

MINUTES OF THE
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THIRD
ANNUAL SESSION

*Of The Antioch Association
Of Free Will Baptists*

Held with Clarksville First Church
Johnson County, Arkansas
April 25-27, 2024

NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD WITH
Bakers Creek
Pope County, Arkansas

BEGINNING ON THE THURSDAY NIGHT
OF THE LAST FULL WEEK IN APRIL 2025
April 24-26, 2025

Jerry Burris Moderator
Russellville, AR

Jimmy Williams Assistant Moderator
Solgohachia, AR

Robert Williams Clerk
Springfield, AR

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Solgohachia, AR

Robert Williams..... Clerk
Springfield, AR

ORDAINED MINISTERS CURRENTLY PASTORING

David Bishop, 403 Ave 2 NE, Atkins, AR 72823, 479-264-0207
davidbishop@arkansas.net

Jeffery Burris, 45 Grandview, Dover, AR 72837, 479-857-2987

Jerry Burris, 1835 Buttermilk Road, Russellville, AR 72801, 479-284-2355
tgburris@yahoo.com

Hank Duvall, 495 Childers Cemetery Rd, Hattiesville, AR 72063, 501-242-9342

Glendon Garrison, 1431 Rushing Road, Dover, AR 72837, 479-331-0701

Fred Goates, 1795 Buck Mountain Rd, Dover, AR 72837, 479-264-8962
elgoates@centurylink.net

Charles King, 10278 Ramblers Lane, Dardanelle, AR 72834, 479-970-0309

Kirk McConnell, 10146 Clear Lane, Dardanelle, AR 72834, 479-264-5497
kmministries@gmail.com

Johnny McCoy, 6306 Crow Mountain Road, Russellville, AR 72802, 479-890-5328
johnnymccoy@yahoo.com 479-747-4170

Ronnie Malloy, 1141 Welcome Home Road, Hector, AR 72843, 479-858-2310

James Williams, 437 Oakwood Lane, Perryville, AR 72136, 501-215-7185

Jimmy Williams, 3735 Highway 9, Solgohachia, AR 72156, 501-215-9713
jameslutherwilliams@yahoo.com

Robert Williams, 3894 Highway 9, Springfield, AR 72157, 501-652-1812
melbadw88@gmail.com

ORDAINED MINISTERS NOT CURRENTLY PASTORING

Stephen Cooper, 10144 Clear Lane, Dardanelle, AR 72834, 501-306-9330
cooperstephen899@gmail.com

Donnie Marvel, P.O. Box 469, Lamar, AR 72846, 479-647-9785

Denver Robinson, 297 Highway 247, Casa, AR 72025, 501-727-5432

Taft Standridge, HC 30 Box 350, Pelsor, AR 72856, 870-294-5508

Herb Tilley, 365 County Road 1699, Knoxville, AR 72845, 479-774-5348

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bro. David Bishop	5 years
Bro. Kirk McConnell	4 years
Bro. Bernard Bull	3 years
Bro. Jimmy Williams	2 years
Bro. Keith Bowden	1 year

With the Moderator and Clerk

EXAMINING COMMITTEE FOR ORDINATION

Bro. David Bishop	5 years
Bro. Kirk McConnell	4 years
Bro. Bernard Bull	3 years
Bro. Jimmy Williams	2 years
Bro. Keith Bowden	1 year

HOME MISSION BOARD

Bro. Lavan Robinson	5 years
Bro. Stephen Cooper	4 years
.....	3 years
Bro. Denver Robinson	2 years
Bro. Jeffery Burris	1 year

YOUTH BOARD

Sis. Geni Cordes, Sis. Sherrie Gipson,
Bro. Jimmy Williams, Sis. Patty Burris, Sis. Sam Williams

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Bro. Robert Williams, Sis. Geni Cordes, Bro. Kenneth Crotts

Association Song Director	Sis. Belinda Adaire
Assistant Song Director	Sis. Melba Williams

Please note the following breakdown of fees to be sent to Antioch Association.

Antioch Minutes.....	\$40.00
Executive Board Expenses	\$10.00
State and National Fees	<u>\$275.00</u>
	\$325.00

NOTE: Quarterly Meeting times are the last Friday night and Saturday of January, July, and October.

NOTE: All meetings of the Antioch Association will begin at 7:00 for night services and 10:00 for morning services.

NOTE: In order to host the upcoming Association or Quarterly Meeting, the church should request it in their letter.

NOTE: For the Annual Association Meeting
Host Church Receives..... \$35.00
For the Quarterly Meetings
Host Church Receives..... \$25.00

NOTE: Clerk Receives \$225.00
Assistant Clerk Receives..... \$150.00

2024 TREASURER’S REPORT

General Fund.....	\$4,010.07 (minutes not paid for yet)
Home Mission Fund	\$13,897.16
Revival Fund	\$420.13

THURSDAY NIGHT, APRIL 25, 2024

The 133rd Annual Association Meeting was called to order by the moderator, Bro. Jimmy Williams, by sharing memories and thoughts of the past. Bro. David Bishop led in prayer.

Sis. Melba Williams, the assistant song leader, led “When We All Get to Heaven”, “I Shall Not Be Moved”, and “Won’t It Be Wonderful There?”.

The clerk, Bro. Robert Williams, read the letters. After a motion and second the letters were approved and delegates were given the right hand of fellowship. The following delegates were seated:

Antioch	By Letter
Atkins First.....	By Letter
Bakers Creek	Sis. Tiffany Ford
Ben Hur	By Letter
Cherry Hill.....	By Letter
Clarksville First	Sis. Geni Cordes
Faith	By Letter
Hector.....	By Letter
Holman.....	Bro. Kenneth Crotts, Sis. Carol Otwell
Morrilton First.....	By Letter
Ola	By Letter
Pine Ridge	By Letter
Saint Joe	By Letter
Slaty Crossing	Bro. Lavan Robinson
Smith Springs	By Letter
Sweet Home.....	By Letter

After a motion and second it was approved that the clerk and assistant clerk remain the same for another year. Due to current circumstances the assistant requested to be excused.

The Pulpit Committee was selected as: Bro. Lavan Robinson, Sis. Diane Williams, and Sis. Carolyn Cooper. They selected Bro. David Bishop to bring the Friday night message.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sis. Melba Williams led "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms", "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder", "Heaven's Jubilee", and "What a Day That Will Be".

Bro. Kirk McConnell sang "Take My Hand, Precious Lord". The moderator asked Bro. Denver Robinson to lead a devotion/testimony

service. He shared fond memories and near death experiences. Others shared similar experiences.

Bro. Robert Williams, host pastor, gave a welcome and encouragement to worship to everyone. He also explained choice for the messenger, Bro. Glendon Garrison.

Bro. Glendon Garrison took the stand, thanking for the opportunity and his calling. He shared concerns for the lack of desire to come. He made references to Elijah, the disciples, Jonah, Paul, and others to share that 1. Sin is sin; 2. God and Christ have not changed; 3. Seek and obey God's direction and leadership; 4. Endure. In conclusion, he challenged us to seek and follow God's direction.

The moderator reminded us of Paul's statement in II Timothy 4:6-8. After announcements, Bro. Jerry Burris dismissed with prayer.

FRIDAY NIGHT, APRIL 26, 2024

Service was called to order by the moderator, Bro. Jimmy Williams, quoting Acts 2:1 challenging us to be in one accord. Bro. Keith Bowden led in prayer.

The clerk, Bro. Robert Williams, read the Rules of Order.

The following late delegates were seated: Sis. Geni Cordes from Clarksville First and Sis. Carol Otwell from Holman.

The clerk read a letter from Hector Church requesting Bro. Jerry Burris go before the board.

The clerk read a letter from Slaty Crossing Church requesting a loan of \$10,000 for remodeling. The Home Missions Board was in agreement of this loan. After a motion and second, there was some explanation of the improvements. The body approved the loan.

Bro. Robert Williams, the clerk, read a Treasurer's Report. This was accepted, after a motion and second.

The following yearly reports were read by the clerk:

FINANCE

Sixteen churches sent \$325 each for a total of \$5,200.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sixteen churches reported having Sunday School.

TEMPERANCE

There were no reported cases concerning temperance.

NON-REPRESENTED AND UNION OF CHURCHES

Twelve churches were represented by letter and four churches had delegates present.

OBITUARY

There were ten deaths since our last annual meeting. We pay our last respects by listing them below along with their home church:

Bakers Creek	Sis. Lorene Howie
Cherry Hill.....	Bro. Malvin Brand
Ola	Bro. Dewey Joe Lewis
Pine Ridge	Bro. George Davis
	Sis. Donna Davis
	Sis. Mary Wiggins
	Sis. Debbie Duvall
Saint Joe	Bro. Tommy Brook
Smith Springs	Sis. Louise Hubbard
	Sis. Johnnie Sue Harrell

It was reported that the association revival was very good. Bro. Jeff Henderson brought both spirit filled and necessary messages. There is much room for improvement in attendance. After discussion, a motion and second was followed by approval for a 2024 revival. The revival committee was selected as Bro. Lavan Robinson, Bro. Gary Adaire, and Bro. Bernard Bull. Slaty Crossing requested and was approved as the host for the revival which is planned for the first full week in October.

The Executive Board had no report at this time. The five-year position was filled by Bro. David Bishop.

The Home Mission Board recommended the \$10,000 loan to Slaty Crossing. The five-year position was filled by Bro. Lavan Robinson. The three-year position was selected to be Bro. Glendon Garrison, however, due to health issues he declined.

Sis. Geni Cordes gave the Free Will Baptist Women's Ministry report. She reported on past meetings and encouraged all ladies to

get involved. Sis. Lisa Bowden reminded the ladies of the State Women's Retreat in September.

The 2024-2025 Resolution Committee was approved as Bro. Robert Williams, Sis. Geni Cordes, and Bro. Kenneth Crotts.

Delegates to the state meeting were selected as Sis. Geni Cordes, Sis. Donna Eubanks, Bro. Kenneth Crotts, and Sis. Melba Williams.

It was suggested and approved to keep Sis. Belinda Adaire as song leader and Sis. Melba Williams as the assistant.

Bakers Creek volunteered and was accepted as the host for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sis. Belinda Adaire led "When We All Get to Heaven" and "When I See the Blood". Bro. Darrell Robinson and Sis. Belinda Adaire sang "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow".

The moderator called for a time of altar prayer. Bro. Bernard Bull led in prayer.

Bro. David Bishop took the stand for the message. His title was "The Preaching of the Cross" from I Corinthians 1:18-25. 1. God cannot be found by man's wisdom (vs. 21a), 2. God chose to be found through preaching (vs. 21b), 3. God chose Christ to be the power and wisdom of God for man's salvation (vs. 24). Other scriptures included II Timothy 3:7, Proverbs 14:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Hebrews 9:27. A very informative and important message was shared. His conclusion stated that God alone is to be praised.

After announcements, Bro. Kenneth Crotts dismissed with prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 27, 2024

Service was called to order by the moderator, Bro. Jimmy Williams, reminding us of the meaning of this service. Bro. Denver Robinson led in prayer. Sis. Belinda Adaire led "There Is Power in the Blood" and "He Set Me Free".

The memorial service was as follows:

Bro. Fred Goates spoke in memory of Bro. Malvin Brand from Cherry Hill.

Bro. Tim Via spoke in memory of Sis. Lorene Howie from Bakers Creek.

Bro. David Bishop spoke in memory of Bro. Tommy Brock from Saint Joe.

Bro. Robert Williams read the remaining names and encouraged us to keep the memories.

Bro. Jimmy Williams, the moderator, concluded this part by defining *rest* with the Lord. He then led in prayer to transition into business.

Sis. Tiffany Ford was seated as a late delegate from Bakers Creek.

Sis. Becky Turner was recognized as a visitor.

Bro. Keith Bowden gave the Executive Board report. Bro. James M. Williams completed his year in the bounds of the association. Bro. Jerry Burris met with the board and was recommended for full fellowship. This motion was seconded and then approved.

Bro. Jerry Burris was elected as the moderator. Bro. Jimmy Williams was elected as the assistant moderator.

Bro. Robert Williams read the Minister's Diary corrections.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Clarksville First.

After a motion, second, and approval, the 133rd session was closed with prayer by Bro. Bernard Bull.

Resolution Concerning Divorced and Remarried Ministers

As a matter of record that the issue has been discussed and acted upon by the Executive Board and the Association; Be it resolved:

1. That the recommendation be recorded in the next minute of the Association.
2. That a listing be added to the ministers listing in our ministers diary, entitled Available for Services, other than Pastoring.
3. That a minister's card be issued to approved ministers.

Divorced and Remarried Ministers of the Antioch Association

1. Must have been originally ordained in the Antioch Association.
2. Must currently belong to a church in good standing in the Antioch Association.
3. Must have the recommendation of both the church, to which he belongs, and the pastor of that church.
4. Must meet with the examining committee of the Antioch Association.
5. Must fill out and sign the provided questionnaire.
6. A minister's card will be presented to the minister.
7. The minister will not be a standing delegate of the Association. But he may be sent as one of his church's elected delegates to any meeting of the Association.
8. The minister cannot pastor a church in the Antioch Association (as Pastor or Interim Pastor). He cannot conduct business meetings or administer the Ordinances of the Church.
9. The minister may fill in for a pastor, preach revivals, conduct weddings or funerals, visit hospitals, nursing homes, jails, and prisons as a representative of his church and of the Antioch Association.
10. The minister cannot pastor a church outside of the Antioch Association and maintain his status within the Antioch Association just by keeping his membership at his qualifying church.
11. If sufficient concerns are brought to Association Officers or Executive Committee members, regarding compliance with this Agreement, the minister will meet with the Examining Board to provide clarification of the issue in question.

NOTES

Church	Moderator This Year	Moderator Last Year	Clerk and Address	Members Received	Members Dismissed	Members Died	Active Members	Total Members	Sunday School	Worship Service	Association Fees	Paid Pastor	Days of Meeting
Antioch	Jimmy Williams	Jimmy Williams	Charlotte Bryan, P.O. Box 10328, Russellville, AR 72812				12		10	15	325	\$20,800	FT
Atkins First	Johnny McCoy	Johnny McCoy	Bridgett Delancey, 1845 Saint Joe Road, Atkins, AR 72823	4	11	0	295	288	60	200	325	\$63,250	FT
Bakers Creek			Donna Eubanks, 114 Jackson Lane, Rsvl., AR 72802			1	6	7	12	14	325		FT
Ben Hur	Glendon Garrison	Glendon Garrison	Carolyn Cooper, HC 30 Box 130A, Pelsor, AR 72856	0	0	0	12	35	12	14	325	\$6,000	FT
Cherry Hill	Fred Goates	Fred Goates	Shelby Bull, 3449 Hwy 60 W, Perryville, AR 72126			1	29	140	20	23	325	\$11,200	FT
Clarksville First	Robert Williams	Robert Williams	Gloria Mason, 819 CR 3701, Lamar, AR 72846	0	2	0	5	45	8	14	325	\$11,035	FT
Faith		James Morris	Michael Crossland, 19800 McPherson, Mabelvale, AR 72103	4			12	35	14	18-22	325	\$14,400	FT
Hector	Jerry Burris	Terry Latham	Jeanne Laymon, 15705 SR 105 N, Hector, AR 72843	3	2		20	30	8	15	325	\$9,100	FT
Holman	Jeffery Burris	Jeffery Burris	Barbara Pearson, 3090 CR 3867, Lamar, AR 72846				13		11	18	325	\$10,400	FT
Morrilton First	Charles King	Charles King	Becky Ward, 19 Housley Drive, Plumerville, AR 72127	11			35	62	33	45	325	\$0	FT
Ola First			Sue Pyburn, #2 Pyburn Lane, Casa, AR 72025		3	1	35	115	28	36	325	\$0	FT
Pine Ridge	Hank Duvall	Hank Duvall	Michelle Bartlett, 2164 Davis Road, Atkins, AR 72823	0	0	4	22	59	2	23	325	\$2,700	FT
St. Joe	David Bishop	David Bishop	Patsy Pete Duvall, 358 Hurrigan Road, Atkins, AR 72823	1		1	43	51	31	48	325	\$15,900	FT
Slaty Crossing	Kirk McConnell	Kirk McConnell	Christy Robinson, 4 Saddler Bend Road, Casa, AR 72025	1	0	0	36	54	55	70	325	\$24,600	FT
Smith Springs	James M. Williams		Becky Matchett Clark, 19 Allred Loop, Morrilton, AR 72110	7	0	2	21	48	17	36	325	\$15,300	FT
Sweet Home	Ronnie Molloy	Ronnie Molloy	Dorothy Jackson, 1200 SW 12 th St, Atkins, AR 72823	0		0	25	46	18	35	325	\$18,775	FT

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the word of God as our rule and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements 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."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and special worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances 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.

We agree to accept Christian admonition 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.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end, we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, 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 experience we, the Churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon 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 of government:

1. A. We are Amillennial in belief and wish to discourage churches in the Association from preaching those of different beliefs.
- B. We do not, and will not, allow those who have more than one living wife, (or their wives have more than one living husband), to pastor in

this Association.

- C. We believe in, and practice, the ordinances of the gospel, Baptism (by immersion), the Lords Supper (open to all), and the Washing of the saints' feet.
 - D. We do not practice, so called evidences of the Holy Ghost, such as speaking in tongues or being slain in the spirit.
2. 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, Pulaski, and Newton counties, the Association to have no power to lord it over God's heritage nor to have any ecclesiastical power over churches reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.
3. New churches may be admitted into the Association by letter or by delegates, if found to be orthodox in the faith of Free Will Baptists, the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.
4. The Association shall have a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk and treasurer, and assistant clerk, also an executive board, and a home mission board (composed of five members each, with one position on each board filled each year), to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. No elected officer may succeed himself (except by special leave of the body) with the exception of clerk and treasurer and the 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.

Duties:

Moderator – To conduct all services and business sessions of the district association

Assistant Moderator – To assist the moderator and to serve in his absence

Clerk/Treasurer – To keep minutes of all meetings of the Association, publish the yearly minute, make all records of the Association available upon request, conduct official correspondence for the Association, and to keep an accurate account of all Association funds

Assistant Clerk – To assist the clerk and to serve in their absence

Executive Board – To serve (along with the moderator and clerk) as the Association, when the association is not in session; to discipline, along with the church of which he is a member, a minister belonging to the Association, should the need arise

Home Mission Board – To gather information on churches requesting aid from the Home Mission Fund, report to the Association, and make a recommendation to the Association

5. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep minutes of all meetings, be paid for his services, and have the Annual Minutes printed in a timely manner. Any church hosting the Association Meeting shall be paid by the clerk \$35 to help defray the cost of hosting the Annual Association.

6. This Association shall maintain a committee of five to be elected by the body, which shall be known as the Examining Council for Ordination.
 - A. This committee shall be comprised of the members of the Executive Board.
 - B. No one can serve on the committee unless he fully believes in this plan of work.
 - C. 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; the said party shall be dealt with accordingly.
7. Any minister considered for ordination into this Association must:
 - A. Have preached one year in the bounds of the Association.
 - B. Be set apart and have an endorsement for obligation by the church of which they are a member.
 - C. Have the endorsement of the Ordaining Council, or the 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. Be Amillennial in belief and doctrine.
 - F. Be single, or the husband of one living wife, (no previous marriages), and his wife has only one living husband (no previous marriages).
 - G. Have completed a questionnaire from the Association.
8. Any minister (new or returning) coming into the Association to pastor a church must:
 - A. Come before the examining committee. Prior to or at the next meeting of the Association, (Quarterly or Annual) from the time called to the church.
 - B. Complete a questionnaire from the Association.
 - C. Be Amillennial in belief and doctrine.
 - D. Be single, or the husband of one living wife, (no previous marriages, and his wife has no previous marriages).
 - E. 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.
9. 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 a church, recognized by this Association as a legitimate Free Will Baptist 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 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.

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.

- C. 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 in keeping with I Timothy 3:3-12 and Titus 1:6.
- 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.

10. The Association shall have a fund for its support and obligation, 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.

11. 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 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.

12. Antioch Association will meet for the Annual Association meeting on Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday of the last full week in April each year. Antioch Association will meet in Quarterly meetings on the last Friday night and Saturday of January, July, and October each year. In the event of a pandemic sickness, natural disaster, war in our own land, or something of this like, by a decision of the Executive Board, and with notification from the Clerk, any or all of these meetings may be postponed, until a later, more appropriate time, or canceled entirely. Should an Annual Association meeting be canceled for a whole year, all officers, boards, and any appointed committees would continue to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Association. Should any urgent business arise, the Executive Board, along with the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, shall handle such business. As long as it does not concern making Constitutional changes, purchase of property or buildings, or any extravagant expense, (unless the body has given permission and authority to the Board or Committee).

13. 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, that said vacancy may be filled, providing some official or delegate from said church recommended others for said vacancies.

14. Letters from 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, and amount paid pastor.

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

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

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

18. **POLICY ON MARRIAGE & HUMAN SEXUALITY** (Adopted April 24, 2015) This statement expresses the beliefs of Antioch Association of Free Will Baptists regarding marriage and human sexuality. It is based on the application of Biblical principles to our faith, our life, and our practice, and is in intentional accord with the *Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists*, especially as expressed in the Appendix to Chapter IV, Section 1, adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, of which this association is a member, in July 2008. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by this association only to the extent that it is consistent with the Biblical definition of marriage expressed in this policy statement.

MARRIAGE,

We believe, based on the teaching of the Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments, that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world and is intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman. This understanding is supported by the account of creation in Genesis, chapters 1 and 2. Genesis 1:26-27 indicates that God created man in His own image, as male and female. The passage implies that the unity of a man and woman in marriage is in some way reflective of the image of God in mankind.

Genesis 2:18 provides a more detailed account, relating that God created the first man, Adam, and decided that it was not good for him to be alone. God indicated that He would make "an help meet for him," which means a helper suitable for or matching him. Then God brought all of the animals to Adam, but none of them was such a suitable helper; so God created Eve, the first woman, from part of Adam himself. God did not create a second man to be Adam's helper, or an assortment of multiple women, but one woman. Together they were man and wife and had "no shame" or sin in their union (Genesis 2:18-25).

Jesus Christ reaffirmed the teaching of the Old Testament when He said, as recorded in Matthew 19:4-6: "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

The apostle Paul states in Ephesians 5:22-32 that marriage is not merely a human institution, but is a special, divine metaphor that illustrates the union of Christ and the Church. For this reason also, only a union between one man and one woman can be a Biblical marriage because no other union—whether of two men, two women, or any other arrangement—could illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church in accord with this Biblical teaching.

Both Scripture and nature as designed by God affirm the life-long, covenantal union of one man, being male as created by God, and one woman, being female as created by God, in a one-flesh relationship. This one-flesh relationship is emblematic of the divine plan for the Biblical marriage of man and woman as image-bearers of God, as well as the foundation for the family as the basic, divinely ordained unit of human society. Violations of this one-flesh union, whether heterosexual or homosexual, premarital or extramarital, contravene the divine plan for the family and for the conception and rearing of children, bringing, spiritual despair, guilt and death to individuals and cultures.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

First Corinthians 6:9-11 condemns a variety of lifestyles including those associated with adultery, prostitution, and homosexuality. Indeed, the Bible condemns as sexual immorality—“fornication” in the Authorized Version—all sexual intercourse outside marriage as defined above. It also encourages Christians to flee from sexual immorality because of its destructive effects and because the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:12-20).

Romans 1:18-32 makes clear that it is not only sinful to engage in homosexual unions, but also to approve of such sins in others or to encourage their practice. As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, we cannot sanction, approve, or promote in any way adultery or any other form of sexual immorality—including, but not limited to, pornography, pedophilia, polygamy, bestiality, or homosexual unions. This is made clear in many passages in the Old and New Testament.

Our association follows what the Bible reveals as the “sure foundation” of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles (Matthew 7:24-29; I Corinthians 14:37). If our association is to bear the name *Christian* authentically, we are called to teach and practice these teachings and are not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority. Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, if the two come into conflict about matters as foundational as marriage, we must ultimately obey God rather than man (Acts 4:18-21).

Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to those named above, are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Lewd conduct; transgender behavior; and the creation, distribution, or viewing of pornography are incompatible with God’s purpose for human sexuality.

Recognizing that we all struggle with sin, our association will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin. We will seek to

love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them toward Christ's power to forgive and heal. While the Bible teaches that those who engage in sexual immorality sin against their own bodies, we also recognize that sexual sin is not characterized in Scripture as being more severe than other forms of sin. We will seek God to discern ways that we can directly and indirectly minister and share God's love with those who struggle with every kind of sin. We also recognize that there is a difference between temptation and behavior and that, while temptation is sometimes unavoidable, we are responsible for our behavior.

ASSOCIATION PRACTICES DERIVED FROM THIS POLICY

For membership in Our Association:

1. Any church that is a member or desiring to be a member of this association that allows any of its members to enter into a sexual union other than Biblical marriage, as defined by this policy, without being subject to church discipline will itself be subject to withdrawal of fellowship by the association.
2. Any church that wishes to unite with this association shall affirm this policy on Marriage & Human Sexuality as adopted by this association.
3. Any church that violates the spirit or letter of this policy shall be subject to withdrawal of fellowship by the association.

For Our Ministers:

1. Every minister that wishes to be united with this association, or wishes to be licensed or ordained by this association shall affirm the statement of faith on marriage and human sexuality adopted by this association.
 2. Ministers of this association shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination for violating this statement of faith on marriage and human sexuality or by officiating at a marriage ceremony that violates the letter or the spirit of this policy.
19. 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; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 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 earth. Took upon himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of 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 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 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, 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 punishments 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 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 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, 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 by 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 invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever 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, the Holy Spirit, in which is represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only ordained ministers 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 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 13:1-18; 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. (Matt. 28:1; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10)

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 their native gifts according to the scriptures with 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; 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 Abel 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; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18)

14. **THE VISIBLE CHURCH** – We believe that the 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 16:5; III John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:4-11, 20)

15. **PERSEVERANCE** – 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 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 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. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32; Heb. 6:16; I Tim. 4:1-2)

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; II Thes. 5:19-23; 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. (Matthew 28:6; 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. 14:9-13; Acts 17:31; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13)

CHURCHES DISCIPLINE

When seven or more Christians wish to be united into a Free Will Baptist 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 Baptist 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 exercises 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 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 baptisms, the Lord's Supper, and Feet Washing, conduct religious meetings, moderate church when the conference by a majority vote grants the request, support the church in its benevolence, look after the spiritual interest of the church.

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 letters 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. 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 a 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 a church; except when a majority of the church votes 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 prayer.
2. Those who speak shall rise, address the moderator, and personal reflection shall be avoided.
3. All motions made and seconded shall be opened for discussion, but debate may be shut 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. 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 vote of members present.
8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the moderator.
9. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular meeting of the Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Association called to order by moderator, in his absence, the assistant moderator, or clerk.
2. Letters from the churches of this Association are called for, read, and messengers invited to seats
3. Right hand of fellowship.
4. Election of clerk and assistant clerk.
5. Appointment of the Pulpit Committee.
6. Introductory Sermon.
7. Reading of rules of order by the chair or clerk.
8. Call for letters from newly-organized churches.
9. Corresponding associations.
10. Report of committees appointed at last Association and other unfinished business.
11. Report of new committees.
12. New business.
13. Election of Moderator and Assistant Moderator for next church year.
14. Appointment of Resolution Committee for next church year.
15. Adjournment.

PASSED RESOLUTIONS

"Be it resolved that each and every resolution that is passed be recorded permanently in our minutes, by year date." 1995

"Be it resolved that any new minister coming into the Association (a newly surrendered preacher or one from another Association) bring a questionnaire filled out (available from a member church) when they appear before the Executive board." 1996

"Be it resolved that it shall be the duty of the Association clerk to write to the clerk of the Association of each church or minister, desiring to unite with the Antioch Association for a letter of good standing." AMENDMENT: The church or minister should supply the clerk with an address and phone number." 1996

"Be it resolved that Article 12, section A of our Constitution be amended." (See Constitution) 1999

"Be it resolved that we ask the "Home Mission Board" to forgive \$6000.00 debt owed to them by "The New Life Free Will Baptist Church"." 2002

"Be it resolved that we elect three for the Association Revival Committee." 2002

"Be it resolved that the letter from the churches to the Association be revised to include: Would you like to host the next Annual Association?." 2002

"Be it resolved that this article 14 be added to Constitution" (See Constitution) 2003

"Be it resolved that the Revival Committee through prayer and thought reach a decision by the January Quarterly Meeting." 2004

"Be it resolved that the Constitution and the Articles of Faith #9 and #11 be revised as printed." (See Constitution and Articles of Faith) 2006

"Be it resolved that we omit the appointment of committees, except the Resolution Committee. If needed, the moderator will appoint the needed committees." 2009

"Be it resolved that the Antioch Association's Ministers' Directory be expanded to request and include the minister's cell phone number and e-mail address." 2009

"Be it resolved that the Constitution #4 & #5 be revised as printed." (See Constitution) 2012

"Be it resolved that we amend our Constitution to replace #17 with the Policy of Marriage & Human Sexuality as printed." (See Constitution) 2015

"Be it resolved that we move the Association Revival to the first full week in October and that night meetings begin at 7:30." (At a later meeting this changed back to 7:00) 2017

"Be it resolved to dismiss Saturday afternoon worship service at our Association Meeting and also the quarterly meetings, ending with the noon meal." 2018 – Point of information – It was then decided to omit the meal.

"Be it resolved that section 4 of our Constitution be amended." (See Constitution) July 2021

"Be it resolved that section 12 of our Constitution be amended to take care of meeting issues." (See Constitution) July 2021

"Be it resolved that the resolution committee serve for one year terms." (See Minute) 2022

"Be it resolved that in the absence of moderator and assistant moderator, an interim moderator may be elected." (See Minute) 2022

"Be it resolved quarterly dues are \$10 to general fund." (See Minute) 2022

"Be it resolved that notation be recorded under the list of committees regarding the youth board." (See page 3 of 2022 Minute) 2022

"Be it resolved that a listing of divorced and remarried ministers be added to our ministers diary, entitled Available for Service Other than Pastoring, and that a minister's card be issued to approved ministers. The recommendations will be recorded on page 10 of the 2024 Minute." 2024

