

MINUTES  
OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE

# Antioch Association of Free Will Baptists

Held with Slaty Crossing Church  
Yell County, Arkansas  
August 4-6, 1988

NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD WITH

Kilgore Church  
Conway County, Arkansas

BEGINNING ON THURSDAY NIGHT  
BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN AUGUST 1989

Darwin Kelton ..... Moderator  
Atkins, Arkansas

Denver Robinson ..... Assistant Moderator  
Casa, Arkansas

Lila Webb ..... Clerk  
Atkins, Arkansas

Mary McCoy ..... Assistant Clerk  
Atkins, Arkansas



## Minutes of the Antioch Association of Free Will Baptists

Ninety-seventh Annual Session which met in regular session  
with the Slaty Crossing Free Will Baptist Church, August 4-6,  
1988.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Leon Hill .....	5	Years
Rev. Jimmy Williams .....	4	Years
Rev. Johnny McCoy .....	3	Years
Rev. Herb Tilly .....	2	Years
Rev. Reece Webb .....	1	Year

### EXAMINING COMMITTEE FOR ORDINATION

Same as Executive Board

### HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Earl Stapleton .....	5	Years
Rev. Alvie Burris .....	4	Years
Rev. Denver Robinson .....	3	Years
Rev. Darwin Kelton .....	2	Years
Rev. Jimmy Lee Chronister .....	1	Year

Please note the following break down in the amount of fees to  
be sent to the Antioch Association in 1989:

For Antioch Minutes .....	\$25.00
For Executive Board Expenses .....	10.00
For State and National Association Fees .....	35.00
TOTAL .....	\$70.00

### THURSDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 4, 1988

Service was called to order by Moderator Jimmy Lee Chronister. Bro. Earl Stapleton then offered the opening prayer. Bro. Jimmy Williams led the congregation in singing "Victory In Jesus." Other songs were led by Bro. Alvie Burris, Sis. Rhonda Reese, Sis. Annette Chrowder. "The Glory Land Way," "I'll Live In Glory," "Land Where Living Waters Flow," and "He Whispers Sweet Peace to Me."

Special music was by Sis. Rhonda Reese singing "That Same Spirit," Sis. Becky Williams, "If I Were A Butterfly," Bro. Bobby Wells, "Plenty of Time." Bro. Denver Robinson led all those gathered around the altar in prayer, Sis. Vada Parks led the testimony service. The message was brought by Bro. Lonnie Coffman from Ezekiel 47:1-5 on "Living Water." Service was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Alvie Burris until 9:30 Friday morning.



FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 5, 1988

The Ninety-Seventh session of the Antioch Association was called to order by the moderator, Bro. Jimmy Chronister. "I Love to Walk With Jesus," was led by Bro. Jimmy Williams and prayer by Bro. Bonner Tyler. The delegates representing the churches were as follows:

ANTIOCH — None present  
ATKINS FIRST — Sis. Lela Brown, Sis. Retha Travis, Sis. Atha Patton  
BEN HUR — Bro. John Collins, Sis. Carolyn Cooper  
CENTER VALLEY — By Letter  
CENTERVILLE — Sis. Gwen Mans, Sis. Kim Carter, Sis. Helen Wells  
CHERRY HILL — Sis. Pat Bird, Sis. Rose Miller, Sis. Juanita Beaseen  
CLARKSVILLE — Sis. Patsy Warren  
FAITH — By Letter  
HECTOR — Sis. Eulean Brown, Bro. Donald Brown, Sis. Arrettia Duncan  
HOLMAN — By Letter  
JERUSALEM — None present  
JOHNSON — Sis. Tammye King  
KILGORE — Sis. Annette Crowder, Bro. Rick Spires, Sis. Myrtle Taylor  
MAPLE SPRINGS — None present  
MORELAND — By Letter  
MORRILTON FIRST — None present  
MT. VERNON — Sis. Amanda Helton, Sis. Susan Hunt, Sis. Theresa Burris  
PHOENIX — Bro. Roscoe Davis  
PINE RIDGE — None present  
SLATY CROSSING — Sis. Sylvia Crow, Sis. Faye Cross, Sis. Dena Johnson  
SMITH SPRINGS — Bro. Bobby Wells, Sis. Sue Reiss, Sis. Jennifer Mans  
SOUTH MT. — None present  
ST. JOE — Bro. David Duvall, Bro. John Burris  
SWEET HOME — Sis. Lavonia Roberds, Sis. Woody Duvall, Sis. Sherry Capps  
WAYTON — Sis. Adella Willis

The following officers were elected for this new church year:  
Clerk/Treasurer ..... Sis. Lila Webb  
Assistant Clerk ..... Sis. Mary McCoy



The moderator and his assistant appointed the following committees:

PULPIT — Bro. Bonner Tyler, Bro. James Henderson, Bro. Roscoe Davis

RESOLUTION — Bro. Leon Hill, Bro. Denver Robinson, Bro. Herb Tilly

TEMPERANCE — Bro. Earl Stapleton, Bro. Reece Webb, Bro. David Duvall

NON-REPRESENTED & UNION OF CHURCHES — Sis. Pat Bird, Sis. Betty Tilly, Sis. Annette Crowder.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Bro. Donald Brown, Bro. George Latham, Bro. Owen Jones

OBITUARY — Sis. Mary Chronister, Sis. Mary Ruth Wright, Sis. Cledyth Robinson

FINANCE — Bro. Alvie Burris, Bro. Bobby Wells, Bro. Johnny McCoy

Sis. Lila Webb reported that the Associational Revival was preached by Bro. Connie Cariker at the Atkins First Free Will Church and after expenses, a balance of \$2.18 remained in the account.

The order of service was changed to the 11:00 preaching hour. Bro. David Duvall led the congregation in "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus." Bro. Johnny McCoy led "Won't It Be Wonderful There." Sis. Annette Crowder led "He Whispers Sweet Peace to Me." Special singing included Bro. Darwin Kelton singing "The Light House." Susan Hunt, Theresa Burris, and Amanda Helton sang "Mansion Over the Hilltop." Bro. Bobby Wells singing "Redemption Draweth Nigh." Bro. Johnny McCoy family singing "Thank You Mama for Praying For Me." Sis. Rose Miller and Bro. Jimmy Williams singing "There is Power in Prayer." Bro. Alvie Burris led all those gathered in the altar for prayer. Bro. George Latham then preached from Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 on "Praying." Bro. Darwin Kelton sang "He's My Friend," Bro. Johnny McCoy family, "The Dream" and "It's So Peaceful." Service was then dismissed until 1:00 p.m. by Bro. Darwin Kelton.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON 1:00 p.m.

Moderator Bro. Jimmy Chronister called the service to order by leading the congregation in singing "When We All Get To Heaven." We were led in prayer by Bro. James Henderson.

A letter from the Walnut Grove Church was read asking that they be dropped from the Antioch Association. So carried. A letter was read from Bro. Carrol Hanna and also Bro. J. L. Chronister asking that their names be dropped from our role of ministers. So carried.



The Executive Board recommended Bro. Bobby Wells for ordination and also recommend Bro. Darwin Kelton to our association. The body voted to go with both recommendations. On the Executive Boards recommendation the body voted to revoke J. D. Henderson's credentials. Also on the Executive Boards recommendation the body voted to set aside the Center Valley Church until its house is in order.

A Resolution was turned in and read concerning the C. T. S. Program. Requesting that a five member committee be appointed to raise interest in our youth, and to have the authority to use the additional \$5.00 that is being mailed per quarterly. The five (5) member committee is as follows: Bro. Johnny McCoy, Bro. Jimmy Williams, Bro. Keith Chronister, Bro. Bobby Wells and Bro. Gary Adair.

The Pulpit Committee reported that Bro. Alvie Burris would bring the evening message and Bro. Johnny McCoy would lead the devotional service.

The Johnson church asked for the Associational revival and the body voted to go there for the next meeting. The committee for this revival is Bro. George Latham, Bro. Bill Williams, Bro. Reece Webb, Bro. Jimmy Williams, and Bro. Johnny McCoy.

The body voted to go to the Kilgore Church for the 1989 Annual Meeting.

The financial report of the Home Missions Board was given by Bro. Denver Robinson. The balance is \$2,577.94.

State delegates were then elected as follows:

Sis. Mary Kelton  
Sis. Barbara Pearson  
Sis. Patsy Warren  
Bro. Jim Moore  
Sis. Vinniey Tyler

The session was then adjourned until 7:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT, 7:30 p.m.

Service called to order by Bro. Jimmy Chronister. Prayer by Bro. Leon Hill. Bro. Darrell Robinson led the congregation in singing, "I'd Rather Have Jesus." Other congregational songs were led by Bro. Gary Adair, Bro. Robert Williams, and Sis. Cristy Crow, "When We All Get To Heaven," "Victory In Jesus," and "He Set Me Free." Special music provided by Bro. Jimmy Lee and Sis. Mary Ann Chronister, "Thank You Lord For Your Blessings." Bro. Jimmy and Mary, Bro. George and Sis. Edna Latham, "I Can Hear My Saviour Calling," Bro. George and Sis. Edna, "I'll Regret." Quartet from Slaty Crossing "Put Angels All Around Me." Bro. Taft and Sis. Ruth Standridge "Drifting Too Far From the Shore." Bro. Bobby Wells, "It Won't Be Long." John Thomas McCoy sang "I'll Fly Away" and "I'm



In the Lord's Army." Becky Williams, "He's Still Working On Me." Bro. Reece Webb led all those gathered around the altar in prayer. Bro. Bonner Tyler led the devotional service. Bro. Alvie Burris preached from Nehemiah 4:1-7 on "Defense." Service was dismissed until 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

#### SATURDAY MORNING 10 a.m.

The moderator called the service to order by asking Bro. J. L. McAlister to lead the congregation in prayer. Congregational songs were led by Bro. Jimmy Williams, Bro. Fred Goates, Sis. Rhonda Reese, Bro. Joey Hanna, Bro. George Latham, and Bro. Darwin Kelton. "Amazing Grace," "Glad Reunion Day," "My God Is Real," "The Gloryland Way," "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again," "The Uncloudy Day."

Special music included Bro. George and Sis. Edna Latham, "Three Rusty Nails," Bro. Darwin Kelton, "Happy Journey," Sis. Rhonda Reese, "That Same Spirit," Bro. Joey Hanna, "The Lighthouse," Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Mary Ann Chronister, "I Want To Stroll Over Heaven." Standing in a moment of silent prayer in memory of those saints who have gone to be with the Lord, with Bro. Bob Rackley concluding it.

The following is a list of members who passed away and the ministers who spoke in memory of them:

Bro. Leon Hill spoke in memory of Bro. Stantford Latham, and Bro. Rupert Chapman.

Bro. Herb Tilley spoke in memory of Sis. Edith Thompson.

Bro. Bob Rackley spoke in memory of Bro. Hollie Crouch.

Bro. Jimmy Lee Chronister spoke in memory of Sis. Mary Burton, Bro. Odell Blankenship, Sis. Dora Burris, Bro. Jim McCuin, Bro. Jance Riley, and Sis. Lottie Ashley.

Bro. J. L. McAlister spoke in memory of Bro. Dolan Travis.

Bro. Bill Williams spoke in memory of Bro. Ross Teets, Bro. Rayburn Teague, Sis. Audria Helen Reynolds.

There was no one stated in the letter to speak in memory of Sis. Lavada McGowen of the Faith Church.

Bro. Willie Crotts of Holman lived and was buried in Missouri.

Dismissed in prayer until 1:00 p.m.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 1:00 p.m.

The moderator opened the service. Bro. Jimmy Williams led the congregation in singing, "Oh Say But I'm Glad." Bro. J. A. Davis led in prayer. Devotional by Bro. Leon Hill, from St. Mark 12:29-31.

The various committee reports were read and accepted. They are as follows:



TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE: We, the committee on temperance, had no report of any violation by members concerning temperance. Therefore; we wish to refer to II Peter 1:5-7 as our continued reminder of Gods word concerning temperance. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have found all churches have Sunday School. We believe Sunday School to be very important to the Church. We urge everyone to attend regularly. We also encourage having qualified teachers for Sunday School. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. II Timothy 2:15.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: We the committee on finance find all 24 churches have sent \$70.00 each making a total of \$1,680.00 There was a previous balance of \$729.83 brought forward making a grand total of \$2,409.83. We also find sufficient funds to pay all expenses and to print the minutes.

NON REPRESENTED AND UNION OF CHURCHES: There were 24 churches who wanted to be represented by delegates and 4 by letter only. They are Holman, Moreland, Center Valley, and Faith. One wasn't represented at all.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE: This committee has found that 16 saints have departed from this walk of life. We have examined the letters and made a complete list for the Clerk.

The body then elected Bro. Darwin Kelton to speak at the Thursday night service with Bro. Leon Hill his alternate.

Bro. Owen Jones was elected for the 11:00 message on Friday, with Bro. Jimmy Williams his alternate.

The delegates then heard the reading of the Ministers Diary and made corrections.

The Moderator and Assistant Moderator were then elected as follows:

Moderator ..... Bro. Darwin Kelton

Assistant Moderator ..... Bro. Denver Robinson

A standing vote of thanks was given to the host church, and also to our moderator, Bro. Jimmy Lee Chronister. The minutes of this meeting were read and approved.

The body was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Denver Robinson.

#### \* NOTE

Quarterly Meeting times are the last Friday night and Saturday of January, April and October.



## 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 conformity to the world, from all sanctions 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 Savior 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 its benevolent work.

4. We agree to accept Christian 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, to promote the success of the Church and of the Gospel.

5. We will everywhere hold Christian principles 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 toiling 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 School and evangelistic effort of 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 reunion and a communion among us, and to preserve and maintain a correspondence and each other, we there-



more 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. In the event of the failure of part or all of the elected delegation to report by 1:30 p.m. Saturday that said vacancy be filled, providing some official or delegate from said church recommended others for said vacancies.

2. Letters from the different churches shall be prepared, read to and approved by each church conferences 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, Logan, Conway, Perry, Searcy, Pulaski and Newton counties, the Association to have no power to lord it over God's heritage nor to have an ecclesiastical power over churches reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

4. The Association shall have a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk and treasurer and assistant clerk to be chosen by the suffrage of members present. No elected officer may succeed himself with the exception of the clerk and treasurer and assistant clerk. No person may serve on more than one board of the Association at the same time; but he may, however, serve on a board and a committee or an office at the same time.

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

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

7. The Association shall have a fund for its support and obligations which shall be supplied by fees from the different churches. The money shall be deposited into the hands of the Associational Clerk/Treasurer and he shall be accountable to the Association for all money received by him until it is paid out as directed by the Association. The current fee to be sent with the church letter to the Association is \$70.00 which shall be broken down as follows:



A. \$25.00 of each church's fee is to go to the Antioch Association fund for minutes and expenses of the Association.

B. \$10.00 of each church's fee is to go to the Executive Board for expenses which they incur as a board.

C. \$35.00 of each church's fee is to be sent to the State Office to pay the Association's fees to the State Association and the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

8. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes, and that we pay our clerk \$150.00 for his services and urge that the minutes be printed and mailed within 60 days after the Association. Any church hosting the Association shall be paid by the clerk \$200.00 to help defray the cost of the hosting the Annual Association.

9. The Association shall have a fund for its 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 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.

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

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

12. This Association shall have the right to discipline its ministers concerning the following.

A. Should a minister take his letter from a church in this Association and neglect or refuse to place it in some other church in this Association 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 minister after such time.

B. Any minister in good standing in the Association desiring to pastor a church outside of this Association will be granted upon request a letter of recommendation within a year from his leaving this association.

C. Any disciplined minister who wishes to be reinstated must be united with some church in this association; have an endorsement from that church; and receive an endorsement from the examining committee. At such time the clerk shall be authorized to restore said credentials.

D. This Association will not consider for ordination or accept into the Association any minister who is divorced and remarried or any minister who is married to a woman who is divorced and remarried. We believe this is in keeping with I Timothy 3:2. 12 and Titus 1:6.



CHURCH	MODERATOR THIS YEAR	MODERATOR LAST YEAR	CLERK AND ADDRESS	MEMBERS RECEIVED	MEMBERS DISMISSED	MEMBERS DIED	ACTIVE MEMBERS	TOTAL MEMBERS	SUNDAY SCHOOL	MINUTE FUND	PAID PASTOR	DAYS OF MEETINGS
Antioch	Bob Rackley	George Latham	Joyce Butts, P. O. Box 484, Russellville, AR 72801	7	2	1	17	32	18	70	1,350.00	FT
Atkins	Darwin Kelton	Fred Scott	Mary Ruth Wright, Rt. 1, Box 30, Atkins, AR 72823	8	2	1	35	55	35	70	9,750.00	FT
Ben Hur	Leon Garrison	Leon Garrison	Linda Garrison, Rt. 1, Box 194, Hector, AR 72843				32	48	25	70	1,500.00	FT
Center Valley	James Carl Warren	Bob Chronister	Gwen Singleton, Rt. 2, Box 430, Dover, AR 72837	2			10	23	20	70	2,500.00	FT
Centerville	Herb Tilley	Charles Harris	Phyllis Wells, Rt. 1, Box 140, Dardanelle, AR 72834	4	5		16	27	33	70	3,950.00	FT
Cherry Hill	James Williams	James Williams	Shelby Bull, Rt. 1, Box 122, Perryville, AR 72126			1	56	156	25	70	4,089.00	FT
Clarksville	Alvie Burris		Gloria Mason, Rt. 2, Box 220, Lamar, AR 72846	4	2	1	20	47	18	70	2,510.50	FT
Faith	Emery Crossland	Emery Crossland	Jewel Crawford, 8319 Woolen Rd. N. Little Rock 72117	6	3	1	33	61	18	70	6,000.00	FT
Hector	Ellis McCuin	Lawnie Coffman	Pearl Gregory Rt. 1 Box 43, Hector, AR 72843	6	2	3	38	88	64	70	7,650.00	FT
Holman	Owen Jones	Herb Tilley	Barbara Pearson, Rt. 1, Lamar, AR 7846		3	1	25	81	30	70	4,160.00	FT
Johnson	Johnny McCoy	Johnny McCoy	Betty Stovall, Rt. 1, Box 251, Scranton, AR 72863		2	1	25	25	29	70	7,950.00	FT
Kilgore	George Latham		Kim Williams, Rt. 1, Box 124, Solgohachia, AR 72156	2				42	34	70	1,875.00	FT
Maple Springs	Gary Huett	Leon Hill	Billie Evants, Rt. 2, Box 438, Russellville, AR 72801	2		1	16	39	24	70	4,462.00	FT
Moreland	Vernon Nordin	Vernon Nordin	Dana Hudson, Rt. 4, Box 571, Russellville, AR 72801				23	53	23	70	2,600.00	FT
Morrilton 1st	James Freeman	Gary Huett	Evelyn Singleton, 816 E. Burrow, Morrilton, AR 72110				55	69	25	70	2,650.00	FT
Mt. Vernon	Earl Stapleton	Earl Stapleton	Evelyn Helton, Rt. 4, Box 411, Russellville, AR 72801	4	3	2		103	54	70	5,250.00	FT
Phoenix	Taft Standridge	Hollie Crouch	Nancy Yancy, Rt. 7, Box 238, Russellville, AR 72801		3	1	19	49	24	70	2,789.76	FT
Pine Ridge	Glendon Garrison	Taft Standridge	Hazel King, Rt. 1, Box 495, Atkins, AR 72823		1		25	98	25	70	3,760.00	FT
Slaty Crossing	Jimmy Chronister	Jimmy Chronister	Blenda Adaire, Rt. 1, Dardanelle, AR 72834	3	1	0	44	108	51	70	8,225.00	FT
Smith Springs	Leon Hill	Frank Matchett	Margaret Sigler P. O. Box 84, Plummerville, AR	4	9	1	45	75	45	70	3,525.00	FT
South Mt.	Kenny McDaniel	Kenny McDaniel	Darlene Kelley, Rt. 1 Box 335, Marshall, AR 72650	4			19	42	32	70	2,210.00	FT
St. Joe	Bill Williams	Bill Williams	Virginia Virden 160 N. Church Atkins, AR 72823	6	1	3	60	142	40	70	6,475.00	FT
Sweet Home	Joey Hanna	James C. Warren	Cathryn McNutt Rt. 3 Box 821 Atkins, AR 72823	4	4		22	39	25	70	1,500.00	FT
Wayton	Tony Taylor	Tony Taylor	Lettie Taylor HCR 31 Box 606 Deer, AR 72628	1			68	68	30	70		FT



E. When the need arises for a minister to be disciplined, the church of which he is a member shall be responsible along with the Executive Board of the Association.

13. 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—

A. Have preached at least one year in the bounds of the Association.

B. Must be set apart and have an endorsement for ordination by the church of which they are a member.

C. Must have the endorsement of the Ordaining Council, or majority of a legally called meeting of the Council.

D. Lack of endorsement by either of the above authorities will hold up an ordination.

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

F. 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 Association; the said party shall be dealt with accordingly.

G. Any minister coming into the Association to pastor a church of the Association is required to come before the Examining Committee. It shall be the duty of the churches to comply with this resolution. A church knowingly calling a man to pastor in the Association, that does not meet the qualifications, will be set aside until it gets its house in order.

14. 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 the creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to his earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin accepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's new tomb, arose from the dead and on 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 visited true believers in all ages and especially since the ascension of the Son back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up His 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, King James version, 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; Matt 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 and punishment for disobedience. Gave man 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 by law of God, fell with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming of Christ. (Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:16-17; Rom. 11:11-35; Psalms 37:24; Rom. 5:15)

6. REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION — We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, 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 year 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 glory the Holy Spirit they pass through an ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ. (St. John 3: Matt. 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 invited all; the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the gospel. (I Peter 1:13-25, 2:9-24; 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, the Holy Spirit, in which is represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have been ordained are qualified to administer the same (Matt. 3:14-16; I Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19)

10. COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING — We believe the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet are ordinances for the gospel of Christ, the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior 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 13:1-13; Matt. 26:26-29)

11. THE LORD'S DAY — We believe that the Lord's Day (Sunday) should be observed as a day of rest for worship of God; 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; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-43; Mark 2:27; I Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10)

12. CALL TO MINISTRY — We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impressed 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 their native gifts according to the scriptures with a full reliance upon Him. He accompanied 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; Matt. 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. (Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; I Peter 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22; Act. 2:47; Matt. 10:18)

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 Thes. 1:1; Acts 16:16; III John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:4-11, 20)

15. PERSERVERANCE — We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace and in 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) aren't able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide and if persistently continued would be eternally lost. (II Cor. 9:10; II Peter 1:4-8; I Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy; II Peter 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-31; Heb. 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Heb. 6:16; I Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32)

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

17. SANCTIFICATION — Sanctification is the work of God's grace by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in the regeneration. 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; I Thes. 5:9-23; St. John 17:17-19; II Tim. 2:20-21)

18. THE SOUL — We believe that 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 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28)

19. THE RESURRECTION — We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of righteous and wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and 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. (Matt. 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. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:31; Acts 17:31; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; II Cor. 6:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13)

#### 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 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 by a majority vote of members present at a regular or stated meeting. He is to be moderator at all church meetings when present and exercise all rights as far as his office provides.

**Clerk and Treasurer** — The clerk and treasurer are to be elected annually. 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 selection of deacons. I Tim. 3:8-13 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 committee of three ordained, 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 their letter only when in good standing with the church; and they 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 the moderator and clerk. Requests 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 of the church, it should be legal and just cause and done in church conference by a majority vote of members present at a regular meeting.

A 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 the members living near the church at one 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.

#### RULES OF ORDER

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

2. Those who speak shall rise, address the moderator, and personal reflection shall be avoided.

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

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

5. Motion 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 Associations, 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. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular meeting of the Association.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.

2. Association called to order by moderator, in his absence 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 clerk & assistant clerk.



8. Reading of rules of order by the chair or clerk.
9. Appointment of the following committees: (a) Resolution (b) Finance; (c) Pulpit; (d) Temperance; (e) Sunday School; (f) Obituary; (g) Non-Represented and Union of Churches.
10. Report of committees appointed at last Association and other unfinished business.
11. Report of new committees.
12. New business.
13. Election of Moderator & Assistant Moderator for next church year.
14. Adjournment.

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