

The
West Fork Association
of
Free Will Baptists

1943

Convened at
Weatherford, Texas

MINUTES

OF THE

WEST FORK ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

Weatherford, Texas, August 31 to September 3, 1943

OFFICERS

Moderator	C. B. Thompson	Ft. Worth, Texas
Ass't. Mod.	M. L. Sutton	Arlington, Texas
Clerk	W. D. Phillips	Decatur, Texas
Treas.	Mrs. W. D. Phillips	Decatur, Texas

The next annual session of this Association will be held with the church at Commanche, Texas, beginning on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1944.

Rev. C. B. Thompson is to preach the introductory sermon.

Free Will Baptist Gem, 211 Bond St., Monett, Missouri

PROCEEDINGS

The 54th Annual Session of the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptist churches met with the Weatherford Church on August 31, to September 3, 1943.

In the absence of Bro. Gaines to preach the introductory sermon, Rev. Tiff Covington brought the message, by reading verse 36 of the 18th chapter of St. John, using the subject "Our Fight for the Growth of the Kingdom."

The session was dismissed with prayer to meet again Wednesday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Moderator Rev. C. B. Thompson called the house to order.

Prayer by Bro. Covington.

Devotional service was led by Sister Cox, reading Psalms 1st and 23rd chapters.

The Moderator declared the Association open and ready for the transaction of business.

Letters were called for and responded to by the following churches:

New Salem Church, by delegate	\$ 3.00
Gartner View Church, by delegate	4.00
Commanche Church, by delegate	2.00
First Church (Dallas), by delegate	3.00
First Church (Ft. Worth), by delegate	3.00
Pleasant Mound, by delegate	5.00
Trinity Church (Ft. Worth), by delegate	88.91
New Hope Church, by delegate	2.00
Weatherford Church, by delegate	3.00

Total \$113.91

It was voted to seat the delegates and the hand of fellowship was given them by the moderator. It was then voted the program be taken up and any changes could be made that the committee seen necessary to make.

The minutes of the preceding year were read and adopted.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The 11 o'clock session was called together by a song, then a special quartett. Bro. Winters filled the stand by reading the first 21 verses of the 3rd chapter of John. Subject: "Faith in Our Saviour". The meeting closed for the lunch hour by prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

After a good spread was enjoyed by all we were called together by song.

Devotional was led by Sister Hodges by reading John the 4th chapter.

Prayer by Bro. Tiff Covington.

After a good testimonial meeting our Moderator, Rev. C. B. Thompson, declared the Association open for the transaction of business. The committee that was appointed for buying a tent, made their report and the committee was retained. Bro. H. H. Killough was made treasurer of this committee. His address being 2217 Azle Ave., Ft. Worth, Texas. Each church subscribed liberally to be sent in at once. It was voted that the Home Mission Board have control of the tent when purchased.

Our next State Association will be held with the Gartner View Church near Commanche, Texas, on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in November, 1943.

Bro. C. B. Thompson gave the report and interesting talk on Home Missions. A recommendation was made that we go back to our churches and make a liberal donation the Home Mission work.

Report on ladies work was made by Sister Ferguson. An interesting talk was made by her and it was voted to receive the report and retain her on the committee.

Motion to adjourn until the night service was made.

The quartet rendered a beautiful song dedicated to Bro. and Sister Hodges.

Bro. Hodges closed the meeting with prayer.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

After some good singing Sister Belle Easley led the Devotional by reading Matthew the 5th chapter.

A special song was rendered by the Brooks sisters.

Prayer by Sister Ferguson, followed with a special song by the Ladies Quartet.

Bro. R. E. Conner filled the stand by reading Rev. the 3rd chapter. Subject, "The Open Door".

After all enjoyed a good sermon we were dismissed to meet back Thursday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING

The house was called to order by song, then the moderator asked that we stand to our feet for a season of silent prayers.

Bro. Fowler led the devotional by reading a few verses of the 2nd chapter of Genesis, followed with prayer by Rev. M. L. Sutton.

The house was called to order and the moderator took up the order of business. It was voted the chair appoint session committees as follows:

Obituary Committee — Rev. J. A. Brooks, Rev. Tiff Covington, and Sister Allie Ferguson.

Resolution Committee — Rev. M. L. Sutton, Sister Gracie Collins, and Sister T. H. Brown.

It was voted the next session of the West Fork Association meet with the Commanche Church at Commanche, Texas, on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1944. Rev. C. B. Thompson was chosen to preach the introductory sermon.

Report on Home Mission work was read by Bro. W. A. Phillips and approved.

Motion was made to adjourn.

The meeting was called together at the 11 o'clock hour by song.

Rev. M. L. Sutton filled the stand by reading Matthew the 14th chapter. His text was Revelation 2nd chapter 9th verse, Subject, "I Know Thy Works".

A wonderful sermon was enjoyed by all and a good handshake.

Dismissed until 1:30 p.m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

After enjoying another good spread we were called together again by song.

Sister Fawls led the devotional by reading Genesis 49th chapter and 52nd verse.

Prayer by Rev. Measures.

Moderator again opened the Association ready for business and called for reports from the following committees:

Obituary committee reported and report was accepted.

Directors of the following committees were appointed:

Sunday School — Rev. M. L. Sutton.

Foreign Mission — Rev. Winters.

Young People — Miss Ava Killough.

Orphanage — Rev. Claude Lamb.

Ladies Work — Sister Belle Easley.

Home Mission — Rev. Tiff Covington.

Officers were elected for the coming year as follows: Moderator, Rev. C. B. Thompson, 2100 Prairie Ave., Ft. Worth, Texas; Assistant Moderator, Rev. M. L. Sutton, RFD 3, Arlington, Texas; Clerk, W. D. Phillips, RFD 1, Decatur, Texas; Treasurer, Mrs. W. D. Phillips, RFD 1, Decatur, Texas.

Delegates elected to the State Association were Sister Belle Easley, chairman, Mrs. W. D. Phillips from New Salem Church, Mr. Jess Lamb from Pleasant Mound Church, Mr. C. B. Wier from Trinity Church, Ft. Worth, Sister Cleo Melton, Bro. H. H. Killough, First Church, Ft. Worth, Sister Fawls, Weatherford Church, Sister Sylvia Burks, Sister Sadie White, and Sister R. E. Conner, First Church, Dallas.

Reports from directors of committees follows:

Sunday School was reported by Rev. M. L. Sutton

Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. W. D. Phillips.

Resolution committee reported Resolution No. 1 carried and Resolution No. 2 carried.

It was voted to have 500 minutes printed. It was also voted to send them to The Gem Printing House.

Motion made to adjourn to meet with the Commanche Church on Tuesday night before the first Sunday in September, 1944.

Rev. C. B. Thompson, moderator.

W. D. Phillips, clerk of the West Fork Association.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS — No. 1, Be it Resolved, That we extend a rising vote of thanks to this church and community for their hospitality in the royal way they have entertained this Association.

No. 2. Be it Resolved, That each church in the Association be urged to give the offering of two Sundays each year to finance Home Missions, and that these offerings be sent to the director of Home Missions, Mr. W. D. Phillips, RFD 1, Decatur, Texas.

M. L. Sutton,

Grace Collins,

Mrs. T. H. Brown.

OBITUARIES — We, your committee on obituaries find after looking over our records that we must report the loss of the

following persons: Mrs. Clara Turrentine, New Hope Church;
Bro: Stanford, First Free Will Baptist Church, Ft. Worth; Sister
Haney, New Salem Church, Decatur; Grandpa Patton, Gartmans
View Church, Commanche.

J. A. Brooks,
Tiff Covington,
Mrs. A. F. Ferguson.

TREASURER—To the West Fork Association I beg leave
to submit this my following report:

At the sitting of the last Association I had on hand	\$ 34.08
Received as minute money	26.50
Received from Trinity Church, Ft. Worth, Texas	40.17

Total	\$100.75
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Sent to State Association	10.00
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Balance on hand	\$ 90.75
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For some reason there was'n't any minutes printed.

Mrs. W. D. Phillips, treasurer.

LADIES WORK—There has been 3 Ladies Auxiliaries or-
ganized this last year as follows: Trinity Free Will Baptist,
"Willing Workers", Commanche Church, and Dennison Church.
Total meetings 52,, cottage meetings 16, total members 42, total
active members 34, total personal contact and visits to the sick
260, chapters read in the Bible 402, several items delivered to
needy.

Our earnest desire and prayer to God is that there will be a
greater interest shown in this work which we feel is a worthy
cause and could help in the up building of Christ's cause. If a
few can do just this little, how much more could we all do to-
gether with God as our helper.

Each church in the Association has been contacted but no
response other than these 3 churches.

WILLING WORKERS, Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, Ft.
Worth, Texas—The Willing Workers were organized June 25
1943. They organized for the purpose of prayer and Christian
inspiration, and to visit the sick and discouraged, and to try
to win lost souls to Christ.

The average number of attendance is 5, total number of visits
and other contacts made 101, amount of cash in treasury \$1.00.

Sister Ethel Brady, president,
Sister Lillie McFeely, sec.-treas.

Home Mission Board — We, the Home Mission Board beg leave to submit this our following report. We now have on hand \$36.00 which has been donated to us for Home Mission work.. Nothing has been done so far in this association but we hope this association can fall on some plan to raise finances to promote this cause as we feel the need of this work. Our home church promoted last year one meeting that we are proud of.

Yours for service,

W. D. Phillips, chairman of Home Mission Board.
Mrs. J. R. Fitzpatrick, treasurer.

NEW SALEM SUNDAY SCHOOL — The New Salem Sunday school has met 40 Sundays in this year with an average attendance of 20 scholars, has raised over \$500, paid our pastor \$419.25, paid other preacher \$20, sent \$20 to the Four Way Mission, gave about \$35 for benevolent causes, have had a good interest in all classes this year. We now have \$36 in the treasury.

Pray for us.

Mrs. J. R. Fitzpatrick, sec.-treas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR — Brethern as your director of Sunday school permit me to submit my report which is as follows:

1. We find that the Sunday school work in our Association is going forward more each year and that each year we are making more progress than the year before. This is being done because our people are realizing that we must have a better system than we have had in the past. The result is we find our schools being reorganized after the pattern of more modern schools and many of our schools have instituted attendance rewards which stimulate interest in the Sunday school.

2. We find also that the spirit of co-operation prevails to a greater degree than for a long time and that because of this spirit of co-operation we are laying the ground work for a bigger and better Sunday school work.

To this end we are working and praying and we ask you to pray with us and continue to work with us toward this end.

With this in view I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Each school endeavor to organize according to the plan adopted in 1941 session of this association.

2. That each school strive to institute the six point record system as soon as possible.

3. That each school superintendent secure the name and address of the director of Sunday school work and from time to time seek his help and advice in this great work.

Yours for Jesus' sake,

M. L. Sutton.

NEW HOPE—To the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptists when convened at Weatherford 1943, we send as delegates: Minnie Martin, Elzie Morris and wife and Raymond Melton and wife, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your deliberations.

State of religion fair—died 1, members received this year 1, total membership 50, Sunday school moderate, paid pastor \$137.50, enclosed for minutes \$2.00, on building \$53.00, pastor, J. A. Brooks, RFD 5, Weatherford, Texas.

Done in conference August 7, 1943.

J. A. Brooks, moderator,

R. L. White, clerk.

NEW SALEM CHURCH—To the West Fork Association when convened with the Weatherford Church at Weatherford, Texas, September 1 to 3, 1943, the New Salem Free Will Baptist Church sends greetings.

We send as delegates: Sister Clara Phillips, Sister Brown, and Sister Mamie Phillips, who we pray you to seat to aid you in your Godly deliberation.

State of religion good, number received this year 3, number for Baptism 2, number of resident members 55, incidental expenses \$30, for mission and education \$20, benevolent causes \$25, number of deaths 1, Sister J. H. Handy, paid pastor \$419.25, paid Bro. Measurs \$20, paid singer \$17.25. Total expenses \$532.50. We send minute money, \$3.

Pray for us.

Done in conference this the 24th day of August, 1943.

Our pastor's name and address is Rev. Tiff Covington, Belvue, Texas.

Tiff Covington, moderator,

W. D. Phillips, clerk.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Ft. Worth, Texas—Letter from First Free Will Baptist Church to the West Fork Annual Association when convened with the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church at Weatherford, Texas, we send as dele-

gates: Sister Auela Killough and Mrs. J. C. Hodges, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion good, members received this year, 4 by letter, 4 by baptism, dismissed none, number died 1,, total membership 163, condition of prayer meeting small but excellent, condition of Sunday School fair, average number of pupils 65, number of officers 8, teachers 6, classes 6, amount of offering \$504.06, paid pastor \$1400.25, paid evangelist \$166.25, paid miscellaneous expenditures \$2129.01, for missions \$75.71, church school \$80, to Association \$3, amount received \$2,436.13.

Pastors name and address is C. B. Thompson, 2001 Prairie Ave., Ft. Worth, Texas.

Condition of League good, present enrollment 21. Senior League lost 3 in service to our country.

Moderator, O. A. Collins

BUFFALO SPRINGS—The Pleasant Mound Church to the West Fork Association when convened with the Weatherford Church at Weatherford, Texas. We send as delegates Bro. F. E. Ford, Sister Venita Lou Moore, and Bro. Lawrence Lamb, whom we we pray you will receive to sit with you, to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion good, members received this year 3, by letter 1, by baptism 2, dismissed 3,, total membership 212, state of Sunday school good, average number of pupils 50, number of officers 3, number of teachers 4, classes 4.

Paid pastor \$426.53, paid building and supplies \$106.02, paid Foreign Mission \$5.50, paid Home Mission \$14.01, paid to Association \$7, paid Unified Program \$45.42, miscellaneous expenses \$189.48, total income \$991.55, total expense \$793.96, balance on hand \$197.59, value of church property \$1,500.

Names of ministers and deacons belonging to our church: Ministers, Rev. Tiff Covington, Rev. Clyde Shultz, Rev. C. C. Lamb, Rev. C. H. Perry, Rev. W. W. Winters; Deacons, Bro. J. T. Reader, Bro. L. J. White, Bro. Jimmie Inman, Bro. Ben White, Bro. Arch James, and Bro. J. W. Broom.

Pastor of church, Rev. Tiff Covington, RFD 2, Bellevue, Texas.

Done by order of church in conference August 22, 1943.

Rev. Tiff Covington, moderator,
Mrs. Ruby Lamb, clerk.

This year our church has ordained 2 new deacons and licensed 2 young preachers. We have an alter prayer each

Sunday for the men and boys in the service of our country, for our Nation, and for all mankind. God is hearing our prayers, so far we have no gold stars on our Service Flag.

COMMANCHE CHURCH—To the Association of the Free Will Baptists, West Fork, when convened with the Weatherford Church at Weatherford, Texas, A.D., 1943, we send as delegates our beloved Sister Vida Jones, Bro. Sawley, and Jess Williams; alternates, H. S. Haughes, John Jones, and Sister Sawley, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your deliberations.

State of religion good, members received this year 21, number baptized 13, number dismissed 8, number died none, total membership 51, condition of prayer meeting good, condition of Sunday school good, average 45, number of pupils 89, number of officers 3, number of teachers 5, paid pastor \$143.35, paid evangelist \$35, Home Mission none, Foreign Mission none, building and repairs \$163.45, for education none, for publication \$4, amount enclosed for minutes \$2.

Pastor, J. H. Measurs, Weatherford, Texas, ministers, R. H. Rogers, Box 74, Commanche, Texas, L. F. Burks, Commanche, Texas.

Done by order of church assembled in conference this 21st day of August, 1943.

J. H. Measurs, moderator,
R. H. Rogers, clerk.

We invite the Association for 1944.

GARTMAN'S VIEW CHURCH—We, the Free Will Baptist Church at Gartman's View, to the West Fork Association, send Christian salutations.

We send the following named messengers to sit with you in council: Bro. Monroe Elliott, Bro. W. H. Hasley, Sister Montie Irby, and Sister Grace Collins.

Ministers who hold membership with us : Rev. Carlon Gaines.

Received by experience and baptism 9, by letter or statement 4, by restoration none, total increase 13, total membership last year 130. Lost by letter none, by expulsion and erasure none, by death 1, total decrease 1, total membership this year 142.

Officers the church and societies: Pastor, Bro. J. A. Brooks; Clerk, Garland Collins; Sunday School Superintendent, George Kerley; Treasurer, Carlos McGuire; Sunday School Secretary, Bonnie Belle Collins.

Number of classes in Sunday school 4, number of pupils 50,

number of teachers 4, kind of literature used Free Will Baptist, baptisms this year 3.

The following amounts have been paid this year: pastors salary \$223.20, building and repairing \$796.44, the poor \$9.00, evangelist \$104.76, Home Missions \$5.00, Foreign Missions \$5.00, Waco Church \$9.41, colleges and schools \$5.00, ministerial relief \$9.00, incidentals \$4.00, Sunday School expenses \$81.65, total \$1,254.46.

We send by our messengers for minutes and clerk \$4.00.

Approved by order of the church.

Lost by death 1, Bro. B. Patton.

DALLAS CHURCH—To the West Fork Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with Free Will Baptist Church at Weatherford, Texas, this 31st day of August 1943, we send as delegates our beloved Brethern, and Sisters, with Christian greetings: Bro. Junior Walling, Sister Bonnie Hearne, Sister Catherine Cox.

Our spiritual standing is excellent, we observe communion semi-annually number received this year 23, number baptized 12, number dismissed none, number died none, resident members 50, non-resident members 18. Total 68. Condition or prayer meeting good, condition of choir practice fair, condition of Sunday school good, average number of pupils 50, officers 3, teachers 4, amount paid pastor \$310.00, for incidentals \$238.11, fund for building \$1,200, for charity \$10.00.

Names of ministers: Rev. F. E. Walling, Jr.; Bro. Guthrie; Bro. H. Z. Cox; Bro. Jack Fielding; Bro. W. Kennedy; Rev. Allen Gibson; Rev. Boydston; Rev. W. W. Riley; Rev. R. E. Connor, pastor.

We have ordained 2 deacons, licensed 2 ministers, ordained 1 minister. We have had 2 conversions and reclaimed this fiscal year.

R. E. Connor, moderator.

TRINITY CHURCH—To the West Fork Association when convened with First Free Will Baptist church at Weatherford, Texas, we send as delegates, our beloved: Sister Edna Howard, Sister Jessie Ferguson, Sister Martha Allen, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion good, members received this year 11, by letter 8, by baptism 3. Condition of prayer meeting good, condition of Sunday School good, average number of pupils 115, number of officers 2, teachers 10, classes 10, amount of offering

\$3,363.05, paid pastor \$1,835.00, paid evangelist pastor \$70.00, paid for building and repair \$1,059.16, paid for publication none, paid for supplies \$61.08, miscellaneous expenditures \$536.23, for mission none, to Assoriation \$88.91. Total income \$3,886.16. Total expenditures \$3,650.38. Balance \$458.45. Value of church property \$6,000.

Pastors name and address, Rev. M. L. Sutton, RFD 3, Box 48, Arlington, Texas.

Names of ministers: Rev. M. L. Sutton, Rev. A. F. Ferguson, and Rev. H. C. St. John.

Names of deacons: J. W. Kirk, W. M. Howard, George Bassham, Jack Lucas and Wilford Harrison.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference, this 11th day of August, 1943.

Rev. M. L. Sutton, moderator,
Sister Helen Lowery, clerk
Bro. Chas. B. Wier, treasurer.

It is noted that in the disbursements under building and repair, \$1,059.16 was paid out. This amount was largely expended on the payment in full of our church property.

Cash on hand in the church finances at the beginning of the associational year was \$222.27. Our building fund at the time of compiling this letter and financial report is, cash on hand and in the bank \$255.35. This is a separate fund.

WEATHERFORD CHURCH—The First Free Will Baptist Church of Weatherford, Texas, to the West Fork Association, greetings.

We send as our delegates: Sisters H. L. Harley, Verda Walker, and Thelma Fawks, which we hope you will receive to sit with you in the Association and to help you in your work.

Number members received this year none, number dismissed none, total number of members 41.

Names of ministers: J. H. Measures, Mrs. Verda Walker, and E. H. Brown.

Amount paid out for Sunday school supplies \$18.00, paid out for incidentals \$17.00, amount paid out on church repairs \$138.00, amount paid out for insurance \$12.55, amount paid to pastor \$170.00, amount paid for minutes \$3.00, amount paid on Home Mission work \$4.35, paid Bro. Measures \$10.00. Total amount paid out \$372.90. Value of church property \$1500.

This done in conference with the members of the church August 15, 1943.

Rev. J. H. Measures, moderator pro-tem
Mrs. H. O. Fawks, clerk.

