

*MINUTES
OF THE
ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH
SESSION
of*



*The
CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS*

MINUTES
Of the
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSIONS
Of the
CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
Of the
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



CONVENED WITH:

MOODY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1212 PARK AVENUE
MOODY, AL 35004
MARCH 5, 2005

AND

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
256 WHITSON ROAD
TALLEDEGA, AL 35160
SEPTEMBER 30 -- OCTOBER 1, 2005



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NAME:

PAGE:

INTRODUCTION PAGE.....	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
DATES TO REMEMBER.....	3

OFFICERS:

EXECUTIVE BOARD.....	4
ORDAINING COUNCIL.....	5
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD...	6
CAHABA RIVER MISSIONS BOARD...	7
WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST.....	8

DIRECTORIES:

CHURCHES DIRECTORY.....	9-12
OTHER ADDRESSES DIRECTORY	13
AVAILABLE MINISTERS LIST.....	14

MINUTES:

SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION.....	15-20
PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICE.....	21
ANNUAL SESSION.....	22-34
WAC ANNUAL SESSION.....	35-37

ANNUAL LETTER TO STATE ASSOC...	38
---------------------------------	----

BY-LAWS FOR BUSINESS.....	39
ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION.....	40-44
ORDINATION GUIDELINES.....	45
CHURCH CONFERENCE GUIDELINES...	46
FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS...	47-61
FWB CHURCH COVENANT.....	62



DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 4, 2006- CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT SEMI-ANNUAL ASSOCIATION @ OAK GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 50 KINGS RD., SYLACAUGA, AL 35151

Rev. Rick Cash – Guest speaker

APRIL 5, 2006-CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT WAC ASSOCIATION @ OAK GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 50 KINGS RD., SYLACAUGA, AL 35151

APRIL 29, 2006-ALABAMA STATE WAC ASSOCIATION @ SULFUR SPRINGS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH 21137 OLD JASPER ROAD, NORTHPORT, AL

JULY 16-19, 2006-NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS Civic Center
@ BIRMINGHAM, AL Exhibit Center

OCTOBER 6-7, 2006- CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT ANNUAL ASSOCIATION @ FORESTDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, HWY. 78, ADAMSVILLE, AL

Rev. David Crowe-Guest speaker

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2006-ALABAMA STATE ASSOCIATION @ EAST SIDE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH 1679 EAST MAIN STREET, DOTHAN, AL



EXECUTIVE BOARD

MODERATOR:

Rev. Mike Cox
402 Brian Drive
Adamsville, AL
35005
205-674-6021
Term 2006-2007*

ASSISTANT MODERATOR:

Rev. Raymond
Rivers
1904 Fulton Road
Fultondale, AL
35068
205-841-6891
Term 2006-2007*

MEMBER

@LARGE:

Rev. Rickey
Patterson
5231 Dogwood
Trail
Adamsville, AL
35005
205-674-6750
Term 2007*

MEMBER

@LARGE:

Rev. Wayne
McDaniel
54 Twin Street
Sylacauga, AL
35150
256-249-9373
Term 2008*

MEMBER

@LARGE:

Rev. Lynn Wilson
136-2nd Street NW
Graysville, AL
35073
205-674-6922
Term 2006*

SEE Page 18
Business
Item #2
Glenn Hood
replaces
Lynn Wilson
4

CLERK- TREASURER:

Steven L. Day
P. O. Box 342
Moody, AL 35004
205-640-7470
Term 2005-2006*

ASSISTANT- TREASURER:

Rev. Michael
Barber
4 Geddon Point
Pell City, AL 35128
205-338-4090
Term 2005-2006*

Please note;
Article VI and VI-B
of Constitution
explains terms.



ORDINATION COUNCIL

Rev. Ernest Walker
1915 M.A. Lee Drive
Moody, AL 35004
205-640-7222
***Term 2007**

Rev. Eugene Howard
15481 Highway 43
Vandiver, AL 35176
205-672-9520
***Term 2008**

Rev. John Ackerman
2816 County Road 84
Selma, AL 36701
334-872-8609
***Term 2009**

Rev .E. B. Ledlow
801 Magnolia Drive
Sylacauga, AL 35150
256-245-0017
***Term 2010**

Rev. Maxwell Harper
Box 190 Highway 22
Montevallo, AL 35115
334-665-7254
***Term 2006**

***Please note: See Article**
VI-C of Constitution
concerning terms.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

Rev Wayne Neely
P.O .Box 33
Trafford, AL 35172
205-647-2998
***Term 2007**

Rev. Mike Cox
402 Brian Drive
Adamsville, AL 35005
205-674-6021
***Term 2008**

Rev. Ricky Patterson
5231 Dogwood Trail
Adamsville, AL 35005
205-674-6750
***Term 2009**

Rev. Raymond Rivers
1904 Fulton Road
Fultondale, AL 35068
205-841-6891
***Term 2010**

Rev. Rick Andrews
165 Haley Acres
Vandiver, AL 35176
205-672-2006
***Term 2006**

***Please note: See Article VI-D of**
Constitution concerning term.



CAHABA RIVER

MISSIONS BOARD

Bro. James Tyus
P.O. Box 692
Pell City, AL 35125
205-338-7755
*Term 2007

*Deceased
Travis*

Rev. E.B. Ledlow
801 Magnolia Drive
Sylacauga AL 35150
256-245-0017
*Term 2006

*Retiring
Wayne
Neely*

Bro. Harold Duckett
9111 Co. Hwy #41
Leeds, AL 35094
205-699-5418
*Term 2007

Rev. Ken Ray
752 Fulton Gap Road
Sylacauga, AL 35150
256-249-3634
*Term 2008

Bro. Paul Hardwick
1601 Hardwick Road
Pell City, AL 35125
205-338-2537
*Term 2006

*sick, not
well*

Rev. Charlie Weaver
305 Reeves Lane SW
Bessemer, AL 35023
205-428-8243
*Term 2007

Rev. Larry Smith
44 Rebecca Drive
Remlap. AL 35133
205-910-3940
*Term 2006

**Please note: Article VI-A
of Constitution explains
terms.*



WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

Coordinator:

Sissy Click
5210 Click Street
Adamsville, AL 35005
205-674-9587

Assistant Coordinator:

Marie Brasher
2603 Golf Course Road
Pell City, AL 35125
205-338-7346

Secretary-treasurer:

Bettie Wade
5116 Martin Drive
Adamsville, AL 35005
205-674-0678

Member @ large:

Kristy Lee
1475 Cook Springs Road
Pell City, AL 35125
205-338-4275

Member @ large:

Barbara Ellison
32 Seminole Street
Sylacauga, AL 35150
256-245-5369

Member @ large:

Polly Roberson
1400 Poole Street
Leeds, AL 35094
205-699-6907

CHURCHES DIRECTORY

CHURCH

PASTOR

CLERK



<u>1.</u> <u>CALVARY</u> 305 REEVES LN.SW BESSEMER, AL 35022 205-428-8243	REV.CHARLIE WEAVER 305 REEVES LN.SW BESSEMER, AL 35022 205-428-8243	NELL WEAVER 305 REEVES LN.SW BESSEMER, AL 35022 205-428-8243
<u>2.</u> <u>CENTERPOINT</u> 831 MARY VANN LN. P.O.BOX 9741 B'HAM,AL 35215 205-853-9683	REV.GLENN HOOD 113- 13TH AV. NW B/HAM.,AL 35215 205-854-0394 E-mail ahood@juno.com	PAULINE HOOD 3012 BRAKEFIELD DR. FULTONDALE, AL 35068 205-849-6468
<u>3</u> <u>DAVIS' CHAPEL</u> CO.RD.55 STERRETT, AL 35147 205-672-7579	REV.EUGENE HOWARD 15481 HWY. 43 VANDIVER, AL 35176 205-672-9520	CAROLYN ALEXANDER P.O.BOX 5 STERRETT, AL 35147 205-672-7579
<u>4.</u> <u>FAIRVIEW</u> 1804 PARK AVE. HIGHWAY 10 MOODY, AL 35004 205-640-5003	REV.ERNEST WALKER 1915 M.A.LEE DRIVE MOODY, AL 35004 205-640-7222	POLLY ROBERSON 1400 POOLE STREET LEEDS, AL 35094 205-699-6907
<u>5.</u> <u>FIRST (OAK</u> <u>GROVE)</u> 50 KINGS ROAD SYLACAUGA, AL 35151 256-245-4945	REV.WAYNE Mc DANIEL 54 TWIN STREET SYLACAUGA, AL 35150 256-249-9373	BEVERLY GREEN 105 LANE POND CIRCLE SYLACAUGA, AL 35151 256-249-3502

CHURCHES DIRECTORY

CHURCH



PASTOR



CLERK



<p><u>6.</u></p> <p><i>FIRST</i> <i>(PLEASANT GROVE)</i> 1025 PLEASANT GROVE RD. PLEASANT GROVE, AL 35127 205-744-6374</p>	<p><i>REV. GRANT WEBB</i> P.O. BOX 104 PLEASANT GROVE, AL 35127 205-744-7590</p>	<p><i>MARY KEARNEY</i> P.O. BOX 111 PLEASANT GROVE, AL 35127 205-744-6692</p>
<p><u>7.</u></p> <p><i>FIRST (PRATTVILLE)</i> 1147 UPPER KINGSTON ROAD P.O. BOX 680307 PRATTVILLE, AL 36067 334-358-1911</p>	<p><i>REV. WAYNE WILSON</i> 1902 CEDAR RIDGE LOOP PRATTVILLE, AL 36067 334-361-2316</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><u>8.</u></p> <p><i>FIRST (SELMA)</i> 2902 BROAD STREET SELMA, AL 36701 334-872-5521</p>	<p><i>REV. KEN RAY</i> 752 FULTON GAP ROAD SYLACAUGA, AL 35150 256-249-3634</p>	<p><i>WILLIAM J. OVERFIELD</i> 309 WESTWOOD DRIVE SELMA, AL 36701 334-874-9506</p>
<p><u>9.</u></p> <p><i>FIRST (TALLADEGA)</i> 256 WHITSON ROAD TALLADEGA, AL 35160 256-761-1752</p>	<p><i>REV. SAMUEL NICKLES</i> 300 WHITSON ROAD TALLADEGA, AL 35160 256-761-1752</p>	<p><i>PATSY JONES</i> 36 LOWER MITCHELL ROAD LINCOLN, AL 35096 205-763-3242</p>
<p><u>10.</u></p> <p><i>FORESTDALE</i> 2615 VETERAN'S PRKY. HWY. 78 B'HAM, AL 35214 205-798-1724</p>	<p><i>REV. MIKE COX</i> 402 BRIAN LANE ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-6021</p>	<p><i>GENEVA MARTIN</i> 5416 STOREY DR. ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-3028</p>

CHURCHES DIRECTORY

CHURCH



PASTOR



CLERK



<u>11.</u> <u>FRIENDSHIP</u> HIGHWAY 79 (SELFWILLE) REMLAP, AL 35133 NO PHONE	REV. RON WOODARD 112 PARKWOOD CIRCLE GARDENDALE, AL 35071 205-631-2030	JEFF HORN 9716 SILLEY DEAN ROAD PINSON, AL 35126 205-681-1809
<u>12.</u> <u>FULTONDALE</u> 3112 NEWCASTLE ROAD BIRMINGHAM, AL 35217 205-631-8494	REV. JACK ROLLINS 920 MEEHAN AVE. BIRMINGHAM, AL 35214 205-798-1508	DONNA BRITT P.O. BOX 374 KIMBERLY, AL 35091 205-647-0841
<u>13.</u> <u>MOODY</u> 1212 PARK AVENUE MOODY, AL 35004 205-640-8997	REV. WAYNE NEELY 2312 NORTH STREET TRAFFORD, AL 35172 205-647-2998	TRINA NEELY 2312 NORTH STREET TRAFFORD, AL 35172 205-647-2998
<u>14.</u> <u>MT. OLIVE</u> COUNTY ROAD 41-N LEEDS, AL 35094 NO PHONE	REV. MIKE FERGUSON P.O. BOX 17, COOK SPRINGS, AL 35052 205-884-8887	CARLENE HARRIS 121 WILLOW CREEK CIRCLE LEEDS, AL 35094 205-699-8073
<u>15.</u> <u>MT. PLEASANT</u> ROUTE 1 SPROTT, AL 36799 334-665-7254	REV. JOHN ACKERMAN 2816 COUNTY RD. 84 SELMA, AL 36703 334-872-8609	PAUL NICHOLS ROUTE 3 BOX 135 CENTREVILLE, AL 35042 205-926-6347

CHURCHES DIRECTORY

CHURCH

PASTOR

CLERK



<p><u>16.</u></p> <p><u>MT ZION</u> HIGHWAY 231-S PELL CITY, AL 35125 205-338-3708</p>	<p>REV.J.D. WALES 238 HAZELWOOD DRIVE PELL CITY, AL 35125 205-884-3245</p>	<p>JANICE ADAMS 1779 RAY WYATT ROAD ASHVILLE, AL 35953 205-594-5565</p>
<p><u>17.</u></p> <p><u>SHADY GROVE</u> 1630 UNION GROVE ROAD ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-7022</p>	<p>REV. RICKEY PATTERSON 1614 WILDWOOD CROSSING BIRMINGHAM, AL 35211 205-236-3370 CELL:205-956-0309 Rpatter416@aol.com</p>	<p>MELINDA FORTNER 1630 UNION GROVE ROAD ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-7022</p>
<p><u>18.</u></p> <p><u>TRINITY CHRISTIAN</u> <u>FELLOWSHIP</u> 2165 FLOYD BRADFORD RD. TRUSSVILLE, AL 35173 205-956-1123</p>	<p>REV.RICK ANDREWS 165 HALEY ACRES VANDIVER, AL 35176 205-672-2006</p>	<p>MARCIA GRAVES 2714 CARL JONES ROAD MOODY, AL 35004 205-640-7154</p>
<p><u>19.</u></p> <p><u>UNION HILL</u> P.O.BOX 54 VANDIVER, AL 35176</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>	<p>ROETERRY ANDREWS 53363 HIGHWAY 25 VANDIVER, AL 35176 205-672-2515</p>

END OF CHURCHES DIRECTORY



DIRECTORY
OF OTHER IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

***Free Will Baptist Children's
Home***

***Rev. Randy Key-Director
P.O. Box 8
Eldridge, AL 35554
205-924-9751***

***National Association of Free
Will Baptists***

***P.O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011
615-731-6812***

***Alabama State Promotional
Office (Acts I:8)***

***Rev. Rick Cash-Director
P.O. Box 9
Guin, AL 35563
205-468-3897 or 205-468-3057
alfwb@tombigbee.net***

***Alabama State Association
Clerk***

***Rodney Yerby
115 Maximillion Drive
Madison, AL 35758
256-721-0402***

Alabama Hispanic Ministries

***Rev. Fred Jones
311 County Road 1641
Cullman, AL 35058
256-739-4960***

Alabama State WAC

***Carolyn Hendrix
138 Lewis Lane
Madison, AL 35758
256-461-7453
carolh1952@yahoo.com***



**AVAILABLE MINISTERS
OF
CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
October 2005**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Church:</u>	<u>Telephone:</u>
1. Alexander, Burble (Pleasant Grove)		205-668-0893
2. Alexander, Marshall (Davis' Chapel)		205-672-7567
3. Barber, Michael (Mt. Zion)		205-338-4090
4. Cook, Kenneth (Davis' Chapel)		205-672-9520
5. Damron, Bruce (Fairview)		205- 640-7981
6. Deavors Jr., Claudie (Selma)		334- 872-5521
7. Hodgens, James (Selma)		334- 872-8609
8. Jones, Howard (Sylacauga)		256- 249-9373
9. Ledlow, E.B. (Sylacauga)		256-245-0017
10. Nelson, Kevin (Sylacauga)		256-249-9373
11. Reese, David (Centerpoint)		205-849-8536
12. Rev. Raymond Rivers, (Forestdale)		205-746-1636
13. Sanders, Robert (Talladega)		256-761-1752
14. Smith, Larry (Friendship, Pinson)	cell	237-4573
15. Smith, Ronnie (Talladega)		256-761-1752

{ For an updated list call the district moderator or clerk. }



ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION

March 5, 2005

Convening with:

**MOODY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1212 PARK AVENUE, MOODY, AL 35004**

Pastor: Rev. Wayne Neely

Moderator: Rev. Mike Cox

The one hundred twenty-seventh semi-annual session began with a hearty welcome from Pastor Rev. Wayne Neely.

Rev. Ricky Patterson led the opening prayer.

Sis Danna Finney led congregational singing.

Moderator, Rev. Mike Cox used the scripture "II Chronicles 19: 2-3 to compliment his text "Good Things Should Be Found In Christians."

Clerk Steve Day called the one hundred twenty- seventh semi-annual session to order for business.

Visitors: 1.Rev. Randy Key, (Children's Home Director), 2. Rev. Fred Jones,(Missionary), and 3. Rev. Rick Cash,(Alabama Promotional Office) were welcomed to the session.

continued...



ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION

continued...

Christian Education Board Report: Rev. Mike Cox

Schedule: 03-19-05 @ Moody Free Will Baptist Church

05-14-05 @ Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church

Treasurer's Report: Steve Day

<u>Balance 10-02-04</u>	\$ 8973.23
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Received (fees 03-05-05)	2430.00
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Offerings	379.00
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<u>Balance after receipts</u>	\$ 11782.23
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Paid out:

Acts I: 8	\$ 102.00
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Moderator	50.00
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Asst. Moderator	25.00
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Offering to Bd. Christian Ed.	1000.00
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Clerk	150.00
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Food	475.00
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Love offering to Trinity	277.00
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State fees	2700.00
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Stamps	74.00
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Walmart (supplies)	32.23
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Mailbox fee	24.00
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Walmart	130.00
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Supplies	30.00
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Program committee expenses	30.99
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Minutes books	357.52
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continued...



ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION

Treasurer's report continued...

<u>Total Paid Out:</u>	\$5457.76
<u>Ending Balance 03-05-05</u>	\$6324.47

Old business: none reported

Children's Home report: Rev. Randy Key

1. Twenty-eight children @ the home.
2. Eleven children made school honor roll.
3. Two were inducted into Honor Society.
4. One boy elected "Student of the year."
5. Paulette Leopard- (lady considered for little ones.)

Acts I: 8 Report: Rev. Rick Cash

2005 budget set at \$ 550,000.00 (Cahaba River gave
\$78,522.25 last year.)

Home Missions Board report: James Tyus

Balance brought forward	\$ 3949.88
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Received:

Mt.Zion AL State	644.46
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Fairview (Moody)	30.00
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Felix Reeves (Selma)	1150.00
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<u>Total received:</u>	\$ 5774.34
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Paid out:

Rev. Raymond Rivers	2000.00
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<u>Balance (02-18-05)</u>	\$ 3774.34
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continued...



ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION

continued...

Rev. Charlie Weaver thanked the mission board for their help over the years and announced a mortgage burning service for their church in March 2005.

Rev. Fred Jones reported visiting twenty churches and two associations. Prayer was requested for Joses Gonzales.

Ordaining Council report: Rev. E. B. Ledlow

The ordaining council examined James Simmons and Chad Harris and found them worthy to receive a certificate of standing. They had been ordained at Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church on January 23rd.

Business and Deceased Committee report: Rev. Wayne Neely

1. The Association voted to accept the resignation of Huffman. [The church voted independent. Clerk will inform deacons they are no longer certified.]
2. Rev. Glenn Hood on the Executive Board replaced Rev. Lynn Wilson.
3. The suggestion of an "in-house missionary" was tabled to the October session.
4. The suggestion of a "summer district-wide revival" was given to the Executive committee for October session discussion.

continued...



ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION

continued...

5. Deceased were: Fairview-Sandra Simon,
Forestdale-one [no name], Friendship-Cydney
Horn & Clyde Vaughn, Mt. Olive- Chester Isbell,
and Trinity Earline Justice.

Prayer and moment of silence by Rev. Wayne McDaniel.

After intermission, Sis. Danna Finney led congregational singing.

Love offering of \$ 146.25 was designated for Rodney Brazil.

Sis. Finney sang a special entitled, "Love is a Cross."

Guest speaker, Rev. Rodney Brazil read scripture from Acts 5:41-42 and entitled his message "Persecution."

Lunch prayer: Rev. Wayne Neely.

Rev. Ernest Walker was accepted to replace Rev. E.B. Ledlow on the Mission Board.

Congregational singing led by Sis. Danna Finney.

Prayer by Rev. Fred Jones

continued...



ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION

continued...

Evening devotion and special singing: Rev. Rodney Brazil.
Title “ Living for Christ.” Scripture: Philippians 1:5-8.

Rising vote of “Thanks” to Moody FWB. [Host church]

Announcement: Women’s Auxiliary @ Moody. [04-01-04]

Benediction: Rev. Mike Cox, moderator.

[End of minutes]

NOTES

PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICE

@

First Free Will Baptist Church

Talladega, AL

Pastor: Rev. Sam Nickels

Moderator: Rev. Raymond Rivers

September 30, 2005

The Praise and Worship Service opened with congregational singing led by Sis. Nettie Goodwin.

Rev. Raymond Rivers welcomed everyone to the service.

Rev. Wayne Wilson of Prattville led the opening prayer.

Bro. Lecil Gardner prayed after prayer requests.

Susan Rivers sang a special song entitled “Farther Along.”

Moderator’s message was entitled “Tell This Generation About Jesus.”

An offering of \$ 50.00 was given to Beacon Children’s Ministries.

Rev. and Mrs. Ledlow sang a special song entitled “In The Midst Of The Storm.”

Guest speaker, Rev. Ricky Andrews’ message was entitled “Are We There Yet?” Scripture reading was II Timothy 3:1-5.

Host pastor, Rev. Samuel Nickels, led benediction.



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

October 1, 2005

Convening with:

First Free Will Baptist Church Talladega, AL
Rev. Sam Nickels, host pastor. Rev. Mike Cox, moderator

The one hundred twenty-seventh session opened with congregational singing led Sis. Nettie Goodwin.

Master Skylier Harris sang a song entitled, New Jerusalem.

Host pastor, Rev. Sam Nickels welcomed everyone to the church.

The Goodwin Family of the Talladega church sang, "He was There All The Time."

Moderator Mike Cox, entitled his message "When Our Eyes Are Closed." Scripture reading was found in II Kings 6:13.

After prayer, the clerk called the roll and delegates were seated.

Visitors were Rev. and Mrs. Charles Shaw.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

Old Business:

Two items were tabled from the March 2004 session for discussion and vote. These were:

1. That, the Association appoints an associational missionary to be available to assist churches as interim minister and to help solve internal church problems.
2. That, the churches have a collective Associational Camp Meeting.

The Executive Committee discussed these items and made the following recommendations:

Concerning item 1: The committee reminded the body that at the October 6, 2001 session this item was voted down. In view of this vote the committee recommended the following list of three recommendations to assist churches in solving internal problems:

Recommendation # 1. Seeking a pastor:

- A. The church should with prayer appoint a pulpit committee to seek out available ministers.
- B. Contact the local Association moderator, the State moderator, the State promotional director, and the National executive office and provide them with contact information to advertise in their newsletters, etc.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

- C.** Refer to the Available Ministers list or the Directory of Evangelists when needing an occasional fill-in minister. Allow that long distance driving may not be feasible for some ministers. Beware of using ministers of other doctrines as this may cause confusion in your congregation.
- D.** The church should have regular prayer sessions asking God to guide them to the minister He approves, not the one the congregation wants.
- E.** The ordained deacons and men of the church should accept the responsibility of the pulpit, as did Stephen. They can teach bible studies and have charge of the services.
- F.** Try not to make important changes. This can cause confusion in the congregation. (See FWB Treatise, Part IV for dealing with church confusion.)
- G.** Establish a procedure for examining potential candidates and allowing them to examine the church.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

- H. Establish a procedure for a voting process. Do not vote politically or popularly. Seek God's will by prayer.
- I. Remember, the decision to pastor your church is made by two groups, the church membership and the minister and family.

Recommendation #2: A church dealing with internal problems seeking assistance from sister churches.

- A. Pray for guidance.
- B. Repent and act with love, humility, and forgiveness.
- C. Refer to the Treatise, Part IV, Chapter III, Section IV, and A-4 for assistance in decision-making. Ask the Executive Board to appoint a committee for further assistance.
- D. Other assistance available includes, the State Promotional Director, State Moderator, State Executive Board, National Executive Secretary, Home Missions Director, and Director of Church Growth.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

Recommendation # 3. Churches considering withdrawing from the Association:

- A.** It is a great privilege to be a part of the "Family of God". Because of "God's Amazing Grace" we share His love.
- B.** After being saved, belonging to a larger group of believers is a benefit to God's people. Combined churches can accomplish more than one alone when dealing with internal problems.
- C.** Belonging to an association has benefits of support, encouragement, prayer partnering, and accountability the local church can miss. District, State, and National Associations work with the local church to help solve internal problems.
- D.** Teach the Free Will Baptist doctrine in the local church. We should be proud of our forefathers. The faith and practices are Bible based.
- E.** Contact the district moderator or clerk to discuss any financial matters your church may have such as Association dues.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

- F. The Association desires to solve any problem hindering a church from being a member.
- G. When a church's only alternative is to disband, the membership should try to join with another Free Will Baptist church. If this is not feasible, consider donating the monies to Free Will Baptist mission work.

Old Business Item #2: *The issue of an Associational Camp*

Meeting: The Executive Committee recommends that since our churches are so widespread and many of our pastors work secular jobs that an associational camp meeting revival would not be feasible at this time. The board recommends that churches within a thirty-minute radius pursue the possibility of joining together for a camp meeting revival.

{End of Old Business and Executive Board Report}

Credentials Committee Report: Rev. Samuel Nickels reported all the letters in order.

Home Missions Report: Bro. James Tyus (treasurer), reported the following:

Balance brought forward	\$3774.34
Deposits: Fairview	70.00
Mt. Zion via AL State	984.75
Felix Reeves, Selma	<u>1350.00</u>
Total deposits	\$2404.75
Ending Balance	\$6179.09

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

Acts I:8 Report given by Moderator:

Receipts \$412,086.35

Cahaba River Association gifts 60,630.00

The Acts I: 8 program supports three Alabama mission works. These are the Prattville church, the Huntsville church, and the Hispanic ministry of Cullman. Acts I:8 also supports works in Uruguay and Russia.

Cahaba River Treasurer report: Treasurer Steve Day reporting:

Balance on hand 10-02-04 \$8973.23

Receipts (fees) 4860.00

Interest from CD 648.12

Offerings (126th & 127th sessions) 525.25

Balance \$15006.60

Paid out:

Acts I: 8 plan \$102.00

Moderator fee 50.00

Asst. moderator fee 25.00

Bd. Ed. Offering 1000.00

Clerk fee 150.00

Asst. clerk fee .00

Food expense 126th annual 475.00

Treasurer's report continued next page...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

Trinity bldg. fund	277.00
Fees to State	2700.00
Stamps	74.00
Supplies	32.23
Post office box	24.00
Supplies	130.02
Supplies	30.00
Planning committee 127 th semi	30.99
Minutes books	357.52
Food expense 127 th annual	475.00
Guest speaker	146.25
Supplies	119.88
Supplies	25.92
Stamps	74.00
Bank deposit box	25.00
Planning committee 127 th annual	50.00
Supplies	30.58
Stamps	37.00
Supplies	68.28
Supplies	<u>60.20</u>
<u>Total paid out:</u>	\$6569.87
<u>Ending Balance</u> 10-01-05	\$8436.73

(End of treasurer's report)



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

Board of Christian Education report:

Balance as of 10-01-04	\$931.29
Receipts	<u>1000.00</u>
Balance after receipts	\$1931.29
Paid out:	
First Baptist, Moody (rent gym)	\$100.00
Pizza	290.00
Guest speaker (Chris Hollis)	25.00
Stamps	37.00
Pizza	131.00
Bounce rental	150.00
Bounce rental	155.00
Guest speaker (Matt Hollis)	50.00
Pizza	<u>125.00</u>
Total paid out	\$1063.00
Balance	\$868.29

Note: The guest police officer was given a cash gift of \$50.00.
The November rally will be changed due to Alabama-Auburn
game. Mike Cox reporting.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

Children's Home Report: Lecil Gardner trustee:

Bro. Gardner requested prayer for Katlin Marchant, 16 yr. old grand-daughter of Denella Roberts, houseparent for the big boys. Katlin was in a coma at UAB trauma center.

The home houses twenty-seven children at this time. This consists of eighteen boys and nine girls. Three of the girls are seniors. Carolyn Edwards plans to attend the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN.

Twelve of the children made the A-B honor roll and twelve made the B-C honor roll at Winfield High School. One of the girls sang the national anthem at graduation and was asked to sing in Washington, D.C.

The children were treated to camp in North Carolina. A request was made for more fresh fruit.

The Adamsville church was sold and monies donated to the children's home in the amount of \$100,000.00.

End of report

Auditing Committee report: Ken Ray reported the records of the treasurer, the missions' board, and the Board of Christian Education all in order.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

Registration committee reported an attendance of 12 deacons, 17 delegates, 22 ministers, and 13 visitors for a total of 64.

After intermission delegates were named to the State Association as follows:

Bonnie Heath

Curtis Brake

Barbara Nickels

Nell Grissom.

Ray Meadows

Paul Nichols

Johnny Andrews

Business and Deceased committee:

Item 1. that a copy of the letter of recommendations and suggestions to churches seeking pastors be printed in these minutes. (Letter is paraphrased to save space.)

Item 2. that Mt. Zion, Talladega, and Oak Grove churches consider not hosting the annual session due to the Talladega 500 race on the same weekend. They are encouraged to host the semi-annual in March.

Deceased report included: Vineler Couch, Eunice Crance, Elise Drummond, Francis Fields, Don Harris, Aurell Haynes, Mary Henderson, Oscar Ingram, Elgin Isbell, Helen Jackson, David Kent, Henrietta Latta, Betty Morrison, John McCall, Florence McLaughlin, Donna Oppy, Onvea Parker, George Pond, and Ruth Strickland.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Continued...

Congregation sang "Hide Me Rock Of Ages."

Rev. Rick Andrews sang "First Day In Heaven."

Morning message: Rev. Eugene Howard used the text entitled "Not Enough Oil." Scripture was from Matthew 25:1-10.

After prayer by Rev. J.D. Wales an offering was received for the Children's Home in the amount of \$207.90.

Congregation sang "Amazing Grace."

Sis. Smith sang "There Is A Fountain."

Rev. Wayne McDaniel used the title "Grab Your Partner" with scripture from Ephesians 5:31 for the afternoon message.

The Ordaining Council recommended the following items:

Item 1. that Burble Alexander be given a certificate of standing as a ordained minister in the Free Will Baptist denomination pending his joining Pleasant Grove FWB Church this Sunday morning. Records indicate Rev. Alexander was a member of Pleasant Grove in 1973 but left the Free Will Baptists for a short time.

Continued...



THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

Ordaining council report continued...

Item 2. that Kevin Nelson be licensed to preach and Charlie Duncan and Kevin Chappell be ordained as deacons and ordaining service to be held at Oak Grove . The right hand of fellowship was extended.

Ordaining council members were: Rev. Ernest Walker, Rev. Eugene Howard, Rev. John Ackerman, Rev. E. B. Ledlow, and Rev. Maxwell Harper.

Nomination committee recommended the following names that were accepted:

1. Moderator: Rev. Mike Cox
2. Asst. Moderator: Rev. Raymond Rivers
3. Member @ large: Rev. Wayne McDaniel
4. Ordaining Council: Rev. E.B.Ledlow
5. Ch. Ed. Bd.: Rev. Raymond Rivers
6. Cahaba River Missions: James Tyus
7. Cahaba River Missions: Rev. Charlie Weaver
8. Cahaba River Missions: Rev. Ken Ray to replace Mc Daniel.

Committee members were: Revs' J.D. Wales, Rick Andrews, and Ron Woodard.

The host church was given a standing ovation for the fine meal and hospitality shown to all.

Rev. Charlie Weaver prayed the benediction.



***51st ANNUAL SESSION of CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT
WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST***

Convening with:

**MOODY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1212 PARK AVENUE MOODY, AL 35004
*April 02, 2005***

Opening song: "When We All Get To Heaven"

Coordinator Sissie Click opened the session with prayer.

***Peggy Cummings of the host church welcomed everyone to
Moody Free Will Baptist Church.***

***Carolyn Boyd of the Fairview church responded with a
hearty "Thank-You" to the host church.***

Carolyn Wilson of the Centerpoint Church sang a special.

***Odessa Ledlow of the Oak Grove church used the title "Our
Devotion To God" as her devotion and scripture from Luke
10:25-28.***

Delegates were named and seated.

Continued...



51st ANNUAL SESSION of CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

Continued...

Committees were appointed:

- 1. Auditing: Marie Brasher and Barbara Ellison.**
- 2. Appreciation: Elizabeth Blackwood and Margaret Kamfolt.**
- 3. Business: Bettie Wade, Bonnie Heathe and Peggy Cummings.**
- 4. Credentials: Dot Grimes and Pauline Hood.**
- 5. Installation: A member from each auxiliary.**
- 6. Nomination: Odessa Ledlow, Thelma Gardner and Alice Hood.**
- 7. Registration: Host church.**

Kristy Lee of host church sang "Prayer Warrior".

Congregation sang "Heaven Came Down".

Janie Aldridge guest speaker used the theme "Into the Harvest".

Lunch

Continued...



**51st ANNUAL SESSION of CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT
WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST**

Continued...

Committee reports:

- 1. Audit committee reported all financial records accurate.**
- 2. Appreciation committee thanked Moody for their hospitality and delicious meal.**
- 3. Business committee recommended the following items:**
[A.] That the missions' project of \$ 600.00 is given to the Acts I: 8 program in honor of Janie Aldridge.
[B.] That \$300.00 be given to the 2006 Convention committee.
[C.] That the 2006 session convene with Oak Grove.
[D.] That the 2007 session convene with Forestdale.
Report accepted.
- 4. Credentials committee reported all letters in order.**
- 5. Nomination committee recommended the following new officers for 2006-07: President- Sissie Click, Vice-President-Marie Brasher, Secretary/Treasurer: Bettie Wade, Members @ large: Kristy Lee, Barbara Ellison, and Polly Roberson. Nominations accepted and installed by Polly Roberson.**
- 6. Registration committee reported 39 in attendance. Centerpoint received the banner.**

After a love offering was presented to Janie Aldridge announcements were made, door prizes given and prayer dismissed the session.

End of Auxiliary Minutes



STATE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT LETTER

**From: Cahaba River District
Association**

To: Alabama State Association

Report date: 10-02-04 to 10-01-05

**Meeting at First FWB Church
Talladega, AL October 1,2005**

Present moderator's name:

Rev. Mike Cox

2615 Veterans Parkway 78 Hwy.

Birmingham, AL 35214

Telephone 205-910-3477

Delegates:

Ronnie Heath

Ray Meadows

Curtis Brake

Johnny Andrews

Barbara Nickels

Paul Nichols

Nell Grissom

Statistics

Total churches:	19
(Rural)	15
(Town)	4
Total reporting	19

Membership

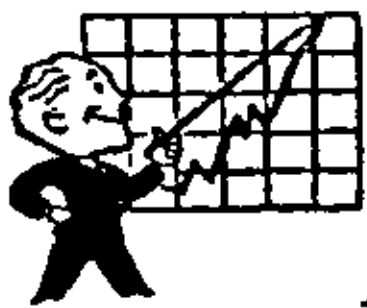
Members added	50
Members baptized	18
Members lost	15
Members total	2004

General Information

Ordained Ministers	32
Licensed Ministers	5
Ordained Deacons	52
Sunday School	737
Women's Auxiliary	71
Master's Men	25

State fees **\$ 2665.00**

Steve Day, Clerk



BY-LAWS FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS

- 1. The clerk, assistant clerk, or senior minister in years may call the meeting to order and have charge until moderator assumes his place.**
- 2. Each meeting shall be opened with scripture reading and prayer.**
- 3. By a two-thirds vote any decision of the moderator may be over ruled.**
- 4. This meeting shall sit with open doors unless it goes into a committee as a whole.**
- 5. Any person not a member of the body shall be allowed to take part in discussion, (with the moderator's permission) but shall not vote.**
- 6. All members of the body are expected to be present throughout the session unless excused by the moderator.**
- 7. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one officer if his nomination is elected.**
- 8. The moderator must not allow any discussion to be carried on in an unchristian-like spirit.**
- 9. The person who desires to speak must first rise and address the moderator and proceed only when recognized.**
- 10. The votes on any question must be counted upon request of one-fifth of members present.**
- 11. No member shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, or twice on the same subject unless given permission by the moderator.**
- 12. Ministers of this body shall support all boards and committees elected by this association.**



CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I- This association shall be known as "The Cahaba River Association of Free Will Baptists" and is an active member of the Alabama State Association of Free Will Baptists and the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II- This association has adopted the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists, which includes:

1. The Free Will Baptist Church Covenant
2. The Faith of Free Will Baptists
3. The Articles of Faith
4. The Practices of Free Will Baptists

ARTICLE II-A- This association shall be composed of ordained ministers, deacons, and elected delegates of different churches forming the same. All ordained ministers, active deacons, and officers of the association shall be standing delegates.

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

ARTICLE III-A- Any church without a letter of recommendation will be examined by an appointed committee, which will report to this association at the next conference.

ARTICLE IV-Each church composing this association shall be entitled to three (3) delegates of the first one-hundred (100) members and one (1) for each additional fifty (50) or fraction thereof. Any ordained man that is a member of a mission church sponsored by this association shall have delegate privileges at all conferences.

Continued...



CONSTITUTION

Continued...

ARTICLE V- All church clerks shall mail church letters to the association clerk no later than four weeks in advance of the first day of the beginning of the association.

ARTICLE VI- The officers of the association shall be composed of the following:

1. Moderator
2. Assistant Moderator
3. Clerk-Treasurer
4. Assistant Clerk-Treasurer

These four shall serve two-year (2) terms and be elected by the body. The moderator and assistant-moderator shall be elected at "odd" years and the clerk-treasurer and assistant clerk-treasurer shall be elected at "even" numbered years. The clerk-treasurer shall handle all monies of the association except:

1. The Cahaba River Missions Board fund
2. The Christian Education Board fund.

ARTICLE VI-A- There shall be a "Home Missions Board".

The board shall consist of seven (7) members with three (3) members coming off the board each year. When vacancies occur the body shall elect new members. The Missions board shall elect their own Clerk-treasurer, which shall record minutes of all meetings and handle all monies belonging to it.

ARTICLE VI-B- There shall be an "Executive Board". It shall consist of seven members. These shall be as follows:

1. Moderator
2. Assistant-Moderator
3. Clerk-Treasurer
4. Assistant Clerk-Treasurer

Continued...



CONSTITUTION

Continued...

5. Three (3) "Members-At Large" elected by the association to serve a three-year (3) term with one coming off the board each year.

Any four members will constitute a quorum. When vacancies occur the body shall elect replacements. The moderator shall serve as Chairman of the board.

ARTICLE VI-C- There shall be an "Ordination Council." It shall consist of five (5) members with one coming off each year. As vacancies occur the body shall elect replacements. All members of this council shall be ordained ministers or deacons. It shall be the duty of the council to meet with candidates for:

1. Licensing as ministers of the Gospel.
2. Ordination as ministers of the Gospel.
3. Ordination as deacons.

It shall further be their duty to assure compliance with the "Ordination Guidelines".

ARTICLE VI-D- There shall be a "Board of Christian Education". It shall consist of five members with one coming off each year. As vacancies occur the body will elect replacements. The board shall elect their own clerk-treasurer to record minutes of meetings and handle all monies belonging to it.

ARTICLE VII- the executive board of this association shall appoint all committees in advance. The committees' responsibility will cease at the end of the session.

ARTICLE VIII- Committees shall be as follows:

1. Business and Deceased
2. Nomination

Continued...



CONSTITUTION

Continued...

3. Credentials *

4. Auditing

5. Registration.

*Credentials shall meet in advance and be ready to report at the beginning of the session.

ARTICLE VIII-A- The Auditing and Registration committees will serve at the Annual association session only.

ARTICLE VIII-B- The Credentials committee shall be composed of ordained men.

ARTICLE VIII-C All other committees except Registration shall have at least one ordained man on it.

ARTICLE IX- This association shall meet the first Saturday morning in March and the first Saturday morning in October of each year.

The Praise and Worship service will be held Friday evening before the first Saturday in October of each year.

Article IX-A- The assistant moderator of this association shall conduct the Praise and Worship service each year.

ARTICLE X- Each church shall pay a representation fee of one hundred ten dollars (\$ 110.00) "per" session of the annual and semi-annual conferences in order to be seated. [Revised 03-04-04]

Continued...



CONSTITUTION

Continued...

ARTICLE XI-

1. The clerk-treasurer shall be paid one hundred-fifty dollars (\$150.00) annually.
2. The assistant clerk-treasurer shall be paid fifty dollars (\$50) annually.
3. The moderator shall be paid fifty dollars (\$50) annually.
4. The assistant-moderator shall be paid twenty-five dollars (\$25) annually.

All other expenditures shall be the decision of the body.

ARTICLE XII- This constitution can be amended (or altered) at any regular session of the association by two-thirds ($2/3$) vote of members present providing proposed amendment be presented in writing to the body and be tabled from the morning session until the afternoon (or evening) session, or from the afternoon (or evening) session until the next session.

[End of constitution]

NOTES



ORDINATION GUIDELINES

- 1. This association neither ordains nor grants a certificate of standing to any man who has more than one living wife nor a man whose wife has more than one living husband.**
- 2. Every minister carries a license until he is either called to a church or enters full-time evangelistic work. The license of these ministers is to be re-issued each year if the church of which they are a member makes a request for the license to be renewed for another year.**
- 3. This association ordains no one who does not fully believe the faith and practice of the Free Will Baptist Treatise.**
- 4. This association ordains no one who does not believe and practice tithing.**
- 5. This association ordains no one who does not believe in the verbal inspiration of the Word of God.**
- 6. This association does not ordain women to preach the gospel.**
- 7. This association will not ordain anyone affiliated with the World Council of Churches.**
- 8. This association will not ordain anyone with a bad character report with "them that are without."**
- 9. This association will not ordain anyone who does not believe and practice the ordinances of the church. These are: A. Baptism by immersion; B. Communion; and C. Feet washing.**
- 10. This association will not ordain anyone who does not believe a person can apostatize and be lost.**

Continued...



ORDINATION AND CHURCH GUIDELINES

Continued...

11. This association will not ordain anyone who does not abide by the Free Will Baptist church covenant's issue concerning the use and sale of intoxicating beverages.

12. This association has the authority to recall ordination credentials from anyone if there is biblical reason to do so. This association, for a minimum of one year as a probationary period, could hold these credentials or the credentials could be held indefinitely. (See: "*The Free Will Baptist Treatise, Practices of the Free Will Baptists- Chapter II, The Minister, Section II- His Discipline.*")

END OF ORDINATION GUIDELINES



"CHURCH CONFERENCE GUIDELINES"

1. Call for peace and fellowship of the church.
2. Opportunity for members.
3. Reading of the minutes of the previous church conference.
4. Call for acknowledgements.
5. Report of the church treasurer.
6. Unfinished church business.
7. Report of any (and all) committees.
8. Motion to adjourn.

End of church guidelines



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CHAPTER I ***The Holy Scriptures***

These are the Old and the New Testaments; they were 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.

Since the Bible is the Word of God, it is without error in all matters upon which it speaks, whether history, geography, matters relating to science or any other subject.

Appendix to Chapter I (Adopted July 1979)

Free Will Baptists believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the Bible. By *plenary* we mean "full and complete." We hold that all parts of the Bible are inspired and that inspiration extends to all its subjects. By *verbal* we mean that inspiration extends to the very words of the Scriptures, not just to the thoughts and ideas expressed by human authors.

We believe the Scriptures are infallible and inerrant. The Bible is without error and trustworthy in all its teachings, including cosmogony, geology, astronomy, anthropology, history, chronology, etc., as well as in matters of faith and practice. Being the very Word of God, it is God's final revelation and our absolute authority.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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, Saviour, 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 is 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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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 that 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 pleasure and glory and the enjoyment of His creatures.

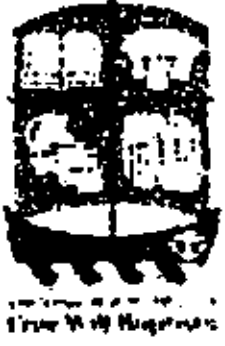
2. *Of the Angels.* The angels were created by God to glorify Him and obey His commandments. Those who have kept their first estate He employs in ministering blessings to the heirs of salvation and in executing His judgments upon the world.

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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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: *His Divinity*

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 revelation 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*.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

1. *His Titles.* The Bible ascribes to Christ the titles of: Saviour, Jehovah, Lord of hosts, the first and the last, God, true God, great God, God over all, mighty God, and the everlasting Father.

2. *His Attributes.* He is eternal, unchangeable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, and to be worshiped.

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 accepted. 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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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 affected 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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

3. *Infant death.* We believe that all children dying in infancy having not actually transgressed against the law of God in their persons, are only subject to 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 all divine perfections. It has also been shown that Jesus Christ is God, "one with the Father." Then these three, "the Father, the Son, and the 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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

Appendix to Chapter VII (Adopted July 1979)

Free Will Baptists understand the Bible teaches the following facts: On the day of Pentecost believers spoke in distinct foreign languages, which were readily understood by the nationalities present.

Tongues were given as a special gift to the early church as only one sign, which confirms the witness of the Gospel to unbelievers.

While tongues were bestowed by the sovereign will of God on some believers, all did not speak with tongues. When this gift was abused, it became a source of disturbance in the congregational meetings. To eliminate confusion and correct the error, Paul set particular guidelines for the Christian church to follow. The gift of tongues was neither an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, nor does it bring about sanctification.

We believe that speaking in tongues, as a visible sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an erroneous doctrine to be rejected. Any implication of "a second work of grace" has never been tolerated in our fellowship of churches, and will not be permitted.

We teach and preach the fullness of the Holy Spirit and heed the scriptural admonition, "Be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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 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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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 quicken", 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 may constantly grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

CHAPTER XIII

Perseverance of the Saints

There are strong grounds to hope that 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.

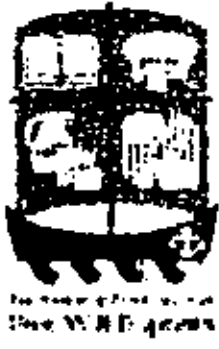
Appendix to Chapter XIII (Adopted July 1969)

1. We believe that salvation is a possession by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and that a person's eternal destiny depends on whether he has this possession. This we hold in distinction from those who teach that salvation depends on human works or merit.

2. We believe that a saved individual may, in freedom of will, cease to trust in Christ for salvation and once again be lost. This we hold in distinction from those who teach that a believer may not again be lost.

3. We believe that any individual living in the practice of sin (whether he be called "backslider" or "sinner") must be judged by that evidence to be lost should he so die in his sins. This we hold in distinction from those who suggest that pernicious doctrine that a man may live in sin as he pleases and still claim Heaven as his eternal home.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

4. We believe that any regenerate person who has sinned , (again, whether he be called “backslider” or “sinner”) and in whose heart a desire arises to repent may do so and be restored to favor and fellowship with God. This we hold in distinction from those who teach that when a Christian sins he cannot repent and be restored to favor and fellowship with God.

CHAPTER XIV

The Lord's Day

This is one 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-aside for the Lord's Day. 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 stately 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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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 is 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. *Qualifications 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 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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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

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.

Continued...



THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Continued...

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 that 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 Judgment and Retribution*

1. *The Judgment.* There will be a judgment, when time and man's probation will close forever. Then all men will be judged according to their works.

End of "The Faith Of The Free Will Baptists".



Free Will Baptist Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus 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 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 in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances 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 enterprises 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 on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, 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.

AMEN!