

Minutes
of the
ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
and
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
of the
**Palmer Association
of Free Will Baptists**



Organizational Session
Held With
**PARKER'S CHAPEL
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**
Greenville, North Carolina
March 17, 1973

Minutes of the Organizational
First and Second Annual Sessions
of The
Palmer Association of Free Will Baptists

Organizational Session
Held With
PARKER'S CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 17, 1973



ORIGINAL OFFICERS

- Moderator David Nobles
Assistant Moderator Jim Nason
Secretary-Treasurer Eugene Hales
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Owen Ganey

ORIGINAL GUIDANCE COMMITTEE
For Establishing The Association

- Frank Davenport, Chairman
L. R. Ennis
Eugene Hales

CONSTITUTION

of the
PALMER ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Article 1. Name and Purpose.

This organization shall be known as the Palmer Association of Free Will Baptists and by this name shall it be designated in all its work, government and fraternal relations. The general purpose of this Conference shall be the exaltation of Christ, the great Head of the Church; the edification of its members through the effective teaching and mutual encouragement in the use of the manifold means of grace; the unification of the methods and programs of its affiliated churches and subordinate organizations; and the coordination of persistent efforts in church extension, Christian education, benevolence and evangelism.

Article 2. Composition.

This association shall be composed of the ordained and licensed ministers who are members of churches that are associated with the association and approved messengers from the churches.

Article 3. Representation.

Voting privilege shall be accorded the pastor of each church in the association and five messengers from each church and one additional messenger for every 100 members or fraction thereof.

Article 4. General Officers.

The general offices of the association shall be a moderator, an assistant moderator, a secretary-treasurer and an assistant secretary-treasurer, each of whom shall be elected for a term of two years beginning at the close of the annual session at which they are elected.

Article 5. Committees.

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the general officers of the association together with two members elected from the churches at large for a term of two years. It is understood that this committee has no authority other than that which is expressly stated in these constitution and by-laws.

Section 2. A membership committee of six shall be elected three years, the tenure of two expiring each year.

Section 3. Special committees may be elected or appointed at the option of the association.

Article 6. Ordination.

The Palmer Association recognizes that the authority to ordain ministers has its source in the local church.

Article 7. Meetings.

The annual session of the association shall meet on Friday the second Saturday in May.

Article 8. Adoption and Amendment.

A. This constitution shall be adopted at any regular session by a two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present.

b. It may be amended at any regular session by a two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present.

C. We recommend the following proposed By-Laws of the Palmer Association of Free Will Baptists:

Section 1. Officers.

No person shall serve more than three years successively in any one office or combination of offices.

A. The moderator shall preside according to adopted parliamentary procedure over the sessions of the association.

B. The duties of the assistant moderator shall be those of the moderator when the latter shall so direct or when he is absent.

C. The secretary-treasurer shall record the proceedings of all sessions of the association and preserve an accurate record of said proceedings in a book provided for this purpose. He shall hold in trust all money that belongs to the association and pay out same by order of the association. He shall keep an accurate account of all funds received and paid out and make an annual report accordingly to the association.

D. The duties of the assistant secretary-treasurer shall be those of the secretary-treasurer when the latter shall so direct or when he is absent.

Section 2. Committees.

A. The executive committee shall plan the program for the annual session in consultation with the host pastor. They shall perform any other duties as directed by the association in session.

B. The membership committee shall examine the credentials of ministers who apply for membership in the association and applications of churches that desire membership in the association and shall make recommendations according to their judgments.

Section 3. Ordination.

The Palmer Association recognizes the authority of the local church to ordain men to the ministry of the gospel. It further recognizes the authority of the local church to ordain men to general Christian ministries. The following is suggested procedure in the ordination of a minister.

A. The candidate should be licensed for at least one year.

B. The church should call together at least three ministers to examine the candidate as to doctrine and general qualifications. This committee should make written recommendations to the church.

C. The ordination service generally includes a sermon, presentation of the Bible, charge to the candidate, laying on of hands and prayer of dedication.

Section 4. Adoption and Amendment.

A. These by-laws shall be adopted at any regular session by a two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present.

B. It may be amended at any regular session by a two-thirds majority vote of the messengers present.

PALMER ASSOCIATION

Church Name

ANTIOCH—Pikeville
Rt. 2
Pikeville, N. C. 27863

BELVOIR

Route 4, Box 62
Greenville, N. C. 27834

BETHEL

Route 2, Highway 258
Kinston, N. C. 28501

FAITH

P. O. Box 1159
Goldsboro, N. C. 27530

FELLOWSHIP

P. O. Box 13
Micro, N. C. 27576

GRACE

Box 1845
Greenville, N. C. 27834

GRACE

509 Kingston Ave.
Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801

GRIFTON

Box 537
Grifton, N. C. 28530

GETHSEMANE

Wilson, N. C. 27893

HOPE

706 Chestnut St.
Scotland Neck, N. C. 27874

Pastor

L. R. Ennis
P. O. Box 391
Goldsboro, N. C. 27530

Rev. John Moran

Route 4, Box 62
Greenville, N. C. 27834

David Paramore

Route 2, Highway 258
Kinston, N. C. 28501

Frank Davenport

P. O. Box 1159
Goldsboro, N. C. 27530

I. Bennie Turner

P. O. Box 13
Micro, N. C. 27576

Chester Phillips

301 Martinsborough Rd.
Greenville, N. C. 27834

Robert J. Durham

329 Kinston Ave.
Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801

Gordon Hart

Box 537
Grifton, N. C. 28530

Joe Hailey

P. O. Box 247
Elm City, N. C. 27822

Harvey Dupree

704 Chestnut St.
Scotland Neck, N. C. 27874

IMMANUEL
P. O. Box 415
Winterville, N. C. 28590

LIBERTY
Ayden, N. C. 28513

LIVING WATERS
P. O. Box 860
Bethel, N. C.

MARANATHA
14th St. Ext.
Greenville, N. C. 27834

MT. CALVARY
P. O. Box 157
Hookerton, N. C. 28538

PARKERS CHAPEL
Route 8, Box 265
Greenville, N. C. 27834

PEACE
509 Harrison Dr.
Wilson, N. C. 27893

ROCKY MOUNT
Highway 70 West,
P. O. Box 2354
Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801

ST. JOHN
Route 3
Goldsboro, N. C. 27530

TRINITY
264 By-Pass East
Greenville, N. C. 27834

TRINITY
Box 216
La Grange, N. C. 28551

Alfred Cates
P. O. Box 906
Winterville, N. C. 28590

Raymond Gaskin
Ayden, N. C. 28513

Walter Summerlin
P. O. Box 860
Bethel, N. C. 27812

Alvis Harris
301 Nichols Dr.
Greenville, N. C. 27834

Jack Cox
P. O. Box 157
Hookerton, N. C. 28538

Harley C. Brown
Route 8, Box 265
Greenville, N. C. 27834

Gordon R. Sebastian
509 Harrison Dr.
Wilson, N. C. 27893

W. Glenn Hill
P. O. Box 2354
Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801

L. R. Ennis
117 S. Berkeley Blvd.
Goldsboro, N. C. 27530

Al Davis
264 By-Pass East
Greenville, N. C. 27834

Jim Nason
210 N. Caswell
LaGrange, N. C. 28551

VICTORY
1806 Wayne Memorial Dr.
Goldsboro, N. C. 27530

George C. Lee
1403-9th St.
Goldsboro, N. C. 27530

WEST DUPLIN
Route 2, Box 136A-1
Warsaw, N. C. 28398

Eugene Hales
Route 2, Box 136 A-1
Warsaw, N. C. 28398

WEST CALVARY
Route 4, Box 209
Smithfield, N. C. 27577

Tom Lilly
Route 4, Box 209
Smithfield, N. C. 27577

WHITE OAK HILL
Route 2
Bailey, N. C. 27807

Darrell Pickle
Route 2
Bailey, N. C. 27807

OTHER ORDAINED MINISTERS

John H. Reed
Lorenza Stox
L. B. Coley
Harley Bennett
Bobby Jackson
Phillip Cooper

J. D. Vernelson
Phillip James
Bobby Aycock
Willie Edgar Bell
La Rue Davis
Donald Craft
Owen Ganey

LICENSED MINISTERS

Glenn Batten
Willie Sumerlin
Dallas Carter
Bill Howard
Bill Hartshorne
Bill Siems, Jr.

Larry Wells
Wayne Lee
George Ray
Aaron McDaniel
Roy Conner
Rodney Whaley

MINUTES
of the
Organizational Session
of the
Palmer Association of Free Will Baptists
Saturday, March 17, 1973
Parker's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church
Greenville, North Carolina

The session was opened promptly at 10:00 a.m. with congregational singing led by Eugene Hales.

Frank Davenport was introduced as the chairman of the guidance committee which had contacted the churches on establishing the association. L. R. Ennis and Eugene Hales were the other committee members. Jim Nason led the assembly in prayer.

The agenda or program for the day was adopted.

Owen Ganey, pastor of Immanuel Church, Winterville, N. C., was introduced as speaker. His message was given titled "Your Open Door" with scriptural references to 1 Corinthians 16:9, II Corinthians 2:12, and Revelation 3:8.

The roll call of churches revealed fifteen (15) churches in representation. They are as follows:

Churches	Pastor
Mt. Calvary-Hookerton.....	Conrad Williford
Parker's Chapel - Greenville.....	Harley Brown
St. John - Goldsboro.....	L. R. Ennis
Trinity - LaGrange.....	Jim Nason
Victory - Goldsboro.....	Ronnie Peele
West Duplin - Warsaw.....	Eugene Hales
Antioch - Pikeville.....	L. R. Ennis
Belvoir - Greenville.....	David Nobles
Faith - Goldsboro.....	Frank Davenport
Fellowship - Selma.....	I. Benny Turner
Grace - Rocky Mount.....	Robert Durham
Grifton - Grifton.....	Gordon Hart
Immanuel - Winterville.....	Owen Ganey
Maranatha - Greenville.....	Billy Walker
White Oak Hill - Bailey.....	Henry Hughes

A motion was made and passed to retain the guidance committee as temporary officers.

The name Palmer Association of Free Will Baptists was adopted as the official name for the association.

The former constitution of the General Conference of Free Will Baptist was adopted with proper changes in name, etc. A copy of this constitution is attached here within.

The date of the annual meeting was set as the second Saturday in May.

The following officers were elected for a term of two years. The terms will expire at the May 1975 session.

- ModeratorDavid Nobles
- Assistant ModeratorJim Nason
- Secretary-TreasurerEugene Hales
- Assistant Secretary-TreasurerOwen Ganey

These officers will make up the Executive Committee which will include Billy Walker and Harley Brown who were elected as two members at large.

A motion was made and passed to empower the Executive Committee to accept the letters and receive the other churches already aligned with the General Conference as bonafide members of this body.

The following membership committee was elected with their terms of office:

- Gordon Hart1 year 1974
- Henry Hughes1 year 1974
- Frank Davenport2 years 1975
- L. R. Ennis2 years 1975
- John H. Reed3 years 1976
- Conrad Williford3 years 1976

The next meeting will be Saturday, May 12, 1973, at White Oak Hill Church, Bailey, North Carolina.

A motion was made and passed that expenses which were incurred by the guidance committee be reimbursed if not done so by the General Conference.

An offering in the amount of \$29.83 was received. Two churches sent an offering of \$10.00 each to this session. The balance in the treasurer is \$49.83.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of March in the year of our Lord 1973.

David Nobles
Moderator

Eugene Hales
Secretary-Treasurer

**MINUTES
of the
First Annual Session
of the
Palmer Association of Free Will Baptists
Saturday, May 12, 1973
White Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church
Bailey, North Carolina**

The session opened at 9:30 a.m. with congregational singing, and a hearty welcome from the host church. The moderator's remarks were given by David Nobles, moderator.

The sermon was preached by Rev. I. Benny Turner, pastor of Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church, Micro, North Carolina.

The roll call of the churches revealed sixteen (16) churches representing.

The roll call of the ordained ministers revealed seventeen (17) ordained ministers present.

Barry Hampton and Tom Lily were received as ordained ministers into the Palmer Association.

Joe Hailey was received as an ordained minister into the Palmer Association.

Billy Walker, Harley Bennett and Paul Dilda were appointed to the Finance Committee.

Gordon Sebastian, Tom Lily and Doug Randlet were appointed to the Digest Committee.

The minutes of the Organizational Session on Saturday March 17, 1973 were read and approved.

The Finance Committee reported that \$150.00 in checks had been received from the churches and a morning offering of \$21.50 was received giving a total offering of \$171.50.

Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) from the treasury was allocated for the youth work to buy metal, and pay registration fees to the State Youth Conference.

The resignation of Billy Walker as a member at large on the Executive Committee was received.

Tom Lily was elected as a member at large on the Executive Committee.

The report of the Digest committee was as follows:

Churches Representing	16
Ordained Ministers	23
Licensed Ministers	12
Delegates Sent	23
Sunday School Enrollment	4726
Sunday School Average Attendance	4022
C.T.S. Enrollment	787
C.T.S. Average Attendance	711
Woman's Auxillary Enrollment	301
Womans Auxillary Average Attendance	235
Master's Men Enrollment	12
Masters Men Average Attendance	9

TREASURER'S REPORT
March 17, 1973 - May 11, 1973

Balance Brought Forward \$00.00

Receipts:

March 17, 1973, Organizational Session
Parker's Chapel, Greenville, N. C.

Offering Received	29.83	
Gifts from the Churches	20.00	
Total Receipts	<u>49.83</u>	<u>\$49.83</u>
Total To Account For		\$49.83

Disbursements

April 17, 1973, Printed Checks	<u>5.98</u>	<u>5.98</u>
Balance on Hand May 11, 1973		\$43.85

The membership committee reported that George C. Lee had requested membership in the Palmer Association. He was received.

A motion was made and passed for the moderator to appoint five (5) men to study the present constitution and report on this study at the next meeting.

A motion was made and passed to have quarterly meetings. The first three for inspiration and instruction and the fourth as an annual business meeting. The first three will be on the second Saturday of August, November and February. The annual meeting will be on the second Saturday in May.

The following program committee was elected: Frank Davenport, Gordon Sebastian, Jim Nason.

The August meeting will be Saturday, August 11, 1973 at Faith Church in Goldsboro.

A motion was made and passed that separate church letters be drawn up for the Quarterly meeting and the annual meeting.

A motion was made and passed that the present annual program format be adopted.

A motion was made and passed that the following churches be approved for membership pending the reception of their letters of petition. Belvoir, Greenville, N. C.; Bethel, Kinston, N. C.; Grace, Greenville, N. C.; Trinity, Greenville, N. C.; Liberty, Ayden, N. C. The organizational guidance committee of L. R. Ennis, Frank Davenport, and Eugene Hales is to act as the petition committee.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn. Frank Davenport led in prayer.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of May in the year of our Lord 1973.

David Nobles
Moderator
Eugene Hales
Secretarty-Treasurer

MINUTES
of the
Second Annual Session
of the
Palmer Association of Free Will Baptists
Saturday May 18, 1974
Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church
Wilson, North Carolina

The session opened at 9:00 a. m. with congregational singing led by Glenn Hill. Prayer was offered by Alfred Cates.

Devotional thoughts were given by Darrell Pickle the new pastor at White Oak Hill church. His text was from Romans 12:1, 2.

The roll call of churches revealed 18 churches out of 25 representing.

The roll call of ordained ministers revealed 22 out of 38 present.

The roll call of licensed ministers revealed 2 out of 12 present.

The Assistant Moderator, James Nason in the absence of the Moderator, David Nobles who had moved out of the state, appointed the Finance Committee consisting of Gordon Sebastian, I. Benny Turner and Alvis Harris.

The minutes of the May 12, 1973 session convening at White Oak Hill church at Bailey were read and approved.

Motion was made and passed that the moderator appoint a committee to study the organizational structure and the constitution and By-laws of the association. The committee is to report its findings and recommendations to the association. The Executive Committee consisting of Jim Nason Eugene Hales, Owen Ganey, Tom Lilly and Harley Brown was appointed.

A motion was made and passed that the moderator appoint two proxies to the membership committee. Appointed were Harley Brown and Harvey Dupree.

A Digest Committee was appointed consisting of Alfred Cates, Robert Durham, Glen Hill.

A motion was made and passed that the next Quarterly Fellowship Meeting, August 10, 1974, convene at the Rocky Mount Church in Rocky Mount, N. C.

A motion was made and passed that all meetings at churches beginning November 9, 1974 be in alphabetical order. The first church will be Antioch at Pikeville.

TREASURER'S REPORT
May 12, 1973 - May 17, 1974

Balance Brought Forward - May 12, 1973 \$ 43.85

Receipts

May 12, 1973 First Annual Session
White Oak Hill, Bailey, N. C.

Offering Received	21.50	
Gifts from the Churches	<u>175.35</u>	
	196.85	196.85

August 11, 1973 Quarterly Fellowship Meeting
Faith, Goldsboro, N. C.

Offering Received	19.55	
Gifts from the Churches	<u>35.00</u>	
	54.55	54.55

November 10, 1973 Quarterly Fellowship Meeting
Grifton, Grifton, N. C.

Offering Received	26.40	
Gifts from the Churches	<u>85.00</u>	
	111.40	111.40

February 9, 1974 Quarterly Fellowship Meeting
Parker's Chapel, Greenville, N. C.

Offering Received	28.00	
Gifts from the Churches	<u>127.00</u>	
	155.00	155.00

Total Receipts		<u>\$517.80</u>	517.80
Total To Account For			\$561.65

Disbursements

August 11, 1973		
District medals & SYC Registration	50.00	
May 15, 1974		
Postage & Mailing	15.00	
Total Disbursements	<u>65.00</u>	<u>65.00</u>
Balance On Hand - May 17, 1974		\$496.65

The following Finance Committee report and recommendations were given.

Report-Present Balance	\$496.65
Checks from churches	<u>180.00</u>
Total Funds available	\$676.65

Recommendations:

1. That Dr. Robert Picirilli be given an honorarium of \$125.00
2. That the morning offering be a love offering to the James Steps Missionary Account.
3. That \$125.00 be allocated for district youth work. Respectively submitted, Gordon Sebastian, I. Benny Turner, Alvis Harris.

A motion was made and passed that the report be received and the recommendation be adopted.

Report of Digest Committee

Note: 17 of 25 churches reporting

Number of Churches	25
Church Membership	3396
Number of Parsonages	8
Number of Ordained Ministers	38
Number of Licensed Ministers	12
Number of Ordained Deacons	68
Enrollment of Sunday Schools	3750
Average Attendance of Sunday School	3526
Enrollment of Church Training Service	850
Average Attendance of Church Training Service	720
Enrollment of Woman's Auxiliaries	160
Average Attendance of Woman's Auxiliaries	130
Enrollment of Master's Men	50
Average Attendance of Master's Men	45
Mid-Week service Average Attendance	1377

Respectively Submitted
Alfred Cates
Robert Durham
Glenn Hill

A motion was made and passed that the report be received.

Report of Membership Committee

Recommendation: That Darrell Pickle be received as an ordained minister of the association.

Respectively Submitted
Harley Brown
Harvey Dupree
John Reed
L. R. Ennis
Frank Davenport
Gordon Hart

A motion was made and passed that Darrell Pickle be received.

A motion was made and passed that since Barry Hampton is not a member of Faith Church in Goldsboro his name be removed from the list of ordained ministers of the Palmer Association.

A motion was made and passed that since Phillip M. Privette is no longer a member of this denomination his name be removed from the list of ordained ministers of the Palmer Association.

A motion was made and passed that since James Avery has moved to the Cumberland Association in Tennessee his name be removed from the list of ordained ministers of the Palmer Association.

The following Youth Committee was elected: Gordon Hart, Russell Lamb, Harley Bennette, Harold Brown, Walter Summerlin.

A motion was made and passed that 250 copies of all minutes through the Second Annual Session of May 18, 1974 be printed.

The following officers were elected:

- Moderator Robert Durham
- Vice Moderator Harvey Dupree
- Secretary-Treasurer Eugene Hales
- Membership Committee 1977 Glenn Hill, Alvis Harris

A motion was made and passed that Russell Lamb, Oscar Hinton, Ray Connor and Johnny Hudson serve as delegates to the State Association and that our moderator be given the power at the 1974 State Association to appoint a fifth delegate and-or appoint delegates for vacancies which may exist.

A motion was made and passed that the present three members of the program committee consisting of Frank Davenport, Gordon Sebastian, Jim Nason be retained.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn for the preaching service.

Glenn Hill led the singing. The Hailey trio sang and an offering in the amount of \$61.85 was received.

James Stepps, State Missionary to Siler City, N. C. gave a report of the work of the Lord in Siler City.

Dr. Robert Picirilli, professor and registrar from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee preached on the subject of "The Tongues Movement."

With the message and prayer the session was dismissed.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of May in the year of our Lord 1974.

Jim Nason, Moderator
Eugene Hales, Secretary

