

MINUTES
of the
Third Annual
Union Association
of the
Free Will Baptist
Of Western Oklahoma



August 17 - 18

1956

WHEN CONVENED WITH
THE PRAIRIE BELL CHURCH
Custer County

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Saturday Morning - 10 o'clock

1. Devotional Service.
2. Reading of the minutes of last association.
3. Call for Church letters.
4. Election of officers.
5. Invitation to any and all visiting brethren to be in our council.
6. Appointment of Pulpit Committee.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Adjournment.
9. Short recess.
10. Introductory sermon.

Saturday Afternoon

1. Devotional Service.
2. Reading of minutes of morning session.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Ministers Report.
5. Unfinished Business.
6. Selection of place where the next association will be held.
7. Extending a vote of thanks.

RECORD

The Union Association of Free Will Baptist met in regular session on the 17th day of August, 1956, at Prairie Bell Church.

Opened by singing "O How I Love Jesus", led by Sister Bourquin.

Scripture read and prayer by Bro. Ross Hamar.

Minutes of last year's minute read and accepted.

Church letters were called for and the following responded: German Church, Pleasant Valley, Antioch, Prairie Bell and Webb. 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.

Bro. Homer May gave a report of the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board. Motion made and seconded that we accept the report as read.

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

erator and Bro. Clarence Shepherd assistant.

Moved and seconded that we retain our present clerk, Pauline Shepherd.

Moved and seconded that we elect Sister Fern Shepherd for assistant Clerk, Carried.

Bro. Kenneth Cline was elected as Treasurer.

Motion made and seconded that all visiting brethren feel free to say anything that would benefit the association.

Short talks were given by Bro. Ross Hamar and Bro. Homer May, concerning a new order of business.

Motion made and seconded that we have a short recess and that Bro. Clarence Shepherd bring the eleven o'clock message.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Jones.

11:00 A. M. Worship Service

Song service led by Sister Bourquin, Prayer by Mrs. Hutchinson. Message by Bro. Clarence Shepherd. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Fast.

Friday Afternoon Session

Opened by singing, led by Bro. Earnest Walker. Scripture taken from Hebrews, read by Bro. Ross Hamar. Prayer by Bro. Arthur Klein.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

Treasurer's report by Earnest Walker, given and accepted. The association extended him a vote of thanks for his services rendered during his time as treasurer.

Short talks of discussion were given concerning the new order of business. To keep part of our money in our own Association. Motion made and seconded that we table this until the Sat. morning session.

Motion made and seconded that we have the ordination of Bro. Arthur Klein at the eleven o'clock hour Sat. morning.

Moved and seconded that the moderator appoint the Condolence Committee. Bro. John Holly, Bro. Albert Jones, and Bro. Roy Shepherd were selected.

Motion made and seconded that we send a card, a potted plant, and a verse of scripture to Bro. Burton from the Association. Bro. Fast, Sister Crispon, and Sister Jones were selected to take care of this.

Power was given to the moderator to appoint all necessary committees. Bro. Carroll Crispon, Bro. Cecil Stepheson and Bro. Gar Wilson were selected for the religious committee.

Motion made and seconded that we adjourn to meet Saturday morning at ten o'clock.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Roy Shepherd.

Saturday Morning Session

Saturday morning session was called to order by the moderator, Bro. Ross Hamar.

Singing led by Sister Williams. Scripture read by Bro. Ross Hamar and prayer by Bro. Fast.

Minutes of Friday afternoon session read and accepted.

Report of the executive board was given. Bro. Dale Snider was approved to be ordained as a minister and Bro. Arthur Klein to be ordained as a deacon.

Motion made and seconded that we adjourn. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Jones.

Eleven o'clock Worship Service

Opened by singing, "I Am Thine O'Lord", Prayer by Sister Crispin. Special number by Bro. and Sister Fast. Ordination of Bro. Arthur Klein was preached by Bro. Sandy Shepherd. Ordaining prayer by Bro. Ross Hamar.

Motion made and seconded that we adjourn until the afternoon session. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Eddie Klein.

Saturday Afternoon

Singing led by Sister Bourquin. Scripture taken from the 8th Chapter of Romans, read by Bro. Ross Hamar. Prayer by Bro. Cletus Langley.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

Several of the young people gave short talks telling about the Camp Meeting.

Ministers reports were called for and the following responded: Bro. Fast, Bro. Sandy Shepherd, Bro. Dale Snider, Bro. Jones, Bro. Cletus Langley and Bro. Ross Hamar.

Motion made and seconded that we accept these reports.

Motion made and seconded that we meet at Pleasant Valley the First Saturday in October.

Moved and seconded that we extend a vote of thanks to Prairie Bell Church for their hospitality.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Carl Shepherd.

MINISTERIAL REPORTS

REV. ROSS HAMAR:

Miles traveled	3280
Sermons preached	41

MONEY RECEIVED:

German Church	\$ 115.00
Antioch	\$ 10.00
Pleasant Valley	\$ 25.00
Webb	\$ 256.00
Friends	\$ 40.00
Funerals	\$ 4.00
Money Received	\$ 20.00

REV. CLARENCE SHEPHERD:

Miles traveled	1,600
Sermons preached	90
Money received from Pleasant Valley	\$1,025.00
No. Baptized	4

REV. DALE SNIDER:

Miles traveled	150
Sermons preached	14
Money received	\$ 25.00

REV. J. W. FAST:

Miles traveled	5500
Sermons preached	85
Money received from Prairie Bell Church	\$ 516.00
Money received from other churches	\$ 45.00
Sick calls	20

REV. JOHNNY JONES:

Funeral	1
Ordination Service	1

BRO. CLETUS LANGLEY:

Sermons preached	10
------------------------	----

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. Johnny Jones Putnam, Okla.
Rev. Ross Hamar Arapaho, Okla.
Rev. Orville Carpenter Norman, Okla.
Rev. Clarence Shepherd Butler, Okla.
Rev. Dale Snider Butler, Okla.
Rev. Paul Argo Tulsa, Okla.

DEACONS ORDAINED DURING 1955-1956

Bro. Homer May Antioch Church
Bro. Orville Bourquin
Bro. Albert Jones Prairie Bell Church
Bro. Kenneth Cline
Bro. Arthur Cline German Church
Bro. Charles Roush
Bro. Carl Shepherd Pleasant Valley Church
Bro. Carl Paris

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Paul Epperly Webb
E. N. Walker Antioch
Homer May Antioch
Roy Shepherd Pleasant Valley
Albert Adair Prairie Bell

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 Auxillary Convention of Association, Officers of Sunday School Convention of Association, Church Clerks, and also three delegates from each local church in the Association, which shall be seated with proper credentials. There must be a quorum of at least three 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 Union 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 Union 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 any 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 Union 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 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

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, if not scripturally and satisfactorily 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 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 Judgment.
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 graces 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.

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.