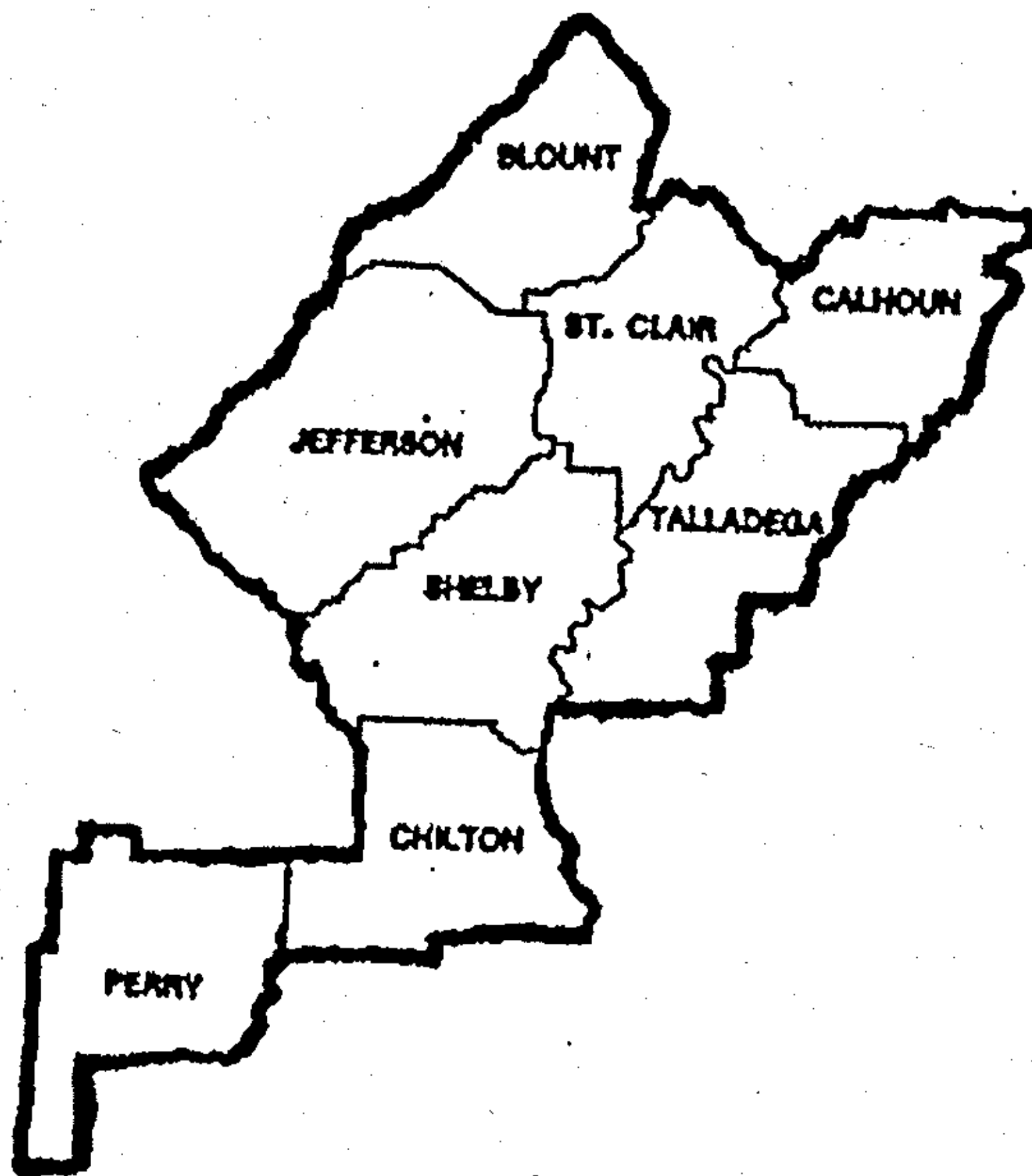


MINUTES  
OF THE  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVENTH  
SESSION OF



THE  
CAHABA RIVER DISTRICT  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
2015

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## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **Moderator**

**Rev. Glenn Hood**  
113-13th Avenue N.W.  
Birmingham, AL 35215  
205-854-0394  
gahood913@gmail.com

### **Member @ Large**

**Rev. Mike Cox**  
402 Brian Drive  
Adamsville, AL 35005  
205-674-6021  
Term ending 2016

### **Assistant-Moderator**

**Rev. Ron Woodard**  
3897 Highway 5  
Jasper, AL 35503  
(205) 602-9444  
jwoodard@bellsouth.net

### **Member @ Large**

**Steve Day**  
1634 Fairview Drive  
Moody, AL 35004  
205-640-7470  
stevelday07@windstream.net  
Term ending 2017

### **Clerk-Treasurer**

**Rev. Wayne Neely**  
P.O. Box 342  
Moody, AL 35004  
205-680-3085  
c# 205-229-6326  
WTNeely@Bellsouth.net

### **Member @ Large**

**Rev. Rick Andrews**  
165 Haley Acres  
Vandiver, AL 35176  
Term ending 2018

### **Assistant Clerk-Treasurer**

**Bro. Howard Schultz**  
2095 Kelly Creek Road  
Odenville, AL 35120  
205-640-6838  
howsch@windstream.net

Please note:  
Article VI and VI-B  
of the Constitution  
defines terms.



## **ORDINATION COUNCIL**

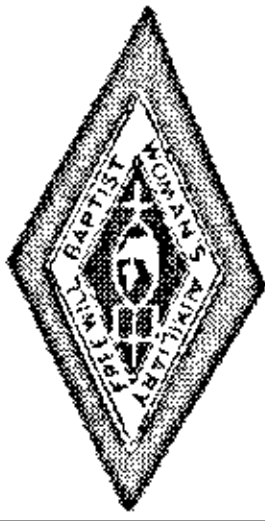
<p><b>Rev. Danny Ryals</b> 300 Whitson Road Talladega, AL 35160 256-362-6580 Term ending 2016</p>	<p><b>Noel Blackwood</b> 2952 Acton Road Moody, AL 35004 205-215-1005 Term ending 2017</p>
<p><b>Rev. Dave Franks, Jr.</b> 4361 Canterbury Street Mt. Olive, AL 35117 205-386-3053 dfranksjr@juno.com Term ending 2018</p>	<p><b>Rev. Ernest Walker</b> 1915 M.A. Lee Drive Moody, AL 35004 205-640-7222 Term ending 2019</p>
<p><b>Rev. Raymond Rivers</b> P O Box 1736 Calera AL 35040 Term ending 2020</p>	<p>Please note: Article VI-C of Constitution explains term.</p>



## **CAHABA RIVER MISSIONS BOARD**

<p><b><u>Chairman</u></b>  <b>Travis Webster</b>  1800 Church Road  Pell City, AL 35128  205-338-1574  Cell # 256-591-6009</p>	<p><b>Paul Nichols</b>  Route 3 Box 135  Centreville, AL 35042  205-926-6347</p>
<p><b>Harold Duckett</b>  9111 County Highway 41  Leeds, AL 35094  205-699-5418</p>	<p><b>Howard Schultz</b>  2095 Kelly Creek Road  Odenville, AL 35120  205-640-6838</p>
<p><b>Rev. John Ackerman</b>  295 Fox Run Lane  Pell City, AL 35125  (205) 338-7346</p>	<p><b>Rev Burble Alexander</b>  955 Hwy 86  Calera AL 35040  205-668-0893  C-205-260-8229  bbalex@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Rev. Danny Ryals</b>  300 Whitson Road  Talladega, AL 35160  256-362-6580  pastorryals@aol.com</p>	<p>Please note:  Article VI-A  of the Constitution  explains term.</p>

Please note:  
These members will serve  
until further notice.



## **WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST** **DISTRICT OFFICERS**

<p><b><u>President</u></b></p> <p><b>Paulette Boyd</b> 3494 Old Coal City Rd Pell City, AL 35125 C-205-863-3448</p>	<p><b><u>Member @ Large</u></b></p> <p><b>Barbara Stevens</b> P.O. Box 372 Springville, AL 35146 C-205-531-8604</p>
<p><b><u>Secretary</u></b></p> <p><b>Marie Ackerman</b> 295 Fox Run Lane Pell City, AL 35125 H-205-338-7346 C-205-335-0102</p>	<p><b><u>Member @ Large</u></b></p> <p><b>Dot Grimes</b> 420 Mays Bend Lane Pell City, AL 35128 H-205-338-2063 C-205-368-2751</p>
<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b></p> <p><b>Ann Hazelwood</b> 925 23 St N Pell City AL 35125 C-205-405-0016</p>	

# **CHURCHES DIRECTORY**

## **CHURCH**



## **PASTOR**



## **CLERK**



1. <b><u>CENTERPOINT</u></b> 745 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 gahood913@gmail.com	CAROLYN WILSON 380 POPLAR LN WARRIOR AL 35180 205-543-4005
2. <b><u>DAVIS' CHAPEL</u></b> CO ROAD 55 STERRETT, AL 35147 205-672-7579	REV. CHARLES SHAW CROSS CREEK DRIVE STERRETT, AL 35147 205-678-9933	CAROLYN ALEXANDER 481 HWY. 45 STERRETT, AL 35147 205-672-7579
3 <b><u>FAIRVIEW</u></b> 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
4. <b><u>FIRST (SYLACAUGA)</u></b> 50 KINGS ROAD SYLACAUGA, AL 35150 256-245-4945	REV. HEATH WEBB 590 MARBLE CITY HGTS SYLACAUGA, AL 35150 256-267-2115	KATHY HARRIS 450 MERKEL LOOP SYLACAUGA, AL 35151 256-
5. <b><u>FIRST (TALLADEGA)</u></b> 256 WHITSON RD. TALLADEGA, AL 35160 256-761-1752	REV. DANNY RYALS 300 WHITSON RD TALLADEGA, AL 35160 256-362-6580 pastorryals@aol.com	NETTIE GOODWIN 784 CRESTVIEW RD TALLADEGA, AL 35160 256-362-2699



# **CHURCHES DIRECTORY**

## **CHURCH**



## **PASTOR**



## **CLERK**



6. <b><u>FORESTDALE</u></b> 2615 VETERAN'S MEM PKY. HWY.78 B'HAM, AL 35214 205-798-1724	REV. MIKE COX 402 BRIAN DR ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-6021 mikeandcherri@charter.net	LOUISE BLACKMON PO BOX 372 ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-3976
7. <b><u>FRIENDSHIP</u></b> HIGHWAY 79 (SELFVILLE) REMLAP, AL 35133	REV. RON WOODARD 3897 HWY 5 JASPER AL 35503 205-602-9444 jwoodard@bellsouth.net	TAMMY WHITSON 4899 VISE RD PINSON AL 35126
8. <b><u>FULTONDALE</u></b> 3112 NEW CASTLE RD. B'HAM, AL 35217 205-631-8494	REV. JACK ROLLINS 920 MEEHAN AVE. B'HAM, AL 35214 205-798-1508 BR50@bellsouth.net	KENNETH MARSH 941 ROBIN DR. MT.OLIVE, AL 35117 205-515-2168
9. <b><u>GOSPEL LIGHT</u></b> <b><u>MISSION</u></b> P.O.BOX 134 CALERA, AL 35040 205-470-6662	REV. RAYMOND RIVERS P.O.BOX 1736 CALERA AL 35040 205-470-6662	SUSAN RIVERS P.O.BOX 1736 CALERA AL 35040 205-470-6662
10. <b><u>DISCOVER MISSION</u></b> 3836 HASTINGS DR. OXFORD, AL 36203 256-473-4948	REV. SHANE SUGGS H-256-854-9485 Cell# 706-662-0545 www.jegs6@yahoo.com	CASSY KEEL 12 GRIZZARD DR EASTABOGA AL 36260 256-369-8772



# **CHURCHES DIRECTORY**

## **CHURCH**



## **PASTOR**



## **CLERK**



11. <b><u>MOODY</u></b> 1212 PARK AVENUE P.O. BOX 342 MOODY, AL 35004 205-680-3085	REV. WAYNE NEELY 115 NARROWS ROAD REMLAP, AL. 35133 205-680-3085 Cell: 205-229-6326 WTNeely@BellSouth.net	TRINA NEELY 115 NARROWS ROAD REMLAP, AL 35133 205-680-3085
12. <b><u>MT. OLIVE</u></b> 11751 Hwy 41 N LEEDS, AL 35094	INTERIM REV. GERALD HAYLE 55 MARY'S LANE VINCENT, AL 35178 205-753-1025	CARLENE HARRIS 121 WILLOW CREEK CIRCLE LEEDS, AL 35094 205-699-8073
13. <b><u>MT. PLEASANT</u></b> 1620 TUMPY JONES RD. MARION, AL 36756		TRACY DEAVOURS 1227 TUMPY JONES RD MARION AL 36756 334-683-5091
14. <b><u>MT ZION</u></b> P.O. BOX 844 915 MARTIN ST (HWY. 231-N) PELL CITY, AL 35125 205-338-3708	REV. MICHAEL BARBER 4 SEDDON POINT PELL CITY, AL 35128 205-812-5213 205-338-4090	MELINDA GRAHAM PO BOX 844 PELL CITY AL 35125
15. <b><u>SHADY GROVE</u></b> 1630 UNION GROVE ROAD ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-7022	REV. STEVE MARTIN 1630 UNION GROVE RD ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-7022	WANDA HYATT 1630 UNION GROVE RD. ADAMSVILLE, AL 35005 205-674-1360

# CHURCHES DIRECTORY

**CHURCH**



**PASTOR**



**CLERK**



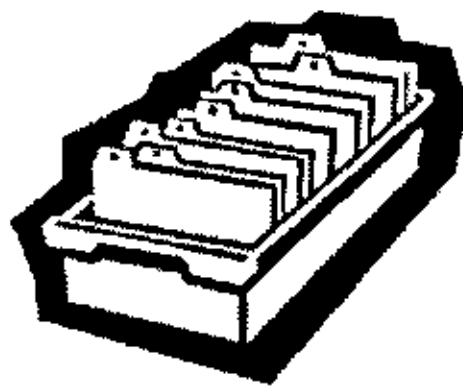
16.

**UNION HILL**

P.O. BOX 54  
VANDIVER, AL 35176

REV. LEE BEVAN  
31984 US HWY 280  
CHILDERSBURG, AL  
35044  
205-230-2938

ROETERRY  
ANDREWS  
53363 HIGHWAY 25  
VANDIVER, AL 35176  
205-672-2515



**DIRECTORY**  
***IMPORTANT ADDRESSES***

**Executive Director**  
**AL State Ministries**

Rev. Danny Williams  
P.O. Box 14  
Winfield, AL 35594  
205-468-3897  
205-468-3057

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

P.O. Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002  
615-731-6812  
  
[www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org)

**International Missions**  
**Board of FWB**

c/o Rev. Rodney Yerby-  
Promoter  
115 Maximillion Dr.  
Madison, AL 35758

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

Danny Williams - Director  
P.O. Box 8  
Eldridge, AL 35554  
205-924-9751  
[www.fwbhome.org](http://www.fwbhome.org)

**Alabama State WAC**

Carolyn Michael  
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Madison, AL 35758  
256-837-5209  
[michaelcarolyn1@gmail.com](mailto:michaelcarolyn1@gmail.com)

**Welch Bible College**

Rev. Tom Malone  
3606 West End Ave  
Nashville, TN 37205  
615-844-5000  
[www.welch.edu](http://www.welch.edu)

## **THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION**

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Convening with:  
**Mt. Zion FWB Church**  
**March 7, 2015**

**Song Service and Welcome** extended by Rev. Michael Barber and the host church.

**Moderator's Message** by Rev. Glenn Hood. "Decisions: Make the Wrong One and Pay for It, Make the Right One and Benefit from It". He spoke from Matthew and discussed the importance of the Father and Son relationship in the Parables of The 2 Sons (Do the Father's Will and Repent), The Vineyard (The Father's Son, Receive and Accept Him), and The Wedding (Rejoice, Put on the Righteousness of God). Bro. Glenn ended the message with the charge "Make things right with God if needed, Put on the garment of God, and Make the Right Decisions!"

Prayer and Fellowship followed.

**The 137th Semi-Annual meeting was Called to Order by Rev. Wayne Neely.**

**Credentials Committee:** Bro Howard Schultz gave the report. The Committee examined 15 church letters and found them in order. Motion passed to Accept the Report.

**Roll was called by Rev. Wayne Neely** and Delegates were seated. Visitors were welcomed. Special recognition and welcome was extended to Bro. Scott Bee, National Home Missionary to Oakland Tn.

**Executive Board and Old Business Report:**

Bro. Glenn Hood gave the Report.

1. On March 2, 2013 at the 135th Semi-Annual Conference, a recommendation was made to have the Executive Board secure information about the Pleasant Grove FWB Church building and

property concerning the possibility of mission work in that area. A discussion was held with Bro. Chad Harris, deacon, and Bro. M. A. Raspberry, a former member, concerning the Pleasant Grove Church on Feb. 18, 2015. The Church membership is basically dissolved. Some members went to Shady Grove FWB Church. The Church building is being rented to another congregation in which the funds are being managed by a real estate company and Bro. Chad Harris. Efforts to sell the property have failed in the recent past. If the property could be sold, mention was made to pool the funds into another future work.  
**Accepted as Information.**

2. We recommend the addition of the following statements of faith to our Constitution:

***Sexual Immorality and Sanctity of Marriage***

- A. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).***
- B. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).***

This will be Article 12 of the Constitution and the current Article 12 will be Article 13. This was tabled until the afternoon session and the Motion passed to add the item to the Constitution. It is recommended that each church pass this information in the local church also.

The Clerk, Bro. Neely has copies of the National Association's Adoption for the Local Church. It has a lot of background information/history.

Bro. Raymond Rivers and Bro. Kevin Nelson invited the Youth to be dismissed for **Youth Roundup** activities.

## Treasurer's Report: Rev. Wayne Neely:

On Hand 9-12-2014	\$5195.11
Deposits as of 3-5-2015	\$2184.46
Balance	\$7379.57

### **Paid Out:**

Moody Post Office	\$68.40
Jimmie Hale Mission	\$567.00
Clerk	\$250.00
Asst Clerk	\$100.00
Moderator	\$100.00
Asst Moderator	\$50.00
State Assoc	\$2590.00
Discover Church-5 pmts @ \$200 ea-	\$1000.00
Fedex (137th Semi Ann Prog)	\$66.04
Food (planning 137th Semi Ann mtg)	\$68.12
136th Minutes Printing	\$688.50
Total Paid Out	\$5482.02
Balance as of 3-15-2015	\$1831.50

### **FWB Foundation Acct**

As of 12-31-2014: \$45437.17

Motion passed to Accept.

**National Home Missionary Scott Bee** spoke briefly. He is with the Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Oakland Tn, 20 miles east of Memphis. This is formerly Bro. Tim Osborn's work. Bro. Scott was born and raised in Muscle Shoals Al.

**Children's Home Report** – The report was given by Bro. Rick Cash on behalf of Bro. Mike Corley and Bro. Danny Williams and was accepted as Information. Bro. Rick extended their thanks for the faithful prayers and support of this ministry. Without the people of the local churches, we could not fulfill the task God has given us.

1. Since 1947 we have cared for approximately 950 children; over 35 the last year. Presently we have 21 children on campus (11 girls & 10 boys) with another girl to join us next week. We have room for others, so please pray that God will put us in contact



with those we can help. If you know someone in need, please refer them to us. We want to impact the lives of as many children as we can.

2. Mike Corley, Executive Director of the Children's Home, submitted his resignation eff. July 1, 2015. He has served in this capacity since August 2009. Mike and his wife Cathy will be moving to St. Croix, Virgin Islands where he will serve as the Business Administrator for the Free Will Baptist Christian School and Church ministry. Please pray for the Corleys, the Board, and the Home during this transition.
3. We thank the Lord that over the past year, 6 of our kids made a salvation decision, including 1 in December. Please pray for our kids and their spiritual lives. There are several others who need to settle the salvation issue and some who need a spiritual victory.
4. In December the Shotts resigned feeling led to serve in another ministry. So we prayed for God to provide someone to fill a house parent position. He answered our prayer and we are pleased to announce the return of Lynn Davis to our staff. Lynn served as a house parent for girls for almost fifteen years before resigning in 2007 to be the caregiver for her parents in the Chattanooga, TN, area. We are thrilled to have such a capable person as Lynn back on our staff.
5. The Eldridge Toy Run was the first Saturday in December (the 6th). It was the 12th year for the ride and over 550 motorcycles, 25 antique cars, and about 1000 people attended. Financially, the benefit generated over \$86,000 in donations, which is a new record!
6. James, one of our teen boys, has been accepted for 2015 E-Team Panama. This is a three week missions program for high school students sponsored by FWB International Missions. If you would like to help him with the expenses of his trip, you may send a donation to FWBCH, earmarked "Summer Missions." Please be in prayer for James and the other teens who will be participating in this ministry.
7. We made a major overhaul to our admin office last month. We created a conference room by erecting a dividing wall. We also



painted and put new flooring down. This not only created a conference room, but it is also added an office the counselor can use to meet with our children.

8. The Thorogood house has been re-roofed and looks nice. We will be presenting a proposal on future use of this space at the Spring Board meeting.
9. If you are not on our mailing list, please give us your name and address today. Home Happenings is produced six times per year and is a great way to keep up with what is going on at the Home.

You can learn more about us or contact us by way of our website, [fwbhome.org](http://fwbhome.org). Call us or come by for a visit. We encourage you to schedule a presentation about the Home's ministry. We appreciate your partnership in this ministry which is making a difference in the lives of children every day. Thanks for helping us "invest today in the heart of tomorrow.", accepted as information. We had 2 Seniors that graduated in May.

We housed 35 children last year and currently have 21. Income is off about \$50,000 this year but the Harvest Drive and Toy Run will help tremendously. The Toy Run raised \$74,000 last year. We recently purchased a 2 bedroom house adjacent to the Home with leftover funds from the estate gift that also allowed the purchase of the 60 acre property last year. The house can be used for house parents needing rejuvenation time. 6 teenagers were saved this summer at the Children's Home so continue to pray for them.

**State Executive Director's Report** was given by Bro. Rick Cash. This report was accepted as Information.

Acts receipts for 2014 were \$512,673.49. This was short of our 2014 budget of \$552,625 by \$39,952. However, this was an increase over 2013 Alabama Acts giving by \$7,296. February receipts were \$44,254. YTD Acts receipts through February total \$116,353. This was \$12,618 more than we received in the first two months of 2014. January Acts gifts totaled \$72,098.74. It was also the third best January in the history of Acts 1:8 giving. Our 2015 Acts budget goal is \$505,000.

Thank you Cahaba River Association for your 2014 Acts gifts which totaled \$ 74,878.98. (up \$9,082 from 2013). Acts was down in 6 of 13 associations in 2014/47 of 99 churches.

International Missions: 41.34% of the Acts budget goes to International Missions. This enables Alabama's own, the Lancasters, the Turnboughs and the Detherages to serve.

Alabama Home Missions: Pray for the Alabama Mission board as they are now seeking the Lord's direction for the next work. The Board is discussing and praying about new locations, potential church planters, possible revitalization projects, etc.

Mobile: The Bay City Church continues to work toward becoming a self-supporting church. They are averaging in the mid 70's in Sunday morning worship attendance and near 60 on Wednesday nights. There are now 135- 140 people in the Mobile area who call the Bay City Free Will Baptist Church their home.

There were 17 who prayed for salvation in 2014 and there were 10 baptized. Plans are in the works for converting the Family Life Center into a worship center & paving the parking lot. Bro. Riggs is praying that God leads an individual or a family to Mobile to help with church music, or children or teens.

Partnership: Our partnerships with Russia and Mexico are still ongoing with the support of eight church planters and two Bible institutes even though there are no pastors conferences scheduled this year.

Due to these partnerships hundreds of Russians have come to Christ at the Camp/Conference Center made possible by Alabama Free Will Baptists. 115 Russian preachers & missionaries have been trained since 1999. 50 Mexicans have graduated from the Mexican Bible Institute. Five church plants in Mexico have been dedicated since 2011. There are two more Free Will Baptists church plants scheduled to be completed and dedicated in Mexico in 2015 due to funding from Alabama FWB.

State Executive Office: Thank you Cahaba River association for joining hands with us in the construction of the Executive Office. This dream began with a vote in 2008 by the Alabama State Association at the First FWB Church Dothan Church. Ground-breaking 2/21/2011. Ribbon Cutting & Dedication May 2, 2014. The 1,850 square foot building was built with sacrificial gifts and labor at a cost of \$87,255.43. = \$47 per square foot. Avg. Bldg. cost today \$140 - \$150 @ \$259,000 = \$277,500.

Thanks for joining hands with us for the Glory of God and the salvation of the lost.

**Please mark your calendars:**

April 5	Roll Call Sunday
April 26	WMO offering
April 29-May 1	Mid-South Bible Conference, Eldridge AL. Speakers – Rev. Jim McComas & Dr. David Crowe.

**Registration Committee:**

94 Registered. 16 Ministers. 7 Deacons. 39 Delegates. 32 Visitors. It was noted that there were more people in the Fellowship Hall.

**Ordaining Council:** Report given by Rev. Ernest Walker.

We recommend that Bro. Clint Hazlewood from Mt. Zion FWB Church be ordained as a Deacon. This will take place at Mt. Zion Church at a later date. Everyone is welcome to attend. Motion passed.

**Business and Deceased Committee:** Reported by Bro. Steve Day.

1. The Cahaba River Mission Board is assisting the Oxford work. We recommend we add 2 members to the board to strengthen it. Motion passed. Bro. Danny Ryals volunteered to serve. Bro. Burble Alexander was nominated. Motion passed to add these 2 names to the Board.
2. We recommend that we make an Article change to the Constitution as follows: Article VI: Delete “except the Cahaba River Missions

Board Fund.”. Article VI-A: Delete the last sentence, then add “The Clerk-Treasurer of the Association shall be the Custodian of the Home Missions Fund, keep a record of the funds, and expend the funds as directed by the Home Missions Board.” This item was tabled and it passed in the afternoon session.

**Deceased:** Mt. Zion: Margaret Gann, Royce Grissom, Bonnie Adams, Eric Knowles.

1st Oak Grove: Ronnie Brewer, Barbara Ellison, Marie Worthy.

Union Hill: Betty Joe Lynn Hyde.

Forestdale: Ray Click.

Pleasant Grove: Kathy LeNeal Simmons.

Talladega: Frankie Furgeson, Catherine Gardner

**Announcements:** The 137th Annual Conference Meeting will be held at Fairview FWB on 9/12/2015. Bro. Fred Warner will be our Keynote Speaker. Everyone is encouraged to attend to hear this Preacher’s Preacher speak.

**Prayer Request:** Bro. Glenn Hood will have surgery on his right eye Tuesday 3/10/2015.

We received a **Thank You letter** from Bro. Tony Cooper of the Jimmie Hale Mission for inviting him to speak at the Cahaba River Association meeting and for the offering given.

**Missions Board:** Bro. Ackerman gave the report.

Bro. Shane Suggs and the Oxford Work is now known as Discover Free Will Baptist Church. We should send a card of encouragement to him. They have 30-35 meeting now, 11 are between the ages of 8-18. They signed a lease for a permanent location and are cleaning and moving today. Bro. Shane also helped Bro. Danny Ryals with his Youth too.

Bro. Ackerman also recognized Centerpoint FWB Church as a small church with a big heart, giving \$400.00 to Home Missions today and stated our Offering today goes to the Cahaba River Missions Board.

Intermission



Praise and Worship Service led by Bro. Michael Barber and the Mt. Zion Church.

**Youth Report:** Bro. Raymond Rivers said a Great Time was had by all. Bro. Kevin Nelson led the Youth in song and they had over a dozen in attendance, including some teens.

Offering: \$790.24. Music by Nell Grissom.

**Morning Message by Rev. Heath Webb.**

Bro. Heath spoke from Matthew 9. The Harvest Truly is Plenteous but the Laborers are Few. We have our sight, but we need to have a vision.

1. Jesus exemplified compassion. We should go after them for the Cause of Christ.
2. Jesus exposes his case to the disciples. Jesus was always striving to teach His Purpose. He shared His Vision with them. We should see what Jesus sees concerning The Harvest; Look to God for our help; We must be SoulWinners. A church without evangelism ceases to burn for the Lord and ceases to be a church.
3. Jesus extends a Command. We should follow it. Pray ye therefore that he will send laborers into the harvest. Prayer is a requirement! Pray continuously! Men ought **always** to pray! God divinely prepares for you the Harvest that you are in right now. Go ye therefore and labor! Do you think Jesus sacrificed? Sometimes we must sacrifice for the multitude: Our time, energy, even sleep. People are dying with no hope. We can show them The Way!

Altar Prayer.

Update: Bro. Rick Cash passed 2 WMO (World Missions) boxes through the congregation earlier and \$70.00 was collected.

Dismissed for Lunch.

Singing led by Bro. Steve Johnson.

Afternoon Session: The tabled items were removed and passed as stated earlier.

Motion passed to adjourn.

# THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

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Convening with:  
**Fairview FWB Church**  
**September 12, 2015**

**Song Service** led by Polly Roberson and Susan Rivers.

**Moderator's Message** by Rev. Glenn Hood. Matt. 26:36-46. "This Cup". Luke 22:39-46, John 18, Matt. 27:46 (Jesus was dreading the separation from the Father), Psalm 75:8 (The Wicked will drink from the cup), Isaiah 51:17 (The Cup of His fury). The Cup is a metaphor. It was the wrath of God. Jesus survived the cup and was Victorious over the cup. 2 Cor 5:21, Gal 3:13, 1 Peter 2:24, Heb. 12:2. Bro. Glenn concluded with altar prayer.

**The 137th Annual meeting was Called to Order** by Rev. Wayne Neely. Visitors were welcomed.

**Credentials Committee:** Bro Steve Day gave the report. 14 of the 15 Churches have reported. Mt. Olive has not reported. Motion passed to accept the report.

**Roll was called by Rev. Wayne Neely and Delegates were seated.**

Prayer was requested for Asst. Moderator Ron Woodard from Friendship FWB. He had cataract surgery and is unable to attend today's meeting.

**Executive Board and Old Business:** Bro. Glenn Hood said there is no Old Business.

**Cahaba River Home Missions Board Treasurer's Report by Clerk Wayne Neely:**

On Hand 3-5-15	\$3000.00
Received from Cahaba River at 137th Semi-Annual Meeting:	\$790.24

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Balance: \$3790.24

**Paid Out:**

Discover Church 10/20/14	\$200.00
Discover Church 11/20/14	\$200.00
Discover Church 12/26/14	\$200.00
Discover Church 1/13/15	\$200.00
Discover Church 2/19/15	\$200.00
Discover Church 3/7/15	\$200.00
Discover Church 5/8/15	\$400.00
Discover Church 7/30/15	\$400.00

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Total Paid Out: \$2000.00

Balance as of 9/10/15: \$1790.24

**Cahaba River District Association Treasurer's Report by Clerk  
Wayne Neely:**

On Hand 3-5-15	\$1831.51
Received as of 9-10-15	\$2910.00
Balance	\$4741.51

**Paid Out:**

Food-Shady Grove 136th Ann	\$375.00
Food-Mt. Zion 137 Semi-Ann	\$325.00
Discover Church (5 pmts@200 ea)	\$1000.00
G. Hood-Food for planning 137th	\$28.58
World Missions Offering	\$70.00
G. Hood-Printing supplies	\$7.27
G. Hood-Food for 2nd meeting	\$50.58
Southern Quik Print-Programs	\$77.18
Clerk	\$250.00
Asst. Clerk	\$100.00
Moderator	\$100.00
Asst. Moderator	\$50.00
Total Paid Out	\$2433.61

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Balance as of 9-10-15 \$2307.90

FWB Foundation as of 6-30-15 \$46056.67

Motion was passed to accept the Reports.



**Cahaba River Women Active for Christ Report** by Sis. Paulette Boyd was accepted as information. The Cahaba River Women Active for Christ will be hosting the Missionary Banquet Thursday 11/5/2015 at Forestdale FWB Church the week of the State Association. Our Speakers will be Eddie and Amanda Simmons, Missionaries to Kenya. The WAC Retreat will be at Shady Grove FWB on 11/6, 11/7. We will have Sis. Becky Webster, Assoc. Pastor's wife from Mt. Zion FWB. Sis. Paulette concluded with the charge: Please pray for the Women Active for Christ! Volunteer! Get Involved!

**Children's Home Report** – by Bro. Danny Williams, read by Bro. Wayne Neely. The Report was accepted as information.

Bro. Danny offered Greetings from the staff and the 15 young people who call Eldridge home. It is almost fall and the fall of the year includes our major fundraising efforts. These events are a significant percentage of our annual income and are always important.

**Please join us in praying for and participating in the following:**

**The Harvest Drive:** This annual project is the way we re-stock our pantry. It is now underway and continues through Thanksgiving. The list of needed items can be found in our latest newsletter or on our website, [www.fwbhome.org](http://www.fwbhome.org).

**Benefit Singing:** The Friendship Stateline Free Will Baptist Church will be hosting their 11th Annual Benefit Singing for the Children's Home on Saturday, October 24th. A buffet supper will be served from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the singing featuring The Gardners will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Friendship Stateline "Church is located at 13363 Stateline "Road (8 miles east of Ardmore on the Corner of "Stateline Road and Old Railroad Bed Road) in Taft, Tn. Everyone is welcome.

**Eldridge Toy Run and Benefit Ride:** On Saturday, December 5th, the 13th Annual Eldridge Toy Run will be held. Motorcyclists from all over the region ride to the Home bringing gifts and donations. Each year this event gets bigger and better. You can get more information on this ride using the link on our website.

Please know, whatever method you choose to support this ministry, it is greatly appreciated! Keep us in your prayers. Pray specifically for our Board of Directors as they seek God's leadership in the search for an Executive Director. The board will have their annual meeting the first Saturday in October. Bro. Danny Williams will continue serving as the Acting Director for the near future.

**Youth Roundup**-Bro. Raymond Rivers discussed his efforts to get children to come to the meetings and participate in the Youth Roundup led by Bro. Raymond and Bro. Kevin Nelson.

**Delegates were selected for the State Association meeting** to be held at Forestdale FWB Church on November 4, 5, 6, 2015.

The Delegates are Steve Johnson, Curtis (Hob) Brake, Barbara Brake, Imojean Walker, Elizabeth Blackwood, Polly Roberson, John Nicholson, Cheryl Nicholson, Paul Nichols, Leona Nichols, Ronnie Smith, Ann Hazlewood, Paulette Boyd, Marie Ackerman, Nell Grissom.

**Registration Committee:** Given by Bro. Ernest Walker.  
73 Registered. 19 Ministers, 16 Deacons, 22 Delegates, 16 Visitors.  
There are a lot more in the Fellowship Hall.

**Nominating Committee:** Report was given by Rev. Mike Cox.

1. Regarding the Executive Board-We recommend the following names to remain in their positions:  
Bro. Glenn Hood-Moderator  
Bro. Ron Woodard-Asst. Moderator
2. Regarding the Ordination Council-We recommend Bro. Raymond Rivers be elected to replace Bro. Rick Andrews whose term ended.
3. Regarding the Executive Board Member at Large-We recommend Bro. Rick Andrews be elected to replace Bro. Burble Alexander.

Motion passed.

**Ordaining Council Report:** The Report was given by Bro. Danny Ryals.

The Ordaining Council met with Bro. Tommy Wright who joined the

Forestdale Free Will Baptist Church and is requesting that we write to the Little Brown Creek Association in Mississippi and accept him as an ordained Minister upon receipt of a letter of Good Standing. We make that recommendation. Motion passed.

**Auditing Committee:** Report was given by Rev. Wayne McDaniel. The books have been examined and found in good order. Motion passed to accept.

**Business and Deceased Committee:** Reported by Bro. Burble Alexander.

**Deceased: Talladega:** Otha Matson, Stanley Lacky, Jerry Jones, Margaret Gaither.

**Mt. Zion:** Sherry Cromer.

**Centerpoint:** Pauline Hood, John Braithwaite, Mildred King.

**Union Hill:** Coy Brasher.

**1st Oak Grove:** Donnie Maddox, Carey Wallis.

It was noted that Vernon Sollie, former member of Fairview FWB, passed away.

Also, Walter Earl Thompson passed away. He was a member of Trinity church (formerly Bonita Park FWB). He was in the Cahaba River Association for many years and was a Deacon for over 40 years.

**Prayer Request:** Bro. Burble Alexander stated that Bro. Waymon Strickland is in the hospital in grave condition.

Bro. Howard Schultz spoke a few moments and concluded with "Be Paid Up, Prayed Up, Prepare for Perilous Times, and Prepare to Meet Thy God".

**State Executive Director's Report:** Given by Bro. Danny Ryals. This report was accepted as information.

**Alabama Executive Office:** The Alabama Free Will Baptist Executive Committee has selected Bro. Danny Williams as our new Executive Director of State Ministries. He will be doing double

duty with the Children's Home for a few weeks to make the transitions as smooth as possible. Please pray for God to provide all Bro. Danny's needs as he serves in this important role.

**Acts 1:8: Financially**-Our 2015 Acts budget goal is \$505,000. This requires \$42,083 each month. As of the end of August we have received \$335,874.45. Thank you, Cahaba River Association for your \$45,866.96 that you have given this year.

**Partnerships**-Our partnerships with Russia and Mexico are still ongoing with the support of eight church planters and two Bible Institutes. Five church plants in Mexico have been dedicated since 2011. There are two more church plants scheduled to be completed and dedicated in Mexico in 2015 due to funding from Alabama FWB.

**International Missions:** Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster have returned to Uruguay after several months in the US dealing with Tammy's health issues. She is much improved but still needs our prayers for strength and complete restoration of her health. Matt and Brooke Turnbough have recently returned from Spain for stateside assignment. They are scheduling services to share what God is doing in their ministry and raising financial support. They have open dates on November 1st and 8th. If you would like them in your church contact the State Office.

**Alabama Home Missions:** Dothan-Pray for the Alabama Mission Board and the Eastside FWB Church as they are involved in a revitalization project. Bro. Billy Bevan is serving as the missionary pastor in this project. They have already seen a high day of 87 in Sunday AM attendance. They are averaging in the 50's on Sunday AM and 40 on Sunday PM. There is an excitement among the people.

**Mobile**-The Bay City Church continues to work toward becoming a self-supporting church. They are averaging in the mid 70's in Sunday morning worship attendance and near 60 on Wednesday nights. There are now 135-140 people in the Mobile area who call the Bay City Free Will Baptist Church their home. Plans are in the works for converting the Family Life Center into a worship center and paving the parking lot.



**Upcoming Events:** Minister's Retreat-October 19-21 at Lake Gunterville. The cost is only \$100. It is a great time of fellowship and relaxation. Please register before September 18th by calling the State Office.

**State Association:** November 4-6 at Forestdale FWB. Jeff Manning and Keith Burden will be our guest speakers. Plans are to honor Bro. Rick Cash for his years of ministry leading Alabama. You are encouraged to send a financial gift, cards, letters, etc. to the State Office for a combined presentation at the State Association.

**Prayer Request:** Bro. Ackerman testified, saying although he has cancer he can still witness for the Lord and has served 40 years.

**Prayer Request:** Bro. Wayne McDaniel asked prayer for Bro. Rick Cash who is suffering severe side effects from incorrect medication he was given.

**Prayer Request:** Bro Mike Cox said Bro. Charlie Weaver needs prayer and encouragement.

**Prayer Request:** Bro. Wayne Neely asked continued prayer for Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Janie Aldridge who are now living in an assisted living facility.

**Prayer Request:** Bro. Steve Powell said Shady Grove FWB is currently in search of a Pastor. Bro. Steve also said his sister-in-law was diagnosed with brain cancer 9 years ago and was told there was no hope. She's still going even though her husband (Bro. Steve's brother) passed away. She continues to have faith and hope in Christ.

**Prayer.**

**Moderator Glenn Hood dismissed the Business portion of the meeting.**

**Intermission.**

**Congregational Singing.**

**Announcement:** The next Cahaba River meeting will be 3/5/2016 at 1st FWB Oak Grove, Sylacauga.

**Special Singing** by Carolyn Boyd, Raymond and Susan Rivers.

**Offering:** \$556.31

### **Morning Message by Bro. Fred Warner.**

Acts 2:22-24, 36-end of chapter. Peter's message-"Repent and be baptized and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost". His message was filled with the Spirit (v.4), full of scripture (v. 15, 16 and 25-28), and full of Salvation (I Corinthians 2). Peter's message here also proclaims Christ as the Renowned Savior (v. 22, Acts 10, Phil. 2:8-11), the rejected Savior (v.23, Isaiah 53:10, Rev 13:8, 1 Pet 1:18-20, 2 Tim. 1:9, 2 Cor 5:19), the Resurrected Savior (1 Cor 15:1-4, Rom 4:25, Rom.1:4), and as the Ascended Living Lord(v. 36, Eph. 1:21). Bro. Warner summed up the message by saying Salvation is a Relationship with Jesus Christ; the All-Sufficient Savior. That One Solitary Life! Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bro. Glenn Hood led the Invitation.

Bro. Glenn Hood thanked Bro. Fred Warner for that great message and asked him to return. Adjourned.



## **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.

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## 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.



## CONSTITUTION

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.

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 Clerk-Treasurer of the Association shall be the Custodian of the Home Missions Fund, keep a record of the funds, and expend the funds as directed by the Home Missions Board.

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



## **CONSTITUTION**

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 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
3. Credentials \*
4. Auditing
5. Registration.

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



# CONSTITUTION

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 second Saturday morning in September of each year.

ARTICLE X- Each church shall pay a representation fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$ 125.00) per session of both the annual and semi-annual conferences in order to be seated.

ARTICLE XI-

1. The clerk-treasurer shall be paid two hundred-fifty dollars (\$250.00) annually.
2. The assistant clerk-treasurer shall be paid one hundred dollars (\$100) annually.
3. The moderator shall be paid one hundred dollars (\$100) annually.
4. The assistant-moderator shall be paid fifty dollars (\$50) annually.

All other expenditures shall be the decision of the body.



## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE XII- Sexual Immorality and Sanctity of Marriage:

- A. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9, Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Co. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).
- B. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).

ARTICLE XIII- 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

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## ORDINATION GUIDELINES

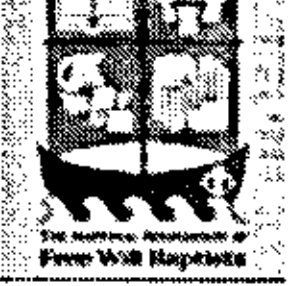
1. This association neither ordains nor grants a certificate of standing to any man who has more than one living wife nor a man whose wife has more than one living husband.
2. Every minister carries a license until he is either called to a church or enters full-time evangelistic work. The license of 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.
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.)



## **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.





# THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## CHAPTER I

### *The Holy Scriptures*

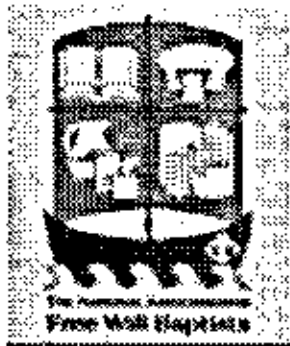
These are the Old and the New Testaments; they were written by holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and are God's revealed word to man. They are a sufficient and infallible rule and guide to salvation and all Christian worship and service.

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.



# **THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

## **CHAPTER II**

### *Being and Attributes of God*

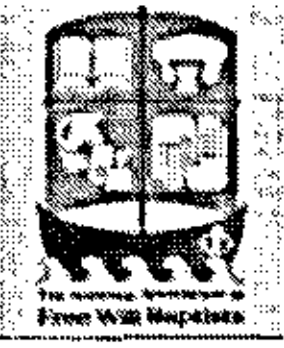
The Scriptures teach that there is only one true and living God, who is Spirit, self-existent, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, independent, good, wise, holy, just, and merciful, the ...Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the Universe; the Redeemer, Saviour, Sanctifier, and Judge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



# THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## CHAPTER IV

### *Creation, Primitive State of Man and His Fall*

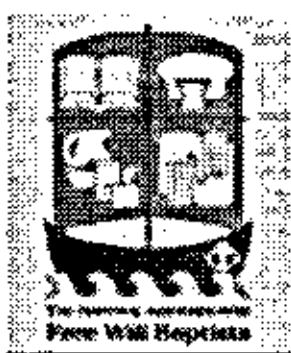
#### SECTION I: *Creation*

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.

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.



# THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## 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.

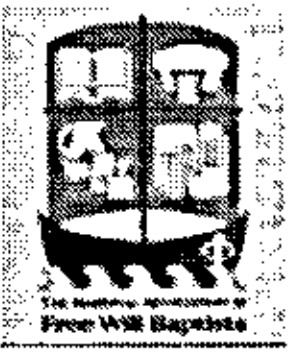
1. *His Titles.* The Bible ascribes to Christ the titles of: Saviour, Jehovah, Lord of hosts, the first and the last, God, true God, great God, God over all, mighty God, and the everlasting Father.
2. *His Attributes.* He is eternal, unchangeable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, and to be 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.





# THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## 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.
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.





# THE FAITH OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## 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.

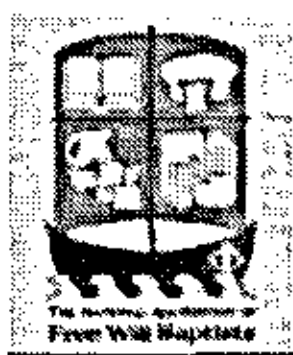
The truth of this doctrine is also proved from the fact that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are united in the authority by which believers are baptized; and in the benedictions pronounced by the apostles, which are acts of the highest religious worship.

#### *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



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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.

## **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**

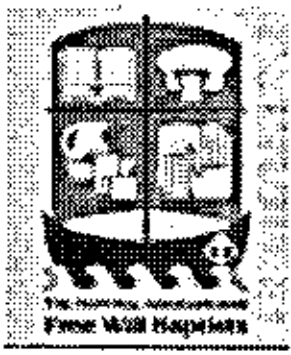
### ***Repentance***

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



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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**

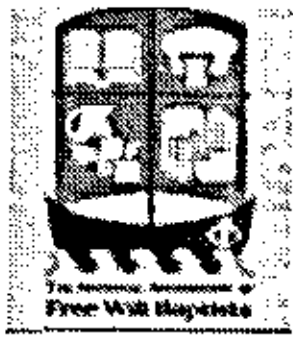
### ***Regeneration***

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 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.



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## CHAPTER XIII

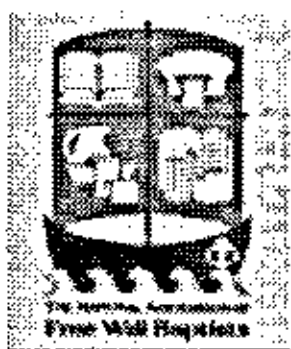
### *Perseverance of the Saints*

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.
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.





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## **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.

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**

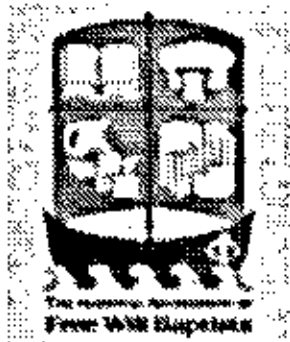
Both the Old and New Scriptures teach tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work.

## **CHAPTER XVII**

### **The Gospel Ministry**

1. *Qualifications of Ministers.* They must possess good, natural and acquired abilities, deep and ardent piety, be especially





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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.
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.



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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 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.



## 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 it's 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!