

MINUTES  
OF  
THE  
109<sup>TH</sup>  
BEAR CREEK  
FREE WILL  
BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION

2006



Minutes Of The  
109<sup>th</sup> Annual Session

of the

BEAR CREEK  
FREEWILL BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH  
ADAIR CHAPEL FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
DOUBLE SPRINGS, AL  
SEPTEMBER 8 & 9, 2006

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Rev. Billy Robbins  
Moderator Elect.....Rev. T. L. Pierce  
Assistant Moderator.....Rev. Ronald Watson  
Assistant Moderator Elect.....Rev. Ray Butler  
Clerk.....Sis. Gina Yielding

The 109<sup>th</sup> session of the Association will meet with Haleyville FWB on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 2007. Friday Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. September 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday Services will begin at 9:15 a.m. on September 8, 2007.

Address of Clerk:  
Gina Yielding  
7440 Herndon Rd.  
Fairburn, GA 30213  
Telephone: (770)964-4890

## **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

Rev. Dewey Pearce

Rev. Milton Pierce

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**Proceedings of the  
BEAR CREEK  
FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**Friday Morning**

The 109<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Bear Creek Freewill Baptist Association convened at Adair Chapel FreeWill Baptist Church on September 8, 2006. Rev. Ray Butler led opening prayer. We began with the opening congregational songs "What A Savior" & "By the Blood of the Lamb" led by Bro. Scotty Jones.

The Association Moderator, Rev. Billy Robbins, took charge of the Service and welcomed everyone to the 109<sup>th</sup> Association and thanked Adair Chapel for Hosting this years Association. He recognized the former Association members & officers who have passed from this life with a moment of silent prayer. Rev. Jerry Boyles led prayer.

Devotional service for Friday morning was conducted by Bro. Thad Gardner of Haleyville FWB. Bro. Thad testified and then turned the service over to the congregation for their testimonies. Sis. Fuson sang "Thank You Lord for Your Blessings".

Bro. Scotty Jones led the congregational song - "Because He Lives". The Moderator turned the service over to Rev. Rick Cash from the National Association of Free Will Baptists to discuss his mission trip to Russia.

The following special songs followed: Rev. T.L Pierce, Sis. Paulette Tidwell, Sis. Dorothy Vinson, Sis. Joan Hodges, and Sis. Anne Nichols - "Now I Have Everything", Bro. Thad Gardner - "Angel in Overalls:", Sis. Lois Bevan - "Father Forgive", and Sis. Dorothy Vinson and Sis. Gerita Pierce - "What A Day that Will Be".

The introductory sermon was provided by Rev. Rick Cash. His scripture was from John 9:5 & Matthew 5:13. His thought was "The Light of the World".

The second sermon was provided by Rev. Billy Robbins. His scripture was Micah 6: 6-8/ His thought was "Be Ye Humble. The invitational song, "Have Thine Own Way Lord" was led by Bro. Scotty Jones.

The Moderator turned the service over to Rev. Wayne Fuson to explain the process for eating lunch. Rev. Fuson also blessed the food.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Friday afternoon services convened at 1:15 p.m. The service was opened by a congregational song, "How Great Thou Art" led by Bro. Scotty Jones. Afternoon opening prayer was led by Rev. Orbie Pierce.

The following special songs followed: Sis. Darlene Rogers - "I've Got So Much to Thank Him For", Sis. Barbara Butler - "Some Morning Under".

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

- FIRST: Appointed Reading Clerks:  
Sis. Anne Tidwell  
Sis. Glenda Willis
- SECOND: Appointed Finance Committee  
Bro. Wayne Adair  
Rev. Raymond Bevan
- THIRD: Called for Letters from each Church:  
Each church in the Association presented their letter and Association dues of \$85.00. They were all accepted and the delegates from each church were seated. An additional \$5.25 was collected from each church for additional 2005 expenses.
- FOURTH: Called for Petitionary Letters:  
None
- FIFTH: Reading Clerks were dismissed
- SIXTH: Seated Visiting Delegates:  
None
- SEVENTH: Election of Officers:  
Moderator (2008) - Rev. T. L. Pierce  
Asst. Moderator (2008) - Rev. Ray Butler  
Clerk (2008): Sis. Gina Yielding

- EIGHTH: Dismissed the Credentials Committee  
None to be reviewed at this time
- 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. Scotty Jones

Bro. Wayne Adair

Bro. Lee Oliver

- TENTH: Appointment of Committees

1. Committee on Literature

Sis. Shirley Lawler

Sis. Christy Jones

2. Committee on Sunday School

Sis. Geraldine Fuson

Sis. Sharon Adair

3. Committee on Deceased Members

Bro. Leonard Lawler

Sis. Susan Tittle

4. Committee on Ministers & Deacons

Rev. Raymond Bevan

Bro. Alton Colburn

5. Committee on Documents & Order of Business

Rev. Abe Edwards

Rev. T. L. Pierce

Bro. Thad Gardner

### FRIDAY NIGHT & SATURDAY MORNING PREACHERS

- 2003 Rev. Ray Butler - Friday Night  
Rev. Jamie Suggs, - Saturday Morning  
Rev. Billy Robbins - Saturday Morning
- 2004 Rev. Ronald Watson - Friday Night  
Rev. Orbie Pierce - Saturday Morning  
Rev. Billy Robbins - Saturday Morning



2005    Rev. Ray Butler - Friday Night  
           Rev. Abe Edwards - Saturday Morning  
           Rev. Jamie Suggs - Saturday Morning

### ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS & DELEGATES

Adair Chapel.....	4
Andrew Chapel.....	0
Botush.....	5
Edgar Chapel.....	5
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	4
Haleyville.....	4
Mt. Home.....	3
Piney Grove.....	4
TOTAL.....	29

### ROLL CALL OF TOTAL ATTENDANCE FROM EACH CHURCH

Adair Chapel.....	4
Andrew Chapel.....	0
Botush.....	9
Edgar Chapel.....	5
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	9
Haleyville.....	7
Mt. Home.....	11
Piney Grove.....	6
TOTAL.....	51

### REPORT OF PREACHING & DEVOTION COMMITTEE

Friday Night Preaching.....	Rev. Jerry Boyles
Saturday Devotion.....	Bro. Charles Edwards
Saturday Morning Preaching.....	Rev. Wayne Fuson & Rev. Orbie Pierce

The Moderator released the Committee on Preaching & Devotion. The Moderator had the congregation stand for a moment of silence in memory of all the deceased members.

We, the Association, were dismissed until Friday night at 7:00 p.m.

## **FRIDAY NIGHT COMMUNION**

The Association re-assembled Friday night at 7:00 p.m. with the opening special song "No One Wants To Work In My Field" sang by Sis. Sharon Adair. Two additional congregational songs, "Oh The Glory Did Roll" & "I'll Be A Friend to Jesus" were led by Bro. Thad Gardner. The opening prayer was an Alter Prayer.

The Moderator welcomed everyone and turned the service over to Rev. Jerry Boyles who brought the sermon. His text was John 13. The invitational song, "Are You Washed In the Blood" was led by Bro. Thad Gardner.

The sermon was followed by Communion and Feet Washing. Bro. Wayne Adair and Bro. Thomas Pierce served the Lord's Supper. There were 35 in total attendance and 33 rejoiced while taking part in the special service. We concluded with "When He Was On The Cross". Bro. Bobby Moore Led the dismissal prayer.

## **SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION**

The Moderator called the House to Order at 9:05 a.m. for the transaction of business. A song, "I'd Rather Be An Old Time Christian" was led by Bro. Scotty Jones. A prayer was led by Rev. Jerry Plott.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- FIRST:           Stood for a Moment of Silent Prayer for deceased Members
- SECOND:        Asked for the Letter from Andrew Chapel-None
- THIRD:          Dismissed the Credentials Committee to review ministers cards
- FOURTH:        Seated visiting delegates:  
None
- FIFTH: Roll Call

## ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS & DELEGATES

Adair Chapel.....	6
Andrew Chapel.....	0
Botush.....	4
Edgar Chapel.....	5
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	4
Haleyville.....	4
Mt. Home.....	3
Piney Grove.....	<u>5</u>
TOTAL.....	31

## ROLL CALL OF TOTAL ATTENDANCE FROM EACH CHURCH

Adair Chapel.....	6
Andrew Chapel.....	0
Botush.....	8
Edgar Chapel.....	6
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	9
Haleyville.....	7
Mt. Home.....	8
Piney Grove.....	<u>7</u>
TOTAL.....	51

FIFTH: Received Committee report as read

### 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 and grandparents 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 8 Sunday Schools in our Association. Membership is as follows:

Adair Chapel.....	8
Andrew Chapel.....	0
Botush.....	30
Edgar Chapel.....	15
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	27
Haleyville.....	35
Mt. Home.....	30
Piney Grove.....	37
TOTAL.....	182

This is a decrease of 20 members in our Sunday School membership.

**3. Committee on Deceased Members**

We, your committee, beg to report that we had 4 deaths in our Association for the 2005-2006 year. They are as follows:

Edgar Chapel.....	Bro. J. D. Faulkner
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	Bro. Larry Algary
Piney Grove.....	Sis Ora Chastain & Sis. Mae Chastain

We stood for a moment of silent prayer. The committee report was adopted and the committee was released.

**4. Committee on Ministers & Deacons**

We, your committee, beg to report we have 13 ordained ministers and 10 active and 1 inactive deacons in our Association. This is a decrease of 1 minister and a decrease of 1 deacon.

The committee report was adobted and the committee was released.



## 5. Committee on Documents and Order of Business

### 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 for his service, and the he look after the destitute church and try to fill each with a pastor.
4. That the clerk be allowed \$100 for their services and the superintend the printing of the minutes.
5. That a church wishing to be organized shall call, to the 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 minister 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 minute 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 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 memebership.
10. We recommend that we preach two preachers in the Association while in session, limited 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 years' work, either in person or by letter to the Association.
14. That all ordained and licensing be done at the Association unless receiving the 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 two 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 to 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 Moderator.
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 year work, shall be turned in to the Credentials Committee at the beginning of the 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 Associational 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. Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13 and Romans 1:17-32.
26. That we condemn abortion as murder, as all life is precious in the sight of God. Genesis 4:8 & Luke 1:41-42.

27. That each church helps in the expenses of meals for the association and the hosting church will decide the method of meals.
28. That each church come together for a week's Association Revival involving Preachers and singers from each church beginning the Monday night after the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Meeting.

**6. Released the Committee on Preaching and Devotion**

**7. Committee on Finance.**

We, your committee, beg to report that the Association received from churches \$631.75 and there was a negative balance of \$30.41. This gives a total of \$601.34 to operate the finances of the Association.

TOTAL.....	-\$30.41
Moderators; Fee.....	50.00
Clerk's Fee.....	100.00
Printing Cost.....	Unknown
BALANCE.....	\$601.34

If there is a need for additional minutes by the churches, they should contact the clerk. If the 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 dismissed.

The business session adjourned until after the morning worship services.

**SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

We, the Association reassembled after a 15 minute break.  
Congregational song, "While The Ages Roll" was led by Bro. Scotty Jones.

Bro. Willie Clark led Prayer.

Devotional Service was conducted by Bro. Charles Edwards who read I Kings 8:61 & 9:6-7. He gave his testimony and turned the service over to the congregation for their testimonies. Sis. Fuson sang "He Rolled Me Over the Tide".

A number of special songs followed: Sis. Gina Yielding - "Child, You're Forgiven", Rev. T.L. Pierce, Rev. Orbie Pierc, & Sis. Dorothy Vinson - "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be", Rev. Ronald Watson, Sis. Dorothy Vinson & Sis. Gerita Pierce - "What A Lovely Name", Bro. Thad Gardner - "Letters From Heaven" & Rev Billy Robbins - "I Am Redeemed.

Rev. Wayne Fuson brought the first sermon. His main text was Romans 8:26-31. His thought was "Working together for them that love God". The invitation song, "Take It To The Lord In Prayer" was led by Bro. Scotty Jones. The second sermon was brought by Rev. Orbie Pierce. His text was 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

Rev. Wayne Fuson addressed the Association and explained where lunch would be served. Bro. Scotty Jones led the dismissal prayer and the blessing for lunch.

#### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

The Association Moderator reconvened the Association at 1:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone back for the business session. He thanked Adair Chapel for hosting the 109<sup>th</sup> Association.

A number of special songs followed: Sis. Gerita Pierce, Sis. Dorothy Vinson and Rev. Ronald Watson - "I Call It Home", Rev. Jerry Plott - "Please Let Me Sing In the Choir", Sis. Barbara Butler - "Mansion In Glory"

The Association Moderator called the House to order for the transaction of business. Discussion was made on the 2007 hosting church for the Association. Haleyville Free Will Baptist Church was voted on to host the 110<sup>th</sup> Session of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Seating of visiting delegates: None

2. Roll Call

### ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS, DEACONS & DELEGATES

Adair Chapel.....	6
Andrew Chapel.....	0
Botush.....	4
Edgar Chapel.....	5
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	4
Haleyville.....	3
Mt. Home.....	6
Piney Grove.....	<u>5</u>
TOTAL.....	33

### ROLL CALL OF TOTAL ATTENDANCE FROM EACH CHURCH

Adair Chapel.....	6
Andrew Chapel.....	0
Botush.....	8
Edgar Chapel.....	6
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	9
Haleyville.....	9
Mt. Home.....	10
Piney Grove.....	<u>7</u>
TOTAL.....	55

3. The Association Moderator turned the chair over to the Moderator of the Presbytery, Rev. Orbie Pierce.



## **THE PRESBYTERY**

The Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Orbie Pierce (2008), took charge of the service and proceeded by seating the 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) Presbytery Moderator: (2008) Rev. Orbie Pierce.

C) Credentials Committee: Rev. Jerry Plott (2007), Bro. Ed Garrison (2008), and Rev. Wayne Fuson (2009).

The Presbytery was dismissed with Prayer led by Bro. Al Colburn.

## **THE ASSOCIATION**

Rev. Billy Robbins thanked Adair Chapel for hosting the 109th Association meeting. Rev. Wayne Fuson thanked all of the churches for coming to Adair Chapel for the Association meetings. A congregational song "God Be With You" was led by Rev. Billy Robbins. The 109<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association was dismissed with a prayer led by Bro. Earl Crumpton.

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

ADAIR CHAPEL: Sis. Sharon Adair, Sis. Geraldine Fuson, Bro.  
Earl Crumpton

ANDREW CHAPEL: None

BOTUSH: Sis. Kristie Jones, Sis. Hazel Garrison, Sis. Idell Mann

EDGAR CHAPEL: Bro. L C Borden, Sis. Susan Tittle, Sis. Shirley

Lawler, Alternate: Sis. Alice Brown

FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST: Bro. Lee Oliver, Bro. Joey Rogers,

Bro. Danny Baswell, Alternate: Sis. Gina Yielding

HALEYVILLE: Bro. Bobby Moore, Bro. Charles Edwards, Bro.

Thad Gardner

MT. HOME: None

PINEY GROVE: Bro. Thomas Pierce, Bro. William Bradberry



## ROLL OF ORDAINED MINISTERS & DEACONS

- ADAIR CHAPEL: Ministers: Rev. Bobby Wayne Fuson  
Deacons: Bro. Wayne Adair
- ANDREW CHAPEL: Ministers: Rev. Jamie Suggs  
Deacons: Bro. Farris Hughes
- BOTUSH: Ministers: Rev. Ronald Watson  
Deacons: Bro. Edward Garrison  
Bro. Scotty Jones
- EDGAR CHAPEL: Ministers: Rev. Orbie Pierce  
Deacons: Bro. I. J. Borden  
Bro. Leonard Lawler
- FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST:  
Ministers: Rev. Rayford Butler  
Rev. Jamie Dingle  
Deacons: None
- HALEYVILLE: Ministers: Rev. Jerry Boyles  
Rev. Billy Robbins  
Rev. Wiley Brown  
Deacons: Bro. Charles Edwards  
Bro. Thad Gardner
- MT. HOME: Ministers: Rev. T. L. Pierce  
Rev. Abe Edwards  
Rev. Raymond Bevan  
Deacons: None
- PINEY GROVE: Ministers: Rev. Jerry Plott  
Rev. Donald Colburn  
Deacons: Bro. Alton Colburn  
Bro. Orbie Harris  
Bro. Charles Hill  
Bro. Philip Sensing - Inactive

## MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

- Raymond Bevan: 224 Bluffway Drive, Jasper, AL 35503  
(205)384-9478
- Jerry Boyles: 896 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, Haleyville, AL 35565  
(205)269-7795
- Ray Butler: 6825 Roosevelt Hwy, Fairburn, GA 30213  
(770)964-6750
- Abe Edwards: 300 Lynelle Ave 307, Bear Creek AL  
(205)
- Wayne Fuson: 733 McHamm Rd., Addison, AL 35540  
(256)747-1873
- Orbie Pierce: 1001 Highway 243 South, Haleyville, AL 35565  
(205) 486-3350
- Thomas L. Pierce: 6001 Highway 34, Russellville, AL 35654  
(256)332-1022
- Jerry Plott: 111 Poplar Street, Fairburn, GA 30213  
(770)964-5522
- Billy Robbins: 11774 State Hwy 253, Brilliant, AL 35548  
(205)468-3083
- Ronald Watson: 2646 Edgar Chapel Road, Phil Campbell, AL 35581  
(205)993-4692

## FORMER LOCATIONS OF ASSOCIATIONS

Haleyville.....	1986
Piney Grove.....	1988
Adair Chapel.....	1991
Haleyville.....	1992
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	1994
Piney Grove.....	1995
Haleyville.....	1996
Adair Chapel.....	1998
Botush.....	1999
Edgar Chapel.....	2000
First Free Will Baptist of Union City.....	2001
Haleyville.....	2002
Adair Chapel.....	2003
Botush.....	2004
Andrew Chapel.....	2005
Adair Chapel.....	2006

## 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 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 shall be 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 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 votes 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 including the clerk shall be elected at each session of the Association with no limit on numbers 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 Articles 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 the 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, Moderator of the Presbytery, and the Clerk shall be chosen at every other session.
4. The name of the delegates from the church shall be enrolled and called as often as is necessary during the session.'
5. A majority of delegates shall rule in all cases except in the reception of churches, then it shall be unanimous.
6. 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.
7. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the Moderator.
8. No one person will be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.
9. Not less than three officiating officers shall compose a legal Presbytery.

## **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

1. GOD. We believe that here 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 & 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 that 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 it's means whereby sinners are converted and made wise into Salvation. Romans 10:12 & Romans 1:16



5. CHRISTIAN FAITH. We believe the 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 and 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 and 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 is 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 the last meeting
3. Call for references
4. Call for peace and fellowship.
5. Open the 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 THE 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 your 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 accordingly 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 Saints' feet according to St. John 13<sup>th</sup> 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 the 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 in order of Church Conference this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk



## CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

We, the Church of Christ at \_\_\_\_\_  
of the Free Will Baptist order send greetings to the Ministers, Deacons,  
and Delegates, 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: \_\_\_\_\_, Be Restoration:  
\_\_\_\_\_, By Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_, Dismissed by Letter: \_\_\_\_\_,  
Died: \_\_\_\_\_, Excluded: \_\_\_\_\_, Names dropped that joined other  
faiths: \_\_\_\_\_, Members Active: \_\_\_\_\_, Members in Sunday School:  
\_\_\_\_\_, Days of Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Ordained Ministers: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Deacons to be Ordained: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Licentiates: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Deacons: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Expenses: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Given to Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Given to Evangelists: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Given to Charity: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Given to Missions: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Given to Orphanage: \_\_\_\_\_

Value of Church Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Now in Treasury: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes & Associational Funds: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk Address & Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Paster Address & Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

We petition for the Association to meet with us at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. This done by order of Church in  
conference (date): \_\_\_\_\_.

Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ Moderator

Clerk

Names of Deceased Members: \_\_\_\_\_

	Adair Chapel	Andrew Chapel	Botush	Edgar Chapel
Value of Church Property	\$60,000	\$85,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Church Expenses	\$5,270.58	?		\$12,211.96
Now in Treasury	\$1,807.81	?	\$50,160	\$8,981
Members in Sunday School	8	?	30	15
Amount Given to Charity	\$100	?	\$1,600	\$145
Amount Given to Missions		?		
Amount Given to Orphanage	\$100	?	\$325	\$100
Amount Given to Evangelist	\$450	?	\$300	\$650
Days of Meeting	Full Time	?	Full Time	Full Time
Amount Given to Pastor	\$5,400	?	\$9,725	\$9,515
Died	0	?	0	1
Dismissed by Letter	0	?	0	2
Received by Recommendation	2	?	0	0
Received by Restoration	0	?	0	0
Received by Letter	0	?	0	1
Received by Baptism	0	?	3	0
Excluded	0	?	0	0
Dropped/Joined Other Faith	0	?	0	0

	<b>First FreeWill</b>	<b>Haleyville</b>	<b>Mt. Home</b>	<b>Piney Grove</b>
Value of Church Property	\$295,000	\$180,000	\$65,000	\$300,000
Church Expense	\$20,956.43	\$17,893.89	\$3,737.28	\$33,066.41
Now In Treasury	\$13,407.52	\$45,259.11	\$3,647.78	\$68,271.39
Members in Sunday School	27	35	30	37
Amount Given to Charity	\$906.03	\$1,000	\$950	\$12,317.56
Amount Given to Missions				\$735
Amount Given to Orphanage	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$1,338.60
Amount Given to Evangelist	\$1,000	\$500	\$0	\$1,000
Days of Meeting	Full Time	Full Time	Full Time	Full Time
Amount Given to Pastor	\$7,500	\$6,600	\$7,800	\$26,120
Died	1	0	0	2
Dismissed By Letter	0	0	0	0
Received by Recommendation	0	4	2	2
Received By Restoration	0	0	0	0
Received by Letter	0	2	2	0
Received By Baptism	2	2	0	5
Excluded	0	0	0	0
Dropped/Joined Other Faith	2	0	0	0

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>PASTER &amp; ADDRESS</b>	<b>CLERK &amp; ADDRESS</b>
Adair Chapel	Winston	Rev. Bobby W.Fuson 733 McHann Rd. Addison, AL 35540 (256)747-1873	Sharon Adair 212 County Rd. 73 Double Springs, AL 35553 (205)489-5
Andrew Chapel	Morgan	Rev. Jamie Suggs 757 Strange Rd. Boaz, AL 35957 (256)593-1691	Candy Morris 268 County Rd 200 Danville, AL 35619 (256)462-3950
Botush	Winston	Rev. Ronald Watson 2646 Edgar Chapel Rd. Phil Campbell, AL 35581 (205)993-4692	Martha Smith 384 Co. Rd 3418 Haleyville, AL 3556 (205)486-9430
Edgar Chapel	Franklin	Rev. Orbie Pierce 1001 Hwy 243 S. Haleyville, AL 35565 (205)486-3350	Shirley Lawler 103 Stone Rd. Phil Campbell, AL (205)993-4147
First Free Will Baptist of Union City	Fulton, GA	Rev. Ray Butler 6825 Roosevelt Hwy Fairburn, GA 30213 (770)964-6750	Sandra Glaze 521 Grittith Dr. Palmetto, GA 30268 (770)463-9027
Haleyville Free Will Baptist	Winston	Rev. Jerry Boyles 896 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Haleyville, AL 35565 (205)269-7795	Brenda Clark 2791 County Rd 34. Haleyville, AL 3556 (205)486-2164
Mt. Home	Marion	Rev. T. L. Pierce 6001 Hwy 34 Russellville, AL 35654 (256)332-1022	Connie Morrison 443 County Hwy 13 Phil Campbell, AL (205)486-4829
Piney Grove	Fulton, GA	Rev. Jerry Plott 111 Poplar St Fairburn, GA 30213 (770)964-5522	Anita B. Smith 7140 Hobgood Rd Fairburn, GA 30213 (770)964-2674



# MINISTERS REPORT

MINISTERS REPORT	RAYMOND BEVAN	JERRY BOYLES	RAYFORD BUTLER
Sermons Preached	70	67	56
Professions Witnessed	0	8	2
Received in Church	0	12	0
Baptized	0	5	2
Visited Sick Homes	Unknown	40	55
Funerals Conducted	0	2	3
Pastored Churches	1	2	1
Held Communion	1	1	2
Conducted Prayer Meeting	0	50	0
Attended Sunday School	50	51	51
Held Revivals	1	2	0
Married Couples	0	1	0
Money Received	Unkown	\$9,550	\$7,500
Amount Given to Charity	Unknown	\$600	\$150
Tithes	\$2,700	\$1,200	\$3,000

# MINISTERS REPORT

MINISTERS REPORT	ABE EDWARDS	WAYNE FUSON	ORBIE PIERCE
Sermons Preached	14	108	61
Professions Witnessed	0	4	0
Received in Church	0	2	1
Baptized	0	0	0
Visited Sick Homes	Unknown	4	19
Funerals Conducted	1	1	2
Pastored Churches	0	1	1
Held Communion	0	1	0
Conducted Prayer Meeting	0	63	50
Attended Sunday School	51	54	49
Held Revivals	0	1	3
Married Couples	0	1	0
Money Received	Unknown	\$5,200	\$9,882
Amount Given to Charity	\$50	Unknown	\$300
Tithes	Unknown	Unknown	\$1,352

# MINISTERS REPORT

MINISTERS REPORT	T. L. PIERCE	JERRY PLOTT	BILLY ROBBINS
Sermons Preached	44	48	28
Professions Witnessed	0	5	4
Received in Church	4	7	1
Baptized	0	0	0
Visited Sick Homes	0	65	20
Funerals Conducted	2	2	1
Pastored Churches	1	1	1
Held Communion	0	2	0
Conducted Prayer Meeting	3	8	1
Attended Sunday School	49	48	50
Held Revivals	1	0	4
Married Couples	1	0	0
Money Received	\$8,550	\$21,320	\$1,000
Amount Given to Charity	\$350	\$450	Unknown
Tithes	\$2,636	\$3,100	\$2,400

# MINISTERS REPORT

MINISTERS REPORT	RONALD WATSON		
Sermons Preached	60		
Professions Witnessed	0		
Received in Church	3		
Baptized	3		
Visited Sick Homes	20		
Funerals Conducted	2		
Pastored Churches	1		
Held Communion	4		
Conducted Prayer Meeting	1		
Attended Sunday School	50		
Held Revivals	1		
Married Couples	0		
Money Received	\$9,725		
Amount Given to Charity	Unknown		
Tithes	\$2,650		



## NOTES

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