

1997
minutes

Texas Free Will Baptist Yearbook

1998

Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists

84th Annual Session

June 10-12, 1998

Containing the
1997 State Minutes
and the
1998 Digest of Reports

First Free Will Baptist Church
1415 West Wheatland Road
Duncanville, Texas
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Theme: Little is Much When God is in It

1998 Yearbook

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Executive Board Meeting

June 3, 1997
Hampton Inn
College Station, Texas

The Executive Board of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists met in the Hospitality Suite of the Hampton Inn, in College Station, Texas, on Tuesday evening, June 3, 1997. Members present for the meeting were David Sutton, moderator; Lynn Wood, assistant moderator; Will Harmon, Hillsdale Trustee; Jerry McArthur, assistant clerk; and Thurmon Murphy, clerk.

Moderator David Sutton opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. He read Luke 14:25-33 and brought a devotion on "The Cross of Commitment." He then led in prayer.

The board voted to make the following recommendations to the state body:

1. We recommend that the following cooperative giving fund allocations, the undesignated portion of The Together Way Plan, be retained for 1998:

State Office.....	40%
National Cooperative Program.....	25%
Missions/Church Extension Board.....	23%
Christian Education Board.....	12%

2. We recommend that the 1998 state meeting of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists meet at the Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano, June 10-12, 1998.
3. We recommend that the Digest of Reports and the State Minutes be combined into one book to be used at the state meeting, and that the book be called *The Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists Yearbook*.
4. We recommend that the Executive Board and the Home Missions/Church Extension Board continue formulation of a comprehensive plan of support for missions which will include foreign missions, national home missions and state missions.

The board voted to pay a nursery keeper \$15.00 for each evening service of the state meeting.

The board voted to share the honorarium for Leroy Forlines with the TWAC if necessary.

The meeting was dismissed at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thurmon Murphy, Clerk

Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists

**Eighty Third Annual Session
June 4-6, 1997**

Wednesday Evening, June 4, 1997

The eighty-third annual session of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists held its opening service on June 4, 1997, at the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas. One hundred eighty-one people were present as the service began at 7:00 p.m. Jerry McArthur led the invocation and presided over the service. David Holguin, accompanied by Kathleen Sutton at the piano and Marilu McDonald at the organ, led the congregation in singing "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart." Clerk Thurmon Murphy called the session to order. Host pastor Lynn Wood welcomed the delegates and visitors.

David Holguin led "At Calvary" and "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Emily Wood, of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, sang "Flower In the Rain." Moderator David Sutton recognized visitors from national departments, out of state visitors and missionaries. He appointed the following committees:

Committee on Committees

Raymond Getz
Bobby Joe Davis
Louis Nettleton

Credentials Committee

Jack Bankhead
Lee Roy Anderson, Jr
Fred Bailey

Nominating Committee

Clarence J. Hearron
Luther Sanders
Allen Moore
James Munsey
Donald Bailey

Clarence J. Hearron was appointed by the moderator to serve as parliamentarian during the 1997 session of the state meeting.

Caitlyn Williams (7), from the United Free Will Baptist Church in Bryan, sang "Dear Mr. Jesus." Rhonda Ferguson, of the Westfield Free Will Baptist Mission in Katy, sang a medley of "We Have Come to Worship Him" and "There Is Joy in the Lord." An offering was then received, with Fred Bailey leading the offertory prayer. Jerry McArthur then introduced Thurmon Murphy who preached on "The Power of Unity," using Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 as his text.

Raymond Getz gave the report of the Committee on Committees:

Resolutions Committee

Clyde Gillentine
Richard Wright
Robert Posner

Obituary Committee

Marjorie Morris
Artel Cox
Ruth Jennische

Jerry McArthur then dismissed the Wednesday evening service in prayer.

Thursday Morning, June 5, 1997, 9:00 A.M.

The Thursday morning Pastor's Conference was held in the multi-purpose building of the Fellowship Church. Forty-five men were present as Will Harmon welcomed the congregation. David Holguin led "My Savior's Love," with Bert Wages accompanying on the piano. Will Harmon led in prayer and then introduced Brad Hanna as the speaker for the first session of the conference. Before the message, David Holguin sang "The Broken Rose." Brad Hanna then preached on "The Acts of a Growing Church."

Keith Woody presided over the second session. Bill Adkisson led in prayer. David Holguin led "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story." Jerry McArthur sang "One Day After While." Brother Woody introduced Dwain Crosby who preached on "Breaking the Barriers." He used 1 Corinthians 9:1-27 as his text. He closed in prayer.

The third preaching service was a joint service with the Texas Women Active for Christ (TWAC). TWAC president Everyl Getz presided over the service and welcomed the congregation. Sheila James played the piano as Raylene Nix led four choruses: "Praise the Name of Jesus," "His Name Is Life," "There's Something About That Name" and "His Name Is Wonderful."

Onita Vaughn sang "Redemption Draweth Nigh," accompanied by Bert Wages at the piano. An offering was then received. Janice East, of the First Baptist Church in Caldwell, sang "Holy Ground." Everyl Getz introduced Leroy Forlines, professor of theology at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, who preached a magnificent sermon from Psalm 34:8 on "Six Ways God Has Manifested His Goodness to Us." Everyl Getz led the congregation in singing "God Is So Good." Lynn Wood led the closing prayer and asked the blessing on the food to be served by the church. Proceeds from the meal were given by the church to the Woodlands Mission.

Thursday Afternoon Business Session, 1:30 P.M.

David Holguin opened the afternoon business session by leading "I Know Whom I Have Believed." The James Munsey Family sang "A Portion of Your Love" and "The Old Crossroads." Assistant moderator Lynn Wood read Psalm 126:3, brought a brief devotional thought and led in prayer. David Sutton gave the moderator's message, using 1 Peter 4:18. He led in prayer.

Jack Bankhead gave the report of the Credentials Committee. He moved that the report be received and the delegates seated. The motion was seconded and carried.

Buddy Drake gave a report on Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. Carl

Cheshier, new president of Hillsdale, gave a brief report on the school. Dr. Melvin Worthington gave the report of the National Executive Office.

Will Harmon, a member of the National Sunday School and Church Training Board, gave the report of the Sunday School and Church Training Department in the absence of the Director, Dr. Alton Loveless. While he was up, he also gave his report as Hillsdale Trustee. A. V. Jennische gave a report on the Master's Men. He reported that there were no chapters of Master's Men in Texas.

Roy Harris gave a report on Free Will Baptist Bible College. Trymon Messer gave a report on the National Homes Missions Department. Layman Ed Morris gave a report on the Free Will Baptist work in Mexico.

Ken Eagleton, Sr., gave a report for the Foreign Missions Department. Leroy Forlines gave a report on the trip he and his wife, Faye, had recently made to Russia to teach. He reported that the Russian Baptist churches are Arminian and that there is no liberalism in the churches. He also reported that the Christians in the former Soviet Union had suffered greatly, beginning with the administration of Josef Stalin. He gave a heart touching report on the religious and economic conditions there. The service was dismissed in prayer at 3:45 p.m. by David Sutton.

Thursday Evening Worship Service, June 5, 1997, 7:30 P.M.

David Holguin opened the service by leading "The Family of God." One hundred thirty-five people were present for the service. Assistant moderator and host pastor Lynn Wood welcomed the congregation and presided over the service. Jeremy Lightsey led the invocation. David Holguin led "Ring the Bells of Heaven" as Kathleen Sutton and Marilu McDonald accompanied. He then led "A Hill Called Mount Calvary." A twenty-one voice mass choir under the direction of David Holguin sang "Beyond the Cross." Brother Wood introduced several new pastors in Texas.

An offering was received. Mitzi (piano) and Matt Munsey (mandolin) played a medley of "The Blood That Stained the Old Rugged Cross" and "I Saw the Light" as an offertory. The Munsey Family, composed of James, Mitzi, Laura (14), Matt (12) and Rachel (6), played and sang "I'll Rise Up High Above the Mountain," which was written by James Munsey. They then sang another of Brother Munsey's compositions, which featured Laura on the flute: "Sweet Place of Rest." Their music was Bluegrass Gospel.

Trymon Messer, Director of the National Home Missions Department, preached on "God's Concern for the City." using Jonah 1:1,2; 3:1,2; 4:11 as his text. Brother Messer invited people to come to the altar if they felt God had placed some lost person on their hearts. Numerous people responded and he led in prayer. Bill Adkisson dismissed the service in prayer.

Friday Morning, June 6, 1997, 8:30 A.M.

David Holguin open the Friday morning business session by leading "Victory in Jesus." Louis Nettleton read Psalm 37:1-9 and led the opening prayer. David Holguin then led "Heaven Came Down."

Everyl Getz gave the report of the Texas Women Active for Christ. She announced that the 1998 state project for the TWAC would be to raise \$3,000.00 for the work in Bouna, Ivory Coast, and to raise \$3,000.00 for the Seminary of the Cross in Mexico. Her report was received as information.

Jerry McArthur gave the Registration Report (see reports).

Thurmon Murphy gave the Executive Board Report (see reports). He then gave the State Office Financial Report and presented the proposed budget for 1998. The report was received and the budget adopted. He proceeded to give his report as the state clerk. That report was also received.

Clerk Thurmon Murphy read the report of the Nominating Committee and moved that it be accepted and voted on item by item. The motion was seconded and carried. The nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee were all elected.

State Officers

Moderator: replacing David Sutton, David Sutton

Assistant Moderator: replacing Lynn Wood, Lynn Wood

Assistant Clerk: replacing Jerry McArthur, Jerry McArthur

Missions/Church Extension Board

Replacing Ken Harris, Fred Bailey (2000)

Christian Education Board

Replacing Wes Hood, Louis Nettleton (2000)

Replacing Chris Smith, Chris Smith (2000)

Master's Men Senator

Replacing A. V. Jennische, A. V. Jennische

Nominating Committee

Clarence J. Hearron

Allen A. Moore

R. Luther Sanders

Donald Bailey

James Munsey

David Ferguson gave the report of the Christian Education Board and presented a proposed budget for 1998. His report was received and the budget adopted.

Bobby Ferguson gave the report of the Missions/Church Extension Board. Keith Woody presented the financial part of the report and presented a proposed budget for 1998. Dwain Crosby gave a report on the progress of the mission in The Woodlands. He presented a plan for the purchase of property as a future building site. Bobby Ferguson then moved that the report be received, the budget adopted and that the plan for purchase of The Woodlands property be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Marjorie Morris gave the report of the Obituary Committee (see reports).

Herbert Richards led in prayer for the families of the deceased. The report was received as information.

Clyde Gillentine gave the report of the Resolutions Committee (see reports). All three items were adopted. A motion was made and seconded to have the clerk send a copy of the resolution concerning the New NIV to the National Association, that he write a letter to Zondervan Publishing Company and that he give the state association a report on the New NIV. The motion carried. [See the report on pages 41-46 of this Yearbook.]

A motion was made authorizing the moderator to appoint delegates to the National at the proper time. The motion carried.

The eighty-third annual session of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists adjourned at 10:35 a.m. Moderator David Sutton led the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thurmon Murphy, Clerk
Jerry McArthur, Assistant Clerk

Resolutions Committee Report

Regarding Church Letters

1. *Whereas,* Many of our local churches habitually do not fill out and mail the Annual Church Letter to the District Association (the blue form), thus making it impossible for the district clerks to accurately and completely fill out the Annual Letter from the District Association to the State Association (the green form); and

Whereas, This results in the Letter from the Texas State Association to the National Association being almost totally inaccurate, a farce actually; and

Whereas, This further results in the Texas State Association and the National Association not having anything near an accurate count of our state and national membership, nor the ability whatsoever to track our gains and/or losses in membership, or have other helpful information; therefore be it

Resolved, This this association encourage each of its member churches and their pastors to see to it that the annual letters are filled out each year and mailed to the district clerks. (adopted)

Submitted by Thurmon Murphy

Regarding the New NIV Translation

2. *Whereas,* there is confusion caused among our people by many modern translations of the Bible; and

Whereas, many of these translations are not reliable and trustworthy and

Whereas, the new "unisex" version of the NIV is in print and being sold in England and

Whereas, this version can be seen as a move to be politically correct and bow to the pressure of the feminist movement, which is close friends with same sex marriage and killing of the unborn, and,

Whereas, this new translation is brought about to compete with other unisex versions for money and not for accuracy and,

Whereas, this is not just a mere translation but an attack on the inerrancy of Scripture.

Be it resolved:
 1. That the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptist denounce this new translation as an attack on the inerrancy of Scripture.

2. That the state association of Free Will Baptist recommend that all Free Will Baptist avoid the New NIV translation, due to the willingness of its translators and publishers to compromise with the politically correct feminist agenda. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) (adopted)

Submitted by Donald Bailey

See related report on pages 41-46 of this Yearbook.

Regarding the Host Church

3. Whereas the host church has so graciously, generously and wonderfully met our every need through their warm hospitality, therefore

Be it resolved that this body give a rising vote of thanks to the host church for entertaining the meeting. (adopted)

Resolutions Committee

Clyde Giffentine

Richard Wright

Robert Posner

Credentials Committee Report

We, the Credentials Committee, have examined the letters and find them in order as follows:

1. From the following district associations with the right to one delegate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof:

Central Texas District Association
East Texas District Association
Northwest Brazos District Association
West Fork District Association

(We received the representation fee from the Rio Grande Valley District Association, but no letter. We received no representation fees and no letter from the Midessa District Association.)

2. From the following local churches with the right to two delegates each:

Central Texas District Association (12 of 15 churches reporting)

Bright Light, College Station
Cross, Iola
Eastside, Houston
Evergreen, Iola
Fellowship, Bryan
First, Houston
Lakehills, Cedar Park
North Pointe Fellowship, The Woodlands
Thomaston
North Zulch
Pine Prairie, Huntsville
United, Bryan

(We received no letters or fees from the following Central District churches: New Hope, Trinity, Westfield.)

East Texas District Association (8 of 11 churches reporting)

Buncombe
First, Henderson
First, Nacogdoches
Good Hope, Henderson
Lifegate, Tyler
Mount Olive, Laneville
Stewart, Henderson
Union Arbor, Beckville

(We received no letters or fees from the following East Texas District Association churches: First Carthage, Mount Union, Youngblood.)

Midessa District Association (3 of 3 churches reporting)

Bible, Odessa
Forest Park, San Angelo
Lubbock

Northwest Brazos District Association (2 of 2 churches reporting)

Faith, Lubbock
First, Amarillo

Rio Grande District Association (2 of 2 churches reporting)

Primera Iglesia Bautista Libre, Weslaco
Valley Community Church, McAllen

West Fork District Association (13 of 17 churches reporting)

Calvary, Fort Worth
Collin Creek, Plano
Connally, Waco
Cornerstone, Denison
Easley Chapel, Comanche
Faith, Wichita Falls
First, Duncanville
First, Wichita Falls
Friendship, Fort Worth
New Salem, Decatur
Pleasant Mound, Buffalo Springs
SouthPointe, Arlington
Western Hills, Fort Worth

(We received no letters or fees from the following West Fork District Association churches: First Abilene, First Bowie, First Weatherford, Liberty.)

3. We recommend that the above listed district associations (4) and local churches (40) which have properly represented by letter, and have paid their representations fees, be seated.

Credentials Committee
Jack T. Bankhead
Fred Bailey

Registration Report

1. Number of district associations represented by letter and representation fees: 4
2. Number of local churches represented by letter and representation fees: 40
3. Registration by district associations:

Central Texas	91
East Texas	19
Midessa	2
Northwest Brazos	2
Rio Grande	8
West Fork	32
Total	152
4. Registration by delegate status:

Ordained Ministers	33
Ministers' Wives	17
Ordained Deacons	7
Deacons' Wives	7
Visitors	83
Missionaries	3
National Dept. Representatives	4
Hillsdale College Representatives	2
5. Total number registered: 157

Assistant Clerk,
Jerry McArthur

Obituary Committee Report

(Members deceased during 1996)

We, the Obituary Committee, submit the following report:

Church	Deceased
Cornerstone, Denison	Charlie Brown Mary Feath
New Salem, Decatur	Jewell Womack
Connally, Waco	James Elic Marecle
Calvary, Fort Worth	Bill Brakeen Joyce Sullivan
Easley Chapel, Comanche	Owasa Taylor Tom Taylor
United, Bryan	C. T. Vaughn Arnold Schulz Ruby Marberry
First, Henderson	Marie Flanagan Beulah Lyles
Union Arbor, Beckville	Ruth Chadwick
First, Houston	Ross DePaul
Eastside, Houston	Kevin Terry Jack Johnson
Fellowship, Bryan	Cleo Mousner Lee Smith
Bright Light, College Station	Nellie Hyden
Pine Prairie, Huntsville	W. L. Carrol Katie Lucas Fran Mudge

Obituary Committee,
Ruth Jennische
Marjorie Morris