Edwards, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.

Mr. Jeremiah Budd, Route 3, Box 1064, Fayetteville, N. C.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Sabbath School—Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

Education—Rev. Hamp Wallace, Route 1, Box 404, Wadesboro, N. C.

Orphanage—Mr. J. W. Lee, Route 3, Fayetteville, N. C.

Missions—Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.

Superannuation—Rev. Charlie T. Hall, 408 Cedar Creek Road, Fayetteville,
N. C.

Cragmont (Special)—W. H. Edwards, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Mary Lee Hall, Mrs. Lineze Johnson and Mr. Roy Johnson

PROCEEDINGS

The fifty-third annual session of the Rockfish Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of the state of North Carolina, met with Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Route 2, St. Pauls, Robeson County, North Carolina, on October 7, 1961.

The meeting opened at 10:00 a. m. with the congregation singing "The Gloryland Way." Prayer by Rev. Steve English.

Song by congregation, "Father Along."

Devotional by Rev. E. P. Pierce; Scripture reading, Matthew 7.

Song by congregation, "Work for the Night Is Coming."

Welcome address, Rev. C. T. Hall, pastor of host church.

Response by moderator, Rev. J. D. Liles.

Song by congregation, "Face to Face."

Roll call of ministers; those present were: Revs. Steve English, J. D. Liles, C. W. Bennett, R. L. Clark, Charles Maness, R. T. Sanderson, Hamp Wallace, Angus Prevatte, E. P. Pierce, C. T. Hall and J. C. Rogers.

Rev. J. C. Rogers stated that his desires were for his name to remain on the Rockfish Conference roster.

CHURCH LETTERS

Called for church letters. Churches reporting were as follows:

Sandy Grove—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church at St. Pauls, North Carolina, October 7, 1961. We send as delegates our beloved brethren: Brothers Dunk Budd, Jesse Sessoms, J. W. Faircloth, G. H. Carver and Sister Sessoms, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; total members, 30; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 75; number of officers, 5; number of teachers, 5.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$496.21; light and fuel, \$65.87; miscellaneous, \$94.64; building and repairs, \$506.28; orphanage, \$21.00; for publication, \$56.56; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00; quarterly unions, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, North Carolina; Rev. Charlie T. Hall, Fayetteville, North Carolina; Rev. C. W. Bennett, St. Pauls, North Carolina.

Pastor's name: Rev. Charlie T. Hall.

Done by order of Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church assembled in conference September 30, 1961.

Rev. Charlie T. Hall, *Moderator*

Marion L. Johnson, *Clerk*

Hickory Grove—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when

convened with the Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church at St. Pauls, North Carolina, October 7, 1961. We send as delegates our beloved brethren and sisters: Jesse W. Lee, Avy Jane Lee, Dorothy Sandy, Eva Bottom and Alma Player, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received past three months, 3; total membership, 28; condition of prayer meeting, poor; condition of Sunday school, good, average number of pupils, 45; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 5.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$498.41; paid evangelist, \$50.00; building and repairs, \$400.00; for publication, \$45.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Hamp Wallace, Route 1, Wadesboro, North Carolina; Rev. Bernie C. Player, 720 Richmond Road, Rockingham, North Carolina.

Pastor's name: Rev. Bernie C. Player.

Done by order of Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church when assembled in conference October 1, 1961.

Rev. Bernie C. Player, *Moderator*
Mrs. Dorothy Sandy, *Clerk*
Route 3, Box 376
Fayetteville, N. C.

Mount Moriah—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church at St. Pauls, North Carolina, October 7, 1961. We send as delegates our beloved sisters: Stella Hodges, Addie Jenkins and Doris Watts, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; total membership, 30; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 20; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 3.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$163.00; building and repairs, \$177.41; for publication, \$15.00; enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Angus Prevatte, 713 Hawkins Street, Sanford, North Carolina; Rev. R. L. Clark, Route 1, Hamlet, North Carolina.

Pastor's name: Rev. Angus Prevatte.

Done by order of Mount Moriah Free Will Baptist Church when assembled in conference October 1, 1961.

Rev. R. L. Clark, *Moderator*
Ruth Jenkins, *Clerk*
Route 2, Box 42
Hamlet, N. C.

Bethlehem—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church at St. Pauls, North Carolina, October 7, 1961.

Statistics: State of religion, good; total membership, 22; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 32; number of officers, 6; number of teachers, 3.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$68.72; building and repairs, \$86.80; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church; Rev. J. David Liles, Box 321, Hamlet, North Carolina; Rev. E. P. Pierce, Route 1, Hartsville, South Carolina.

Pastor's name: Rev. J. David Liles.

Done by order of Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church when assembled in conference October 7, 1961.

Rev. J. David Liles, *Moderator*
Daisy Liles, *Clerk*
Box 321
Hamlet, N. C.

We are small in number but strong in Christ. Pray for us that we might always be in the center of His will.

Mt. Calvary—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church at St. Pauls, North Carolina, October 7, 1961. We send as delegates our beloved sisters: Cleo Singletary and Eula Jenkins, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, fair; members received this year, 2; baptized, 2; total membership, 74; condition of prayer meeting, fair; condition of Sunday school, fair; average number of pupils, 65; number of teachers, 4.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$1,275.00; paid evangelist, \$95.00; home missions, \$60.00; for publication, \$35.06; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Minister belonging to our church: Rev. Charles Maness, Wadesboro, North Carolina.

Pastor's name: Rev. Charles Maness.

Done by order of Mt. Calvary Free Will Baptist Church when assembled in conference.

Rev. Charles Maness, *Moderator*
Eula Jenkins, *Clerk*
Route 1, Box 185-X
Hamlet, N. C.

Glenwood—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church at St. Pauls, North Carolina, October 7, 1961. We send as delegates of beloved brothers and sisters: Mr. and Mrs. Archie Furr; Mrs. Annie Brown, Mrs. Charlotte Steen and Miss Carolyn Carpenter, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received this past year, 4; baptized, 2; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school,

good; average number of pupils, 72; number of officers, 2; number of teachers, 5.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$2,517.50; paid evangelist, \$130.00; home missions, \$150.00; building and repairs, \$125.00; for publication, \$30.00; for education, \$74.00; enclosed for minutes, \$6.00.

Minister belonging to our church: Rev. Carl Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, North Carolina.

Pastor's name: Rev. Carl Brown.

Done by order of the Glenwood Free Will Baptist Church when assembled in conference October 4, 1961.

Rev. Carl Brown, *Moderator*
A. B. Brown, *Clerk*
Route 2
Rockingham, N. C.

We have been having cottage prayer meetings and have been blessed to see ten souls saved in these meetings.

Motion made, seconded and carried to receive church letters as read.

Reading of minutes of last session by clerk. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept same.

Moderator appointed committee to select a minister to preach at the morning worship hour. Committee appointed: Mrs. Mary Hall, Mrs. Charlotte Steen and Mrs. Dorothy Sandy.

The moderator read a few paragraphs from the Treatise of the Free Will Baptists of North Carolina, then entertained a motion that we, the Rockfish Conference, to go on record to have accepted the Treatise of the State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists of the state of North Carolina as our guide for the future actions of our conference.

Motion made and seconded that the Rockfish Conference as a recognized member of the State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists of the state of North Carolina shall abide by the covenant, rules and regulations of the treatise as printed and issued by the State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina. Carried by the majority.

The devotional committee requested Rev. Charles Maness to preach at the morning worship hour.

Rev. Steve English asked to be excused because of the death of a member of his family. Permission granted.

Song by congregation, "An Old Account Settled."

A few minutes recess.

Assembled at 11:15 a. m. for the worship hour.

Congregational song, "Where We'll Never Grow Old."

Sermon by Rev. Charles Maness; text, Revelation 22:17; John 1:1-41; theme, "Salvation and Discipleship." Rev. Maness brought a timely message.

Congregational song, "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder."

Prayer by Rev. E. P. Pierce.

Invitation given by Rev. C. T. Hall for everyone to stay for lunch.

Lunch was served at 12:00 noon by the ladies of Sandy Grove Church and a more bountiful and delicious meal would be hard to find. A hearty thanks to the ladies who were responsible for the meal served.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Reassembled at 1:00 p. m. with the congregation singing, "Camping in Canaan's Land."

Prayer by W. H. Edwards.

Song by congregation, "The Pearly White City."

Devotional by Rev. R. L. Clark; Scripture reading, Matthew 3.

Congregational song, "When I See the Blood."

Song by ministers, "Amazing Grace."

Motion made, seconded and carried to accept Rev. Stanley Parkey as a fellow minister.

Rev. Parkey comes to us by letter from the Eastern Quarterly Meeting of the Union Association of Elizabethton, Tennessee.

Discussion of the conference to be in session for two days. Reasons for a longer session were as follows: We need a longer time for business reasons, and to give the various committees, boards and councils to give a report of their year's work and for the conference to act on these reports.

Motion made, seconded and carried that the Rockfish Conference will be in session for two days at the next annual meeting and each time thereafter, until changed in lawful manner as set forth in our constitution.

Invitation given by delegates from Glenwood Church for the conference to be held at their church next year.

Moved, seconded and carried that the Rockfish Conference will be held at Glenwood Church at Rockingham, North Carolina, Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1962, our Lord willing.

Collection for Cragmont Assembly amounted to \$10.24.

Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. J. D. Liles.

Rev. J. D. Liles, Moderator

W. H. Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer

NOTE: There were no reports given by the standing committees, executive board or the ordaining council at this session. To all concerned, the reports, in writing, should be given for the conference in session to act upon your year's work, so the work you have performed can become official is necessary.—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 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 com-

mittees. 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 not be 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.

