

MINUTES
of the
ONE HUNDRED & FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION
of the
CHURCH OF GOD
Denominated The
FREEWILL BAPTIST
Held With The
EGYPT FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Yell County, Arkansas
June 29-30, 1973

THE NEXT ANNUAL SESSION WILL CONVENE WITH THE
MULBERRY FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH, YELL COUNTY,
ARK. BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M. FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1974. REV.
NORMAN BARNARD WILL PREACH THE MEMORIAL SERMON
ON SAT. AT 11:00 A.M.

OFFICERS

Moderator: Rev. Pat Millard
Asst. Moderator: Rev. Roy Lemarr
Clerk & Treasurer:..... Delano Robberson
Asst. Clerk & Treasurer:..... Jim Spencer

STANDING BOARDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

5 years Bro. Bob Black
4 years Rev. Willie Copeland
3 years Bro. Jack Harrell
2 years Bro. Delano Robberson
1 year Bro. Ronnie Fox

MISSION BOARD

3 years Rev. Joe Braddy
2 years Rev. Bethel Garner
1 year Rev. Gene Bishop

CREDENTIAL AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

3 years Rev. Norman Barnard
2 years Rev. Gene Bishop
1 year Rev. Roy Lamarr

AUDIT COMMITTEE

3 years Rev. Joe Braddy
2 years Rev. Thomas Morris
1 year Rev. Ronnie Fox

PROCEEDINGS

Of the one hundred fifth annual session of the Arkansas Association of the Church of God denominated Freewill Baptist which convened with the Egypt Freewill Baptist Church, highway 80 west of Danville in Yell County, June 29 and 30, 1973.

FRIDAY MORNING

The Association was called to order by the Asst. Moderator, Bro. Gene Bishop at 9:30 a.m. The service was opened with the song, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arm" led by Bro. Bob Black with Sis. Bishop at the piano. Bro. Roy Yandell led in prayer. Bro. Bob Black then led, "The Way of the Cross Leads Home" with Sis. Bishop at the piano. Bro. Ben Black read the Scripture from Daniel 1:1-9 and led prayer. Ministers present were: Bros. Norman Barnard, Gene Bishop, Ben F. Black, Joe Braddy, Willie Copeland, Bethel Garner, Roy Lemarr, Pat Millard. Deacons present were: Bros. Bob Black, Jim Burnett, Melvin Flewellen, Jim Millard, Delano Robberson, Obie Vaughn and Roy Yandell.

The letters from all of the Churches were read. Bro. Barnard made the motion to accept the letters as read and seat the delegates. This motion was carried. Bro. Bob Black led, "I'll Live in Glory" as the Asst. Moderator gave the right hand of fellowship.

The Treasurer's report was given and accepted as read. The Moderator appointed temporary committees as follows: Pulpit Committee, Bro. Jim Burnett, Sis. Ann Frost and Sis. Hunt; Resolutions Committee, Bros. Bob Black, Roy Lemarr, and Thomas Morris; Finance Committee, Bros. Joe Braddy, Melvin Flewellen and Obie Vaughn; Temperances Committee, Bro. Roy Yandell, Sis. Syble Copeland and Sis. Eloise Owens; Sunday School Committee, Bro. Ben Black, Sis. Jim Millard and Sis. Roy Lemarr; Obituary Committee, Sis. Frankie Stahl, Bro. Willie Copeland and Bro. D. A. Martin.

The motion was made and carried to adjourn until the 11:00 service. Bro. Garner dismissed with prayer.

11:00 A.M.

The 11:00 service began with song, "When We All Get To Heaven" led by Bro. Roy Lemarr with Sis. Bishop at the piano. Bro. Flewellen led in prayer. Bro. Lemarr then led, "When the Saints Go Marching In" with Sis. Bishop at the piano. Bro. Norman Barnard brought the message from John 4:10. After the message, Bro. Lemarr led, "Come and Dine" with Sis. Bishop at the piano. The motion was made by Bro. Lemarr that we recess for lunch. The motion was carried. Bro. Joe Braddy dismissed with prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

FRIDAY P.M.

The service was opened by the moderator. Bro. Barnard led, "Won't it Be Wonderful There," with Sis. Bishop at the piano. Bro. Jim Burnett led prayer. Bro. Barnard then led, "I'll Be Listening." Bro. Braddy had the Scripture reading from John 3:13-21 and led prayer.

The Temperance Committee report was given. The motion was made and passed to accept the report as given.

The Obituary Committee report was accepted as read.

The Finance or Audit Committee reported. The motion was made and passed to accept the report as given.

The Sunday School Committee report was accepted as given.

The Credential and Grievance Committee report was given. The motion was made and seconded to accept the report as read. This motion was carried.

Bro. Barnard led, "Victory in Jesus" and "Lord Build me a Cabin in Glory."

The message was brought by Bro. Thomas Morris from Lamentations 3:40-43, "Let us seach and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord." Sis. Stahl led, "God Be With You." We were dismissed with prayer by Bro. Garner.

Bro. Gwinn led, "Amazing Grace" with Sis. Joyce Millwood at the piano. Prayer was led by Bro. Danny Owenby. Bro. Ronnie Fox brought the message from Luke 9:59-62 on "Fear." Bro. Barnard led "Leaning on the Everlasting Arm." Bro. Lemarr dismissed the Association with prayer.

Rev. Pat Millard, Moderator
Delano Robberson, Clerk

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1973

9:30 A.M.

The service began with song, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" led by Bro. Roy Lemarr with Sis. Betty Millard at the piano. Prayer was led by Bro. Bethel Garner. Bro. Norman Barnard led, "I'll be Satisfied" with Sis. Betty Millard at the piano. Bro. Danny Owenby read from Joshua 1:9-11 and led prayer.

The Moderator asked for nomination for delegates to the State Association. The motion was made and carried that we send those that can go to the State Association. Sis. Dorace Bishop, Sis. Frankie Stahl and Sis. Betty Millard said they could go. Sis. Frank Moore and Sis. Frances Moore were also listed as delegates.

Plainview and Mulberry Churches asked for the next annual Association Meeting to be held July 5 and 6, 1974. The vote was taken and Mulberry Church will host the next meeting. Moved by Bro. Delano G. Robberson that the June 1974 quarterly meeting be combined with the Annual Meeting. This motion was carried. Moved by Bro. Norman Barnard that the Clerk send letters to the Churches to remind them of the \$13.00 for the State Association fee and for printing the minutes. This motion was carried. Prayer was led by Bro. Jim Millard; then we recessed.

The worship service began at 10:45. Sis. Copeland led "Jesus Saves" and "That Glad Reunion Day" with Sis. Betty Millard at the piano. Bro. Guinn said a few words and sang a solo "Whisper a Prayer for Me." Sis. Joyce Millwood played the piano for him. Bro. Willie Copeland brought the memorial message from John 14:1-3. Bro. Barnard led, "I'll Meet You by the River" while Sis. Joyce Millwood played the piano. Bro. Morris dismissed this service by prayer.

The Saturday afternoon service began with song, "Joy Unspeakable" led by Bro. Lemarr with Sis. Betty Millard at the piano. Bro. L. K. Ward led prayer. Bro. Lemarr then led, "I'll be Listening" and "Since He Gave Me This Heart of Love" with Sis. Betty Millard at the piano. Bro. Garner read from John 3:1-3, then led prayer.

Resolution no. 1 was read. Moved by Bro. Roy Lemarr we adopt resolution no. 1. This motion was carried.

Resolution no. 2 was read. Moved by Bro. Guinn we adopt this resolution. This motion was carried.

The Audit Committee reported the books in good condition. This report was accepted as given.

The Executive Board reported. Their report was approved.

The Credential and Grievance committee report was given and accepted as given.

The election of officers for the coming year was conducted as follows: Bro. Bob Black was elected for a five year term on the Executive Board. Elected to the Audit Committee were: Bro. Joe Braddy for three years, Bro. Thomas Morris for two years and Bro. Ronnie Fox for one year. Bro. Pat Millard was

elected by acclamation as Moderator. Bro. Bethel Garner and Bro. Roy Lemarr were nominated for assistant moderator. Bro. Roy Lemarr was elected. Bro. Delano Robberson was elected Clerk and Treasurer by acclamation. Bro. Jim Spencer was elected Asst. Clerk and Treasurer. Bro. Joe Braddy was elected for a three year term on the Mission Board. Bro. Norman Barnard was elected for a three year term on the Credential and Grievance Committee.

The Moderator appointed Bros. Roy Lemarr, Delano Robberson, Obie Vaughn and Bro. Guinn to write the Duties of the Audit Committee.

Bro. Norman Barnard was elected to preach the memorial service next year. Bro. Roy Lemarr is the alternate.

PERMANENT BOARD REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

We the Executive Board met Quarterly the past year. We approved the replacement of Bro. Joe Braddy to take Bro. Pat Millard's place on the Mission Board for the remainder of the year.

Bro. Delano Robberson

Bro. Ronnie Fox

Rev. Willie Copeland

MISSION BOARD

We the Mission Board since the convening of our last Annual session at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in the year 1972, have sponsored an exploratory revival effort at Magazine, Arkansas.

It was the intention of the Board to establish a Free Will Baptist work there if the interest appeared sufficient.

The attendance at this meeting was minimal. Those who did attend were already affiliated with other denominations. Their presence was only one of fellowship and a willingness to cooperate.

We do not feel that this area is at this time ready for a mission work.

The only expense for this effort was \$90.00 which was paid for evangelistic service.

At the beginning of the fiscal year or rather as the funds were allotted to our care the amount on hand was \$232.73. Since that time deposits have been made bringing the total to \$406.43.

Less the expenditure of \$90.00 for evangelist. This leaves a total in the treasury of the Mission Board as of this date \$316.43.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethel Garner

Gene Bishop

Joe Braddy

CREDENTIAL AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

We the Credential and Grievance committee did examine Bros. Thomas Morris and Ronnie Fox. We find both to be sound in the faith and practices as Free Will Baptists believe.

We recommend that this Association issue them license. Respectfully,

Roy Lemarr

Norman Barnard

Gene Bishop

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We endorse the last year report. We also ask each Church to have a Sunday School program at the Fifth Sunday Meetings.

Ben F. Black
Mildred Lemarr
Alva Millard

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 1. We recommend that the age of each minister be put in the minutes by the side of his name.

Resolution No. 2. We recommend that the committee on Divine Service be discontinued and our preachers be selected by a committee of three elected by the body or appointed by the moderator at each setting of said Association and Quarterly Meeting.

Bethel Garner
Roy Lemarr
Thomas Morris

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We the Temperance Committee, in keeping with the statement of belief in the Freewill Baptist covenant and the recommendation made in it, agree that we will not sanction the sale or use of alcoholic beverages and harmful drugs. We go on record as approving wholeheartedly this belief and recommendation. We also recommend that all of our churches help and encourage our young people to abstain from the very appearance of evil. That we older Christians have patience and temperance with them, and encourage them to take a very active part in our church services. That we live a Christ-like life before them, that they might be encouraged and thereby make our Freewill Baptist Association stronger and more dedicated.

Syble Copeland
Eloise Owens
Roy Yandell

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We the Obituary Committee find that God has called from our Association and added to His Kingdom the following:

Bro. George Havner from Egypt
Bro. Donny Metcalf from Potts
Bro. Amos Hook from Brooklyn
Sis. Lura Neely from Mulberry
Sis. Cressie Allen from Plainview
Sis. Mae Black from Pleasant Hill
Bro. Ed Looney from Potts
Sis. Bertha Turner from Branch
Rev. C. C. Kitchens from Mulberry
Sis. Leona Adcock from Plainview
Sis. Moliccia Blackwell from Harmony
Bro. Vester Harris from Union Hill
Respectfully,
Frankie Mae Stahl
Rev. Willie Copeland
D. A. Martin

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, the finance committee, have examined the Association books and find them in order to the best of our knowledge.

Joe B. Braddy
Obie Vaughn
Melvin Flewellen

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Beginning balance	\$78.25
Received from Annual meeting July 1, 1972	178.50
Received from Quarterly meeting July 1, 1972	103.67
Received from Quarterly meeting July 29, 1972	307.35
Received from Quarterly meeting Oct. 30, 1972	385.67
Received from Quarterly meeting Dec. 30, 1972	322.65
Received from Quarterly meeting Apr. 28, 1973	438.51
Total	1814.60

Disbursement	
Post Office (stamps)	\$7.00
Mission Board	158.70
Arkansas State Association (entertainment)	182.00
Arkansas State Association (cooperative)	970.86
Arkansas State Association (office furn. & Mach.)	100.00
Arkansas State Association (book store)	50.00
Yell County Record (100 ministers card)	10.80
Burris Office (200 minutes)	149.97
Annual Clerk fee	50.00
Quarterly Clerk fee	60.00
Sub total	1739.33
Balance	75.27
Total	1814.60

RULES OF ORDINATION

The purpose of the following examination is to try the man who believes himself to be called of God to preach the gospel, and wishes to be licensed or ordained by one of the Churches of the Arkansas District Association of Freewill Baptists.

Its further purpose is to examine the candidate coming to us from another denomination and wishing to be licensed by one of our churches. If one has been ordained by another denomination and wishes to pastor a church in the Arkansas District Association, he shall be given this examination and if found to be a Freewill Baptist, the Credential committee shall give credentials.

If deemed necessary it may be used to examine one coming from another Freewill Baptist Association who wishes to pastor a church in the Arkansas Association of Freewill Baptists.

The questionnaire is not intended to qualify or disqualify anyone to preach the gospel but to determine whether or not they who are being examined are Freewill Baptists and sound in the faith.

QUESTIONS

1. Have you studied the Articles of Faith as stated in the minutes of the Arkansas District Association of Freewill Baptist? YES

(If the candidate has not made a careful study of the afore-mentioned articles of faith and is not familiar with them, before proceeding with the examination he is required to become familiar with them and return to the credential committee for further examination.)

2. Do you believe the above mentioned articles of faith are true and correct? YES

3. If at any time in the future you are convinced the articles of faith under consideration are not correct, do you solemnly promise to surrender your credentials to the church that granted them? I DO

4. Do you believe the Revised Edition of the King James Version of the Bible is literally true? I DO

5. Do you believe in a resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust at the last day? I DO

6. Do you believe that speaking in tongues is essential evidence that you have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost? NO

7. Do you believe in the total depravity of the human heart? NO

8. Do you believe that infants are saved while in a state of innocence? I DO

9. Do you believe in a full and free salvation to all who will accept it on the gospel terms? I DO

10. Do you believe the burial in water of a believer in Christ is the true mode of water baptism? I DO

11. Do you believe it necessary to repeat baptism to such a subject? NO

12. Do you consent to the preaching of a trial sermon? (Arrangements for a trial sermon shall be arranged as soon as possible after examination.)

13. Do you believe that only those who persevere in holiness to the end will be saved? I DO

14. Do you believe that communion, feet washing and baptism are gospel ordinances and are to be practiced until Jesus comes? I DO

15. Do you solemnly pledge yourself to preach and practice the above, God being your helper? I DO

Rev. Pat Millard
Rev. David Robbins
Rev. C. C. Kitchens
Rev. Roy Lemarr
Rev. Jackie Allen

DIARY OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Minister's name	Age	Phone	Address	Church
1. Jackie Allen	40	637-2749	Waltreak	Boles
2. Norman Barnard	66	635-4102	Rt. 1, Paris	Brooklyn
3. Gene Bishop	45	272-4542	Plainview	Plainview
4. Ben F. Black	81		Hackett	Pleasant Hill
5. Ray Boggs			Box 184, Huntington	Freedom
6. Joe Braddy		229-4678	Gravelly	Harmony
7. L. A. Bradley		965-2942	Charleston	Branch
8. L. D. Carlile			Russellville	Egypt
9. Bill Carter			Mountainburg	Pleasant Hill
10. Willie Copeland	74		Box 576, Waldron	Mulberry
11. Bethel Garner	50	637-2500	Star Rt., Danville	Ola
12. W. M. Guinn	88	687-2261	Booneville	Brooklyn
13. Eddie Holderfield			Ft. Smith	Pleasant Hill
			Rt. 3, Box 586A,	Pleasant Hill
14. J. C. Holderfield			Ft. Smith	
15. Arley Holley			Plainview	Plainview
16. Hubert Hutchins		675-3346	Booneville	Potts
17. Roy Lemarr	63	637-3937	Waldron	Freedom
18. Henry Millard			Star Rt., Danville	Union Hill
19. Pat Millard	30	637-2849	Star Rt., Danville	Mulberry
20. Frank Moore		577-2368	Waldron	Keener
21. Danny Owenby	26	996-4500	Rt. 1, Hackett	Pleasant Hill
22. David Robins		646-4294	Ft. Smith	Harmony
23. Joe Tidwell			Star Rt., Danville	Union Hill
24. Elmer Turner			Brach	Branch
25. L. K. Ward	53		Waldron	Lamb

LIST OF LICENSED MINISTERS

1. Ronnie Fox	24	638-5529	Hackett	Pleasant Hill
2. Thomas E. Morris	34		Casa	Ola

ORDAINED DEACONS

Name	Address	Church
Thurman Atchley	Parks	Keener
Clark Bailey	Waldron	Harmony
Bob Black	Hackett	Pleasant Hill
Sam Black	Hackett	Pleasant Hill
Chester Boatright	Fremont, California	Freedom
Lonnie Brewer	Waldron	Harmony
Jim Burnett	Waldron	Harmony
Joe Carnaham	Waldron	Freedom

Doc Cassalman	Cecil	Branch
Neil Cherry	Parks	Keener
Donald Cook	Branch	Branch
Melvin Flewellen	Plainview	Ola
Ronnie Fox	Hackett	Pleasant Hill
Loyd Harberson		Boles
Osbern Harkey	Plainview	Plainview
Dwayne Hawkins	Parks	Keener
Troy House		Boles
Audie Hunt	Danville	Egypt
Otis Hunt	Gravelly	Mulberry
Fulton Ison	Waldron	Keener
Henry Johnson	Ola	Ola
Ralph Johnson		Boles
Herman Kanady	Ratcliff	Brookland
Fred McEntire	Waldron	Lamb
Jim Millard	Danville	Egypt
Quince Millard	Danville	Egypt
Toish Miller		Boles
Loyd Millwood	Plainview	Plainview
George Ray	Waldron	Harmony
Delano Robberson	Plainview	Plainview
Homer Robinson	Branch	Potts
A. E. Sharpe	Charleston	Potts
Arvill Smith	Booneville	Freedom
Obie Vaughn	Waldron	Union Hill
Earnest Wagoner	Waldron	Lamb
Roy L. Wilkins	Danville	Egypt
B. W. Williams	Waldron	Freedom
Clarence Wilson	Waldron	Freedom
Jim Wilson	Kansas City, Mo.	Mulberry
Roy Yandell	Danville	Union Hill

ENACTMENTS (Revised in 1973)

1940—Be it resolved that we shall devote the 11 a.m. service of each session of the Association to a Memorial Service Saturday. The one to preach the Memorial Service shall be elected by the Association each year before the close of the session of the ensuing session.

1932—Be it resolved that we, the Freewill Baptist, in speaking of our CHURCH, speak of it as, "THE CHURCH OF GOD, OR CHRIST, denominated the FREEWILL 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. 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 is 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 C.T.S. group for the training of our young people, and the general welfare of the church.

1954—Be it resolved that this Association hereafter convene on Friday morning before the first Sunday in July and continue through Saturday.

1957—No. 1. Be it resolved that the Mission Board consult each other before arranging any revivals or spending any mission money for any cause.

No. 2. Be it resolved that this Association elect a treasurer to receive all money collected by the Association and the Quarterly Meetings.

No. 3. Be it resolved that in choosing our delegates to the State Association that we consider choosing five junior members of the church to serve in connection with the senior delegates. Elected from the Freewill Baptist Church.

No. 4. Be it resolved that this Association pay our Clerk \$50.00 for his service rendered in this Association and for the time it will take to compile the Minutes of this Association.

1960—Be it resolved that: (a) the Executive Board shall consist of five elected ordained — one to be elected each year hereafter, and (b) that Clause A be written as Act 2 of Constitution of the Executive Board, as given on Page 7, 1958, Clause 2.

1966—No. 1. **Removed 1972**

No. 2. We the resolution committee would like to go on record as encouraging the local church to conduct a vacation Bible school each summer.

No. 3. We, the committee, encourage the reading of our Articles of Faith and Church Covenant by our pastors to their churches, often.

No. 4. Be it resolved that we again have placed in our minutes the law of the Lord's Supper as written by Rev. W. M. Mankin ninety-three years ago.

1967—No. 1. Be it resolved that this Association in its regular meeting shall adopt the cooperative plan as was referred to the churches concerning the state and national plan. This plan being 10% of incomes of each church in the Association. The said 10% to be allocated in this fashion: 3% of total church income being retained by the Association for furthering its work, 7% to be forwarded to state treasurer for disbursement as aforesaid plan states. Any funds for any special purpose should be so earmarked.

1968—No. 1. Be it resolved that this Association go on record as approving Article 10 and Article 15 of our articles of faith as they are presently written in our minutes and that we are against any changes in the wording of above articles. And that we instruct our delegates to the State Association to disapprove of any attempt to change the wording of the above articles.

1969—No. 1. Be it resolved the wording used in the amendments concerning the Credential and Grievance committee be changed by leaving off the words of the Deacon order.

No. 2. Be it resolved that a candidate for the ministry be required to carry license for 1 year before ordination.

1970—No. 1. Be it resolved that we recommend that the treasurer give either oral or written report of the financial standing of the association at every setting of the association (This was voted and passed at quarterly meeting at Pleasant Hill on March 30, 1970.)

No. 2. That ministers coming to us from other denominations submit to an examination as to faith and practice according to our rules of ordination.

1971—Resolution No. 1. We recommend that any committee or board that is chosen by the association, other than the mission board, shall be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in the process of conducting the association's business. Mileage to be paid at the rate of 09c per mile one way. The aforesaid reimbursement is to be subject to the approval of the association.

No. 2. Be it resolved that any resolution that is presented to be considered by the Arkansas District Association or quarterly meeting must be in written form and given to the clerk of aforesaid association, before it be acted upon. Under no circumstances will a resolution be considered in any other form except a resolution given from the floor and then only after being clearly stated and giving the clerk time to record the resolution exactly as stated.

No. 3. Be it resolved that a minister coming from another association, State or Denomination be required to furnish names of the church and Association from which he comes. That letters of recommendation may be obtained for our association through our clerk.

CONSTITUTION OF ASSOCIATION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God, denominated Freewill 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 church 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 Freewill Baptist, being composed to 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 withdrawal 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 our dead.

Art. 4. 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. 5. 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. 6. 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. 7. 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. 8. 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. 9. SIGNATURES — The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and the Clerk before the close of the Association.

Art. 10. 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.

AMENDMENTS

Art. 1. — THE CREDENTIAL AND GRIEVANCE

Art. 1. — THE CREDENTIAL AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE is a permanent COMMITTEE accepted September 2, 1951. It consists of three ordained ministers: one elected for three years; one for two years and one for one year, then one each year hereafter to take the place of the out-going member.

The duties of the Committee will be: - (a) To examine each candidate for license to preach and each candidate for ordination as a minister within our Association. Either must be a member of a church within the Association and recommended by their church for the office of a minister. If a minister coming from another denomination desires to unite with a church in our fellowship and hopes to retain his ordination he must pass the examination of this committee and be recognized on their recommendation.

(b) All petitionary letters from a church desiring to unite within our fellowship must be examined and recommended by this committee.

(c) At the request of a church in our fellowship, a deacon they have chosen for their church may be examined and if found sound in Doctrine, the committee may recommend same to be ordained by the Associational council, or if so desired they may recommend same to be ordained by the requesting church.

(d) In case of a GRIEVANCE from any church in our fellowship, and such has been made in writing, this committee must hear both sides and set each witness' testimony in writing, then their decision so rendered must be accepted in their written report. In case either party is not satisfied, this committee may request a joint review of the case from the written evidence, with the executive board. Their joint decision will be final and acted upon without argument.

THE MISSION BOARD

Act II-, The Board of Mission was accepted September 4, 1954. It will consist of three ordained ministers, or two ordained ministers and one ordained deacon; one elected for three years, one elected for two years, and one elected for one year, then one each year hereafter to take the place of the out-going member.

The working bases and duties of the Mission Board:

(a) The revenue for the Mission work may be derived from gifts sent in by the Churches marked "Home Mission"; gifts and grants made by individuals for the use of Home Mission Work; also by a part of the General Revenue of the Association sent into the Quarterly Meetings for the Budget of the Association, as may be granted by the Association. Also by any special collection taken up by the Mission Board in their field of labor.

(b) The members of the Board visit the Churches to organize Mission Societies and to inform them of the need of their activities in the Mission Work of the Association; They will endeavor to answer the call of the weaker churches for help and do all that is in their power to revive them and to supply them with a pastor. They will do their best to see that each minister that is idle finds a place where he may be useful in the service of his vocation. They will visit prospective new fields where we have no organization, and survey same as to the prospect of opening a Mission in same. They may secure evangelist for needed work in the Mission work.

(c) This Board will cooperate with the State and National Mission Boards in the promotion of mission work at home or abroad.

(d) The said Board will have no authority to involve the said Association in debt for their operation. All expenditures must be confined to the available revenue.

(e) They shall report their activities and expenditures in writing to each yearly meeting of the Association: Also to make a verbal report to each Quarterly Meeting of their activities.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Act III-, The EXECUTIVE BOARD shall consist of five members elected from the standing members of the Association; one for five years, one for four years, one for three years, one for two years, and one for one year, then one each year hereafter to take the place of the out-going members.

The duties of the Executive Board will be:

(1) To fill any vacancy that may occur in the standing officers of the ASSOCIATION caused by, either a member deceased or a member moved out of the ASSOCIATION and united with another sister association, between the sessions of the Annual meeting. Such appointee will serve until his successor is duly elected.

(2) The BOARD will have power to receive property or grants given for the Association: They also will have power to sell property or dispose of same according to the wish of THE GRANTOR, or ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF THE ASSOCIATION. All funds so received must be placed in the TREASURY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

(3) The Board will have power to discuss and settle difference of dispute that might arise between OUR ASSOCIATION, and the State or National Association of Freewill Baptist, or between our Association and a sister Association of THE CHURCH OF GOD DENOMINATED THE FREEWILL BAPTIST.

(4) The Board can call a special session of the Association if it becomes necessary. Each church must be given a ten day notice before the meeting day.

(5) A written report of the ACTIVITIES OF THIS BOARD must be given to each ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The duties of the audit committee. The committee shall audit the book at each setting of the Association to see that the Association's books are well kept and agree with the bank book or bank balance.

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 unconformity 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 Savior 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, or its poor, and all 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 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. GOD — We believe in one true and living triune God; composed of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost — equal in divine essence, purpose, power and glory. — St. John 1:1, 1 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, arose 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. — Isa. 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 1:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Eph. 4:30; Acts 8:7-20; 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 Timothy 3:14-17; Acts 1:16-17; Daniel 10:21; 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, Psalms 51:5; Gen. 3:6, 5; Rom. 5:12-19; Ephesians 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 come 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; Hebrews 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; Ephesians 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; Peter 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 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; St. John 13:1-17; I Cor. 11:20-29; 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; Matthew 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:32-48; Mark 2:27.

12. **CALL TO THE MINISTRY** — We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power and 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; Jeremiah 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matthew 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, 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; Matthew 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; Matthew 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 sidestep and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued, would be eternally lost. — II Cor. 5:10; I Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35; Apostasy; II Pet. 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Hebrews 6:1-6; I Timothy 4:1-2; Hebrews 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matthew 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; Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:23; Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 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; Hebrews 12:14; Phil. 3:21; II Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; II Timothy 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. Matthew 28:5; John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 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 judg-

ment — when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad; 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; Romans 2:1-16; Mark 9:43-48.

THE LAW OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(By Rev. Wm. Mankin)

The Lord's Supper was instituted for God's people. They all have equal rights to the Supper, and the right is a birthright. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." 1 Cor. 12:13. This is not water baptism, but spiritual baptism. Again Christ says: "I am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved." John 10:9. "He that entereth not by the door into the sheep fold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." (John 10:1). Christ is not water baptism, yet He is "the door." There is but one door, and Christ says He is that door, and he that cometh in at that door shall have full fellowship and equal rights with all other Christians. "Let a man examine himself, and let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup; for he that eateth and drinketh unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself," not to the church, but to himself. It is a personal matter in judging and eating. The church that does judge and exclude any of God's people is not in keeping with the instructions given by the church of Corinth. To thus judge and exclude one of the children of God is to offend the child so judged and excluded. Now, listen to Christ: "He that offends one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matt. 18:6; 1 Cor. 10:30; 13:32). It is contended that they of the same faith and order should be entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper. I admit that Christ is the true faith, and that His church is true order, and that faith is the means by which men belong to the true order. If this is meant by the same faith, we shall not object; we are agreed. But if sect is referred to, we object. As to order, if nothing but Gospel order is meant, very well; but we do not believe that one child of God should dictate just what another should believe or what church he should belong to in order that he may be in the right church, for the visible church is but an organic body of Christians, and placing your name on the church book of the best church on earth does not make you a Christian. The eunuch that believed and was baptized, what church did he join? Here is faith and here is order. Now we ask if the eunuch were to wish to commune with some of the churches, would he be allowed the right? No, he is not the same faith and order, yet he is admitted in heaven, but could not be admitted to a sectarian table. At the Lord's table all of His people have a perfect right, be he who he may, and when the supper is set and all of God's people are not invited, it is not the Lord's but a sectarian supper. "So we, being many, are one body in Christ and every one members one of another." (Rom. 12:5) And the way we become one body is by being baptized into that body, and, of course, this is spiritual baptism. He that gets in by water baptism, the same is a thief and a robber, and when any one gets into that body in a legal way he has a right to all the benefits and privileges of that body. "For we, being many, are one bread and one body, for we are partakers of that one bread." (1 Cor. 10:17). By partaking we exhibit a oneness of that body. Who is meant by "we?" It certainly means all Christians of all ages. "When you come together, tarry one for another, be of one mind." But let the word of God con-

trol that mind. If it had ever been intended by the Savior that the Supper should be guarded, as some attempt to guard it, God would have endowed judges with power to discern the pure from the impure. But the standpoint from which to judge is water baptism, and a legal administration of the same. So, if baptism by immersion, and a legal administration, this settles the matter, and Christian character is left out, by which some make a woeful mistake; for, after all this precaution, some have been found unworthy of the least of the privileges of the church. To admit immersion to be the only mode of baptism, and a true believer receiving it, is this not all right? Some would answer, "If by a legal administrator, this is all that is wanting." Is it not purely a personal matter? So it is the duty of the preacher to baptize, and the applicant to be baptized. When this is done, each has performed a personal duty. If I had never been baptized and had to wait until I found one whom I knew to be a legal administrator, I would never be baptized at all, as I cannot know the heart of man. Two acting in concert, one acting in good faith and the other not. Every Christian is responsible for his own acts, and not for another. Simon the sorcerer, "believed and was baptized," and that by a legal administrator, and yet it was discovered that he was not a Christian. So we see that baptism by legal administration does not confer any claim to Christian rights, as this proves to be a personal matter: for we clearly see that the apostle, inspired as he was, did not discover the evil of Simon's heart; neither can we know the heart of man. When we do our duty, it is ours; when an applicant, it is his. So we find that in repentance, faith, baptism and Christian duties, all are personally accountable to God and not to man. Various are the opinions of men, and the way we account for them in the capacity of men; and if we use the capacity God has given us we do not think that we should be eternally condemned for what we cannot help. The church of Christ is divided into many members, but is one spiritual body and Christ the head; and they should have the same care for each other that the fleshly body has for its members. Should Christians commune together at the Lord's table? "What God has joined together let no man put asunder." Christians do not feel alike if they do not think alike. They can preach together, sing and love together and should they not commune together? Then a union and free communion is forced upon us. Christ said He would drink no more of the fruit of the vine until He should drink it anew in His kingdom. So as assembled at God's table in heaven, so should we be on earth.

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 all 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 exercise 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 the moderator, in his absence by the Asst. Moderator.
2. Reading of rules of order by chair or clerk.
3. Letters from churches called for, received and delegates seated. And given right hand of fellowship.
4. Call for petitionary churches.
5. Treasurer report.
6. 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.
7. Reports of committees appointed at last association and other unfinished business.
8. Reports of new committees.
9. New Business.
10. Election of permanent officers.
11. Adjournment.

STATISTICAL REPORT

CHURCHES	Membership	Members Received	Members Baptised	Members Dismissed	Deceased	Sunday School Enrollment	Deacons	Ministers	Prayer Meeting
Boles			3	0	0	55	4	1	0
Branch	64	0	0	0	1	35	3	2	0
Brooklyn	22	1	1	0	1	26	1	2	10
Egypt	32	0	0	0	1	29	4	1	0
Freedom	48	2	0	0	0	55	5	2	0
Harmony	71	2	0	0	1	72	4	2	0
Keener	55	5	5	0	0	55	4	1	25
Lamb	37	2	1	0	0	37	2	1	12
Mulberry	39	4	1	0	2	35	2	2	0
Ola	26	5	0	0	0	22	2	1	0
Plainview	58	5	1	6	2	54	3	2	30
Potts	60	3	3	0	2	45	2	1	0
Pleasant Hill	54	16	0	0	1	63	3	5	30
Union Hill	23	0	0	0	1	26	2	2	0

Pastor Salary	Paid Evangelists	Building and Repair	Literature	Others	Cooperative Fund	Foreign Mission	Home Mission	Bible College	Orphanage	Value of Church Property	CHURCHES
\$ 20										\$8,000	Boles
650	\$270	\$59	\$43	\$37			\$53			3,000	Branch
1,758	137	592	52	550			10			5,000	Brooklyn
394	94		74	204						6,000	Egypt
714	125	34	225	334	\$63	\$25				10,000	Freedom
1,050		225	528	92	314	125				15,000	Harmony
2,080	255		808			100				20,000	Keener
		550	206			13				1,200	Lamb
600	110	78	58	581	84	8	65			10,000	Mulberry
780		97	29	33			20			3,000	Ola
1,681	574	1,383	270	4,037	727	1,766	334			25,000	Plainview
1,795	750		74			72	150			8,000	Potts
2,475	333	259	157	235		1,364			\$985	10,000	Pleasant Hill
355			61			22				5,000	Union Hill
\$14,352	\$2648	\$3,277	\$2585	\$6,103	\$1,188	\$3,495	\$632		\$985	\$129,200	Total

(all numbers are to the nearest dollar)