

1948

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY - FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

**Georgia Union Association**

**Of The Original Free Will Baptist**

HELD WITH

**LIBERTY CHAPEL CHURCH**

Bibb County, Ga., Oct. 7th, 8th, 1948

Officers:

Rev. J. D. Payne, Moderator .....	Macon, Ga.
Rev. Emmett McDuffie, Vice Moderator .....	Macon, Ga.
Ernest J. Barker, Clerk and Treasurer .....	Oglethorpe, Ga.
Weasley Hobbs, Mission Treasurer .....	Cordale, Ga.

THE NEXT SESSION

The next session convenes with Double Branch Church, Dooly County, Georgia on Thursday morning before the second Sunday in October, 1949. Introductory sermon by Rev. Mance Cason.

Ham Printing Company, Cordale, Ga.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD, THEIR CHURCH AND ADDRESS

L. W. McKinney—Christian Hill	Abbeville, Ga.
W. W. Hobbs—Pleasant Hill	Vienna, Ga.
John F. Ross—New Ebenezer	Cochran, Ga.
Cicero Powell—Little Bethel	Chester, Ga.
W. H. Nobles	Chester, Ga.

#### MISSION BOARD AND THEIR ADDRESSES

John F. Ross	Route 3, Cochran, Ga.
Ernest J. Barker	Oglethorpe, Ga.
Manse Cason	Seville, Ga.
Rev. Neal H. Parrish	Hahira, Ga.
G. W. Noble, 838C Warner Drive	Warner Robins, Ga.

#### SUPERANNUATION BOARD AND THEIR ADDRESS

Cicero Powell	Chester, Ga.
W. H. Noble	Chester, Ga.
J. C. Smith, Treasurer	Cordele, Ga.

#### EDUCATION BOARD AND THEIR ADDRESSES

E. R. Roland	Route 3, Cochran, Ga.
Elder J. F. Smith	Eastman, Ga.
Chester Holmes	Route 1, Vienna, Ga.

#### ORDER OF CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Open meeting with prayer.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
4. Read and adopt minutes of last meeting.
5. Call for acknowledgements and matters of dealing.
6. Report of Deacons.
7. Report of Committees.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Appointment of committees.
12. Adjournment.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Call for corresponding letters from the churches.
3. Read the letters, complete and call the roll.
4. Elect and establish Conference bar.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Elect Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Report.
7. Introduce visiting brethren, and admit them to honorary seats.
8. Call for Corresponding Messengers from other bodies.
9. Appoint D. C.
10. Appoint the various Committees.
11. Elect the place for holding the next session.
12. Call for Ministerial, and all other Conference Reports.
13. Call for reports of Committees.
14. Call for ordinances and consecrations.
15. Call for miscellaneous business; elect all officers not already elected, elect any special boards, or committees, needed; or any other matter of miscellany.
16. Read and adopt the minutes of Conference.
17. Adjourn.

## PROCEEDINGS

The Fifty-Fourth Annual Session of The Georgia Union Association of the Free Will Baptists, convened with Liberty Chapel Church, Bibb County, Georgia, Thursday, October 7, 1948.

Rev. G. W. Noble brought the Introductory sermon. Bro. Noble used scripture from the 26th chapter of St. Matthew, verses 36-46 and 6th verse of the 4th chapter of St. John. Theme of sermon being, "Arise, Look on the Field, for they Are White Unto Harvest Already." Preceding the Introductory sermon, a testimonial service was conducted by Rev. Emmett McDuffie. Most every person in the church testified, telling of their experience and giving thanks unto the Lord. A most wonderful service. Dismissed by Bro. Moore for refreshments.

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON

After gathering back into the church and singing, "I'll Live in Glory", prayer was offered by Bro. J. T. Bartlett.

Devotional by Moderator, reading from 6 - 15 verses from 3rd chapter of Philippians. Commenting at length Bro. Smith stated that seemingly our body had made slow progress, yet when we stop to think that if this body has been instrumental in saving at least one soul, then we have not worked in vain. Hoping we have gathered for a greater cause, therefore going forward, forgetting the things that are behind us, looking forward to a greater future.

Moderator called for Associational letters.

On motion, Moderator appointed Bros. G. W. Noble and J. B. Langford to read letters. Letters read and delegates listed as follows:

Georgia Union Quarterly Conference: Bro. R. H. Holmes.

Beulah Spring: Bro. B. I. Johnson.

Pleasant Hill: Bros. Harold Davidson and W. R. Langford.

Double Branch: Bros. T. B. Ethridge and wife, R. H. Holmes and wife and Mrs. Flossie Holland.

Antioch:—

Liberty Chapel: J. W. Hamsley, Mrs. W. H. Gray, Sr., Mrs. Leno McDuffie, Mrs. Helen Gray, W. H. Gray, Sr., Mrs. J. E. Potter.

Christian Hill: Mrs. Lola M. Barker, Ernest J. Barker, L. W. McKinney, Mrs. Essie Lee, Mrs. L. W. McKinney and Mrs. Margaret Martin.

New Ebenezer: Bro. John F. Ross, Bro. Ruff Floyd and wife, Mrs. A. G. Cook.

Bay Spring: Not any.

Bethlehem: Bro. Woodrow Jones and wife, Bro. Loran Wade and wife and Bro. J. C. Smith and wife.

Little Bethel: Bro. Cicero Powell and wife, Bro. Early Davis and wife, Thomas Bryan and wife, Bro. Johnnie Davis and wife and Sister Carolyn Manning.

Mt. Ararat: Bro. Lamar Peacock, Horace Fleming and Spurgeon Jones.

Pine Level: Bro. W. H. Noble, W. L. Amerson and Donald Selph. On motion, letters received and delegates seated.

Moderator called for petitionary letters. Petitionary letter was received from Singers Church, Cordele, Georgia. On motion, letter was read.

On motion, the petitionary letter was tabled for time being, to be investigated and handled by committee on State of Churches and Character of Ministers.

On motion, nominations for Moderator were offered. Rev. J. D. Payne and Rev. Emmett McDuffie were nominated. On motion, nomination close. Rev. J. D. Payne elected Moderator.

On motion, nominations were made and officers elected as follows: Vice Moderator, Rev. Emmett McDuffie; Clerk and Treasurer, Ernest J. Barker; Mission Treasurer, Wesley Hobbs.

Moderator called for corresponding messengers from any other body. Rev. C. H. Moore from Chattahoochee; Rev. E. C. Morris from State Association; Rev. A. L. Sellers from St. Paul's Church, Quitman, Georgia.

On motion, these corresponding messengers be seated in this body and the Moderator extend to each the right hand of welcome.

On motion, we recess for 10 minutes, and that the Moderator and Clerk appoint various committees which were as follows:

Devotional: W. H. Noble, W. R. Langford and W. L. Amerson.

State of Churches and Character of Ministers: W. H. Noble, John F. Ross, L. W. McKinney, W. H. Gray, Sr., and T. B. Ethridge.

Finance: Cicero Powell, B. I. Johnson and W. L. Amerson.

Temperance: Mrs. John F. Ross, Mrs. Lola M. Barker, and Mrs. J. D. Payne.

Sunday School: Mrs. T. B. Ethridge, Cicero Powell and Woodrow Jones.

Education: E. C. Morris, Emmett McDuffie and C. H. Moore.

Woman's Work: Mrs. W. H. Gray, Sr., Mrs. Flossie Holland and Mrs. E. C. Morris.

On motion, we hear devotional report. (See Report.)

Moderator extended to any visitor from other christian organizations a most cordial welcome. Bro. Thompson from Methodist church.

On motion, Moderator appoint ordaining council, which was as follows: Rev. Emmett McDuffie, Rev. Joe Frank Smith and Rev. J. B. Langford.

On motion, this body goes on record as approving the committee formerly approved by the quarterly conference for the purpose of preparing Ordination Certificates for those having certificates issued by the Benj. Randall Conference. The signature of this committee and the seal of the Georgia Union Association stamped there on.

On motion, this body voted to refer back to Mt. Ararat Church the case of licensing Bro. Spurgeon Jones.

On motion, next session convene with Double Branch Church.

On motion, Bro. Manse Cason is to preach Introductory Sermon. Bro. W. H. Gray, Jr., as alternate.

On motion, we adjourn until 9:30 A. M. Friday.

#### FRIDAY MORNING

The body having sung several songs, prayer was offered by Bro. C. H. Moore.

Devotional by Moderator, reading 4th chapter, I John, dwelling upon the greatness of the love of our Lord and the love we have for God and our brethren; if we have that love within us. Keeping peaceful with all mankind.

Moderator called for Ministerial Certificates.

On motion, Moderator appointed Bros. J. C. Smith and O. V. Smith to read Certificates.

On motion, Ministerial reports read before body, approval was tabled and reports given to Committee on State of Churches and Character of Ministers, to be brought in with their report.

On motion, Mission Board again granted power to work out some plan to put into use the money we now have in mission treasury.

Ernest J. Barker reported mission board had called one meeting, but all members not being present, no plans were decided upon.

On motion, no committee shall be elected to make a report upon Mission, Christian Education, or any other report where there is a standing committee, whose duty it shall be to report to this body.

On motion, regular order of business suspended and miscellaneous taken up.

On motion, Bro. W. H. Noble was re-elected to executive board. (See Board.)

On motion, Bro. G. W. Noble was elected to succeed Bro. W. W. Hobbs. Bro. Manse Cason elected to succeed Bro. J. W. Fordham. (deceased.)

At this point order of business ceased and the song, "Pearly White City" was sung in tribute to Bro. Fordham.

On motion, Bro. J. C. Smith re-elected to superannuation board, and Bro. Joe Frank Smith elected to succeed Rev. J. L. Poston, who is not with the Free Will Baptist any longer.

On motion, we have 600 Minutes printed.

On motion, we pay clerk \$10.00 and Moderator \$5.00.

On motion, any and all obituaries prepared and brought in with church letters shall be printed.

On motion, we adjourn until 1:30 P. M.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The song, "Anywhere is Home" was sung by body. Prayer by Bro. Sellers. Devotional by Moderator, reading 103rd Psalm. No comment.

On motion, Moderator appointed delegates to various Associations as follows:

Chattahoochee: Rev. Joe F. Smith and Rev. G. W. Noble.

South Georgia: Rev. Joe F. Smith and Rev. Manse Cason.

Union: Bros. W. R. Langford and Rev. Spurgeon Jones.

Midway: Bros. W. R. Langford and J. T. Bartlett.

Martin: Bros. Emmett Long and W. L. Amerson.

State Association: Bros. W. R. Langford, Ernest J. Barker, Rev. J. D. Payne and Rev. Charlie Bartlett.

Little River and North Florida: By Minutes.

National Association: W. R. Langford.

On motion, we prepare letter to State Association and send \$5.00 as entrance fee, \$5.00 as entrance fee to National Association, \$5.00 each for Superannuation, Foreign Mission, Home Mission and Education.

On motion, we have printed in our minutes the Constitution of the National Association.

On motion, we suspend miscellaneous business and take up business of regular order.

Moderator called for various committee reports. On motion, chairman of each committee shall read report.

Report on Woman's Work read, adopted and committee released. (See Report.)

Report on Education, Temperance, Finance and Sunday School were read, adopted and committees released. (See Reports.)

Next session of the Sunday School Convention convenes with Liberty Chapel Church in Macon on 1st Sunday in September, 1949.

Bro. W. L. Amerson made a report on the S. S. Convention. Liberty Chapel Church won the attendance banner and Little River (Rheba) won the program banner. The attendance of the 1948 session was the largest of any held.

Rev. E. C. Morris gave to the body a report of the progress made and some of the plans of the future towards the establishment of an encampment for our young people. Some 10 or 11 acres was given to the State of Free Will Baptists and then the board of trustees have pledged themselves for almost enough to buy a strip of land bordering this given to the State. The tract of land lies East of Highway 41, about 5 miles North from Ashburn.

The Moderator recognized and extended to Rev. J. R. Hunt a welcome to this body.

The report of the committee on State of Churches and Character of Ministers read, adopted and committee released. (See Report.)

On motion, petitionary letter from Singers Chapel Church in Cordele was approved, thereby becoming a member of this body. Delegates as follows: were seated. Bros. Jim Bridges and Bill Parker.

On motion, this body urges all to support the encampment movement spiritually and financially.

The Moderator made note of the fact that two very young delegates (one 14 and the other 15) were with us transacting business from Mt. Ararat Church.



An offering was taken for W. W. Potter in the amount of \$23.90, who has been seriously ill.

An offering in the amount of \$29.15 was taken for the General Promotional Work.

On motion, we gave to Liberty Chapel Church a rising vote of thanks for the entertainment and hospitality shown all during this session.

On motion, Clerk prepare manuscript for press without being read before body, having printed.

Next session of the Quarterly Conference Convenes with Mt. Ararat Church on October 30 and 31, 1948.

On motion, we adjourn to meet with Double Branch Church, on Thursday before second Sunday in October, 1949.

REV. J. D. PAYNE, Moderator,  
ERNEST J. BARKER, Clerk & Treas.

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Elder Neal H. Parrish	Hahira, Ga.
Elder Emmett McDuffie, 240½ Bailey Ave.	Macon, Ga.
Elder N. R. Sullivan	Pinehurst, Ga.
Elder G. C. Sullivan	Pinehurst, Ga.
Elder Charles McCarthy	Empire, Ga.
Elder J. F. Smith	Eastman, Ga.
Elder J. B. Langford	Pinehurst, Ga.
Elder J. D. Payne, 240 Bailey Ave.	Macon, Ga.
Elder J. W. Hightower, 124 Grady St.	Macon, Ga.
Elder W. H. Gray, Jr., 253 Bowden St.	Macon, Ga.
Elder Manse Cason	Seville, Ga.

#### LICENSED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Elder Henry E. Bridges	Montrose, Ga.
Elder W. O. Knighton	Cochran, Ga.
Elder Charlie Bartlett	Cordele, Ga.
Elder Charlie Knott	Cordele, Ga.
Elder Spurgeon Jones	Eastman, Ga.
Elder W. L. Golden	Eastman, Ga.
Elder G. W. Noble, 838C Warner Drive	Warner Robins, Ga.

#### NAMES OF MINISTERS PRESENT AT THIS SESSION

Elder Emmett McDuffie, 240½ Bailey Ave.	Macon, Ga.
Elder J. W. Hightower, 124 Grady St.	Macon, Ga.
Elder N. R. Sullivan	Pinehurst, Ga.
Elder J. F. Smith	Eastman, Ga.
Elder J. B. Langford	Pinehurst, Ga.
Elder J. D. Payne, 240 Bailey Ave.	Macon, Ga.
Elder W. H. Gray, Jr., 253 Bowden St.	Macon, Ga.

Elder Manse Cason	Seville, Ga.
Elder Charlie Bartlett	Cordele, Ga.
Elder Spurgeon Jones	Eastman, Ga.
Elder G. W. Noble, 838C Warner Drive	Warner Robins, Ga.

#### FINANCE REPORT

We, your Finance Committee find a balance of \$8.62 in treasury of Associational purposes, with other funds as follows:

Balance on hand for Associational purposes	\$8.62
From churches this session	88.00

TOTAL	\$96.62
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Balance on hand for Educational fund	\$25.75
From churches this session	8.00

TOTAL	\$33.75
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Balance on hand Superannuated fund	\$17.05
From church this session	10.00

TOTAL	\$27.05
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Balance of Evangelistic fund	\$14.50
From churches this session	

TOTAL	\$14.50
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Balance Orphanage fund	\$5.00
From churches this session	

TOTAL	\$5.00
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CICERO POWELL,  
B. I. JOHNSON,  
W. L. AMERSON.

#### COMMITTEE ON STATE OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS

We your committee make the following report. That Singers Chapel be accepted in the Georgia Union Association and that all ministers found in order.

W. H. NOBLE, Chairman.

#### TEMPERANCE REPORT

We, your committee on Temperance, ask all ministers to teach and preach, that all should abstain from the very appearance of evil, and worldly lust, and be temperate in all things. Live as true christians should live, having more love and christian fellowship for each other. That the church as a whole, practice temperance in every way possible, and be led by the spirit of the Lord.

MRS. JOHN F. ROSS, Chairman.

## REPORT ON EDUCATION

Realizing that Education is power and inspires confidence, we, your committee recommend that we all strive to attain a higher standard of christian education for all and especially for our ministry and church leaders.

Since it is impossible for a stream to rise higher than the fountain head, it is also recognized that our denomination cannot rise higher than the ministers as leaders. We would especially recommend and urge that all our ministers take advantage of all the educational opportunities available in order to improve their ministry and that they especially take the admonition the apostle Paul offered Timothy as recorded in 2 Tim. 2:15, "Study to show thy self approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We further urge our young ministers to take training in our Bible college when ever possible, and that we all support our Bible college with our prayers and means.

REV. E. C. MORRIS, Chairman.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We, your committee on Sunday school, are very proud to learn that several churches are having Sunday school in which we are very thankful of, because we do believe in teaching our young people the word of Jesus, our precious Savior. We are thankful for the progress that we have made in our Sunday school and we pray that the work will continue throughout the ages to come. We wish that all churches would have Sunday school.

MRS. T. B. ETHRIDGE, Chairman.

## WOMAN'S WORK

Since experience has taught us that the Woman's Auxiliary furnishes a channel of service for the women of our churches and that such services have proved of great value to the cause, we recommend that our pastors encourage the women of this congregation to organize. Where they are not and that the churches now having the Auxiliaries be urged to expand their activities and let others know the great benefits thereof.

We further urge our women to take an active part in the future and all our denominational enterprise such as education, Home and Foreign Missions and Sueprannuation, also in the study of Stewardship and leadership.

MRS. W. H. GRAY, SR., Chairman.

## IN MEMORY OF BRO. J. W. FORDHAM

Who was called from this world of trouble to rest, from his labor, in whom we love and do miss in our church and our community,

who was so faithful and loyal to his church and community. Bro. Fordham was only 36 years of age when called to rest. So Bro. Fordham rest on, it won't be long until we can be together in that home eternal with Jesus our precious Savior.

Written by a Brother in Love,

W. C. POWELL.

## IN MEMORY OF BRO. J. H. OWENS

Bro. Owens was born Feb. 9th, 1869, died Nov. 10th, 1947, making his stay here on earth 78 years, 9 months and one day. He was one of the first members of Antioch church which was organized in 1912. He served as Deacon from that time until the Lord said come up higher.

He has gone but not forgotten, never will his memory fade.

Sweetest thoughts will ever linger around the grave where he is laid.

Written by a daughter-in-law,

MRS. BERTHA OWENS.

## IN MEMORY OF BRO. WALTER WRIGHT

He is gone but not forgotten, never will his memory fade.

Sweetest thoughts will ever linger, around the grave where is his lair.

In a land that is free from sorrow, where the weary rest from care, There will be no sad tomorrow, when we gather over there.

Endless praise to him be given, while the countless ages roll,

In a mansion up in heaven, that fair homeland of the soul.

Written by,

SISTER WOODROW JONES.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF BRO. EVERETT EDWARDS

Bro. Everett Edwards was born May 27th, 1903, died May 28th, 1948. He has gone but not forgotten, never will his memory fade, Funeral held at Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. J. B. Langford.

A precious one from us has gone, A voice we loved is stilled,

A place is vacant in our home, Which never can be filled.

God in His wisdom has recalled, The boom his love had given,

And though the body slumbers here, The soul is safe in Heaven.

BY SISTER WOOROW JONES.

## IN MEMORY OF SISTER ELLA RHODES

On one May evening, When her earthly tasks were done, God called her to Heaven, To receive the crown she'd won. Out of this world, of sorrow and distress—Into another—

"The Heavenly Home", For eternal peace and rest.

Written by

LOLA M. BARKER.

## IN MEMORY OF GRACE LAWTHORNE

This is written in loving memory of little Grace Lawthorne, 12 year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lawthorne, of Finleyson, Georgia. God called Grace home to be with Him on August 27, 1948. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. H. Moore at Harmony church, Sunday, August 28. She was a member of Double Branch church and Sunday school.

By her pastor

REV. C. H. MOORE.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance of sincere sorrow for sin and 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. Con-

tinuance in faith and obedience until death.

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

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

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

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

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

14. **TITHING.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23) and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him". (I Cor. 16:2.)

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

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

## 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 all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."



We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, 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.

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.

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 the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### BY-LAWS

Article 1. Annual conference shall be annually held.

Art. 2. Every Elder, Minister and Preacher, in good standing, and delegates shall duly attend.

Art 3.. If any member in the judgment of the conference, shall show anger in his discussion on any subject, he shall forfeit his seat in that conference.

Art. 4. No member of the annual conference shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the Moderator.

Art. 5. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.

Art. 6. There shall annually be a committee of Finance chosen to settle with the Treasurer and report to conference.

Art. 7. The officers and standing committees shall be entitled to seats in the annual conference.

Art. 8. No Elder, Minister, preacher or delegate shall, during the sitting of the annual conference, be at liberty to fill any place, as to preaching or hearing at the stage, only as liberty shall be granted by the conference.

Art. 9. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and praise of God.

Art. 10. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the Moderator and the Clerk.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

As Revised by the 1946 Session at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

From experience we, the members of the Free Will Baptist denomination being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us as a church; and to preserve and maintain correspondence and coordination with us, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better denominational government.

#### ARTICLE I

**Name**—This organization shall be known as the National Association of Free Will Baptists of the United States of America.

#### ARTICLE II

**Purpose**—The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify the work of the various bodies composing the National Association, and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the Kingdom of God in connection with the various bodies in the Association, or that may hereafter be represented therein.

#### ARTICLE III

**Composition**—This National Association shall be composed of its general officers, the members of all standing boards, or committees, the duly appointed delegates of Free Will Baptist organizations which actively promote and support the work of the Association, and all ordained ministers and missionaries who belong to general bodies which are affiliated with this National Association.

#### ARTICLE IV

**Representation**—Representation in the National Association is to be by states. Each state association shall be entitled to five delegates to be elected from the laity, regardless of the number of district associations in the state; but in addition to the five delegates, each state shall be entitled to one delegate for each district association within the bounds of District Association. Districts in the state which have no state association, and those whose state organizations may not be affiliated with this body, shall elect and send their delegates directly to the National Association.

#### ARTICLE V

**Finance**—Each State Association representing in this body shall send the sum of \$10.00 with \$5.00 extra for each District Association composing the said State Association or Convention. The district or subordinate associations representing directly, shall send the sum of \$5.00 with their reports.

Section 2. The Moderator and Clerk shall each be paid an honorarium of \$25.00 annually plus their traveling expenses to and from



the sessions of the National Association. All other expenditures not specified herein shall be paid at the direction of the body.

#### ARTICLE VI

**Discipline**—This National Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or practice that may properly come before it from any of the bodies composing said organization of the National Association of the Free Will Baptist Church, or act upon any appeal that may be made by any body belonging to the National Association. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the constituent body or bodies, and its decision shall be final. Such appeals are to come before the National Association, after having been appealed from the lower to the next higher body.

Section 2. All appeals coming before the National Association may be settled in either of the following ways: (1) By the National Association when sitting in a committee as a whole. (2) By a special committee whose report shall be voted on without discussion.

#### ARTICLE VII

**Officers**—The officers of this National Association shall consist of a Moderator, and Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, a Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary, each of whom shall be elected at the closing of each regular session.

Section 2. Committees, as necessary, shall be appointed by the Chairman, unless otherwise provided for, and shall hold office until their work is completed, or until their successors are elected.

#### ARTICLE VIII

**Boards**—All standing Boards shall be composed of five members, exclusive of the General Board and the Board of Trustees of the Free Will Baptist Bible College. Standing Boards include the General Board, the Board of Trustees of the Free Will Baptist College, the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the Free Will Baptist League Board, the Board of Superannuation, and the Board of Literature and Publications. The personnel of each of the foregoing, exclusive of the General Board and the Board of Trustees of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, shall be elected as follows, the first named for a term of one year, the second for a term of two years, the third for a term of three years, the fourth for a term of four years and the fifth for a term of five years. Succession to office thereafter shall be determined as order requires.

Section 2. The personnel of the General Board shall be composed of the general officers of the National Association and the chairman of each of the following Boards. The Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the Free Will Baptist League Board, the Board of Superannuation, and the Board of Publications and Literature. There shall also be elected by the National Body one member from each affiliated State Association and one member from each affiliated

association comprising one or more than one state. The President of the National Woman's Auxiliary Convention and the president of the National Sunday School Convention shall be ex-officio members of the Board.

The term of office of those chosen within given State Associations shall be of two years; and so constituted that the expiration of the term of office of those residing east of the Mississippi River shall alternate with those residing west of the Mississippi.

Section 3. The General Board shall have power to act in behalf of, and for the National Association from one regular session to another, and shall also have power to elect such officers as may be necessary for its own government, and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the National Association.

Section 4. The General Board shall have power to fill irregular vacancies that may occur in its own body, and shall also have power to fill any irregular vacancies that may occur in any department of the work between sessions of the National Association. It shall be the duty of this Board to make written reports of all its work to each annual session of the Association.

Section 5. The General Board shall organize at its own discretion for the promotion of the work set forth in section three and four of this article. It is understood that an Executive Committee consisting of seven members shall be elected by the General Board from among its membership, whose duty it shall be to act on all matters coming within the scope of the work of the Board when said General Board is not in session.

Section 6. The duties of the various standing Boards shall be to plan a program and supervise its operation in their respective fields. They shall organize themselves and regulate their work as may become necessary, and as may be found in harmony with the principles and tenets of the National Association.

#### ARTICLE IX

A Board of Trustees of not less than nine members nor more than fifteen shall be elected by the National Association and charged with the responsibility of establishing, organizing, controlling and operating a Free Will Baptist Bible College in the city of Nashville, of the state of Tennessee. It is provided, however, that the first Board of Trustees shall be composed of nine members, who shall be classified and elected in groups of 3's as follows: The terms of office of the first three named shall expire July 15, 1946; the terms of office of the second three named shall expire July 15, 1948; and the terms of office of the last three named shall expire July 15, 1950. Successors in office thereafter shall be elected biennially in groups of 3's, each for a term of six years, and they shall continue in service until their successors have been chosen. Any trustee may be re-elected to office at the option of the National Association.

In addition to the original nine trustees prescribed for the Bible College, the National Association may, at its option, elect six others to membership on the Board; but they shall be elected, two biennially, until six members have been added to the board. These elections shall coincide with the respective biennial elections of the original groups of 3's, and shall, in actual practice, effect or result in a reclassification and biennial election of all trustees in groups of 5's. Under this option, if elected, trustees shall be chosen by the National Association biennially in groups of 5's, each for a term of six years.

The trustees of the Bible College shall have power to apply for and receive a charter of incorporation under the name and style of FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. It is provided, however, that the charter of incorporation, as proposed, shall be approved and authorized by the National Association previous to its submission for registration, and that no revision or amendment thereafter shall be sought without the specific direction of the National Association.

The Board of Trustees of the Bible College shall also have power to organize at will and to create such by-laws as may be deemed essential for their government and for the control, administration, and promotion of the college, consistent with the provision of its charter of incorporation and the constitution and regulations of the National Association.

#### ARTICLE X

The National Association shall hold its regular meetings annually, beginning Tuesday night following the second Sunday in July, and remaining in session until business has been finished. The place of meeting shall be agreed upon while in regular session; however, where a necessity may arise the General Board or its Executive Committee may at its discretion change the place of meeting.

#### ARTICLE XI

**Auxiliaries**—The National Woman's Auxiliary Convention and the National Sunday School Convention shall be recognized as subordinate organizations to the National Association. They shall organize at their own discretion, and have power to create and adopt their respective constitution and by-laws, and maintain complete management of the work for which they are constituted. The scope and character of the work of these organizations shall conform to the general program and promotional plans of the Association. They shall report their accomplishments annually to the National Association.

#### ARTICLE XII

Should necessity arise, from war or pestilence, or any cause which prevents a regular meeting whether such a condition is of a local or general condition, then the General Board shall be privileged

to call and act with full authority in all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the National Association and the Church as a whole, providing whatever transactions passed shall be by a two-third vote of the full membership of the said General Board, providing that such transactions shall not conflict with the purpose, and edicts of the Constitution as set forth in the preceding articles.

#### ARTICLE XIII

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the National Association by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

### Statistical Table

CHURCHES	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	PASTORS AND ADDRESSES	Meeting Days	Baptized	Rec. By Letter	Lettered Out	Deceased	Total Membership	Home Mission	Foreign Mission	Orphanage	Evangelistic Work	Superannuation	Asso. Purposes	Education	Paid Pastor
Antioch	Mrs. Bertha Owens, Pitts, Ga., R. 2	N. R. Sullivan, Pinehurst, Ga.	3		2	1	35					\$15.50	\$5.00			\$113.70
Bay Springs	I. M. Smith, Eastman, Ga., R. 5	J. F. Smith, Eastman, Ga., R. 5	2	3	1	1	60					35.00	6.00			95.00
Bethlehem	Eugene Brown, Cordele, Ga.	J. B. Langford, Pinehurst, Ga.		19		1	81					43.00	5.00			442.18
Beulah Spring	Mrs. Anna Bridges, Montrose, R. 1	W. H. Gray, 253 Bowden St., Macon					43					24.00	4.00			15.17
Christian Hill	Ernest J. Barker, Oglethorpe, Ga.	J. D. Payne, 240 Bailey Ave., Macon	1-3		3	2	143	5.00	5.00			62.10	5.00	8.00		175.97
Double Branch	J. A. Crosby, Unadilla, Ga.	C. H. Moore, Reynolds, Ga.		11	2	1	172					73.00	10.00			377.41
Liberty Chapel	W. H. Gray, Jr., 253 Bowden St. Macon, Ga.	Emmett McDuffie, 240 1/2 Bailey Ave. Macon, Ga.		7			52		2.00			66.00	5.00	3.00		152.99
Little Bethel	Edna Fordham, Chester, Ga.	J. D. Payne, 240 Bailey Ave., Macon		3		1	81						6.00			131.83
Mt. Ararat	Emmett Jump	J. F. Smith, Eastman, Ga., R. 5		7	5							32.72	5.00			124.21
New Ebenezer	Mrs. John F. Ross, Cochran, R. 3	Emmett McDuffie, 240 1/2 Bailey Ave. Macon, Ga.		3	2		40					30.00	5.00			128.00
Pine Level	Donald Selph, Chester, Ga.	C. H. Moore, Reynolds, Ga.		5	2		120					50.00	10.00			260.00
Pleasant Hill	Viola Hobbs, Vienna, Ga., R. 3	Manse Cason, Seville, Ga.		2			112					91.50	10.00			275.00
Singers Chapel	B. M. Nichols, Cordele, Ga.	N. R. Sullivan, Pinehurst, Ga.	2-4				8						4.00			