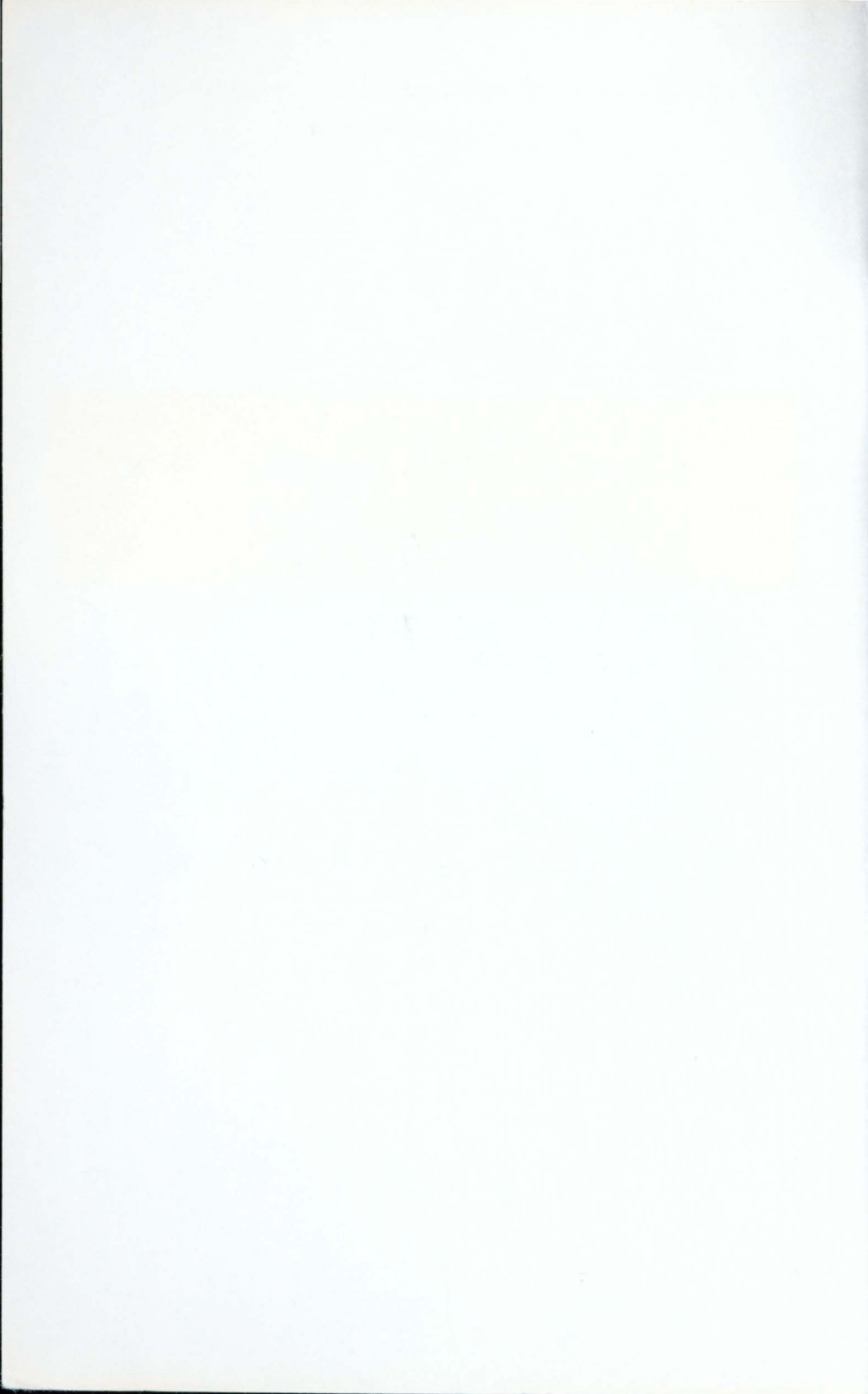


MINUTES
of the
BEAR CREEK
FREE WILL
BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

1996



**Minutes Of The
99th Annual Session**

Of The

**BEAR CREEK
FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**

**HELD WITH
HALEYVILLE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
HALEYVILLE, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, 1996**

OFFICERS

Moderator	Rev. Jerry Plott
Assistant Moderator	Rev. Billy Robbins
Evangelist	Rev. Billy Robbins
Assistant Evangelist	Rev. Orbie Pierce
Clerk	Bro. Orbie Harris

The 100th Session of the Association will meet with Waldrop Free Will Baptist Church, on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1997. Friday Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. on September 12, and Saturday Services will begin at 9:15 a.m. on September 13, 1997.

Address of Clerk:
Orbie Harris
7785 Hobgood Road
Fairburn, GA 30213
Telephone: (770) 463-3565

ROLL OF DECEASED CHARTERED MINISTERS

Rev. Porter Duboise

Rev. John Alexander

ROLL OF DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. W.C. McComb

Rev. J.M. Haney

Rev. L.L. Nichols

Rev. R.P. Campbell

Rev. P.H. Drain

Rev. G.B. Haney

Rev. H.B. Foster

Rev. J.P. McVay

Rev. E.B. Pool

Rev. Alvin Frost

Rev. Zanas A. Frost

Rev. R.A. Sullivan

Rev. Ira D. Garrison

Rev. R.E. Moncrief

Rev. D.H. Henderson

Rev. D.H. Simmons

Rev. Ira Nix

Rev. James Orvil Tirey

Rev. Neri Frost

Rev. Danny Pierce

Rev. W.H. Pearce

Rev. J.N. Pace

Rev. G.R. Porter

Rev. Lonnie Kimbrough

Rev. Wyman James

Rev. Wiley Waldrep

Rev. Perry Box

Rev. Willard Mayhall

Rev. Garvin Page

Rev. Donald Keys

Rev. J.B. Sutherland

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**Proceedings of the
BEAR CREEK
FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

FRIDAY MORNING

The 99th annual session of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association convened with the Haleyville First Free Will Baptist Church on September 6, 1996.

The opening congregational song was, "Where The Roses Never Fade", led by Bro. Jeff Hood.

Rev. T.L. Pierce, Moderator, turned service over to Rev. Dwight Taylor who introduced Dr. Richard Cordell. Dr. Cordell made opening remarks, "Its time we as the church's go to work". He wants to come to each church to preach or help in anyway he can.

Rev. Billy Robbins of Union City 1st Free Will Baptist Church lead prayer.

Congregational song and fellowship was led by Jeff Hood, song entitled, "I Want To Be Ready To Meet Him".

The Association Moderator, Rev. T.L. Pierce, took charge of the Association service and welcomed everyone to the 99th Association. He also thanked the Haleyville Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the Association.

The Moderator also recognized the former Association members and officers who have already passed from this life. Everyone stood for a moment of silence. Prayer by Rev. Earl Butler and song "Amazing Grace", was led by Bro. Jeff Hood.

Devotional service for Friday morning was conducted by Bro. Alton Colburn of Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church.

Altar prayer was led by Rev. T.L. Pierce.

A special song, "I Want Us To Be Together in Heaven", was sang by Bro. Jeff Hood.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Orbie Pierce. His thought was "Faith I'm the Good Shepherd" and his text was from the Lord and from the heart. The scripture was St. John, Chapter 10, "The Lord Is My Shepherd."

Song: "Where Could I Go", it was led by Rev. Jeff Hood..

The second sermon was brought by Rev. Billy Edwards. His text was read from II Corinthians, Chapter 4, and his thought was "Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So."

Invitational song: "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" and it was sang by the congregation.

Rev. Billy Edwards, pastor of Haleyville Free Will Baptist Church welcomed everyone as the host church and explained the process for eating lunch, etc.

Dismissed for lunch and blessing of the food was by Rev. Dwayne Taylor.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Friday afternoon services convened at approximately 1:00 p.m. and assembled for the business session with the opening song, "The Lily of the Valley", by congregation.

Prayer was prayed by Rev. Donald Colburn

Special song was sang by Sister Barbara Butler, "The Best Is Yet To Come".

Special song was sang by Sister Kathy Plott and Rev. Milton Pierce, "I'll Have a New Body Some Day".

The Association Moderator, Rev. T.L. Pierce took charge and thanked everyone for the fine lunch. The Association Moderator addressed the congregation and suggested that in the future the smaller churches combine their efforts in hosting the Association.

The Moderator Rev. T.L. Pierce, proceeded by calling the House to order for the transaction of business.

Special altar prayer for Rev. L.C. Gilbreath, who is in the hospital, and many others was given.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FIRST: Seated Visiting delegates - - None

SECOND - Appointed reading clerks:
Sis. Joan Hodges
Sis. Kathy Plott

- THIRD:** Appointed Finance Committee:
Bro. Wayne Adair
Bro. Ray Butler
Bro. Thad Gardner
- FOURTH:** Called for letters from each church.
Each church in the Association presented their letter and Association dues. They were received, read and accepted and the delegates from each church seated.
- FIFTH:** Called for Petitionary Letters:
Mt. Home Free Will Baptist petitioned the Association to become a member. Moderator brought the motion to accept Mt. Home Free Will Baptist Church into the Association. Motion was made by Bro. Robbins and seconded by Bro. Billy Edwards. Motion carried. The members from Mt. Home Free Will Baptist were given the right hand of fellowship by Rev. Jerry Plott. Bro. Orbie Harris.
- SIXTH:** The Reading Clerks were discharged with a motion, second, and majority vote.
- SEVENTH:** Election of Officers:
The Moderator and Assistant Moderator were elected for a two year term in 1997, expired in 1998.
Moderator - Rev. Jerry Plott, Piney Grove
Asst. Moderator - Rev. Billy Robbins, Union City 1st Free Will Baptist Church.
The Evangelist and the Assistant Evangelist nominated and voted on.
Rev. Jerry Plott, moderator, took charge of the Association through 1997-1998.
Rev. Billy Robbins, Assistant Moderator, through 1997-1998.
- EIGHTH:** The Credentials Committee was dismissed to meet with anyone being recommended by the churches for licensing, ordaining, or granting of the credentials on coming from another church or Association. Credentials Committee consist of Rev. Ronald Watson, Botush, Rev. Jerry Plott, Piney Grove and Bro. John Beck, Adair Chapel. The Committee is to consider ordaining Bro. Wayne Adair and Bro. Anthony Robbins. The Committee agreed to ordain Rev. Anthony Robbins to preach the Gospel and to ordain Bro. Wayne Adair as a Deacon of Adair Chapel.

NINTH:

Appointed Committee on Preaching and Devotion to select a preacher for Friday night, two preachers for Saturday morning, and someone to conduct devotion for Saturday morning. As soon as the committee was appointed they were allowed to meet and make their decisions. Committee members appointed were:

Bro. Thomas Pierce
Bro. Milton Pierce
Bro. Jeff Hood

TENTH:

Appointment of Committees

1. Committee on Literature

Sis. Barbara Butler
Sis. Nadine Nix

2. Committee on Sunday School

Bro. Earl Butler
Bro. Jerry Hicks

3. Committee on Deceased Members

Rev. O'Neal Jones
Rev. Travis Hodge
Rev. J.L. Jones

4. Committee on Ministers and Deacons

Rev. Don Morris
Bro. Jeff Hood
Rev. Donald Colburn

5. Committee on Documents and Order of Business

Rev. T.L. Pierce
Rev. Orbie Pierce
Bro. Ray Butler

ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS AND DELEGATES

Adair Chapel	2
Botush	6
Edgar Chapel	2
First Free Will Baptist Church of Union City	5
Haleyville	3
Mt. Home	4
Mount Zion	5
New Prospect	5
Piney Grove	6
Luverne	1

REPORT OF PREACHING & DEVOTIONS COMMITTEE

Friday Night Preaching	Rev. T.L. Pierce
Saturday Devotion	Bro. Thomas W. Pierce
Saturday Preaching	Rev. J.L. Jones and Rev. Earl Butler

After completion of the sermons the congregation was led in singing the song, "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There". The Association was dismissed with prayer by Bro. Alton Colburn.

FRIDAY NIGHT

We, The Association, re-assembled Friday night at 7:00 p.m. for the communion and feet washing service. The service was opened by singing "Some Day" and "Well Done My Child", song by the congregation.

Special song, "Mama's Gonna Pray", sang by Rev. Ronald Watson of Botush Chapel.

Special song, "remind Me", sang by Rev. T.L. Pierce and Bro. Ed Cothrum.

Prayer was led by Anthony Robbins.

Rev. T.L. Pierce delivered the message and his text was from Matthew Chapter 24. His thought was, Happy are you if you know these things and do them.

Communion was served by Bro. Jeff Hood, Bro. Thomas W. Pierce and Bro. Charles Edwards.

There were 30 people who participated in the feet washing service.

Closing song was "Sweet By and By" sang by the congregation.
The Association was dismissed until Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

We, the Association assembled at 9:15 for the transaction of business, Rev. Jerry Plott, called the House to order for the transaction of business.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- FIRST:** Dismissed the Credentials Committee to meet with any candidates for licensing, ordaining, or the granting of credentials upon coming from another church or Association.
- SECOND:** Called for Petitionary Letters:
- THIRD:** Seated visiting delegates: None
- FOURTH:** Roll Call

ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS, AND DELEGATES

Adair Chapel	2
Edgar Chapel	2
Botush	6
First Free Will Baptist Church of Union City	5
Haleyville	6
Mt. Home	4
Mount Zion	2
New Prospect	5
Piney Grove	5

- FIFTH:** Received Committee Reports

1. Committee on Literature

We, your Committee, beg to report that we recommend the prayerful study of the Holy Bible and use of the Free Will Baptist Literature in our Sunday Schools. That parents read the message of Christ to their children, that they bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord as in Ephesians 6:4; and Proverbs 22:6; "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The Committee Report was adopted and the Committee was released.

2. Committee on Sunday School

We, your Committee, beg to report we find 10 Sunday Schools in our Association. Membership is as follows:

Adair Chapel	10
Botush	25
Edgar Chapel	25
First Free Will Baptist Union City	25
Haleyville	60
Luverne	40
Mt. Home	42
Mount Zion	20
New Prospect	37
Piney Grove	41
TOTAL	320

This is a decrease of 25 members in our total Sunday School membership, this is due in part to the withdrawal of 2 churches from the Association. But received 1 new Church into Association.

The Committee report was adopted, the Committee asked that we pray for Sunday School, 2 Churches withdrew and the Committee was released.

3. Committee on Deceased Members

We, your Committee, beg to report that we had 14 deaths in our Association for 1995-96. They are listed as follows:

Botush	Rev. J.B. Sutherland
Haleyville	Bro. J.B. Akers
Luverne	Bro. Douglas Doffee, Bro. Ronnie Monise
Mt. Zion	Bro. J. Byron Cotton, Bro. James McGee
New Prospect	Sis. Sharett Cagle
Piney Grove	Sis. Renee McCharge, Bro. Mac Whitman
	Bro. Robert E. (Bob) Lee, Sis. Joy Lashley

The Committee report was adopted and the Committee was dismissed.

4. Committee on Ministers and Deacons

We, your Committee beg to report we have 24 ordained ministers and 20 ordained deacons in our Association.

Ministers	24
Deacons	20

This is a decrease of 2 ministers and 4 deacons in the Association.

5. Committee on Documents and Other Business.

We, your Committee, recommended to leave Documents and Order of Business as they are.

DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Rev. T.L. Pierce addressed the Association by reading the documents and order of business.

1. That we correspond with sister Associations.
2. That our deacons investigate the standing of ministers, unknown to them, who try to fill our pulpits.
3. That the moderator be allowed \$35.00 for his service, and that he look after the destitute church and try to fill each with a pastor.
4. That the clerk be allowed \$75.00 for his services and that he superintend the printing of the minutes.
5. That a church wishing to be organized shall call, to their assistance, an ordained minister by our denomination, who, being in good standing with the Association, shall call a presbytery consisting of not less than two ministers or deacons and one clerk of our denomination in good standing. The Articles of Faith and Church Covenant shall be read and adopted.
6. That each church leave the minutes funds up to the Association.
7. That we receive no baptism except it be by immersion, administered by a man ordained by a legal presbytery, and it be done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
8. That we shall not ordain any minister or deacon with more than one living wife, regardless of what the excuse may be.
9. That we investigate the standing of ordained ministers and deacons who present themselves for membership.
10. We recommend that we preach two preachers in the Association while in session, limiting each to thirty minutes.
11. We recommend that we take the Lord's Supper and wash feet at every Association on Friday night.

12. We recommend that we read the rules of the church when taking in members, also that the church covenant be read every three months and wash feet.
13. That each minister make a report of his year's work, either in person or by letter to the Association.
14. That all the ordaining and licensing be done at the Association unless receiving special permission from the Association; if he is called to pastor a church, let the church, with special permission from the Association call a legal presbytery.
15. That the presbytery elect, or re-elect, while the Association is in session, the moderator of the presbytery every two years.
16. That this body will not license or ordain a woman to carry the gospel.
17. That our churches bring their tithes and offerings into the store houses on the first day of the week.
18. That each church has its own 5th Sunday meetings.
19. We recommend that our ministers be given a card of good standing each year and also recommend that they attend at least one or both meetings of the Association in a three year period.
20. We recommend any deacon coming from another church be left to the suffrage of the church as to whether they accept him as a deacon or not.
21. We recommend that no member not attending the stated meetings of his or her church be allowed a vote in the church unless he or she is providentially hindered from attending church.
22. In any case the evangelist is incapacitated, or unable to serve in his elective capacity, then the assistant evangelist shall become the active evangelist and remain so until otherwise directed by the Association Clerk.
23. That a Credential Committee, consisting of three members, regularly investigate those recommended for the office of deacon and those wishing to be ordained to carry the gospel. The Committee is also charged with overseeing the conduct of all standing ministers and deacons in the Association. The Committee shall serve on a rotating basis with one member leaving the Committee each Association and a replacement being elected by the Presbytery.
24. Ministers cards, showing their years work, shall be turned in to the Creden-

tials Committee at the beginning of each Associational meeting. The Credentials Committee will then turn the cards over to the Associational Clerk with recommendations to present or not present each minister a new card. The Credential's Committee will also report to the Association Presbytery as to the standing of the ministers.

The Committee Report was adopted and the Committee was dismissed.

6. Committee on Finance

We, your Committee, beg to report that the Association received from churches \$665.00 and there was a balance of \$250.45. This gives a total of \$915.45 to operate the finances of our Association.

TOTAL	\$915.45
Moderator's Fee	35.00
Clerk's Fee	75.00
BALANCE	\$805.45

The following was discussed and accepted. If there is a need for additional minutes by the churches they should contact the clerk.

Finances for the Association should be depleted then it will be the responsibility of the churches to share the additional expenses.

The Committee report was adopted and the Committee was released.

Sixth: Released the Committee on Preaching and Devotion.

The business session adjourned until after the morning worship service.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

We, the Association re-assembled for the morning worship service.

Songs: "I Never Shall Forget That Day."

Prayer: Rev. William Briley

The Moderator brought the Association to order.

Special song was sung by Sister Gina Yielding entitled, "I Can Almost See The Lights of Home.

Special song was sung by Sis. Dorothy Vinson and Bro. Orbie Pierce entitled, "Pearlie White City."

Devotional service was conducted by Bro. Thomas W. Pierce from Piney Grove Church. Congregation sang, "I'm Bound For That City."

The introductory sermon was brought by the Rev. J.L. Jones and his thought was, "Prayer", from Daniel. 12:22.

Special song was sang by the congregation entitled, "Just As I Am".

Rev. Earl Butler brought the second sermon and his message was from Revelations 2:12.

Invitation song by the congregation was "I Need The Prayers of Those I Love".

Rev. Jerry Plott once again addressed the Association and explained the methods of lunch being served, etc.

Dismissed for lunch and the blessing of the food by Rev. Anthony Robbins.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Association moderator, Rev. Jerry Plott, reconvened the Association and welcomed everyone back for the business session. He thanked Haleyville Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the Association.

An opening song by the congregation was, "I'll Fly Away".
Association held an alter prayer led by Milton Pierce.

Special song entitled, "Don't Forget To Pray," was sang by Thad Gardner.
Special song entitled, "Your The Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me," was sang by Norma Gene Bishop.

Congregation sang, "By The Blood of the Lamb".

The moderator, Rev. Jerry Plott, called the House to order for the transaction of business.

Everyone stood for a moment of silence in remembrance of the deceased members of the Association. The Association read the roll of deceased members for 1995-96 as presented to the Association.

Discussion was made on the 1997 hosting church for the Association. Waldrop will host the 100th session.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Seated visiting delegates: None
2. Roll Call

ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS, & DELEGATES

Adair Chapel	4
Botush	6
Edgar Chapel	2
First Free Will Baptist Church	5
Haleyville	6
Luverne	1
Mt. Home	4
Mount Zion	2
New Prospect	5
Piney Grove	6

3. The minister's cards were received by the Credentials Committee prior to the Saturday afternoon session. The ministers were granted new cards in good standing with the Association by the Credentials Committee.
4. The Association moderator turned the chair over to the moderator of the Presbytery.

THE PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery moderator, Rev. Donald Colburn took charge of the service and proceeded by seating all ministers and deacons in the front pews. The moderator then declared the Presbytery in order for the transaction of business.

1. The chairman of the Credentials Committee gave their report and recommendations as follows:
 - A. Recommended granting new ministers cards to all ministers who turned in cards to the Association. Motion carried.
 - B. Recommended ordaining Bro. Wayne Adair by the Association as deacon to the respected church, Adair Chapel.
 - C. Recommended listing disabled ministers in the Association Minutes. Motion carried.
 - D. Recommended that article 13 and article 19 of the Documents and Order

of Business be enforced and if a minister does not attend at least one Associational meeting in a three year period then that minister will not be granted a card in good standing with the Association unless that minister is disabled

- E. Recommended ordaining Bro. Anthony Robbins to preach the Gospel. Ordained by the Association to preach the gospel.
Charges Anthony Robbins to preach. Rev. Colburn turned service over to Rev. Billy Robbins to charge Anthony Robbins to preach.
Rev. Billy Robbins done a wonderful job in charging his son, Anthony, to preach. It was very spiritual and very touching, something that Rev. Billy Robbins will never forget, I'm sure, nor will his son, Anthony.

2. The Presbytery elected Bro. Alton Colburn to serve out the remaining term of Bro. Bobby Knight on the Credentials Committee, term to expire in 1998. Rev. Jack Beck's term expires in 1997 and Rev. Billy Edwards' term expires in 1999.

3. The Presbytery Moderator Rev. Donald Colburn's term expires in 1996. Elected Rev. Billy Edwards whose term will expire in 1999.

4. Wayne Adair was ordained as deacon by the Association.

5. Closing prayer was made by Bro. Albert Adair.

The Presbytery then adjourned and turned the service back to the Association Moderator, Rev. Jerry Plott.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Donald Colburn (1996)
Bro. Jack Beck, Adair Chapel (1997)
Bro. Alton Colburn (1998)
Rev. Billy Edward (1999)

THE ASSOCIATION

Rev. Jerry Plott, Association Moderator, asked everyone to stand in remembrance of the deceased members and asked Rev. Ronald Watson to dismiss the Association with prayer while everyone was standing.

The Association was adjourned until 1997.

ROLL OF DELEGATES FROM EACH CHURCH

Adair Chapel: Sis. Sharon Adair, Bro. Wayne Adair and Sis. Rebie Adair

Botush: Sis. Bobbye Wakefield, Sis. Brenda Watson and Sis. Evelyn Sutherland

Edgar Chapel: Sis. Vanessa Raper and Sis. Alice Brown

First Free Will Baptist Church: Sis. Gina Yielding, and Sis. Sue Keyes

Haleyville: Bro. Charles Edwards, Bro. Jeffrey Hood, Bro. Thad Gardner and as Alternate Bro. Fernwood Morris

Luverne: None

Mt. Home: Bro. Travis Hodge, Bro. Danny Pace and Bro. Ricky Porter and as Alternate Bro. Richard Franks

Mt. Zion: Bro. Quinton Simmons, Bro. Don Morris and Bro. William Briley

New Prospect: Bro. Jerry Hicks, Sis. Nadine Hicks and Sis. Betty Cagel and as Alternate Sis. Beatrice Cagle

Piney Grove: Bro. Thomas Pierce

ROLL OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND DEACONS

Adair Chapel	Ministers: Bro. L.C. Gilbreath Deacons: Bro. Jack Beck, Bro. Albert Adair and Bro. Wayne Adair
Botush	Ministers: Rev. Ronald Watson Deacons: Bro. Ed Garrison
Edgar Chapel	Ministers: Bro. James Bray Deacons: Bro. Leonard Lawler and Bro. I.J. Borden
First Free Will	Ministers: Rev. Rocky Pierce, Rev. Dewey Pierce, Rev. Donald Colburn, Rev. Billy Robbins and Rev. Anthony Robbins Deacons: Bro. Bobby Pierce and Bro. Oferrel Garrett
Haleyville:	Ministers: Bro. Billy Edwards <i>Billy Robbins</i> Deacons: Bro. Presley Hood & Bro. Rickey Edwards

Luverne: Ministers: Bro. Johnny Ray Jones and Bro. J.L. Jones
Deacons: Bro. Larry Holmes, Bro. Ray Holmes, and Bro. James Holmes

Mt. Home: Ministers: Rev. T.L. Pierce
Deacons: Rev. Orbie Perce

New Prospect Ministers: Bro. Dennis Borden and Bro. Earl Butler
Deacons: Bro. Dewitt Cagle

Piney Grove
Ma Ministers: Rev. Jerry Plott, Rev. Rayford Butler, and Rev. Milton Pierce
Deacons: Bro. Alton Colburn, Bro. Dillard Colburn, Bro. Orbie Harris, Bro. Charles Hill and Bro. Philip Sensing

DISABLED MINISTERS

Rev. George Pate, Waldrop
Rev. Dennis Borden, New Prospect

MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

Dwight Bailey

Dennis Borden, P.O. Box 334, Phil Campbell, AL 35581, 332-3671

James Bray, Route 1, Phil Campbell, AL 35581, 332-0617

William Briley, 1041 Co. Rd. 226,

Earl Butler, Route 4, Haleyville, AL 35565, 486-2307

Ray, Butler, 6828 Roosevelt Hwy., Fairburn, GA 30213, 770-964-6750 ✓

Donald Colburn, 7895 Hobgood Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213, 770-463-2284 ✓

* Billy Edwards, Route 7, Box 863, Haleyville, AL 35565, 486-5619 •

L.C. Gilbreath, Route 1, Box 29, Double Springs, AL 35553, 489-5717

Johnny Ray Jones, Route 3, Box 144A, Luverne, AL 36009, 334-335-6028

* J.L. Jones, Luverne, AL 36609, 334-335-6292

Charlie McGee, Route 5, Russellville, AL 35653, 332-0091

Donald Morris, 1273 County Rd., 156 Town Creek, AL, 685-0638

Dewey Pearce, 7975 Hobgood Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213, 770-463-3944 ✓

Rockey Pearce, 883 Dolly Nixon Rd., Senoia, GA 30276, 770-599-0454 ✓

Milton Pierce, 120 E. Campbellton, St. Fairburn, GA 30213, 770-964-6176 ✓

Orbie Pierce, Route 4, Box 338X, Haleyville, AL 35565, 486-3350

Thomas L. Pierce, Route 5, Russellville, AL 35653, 486-3350

* Jerry Plott, 111 Poplar St., Fairburn, GA 30213, 770-964-5903 ✓

Tommy Reece, Haleyville, AL 35565

Anthony Robbins, Brilliant, Alabama 35548

Billy Robbins, Route 1, Box 985, Brilliant, AL 35548

Ronald Watson, Rt. 3, Box 257, Phil Campbell, AL 35581, 993-4692

FORMER LOCATIONS OF ASSOCIATIONS

Haleyville	1986
New Oak Grove	1987
Piney Grove	1988
Liberty Chapel	1989
Waldrop	1990
Adair Chapel	1991
Haleyville	1992
New Oak Grove	1993
First Free Will Baptist of Union City	1994
Piney Grove	1995
Haleyville	1996

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought as we humble trust, by Divine Grace, to embrace the Lord Jesus as our Savior and having ordained justification by faith in His name as members of the Free Will Church _____

agree:

1. To watch over each other in love, and to pray for each other as members of a common faith, even striving to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.
2. We will not speak evil of another, nor will we prosecute or expose the faults of the weak members of our church, but we will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instructions to Timothy: "That we will reprove, rebuke and exhort each other as members of a common brotherhood".
3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith. But we should remember that our relations to each other are closer and the obligations more binding when we become as a family and assume in Christian sense the care and responsibility that members of a family should feel for each other.
4. We will attend the stated meetings of our church unless we are providentially hindered or uncontrolled circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute to our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church, and will prefer the services of our church to that of any other and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the word to us.
5. We will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the natural powers which the Lord has given us to praise His Holy Name. We will sing with those who sing and pray with those who pray.
6. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking by making Sunday visits to our neighbors which is double sin against the law of God, for in so doing

we fail to attend the house of the Lord and hinder others who might wish to do so. Let us remember the laws of Moses which condemns Sabbath breaking, and the words of the inspired apostle which says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is".

7. We will not neglect secret and public prayers, and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord, and say: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be known as the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama, being composed of ministers, deacons, and delegates from the different churches, forming the same, each church being entitled three delegates and their ministers and deacons.

2. This body shall be considered as an advisory council, but having no authority over the affairs of the churches.

3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs and all matters of discipline, etc. It may however, in extreme cases, call for aid from sister churches.

4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-thirds vote of the Association and the decision shall be final.

5. The officers of this Association shall be moderator, assistant moderator, evangelist, assistant evangelist, presbytery moderator, and clerk. All officers except clerk shall be elected at each session of the Association with no limit on numbers of years they can serve.

6. This Association shall meet annually at such times and places as may be agreed upon by a previous session and shall not adjourn until the business is transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its article of faith and conform to its usages.

8. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary work, etc.

9. No member of this Association shall be eligible for the office of moderator more than one successive term (2 years).

10. Any church of this Association failing to be represented for two years in succession shall be dropped from our minutes.

11. The Moderator shall appoint all committees.

12. All business coming before the body shall be recommended, if constitutional. If the committee refuses any query brought before them, the one who presented it shall have a right to bring it before the Association committee standing during the session.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session, the former clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.
2. The Association will be opened with singing and prayer.
3. The moderator, assistant moderator, evangelist, assistant evangelist, and moderator of Presbytery shall be chosen at every other session of the Association. A majority of votes by the delegates present shall elect.
4. The clerk of the Association shall be chosen at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by the delegates present shall elect.
5. The name of the delegates from the church shall be enrolled and called as often as is necessary during the session.
6. A majority of delegates shall rule in all cases except in the reception of churches, then it shall be unanimous.
7. The moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in case of a tie, then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question after others have spoken provided he appoints someone else to the chair while he is speaking.
8. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the Moderator.
9. No one person will be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.
10. Not less than three officiating officers shall compose a legal Presbytery.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **GOD.** We believe that there is one and only one true and living God. Who is in personality the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal and harmonious in every divine perfection. I Corinthians 8:6, and Matthew 28:19.
2. **THE HOLY SCRIPTURE.** We believe that God is the author of the Holy Bible, and its teachings constitutes the only infallible doctrines for government of His church, II Timothy 3:16.
3. **ORIGINAL APOSTASY.** We believe that Adam was created Holy but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity and consequently involved his posterity in sin. Genesis 2:17, and 3:3.
4. **FREE GRACE.** We believe the Grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessings, that the Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation, that the Holy Spirit not only reproves the word of sin, but its the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise into Salvation. Romans 10:12 and Romans 1:16.
5. **CHRISTIAN FAITH.** We believe that Christian Faith is the belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Redeemer of the World, and in the Divinity of the Holy Scriptures, that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17.
6. **REPENTANCE.** We believe that repentance is sorrow for sin, and the kind

of sorrow which produces Godly repentance being preceded by effectual conviction of sin. Romans 2:4 and II Corinthians 7:10.

7. **FREE AGENCY.** We believe that the human will is free and that men have the ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Joshua 24:15.

8. **PERSEVERANCE.** We do not believe under gospel dispensation the soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally, but that those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved; that it is possible for men who have been converted to make shipwrecks of their faith, turn again to sin and be lost. II Peter 2:20, John 15:6.

9. **OF GOOD WORKS.** We believe that good works is the result of faith and not of necessity; that those who haven't faith cannot do anything pleasing unto God. Matthew 7:18-20, James 2:14-18.

10. **OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM.** We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. That baptism cannot be scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it. Romans 6:4 and Acts 8:36-37.

11. **OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.** We believe that the Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance; that the bread and fruit of the vine represents His body and blood; that it was instituted for Christians and all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of name or denominational distinction; we also believe the Saints should wash each other's feet, I Corinthians 11:23-26 and St. John 13:14.

12. **OF THE SOUL.** We believe that a man is a living soul, that the body will die, but the soul is immortal, that death is the separation of mortal and immortal parts of the human body. Genesis 2:7 and I Corinthians 15.

13. **OF SANCTIFICATION.** We believe in holiness and sanctification in this life by the power and gift of God. Romans 12:1.

14. **OF RESURRECTION.** We believe in the resurrection of the dead; when the Resurrection shall take place the soul and body will unite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness to reign with God forever and ever, "but the wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death", St. John 5:28-29 and Proverbs 14:32.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Invite visiting brethren and sisters to seat with us.
2. Reading minutes of last meeting.
3. Call for reference.
4. Call for peace and fellowship.
5. Open door of church for the reception of members.
6. Call for contributions for church expenses.
7. Call for acknowledgements.
8. Call for new miscellaneous business.
9. Motion for adjournment.

RULES FOR TAKING MEMBERS INTO CHURCH

Q. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and do you accept Him as your personal Savior?

A. I do.

Q. You found yourself a sinner in the sight of God?

A. I did.

Q. And you feel that God for Christ's sake has forgiven you for all sin?

A. I do.

Q. And now you want to become a member of this Free Will Baptist Church at this place?

A. I do.

Q. Are you willing to support the church with your finances as God prospers you?

A. I am.

Q. Do you believe the whole Bible, and will you take it for your guide and live according to its teachings?

A. I will.

Q. Do you believe in free and open communion? Let a man examine himself according to I Corinthians 11:28. Also in washing the Saint's feet according to St. John 13th Chapter?

A. I do.

CHURCH RULES

1. We agree to meet in conference quarterly, or oftener if necessary, to transact the business of the church.

2. The Moderator shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church in the absence of the pastor. The Moderator shall preserve order and explain all questions before he takes the voice of the church on them, and shall have the liberty of speech as any other, but no vote less there be a tie, which he shall have the casting vote.

3. It shall be the duty of all members to fill their seats in conference and bear his part of the church's expenses.

4. No member shall leave their seats during the conference without permission of the Moderator.

5. No member shall arraign another before the church or any grievance without first taking gospel steps.

6. All business brought before the church by motion and seconded in gospel-

like order shall be attended to by the church unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. Any person wishing to speak shall arise from his seat and address the Moderator, and if two arise at the same time the Moderator shall decide who shall speak first, and no member while speaking shall cast any reflection on any person, but shall adhere strictly to the subject under consideration.

8. No member shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the church.

9. It shall be the duty of all church members to be present at any church meeting to vote on all questions before the church called on by the Moderator or any member of the church who may desire to obtain the mind of the whole church.

10. If any member shall remain silent during the transaction of any business of the church and afterward complain of what was done, he shall be dealt with accordingly.

11. The members of the church shall not talk about another slanderously, and shall not give any report of circulation that may arise against the church member, but shall make it known to the one the report is against accordingly.

12. We agree to do all business by majority of the members present at any time, except touching Fellowship which must be unanimous.

13. We agree after taking the Lord's Supper to also wash each others feet.

FORM OF LETTER

State of _____

County of _____

This is to certify that our beloved (Brother/Sister) _____

_____ is in full fellowship

with us the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ at _____

and is hereby dismissed by us when joined to some other church within twelve months.

This done by order of Church this _____ day of

_____, 19 ____.

Rev. _____ Moderator

_____ Clerk

CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

STATE OF _____, COUNTY OF _____

We, the Church of Christ at _____
of the Free Will order sendeth greetings to the Ministers, Deacons, and Dele-
gate, composing the _____

_____ annual session of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association.

We send delegates _____
whom we deem worthy of seats with you.

OUR STATISTICS ARE AS FOLLOWS

Received by Baptism _____, By Letter _____ By

Restoration _____, By Recommendation _____

Dismissed by Letter _____, Died _____

Excluded _____ Names dropped that joined other faiths _____

Members Active _____, Members in Sunday School _____

Day of Meeting _____

Names of Ordained Ministers _____

Names of Licentiates _____

Names of Deacons _____

Church Expenses \$ _____ Amount Given Pastor \$ _____

Amount Given Evangelists _____

Amount Given Charity _____

Value of Church Property _____

Amount Given Orphanage \$ _____

Now in Treasury \$ _____

Minutes and Associational Funds \$ _____

Clerk, Address, Area Code and Telephone # _____

Pastor, Address, Area Code and Telephone # _____

We petition for the Association to meet with us at _____

This done by order of church in Conference

Date: _____

Rev. _____ Moderator

_____ Church Clerk

CHURCH	VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY	CHURCH EXPENSES	NOW IN TREASUREY	MEMBERS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL	AMOUNT GIVEN TO CHARITY	AMOUNT GIVEN TO ORPHANAGE
ADAIR CHAPEL	\$60,000.00	\$2,762.22	\$13,211.34	10	\$2,741.89	\$600.00
BOTUSH	\$60,000.00	\$10,257.97	\$12,286.32	25	\$1,900.00	\$350.00
EDGAR CHAPEL	\$80,000.00	\$3,128.77	\$5,081.27	20	\$400.00	\$100.00
FIRST Free Will	\$295000.00	\$5,890.54	\$4,655.87	60	\$1,252.23	\$0.00
HALEY- VILLE	\$130,000.00	\$22,813.52	\$14,195.70	40	\$873.93	\$0.00
LUVERNE	\$130,000.00	\$4,700.00	\$4,000.00	40	\$200.00	\$0.00
MOUNT ZION	\$70,000.00	\$3,660.77	\$1,547.77	20	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEW PROSECT	\$30,000.00	\$6,780.67	\$6,969.10	37	\$461.41	\$180.00
PINEY GROVE	\$300,000.00	\$42,680.82	\$16,836.83	41	\$3,613.48	\$1,248.93
MT. HOME	\$65,000.00	\$11,788.82	\$2,172.18	42	\$537.73	\$0.00

CHURCH	AMOUNT GIVEN TO EVANGELIST	DAYS OF MEETINGS	AMOUNT GIVEN TO PASTOR	DIED	DISMISSED BY LETTER	RECEIVED BY RECOMMEND	RECEIVED BY RESTORATION	RECEIVED BY LETTER	RECEIVED BY BAPTISM	
ADAIR CHAPEL	\$675.00	FT	\$5,200.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOTUSH	\$300.00	FT	\$6,375.00	1	1	0	0	0	0	-2
EDGAR CHAPEL	\$400.00	FT	\$3,676.03	2	0	0	0	0	1	-1
FIRST Free Will	\$600.00	FT	\$4,800.00	1	7	2	0	0	9	+3
HALEYVILLE	\$840.00	FT	\$7,950.06	1	2	0	0	0	0	-3
LUVERNE	\$500.00	FT	\$4,880.00	2	0	0	0	7	4	+9
MOUNT ZION	\$0.00	FT	\$3,725.17	2	0	0	0	7	0	+5
NEW PROSECT	\$250.00	FT	\$3,570.00	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
PINEY GROVE	\$850.00	FT	\$23,100.00	4	0	0	0	3	2	+1
MT. HOME	\$300.00	FT	\$3,400.00	0	0	0	0	26	5	+31

MINISTERS REPORT	Sermons Preached	Professions Witnessed	Received in Church	Baptized	Visited Sick Homes	Funerals Conducted	Pastored Churches	Held Communion	Conducted Prayer Mfg.	Attended Sunday Sch	Held Revivals	Married Couples	Money Received	Amt. Given Charity	Tithes / Traveling Exp.
James Bray	65	5	1	1	50	4	1	1	0	50	0	1	\$3,600	0	\$1,440
William Briley	80	3	7	0		4	1	0	0	52	4	2	#3,725	0	\$2,000
Earl Butler	57	0	1	0	?	2	1	0		50	0	2	\$2,500	\$250	\$250
Rayford Butler	18	0	0	0	52	2	0	0	7	44	0	0	0	\$300	\$2,00
Donald Colburn	56	3	0	0	40	1	1	1	39	46	0	3	\$1,300	\$207	\$1,680 \$125 "
Billy Edwards	72	2	0	0	30	1	1	0	1	52	0	1	\$7,800		\$2,400
L.C. Gilbreath		0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0			
Johnny R. Jones	34	8	11	4	MANY	4	1	4	30	45	0	3	\$4,980	\$500	1,200
J.L. Jones	34	8	11	4	95	4	1	3	24	45	0	3	\$4,980	\$500	\$1,200
Don Morris	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	\$52	\$2,000
Charlie McGee	65	1	1	2	20	2	1	0	0	50	1	1	\$6,300	0	\$1,200
Dewey Pierce	6	2	0	0	20	2	0	0	0	40	0	0	\$50	\$100	\$700
Orbie Pierce	22	3	0	0	25	2	0	0	8	45	0	0	\$375	\$259	1010.60
T.L. Pierce	41	7	31	5	?	6	1		4	48	1		\$6,000	\$300	\$2,100
Rocky Pearce	56	6	7	5	30	1	1	1	2	50	0	1	\$4,800	\$350	\$2,200
Melton Pierce	12	0	0	0	17	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	0	\$98	\$2,600
Jerry Plott	43	0	3	0	111	1	1	2	2	47	0	0	\$19500	?	\$2,810
Tommy Reece, Sr.	26			1	10	0	0	1		42	1	1			
Anthony Robbins	30	0		0	10	0	0	0		50	0	0	\$250	0	\$800
Billy Robbins	25	0	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	50	0	0	\$500	0	\$2,200
Ronald Watson	76	0	0	0	20	4	1	4	1	51	5	0	\$6,500	0	\$1,500



