

**Minutes of the  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FIFTH SESSIONS  
of the  
WESTERN CONFERENCE  
of  
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
Convening at  
Piney Grove OFWB Church  
Kenly, NC**

**October 21, 2021**

**Executive Committee**

The Reverend Almond Warrick, Moderator  
The Reverend David Currie, Vice Moderator  
The Reverend Anderson Barnes, Clerk  
The Reverend Sherman Dilley, Treasurer  
The Reverend Stanley Kirby, Member at large

**Board of Trustees**

The Reverent Eric Narron  
The Reverend Walt Tyndall

**Board of Ordination**

The Reverend Ray Wells, Chairman  
The Reverend Lewis Forsythe  
The Reverend Howard Scott  
The Reverend Terry Ellis  
The Reverend Charles Renfrow  
The Reverend Franklin (Barry) Stallings  
The Reverend De Wayne Eakes

**Credentials Committee**

The Reverend Larry Matthews  
The Reverend Chris Bagley  
The Reverend Stan Matthews

**Western Conference Ministers**

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				Rd.	27803	3879	
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## Proceedings:

The One-Hundred and Thirty Fifth Session of the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptist convened at Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Kenly, North Carolina, on October 21, 2021, at 9:00 am. The Reverend Anderson Barnes, Clerk, called the conference to order. A warm welcome was given by Rev. David Currie. Rev Buford Longwith read from Scripture and opened the Conference with prayer, followed by a congregational hymn, "Washed in the Blood." The Reverend Almond Warrick, Moderator, recognized visitors and gave his address centered on "Ruts and Comfort Zones". The Moderator directed the Clerk to call the roll of the Ministers and Churches. The roll was called and documented. The Moderator then appointed the Temporary Committees; Nominating, Resolutions, Credentials and Memorial. The Moderator called for the Executive Committee Report and announced that the Committee only had need of meeting one time during the year.

The Western Conference Executive Committee report was given by the Clerk, The Reverend Anderson Barnes

**Minutes**  
**Western Conference Executive Committee Meeting**  
**August 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Springhill Original Free Will Baptist Church**

In Attendance: Rev Al Warrick (Moderator), Rev. Anderson Barnes (Clerk), Rev. Sherman Dilley (Treasure), Rev. Larry Matthews (Credentials), Rev. Eric Narron (Trustee), Rev. Stanley Kirby (At-Large Member)

Absent: Rev. Chris Bagley and Rev. Stan Matthews (Credentials), Rev. Walt Tyndall (Trustee), Rev. David Currie (Asst. Moderator).

The Meeting was called to order by Rev. Al Warrick, Moderator, who called on Rev. Eric Narron to pray. Rev. Al Warrick read the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were motioned to approve and seconded. Motion passed.

Rev Sherman Dilley gave the treasure report as information. The Western Conference has \$3,717.32 in the accounts.

Much discussion was had about churches that are dying in our conference and denomination. We talked about incorporation and LLC. Stanley Kirby was very informative about the process that Everett's Chapel went through. Rev. Al Warrick hopes to address some of the issues during his Moderator address at the Conference Meeting

Western Conference will meeting on October 21, 2021 at Piney Grove OFWB Church. Stanley Kirby made a motion to just have the Conference meeting and adjourn at lunch, meaning no fellowship meal be provided by the host church. It was seconded by Rev. Eric Narron. Discussion was had about COVID-19 and the meal being an opportunity to spread the virus if we were eating that close together. Motion passed to not have a meal at the Western Conference Meeting.

Discussion about who the Scripture and prayer would be led by was discussed. Rev. Anderson Barnes will contact a licensed minister to lead that portion.

Discussion about who would be the speaker for the Worship Service portion of the Conference. The board decided that Rev. David Currie of the host church should be contacted to lead during this time.

Temporary Committees were discussed.

Rev. Al Warrick moved to adjourn meeting. All agreed. Rev. Al Warrick closed in prayer.

Submitted By

Rev. Anderson Barnes (clerk)

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and given by the Reverend Sherman Dilley. A detailed report copy can be obtained from Rev. Dilley. A summary is as follows:

**Western Conference Treasurer's Report  
October 21, 20121 – Piney Grove FWB, Kenly, NC  
Financial Report October 18, 202019 thru October 20, 2021**

Beginning Balance October 2017	\$4,259.27
Deposits	\$6,780.00
Subtotal	<b>\$11,039.27</b>
Total Disbursements	\$-9,163.67
<b>Checkbook Balance as of Oct. 21, 2021</b>	<b>\$ 1,875.60</b>

The treasurer's report was received as information.

Rev. Barry Stallings gave the Board of Ordination report.

**REPORT OF THE WESTERN CONFERENCE  
BOARD OF ORDINATION  
SESSION NUMBER 135 OF THE WESTERN CONFERENCE  
PINEY GROVE OFWB CHURCH  
OCTOBER 21st, 2021**

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The Western Conference Board of Ordination met (15) times since the last annual session of the Conference. Your Board of Ordination submits the following report and makes the following recommendations for your approval:

**1. Approved for License to Preach the Gospel:**

Phil Lewis  
Zachary Curie

Piney Grove OFWB Church

**2. Renewed License to Preach the Gospel:**

Kevin Aycock

Everett Chapel OFWB Church

**3. Ministers Ordained since the last Conference:**

William Bryan Wheeler  
Elton Frederick Gooding

Pleasant Grove OFWB Church  
Victory OFWB Church

Richard Hogg  
Buford Longwith  
Daniel Vester  
David Barbour

Pine Level OFWB Church  
Pleasant Grove OFWB Church  
Marsh Swamp OFWB Church  
Branch Chapel OFWB Church

4. **Credentials Surrendered:**

Rev. Tim McFatter  
Rev. Scott Broadway  
Rev. Cody Proctor  
Bro. Bryan Casey (license not renewed)

5. **Credentials Reinstated:**

Rev. Brian Davis (not eligible as Pastoral Candidate until September 2022)

6. **Ministers Approved to Pastor in Western Conference:**

Rev. Matthew Spence                      Mount Zion OFWB (Wilson, County)

7. **Ministers Transferring/Exchanging Credentials with the Western Conference:**

Rev. Scott Broadway from The Eastern Conference (before surrendering his credentials)  
Rev. Todd Sutton (from the Central Conference)

8. **License Period:**

There is a one-year term on the license to preach the gospel with a five-year maximum on the amount of time allowed to preach under license in preparation for ordination. If at any time the ***licensed minister allows the license to lapse***, the entire licensing process must be restarted beginning with the recommendation of the local church to the Board of Ordination.

9. **Requirements for Ordination:**

We commend to our member churches and to all of our licensed ministers the attached ***Requirements for Ordination***. This document will serve as a checklist for our licensed ministers as they move toward ordination. This document will also aid our churches in answering initial questions that a candidate might have in regards to the requirements for ordination.

10. **Conference Attendance:**

**A.** Any minister (licensed or ordained) holding membership in the Western Conference, who fails to attend the annual session of the Conference for two

consecutive years or fails to send a letter showing reasonable excuse for non-attendance, is subject to censure and/or the revocation of his credentials of ordination.

**B.** All ministers (licensed or ordained) serving in the Western Conference in any pastoral position are **required to register and attend the annual session of the Western Conference**. Pastoral positions include but are not limited to pastors, associate pastors, and youth ministers. Failure to attend two consecutive years or failure to send a letter showing reasonable cause for non-attendance will subject the minister to censure and/or the revocation of credentials.

#### 11. **Annual Convention Attendance:**

Any minister (licensed and ordained) holding membership in the Western Conference **is required to register and attend at least one day of our annual OFWB Convention** which meets Wednesday and Thursday following the second Sunday of May on the Mount Olive College Campus. A letter stating reasonable cause will also be accepted in lieu of this requirement. It may be sent to either the **Clerk of the Board of Ordination** or the **Clerk of the Conference (not to the Convention office or the President of the Convention)**.

#### 12. **Ministers Transferring into the Western Conference:**

**A.** From Sister Conferences: These ministers must be cleared with the Western Conference Board of Ordination **prior to assuming** the pastorate to which they are called. This is the responsibility of the church calling the minister; however, the minister should be sure it has been done **prior to** beginning the prospective work. This is a simple procedure designed to protect our churches from harm. Our churches are not independent of the Conference as is true in some other denominations and groups.

**B.** From other Denominations: For this information you are referred to page 89 of our *Articles of Faith & Principles of Church Government*.

#### 13. **The Christian Flag Service for Ministers:**

The Board of Ordination will serve as the Conference Christian Flag Committee. Any minister serving in the Western Conference at the time of his death will be given the Christian Flag Service if the minister has so requested or the family so desires. The flag will be purchased by the Conference.

#### 14. **Items for Praise:**

1. Our newly licensed and ordained ministers



2. Our new members by baptism or transfer into the member churches of the Western Conference.

15. **Things a Licensed Minister *Can* and *Cannot* Do:**

1. A licensed minister ***cannot*** be called or hired as pastor (or associate) of any church (we need the cooperation of both our churches and our ministers on this item).
2. A licensed minister ***can*** serve a church on an interim or supply basis under the supervision of his Board of Ordination Advisor or another ordained minister as directed by the Board of Ordination. This service is to be limited to six months in any one church. If the church wishes an extension on the services of the licensed minister, the church must appeal to the Board of Ordination.
3. A licensed minister ***cannot*** administer the ordinances of the Gospel.
4. A licensed minister ***cannot*** perform wedding ceremonies.
5. A licensed minister ***can*** conduct worship services, preach, and teach as the opportunities are afforded to the licensed minister.
6. A licensed minister ***can*** officiate in a funeral service.
7. A Licensed minister ***can*** be elected to serve as temporary chairman of a business meeting with the exceptions as outlined on pg. 74, paragraph 2 of *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government*.
8. A licensed minister ***can*** vote at the annual conference.

16. **Recommendations to the Conference:**

1. The ministers joining our conference by transfer of credentials be welcomed into the Conference with the Right Hand of Fellowship by the Moderator and their names be added to the list of duly ordained ministers of the Western Conference by the Conference Clerk.
2. Newly licensed minister, be added to the list of licensed ministers by the Conference Clerk.
3. That all our ministers, both ordained and licensed, continue to abide by our current ***Ministerial Code of Ethics***.
4. That our churches **not call** ordained or licensed ministers from other denominations to serve as interim or to do supply work. Our churches be reminded of the statement from page 68 of **The Articles of Faith and Principles**

**of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (Of the English General Baptist Heritage):** *"The Church shall call its own pastor from among the duly ordained Original Free Will Baptist ministers who are approved by the Conference of which the church is a member, upon such terms as shall be mutually agreeable."*

5. We request that our ministers inform the board of ordination when they resign from their church. This is so that we can assist our churches in the search process and interim period.

6. The Board of Ordination recommends that the Conference strongly encourage all current and future licensed ministers to attend annual workshops conducted by the Western Conference Ordaining Council or in conjunction with workshops of other Ordaining Councils, or other groups within our denomination.

7. The Board of Ordination RECOMMENDS that our licensed and ordained ministers get vaccinated for COVID-19.

8. That this report, in its entirety, be received by the Conference and these recommendations be accepted by the Conference as submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

Western Conference Board of Ordination:

Ray Wells, Chair

Terry Ellis

De W. Eakes

Charles Renfrow

Howard Scott

Lewis Forsythe

Barry Stallings, Clerk

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to receive the Board of Ordination report as presented.

The Moderator recognized the newly ordained ministers and welcomed them into the conference.

The Moderator open the floor for old business. No old business was discussed.

The Moderator opened the floor for any new business. Rev. Todd Sutton transferred to the Western Conference from the Central Conference.

Rev. De Eakes made a motion for the conference to contribute the same as in 2017 to the various denominational ministries. The motion was seconded and passed.

After a short break, the Moderator asked for the denominational ministry representatives to come forward and report. Mr. Gary Lee reported on behalf of the Children's Home. The Reverend Harold Jones reported on behalf of the Board of Foreign Missions. Reverend Ronnie Taylor reported on behalf of the Retirement Homes Ministry. The Reverend Dr. De Wayne Eakes reported on behalf of the Free Will Baptist Ministers Program. The Reverend Dr. Brad Williamson reported on behalf of the Board of Home Missions, Director of Christian Education Gail Heath reported. Rev. Howard Scott reported on behalf of the University of Mount Olive. Reverend Will Kelly reported on behalf of Carolina Bible Institute and Seminary.

A break was enjoyed and the conference reconvened with a beautiful piano prelude, prayer and the receipt of the annual conference offering.

The Reverend Charles L. Renfrow introduced the Reverend Lewis Forsythe who brought a message from Acts 9: 10-20 entitled "Roadblocks."

The Moderator called for the Temporary Committee reports. The Nominating Committee Report was given by Rev. Ray Wells.

The Moderator called for the Resolutions Committee Report and the report was given Rev. De Wayne Eakes: A resolution was read as follows: **Whereas**, Piney Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church has invited this One Hundred and Thirty Fifth Session of the Western Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists to convene at this place on this the twenty first day of October, 2021; **and Whereas**, they have so graciously evidenced the gift of Christian hospitality in providing for the needs of this Conference during its session; **Therefore, be it resolved** that this conference extends to this congregation and to its pastor a rising vote of thanks and applause for so graciously hosting this session of the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists.

The Reverend Anderson Barnes gave the Credentials Committee Report. It was reported that 47 Ministers, 20 Delegates and 15 Visitors were registered, totaling 84. The Credentials Committee Report was received as information.

The Memorial Committee Report was given by Rev. Lloyd Hargis and Rev. George Futrell who gave honor to God for the life of The Reverend Donnie Massey.

The Moderator opened the floor for any final business to be brought before the conference. No final business.

A motion was made to adjourn, leaving all unfinished business in the hands of the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and passed and the conference was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted:**  
**Rev. Almond Warrick, Moderator**  
**Rev. David Currie, Assistant Moderator**

**Rev. Sherman Dilley, Treasurer**  
**Rev. Stanley Kirby, Member at Large**  
**Rev. Anderson Barnes, Conference Clerk**