

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOCIAL BAND ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

Pirtle Church, Peach Orchard, Arkansas,
beginning Thursday evening, September 11, 1940.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Eld. Ralph Staten,	Pocahontas, Ark.
Ass't. Mod.,	Eld. R. S. Shelton,	O'Kean, Ark.
Clerk,	Eld. Charles. Staten,	Pocahontas, Ark.
Ass't. Clerk,	Eld. Ira Gates,	Peach Orchard, Ark.
Evangelist,	Eld. E. W. Tucker,	Peach Orchard, Ark.

The next Annual Session of this Association will convene with Grandview Church, Randolph County, Arkansas, beginning Thursday evening before the third Sunday in September, 1941.

Camp Meeting at Hopewell Church, Monday evening before the third Sunday in July. Elder R. S. Shelton will preach the introductory sermon.

Free Will Baptist Gem Print. 211 Bond St., Monett, Mo.

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PROCEEDINGS

The ministers, deacons, and messengers composing that part of the Church of God commonly known as Free Will Baptists met in its Sixty-Sixth Annual Session with Pirtle Church, Peach Orchard, Arkansas, September 11, 1940.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer, Eld. E. E. Winfree.

Eld. E. W. Tucker preached the introductory sermon.

Text, Jer. 6:16; 2 Chron. 7:14.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Association called to order by Moderator, Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Eld. R. S. Shelton led in prayer.

Isaiah 53 was read for the opening lesson.

Prayer by Eld. E. E. Winfree.

Devotional by Eld. R. S. Shelton.

Call for Church letters. The following letters were received and the delegates seated: Pirtle, Sugar Tree Grove, Pruett Chapel, White Oak, Grandview, New Covenant, Union, Constant's Chapel, Alice Brooks, Stony Point, New Harmony, Hazel Park (by letter), Hopewell, Rickey Chapel, and Highland Park.

Election of Officers

Moderator Eld. Ralph Staten

Assistant Moderator Eld. R. S. Shelton

Clerk Eld. Charles Staten

Assistant Clerk Eld. Ira Gates

Appointment of Committees by the Moderator.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Eld. Raymond Riggs directed the singing of this session.

Duet by Eld. Riggs and wife.

Sermon by Eld. C. R. Riggs; text, 1 Cor. 2:2.

Eld. Archie Constant dismissed the congregation.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Singing directed by Eld. Raymond Riggs.

Reading of scripture lesson, Col. 3, by Ass't. Moderator.

Prayer by W. C. Forsyth.
Devotional by Tom Hoffman.
Call made for corresponding letters and delegates.
None present.
Constant's Chapel Church received by petitionary letter.
Examination of ministers and deacons.
Articles of Faith Committee suggested revision of scripture references in the Articles of Faith.
Eld. E. W. Tucker dismissed the congregation.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Special numbers were given by a quartet, C. F. Jones, Raymond Riggs, Ralph and Charles Staten.
Duet by Eld. Raymond Riggs and wife.
Prayer by Herman Johnson.
Devotional by Tom Bennett.
Eld. R. S. Shelton preached for the evening service.
Text, 1 Peter 1; Heb. 11:10.
Eld. W. C. Forsyth dismissed the congregation.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

C. F. Jones directed the opening song.
Scripture lesson, Rom. 12, read by Moderator.
E. E. Winfree offered the opening prayer.
Call for tardy letters. None.
Brothers Gene Davis, Austin Cavanar and Ham Sutton, and Sisters Kate Sutton, Winona Riggs and Pearl Carter were chosen as delegates to the State Association.
Committees reported. (See Committee Reports).

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing.
Opening prayer by Bro. Wheeler.
Sermon by Eld. Ralph Staten. Theme, "For me to live is Christ but to die is gain." This was the memorial service in memory of those who had died in the faith helping to promote the cause of our denomination in carrying out the Great Commission.
Eld. Raymond Riggs dismissed the congregation.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. Archie Constant.

Devotional by Eld. Willard Ulmer.

Eld. Raymond Riggs elected to preach the memorial sermon of next session.

Evangelist's report given.

Grandview Church chosen as the place for the Association to convene in its next annual session.

Committee on Arrangement of Business gave its report.

The body acted on resolutions. (See Resolutions.)

Adjournment of business session.

Eld. W. C. Forsyth dismissed the congregation.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Bro. Carl High directed the singing.

Prayer by Eld. E. E. Winfree.

Devotional by Eld. W. C. Forsyth. The devotional service was a spiritual feast — the climax of the session.

Sermon by Eld. E. E. Winfree and Charles Staten. Theme, "Present World Conditions."

Bro. Gene Davis dismissed the congregation.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Singing directed by Eld. Ralph Staten.

Prayer by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

A league program of interest to all present was given by the young people of the different churches.

Ordination service: Bro. Willard Ulmer and Bro. Herman Johnson were ordained as ministers.

Sermon by Eld. Raymond Riggs on Communion. Text, 1 Cor. 11.

Eld. Raymond Riggs dismissed the congregation.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Singing by Carl High, C. F. Jones, and Waddell Quartet.

Prayer by C. L. Rickey.

Sermon, "Feetwashing", by Eld. Ralph Staten. Text. John 13:16.

Sixty-two participated in the washing of the saint's feet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE:

Church	State Minutes	Local Minutes	Clerk Hire
Pirtle	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$.60
Sugar Tree Grove	1.00	2.00	.50
Pruett Chapel	1.00	2.00	.50
White Oak		2.00	.50
Grandview		1.00	.50
New Covenant	1.00	1.50	.50
Union	.50	2.00	.50
Alice Brooks		2.00	.42
Stony Point		2.00	.50
New Harmony		2.00	.50
Hazel Park	1.00	2.00	.50
Hopewell	1.00	2.50	.50
Rickey Chapel	1.00	2.00	.50
Highland Park	1.00	2.00	.50
New Bethel		2.00	.50
Pleasant View		1.00	.50
Totals	\$8.50	\$30.00	\$8.03

{Beulah Faye Hopper,
 Committee } Monroe Barks,
 { G. W. Dale,
 { Orville Cox.

RESOLUTIONS:

No. 1 — Be it Resolved, That each minister of the Social Band Association give an annual report of his work, and present it to the clerk of the Association, and that said report be printed in our minutes as has been in previous years. This report shall contain an itemized report for services rendered, each church that he pastors, and revivals conducted.

No. 2 — Be it Resolved, That each pastor of this Association stress the importance of subscribing for our church paper, *The Gem*, and be it further resolved that each church select a reporter to report to the same each month.

No. 3 — Be it Resolved, That the pastors of this Association be a member of some Free Will Baptist Church.

No. 4 — Be it Resolved, That the churches in this Association put forth an effort to have preaching service at least two Sundays per month. Be it further resolved, that the ministers

in this Association co-operate with said churches to see that this resolution is carried out.

No. 5 — Be it Resolved, That we accept the recommendation made by the Hopewell Church to put on our church records the following information:

Name of member (brother or sister); date of birth; date converted; date received into fellowship; date of death; active or inactive member.

No. 6 — Be it Resolved, That we extend to Pirtle Church and community our sincere thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and kindness they manifested during our stay with them. We bid them God's speed in their labor for the cause of Christ and His kingdom.

Committee { Eld. Ira Gates,
Eld. W. C. Forsyth,
Eld. Willard Ulmer,
Eld. Raymond Riggs,
Bro. Andrew Brown.

OBITUARY — Whereas our kind heavenly Father has seen fit, in His infinite wisdom, to call from our midst, Brothers Porter Haulum, J. D. Poynor, A. R. Pride, Bro. Franklin, and Alf King; also Sisters Duncan and Jennie Hawkins.

May the Lord's blessings ever be upon the bereaved ones.

Committee { Birdie Kirk,
Dan Kirk,
Carie Connely.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

CHARLES STATEN — Preached nine sermons; received nothing at Sharum church, Poynor \$4.00; assisted with radio program five or six months.

IRA GATES — Pastored one church, New Covenant, part time; 54 sermons; 22 conversions; 16 received into fellowship; received \$85.40. Other places: 129 sermons; 26 conversions; received \$93.53; baptized 36; received \$178.93; married five couples.

W. C. FORSYTH — Received 10 members into fellowship; preached at Sharum, Pruett Chapel, and other places; received \$82.46; organized two churches.

WILLARD ULMER — Preached at Pirtle church; preached seven sermons; received for work, nothing.

ARCHIE CONSTANT — Pastored one church; preached 40 sermons; witnessed 15 conversions; baptized 13; organized one church; preached one funeral; officiated one matrimony; held two revivals; received \$19.30.

E. WAYNE TUCKER — Pastored at Pirtle; preached 33 sermons; received 6 into fellowship; baptized 4; received \$50.00. Preached at Stony Point; 6 sermons; received \$16.35. Preached at Sharum; 11 sermons; received \$29.75. Officiated seven funerals; married one couple; traveled 420 miles; total received \$89.12.

N. P. GATES — Pastored Hazel Park six months; preached about 100 sermons; witnessed 15 conversions; held one revival; organized one Sunday School; officiated six funerals; traveled 1,000 miles; total received \$700.00.

C. E. RIGGS — Pastored two churches, Stony Point and Skaggs, also Hazel Park latter part of year; preached 80 sermons; held one revival; 15 conversions; baptized eight; preached two funerals; received \$316.00. Hazel Park: Conducted two revivals; three conversions.

C. R. RIGGS — Pastored one church, full time, Highland Park; preached 132 sermons; witnessed 64 conversions; baptized 31; received \$698.01. Conducted a revival at Tucker, Missouri: 19 sermons; eight conversions; received \$40.00; baptized 11. Conducted a revival at Sharum, Ark.: Preached 12 sermons; witnessed 48 conversions; baptized 22; received \$36.25. Total: Five funerals and one wedding; sermons 168; conversions witnessed 120; baptized 60; received \$773.01.

RALPH STATEN — Pastored three churches, New Harmony, Sugar Tree Grove, and Hopewell. New Harmony: Preached 37 sermons; received \$95.75. Poynor: Preached 38 sermons, including revival and camp meeting; received \$73.44. Hopewell: Preached 38 sermons; received \$41.57. Preached at other places: Conducted eight funerals; officiated three marriage ceremonies; preached one baccalaureate sermon, four revivals; baptized 31; made 27 radio talks; 157 sermons; received \$456.29.

D. C. JONES — Pastored one church, 29 sermons, at Clear Lake; received \$17.67. Other places: 76 sermons; received \$41.52; witnessed four conversions; traveled 925 miles; five funerals; married two couples; sermons 105; received \$59.19.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

1872

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	Received Into Fellowship ..	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Number Ministers	Sunday Schools	Leagues	Taking Church Paper	Members
New Harmony	9	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	28
Sugar Tree Grove	11	2	..	1	2	1	..	1	54
Alice Brooks	20	1	..	1	5	1	1	4	168
Pirtle	4	..	..	1	2	1	1	..	82
Stony Point	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	112
Hazel Park	8	..	..	..	1	1	1	8	32
New Covenant	14	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	62
Highland Park	60	1	2	..	..	1	1	30	150
Union	9	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	40
Hopewell	11	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	117
Rickey Chapel	15	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	44
White Oak	..	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	24
Grandview	13	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	60
Pleasant View	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	9
Moran	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	15
Clear Lake	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	35
Warm Springs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bethel	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	11
New Hope	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Constant's Chapel	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	22
TOTALS	183	11	2	7	24	18	7	44	1170