

Minutes of the Annual Session of the 89th National Association of Free Will Baptists

July 20-23, 2025, Kansas City, Missouri

Proceedings

The 89th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. met July 20-23, 2025, at the Kansas City Convention Center in Kansas City, Missouri. "Accept the Mission" was the theme of the meeting. Ryan Lewis served as the convention manager, and Kevin Justice was the music coordinator.

Sunday School, July 20

Sunday School began at 9:30 a.m. with Kevin Justice leading the congregation in singing "Glory to His Name." Ron Hunter introduced the Sunday School and Worship Service as an intergenerational service featuring Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference participants teaching the Sunday School lesson. Four Truth & Peace students provided the Sunday School lesson from Proverbs 2 on "Wisdom for Daily Living." The four teachers included: Levi Greer (MS), Bryan McCanch (NC), Daniel Shaffer (VA), Nate Luthy (OH), and Jackson Green (AL). Executive Director Eddie Moody shared announcements, and Sunday School was dismissed.

Morning Worship, July 20

Worship began at 10:30 a.m. with Kevin Justice leading the congregation in singing "Hallelujah for the Cross" and "The Old Rugged Cross." Dr. Eddie Moody welcomed the body to the intergenerational worship service and called for the offering. A quartet of Truth & Peace participants sang "Living Hope" during the offering. The congregation sang "I Believe" and "How Marvelous." Lucas Williams read Psalm 86. Rob Morgan introduced the speaker. Aaron Pontius, pastor of Rejoice Free Will Baptist Church in Columbia, Missouri, brought the message on "Accept the Mission" from Jeremiah 29. The Praise Team, featuring Jaxon Aldridge as soloist, sang "Made for More." Dr. Moody shared announcements and dismissed the service in prayer.

Evening Worship, July 20

Evening Worship began at 7:00 p.m. with Kevin Justice leading the congregation in singing "New Name Written Down in Glory" with soloist Cheyenne Layton. The congregation sang "Bless God" with Kevin Denton as soloist.

Dr. Eddie Moody welcomed the body and prayed before the offering. The congregation sang “He Leadeth Me” with Alexis Taylor and Tammy Strickland as soloists and “Grace Greater Than Our Sin.” Mitchell Moody read Ephesians 2:1-10. The congregation sang “Made for More,” and Kevin Justice led in prayer. A men’s ensemble sang “He Touched Me.” Zach Parent introduced the speaker. Josh Bush, pastor of Cross Point Free Will Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas, brought the message from Jonah 1:1-3 on “Will You Accept the Mission?” Dr. Moody shared announcements and dismissed in prayer.

Evening Service, July 21

Evening Worship began at 7:00 p.m. with Kevin Justice leading the congregation in singing “Forever.” Kansas Promotional Director Zach Parent welcomed the body on behalf of the churches of Kansas, and Missouri Executive Director Stan Bunch welcomed the group on behalf of the churches of Missouri. The choir sang “Great is Thy Faithfulness” with Bethany Sink as soloist and instrumentalist Miles Denton. Eddie Moody welcomed the body and prayed before the offering. The congregation sang “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” with Madison Mercer as soloist. Bradley Mercer read Psalm 103. The congregation sang “The Goodness of God” with Audrey Hollifield as soloist, and Kevin Justice prayed. Jackson Watts introduced the speaker. Doug Earls, pastor emeritus and retiree pastor at Calvary Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Buffalo, Missouri, brought the message, “When Disobeying Your Mission Sinks You” from Jonah 1:17–2:10. “Made for More” was sung for the invitation. Eddie Moody shared announcements. Clerk Randy Bryant called the meeting to order and introduced Moderator Tim York, who announced the following committees before dismissing the service in prayer:

Resolution Committee

Danny Williams (AL), Chair

David Taylor (AR)

Chris Dotson (TN)

Mark Price (OH)

Francisco Vasquez (CA)

Nominating Committee

Clint Adams (GA), Chairman

Terry Pierce (MS)

Barry Long (KY)

Brenda Bunch (MO)

Gary Hill (VA)

Ivan Ryan (IL)

Josh Hampton (MT)

Convention Business Session, Tuesday Afternoon, July 22

The Tuesday afternoon business session began at 1:30 p.m. with Moderator Tim York calling the session to order. He shared a devotion from 2 Timothy 1:1-2, "Passing to the Next Generation" and prayed. The clerk read the Credentials Report. Motion passed to receive the report and seat the delegates.

The assistant clerk read a partial report of the General Board. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt item by item.

Executive Director Eddie Moody gave the report of the Executive Office, Building Services, and *ONE Magazine*. Motion passed to receive the report.

The assistant clerk read Item 2 of the General Board report. Motion passed to adopt. Motion to amend by striking "continue every three years." Amendment failed. Item as presented passed.

Item 3 of the General Board report was read. Motion passed to table until the Wednesday business session.

President Matt Pinson gave the Welch College report. Craig Mahler gave the college financial report. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the budget. Mike Hollis (TN) was elected to fulfill the 2028 term of Rusty Campbell on the college board. Dr. Fred Yerby was elected to fulfill the 2030 term of Tim Campbell (AR) on the board.

Director Ruth McDonald gave the WNAC report. Motion passed to receive the report. Rachelle Burchett (KY) was elected to fulfill Jonda Patton's 2028 unexpired term on the board.

Nominees put forward by the Nominating Committee were elected to 2028 terms on the General Board. Elected were: Danny Williams (AL); Stephen Hood (AZ); David Taylor (AR); Felipe Tijerina (Association of Mexico); Oral McAfee (Atl-Can); Mike Kilcrease (CA); Terry Miller (CO); Tom Jones (David Marks Heritage); Duane Littlefield (FL); Mark Walker (GA); and Joshua Colson (IL).

David Taylor (AR), Danny Williams (AL), and Joshua Colson (IL) were elected to serve the 2028 term on the Executive Committee.

Chairman Kevin Hester gave the Commission for Theological Integrity report. Motion passed to receive the report. Rodney Holloman (TN) was elected for the 2030 term on the commission. Jeremy Craft (FL) was elected to fill the unexpired 2026 term of Jackson Watts.

Eric Thomsen gave the Historical Commission report. Motion passed to receive the report. Eric Thomsen was elected to the 2030 term on the commission.

Afternoon business was closed in prayer by Gary Hill.

Tuesday Evening, July 22

Evening worship began with Kevin Justice leading the congregation in singing "I Believe." Casey Paramore read Revelation 4 followed by the congregation singing "Holy, Holy, Holy." Eddie Moody welcomed the body, called for the offering, and prayed before the offering. The choir sang "Because of Jesus" with Fawn Gibson as soloist, and the congregation sang "Holy Forever" with Scott Coghill as soloist. The congregation sang "Agnus Dei" with the reading of Revelation 1 by Zane Brooks. David Crowe introduced the speaker for the evening. Shiloh Hackett, pastor of Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, brought the message From Jonah 3 on "Will You Say Yes to the Mission?" The Praise

Team sang “Made for More” with Daniel Mann as soloist. Eddie Moody shared announcements and dismissed the service in prayer.

Convention Business Session, Wednesday Morning, July 23

Assistant Moderator Jackson Watts began the Wednesday business session by reading Matthew 16:13-20 and leading in prayer.

Director Ron Hunter gave the D6 Family Ministry report. CFO Michael Lytle gave the financial report. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the budget.

Ron Hunter gave the Vertical Three Conference report. Motion passed to receive the report.

Director Clint Morgan gave the IM, Inc. report. CFO Rob Conley gave the financial report. Motion passed to receive the report.

Board chairman Scott Coghill gave the Free Will Baptist Foundation report. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the budget. John Brummitt gave the department’s financial report. Brent Patrick (VA), Matt Mouser (GA), and Corey Minter (TN) were elected to 2031 terms on the board.

Director David Crowe gave the North American Ministries report. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the budget. Josh Bush (KS), Faron Thebeau (MO), and Bob Brown (FL) were elected to 2031 terms on the board.

John Brummitt gave the Richland Ave Financial report. Chris Compton gave the financial report for the department. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the budget. Don Myers (MI), Lance Boyer (MO), and John Howell (FL) were elected to 2031 terms on the board. Randy Wilson was recognized with a plaque for his service to the board.

Josh Owens gave the Media Commission report. Motion passed to receive the report. Isaiah Grimes was elected to the 2030 term on the commission.

Doug Little gave the Music Commission report. Motion passed to receive the report and adopt the budget. Bryan Hughes (NC) was elected to the 2030 term on the commission.

Business session adjourned until the afternoon.

Convention Business Session, Wednesday Afternoon, July 23

The afternoon business session began at 1:30 p.m. with Assistant Clerk Ernie Lewis reading Romans 12:1-12 and praying.

Eddie Moody read the Registration report. Motion passed to receive the report.

The assistant clerk read Item 3 from the General Board report, which previously was laid on the table. Motion passed to remove the item from the table. Item 3 was adopted.

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

A video report was given for the Obituary report. Motion to receive the report. Bob Thomas led in prayer.

The assistant clerk read the Resolution Committee report. Motion to read the Resolution Committee report and then adopt item by item was passed.

Resolution 1. Motion passed to adopt. Motion to amend by adding: "The co-op plan or other denominational giving." Amendment passed. Motion passed as amended.

Resolution 2. Motion to adopt. Resolution passed.

Resolution 3. Motion to adopt as presented. Resolution passed.

Resolution 4. Motion to adopt. Resolution passed.

Tim York was elected as moderator and Ernie Lewis was elected as assistant clerk.

Motion passed to adjourn. Meeting closed in prayer by Tim York.

Wednesday Evening, July 23

Evening worship began with Ken Akers sharing about IMPACT Kansas City before showing a video recap of the event. Kevin Justice led the congregation in singing "Praise" with Jojo Miller leading the call and response and Meredith Locklear providing a solo. Missionaries and church planters were introduced as they walked across the stage. Curt Holland introduced IM, Inc. missionaries, and Brad Ransom introduced North American Ministries church planters. A commissioning of new missionaries and church planters was led by Josh Bennett with Clint Morgan offering the commissioning prayer. Eddie Moody welcomed the body and prayed before the offering. The congregation sang "Revelation Song" with Lacey Ratcliff and Crosby Bruns as soloists. Jacob Johnson read Revelation 5. The congregation sang "Worthy of it All" with Daisy Villegas as soloist. Kevin Justice shared Revelation 8, and the congregation sang the "Doxology." Eddie Moody introduced the evening speaker. Joel Teague, missionary to France, brought the message on "Fulfill Your Mission" from Jonah 4. "Missionary Anthem" was sung by Kevin Justice during the invitation. "Made for More" was sung by the congregation with Kevin Denton as soloist. Eddie Moody dismissed the service with prayer.

Elected in 2025

Board of the Free Will Baptist Foundation — 2031 Term

Brent Patrick (VA)

Matt Mouser (GA)

Corey Minter (TN)

North American Ministries — 2031 Term

Josh Bush (KS)

Faron Thebeau (MO)

Bob Brown (FL)

Richland Ave Financial — 2031 Term

Don Myers (MI)

Lance Boyer (MO)

John Howell (FL)

Board of Women Nationally Active for Christ — 2028 Term

Rachelle Burchett (KY)

Commission for Theological Integrity

Rodney Holloman (TN) — 2030 Term

Jeremy Craft (FL) — 2026 Term

Historical Commission — 2030 Term

Eric Thomsen (TN)

Music Commission — 2030 Term

Bryan Hughes (NC)

Media Commission — 2030 Term

Isaiah Grimes (VA)

General Board — 2028 Term

Danny Williams (AL)

John Gibson (AZ)

David Taylor (AR)

Luis-Felipe Tijerina (Association of Mexico)

Oral McAfee (Atlantic-Canada)

Mike Kilcrease (CA)

Terry Miller (CO)

Tom Jones (David Marks Heritage)

Duane Littlefield (FL)

Mark Walker (GA)

Idaho: TBD

Josh Colson (IL)

Executive Committee — 2028 Term

David Taylor (AR)

Danny Williams (AL)

Josh Colson (IL)

General Officers of the Executive Committee — 2029 Term

Moderator Tim York (TN)

Assistant Clerk Ernie Lewis (IL)

2025 Convention Registration Report*

National Convention

Board/Commission Member.....	56
Local Church Delegate	41
NAFWB Attendee	2,831
Ordained Deacon	72
Ordained Ministers.....	480
State Delegate	53
Total	3,533

Vertical Three

V3 Attendee	1,535
V3 Child Attendee	130
V3 Grades 4-6	264
V3 Grades 7-12.....	535
V3 Grades K-3.....	284
V3 Preschool Worship.....	74
Total.....	2,822

*Unique Total: 3,861

2025 Obituary Report*

Alabama

Widdy Atkins
Dave Franks, Sr.
Randy Key (NO Picture)
Bill Smith
Dan Turman

Arizona

Charles Marshall

Arkansas

James Bundy
Loy Counts
Darren Morris
Victor Hunter

Florida

Irvin Jennison

Mexico

Lazaro De La Rosa

Missouri

Darrell Strain
Jerry Pinkerton

North Carolina

Daniel Hensley
Alvis Harris
Janice Cason
Bobby Aycock
Sue Aycock
Jared Johnson

Ohio

Lester McMahan

South Carolina

William Justice
John Kenny Presley
Junior Tyler

Virginia

Lars C. Dorton

West Virginia

Ronald H. Brown
Charles Curry
Clayton Harmon
Gerald Kelley
Daniel Legg
Luther Dingess
Dennis Lester
Jimmy Darrell Newsome
Danny Swafford
Ray Williamson

***Report includes ordained ministers, national and state leaders, and missionaries**

2025 Resolutions Committee Report

We, the 2025 Resolutions Committee of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, submit the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1:

WHEREAS the local church is an autonomous body, led by biblically qualified leaders, governed by the congregation, yet standing under the absolute lordship of Jesus Christ, who rules His church by His Word; and

WHEREAS the New Testament provides a clear pattern of churches working together for the spread of the gospel, as seen in their mutual support, shared mission, and financial partnerships; and

WHEREAS the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant states, "...we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world;" and

WHEREAS Free Will Baptists have traditionally emphasized collaboration between sister churches through district, state, and national associations; and

WHEREAS no one person, single church, or group of churches alone can fully carry out our national and international stewardship responsibilities; and

WHEREAS in 1941, the National Association of Free Will Baptists implemented the Unified Program Fund, which in 1955 was succeeded by the Cooperative Plan of Support, encouraging churches to give at least ten percent of their general offerings; and in 1992 the denomination adopted a new funding initiative, The Together Way Plan, by which participating local churches commit to equitably support all denominational agencies (www.nafwb.org/together-way); and

WHEREAS national board members oversee multi-million-dollar budgets and make significant financial decisions;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the annual Nominating Committee of the National Association of Free Will Baptists be urged to give significant consideration to the contributions of nominees and/or their churches to The Together Way Plan.**

***Delegates later amended this statement to read "to the co-op plan or other denominational giving."**

RESOLUTION 2:

WHEREAS we face cultural pressures of pragmatism, consumerism, and secularism; and

WHEREAS we are called to the discipleship of our intellects, affections, and wills; and

WHEREAS congregations desiring to unite with the National Association of Free Will Baptists may bring practices and doctrines that do not align with the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the denomination;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God, and affirm our commitment to contending for the faith once for all delivered to the saints, holding fast the faithful Word as we have been taught, that we may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict, and that, by the power of the Spirit who dwells in our midst, guard the good deposit that has been entrusted to us;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit ourselves, with all lowliness and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and that we like the apostles, eagerly desire to remember the poor, and to minister to the orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

RESOLUTION 3:

WHEREAS the National Association of Free Will Baptists and its departments face financial challenges; and

WHEREAS the annual Convention Fund is projected to experience continued deficits in the upcoming years, and

WHEREAS the present funding plan, known as the Together Way Plan, has been in place for over 30 years without adjustment; and

WHEREAS additional funding resources are needed for the future advancement of the denomination;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee hold a funding summit during the 2025 Leadership Conference with the board chairs, department representatives, and state leaders to address giving fatigue and financial shortfalls;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the summit's findings be reported to the General Board at the 2026 session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

RESOLUTION 4:

WHEREAS the Executive Office and D6 Family Ministries have given freely of their time and talents to prepare for the annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and

WHEREAS the Missouri and Kansas State Associations of Free Will Baptists have gone above and beyond in graciously working together to host the National Association of Free Will Baptists,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this body, the National Association of Free Will Baptists, give a rising vote of thanks to the Executive Offices, D6 Family Ministries, and the Missouri and Kansas State Associations of Free Will Baptists for their work in hosting this historic convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Respectfully submitted, Resolutions Committee

Danny Williams, Chair (AL)

Chris Dotson, Clerk (TN)

Reuben Cason (NC)

James Coffelt (OK)

Mark Price (OH)

David Taylor (AR)

2025 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, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Association of Mexico, 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, Canada, David Marks, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Northwest, and Puerto Rico.
3. From the following local churches, which are entitled to be represented by one (1) delegate: the Harvest Time Free Will Baptist Church of South Dakota and the Free Will Baptist Church of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.
4. We recommend delegates from the Colorado District, 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.

2025 D6 Family Ministry V3 Conference Report

2025 Registration

V3 Adult Attendee:	1,535
V3 Child Attendee:	126
V3-1-3:	283
V3-4-6:	264
V3-Teen:	535
V3-Preschool Worship:	74
V3 Total Attendees:	2,817

2025 Competitive Activity Entries

Entries	843
Competitors	1,607

Buck-A-Week

Tuesday's Buck-A-Week Offering: **\$2,920.02**

2025 ministries receiving funds:

North American Missionaries: Armon and Yvette Jorden, Hawaii

IM, Inc.: Billy and Sunni Champion, Japan

Truth & Peace Leadership Conference Participants

128 students and 16 staff for a total of 144

(A special note of thanks to Randall University for hosting Truth & Peace this summer.)

Youth Evangelistic Team (YET):

YET was comprised of ten Students and led by Bryan and Kinsley Houser in their third year as YET leaders. Special thanks to Randall University for hosting YET.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

The National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc., has approved in this convention the following budgets for 2026:

Executive Office (Includes:)		\$1,139,110.41
Administrative	\$564,871.89	
Convention	<u>574,238.52</u>	
Free Will Baptist Foundation		2,628,612.00
IM, Inc.		11,200,000.00
North American Ministries		5,200,000.00
Richland Ave Financial		916,550.00
Women Nationally Active for Christ		333,000.00
D6 Family Ministry		5,357,650.00
Welch College		8,380,674.00
(Includes \$1,600,000 in unrestricted gifts)		
Commission for Theological Integrity		5,650.00
Historical Commission		6,035.00
Media Commission		12,150.00
Music Commission		<u>8,350.00</u>
TOTAL		\$35,187,781.41

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:

North American Ministries	21.0%
Welch College	21.0%
IM, Inc.	20.0%
Women Nationally Active for Christ	18.0% *
Richland Ave Financial	11.0%
D6 Family Ministry	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 Director
 Scott Coghill, Board Chairman, Free Will Baptist Foundation
 Clint Morgan, General Director of IM, Inc.
 David Crowe, General Director of North American Ministries
 John Brummitt, General Director of Richland Ave Financial
 Ruth McDonald, Director of Women Nationally Active for Christ
 Ron Hunter, Executive Director of D6 Family Ministry
 Matt Pinson, President of Welch College

*The Executive Office will contribute the equivalent of 1% each Co-op to WNAC and D6 Family Ministry.