

MINUTES OF THE 66TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OHIO STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The 66th annual session of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptist met June 25-26, 2004 at the Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church, 3868 Stygler Road, Gahanna, Ohio. The theme for the convention was "The Elements of a Victorious Church." Dave Chamberlin served as song leader with Deena Armstrong at the piano.

FRIDAY MORNING

At 9:30 AM Clerk Mike Stokes welcomed the congregation and called the meeting into official session by introducing the moderator, Rev. Robert Prichard.

The moderator then introduced Rev. Keith Burt Associate Pastor of Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church, who welcomed the convention to Gahanna, and to Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church.

The moderator's message to the convention was taken from Revelation Chapters 2-3. His theme was, "He that hath an ear, let him hear." Brother Prichard then offered prayer.

After seating delegates, the Moderator then called for the General Board Report. The General Board met June 24, 2004, at the Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church in Gahanna, Ohio. Items of business: **Item #1** Board members present 15, absent 4. The board approved Warren Simpkins as proxy for Densel Wright of the Trinity Conference. The board also approved Forest Dyer as proxy for Steve Sykes from the Little Miami Conference. **Item #2** The clerk gave the Executive Committee Report, which was received. **Item #3** The General Board has received notice that the Meigs Conference has dissolved. **Item #4** The General Board recommends that the Gallia Conference be removed from membership in the Ohio State Association, because of its failure to report to the State Association or to pay their representation fees since 1999. **Item #5** A recently formed Conference called the State Line Conference consisting of three churches: First Free Will Baptist Church, Austintown; Lighthouse Free Will Baptist Church, Ashtabula; and Three Rivers Free Will Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, has requested admission into the Ohio State Association. The Executive Committee met with representatives of this conference and recommends that they be received. The General Board recommends that this conference be admitted. **Item #6** The Unity Conference consisting of two churches: The Silver Memorial Free Will Baptist Church, and the Rutland Free Will Baptist Church, has requested admission into the Ohio State Association. The Executive Committee examined the organizational structure of this conference and recommends that they be received. The General Board recommends that this conference be admitted. **Item #7** The Report of the Board of Directors was given by Bill Hayes, which was received. **Item #8** Promotional Secretary Edwin Hayes gave a report and presented the budget of the State Office. The General Board recommends that this report and projected budget be adopted. **Item #9** Paul Keener gave a report and presented the budget of the Ambassador Bookstore and Literature Center. The General Board recommends that this report and projected budget be adopted. **Item #10** The General Board expressed sincere appreciation to Edwin Hayes, Paul Keener, Bill Hayes and the Bookstore Staff for their dedication and fine work during a difficult time. **Item #11** The State Home Mission's Board Report was given by Roy Hutchinson and Paul Etterling. The General Board recommends that this report and projected budget be adopted. **Item #12** The OYC Report was given by Mark Leonard. The General Board recommends that this report and projected budget be adopted. **Item #13** The Moderator then appointed the chairmen of committees: Resolution Committee, Paul Finney; Obituary Committee, Alan Barnes; Appreciation Committee, Mitch Salyers. A motion carried to receive this report and to vote on items 5 and 6, which were approved.

At this time, the Moderator completed the appointment of committee members to serve during the convention. Those appointed to the *Obituary Committee* were Don Hix and Jerry Sargent. Serving on the *Resolution Committee* were Tom Dooley and Henry Litteral. The *Appreciation Committee* was completed by the appointment of David Reese and Jon Mountjoy.

The Moderator then called for a time of fellowship while the convention welcomed visitors and messengers from other bodies.

Ohio Missionary **Cathy Crawford** gave a report of her work in France and her efforts to return to the field. The Moderator then recognized Roy Hutchinson and Paul Etterling who gave a report of the **State Mission Board**. Home Missionaries Timothy Byers, Ashtabula Mission; Tim McKnight, London Mission; and Charles (Randy) Hall, Hamilton Mission. A motion carried to receive these reports and to adopt their projected budget.

The Moderator then entertained a motion to adjourn from business until after lunch, which carried.

The singing group, Potter's Clay from Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Middleburg Heights, Ohio ministered in song.

In worship in giving, an offering of \$259.00 was received.

Rev. Tom Jones Pastor of Three Rivers Free Will Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was introduced to bring the message. His subject was "The Preaching of a Victorious Church."

Following the message the convention recessed for lunch.

Total attendance for this session was 175.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

At 1:15 PM, Dave Chamberlin led the congregation in singing.

Pastor David Trusty gave devotional thoughts and offered prayer.

Paul Keener gave a report for Missionary Tim Keener, which was received.

Mark Leonard gave the OYC Report. A motion carried to receive this report and to adopt the budget.

Bill Hayes gave the Board of Directors Report. A motion carried to receive this report.

Edwin Hayes gave the State Office Report. A motion carried to receive this report and to adopt the budget.

Paul Keener gave the Ambassador Bookstore and Literature Center Report. A motion carried to receive this report and to adopt the budget.

Sister Gerri Baker gave the OWAC (Ohio Women Active for Christ) Report. Their theme for this year was "Great Expectation." Special speaker this year was Lynette Morgan. Sister Baker reported that OWAC has given a total of \$18,389.41 this year. A motion carried to receive this report.

The Moderator then returned to items 4 and 10 of the General Board Report. A motion carried to approve item 4. A motion carried to approve item 10 with a standing vote of appreciation.

A.J. Dooley gave a report of the National Association meeting in Tampa, Florida last year. A motion carried to receive this report.

Keith Burden gave a report of the National Executive Office, which was received.

David Williford gave a report of Free Will Baptist Bible College, which was received.

Neil Gilliland gave a report of the National Foreign Mission Department, which was received.

James Kilgore gave a report of the FWB Family Ministries, a ministry of the Tennessee State Association which was received.

Fred Crank gave a report of the Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, which was received.

Richard Green gave a report of the Harvest Home Children's Ministries, which was received.

Bill Evans gave a report of the National Board of Retirement and the Free Will Baptist Foundation, which was received.

Ron Hunter gave a report of the National Sunday School and Randall House Publications, which was received.

Larry Powell gave a report of the National Home Mission Department. Brother Powell reported that there were more than 286,000 people attending Free Will Baptist churches on Roll Call Sunday. This report was received.

The Moderator then appointed delegates to the National Association Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri this year: A.J. Dooley, Rhonda Luthy, Judi Stokes, Pam Luthy, and Bev Mountjoy.

The convention then adjourned from business until Saturday morning.

Total attendance for this session was 135.

FRIDAY EVENING

Dave Chamberlin led the congregation in singing.

Dan King welcomed the congregation and invited Mike Mounts to offer prayer.

In worship and giving, an offering of \$7,153.79 was received.

Mark Leonard explained the program for the youth service, which will be held in the annex. CTS competitive awards will be presented at the end of their service.

The Board of Directors presented a plaque to Edwin Hayes and his wife, Linda for their faithful service to the state work.

The choir from Scioto Dale Free Will Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Ohio, provided special singing.

Rev. Tim Stout Pastor of Heritage Free Will Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio, was introduced to bring the message. His theme was "The Practice of a Victorious Church." Benediction.

Total attendance for this meeting was 350.

SATURDAY MORNING

At 9:30 AM, Dave Chamberlin led the congregation in singing.

Rev. Cecil Farmer gave devotional thoughts from Romans chapter twelve, and offered prayer.

The Moderator then introduced David Williams who announced that the Ohio Free Will Baptist Website, ohfwb.org was up and running.

Moderator Prichard then called for committee reports:

Obituary Committee: Since we last met in June of 2003, the following fellow believers have gone to be with the Lord: Evelyn Alicie, Belva Baker, Rev. James Blair, Ellis Cobb, Ernest Damron, Clayton Edwards, David Nathaniel Etterling, Bessie Fields, Bill Fraley, Martha Gessells, Ora Gilliland, Sabre Harvey, Robert Hawkens, Lorraine Henry, Kim Jaynes, Rev. John Jeffrey, June Jennings, Garlene Kaiser, Lottie Kilgore, Donald Kincaid, Nancy Lawson, Kenny Marshall, Rev. John McClelland, Dorothy Meadows, Dorothy Mingus, Ruby Music, Hazel Puckett, Gernett Scott, Gary Randolph, Zerina Shopbell, Tom Sizemore, Louise Smith, Rev. John Taylor, and Jim Williams. The committee asks for a standing vote and a moment of silence to remember these who have gone, granted.

Nominating Committee: For officers term ending 2005: Moderator, Robert Prichard, elected; Assistant Moderator, Mike Mounts, elected; Clerk, Mike Stokes, elected; Assistant Clerk, Mark Bailey, elected. For officers term ending 2006: General Board, Trinity Conference, Warren Simpkins, elected; South Central Conference, Jim Henderson, elected; Porter Conference, Dan King, elected; Pine Creek Conference, Aaron Reed, elected; State Line Conference, Tom Dooley, elected; Unity Conference, Jamie Fortner, elected; Cornerstone Conference, Blaine Etterling, elected; North and Western Conference, James Webb, elected; Southern Ohio Conference, Robert Fulton, elected; Great Lakes Conference, Ken Frisbee to fill an unexpired term of Tom Dooley, elected; Little Miami Conference, Forest Dyer to fill an unexpired term of Steve Sykes, elected. Executive Committee, term ending 2005. Forest Dyer, Dan King, Freddy Dutton, and Alan Barnes. Board of Directors, term ending 2011, Mitch Salyers, elected. CTS Board, term ending 2011, Paul Etterling, elected. State Home Mission Board, term ending 2011, Roland Luthy, elected. State Home Mission Board, term ending 2008, Roger Daniel to fill an unexpired term of Willie Booth, elected. Nominating Committee, term ending 2011, Bill Chadwick, elected.

Appreciation Committee: A special thanks to the Gahanna Free Will Baptist Church and Pastor Booth for the warm welcome and the use of their beautiful facilities. Thanks to our Moderator, Robert Prichard, Assistant Moderator, Mike Mounts, Clerk Mike Stokes, Assistant Clerk Mark Bailey. Thanks to Dave Chamberlin for leading our singing and Deena Armstrong who was our pianist. Thanks to all special singers, boards, committees, ushers, sound engineers, and technical assistants. Thanks to all speakers, prayer partners. We are truly grateful to the Lord for meeting with us throughout the convention. The committee asks for a standing vote of appreciation, granted.

Registration Committee: Teresa Endicott reported that 219 have registered for the convention.

The Moderator then appointed Mike Mounts as Prayer Committee Chairman, and Teresa Endicott as Registration Committee Chairperson.

The Clerk then read the report, which will be sent to the National Association Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. This report was approved.

A motion carried to adjourn from business.

Assistant moderator Mike Mounts led the congregation in worship.

In worship in giving, an offering of \$134.00 was received. Total offering for the entire convention was \$7,546.79.

Diana McCarty from First Springfield Free Will Baptist Church, provided special singing.

Rev. Mark Rucker Pastor of First Springfield Free Will Baptist Church, Springfield, Ohio was introduced to bring the message. His subject was "The Power of a Victorious Church."

Total attendance for this session was 117. Adjournment.