

J. A. Clark

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
TEXAS STATE CONVENTION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

—HELD WITH—

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas,
November 5, 6, 7, 8, 1929.

—o—

OFFICERS

President, J. L. Edge

Bryan, Texas

Secretary, T. D. Ross,

Clayton, Texas

—o—

The next session of this Convention will be held
in Central Texas, at North Zulch, in Madison
County, Texas, beginning on Tuesday night the
4th day November, 1930.

—o—

Free Will Baptist Gem Print, Tecumseh, Okla.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

TEXAS STATE CONVENTION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTIST

—HELD WITH—

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas,
November 5, 6, 7, 8, 1929.

—o—

OFFICERS

President, J. L. Edge,

Bryan, Texas

Secretary, T. D. Ross,

Clayton, Texas

—o—

The next session of this Convention will be held
in Central Texas, at North Zulch, in Madison
County, Texas, beginning on Tuesday night the
4th day November, 1930.

—o—

Free Will Baptist Gen. Print. Tecumseh, Okla.

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual Session of the Texas State Convention of Free Will Baptists.

The Fifteenth Annual Session of the Texas State Convention of Free Will Baptists was held with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, November 5-8, 1929.

The Convention opened at seven o'clock p. m. Rev. J. C. Hodges conducted devotional services.

7:30 p. m. Inspirational address by Rev. C. B. Thompson.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

9:00 a. m. Devotional services conducted by Rev. R. L. Cotnam.

9:30 a. m. Welcome address by local pastor, Rev. M. L. Sutton. Response by J. L. Edge, President.

10:00 a. m. The Business Session was opened by Rev. T. H. Newsom.

The first item of business was the adoption of the program.

The reading of the minute of last session which was adopted as read.

By vote the president was empowered to appoint the Session Committees.

Reading of the letters from the associations composing the Convention.

There were two petitionary letters received: one from Northwest Brazos, and one from Mt. Zion Association. Both were received into the Convention and the delegates seated. Adjournment for eleven o'clock service.

Rev. T. H. Newsom delivered a very able address on, "Christian Leadership."

NOON HOUR.

After a bountiful repast, the meeting was called to order by the president, J. L. Edge.

1:30 p. m. Letter read from Central Texas Ass'n.

Rev. C. B. Thompson delivered an address on "Stewardship."

Report of Committee on Credentials read and received. At this time J. J. Tatum, our State Secretary, rendered a verbal report of his year's work which was received.

Report of Executive Committee read, (See Committee Reports).

Adjourned to meet at nine o'clock Thursday morning.

Rev. R. L. Cotnam preached for us at 7:30 p. m. on the subject, "The Signs of the Times."

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The Convention convened at nine o'clock Thursday morning, Nov. 7th. J. R. Parker led the devotional service.

Home Mission report read and referred back to the Committee. Reading of the Foreign Mission Report at this time, also Sunday School Report (See Reports).

Report of the Home Mission Committee received.

Report of Committee on education received.

Report of Committee on Evangelism received.

Rev. R. L. Cotnam delivered the address on "The Needed Awakening" in place of Rev. J. A. Edmonson who was called away on business.

Adjourned for preaching service.

Rev. J. J. Tatum preached for us at eleven o'clock.

NOON HOUR. Recreation Period to 1:30 p. m.

3:30. The reports of Committees on Temperance and Law Enforcement were received.

Report on Women's Work received.

The final report of the Home Mission Committee read and received with an amendment making the Executive Board the Home Mission Board.

The Committee on Requests reported two invitations for the next session of the Convention from the following Associations: Central Texas, and the Texas Association,

embracing the eastern section of the State. The next session will be held in Central Texas at North Zulch in Madison County, Texas, beginning on Tuesday night the 4th day of November, 1930.

Eld. B. F. Brown of Tecumseh, Okla. was granted an opportunity to address the body in the interest of "The Free Will Baptist Gem," of which he is editor.

In appreciation of the services of our President, J. L. Edge, the Convention presented him with a nice fountain pen.

Report of Committee on Denomination read and adopted with an amendment referring it to the churches for ratification.

Adjourned until Friday morning.

7:00 p. m. Devotional and short talk by Rev. J. L. Bounds.

7:30 p. m. Lecture on "Roman Catholicism" by Rev. R. L. Cotnam, which was very instructive.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Convention opened Friday morning at nine o'clock. Devotional by Rev. G. L. Thompson.

Reports of the following committees: Auditing Committee reported the accounts of the Convention Secretary and the Field Secretary to be correct.

Report of Committee on Resolutions received.

Rev. R. L. Cotnam was given time to introduce a plan whereby we may take care of our retired ministers. A committee was appointed to work out a plan for this work. R. L. Cotnam, Clyde Goen, Wiley Lafevre constitute this Committee.

The following were nominated and elected for the ensuing year.

President, J. L. Edge,	Bryan, Texas.
1st Vice Pres., J. C. Hodges,	Ft. Worth, ..
2nd Vice Pres., C. F. Goen,	Bryan, ..
3rd Vice Pres., E. S. Jameson,	Tatum, ..

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

W. K. O'Brien,

North Zulch, Texas

J. W. Lafevre,

North Zulch, Texas

Foreign Missions—Mrs. J. C. Hodges, Mrs. M. L. Sutton, Mrs. Frank Bennett.

Home Missions—Rev. G. L. Thompson, Rev. M. L. Sutton, Ralph Crow.

Sunday Schools—Rev. Tiff Covington, Mrs. J. T. Reeder, Clarence Newsom.

Social Service—Minnie Jimerson, Mrs. B. A. Wainright, Mrs. T. D. Ross.

Education—Lowell Taylor, Eula Lafevre.

Evangelism—R. L. Cotnam, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Edmonson.

Temperance—Frank Newsom, Alex Wood, Lizzie Detrick.

Young Peoples' Work—C. B. Thompson, W. P. Taylor, J. W. Lafevre.

Women's Work—Mrs. H. S. Edge, Mrs. Walter Holmes, P. K. Trant.

Denomination—Clyde Goen, Noah Cole, M. G. Buchanan.

Laymen's Work—J. L. Edge, Jack Bullard, Walter Holmes.

Committee of Committees

{ T. H. Newsom
Dessie Taylor
G. L. Thompson

The Convention voted to pay our indebtedness to the State Secretary, J. J. Tatum.

The plan was adopted to raise \$1500.00 for Home Missions.

W. D. Phillips, J. C. Hodges, T. H. Newsom, J. J. Tatum, M. L. Sutton and R. L. Cotnam were elected delegates to represent the Convention at the Co-operative Association of Free Will Baptists. J. L. Edge and wife were elected delegates to the Association at Vernon, Alabama.

The Executive Board was authorized to act on any question that might come up for their consideration between this and the next session of the Convention.

Adjourned to meet with North Zulch Church on Tuesday night the 4th of November, 1930.

J. L. Edge, Moderator,
T. D. Ross, Secretary.

Committee Reports

Home Missions—Home Mission Committee reported as follows: While there are some who are really interested, in general there is not the interest in Home Missions that should be. In fact we feel that the condition at present is rather deplorable. The attitude of many of our people toward the Home Mission program is such that it is impossible for us to go forward as we feel that God wants us to. As we see it, there are different causes for this condition; one cause is that old enemy which we all know—too self-centered—another is ignorance concerning the program. But the main trouble is selfishness on the part of the individual; not every one of course, but such expressions as, "What do we get out of it," "It won't help us any," and other expressions meaning the same thing justify the statement. We would call attention to the fact that such selfishness is unchristian, and should be discouraged by this body.

We further recommend that a Home Mission Board consisting of three members be elected by the body, that they may formulate plans for our Home Mission work. An amendment to this report was adopted making the Executive Board, the Home Mission Board.

Committee { C. B. Thompson
James Lang
A. L. Roberts

Education—We appreciate the need of preparation on the part of our young ministers and religious leaders. Therefore we recommend that our churches and friends be urged to encourage and assist any worthy young person who may feel the divine call, to make the proper preparation for this great and noble calling. Further, we recommend that all be diligent in seeking out such young persons, call the attention of the churches to such, and that the churches be asked to render such aid in a financial way as can be given.

Committee } J. J. Tatum
 } M. L. Sutton

Women's Work—We beg leave to submit the following: We realize the value of women's work in the churches, and are aware of the fact that our cause is suffering because of the lack of efficient organization, therefore: We recommend that our pastors endeavor to organize Women's Auxiliaries in all churches where practicable. We further recommend that we have some of the ladies from each association to attend the State Association.

Committee } J. E. Raney
 } C. B. Thompson
 } T. H. Newsom

Resolutions—Committee on resolutions reported as follows: be it

Resolved, That we express our thanks to the entertaining church, its pastor, and friends of the church for the fine manner in which they entertained us, also we desire to thank the president and officers for their splendid work and interest during this session. Again, be it

Resolved, That we express our deepest felt gratitude to our visiting brethren. We pray God's richest blessings on all.
J. J. Tatum.

Executive Board—We, the Executive Board, met at Woodlawn Church on August 31, 1928, and laid plans for the ensuing year.

All members of the Board that were present seemed to be very much interested in the work.

The next meeting was held in J. L. Edge's office on March 16, 1929.

We offered Rev. J. J. Tatum the same amount that we paid him the year before, which was \$50.00 per month. and Brother Tatum thinking that this amount was not enough for the work, we agreed to pay him \$60.00 per month, and also, we agreed to allow the Field Secretary \$15 00 per month for expenses. The Field Secretary, Rev. J. J. Tatum, being present at this meeting accepted this amount.

The pledge system, as will be recalled, was accepted in the Convention of August 31, 1928.

Some time in October, 1928, Rev. M. L. Hollis and J. L. Edge made a trip to Tatum, Texas in the interest of Home Mission work, then in April, 1929 C. B. Thompson, J. L. Bounds, M. L. Hollis and J. L. Edge made another trip to Stewart Chapel in the interest of Home Mission work and visited nearly all the churches in the East Tex. Association.

C. F. Goen, Chairman.

Sunday Schools—We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to report as follows:

We find that, with few exceptions, all of our churches maintain Sunday schools, with a total enrollment of 840.

We recommend that the pastors of churches, where no Sunday schools are maintained, endeavor to organize them and, where practicable, use our own denominational literature.

We believe that the Sunday school is the most important auxiliary of the church, especially for instruction in the Word of God; therefore we recommend that everything possible be done to make it efficient as a teaching agency.

We further recommend that all church and association clerks be careful to send in complete and accurate reports so that this committee may be able to make a definite report.

Committee { Ira Harper
T. D. Ross
Miss Grace Grant.

Foreign Missions—Our chief Foreign Mission field is in India, and is known as the Bengal-Orissa Mission. It was first occupied by the Free Will Baptist Foreign Mission Society in the year 1836. It lies on the eastern side of India and on the Bay of Bengal. Its most southern station is Chandbali, about two hundred miles southwest of Calcutta, its most northern station is Bhimpore, about eighty miles west of Calcutta.

It embraces the two districts of Midnapore Balasore. From the time Eli Noyes entered this field in 1836 until this good day there has never been more heroic effort nor greater men on any field of activity. A few names among the many will be sufficient to any well informed Free Will Baptist to cause a halt to silently thank God we have been privileged to be associated with them in their ministry to humanity—Phillips, Bachelor, Coombs, Burkholder, Butts, Coldren, Stiles, Miner, Lougher, Barnes, Kennan.

But those most endeared are perhaps Murphy, Griffin, Collett, Oxreder, Coe, and Holder. Some of these faithful laborers have visited our churches and homes. Since the return of Mrs. Holder, as the committee sees it, we have become careless and indifferent to those representing us so faithfully on our mission field. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we, as a denomination, have reasons for devout gratitude to God for that call of His providence and His servants which led us into the Foreign Mission field; since eternity alone will reveal how much good may have been accomplished through our missionary efforts.

We further recommend that the waning interest be awakened and greater activities be put forth in this field of opportunities.

We further recommend that our pastors be urged to preach at least one sermon per year on the subject of Foreign Missions and that collection be taken for this work. The month of May being designated for this collection.

Committee { Mrs. M. L. Hollis
Mrs. Jack R. Bullard

Denomination—We, your Committee on Denomination, beg leave to report as follows: From a study of reports we find that our denomination in Texas has lost heavily in membership, churches, and associations as compared with reports of fifteen and twenty years ago. But while this is true as regards our work in Texas, we are much encouraged to note that decided gains have been made in many of our Southern States. While we shall not attempt to give all of the reasons for this decline of interest and progress in Texas, we shall offer some of the reasons that we believe to be the cause of this result:

First. The lack of co-operation on our part with our Free Will Baptist brethren of the South. One of the reasons we have been unable to give and receive full and complete co-operation with these, our brethren, is because of the relationship we have sustained toward another organization not of our own faith and order, namely: The Northern Baptist Convention. This peculiar relationship has existed by reason of the Basis of Union affected several years ago between the General Conference of Free Will Baptist and the Northern Baptist Convention. We understood in the organization of this Texas State Convention at our first meeting at Bradley Junction, that we were to sustain our connection with the General Conference of Free Will Baptist so long, and only so long as it remained a General Conference of Free Will Baptist. As a result of the union between the General Conference of Free Will Baptist and the Northern Baptist Convention, the former has long since ceased to be a General Conference of Free Will Baptist, but has been so completely merged with the Northern Baptist Convention as to entirely lose its identity as a General Conference of Free Will Baptist. And whereas the Northern Baptist Convention has become completely honey-combed with Darwinian Evolution and modern forms of infidelity. Therefore we recommend that we hereby declare, and publish to the world, that we, The Texas State Conference of Free Will Baptist, refuse to longer recognize any connection or relationship, other than Christian fellowship, with the Northern Baptist Convention.

{ T. H. Newsom
Committee { J. A. Edmonson.

Temperance and Law Enforcement—We, your Committee on Temperance and Law Enforcement, beg leave to report as follows:

The motive of those who advocated the adoption and continuation of National prohibition was worthy and patriotic, it is an honest unselfish effort to promote the general welfare, restriction of the activities of individuals, through the prohibition of the manufacture, sale and transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, and from the returns of the last election we believe that the Eighteenth Amendment and the law enacted to carry it into effect are more in the minds of the American people than ever before. Much remains yet to be done by those who are in the fight to make our country a sober one.

Our chief magistrate has committed himself to law enforcement and has asked that all citizens join with him in the effort to make America a law abiding nation.

We recommend the discussion of prohibition and law enforcement at all gatherings, as well as from the pulpits, that prohibition sentiment may be crystalized.

We urge that the ten thousand Free Will Baptist in Texas support only those for public office that we know will favor the prohibition laws.

We pledge ourselves as law abiding citizens to all officers of the Nation, State and County, whose duty it is to enforce our laws.

We urge the members of our churches to observe all laws, and to discourage lawlessness at all times and in all places, and to vote at all elections for those favoring enforcement of the prohibition laws.

J. L. Edge, Chairman of Com.

Evangelism—Evangelism is just as much needed to-day as ever before; the world going at its rapid speed is proof enough of this. Our country is spending billions of dollars every year for good roads and automobiles for their transportation. This is fine, and we are glad indeed that we are living in this progressive day and age, yet when we think of these fine things, they are but perishable and will not last through eternity. If only a very small per cent of the money that is spent for cars and highways could be spent for evangelism, in building the highways of life for men and women, we would have a much better country to live in, and there would be more happiness, more joy, more peace among the children of men.

Again we think back during the days of the World War, of the billions spent during that time. If there could have been only ten per cent of this vast amount of money used for evangelism ten years before the war, it would have made that war impossible; instead of war, it would have been harmony and peace among men. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

Another thing we need to keep in mind is that in this country of ours, which is admittedly the most Christian of all lands, one-third of the population over ten year of age are not members of any church. "The fields are white already to harvest;" there is much that needs to be done. This makes it clear to us that the evangelism of the home base is of primary importance.

We are beginning to realize also that the Church, in order to really live, needs the evangelistic spirit even more than the world needs to be evangelized. Often there is such an indifference and coldness in the Church that the new convert is chilled to death before the new life is really established. The Free Will Baptist need the evangelistic spirit and woe to us if we neglect evangelism.—M. L. Hollis

A Partial List and Addresses of Ministers

(It is hard to get a complete list.)

Rev. J. H. Dowel,	Normangee, Texas.
„ J. L. Bounds,	North Zulch, „
„ C. B. Thompson,	North Zulch, „
„ J. L. Payne,	Houston, „
„ John Orr,	Hunt, „
„ John Swanwick	North Zulch, „
„ J. E. Vaughn,	Iola, „
„ G. W. Robertson,	Dunn, „
„ M. L. Hollis,	Bryan, „
„ J. J. Tatum,	Bryan, „
„ S. T. Speers,	Springtown, „
„ J. A. Brooks,	Boyd, „
„ T. H. Newsom,	Buffalo Spring, „
„ D. D. Badgett,	Red Springs, „
„ J. A. Edmonson,	Vernon, „
„ J. M. Pinkerton,	Athens. „
„ R. B. Easley,	Comanche, „
„ J. E. Raney,	Granbury, „
„ J. A. Lemon,	Alvarado, „
„ J. W. Handy,	Bryan, „
„ Ollie Smith,	Navasota, „
„ J. T. Lee,	Kirbyville, „
„ A. W. West,	Kirbyville, „
„ R. A. Roberts,	Alvarado, „
„ J. C. Hodges, 2908 8th Ave.,	Ft. Worth, „
„ M. L. Sutton, B211 Sylvania Sta.,	Ft. Worth, „
„ —. —. Pace,	Ft. Worth, „
„ —. —. Beckman,	Roganville, „
„ —. —. Boss,	Riesel, „
„ J. W. Cook,	Iola, „
„ T. J. McBride,	Bruceville, „

Rev. D. R. Jimerson,	Henderson, Texas	
„ M. P. Heard,	Carthage	„
„ Ira Harper,	R2, Marshall	„
„ B. A. Wainwright,	R2, Marshall,	„
„ J. R. Glover,	Bullard,	„
„ D. J. Dollar,	Henderson,	„
„ E. S. Jameson,	Tatum,	„
„ J. H. Doster,	Tenaha,	„
„ L. W. Miller,	R1, Weatherford,	„
„ George Thompson,	Chappell,	„
„ J. E. Graham,	Killeen,	„
„ H. M. Graham,	Killeen,	„
„ J. W. Disrens,	Killeen,	„
„ E. G. Pirtle,	Slado,	„
„ Z. T. Fuller,	Belton,	„
„ J. E. Jones,	Eddy,	„
„ J. T. McBride,	Eddy,	„
Mrs. Julia Harper,	R2, Marshall,	„

Constitution

Article I. This Association shall be called The Texas Free Will Baptist Convention.

Article II. It shall be composed of Associations and other bodies of evangelical piety, that believe in a general atonement; the necessity of regeneration, baptism by immersion, and the communion of all Christians. Said bodies to be received by a majority vote of members present.

Article III. The object of this Convention is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom by consulting on the spirituality, efficiency and benevolent work, and other interests of the bodies composing it, by exercising helpful influence, by encouraging a sanctified education, promoting moral reform, church extension; the spread of the Gospel abroad and the enlargement of Christian fellowship everywhere.

Article IV. The officers, committees and other persons intrusted with service shall perform the duties of their respective offices according to the usages of well regulated deliberative bodies. The executive committee shall attend to all necessary work between sessions. It, to be the officers and two elected members, elected annually.

Article V. The stated sessions shall be held once each year, beginning the last Tuesday night in August and closing on the following Friday, unless otherwise ordered by the Convention or the Executive Committee.

Article VI. The representation shall be three delegates from each body composing the Convention and two additional delegates for every five hundred members and one for each fractional part thereof. And with the delegation a letter should always be sent, reporting the condition and statistics of the body.

Article VII. The Convention shall have the management of its own officers, even to the discipline of its members but over the churches and other bodies it has only advisory power.

Article VIII. This Constitution may be amended at any regular session by a majority vote of members present, providing notice has been given one year prior to the change proposed.

By-Laws

Article I. Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.

Article II. The officers shall be: President, three vice-presidents, who shall be elected annually, and a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be a standing officer.

Article III. Anyone desiring to speak on any subject must rise and address the President before speaking.

Article IV. No discourteous action nor language shall be indulged in by anyone.

Article V. Three associations must be represented by delegates to constitute a quorum.

Article VI. These By-Laws may be changed by a majority vote at any regular session by those present.

Resolved, That all ministers holding membership in Free Will Baptist churches in Texas shall be seated as delegates from their associations.

