

Minutes of 96th Annual Session
Of
Independence Baptist Association
October 21, 2018
Fellowship Baptist Church, Brenham, TX

Phil Hassel, pastor of Independence Baptist Church and moderator, was presiding.

Session opened with congregational singing of "Heaven Came Down"

Darren Donaldson greeted the attendees and read Ephesians 3:14-21.

DOM Report
DOM Report to Annual Meeting
Bro. Charles Cole

2018 has been a year of challenges. FIRM Area churches and staff have been under heavy attack by Satan and the strain on the churches shows. I urge all to be in constant prayer for their church and for the staff that serves them. We have had many unusual problems to assist our churches with during this past year. I thank our God that he is faithful to give us wisdom as we go through these changes. At the beginning of October, FIRM Area has only three churches that are without a pastor. Only one of those is currently searching for a pastor. The other two are either in an interim or about to begin an interim ministry.

As this year winds down, I reflect on the past 14 years as your Director of Missions and I thank my God for giving me the best job in the world. I have had the privilege, along with my wife working with me, to serve 86 of the very best churches in the world. We love every one of the FIRM Area churches and the people that make up those churches. Over those years we have had the privilege of leading to build 6 new homes for people that have lost their homes, we have built 5 new church buildings, and remodeled or helped remodel 5 others. We have assisted in many various endeavors of disaster relief, including helping over 130 families displaced and hurt by Hurricane Harvey, along with distributing disaster relief supplies totaling over 2 tons to victims of disasters. On October 20, we took funds to a family near Marble Falls that lost everything in the Llano River floods of that week. GOD has used FIRM Area Churches to bless so many.

In those 14 years we have helped start 13 new churches. These thirteen new churches have baptized over 1000 people. (incidentally, even though most have not completed their ACP's early indications are that baptisms across FIRM Area are up over 2017 levels.)

I have counselled 21 of those churches over various issues this past year and have filled a pulpit in supply on 31 occasions. It has been a very busy year. We took a group of 34 missionaries representing 9 of our area churches for a week-long mission trip to Mescalero, New Mexico, where we finished a construction project started by a church from George West, Texas, to add a classroom to the Mescalero building. We also conducted Vacation Bible School for 36 children and led evening special movie outreach events. God brought 6 of those children so they could respond to the Gospel and receive Jesus. There is much more I could highlight, but simply want to again thank you for allowing Brenda and I to serve along side of you as your director of Missions. May God richly bless each of you and the churches you represent in the years ahead.

In Jesus Service

Bro. Charles Cole

Phil Hassell seated the Messengers

Charles Cole introduced the guests: Joel Bratcher, Gena Wilimitis, Gordon Knight, Tim Marrow, Paul Boggs

Phil Hassell appointed Philip Donaldson, Corby Brizendine and Billy Sutherland to the place and Preacher committee.

No representative from Blinn College was present.

Joel Bratcher brought a report from Texas A&M.

Gena Wilimitis brought a report from Children At Heart.

Gordon Knight brought a report from Southern Baptists of Texas.

Tim Marrow brought a report from Texas Baptists.

Paul Boggs brought a report from Highland Lakes Encampment.

Darren Donaldson presented the September financial report. Darren made a motion to accept the report as printed. Mickey Scott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Darren Donaldson presented the 2019 budget as from the planning committee. Budget was passed by a unanimous vote.

Calendar and Officers votes were delayed to the second session.

Philip Donaldson sang "It is Written" as a special.

Larry Givens of Baylor gave a sermon on unity based upon Psalm 133. Jesus is the way and there is no other. In essentials and non-essentials let there be love. In unity there is to be love and that is our strength with Christ in the center.

Darren blessed the meal of chili, broccoli cheese soup and cornbread. Session adjourned to the meal.

Evening Session

Darren Donaldson led the attendees in singing "This is my Father's World" and then in a combination of "O How I Love Jesus" and "Amazing Grace".

Delmar McCracken read I Samuel 3:1-10.

Phil Hassell presented the 2019 calendar as coming from the planning committee and it was unanimously approved.

Phil Hassell presented the 2019 officers as coming from the planning committee and they were unanimously approved.

Darren explained the selection process for the proposed new Director of Missions. Darren made a motion that the association affirm the search committee's selection. Seconded by Chris Bruce. Decision was unanimously affirmed.

Phil Hassell asked for a report from the Place and Preacher committee. First Baptist Brenham was selected as the place with Calvary Brenham as the backup. Pat Knowlton was selected to bring the annual sermon. This was presented as a motion from the committee. Vote was a unanimous yes.

Melissa Yeldell sang "Child in My Eyes" for the special music.

Charles Cole brought the annual sermon based upon I Samuel 3:1-10 and Luke 9:1-10. The word of the Lord and visions weren't common then as they aren't today. Samuel was in the tabernacle close to the ark and ran to Eli when God

called. Eli was the chief priest and he hadn't introduced Samuel to God. God spoke to Samuel after He had spoken to Eli who didn't listen.

Saul had studied under the most learned scholars and he know all about God, but when God spoke to him on the road to Damascus, Saul asked "Who are you?". Ananias knew God and immediately answered. Many people know about God, but don't know Him personally.

Phil Hassell presented the 2019 officers.

Moderator-Chris Bruce

Vice-Moderator-Ruben Burguete

Clerk-Corby Brizendine

Treasurer-Darren Donaldson

Phil Hassell closed the meeting with prayer.