

# MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOCIAL BAND ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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HELD WITH

Grandview Church, Supply, Arkansas,  
beginning Thursday evening, September 18, 1941.

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## OFFICERS

Moderator,	Eld. Ralph Staten,	Pocahontas, Ark.
Ass't. Mod.,	Eld. E. W. Tucker,	Peach Orchard, Ark.
Clerk,	Eld. Charles Staten,	Pocahontas, Ark.
Ass't. Clerk,	Eld. D. C. Jones,	Portia, Ark.
Evangelist,	Eld. D. C. Jones,	Portia, Ark.

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The next annual session of this association will convene with the Pocahontas Church, Randolph County, Arkansas, beginning Thursday evening before the third Sunday in September, 1942.

The introductory sermon will be delivered by the pastor of the church of Pocahontas, Eld. Ralph Staten.

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Free Will Baptist Gem, 211 Bond St., Monett, Missouri

## PROCEEDINGS

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The ministers, deacons, and messengers composing that part of the Church of God commonly known as Free Will Baptist met in its Sixty-Seventh Annual Session with Grandview Church, Supply, Arkansas, September 18, 1941.

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### THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opening song directed by Eld. D. C. Jones.

Prayer by Eld. W. C. Forsyth.

Sermon by Eld. D. C. Jones; text, Isaiah 27:4-5.

Benediction given by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

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### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Called to order by moderator.

Opening song, "I Shall Not Be Moved".

Prayer by Bro. L. C. Parish.

Devotional by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Scripture lesson, Rom. 12.

Welcome address by Bro. L. C. Parish.

Eld. W. C. Forsyth gave the response.

Call for church letters. The following churches presented their letters and the delegates were seated: New Covenant, Pocahontas, Hopewell, Pirtle, Rickey Chapel, Grandview, Alice Brooks, Union, Sugar Tree Grove, New Harmony, Stony Point, Hazel Park, Michigan, Highland Park, Michigan, Moran, and Pruett Chapel.

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### Election of Officers

Moderator, Eld. Ralph Staten, Pocahontas, Ark.

Ass't. Mod., Eld. E. W. Tucker, Peach Orchard, Ark.

Clerk, Eld. Charles Staten, Pocahontas, Ark.

Ass't. Clerk, Eld. D. C. Jones, Portia, Ark.

Evangelist, Eld. D. C. Jones, Portia, Ark.

Appoint of committees (see committee reports).

Petitionary letters of South Hoxie and Ecorse, Michigan churches accepted.

### FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Devotional directed by Bro. Will S. White.

Sermons by Ralph and Charles Staten; text, "Ye must be born again."

Benediction, Eld. Raymond Riggs.

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### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Singing directed by Brothers D. C. Jones and Doc Pendergrass.

Rules of decorum read.

Ministerial reports received.

The Riggs-Staten Quartet gave several numbers to an appreciative audience.

Eld. D. C. Jones appointed to fill a vacancy on the presbytery.

Committee reports accepted.

Bro. Jessie Larison gave the benediction.

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### FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Song, "I'd Rather Have Jesus".

Prayer by Bro. Tom Brown.

Devotional by Eld. Thurman Johnson.

Songs directed by Eld. Raymond Riggs, Eld. Ralph Staten, and Bro. C. F. Jones.

Duet by Eld Raymond Riggs and wife, "You've Got to Live Your Religion Every Day".

Sermon by Eld. D. C. Jones; text, Jer. 8:20; Rev. 14:13; Rev. 6:17. Alternate, Eld. W. C. Forsyth, text Heb. 11:1-3.

Benediction by Eld. G. W. Million.

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### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Sister Jane Barks.

Ministers reports (see reports).

Delegates to State Association selected: Bro. Ham Sutton, Sister Birdie Kirk, Sister Will S. White, Sister E. W. Tucker, and Sister Clara Joe Gates.

Eld. W. T. Shoffitt was selected to preach the next memorial sermon. Eld. E. W. Tucker was chosen as alternate.

Pocahontas chosen as site for next Quarterly meeting.

Corresponding delegates to Fairdealing Association:  
Sister Jane Marks, Mattie Hopper and Eld. D. C. Jones.

Corresponding delegates to Polk Bayou Association:  
Sisters Cagle, Holder, McNutt and Bro. D. W. McNutt.

### SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Song, "I Want to be a Worker".

Duet by Eld. Raymond Riggs and wife.

Sermon by Eld. Raymond Riggs; lesson 2 Peter 1:1-15:  
text, 15th verse.

Benediction by Eld. D. C. Jones.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Singing by congregation; pianist, Mrs. Winona Riggs.

Prayer by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Evangelist's report given and accepted.

Pocahontas chosen as next place for association.

Association voted for broadcast for the coming year  
over KBTM, 1240 kilocycles, each Sunday, 7 o'clock a. m.

Adjournment.

Benediction by Eld. W. C. Forsyth.

### SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by congregational singing.

Prayer by Eld. Raymond Riggs.

Devotional by Bro. Jessie Larison.

Sermon by Eld. Ralph Staten; lesson, Matt. 24. Text,  
"The Second Coming of Christ".

One conversion.

Benediction by Bro. C. F. Jones.

### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Singing directed by Ralph Staten, Raymond Riggs,  
and C. F. Jones.

Prayer by Eld. Raymond Riggs.

Devotional by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Ordination service — ministers ordained: Elders Jessie  
Larison and Thurman Johnson; deacons, Brothers E. L.  
Jones, Will S. White, Luther Crays and Elvin McGhee.



Presbytery — Ministers, W. C. Forsyth, G. W. Million, and D. C. Jones; Deacons, E. L. Parish and A. G. Pendergrass.

Sermon by Eld. G. W. Million; lesson, Matt. 7:13-14. Text, "The Broad Way".

Benediction by Eld. R. S. Shelton.

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. G. W. Million.

Sermon by Eld. Raymond Riggs; Scripture lesson, 1 Cor. 11; John 13. Text, "Feetwashing".

A large number participated in feetwashing service. This climaxed another harmonious session.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### FINANCE:

Church	MINUTES Clerk		
	Local	State	Hire
Pocahontas .....	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$.50
Ecorse, Michigan .....	2.00	1.00	.50
New Covenant .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Hopewell .....	2.50	1.00	1.50
Pirtle .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Rickey Chapel .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Grandview .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Alice Brooks .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Union .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Sugar Tree Grove .....	2.00	1.00	.50
New Harmony .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Stony Point .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Hazel Park, Michigan .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Highland Park, Michigan .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Moran .....	2.00	1.00	.50
New Bethel .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Pruett Chapel .....	2.00	1.00	.50
Private Donations .....	1.50	1.00	.50
Totals .....	\$36.00	\$18.00	\$10.00

Committee { Eld. D. C. Jones,  
F. M. Clark,  
H. E. Carter.

## RESOLUTIONS:

NO. 1 — We, the members of the Fifth Sunday Meeting, ask the association that we be a part of the association, known as a quarterly meeting, functioning under the same articles of faith, constitution, and by-laws of the association, meeting on Friday night before each fifth Sunday.

Be it Resolved, That the churches have the same power as in the association as to delegates in transacting other business.

NO. 2 -- We recommend that our past resolutions be more closely carried out before enacting any more.

NO. 3 -- We, your Committee on Resolutions, recommend that the articles of faith and the constitution of the association be published in separate books from the minutes to save expense, since the articles of faith and constitution need to be published only once. The covenant is to be published in both the minutes and the pamphlet.

NO. 4 — We, your Committee on Resolutions, extend to the Grandview 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.

Business Committee { Eld. E. W. Tucker,  
                              { Will S. White,  
                              { Mrs. Birdie Kirk.

**OBITUARY** — Whereas our kind heavenly Father has seen fit, in His infinite wisdom, to call from our midst, Brothers Walter Martin, George Larison, C. L. Rickie, G. P. Johnson, Lee Scaggs, and Sister Sally Ann Crossin.

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

Committee: Eld. W. C. Forsyth, Chairman.  
Virland Martin.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** — We, the Sunday School Committee, give the following report:

By investigation we have found that several churches are using union literature. We urge our pastors to use their influence toward getting more Sunday schools to use Free Will Baptist literature.

Committee { Woodrow Hedge,  
                  { G. W. Hopper,  
                  { Carrie Connelly.

**TEMPERANCE** — We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following report:

Realizing, since the repeal of the eighteenth amendment, that the Devil is putting up a strong fight with intoxicating drinks to seduce Christians, we encourage all Christians to stand firm for temperance. We should do this since the Devil is seeking whom he may devour, 1 Peter 5:8.

We urge our pastors and lay members to teach the necessity of temperance.

We urge all Christians to shun places that sell intoxicating beverages.

Committee: J. T. Holland,  
H. B. Carter.

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### **MINISTERS' REPORTS**

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C. E. RIGGS — Pastored one church, First Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park, Michigan; assisted in four revivals; witnessed about 40 conversions; received into fellowship of church, 14 members; baptized 12; preached one funeral; received \$1,200 for work.

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N. P. GATES — Preached 100 sermons; witnessed 20 conversions; traveled about 2,000 miles; taught three singing schools; organized one Sunday school; organized one church; received \$250.00.

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R. S. SHELTON — Pastored two churches, Union and Pruett Chapel; traveled 1,656 miles; preached 152 sermons; received \$161.70; witnessed two conversions; officiated eight marriage ceremonies; conducted seven funerals.

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C. R. RIGGS — Preached 164 sermons; witnessed 143 conversions; baptized 68; officiated 6 weddings; conducted nine funerals; received \$1,780.25 for work.

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RALPH STATEN — Preached 151 sermons; witnessed 17 conversions; baptized 5; conducted 12 funerals; officiated one marriage ceremony; received \$302.98.

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D. C. JONES — Preached 56 sermons; witnessed one conversion; married three couples; conducted three funerals; traveled 562 miles; received \$99.67.

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E. W. TUCKER — Pastored one church; preached 64 sermons; conducted 12 funerals; received \$180.10; traveled 280 miles.

CHARLES R. STATEN—Pastored one church three months, Sutton; made three trips, traveling 74 miles; preached 10 sermons; received \$5.10.

THRUMAN JOHNSON—Preached 35 sermons; witnessed one conversion; received \$6.39.

W. C. FORSYTH—Preached 161 sermons; officiated one marriage ceremony; received three into fellowship; received \$154.82.

W. F. VICKERY—Preached three sermons; married two couples.

### MINISTERS' ENROLLMENT

D. C. Jones	Portia, Arkansas
Ira Gates	Peach Orchard, Arkansas
E. W. Tucker	Peach Orchard, Arkansas
W. F. Vickery	Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
W. C. Forsyth	Hoxie, Arkansas
R. S. Shelton	O'Kean, Arkansas
C. R. Riggs	Highland Park, Michigan
C. E. Riggs	Hazel Park, Michigan
Ralph Staten	Pocahontas, Arkansas
Charles Staten	Pocahontas, Arkansas
N. P. Gates	Hazel Park, Michigan
B. F. Forrester	Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
W. T. Shaffitt	Delaplaine, Arkansas
G. W. Million	Pocahontas, Arkansas
Herman Johnson	Success, Arkansas
Jessie Larison	O'Kean, Arkansas

### DEACONS' ENROLLMENT

ALICE BROOKS—Marvin Riggs and I. C. Staten.  
NEW HARMONY—C. P. Rowland and E. W. Cox.  
GRANDVIEW—H. C. Jolly and E. L. Jones.  
WARM SPRINGS—J. C. King.  
RICKEY CHAPEL—E. Swift, H. Martin and Henry Russell.  
PIRTLE—Wiley Ricker and Irvin Clark.  
PRUETT CHAPPEL—G. W. Dale and Orville Cox.  
SUGAR TREE GROVE—G. W. Hopper, B. F. Patterson and Monroe Barks.



UNION — J. O. Martin.

HOPEWELL — C. F. Jones and Ambrose Cavanor.

MORAN — D. W. McNutt, C. M. Holder, and Elvin McGhee.

CLEAR LAKE — A. F. Sluder, A. J. Robins and Gus Hall.

NEW BETHEL — Ben Seamans and Hiram White.

NEW HOPE — Horace Bates.

STONY POINT — Dan Kirk and A. G. Pendergrass.

PLEASANT VIEW — Sular Camp.

WHITE OAK — Will Manus, Tom Bennett and J. D. McKinney.

POCAHONTAS — Will S. White and Luthur Crays.

CONSTANTS CHAPEL — Henry Palley and Hire Michall.

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## **RULES OF ORDER**

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1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded with a prayer.
2. Those who speak shall rise, address the moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided.
3. All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be shut off at any time by a majority of the members of the Association.
4. If any proposition or motion under debate contain two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.
5. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the Minutes, unless so ordered at the time.
6. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the body.
7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.
8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.
9. At the future sessions of this Association arrangements shall be made so as to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises which shall be equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and that the chair announce just before adjournments who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.
10. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular meeting of the Association.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

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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."

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.

## LETTER FORM TO BE USED BY LOCAL CHURCHES

To the ..... Association of Free Will Baptists:

We, the ..... Church of Free Will Baptists met on ..... 19..., and selected ..... to represent us in your honorable body which convenes with ..... Church, on ....., 19... Bidding you God's speed in all your labor for the advancement of the cause of Christ and His kingdom. Our church is composed of ..... deacons, ..... ministers; membership: males ....., females ....., total ..... Members received during the year: baptism ....., recommendation ....., by letter ..... The churches' loss in membership: dismissed by letter ....., excluded ....., died ..... Name and address of ministers ..... Name of deacons ..... Sunday School, yes .... no ....., kind of literature used ..... condition ....., average attendance ....., total membership ..... League: yes ...., no ...., president ....., secretary ....., total membership ..... Families taking church paper ..... Pastor ..... sermons preached ....., salary \$ ..... Own church building ..... value of church property \$: ....., when organized ....., by who .....

Moderator, .....

Clerk, .....

# STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Received into fellowship	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Number of Ministers	Sunday Schools	Leagues	Taking Church Paper	Member
Union .....	R. S. Shelton .....	Naomi Denton, O'Kean, Ark. ...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	30
Grandview .....	G. W. Million .....	Esta Fowler, Supply, Ark. ...	4	1	...	2	...	1	1	...	76
Pleasant View .....	W. C. Forsyth .....	Burl Dawson, Pocahontas, ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	10
Constants Chapel .....	W. C. Forsyth .....	Donia Slaton, Beech Grove ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	26
Stony Point .....	Billie Rogers .....	Robert Counts, Pocahontas ...	...	4	...	...	1	1	1	...	108
Alice Brooks .....	Ralph Staten .....	A. B. Ford, Pocahontas, Ark. ...	10	...	...	...	5	1	...	20	178
Pruet Chapel .....	R. S. Shelton .....	Lillie Dennis, Light, Ark. ...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	45
Highland Park, Michigan ..	C. R. Riggs .....	V. S. Versnick .....	22	...	...	1	1	1	...	8	99
New Bethel .....	D. C. Jones .....	Ethel Brown, Poca, Ark. ...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	11
Rickey Chapel .....	Ira Gates .....	Laura Russell, O'kean, Ark. ...	7	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	55
Sugar Tree Grove .....	R. S. Shelton .....	W. P. Wheeler, Paynor, Mo. ...	11	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	56
Pocahontas .....	Ralph Staten .....	A. H. Million, Pocahontas ...	36	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	80
New Covenant .....	R. S. Shelton .....	Nan Staten, Walnut Ridge ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	62
Pirtle .....	Ralph Staten .....	Edward Gates, Peach Orchard ...	10	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	36
New Harmony .....	Ralph Staten .....	Zemru Osterkamp, Pocahontas ...	8	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	37
Hopewell .....	Ralph Staten .....	Austin Cavenor, Biggers, Ark. ...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	120
Moran .....	Ira Gates .....	R. McNutt, Walnut Ridge ...	21	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	36
Totals .....			132	6	5	7	15	17	7	29	1055