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Minutes

— OF THE —
SEVENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
— OF THE —

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

FREE WILL

Baptist Association

When Convened with
Bon Ami Free Will Baptist Church
October 10, 11, 12, 1958



The Next Session will be with
Cairo Springs Church
October 9, 10, 11, 1959

ORDAINED MINISTERS——

Rev. R. E. (Bob) Sheffield

Route 2, Box 266, Newton, Texas

LICENSED——

L. G. Sweat

Route 2, Kirbyville, Texas

Proceedings of the Seventieth Annual Session of the Southeast Texas Free Will Baptist Association which convened with the Bonami Church October 10, 11, and 12, 1958.

FRIDAY MORNING

Moderator called the body to order with song "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms," led by Sister Thelma Ford. Prayer by Rev. Bob Sheffield. Devotional led by Sister Miriam Adams.

Reading "St. John 13:24-38.

Letters from churches called for, read and accepted. Delegates seated.

CAIRO SPRINGS — Bro. Austin Withers, Sister Ida Withers, Sister Alpha Sheffield.

BONAMI — Sisters Thelma Ford, Audry Biscamp and Athilea Sweat.

Motion made and seconded that Sister Miriam Adams and Sister Lena Burnett be seated as delegates.

Motion and second that we elect moderator and clerk.

Bro. Austin Withers elected Moderator.

Sister Evie Phelps elected Clerk.

Motion that Divine Committee be elected from the floors. Sisters Ida Withers, Lena Burnett and Thelma Ford were elected.

Motion and second that we have ten minutes recess for committee to get report.

Dismissed by song led by Rev. Bob Sheffield.

Prayer by Sister Alpha Sheffield.

Body called to order by song "Standing On the Promises" led by Sister Athilea Sweat. Prayer by Sister Ida Withers.

Message by Rev. Bob Sheffield, Scripture Jonah 3. "The Power of Prayer." Dismissed for lunch by all repeating the Lord's Prayer.

12:30 P. M. — Body called to order by song led by Rev. Bob Sheffield. Prayer by Rev. Bob Sheffield.

Motion and second that Moderator appoint committees.

Executive Committee: Bro. L. G. Sweat to serve one year; Bro. Guy Stanley two years; Bro. Howard Ford to serve three years.

Finance Committee: Sister Alpha Sheffield, Athilea Sweat and Bro. Ray Gandy.

Temperance: Sisters Miriam Adams; Audry Biscamp, Mary Frances Ford.

Sabbath Schools: Sisters Thelma Ford, Ida Withers and Myrtie Gandy.

Obituaries: Sisters Lena Burnett, Thelma Ford and Ida Withers.

State of Churches: Sisters Miriam Adams, Audry Biscamp and Barbara Ford.

Correspondence: Sisters Athilea Sweat, Ida Withers and Evie Phelps.

Called for report of correspondence. We regretfully report we have correspondence with no one. — Athilea Sweat, Chairman.

Report accepted.

Dismissed until 10 A. M. Saturday by song led by Sister Thelma Ford.

Prayer by Sister Miriam Adams.

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FRIDAY NIGHT 7:30

Song led by Rev. Bob Sheffield.

Prayer by Sister Athelia Sweat.

Devotion by Sister Lena Burnett.

Scripture on "Fellowship."

Message by Bro. L. G. Sweat, Scripture Luke 16:16, "Who Is My Neighbor?"

Closed with song, "Who at My Door Is Standing" led by Rev. Bob Sheffield.

Prayer by Bro. Howard Ford.

SATURDAY MORNING

Opened by song, "I Feel Like Traveling On" led by Bro. Guy Stanley. Prayer by Bro. L. G. Sweat.

Motion and second that we seat Bro. Guy Stanley. Bro. Ray Gandy and Sister Myrtie Gandy from Cairo Springs Church, and Sister Mary Ford and Barbara Ford from Bonami.

Motion and second that we call for Pastors' reports. Rev. L. G. Sweat also made an oral report. They were accepted.

Dismissed until 11 o'clock for committees to get reports.

Song led by Bro. Guy Stanley. Prayer by Bro. Ray Gandy.

11:00 A. M. SATURDAY

Body called to order by song "Heavenly Sunlight" led by Bro. Guy Stanley. Prayer by Bro. L. G. Sweat.

Devotion by Sister Alpha Sheffield, reading Psalm 90. Song, "Jesus Hold My Hand," led by Bro. Guy Stanley. Song, "Watching You," led by Bro. L. G. Sweat.

Message by Bro. Bob Sheffield, Scripture, Jonah 7, on Temptation.

Dismissed until 12:30 P. M. by song "Revive Us Again," led by Bro. Guy Stanley. Prayer by Bro. Ray Gandy.

SATURDAY 12:30 P. M.

Body called to order by song, "Only Trust Him," led by Bro. Guy Stanley. Prayer by Bro. Ray Gandy.

Called for reports of committees.

Executive Committee, No Report.

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Finance Committee: We your committee on finance do report as follows:

Paid Pastors	\$1196.27
Paid Evangelist	139.00
Association Expenses	62.25
Building and Repairs	179.97
Sunday School	230.34
Miscellaneous	278.87

TOTAL \$2,806.67

Cairo Springs Church is community owned and valued at \$2000.00. Bonami is owned by Free Will Baptist and valued at \$5800.00. — Alpha Sheffield, Chairman.

Sabbath Schools — We your Committee on Sabbath Schools do report we have two Sunday Schools. We pray that in the coming year our interest will increase. — Thelma Ford, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS — We your committee on Resolutions submit that We give the host church a rising vote of thanks for their kind hospitality.

We resolve that we should have a closer fellowship on Visitation of the Sick and Needy; that we bring souls to the Kingdom of God.

We resolve that we stress the Ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Saints Feet, to each other; that we may bring all into these services. — Rev. R. E. (Bob) Sheffield.

OBITUARIES

We your Committee on Obituaries are sad to report the loss of three of our members—

Bro. John (Ruffin) Bishop, 72 year old, passed away November 28, 1957, a member of China Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

Sister Ella Young, 54 years old, passed away March 27, 1958. She was a member of China Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

Bro. Jimmie Young, age 28, passed away April 27, 1958. He was a member of China Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

We your committee ask that we stand in a moment of silent prayer for those who have gone before us. — Lena Burnett, Chairman.

STATE OF CHURCHES — We your Committee on State of Churches report. We have only two churches in working order. We have one pastor and one assistant pastor.

Attendance is not as it should be. We find our churches lacking in visiting of the sick. We do pray that in the coming year our people will study, pray and visit and minister more in upholding our doctrine, abiding in our church covenant and in fellowship one with another. — Miriam Adams, Chairman.

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ASSOCIATION REPORT—

Cash on Hand	\$48.50
Collections	23.75
Paid in	10.00
	82.25
Spent	60.00
Cash on Hand	22.25
SPENT—	
Clerk	\$15.00
State Association	10.00
Minutes	\$35.00
	\$60.00

Motion and second that Ordaining Council be named by Moderator: Bro. Howard Ford was named for three years. Bro. Ben Biscamp for two years and Rev. Bob Sheffield to serve the last year of his three year term.

MISCELLANEOUS — Motion and second that clerk write letter to the State Association.

Motion and second that Sister Alpha Sheffield and Sister Athilea Sweat be named as delegates to represent us at the State Association.

Motion and second that we give ministers a card of good standing.

Dismissed for ten minutes to write a resolution, as unfinished business.

Be it resolved that the time of holding the association be changed from Friday morning to Friday night at 7:30. — Rev. Bob Sheffield, Chairman.

Motion and second to pay clerk.

Motion and second that clerk have minutes printed.

Motion and second that the next association be held with Cairò Springs Free Will Bapis Church beginning Friday, October 8, 10, 11, 1959.

Motion and second that business adjourn.

Dismissed by song led by Bro. Guy Stanly. Prayer by Bro. L. G. Sweat.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Services opened with song "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms," led by Bro. L. G. Sweat. Prayer by Sister Mirian Adams.

Devotional by Bro. L. G. Sweat.

Message by Rev. Bob Sheffield.

Dismissed by Prayer by Bro. L. G. Sweat.

SUNDAY MORNING

Services opened by song, "Love Lifted Me," led by Rev. Bob Sheffield.

Prayer by Bro. Ben Biscamp.

Devotion by Bro. L. G. Sweat.

Message by Rev. R. E. (Bob) Sheffield.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. L. G. Sweat.

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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 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 shall 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 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 any 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 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 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 reception of members. Fourth, acknowledgments. 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 motion; 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 con-

sent 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 exclusion 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 popular cases.

22. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation, nor whispering, without being subject to being 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 I—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.

ARTICLE 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 conditions of salvation as they are revealed in Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLE VIII—OF PERSEVERANCE

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 of 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 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."

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.

