

MINUTES

of the

102nd

BEAR CREEK

FREE WILL

BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION

1999

**Minutes Of The
102nd Annual Session**

of the

**BEAR CREEK
FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**

**HELD WITH
BOTUSH FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
HALEYVILLE, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 10 & 11, 1999**

OFFICERS

ModeratorRev. Ronald Watson
Assistant ModeratorRev. Raymond Bevan
EvangelistRev. Abe Edwards
Assistant EvangelistRev. Craig McCarley
ClerkBro. Jeff Hood

The 103rd Session of the Association will meet with Edgars Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 2000. Friday Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. on September 8th, and Saturday Services will begin at 9:15 a.m. on September 9th, 2000.

Address of Clerk:
Jeff Hood
1055 County Road 3026
Double Springs, Alabama 35553
Telephone: (205) 489-8020

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

Rev. Donnie Borden

Rev. Billy Edwards

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Proceedings of the
BEAR CREEK
FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The 102nd annual session of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association convened at Botush Free Will Baptist Church on September 10, 1999.

The opening congregational song was "I'm To Near Home", led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

Rev. Melton Pierce led prayer.

The Association Moderator, Rev. Ronald Watson took charge of the Association service and welcomed everyone to the 102nd Association. Rev. Raymond Bevan thanked the Botush Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the 102nd Association. Then he turned the Association back to the Moderator.

The Moderator also recognized the former Association members and officers who have already passed from this life. Everyone stood for a moment of silence and prayer.

Devotional service for Friday morning was conducted by Bro. Bill Abbott of Luverne Free Will Baptist Church. He read a few verses from the 8th chapter of Romans.

Congregational song "Lord Lead Me On", led by Rev. Billy Robbins. Special songs by Sis. McCarley and Rev. Watson, "Wall of Prayer", Sis. Gerita Pierce and Sis Dorothy Vinson, "I Won't Have to Worry" and Sis. Kathy Plott, Sis. Rachel Tice, Rev. T.L. Pierce, Rev. Orbie Pearce and Rev. Melton Pierce, "Sweet By and By".

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Ronald Watson. His thought was "Listen To The Word Of God". The Scripture was from Ecc. Chapter 5.

Invitational song: "There Is A Fountain". Led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

The second sermon was brought by Rev. Raymond Bevan. His text was from Jer. Chapter 6, Verse 16. His thought was "Walk In The Way Of The Lord".

Invitational song: "Just As I Am", led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

Rev. Ronald Watson, Pastor of Botush Free Will Baptist Church welcomed everyone to the church and explained the process for eating lunch, etc. Dismissed for lunch and blessing of the food was by Rev. Earl Butler.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Friday afternoon services convened at approximately 1:15 p.m. and assembled for the business session with the opening song, "Will You Meet Me Over Yonder", led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

Prayer was prayed by Rev. Doug Swann.

Special songs by Sis. Butler "God's Not Out of Grace", and Sis. Gerita Pierce and Rev. Ronald Watson "He Will Roll You Over The Tide".

The Association Moderator, Rev. Ronald Watson took charge and thanked everyone for coming.

The Association Moderator Rev. Ronald Watson, proceeded by calling the House to order for the transaction of business.

Special prayer for all churches was led by Bro. Adair.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FIRST: Seated visiting delegates: NONE

- SECOND:** Appointed reading clerks:
Sis. Lisa Ingle
Sis. Rane McCarley
- THIRD:** Appointed Finance Committee:
Rev. Ray Butler
Bro. Al Colburn
Bro. Orbie Harris
- 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:** The reading clerks were discharged with a motion, second, and majority vote.
- SIXTH:** Election of Officers:
The clerk, Bro. Jeff Hood, was nominated and voted on. Term to expire in 2000.
Motion made to elect Moderator as usual, but not to take the office until Friday morning of the following year, by Bro. Orbie Harris, second by Rev. T.L. Pierce. Motion carried.
The Evangelist, Rev. Abe Edwards nominated and voted on. Term to expire 2001.
The Assistant Evangelist, Rev. Craig McCarley nominated and voted on. Term to expire 2001.
- SEVENTH:** 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.

EIGHTH: 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. Travis Hodge
Bro. Thomas Pierce
Bro. Jerry Hicks

NINTH: Appointment of Committee:

1. Committee on Literature
Sis. Misty Robbins
Sis. Gina Yielding
2. Committee on Sunday School
Bro. Randy Hallman
Rev. Jerry Plott
3. Committee on Deceased Members
Bro. Wayne Adair
Bro. Al Colburn
Rev. Anthony Robbins
4. Committee on Ministers and Deacons
Bro. Orbie Harris
Rev. Earl Butler
Rev. Doug Swann
5. Committee on Documents and Order of Business
Rev. Craig McCarley
Rev. T.L. Pierce
Rev. Abe Edwards

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND TOTAL ATTENDANCE OF EACH CHURCH

Adair Chapel	6
Botush	10
Edgar Chapel	3
First Free Will	4
Haleyville	8
Luverne	1
Mt. Home	8
New Prospect	3
Piney Grove	7
Total	50

ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS AND DELEGATES

Adair Chapel	6
Botush	7
Edgar Chapel	3
First Free Will Baptist Church of Union City	2
Haleyville	4
Luverne	2
Mt. Home	5
New Prospect	4
Piney Grove	5
TOTAL	38

REPORT OF PREACHING & DEVOTIONS COMMITTEE

Friday Night Preaching	Rev. Earl Butler
Saturday Devotion	Bro. Charles Edwards
Saturday Preaching	Rev. Craig McCarley, Rev. Doug Swann

We, the Association was dismissed until Friday night with prayer led by Rev. Ray Butler.

FRIDAY NIGHT

We, The Association, re-assembled Friday night at 7:00 p.m.

The service was opened by singing "I Want My Light To Shine", led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

Prayer by Rev. Orbie Pierce

Moderator Rev. Ronald Watson welcomed everyone. Rev. Earl Butler brought the sermon. Text was Psalms chapter 68 verse 19-21, His thought "Benefits of God".

The sermon was followed by Communion and foot washing. Bro. Charles Edwards and Bro. Thad Gardner served the Lords Supper. Rev. Jerry Plott blessed the Lord's Supper. 33 rejoiced while taking the Lord's Supper, and washing of one another's feet.

We concluded with the song, "Thank You Lord For Your Blessings On Me". Led by Rev. T.L. Pierce and Rev. Ronald Watson.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

We, the Association assembled at 9:15 for the transaction of business, Rev.

Ronald Watson called the House to order for the transaction of business.

Congregational song- "Glad Reunion Day", led by Rev. Billy Robbins, prayer by Bro. Teddy Cagle.

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: NONE
- THIRD:** Seated visiting delegates: NONE
- FOURTH:** Roll Call

ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS, AND DELEGATES

Adair Chapel	6
Botush	7
Edgar Chapel	3
First Free Will Baptist Church Union City	2
Haleyville	5
Luverne	1
Mt. Home	5
New Prospect	3
Piney Grove	5
TOTAL	37

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 9 Sunday Schools in our Association. Membership is as follows:

Adair Chapel	11
Botush	35
Edgar Chapel	20
First Free Will Baptist Union City	37
Haleyville	44
Luverne	25
Mt. Home	31
New Prospect	39
Piney Grove	40
TOTAL	282

This is a decrease of 22 members in our total Sunday School membership.

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

3. Committee on Deceased Members

We, your Committee, beg to report that we had 4 deaths in our Association for 1998-1999. They are listed as follows:

Haleyville	Sis. Virta Taylor
Piney Grove	Bro. Wesley Crawley & Sis. Deley Kuykendall
First Free Will Baptist Union City	Bro. Julian Saye

The Committee report was adopted and the Committee was dismissed.

4. Committee on Ministers and Deacons

We, your Committee beg to report we have 17 ordained ministers and 20 ordained deacons in our Association.

Ministers	17
Deacons	20

This is an increase of 3 deacons in the Association.

The Committee report was adopted and the Committee was released.

5. Committee on Documents and Order of Business.

We, your committee, recommend the Documents and Order of Business remain the same. Motion carried.

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 services, 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 the 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 house 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 to the Credentials 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 Credentials Committee will also report to the Association Presbytery as to the standing of the ministers.
25. That we do not take homosexuals into our churches for membership or any office of the church or the association, and we view homosexual acts as an abomination to God. Lev. 18:22, Lev. 20:13, Rom. 1:27-32.

26. That we condemn abortion as murder, as all life is precious in the sight of God. Gen. 4:8, Luke 1:41 & 42.

27. That each church help in the expense of meals for the association and the hosting church will decide the method of meals.

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 \$640.00 and there was a balance of \$332.73. This gives a total of \$972.73 to operate the finances of our Association.

TOTAL	\$972.73
Moderator's Fee	35.00
Clerk's Fee	75.00
Food, Cups and Plates	- 0 -
BALANCE	\$862.73

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

If 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 led by Rev. Billy Robbins, "Heavens Jubilee" and "Standing By The River".

Special song by Rev. Jerry Plott "Please Forgive Me".

Followed by a 10 minute break.

The Moderator brought the Association to order.

Special song by Rev. Doug Swann, "My Name Is Lazarus". Special by Bro. Thad Gardner "Ole Mose". Special by Sis. Loyce Bevan, Sis. Gertia Pierce and Rev. Ronald Watson "Gloryland".

Devotional service was conducted by Bro. Charles Edwards from Haleyville Freewill Baptist Church. Congregation song, "Beluah Land" led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

Rev. Craig McCarley brought the first sermon. His text Matthew Chapter 25 Verse 1-6. His thought was "Prepare to Meet God".

Invitation song "Eastern Gate", led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

Rev. Doug Swann brought the second sermon and his message was from Jude Verse 1-4. His thought was "Believe In Jesus and His Way".

Invitation song by the congregation was third verse of "Eastern Gate" led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

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

Dismissed for lunch and the blessing of the food by Bro. James McCarley.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Association moderator, Rev. Ronald Watson, reconvened the association and welcomed everyone back for the business session. He thanked Botush Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the Association here.

Opening special song by Rev. Billy Robbins “Never Say Goodbye”. Special by Rev. Billy Robbins, Bro. Teddy Cagle and Bro. Steve Garrison “Heaven Will Be My Home”. Special by Bro. Teddy Cagle and Bro. Steve Garrison “Family On Both Sides”. Special by “Sis. Rancee McCarley, Sis. April Swann, Sis Vanessa Raper and Rev. Ronald Watson “That Is What Heaven Means To Me”. Special by Sis. Gerita Pierce, Sis. Dorothy Vinson “I Know A Man Who Can”. Special by Sis. Misty Robbins “Two Shoes”. Special by Bro. Thad Gardener “Why Me Lord”. Special by Rev. Craig McCarley and Bro. James McCarley “I’ll Be Waiting At The River”. Special by Rev. Orbie Pearce, Rev. T.L. Pierce, Bro. Steve Garrison, Sis. Dorthy Vinson and Bro. Teddy Cagle “Oh Wont It Be Grand”.

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 1998-1999 as presented to the Association. Also read the Roll of Deceased Ministers.

The moderator, Rev. Ronald Watson, called the House to order for the transaction of business.

Discussion was made on the 2000 hosting church for the Association. Edgars Chapel will host the 103rd session, pending church approval.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Seated visiting delegates: Winston County Baptist Association Bro. & Sis. Mike Long.
- 2. Roll Call.

ROLL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS & DELEGATES

Adair Chapel	6
Botush	7
Edgar Chapel	3
First Free Will Baptist Church	2
Haleyville	7
Luverne	1
Mt. Home	5
New Prospect	3
Piney Grove	5
TOTAL	34

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. T.L. Pierce 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. Seated visiting members.

- A. Recommended granting new ministers cards to all ministers who turned in cards to the Association. Motion Carried.
 - B. Recommended Rev. Abbott to be given Credentials. Motion Carried. Recommend Ordaining Bro. Charles Edwards & Bro. Thad Gardener, as deacons for the Haleyville Free Will Baptist Church. Motion Carried.
 - C. 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. Motion carried
2. The Presbytery elected Rev. Doug Swann on the Credentials Committee, term to expire in 2002. The presbytery elected Rev. Ray Bulter Moderator of the Presbytery for a term of Two years.
 3. The Presbytery voted to give Rev. Milton Pierce a life Credentials card due to his health. Motion Carried.

Rev. Billy Robbins spoke a few words about Bro. Charles Edwards and Bro. Thad Gardner.

4. Rev. T.L. Pierce spoke a few words about Bro. Charles Edwards and Bro. Thad Gardner. He read from Acts Chapter 6 and 1 Timothy Chapter 3 as to the qualifications of a deacon.

The members of the Presbytery met in the altar for prayer and then laid hands on Bro. Thad Gardner and Bro. Charles Edwards.

Rev. Abbott was given the right hand of Christian Fellowship by Presbytery Moderator Rev. T.L. Pierce, Association Moderator Rev. Ronald Watson and Association Clerk Bro. Jeff Hood.

Closed Presbytery by prayer led by Rev. Hugh Cavendar.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rev. Orbie Pierce (2001)

Rev. Doug Swann (2002)

Rev. Billy Robbins (2000)

THE ASSOCIATION

Assistant Moderator Rev. Bevan thanked Botush for hosting the Association. Edgars Chapel's pastor Rev. Doug Swann asked the Association to meet with them next year. Pending Church approval. Motion Carried.

Rev. Ronald Watson, Association Moderator, asked everyone to stand in remembrance of the deceased members.

The Association was adjourned by prayer led by Bro. Jerry Hicks until 2000.

ROLL OF DELEGATES FROM EACH CHURCH

Adair Chapel: Sis. Sharon Adair, Sis. Loyce Bevan, and Sis. Virginia Crumpton.

Botush: Sis. Brenda Watson, Sis. Evelyn Sutherland, Sis. Ranee McCarley, and Alternate Sis. Lisa Ingle.

Edgar Chapel: Sis. Vanessa Raper, Sis. April Swann

First Free Will Baptist Church: Sis. Gina Yielding.

Haleyville: Bro. Charles Edwards, Bro. Teddy Cagle, Bro. Thad Gardner and as Alternate Bro. Steve Garrison.

Luverne: Sis. Margie Abbott and Rev. Bill Abbott.
 Mt. Home: Bro. Travis Hodge, Bro. Randy Hallman and Bro. Nicky Mitchell.
 New Prospect: Bro. Jerry Hicks and Sis. Nadine Hicks.
 Piney Grove: Bro. Thomas Pierce and Bro. Darren Pierce

ROLL OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND DEACONS

Adair Chapel	Ministers:	Rev. Raymond Bevan
	Deacons:	Bro. Jack Beck, Bro. Albert Adair and Bro. Wayne Adair
Botush	Ministers:	Rev. Craig McCarley, Rev. Ronald Watson
	Deacons:	Bro. Ed Garrison
Edgar Chapel	Ministers:	Rev. Douglas Swann
	Deacons:	Bro. Leonard Lawler and Bro. I.J. Borden
First Free Will	Ministers:	Rev. Dewey Pierce and Rev. Ray Butler
	Deacons:	Bro. Bobby Pierce, Bro. Oferrel Garrett, and Bro. James Ferrell
Haleyville:	Ministers:	Rev. Anthony Robbins and Rev. Billy Robbins
	Deacons:	Bro. Presley Hood, Bro. Ricky Edwards, Bro. Thad Gardner and Bro. Charles Edwards
Luverne:	Ministers:	Rev. Johnny Ray Jones, Rev. J.L. Jones and Rev. Bill Abbott
	Deacons:	Bro. Larry Holmes, Bro. James Holmes and Bro. Ray Holmes
Mt. Home:	Ministers:	Rev. T.L. Pierce Rev. Abe Edwards and Rev. Orbie Pearce
	Deacons:	None

New Prospect:	Ministers:	Rev. Jim Robbins and Rev. Earl Butler
	Deacons:	Bro. Dewitt Cagle
Piney Grove:	Ministers:	Rev. Jerry Plott and Rev. Milton Pierce
	Deacons:	Bro. Alton Colburn, Bro. Dillard Colburn, Bro. Orbie Harris, Bro. Charles Hill and Bro. Philip Sensing

DISABLED MINISTERS

Rev. Milton Pierce, Piney Grove

MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

Raymond Bevan, 224 Bluffway Drive, Jasper, AL 35503 / 205-384-9478

Earl Butler, 924 County Rd, 3418, Haleyville, AL 35565 / 486-2307

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

Abe Lee Edwards, Hwy. 79, Phil Campbell, AL 35571 / 486-7622

Johnny Ray Jones, 1637 Brantley- Luverne Rd., Luverne, AL 36009
334-335-6028

J.L. Jones, 109 Henry Road, Luverne, AL 36609 / 334-335-6292

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

Milton Pierce, 102 E. Campbellton St. Fairburn, GA 30213
770-964-6176

Orbie Pierce, Rt. 4 Box 338X, Haleyville, AL 35565 / 486-3350

Thomas L. Pierce, 6001 Hwy 34, Russellville, AL 35653 / 256-332-1022

Jerry Plott, 111 Poplar St. Fairburn, GA 30213 / 770-964-5522

Anthony Robbins, 11644 St. Hwy. 253, Brilliant, AL 35548 / 468-8210

Billy Robbins, 11174 St. Hwy. 90, Hamilton, AL 35570 / 468-3083

Douglas Swann, 1978 Co. Hwy. 90 Hamilton, AL 35570 / 205-921-7469

Ronald Watson, 2646 Edgar Chapel Rd., Phil Campbell, AL 35581
993-4692

Craig McCarley, 302 Dogwood Drive, Phil Campbell, AL 35581
993-5713

William Abbott, 1985 Horne Rd., Lapine, AL 36046

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
Waldrop (By Permission)	1997
Adair Chapel	1998
Botush	1999

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 the 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 confirm to its usage's.
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 was elected 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 preserve 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, James 5:19,20, Luke 9:62, Heb. 10:26-39.
9. **OF GOOD WORKS.** We believe that good works is the result of faith and not 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. Roman 6:4 and Acts 8:36-37.
11. **OF THE LORD' SUPPER.** We believe that the Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance; that the bread and the 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 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 acknowledgments.
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 more often 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 is 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 taking the Lord's Supper to also was 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 is done by order of Church this _____ day
of _____, 20____.

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 Ministers, Deacons, and Delegate,
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 _____
Name of Licentiate _____
Names of Deacons _____
Names of Deacons to be Ordained _____

Church expenses \$ _____ Amount given Pastor \$ _____

Amount Given Evangelist \$ _____

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

Names of Deceased Members _____

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	\$7,740.87	\$4,543.12	11	\$631.15	\$600.00
BOTUSH	\$80,000.00	\$20,734.19	\$6,141.10	35	\$300.00	\$360.00
EDGAR CHAPEL	\$80,000.00	\$8,267.73	\$2,934.25	20	\$250.00	\$100.00
FIRST FREE WILL	\$295,000.00	\$10,849.94	\$2,892.04	27	\$316.00	\$0.00
HALEY- VILLE	\$180,000.00	\$24,986.94	\$18,749.02	44	\$781.00	\$0.00
LUVERNE	\$130,000.00	\$5,615.68	\$4,068.23	25	\$100.00	\$100.00
MT. HOME	\$65,000.00	\$2,075.91	\$3,836.09	31	\$300.00	\$0.00
NEW PROSPECT	\$35,000.00	\$6,621.65	\$5,788.53	39	\$0.00	\$180.00
PINEY GROVE	\$300,000.00	\$26,670.88	\$24,808.51	40	\$8,273.49	\$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	EXCLUDED	DROPPED/JOINED OTHER FAITH
ADAIR CHAPEL	\$550.00	FT	\$4,800.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BOTUSH	\$350.00	FT	\$8,700.00	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
EDGAR CHAPEL	\$550.00	FT	\$7,175.72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FIRST FREE WILL	\$605.52	FT	\$4,800.00	1	2	2	0	0	5	0	0
HALEY- VILLE	\$600.00	FT	\$8,850.00	1	2	0	0	2	4	17	4
LUVERNE	\$150.00	FT	\$5,400.00	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
MT. HOME	\$300.00	FT	\$8,200.00	0	5	2	0	0	3	0	0
NEW PROSPECT	\$525.00	FT	\$3,620.00	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1
PINEY GROVE	\$1,029.49	FT	\$24,400.90	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	4

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTOR AND ADDRESS	CLERK AND ADDRESS
ADAIR CHAPEL	Winston	Rev. Raymond Bevans 224 Bluffway Drive Jasper, AL 35503	Sharon Adair 212 Co. Rd. 73 Double Springs, AL 35553
BOTUSH	Winston	Rev. Ronald Watson, 993-4692 2646 Edgars Chapel Rd. Phil Campbell, AL 35581	Martha Smith 384 Co. Rd. 3418 Haleyville, AL 35565
EDGAR CHAPEL	Franklin	Rev. Douglas Swann 1978 Co. Hwy. 90 Hamilton, AL 35570	Shirley Lawler 1038 Stone Road Phil Campbell, AL 35581
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST	Fulton, GA	Rev. Ray Butler 6825 Roosevelt Hwy. Fairburn, GA 30213	Sandra Glaze 521 Griffith Drive Palmetto, GA 30268
HALEYVILLE	Winston	Rev. Billy Robbins 11174 St. Hwy. 253 Brilliant, AL 35548	Annette Cagle, 489-2716 1091 Co. Rd. 3026, Double Springs, AL 35553
LUVERNE	Crenshaw	Rev. Johnny Jones 1637 Old Brantley-Luverne Rd. Luverne, AL 36049	Tammy Holmes 516 Old Three Notch Rd. Brantley, AL 36009
MT. HOME	Marion	Rev. T.L. Pierce 6001 Hwy. 34 Russellville, AL 35654	Connie Morrison 443 Co. Hwy. 137 Phil Campbell, AL 35581

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTOR AND ADDRESS	CLERK AND ADDRESS
NEW PROSPECT	Winston	Rev. Earl Butler, 205-486-2307 924 Co. Rd. 3418 Haleyville, AL 35565	Nadine Hicks, 205-486-2504 1185 Co. Rd. 37 Haleyville, AL 35565
PINEY GROVE	Fulton, GA	Rev. Jerry Plott, 770-964-5522 111 Popular Street Fairburn, GA 30213	Anita B. Smith 7140 Hobgood Road Fairburn, GA 30213

Ministers Report	Melton Pierce	Jerry Plott	Craig McCarley	Anthony Robbins	Billy Robbins	Douglas E. Swann Jr.	Ronald Watson	William Abbott	
Sermons Preached	?	52	33	26	75	50	65	?	
Professions Witnessed	?	4	1	1	4	0	1	?	
Received in Church	?	2	0	0	4	0	3	?	
Baptized	?	0	0	0	4	0	1	?	
Visited Sick Homes	?	156	?	25	25	20	25	?	
Funerals Conducted	?	4	0	0	?	0	1	?	
Pastored Churches	?	1	0	0	1	1	1	?	
Held Communion	?	2	3	0	1	1	5	?	
Conducted Prayer Mtg.	?	4	0	0	2	0	2	?	
Attended Sunday School	?	51	51	46	50	40	51	?	
Held Revivals	?	0	0	0	1	0	2	?	
Married Couples	?	2	0	?	2	0	0	?	
Money Received	?	\$20,800.00	\$0.00	0	\$9,000.00	\$7,175.00	\$8,700.00	?	
Amount Given Charity	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	
Tithes	?	\$3,120.00	\$0.00	?	\$3,500.00	\$4,035.00	\$1,700.00	?	

Ministers Report	Earl Butler	Rayford Butler	Raymond Bevan	Johnny R. Jones	J.L. Jones	Abe. L. Edwards	Dewey Pierce	Orbie Pearce	T.L. Pierce
Sermons Preached	72	83	80	?	?	32	?	64	42
Professions Witnessed	1	4	1	?	?	0	?	1	?
Received in Church	3	7	0	?	?	0	?	0	5
Baptized	1	7	0	?	?	0	?	1	3
Visited Sick	unknown	142	10	?	85	147	?	31	?
Homes									
Funerals Conducted	0	4	4	?	4	0	?	2	6
Pastored Churches	1	1	1	?	?	0	?	1	1
Held	0	4	2	?	?	0	?	1	?
Communion Conducted	0	0	48	?	8	0	?	8	5
Prayer Mtg. Attended	50	48	50	?	45	49	?	51	48
Sunday School									
Held	0	1	0	?	?	1	?	0	1
Revivals									
Married	0	0	0	?	2	0	?	0	2
Couples									
Money Received	\$3,620.00	\$4,800.00	\$5,200.00	?	?	\$671.00	?	\$11,570.22	\$8,850.00
Amount Given	0	600.5	0	?	?	\$100.00	?	\$555.00	\$600.00
Charity									
Tithes	\$1,100.00	\$2,500.50	\$2,000.00	?	?	\$990.00	?	\$1,626.50	\$2,236.00

NOTES

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