

65th Minutes
Of The
West Florida
Free Will Baptists
Association
2014

Directory

First Free Will Baptist Church

412 Wiggins Ave.

Pensacola, FL 32505

(850) 433-7321

Pastor: Jeremy Craft

Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church

5410 County Road 99

Century, FL 32525

(850) 327-6460

Pastor: Kevin Stott

65th Annual Session of the West Florida Free Will Baptist Association

Hosting Church: Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist

February 7, 2014

The 65th Annual Session of the West Florida District was held at Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church in Pensacola, FL. The meeting was called to order by the moderator, John Pinson.

Churches Reporting: First Church, Soul's Harbor, Shiloh

Opening prayer was given by John McCall. **MSC** to accept the six standing delegates and nine appointed delegates. There were 15 delegates total. **MSC** to accept the recommendation of the ordination council to have Jeremy Craft, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, ordained.

Bro. Tim welcomed everyone and led in worship. Ezra Caynor, pastor of Damascus Free Will Baptist Church in Marianna, FL., read Scripture from Isaiah 52:7 and briefly gave comments regarding the role of the pastor to preach the good news. Randy Bryant preached a sermon on the focus of the pastor and the church. The sermon text was Hebrews 13:1-7, 17. He said that churches are so demanding that no one can measure up. He talked about the pastor's responsibility to the church and the church's responsibility to the pastor. The pastor should be scripturally prepared, sincere in prayer, strong preaching, sound pattern, and solid leadership. Regarding the church's responsibility to the pastor, the people have the responsibility to follow him, should favor him, fulfill his request, finance him, and fortify him.

Afterward, Bro. John Pinson briefly questioned Bro. Jeremy Craft before the association regarding his commitment to Free Will Baptist doctrine and his calling as a pastor. He then called upon all ordained pastors and deacons present to lay hands on him and commission him to fulfill to the office of pastor. Bro. Tim Dederick led in the commissioning prayer.

Appointment of Committees:

- Credentials Committee: Chairman Jeremy Craft, Brett Williams, John McCall
- Nominating Committee: Chairman John McCall, Tim Dederick, Jeremy Craft
- Appreciation Committee: Chairman Linda Ward, Elaine Wiggins, Mr. Peebles
- Obituary Committee: Chairman Kevin Stott, Mrs. Peebles, Edward Ward

Dismissed for dinner.

Business Meeting

Bro. Pinson called the meeting to order.

Clerks Report: Stands Approved as Read.

MSC to accept Treasurer's report.

Credentials Committee: Mike McCall reported that there were fifteen delegates total for the meeting.

Appreciation Committee: Appreciation was shown to Soul's Harbor for hosting the meeting. Stand as read.

Obituary Committee: Kevin Stott reported Milton Conner and Sandra Henderson of First FWB Church had passed. He reported that Bernice Barfield of Shiloh had passed. Bro. Kevin shared Scripture and thanked everyone for the prayers regarding the passing of his mother. Bro. Kevin lead in prayer regarding the deceased.

Camp Board Report: Report given by Roger Cross, Asst. Chairman. He reported that the camp received damage from 5-6 feet of rain. Mentioned a hole in the ceiling of the dorm and mildew problems with the roof. Squirrels came in and pulled insulation out. Church parsonage needs metal to put on the roof. Work must be done on the pool. He submitted the treasurer's report from the camp. He made a request for the association to up its monthly giving and that we give them \$3,000-\$5,000 to get the camp of ahead on its finances.

Bro. Tim Dederick made note of the spring youth retreat in order to get kids geared up for camp. He gave out camp applications and announced that fees would be raised. He also informed us about volunteer forms for staff and is also contacting other associations to bring about awareness of Camp Mt. Pleasant's need of financial support. **MSC** to accept the report.

State Report: Randy Bryant gave his report concerning the State Association's work. There was a total of 58 people for the ministers cruise. He mentioned various dates concerning state functions. Seventieth Annual Meeting will be on April 23-26. Celebrating the past and charting the future is the theme. It will focus on the history of Florida State Association with a discussion panel hosted by Matt Pinson. Hose Rodriguez and Ben Hull will be speaking.

He reported that the state mission works were doing well. West Palm church plant is still seeking property. A bid was placed on a piece of property. He asked for prayer regarding the purchase. The Vero Beach work has a new church planter. Alfredo Truao would take Yoans place. Alfredo will be a tent maker. The mission board will provide his housing, but he will have to find a job. The state finished a few dollars below budget. Mission shares acquired 58% of its budget. He also reported that the International Missions Board finished \$500,000 below budget. All agencies are below budget. He informed us that the missionaries cannot go back to the field until funds come up.

Regarding the Alabama Children's Home, he reported that the home hired a new couple as house parents. They will move in March. The McNeal's will be full-time parents. They need more children. Requested that the home be contacted if people know of any children that need to be taken in. Requested that the association pray that the Lord will give them more children now that they have adequate housing.

MSC to accept the Executive Board's report and to vote on each item individually.

- **MSC** to change treasurer's report to show that \$2,500 given Project Tallahassee come from the general fund instead of the home missions fund.
- **MSC** to pay for ordination Bible presented to Jeremy Craft
- **MSC** to send Rachel Williams to send \$1,500 to cover her expenses for being a part of the Youth Evangelistic Team.
- **MSC** to send \$500 to Soul's Harbor FWB for their St. Croix mission trip.

Old Business

MSC to take the motion to change the 10% tithe that the constitution requires from each church within the association from being "mandated" to being "recommended" off the table. Bro. Tim made discussion reemphasizing what he said in the previous meeting. Bro. John McCall said that the 10% tithe helps provide accountability for churches in giving to the cooperative program. He said that each church has a responsibility to support the ministries of its denomination. Mr. Peebles concurred with Bro. McCall. Tim Dederick wanted to emphasize that this is not about their church doing their own thing or going their own way. Jennifer Williams asked that we not stir the waters with this amendment in order to provide the association with more stability since it is in a weakened state currently. Roger Cross said that our constitution is inadequate and we are prone to a lawsuit. Jeremy Craft noted that Soul's Harbor motion to change the required 10% tithe would not make things better and would eventually erode giving overtime. He pointed out that Soul's Harbor was aware of the association's requirement to give to the cooperative program when they first entered into the association. He argued that a percentage tithe best allows for flexibility as each church's budget rises and falls from year to year.

Vote was called. Three delegates voted for the constitutional change. Eleven delegates voted against it. The motion did not carry.

New Business

- **Nominating Committee:** **MSC** to place Bro. Kevin Stott on the ordination counsel. Other nominations could not be made until the vote of the constitutional change for the 10% tithe had been made.
- **MSC** to give Camp Mt. Pleasant \$2,000 from the youth fund to help get the camp ahead on its finances going into the summer.
- **MSC** to double the monthly amount that the association gives to Camp Mt. Pleasant from being \$75 to \$150.
- **MSC** to adjourn the meeting.

65th Bi-Annual Meeting of the West Florida Free Will Baptist Association

September 12, 2014

Host Church: Shiloh Free Will Baptist

Worship Service

Bro. Kevin Stott welcomed everyone to the 65th Bi-Annual Meeting and led in music. Bro. Clark led in our opening prayer. Special Music was given by Bro. Stott. Jeremy Craft, pastor of First FWB Church, preached the sermon. He preached from Psalm 73 entitled, "Changing Perspective." He talked of the Christian's need to look at God's perspective if we are to understand the prosperity of the wicked. From our perspective the vantage point is skewed, keeping us from seeing clearly. From God's perspective, however, we see that the prosperity of the wicked is short-lived and that God has set them on the slippery slope of destruction. We were encouraged to continue to look from God's perspective in order to see his providential hand work in both our own lives and the lives of those who turn away from the Lord. An offering of \$127.00 was taken up and sent to the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Appointment of Committees

- Credentials Committee: Bret Williams, John McCall
- Appreciation Committee: Jennifer Williams, Lisa McCall

Business Meeting

Meeting called to order by Moderator John Pinson. Bro. Judson opened in prayer.

MSC to seat the delegates. Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church did not have delegates seated since the church was not in good standing since they had ceased to pay into the cooperative program as required by the association's constitution and by-laws.

Clerk Report given by Jeremy Craft. Correction was to the minutes to say that Bernice Barfield had passed, not Bernice Barlow. **MSC**

MSC to accept to the Treasurer's Report as given by Lisa McCall.

State Report: The state report was presented by Tim Owen, pastor at Pine Grove FWB Church in Chipley, FL. He reported that the total of State finances are behind budget in cooperative program and significantly behind in Mission Shares. He announced the Senior Summit. The Christian Worker's would be November 7-8. Steve Greenwood would speak on children's ministry at the conference. Brought forms for people.

Camp Report: Lisa Cross from Soul's Harbor FWB Church served as a representative to give the camp report. She talked about the roof collapsing when other groups had rented the camp out. Squirrels chewing on the AC lines caused

water to leak on the ceiling in girl's dorm. The ceiling eventually fell in because of the water damage. Fifteen trees were lost because of the excessive rain. Bro. Cliff Donoho was elected as the camp board director in light of Tim Dederick's resignation. Bro. Donoho has made clear his intent to get the camp into the black financially.

The camp needs \$1300.00 to cover the monthly expenses of camp. Sister Cross encouraged the association to help with workdays. She asked that we not only give as an association, but also encouraged the each local church and individual to do so too. The camp is having a logo design contest. Whoever wins the contest gets a \$50.00 gift car.

Fundraisers are being held for the camp. The parsonage needs new roof, which will cost \$2500.00. The termite damage will cost \$1700.00 to treat. They are having a workday to finish painting certain buildings in the camp. The other two associations are having a Walk-a-thon in Marianna, FL. to raise money for the camp. Camp has \$1600.00 on hand, but owes roughly \$1600.00 (this is an estimate) to Beulah FWB for reimbursing to help the camp cover summer costs. Report was given for information.

Old Business

MSC to cover all but \$10.00 of the registration fee for anyone in the association who wants to attend the Christian Worker's conference.

MSC to pay 15% of Brittany Walker's tuition for Welch College.

MSC to have Jeremy Craft elected as clerk for the association.

Nominating Committee

- **MSC** to have Jeremy Craft placed on the ordination council.

Credentials Committee

- Report given by Brett Williams.

Appreciation Committee

- Jennifer Williams thanked Shiloh FWB Church on behalf of the association for hosting the meeting.

New Business

MSC to give Camp Mt. Pleasant \$1000.00 out of the general to help get the camp caught up out on its finances. Concerns were also raised about financial accountability of the camp. Many made known their request for the camp to send us a financial report for the monthly expenditures of the camp.

Announcements

First FWB Church has a BBQ sale on October 10th and revival services on October 26th-29th.

Workday for the Camp Mt. Pleasant is on September 20th.

MSC to adjourn the meeting.

Dismissed in prayer.

65th Annual Meeting of the West Florida Association

Executive Board Meeting

February 7, 2014

Host: Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. John Pinson opened the meeting by reading from Philippians 2. Bret Williams then opened our meeting in prayer.

Minutes read by Bro. Jeremy Craft. Stood approved as read.

MSC to accept the treasurer's report by Lisa McCall.

Lisa McCall informed the Executive board that the \$2500 that was voted upon to send to church planter Cliff Donoho was taken out of general fund instead of the home missions fund in order to allow the money in the missions account to continue to accrue interest. **MSC** to amend the report, showing that the \$2500 sent to Cliff Donoho was taken out of the general fund instead of the home missions fund.

Board acknowledged that Brittany Walker, a member of Soul's Harbor FWB, was attending Welch College for the semester.

MSC to pay for the Bible bought for Jeremy Craft's ordination.

MSC to send \$1500 out of the youth fund to pay for Rachel Williams to participate in the 2014 Youth Evangelistic Team going to Colorado and Utah.

MSC to give \$500 from the youth fund to Soul's Harbor FWB to cover the costs of some individuals for their missions trip at the St. Croix mission work.

Board recommended that the evening offering would be given to Bro. Randy Bryant.

MSC to close the meeting.

65th Bi-Annual Meeting
Executive Board Meeting
Sept 12, 2014

Bro. John Pinson shared from Mt 5:13-15. He pointed out that we are the light of the world, a city set on a hill. We are all the light of the world and it's our responsibility to carry the God's message forward.

Bro. Jeremy reading of the minutes. **MSC**

The board recommends that the offering go to Tim Owen to cover his expenses to cover traveling expenses.

Lisa Cross from Soul's Harbor FWB reported that Camp Mt. Pleasant is in the red. We have \$1664.00 and we owe \$1652.85 to Beulah for reimbursement costs. The roof on the parsonage needs replacing and the church needs termite treatment. Given for information.

Question arose as to what Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church's purpose was for sending their dues for the National Association to the West Florida Association. It was made clear that the association could not accept the church's dues because they were not in good standing with the association since they had not paid into the cooperative program as required by the district's constitution. It was clarified to Soul's Harbor (represented by Lisa Cross) that they would not be recognized by the National Association unless they are considered to be in good standing with a local association, regardless of what association it was.

Board Recommendations:

MSC to accept the Treasurer's report given by Lisa McCall. An update was given on the funds. This is not a total report. Interest from the Home Missions fund goes to the general fund.

MSC that the executive board recommend that all but \$10.00 be paid for the registration to the Christian Worker's Conference on Nov. 7-8, 2014.

MSC to cover 15% of Brittany Walker's tuition for Welch College

MSC to adjourn. Mike McCall closed in prayer.

WEST FLORIDA FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

1/1/14 to 12/31/14

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT

Balance Brought Forward	\$12,704.78
Received Co-Op	\$2,701.00
Received Dues, Interest, Misc.	<u>\$2,481.55</u>
TOTAL MONEY	\$17,887.33
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$7,965.67</u>
BALANCE	\$9,921.66

DISTRICT ENRICHMENT FUND

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,008.05
Received Co-Op	<u>\$900.33</u>
TOTAL MONEY	\$3,908.38
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$1,091.89</u>
BALANCE	\$2,816.49

YOUTH FUND

Balance Brought Forward	\$6,733.58
Received Co-Op	<u>\$1,800.66</u>
TOTAL MONEY	\$8,534.24
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$5,580.00</u>
BALANCE	\$2,954.24

DISASTER FUND

Balance Brought Forward	\$3,730.02
Received	<u>\$-</u>
TOTAL MONEY	\$3,730.02
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$-</u>
BALANCE	\$3,730.02

HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT

Balance Brought Forward	\$30,809.37
Received	<u>\$-</u>
TOTAL MONEY	\$30,809.37
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$-</u>
BALANCE	\$30,809.37

TOTAL MONEY ON HAND FOR ALL ACCOUNTS	\$50,231.78
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BANK BALANCE	\$3,144.07
FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION	<u>\$47,087.71</u>
TOTAL	\$50,231.78

MINISTER'S RETIREMENT

Received from Co-op	\$-
Disbursed	<u>\$-</u>

WEST FLORIDA WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

Received from Co-op	\$450.15
Disbursed	<u>\$450.15</u>

CO-OP AND DUES RECEIVED	Co-Op	Dues	Total
First Church	\$3,030.00	\$300.00	\$3,330.00
Shiloh	\$4,910.33	\$300.00	\$5,210.33
Soul’s Harbor	<u>\$1,063.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$1,363.00</u>
TOTAL	\$9,003.33	\$900.00	\$9,903.33

EXPENSE GENERAL FUND	
Camp Mt. Pleasant	\$2,725.00
District Treasurer	\$720.00
Welch College (Brittany Walker)	\$3,254.02
Randy Bryant (District Mtg. Offering)	\$100.00
John Pinson (Reimburse Bible for Jeremy Craft)	\$104.65
First FWB Church (Reimburse Dues paid for Soul’s Harbor)	\$300.00
Stop Payment Fee ck #1285	\$35.00
Florida State Assoc. of FWB (District Mtg. Offering)	\$127.00
Florida State Assoc. of FWB (Dues)	<u>\$600.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$7,965.67

DISTRICT ENRICHMENT EXPENSE	
State Meeting Expenses	\$851.89
Christian Workers’ Conference	<u>\$240.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,091.89

YOUTH FUND EXPENSE	
First Church (State Competition)	\$360.00
Florida State Association (State Competition Registration)	\$410.00
First Church (National Competition)	\$810.00
Rachel Williams (YET Team) Registration	\$1,500.00
Soul’s Harbor FWB Church (Youth Missions Trip)	\$500.00
Camp Mt. Pleasant (District Mtg. Vote)	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$5,580.00

DISASTER FUND EXPENSE	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$-

HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$-

Respectfully Submitted: Lisa R. McCall

Church Report 2014

	Membership	Sunday School	CTS	Women Active for Christ	Master's Men	Received Tithes and Offerings
First	68	33	36	X	X	40,151.33
Shiloh	169	30	X	X	X	54,892.51

Constitution and By-Laws

Article 1: Name

This association shall be known as the West Florida Free Will Baptist Association.

Article 2: Membership

Section I. This association shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Free Will Baptist churches conveniently as may embody themselves under this constitution.

Section II. Any church regularly organized may, by petition, by delegation, become members of this association provided they adhere to Free Will Baptist Doctrine and fully support the benevolent and educational enterprises of the denomination.

Section III. Churches from other Free Will Baptist Associations desiring membership must present a letter of recommendation from the association of which they were previously a member.

Article 3: Officers

Officers shall be composed of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and Ordaining Council. Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer will be elected annually.

Article 4: Representation

Section I. Each church of this association shall be entitled to one vote and one vote for each additional twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof.

Section II. All churches of this association are to be represented at the regularly scheduled meetings by delegates and letter, to conduct the business of the association affecting the churches and the association.

Section III. All ordained ministers and decisions, in good standing with the association, and the West Florida Associational officers shall serve as standing delegates.

Article 5: Ordaining Council (Presbytery)

This council shall be composed of five members, elected by the association to serve a period of two years each. The moderator is also automatically a member of the council and the Assistant Moderator is authorized to sit on the council which it convenes, if the moderator is absent.

Article 6: Boards and Committees

Section I. The Executive Board shall be comprised of the ordained pastor from each church in good standing with the district along with one church elected member, to serve at the church's discretion, from each church in good standing with the district (Updated 2/5/2010). The members of all standing boards exclusive of this Executive Board shall be elected as follows: the first named for a period of one year, the second named for a period of two years, and the third named for a period of three years. Succession of office thereafter shall be determined, as order requires.

Section II. The Moderator and the Assistant Moderator will have the privilege to sit on Executive Board meetings and to moderate the meeting. The clerk and treasurer shall be present as voting members. (Changed from non-voting 9/12/08)

Section III. The Executive Board shall have the power to act in behalf of and for the Association from one regular session to another, and shall have the power to elect such officers, except the moderator, as may be necessary for its own government and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the Association. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to make written reports of all its work to each annual session of the Association.

Section IV. The duties of the various standing boards shall be to plan a program and regulate their work as may become necessary and as may be found in harmony with the principals and tenets of the Association.

Article 7: Meetings

Scheduled Associational Meetings will be as follows: The Association Annual Meeting will be held the first Friday night in February. Report period January 1-December 31. The Bi-Annual Meeting will be held the second Friday night in September.

Article 8: Finances

Section I. Each Church of the Association shall be responsible for sharing the financial obligation of the Association by paying into the treasury the tithe (10%) of their income.

Section II. A \$50.00 fee per church will be assessed at the annual meeting and the bi-annual meeting.

Section III. Total cooperative income of the West Florida Association will be disbursed by a finance committee and approval by the body. The Finance Committee shall consist of the Executive Board Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer to be presented at the Executive Board Meetings concerning Finances.

Section IV. A Love Offering of \$100.00 shall be given from the General Fund to the Moderator and Clerk at the Annual Association Meeting. The Assistant Moderator and the Assistant Clerk shall be a given \$50.00 Love Offering. The Treasurer will be paid monthly an amount to be determined by the Association from the General Fund. Expense incurred to fulfill the duties of the offices shall be paid from the General Fund. Expenses incurred carrying out the duties to the Association

by others appointed a duty, will be paid, after approval of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer, from General Fund.

Section V. Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk will compose the Audit Committee for purposes of reviewing the Treasurer's books each year.

Article 9: Discipline

Section I. This association shall have power to discipline churches of which it is composed and to exclude them for disorderly walk if they practice doctrine contrary to Bible principles and standards to those of the Free Will Baptist Treatise.

Section II. This association shall not have the right to reverse the decision of the individual church nor to interfere with its internal regulations.

Section III. All churches of this association shall call as their pastors only duly licensed or ordained Free Will Baptists ministers.

Section IV. All ministers entering this association from another denomination or seeking ordination shall walk before this association one year before being fully and officially accepted or ordained into the associational ministry. All ministers coming into the association from another Free Will Baptist Association shall be re-examined by the Ordaining Council and shall be required to bring a letter of recommendation from the association in which they served.

Section II. The purpose of the Council is to license and ordain ministers after due examination as to their qualifications and to try all ordained members for unchristian conduct or the teaching of doctrine contrary of the Free Will Baptist faith. This council will convene upon the request of any church in this association.

Article 10: By-Laws:

This Association shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-laws, not inconsistent with this association, which may be deemed essential to the further regulations of its session.

Article 11: Amendments

This constitution may be altered or amended by the vote at the association at any regular any regular session; notice of such intended alterations of amendments having been given in writing and recorded the previous sessions.

Article 12: Quorum

Representatives from two (2) member church shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business of the association at scheduled meeting.

Article 13: Home Missions Fund

Section I. Missions and churches receiving financial support from this board must be Free Will Baptists who prove themselves sound in doctrine and practices as Free Will Baptists.

Section II. Missions and churches receiving financial support from this board shall consider this board as an advisory body in such matters as the selection of a pastor and further financial obligation.

Section III. Any work receiving financial support must agree to support the denominational cooperative program.

Section IV. Any work receiving financial support must accept such as a loan on terms and conditions agreed upon by them and the board as set forth in the constitution and such information shall be made available to them and fully understood by those receiving the support.

Section V. Proper security must be granted the board for loans received. First Mortgage is desired but second mortgage may be accepted; however, no loan shall be granted in excess of the appraised value of the property. Interest shall be paid at the rate of 6% per annum. Monthly payments shall be paid at the rate of \$10.00 per \$1,000.00 loaned.

Section VI. Missions or churches receiving financial support must be in good standing with the West Florida Association and must have a pastor in good standing with the West Florida Association and must have a pastor in good standing with the West Florida Free Will Baptist Association.

Section VII. And agreement must be understood between the borrower and the board that in the event financial obligations cannot be met, rights to the property must be relinquished, said rights shall turned over to the Executive Board and the decision of the Board in regards to the property shall be final.

Section VIII. Contracts shall be considered delinquent when three (3) successive payments have not been met. It shall be determined by the board if contracts maybe held valid and open for a longer period of time.

Section IX. The Executive Board shall have the right by majority vote to purchase property in desirable locations when there is good potential for organizing a Free Will Baptist church. This action shall of necessity be subject to the availability of funds. In such matters full title property. Organizational work under such conditions shall be under complete supervision of the Executive Board.