

# **MINUTES**

## **89TH ANNUAL SESSION**



### **CENTRAL WESTERN MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**



**WHEN CONVENED WITH THE  
STOCKTON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
LIBERAL, MISSOURI  
FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 14, 1997**



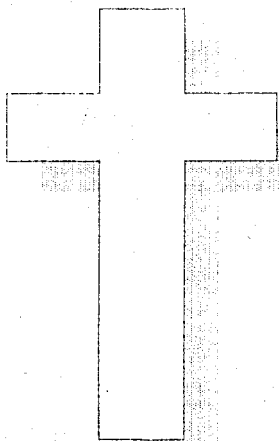
***90th Annual Session  
will meet with the  
VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH,  
Liberal, Missouri  
Friday & Saturday, March 13-14, 1998***





# Theme of Association

*"WHEN MY PEOPLE PRAY"*



**2 CHRONICLES 7:14**

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1997

OFFICERS

<i>MODERATOR</i> .....	Charlie Hoover
<i>ASSISTANT MODERATOR</i> .....	Rev. Bob Dickey
<i>CLERK-TREASURER</i> .....	Barbara Hopkins
<i>ASSISTANT CLERK-TREASURER</i> .....	Marcella Ruble
<i>STATISTICIAN</i> .....	Virginia Hoover
<i>ITINERANT CONTACT</i> .....	Jim Holder
<i>STATE GENERAL BOARD MEMBER</i> .....	Rev. Milan Ruble

EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION BOARD

1. Bethel	Dea. Lurel Mays	1997
2. Greenfield	Gilbert York	1997
3. Hannon	Dea. Charlie Hoover	1998
4. Hickory Grove	Rev. Thayne Fast	1998
5. Oskaloosa	Bro. Charles Do Byns	1999
6. Stockton	None	1999
7. Verdella	Dea. Randy Sprenkle	1999

CHURCH CLERKS

BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Eldorado Springs, MO  
Lois Smith, 1102 South Kirkpatrick,  
Eldorado Springs, MO 64744

GREENFIELD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, South Allison  
Lucille Franklin, 403 Toney Avenue,  
Greenfield, MO 65661

HANNON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
Margaret Smith, P.O.Box 274,  
Liberal, MO 64762

HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Harrisonville, MO  
Glenna Stackhouse, 12305 East 299th Street,  
Archie, MO 64725

CHURCH CLERKS (continued)

OSKALOOSA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
Wilma Smith, 1043 NW 30th Road,  
Liberal, MO 64762  
STOCKTON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, MO  
Bill Ragsdale, RR#2, Box 2444,  
Fairplay, MO 65649  
VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
Ruth Foger, 799 West V Highway,  
Liberal, MO 64762

MINISTERS OF CHURCHES

BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Eldorado Springs, MO  
Rev. Warren Hall, RR#3, Box 424, Eldorado Springs, MO  
GREENFIELD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, South Allison  
Rev. Bob Dickey, P.O. Box 53, Liberal, MO  
HANNON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
Rev. George Naumann, P.O. Box 122, Liberal, MO  
HICKORY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Harrisonville, MO  
Rev. Thayne Fast, 945 NW 50th Lane, Liberal, MO  
OSKALOOSA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
Rev. Hollis Walker, Jr., P.O. Box 14, Liberal, MO  
STOCKTON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, MO  
Rev. Bill Ragsdale, RR#2, Box 2444, Fairplay, MO  
VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO  
Rev. Milan Ruble, 798 West V Highway, Liberal, MO

**PROCEEDINGS**

**Friday Evening, March 14, 1997, 7:30 p.m.**

The 89th Annual Session of the Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists convened with the Stockton Free Will Baptist Church.

With Joe and Juanita Page at the organ and piano, we had congregational singing. After prayer by Rev. Bill Ragsdale, the Association Clerk declared a quorum present to conduct business. Assistant Moderator, Rev. Bob Dickey, gave the Moderator's message

We were then blessed with three specials by Joe and Juanita Page from the Stockton Church, with Joe on his saxophone, accompanied by Juanita on the piano.

Our speaker was Roy Harris, from the Free Will Baptist College in Nashville.

The evening offering was received, in the amount of 63.00. We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Corky Walker.

### **Saturday Morning, March 15, 9:45 a.m.**

Moderator, Charlie Hoover, opened the service by calling on Bro. Bill Ragsdale to lead congregational singing, accompanied by Janice Presley at the piano. The congregation sang "Revive us Again and Love Lifted Me".

Prayer was by Rev. Milan Ruble.

We were then blessed by a piano solo, "Just As I Am", by Janice Presley, Stockton Church.

Prayer by Rev. George Naumann.

Devotion was by Nathan Ruble, Promotional Secretary, Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. Scripture was from Deuteronomy 1:18.

Letters from the churches was read by Sis. Barb Hopkins and M/S/C that the delegates be seated.

M/S/C to dispense with reading of the By-Laws and Executive Board Report.

Copies of Statisticians Reports by Virginia Hoover was handed out, M/S/C to accept.

Clerks financial report was read, M/S/C to accept as read.

The Executive Board Financial Report was handed out, M/S/C to accept as read.

Bro. Charlie Hoover appointed the committees:

Business Committee: Milan Ruble - Bill Ragsdale - Gilbert York - George Naumann - Alice Hoover.

Ministerial Standing Committee: Addis Foger - Lucille Franklin - Elizabeth Zimmerman - Reed Smith - Charles Whitson.

Obituary Committee: Dorothy Dickey - Christie Zimmerman - Margaret Walker.  
Nominating Committee: Bob Dickey - Marcella Ruble - Floyd Crutcher - Hollis Walker, Jr. - Doris Whitson.

Morning session was dismissed with prayer by Rev. Bob Dickey.

**Women's Group, 11:00 a.m. session, March 15, 1997**

Our session was opened with the congregation singing, "Where He Leads Me".

President, Betty Crutcher called us to order.

Loretta Ragsdale welcomed us to the Stockton Church, with Alice Hoover responding.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Linda Hall, Alice Hoover, and Lucille Franklin was then appointed, and offertory prayer given by Dorothy Dickey.

Loretta Ragsdale then sang "I Claim the Blood" for us.

Our Missionary to Brazil, Mary Holland, was the speaker. Her text was 2 Chronicles, 7:14, based on the two tiny words - **IF and THEN**. If, a condition, and if we do our part....then, God will kick in His part. We were then dismissed in prayer by Marcella Ruble, with the blessing asked on the delicious noon meal.

**Women's Group, 1:30 p.m. session, March 15, 1997**

Our meeting was begun with the congregation singing "Standing on the Promises, followed with prayer by Doris Whitson.

Christie Zimmerman than gave us a report of her trip as a TEAM member last summer to Brazil.

We were then blessed with special music by Regina Sprenkle, with congregation joining in "People Need the Lord", then her solo of "Master of the Wind".

The secretary, Alice Hoover, was absent, and no report was given. M/S/C to accept.

The Treasurer's report was then handed out by Linda Hall, M/S/C to accept report as read. Morning offering was \$68.00.

The Nominating Committee's report was read with no nominations from the floor. Officers are as follows:

*President.....Betty Crutcher*  
*Vice President.....Regina Sprenkle*  
*Secretary.....Virginia Hoover*  
*Treasurer.....Linda Hall*  
*Members at Large....Nancy Mays, Loretta Ragsdale, Anna Lee York,*  
*Doris Whitson*

Motion was M/S/C to give our guest speaker, Mary Holland, \$50.00. Our Fall Banquet and Craft Auction is to be hosted in October by the Hannon church at the Liberal Community Building. Last year's receipts for the Auction was \$1025.75.

**1996-97 State Projects:**      Foreign missions.....\$3,000  
    National home missions....1,500  
    WNAC office.....1,500  
    State home missions..... 1,500  
    Youth Camp.....1,500

The State Retreat is August 15-16 at Stonecroft.

Wilma Smith installed our new officers with a service entitled, "Gem of an Installation".

Wilma Smith closed our meeting in prayer.

### **Saturday Afternoon Business session, 2:15 p.m.**

Moderator called the meeting to order.

A beautiful special was given by Bro. Paul Cole, "Then Came the Morning", accompanied by Janice Presley on the piano.

Rev. Corky Walker led in prayer.

**Business Committee** report was given, the changes to be made were read, M/S/C to accept the report.

**Item I** - Beds and mattresses to be purchased for the boys and girls cabins at youth camp as needed.

**Item II** - Look into building or buying additional facilities for boys cabins.

Both items were discussed separately. Bros. Milan Ruble and George Naumann will see about beds and mattresses. Bros. Roger Phillips, Bob Dickey and Reed Smith to look at cost of building or purchasing boys cabin.

**Ministerial Committee** report was read, M/S/C to receive the report.

**Obituary Committee** report was read, M/S/C to receive the report.

**Nominating Committee** report was given, M/S/C to accept this report.

We adopted the Executive Board recommendations, and gave a standing vote of thanks to Stockton for their hospitality in hosting the meeting. Business session closed with prayer by Rev. Bill Ragsdale.

Our session was re-opened with congregational singing "What a Friend we have in Jesus" and "Victory in Jesus", led by Rev. Bill Ragsdale, with Janice Presley at the piano.

We were then led in prayer by Reed Smith.

Bro. Roy Harris, our speaker on Friday night, gave a word of greeting.

We were then blessed in song by Loretta Ragsdale, singing "Sheltered in the Arms of God".

Our message was by Curt Holland, Missionary to Brazil, taken from Luke 11:1 - "Lord, Teach us to Pray".

An offering of \$105.00 was taken.

The 1997 session was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Charles Whitson.

The 90th Session will meet with the Verdella Church on Friday evening, March 13, 1998.

### REGISTRATION

**MINISTERS:** Milan Ruble, George Naumann, Bill Ragsdale, Hollis Walker, Warren Hall, Jim Holder, Bob Dickey

**DEACONS:** Reed Smith, Charlie Hoover, Randy Sprenkle, Charles Whitson

**DELEGATES:** Addis Foger, Lucille Franklin, Gilbert York, Floyd Crutcher, Dorothy Dickey, Wilma Smith, Linda Hall, Lena Mays, Marcella Ruble, Bill Walker, Christy Zimmerman, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Doris Whitson, Alice Hoover, Ionia Phillips, Margaret Walker, Regina Sprenkle

**VISITORS:** Barb Hopkins, Virginia Walker, Annalee York, Betty Crutcher, Bethany, Wade and Nicole Sprenkle, Roy Harris, Janice Presley

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

**Item I** We, the Business Committee, recommend that beds and mattresses be purchased for the boys and girls cabins at Youth Camp as needed.

**Item II** We recommend that the Association be looking into building or buying additional facilities for the boys cabins.

Signed: Milan Ruble, George Naumann, Gilbert York, Bill Ragsdale, Alice Hoover

## MINISTERIAL STANDING COMMITTEE

We, the Ministerial Standing Committee recommend the following to receive a card of standing: Milan Ruble, Warren Hall, Bill Ragsdale, Thayne Fast, Hollis Walker, George Naumann and Bob Dickey. Kurt Holland and Stan Bunch, Missionaries, and Jim Holder, Itinerant Contact.

Signed: Charles Whitson, Lucille Franklin, Elizabeth Zimmerman,  
Reed Smith

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following people were suggested by the Nominating Committee:

Moderator.....Charlie Hoover  
Assistant Moderator.....Bob Dickey  
Clerk-Treasurer.....Barbara Hopkins  
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer.....Marcella Ruble  
Statistician.....Virginia Hoover  
Itinerant Contact.....Jim Holder  
State General Board Member.....Rev. Milan Ruble

Signed: Bob Dickey, Marcella Ruble, Doris Whitson, Hollis Walker, Jr.,  
Floyd Crutcher

## OBITUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Obituary Committee, submit the following deceased members of our association:

Bethel..... Alene Lee  
Hickory Grove..... Iris Jones  
Oskaloosa..... J.R. Smith  
Stockton..... Alice Routh, Zelma Cole, Clarence Blodgett  
Verdella..... Hazel Bowman

The congregation stood for a moment of silent prayer in their honor. They were then led in prayer by Bro. Roger Phillips.

Respectfully submitted: Dorothy Dickey, Christy Zimmerman, Margaret Walker

## MINISTER'S REPORTS

Rev. Bob Dickey:	Sermons preached...103	Miles traveled.....8,500
	Churches pastored....1	Money received.....\$6,500.00
	Funerals preached....6	Weddings performed...0

<b>Rev. George Naumann:</b>	Sermons preached... 75	Miles traveled.....6,809
	Churches pastored... 1	Money received.....\$21,996.26
	Funerals preached... 1	Weddings performed... 1
	Professions witnessed... 4	Number baptized.....5
	Additions to church.....9	
<b>Rev. Hollis Walker:</b>	Sermons preached... 89	Miles traveled.....2,000
	Churches pastored... 1	Money received.....\$4,541.20
	Funerals preached... 2	Weddings performed... 4
	Professions witnessed... 3	
<b>Rev. Bill Ragsdale:</b>	Sermons preached... 94	Miles traveled.....8,500
	Churches pastored... 1	Money received.....\$12,000.00
	Funerals preached... 3	Weddings performed... 0
	Professions witnessed... 1	Number baptized.....0
<b>Rev. Thayne Fast:</b>	Sermons preached... 45	Miles traveled.....8,500
	Churches pastored... 1	Money received.....\$2,350.00
	Funerals preached...	Weddings performed... 0
<b>Rev. Warren Hall:</b>	Sermons preached... 100	Miles traveled.....9,700
	Churches pastored... 1	Money received.....\$20,916.00
	Funerals preached... 1	Weddings performed... 2
	Professions witnessed... 1	Number baptized.....0
	Additions to church.....0	
<b>Rev. Milan Ruble:</b>	Sermons preached... 109	Miles traveled.....20,940
	Churches pastored... 1	Money received.....\$23,109.00
	Funerals preached... 2	Weddings performed... 1
	Professions witnessed... 4	Number baptized.....2
	Additions to church.....0	

Prayer

# STATISTICAL TABLE....1996-1997

89th ANNUAL SESSION WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HOST....STOCKTON FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH , March 14 & 15th, 1997

	Bethel	Greenfield	Hannon	Hickory Grove	Oskaloosa	Stockton	Verdella	TOTAL
MEMBERS RECEIVED	0	0	12	3	0	0	2	17
MEMBERS LOST	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
MEMBERS DECEASED	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	4
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	38	16	132	25	9	0	67	287
SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE	55	18	116	10	15	13	76	303
WOMEN'S GROUP	12	6	1	0	0	12	12	43
ORDAINED MINISTERS	2	1	1	1	1	0	3	9
LICENSED MINISTERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
ORDAINED DEACONS	1	0	4	0	2	0	3	10
PASTOR'S SALARY	18916	5500	20499.96	2350	5276.99	12000	23109	87651.95
EVANGELISTIC	361.44	0	300	0	300	50	600	1611.44
BUILDING (Costs/Repairs)	2450.93	405	2848.5	0	800.49	1678.83	113	8296.75
LITERATURE	1167.64	196	2648.35	126.22	424.78	319.03	2292.83	7174.85
OTHER	7280.46	2580	73579.05	687.37	1090.45	272	12119.74	97609.07
TOTAL LOCAL CAUSES	30176.5	8681	99875.86	3163.59	7892.62	14319.86	38234.3	202344.06
COOPERATIVE FUND	776.99	737	7925.59	195	540.37	1909.31	5115.56	17199.82
FOREIGN MISSIONS	1729.14	1850	14806.19	80.15	0	0	18282.88	36748.36
HOME MISSIONS	1413	0	4804.97	100	0	240	285	6842.97
ORPHANAGE	5	0	0	100	0	0	850.66	955.66
YOUTH CAMP	0	0	327	0	0	0	0	327
ASSOCIATION PROJECTS	300	0	0	45	54.03	0	510	909.03
OTHER	0	0	1500	100	0	101	986.04	2687.04
HILLSDALE COLLEGE	80	0	1070	0	0	0	0	1150
TOTAL OUTSIDE CAUSES	4304.13	2587	30433.75	620.15	594.4	2250.13	26030.14	66819.88
TOTAL (95-96)	34480.6	10268	130309.6	3783.74	8487.02	16569.99	64264.44	269163.94
TOTAL (94-95)	34047	14345.64	66859.76	3795.25	6743.88	16297.68	67606.92	209696.13
CHURCH PROPERTY	250000	30000	184000	20000	20000	170000	340000	1014000

# 1996 Central Western District Auxiliary Treasurer's Report

## March 1, 1996-Jan. 31, 1997

CHURCH AUX:	Bethel	Greenfield	Hanson	Stockton	Verdella Night	Verdella Day	District Receipts	Cumulative Totals
Members	12	6*	12	12*	7	5	—	54
Dues	132.00	1.50*	132.00	3.00*	77.00	55.00	400.50	400.50
State Projects					20.00		60.00	60.00
Ran the Race	40.00						150.00	150.00
Provision Closet	50.00	50.00	50.00				100.00	250.00
Children's Homes			50.00 (Brazil)	210.00** (SQ)	100.00 (AL)	140.00** (TN)	100.00 (Brazil)	600.00
Foreign Missions	350.00		385.00	120.00**		100.00	835.00	1,076.58
			96.58**			25.00**		
Home Missions	105.25						105.25	105.25
Memorial Student Loan Fund			50.00				50.00	50.00
Youth Camp			50.00				50.00	50.00
WNAC	100.00		110.00			40.00	250.00	250.00
Co-laborer Books					48.00**	48.00**		96.00
Church Activities & Supplies	257.24**		432.00**					689.24
District Total	777.25	51.50	827.00	3.00	197.00	295.00	2,150.75	—
Total Reported	1,034.49	51.50	1,355.58	333.00	245.00	508.00	—	3,527.57

The District Receipts is money sent by your Local Treas. and disbursed by District Treas.

\*Dues paid into District only, State & National not paid

\*\*Reported funds not sent through the District Treasurer

### District Receipts & Disbursements

3/96 Beginning Balance	151.70	Disbursements	
Receipts		3/96	
Dues paid for 1995	17.00	Nora Rhoads	50.00
Association Offering	90.00	6/96	
6/96		New Checks	12.56
Cash in box	2.00	10/96	
10/96		Hollands	1,025.75
Fall Banquet	1,025.75	Total Disbursements	1,088.31
1/97			
1996 Dues	13.50	Ending Balance	211.64
Total Receipts	1,148.25		
Forwarding Balance	1,299.95		

\*a smile  
is never  
lonely



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**CENTRAL WESTERN EXECUTIVE BOARD FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

3-1-96 TO 12-31-96

*Beginning Balance: \$2184.86*

**Income:**

Bethel	\$250.00
Oskaloosa	36.58
Verdella	382.32
OFFERINGS	308.94
Interest	35.01
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,012.85</b>

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**Expenses:**

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Insurance - Stockton     | \$664.53        |
| Offering to Steve Lytle  | 139.94          |
| Offering to Les Green    | 49.00           |
| Offering to Curt Holland | 120.00          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>    | <b>\$973.47</b> |

*Ending Balance: \$2224.24*

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Money. . . . .          | \$476.00          |
| Friday night offering. . . . . | 84.00             |
| Saturday offering. . . . .     | 89.45             |
| <b>Total Receipts.....</b>     | <b>\$1,268.04</b> |

# CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, 1996 - January 1, 1997

*Balance brought forward January 1, 1996.....\$618.59*

## Receipts:

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Money.....          | \$476.00          |
| Friday night offering..... | 84.00             |
| Saturday offering.....     | 89.45             |
| <b>Total Receipts.....</b> | <b>\$1,268.04</b> |

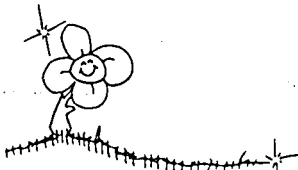


## Disbursements:

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| State and National Dues..... | \$210.00 |
| Printing of Minutes.....     | 75.00    |
| Richard Robinson.....        | 75.00    |
| Mike Rhodes.....             | 75.00    |
| Milan Ruble.....             | 64.80    |
| Honorarium.....              | 30.00    |

**Total Disbursements..... 529.80**

**BALANCE in bank, January 1, 1996.....\$738.24**



## CONSTITUTION

**ARTICLE 1. Name and Composition.** This organization shall be known as the Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists, and shall be composed of such consistent, well-regulated Free Will Baptist Churches as shall from time to time unite with the organization and agree to this constitution.

**ARTICLE 2. Purpose.** The purpose of this organization shall be to unify the work of the various churches of which it is composed, and to promote plans for the extension of the Kingdom of God.

**ARTICLE 3. Representation.** Representation to this Association shall be those who are chosen by the churches of which it is composed; each church to be entitled to one delegate, and each church having twenty-five resident members, two delegates, with one delegate for each additional twenty-five members of major part thereof, together with all ordained deacons and their wives, ordained or licensed ministers and their wives, who are members in good standing with the Free Will Baptist Church, and the church clerks of the churches in this Association, and one delegate from each church represented in a Quarterly Meeting from the Central Western Missouri Association.

**Section 2:** A resident member shall be one in good standing who, if able, discharges his or her obligations to the church. All other members shall be considered non-resident.

**ARTICLE 4. Discipline.** Should a grievance arise which cannot be properly and satisfactorily settled in the local church, a request may be made to the Association that a council be appointed to advise or arbitrate; the decision of that council to be accepted as final.

**ARTICLE 5. Officers.** The officers of the Association shall be a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, a treasurer, and a Statistician; all said officers shall be elected annually at the regular session of the Association; and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.

**ARTICLE 6.   Board.** This Association shall maintain a Board, to be known as the Home Mission and Executive Board of the Central Western Missouri Association. This Board shall be made up of the pastors (who are members of the Association) of each Church and one ordained person from each Church. If an ordained representative is not available, a church may recommend a non-ordained person, who otherwise meets the qualifications for ordination stated in these by-laws. Such members shall be elected by the Association, with consideration given to the nominees submitted by their churches.

One-third of the members of this board shall be elected each year, for a three year term of office. The churches shall be listed alphabetically with the first third and fraction, (if any), elected for a one year term; the second third and fraction, (if any), elected for a two year term; and the third elected for a three year term.

The duties of this board shall be: to serve as trustees of any and all property belonging to the Association; to promote and oversee Home Mission work within the Association; to act upon any expedient business of the Association that may arise between meetings of the Association.

The board must have at least a simple majority present to officially conduct business.

**ARTICLE 7.   Meeting.** This Association shall meet annually on Friday, following the second Sunday in March, and continue through Saturday. It shall be the duty of the churches composing it to represent themselves by letter and delegate.

**ARTICLE 8.   Program.** It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to plan and carry out the program of the Association.

**ARTICLE 9.   Amendments.** This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided notice of proposed alteration of amendments has been given to the church clerks of the member churches by the Executive Board thirty days prior to Association meeting.

**ARTICLE 1.** Each annual session of this Association shall be called to order by the Clerk or the Assistant Clerk, or, in his/her absence, the standing member having seniority in years of service. After the Clerk or one calling the assembly to order shall declare a quorum, he/she shall call the Moderator to the chair, or, in his/her absence, the standing member having seniority in years of service.

**ARTICLE 2.** Each session of this Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

**ARTICLE 3.** Delegates equal in number to the number of active churches and representing at least a simple majority of active churches shall constitute a quorum to transact business for the Association, but any less number shall adjourn.

**ARTICLE 4.** Regular parliamentary procedure as set forth in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be followed. The method of voting shall be determined by the Moderator, unless one-third of the voters present dissent. No one shall be allowed to speak more than five minutes, nor more than twice on the same subject without the consent of the Conference.

**ARTICLE 5.** *Section I.* The first item of business of the Association shall be to receive the church letters and seat the delegates. However, business shall not be suspended to wait for late or delayed letters. Such letters shall be received upon their arrival and their delegates seated.

*Section II.* **Item 1:** The election of the officers of this Association shall be held at the closing business session of the regular session of the Association. They shall hold office until their successors are elected.

**Item 2:** The Clerk-Treasurer shall supervise the printing of the minutes for the year of which they were Clerk-Treasurer.

*Section III.* The second item of business of the Association shall be the report of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE 6.** All committees or a Committee on committees shall be appointed by the Moderator. All business, if possible, to be presented to the business committee prior to business session of the Association.

**ARTICLE 7.** It shall be right of each church in the Association to determine its own fiscal year. We suggest January 1st to December 31st.

**ARTICLE 8.** A committee of five lay members, qualified delegates to the Association, shall be chosen to look into the standing of the ministry of the Association and shall report to the Association for approval before adjournment.

**ARTICLE 9.** *Section I.* It shall be the duty of the churches of the Association to accompany their church letter with thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) per church, plus one dollar (\$1.00) per resident member for the Central Western Missouri Association fund to be allocated thusly: five dollars (\$5.00) to the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists; twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to the National Association of Free Will Baptists; with the remaining amount, fifteen percent (15%) for an honorarium for the Associational Clerk, and eighty-five percent (85%) for the Central Western Missouri Associational expenses.

*Section II.* The Associational Clerk is to reimburse our general board member from this Association to the State Association for gas, lodging and food, per receipts.

**ARTICLE 10.** *Section I.* No one shall be ordained to the ministry in the Association until they have carried a license two years, or should they be called to pastor a church, they may be ordained in one year.

*Section II.* Examination for ordination to the ministry may be carried out at the regular session of the Association, or as otherwise directed by the Association. Examination for license or for ordination (both ministers and deacons) to be done at a time and place agreeable to both candidates and examining council. Ordination may be carried out in the local church (if desired) subsequent to examination and favorable action of the examining council.

**ARTICLE 11.** No one shall be licensed or ordained in this Association who is a user of tobacco, alcohol, or who cannot qualify according to 1 Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:6-9.

**ARTICLE 12.** *Section I.* It shall be required of the ministry of this Association to adhere to sound doctrine in both preaching and practice as embraced in our Treatise of Faith and practice. It shall be the suggested duty of all active ministers to report each year by letter and strongly suggest all active ministers and all active deacons attend all quarterly and annual meetings of the Association. Ministers in the Armed Forces, Bible College students, and Missionaries shall not be required to report in person to receive a card of standing. All ministers meeting these requirements shall be granted a Certificate of Ministerial Standing when, and if, approved by the appointed Committee on Ministerial Standing.

*Section II.* All aged or afflicted ministers, who so desire, may be enrolled on the superannuated list, not being required to report to the Association in order to have a Certificate.

**ARTICLE 13.** These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any session of the Association by a two-thirds vote of members present, providing that a notice of proposed change has been given to the church clerks of the member churches by the Executive Board thirty (30) days prior to the Association meeting.



## 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 will of God in this solemn covenant.

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

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, and 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 Savior Jesus Christ".

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

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

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influences 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 education 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....**



