

MINUTES OF THE 109th ANNUAL SESSION OF THE TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Meeting June 7-8, 2023
At Connect Church, Montgomery, Texas

Theme:
Declare His Glory: Preaching for Everyone

Wednesday Afternoon, June 7, 2023

1:30 PM – General Board Meeting

Present: Moderator Marcus Brewer, Asst Moderator John Collier, Clerk Kevin Williford, Asst Clerk Wes Hood, Richard Rust, John Davis, Kyle Howell, Marsha Hood, Doug Dickey, Sharon Dickey, David Rudd, Adelpia Rudd, Randy Puckett.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator and opened in prayer.

The Moderator gave the state office report. Bro. Marcus provided as a point of information copies of the policy developed that will be recommended by the Executive Committee for ministries to affiliate with the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists (attached).

Bro. John Davis provided the treasurer's report. The treasurer also shared the proposed budget for 2024 and the recommended cooperative giving distributions. A motion was made to recommend the proposed budget. The motion was seconded and carried.

Bro. Randy Pucket made a motion that we propose the following distribution percentages for the cooperative giving received for 2024:

- 35% - State Office
- 25% - TXFWB State Home Missions
- 25% - TXFWB Christian Education Board
- 5% - Texas Women Active for Christ
- 10% - National Together Way Plan

This proposal drops the percentage for the CE Board by 2% and for the state office by 3% compared to the previous year to allow giving 5% to TWAC. The motion was seconded and carried.

Bro. Kyle Howell shared the Texas Challenge report. Bro. Kyle material to be submitted for the publication in the Challenge may be submitted the Texas Challenge email, but it is better to send it to his personal email.

Bro. Randy Puckett shared the Mission Board report and gave a status update on the works in Montgomery, Waco, Victoria, and Princeton. Bro. Randy stated that a critical

situation developing at the church in Princeton and asked for prayer for the church there, its leadership, and for the mission board as they deal with the situation. Bro. Randy also encouraged us to get to know Jacob and Hayley Voltz newly appointed IM, Inc missionaries to Bulgaria, and to give them opportunities to speak in our churches and districts.

Bro. Doug Dickey shared the Christian Education Report. Bro Doug noted that the Youth Conference is scheduled for June at the Messiah's Ranch in Bryan and encouraged us to send our youth to the conference. The men's retreat will also be at the same location in September of 2024. Bro. Doug also noted that the Ministry Expo was canceled due to a lack of participants.

Bro. Randy Puckett also shared a report from Randall University. The university is doing well academically, financially, and spiritually, and the labs renovations are completed. Next project is the much-needed renovations of the bathrooms and common areas.

Sis. Sharon Dickey provided the Texas Women Active for Christ report. The annual Ladies retreat is scheduled for the fall with Ruth McDonald and Joy the Pottery Lady. TWAC also supported three Texas youths who were accepted for Truth and Peace.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming meetings of the association. The moderator noted that the 2024 meeting would be held at the First FWB Church in Henderson. The Collin Creek church in Plano confirmed that they would be willing to host the meeting in 2025. There were no volunteer to host the meeting in 2026 as of yet. Bro. John Collier asked if there were any ideas for speakers and/or themes for the upcoming meeting to please let him know.

There was no new business. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was dismissed in prayer by Wes Hood.

3:30 PM – Executive Committee Meeting

Present: Marcus Brewer, John Collier, Kevin Williford, Richard Rust, Wes Hood, John Davis.

The executive committee meet briefly following the general board meeting to discuss the following items:

1. Honorarium for the speaker. It was agreed to pay the speaker, Bro. Cory Thompson, an honorarium of \$500 as well as his hotel accommodations and mileage.
2. Honorarium for the musicians. It was agreed to offer the musicians from Randall University leading the worship for the state meeting an honorarium of \$200 each plus \$500 for their travel expenses.

3. The Executive Committee voted to approve the hiring of Bro. John Collier as the TXFWB state office coordinator to replace Marcus Brewer.

4. There was discussion regarding the proposed policy for affiliated ministries. It was suggested that the policy be amended to require that 1) the ministries provide to the state association a written statement of faith, and that 2) a copy of the ministry's constitution and bylaws be kept on file and kept updated with the state association. Motion was made to recommend the policy with these two provisions added. The motion was seconded and carried.

The executive committee adjourned.

Wednesday Evening, June 7, 2023
7:00 PM – Evening Worship Service

The meeting was opened by the moderator. Bro. Frank Ferguson from the host church read 2 Tim 3.16 and led in prayer.

The host pastor, Bro. Heath Ferguson, welcomed the delegates via video from Israel.

The Moderator called the meeting to order, recognized our guests, and appointed the following committees:

- The Nominating Committee – David Rudd, chair, Mitzi Burks, and Jeremy Lightsey.
- The Credentials Committee – Kevin Williford, chair, John Davis, and Wes Hood
- The Resolutions Committee – Richard Rust, chair, Kyle Howell, and Chuck Lysacker.

Sharon Reed, President of the Montgomery, TX Chamber of Commerce welcomed the delegates to the community.

John Collier distributed some door prizes to the registrants.

Bro. Eric Thomsen brought a report from the NAFWB Executive Office.

Bro. Derek Altom shared a report from Randall House and D6.

Jacob and Hayley Voltz, newly appointed IM Inc. missionaries to Bulgaria were introduced and they briefly shared about their planned work in Bulgaria.

Steven Shotzman from Harvest FWB Childcare Ministries shared a report regarding the ministry.

A video of Taylor Pate, IM Inc. missionary to Hokkaido, Japan, was shown thanking TXFWBs for their help in getting her to the field.

The evening offering was taken.

John Collier introduced Luke and Luke from Randall University who would be leading worship during the meeting. Luke Sherman led in prayer and then they led the congregation in singing: Because He Lives, Blessed Be Your Name, and How Great Thou Art.

Kevin Williford introduced our speaker, Cory Thompson, Pastor of the First FWB Church in Poteau, OK. Bro Cory spoke from John 1 and Exodus 33-34 on the topic of Seeing the Glory of God in Jesus Christ through the Preaching of His Word.

Bro. Cory led in prayer. The Singers led the congregation in singing, O praise the Name of the Lord our God.

Bro. John Collier made a few announcements and gave away another door prize. The evening service was adjourned in prayer by John Collier.

Thursday, June 8, 2023

9:00 AM – The Texas Women Active for Christ had a time of fellowship and meeting.

9:00 AM – Ministry Conference

Bro. John Collier opened in prayer.

Bro. Robert Posner introduced 24:16 Ministries whose goal is to help restore those who have fallen due to sexual sin.

Bro. Cory Thompson spoke on the process of preaching. He stated that our theological convictions regarding scripture serve as the basis of our preaching. He briefly addressed the inspiration, infallibility, inerrancy, and sufficiency of scripture. Bro. Cory advocated Practical Preaching that is text-driven. Practical preaching is derived from the examination of the substance, structure, and spirit of the text. Bro. Cory then briefly explained his personal process in sermon development.

10:00 AM – Worship Seminar.

The 10:00 AM session was a panel discussion on the topic of preaching. The panel consisted of President Bob Thompson (Randall University), Sam McVey (NAM), Cory Thompson, and Randy Puckett (TXFWB Mission Board). Bro. John Collier moderated the session and took questions from the body.

2:00 PM – Business Session

The meeting was called to order by the moderator and opened in prayer by Bro. Jim Kilgore.

The moderator shared a devotion from Heb 4.12 titled "Preaching for Everyone." After asking who everyone is, he encouraged us to preach

- 1) For the saved and the lost
- 2) For the church and the unchurched
- 3) For all races and cultures
- 4) For all social classes.

He finished with the encouragement to continue your ministry and your preaching to everyone, even when they do not have ears to hear. The devotional was followed by prayer by the moderator.

The district letters were received, and the delegates were seated. There were 46 present for the session, 25 of whom were voting delegates.

- o The Moderator gave the Texas FWB State Office report. He announced that he would be stepping down as state office coordinator and that the Executive Committee had hired Bro. John Collier to fill that role. The moderator also shared the policy that had been worked out for ministries that which to become affiliated with the Texas FWB State Association.
- o Bro. John Davis gave the Treasurer's report. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the proposed 2023 budget. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the recommended cooperative distributions. The distributions are as follows:

35% State Office	10% National Association
25% Texas Missions	25% Christian Education Board
5% Texas WAC.	

Bro. David Rudd presented the nominating committee report. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to elect the following state officers:

Moderator replacing Marcus Brewer – Marcus Brewer (2024)
Asst Moderator replacing John Collier – John Collier (2024)
Clerk replacing Kevin Williford – Kevin Williford (2025)
Asst Clerk replacing Wes Hood – Wes Hood (2024)
Member-at-large replacing Richard Rust – Richard Rust (2024)

It was agreed that the board members would be elected board by board.

Bro. Randy Puckett presented the mission board report. He asked for prayer as the board had tough decisions to make regarding the work in Princeton. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to elect the following members to the mission board:

Member replacing David Rudd – David Rudd (2026)
Member replacing Jeremy Lightsey – Jeremy Lightsey (2026)

Bro. Doug Dickey brought the report from the Christian Education Board. The men's

retreat is scheduled for Sept at the Messiah's Ranch as is the youth retreat for June 17-21, 2024. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to elect the following board members:

Member replacing Chuck Lysacker – Churck Lysacker (2026)

Member replacing Chris Wilhite – Ashton Brewer (2026)

Sis Sharon Dickey shared the TWAC report. 28 ladies attended the Ladies retreat. The next retreat is scheduled for Sept 29-30 with Rachel Norris. TWAC was also able to support Kaitlin Ferguson for E-Team and Lizzie Dickey for the THP. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to elect the following board members:

Member replacing Tracey Kilgore – Tracy Kilgore (2026)

Member replacing Adethia Rudd – Adethia Rudd (2026)

Bob Thompson shared a brief update on Randall University. A motion was made, seconded and carried to elect Doug Dickey and Randy Puckett to serve as our representatives on Randall's Board of Trustees.

John Brummitt brought greetings and brief report from the Board of Retirement. A question was raised from the body regarding who qualifies to have an account with the Board of Retirement.

Bro. Kyle Howell gave a report on the *Texas Challenge*. Bro Kyle asked for articles and church happenings, particularly on issues which our churches and people face.

A video report from Dr. Pinson was shared regarding Welch College. Dr Pinson noted that the college had experienced a 26% drop in gifts and enrollment during covid, but had experienced a 15% increase this year.

The Clerk provided the registration report for the State meeting. There were a total of 78 registrants, of those 54 preregistered and 24 registered on site. The registrants included 4 state officers, 11 ministers, 3 deacons, 14 ministers or deacons wives, 4 elected delegate, 13 non-delegates, 28 guests and 1 unspecified..

The Clerk shared the following obituary report:

Central Texas

- Crosslife
 - Lendon Maynard
- Fellowship
 - Jean Benavides
 - Dorothy McDonald
- Lakehills
 - Jerry Jones
- New Beginnings
 - Raymond Dehart
- Pine Prairie
 - Edward Duke

- Raylynn Miller
- Oneta Bell
- Faye Brown
- First, Tomball
 - Jack Stevens
 - Helen Lunsford
 - Dan Berthelot
 - Bettie Ferguson
 - Jack Faucett

East Texas

- First, Henderson
 - Eddie Burkes

West Fork

- Faith
 - John Van Dunk

Rio Grande and West Texas (none reported)

The delegates rose for a moment of silence in honor of those who had passed, followed by prayer by Bro. Gabe Montez.

Brother Richard Rust brought the resolutions report. There were two resolutions presented. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report and to consider the resolutions individually.

- A motion was made to extend to Pastor Heath Ferguson and the Connect Church in Montgomery a standing vote of thanks for serving as hosts for the state association meeting. The motion was seconded and carried, and all in attendance rose to their feet and gave a round of applause.

The moderator asked for nominations and/or volunteers to serve as the state's delegates to the National Convention. As there were none, a motion was made, seconded and carried to allow the moderator to appoint the delegates.

The clerk was asked to read the letter from the state to the national.

The moderator announced the upcoming meetings of the State Association. Next year's meeting will be at First FWB in Henderson on June 5-6, 2024, and the following year the meeting will be at the Collin Creek Church in Plano date TBD.

The moderator asked for any announcements that needed to be made. Bro John Collier reminded everyone to register if they had not already done so, and to pick up a gift bag. Bro. Eric Thomsen noted that the Historical Commission is asking for materials. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn. Bro. Chuck Lysacker dismissed in prayer.

Thursday, June 18, 2023

7:00 PM – Evening Service

The service was opened by the Assistant Moderator John Collier. Bro. Marcus Brewer was recognized for his 21 years of service as the state office coordinator. Bro. Marcus introduced Bro. John Collier as the new state office coordinator.

Bro Heath Ferguson welcomed those in attendance, read Genesis 50.11, and opened in prayer.

Bro Sam McVey brought a report from NAM.

Bro. Donnie McDonald brought a report from IM, Inc.

Sis Ruth McDonald shared the report from WAC.

Bro. Robert Posner shared a brief video introducing 24:16 Ministries.

Austin Owen brought a brief report from Welch College

Sis Anna Yacobian shared about Light of Life Ministries.

Bro. John Collier gave another door prize to the registrants.

The evening offering was collected and Bro. Wes Hood led in prayer.

Luke and Luke from Randall University led the congregation in worship by singing: What Can Wash Away My Sin, My God is Mighty to Save, and O How He Loves Us. Bro Luke Sherman led in prayer.

President Bob Thompson from Randall University introduced his son Cory Thompson as the evening speaker.

Bro. Cory spoke from 1 Cor 1.18-25 on the Central Focus of the Preaching of the Apostle Paul – Jesus Christ Crucified. Bro Cory emphasized that this message is considered foolishness to the world and they find it scandalous and hard to accept. But the message of the cross must be embraced because it is the power of God for salvation. He implored us to make the cross of Christ central to our preaching and stated, "We preach Christ crucified because the cross is the only place where both sinners and Christians can see the glory of God descend and his power to save revealed."

Bro Cory closed in prayer, while Luke and Luke sang The Old Rugged Cross as an invitational number.

Bro John Collier asked the congregation to offer a hand of applause to the Connect Church in thanksgiving for their hospitality. He also asked for a round of applause in thanksgiving to Luke and Luke for leading us in worship during the meeting, and he asked for a round of applause in thanksgiving for speaker Cory Thompson challenging

us from the Word of God.

Bro. John asked for any announcements. The Clerk requested that those in attendance would turn in their badges at the registration table after the meeting so they may be reused next year. Bro. John reminded those in attendance that next year's meeting would be at the First FWB Church in Henderson.

The service was concluded in prayer by Bro. John Collier.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Kevin D. Williford, Clerk
Texas State Association of FWB's

	2024 Budget	2023 Actual Funds	Proposed 2025 Budget
INCOME			
Cooperative Giving	4,200.00	3,846.36	3,500.00
Church & District Gifts	6,700.00	5,573.64	6,700.00
Church Dues (to National through State)	6,650.00	5,950.00	7,400.00
State Meeting Offerings	400.00	640.02	600.00
District Dues to State	6,650.00	5,600.00	7,000.00
Interest Income (Foundation acct)	650.00	1,093.85	1,200.00
Withdraw from foundation account			
Other Income			
Total Income	25,250.00	22,703.87	26,400.00

DISBURSEMENTS			
Executive Board Meeting	100.00	-	-
Labor			
State Office Coordinator	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
Bookkeeping	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
Editor	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
National Association Dues	6,650.00	7,175.00	7,400.00
National Assn Travel (Gen. Board member)	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Office Supplies/postage	50.00	26.34	265.00
Texas Challenge	-	-	-
Yearbook	200.00	112.32	150.00
State Meeting Expenses	2,200.00	3,432.56	2,700.00
Telephone	179.52	179.52	179.52
Miscellaneous/Discretionary Expense	220.48	-	45.48
Bank service charges	50.00	56.00	60.00
Surplus to Mission Board			
Transfer to foundation account		-	
Total Disbursements	25,250.00	26,581.74	26,400.00