

MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH

Pleasant Valley Free Will Baptist Church

CHELSEA, ALABAMA

October 1-2, 1954

OFFICERS

Moderator..... Elder Robert P. Ritch
Route 3, Box 260F, Sylacauga, Alabama

Assistant Moderator..... H. H. Blanchard
Alton, Alabama

Clerk..... H. A. McSpadden
Route 9, Box 231F, Birmingham, Alabama

The 77th session of the Cahaba River Association of Free Will Baptist will meet with the East Birmingham Free Will Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1955.

MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-Sixth Annual Session

OF THE

Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH

Pleasant Valley Free Will Baptist Church

CHELSEA, ALABAMA

October 1-2, 1954

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Elder Robert P. Ritch
Route 3, Box 260F, Sylacauga, Alabama

Assistant Moderator.....H. H. Blanchard
Alton, Alabama

Clerk.....H. A. McSpadden
Route 9, Box 231F, Birmingham, Alabama

The 77th session of the Cahaba River Association of Free Will Baptist will meet with the East Birmingham Free Will Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama, on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1955.

MINISTERS REPORT

Minister	Churches Pastored	Sermons Preached	Revals	Baptised	Marriages	Funerals	Expenses	Money Received	Churches Organized	Miles Traveled
J. J. Staab	1	130	1	2	0	0	\$125.00	\$730.00		1500
R. H. Howard	0	25	0	0	2	1	4.96	12.80		300
M. D. Harper	3	141	5	0	1	2	671.85	1391.00		12290
James Pickett	1	116	4	3	1	0	700.00	700.00		10000
R. P. Ritch	1	148	3	15	0	2	25.00	1315.45		500
Jack Rollins	1	113	2	1	0	1	1041.68	1366.25		14066
J. W. Marlow	2	140	5	6	1	4	1000.00	1022.00		8000
Robert Armstrong	0	65	0	0	0	0	40.00	88.59		1100
D. F. Isbell	1	365	2	4	0	0		650.00		
John C. Baxley	1	61	1	0	0	1	51.00	187.90		911
E. L. Isbell	0	25	1	0	0	1	18.75	27.10		519
George LaShum	0	80	3	7	1	3		50.00	1	
A. M. Cagle	1									

PROCEEDINGS

The 76th sesion of the Cahaba River Association assembled with the pleasant Valley Free Will Baptist Church of Chelsea, Alabama.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Thursday night, September 30, 1954. Regular Church Service and Business. Rev. M. D. Harper, pastor, officiating.

Friday, 9 a.m., October 1, 1954. Congregation assembled in song service, singing several good hymns.

Devotion service conducted by Elder R. P. Ritch, moderator. Reading the 61st Psalm. Subject: "The Rock That Is Higher Than I." Prayer by Elder R. H. Howard.

The 76th Annual Session of the Cahaba River Association of Free Will Baptist was called to order by H. A. McSpadden, association clerk, in prayer by Elder M. D. Harper.

Church letters received by Credential Committee. Ed Goodwin, Elders J. C. Baxley and Robert Armstrong.

At this time Elder M. D. Harper, pastor of the church, gave welcome address inviting all to join in and enjoy fellowship of this association, expressing his desire of a greater zeal in this Evangelic Movement as the need was greater today than ever. Songs: "Where He Leads Me" and "Grace Greater Than Our Sin."

Report of Credential Committee. All letters in proper order and due form. Recommended that the association accept them. Accepted.

Letters read by Elders Robert Armstrong and J. C. Baxley. All letters accepted. A motion to seat delegates in body was accepted and delegates seated.

DELEGATES

Sylacauga: Bro. Nickey Pickett, Sisters Jean Pickett, Barbara Ritch, Adgie May Deason, Nervie Isbell.

Fairview: Bro. Charles Smith, Tom Prance, Sisters Louise Webb, Dorothy Goodwin.

Bethel: Bro. Charlie Boothe, Sisters Myrtle Smitherman, Minnie Pickett.

Pleasant Valley: Bros. Leo Kendrick, H. H. Harper, Sister Cecil Hodges.

Davis Chapel: Sisters Willie Caudle, Freida Stoke, Beatrice Howard, Ola Howard.

Mount Olive: Sisters Elvie Mae Minor, Lottie Isbell.

Union Hill: Sisters Claudie Howard, Mignon Howard, Bro. A. B. Vickers.

Mount Pleasant: Bro. and Sister Sid Duncan, Bro. Gordon Nichols.

Oak Grove: Bro. and Sister John Tubbs, Sister Pearl Byrd.

Shady Grove: Sisters Pearl Hancock, Louie Bates, Edna Haskett.

East Birmingham: Bros. Lonnie Howard, J. O. Parker.

North Birmingham: Sisters Billie Rollins, Eunice Dill, Willie Mae Colley.

Dillworth: By letter.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Devotional: W. N. Hodgens, Sid Duncan, and T. C. Howard.

Standing of the Ministry: Ed Goodwin, T. H. Rogers, Henry Pickett and Eugene Howard.

Business: Tom Prance, A. B. Vickers, Louie Bates and Robert Armstrong.

Ordaining Council: Elders M. D. Harper, R. H. Howard, John C. Baxley, J. J. Staab and James Pickett.

Deceased Members: Sisters Elvie Mae Minor, Dorothy Goodwin and Claudie Howard.

Family Religion: Sisters Louie Bates, Nervie Isbell, Louise Webb and Edna Haskett.

Sunday School: Sisters Adgie Mae Deason, Barbara Ritch, Lottie K. Isbell.

League: Charles Smith, Sisters Mary McSpadden, Pearl Hancock.

Temperance: Bros. J. O. Gamble, T. A. Armstrong, Gordon Nichols.

REPORT OF DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE

Elder Robert Armstrong, Devotional Service.
Elder R. H. Howard, 11 a.m. message.
Song Service: "Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus," "Sweetest Name I Know," and "At Calvary."
Devotional by Elder Robert Armstrong (Psalm, 1st chapter).
A good spiritual testimony service. Prayer by Bro. A. B. Vickers.
Message by Elder R. H. Howard. Reading: St. John, 21st chapter, 6th to 10th verses.
Subject: Tenth verse, "Bring the fish which ye have now caught."
A soul inspiring message.
Noon. A wonderful fellowship was enjoyed as delegates assembled in grove near church. Enjoyed a delicious dinner served by the good ladies of Pleasant Valley Church.

FRIDAY, 1:00 P.M., OCTOBER 1, 1954

Song service. Several good hymns were sung.
Devotion by the moderator. Reading: Ephesians 5th chapter.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Meeting called to order by President, Sister Louise Webb.
Scripture reading Sister Jeannette Harper. Reading: Galatians 6th Chapter.
Prayer by Aunt Becky Harris. Song: "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder."
Minutes of last meeting read and accepted.
Letters called for and read. Fairview, Mount Olive, Sylacauga, and Shady Grove.
Letters Accepted.

Election of Officers

President	Sister Louise Webb
1st Vice President	Sister Mary McSpadden
2nd Vice President	Sister Adgie Mae Deason
3rd Vice President	Sister Edna Haskett
4th Vice President	Sister Jeannette Harper
5th Vice President	Sister Becky Harris
Secretary-Treasurer	Dorothy Goodwin, Trussville (Rt. 2), Ala.

A motion was passed to have a Woman's Auxiliary day the first Saturday in April, 1955, at North Birmingham Church. Each church bring a basket for lunch and prepare a program for the day.

Suggestions and new ideas for improving auxiliaries.

Offering of \$9.70 received for Children's Home.

Several good discussions on the importance of the auxiliary in the church.

Adjourned.

Prayer by Elder Dewey Isbell.

FRIDAY P.M. SERVICE, OCTOBER 1, 1954

Thirty minutes of good gospel singing.
Ministers and Deacons meeting called to order by Elder M. D. Harper.
Scripture Reading: Matthew 5th Chapter, 23rd to 30th verses.
Song: "Bless Be the Tie that Binds."
Christian fellowship and hand shake by ministers and deacons.
Committee on Home Mission for Tent—Elders J. W. Marlow, D. F. Isbell and M. D. Harper.

A motion to keep all Home Mission funds until enough money was raised to buy a tent for Evangelistic purposes. Motion accepted.

A motion was passed that all ministers and deacons must either represent himself in person or by letter to ministers conference in order to obtain certificate of standing for following year.

A motion to have new certificate cards printed with ministers' report on back of cards. Accepted.

Elder J. J. Staab voted to discuss some subject next year.
Discussion on 1000 Years Reign of Christ. First Speaker: Elder R. P. Ritch. Scripture used: Isaiah 11:11-12, 9:10; Revelations 20; Matthew 24:26-31; Genesis 17:7-8, 38:4; Romans 2:28-29; I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Ephesians 5:23.

Elder D. F. Isbell discussed Revelations 20:7.

Elder J. W. Marlow discussed Isaiah 11:1-9.

Elder M. D. Harper discussed Luke 2:45-52; Romans 11.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elder J. J. Staab, Moderator; Elder James Pickett, Assistant.
Adjourned. (See Roll of Ministers and Deacons for those present at conference).

SATURDAY 9 A.M., OCTOBER 2, 1954

Service began with several good songs.

Devotional by moderator. Scripture II Timothy 2:1-26.

Committee reports accepted. (See report of committees).

General discussion on reports.

Song service. Good spiritual singing by choir with special, "The Old Country Church," by Joyce and Jean Brasher.

"At Calvary" by the R. P. Ritch family.

Devotion by Bro. Austin Parker.

A wonderful testimony service as Saints gave testimonies of Faith and Love of our Lord.

Elder James Pickett delivered the message. Scripture reading from Psalm 8th Chapter. Text from 4th verse, "Man's Duty to God."

Announcements by Pastor. Prayer by J. W. Marlow.

NOON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1954

The good dinner and Christian fellowship was certainly enjoyed in this hour by all present.

SATURDAY 1 P.M., OCTOBER 2, 1954

Song: "Beulah Land."

Devotion: I Peter 5:1-11 by Moderator.

Report of Ordaining Council. Accepted.

Council proceeded in ordaining Brother Robert Parker to full function of the Ministry. Bro. Roy Hodgins ordained as deacon, Mount Pleasant Church, Bro. L. R. Howard as deacon, East Birmingham Church. Elder J. J. Staab gave charge to candidates.

Prayer of Consecration by Elder J. C. Baxley and laying on of hands by whole Council.

Right hand of fellowship given by whole congregation as song, "If Jesus Goes With Me" was sung.

ELECTION OF STATE DELEGATES

Cahaba River Association delegates	Sisters Billie Rollins, Louise Webb
Sylacauga delegate	Sister H. W. Grice
Fairview delegate	Sister Dorothy Goodwin
Oak Grove delegate	Sister Pearl Byrd
Pleasant Valley delegate	Sister Mary Shirley
Shady Grove delegate	Sister Edna Mae Haskett
East Birmingham delegate	Sister Rozzie McCuller
Mount Olive delegate	Sister Elvie Mae Minor
Davis Chapel delegate	Sister Beatrice Howard
North Birmingham delegate	Sister Mary McSpadden
Mount Pleasant delegate	Sister Phoebe Hodgins
Bethel delegate	Sister Minnie Pickett
Union Hill delegate	
Dillworth delegate	

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elder James Pickett	Moderator
Elder J. J. Staab	Assistant
Bro. H. A. McSpadden	Clerk
Bro. M. D. Harper	Treasurer

Executive Committee

Ed Goodwin	One Year Chairman
Jack Rollins	Two Year Chairman
Louie Bates	Three Year Chairman

Home Mission Board

J. W. Marlow	One Year Chairman
J. T. Kimbrough	Two Years Chairman
R. P. Ritch	Three Years Chairman

A motion that we pay ten per cent of tithes of this year's income to State Unified Program. Accepted.

A vote of thanks and appreciation to the church and community for the wonderful way we have been entertained and the fellowship we have enjoyed.

East Birmingham Church will be the meeting place of next annual association in 1955.

A collection of \$13.22 was received for Home Mission treasure.

Song: "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again."

Prayer by Elder J. W. Marlow.

Adjourned.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

M. D. Harper, Treasurer

Total amount received	\$246.85
Paid out	166.00
Balance	\$ 80.85
Home Mission	
Total amount received	\$590.57
Paid out	100.00
Balance	\$490.57

Auditing Committee: We find treasure records and money correct and in order. Jack Rollins, Chairman.

Credential Committee: We find letters in due form and certified by Churches.

Devotion Committee: Friday a.m.—Elder Robert Armstrong, Devotion; Elder R. H. Howard, 11 a.m. message.

Saturday a.m.—Elder Robert Parker, Devotion; Elder James Pickett, 11 a.m. message.

Saturday p.m.—Pastor of Church, I. C. Howard, Chairman, Sid Duncan and W. N. Hodgins.

Standing of the Ministry: We find all ministers and deacons qualified to receive certificate of standing and recommend same.—H. T. Rogers, Eugene Howard, Ed Goodwin.

Deceased Members: We wish to extend our sympathy and love to the friends and loved ones of these our beloved who have departed this life to be with Christ our Lord:

Sylacauga Church—Bros. William Armstrong and Jim Cullins; Union Hill—Bro. Jim Weldon; Shady Grove—Sister Mary Woodruff; Fairview—Sister Phoebe Graves; Davis Chapel—Bro. E. G. Courdee; Oak Grove—Sisters Hallie Long, Maymee Lloyd, and Bro. Bill Densmore. Sisters Elvie Mae Minor, Chairman, Mignon Howard.

Temperance: Temperance is one of the graces we are taught to add to our lives in II Peter 1:6. We should use it in our every day lives for the preservice of our souls; to avoid all appearances of evil; to abstain from sinful amusements and unholy conformity of the world; and from all sanction of use and sale of intoxicating beverages as taught in our Church Covenant.

—T. A. Armstrong, Chairman, Gordon Nichols, J. O. Gamble

Family Religion: We urge that parents live more dedicated lives in their homes, and teach the children God's Word and how to live that they may grow up in the nurture and admonition of our Lord.

—Sisters Louie Bates, Louise Webb, Largus Haskett

League: League training is just as important as the Sunday School to our Churches. It trains our young as well as old to carry on God's work for His service and glory.

—C. B. Smith, Chairman, Sisters Dewey Hancock, Mary McSpadden

Sunday School: We urge all our churches to give full support to our Sunday Schools. See that they are supplied with truly regenerated Christian teachers and that our parents cooperate by helping the children in studying their literature and daily Bible readings. Keep children quiet in church and remain for preaching services.

—Adgie Mae Deason, Chairman, Louise Webb, Lottie Isbell, Barbara Ritch.

Business Committee:

Item No. 1. We recommend this association give the Children's Home \$100.00.

Item No. 2. We recommend that all ministers and deacons attend the annual ministers' conference in person or by letter with a reasonable excuse why he should not come and include his fee in order to receive his certificate of standing.

Item No. 3. We recommend that the home mission treasure be set aside for the purpose of purchasing a tent with seats.

Item No. 4. We recommend Elder Robert Parker, Brothers Lonnie Howard and Roy Hodgins to ordaining council for ordination.

Item 5. We request annual report from quarterly district of Business transacted during the year. Accepted.

Ordaining Council: We find the following Brethren qualified for ordination—Elder Robert Parker to the ministry, Bros. Lonnie Howard and Roy Hodgins for deacons.

—Elder M. D. Harper, Chairman

MINISTERS' ROLL

Elder H. O. Walton, 3924 Fairmont Way, B'ham, Ala.	\$1.00
George LaShum, 2107 Avenue C, Ensley, Ala.	1.00
Robert Parker, Sterrett, Ala.	1.00
James McKay, Rt. 1, Sterrett, Ala.	1.00
Louie Bates, Route 1, Alden, Ala.	1.00
Nathan Davis, Route 11, Box 307A1, Birmingham, Ala.	1.00
Calvin Hanes	1.00
Roy Johnson, Route 1, Adamsville, Ala.	1.00
T. B. Hallmark, Gardendale, Ala.	1.00
D. E. Calvert	1.00
Earl Isbell, Dunnavant, Ala.	1.00
A. M. Cagle, Gardendale, Ala.	1.00
J. W. Marlow, 700W 24th Ave., B'ham, Ala. (Ph. 4-3097)	1.00
Jack Rollins, Route 1, Box 200, Adamsville, Ala.	1.00
James Pickett, 2710 Ave. D, Ensley, Ala.	1.00
Robert P. Ritch, 54 Twin St., Sylacauga, Ala.	1.00
J. J. Staab, 2313 North 33rd Ave., Birmingham, Ala.	1.00
Dewey F. Isbell, Box 235, Leeds, Ala.	1.00
Dewey Colley	1.00
John C. Baxley, Route 1, Harpersville, Ala.	1.00
R. H. Howard, Route 1, Sterrett, Ala.	1.00
Robert Armstrong, 50 Georgia Ave., Sylacauga, Ala.	1.00
Maxwell D. Harper, Route 1, Marvel, Ala.	1.00
E. L. Isbell, Route 1, Sterrett, Ala.	
H. W. Coshatt, 8617 North 2nd Ct., Birmingham, Ala.	
T. A. Lively, Route 1, Empire, Ala.	
W. O. Mitchell, Route 2, Cordova, Ala.	
Lonnie Goodwin, Leeds, Ala.	

\$23.00

MONEY RECEIVED

	Association	Home Mission
East Birmingham	\$ 5.00	
Mount Pleasant	20.00	\$14.75
Mount Olive	10.00	
Shady Grove	10.00	
Fairview	15.00	
Pleasant Valley	5.00	
Sylacauga	25.00	
Union Hill	10.00	
Bethel	10.00	
Davis Chapel	10.00	
Oak Grove	5.00	
North Birmingham	65.45	
Ministers	23.00	
Deacons	24.00	
Collection Home Mission		13.22
BALANCE	\$237.45	\$27.97

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

SHADY GROVE:

Income	\$547.77
Spent for Improvements on the Church, Children's Home, and Helping the Sick, Flowers	514.08
Balance in Treasure	\$ 33.69

Mrs. Louie Bates, President
Mrs. Joe Click, Jr., Secretary
Adamsville, Route 2, Alabama

NORTH BIRMINGHAM:

Income	\$307.76
Paid Out	258.52
Balance	\$ 49.24

Our work has been helping add Sunday School Rooms to our Church, visiting the sick, sending flowers and trays.
Mrs. H. W. Russell, Secretary and Treasurer

MOUNT OLIVE:

Balance in Treasure	\$ 20.44
---------------------	----------

Our work has been repairing our Church, buying doors, paint and other material.

Miss Elvie Mae Minor, President
Miss Lottie Isbell, Secretary and Treasurer

FAIRVIEW:

Our work this year has been visiting sick, sending flowers and helping the sick and those in need, installing windows and painting the floors. We sponsored a two-week singing school for our Church.

Mrs. Ora McCrelless, President
Mrs. Vivian Hawley, Secretary and Treasurer

SYLACAUGA:

Income	\$612.42
Paid Out	570.06
Balance	\$ 42.36

Visits to the sick, 532; visits to the hospital, 459; Trays carried, 96; personal flowers, \$220.09; charity, \$250.81.

Mrs. Joe Brazzell, President
Mrs. Mary Mull, Secretary and Treasurer

DEACONS' ROLL

Cecil Kendrick	\$1.00	Walker Isbell	
Thurmond Kimbrough	1.00	Felix Smith	1.00
H. W. Grice	1.00	Joe Click, Jr.	1.00
W. N. Hodgins	1.00	William Click	1.00
Claud Deason	1.00	Jerald Parker	1.00
T. A. Armstrong	1.00	Ed Goodwin	1.00
H. T. Rogers	2.00	H. A. McSpadden	1.00
Shellie Isbell	1.00	Henry Pickett	1.00
S. J. Fowler	1.00	Chester Isbell	1.00
Grady Collins	1.00	Billie Britton	1.00
Austin Parker	1.00	O. J. Alexander	1.00
Percy Stokes	1.00	A. E. Franklin	1.00
Eugene Howard	1.00		
Oscar Gamble			\$24.00

Frank Pickett, John Boothe, C. B. Boothe, James Kitchens, J. H. McCuller, Coy Crocker, J. W. Wise, Sidney Brom, Lonnie Howard, Norman Shirley, W. W. Pugh, Clay Mosely, J. M. Nichols, C. C. Stone, Calvin McCreless, A. J. Smith, J. L. Poe, Ellis Goodwin, Henry McGlaughlin, D. N. Davis, Frank Minor, Percy Stokes, J. W. Isbell, Johnny Parker, A. L. Harmon, J. L. Garner, Artie Frederick, A. F. Morse, Austin Hodges, W. T. Wolfe.

PASTORS AND CLERKS

Bethel: Elder Nathan Davis, Pastor
Mrs. Cleve Allen, Clerk, Route 1, Marvel, Alabmaa.
East Birmingham: J. W. Marlow, Pastor
Mrs. Evelyn Gamble, Clerk
Pleasant Valley: M. D. Harper, Pastor
Mrs. Cecil Hodgins, Clerk, Route 1, Chelsea, Alabama
Dillworth: A. M. Cagle, Pastor
George A. LaShum, Clerk, 2107 Avenue C, Ensley, Alabama
Mount Pleasant: M. D. Harper, Pastor
J. W. Barnett, Clerk, Sprott, Alabama
Oak Grove: Roy Johnson, Pastor
Mrs. Flora Tubb, Clerk, Gardendale, Alabama
Shady Grove: Louie Bates, Pastor
Mrs. Joe Click, Jr., Clerk, Route 2, Adamsville, Alabama
Fairview: H. H. Blanchard, Pastor, Alton, Alabama
Ed Godwin, Clerk, Route 2, Trussville, Alabama
Mount Olive: D. F. Isbell, Pastor
Davis Chapel: M. D. Harper, Pastor
Mrs. Willie L. Caudle, Clerk, Sterrett, Alabama
Union Hill: John C. Baxley, Pastor
Clerk, Route 1 Harpersville, Alabama
Sylacauga: R. P. Ritch, Pastor
Mrs. Adgie Mae Deason, Clk., 603 Oakland Ave., Sylacauga, Ala.
North Birmingham: Jack Rollins, Pastor
Mrs. Mary McSpadden, Clerk, Route 9, Box 231F, B'ham, Ala.

BY-LAWS OF MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE OF CAHABA RIVER ASSOCIATION

- (1) The clerk or assistant clerk, or the Senior Minister in years, may call the meeting to order and shall have charge until moderator assumes his place.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll all ministers present who are in good standing. If there are questionable characters they shall be referred to an appointed credential committee for advice but not for trial. They may be seated if found worthy, if not they are referred to their church.
- (3) Each meeting shall be opened with scripture reading and prayer.
- (4) By a two-thirds vote any decision of the moderator may be overruled.
- (5) This meeting shall sit with open doors unless it goes into a committee as a whole.

- (6) Any person, not a member of the body shall be allowed to take part in discussion, with moderator's permission, but shall have no vote.
- (7) All members of the body are expected to be present throughout the session unless excused by moderator.
- (8) No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one officer or committeeman if his nomination is elected.
- (9) The moderator must not allow any discussion to be carried on in an unchristian spirit.
- (10) The person who desires to speak, must first arise and address the moderator and when recognized shall proceed.
- (11) The votes on any question must be counted upon request of one-fifth of members present.
- (12) No member shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, nor twice on the same subject unless given permission by moderator.
- (13) All ministers belonging to this body are required to support all committees and boards elected or appointed by Association, (such as Home Mission Board, Building Committee, etc.).
- (14) This body ordains no one until he has carried license for one year and proved himself worthy of ordination.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by Faith in Christ, and adopting the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves one to 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 confirmity of the world; from all sanction of 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 works, endeavor to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for Church conference, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the purpose of the Church and its poor and benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reprove with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the spirit" in the bond 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 of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom may come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of education and denominational enterprises, the evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

CONSTITUTION

Article I

The Association shall be known as The Cahaba River Association of the Free Will Baptist.

Article II

The Association shall be composed of Ministers, Deacons, and Delegates of different churches forming the same.

Article III

All ministers and churches wishing to become members of this body must willingly submit to the articles of constitution and all rules of same.

Article IV

Each church composing this Association shall be entitled to three (3) delegates of the first one hundred members and one (1) for each additional fifty (50) or fraction thereof.

Article V

This body shall have a standing Credentials Committee composed of three (3) members. Two ordained ministers or deacons and one (1) layman, whose duty shall be to examine all church letters and applications for membership of churches and ministers and make a report of the same to the body.

Article VI

The officers of the Association shall be composed of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer. They shall be elected by body each year, at the end of each session. The Treasurer shall serve for a term of two (2) years. He shall handle all money of the Association and shall be bonded.

Article VII

The committees of this body shall be composed of standing members to alternate each session. They shall be composed of three to five members each. The committees are as follows: Credentials, Executive, Ordaining Council, Standing of Ministry, Business, Education, Sabbath School, Family Religion, Literature, Resolutions, Temperance, Deceased Members, Home Missions and Auditing. The Ordaining Council and Standing of Ministry to be composed of ordained men. Any committeemen absent for two (2) consecutive years to be filled by new members.

Article VIII

The General Board shall be composed of the officers of the Association and chairman of each committee. The Moderator to be chairman of this board. The duties of this board will be found in our Treatise, page 61, Section No. 3, 4, 5.

Article IX

This Association shall meet on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October of each year.

Article X

Each church shall pay tithes of their income thus: 25 per cent of tithes to Children's Home, 25 per cent of tithes to Annual Association, 25 per cent of tithes to Home Mission, 15 per cent of tithes to Foreign Mission, 10 per cent of tithes to Superannuation.

Article XI

Each minister and deacon belonging to this body shall pay an annual fee of \$1.00.

Article XII

The clerk shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 annually. The Moderator shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 annually. All other expenditures not specified herein shall be by decision of the body.

Article XIII

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Association by two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

Ministers' Report to Association

No. of Churches Pastored..... No. of Sermons Preached.....
 No. Baptized..... No. of Funerals Conducted..... No. of Marriages
 Performed..... No. of Revivals..... No. of Miles Traveled.....
 Amount of Offerings..... Expense.....
 Elder.....
 Address.....

TREATISE ARTICLES OF FAITH

Chapter I—The Holy Scriptures

These are the Old and the New Testaments! They are written by holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit and are God's revealed word to man. They are a sufficient and infallible rule and guide to Salvation and all Christian worship and service.

Chapter II—Being and Attributes of God

The Scriptures teach that there is only one true and living God, who is Spirit, self-existent, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, independent, good, wise, holy, just, and merciful, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the universe; the Redeemer, Savior, Sanctifier, and Judge of men; and the only proper object of worship.

The mode of His existence, however, is a subject far above the understanding of man—finite beings cannot comprehend Him. There is nothing in the universe that can justly represent Him, for there is none like Him. He is the fountain of all perfection and happiness. He is glorified by the whole creation, and worthy to be loved and served by all intelligence.

Chapter III—Divine Government and Providence

1. God exercises a providential care and superintendence over all His creatures, and governs the world in wisdom and mercy, according to the testimony of His Word.

2. God has endowed man with power of free choice, and governs him by moral laws and motives; and this power of free choice is the exact measure of man's responsibility.

3. All events are present with God from everlasting to everlasting; but His knowledge of them does not in any sense cause them, nor does He decree all events which He knows will occur.

Chapter IV—Creation, Primitive State of Man and His Fall

Section I—Creation

1. OF THE WORLD. God created the world, and all things that it contains, for His own pleasure and glory and the enjoyment of His creatures.

2. OF THE ANGELS. The angels were created by God to glorify Him and obey His commandments. Those who have kept their first estate He employs in ministering blessings to the heirs of salvation and in executing His judgments upon the world.

3. OF MAN. God created man, consisting of a material body and a thinking, rational soul. He was made in the image of God, to glorify his Maker.

Section II—Primitive Man and His Fall

Our first parents, in their original state, were upright. They naturally preferred and desired to obey their Creator, and had no preference or desire to transgress His will until they were influenced and inclined by the tempter to disobey God's commands. Previous to this, the only tendency of their nature was to do righteousness. In consequence of the first transgression, the state under which the posterity of Adam came into the world is so different from that of Adam that they have not that righteousness and purity which Adam had before the fall; they are not willing to obey God, but are inclined to evil. Hence none, by virtue of any natural goodness and mere work of their own; can become the children of God, but they are all dependent for salvation upon the redemption effected, through the blood of Christ, and upon being created anew unto obedience through the operation of the Spirit, both of which are freely provided for every descendent of Adam.

Chapter V—Of Christ

Section I

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, possesses all divine perfections. As He and the Father are one, He in His divine nature, filled all the offices and

performed the works of God to His creatures that have been the subjects of revelations to us. As man, he performed all the duties toward God that we are required to perform, repentance of sin excepted.

His divinity is proved from His titles, His attributes, and His works.

1. HIS TITLES. The Bible ascribes to Christ the titles of Savior, Jehovah, Lord of hosts, the first and the last, God, true God, great God over all, mighty God, and the everlasting Father.

2. HIS ATTRIBUTES. He is eternal, unchangeable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, and is to be worshipped.

3. HIS WORKS. By Christ the world was created. He preserves, and governs it; He has provided redemption for all men and He will be their final judge.

Section II—The Incarnation of Christ

The Word, which in the beginning was with God and which was God, by whom all things were made condescended to a state of humiliation in being united with human nature and becoming like us, pollution and sin excepted. In this state, as a subject of the law, He was liable to the infirmities of our nature, was tempted as we are, but lived our example, perfect obedience to the divine requirements. As Christ was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, He is "the Son of man," and as the divine existence is the fountain from which He proceeded, and was the only agency by which He was begotten, He is "the Son of God," being the only begotten of the Father, and the only incarnation of the Divine Being.

Chapter VI—The Atonement and Mediation of Christ

1. THE ATONEMENT. As sin cannot be pardoned without a sacrifice, and the blood of beasts could never wash away sin, Christ gave Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and thus made salvation possible for all men. He died for us, suffering in our stead, to make known the righteousness of God, that He might be just in justifying sinners who believe in His Son. Through the redemption effected by Christ salvation is actually enjoyed in this world, and will be enjoyed in the next by all who do not in this life refuse obedience to the known requirements of God. The atonement for sin was necessary. For present and future obedience can no more blot out our past sins than past obedience can remove the guilt of present and future sins. If God pardoned the sins of men without satisfaction for the violation of His law it would follow that transgression might go on with impunity; government would be abrogated, and the obligation of obedience to God would be, in effect, removed.

2. MEDIATION OF CHRIST. Our Lord not only died for our sins, but He arose for our justification, and ascended up to heaven, where, as the only Mediator between God and man, He makes intercession for us, until He comes again.

3. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons are only subject to the first death, which was brought on by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any one of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin for of such is the Kingdom of God.

Chapter VII—The Holy Spirit

1. The Scriptures ascribe to the Holy Spirit the acts and attributes of an intelligent being. He guides, knows, moves, gives information, commands, forbids, sends forth, reproves, and can be sinned against.

2. The attributes of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.

3. The works of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit; creation, inspiration, giving of life, and sanctification.

4. The apostles assert that the Holy Spirit is Lord and God.

From the foregoing the conclusion is that the Holy Spirit, is in reality God, and one with the Father in divine perfections. It has also been shown that Jesus Christ is God—one with the Father. Then these three: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one God.

The truth of this doctrine is also proved from the fact that the

Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are united in the authority by which believers are baptized; and in the benedictions pronounced by the apostles, which are acts of the highest religious worship.

Chapter VIII—The Gospel Call

The call of the Gospel is co-extensive with the atonement to all men, both by the word and strivings of the Spirit, so that salvation is rendered equally possible to all, and, if any fail of eternal life, the fault is wholly his own.

Chapter IX—Repentance

The repentance which the Gospel requires includes a deep conviction, a penitential sorrow, an open confession, a decided hatred and an entire forsaking of all sin. This repentance God has enjoined on all men; and without it in this life the sinner must perish eternally.

Chapter X—Faith

Saving faith is an assent of the mind to the fundamental truths of revelation, an acceptance of the Gospel, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, and a firm confidence and trust in Christ. The fruit of faith is obedience to the Gospel. The power to believe is the gift of God, but believing is an act of the creature, which is required as a condition of pardon, and without which the sinner cannot obtain salvation. All men are required to believe in Christ; and those who yield obedience to this requirement become the children of God by faith.

Chapter XI—Regeneration

As man is a fallen and sinful being, he must be regenerated in order to obtain salvation. This change is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit, whereby the penitent sinner receives new life, becomes a child of God, and is disposed to serve Him. This is called in Scripture being born again—born of the Spirit, being quickened, passing from death unto life, and a partaking of the divine nature.

Chapter XII—Justification and Sanctification

1. JUSTIFICATION. Personal justification implies that the person justified has been guilty before God, and in consideration of the atonement of Christ, accepted by faith, the sinner is pardoned and absolved from the guilt of sin and restored to the divine favor. Christ's atonement is the foundation of the sinner's redemption, yet, without repentance and faith, it can never give him justification and peace with God.

2. SANCTIFICATION is the continuing of God's grace by which the Christian man constantly grows in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter XIII—Perseverance of the Saints

There are strong grounds to hope that the truly regenerate will persevere unto the end, and be saved, through the power of divine grace which is pledged for their support, but their future obedience and final salvation are neither determined nor certain, since through infirmity and manifold temptations they are in danger of falling; and they ought therefore to watch and pray, lest they make shipwreck of their faith and be lost.

Chapter XIV—The Sabbath

This is one day in seven, which from the creation of the world God has set apart for sacred rest and holy service. Under the former dispensation, the seventh day of the week as commemorative of the work of creation, was set apart for the Sabbath. Under the Gospel, the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and by authority of Christ and the apostles, is observed as the Christian Sabbath. On this day all men are required to refrain from secular labor and devote themselves to the worship and service of God.

Chapter XV—The Church

A CHRISTIAN CHURCH is an organized body of believers in Christ, who statedly assemble to worship God, and who sustain the

ordinances of the Gospel according to the Scriptures. Believers in Christ are admitted to this church on giving evidence of faith in Christ, obtaining consent of the body, being baptized, and receiving the right hand of fellowship.

The Church of God, or members of the body of Christ, is the whole body of Christians throughout the whole world, and none but the regenerate are its members.

Chapter XVI—Tithing

Both the Old and New Scriptures teach Tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work.

Chapter XVII—The Gospel Ministry

1. QUALIFICATION OF MINISTERS. They must possess good, natural and acquired abilities, deep and ardent piety, be especially called of God to the work, and ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands.

2. DUTIES OF MINISTERS. These are to preach the Word, administer the ordinances of the Gospel, visit their people, and otherwise perform the work of faithful ministers.

Chapter XVIII—Ordinances of the Gospel

1. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM. This is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ, the death of Christ, the death of Christians to the world, the washing of their souls from the pollution of sin, their rising to newness of life, their engagement to serve God, and their resurrection at the last day.

2. THE LORD'S SUPPER. This is a commemoration of the death of Christ for our sins, in the use of bread which He made the emblem of His broken body, and the cup, the emblem of His shed blood, and by it the believer expresses his love for Christ, his faith and hope in Him and pledges to Him perpetual fidelity.

It is the privilege and duty of all who have spiritual union with Christ to commemorate His death; and no man has a right to forbid these tokens to the least of His disciples.

3. WASHING THE SAINTS FEET. This is a sacred ordinance, which teaches humility, and reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin. It was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ, and called an "example" on the night of His betrayal, and in connection with the institution of the Lord's Supper. It is the duty and happy prerogative of every believer to observe this sacred ordinance.

Chapter XIX—Death

1. DEATH—As a result of sin, all mankind, is subject to the death of the body. The soul does not die with the body; but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the character here possessed.

Chapter XX—Second Coming of Christ

The Lord Jesus, who ascended on high, and sits at the right hand of God, will come again, to close the Gospel dispensation, glorify His saints, and judge the world.

Chapter XXI—The Resurrection

The Scriptures teach the resurrection of the bodies of all men, each in its own order; they have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil to the resurrection of damnation.

Chapter XXII—The Final Judgment and Final Retribution

1. THE FINAL JUDGMENT. There will be a final judgment, when time and man's probation will close forever. Then all men will be judged according to their works.

2. FINAL RETRIBUTION. Immediately after the final judgment, the righteous will enter into eternal life, and the wicked will go into a state of endless punishment.

Name of Church	Members	New Members	No. Baptized	No. Dismissed	No. Deceased	No. Ordained Ministers	No. Ordained Deacons	Licensed Ministers	Church Valuation	Improvement	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Auxiliary	League	Children's Home	Home Mission	Sunday School	Foreign Mission	Association	Unified Program	Superannuation	College	Benevolence
Sylacauga	139	19	14	3	2	2	8	0	\$16000.00	\$ 4000.00	\$1144.99	\$107.00	19	66			127		\$ 25.00	\$104.13			
Union Hill	74	5		2	1				2500.00	12.00	107.90	74.24					25	8.20	10.00		4.62		47.57
Davis Chapel.....	35	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	2500.00	27.22	422.00	60.00			57.37		30						
Mt. Olive	49	0	0	4	0	1	4	0	2500.00	458.73	150.00	32.90					35						
Fairview.....	128	23	6	5	1	4	9	1	7000.00	125.00	505.00	125.00	13	55	70.04		75						358.76
Shady Grove	61	5	1	1	1	1	2	0	5000.00	237.58	919.60	67.85	14	30	55.00		92						
Oak Grove.....	55	1	1	0	3	3	2	1		1798.08	115.00				30.73		96		5.00				
Mt. Pleasant	22	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3500.00		310.00	58.00			185.00	14.75			20.00				
Dillworth.....	48	3	0	0	1	2	2	1							200.00		40						
Pleasant Valley	26	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4000.00	493.22	605.00	60.00		10			30		5.00				
Bethel	94	9	4	1	0	2	5		7000.00	44.24	598.20	74.00	10		120.00	35.00	50		10.00				
East Birmingham	37	6	2	1	0	2	7	2	6000.00	2493.40	730.00	100.00	10	25	79.39		74	47.25	5.00				
No. Birmingham	75	3	1	0	0	4	7	1	13000.00	3100.00	1300.00	130.00	14	44	151.86	61.66	96	51.05	65.45		20.61		
TOTAL	842	74	30	17	9	22	56	6	\$69000.00	\$12349.47	\$6867.73	\$888.99	80	230	\$1007.54	\$123.98	770	\$106.49	\$145.45	\$104.13	\$25.23	0	\$406.33