

The
Dibble Association
of
Free Will Baptists

1942

Proceedings of the
35th Annual Session

Convened at
Bryant Church

MINUTES

OF THE
THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
DIBBLE ASSOCIATION
OF
Church of God
Denominated Free Will Baptists

HELD WITH
Bryant Church, beginning on Thursday
night, September 10, 1942.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Eld. Clay Richey,	Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't. Mod.,	Eld. L. E. Ward,	Blanchard, Okla.
Clerk,	Sister Maggie Roberts,	Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't. Clerk,	Sister Mary Voyles,	Blanchard, Okla.

The next annual session of this association will convene with Dibble Church, beginning on Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1943.

Free Will Baptist Gem, 211 Bond St., Monett, Missouri

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Session called to order by moderator, Bro. C. L. Hudson.
Congregational singing.

Eld. L. E. Ward brought a wonderful message; followed by Eld. Clay Richey.

Homes were appointed by Eld. Clay Richey.

Dismissed by Eld. Frank Lee.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Session called to order by moderator.

Congregational singing led by Bro. C. L. Hudson.

Prayer by Eld. L. E. Ward.

Congregational song, "Take the Name of Jesus With You."

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

A song was sung and an old fashioned handshake was given.

Election of officers

Moderator,	Eld. Clay Dichey,	Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't. Mod.,	Eld. L. E. Ward,	Blanchard, Okla.
Clerk,	Sister Maggie Roberts,	Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't. Clerk,	Sister Mary Voyles,	Blanchard, Okla.

Rules of order read by moderator.

Visiting brethren invited to seats with us in council.

Motion carried to empower the moderator to appoint the committees. They were appointed as follows:

Divine Service — Bro. T. O. Dunn, Bro. C. L. Hudson, Bro. Jess Rolen, Bro. J. Q. Moore, Bro. Edd Nicholes.

Finance — Sister Pearl Wynn, Sister Adah Ward, Sister Ruth Hawkins, Sister Linnie Allen.

Sunday School — Bro. Gaither Howarth, Sister Ida Gibson, Bro. R. C. Allen.

Resolution — Bro. George Stevens, Bro. John Claunch, Bro. J. H. Wilburn, Cecil Gibson, Eld. L. D. Bagwell.

Obituary — Sister Viola Johnson, Bro. Mack Clagg, Sister Nettie Hudson.

Temperance — Bro. Richard Clagg, Bro. C. R. Allen, Bro. Edd Nicholes.

Home Mission — Sister Linnie Hudson, Sister Ruth

Hawkins, Sister Ida Gibson, Sister Adah Ward, Sister Linnie Allen.

Committee on Divine Service reported Elder Clay Richey to bring the eleven o'clock message.

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

Dismissed by Eld. L. E. Ward.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Service began by congregational singing.

Prayer by Bro. J. Q. Moore.

Devotional service conducted by Elder L. E. Ward.

A wonder sermon was brought by Eld. Clay Richey.
Subject, "The Church."

Lunch was served.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Came together by singing.

Scripture lesson read by Elder L. E. Ward; Col. 4:1-7.

Prayer by Elder E. E. Morris.

The visiting ministers were Elder M. M. McKee and Elder E. E. Morris.

Eld. M. M. McKee gave a report of the Southern Oklahoma Association.

Eld. E. E. Morris gave a report of the Center Association.

Motion carried for a five minute recess for committee work.

Came together by singing led by Bro. C. L. Hudson.

Report of Committee on Divine Service asked for. Reported as follows: Eld. M. M. McKee to bring the afternoon message; Eld. E. E. Morris to follow. Elder H. H. Parsons to bring the Friday evening message.

Prayer by Bro. T. O. Dunn.

A special song by Bro. and Sister C. L. Hudson, "Hand in Hand With Jesus."

A real interesting message was given by Eld. M. M. McKee. Subject, "Hold Fast to the Doctrine of Jesus Christ."

Eld. E. E. Morris followed with an interesting message. Scripture lesson 116 Psalms. Subject, "I Love the Lord Because."

An old fashioned handshake given Elders M. M. McKee

and E. E. Morris while the choir sang "I Choose Jesus." Motion carried that we adjourn the business session until nine o'clock Saturday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Came together by congregational singing led by Bro. C. L. Hudson.

Prayer by Elder Ernest Staggs.

Solo by Sister Ada Hudson, "Jesus Believes in You."

Elder H. H. Parsons brought a wonderful message. Lesson read from 23rd Psalms; subject, "The Lord is My Shepherd."

Dismissed by Elder Ralph Hampton.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Came together by singing led by Bro. C. L. Hudson.

Scripture lesson, Philippians 2:1-10.

Prayer by Elder E. G. Atkinson.

Motion carried that Sister Marie Hoarth act as assistant clerk in the absence of Sister Mary Voyles.

Report of Sunday School Committee given. Motion carried to accept the report.

Report of Obituary Committee given and accepted.

Report of Temperance Committee read and accepted.

Report of Home Mission Committee read and accepted.

Report of Finance Committee read and accepted.

Moderator appointed L. D. Bagwell and Sister Pearl Wynn to act in the absence of Bro. T. O. Dunn and Bro. J. Q. Moore on Divine Service Committee

Motion carried to adjourn business until one o'clock.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Came together by congregational singing led by Sister Ada Hudson.

Prayer by Bro. Jack Hopkins.

Special numbers given by the Dibble girls quartet, "Amazing Grace." Members, Sister Alice Southard, Sister Patsy York and Sister Thresa Bridges; one member absent.

Elder Clay Brought a very touching message at the eleven o'clock hour. Subject, "Memorial."

Congregational song, "Precious Memories."

An old time handshake while singing "I'm Bound for the Promised Land."

Special by Bro. and Sister C. L. Hudson, Ada Hudson and Brother Roy Hollyday, "No Tears in Heaven."

Special solo requested, rendered by Brother Junior Parsons, "In That Pearly White City." Pianist, Sister Ada Hudson.

Dismissed by Eld. Frank Lee for lunch.

Dinner was served by the ladies of the Bryant church.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Come together by singing

Scripture reading, 1 Cor. 13:1-6, by Elder L. E. Ward.

Prayer by Elder Denver Wynn.

Report of Divine Service Committee given: Eld. A. G. Atkinson to bring the afternoon message with Elder Frank Lee following.

Reports from each Home Mission read as follows: Bridge Creek, Iron Chapel, Hawkins, Dibble, and Bryant.

Motion carried to receive reports as read.

Motion carried to receive Resolution No. 1.

Motion carried to have the treasurer's report read.

Motion carried to accept the treasurer's report as read.

Pledges taken to finance the association for the ensuing year: Bro. George Stevens, \$5.00; Bro. Jack Hopkins, \$10.00; Eld. Clay Richey, \$5.00; Bro. Luther Hudson, \$5.00; Elder L. E. Ward and wife, \$5.00; Bro. Jess Rolan, \$2.50; Bro. and Sister T. O. Dunn, \$5.00; Elder H. H. Parsons, \$5.00; Bro. Lee Hawkins, \$5.00; Bro. Richard Clagg, \$5.00; Bro. Marue Hawkins, \$2.50; Bro. John Claunch, \$2.50; Elder A. G. Atkinson, \$2.50; Bro. R. C. Allen, \$2.50; Bryant Home Mission, \$2.50; Sister Pearl Wynn, \$2.50; Dibble Home Mission, \$2.50; Bro. L. D. Bagwell, \$1.00; Bro. Mack Clagg, \$1.00; Bro. Charley Manning, \$1.00; Sister Ada Hudson, \$1.00; Bro. J. H. Wilburn, \$1.00; Bro. Jim Hedrick, \$1.00; Sister Wynona Wynn, 50c; Sister Wynona Lee, 50c; Bro. Cash Roberts, \$5.00; Bro. Gaither Howeth, 50c; Bro. Lucy Howeth \$2.00 Total amount, \$84.50

Ministers reports were read and accepted.

Delegates were appointed to the State Association by the assistant moderator: Bro. John Claunch, Dibble; Bro. George Stevens, Iron Chapel; Bro. L. D. Bagwell, Hawkins.

Motion carried to send \$5.00 to the State Association for Minutes.

Motion carried that the Dibble Association meet next year at the Dibble Church.

Motion carried that the quarterly meeting be held as follows: First Quarterly Meeting at Iron Chapel; Second Quarterly Meeting at Bridge Creek; Third Quarterly Meeting at Hawkins.

Motion carried that Elder H. H. Parsons preach the introductory sermon of the Dibble Association at the Dibble Church in 1943.

Motion carried that Elder L. E. Ward preach the memorial service sermon at the next association.

Motion carried that Elder Frank Lee preach the introductory sermon at the first quarterly meeting; Elder A. G. Atkinson at the second quarterly meeting; Elder Clay Richey at the third quarterly meeting.

Five minute recess before afternoon preaching service. Came together by congregational singing.

Eld. A. G. Atkinson brought the afternoon message. Scripture, 1 Timothy 4th chapter; subject, "Preach the Word"; followed by Eld. Frank Lee.

Motion carried that the moderator appoint the members of the Executive Board; Eld. Clay Richey, chairman, Bro. Luther Hudson, Bro. R. C. Allen, Bro. John Claunch, Bro. Frank Lee.

Motion carried to pay the association clerk \$5.00.

Motion carried that the association allow the different home missions the privilege to elect the officers and run their business sessions at all times.,

Motion carried that we accept Resolution No. 2.

Motion carried to discharge all committees.

Motion carried to adjourn until the next annual meeting at the Dibble Church beginning Thursday evening before the second Sunday in September, 1943.

Congregational song, "Look for me at the Gate."

Dismissed by Bro. C. L. Hudson.

Moderator, Elder Clay Richey,
Clerk, Sister Maggie Roberts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS—

1942: No. 1—Be it Resolved, That we allow the different church home missions the privilege to elect their officers and drop the Home Mission Rallies.

No. 2—We, your Committee on Resolutions, wish to express our thanks in behalf of this Association to the Bryant church and others for their hospitality during our stay among them.

Bro. George Stevens, Chairman.

1940: No. 1—Be it Resolved, That we accept Resolution No 1 of Fourth Quarterly Meeting which reads: Be it Resolved, That associational and church clerks have the right to vote at the associational and quarterly meetings.

No. 2—Be it Resolved, That the association elect a minister to preach a memorial sermon on Saturday at 11:00 a. m. at each sitting of the association.

1939: No. 1—Be it Resolved, That the title of our minutes always be: Church of God denominated Free Will Baptists.

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.

1938: No. 4—Be it Resolved, That this association elect an Executive Committee of five members, with the moderator of our Association acting 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 might 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 on hand may warrant. They shall not convey or mortgage any real estate or personal property unless authorized 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 intrusted to said association for any purpose in accordance with

the purpose of the doner or doners 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 the 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 members are present. All transactions must be favored by a majority of all members present, and a written record shall be made and a report 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 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 meetings, and their decisions shall be final. This must be done in time to notify each church.

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

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.

—Bro. C. R. Allen, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE—We, the Committee on Temperance, urge every member to be temperate in all things at all times. A temperate life is a life that is temperate to the various conditions as a result of excess drinking or whether he would abuse his neighbors stock for breaking into his field does not matter materially. The fact is he should follow the rule of total abstinence in the first case and condition himself in the second.

—Bro. Edd Nicholes, Chairman.

HOME MISSION—We, your Committee on Home Mission, report that five of our six churches have active Home Missions. We recommend it to all churches.

—Sister Adah Ward, Chairman.

FINANCE—We, your Committee on Finance, wish to report as follows: Dibble, \$10.00; Bridge Creek, \$10.00; Hawkins,

\$10.00; Bryant, \$10.00; Iron Chapel, \$10.00; Total, \$50.00

— Sister Pearl Wynn, Chairman.

OBITUARY— We are sad to report the deaths of our friends and loved ones from the various churches:

Bryant Church— Grandmother Lee.

Iron Chapel— Sister Cora Stevens and Bro. J. W. Wilbanks.

Bridge Creek— Infant daughter of Eld. & Mrs. Denver Wynn.

Dibble Church— Sister Shay Richey, Sister Joe Davis, Sister Della Corden Matlock, Sister Willie Pybus Dykes.

Hawkins— Bro. J. A. Martin, Sister Verda Gresham.

— Sister Nettie Hudson, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance brought forward, 1941-42	\$66.42
Pledges collected	51.50
Total	\$127.92
Paid out for 1941-42 Minutes	\$21.00
Paid to W. M. Coggins	36.00
Paid Association Clerk	5.00
Blank for Ordained Deacons	1.00
Total paid out	\$68.00
Balance in Treasury, 1941-42	\$59.92
Received at this session	50.00
Grand total	\$109.92

— Jack Hopkins, Treasurer.

HOME MISSION REPORTS

IRON CHAPEL— Membership, 15; paid pastor, \$1.00 a month; sold one quilt and pieced another one; took in \$42.00; paid out \$2.50 for association expenses; \$6.00 for pies; \$12.00 to pastor; 50c to Rally; 84c for quilt material; \$1.50 for flower sprays; \$5.00 to Elder Clay Richey; \$2.54 for pot flowers. Balance in treasury, \$1.12.

President, Sister Nettie Hudson,
Secretary, Lucyle Hampton.

HAWKINS— Membership, 18; pieced one quilt; served at

one sale; paid pastor \$1.00 per month.

President, Sister Fannie Smithen.

Secretary, Mary Joy.

BRYANT—Membership, 14; paid pastor, \$7.50; \$16.00 to the needy; \$13.00 for flowers; \$3.00 on insurance; \$2.50 for association pledges; other expenses, \$5.00; total \$47.10.

President, Sister Ruth Hawkins.

Secretary, Sister Beulah Clagg.

DIBBLE—Number membership, 15; paid pastor, \$3.00 a month; sent 85 sick and sympathy cards; made 420 sick calls and have taken into our treasury, \$73.50; spent \$59.68; balance in treasury, \$13.82.

President, Sister Maggie Roberts,

Sec'y-Treas, Sister Vicie Hopkins.

BRIDGE CREEK—Membership, 8; paid pastor, \$1.00 a month; quilted 7 quilts; gave 9 quilts to needy; showered pastor twice; made 650 sick calls; sent several get-well cards; bought flowers for funerals.

Sec'y-Treas., Sister Ed Nichols.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

ELD. L. E. WARD—Sermons preached, 98; conversions, unknown; marriage ceremonies, 8; money received, \$93.50; baptized, none; miles traveled, unknown.

Pray for me that my next years will be better.

ELD. RALPH HAMPTON—I have preached approximately 100 sermons; pastored three churches; conducted two funerals; helped in two revivals; received two in the church; accepted one church for the coming year; miles traveled, unknown; received, \$171.00.

I desire the prayers of this association that my work may be better in the coming year.

ELD. W. F. LEE—Preached about 30 sermons; preached one funeral; traveled about 300 miles; received, \$7.50; performed one marriage.

ELD. E. G. ATKINSON—On account of sickness I have not preached much this year. Sermons preached, 38; funerals preached, 1; miles traveled, unknown; money received, \$15.00;

baptized, 5. Pray for me that I may be able to do more for the Master's cause this ensuing year.

ELD. CLAY RICHEY—Sermons preached, 173; funerals performed, 21; marriage ceremonies performed, 12; baptized, 6; money received, \$739.26; pastored two churches, half time each; called to pastor Bryant and Bridge Creek churches for the coming year, also was called to the Dibble church but felt that it was better for the church to not accept it. I want to extend sincere thanks to the churches, home missions and friends of the Dibble Association for their sympathy, kindness and financial assistance extended me and my children in the sickness and death of my wife and their mother. I desire an interest in your prayers that I will have more power with God and be a better pastor for the church and a successful evangelist for the lost.

ELD. L. E. STAGGS—Preached 58 sermons; traveled 1560 miles; money received, \$109.75; held one revival; witnessed 4 conversions; baptized, 3; have been called to pastor the Hawkins church. I desire the prayers of all Christians.

ENROLLMENT

Ministers

Eld. L. E. Ward, Sr.	Route 4, Blanchard, Okla.
" Clay Richey	Route 2, Blanchard Okla.
" H. H. Parsons	Route 2, Blanchard, Okla.
" Ralph Hampton	Route 2, Blanchard, Okla.
" E. G. Atkinson	Route 4, Blanchard, Okla.
" Ernest Staggs	Oklahoma City, Okla.
" W. F. Lee	Lindsay, Okla.
" Dinver Wynn	Oklahoma City, Okla.
" Joe Pate	Arizona
" L. E. Ward Jr.	Oakland, Calif.
" Bryan Stacy	Blanchard, Okla.
" John Nunnally	Blanchard, Okla.

Visiting Ministers

Eld. E. E. Morris	Ada, Okla.
" M. M. McKee	Soper, Okla.

Church Clerks

Iron Chapel Sister Nettie Hudson, R. 2, Blanchard, Okla.
 Dibble Sister Maggie Roberts, R. 4, Blanchard, Okla.
 Hawkins Sister Linnie Allen, Alex, Okla.
 Bryant Bro. T. O. Dunn Maysville, Okla.
 Bridge Creek Sister Mary Voyles, R. 1, Blanchard, Okla.

Delegates

Iron Chapel—Bro. George Stevens, Bro. Gaither Howeth and
 Sister Ada Hudson.
 Bridge Creek—Sister Pearl Wynn, Sister Viola Johnson, and
 Sister Ida Gibson.
 Dibble—Bro. Bill Roberts, Bro. John Claunch, and Sister Adah
 Ward.
 Bryant—Bro. Mac Clagg, Sister Ruth Hawkins, and Bro. J. H.
 Wilburn.
 Hawkins—Bro. R. C. Allen, Bro. L. D. Bagwell, and Sister
 Mary Joy.

PLEDGES TO THE ASSOCIATION

Bro. George Stevens	\$ 5.00
Bro. Jack Hopkins	10.00
Eld. Clay Richey	5.00
Bro. Luther Hudson	5.00
Bro. and Sister L. E. Ward	5.00
Bro. Jess Rolan	5.00
Bro. and Sister T. O. Dunn	5.00
Eld. H. H. Parsons	5.00
Bro. Lee Hawkins	5.00
Bro. Richard Clagg	5.00
Bro. Marue Hawkins	2.50
Bro. John Claunch	2.50
Eld. E. G. Atkinson	2.50
Bro. R. C. Allen	2.50
Bryant Home Mission	2.50
Sister Pearl Wynn	2.50
Dibble Home Mission	2.50
Bro. L. D. Bagwell	1.00
Bro. Mac Clagg	1.00
Bro. Charley Manning	1.00
Sister Ada Hudson	1.00
Bro. J. H. Wilburn	1.00

Bro. Jim Hedrick	1.00
Sister Wynona Wynn50
Sister Wynona Lee50
Bro. Gaither Howeth50
Bro. Cash Roberts	5.00
Bro. Lucky Howith	2.00
Total	\$84.50

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; He. 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; 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; Psa. 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; 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; Mark 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; 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.

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

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

14. Alternations 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 corre-

spondence 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.

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.

