

W. S. Sledge

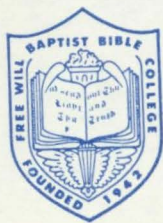
MINUTES
OF THE
Fifth Annual Association
OF THE
Church of God
Denominated Free Will Baptists
Of Southern Oklahoma

CONVENED WITH
LONE PINE CHURCH

On Friday Night Before the 3rd Sunday
in September, 1911.

Next Session will be held with Spencerville Church, on Friday
Night before the Third Sunday in September, 1912.





FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

the daughters of

Rev. G. W. Million

in his memory

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

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Read Letters from Churches.

Election of Officers.

Reception of New Churches.

Invitation to Visiting Brethren to take Seats.

Call for Correspondents.

Appointment of Committees.

Call for Report of Committees.

Miscellaneous Business.

Appointment of Correspondents.

Time and Place of Holding Next Meeting.

Election of Minister to preach the Introductory Sermon.

Adjournment of the Association.

Proceedings.

Minutes of the Fifth Annual Session of the Southern Association of the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptists, of Oklahoma, Convened with Lone Pine Church at Halls School House Six Miles Southwest of Antlers, Okla., on Friday Night Before the Third Sunday in Sept., A. D. 1911.

Preaching by Elder C. A. Sledge, Text, Exod, 14-15, and a Grand Lesson was Delivered. After Greeting each other in Song Services the Body was Dismissed to Meet at 8:30 a. m. Saturday Morning.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Song by choir. Prayer by Elder N. M. Lindsey, in absence of Moderator, Eld. C. A. Sledge acted as Moderator pro tem. Letters was called for and they were handed in and there being quorum present the body went in an election, Eld. C. A. Sledge was elected moderator, Eld. J. E. McGee assistant, J. A. Herman clerk, T. F. Wall assistant and treasurer. After which two petitionary letters were handed in by new churches for admittance in the association, and on being found orthodox, they were received.

On motion and second the Moderator was empowered to appoint all committees, and the following committees were appointed:

Devotional Exercises—Pleas. Hamlin, G. F. Hearn, Jas. A. Herman.

Sabbath School—Levi Brown, Virgil Crawford, Frank Hamlin.

Temperance—N. M. Lindsey, G. F. Hearn, J. D. Moyers.

Bill of Arrangements—T. F. Wall, J. E. Thompson, Martin McKee.

Ministerial Character—T. F. Wall, Jas. A. Herman, J. E. Thompson.

Obituaries—R. R. Brannan, S. E. McGee, A. W. Teel.

Finance—Jake McGee, Charlie McIntosh.

Queries and Requests—J. E. McGee, Levi Brown, J. D. Moyer, N. M. Lindsey.

The body adjourned to meet at 2 p. m.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. E. McGee, followed by Elder C. A. Sledge. Text: 1 Cor., 12-31.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Song Service and Prayer by Moderator.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report as follows: We believe it is the duty of each church to maintain a Sabbath School, and let it be understood that we, as the Church of God, (denominated Free Will Baptists) recommend union as the basis of all religious people to do the will of our Father in Heaven; that we, as religious people, should unite all our efforts to keep our children in Sabbath School, that it may be the means of bringing them to Christ. We earnestly request all ministers and deacons to do all they can to help a lively Sabbath School and prayer meeting in all our churches which is the life of all our churches and neighborhoods. We recommend the Scriptures as our main literature in all our churches. Respectfully submitted,

LEVI BROWN,
VIRGIL CRAWFORD, Committee.
FRANK HAMLIN.

Discharged.

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to report as follows: That we cannot place too high an estimation on this subject; that it is indispensable to the well-being in this life and also in the life to come. Intemperance is disloyal to laws of nature and morals as well, and always hurtful and many times destructive to both soul and body. Therefore, we urge that abstinence is the only safeguard against that baneful influence, and that all true-hearted children of God should take part in assisting fallen men from its blighting influence. Respectfully submitted,

N. M. LINDSEY,
G. F. HEARN, Committee.
J. D. MAYERS,

Discharged.

We, your committee on Bill of Arrangements, beg leave to report as follows: We do not believe that this association should ordain any brother to the ministry without he has a recommendation from the church to which he belongs, and that they believe him to be worthy of his calling; also we will not recognize any ordained minister unless he has a recommendation from the church to which he belongs, also that each church of this association should have a treasurer, and that each member of said churches contribute to the treasurer each month as the Lord has prospered them; that we should be ready to assist our ministers at any time so they can go and preach the gospel, for they who preach the gospel shall live of the gospel. Furthermore, we recommend that the ministers of this association show as much as possible the necessity of a financial system, and that each church send their representatives instructed to arrange, if possible, a safe plan for the advancement of our cause and the upbuilding of Christ's church, that when they need help we will be in readiness to help them in the grand work.

T. F. WALL,
J. E. THOMPSON, Committee.
MARTIN MCKEE.

Discharged.

We, your committee on Ministerial Character, beg leave to report as follows: We find our ministers in good standing, and as far as we know, doing a good work in the Master's vineyard; and we further recommend that each church shall report in their letter to the annual association the character and manner of preaching of their pastor and all ministers belonging to their churches; and we furthermore recommend that the association grant each minister found worthy of an annual certificate the same at each session for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,

T. F. WALL,
JAS. A. HERMAN, Committee.
J. E. THOMPSON.

Discharged.

We, your committee on Obituary, beg leave to report as follows: It is fit that we stop amid the turmoils of this life and give thought and meditation to the dead, for the living know that they must die. We sorrow, but not as those who have no hope. Whereas it has pleased the Lord to take from our midst our beloved Sisters, Lizzie Pritchard and Sallie Griffins of Liberty Church, and T. H. Parott of Piney Grove Church. They will be sadly missed but, like the fragrance of the rose that remains after the flower is gone, so shall the memory of these pure lilies sweetness. The lives of others we submit to the will of God knowing that He doeth of things well, we feel assured that

they passed away in the living faith, and we realize that our loss is their eternal gain. Respectfully submitted,

A. W. TEEL,

R. R. BRANNON, Committee.

S. E. MCGEE.

Discharged.

We, your committee on Queries and Requests, beg leave to report as follows: That we have three quarterly meetings in the ensuing year, and that we have no Evangelist for the time being, or until the first quarter. Furthermore, that this association consider the proper time for same also the association.

J. D. MCGEE,

LEVI BROWN, Committee.

J. D. MOYER,

N. M. LINDSEY.

Discharged.

REPORT OF CHURCHES.

58 Lone Pine—Membership 58, minute fund \$2.40; Clerk, J. R. Crawford, Nelson, Okla. Delegates, J. A. Herman, J. E. Thompson and Virgil Crawford.

13 New Friendship—Membership 13; Clerk, S. S. Barger, Winthrop, Ark. Delegate, Elder N. M. Lindsey; minute fund \$1.00.

30 Darwin—Membership 30, minute fund \$2.15. Delegates, Jake McGee and S. E. McGee; Clerk, Ed. McGee, Darwin, Okla.

53 Big Springs—Membership 53, minute fund \$2.37. Delegate, Martin McKee; Clerk, Levinie Hinson, Soper, Okla.

24 Spencerville—Membership 24, minute fund \$2.10. Delegates, A. W. Teel, G. F. Hearn and T. F. Wall; Clerk, Jake Rosentaal, Spencerville, Okla.

10 Farris—Membership 10, minute fund \$1.00. Represented by J. E. McGee.

Oak Grove Church—Membership 7, minute fund \$1.25.

20 Pine Grove—Membership 20, minute fund \$2.50. Delegates, Pleas Hamlin and Frank Hamlin; Clerk, G. W. Thomas, Rufe, Okla.

26 Roebuck Chapel—Membership 26, minute fund \$1.21. Represented by letter; Clerk, Beulah Roebuck, Soper, Okla.

14 Liberty—Membership 14, minute fund \$1.50. Delegates, R. R. Brannan and Charlie McIntosh; Clerk, M. J. Brannan, Ft. Towson, Okla.

25 The body on motion adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8:30 a. m.

Saturday Night, 8:30—Preaching by Elder N. M. Lindsey, followed by Elder Levi Brown. Text, Matt. 3-8.

Sunday 11 a. m.—Preaching by Elder C. A. Sledge, followed by Elder J. D. Moyer. Text, Psalms 119.

Sunday Night, 8:30—Preaching by Elder J. E. McGee, followed by Elder Levi Brown. Subject; "The Lord's Supper and Washing of the Saint's Feet."

MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Reading of a lesson by moderator; prayer by Elder J. D. Moyer; reading of the rules of order by moderator in the chair.

MINISTER'S REPORT.

I, Levi Brown beg leave to report that I have baptized 15 received by contribution \$20. I wish to say that I don't know how many miles I have traveled or how many sermons I have preached, but I have put in the most of my time. I have married one couple, conducted one funeral service. 2

Brethren, I beg leave to submit my report for the year just ended: I have preached 104 sermons, traveled 1,500, conducted 1 burial service, married 8 couples, received 42 members into the church and baptized 20. Collected all told for my services \$93.74, and paid out for traveling other expenses \$50.49. 2

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. SLEDGE, Rufe, Okla. 2

Report of Elder J. E. McGee: Preached 100 sermons; baptized 32, matrimonies 5, conversions 50, miles traveled 650, received for my work \$55.49, expenses \$20. 2

Report of Elder J. D. Moyers: Sermons preached 62, received 2, baptized 3, burial services 3, married 1, \$1.50; miles traveled 300, received from Big Springs \$4.42. Rufe \$6.40, Spencerville \$1.25. Spent \$10.50. 1

The ministers handed in their report and having done complimentary work, their reports were received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There was a collection taken up to finish paying Elder Sledge's expenses to the State Association, and there was a liberal contribution and the debt settled.

NEW BUSINESS.

On motion and second that Elder R. H. Tomlin's name be dropped from the minutes for disorderly conduct, and that Big Springs Church be instructed to take action against R. H. Tomlin at once and report to the next quarterly meeting,

CHURCH COVENANT.

1. We believe that union of Christians in a visible church is sanctioned by the teaching of Christ and the practice of his Apostles, and we believe it conductive to strengthen Christian

ties and greater influence of the church, therefore, we enter into this covenant.

2. We will constantly strive to maintain true Piety in our hearts and by constant loyalty to the commands of our Savior, commend his life to others leading a holy devout life before the world.

3. We will watch over others in spirit of true charity, helping to bear each other's burdens, assist the needy, strengthen the weak, encourage the despondent, sympathize with the sorrowful, reform the erring to the best of our ability, keeping the unity of spirit in the bonds of peace, cheerfully submitting to christian admonition, contributing to the support of the gospel as the Lord had preferred us, maintain secret and family prayer, and aid by our presence in sustaining public worship: we will refuse all sanctions to all worldly amusements that tend to lessen true piety in ourselves or others or weaken religious influence, so that the religion of our master be not reproached on our account.

4. May He who has promised His help enable us to keep this covenant and grant us grace to be faithful in all things until He shall gather us unto himself and crown us with final glory. Amen.

A vote of thanks was voted to the neighborhood.

The first quarterly meeting will convene at Darwin, Okla., on Friday night before _____

Second quarterly meeting at Roebuck Chapel.

Third quarterly meeting at Liberty.

The next association will convene at Spencerville on Friday night before third Lord's day in Oct., 1912.

Introductory sermon to be preached by Elder J. D. Moyer.

X Elder C. A. Sledge alternate.

That the Clerk was to have 300 minutes printed and to mail them out to the different church according to their membership, and make a report to the quarterly meeting and if any shortage in finance it should be made up.

On motion and second, the minutes was read and adopted.

On motion the body adjourned to meet at Spencerville, Okla., on Friday night before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1912.

This done at the Fifth Annual Association 1911.

ELD. C. A. SLEDGE, Moderator.

ELD. J. E. MCGEE, Assistant.

JAS. A. HERMAN, Clerk,

T. F. WALL, Assistant.

Be it resolved, That the thanks of this Association is hereby extended to Lone Pine Church and surrounding community for their hospitality during our stay in their midst.

CONSTITUTION.

From long experience we, the members of the Church of God, (denominated Free Will Baptists), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion amongst us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore, ordain this Constitution for our better church government.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by different churches in our union, not exceeding three delegates from each church, and on producing letters shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from different churches are to express their number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letters of recommendation, the number dismissed, and those who have died since the Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened in Southern Oklahoma Association of the Church of God, (denominated Free Will Baptists), being composed of the sundry churches in Southern Oklahoma the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

4. The Association to have a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage members present.

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly they may be received into the Association, the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first discussed in its own church.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being at the discretion of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association on a book to be kept by the Association for this purpose.

10. The minutes of this Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the moderator and clerk before the close of the Association.

Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a majority of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one in Divine Essence, power and glory. Rom. 1:20. John 1:1.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament is the Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man good, gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall, and that man is unable to save himself with his own power, but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory that He, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man. Gen. 1:31, Hebrews 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ by his death, suffering and resurrection purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent; therefore He sayeth, "Look unto Me and be ye saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else." Matt. 4:17; Isa. 45:22; Acts 20:22.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 3:3; Rom. 5:1-13.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved upon the merits of the Son of God. John 4:11; Mark 10:14; Luke 18-16.

7. We believe that all Christians should persevere in faith and be faithful to the end, if they inherit eternal life, for blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life and enter in through the gate to the city. Rev. 22-14.

8. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water, and that Christ who is our life, showed his humble example to His children and bids us walk therein. John 3:22; Matt. 3:16; Rom. 6:2-3-5-5; Matt. 28:19-20.

9. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of His word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely come, and nothing prevents

the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. 1 Cor. 12-3; Eho. 3-7; Rev. 22-17.

10. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saint's feet, and the keeping of the Lord's Day holy and abstaining from worldly lusts and carnal cares, add to assemble ourselves together is an ornament which prepares and beautifies the soldiers of the cross to warch onward in the army of the Lord. Matt. 26-28; John 13:4-5.

11. We believe that none have a right to baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and none have the right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the presbytery of the elders; and each church ought to have a pastor, deacon, and clerk chosen by the church and continue in office during the good pleasure of the same; and in the dealing with disorderly members reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous. Titus 1-5; Acts 14:23; 2 Cor. 6:6.

12. We believe it the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's Supper and washing saints feet, not to invite, but let a man examine himself and so let him eat. 1 Cor. 11:27-28; Heb. 10:26.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead, of both the just and the unjust. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God; the unjust to the everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matt. 25:31; 1 Cor. 15:42-45; 2 Thes. 1:11; Rev. 20:10 and 21-9; Job 19-26.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every meeting business shall be opened and conducted by prayer by the moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers present, invited to seats, are allowed to take part in debate on all subjects but not to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the moderator shall put the question: Shall it be discussed? If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.
8. No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without special leave of the moderator.
9. All questions decided by a majority of the members present.
10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the moderator.
11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association if necessary.
12. In the future meetings of the Associations arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons each day, or other equivalent exercises.
13. The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.
14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

FORM OF ASSOCIATIONAL LETTER

From _____
to the Church of God, (denominated Free Will Baptists),
Southern Oklahoma Association.

Dear Brethren: We send as messengers to your body, brethren

_____ to aid in your deliberations for the master _____

Statistics _____

Days of meeting _____

Present Pastor _____

Pastor Elect _____

(If any minister belonging to body state here.)

Here give their standing and state whether worthy or unworthy certificate

Members received _____ by letter _____ by statement

_____ excluded _____ dismissed by letter _____ died

_____ total membership _____ paid pastor \$ _____

for minutes \$ _____, Associatiotional purposes \$ _____

number enrolled in Sunday School _____, we have _____

Prayermeeting _____ Remarks _____

_____ Done in conference by the church set

_____ before the _____ Lord's day in

_____ 191 _____ Moderator

_____ Clerk.

LETTER OF DISMISSAL

This certifies that _____ is a member of
good standing of the Church of God (denominated Free Will
Baptists), at _____ and as such we recommend him to
the fellowship of God's people.

Done by order church in conference _____ 1 _____

_____ Moderator.

_____ Clerk.

FORM OF DEACON'S LETTER.

This is to certify that Bro. _____ is a worthy
deacon of _____ church and we recommend him as being
worthy of his calling.

_____ Moderator.

_____ Clerk.

