

**THE
HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION.**

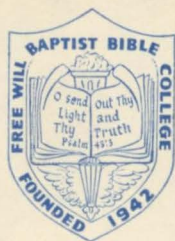
NO. 2

**CHURCH OF GOD, DENOMINATED
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

1947

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
15th ANNUAL SESSION**

**CONVENED AT
Stobtown
Free Will Baptist Church**



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. John H. West

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION NO. 2
CHURCH OF GOD, DENOMINATED
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Held with the
Stobtown Free Will Baptist Church
On Thursday night before the 1st Sunday in Sept., 1947

OFFICERS

Moderator Eld. J. O. Hudson, Clemscott, Okla.
Asst. Moderator .. Eld. Rex Weatherman, Ringling, Okla.
Clerk Sis. Myrtle Ballew, Healdton, Okla.
Asst. Clerk Sis. Eileen Melton, Wilson, Okla.
Treasurer Bro. Lamar Howell, Ardmore, Okla.

The Sixteenth Annual Session will convene with the
Healdton Church on Thursday before the 1st Sunday in
Sept., 1948.

The Introductory Sermon will be delivered by
Rev. T. J. Knight, Healdton, Okla.

Free Will Baptist Gem, Monett, Missouri

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE

Meeting called to order by the Moderator. Opening song, "Showers of Blessings". Prayer by Bro. Burdue. Elder A. A. Williams delivered the message, using a scripture text from Psalms 126:33. Dismissed with prayer by Bro. N. C. Ballew.

FRIDAY MORNING

Services were opened by singing, "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus". Prayer by Eld. Clarence Hearron. Scripture reading by Eld. G. W. Hanks, Romans 12th Chapter.

Business conference declared in session by Asst. Moderator.

The first item of business was the appointment of a Committee on Divine Arrangements. The following were appointed: Bro. N. C. Ballew, Sis. Slate, and Sis. Talley.

Letters from the various churches were called for and read. (Letters on another page).

Motion carried we accept the letters as read, and seat the delegates. A song was rendered and the hand of fellowship was extended the delegates.

The following officers were elected:

Moderator Eld. J. O. Hudson, Clemseott
Asst. Moderator Eld. Rex. Weatherman, Ringling
Clerk Sis. Myrtle Ballew, Healdton
Asst. Clerk Sis. Eileen Melton, Wilson
Treasurer Bro. Lamar Howell, Ardmore

Motion carried that we adjourn until 1:00 p.m.

Divine Service opened with singing, "The Glory Land Way". Prayer by Bro. H. L. Christian. Elder W. A. Hearron delivered a wonderful message on the subject of "The Church". Scripture, Matthew 18:16. Dismissed for the noon hour with prayer by Eld. A. A. Williams.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Called to order by Moderator. Opening song, "Some-

day". Scripture reading, by Eld. A. A. Williams, Psalms 1. Prayer by Eld. Clarence Hearron.

The first item of business for the afternoon was committees.

Motion carried that the body resend the act that requires a letter (for this meeting), and that we seat the delegates from Wirt Church by recommendation.

The following committees were appointed:

Resolutions Committee—

Bro. H. L. Christian, Bro. N. C. Ballew, and Bro. J. E. Slate.

Sunday School Committee—

Sis. Ruby Brown, Sis. Pearl Brown, and Sis. Christian.

Temperance Committee

Sis. Ruby Hudson, Sis. J. E. Slate, and Sis. Eileen Melton.

Obituary Committee—

Bro. Ralph Mullens, Sis. May Gardener, Sis. Bessie Talley, and Sis. J. R. Woods.

League Committee—

Bro. Troy Morris, Sis. Bobbie White, Sis. Delois Adams, and Sis. Bertha Williamson.

Education

Eld. G. W. Hanks, Bro. Lamar Howell, and Eld. T. J. Knight.

A welcome was extended the visiting brethren that were in our midst. Bro. and Sis. W. A. Hearron from the Center Association and Bro. Clarence Hearron from Waco, Texas.

Bro. and Sis. Hearron reported that there is to be a Youth Camp built at Sulphur, with a tabernacle, dormitories, and a cafeteria.

There will be classes taught on Personal Evangelism, Music, and Theology.

Bro. N. C. Ballew was elected to fill Bro. J. L. Stubblefield's place on the Executive Board.

Motion carried to elect a new Orphanage Board.

Elected were:

Bro. Lamar Howell, 115 E. St., N. W. Ardmore, Okla.

Bro. N. C. Ballew, Box 69, Healdton, Okla.

Bro. Ralph Mullins, Rt. 1, Ardmore, Okla.

Resolution No. 1 was read and accepted. (See reports).

Bro. Lamar Howell gave an interesting report of the National Association. An offering of \$8.00 was taken in, to finish paying Bro. Howell's expenses to the National Ass'n.

Treasurer's report read and accepted.

Motion carried to elect a Credential Committee.

Those elected were:

Bro. H. L. Christian, Bro. N. C. Ballew, and Bro. J. R. Woods.

The Committee on Divine Arrangements reported that Eld. J. O. Hudson will bring the 8:00 o'clock message.

Motion carried to adjourn until the next business session at 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Services opened with singing. Prayer by Bro. A. A. Williams. Devotional led by Rev. Rex Weatherman. As Bro. J. O. Hudson could not be present, Rev. G. W. Hanks filled the stand, using the subject, "Lord, who shall dwell with thee in the tabernacle?" Dismissed by Bro. W. A. De Hart.

SATURDAY MORNING

Opening song, "I Would Not Be Denied". Scripture reading, 1 Cor. 15, by Bro. N. C. Ballew. Prayer by Bro. H. L. Christian.

Conference called in session by the Moderator.

Letter from the Wirt Church read and accepted.

The Moderator appointed an examining committee to examine Bro. W. A. De Hart for Ordination as Deacon. Bro. G. W. Hanks, Bro. N. C. Ballew, and Rev. Rex Weatherman were appointed.

The next order of business was the reading of the reports of the committees. (Reports on other page).

Motion carried that we accept the report of the Committee on Education and release the committee.

Motion carried that we accept the report of the Committee on Obituaries and release the committee.

Motion carried that we accept the report of the Committee on Temperance and release the committee.

Motion carried that we accept the report of the Committee on Sunday Schools and release the committee.

Motion carried that we accept the report of the Com-

mittee on Leagues and release the committee.

Motion carried we accept Resolution No. 2. (See report on Resolutions).

The examining council reports that they find Bro. W. A. De Hart sound in Doctrine and very worthy to become ordained as deacon in the Free Will Baptist Denomination.

Motion carried to elect a Statistician for our Ass'n.; Bro. Lamar Howell was elected.

Motion carried to accept Resolution No. 3 and release the committee.

The next annual session of the Association will be held with the Healdton Church on Thursday before the 1st Sunday in Sept., 1948.

The next Quarterly Conference will be held at the Wilson Church on Sat. before the 5th Sunday in November.

Bro. A. A. Williams was elected to preach the memorial Sermon at the Next Association.

The delegates to represent our Association at the State Association were elected as follows: Sisters Eileen Melton, Ruby Brown, Marjorie Weatherman, Myrtle Ballew, and Alice Christian.

Alternates: Sisters Edna De Hart, Inez Howell, Odessa Roberson, Tessie Williams, and J. E. Slate.

Sis. Marjorie Weatherman was recommended to represent our Association at the National Meeting in July of next year.

Motion carried that we retain the same committee for the Camp Meeting which is to precede the next Association. The committee is as follows: Bro. Ralph Mullens, Bro. J. R. Woods, Bro. J. Crisp, Bro. Lamar Howell, and Bro. W. A. De Hart.

Motion carried to dismiss the Committee on Divine Arrangements after their having announced that Rev. J. O. Hudson will bring the memorial message in the afternoon.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet again with the Healdton Church, Thursday night before the 1st Sunday in September, 1948.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Services opened by singing, "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be". Prayer by Rev. A. A. Williams. A wonderful message was delivered by Rev. J. O. Hudson in memory of our deceased Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Text, 1

Cor. 15. Dismissed with prayer by 'Bro. Burdue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolutions Committee—

The Committee on resolution submits the following:

No. 1 Be it resolved that we make the camp meeting of this Association a permanent thing.

No. 2 Be it resolved that we have a copy of each yearly Church letter in our minutes.

No. 3. Be it resolved that this body extend its heartfelt thanks to the Stobtown Church and this community for the Christian fellowship and hospitality shown us through this camp meeting and Association.

Signed, H. L. Christian, Chairman

Temperance Committee

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report as follows:

That we have not taken a firm enough stand against the use of intoxicating drinks. We recommend that each pastor preach at least two sermons on Temperance each year and that the Sunday School teachers teach temperance lessons in their classes.

Signed, Ruby Hudson, Chairman

Sunday School Committee—

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to report as follows:

That each pastor have a Sunday Sunday in his church. that each teacher be a Christian, and that we use Free Will Baptist Literature.

We urge that each parent take their children to Sunday School instead of sending them.

Signed, Ruby Brown, Chairman

League Committee—

We, your League Committee, beg to report as follows:

This Association has been sponsoring a League Rally, held every quarter at the various churches, and we have come to believe it has helped our young people tremendously in their worship at their meetings. We urge that each church have its league represented in these League Rallies. We also urge that each church give its full support to this worthy organization. The next rally will be held the 3rd Sunday in November at the Clemscot Church.

Education Committee—

We recommend that our young people be urged to attend the Youth Camp near Ada and also that each church of the Association acquaint its members with our first class Bible College at Nashville, Tenn. and also help it financially. We recommend that the following be put in the Articles of Faith as Art. No. 14. (See Articles of Faith.)

Signed, Rev. G. W. Hanks, Chairman

Obituary Committee—

We wish to report the death of Bro. Allen Wright, of the Clemscott Church whom we miss greatly in our Association.

Signed, Bro. Ralph Mullens, Chairman

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bro. Joe Balthrop	Elected 1943
Bro. Guy Denny	Elected 1944
Bro. J. O. Hudson	Elected 1945
Bro. John Woods	Elected 1946
Bro. N. C. Ballew	Elected 1947

ROLL OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Eld. J. O. Hudson	Clemscot, Okla.
Eld. T. Maynard	Clemscot, Okla.
Eld. Don Pettyjohn	Ardmore, Okla.
Eld. T. J. Knight	Healdton, Okla.
Eld. G. W. Hanks	Wilson, Okla.
Eld. A. A. Williams	Lone Grove, Okla.
Eld. Rex Weatherman	Ringling, Okla.

ROLL OF ORDAINED DEACONS

Bro. Lamar Howell	Ardmore, Okla.
Bro. H. L. Christian	Ardmore, Okla.
Bro. J. Q. Adams	Lone Grove, Okla.
Bro. Joe Balthrop	Ardmore, Okla.
Bro. J. Crisp	Wirt, Okla.
Bro. Alvas Gardner	California
Bro. John Easley	Lone Grove, Okla.
Bro. Herb Welch	Wilson, Okla.
Bro. R. E. Chadoin	Healdton, Okla.
Bro. N. B. Martin	Healdton, Okla.

Bro. J. R. Woods	Clemscot, Okla.
Bro. Waldo Hichey	Clemscot, Okla.
Bro. N. C. Ballew	Healdton, Okla.
Bro. John Jennings	Alma, Okla.
Bro. M. O. Coffey	Wilson, Okla.
Bro. C. V. Roxxell	Alma, Okla.
Bro. Less Dunn	Loco, Okla.

CHURCH LETTERS

Wirt Church

Letter from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Wirt, Oklahoma to the Association when convened with the Stobtown Church. We send as delegates our beloved brethren:

Delegates

Sis. Bobby Lois Gardner
Sis. May Gardner
Bro. W. A. De Hart

Alternates

Sis. Emma Jean Barbour
Sis. Mary A. Weatherman
Sis. Dorotha De Hart

Whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good; members received by letter, 5; by experience, 9; dismissed, 11; number died, 1; total membership, 85; condition of prayer meeting, good; Sunday School, good; average number of pupils, 25; number of officers, 4; teachers, 4; paid pastor, \$560.00; paid evangelist, \$109.41; amount for building and repair, none; for incidentals, \$92.78; value of church property, \$1,500.00; miscellaneous expense, \$130.16; amount enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Rev. Rex Weatherman, Pastor.

Deacons: Bro. Joe Slate and Bro. Charlie Mitchell.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this 20th day of August, 1947.

Rev. Rex Weatherman, Moderator

Sis. Odessa Robinson, Clerk

We are sending \$10.00 to help defray the expense of Bro. Lamar as our delegate to the National Conference.

Remarks: We recommend Bro. De Hart for examination as deacon.

Enterprise Church

Letter from the Church of God denominated Free Will Baptist of Enterprise to the Association which convenes with the Stobtown Church.

We send as delegates our Bro. Troy Morris and Sis.

Talley, with Bro. Talley as alternate, whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good; members received, none; members died, none; condition of Sunday School, poor. We have church two Sundays each month. In August we had a Home Coming and also a Communion and Foot Washing Service. Sent pot flowers to two sick in community.

Bro. G. W. Hanks, Pastor.

Sis. Connie Morris, Clerk

Clemscot Church

Letter from Clemscot Free Will Church to the yearly Association when convened with the Free Will Baptist Church at Stobtown.

We send as delegates: Sis. Bobby White, Sis. Idabell Wright, and Sis. Bert Williamson; as alternates: Bro. Fred Williamson, Sis. Fred Williamson, and Sis. Pearl Brown whom we pray you will receive to sit with you to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good; members received, 9; dismissed, none; members died, 1; condition of prayer meeting, good; Sunday School, good; number of officers, 2; teachers, 4; paid pastor, \$1,425.00; paid evangelist, \$75.00; amount for building and repair, \$1,817; Miscellaneous expenses, \$177.83; amount to Orphans' Home, \$301.64; amount enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Minister, Eld. T. Maynard, Clemscot, Okla.

Deacons:

Bro. Waldo Hickey, Clemscot, Okla.

Bro. John Woods, Healdton, Okla.

Bro. Edd Gillam, Huntington Park, Calif.

Bro. John Jennings, Loco, Okla.

Bro. N. C. Ballew, Healdton, Okla.

Our Pastor, Eld. J. O. Hudson, Clemscot, Okla.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference on Sept. 1, 1947.

Bro. John Wood, Moderator

Sis. John Wood, Clerk

Healdton Church

We, the Church of God, denominated Free Will Baptists, of Healdton, Oklahoma, to the Association when convened with the church at Stobtown.

We send as delegates our beloved Sisters Oleta Morrow and Lissie Chaudoin; alternates: Eileen Melton and

Ruby Brown whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good; total membership, 31; condition of prayer meeting, good; condition of Sunday School, good; average number of pupils, 27; number of officers, 2; number of teachers, 4; paid evangelist, \$50.00; value of church property, \$4,000.00; amount enclosed for minutes, \$5.00.

Pastor's name and address: Elder T. J. Knight, Healdton, Okla.

Deacons: Brothers:

Herb Welch, Wilson, Okla., Rt. 2

R. E. Chaudoin, Healdton, Okla., Box 983

J. Crisp, Wirt, Okla.

We make a request for the Association to be at our church this coming year.

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this the 6th day of August, 1947.

Bro. J. Crisp, Moderator
Charlie Truitt, Clerk

Stobtown Church

Letter from the Stobtown Free Will Baptist Church to the Annual Association when convened with the Free Will Baptist Church at Stobtown.

We send as delegates, our beloved Brethren: Grant Adams, Ben Brewer, and McClanahan whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations.

Members received by letter, none; by recommendation or experience in grace, 2; condition of Sunday School, good; average number of pupils, 45; number of teachers, 4; paid pastor, \$337.53; value of church property, \$850.00; amount enclosed for minutes, \$2.00.

Pastor's name and address: Elder A. A. Williams, Ardmore, Okla., Rt. 2.

Deacons: Brothers:

Joe Balthrop, Ardmore, Okla., Rt. 2

James Adams, Wilson, Okla., Rt. 2

Herman Green, Ardmore, Okla., Rt. 2

Done by the order of the church when assembled in conference this the 23rd day of July, 1947.

Bro. R. H. Mulline, Clerk

Wilson Church

Letter from the Wilson Free Will Baptist Church to

Annual Association when convened with the Free Will Baptist Church at Stobtown.

We send as delegates: Bro. W. E. Bryant and Sis. N. R. Mayton; as alternate: Sis. Sarah Bryant whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion, good; members received, none; members dismissed, none; total membership, 32; condition of Sunday School, fair; number of teachers, and officers, 2.

Pastor's name and address: Eld. G. W. Hanks, Wilson, Okla., Rt. 2.

Deacons:

Bro. T. F. Jackson, Wilson, Okla.

We ask your prayers for the church that we might grow and prosper in the name of the Lord.

We ask for the Quarterly Meeting.

Done by the order of the church assembled in conference this 24th day of August, 1947.

Eld. G. W. Hanks, Moderator
Sis. Vershie Ledbetter, Clerk

LADY'S AUXILIARY REPORT

The second annual Lady's Auxiliary convention of Hopewell Association No. 2 met with Stobtown Church, with the 3rd Vice President in charge.

Opening song, "Work For the Night Is Coming"; Scripture reading by Mrs. Bertha Williamson; prayer by Mrs. Rex Weatherman, Ringling, Okla.

New Officers elected for 1947-48:

President, Mrs. Rex Weatherman, Ringling, Okla.

1st Vice Pres., Eileen Melton, Wilson, Okla.

2nd Vice Pres., Mrs. Myrtle Ballew, Healdton, Okla.

3rd Vice Pres. Mrs. Ruby Brown, Healdton, Okla.

4th Vice Pres., Mrs. Ora Slate, Healdton, Okla.

5th Vice Pres., Mrs. Bertha Williamson, Clemsoo, Okla.

Recording Sec'y., Odessa Robison, Wirt, Okla.

A Program Committee was appointed by the President as follows:

Mrs. Eileen Melton, Mrs. N. C. Ballew, and Mrs. Ora Slate.

Motion carried that we pay \$2.00 on printing of minutes.

Dismissed with prayer by Mrs. Ruby Brown.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are equal in Divine essence, power and glory—Romans 1:20; 1st John 1:7; John 17:21.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written and revealed Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice—Matt. 5:18; 2 Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same whereby all mankind are sinners; not by constraint, but by choice; being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall, and that man is unable to save himself with his own power, but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory, that He, by the Grace of God, should taste death for every man—Gen. 3:7-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His death, burial and resurrection, purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon the principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent, therefore He saith: "Look unto me and be saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else"—Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Acts 20:2-21; Acts 17:30.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life—John 3:3.

6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved by the merits of the Son of God—John 4:11; Deut. 1:39; Mk. 10:14; Lk. 18:16.

7. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life; for blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the city—Matt. 24:13; Rev. 22:14.

8. We believe that Baptism by immersion is the Apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water; and that Christ,

who is our life, showed this humble example to His children, and bids us walk therein—John 3:22; Matt. 3:16; 28:19-20; Romans 6:2-5.

9. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost, and by the instructions of His blessed Word, to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. He bids us freely to come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come—1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 3:7; Rev. 22:17; Isa. 55:1.

10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper and Washing the Saint's feet are Divine ordinances and should be observed by all His children—Mk. 14:22; John 13:4-14; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Tim. 5:10.

11. We believe that none have a right to Baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have the right to administer the same only those who are called of God, have come under the hands of the Presbytery of Elders; and each church ought to have a Pastor, Deacons and Clerk, chosen by the church and continue in office during the good pleasure of the same; and in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other Scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous—Tit. 1:5; Acts 14:23; 2 Cor. 6:6.

12. We believe it to be the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month and that it is the duty of the Pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's Supper to "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat"—1 Cor. 11:28; John 13:14; Heb. 10:25.

13. We believe that Sanctification and Holiness is a Bible doctrine, that immortality is God dwelling in the light so when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God—Gal. 6:10; 1 John 2:9.

No. 14. We believe in the resurrection of all men at the last day.

They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers and deacons present are invited to seats allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those, who speak, shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded, and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association, if necessary.

12. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangements shall be made to ensure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session and the chair shall announce, just before adjournment, who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

13. The RULES OF ORDER shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization of the Association.

14. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCHES

The local church is an independent body so far as relates to its own government, the transaction of its own business, the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members.

Persons who give evidence of piety are received to membership by a vote of the church; and if not baptized, on condition of being baptized. If objections are made, they should be stated to the church; and if objections are judged valid, the candidate should not be received into fellowship. The right hand of fellowship is given all persons received by the church.

Persons expelled from sister churches for any cause or for immorality, should not be received until first giving satisfaction.

Letters of dismissal and commendation are granted to members in good standing, by a vote of the church, on their removal from its limits. Ministers are received and dismissed by letter, as other members are, except when they come from or go to other denominations, in which case a council of ministers should be called respecting the action.

It is the duty of the church to unite with some association and represent itself regularly by delegates and letter.

No person shall be a delegate from a church, unless he or she is a member and appointed by the church he or she claims to represent.

CHURCH LETTER

Letter from Church to the

(Please state whether Quarterly or Yearly Meeting or Ass'n.)

when convened with Church at

We send as delegates, our beloved:

whom we pray you will receive to sit with you and aid you

in your Godly deliberation.

State of religion.

Members received by letter, by recommendation or by experience in grace, dismissed,; number died,; total membership,; condition of prayer meeting,; of Sunday School,; average number of pupils,; number of officers,; of teachers,; paid pastor, \$.....; paid evangelist, \$.....; Amount for building and repair, \$..... for incidentals, \$.....; value of Church property, \$..... misc. exp. \$.....; amount enclosed for minutes, \$.....

Pastor's name and address,

Names and addrees of ministers and deacons:

Ministers:

Deacons:

Done by order of the church assembled in conference this

day of, s9.....

..... Moderator

..... Clerk

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. House called to order by the Moderator.
3. Letters called for, read and received.
4. Right hand of fellowship and seating delegates.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Reading Rules of Order.
8. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.

9. Appointment of Committees.
 10. Unfinished business.
 11. New business.
 12. Reports of Committees.
 13. Miscellaneous business.
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ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Called to order by the Moderator.
 2. Called into conference, or vote to go into conference.
 3. Call for peace of the church. (All who are at peace with God and each other, hold up your right hand).
 4. Visiting brethren invited to seat in council. (Visiting members from other Free Will Baptist churches allowed).
 5. Reading of minutes of last church conference.
 6. Reading of minutes of
 6. Unfinished Business.
 7. New Business.
 8. Report of delegate to Association or Quarterly Meeting.
 9. Are any sick or in distress.
 10. Support of ministry and other expenses.
 11. Call for confession.
 12. Invitation for members.
 13. Adjournment.
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CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptists), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better Church government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members, when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME. the members thus chosen and assembled

with the ministers and deacons, to be denominated the Hope Well Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed of the several churches of our union, the Association, having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. **LETTERS.** Letters from the different churches representing are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration or denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. Churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year that we may keep up the Memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. **OFFICERS.** The Association to have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 5. **NEW CHURCHES.** Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. **QUESTIONS.** No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered in its own church.

Art. 7. **MOTIONS.** Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 8. **MINUTES.** The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the amount paid by each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. **CLERK.** It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. **SIGNATURES.** The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

Art. 11. **AMENDMENTS.** Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.

AMENDMENT No. 1. Each ordained minister shall be a member of a church in the bounds of the Association, and if

he should hold his letter for a period of three months when opportunity affords him, he shall surrender his credentials to the quarterly or yearly meeting.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of education and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

