

MINUTES OF

The Pilgrim Association

OF THE

Original Free Will

Baptist Churches

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

Was Held at The

Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church

China Grove, North Carolina

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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Moderator ----- Rev. S. A. Graybeal
Vice Moderator ----- Rev. Colon Hudson
Clerk ----- Rev. James Ross
Treasurer ----- Rev. Jay Lee Barbee

Minister's Conference Officers

Moderator ----- Rev. J. C. Ross
Vice Moderator ----- Rev. Wildon Key
Clerk ----- Rev. J. C. Ross
Treasurer ----- Rev. Jay Lee Barbee

Ordaining Council

Rev. James Ross
Rev. Henry Sides
Rev. W. W. Wright

Rev. L. B. Cochran
Rev. S. A. Graybeal

MINISTER'S NAMES

- Rev. S. A. Graybeal ----- 933-1561
709 Deaton St., Kannapolis, N. C.
- Rev. Millard Hardman
Route 1, Mooresville, N. C.
- Rev. James C. Ross ----- 857-9632
Route 2, Box 167, China Grove, N. C.
- Rev. Weldon Key ----- 938-2269
Route 4, Box 412, Kannapolis, N. C.
- Rev. L. B. Cochran ----- 933-3213
Route 2, Box 304, Kannapolis, N. C.
- Rev. W. W. Wright
5916 Monroe Road, Matthews, N. C.
- Rev. Colon J. Hudson ----- HD 3-1915
Route 1, New London, N. C.
- Rev. Henry Sides ----- 782-4571
61 Roberta Road, Concord, N. C.
- Rev. Jay Lee Barbee ----- 933-9476
Route 4, Box 675, Kannapolis, N. C.
- Rev. L. M. Hooper
Route 2, Box 136A, Huntersville, N. C.
- Rev. L. C. Boatwright ----- 436-6738
P.O. Box 332, Mt. Pleasant, N. C.
- Rev. Johnny Sprinkle
Rockwell, N. C.

MINISTERS PAYING DUES

Rev. Jay Lee Barbee	\$3.00
Rev. L. C. Boatwright	3.00
Rev. L. B. Cochran	3.00
Rev. S. A. Graybeal	3.00
Rev. Wildon Key	3.00
Rev. Millard Hardman	2.00
Rev. L. M. Hooper	4.00
Rev. J. C. Ross	3.00
Rev. W. W. Wright	3.00
Rev. Colon Hudson	3.00
Rev. Earl Ruff	3.00
Rev. Henry Sides	3.00

CHURCHES PAYING

Cedar Grove	\$13.20
Oak Grove	20.00
Immanuel	20.00
Faith	6.00
Oak Grove	3.00

Ladies' Auxiliary Officers

President	Mrs. Steely
Vice President	Mrs. Morton
Secretary	Mrs. Robinson

ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Pilgrim Free Will Baptist Association met at Oak Grove, Free Will Baptist Church in China Grove, at 11 a.m. on September 30, 1967. The Association elected new officers for the coming year. They are as follows: Moderator, Rev. S. A. Graybeal; Vice-Moderator, Rev. Colon Hudson; Clerk, Rev. James Ross; Treasurer, Rev. Jay Lee Barbee. After the election it was then that the Association was open for business at which time Rev. Wildon Key made a motion that the Association go to each church for its annual conference. Motion carried and the first one will be held at Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church in China Grove in September of 1968. Rev. Key also made a motion that the Association petition to join the State Association. Moved and carried. The committee at this time read each of their reports and each one was moved and carried 100%. The Association was then dismissed in prayer by Rev. Colon Hudson. Faith Freewill Baptist Church was brought into the Association the 30th day of April, 1967, and New Hope was brought in the 29th day of October, 1967.

Minutes of the Minister's Conference

January 1, 1967

The Minister's Conference met at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. S. A. Graybeal. The conference opened with Rev. Hooper leading the song "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be." Rev. S. A. Graybeal welcomed the ministers and each one to come to the altar for prayer. Rev. Graybeal then turned the meeting over to the Moderator, Rev. Ross. at this time Rev. Ross read the Fourth chapter of Luke and the fourteenth verse, and spoke on it. The minutes of the last meeting was read, and approved. The Association then was explained to the new ministers, afterwards the moderator took up enough money to pay for our Association's book. Those ministers present were Rev. S. A. Graybeal, Rev. Ross, Rev. Wildon Key, Rev. L. M. Hooper, Rev. Earl Ruff, Rev. S. D. Efird, Rev. L. B. Cochran, Rev. L. C. Boatwright, Rev. W. W. Wright, Move to dismiss by Rev. Graybeal, seconded by Rev. S. D. Efird.

March 26, 1967

The Minister's Conference at Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Henry Sides. The song was "There's Power in the Blood," led by Leon Morton after which time it was turned over to the pastor, Rev. L. B. Cochran who led in prayer. Rev. Sides then turned the conference over to the moderator, Rev. Ross. He read the 15 chapter, I Corinthians, beginning at the first verse. He spoke of the

resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rev. Ross declared the house into conference. Rev. S. A. Graybeal asked that the ordain council meet to take in Rev. Sides. Rev. Ross asked Rev. Hooper to take over while the ordaining council met. Rev. Hooper turned the conference back to the moderator. Rev. S. A. Graybeal read the Rule of the Ordaining Council. Rev. L. B. Cochran stated that Rev. Long and Rev. Teasion belong to Cedar Grove and that Rev. Sides would see those ministers and report to the next Ministers Conferenc.

The ministers going to see them are Rev. Ross, Rev. Graybeal, Rev. Wright, Rev. Cochran at one o'clock. Rev. Graybeal stated he would see Rev. Lovingood. Next Minister's Conference at Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church.

June 25, 1967

The Minister's Conference met at Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. Wildon Key. The song was "His Way with Thee" led by Desses Hunsucker. Rev. Key read from the Book of James, 5th chapter and the 16th verse. He gave a real good talk, after which he asked Rev. Colon Hudson to lead in prayer. Rev. Key turned the Conference over to Rev. Ross. He asked for business and the Rev. Cochran stated that Rev. Teasner was still a member of Cedar Grove. Rev. Cochran made a motion to withdraw fellowship from Rev. Long, Rev. Leatherman, and Rev. Lovingood. Second by Rev. Teasner. Rev. Graybeal discussed about having a flower fund for the Minister's Conference to go just to the Minister's family. Seconded by Rev. Hudson. Rev. Graybeal discussed to help Rev. Ross with bag he had bought for the Association to carry the paper. Rev. Ross discussed to change the Assocaition to the Saturday the mill was off, moved and seconded. Closed in prayer.

September 30, 1967

The Minister's Confeernce met at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church with Rev. S. A. Graybeal. The song was "When the Saints Go Marching In." Rev. Graybeal welcomed the ministers then turned the Conference over to the moderator, Rev. Ross. Rev. Ross asked Rev. Wright to lead in prayer, after which he declared the house in conference. Rev. Graybeal made a motion for Rev. Ross for moderator and Rev. Key vice-moderator. Rev. Ross and his wife, Shirley as Clerks, and Rev. Jay Lee Barbee as treasurer. Rev. Barbee read the ministers report and treasurers report. Closed with prayer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

We of the Singing Committee do recommend that each Lady of the Church fix a dinner and that the other Churches do the same and come to the Singing Convention and that dinner be served at 1:00 o'clock. Rev. Ross was elected President and his wife, Shirley, to be secretary..

Tony McCain, Mrs. Ammond

We the Evangelism Committee do recommend that the Association take a target area in our section and put a man in this section to help organize a Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Wildon Key, Rev. W. W. Wright, Rev. Henry Sdies

We the Finance Committee do hereby recommend that each Church send one percent (1%) of their yearly offering with their report.

Rev. Earl Ruff, Rev. L. B. Cochran, Rev. L. C. Boatwright

We the Minister's Committee, do hereby recommend that each minister send (4) four dollars with their report to the Association.

Rev. L. B. Cochran, Rev. L. C. Boatwright, Rev. Earl Ruff

There were two singing conventions this year. They were at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church and at Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist. The singers at the first convention were, Faithful Echoe's of Albemarle, James H. Cashion of Salisbury, Calvary Trio of Salisbury, Millie Barringer of Concord, Amazing Grace Singers of Concord, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hunsucker of Kannapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Aldridge of Kannapolis, Leon Morton of Kannapolis.

The singers at the second convention were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Marge of Waxhaw, N. C., Faithful Echoe's of Albemarle, Mrs. Louise Garmon of New London, Amazing Grace Trio of Kannapolis, Rev. and Mrs. Mack Overcash of Mooresville, Millie Barringer of Concord, Frances and Kay Cochran of Kannapolis, N. C. Both singing were enjoyed by all. The first singing this year will be the First Sunday in four at Oak Grove, and the second one will be at Cedar Grove. Rev. James Ross was elected president and his wife, Shirley, secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In treasurer at beginning of Association -----	\$ 3.00
Took in during Singing Convention -----	29.22
Paid out -----	8.13
Clerk Fee -----	10.00
Minister's dues -----	3.00
Church Dues -----	56.20
Oak Grove Ladies Auxiliary -----	3.00
Total in treasury -----	<u>\$109.20</u>

OAK GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST LADIES AUXILIARY

President—Mrs. Odelea Vann

Secretary and treasurer—Mrs. Daisy Morton

Paid out:

245.00 on church furnace

16.50 on church carpet

30.90 on flowers

3.00 to the Association

30.00 in pounds the Ladies Auxiliary and church gave together.

295.40 paid out ,

348.24 took in

52.84 in treasurer

9 members on roll

IMMANUEL FREE WILL BAPTIST LADIES AUXILIARY

China Grove, N.C.

President—Mrs. W. M. Steedly

Secretary and Treasurer—Mrs. Bennie Robinson

Members—13

Offering taken for year—\$77.80

Treasury at beginning of year—\$24.25

Balance in checking account to date—\$15.25

Study courses for year—7

\$55.00 given to building fund of our church.

\$10.00 love offering to Avis Watson at the Bible College in the event of the death of her brother, to help finance her trip home for the funeral to Canada.

Canned goods taken up and given to needy—\$25.00

7 gifts taken to the hospital—\$21.00

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 univers; 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 everpresent 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 all 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 becomes guilty before God.
7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering, 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: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's life 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. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.
9. **Election** God determined from the beginning to save all who would comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. **Freedom of the Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit,

or to resist them and perish.

11. Salvation is 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 of universal obligation, and 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 hath prospered him." (1 Cor. 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."

PILGRIM ASSOCIATION OF

FREE WILL BAPTIST CONSTITUTION

- (1) This Association shall be composed of delegates elected by churches of this body to represent the churches annually.
- (2) The Association when assembled, shall first elect a moderator and clerk.
- (3) Rules of decorum must be read immediately after the Association is assembled.
- (4) The Association will encourage a sound ministry such as presents CHRIST all sufficient SAVIOR 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.

- (5) Any minister in good standing with their Church or Association may be invited to a seat in our Council, take part in our deliberations and their name be enrolled in our minutes.
- (6) It is the duty of the Association to appoint or elect, Committees to take care of special business. Each Committee report must be in writing and turned in to the clerk for reading before the Assembly.
- (7) All questions presented to the Association by any Church or Minister shall be attended to.
- (8) Any Church wishing to unite with this Association may do so, by letter presented by delegates of said Church. The Church must accept our articles of faith and Church covenant.
- (9) The Association may withdraw from any Church who walks disorderly or violates any rule made and passed on by this body.
- (10) It is to be understood that this body assumes no higher authority than an advisory council.
- (11) Any Minister found casting his influence against any Church, or in any way marring the character unjustly of another Minister will be dealt with by the Ministers conference.

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 to 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 to one another's happiness and reputation, and to 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 school, and the evangelistic effort for the salvation of the world.

RULES OF DECORUM

- (1) The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
- (2) There shall be no conversation by 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 2/3 majority shall constitute a quorum.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- (1) The Ordination Council shall have Ministers' Conference authority in the interim.
- (2) The Ministers' Conference shall have authority to elect the Ordination Council.
- (3) All Ministers, licensed and ordained, shall have a seat, voice and vote to all Ministers' Conferences, and, along with all delegates, at Associational Conferences.
- (4) Any Minister failing to send a report to the Association in two (2) Annually Association shall be dropped.
- (5) The Executive Board shall have Associational authority in the interim.

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 of which he is a member.
- (2) No licensed minister may be ordained under one year from date of license unless he is called to be a full time pastor.
- (3) All ministers being admitted to this association must promise to give up the credentials they hold from this association if and when he is adjudged by ministers conference to be disqualified to preach the gospel in compliance to our faith.
- (4) Council shall or ordain any person qualifying by rules of THE PILGRIM ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST.
- (5) Council shall not issue credentials to brethren who have two living companions without a Bible right.
- (6) This council must not use partiality in the issuance of credentials.
- (7) These rules must be read to each minister asking for entrance into this association.
- (8) This ordination council shall have ministers conference authority in the interim.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORTS

Church—Oak Grove

Superintendent—Tony McCain

Secretary—Donna Bowlin

Number on Roll—90

Average attendance—65

Money in treasury at beginning of year—\$55.00

Received during year—\$1916.10

Totals—\$1971.10

Paid out during year \$1540.77

Balance—\$430.33

Name of Church—Cedar Grove

Superintendent—Leroy Thomas

Secretary—Rita Crisco

Number on roll—46

Average attendance—45

Money in treasury at beginning of year—\$51.00

Received during year—\$1266.22

Total—\$1317.22

Paid out during year—\$642.71

Balance—\$674.51

Name of Church—Immanuel

Superintendent—Warren Key

Secretary—Wilma Key

Number of roll—77

Average attendance—48

Received during year \$1,510.00

CHURCH REPORTS

CEDAR GROVE

Received by letter—4

Received by baptism—0

Received by statement—1

Total received—5

Dismissed by letter—1

Dismissed by erasure—71

Dismissed by death—2

Total dismissed—43

Present membership—28

Paid pastor—\$164.70

Other salaries—none

Paid for evangelistic—\$100.00

Charitable purposes (including flowers)—\$55.00
Sent Association (Gen. fund)\$—13.20
Building and repair expenses—\$225.00
Indebtedness—None
Miscellaneous purpose—\$15.00
Value of Church property—\$4,000.00

IMMANUEL

Received by baptism—10
Received by statement—8
Total received—18
Total dismissed—loss—none
Total gained—18
Present membership—45
Paid pastor—\$725.00
Paid for evangelistic—\$300.00
Paid for mission—161.85
Charitable purposes (including flowers)—\$99.00
Sent Association (Gen. Fund)—\$20.00
Building and repair expenses—\$4,092.19
Miscellaneous purpose \$5,636.96
Value of church property—\$10,000

OAK GROVE

Received by baptism—3
Received by statement—2
Total received—5
Dismissed by death—1, total loss—1
Total gained—5
Present membership—133
Paid pastor—\$700.00
Paid for mission—\$40.00
Charitable purposes—\$200.00
Sent Association (Gen. fund)—\$20.00
Building and repair expenses—\$1,400.00
Value of church property—\$10,000

MINISTER'S REPORTS

NAME	Sermons Preached	Revivals Held	Professions	Members Received	Members Baptized	Funerals Conducted	Homes Visited	Hospitals Visited	Weddings Performed	S. S. Lessons Taught	Money Given	Money Received	Approximate Miles Traveled	Expenses
S. A. Graybeal	115		15	5		1	30	35	2	10	\$ 75.00	\$700.00	2,500	\$200.00
Millard C. Hardman	64	2	11		8	1			4	18			2,200	
James C. Ross	30	1	2				50	15	1	15	300.00	65.00	4,000	150.00
Weldon Key	90		20	18	10	1	100	40		6	550.00	720.00	10,000	300.00
Lloyd Cochran	30	2				1	20	30	2		200.00		1,000	100.00
W. W. Wright	50		58				100	100		52	490.00		350	250.00
Colon J. Hudson	100		50	8	3		300	15		4	400.00		3,000	150.00
Henry D. Sides	63	1		5		3	75	65			254.00	164.70	1,800	200.00
Jay Lee Barbee	31	1		5		1	150	100		25	250.00		1,100	150.00
L. M. Hooper	10						10	12		15	35.00		3,000	20.00
L. C. Boatwright	185	1					1000	85		2	3.25	2.25	500	3.75

