

MINUTES

of the

EIGHTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

of

THE ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION

of the

CHURCH OF GOD

DENOMINATED

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Held With the

BROOKLYN FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

AT RATCLIFF, LOGAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS

August 31 - September 2, 1956, A. D.

The next annual session will convene with the Harmony Free Will Baptist Church South of Waldron, Scott County, Ark., on Highway No. 71, beginning at 9:30 A. M. Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1957, and continuing through the first Sunday until 3:00 P. M. Bro. B. O. Stahl to preach the memorial sermon on Saturday at 11:00 A. M., followed by Bro. R. G. Lane.

OFFICERS

Moderator—Rev. R. G. Lane Charleston, Ark.
Assistant—Bro. J. E. Phillips Booneville, Ark.
Clerk-Treas.—Rev. Elmer Turner Branch, Ark.
Assistant—Bro. Roy Lamarr Waldron, Ark.

CREDENTIAL AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Bro. Charley Stapleton (3 yr.) Belleville, Ark.
Bro. J. E. Phillips (2 yr.) Booneville, Ark.
Bro. Jim Burnett (1 yr.) Rt. 3 Box 182D, Mena Ark.

MISSION BOARD

Rev. Elmer Turner, Chairman Branch, Ark.
Rev. J. T. Burnett Waldron, Ark.
Rev. Earnest Page Belleville, Ark.

PROCEEDINGS

The Eighty-Eighth Annual Session of the Arkansas Association of the Church of God, denominated The Free Will Baptist, convened with the Brooklyn Free Will Baptist Church, Logan County, Ratcliff, Arkansas, August 31, September 1-2, 1956, A. D.

The directors of the singing were Brothers Roy Lamarr, W. M. Guinn, I. J. Wilson, B. O. Stahl, Lester Bradley, A. E. Sharp, David Harding, Wayne Nunnely, and Sister Robert Hidde. The following served at the piano, Sisters Howard Turner, R. C. Vanmeter, Willie Dene Swift, and Alleta Cox.

FRIDAY MORNING

At 9:30 the clerk called the Association to order. The ordained united in an altar prayer that the Lord's will be done during our deliberations and that His name may be glorified in our labor for the Church. Bro. I. J. Wilson opened and concluded the prayer.

Following a song, the Moderator, Rev. W. M. Guinn, read an opening lesson from Romans 8:1-6.

A roll call of the ordained followed. The following were present:

Ministers—B. O. Stahl, W. M. Guinn, Robert Hidde, I. J. Wilson, R. G. Lane, J. S. Lovett, J. R. Roper, Lester Bradley, Elmer Turner, Bethel Garner, and J. T. Burnett.

Deacons—J. E. Phillips, Forrest Sharp, A. E. Sharp, Homer Robinson, D. E. Elmore, A. C. Gipson, Roy Lamarr, Joe Taylor, Amos Hook, E. R. Lovett, Charles Deidrich, and Claud Parker.

A quorum being present, the letters of the churches were read and the delegates seated as follows:

Branch—Sisters Virginia Turner, Dene Clem, Jean Turner, Sondra Pistol, Marilyn Turner, Fannie Lyles, Golda Pistol, and Pearl Ellis.

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Brooklyn—Sisters Addie Hook, Lizzie Guinn, Nadene Hidde, Patricia Hawkins, Rena Simmons, and Bro. W. G. Hook.

Charleston First Free Will Baptist—Bro. Lester Colquett; Sisters Ethel Colfuett, Martha Stublefield, R. G. Lane, Pearl Wingfield, Willa Dene Swift, Mary Phillips, Audie Sharp, Forrest Sharp, and Bro. A. Stublefield.

Coaldale—Sister Verda Deidrich.

Freedom—Sisters Lillie Taylor, Mae Vanderpool, Rosie Brewer, T. R. Jones, and Doris Vanderpool.

Harmony—Sisters Hubert Smith, Mover Martin, J. T. Burnett, Roy Lamarr, and Bro. Hubert Smith.

Mulberry and Pleasant Hill by letter.

Plainview First Free Will Baptist—Sister Nina Stahl.

Pleasant Grove (Potts)—Brothers M. E. Looney, Ralph Robison, and Sisters Glenta Looney, Violet Bradley, Velma Vanmeter, Hassie Robison, and Lorene Looney.

Union Hill—Sisters Rosa Parker, Minnie Garner, Isabell Hunt, Robbie Garner, Lillie Garner, and Brothers Henry Millard and Ben Hunt.

Upper Spring Creek—Brother Clifford King and Sister Patricia Elmore.

Ranger—Bro. Earl L. Stapleton.

Mt. Olive—By statement and Sister E. R. Lovett.

The following were received as visiting brethren and sisters on motion and seconded, and seated in our fellowship with all the privileges pertaining thereto:

Rev. R. G. Webb, Antioch Association.

Rev. Geo. Been, Old Mt. Zion Association, State Statistician.

Sisters Kathren Brown and Ora Silman of Zion Hope Association.

Motion and seconded to dispense with business until 1:15 P. M. and enter the 11:00 A. M. worship hour—carried.

11:00 A. M.—The congregation joined in singing, "Here Am I Lord, Send Me". Led in prayer by Rev. R. G. Webb. The Moderator introduced Rev. Robert Hidde, the messenger. Brother Hidde read for a lesson, Joshua 1:1-10. Theme of message—"Courage For Christian Living"—Text Acts 4:29. Followed up by Rev. R. G. Webb. Dismissed by Rev. B. O. Stahl.

Noon lunch served on the ground.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Called back to labour at 1:15 P. M. United in singing praises unto the glory of God. Asst. Moderator Bro. Joe Phillips read a lesson from Phil. 2:1-11. Prayer led by Rev. Geo. Been. The rules of order were read. The Moderator called for the resumption of business. The election of the 1956 officers was set before the session. The officers elected were:

Rev. R. G. Lane, Moderator; Bro. J. E. Phillips, Assistant; Rev.

Elmer Turner, Clerk-Treasurer; Bro. Roy Lamarr, Assistant.

Rev. W. M. Guinn surrendered the gavel unto his successor, the Rev. R. G. Lane, who made a short and spiritual acceptance address.

New business continued. The following committees were set up for work:

Resolution—Revs. W. M. Guinn, Lester Bradley, B. O. Stahl.

Finance—Bros. A. Stublefield, A. E. Sharp, A. Hook, Chas. Stapleton, and Rev. I. J. Wilson.

Temperance—Sisters Mary Phillips, Wanda Swift, Fannie Lyles.

Sunday School—Sisters A. Hook, Hassie Robison, R. G. Lane.

Obituary—Bros. Ralph Robison, L. Colquett, V. F. Metcalf.

Hand of confidence given unto the members of the committees by the members of the Association.

The time for the afternoon message having arrived, the Moderator called for a song. The congregation arose and sang, "It Is Joy Unspeakable"; and was led in prayer by Rev. B. O. Stahl. The messenger, Rev. R. G. Webb, was introduced by the Moderator. "God's Spiritual Water" was the thought theme. The scripture setting was Isaiah 55:1; St. John 4:37; Rev. 22:1-5, 18. A very suitable message. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Homer Robison.

FRIDAY EVENING

At 7:30 P. M. we were called back to worship in song service. We were led in prayer by Rev. J. T. Burnett, followed by a spiritual devotion of testimonies conducted by Rev. David Harding. The acting Moderator, Rev. Robert Hidde, introduced the messenger, Rev. R. G. Lane; the thought theme was "Himself He Cannot Save"—Lesson Text, Matthew 27:39-40. An inspiring message. Dismissed in prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING

At 9:30 A. M.—Our opening song and theme was "I Want To Be A Worker"; united in prayer led by Rev. Geo. Been. The morning lesson was read by the Moderator from I Cor. 12:14-31. Having 37 delegates and ordained present, the business was resumed.

Delayed delegates seated.

Letter from the Quarterly Meeting received.

Delegates to the State Association selected—Bro. Ralph Robison; Sisters Lizzie Guinn, Willa Dene Swift, J. T. Burnett, Millard Lamarr. Alternates—Sisters Homer Robison, Fannie Lyles, R. G. Lane, Mary Phillips, and Wanda Swift.

Harmony Church called for the next session in their letter. The body voted unanimously to send it to them.

Obituary report received—(See in Memorial Service).

Speaker for the Memorial Service for 1957 was selected—Bro. B. O. Stahl, the messenger, with Rev. R. G. Lane, alternate.

Bro. Chas. Stapleton elected the 3-year term on the Credential and Grievance Committee.

After prayer, 15-minute recess.

MEMORIAL SERVICE—The song service was well set for the occasion. Sister Mary Phillips led us in a prayer of assurance in Christ's victory. Rev. J. T. Burnett called for the reading of the Obituary—We find that these have gone on—

Sister Della Stublefield, of Branch; Brother L. J. Dishongh, of Mulberry; Sister Lou Suggs, of Pleasant Hill; Brother Bennie Hawkins, of Harmony, and Sister Minnie Peterson, of Ranger.

"These with whom we have worshipped and served the Lord; He has seen fit to call home to glory. So let us so live, that our lives will be a living **MEMORIAL** unto these our departed brethren and sisters."—Com.

Rev. J. T. Burnett read St. John 19:23-29 for the inspiring thought of his message—the subject text was—"Though we be as we be not, yet shall we be". "Precious Memories" was sung in memory of our loved ones gone on before us. Bro. J. E. Phillips dismissed the session in prayer for noon lunch served on the ground.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Called back by singing at 1:15 P. M. Lesson read from Psalms 133 by Rev. Geo. Been. Invocation by Rev. R. G. Lane, Moderator.

The Union Hill delegates received and seated by the Moderator.

Rev. Grady Williams of Zion Hope No. 2 Association received on motion and seated as a visiting minister.

Committee reports continued—The Sunday School; Temperance; Finance; Credential; Mission Board; Treasury; Auxiliary; Each report received on motion (See reports).

Resolutions No. 1 and 2 received (See reports).

The hour of worship having arrived we all stood up and sang a praise unto our Lord. The young brethren were called around that each may bring a message—Reverends Ben Hunt, Henry Millard, Bethel Garner—speaking as the Lord led them. Rev. Grady Williams followed them. We all were made to rejoice in God because of these promising young ministers called of God into His service. Rev. J. T. Burnett dismissed group in prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING

At 7:30 P. M. we were called to worship. The devotional service of songs and prayer was uplifting spiritually. Rev. W. M. Guinn was introduced to bring the message.

Bro. Guinn read a lesson from St. Luke 22:1-24. His text was taken from St. John 13:14; 14:15. Subject "The Communion and Feet Washing." Thirty-eight partaken of the Communion and 27 washed one another's feet in obedience to the command of Christ—"I your

Lord and Master, have washed your feet; Ye also ought to wash one another's feet; For I have given you an EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU." St. John 13:14-15. Much praising of the Lord's name continued during the service. Rev. Geo. Been dismissed the session in prayer.

SUNDAY MORNING

Called to Sunday Study at 10:00 A. M. by singing and reading of Psalms 24 with united prayer. Bro. Elmer Turner, acting Moderator, with Bro. Robert Hidde, acting Clerk. Bro. Joe Phillips was introduced to bring the Sunday School lesson to the gathering. Lesson text from James 2:1-13. Subject of discussion—"Democracy in Christian Fellowship". Forty-eight were present. Attention good. Collection \$6.77 to be used in the promotion of the youth movement in the Association.

The hour of worship having arrived, we all united in singing; Sister Mary Phillips led us in prayer. Rev. Geo. Been was introduced to bring the message. Lesson read—Eph. 2. Text taken from Eph. 5:23; Subject—"The Church." Message was well fitting. Dismissed by prayer for lunch which was served on the ground.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Service was resumed at 1:15 P. M. by congregational singing and prayer by Brother Sam Sutherland. A special song—"Supper Time"—was rendered by the Branch youth, who also read the story of "The City of God".

The speakers were introduced—Reverends Lester Bradley and David Harding. Bro. Bradley spoke from I John 3:8 and Col. 2:6; subject—"Deliverance". Bro. Harding followed with his thoughts from II Tim. 4:8; subject—"A Crown of Life". Both messages were in harmony and in the Spirit.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS—We wish to offer our thanks to Brooklyn Church and the communities who shared in the entertaining for their splendid manner in which they have entertained the delegates, ministers, deacons, and visiting brethren during this session. Thus we have enjoyed another wonderful Christian fellowship of God's children in love and harmony. We pray that the grace of God may continue with each of you. Amen.

Unanimously accepted with a hearty Christian handshake with one another.

Rev. R. G. Lane, Moderator.

Rev. Elmer Turner, Clerk.

Board and Committee Reports

SUNDAY SCHOOL—There are 14 churches in our Association. We have reported 12 Sunday Schools being conducted. There has been an increase in attendance over last year's report. We recommend that our Free Will Baptist Literature should be used in our Sunday Schools if possible—because, we know that our literature is sound in doctrine. We urge parents to go with their children to Sunday School.—Sunday School Committee.

TEMPERANCE—We find that Satan has many ways to draw our minds from God and to destroy the souls of men; namely, worldly amusements, Sunday recreations, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, and many others too numerous to mention. We pray that the children of God stay with Paul who said, "Taste not, touch not, nor handle not." We further pray that each pastor preach on temperance in each of his charge.—Temperance Committee.

CREDENTIAL—The Credential Committee recommends that the Union Hill Church may proceed to license Brothers Henry Millard and Ben Hunt to preach for a year on trial.—Committee.

RESOLUTIONS: NO. 1—Be it resolved that we have an evangelist for the year of 1956-57 (Left to the Mission Board).

NO. 2—Be it resolved that our clerk correct Article 1 of our Constitution, the clause reading now, "Not exceeding three," to read, "Not exceeding five." And include a clause, "The wife of each ordained and the clerk of each church shall be a member when present.—Credential Committee.

FINANCE—We have received from Branch \$5.00; Brooklyn \$6.00; Charleston First Free Will \$5.00; Coaldale \$5.00; Freedom \$5.00; Harmony \$21.00; Mulberry \$6.00; Mt. Olive \$2.00; Plainview \$5.00; Pleasant Grove (Potts) \$10.00; Pleasant Hill \$5.00; Union Hill \$11.00; Upper Spring Creek \$12.75; Ranger \$3.00; Special \$29.08; Rev. I. J. Wilson \$5.00; Sunday morning offering \$6.77, which was turned to the associational treasurer. We find the treasurer's books all in order.—Finance Committee.

TREASURER—I do hereby submit this financial statement of the Arkansas Association and of the Quarterly Meeting of same—

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| Balance as reported September 2, 1955 | \$223.32 |
| Received September 2, 1955 | 136.97 |
| Reported to the Quarterly Meetings during year— | |
| Branch | \$60.50 |
| Brooklyn | 12.00 |
| Charleston First F. W. B. | 20.00 |
| Coaldale | 20.00 |

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| Freedom | 12.00 | |
| Harmony | 59.74 | |
| Mulberry | 24.25 | |
| Pleasant Hill | 14.00 | |
| Plainview First F. W. B. | 2.00 | |
| Pleasant Grove (Potts) | 5.00 | |
| Union Hill | 10.00 | |
| Upper Spring Creek | 30.00 | |
| Ranger | 14.00 | |
| Rev. B. A. Artman | 3.00 | |
| Offerings for Host Church | 34.27 | |
| Annual Association | 3.47 | \$325.63 |
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| Total | | \$685.92 |

PAID OUT—

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| Arkansas State Association, 1955 | \$55.00 | |
| Booneville Democrat, Printing | 74.97 | |
| Annual Ass'n. to Quarterly Meeting | 3.49 | |
| Postage for 1955-56 | 20.48 | |
| Printing, Rev. R. G. Lane | 15.00 | |
| Host Churches | 33.87 | |
| State Budget to State Association | 150.00 | |
| State Home Mission Board | 50.00 | |
| Freedom Church, 7-28-56 | 25.00 | |
| Mission Evangelist, by donor | 25.00 | \$452.79 |
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Balance in Treasury August 27, 1956 \$233.13

Accounts Credited According to Local Budgets—

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| Local Home Mission Board | \$178.22 | |
| Local Ass'n. and Quarterly Meeting | 54.91 | \$233.13 |

I do certify that this statement is true as recorded in the record of the Association.—Rev. Elmer Turner, Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE MISSION BOARD

Brethren, we, the Mission Board, wish to submit to you this report of our activities during the past year.

Our work has been among the smaller churches during the year. Also, we have investigated new fields in the cities of our district where we have no organization, for the possibility of organizing a church in same.

Bro. J. T. Burnett while doing pastoral work has conducted two evangelistic campaigns, one at Ranger and one at Upper Spring Creek, in the early spring. Each was hindered by bad weather, yet the results was very good with two conversions and two uniting

with the church. He also visited Paris and did some personal work in searching for members of the Free Will Baptist and the prospect of organizing a church in that city. We hope to be able to follow up this work with a revival soon at Paris.

In June we organized an evangelistic team for a series of services during the next few months. This team consisted of Rev. Grady Williams, Rev. David Harding, assistant pastor at Branch, and Brother Elmer Turner.

In our opening campaign at Branch on the third Sunday in June, the Lord poured out a wonderful blessing on the weeks meeting. Resulted in a revival of the church and one conversion.

Early in June we received an urgent call from Union Hill church. We responded to their call and held a called conference with the deacon board and pastor. We succeeded in encouraging them to continue their labor and we would send them help, so Brother Earnest Page, a member of the Mission Board, went to their aid, to help organize them for a revival as soon as would be possible.

The Evangelistic team went to Upper Spring Creek Church on July 15th. The congregation was large and the interest was good. The result was four conversions and four additions to the church. Also, a general revival among the christians in the community.

Having received word from Brother Page that the Union Hill was ready for a special campaign in the Lord, we entered this field with the team, although we lost the service of Brother David Harding, we had the fortune of adding Brother Bethel Garner and Bro. Earnest Page to the team. The people were moved of the Spirit to hear the gospel. The congregation was large from the very first night. The results of this campaign could not be measured in the number of confessions, while there were many, but the fellowship of the children of God. The church was almost doubled in number.

We are greatly indebted to each church and the brethren throughout the Association for their cooperation in prayer and gifts for the Mission work. We believe that all has been accomplished through your labor in the Lord. Pray that the Lord will continue to lead and bless this work in our Association. We are, your Mission Board.

Rev. Elmer Turner, Rev. J. T. Burnett,
Rev. Earnest Page.

QUARTERLY MEETING LETTER—Brethren: The Quarterly Meeting has had four meetings during the year. Each was well attended by the churches of our Association. Our churches are at peace and in harmony. The ministerial force has been very cooperative in the work of the Lord; each one that is able has been active as

pastor of some church or preaching in some community where their service is needed.

We take great pleasure in commending each minister that is on our 1955 roster as worthy of our continued fellowship, except that of Rev. J. S. Branch, who has united with a church outside our jurisdiction. We also wish to add the name of Rev. Earnest Page, who has been recently ordained.

Each deacon, as given in our roster, has been lovingly commended by their churches. We wish to add to this list the name of Bro. Forrest Sharp, who was ordained during our second Quarterly Meeting with the Charleston First Free Will Baptist Church January 2, 1956.

We humbly bow our heads in memory of our beloved deacon, L. J. Dishongh, whom God has called from his labor here, and pray that the grace of God will rest with his companions and loved ones, who await the day of their reuniting around the throne of God.

We commend the new budget system which accomplished much in the needed support of the Lord's work from the local churches to the National Association.

May the Lord bless you all in your deliberations.

The Quarterly Meeting.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY—The Charleston First Free Will Baptist Church organized a Women's Auxiliary January 10, 1956, with 8 charter members. There have been added 7 since the organization. The average attendance during the year was 12.

The activities during the year consisted of special study courses on the manual; special prayer programs; personal prayer services in the homes of the aged.

We also raised gifts for the needy valued at \$50. We made a special gift of \$38.00 to our retired minister. \$706.90 was raised to supplement the activities of the church. The per-capita convention dues of \$3.00 was paid. Our offering of \$9.00 was sent to the W. N. A. C. We secured three subscriptions to the "Contact", our national paper, and paid \$13.25 for literature during the year.

We would be glad to help other churches to organize a Women's Auxiliary for their church.

Mrs. Roy Hewitt, Pres., Charleston.
Miss Wanda Swift, Treas., Charleston.
Mrs. Ira Sharp, Rec.-Sec., Charleston.

DIARY OF ORDAINED

MINISTERS

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| J. S. Lovett, Magazine, Ark. | I. J. Wilson, Charleston, Ark. |
| C. C. Kitchens, Gravelly, Ark. | W. M. Guinn, Booneville, Ark. |
| J. R. Roper, Howe, Okla. | Albert Remley, Booneville, Ark. |
| Elmer Turner, Branch, Ark. | B. O. Stahl, Plainview, Ark. |
| C. G. Forrest, Plainview, Ark. | Robert Hidde, 3919 S. Carthage, |
| Bertha A. Artman, 7541½ Santa | Fort Smith, Ark. |
| Monica Bl., Los Angeles 46. | J. T. Burnett, Waldron, Ark. |
| Calif. | M. A. Melton, Rt. 3, Fort Smith, |
| Ben Self, (Freedom) | Ark. |
| Lester Bradley, Charleston, Ark. | Earnest Page, Belleville, Ark. |
| Henry Millard (license), | Ben Hunt, Waltreak, Ark. |
| Waldron, Ark. | R. G. Lane, Charleston, Ark. |

DEACONS

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| W. M. Copeland, Nola, Ark. | Charley Stapleton, Belleville, |
| J. W. Black, Mansfield, Ark. | Ark. |
| Robert Black, Hackett, Ark. | A. C. Gipson, Charleston, Ark. |
| Byron Hays, Charleston, Ark. | Joe Carnahan, Barber, Ark. |
| J. E. Phillips, Booneville, Ark. | Chester Boatwright, Waldron, |
| A. E. Sharp, Charleston, Ark. | Ark. |
| J. T. Hudson, Waltreak, Ark. | Homer Robison, Branch, Ark. |
| Claud Parker, Waltreak, Ark. | D. E. Elmore, Belleville, Ark. |
| Herman Kanady, Ratcliff, Ark. | Roy Lamarr, Rt. 3, Waldron, Ark. |
| Othel May, Danville, Ark. | Orsbern Harkey, Plainview, Ark. |
| Arley Holly, Beleville, Ark. | Loyd Millwood, Plainview, Ark. |
| Clarence Wilson, Waldron, Ark. | S. M. Whitaker, Heavener, Okla. |
| S. H. Brasher, Hackett, Ark. | Richard Huckaby, Heavener, |
| J. F. Robinson, Gravely, Ark. | Okla. |
| Rector Vanmeter, Charleston, | Hubert Hall, Danville, Ark. |
| Ark. | Joe Taylor, Barber, Ark. |
| Dolph Sharp, Charleston, Ark. | Jim Drewery, Barber, Ark. |
| Odell Elmore, Belleville, Ark. | E. R. Lovett, Magazine, Ark. |
| Clyde Bull, Havana, Ark. | Frank Keller, Branch, Ark. |
| Chas. Jones, Waltreak, Ark. | Troy James, Belleville, Ark. |
| Amos Hook, Ratcliff, Ark. | L. McEntire, Rt. 3, Waldron, Ark. |
| J. B. Morris, Beleville, Ark. | Melvin Wescott, Plainview, Ark. |
| Jim Burnett, Rt. 3, Mena, Ark. | Frank Francis, Charleston, Ark. |
| Forrest Sharp, Charleston, Ark. | Chas. Dietrich, Heavener, Okla. |

ENACTMENTS (Revised in 1954)

1939—Be it resolved that the Association shall elect the minister to preach the opening sermon, of the following Association. This selection shall take place just before the adjourning hour of the Association.

1940—Be it resolved that we shall devote 10:00 a. m. service of each session of the Association to a memorial service. The one to preach the memorial service shall be selected by the Association each year before the close of the session of the ensuing session.

1943—Be it resolved that we, the Free Will Baptist, in speaking of our CHURCH, speak of it as, "THE CHURCH OF GOD, OR CHRIST, denominated the FREE WILL BAPTIST."

1948—Be it resolved that the several churches give our deacons credentials and that they shall be required to record same.

1951—Be it resolved that the Association mention in its minutes the different pianists that serve so faithfully during the Association.

1952—No. 1. Be it resolved that our Credential Committee, also shall act as our GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE, as long as we have a Credential Committee.

No. 2. Be it resolved that our Association shall instruct our Secretary to drop from our Roster or Diary the name of any ordained Minister or Deacon, who is not a member of a church in good standing in our union, and reported in the letter of the church to our Association, as an ordained member in good standing.

Be it further resolved, that the ordained Minister or Deacon, who are past the active age, though their church cease to exist, and they are living a Christian life and of good report, we shall retain the name of such on the ROSTER as a member of our Association.

1953: No. 1—Be it resolved that each CHURCH in the Association organize, if possible, a league for the training of our young people, and the general welfare of the CHURCH.

No. 3—Be it resolved that we, The Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptist, shall hereafter this date, September the 4th, 1953 A. D., recognize the BOARD OF MISSIONS as established by the Quarterly Conference of the said Association of Free Will Baptist, as the authorized BOARD OF MISSIONS of the said Association. Furthermore, we do hereby sanction the Constitution, as adopted by the said Quarterly Conference, as the working base of the BOARD OF MISSIONS.

1954—Be it resolved that this Association hereafter convene on Friday morning at 9:30, before the first Sunday in September and continue through Sunday; the Sunday's services to be used in a Sunday School Rally and Religious Services.

CONSTITUTION OF ASSOCIATION

(Revised in Regular Session 1955)

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better church

government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP—This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches or quarterly meetings of our union, not exceeding five messengers from each church or quarterly meeting, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members, and the wife of each ordained, and the clerk of each church will be members when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME—The members thus chosen and assembled with the ministers and deacons, to be denominated the Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the several churches of our union, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. LETTERS—Letters from the different churches represented are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration or denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. Churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. OFFICERS—The Association shall have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Credentials Committee of three ordained, elected by the suffrage of the members of the Association, at each annual Association. The Credentials Committee shall be elected as follows: One for three years, one for two years, and one for one year. Then one each year following to succeed the outgoing members.

Art. 5. NEW CHURCHES—Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. QUESTIONS—No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered in its own church.

Art. 7. MOTIONS—Every motion made and seconded shall be under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 8. MINUTES—The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the amount paid by each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. CLERK—It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. SIGNATURES—The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

Art. 11. AMENDMENTS—Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a majority vote of the members present, notice having been given in writing, and recorded at the last previous session.

CONSTITUTION OF MISSIONS

(Passed September 3, 1953)

1 Be it enacted that hereafter the Mission Board as established by the Quarterly Meeting will be recognized as our authorized Board of Missions, to promote the Mission work of the Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptists.

2 This Mission Board shall have authority to receive funds from the various churches or individuals, in regular gifts, annuities, or free will offerings for Mission work, in the Association, or State, or National.

3 They will have the authority to appropriate such funds to the Mission work as need arises for same. Also, they will, have authority to employ tried and proven ministers for the Home Mission Work, as EVANGELIST, or community pastors in a prospective new field for the establishing of a new church, or the revival of a weak church. They also may receive and account for all funds to the Quarterly Meeting and the Annual Association.

4 The said board shall work in cooperation with the state and national boards in the promotion of the mission work at HOME and ABROAD.

5 Furthermore the said board will have no authority to involve the said Association in indebtedness. All expenditures must be confined to the available funds of the board.

X The mission board will be composed of three elective members and the treasurer of the Quarterly Meeting will be the treasurer of the said board.

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; 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 this 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 tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed 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; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

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 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; Isa. 63:10-12; Eph. 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. THE BIBLE—We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, was given by Inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—II Peter 1:19-21; II Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matthew 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 promise

of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of 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 the 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 great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming Christ.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psa. 51:5; Gen. 3; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; Eph. 2:3.

6. REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION—We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension, paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who came 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; Isaiah 15:22.

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 on 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.—St. John 3; Matt. 19:13-22; II Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-26; Eph. 2.

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 1:5-25; 2:9-25; 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 the Holy Spirit, in which are 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 same.—Matt. 3; Pet. 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:45; Matt. 28:19.

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

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming.—Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

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; 31:12-17; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 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 gift 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; 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 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; III John 9:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:4-20.

15. PERSEVERANCE—We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere 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 side-step and willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued, would be eternally lost.—II Cor. 5:10; I Pet. 2:2; Rom. 8:35; Apostasy: II Pet. 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; 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 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.

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

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

19. 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 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

20. JUDGMENT—We believe that there will be a general universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness.—II Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31; Matt. 25:32; Rom. 2:1-16; Mark 9:43-48.

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.

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 social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of 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 influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will 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.

RULES OF ORDINATION

1. Do you believe in the Total Depravity of the human heart? Answer—No.

2. Do you believe that infants are saved while in a state of innocence? Answer—I do.

3. Do you believe in a Full and Free Salvation to all who will accept it on the Gospel terms? Answer—I do.

4. Do you believe in a burial of a believer in Christ with water after he has been baptized into Christ by the Holy Ghost is the only baptism? Answer—I do.

5. Do you believe that any man has a right in the Gospel to repeat baptism to such a subject? Answer—No.

6. Do you believe that Communion, Feet Washing and Baptism are Gospel Ordinances and are to be taught and practiced until He comes again? Answer—I do.

7. Will you solemnly pledge yourself to preach and practice the same, God being your helper? Answer—I will by the help of God.

8. Do you believe that none will finally be saved but those who persevere in Holiness to the end? Answer—I do.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded with a prayer.
2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections 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 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 annual 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. Arrangements shall be made so as to insure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto in addition to the business session each day, and the Moderator announces at the adjournment of each business session who is to have charge of said service.
10. 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 Clerk.
2. Letters from the churches called for, received and delegates invited to seats.
3. Right hand of fellowship.
4. Election of permanent officers.
5. Call for petitionary churches.
6. Reading of Rules of Order by chair or clerk.
7. Appointment of following committees: (a) Arrangements for Preaching; (b) Resolutions; (c) Finance; (d) Temperance; (e) Sunday Schools; (f) Obituary; (g) Condition of Non-Represented Churches.
8. Reports of committees appointed at last Association and other unfinished business.
9. Reports of new committees.
10. New business.
11. Adjournment.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

| CHURCH | CLERK | PASTOR |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Branch | Mrs. Fannie Lyles, Branch, Ark. | Rev. Elmer Turner, Branch, Ark. |
| Brooklyn | Patricia Kanady, Ratcliff, Ark. | Rev. Robert Hiddi, Greenwood, Ark. |
| Charleston First F. W. B. | Mrs. Lizzie Francis, Charleston, Ark. | Rev. R. G. Lane, Charleston, Ark. |
| Coaldale | Mrs. Mable McClain, Heavener, Okla. | Rev. Roy Roper, Howe, Okla. |
| Freedom | Mrs. Doris Vanderpool, Barber, Ark. | Rev. Ben Black, Hackett, Ark. |
| Harmony | Ora Hawkins, Waldron, Ark. | Rev. J. T. Burnett, Waldron, Ark. |
| Mulberry | Mr. Ershell Oglesby, Gravelly, Ark. | Rev. J. T. Burnett, Waldron, Ark. |
| Plainview | Mr. Orsbern Harkey, Plainview, Ark. | Rev. B. O. Stahl, Plainview, Ark. |
| Pleasant Hill | Mildred Black, Hackett, Ark. | Rev. Ben Black, Hackett, Ark. |
| Pleasant Grove (Potts) | Mrs. Lorene Looney, Charleston, Ark. | Rev. Carl Paugh, Poteau, Okla. |
| Mt. Olive | Mrs. E. Lovet, Magazine, Ark. | Rev. Lester Bradley, Charleston, Ark. |
| Union Hill | Miss Lillie Garner, Waltreak, Ark. | Rev. Bethel Garner, Waltreak, Ark. |
| Upper Spring Creek | Mrs. Mary King, Belleville, Ark. | Rev. Robert Hiddi, Fort Smith, Ark. |
| Ranger | Mrs. Illa Hancock, Belleville, Ark. | Rev. C. G. Forrest, Plainview, Ark. |

STATISTICAL TABLE CHURCH

| | Members Received | Members Dismissed | Members Deceased | Members Enrolled | Sunday School Enrollment | League Enrollment | Auxiliary Enrollment | Church Budget | Church Property |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Branch | 1 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 15 | 0 | 0 | \$ 275 | \$ 1500 |
| Brooklyn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 1500 |
| Charleston First F.W.B. | 42 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 55 | 55 | 11 | 4600 | 5000 |
| Coaldale | 4 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 385 | 1500 |
| Freedom | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 152 | 2000 |
| Harmony | 5 | 0 | 1 | 65 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 336 | 5000 |
| Mulberry | 3 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 126 | 1500 |
| Plainview First F.W.B. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 315 | 4000 |
| Pleasant Hill | 19 | 0 | 1 | 38 | 45 | 35 | 0 | 405 | , |
| Pleasant Grove (Potts) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 725 | 7000 |
| Mt. Olive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | |
| Union Hill | 12 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 25 | |
| Upper Spring Creek | 4 | 2 | 0 | 42 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 238 | |
| Ranger | 2 | 0 | 1 | 61 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 427 | |