

# **MINUTES**

## **90<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION**

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



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**WHEN CONVENED WITH THE  
VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
LIBERAL, MISSOURI  
FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 13, 1998**

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*91<sup>st</sup> Annual Session  
will meet with the  
BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
El Dorado Springs, Missouri  
Friday & Saturday, March 12-13, 1999*



THEME  
OF  
ASSOCIATION

**"O faithless and  
perverse generation"**



**Matthew 17:17**

# MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

**1998**

## OFFICERS

MODERATOR.....	Charlie Hoover
ASSISTANT MODERATOR.....	Rev. 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

## EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION BOARD

1. Bethel	Dea. Lurel Mays	2000
2. Greenfield	Gilbert York	2000
3. Hannon	Dea. Charlie Hoover	1998
4. Hickory Grove	Rev. Thayne Fast	1998
5. Oskaloosa	Bro. Charles Do Byns	1999
6. Stockton	None	None
7. Verdella	Dea. Randy Sprenkle	1999

## CHURCH CLERKS

**BETHEL FW BAPTIST CHURCH, El Dorado Springs, MO**

**LOIS Smith, 1102 South Kirkpatrick**

**El Dorado Springs, MO 64744**

**GREENFIELD FW BAPTIST CHURCH, South Allison**

**LUCILLE FRANKLIN, 403 Toney Avenue**

**Greenfield, MO 65661**

**HANNON FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO**

**MARGARET SMITH, PO Box 274**

**Liberal, MO 64762**

**HICKORY GROVE FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Harrisonville, MO**

**GLENNA STACKHOUSE, 12305 East 299<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Archie, MO 65725**

CHURCH CLERKS (continued)

OSKALOOSA FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO

WILMA SMITH, 1043 NW 30<sup>th</sup> Road

Liberal, MO 64762

STOCKTON FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, MO

BILL RAGSDALE, RR2, Box 2444

Fairplay, MO 65649

VERDELLA FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO

RUTH FOGER, 799 West V Hiway

Liberal, MO 64762

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MINISTERS OF CHURCHES

BETHEL FW BAPTIST CHURCH, El Dorado Springs, MO

REV. WARREN HALL, RR3, Box 424, El Dorado Springs, MO

GREENFIELD FW BAPTIST CHURCH, South Allison

REV. BOB DICKEY, PO Box 53, Liberal, MO

HANNON FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO

REV. GEORGE NAUMANN, PO Box 122, Liberal, MO

HICKORY GROVE FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Harrisonville, MO

REV. THAYNE FAST, 945 NW 50<sup>th</sup> Lane, Liberal, MO

OSKALOOSA FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO

REV. HOLLIS WALKER, JR., PO Box 14, Liberal, MO

STOCKTON FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Stockton, MO

REV. BILL RAGSDALE, RR2, Box 2444, Fairplay, MO

VERDELLA FW BAPTIST CHURCH, Liberal, MO

REV. MILAN RUBLE, 798 West V. Hiway, Liberal, MO

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## **PROCEEDINGS**

**Friday Evening, March 13, 1998, 7:30 p.m.**

The 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists convened with the Verdella Free Will Baptist Church.

With Trish McKay on piano and Virginia Walker on organ, we were led in congregational singing by Bro. Bill Walker, singing "He Set Me Free". Bro. Milan Ruble then welcomed us to the church, and prayer was by Bro. Jim Holder. The congregation then sang, "I'll Fly Away". We were then blessed by two specials, Regina Sprenkle, Lora Needham, Charity Waring and Elizabeth McKay singing "His Grace is Sufficient for Me", and Nancy Tahan singing "That's All That Matters to Me".

The Association Clerk then declared a quorum present to conduct our business. Moderator, Charlie Hoover, welcomed our speaker, Rev. Gary Mitchener from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Ozark, MO. His message was on Genesis 39.

The evening offering was received, in the amount of \$200.00.

Our State Promotional Secretary, Bro. Nathan Ruble, then brought us up-to-date on several issues before the State Board. The State Meeting will be in Lebanon, instead of Monette on June 8-9-10. Also, the WNAC meeting at the State has been moved from Tuesday to Monday, and the State Meeting will conclude on Wednesday evening after services, instead of continuing on Thursday morning. There has also been a Advisory Panel selected to look into relocating the Youth Camp.

We were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Bill Walker.

**Saturday Morning, March 14, 9:45 a.m.**

The morning service was opened with congregational singing "Power in the Blood", "Burdens are Lifted at Calvary", and "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes", led by Bro. Bill Walker. We were then led in prayer by Bro. Bill Ragsdale.

Devotion was by Bro. Randy Sprenkle, using scripture from II Timothy 1: 6-10. We were then led in prayer by Bro. Thayne Fast.

Letters from the churches was read by Sis. Barb Hopkins for delegates to be seated. Reading of Executive Board Minutes was read, M/S/C to accept. Executive Board Financial Report was passed out, M/S/C to accept.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Financial Report was read by Barb Hopkins, M/S/C to accept.

Bro. Jim Holder then gave us a report on the college in Nashville and shared a passage in Matthew 4:18-22.

Bro. Charlie Hoover then appointed the committees:

Business Committee - Milan Ruble, George Naumann, Bill Ragsdale and Jim Holder.

Ministerial Standing Committee - Gilbert York, Charles Whitson, Randy Sprenkle, Reed Smith and Bruce Short.

Obituary Committee - Wilma Smith, Alice Hoover, Ruth Foger, Iona Phillips and Joan Wilson.

Nominating Committee - Bob Dickey, Hollis Walker, Jr., Doris Whitson, Addis Foger and Marcella Ruble.

The morning session was dismissed with prayer by Bro. Reed Smith.

## **Women's Group, 11:00 a.m. session, March 14, 1998**

Session was opened with congregational singing led by Linda Hall, with Regina Sprenkle on the piano, singing "Blessed Be the Name".

President, Betty Crutcher, called us to order.

Ruth Foger welcomed us to the Verdella Church, with Annalee York responding.

Special music was sang by Rev. Gary Mitchener, "Thinking 'Bout Home".

The Nominating Committee was appointed: Regina Sprenkle, Linda Hall and Loretta Ragsdale. Offertory prayer was given by Doris Whitson.

We were then blessed with a special, "Failure Isn't Final", by Melanie and Dana Crockett.

Our speaker was Sister Brenda Mitchener from Ozark First FWB Church. Her text was Mark 14:1-9. Mary's act of love and devotion - "she hath done what she could", and asking "Are you doing your very best for the Lord?"

We then had a congregational song "Take the name of Jesus".

We were then dismissed in prayer by Loretta Ragsdale, with blessing asked on the noon meal.

## **Women's Group, 1:00 p.m. session, March 14, 1998**

Our meeting was begun with congregation singing "Standing on the Promises", "I'd Rather Have Jesus", and "People Need the Lord", led by Linda Hall.

We were then led in prayer by Betty Crutcher, after sharing from a 1948 Auxiliary Handbook.

We were then blessed with a special by Loretta Ragsdale, "How Long Has it Been".

No Secretary's Report was given. Treasurer report was handed out by Linda Hall, M/S/C to accept report as read.

The Nominating Committee's report was read with a nomination from the floor and M/S/C. Officers are as follows:

<i><b>President</b></i>	<i><b>Betty Crutcher</b></i>
<i><b>Vice President</b></i>	<i><b>Virginia Hoover</b></i>
<i><b>Secretary</b></i>	<i><b>Iona Phillips</b></i>
<i><b>Treasurer</b></i>	<i><b>Linda Hall</b></i>
<i><b>Members at Large</b></i>	<i><b>Loretta Ragsdale, Annalee York, and Doris Whitson</b></i>

Our fall Banquet and Craft Auction is to be hosted in October by the Verdella church. August 14-15 is the Ladies Retreat at Stonecroft.

<i><b>1997-98 State Projects:</b></i>	\$3000 -
	\$3000 - Russell Johnson
	\$2000 - Hannibal mission
	\$1000 - WNAC office

Alice Hoover closed our meeting in prayer.

## **Saturday Afternoon Business session, 1:45 p.m.**

Moderator, Charlie Hoover, called the meeting to order.

We were led in congregational singing, "Stand up for Jesus", and "When we all get to Heaven", led by Bro. Bill Walker, with Regina Sprengle on piano and Virginia Walker on organ.

We were then led in prayer by Bro. George Naumann.

***Business Committee Report*** was given:

**Item 1** - Hold off on building onto cabin at Youth Camp until the State board makes a decision on the possibility of relocating the camp.

**Item 2 -** We suggest a standing vote of thanks to the Verdella Church.

**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 read, M/S/C to accept this report.

We adopted the Executive Board recommendations, and gave a standing vote of thanks to Verdella for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

State Association Meeting June 8, 9, & 10<sup>th</sup>, Ministers, Deacons, and Association Clerk are standing delegates. General Board member appointed standing delegate, M/S/C.

We were in prayer by Bro. Hollis Walker, Jr. We then had a 15 minute recess.

▼  
Session was re-opened with congregational singing "Dwelling in Beulah Land".

We were then blessed by a special by Hannah Williams playing her trumpet solo of "Majesty".

Congregation then sang "What a Day That Will Be".

We were then blessed in song by Melanie Crockett, "Holy is He".

Our message was by Rev. Gary Mitchener, using Judges 6, 7 & 8, the story of Gideon with the theme "Do What You Can for GOD".

An offering of \$55.00 was taken.

The 1998 session was dismissed in prayer by Sis. Marcella Ruble.

**The 91<sup>st</sup> Session will meet with the Bethel  
Church on March 12-13, 1999**

▼  
**REGISTRATION**

**MINISTERS:** Thayne Fast, Milan Ruble, Hollis Walker, Jr., Bill Ragsdale, Jim Holder, Bob Dickey, George Naumann, and Warren Hall.

**DEACONS:** Charles Whitson, Reed Smith, Charlie Hoover, Randy Sprenkle, Robert Williams, Roger Phillips, and Keith Crockett.

**DELEGATES:** Doris Whitson, Marcella Ruble, Margaret Walker, Annalee York, Gilbert York, Dorothy Dickey, Bruce Short, Joan Wilson, Addis Foger, Alice Hoover, Linda Hall and Wilma Smith.



## **REGISTRATION**

**VISITORS:** Barb Hopkins, Bob Hopkins, Virginia Hoover, Betty Crutcher, Jonathan Hall, Sarah Hall, Melanie Crockett, Virginia Walker, Bill Walker, Irene Thomas.

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Business Committee, recommend:

*Item I* That we hold off on building onto the cabin at youth campe until the State Board makes a decision on the possibility of relocating the camp.

*Item II* We also suggest a standing vote of thanks to the Verdella Church.

*Signed:* Milan Ruble, Bill Ragsdale, George Naumann,  
Jim Holder, Warren Hall

## **MINISTERIAL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Ministerial Committee recommend the following to receive a card of standing:

Warren Hall, Bob Dickey, George Naumann, Thayne Fast, Hollis Walker, Jr., Bill Ragsdale, Milan Ruble, Kurt Holland (missionary), Stanley Bunch (missionary), and Jim Holder, Itinerant Contact.

*Signed:* Gilbert York, Charles Whitson, Bruce Short,  
Reed Smith, Randy Sprenkle

## **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
State General Board Member	Milan Ruble
Itinerant Contact	Jim Holder

Signed:

Bob Dickey, Doris Whitson, Marcella Ruble,  
Hollis Walker, Jr., Addis Foger

## OBITUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Bethel	Geneva Collins, Dave O'Neal
Greenfield	Madge Sawyer
Hannon	Iona Baker
Stockton	Theo Bough
Verdella	Tracie Wilson

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

Respectfully Wilma Smith, Alice Hoover, Ionia Phillips,  
Submitted: Ruth foger, Joan Wilson

## MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

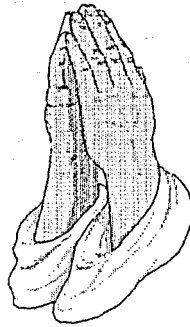
Rev. Bill Ragsdale	Churches pastored	1	Number baptized	0
	Sermons preached	100	Weddings performed	1
	Additions to Church	0	Funerals preached	3
	Professions witnessed	0	Miles traveled	5,200
			Money received	12,000
Rev. Bob Dickey	Churches pastored	1	Number baptized	1
	Sermons preached	104	Weddings performed	0
	Additions to Church	0	Funerals preached	6
	Professions witnessed	1	Miles traveled	8,500
			Money received	6,500

<b>Rev. Thayne Fast</b>	Churches pastored	<b>1</b>	Number baptized	<b>0</b>
	Sermons preached	<b>40</b>	Weddings performed	<b>0</b>
	Additions to Church	<b>0</b>	Funerals preached	<b>1</b>
	Professions witnessed	<b>0</b>	Miles traveled	<b>7,800</b>
			Money received	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Rev. George Naumann</b>	Churches pastored	<b>1</b>	Number baptized	<b>0</b>
	Sermons preached	<b>74</b>	Weddings performed	<b>0</b>
	Additions to Church	<b>0</b>	Funerals preached	<b>0</b>
	Professions witnessed	<b>2</b>	Miles traveled	<b>4,852</b>
			Money received	<b>23,340</b>
<b>Rev. Hollis Walker, Jr.</b>	Churches pastored	<b>1</b>	Number baptized	<b>0</b>
	Sermons preached	<b>122</b>	Weddings performed	<b>2</b>
	Additions to Church	<b>1</b>	Funerals preached	<b>2</b>
	Professions witnessed	<b>1</b>	Miles traveled	<b>3,580</b>
			Money received	<b>5,294</b>
<b>Rev. Milan Ruble</b>	Churches pastored	<b>1</b>	Number baptized	<b>11</b>
	Sermons preached	<b>96</b>	Weddings performed	<b>0</b>
	Additions to Church	<b>1</b>	Funerals preached	<b>2</b>
	Professions witnessed	<b>9</b>	Miles traveled	<b>15,312</b>
			Money received	<b>22,884</b>
<b>Rev. Warren Hall</b>	Churches pastored	<b>1</b>	Number baptized	<b>7</b>
	Sermons preached	<b>102</b>	Weddings performed	<b>1</b>
	Additions to Church	<b>2</b>	Funerals preached	<b>3</b>
	Professions witnessed	<b>6</b>	Miles traveled	<b>15,000</b>
			Money received	<b>19,000</b>



**We can pray,  
believe, and  
receive...**

***OR***



**we can pray,  
doubt, and  
do without....**

# STATISTICAL TABLE .... 1997-1998

## 90th ANNUAL SESSION WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HOST...VERDELLA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, March 13 & 14th, 1998

	Bethel	Greenfield	Hannon	Hickory Grove	Oskaloosa	Stockton	Verdella	TOTAL
MEMBERS RECEIVED	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
MEMBERS LOST	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
MEMBERS DECEASED	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>281</b>
SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE	48	16	106	10	17	13	86	296
WOMEN'S GROUP	12	4	12	0	0	10	5	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	5	12
PASTOR'S SALARY	18,916.00	6,500.00	21,590.00	1,950.00	5,312.90	12,000.00	21,684.00	87,952.90
EVANGELISTIC	265.34	0.00	1,413.00	0.00	220.00	392.86	1,217.95	3,509.15
BUILDING (Costs/Repairs)	177.58	1,731.51	2,316.05	0.00	259.20	259.60	3,243.31	7,987.25
LITERATURE	1,027.83	270.48	2,557.77	147.32	374.42	299.91	4,150.31	8,828.04
OTHER	12,566.76	2,370.39	37,471.38	828.93	682.85	1,840.66	16,013.26	71,774.23
<b>TOTAL LOCAL CAUSES</b>	<b>32,953.51</b>	<b>10,872.38</b>	<b>65,348.20</b>	<b>2,926.25</b>	<b>6,849.37</b>	<b>14,793.03</b>	<b>46,308.83</b>	<b>\$180,051.57</b>
COOPERATIVE FUND	809.51	897.00	8,995.08	196.00	925.20	1,552.35	5,837.73	19,212.87
FOREIGN MISSIONS	2,899.65	2,291.15	22,215.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,925.63	44,332.01
HOME MISSIONS	1,254.51	0.00	5,696.99	0.00	0.00	240.00	772.00	7,963.50
ORPHANAGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
YOUTH CAMP	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.51	780.51
ASSOCIATION PROJECTS	300.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	92.52	0.00	700.79	1,138.31
NASHVILLE FWB COLLEGE							1,267.54	
OTHER	0.00	0.00	2,508.72	200.00	0.00	0.00		2,708.72
HILLSDALE COLLEGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL OUTSIDE CAUSES</b>	<b>5,263.67</b>	<b>3,188.15</b>	<b>39,596.37</b>	<b>541.00</b>	<b>1,017.72</b>	<b>1,792.35</b>	<b>26,104.20</b>	<b>\$77,503.46</b>
CHURCH PROPERTY	250,000.00	30,000.00	184,000.00	20,000.00	25,000.00	175,000.00	350,000.00	1,034,000.00
<b>TOTAL (96-97)</b>	<b>38,217.18</b>	<b>14,060.53</b>	<b>104,944.57</b>	<b>3,467.25</b>	<b>7,867.09</b>	<b>16,585.38</b>	<b>72,413.03</b>	<b>\$257,555.03</b>
<b>TOTAL (95-96)</b>	<b>34,047.00</b>	<b>14,345.64</b>	<b>66,859.76</b>	<b>3,795.25</b>	<b>6,743.88</b>	<b>16,297.68</b>	<b>67,606.92</b>	<b>\$209,696.13</b>

Christians  
show  
**what they are**  
by  
**what they do**  
with  
**what they have**



The  
only  
greatness  
is  
unselfish  
love....



# ***Clerk's Financial Report***

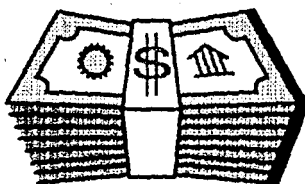
**January 1, 1997 - January 1, 1998**

**BALANCE brought forward January 1, 1997      \$ 735.24**

Receipts:			
	Budget money	480.00	
	Friday night offering	63.00	
	Saturday offering	105.00	
	<i>Total Receipts</i>		<b>\$1,386.24</b>

Disbursements:			
	State/National dues	210.00	
	Printing of minutes	85.00	
	Curt Holland (offering)	105.00	
	Milan Ruble (gen. board exp.)	176.77	
	Honorarium	30.00	
	Check reorder	6.20	
	<i>Total Disbursements</i>		<b>\$ 612.97</b>

**BALANCE in bank, 1-1-1998      \$773.27**





# CENTRAL WESTERN DISTRICT AUXILIARY

## TREASURER'S REPORT - FEB. 1 - DEC. 31, 1997

Beginning Balance - \$ 211.64

Bethel	Greenfield	Hannon	Stockton	Verdella	TOTAL
members	**	**	12 members	5 members	MEMBERS
27.00	90.00	555.00	3.00	525.00	29

Receipts      Offering:      68.00  
 tion/Meal      & Donation      1453.50

TOTAL
RECEIPTS
\$3,621.50

Balance: \$3833.14

### Disbursements:

35.00 n McClure		145.00 Mem'l Student	50.00 TN Children's	WNAC
80.00		Loan: 50.00	Home: 100.00	
tral Wstrn.			150.00 Laura Barnard	Combs-Brazil
oc: 25.00			Offer: 100.00	
40.00 eign Mems.	40.00		20.00 Lizzie McAdams	10/20/10
5.00			Offer: 50.00	
50.00	50.00			Ginger Harrison
360.00		360.00		Show-Me Plan
29.00 +3.00 Dist.)*			53.75 (+1.25 Dist.)*	Dues

### Misc.:

Lary Holland: 50.00  
 tamps/Misc/Auction ex.: 66.30  
 inkerton Bldg. Fund: 1400.00

TOTAL
RECEIPTS
\$3,621.50

Ending Balance: \$ 224.09

is not disbursed      \*\* Members not reported by cut-off date

# CENTRAL WESTERN EXECUTIVE BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

1997

*Beginning Balance - - - \$2224.24*

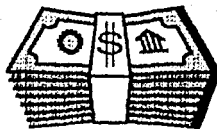
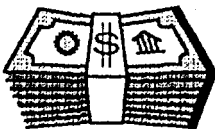
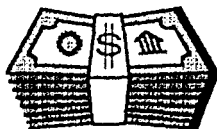
## Income:

Bethel	\$300.00
Oskaloosa	83.47
Verdella	617.22
WNAC	25.00
Offerings	129.48
Interest	34.87
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,190.04</b>

## Expenses:

Mattresses for Youth Camp	\$1124.24
Insurance - Stockton	1094.71
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2218.95</b>

*Ending Balance - - - \$1195.33*



## **Page 1 - 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, to 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/Treasurer, an Assistant Clerk/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.

## **Page 2 - Constitution**

**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.

## Page 1 - By-Laws

**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.

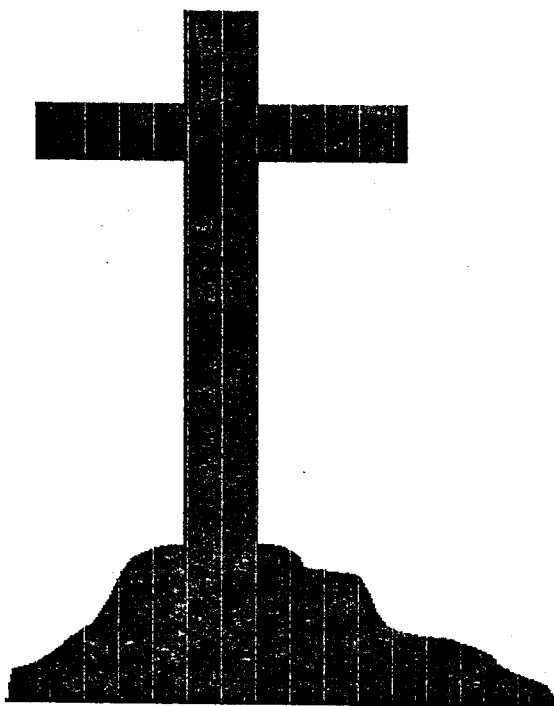
We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influences of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

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....**







**Jesus Loves You**