

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**DIBBLE ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE**  
**CHURCH OF GOD**  
**Denominated**  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

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**HELD WITH**  
Hawkins Church, beginning on Thursday night,  
September 5, 1940.

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**OFFICERS**

Moderator, Bro. C. L. Hudson, Blanchard, Okla.  
Ass't. Mod., Eld. L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla.  
Clerk, Sister Fannie Smithen, Alex, Okla.  
Ass't. Clerk, Sister Shay Richey, Blanchard, Okla.

The next Annual Session of this Association will  
convene with Dibble Church, beginning on Thursday  
night before the second Sunday in September, 1941.

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## **PROCEEDINGS**

### **THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE**

Session called to order by Moderator, Bro. C. L. Hudson.

Congregation song, "Talk It Over With Jesus."

Prayer led by Elder Clay Richey.

Devotional service conducted by Rev. H. H. Parsons.

Prayer led by Bro. Jess Roland.

A special song, "In Gethsemane Alone" rendered by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell, Eld. Clay Richey, Bro. C. L. Hudson and Mrs. Hudson.

A very inspiring sermon was delivered by Eld. Ralph Hampton; Text, Job. 14:14.

Visitors and delegates were assigned homes.

Dismissed by Eld. Truman Huddleston.

### **FRIDAY MORNING SESSION**

Session called to order by Moderator; followed by congregational singing led by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell.

Prayer led by Eld. W. N. Coggins.

Scripture lesson, Psalms 107:1-4, read by L. E. Ward.

Prayer by Bro. Bryan Stacy.

Letters from churches called for and read as follows: Bryant, Iron Chapel, Bethel, Hawkins, Dibble, Freeny, and Bridge Creek.

A motion carried to accept work of Second Quarterly Meeting, and Bethel Church taken into full fellowship.

Motion carried to accept letters as read.

Right hand of fellowship given while singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

#### **Election of Officers**

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

Ass't. Mod., Eld. L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla.

Clerk, Sister Fannie Smithen, Alex, Okla.

Ass't. Clerk, Sister Shay Richey, Blanchard, Okla.

Rules of Order read by the Moderator.

Visiting brethren invited to seat in council.

Motion carried to empower Moderator to appoint the committees.

Divine Service Committee appointed as follows: Eld.

Clay Richey, Bro. Knox Bowser and B. J. Peters.

Eld. E. E. Morris gave a report on the National Association.

Committee on Divine Service reported Eld. A. V. Lee to bring the eleven o'clock message with Eld. Truman Huddleston conducting the devotional service.

Motion carried to adjourn business session until one o'clock p. m.

Dismissed by Elder Ralph Hampton.

### FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Service began with congregational singing.

Prayer led by Elder L. E. Ward.

A special song, "When I Make My Last Move" by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell, Eld. Clay Richey, Bro. C. L. Hudson and Sister Maggie Roberts was dedicated to our venerable brother, W. M. Coggins.

Eld. A. V. Lee delivered a message, text Matt. 27:46, subject "My God. My God!"

Dismissed by Bro. Jack Hopkins.

Lunch was served at the church.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Came together with singing.

Scripture lesson, Psalms 37:1-10, by Eld. E. E. Morris.

Bro. Jack Hopkins re-elected treasurer.

Committees appointed as follows:

**Resolutions**—Eld. O. H. Doss, Bro. W. R. Hudson, Eld. A. V. Lee, Eld. Clay Richey, Bro. Tommy Browning, and Eld. E. A. O'Donnell.

**Finance**—Brothers Carl Smithen, Richard Clagg and Ray Gibson.

**Home Mission**—Sisters Sheba Davis, Lena Gibson, Irene Mitchener, Bessie Rush, Colleen Walters and A. V. Lee.

**Temperance**—Elders E. E. Morris, Ralph Hampton and Brothers Wm. Gentry, Marvin Hawkins and George Moore.

**Obituary**—Orvnell Wells, Jim Headrick and Harlan Fountain.

**Sunday School**—Brothers Jess Roland, R. C. Allen and Gus Pelham.

Election of officers for Home Mission as follows: President, Sister M. R. Shinn; Vice-President, Sister Shay Richey; Sec.-Treas., Sister Nettie Hudson.

Moving of Atkinson Church postponed until further developments.

Motion carried to recess for committee work.

A quartette composed of Elders E. E. Morris, Bryan Stacy, Bro. C. L. Hudson and Sister Maggie Roberts sang "We'll be Delighted When We Get Home"

Minutes of all four quarterly meetings read and accepted.

Reports of committees called for.

Report on Temperance read and accepted.

Bro. Denver Wynn was given a license to preach.

Committee on Divine Service reported Elder O. H. Doss to preach at the evening service with Bro. Denver Wynn conducting the devotional services.

Executive Board elected as follows: Elders L. E. Ward, Clay Richey, E. A. O'Donnell, O. H. Doss and Bro. Luther Hudson.

Business adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Saturday a.m.  
Dismissed by Bro. W. R. Hudson.

### FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Came together with singing.

The men's quartet from Bethel Church presented several numbers which were very much enjoyed. These men are all Christians and are telling God's message in song wherever and whenever they have the opportunity.

Little Miss Jeanine Hudson sang "Gethsemane." She gives promise of a song bird for the Lord.

Devotional service conducted by Bro. Denver Wynn.

Eld. O. H. Doss delivered a truly soul-stirring message; text 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Visitors assigned homes.

Dismissed by Eld. L. E. Ward.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Session opened by congregational singing led by Eld. E. A. O'Donnell.

Scripture reading, 1 John 3:1-5, by Eld. L. E. Ward.  
Prayer led by Elder O. H. Doss.

Invitation extended to visiting ministers to seats in council.

Call for petitionary letters. None received.

Report of Obituary Committee made.

Motion carried to accept the report and that the congregation stand for a short prayer in memory of the deceased.

Motion carried to elect a committee to examine applicants for credentials. Elders E. A. O'Donnell, L. E. Ward and E. E. Morris were elected.

Report of Sunday School Committee read and accepted.

Recess for committee work.

Called together by Moderator.

Bro. Tom Blackburn was appointed on Divine Service Committee in the absence of Bro. Knox Bowser.

Eld. E. G. Atkinson was appointed on Resolutions Committee in place of Bro. W. R. Hudson who was absent.

Ministers' reports read as follows: Elders E. G. Atkinson, E. E. Morris, O. H. Doss, L. E. Ward, A. V. Lee, Clay Richey, E. A. O'Donnell and Ralph Hampton. All of the reports were accepted.

Committee on Divine Service reported Elder E. E. Morris to preach at eleven o'clock service.

Association and Quarterly Meetings set as follows:

Association—Dibble Church; Eld. Ernest Staggs to preach the Introductory Sermon.

First Quarterly Meeting—Freeny Church; Eld. L. E. Ward to preach the Introductory Sermon.

Second Quarterly Meeting—Bridge Creek Church; Eld. Bryan Stacy to preach the Introductory Sermon.

Third Quarterly Meeting—Bethel Church; Eld. Ralph Hampton to preach the Introductory Sermon.

Dismissed for eleven o'clock service by Eld. J. W. Smithy.

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#### SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Came together while singing "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus" at the request of Eld. W. M. Coggins.

Bro. John Nunnely conducted a very spiritual devotional service.

Eld. E. E. Morris preached from Rev. 4:1. The presence of God was manifested in this service when Bro. Alvin Pearson came back to the Lord.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Session opened while singing "I'll Make It My Home Some Day."

Prayer led by Bro. Wm. Gentry.

Scripture reading, Psalms 96, by Eld. Bryan Stacy.

Resolution No. 2 read.

Motion carried to adopt it and that Eld. E. E. Morris preach a memorial sermon at the next session of the Association.

Resolution No. 3 read and adopted.

Report of Committee on Finance read and accepted.

Treasurer's report read and accepted.

Report of Home Mission Committee read and accepted.

Bethel Church requested in their letter that Brothers Ira Smithey and Ernest Staggs be ordained as ministers and Brothers W. J. Rush and M. R. Shinn be ordained as deacons of their church.

The ordination services were conducted at this time.

Presbytery selected for the ministers: Elders E. E. Morris, Clay Richey and L. E. Ward.

Presbytery for the deacons: Elders E. E. Morris, L. E. Ward and J. W. Smithey.

The right hand of fellowship was given them and their wives while singing "Ready."

Motion carried that the clerk order ministers' and deacons' ordination blanks and church letter forms.

Motion carried to elect delegates to the State Association which convenes on Tuesday evening before the fourth Sunday in October with the Tulsa church. The following were elected: Sister Bessie Rush from Bethel Church; Bro. Thomas Browning from Bridge Creek Church; and Sister Shay-Richey from Dibble Church.

Motion carried to send \$3.00 for State Minutes.

Pledges taken to finance the Association for ensuing year, to be paid at or before the First Quarterly Meeting as follows: Bro. Jack Hopkins, \$25.00; Eld. Clay Richey,

\$5.00; Hawkins Home Mission, \$2.50; Dibble Home Mission, \$5.00; Bethel Church, \$5.00; Eld. O. H. Doss, \$5.00; Bro. Jess Roland, \$2.50; Iron Chapel Home Mission, \$2.00; Bryant Church, \$5.00; Bro. John Nunnely, \$5.00; Bro. Luther Hudson, \$5.00; Total Amount, \$67.00

Resolution No. 4 read.

Motion carried to accept it and discharge all of the committees.

The Moderator, Bro. C. L. Hudson, was given a standing vote of thanks.

The congregation then sang "Till We Meet Again," at Bro. W. M. Coggins' request to shake hands with everyone as it might be his last Association to attend.

Benediction by Bro. John Nunnely.

Bro. Luther Hudson, Moderator,  
Sister Fannie Smithen, Clerk.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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RESOLUTIONS — No. 1.—Be it Resolved, That we accept Resolution No. 1 of the Fourth Quarterly Meeting which reads as follows: Be it Resolved, That Associational clerks and church clerks have the right to vote at the Association and Quarterly Meetings.

No. 2. — Be it Resolved, That the Association elect a minister to preach a memorial sermon at eleven o'clock on Saturday of each sitting of the Association.

No. 3. — We, your Committee on Resolutions, have made an investigation regarding preachers' and deacons' day, and find it would be more profitable for the deacons and preachers to meet each Friday preceeding the Quarterly Meetings.

No. 4. — We, your Committee on Resolutions, wish to express our thanks in behalf of this Association to the Hawkins church and others for their hospitality during our stay among them.

Rev. O. H. Doss, Chairman.

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## Resolutions from 1939 Minutes

No. 1 — Be it Resolved, That the title on our Minutes always be Church of God denominated Free Will Baptist.



No. 2—Be it Resolved, That this Association continue to pay Eld. W. M. Coggins \$3.00 per month for the rest of his life.

No. 3—Be it Resolved, That this Association pay the Clerk \$5.00 at each annual meeting.

No. 4—Be it Resolved, That we print our Scripture references regarding our Articles of Faith, and that it be carried every year.

No. 5—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 de'egated 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 un'ess 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 to 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 de'egate authority to any other member of said board to cast his vote for him in anything.

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.

**TEMPERANCE** — We, your Committee on Temperance, 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 of 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 fellowmen and try to help him to a higher place in life.

Eld. E. E. Morris, Chairman.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** — We, your Committee on Sunday School, report all churches have Sunday School. We pray that God's children will encourage this more in the future. We wish to further report the average attendance as follows: Dibble, 80; Atkinson, 40; Freeny, 50; Hawkins, 45; Bryant, 41; Bridge Creek, 55; Iron Chapel, 50; Bethel, 90.

Bro. R. C. Allen, Chairman.

**OBITUARY** — We, your Committee on Obituary, report with sorrow the following deceased:

Dibble Church — Grandma Southward.

Hawkins Church — Sister T. J. Drennan.

Bryant Church — Bro. Wade Henton.

Bridge Creek Church — Sister Lizzie Fennimore and Sister Roland Stacy.

Orvnell Wells, Chairman.

**HOME MISSIONS** — Five churches reported as follows:

Dibble — Amount taken in, \$193.69; Number members, 30; Aid to sick and needy, two sheets, three quilts, flowers and clothing; Expenditures, \$172.62; President, Sister Maggie Roberts; Secretary, Vicie Hopkins.

Bridge Creek — Amount taken in, \$41.50; Aid to sick and needy, two quilts and flowers; Expenditures, \$34.20.

Bethel—Amount taken in, \$226.04; Number of members, 20; Aid to sick and needy, grocery showers, flowers, and other articles; Expenditures, \$124.35; Sick calls, 645; Daily Bible readings, 2023.

Iron Chapel—Amount taken in, \$17.45; Number of members, 15; Aid to sick and needy, one quilt and flowers; Expenditures, \$12.45; President, Sister Hazel Sabert; Secretary, Sister Lucille Hampton.

Hawkins—Amount taken in, \$12.00; Number of members, 13; Aid to sick and needy, one shower; Sick calls, 52; President, Sister Fannie Smithen; Secretary, Sister Mary Joy.

These Missions have been helpful in building and furnishing churches and in many other ways.

Sister Bessie Rush, Chairman.

FINANCE—We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following:

*Received:*

Freeny .....	\$ 5.00
Bridge Creek .....	10.00
Dibble .....	10.00
Iron Chapel .....	5.00
Bryant .....	10.00
Bethel .....	10.00
Hawkins .....	10.00
Total .....	\$60.00

Richard Clagg, Chairman.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Received:*

Money received (9-7-40) .....	\$60.00
Pledges Collected (since last Association) ..	55.00
Total Received .....	\$115.00

*Expenditures:*

Deficit (from last Association) .....	\$27.18
Association Clerk .....	5.00
Minutes (1939) .....	25.40
State Minutes .....	3.00
Eld. W. M. Coggins (\$3.00 per month) ..	36.00
Total Expenses .....	\$ 96.58
Balance in Treasury .....	\$ 18.42

## MINISTERS' REPORTS

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ELDER E. G. ATKINSON — Sermons preached, 68; Marriages performed, 1; Funerals preached, 1; Revivals attended, 2; Witnessed several conversions; Money received, none; Money spent, \$15.00; Pastor no churches. I ask your prayers.

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ELDER E. E. MORRIS — I have no accurate report. I have been in the State Evangelistic work. I established one church at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; preached every week-end; held several meetings; and have witnessed several conversions.

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ELDER O. H. DOSS — Sermons preached, 40; Miles traveled, 1100; Money received, \$77.70; Pastored one church; Helped in two revivals; Conversions witnessed, 16; Baptized, 5; Marriages performed, 1. I have been called to pastor one church next year. I desire your prayers.

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ELDER L. C. WARD — Sermons preached, 84; Funerals preached, 16; Marriages performed, 1; Conversions witnessed, 22; Money received from Evangelistic work and monthly appointment, \$71.50. Pray that my work may be greater.

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ELDER A. V. LEE — Pastored two churches, Iron Chapel and Freeny; Sermons preached, 65; Revivals held, 2; Conversions witnessed, 25; Baptized, 21; Money received, \$83.00. Pray that I may be able to win many souls for Christ. I have been called to pastor one church.

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ELDER CLAY RICHEY — Churches pastored, 4; Sermons preached, 201; Received in money and its equivalent, \$510; Funerals preached, 14; Marriages performed, 13. I have witnessed many conversions and baptized a large number. Pray that I may be more useful in the Lord's service.

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ELDER E. A. O'DONNELL — Meetings held, 6; Conversions witnessed, 45; Ordained 3 deacons; Funerals preached, 1; Held one singing school; Miles traveled, 5,000; Money received, \$200.

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ELDER RALPH HAMPTON — Sermons preached, 90; Churches pastored, 1; Funerals preached, 1; Helped in three meetings; Conversions witnessed, 29; Baptized, 6; Money received, \$47.00. I have been called to pastor two churches. I desire your prayers.

## ENROLLMENT

### Ministers

Eld.	O. H. Doss	.. 1005 N. W. 44th St., Oklahoma City, Okla.
"	Clay Richey	..... Route 4, Blanchard, Okla.
"	L. E. Ward	..... Route 4, Blanchard, Okla.
"	W. M. Coggins	..... Blanchard, Okla.
"	E. E. Morris	.. 409 S. E. 20th St., Oklahoma City, Okla.
"	E. A. O'Donnell	..... McLoud, Okla.
"	A. V. Lee	..... New Castle, Okla.
"	Ralph Hampton	..... Route 2, Blanchard, Okla.
"	Bryan Stacy	..... Route 1, Blanchard, Okla.
"	Denver Wynn	..... Route 2, Blanchard, Okla.
"	Ernest Staggs	..... Oklahoma City, Okla.
"	E. G. Atkinson	..... Route 2, Blanchard, Okla.
"	H. H. Parsons	..... Route 2, Blanchard, Okla.
"	Ira W. Smithey	..... Oklahoma City, Okla.

### Visiting Ministers

Eld.	Truman Huddleston	..... Allen, Okla.
"	J. O. Hudson	..... Clemscott, Okla.

### Church Clerks

DIBBLE—Sister Maggie Roberts, Route 4, Blanchard, Okla.  
BRYANT—Bro. T. O. Dunn ..... Maysville, Okla.  
FREENY—Sister B. J. Peters .... Route 1, Blanchard, Okla.  
BETHEL—Laura Mangrum, 406 S. E. 22nd, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
BRIDGE CREEK—Sister Mary Voyles, R.1, Blanchard, Okla.  
HAWKINS—Sister Fannie Smithen, Star Route, Alex, Okla.  
IRON CHAPEL—Sister Irene Michener, R. 2, Blanchard, Okla.  
ATKINSON—No report.

### Delegates

*Freeny Church*—Sister Grace Lee, Bro. Gus Pelham and Bro. George Garrison.

*Hawkins Church*—Bro. R. C. Allen, Bro. Harlan Fountain and Sister Calleen Walters.

*Dibble Church*—Bro. Jess Roland, Bro. George Moore and Sister Sheba Davis.

*Iron Chapel Church*—Bro. Orvnell Wells, Sister Josephine Ledbetter and Irene Michiner.

*Bryant Church*—Brothers Wm. Gentry, Marvin Hawkins and Jim Hedrick.

*Bethel Church*—Sisters Bessis Rush, M. R. Shums and Laura Mangum.

*Bridge Creek Church*—Bro. Ray Gibson, Bro. Thomas Brown-  
ing and Sister Lena Gibson.

# STATISTICAL TABLE OF CHURCH REPORTS

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Number of Members .....	Number Received (this year)	Number Dismissed .....	Number Deceased .....	Number of Ministers .....	Number of Deacons .....	Amount Paid Pastors .....	Amount Paid Evangelists ..	Value of Church Property ..
Bryant .....	Clay Richey .....	T. O. Dunn .....	70	16	2	1	1	3	\$178.45	\$62.15	\$ 750.
Bridge Creek ....	O. H. Doss .....	Mary Voyles .....	126	12	4	2	3	7	60.20	45.00	1000.
Bethel .....	E. E. Morris .....	Laura Mangum .....	66	29	..	..	5	7	379.00	24.00	2500.
Iron Chapel .....	A. V. Lee .....	Irene Michener .....	..	12	..	1	3	4	40.00	46.90	....
Dibble .....	Clay Richey .....	Maggie Roberts .....	200	13	..	1	3	5	..	..	1000.
Hawkins .....	Clay Richey .....	Fannie Smithen .....	167	..	45	1	..	5	57.00	33.00	....
Freeny .....	Ralph Hampton .....	Mrs. B. J. Peters ..	80	..	..	..	1	4	13.50	11.20	....

## 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.

Rev. 7:11; 1 Cor. 8:4; Jer. 10:10; John 7:28 2 Cor. 1:18; 1 John 5:20; Deut. 6:4; 1 Tim. 6:17.

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.

Isa. 9:6; John 3:13; Heb. 18:10; John 1:14; Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 4:15; John 3:16.

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.

John 16:8; 16:13; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2:11; Heb. 9:14

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.

Num. 11:16-17; 1 Sam. 8:4-5; 9:17; Psalms 22:28; Rom. 13:1-2

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.

Gen. 2:17; Gen. 3:6.

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

1 John 2:2; Titus 2:11; Rom. 3:25-26; 5:18; 8:1; 4:25 Mark 16:15; Rom. 2:14-15; 8:34; Heb. 9:22-24; 7:25; Mk. 16:19

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.

2 Cor. 7:10; Prov. 27:13; Ezek. 36:31; Acts 17:30; Luke 13:5; 1 Thes. 5:23; Rom. 8:16; John 3:3; Ezek. 11:19-20; John 3:5; 5:46; Heb. 11:1-6; Rom. 10:9; Gal. 3:26; Acts 3:19

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.

1 Thes. 1:4; 2 Peter 1:10; Rom. 11:5-7.

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.

Rev. 22:17; Prov. 1:24-28; Jer. 44:4; Ezek. 33:11; Deut. 30:19; Isa. 1:18-20; Rom. 2:14-15; John 5:40.

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.

John 3:16; Gal. 2:16; Rom. 1:16.

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

Ezek. 33:18; 2 Cor. 12:9; Matt. 16:18; Rom. 8:38-39; John 10:27-28; Phil. 1:6.

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.

Matt. 28:19; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:16; John 13:9; 1 Tim. 5:10; John 13:5; 1 Cor. 23: 26; 10:16; Matt. 26:28.

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.

Gen. 2:3; Mark 2:27; Exo. 20:8-11; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1; 20:7; Rev. 1:10; Isa. 58:13-14.

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

Isa. 21:15; 2:3-4; Luke 14:31; Matt. 5:9; Dan. 7:21; Rev. 11:7; Rom. 10:15; 2:14;

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT, 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."

John 5:28-29; Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10; Eccles. 12:14; Rev. 20:12; Rom. 2:16; Matt. 12:36; 24:31; Rom. 14:10; Rom. 14:12; 2 Peter 2:4; Matt. 19:28; Mark 3:29; 2 Peter 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 25:46; 2 Thes. 1:8-10; Rom. 6:23; Jude 7; Rev. 14:11.



## FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

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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.

## **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 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 if necessary before the close of the Association.

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.

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

Art. 2. NAME. The members thus chosen and 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 two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.

## 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.

