

1998
minutes

**Texas Free
Will Baptist**

YEARBOOK

1999

Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists

**85th Annual Session
June 9 - 11, 1999**

Containing the
1998 State Minutes and the 1999 Digest of Reports

Lakehills Free Will Baptist Church
1580 Cypress Creek Road • Cedar Park, Texas
(512) 250-8910

Theme: The Power of Teamwork

1999 Yearbook

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1998 Minutes

Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists

**Eighty Fourth Annual Session
June 10-12, 1998**

Duncanville, Texas

Wednesday Evening, June 10, 1998

The eighty-fourth annual session of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists met at the First Free Will Baptist Church, June 10-12, 1998, in Duncanville, Texas. The initial service began on Wednesday evening as the youth group from the Primera Iglesia Bautista Libre, in Weslaco, Texas, presented several songs in a pre-service music time from 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. James Munsey presided over the evening service and introduced Stuart Matthews, who led the congregation in singing "What a Lovely Name." Kathleen Sutton (piano) and Sandy Anderson (organ) served as musicians. Stuart then led "What a Savior." Jamie Hannah read Psalm 19:1-6 and led in prayer.

Clerk Thurmon Murphy called the session to order and introduced the moderator, David Sutton. Brother Sutton welcomed a large congregation. Stuart Matthews led "Little Is Much When God Is in It," reflecting our theme for the meeting. The moderator introduced a large contingent of out-of-state visitors. He then appointed the following committees:

Committee on Committees
Herbert Richards, Chairman
Bob Harless
Ken Harris

Credentials Committee
Clarence J. Hearron, Chairman
Raymond Getz
Jeffrey Conner

Nominating Committee
Keith Woody, Chairman
Leroy Anderson
Bill Bacon

Jack Bankhead
Luther Sanders

Clarence J. Hearron was appointed by the moderator to serve as parliamentarian during the 1998 session of the state meeting.

The evening offering was received. Missionary Ken Eagleton led the offertory prayer. Stuart Matthews led the congregation in singing "Hide Me Rock of Ages" during the offering. James Munsey introduced Sandy Anderson who sang "Take America Back." The congregation gave her a standing ovation. Jerry McArthur then sang "Here Comes Jesus."

James Munsey introduced Don Bailey, pastor of the Forest Park Free Will Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas, to deliver the evening message. Brother Bailey read 1 Kings 1:1-10, 28-40, 50-53 and preached on "Seeking the Anointing." He closed his sermon with an invitation. Stuart Matthews led "Breath on Me" as the invitation hymn. Several people came forward for prayer.

Moderator David Sutton read the report of the Committee on Committees:

Resolutions Committee

Brad Hanna, Chairman

Keith Woody

Fred Bailey

Obituary Committee

Nell Stell, Chairman

Vivian Moore

Bettie Ferguson

The Wednesday evening service was dismissed at 9:00 p.m.

Thursday Morning, June 11, 1998

B. J. Worth, of Worth Tax and Financial Service and author of *Income Tax Guide for Ministers and Religious Workers*, conducted two tax workshops which were very well received by those who attended. The workshops were conducted in the Activities Room of the Wycliffe Linguistics Center.

In the absence of Everyl Getz, president of the Texas Women Active for Christ, Keith Woody presider over the TWAC service at 11:00 a.m. Brenda Doffing led the congregation in singing "Have Faith in God," "They That Wait Upon the Lord," and "Learning to Lean." Owen Barger led the opening prayer.

Special music was provided by Sandy Anderson, who sang "Don't Be Afraid," and by Nancy Copeland, who sang "Jesus Will Still Be There." Keith Woody introduced Dwain Crosby, state home missionary in The Woodlands, Texas, who preached on "Dare to Believe." He used Ephesians 3:20 as his text. He closed his sermon with prayer. An offering for the TWAC was received. Robert Posner led the offertory prayer. The service was closed in prayer, led by Allen Moore.

Thursday Afternoon Business Session

Levan Hubbard open the business session by leading the congregation in singing "Majesty." Jerry McArthur read Luke 6:46-49 and led in prayer. Rick Futch, pastor of the Cross Free Will Baptist Church in Iola, Texas, sang "Watch the Lamb." David Sutton gave his moderator's message based on 1 Corinthians 2:26-29 and spoke on our 1998 theme "Little Is Much When God Is in It."

Jerry McArthur gave the Credentials Committee report and moved that it be accepted and the delegates seated. The motion was seconded and Carried. (See the reports.) The Rio Grande Valley District Association and the Midessa District Association were not seated because they did not submit their letters and fees.

Carl Cheshier, president of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, a Christian liberal arts college in Moore, Oklahoma, owned and operated by the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists, gave a report on the school.

James Munsey gave the report of the National Home Missions Department, in the absence of Director Trymon Messer. David Sutton led in prayer for James and his daughter, Rachel. James was scheduled to donate a kidney to Rachel on August 4, 1998.

David Sutton gave the report of the Sunday School and Church Training Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, in the absence of Dr. Alton Loveless, Director of the Department.

Dawn Sweeney, Field Representative for Free Will Baptist Family Ministries in Greenville, Tennessee, gave a report.

Tim Campbell gave a report on Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, owned and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. He reported particularly on the progress of the effort to move the college to a new campus.

Layman Ed Morris gave a report on the Free Will Baptist work in Mexico.

Ken Eagleton gave the report of the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Department. He announced that he and his wife Marvis has just completed forty years of service with the Foreign Missions Department, most of those years as missionaries in Brazil.

Clerk-Treasurer Thurmon Murphy gave the financial report of the State Office and presented a proposed budget for 1999. He moved that the report be received and the budget adopted. The motion was seconded and carried. (See the reports.)

Clerk Thurmon Murphy then gave a report on his work as clerk of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists. He moved that the report be accepted. The motion was seconded and carried. (See reports.)

Thurmon Murphy gave the report of the Executive Board of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists. He moved that the report be accepted and voted on item by item. The motion was seconded and all three items carried. (See the reports.)

In the absence of Bobby Ferguson, who had earlier resigned from the Mission Board, Keith Woody gave the report of the State Home Missions/Church Extension Board. State Missionary shared a report on the state mission project in The

Woodlands. There was a motion to accept the report, which was seconded and carried. The afternoon business session was then dismissed at 3:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening, June 11, 1998

The Levan Hubbard Family (Levan pastors the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas) presented a thirty minute concert of gospel music prior to the evening service. Brother Herbert Richards presided and welcomed a number of guests to the worship service. Stuart Matthews led the congregation in singing "The Gloryland Way" as Kathleen Sutton (piano) and Sandy Anderson (organ) accompanied. He then led "Because He Lives" and our 1998 theme song "Little Is Much When God Is in It."

Brother Richards introduced Rick Futch who read 1 Kings 22:29-37 and led in prayer. Special music was then provided by Stuart Matthews, who sang "How Great Thou Art," and Nancy Copeland, who sang "I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy."

The evening offering was received. Brother Richards led the offertory prayer and Kathleen Sutton and Sandy Anderson played the offertory music, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Sherri Hanna sang "Mercy Came Running."

Brother Richards introduced Louis Nettleton, pastor of the Western Hills Free Will Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, who preached on "Little Is Much When God Calls." He used Jeremiah 1:4-10 as his text. Stuart Matthews led "Where He Leads Me" as an invitation hymn. The moderator asked all preachers to come forward for a time of prayer together. Herbert Richards led the group in prayer.

Moderator David Sutton announced that he would be leaving Texas to accept a pastorate in Oklahoma. He expressed his love, appreciation and gratitude to Texas Free Will Baptists. Kathleen joined him at the podium as he led in the closing prayer for the Thursday evening worship service.

Friday Morning, June 12, 1998

Levan Hubbard open the Friday morning business session by leading "The Family of God," and "Little Is Much When God Is in It." Moderator David Sutton read Psalm 133:1-3 and led in prayer. Brenda Doffing sang "He Was There All the Time."

Brenda Doffing, in the absence of Every Getz, gave the report of the Texas Women Active for Christ.

Assistant Clerk Jerry McArthur gave the Registration report (see the reports).

Dr. Melvin Worthington, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, gave a report on the National Executive Office.

Luther Sanders gave the report of the Nominating Committee:

State Officers (Executive Board)

Moderator: replacing David Sutton, Keith Woody
Assistant Moderator, replacing Lynn Wood, Jerry McArthur
Clerk, replacing Thurmon Murphy, Thurmon Murphy
Assistant Clerk, replacing Jerry McArthur, Brenda Doffing
Hillsdale Trustee, replacing Will Harmon, Dwain Crosby

Missions/Church Extension Board

Replacing Keith Woody, Levan Hubbard (2001)
Replacing Robert Posner, Robert Posner (2001)
Replacing Bobbie Ferguson, Herbert Richards (1999)

Christian Education Board

Replacing Marsha Hood, Marsha Hood (2001)
Replacing Ken Austin, Ken Austin (2001)

Master's Men Senator

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

National Association General Board Nominee

Replacing Thurmon Murphy, Thurmon Murphy (2000)

Brother Sanders moved that the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted and voted on item by item at the appropriate time. The motion was seconded and carried.

In the absence of David Ferguson, Louis Nettleton gave the report of the Christian Education Board. He moved that the report be accepted and the budget adopted. The motion was seconded and carried.

Nell Stell gave the report of the Obituary Committee. Bobby Joe Davis led in prayer in memory of the deceased and prayed for their families.

Jerry McArthur read the report of the Resolutions Committee and moved that they be acted on item by item. The motion was seconded and carried. Resolution numbers 1 and 2 were tabled, effectively killing them. Resolution number three was passed. (See the reports.)

Clerk Thurmon Murphy presented the TEAM (Texans Excited About Missions) Plan. Using a series of overhead transparencies he presented in detail a comprehensive new plan of supporting missions which shifts the burden of fund raising from the missionaries to the sending churches. He moved that the plan be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried. David Sutton led in a prayer for guidance and wisdom.

The following officers were elected:

General Officers

Moderator: Keith Woody
Assistant Moderator: Jerry McArthur
Clerk: Thurmon Murphy (2 year term)
Assistant Clerk: Brenda Doffing
Hillsdale Trustee: Dwain Crosby (3 year term)

Missions/Church Extension Board

Levan Hubbard	2001
Robert Posner	2001
Herbert Richards	1999

Christian Education Board

Marsha Hood	2001
Ken Austin	2001

Master's Men Senator

A. V. Jennische

National Association General Board Nominee

Thurmon Murphy (2 year term)

There was a motion to allow the moderator to appoint National Association Delegates at the National Association. The motion was seconded and carried.

There was a motion to give outgoing moderator David Sutton, and his wife Kathleen, a rising vote of thanks for their years of service to Texas. The motion was seconded and carried.

New moderator Keith Woody noted that this was an historic meeting for the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists because of the adoption of the TEAM Plan.

The 1998 (the 84th annual session) state meeting closed at 11:15 a.m. Brad Hanna closed the session with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thurmon Murphy, Clerk
Jerry McArthur, Assistant Clerk

Resolutions Committee Report

Resolution # 1

Regarding Bible Translations

Whereas, the Midessa District Association has voted to present the following resolution to the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptist and,
Whereas, our National body in 1976 adopted a resolution that stated:

Regarding Various Translations

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

Whereas, many of these translations are not reliable or trustworthy;

Therefore be it resolved:

That we urge our people to use the King James Version of the Bible in public worship services.

Therefore be it resolved:

1. That we confirm our commitment to the resolution adopted by our National Body in 1976 regarding various translations.
2. That we instruct the speakers at our Texas State Association meetings to use the King James Version of the Bible, as adopted by our National Body in 1976.
3. That we instruct the editor of our state publication "The Texas Challenge" to use the King James Version of the Bible in all Scriptural references.

Submitted by Fred Bailey, Moderator

Bill Bacon, Assistant Moderator

Don Bailey, Clerk

Tabled

Resolution # 2

Regarding Music, Preaching and Seminars and Conferences

Whereas, the Midessa District Association has voted to present the following resolution to the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptist and

Whereas, Free Will Baptist are very diverse in styles of worship and

Whereas, there is confusion about methods of worship, as many contemporary and carnal styles have infiltrated the church, to which Free Will Baptist are not exempt.
Whereas, we must stay the course that has made Free Will Baptist a viable witness to the world.

Therefore be it resolved:

1. That even though our musical taste differ, that our state meeting be a place where good, tasteful, heart-warming music should be ministered. It should set a good standard for the local church. We also believe that any music that would lead us away from a worshipful spirit and a revival atmosphere should be avoided.

2. That Bible preaching be magnified as God's way and the Bible method of giving nourishment and counsel to our people. That true Bible preaching can still plow deep in the heart and bring conviction of sin.

3. That seminars and conferences at our State Association, challenge our Pastors and people to have revival in the heart, a burden for souls and a desire to go back to our Churches refreshed, renewed and anointed to do God's work.

Submitted by
Fred Bailey, Moderator
Bill Bacon, Assistant Moderator
Don Bailey, Clerk

Tabled

Resolution # 3

Regarding the Host Church

Whereas, the First Free Will Baptist Church of Duncanville has graciously and sacrificially hosted the 84th Annual Session of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists, and has 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.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee
Fred Bailey
Brad Hanna
Keith Woody

Adopted

Credentials Committee Report

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

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

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

(We did not receive letters or fees from the Rio Grande District Association or the Midessa District Association.)

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

Central Texas District Association (12 of 16 churches reporting)

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

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

East Texas District Association (7 of 11 churches reporting)

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

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

Midessa District Association (2 of 3 churches reporting)

Lubbock
Bible, Odessa

(We received no letter or fee from the Forest Park
Church in San Angelo.)

Northwest Brazos District Association (2 of 2 churches)

Faith, Lubbock
First, Amarillo

West Fork District Association (12 of 17 churches reporting)

Calvary, Fort Worth
Collin Creek, Plano
Connally, Waco
Cornerstone, Denison
First, Duncanville
First, Weatherford
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: Easley
Chapel in Comanche, Faith Wichita Falls, First
Abilene, First Bowie and Liberty in Comanche.)

3. We recommend that the above district associations and local churches
which have submitted their letters and fees be seated

Credentials Committee
Clarence J. Hearron, Chairman
Allen Moore
Robert Posner

Executive Board Report

1. We recommend that the following cooperative giving fund allocations, the undesignated portion of The Together Way Plan, be retained for 1999:

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

Adopted

2. We recommend that the 1999 state meeting of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists meet at the Lakehills Free Will Baptist Church in Austin, June 9-11, 1999.

Adopted

3. We recommend the adoption of the TEAM Plan, a plan for supporting missions, and that it be implemented January 1, 1999.

Adopted

Registration Report

1. Number of district association represented by letter and representation fees:

4

2. Number of local churches represented by letter and representation fees:

35

3. Registration by district associations:

Central Texas	66
East Texas	6
Midessa	10
Northwest Brazos	1
Rio Grande	19
West Fork	90
Total	192

4. Registration by delegate status:

Ordained ministers	35
Ministers' wives	25
Ordained deacons	5
Deacons' wives	8
Visitors	111
Missionaries	13
National Dept. Representatives	2
Hillsdale College Representatives	1

Assistant Clerk,
Jerry McArthur

Obituary Committee Report

We, the Obituary Committee, submit the following report:

Church	Deceased
First Free Will Baptist Church Houston	Nora Kendrick Annie McElroy Wilfred Graeter Willie Rhodes
Eastside Free Will Baptist Church Houston	Edward Knight Edward Nelson
Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church Bryan	Minnie Williams
Bright Light Free Will Baptist Church, College Station	Julia Moore
Pleasant Mound Free Will Baptist Church Buffalo Springs	Louise Johnson
First Free Will Baptist Church Duncanville	Lois Ferguson
Calvary Free Will Baptist Church Fort Worth	Joyce Spencer
First Free Will Baptist Church Weatherford	Louise Stone Geneva Liles
First Free Will Baptist Church Wichita Falls	Ray Nichols
First Free Will Baptist Church Nacogdoches	James Kee
Youngblood Free Will Baptist Church Beckville	Riley Waldrop Leroy Anderson Sr., Minister
Mt. Union Free Will Baptist Church Garrison	Ed Lunsford Cecil Lunsford
Stewart Free Will Baptist Church Henderson	Lillie Graham

(Obituary Committee Report, continued)

First Free Will Baptist Church
Henderson

Leeman King
Mary Brown
Inez Burks

Buncome Free Will Baptist Church
Carthage

Perry Godwin

North Zulch Free Will Baptist Church
North Zulch

Homer Hahn

Respectfully Submitted,
Nell Stell
Vivian Moore
Bettie Ferguson

