

Minutes and Proceedings

— Of The —

53rd and 54th Annual Sessions

— Of The —

Southeast Texas
Free Will Baptist Association

53rd Session with Cairo Springs Church, October 10, 1941

54th Session with China Grove Church, October, 9, 1942



The next Session will be held with Bonami Church
Friday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1943



The 53rd Annual Session of the Southeast Texas Free Will Baptist Association held with Cairo Springs Church, Jasper County, Texas, Friday Morning, October 10, 1941. 11 O'clock.

Introductory Sermon by Rev. T. W. Smith. Scripture, Ephesians 3 and 14.

Saturday Morning—

Scripture Reading by the Moderator, Bro. M. K. Withers—Hebrews 3rd Chapter, after which the body was called to order.

Call for letters from the churches and Delegates seated.

On motion, Sisters Nettie Denmon and Foebie Gandy were seated as honorary members.

The body was permanently organized by reelecting Bro. M. K. Withers Moderator, and Sister Ida Withers, Clerk.

Call for petitionary letters. On motion, the letter from the New Church, China Grove be read, and this church be received into the Association. The right hand of Christian fellowship extended this body.

On motion, we adjourned for the 11 o'clock service by Rev. T. W. Smith. Text, 10th verse of 2nd chapter of Rev. The services closed to meet back at 2 P. M.

Saturday Afternoon—

The body came together with singing and prayer. The regular business was taken up. The appointing of different committees.

The Moderator, on motion, appointed the following:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Brothers Marvin Sheffield, Austin Withers and John Wilson.

STATE OF CHURCHES: Brothers J. R. Bishop and Jimmie Young, and Sister T. W. Smith.

ON FINANCE: Brothers B. F. Fazend and J. R. Bishop and Rev. T. W. Smith.

MINISTERIAL CHARACTERS: Sisters Rose Fazend, Alice Bishop and Myrtie Gandy.

TEMPERANCE: Sisters Foebie Gandy, Nettie Denmon and Alice Bishop.

SABBATH SCHOOLS: Sisters Smith and Myrtie Gandy and Brother Arlan Young.

OBITUARIES: Reverend T. W. Smith and Sisters Nettie Denmon and Ella Young.

Next in order, the Roll Call and Decorum read by Rev. T. W. Smith.

On motion, the Clerk with the assistance of Bro. Smith, was asked to write a letter to the State Association. Also Rev. T. W. Smith be sent as a messenger from this Association.

A call for pastor's report. Rev. T. W. Smith, in response, gave a good report.

On motion, the following reports were handed in and read.

STATE OF CHURCHES

We, your Committee on Churches, find three churches, all in working order, and one new church, just received in this association, making four churches.

Regular monthly services are held at each church by Rev. T. W. Smith.—J. R. Bishop, Chairman.

MINISTERIAL CHARACTERS

We, your Committee on Ministers, find our minister doing all he can in the work for Christ.—Sister Alice Bishop, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE

We, the Committee, find no intemperance in either of our churches.—Nettie Denmon, Chairman.

We, your Committee, find one Sunday School, the new Church at China Grove, We recommend each church have a Sunday School. It is the life of the church.—Mrs. T. W. Smith, Chairman.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Finance, beg to report the following:

BONAMI Church: Pastor's salary \$68.64. On moving, Brother Smith \$3.00; on trip .47.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH: Pastor's salary, \$92.60. On moving, Brother Smith, \$5.21; on trip \$4.30.

CAIRO SPRINGS CHURCH: Pastor's Salary \$133.58. Moving Brother Smith \$6.00; orphanage \$2.50. Minute Fund, Balance \$4.50.

O B I T U A R I E S —

We find two of our faithful members have departed this life. Therefore, Be It Resolved, We extend sympathy to their bereaved ones. May we all be willing for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Sister Julia West departed this life February 23, 1941.

Bro. J. J. Sheffield departed this life July 22, 1941. Let us bow in submission to God's will for our loss is Heaven's gain.

Rev. T. W. Smith, Chairman.

On motion, China Grove gets the next Association and it convenes on Friday, 11 o'clock before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1942.

Rev. T. W. Smith preach the Introductory Sermon.

On motion, Cairo Springs get the next union meeting to be held in July. On motion Bro. J. R. Bishop was ordained deacon of China Grove Church.

A move and second by the body that the Moderator extend to the people of Cairo Springs Community thanks for their kindness and hospitality shown us during this Association.

On motion, we adjourned to meet at the time and place above mentioned.—M. K. Withers, Moderator.

Mrs. M. K. Withers, Clerk.

The 54th Annual Session of the Southeast Texas Free Will Baptist Church held with China Grove Church, Friday Morning, October 9, 1942.

Friday, 11 o'clock, preaching by Rev. T. W. Smith.

Text Rev. 3-8. Then adjourned to meet back at 1:15 o'clock P. M.

FRIDAY EVENING.—The Association met with singing and prayer, and the order of business was taken up. Letters from Cairo Springs, Bonami and China Grove were handed in, read, received, and delegates seated.

CAIRO SPRINGS CHURCH: Bro. Austin Withers, and Sisters Rose Fazend and Ida Withers.

BONAMI CHURCH: Bro. Ben Biscamp and Sisters Ordry Biscamp and Etta Wilson.

CHINA GROVE CHURCH: Sisters Alice Biscamp, Ella Young, Daisy Biscamp, and Eunice Biscamp.

The body was permanently organized by reelecting Bro. M. K. Withers, Moderator, and Sister Ida Withers, Clerk.

By order we adjourned until 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING Business session opened. Devotional led by Bro. John Wilson. On the work of corresponding with Sister Associations, Bro. T. W. Smith made a report on this work.

On motion, we adjourned for 11 o'clock service by Bro. Smith.

SATURDAY — 1:30 P. M. The body met with singing and prayer by Sister Smith.

Decorum was read by Rev. T. W. Smith. The report of the Churches were made by Rev. T. W. Smith.

Bro. John Wilson, Bro. J. R. Bishop, and Bro. M. K. Withers.

These reports were received. Sister T. W. Smith made a good talk on the Scarcity of Ministers.

On motion, the clerk of the Association was instructed to write a letter to the State Association, as conditions would not permit a messenger to go. A contribution of \$1.00 to be sent in this letter. The amount of 52c over plus was raised and this to be used for expense of the associational work.

The clerk was instructed to write a letter of appreciation to Mrs. L. E. Harris for the contribution of \$10.00 to this association in behalf of her father, the late Rev. J. T. Lee.

A report on Finance was made by John Wilson, J. R. Bishop and Austin Withers, as follows:

FRIENDSHIP Church paid \$108.90 on pastor's salary.

BONAMI Church paid on pastor's salary \$79.59.

CHINA GROVE Church paid \$18.28 to pastor.

CAIRO SPRINGS Church paid \$61.29 to pastor.

Received from Mrs. L. E. Harris \$10.00 used for Min. Collection from this association \$14.60. \$6.00 of this for minutes. \$1.00 for the State Association and balance to Rev. Smith. We also have sent in from Bonami Church \$3.80 on minutes. In treasury \$4.50.

On motion, we adjourned till 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning.

SUNDAY. Devotional led by Mrs. J. R. Bishop.

Letters from Friendship Church handed in, read and received. Also a verbal report was given by Bro. Marvin Sheffield.

On motion the next Association will be held with Bonami Church, Jasper County, Texas, and it will convene Friday at 11 o'clock, before the second Sunday in October, 1943.

The one to preach the Introductory Sermon to be supplied.

The next Union Meeting to be held with China Grove Church the 4th Sunday in July beginning Friday at 11 o'clock, 1943.

Introductory Sermon to be supplied.

By a move and second, a vote of thanks to this church and the China Grove Community for their kindness and hospitality to us during this Association.

On motion we adjourned to meet at time and place above mentioned.—M. K. WITHERS; Moderator.

MRS. M. K. WITHERS, Clerk.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organize.
2. Call for letters from the different churches.
3. Elect a Moderator and a Clerk.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
5. Call the roll and read decorum.
6. Appoint Committees.
7. Appoint correspondents to sister associations.
8. Call for correspondence from sister associations.
9. Call for Pastors' reports.
10. Call for reports of committees.
11. Miscellaneous business.
12. Appoint time for holding next association.
13. Adjournment.

OBITUARY—

SISTER WILKERSON of Kirbyville, Route 3.—Since it has pleased the Lord to call from our midst, our beloved Sister, we humbly submit to the will of the Father and extend our sympathy to the bereaved family.—Rev. T. W. Smith.

ASSOCIATION DECORUM

1. The Association shall be called to order by the former Moderator, who presided at the last session. If he is not present, the Clerk shall call the body to order. If both the Clerk and Moderator are absent, then some brother shall be called to the chair, who shall act until the body is permanently organized.

2. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3. The Moderator and Clerk of the preceding session shall preside until the body is permanently organized by electing a Moderator and Clerk in any way the body may direct.

4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to call the body to order, see that order is preserved, and submit all questions to the body. He shall have the privilege of speaking, but must call some brother to preside in his place while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless the body is equally divided, then he shall cast the deciding vote.

5. The members present shall be enrolled and their names called as often as is necessary.

6. The majority of the members present shall rule in all cases and on amending the decorum the amendment must be submitted in writing at the preceding session. On the admission of new churches it shall require a unanimous vote. (As amended.)

7. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator; and no member shall leave the Association without the consent of the body.

8. All business shall be brought before the body by a move and second, and shall be disposed of according to good usage.

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than three times on the same subject, nor more than fifteen minutes each time, without permission from the body.

10. No person shall be disturbed while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, and it be necessary to call him to order.

11. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at the same time, and he shall arise and address the Moderator, and must not use abusive language or personal reflections on anyone, without being subject to a call to order by the Moderator.

12. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a minute of the proceedings and to read same when called upon to be corrected at the discretion of the body, and shall prepare the minutes for publication, unless the Association shall appoint someone for that purpose. He shall keep the books and papers belonging to the Association, and read the same when ordered to do so, and shall have such compensation for his services as the Association may prescribe.

13. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to carry on correspondence by writing to persons who belong to other Associations of like faith in any way that would be likely to create interest in this Association for its promotion and well being.

14. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all money committed to him by the Association, and to make a report at every Association, if called upon, and pay out money, if desired to do so by the Association, and shall receive such compensation as the Association may prescribe.

15. These rules of decorum may be amended by submitting the Amendments in writing at the preceding session. (As amended.)

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a Pastor annually at the last regular conference in the associational year, or if they prefer it, choose a Pastor for an indefinite length of time, to continue from year to year, so long as he may deem it proper to keep up the convention.

2. When it becomes necessary a Pastor may be chosen at any other time, but if a choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The Pastor shall be Moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as Moderator, some suitable brother present may be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more Deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the church for the Pastor, etc., and distribute the wine and bread in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The Deacons shall also take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper, and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member may be appointed Clerk, and it is his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a new Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., in possession of the former Clerk, and belonging to the Association, shall immediately be delivered to him by his predecessor.

8. When a church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with the business, shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

9. The church shall hold a two days' meeting monthly, embracing the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the Pastor is expected to instruct the church in a special manner, by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine and discipline and rules of holy living.

11. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows: First, prayer, unless divine services have just concluded, and generally then. Second, invite visiting brethren to seats. Third, open the door for the reception of members. Fourth, acknowledgements. Fifth, for reference, or deferred business. Sixth, for matters of business which are in order to come before the church. Seventh, for miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, also helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak, or make motion, or to second motions; but not allowed to vote.

13. An orderly member of the Baptist Church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into this church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desires to join this or some other sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid and, unless withdrawn, the members who make them shall be taken under dealing by the church.

15. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend at his trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

16. When a witness who is not a member of this church is introduced, he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church, "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

17. Members dismissed from this church by letter who become disorderly, or continue to hold their letters without a just reason, shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

18. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petitions if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former conduct.

19. A vote will not be taken upon any question without a move and second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to their feet.

20. No motion is admitted while a move and second is before the conference.

21. It is considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from the conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon his request, may be exempt by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

22. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation, nor whispering, without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

23. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep to the point in debate.

24. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

25. When the Moderator speaks in debate, he must nominate some brother Moderator to act in his stead.

26. No one shall be interrupted while speaking, unless it be necessary to explain or call to order.

27. The administration of the Lord's Supper shall be at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

28. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter in dealing.

29. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions, and the church or conference shall designate the time.

30. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to take up collections quarterly for the support of the Home Mission work.

31. It shall be the duty of the church to appoint a committee to revise the church books once a year.

32. The decorum may be altered or amended by a vote of two thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE 1—OF GOD

We believe there is one, and but one living and true God; who is in personality the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal and harmonious in every divine perfection.

ARTICLE II—OF HOLY SCRIPTURE—

We believe that God is the author of the Holy Bible, and that its teachings constitute the only infallible doctrine for the government of His church.

ARTICLE III—OF ORIGINAL APOSTASY

We believe that Adam was created holy, but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently involved his posterity in sin.

ARTICLES IV—OF FREE GRACE

We believe that the grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessings; that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation; that the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world for sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise unto salvation.

ARTICLE V—OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

We believe that Christian Faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, that "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

ARTICLE VI—OF REPENTANCE

We believe that repentance is sorrow for sin, and the kind of sorrow which constitutes Godly repentance must be preceded by effectual conviction for sin.

ARTICLE VII—OF FREE AGENCY

We believe that the human will is free, and men have the ability to receive or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLE VIII—OF PERSERVANCE

We do not believe under the Gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally; that it is possible for men who have been converted to "make shipwreck" of the faith," turn again to sin and be finally lost.

ARTICLE IX—OF GOOD WORKS

We believe that good works is the result of faith, and not of necessity; that those who have no faith cannot do anything pleasing or acceptable to God.

ARTICLE X—OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; that baptism cannot be Scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it.

ARTICLE XI—OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe the Supper was instituted by our Lord as a commemoration ordinance; that the bread and wine represent His body and blood; that it was instituted for Christians, and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of names or denominational distinctions.

ARTICLE XII—OF THE SOUL

We believe that man is a living soul; that the body will die, but that the soul is immortal; that death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings.

ARTICLE XIII—OF THE RESURRECTION

We believe in the resurrection of the dead; when the resurrection shall take place, the soul and the body will reunite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness to reign with God forever and forever. "But the wicked will be bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness. The wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death."

