

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH ZION HOPE CHURCH,
SEARCY COUNTY, ARKANSAS
SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 14, 1947

Next Session Will Be Held With Welcome Home Church, Near Hester,
Pope County, Arkansas, Beginning On Thursday Night, Before The
Second Sunday In September, 1948.

ELD. R. G. WEBB, Russellville, Ark. Moderator
ELD. J. D. KINDER, Caglesville, Ark. Assistant Moderator
E. O. WRIGHT, Atkins, Ark. Clerk

MINUTES OF ANTIOCH ASSOCIATION

Fifty-sixth Annual Session

MET IN REGULAR SESSION WITH ZION HOPE CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 14, 1947

THURSDAY NIGHT

Opening song, "Where the Soul Never Die", led by Bro. John Cassell.

Song, "Standing On the Promises", led by Bro. James Hubbard.

Song, "Won't It Be Wonderful There", led by Bro. T. L. Tackett.

Song, "I'll Be Listening", led by Bro. W. W. Crow.

Song, "I'll Live in Glory", led by Bro. Dan Graham.

Song, "An Empty Mansion", led by Eld. W. S. Isbell.

Prayer by Bro. J. J. West.

Song, "Some Day", led by H. A. Isom.

Introductory sermon by Eld. W. A. Crouch.

Scripture lesson, St. Matt. 6:9-12.

Text, Prayer.

Adjourned with prayer by Eld. R. G. Webb, to meet at 9:30 Friday.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Assembled with singing.

Song, "The Unclouded Day", led by Bro. T. L. Tackett.

Song, "I'm Going That Way", led by Bro. James Hubbard.

Song, "I'm Not Ashamed", led by Sis. Stella Duncan.

Opened by Moderator, Eld. J. D. Coffman.

Scripture lesson, St. Matt. 5:3-12.

The Moderator appointed the following Committee on Divine Service: Bro. Frank Knowels, H. A. Isom, and W. W. Crow.

Letters from the churches of the Association were called for, read, and messengers seated.

UNION GROVE—Sis. Olgie Wright, Bro. T. L. Tackett, and Bro. E. O. Wright.

HARMONY—Bro. J. J. West and Bro. B. R. Miller.

WELCOME HOME—Bro. Lonnie Coffman and Sis. Alene Coffman.

WALNUT GROVE—Sis. Norma Voss and Sis. Alma Coffman.

HICKORY GROVE—Bro. H. A. Isom and Bro. Vines Rainey.

NEW LIBERTY—Bro. T. A. Farnam and Bro. W. W. Crow.

HOLMAN—Sis. Mary Hopper, Sis. Rose Hardeman and Sis. Erie Crofts.

PINE RIDGE—Bro. B. F. Davis, Sis. Vera Davis and Bro. Huel Dixon.

OAK GROVE No. 2—Eld. R. G. Webb, Eld. J. D. Kinder, Eld. C. U. Kinder, Eld. W. S. Isbell, and Eld. Ellis Warren.

ZION HOPE—Sis. Stella Duncan, Sis. Emily Burke, and Sis. Callie Graham.

KIMBRELL CREEK—Sis. Alpha Kelley.

SLATY CROSSING—By letter.

ST. JOE—By letter.

MT. HOME—By letter.

MORELAND—By letter.

JERUSALEM—By letter.

MT. VERNON—By letter.

SWEET HOME—By letter.

PHOENIX—By letter.

CHERRY HILL—

MAPLE SPRINGS—By letter.

DUBLIN—

SHILOH—

Hand Shake. All Christians invited.

Song, "Precious Memory", led by Bro. T. L. Tackett and Sis. C. H. Harrell.

The Committee on Divine Service announced Eld. R. G. Webb to fill the stand at 11 o'clock.

Adjourned for recess by Bro. Wm. Burke.

Assembled with singing.

Song, "This World Is Not My Home", led by Bro. T. L. Tackett.

Song, "When We All Get To Heaven", led by Sis. Alene Coffman.

Prayer by Bro. H. A. Isom.

Preaching by Eld. R. G. Webb.

Text, St. John 19:4. I find no fault in Him.

Song, "Kneel At the Cross", led by Bro. James Hubbard.

Dismissed by Eld. W. A. Crouch.

'FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Assembled by singing "I'm Getting Ready to Go Home", led by Bro. T. L. Tackett.

Scripture lesson, 23rd Psalm, read by Eld. C. U. Kinder.

Prayer by Bro. J. J. West.

Song, "Anywhere Is Home", led by Eld. W. S. Isbell.

Motion made and carried to retain Shiloh church on our minutes.

The Association further organized by electing the following officers: Eld. R. G. Webb, Moderator; Eld. Dewey Kinder, Assistant Moderator; Bro. E. O. Wright, re-elected Clerk by acclamation; and Eld. Ellis Warren, Assistant Clerk.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTION—Eld. C. U. Kinder, Eld. W. A. Crouch, and Bro. T. L. Tackett.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE—Bro. J. J. West, Sis. Norma Voss, Bro. Vines Rainey.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE—Eld. J. D. Kinder, Bro. Huel Dixon, and Bro. Lonnie Coffman.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—Sis. Alma Coffman, Sis. Olgie Wright and Sis. Rose Hardeman.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY—Eld. W. S. Isbell, Bro. B. F. Davis, and Sis. Cora Knowels.

Motion made and carried that we elect an Evangelist. Eld. W. A. Crouch was elected.

Seated as advisory member, Bro. James Hubbard of the Missionary Baptist church.

Welcome address by Bro. Wm. Burke.

Response to welcome address by Bro. J. J. West.

The Committee on Divine Service announced Eld J. D. Coffman conduct devotional service.

Eld. Dewey Kinder and Eld. Ellis Warren to preach.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Assembled with singing "I'm Going That Way" and "Where the Soul Never Die", led by Clerk E. O. Wright.

Songs, "Just A Little While" and "I'd Rather Be An Old-time Christian", led by Sis. Maxine Treat.

Song, "It Won't Be Very Long", led by Bro. James Hubbard.

Eld. Dewey Kinder conducted devotional service.

Prayer by Eld Kinder, Eld. J. D. Coffman and Sis. Mary Hopper.

Preaching by Eld. Ellis Warren. Text, Isaah 9:6. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Concluded by Eld. Ralph Staten.

Christian handshake.

Dismissed by Eld. Staten.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Assembled with singing song, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder," led by Sis. Alene Coffman.

Song, "There Is an Eye Watching You", led by Bro. T. L. Tackett.

Scripture lesson, 2nd Timothy 4:1-8. Read by Moderator Eld. R. G. Webb.

Prayer by Bro. B. R. Miller.

Song, "Camping on Cannon Land", led by Bro. H. A. Isom.

The Moderator opened the Association for any business as may come before it.

Other messengers seated: Bro. P. M. Voss from Grande River Association, Oklahoma; Bro. John Bohannon from Social Band Association.

Visiting members seated: Bro. J. C. Castle and wife and daughter, Sister Hester O'Neal, Sis. Alvia O'Neal, Bro. P. A. Griffith and wife of the Church of Christ, Bro. J. W. Kimble and wife of Missionary Baptist church.

The Baptism question was discussed.

Report of Temperance Committee adopted.

Report of Sabbath School Committee adopted.

Report of Obituary Committee adopted.

Adjourned by prayer for recess by Bro. P. M. Voss.

Assembled with singing song, "The Unclouded Day", led by Bro. T. L. Tackett,

Song, 'Everybody Will Be Happy Over There', led by Bro. H. A. Isom.

Song, 'Some Day', led by Bro. James Hubbard.

Prayer by Eld. J. D. Kinder.

As this was time for Memorial Service, Eld. W. S. Isbell spoke in memory of Bro. Alvin Wilkins, Eld. J. T. Burris, Bro. Walter Burris, Bro. Billie Farnum, Bro. Jess Looper, Bro. Henry Freeman, Sis. Joe Cooper and Sis. Vina Figg.

Eld. R. G. Webb spoke in memory of Bro. J. M. Sparks.

Song "Precious Memories", led by Sis. Alene Coffman.

Eld. W. A. Crouch spoke in memory of Sis. Sebee Ward, Sis. Margaret Ann Coffman, Sis. Mamie Parish and Bro. Doyal Coffman.

Eld. J. D. Kinder spoke in memory of Bro. W. T. Riley.

Eld. J. D. Coffman spoke in memory of Eld. D. A. Thompson and Bro. Wesley Massey.

The quartette sang. Song, "If We Never Meet This Side of Heaven", by Eld. J. D. and Sis. Alma Coffman, Bro. T. L. Tackett and Bro. James Hubbard.

Song, "When the Saints Go Marching In", led by Sis. Alene Coffman.

Christian handshake.

Dismissed with prayer by Eld. W. A. Crouch, to meet at 2:30 o'clock.

Assembled with singing song, "Is It Will with My Soul", led by Sis. C. H. Harrell.

Songs, "Take the Name of Jesus with You" and "I'll Be Satisfied", led by Bro. E. O. Wright.

The Moderator declared nominations in order for next Associational meeting. Welcome Home church, near Hector, was selected.

Eld. W. E. Coffman was selected to preach the introductory sermon and Eld. W. S. Isbell as alternate.

Election of state delegates. Bro. H. A. Isom, Bro. Brown Burnett, Sis. Price Jones, Bro. Vandella Voss, Sis. Rose Hardeman. As Alternates, Sis. Mary Farnum, Sis. Mary Hopper, Bro. Lonnie Coffman, Earl Wright and Bro. Ben Chronister.

Motion made and carried to retain the Committee 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 Moderator appointed a committee to draft a resolution in memory of Eld. D. A. Thompson and Eld. J. T. Burris. The committee: Bro. E. O. Wright and Elds. J. D. Coffman and Ellis Warren.

Eld. J. D. Coffman and wife played and sang "Jacob's Ladder" by request.

The Committee on Divine Service announced Elds. J. D. Kinder, C. U. Kinder and Ellis Warren conduct the night service.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Where as the good people of Zion Hope 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.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. H. A. Isom, to meet with Welcome Home church, 1948.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Assembled with singing "Won't It Be Wonderful There", "I'll Fly Away", "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There", "I'll Live On" and "Anywhere Is Home" led by Bro. J. C. Cassel.

Prayer led by Bro. Raymond Crochram, Eld. W. A. Crouch and Eld. C. U. Kinder.

Song, "Standing On the Promises", led by Bro. J. C. Cassel.

Devotional service conducted by Eld. Ellis Warren.

Song, "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder", led by Bro. J. C. Cas-

sell.

Preaching by Eld. Dewey Kinder. Scripture lesson, Roman 8:24. Text, "Faith", Hebrews 11:1.

Concluded by Eld. C. U. Kinder.

Songs, "Oh, Why Not Tonight", and "Softly and Tenderly".

Dismissed by Bro. P. M. Voss.

SUNDAY MORNING

Preaching by Eld. W. A. Crouch.

MINISTER'S REPORT

I have pastored two churches, held two revivals, assisted in others and did some local preaching. Delivered 68 messages, witnessed a number of conversions, received 17 members into the church, Baptized 13, assisted in two funerals and married two couples. Received \$301.15.

—Eld. J. D. Kinder.

I have pastored three churches, preached twice a month at one of the churches, held three revivals, helped in three more, witnessed 84 conversions, received 49 into the church, Baptized 56, conducted two funerals and married one couple. Received from all sources, \$520.10.

Eld. R. G. Webb.

I have delivered 153 messages, Baptized four, held and helped in five revival meetings, pastored three churches, conducted and officiated in nine funerals, and traveled 3,000 miles. Received in all, \$421.90.

Eld. W. F. McGee.

I have pastored one church, held two revivals with 31 conversions, 14 additions to said church, Baptized 12, preached 97 sermons, organized six Leagues, conducted 10 funerals and married six couples.

Eld. W. S. Isbell.

I have conducted two funerals, preached one short sermon over the radio. I have just quietly at home alone celebrated my 67th birthday in the public service of my Master and every day and night of that time I have delightfully meditated upon the goodness of the law of God.

Eld. F. M. Hudson.

We, the officers, ministers and delegates of the Fifty-sixth Annual Session of the Antioch Association of Free Will Baptist, while in session at Zion Hope church, wish to express to the relatives of Elds. D. A. Thompson and J. T. Burris, who were ministers for forty years, our sincere sympathy in their loss, and that our Association has lost two able ministers and brothers. They have gone through heat and cold, over mountains high and valleys low, to preach and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lost souls. That we miss them in our meetings. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

Elds. J. D. Coffman and Ellis Warren and Bro. E. O. Wright, Com.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

We your Committee on 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.

Bros. Lonnie Coffman, Huel Dixon, and Eld. J. D. Kinder.

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We, your committee, find that all churches that have reported have Sunday Schools except St. Joe and New Liberty. We think that Sunday Schools are an important auxiliary of the church, and parents should go with their children to Sunday School and see that they are taught Free Will Baptist literature. We think the pastor should urge St. Joe and New Liberty to have Sunday Schools.

Sisters Alma Coffman, Olgie Wright and Rose Hardeman.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your committee, find that the all-wise God has seen best to call from our midst the following brothers and sisters:

Moreland—Sister Vina Pigg.

Jerusalem—Bro. Wesley Massey and Eld. D. A. Thompson.

Holman—Bro. Alvin Wilkins.

New Liberty—Bro. Billie Farnum, Bro. Wesley Lowery and Sister Deller Lowery.

Harmony—Bro. J. M. Sparks.

St. Joe—Bro. Walter Burris and Eld. J. T. Burris.

Welcome Home—Sis. Mamie Parish and Bro. Doyal Coffman.

Walnut Grove—Sis. Margaret Ann Coffman and Sis Sebee Ward.

Mt. Home—Bro. Jess Looper.

Cherry Hill—Bro. Luther Singleton.

Bro. Henry Freeman, Sis. Joe Cooper and Bro. W. T. Riley, former members of Free Will Baptist.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We have collected the following amounts from the different churches:

Churches	Antioch	State
Union Grove	\$2.50	\$2.00
Mt. Vernon	2.50	2.00
Zion Hope	2.50	2.00
Slaty Crossing	3.50	2.00
Holman	2.50	2.00
Harmony	2.50	2.00
Phoenix	2.50	2.00
Hickory Grove	2.50	2.00
Pine Ridge	2.50	2.00
Oak Grove	2.50	2.00
Welcome Home	2.50	2.00
Walnut Grove	2.50	2.00
Moreland	2.50	2.00
Jerusalem	2.50	2.00

Mt. Home	2.50	2.00
Maple Springs	2.50	2.00
St. Joe	2.50	2.00
New Liberty	2.50	2.00
Sweet Home	2.50	2.00
By Donations	13.50	

Bro. J. J. West, Chairman of Committee.

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. U. 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
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
W. E. Coffman, Hector
Elvie Johnston, Atkins

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 appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusement and unholy confirmity 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.

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; Matt. 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; 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 'til 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. SANCTIFICATION—Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the 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. JUDGEMENT—We believe that there will be a general, universal judgement 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; (f) Obituary; (g) Non-represented and Union of Churches.
10. Reports of committees holding over from last Association, and other unfinished business.
11. Reports 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 provides.

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 dur-

ing 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 a letter, signed by moderator and clerk. Request for letters of dismissal 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.

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