

Union Minutes – September 20, 2003

The Union Association of Free Will Baptists met at Woodward Free Will Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. on September 20, 2004. This was both the annual business meeting and the annual Missions Conference. Sadly, just before the meeting it was learned that the group traveling to the meeting from Clinton had been involved in a serious accident. Bro. Sandy Shepherd and Charlie Murphy were assisting and unable to attend. The meeting began with an altar prayer led by Bro. Jim Puckett for all those involved.

Bro. Scott Gaston led the congregation in singing "The Solid Rock." Bro. Steve Torrison played guitar and sang a special. Bro. Darrel Nichols preached on Eph. 6:12. We are at war; we must obey our marching orders, use the armor of God, and there is no retreat for a Christian.

Following a short break, the congregation sang "What a Day That Will Be." A group from Woodward and Antioch sang "Home of the Soul." Bro. Ernest Harrison, our state executive secretary, who had just returned from a tour as chaplain for our troops in the Sinai Peninsula. He presented a slide show from his tour of duty.

Following prayer, lunch was served by the host church.

At the end of the morning session it was learned that Sister Hazel Kirk had been killed in the accident. Bro. Jimmie Smith and Sis. Diane Smith had been mediflighted to Oklahoma City with serious injuries and Sis. Linda Smith had received some injuries, as well. Bro. Gary Kirk was not seriously injured, but was dealing with the loss of his wife and the necessity of informing their two young daughters.

Bro. Allen Mabra began the business session by reading from the by-laws, which stated that in the absence of both the moderator and assistant moderator, the meeting was to be lead by the eldest minister present. It was determined that he was the eldest, so he continued to conduct the meeting. The clerk read the minutes of the last meeting, which was the previous annual meeting – the March meeting having been canceled. Stacy Ross made a motion to receive the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Bro. Allen told of the special Executive Board meeting held to examine Steve Torrison for ordination. He has since been ordained. (Minutes of that Executive Meeting follow).

Letters were read from the churches. All were represented by letter. No delegates were present from the German or Clinton churches. Bro. Stacy Ross moved to seat the delegates – three from Enid, three from Guymon, two from Pampa, and three from Woodward. Bro. Bob Duncan was welcomed as interim pastor at Enid.

Bro. Jim Puckett, state missions director, gave a report on the Total Support Program. Giving had been down slightly during the past year. He reported on TSP missionaries, either new or reassigned: Robert & Judy Bryan to France (formerly from Ivory Coast), Darrel & Lila Nichols (formerly Ivory Coast) to Panama, Steve & Lori Torrison, in the

Allen Mabra, Clerk

process of being appointed to Panama, Kristin Wilson to Brazil, and Brad Hanna to be deployed to Afghanistan as Chaplain. Jim will serve as interim pastor to the Edmond church while Brad is overseas.

Bro. John Hewett of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries in Greenville, Tennessee, spoke about this work and the importance of ministering to children in today's society.

Allen Mabra read the Treasurer's Report, which was prepared by Treasurer Jane Gaston. He then moved to receive the report. The national dues have been raised to \$160 (\$100 national, \$25 state, \$35 Union). Motion carried.

The Executive Board, having no quorum, presented suggestions to the body. These were: (1) Give TSP \$1,000 plus the offering; (2) Give \$300 to Free Will Baptist Family Ministries. Bro. Red Chastain made the first into a motion, Bro. Lynch seconded. Motion carried. Bro. Lynch offered the second suggestion as a motion, Bro. Chastain seconded, and it carried as well.

The Clerk read a letter from Steve and Lori Torrison about their mission trip to Japan and thanking the churches and individuals for their support.

Election of Officers: Bro. Stacy Ross made a motion to keep the entire present slate of officers. Motion carried

Bro. Klein moved to re-elect Allen Mabra to the 5-year position on the Executive/Credentials Board and to close nominations. Motion carried. Bro. Allen Mabra nominated Bro. Scott Gaston to the 2-year position Executive/Credentials Board, which was vacated by Bro. Johnny Conyers, who has resigned the Enid church. Nominations ceased, and he was elected. Bro. Stacy Ross nominated Sis. Diane Smith to the 5-year position on the Mission/Education Board with a special election to come later to replace Sis. Kirk. Bro. Allen Mabra nominated Bro. Charlie Murphy to the 2004 General Board. No other nominations were received and he was elected.

State delegates were assigned as follows: Jill Lightsey, Belva Mabra, Russel Raynor, Kelly Ross, Lori Torrison, and Pauline Shepherd. Enid and Clinton were to call back with their delegates later.

March 6, 2004, was determined to be the date of the next associational meeting, which will be the Hillsdale Meeting. The Treasurer asked for names of any Hillsdale students from the association, so she could send scholarship money. The next district auxiliary meeting was announced to be at Pampa on October 4th. Bro. Arthur Klein made a motion to give the host church a standing vote of thanks. Motion carried.

Bro. Stacy Ross made a motion to send flowers to the families from Clinton and a wreath to Sis. Hazel Kirk's funeral. Carried. The clerk encouraged district CTS competition, since the national convention will be close in Kansas City this year. Dismissed in prayer.