

The
Wolverine Association
of
Free Will Baptists

1942

Proceedings of the
1st Annual Session

Convened at
Highland Park Church
Highland Park, Michigan

MINUTES

OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION

OF

Free Will Baptists

HELD WITH,

Highland Park Church, Highland Park, Michigan

November 26, 27, 28, 1942

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Rev. J. R. Davidson.

The Moderator, Rev. C. E. Riggs, read Psalms 107 and offered prayer.

Special numbers were rendered by the Free Will Gospel Quartet and the Hazel Park Jubilee Singers.

The introductory message was delivered by Rev. C. E. Riggs from the second chapter of Revelation.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Came together by singing led by Rev. N. P. Gates.

The Moderator read 1 Cor. 16 for Scripture lesson.

Prayer by Rev. N. P. Gates.

The Rules of Decorum were read by the Moderator.

Called for letters from the various churches, received four and their delegates were seated.

Prayer of Consecration by Rev. J. R. Davidson.

The selection of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Rev. C. E. Riggs, Moderator, Rev. George P. Warren, Assistant Moderator, Rev. N. P. Gates, Clerk, Rev. V. S. Versnick, Assistant Clerk, and Bro. Homer Harris, Treasurer.

The various committeemen were appointed as follows:

Business Committee — Rev. Raymond Riggs, Bro. Vint Kirk, Sister Vera Roach, Rev. Everett Hall, and Bro. Preston Slocum.

Committee on Divine Service — Sister Ruth Wood, Sister Blanch Maynard and Bro. Thomas Carlisle.

Dismissed by Rev. McKinley Newsome.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Came together by singing led by Rev. Raymond Riggs.

The Free Will Gospel Quartet rendered a very beautiful number.

Rev. Maurice W. Roach had been selected to bring the message, Scripture, Heb. 9:11-22.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. C. E. Riggs.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After a splendid time of refreshments served in the basement of the church, we re-convened in conference

by singing led by the Moderator.

Prayer by Rev. Noel Greenway.

Called for petitionary letters. One was received from the Free Will Baptist Temple, a former member of the body but having been dissolved and re-organized. The church was accepted and its delegates were seated.

Other committeemen were appointed as follows:

Committee on Finance—Rev. Maurice W. Roach, Sister McKinley Newsome, and Sister Violet McCuestion

Committee on Obituary—Bro. Duglass Moore, Sister Marshie Gates, and Sister N. P. Gates.

Called for corresponding letters, none received.

Rev. J. R. Davidson of Nashville, Tenn. was called upon to give a brief report of our work on a national scale which was appreciated by all present.

The matter of granting of license to the Gospel Ministry for one year to Brothers Jimmie Gilliam and Wm. Newsome was discussed and granted.

The Business Committee presented resolutions No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 which were adopted by the body in regular prceedure.

The Highland Park Church was chosen to entertain a session of the Christian Workers' Institute as soon as arrangements can be made.

A motion was sustained to accept Rev. Everett Hall's resignation as evangelist.

Rev. N. P. Gates was then selected as evangelist for the ensuing year.

The Hazel Park Church was selected for the convening of the next Quarterly Conference. Rev. Raymond Riggs was chosen to preach the introductory sermon.

A motion was sustained to adjourn until Saturday morning. Dismissed by Rev. Maurice W. Roach.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

Came together by singing led by Rev. N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Rev. Maurice W. Roach.

The even devotionals were directed by Bro. Jack Montgomery, being later turned over to Rev Edgii Howard who succeeded in holding the fort while waiting the return of the Presbytery which were examining

the candidates formerly recommended for license to the ministry, towit: Wm. Newsome and Jimmie Gilliam, also were examining for ordination to the ministry Rev. V. S. Versnick (a licentiate), also were receiving Rev. McKinley and granting him credentials in lieu of those formerly held as of the Enterprise Association of Regular Baptists.

The prayer of consecration was offered by Rev. J. R. Davidson.

The message of the hour was delivered by Rev. J. R. Davidson from the second chapter of Ephesians. A very constructive and inspirational message was enjoyed by all present.

The interests of our Bible School at Nashville, Tenn. were introduced and an offering was given in the amount of \$17.00

Dismissal prayer by Rev. Edgil Howard.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Came together by singing led by the Moderator.

Prayer by Bro. James Sandfur.

Scripture reading, 91st Psalms

Called for tardy letters, none received.

Called for petitionary letters, none received.

Called for various committee reports, none were ready.

Called for unfinished business, none was presented.

According to a ruling governing the matter of setting the next annual conference, a popular vote on those making a formal request in their church letters was necessary. Since there was only one such request, the next annual session was granted to the Free Will Baptist Church of Flint. Rev. Maurice W. Roach, pastor, was selected to preach the introductory message.

A motion was sustained to adjourn until the afternoon session, giving away to the following program.

Young People's Program

Opened by singing led by Rev. Raymond Riggs.

Prayer by Sister Bettie Pearce.

Prayer by Sister Bettie Pearce.

Reading of the 1st. Psalm, by Thelma Newsome in charge of morning's devotions, representing the High Park Church. Rev. Wm. Newsome represented the

Ecorse Church, Bro. Willie Whitaker represented the Hazel Park Church.

A duet by Misses Madline Riggs and Jerry Gilman. "The Old Rugged Cross", followed by reading excerpts from the Scriptures by Miss Nellie Smith.

An all-around testimonial service was lead by Rev C. E. Riggs.

Dismissed by Bro. J. O. Butcher.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Pursuant to adjournment, after a bountiful serving of refreshments in the basement of the church, came together by singing, lead by the Moderator.

Prayer by Sister Marshie Gates.

Called for unfinished business, there was none.

The matter of setting a permant date for the annual association was given consideration, after some deliberations, resulted in the motion sustained to meet on Thursday evening before the first Sunday in September and continuing through Saturday evening of each succeeding year.

Resolution No. 4 of the Business Committee was submitted for consideration. After some deliberations, a motion was sustained to adopt same.

The next item was to receive ministerial reports.

Next was the matter of examination of Deacons, at which time a brief recommendation was voluntarily given to the entire staff.

Called for report of Committee on Obituary, report received and committee discharged.

Called for report of Finance Committee, report received and committee discharged.

A resolution of respect to Bro. Tansil Orr, now in the "Armed Forces," was adopted.

A vacancy resulting from the absence of Bro. Tansil Orr, resulted in the selection of Bro. Jas. F. Sandafur as a member of the Standing Finance Committee.

The matter of identification ribbons was discussed and was agreed that since Sister Winona Riggs offered to prepare the same, providing the material was furnished, a motion was sustained and volunteer help was offered in preparing the same.

At this junction, further business matters was deferred until the evening services.

A motion was carried to adjourn.

Dismissed by Bro. W. E. Gates.

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES

Came together by singing, lead by Rev. N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Bro. Vint Kirk.

The Presbytery was called together to administer the Act of Ordination of Rev. V. S. Versnick, to the Ministry of the Gospel. In these solemn vows, prayer was worded by Rev. Everett Hall, Rev. J. R. Davidson and Rev. Raymond Riggs.

At this time, bringing to a close the business matters in this session, a "free will offering" was taken in the amount of \$15.50, and a resolution of respect was adopted.

This being followed by special numbers by the Jubilee singers from the Hazel Park church was enjoyed by all.

Rev. Everett Hall brought the message of the hour, using for subject Matt. 22:42 and Col. 1:19.

At the conclusion of the message, a goodly number engaged in a splendid service of "Communion and Feet Washing," "And they sang a Hymn and went out."

Adjourned to meet in the next annual session with the First Church of Flint, Flint, Mich. Convening on Thursday evening before the first Sunday in September through Saturday evening, Sept. 2, 3, 4, 1943.

Rev. C. E. Riggs, Moderator

Rev. N. P. Gates, Clerk

Ministers' Reports

REV. EVERETT L. HALL—Evangelizing, Preached about 160 sermons, Witnessed 210 conversions, Baptized 9, Visits to Hospital 30, Officiated at 2 Weddings, Weekly visits in private homes, 2 Funerals, Traveled about 19,200 Miles, Received \$540.00 Salary.

REV. C. E. RIGGS—Pastored Hazel Park Church 11 months Preached 80 Sermons, Assisted in 3 Revivals, Witnessed 60 Conversions, Baptized 36, Officiated at 3 Weddings, Preached 1 Funeral, Preached 11 Sermons elsewhere, Salary \$1750.00, Contributions \$100.00.

REV. N. P. GATES—Traveled about 10,000 Miles, Pastored 1 Church, Preached about 100 Sermons, Witnessed about 30 Conversions, Baptized 4, Officiated 1 Wedding, Preached 1 Funeral, Assisted at 3 others, Organized 1 Church, also 1 Sunday School, also 1 F. W. B. L., Re-Organized 1 Church and Sunday School, Published 1 Minutes and Several Songs, Attended National Association a few contributions received. However, serving without salary.

REV. MAURICE W. ROACH—Pastored 1 Church, Preached 68 Sermons, Witnessed 3 Conversions, Baptized 6, Officiated at 1 Wedding, Held 2 Funerals, Received \$240.00 Salary.

REV. RAYMOND RIGGS—Covering a period of 14 months—Sept. 22, 1941—Nov. 22, 1942—Pastored 1 Church, Sermons preached 115, Preached in 7 Revivals 78 Sermons, Officiated at 9 Weddings, Held 3 Funerals, Received \$ 2,319.00 salary, Received from other sources; for evangelistic efforts, weddings and Funerals etc. \$479.11, Witnessed 108 Conversions, Baptized 26.

EXAMINATION OF MINISTERS—A voluntarily verbal report (or recommendation) was given to the Character, Honesty, Trustworthy and Capability of those actively engaged and representing the Body.

Ministers' Enrollment

N. P. Gates Lock Box 41, Hazel Park, Mich.
C. E. Riggs 944 E. Harry St. Hazel Park, Mich.
Maurice W. Roach 2134 E. Kenneth St. Flint, Mich.
James Grisham Ypsalanta, Mich.
Raymond Riggs 13734 Jno. R. St. Highland Park, Mich.
Virgil Greenway 11 Cottage Grove Highland Park, Mich.
George P. Warren 2106 Harwine St. Flint, Mich.
Everett L. Hall Hazel Park, Mich.
McKinley Newsome 7511 Hipp St. Melvindale, Mich.
V. S. Versnick 18020 Fleming St. Detroit, Mich.

Licentiates

Wm. J. Silloway 4082 So. Vasar Rd. Flint, Mich.
Wm. Newsome 7511 Hipp St. Melvindale, Mich.
Jimmie Gilliam Van Dike, Mich.

Deacons' Enrollment

Hazel Park Church—W. E. Gates, LaVan Pearce, Jas. F. Sandfer, Paul E. Carrier, Chas. E. Miller, J. O. Butcher, Wm. Childers.
Highland Park Church—Douglass Moore, Thos. Carlisle, Tansil Orr, Thos. Daniel, Bert Bagwell, Preston Slocum.
Ecorse Church—Vint Kirk.
First Church of Flint—
Free Will Baptist Temple—Cecil D. Vire.

Standing Business Committee

Rev. Raymond Riggs ... 13734 John R. St. Highland Park, Mich.
Rev. Everett L. Hall Hazel Park, Mich.
Sis. Vera Roach 2134 E. Kenneth St. Flint, Mich.
Bro. LaVan D. Pearce Hazel Park Mich.
Bro. Preston Slocum.

Standing Finance Committee

Rev. George P. Warren, Bro. Jas. F. Sandafur and Bro. Preston Slocum.

Delegates

Hazel Park Church—Sis. Ruby Withers, Sis. Marshie Gates, Sis. Blanch Maynard.
Highland Park Church—Bro. Preston Slocum, Sis. McCully, Sis. Violet McCuston.
Ecorse Church—Sis. McKinley Newsome, Sis. Vint Kirk.

First Church of Flint—Sis. Woods, Sis. Vera Roach.
Free Will Baptist Temple—Sis. Virgia Gates.

Resolutions

Res. No. 1. Be it Resolved, That a payment of \$100.00 be made on a former pledge of \$500.00 to the National Association, for "Foreign Missions."

Res. No. 2. That according to a spirit of enthusiasm manifested on the part of some among us relative to Foreign Missions, seeing that the need was so great of evangelism abroad, the body thought it wise to recommend this resolution:- Resolved, That each church set up a "Foreign Mission program," and devise its plans of "ways and means" of raising funds for this worthy cause, remitting the same, be it much or little, to the Association on the first of each month, said treasurer remitting all such funds to Rev. Winford Davis, treasurer of Foreign Missions, not later than the 10th. of each month.

Res. No. 3. Be it Resolved, That we encourage and invite a session of the Christian Workers Institute to be held within the bounds of our association, if, and when such is available.

Res. No. 4. Be it Resolved, That of even date henceforth, all funds accumulating quarterly to the general treasurer, that said treasurer shall remit 20 per cent of said funds to the national treasury as our contribution to the Unified Program Fund, said funds to be allocated as follows:- 10 per cent Superannuation, 20 per cent Home Missions, 30 per cent Foreign Missions, 40 per cent Christian Education.

Resolution of Respect—Tansil Orr

That by reason of the call to service in our armed forces of the one whose name appears above, has created a vacancy no one can fill, whose absence is so keenly felt among us, Therefore, Be it Resolved, That this body place on record this token of respect for his untiring efforts, his integrity and his unfailing faithful service while in our midst, that his testimony and experiences in Grace, as a Soldier of the Cross will attend him on his way in doing service for the U. S. A., bidding him God's speed, His loving hand of protection to ever guide him, is our prayer. Faithfully submitted. Committee on arrangement of Buisness.

Resolution of Respect — Host Church

We, your committee on arrangement of business, beg to submit the following resolution of respect:

Be it Resolved, That we extend our heart-felt thanks to the good people and friends of the Highland Park Church for their kind and generous hospitality while in their midst.

Committee on Arrangement of Business

Report of Finance Committee

We, your committee on finance, beg to make the following report Highland Park Church, \$571.75. First Church of Flint, \$68.08. Ecorse Church, \$47.00. First Church of Hazel Park, \$30.00. Free Will Baptist Temple, \$5.00. Free Will Offerings, \$37.70, making a total receipts of \$759.53.

Disbursements of funds, as follows:- To National Association, \$100.00. Delegate to National Association, \$25.00. Foreign Missions, \$100.00. Rev. Everett L. Hall, Evangelist, \$200.00. Moderator, \$25.00. Clerk, \$25.00. Total amount paid out, \$475.00 leaving a balance in the treasury of \$284.53.

Faithfully submitted,

Committee { Rev. Maurice W. Roach
Sister McKinley Newsome
Sister Violet McCustion

Report of Obituary Committee

We, Your committee on obituary, beg to make the following report: That, Our kind heavenly Father, in His divine providence has seen fit to take from our midst, Miss Maurie Martia, beloved daughter of Bro. and Sister Easter Martin, 2021 Gunnell Ct. of the First Church of Flint. We pray God's blessing to attend them in their bereavement.

Committee { Sister Marshie Gates,
Sister Virgia Gates,
Bro. Douglass Moore.

Membership	8	41	1	0	0	3	x	94
F. W. B. L.	25	21	11	1	0	3	x	116
Sunday School	6	9	0	0	0	4	x	15
Number of Ministers	12	3	1	0	0	4	x	18
Deaths	7	0	0	0	0	1	x	7
Excluded								
Dismissed								
Received into Fellowship ..								
Organized with Membership								

CLERK

PASTOR

CHURCH

1st Church of Hazel Park ..	Everett L. Hall	Ruby Withers, Hazel Park.
Highland Park Church	Raymond Riggs	Cleon Van Riper, Retroit ..
Ecorse Church	McKinley Newsome	Wm. Newsome, Melvindale
1st Church of Flint	Maurice W. Roach	Helen Belomy, Flint
Free Will Baptist Temple ..	N. P. Gates	Theodore Goolsby, Detroit ...