

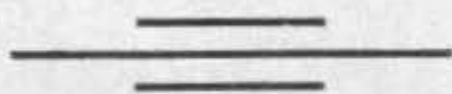
**THE  
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT  
ASSOCIATION**

OF

**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**1956**

**Proceedings Of The  
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION**



HELD WITH

**MEADOWS CHAPEL CHURCH**

BLOSSBURG, ALABAMA

**August 30, 31, September 1, 1956**

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
OF  
**FREE WILL BAPTIST**  
HELD WITH  
**MEADOWS CHAPEL CHURCH**  
AT  
BLOSSBURG, ALABAMA

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**OFFICERS**

Moderator.....Rev. V. B. Abney, Pell City, Ala.  
Assistant Moderator.....Rev. J. E. Drummonds, 3327 - 9th Ave., Oak Ridge, Ala.  
Clerk.....Rev. R. W. Ritch, 724 - 12th Ave., West, Birmingham 4, Ala.  
Assistant Clerk.....Mrs. L. L. Gamel

The next sitting of this association will be held with the Liberty Church, Lawley, Alabama, on Thursday night before the first Monday in September, 1957.

**ORDER OF CHURCH CONFERENCE**

1. Call for peace and fellowship of the church.
2. Opportunity for members.
3. Invite visitors to seat with us.
4. Reading of minutes of last conference.
5. Call for acknowledgments.
6. Deacons report.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Report from sick committee.
10. Motion to adjourn.



# PROCEEDINGS

## THURSDAY NIGHT

Proceedings of the 18th annual session of the Birmingham District Association of Free Will Baptist when convened with Meadows Chapel Church at Blossburg, Alabama, August 30, 31, September 1, 1956.

Service began with singing of several good songs, followed by Bro. Finch leading everyone in an altar prayer. Bro. Fields gave a short welcome address and then turned the service over to Bro. Hanks. Bro. Hanks lead the devotional service with many christians testifying. Bro. Barker brought the message using I Cor. 13th Chapter as his text. The message was enjoyed by all. Bro. Hurst dismissed us in prayer.

## FRIDAY MORNING

We convened at 9 in the morning with the singing of several songs led by Bro. Drummonds. Bro. Smith led everyone in a altar prayer. Bro. Drummonds led "Amazing Grace." Bro. Hanks took charge and welcomed everyone to the association. The body was now declared ready for business.

Reading Committee.....Sis. Gamel and Sis Bridier.

Churches Reporting at this time.

Mt. Zion.....Sis. Daisy Barber, Bro. Abner Gray and Bro. Fate Gossett.

Pleasant Hill.....Sis. Bridier, Bro. Andrew Bridier and Bro. Alford Boyd.

Liberty.....Sis. Eskridge, Sis. Mary Chapman, Sis. Estell Smith.

Fairview.....Bro. Lamar Smith, Bro. Robert Williams, Bro. Richard Torrance.

Community.....Sis. Lola Gibson and Sis. Emma Pardue

Unity.....Bro. H. W. Grice, Bro. E. J. Duck and Bro. Preston Wyatt

East Thomas.....Sis. Esther Lee Key, Sis. G. C. Cochran and Bro. L. L. Gamel.

Shilo.....Bro. Edward Yarbrough, Sis. Minnie Goodwin and Sis. Emma Hogan.

Meadows Chapel.....Sis. Lillie Dutton, Sis. Ruby Gunter and Sis. Leta Linn

Brecon.....Bro. C. C. Bates

District No. 1.....Sis. Chapman, Sis. E. Langford and Sis. W. L. Smith

District No. 2.....Bro. Bowman, Sis. Barnett and Sis. Haynes.

Move and second to accept the letters and seat the delegates.

Devotional Committee.....Bro. Gunter, Bro. Evans, Bro. Torrance, Bro. Terry and Bro. Williams.

Move and second to elect officers for this setting of the association.

Bro. V. B. Abney, Moderator.

Bro. J. E. Drummonds, Ass't Moderator.

Bro. R. W. Ritch, Clerk.

Sis. L. L. Gamel, Ass't. Clerk.

Appointing of committees.

Executive Committee.....Bro. Barker—1957, Bro. M. C. Isbell—1958, Bro. C. B. Snelling—1959, Bro. C. B. Finch—1960, and Bro. J. A. Elmore—1961.

Auditing Committee.....Bro. Key, Bro. Allen and Sis. Chapman

Temperance Committee.....Sis. Barber, Sis. Gunter, and Sis. W. L. Smith

Standing of Ministers.....Sis. E. Smith, Sis. Key and Bro. Dutton

Devotional Committee reported that Bro. Finch was to bring the morning message.

Bro. Barker dismissed us in prayer for a short recess.

We convened back with Bro. Abney and Bro. Key leading several good songs.

Bro. Barker led in an altar prayer. Bro. Finch brought a wonderful message using I Kings 19. The message was enjoyed by all. Bro. Fields invited everyone to take part in the lunch hour. We were dismissed for lunch by Bro. Key.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

After a wonderful lunch which was enjoyed by all, we convened with Bro. Williams leading "When The Redeemed Are Gathering In." Bro. and Sis. Ledlow sang two specials which was enjoyed by all. Bro. Abney led us all in prayer. While the committees were out we had some wonderful singing. Bro. Chester O'Donnell made a short talk concerning our state work. We had a testimony service with many christians taking part. We were dismissed for a short recess by Bro. Hanks. We convened back with Bro. Finch leading "Hold To God's Unchanging Hand."

Partial report of the Business Committee.

Move and second to accept report and dispose of same item by item.

1. That the association send the executive committee to the Brecon Church to investigate their trouble, and find out who the Church property belongs to and what can be done about it.

2. We recommend that the clerk put the following ministers names in the minutes and state that their papers have been revoked. Rev. C. O. Goodwin; Rev. Calvin Howell; Rev. L. D. Hurst; Rev. Carl Presley; and Rev. L. H. Horn. Also the following Deacons: Brothers Robert Spurling; Roy Simmons; Clyde Presley; H. H. Robertson, Charles Simmons and Marvin Isbell.

3. We recommend that each church donate \$25.00 to the expense of the National Association. That is to come to Birmingham in July, 1957.

4. We recommend that the body vote to go either to East Thomas or Liberty at the next sitting. The next sitting will be at Liberty.



Report of the Deceased Committee—We the Deceased Committee find the following have deceased during the past year: Mt. Zion, Bro. C. M. Barber, Sis. Ervin Patterson, Sis. Cecil Howel, East Thomas, Bro. R. L. Peebles, Sis. Mary Idell Smith, Sis. Mary Jane Harden, and Sis. Juanita Swinney.

We extend our greatest sympathy to the families of these beloved ones. But we know that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Partial report of the Auditing Committee—We the Auditing Committee have examined the clerk's books and found them in order.

Report of the Temperance Committee—We your Temperance Committee believe in abstaining from all appearance of evil, keeping ourselves unspotted from the world and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Bro. Fields dismissed us in prayer for the afternoon.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT

Ministers' Conference met at 7:30 with the singing of some good songs. Bro. Ritch led in an altar of prayer. The moderator took charge using for his scripture reading Eph. 5:1. The minutes of the last conference were read and adopted. We then had a song to give new members the opportunity to join the Ministers' Conference. Minister Bro. Lamar Smith. Deacons: Bros. R. W. Williams and R. T. Torrence. Motion to elect new officers. Moderator, Bro. C. L. Finch. Clerk, Bro. James Elmore. Bro. Finch took the stand. The committee on the rules gave their report.

Move and second to accept report and dispose of it item by item.

1. That this be known as the Ministers' and Deacons' Conference of the B'ham District Association.

2. That all Ministers coming from other associations bring a letter of recommendation from his association along with his Certificate of Standing.

3. That all Ministers coming from other denominations be investigated before being accepted into our Conference. That they also preach for one year under the watch-care of the church.

4. That a questioner be drawn up for all Ministers and Deacons wishing to be licensed or ordained fill it out.

5. That all Ministers and Deacons coming to be licensed or ordained fill out a questioner before being accepted.

Rules to follow in our Ministers' and Deacons' Conference.

1. Singing of four or five good songs.
2. Prayer.
3. Moderator turns the meeting over to the Ministers' and Deacons' Conference.
4. Reading of the minutes of the last conference.
5. Invitation for new members.
6. Election of officers.
7. Old business.
8. New business.
9. Appointing of two Ministers to bring the messages and their subjects.
10. Hearing the messages.
11. Adjourn.

Bro. Finch was given power to appoint the committee to draw up the questioner. Bro. Ledlow, Bro. Hanks and Bro. Torrence. Bro. Fields and Bro. Abney were appointed to bring the messages at the next session. After a song, Bro. Hanks and Bro. Finch brought the messages which was enjoyed by all. We were dismissed in prayer.

#### MINISTERS ROLL

##### Honor Roll.

Rev. J. F. Williams, Rt. 8, Box 640, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. C. R. Allen, Rt. 4, Box 462, Birmingham

Rev. T. J. Kelly, Rt. 1, Harpersville, Alabama.

Rev. V. B. Abney, Pell City, Alabama.

Rev. Ira L. Hanks, Rt. 15, Box 1142, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. E. O. Morris, Rt. 1, Talladega, Alabama.

Rev. Harvel Patterson, Rt. 6, Talladega, Alabama.

Rev. Jessie E. Drummonds, 3327 - 9th Avenue, North, Pell City, Alabama.

Rev. Dee Hollis, Rt. 1, Box 98D, Pell City, Alabama.

Rev. Donnie Layton, Rt. 7, Box 585 H, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. M. C. Isbell, 2225 - 3rd Avenue, North, Leeds, Alabama.

Rev. Odra Davis, Rt. 11, Box 312, Birmingham 10, Alabama.

Rev. Dewey Isbell, Box 235, Leeds, Alabama.

Rev. W. A. Fields, Rt. 2, Box 468, Gardendale, Alabama.

Rev. Abraham Samples, Rt. 5, Box 457, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. Ray W. Ritch, 724 - 12th Avenue, West, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. J. A. Barrones, Rt. 5, Box 218 F, Anniston, Alabama.

Rev. E. B. Ledlow, 804 West, Pine Street, Sylacauga, Alabama.

Rev. C. D. Burrell, Box 611, Oakman, Alabama.

Rev. Dalton Ford, Rt. 1, Pell City, Alabama.

Rev. James Elmore, 4304 - 10th Avenue, North, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. Chester L. Finch, Rt. 1, Pell City, Alabama.

Rev. L. B. Hallmark, Rt. 2, Box 438, Gardendale, Alabama.

Rev. C. B. Snelling, 1616 Oxmoor Road, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. James T. Baker, Rt. 1, Lawley, Alabama.

Rev. Arthur Barker, 822 Princeton Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. Lamar Smith, 808 Ledbetter, Anniston, Alabama.

Rev. James A. Thomas, Rt. 2, Trussville, Alabama.

Rev. Raymond Alfred, Rt. 1, Jasper, Alabama.

Rev. C. W. Haynes, 7208 - 1st Avenue, North, Birmingham, Alabama.

Rev. Gene Dawson, P. O. Box 123, Vincent, Alabama.



## DEACONS ROLL

### Fairview

Bro. W. M. Hennegar  
Bro. Robert Williams  
Bro. Alvin Hennegar  
Bro. Richard Torrance  
Bro. Edward Smith

### Community

Bro. Leroy Pardue  
Bro. Curtis Trussell

### Brecon

Bro. Bennie Davis  
Bro. Otis Blackwood

### Meadows Chapel

Bro. Irkle Gunter  
Bro. Alfred Dutton  
Bro. Harlon Upton

### Unity

Bro. James Brown  
Bro. Durward Garrett  
Bro. Walter Gentry  
Bro. Gaines Henry  
Bro. Freelan Scoggins  
Bro. John H. Williams

### East Thomas

Bro. C. K. Evans  
Bro. T. V. Evans  
Bro. Dillard Key

Bro. R. S. Higdon  
Bro. J. D. Shackelford

### Riverview

Bro. Lloyd Hughston  
Bro. Henry Endfinger

### Mt. Zion

Bro. Fate Gossett  
Bro. Grady Hollis  
Bro. Homer Howell  
Bro. Willie Harris

### Jefferson Park

Bro. John L. Poe  
Bro. Ellis Dodson

### Shilo

Bro. Lawrence Hogan  
Bro. Albert Goodwin  
Bro. Rufus Franklin

### Liberty

Bro. Virgel Foster  
Bro. Taylor Terry

### Highpoint

Bro. George Cline  
Bro. Aubrey Venable  
Bro. Robert Rogers  
Bro. Oscar Etheridge

## SATURDAY MORNING

We convened at 8:30, with Bro. and Sis. Ledlow singing some good specials. Bro. Drummonds led the congregational singing. Bro. Davis led us in an altar prayer. Bro. Abney took charge, reading from the third chapter of Colossians.

Jefferson Park and Highpoint Churches reported at this time. It was moved and seconded to accept letters and seat delegates. Delegates from Highpoint were Sis. Beatrice Hayles and Sis. Lorene Isbell. Delegates from Jefferson Park were Sis. Deely Davis, and Sis. Maudie Dodson.

Bro. Hanks was placed on the business committee in the place of Bro. Barker.

It was moved and seconded to accept Highpoint Church into the association.

Sis. Isbell replaced Bro. Williams on the devotional committee.

We had a wonderful testimony service led by Bro. E. O. Morris.

We were recessed for a short period at this time.

We reconvened with Bro. and Sis. Ledlow singing some specials.

Bro. Abney sang a special "Come and Dine."

Riverview Church reported at this time. It was moved and seconded to accept the letter and seat the delegates, who were Sis. Catherine Patterson, Sis. Dessie Endfinger.

Bro. W. A. Fields brought the morning message using the 14th Chapter of St. John. The message was enjoyed by all.

We were dismissed for lunch by Sis. Langford.

## SATURDAY EVENING

After a wonderful lunch which was enjoyed by all we convened with the singing of several good songs. Sis. Ledlow sang a special which everyone enjoyed. Bro. Elmore led everyone in prayer. Bro. J. H. Williams replaced Sis. E. Smith on the Standing of Ministers. Report of the Business Committee.—Move and second to accept report and dispose of same item by item.

1. We recommend that the moderator of this association appoint a home mission board of three men to work out a plan to support the field evangelist. That this board consist of a chairman and secretary. Home Mission Board: Bro. Elmore, Bro. Morris, and Bro. Ledlow.

2. We recommend that rule two of the Rules of Decorum be changed to read: "The association when assembled shall be composed of all ministers and ordained deacons and delegates present chosen by the different churches and Quarterly meetings."

3. We recommend that the moderator be given power to appoint a delegate or delegates to the State and National Association. Delegates to the state association: Bro. Duck, Sis. Isbell, Sis. Key and Sis. Baker. Delegate to national association, Bro. Key.

4. We recommend that Bro. Ernest Vardaman, Jr. be turned over to the ordaining council and if found worthy be licensed to preach for one year.

Bro. Davis and Bro. Thomas were named to replace Bro. Ketton and Bro. Snelling on the Ordaining Council.

Devotional Committee appointed Bro. Drummonds to bring the message tonight. Bro. Hanks made his report concerning the camp ground.

Balance on hand.....	\$511.00
Interest on the money.....	15.00
T. V. Evans.....	15.00
Sis. T. V. Evans.....	10.00
Bro. Burrell.....	25.00
Bro. Ritch.....	15.00
Liberty Church.....	25.00
Total.....	\$616.00

Respectfully submitted by,

LEE HANKS, Treasurer

Report of the Standing Committee—We your Standing of Ministers Committee recommend that all ministers that turned in their work report be given their certificate of standing.



NAME	ADDRESS	No Churches Pastored	No Sermons Preached	No. Funerals Conducted	No. Revivals Assisted In	No. Marriages Performed	No. Miles Traveled	No. Members Received	No. Sick Calls	Amount Of Offering Received	Expense Of Ministerial Work
Rev. E. O. Morris	Route 1 Talladega, Ala.	1	40		1	2	400	3		\$ 60.00	
Rev. Harvel Patterson	Route 6 Talladega, Ala.		7				50		12	\$ 1.00	
Rev. Jesse E. Drummonds	3327 - 9th Ave., N. Pell City, Ala.	1	80		2			3		\$ 841.38	
Rev. Dee Hollis	Rt. 1, Box 98 D Pell City, Ala.		10				50				
Rev. Odra A. Davis	Rt. 11, Box 312 Birmingham 10, Ala.	1	148	1	2		900	14	42	\$ 35.00	\$200.00
Rev. W. A. Fields	Rt. 2, Box 468 Gardendale, Ala.	1	84	1	1	2				\$ 84.42	
Rev. Edward B. Ledlow	804 W. Pine Street Sylacauga, Ala.	1	135	5	1			11	235	\$1,300.00	
Rev. C. D. Burrell	Box 611 Oakman, Ala.		51	1	3				56	\$ 170.19	
Rev. James Elmore	4304 - 10th Ave., No. Birmingham 6, Ala.	1	53					6			
Rev. Lee Hanks	Rt. 15, Box 1142 Birmingham, 8, Ala.	1	88	8	3	1				\$ 416.70	
Rev. Chester L. Finch	Route 1 Pell City, Ala.	1	64	1	3	1	6340	3		\$ 200.00	
Rev. C. R. Allen	Rt. 4, Box 462 Birmingham, Ala.		25		1						
Rev. L. B. Hallmark	Rt. Box 438 Gardendale, Ala.	1	95	1	1			4		\$ 150.00	
Rev. C. B. Snelling	1616 Oxmoor Road Birmingham, Ala.		35						20		
Rev. James T. Baker	Route 1 Lawley, Ala.		37	1			1500		50	\$ 123.84	
Rev. A. R. Barker	822 Princeton Ave. Birmingham, Ala.	1	83	7	3	11					
Rev. Lamar Smith	808 Ledbetter Anniston, Ala.		30	1	1				25		\$ 50.00
Rev. James A. Thomas	Route 2 Trussville, Ala.		52		5		1000		20	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00
Rev. Gene Dawson	Vincent, Ala.	2	84		3		2100	8	25	\$ 80.00	\$ 95.00
Rev. R. W. Ritch	724 - 12th Ave., W. Birmingham 4, Ala.		50	4			6500		150		
Rev. C. W. Haynes	7208 - 1st Ave., No. Birmingham, Ala.	1	147		5		2000		50	\$ 1.85	\$300.00
Rev. M. C. Isbell	2225 - 3rd Ave., No. Leeds, Ala.	1	170		6	1	2000	28	50	\$ 230.00	
Rev. Abraham Samples	Rt. 5, Box 457 Birmingham 6, Ala.		50		3		10,000		25	\$ 13.00	



Report of the Auditing Committee—We your Auditing Committee finds Bro. Lee Hanks report correct and commend him for his wonderful work on the camp ground.

Bro. Ritch was appointed as field evangelist for the coming year

We moved and seconded to give Bro. Vardaman a license for one year.

We took an offering of \$15.00 for the Children's Home.

Move and second to accept the minutes as read. Motion to adjourn. Bro. Fields dismissed us in prayer.

#### SATURDAY NIGHT

We convened back with the singing of several good songs. Bro. Cagle led us in an altar prayer. Bro. Key sang a special which was enjoyed by all. Bro. Dutton led "I'll Live On" Bro. Fields welcomed everyone to the night service. Bro. Drummonds brought a wonderful message using the 2th Chapter of James. Bro. Abney took charge of the Lord's supper and Feet washing with many Christians taking part. Bro. Key dismissed us in prayer.

#### RULES OF DECORUM

1. After an introductory sermon is preached the association shall be called together by the Moderator who presided at the last session. In case of his absence, the assistant Moderator shall call the body together, the former clerk also officiating until organized.

2. The association when assembled shall be composed of all the Ministers and Ordained Deacons, and Delegates present chosen by the different churches and quarterly meetings.

3. The officers of the association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and a Clerk to be chosen from the members present.

4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the body during the session at which he is elected, to call the next session to order and to preside until re-organization and the elections and installation of his successor. It shall be his duty to keep order, enforce the Rules of Decorum, decide all questions, discipline, and in case of a tie vote to cast the deciding ballot. He may speak on any subject but must call on the Assistant Moderator to preside while he is speaking.

5. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep the minutes of the proceedings and to read the same when upon by the body, and shall prepare the minutes for publication.

6. Each church is entitled to three delegates.

7. A majority of the members shall rule in all cases.

8. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the Moderator.

9. All business shall be brought before the body by a motion and second and shall be disposed of by vote of the body.

10. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, nor more than ten minutes each time, without permission of the Moderator.

11. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion or uses words of personal reflection.

12. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must arise and address the Moderator.

13. That no business be voted on without the whole delegation present.

14. This decorum may be altered, amended or abridged if any session of the association by a majority of the members present.

15. The minister that receives the most votes shall be elected Moderator, and the next highest, Assistant Moderator.

16. We recommend that all preachers and churches coming from other associations or denominations be examined by a committee before being received into the body.

17. We recommend that we correspond and ask correspondence with other associations.



## FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE**—The Scriptures of the Old Testaments were given by inspiration of God and our infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. **GOD**—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good Whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey. I Cor. 8:6; 28:19.
3. **CHRIST**—Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His Divine nature truly God in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord. St. John 1:1-12.
4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men. St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:14.
5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD**—God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.
6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN**—Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. He posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God. Gen. 2:17; 3:19.
7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST**—The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith. I John 2:2.
8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION**—The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance of sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved of one self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death. 2 Cor. 7:10; Prov. 28:13.
9. **ELECTION**—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. **FREEDOM OF WILL**—The human will is free and self controlled having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish. Joshua 24:15.
11. **SALVATION FREE**—God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of Life freely.
12. **PERSEVERANCE**—All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation, Rev. 22:17; St. John 15:6; Peter 2:20-22.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES**—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers. St. John 15:6; Peter 2:20; Mark 16:15; or 4:5, St. John 13:14.

14. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH**—The Divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusement for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communication with God. Gen. 2:3; Exodus 20:8-11.

15. **RESURRECTION JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION**—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked shall "go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life." John 5:9; Matt. 25:46.

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good work endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship and the observance of the ordinance of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprise supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come and His will be done earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprise, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday School, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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