

MINUTES

OF THE

Fifty-Fourth Annual Session

OF THE

ROCKFISH CONFERENCE

OF THE

Original Free Will Baptists



HELD WITH

MOUNT MORIAH FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Richmond County, Hamlet, North Carolina

October 12, 1962

AND WITH

GLENWOOD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Richmond County, Rockingham, North Carolina

October 13, 1962

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OFFICERS

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

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

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

CHURCHES, CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

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

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

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

ORDAINED MINISTERS

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

Rev. C. W. Bennett, P. O. Box 291, Hope Mills, N. C.

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

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

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

ORDAINING COUNCIL

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

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

Rev. C. W. Bennett, Hope Mills, N. C.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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

Mr. Jesse Lee, Route 3, Fayetteville, N. C.

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

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Sabbath School—Mrs. Dorothy Sandy, Route 3, Box 376, Fayetteville, N. C.

Education—Mrs. Ruby Ross, Route 1, Hope Mills, N. C.

Orphanage—Mr. G. H. Carver, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.

Missions—Mr. D. B. Thomas, Route 1, Parkton, N. C.

Superannuation—Mrs. Mary Lee Hall, 408 Cedar Creek Road, Fayetteville, N. C.

Cragmont (Special)—Mrs. Stella English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

PROCEEDINGS

Morning Session

The fifty-fourth annual session of the Rockfish Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina met with Mount Moriah Free Will Baptist Church, Route 2, Hamlet, North Carolina, October 12, 1962.

The session opened at 10 a.m. with singing by the congregation. Songs: "Glory to His Name" and "Amazing Grace."

Prayer by Rev. R. T. Sanderson.

Song: "Sweet By and By."

Devotional by Rev. Steve English, reading from the Twenty-third Psalm.

Welcome address by Rev. Angus Prevatte, pastor of Mount Moriah church.

Reading of the minutes of the last session by the clerk. Moved and carried to accept minutes as read.

Roll call of ministers. Those present were Revs. Steve English, J. D. Liles, R. L. Clark, R. T. Sanderson, and Angus Prevatte.

Visiting ministers were Rev. Thomas Murray, Newton, North Carolina; Rev. Jesse Benoit, Hamlet, North Carolina; and Rev. C. D. Watkins, Dunn, North Carolina.

Call for church letters. Churches reporting were Sandy Grove, Hickory Grove, and Mount Moriah.

The following churches reported but later withdrew their letters: Glenwood, Highland Pines, Bethlehem, and Mount Calvary. (Glenwood reported the second day.)

Moved and carried to accept the letters of the churches desiring to remain in the Rockfish Conference affiliated with the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists.

Discussion of business at hand was pertaining to which group of Free Will Baptists at the state level would the Rockfish Conference remain affiliated with.

Motion made and carried to table the matter until the second day when more of the people concerned were apt to be present.

Worship hour. Song: "The Nail-Scarred Hand." Sermon by Rev. R. L. Clark; text, Matthew 5.

Song by Congregation: "Face to Face."

Dismissed by Rev. Jesse Benoit.

Afternoon Session

Reassembled at 1:00 p.m. with the congregation singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "Tell It to Jesus."

Prayer by Everett Taylor.

Solo by Rev. R. T. Sanderson.

Devotional by Rev. R. T. Sanderson; John, chapter 3.

Congregational song, "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone."

Rev. Carey D. Watkins gave a very short talk concerning the reasons for the formation of the State Association known as the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists.

Congregational song, "Breathe on Me."

Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. C. D. Watkins.

SECOND DAY

Morning Session

Congregational songs, "There is Power in the Blood" and "I'll Be Satisfied."

Prayer by Rev. Paul Brown.

Song, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder."

Devotional by Rev. R. L. Clark; Psalm, chapter 20.

Congregational song, "Rescue the Perishing."

Welcome address, Rev. Paul Brown.

Roll call of ministers; those present were Revs. Steve English, J. D. Lile, R. L. Clark, Paul Brown, Charles Maness, R. T. Sanderson, Angus Prevatte, C. T. Hall.

Reading of yesterday's minutes.

Moved, seconded and carried to accept minutes.

Rev. Angus Prevatte delivered the 11:00 message.

The constitution and bylaws were read by the clerk.

Motion was made to join the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists. The reason given for the motion was that the North Carolina State Convention no longer believed in church autonomy and the North Carolina Association did. The people opposing this motion believes that the argument made was groundless, and even if the story was true, they did not want to forsake various programs of the State Convention such as the Children's Home and Superannuation, etc.

Vote on the above motion resulted in the following count: standing vote, 13 for and 12 against.

At 10:45 the moderator declared a recess.

Worship hour at 11:00 a.m.

Congregational song, "I Am Bound for the Promised Land."

Message by Rev. Angus Prevatte, using as his text, Matthew, chapter 24.

Song, "Near the Cross."

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Jesse Benoit.

Afternoon Session

Congregational song, "Revive Us Again."

Special singing by Alex Brown and group, "What a Day that Will Be" and "God Will Wipe Away All Tears."

Results of the voting on the motion made in the morning session caused the delegates who were against the motion to leave.

Rev. Charles Maness suggested that a meeting of all concerned be held at Highland Pines, November 3, 1962.

Motion made, seconded and carried that the meeting suggested be held at Highland Pines, November 3, 1962, and for the clerk to notify all concerned.

Congregational song, "The Solid Rock."

Prayer by Rev. R. T. Sanderson.

A trio rendered special music.

Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Dismissed with prayer by Mrs. Charlotte Steen.

The members of Sandy Grove and Hickory Grove churches, with a letter from the clerk of Mount Moriah church, indicated that the people of Mount Moriah church wished to remain with the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists as did the people of Sandy Grove and Hickory Grove churches did, meet together at Sandy Grove church, Route 2, St. Pauls, North Carolina, to elect officers and to attend to business as they deemed necessary.

Proceedings, October 20, 1962

Morning Session

Congregational songs, "The Kingdom is Coming" and "When I See the Blood."

Prayer by Rev. C. T. Hall.

Devotional by Rev. R. T. Sanderson; Galatians, chapter 6.

Election of officers. (See officers.)

Moved, seconded and carried that the Rockfish Conference remain affiliated with the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

The following delegates were elected to attend the next session of the State Convention: Revs. C. T. Hall, R. T. Sanderson and Mr. W. H. Edwards.

Expenses are to be paid by the Rockfish Conference, to be assured that the conference would be represented.

Collection for Children's Home amounted to \$11.

The remainder of the services held was devoted to preaching and singing, also a wonderful dinner outdoors was provided by the host church.

The messages were delivered by Revs. R. T. Sanderson and Steve English.

Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Dismissed with prayer.

HIGHLAND PINES, NOVEMBER 3, 1962

Results of a meeting held at Highland Pines church, Route 2, Hamlet, North Carolina, November 3, 1962, were as follows:

Glenwood church, Mt. Calvary church, Bethlehem church, and Highland Pines voted to join the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists, through membership in the Piedmont Association of the same state body.

Motion made by Rev. Jesse Benoit that the clerk return the money that each church who was leaving the Rockfish Conference sent by its delegates to the regular annual session in October, 1962.

Motion carried.

Money was returned to the churches concerned on November 3, 1962.

Moved, seconded and carried to sell the mimeograph machine belonging to the Rockfish Conference. The money obtained from sale to be divided among the churches as follows: Sandy Grove, Hickory Grove, and Mount Moriah. To be sent to the clerk of Rockfish Conference for the following churches: Glenwood, Mt. Calvary, Bethlehem, and Highland Pines.

Committee appointed to sell the mimeograph machine was Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, North Carolina; Rev. Charles Maness, 123 W. Martin St., Wadesboro, North Carolina.

Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn.

The fifty-fifth annual session of the Rockfish Conference will convene with Sandy Grove church, Route 2, St. Pauls, Robeson County, North Carolina. The Lord willing, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1963; and on October 12, 1963.

Rev. C. T. Hall, *Moderator*

W. H. Edwards, *Clerk*

CHURCH LETTERS

Called for church letters. Churches reporting were as follows:

Mount Moriah—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with Mount Moriah Free Will Baptist Church at Hamlet, North Carolina, October 12, 13, 1962. We send as delegates our beloved brethren: Roy Johnson, Jerry Budd, and W. H. Edwards, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, good; members received past year, 4; baptized, 4; dismissed, 0; died, 0; total membership, 50; condition of prayer meeting, 0; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 60; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 4.

Finances: paid pastor, \$529; paid evangelist, 0; home mission, \$121.39; utilities, \$95.48; building and repairs, \$234.79; conf. and unions, \$16; for publication, \$50; enclosed for minutes, \$10; superannuation, \$15.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. C. T. Hall, 408 Cedar Creek Rd., Fayetteville, North Carolina; Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, North Carolina; Rev. C. W. Bennett, Hope Mills, North Carolina.

Pastor's Name, Rev. C. T. Hall, 408 Cedar Creek Rd., Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Done by order of Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church assembled in conference October 6, 1962. •

Rev. C. T. Hall, *Moderator*
Marion L. Johnson, *Clerk*

Mount Moriah—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Mount Moriah church at Hamlet, North Carolina, October 12, 13, 1962. We send as delegates our beloved brethren, Avey Jane Lee, Jesse W. Lee, Lebron Lee, Edna Lee, and Clarence Lee, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: state of religion, good; members received past year, 2; baptized, 0; dismissed, 1; died, 0; total membership, 45; condition of prayer meeting, none; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 40; number of officers, 2; number of teachers, 4.

Finances: paid pastor, \$300; paid evangelist, none; home mission, \$100; building and repairs, \$60; for publication, \$50; enclosed for minutes, \$10.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Hamp Wallace, Route 1, Box 404, Wadesboro, North Carolina.

Pastor's name: Rev. C. T. Hall, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Done by order of Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church assembled in conference October 7, 1962.

Rev. C. T. Hall, *Moderator*
Mrs. Dorothy Sandy, *Clerk*

Mount Moriah—To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with Mount Moriah Free Will Baptist Church at Hamlet,

North Carolina, October 12, 1962. We send as delegates our beloved sisters: Mrs. Ruth Jenkins and Mrs. Stella Hodges, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your godly deliberations.

Statistics: condition of Sunday school, good; state of religion, good; average attendance, 20; died, none; total membership, 25; number officers, 4; number teachers, 3.

Finances: paid pastor, \$138.58; building and repairs, \$35; publication, \$21; superannuation, \$10; enclosed for minutes, \$5.

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

Done by order of Mount Moriah church when assembled in conference October 7, 1962.

R. L. Clark, *Moderator*

Ruth Jenkins, *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 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 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.

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