

**The
Dibble
Association
of
Free Will Baptist
DENOMINATED CHURCH OF GOD**

1944

**Proceedings of the
37th. Annual Session**

**Convened with
Bridge Creek
Free Will Baptist Church
Sept. 8th. 1944**

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

DIBBLE ASSOCIATION

OF

DENOMINATED CHURCH OF GOD

FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

Bridge Creek Church beginning on Thursday evening, September 8, 1944.

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. Clay Richy, Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't. Moderator, Eld. L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla.
Clerk, Sister Maggie Roberts, Blanchard, Okla.
Ass't. Clerk, Sister Nettie Hudson, Blanchard, Okla.

The next annual session of this Association will convene with the Dibble Church, beginning Thursday evening preceeding the second Sunday in 1945.

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

PROCEEDINGS

Dibble Association of Free Will Baptists met with the Bridge Creek Church at Bridge Creek on Thursday night before the second Sunday in Sept., 1944.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The annual session of the Dibble Association was called together by singing and prayer.

Eld. Vard Woods brought the message for the evening, scripture read from 2nd Chapter of 2nd Thess. Subject "Why halt ye between two opinions," followed by Eld. L. E. Ward.

Dismissed by Rev. Denver Wynn.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing, "I'm Camping in Canaan's Land".

Lesson read by Eld. L. E. Ward, 1st John 1:3. Prayer by Eld. O. H. Doss.

Letters from the different churches read as follows: Dibble, Bridge Creek, Bryant, Hawkins and Iron Chapel.

Motion carried that we accept letters as read and seat delegates. Right hand of fellowship was extended during singing.

Petitionary letters called for, none received.

Election of Officers

Moderator, Eld. Clay Richey, Blanchard, Okla.

Ass't. Moderator, L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla.

Clerk, Sister Maggie Roberts, Blanchard, Okla.

Ass't. Clerk, Sister Nettie Hudson, Blanchard, Okla.

Treasurer, Bro. Jack Hopkins, Blanchard, Okla.

Rules of order read by Moderator.

Motion carried to empower Moderator to appoint committees.

Committees as follows:

Divine Service—Bro. George Trout, Bro. Omar Pierson, Bro. Jack Hopkins, Bro. Russell Wells and Bro. Richard Clagg.

Resolution—Eld. L. A. Lawson, Eld. Ralph Hampton, Bro. Ed Nichols, Bro. Lee Hawkins, Bro. Haze Drennan.

Finance—Bro. Clarence Kelly, Bro. L. D. Bagwell, Bro. Allie Ward.

Obituary—Sister Francis Hawkins, Sister Adah Ward,

Sister Winnie Allsup.

Temperance—Bro. Thomas Browning, Bro. George Stevens, Bro. Calvin Moore.

Sunday School—Sister Ethel Anderson, Bro. Cecil Gibson, Sister Zora Mills.

Home Mission—Sister Mary Joy, Sister Nettie Hudson, Sister Mary Voyles, Sister Adah Ward, Sister Francis Hawkins.

Report from Committee on Divine Service: Eld. L. A. Lawson to bring the eleven o'clock message and Eld. O. H. Doss to follow. Eld. E. E. Morris to bring the message in the afternoon.

Motion carried to adjourn the business session till one o'clock.

Dismissed by Eld. Clay Richey .

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Come together by congregational singing songs, "I'm not Ashamed and He bore it all."

Prayer by Eld. Vard Woods. Devotional conducted by Eld. L. E. Ward. Song "When I Can Read by Title Clear."

Eld. Lawson brought a wonderful message followed by Eld. O. H. Doss, scripture read, Gal. 3:13-22, subject "Redeemed".

Prayer by Eld. L. A. Lawson. Song "Hold to God's unchanging Hand".

Dismissed by Moderator.

Lunch was served by ladies of the church.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Come together by congregational singing.

Scripture lesson read by Eld. Ralph Hampton, Isaiah 53. Prayer by Bro. Will Hudson.

A hearty welcome was given to our visiting ministers from different associations.

They gave reports as follows:

Eld. Vard Woods gave a verbal report of the Center Association; Eld. E. E. Morris gave a report on the Ada Church and also gave the Dibble Association a welcome to the next years Camp Meeting with the Non Church; Eld. O. H. Doss gave a report of the First Oklahoma Association; Eld. Ralph gave a report of the Earlsboro Church; Eld. L. A. Lawson gave a report of the First

Mission Association and also gave a nice talk in behalf of the Dibble Association, which he is now a member.

Five minute recess.

Come together by singing song, "Watching You," a special song rendered by Eld. Clay Richey, Eld. E. E. Morris, Eld. L. A. Lawson and Sister Maggie Roberts. Song "It Won't be very Long." Eld. E. E. Morris gave the afternoon message, scripture read, Hebrew 12:27, subject, "Things that cannot be shaken." Had a spiritual alter service and two souls saved.

Motion carried to table all reports until morning session.

Report of Committee on Divine Service: Eld. Clay Richey to bring the Friday night message.

Dismissed by Moderator.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by congregational singing. Prayer by Bro. Will Hudson. Devotional conducted by Eld. L. E. Ward. Eld. Clay Richey brought the message, scripture Eccles. 12:1-5, subject, "Man goeth to his long home."

Dismissed by Eld. L. E. Ward.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Come together by congregational singing, "I'll Live in Glory Land".

Lesson read by Eld. L. A. Lawson, Psalms 2nd chapter by Bro. B. J. Peters. Special song by Bro. Jerd Price, Eld. Clay Richey, Sister Mattie Bowser, Sister Maggie Roberts and Sister Jewel Richey at the piano, song, "I'd Rather Have Jesus".

Motion carried to let Eld. E. A. O'Donald print our Association minutes.

Motion carried the next Association meet with the Dibble Church.

Eld. L. A. Lawson preach introductory sermon, Eld. L. E. Ward alternate.

Motion carried, First Quarterly Meeting at Iron Chapel Church, Eld. Clay Richey, introductory sermon, Eld. L. E. Ward, alternate.

Motion carried, second Quarterly Meeting at Hawkins Church, Eld. L. E. Ward preach introductory sermon.

Motion carried third Quarterly Meeting at Bryant Church, Eld. L. A. Lawsons preach introductory ser-

mon.

Motion carried Eld. Ralph Hampton preach the memorial services at the next Association, Eld. L. E. Ward alternate.

Committee on Divine service report Eld. Clay Richey preach the eleven o'clock Memorial service in Eld. Ralph Hampton's place.

Eld. L. A. Lawson preach the afternoon message.

Motion carried that we retain our Treasurer; Bro. Jack Hopkins.

Motion carried that we adjourn the bussiness session for the eleven o'clock service.

Dismissed by Moderator.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Come together by congregational singing, songs "Death is only a Dream," "No Tears in Heaven," "How Beautiful Heaven must be."

Devotional conducted by Eld. L. E. Ward. Eld. Clay Richey brought the message, subject "Memorial".

Special number, solo by Eld. Clay Richey.

Song, "Precious Memories."

Dismissed for lunch by Eld. L. A. Lawsons.

Lunch served by ladies of the church.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Come together by singing, song "Watching You."

Lesson read by Eld. L. E. Ward, Psalms 15. Prayer by Bro. Richard Clagg.

Minister's reports read as follows: Eld. L. E. Ward, Eld. Ralph Hampton, Eld. L. A. Lawson.

Motion carried to accept report of Committee of Fi-

Motion carried to accept report of Committee of Finance and retain the same.

Motion carried to read all reports.

Read as follows: Obituary, Temperance, Sunday School and Home Mission. Motion carried to accept reports and retain committees.

Motion carried to elect Executive Board.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eld. Clay Richey, Bro. Omar Pearson, Bro. T. O. Dunn, Bro. Knox Bowser, Bro. George Stevens.

Eld. L. A. Lawsons brought the afternoon message,

scripture, Romans 13:1-2, subject "Power of God."

Motion carried that Moderator appoint delegates to the State Association, delegates as follows:

Bro. L. D. Bagwell, Bro. George Stevens, Bro. Jerd Price.

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

Motion carried to accept the report of the Resolution Committee and discharge all committees.

Song while giving Daddy Coggins the right hand of fellowship.

Song, "God be with you till we meet again."

Motion carried to adjourn until Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1945.

Moderator, Eld. Clay Richey.

Clerk, Sister Maggie Roberts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOME MISSION REPORT—We your Committee on Home Mission wish to report that all of our churches have active Home Missions.

Sister Mary Joy, chairman.

TEMPERANCE—We your Committee on Temperance beg to report that we cannot place to higher estimate on this subject. It is our duty to well being in life. Intemperance is disloyal to the cause and nature of God. It is harmful and destroys the soul as well as the body.

Therefore, we urge that each member abstain from intemperance and God's children to always lend a helping hand to their fellowmen and try to help him to a higher place in life.

Bro. Thomas Browning, chairman.

OBITUARY—We your Committee on Obituary are sad to report the death of our friends:

Donald Gerry Hagard of the Bridge Creek Church.

Uncle Billy Southward of the Dibble Church, died Oct. 9, 1943.

Aunt Bell Rolan of the Dibble Church died Oct. 27, 1943.

Chairman, Sister Francis Hawkins.

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

Church \$10.00; Bryant Church \$10.00; Iron Chapel Church \$10.00; Bridge Creek Church \$10.00; Total \$50.
Clarence Kelly, chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—We, your Committee on Sunday School are glad to report that all our churches have active Sunday Schools, and we prayerfully ask all to use our own literature. We pray that each church will continue with this good work for God.

Sister Ethel Anderson, chairman.

Minister's Reports

Report of Eld. Ralph Hampton:

I have pastored one church, received three into church, dismissed none, helped in one revival, miles traveled unknown, money received approximately \$235.00, have been called to pastor Earlsboro Church for the coming year.

Eld. Ralph Hampton, Earlsboro, Okla. P. O. box 134.

Report of Eld. L. E. Ward:

Sermons preached 40, funerals preached 14, number received into church 5, marriage sermons 8, conversions witnessed 6, money received \$105.00, miles traveled unknown, called to pastor the Dibble Church full time for the coming year, pray for me.

Eld. L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla., Rt. 4.

Report of Eld. Clay Richey:

Preached 241 sermons, preached 9 funerals, performed 11 marriage ceremonies, witnessed 27 conversions, baptized 12, received \$476.30, miles traveled unknown, called to pastor the Bryant Church one half time in the Dibble Association and Spring Hill Church of the 1st Oklahoma Association one half time for the ensuing year. I desire an interest in your prayers that I'll have more power with the church and the lost in the future than I have in the past.

Eld. Clay Richey Blanchard, Okla.

Report of Eld. L. A. Lawson:

I have preached 70 sermons, held 2 revivals, helped in 2 revivals, witnessed 13 conversions, baptized 2, have been called to pastor the Hawkins Church for the coming year, received \$253.00, miles unknown, pray for me while I work in this Association.

Eld. L. A. Lawson, 522 S. W. 12th St. Okla. City, Okla.

RESOLUTIONS

1940, No. 1. Be it resolved that we accept Resolution No. 1 of Fourth Quarterly Meeting, which reads: Be it resolved that Associational Clerks 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 eleven o'clock a.m. at each setting 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 employed 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 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 members 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 in 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 Meetings or Association if the place where said Quarterly Meetings or Association is to meet is not able to care for the meeting, 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.

1942. No. 1. Be it resolved that we allow the different church Home Mission the privilege to elect their officers and drop the Home Mission Rallies.

1944. No. 1. Be it resolved that we let Eld. E. A. O'Donnell print our minutes, he is in the printing business at Salison, Okla.

1944. No. 2. We the Bridge Creek Church, wish to express our appreciation of the sister churches assistance during the Association. May God bless every effort.

1944. We your Committee on Resolutions wish to express our thanks in behalf of this Association to the Bridge Creek Church for their hospitality during our stay among them.

Chairman, Eld. L. A. Lawson

CHURCH REPORTS

BRYANT—State of religion good; members received 16; number members 79; resident members 50; number baptized 12; number dismissed 2; number died none; condition of Sunday School, good; average attendance 40; number of officers 2; teachers 4; condition of Home Mission good; building expenses \$100.00; paid pastor \$176.50; evangelistic fund \$40.00; value of church pro-

perty \$1000.00; amount enclosed for minutes \$10.00.

Eld. Clay Richey, pastor.

Bro. Marvin Hawkins, clerk.

IRON CHAPEL—State of religion, good; members received 3; resident members 50; non resident members 50; total membership 100; condition of Sunday School good; average number of pupils 30; number of officers 6; amount paid pastor \$88.00; amount for evangelistic work \$40.00; value of church property \$800.00; amount for Home Mission \$22.75; amount for publication \$16.80; amount enclosed for minutes \$10.00.

Eld. L. A. Lawson, pastor.

Sister Nettie Hudson, clerk.

DIBBLE—State of religion good; members received this year 5; number baptized 1; number excluded 1; number received 2; total membership 255; condition of Sunday School good; average number of pupils 60; number of officers 6; condition of Home Mission good; amount paid pastor since June \$72.00; amount for evangelistic work \$100.00; value of church property \$2500; amount enclosed for minutes \$10.00.

Ed. L. E. Ward, pastor.

Sister Maggie Roberts, clerk.

BRIDGE CREEK—State of religion good; number dismissed by letter 1; number deceased 1; total membership 132; condition of Sunday School fair; average number of pupils 25; number of officers 5; Home Mission membership 8; amount for evangelistic work \$21.00; amount for incidentals \$30.00; value of church property \$1,000.00; amount for publication \$15.00; amount for minutes \$10.00.

Eld. H. H. Parsons, pastor.

Sister Mary Voyles, clerk.

HAWKINS—State of religion good; members received 5; number baptized 3; total membership 169; condition of Sunday School good; average number of pupils 32; number of officers 7; condition of League good; League membership 53; condition of Home Mission good; members 18; amount paid pastor \$171.36; amount for evangelistic work \$121.15; amount for incidentals \$12.81; amount for publication \$22.79; amount of budget money paid \$184.11; amount included for minutes \$10.00.

Eld. L. A. Lawsons, pastor.

Sister Mary Voyles, clerk.

Treasurer's Report

Carried over from 1942-43	\$343.42
Pledges received 1943-44	126.50
Total	\$469.92
Paid out for \$400 government bond	\$296.00
Paid to Eld. W. M. Coggins	36.00
Paid for State Minutes	5.00
Paid Association Clerk	5.00
Paid Dibble Association minutes	28.00
Paid out	\$370.00
In treasurer	\$99.92
Collected for minutes	50.00
Grand total	\$149.92

Bro. Jack Hopkins, treasurer

Home Mission Reports

Bryant Home Mission report: We have an active Home Mission. Expenses paid out for paint for our church \$78.13; pictures for church \$10.00; for cloth \$3.50; paid Home Mission pledge \$2.50; paid preacher \$3.75; total paid out \$97.88.

President, Ruth Hawkins

Hawkins Home Mission Report: We wish to report we have an active Home Mission. We have 18 members; have made 156 sick calls; sent out 38 cards of sympathy; have served 1 sale; have quilted 11 quilts; have \$22.35 in treasurer; have given 1 linen shower.

President, Sister Jaunita McReynolds; Sec. Sister Gertrude Hammons.

Bridge Creek Home Mission Report: We have about 10 members, we do not meet regularly; we have paid pastor \$2.50 a month, bought 4 wreaths of flowers for funerals; sent numerous "get well cards"; served 1 sale dinner; cleared \$12.60; paid our pledge to the association of \$2.50; made and sold 1 quilt; we have \$45.00 in treasure.

President, Sister Alta Gibson; Sec. Sis. Ed. Nichols

Iron Chapel Home Mission Report: We have 15 members, but not doing much at present. At our last association we had \$15.61 in treasure; have served dinners at 2 farm sales taking in \$59.24; birthday offering 46c;

we have paid out for pot flowers and money for sick, pies for Quarterly Meeting, pledge to the association to the amount of \$22.75; we have \$69.81 in treasure at present.

President, Sister Nettie Hudson

Dibble Home Mission Report: The Ladies Home Mission of the Dibble meet once a month, we have 15 members;; we have served 4 sale dinners during the year; gave an ice cream supper at the church; are preparing a sick kit to keep for use of the sick in our community, it will consist of sheets, pillow cases, ice bags, hot water bottles, fever thermometers, etc. Have had 125 sick calls reported during the year; have sent 105 sick and sympathy cards during the year; have taken in \$82.78; had in treasure at last association \$48.85; total \$131.63; paid out \$65.23; leaving \$66.40 in treasure. Pray for us that we will do God's will.

President, Maggie Roberts; Sec. Sister Vicie Hopkins

ENROLLMENT

Ordained Ministers

Eld. B. F. Stacy, Blanchard, Okla.
Eld. Denver Wynn, Blanchard, Okla. Rt. 2.
Rev. L. E. Staggs, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Eld. L. A. Lawson, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Eld. L. E. Ward, Blanchard, Okla. Rt. 4.
Eld. Clay Richey, Blanchard, Okla.
Rev. Joe Pate, Arizona.
Eld. H. H. Parsons, Vanoss, Okla.
Rev. Junior, H. H. Parsons, Vanoss, Okla.
Rev. John Allsup, Purcell, Okla.
Rev. John Numaly, Blanchard, Okla.
Eld. Ralph Hampton, Earlsboro, Okla.
Eld. W. F. Lee, Lindsey, Okla.

Visiting Ministers

Eld. W. M. Coggins, Blanchard, Okla.
Eld. E. E. Morris, Ada, Okla.
Eld. Vard Woods, Sulphur, Okla.
Eld. O. H. Doss, Shawnee, Okla.

Church Clerks

Dibble—Sister Maggie Roberts, Blanchard. O., Rt. 4.
Iron Chapel—Sister Nettie Hudson, Blanchard, Okla.
Rt. 2.

Bryant—Bro. Marvin Hawkins.

Bridge Creek—Sister Mary Voyles, Blanchard, Okla.

Hawkins—Sister Mary Joy, Alex, Okla.

Delegates

Dibble—Sister Adah Ward, Sister Zora Mills, Sister Ethel Anderson.

Iron Chapel—Bro. George Stevens, Bro. Charley Wells, Sister Winnie Allsup.

Bridge Creek—Bro. Thomas Browning, Bro. Clarence Kelly, Bro. Erven Johnson.

Bryant—Bro. Lee Hawkins, Bro. Calvin Moore, Sister Francis Hawkins.

Hawkins—Bro. Haze Drennan, Bro. Carl Joy, Bro. L. D. Bagwell.

Pledges

1. Bro. Jack Hopkins	\$25.00
2. Bro. Jerd Price	25.00
3. Eld. Clay Richey	5.00
4. Eld. L. E. Ward and wife	10.00
5. Bro. Will Hudson	10.00
6. Bro. T. O. Dunn	10.00
7. Bro. Henry Weeks	10.00
8. Sister Edna Weeks	10.00
9. Sister Jerl Deen Weeks	1.00
10. Charley Weeks	1.00
11. Bro. Lee Hawkins and wife	10.00
12. Sister Jewel Richey	5.00
13. Bro. Richard Clagg	10.00
14. Bro. Cash Roberts and wife	10.00
15. Sister Mattie Jones	5.00
16. Bro. Knox Bowser	10.00
17. Bro. Thomas Browning	5.00
18. Bro. George Stevens	5.00
19. Bro. John Bowser	5.00
20. Sister Ethel Anderson	5.00
21. Bro. John Allsup	5.00
22. Sister Whittker	5.00
23. Sister George Stevens	5.00
24. Bro. B. J. Peters	5.00
25. Bro. Edd Nichols	10.00
26. Bro. George Beshara and wife	5.00
27. Bro. C. L. Hudson and wife	10.00
28. Sister Mary Voyles	5.00

29. Bro. Cecil Gibson	5.00
30. Sister Rachael Wells	5.00
31. Bro. Dormie Mills and wife	5.00
32. Bro. Denver Wynn	5.00
33. Bro. E. E. Johnson	5.00
34. Bro. Earl Johnson	2.00
35. Eld. L. A. Lawson	5.00
36. Bro. Haze Drennon	5.00
37. Bro. Albert McRenolds	2.00
38. Bro. Clarence Kelly	5.00
39. Bro. G. A. Trout	5.00
40. Sister Bill Johnson	2.00
41. Bro. E. D. Bagwell	2.00
42. Bro. Omar Pearson	2.00
43. Bro. A. W. Kelly	2.00
44. Bro. Otha Light	2.00
45. Bro. C. A. Long	1.00
46. Sister Earl Johnson	1.00
47. Sister Mary Joy	2.00
48. Bro. T. J. Testamen	5.00
49. Bro. Oak Johnson	2.00
50. Sister Idia Gibson	1.00
51. Sister Pearl Gibson	1.00
52. Sister Francis Hawkins	1.00
53. Bro. Calvin Moore	2.00
54. Mr. Claud Voyles	2.00
Total	\$304.00

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.
7. Reading Rules of Order.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seat in council.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New business.
12. Reports of committee.
13. Miscellainious business.

FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Call church in conference.

2. Call for peace of 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.

. 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 two-third vote of the members present at any regular session.

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 mem-

ber, 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.

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.

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 Timothy 3:16.

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.

1 Cor. 8:6; Matt. 28:19.

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.

St. John 1:1-12.

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.

St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:46.

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.

Psalm 22:28; 97:2.

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; 3:19.

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.

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; Pro. 28:13.

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 Tim. 2:4.

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.

Joshua 24:15.

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.

Rev. 22:17.

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

St. John 15:6; 2 Peter 2:20-22.

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.

Mark 16:15; 2 Cor. 4:5; St. John 13:14.

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; Exod. 20:8-11.

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

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 5:29; Matt. 25:46.

