

Minutes of the West Central Illinois
Quarterly Meeting when commenced Jan
17, 1987 at the Rescue Free Will Baptist
Church.

Congregational song: He keeps me
singing.

Prayer by Rev. Clifford Hicks
Meeting called to order by the Clerk
The Church Covenant was read by
Rev. Guy Leonard.

The Church letters was read. Motion
sustained to receive the letters
and seat the delegates.

The Committee apartments were made
The minutes of the previous meeting
was read and approved.

The Treasurers report was given
Motion sustained to receive the
treasurers report.

- Recess -

~~Message~~ Congregational song

"It Could Happen in a Moment"

Message by David Malone using
Psalms 106: 15; Numbers 11: 7 Gen. 22: 2-8
and John 12: 24 & 25

- Committee Reports:

We, the Memorial Committee rejoice
in that no deaths were reported
during the past quarter. Signed
Carline Roberts, Betty Williams and
Jean Malone.

Motion sustained to receive the
reports

We the Resolution Committee want
to thank the host church for their
hospitality and the good meal the
women are preparing. Signed Betty

pierce, Letha Dethrow and Leda Danner
Motion sustained to receive the report
Examining Board report

Item #1 We recommend the acceptance
of the following ministers Annual reports
and give our recommendation for each
of good standing: Jesse Allan, Guy
Leonard, Jerry Presley, Ivan Ryan,
Cary Adams, Clay Meyers, J.L. Hudson,
Billy G. Farig, Randal Steelman, Albert
Bays, Larry C. Cook, Mike Russell,
Melvin S. Knott, Steven R. Eulankes,
Clifford Hicks Jimmie Hicks and
Jerry Pierce

Item #2 We recommend that Letia
Reed, Melvin Cathart, and Ronnie
Robbins be allowed to send their
Annual report to the clerk for approval
Signed Jerry Presley, Clay Meyers &
Mike Russell.

Motion sustained to receive the report
and act upon item by item

Item #1 Motion sustained to abide by
the request

Item #2 Motion sustained to amend
to add Rev. Lovie Hanna to the list
of ministers ^{reports} for approval.

~~Item #2~~ Motion sustained to receive
Item #2 as amended.

Delegates to the State Assoc. Meeting
Cleo Leonard, Jane Harman, Jean
Malone, Van Rumbelt, Thelma Webb,
Betty Williams, Lela Shrum, Betty
Pierce, Anna Mae LeMasters, Randy
Stelman, Sharon Russell, and
Glenda Cook. as alternate. Motion
sustained approve the above named
delegates to State Association

Motion sustained that Daniel Malone
be presented to the State Association
to represent the Quarterly on the State
~~Executive~~
Executive Board.

Special Song We are "Standing on Holy
Ground" sung by Traci Baster, Sandy
Gartenberry + Jane Harman.

Message by Rev Daniel Shaves (Rev
Louie Harman was to speak but
unable to be present) Bro Shaves used
Mark 2:1-12 as his text.

Motion sustained to have Constitution
and By-Laws printed.

Sarry Cook moderator
Ed Shum Clerk
Approved 4-18-87

July Speakers Albert Bays + Clifford Hicks
at Waltonville

Minutes of the West Central Illinois
Quarterly Meeting of the Free Will
Baptists, when commenced April
18, 1987 at the Rock Springs Free
Will Baptist Church

Congregational songs "In The Sweet
By and By" and "He Keeps me singing"
led by Rev Cary Adams with Lela
Shum at the piano

Prayer by Randal Steelman
Quarterly Meeting Called to Order
by the Clerk.

The Church letters were read
Motion sustained to receive the
letters and seat the delegates
The Committees appointments were
made.

Bro Randy Eubanks was appointed to serve on the Business Committee for this session.

The Minutes of the previous meeting was read and approved

Treasurer report was given. Motion sustained to receive the report

- Recess -

Committee Reports.

We The Resolutions Committee recommend:

I That we encourage our pastors and churches to support the Temperance Committee report given at the State Association dealing with opposing Abortion, pornography and worldly music

II That we extend our appreciation to Randy Eubanks for the preparing and printing of the Constitution and By-Laws.

III That we give the host Church a standing vote of thanks for preparing for the Quarterly and for the meal. Signed Randall Stutzman, Emmette Price and Geraldine Lewis. Motion sustained to receive the report and act upon item by item.

Item I Motion sustained to adopt.

Item II Motion sustained to adopt

Item III Motion sustained to adopt

We The Memorial Committee, regret the passing of Sir. Clara K. Lane of Bear Point Church from our midst. We ask that we stand for a moment of

silent prayer to be followed
by Bro Daniel Malone singing
in her memory. Signed Gene
Hornman, Cleo Leonard and
Thelma Wehle. Motion sustained
to receive the report prayer by
Rev Guy Leonard.

We The Business Committee
recommen^d For Examining Board
Rev. Ivan Ryan (to replace Rev Jerry
Presley who ~~was~~ now pastoring
a church in another quarterly)
Item II For Business Committee Jim
Lillian (to replace Alna Derrough
who Resigned) signed Daniel Malone
Randy Eubanks.

Motion sustained to receive the
report and act upon item by item

Item # I Floor opened for nomination
~~for Examining Board.~~
~~from floor~~ Motion sustained there were
~~no~~ nominations. Motion sustained
to elect by acclamation.

Item II Floor opened for nomination
for Business Committee. There were
no nominations Motion sustained
nominations cease and proceed to
elect by acclamation

~~Motion~~ Motion to There was a
general ~~consensus~~ consensus for the Quarterly
(District) to issue ministers card of
good standing instead of the State
Association

Motion sustained That business
session be adjourned.

Congregational songs "Come and
and "Shall We Gather at the River"
led by Gary Adams with Leha
Shrum at the piano. Prayer by

his Headline Series.

Special "Just Inside the Eastern Gate" sung by Bro David Malone accompanied by Lela Shaum at the piano in memory of Sister Clara Keane.

message by Rev Max Courtney pastor of the Alexander Free will Baptist Church using John 15: 1-8 and I Cor. 3 Congregational Song "I shall not be moved" message by Rev Guy Leonard pastor of Walthamville F.W. Baptist Church using Luke 10: 25-36.

Guy Leonard Moderator
Ed. Shrum, Clerk
Approved 7-11-87

Minutes of The West Central Illinois Quarterly meeting when commenced July 11, 1987 at The Walthamville Free will Baptist Church.

Welcome and denotation by the host pastor Rev Guy Leonard. Prayer by Rev Leonard.

Congregational song "To God be the glory

Meeting called to order by the clerk The Church Covenant was read ~~resp~~ responsively led by Rev. Leonard There were no requests for the reading of the Constitution and By-Laws. The Church report letters were read, accepted and the delegates seated The Committee appointments were made

Prayer by Rev. Larry Cook.

- Recess -

The worship hour began by the congregation singing "The Lily of the Valley".

The message was brought by Rev Clifford Hicks using Leviticus 9:23-24
10:1-5

The Committee Reports:

The Memorial Committee report: We the Memorial Committee ask each one to stand in silent prayer for Fanny Jurich of Bear Point and Clifford Roberts of Hazel Dell we know they will be sadly missed by all. Signed, Carson Sanchez, Letha Withrow and Bonnie Allen. Motion sustained to receive the report. Stood for a moment of silent prayer by Alna Darragh.

Item #1 The Resolutions Committee - We bring attention to our pioneer Free Will Baptist leaders who left us this grand heritage and may we always pray that we have the strength and courage through Christ to stand for ~~that~~ that which is right according to the word of God.

Item #2. We also ~~wish~~ wish to give ~~to~~ a standing vote of thanks to the Waltham F.W.B. Church for having the ~~Q~~ quarterly meeting and the delicious meal we will enjoy. Signed: Lela Shrum, Donald ~~Lester~~ Stenhaus and Daris Darragh. Motion sustained to ~~receive~~ ^{adopt} the report.

Examining Board report

Item #1 We reviewed Bobby Wright's minister's report as requested by the Granite City Church. Since he was not present, we could not take any action. We would ask that Brother Wright be present at the next quarterly meeting for examination.

Item #2 We met with Terry Pierce and being greatly impressed with his love for the Lord and his strong desire to be of service to God, we recommended that this brother be appraised for ordination. Signed Mike Russell, Cary Adams and Floyd Hartley. Malian sustained to receive the report and accept the recommendations of the Committee.
Business Committee Report.

Item #1 That the West Central Quarterly meeting go on record as favoring the returning of the issuance of License, Ordination and Card of good standing ~~to~~ to the Quarterly meeting.

Item #2 We the Business Committee recommend the proposal presented by the Mason Church be read and acted upon. (See attached letter which is a part of these records)

~~Item #3~~ We recommend not appraisal by this Quarterly meeting signed by David Malone & Everett Pierce
Dissenting vote Jimmie Hicks

Item #3 We the Business Committee ~~received~~ recommend the letter from the Granite City Church be read from floor and no action be taken at this time (see attached letter which is a part of these records) signed David Malone Jimmie Hicks and Everett Pierce

NASON FREEWILL BAPTIST
CHURCH

June 3, 1987

West Central District Meeting
Waltonville FreeWill Baptist Church
Waltonville, Illinois

We, The Nason FreeWill Baptist Church, wish to go on record that we disapprove of the action taken by the executive board and the chairman of the business committee, in the writing of a letter of request to the pastor of the Harmony FreeWill Baptist Church, West City, Illinois; due to the fact no approval was granted for such a letter by the body of the West Central Quarterly Meeting.

We therefore feel the action over steps the authority of said committee!

Nason FreeWill Baptist Church

Geraldine Lewis (pastor)

Ruth Kirby (clerk)

First Freewill Baptist Church
of Granite City, Illinois
2216 Charles Street
Granite City, Illinois

The Delegates of the
West Central Quarterly Meeting
of Freewill Baptist Churches
at Waltonville Freewill Baptist Church
Waltonville, Illinois.

Dear Brethren;

We send Christian greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It has come to our attention that there appears to be a difference of opinion regarding the interpretation of scriptures in the Bible referring to the qualifications of a bishop and the ability of ministers involved in a second marriage to minister within our fellowship.

Recently, this matter has been brought before our quarterly fellowship when the Harmony Church of West City called Rev. Everett Beaty as their pastor. (Rev. Beaty is in his second marriage) Rev. Beaty accepted the church but realizing the stand concerning granting a card of good standing by the Quarterly Meeting to persons married previously did not apply for membership to the Quarterly. When asked about his intentions by the business ^{EXECUTIVE} committee he stated that he would stay away from the Quarterly Meetings if so desired. The Business ^{EXECUTIVE} Committee however told him they did not want him to do that and that they did not know what the feelings of the state association would be but that they would try to help him.

To our knowledge no one on the committee or anyone else has ever shown any indication that Brother Beaty has ever conducted his life in a manner other than that of a Christian. ^{EXECUTIVE}

We understand that the business committee of our Quarterly Meeting recently sent a letter to Brother Beaty asking him to resign so that they would not have to go to the Harmony Church or to the floor of the Quarterly with the matter. They further pointed out the fact that the reason they were asking him to resign the church is because of a bylaw dealing with pastoring the church without a card of good standing.

This issue has divided churches, quarterly meetings, and state associations throughout the country in the past. Some groups will not issue a card of good standing or recognize any man who has been married more than one time and involved in divorce no matter what the circumstances. Some will recognize a minister and give him a card of good standing if he can prove he has a scriptural divorce using the reasoning that if the divorce is in accordance with the Bible than there is only one marriage. Still other groups will grant cards of good standing and recognition to those involved in a second marriage using the reasoning that Paul's reference to the husband of one wife refers to the common practice of his day known as polygamy or having more than one wife at a time.

While some may say that they know that their interpretation is right the simple fact that the scriptures regarding this situation are vague is evident by the different ways this is viewed by different Quarterlies through the country. It is very controversial and therefore could be potentially damaging to our fellowship if we do not find a workable way to deal with this issue.

In a similar situation faced by the early church there were two schools of thought regarding the eating of meat sacrificed to idols. One group (The Jews) did not believe it was right to eat the meat. The other group (Gentiles) believed that it was fit for them to eat. The apostle addressed this issue with this solution "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind and so let him eat."

The scriptures tie this issue to the marriage issue where it refers to the fact that in the last days there would come those who would command folk to abstain from meat while also forbidding them to marry.

We have therefore in open business meeting within our church discussed this issue and offer the following resolution for your consideration

1. We believe the scriptures regarding the marital requirements of a bishop are not clearly defined therefore there are different opinions not only within our denomination but also within others.

2. That the authority to ordain and determine the qualifications of ministers has its origin in the local church and through tradition it has been delegated to the Associations or Quarterly Meetings. This is explained in the Free Will Baptist Treatise.

3. That since there is a difference of opinion within the fellowship regarding this issue we believe that it is in the best interest of the harmony of the fellowship to allow the church of which a minister holds membership be the sole judge of his moral and marital requirements.

4. That there is no biblical example of excluding a man from the ministry or the church for a divorce in which it can not be proved was his fault

5. That we go on record as being opposed to the Business Committee, *Executive Committee*, Quarterly Meeting, or any other organization intruding into the affairs of a local church without being asked to do so by that church.

6. That the local church is the highest authority mentioned in the scripture in executing and interpreting God's word therefore any issue on which there is not clear scriptural guidance should be referred back to the church for their interpretation and that the Quarterly Meeting should be guided by such.

7. That the Quarterly Meetings, District Meetings, State Associations and their committees as such have been organized not to govern and rule the churches but to provide a means of fellowship and cooperation in spreading the gospel in all the world while allowing the churches total independence in governing themselves by the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

8. That on issues where a church is not in violation of the doctrines of the Original Free Will Baptists as explained in the Free-Will Baptist Treatise there should be no intervention by any organization connected with the denomination to pressure or intervene in their affairs unless so requested by the church

9. That the granting of cards of good standing is not a scriptural method of recognizing ministers therefore they should be abolished and ordination papers alone be required of ministers and deacons for use in establishing fellowship. That in the case of misconduct the Quarterly Meeting or State Association should be notified by the persons church of membership that investigation is necessary.

Executive

10. That we feel the ~~business~~ committee has made a serious mistake in involving themselves into an issue that niether the church nor the minister involved invited them into. This was done without the knowledge of the churches of the West Central Quarterly Meeting therefore both the Harmony Church of West City and Rev. Everett Beaty are due an apology for the intrusion in this matter.

While these resolutions are not offered as bylaws or ammendments they represent the attitude of our church toward these issues and hopefully will be considered by your body. These resolutions have been approved by our church and this is the stand we feel should be taken in such instances. While they may or may not violate the constitution and bylaws we believe they are biblical and sensible suggestions that may be used in addressing such issues and keeping with the Baptist form of church government.

Adopted in Conference June 21, 1987

Rev. Ralph Schuff - Moderator
Sis. Peggy Missap - Clerk

Mailed 5-21-87

April 30, 1987

Everett Beatty
RR 1
Ewing, IL 62836

Bro. Beatty,

The Executive Committee of the West Central Illinois Free Will Baptist Quarterly meeting has met and felt that we must contact you personally concerning your continual pastoring of the Harmony West City Free Will Baptist Church, a member of this quarterly. Since talking with you at Rescue January 17, 1987, we want to try to comply with your wishes.

We, the Executive Committee and chairman of the Business Committee, feel that your continuance as pastor is in violation of Article V of the constitution of the West Central Illinois Free Will Baptist Quarterly and Article XII of the Constitution of the Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptist which pertains to being involved in a dual marriage, thus we feel compelled to ask you to reconsider your pastoring of Harmony West City Free Will Baptist Church. We do not want to make this a public matter and you have stated that you do not either, thus we make this appeal to you privately before making any contact with the church or bringing any action on the floor of the quarterly meeting.

We come to you in an attitude of Christian love realizing that your situation is a very difficult one, but we trust that you realize that we must adhere to biblical principles and that we entertain no personal animosity toward you. Our desire is for Gods word and leadership be first in this matter.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Larry Cook, Moderator

Larry Cook

Rev. Guy Leonard, Asst. Moderator

Guy Leonard

Ed Shrum, Clerk

Ed Shrum

David Malone, Chairman Business Committee

David Malone

cc: Quarterly File

WEST WAYNE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

4040 JOHN HIX ROAD
WAYNE, MICHIGAN 48184

Wolverine Association Presbytery

March 17, 1987

West Central Illinois Quarterly Meeting
Clerk Ed Shrum
4111 Alton Road
Granite City, Illinois 62040

Greetings:

This is to advise you that the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists of Michigan commend Rev. Ivan Ryan to your fellowship as an ordained minister in good standing.

Bro. Ryan was a real blessing to our association and work here as we trust God to greatly use him there.

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Ernie Ross". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rev. Ernie Ross, Presbytery Secretary
Wolverine Association

Motion sustained to receive the business Committee report and act upon item by item.

Item #1 Motion sustained to be in favor of this item

Motion sustained to act upon item #2 item by item. Motion & seconded that the quarterly going on record of disapproving of the action taken by the executive committee and Chairman of the business committee

(Sary Cook Moderator, Guy Leonard Asst Moderator, Ed Shrum Clerk and Daniel Malone Chairman of business committee) and ~~that a~~ ~~recame up~~ that a stand vote be taken.

18 Votes in favor of the motion

12 Votes against the motion.

Bro Sary Cook resigned as Moderator due to the sensaring, Bro Guy Leonard resigned as Asst. Moderator, ~~Bro Daniel~~ ^{due to the} ~~Bro Ed~~ ^{sensaring} Ed Shrum resigned as Clerk due to the sensaring, Bro Daniel Malone resigned due to the sensaring.

Bro Mike Russell being Chairman of the Examining board being next in line filled in as Moderator.

Motion made and seconded to accept the resignation of ~~the~~ Bro Cook, Bro Leonard, Ed Shrum and Bro. Malone before a vote could be taken the motion to adjourn was ~~made~~ made and seconded Motion to adjourn carried.

Ed Shrum taking notes
and writing minutes
Approved Oct 17, 1987

Minutes of The West Central
Illinois Quarterly Meeting of Free
Will Baptists when convened Oct
17, 1987 at The Bear Point Free Will
Baptist Church.

Welcome by Bro Larry Cook pastor
of The Bear Point Church.

Congregational song "So Good be
the Glory" led by Bro Eldon
Schmidt.

Prayer by Bro Terry Pierce
Bro. Mike Russell took charge
of the meeting.

The Church letters were read and
the delegates seated.

Point of order on resignation
of Moderator, Asst Moderator, Clerk
and Chairman of Business Committee
by Article III of the Constitution.
All four agreed to serve through
~~next~~ the remainder of the year
(which was this meeting).

Bro Larry Cook spoke to the reason
for his resignation.

The minutes of the previous meeting
was read which included a letter
from the First Free Will Baptist
Church of Maunte City, A point of
order concerning this letter and
point was declared correct and
letter not read. The minutes was
approved as read.

The Committee Appointments were
made - Memorial Committee Bennie
Allen, Setha Bethaw and Arcade Prier
Auditing Committee David Harrison
Carson Souchs and Robert Gasper

Nominating Committee - Jerry Pierce
Russ Wells

Resolutions Committee Cleo Leonard
Jane Harman and Sargetta Harris
Treasurer Report was given and
accepted

- Prayer by Bro Larry Cook
- Reces -

Meeting called back into session by
Bro Cook. Moderated

Mary Montgomery and Lida ~~Dawson~~^{Dawson}
were seated as delegates from Oak Grove
Committee Reports

We The Memorial Committee want
to stand and have a prayer of
silence. Frances Denton - Rock Springs
Anna Fred - Walthamville, Jimmy Hicks
Nason and Oma Euhanks - Blue
Point. We miss all of them.

especially Bro Jimmy Hicks. Signed
Bernie Allen, Letha Dethrow and
Arcada Prier. Motion sustained
to receive the report and prayer
by Bro Eneette Pierce

Audit Committee - We The Auditing
Committee examined the books
and found the books in order
signed David Harrisson, Cassan
Soucha and Robert Jasper
Motion sustained to receive the
report

- Worship hour -

Special Song "How Great Thou Art"
sung by Gary Wampler.

Message by Rev David Shores
using I Thessalonians 5:11 and Colossians
2:2.

Remainder of Committee reports
Examining Board report

Mascoutah Free Will Baptist Church

6th Street North

P.O. Box 17

Mascoutah, IL 62258

Pastor
Mike Russell

Pho
566-7

RESOLUTION

Whereas, While we feel strongly in favor of the autonomy of local church, we also believe that our district Constitution and By-laws reflect the Biblical teaching regarding the qualifications of ministers of the Gospel; and,

Whereas, We believe that the officers of this district acted within their realm of authority in the matter concerning a pastor involved in a dual marriage; therefore,

Resolved, That the West Central Illinois Quarterly Meeting rescind the vote of July 11, 1987 which in effect censored the Executive Committee of the West Central Illinois Quarterly Meeting.

Item #1 The Examining Board has met with Bro Bill Fosig and would like to report that he is satisfactorily continuing his study toward ordination.

Item #2 We also met with Rev Billy Outland pastor of the Hazel Dell and recommend that his credentials be accepted pending a letter of good standing from the Southern Quarterly of the Cumberland Association of Tennessee signed Mike Russell, Cary Adams and Juan Ryan.

Motion sustained to receive the report and act upon item by item.

Item #1 was for information only.

Item #2 Motion that Clerk write request letter. (Letter written 1st part of Nov.)

Resolutions Committee Report

We the Resolutions Committee recommend the following -

Item #1 The letter from Mascota be accepted and acted upon by this body. (See this letter stapled to this page).

Item #2 That ~~the~~ ~~ladies~~ Bear Point F.W.B. Church and their ladies be granted a standing vote of thanks for hosting the Quarterly Meeting and also for the delicious meal we will be eating later and especially for the delicious local meals for all diets.

Item #3 That a standing vote of thanks be given for all officers of our Quarterly. Signed Cle Leonard, Jane Hamant, Gilberto Harris

Motion sustained to receive the report and act upon item by item.

Item #1 Motion to ~~accept~~ ^{accept} letter from Mascota Church. a standing vote 27 in favor 9 opposed. Motion carried

Item #2 ~~Motion~~ Accepted and a standing vote of thank to Bear Point.

Item #3 Motion sustained with a standing vote of thank to officers of Quarterly

Business Committee Report

Item #1 We recommend acceptance of letter of withdrawal sent from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Granite City with regrets. ^{Signed Jim Dillan} Cliff Hicks + D. Malone

Item #2. We recommend a committee of five (5) men including Moderator Asst Moderator and Clerk and two (2) to be elected from the floor to investigate and make recommendations back to this Quarterly meeting concerning Pastoral Problem at the Harmony West City Church. Signed Jim Dillan Dan Malone and Clifford Hicks

Item #3 a recommendation was made to expunge the letter sent from the Nason Church concerning the handling of the matter at the Harmony West City Church for Dan Malone against Clifford Hicks None vote Jim Dillan Motion sustained to receive the report and act upon item by item.

Item #1 Motion sustained to accept

Item #2 Motion sustained accept Everett Pierce and Clifford Hicks elected to serve on committee.

Item #3 Objection to and Motion
that item #3 Not be considered
standing vote 23 for 2 against
Nominating Committee
Moderator - Larry Cook
Asst. Mod. - Guy Leonard
Clerk - Ed Shum
Business Comm. - David Malone
Exam Comm. - Ivan Ryan
Treasurer - Randall Steelman
Motion sustained to receive report
and open floor for nominations
to fill the remaining term ^{of Perry} ~~of Perry~~ ^{of Perry} ~~of Perry~~ ^{of Perry} ~~of Perry~~
in business Committee. Emerette Pierce
was nominated. Motion ~~is~~ sustained
that nominations cease & and
all be elected as nominated
& dismissed in prayer by Bro
Mike Russell.

Larry Cook Moderator
Ed Shum Clerk
Approved 1-16-88