

**Minutes of the 61st Annual Session of the NC Association of Free Will Baptist**

***Courageous: Being Bold in Our God 1 Thessalonians 2:2***

Embassy Suites Hotel; Greensboro, North Carolina June 5-6, 2023

Josh Baer, Moderator; Jeff Silver, Clerk

**MONDAY MORNING SERVICE- June 5, 2023, 9:30AM**

Brother Sam Harris led the congregation in singing, "At Calvary". Brother Sam then led in prayer. Brother Josh Baer welcomed everyone to the 61<sup>st</sup> North Carolina State Meeting. Brother Reuben Cason introduced Brother **Brian Bird** as the speaker. Special music by Southeastern Sounds of Praise. Brother Brian preached on the subject of "Who are You?" From Judges 3:31. (1) Who you are (2) When you are (3) Where you are (4) With what you have. Brother Josh closed the service in prayer.

**MONDAY MORNING SERVICE- June 5, 2023 10:45AM**

Brother Sam Harris led the congregation in singing. Brother Reuben Cason welcomed everyone back and introduced Doctor **Melvin Worthington**. Southeastern Sounds of Praise did the special singing. Doctor Worthington preached on the subject of "" from Psalm 119: 9-16. (1) Theme (A) The Revelation of the Sovereign God (B) The Responsibility to the Saint of God, (C) The Reliability of the Scriptures. Thy Word, Precepts (2) Terms (3) Text v.11 (A) Divine Authority (B) Adequate (C) Agenda (D) Attributes Have I hid: Process. In my heart: Place That I might not sin against God. Brother Josh Baer closed the service in prayer.

**MONDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION June 5, 2023**

Brother Josh Baer opened with scripture reading and prayer 1 Thessalonians 2:2. Brother Josh 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*

David Robinson- Chairman

Daryl Grimes

Steve Crank

*Obituary Committee*

Randy Arrowood- Chairman

Rex Evans

Levi Worley

*Resolutions Committee*

Scott Coghill- Chairman

Josh Butler

Alan Sailors

*Nominating Committee*

Gary Brown- Chairman

Darren Walker

Rocky Reese

Jason Hurt

Gerald Fowler

Partial report from the Credentials Committee 74 ordained ministers, 2 lay delegates, 111 visitors. 251 preregistered. All associations are seated.

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 made to give \$3000.00 annually to the State Youth Board. **M/S/C**

Motion made to fund one night for Pastors and Wives for a State retreat. **M/S/C**

Brother Josh directed attendees to page 1 of the Digest of Reports for revised By-Laws. Also to increase the terms for Treasurer and Clerk to be two (2) three (3) terms instead of two (2) year terms.

Motion made to table the vote of revised Bylaws until tomorrow. **M/S/C**

Brother Reuben gave his report which can be found on pages 28-.37

1. Publicly thanked everyone that has helped him prepare for the State meeting. Encouraged everyone to visit the vendor tables.

Mentioned Pastors and wives retreat and encouraged more to participate.

2. 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.

3. Spoke about the National Convention. The NAFWB Executive Board said registration is up 500% at this time last year.

4. Ministers Retreat September 25-26 2023.

All associations contributed to the Promotional office.

Proposed Budget \$132,900.00 for 2024.

**M/S/C**

Treasurer Jeff Manning gave the Treasurer's Report found on pages 26-27 in the Digest of Reports.

**M/S/C**

**Home Missions Board report-** Given by Chairman Cliff Donoho. Report is found on page 38-46. Brother Cliff recognized Brother Brandon to give an update Equip Church in Hickory. Brother Jonathan Huff also spoke in thanks of the support from the state.

**M/S/C**

**Youth Ministry Report-** Brother Derek Cominskie gave his report which is found on pages 51-54 in the Digest of Reports.

**M/S/C**

Mrs. Carolyn Riddick gave the Women Active for Christ report which is found on pages 47-50.

**M/S/C**

**Leah Waddell Scholarship-** Report given by brother Reuben. The report can be found on page 55 in the Digest of Reports.

**M/S/C**

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

Brother David Brown from Free Will Baptist Foundation gave his report.

Dr. Ron Hunter recognized to give the report from Randall House Publications. Emphasized that the women who have been invited to speak at the teens services at the National Convention are speakers, not pastors or ordained ministers.

Brother Josh closed out the Business meeting with prayer.

### **MONDAY EVENING SERVICE- June 5, 2023, 7PM**

Brother Sam Harris led in worship. Brother Josh asked Dr. Curtis Linton to pray for the offering this evening, it is designated to the Equip Church in Hickory. Brother Sam Harris led the combined choir in singing. Brother Sam led the Sounds of Praise and the congregation in the singing of The Goodness of God. Brother Jeff Manning introduced Brother Reuben Cason. Brother Reuben preached on the subject, "A Model for Ministry" from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. (1) Godly Leaders are Courageous- (A) Courage of his Word Entrance had purpose, Entrance had Problems. (B) Courage in his Will, Grit. Paul also had Grappling. (2) Godly Leaders are Contentious. Correct in his message. Clean in his motive v.5-6. (3) Godly Leaders are Caring v. 7-8. Gentle as a nursing mother. Costly ministry v.8b. (4) Godly Leaders that are cautious v. 9-10 (A) Work was priceless. Laboring night and day. (B) Walk was consistent v.10 (5) Godly Leaders are Comforting v. 11-12. Exhorted, comforted, and charged. As a father doth his own children. Words were consoling. V.12 Worthy of God. Words were challenging. Brother Josh closed out the service in prayer.

### **TUESDAY MORNING SESSION- June 6, 2023, 9:00AM**

Brother Josh welcomed everyone to the panel discussion on expository preaching. Brother Josh opened in prayer and introduced Christian Powell, Jeff Jones, and Jeff Manning. Brother Josh closed in prayer.

**TUESDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE- June 6, 2023, 11:00AM**

Brother Kevin Denton led the congregation with the singing of, "Power in the Blood." Brother Christian Powell introduced Doctor Milton Worthington as the morning speaker. Brother Christian called upon Brother Rex Evans to lead in prayer. Sounds of Praise sang, "Leave it with the Lord" and "I Speak Jesus." Dr. Worthington preached from 1 Peter 1:4-5,18- 2:2 on the topic of "Things we can rest our Hearts on." (1) The Book that God gave us to make us sure. A) Living Book B) Lasting Word (2) Blood that makes me saved A) Initial cleansing B) Continual cleansing (3) Bounty that makes you sing A) Reserved for you in Heaven B) Preserved for you. Dr. Worthington closed in prayer. Brother Josh extended an altar call with a song from Brother Kevin.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS- June 6, 2023, 1:30PM**

Brother Josh opened the afternoon business by reading 1 Corinthians 15:58 and prayer.

We received greetings from the following Free Will Baptist Ministries

- Executive Office- Eric Thompson 10:23.56
- *Free Will Baptist International Missions*- Danny Gasperson 10:54.34
- *North American Ministries*- Dr. Brad Ransom 8:39.85
- *Welch College*- Video of Matthew Pinson 2:51.18
- *Randall House Publications*- David Womack 5:40.94
- *Board of Retirement*- Dr. Danny Baer 8:47.14
- *Women Nationally Active for Christ*- Phyllis York 7:32.71
- *Harvest Childcare Ministries*- Carl Miller 6:07.09
- *Free Will Baptist Family Ministries*- Jim McComas 6:11.36
- *Child Evangelism Fellowship*- Bob Fowler 8:56.86

Brother Josh allowed the missionaries stand and introduce themselves and speak briefly.

***Credentials Report***

All 152 Churches reported and paid. All 8 Associations paid the state fee (\$50) and Convention fee (\$500). Total collected was \$36,320.00.

Ordained Ministers- 72

Licensed Ministers-0

Delegates- 1

Associate Pastors- 19

Missionaries- 12

Visitors- 107

Total- 212

**M/S/C**

**Obituary Report** given by Brother Randy Arrowood- George Hyatt, Observed a moment of silence and concluded in prayer. Following a moment of silence Brother Randy Arrowood led in prayer.

**M/S/C**

Motion and second made to bring yesterday's business off the table to be discussed and voted upon. Motion made for proposed changes to be retroactive for Clerk and Treasurer.

**M/S/C**

Motion and second to adopt changes to Bylaws.

**M/S/C**

Appointing lay delegate for National Convention  
Jerry Belcher White Oak Hill  
Jonathon Cribb Cramerton Church

**Resolution Committee** Chairman Scott Coghill presented a resolution:

Whereas the executive committee have worked diligently and prayed over the details of this meeting,

and whereas brother, Reuben Cason and his promotional department have executed with excellence this 61st annual North Carolina association of FWB state meeting from the registration, to the business session, to the spirit filled services

be **resolved** that we as a body rise in appreciation and gratitude for the encouraging and equipping time that we've experienced together.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Scott Coghill (chairman)  
Josh Butler  
Alan Sailors

**M/S/C**

**The NOMINATING COMMITTEE report was given by Gary Brown, Chairman.**

*Executive Board:*

Member at Large: Doug Western (2025) Serving 1<sup>st</sup> Term

*NC State Missions Board:*

Chuck Overcash (2028) 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

*Youth Relations Board:*

Devin Cominskie (2028) 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Respectfully submitted by

Gary Brown- Chairman

Jason Hurt

Darren Walker

Gerald Fowler

Rocky Reese

**Tuesday Night Worship Service June 6, 2023, 6:30PM**

Brother Kevin Denton led the congregation in worship. Brother Josh thanked everyone for staying. Brother Jeff Silver was asked to bless the offering. The offering is designated to the Equip Church in Hickory. The Men's Ensemble sang, "He Touched Me" as the offering was received. Brother Kevin and the Sounds of Praise led the congregation in the singing of, "We Believe" and "Oh Lord Our God." Brother Josh introduced Brother Jeff Jones. Brother Jeff preacher from Proverbs 5:1-14 on the

thought of “Sensibility toward Sexual Sin.” 1) Conception of Sexual Sin, deception begins v.3 A) Procreation is a reason and Pleasure is a reason. It moves from Sweetness to bitterness. He moves from luxury to misery. He moves from Purity to Pollution. He moves from Freedom to Bondage. 2) The Deception is not realized until the end. A) A look at Seduction, she appears enticing and inviting. I see the Suffering, dissipation of wealth, disease v.11 disgrace with this sin. Die differently than you would have died. How? Avoid, Say no, Turn, Hold On, Enjoy and Move. Brother Josh closed out the service in prayer.