

**MINUTES**  
of the  
Fifty-First Annual Session  
of the  
**ROCKFISH CONFERENCE**  
of the  
Original Free Will Baptists



Held with  
**HIGHLAND PINES FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Route 2, Hamlet, North Carolina

October 10, 1959

# MINUTES

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Fifty-First Annual Session

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## ROCKFISH CONFERENCE

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### Original Free Will Baptists

Held with

HIGHLAND PINES FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Route 2, Hamlet, North Carolina

October 10, 1959

## OFFICERS

Moderator—Rev. Charles Maness, 123 W. Martin Street, Wadesboro, N. C.  
Assistant Moderator—Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.  
Secretary-Treasurer—William H. Edwards, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.

## CHURCHES, CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

Sandy Grove—William H. Edwards, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.  
Hickory Grove—Ernest B. Barefoot, No Address  
Highland Pines—No Report  
Glenwood—Mrs. Audrey Driggers, No Address  
Mount Calvary—Mrs. Helen Norton, No Address  
Mount Moriah—Ruth Jenkins, No Address  
Bethlehem—Daisy Liles, No Address

*Adonia Free, 171 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
E. Rockingham, N. C.  
Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.*

To interested persons wishing to write to church clerks, where there is no address listed, please write to the pastor of said church whose address is listed in the church letters printed elsewhere in these minutes, or write to the conference clerk.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.  
C. W. Bennett, Box 29, E. Broad Street, St. Pauls, N. C.  
R. L. Clerk, Route 1, Box 481-M, Hamlet, N. C.  
J. H. Tyson, Raeford, N. C.  
Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.  
~~St. Parks, Gen. Del., Rockingham, N. C.~~  
Charles Maness, 123 W. Martin Street, Wadesboro, N. C.  
J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.  
R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.  
Charlie Rogers, 107 Bluett Avenue, Rockingham, N. C.  
Hamp Wallace, Route 1, 404, Wadesboro, N. C.  
Angus-Prevatte, 713 Hawkins Avenue, Sanford, N. C.

## ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.  
Rev. Angus Prevatte, 713 Hawkins Avenue, Sanford, N. C.  
Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.  
Rev. J. D. Liles, P. O. Box 321, Hamlet, N. C.  
Rev. R. L. Clark, Route 1, Box 481-M, Hamlet, N. C.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Charles Maness, 123 W. Martin Street, Wadesboro, N. C.  
Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.  
W. H. Edwards, Route 1, Box 9, Hope Mills, N. C.  
J. P. Huffman, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.  
Alex Brown, Route 2, Box 353, Rockingham, N. C.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

*Sabbath School*—Rev. Paul Brown, Route 2, Rockingham, N. C.  
*Education*—Rev. Hamp Wallace, Route 1, Box 404, Wadesboro, N. C.  
*Orphanage*—Rev. Steve English, Route 2, Hamlet, N. C.  
*Missions*—Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, N. C.  
*Superannuation*—Rev. J. C. Rogers, 107 Bluett Avenue, Rockingham, N. C.  
*Cragmont (Special)*—Alfred Hardin of Highland Pines Church

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Sister Clayton Steen, Sister Margaret Mathis and Sister Byrd.

# PROCEEDINGS

The fifty-first annual session of the Rockfish Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of the state of North Carolina met with Highland Pines Free Will Baptist Church, Route 2, Hamlet, North Carolina, on October 10, 1959.

### Morning Session

The meeting opened at 10:00 a. m. with the congregation singing "Glory to His Name" and "Amazing Grace."

Devotional service by Rev. Angus Prevatte, reading Psalm 61.

(Rev. J. C. Rogers served as clerk because of the absence of the clerk, W. H. Edwards.)

Call for church letters. Churches represented by letter and delegates were: Glenwood, Sandy Grove, Hickory Grove, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Calvary and Bethlehem.

The delegates were recognized and seated.

Previous minutes were read by the clerk.

Devotional committee requested Rev. Jim Benoit to preach at 11:00 a. m. worship hour.

10:55 a. m., recess.

11:00 a. m., worship hour. Rev. Jim Benoit preached a very inspiring message taken from Ephesians 6:10, which everyone enjoyed.

### Afternoon Session

Reassembled at 1:00 p. m. with singing by the congregation.

Devotional reading by Rev. J. C. Rogers, reading Psalm 133.

Business: Motion made and carried for the executive board to find out if the St. John Free Will Baptist Church has or has not joined another conference. Motion by Rev. Paul Brown.

Rev. R. V. Mabe was granted a letter of dismissal with recommendations because of his moving to another section of the state. We regret the loss of Rev. Mabe, but our prayers go with him.

Motion made and carried to amend Article 10 of the constitution to read: "The ordination council shall consist of five ministers to be elected by

the conference for a term of two years. The council shall select its chairman from these five."

Motion made and carried that the pastor of each church take an offering at least once each year for superannuation. Motion by Rev. J. C. Rogers.

Rev. Charles Maness read a letter sent by R. R. Sheppard requesting that he, R. R. Sheppard, be relieved of all duties in the conference for which he is responsible, and that he would give up his credentials as a minister.

Moved and carried to grant Brother Sheppard's request, also instruct the ordaining council to visit Brother Sheppard to offer reconciliation.

Rev. M. L. Baxley made report on various Free Will Baptist projects state-wide, and encouraged our participation in these projects.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SUPERANNUATION

Visited each church in the conference.

Offering by All Churches	\$29.89
Offering in Conference	2.11
Total	<hr/> \$32.00

Rev. J. C. Rogers

### MISSIONS

The report was verbal.

Rev. R. V. Mabe

Committees were appointed as listed elsewhere in the minute.

Moved and carried to hold the next annual session of the Rockfish Conference at Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church near Rockfish Station, Cumberland County, North Carolina, on Saturday, October 8, 1960, by the help of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dismissed with prayer.

Rev. Charles Maness, *Moderator*  
W. H. Edwards, *Clerk*  
Route 1, Box 9  
Hope Mills, North Carolina

## 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 officers 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 for a term of two years. 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.

## CHURCH LETTERS

Glenwood: To the Rockfish Annual Conference which convened with the Highland Pines Free Will Baptist Church, Saturday, October 19, 1959. We sent to sit with you in your Godly deliberations the following delegates: Sister Charlotte Steen, Sister Ledia Richardson, Sister Audrey Driggers, Sister Beulah Morris and Brother Allen Morris.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Steve English, Rev. Paul Brown, Rev. Charlie Rogers and Rev. Sam Parks.

Statistics: Members deceased in past year, 1; members received in past year, 11; average Sunday school attendance, 65; condition of prayer meeting, fair.

Finances: Evangelist, \$75.00; literature, \$50.00; miscellaneous, \$620.16; janitor's fee, \$104.00; foreign missions, \$20.00; children's home, \$100.00; superannuation, \$10.00; building fund, \$750.00; enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Done in this order this Wednesday, October 7, 1959, by the Glenwood Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Paul Brown, Moderator  
Mrs. Audrey Diggers, Clerk  
Rev. Paul Brown, Pastor

*Mt. Calvary:* To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Highland Pines Church at Hamlet, North Carolina, on October 10, 1959. We send as delegates our beloved brethren and sister, Will Peele, Claude Sellers and Mr. and Mrs. Griff Singletary, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in Godly deliberations.

*Statistics:* State of religion, good; members received past twelve months, 18; baptized, 7; total membership, 72; condition of prayer meeting, fair; condition of Sunday school, good; average attendance, 65; number of officers, 5; number of teachers, 5.

*Finances:* Paid pastor, \$939.00; paid evangelist, \$65.00; home missions, \$15.00; building and repairs, \$75.00; education, \$35.00; publication, \$52.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Minister belonging to our church: Rev. Charles Maness, Wadesboro, North Carolina. Pastor's name, Rev. Charles Maness.

Done by order of the Mt. Calvary Church assembled in conference this 4th day of October, 1959.

Charles Maness, *Moderator*  
Mrs. Helen Norton, *Clerk*

*Sandy Grove:* To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Highland Pines Church at Hamlet, North Carolina, October 10, 1959. We send as delegates our beloved brethren, G. H. Carver and W. H. Edwards, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

*Statistics:* State of religion, good; members received past three months, 3; baptized, 3; total membership, 80; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 70; number of officers, 4; number of teachers, 4.

*Finances:* Paid pastor, \$276.89; paid evangelist, \$95.00; building and repairs, \$388.00; education, \$40.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00

Ministers belonging to our church, Rev. C. W. Bennett, St. Pauls, North Carolina and Rev. R. T. Sanderson, Lumberton, North Carolina. Pastor's name, Rev. M. L. Baxley, Red Springs, North Carolina.

Done by order of Sandy Grove Church assembled in conference this 30th day of September, 1959.

M. L. Baxley, *Moderator*  
Ellen Thames, *Clerk*

*Mt. Moriah:* To the Rockfish Annual Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Highland Pines Church at Hamlet, North Carolina. We send as delegates our beloved brother and sisters, R. L. Clark, Ruth Jenkins, Stella Hodges and Addie Jenkins, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

*Statistics:* State of religion, good; members received past three months, 2; baptized, 2; dismissed, 1; total membership, 25; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 25; number of officers, 4; number of teachers, 3.



Finances: Paid pastor, \$219.31; superannuation, \$8.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. Angus Prevatte, Raeford, North Carolina, and Rev. R. L. Clark, Hamlet, North Carolina. Pastor's name, Rev. Angus Prevatte.

Done by order of Mt. Moriah Church assembled in conference this 4th day of October, 1959.

Angus Prevatt, *Moderator*  
Ruth Jenkins, *Clerk*

*Bethlehem*: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with Highland Pines Church at Hamlet, North Carolina, October 10, 1959.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received past three months, 1; total membership, 18; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 30; number of officers, 4; number of teachers, 3.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$33.07; offering in conference, \$5.00; enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Pastor's name, Rev. J. D. Liles, Box 321, Hamlet, North Carolina.

Done by order of Bethlehem Church assembled in conference this 10th day of October, 1959.

Rev. J. D. Liles, *Moderator*  
Daisy Liles, *Clerk*

(Please pray for us that we may be able to finish our Sunday school rooms that we have started.)

*Hickory Grove*: To the Rockfish Conference of Free Will Baptists when convened with Highland Pines Church at Hamlet, North Carolina, October 10, 1959. We send as delegates our beloved brethren and sisters, Jesse W. Lee, Avy Jane Lee; Eva Batten, Annie Thames, Vader E. Lee and Shirley Barefoot, whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

Statistics: State of religion, good; members received past 12 months, 5; baptized, 1; dismissed, 6; total membership, 34; condition of prayer meeting, average; condition of Sunday school, good; average number of pupils, 65; number of officers, 8; number of teachers, 4.

Finances: Paid pastor, \$440.00; paid evangelist, \$110.00; home missions, \$3.94; building and repairs, \$200.00; publication, \$18.00; enclosed for minutes, \$10.00.

Minister belonging to our church, Rev. Hamp Wallace, Route 1, Box 404, Wadesboro, North Carolina, Pastor's name, Rev. Hamp Wallace.

Done by the order of Hickory Grove Church assembled in conference the 7th day of September, 1959.

Rev. Hemp Wallace, *Moderator*  
Ernest B. Barefoot, *Clerk*

