

THE WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS.

1953

Proceedings of the 12th. Annual Session

When Convened With

**THE FIRST FREE WILL
BAPTIST CHURCH**

947 LELAND ST.

Flint, Michigan

MINUTES
OF THE
Twelfth Annual Session
OF THE
WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION
OF
Free Will Baptists
HELD WITH
The First Free Will Baptist Church
947 LELAND ST.
Flint, Michigan
On June 4th, 5th and 6th
1953



OFFICERS

Moderator	Rev. Mark Lewis
Assistant Moderator	Rev. Ira Carpenter
Clerk	Mildred Daniel
Assistant Clerk	Macey Berberick
Treasurer	Rev. William Mishler
Reporter	Van Paschall
Parliamentarian	Rev. William Mishler
State Foreign Mission Director	Rev. Mark Lewis
State Home Mission Director	Rev. Geo. Ritter

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Congregational singing conducted by Bro. Paul Miller. Opening prayer by Sis. Ezra Walker. Welcome address by Rev. Paul Lee. Response by Sis. Rosie Whitlow. Announcements made.

Rev. William Mishler introduced Rev. Raymond Riggs as special speaker for the Conference. Bro. Riggs requested that all at some time during the Conference, we read Heb. 4, 5 and 6; Judges 6 and 7; Psalms 127. Theme for the Conference, "Building For God". Subject for the evening, "What". Benediction by Bro. Braxton Click.

FRIDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

At 9:30 A.M. singing was conducted by Rev. Raymond Riggs. Opening prayer by Rev. William Mishler. Rev. Mark Lewis chose as a Devotional thought for the day, I Cor. 3:1-10 and Psalm 127:1—Prayer.

The Conference was informed of the critical illness of Mrs. Vera Roach. Special Prayer for Bro. and Sis. Roach was led by Mrs. Mark Lewis.

Clerk read church letters and comments were made by each of the pastors or representatives concerning the work in each church.

The clerk called the roll of delegates who received the right hand of fellowship and were lead in prayer of consecration by Rev. Mark Lewis. Delegates duly seated.

Motion made that a committee be appointed to purchase a floral design and send same to Mrs. Roach. Motion carried and committee appointed as follows: Mrs. Oscar Hollis, Mrs. Norman Langlois and Mrs. William Mishler.

The following were appointed to serve on the Obituary Committee: Bro. Royce Hogan, Mrs. Martha Turner and Mrs. Libby Dunlap.

Motion made and carried that in the absence of an elected delegate from the Highland Park Church, that Mrs. Vera Sheridan be seated as delegate.

FRIDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. William Mishler had charge of the Devotional service. Prayer by Bro. U. V. Jagers. Bro. Riggs, the speaker, introduced by Bro. Mishler. Bro. Riggs continued on the theme "Builders For God" using as his text, Heb. 5:1-14 and 4:1-11. Subject, "Why". Benediction by Bro. Royce Hogan.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION

Singing conducted by Rev. Raymond Riggs. Prayer by Rev. J. A. Fredericks.

Reports made and accepted as follows:—

Home Mission Board—(see reports)

Sunday School Convention—Oral

District League Convention—(see reports)
 Foreign Mission—Oral
 Camp Committee—Oral
 Superannuation—Oral
 Obituary—(see reports)

Revision Committee reported that it had a document prepared to present to the body. Motion made that the document be received and adopted item by item. Motion carried and Constitution and By-Laws adopted. (Copy of same is printed in these minutes.)

Tardy letter received from the Breckenridge Church.

Financial Committee appointed as follows:—Bros. John Edwards, Donald Martin and U. V. Jagers.

Presbytery report made by Rev. William Mishler. Report accepted. (See reports.)

Motion made to adjourn business session until 9:30 Saturday morning. Motion carried. Benediction by Bro. Royce Hogan.

FRIDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. William Mishler presiding and singing conducted by Bro. Paul Miller. Opening prayer by Rev. H. C. Beasley. Announcements made. Offertory prayer by Rev. Geo. P. Warren.

Special music by Benton Harbor quartet and trio from First Church of Flint Rev. Raymond Riggs brought an inspirational message speaking on "Let Us Go On"—"How Can We Build For God." Judges 6-7. Benediction by Rev. Mark Lewis.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

Singing conducted by Rev. Raymond Riggs. Opening prayer by Rev. Ira Carpenter. Devotion by Rev. J. A. Fredericks. John 21:3-4.

W.D.A.C. report read and received as information. (See reports.)

Finance Committee report made and motion made to receive same and discharge Committee. Motion carried. (See reports.)

Resolutions Committee report made and all items contained therein adopted. (See resolutions.)

Motion made that \$150.00 be set aside to be used at the discretion of the delegates toward their expense to the National Convention. Carried.

Bro. Van Paschall elected as delegate and Braxton Click, alternate.

Treasurer's report read and accepted. (See reports.)

Ministerial reports read and received as information. (See reports.)

Officers elected as follows:—

District League Officers

Van Paschall	President
John Edwards	Vice-President
Gene Anderson	Sec'y.-Treas.
Rev. William Mishler	Sponsor
Robert Mosley and Sue Paschall—Executive members.	

District Sunday School Officers

Rev. William MishlerPresident
Ocil DaltonVice-President
Eileen DaltonSec'y.-Treas.

Program Committee

Rev. Mark Lewis
Rev. H. C. Beasley
Rev. William Mishler

Standing Business Committee

Motion made that the successor to Bro. Riggs as pastor of the Highland Park Church, be elected to the committee, contingent upon his becoming a member of the church. Motion carried.

Standing Finance Committee

Bro. Royce Hogan

Presbytery Board

Rev. Paul Lee

Home Mission Board

Rev. George Ritter

Board of Education

Until 1954—Rev. Paul Lee

Superannuation Board

Van Paschall

OFFICERS

ModeratorRev. Mark Lewis
Ass't. ModeratorRev. Ira Carpenter
ClerkMildred Daniel
Ass't. ClerkMacy Berberick
TreasurerRev. William Mishler
ReporterVan Paschall
ParliamentarianRev. William Mishler

It was agreed that Rev. Mark Lewis be recommended as State Foreign Mission Director and Rev. George Ritter be recommended as State Home Mission Director.

The body voted to hold the next quarterly conference with the West Wayne F.W.B. Church.

Motion made that a standing vote of thanks be extended to all outgoing officers for untiring and efficient service rendered. Motion carried.

Due to the fact that Mrs. Sloan is planning to leave the Conference to assume work in the Foreign Mission office of the Free Will Baptist Headquarters Building in Nashville, Tenn., she was asked for a word of testimony. She testified that her nine years as clerk of the Association had enriched her Christian experience and expressed her appreciation for prayers sent up and words of encouragement spoken in her behalf.

Rev. George Warren, charter member of the Association also gave his testimony as to what the years of affiliation with this body had done for him.

Motion made that 500 copies of the minutes of this session be printed. Motion carried.

The moderator authorized the newly elected clerk to write and compile these minutes for printing.

Motion made that a vote of thanks be extended to the First F.W.B. Church of Flint, for the splendid welcome and hospitality extended to this Convention during this session. Motion carried.

Motion made and adopted to adjourn until the next quarterly Conference. Motion carried.

Benediction—Rev. Raymond Riggs.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Raymond Riggs—Moderator

Mrs. Hubert B. Sloan—Clerk

Phil. 1:3—"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

REPORTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HOME MISSION BOARD

The Home Mission Board has received from Churches in the Wolverine Association \$1007.16 in the past year. A part of this amount went toward the 1952 National Home Mission Quota. A total of \$692.99 has been paid toward the 1953 National Quota, leaving a balance due of \$307.01. This does not include receipts of this session.

Five special services were held in our churches which included the film, "Forward With Christ". One thousand Home Mission tracts were distributed.

Financial assistance of \$175.00 was given to the First Church of Flint.

An investigation of possible Free Will Baptist Churches in the Kingston, Clifford and Pigeon, Mich. areas has been conducted. One former Church at Kingston was found, but is no longer a Free Will Baptist. A Church was located in Clifford, and Rev. Mishler has written to the pastor there to determine possibilities of affiliation with the Wolverine Association. Further investigation is planned for the near future.

We wish to express our appreciation to our Churches for their co-operation toward meeting the National Quota and to thank each one for the offering given.

Respectfully submitted,

Van W. Paschall

Chairman, Home Mission Board

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOLVERINE LEAGUE CONVENTION

The Wolverine League Convention in the past year has organized one (1) new League, assisted in the reorganization of one (1) League. Printed over 2000 bulletins which have been distributed to every Church in our Association and several not in our Association.

The Convention held one Rally with the National League Board Secretary as principal speaker, and plans another Rally in the early Fall.

A Constitution and By-Laws has been drawn up and approved by the Wolverine Association.

Also several League Manuals and Quarterlies have been given to various Leagues.

Respectfully submitted,

Van W. Paschall—President

ANNUAL PRESBYTERY BOARD REPORT

The Presbytery of the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists met Sept. 6, 1952 at the West Wayne F.W.B. Church. In the absence of the Chairman, Rev. Maurice Roach, the Moderator of the Ass'n., Rev. Raymond Riggs acted as Chairman. Three members of the Board were present. Prayer by Rev. Mark Lewis.

Chairman called for business which was as follows:

1. Motion carried that this Board grant the request of the West Wayne F.W.B. Church of Wayne, Mich. Request, that Bro. Ward Wilson be examined and granted license to preach the Gospel for one year. This request will be granted upon return and proper answering of the questions submitted to Bro. Wilson by this Board.

2. Motion carried that this Board approve the Ordination Certificate of Rev. Mark Lewis, and that he be accepted as a member of this Ass'n.

3. Motion carried that this Board approve the Ordination Certificate of Rev. Don Lee, and that he be accepted as a member of this Association, contingent upon his being accepted as a member of the West Wayne F.W.B. Church of Wayne, Mich.

Motion made that this Board adjourn to meet at call of Chairman. Prayer by Bro. Ward Wilson.

Answers to License Questions received Dec. 4, 1952 from Bro. Wilson. Grade 75%. Also, Rev. Don Lee has placed his membership with the West Wayne Church.

The Presbytery met December 6th, 1952 at the First F.W.B. Church in Hazel Park, Mich. Three members were present. Rev. Maurice Roach, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Prayer by Rev. Paul Lee.

Chairman called for business which was as follows:

1. The First F.W.B. Church of Flint, Mich., requests that Brother Braxton Click be examined for the office of Deacon, and Brother Paul Lee, who has carried License (Minister) for one year be further examined by this Presbytery for Ordination to the full work of the Ministry.

Motion carried that these requests be granted and these brethren be properly questioned. Requests to be taken separately.

A. After proper questioning, motion carried that Brother Braxton Click be ordained to the office of Deacon.

B. After proper questioning, motion carried that Brother Paul E. Lee be given the Ordination Questions prepared by this Presbytery,

and upon the return of the same properly answered, with a grade of not less than 70% he be ordained to the full work of the Ministry.

Chairman of this Presbytery is to set date for Ordination service.

Motion made that this Presbytery adjourn to meet in Flint, Mich., at time and place chosen by the Chairman. Carried.

Answers to Ordination Questions submitted to Brother Paul E. Lee were received January 8th, 1953. Grade 80%.

The Presbytery was called to meet February 14th, 1953 at the First F.W.B. Church of Flint, Mich., by order of the Chairman, Rev. Maurice Roach, to ordain Bro. Braxton Click to the office of Deacon, and Bro. Paul E. Lee to the full work of the Ministry. Four members of the Presbytery were present. The Ordination Sermon was delivered by Rev. Mark Lewis. The Charge and Certificates given by Rev. Raymond Riggs, and the Ordination prayer by Rev. William Mishler. Rev. Maurice Roach, Chairman, presided. The services were well attended and were a great blessing to all present.

The Presbytery met February 27, 1953 at the Highland Park F.W.B. Church, Highland Park, Mich. Chairman called Board to order. Prayer by Rev. Mark Lewis. Three members were present.

Chairman called for business:

1. Since the Crusaders F.W.B. Church has been accepted into this Association, a motion was made and carried that all the Ordained of this Church and their certificates be approved by this Board, and that they be accepted as members of this Ass'n. The names as follows: Rev. George Ritter, Pastor; Brothers Carl Kilgore and Fred Farmer.

2. The West Wayne F.W.B. Church requested that Brother Thurman Grace be examined by this Board for the office of Deacon.

After proper questioning, motion made and carried that Brother Thurman Grace be ordained to the office of Deacon. Ordination Services to be held at the West Wayne Church at a later date.

Motion made and carried that this Board adjourn to meet at call of Chairman.

Ordination service for the ordination of Brother Thurman Grace was held March 14th, 1953, at the West Wayne F.W.B. Church, Wayne, Mich. Invocation by Bro. Tancel Orr. Ordination sermon was delivered by Rev. Mishler. Charge and presenting of Certificate by Rev. Mark Lewis and the Ordination prayer by Rev. George Ritter who acted as proxy for Rev. Riggs. The service was enjoyed by all present.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Maurice Roach, Chairman
Rev. William Mishler, Clerk

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Number of Auxiliaries composing the District.....	4
Total membership	96

Departmental Work

I. Enlistment Work Done:

- 75 working to bring back absentees and win new members
- 28 members mailing letters or cards
- 10 making personal visits
- 27 distributed enlistment tracts
- 17 promotion programs given

II. Youth Work Done:

- 3 churches have G.T.A.'s with a membership of 30
- 1 church has a Y.P.A. with a membership of 10
- 14 members assisted in conducting Vacation Bible Schools and Junior Bible School and taught in Youth Camp
- 25 boxes of cookies were sent to the F.W.B. Bible College and service boys from the Highland Park Church

For the F.W.B. Bible College:

- 46 dish towels, 2 dish cloths and 2 pot holders
- \$730.50 given by Auxiliary members
- \$145.00 paid on the College organ
- Bought material at \$58.14 and made drapes for the College

III. Study Course Work Done:

- 4 Mission Books read
- 1 Stewardship book read
- 2 Evangelism books read

IV. Program-Publicity Work Done:

- 24 programs planned in advance
- 15 special programs held
- 64 prayer programs
- 8 programs for the Week of Prayer
- 19 subscribe to the Auxiliary Manual
- 84 subscribe to the Year Book
- 32 subscribe to the G.T.A. Book
- 10 subscribe to the Y.P.A. Book
- 84 subscribe to the F.W.B. papers
- 3 articles were published in religious papers

V. Benevolence Work Done:

- 3 children were adopted for clothing
- \$40.00 worth of clothing sent for children
- 34 pounds of used clothing sent
- 1 Auxiliary mended clothing for orphanage

Personal Service Work—

- 33 attended cottage prayer meetings
- 52 made efforts to win souls
- 25 distributed Bibles
- 12 souls won as a result of these efforts
- 12 souls won as a result of these efforts
- 25 distributed Bibles
- 20 gave garments to the needy

11 trays and baskets were given to the needy
 30 helped in various community mission work, such as making
 cancer pads for the Red Cross
 Aside from the above mentioned items, many get-well cards, plants
 and flowers were sent. Also, local Church projects were carried on.

VI. Financial Work Done:

\$ 18.09 sent to Co-Laborer Fund
 \$520.00 given to Foreign Missions
 \$838.25 given to F.W.B. Bible College and students
 \$ 12.00 cash gifts to aged ministers
 \$1254.47 spent for local Church activities

We praise the Lord for all that has been accomplished and ask your
 prayers that we may always be "laborers together with God".

Respectfully submitted,
 Mrs. Mildred Daniel
 District President

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Tithes

Highland Park Church	\$ 508.21	
First Church of Hazel Park.....	100.00	
Philadelphia Church	231.86	
Burton Church	48.49	
West Wayne Church	40.35	
Benton Harbor Church	50.00	
First Church of Flint	110.62	
Breckenridge Church	40.00	
Total		\$1,129.53

Home Missions

Burton Church	\$ 25.00	
West Wayne Church	46.38	
First Church of Flint	30.00	
Total		101.38

Foreign Missions

West Wayne Church	\$ 86.95	
First Church of Flint	29.70	
Total		116.65
Offering taken		18.74
Grand Total		\$1,366.30

Respectfully submitted,
 John Edwards
 Donald Martin
 U. V. Jagers

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash on Hand June 1, 1952.....\$1,856.77

Receipts

Foreign Missions

Burton F.W.B. Church	\$ 183.83
West Wayne F.W.B. Church.....	246.00
Hazel Park F.W.B. Church.....	721.00
First F.W.B. Church of Flint.....	40.56
Highland Park F.W.B. Church.....	4,558.03
Breckenridge F.W.B. Church	73.50
Philadelphia F.W.B. Church	328.89
Benton Harbor F.W.B. Church	57.00
Crusaders F.W.B. Church	136.61

Total	\$6,346.02
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Home Missions

Burton F.W.B. Church	\$ 25.00
West Wayne F.W.B. Church	129.09
Hazel Park F.W.B. Church.....	72.21
First F.W.B. Church of Flint.....	3.10
Highland Park F.W.B. Church.....	677.90
Breckenridge F.W.B. Church	10.00
Philadelphia F.W.B. Church	36.35
Benton Harbor F.W.B. Church.....	43.01
Crusaders F.W.B. Church	10.50

Total	\$1,007.16
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Tithes

Burton F.W.B. Church	\$ 190.37
West Wayne F.W.B. Church	150.00
Hazel Park F.W.B. Church	376.91
First F.W.B. Church of Flint.....	59.21
Highland Park F.W.B. Church.....	2,056.03
Breckenridge F.W.B. Church	70.00
Philadelphia F.W.B. Church	654.20
Benton Harbor F.W.B. Church	75.00

Total	\$3,631.72
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Youth Camp—July, 1952	1,141.07
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Grand Total	\$13,982.74
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Disbursements

Foreign Missions	\$6,827.50
Home Missions	1,196.26
National Superannuation (Ins. Inc.).....	162.31

F.W.B. Bible College	506.87	
Unified Program	406.87	
Moderator	50.00	
Clerk	50.00	
Treasurer	50.00	
Rev. and Mrs. Paul Woolsey (Gift).....	50.00	
Rev. and Mrs. Dan Cronk (Gift).....	50.00	
Insurance Premiums	46.50	
Office Supplies, Postage and Phone.....	67.68	
July 1952 Camp Disbursements.....	760.12	
National Association Fees	5.00	
Delegates Exp. to National Association.....	250.00	
F.W.B. Press Printing of Minutes.....	95.00	
Herbert Waid (Student)	75.00	
Bill McClintock (Student)	75.00	
Central Bible Depot (Film).....	15.72	
Rev. Paul Lee (On Flint Ch. Bldg.).....	175.00	
F.W.B. College Lumen Space.....	40.00	
Rev. D. C. Dodd (On Hdqrs. Bldg.).....	345.93	
Highland Park Church (Union Revival Exp.).....	3.21	
Rev. McKinley Newsome (To Ecorse Ch.).....	100.00	
Engelmans Visual Educ. (Repair Film).....	3.75	
Faith Tract League (H.M. Tracts).....	2.50	
Bussing's (Home Mission Stamp).....	3.80	
Gratiot Film Co. (H.M. Film).....	27.00	
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Total		\$11,480.02
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Balance May 31, 1953.....		\$ 2,502.72
Balance in Various Accounts		
General Fund	\$ 960.15	
Home Missions	396.10	
Superannuation	770.11	
Great Lakes Youth Camp.....	376.36	
Unified Program		
Board of Education		
Foreign Missions		
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Total Accounts Balance May 31, 1953.....		\$ 2,502.72
Foreign Mission Quota for Michigan.....	\$7,000.00	
Received from Various Sources in Michigan.....	7,478.80	
Over Quota	478.80	
Home Mission Quota for Michigan.....	1,000.00	
Received from Various Sources in Michigan.....	692.99	
Balance Due on Quota by June 15, 1953.....	307.01	

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. William Mishler, Treasurer

REPORT OF OBITUARY COMMITTEE

Since the last Annual Conference of the Wolverine Association, our Lord has seen fit to call home little Billy Paschall, infant son of Bro. and Sis. Van Paschall of the Highland Park Church; Bro. Jessie Pulley of the Benton Harbor Church; Bro. Lester Couffman and Sis. Dodge of the Breckenridge Church.

We, the Obituary Committee recommend that we stand in a moment of silent meditation in memory of these loved ones.

We also recommend that the clerk of the Wolverine Association send a sympathy card to Bro. and Sis. Paschall; also to the loved ones of the late Bro. Pulley.

Royce Hogan
Mrs. Romie Turner
Mrs. Libby Dunlap

MINISTERIAL REPORTS

Rev. Raymond Riggs: Served as Pastor of the Highland Park F.W.B. Church; Teacher of the Bible Class; Taught in Junior Bible School and Daily Vacation Bible School; Taught in Christian Workers Institute; Brought message during Cuban Convention and graduation; Commissioned 5 Missionaries; Attended National Convention and Bible Conference; Attended and spoke at four Missionary Conferences; Served as Promotional Sec'y.-Treas. of the Board of Foreign Missions; Served as Moderator of the Wolverine Association.

Sermons Preached	73	
Conversions	54	
Baptized	36	
New Members	61	
Received for services rendered.....		\$5,265.00
Revivals conducted	4	
Sermons Preached	45	
Conversions	84	
Received for Services Rendered.....		950.00
Funerals Conducted	13	Fees.... 120.00
Wedding Ceremonies	12	Fees.... 130.00
Moderator of Wolverine Association.....		50.00
Promotional Sec'y.-Treas. (Foreign Missions)		600.00
Total.....		\$7,115.00

Rev. Mark M. Lewis: Pastor of the First F.W.B. Church of Hazel Park; Conducted 3 revivals; Worked in two Youth Camps; Teacher of Intermediate Class; Assisted in Teacher Training Classes; Served as Chairman of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Ass'n; Traveled approximately 30,000 miles.

Messages Delivered	142
Professions Witnessed	127

Number Baptized	4
Received into the Church.....	14
Marriages Performed	2
Received for Services Rendered.....	\$3,974.53

Rev. William Mishler: Pastor of the Philadelphia F.W.B. Church; Teacher of the Senior Bible Class; Taught in one session of the Teacher Training Institute; Served as member of the Executive Committee of the National Association; Served as Chairman of the F.W.B. National Sunday School Board; Served as Treasurer of the Wolverine Association; Served as Clerk of the Presbytery Board of the Wolverine Association; Served as state Director of the Home Mission Board; Attended the annual Bible and Missionary Conferences in Nashville, Tenn. and the National Ass'n. in Shawnee, Okla.

Sermons Preached	122
Members Received	13
Conversions Witnssed	27
Number Baptized	12
Revivals	1
Funerals	3
Weddings	2
Amount received from Church (Salary).....	\$3,935.00
For Other Services	600.00
Total.....	\$4,535.00

Rev. Paul E. Lee: Pastor of the First F.W.B. Church of Flint; Served as corresponding secretary for the District League.

Sermons Preached	90
Number Conversions	11
Number Members Received	21
Number Dismissed	1
Number Weddings	1
Number Funerals	2
Salary Received	\$100.00
Rev. George P. Warren: Preached 3 sermons; Conducted 2 funerals.	
Rev. Ira S. Carpenter: Teacher of Adult Bible Class in Sunday School;	
Sermons Preached	14
Weddings	1
Amount Received for Services.....	\$107.00

Rev. George L. Ritter: Pastor of the Crusader F.W.B. Church; Completed remodeling of Church building and bought seats totaling \$1,850.00 (Paid); Attended the Bible Conference in Nashville, Tenn.; Assisted in 2 revivals in our Church, witnessing a total of 23 who were saved or reclaimed;

Sermons Preached	149
Baptized	11

New Members	33
Converted or Reclaimed.....	52
Salary Received	\$1,960.00

Rev. H. C. Beasley: Pastor of the Breckenridge F.W.B. Church; Assistant teacher of the Adult Bible Class; Had 1 revival meeting with 7 conversions;

Sermons Preached	160
Weddings	8
Funerals	6
Salary received	\$2,600.00

Rev. J. A. Frederick: Pastor of the Benton Harbor F.W.B. Church;

Number of Messages	158
Number Baptized	8
Funerals	2
Weddings	7

RESOLUTIONS

1. Be it resolved that we, the Wolverine Association, contribute \$500.00 annually to the salary of the Promotional-Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board; the said sum to be paid quarterly and is to be over and above the state quota.

2. Be it resolved that the Wolverine Association give to the following churches; the First F.W.B. of Hazel Park and the Benton Harbor F.W.B. Church, the sum of \$100.00 each from the General Fund. Be it further resolved that we recommend that the Home Mission Board give from its funds \$100.00 to each of the above named churches.

Be it further resolved that this Association authorize its Treasurer to loan from the General Fund \$500.00 to the First F.W.B. Church of Hazel Park upon its request to said Treasurer.

3. Resolved that we send a gift of \$50.00 to Dan and Trula Cronk from the General Fund.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Standing Business Committee

Rev. Charles Thigpen, 1956	Rev. Ira Carpenter, 1955
Rev. W. T. Newsome, Chairman, 1955	Bro. Claude Pinkston, 1954
Bro. Frank Howell, 1954	

Standing Finance Committee

Bro. Ocil Dalton, 1954	Bro. Preston Slocum, 1955
Bro. Royce Hogan, 1956	

Presbytery Board

Rev. Maurice Roach, Chairman, 1955	Rev. William Mishler, Sec'y., 1955
Rev. W. T. Newsome, 1954	Rev. Mark Lewis, 1954
Rev. Paul Lee, 1958	

Home Mission Board

Bro. LaVan Pearce, 1954 Bro. Fowler Kirby, Clerk, 1954
Bro. Oddis Birchett, 1955 Bro. Van Paschall, Chairman, 1955
Rev. George L. Ritter, 1958

Board of Education

Rev. Mark Lewis, Clark, 1954 Rev. Paul Lee, 1954
Rev. William Mishler, Chairman, 1955

Superannuation Board

Rev. William T. Newsome, Chairman, 1954 Rev. J. A. Frederick, 1954
Rev. H. C. Beasley, 1955 Rev. Ira Carpenter, Clerk, 1955
Bro. Van Paschall, 1958

Program Committee

Rev. Mark Lewis Rev. H. C. Beasley
Rev. William Mishler

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. J. A. Frederick, 3547 Bluecreek Rd., Benton Harbor, Michigan
Rev. Maurice W. Roach, 627 W. Atherton Rd., Flint, Michigan
Rev. William Mishler, 2239 Parker, Detroit, Michigan
Rev. Mark Lewis, 23082 Hazelwood, Hazel Park, Michigan
Rev. Dan Cronk, Missionary to India
Rev. George P. Warren, 2106 Harwine St., Flint, Michigan
Rev. H. C. Beasley, 336 Third St., Box 67, Beckenridge, Michigan
Rev. Ira Carpenter, 23048 Vassar, Hazel Park, Michigan
Rev. Paul Lee, 947 Leland St., Flint, Michigan.
Rev. George Ritter, 664 A. Garfield, Hazel Park, Michigan
Rev. Gene Anderson, 159 W. Pearl, Hazel Park, Michigan

LICENTIATES

Bro. Van Paschall, 169 E. Buena Vista, Highland Park, Michigan
Bro. W. D. Jagers, 120 Rizzo Court, Benton Harbor, Michigan
Bro. Ward L. Wilson, 4340 Randolph St., Wayne, Michigan

DEACON ENROLLMENT

HAZEL PARK CHURCH: David Allison, LaVan Pearce, Paul Carrier,
Woodrow Luther.
HIGHLAND PARK CHURCH: Thomas Carlile, Tancel Orr, Preston Slo-
cum, Douglas Moore, Fred McChesney.
FIRST CHURCH OF FLINT: Braxton Click.
PHILDELPHIA CHURCH: Fowler Kirby, Carson Jaquess, Herman
Rippetoe, Ezra Walker, Robert Parrish.
WEST WAYNE CHURCH: Thurman Grace, Adolph Felon.
BENTON HARBOR CHURCH: Robert Russell, James Harris, W. D.
Jagers, John Reeder.
BURTON CHURCH: Oddis Birchett, Oscar Hollis, Myron Van Nada.

DELEGATE ENROLLMENT

HAZEL PARK CHURCH: Mrs. Alta Dalton, Mrs. Tilley Plane, Mrs.
Thelma Lewis, Mrs. Louise Lindsey, Rev. Ira Carpenter, Rev. Mark
Lewis, Mrs. L. Dunlop.

HIGHLAND PARK CHURCH: Mrs. Ella Langlois, Donald Martin, Mrs. Vera Sheridan, Van Paschall, Mrs. Gladys Sloan.

FIRST CHURCH OF FLINT: Mrs. June Coleman, Mrs. Grace Edwards, Mrs. Grace Warren, Mrs. Ronnie Lee, John Edwards, Braxton Click, Rev. Paul Lee, Rev. George Warren.

CRUSADER CHURCH: Represented by letter received at close of Conference.

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH: Mrs. Rommie Turner, Mrs. Bertie Mishler, Rév. William Mishler.

WEST WAYNE CHURCH: Spencer Caudell, Mrs. Maude Kennedy, Mrs. Gladys Hogan.

BENTON HARBOR CHURCH: Mrs. James Harris, Ola Frederick, U. V. Jaggers, Rev. J. A. Frederick, W. D. Jaggers.

BURTON CHURCH: Represented by letter.

BRECKENRIDGE CHURCH: Otho Montgomery, Rev. H. C. Beasley.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I — Name:

This organization shall be known as the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists of Michigan.

ARTICLE II — Purpose

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify and strengthen the work of the various churches, composing the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists, and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the kingdom of God in connection with the various churches in the Association or that may be hereafter represented therein.

ARTICLE III — Composition

The Wolverine Association shall be composed of its general officers, the members of all standing boards or committees, and duly appointed delegates as chosen by the churches belonging to said Association.

ARTICLE IV — Representation

Representation in the Wolverine Association is to be by churches which are affiliated with this body. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates elected from the laity, all ordained ministers, deacons, licensed preachers, Pastor's wives, church clerks, general Sunday School Superintendent, General League Director and President of the Woman's Auxiliary, providing the delegates are members in good standing of the local church they represent.

ARTICLE V — Finance

We recommend that each church pay 10% of its regular income into the treasury of the Association to be used in the various phases of the Denominational work at the discretion of the Association. (Compliance with this recommendation is not compulsory for affiliation, but the plan has proven successful in financing our work.)

ARTICLE VI — Discipline

Section 1. This Association shall have power to sit only as an advisory council to give churches advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire

into the way churches neglect to represent in this Association; to invite brethren in the ministry to a seat in the Association; to exclude from the body any member who does not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report their conduct to the church from which they were sent.

Section 2. All matters involving disciplinary measures shall be handled according to the Treaties of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE VII — Meetings

The meetings of the Wolverine Association shall be held each quarter and shall begin on Thursday night before the first Sunday in June, September, December and March. The meeting beginning before the first Sunday in June shall be called The Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1.

Standing Boards: The Standing Boards of this Association shall consist of the Presbytery Board, Home Mission Board, Superannuation Board and Board of Education.

Section 2.

Committees: Standing Business Committee, Finance Committee, Program Committee and other Committees as necessary shall be elected or appointed by the Chairman unless otherwise provided for and shall hold office until their work is completed or until their successors are elected or appointed.

ARTICLE IX — Auxiliaries

The District Woman's Auxiliary Convention, the District Sunday School Convention and the District League Convention shall be recognized as subordinate organizations to the Wolverine Association. They shall organize at their own discretion and have power to create and adopt their respective Constitution and By-Laws, and maintain complete management of the work for which they are constituted. They shall report their accomplishments annually to the Association.

ARTICLE X

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Wolverine Association by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented to the body in writing one day in advance.

BY-LAWS

1. Officers:

The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer.

2. The Moderator, Clerk and the Treasurer shall receive an honorarium of \$50.00 each, annually for their services.

3. The Standing Boards shall be composed of five members each and may be elected either from the ordained authority or the laity except the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall consist of ordained authority,

two of which may be Deacons. The members of Standing Boards shall be elected for a term of five years, with their term of office to expire alternately.

4. The duties of the various Standing Boards shall be to plan a program and supervise its operation in their respective fields. They shall organize themselves and regulate their work as may become necessary and as may be found in harmony with the principles and tenets of the Wolverine Association.
5. Any duly ordained minister or deacon, who is in good standing with this body has the privilege of sitting in council with the Presbytery at any time, but will not be permitted to vote unless he is appointed to serve by proxy, by an absentee member or selected by a majority of the members present.
6. The purpose of the Presbytery shall be for the mutual improvement of the ministry, their protection against hostile influences, for the maintaining of a clean and pure character among those of the ordained authority. It shall also become the duty of the Presbytery to examine all candidates for license to preach the Gospel or to ordain the same at the request of the local church.
7. Before granting a license or endorsing credentials of any minister from another denomination to preach the Gospel, the candidate must have been a member of a church in this Association at least six months.
8. The local church must first request by letter the licensing or ordaining of all candidates before the Presbytery can act.
9. Before license or ordination, the candidate is examined as to his gifts, personal piety and doctrines, his call to the ministry, his adaptability and devotion to the work, his reputation, character, ability, and his present and prospective educational and professional qualifications. A list of not less than twenty-five questions should be prepared by the Presbytery and the candidates should be required to make a grade of not less than 70% before license is granted. The examination for ordination should include all that is required for license, and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate and his attainments, at least in the departments of English education, doctrinal and pastoral theology, and homiletics.
10. The examination of deacons shall be according to I Timothy, Chapter 3.
11. The term of license shall be one year after which local church may request another examination, and the Presbytery shall decide whether or not the license be extended or the candidate be ordained. If an offense is made during the year, and the candidate repents, his license will be forfeited, and he will be forced to begin anew.
12. A minister from another Denomination wishing to unite with this Association must first make application to a church which requests action of the Presbytery the same as for license or ordination.

13. Be it known that any minister or deacon coming under the hands of the Presbytery who walks disorderly, or commits an offense must come before this body and make restitution or willingly give up such rights of license or ordination papers or card by this body, or they agree to be published in any or all newspapers as this body deems necessary.
14. An annual written report of the activities of the Presbytery shall be made by the clerk of the Presbytery to the Association, or as often as is necessary.
15. All ministers of this Association are required to report in person or letter to the Annual Association with a written report of their work. Failure to report to the Association at least once per year will forfeit the minister's standing and he will be dropped from the Association.
16. These Rules and By-Laws are to be printed in Minutes at all times.
17. For further information pertaining to the officers of the local church and their duties, the church should consult the Treaties of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, chapter one, under The Church.
18. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular annual session of the Wolverine Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

DOCTRINE

1. GOD. We believe in one true and living triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine essence, purpose, power and glory. St. John 1:1; I Cor. 8:6; St. John 10:30.

2. CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home. Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

3. HOLY SPIRIT. We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the Son back to the Father and His coming on the day of Pentecost, has taken up His office work among all nations of people as a Divine Reprover, Comforter, and Guide. Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Eph. 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. THE BIBLE. We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by the inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Peter 1:19-21; II Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. **THE FALL OF MAN.** We believe that God created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience, gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of God, fell with their posterity under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave then the hope of salvation through the coming CHRIST. Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:5; Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3.

6. **REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION.** We believe Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance in to the glorified kingdom above. Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Heb. 1:4; St. John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22.

7. **CONDITION OF SALVATION.** We believe that all persons, dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without an act on their part, that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb, and are planted in the kingdom of Christ. John 3; Matt. 19:13-22; I Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16, 17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. **SALVATION FREE.** We believe that God desires the salvation of all, Christ died for all, the Gospel invites all, and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel. I Peter 1:9-25; 2:9-25; Rev. 22:17.

9. **BAPTISM.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the Presbytery of the Elders are qualified to administer the same. Matt. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; I Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19.

10. **COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING.** We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saint's feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Saviour to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each

other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming. Luke 22:19, 20; I Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. **THE SABBATH.** We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God, that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted. Exodus 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:12-18; Mark 2:27.

12. **CALL TO THE MINISTRY.** We believe in a divine call of the ministry, that God in His goodness and power of grace, impresses His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible to personal contentment, that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him, He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose. Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matt. 28:19.

13. **THE INVISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that the Invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people. Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; I Peter 2:5; Eph. 2: 20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18.

14. **THE VISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women having obtained fellowship with the Lord and each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel. II Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; III John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:4-20.

15. **PERSEVERANCE.** We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace and in the knowledge of the truth and that God's grace is sufficient to help them overcome all the obstacles of life and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who side-step and willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would back-slide; if persistently continued, would be eternally lost. II Peter 1:12; II Cor. 9:10; II Peter 1:4-8; 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostacy: II Peter 1:8, 9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; I Tim. 4:1, 2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31, 32.

16. **CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.** We believe that Christ is the head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body. Col. 1:18, 19; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Eph. 1:22; Acts 16:4, 5.

17. **SANCTIFICATION.** Sanctification is a work of God's grace by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 6:11; II Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; II Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; II Tim. 2:20, 21.

18. **THE RESURRECTION.** We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be united, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment. Matt. 28:6; John 5:28, 29; I Cor. 15:51-58.

19. **THE SOUL.** The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death, enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:48; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25. Matt. 10:28.

20. **JUDGMENT.** We believe that there will be a general, universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into everlasting happiness. II Thess. 1: 4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36; Rev. 20:12, 13; Acts 17:31.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise to his feet and address the Moderator.

3. Each person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the Moderator until he gets through; nor shall the Moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.

4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question and shall in no wise cast reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

6. No person shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

7. Members shall address each other by the appellation of brother or brethren, and sisters.

8. No member of this Association shall absent himself when the Association is sitting in conference without leave of the Moderator.

9. The names of the members of this Association shall be enrolled and called over as often as the Association thinks it necessary.

10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any time without leave of the Moderator.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the

study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts, for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Received into Fellowship	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deaths	Ministers	S. S. Average Attendance	F. W. B. L. Enrollment	Membership Enrollment	Woman's Aux. Membership
Breckenridge	Rev. H. C. Beasley	Mrs. John Corbett	5	2	0	2	1	60	0	90	23
Highland Park	Rev. Charles Thigpen	Van Paschall	55	3	0	1	1	435	86	489	39
West Wayne	Rev. Don Lee	Angela Felon	17	1	2	0	2	98	0	44	0
First Church Hazel Park	Rev. Mark Lewis	Louise Carte	14	3	0	0	5	115	38	167	12
Philadelphia	Rev. William Mishler	Frank Howell	13	0	0	0	2	71	38	73	27
First Church of Flint	Rev. Paul Lee	Mrs. Ronnie Lee	17	0	1	0	2	55	18	37	0
Burton	Rev. Maurice Roach	Marjorie Daily	22				1	33		22	9
Benton Harbor	Rev. J. A. Frederick	Robert Russell	6	3	0	1	1	50	15	30	17
Crusader	Rev. George Ritter	Dorthy Williamson	19	6	1		1	108	0	58	0
		Totals	168	18	4	4	16	1025	195	1010	127