



**Elder Dr. Kenneth A. Duke, President**  
**Elder Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Vice President**

October 12, 2023

**Elder Chris Burney**  
**5820 North Monroe Street**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32303**

**SUBJECT: NPBC Findings on the Florida State Convention**

Dear Dr. Burney:

The following are the findings and ruling of the NPBC Special Business Copy of the Florida State Convention as presented on Monday, October 9, 2023:

We, the member of the Special Business Committee of the National Primitive Baptist Convention, appointed by President Duke in our Annual Session held in Greensboro, North Carolina; were given the charge to examine the appeal brought before it by Dr. Willie J. Williams. This appeal was in reference to the matter of the Florida State Primitive Baptist Convention. Our charge was to examine the claim of the appeal and render a decision as to the National Primitive Baptist Convention's decision as to which of the contesting bodies should be recognized as the Florida State Convention.

This committee, after much prayer and extensive review of all material made available to us and after protracted discussion of this matter are in agreement on the following conclusion:

Faced with what appeared to be a financial crisis and the imminent sale of some of the assets of the Florida State Convention (Miracle Hill, in particular) per a decision made by the then President Dr. Willie J. Williams, a Special Meeting was held by members of the Executive Board consisting of Moderators of the Florida State Convention who proceeded to halt such action by voting to remove Dr. Williams from the office of President and proceeded to elect a new slate of interim State Officers with Elder Chris Burney, President, and Dr. James Chester as Vice President. A subsequent meeting was scheduled with Dr. Willie J. Williams to resolve some of the issues that had been brought before the Moderators. However, Dr. Williams elected not to attend this meeting. The actions taken by these Moderators were necessitated by that decision made by the former president. The actions taken during this special call meeting were sustained and approved by the full delegation during the Florida State Convention's Annual Session. It was determined that Dr. Williams elected not to attend this session, but planned and implemented another meeting at another location at the same time.

Please Note the following:

1. It is our understanding that the regularly scheduled Meeting of the Florida State Convention was held on the date specified in their minutes, at the place specified well in advance of the developments which gave rise to the current situation; of which Dr. Williams elected not to attend. It is the position of this committee that this was the time and place where the matter could and should have been resolved by a vote of the assembled delegates. It was during this meeting that those present heard the case of the Executive Board composed of those Moderators in attendance and their rationale for their action. After hearing their presentation, those present voted to approve their action and proceeded to elect a new slate of leadership.
2. Dr. Willie J. Williams elected not to attend this previously scheduled Annual Meeting of the Florida State Convention. Instead, he made the decision to hold a meeting in the same city, on the same day at different location, which he declared was the official meeting. By absenting himself from the previously scheduled meeting, previously approved by the delegate body, he forfeited the opportunity to make his appeal to the duly elected/ appointed delegates of this body.
3. It was discovered that while making his appeal to the National Primitive Baptist Convention (NPBC), Dr. Willie J. Williams did not register the Florida State Convention which he proports to represent with the NPBC during the Annual Session in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he made the appeal under consideration. While he registered his church and his Association, there is no record of his having registered a State Convention.
4. It was noted that the opposing group led by Dr. Chris Burney did register with the National Primitive Baptist Convention as the Florida State Convention with the proper registration.

It is therefore the findings of this committee acting on behalf of the National Primitive Baptist Convention that based on all available documents and minutes provided to us by the Executive Board of Moderators and delegates of the Florida State Convention that the actions taken were in line with the discipline of the Florida State Convention. Therefore, it is the determination of this Committee that Elder Chris Burney along with the newly elect leaders and it's followers be recognized as the official Florida State Convention by the National Primitive Baptist Convention.

Your Committee:

Elder Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, General Vice President, National Primitive Baptist Convention

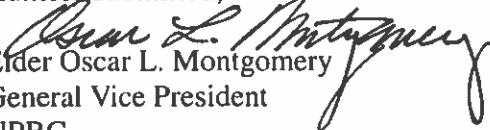
Elder Dr. Ronnie J. Russel, President, Tri-State Primitive Baptist Convention

Elder Dr. John Richardson, Western Regional Vice President

Elder Dr. Clemson Leach, North East Regional Vice President

Elder Dr. Maynard Yates, Parliamentarian, National Primitive Baptist Convention

Humbly submitted,

  
Elder Oscar L. Montgomery  
General Vice President  
NPBC