

*MINUTES*

of the

**103rd**

**BEAR CREEK**

**FREE WILL  
BAPTIST**

**ASSOCIATION**

**2000**



**Minutes Of The  
103rd Annual Session**

**of the**

**BEAR CREEK  
FREE WILL BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION**

**HELD WITH  
EDGAR CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
PHIL CAMPBELL, ALABAMA  
SEPTEMBER 8 & 9, 2000**

**OFFICERS**

Moderator .....	Rev. Ronald Watson
Moderator Elect .....	Rev. Orbie Pierce
Assistant Moderator .....	Rev. Raymond Bevan
Assistant Moderator Elect .....	Rev. Billy Robbins
Evangelist .....	Rev. Abe Edwards
Assistant Evangelist .....	Rev. Craig McCarley
Clerk .....	Bro. Jeff Hood

The 104th Session of the Association will meet with First Free Will Baptist Church, on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 2001. Friday Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. on September 7th, and Saturday Services will begin at 9:15 a.m. on September 8th, 2001.

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. Dennis Borden

Rev. Billy Edwards

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

**FRIDAY MORNING**

The 103rd annual session of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association convened at Edgar Chapel Free Will Baptist Church on September 8, 2000.

The opening congregational song was, "Victory In Jesus", led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

Bro. Charles Edwards led the opening prayer.

The Association Moderator, Rev. Ronald Watson took charge of the Association service and welcomed everyone to the 103rd Association. He also thanked the Edgar Chapel Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the 103rd Association and then recognized the former Association members and officers who have passed from this life with a moment of silent prayer.

Devotional service for Friday morning was conducted by Bro. I.J. Borden of Edgar Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. He quoted a few verses from the book of James.

Congregational song, "Won't It Be Wonderful There", led by Rev. Billy Robbins. Special singing followed. Rev. Billy Robbins "I Am Redeemed", "I've Got So Much To Thank Him For" Sis. Kathy Plott, "Two Shoes" by Sis. Misty Robbins. The Moderator then turned the service over to Rev. Rick Cash, Promotional Director of the Alabama State Association of Free Will Baptists. He spoke about the different programs the State Association had to offer.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Raymond Bevan. His thought was "The Law made nothing perfect; you must be born again." The scripture was Hebrews 14:20 and Hebrews Chapter 10.

The second sermon was brought by Rev. Ronald Watson. His thought was "How Far Has Jesus Gone For Us?" His text was from Luke Ch. 24 verse 28.

Invitational song: "I'd Rather Have Jesus," led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

The Moderator then explained the process for eating lunch, etc.

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

## **FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

Friday afternoon services convened at approximately 1:15 p.m. and was opened by congregational song, "Will You Meet Me Over Yonder," led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

Prayer was prayed by Rev. Earl Butler.

Special songs by Sister Samantha Ferrell and Sis. Penny Turner "Two Little Feet." Rev. Craig McCarley, "The Prodigal", Sis. Dorothy Vinson, Rev. Ronald Watson, and Sis. Loyce Bevan "Flight Without An Airplane." Sis. Gina Yielding "Walk This Road To Glory."

The Moderator proceeded by calling the house to order for the transaction of business. Prayer led by Bro. Al Colburn.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- FIRST:** Seated Visiting delegates - - Rev. Taylor, Progressive Assoc.
- SECOND -** Appointed reading clerks:  
Sis. Gerita Pierce  
Sis. Renea McCarley
- THIRD:** Appointed Finance Committee:  
Rev. Jamie Dingler  
Bro. Al Colburn  
Bro. Jerry Hicks
- 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: None
- SIXTH:** Reading Clerks were discharged with a motion, second and vote.
- SEVENTH:** Election of Officers:  
Moderator, Rev. Orbie Pierce. Term to expire 2002  
Assistant Moderator, Rev. Billy Robbins. Term to expire 2002  
Clerk, Bro. Jeff Hood. Term to expire 2002.

**EIGHTH:** Dismissed the Credentials Committee

**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. Thad Gardner  
Bro. Thomas Pierce  
Rev.. Wayne Adair

**TENTH:** Appointment of Committees

1. Committee on Literature  
Sis. Mary Bevans  
Sis. Vanessa Raper
2. Committee on Sunday School  
Bro. Orbie Harris  
Bro. Charles Edwards
3. Committee on Deceased Members  
Bro. Jack Beck  
Bro. Wayne Cornelius  
Bro. Earl Crumpton
4. Committee on Ministers and Deacons  
Bro. Travis Hodge  
Rev. Earl Butler  
Rev. Craig McCarley
5. Committee on Documents and Order of Business  
Rev. Ray Butler  
Rev. T.L. Pierce  
Rev. Abe Edwards



**ROLL CALL OF  
MEMBERS & TOTAL ATTENDANCE OF EACH CHURCH**

Adair Chapel .....	7
Botush .....	3
Edgar Chapel .....	2
First Free Will .....	11
Haleyville .....	8
Luverne .....	1
Mt. Home .....	7
New Prospect .....	5
Piney Grove .....	8
TOTAL .....	52

**ROLL CALL OF  
MINISTERS, DEACONS AND DELEGATES**

Adair Chapel .....	6
Botush .....	3
Edgar Chapel .....	2
First Free Will Baptist Church of Union City .....	5
Haleyville .....	3
Luverne .....	1
Mt. Home .....	5
New Prospect .....	4
Piney Grove .....	4
TOTAL .....	33

**REPORT OF PREACHING & DEVOTIONS COMMITTEE**

Friday Night Preaching .....	Rev. Abe Edwards
Saturday Devotion .....	Rev. Jerry Plott
Saturday Preaching .....	Rev. Jamie Dingler, Rev. T.L. Pierce

We, the Association was dismissed until Friday night with prayer led by Bro. Jack Beck.

## FRIDAY NIGHT COMMUNION

The Association re-assembled Friday night at 7:00 p.m. with the opening song led by Rev. Billy Robbins "I'll Have A New Life." Prayer led by Rev. Anthony Robbins.

The Moderator welcomed everyone and turned the service to Rev. Abe Edwards who brought the sermon. His text was John Chapter 6, verses 31-48; Chapter 13 verses 1-10 and I Corinthians Chapter 11 verses 18-34. His thought was "Jesus is the Bread of Life." Invitational song led by Rev. Billy Robbins, "Come Unto Me."

The sermon was followed by Communion and Feetwashing. Rev. Ray Butler and Rev. Doug Swann served The Lord's Supper. Rev. Motes blessed The Lord's Supper. 36 rejoiced while taking part in the special service. We concluded with "God Be With You" led by Rev. Billy Robbins.

## SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

The Moderator called the House to Order at 9:15 a.m. for the transaction of Business. Song led by Bro. Thad Gardner, "Some Glad Day." Prayer led by Bro. Ricky Edwards.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

**FIRST:** Dismissed the Credentials Committee.

**SECOND:** Seated visiting delegates: None

**THIRD:** Roll Call

## ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS, AND DELEGATES

Adair Chapel .....	6
Botush .....	6
Edgar Chapel .....	6
First Free Will Baptist Church of Union City .....	5
Haleyville .....	5
Luverne .....	0
Mt. Home .....	5
New Prospect .....	4
Piney Grove .....	3
TOTAL .....	40

## ROLL CALL OF TOTAL ATTENDANCE FROM EACH CHURCH

Adair Chapel .....	7
Botush .....	8
Edgar Chapel .....	9
First Free Will Baptist Church of Union City .....	11
Haleyville .....	8
Luverne .....	0
Mt. Home .....	7
New Prospect .....	5
Piney Grove .....	4
TOTAL .....	59

### FOURTH:           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 .....	9
Botush .....	35
Edgar Chapel .....	20
First Free Will Baptist Union City .....	44
Haleyville .....	44
Luverne .....	30
Mt. Home .....	35
New Prospect .....	39
Piney Grove .....	41
TOTAL .....	297

This is an increase of 15 members in our total Sunday School membership.

The Committee report was adopted, the Committee was released.

**3. Committee on Deceased Members**

We, your Committee, beg to report that we had 8 deaths in our Association for 1999 - 2000. They are listed as follows:

Adair Chapel	Bro. Albert Adair (Deacon)
Botush	Sis. Lillie Daniel; Sis. Brenda Watson
Edgar Chapel	Sis. Bobbie Edgar
Haleyville	Sis. Leola Edwards
Luverne	Sis. Katherine Wright
Piney Grove	Bro. Dillard Colburn (Deacon), Sis. Hattie Bright

The congregation stood for a moment of silence. The Committee Report was adopted and the committee dismissed.

**4. Committee on Ministers and Deacons**

We, your Committee beg to report we have 17 ordained ministers and 18 ordained deacons in our Association. This is a decrease of 2 deacons in the Association. The Committee Report was adopted and the Committee dismissed.

**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 \$50.00 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 \$100.00 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 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 Credential's 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 nor the association, as 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 helps 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 \$630.00 and there was a balance of \$434.55. This gives a total of \$1064.55 to operate the finances of our Association.

TOTAL .....	\$1064.55
Moderator's Fee .....	50.00
Clerk's Fee .....	100.00
Printing Cost .....	Unknown
BALANCE .....	\$914.55

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.

Motion carried to increase the moderators fee to \$50.00 and the clerks fee to \$100.00

The Committee report was adopted and the Committee was released.

#### **Fifth: 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 after a 10 minute break with Rev. Jerry Plott conducting Devotional Service. Congregational song, "Bringing in the Sheaves" led by Bro. Thad Gardner followed.

Special songs by Rev. Jerry Plott "I'm Finally Home", Sis. Gynn Cornelius, "Thank You for the Blessings on Me."

Rev. Jamie Dinger brought the first sermon. His text was John Chapter 10 verses 1-10. His thought was "How many people try to reach heaven the wrong way?" Invitation song "Are You Washed in the Blood" led by Bro. Thad Gardner.

Special song by Rev. & Sis. T.L. Pierce "Now I Have Everything". Rev. T.L. Pierce brought the second sermon. His text was I Corinthians Chapter 13. His thought was "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain" Invitation song "Almost Persuaded" led by Bro. Thad Gardner.

Rev. Doug Swann, pastor of Edgar Chapel, addressed the Association and explained the methods of how lunch was being served.

Dismissed for lunch and the blessing of the food by Rev. Ray Butler.

### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

The Association moderator reconvened the Association at 1:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone back for the business session.

Song “Just A Little Talk With Jesus” led by Bro. Thad Gardner. Prayer led by Bro. Ed Garrison.

A number of special songs followed prayer. “Highway to Heaven” by Sis. Barbara Butler, “Leave Me A Message” by Rev. & Sis. Anthony Robbins, “What A Beautiful Day for the Lord to Come Again” by Sis. Rachel Tice & Rev. Billy Robbins, “It Satisfies Me” by Sis. Renea McCarley, “Going Home” by Sis. Loyce Bevan and Sis. Sharon Adair, “Oh Won’t It Be Grand” by Rev. Orbie Pierce, Rev. T.L. Pierce, Bro. Ed Cothrum, and Sis. Dorothy Vison., “See You In A Little While” by Rev. Billy Robbins, “Ole Mose” by Bro. Thad Gardner, “Covered In Red” by Rev. Ronald Watson.

Everyone stood for a moment of silence in remembrance of the deceased members of the Association. The Association clerk read the roll of deceased members as presented to the Association by the member churches.

The Association Moderator, called the House to Order for the transaction of business. Discussion was made on the 2001 hosting church for the Association. First Free Will Baptist Church of Union City, Georgia received the most votes. First Free Will of Union City will host the 104th Session of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- 1. Seated visiting delegates: None
- 2. Roll Call

**ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS, & DELEGATES**

Adair Chapel	6
Botush	6
Edgar Chapel	5
First Free Will Baptist Church	5
Haleyville	5
Luverne	0
Mt. Home	4
New Prospect	4
Piney Grove	4
TOTAL	39

- 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, Rev. Ray Butler.

## **THE PRESBYTERY**

The Presbytery moderator, Rev. Ray Butler 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.

- A. Recommended granting new ministers cards to all ministers who turned in cards to the Association. Motion carried.
- B. Recommended that First Free Will of Union City be allowed to ordain Bro. Randy Turner as a Deacon and Rev. Jamie Dingler as a Minister after these two men had been examined by the Credentials Committee. Motion carried.

The Presbytery was closed with prayer led by Rev. Doug Swann, and services were turned back to the Association Moderator.

## **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Rev. Orbie Pierce (2001), Rev. Doug Swann (2002), Rev. Ronald Watson (2003)

## **THE ASSOCIATION**

Assistant Moderator Rev. Bevan thanked Edgar Chapel for hosting the Association.

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

The Association was adjourned by prayer led by Bro. Ed Cothrum until 2001.

## **ROLL OF DELEGATES FROM EACH CHURCH**

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

Botush: Sis. Margaret Garrison, Sis. Evelyn Sutherland, Sis. Renee McCarley, and Alt. Sis. Lisa Ingle.

Edgar Chapel: Sis. Vanessa Raper, Sis. April Swann and Sis. Alice Brown

First Free Will Baptist Church: Sis. Gina Yielding, Bro. Randy Turner, and Bro. Jamie Dingler.

Haleyville: Bro. Teddy Cagle, Bro. Steve Garrison, Bro. Wayne Tidwell, and Sis. Annette Cagle, Alternate.

Luverne: None

Mt. Home: Bro. Travis Hodge, Bro. Ricky Porter, and Bro. Lee Edwards

New Prospect: Bro. Jerry Hicks, Sis. Nadine Hicks, and Bro. Wayne Cornelius

Piney Grove: Bro. Thomas Pierce

## **ROLL OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND DEACONS**

Adair Chapel	Ministers:	Rev. Raymond Bevan
	Deacons:	Bro. Jack Beck, 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. Ray Butler
	Deacons:	Bro. James Ferrell
Haleyville:	Ministers:	Rev. Anthony Robbins and Rev. Billy Robbins
	Deacons:	Bro. Presley Hood & Bro. Rickey Edwards Bro. Thad Gardner and Bro. Charles Edwards
Luverne:	Ministers:	Rev.. Johnny Ray Jones & Rev. Bill Abbott
	Deacons:	Bro. Larry Holmes. Bro. James Holmes and Bro. Ray Holmes
Mt. Home:	Ministers:	Rev. T.L. Pierce, Rev. Abe Edwards Rev. Orbie Pierce
	Deacons:	None
New Prospect	Ministers:	Rev. Earl Butler
	Deacons:	Bro. Dewitt Cagle



Piney Grove

Ministers:

Rev. Jerry Plott and  
Rev. Milton Pierce

Deacons:

Bro. Alton Colburn  
Bro. Orbie Harris, Bro. Charles Hill and  
Bro. Philip Sensing

DISABLED MINISTERS

Rev. Milton Pierce, Piney Grove

**MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES**

**William Abbott**, 1985 Horne Rd., Lapine, AL 36046  
**Ronald Bevan**, 112 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  
**Jamie Dingler**, 5434 Stonewall Tell Rd., College Park, GA 30349, 770-306-7173  
**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  
**Craig McCarley**, 302 Dogwood Drive, Phil Campbell, AL 35581, 993-5713  
**Dewey Pearce**, 7975 Hobgood Rd., Fairburn, GA 30213, 770-463-3944  
**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**, 6001 Hwy. 34, Russellville, AL 35653, 332-1022  
**Jerry Plott**, 111 Poplar St., Fairburn, GA 30213, 770-964-5903  
**Anthony Robbins**, 11644 St. Hwy. 253, Brilliant, Alabama 35548 468-8210  
**Billy Robbins**, 11774 St. Hwy. 253, Brilliant, Alabama 35548, 468-3083  
**Ronald Watson**, 2646 Edgar Chapel Rd., 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
Waldrop (By Permission) .....	1997
Adair Chapel .....	1998
Botush .....	1999
Edgar Chapel .....	2000

## 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 osterity 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 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 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

\_\_\_\_\_, 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 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 Deacons to be Ordained \_\_\_\_\_

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

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	\$10,009.44	\$3,299.93	9	\$92.03	\$600.00
BOTUSH	\$80,000.00	\$3,775.55	\$8,749.53	35	\$1,425.00	\$300.00
EDGAR CHAPEL	\$80,000.00	\$3,214.22	\$5,739.00	20	\$725.00	\$100.00
FIRST Free Will	\$295,000.00	\$9,315.00	\$2,100.00	44	\$2,942.65	\$0.00
HALEY- VILLE	\$180,000.00	\$30,699.11	\$15,259.77	44	\$1846.38	\$500.00
LUVERNE	\$130,000.00	\$8,390.55	\$13,551.73	30	\$200.00	\$100.00
MT. HOME	\$65,000.00	\$3,001.06	\$3,504.64	35	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEW PROSECT	\$35,000.00	\$4,467.09	\$6262.84	39	\$300.00	\$180.00
PINEY GROVE	\$300,000.00	\$23,881.34	\$34,270.83	41	\$6007.71	\$1,267.38



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	\$975.00	FT	\$5,300.00	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
BOTUSH	\$325.00	FT	\$9,625.00	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDGAR CHAPEL	\$589.00	FT	\$7,349.30	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FIRST Free Will	\$350.00	FT	\$4,800.00	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
HALEYVILLE	\$700.00	FT	\$8,700.00	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
LUVERNE	\$375.00	FT	\$4,200.00	1	0	0	0	8	2	0	0
MT. HOME	\$705.00	FT	\$7,150.00	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
NEW PROSECT	\$550.00	FT	\$3,820.00	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2
PINEY GROVE	\$1,200.00	FT	\$24,400.00	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

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 11774 St. Hwy. 253 Brilliant, AL 35548	Annette Cagle 1091 Co. Rd. 3026, 489-2716 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. H wy. 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 1185 Co. Rd. 37, 205-486-2504 Haleyville, AL 35565
PINEY GROVE	Fulton, GA	Rev. Jerry Plott 770-964-5903 111 Popular Street Fairburn, GA 30213	Anita B. Smith 7140 Hobgood Road Fairburn, GA 30213

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NOTES:

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