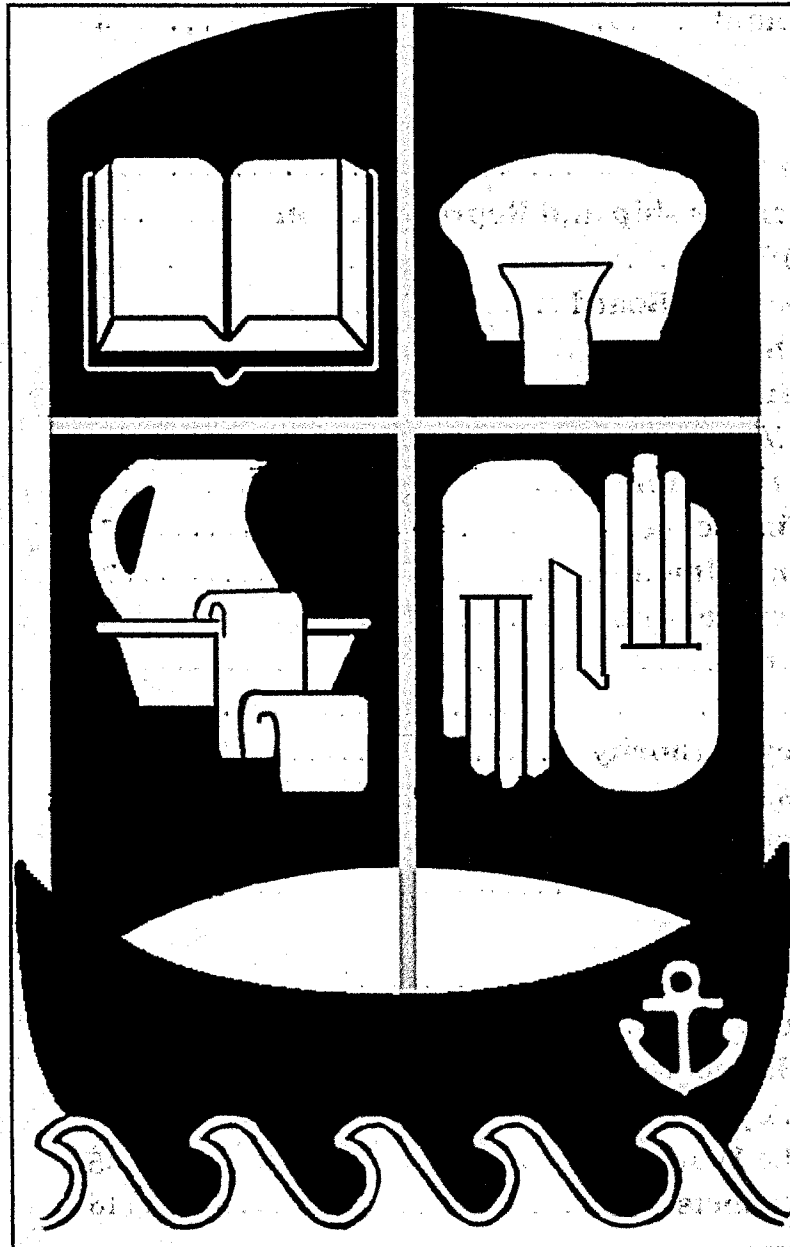


Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists

Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists



68th annual Conference
May 19-20, 2023
Convening in
Frankenmuth, Michigan

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2022-2023 State Officers

Moderator Rev. Ron Helms - 313-389-5101
Assistant Moderator Rev. Joe Jones - 734-728-6559
Clerk Rev. Allen West - 734-223-9045
Assistant Clerk Rev. Dean Sanford - 414-760-9997
Treasurer Rev. Steve Thrasher - 586-582-9829
Assistant Treasurer Lisa Watts
State Promotional Secretary & General Board Member
Rev. Jimmy Lawson 734-788-1430

STANDING BOARDS

Mission Board

Calvin Brown	2024
Scott Caudill	2025
Brian Newton	2025
Mike Trimble	2026 - Chairman
Clayton Kerr	2026

Youth Board

Brett Weaver	2024
Susan Newton	2024
Jessica Mitchel	2025
Jon Locklear	2025 - Chairman
Sara Lawson	2026

Christian Education Board

Vicki Bartinicki	2024
Kelly Rich	2024 - Chairman
Don Myers	2025
Gene Hurley	2025
Gary Howard	2026

Master's Men Board

Dave Johnson	2024 - Chairman
Anthony Roberts	2024
Rudy Taylor	2025
Paul Collins	2025
Ernie Chance	2026

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.

Constitution Preamble

The object of this organization shall be to unify and strengthen the work of Free Will Baptists of Michigan, composing the State Association and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the Kingdom of God among member associations.

Article I Name

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

Article II Membership and Representation

Section 1. The membership of this association shall consist of all subordinate associations that from time to time shall become members of this body.

Section 2.

- A.** Each subordinate association shall be entitled to a number of elected delegates equal to the number of churches composing said association.
- B.** The standing delegation shall consist of all active ordained ministers and their wives, licensed ministers and their wives, the elected officers of each subordinate association and the elected officers and board members of the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptist.
- C.** Each local church which holds membership in the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptist through its subordinate association shall be entitled to represent directly with one lay delegate.

Article III

Officers

Section 1. The officers of this State Association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, each of which shall be elected at the close of each annual session.

Section 2. This association shall have as many boards as it deems necessary to promote its work.

Section 3. The moderator shall appoint committees, as necessary, unless otherwise provided for, and shall hold office until their work is completed or until their successors are elected.

Article IV

General Board

Section 1. The General Board shall consist of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Legal Counsel, chairman of the standing boards and the moderator of each district association.

Section 2. The General Board shall have the power to act on behalf of and for the State Association from one regular session to another, and shall also have power to elect such officers as may be necessary for its own government and to carry out the plans and undertaking of the State Association.

Section 3. The General Board may hire a Promotional Secretary to help carry out the business and promotional activities. The promotional secretary is directly accountable to the General Board.

Section 4. The General Board may obtain a legal consultant to give counsel and direction in legal matters. The legal consultant is directly accountable to the General Board.

Article V

Other Boards

Section 1. The following standing boards shall function in designated areas of the work, subject to the approval of the State Association, Mission Board, Christian Education Board, Youth Board and Master's Men Board.

Section 2. Each of the above named boards shall be composed of five members. These shall be rotating boards with terms of three years expiring on the basis of two the first year, two the second year and one the third year.

Section 3. No officer of the association shall serve on any board of the association (except the General Board). No member shall serve on more than one board. The chairman of each standing board shall automatically be a member of the General Board.

Section 4. Each board shall organize after the final adjournment of the annual meeting to elect a chairman and any other officers needed. A majority of each board shall constitute a quorum. Members may represent by proxy.

Section 5. Each board shall make a written report, including financial data to each session of the General Board.

Section 6. The Promotional Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of each board. He and the boards shall work cooperatively. The Promotional Secretary shall work with the chairman of each standing board and moderator, or specified promotional director, of each district association to promote the work of the Lord and Free Will Baptists in the state of Michigan. He will also work cooperatively with the Michigan Woman Active for Christ. The Promotional Secretary shall edit, publish and mail a monthly paper, and mail a packet to each church for distribution.

Section 7. The Youth Board shall give general oversight to youth camp and other state youth activities, while helping Michigan Free Will Baptist State youth workers in their local churches. Each state youth event and ministry will fall within the realm of the board's responsibility.

Section 8. The Christian Education Board shall promote the cause of Christian education by promoting Sunday schools, setting up activities and programs whereby ministers and lay people may continue their Christian education, and give guidance to Free Will Baptist young people in matters of education.

The Christian Education Board will cooperate with the various standing boards of the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptist in implementing their programs as they relate to Christian education, and work with Promotional Secretary in supporting the Minister's Laymen Retreat and Minister's Seminar.

Section 9. The Mission Board shall develop and carry on a program of establishing new churches in the State, and assist in keeping established churches open. This board shall attempt to enlist the State membership in supporting North America Missions and International Missions by conference, itineraries and other means.

Section 10. The Master's Men Board shall seek to get churches to establish Master's Men chapters as well as cooperate with the National Master's Men Board.

Article VI Ministers

Section 1. The Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptist recognizes the right of any member District Association to license, ordain and issue minister's certificates and cards of good standing to their ministers.

Section 2. A minister must meet the following qualifications:

- A. Must not take part in practices repugnant to Free Will Baptist doctrine, such as:**
1. Sanctification as a second definite work of grace.
 2. Oneness rather than the trinity.
 3. Unknown tongues as commonly recognized.
 4. Positional eternal security rather than provisional security as taught by the Scriptures and recognized by our treatise.
- B. Concerning Character:**
1. Only men will be licensed, ordained or recognized as ministers.
 2. A minister must be the husband of one wife.
 3. He may not engage in activities or practices which are inconsistent with prevailing Free Will Baptist beliefs and attitudes, such as the use of tobacco and illegal drugs, the use or sale of intoxicating beverages, or involvement in a homosexual lifestyle.
 4. He must be an example of behavior which is pleasing to The Lord.
 5. The spirit of giving and of charity should be well rooted in his character, as exemplified by tithing.

Article VII Meetings

The meetings of this State Association shall be held annually during the week prior to the third Saturday in May.

Article VIII Discipline

To maintain sound doctrine and proper conduct, this association shall have the right to act on any question that may properly come before it. These actions shall be handled according to the Word of God and the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article IX Finance

Section 1. Each subordinate association shall send a representation fee per member church to the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists. The representation fee will be recommended by the General Board at the annual meeting and voted on by the body.

Section 2. Each local church that represents directly with a lay delegate shall send [\$10.00] ten dollars with that delegate.

Section 3. The Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptist shall be affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptist and shall pay the annual representation fee as determined by the National Association Free Will Baptist.

Article X Amendments

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

BY-LAWS

Membership

Section 1. Any subordinate association desiring to become a member of this State Association shall do so by presenting duly elected delegates and a petitioner letter certifying to their appointment to this association at any session and upon examination by this association, the subordinate association, if found orthodox, shall be admitted. This petitioner letter shall include the names and addresses of all ordained ministers and deacons and the officers of the subordinate association.

Standing Boards

Section 1. The General Board shall have the power to fill irregular vacancies that may occur in its own body, and shall have power to fill any irregular vacancies that may occur in any department of the work between sessions of this State Association. It shall be the duty of this board to make written reports of all its work to each session of the association.

Section 2. The General Board shall organize at its own discretion for the promotion of its work. It is understood that any executive committee consisting of seven members shall be elected by the General Board from among its membership, whose duty it shall be to act on all matters coming within the scope of the work of the Board when said General Board is not in session.

Section 3. The duties of 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 State Association. It shall be the duty of each standing board to make written reports of all its work to each annual session of this association.

Discipline

Section 1. This State Association shall have the right to settle any questions of discipline, doctrine or practice that may properly come before it from any other bodies composing said organization of the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists, or act on any appeal that may be made by any body belonging to the State Association. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the constituent body or bodies, and its decision shall be final. Such appeals are to come before the State Association after having been appealed from the lower to next higher body.

Section 2. All appeals coming before this association may be settled in either of the following ways:

1. By this association when sitting in a committee as a whole.
2. By a special committee whose report shall be voted on without discussion.

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. All meetings of this organization shall be governed by parliamentary law as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).

Amendments

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended or altered at any regular session of this association by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided proposed amendments or alterations be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

Rules of Decorum

1. The State Association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, which shall arise to his feet and address the moderator.
3. The moderator shall not interrupt each person thus speaking in speech, except, 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 reflection 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 or sisters.
8. No members of this association shall absent them self 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 as often as the association thinks it necessary.
10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the moderator.

Articles of Faith

1. **The Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.
3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.
4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.
5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.
6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.

7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free, and is the ground of salvation by faith.
8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are
 - i. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it.
 - ii. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God.
 - iii. Continuance in faith and obedience unto death.
9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. **Freedom of Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled, and having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.
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. **Perseverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.
13. **Gospel Ordinances.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, is of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true believers.
14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the apostle Paul said; "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him" (1 Corinthians 16:2a).
15. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.
16. **Resurrection, Judgment, and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Minutes

The 68th Annual State of Michigan Association opened with Rev. Jon Locklear leading in the song, 'Power in the Blood'.

The State Association meeting was called to order by the Clerk, Rev. Allen West introducing the moderator Rev. Ron Helms.

The moderator shared & introduced Rev. Gene Norris who shared his story of God's call from Philippians 3:13-14. 1983 he became pastor of Philadelphia FWB, later renamed Riverside FWB.

The moderator called for the seating of the delegates. Prayer of consecration was given by Rev. Brian Newton.

Appointment of Committees

Business	General Board
Budget	Steve Thrasher; Assoc treasurers
Obituary	State Clerk
Registration	State Clerk
Statistical	State Clerk

Nominating - this committee will be the chairman of each board w/the Promotional Secretary as the chairman. Jimmy Lawson, Mike Trimble, Jon Locklear, Jacob Riggs, Dave Johnson.

General Board Report:

Report given by Clerk Rev. Allen West; The General Board met in June 2022, @ Southgate all boards meeting. All boards performing very well. Discussed the state meeting & the good Spirit. Board met in January 23 @ waters Edge campground & listened to wonderful reports from all the boards. Men's retreat needs better promotion so more men will attend. One day navigate conference will be in April. Master's men wild game dinner planned for March. Camp will be in July please send your youth & workers. Dr. Picirilli will be speaking @ the state meeting.

Liberty church was deeded to the state association & master's men did a great job helping remodel & prepare it for sale.

Met again @ Southgate in March 23 to discuss extending an invitation to the national association to come to Michigan in 2027. Due to shortness of time the National stated we could help w/\$25,000 to host the National. We need the churches to donate toward the \$25000. 10 churches to give \$2400 over the next 4 years to cover the cost.

The board was informed the Liberty church has an interested buyer. We also were informed to be careful & have a security plan in place @ our churches because of an increase in attacks. There have been 147 active shooters @ churches in the past few years.

The board met @ Zehnder's on 5/18/23 & listened to board reports which you will be hearing shortly. The board voted to recommend the following budget honorarium increases:

Clerk to \$600

Moderator to \$600

Promotional Secretary to \$6500

Treasurer to \$5500

Please begin filling out all the information for our statistical report. Only 10 churches reported any information & of those most didn't report all the information requested. Please encourage your association churches to report all the information to the state so I can pass it on to the national. We don't have an accurate picture of the health of our national or our state or our associations if all the information requested is not reported. We don't know if we are growing or shrinking.

Brother Moderator that is my report.

State Treasurer Report:

Steve Thrasher gave the report.

This is a report of finances from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023 of the giving from each association:

	TOTALS	State Assoc. & National Fee	National (To Way!)
FELLOWSHIP	\$50,320.97	\$3,100.00	\$1,500.00
NEW HOPE	\$9,816.19	\$1,308.09	\$708.10
WEST MI.	\$1,750.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
WOLVERINE	\$107,846.14	\$3,555.47	\$4,842.60
BEDFORD	\$8,391.85	\$8,391.85	
TOTALS	\$178,125.15	\$16,755.41	\$7,050.70

	Inter. Missions	North American Missions	Other Ministries	MICH MISSIONS
FELLOWSHIP	\$33,166.11	\$9,754.86	\$1,900.00	\$900.00
NEW HOPE	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$3,900.00	
WEST MI.	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
WOLVERINE	\$72,770.24	\$22,841.13	\$3,836.70	
BEDFORD				
TOTALS	\$109,236.35	\$34,545.99	\$9,636.70	\$900.00

Free Will Baptist Foundation Accounts Balances as of 12/31/2023

Bedford Endowment \$ 147,568.32

Michigan Missions Trust \$ 349,304.14

Youth Trust \$ 24,480.93

Bill Ferguson Memorial Trust \$ 142,122.97

MMSC to receive the Report.

Budget Committee

All honorariums to increase.

Moderator \$ 600.00

Clerk \$ 600.00

Promo Secretary \$6,500.00

Treasurer \$5,500.00

Legal Counsel \$ 750.00

MMSC to adopt the budget.

Mission Board Report

Rev. Mike Trimble shared some of our churches need help because they are hurting & our state now has resources to help. Contact the state if your church needs help. Brother Steve Riggs has served as missionary to France for 40 years & now France has changed the law against protestant & non-catholic church missionaries may have to leave the country.

Greg Smith is missionary in Ypsilanti & serving to revitalize the former Community FWB of Ypsilanti. Hoping to launch in September.

Shaquille the missionary to Hamtramck, Windsor & Bangladesh said Hamtramck is trying to shut down all non-muslim churches in Hamtramck. Shared his story of God's call to mission work in Hamtramck. We are in a joint project w/NAM & I.M. for this mission.

Youth Board Report

Rev. Jonathon Locklear reported youth camp date changed to July 9-13 beginning Sunday afternoon & ending on Thursday. Send workers, campers & sponsor campers & workers if you have none from your church.

Master Men Board

Bro. Dave Johnson reported on the wild game dinner which saw 72 attend. Told us about the men's conference in Wabash, Indiana on 9/22-23.

Christian Education Board

Rev. Kelly Rich reported the Navigate One Day conference was a success with 60 attending. Planning for 2 conferences in 2024.

MWAC

Sis. Katy Taylor shared I am honored to represent the Magnificent Women of Michigan. Since we met here last year, we have had 2 events. The first being our One Day Retreat at North Warren Church. 'Anchors Away' was our theme. 102 ladies gathered to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a State WAC. Many precious ladies have led our group to accomplish much for our missionaries. So much was packed into that day. Becky Riggs and Shannon Little shared their hearts with us. The seminars, music, and the craft followed our theme. Over 100 purses were packed with helpful items for women at a homeless shelter. Our ladies left encouraged to face difficult times with God's help. He is our anchor and loves us.

The second was our State Meeting on May 6th at Heritage Church. 28 ladies from 6 churches gathered on the beautiful day we were given. "Living the Sweet Life" was our theme from Psalm 119:103. Connie Tackett, Laura Landrum and the other sweet ladies of the Heritage Church made us feel very welcome.

Reports were given and business was done in an orderly manner. Our project was to give \$5 per camper to cover their crafts for the week. We also voted to pay for the ice cream parties for cleanest cabin winners. Maria Briones spoke about honey and how we can have the sweet life God has planned for us. We were encouraged, empowered and challenged by her words. Sweet fellowship was had as we enjoyed a wonderful lunch.

Mark September 30th on your calendar! Our one-day retreat is planned to take place at Central Oaks Church. "Women of Royalty" is our theme We are daughters of the King! The cost is \$30 and will be from 10 to 4. Ladies may dress to fit the theme. Our color is purple.

I want to thank all that help our ladies attend and support our WAC events. We desire your prayers that we might accomplish more as we work together in the days ahead. Please check out our table for information.

State Promotional Secretary & General Board Member

Rev. Jimmy Lawson men's retreat was a great success even w/lower than normal attendance. Please encourage your men to attend it will be very beneficial to them & your church. Rekindle is available to help churches that are struggling. Pastors struggle & need encouragement. National offers free pastoral counseling to aid pastors. We need to help pastors wise as well. There is an online meeting for pastors wives to encourage them. Michigan is considering a partnership w/Ohio & Kentucky for a Bible institute. Michigan will be hosting the 2027 national association we need to prepare & put our best foot forward to attract preachers to come to our state.

MMSC to receive all reports as information & adjourn from the business session.

Moderator ordered a 15 minute recess.

Moderator called the session back to order.

National Department Reports

Executive Office

National Moderator Bro. Tim York brought greetings from Dr. Moody. National leaders are more focused on local churches so please if you need any assistance please call.

Free Will Baptist International Missions

Bro. Niel Gililand shared the appointment in 2022 of 8 new missionaries. Now have 113 missionaries serving in 34 countries. We have an \$8.8 million income w/1788 saved, 1308 baptized & 1765 in Leadership training.

Randall House

Bro. Mike Trimble extended greetings from Ron Hunter. Now translating D6 into other languages around the world. 3-5 year cycle for cook & other publishers focusing on students instead of Jesus. We are blessed @ Randall house to have talents people centering our lessons on Jesus. Changing our cycle from 4, 3 month quarters to 6, 2 month cycles which will give incoming or returning students an easier time to catch up.

Free Will Baptist North America Missions

Bro. Sam McVey we now have more chaplains than ever w/13 currently serving in our military.

Masters Men

Disaster response teams are going strong. 5 new teams established in 2023. MM has 22 Bible studies to choose from. We have a hispanic Bible institute moving to N.C. new church plants of 41 groups in many states. Pray God send ministers!

WNAC

Ruth McDonald said God called us here & when God calls us out it will be w/joy & peace. WNAC wants to become a woman's ministry to meet the needs of all women across the denomination.

Welch College

Had a video presentation from Matt Pinson speaking to a 26% decrease in 2021 in funds & students due to covid! In 2022 there was a small increase in gifts & students. In 2023 they had the highest increase in applications since 2018!

Free Will Baptist Foundation

Bro. Mike spoke about estate planning serving other ministries. 2400 families have set up plans to support FWB after death. 35 million+ has been given to FWB ministries. 17 million of endowments which supplies \$850,000 to FWB. \$4 million in grants since 2017. No grants for 2023 due to market correction. 1.1 million was given in 2022 which was extra money.

Board of Retirement & Insurance

Clayton Kerr spoke for Don Myers about helping ministers & FWB workers plan for retirement.

MMSC to accept as information.

Business was adjourned & worship service began.

Friday Morning Worship Service

Rev. Jon Locklear led in song, 'The old Rugged Cross.'

Ministry in the Word

Rev. Dr. Picirilli

Title: Creation

Text: Genesis

Treatment: the world is not a friend of the church or of God. This passage is the cause of the conflict. If we don't know who we are & how we were created we have no hope. If Genesis 1 & 2 are removed everything crumbles. Some used ancient myth to explain what they didn't understand. The world has lost essential truth which describes how we came to be. Loss of worship of God which has led to worship of self. If God didn't create the world & the universe there is no moral or absolute truth.

I. Creation was intelligent ordering & has meaning. 6 days shows the pattern of God.

Days 1-3 created places & domains.

Days 4-6 created beings.

Each day matches the pattern 1 & 4; 2 & 5; 3 & 6.

Consider before the 6 days - Genesis 1:2 no form, void, empty; no order. Apart from God everything was meaningless emptiness. Genesis 1:4, 10, 31 everything was very good. Anything in the world not good was not part of God's plan. Could have made it simple - less birds, less stars but God didn't limit the supply

II. God created by His word. God spoke on each day creating everything there is from nothing. Hebrews 11:1. God said what He was thinking & it happened. Let there be light & by God's word light was created. By God's word creation becomes the word of God. Psalm 19.

People have choice - every body who thinks has to believe in something permanent or eternal matter. God who created or eternal energy existed. If nothing, how did something happen. Nothing comes from nothing. Most secular science believes something existed, matter, energy, then the big bang. A cosmic vacuum was something. Must choose eternal God or eternal blob w/no beginning, no purpose, no meaning & then went bang. What will happen if it goes bang again? Those who believe in eternal matter are blind & unthinking.

The watch illustration: no one made the watch. It was produced by random chance. On a worktable a wire & metal banged around together until the watch was formed. Birds that eat bees & wasps bang them on a rock until the venom is gone then eat them. God did not have to create the world. He had no need or necessity to create. He did this as gift & grace. If God created anything @ all that wasn't there before, secular science can't speak against God or creation.

III. God created all @ specific time & place. No time & space until God created it & if the beginning of history follows then it is the story of Jesus. How old is creation? A bishop set the age about 4500 b.c.; secular says billions. Difference between science & Bible won't go away regardless of date of creation. If we say billions of years old then still have God creating all! Science works in the natural realm, it conquered polio, went to the moon, & is as far as it can go w/natural world. So, today, science believes it can tell us how old the world is. Place an orange under a high heat lamp, it will become hard & dried up. Then go to the amazon, to a tribe, & place the orange in the their village. They know what an orange is & a budding young scientist will ask how long to dry the orange & he knows because he has done it. On the basis of his own knowledge he claims how long it took to dry the orange. But, he would be wrong because he doesn't know about heat lamps. Secular scientists have to be wrong because they can't put God into their understanding.

If God made anything @ all, that didn't exist before, then a scientist can't tell you the history of creation. Did trees have rings @ creation? By faith we understand Hebrews 11:1. Biblical view of creation means for us to latch on by faith.

- ◆ Emphasize truth of creation to all people.
- ◆ Respect for creation of God as good Stewards
- ◆ Glorify God & acknowledge God as creator & make a distinction between God & His creation.
- ◆ Must not worship things in place of God.
- ◆ Must submit, depend, worship & give full service & devotion to God.
- ◆ Love the Lord you God w/all heart, soul & mind.

Dr. Picirilli closed in prayer.

Moderator called for recess until 6:30 Friday evening.

Prayer of dismissal by Bro. Ron Helms!

Recess for afternoon

Friday evening, May 17, 2019

Rev. Jon Locklear opened by leading in 'The Rock of Ages'. Bro. Ron introduced Dr. Picirilli, & Rev. Calvin Brown opened in prayer. Scott Caudill sang He didn't throw the clay away.

Ministry in the Word

Rev. Dr. Picirilli

Title: Creation of man

Text: Genesis 1:26-28

Treatment: Day 6 of creation of man & all beings on land.

Who are we & what are we doing here? Genesis 2:7, 15, 18-24

Not a help mate, but a help, meet for him. If people don't know who they are they have no hope. Science has told us we are pure physical world & subject to pure physical desires. The secular mind set says we are nothing but physical robots. No soul, no Spirit, no purpose for existence. Nothing is headed to nowhere. Right & wrong doesn't exist, whatever we want, just like an animal we act accordingly. We have no greater value than the microscopic bug or no better than roadkill. No value, only what is right now. Is it any wonder humans are practicing the mating habits of animals. The Bible tells us who we are, why we are here & where we are headed.

1. God made us! God assigned us to live on earth & take care of it. Genesis 2:7 describes how God created man. Everything else was spoken into existence. God made man from the dirt of earth. Genesis 3:19; Psalm 103:14.

A. This Reminds us of our frailty & total dependence on God. Apart from God we die & don't exist. Modern explanation of evolution attempts to explain our existence on purely natural events. Blind unthinking nature determines which species survives. Evolution is a theory, not fact, which says all life started by accident.

Today more scientist are leaning toward creation because no fossils of in between creatures. This embarrasses them due to a huge number of fossils created by erosion of Mt. St. Helen! Science has discovered fossils formed in 20-43 years. All cats come from 1 pair of cats. Evolution w/in a kind/species, not evolution between kinds/species! Species don't cross, impossible.

B. Biblical evidence! Genesis 2:7. Adam formed from dust not other beings. 3:23 told to till the ground. Adam's name points to the ground. Genesis 2:18 not good for Adam to be alone. The word meet means to respond to Adam. Then God had Adam name all the animals. Before God created Eve. Fruitless search for a mate for Adam.

Genesis 2 is a supernatural work & doesn't or won't fit evolution theory or theistic evolution (God used evolution to allow things to grow naturally). God created everything w/age. The age of earth & humans is unknown, however, for all the races & cultures to exist today you only need a few thousand years.

II. God mad us in His image! This is never said about any other creature or created thing. Humans are unique. All the others created after their kind. God said, let us make man inner image. Only and talks back to God. Humans are the final & greatest creation & are the crown of creation. God gave dominion over all of creation to humans. Not other creature was give this power. See Psalm 8 & Hebrews. What does it mean we are in the image of God? It means we are like God in some ways. Fact, like God we are personal beings, identity, think, rational, spiritual, make decisions & responsible for decisions. No other life from has these characteristics.

Colossians 3:9 we are told not to lie to others. James 3:9 we are not to curse a person who is the image of God. Because people are made in the image of God we are told not to take their life. Sing against ourselves, each other or God because we are created in His image.

Whatever is God & right is for God is good & right for us because we are His image.

III. God made us male & female in His image! The wonderful difference between us means we can't live w/& can't live w/o the other. Eve was created as a helper to compliment Adam. God invented sex. Man has perverted it. When sex is what God designed it to be it is good for all involved, which means marriage. Psalm 139 should be read by everyone before the mutilate themselves.

God made marriage in Genesis 2:24 1 man & 1 women for procreation & expressing love, joy, stable homes & marriage makes for a stable society. Every marriage is a covenant relationship. Only a fool says in their heart there is no God. Psalm 8:3-9. Dr. Picirilli then closed in prayer.

Assistant moderator Bro. Joe Jones dismissed the session until Saturday @ 8:30 am & dismissed in prayer.

Conference resumes Saturday, May 22 at 8:30 am.

Conference resumed & was called to order by Moderator Ron Helms.

Election of National Delegates

Tom Kuhn, Chris Kuhn & Pam West were elected as delegates to the National Convention.

A MMSC to allow moderator to appoint 2 additional delegates to the National Association meeting.

Committee Reports

Business

Budget committee & the General board recommendations for increasing honorariums as follows:

Clerk to \$600

Moderator to \$600

Promotional Secretary to \$6500

Treasurer to \$5500

MMSC to remove from the table & MMSC to increase honorariums for officers.

Obituary Report

Report read by Clerk.

Fellowship Association

Joe Ford - First of Ypsilanti

A.G. Music - First of Ypsilanti

Nancy Griffith - Tecumseh

New Hope Association

None reported

West Michigan Association

None reported

Wolverine Association

Barbara Belesky - Central Oaks

Margaret England - Central Oaks

Maretta Jones - Central Oaks

Carolyn Diane Perkola - Central Oaks

Ann Sutherland - Central Oaks

Lori Rice - Community

Lilah Webb - Community

Bill Ledbetter - First of Pontiac

Ed Baily - First of Pontiac

Tom Lilley (former Pastor) - First of Pontiac

Jim Pittman - N. Warren

Annette Brigman - Stoney Creek

Nina Goff - Stoney Creek

Thelma Mabry - Stoney Creek

Ruby McKenzie - Stoney Creek

Lakey Pelphrey - Stoney Creek

Ruby Bennett - Woodhaven

Stephanie Kozole - Woodhaven

Gene Phillips - Woodhaven

Joe Takett - Woodhaven

Charles Blevins - Woodhaven

MMSC to receive the Obituary report and Bro. Jon Locklear led in prayer for the living to remember those who served & worked.

Registration Report

Pastor	15
Pastor wives	11
Deacon	0
Deacon wives	0
Ordained minister	4
Ord minister wives	2
Licensed minister	0
Lic minister wives	0
Delegate	18
visitors	19
TOTAL	69
MYC	0
Out State visitors	10
Conference TOTAL	79

Submitted by: Allen West

District Associations	4
District Associations reporting	3
No. of Churches	23
No. of Churches reporting	11
Total full time pastors	16
Total bi-vocational pastors	5
No. of baptisms	27
Total new members	22
Total members lost	32
Total membership	608
No. of ordained ministers	31
No. of licensed ministers	7
Ordained Deacons	12
Sunday School enrollment	117
CTS enrollment	0
Woman's Auxiliary enrollment	52
Master's Men enrollment	7
No. of churches with budgets	12
Income of all churches	\$394,801.00
Value of all church property	\$8,117,000.00

State Conference Statistical Report

MMSC to accept

State Statistical Report to the National

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bro. Jimmy Lawson read Nominating Committee report and MMSC to receive the report and elect by acclamation.

Moderator Ron Helms
Assistant Moderator Joe Jones
Clerk Allen West
Assistant Clerk Dean Sanford
Treasurer Steve Thrasher
Assistant Treasurer Lisa Watts

MMSC to allow general board to appoint a person to the C.E. board. Vicki Bartnicki was recommended.

Please see page 3 to see the names of those elected to the **Mission Board; Youth Board; Christian Education Board & Masters Men Board**

A MOTION CARRIED to adjourn.

Prayer of Benediction & the meeting was led by Bro. Mark Wheatley!

Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists
FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION
(7) CHURCHES

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CHURCH

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WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION
(11) CHURCHES

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CHURCH

ANCHOR COMMUNITY FWB

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Stephen & Becky Riggs

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