

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
DIBBLE ASSOCIATION
OF THE
CHURCH OF GOD
Denominated
FREE WILL BAPTIST

CONVENED WITH
Bridge Creek Church, beginning on Thursday
night before the second Sunday in Sept., 1938.

OFFICERS
Moderator, Eld. L. E. Ward, R1, Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't Mod., Eld. Clay Richey, R4, Blanchard, Okla.
Clerk, Bro. C. L. Hudson, Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't Clerk, Sister Fannie Smithen, Blanchard, Ok.
Treasurer, Bro. Jack Hopkins, Blanchard, Okla.

The next Annual Session of this Association will
convene with the Bryant Church Thursday night
before the second Sunday in September, 1939.

FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM PRINT, PURDY, MISSOURI

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
DIBBLE ASSOCIATION
OF THE
CHURCH OF GOD
Denominated
FREE WILL BAPTIST

CONVENED WITH

Bridge Creek Church, beginning on Thursday
night before the second Sunday in Sept., 1938.

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. L. E. Ward, R1, Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't Mod., Eld. Clay Richey, R4, Blanchard, Okla.
Clerk, Bro. C. L. Hudson, Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't Clerk, Sister Fannie Smithen, Blanchard, Ok.
Treasurer, Bro. Jack Hopkins, Blanchard, Okla.

The next Annual Session of this Association will
convene with the Bryant Church Thursday night
before the second Sunday in September, 1939.

FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM PRINT, PURDY, MISSOURI

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers and deacons present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded, and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, 'Shall it be discussed?' If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association, if necessary.

12. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

13. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization of the Association.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating delegates.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Reading Rules of Order.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
9. Appointment of Committees.
10. Unfinished Business.
11. New Business.
12. Reports of Committees.
13. Miscellaneous Business.

Form of Church Conference

1. Call Church in Conference.
2. Call for peace of the Church.
3. Call visiting brethren to seats in council.
4. Reading minutes of previous session.
5. Unfinished Business.
6. New Business.
7. Are any sick or in distress?
8. What has been done for the support of the Ministry and other incidental expenses?
9. A call for confession.
10. Invitation for members.
11. Adjournment.

PROCEEDINGS

The Dibble Association of Free Will Baptist met with the Bridge Creek Church, at Bridge Creek, on Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1938, in its Thirty-first Annual Session.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Introductory sermon delivered by Eld. E. E. Morris.

Appointment of homes for delegates.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Session opened by singing, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

Scripture lesson, Rom. XII, read by Moderator.

Prayer by Eld. George Taylor.

Letters from the following churches were read and accepted and delegates seated:

Hawkins, Dibble, Bryant, Iron Chapel, Atkinson, and Freeney.

Visiting ministers invited to seats in council and the right hand of Christian fellowship was given to all while singing, "On Jordan's Stormy Banks."

Election of Officers

Moderator, Eld. L. E. Ward, R1, Blanchard, Okla.

Ass't Mod., Eld. Clay Richey, R4, Blanchard, Okla.

Clerk, Bro. C. L. Hudson, Blanchard, Okla.

Ass't Clerk, Sister Fannie Smithen, Blanchard, Ok.

Treasurer, Bro. Jack Hopkins, Blanchard, Okla.

Appointment of Committees

Divine Service—Eld. E. E. Morris, Bro. Carl Smithen, and Sister Thelma Isom.

Resolutions—Eld. Bryan Stacy, Sister Velva Roath, Bro. Richard Clagg, Bro. Russell Wells and Eld. E. G. Atkinson.

Finance—Bro. Knox Bowser, Eld. Frank Lee, and Bro. Clifton Isom.

Home Missions—Bro. Elmer Steelman, Sister Amy Manning and Sister Florence Roberts.

Temperance—Sister Oneta Stacy, Bro. Boyd Lee and Bro. R. C. Allen.

Sunday School—Sister Jewel Gentry, Bro. Pascal Wilbanks and Bro. Obe Johnson.

Obituary—Sister Mildred Hawkins, Sister Mills and Bro. Charles Wells.

Committee on Divine Service report that Elders Geo. Taylor and Geo. McLain will bring the message at eleven o'clock.

Motion carried to adjourn business till 1:00 p. m.

Dismissed in prayer by Eld. B. T. Kirby.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Called together by singing, after which a lively devotional service was conducted by Eld. L. E. Ward.

Eld. George Taylor brought the message from Jer. 18:1. Eld. George McLain then gave an altar call and one soul was gloriously blessed.

Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Luther Hudson.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Came together with singing, "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes."

Scripture lesson, St. John 3:1-11, read by Moderator.

Prayer by Eld. E. E. Morris.

Song, "Let Me Live Close to Thee."

Rules of Order read from chair.

Motion carried to ordain Bro. Bryan Stacy to the Gospel ministry at this time.

A very touching ordination service was conducted by the Presbytery, Elders L. E. Ward, E. E. Morris and Bro. B. J. Peters.

Resolutions No. 1 and 2 were read and adopted.

Motion carried that all money of the Association shall pass through the usual channel.

Motion carried that Executive Board take care of the arrangements for the State Association.

Motion carried to elect Executive Board.

Elders Frank Lee, Clay Richey, Arthur Lee, L. E. Ward and Bro. Luther Hudson were elected on Board.

Motion carried to adjourn for five minutes, to be called to order by the Moderator.

Resolution No. 3 read and accepted. (See Report).

Motion carried that Moderator appoint Committee on Arrangements for State Association. Brothers Boyd Lee, Russell Wells, Pascal Willbanks, Jack Hopkins, Cash Roberts and Eld. Clay Richey appointed.

Motion carried that Moderator appoint delegates to State Association. Brothers Elmer Steelman, Knox Bowser and Sister Velva Roath were appointed.

A special song, "I Just Can't Keep From Crying Sometimes" was rendered by Bro. Luther Hudson. Bryan Stacy, John Browser and Sister Oneta Stacy, which everyone truly enjoyed.

Committee on Divine Service reported Eld. Bryan Stacy to bring the afternoon message.

Report on Obituary read and approved.

Recess.

Called together by the Moderator.

A quartet composed of Brothers Bryan Stacy, John Bowser, Luther Hudson and Sister Maggie Roberts, sang "Old Daniel Prayed" and was deeply appreciated.

Committee on Divine Service reported that Elder L. E. Ward would bring the evening message.

A special song, "When I Take My Last Ride," by Bro. and Sister Luther Hudson, was very effective.

The choir then sang, "Deliverance Will Come," after which Elder Bryan Stacy delivered the message from St. Luke 16:19-31.

Benediction by Bro. Knox Bowser.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Came together with singing.

After a lively devotional service, Eld. L. E. Ward preached a soul-stirring sermon and three precious souls found the Lord.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing, "I Am Thine O Lord."

Scripture reading Psalms 34:1-9.

Prayer by Bro. Ed Nichols.

Motion carried to retain Resolution No. 4.

Recessed for committee work.

Resolution No. 5 read and adopted.
Report on Sunday Schools read and accepted.
Report of Temperance Committee read and accepted.
Ministers' reports read and accepted.
Committee on Divine Service reported that Elder
Arthur Lee would bring the eleven o'clock message.
Motion carried to adjourn till one o'clock.
Dismissed by prayer by Eld. George Taylor.

SATURDAY, ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Called together by singing, "I Will Make It My
Home," after which the devotional service was con-
ducted by Eld. E. E. Morris.

A wonderful sermon was delivered by Eld. Arthur
Lee.

Benediction by Eld. W. M. Coggins.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After a bounteous repast served by the church ladies,
we began our afternoon session by singing, "Sing To
Me Of Heaven."

Scripture reading Psalms 37.

Prayer by Bro. Ralph Hampton.

A special song, "I'd Rather Be An Old Time Chris-
tian," was given, during which Bro. Pete Front was
gloriously saved.

Report of Finance Committee read and accepted.

Motion carried to select places for the Association
and Quarterly Meetings to convene the following year.

The Association to convene with Bryant Church.
Eld. L. E. Ward to preach the introductory Sermon.

Quarterly Meetings

1. Iron Chapel — Elder Frank Lee to preach the
Introductory Sermon.

2. Hawkins — Elder Bryan Stacy to preach the In-
troductory Sermon.

3. Atkinson — Elder E. E. Morris to preach the In-
troductory Sermon.

The following ministers made their reports:
Elders Frank Lee, Clay Richey, E. E. Morris, Arthur
Lee and E. G. Atkinson.

Recess.

Report on Home Mission read and accepted.

Motion carried to accept the Treasurer's report.

Motion carried to continue paying E'd. W. M. Cogins \$3.00 per month.

Motion carried to send \$3.00 for State minutes.

Motion carried to pay Associational Clerk \$5.00.

Motion carried to have our minutes printed at Purdy, Missouri.

A special number in song, "Won't It Be Wonderful Up There," by Sister Alma State, and was enjoyed.

Motion carried that the Clerk order ministers', deacons' certificates, and quarterly meeting forms.

Resolution No. 6 read and adopted.

Motion carried to dismiss all committees.

Motion carried to adjourn, after which the congregation sang, "Till We Meet Again," and a general right hand of fellowship was given.

Eld. L. E. Ward, Moderator,
Bro. C. L. Hudson, Clerk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS—Be it Resolved, That the title on our minutes always be, Church of God denominated Free Will Baptist.

No. 2.—Be it Resolved, That we print our Scripture references regarding our Articles of Faith, and that it be carried every year.

No. 3.—Be it Resolved, That this body appoint a committee on Arrangements for the State Association, and that said committee be from Iron Chapel and Dibble Churches.

No. 4.—Be it Resolved, That this Association elect an executive committee of five members, with the Moderator of our Association as chairman. To this board is delegated power to act in behalf of, and for the Dibble Association from one meeting to another of the said Association, and shall have power and authority to elect such officers as may be deemed best for its own government, and to carry out the plans and undertakings of Dibble Association. The board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body.

To this Executive Board is further delegated power to collect funds and employ and superintend such work for the field as may seem best, and the means in hand may warrant. They

shall not convey or mortgage any real estate or personal property unless authorized to do so by the Dibble Association. This Executive Board shall keep a record of all work done, money raised, meetings held, and make a full and complete report at the next regular meeting of the Association, and shall further receive, hold, manage, use, control, and convey any property entrusted to said Association for any purpose in accordance, and only in accordance, with the purpose of the donor or donors and in no case to divert it from its original object.

The Chairman and Treasurer of said Executive Board shall sign all deeds and bonds, notes, etc., and any other papers by which Dibble Association is to become legally held. It shall be the duty of this Executive Board to meet at each regular or adjourned session of the Association and as often as may be necessary, and any member absenting himself from the meetings three times may be dropped from the board and his successor elected. No meeting of the Executive Board shall be legal unless at least three are present. All transactions must be favored by a majority of all members present, and a written record shall be made and kept of all transactions. No member of the Executive Board shall delegate authority to any other member of said board to cast his vote for him for any thing.

The board shall have the power to call the Association in conference by notifying each church ten days prior to conference, and they shall have the authority to change quarterly meeting or Association, if the place where said quarterly meeting or Association is to meet is not able to care for the meeting, and their decision shall be final. This must be done in time to notify each church..

This resolution is to be printed in the minutes each year.

No. 5.—Be it Resolved, That every member of all respective churches comprising the Dibble Association be requested to obey the commandments of God as recorded in 1 Corinthians 16:2, and 1 Corinthians 9:13-14. So as to be prepared to aid the ministers in preaching the Word and carry on all expenses of the church.

No. 6—We, your Committee on Resolutions, wish to recommend that this body express our thanks to the Bridge Creek Church and neighboring churches for their hospitality during our stay among them.

HOME MISSION—reports that four of our churches have active missions. In these there has been spent about \$125.00 above that spent directly by the churches.

Iron Chapel Home Mission. In the past year's work, we have taken in \$40.00. We sent \$5.00 to a quarterly meeting at Bryant Church, paid our pastor \$9.00, paid \$3.00 on fixing piano, and \$9.00 was spent for needy families which makes a total of \$26.00 paid out. Balance in treasury, \$14.00. Cestus Wells, Pres.

Hawkins Home Mission. We have taken in \$9.50. Paid pastor \$6.50. Officers 3, members 8.

Dibble Home Mission. Our mission has about 15 working members, have \$21.07 in treasury. We have made nine dresses and quilted one quilt for a family that had a burnout, made four gowns for sick, paid \$5.00 on hospital bill, served two sale dinners and sold pop at political rally. We feel like our work this year has fallen far short, but we ask your prayers that we will do more next year and live closer to God than we ever had before.

Chairman, Bro. Elmer Steelman.

TEMPERANCE—We, your Committee on Temperance, beg to report that we cannot place too high an estimate on this subject; it is our duty to well-being in this life. Intemperance is disloyal to the laws of nature and God. It is harmful and destroys the soul as well as the body. Therefore, we urge that each member abstain from intemperance, and for God's children to always lend a helping hand to their fellow men, and try to help him to a higher place in life.

Chairman, Sister Oneta Stacy.

OBITUARY—Bryant Church reports with sad hearts the death of the small son of Bro. Malcom Clagg on December 28th. Infant son of Bro. Jess Clagg on October 28th. The Dibble Church is sad to report the death of the infant son of Bro. and Sister D. E. Mills on February 17th.

Chairman, Mildred Hawkins.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—We, your Committee on Sunday School, report as follows:

We recommend that this work be carried on, and that each church maintain a Sunday school. We recommend that each

church send an itemized report of their Sunday school with their church letter. We also recommend that each Sunday school have a Bible Class.

We wish to make the following report. The average attendance of Sunday schools are as follows: Bridge Creek 35, Bryant 41, Atkinson 42, Iron Chapel 35, Hawkins 35, Freeney 50, and Dibble 55. Chairman, Sister Jewell Jentry.

FINANCE—We, your Committee on Finance, beg to report as follows:

Money received for the Dibble Association Minutes: Bridge Creek \$10.00, Bryant \$10.00, Hawkins \$10.00, Dibble \$10.00, Iron Chapel \$5.00, Freeney \$5.00, Atkinson promises \$5.00. Total \$50.00

For incidentals—Hawkins \$6.50, Bryant \$4.50, Dibble \$4.50, Iron Chapel \$4.50. Total \$20.00.

Total amount received, \$70.00.

Chairman, Elder W. F. Lee.

Report of the Bryant Church
State of Religion. Good
members received none
members died none
Total membership 40
Sunday School good
Amount sent for minutes \$10.00
Association expense \$6.00
Amount paid Pastor \$76.25
Amount paid Evangelist \$30.40
Home mission \$5.00
Value Church property \$1888.00
Called Pastor one half time
Eld. Clay Richey moderator
Bro. T. O. Dunn Clerk

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Eld. E. G. Atkinson—Pastored one church, Atkinson, preached 156 sermons, preached two funerals, miles traveled unknown, solemnized one marriage, held two revivals. Pray for me, that I might do more for the cause of the Lord's work next year.

Eld. W. F. Lee—I have preached about 50 sermons, preached one funeral, performed eight marriage ceremonies, witnessed four conversions, baptized none, pastored no churches, superintended one Sunday school since the first of the year. Pray for me.

Eld. E. E. Morris—Pastored two churches, Hawkins and Bridge Creek, witnessed 90 conversions, baptized 25, taken 32 into the church, preached 150 sermons, received \$315.00 in money, conducted a few funerals and performed a few marriages, was called to some churches.

Eld. Clay Richey—Pastored four churches, held five revivals, preached 206 sermons, preached 13 funerals, performed five marriages, baptized 12, received 28 into the church, witnessed 106 conversions, received \$414.65 in money, clothing, food and other necessities of life. I desire an interest in your prayers that I may be a better pastor for my churches and a better evangelist for the lost. Bryant and Dibble have called me for half time each.

Eld. Arthur Lee—I have preached 87 sermons, held four revivals, witnessed 40 conversions, baptized 24, received \$70.00. Have been called to pastor two churches, one of them for half time. I have pastored one church this year. Pray for me, that my coming year's work will be more successful in leading the lost to Christ.

CHURCH REPORTS— From Church Letters

BRIDGE CREEK—State of religion good. Members received 12, number baptized 12, number dismissed one, number died none. Sunday school good. Paid evangelist \$30.00.

Eld. E. E. Morris, Pastor.

Bryan Stacy, Clerk.

FREENEY—State of religion good. Members received 24. No. baptized 24, No. dismissed none, total membership 69. Sunday school good. Amount paid evangelist \$36.38, amount for Home Mission \$4.25, amount for incidentals \$4.00, amount for minutes \$5.00, amount for associational expenses \$5.00.

Eld. A. V. Lee, Pastor.

Maxine Foster, Clerk.

DIBBLE—State of religion good. Members received 12, No. baptized 7, No. dismissed one, No. died none, total membership 90. Amount paid evangelist \$32.00. Value of church property \$1,000.

Eld. Clay Richey, Pastor.

Maggie Roberts, Clerk.

HAWKINS—State of religion good. Members received 21, No. baptized 13, No. dismissed 2, No. died none, total membership 60. Condition of Sunday school good. Amount paid pastor \$111.50, amount paid evangelist \$40.00, amount included for minutes \$10.00.

Eld. E. E. Morris, Pastor.

Fannie Smithen, Clerk.

ATKINSON—State of religion good. Members received two, No. dismissed three, total membership eight. Amount paid pastor \$4.00, amount for evangelist \$6.00. Condition of Sunday school good.

Eld. Bryan Stacy, Pastor.

Thelma Asom
T. O. Dunne, Clerk.

IRON CHAPEL—State of religion good. Total membership 35. Sunday school good. Amount paid pastor \$70.00, amount for evangelist \$10.00, amount for Home Missions \$16.50, amount included for minutes \$5.00, amount for associational expenses \$15.00.

Eld. Arthur Lee, Pastor.

Theresa Jackson, Clerk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in treasury from 1937 \$ 3.47

Collected at 1st Quarterly Meeting, January 29, 1938

Hawkins Church	\$4.50
Hawkins Home Mission	5.00
Bryant Church	4.50
Bryant Home Mission	5.00
Atkinson Church	3.00
Dibble Church	4.00
Dibble Home Mission	5.00
Bridge Creek Church	4.50
Bridge Creek Home Mission	5.00
Iron Chapel Church	4.50
Iron Chapel Mission	5.00

Total collections at Freney \$50.50

Collected May 25, 1938

Freney Church	\$5.00
Dibble Church	6.00
Iron Chapel Church	6.00
Bryant Church	6.00
Hawkins Church	4.00
Bridge Creek Church	3.00

Total collections on May 25, 1938..... \$30.00

Total receipts \$83.97

Associational Expenses

State Minutes	\$3.00
Association Clerk	5.00
Association Minutes	18.00
To Rev. W. M. Coggins	36.00

Total Associational Expenses \$62.00

Balance in Treasury \$21.97

Jack Hopkins, Treasurer.

MINISTERIAL REGISTRATION

Elder L. E. Ward.....	R1, Blanchard, Okla.
" E. E. Morris.....	R1, Blanchard, Okla.
" Clay Richey.....	R4, Blanchard, Okla.
" A. V. Lee.....	R1, Blanchard, Okla.
" E. G. Atkinson.....	R2, Blanchard, Okla.
" E. F. Lee.....	R4, Lindsay, Okla.
" W. M. Coggins.....	Blanchard, Okla.

Visiting Ministers

Elder B. T. Kirby.....	Oklahoma City, Okla.
" George McLain.....	Ada, Okla.
" George Taylor.....	Wewoka, Okla.

Deacons Enrolled

Bro. Jack Hopkins.....	Blanchard, Okla.
" A. F. Ward.....	Tuttle, Okla.
" Ed. Nichols.....	Blanchard, Okla.
" J. Q. Moore.....	Oakland, Calif.
" J. A. Moore.....	Blanchard, Okla.
" C. L. Hudson.....	Blanchard, Okla.
" Russell Wells	Washington, Okla.
" Warren Michner	Purcell, Okla.
" Charley Perrin	Blanchard, Okla.
" Dorncil Mills	Blanchard, Okla.

Church Clerks

Sister Fannie Smithen,	Alex, Okla.
Sister Maggie Roberts,	Blanchard, Okla.
Sister Theretha Jackson,	Blanchard, Okla.
Sister Maxine Foster,	Blanchard, Okla.
Elder Bryon Stacy,	Blanchard, Okla.
Brother G. O. Dunn,	Maysville, Okla.
Sister Thelma Isom,	Blanchard, Okla.
Brother Lonnie Garrison,	Blanchard, Okla.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our 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 the churches or quarterly meetings 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 convened in the Yearly Meeting or Association of the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptist, being composed of the sundry churches in the Dibble Association, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor have 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 shall have a Moderator, a Clerk, a Treasurer and an Executive Board of three members who shall be elected at each annual session of the Association by the suffrage of the members present.

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 question 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 member 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. **AMENDMENTS.** Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a majority vote of the members present, notice having been given in writing, and recorded at the last previous session.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scriptures of the Old and new Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. **CHRIST.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST.** The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord, with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF WILL.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

11. **SALVATION FREE.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of Life freely.

12. **PERSEVERANCE.** All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.** BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water, and the LORD'S SUPPER, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel: FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

15. **WAR.** War destroys the lives of the innocent, and is contrary to the New Testament, therefore, we are opposed to war.

16. **RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked shall "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 Savior 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 according 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.

