

**MINUTES**  
of the  
Forty-Ninth Annual Session  
of the  
**ROCKFISH ASSOCIATION**  
of the  
Original Free Will Baptists



Held with  
**SANDY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Route 2, St. Pauls, North Carolina  
October 12, 1957

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Held with

**SANDY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Route 2, St. Pauls, North Carolina

October 12, 1957

## OFFICERS

Moderator—Rev. Charles Maness, 10 East Wade Street, Wadesboro, N. C.

Assistant Moderator—Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

Secretary-Treasurer—W. H. Edwards, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.

## CHURCHES, CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

Sandy Grove—Mrs. Ellen Thomas, Route 1, Parkton, N. C.

Hickory Grove—Mr. Ed Bryant, Route 3, Fayetteville, N. C.

Glenwood—Mr. Clayton Steen, c/o Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

✓ Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

✓ C. W. Bennett, Route 2, St. Pauls, N. C.

R. L. Clark, Hamlet, N. C.

J. H. Tyson, Raeford, N. C.

R. R. Sheppard, P. O. Box 284, Hamlet, N. C.

Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

Sam Parks, Gen. Del., Rockingham, N. C.

✓ Charles Maness, 10 Wade Street, Wadesboro, N. C.

✓ J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.

R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.

## ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Rev. R. R. Sheppard, P. O. Box 284, Hamlet, N. C.

Rev. J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Charles Maness, Chairman, 10 East Wade Street, Wadesboro, N. C.

Rev. Paul Brown, Assistant Chairman, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.

William H. Edwards, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.

Ray Johnson

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Sabbath School—W. P. Therrill, Route 3, Box 269-C, Fayetteville, N. C.

Education—Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.

Orphanage—Rev. J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.

Missions, Home and Foreign—Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.

Superannuation—Rev. Sam Parks, Gen. Del., East Rockingham, N. C.

## PROCEEDINGS

The forty-ninth annual session of the Rockfish Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of the state of North Carolina met with Sandy Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Route 2, St. Pauls, North Carolina, on October 12, 1957.

### Morning Session

The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Paul Brown, at 10:00 a. m. Rev. A. F. Williamson served as song leader and Stella English as pianist.

Song by the congregation, "Tell Me the Story of Jesus," followed with prayer.

Devotional reading was done by Rev. Sam Parks, reading from Psalm 37.

Welcome address by William H. Edwards; response by Rev. Paul Brown.

Roll Call of ministers with the following being present: Revs. Steve English, R. L. Clark, Paul Brown, Sam Parks and J. D. Liles.

Ministers of sick list were: Revs. C. W. Bennett and J. H. Tyson.

We regret the loss of one minister by death, Rev. Frank Sanford.

Ministers reported to have left us and joined other associations were: Revs. J. W. Sanford, G. W. Huestas and Hamp Wallace. No letters have been asked for by these ministers.

Minutes of last year's session were read by the clerk. Moved and carried to accept the minutes as read.

Delegates present from churches were as follows: W. P. Therrill, Wilma Therrill, Thelma Bunnell, Avy Jane Lee, Belle Carver, J. W. Faircloth, E. V. Griffin, Allen Morris, Beulah Morris and Myrtle Brown.

Visiting ministers who were recognized and made welcome were: Revs. M. L. Baxley, Angus Prevatte, A. F. Williamson and Charlie Rogers.

Rev. R. T. Sanderson sang a solo, "Nothing Between," followed with a solo by Rev. Steve English, "I'd Rather Have Jesus." These two brothers can do a fine job of singing and the congregation enjoyed hearing them sing.

## CHURCH LETTERS

*Sandy Grove:* To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Sandy Grove Church at St. Pauls, North Carolina, October 12, 1957. We send as delegates our beloved brethren: J. W. Faircloth, J. D. Budd and Mrs. G. H. Carver, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received past 12 months, 6; baptized, 4; total membership, 31; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 50; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 4.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$295.95; paid evangelist, \$72.20; home missions, \$54.79; orphanage, \$46.00; fuel and lights, \$53.80; superannuation, \$10.00; publications, approximately \$30.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00; paid to union, \$12.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, North Carolina; Rev. C. W. Bennett, Route 2, St. Pauls, North Carolina; Rev. J. H. Tyson, Raeford, North Carolina.

The pastor's name: Rev. R. T. Sanderson.

Done by order of Sandy Grove Church when assembled in conference this 11th day of October, 1957.

R. T. Sanderson, *Moderator*

William H. Edwards, *Acting Clerk*

*Glenwood*: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with Sandy Grove Church October 12, 1957. We send as delegates our beloved brethren: Brother and Sister Allen Morris, Sister Myrtle Brown, Brother E. V. Griffin, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received past 3 months, 2; baptized, 13; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 60; number of officers, 2; number of teachers, 5; enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Charles Maness, Wadesboro, North Carolina; Rev. Steve English, Hamlet, North Carolina.

The pastor's name: Rev. Paul Brown, Rockingham, North Carolina.

Done by order of Glenwood Church when assembled in conference this 9th day of October, 1957.

Paul Brown, *Moderator*

Clayton Steen, *Clerk*

*Hickory Grove*: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists, when convened with the Sandy Grove Church at St. Pauls, North Carolina, October 12, 1957. We send as delegates our beloved brethren: Sisters Selma Bunnell, Lee Mabe, Avy Jane Lee, Wilma Therrill, Jance Baygent and Jimmie Baygent, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received past 3 months, 1; total membership, 65; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 50; number of officers, 3; number of teachers, 3.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$765.00; paid evangelist, \$95.41; building and repairs, \$305.97; orphanage, \$100.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. R. R. Sheppard, Rockingham, North Carolina; Rev. J. A. Atkinson, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The pastor's name: Rev. R. R. Sheppard.

Done by order of Hickory Grove Church when assembled in conference this 6th day of October, 1957.

R. R. Sheppard, *Moderator*

E. H. Bryant, *Clerk*

Moved and carried to accept the church letters as read.

Devotional committee asked Rev. R. T. Sanderson to serve as speaker during worship hour.

Moved and carried to recess for ten minutes.

Dismissed with prayer by Sister Wilma Therrill.

Reassembled for worship service at 11:10 a. m.

The congregation sang "Face to Face" and "Tell It to Jesus," followed with prayer by M. L. Baxley. Another song by the congregation, "In the Sweet By and By."

Sermon by Rev. R. T. Sanderson, taking his text from Psalm 106. A wonderful message which was enjoyed by all.

Dismissed with prayer by W. H. Edwards.

Lunch served by the host church. A fine lunch and wonderful fellowship was enjoyed by all that were present. The clerk, in an humble manner, wishes to thank the ladies of Sandy Grove Church for their labor in preparing this fine lunch because you are my sisters in Christ and the church. Thanks more than I can ever tell by words.

#### *Afternoon Session*

Reassembled at 1:00 p. m. with the congregation singing "Wonderful Words of Life."

Thanks was given by the moderator for the wonderful hospitality shown by the host church.

Prayer by Rev. Charlie Rogers.

Devotional by Rev. Steve English, reading Psalm 1.

Song by the congregation, "Waiting to Go."

Report of the progress and the needs of our Children's Home at Middlesex, North Carolina, was made by visiting minister, Rev. M. L. Baxley. An offering was taken for the home amounting to \$8.52. The clerk was instructed to mail the money to the home.

Moved and carried that the moderator appoint one person to each standing committee. The moderator named the persons as before mentioned in these minutes.

Moved and carried to accept the persons named by the moderator.

#### ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT

We, your council of ordination, hereby submit to you a report of the action taken by us upon the various requests of our churches and we pray that it will meet with your approval.

1. December, 1956—Met at Glenwood Church and examined Brother Richard V. Mabe for license to preach. License granted.

2. February, 1957—Met at Sandy Grove Church and examined Brother R. T. Sanderson for license to preach. License granted.

3. June, 1957—Met at Hickory Grove Church and examined Brother J. A. Atkinson for license to preach. License granted.

4. The council met at the home of Rev. Ralph Sheppard to discuss the request of Brother Charlie Rogers concerning the loss of his certificate of ordination. It was agreed to issue a new certificate to Brother Rogers if he would reunite with one of our churches.

Rev. Steve English, *Chairman*

Rev. J. D. Liles

Rev. Ralph Sheppard

Moved and carried to adopt the report of the ordaining council.

Moved and carried to hold the next annual session of the Rockfish Conference at Glenwood Church, Rockingham, North Carolina, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1958.

Motion made and carried to adjourn.

Dismissed with prayer.

Rev. Paul Brown, *Moderator*

William H. Edwards, *Clerk*

# Constitution

## OF THE ROCKFISH CONFERENCE OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF NORTH CAROLINA

From experience, we, the members of the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists, being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a church, and wishing to promote ourselves in state convention and national convention work for the salvation of souls and a greater denomination, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better conference government:

Article 1: This conference shall be called the Rockfish Conference of Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.

Article 2: The offices of this conference shall be a moderator, vice-moderator, clerk and treasurer, and are to be elected for a term of two years, with election occurring on even years at the close of the session.

Article 3: This conference shall be composed of delegates, elected or appointed by the Free Will Baptist churches who are members of this conference, and ministers, both licensed and ordained, who are members of this conference.

Article 4: Each church shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for every twenty-five members over fifty.

Article 5: This conference shall meet once each year on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in October, or at such time and place as may be decided upon at the preceding session.

Article 6: The churches united with this conference shall send, by the hands of their delegates, a full account of all work done by them during the conference year (October through September), and all such statistics and information as will be interesting and helpful.

Article 7: The executive board shall consist of three members elected by the conference, one for one year, one for two years and one for three years. The conference officials are members ex-officio of the executive board. The executive board shall have interim authority.

Article 8: The conference may withdraw from any church, after investigation has been made, that becomes disorderly or refuses to represent by letter or delegation.

Article 9: This conference assumes no higher authority than an advisory council.

Article 10: The ordination council shall consist of five ministers to be elected by the conference annually. The council shall select its chairman from these five.

Article 11: All committees shall be appointed by the committee on committees. The committee on committees is to be appointed by the moderator at the beginning of the session.



Article 12: The Discipline of the Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina is to be used by all churches retaining membership in this conference.

Article 13: This conference shall in no wise interfere with the business of any church unless that church, being a member of this conference shall abuse the rights of this conference as set forth in its constitution rules or the Discipline of the Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina.

Article 14: This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the conference by a two-thirds vote of the delegates and ministers attending, providing a motion of such change has been given in writing during the first setting of said meeting after permanent organization.

## Rules

Rule 1: The ordination council, executive board and all committees must give a written report of their work annually to the conference.

Rule 2: The union is to function for the sole purpose of fellowship between our sister churches. The union shall select its own officers, meet as often as is agreed upon by the union in session and make reports of proceedings to the annual conference. This report of proceedings, if adopted, will be printed in the minutes.

Rule 3: The chairman of each board or committee is to be the treasurer of its funds.

Rule 4: The general fund is to consist of money paid to the annual conference. The amount of money to be paid shall not be less than ten dollars per church. The clerk shall be expected to notify any church that fails to pay its ten dollars annually.

Rule 5: Ministers wishing to unite with this conference might do so after being approved by the ordination council.

Rule 6: Any person wishing to be licensed or ordained to preach the gospel must take steps as set forth in the Rules of Church Discipline.

Rule 7: Every member wishing to speak must rise first and address the moderator.

Rule 8: Any minister causing disturbance in a sister church shall be investigated and dealt with by the ordaining council.

Rule 9: Any church wishing to unite with the conference must first present itself before the executive board. After approving the church, the executive board shall proceed to give the right hand of fellowship subject to the approval of the conference.

