

MINUTES OF THE
57TH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The 57th annual session of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists met June 23-24, 1995 at the Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio. The theme for the convention was **"THE 20TH CENTURY CHURCH."** **Mark Leonard** served as song leader with **Myra Leonard** at the piano.

FRIDAY MORNING

Clerk **Mike Stokes** called the meeting into session and introduced the Moderator **Robert Prichard**.

The Moderator introduced Dr. **Billy Sharpston**, pastor of Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church, who welcomed the Association to Columbus and to Heritage Temple.

The Moderator's message to the Association was taken from Acts 5:17-25. His theme was **"GO-STAND-SPEAK,"** followed by prayer.

The Clerk then informed the Association that all credentials were in order and the Moderator seated the voting delegates in the center aisle.

The Clerk was then called upon to give a partial report of the General Board. **Item #1** Board members present 14, absent 4. **Item #2** The Executive Committee report was given by the Clerk which was voted on and received. **Item #6** On May 20, 1995 the Executive committee met at the Hillview Free Will Baptist church to consider the application of the Capital City Conference, who wishes to unite with the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists. Upon examination, the Executive Committee recommends their admission to the State Association. The General Board voted to recommend the acceptance of the Capital City Conference into the State Association.

Item #7 The Board of Directors report was given by **Billy Sharpston**, voted on, and received.

Item #8 The Executive Secretary report was given by **Edwin Hayes** who reported the State Office, Bookstore, and Co-op receipts had exceeded the 1993/94 income by a large margin. Bookstore Manager **Jeff Dunn** reported on the many changes at the Bookstore and that revenues last year were the largest in its history. The General Board recommended that the report and projected budget of the Ambassador Bible Bookstore, and State Office be adopted. **Item #12** The moderator then appointed the chairman of committees as follows: *Resolution*, **Bruce Beal**; *Obituary*, **Hansford Reed**; *Appreciation*, **John Meade**.

The Moderator then completed the appointment of committee members to serve during the convention. Those appointed to the *Obituary Committee* were, **Elmer Huff** and **James Thacker**. The *Appreciation Committee* consisted of **Forest Dyer** and **Paul Keener**. Those serving on the *Resolution Committee* were **Clarence Newman** and **Bruce Beal**.

Item #6 of the General Board report which was a request by the Capital City Conference for admission into the State Association was read and approved.

The Moderator then called for music while the convention welcomed visitors.

Moderator **Robert Prichard** then called for reports from various state and national departments.

The *State Home Mission* Board report was given by **Roy Hutchinson**. Brother Hutchinson reported a record year for home missions. This is the first time in Ohio Mission history that two mission churches were able to be set free to organize as full operating churches. On May 1, 1994 the Lancaster Mission became self-supporting. On October 30, 1994 the Hamilton Mission became self-supporting.

Brother Hutchinson introduced the **Toefa Talo Teo** family as the new missionaries to Zanesville. Todd Zike was introduced as the new pastor of Hamilton. A motion carried to receive this report.

The *CTS Report* was given by **Manuel Lopes** and was voted on and approved.

Roger Hood gave a report of the *Children's Home* located in Greenville Tennessee. Ohio Free Will Baptists gave \$42,181.72 to this work in 1994. His report was received.

The Assistant Moderator, **Mike Mounts** led the congregation in worship. **Mark Leonard** led the singing. An offering of \$177.25 was received from the congregation. Special singing was provided by **Jeff Dunn**.

Rev. **Roger Childers**, pastor of the Urbana Free Will Baptist Church was introduced to bring the message. His subject was "THE 20TH CENTURY CHURCH'S PURPOSE."

Following the message the convention recessed for lunch.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

At 1:30 PM **Mark Leonard** led the congregation in singing.

Jeff Dunn gave devotional thoughts from Acts 27.

The Board of Directors Report was given by **Billy Sharpston**. A motion carried to receive this report.

Promotional Secretary Edwin Hayes was recognized to give his report. Brother Hayes reported that the State Office income was \$216,285.62 which was the largest in our history. The combined income of the State Office and Bookstore is \$899,815.48 which exceeded the 1993/1994 income by \$95,933.79.

Bookstore Manager **Jeff Dunn** reported that in December 1994 the store had its first ever \$100,000.00 month with a revenue of \$100,690.68. The store also had its first Open House after the Friday night service of the State Meeting. A motion carried to receive this report and to adopt the projected budget.

The Moderator then appointed corresponding messengers to other bodies: **Bill Hayes** to Kentucky and Michigan.

Sandy Mounts gave a Report of the Ohio Woman's Auxiliary. Sandy reported a membership of 341, with 29 auxiliaries reporting. Speakers this year were **Mrs. Lucille Neeley, Miss Cathy Crawford, Jim and Karen Cowart**.

The State project for 1995/96 is \$14,000.00. Officers elected were: **Sandy Mounts, President; Shirley Sharpston, Vice-President; Shirley Frye, Secretary; Geri Baker, Treasurer; Barb Chaffin, Field Worker; Marty Bussey, Rhonda Mounts, and Pat Justice, Members at Large**. A motion carried to receive this report.

Roy Harris gave a report from the Free Will Baptist Bible College. Twelve students from Ohio are enrolled. Total enrollment for 1994/95 is 377. A motion carried to receive this report.

Fred Warner gave a report of the National Foreign Mission Department. A motion carried to receive this report.

Edwin Hayes gave a report of the National Sunday School and Randall House. A motion carried to receive this report.

The Moderator called for a vote on the General Board report Items #3, 4, 5, 12. All were approved.

Moderator **Robert Prichard** then appointed delegates to the National Association Meeting in Charlotte, NC, in July. Those appointed were **A.J. Dooley, Geraldene Bael, Jean Blair, Mary Pitts, and Shirley Frye**.

A motion carried to adjourn from business until Saturday morning.

FRIDAY EVENING

Mark Leonard led the congregation in singing.

John Jeffrey led in prayer.

Mike Stokes welcomed the congregation and introduced **Manuel Lopes** to present CTS awards to division winners who will represent Ohio in National Competition.

Special music was provided by **Jodi Johnson, Sara Penrod**, and the **Sounds of Praise** from Southeastern Bible College.

An offering of \$631.06 was received from the congregation.

Rev. **James Price** was introduced to bring the message. His subject was, "THE 20TH CENTURY CHURCH'S POWER."

SATURDAY MORNING

At 9:30 AM **Mark Leonard** led the congregation in singing.

Joey Van Meter read II Peter 1:4-7 and gave devotional thoughts.

Robert Prichard offered prayer.

Melvin Worthington gave a report of the National Executive Office. A motion carried to receive this report.

Ray Lewis gave a report of the National Foundation and Board of Retirement. A motion carried to receive this report.

Richard Adams gave a report of the National Home Mission Department. A motion carried to receive this report.

Committee reports were then called for.

Obituary: Since we last met in June 1994, the following fellow believers have gone to be with the Lord: *Sister Tombs, Mere Maynard, Lenny Copley, Herbert Talley, Delphia Baker, Lester Gray, Gladys F. Arthur, Madge Hale, Erma Hayes, Mary M. Thacker, Ed Hessler, Jessie McDowell, James Delaney, Hazel Evans, Mae Brown, Joshua Fields, Claude Webb, Mary Yaple.* A motion carried which asked the congregation to stand in a moment of silence to remember these who have gone to be with the Lord followed by prayer offered by **Melvin Worthington**.

Appreciation: Special thanks to Heritage Temple Free Will Baptist Church for the use of their facilities, all special singers, ministers, boards, committees, and all who made the convention a success. There was a motion which asked for a standing vote of appreciation which was granted.

Nominating Committee: Moderator, **Robert Prichard** elected; Assistant Moderator, **Mike Mounts** elected; Clerk, **Mike Stokes** elected; Assistant Clerk, **Oziel Jeffries** elected, General Board, *Little Miami, Forest Dyer* elected; Lawrence, **Danny Laney** elected; Jackson, **Marvin Markin** elected; Great Lakes, **Bruce Beal** elected; Franklin, **Delmar Sparks** elected; Cuyahoga-Lorain, **John Jeffrey** elected; Central, **Jerry Newman** elected; Tri-State, **Roland Luthy** elected; Northeastern, **Delmon Rose** elected; Capital City, **Freddy Dutton** elected; Trinity, **Densil Wright** elected; Board of Directors, **Bill Hayes** elected, 2002; State CTS Board, **Mark Leonard** elected, 2002; State Mission Board, **C.A. Newman** elected, 2002; Nominating Committee, **Bill Chadwick** elected, 1998; Executive Committee, **Delmar Sparks, Forest Dyer, John Jeffrey,** and **Freddy Dutton** were elected. To fulfill an unexpired term of Dottie Sizemore on the CTS Board, **Mark Price** was elected to serve until 1998. To fulfill an unexpired term of Hobert Ashby on the Board of Directors, **Don Hix** was elected to serve until 1998.

Clerk **Mike Stokes** then read the report which will be sent to the National Association Meeting in Charlotte, NC, July 16-20. The letter was approved.

The total registration for this year's convention was as follows: 10 Deacons, 30 Local Church Delegates, 73 Ministers, and 37 Visitors for a total of 150. A motion carried to adjourn from business.

Assistant Moderator **Mike Mounts** led the worship service.

An offering of \$111.55 was received from the congregation.

Special singing was by the **Sounds of Praise**.

Rev. **Don Hix**, pastor of the Woodstock FWB Church, was introduced to bring the message. His subject was: "THE 20TH CENTURY CHURCH'S PROGRESS." After the message we adjourned with a benediction.

Mike Stokes, Clerk