

ERNEST R. BOWEN
3606 WEST END AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37205

Minutes
Fourth Annual Session

The Liberty Association
of
Free Will Baptist

convened with

The Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church
Hazel Park, Michigan

April 29 - May 1, 1954

MINUTES OF FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTIST

OFFICERS

Rev. N. P. Gates Moderator
Rev. ~~John Q. Gallagher~~ *L. E. Butler* Assistant Moderator
3.90 ~~Sister Edna Chaucer~~ *Charles Osborne* Clerk & Tr.
1 ~~Sister Marjorie Schumacker~~ *Henry Finney* Assistant Clerk & Tr.

**Next Session to convene with the
FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE**

Introductory Message By Rev. C. E. Riggs
Memorial Service By Rev. E. J. Marine

INTRODUCTORY SERVICE

On Thursday evening, April 29, 1954, The Liberty Association met in its fourth Annual Session with the Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church, Hazel Park, Michigan.

Came together by singing led by Rev. E. J. Marine, accompanied at the piano by Sister Grace Langlois. Prayer by Brother Morgan, followed by the Moderator's reading the 1st Psalm.

Due to the absence of speaker appointed a year ago, Rev. C. E. Riggs was appointed.

Letters from the various churches were read, to which the following churches responded and their delegates were seated in conference. To wit: The *Free Will Baptist Tabernacle*, *Free Will Baptist Temple*, *Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church*, and *Faith Free Will Baptist Church* (see list of delegates). Prayer of Consecration by Rev. Claud Wright.

Moderator appointed Divine Service Committee – Sister Martin, Brother Sample, and Brother Mullins.

Offering for the Free Will Baptist Orphanage, Nashville, Tennessee, was \$14.40.

Message of the evening was brought by Rev. C. E. Riggs, using for text Gen. 26:18-21, and his thoughts were based on "Springs in the Valley."

Service closed with Christian handshake of fellowship and prayer by Brother Gleason.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Came together at the usual hour by singing "Camping in Canaan Land" and followed by the Moderator's using for Scripture the 32nd Psalm. Prayer by Brother Hatfield.

Roll call of delegates.

Due to sickness, the morning speaker selected by the Divine Service Committee, will be changed. Brother Hatfield was appointed to fill vacancy of Brother Sample to complete the committee.

Motion was made and seconded to retain present officers until next election which will take place next Annual Session. A vote was taken: deferring election – 16; election as usual – 7.

Rules of Decorum were read by the Moderator.

Moderator appointed the following committees: Finance Committee – Brother Hicks, Sister Hull, and Sister Minnear; Obituary Committee – Sister Miller, Brother Gallagher, and Sister Hampton.

Roll Call of Executive Board – 3 members present. Brother E. J. Marine was appointed to serve temporarily.

The Committee on Divine Service gave their report: Brother Morgan to bring the 11 a.m. message, with Brother Rodgers as alternate. The Evening speaker selected was Brother Gallagher, with Brother Edwins as alternate.

Motion was made and seconded to appoint a Committee to make forms for reports to be submitted to body before selecting. Carried. The Committee appointed: Brother Gallagher, Brother Stanley, and Brother William Gates.

Motion was made and seconded that the business session be dismissed until 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY MORNING – 11a.m. Service

Came together by singing "Oh, How I Love Jesus" and "Love Lifted Me." Prayer by the Rev. Gallagher. The speaker for this service was Brother Calvert Morgan. His Scripture was taken from Luke 14:16-24. Message was based on thought "What Excuse Do We Use?"

Benediction.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION – 1:30 p.m.

The congregation reassembled at the 1:30 hour by singing, led by Brother Marine. After the Scripture reading, taken from Isaiah, we had prayer led by Brother Gleason.

First item of business was a report from the Youth Camp Committee as to what had been done to date. Motion was made and seconded to retain the same Youth Camp Committee with election of Director from the body. Carried. Nominations for Director were: Brother Rodgers, Brother Marine, who declined, Brother N. P. Gates, and Brother Morgan. Motion was made and seconded that nominations cease. Brother Malcolm Rodgers was properly elected.

Motion was made and seconded to re-elect the same staff as last year. Supervisory staff to engage such helpers as needed. Sister Shumacher, Supervisor; Sister Luther, Cook; Brother and Sister Marine, Children's workers.

Motion was made and seconded that Brother Marine be elected as Assistant Director by acclamation. Carried.

Motion was made and seconded to carry a "blanket" insurance for each camper, consisting of sickness, injury, etc. Carried. This insurance business and policy, etc., is to be left to committee.

Motion was made and seconded that the report from Divine Service Committee be received and Committee discharged.

The next Annual Conference will be held at the *Free Will Baptist Temple* on Dequindre, near State Fair Avenue.

Motion was made and seconded to accept invitation. The speaker for opening service to be Rev. Henry Howard, Brother C. E. Riggs, alternate. Rev. N. P. Gates to be Memorial Service speaker.

Benediction by Rev. E. J. Marine.

FRIDAY EVENING ORDINATION SERVICE

The service was opened with singing, led by Brother "Bill" Maples. Moderator read for Scripture from II John.

Guest ministers were recognized.

Prayer by the Rev. Plane.

Special music was rendered by the Sunshine Quartette.

Offering was \$27.50 (Trust Fund). Offeratory prayer by Rev. N. P. Gates.

Sermon by Rev. John Gallagher. His Scripture texts were Exo. 12:3-14, John 13:1-17, and Mark 14:12-25.

Communion and Feet Washing Service followed (I Cor. 11:16-30).

Handshake and "as they sang a hymn they went out."

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

The service was opened with singing by the congregation. Scripture reading, Psalm 19, by Moderator. Prayer by Brother William Gates.

Motion was made and seconded that the Treasurer, Clerk, and Assistant Clerk be a Finance Committee for the Liberty Association for one year. Carried.

The Treasurer's report was read (see report).

A suggestion to have 400 Minutes printed, to be distributed 100 to each church. Motion was made that Clerk see about getting the Minutes printed for the money allowed, which was \$139.25. Seconded, and carried.

Recognition was given to a guest pastor, Rev. Lange Edwards of Chico, Virginia.

Motion was made that Brother Edwards be recognized as Honorary Guest. Seconded, carried.

Motion was made and seconded to receive report of the Finance Committee with commendation to Faith Free Will Baptist Church for their donation.

Motion was made and seconded that Finance Committee be discharged. Carried.

The following churches took part in the Young People's Program: *Faith Free Will Baptist Church*: Sister Eva Chatterton in charge; *Free Will Baptist Tabernacle*: Sister Arant in charge; *Free Will Baptist Temple*: Brother Chas. Cooper in charge; *Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church*: Brother Calvert Morgan.

Special solo by Rev. N. P. Gates, "When He Reached Down His Hand for Me."

Memorial Service Message was delivered by Rev. E. J. Marine. Scripture: Psalm 23.

The report of the Obituary Committee was read. Scripture text: I Cor. 15:51,53. The congregation sang "When I Make the Last Move." Motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Obituary Committee. Carried.

12-2-55 C. H. Duckworth. Utica, Mich.
3-3-56 Bro. Albert. Millins Det. Mich.
1 1 1 1 1 1 Billy Perryson

DEACON'S ENROLLMENT

Free Will Baptist Temple

Hurshall Stanley 3718 Townsend, Detroit, Michigan

Leslie Gallagher 18826 Keystone, Detroit, Michigan

Y. V. Hayley 5008 Fourth Street, Detroit, Michigan

Free Will Baptist Tabernacle

Halley H. Hatfield Detroit, Michigan

Faith Free Will Baptist Church

Henry Finney 1896 Saratoga, Ferndale, Michigan

William O. Haynes 400 Gardenia, Royal Oak, Michigan

Jay Samples 190 Gerald, Highland Park, Michigan

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church

W. E. Gates 1478 E. Meyers, Hazel Park, Michigan

J. O. Butcher 1244 E. Jarvis, Hazel Park, Michigan

Chas. E. Miller 417 W. Ten Mile Road, Hazel Park, Michigan

Rabe Pearce 162 W. Maxlow Street, Hazel Park, Michigan

Enoch Ellis 963 E. Elza Street, Hazel Park, Michigan

Edward L. York 337 W. Lincoln, Royal Oak Township, Michigan

CLERKS ENROLLMENT

Free Will Baptist Temple

Grace Gallagher 18826 Keystone, Detroit, Michigan

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church

Marjorie Schumaker 23303 Stauber, Hazel Park, Michigan

Faith Free Will Baptist Church

J. E. Sample 190 Gerald Street, Highland Park, Michigan

Free Will Baptist Tabernacle

Clarence Arant Detroit, Michigan

PRESBYTERY BOARD

Rev. ~~Henry 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

Brother L. T. Minnear Two Years

Rev. Claud Wright Three Years

Rev. Everett Rogers Four Years

Rev. Henry A. Howard Five Years

HOME MISSION BOARD

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Brother Hurshall Stanley | One Year |
| Brother Halley Hatfield | Two Years |
| Rev. Claud Wright | Three Years |
| Sister Marjorie Schumaker | Four Years |
| Sister Lillie Jones | Five Years |
| Rev. Glen Thomas | Six Years |
| Brother Calvert Morgan | Seven Years |

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Divine Service Committee: Having performed their duties, in the appointment for services, to wit: Brother Calvert Morgan, 11 a.m. message with Brother Rodgers as alternate. The Evening speaker selected, Brother Gallagher with Brother Edwards as alternate.

Committee: Sister Martin
Brother Samples
Brother Mullins

Committee on Obituary: We, the Obituary Committee with saddened hearts make known to the body of the Liberty Association that this morning we know in our hearts that heaven is a little brighter, the rejoicing a little greater because of the presence of the soul of our beloved Sister Marsha S. Gates' blessing and singing the praises of God in His Kingdom. Her memory will ever be cherished and revered down here for her testimony spoke of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Aunt Marsha passed on to a greater life on February 4, 1954.

Our heart-felt love and sympathy goes out to her beloved companion and our brother in Christ, W. E. Gates, and children.

Committee: Helen Hampton
Rev. John Q. Gallagher
Mrs. Claudie Miller

TREASURER'S REPORT

| April 29-May 1, 1954 | Minute Fund |
|---|-------------|
| Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church | \$ 11.50 |
| Faith Free Will Baptist Church | 35.00 |
| Free Will Baptist Temple | 20.00 |
| Free Will Baptist Tabernacle | 20.00 |
| Total | \$ 86.50 |

Totals For The Year

| | |
|---|----------|
| Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church | \$ 37.72 |
| Free Will Baptist Temple | 35.00 |
| Faith Free Will Baptist Church | 35.00 |
| Free Will Baptist Tabernacle | 25.00 |
| Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church | 6.53 |
| Total | \$139.25 |
| Balance From Last Year | .13 |
| Total Minute Fund | \$139.38 |

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|---------------------------------|----------|
| Balance in Trust Fund | \$182.57 |
|---------------------------------|----------|

Balance in Memorial Fund

| | |
|---|----------|
| Faith Free Will Baptist Church | \$ 30.00 |
| Free Will Baptist Temple | 5.00 |
| Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church | 5.00 |
| Total | \$ 40.00 |

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| Balance in Orphanage | \$ 28.22 |
|--------------------------------|----------|



CHURCH REPORTS

Free Will Baptist Temple

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Received Into Fellowship | 13 |
| Dismissed By Letter | 1 |
| Excluded | None |
| Died | None |
| Conversions. | 28 |
| Baptized | 17 |
| Total Membership | 77 |

Amounts Received

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Sale of Old Church | \$25,000.00 |
| General Offerings | 8,924.10 |
| Special Offerings | 896.79 |

Amounts Paid Out

| | |
|--|-------------|
| To adjust account | \$ 2,612.82 |
| Lots purchased for new church | 15,300.00 |
| Cash paid out on new building | 12,000.00 |
| Amount outstanding (pending) about | 18,000.00 |
| Paid Pastor | 4,419.22 |
| Paid Choir Director, Pianist | 703.50 |

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|--|-----------|
| Paid Caretaker | 270.00 |
| Contributed to Ecorse Church | 112.67 |
| Orphans Home | 53.12 |
| City Rescue Mission | 22.50 |
| Gilead Bible Service | 19.00 |
| Youth Campers | 30.00 |
| Total Valuation of Property | 75,000.00 |

Rev. N. P. Gates, *Pastor*
Sister Grace Gallagher, *Clerk*

Faith Free Will Baptist Church

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Saved and Reclaimed | 56 |
| Baptized | 18 |
| Received into Membership | 60 |
| Total Membership | 111 |
| Active Members | 64 |
| Inactive Members | 47 |
| Average attendance | 85 |
| Sunday School | Good |
| Teachers | 9 |
| Births | 2 |
| Deaths | 2 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Paid Pastor | \$ 4,250.00 |
| Foreign Missions | 374.67 |
| Orphans Home | 35.00 |
| Widows and Needy | 122.74 |
| Baskets of Groceries Given | 18 |
| Building Fund at Present Time | 3,000.00 |

Rev. E. J. Marine, *Pastor*
J. E. Samples, *Clerk*

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| State of Religion | Good |
| Members Received Past Year | 56 |
| Baptized | 43 |
| Dismissed | 7 |
| Died | 1 |
| Total Membership | 189 |
| Condition of Prayer Meeting | Good |
| Condition of Sunday School | Good |
| Average of Pupils | 185 approx. |
| No. of Officers | 5 |
| No. of Teachers | 11 |
| Assistant Teachers | 10 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Paid Pastor (Weekly) | \$ 110.00 |
| Paid Evangelist | 1,015.00 |
| Building and Repairs | 6,500.00 |

Rev. Malcolm Rodgers, *Pastor*
Sister Marjorie Schumaker, *Clerk*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order by Moderator
Call for Letters from Churches
Election of Moderator and Clerk
Read Rules of Decorum
Appointment of Committees: Divine Service, Finance,
Obituary, Arrangement of Business
Call for Corresponding Letters
Call for Petitionary Letters
Unfinished Business ✓
New Business

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.

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; I 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. — II Peter 1:19-21; II 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 3; Matt. 19:13-22; I 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. — I 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; I 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 Savior 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; I 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; I 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. — II Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; III 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. — II Pet. 1:12; II Cor. 9:10; II Peter 1:4-8; II Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy; II Peter 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; I 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. — I Cor. 6:11; II Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; II Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; II 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 forever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment. — Matt. 28:6; John 5:28-29; I 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; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST**

AMEND.

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.A 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.

2.B 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 trepasses 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 deed 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.

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.

