

Minutes - -

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

and

YEARLY ASSOCIATION

of

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

of

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

THIRTY - FIFTH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION

1954

**When Convened With
FREE WILL BAPTIST TABERNACLE
BENTON, ILLINOIS**

35TH ANNUAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

The 35th Annual Ministerial Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Free Will Baptist Tabernacle on June 3, 1954.

Song, "Standing On the Promises." Devotional by Miss Joyce McClerren and followed in prayer by Rev. George Waggoner.

Rev. Willie Huffman, Moderator of the previous session, took charge for the election of Moderator for this session. Rev. George Waggoner and Rev. Everett Hodges were nominated. Rev. Everett Hodges received the most votes and was duly elected. Rev. Willie Huffman was appointed as Assistant Moderator.

Mrs. Earl Bailor was nominated for clerk of the Ministers' Conference. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Earl Bailor was duly elected.

Minutes of previous sessions were read and approved. There being no corrections or objections the minutes were approved as read.

Bro. Byford Campbell was nominated by Rev. Geo. Waggoner to bring the 11:00 o'clock message. Motion was made by Rev. C. A. Curry that nominations cease and Bro. Byford Campbell duly elected.

The Moderator appointed the business committee, namely: Rev. George McClaskey, Rev. Berlin Scorbrough, and Rev. George Waggoner.

Rev. C. A. Curry suggested that the Ministers gather for an altar prayer before entering the discussion of topics.

Topic for discussion: "What is the Free Will Baptist stand on the new version of the Bible?" Discussion was opened by Rev. George Waggoner and Rev. Riley Burton.

Topic for discussion: "What is the Pastor's duty toward the Sunday School and other organizations of the Church?" Discussion was opened by Rev. Geraldine Lewis and Rev. Willie Huffman.

Business session was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Jasper Armstrong.

Morning Service

The Morning Worship Hour was opened by singing, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "There is a

Fountain." Prayer by Rev. C. A. Curry. Bro. Byford Campbell delivered the morning message, using Acts 16: 19-33 as his Scripture text with the 26th verse as his theme, "And everyone's bands were loosed."

"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" was sung and everyone shook hands. Bro. D. E. Bain dismissed the service with prayer.

Afternoon Service

The afternoon service was opened by singing, "The Way of the Cross Leads Home." Prayer by Rev. Berlin Scarbrough. Devotional by Eugene Norris. Special song by Rev. and Mrs. Carl Williams and followed by a short praise service.

Rev. Floyd Hartley was nominated by Rev. Carl Williams to bring the introductory message at the Ministerial Conference in 1955. Motion was made by Rev. C. A. Curry that nominations cease and elect by acclamation. Rev. Hartley duly elected.

Rev. George Waggoner presented business to the Association stating that the Ministers' Association had no Constitution and By-laws; therefore no action could be taken without authority of the Yearly Conference. Motion was made by Rev. Carl Williams and seconded by Rev. Hosea V. Smith to appoint a committee to represent the Ministers at the Yearly Conference stating that they desire to legally become a part of the Yearly Conference. Rev. Carl Williams, Rev. Willie Huffman, and Rev. Berlin Scarbrough were appointed to act on this committee. Rev. Carl Williams asked permission to ask other ministers to help in this. Permission granted.

Rev. Huffman took charge while Rev. Hodges presented some business to the Association. He suggested that we get our Church Covenant printed so each church could place it on the wall. George Waggoner stated that action was being taken now in the National Association, and that we could buy these soon.

Roll Call of Ministers Present: Reverends Jasper Armstrong, Byford Campbell, Floyd Hartley, Willie Huffman, Lester Breeze, C. A. Curry, Opal Hiltibidal, Arthur Kern, W. R. Burton, Claude Hampleman, Everett Hodges, Lee LeVault, Geraldine Lewis, Richard McNeil, Berlin Scarbrough, John M. Smith, George Waggoner, George McClaskey, Robert Norman, Lucile Scarbrough, Irene Sullivan, Carl V. Williams, Joyce McClerren, Eugene Norris, Hosea V. Smith, Sherman Sullivan.

Motion was made by Rev. George Waggoner that we depart from printed program and have the Topic Discussion at 3:00 and adjourn at 3:30. Motion seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton. Motion carried.

Topic for discussion: "What is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and When and How Do We Receive the Holy Ghost?" Discussion was opened by Rev. C. A. Curry, Rev. Robert Norman and Rev. John Smith.

Motion made by Rev. Floyd Hartley and seconded by Rev. George Waggoner to adjourn. Motion carried.

Moderator, Rev. Everett Hodges
Assistant, Rev. Willie Huffman
Clerk, Mrs. Patricia Bailor

35TH ANNUAL YEARLY CONFERENCE

The 35th Annual Session of Free Will Baptist Association of Southern Illinois when convened with the Free Will Baptist Tabernacle, June 3-5, 1954.

Morning Session

Services were opened by singing, "In the Cross." Prayer by Bro. J. B. Jones.

Rev. George Waggoner was nominated as Moderator for this yearly session. Motion was made by Rev. Willie Huffman and seconded by Rev. Geraldine Lewis that nominations cease and elect by acclamation. Motion carried and Rev. George Waggoner duly elected. Rev. Floyd Hartley was appointed as Assistant Moderator.

Minutes of the previous session were read and approved. Letters from the various churches were read by the clerk.

Motion was made by Rev. Willie Huffman and seconded by Rev. Geraldine Lewis that corrected letter from Wayne County Quarterly be accepted and delegates seated. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. William Buster and seconded by Rev. Willie Huffman that letter from Franklin County Quarterly be accepted as read and delegates seated. Motion carried.

There being no letter from the Freedom Quarterly Conference, the delegates from that Conference could not be seated. Motion was made by Rev. A. A. White and

seconded by Bro. Herbert Pierce that ordained Deacons as well as ordained Ministers have a right to vote in this conference. Discussion. Vote taken and motion carried.

A motion was made by Rev. Wm. Buster and seconded by Rev. Floyd Hartley that Sunday services be eliminated from the program. Motion carried.

Pulpit Committee appointed by the Moderator was: Bro. Howard Clampet, Chairman; Mrs. Edith Smith and Deacon Arthur Jones.

Business Committee appointed by the Moderator consisted of Rev. William Buster, Rev. A. A. White and Rev. Berlin Searbrough.

Auditing Committee appointed by the Moderator was Rev. Cloy Meyers, Rev. C. A. Curry and Rev. Claude Childers.

Bro. Lester Lewis gave the report of the National Association which was at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, in 1953. Motion was made by Rev. A. A. White and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton that we accept report and reimburse expenses of \$50.00. Motion carried.

Pulpit Committee gave report as follows: "Rev. William Buster at 11:00 o'clock Friday and Rev. Claude Childers at 11:00 o'clock Saturday. /s/ Committee." Motion was made by Rev. W. R. Burton and seconded by Rev. Floyd Hartley that report be accepted and committee be released. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. W. R. Burton and seconded by Rev. C. H. Curry that we depart from the program and stand adjourned from business until 1:15 this afternoon. Motion carried.

Song, "Standing on the Promises." Dismissal prayer by Rev. Floyd Hartley.

Morning Worship service was opened by singing, "Power in the Blood." Prayer by Rev. Dewey Merritt. Song, "My Redeemer." Rev. William Buster delivered the morning message using as his Scripture, Psalms 1:1-3. Song, "When We All Get to Heaven," and a handshake. Rev. Marsh Harpole prayed the dismissal prayer.

Afternoon Session

Afternoon services were opened by singing, "Love Lifted Me." Prayer by Rev. Willie Huffman. Devotional by Rev. Cloy Meyers, reading John 14. Prayer by Bro. Dewitt Childers.

The Freedom Quarterly Meeting letter was read. A motion was made by Rev. Marsh Harpole and seconded

by Rev. W. R. Burton that the letter be accepted as read and delegates seated. Motion carried.

Topic for discussion: "The Need for a Better Understanding Between the Laity and the Ministers." Discussion was opened by Rev. O. C. McClerren, Sis. Irene Sullivan, Rev. C. A. Curry and others.

"We, the Business Committee of the annual conference recommend that the Annual Conference request the Franklin County Quarterly Meeting to require the Rescue Free Will Paptist Church clear up the matter of Mrs. Frank Burton's standing with said Quarterly Meeting or that the Quarterly Meeting withdraw the hand of fellowship from said church. /s/ Committee." A motion was made by Rev. Willie Huffman and seconded by Rev. C. A. Curry that recommendation be accepted and matter referred to the Franklin County Quarterly. Motion carried.

"We, the Business Committee, recommend that, whereas Deacons are to be recognized as standing delegates to the Annual Conference, that they be required to report either by letter or in person to the Annual Conference each year. That non-active Deacons forfeit their standing on recommendation of the local church. /s/ Committee." A substitute motion was made by Rev. William Buster and seconded by Rev. Floyd Hartley that this business be tabled until new articles of Constitution and By-laws are passed upon by the Conference. Motion carried.

"We, the Business Committee, recommend that the Ministers' Annual Institute be brought under the Constitution and By-laws of the Illinois Annual Conference. That hereafter the Annual State Association begin on Wednesday night and that Thursday be used for devotions and fellowship. /s/ Committee." A motion was made by Rev. W. R. Burton and seconded by Rev. Floyd Hartley that this recommendation be accepted. Motion carried. Consent was given that Rev. Hartley still preach the Wednesday evening message in 1955 as previously planned in the Ministers' Institute.

Rev. Claude Childers presented revisions of the Constitution and By-laws. Motion was made by Rev. A. A. White and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton that revisions be accepted and tabled until next Yearly Conference. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. A. A. White and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton that 2,000 copies of the revision be

printed and distributed among our churches. Motion carried.

Woman's Auxiliary program and report was presented. Thanks were given for the splendid work the Woman's Auxiliary has done.

Motion was made by Rev. Floyd Hartley and seconded by Rev. Dewey Merritt that the renewing of the Ministers' cards be postponed until Saturday morning at 9:30. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bro. Howard Clampet and seconded by Rev. Dewey Merritt that we adjourn business until 9:30 Saturday morning. Motion carried.

Song, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Prayer of dismissal by Rev. Robert Norman.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1954

Morning Service

Services were opened by singing, "Blessed Assurance." Prayer by Bro. Arthur Norris. Devotional by Rev. C. A. Curry.

Because of the absence of the delegates from Wayne County Quarterly Meeting, business could not be transacted at this time.

Topic for discussion: "Church Ordinances." Discussion was opened by Sis. Irene Sullivan, Rev. C. A. Curry, and Rev. William Buster.

Reports and letters from Superannuation and Co-operative Plan were presented by Rev. Geo. Waggoner. Letters were distributed to each delegate.

A motion was made by Rev. Jasper Armstrong and seconded by Rev. Lester Breeze that Article 4 of the By-laws be temporarily set aside and we proceed to transact business. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rev. William Buster and seconded by Rev. C. A. Curry that the reading of the minutes of yesterday's session be omitted. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rev. Wallace Malone and seconded by Rev. Claude Childers that the Clerk issue a card to every minister who has made a report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rev. C. J. Kettelman to withhold the renewing of Ministers' cards until an investigating committee investigated each Minister to see whether or not they have fulfilled the By-laws and Constitution. Motion declined by Moderator.

A motion was made by Rev. Leon McBride that if any charges are to be made against any minister that they be brought before the business committee and the business committee is to act upon the charges to decide whether or not they receive their cards. These charges must be made before 1:30. Motion seconded by Rev. Wallace Malone. Vote taken and motion carried.

Rev. Oran Kersh and Rev. Claude Childers were appointed to act on the business committee in the absence of Rev. A. A. White and Rev. Berlin Scarbrough.

Motion was made by Rev. W. R. Burton and seconded by Rev. Floyd Hartley that business be adjourned until 1:15 this afternoon. Motion carried. Rev. Everett Beaty prayed the dismissal prayer.

Morning Session

Morning worship services were opened by singing, "He Keeps Me Singing." Prayer by Rev. George Ritter. Song, "When I See the Blood." Chorus, "Shall We Have a Great Revival?"

Remarks on the Free Will Baptist College by Miss Evelyn Lawrence outlining the typical student's day at college.

Morning message was delivered by Rev. Claude Childers. Rev. L. E. Abel dismissed with prayer.

Afternoon Session

Afternoon services were opened by singing, "When I See the Blood," "Love Lifted Me," "Jesus Included Me," and "Trust and Obey." Prayer by Rev. Leon McBride.

Report of the business committee was as follows: "We, the business committee, recommend that the cards of the following be withheld until such time as they can meet with the business committee and make their real position known. Then we can notify the clerk whether or not to grant the cards. The board will meet at Bro. Childer's church at 2:30 in the afternoon of Saturday, June 12, 1954. Those to meet with the Board are as follows: Rev. John Smith, Rev. C. A. Curry, and Rev. Tracy W. Dees. /s/ Committee."

Motion was made by Rev. Carl W. Williams and seconded by Rev. L. E. Abel that we accept the report of the business committee and act according to their recommendation. Motion carried.

The report of the Auditing Committee was as follows:

"We, the auditing committee, have duly examined the treasurer's books and found them correct with \$135.14 on hand. /s/ Committee: Claude Childers, Cloy Meyers and C. A. Curry." Motion was made by Rev. W. R. Burton and seconded by Rev. C. J. Kettelman that report be accepted and the committee be released. Motion carried.

The next Yearly Conference will meet in the Wayne County Quarterly in June, 1955.

Rev. Carl V. Williams, Bro. Harl Hillard, and Rev. George Ritter were nominated to serve on the program committee to plan the program for the next Yearly Conference which is to be the first Wednesday night in June, 1955. A motion was made by Rev. Oran Kersh and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton that nominations cease and proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried.

Rev. Howard Flota was nominated to preach the introductory message for the next Yearly Conference which will be on Thursday evening. Motion made by Rev. Dewey Merritt and seconded by Rev. Carl V. Williams that nominations cease and proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried.

Rev. Leroy Forlines gave some statistical facts regarding the work being done at the Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Rev. W. R. Burton made the motion that the clerk have 2,000 revisions of the By-laws and Constitution printed and she authorized to ask the treasurer to pay for them. Motion seconded by Rev. Oran Kersh. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. Carl V. Williams and seconded by Rev. Dewey Merritt that we send Mrs. J. B. Jones, Johnston City, Illinois, as delegate to the National Association which is to be held in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. W. R. Burton and seconded by Rev. Dewey Merritt that the clerk have 500 minutes printed and the treasurer be authorized to pay for them. Motion carried.

Rev. George Ritter, State Home Missions Director, gave a report of work that has been done.

Motion was made by Rev. Dewey Merritt and seconded by Rev. Howard Flota that we recommend to the National Association Rev. George Ritter as our State Home Missions Director and Rev. Opal Hiltibidal as our State Foreign Missions Director. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. W. R. Burton and second-

ed by Rev. Orán Kersh that Patricia Bailor be reelected as clerk and Joyce McClerren be reelected as treasurer of our Yearly Conference. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Miss Joyce McClerren. Motion was made by Rev. Dewey Merritt and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton that report be accepted. Motion carried.

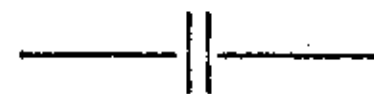
A motion was made by Rev. Willie Huffman and seconded by Rev. C. A. Curry that a standing vote of thanks be given to the ladies of the various churches who helped serve the meals during the Yearly Conference. Motion carried and vote of thanks given.

A song was sung and an offering was taken up for the Yearly Meeting which amounted to \$33.01.

Rev. Carl Williams made a report from the Sunday School Alliance. Motion was made by Rev. C. A. Curry and seconded by Rev. Oran Kersh that we accept the King James Version of the Bible as the authentic version in Southern Illinois. Motion carried.

Motion made by Rev. Oran Kersh and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton that we adjourn. Motion carried.

Rev. George Waggoner, Moderator
Rev. Floyd Hartley, Ass't Moderator
Mrs. Patricia Bailor, Clerk



DELEGATES TO YEARLY CONFERENCE

Freedom Quarterly

Joe Cox, Jess Robins, Mont Davis, Cecil Edwards, Bro. Otey, Clarence Smith, Fern Cox, Everett Willhart, Arthur Jones, Ed Robillard, Martin Dunaway, Auba Albright, Mae Williams, Eveland Blades.

Franklin County Quarterly

Melvin Dunning, Emma Pharis, Everett Lewis, Hall Cherry, James Murphy, Irene Sullivan, Dewitt Childers, Martin Browning, Gordon Neal, Frank Mandrell, Byford Campbell, Lloyd Vaughn, Warden Dame, Leon McBride, Paul Wilson, Howard Clampet, Guy Scrutchfield, Virgil Kash, Ila Lance, Ewing Johnston, Lois Dees, Sophia Pinkham.

Wayne County Quarterly

George McClaskey, Harl Hilliard, Vera Case.

MINISTERS' CARDS ISSUED

Ordained

Everett Hodges, Jake McAnelly, A. A. White, Wayne Warren, Hosca V. Smith, Harold Whitsell, Berlin Scarbrough, Howard Flota, Dewey Merritt, Carl V. Williams, Willie W. Huffman, Jesse R. Hamilton, Lester W. Breeze, George W. Waggoner, Opal Hiltibidal, Claude Hampleman, C. H. Curry, Charles Osborn, Richard McNeil, Raymond Pitchford, Cloy Meyers, Claude Childers, Gazelle Murphy, Lee Davis, Lloyd Jones, Paul E. Sulcer, Ernest Pearson, M. L. Baker, Paul Barnfield, Everett J. Beaty, Josie Page, Alene Hanna, Geraldine Lewis, L. E. Abel, Arthur W. Kern, Geo. Ritter, Ella Mae Hiltibidal, Floyd Hartley, William Buster, J. T. Johnston, Dwight Dame, Sherman Sullivan, James Fite, Ethel Hoffard, Louis S. Shrum, Harry Hughes, O. C. McClerren, Taylor Coursey, Thomas E. Marlowe, Marsh Harpole, Dorca Braden, C. J. Kettelman, Jasper Armstrong, Louis Hanna, Herbert Pierce, Oran W. Kersh, Lee LeVault, Luther Hudson, John W. Hiltibidal, Hazel Buick, Pauline Osborn, Wallace Malone, Leslie C. Elliott, Raymond Beaty, Lepton Harpole, Curt Rogers.

Licensed

Ewing Johnston, Irene Sullivan, Clyde Gulley, Eugene Norris, Joyce McClerren, Lucille Scarbrough, Leroy Bailey, Gilbert King, Byford Campbell, Vivian Dunning, Robert E. Norman, Leon McBride, Albert Bays, Ralph E. Snook, Loyd Lasley, George McClaskey.

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 all 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 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 in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observances 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.

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.

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 the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, MONETT, MISSOURI