

— UNAPPROVED DRAFT ONLY —

Minutes of the Annual Session of the 87th National Association of Free Will Baptists

July 16-19, 2023, Raleigh, North Carolina

Proceedings

The 87th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. met July 16-19, 2023, at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. "As for You" was the theme of the meeting. Ryan Lewis served as the convention manager and Kevin Justice as the music coordinator.

Sunday School - July 16

Sunday School began at 9:30 a.m. Kevin Justice led the congregation in singing, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Jay Baines introduced Sunday School teacher, Dr. Bruce Barnes, who taught the lesson from Hebrews 11. Dr. Eddie Moody dismissed Sunday School in prayer.

Sunday Morning - July 16

The worship service began at 10:30 a.m. Kevin Justice led the congregation in singing, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus," and "Praise the Name." Dr. Eddie Moody welcomed the body and called for the offering. The Praise Team, featuring Fawn Gibson as soloist, sang "Even Me" as the offering was received. The congregation sang "Same God" and "Rock of Ages," and Jonathan Huff read 2 Timothy 3:1-13. After the congregation sang "In Christ Alone," William Smith introduced the speaker. Bobby "Butch" Taylor, pastor of Deep Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Midville, Georgia, brought the message from 2 Timothy 3:14-16 on "As for You: Continue in the Word."

Sunday Evening - July 16

The worship service began at 7:00 p.m. Kevin Justice led the congregation in singing "Victory in Jesus," with Joshua Riggs as soloist, followed by "There Is Power in the Blood." Eddie Moody welcomed the body to the service and called for the offering. The choir and praise team sang "Mercy Tree," with Matthew Berry as soloist. Eddie Moody read Mark 14:12-15 and led the body to eat communion bread together. The choir sang "What He's Done" with Stacie Ange as soloist, and Eddie Moody led the body to partake of the communion cup. The Choir sang "Thank You Jesus for the Blood," with Caitlyn Cherry as soloist. Tom Jones read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-7 before the congregation sang "Same God." David Brown introduced the speaker. Gene Williams, the pastor of Parkers Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville,

North Carolina, brought the message from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-16 on "As for You: Encourage One Another." Pastors and their wives were invited to visit the altar for prayer. Dr. Danny Dwyer prayed over pastors and their wives. Eddie Moody dismissed the service in prayer.

Monday Evening - July 17

The worship service began at 7:00 p.m. Kevin Justice led the congregation in singing "The Solid Rock." Reuben Cason, Promotional director of the North Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists welcomed the body to North Carolina and presented gifts from North Carolina to Eddie Moody and Tim York. Eddie Moody welcomed the body to the service and called for the offering. Eddie Moody prayed before the offering, and the choir sang "Center of It All," featuring Chad Donoho as soloist. Josh Chapman read Acts 8:1-8 before a men's ensemble sang "'Til the Storm Passes By." After Stan Bunch introduced the speaker, Faron Thebeau, pastor of Mosaic Free Will Baptist Church in Rolla, Missouri, brought the message from Acts 8:26-40 on "As for You: Reach Through the Word." Following the invitation, Clerk Randy Bryant called the meeting to order and introduced the moderator, Dr. Tim York, who named the following committees before dismissing the service in prayer.

Nominating Committee

Terry Hinds (IN), chairman

Jimmy Lawson (MI)

Mark Harrison (CA)

Melanie Franks (AL)

Ken Simpson (MO)

Mark Walker (GA)

John Collier (TX)

Resolutions Committee

Dick Terry (OK), chairman

Brent Patrick (VA)

Curtis Smith (IL)

Stephen Hood (AZ)

Will Beauchamp (FL)

Tuesday Afternoon - July 18

The convention business session began at 1:30 p.m. Moderator Tim York called the meeting to order. Assistant Moderator William Smith shared a message from Colossians 3:15 on "Peace, Perfect Peace" and led in prayer.

Assistant Clerk Ernie Lewis read the Credentials report. Motion passed to receive the report and seat delegates.

The Assistant Clerk read the General Board report. Motion passed to receive the report and act on item by item.

Executive Secretary Eddie Moody gave the report of the Executive Office, Building Services, and *ONE Magazine*. Auditor Terry Hill gave the financial reports. Motion passed to receive the report. Executive Board member Chris Todd and As-

sistant Moderator William Smith, who served from 2004-2023, were recognized for their service to the denomination. Motion to adopt Item 2 of the General Board report. Motion passed to amend Item 2 by adding the following statement after the second paragraph of the resolution:

WHEREAS, God's divine order is further manifested in the home as the husband loves his wife as a servant-leader and the wife assists and faithfully follows her husband's leadership in the fulfillment of the divine purpose for the home (Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col.3:18-19);

Item 2 of the General Board report adopted as amended.

Item 3 of the General Board Report adopted.

Item 4 of the General Board Report adopted.

Motion passed to remove Nomination Guidelines from the table. Motion passed to accept the guidelines.

Director Ron Hunter gave the Randall House Publications report. Michael Lytle gave the financial report. Allen Pointer was recognized for leading Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference for 26 years. Ron Hunter continued his previous request to change the Randall House name to D6 Family Ministry. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the name change.

The clerk read the Nominating Committee report for General Board and Executive Committee. All General Board nominees were elected as nominated.

Elected for the General Board for unexpired terms in 2024: Lanney Ard (SC) and Gary Hill (VA).

Elected for the Executive Committee in 2024, replacing Chris Todd (SC) was Dick Terry (OK).

Elected to 2026 terms on the Executive Committee were: Stan Bunch (MO), Wayne Hale (Mid-ATL), and Daniel Edwards (IN).

Director Clint Morgan gave the IM Inc. report. Rob Conley gave the financial report. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the budget.

Tuesday Evening - July 18

Worship began at 7:00 p.m. Kevin Justice led the congregation in singing, "House of the Lord," the congregation sang "My Jesus," featuring Amber Winders as soloist. Eddie Moody welcomed the body and called for the offering. The choir sang "This Is My Testimony," with Tammy Strickland as soloist. The congregation sang "I Love to Tell the Story." After Brandon Smith read Titus 1:1-16, the congregation sang "Do It Again," featuring a solo by Kevin Justice and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." The praise team sang, "I Speak Jesus," featuring a duet from Kevin Denton and Meredith Locklear. After Josh Baer introduced the speaker, Amos Dillard, pastor of City Lights Free Will Baptist Church in Chula Vista, California, brought the message from Titus 2 on "As for You: Teach and Train With the Word." "O God, My God, I Need You" was sung, and Eddie Moody dismissed in prayer.

Wednesday Morning - July 19

The business session began at 9:00 a.m. Moderator Tim York read Ephesians 4:31-32 and led in prayer.

President Matthew Pinson gave the Welch College Report. Craig Mahler gave the financial report. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the budget.

Director Ruth McDonald gave the Women Nationally Active for Christ report. Auditor Terry Hill gave the financial report. Motion passed to receive the report.

Director John Brummitt gave the Board of Retirement report. Chris Compton gave the financial report. Motion passed to receive the report. Board Chairman Danny Baer was recognized for his years of service on the board. John Brummitt presented a plan to change the board's name in the charter. Travis Moots (NC), William Smith (GA), and Joshua Chapman (MO) were elected to 2029 terms on the board.

Director David Brown gave the Free Will Baptist Foundation report. Richard Davis gave the financial report. Motion passed to receive the report. Jonathan Locklear (MI), Melissa Haralson (AR), and Bob Thompson (OK) were elected to 2029 terms on the board. Hubert Stafford (GA) resigned from the 2025 term on the board. Matt Mouser (GA) was elected to fulfill the unexpired term. Board Chairman Bobby Edwards was recognized for 12 years of service on the board.

David Crowe gave the North American Ministries report. Motion passed to receive the report. Brian Williams (David Marks), Josh Baer (NC), And David Sexton (VA) were elected to 2029 terms on the Board.

Eric Thomsen gave the Historical Commission report. A plaque recognizing Dr. Robert E. Picirilli's 50 consecutive years of service on the commission was presented to his daughters June McVay and Jill Pointer in his absence. David Crowe (TN) was elected to the 2028 term on the commission.

Doug Little gave the Music Commission report. Motion passed to receive the report. Sam Harris (NC) was elected to the 2026 unexpired term on the commission, and Daniel Webster (TN) was elected to the 2028 term.

Wednesday Afternoon - July 19

Afternoon business began at 1:30 p.m. Assistant Clerk Ernie Lewis read Philippians 1:6-11 and led in prayer.

Josh Owen gave the Media Commission report. Motion passed to receive the report. Stephen Lopes was elected to the 2028 term on the commission.

Matthew Pinson gave the Commission on Theological Integrity report. Motion passed to receive the report. Matthew Pinson was elected to the 2028 term on the commission.

Matthew Pinson gave a special report on the resolution referred to the commission at the 2022 National Convention dealing with the ordination of those divorced and remarried. Motion passed to approve the report.

A motion was made to bring the previous year's resolution from the table. Motion failed.

Ron Hunter gave the Vertical 3 report. Motion passed to receive the report. Allen Pointer was recognized with a plaque for his years of service with Truth & Peace.

The registration report was read by the assistant clerk. Motion passed to receive the report.

Eddie Moody gave the Budget Committee report. Motion passed to receive the report.

The Obituary Committee report was given through video. Motion passed to receive the report. Following a moment of silence, Jeff Crabtree led in prayer.

The clerk read the report of the Resolutions Committee, including a single standing resolution of thanks to the North Carolina State Association for hosting the convention. Motion passed to receive the report.

The clerk read the nomination for the 2027 term as assistant moderator. Jackson Watts (MO) was elected.

The clerk read the nominee for the 2027 term as clerk. Randy Bryant (FL) was elected.

Motion made for Josh Colson (IL) to replace David Shores (IL) on the General Board. Motion passed.

Motion passed to adjourn. Danny Baer closed in prayer.

Wednesday Evening - July 19

Worship began at 7:00 p.m. with a video summary of IMPACT Raleigh. As church planters and missionaries entered the service, the congregation sang "I Thank God," featuring a duet by Taylor and Lauren Stocks. NAM church planters and chaplains were introduced by Dr. Brad Ransom. IM missionaries and partners were introduced by Curt Holland. Dr. David Crowe presented a commissioning charge to the newly appointed missionaries and the congregation. Clint Morgan prayed the commissioning prayer while national agency directors and National Association officers laid hands on the missionaries. A male quartet sang "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go." After Tyler Penn read Matthew 9:35-38, the congregation sang "King of Kings," featuring Elliott McMurray as soloist. Eddie Moody welcomed the body and called for the offering. The offering was received as the congregation sang "Hymn of Heaven," with Kevin Justice as soloist. Eddie Moody introduced the evening speaker. Ken Cash, missionary to Bulgaria, brought the message from Matthew 9:36-38 on "As for You: Give Yourself as a Laborer." Many responded to the invitation to accept God's call by writing their decisions on a note and attaching it to a wooden cross at the front of the auditorium. The service closed with prayer by Eddie Moody.

2023 Nominating Committee Report*

The 2023 Nominating Committee presents the following nominees to be considered for the 2023 convention election:

Board of Retirement and Insurance - 2029 Term

Travis Moots (NC)
William Smith (GA)
Joshua Chapman (MO)

Board of FWB Foundation - 2029 Term

Jonathon Locklear (MI)
Melissa Haralson (AR)
Bob Thompson (OK)

Unfulfilled 2025 Term Matt Mouser (GA)

Board of North American Ministries - 2029 Term

Josh Bush (KS)
Josh Baer (NC)
David Sexton (VA)

Commissions:

Music: 2026 Term - Sam Harris (NC); **2028 Term** - Daniel Webster (TN)

Theological Integrity: 2028 Term - Matthew Pinson (TN))

Historical: 2028 Term - David Crowe (TN)

Media: 2028 Term - Stephen Lopes (TN)

General Officers of the Executive Committee - 2027 Term

Randy Bryant (FL) - Clerk
Jackson Watts (MO) - Assistant Moderator

*The following boards did not elect members in 2023: IM, Inc., Randall House, Welch College, and WNAC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Crabtree (OH), chairman; Tim Eaton (OK); Isaiah Hatfield (WV); Terry Hinds (IN); Elizabeth Hodges (TN);
David Taylor (AR)

General Board

2026 Term

Indiana: Daniel Edwards

Iowa: David Inman

Kansas: Josh Bush

Kentucky: Ashley Kidd

Mexico Assn: Bud Bivens

Michigan: Jimmy Lawson

Mid-Atlantic: Wayne Hale

Mississippi: Larry Reynolds

Missouri: Stan Bunch

2024 Term

South Carolina: Lanney Ard

Virginia: Gary Hill

2025 Term

Illinois: Josh Colson

Executive Committee

2024 Term

Dick Terry (OK)

2026 Term

Stan Bunch (MO)

Wayne Hale (Mid-Atl)

Daniel Edwards (IN)

2023 Convention Registration Report*

National Convention

Board/Commission Member.....	55
Local Church Delegate.....	60
NAFWB Attendee	4,009
Ordained Deacon	106
Ordained Minister.....	540
State Delegate.....	56
Total	4,826

Vertical Three**

V3 Attendee.....	1,680
V3 Child Attendee	126
V3 Grades 4-6	280
V3 Grades 7-12.....	583
V3 Grades K-3.....	281
V3 Preschool Worship	89
Total.....	3,039

***Unique: 5,159**

**Statistics in the Vertical III report do not reflect final registration totals.

2023 Obituary Report*

Alabama

Jackie Adcox
Charles E. Fowler
David Isaac
Fred Jones, Sr.
Jack Rollins

Arkansas

Ken Doggett
Geno Johnston
JC Kinder
Hoover Lewis
Larry Pounds
Earl Stapleton
Walter Vanderlip
Randell Williams

Georgia

William Irvin Hyman

Illinois

Jesse Allen
Arthur Gene Blades

Kansas

Gary Ledbetter

Mexico Association

Enrique Hernandez

Mississippi

Roger Bennett

Missouri

Wendell Crosswhite
Fred Hersey
Gary Massey
Dan Talbott
Elmer Turnbough

North Carolina

Willie Coleman
L. D. Creech
Joe Haas
Larry Haggard
Edwin Hill
George Hyatt
William Kellum
Leonard Lindsey
Dale McCoy
Rudolph Outlaw
Jesse Roger Trip

Oklahoma

Curtis Pete Butler
Lamar Kindell
Lonnie Earl Johnson
Orval Minyard

South Carolina

Jacob Creech
John Driggers
James Earl Raper

West Virginia

Jerry Casteel
Moses Vance
Dennis Browning
Paul Fleming
Argil Maynard
Richard "Dick" Workman
Glen Wiley

***Report includes pastors, national leaders,
and missionaries**

2023 Resolutions Committee Report

Resolution 1 - Rising Vote of Thanks:

Be it therefore RESOLVED that this body, the National Association of Free Will Baptists, give a rising vote of thanks to the North Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists and everyone who has put in the work of hosting the 2023 National Convention.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dick Terry (OK), Chairman

Stephen Hood (AZ)

Brent Patrick (VA)

Curtis Smith (IL)

Will Beauchamp (FL)

Resolution on Pastoral Ordination (tabled in 2022; amended and approved in 2023)

WHEREAS God created all persons in His image as male and female to serve under Him on earth to order it as His representatives and therefore, men and women possess equal worth and honor (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:18-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Mk. 10:6-9); and,

WHEREAS God equips persons for varying roles in the divine order, which begins with Christ, who is the head of all, including the home and the church (1 Cor. 11:3; Col. 1:18); and,

WHEREAS God's divine order is further manifested in the home as the husband loves his wife as a servant-leader, and the wife assists and faithfully follows her husband's leadership in the fulfillment of the divine purpose for the home (Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:18-19); and,

WHEREAS God also equips believers for varying roles in the governance of His church (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12:4-5; Rom. 12:4-8); and,

WHEREAS God's order for the church is manifested in pastors/elders/bishops who are charged with the humble oversight and shepherding of the church (Eph. 4:11-13; Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 5:17); and,

WHEREAS all members of the body are charged to strive together to fulfill the mission of Christ's Church (1 Pet. 4:10); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that, while men and women are stewards of divine gifts of service in the church, ordination to the office of pastor/elder/bishop is intended only for qualified men as a reflection of God's order for the home and church (1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

2023 Randall House VIII Conference Report

Registration Total:	2021	2022	2023
V3 Adult Attendee:	1,216	1,476	1,680
V3 Child Attendee	83	90	126
V3 Grades 1-3:	184	242	281
V3 Grades 4-6:	186	233	279
V3 Grades 7-12:	484	760	581
V3 Preschool Worship:	83	77	86
V3 Total Attendees:	2,236	2,878	3,033

Competitive Activity Entries:	2021	2022	2023
Entries (up 155)	592	747	792
Competitors (up 327)	1,085	1,412	1,449

Buck-A-Week:

Tuesday's Buck-A-Week Offering: **\$5,244.05 (this number will grow in the coming days)**

2023 ministries receiving funds:

North American Missionaries: Team Athens, Alabama (Joel Franks Family and B.J. Eaton Family)

International Missions: Taylor Pate - Japan

Total Truth & Peace Leadership Conference Participants:

128 students and 16 staff members for a total of 144; a special note of thanks to Randall University for hosting Truth & Peace this summer.

Randall House and Vertical 3 honored Allen Pointer for his 26 years as director of the Truth & Peace Leadership Conference. We have seen teens develop their walk with Christ while learning leadership to use in their churches and throughout life. Allen Pointer has poured himself into thousands of students through the years who have gone on to serve in places of influence including ministry, business, service, and professional careers. Only Heaven will reveal the impact of Allan's legacy in this role. Ryan Akers will begin to serve as the director of Truth & Peace moving forward.

Youth Evangelistic Team (YET):

YET was comprised of 12 students guided by first-year leaders Bryan and Kinsley Houser. The team traveled to five states. We are thankful for the partnership of North American Ministries, a key sponsor of YET. We also would like to thank Randall University for hosting the team for their week of training before going on tour.

V3 God Moments:

At the conclusion of V3-Teen on Monday evening, conference attendees were presented with an opportunity to pick up a free copy of the book *Screen Kids* by Arlene Pellicane. Arlene was the Monday evening speaker at the conference. She is an expert in technology, women's ministry, and ministry to couples. She challenged attendees on "The Dangers of Digital Candy," how technology can be a huge distraction preventing believers from putting on "the full armor of God."

After being challenged by the talk Arlene presented, a middle school boy made his way to the back of the ballroom, worked through the crowd, picked up a copy of Arlene's book, and quickly exited. He was on a mission.

Like many of the students who attend V3-Teen nightly, this middle school boy's family attended the adult service. The boy quickly located his dad, handed him the book, and debriefed him about what he had experienced during the session. He told his father, "Here, Dad. I am kind of afraid for you to read this book, but I want you to read it. Please help me with this (boundaries with technology)."

This is a beautiful picture of what takes place at the Vertical 3 Conference, a wonderful reflection of what D6 Family Ministry is all about. We are about helping you "build believers through church and home," even if it is one middle school boy at a time.

Statistical Report

The 2022 Statistical Report will be compiled in the coming weeks (based on final associational reports) and added to the Proceedings when completed.

Statistical Report (continued)

2023 Credentials Report

The letters have been examined and representation fees paid from the following state associations, districts, and local churches and found to be in order as presented below:

1. From the following state associations, which are entitled to be represented by five (5) delegates: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mexico Association, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.
2. From the following district associations, which are entitled to be represented by three (3) delegates: Arizona, Colorado, David Marks, Mid-Atlantic, and Northwest.
3. From the following local church, which is entitled to be represented by one (1) delegate: the Free Will Baptist Church of St. Croix, Virgin Islands.
4. We recommend delegates from the Canada Association, California Association, Iowa Association, Kentucky Association, Association of Mexico, Northeast District, Harvest Time Free Will Baptist Church of South Dakota, the Waipahu Free Will Baptist Church of Hawaii, and the Twin Valley Free Will Baptist Church of Wisconsin be seated upon reception of fees and/or reports.
5. We recommend delegates from the countries, state associations, district associations, and local churches listed above, along with other properly registered delegates, be seated for this session.
6. We recommend all lay delegates entitled to representation by virtue of their positions on standing boards be seated if properly registered.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

The National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc., has approved in this convention the following budgets for 2024:

Executive Office (Includes:)		\$972,354.00
Administrative	\$465,000.00	
Convention	<u>507,354.00</u>	
Free Will Baptist Foundation		2,334,012.00
IM, Inc.		9,100,000.00
North American Ministries		5,000,000.00
Randall House Publications		5,330,850.00
Retirement and Insurance		855,850.00
Welch College		7,755,234.00
(Includes \$1,500,000 in unrestricted gifts)		
Women Nationally Active for Christ		260,000.00
Commission for Theological Integrity		6,800.00
Historical Commission		5,680.00
Media Commission		7,925.00
Music Commission		<u>8,350.00</u>
 TOTAL		 \$31,637,055.00

All these ministries are non-profit and receive funds through The Together Way Plan.

The Budget Committee recommends that gifts received through The Together Way Plan be allocated to the national ministries on the following basis:

1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts.
2. Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

IM, Inc.	21.0%
North American Ministries	21.0%
Welch College	21.0%
WNAC	17.0% *
Retirement and Insurance	11.0%
Randall House Publications	4.5% *
Commission for Theological Integrity	1.0%
Historical Commission	1.0%
Media Commission	1.0%
Music Commission	1.0%
Free Will Baptist Foundation	<u>0.5%</u>
 TOTAL	 100.0%

Respectfully Submitted, Your Servants,

Edward Moody, Executive Secretary
 David Brown, General Director of Free Will Baptist Foundation
 Clint Morgan, General Director of IM, Inc.
 David Crowe, General Director of North American Ministries
 Ron Hunter, General Director of Randall House Publications
 John Brummitt, General Director of Retirement and Insurance
 Matt Pinson, President of Welch College
 Ruth McDonald, Director of WNAC

