

67th Minutes

Of The

West Florida

Free Will Baptists

Association

2016

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

Officers:

Moderator: John Pinson

Assistant Moderator: Kevin Stott

Clerk: Jeremy Craft

Assistant Clerk: Linda Ward

Treasurer: Lisa McCall

67th Annual Session of West Florida Association of Free Will Baptists

February 5, 2016

Host: First Free Will Baptist Church

Worship Service

Bro. Jeremy Craft welcomed everyone to 67th Annual Session. Bro. John Pinson led music. The offering received was \$103.00. Bro. Kevin Stott preached from Galatians 6:1-5. He talked about the needs for our churches to bear one another's burdens. It is God's intention for all of us to lend a hand. We should be proactive in finding ways to help. We should not just be concerned about ourselves, but about others on the local, state, and national level. Invitation was given in order to allow people to respond. Twenty-five were in attendance.

Appointment of Committees:

- Credentials Committee: Chr. David Johnson, Edward Ward, John McCall
- Appreciation Committee: Chr. Jackie Johnson, Lisa McCall, Alix Nielsen
- Nominating Committee: Chr. Kevin Stott, Mike McCall, Jeremy Craft
- Obituary Committee: Chr. Maxine McCall, Linda Ward, Edward Ward

Break for Dinner

Business Session

Bro. John Pinson called session to order.

State Report: Randy Bryant brought the state report. The State Association meeting has the theme of discipleship. Tim Owen, Ron Hunter, and Rev. Mac Brunson from First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida will be speaking. The Christians Workers Conference is scheduled in November. David Crowe is speaking on church revitalization.

Financially, it was a horrible year. The State Cooperative Program was \$25,000 below budget. Mission Shares was also \$55,000 below budget. The mission work in Melbourne is doing well. The West Palm Beach is back up to an average of forty people in attendance. Cliff Donoho resigned from the church in Tallahassee. It was reported that several were moving out and others were moving to other churches. January 31st was the last service.

Project Encouragement Japan will allow the missionaries to come together, worship, plan, and pray. They have not been able to do this in 6 years. There is a need for the missionary children to get instruction in English during this retreat. The deadline is February 28th. Sister Bryant will fly over to help teach the children.

The Alabama Children's Home currently has 18 children and is seeking more. The Toy Run Fundraiser raised over \$100,000. This was the largest amount they have raised to date. They are still looking for a new director.

Seating of the Delegates:

Standing delegates: 6

Church Delegates: 5

MSC to receive the delegates.

Reading of the minutes by Bro. Jeremy Craft. Stood approved as read.

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

MSC to accept Credentials Committee's report given by Bro. David Johnson.

MSC to accept the Appreciation Committee's report given by Sis. Jackie Johnson for First Church hosting and showing their hospitality.

MSC to accept the Obituary Committee's report given by Sis. Maxine McCall. She reported that there were no deaths in either churches.

Nominating Committee made the following nominations:

- Moderator: John Pinson
- Asst. Moderation: Kevin Stott
- Clerk: Jeremy Craft
- Asst. Clerk: Linda Ward
- Treasurer: Lisa McCall

MSC to accept all nominees to the appointed positions.

Old Business:

There was no old business to deal with.

New Business:

MSC for the evening offering go toward Project Encourage Japan.

Point of information made by Jeremy Craft that we meet together for purposes fellowship and mutual encouragement.

MSC to adjourn meeting.

67th Bi-annual Meeting
September 9, 2016
Host: Shiloh FWB Church

The singing was led by Brother Tim Owen. Special Music was given by Fay Faircloth. Offering was \$85.00. Bro. Jeremy Craft preached from Joshua 1:1-9. He talked about the need to hold fast to God's promises because God has guaranteed our success if we follow his plan according to his means.

Meeting called to order by John Pinson

Seating of the delegates. Standing Delegates: 5, Appointed Delegates: 4

Credentials Committee: Mike McCall, Willie Peebles

Appreciation Committee: Linda Pinson, Mary Qualls

Meeting called to order by John Pinson.

Reading of the minutes given by Jeremy Craft. Stood approved as read.

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

MSC to accept the Credentials Committee brought by Mike McCall.

Sister Linda Pinson showed appreciation for Shiloh's hospitality.

Tim Owen gave the state report on behalf of Randy Bryant. He also gave a report for the state mission board. He reported that the Florida Coordinator is going digital. The Christian Worker's Conference is taking place in Destin. Both North American Ministries and the Executive Office are both focusing on church revitalization. He encouraged us to invite laymen to the conference. The Senior Summit was in October. Dr. Riggs and Jo Jones would conduct it.

He spoke about the Mission Shares program. The Edgemonds would come stateside. Joel and Lydie Teague are being brought on to the program. The West Palm Beach church is in need of a building. Lazaro and Ariandna Riesgo are educators for Latin America.

Executive Board reported that Soul's Harbor FWB requested a letter of standing be sent to the Florida State Association. The board approved a letter on behalf of the association. The board's approved letter was read to the delegates.

The board also approved that Kevin Stott be given \$2000 for medical expenses incurred. MSC to accept the report.

MSC that the evening offering go to Welch College's capital campaign, Building on the Legacy.

MSC for the association to pay all but \$10.00 of the registration fee for those who wish to attend the Christian Worker’s conference in Destin.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

MSC to adjourn meeting.

Executive Board Meeting
February 5, 2016
Host: First Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. John Pinson called the meeting to order.

Devotional from Psalm 105.

Bro. Edward Ward opened in prayer.

Jeremy Craft read minutes. Minutes approved as read.

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

Old Business

Jeremy Craft made an update about the associational situation. He said that it appears that Soul's Harbor and Beulah FWB will be forming an association.

New Business

Evening offering was going to project encouragement Japan.

Mike McCall adjourned in prayer.

Executive Board Meeting
April 25, 2016

On April 25th via email confirmation, the Executive Board unanimously approved and sent a letter of standing for Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida to the Florida State Association. The letter is as follows:

To the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists,

The West Florida Association of Free Will Baptists has voted to send a formal letter acknowledging that Soul's Harbor Free Will Baptist Church is no longer a part of the association. The church is not in good standing with our association by default of not contributing ten percent of the church's budget to the cooperative program as prescribed by the district's constitution and by-laws. This by-law has been a part of our constitution for years and is the means by which we seek to fund ministries that we believe to be vital for the effectiveness of not only our local district, but also our state and national associations. Only in recent years has this become an issue of concern with Soul's Harbor Church after being a part of our association for several decades. It is not our desire that our sister church leave our association and form another one that will be in relative proximity to our own. This would be, we believe, counterproductive to the unity of the churches in our area.

We believe that unless the association votes to amend its constitution (in which such an amendment, though motioned, did not pass by vote), every church a part of the association is expected to comply with its constitution, even in cases of strong disagreement. The only exception to this rule is if the association has violated the autonomy of the local church, or has condoned either doctrinal or immoral teachings that are in violation to Holy Scripture and our *Treatise*. The association has done none of these things.

Furthermore, considering the fact that Soul's Harbor has willingly been a part of our association for many years under its *current constitution* until February 2014, we do not understand why this has become problematic for them in recent years. We have attempted to resolve this issue, and would attempt to do so again if it be the wish of the church. It is our desire that we reunite with our sister church, since she has been an important, contributing member to the strength and health of our association.

With that being said, there are no moral or doctrinal grounds upon which they have violated our constitution. Instead, they automatically defaulted their good standing by not contributing to the cooperative program as required by the constitution. We humbly respect their decision to depart from our association if they deem fit, and we will continue to prayerfully support their work for Christ's kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Jeremy Craft, Clerk
The West Florida Association of Free Will Baptists

Executive Board Meeting
June 20, 2016

On June 20, 2016, the board voted to give Bro. Kevin Stott \$2000.00 in order to assist him financially for medical expenses incurred.

Executive Board Meeting
September 9, 2016
Host Church: Shiloh FWB Church

Meeting called to order by Bro. John Pinson. The devotion was from Joshua 1:9. He encouraged to be strong and of good courage. God promises to help us when he has called us to a task.

Mike McCall opened in prayer.

Minutes read by Jeremy Craft. Stood approved as read.

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

MSC to have the evening offering go to Welch College on the Building of the Legacy campaign for Welch College.

MSC that the association cover all but \$10 of the Christian Workers Conference

Information about beginning a scholarship program for students to attend Welch College.

Lisa McCall adjourned in prayer.

**WEST FLORIDA FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
TREASURER'S REPORT
1/1/16 to 12/31/16**

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT

Balance Brought Forward	\$7,192.46
Received Co-Op (25%)	\$1,611.14
Received Dues, Interest, Misc.	<u>\$2,041.71</u>
TOTAL MONEY	\$10,845.31
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$5,768.70</u>
BALANCE	\$5,076.61

DISTRICT ENRICHMENT FUND

Balance Brought Forward	\$2,791.11
Received Co-Op (10%)	<u>\$644.44</u>
TOTAL MONEY	\$3,435.55
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$775.00</u>
BALANCE	\$2,660.55

YOUTH FUND

Balance Brought Forward	\$4,323.48
Received Co-Op (20%)	<u>\$1,288.88</u>
TOTAL MONEY	\$5,612.36
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$-</u>
BALANCE	\$5,612.36

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

<i>TOTAL MONEY ON HAND FOR ALL ACCOUNTS</i>	\$47,888.91
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<i>BANK BALANCE</i>	\$4,100.87
<i>FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION</i>	<u>\$43,788.04</u>
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$47,888.91

<i>CO-OP AND DUES RECEIVED</i>	Co-Op	Dues	Total
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First Church	\$3,293.00	\$300.00	\$3,593.00
Shiloh	<u>\$3,151.31</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$3,451.31</u>
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$6,444.31	\$600.00	\$7,044.31

EXPENSE GENERAL FUND

District Treasurer			\$900.00
Welch College (Brittany Walker)			\$1,833.30
Welch College (District Mtg. Offering)			\$85.00
John Pinson, Moderator			\$100.00
Jeremy Craft, Secretary			\$100.00
Project Japan (District Mtg. Offering)			\$103.00
Florida State Assoc. of FWB (Dues)			\$600.00
Kevin Stott (Medical Expenses)			\$2,000.00
Stamps			\$47.00
Debit to correct check posting error			\$0.40
<i>TOTAL EXPENSE</i>			\$5,768.70

DISTRICT ENRICHMENT EXPENSE

Christian Workers' Conference			<u>\$775.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE			\$775.00

YOUTH FUND EXPENSE

TOTAL EXPENSE			\$-
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DISASTER FUND EXPENSE

TOTAL EXPENSE			\$-
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HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT

TOTAL EXPENSE			\$-
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CAMP MT PLEASANT			\$966.36
TOTAL DONATIONS			

Respectfully Submitted: Lisa R. McCall

**Church Report
2016**

	Membership	Sunday School	CTS	Women Active for Christ	Master's Men	Budget
First	69	29	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$32,515.31
Shiloh	167	23	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$46,770.83

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 form 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 practice 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.