

2009

Minutes of The

One Hundred Fourteenth Annual Session

of the

GEORGIA UNION ASSOCIATION

held at

**NEW HOPE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Cochran, Georgia**

Saturday, October 10, 2009

*** * * * ***

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Moderator | | Trent Dykes |
| Assistant Moderator | | W.E. (Bill) Brown |
| Clerk | | Henrietta Brown |
| Assistant Clerk | | Donna Jewell |
| Treasurer | | Paul Creech |
| Assistant Treasurer | | Marion Collins |
| Member at Large | | Nita Hobbs |

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DATES AND PLACES TO REMEMBER

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1st Quarterly Session | January 9, 2010 | Pine Level |
| 2nd Quarterly Session | April 10, 2010 | Pleasant Hill |
| 3rd Quarterly Session | July 10, 2010 | Warner Robins |
| Annual Session | October 9, 2010 | White Oaks |

SPEAKERS FOR EACH SESSION (subject to change)

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| January | Jimmy Rozier |
| April | Chris Sargent |
| July | Roy Woods |
| October | W.E. Brown |

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 (2011) | Trent Dykes 456 Bowers Cemetery Rd Cochran, GA 31014 | 478-230-8546 |
| Assistant Moderator (2010) | W.E. (Bill) Brown 540 Parker Road Vienna, GA 31092 | 229-268-8746 |
| Clerk (2011) | Henrietta Brown 540 Parker Road Vienna, GA 31092 | 229-268-8746 |
| Assistant Clerk (2010) | Donna Jewell 118 Quinelle Dr. Perry, GA 31069 | 478-218-8750 |
| Treasurer (2011) | Paul Creech 6332 Cary Drive Macon, GA 31216 | 478-781-5502 |
| Assistant Treasurer (2010) | Marion "Shine" Collins 7000 Clay Circle Macon, GA 31216 | 478-788-8530 |
| Member at Large (2011) | Nita Hobbs 9465 Hwy 215 Vienna, GA 31092 | 229-268-6211 |

EXECUTIVE BOARD

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------|
| Trent Dykes | 456 Bowers Cemetery Rd., Cochran, GA 31014 | 478-230-8546 |
| 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 |
| Tim Hutchinson | 515 Tucker St., Dublin, GA 31021 | 478-296-0711 |
| Paul Creech | 6332 Carey Drive, Macon, GA 31216 | 478-781-5502 |
| Marion "Shine" Collins | 7000 Clay Circle, Macon, GA 31216 | 478-788-8530 |
| Nita Hobbs | 9465 Hwy. 215, Vienna, GA 31092 | 229-268-6211 |

TRUSTEE BOARD (Five-Year Terms)

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| (2010) Marion Collins | 7000 Clay Circle, Macon, GA 31216 | 478-788-8530 |
| (2011) Ricky Gilmore | Old Yonkers Rd., Chester, GA 31012 | 478-231-1437 |
| (2012) Edward Moore | Rt. 6, Box 195, Eastman, GA 31023 | 478-374-3217 |
| (2013) Donald Self | Rt. 6, Eastman, GA 31023 | 478-374-4544 |
| (2014) Jimmy Rozier | 3222 Maynard Mill Rd., Forsyth, GA 31088 | 478-994-9839 |

ORDAINING BOARD (Five-Year Terms)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| (2010) Charles Thigpen | 422 Southland Trail, Byron, GA 31008 | 478-956-4046 |
| (2011) Billy Sharpston | 1079 Pine Knoll Dr., Macon, GA 31204 | 478-746-3254 |
| (2012) Tim Hutchinson | 515 Tucker St., Dublin, GA 31021 | 478-296-0711 |
| (2013) W.E. (Bill) Brown | 540 Parker Rd., Vienna, GA 31092 | 229-268-8746 |
| (2014) Grover Jewell | 118 Quinelle Dr., Perry, GA 31069 | 478-3218-8750 |

CAMPING BOARD (Five-Year Terms)

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| (2010) Ricky Gilmore | Old Yonkers Rd., Chester, GA 31012 | 478-231-1437 |
| (2011) Wanda Knight | 208 Barnard Wright Rd., Cochran, GA 31014 | 478-934-6918 |
| (2012) Monte McKenzie | 31 Liberty Street, Hawkinsville, GA 31036 | 478-892-8178 |
| (2013) Chris Sargent | 1140 E. Chicken Rd., Chester, GA 31012 | 478-358-4605 |
| (2014) Paul Creech | 6332 Carey Drive, Macon, GA 31216 | 478-781-5502 |

DIGEST COMMITTEE (Three-Year Terms)

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| (2011) Grover Jewell | 118 Quinelle Dr., Perry, GA 31069 | 478-218-8750 |
| (2012) Gene Collins | 1051 N. Pine Knoll Drive, Macon, GA 31204 | 478-405-9939 |

MISSION BOARD (Two-Year Terms)

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| (2010) Grover Jewell | 118 Quinelle Dr., Perry, GA 31069 | 478-218-8750 |
| (2010) W.E. Brown | 540 Parker Road, Vienna, GA 31092 | 229-268-8746 |
| (2010) Chris Sargent | 1140 E. Chicken Rd., Chester, GA 31012 | 478-358-4605 |
| (2011) Paul Creech | 6332 Carey Drive, Macon, GA 31216 | 478-781-5502 |
| (2011) Tim Hutchinson | 515 Tucker St., Dublin, GA 31021 | 478-296-0711 |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD (Three-Year Terms)

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------|
| (2010) Stewart-Allen Clark | 1980 Double Branch Church Rd., Hawkinsville, GA 31036 | 478-892-9474 |
| (2011) Monty McKenzie | 31 Liberty Street, Hawkinsville, GA 31036 | 478-892-8178 |
| (2012) Tom Douglas | 132 Francis Drive, Macon, GA 31216 | 478-781-8631 |
| (2012) Tony Howell | 22 Beechwood Dr., Eastman, GA 31023 | 478-374-3356 |
| (2012) Harold Dunaway | Rt. 3, Box 3150, Hawkinsville, GA 31036 | 478-892-2949 |

STATE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| (2010) Trustee Board | Marion "Shine" Collins | 478-788-8530 |
| (2012) Camp Board | Monte McKenzie | 478-892-8178 |
| (2014) Mission Board | Paul Creech | 478-781-5502 |
| (2012) Christian Ed. Board | Tom Douglas | 478-781-8631 |

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Elected Each Year)

Jimmy Rozier, W.E. Brown, Grover Jewell

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Elected Each Year)

Paul Creech, Jimmy Rozier, Marion "Shine" Collins

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 | 478-746-3254 |
| Thigpen, Charles | 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 | 1980 Double Branch Church Rd., 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 | 478-230-8546 |
| 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 | Mitchell Road, Rochelle, GA 31079 | 229-624-2066 |
| McGaha, Gerald | 5025 Chester Highway, Chester, GA 31012 | 478-374-3217 |
| Parkerson, Myron | 1317 Reedy Branch Rd., Eastman, GA 31023 | 478-374-5951 |
| Rozier, Jimmy | 3222 Maynard Mill Rd., Forsyth, GA 31029 | 478-994-9839 |
| Sargent, Chris | 1140 E. Chicken Rd., Chester, GA 31012 | 478-358-4605 |
| Woods, Roy L. | Rt. 2, Box 112-B, Alamo, GA 30411 | 912-568-7685 |

Licensed Ministers

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Daniel Williams | 4266 Abbeville Hwy. Eastman, GA 31023 | 478-374-3282 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|

GEORGIA UNION MINUTES FOR 2009

QUARTERLY SESSION JANUARY 10, 2009 FIRST EASTMAN FWB CHURCH

The Georgia Union Association met on January 10, 2009, at the First FWB Church of Eastman.

The service was opened with the congregation singing "Victory in Jesus" followed by prayer by Paul Creech.

The program was adopted with necessary changes.

W. E. (Bill) Brown, assistant moderator presided at this meeting due to the absence of Trent Dykes.

The moderator welcomed the visitors present: Rev. and Mrs. Fred Hersey and Debbie Griffin.

The moderator welcomed the 11 deacons who were present.

The clerk read the roll call of the delegates and called the roll of the ordained and licensed ministers. The voting delegates were then seated.

The executive report was read:

Today's offering going to Debbie Griffin, missionary to Japan.

Rising vote of thanks to the Eastman church for hosting the session.

MSC to adopt.

Tim Hutchinson gave the ordaining board report:

The Ordaining Board met at White Oaks FWB Church on Nov. 10, 2008. The following were recommended: That Rev. Roy Woods be accepted into the Georgia Union Association pending receipt of a letter of good standing from the South Georgia Association. (2) That Rev. Chris Sargent be ordained upon a receipt of a letter from the Southern Quarterly of the Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists in Tennessee. MSC to adopt.

The offering was received.

Rev. Fred Hersey gave a report from International Missions. He challenged each church to utilize the coin banks for the World Missions Offering in April.

Special Music –Rev. Myron Parkerson sang "There's a Miracle in the Making."

The message was brought by Rev. Grover Jewell. He used John 1:6-14 as his text. "Amazing Love"

Bro. Grover declared that the Word became flesh to show us His amazing love. WDJJ-What Did Jesus Do? He emphasized that we should never give up on what we are asking God to do. We have a job to do. We have to tell people about Jesus. There will be no intruders in heaven. Those who are there will be there because they have accepted the invitation from God.

Break

Following the break, we reconvened, and sang "Because He Lives." Fred Hersey led in prayer to open the second part of the meeting.

Donna Jewell gave the digest report: 15 churches reporting; 9 members added, 10 members lost, -1 net loss; 1 saved; 10 baptized. Total quarterly offerings reported were \$209,768.94. MSC to receive as information.

Paul Creech gave the treasurer's report: General fund beginning balance \$8,390.31; Dues received \$700.00; total expended \$1,189.76; new balance \$72,00.55. Ministers' retirement beginning balance \$5,545.19; no money received; \$800.00 expended; balance 4,445.19. Total in both funds: \$11,645.74 MSC to receive as information.

The moderator asked for volunteers to be delegates at the state meeting. Virginia Bowles was the only volunteer. Others will be appointed at the meeting.

Debbie Griffin, missionary to Japan, was introduced. She thanked everyone for the support that she receives as she ministers in Japan – not only financial support, but encouragement and prayer support. Then she said, "It's just not fair. We have so many opportunities to know God – the Bible, churches – but there are other places in the world where people have never heard or had an opportunity to hear." She pointed out that in Ezekiel, the Bible says, "That you may know that I am the Lord" 67 times. In Isaiah 43:10-11, we find that God wants to be known. There is no word for sin in Japanese. Sin is when we break God's law and they have no concept of God or His law. There is no concept of a relationship with God. They cannot know Him. Throughout the Old Testament, man yearns to know God. In the New Testament Jesus is the way for God to reveal Himself. We are supposed to be God to the world. We are meant to make Him known.

We closed in prayer and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

Henrietta Brown, Clerk

Bill Brown, Assistant Moderator

QUARTERLY SESSION APRIL 11, 2009

LITTLE BETHEL FWB CHURCH

Following words of welcome by Moderator Trent Dykes, the second quarterly meeting at Little Bethel Church was opened with prayer by Bro. Emory Howell.

Bro. Hughlon Davis led the congregation singing "He'll Hold to My Hand."

Bro. James Dixon welcomed everyone to Little Bethel and gave general information about the church.

The moderator asked for a motion to adopt the program with any necessary changes. MSC

Visitors welcomed were Denika King and John Hyatt from Warner Robins, Bruce Allison from Christian Hill.

Bro. Trent welcomed the 18 deacons present.

Clerk called the roll of delegates and ordained and licensed ministers. There were 14 active ministers and 1 honor roll minister present.

The clerk gave the Executive Board report:

That today's offering be given to Free Will Baptist Family Ministries for Jimmie Tolbert's Bike Ride to raise \$100,000.

That we give Little Bethel a rising vote of thanks for their generous hospitality in hosting today's meeting.

MSC to adopt

Mission Board – Paul Creech gave the following report. No Ga. Union business. Reporting on the Georgia State Mission work, he said the Cartersville work is progressing, work has started on building. They are averaging in the 80s and 90s. Valdosta – closing on construction loan to begin building. Harris County – averaging in 40s, good facility. Hoping to find location in east or northeast Georgia – above I-20. Local funds will be moved to FWB Foundation. MSC to adopt as information.

CE Board – Tom Douglas reported that youth from Georgia Union will compete in 10 categories at the State and National Level. \$2,373.88 in the bank. Couples retreat – A good time with beautiful facility at Lake Blackshear and excellent speakers (Tim and Janie Campbell). MSC to receive as information.

Camp Board report given by Chris Sargent – There will be a fishing tournament April 25 at Lake Blackshear to raise money for camping scholarships. Cost will be \$50 for individual to enter; \$75 for team. Camp is May 31-June 5.

MSC to receive as information.

Ordaining board was given by Tim Hutchinson - The Ordaining Board did not meet during the last quarter.

Having received a letter of good standing yesterday from the Southern Quarterly of the Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists in Tennessee, our ordaining board will be announcing soon a date to ordain Rev. Chris Sargent.

The Ordaining Board will meet, if there is business to conduct, at White Oaks Free Will Baptist Church on Monday, May 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. MSC to adopt

Bro. Tim then said that Ricky Gilmore had remarried and had surrendered his credentials. Motion was made to accept them. Motion received a second and carried, but was not unanimous.

Offering – Prayer by Grover Jewell; congregation sang “When We All Get to Heaven”

Break

We reconvened with the congregation singing “When all of God’s Singers Get Home”

Prayer by Stewart-Allen Clark

Special Music was rendered by Hughlon Davis, Carol Davis and Faye Bryant – “He Whispers Sweet Peace to Me.”

Special Music by Lucas Allison from Christian Hill - “Midnight Cry.”
Message by Rev. Wayne Martin

Have you ever heard someone say “I know what’s wrong with you?”

We live in a day and time when we look for what’s wrong.

Text: I Cor. 14: 1-3 There is a great need today in our churches for us to stop trying to find what’s wrong and show the love of Jesus to each other. The Bible says we ought to be doing what God says and not condemning each other. We need to hear the good things of God and how He is working in the lives of his people. We need to excel in edifying the Church. It does not matter what color or denomination we are; the blood of Christ on our lives makes us all members of the true Church of God. If we don’t learn to edify one another we are failing one another and we are failing God.

Eph. 4:7 Edifying one another will build God’s kingdom. If we are truly sons of God and expect the kingdom of God will come upon this earth, we need to put our energy into edifying one another.

Digest committee report was given by Gene Collins – All 15 churches reported. Members added – 9; members lost – 12; Net loss – 3 Number baptized - 13. Total quarterly offerings \$228,605.90

Treasurer’s report was given by Paul Creech – General fund beginning balance: \$7,200.55; Dues received \$700.00; Expenses \$3,401.45; New balance \$4499.10. Ministers’ retirement fund beginning balance 4,445.19; received today 0; balance in fund \$4,445.19. Total in both funds \$8,844.29. Today’s offering \$227.29.

Bro. Charles Thigpen suggested that the pastors take the yearbook and pray for all the Georgia pastors each week.

Donna Jewell announced that the district WAC will host a baby shower on May 23 for the FWB Family Ministries Hope Center. Other church announcements were given.

Move to adjourn MSC Bro. Tony Howell dismissed in prayer and asked the blessing on the meal. All enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the host church.

Henrietta Brown, Clerk

Trent Dykes, Moderator

QUARTERLY SESSION JULY 11, 2009

MT. ARARAT FWB CHURCH

The Georgia Union Association met on July 11, 2009, at the Mt. Ararat Church.

The service was opened with the congregation singing "He Set Me Free" followed by prayer by Paul Creech.

Rev. Roy Woods, church pastor, welcomed all to the meeting and gave general information about the church.

The program was adopted with necessary changes.

Bill Brown, acting moderator in Trent Dykes' absence, welcomed the visitor present: Dr. Ed Hyatt.

The moderator welcomed the 12 deacons who were present.

The clerk called the roll of delegates and ordained and licensed ministers. The voting delegates were then seated.

The executive report was given:

Today's offering going to Ga. Union youth going to NYC.

Rising vote of thanks to the Mt. Ararat church for hosting the session.

MSC to adopt.

The offering was received.

The message was brought by Rev. Ronnie Lawson. Text: John 5:1 ff
He began by saying we need to come to church expecting something to happen. Jesus is ready to stir the pool. We can come to Christ only when the Spirit is working. It is not in our time and we need to watch what God is doing so we can move when the time is right. No one knows the time when Jesus will come, so we need to be ready. When Jesus came and asked "Wilt thou be made whole?" it was time to move. This still applies to us today. The crippled man needed help to get into the pool. We also need help, which is available to us through the Holy Spirit. We all want to be gatherers, but we also need "seed sowers and water boys." We need to be faithful to our churches on Sunday and not feel we have done our duty by going on Sunday morning only. We should never be satisfied with what we have done, but do all we can to bring others in.

Bro. Bill read a message from Bro. Trent Dykes who is on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Break

Following the break, we reconvened, and sang "The Old Rugged Cross."
Prayer by Bill Brown

Digest Committee report was given by Gene Collins - 14 churches reporting 17 members added, 8 lost, net gain 9, 9 baptisms. Total quarterly offerings reported - \$222,412.67

Treasurer's report was given by Paul Creech – General fund – beginning balance \$4,499.10, dues received \$665.00; new balance \$5,164.10. Ministers retirement fund – beginning balance \$4,445.19, received today 0; new balance \$4,445.19; total both funds \$9,609.29.

Chad Smith brought special music, singing “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

Bro. Jimmy Rozier introduced Dr. Ed Hyatt, of California Christian College, Fresno, Calif., as the speaker for this session. Dr. Hyatt read his text from Jonah 2:9, introducing his subject, The Runaway Prophet. He pointed out that we need to answer the question of the book of Jonah every day. Like Jonah, we go the opposite way from where God wants us to go. Jonah hated his enemy more than he loved God. Dr. Hyatt noted five preparations in the book of Jonah: the great storm, the great fish, the gourd, the worm and the wind. The heart of the message Jonah was to give was “God is going to destroy your city.” Dr. Hyatt pointed out that after hearing an eight-word sermon the entire city repented. He challenged us to ask ourselves, “Where is my priority?” We should always be able to answer, “My priority is whatever God is asking me to do.”

We closed in prayer and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

Henrietta Brown, Clerk

Bill Brown, Assistant Moderator

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GEORGIA UNION ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 10. 2009

Call to Order by moderator, Trent Dykes

Prayer by Billy Sharpston

Song led by Chris Sargent, "Standing on the Promises"

Welcome by host pastor, Rev. Tony Howell

Visitors welcomed were Rev. J.C. Ivey, Donnie Burke and family, Kristen Crabtree

MSC to adopt program with necessary changes

There were 14 deacons present

The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved.

The clerk called the roll of ministers and delegates.

The delegates were seated.

Executive board report given by the clerk was as follows:

The Board makes the following recommendations:

That today's offering go to the Alabama Children's Home

That we give New Hope Church a rising vote of thanks for their warm and generous hospitality in hosting today's meeting.

That we send from the Mission Board account \$50 per month for the National Home Mission accounts of Donnie Burke, Barry Long, Jeff Goodman and Josh Bennett.

Motion amended to raise amount to \$75 per account.

MSC to adopt all.

Mission Board report was given by Paul Creech – Commented on the work in Valdosta, Cartersville and Harris County. He also talked about support for our home missionaries going from Georgia. He expressed hope for a Georgia Union mission work. Amount in treasury in Georgia more than \$28,000.

Camp Board – No report

Trustee Board – no report

Ordaining Board – Tim Hutchinson – Recommended Bro. Gerald McGaha be accepted in the good standing. He is the new pastor of Pine Level Church. MSC to receive.

Nominating Committee report was given by Jimmy Rozier – MSC to receive report

Elected to serve were:

Moderator – Replacing Trent Dykes – Trent Dykes

Clerk – Replacing Henrietta Brown – Henrietta Brown

Treasurer – Replacing Paul Creech – Paul Creech

Member at large – Replacing Nita Hobbs – Nita Hobbs

Trustee Board member – Replacing Jimmy Rozier – Jimmy Rozier

Ordaining Board member – Filling vacant position – Grover Jewell

Camping Board member – replacing Paul Creech – Paul Creech
Digest Committee member – replacing Gene Collins – Gene Collins
Mission Board Member – replacing Paul Creech – Paul Creech
Mission Board member – replacing Tim Hutchinson – Tim Hutchinson
Christian Board member – replacing Tom Douglas – Tom Douglas
Christian Board member – replacing Tony Howell – Tony Howell
Christian Board member – replacing Harold Dunaway – Harold Dunaway
MSC to accept Grover Jewell for nominating committee
MSC to accept all by acclimation

Rev. Donnie Burke spoke to the congregation about his work in Castle Rock, Colorado, showing slides, and giving information. He compared Cochran to Castle Rock and said there were 127 people for each church in Cochran. In Castle Rock there are 2497 people for each church. There is no “Bible Belt” in Colorado. Only 1 of every 10 people attend church at all.

Digest Committee report was given by Grover Jewell. MSC to receive.

The offering was received.

Break

Reconvened with singing “Joy Unspeakable” led by Chris Sargent

Prayer by Tony Howell

Special music Kristin Crabtree sang “Orphans of God”

Message by Rev. Myron Parkerson

He began by saying we need to give the world what God has given us – hope. The Church is failing. The Church is for the spiritually sick. He read scripture from John 10:10: ... The thief cometh but to steal and to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life and that might have it more abundantly.

He told the story of a young man during the Korean Conflict who asked the Red Cross worker to change his toe tag from “Will not survive” to “Will survive if receives immediate medical attention.” He did survive for that reason. The message is: On behalf of the world, we have to give the world some hope. We need to be the ones to break out of the mode and do something to give the world hope. We will have to answer for the things we did and for the things we didn’t do. We do not have to fight the battle. All we need to do is put it into God’s hands. Satan gave us all a tag that read, “Sinner, going to Hell.” Jesus died to change the tag. We need to remember where God has brought us from and what He is doing in us now.

Chris Sargent led us in an invitation hymn, “Jesus Paid It All,” with several people responding to pray. Trent led in prayer following this.

Treasurer's Report was given by Paul Creech - Association fund beginning balance hand \$5,164.10; dues received today \$ 2,155; new balance \$6,444.60 Ministers Retirement fund beginning balance \$4,445.19; received today \$317.48; new balance \$3,645.19. Total in both funds \$10,089.79 Today's offering - \$317.48

MSC to receive as information

John Hyatt announced that Wendell Wally, president of Calif. Christian College will be coming to our area and would like to speak to churches.

Paul Creech made a motion to give the Burke family \$500 for traveling expenses. MSC

Paul Creech made a motion to give an offering of \$500 to Bro. Eugene Ross. MSC

Announcements and prayer requests were made.

MSC to dismiss.

Jimmy Rozier led in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
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 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 | Bernice Helms 722 Helms Rd. Abbeville, GA 31001 229-365-7124 |
| Cornerstone Mail: P.O. Box 130 Perry, GA 31069 Physical: 10157 Highway 341 Ft. Valley, GA 31030 gsjewell@windstream.net | 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 | Chris Sargent 1140 E. Chicken Rd.. Chester, GA 31012 478-358-4605 Wife: Tori | Susan Crooms 244 Smith-Bass-Mullis Rd. Cochran, GA 31014 478-934-9933 |
| Double Branch 2760 Williams Road Unadilla, GA 31091 double@cstel.net | 1896 | Stewart-Allen Clark 1980 Double Branch Church Rd. Hawkinsville, GA 31036 478-892-9474 Wife: Melinda | Mary Holden Dunaway 339 Tom Taylor Rd. 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 257 Northwood Trail Dublin, GA 31022 478-676-4321 |
| 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 | Roy L. Woods Rt. 2, Box 112-B Alamo, GA 30411 912-568-7685 | Ida Mae Johnson 2100 Chauncy-Rhine Rd Eastman, GA 31023 478-374-1869 |
| 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 478-230-3997 |
| Pine Level 61 Pine Level Church Rd. Chester, GA 31012 | 1924 | Gerald McGaha 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 31092 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 478-960-9840 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 Members</u> | <u>Sunday School</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Assoc. Dues</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Bay Springs | 7 | 8 | 3 | 93 | 53 | \$ 66,069.89 | \$50 |
| Bethlehem | 1 | 1 | 1 | 77 | 19 | 82,879.06 | 50 |
| Christian Hill | 6 | 0 | 4 | 51 | 24 | 12,610.07 | 45 |
| Cornerstone | 1 | 4 | 1 | 35 | 35 | 29,627.00 | 40 |
| Crossroads | 3 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 16 | 27,720.41 | 40 |
| Double Branch | 6 | 16 | 14 | 294 | 98 | 203,819.96 | 75 |
| Dublin | 1 | 1 | 0 | 42 | 21 | 15,653.11 | 40 |
| Eastman | 17 | 8 | 1 | 81 | n/a | 57,056.82 | 40 |
| Little Bethel | 2 | 2 | 3 | 34 | 18 | 44,797.45 | 40 |
| Mt. Ararat | 1 | 1 | 1 | 79 | 14 | 27,648.71 | 45 |
| New Hope | 1 | 1 | 0 | 77 | 45 | 8,157.72 | 45 |
| Pine Level | 0 | 0 | 5 | 90 | 55 | 51,704.86 | 45 |
| Pleasant Hill | 0 | 0 | 3 | 64 | 25 | 36,507.00 | 45 |
| Warner Robins | 0 | 3 | 0 | 89 | 23 | 44,300.08 | 50 |
| White Oaks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 45 | n/a | 50 |

Total Georgia Union Membership: 1,245

Total Annual Income: \$708,552.14

Annual statistics taken from October 2009 Annual Reporting Forms

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.