

Minutes of the 55th Annual Session of the NC Association of Free Will Baptists

Daniel Webster, Clerk

Embassy Suites Hotel
Greensboro, NC, June 5-6, 2017

MONDAY MORNING SESSION – June 5, 2017 9:30 AM

The morning session was opened with congregational singing led by Sam Harris (*Majesty and How Great Thou Art*). Reuben Cason gave a welcome, made a few announcements, and led in prayer. Moderator Sonny Thomas recognized visitors. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator. The standing delegates were recognized and voted to seat the delegates sent by churches and associations.

M/SC

The following committees were appointed by the Moderator:

Credentials Committee

Gerald Fowler, Chairman
Doug Western
Fred Crank

Obituary Committee

Josh Butler, Chairman
Robert Moore
Ray Smith

Resolutions Committee

Cliff Donoho, Chairman
Brandon Smith
Cole Sours

The following were nominated from the floor:

Nominating Committee

Chris Truett
Carl Miller
Jim Turbough
Dennis Wiggs
Jonathan Ange

M/S/C

The 9:30 AM service began with Sam Harris leading the congregation in singing a medley of “Since Jesus Came into My Heart” and “When We All Get to Heaven.” Brian Bird presided over the service. The *Sounds of Praise* ensemble from Southeastern FWB College provided the special music with “When He Calls Me I Will Fly Away” and “The Rock I Stand On.” Rev. Danny Gasperson brought the message Revelation 2:1-7 and Matthew 28 challenging us to be Disciple-Makers.

The 10:45 AM service was presided over by Gerald Fowler with Sam Harris leading the congregation in singing “I Will Say of the Lord” with “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.” Special music was provided by the *Rejoice* Ensemble from Welch College singing “Hear the Call of the Kingdom” and “Come People of the Risen King.” Rev. Clint Morgan preached from John 17:11-23 and Ephesians 4:1-6 on “Foundations for Revitalization through Collaboration.” Sonny Thomas closed with announcements and prayer.

MONDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION – June 5, 2017 1:30 PM

The afternoon session was opened with the congregation singing about the Resurrection. The songs were led by Bruce Kimbrel, “He Lives,” “Jesus Is Alive and Well,” and “Because He Lives.” Moderator Sonny Thomas opened in prayer and brought a short message from Genesis 4:1-8.

The **AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION** was called to order by the Moderator.

A partial report from the **Credentials Committee** was given by Gerald Fowler. The committee stated that 8 associations had reported by letter and all 8 associations paid their dues. There were 159 churches reporting and paying dues, with a total amount of \$29,815 in fees paid. A total number of people registered of 207.

M/S/C to accept the report.

The **Executive Board** report was given by the Clerk, Daniel Webster. He referred to the minutes of Executive Board meetings as reported in the Digest (pgs. 5-15). He recommended that the report be accepted, with the following items being voted on item by item:

1. That the body vote to approve or reject the following three names as delegates for the 2017 State Meeting: Cindy Jones (of White Oak Hills FWB), Melissa Belcher (of White Oak Hills FWB), Kristi Bryant (of White Oak Hills FWB).
2. That the body vote to approve or reject the board’s proceeding with requesting of the National office that the NCFWB host the 2023 National Convention. (see pg. 11-12, and 14)
3. That the body vote to approve or reject the newly drafted Constitution (a handout was provided). This new constitution is a necessary first step so that NCFWB might be incorporated. (see pg. 15) Because of the nature of this item, this will need to be table until tomorrow.
4. That the body vote to approve or reject giving \$94,000 (approx) to Cape Fear FWB Church in order to honor the original motion by the body at the 2011 State Meeting when Cape Fear was a mission work. (see pg. 14)

M/S/C to accept the report

1. Delegates to NAFWB. **M/S/C**
2. 2023 National Convention. **M/S/C**
3. Constitution. **M/S/Tabled**
4. Cape Fear FWB Church. **M/S/C**

Reuben Cason, Promotional Director gave his report.

1. Reuben reviewed the report given in the Digest (pgs. 20-29).
2. 27 in attendance at last year’s Minister’s Retreat. This year’s retreat will be held September 25-27, 2017.
3. 122 members in the Benevolent Fund.
4. 320 subscribers to Reuben’s weekly newsletter. 100 signed up to receive prayer requests by text.
5. *Savings through the ending of 2016:* Beginning Balance \$8,240.73. Ending balance \$15,413.89.
6. *Checking through the ending of 2016:* Beginning Balance \$5,113.85. Ending balance \$25,265.32.

M/S/C to accept the report and adopt the Promotional Office budget.

Scott Coghill gave the Financial Report.

1. Scott referred to the report published in the Digest, pages 16-19.
2. *Money Market through 2016*: Beginning Balance \$62,884.51. Ending balance \$62,884.51.
3. *Money Market (Freedom Loan) through 2016*: Beginning Balance \$208,193.87. Ending balance \$257,290.18.
4. *BB&T Checking Account 2016*: Beginning Balance \$2,354.02. Ending balance \$408,768.95.

M/S/C to accept this report.

The **Board of Care's** report was given by Rocky Reese

1. This is the final report as the Rest Home was sold in July 2016 (pgs 43-44).
2. The home was purchased in July 2016 by R.E.I.T Integrity for \$900k (\$450k in cash and \$450k in stock holdings).
3. Rocky noted that the figure of \$125,000 on page 44 (6 lines from the bottom) is incorrect. It should be \$100,000.

M/S/C to accept the report and adopt the budget.

The **Youth Board** report was given by Chairman Jake Manning.

1. Report found on pgs. 37-40.
2. *Account through the ending of 2016*: Beginning Balance \$3,440.21. Ending balance \$5,500.99.

M/S/C to accept the report.

A 10-minute recess was taken.

The **NC Mission Board** report was given by the Board Chairman David Robinson.

1. The missions report is on pgs. 30-36.
2. Financial reports for the Mission Board were given by Board Treasurer Fred Crank.
3. Discussion from the floor about whether John and April Moran were given a severance after the termination of their work in Apex. The board said that 60 days of severance were given, which was the signed agreement when the work began.

M/S/C to accept the report and adopt the budget.

The **North Carolina Women Active for Christ** report was given by Carolyn Riddick.

1. Report on page 41.
2. Names were drawn \$50 gifts were awarded to Pat Hall, Darin Gibbs, and Jeff Silver.

M/S/C to accept the report.

The **Leah Waddell Scholarship** report was given by Betty Hill.

1. Report on page 42.

M/S/C to accept the report.

We received greetings from the following Free Will Baptist ministries:

- *Free Will Baptist International Missions* – Clint Morgan, Director
- *National Executive Secretary* – Keith Burden, Executive Secretary

M/S/C to recess at 4:15 PM.

MONDAY EVENING SERVICE– June 5, 2017 7:00 PM

Pre-service (6:30 pm) music was provided by the combined groups from Welch College and Southeastern Free Will Baptist College. They provided the Call to Worship for the Evening Service. Moderator Sonny Thomas spoke with North Carolina Lt. Governor Dan Forest (7:05 pm) in an interview about his faith and how he goes about living the Christian life in today's political climate. Todd Parrish and Sonny Thomas presented the Lt. Governor with the first ever "Paul Palmer Profile in Courage Award."

Congregational singing (7:20 pm) was led by Bruce Kimbrel. Jeff Jones opened in prayer and presided over the service. Special music was provided by the Convention Campmeeting Choir, who sang "___". The offering was received to benefit the Cason family as they travel back and forth to the hospital to care for Landen (the Cason's grandson, Luke and Amanda Johnson's son who was diagnosed with primordial dwarfism). The Camp Meeting Choir sang "I Am Redeemed" followed by more congregational singing. Jeff Jones introduced the speaker Rev. Scott Coghill who brought a message from Judges 16:18- 20, challenging us to know for sure that we have the power of God on our lives. Prior to Scott's sermon, a mixed trio (Bruce Kimbrel, Todd Parrish, and Merinda Parrish) sang "Listen to the Heartbeat." Following an altar service, the meeting was closed in prayer. Following this service, panel discussions (8:45 pm) were held:

- "Revitalization and the Bivocational Pastor," Eddie Moody, Jeff Silver, Don Draughn, moderated by Sonny Thomas
- "Revitalizing through Small Groups and Sunday School," Ron Hunter, Josh Baer, Ben Crabtree, moderated by Daniel Webster
- "Revitalization and Ladies Ministry," Cindy Bird, Merinda Parrish, Elizabeth Hodges, moderated by Carolyn Riddick

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION – June 6, 2017 9:00 AM

North Carolina Home Missions Service

Presiding was Chairman David Robinson. Josh Baer led the congregation in singing a medley of songs about Heaven. Following this the *Rejoice* Ensemble from Welch College provided special music.

Chuck Overcash gave remarks and introduced missionaries to Roanoke Rapids, Rex & Brenda Evans. Rex shared their burden and requested prayer support for this new work. The Home Missions Offering was received with prayer by Jimmy Mercer. Special music was given by *Sounds of Praise* from Southeastern Ensemble. The mission message was presented by David Robinson, State Mission Board chairman. He spoke from Romans 1, and challenged us to boldly preach, not being ashamed of the gospel. The service concluded with altar prayer.

BUSINESS SESSION 11:00 AM

Moderator Sonny Thomas called the meeting to order. The clerk, Daniel Webster, read the item that was tabled during yesterday's meeting: *That the body vote to approve or reject the newly drafted Constitution (a handout was provided). This new constitution is a necessary first step so that NCFWB might be incorporated. (See pg. 15 of the Digest of Reports.)* Attorney David Gibbs III briefly explained the benefits of incorporation. He commended the Executive Board's move to become incorporated and encouraged churches to be incorporated as well.

After much discussion, an amendment to the motion was made by Phil Ange to drop sections 9.07 and 10.03. Todd Parrish amended the amendment that we 1) precede with Incorporation and 2) with voting in

the newly drafted Constitution, tabling 9.07 and 10.03 until next year, so that the Executive Board might reconsider and bring a revision.

Amendment to the amendment. **M/S/C**

Amendment. **M/S/C**

Motion. **M/S/C**

The clerk, Daniel Webster, read the following **resolution from the Executive Board** (This is not a resolution from the body. This is an official statement from the Executive Board): *Whereas the NCFWB Executive Board received a letter from a former missionary raising concerns with the State Missions Board of North Carolina, these concerns have been investigated and found to be without merit. Be it resolved that the Executive Board and the North American Ministries board affirm the good work and prayerful, godly service of the North Carolina State Missions Board members, and wish to affirm their decisions, ministry heart, and volunteer service.*

Bro. Pat Hall of Cape Fear Free Will Baptist was presented with a check for the amount of \$95,892.90. (See pages 11-12, and 14 of the Digest of Reports.)

We received greetings from the following Free Will Baptist ministries:

- *Southeastern Free Will Baptist College* – Jim Marcum
- *Welch College* – Matt Pinson
- *North American Ministries and Master's Men* – Brad Ransom
- *Randall House Publications* – Ron Hunter
- *Free Will Baptist Foundation* – Todd Smith
- *Board of Retirement* – Jeff Jones (testimony)
- *WNAC*
- *Free Will Baptist Family Ministries* in Tennessee – Mike Allison, NC Field Rep. A plaque was presented to Sonny Thomas and Calvary FWB Church for being the top donor (\$15,449).
- *Harvest Child Care Ministries* in Virginia – Carl Miller, NC Field Rep.
- *National Center for Life and Liberty* – David Gibbs III

Credentials Committee Report

Chairman Gerald Fowler presented the report.

159 from 8 district associations (159 church paying dues, 8 associations paying dues)

Registration:

Ordained Ministers	91
Licensed Ministers	
Delegates	20
Missionaries	3
Denomination Representatives	7
Visitors	73
Total Registered	199

Fees Received from the District Associations totaled \$29,815.

M/S/C to accept the report.

Obituary Committee Report

The following went home to be with the Lord this past year in our churches:

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>CHURCH:</u>	<u>ASSOCIATION:</u>
Pam West	Unity FWB, Smithfield	Randall
Bill Parrish	Unity FWB, Smithfield	Randall
Mance Cason	First FWB, Morehead	Coastal
Howard Pittman	Lakeview FWB, High Point	Blue Ridge
Ted Cole, Jr.	Bethel FWB, Gastonia	Peidmont
Mack Humbles	Liberty FWB, Ayden	Palmer
James Roebuck	Faith FWB, Kinston	
Leroy Cutler	Florida	

Josh Butler, Chairman

Robert Moore

Ray Smith

Following a moment of silence Josh Butler, Chairman, led in prayer. **M/S/C**

Resolution Committee Report:

1. Whereas, there has been much violence in the world, in our country, and in our cities, *Be it resolved*, we as the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists want it to be known that we stand against terrorism and the religious persecution of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We stand with the families affected and encourage and pray for their safety and salvation.
2. Whereas, there has been attacks on the Law Enforcement officers and emergency personnel, *Be it resolved* that the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists pledge our prayer and full support of our local and state law Enforcement Agencies.
3. Whereas, we understand that a great deal of time and effort is required to organize the North Carolina State Meeting, *Be it resolved* we would like to give a rising vote of appreciation to the Executive Committee along with our State Promotional director for encouraging all present with the challenge of Revitalization and Cooperation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cliff Donoho, Chairman

Brandon Smith

Cole Sours

M/S/C to receive report and vote item by item.

1. Resolution 1: M/S/C
2. Resolution 2: M/S/C
3. Resolution 3: M/S/C

Nominating Committee Report:

Executive Board

Clerk: Daniel Webster (2018) serving 1st term* replaced by Josh Baer (2018) filling unexpired term

Gerald Fowler (2017) serving 2nd term** replaced by Chris Truett (2020) serving 1st term

Board of Trustees

Mike Carper (2017) serving 1st term replaced by Mike Carper (2020) serving 2nd term

NC State Mission Board

Fred Crank (2017) serving 1st term replaced by Cliff Donoho (2022) serving 1st term

Youth Relations Board

Joseph Hall (2017) serving 1st term*

replaced by Joe Ange (2022) serving 1st term

Nathan Peoples (2020) filling unexpired terms
term

replaced by Devin Cominskie (2022) filling unexpired

Nomination from the floor to of Jeff Manning Member at Large by Bruce Kimbrel. Christ Truett was voted in by a standing vote.

Nominating Committee

Chris Truett

Carl Miller

Jim Turbough

Dennis Wiggs

Jonathan Ange

M/S/C to elect item by item.

Todd Parrish gave a special thanks to the organizations who provided the video and audio equipment.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.