

MINUTES

OF THE

40TH SESSION

OF THE

WOODLAWN ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

HELD WITH

WACO CHURCH

August 1st-3rd, 1940.

The next Annual Session of the Association will be held with the Long Branch Free Will Baptist Church which convenes on Thursday night before the First Sunday in August, 1941.

Minutes of the Woodlawn Association of THE FREE WILL BAPTISTS

40TH ANNUAL SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

Met Thursday night before First Sunday in August, 1940. Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. E. Graham; the church was called in conference by the moderator, Rev. J. E. Graham. The moderator called for enrollment of ministers and deacons, after which the moderator appointed Rev. J. L. Bounds, Bro. J. W. Knight, Bro. W. R. McGregor as pulpit committee. Enrollment of ministers and deacons are as follows: Ministers, Rev. J. L. Bounds, 1903 South 12th St., Waco, Texas; Rev. J. E. Graham, Route 3, Killeen, Texas. Rev. Tiff Covington visiting minister. Enrollment of deacons: A. Sullins, Waco, Texas; Milton Graham, Killeen, Texas; J. W. Knight, Waco, Texas; J. M. Maricle, Eddy, Texas; James H. Maricle, Eddy, Texas; F. H. Phillips, Eddy, Texas; Leroy Conaway, Dott, Texas; W. H. Calvary, Dott, Texas. Carl Patterson was elected clerk to serve for the sitting of this association. Motion made and carried that we adjourn until Friday morning at 9 o'clock.

Friday morning session. Session called to order by the clerk. Devotional service led by Bro. Frank Phillips. Church letters were called for from the different churches. The Dott church responded by letter. Letter read and received. The Long Branch church responded by letter. Letter read and received. Waco church responded by letter. Letter read and received. Delegates present were seated by right-hand of church fellowship. Motion that we seat Rev. Tiff Covington as visiting minister from the West Fork Association, carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY

Bro. F. F. Phillips, Mrs. Clara Smith, Mrs. Leroy Conaway.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Bro. W. H. Calvary, Rev. J. L. Bounds.

Motion, that we accept the Waco Church Sunday School report as read. Motion, that we adjourn until Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Devotional service was led by Mrs. Leola Martin. Church called in conference by the clerk. Roll called; minutes read and received as read. The report of the several committees were read and adopted. Bro. W. H. Calvary offers his resignation as member of executive board. The association elected Bro. Conaway to fill Bro. Calvary's place, until released by the association. Motion made and carried, that we adjourn until Thursday night before the First Sunday in August, 1941; to meet at that time with the Long Branch Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. J. L. Bounds to preach the introductory sermon.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Temperance, beg to submit the following: We feel that the Eighteenth Amendment should never have been repealed, but since it has we can and do urge that we abstain from the use of all intoxicating beverages, and that we be temperate in all things, and May God help us to make this one of our chief aims in life.

JAMES H. MARICLE.

B. L. CONAWAY.

REV. TIFF COVINGTON.

COMMITTEE ON STATE OF RELIGION

We, your committee beg to submit the following after hearing the letters read from the various churches, find that some of our people are faithful and holding to God's unchanging hand. Others are not loyal as should be, so let us join in prayer for those without a vision—so let us be courageous and do what we can to advance our religious views.

J. L. BOUNDS.
TIFF COVINGTON.
F. F. PHILLIPS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, beg to report that some of our churches have very good Sunday Schools, some are not so good; and we recommend that every superintendent and pastor, as well as the lay-members do all in their power to organize Sunday Schools and Leagues in the various churches in the Woodlawn Association, and use the Free Will Baptist literature as far as possible.

J. W. KNIGHT.
J. L. BOUNDS.
W. H. CALVARY, SR.

STANDING OF THE MINISTRY

After close investigation, we find that our ministers are God loving and God fearing people, but are handicapped for the lack of co-operation. But we trust we will have greater success in the future than we have had. We urge all of our church members to stand by and co-operate in every way possible, to enable the ministers to do a greater work for the Lord.

Your Committee: J. R. WHITE. MRS. J. L. BOUNDS.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your committee on obituary, find that God has called some of our beloved ones to rest. From Waco Church Mrs. W. S. Turner, and also Eliga has lost Sister Mary Graham and Sister Mary Sikes. Dott lost Sister Fannie Dee Allen, and Long Branch, two, Bro. Jimmy Rancher and Sister Lennie Crosley. North Prairie, one, Jack Brock. Our losses are heaven's gain. We miss them from our churches.

F. F. PHILLIPS, SISTER LEROY CONAWAY AND SISTER CLARA SMITH.

COMMITTEE ON THANKS

We, the members of the Woodlawn Association in session at the Waco First Free Will Baptist Church, we hereby express our Thanks for the hospitality of the good people of Waco for taking care of the members of the association.

JAMES H. MARICLE, SISTER LEROY CONAWAY AND B. L. CONAWAY.

CHURCH LETTER—NO. 1

Waco Church Letter, July 28, 1940.

To the Woodlawn Association which convened with the Waco First Free Will Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, August 1, 1940: We send as delegates our beloved Brethren and Sisters, Bro. Will McGregory, Mrs. J. L. Bounds, Mrs. W. L. Smith; whom we pray you will seat in your Godly deliberation. Resident members, 40; new residents, 113; total 153 membership. Paid pastor \$4.40; Evangelist \$41.00; for Education \$34.00; for property and other purposes \$299.74; Grand Total \$814.74. Sunday School delegates: Miss Dorothy Jones, Miss Newton Kirk and Miss Eula Pearl McGregory. Average attendance 50. We send \$5.00 for associational expense.

Pastor, J. L. BOUNDS.
Clerk, MRS. JIM GRAHAM.

DOTT CHURCH LETTER—NO. 2

Chilton, Texas.
We, the Church of God, known as Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Liberty Church, Dott, Texas. To the Woodlawn Association when convened with Waco Church. We send as delegates: Sister Leola Martin, Sister Pauline Maricle and Bro. Layton Maricle, whom we pray you receive them in your honorable body. New members received 3, baptized 5; prayer meeting good; Sunday School good; paid pastor \$100.00; Evangelistic work \$30.00; property \$800.00.

Pastor, REV. A. F. FERGUSON.
Clerk, SISTER LEROY CONAWAY.

LONG BRANCH CHURCH LETTER—NO. 3

To the Woodlawn Association of Free Will Baptist Church while convened with the First Free Will Baptist Church at Waco, Texas, Aug. 1, 1940: We send delegates, our beloved Brethren and Sisters, Bro. Adolphus Conaway, Sister Lula Phillips, Clara Sewett and Pearl Mauch, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your delegation. State of Religion poor; members received none; baptized none; dismissed two; died two; total membership 50; prayer meeting good, but small attendance; Sunday School very poor; average number of pupils 10 or 12; officers 2; teachers 2. Paid pastor \$45.40; Home Mission \$19.13; Foreign Mission none; for building and repairs none; lettered out 2; for education \$.70; amount enclosed for Minutes. Pastor's address: Rev. John E. Graham, Killeen, Texas. Names and addresses of ministers belonging to our church: Rev. I. E. Vaughn, Killeen, Texas.

Done by order of Long Branch Church, assembled in conference this 13th day of July, 1940.

The Long Branch Church calls for the next setting of this association.

REV. JOHN E. GRAHAM, Mod.
PEARL MARICLE, C. C.

ELIGA CHURCH LETTER—NO. 4

We, the Church of God, known as Free Will Baptist, worshipping at Eliga, met in church conference July 7, 1940, and elected delegates to the Woodlawn Association while convened with the Waco Church August 1st to 3rd, 1940, the following delegates: Bro. Carl Patterson and daughter, Miss LeAnna, Bro. Oris Parker, Bro. T. L. Shafer. We pray you receive them in the Lord. State of Religion good; Sunday School fair; have prayer meeting, but not regular; pastor support around \$40.09; Evangelistic support \$14.00; resident members 25; non-resident members 20; members received this year 1; dismissed none; died 2; property value \$800.00.

This done by order of church conference this 7th day of July, 1940.

BRO. J. E. VAUGHN, Pastor.
BRO. MILTON GRAHAM, C. C.

REPORT OF PASTORS

This is to certify that I have pastored one church, and preached 50 sermons, and received \$44.98, and married 1 couple in 1940.

JOHN E. GRAHAM, Killeen, Texas.

This to certify that I have preached 158 sermons, pastored 1 church, First Free Will Baptist of Waco; held one revival, Bro. Percell did preaching; members received by baptism six; members received otherwise four; amount of salary \$3.60 with all utility bills paid; collected on same in full; funerals conducted five; marriages solemnized nine; total for all purposes not including salary \$478.74; how many of your churches have Leagues, all; how many of your churches have S. S., all.

REV. J. L. BOUNDS, Pastor of Woodlawn Church.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Clerk calls the Association to order.

The roll call, which will be responded to by the delegates and the letters of the churches.

New churches called to a seat designated; the right hand of fellowship given. It then proceeds to elect its officers which are a moderator, a clerk and a treasurer.

Each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Corresponding members invited to seats.

All who speak shall arise and address the moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

When a motion is made and seconded, and a member proposes discussion, the moderator shall put the questions "Shall the question be discussed?"

Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

No one shall speak more than ten minutes without permission.

All questions shall be decided by majority vote.

No member shall absent himself without permission of the moderator; if so he shall be rebuked by the moderator.

The Association shall be composed of ministers, official members and delegates of the churches, and each church shall be allowed a delegate for each official member.

Each one shall, if absent, give a lawful excuse of his absence.

All committees shall be appointed by the moderator. No church shall be admitted into the Association that is not sound in the doctrine of Christ.

Minutes are read and approved at the sitting of each session.

The moderator shall examine the delegates of each church and shall put the following questions, to-wit: Are the records of your church properly kept? Is your pastor properly cared for? Have you taken a collection for missions the past year? Does your church regularly observe communion, feet-washing and prayer meetings?

Appointing corresponding messengers shall be done by the body.

Hearing reports of the corresponding messengers and committees appointed at the last session.

Appointing of committees and corresponding messengers to other bodies.

No one can be admitted into this Association who is not in full fellowship and good standing in the denomination.

RULES OF ORDINATION

1. Do you believe in the total depravity of the human heart? Answer. No.

2. Do you believe infants are saved while in the state of innocence? Answer. I do.

3. Do you believe in a full and free salvation of all who will accept it on gospel terms? Answer. I do.

4. Do you believe that the burial of the believer with Christ in water, after he has been baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit, is the only gospel baptism? Answer. I do.

5. Do you believe any man has the right in the gospel to repeat baptism to such a subject? Answer. No.

6. Do you believe that communion, feet washing and baptism are gospel ordinances and are to be taught and practiced until He comes again? Answer. I do.

7. Will you solemnly pledge yourself to preach and practice the same, God being your helper? Answer. I will by the help of God.

8. Do you believe that none will be finally saved but those who persevere in holiness to the end? Answer. I do.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE SCRIPTURES.** We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration, and are profitable for instruction in righteousness, and the gospel of Jesus Christ our faith.

2. **GOD.** There is only one living and true God, infinite in His attributes; the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the universe, revealed to us in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

3. **CHRIST.** He is God manifested in the flesh, justified in Spirit, being in His divine nature true God, in His human nature true man, united in person of the Messiah or Mediator for the redemption of the world.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** He possesses all personal and divine attributes, being a reprover, comforter and sanctifier of men.

5. **DIVINE PURPOSES AND PROVIDENCES.** The purposes of God are eternal and immutable, and His wise and holy providence is over all beings and all things to secure His own glory and highest welfare of His creatures.

6. **ORIGINAL STATE AND FALL OF MAN.** Man was created upright, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. All his posterity inherited his fallen nature which is cherished by indulgence, so who come to the age of moral accountability sin and come short of the glory of God.

7. **THE ATONEMENT.** Christ in His great commission offered Himself in our stead and thus His life, suffering and death made an atonement, which is full and free to all who will accept it, and opens the only way to salvation.

8. **CONDITIONS OF SALVATION.** These are repentance, implying Godly sorrow for sin; open confession and utter renunciation of sin; faith, or the unserved committal of the mind and heart to receive, obey and trust in Christ; and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, whereby the soul is freed from the dominion of sin and brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

9. **ELECTION.** God has not fixed the future state of man as an unconditional decree, but determined at the beginning to save all who would comply with the conditions of salvation.

10. **PERSEVERENCE.** Some will finally be saved by those who through grace persevere in holiness to the end.

11. **SALVATION FREE.** God desires the salvation of all. The Gospel invites all. The Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely."

12. **FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is not controlled by any fatal necessity or external force, but is free and self determined, having power to yield to gracious influences and live, or resist them and perish.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.** Baptism by immersion (a burial with Christ in water) of believers, communion and feet washing are ordinances to be perpetuated until Christ shall come again.

14. **THE SABBATH.** The Lord's Day ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God or for religious instruction, and no work shall be done in that day of a worldly nature, nor business be transacted on that day; works of piety or necessity excepted.

15. **THE RESURRECTION, FINAL JUDGMENT AND FUTURE RETRIBUTION.** Christ will make His second advent at the end of the world, when the dead bodies will be raised to the judgment seat, the righteous to be received to eternal blessedness and the wicked to be banished into eternal woe.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COVENANT

We, your committee on covenant, beg to report the following as our Church Covenant:

1. We believe that the union of Christians in a visible church is sanctioned by the teachings of Christ and the practice of His apostles, and that it is adopted to promote piety and increase Christian influence. We do now heartily enter into covenant before God and with each other.

2. We will constantly strive to maintain true piety in our own hearts, keep ourselves in vital communion with God and commend religion to others, not only in words, but by means of a devout spirit and body example, always careful of each other's reputation and usefulness.

3. We will watch over each other in the spirit of true charity, seeking to bear each other's burdens, assist the needy, strengthen the weak, encourage the despondent, sympathize with the sorrowful; reprove the erring, win back the straying to duty, maintain wholesome discipline and receive Christian admonition in meekness, keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace and cheerfully submit to such regulations as the majority may approve. We will contribute according to our ability for pastoral support, maintain secret and family prayer; and aid by our presence and otherwise, in sustaining public and social worship.

4. We will give an active and consistent support to the great cause that aims to promote religion. We will refuse all sanctions to those worldly amusements which tend to lessen true piety in ourselves or weaken Christian influence over others so that religion be not reproached on our account. May He who has promised His help enable us to keep this covenant, and grant us grace to be faithful in all things until He shall gather us to himself and crown us with final victory. Amen.

ORGANIZATION OF A CHURCH

Any ordained minister of our denomination has the power to organize churches with a council.

1. The Bible is presented as our only rule of faith and practice.

2. The church covenant is adopted, a prayer of consecration offered, the hand of fellowship given. The church then proceeds to elect its officers, which are a pastor, a clerk and treasurer. The pastor acts as a moderator, and a board of deacons is elected, whose duty it shall be to act in harmony with the pastor and assist at baptism and the Lord's Supper and have care of the poor.

GOVERNMENT OF CHURCHES

The local church is an independent body so far as it relates to its government, the transaction of its own business, the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members.

Persons who give evidence of piety are received to membership by a vote of the church. If objections are made, they should be stated to the church; if the objections are judged to be valid, the candidate should not be received to fellowship. The right hand of fellowship is given to all persons received by the church.

Persons expelled from sister churches for any cause, or from any church for immorality, should not be received until first giving satisfaction.

Letters of dismission and commendation are granted on request to members in good standing, by vote of the church, on their removal from its limits. Ministers are received and dismissed by letter, as other members, except when they come from or go to other denominations, in which case a council of ministers should be called to advise respecting the action.

It is the duty of the church to unite with some association and represent itself regularly by delegates and letter.

No person shall be a delegate from a church or other body in our denomination unless he is a member of, and appointed by the church which he claims to represent.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

RULES OF DECORUM

Conference shall be conducted as follows:

1. Extension of membership.
2. Hear the reading of the minutes.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
4. Call for unfinished business.
5. Call for acknowledgments.
6. Call for matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church.
7. Call for new business.
8. Call for absentees.
9. Call for miscellaneous business.