

MINUTES
OF THE
Fifty-fifth Annual Session
OF THE
ANTIOCH ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH HOLMAN CHURCH
JOHNSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
SEPTEMBER 5, 6, 7, 8, 1946

**Next Session Will Be Held With Zion Hope Church, Near Marshall,
Searcy County, Arkansas, Beginning on Thursday Night Before the
Second Sunday in September, 1947.**

ELD. J. D. COFFMAN, Hector, Ark. Moderator
ELD. R. G. WEBB, Atkins, Ark. Assistant Moderator
E. O. WRIGHT, Atkins, Ark. Clerk

MINUTES OF ANTIOCH ASSOCIATION

Fifty-fifth Annual Session

MET IN REGULAR SESSION WITH HOLMAN CHURCH,
SEPTEMBER 5, 6, 7, 8, 1946

THURSDAY NIGHT

Opened with singing songs: "I Am Going That Way," "When I See The Blood", led by Eld. W. F. McGee; 'Everybody Will Be Happy Over There,' and 'Sweeping Through the Gate,' led by Bro. T. L. Tackett; 'Some Day,' led by Bro. H. A. Isom; 'Kneel At the Cross,' led by Bro. Tom Mathews; 'There Shall Be Showers of Blessings,' 'It Won't Be Very Long,' led by Bro. Joe Wilkins; 'I Am Getting Ready to Go Home,' led by Eld. W. S. Isbell.

Prayer by Eld. W. F. McGee. Eld. R. I. Rainwater was selected to preach the introductory sermon.

Scripture lesson, St. John 3:1-16. Prayer by Eld. J. D. Coffman.

Song, 'Love Lifted Me,' by Eld. W. F. McGee.

Text, Gen., 3-9, 'Where Art Thou Gone.'

Adjourned with prayer by Eld. W. S. Isbell.

To meet at 9:30 a.m., Friday.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Assembled with singing: 'Just Over in the Glory Land,' led by Eld. W. S. Isbell; 'Won't It Be Wonderful There,' led by Bro. T. L. Tackett; 'I'll Live in Glory,' led by Bro. H. A. Isom.

Scripture lesson, 23 Psalm, read by Mod. J. D. Coffman.

Prayer by Bro. J. J. West.

Song, 'Everybody Will Be Happy Over There,' led by Sis. Goldie Maxwell.

Letters from the churches of the Association were called for.

Union Grove—Bro. T. L. Tackett, Sis. Myra and Mary Hill, Sis. Edith Whittenburg, Clerk.

Harmony—Sis. Lottie Wild, Bro. J. J. West and wife, Sis. Pearl Harris, minister's wife.

Welcome Home—Bro. Lonnie Coffman and wife, Bro. C. A. Croun and wife.

Walnut Grove—Sis. Alma Coffman.

Mt. Home—Bro. Vandela Voss, Sis. Ella May Chronister.

Maple Springs—Sis. Lucy Bowden, Sis. Julia Gideon.

Hickory Grove—Bro. H. A. Isom, Sisters Janie Chappel, Oma Cody, and Annie Teel, Bro. Floyd Tobus, Deacon and wife.

New Liberty—Sisters Martha Vassour, Stella Farnum and Emma Rainwater.

Dublin—Bro. W. W. White and wife, Sis. A. R. Lowery.

Holman—Sisters Alma Wilkins and Mary Pitts, Bro. John Crofts.

St. Joe—Sisters Goldie Maxwell, Mollie Venable, Betty McKenny, Ora Hopson, Clerk.

Oak Grove No. 2—Eld. W. S. Isbell and Eld. R. G. White.

Sweet Home—Bro. Jim McNutt.

Zion' Hope—Bro. Dan Graham and wife, Sis. Delia Watts.

Phoenix—By letter.

Song, 'Jesus Hold My Hand.'

Hand Shake. All Christians invited.

The Moderator appointed a Committee on Divine Service: Bro. Oliver Wilkins, Bro. T. L. Tackett, Bro. Ben Chronister.

Visiting member, Bro. William Hubbard of Hickory Grove community.

The Committee on Divine Service report Eld. R. G. Webb to preach at 11 o'clock and Eld. Coy Douthit to conclude.

Adjourned with prayer by Eld. R. B. Venable. To meet at 2 o'clock. Intermission.

Assembled with singing: 'Camping in Canaan Land,' led by Bro. H. A. Isom; 'It Won't be Very Long,' led by Sis. Ora Hopson; 'There Is A Fountain,' led by Bro. T. L. Tackett.

A letter from Eld. F. M. Hudson was read and by motion and seconded, a vote of the body to have same printed in the minutes.

Preaching by Eld. R. G. Webb.

Scripture Lesson, St. Luke 3:1-20.

Text St. John 12-35.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Assembled by singing: 'I'll Meet You in the Morning,' led by Sis. Amy Teel; 'When the Saints Go Marching In,' led by Bro. T. L. Tackett.

Scripture Lesson, 11th Psalm, Read by Eld. Coy Douthit.

Prayer by Sis. Frank Harris.

The Association further organized by electing the following officers: Eld. J. D. Coffman, Moderator. Eld. R. G. Webb, Assistant Moderator, and Bro. E. O. Wright re-elected Clerk and Sis. Lottie Wild. Assistant Clerk.

Reading of Rules of Order by Clerk.

The Moderator appointed the following Committee:

Committee on Resolution—Eld. W. S. Isbell, Eld. Dewey Kinder, Eld. R. B. Venable, Eld. W. F. McGee.

Committee on Finance—Eld. R. L. Rainwater, Bro. J. J. West, Bro. Vandella Voss.

Committee on Temperance—Sister Lottie Wild, Sis. Alma Coffman, Sis. Martha Vassour.

Committee on Sabbath School—Sis. Minnie White, Sis. Pearl Harris, Sis. Beulah Voss.

Committee on Obituary—Bro. C. A. Crouch, Sis. Delia Watts, and Sis. Lucy Bowden.

Committee on Non-represented Churches—Bro. H. A. Isom, Sis. Nancy Crouch, and Sis. Goldie Maxwell.

Committee on Union of Churches—Bro. Dan Graham, Sis. Amy Teel, and Sis. Ada Daniel.

By motion and seconded, the Moderator appointed a committee to draft a Resolution to the memory of Eld. R. M. Johnson, as follows: E. O. Wright, Sis. Julia Gideon, Eld. R. B. Venable.

Song, 'All Alone,' led by T. L. Tackett.

Recess 15 minutes.

Songs, 'How Beautiful Heaven Must Be,' led by Sis. Lonnie Coffman; 'I'm Not Ashamed,' led by Eld. W. S. Isbell.

By motion and seconded, a Committee was selected to correspond with the State Committee in the directing of the course of the State Tent. Bros. T. L. Tackett, E. O. Wright, and Frank Burris.

The Committee on Divine Service announced that Bro. J. J. West to lead in Devotional. Eld. R. B. Venable to preach and Eld. Dewey Kinder to follow.

Dismissed with prayer by Eld. R. G. Webb, to meet at 9:30 Saturday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Called together by singing 'Anywhere is Home,' led by Bro. T. L. Tackett; 'Home of the Soul,' led by Bro. H. A. Isom; 'Kneel at the Cross,' led by Bro. Ira Wilkins; 'I'll Be a Friend to Jesus,' and 'I Will Live On,' led by Sis. Goldie Maxwell.

Bro. J. J. West opened the Devotional Service.

Prayer led by Eld. Dewey Kinder and Eld. W. S. Isbell.

Song, 'Precious Memories,' led by Bro. T. L. Tackett. Song, 'Anywhere Is Home,' led by Bro. W. W. White.

Preaching by Eld. Dewey Kinder, Text St. Matthew 24-44, Psalms 1-1-6. Song, 'When I can Read My Title Clear.' Concluded by Eld. R. B. Venable. Dismissed with prayer by Eld. W. F. McGee.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Assembled with singing. 'This World Is Not My Home,' led by Bro. T. L. Tackett; 'Will the Circle Be Unbroken,' led by W. E. Coffman; 'How Beautiful Heaven Must Be,' led by Sis. Amy Teel.

Scripture lesson, Hebrew 2 chap.

Prayer by Bro. C. A. Crouch.

Song, 'Love Lifted Me,' led by Eld. W. S. Isbell.

More delegates seated.

Pine Ridge—Huel Dixon, William and Minnie Lue Standridge, Frank Burris, Clerk.

Walnut Grove—Sis. J. W. Coffman, honorary; Eld. W. E. Coffman and wife and Sis. Zelma Fay Coffman.

Oak Grove—Sis. Ada Webb of Oak Grove.

Slaty Crossing—Bro. Joe and Sis. Leatrice and Ada Standridge.

Mt. Vernon—Bro. Hersel Burris.

Jerusalem—By letter.

Moreland—By letter.

Bro. J. M. Spaulding of the Presbyterian church as advisory member..

Report of Temperance Committee adopted.

Recess.

Assembled with singing. Song, 'Precious Memories,' led by Eld. W. F. McGee. Quartet by the Atkins Quartet, Eld. E. L. Hill, Bro. Ralph Whittenburg, Bro. Henry and Sis. Myra Hill.

Report of Obituary Committee adopted.

Report of Committee to draft Resolution to the memory of Eld. R. M. Johnson—

We the officers, ministers and delegates of the Fifty-fifth Annual Session of the Antioch Association of Free Will Baptists, while in session at Holman church, wish to express to the relatives of Eld. R. M. Johnson, our sincere sympathy in their loss, and that our Association has lost an able minister and Brother. One who has gone through the heat and cold, over mountains high and valleys low to preach and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lost souls. That we miss him in our meeting. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.—Committee

Report of Obituary—

We find that the all wise God has seen best to call from our midst the following Brothers and Sisters:

Walnut Grove—Sisters Mollie Churchill, Lola Hefley, and Walker Coffman.

Mt. Home—Bro. J. M. Kelough.

Shiloh—Eld. R. M. Johnson.

Hickory Grove—Sis. Mary Teel, Bro William R. Moore.

St. Joe—Sis. Imogene Teeter.

Zion Hope—Bro. John Graham. Sis. Matilda Graham.

Jerusalem—Sis. Ethel Flowers.

Tredwell School House—Sis. Sarah Ford Fareline, and Bro. Henry Weatherman, Bro. C. A. Crouch.

Sisters Delia Watts and Lucy Bowden, Eld W. F. McGee were selected to assist in the memorial program. Eld. W. E. Coffman spoke in memory of Sis. Mollie Churchill and Sis. Lola Hefley of Walnut Grove. Eld. J. D. Coffman and Eld. E. L. Hill spoke in memory of Eld. R. M. Johnson of Shiloh. Eld. W. S. Isbell spoke in memory of Bro. William Moore, Sis. Mary Teel, Sis. Imogene Teeter, Sis. Sarah Ford Fareline. Bro. John and Sis. Matilda Graham. Eld. J. D. Coffman spoke in memory of Bro. Henry Weatherman. Eld. W. F. McGee spoke in memory of Sis. Walker Coffman.

Songs, 'In the Morning of Joy,' and 'Will the Circle Be Unbroken,' by Eld. W. F. McGee.

Dismissed with prayer by Eld. E. L. Hill.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Assembled with singing 'Just A Little While,' by Bro. Ralph Whittenburg. Song, 'Jesus Hold My Hand,' by Sis. Ora Hopson..

Scripture Lesson 16 Psalm. Read by Bro. Hersel Burris.

Prayer by Sis. Carrol Rainey.

Song by the Atkins Quartet.

Song by Eld. W. E. Coffman's family.

Quartet arranged by Sis. Ora Hopson.

Song, 'Anywhere Is Home.' led by Bro. W. W. White.

The Moderator declared nominations were in order for next place of meeting and Zion Hope church, Searcy county, was selected. Eld. W. A. Crouch to preach the introductory sermon. Eld. C. E. Douthit as alternate.

Election of State Delegates, Bro. Joe Wilkins, Sis. Lottie Wild, Bro. T. L. Tackett, Sis. Martha Vassour, as alternates, Bro. John Teel, Bro. Ralph Whittenburg, Sis. Goldie Maxwell, Sis. Nancy Crouch, Sis. Ola Blair.

Sunday School Committee to state. Sis. Lee Dover, Sis. Frank Burris, Sis. Myra Hill.

Report of Committees adopted.

Motion made and seconded and passed to pay the Clerk \$10.00 instead of \$5.00.

The Committee on Divine Service announced Eld. C. E. Douthit to hold Devotional service. Eld. E. L. Hill and Eld. W. S. Isbell to fill the stand.

Dismissal by Bro. Hersel Burris.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Assembled with singing: 'If the Light Has Gone Out,' by Bro. T. L. Tackett. Song, 'He Bore It All,' by Bro. Henry Hill. Song, 'I'm Going That Way,' by Bro. Joe Wilkins. Song, 'Some Glad Day,' by Eld. E. L. Hill. Song, 'Everybody Will Be Happy,' by Sis. Goldie Maxwell.

Prayer by Bro. Jess Looper. Two songs by Atkins quartet. Song, 'I'll Live On,' by Bro. Joe Wilkins.

Devotional service conducted by Eld. C. E. Douthit.

Prayer by Eld. W. S. Isbell and Eld. Douthit.

Song, 'Glory To to His Name,' by Eld. J. D. Coffman. Song, 'Oh, Come Angel Band,' by Bro. T. L. Tackett.

Eld. W. S. Isbell surrendered his place in the service to Eld. Hersel Burris.

Preaching by Eld. Burris.

Scripture lesson 1 John 4-7-11 and text 1 John, 4-11.

Song, 'I'm Glad Salvation's Free.'

Concluded by Eld. E. L. Hill.

Song, 'There's Power in the Blood.'

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Whereas the good people of Holman church and community have so generously cared for and entertained us while in their midst.

Be it Resolved that we extend to them a unanimous vote of thanks for their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst, May God add his richest Blessings to all.—Committee.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

Song, 'In the Morning of Glory,' led by Bro. Isbell.

Song, 'I Want to Be a Worker,' led by Bro. McGee.

Song, 'Nothing Between,' led by Bro. Isbell.

Song, 'In the Morning,' led by Bro. Isbell.

Scripture lesson, 7th Chapter of St. John, read by Bro. Isbell.

What think ye of Christ. Text Matthew 22-42, preaching by Bro. Isbell.

Dismissed by Bro. McGee.

Erie Crotts, Clerk.

MINISTERS REPORT

Eld. J. D. Kinder—I have delivered 65 messages, held three revivals, assisted in others, witnessed a number of conversions, received two into the church. Assisted in one funeral, married one couple. Received in all \$215.07.

Eld. W. S. Isbell—I have pastored three churches, held three revivals, and assisted in 2 others. Delivered 130 messages, conducted and assisted in 12 funerals and married one couple. Received \$534.65.

Eld. R. G. Webb—I have pastored three churches, held three revivals, done some local preaching, baptized 12, received seven into the church, and conducted two funerals. Married two couples. Received from all sources \$348.85.

Eld. Coy E. Douthit—I have had one regular appointment, some local preaching. Received \$100.00.

W. E. Coffman—I have pastored two churches and one more part-time, delivered 60 messages, held one revival, witnessed two conversions. Received two quilts and \$104.45.

Eld. W. F. McGee—I have pastored four churches, traveled 4,371 miles, delivered 131 messages, held four revival meetings, witnessed a number of conversions, received 23 members in the church, Baptized five, conducted one funeral, and received from all sources \$499.15.

Eld. R. L. Rainwater—I have pastored one church, sermons preached unknown, conducted one revival and helped in one revival, baptized fourteen, received twenty into the church, witnessed 38 conversions and received from all sources \$60.75.

"To the members of Antioch Association of Free Will Baptist, when convened with Holman church,

Greetings,

I would be delighted to be with you in person at the coming meeting but owing to the condition of my health, my advanced age, it would be inexpedient for me to attend but I earnestly pray that the presence of the good Lord may be with you to guide you in all your work. On September 6., 1880, through repentance and faith on my part I was regenerated, born of the spirit and became a new creature in Christ Jesus. Three days later (Sept. 9) I was called up on by a prominent member of the Methodist church, W. W. Brashear (25 years to a day older than I), to lead a large congregation in prayer. I responded to the best of my ability and entered at once into the public service of the Lord. But in all that time, I have not once failed to pray for the guiding power of the Holy Spirit in all my work. I attended a meeting of our Association in the same community of Holman in 1885 and a little farther West in 1886. I earnestly ask that you pray for me on my 66th birthday (Friday, Sept. 6) that I may faithfully bear the burdens of life until the Good Lord may say 'Enough, Come Up Higher.'

May the Lord Bless you in all your work in His cause.

Respectfully Submitted,

F. M. Hudson.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We your committee of Temperance, submit the following report:

Realizing since the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, the devil is putting up a hard fight with intoxicating drinks, we feel every child of God should stand firm for Temperance in every way.

We earnestly urge parents to set the example and lead the way, providing proper entertainment to strengthen the resistance of the sons and daughters who have so much evil influence of the world to resist. Resolved, that we go on record as opposing all use or sale of liquor in any form, urging all to buy your poll tax and use your vote to

enforce this, and that we teach and preach the evil influence of strong drinks and encourage people to abstain even from moderate drinking.

Sister Lottie Wild, Sister Alma Coffman, Sister Martha Vassour.

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We your committee find that by examining letters that 14 churches have Sunday Schools and Jerusalem, Liberty, St. Joe and Mt. Vernon have no Sunday School. We recommend the use of Free Will Baptist literature when at all satisfactory. We urge that Sabbath School be organized in all churches.

Sisters Pearl Harris, Minnie White, Beulah Voss.

COMMITTEE ON NON-REPRESENTED CHURCHES

We find the following not represented: Shiloh, Cherry Hill, and Kimbrell Creek.

Bro. H. A. Isom, Sis. Goldie Maxwell, Sis. Nancy Crouch.

REPORT OF UNION OF CHURCHES

As far as we have learned all churches are in harmony as to doctrine and practice.

Bro. Dan Graham, Sis. Ada Daniel, Sis. Amy Teel.

Committee on Finance

We have collected the following amounts from the different churches:

Churches	Antioch	State
Holeman	\$2.50	\$2.00
Welcome Home	2.50	2.00
Pine Ridge	2.50	2.00
Walnut Grove	2.50	2.00
Maple Springs	2.50	2.00
New Liberty	2.50	2.00
Dublin	2.50	2.00
Sweet Home	2.50	2.00
Hickory Grove	2.50	2.00
Harmony	2.50	2.00
Mt. Vernon	2.50	2.00
Zion Hope	2.50	2.00
Oak Grove No. 2	2.50	2.00
Mt. Home	2.50	2.00
Phoenix	2.50	2.00
St. Joe	2.50	2.00
Union Grove	2.50	2.00
Moreland	2.50	2.00
Slaty Crossing	2.50	2.00
Jerusalem	2.50	
By Donations	\$11.25.	Committee.

Report of Church Covenant Committee

We, your Committee on Church Covenant, recommend the following:

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adopted the word of God as our rule of Faith and Practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this Solemn Covenant.

1. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things to avoid the appearances of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusement and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

2. We agree faithfully to discharge our obligation in reference to the study of the scriptures, secret prayer devotion and religious worship and by self denial, faith and good works endeavor to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

3. We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for Church Conference, public worship, and the observance of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the Church, of its poor and all its benevolent work.

4. We agree to accept Christians admonitions and reproof with meekness and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the Church and of the Gospel.

5. We will everywhere hold christian principals sacred and Christian obligations and enterprise supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and telling that God's will may be done in us as in Heaven.

6. To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprise, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world, and may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experiences we, the Churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and a communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, we therefore propose to keep orders and rules of our association, according to the following plan or form of government:

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our Union, and each church is entitled to three messengers. All ordained ministers, deacons, their wives and church clerks of our faith and order in the bounds of the Antioch Association shall be members, when present.

2. Letters from the different churches shall be prepared, read to and approved by each church conference assembled, signed by the moderator and clerk before presentation to the Association. Also to express their number in fellowship, the number received by experience, letter, recommendation or restoration, dismissed, excluded, and that have died since the last Association. Also the Moderator, amount paid the pastor.

3. The members thus chosen and convened, to be denominated the Antioch Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the churches of parts of Pope, Johnson, Yell, Conway, Perry, and Searcy counties, and the Association to have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

4. The Association shall have a moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, and Assistant Clerk, to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

5. New churches may be admitted into the Association by letter or by delegates, if found to be orthodox in the faith of the Free Will Baptists, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the member making it.

7. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with the Minutes of this Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being made at the discretion of the Association.

8. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the Minutes, and that we pay our Clerk \$10.00 for his services, and urge that the Minutes be printed and mailed within 60 days after the Association, and that we urge each minister furnish a written report of his year's work, and especially those having care of churches.

9. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

10. The Association shall have a fund for her support, which shall be supplied by voluntary contributions of the different churches, whose duty it shall be to send it by the hands of the messengers, which money sent shall be deposited in the hands of the treasurer for that purpose, and he shall be accountable to the Association for all money received by him until paid out as they may direct.

11. The Association, in case of failure of any church to attend may inquire into the cause.

12. It is the duty of the Association to see after the union of the churches.

13. It is the sense of this Association that if a minister takes a letter from a church of this Association and neglect or refuse to place it in some church, for a period of one year, his name shall be dropped from the roll of ministers, his credentials revoked, and this Association will not recognize any work that may come under his hands as a presbyter after such time, and it shall be the duty of the Clerk after such steps have been taken by the Association, to notify the Clerk of the county in which such minister may live, or have his credentials recorded, of the action of this Association toward such minister. Any such minister who wishes to be reinstated by this Association, can do so by uniting himself with some church of this Association, and from the beginning of his membership his credentials shall be in full force, and his work recognized without again coming under the hands of a Presbytery of Elders.

14. This Association shall maintain a committee of five, to be elected by the body, which shall be known as the Examining Council for Ordination.

Those who are to be ordained must—

(1) Have preached for at least one year in the bounds of this Association.

(2) Must be set apart, and have the endorsement for ordination, by the church of which they are a member.

(3) Must have the endorsement of the ordaining council, or a majority vote of a legally called meeting of the council.

(4) Lack of endorsement by either of the above authorities will hold up any ordination.

(5) No one can serve on the committee unless he fully believes in this plan of this work.

(6) This committee shall report to this body, while in session, the misconduct or disregard of any rule, or ordinance, set forth and practiced by the Antioch Association, and said party shall be dealt with accordingly.

15. Amendments to this plan of government may be made at any time when a majority may deem it necessary.

The Committee: Elders F. M. Hudson, W. F. McGee, W.A. Crouch, W. S. Isbell, R. G. Webb.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **GOD**—We believe in one true and living Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine essence, Purpose, Power and Glory. St. John 1:1; I Cor. 8:6; I John 5:7; St. John 10:30.

2. **CHRIST**—We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born to the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's new tomb, arose from the dead the third day, completing the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with his disciples, publicly ascended up to heaven, and that he will descend again to gather his jewels home. Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Math. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-41.

3. **Holy Spirit**—We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and its coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up its office work among all nations of people as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide. Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Eph. 4:30; Acts 8:17-20.

4. **The Bible** — We believe the Bible which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments was given by inspiration of GOD, is our waybill from earth to heaven, and only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Peter 1:19-21; II Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Math. 21:42.

5. **THE FALL OF MAN**—We believe that GOD created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed, with promises of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man the power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of Souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell with all their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave to them the hope of salvation through the coming of CHRIST. Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:16-17; Rom. 11:11-35; Psalms 37:23-24; Rom. 5:18.

6. **REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION**—We believe that Jesus

Christ, by his birth, death, burial, and resurrection and ascension, paid the purchase price of the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come to Him upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above. Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Heb. 1:4; St. John 3:16; Isa. 45:22.

7. **CONDITION OF SALVATION**—We believe that all persons dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of GOD without any act upon their part; that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father, and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ. John 3rd chapter; Math 19:13-22; II Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. **SALVATION FREE**—We believe that God desires the salvation of all; Christ died for all; the gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whomsoever will, may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel. I Peter, 1:9-13,25; 2:9-24,25; Rev. 22:17.

9. **BAPTISM**—We believe that christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, in which is represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same. Math. 3:14-15-16; I Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Math. 28, 19.

10. **COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING**—We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet are ordinances of the gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Saviour to commemorate his broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world and to show our remembrance of Him 'till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all christians until his second coming. Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-18; Math. 26:27, 28, 29.

11. **THE SABBATH**—We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the Worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted. Exodus 20:11; Exodus 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Math. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. **CALL TO THE MINISTRY**—We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impresses His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the Scriptures with a full reliance upon Him; He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose. Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Math. 28:19.

13. **THE INVISIBLE CHURCH**—We believe that the Invisible or Spiritual church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous able to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue,

and people. Ephes. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; I Peter 2:5; Ephes. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Math. 16-18.

14. **THE VISIBLE CHURCH**—We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the gospel. II Thess. 1:1; Acts. 16:5; Third John 1:10; Math. 18:17; Acts 20-28; Rev. 1:4-11-20.

15. **PERSEVERANCE**—We believe that all true believers in Christ should preserve in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in Hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from his hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty they would backslide and if persistently continued would be eternally lost. Second Cor. 9:10; Second Peter 1:4-8; I Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apotasy, Second Peter 1:8-9; First Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; First John 5:16; Heb. 6:16; First Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Math. 12:31-32.

16. **CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH**—We believe that Christ is the head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body. Col. 1:18-19; Math. 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Math. 21:42; Ephes. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. **SANTIFICATION**—Santification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 6:11; II Thes. 2:13. Heb. 12:14, Phil. 3:21; Second Thes. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; Sec. Tim. 2:20-21.

18. **THE SOUL**—The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:42; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Math. 10-28.

19. **THE RESURRECTION**—We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and the body shall be reunited, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment. Math. 28:6; St. John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:51-58.

20. **JUDGMENT**—We believe that there will be a general, universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to their works whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment and the righteous into eternal happiness. II Thes. 1:4-19; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; II Cor. 5:10; Math. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17-31.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided.

3. All motions made and seconded shall be opened for discussion, but debate may be cut off at any time by a majority of the members of the Association.

4. If any proposition or motion under debate, contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

5. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded in the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

6. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the body.

7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

9. At the future sessions of the Association arrangements shall be made, so as to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises which shall be equivalent thereto; and the chair shall announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

10. Changes may be made in these rules at any regular meeting of the Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory sermon.

2. Association shall be called to order by the Moderator, or in his absence by the Assistant Moderator, or Clerk.

3. Letters from the churches of this Association called for, read and messengers invited to seats.

4. Right hand of fellowship.

5. Call for letters from newly organized churches.

6. Corresponding Associations.

7. Election of permanent officers.

8. Reading Rules of Order and minutes of last Association by the chair or clerk.

9. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Resolution; (b) Finance; (c) Divine Service; (d) Temperance; (e) Sabbath Schools;

10. Reports of committees holding over from last Association, and other unfinished business.

11. Report of new committees.

12. New business.

13. Adjournment.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

When seven or more Christians wish to be united into a Free Will Baptist Church organic body, a committee of three or more, composed of one ordained minister, one deacon, and one layman, with others, who are members of churches within the bounds of the Association where said church is being organized, by authority here invested, shall examine the applicants, as to the faith and doctrine of the Free Will Baptists and if found to be orthodox, will proceed as follows:

(1) The Bible is presented as the only rule of faith and practice.

(2) The Church Covenant is read.

(3) A prayer of consecration is offered.

(4) The hand of fellowship is given.

(5) The church then proceeds to elect its officers. A clerk, a

treasurer, a pastor, and two deacons. Other deacons may be elected and ordained as the church grows or when a vacancy occurs.

Pastor—The pastor is to be elected for the period of one year, by a majority vote of members present at a regular or stated meeting. His time will expire at the setting of each annual Association. He is to be moderator at all church meetings when present and exercises all rights as far as his office provide.

Clerk and Treasurer—The clerk and treasurer are to be elected in the same way and at the same time as the moderator. They are to keep a record of all business proceedings of the church: Roll of membership, minutes of conference meetings, and all funds collected and paid out by the membership.

Deacons—Special care should be taken by the church in the selections of deacons. First Tim. 3:8 to 13 gives some of the qualifications pertaining to deacons that should be heeded. They are elected by a majority vote of the church and ordained to office by a presbytery of three, one of which should be a minister. They serve their church during their lifetime unless relieved by the church for some grievance or disorderly act.

Duties of Deacons—They are to assist at baptizings, the Lord's Supper, and Feet Washing, conduct religious meetings, moderate church when the conference by a majority vote grants the request support of the church in its benevolence, look after the spiritual interest of the church in general.

Members Received—Applicants are received into the church by a majority vote of members present in a church conference if they acknowledge their sins forgiven and believe in Jesus Christ.

Members Dismissed—Members may receive letters only when in good standing with the church; and cease to be members of the church when the conference by a majority vote grants the request and authorizes the clerk to write the letter, signed by moderator and clerk. Request for letters of dismission should be made at a conference meeting or in writing through the church clerk, stating the cause for the request.

Members dismissed, dropped, excluded or severed in any other way from the church, it should be for legal and just cause and done in church conference by a majority vote of members present at a regular meeting.

Church may be disbanded for the same rules under which they were organized, when they cease to function properly as churches; failing to hold a conference meeting for the period of one year and by consent of the majority of members living near the church at the time.

Quarterly meetings and annual Associations are organized and disbanded by the same rules of authority as the local church; except when a majority of the churches vote to unite with another quarterly meeting or Association.

Property deeded to, and owned by the Free Will Baptist, shall be under the supervision of the local church worshipping in that locality or using said property. For any legal or just cause of its proper use it may be disposed of for the benefit of said church, by public sale and the proceeds put into the treasury of the Association where the property is located, and can only be used to build or repair churches in the Association. The Executive Committee of the Association shall have the authority of all business transactions.

Amendments may be made to this Discipline in Annual Conference of the Association.

MINISTERS DIARY

R. L. Taylor, Hector
W. F. McGee, Russellville
W. S. Isbell, Russellville, R. 2
J. A. Venable, Dumas, R. 1
J. D. Coffman, Hector
R. G. Webb, Russellville, R. 4
C. V. Kinder, Russellville, R. 4
Dewey Kinder, Caglesville
P. C. Denton, Scranton
A. J. Latham, Russellville, R. 2
T. V. Johnson, Russellville, R. 4
R. B. Venable, Atkins, R. 3
John Reel, Tulsa, Okla., R. 5
F. M. Hudson, Moreland
Ellis Warren, Russellville, R. 4
Lytle Hallum, Hector
Melvin Snow, England

Charley Douthit, Atkins, R. 3
E. F. Flowyer, Russellville, R. 2
E. Henderson, Carruthersville, Mo.
R. L. Rainwater, Scranton
Frank Harris, Russellville, R. 2
W. A. Crouch, Hector
M. A. Thompson, Jerusalem
Dave Thompson, Jerusalem
A. F. Banks, Atkins, R. 1
Edgar Alderson, Clarksville
E. L. Hill, Atkins
Clarence Tillman, England
Coy Douthit, Atkins, R. 3
Hershel Burris, Oklahoma
Avough Vaughan, Hector, R. 1
G. Z. Claybourn

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