

MINUTES – HILLSDALE CONFERENCE – March 9, 2002

The Union Association of Free Will Baptists met in conjunction with the Hillsdale Conference in the Woodward Free Will Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. The first part of the morning was given to worship in music led by the Hillsdale New Life Ministry Team. Then Brother Carl Cheshier, president of Hillsdale Bible College spoke. He told us of plans to complete the new chapel building in time for 2003 spring graduation ceremonies. Construction has begun. He also announced the start of a master's program.

Bro. Carl then preached from Ephesians 3:1-8 on commitment. He told us we should enter God's house to worship and leave to serve. Following prayer, the meeting broke for lunch.

After noon, the meeting resumed. Sister Lynn Midgett, missionary to Spain, spoke to the assembly, thanking the association and the state of Oklahoma for implementing the Total Support Program, which allows missionaries to concentrate on doing what God has called them to, rather than worrying about raising funds and possibly leaving the field early to raise more funds.

The moderator, Bro. Charlie Murphy, called the meeting to order and asked for the reading of the minutes of the annual meeting. A question was asked concerning the amount of scholarship voted at the September, 2000, meeting. The minutes stated that the scholarship had increased from \$200 to \$400 per semester. Bro. Allen Mabra offered a motion that the minutes be accepted with the correction that the scholarships were increased to \$500 per semester. Motion carried.

Letters from the churches were read. Delegates were present from all churches except Enid. Evan Parker moved to accept letters and seat the delegates. Approved.

Allen Mabra read the Financial Report and moved that the body accept. Motion carried.

Bro. Mabra then gave the Executive Board Report. Their recommendations were as follows: (1) To give \$5,000 per year for 10 years to the Hillsdale Chapel fund by adding from the association general fund to the offering given at the Hillsdale Conference; (2) To give \$1,000 to the Hillsdale General Fund, and (3) To give \$250 to Sara Nichols, who is going on a short term missionary trip. Bob Hale moved to accept all three recommendations. Motion carried.

Evan Parker gave the Missions/Education Board report. Youth camp is scheduled at Vici for July 8-12. He announced that there would be no classes for teens at camp this year; they will attend State Camp.

Bro. Sandy Shepherd made a motion to thank Bro and Sister Carl Cheshier for coming and the New Life Singers. He also thanked the host church for their hospitality. Motion carried.

Bro. Lynch led us in prayer to dismiss.

Respectfully submitted,

Belva Mabra

Belva Mabra, Clerk

MINUTES – September 21, 2002

The Union Association of Free Will Baptists met at the Woodward Free Will Baptist Church Saturday, September 21, 2002, for the annual business meeting and Missions Conference. Bro. Allen Mabra, pastor at Woodward, welcomed all present.

Bro. Jim Puckett, state missions director, preached the first message, replacing missionary Darrel Nichols, who was monitoring the critical situation in the Ivory Coast, West Africa. Rebels forces were surrounding the International Christian Academy where Mike & Deleen Cousineau and their family are stationed. Jim's message was from the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. He reminded us that Christ issued a personal commission to each Christian. Following the message he called for an altar of prayer for the situation in Ivory Coast.

Dennis Cariker preached the following message from I Corinthians 3:9-16 concerning "Building a Building." He used several analogies from his experience building the Heartland mission church in the Moore/Norman area to illustrate his points.

The committees met during lunch. Following lunch, Bro. Charlie Murphy called the business session to order. The minutes were approved as read. Church letters were read by the clerk. All churches were represented by delegates. Allen Mabra made a motion to accept the letters and seat the delegates. It carried.

The Financial report was read by Allen Mabra, as prepared by the Treasurer, Jane Gaston. He moved to accept. Motion carried.

Allen Mabra then gave the Executive Board Report which contained the following motions: (1) To accept Rev. Stacy Ross, new pastor of Northridge Free Will Baptist Church of Guymon, whose credentials were examined by the Board and found to be sound in doctrine, (2) Give a letter of good standing to the Central Texas District for Tom Smith, (3) Refer Lonny Reed, Robert Graybill, and Gary Kirk back to their home church of Clinton for ordination as deacons, as they were examined and approved by the Board, and (4) Add \$1,000 from the association to the TSP offering brought by the churches. Bro. Johnny Conyers made a motion to accept the report and vote item by item. Each item carried.

Evan Parker gave the Mission/Education Board Report. He reported that we had a good camp with 24 salvations and rededications. Camp this year will be the first full week of June, with Bob Thomas ministries to help with evangelist and teachers.

The clerk read a letter of thanks from Kendra Parker, who received help from the association to compete in music at the national convention.

State Missions Director Jim Puckett gave his report. The Mission Board sold two more acres of land from the original land bought for the Edmond mission church for \$50,000. This money will go toward the building. A church closed in Sperry, giving \$13,000 to the Total Support Program. The Board is placing this in a perpetual land fund. He expressed appreciation to the Union Association for mission support.

Bro. Charlie Murphy informed the association that State Executive Secretary Ernest Harrison is being deployed as a Chaplain to Egypt for six months. He requested our prayers, both for Ernest and his troops and for the state office during his absence.

Election of Officers followed. Bro. Allen Mabra made a motion to retain the entire slate of officers. Motion carried.

Election of Boards followed. Bro. Clarence Shepherd was re-elected to serve five years on the Executive/Credentials Board. Bro. Stacy Ross was elected to fill the two-year term vacated by Tom Smith. Jeremy Lightsey was re-elected to serve five years on the Mission/Education Board.

The Women Active for Christ report was given by President Susan Parker and accepted as information.

Bro. Dennis Cariker gave a report on Heartland Free Will Baptist Church, which is getting close to opening the doors on their new building.

State delegates were named from the following churches: Clinton – Russell Raynor, Enid – Glen Blaisier, German – Griffie Klein, Woodward – Belva Mabra, Gkuymon – Red Chastain, Antioch – Pauline Shepherd, Pampa – Melba Lynch. General Board Member for 2003 – Clarence Shepherd.

The moderator asked for the clerk to check on the date of Hillsdale's spring break to determine the Hillsdale meeting date. It is to be the second Saturday in March – the 8th – unless Hillsdale's date conflicts. In that case, the clerk is to send a letter to the churches.

The moderator asked the congregation to stand in thanks for the host church's meal and hospitality. We then dismissed singing "O How I Love Jesus."

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk Belva Mabra