

MINUTES
of
The 3rd. Annual Session
of
The Liberty Association
of
Free Will Baptist
WHEN CONVENED WITH
The Free Will Baptist Temple
April 30th.-May 2nd. 1953
Detroit, Mich.
Officers

Rev. N. P. Gates, _____ Moderator

Rev. John Q. Gallagher, Ass't Moderator

Sister Eva Chatterton, _____ Clerk

Sis. Marjorie Schumacker, Ass't Clerk.

Next Session to convene with the **TEN MILE FREE**
WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 74 W. 10 Mile Rd.
Hazel Park, Mich.

Thursday eve. April 29 - May 1st. 1954

Introductory Message, by Rev. Glen Thomas

MEMORIAL SERVICE

by
Rev. E. J. Marine.

INTRODUCTORY SERVICE

On Thursday evening, April 30, 1953 The Liberty Association met in its third Annual Session with the Free Will Baptist Temple, Detroit, Mich.

Came together by singing led by Rev. E. J. Marine, accompanied at the Piano by Sis. Fay Stanley, Prayer by Rev. Thomas, followed by the Moderator reading the 23rd Psalm.

First item of business was: Call for letters from the various churches; To which the following churches responded, letters were read and delegates were seated in conference, to-wit: The TEN MILE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH; FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION; MAPLE GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST; FREE WILL BAPTIST TABERNACLE, and FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE (see list of delegates) Prayer of consecration, by

Pursuant to appointment Rev. Henry A. Howard brought the introductory message, using for Text Psalm 51:3, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

Services closed with Christian hand of fellowship.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Came together at the usual hour by singing led by Rev. N. P. Gates, followed by the Mod. using for Scripture lesson 113 Psalm. Prayer by Rev. E. J. Marine.

At this interval, the Roll Call of delegates was given.

The first item of business was the election of officers for the ensuing year. Which resulted in the selection of Rev. N. P. Gates, Moderator; Rev. John Q. Gallagher, Ass't Moderator; Sister Eva Chatterton, Clerk; and Sister M. Schumacker, Ass't Clerk.

Next item was call for corresponding letters: None.

Call for petitionary letters: To which call The Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church responded with letters and delegates, praying admittance into our honourable body. After some deliberations, and examination by the Presbytery Board, upon finding them to be worthy and orthodox, the same were admitted by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

At this interval it was deemed necessary to suspend the regular procedure, and proceed to appoint the various committees for this session, to-wit:

COMMITTEE ON DIVINE SERVICE

Sister Ida Marine, Sister Alma Mills and Sister Mullens.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY

Sister Marshie Gates, Bro. Henry Finney, and Sister Mary Howard.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Bro. Bill Leach, Rev. Glen Thomas, and Bro. Hugh Arant.

At this interval we resumed regular procedure, by making such necessary adjustments of standing boards, and the election of successors to fill vacancies of retiring members, as follows: By reason of Rev. N. P. Gates being elected Moderator it was deemed advisable that he should be retired from the Presbytery Board and a successor be elected to serve his unexpired term of 2 years, resulted in the election of Rev. John Q. Gallagher; Rev. Malcolm Rodgers was elected to fill the vacancy of Rev. Gallagher whose term expired with this session (see list of the Presbytery Board).

Next item was the election of one to fill the vacancy of Bro. E. L. York, retiring member of the Executive Board; resulted in the electing of Rev. Henry A. Howard to serve the 5 year term (see list of the Executive Board).

By reason of Rev. Jake Adkins' continued absence: Motion was sustained to retire him from the board, and the election of Rev. Everett Rogers to fill his unexpired term of 4 years.

Next item was the adjusting of the Home Mission Board. By reason of this board having been increased in the August quarterly meeting to 7 members, one of which having tendered her resignation, leaving an unexpired term of 6 years, resulted in the election of Rev. Glen Thomas to fill the vacancy; By reason of Rev. Jake Adkins, retiring member of the Board, resulted in the election of Bro. Calvert Morgan to the full term of 7 years (see list of Home Mission Board).

At this interval, the committee on Divine Service reported: Rev. Everett Rogers to bring the eleven o'clock message; Rev. Malcolm Rodgers to bring the message on the Ordinances at the 7:30 hour in the evening.

Next item, was the question of retiring Rev. Gates from the Executive Board due to his duties as Moderator; Resulted in a Motion sustained that he be retired on the Board.

At this interval, a Motion was sustained to adjourn the Business Session until 1:30 in the afternoon, giving way for the eleven o'clock service.

FRIDAY MORNING 11:00 SERVICE

Came together by singing, led by Rev. Gallagher; Prayer by Rev. Howard. At which time Rev. Everett Rogers, using for Scripture lesson Lu. 9:1-22, Text — "I will follow thee

whithersoever thou goest." v57. A splendid service was enjoyed by all, and the joining of the right hand of fellowship. Dismissed by Bro. Chas. Smith.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Pursuant to adjournment, the congregation reassembled at the 1:30 hour by singing, led by Rev. Marine, accompanied at the Piano by Rev. Gallagher; Prayer by Bro. Haley Hatfield. Followed by the Moderator reading 2nd epistle of John. At which time, Moderator read Rules of Decorum.

First item, was the Clerk reading Minutes of previous Session.

Next item, Nominations were in order for a new Treasurer to fill the vacancy created by Sis. Marjorie Morgan resigning; resulted in the election of Sis. Loma Jean Tucker.

Motion was sustained to retain Rev. Malcolm Rodgers as Co-Signer with the Clerk for withdrawal of funds from the Bank.

Next item claiming our attention, was the lifting off of the table matters of unfinished business, or otherwise for the Record. Such as: The matter of Identification Emblems for each member and office of the body. Also identification Automobile Tags for the Association. And, The matter of the Committee Report on the "Youth Camp."

After receiving the report, and much deliberation (Committee having obtained a very desirable camp with modern equipment: Known as the Pickrel Lake Camp; though small in size, making it necessary for a two week encampment with alternating groups), And inasmuch Rev. Gates, Chairman of the committee, serving as temporary Director, a Motion was made, and a unanimous vote to retain him as Camp Director. Sis. Marjorie Schumacker was selected as Supervisor, with the following Staff members: Sis. Luther, Sis. Ida Marine, Rev. E. J. Marine and Rev. Malcolm Rodgers.

A motion was offered, and laid on the table, temporarily because of a tie-vote, and the Moderator declined to make the decision, but in the following Session (Saturday) offered the following solution for Camp expenses, as follows: That each church share on equal basis for each camper; resulted in the same being referred to the Director, supervisor and Camp Staff.

Items of new business was presented by the Executive Board in the following Resolutions: No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 (see Resolutions).

At this interval, a Motion was sustained to adjourn the deliberations until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Dismissed by Bro. Leslie Gallagher.

FRIDAY EVENING ORDINANCE SERVICE

Came together at the usual hour by singing, led by Bro. W. E. Gates; Prayer by Bro. Calvert Morgan. Special Musical numbers were rendered by Patsy Mullens, a Solo; Sis. Blodale and Daughter Dorothy a song and Piano Accordion; and a special treat for the occasion: Song and Harp numbers rendered by Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Lambert, guests from Lansing.

Pursuant to the setting apart by the Free Will Baptist Mission, Bros. Jay Samples and Wm. Haynes to be ordained as Deacons for their church; And, after having been approved by the Presbytery Board. Likewise Rev. Glen Thomas, having previously been approved, and licensed to the Ministry, now being recommended by the Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church, and also approved by the Presbytery Board for ordination, the Moderator proceeded for public approval, and presenting the Scripture reading I Tim. 3, and the laying on of the hands by the Presbytery, and prayer by Rev. A. J. Dailey (Guest Minister from Florida), Rev. J. C. Lambert (Guest Minister from Lansing) and Rev. Malcolm Rodgers. A Christian right hand of fellowship was given, followed by the message of the hour being delivered by Rev. Malcolm Rodgers, using for subject: Communion and Feetwashing. In which many of the saints participated in, and witnessed an enjoyable time in the Lord. "And they sang a Hymn and went out."

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Came together at 9 o'clock by singing, led by Bro. W. E. Gates. Scripture by the Moderator reading the 19th Psalm; Prayer by Bro. Hull. Followed by the Moderator reading the Rules of Decorum.

First item of business, Call for Committee Reports: Committee on Divine Service having completed its work was discharged with commendations (see Committee Reports).

At this interval, time was given to the F. W. B. L. Programs, presided over by Bro. Olen Winchester, President of the League of the host's church. The following churches presenting their program with League Captain in charge, as follows:

TEN MILE F. W. B. CHURCH, Bro. Freddie Norris in charge;

FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION, Sis. Eva Chatterton in charge;

FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE, Sis. Gladys Minnear in charge.

Next item, Called for report of the several committees; Reports received and the committees discharged (see Reports).

Next item, was the matter of printing of the minutes, the amount etc., resulted in a Motion was sustained to have 700 minutes made, Rev. N. P. Gates to do the printing: That the Clerk and Ass't Clerk to help in preparing the minutes. And that, the amount \$135.08 now in the minute funds be drawn on the treasury to defray the expenses of printing.

Next item, was the matter of locating the place and setting of next Annual Association; And, by virtue of the fact, The Ten Mile Church so requested the next Session, it was unanimously agreed. Rev. Glen Thomas was chosen to preach the introductory message.

Rev. E. J. Marine was chosen to preach the Memorial message at the next Session.

At this interval, time was given to the Memorial service. Pursuant to the appointment Rev. N. P. Gates brought the Memorial message, using for Scripture lesson I Thess. 4:13-, Text, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." Concluded with the right hand of fellowship.

At this interval, Business was resumed for the reading of the minutes; The same being read and approved, and a rising vote of thanks was given the host's church for their kind hospitality given the setting of this conference.

Adjourned until time, and place when to convene with the Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church, on Thursday evening, April 29th - May 1st, 1954.

Rev. N. P. Gates, Moderator
Sis. Eva Chatterton, Clerk

ENROLLMENT OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

MAPLE GROVE CHURCH: Jeff Butler, Florence Lanning and Mary Howard.

LINCOLN PARK CHURCH: Mary Jane McKinney, Geneva Rogers, Douglas Owen and Douglas McKinney.

F. W. B. TABERNACLE: Hugh Arant, Catherine Arant and Clarence Arant.

F. W. B. MISSION: Alice Hull, Odessa Michelcamp, Julia Samples, Georgia Felts and Almirs Eberwine; **ALTERNATES:** Maude Haynes and Lillie Jones.

F. W. B. TEMPLE: Lena Star, Mary Stanley, Alma Mills, Bill Leach and Zema Fulks; **ALTERNATES:** Archie Mills and Paul McCoy.

TEN MILE CHURCH: Calvert Morgan, Loma Jean Tucker, Marshie Gates and Olive Mullens; **ALTERNATES:** Mattie Shelton and Marjorie Schumacker.

MINISTERS ENROLLMENT

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
Rev. N. P. Gates	19405 Danbury, Detroit 3, Mich.
Rev. John Q. Gallagher	309 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, Mich.
Rev. Malcolm Rodgers	1462 E. Meyers, Hazel Park, Mich.
Rev. Claud Wright	375 W. Evelyn, Hazel Park, Mich.
Rev. Henry A. Howard	2175 E. Jarvis St., Hazel Park, Mich.
Rev. E. J. Marine	992 E. Coy, Hazel Park, Mich.
Rev. C. E. Riggs	935 E. Coy, Hazel Park, Mich.
Rev. Glen Thomas	27036 Lenox, Royal Oak, Mich.
Rev. Jake Adkins	2538 14th St., Detroit, Mich.
Rev. Frank Pritchard.....	2620 Fourteenth St., Detroit, Mich.

LICENTIATE

Rev. Everett Rogers Lincoln Park, Mich.

DEACONS ENROLLMENT

<i>Church</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
F. W. B. TEMPLE:		
	Hurshal Stanley	3718 Townsend, Detroit, Mich.
	Leslie Gallagher	18826 Keystone, Detroit, Mich.
	Y. V. Hayley	5008 Fourth St., Detroit, Mich.
F. W. B. TABERNACLE:		
	Halley H. Hatfield	Detroit, Mich.
F. W. B. MISSION:		
	Henry Finney	1897 Saratoga, Ferndale, Mich.
	Wm. O. Haynes	19658 Dequindre & Jay Samples, Hazel Park, Mich.
TEN MILE F. W. B. CHURCH:		
	W. E. Gates	1478 E. Meyers, Hazel Park, Mich.
	J. O. Butcher	1244 E. Jarvis, Hazel Park, Mich.
	Chas. E. Miller	417 W. Ten Mile Rd., Hazel Park, Mich.
	Rabe Pearce	162 W. Maxlow St., Hazel Park, Mich.
	Enoch Ellis	963 E. Elza St., Hazel Park, Mich.
	Edward L. York	337 W. Lincoln, Royal Oak (Twp.), Mich.

CLERKS ENROLLMENT

<i>Church</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
F. W. B. TEMPLE:		
	Grace Gallagher	18826 Keystone, Detroit, Mich.
TEN MILE CHURCH:		
	Marjorie Schumaker	23303 Stauber, Hazel Park, Mich.
F. W. B. MISSION:		
	Ida Marine	992 E. Coy, Hazel Park, Mich.
F. W. B. TABERNACLE:		
	Clarence Arnt	Detroit, Mich.
MAPLE GROVE CHURCH:		
	Clayton Orange	Farmington, Mich.
LINCOLN PARK CHURCH:		
	Geneva Rogers	Lincoln Park, Mich.

PRESBYTERY BOARD

Rev. Henry A. Howard	One Year
Rev. John Q. Gallagher	Two Years
Rev. E. J. Marine	Three Years
Rev. Claud Wright	Four Years
Rev. Malcolm Rodgers	Five Years

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. N. P. Gates	One Year
Bro. L. T. Minnear	Two Years
Rev. Claud Wright	Three Years
Rev. Everett Rogers	Four Years
Rev. Henry A. Howard	Five Years

HOME MISSION BOARD

Bro. Hurshal Stanley	One Year
Bro. Halley Hatfield	Two Years
Rev. Claud Wright	Three Years
Sis. Marjorie Schumaker	Four Years
Sis. Lillie Jones	Five Years
Rev. Glen Thomas	Six Years
Bro. Calvert Morgan	Seven Years

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIVINE SERVICE COMMITTEE, Having performed their duties, in the appointment for services to-wit: Rev. Everett Rogers, 11:00 Friday morning; Rev. Malcolm Rodgers, Ordinance service Friday evening 7:30; Memorial service, Rev. N. P. Gates, by standing appointment, 11:00 Saturday morning.

Committee: Sis. Ida Marine
Sis. Alma Mills
Sis. Olive Mullens.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARY: We, your committee on obituary, are grateful to report, that, our kind heavenly Father in His mercy and kindness toward us, has seen fit to spare the flock, in that no deaths have been reported among us during the duration of our association.

Committee: Sis. Marshie Gates
Sis. Mary Howard
Bro. Henry Finney.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: We, your committee on Finance, desire to make the following report as have been contributed through the year by the several churches for Minute Funds, to date:

Free Will Baptist Temple (Mem. Funds, \$5.00)	\$37.25
Ten Mile Church	39.83
F. W. B. Mission (Mem. Funds, \$5.00)	20.00
F. W. B. Tabernacle	15.00
Maple Grove Church	23.00
Lincoln Park Church	
Total Minute Funds	\$135.08
Memorial Funds	\$10.00
Trust Funds	74.75
Grand Total	\$219.83

Committee: Bro. Bill Leach
Rev. Glen Thomas
Bro. Hugh Arant

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION No. 1 — Be it resolved, that, Quarterly Conferences shall convene in conformity with the Annual Association: Each Session beginning on Thursday evening before the First Sunday; Three months hence, dating from first Sunday, May, August, November and February of each year.

RESOLUTION No. 2 — Be it resolved, that, The Executive Board have regular established meetings: Each Session to proceed the regular Quarterly Conference, not later than Saturday before each Conference; Preferably one week earlier.

RESOLUTION No. 3 — Be it resolved that this session of the association convey to Mrs. Josie Gentry, (better known as Mother Gentry), words of condolence, with a Floral presentation, as a token of our love and remembrances in her time of illness.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Not Otherwise Recorded

(These Resolutions, previously enacted, and are placed here for the record.)

RESOLUTION No. 1a — That whereas, many needs arise from time to time, and that, whereas there being no general fund from which to draw as the occasions arise; Therefore, Be it Resolved that, a Free Will Offering be taken at each Session of this association, creating what shall be known as a "Trust Fund."

RESOLUTION No. 2a — That whereas, that in the kind providence of God, He has so decreed, that man's posterity on earth is but a few days, and full of trouble; though high or low, rich or poor, he must meet death out there at the ending of the way; That the possibilities of some, though in poverty may be called from among us; Therefore, Be it Resolved, that, each church share this responsibility with a contribution together with your Minute Funds in your letters to the conference. Thus creating, what shall be known as a MEMORIAL FUND.

CHURCH REPORTS

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church

State of religion, good; Members received past year, 43; Baptized, 22; Dismissed, 1; Died, none; Total membership, 141; Condition of prayer meetings, good; Condition of Sunday School, good; Average number of pupils, 149; Number

of Officers, 5; Number of Teachers, 8; Paid Pastor, \$100.00 weekly salary; Contributed for minutes, total for the year, \$39.83.

Rev. Malcolm Rodgers, Pastor
Sis. Marjorie Schumaker, Clerk.

Free Will Baptist Temple

The statistics of our church are as follows: State of religion, good; Pray meetings, above average; Sunday School, good, average attendance, 100; League, fair; Conversions, 41; Baptized, 15; Received into fellowship, 19; Dismissed, none; Died, none; Total membership, 72. Total expense of operation, as follows:

Paid Pastor	\$4,308.11
To Evangelistic services	531.66
Building Funds	917.66
Paid Pianist	539.50
Contribution to the Ecorse Church	112.67
Hartfords Melody Quartet	133.00
Crusade for Christ	60.00
Orphans Home	74.00
Foreign Mission	24.54
Literature	83.15
Chairs for Intermediate Class	53.28
Chairs for Juvenile Class	65.00
Caretaker	50.00
Minute Funds	37.25
Memorial Funds	5.00
Miscellaneous	192.91
Total	\$7,187.43

Rev. N. P. Gates, Pastor
Sis. Grace Gallagher, Clerk

Free Will Baptist Tabernacle

Our regular services, good; Sunday School attendance, good; Mid-week Prayer service, growing; Bible Study every Saturday night, 7:30; Number of conversions, since the last setting of the conference, 3; Total membership, 18; Our over-all attendance is greatly increasing for the last thirty days. Contribution for Minute Funds, \$15.00.

Rev. John Q. Gallagher, Pastor
Bro. Clarence Arant, Clerk.

Free Will Baptist Mission

The statistics of our Church are as follows: State of religion, good; Condition of Sunday School, good; Condition of Prayer meetings, extra good; Members received for the year, 11; Baptized, 9; Dismissed, 8; Died, none; Total membership, 75; Number of Officers, 3; Number of Teachers, 9; Paid our Pastor

\$3,940.00

Paid Evangelist	418.21
To the Needy and Widows	67.00
Foreign Missions	223.44
Orphans Home	25.00
Building Funds	858.33
Minute Funds (the year)	20.00
Memorial Funds	5.00
Total	\$5,556.98

Rev. E. J. Marine, Pastor
Sis. Ida Marine, Clerk.

Maple Grove Free Will Baptist Church

The statistics of our church are as follows: State of religion, good; Condition of Sunday School, good; Condition of Prayer meetings, fair; Members received, none; Dismissed, none; Baptized, none; Died, none; Total membership, 20; Number of Teachers, 3; Contribution for Minute Funds (the year), \$23.00.

Rev. Henry A. Howard, Pastor
Clayton Orange, Clerk.

Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church

The statistics of our church is as follows: Met in preliminary services, Prayer meetings, etc., and in our deliberations set about to the organizing of the work, And, after obtaining a building in which to worship, located at Electric and O'Connor Streets in Lincoln Park, and had our opening date and dedication service on March 8th, 1953, Rev. N. P. Gates, officiating and delivering the dedicatory message, with ten charter members as follows: Rev. Everett Rogers, Geneva Rogers, Pat Groof, Allen Groof, Jone McKinney, Douglas McKinney, Henry Cochran, Douglas Owens and Lillian Pendley. Prayer of consecration, led by Rev. Sloan, Rev. E. J. Marine and Bro. Jack Hagen.

Rev. Everett Rogers, Pastor
Sis. Geneva Rogers, Clerk.



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order by moderator.
2. Call for letters from churches.
3. Election of moderator and clerk.
4. Read Rules of Decorum.
5. Appointment of Committees: Divine Service, Finance, Obituary, Arrangement of Business.
6. Call for corresponding letters.
7. Call for petitionary letters.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **GOD.** We believe in one true and living, Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, Purpose, Power and Glory.—St. John 1:1, 1 Cor. 8:6; St. John 10:30.

2. **Christ.** We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home.—Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

3. **HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up His office work among all nations of people, as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide.—Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. **THE BIBLE.** We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by Inspiration of God; is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. **THE FALL OF MAN.** We believe that GOD created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell, with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming of CHRIST.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:5; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3.

6. **REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION.** We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above.—Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; St. John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22.

7. **CONDITIONS OF SALVATION.** We believe that all persons, dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any act on their part that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their

part, exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ—John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; 1 Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. **SALVATION FREE.** We believe that God desires the salvation of all Christ died for all; and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel.—1 Peter 1:9-25; 2:9-25; Revelation 22:17.

9. **BAPTISM.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same.—Matt. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; 1 Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19.

10. **COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING.** We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Saviour to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of the feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming.—Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. **THE SABBATH.** We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted.—Exodus 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. **CALL TO THE MINISTRY.** We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impress His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the Scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him, He accompanies them in person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose.—Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matt. 28:19.

13. **THE INVISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that the Invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people.—Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18.

14. **THE VISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel.—2 Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; 3 John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:4-20.

15. **PERSEVERANCE.** We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace and in the knowledge of the truth, and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life, and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backside if persistently continued, would be eternally lost.—2 Pet. 1:12; 2 Cor. 9:10; 2 Peter 1:4-8; 2 Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy; 2 Peter 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32.

16. **CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.** We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body.—Col. 1:18-19; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Eph. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. **SANCTIFICATION.** Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

18. **THE RESURRECTION.** We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be united, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God for ever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.—Matt. 28:6; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:51-58.

19. **THE SOUL.** The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed.—Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16: 19-25; Matt. 10:28.

20. **JUDGMENT.** We believe that there will be a general universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness.—2 Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.

14
CONSTITUTION
of
THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTIST

1. This Association, when properly convened, shall consist of a Moderator, and Ass't Moderator; Clerk, and Ass't Clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the Moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote.

The duty of the Clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association. The Assistants to the Moderator and Clerk shall be to assist, or occupy their respective seats when vacant, or otherwise necessary.

2. This Association shall be composed of ordained Ministers, Deacons and Licentiates, together with messengers duly chosen by the church of their membership in our union, whom the members judge best qualified to represent them. Said messengers bearing letters certifying to their appointment.

Said Ministers and Licentiates shall be men of good report, within, and without, of honest integrity and full of the Holy Ghost, meeting the qualifications to that of I Tim. 3. Coming under the hands, or approval of the Ordaining Council. Pastors shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church, or churches they serve; whose tenure of service shall be faithfully maintained until terminated, and that effected only by a 60 days notice of said intention, and the selection of an active Minister within the bounds of this Association to succeed him. It is agreed, however, one may be selected from other sources, being approved by the Ordaining Council of this Ass'n.

3. In the letters from the churches shall be expressed their respective number in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded or died since the last setting of the Association, day of church meeting, Pastor and Clerk.

4. No query shall be received by this Association from any church until it has been acted upon by said church and referred to the Association. In which case the Association shall take up the matter, acting as an advisory counsel to promote peace and harmony according to true discipline of Divine grace.

5. Every church in this Association shall be entitled to a representation of Messengers not exceeding five; together with said clerk and ordained authority.

6. This Association shall maintain a Presbytery Board selected from the ordained authority, preferably Ministers: five in number; also an Executive Board consisting of five, selected from the body, whose tenure of office shall be ranging from one to five years. The Association shall select, annually, to supply the vacancies as they occur.

7. Every motion, when in order and properly sustained, shall be acted upon unless withdrawn by the mover: that is to say, to present matters for discussion, trying the merits of the same, and, if found worth and orthodox, to adopt it.

8. This Association shall not exercise power so as to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on the internal rights of any. Maintaining the rights and privileges, and relationship to each church to that of individual members: that is to say, if a church trespasses against a sister church, the church injured shall try to reclaim them by Gospel steps; whereupon, if a reconciliation cannot be effected, the said church in default shall be dropped from our counsel.

9. We agree to do all regular business by a majority of members present.

10. Any church may be admitted into this Association by a petitionary letter and messengers, if however, said church is found to be orthodox and orderly. Such admission shall be manifested by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to said messengers.

11. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, to advise, if prudent, in all matters of difficulty; to ascertain the cause of non-representation, to select from this body such committees deemed necessary to the functioning of the body; to invite and entertain counsel with all brother ministers commensurate with safety; to exclude, or disannul any member not conforming to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his, or their conduct to the church of which they held membership.

12. This Association shall not, at any time, engage in what may seem to be of a commercial nature. However, it shall be the duty of each church to provide means to defray current expenses of the Association.

13. This Association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all matters concerning the Ministers of the council, as touching their qualification, of his manly character and general conduct; strict adherence to the principles and doctrine of faith and practice, not deviating from that set forth in the Articles of Faith of Free Will Baptist. Particularly that of the plan of redemption, of the Christian fellowship in the unity of Spirit and the bonds of peace; or failing to keep the Ordinances, and the perseverance in faith, ready to be revealed in glory at the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ; when both saints, and the wicked dead shall be resurrected, the saints to everlasting life, and the wicked to eternal damnation.

14. The Lord's Supper and feetwashing shall be administered at each annual setting of this Association.

15. This Association shall advise, or recommend the support of denominational enterprises according to the ability, or means otherwise provided, and under the jurisdiction of the local church.

16. This Association shall possess the rights to repel, or exclude anyone coming unto us preaching, or advocating any other doctrine than that set forth in the original Articles of Faith of Free Will Baptist.

17. This constitution shall not be changed, or amended, only by a three-fourths majority of Ministers, as also the Deacons, and likewise the duly elected representatives at the regular annual setting of the Association.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise to his feet and address the moderator.

3. Each person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.

4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question and shall in no wise cast reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

6. No person shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

7. Members shall address each other by the appellation of brother or brethren, or sisters.

8. No members of this Association shall absent himself when the association is sitting in conference without leave of the moderator.

9. The names of the members of this association shall be enrolled and called over as often as the association thinks is necessary.

10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the moderator.

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 educational 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.