

Constitution of the Beaver Creek Minister's Conference of Original Free Will Baptist

Article I

This conference shall be called the Beaver Creek Minister's Conference.

Article II

This conference shall be composed of duly licensed and ordained ministers.

Article III

The officers of this conference shall be moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, song leader, and an ordaining council consisting of five (5) duly ordained ministers. All officers will be elected annually, except for the Ordaining Council which shall be elected on rotation, one member replaced each year.

Article IV

The Ordaining Council shall have interim authority to license, ordain, and investigate. The Ordaining Council shall also assist with local churches who desire to license and ordain candidates. The Ordaining Council shall report their work quarterly.

Article V

The licensing and ordaining of qualified candidates will be in accordance with the By-Laws of the Beaver Creek Minister's Conference.

Article VI

A minister coming from another Free Will Baptist conference or association must come by letter from his former conference or association and a recommendation of good standing from the local church which has his membership.

Article VII

Each minister duly licensed or ordained must be in good standing with his church and this conference to have the privilege to vote.

Article VIII

The Minister's Conference shall meet on the fourth Saturday of April, July, October, and January.

Article IX

The Beaver Creek Minister's Conference adheres to the Statement of Faith listed in the Constitution of the Beaver Creek Association.

Article X

This Constitution shall be revised at any annual conference by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority.

By-Laws for Ministers

When a man desires to be licensed and/or ordained, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Procedures through the Beaver Creek Association:

a. When a man first acknowledges his call into the ministry, the following steps should be taken:

(1) He should submit to his pastor's counsel and guidance on meeting the church's standards and qualifications.

(2) When the pastor feels that the candidate is ready, he will recommend him to the church as a candidate for ministerial training.

(3) The Candidate will then be under the pastor's counsel and guidance for a minimum of one year as to when he is ready for his first meeting with the Ordaining Council, and the pastor will recommend him to the Ordaining Council when he is ready.

(4) The candidate must come with a letter of recommendation from the church where he is a member in good standing and has tithed consistently to the church for a period of twelve (12) months. This letter must be signed by the pastor and the church treasurer.

b. When a candidate comes before the council for the first time and is approved by council, he will be given a Ministerial Certificate.

Sample: This is to certify that _____ Has been approved by the Beaver Creek Association to enter into counsel, guidance, and preparation for licensing and later ordination into the Gospel ministry.

c. Completion of the first year of our Bible Institute or its equivalent will be the first step in his preparation.

d. After a minimum preparation of one year, and upon recommendation from his pastor, he will attend all four (4) Ordaining Council meetings where he will receive counsel, encouragement and instruction on the call, duties, responsibilities, and rewards of the ministry.

e. When the above steps have been satisfactorily completed, he will be given a licensing examination by the Ordaining Council and recommended to the Association for license to preach the Gospel.

Note: A minister that has not been licensed, but has been called to pastor a church, must meet the same requirements for a minister coming under the Ministerial Training Program; he must be licensed and then ordained after receiving a license.

2. Guidelines to be followed in licensing and ordaining individuals into the ministry. These guidelines must be followed by the local church and the association. The authority to ordain ministers has its source in the local church (Free Will Baptist Treatise, pg. 56 - see #1).

a. From this Lord's Day, February 22, A.D. 1950, the Ordaining Council shall not recommend for license, or to be ordained, or accept anyone who has two (2) living wives or if his wife has two (2) living husbands (Titus 1:6, I Timothy 3:1-2)

b. Any minister in high school, college, or Armed Forces, or who is 65 or retired, shall be exempt from paying ministerial dues.

c. Each minister must report in person to each Quarterly Conference, but in case of an emergency he has one (1) week from date of the conference to send excuse by letter or contact Ordaining Council clerk. If any minister fails to conform with this rule, the Ordaining Council clerk is to inform him to go before the Ordaining Council and show reason why he should keep his credentials. A minister in school, college, or who is disabled may be excused with a letter of excuse from his home church signed by the pastor.

d. Any minister breaking by law "e" for failing to appear before the Ordaining Council after being informed by the clerk, or reason is not satisfactory to the Ordaining Council, shall surrender his credentials when called for.

e. If a minister makes shipwreck of his life, or brings reproach upon himself or the Association, it shall be the duty of the Ordaining Council to deal with the minister according to Biblical principles. No accusation shall be accepted against a minister, unless the charge is properly signed by no less than two (2) accusers (I Timothy 5:19).

f. No minister of the Beaver Creek Association shall start a mission until approved by the State Home Mission Board.

g. A minister who is called to pastor a church that is not a member of, or in good standing with, the Beaver Creek Association, shall lead the church to become a member of the Association and offer whatever assistance is necessary.

h. No female, homosexual, or person who has questionable character shall be licensed and/or ordained.

I. No individual or spouse who believes in or drinks alcoholic beverage, uses tobacco in any form, or the excess of drugs shall be licensed or ordained.

j. Any minister from another Free Will Baptist Association or Conference or Fellowship who joins a Beaver Creek church and wishes to be recognized as a licensed or ordained minister must agree in principle with these guidelines and must receive a letter of good standing from his former Association or church (where he holds credentials) prior to ratification of credentials and must meet with the Ordaining Council prior to ratification of

credentials.

k. It shall be the duty of the Ordaining Council of the Beaver Creek Association to assist churches in applying these guidelines.

l. Any individual seeking licensing and/or ordination must have a reputation which is "above reproach." His character, conduct, credit, conversation, and credentials must be "above reproach." References may be required and confirmed.

m. No pastor or church shall send a man to council for the purpose of licensing or ordination if his hair is below the top of his ears or below the top of his shirt or coat collar.

3. Any minister desiring to unite with the Beaver Creek Minister's Conference who is ordained must first unite with a Free Will Baptist church, and upon recommendation from said church must be placed under the watch care of the conference for a period of twelve (12) months before exchanging ordination papers. If called to a church he may pastor the church upon the watch care of said conference until the twelve (12) months have expired.

4. These by-laws may be amended by a Revision Committee, with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any annual association meeting.