

Minutes - -

Thirty-Seventh Annual Session

of the

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

YEARLY CONFERENCE

1956

**When Convened At The
FREE WILL BAPTIST TABERNACLE**

Benton, Illinois

The 37th Annual Session of the Southern Illinois Free Will Baptist Yearly Conference convened at the Free Will Baptist Tabernacle on June 7, 1956, at Benton, Illinois.

Bro. Everett Hodge was in charge of the service.

Song—"Since Jesus Came Into My Heart" and "The Way of the Cross Leads Home."

Rev. Charles Osborn read Scripture from Psalms 23.

Song—"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder."

We had altar prayer.

Bro. Jake McAnelly led testimonies.

"What Are We Doing" was discussed by the Church pastors.

Dismissal prayer.

Recess.

Eleven o'clock services were opened by singing, "There is Power in the Blood."

Prayer by Rev. Kenneth McNeely.

Song—"Face to Face."

Bro. O. C. McClerren brought the morning message using Isaiah 54 as his Scripture thought.

Song—"Amazing Grace."

Dismissal Prayer by Bro. Everett Beaty.

Afternoon

Afternoon services were opened by singing, "When I See the Blood."

Prayer by Rev. Willie Huffman.

Scripture Isaiah 55 was read by Bro. Hodges.

Discussion on "Helps and Ideas" for Church advancement.

Song—"Higher Ground."

Prayer by Sister Maud Davis.

Message was brought by Rev. Alvin White.

Song—"What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Dismissed with united prayer.

Evening

Rev. Leslie Elliott showed a film on Foreign Missions that touched each of us at the 7:45 service.

June 8, 1956

Song—"He Lives."

Devotional by Rev. Hosea Smith Psalms 107th Chapter.

Prayer by Rev. Smith.

Rev. Carl Williams gave a report of our annual Camp Meeting which was very inspiring.

Rev. Floyd Hartley read our Constitutions and By-Laws.

Letters were read from the various quarterly meetings by the clerk and acted on. Motion was made by Bro. Hosea Smith and seconded by Rev. Everett Hodges that the Freedom Co. Quarterly letter be accepted as read. Motion carried. Motion made by Rev. Willie Huffman and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton to accept the Wayne Co. Quarterly letter as read. Motion carried. Motion was made by Rev. Carl Williams and seconded by Rev. Willie Huffman that corrected letter from Franklin Co. Quarterly be accepted and all delegates be seated. Motion carried.

Pulpit Committee appointed by Moderator was: Mabel Kettleman, Barbara Cook and Earl E. Jent.

Motion was made by Rev. Hosea Smith and seconded by Rev. Leslie Elliott that we accept the program and leave time schedule flexible at will of the moderator.

Motion carried.

Pulpit Committee gave report as follows:

Rev. Carl Williams for the 11:00 o'clock message. Motion was made by Rev. Claude Childers and seconded by Rev. Lester Breeze that report be accepted. Motion carried.

Prayer of dismissal by Rev. George W. Waggoner.

Morning Worship

Morning worship was opened by singing "Jesus Saves."

Prayer by Rev. Ethel Hoffard.

Song—"Since Jesus Came Into My Heart."

Rev. Carl Williams delivered the morning message using as his Scripture Second Kings 4:1 to 7.

Song—"The Solid Rock."

Dismissal prayer and blessing asked by Rev. Leon McBride.

Afternoon

Afternoon services were opened by singing "He Keeps Me Singing."

Pulpit committee gave report as follows:

Rev. Ethel Hoffard, Devotional and Rev. W. R. Burton the Saturday 11:00 o'clock service. /s/ committee.

Motion was made by Rev. Claude Childers, seconded by Rev. Bartram Smith that report be accepted and committee be released. Motion carried. Rev. Ethel Hoffard used for her Scripture Heb. 11. An inspiring message was given.

Prayer by Rev. Wallace Malone.

Song—"Amazing Grace."

The Woman's Auxiliary program was presented, which showed that they are doing some splendid work.

Song—"Oh Happy Day."

The Business committee appointed by the Moderators consisted of Rev. Wallace Malone, Rev. Leslie Elliott, and Bro. Albert Avery.

Auditing committee appointed by the Moderator was Rev. Charles Osborn, Rev. George McClaskey and Rev. Willie Huffman.

The Committee to examine Ministers' reports was appointed by the moderator as follows: Rev. Claude Childers, Rev. John Hiltibidal and Rev. Leon McBride.

Mrs. O. C. McClerren was appointed to give treasurer's report in the absence of the treasurer, Shirley McClerren.

Motion was made by Rev. Leslie Elliott and seconded by Lester Breeze to turn Ministers' reports to the examining committee this evening. Motion carried.

Bro. Childers presented an amendment that Article 6 of the constitution be changed to read the 3rd Wednesday in June of each year for our yearly Conference.

Motion was made by Rev. Floyd Hartly and seconded by Bro. Floyd Stewart to table this until tomorrow.

A report was given by Rev. Claude Childers on Home Missions.

Rev. Leslie Elliott gave a report on Foreign Missions.

A report was given on Sunday School Alliance and Youth Camp by Rev. Leon McBride.

Motion was made by Rev. John Hiltibidal and seconded by Rev. Lester Breeze that we accept all the reports as given. Motion carried.

Dismissal Prayer was given by Bro. Melvin Oathout.

Evening Service

Rev. Damon Dodd brought an inspiring message at the 7:45 hour. Rev. Dodd is the Promotional Secretary of the National Home Mission Board, Nashville, Tennessee.

June 9, 1956

Services were opened by singing "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

Rev. Albert Bays used I Thess. 5 for the devotional thoughts and had prayer.

Songs, "He Lives" and "Amazing Grace."

Prayer by Rev. C. A. Curry.

Report from Rev. Ella Mae Hiltibidal on the National Association and testimonies of others that attended.

Rev. Damon Dodd gave a foresight of the next National Association.

Motion was made by Rev. Willie Huffman and seconded by Rev. Hosea Smith that the treasurer be authorized to pay the bills for programs, cards, and incidentals. Motion carried.

Rev. George W. Waggoner gave a report of the land to be given to Free Will Baptists.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. George W. Waggoner.

Morning Worship

The eleven o'clock worship services were opened by singing "Leave It There."

Prayer by Rev. Robert Norman.

Songs—"The Way of the Cross Leads Home," "Blessed Assurance" and "I Need Thee Every Hour."

Prayer by Rev. Everett Beaty.

Morning Memorial message was delivered by Rev. W. R. Burton.

Song—"When We All Get To Heaven."

Prayer of dismissal and blessing by Rev. Wallace Malone.

Afternoon

Afternoon services were opened with Song—"At Calvary" and "My Redeemer."

Prayer by Rev. Dewey Merritt.

Devotion by Rev. George Ritter using for his Scripture 2nd Peter 5th chapter.

Prayer by Rev. Carl Williams.

Motion was made by Rev. Carl Williams and seconded by Bro. Floyd Steward to bring the amendment of Article 6 from the table. Motion carried.

Motion to amend this to read, "Wednesday night before the 4th Sunday" was by Rev. George Ritter and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton. Motion carried.

The report of the auditing committee was as follows:

"We the auditing committee have examined the yearly treasurers books and have found them correct with a balance of \$0.49. /s/ committee, Rev. Charles Osborn, Rev. George McClaskey and Rev. Willie Huffman. Motion was made by Rev. Dwight Dame and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton to accept treasurers report as read and release committee. Motion carried. The Business Committee's report was then given as follows:

"We the business committee, recommend to this yearly Conference the following, That this Yearly Conference representing 43 churches and approximately 3,000 members instruct the yearly conference clerk to write a letter to the congressman from this state in regard to the immoral ways the manufacturers of the various kinds of alcoholic beverages are using to advertise liquors. We as a church group feel that this is an injustice placed upon the public of our country." /s/ Committee. A motion was made by Rev. Dwight Dame and seconded by Floyd Steward to instruct the clerk to write to Congress. Motion carried.

"We the Business committee recommend that an offering be taken tonight for home missions and pay expenses of Rev. Damon Dodd." /s/ committee.

Motion was made by Rev. George Ritter and seconded by Rev. Carl Williams to take the offering. Motion carried.

"We the business committee, recommend that this yearly conference buy a projector for the purpose of showing religious films in our churches; and that a person be appointed by the yearly conference as custodian of said property." /s/ committee.

Motion was made by Rev. Howard Flota and seconded by Rev. Jack Kettelman to buy projector. Motion lost.

"We the business committee recommend that the trustees of this yearly conference be given the power to continue to act in behalf of the interest of the yearly conference; and that this yearly conference pay all expenses involved in work-time loss and transportation."

Motion was made by Rev. George Ritter and seconded by Rev. Carl Williams to pay expenses to claim property and keep trustees. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. Willie Huffman and seconded by Bro. Floyd Steward to adopt the three resolutions that passed and release the committee. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dwight Dame and seconded by Rev. Jack Kettelman to inform pastors of the problems of liquor and appoint a representative on this article. Motion carried. Rev. Wallace Malone was appointed.

Motion was made by Rev. Claude Childers and seconded by Rev. Everett Beaty that this yearly conference suggest churches pay their pastors' expense to the National Association. Motion carried.

Mrs. Arthur Kern, Jess Boswell, Mrs. Howard Flota, Lorene McGill, and Mrs. Nellie Williams were nominated as delegates to the National Association. Motion was made by Rev. Albert Bays and seconded by Rev. W. R. Burton that nominations cease and to proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. Dwight Dame and seconded by Rev. Wallace Malone to pick other delegates after they get there. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rev. Carl Williams and seconded by Rev. Leslie Elliott to accept the examining committee's report and dismiss the committee at the end of this service. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. O. C. McClerren. Motion was made by Rev. Arthur Kern and seconded by Rev. Jack Kettelman that report be accepted. Motion carried.

The next Yearly Conference will meet in the Franklin County Quarterly the Wednesday night before the 4th Sunday in June.

Rev. O. C. McClerren, Rev. Leon McBride, and Rev. George McClaskey, along with the moderator and clerk were nominated to serve on program committee to plan the program for the next Yearly Conference. A motion was made by Rev. C. J. Kettelman and seconded by Bro. Floyd Steward to cease nominations and elect by acclamation. Motion carried. Rev. O. C. McClerren is to be chairman.

Mrs. Zola McClerren was nominated for treasurer. A motion was made by Rev. George Ritter and seconded by Rev. George McClaskey that nominations close and proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried.

Mrs. Freda McClaskey was nominated for clerk. Rev. Hosea Smith made a motion to cease nominations and proceed to elect by acclamation, which was seconded by Rev. Claude Childers. Motion carried.

Rev. George Ritter was nominated for Assistant Moderator. A motion was made by Rev. Claude Childers and seconded by Rev. Leslie Elliott to cease nominations and proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried.

Rev. George Waggoner was nominated for moderator. A motion was made by Rev. Hosea Smith and seconded by Rev. C. J. Kettelman to cease nominations and to proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried.

The closing resolution was read as follows:

"We wish to thank the ladies of the various churches who helped serve the delicious meals during the Yearly Conference." Motion was made by Rev. George Ritter and seconded by Rev. Hosea Smith that we adjourn. Motion carried.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. O. C. McClerren.

Rev. Damon C. Dodd brought a soul searching message at the 7:45 hour.

Rev. George W. Waggoner, Moderator

Rev. O. C. McClerren, Assistant Moderator

Mrs. Freda McClaskey, Clerk.

MEMORIAL

Deaths During Year Ending June 1, 1956

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. C. H. Curry | 20. Lou Hall |
| 2. Ozro Neville | 21. Arthur Denton |
| 3. Willie Elkins | 22. Henry Shockley |
| 4. Carrol Dean Clampet | 23. John Terrell |
| 5. Barney Mercles | 24. Elmer Wings |
| 6. Joe Parrish | 25. Harvy Webster |
| 7. Thomas Dobbs | 26. Charles Gibbs |
| 8. Berlie Barnfield | 27. Dan Lions |
| 9. Jane Beaty | 28. William Smothers |
| 10. John Dennis | 29. John Terrell |
| 11. John Rhines | 30. Nora Gullledge |
| 12. Sister Rush | 31. Dora Jones |
| 13. Ray Guyman | 32. Flora Thornton |
| 14. Tillman Reed | 33. Daniel Girtman |
| 15. Sister Reed | 34. Mary Fisher |
| 16. Sister Hughes | 35. Jennie Crooks |
| 17. Anna Cunningham | 36. Alma McKinney |
| 18. Myrtle Whitrow | 37. John Stark |
| 19. Ephrates Galloway | |

DELEGATES TO YEARLY CONFERENCE

Freedom Quarterly

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Joe Cox | Fern Cox |
| Waldo Abney | Wilbert Connell |
| Henry Dunning | Paul Crites |
| Fred Mecce | Charles Moor |
| Cecil Anderson | W. D. Horn |
| Earl Jent | Charles Browning |
| Ed Robbard | Ira Story |
| Dick Roberts | Lorene McGill |
| Gazella Murphy | |

Wayne Quarterly

Alva Grubb
Edith Smith
Elva Barnfield

Muriel Vaughn
Barbara Cook

Franklin Quarterly

Gale Breeze
John Lowell
Huie Cox
Vivian Ballard
Gladys Wilson
Harry Bates
Carl Spann
Jerry Hall
Irene Hall
Mabel Kettelman
Raymond Payne
Harrel Braden
Paul Isases
Dewitt Childers
Beulah Ashby
Curtis Baldwin
Arthur Norris
John Clark
Kenneth Taylor
Nannie Taylor
Ray Settle
Floyd Steward

Sister Hodges
Fleta Scrutchfield
Howard Greathouse
Ola Sanders
Carl Vaughn
Clarence Buster
Nellie Williams
Helen Hartley
Arthur Rainey
Ross Morris
Floyd Sullivan
Virgil Kash
Paul Conner
Melvin Adams
Rayburn Tittle
Warden Dame
Marion Wells
Mary Lance
Mrs. Arthur Kern
Floyd Hungate
Ella Mae Hiltibidal

MINISTER'S CARDS ISSUED

Ordained

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. L. E. Abel | 36. Gilbert King |
| 2. Jasper Armstrong | 37. Floyd Lasley |
| 3. Everett Albright | 38. Lee Le Vault |
| 4. Albert Bays | 39. Geraldine Lewis |
| 5. Everett Beaty | 40. Wallace Malone |
| 6. Hazel Buick | 41. Thomas Marlow |
| 7. W. R. Burton | 42. Leon McBride |
| 8. Joyce Browning | 43. Richard McNeil |
| 9. Lester Breeze | 44. Dewey Merritt |
| 10. Byford Campbell | 45. Cloy Myers |
| 11. Taylor Coursey | 46. George McClaskey |
| 12. C. A. Curry | 47. Jake McNelly |
| 13. Claude Childers | 48. Gazella Murphy |
| 14. Vernell Clark | 49. O. C. McClerren |
| 15. Donald Dunning | 50. Kenneth McNeely |
| 16. Dwight Dame | 51. Robert Norman |
| 17. Leslie Elliott | 52. Eugene Norris |
| 18. James Fite | 53. Herbert Pierce |
| 19. Malcolm Fry | 54. Ernest Pearson |
| 20. Howard Flota | 55. George Ritter |
| 21. Louie Hanna | 56. Curt Rogers |
| 22. Alene Hanna | 57. Hosea Smith |
| 23. Marsh Harpole | 58. Bertrum Smith |
| 24. Lepton Harpole | 59. Sherman Sullivan |
| 25. Everett Hodges | 60. Irene Sullivan |
| 26. Willie Huffman | 61. Paul Sulcer |
| 27. Harry Huges | 62. Berlin Scarbrough |
| 28. Ethel Hoffard | 63. Lucille Scarbrough |
| 29. Floyd Hartley | 64. George Waggoner |
| 30. John Hiltibidal | 65. Harold Whitsell |
| 31. Floyd Jones | 66. Carl Williams |
| 32. J. T. Johnston | 67. Alvin White |
| 33. Arthur Kern | 68. Wayne Warren |
| 34. Oran Kersh | 69. Cecil Walker |
| 35. C. J. Kettelman | 70. J. Pat Lairsey |

Licensed

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Marshal Hamilton | 4. Gale Breeze |
| 2. Ella Mae Hiltibidal | 5. Paul Crites |
| 3. Floyd Shelton | 6. Wilbert Connell |

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 to 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.