

MINUTES

of the

FIFTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION

of

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

when convened with

WESTSIDE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

MIDLAND, TEXAS

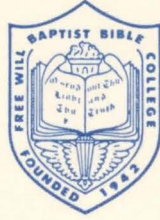
October 27-29, 1964

The next session will be held with the

First Free Will Baptist Church

Bryan, Texas

July 27-29, 1965



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Jim Williams

TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION

of the Southern Baptist Convention

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1964-65

OFFICERS

Moderator

1201 N. Mason, Bowie, Texas

Rev. C.J. Hearron

Asst. Moderator

2813 Baylor St., Lubbock, Texas

Rev. Lionel Cooksey

Clerk

1220 West Montgomery, Midland, Texas

Rev. E.E. Zoellers

Asst. Clerk

6507 Texas Ave., Houston, Texas

Mrs. Charlene Denman

Statistician

205 Christian Dr., Henderson, Texas

Mrs. Betty Ferguson

Parliamentarian

1601 Burt St., Bryan, Texas

Rev. Don Ellis

Executive Secretary

3322 Michigan, Dallas, Texas

Rev. H.Z. Cox

BOARDS

Home Missions

Rev. A.F. Ferguson 1965; Bro. W.H. Johnson 1966;
Rev. H. Ray Berry 1966; Rev. Allen Moore 1967;
Rev. Fred King 1967

Foreign Missions

Rev. Roy Norie 1965; Rev. Bobby Ferguson 1966;
Rev. Homer Tumbleson 1967

Christian Education

Rev. Leroy Cutler 1965; Bro. Mackie Adams 1966;
Rev. Odus Eubanks 1967

Superannuation

Mrs. Greta Cooksey 1965; Mrs. H.Z. Cox 1966;
Rev. Roy Hearson 1966; Rev. Elvis Fielding 1967;
Rev. Leroy Anderson 1967

General Board Member Of National Association

Rev. E.E. Zoellers

Proceedings

Tuesday Evening 7:30 O'Clock

The 50th annual session of the Texas State Assn. of the Free Will Baptists convened with the West Side Free Will Baptist Church, Midland, Texas, on October 27-29, 1964.

The session opened with the Moderator, Rev. Kenneth Brandon, presiding. Bro. John Brooks led in prayer. The singing was led by Bro. Lionel Cooksey, with Sis. Taylor at the piano. Bro. E.E. Zoellers, host pastor, presented the Welcome.

The Moderator gave the Association instructions in the carrying on of the Lord's business. He appointed the following committees:

Nomination:

Bro. Fred King, Chairman
Bro. A.F. Ferguson
Bro. Tiff Covington

Committee On Committees:

Bro. Lionel Cooksey
Bro. Bob Harless
Sis. Eula Fuller

The Moderator then read the theme, "Looking Unto Jesus," in Heb. 12:2.

A wonderful message in song was rendered by Rev. and Mrs. Leroy Cutler, entitled "Win The Lost At Any Cost."

Rev. Don Payne, from Oklahoma Bible College was introduced as the speaker for tonight. He spoke on "Looking To Jesus By Learning." He used several scriptures and emphasized "Jesus, the Foundation," "Jesus, the Finish," and "Jesus, the Future." He closed with prayer.

Bro. Lionel Cooksey gave the Committee on Committees' report.

Temperance Committee:

Bro. Odus Eubanks, Ch.

Bro. Budd Parr

Bro. Marvin Williams

Credentials Committee:

Bro. Rashie Kennedy, Ch.

Bro. Leroy Cutler

Bro. Allen Moore

Resolutions Committee:

Sis. Naomi Stom, Ch.

Bro. John Pettit

Bro. Bobby Ferguson

Obituary Committee:

Sis. Jo Ann Warren

Bro. Clyde Gillentine

Sis. Kenneth Brandon

A Constitutional Amendment was presented as follows:

"Be it resolved that we change the meeting date for the State Association to convene on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in August and to run through noon Thursday." Motion carried to table the amendment and act upon it at business session tomorrow.

Bro. Budd Parr closed the session with prayer.

Wednesday Morning

Bro. Lionel Cooksey led the congregation in that grand old song "Standing on the Promises." Bro. Bobby Ferguson then led in the opening prayer.

The Moderator welcomed several visiting ministers. Rev. Roger Reeds was introduced as our speaker. He spoke to us concerning our National Sunday School Program. He read Deut. 31:12 in closing.

A partial report of the credentials committee was given by Bro. Allen Moore. Twenty-six churches reported with \$130.00 dues. Six districts reported with \$100.00 dues. Twenty-six ministers and deacons registered. Motion carried to accept the partial report and seat the delegates.

Rev. H.Z. Cox, executive secretary, gave his report. (This report was found on pages 2, 13, and 14 of the Digest of Reports.) Motion carried to receive the report. The Christian Education Report was also read by Bro. Cox. (Page 3 in the Digest of Reports.) He also presented Bro. O.L. Barger's resignation. Motion carried to receive the report and accept the resignation.

Bro. Bill Jones, our missionary to Africa, spoke on "Looking Unto Jesus in Missions." He used numerous scriptures and emphasized world evangelism. He urged us to challenge the young men in our churches to give their lives to "evangelizing the world." He closed with prayer.

Bro. McGuire dismissed the session for recess with prayer.

The morning worship service was opened with singing. Bro. Clarence Hearron and Bro. Kenneth Brandon rendered a special in song entitled "I'm Depending on Jesus."

The Moderator introduced our morning speaker, Rev. C.B. Thompson. He opened his message with prayer and spoke on "Looking Unto Jesus Through Experience." He emphasized the history of Free Will Baptists.

Bro. E.E. Zoellers prayed the benediction and blessing on the noon meal.

Wednesday Afternoon

Services were resumed by congregational singing led by Bro. C.J. Hearron. Prayer was led by Rev.

Allen Moore. The Assistant Moderator, Bro. Don Ellis, presided.

A special in song was rendered by Bro. J.L. Brandon, Betty Kelly, and Bro. C.J. Hearron, entitled "Do You Know my Jesus."

Bro. Sam Johnson, from the C.T.S. National Headquarters, gave a talk on "Looking Unto Jesus Through C.T.S." He explained the revising of our C.T.S. literature. Bro. Roger Harwell, missionary to Pueblo, Colo., spoke briefly on the work in his area using Lk. 9:62. Bro. Don Payne, informed us as to the ministry of the Oklahoma Bible College.

A further partial report of the Credentials Committee was given by Bro. Allen Moore. Six more churches registered, making a total of 32 churches. There was an invitation from the Central Texas Dist. Association for the next session. Motion carried to accept this report and the invitation.

The Clerk read the proposed Constitutional Amendment concerning the changing of our meeting time. Motion carried to remove the item from the table and act upon it. Motion carried to adopt this amendment.

A Nominating Committee Report was given by Rev. A.F. Ferguson. Motion carried to receive the report. (For those elected see page 1.)

The resignation of Rev. Dan Parker from the Foreign Missions Board was presented. Motion carried to accept the resignation.

Rev. Elvis Fielding gave the Superannuation Report. (Page 7-A in the Digest of Reports.) Motion carried to accept the report.

The State Home Missions Report was given by Rev. A.F. Ferguson. (Page 4 Digest of Reports) Motion carried to receive the report and act upon the recommendations item by item. All three items in the report were accepted.

The Clerk read two proposed Constitutional Amendments. They read as follows:

1. That wherever the word "League" appears, it be changed to "Church Training Service."

2. That the phrase in Article IV "Each ordained

or licenses minister and each ordained deacon shall pay \$1 registration fee" be deleted. Motion carried to table the two items and act upon them tomorrow.

The Clerk read a proposed Constitutional change which reads: "That the duties of the Executive Secretary be extended to include field promotional work; working with the Home Mission Board to establish new Free Will Baptist churches in Texas." Motion carried to table the item and act upon it tomorrow.

Mrs. Jo Ann Warren gave an oral report from the Woman's Auxilary.

The Obituary Report was given by Mrs. Warren also. Motion Carried to receive the report and act upon it item by item.

1. We recommend that a space be given on our church letters to provide for our deceased. Motion carried to accept.

2. We recommend that this body stand in a moment of silent meditation and prayer as we remember how our lives were blessed by the godly influence and example of those who have left us. Motion carried to accept. Rev. Don Ellis closed the prayer.

Bro. Odus Eubanks gave the Temperance Report.

We, your committee on temperance, submit the following resolutions:

Be it resolved that we as God's people, de-nominated Free Will Baptists, take a strong and uncompromising Christian stand on the following issues:

1. Desecration of the Lord's Day.
2. Divorce and remarriage.
3. Pornographic and filthy literature.
4. Entertainment of a questionable nature.
5. Immodesty in dress and appearance.
6. The sale and use of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, and tobacco.

We urgently urge that we, as Free Will Baptists, determine to preach and practice separated, consecrated, holy living.

Bro. Lionel Cooksey dismissed the session with prayer.

Wednesday Evening

The evening session opened with the Assistant Moderator presiding. Congregational singing was led by Bro. Hearron. Sis. Naomi Stom and Sis. John Warren favored us with a special in song.

The Dorcas Circle of the host church presented a Bible to Bro. Osmundo Corrales. We sang "Amazing Grace" with Bro. Hearron leading. A duet was now rendered by Bro. Hearron and Bro. Brandon, followed by a quartet consisting of Bros. Ferguson, Zoellers, King and Cooksey entitled "The Son Hath Made Me Free."

The Moderator introduced Bro. Eubanks who spoke to us on the subject, "Looking Unto Jesus Through Soul Winning." After a very thrilling message, an invitation was given to us to commit ourselves to soul winning. An offering of \$45.23 was then received for the Bill Jones'. Announcements were then made and Rev. Reeds dismissed us for the night.

Thursday Morning

Services resumed by Bro. Brandon leading us in song. Bro. Jack Gilbert led us in prayer. After further singing, we were favored with a quartet composed of Bro. C.J. Hearron, Bro. Jewel Brandon, Bro. Kenneth Brandon, and Sis. Betty Kelly.

Bro. Rashie Kennedy was introduced as the early morning speaker. He spoke to us from Heb. 12:1-4 and Luke 10:1-12. His subject was "Looking Unto Jesus in Visitation." He emphasized for us to look to Jesus for instructions in visitation. He pointed out that God tells us to go two by two, to pray, to go in faith, and to be tactful. He closed with prayer.

A report from the Resolutions Committee was given by Sis. Naomi Stom. Motion carried to accept the report and to act upon it item by item.

1. Be it resolved that the Executive Committee be charged with the responsibility of enlarging

our State News Letter into a state paper. Motion carried to accept.

2. Be it resolved that we invite the National Association of Free Will Baptists to convene with us in the city of Houston in 1968. Motion carried to accept.
3. Be it resolved that the State Association exercise more disciplinary authority over its ministers as to (1) divorce and remarriage, (2) Immoral conduct, (3) Departing from the faith. Motion carried to accept.
4. Be it resolved that no session of the State Meeting exceed two hours in length without a recess. Motion not accepted.
5. Be it resolved that it be a \$50 honorarium for the clerk and a \$10 honorarium for the Asst. clerk. Motion carried to accept.
6. Whereas, The Free Will Baptists believe that the book of Genesis teaches that man was created by a direct act of God; and
Whereas, The Texas Text Book Committee has disregarded the pleas of Christian people; and
Whereas, Said Committee has endorsed text books for the adoption of the public schools of Texas which teach evolution as a fact instead of a theory; therefore be it
Resolved, That the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists go on record as being utterly opposed to the teaching of evolution in the schools of Texas.
Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the governor of the state and one to the State Commissioner of Education. Motion carried to accept.
7. Be it resolved that we give a rising vote of thanks to the Midessa Association and the West Side Free Will Baptist Church of Midland, for their wonderful hospitality. Motion carried to accept.

Rev. Roy Norie gave the Foreign Missions' Report. (page 3 in the Digest of Reports) Motion carried to

accept the report.

The Asst. Clerk read the Executive Committee's Report. It was as follows:

The Executive Committee met in a called session September 13, 1964 for the purpose of formulating a program and for any other necessary business. All members were present with the exception of the Asst. Clerk, Mrs. Charlene Denman.

Rev. Gaston Clary and Rev. Leroy Cutler visited with us. Rev. Clary led us in prayer. The theme, "Looking Unto Jesus," was chosen for the coming 50th session. Motion passed to use seven speakers this year instead of the usual four. Motion passed Bro. Cox be allowed to replace speakers that can not attend. Motion to adjourn. Motion carried to accept.

The Executive Committee met Tuesday night, Oct. 27, 1964. We agreed to change the program as follows:

Bro. Bill Jones from Thursday 11 A.M. to Wednesday morning after the report from the Executive Secretary. (10:15) Motion carried to accept.

The Executive Committee met in a called meeting Oct. 28, 1964. Rev. Leroy Cutler was chosen to speak in the place of Bro. Bill Jones on Thursday morning, Oct. 29, 1964.

The same budget and allocation as the previous year was accepted. Motion passed to send an honorarium of \$20 to Oklahoma Bible College from the Executive Department in appreciation for Bro. Payne's wonderful message presented to us Tuesday night, and his presence at our association.

Motion passed to print the minutes in book form. Motion amended from the floor to appoint a proof reader to re-read and approve these minutes for printing. Amendment carried. Motion carried to accept.

Motion carried that the Christian Education Board be instructed to appoint a person to be the state C.T.S. Director and announce the appointment before the close of this session. Motion carried that Bro. Don Ellis assist Bro. Eubanks and Bro. Cutler in appointing a C.T.S. Director.

Motion carried to take the two proposed Constitutional Amendments from the table.

Item 1 accepted.

Item 2 accepted.

Motion carried that our C.T.S. Rally be allotted time at the State Convention. Motion carried to take from the table the remaining tabled item, concerning the additional work of the Executive Secretary. Motion carried to withdraw this change and the item was defeated. Bro. Odus Eubanks was elected to proof read the minutes before printing.

Motion carried for final adjournment.

The morning worship session was opened with the congregation having a wonderful fellowship in song. After prayer, Bro. Leroy Cutler brought the closing message using II Cor. 7:14. He challenged our hearts with a wonderful message and urged us to learn through the mistakes of others.

The C.T.S. state director as named was Mrs. Leroy Cutler.

The benediction and blessing on the noon meal was given by Bro. Zoellers.

Read and approved by Odus K. Eubanks

Date April 27, 1965

CONSTITUTION

of

STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

ARTICLE I: Name

This organization shall be known as the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II Purpose

The purpose of this association shall be to enlist the cooperation of all Free Will Baptists in Texas in sending the gospel of Jesus Christ to all quarters both near and far, in winning the lost through the preaching of the gospel, and in teaching and training those who are saved to be holier and more efficient members of the body of Christ, thus advancing the interests of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE III: Membership

This association shall be composed of the district associations and the churches of Texas which are known to be duly organized, orthodox and orderly, and conforming to the faith and usages of the denomination as set forth in the Treatise of Faith of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. All regularly ordained and licensed ministers, and ordained deacons, who hold membership in, and are in good standing with, a church belongong to this association, are members of this association. All churches belongong to this association must be members in good standing of some regular district association in Texas, unless their geographical location prevents such membership. Any district association or church conforming to the above regulations may, upon proper application, be admitted to membership in this association.

ARTICLE IV: Time and Date

The Association shall convene on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in August and run through noon Thursday.

ARTICLE V: Representation

Representation to this association shall be on the following basis. Each district association shall be

entitled to one delegate for each 100 members, or fractional part thereof. Each church shall be entitled to two delegates regardless of the number of its members. It shall be required of all district associations that they represent themselves by delegates and communicate by letter their standing, prospects and statistics at each regular session of this association, the time and place of the regular session being determined by this association. Each district association shall accompany with their letter a registration fee as follows: \$10.00 for the first 500 members, or fractional part thereof, and \$5.00 for each additional 500 members, or fractional part thereof. Each church shall accompany their letter with a registration fee of \$5.00.

ARTICLE VI: Officers

The officers of this association are a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, executive secretary, statistician and parliamentarian. These officers shall be elected at each regular session of the association. The nominating committee will present nominations for officers and board members, but the association shall in no wise prevent members from exercising their democratic privilege of nominating candidates from the floor. The election of officers shall become the first item of business of the afternoon session of the second day.

Duties of Officers and Boards:

Moderator: It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over all meetings of the association, and called meetings of the executive committee: to appoint all necessary committees not provided for in the constitution, and to strive to promote the general welfare of the association.

Assistant Moderator: It shall be the duty of the assistant moderator to serve in all capacities of the moderator in his absence, or upon the call of

the moderator.

Clerk: It shall be the duty of the clerk to make a good and accurate record of all proceedings of the association, to prepare a manuscript of the same for printing of the minutes, to make and keep on file minutes of all regular or called sessions of the association, or called meetings of the executive committee and to negotiate the printing and distribution of the minutes of the regular sessions of the association.

Assistant Clerk: It shall be the duty of the assistant clerk to work with the clerk in every capacity when called upon to do so by the clerk, or, the moderator.

Executive Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Executive Secretary to receive and disburse all funds coming into the regular treasury at the direction of the association. He shall see that an accurate record is kept of all disbursements and shall present a statement of all receipts and disbursements at each regular session of the association. He shall have charge of all associational advertising, serve as contact between this body and the National Association, and his office shall serve as an information center for such as missions, ministerial relief; location of churches, and names and addresses of their officers; district associations, denominational schools, etc. He shall be charged with the promotion of the cooperative program and shall disburse all cooperative program funds as the association shall direct.

Statistician: It shall be the duty of the statistician to collect and compile, as nearly as possible, all vital statistics of all district associations and churches in Texas, to report the same at each regular session of this and the National Association.

Parliamentarian: It shall be the duty of the parliamentarian to thoroughly acquaint himself with good and accepted parliamentary rules that he may be prepared to rule on the order of any business pro-

cedure being transacted at any session of the Association. It shall be the privilege of the chair to call for a ruling from the parliamentarian when he deems it necessary.

Home Mission Board: It shall be the duty of this board to:

1. Receive and disburse money allocated them by the state and other money.
2. To promote the organization of new churches.
3. To give a complete report of all funds received, disbursements, and progress made to state body.
4. Plan and promote all home mission itinerates and work coming into our state from the national level.

Foreign Missions: It shall be the duties of this board to:

1. To arrange and promote itineries of foreign missionaries in Texas. They shall do this by working between the churches and the national office.
2. Work in conjunction with the national board in approving missionaries sent out from Texas.
3. Promote the foreign mission work in general and shall keep the state informed as to our obligation to missionaries for whom we are directly responsible.
4. Give a complete and full report of their work at each state meeting.

Superannuation Board: It shall be the duties of this board to:

1. Receive and disburse all money allocated to them.
2. Seek out and determine the eligibility of those receiving financial assistance.
3. Give a full and complete report at each state meeting.

Christian Education: It shall be the duty of this board to:

1. Receive and disburse all money allocated to them by the state.
2. To promote Sunday School, Church Training

Service, and any other phase of Christian Education deemed necessary and practicable.

3. To serve as a co-ordinating body between our state and our National Association concerning matters of Christian education.

4. To give a complete statistical report on the different phases of the work at the end of the year to the state body.

5. To make a complete report to the State body regarding projects, finances, meetings, and recommendations.

ARTICLE VII: Boards and Committees

The association shall elect the following boards; Christian Education, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, and Superannuation. These boards shall consist of three members each except those composed of five members each. The terms of board members shall be for three years. The election of all board members shall be the next item of business after the election of officers and by the same procedure. It shall be the duty of the moderator to appoint members to fill the unexpired term of any board member, or members, vacating their position between regular sessions.

The moderator shall appoint a committee on committee. This Committee shall nominate the following Committees: Temperance, Resolutions, Program, Obituary, and Credentials. This committee shall be appointed at each regular session of the association.

ARTICLE VIII: Discipline

This association shall have the authority to discipline any association or church holding membership with it for disorderly conduct or heresy, and should efforts to help correct the difficulty fail the association may withdraw the hand of fellowship until order has been established, but in no case shall the association have the authority to reverse the decisions of churches or district associations.

ARTICLE IX: Executive Committee

This association shall have an executive committee composed of the officers of the association. This

Committee shall have the oversight of all associational work and when it is necessary to transact business that cannot be held over to the next regular session of the association this committee shall, in duly called session, act for and in behalf of the association. Minutes of all called meetings are to be recorded and reported to the association in the next regular session, and if the body deems wise the executive committee report shall be printed in the minutes of the association.

ARTICLE X: Alterations And Amendments

This constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of the association by a two-thirds majority vote of all members present provided the proposed alteration or amendment has been read before the body and has been placed on the table one day in advance of the time the vote is to be taken.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1: The moderator or assistant moderator, or in their absence, the senior minister in years, shall call the association into conference, and if a quorum is known to be present, the body may proceed with business according to outlined program.

ARTICLE 2: All persons declared by the credentials committee to be eligible to represent in the association are hereby made and constituted members of this body, and are authorized to act in all respects according to the provisions of the constitution and by-laws under which this association is governed.

ARTICLE 3: Delegates from corresponding bodies, and brethren invited to seats in the association, shall be entitled to all privileges of the association except voting.

ARTICLE 4: No person shall speak more than twice on the same question, nor over ten minutes at the time, without special permission of the association: neither shall anyone be recognized by the presiding

officer without first rising and addressing the chair, and shall not proceed with discussion or statement until recognized by the chair.

Article 5: It shall not be considered regular for any member of the body to leave its session without special permission of the presiding officer, and those who do such, lay themselves liable to public censure. No member shall take final leave from any regular or called session without special permission from the association.

Article 6: The business of this association shall be governed by good parliamentary regulations at all times.

Article 7: No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected. No person shall hold more than one office in the state association at any time.

Article 8: The program of each annual meeting shall be prepared by the regularly elected or appointed program committee: programs to be distributed thirty days in advance of setting of association.

Article 9: The following standing committees shall be appointed at each setting of the association: temperance, resolutions, program, credentials, obituary, and committee on committees.

Article 10: Each session shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

Article 11: Minutes of each session shall be carefully read and corrected before final adjournment.

Article 12: These bylaws may be amended at any regular session of the association, by a two-thirds majority vote of the body, provided proposed amendment has been read before the body and placed on the table one day in advance of the time the vote is to be taken.

CHURCH LETTER

Greetings from _____

Church to the _____

(State whether quarterly or yearly
meeting or association)

when convened with _____

Church at _____

We send as delegates, our beloved:

Delegates

Alternates

Whom we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid
you in your godly deliberations

Deceased

Pastor's name and address _____

Names of Ministers and Deacons

Done by order of the church assembled in conference
_____ day of _____, 19 _____.

Moderator

Clerk

