

MINUTES

OF THE

STATE ASSOCIATION

OF

Texas Free Will Baptist

CONVENED WITH THE

Friendship Church

OF

Clayton Texas

OCTOBER 29 to NOVEMBER 1, 1940

The next session of this Association will convene with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Bryan, Texas Tuesday night before the first Sunday in November 1941.

MINUTES

of the 26th annual session of Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists convening with the Friendship Church, Clayton, Texas, October 29, 1940, through November 1, 1940.

TUESDAY NIGHT:

7:30 P. M.: Devotional from 23rd Psalm and John 14 by Mrs. Leroy Conway, Dott, Texas.

8:00 P. M.: Sermon by Rev. Ruel Connor with scripture taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

WEDNESDAY MORNING:

9:30 A. M.: Song service led by Bro. Chas. B. Wier, Ft. Worth, Texas. Devotional by Mrs. Jessie Ferguson, Ft. Worth, reading scripture from Matthew 14.

9:45 A. M.: Business:

Credential committee retired to prepare list of delegates and churches represented.

The program for this meeting of the Association read by Rev. M. L. Sutton, President, and with the necessary changes was adopted.

After a short intermission there was another song service.

10:00 A. M.: Welcome address by Rev. E. S. Jamison to those who visited in the Association. Rev. Jamison gave a short history of Free Will Baptist Churches stating that we were meeting in the first Free Will Baptist Church to be organized in the State of Texas sixty-two years ago.

Response to the welcome address was given by Bro. J. L. Edge, Bryan, Texas.

11:15 A. M.: Short song service.

Sermon by Rev. E. J. Vaughan taking his text from Luke 11:2 with the subject, "Prayer".

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. J. R. Davidson, Bryan, Texas, until after the noon hour.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON:

1:30 P. M.: Song service led by Bro. Chas. B. Wier, Ft. Worth.

1:45 P. M.: Devotional by Mrs. C. H. Moehlman, Bryan, reading from Romans 12 with the subject, "Consecration".

Prayer by Mrs. W. G. Reynolds.

2:00 P. M.: Business:

The Credential Committee reported the following churches and Associations as represented:

TRINITY CHURCH, Ft. Worth—Lena Mullins and Jessie

Ferguson	\$2.00
PINE PRAIRIE CHURCH—Mr and Mrs. E. H. Hudspeth	\$2.00
LIBERTY CHURCH, DOT—Mrs. Leroy Conway and Miss Eula Mae Martin	\$2.00
NORTH ZULCH CHURCH, North Zulch—By Letter—\$2.00 vouched for by Aston Pegues.	
PLEASANT MOUND CHURCH—R. H. Cowley	\$2.00
NEW HOPE CHURCH—Atlas Grant, Mrs. A. E. Stokes	\$2.00
BRYAN CHURCH, Bryan Texas—Mrs. Charles Moehlman, Mrs J. L. Edge	2.00
EVERGREEN CHURCH—By letter	\$2.00
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Waco, Texas —Mr. Mrs. Riley White	\$2.00
FIRST CHURCH, Ft. Worth—By letter	\$5.00

ASSOCIATIONS:

TEXAS ASSOCIATION: J. E. Tompkins, C. E. Custrow, H. D. Browning, P. H. Graves, J. L. Ross, Ernie Weaver, E. T. Tipps, Mrs. Frank Birdwell, Ernest Hensley, J. H. Fitzgerald and T. T. Megason.

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION: C. B. Wier, A. J. Measures, Ruel Conner, Cleve Stubbs, J. W. Taylor, Mrs. Rena Benton, M. L. Sutton, J. K. Warkentin.

CENTRAL TEXAS ASSOCIATION: Mrs. Arna Winsor, Mrs. T. A. Cloud, Mrs. W. G. Reynolds and Miss Icy Goen.

SOUTH EAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION: Dick Adams and Alvin Young.

VICTORY ASSOCIATION: By Letter and Rev. Holley.

A petitionary letter from the Victory Association was read and their delegates seated.

The amount of \$4.61 due from last year (1939) from West Fork Association was turned in to Clerk.

Motion made and carried that we visit the Flower Nursery in Carthage on Thursday evening at 3:00 P. M.

A vote of thanks was extended to Bro. T. A. Cloud for contribution to the Convention of the programs for the 1940 Association.

Names of those on the various committees were read so they might have reports ready on the following day.

Treasurer's report given by Bro. T. A. Cloud, Treasurer. Motion made and carried that the report be received and the \$2.00 be taken up to clear the deficit in the treasury. \$4.66 was collected.

Motion made and carried that 1000 copies of the minutes of this Association be printed.

The Minutes are to be distributed by the State Associational Clerk who will mail them to the District Associational Clerks who will, in turn, distribute them accordingly to the Churches in that district.

Invitations were extended from Pleasant Mound Church and Bryan Free Will Church for the 1941 meeting of the Association. Bryan Church was chosen as the next meeting place.

Rev. Tiff Covington was elected to preach the Associational Sermon for 1941.

Motion made and carried that the Associational Sermon be preached at the 11 o'clock hour of the first full day of the Association.

Motion made and carried that the treasurer be authorized to pay the regular \$10.00 fee to the National Convention and that the Moderator of the Convention be authorized to appoint the delegates according to the laws of the Constitution.

A report on Foreign Missions made by Rev. J. R. Davidson for Bro. C. F. Goen, Secretary, and was adopted.

A motion made and carried that we adjourn until the evening hour. Rev. Aston Pegues dismissed the congregation with prayer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING:

7:00 P. M.: After a short song service the young peoples' hour was conducted by Lucille Gardner, Waco, with the help of Rev. Aston Pegues, North Zulch, who spoke on "The Family Altar a Help to the Sunday Schools and Leagues".

8:00 P. M.: Sermon by Rev. M. T. Holley, Lubbock.

Dismissed with prayer and adjourned until Thursday morning.

THURSDAY MORNING

9:15 A. M.: Song Service conducted by Rev. Ira Harper.

Devotional by Rev. M. L. Sutton and prayer by Rev. Tommie Smith.

9:45 A. M.: Business:

Committee Reports:

Report on Temperance read and adopted.

Report on Sunday School work read. Motion made and seconded that the report be accepted. Motion made and carried that the motion of the adoption of the Report be tabled until a future date.

Report on Young People's Work read and adopted.

Motion made and carried that the chairman be given power to appoint Committee on Committees. Those appointed were Rev. E. S. Jamison, Chairman; Mrs. C. H. Moehlman, Mrs. Jessie Ferguson.

Business:

Report on Home Missions read and motion made and carried that the report be tabled until other recommendations are added.

Report on Denomination read and adopted.

The Free Will Baptists as a denomination were urged to use literature published by our own Free Will Baptist Publishing Houses.

A resolution brought before the body affecting a change in Article

9 of the By-Laws to be voted on the following day.

A motion made and carried that the body adjourn until after the noon hour.

11:00 A. M.: Song service led by Rev. J. R. Davidson.

Prayer by Bro. C. B. Wier.

Sermon by Rev. L. R. Ennis, Goldsboro, North Carolina, using as his subject, "Seeing Jesus"; scripture reading in Hebrews 2:9. After the sermon Bro. Ennis discussed the plan of organizing a Free Will Baptist School in the near future as brought out at the last National Convention.

A Collection was taken for the Educational Fund and approximately \$30.00 collected.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON:

2:15 P. M.: Women's Work:

Mrs. C. H. Moehlman presided as Chairman in the absence of Mrs. R. C. Wiggs, President.

Devotional by Mrs. M. L. Sutton from Micah 6:8 and Romans 8:28.

Minutes of the previous meeting of the women's work were read and approved. The women and pastors were urged to increase ladies auxiliary work throughout the State.

Business:

Rev. Tiff Covington spoke on Ministerial Convention. Rev. Covington made a recommendation that Rev. Ennis be invited to attend the Ministerial Convention in March and bring about three courses per session to the ministers. Motion made to that effect and carried.

A rising vote of thanks extended to the church at Clayton, to the people of that community and to the entire Association for their hospitality to the visitors.

Amendment to the Home Mission Report read and adopted. A certificate was approved to be given Bro. Hubert R. Berry, Houston, approving his work in the organization of a Church in Houston, Texas.

Home Mission report read and adopted.

Partial report of Committees on Committees read and Adopted.

The amendment added to Sunday School Report regarding changing of ages was read and adopted.

The Sunday School Report was adopted.

Adjourned with prayer until evening hour.

THURSDAY EVENING:

7:15 P. M.: Song service by Bro. Chas. Wier.

Devotional by Miss Eula Mae Martin, Dot, from Romans 13.

7:30 P. M.: Sermon by Rev. W. V. McPhail, Waco, using as his text 2 Cor. 6:17, 18.

Dismissed with song and then prayer until the Friday morning hour.

FRIDAY MORNING

9:30 A. M.: Song service by Bro. Chas. B. Wier.

Devotional by Bro. A. W. West from Hebrews 2.

10:00 A. M.: Motion made and carried that Article 9 of the By-Laws be changed to read: "The following standing Committees shall be appointed, or elected: Temperance, Resolutions, Credentials, Obituary, and Program; and Directors shall be elected for the following activities: Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Laymen's Work, Free Will Baptist League, Sunday School and Ladies' Auxiliary Work.

Motion made and carried that Committee on Committees be given power to nominate candidates for directors as provided in Article 9 of the By-Laws.

Directors nominated and elected are as follows:

HOME MISSIONS—J. L. Edge, Bryan, Texas.

FOREIGN MISSIONS—Rev. J. R. Davidson, Bryan, Texas.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK—Lucille Gardner, Waco, Texas.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Rev. R. C. Wiggs, North Zulch, Texas.

LAYMAN'S WORK—B. F. Payne, Carthage, Texas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK—Rev. Aston Pegues, North Zulch, Texas.

LADIES AUXILIARY WORK—Mrs. C. H. Moehlman.

10:30 A. M.: Obituary Report read and adopted.

Report on Evangelism read and adopted.

Election of officers:

President: Rev. M. L. Sutton, Ft. Worth.

Vice President: Rev. Tiff Covington,

Recording Secretary: Lucille Gardner, Waco.

Treasurer: Bro. Riley White, Waco.

Publicity: Bro. Chas. B. Wier, Ft. Worth.

Statistician: Rev. E. S. Jamison,

Parliamentarian: Rev. J. R. Davidson, Bryan, Texas.

Rev. M. L. Sutton made a short talk on Orphanage work, encouraging Free Will Baptists to consider the organization of a Free Will Baptist Orphanage in the State of Texas.

Orphanage Fund Report given and accepted.

Rev. and Sister T. W. Smith received a hardy endorsement of the State Association of Free Will Baptists for their orphanage work and a motion made and carried that they be given a certificate of endorsement signed by the President and Secretary for their good work.

Rev. Tiff Covington made a talk boosting the support of the orphanage and of the young peoples' work in the State of Texas.

Motion made and carried that we dismiss until after the noon hour. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. M. L. Sutton.

11:30 A. M.: Sermon by Rev. M. L. Sutton with scripture reading in Galatians 2:11 through end of chapter.

After the service an offering taken for the Orphanage Fund and \$11.01 was collected making a grand total of \$114.38 on hand.

Dismissed with prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON:

1:30 P. M.: Song service led by Rev. Ira Harper.

Scripture reading by Rev. M. L. Sutton.

Motion made and carried that the chairman appoint the delegates to the National Association

Delegates appointed were Bro. Chas. B. Wier, Bro. Gus Smith, Mrs. Gus Smith, Mrs. T. W. Smith and Miss Anna Reed.

Minutes of the 1940 meeting of the Association read and accepted.

Motion made and carried that the Association adjourn until Tuesday night before the first Sunday in November, 1941, at the Free Will Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas.

REV. M. L. SUTTON, President

LUCILLE GARDNER, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

TEMPERANCE: Mrs. B. F. Payne, Mrs. W. R. Carmichael, Mrs. W. B. Duke.

RESOLUTIONS: M. L. Sutton, C. J. Turrentine, Mrs. C. B. Wier.

CREDENTIAL: C. F. Geen, Lamar Williams, Mrs. Maude Wheeler

OBITUARY: W. V. McPhail, J. R. White, A. Sullens.

PROGRAMS: J. R. Davidson, J. L. Edge, T. A. Cloud.

Signed: REV. E. S. JAMISON
MRS. C. H. MOEHLMAN
MRS. JESSIE FERGUSON

EVANGELISM

We, your Committee on Evangelism, beg to submit the following:

Because of the fact that the work of Evangelism is not progressing in our State as it should we recommend that each church help other churches and surrounding communities preach the Gospel of Salvation to lost people and lift up Christ to the world.

REV. TIFF COVINGTON, Chairman

REV. RUEL CONNER

OBITUARY

We, your Committee on Obituary, submit the following:

By examination of the reports from the Associations we find that

seventeen of our coworkers have gone home.. To the bereaved we extend our sympathy praying that the spirit of the Father lead you in peace.

We would suggest that the proper respects be paid by this body to their memory.

REV. E. S. JAMISON, Chairman
GUS SMITH

TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg to submit the following:

Whereas the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ has suffered untold loss because of intemperance in the lives of people who call themselves Christians, be it resolved that we as Free Will Baptists go on record as against intemperance in any form and especially the use and sale of intoxicating beverages. Also be it resolved that we as Christians use every means in our power both in public and in private life to defeat the element who are using every scheme they can to bring back the free use and sale of all kinds of intoxicating beverages which brings to us public and private ruin.

Signed, Your Committee:
T. W. SMITH.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

We, your Committee on Young People's Work, wish to submit the following report:

There has been some improvement in young people's work throughout the State. Since coming to the Association we have learned of the organization of new leagues in various churches.

We pray that during the following year the young people's work may grow as it has never done in the past. It can be done by your full cooperation and support and by your prayers.

LUCILLE GARDNER,
BERNICE JONES,
ALLEN CALVARY.

HOME MISSIONS

We, your Committee on Home Missions, beg to submit the following:

Not having noted any special effort on the part of Home Missions except a work early in 1940 to establish our work in Houston and at Huntsville, Texas The results we are unable to report, but believing that seed have been sown that germinate and grow we respectfully ask that this body go on record as favoring further efforts be made to establish our work not only in places named but all over the State.

We beg to report finally that to our knowledge only about \$12.00 or \$15.00 has been received.

We recommend that this body recognize Rev. Hubert R. Berry as a leader in establishing a Free Will Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, and that we give him a certificate showing his recognition and further recommend that each pastor throughout the State collect and send a fund to our State Treasurer for this purpose.

BRO. J. L. EDGE, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, your Committee on Sunday School beg to submit the following report:

Because we have found that where there is a live working Sunday School there is a steady flow of conversions and additions to the Church, and, because we find that the Sunday School work of our denomination in Texas is far behind what it could be, we submit to you the following Sunday School program for your consideration, and if you find it to be sound we urge the adoption.

1. We recommend that Sunday Schools be re-organized according to the plan of the modern Sunday Schools, to wit: That classes be organized according to ages as follows: Cradle Roll: Birth to 3 years; Beginners, 4-5 years; Primaries, 6-8 years; Juniors, 9-12 years; Intermediates, 13-16 years; Young People, 17-24 years; Adults, 25 years and over.

2. We recommend that each school have a competent Superintendent and General Secretary appointed by the church; that the Superintendent be a member of the church and that shall have authority to appoint teachers of the classes who are members of the church.

3. We recommend the use of the Six Point System in our schools and that a yearly school for one week be established to train teachers and class secretaries and that this school be held in some central locality of the State. That this association appoint the teachers and provide some method of compensation for their work.

4. We recommend and urge those Sunday Schools that are using literature to use only Free Will Baptist literature.

5. We recommend that each church be urged to start a building program to provide class rooms for each class in their schools. We believe that every church in our state can provide separate rooms for their Sunday School classes, but if there are those which are not able to provide rooms we urge that they hang curtains around their classes in the auditorium.

REV. M. L. SUTTON, Chairman.

DENOMINATION

We, your Committee on Denomination, submit the following:

In order to acquaint the people with our denomination, the doctrine needs to be preached to them.

Many of our people do not know what our church as a denominational body teaches, therefore let us preach and teach our doctrines.

Let us build our own publishing houses and printing presses by using published literature for and by Free Will Baptists. This alone would be a great help along the line of building our denomination.

Let us as Free Will Baptists help our orphans as well as supporting others. Let us as Free Will Baptists help support and also build our schools.

In many rural sections the Free Will Baptists are the only ones holding regular religious services, yet we are timid and do not teach

our church doctrine because a few who attend services are not members of our body. We organize a Sunday School and order some other denominational literature to teach OUR people simply because a few come who do not hold membership with us. The result is, OUR YOUNG PEOPLE and old as well are taught not our doctrine but some other. We organize a young people's league and because some who come are not members of our church we order and teach some other literature for fear we offend. The result is our young people perish for lack of knowledge.

We Free Will Baptists hold dear the Christian fellowship of all denominations, but we believe we should give support first of all and most of all to our own blessed church. When we do this our Church as a denominational body will grow and prosper.

Brethren, we offer this report as a recommendation, not to sever Christian fellowship with others, but to build our own denomination.

Respectfully submitted and signed:

REV. IRA HARPER, Chairman.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

We, your committee on Foreign Missions, beg to submit the following report:

From the report of the Foreign Missions Secretary made yesterday and scattered reports over our territory, we find that approximately \$200.00 has been raised for this great cause during the last twelve months. Approximately the same amount was reported a year ago, but a larger territory is taken into the support of this Cause.

We wish to commend those who have supported this cause during the last twelve months, and urge that all ministers and leaders begin to teaching a Scriptural Missions Program among our Churches based on Matthew 28:19,20.

By the Committee,

J. R. DAVIDSON,

MRS. CHAS. MOEHLMAN.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TO BALANCE:

Oct. 1939 carried forward	\$26.42
Nov. 4, 1939, Deposit	36.00
Mar. 16, 1940, Rec'd of Rev. R. C. Wiggs	3.00
Oct. 24, 1940, Rec'd of Rev. R. C. Wiggs	2.00
Total	<u>\$67.42</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Dec. 5, 1939, for Printing	\$42.50
Dec. 8, 1939, Postage	1.92
Mar. 16, 1940, to Rev. W. E. Dearmore	15.00
June, 1940, Nat'l Association	10.00
Total	<u>\$69.42</u>

THOS. A. CLOUD, Treasurer.

