

Minutes of the 60th Annual Session of the NC Association of Free Will Baptist
Steadfast Nehemiah 4:15

Embassy Suites Hotel; Greensboro, North Carolina June 6-7, 2022

Gene Williams, Moderator; Jeff Silver, Clerk

MONDAY MORNING SERVICE- June 6, 2022, 9:30AM

Kevin Justice led the congregation in singing. Brother Gene Williams welcomed everyone to the North Carolina State Meeting and opened in prayer. Brother Jeff Silver introduced Brother **Sherman Branch** as the speaker. Special music by Welch Rejoice Ministry Team. who preached on the subject of “Steadfast in the Storms.” From Judges 6:11-13, Job 1:1, Acts 27: 22-25. Brother Jeff Silver closed the service in prayer.

MONDAY MORNING SERVICE- June 6, 2022 11AM

Kevin Justice led the congregation in singing. Brother Chris Truett introduced Brother **Darin Gibbs**. Southeastern Sounds of Praise did the special singing. Brother Darin preached on the subject of “The Steadfastness of following Jesus” from John 4: 28-38. Brother Chris Truett closed the service in prayer. Brother Reuben welcomed everyone to the meeting. Registration is over 200. Choir practice at 6 tonight.

MONDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION June 6, 2022

Brother Gene Williams opened with scripture reading Nehemiah 4 and prayer. Brother Gene recognized our visitors and gave them a chance to introduce themselves. Recognized standing delegates and seating of lay delegates.

M/S/C to seat the delegates

The following Committees were appointed by the Moderator:

The Credentials Committee

Billy Keith

Derek Cominskie

Jeff Davis

Obituary Committee

Greg Ramsey- Chairman

Don Draughn

Steve Cayton

Resolutions Committee

Carrol Culliver- Chairman

Eddie Riddick

Luke Johnson

The Executive Board report was given by the Clerk, Jeff Silver. He referred to the minutes of State Meeting and the Executive Board meetings as reported in the Digest (pp.17-19) **M/S/C**

**Motion was made to annually fund the Leah Waddell (Welch) and Dolly Stox(Southeastern) scholarship funds at \$5000 each.
M/S/C**

Brother Reuben gave his report which can be found on pages 21-31.

1.Shout out to National Life of Liberty and brother David Gibbs for his continual availability to our state.

2. Publicly thanked brother Gene Williams for his leadership as our state moderator.

3. Spoke about the Benevolent Fund. Created long ago to aid in end-of-life situations. \$25 dollars per person. When a member passes, the fund is immediately sent to the surviving spouse.

4. 11 churches within the state that are looking for a pastor.

5. Ministers Retreat September 26-27 2022.

All associations contributed to the Promotional office.

Proposed Budget \$127,200.00 for 2023.

M/S/C

Motion was made to have a Pastor and wives' retreat. Use state funds to sponsor each pastor and their wife in the amount of \$150.00.

M/S/C

A Partial Credentials report was given by Chairman Billy Keith.

All 158 churches \$37,370.00

Treasurer Jeff Manning gave the Treasurer's Report found on pages 20-21 in the Digest of Reports.

M/S/C

Home Missions Board report- Given by Chairman Cliff Donoho. Report is found on page 32-39.

Addressed that Glad Tidings partnership has been fulfilled (April 2022).

The Home Mission Board has hired Brother Brandon Smith and Jonathan Huff for Project Hickory. Recognized Brother Brandon and Jonathan to give an update. Brother Jimmy Mercer gave the Home Missions Board Financial report.

M/S/C

Youth Ministry Report- Brother Derek Cominskie gave his report which is found on pages 44-47 in the Digest of Reports.

M/S/C

Mrs. Carolyn Riddick gave the Women Active for Christ report which is found on pages 40-43.

M/S/C

Leah Waddell Scholarship- Report given by brother Reuben. The report can be found on page 48 in the Digest of Reports.

M/S/C

We received greetings from Southeastern Free Will Baptist College by brother Nate Ange.

Brother Eddie Moody gave us greetings from the National Association. Encouraged us to participate in the 3 For 30. Reach, Train and Give. Presented all the methods of getting information from the NAFWB. 190 churches without pastors nationally.

- Prior to the Monday evening service Moderator Gene Williams asked both ministry teams to come forward and the executive board gathered around them for prayer.

MONDAY EVENING SERVICE- June 6, 2022, 7PM

Brother Josh Baer welcomed everyone. Brother Chad Donoho led in worship. Brother Josh Baer led in prayer and the offering this evening will be for Hope Church in Hickory. Brother Chad Donoho led the combined choir in singing. Brother Josh Baer introduced Brother David Crowe. Brother David preached being “Steadfast to who we are,” from 2 Timothy 2: 1-4 We think too small, perfected the art of shooting ourselves in the foot, we’ve lost those that have fallen that could have been salvaged. We have forgotten who we are. Brother David Brown from FWB Foundations made some remarks and closed in prayer. Brother David Brown gave us greetings from Free Will Baptist Foundation. They also sponsored the ice cream social.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION- June 7, 2022, 9:00AM

Brother Jeff Manning introduced Dr. Eddie Moody as the speaker. Brother Eddie spoke about “Reaching your Neighborhood.” Brother Jeff Manning closed the service in prayer.

TUESDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE- June 7, 2022, 11:00AM

Brother Chad Donoho led the congregation in singing. Brother Cliff Donoho introduced Brother Brandon Smith for the missions’ service. An offering was received for the Hope Church start up fund. Welch Rejoice Ministry Team ministered while the offering was received. Brothers Brandon Smith and Jonathan Huff presented Project Hickory to the state. Brother Jonathan sang and then Brother Brandon preached from Nehemiah 4:7-15 on the though, “Remember the Lord.” Brother Gene Williams closed out in prayer.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS- June 7, 2022, 2PM

Brother Gene Williams gave a brief devotion from 2 Cor. 9:6. If you want God to take care of and bless the church it takes 5 things. 1) Take care of ministers. 2) Be engaged in missions. 3) Take care of ministries. 4) Take care of your maintenance. 5) Miscellaneous

We received greetings from the following Free Will Baptist Ministries

- *Free Will Baptist International Missions-* Don Matchette
- *Welch College-* Dustin Withers
- *Randall House Publications-* David Womack

- *Board of Retirement-* Chris Compton
- *Women Nationally Active for Christ-* Phyllis York
- *Harvest Childcare Ministries-* Carl Miller
- *Free Will Baptist Family Ministries-* Jim McComas

Credentials Report

All 157 Churches reported and paid. All 8 Associations paid the state fee(\$50) and Convention fee (\$500). Total collected was \$37,490.00.

Ordained Ministers- 73

Licensed Ministers-0

Delegates- 8

Associate Pastors- 19

Missionaries- 7

Visitors- 105

Total- 212

Obituary Report given by Brother Greg Ramsey

Marvin Carson, Rudolph Outlaw, Willie Coleman, Joe Haas, Robert Rose, Ann Reynolds, Debbie Branch, Dale McCoy, Leonard Lindsay and Ray Smith

Following a moment of silence Brother Greg Ramsey led in prayer.

Resolution Committee Chairman Carrol Culliver presented a resolution from the Piedmont Association.

Whereas, we believe that all human life has been endowed by our Creator, with essential value; and

Whereas, we believe that “God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created them.” (Genesis 1:27 KJV)

Whereas, only God can establish genders, and according to the Holy Scriptures He created only two; and

Whereas, we believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to altar one’s gender y surgery or appearance; and

Whereas, we also believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born womam for life.

Therefore, be it resolved that we encourage our Youth Leaders and Teachers to address these issues in their classes and youth groups.

Be it further resolved that we will lovingly seek to share the gospel with those who have been deceived by such teachings and through kindness and generosity, point them to Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Carroll Culipher

Whereas the Free Will Baptist denomination in North America has historically been rich with zealous servants of God, who pioneered movements, led revivals, planted churches, maintained consistent standards regarding God's word, and pursued relentlessly pure religion undefiled before God, and

Whereas in spite of the aforementioned attributes, we have in the last three decades presided over the decline of nearly five hundred churches, the decline of Sunday School enrollment by nearly 75,000 people, the decline of ordained ministers by 1,100 and the decline of ordained deacons by nearly 2,500, and presently we are witnessing a staggering reduction in baptisms to an annual average of 1.6 church and

Whereas our sins have offended our Holy God and been a severe detriment to our churches, resulting in a state of crisis and a desperate need of godly sorrow and urgent repentance and

Whereas God's word warns that if failure to obey His precepts results in chastisement, weakness, and removal of His blessings, it also promises mercy, forgiveness, and restoration when we sincerely repent.

Therefore, be it resolved that we as a denomination corporately acknowledge our sin before God, His redeemed church, and the unbelieving world to whom we are able to be salt and light, confessing our;

- Prayerlessness as we depend on our abilities and gifts.
- Complacency as seen in our lukewarmness and our lack of urgency.
- Failure to work in unity while focusing on our differences rather than God's priorities.
- Critical spirit directed toward leadership and those not in our group.
- Neglect of Biblical and redemptive church discipline.
- Pride which attempted to steal the glory which belonged to God.
- Callousness revealed in a lack of tears for our condition, for sins, and for those without Christ

Be it further resolved that those of us who are redeemed by God's power and strong hand to individually call upon the Lord in fervent prayer and fasting, pleading for Him to hear our prayer and grant us as members and churches of the National Association of Free Will Baptist success in obeying His word.

Carroll Culipher- Chairman
Luke Johnson
Eddie Riddick

M/S/C

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE report was given by Hal Jones, Chairman.

Executive Board:

Moderator: Gene Williams (2022) 2nd Term

Asst. Moderator: Josh Baer

Clerk: Jeff Silver (2022) 1st term

Treasurer: Jeff Manning (2023) Serving 1st Term

Member at Large: Sherman Branch (2022) unexpired

Member at Large: Christian Powell (2024) Serving 1st Term

Member at Large: Chris Truett (2023) 2nd Term

Replaced by: Josh Baer (2024) 1st Term

Replaced by: (2024) Chris Truett

Replaced by: Jeff Silver (2024) 2nd Term

Replaced by: Sherman Branch (2025) 1st Term

Replaced by: (2025) Doug Western 1st Term

NC State Missions Board:

Cliff Donoho

Replaced by: Cliff Donoho (2027) 2nd Term

Youth Relations Board:

Daniel Dell (2024) Unexpired Term

Cole Sours (2025) Unexpired Term

Caleb Smith (2027) 1st Term

Tuesday Night Worship Service June 7, 2022, 7PM

Brother Kevin Justice led the singing. Brother Christian Powell welcomed everyone. Brother Dann Patrick asked the blessing on the offering that was designated the Hope Church startup fund. Brother Kevin led another congregational song. Brother Christian introduced Brother Gene Williams for the evening speaker. Sounds of Praise Ensemble sang, "Thank You Jesus for the Blood." Brother Gene preached from 1 Peter 5:1-11 about Being Steadfast in Adversity. Brother Josh Baer closed in prayer.