

*Canadian Association*  
*of*  
**Free Will Baptist**  
**Church of God**

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**1954**  
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—Proceedings of the 49th Annual Session—

**CONVENED WITH THE VANZANT CHURCH**

**Beginning on**  
**Wednesday Night Before the Second Sunday**  
**in August, 1954**

# MINUTES

## OF THE FORTY NINTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

### FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

#### *of God*

#### OFFICERS

Moderator .....	Eld. Marion Caton
Ass't. Moderator .....	Eld. Carl Shivers
Clerk .....	Sis. Myrtle Shivers
Ass't. Clerk .....	Sis. Jewell Hinkle

The next annual session of this Association will be held with the Non church on Wednesday night before the second Sunday in August, 1955.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bro. L. L. Berry .....	One Year
Eld. Sherman Webb .....	Two Years
Bro. Hiram Liles .....	Three Years
Eld. W. E. Mullendore .....	Four Years
Eld. Melvin Mouser .....	Five Years

#### EXAMINING BOARD

Bro. Dick Smith .....	One Year
Eld. Carl Shivers .....	Two Years
Eld. Claud Chisum .....	Three Years

#### FINANCE BOARD OR BUILDING FUND

Bro. Melton Vaughn .....	One Year
Bro. Trevor Case .....	Two Years
Bro. O. E. Wilbanks .....	Three Years
Bro. Tillman Vanzant .....	Four Years
Bro. Ben Tabor .....	Five Years

#### CAMP GROUND COMMITTEE

Bro. Geo. Hughes .....	One Year
Bro. Otis Humes .....	One Year
Eld. Venable .....	Two Years

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon
2. House called to order by Moderator
3. Letters called for, read and received
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating of Delegates
5. Election of Officers
6. Petitionary letters called for
7. Reading rules of order. (By-Laws.)
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in Council
9. Appointment of committees
10. Unfinished business.
11. New business
12. Report of Committees
13. Miscellaneous business

Wednesday night session opened with singing led by Eld. Roy Vanzant. Rhonda Bell Watkins at the piano. Several specials were rendered and an inspirational testimony service was enjoyed. Eld. Carl Shivers preached the introductory message. He chose Acts 24-25 as his scripture reading.

Righteousness, Temperance and Judgement to Come, was his subject. An altar invitation was made. Dismissed by prayer.

Annual business session of Canadian Association was opened Thursday morning. Singing led by W. E. Wilson, prayer by Eld. Claud Chisum. Eld. Melvin Mouser read Acts 24-24 for Devotional Service. United prayer was led by Eld. W. E. Wilson. In absence of the moderator, Eld. Marion Caton, Clerk, took charge of the service. Body declared ready for business. Churches represented by letters were as follows: Allen, Vanzant, Schoolton, Non, Paden, Hill Top, Prague, Hanna, Calvin, Cross Roads. Letters accepted and delegates seated by motion and right hand of fellowship.

The following officers were elected: Moderator, Eld. Marion Caton; Ass't. Moderator, Eld. Carl Shivers; Clerk, Sis. Myrtle Shivers; Ass't. Clerk, Sis. Jewell. Hinkle.

Moderator read rules of order. All visiting Bro's. were invited to seats in Council. Committees appointed are as follows:

Divine Committee—Sis. Juanita Collier, Bro. A. A. Hall, Sis. Olene Smith.

Motion carried for a five minute recess. Body called to order by singing led by Eld. W. E. Wilson. Sis. Carol Humes at the piano. A special song was sung by Eld. Wilson, Sis. Clara Caton, Eld. Marion Caton and Bro. Ben Tabor. Regular order of business resumed. Divine Committee reports that Eld. Claud Chisum and Eld. Melvin Mouser will preach at eleven o'clock. Appointment of committees continued.

Finance Committee: Bro. Tillman Vanzant, Sis. Mattie Harriman.

Sunday School Committee: Sis. Coleen Huffstutler, Sis. Morrow, Sis. Myrtle Mead.

League Committee: Sis. Belle Dukes, Sis. J. A. Young, Sis. Ethel Humes.

Temperance Committee: Bro. Hiram Liles, Bro. Geo. Wells, Eld. Albert Collier.

Obituary Committee: Bro. Geo. Hughes, Sis. Cloie Cook, Bro. Donnie Huffstutler.

Resolution Committee: Eld. W. E. Wilson, Eld. Claud Chisum, Eld. W. E. Mullendore.

Eld. Chisum read Heb. 4:12 also 2:16. Eld. Mouser chose 1st

Psalms for his scripture lesson. Both brought inspirational messages. Dismissed in prayer for lunch which was served at the church. Eld. Arthur Ried offered thanks at the table.

Thursday afternoon session was opened with singing led by Bro. Ben Tabor and Sis. Sylvia Loney. Eld. W. E. Wilson read Rom. 1:12 for his scripture. Unfinished business resumed. Motion carried that each church at this time select a delegate to recommend to this body as delegate to the state association. Vanzant recommended Bro. Tillman, Vanzant; Paden, Sis. Mattie Harriman; Calvin, Donnie Huffstutler; Hill Top, Mrs. Sherman Webb; Schoolton, Jewell Hinkle; Hanna, Geo. Hughes; Allen, A. A. Hall; Prague, Irma Smith; Non, Lessie Hendrix; Cross Roads, Lila Wilson; Eufaula, Bro. Smith. Motion carried to elect these delegates, sending five dollars for each delegate. Devine Committee, Eld. Mullendore and Eld. Johnny Priest reported at 3 o'clock. Motion carried that we dismiss our Camp ground Committee and elect a new one.

Motion carried for acceptance of Executive Board report. Placing of quarterly meetings are as follows: First, Hannaa, Nov. 11; Second, Padena Church, Feb. 11, 1955; Third, Hill Top Church, May 6, 1955. Elders Sherman Webb and W. E. Mullendore will preach the introductory at the first quarterly meeting. Elders W. E. Wilson and Carl Shivers will preach the introductory message at the next annual session which convenes with the Non Church. Motion carried for adjournment of business session until 9:30 a.m. Friday morning. Recessed for five minutes by prayer.

Body called together by congregational singing led by Eld. W. E. Wilson. Rhonda Belle Watkins at the piano. "Pray the Clouds Away" was sung by W. E. Wilson, Marion and Clara Catone and of Ben Tabor. Devine Committee reported that Eld. Sherman Webb and Eld. Marion Caton will bring the evening message. Eld. Mullendore took the pulpit using "You Must be Born Again" as his subject. Eld. Johnny Priest chose John 3rd as his text. Both ministers brought inspirational messages. An altar call was made. Dismissed in prayer until evening hour.

Thursday evening service opened with singing led by Eld. Roy Roberts. Prayer by Eld. D. C. McReady. Several special numbers were rendered. The Prague quartet sang "Blessings Come From Heaven Every Day." A duet by Gertrude Liles and Lillie Belle Watkins. Solo by Sis. Naomi Robinson. A soul refreshing testimony was enjoyed by many. Eld. Webb's theme was "Perfect Love Casteth Out Fear" and Eld. Caton used "Fear God and Keep His Commandments." Both ministers brought spiritual messages. An altar call was made and one soul was renewed. Dismissed in prayer.

Friday morning session called to order by Moderator Eld. Marion Caton. Singing led by Eld. W. E. Wilson, Sis. Clyde Cain at the piano. Eld. Claud Chisum read First Cor. the 13th chapter. Prayer was led by Eld. Clay Richey. Eld. W. E. Wilson was appointed by the Moderator to act in the absence of Ass't. Moderator. Motion carried for acceptance of Resolution No. 1. Motion carried to table Resolution No. 1 until the afternoon session. Motion carried to write Elders Olen and Raymond a letter of commendation. Motion carried for acceptance of Resolution No. 2.

Moderator appointed Bro. Ben Tabor and Bro. Johnny Strickland on Divine Committee. Motion carried to elect all standing boards. Motion carried to discontinue the Orphanage Board. Divine

Committee reports that Eld. Clyde Cain and Eld. Clay Richey will preach at 11 o'clock. Motion carried that the body elect a three man examining board. Motion carried for adjournment of business until 1:30 o'clock. Dismissed for five minute recess.

Body called to order, singing led by Eld. Claud Chisum. Sis. Clyde Cain at the piano. Prayer by Eld. Lonnie Hall. Special song by Elders Wilson, Caton, Cain and Sis. Mignon Priest. Another special song by the Vanzant quartet, Sis. Lillie Belle Watkins, Eld. Caton and Bro. Johnny Strickland. Eld. Clyde Cain read 100 Psalms followed by Eld. Clay Richey who took his from Rev. 14:6. Both were wonderful and uplifting messages. Dismissal for lunch which was served at the church. Eld. Johnny Priest asked God's Blessings at the table.

Friday afternoon session opened with congregational singing. Eld. Lonnie Hall read the Devotional Scripture. Prayer by Bro. Ben Tabor. Motion carried for rejection of Resolution No. 1 until the 1st quarterly meeting. Motion carried for acceptance of report of the Building Fund Committee. Motion carried for acceptance of Bro. Ben Tabor's resignation from the Examining Board. Bro. Dick Smith was elected as one year man.

Motion carried to give \$25.00 of the General Fund to the Children's Home. Motion carried to elect a Finance or Building Fund Committee. Motion carried to omit preaching this afternoon. Motion carried to accept the Sunday School, Temperance, Finance and Obituary reports and dismiss the committees. The body stood in silent prayer in memory of those called from our midst. Motion carried to take up a free will offering for the associational fund. An offering of \$7.74 was given. Motion carried to accept Resolution No. 4 and give a rising vote of thanks to Vanzant Church. Motion carried to buy what minutes we have money to pay for. Motion carried for adjournment until the 1st quarterly meeting which convenes with Hanna on Thursday night, before the second Sunday in August, 1955.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Temperance Committee

We, the Temperance Committee, recommend more closely the law we have in our Minutes concerning temperance, and that the ministers and deacons stress the need for each member to realize his responsibility.

Signed by Committee.

### Sunday School Committee

We, the Sunday School Committee, recommend to visit the parents and invite them to bring their children to Sunday School instead of sending them. We also wish to have full cooperation from everyone.

Signed by Committee

### Obituary Committee

We, the Obituary Committee, find that God in his love has called from our midst:

Calvin—Leala Lightner.

Schoolton—Laural Stewart.

Hanna—Betty Mouser.

Jimmy Jo Searcy—Former Spring Creek Church.

Signed by Committee.

Church	Bldg.	Fund	State Min.	Canadian Min.
Vanzant	\$7.00	\$5.00		\$10.00
Allen		5.00		
Schoolton		5.00		10.00
Non		5.00		10.00
Paden		5.00		10.00
Hill Top		5.00		10.00
Paden		5.00		10.00
Hanna	10.00	5.00		10.00
Calvin		5.00		10.00
Cross Roads		5.00		10.00
	<u>\$17.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>		<u>\$90.00</u>

Offering \$10.41 Signed by Finance Committe

**Clerks Financial Report:**

Balance brought forward	\$ 38.00
Received during 1954 session	174.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$212.41</b>
Paid Building Fund	17.00
Paid for State Minutes	50.00
Paid Clerk and Assistant	35.00
Paid Children's Home	25.00

Moderator, Marion Caton  
Assistant Clerk, Clara Caton

*Paid for Canadian Minutes 88.00*

## RESOLUTIONS

(1925) No. 1—Be it resolved that each pastor preach at least two doctrinal sermons each year.

No. 2—That if the churches of this association, that do not pay amount promised pastor if he fills his part of the agreement, shall have no other pastor until they pay the deficit.

(1936) No. 1—Be it resolved that each minister make a written report of his work to the annual association.

No. 3—Be it resolved that only ordained ministers and deacons administer Ordinance of the church.

(1937) No. 2—Be it resolved that we carry out God's plan on tithing.

No. 3—Be it resolved that all ministers and deacons go before the Examining Board for qualification before ordination.

Resolved by Executive Board on August 22, 1950, that resolution No. 2 of 1938 be abolished.

(1939) No. 1—Be it resolved that this Association so order all churches in this Association prohibit the use of tobacco in any form inside the church building and that the pastor and deacons see that this ruling be enforced.

No. 2—Resolved that this Association demand all ministers, pastoring in Canadian Association, while belonging to another association, abide by Canadian Association laws, during their pastoral care in it.

(1940) Annual No. 1—Be it resolved that the devotional committee select no minister more than one time in any Association or quarterly meeting.

Annual No. 2—Be it resolved that each church make a report of all deaths in their letter to the Annual session.

Resolved by Executive Board August 22, 1950 to abolish resolution No. 1: 1st quarterly meeting.

(1940) 1st quarterly meeting—Be it resolved any person or persons trying to obstruct the duty of this Association, shall not hold a seat in Association until they make their acknowledgement and apologies for same.

(1940) 2nd quarterly. No. 1—Be it resolved that this Association require its licensed ministers to preach at least ten sermons on church government before ordination.

Resolved by Executive Board August 22, 1950, to abolish resolution No. 3, 1940.

(1942) No. 1—Be it resolved that when an individual church calls the executive board they pay the expense of the board.

Resolution by the Executive Board, August 22, 1950, that No. 1 of first quarterly be abolished.

2nd quarterly—Be it resolved that each church send letters to our quarterly meetings like the form in our minutes.

(1943) No. 1—Be it resolved that we the Canadian Association, send a letter with a corresponding delegate to sister associations to help bring about a better spirit of Christian friendship and brotherly love.

(1948) Be it resolved that each church send \$15.00 minute and Association expenses to the annual session.

(1949) Annual—Be it resolved that this Association elect ministers to preach only for the first quarterly meeting and one quarterly thereafter.

2nd quarterly No. 1—Be it resolved that the Canadian Association start a building fund for the purpose of building new churches

and be it further resolved, we elect a board of five to administer these funds. Be it also resolved that we ask each resident member to contribute one dollar per member each year.

(1951) No. 1—Be it resolved that the Association elect a new moderator and clerk each year. (Not to succeed themselves.)

No. 3—Be it resolved that no one hold more than one office in this association in any one year.

No. 4—Be it resolved that this Association leave Article One of the Constitution in this Association to read exactly as they are in the Minutes with the exception that the clerk and assistant shall also be regular members.

(1952) No. 1—Be it resolved that our Assistant keep the books and have the minutes printed; then turn the books over to the new clerk at the first quarterly meeting. And this program to be continued.

(1954) No. 1—We the Resolution Committee recommend that the association appoint a 3-man board of 1-2-3 years to locate the site for an association campground, to be submitted to the association at the first quarterly meeting. Be it further resolved that each church send in \$10.00 to each quarterly meeting for the campground funds.

No. 2— Be it resolved that we abolish Resolution No. 2 of 1951. Be it further resolved that we elect all boards for 1-2-3-4-5 years.

No. 3—Be it resolved that we extend to the Vanzant church our heartfelt thanks for their hearty welcome and hospitality during the 49th Session of the Canadian Association.—Signed by Committee.

## MINISTER'S DIRECTORY

Leanard Bean, Box 264	Wetumka, Oklahoma
Marion Caton, Rt. 4 Box 268	Okla. City, Oklahoma
J. P. Champion	Okemah, Oklahoma
Claud Chisum	Non, Oklahoma
Albert Collier	Okemah, Oklahoma
C. F. Dodson	Non, Oklahoma
J. T. Elliott, Box 225	Calvin, Oklahoma
W. D. McCreedy, Route 2	Okemah, Oklahoma
Carrie May	Weleetka, Oklahoma
Melvin Mouser	Hanna, Oklahoma
S. D. Pendergraft, Route 4	Okemah, Oklahoma
Arthur Reid	Weleetka, Oklahoma
Sherman Webb, 9015 S Wewoka	Wewoka, Oklahoma
W. E. Mullendore, Route 1	McLoud, Oklahoma
R. A. Venable	Stidham, Oklahoma
Naomi Hahn	Weleetka, Oklahoma
Odis Robinson	Okemah, Oklahoma
Carl Shivers, Route 1	Paden, Oklahoma
George Taylor, Box 86	Snomae, Oklahoma
W. T. Walden	Weleetka, Oklahoma
O. P. Westbrook, 222 N 2nd	Okemah, Oklahoma
W. E. Wilson, Box 403	Holdenville, Oklahoma



## VISITING MINISTERS

Johnny Priest, Crockett, Calif.

Clay Rickey, Blanchard

Clyde Cain, Ringling

## DEACONS DIRECTORY

Russell Richardson, Allen  
Vernice May, Allen  
Sam Milum, Allen  
Henry Patterson, Allen  
C. A. Holloway, Calvin  
Abra Willbanks, Calvin  
Bee Blaylock, Cross Roads  
Dee Blaylock, Cross Roads  
Richard Dooley, Cross Roads  
Ben Tabor, Hanna  
George Wills, Hanna  
Otis Hume, Hill Top  
Nathaniel Vanzant, Hill Top  
Howard Gann, Hill Top  
T. A. Priest, Non  
Ed Chisum, Non  
Lloyd Mauldin, Non  
G. A. Priest, Non

A. C. Hibbs, Okemah  
Lester Burks, Okemah  
Trevor Case, Paden  
L. L. Berry, Cushing  
Clarence Day, Prague  
Dick Smith, Prague  
Melton Vaughn, Prague  
Tom McDonald, Prague  
Garland Collier, Schoolton  
Coleman Dotson, Schoolton  
L. A. Lankford, Schoolton  
Edd Phillips, Spring Creek  
J. S. Searcy, Spring Creek  
Pete Hatfield, Vanzant  
Hiram D. Liles, Vanzant  
Johnny Stricklin, Vanzant  
Arthur Vanzant, Vanzant  
Raymond Vanzant, Vanzant

Church	Pastor	Clerk	No. on Roll	Received	Dismissed	Deceased	Meeting Date	Value of Church Property
Paden	W. E. Mullendore	Sylvia Loney	47	8	2		Full Time	\$4000
Hill Top	Sherman Webb	Ethel Hume	97	2	2		Full Time	2000
Allen	W. J. Waldon	Myrtle Mead	63	11	2		Full Time	2500
Prague	Odis Robinson	Irma Smith	39		7		Full Time	4000
Cross Roads	C. F. Doilson	Josie Blaylock	44	13			Full Time	4000
Schoolton		Jewell Hinkle	70		1		Full Time	
Hanna	Melvin Mouser	Ethel Mouser	48	1	15	1	Full Time	3000
Vanzant	Marion Caton	Marie Strickland	58	5	5		1st and 3rd	
Calvin	Claud Chisum	Lizzie Hanks	48	17	3	1	Full Time	2500
Non	Ben Pixley	Lessie Hendrix	194	13	4		3rd and 4th	4000

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the infallible Word of God, and the only safe rule of faith and practice.—2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

2. That there is but one true and living God, and in the God-head or Divine Essence, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.—Gen. 17:1; John 5:7.

3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures and cannot extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature.—Eph. 5:1-19.

4. That Salvation, Regeneration, Sanctification, Justification and Redemption are by the Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension and Intercession of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—Acts 4:12; Titus 3:5.

5. That he shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.—Matt. 22:13; Rev. 2:10.

6. That the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.—Matt. 25:46.

7. That Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the Saint's feet are the ordinances of Jesus Christ, appointed in the church, and none but true believers are proper subjects, and the only proper mode of baptism is Immersion.—Mark 1:4. 9 and 10; Luke 23:30; John 13:14.

8. We believe in the sanctity of the first day of the week or the Lord's Day, and that it ought to be observed and spent in the public or private worship of God, and that on it, we should abstain from our worldly concerns except in cases of necessity and mercy.—Ex. 31:15; Matt. 12:12; Deut. 5:12.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the body, both of the just and unjust, but every one in his own order, those who have done evil to the resurrection of the damnation, and that God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ.—1 Cor. 15:34; John 5:28; 1 Thess. 4:16.

10. That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general, and to be singly engaged to promote the honor of God.—John 13:35; Gal. 6:10.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ by the grace of God tasted death for every man: yet none can partake of His divine benefit only by his repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. infants and idiots excepted.—Acts 20:21; Tim. 2:5, 6; John 3:14, 16; 15:20-22, and Romans 5:15.

12. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the door into the church, that Baptism is a duty in answer to a good conscience.—John 10:7; 1 Peter 3:21.

13. We believe that the Lord's people are one in Him and therefore should be one at His table.—1 Cor. 1:11, 27, 27;—John 17:11.

## RULES OF ORDER

1. The Association when met shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, and shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.
3. Any person shall not be interrupted by anyone except the Moderator, until he is through speaking: nor shall the Moderator unless he breaks order.
4. Any person speaking shall adhere to the subject in question and shall not cast any reflections on him who may have spoken before him.
5. No person shall speak more than three times on any one subject without leave of the Association.
6. No person shall laugh or whisper in time of public speaking.
7. The members shall be addressed by the appellation of brothers or sisters.
8. No members shall absent himself from the Association while in session without leave.
9. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled and called as the Association deems it necessary.
10. No member shall speak more than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the Association.
11. Any person who knowingly breaks any of these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator according to direction of the Association.

## RULES FOR HOLDING CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Call Church into Conference.
2. Invite visiting brethren to seats in the Council.
3. Reading of minutes of last meeting.
4. Report of Treasurer or Finance Committee.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Any sick or in need.

## LETTER OF DISMISSION

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a member in good standing of the Free Will Baptist Church at \_\_\_\_\_ and as such we recommend him (or her) to the fellowship of God's people, and is dismissed from us when united with another church.

Done in Church Conference this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Pastor  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

## LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

The Free Will Baptist Church of God, worshipping at \_\_\_\_\_ county of \_\_\_\_\_ this (date) \_\_\_\_\_ P. O. address \_\_\_\_\_ sends greetings to the \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Session of the brethren and sisters composing the Canadian Association of Free Will Baptists, to let you know of our love and fellowship and our zeal for the cause of Christ.

Pastor's salary for the coming year \$\_\_\_\_\_. Meeting day is on the \_\_\_\_\_ Sundays of each month. We have received by Confession \_\_\_\_\_ Letter \_\_\_\_\_; Excluded \_\_\_\_\_; Died \_\_\_\_\_; Resident Members \_\_\_\_\_; Non-resident Members \_\_\_\_\_; Total in full Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_. We have in our membership, Ministers \_\_\_\_\_ names \_\_\_\_\_ Ordained Deacons \_\_\_\_\_, names \_\_\_\_\_. We have paid out for Evangelistic Work \$\_\_\_\_\_; Missions \$\_\_\_\_\_. Support of the Association \$\_\_\_\_\_. Total amount paid out by the Church \$\_\_\_\_\_. We (have or have not) a F.W.B. Sunday school. We (have or have not) F.W.B. League. Value of Church Property \$\_\_\_\_\_. Contribution for Minutes \$\_\_\_\_\_; State Minutes \$\_\_\_\_\_. We have chosen (brothers or sisters) \_\_\_\_\_ as our delegates to represent us in the Annual Session when convened with \_\_\_\_\_ Church. We have chosen Elder \_\_\_\_\_ for our pastor for the ensuing year. (Here ask for the Next Association or Quarterly if wanted). Pray for us. Done in conference this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Moderator  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk  
\_\_\_\_\_, Address

## CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptised upon a profession of our faith in Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better Church government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by different churches of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members, when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME. The members thus chosen and assembled with the ministers and deacons, to be denominated the Canadian Association of Free Will Baptist, being composed of the several churches of our union, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. LETTERS. Letters from the different churches representing are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation; by restoration or denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. Churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. OFFICERS. The Association has a Moderator, a clerk, and a Credential Committee of three ordained elected by the suffrage of the members of the Association at each annual association. The Credentials Committee shall be elected as follows: One for three years, one for two years, and one for one year. Then one each year following to succeed the outgoing members.

Art. 5. NEW CHURCHES. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. QUESTIONS. No questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered in its own church.

Art. 7. MOTIONS. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the members who made it.

Art. 8. MINUTES. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the amount paid by each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9 CLERK. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. SIGNATURES. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

Art. 11. ORDINANCES. The pastor of the church shall preach on the ordinances of the church once a year, and one discourse on

the support of the ministry.

Art. 12. FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS. This Association shall hold three Fifth Sunday Meetings each year, and the ministers and deacons shall make a written report of their work, and it shall be the duty of each quarterly conference to look after the necessities of the widows and orphans, and the order of the ministry, and the quarterly conference shall make a written report to the Association annually.

Art. 13. TREASURY. Resolved, that each church have a treasurer, and come together and subscribe the amount they are willing to pay into the treasury during the year for the support of the ministry, widows, orphans, and incidental expenses, and that said amount be paid quarterly, and that said funds shall not be paid out except by order of the church.

Art. 14. AMENDMENTS. Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the 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 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.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor "to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel, nor fail to pay accordingly to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

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 souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

