

## **WYOMING COUNTY CONFERENCE OF FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Wyoming County Conference of Free Will Baptist was organized on December 19, 1942, at the Ikes Fork Free Will Baptist Church. The following is the minutes of that meeting . . .

### **The Minutes Of The Organization Of The Wyoming County Conference Of Free Will Baptist**

The Executive Committee met with the following two churches and their Delegates on December 19, 1942. Met at the Ikes Fork Chapel Of The Free Will Baptist and the Delegates from the Oceana Free Will Baptist Church. For the purpose of organizing The Wyoming County conference.

Members present serving on the Executive Committee was as follows: Rev. Arnold Spence, Marianna, W.V.; and Deacon F.C. Church, Rhoderfield, W.V. They agreed with the Brethren present to appoint three more ordained ministers and deacons to serve on the Executive Board with them to further proceed to organize a conference. The following was appointed: Rev, John Matney, Oceana, W.V.; Rev. Frank Widner; and Deacon Kenneth Griffith, Oceana, W.V.

Rev. Arnold Spence, serving as chairman on the Executive Board, and J.J. Riffe, acting as recording secretary, asked for Delegates representing the Oceana church. Delegate came forth, handed the chairman a letter, stating the names of the delegates representing the Oceana Free Will Baptist, to the Ikes Fork Chapel Church of Free Will Baptist, showing their interest in the behalf of organizing the Wyoming County Quarterly Conference. Names of thi delegates are; Brother Lancy Wyatt, Oceana, W.V.; Rev. Everett Spence, Oceana, W.V.; Brother Claude Daugherty, Oceana, W.V.; and Brother Frank Griffith, Oceana, W.V.

### **1st Item Of Business:**

That the Conference adopt the Treaties And By-Laws of the Free Will Baptist. Brother John Matney put a motion before the house that a vote be taken. Brother Larkin second it. The vote was taken and carried in favor of adopting the Treaties and By-Laws of the Free Will Baptist.

**2nd Item Of Business;**

Was to elect a Moderator to moderate the first Wyoming County Conference. Rev. Arnold Spence was elected Moderator.

**3rd. Item Of Business:**

Was to elect a Clerk and Treasurer for the Conference. Elected Brother J.J. Riffe to serve as Clerk and Treasurer.

**4th Item Of Business:**

Was to elect an Executive Committee to serve with the Wyoming County Conference. The chairman was granted power to appoint the ones to serve on the Executive Board. Namely: Rev. John Matney as chairman (3yrs.); Rev. E.N. Withrow (2yrs.); and Deacon Kenneth Griffith (1yr.)

**5th Item Of Business:**

Was to appoint men on the Ordaining Council. Appointed by the Executive Committee to serve on the Council was as follows: Rev. Arnold Spence; Rev. Everett Spence; And Rev. John Matney. Name given for the Conference was The Wyoming County Conference. Place to where the first Conference was to be held was decided to go to the Oceana Church at Oceana, W.V., on Friday night before the first Sunday in April, 1943, at 6:30 o'clock.

We, the Wyoming County Conference, authorize the Clerk to write a letter to The McDowell County Quarterly Conference of the proceedings, and ask that the McDowell County Conference drop from their Conference, these two churches being organized into the Wyoming County Conference, as being mentioned, the Ikes Fork Chapel and the Oceana Church. They sung a hymn titled "Press Along To Glory Land." Prayer of consecration was offered at the close of the business, led by Brother Lancy Wyatt and concluded by Brother F.C. Church.

Signed by; Executive Board

Signed by; J.J. Riffie, clerk

## **Minutes Of The First Session Of The Wyoming County Conference**

Minutes of the first session of the Wyoming County Conference which convened with The Oceana Church, known as the Free Will Baptist, on April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1943, beginning on Friday, 6:30 o'clock P.M.

Conference called to order by Rev. E.N. Withrow, Clerk Proteem. Opened by song. Prayer by the brethren. Scriptural lesson, 14th chapter of St. John. Introduction sermon by Rev. Arnold Spence, pastor.

Enrolling of the Ministers, Deacons, and Delegates: (Ministers) Brother J.A. Rakes; Brother Everett Spence; Brother David Cook; Brother John Matney; Brotheer E.N. Withrow; and Brother Arnold Spence. (Deacons) Brother Lancy Wyatt; Brother A.C. Griffith; And Brother Larkin Lockhart. (Delegates) Oceana Church -- Sister Vadie Cook; Sister Everett Spence; Sister A.C. Griffith; Sister Carl Browning. Ikes Fork Church -- Brother Troy Lee; Brother Virgil Clay; chairman, Brother Hobert Williams; Sister Elcie Clay; Sister Bessie Lee. Glen Fork Church -- Sister Pearl McMillian; Sister Marie McMillian.

Committee on supply of the pulpit: Sister A.C. Griffith; sister Carl Browning; and Sister Letta Cook.

Moderator appointed, Brother J.S.Sexton, to give a tlak on temperance. Sister Disney, to give a talk on Sunday School. Moved and second that the Conference adjourn until Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock A.M., and the move carried.

## **Saturday Morning Session April 3rd, Wyoming County Conference Meeting**

Session opened by song. Prayer offered by Brother J.S. Sexton. Scripture lesson, 5th chapter of Thessalonians. Letters from the churches received and was read as follows: Oceana Church found in good standing, passed on its character as good. \$2.00 enclosed in letter for expense of printing minutes.

The Ikes Fork Church found in good standing, passed on its character as good. \$2.00 enclosed in letter for expense of printing minutes.

Glen Fork Church presented a letter through its Delegates asking The Wyoming County Conference for admittance into their Conference. There was a move and a second that The Wyoming County conference accept the Church as a member into their Conference and the motion carried.

A lecture was given by Brother J.S. Sexton on temperance. He gave a good talk. A lecture was given by Sister Disney on Sunday School. She also gave a good talk. It was moved and second that the Conference accept the lectures given and the motion carried.

It was moved and second that the Conference now in session, stand adjourned, to meet back in session at 2:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon, and stood approved by the Conference.

The Conference meeting session at 2:00 o'clock, opened by song. Prayer by Brother Ransom Spence. Scriptures lesson, 25th chapter of St. Matthew. Corresponding messengers called for and welcomed to sit E.N. Withrow.

It was moved and second that the Conference appoint Brother John Matney to serve on the Ordaining Council, and stood approved by the Conference.

Brother John Matney appointed to preach the introductory sermon at the next Quarterly Conference which will convene with the Ikes Fork Church. It was regularly moved and second that this Conference now in session, stand adjourned to meet with the Ikes Fork Church, Friday night before the first Sunday in July, 1943, at 6:30 P.M.

Preaching by Brother Rakes and Brother John Matney, the text was "Let Everything Be Done Decent And In Order."

### **Saturday Night Session Wyoming County Conference**

Meeting called to order. Opened by song. Prayer by Brother John Matney. Brother Alderson McMillian and Brother Jake Fortner was ordained as Deacons to the Glen Fork Church. Preaching by Brother Arnold Spence, text, "The Lord's Supper." He was followed by Brother Oscar Disney, subject on Feet Washing. There were 50 members that took the Lord's Supper and Washed feet.

### **Sunday Morning Service**

Opened by Song. Prayer by Brother John Matney. Preaching by Brother Ransom Spence. Followed by Brother Everett Spence, text was in the book of Job, "I Know There Will Bring A Way Of Death To The House Of Israel."

God blessed wonderfully of His Spirit, had a good service.

Signed: Arnold Spence, Moderator  
E.N. Withrow, Clerk Protem

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**NOTE:** *This information was given to the Historical Committee of the  
West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, sometime  
in, or around June of 2001.*  
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