

**Minutes of the 64th Annual Session of the
North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists
Embrace Your Calling: 2 Timothy 4:5
Embassy Suites Hotel; Greensboro, North Carolina June 8-9, 2026
Josh Baer, Moderator; Travis Moots, Clerk**

MONDAY MORNING SERVICE, June 8, 2026, 9:30 AM

Chad Donoho led the congregational song, "Since Jesus Came into My Heart."

Promotional Director Reuben Cason welcomed the attendees to the 64th Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of Free Will Baptists and opened in prayer. Brother Cason introduced the speaker as well as the special music. Before the sermon, the Sounds of Praise Ensemble from Southeastern Free Will Baptist College ministered in music.

Pastor Josh Butler preached a sermon entitled, "The Ministry We Received." He read the Scripture passage Acts 20:17-32. The ministry we receive from God 1) Must be carried as service to the Lord, 2) Must stay centered on the Word and the Gospel, 3) Must be defined by Christ not human expectations, 4) Requires declaring the whole counsel of God, 5) Requires guarding ourselves and shepherding the blood-bought flock, 6) Requires fighting the right battles, and 7) Must depend on God and the Word of His grace.

MONDAY MORNING SERVICE, June 8, 2026, 10:55 AM

Chad Donoho led the congregational song, "He Hideth My Soul." Brother Christian Powell led in prayer and introduced the speaker. The Sounds of Praise Ensemble ministered in music before the sermon.

Pastor Allen Hall preached a sermon entitled, "A Faithful Ministry." He read the Scripture passage 2 Timothy 4:1-8. To be faithful in ministry, we must, 1) "Watch thou in all things," 2) "Endure afflictions," 3) "Do the work of an evangelist," and 4) "Make full proof of thy ministry." At the conclusion of the service, Chad Donoho led the congregational song "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus." Moderator Josh Baer concluded with announcements and prayer.

MONDAY BUSINESS SESSION, June 8, 2026, 2:15 PM

Moderator Josh Baer opened the business meeting, read from Galatians 3:10-13, and opened in prayer. He recognized standing delegates and lay delegates. He recognized visiting ministries as they each stood and introduced themselves and their ministries.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Nominating Committee: Gene Williams (chairman), David Robinson, Scott Coghill, Hal Jones, and Leonard Bowers

Credentials Committee: Jonathan Huff (chairman), Jeff Davis, and Michael Bird

Resolutions Committee: Luke Johnson (chairman), Greg Ramsey, and James Bradley

Obituary Committee: Rocky Reese (chairman), Chuck Overcash, and Billy Keith

Jonathan Huff shared a partial report from the credentials committee:

All 8 associations

143 churches

72 ordained ministers

1 appointed delegate
11 missionaries
12 associate pastors
1 deacon
109 visitors
206 total people registered

The partial report was received as information.

Clerk Travis Moots presented the **Executive Report**. He referred to the minutes in the Digest on pages 13-22. The moderator explained the board's proposed changes to the bylaws, which was presented in a separate motion.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

The moderator called for a motion to table the Executive Board's proposed changes to the NCFWB Bylaws, Article 8.01, 9.01. The proposal is published on page 12. The intention was to discuss and vote on this proposal during the Tuesday business session.

Motion/Second/Carried to table the motion

Promotional Director Reuben Cason presented the **Promotional Director's Report**. He reflected on God's blessings he has observed as he travelled and visited FWB churches throughout the year. He emphasized the hurricane relief that took place over the past year: churches and donors were generous, and churches impacted by the hurricane were greatly assisted.

Reuben presented the accounts for the NCFWB Promotional Office (see page 26 in the Digest). His proposed budget is on page 32. Brother Cason publicly thanked Josh Baer for his outstanding two terms of service as the state moderator. He highlighted the minister's retreat, and he reported that ministers were encouraged by Dr. Moody, the guest speaker. The couples' retreat in Myrtle Beach was also a success where Pastor Christian Powell was the guest speaker; Reuben also expressed gratitude for Pastor Mike and Kim Carper's assistance with the retreat. He promoted the Benevolent Fund, which currently holds 122 members; he encouraged more to become members of this fund to assist widows and widowers. World Mission Offering participation and giving has decreased in the past year; Reuben encouraged pastors to participate in this annual offering.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Treasurer Jeff Manning presented the **NCFWB Treasurer's Report** found on page 23. The 2027 NCFWB Executive Board Proposed Budget is on page 24. Total cash assets are \$652,049.80.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Pastor Cliff Donoho presented the **NC Home Missions Board Report**. The report is published on page 34. Jeff Davis presented the treasure's report for the missions' board. The total for NC Missions donations was \$121,071.87. The ending fund balance was \$79,170.38, which is \$18,055.99 higher than the previous year (\$61,114.39). All four accounts managed by the board and the proposed budget are printed on pages 35-40, which also includes the Equip Church financial report. Darryl Grimes was recognized to present special appreciation to Luke Johnson for his 5 years of service on the Mission Board: a donation was made to the Landon Story Foundation.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Pastor Brandon Smith of Equip Church presented an update on this church plant in Hickory, NC. He announced the donation of \$500,000 from his home church in Florida toward their building fund. He announced their intentions to continue raising funds toward their goal to construct a church building.

Pastor Derek Cominskie presented the **NC Youth Ministries Report** which is published on page 46-50. March Madness for Missions raised \$7,219.79 from the participation of 158 individuals; the funds were raised to assist FWB missionaries.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Michelle Sailors presented the **Women Nationally Active for Christ Report**. The Treasure's Report is published on pages 41-45. She shared highlights from the yearly celebration service, gave praise to the Lord for exceeding their financial goals, and presented the new goals for 2027. Among the many projects of the WNAC, major funding projects included \$10,909.97 to International Missions, \$8,628.90 to North American Missions, 2,550.00 to Welch College, \$3,973.95 to Southeastern FWB College, and \$4,154.32 to the NC E-Team/CMP students.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Reuben Cason presented the **Leah Waddell Scholarship Fund** report published on pages 51-52. \$10,000 was given to Welch College, and the current balance is \$1,164.52.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Assistant Moderator Chris Truitt made a motion to change the Bylaws Article 6.01(2)(f) and Article 10.03(1) wording from "the promotional director" to "an executive director" and from "Promotional Director" to "Executive Director" respectively.

Motion/Second/Carried to table this motion

We heard reports from these Free Will Baptist ministries:

- Southeastern Free Will Baptist College – Dr. Jeff Jones, President
- NAFWB Executive Office – Dr. Eddie Moody, Executive Director

Moderator Josh Baer closed the business session in prayer.

MONDAY EVENING SERVICE, June 8, 2026, 6:30 PM

Kevin Denton led the congregational song, "Blessed be the Name of the Lord." Josh Baer welcomed the attendees and led in prayer. The choir sang "Thank You Jesus for the Blood" at the direction of Chad Donoho. Kevin Denton led the congregational songs, "Holy Forever" and "Worthy of It All." Pastor Scott Coghill introduced the speaker, Brent Patrick. Rejoice Ministry Team from Welch College ministered in music. Brent Patrick read the Scripture passage Genesis 11:1-9 and preached a sermon entitled, "The Leadership Drift No One Notices." He asked the question, "What are you building, and whose name is on it?" Several warnings were shared: 1) Success at something God never designed, 2) Self-glory, 3) Unity that is not healthy, and 4) Measuring by the wrong standards.

TUESDAY MORNING SERVICE, June 9, 2026, 8:30 AM

Kevin Denton opened the service by leading the congregational song "Redeemed." Assistant Moderator Chris Truett opened in prayer and introduced the singers and the speaker. Rejoice Ministry Team from Welch College ministered in music with two musical numbers. Pastor Rusty

Russell presented a seminar on the topic of sermon preparation entitled “Chopped! Homiletics Edition.” He read from the Scripture passage 2 Timothy 2:15. Helpful suggestions were shared concerning sermon study, preparation, and delivery.

TUESDAY MORNING SERVICE, June 9, 2026, 10:15 AM

Kevin Denton opened the service by leading the congregational song, “Tis So Sweet.” Sherman Branch led in prayer and introduced the speaker, Pastor Cliff Donoho. Rejoice Ministry Team ministered by singing two songs before the sermon. Cliff Donoho read from Luke 14:25-33 and preached a sermon entitled, “The Bold Distinctives of Biblical Discipline.” To be a disciple, we must be 1) Detached from the world, 2) Attached to the Word, and 3) Dispatched to the World. Moderator Josh Baer invited attendees to participate in the meeting survey; he announced that state business would resume at 1:30 to be followed by visiting ministries’ reports. He closed the service in prayer.

TUESDAY BUSINESS MEETING, June 9, 2026, 1:30 PM

Moderator Josh Baer called the meeting to order, read the Scripture passage 2 Corinthians 12:9-11, and encouraged attendees to never “forget the lessons God teaches us in the valley when we’re on the mountain top.”

The moderator asked for a motion to take off the table the proposed changes to the Bylaws.

Motion/Second/Carried to take it off the table

1. The moderator presented the proposal to change **Article 6.01(2)(f)** and **Article 10.03(1)** wording from “the promotional director” to “an executive director” and from “Promotional Director” to “Executive Director” respectively. **The motion was carried to accept this change to the Bylaws.**
2. The moderator presented the proposal to change **Article 9.01** (see page 12 of the Digest) to schedule the state meeting on the second Monday and Tuesday in June at a location appointed by the executive board. **The motion was carried to accept this change to the Bylaws.**
3. The moderator presented the proposal to change **Article 8.01** (see page 12 of the Digest) to remove the requirement for the offices of moderator and assistant moderator to be filled on an alternative basis from the eastern and western districts of the states. A short discussion ensued about both the proposal. **The motion was carried to accept the change to the Bylaws.**

Jonathan Huff presented the **Credentials Committee** report.

143 churches represented

68 ordained ministers

1 appointed delegate

12 associate pastors

1 deacon

106 visitors registered

200 total registered

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Pastor Rocky Reese presented the **Obituary Committee** report. The following pastors and pastor's wives have passed away in the previous year:

1. Van Mitchell
2. Dean Dobbs
3. Eddie Kirkpatrick
4. Peggy Sexton (wife of Johnny Sexton)
5. Dr. Lorenzo Stox
6. David Modlin
7. Hazel Arrowwood (wife of Homer Arrowwood)
8. Billy Wooten
9. Nancy Mitchem (wife of Dean Mitchem)
10. Greg Floars
11. Maria Cordell (wife of Richard Cordell)
12. Joe Wallis

A moment of silence was observed, and Rocky Reese led in prayer.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Pastor Luke Johnson presented the **Resolutions Committee** report. He presented the following call to the body: "We are grateful for the detailed planning, meaningful services, and comfortable accommodations that made this meeting both enjoyable and impactful. Therefore, by a standing vote of appreciation, we express our sincere thanks to Reuben Cason and his family, the Executive Committee, and the Embassy Suites staff for their hard work, hospitality, and dedication in making this year's annual meeting a tremendous success." The body responded with a standing vote of appreciation.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

Pastor Gene Williams presented the **Nominating Committee** report – the recommendations for electing officers to the Executive Board, Missions Board, and Youth Board.

Motion/Second/Carried to accept the report

The following elections were conducted:

Executive Board

Moderator: Chris Truett (2028) to replace Josh Baer (2026)

Motion/Second/Carried to elect

Assistant Moderator: Christian Powell to replace Chris Truett's unexpired term (2028)

Motion/Second/Carried to elect

Member at Large: Brian Bird (2027) to fill Christian Powell's unexpired term (2027)

Motion/Second/Carried to elect

Member at Large: Doug Western to serve a 2nd term (2029)

Motion/Second/Carried to elect

NC State Missions Board

Allen Hall (2031) to replace Luke Johnson

Motion/Second/Carried to elect

Youth Board

Moises Colop (2031) to replace Derek Cominskie

Motion/Second/Carried to elect

Assistant Moderator Chris Truitt presented Josh Baer with a gift for his outstanding service as moderator, and the attendees offered a standing ovation of appreciation.

The moderator asked the body to recommend people whom the state will sponsor to attend the National Convention as state delegates. The state will send up to five people. The following suggestions were made from the floor:

- Drew McClure
- Peyton Ezzelle
- David Ozuna
- Terry Cason

Reuben Cason emphasized the need for attendees to book hotel rooms through the room block to ensure that the state meets the hotel's requirements for hosting the convention at the negotiated price.

Zach from Impact Technologies gave away a door prize.

We heard reports from the following Free Will Baptist ministries:

- *International Missions*: Clint Morgan, Director
- *North American Ministries*: Dr. David Crow, Director
- *Welch College*: Todd Parrish, Vice President
- *Randall House Publications (D6)*: Derek Altom, Director of Events and Development
- *Richland Avenue*: a video was presented
- *FWB Foundation*: Brent Patrick, Director
- *Women Nationally Active for Christ*: Kristi Johnson
- *Harvest FWB Childcare Ministries*: Carl Miller
- *FWB Family Ministries*: Jim McComas

We heard reports from other ministries:

- *Agra, India missions*: Dr. Jeff Jones and Jordan Robin
- *Child Evangelism Fellowship*: Bob Fowler
- *Accessible Disciples (Special Needs Ministries)*: Julie Brickhouse
- *Ray of Hope*: Daryl Grimes
- *Landon Story Foundation*: Luke Johnson
- *For His Name Sake*: Casey Paramore
- *Togo, West Africa missions*: Armand Nyakpo
- *Songs in the Night*: Sherman Branch

Moderator Josh Baer closed the business session with prayer.

TUESDAY EVENING SERVICE, June 9, 2026, 6:00 PM

Chad Donoho led the congregation in singing "Jesus Messiah" and "O Praise the Name." Reuben Cason welcomed everyone and opened in prayer. The SFWBC Sounds of Praise Ensemble sang while an offering was taken. Chad Donoho led the congregational song "It Is Well with My Soul." Jeff Manning introduced the speaker before a men's ensemble ministered in music. Henry Horne read the Scripture passage Colossians 4:7-18 and preached a sermon entitled "The Ministry of Many." He emphasized to pastors that the work of the ministry was never designed to be done alone, and he shared lessons from the text about equipping church members to do the

work of the ministry. Outgoing Moderator Josh Baer offered special appreciation to the musicians, singers, technical staff, and Reuben Cason. In-coming Moderator Chris Truitt closed the state meeting with personal remarks and prayer.