

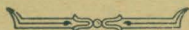
MINUTES
OF THE
First Annual
UNION ASSOCIATION
OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST
Of Western Oklahoma



October 22 - 23

1954

WHEN CONVENED WITH
THE ANTIOCH CHURCH
CUSTER COUNTY



Next Association at the German Church
Custer County

Friday before the 3rd Sunday in September
September 16-17, 1955

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing and prayer by Bro. Curtis Burton.
Session was called to order by Moderator, Rev. Ross Hamar.

Minutes of last years association read and accepted.

Church letters were called for and the following were received: Pleasant Valley, Antioch, German Church, Webb, Lenora and Prairie Bell. Letters were read and motion was made to accept the letters as read and seat the delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates.

Election of officers were as follows, Moderator, Bro. Ross Hamar; Bro. J. E. Jones, Clerk; Bro. E. N. Walker, Treasurer.

Report of the delegate to the Kansas Association given and accepted.

Report of the delegate from the Kansas Association given and accepted.

Motion made and seconded we adjourn to meet at two P. M. Council was closed on bended knee in prayer by Rev. Cecil Haun.

11:00 A. M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Song service led by Bro. Robert Duncan.

Message by Bro. Ira Hatchett, using as his text I Cor. 2.

FRIDAY 2:00 P. M.

After singing and prayer by Rev. Paul Bowser, session was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Ross Hamar.

Minutes of morning session read and accepted.

The following Committees were appointed:

Religious Committee

Bro. Homer May
Bro. Ernest Walker
Bro. Andrew Hickman

Finance Committee

Sister Pearl Williams
Sister Jessis Earl
Sister Delbert Higgins

Condolence Committee

Sister Neta Briggs
Sister Josie Haggard
Sister Jennie Douglas

Ministers report given and accepted.

Rev. Paul Bowser	Rev. Ira Hatchett
Rev. Curtis Burton	Rev. Nelson Williams
Rev. Clyde Hamar	Rev. John Jones
Rev. Ross Hamar	Rev. Jess Haney

Bro. Ross Hamar's missionary report given and accepted.

Report of treasurer, E. N. Walker, given and accepted.

On motion and seconded this session was closed in prayer on bended knee by Bro. J. E. Jones.

Afternoon Worship Service

After singing and prayer, Bro. Paul Bowser brought the message using as his text, Jeremiah 8-24.

10:00 Saturday Morning

After singing and prayer by Bro. Paul Bowser this session was opened by the Moderator, Bro. Ross Hamar.

Minutes of the previous session read and approved.

As Bro. Jess Haney has joined the Methodist Church, he surrendered his ordination papers to the association. The association extended him a vote of thanks for the services rendered during his time in the Ministry with us.

By motion and seconded, Bro. J. E. Jones was selected as delegate to the Kansas Association.

Bro. Homer May's report of visit to the Free Will Baptist Association at Stigler given and accepted.

Rev. Bob Duncan's report of the State Free Will Association given and accepted.

On motion and seconded this session adjourned to meet at two-thirty P. M.

Prayer by Rev. Curtis Burton.

11:00 A. M. Saturday Worship Service

After singing and prayer the message was brought by Rev. Nelson Williams, found in I Cor.

2:30 P. M.

After singing and prayer by Rev. Curtis Burton, this session was opened by the Moderator, Ross Hamar.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

This association by twenty-two votes of the Council, decided to organize a "Union Association of the Free Will Baptists".

By vote of the council the next association is to be held with the German Church, Custer County, Friday before the

third Sunday in September.

Rev. Ross Hamar was elected missionary for the following year.

Moved and seconded that an executive board be appointed, they are: Bro. Homer May, Bro. E. N. Walker and Bro. Clyde Hamar.

Moved and seconded, we pay missionary ten (10) dollars a day and expenses.

Motion the Clerk have three hundred Minutes printed.

Motion and seconded, the Clerk be paid twenty-five dollars for services rendered.

Report of Condolence Committee given committee discharged.

Report of Finance Committee given and committee retained.

Moved and seconded a vote of thanks be tendered the Antioch Church and vicinity for their hospitality shown us during this association.

Motion each Church solicit the Missionary funds individually.

Motion the young people have the Thursday night service.

Motion to adjourn to meet on Friday 10:00 a. m., before the third Sunday in September.

Council closed in prayer by Rev. Curtis Burton.

Saturday Night Worship

Rev. Delbert Akin.

TREASURERS REPORT

Money in treasury year ending 1953	\$785.01
All bills paid, money taken in for 1954	\$733.09

Money Paid Out 1954

Rev. Ross Hamar	\$1170.50
Printing of minutes	40.00
J. E. Jones	18.80
Money in treasury	\$ 288.80

MINISTERIAL REPORTS

Rev. P. F. Bowser:

Miles traveled	2,043
Sermons preached	95
Funerals preached	14
Money received	\$ 170.00
Persons baptized	3
Money received from Sickles Community Church	\$1,626.65
Traveling expenses	\$ 204.30

Rev. Jesse Haney:

Sermons preached	932
Money received	\$ 308.00
Expenses	\$ 51.80

Rev. Clyde Hamar:

Sermons preached	84
Funerals preached	2
Miles traveled	5,018
Persons Baptized	8
Money received	\$ 472.55

Rev. Ross Hamar:

Sermons preached	81
Miles traveled	4,137
Money received, Pleasant Valley	\$ 350.50
Webb Church	\$ 600.00
Persons baptized	11
Funerals preached	4
Money received	\$ 30.00
Traveling expenses	\$ 413.70

Rev. J. E. Jones:

Sermons preached	40
Funerals preached	1
Money received	\$ 10.00
Miles traveled	1,265
Total money received	\$ 180.00

Rev. N. H. Williams:

Sermons preached	32
Miles traveled	1,200
Money received	\$ 30.00
2 weeks meeting at Middletown Kansas	
Sermons preached	17
Middletown Church	\$ 58.45
Kansas Church	\$ 92.00

Rev. Ira Hatchett:

Sermons preached	102
Funerals preached	5
Money received	\$ 15.00
Money received Lenora Church	\$ 700.93
Miles traveled	1,563
Traveling expenses	\$ 156.30

Executive Board of the union association of the Free Will Baptists:

Rev. Clyde Hamar

Mr. Homer E. May

Mr. E. N. Walker

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

Our Heavenly Father has seen fit in His infinite wisdom to remove from our midst Bro. Frank Likes from the Prairie Bell Church.

Resolved that we as an association body deeply sympathize with his family whose home has been bereaved and point them to the Heavenly Father who comforts all who trust Him.

Resolved that a copy of these resolutions be printed in the minutes of the association and a copy be sent to the bereaved families.

Committee:

Sister Neta Briggs

Sister Josie Haggard

Sister Jennie Douglas

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION ASSOCIATION OF THE FREE WILL BAPTISTS

PREAMBLE: From long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist, realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a group of churches, do hereby ordain this constitution for our progress and to perpetuate better associational government.

Article I

NAME: This Association shall be known as the Union Association of Free Will Baptists of the State of Oklahoma.

Article II

MEMBERSHIP: This Association shall be composed of Free Will Baptist Churches who maintain Gospel order and agree with denominational doctrine and practices; and favor the enterprises that have been endorsed by this Association.

Article III

DELEGATES: Voting members of the Association shall be ministers, deacons, members of all standing boards, officers and sponsors of the League Rally of Association, Officers of Women's Auxiliary Convention of Association, Officers of Sunday School Convention of Association, church clerks, and also three delegates from each local church in the Associa-

tion, which shall be seated with proper credentials. There must be a quorum of at least five churches present and a written record shall be made of all transactions. No member of the executive board shall delegate authority to any other member of said board to cast his vote for him in anything. The board shall have the power to call all the Association in conference by notifying each church ten days prior to conference and they shall have the authority to change quarterly meetings or association if the place where said quarterly meetings or associations is to meet is not able to care for the meeting, and their decisions shall be final. This must be done in time to notify each church.

Article IV

OFFICERS: The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer and executive board consisting of five members. The board members to be elected so as to require one to be elected each year. To this board is delegated power to act in behalf of and for the First Oklahoma Association from one meeting to another of said Association, and shall have power and authority to elect such officers as might be deemed best for its own government and to carry out the plans and undertakings of First Oklahoma Association. The board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body.

To this executive board is further delegated power to collect funds and employ and superintend such work for the field as may seem best, and the means on hand may warrant. They shall have power to convey or mortgage any real estate or associational property. This executive board shall keep a record of all work done, money raised, meetings held, and make a full and complete report to the next regular meeting of the Association and shall further receive, hold, manage, use, control, and convey and property entrusted to said Association for any purpose in accordance with the purpose of the donor or donors and in no case divert it from its original object.

The chairman and treasurer of said executive board shall sign all deeds and bonds, notes, etc., and any other papers by which First Oklahoma is to become legally held. It shall be the duty of this executive board to meet at each regular or adjourned session and as often as may be necessary, and any member absenting himself from the meetings three times may be dropped from the board and his successor elected. No meeting of the executive board shall be legal unless at least three members are present.

Article V

NEW CHURCHES: Any regularly organized Free Will Baptist Church (Treatise Page 42, 1947), who desires to unite with First Oklahoma Association may be received by letter and elected delegates.

Article VI

QUESTIONS: No questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered in its own church.

Article VII

PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE: Any church that is a member of the First Oklahoma Association that fails to have a pastor for two years becomes the property of said Association; however, that at anytime during this two years it will be the business of the executive board to assist such a church in securing a pastor or if need be, in finance; or if a condition should arise that it would not be advisable for this church to continue its work, it would be the board's duty to take charge of said property.

Article VIII

CREDENTIALS: When a church desires that one of its members should be examined for license or ordination, it shall be the duty of the council in the examination to find out as nearly as possible if the candidate is qualified.

The candidate is to be examined by a set of questions. scripturally and satisfactory to the approval of the board, they will not be licensed or ordained.

A:

1. Are you in regular church attendance?
2. How many times have you been in church this year?
3. Do you attend prayer meeting?
4. Do you support the church with tithes and offerings?
5. How many have been saved under your ministry?
6. How many times have you preached in the last six months?
7. Do you have regular appointments?
8. How much time do you give to study of the Gospel?
9. What are your convictions and purposes as a minister?

B: REPUTATION:

1. This information shall be learned from the delegates from his respective church.
2. As to the report from within and without the church, this should consist of kindness, meekness and love.
3. Is GOD first and above all in your life?

C: DOCTRINE—Consisting of Doctrine.

1. Father, Son and the Holy Ghost.
2. Divine Government and Providence.
3. Primitive state of man and fall.

4. Atonement.
5. Call to the ministry.
Question: How do you know that GOD called you to the ministry?
6. Bible Repentance.
7. Justification and Sanctification.
8. Faith and Regeneration.
9. Perseverance of the saint.
10. Lord's Day.
11. The Church.
12. Tithing.
13. Ordinances of the Gospel.
 - a. Lord's Supper.
 - b. Baptism.
 - c. Feet Washing.
14. Death.
15. Second Coming of Christ.
16. The Judgement.
17. Duties of the Minister.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the infallible Word of God, and the only safe rule of faith and practice. II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21.

2. That there is but one true and living God, and in the God Head of Divine Essence, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Gen. 17:1; I John 5:7.

3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures and cannot extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature. Pho. 5:1-19.

4. That salvation, regeneration, sanctification, justification and redemption are by life, death, resurrection, ascension and intercession of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12; Titus 3:5.

5. That the joys of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal. Matt. 25:46.

6. That he that shall endure to the end the same shall be saved. Matt. 24:13; Rev. 2:10.

7. That baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the saints' feet are the ordinances of Jesus Christ, appointed in the church, and none but true believers are proper subjects, and the only proper mode of baptism is immersion. Mark 1:4-9-10; Luke 23:30; John 13:14.

8. We believe in the sanctity of the first day of the week or the Lord's day, and that it ought to be observed and spent in the public worship of God, and that on it, we should abstain from our worldly concerns except in cases of necessity and mercy. Ex. 31:15; Deut. 5:12; Matt. 12:12.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the body, both the just and the unjust, but every one in his own order; those who have done evil to the resurrection of damnation, and

that God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:34; John 5:28; I Thes. 3:16.

10. That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general, and to singly engage to promote the honor of God. John 13:35; Gal. 6:10.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man; yet none can partake of His divine benefit only by his repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, infants and idiots excepted. Acts 20:21; Tim 2:5-6; John 3:14-16; I Peter 3:21.

12. We believe that the Lord's people are one in Him, and therefore should be one at His table. I Cor. 1:1-11; 27-28; John 17:11.

BY-LAWS

1. The moderator or assistant moderator, or in their absence, the oldest minister present, shall call the Association into conference.

2. Each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3. Five members from two or more churches shall constitute a quorum. A less number may adjourn until such quorum is present.

4. Visiting brethren are invited to seats as advisory members.

5. Those who speak shall arise and address the moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken separately.

7. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the moderator.

9. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in Christian spirit.

10. The ruling of the moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

11. Any minister opposed to any of the enterprises endorsed by the Association will not be entitled to a seat in Conference and we will not seat any minister in this Association that teaches the Baptism of the Holy Ghost separate from regeneration or the birth of the Spirit.

12.

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consideration of the Association unless it has been first discussed in its own church.

13. At each Association arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent devotional exercises each day.

14. When a church has died (had no pastor for two years, the Association has the power to take possession of that church property to protect the welfare of the denomination.

15. The voting body of the First Oklahoma Association of Free Will Baptist, shall be ordained minister, ordained deacons, members of all standing boards, officers and sponsors of the League Rally of the Association, Officers of Women's Auxiliary Convention of the Association, Officers of the Sunday School Convention of the Association, regularly elected delegates, which shall be seated only with proper credentials, and church clerks who are members of the Free Will Baptist Churches of said Association in good standing.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to void the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principal sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, or its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read, and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating delegates.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Petitionary Letters called for.
7. Reading Rules of Order.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of Committees.
10. Unfinished Business.
11. New Business.
12. Reports of Committees.
13. Miscellaneous Business.

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