MINUTES OF

THE YADKIN VALLEY ASSOCIATION

of

(ORIGINAL) FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Third Annual Session

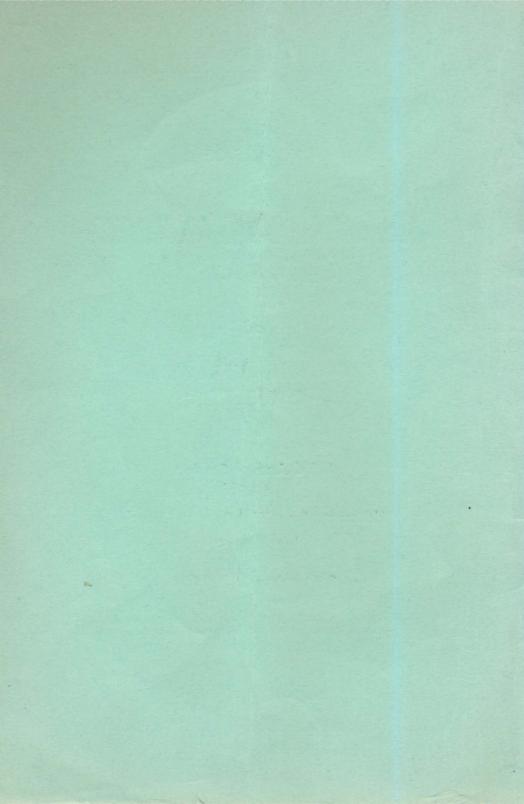
with the

Harmony Free Will Baptist Church

Kannapolis, N. C.

September 2, 3, 1955

The next annual session will be held on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1956, with Helm's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Monroe, North Carolina.



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ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

Rev. L. M. Hooper, Rt. 4, Box 236, Kannapolis, N. C......Moderator
Rev. H. E. Tucker, 612 Leonard Ave., Kannapolis, N. C., Vice-Moderator
Rev. J. P. Langley, 205 Church St., Lexington, N. C., Clerk
William D. House, 532 E. Center St., Lexington, N. C., Assistant Clerk and Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Rev. G. W. Liner, 117 Dingler Ave., Mooresville, N. C.Rev. J. P. Langley, 205 Church St., Lexington, N. C.Rev. L. M. Hooper, Rt. 4, Box 236, Kannapolis, N. C.

ORDINATION COUNCIL

ASSOCIATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ROLL

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Roune Gallaway	P. G. Box: 634: Moorewille, N. C.
Rev. David Coley 219	Dingler Ave., Mooresville, N. C.
Rev. Mack F. Crisp	
Rev. Charlie P. Deal	Address Unknown
Rev. J. I. Deal P	. O. Box 385, Mt. Pleasant, N. C.
Rev. Ralph Elwood Ri	. 2, Box 472-B, Kannapolis, N. C
Rev. S. A. Graybeal	709 Deaton St., Kannapolis, N. C.
Rev. L. M. Hooper	Rt. 4, Box 236, Kannapolis, N. C.
Rev. William Johnson	Rt. 1, Wadesboro, N. C.
Rev. J. P. Langley	205 Church St., Lexington, N. C.
Rev. J. W. Leviner 122 I	E. McNeally St., Mooresvile, N. C.
Rev. G. W. Liner 11'	
Rev. W. N. Morton	
Rev. I. W. Plyler	
Rev. R. P. Sawyer	. Rt. 7, Box 577, Salisbury, N. C.
Rev. Russel Stewart	P. O. Box 22, Catawba, N. C.
Rev. George Stillwell	
Rev. Dewey W. Tilley	. Walnut Ave., Kannapolis, N. C.
Rev. H. E. Tucker	2 Leonard Ave., Kannapolis, N. C.
Rev. Arthur G. Woodruff	Rt. 1, Box 87, Harmony, N. C.

LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. Melvin Daniels	Troutman, N. C.
Rev. S. W. Efird	Address Unknown
	Robbinsville, N. C.
Rev. Harvey G. Fritts	Rt. 5, Lexington, N. C.
Rev. Haran F. Hagler	Rt. 4, Concord, N. C.
Rev. J. C. Huneycutt	307 England St., Thomasville, N. C.
Rev. G. W. Price	P. O. Box 35, Mount Mourne, N. C.

CHURCHES

Arrington Heights	Rev. J. P. Langley, Pastor
Catawba	Rev. Russel Stewart, Pastor
Gospel	
Harmony	
Helms Chapel	Rev. G. W. Liner, Pastor
Valley View	Rev. J. I. Deal, Pastor
Yadkin Valley	Rev. Boyce Calloway, Pastor

CHURCH CLERKS

Arrington Heights	Mrs. Plas Owens, Rt. 2, Advance, N. C.
Catawba	. Miss Shirley Elmore, Star Route, Catawba, N. C.
Gospel	Howard Cox, 708 Buick Ave., Kannapolis, N. C.
Harmony Mrs.	L. C. Leary, 109 S. Poplar Ave., Kannapolis, N. C.
Helm's ChapelM	rs. Harold Brantley, Rt. (not given), Monroe, N. C.
Valley View	Clerk's name and address unknown
Yadkin Valley	Rev. Hershel E. Moser, Rt. 1, Davidson, N. C.

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 appearance 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 Savior 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.

RULES OF THE DECORUM

- (1) The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
- (2) There shall be no conversation by the members one with another so as to interrupt business while in session.
- (3) Every member wishing to speak shall first rise and address the Moderator.
- (4) No member shall interrupt a member while speaking.
- (5) We shall admit no other title while in session but that of Brother and Sister.
- (6) Every member speaking shall attend to the subject under consideration.
- (7) No member shall speak more than twice on any one subject.
- (8) Every motion made and seconded shall be attended to, unless withdrawn by the person who made it.
- (9) No member shall absent himself from the body without leave of the Moderator.
- (10) On all motions made, where the vote of the body is taken, a majority shall prevail.
- (11) The Moderator shall have the same privilege to speak as any other member provided the chair is filled.
- (12) Any member transgressing the above rules shall be admonished by the Moderator.
- (13) Not less than nine members shall constitute a quorum.

Yadkin Valley Association of Free Will Baptists Constitution

- (1) This Association shall be composed of delegates elected by each church and sent to the Association to represent the church.
- (2) Each delegate selected by the church must be recommended by a letter from the church of which they belong. This shall include the minister pastoring the church.
- (3) Each church is required to select the best qualified members of the body to represent the church and carry on business.
- (4) The Association, when assembled, shall first elect a Moderator and Clerk.
- (5) The rules of the decorum must be read immediately after the Association is assembled.
- (6) The Association will encourage a sound ministry, such as presents Christ as an all sufficient Saviour; that the plan of salvation, presented by Christ, is strictly and definitely Grace, and, as presented by the gospel, will save all human beings who accept it.
- (7) Any minister, in good standing with his church, or Association, may be invited to a seat in our Council and may take part in the deliberations, and his name enrolled in our minutes.
- (8) It is the duty of the Association to appoint, or elect, committees to take care of special business, etc. Each committee report must be in writing, and turned in to the Clerk for reading before the assembly.
- (9) All queries regularly presented to the Association by any Church shall be attended to.

- (10) Any church wishing to become a member of this Association may do so by making application by letter and presented by the delegates of said church. The church must adopt our Articles of Faith and Church Covenant.
- (11) The Association may withdraw from any church who walks disorderly or violates any rule made and passed on by the body.
- (12) It is to be understood that the Association assumes no higher authority than that of an Advisory Council.
- (13) Any church wishing a letter of dismissal from this Association may do so on the grounds of a two-thirds (²/₃) majority of the members of said church.
- (14) Any minister found casting his influence against any church or, in any way, marring the character unjustly of another minister, or working in any way to secure the church of a fellow minister, will be dealt with by the Association.
- (15) This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the Association by two-thirds (²/₃) votes of the delegates attending, providing that a notice of such change shall have been given during the first sitting of said meeting after permanent organization.
- (16) The Ordination Council shall function as such only at minister's conferences and Associational conferences.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The Ordination Council shall act as an Advisory Council. Association of 1953.
- (2) The Minister's Conference shall have authority to elect the Ordination Council. Association of 1954.
- (3) All Ministers, licensed and ordained, shall have a seat, voice, and vote at all Ministers' Conferences, and, along with all delegates, at Associational Conferences. Association of 1955.

RULES GOVERNING ORDINATION COUNCIL

- (1) No minister may be granted license or certificate of ordination unless he presents a letter of recommendation from the church to which he belongs. Also, this church must be a member of this Association.
- (2) No licensed minister may be ordained under one (1) year from date of issuance of Associational license unless he is called to be full-time pastor of a church.
- (3) No licensed minister, even though called to be assistant pastor, may be ordained under one (1) year from date of issuance of Associational license.
- (4) All Ministers being admitted to this Association must promise to relinquish the credentials they hold from this Association if, and when, he joins another Association, or when he is adjudged by the Minister's Conference to be disqualified to preach the gospel.
- (5) All Ministers entering this Association from another Free Will Baptist Association must present a letter of recommendation from the Association he is leaving. Also he must surrender the credentials he holds from the Association he is leaving.
- (6) The Ordination Council shall license qualified women to preach but it shall not have authority to ordain them.
- (7) This Council shall not issue credentials to brethren who have two (2) living companions, even though divorced.
- (8) This council must not use partiality in the issuance of credentials.
- (9) These rules must be read to each minister asking for entrance into this Association.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning Session

The third annual session of the Yadkin Valley Association of (Original) Free Will Baptists convened with Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Kannapolis, N. C., on Sept. 2, 1955, at 10 o'clock A. M. Rev. L. M. Hooper, pastor of the host church and Moderator of the Association, called on the audience to sing a song entitled, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," after which Rev. R. H. Jackson, Superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Orphanage at Middlesex, N. C., led us in prayer. Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, treasurer of the State Board of Missions, read the devotional scripture from 2 Peter 1:1-8. Rev. Barrow commented on each verse briefly and gave an explanation of the word servant to which Peter enjoined himself, saying, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ—".

The Moderator declared the house in order for business and called the Roll of Churches. Nominations for Associational Officers for the incoming year were accepted at this time. These officers were elected as follows: Rev. L. M. Hooper, Moderator; Rev. H. E. Tucker, Vice-Moderator; Rev. J. P. Langley, Clerk; and Brother William D. House, Treasurer. Bro. House was voted to serve also as assistant to the clerk.

Visiting Ministers were given a seat and voice in our conference. Those visiting with us were the two ministers mentioned above, Rev. R. H. Jackson and Rev. N. Bruce Barrow.

The conference voted that all ministers, licensed as well as ordained, shall have a vote in business sessions.

Since a new resolution, passed by the Ministers Conference conflicted with the sixteenth (16) article of the Constitution, the body voted that the sixteenth (16) article shall be changed to read as follows:

(16) The Ordination Council shall function as such only at Minister's Conferences and Associational Conferences.

The body voted that The Rules Governing the Ordination Council shall be regularly inserted into the Minutes each year so that those who may be considering entering our Association may know exactly what shall be expected of them and that they may not have to answer questions which may cause embarrassment in the answering of these questions.

Conference adjourned until 1:45 P. M. in order to hear a few words from our Missions, and Orphanage representatives. Both presented an interesting picture of our need of supporting these two worthy causes. All offerings for both Home and Foreign Missions may be sent to Rev. N. B. Barrow, Lucama, N. C. All offerings for the Orphanage may be addressed to Free Will Baptist Orphanage, Middlesex, N. C.

An offering in the amount of twenty-one dollars and fifty cents (\$21.50) was received and turned over to Rev. Jackson for the orphanage with the understanding that another offering will be taken on Saturday morning for the same purpose.

Dismissed by Brother C. E. Bentley.

Friday Afternoon Session

Conference convened again Friday afternoon at 1:45 by singing, "Won't It Be Wonderful There," after which Mrs. Cathryn Long led the Association in prayer. At this time the treasurer made his report. It follows: Money in treasury at beginning of year.....\$ 7.17 Received at 1954 Association from ministers...... \$32.00 Received: From Meadow View Ladies' Auxiliary.... 5.00 From Association for Orphanage 15.00 From Arrington Heights Ladies' Auxiliary... 5.00 From Arrington Heights Church 5.00 From Meadow View Church 10.00 From St. Johns Church 15.00 From St. Johns Sunday School 5.00 From St. Johns Ladies' Auxiliary 5.00 From Long Grove Church 15.00 From L. M. Hooper (After Asso.) 10.00 From H. E. Tucker (After Asso.) 10.00Total received 137.00 Grand total \$144.17 Disbursements: Sent to Orphanage \$15.00 Money order and stamp28 Paid for official seal and gold seals 7.18Paid for 1954 Minutes (150) 80.00 Total paid out 102.46 Balance on hand 41.71

The preceding report covers the period which began at the first sitting of the 1954 Association and ended the day before the first sitting of the 1955 Association. Any funds turned over to the treasurer during the 1955 Association are not included in the foregoing report. However, all funds which were turned over to the treasurer at the 1955 Association are listed as follows:

Balance from preceding report	\$41.71
Received from:	
Arrington Heights Church \$5.00	
Harmony Church 5.00	
Gospel Church	
Yadkin Valley Church 5.00	
Catawba Church 5.00	<i>,</i>
Arrington Heights Sunday School 5.00	
Harmony Sunday School 5.00	
Arrington Heights Ladies' Auxiliary 5.00	
Harmony Ladies' Auxiliary 5.00	
Rev. J. P. Langley 1.00	
Rev. L. M. Hooper 1.00	
Rev. George Stillwell 1.00	

Rev. R. P. Sawyer	1.00
Rev. Boyce Calloway	1.00
Rev. G. W. Liner	
Rev. D. W. Tilley	
Rev. S. A. Graybeal	
Rev. H. E. Tucker	
Rev. J. W. Leviner	1.00

Total amount received at 1955 Association from Ministers,
Churches, Auxiliaries, and Sunday Schools53.00

Grand total in treasury \$94.71

Ministers, Churches, Sunday Schools, Auxiliaries, and delegates, please bear in mind that the above report is an advanced report of the 1955 Association, and is due to appear in the 1956 Treasurer's Report since all funds received at this Association are due to be published in the report beginning at the first sitting of this Association and ending one day prior to the 1956 Association. Any funds received from September 10, 1955, and on to next Association will not be reported in these Minutes.

The Association voted to withdraw fellowship from St. Johns Church on the testimony of the Moderator that said church had withdrawn from this Association.

It was voted by the body to include the following rules in "Rules Governing Ordination Council".

(1) The Ordination Council shall license qualified women to preach but it shall not have authority to ordain them.

(2) All ministers entering this Association from another Free Will Baptist Association must present a letter of recommendation from the Association he is leaving. Also, he must surrender the credentials he holds from said Association.

(3) This Council shall not issue credentials to brethren who have two (2) living companions, even though divorced.

The Moderator called for the church reports at this time. Six (6) churches brought reports to the Association.

The Association approved by vote that the Advisory Council shall work out the question of "The Boundary Line" between churches and bring this report in writing to the next Minister's Conference and on to the Association.

The Association approved by vote that from henceforth the pastor of the local church in whose church the Minister's Conference or Association shall convene, shall appoint the speakers for all hours of worship during these Conferences or Associations.

Conference adjourns at 3:30 P. M. to reconvene at 10:00 A. M. Saturday morning. Dismissed by Mrs. Grover Sartain.

Friday evening at 7:30 a two hour service of music, singing, and preaching was enjoyed by all present. Rev. J. P. Langley brought an interesting message on "Fools For Christ's Sake," using as a text, 1st Corinthians 4:10a.

Saturday Morning Session

Conference resumed its business session at 10:00 A.M. Saturday morning. Service was opened with the congregation singing, "It Won't Be Very Long," after which Rev. Boyce Calloway led the audience in prayer. The Moderator read a scripture from the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Mark, and then declared the house in order for business.

By approval of the body, the Moderator appointed the various committees. These committees are as follows:

Finance

Howard Cox, C. E. Bentley, G. W. Price.

Missions

Ed Elmore, Rev. R. P. Sawyer, Wm. D. House.

Sunday School

Rev. D. W. Tilley, Rev. Russel Stewart, Rev. Boyce Calloway.

Ladies' Auxiliary

Wm. D. House, Mrs. Mary Alice Stillwell, Mrs. Grover Sartain.

Orphanage

Rev. G. W. Liner, Rev. George Stillwell, Rev. J. W. Leviner.

Minister's Report

Rev. R. P. Sawyer, Rev. S. A. Graybeal, Rev. Boyce Calloway.

Singing Convention

Rev. D. W. Tilley, Wm. D. House, C. E. Bentley.

Recess is declared by the Moderator in order to give time for these committees to draft their reports.

Business was resumed in thirty minutes and these reports were given at this time.

FINANCE

We, your committee on finance, do hereby recommend that each church, Sunday school, and Ladies' Auxiliary send five dollars (\$5.00) to this Association each year along with their report and that each minister send two dollars (\$2.00) to this Association each year along with his report to help finance the support of the Association.

HOWARD COX, C. E. BENTLEY, G. W. PRICE

. S.C.

MISSIONS

We, the Missions Committee, do urge each church to give to both Home and Foreign Missions, and that each pastor preach to this effect.

ED ELMORE, REV. R. P. SAWYER, WILLIAM D. HOUSE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, your committee on Sunday School, do hereby recommend the following: That each Sunday School give regularly to the orphanage; use the Free Will Baptist literature; that the Sunday School officers and teachers be members of the church; that the superintendent hold a meeting once each month with the teachers; and that the teachers hold a meeting among themselves once each month.

REV. D. W. TILLEY, REV. RUSSELL STEWART, REV. BOYCE CALLOWAY

LADIES' AUXILIARY

We, the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee, do hereby urge: that each church organize a Ladies' Auxiliary in their church; that each Ladies' Auxiliary send a report each year to this Association along with five dollars (\$5.00) for the furtherance of the work of the Association.

WILLIAM D. HOUSE, MRS. MARY ALICE STILLWELL, MRS. GROVER SARTAIN

ORPHANAGE

We, your committee on orphanage support, do hereby recommend the following: That each Sunday School send the offering of each first Sunday in the month to the Free Will Baptist Orphanage at Middlesex, N. C., and that each church collect coupons from soaps, coffees, flour, etc., and send them to the orphanage.

REV. G. W. LINER, REV. GEO. STILLWELL, REV. J. W. LEVINER

MINISTER'S REPORT

We, your committee on Minister's Report, do recommend that each minister send in to this Association each year a complete report of his work during the year. This report to itemize the following: Name and number of church(es) pastored, number of sermons preached; number of revivals conducted; number of professions, number of members received into the church, number baptized, number of funerals conducted, number of couples united in matrimony, number of homes visited, number of visits to hospitals, number of Sunday School lessons taught, money received, money given, and approximate number of miles traveled in religious work. We also recommend that pastors of churches call Free Will Baptist ministers, or ministers in harmony with Free Will Baptist doctrine, to conduct their revivals.

REV. R. P. SAWYER, REV. S. A. GRAYBEAL, REV. BOYCE CALLOWAY

SINGING CONVENTION

We, your Singing Committee, do hereby recommend that we have two (2) Singing Conventions each year. The first convention to be held at 2:00 P. M. on the first Sunday in April, 1956, at Arrington Heights Free Will Baptist Church in Lexington and the second to be held at 2:00 P. M. on the first Sunday in August, 1956, at Yadkin Valley Free Will Baptist Church in Mooresville.

WILLIAM D. HOUSE, C. E. BENTLEY, REV. D. W. TILLEY

Report of the Work of the Ordination Council

The Ordination Council met March 5, 1955, with the Minister's Conference at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Kannapolis, N. C., and granted Ordination Certificates to Rev. George T. Stillwell and Rev. Russell Stewart; exchanged Ordination Certificates with Rev. R. P. Sawyer and Rev. Arthur G. Woodruff; and granted Associational Minister's License to Rev. Melvin Daniels.

The Ordination Council met April 16, 1955, at Yadkin Valley Free Will Baptist Church in Mooresville and granted Ordination Certificate to Rev. J. W. Leviner.

The Ordination Council met with the Minister's Conference August 27, 1955, at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church, in Kannapolis and exchanged Ordination Certificates with Rev. D. W. Tillley and granted Associational Minister's License to Rev. S. W. Efird.

The Ordination Council met with the Association September 1, 1955, at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Kannapolis and granted Associational Minister's License to Rev. Harvey G. Fritts and Rev. G. W. Price.

The Association extended the Right Hand of Christian Fellowship to Rev. Harvey G. Fritts and Rev. G. W. Price who were received into the Association today. The Hand of Fellowship was also extended to Catawba Free Will Baptist Church, Helm's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, and Gospel Free Will Baptist Church.

The next annual session of the Yadkin Valley Free Will Baptist Association will convene with Helm's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in rural Monroe, on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1956.

Another offering for the orphanage was taken at this time as had been announced on Friday. This offering amounted to five dollars (\$5.00).

Conference adjourns well satisfied with the progress it has attained in slightly over two years of organized efforts. Dismissed by Rev. Harvey G. Fritts.

Singing Convention

The Singing Convention convened in the afternoon of the last day of the Association, which was September 3. Much special singing and old fashioned testimonies were enjoyed by those who were in attendance.

The following officers were electd for the incoming year: Brother William D. House, President; Rev. S. A. Graybeal, Vice-President; and Brother C. E. Bauknight, Treasurer.

All churches and Sunday Schools are asked to be sure and send singers to the next Singing Convention which will be held at Arrington Heights Free Will Baptist Church in Lexington, N. C., at 2:00 P. M. on the first Sunday in April, 1956.

Orphanage Superintendent's Report

The Yadkin Valley Association contributed two hundred seventy-five dollars and thirty-six cents (\$275.36) toward the support of the Orphanage during the last Associational year. A suggested budget for our Association for the year of '55 and '56 is five hundred (\$500.00). If each church will send an average of twenty-five cents (\$.25) per member per month to the orphanage this quota will be reached. But let's not feel that this is a limit, let's do all we possibly can.

Sunday School Reports

Arrington Heights: On roll 236. Average attendance 144. Sunday School operates on a Unified Budget in conjunction with the Church treasury. Superintendent: William Starr, Hill St., Lexington, N. C. Secretary: Mrs. Irene Everhart, Sycamore St., Lexington, N. C.

Catawba: Number on roll 31. Average attendance 28. Received during year \$542.63. Total \$542.63. Paid out during year \$220.94. Balance in treasury \$321.69. Superintendent: Mr. Bill White, Catawba, N. C. Secretary: Miss Shirley Elmore, Star Route, Catawba, N C.

Gospel: On roll 42. Average attendance 30. In treasury at beginning of year \$2.08. Received during year \$91.27. Total \$91.27. Paid out during year \$90.65. Balance \$64.00. Superintendent: Mr. Howard Cox, 708, Buick Ave., Kannapolis, N. C. Secretary: Mr. Mack Helms, No address given.

Harmony: Number on roll 73. Average attendance 70. Money in treasury at beginning of year \$46.72. Received during year \$446.08. Total \$492.80. Paid out during year \$398.23. Balance \$100.00. Superintendent: Mr. J. P. Graham, Rt. 8, Box 11,000-A, Concord, N. C. Secretary: Mr. Paul Marshall, Rt. 4, Kannapolis, N. C.

Helm's Chapel: No Sunday School as yet. (New Church.)

Valley View: No report.

Yadkin Valley: No. on roll 70. Average attendance 59. Money in treasury at beginning of year \$30.64. Received during year \$175.51. Total \$206.15. Paid out during year \$59.49. Balance \$146.66. Superintendent: Rev. Hershal E. Moser, Rt. 1, Davidson, N. C.

Ladies' Auxiliary Reports

Arrington Heights: On roll 46 Amount in treasury at beginning of year \$25.29. Received during year \$31.14. Total \$56.43. Paid out during year \$43.61. Balance \$12.82. President: Wm. D. House, 532 E. Center St., Lexington, N. C.

Catawba: No Auxiliary.

Gospel: No Auxiliary.

Harmony: No. on roll 8. In treasury at beginning of year \$18.43. Received during year \$277.97. Paid out during year \$172.61. Balance in treasury \$105.36. President: Mrs. Grover Sartain, address unknown. Helm's Chapel: No auxiliary.

Valley View: No report.

Yadkin Valley: No. on roll 10. President: Mrs. George Stillwell, Rt. 1, Davidson, N. C.

In making the Reports of Churches which follows, the following information should be taken into consideration:

Arrington Heights Sunday School and church treasurules are combined, operating under a unified budget.

Catawba gave no definite figures on pastor's salary but noted that half of offerings are given to pastor.

Gospel gave no definite figures on pastor's salary.

Harmony gave no definite figures on pastor's salary.

Helm's Chapel gave no definite figures but noted the pastor's salary "As God Gives."

Valley View: No church report was received, Statistical or Financial.

Yadkin Valley's report stands as given in Report of Churches.

As clerk, we have tried and exhausted every effort to make this report as nearly correct as possible.

REV. J. P. LANGLEY, Clerk

Minister's Conference

The annual Minister's Conference of the Yadkin Valley Assocaition of (Original) Free Will Baptists met at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Kannapolis, N. C., August 27, 1955, at 10:00 A. M.

Rev. L. M. Hooper, Pastor of the local Church, read a scripture from Matthew 5 and called on the congregation to sing "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" after which he extended a warm welcome to the ministers and those of the laity who attended. Rev. Harvey G. Fritts, a visiting minister, led the conference in prayer, after which the local pastor presented the Moderator.

Rev. H. E. Tucker, Moderator of the Minister's Conference, called on Rev. R. P. Sawyer to read the devotional scripture which was taken from the first nine verses of the second chapter of Philippians.

The Moderator declared the house in order for business and called for nominations for the various associational officers. Rev. S. A. Graybeal was elected Moderator; Rev. R. P. Sawyer as vice-Moderator; Rev. J. P. Langley as Clerk; Rev. G. W. Liner as Assistant Clerk. Upon motion, Rev. Liner was voted to act as Treasurer of the Minister's Conference. The following were elected to serve on the Ordination Council: Rev. L. M. Hooper, Rev. R. P. Sawyer, Rev. J. P. Langley, Rev. G. W Liner, and Rev. S. A. Graybeal.

Visiting Ministers were welcomed to a voice and seat in our conference. These included Rev. Dewey W. Tilley and Rev. Harvey G. Fritts. The committee on the question of whether we shall license and ordain to preach brethren who have a living companion by a previous marriage, even though divorced, read their report. This report was accepted by the body and is to be used as a guide by which the Ordination Council must operate in regard to the question involved. This report follows:

"We, your committee, being elected for the purpose of recommending a decision on whether this Association shall license and ordain to preach, brethren who have more than one living companion, even though divorced, do hereby submit the following:

"We have prayerfully studied the scriptures pertaining to the question involved and have sought the will of God in this matter, and, with the scriptures in view to which we shall refer, we feel that, for the good of the cause, as well as the respect and moral character of the Association, we must recommend against this Association ordaining brethren in this position. However, we do not recommend against the licensing of them if this Association sees fit to permit it.

"Paul states in first Timothy 3:2—that a bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife. We feel if we recommend otherwise we shall be subject to a grave mistake. Paul also states in the 7th verse of this same chapter: 'The bishop must have a good report of them which are without lest he fall into reproach.' We feel the quotation, 'Them which are without' refers to the people of the world who naturally are looking for every flaw by which they might accuse us.

"On the one hand we make this report with deepest regret, having in mind the feelings of our good brethren who may fall in this category. While on the other hand we realize we must give an account to God as to what we do in this matter which was trusted to our care and consideration. As Jesus said: "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

"Then, too, we realize the eyes of all Free Will Baptists are focused on this Association, it being so young, to see it rise or fall.

"With humble respect to all concerned, we submit this report."

REV. L. M. HOOPER, REV. J. P. LANGLEY, Committee

(Note) Rev. Russel Stewart, the third member of this committee, was not present for the drafting of this recommendation.

The body passed a motion that no minister may be admitted to this Association from another Free Will Baptist Association unless he presents a letter of recommendation from that Association and releases his credentials from said Association.

The next Minister's Conference will meet at Helms Chapel in Monroe on Rt. 4 on the first Saturday in December, 1955.

Conference adjourns for the eleven o'clock hour of worship. Dismissed by Rev. S. A. Graybeal.

At the hour of worship Rev. Harvey G. Fritts brought an inspirir message on the subject: "Turning Aside." His scripture was taken from Judges 14:5-9. Rev. Fritts emphasized the need of the present day Christian as that of "Turning Aside" from the cares and interests of the world so as to have time, alone with God, to Pray, Meditate, and "Come to Ourselves" as it were. The message was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Dismissal.

REV. J. P. LANGLEY, Clerk

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REPORT OF CHURCHES

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