

Minutes
OF THE
Second Annual
Union Association
OF THE
Free Will Baptist
Of Western Oklahoma



September 16 - 17

1955

WHEN CONVENED WITH
THE GERMAN CHURCH
CUSTER COUNTY



Next Association at the Prairie Bell Church
Dewey County

Friday Before the 3rd Sunday in August
August 17-18, 1956

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Union Association of the Free Will Baptists of Western Oklahoma met in regular session on the 16th day of September, 1955.

Minutes of the last years minute read and accepted.

Moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and that council vote by acclamation on electing a moderator and assistant moderator. Bro. Paul Bowser was elected moderator and Bro. Ross Hamar assistant.

Church letters were called for and the following responded:

German Church
Pleasant Valley Church
Antibch Church
Webb Church
Prairie Bell Church

Moved and seconded that the executive board select a preacher for the eleven o'clock service, Friday morning.

Council closed in prayer on bended knee.

11:00 A. M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Song service led by Mrs. Burquin.

Message by Bro. Delbert Acin.

1:30 P. M. FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Council was called to order by Moderator Paul Bowser.

Prayer by Bro. Pet Higgans.

Ordination of Bro. Clarence Shepherd to the Ministry and Bro. Orville Burquin as a deacon was held during this session.

Moved and seconded that we retain Bro. John Jones as Clerk and Bro. E. N. Walker as Treasurer and that the Clerk select his assistant, Bro. Clyde Hamar was selected.

Moved and seconded that the executive board act as religious committee.

Moved and seconded that Moderator appoint the various committees as follows:

Finance Committee

Sister Cecil Stepheson
Sister Sarah Shelton
Sister Irene Cantrell

Condolence

Sister Jennie Douglas
Sister Fern Shepherd
Sister Eva Hicks

Treasurers Report given and accepted.

Missionarys report given and accepted.

Reports of Pastors given and accepted, the following gave reports:

Bro. Paul Bowser
Bro. Clyde Hamar
Bro. Ross Hamar

Bro. Orvill Carpenter
Bro. Clarence Shepherd
Bro. John Jones

Council adjourned in prayer on bended knee by Bro. Edd Hudgins of California, to meet Saturday morning, Sept. 17th.

SATURDAY MORNING SEPT. 17TH

Council was called to order by the Assistant Moderator, Bro. Ross Hamar.

Prayer by Bro. Curtis Burton.

Minutes of Friday Afternoon session read and approved.

Moved and seconded that the Moderator be empowered to appoint committee to visit the draft board concerning re-classification of Bro. Clarence Shepherd.

Moved and seconded that each Church select a delegate to the State Convention at Oklahoma City and each Church send five dollars with the delegate.

On motion and second Council adjourn to meet in the afternoon session.

Council closed in prayer by Bro. Paul Epperly.

11:00 A. M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Singing was led by Eddie Cline.

Message by Bro. Clarence Shepherd, Luke 18, followed by short messages, Bro. Curtis Burton and Bro. John Jones.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Council was called to order by Assistant Moderator Bro. Ross Hamar.

Song service was led by Bro. Eddie Cline.

Prayer by Bro. Clyde Hamar.

Worship Service

Messages were brought by Bro. Orvill Carpenter, first chapter of Hebrews, followed by Bro. Clyde Hamar and Bro. Wesley Fast.

Prayer by Sister Florence Epperly.

Missionary question was taken up, short talks were given by Bro. Paul Epperly, E. N. Walker, Sister Langley, Sister Bertha Haggard and Bro. Curtis Burton.

Moved and seconded that we send a Missionary in the field. Bro. Ross Hamar was elected Missionary.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Condolence Committee report given, accepted and Committee discharged.

Finance Committee report given, accepted and Committee discharged.

Moved and seconded that we set the Annual Association up one month, making it in August.

Moved and seconded that we have four hundred minutes printed.

Moved and seconded the the Missionary go before the executive board before bill is granted.

Moved and seconded that we pay the Clerk twenty-five dollars for services rendered.

Moved and seconded that we tender a vote of thanks to the German Church and Community for the hospitality shown during this Association.

On motion and second the young people will have the Thursday night service, also we endorse the young peoples officers.

This session dismissed in prayer by Bro. Earnest Walker.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

Our Heavenly Father has seen fit in his infinite wisdom to remove from our midst Sister Sylvia Choplin from the Antioch Church and Bro. Sim Westenhaver of the Webb Church.

Resolved that we as an association body deeply sympathize with these families whose homes have 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 this association and a copy be sent to the bereaved families.

Committee

Sister Eva Hicks
Sister Fern Shepherd
Sister Jennie Douglas

MINISTERIAL REPORTS

Rev. Clyde Hamar:

Miles traveled	5,623
Sermons preached, Antioch Church	78
Webb Church	1
Money received from Antioch Church	\$ 951.55
From friends	\$ 6.00

Rev. Clarence Shepherd:

Miles traveled	417
Sermons preached	40
Money received	\$ 119.64

Rev. Wesley Fast:

Miles traveled	7,020
Sermons preached	112
Mid-Week Bible Classes Conducted	30
Persons Baptized	6
Money received Prairie Bell Church	\$ 598.00
Special gifts and offerings	\$ 158.00
Traveling Expenses	\$ 56.00

Rev. Ross Hamar:

Miles traveled	1240
Sermons preached	41
Money received, Webb Church	\$ 250.00
Pleasant Valley	\$ 137.50
Antioch Church	\$ 25.00
German Church	\$ 55.00
From Friends	\$ 70.00
Funerals preached	3
Money received	\$ 10.00
Miles traveled	210

Rev. Paul Bowser:

Miles traveled	1,236
Sermons preached	101
Persons Baptized	6
Money received, Salary	\$1,645.00
Funerals preached	4
Money received	\$ 45.00
Marriages	1
Money received	\$ 5.00
Money received from Friends	\$ 45.00
Traveling expense	\$ 123.60

Rev. Orvill Carpenter:

Sermons preached at German Church	9
Money received	\$ 190.00

Rev. J. E. Jones:

Miles traveled	100
Sermons preached	9
Money received, Prairie Bell	\$ 10.00
Weddings	1
Money received	\$ 5.00

Rev. Bob Duncan:

Webb Church from January 16th until September,	
Money received	\$1,339.00
Pleasant Valley Church	\$1,100.00
Prairie Bell, ten days meeting, 5 Conversions	
Money received	\$ 99.38

MISSIONARY REPORT — REV. ROSS HAMAR

Miles traveled	3,293
Sermons preached	77
Days put in	66
Telephone bills	\$ 17.35
Money received, Vicksburg	\$ 55.57
Free Methodist	\$ 1.50
Cickles	\$ 526.55
Meeting at Tecumseh, days put in	14
Miles traveled	800
Money received, Ladies Club	\$ 10.00
Church	\$ 100.00

Executive Board, Bro. Homer May, Bro. E. N. Walker and Bro. Clyde Hamar.

**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. Phos. 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.
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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