

Rev. Ralph Slater

MINUTES
OF THE
52nd Annual Session
OF THE
SOCIAL BAND ASSOCIATION
OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Held with Stony Point church, August 14, 15 and 16, 1926. Next session will be held with Hopewell church on Friday night before the third Sunday in August, 1927.

ELD. D. M. HOLDER, Moderator,
Maynard, Ark.

J. E. RIGGS, Clerk,
Pocahontas, Ark.

Order of Business

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Call for Letters from Churches.
3. Election of Moderator and Clerk.
4. Read Rules of Decorum.
5. Appointment of committees on Divine Service, Finance, Obituary, Arrangement of Business.
6. Call for Corresponding Letters.
7. Call for Petitionary Letters.
8. Unfinished Business.
9. New Business.

MINUTES

Pursuant to adjournment, a goodly number of the Deacons, Ministers and Messengers composing that part of the Church of God known as Social Band Association of Freewill Baptist met with Stony Point church, Elevenpoint, Ark., on August 14, 1926. The annual sermon was preached by Eld. D. M. Holder.

Saturday Morning Session

1. Regular associational clerk not being present G. W. Million was selected to act as clerk pro tem.

2. Called for letters, received 9: Liberty, Pirtle, Hopewell, Clear Lake, Lone Oak, Stony Point, Eureka, White Oak and Union.

3. Called for petitionary letters, received one: Plain View church.

4. Proceeded to regular organization by electing moderator and clerk. Elds. D. M. Holder, D. C. Jones and E. W. Tucker were put in nomination and duly voted upon. Eld. D. M. Holder was elected and Bro. Mack Johnson was elected clerk.

5. Proceeded to appoint the several committees.

Committee on Divine Service—Dan Kirk, A. Baize and A. Colt.

Committee on Arrangement of Business—E. Rhodes, D. C. Jones, Olen Thompson, W. T. Sharp and E. W. Tucker.

Committee on Finance—C. E. Cook, J. W. Rogers and Will Manus.

Committee on Obituary—J. M. Doane, B. L. Patterson and A. C. Pendergrass.

Eleven o'clock service, preaching by Eld. E. W. Tucker. Text, Acts 16:30. Subject, "Sirs What Must I Do To Be Saved?"

6. Called for corresponding letters. Received one from Cave Spring Association of Freewill Baptist. Bro. Dunkin and Bro. E. L. Brown were given the right hand of fellowship by moderator and seated as delegates.

7. Resolution No. 4 of State Association was taken up but was tabled for the present.

Saturday Evening Session

Met near 2:30 o'clock. After singing, prayer by Bro. Dave Seams.

8. Called for tardy letters, received 5: Grandview, Denman, New Hope, Pleasant Valley and Pruitt's Chapel. Read and received and delegates seated.

9. By request of Bro. Mack Johnson he was released as clerk and J. E. Riggs was elected.

10. Moved to have Bro. Hudson's credentials written up and delivered to him.

11. Moved to take up Res. No. 4 of state minutes. Same was read and after explained by Eld. G. W. Million was voted to be adopted and read "Denomination" instead of "Freewill Baptist Church."

12. Moved to turn over what money Bro. Million had and what we had in our treasury to the educational fund of the Freewill Baptist College at Tecumseh, Okla.

13. Moved to ask each member of the local churches to contribute 5c each to be put in the disabled ministers fund.

14. Moved to elect a district financial board and following were elected; Eld. G. W. Million and Eld. D. C. Jones for 3 years; Eld. E. W. Tucker and Bro. Mack Johnson for 2 years; Bro. E. McElyea and E. Rhodes for 1 year. Committee on Divine Service reported that the stand be filled Saturday night by Eld. D. C. Jones.

15. Motion to adjourn until Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

Saturday Night Session

After singing and Scripture reading, prayer by Eld. T. W. Sharp. Stand was filled by Eld. D. C. Jones. Subject, "If Men Die and Go to Hell, Who Cares?" A good service was enjoyed by all.

Sunday Morning Session

After song service the Presbytery, Eld. D. M. Holder, Eld. T. W. Sharp, Deacons Bro. Jolly and Bro. Tatum ordained Walter Eveland of Denman church and Will Manus of White Oak church as deacons of their churches.

Eleven O'clock Service

Preaching by Eld. G. W. Million. Subject, "Restoration of All Things."

Sunday Evening Session

After singing, prayer by Bro. Pendergrass. Preaching by Eld. D. M. Holder, Text, Luke 6:46, after which a goodly number of christians followed the Lord's command in taking the Lord's supper and washing feet.

Monday Morning Session

Pursuant to adjournment, Association met at 8 o'clock. After singing, prayer by Bro. Jack.

16. Ministers' Reports called for. (See reports).

17. Moved to appoint committee to investigate the standing of J. O. Hefner and the following committee was appointed: Bro. Eveland, Bro. Done and Bro. Manus.

18. Moved to refer to the local churches Res. No. 3, to be amended to give the churches authority to assess their members so we can finance our denomination.

19. Moved to put on a drive for \$150.00 to be turned over to the finance board to be divided into four funds as follows: \$50.00 for Educational; \$25.00 for Home Mission; \$50.00 Orphanage and \$25.00 for Ministers' Disability Fund.

20. Moved that we do not accept baptism under any other name or ceremony except the Fathers, Son and Holy Ghost, Matt. 28:19.

21. Moved to bond the secretary-treasurer of the finance board to the amount of \$300.00.

21. Moved that the next session be held with Hopewell church at Old Reyno, Ark. Eld. E. W. Tucker was elected to preach the introductory sermon.

22. Moved to be represented by letter and messenger to the state association. Eld. E. W. Tucker was elected as delegate and the several churches guaranteed to pay \$25.00 to defray his expense.

23. Moved to be represented by letter and messengers to Cave Springs Association. Bro. Hudson and Bro. Rhodes volunteered and were elected.

24. Moved to be represented by letter and messenger to Pope Bayou Association. Bro. Manus, Bro. Jones and Bro. Webb volunteered and were elected.

25. The committees all reported. Reports received and committees were discharged. (See reports).

26. Moved that we tender our heartfelt thanks to the good people of this community for their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.

27. Moved that the committee on arrangements of business be held for the ensuing year and the association elect one annually hereafter.

23. Moved to have 5th Sunday meeting except July and August and hold the first 5th Sunday meeting at Lene Oak church.

23. Moved to begin 5th Sunday meeting on Friday night before

the 5th Sunday in October. Eld. T. W. Sharp was elected to preach the introductory sermon.

30. Moved to adjourn to meet with Hopewell church, Reyno, Ark., on Friday night before the third Sunday in August, 1927.

Eld. D. M. Holder, Moderator,
Maynard, Ark.

J. E. Riggs, Clerk,
Pocahontas, Ark.

Associational Letter

We, the disciples of Christ, commonly known as Freewill Baptist, worshipping at _____, send greetings to ministers, deacons and messengers composing Social Band Association, when convened with _____ church.

We send our beloved brothers to sit with you in your Godly deliberations with full power and authority to transact all legal business that may come before your honorable body, for the good of our

church and Christianity in general. Bro. _____ the

statement of our church is as follows: Received by experience

_____ by letter _____ by recommendation _____ restored _____ dismissed.

Ministers Reports

D. C. Jones—Pastored 3 churches, preached 112 sermons, witnessed 24 conversions, baptised 21, received into fellowship 31, officiated at 3 funerals, traveled 1916 miles. Received from churches: Clear Lake, \$53.36; Pruett's Chapel, \$48.20; Lone Oak, \$64.27; Total, \$165.83. Expense, \$62.00.

P. M. Witcher—Organized 1 church, pastored 1 church, witnessed 27 conversions, preached about 45 sermons.

Geo. U. Weeks—Traveled 250 miles by railroad, preached 63 sermons, witnessed 43 conversions and did all the good I was able to do both spiritually and otherwise.

W. C. Forsyth—Traveled 100 miles, preached 200 sermons, married 4 couples, conducted 2 funerals, witnessed 35 conversions, received 21 members into the church, baptized 21, dismissed 7. Received Pleasant Grove church \$10.50; Oak Grove, \$16.00; Total, \$26.50.

D. M. Holder—Hopewell, 9 trips, 25 sermons, received \$60.60;

Friendship, 6 trips, 9 sermons, \$15.50; Eureka, 9 trips, 22 sermons, \$43.89; Union, 3 trips, 10 sermons, \$12.00; other places, 7 sermons, \$14.15; traveled 842 miles, total pay, \$144.04. Witnessed 50 conversions, baptised 12.

W. S. Tyler—Preached 6 sermons at Old Reyno, 4 in Oklahoma, 3 at Water Valley, 4 at Pleasant Valley, 6 at Cedar Ridge, 5 at New Grove. Received pay, \$5.50.

W. T. Sharp—A partial report. Pastored 2 churches, attended 4 churches; preached 225 sermons, conducted 3 funerals, married 3 couples, traveled 2500 miles, received at White Oak \$90.00; Valley Chapel \$25.00; Cache River \$80.00; other places not itemized; total pay received about \$300.00.

B. L. Patterson—Pastored 2 churches, Stony Point, 10 trips, preached 23 sermons, received pay \$22.75; Sugar Tree Grove, 6 trips, 16 sermons, \$9.50; other places, 25 sermons, \$2.75. Traveled 970 miles, witnessed 29 conversions, baptised 17, organized 1 church, preached 2 funerals, married 2 couples. Total pay, \$35.00.

Wayne Tucker—Preached 114 sermons, witnessed 26 conversions, pastored 1 church, baptised 7, officiated at 2 funerals, traveled 1463 miles, received from Oak Grove church \$15.00; Evening Star and other places \$28.18; held a meeting in Missouri, received \$160.00. Total pay received \$203.18.

Report of Obituary Committee

We find that our Great and Kind Heavenly Father has seen fit in His infinite wisdom to call from our membership 11, as follows: Bro. B. B. Garland of Clear Lake, Sister Katie White, Bro. W. F. Riggs and Bro. Perry Kincaide of New Hope, Sister Ethel Thompson of Stony Point, Sister Lula Chesser and Sister Mazie Cook of Lone Oak, Sister May Dean of Eureka, Eligh Duff and Florence Meredith of Grandview.

W. T. Sharp, Chairman.

Messengers Enrollment

Pleasant Grove—Bro. and Sister Bruce.

Hopewell—Elmer Rhodes, L. L. Pearcey, Della Whittaker and Velma Rhodes.

White Oak—Bro. and Sister Done, Bro. and Sister Manus.

Plainview—Jane Rogers, Dovie Dressendaffer, Grace Langdon.

Union—A. Baize, A. Swift.

Liberty—Bro. Mack Johnson and wife.

Lone Oak—Ed Cook, Elza Buckley.

Fruitt's Chapel—Johnnie George, Sister Norris, Sallie Hamilton.

Eureka—Dawson Jackson, Dan McKinney.

Stony Point—A. G. Pendergrass, W. Z. Kirk, James Hulvey.

Grandview—Ruth Duff, L. C. Parrish, Tula Jolly.

Pleasant Valley—W. S. Tyler, Frank Decker.

Pirtle—L. O. Catt, Irvin Clark, Quint Tyler.

Clear Lake—E. Hogan, Alpha East, Malinda Sullivan.

New Hope—A. H. Million.

Denman—T. M. Boyle, Joe Hellingburg.

Deacons Enrollment

Eureka—J. D. McKinney, Delaplaine, R-1, Ark., and Charles Jones, Pocahontas, Ark.

Pruett Chapel—G. W. Dale, Light, Ark., and G. Tatem, Beach Grove, Ark.

Hopewell—J. B. Patterson and B. F. Lee, Reyno, Ark.

Cedar Ridge—E. Cox, Bro. Robins and C. T. White, Noland, Ark.

Sugar Tree Grove—G. W. Hopper, Poynor, Mo.

Love Divine—H. L. Clark, Alicia, Ark.

New Hope—J. R. Hancock and David Million, Pocahontas, Ark.

Clear Lake—H. C. Shipman and Arthur Sluter, Walnut Ridge, Ark.

Stony Point—Wiley Hawkins, Water Valley, Ark., Dan Kirk and Olen Thompson, Elevenpoint, Ark.

Zion Hill—Dan Bates and D. M. Seamons, Pocahontas, Ark.

Grandview—H. C. Jolly and A. R. Pride, Supply, Ark.

Lone Oak—Geo. Tyler and Herbert Cooper, Manson, Ark.

Valley Chapel—J. C. Hughes, Ravenden Springs, Ark.

Old Jackson—None.

Pleasant Grove—Horace Bruce and D. H. Reagan, Hoxie, Ark.

Friendship—W. A. Huddleston and J. L. Webb.

Union—M. M. Romines and C. L. Rickey, O'Kean, Ark.

Oak Grove—None.

Liberty—J. M. Johnson, N. S. Carroll and R. M. Johnson, Delaplaine, Ark., R-1.

New Covenant—J. A. Fender and Zack Minter, Walnut Ridge, Ark., R-3.

Will Manus, Hoxie, Walter Eveland, Delaplaine, Dan Kirk, Water Valley.

Ordained Ministers

D. N. King	Warm Springs, Ark.
W. T. Shoffitt	O'Kean, Ark.
J. F. Gates	O'Kean, Ark.
D. M. Holder	Maynard, Ark.
W. T. Sharp	Frisbee, Ark.
G. W. Million	Pocahontas, Ark.
Geo. U. Weeks	Hoxie, Ark.
W. C. Forsyth	Hoxie, Ark.
C. M. Kildow	Hoxie, Ark.
Will Tyler	Imboden, Ark.
D. C. Jones	Biggers, Ark.
P. M. Witcher	Corning, Ark.
W. C. Hudson	Delaplaine, Ark.
W. S. Smith	Knobel, Ark.
B. L. Patterson	Biggers, Ark.
W. F. Vickery	Poynor, Mo.
S. T. Birch	Poynor, Mo.
J. R. Rosson	Poynor, Mo.
B. B. Garland	Portia, Ark.
L. M. Buckner	Unknown.
E. W. Tucker	Delaplaine, Ark.
J. O. Hefner	Imboden, Ark.
N. Y. Gary	Torch, Mo.

Constitution

1. This association, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator and a clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, providing his seat be filled, to have no vote unless the association be equally divided in which case he shall have the deciding. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the association.

2. This association shall be composed of ordained ministers, deacons and licentiates, together with messengers duly chosen by the several churches in our union and sent to represent them in this association, said messengers being members of some church within this association, whom the members judge best qualified for that purpose, who, on producing letters certifying to their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded or died since the sitting of the last association and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by the association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the association shall take up same and act upon it.

5. Every church in the association shall be entitled to a representation of messengers not exceeding three.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted upon unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The association shall not have the power to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless we agree that the churches composing the association shall stand in the same relation to each other in this association that individuals do to each other in this association; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church, the church injured shall try to reclaim them by Gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this association by letter and messenger. If upon proper examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the messengers thereof.

10. This association shall have power to sit as an advisory council, to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this association; to appoint any members, by and with his or her consent to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite brethren in the ministry to a seat with the association; to adjourn the association at any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who shall not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the churches from which he or they were messengers.

11. This association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all cases of difficulty that may arise in the churches.

12. The Lord's Supper shall be administered at each annual association.

13. Each annual association shall be held on the 3rd Sunday in August.

Articles of Faith

1. We believe in one true and living God—the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost—and these three equal in divine essence, power and glory. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7; 1 Cor. 8:6; John 10:30.

2. We believe that the Scriptures in the Old and New Testa-

ments are the words of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 4:2; 2 Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments, whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; then He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:16-17; Gen. 3:6; John 3:16-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His death, burial and resurrection purchased our pardon and offers it freely to all men upon the conditions of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent, therefore look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and beside me there is none else. Rom. 5:6-21; Matt. 4:17; Isiah 45:22; Heb. 11:16.

5. We believe that all adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 1:6-14; Titus 3:5; John 3:1-13; Rom. 8:9.

6. We believe that regeneration is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Ghost whereby the penitent sinner receives a new life, becomes a child of God and is disposed to serve Him. As babies require constant food for bodily development, the new born babe in Christ requires spiritual food that he may develop by a gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:5; Ez. 36:26-27; Titus, 3:5; Gal. 5:1-21; Eph. 2:10; Rom. 8:18; John, 1:12-13; Matt. 13:21; Mark 4:26; 1 Peter 2:2.

7. We believe that the doctrine of Sanctification or Holiness as taught in the Bible applies to the soul or inner man; and to it alone, and that the sanctification of the body will not take place until the resurrection of the dead, when this mortal shall put on immortality and this incorruptible shall put on incorruption. 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 7:17-25; Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 35:54.

8. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace, and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life, for blessed are they that do His Commandments that they have a right to the tree of life and enter through the gates of the city. Cor. 10:12-13; Rev. 22:14; Rom. 11:20-22; Heb. 10:26; John 15:2-6.

9. We believe in the justification of infants by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ in a passive state, thereby adopting them heirs to His Kingdom. Matt. 19:13-14; 8:10.

10. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful followers who have obtained fellowship with each

other and have given themselves to the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep up good discipline according to the rules of the Gospel. Matt. 18:15-20.

11. We believe that the church is the family of God, the redeemed in the aggregate of Adam's race from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things of every nation, kindred, tongue and people. Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Heb. 12:23; Eph. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:5; 10:17.

12. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and the government is with the body. Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18-21; Matt. 18:17-18.

13. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children and bade them walk therein. Matt. 3:55-16; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 1:8-11; Acts 8:28; Rom. 6:16.

14. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the Saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be continued until His second coming. Matt. 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5.

15. We believe that only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, have a right to baptism, and those only who have been called to God and have come under the Presbytery of Elders have a right to administer the same. Titus 1:1-16; Mark 16:16; Matt. 3:8-9; Acts 10:47; 1 Tim. 4:14-16.

16. The soul is immortal, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9.

17. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness. Eccl. 3:17; 11:9; Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Thes. 1:8-9; Rev. 6:12-17; 20:12; 21:8; 14:11; Luke 16:23; 2 Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe that God in His goodness displays power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of His blessed words to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely to come and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. Acts 9:15; 1 Tim. 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:23; 1 Tim. 1:15-16.

19. We believe in a divine call to the ministry, that the minister should heed the admonition of Paul to Timothy to study the Scrip-

tures, that the church donate of their substance as the Lord prospers them to support of their pastors, and that ministers may have better opportunities to store their minds with that spiritual food so necessary to Christian development. To this end we recommend that each church have a finance committee of three to consist of two deacons and a clerk to collect and store such funds. 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

Rules of Decorum

1. The association, when convened shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the moderator.

3. Each person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.

4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question and shall in no wise cast any reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

6. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

7. Members shall address each other by the appellations of brother or brethren and sisters.

8. No member of this association shall absent himself when the association is sitting in conference without leave of the moderator.

9. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled and called over as often as the Association thinks necessary.

10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the Association.

Resolution

Be it resolved, That each church in Social Band Association take a firm stand against the teachings of Evolution and Russellism.

Rev. W. T. Shoffitt, Chairman.

Resolution

Resolved, That all ministers in Social Band Association, when receiving members into the church, insist that it is their duty to conform strictly to the rules and regulations of the Freewill Baptist church so long as they remain members of same.

Rev. W. T. Shoffitt, Chairman.

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	POSTOFFICE
Denman	Not Given	T. M. Bayle	Delaplaine, Ark.
Clear Lake	D. C. Jones	Alpha East	Walnut Ridge, Ark.
New Hope	G. W. Million	Not Given	Pocahontas, Ark.
Pirtle	W. T. Sharp	N. P. Gates	Peach Orchard, Ark.
Stony Point	W. T. Sharp	Susie Hulvey	Elevenpoint, Ark.
Eureka	D. M. Holder	Minnie Dean	O'Kean, Ark.
Pruitt Chapel	E. W. Tucker	Sallie Hamilton	Light, Ark.
Lone Oak	W. T. Sharp	Novella Tyler	Manson, Ark.
Liberty	G. W. Million	J. E. Riggs	Pocahontas, Ark.
Union	D. M. Holder	J. F. Gates	O'Kean, Ark.
Plainview	D. M. Holder	M. J. Rogers	Corning, Ark.
White Oak	Not Given	Will Manus	Walnut Ridge, Ark.
Hopewell	W. T. Sharp	O. F. Graham	Biggers, Ark.
Pleasant Valley	Not Given	Not Given	Not Given
Pleasant Grove	W. C. Forsyth	Not Given	Not Given
Grandview	G. W. Million	Ruth Duff	Supply, Ark.

STATISTICAL TABLE

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