

2007

**Minutes of The
One Hundred Twelfth Annual Session
of the
GEORGIA UNION ASSOCIATION**

held at

**CHRISTIAN HILL
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rochelle, Georgia**

Saturday, October 13, 2007

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Moderator Trent Dykes
Assistant Moderator W.E. (Bill) Brown
Clerk Henrietta Brown
Assistant Clerk Daniel Williams
Treasurer Paul Creech
Assistant Treasurer Emory Howell
Member at Large Nita Hobbs

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DATES AND PLACES TO REMEMBER

1st Quarterly Session	January 12, 2008	Cornerstone
2nd Quarterly Session	April 12, 2008	Crossroads
3rd Quarterly Session	July 12, 2008	Double Branch
Annual Session	October 11, 2008	Dublin

SPEAKERS FOR EACH SESSION (subject to change)

January	Emory Howell
April	Tony Howell
July	Tim Hutchinson
October	Grover Jewell

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF BUSINESS SESSIONS

Call to order by Moderator
Open meeting with prayer
Welcome visitors
Recognize deacons
Roll call of delegates
Roll call of ministers
Seat delegates
Read and adopt minutes of last meeting
Reports of committees
New Business
Old Business
Miscellaneous business

GENERAL OFFICERS

Moderator (2009)	Trent Dykes 171 Free Will Church Rd. Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-8957
Assistant Moderator (2008)	W.E. (Bill) Brown 540 Parker Road Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-8746
Clerk (2009)	Henrietta Brown 540 Parker Road Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-8746
Assistant Clerk (2008)	Daniel Williams 4266 Abbeville Hwy. Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3282
Treasurer (2009)	Paul Creech 6332 Cary Drive Macon, GA 31216	478-781-5502
Assistant Treasurer (2008)	Emory Howell 387 Empire/Chester Hwy Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-9646
Member at Large (2009)	Nita Hobbs 9465 Hwy 215 Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-6211

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Trent Dykes	171 Free Will Church Rd., Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-8957
W.E. (Bill) Brown	540 Parker Rd., Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-8746
Henrietta Brown	540 Parker Road, Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-8746
Tom Douglas	132 Francis Drive, Macon, GA 31216	478-781-8631
Paul Creech	6332 Carey Drive, Macon, GA 31216	478-781-5502
Monte McKenzie	31 Liberty Street, Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-892-8178
Eugene Ross	126 Jones Rd., Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-4566
Nita Hobbs	9465 Hwy. 215, Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-6211
(Ordaining Board representative TBD)		

TRUSTEE BOARD (Five-Year Terms)

(2008) Donald Self	Rt. 6, Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-4544
(2009) Jimmy Rozier	3222 Maynard Mill Rd., Forsyth, GA 31088	478-994-9839
(2010) Marion Collins	7000 Clay Circle, Macon, GA 31216	478-788-8530
(2011) Eugene Ross	126 Jones Rd., Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-4566
(2012) Edward Moore	Rt. 6, Box 195, Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3217

ORDAINING BOARD (Five-Year Terms)

(2008) W.E. (Bill) Brown	540 Parker Rd., Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-8746
(2009) Ricky Gilmore	5025 Chester Hwy., Chester, GA 31012	478-358-4477
(2010) Charles Thigpen	422 Southland Trail, Byron, GA 31008	478-956-4046
(2011) Gene Ross	126 Jones Rd., Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-4566
(2012) Tim Hutchinson	515 Tucker St., Dublin, GA 31021	478-296-0711

CAMPING BOARD (Five-Year Terms)

(2008) Travis Sanders	Rt. 1, Box 269, Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-0621
(2009) Paul Creech	6332 Carey Drive, Macon, GA 31216	478-781-5502
(2010) Ricky Gilmore	5025 Chester Hwy., Chester, GA 31012	478-358-4477
(2011) Glen Smith	Rt. 3, Box 6120, Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-783-4898
(2012) Monte McKenzie	31 Liberty Street, Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-892-8178

DIGEST COMMITTEE (Three-Year Terms)

(2008) Daniel Williams	4266 Abbeville Hwy, Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3282
(2009) Gene Collins	1051 N. Pine Knoll Drive, Macon, GA 31204	478-405-9939
(2010) Ricky Gilmore	5025 Chester Hwy., Chester, GA 31012	478-358-4477

MISSION BOARD (Two-Year Terms)

(2008) Emory Howell	387 Empire/Chester Hwy, Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-9646
(2008) Gene Ross	126 Jones Rd., Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-4566
(2008) W.E. Brown	540 Parker Road, Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-8746
(2009) Paul Creech	6332 Carey Drive, Macon, GA 31216	478-781-5502
(2009) Tim Hutchinson	515 Tucker St., Dublin, GA 31021	478-296-0711

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD (Three-Year Terms)

(2008) Monte McKenzie	31 Liberty Street, Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-892-8178
(2009) Tom Douglas	132 Francis Drive, Macon, GA 31216	478-781-8631
(2009) Tony Howell	22 Beechwood Dr., Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3356
(2009) Harold Dunaway	Rt. 3, Box 3150, Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-892-2949
(2010) Stewart Allen Clark	Rt. 3, Box 3500, Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-892-9474

STATE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

(2008) Ordaining Board	TBD	
(2009) Mission Board	Paul Creech	478-781-5502
(2009) Christian Ed. Board	Tom Douglas	478-781-8631
(2011) Trustee Board	Gene Ross	478-783-2072
(2012) Camp Board	Monte McKenzie	478-892-8178

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Elected Each Year)

MINISTERS

Honor Roll (exempt from reporting)

Faircloth, Howard	563 Lawndale Dr., Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3017
McFadden, Richard	4662 Brookhaven Rd., Macon, GA 31206	478-474-9522
Powell, Elbert	Rt. 1, Box 114, Chester, GA 31012	478-934-4348
Sharpston, Billy	1079 Pine Knoll Dr., Macon, GA 31204	478-405-7891
Charles Thigpen	422 Southland Trail, Byron, GA 31008	478-956-4046

Ordained/Active

Brown, W.E.	540 Parker Road, Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-8746
Clark, Stewart Allen	Rt. 3, Box 3500, Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-892-9474
Creech, Paul	6332 Carey Drive, Macon, GA 31216	478-781-5502
Dixon, James	Rt. 4, Box 260, Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-5219
Dykes, Trent	171 Free Will Church Rd., Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-8957
Gilmore, Ricky	Rt. 1, Box 236, Chester, GA 31012	478-358-4477
Hardeman, Charles	103 Golf Course Rd., Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3618
Howell, Emory	387 Empire/Chester Hwy, Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-9646
Howell, Tony	22 Beechwood Dr., Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3356
Hutchinson, Tim	515 Tucker St., Dublin, GA 21021	478-296-0711
Jewell, Grover	118 Quinelle Drive, Perry, GA 31069	478-218-8750
Lawson, Ronnie	561 Old Brookfield Rd., Tifton, GA 31794	912-382-8149
Martin, Wayne	1325 Mitchell Road, Rochelle, GA 31079	229-624-2066
Parkerson, Myron	1317 Reedy Branch Rd., Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-5951
Ross, Gene	126 Jones Rd., Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-4566
Rozier, Jimmy	3222 Maynard Mill Rd., Forsyth, GA 31029	478-994-9839

Licensed Ministers

Daniel Williams	4266 Abbeville Hwy. Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3282
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FIRST QUARTERLY SESSION

Georgia Union Minutes

January 13, 2007

First Free Will Baptist Church, Warner Robins, Ga.

The Georgia Union Association met on January 13, 2007, at the First FWB Church in Warner Robins.

Following the singing of "I'm Getting Ready to leave this world," a devotion was given by Al Fordham from the book Bible Facts About Heaven. He spoke of the comfort he got from this book following the death of his son John.

Host Pastor Bro. Jimmy Rozier welcomed everyone and gave general information about the church. Moderator Trent Dykes called the meeting to order. Following the opening prayer Bro. Trent entertained a motion to adopt the program with necessary changes. He then recognized the 16 deacons present.

The clerk called the roll of ministers. Present were 14 active ministers, 2 honor roll ministers and 1 licensed minister.

Bro. Trent welcomed Chris Clifton, interim pastor at Mt. Ararat.

The clerk then read the recommendations from the Executive Board:

That we change the format for the Quarterly Meetings in January and July, making them Fellowship Meetings. Any essential business can be handled as well.

That today's offering go to Sandra and Dale Bishop, missionaries to Japan.

That we give a rising vote of thanks to First Free Will Baptist Church, Warner Robins, for their gracious hospitality in hosting today's meeting.

All carried

Bro. Paul Creech gave the Mission Board report:

The board had two meetings since the last association meeting. One was immediately following the Oct. meeting and one by phone. These two meetings concerned the sale of the property in Hawkinsville that was donated to the Georgia Union Mission board several months ago. The four-acre piece was on the market for about three hours and we agreed on a selling price of \$15,000. We incurred closing costs of \$100, netting the Georgia Union Mission Board \$14,900. This property was purchased by the owner of the adjoining land, and he intends to build a home on that property.

We have \$24,638.03 in the Georgia Union Mission Board checking account. We have \$15,425.37 in our Georgia Union Mission Board certificate of deposit. This gives us a balance of \$40,073.40. MSC to accept as information.

CE Board report from Tom Douglas mentioned four upcoming events: Couples Retreat Feb. 16-17; Ga. Union Youth Competition April 21 at White Oaks; the State Youth Competition May 4 and 5; and the Ride for Mission date and details to be announced. The CE Board has \$1923.29 in its treasury. MSC to accept as information.

Camp Board report given by Bro. Paul Creech showed that the Teen Winter Retreat was a success. Tommy Swindoll, youth minister from Michigan, came and challenged our youth on the topic of Holy Ground. Each service was filled with uplifting singing, powerful preaching and young people responding to God's voice. Several from the Georgia Union Assn. were present. Monte McKenzie was very involved in the services and ran sound for the event. Bro. Paul then reported that this will be his last time to give the Camp Board report. Although he will remain on the board, he will not be chairman. There is \$1,877.80 in the camp board checking account. MSC to accept as information

Digest Committee report given by Bro. Gene Collins showed 15 churches report-

ing; 33 members added; 7 members lost; a net gain of 26; 5 baptisms; and total offerings of \$213,164.63.

Bro. Trent read letter from Len Blanchard regarding representation on state boards. The chairman of each board is our representative on the corresponding state board. These are:

Monte McKenzie – Camp Board

Tom Douglas – Christian Education Board

Paul Creech – Mission Board

Eugene Ross – Trustee Board

Reconvened following a brief recess with the congregation singing “Revive Us Again”

Bro. Howard Faircloth led in prayer

Daniel Williams led offertory prayer; received offering

Special Music - Jimmy Rozier - “Leaving on my Mind”

Trio from First FWB sang “I Call It Home”

Trent asked for prayer requests. They included: Myron Parkerson, Corine Hearn, Roger Wilds, Jones Family, Bro. Al’s wife, Parker family, Andrew Dyer, Ann Ross’ great-niece, Bro. Gene’s sister Ruth, families of deceased pastors. He then led in prayer.

Rev. James Dixon brought the message using versed from 2 Peter 3 as his text.

Purpose: I want to stir up your mind by way of remembrance. We need to hide God’s word in our hearts so the Holy Spirit can remind us of it. Bro. James reminded us of the soon return of Jesus and admonished us to be ready. Most people don’t admit Jesus is who He said he is because they don’t want to be responsible for living the right way. He pointed out that just as God has prepared a place for those who follow Jesus, he has also prepared a place for those who reject him — hell.

Where is the promise of His coming? Many years have passed since we first heard this, but we can know for sure that He will come again. There is a difference in being willingly ignorant and unwillingly ignorant. Many times we don’t want to know things because then we are responsible for them. We need to realize that God is long-suffering and he does keep his promises.

Invitation “Just As I Am”

Treasurer’s report - Paul Creech: Beginning balance \$3,403.52; dues received \$755.00; new balance \$4,158.52. Minister Retirement Fund beginning balance \$4,875.10; none received; same balance. Total balance both accounts: \$9,033.62

Trustee Board report - Eugene Ross: We have an offer on church property in Perry in the amount of \$125,000 from The Way Baptist Church. The board recommended accepting this offer and disbursing the proceeds as follows: \$25,000 to Cornerstone Church; \$100,000 to Ga. Union Mission Board. MSC by unanimous vote.

Delegates to State Meeting were appointed: Henrietta Brown, Donna Jewell, Suzann Hutchinson, Charlotte Ross, Jo Ann Lysaker, alternate

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Henrietta Brown, Clerk

Trent Dykes, Moderator

SECOND QUARTERLY SESSION

Georgia Union Minutes

April 7, 2007

White Oaks FWB Church

The Georgia Union Association met on April 7, 2007, at the White Oaks FWB Church, Macon.

The meeting was opened in prayer by Bro. Eugene Ross. Following the singing of "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," led by Bro. Paul Creech, a devotion was given by Shine Collins about discipline and love, using Rom. 12:16 and Matt 22:37 as his text.

Host Pastor Bro. Paul Creech welcomed everyone and gave general information about the church. Moderator Trent Dykes called the meeting to order and called for a motion to change the printed program as needed. MSC He then recognized the 11 deacons present.

The clerk called the roll of delegates and then the roll of ministers. Present were 11 active ministers, 1 honor roll minister and 1 licensed minister. The delegates were then seated.

Bro Shine Collins was appointed to help with the Digest Committee

The clerk then read the recommendations from the Executive Board. Exec. Board: Georgia Union has had an account with the FWB Foundation for several years. We recommend that the funds from this account be added to the Mission Board CD.

That today's offering go to Thad Douglas who will represent Georgia on the Youth Evangelism Team

That we give a rising vote of thanks to White Oaks FWB Church for their generous hosting today's meeting.

All carried

Bro. Paul Creech gave the Mission Board report: On the local level there was not much activity to report. We did sell the Hawkinsville property and have those funds on hand.

On the state level, our state mission board is encouraged with what God is doing in our midst. The Cartersville work is going well. Attendance is averaging 60-65 and they have rented their third facility which has been a real encouragement to them. Bro. Bill Crank leads that mission work. In Valdosta, Bro. Bill Lewis is doing good. The attendance is about 15-16, with several young couples coming to help him there. The property has been sold for \$265,000.00. They are now meeting in a rented storefront. There has been some dissension among the members of the former church there, yet Bro. Bill remains committed to planting a church in Lowndes County. The State mission board received the Tifton Church property and has sold it for \$135,000.00; the funds will be used to minister in Tift County. We desire to hire another church planter to go to Harris County in the Columbus area. Please pray with us about our ministry to the lost in Georgia.

Treasury balances: CD, \$15,435.37; Checking \$24,852.10; Total \$40,287.47. A motion was made to combine the CD and all proceeds from sale of Hawkinsville property with the FWB Foundation. When the Perry property sells, those monies will also be placed in this fund. MSC MSC to accept as information

CE Board report from Tom Douglas

1. Biking for Missions has been discussed and is being planned for later this year. No date set yet.

2. State Youth Competition at White Oaks May 5, 2007

3. Ministers' Retreat April 23-25 at Ft. Gaines. Will Harmon will be the speaker.

4. National Youth Competition July 15-19 in Little Rock, Ark.

5. YET team will be at White Oaks June 22

6. State planning for a youth tour comprised of competition winners.
Money in CE Board account: \$2,323.29. MSC to accept as information.

Paul Creech gave the Camp Board Report: Announced plans for the Ga. Union Jr. Camp and the Georgia State Teen Camp. 1877.80 in account. MSC to receive as information

Jimmy Rozier reported that the Ordaining Board had conducted no business this past quarter. – Bro. Myron Parkerson is due for ordination vote next meeting

Trustee Board Report: Bro. Eugene asked Bro. Grover Jewell to report on sale of Cornerstone property – Hope to close on the sale soon. Loan has been approved, documentation complete. Bro. Eugene read proposed changes to Trustee Board constitution. Tabled until the second session.

Digest Committee report given by Bro. Daniel Williams showed 14 churches reporting; 7 members added; 12 members lost; 1 baptized; \$183,801.53 total offerings.

Paul Creech led in offertory prayer – Daniel Williams played “I Will Serve Thee”.

We reconvened following a brief recess Bro. Paul led the congregation in singing “I’ll Fly Away.”

Special Music – Craig Williamson sang “Because He Lives” and “Sweet Beulah Land” with guitar and harmonica accompaniment

Message by Rev. Trent Dykes using as his text I Peter 5

Methods may change but the message is still the same. The message is and must always be Jesus Christ.

Main points:

Pastors’ main responsibility is to feed the flock

Church members should be just as called as preachers –

Our primary focus should be to be a witness for Christ

We need to do things God’s way, not our way

We need to be in a love affair with Jesus and share that with the world

Quit worrying about the legalistic things and start winning souls for Christ

Leaders need to pray for their church

You are not alone – we need to build our relationships so we have the support we need

We need to always please God and not worry about what others think

Treasurer’s report – Paul Creech: Beginning Balance \$3752.76. Dues received today - \$615.00. New Balance \$4367.76 Retirement fund beginning balance \$4,725.10. Received today - \$0. Total in both funds - \$9,092.86. Today’s offering \$144.00

MSC to receive as information

It was recommended that we keep a copy of each year’s minute book, significant documents and records for the past five years. All other records will be given to the Georgia Free Will Baptist Historical Commission to be archived as they deem fit. MSC to do this.

Report on Roger Wilds – doing well

Announcements

Remove trustee item from table and put on floor – MSC

MSC to accept changes. A copy of the changes is included in this document.

Prayer requests taken – Hearn family, Christian Hill Church, Lindsey Tomberlin – brain tumor, teen and junior camps, military troops and families

Praise item – good state meeting at White Oaks, Sister Ross for answered prayer

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Bro. Tony Howell.

Henrietta Brown, Clerk

Trent Dykes, Moderator

THIRD QUARTERLY SESSION

Georgia Union Minutes

July 7, 2007

Bay Springs Church

The meeting was opened with the congregation singing "I Love to Tell the Story" led by Chad Smith. The opening prayer was offered by Paul Creech.

Devotional by host pastor Trent Dykes was from Romans 8:28

Welcome by moderator Trent Dykes

We had special prayer for Eugene Ross who was in the hospital.

MSC to adopt program with necessary changes

Dr. Charles Thigpen was welcomed as a visitor

The moderator welcomed the 20 deacons present.

The clerk called the roll of ministers and delegates

Executive board report given by the clerk was as follows: The Executive Board met June 23, 2007, at the first Free Will Baptist Church in Warner Robins. The Board sent a letter to the Ordaining Board requesting them to investigate the credentials of Rev. Benny Lafferty. The Board makes the following recommendations: That today's offering go to the FWBBC Drama Team; That we give the Bay Springs Church a rising vote of thanks for their warm and generous hospitality in hosting today's meeting. MSC to adopt

Bro. Jimmy Rozier gave the Ordaining Board Report: Recommendation for ordaining Myron Parkerson – MSC. Letter from White Oaks requesting letter for Dr. Charles Thigpen from Tennessee - MSC.

The congregation sang "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" –

Chad Smith rendered special music – "Shout to the Lord"

Trent Dykes sang a special – "He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need"

Rev. Ricky Gilmore gave the morning message using as his text Psalm 78:12 ff

Can God? The God we serve can do all things. Today people question whether God can still bring revival, save people, bring fire in a church like it used to be. We need to be assured God can! All He needs is someone willing to let go and let Him work.

Bro. Ricky pointed out that preachers need to preach what lost people need to hear regardless of what consequences they might fear. We need to have confidence in God and believe that He can still use us.

Announcements were made following the break: Next meeting at Christian Hill due to building program at Bethlehem

The congregation sang happy birthday to Bro. Tony Howell.

Treasurer's Report given by Paul Creech was as follows: Beginning balance in assn. fund – 4367.76. Dues received today – 750.00. New balance – 5117.76

Beginning balance in Ministers' Retirement Fund – 4725.10. Retirement money received today – 30.00. Balance in Minister's Retirement Fund – 4755.10. Total in both funds – 9872.82. Offering received today - \$192.00. MSC to receive

Digest Report was given by Gene Collins – 13 churches reporting: 21 members added; 2 members lost; 19 net gain; 6 baptized; \$200,368.64 total offerings. MSC to receive

Following the conclusion of the business, the Drama Team from Free Will Baptist Bible College presented a play based on events and conversation in the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany that might have taken place after the ascension of Jesus.

Dr. Thigpen led the closing prayer and we were dismissed. Dinner followed in the church's fellowship hall.

Henrietta Brown, clerk

Trent Dykes, moderator

ANNUAL SESSION
Georgia Union Minutes
October 13, 2007
Christian Hill Free Will Baptist Church

The Georgia Union Association met on Oct. 13, 2007, at Christian Hill Church. Moderator Trent Dykes called the meeting to order. Bro. Grover Jewell opened in prayer. The congregation sang "Living By Faith." Host pastor Wayne Martin welcomed everyone and gave general information about the church.

Bro. Wayne read from Psalm 33:4ff

MSC to adopt program with necessary changes.

Moderator recognized the 19 deacons present. The clerk called the roll of the delegates (29) and ministers (16) and the moderator asked all of the delegates to stand. MSC to seat the 64 delegates.

The clerk read the minutes of the July meeting. MSC to accept as read.

It was announced that new maps for all the churches had been done by Bro. Bill Brown and were available at the meeting.

Moderator read the recommendations from the executive board:

1. Today's offering to Alabama Children's Home
2. That we give a rising vote of thanks to Christian Hill Church for their hospitality in hosting the today's session.

MSC to adopt.

Bro. Paul Creech the Mission Board report as follows: New state missionary – Jay Hollis. Ga FWB Mission Board is responsible for over \$1,000,000. Valdosta property sold for \$265,000. The board is looking for property in Cartersville and Valdosta. Bill Lewis improving following heart attack – preaching this Sunday

On the local level, we have not had a mission's emphasis in this area. We have been blessed with bountiful financial blessings also. The sale of the Cornerstone property in Perry, along with the sale of the Hawkinsville property have resulted in those proceeds being placed with this local mission board. Currently we have the following funds on hand: Checking - \$127,015.82; CD in central GA - \$ 15,435.37; FWB Foundation - \$6,201.23; Total \$148,652.42 MSC to adopt as information.

The following Christian Education Board report was given by Tom Douglas: \$2,331 in treasury; District Youth competition April 5-8; State Youth competition May ; Ga. Union had three to place in NYC; Thad Douglas on YET. MSC to accept

Camping board report Paul Creech: Good camping season; Working on junior camp dates with special effort to accommodate school schedules; \$2396.36 in treasury. MSC to accept

Ordaining report was read by Jimmy Rozier: In response to the request of the Executive Board to investigate the good standing of Bro. Benny Lafferty, it is the finding of this board that, of his admittance, Bro. Benny has remarried after being divorced. According to Georgia Union By-Laws and Constitution, he no longer meets the requirements to hold credentials as a minister. After meeting with Bro. Benny and having much discussion on this matter, and with some members having reservations, the recommendation of this board is to ask Bro. Benny to surrender his credentials. MSC to accept as read.

Yielded floor to Benny Lafferty who addressed the body with his side of the issue. Motion to accept recommendation. Discussion ensued . Call for the vote

Motion: That we take the recommendation from the ordaining council to require Benny Lafferty to surrender his credentials.

Motion to amend the motion – Wait six month and ask ordaining council to revisit the

issue of divorce and remarriage.

MS – failed (29 for, 28 against, 7 abstain – 2/3 majority required)

Vote to rescind credentials carried – (33 for, 25 against)

Offertory Prayer by Bill Brown

Adjourned for lunch –

Reconvened with “I’ll Fly Away;” Prayer by Bro. Jimmy Rozier

Special Music was rendered: “Speak the Word” and “I’ll Not Turn My Back on Him Now”

Message by Bro. Charles Hardeman

Scripture Genesis 6:22

Bro. Charles pointed out that Noah did ALL that God asked him to do. Noah walked among evil but he stayed true to God. He said that we are experiencing the failure of the home as evidenced by the number of children in trouble and the divorce rate.

Genesis 8:1 – Bro. Charles noted that even as Noah was in the ark looking out at the devastation, we are in the ark of safety when we are in Jesus.

Had Noah not found grace in the eyes of the Lord, we would not be here today. Because of that same grace, we have the promise of eternal life.

Several people responded to the altar call and the challenge to do all that God asks us to do.

Digest Committee Report given by Gene Collins -15 churches reporting, 12 members added, 19 members lost, net loss 7, 5 baptized, \$169,496.84 offerings. MSC

Nominating committee report given by Jimmy Rozier:

Moderator – Trent Dykes

Clerk – Henrietta Brown

Treasurer – Paul Creech

Member at large – Nita Hobbs

Trustee member – Replacing Edward Moore, Edward Moore

Ordaining board –

Replacing James Dixon – Tim Hutchinson

Replacing Jimmy Rozier – W.E. Brown

Replacing Billy Sharpston – Charles Thigpen pending his acceptance (Dr. Thigpen was not present, but has been contacted and has accepted this position.)

Camping board – Monte McKenzie

Digest Committee

Replacing Frances Dixon – Ricky Gilmore

Mission Board – Replacing Paul Creech, Paul Creech

CE Board – Replacing Stewart-Allen Clark, Stewart-Allen Clark

State board - Mission Board, replacing Paul Creech, Paul Creech

All were elected by acclamation

Treasurer’s report was given by Bro. Paul Creech: Balance in general fund, \$6,140.43; Balance in ministers’ retirement fund, \$5,215.69; Total checking (Both accounts) \$11,356.12. Today’s offering for Alabama Children’s Home \$1194.00. MSC to accept as information.

Announcements and prayer requests were given.

Motion to adjourn

Closing prayer by Billy Sharpston.

Henrietta Brown, Clerk

Trent Dykes, Moderator

CONSTITUTION OF GEORGIA UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

(Revised 1980; 1/81; 4/82; 4/89; 1/90; 6/91; 10/92; 10/93; 10/95; 10/97;
6/98; 4/99; 1/00; 4/00; 10/00)

ARTICLE I

Section 1: This assembly shall be known as the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

Section 2: This Association and its member churches adopt the Treatise of Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II

Section 1: Any well organized Free Will Baptist Church or Mission, conveniently located to the majority of the member churches may apply for membership in this Association. The applicant church or mission must conform to the faith and practices and adopt the doctrines established by the National Association of Free Will Baptists and any further requirements established by this Association.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall investigate and submit their recommendation to this Association before any church or mission can be accepted into this body.

Section 3: This Association may discipline member churches or missions, if labor proves unsuccessful, by exclusion or withdrawing fellowship. However, in no case can this Association reverse the church or mission's decision, nor interfere with any of their internal regulations.

Section 4: A two-thirds majority vote of this body is required for acceptance or exclusion of any church or mission.

Section 5: Ministers, deacons, officers, committee and board members in good standing shall be standing delegates to this Association and shall duly attend.

Section 6: Each church or mission shall be entitled to the following delegates with full voting privileges: 50 members or below - 3 delegates; over 50 members - 3 delegates plus 2 for each 50 members or fraction thereof.

Section 7: The Association fee for each meeting shall be:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1-25	\$35	26-50	\$40	51-75	\$45
76-100	\$50	101-125	\$55	126-150	\$60

Over 150: \$70 plus \$5 for every 25 members over 150.

Section 8: The \$100 National Fee is due from each church on or before the Annual Meeting.

Section 9: This Association shall adopt a budget for the next associational year at the Annual Meeting. The Executive Board shall recommend a budget for the new associational year during the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE III

Section 1: The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer and assistant treasurer. They shall serve two-year terms, with tenure beginning immediately at the close of the October session.

Section 2 The moderator shall preside over each Association meeting according to established parliamentary usage. It shall be his duty to see that all business is carried on in a way pleasing to God. The moderator is chairman of the Executive Board and shall call this Board into session as needed. The moderator is an ex-officio member of all committees and boards as needed. He shall be the official representative of this Association.

Section 3. The clerk shall keep accurate minutes of each Association and Executive Board meeting. He shall prepare the minutes for publication and see that they are printed and available for distribution at the January session. He is responsible for the correspondence and records of this Association.

Section 4. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds as directed by this Association. He shall be chairman of the Finance Committee and will submit a financial report to this body during each session.

Section 5. The assistants to the above officers shall serve in the full capacity of the office when the elected officer is absent or unable to serve.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall receive a mileage rate that reflects the current IRS specified rate.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1(A). The Executive Board shall consist of the Chairman of the Trustee Board, Mission Board, Christian Education Board, Camp Board, Ordaining Board, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and one member elected at large. These above Boards shall meet immediately after the October session to elect a chairman and notify the clerk. The Executive Board is the official body of this Association when not in session and is empowered to act on behalf of this assembly on matters that, in the judgment of this Board, should not be delayed until the next session. The moderator shall be chairman of this Board.

(B) All churches or missions applying for membership in this body will be investigated by this Board before the vote can be taken. This Board shall have the right to investigate any church or mission belonging to this Association concerning their doctrinal views. Matters submitted to this Board should be in writing and signed.

Section 2(A). The Ordaining Board shall consist of five ministers in good standing, elected to five-year terms on a staggered basis.

(B) They shall be paid the current IRS mileage rate for work done between Sessions.

(C) They shall investigate and question candidates for licensing or ordination as they deem necessary and as outlined by other regulations adopted by this assembly. They shall have the authority to deal with and investigate discipline problems on a case basis. All requests for investigations must be submitted in writing and signed, preferably with two or more witnesses.

(D) No candidate for licensing or ordination may come to this body for a vote until the recommendation of this Board has been submitted.

Section 3. The Mission Board shall consist of five members in good standing, having a zeal for missions. They shall have the general oversight of all missions supported by this assembly as outlined in the Constitution of the Mission Board. The Board shall submit a report of activities to this body during each session.

Section 4. The Christian Education Board shall consist of five (5) members in good standing. They shall have the general responsibility of all Christian Education endeavors.

ors of this Association as outlined in the Constitution of the CE Board. The Board shall submit a report of activities to this body during each session.

Section 5. The Digest Committee shall consist of three members in good standing, elected to three-year terms on a staggered basis. They shall compile the information from the church letters and submit a report to this assembly during each session.

Section 6. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members in good standing, elected for a term of one year from the floor. They shall submit their recommended nominees for all officers, boards and committee members with expired terms, to the October session. They should meet as a committee and contact each nominee, if possible, for their approval prior to placing their names in nomination. Additional nominees may be submitted by any delegates, except members of the Nominating Committee, during the session.

Section 7. The Finance Committee is to consist of three members in good standing that have knowledge of financial matters. They shall function at each quarterly meeting to count all monies and report to the treasurer the results of each financial tally, using appropriately prepared forms for such reports. These members will be elected yearly.

Section 8. Temporary committees (such as a resolutions committee) may be appointed as needed during any session to carry on the business or to address any prevailing subject of the current times as may be determined by this body.

Section 9. The Chairman of the Christian Education, Missions, Camp and Trustee Boards shall normally be the state representatives on the respective state boards.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. This Association shall meet on the Saturday before the second Sunday in January, April, July and October of each year. Meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of each member church or mission to represent themselves quarterly by letter and delegates and to report their standings and statistics. All matters requiring the attention of a committee, board or ordaining board should be in writing and submitted to the clerk.

Section 3. This Association shall have the power to adopt any regulation or bylaws, not consistent with the Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of this assembly.

Section 4. This Association shall act upon such questions as topics referred to it by its member churches and transact any other business not repugnant to this Constitution or to the practices of the Denomination.

Section 5. (A) The Executive Board shall be the Program Committee and shall be responsible for the speakers and program outline.

(B) The member churches normally rotate alphabetically in hosting this Association but may ask to be excused for cause.

Section 6. The parliamentary procedures in this meeting shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1. This Constitution and Bylaws shall not be changed or altered except by two-thirds majority of all members present at a regular session. All proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be read in open session during the morning, then tabled until afternoon. The amendment can then be removed from the table, read again and

acted upon.

Section 2. No action concerning changes of this Constitution or Bylaws can be taken until all Committees are present.

BYLAWS

(Revised 1985; 10/87; 6/91; 1/00; 10/00)

1. Any member who, in the judgment of this Association, shows anger in discussing any subject shall forfeit their seat in that session.
2. No member shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the moderator.
3. In the absence of the appointed speaker for devotions and messages of each session, the moderator shall appoint said individual. Also in the absence of the moderator and assistant moderator, the clerk shall call the session to order and elect a moderator pro-tem for that session.
4. All ministers on roll shall attend at least two meetings a year or send a letter or oral message explaining their absence in order to remain in good standing with this Association. Ministers on honor roll are exempt from this requirement.
5. The Association shall always adjourn by vote and prayer.
6. There shall be a finance committee chosen to work with the treasurer, and report to this Association.
7. The Association shall always open and close with prayer and praise to God.
8. The Executive Board shall be in charge of disbursement of the retirement fund for retired ministers.
9. Excess funds from this Association, after all expenses have been paid at the end of each fiscal year, and a reasonable balance maintained, shall be distributed to the various boards as deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GEORGIA UNION CAMPING BOARD

(Adopted 6/98)

ARTICLE I

Section 1. The name of this Board shall be the Camping Board of the Georgia Union Association.

Section 2. The purpose of this Board shall be to plan, promote and provide the camping programs of this Association, and to coordinate joint camping efforts with other Free Will Baptists when practical.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. This Board shall consist of five members.

Section 2. Board members shall serve five-year terms on a staggered basis, with one member rotating off each year.

Section 3. Each member of this Board shall be elected by the members of this Association in regular conference.

Section 4. Members should be nominated and elected on the basis of their proven interests in camping.

Section 5. This Board shall be responsible for the election of its own officers.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The officers of this Board shall be a chairman and a secretary/treasurer.

Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be:

A. Chairman:

- *Preside over each meeting according to established parliamentary procedure.
- *Serve as ex-officio member of all committees of the Board.
- *Represent the Association on the State Camping Board.
- *Provide oral and written reports of this Board's activities to the Association.

B. Secretary/Treasurer:

- *Keep minutes of all Board meetings.
- *Receive and disburse all monies as directed by this Board.
- *Maintain clear and comprehensive financial records, reporting same to the quarterly Association.
- *Prepare written reports for the chairman to present to the Association.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. This Board shall strive to meet at least once every quarter, more often as necessary.

Section 2. The chairman may call special meetings when necessary.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. Financial support of this Board shall be obtained from every possible source.
(A) Georgia Union Association funds when available, state funds, gifts, fees, etc.

Section 2. Plan, promote and provide summer camp experience for school-aged youth on a yearly basis.

- (A) Associational
- (B) Multi-associational
- (C) State-wide

BYLAWS

1. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended in any regular session in the Georgia Union Association.

(A) Amendments must receive a 2/3 majority vote.

(B) Standard parliamentary practice and procedure must be followed.

2. Mileage reimbursement shall be at the current IRS rate.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD

(Revised 1/82; 4/94; 7/95; 6/98; 10/00)

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. The name of this Board shall be the Christian Education Board of the Georgia Union Association.

Section 2. The purpose of this Board shall be to promote and execute all phases of Christian Education set forth in this Constitution and as may be delegated to the Board by the Georgia Union Association.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERS

Section 1. This Board shall consist of five (5) members, three of which may serve to be a quorum. One or two or more shall be laymen.

Section 2. Each Board Member will serve for three years. The first year of the cycle, the terms of two board members shall expire, the second year, the terms of two more board members shall expire, and the third year, the term of one board member shall expire. The cycle will then be repeated.

Section 3. Each member of this Board shall be elected by the Georgia Union Association.

Section 4. Each member of this Board shall show an interest in promoting Christian Education. He shall attend as many meetings as possible and as many functions sponsored by this Board as possible. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the Board and a replacement sought immediately.

Section 5. This Board shall be responsible for election of its own officers and directors for each of its activities.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Board shall be a chairman, vice-chairman and a secretary/treasurer, to be elected annually by the Board.

Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be (a) The chairman shall preside over each meeting according to established parliamentary procedures and shall appoint all committees. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees; (b) The vice-chairman shall serve in the full capacity of the chairman when the chairman is unable to serve; (c) The secretary/treasurer shall keep the minutes of Board meetings, notes of other activities and is responsible for receiving and disbursing all finances as directed by this Board. He shall also make the reports as outlined in Article V.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. This Board shall meet often enough to see that its work is carried out effectively.

Section 2. The Board chairman may call special meetings when necessary.

ARTICLE V: REPORTS

This Board shall present a written report at each session of the Association, outlining the Board's immediate activities and future plans.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

This Board shall be supported by the quota of finances allotted to it by the Georgia Union Association, gifts from churches, registration fees from workshops, etc., and personal gifts.

ARTICLE VII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. This Board shall sponsor activities for the Association and its youth as deemed necessary throughout the year.

Section 2. These activities shall be financed with registration fees, offerings or other feasible means.

Section 3. This Board shall sponsor other activities such as retreats, workshops, seminars, teacher training courses, etc., at its discretion.

BYLAWS

1. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended in any regular session of the Georgia Union Association and by a 2/3rds majority vote provided that the amendment was tabled in the morning session.

2. Board members shall be reimbursed for their meetings to called meetings, other mileage shall be reimbursed at the discretion of the Board.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE GEORGIA UNION MISSION BOARD

(Adopted 1975; Revised 1979; 7/81; 10/87; 10/98; 4/01)

PREAMBLE

We, the Georgia Union Association of the Original Free Will Baptists, do ordain this Constitution and Bylaws for the purpose of promoting all missions endeavors of the Georgia Union Association

ARTICLE I

NAME: This organization shall be known as the Georgia Union Board of Missions of the Original Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERS: This Board shall be composed of five (5) members. (Members to be elected for a two (2) year period alternating by electing two (2) one year and three (3) the next year so as not to have an all new board at any time.) Each member must be a member in good standing with the church that is a member in good standing with the Georgia Union Association. If any member is employed by the Board or is called to work with or pastor a Mission or Mission Church supported by the Board, he will make this known to this Association and relinquish his position on the Mission Board. Members are elected at the discretion of the Association.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS: Officers of this Board shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, elected annually.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS: This Board shall hold four (4) regular meetings each year, to be decided by the Board and meetings when necessary to be called by the Chairman.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES: Committees shall be appointed by the Board or its Chairman as needs arise which would demand the work of a committee.

ARTICLE VI

REPORTS: **Section 1.** This Board should report annually to the Georgia Union Association, giving account of all funds received and disbursed and activities of the Board during this year and state the objectives and future plans for the following year. **Section 2.** The Secretary and Treasurer serving on the Mission Board shall submit written reports to the Board members as often as the Board may deem necessary. Also, reports shall be submitted through our state publications as often as may be deemed necessary by the Board.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE: This Board shall be supported by special offerings, Church and personal gifts.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1. MISSIONS. (A) Missions receiving help from this Board must either be established or accepted by this Board.

(B) This Board shall have authority over said mission in all matters in regard to calling a pastor and overseeing the mission work until such mission becomes a church.

(i) The Board reserves the right, in consultation with the mission, to regulate and reconcile the financial disbursements of any and all of the mission churches under its sponsorship with a view of helping these groups to remain financially solvent.

(ii) Neither the mission church nor the missionary shall incur any major indebtedness requiring monthly payments involving the work other than ordinary accounts, such as utilities, church supplies (literature, cleaning supplies, etc.), without written consent of the Board.

(iii) Neither the mission church nor the missionary shall involve themselves in site location or land purchase until the Board has first been notified of such intentions and has inspected and approved the proposed site or land purchase.

(iv) Any real estate of whatsoever type or style available and to be purchased, rented, leased or otherwise contracted for must first be approved by the Board. Final approval must be given by the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists in session with all titles and deeds or lease agreements being made in the name of the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

(v) Land purchases authorized by the Board and made in the name of the Board will be financed in a manner approved by the Board. Any appeals for funds with which to make such purchase shall be under the auspices and in the name of the Board for and in behalf of the mission church.

(vi) Title to any real property purchased for a mission church under the sponsorship of the Board shall be retained by the Board until such time as the mission church is organized into a bona-fide Free Will Baptist Church and is operating on a self-sustaining basis. At any time title will be transferred to the church, said title shall contain a revision clause as follows: "If _____ Free Will Baptist Church, located at _____, ever ceases for any reason(s) whatsoever to operate and function as a Free Will Baptist Church or pull themselves out of the Georgia Union Association, this property, with all the appurtenances thereto affixed and belonging, shall revert to the Board of Missions of the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists."

(vii) All missions must comply with Article VIII(1)(A) and signed by the pastor and clerk, as follows:

"We agree to abide by these guidelines:

Signed:

Mission Pastor

Mission Clerk

Board Chairman

Board Clerk"

(C) Inasmuch as responsive assistance and supervision both to the mission and from the Association is essential for successful mission work, the following counties shall be designated as the home missions field for this Mission Board: Bibb, Peach, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Laurens, Bleckley, Houston, Macon, Dooly, Pulaski, Dodge, Wheeler, Telfair, Wilcox, Crisp, and any additional counties as deemed expedient by the Mission Board and accepted by this Association.

Section 2. CHURCHES. (A) Any church receiving financial aid must accept such on conditions agreed upon by the Board and the Church.

(B) Any church finding itself unable to operate as such, may request mission status, or mission church status.

ARTICLE IX

STATUS. When the congregation has reached a stage where they desire to organize into a church, it shall request said status upon completion of an examination by the Georgia Union Association Executive Board using guidelines as set forth by the Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists for mission churches.

BYLAWS

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. CHAIRMAN. The Chairman shall preside over each meeting, preserve order, govern the body accordingly to established parliamentary usage, and appoint all temporary committees. He shall have the right to call meetings when it is necessary and where.

Section 2. VICE CHAIRMAN. It shall be the duty of the Vice Chairman to serve in the full capacity of the Chairman when the Chairman is absent.

Section 3. SECRETARY AND TREASURER. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all transactions and Board meetings and preserve the same, keep all valuable documents and surrender same to his successor in office, send out a report of the work of the Board as often as the Board requires. All funds shall be held and disbursed by the Treasurer at the approval of the Board.

Section 4. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS. The Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE I

QUORUM: Three (3) members will compose a quorum. Voting is restricted to members or their proxies.

ARTICLE II

AMENDMENTS: This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Georgia Union Association while in session.

The Constitution and By-laws of The Ordaining Board of The Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists

(Adopted July 2001)

(Revised Jan. 2002)

Article I

The Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this Board shall be the Ordaining Board of the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

Section 2. The purpose of the Ordaining Board shall be threefold:

The first purpose of the Ordaining Board shall be the furtherance of the message of salvation through Jesus Christ through the licensing, guidance, and ordaining of men who have answered God's call to preach the Gospel to the world.

The second purpose is to provide watch care over all ministers in the Association, concerning both their good standing in the association and their faithful adherence to the tenets of the faith and doctrines of the Word of God, as expressed and held by Georgia Union Free Will Baptists in *The Treatise of Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists*.

The third purpose of this Board is to promote a good and cooperative spirit among all the ministers in the Association.

Article II

Responsibilities of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. The first responsibility of this Board shall be to investigate, examine, and make recommendations to the Georgia Union Association, concerning applicants who desire to be licensed and/or ordained to preach the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2. The second responsibility of this Board is to examine and make recommendations to the Georgia Union Association concerning the acceptance of ministers who transfer into our association, into one of our churches as a pastor or in a similar position, and who are coming from other Free Will Baptist church associations or from other denominations. Established questionnaires and guidelines shall be used in all cases.

Section 3. The third responsibility of this Board shall be to investigate and make recommendations to the association concerning the retaining of ministerial credentials and the disciplining of ministers because of immoral conduct or their holding of doctrinal beliefs contrary to the treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, as held to by this Association. All requests for investigation of conduct must be submitted in writing and signed, with two or more witnesses.

The Board shall have the authority to thoroughly question a minister about doctrinal issues when such questions arise and make recommendations to the Association when their investigation is finished.

Section 4. The fourth responsibility of this Board shall be the oversight of our associational rules for good standing and the giving of recommendations to the Association regarding ministers within our association, who violate those associational rules for good standing.

Section 5. The fifth responsibility of this Board shall be the establishment of guidelines that govern doctrinal purity and proper ministerial conduct.

Article III

Members of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. Members of this Board shall consist of five ministers in good standing

elected in regular session by the Georgia Union Association.

Section 2. Board members shall be elected for a five-year term with one member of the Board rotating off the Board each year.

Section 3. Board members are expected to faithfully attend Board meetings.

Section 4. Board members shall be reimbursed at the current mileage rate of the IRS for their attendance at Board meetings.

Article IV

Officers of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. Officers. The officers of this Board shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Section 2. Election of Officers. Each officer shall be elected annually by the Board at the close of the October Annual Meeting of the Georgia Union Association.

Section 3. Duties of the Officers. The duties of the officers shall be:

The Chairman shall preside over each meeting, following parliamentary procedures established in *Roberts Rules of Order*, and shall be responsible for a written report to the Georgia Union Association each quarter.

2. The Vice-Chairman shall act as Chairman when the Chairman is unavailable.

3. The Secretary shall keep written minutes of all Board meetings.

Article V

The Meetings of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. This Board shall meet at least once each quarter.

Section 2. The time and place of the first Board meeting of the next quarter shall be announced at each Associational meeting and included in the Board's report.

Section 3. The attendance of three members shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI

Reports of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. Written reports of the Ordaining Board shall be given at each Georgia Union Associational Quarterly meeting, preferably by the Chairman.

Section 2. The quarterly report shall contain the following items:

1. Recommendations from the Board to the Georgia Union Association.

2. A brief summary of the Board's activities during the preceding quarter.

Section 3. A minority report shall be submitted on all recommendations that are not unanimous.

Article VII

Associational Bylaws of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. Rules for the Licensing of Ministers.

1. Applicant must be a member of the church recommending him, and if applicant is coming from another denomination or association, he shall be a member of the church recommending him for not less than three (3) months from the date of receiving the letter stating that he is in good standing with the church, denomination and association that he is leaving.

2. Applicant shall complete "The Georgia Union Association Application For Licensing of Ministers" and return it to the chairman of the Ordaining Board prior to the Ordaining Board meeting. The Ordaining Board shall study all applications for licensing before their meeting and then examine the candidate at their meeting. The Ordaining Board shall make a recommendation to the Georgia Union Association concerning each candidate for licensing. If approved by the Association, the candi-

date's local church shall issue him a license valid for one year. The candidate's license shall be renewed each year, providing his local church has recommended renewal of his license, the Ordaining Board examines the licensee and recommends renewal, and the Association votes approval.

3. Approved license shall carry the names of the pastor, clerk, and church issuing the license.

4. Applicant shall meet the qualifications as laid down in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, measure up to the standards of *The Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists* and our Church Covenant, which have been adopted by this body.

5. No applicant for license to the ministry will be eligible for license if he or his wife has more than one living husband or wife. Paul's statement in 1 Timothy 3:2, and Titus 1:6, namely, "the husband of one wife", is to be looked upon as making ineligible as ministers...anyone who has been divorced and remarried, regardless of the cause of the divorce or the guilt or the innocence of either partner...that said persons, whose marital state disqualifies them to be ministers...not be discouraged in their Christian lives or Christian service but that they be encouraged to live faithfully for Christ and serve Him.

6. Upon receipt of a minister's license, which is renewable annually, it is required that each licensee complete the following items which are to be considered a part of the examining criteria as indicated in paragraph 2:

a. Read "*A Free Will Baptist Handbook*" by Matthew Pinson, "*Faith for Today*" by Dr. J.D. O'Donnell, and "*What the Bible Says About Tongues*", by Robert E. Picirilli, which will be provided by the Association.

b. Read "*A Treatise of Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists*" with current revisions.

c. Be prepared to discuss personal habits and concern for:

(i) Church and personal visitation; (ii) Soul winning efforts and results;
(iii) Personal Bible study; and (iii) Sermon preparation.

Section 2. Rules for Calling Pastors.

1. Each church should familiarize themselves with the rules for licensing of ministers and ask the candidate the same questions even though he may or may not be coming for license. If a member of another association, the pastor should indicate that he is in good standing. The degree of investigation of the candidate is left to the church's discretion. Each church should be mindful of the standards of this Association for the good of the body.

2. No pastor of a church or mission in this Association can hold license or ordination papers from another denomination and be in good standing with this body. Any candidate coming to this Association from another denomination shall be placed under the watch care of this denomination and the church he is pastoring for twelve (12) months. All other license or ordination papers must be turned over to this Association and the clerk may destroy them or return them to the denomination from which they were issued.

3. All ministers desiring to transfer or join this Association shall:

a. Be recommended to this Association in writing by one of our member churches or missions. All ministers from any Free Will Baptist Association coming into this Association shall complete the questionnaire of the Georgia Union Ordaining Board and return the completed questionnaire to the Chairman of the Ordaining Board, two weeks in advance of its meeting date. All licensees and those desiring to be ordained must submit their completed State Ordaining Questionnaire to the Chairman of the Ordaining Board, two

weeks before the meeting of the Ordaining Board. The date and place of the Ordaining Board meeting is to be announced at each quarterly Georgia Union Association meeting. Questionnaires may be obtained from the Chairman of the Ordaining Board or from the Clerk of the Georgia Union Association."

b. The candidate shall meet with the Ordaining Board. No candidate for membership in this Association may come to this body for a vote until the recommendation of the Ordaining Board is submitted.

c. If there are any questions concerning the candidate's doctrine or character, the Association may open the examination to the majority present at the Association. The church recommending the candidate, or any member person, should make known any questions that should be considered.

d. Transferring ministers shall be under the watch care of this body until a letter of good standing is received from his previous association. The Association Clerk must request in writing a letter of good standing from the association that said minister is transferring from.

e. It is the responsibility of the church or mission calling a pastor to inform him of the requirements of this Association.

Section 3. Rules for The Ordination of Ministers.

1. Applicant shall bear license for not less than one year and shall be recommended to the quarterly Association by the church of which he is a member.

2. Be called to one or more churches, except that evidence be shown whereas the applicant can be useful in evangelistic work.

3. Applicant shall be examined by the Ordaining Board, who having been duly elected by this Association to which they hold membership. Examination shall be held at the discretion of the Ordaining Board.

4. Applicant shall meet the qualifications as laid down in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and measure up to the standards of Free Will Baptists and our Church Covenant, which have been adopted by this body. The pastor and his family are strongly admonished to uphold the standards of the Word of God by being faithful in attendance on the Lord's Day.

5. No applicant for ordination into the ministry will be eligible for ordination if he or his wife has more than one living husband or wife. Paul's statement in 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6, namely, "the husband of one wife", is to be looked upon as making ineligible as ministers...anyone who has been divorced and remarried, regardless of the cause of the divorce or the guilt or the innocence of either partner...that said persons, whose marital status disqualifies them to be ministers...not be discouraged in their Christian lives or Christian service but that they be encouraged to live faithfully for Christ and serve Him.

6. The credentials of any minister who joins in membership with a church of another denomination shall be considered null and void. The minister shall voluntarily return his credentials to the Georgia Union Association Clerk. If he does not, the Association Clerk shall send a letter, certified mail, return receipt requested, notifying such minister that his credentials are null and void, and request him to return his credentials to the Association Clerk. The Clerk shall notify the State Office of the status of such minister's credentials and ask the State Office to place notification in the State Promotional Bulletin of the minister's status.

Section 4. Rules for Ministers.

1. All ministers on roll, licensed or ordained, must be a member of one of the churches or missions in the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

2. All ministers on roll, licensed or ordained, shall attend at least two associational meetings each year or send a written or oral message to the Associational Clerk,

explaining their absence in order to remain in good standing with this Association. Ministers on honor roll are exempt from this requirement.

3. Good standing is hereby defined as:

a. Having the privilege to pastor or hold a ministerial position in a church or mission in this Association.

b. Being a standing delegate in this association.

These privileges are revoked when the minister is no longer in good standing, and can only be reinstated with the recommendation of the Ordaining Board and the vote of this Association.

4. A minister, who is no longer in good standing in this association, shall be required to be re-examined by the Ordaining Board of this Association, who shall recommend to the association, whether or not the minister is to be placed back on the roll of ministers in good standing. The Association shall vote to accept or reject the recommendation of the Ordaining Board.

5. All ministers shall be expected to abide by the beliefs and practices of Free Will Baptists, as defined in the *Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists*, and shall be expected to turn in their credentials of ordination, when they no longer hold to Free Will Baptist doctrines and beliefs.

6. All ministers are expected to submit to the decision of the association and relinquish their credentials of ordination if they are called for by this association of churches.

Section 5. Discipline Procedures Of Ministers For Lack Of Attendance At Association Meetings.

The following procedures shall be followed when a minister reaches the point of being in danger of losing his good standing in the Association, because of lack of attendance:

1. The associational clerk shall notify the minister, the clerk of his church, and the Chairman of the Ordaining Board, in writing of the minister's failure to keep the associational attendance requirement, and that his good standing is in danger of being suspended in the Association.

2. The Chairman of the Ordaining Board shall notify the minister in writing, of the date and time of the next Ordaining Board meeting, where his attendance will be required. The Ordaining Board will determine at that meeting, what if any, further action, is required.

3. If the Ordaining Board, after examining the minister, is satisfied with his answers, and the minister agrees to comply with the attendance requirements, no further action will be necessary. If not, the Ordaining Board will make a recommendation to the Association that the minister is considered to be out of good standing.

4. If the minister continues out of good standing in the Association, for two more quarters, refusing to abide by the attendance requirement, the Ordaining Board shall make a recommendation to the Association, that the minister's credentials be revoked.

5. Any minister, whose credentials have been revoked, must be reexamined by the Ordaining Board, as if he had never been considered by this Association.

Article VIII

Constitutional Changes

Amendments: This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Georgia Union Association while in session.

**Constitution of The Trustee Board
of The Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists**

(Adopted April 8, 2006)

(Revised April 7, 2007)

**Article I
The Name**

The name of this Board shall be the Trustee Board of the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

**Article II
The Purpose**

The Board of Trustees shall have general charge of all real and personal property (the Property") belonging to, or in the name of, the Georgia Union Association, and shall assume full responsibility of said Property, including, but not limited to, holding deeds; maintenance; upkeep; and/or disposition of said Property, and shall make sure such Property is adequately insured. (The Georgia Union treasurer has possession of the Association's insurance policy.) All decisions regarding the purchase and/or sale of any Property must be presented to and approved by a majority vote of the Georgia Union Association while in session.

**Article III
Members of the Trustee Board**

- Section 1.** This Board shall be composed of five (5) members.
- Section 2.** Board members shall serve five-year terms on a staggered basis, with one member rotating off each year.
- Section 3.** Each member shall be elected by the members of this association in regular session.
- Section 4.** This Board shall be responsible for electing its own officers.
- Section 5.** Board members shall be reimbursed at the current mileage rate of the IRS for their attendance at Board meetings.

Article IV

Quorum

Three (3) members will compose a quorum. Voting is restricted to members or their proxies.

Article V

Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Georgia Union Association while in session.

GEORGIA UNION CHURCHES

Church	Organized	Pastor and Address	Clerk
Bay Springs Bay Spring Church Rd. Eastman, GA 31023 478-374-1220	1884	Trent Dykes 171 Free Will Church Rd. Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-8957 Wife: Carminta	Chad Smith 322 Harrison St. Eastman, GA 31023 478-374-2746
Bethlehem 142 Old Coney Road Cordele, GA 31015	1917	Emory Howell 387 Empire/Chester Hwy Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-9646 Wife: Wanda	Shirley Calhoun 216 Perry Rd Cordele, GA 31015 229-273-3947
Christian Hill Christian Hill Road 1727 Gordon Road Rochelle, GA 31079	1887	Wayne Martin 1325 Mitchell Road Rochelle, GA 31079 229-624-2066 Wife: Paula	Nancy Sheffield 478 Ashley St Rochelle, GA 31079 229-365-0088
Cornerstone Mail: P.O. Box 130 Perry, GA 31069 Physical: 10157 Highway 341 Ft. Valley, GA 31030 gsjewell@aol.com	2000	Grover Jewell 118 Quinelle Drive Perry, GA 31069 478-218-8750 Wife: Donna	Donna Jewell 118 Quinelle Drive Perry, GA 31069 478-218-8750
Crossroads 110 Jones Road Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-4566	1910	Gene Ross 126 Jones Rd. Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-4566 Wife: Anne	Susan Crooms 244 Smith-Bass-Mullis Rd. Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-9933
Double Branch 3011 Williams Road Unadilla, GA 31091 double@cstel.net	1896	Stewart-Allen Clark Rt. 3, Box 3500 Hawkinsville, GA 31036 478-892-9474 Wife: Melinda	Mary Holden Dunaway Rt. 3, Box 3150 Hawkinsville, GA 31036 478-892-2949
Dublin Physical: 1824 Claxton Dairy Rd. Mail: P.O. Box 1882 Dublin, GA 31040 478-275-3676	1966	Tim Hutchinson 515 Tucker St. Dublin, GA 31021 478-296-0711 Wife: Suzan	Joann Lysaker 102 Prince St. Dublin, GA 31021 478-272-5663
First Eastman 5830 Sixth Avenue Eastman, GA 31023	1961	Myron Parkerson 1317 Reedy Branch Rd. Eastman, GA 31023 478-374-5951	Lori Jones 1882 Cochran Hwy Eastman, GA 31023 478-374-6390

Little Bethel 1275 Rebie Road Chester, GA 31012	1915	James Dixon 72 Popular Spring Rd. Eastman, GA 31012 478-374-5219 Wife: Frances	Tommy Parker 117 Lonnie Bryant Rd. Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-6048
Mt. Ararat 2100 Chauncy-Rhine Hwy Eastman, GA 31023	1885	Interim: Chris Clifton Rt. 1 Box 278 A.B. Rhine, GA 31077 229-362-4471	Ida Mae Johnson 2100 Chauncy-Rhine Rd Eastman, GA 31023 478-374-3031
New Hope 139 Free Will Church Rd. Cochran, GA 31014	1885	Tony Howell 22 Beechwood Dr. Eastman, GA 31023 478-374-3356	Angela Cranford 22 Church St. Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-4421
Pine Level 61 Pine Level Church Rd. Chester, GA 31012	1924	Ricky Gilmore 5025 Chester Hwy Chester, GA 31012 478-358-4477	Moniece Moore 3539 Chester Hwy Eastman, GA 31023 478-374-3217
Pleasant Hill 9465 Hwy 215 Vienna, GA 31092 229-268-6211	1898	W.E. (Bill) Brown 540 Parker Road Vienna, GA 31092 229-268-8746 Wife: Henrietta	Nita Hobbs 9465 Hwy 215 Vienna, GA 91092 229-268-6211
Warner Robins 214 Brady Drive Warner Robins, GA 31088 jimmyR0_@msn.com 478-922-0544	1964	Jimmy Rozier, Sr. 3222 Maynard Mill Rd. Forsyth, GA 31029 478-994-9839 Wife: Linda	Nell Fordham 111 Sudan Road Byron, GA 31008 478-953-4571
White Oaks 7035 Houston Rd. Macon, GA 31216 478-785-9170	1953	Paul Creech 6332 Carey Drive Macon, GA 31216 478-781-5502 Wife: Rhoda	Gloria Johnson 5725 Swymer Dr. Macon, GA 31216 478-788-2197

ANNUAL CHURCH STATISTICS

<u>Church</u>	<u>Members Received</u>	<u>#Baptisms</u>	<u>Members Lost</u>	<u>Total Memembers</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Assoc. Dues</u>
Bay Springs	1	1	1	90	53	\$ 17,524.25	\$50
Bethlehem	2	1	4	78	25	71,412.43	50
Christian Hill	6	3	0	57	22	40,468.20	45
Cornerstone	2	2	0	34	34	40,994.96	40
Crossroads	1	1	1	36	16	23,247.30	40
Double Branch	26	5	23	297	98	210,605.30	100
Dublin	3	0	3	41	20	14,824.90	40
Eastman	2	0	2	31	n/a	47,103.24	40
Little Bethel	3	0	1	37	21	44,164.79	40
Mt. Ararat	0	0	5	73	16	29,025.12	45
New Hope	3	0	0	75	45	n/a	45
Pine Level	0	1	2	95	55	52,003.38	45
Pleasant Hill	2	0	0	65	25	36,039.25	45
Warner Robins	3	0	0	77	25	41,632.69	50
White Oaks	1	4	0	97	45	127,754.63	50

Total Georgia Union Membership: 1,183

Total Annual Income: \$796,800.44

Annual statistics taken from October 2007 Annual Reporting Form

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus 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 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 in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conference, 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 of 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, to 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 School, 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 the Lord Jesus Christ.