

M i n u t e s
Seventh Annual Session

*The Liberty Association
of
Free Will Baptist*

convened with

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist

74 West Ten Mile Road

Hazel Park, Michigan

May 3 - 4, 1957

MINUTES OF SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTIST

OFFICERS

Rev. C. E. Riggs	Moderator
Rev. James D. Addison	Assistant Moderator
Sister Beatric Leach	Clerk
Sister Ruth Johnson	Assistant Clerk
Sister Ruth Johnson	Treasurer

**Next Session to convene with the
SEVENTH STREET FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Introductory Message by Rev. C. E. Riggs
Alternate – Rev. James T. Holman

Missionary Message by Rev. W. L. Howell
Alternate – Rev. Bill Childers

INTRODUCTORY SERVICE

On Friday evening, May 3, 1957, The Liberty Association met in its Seventh Annual Session with Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church at 74 West Ten Mile Road, Hazel Park, Michigan.

Came together by singing "Fill My Way with Love," led by Brother Clouse, accompanied at the piano by Sister Tobe. Prayer by Brother Tobe. Congregation singing "Send the Light," and "Sweeping Through The Gates." Scripture read by Moderator from 2nd Chapter of Phillipians.

First item of business. Call for Church letters, to which the following churches responded, and their delegates were seated in conference: Welcome Home Free Will Baptist Church, Seventh Street Free Will Baptist Church, Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church, East Side Free Will Baptist Church, Ten Mile Free Baptist Church (see list of delegates). Motion made and sustained that regular delegation be extended a right hand of fellowship by Moderator. Prayer of Consecration at Altar led by Rev. Calvert Morgan.

Officers elected as follows: *Moderator*, Rev. C. E. Riggs; *Assistant Moderator*, Rev. James D. Addison; *Clerk*, Sister Beatrice Leach; *Assistant Clerk*, Sister Ruth Johnson; *Treasurer*, Sister Ruth Johnson.

Call for Petitionary letters; none at this time.

Brother Ralph Clouse asked to take floor at this time to lead in singing. Congregation singing, "All Alone," accompanied at piano by Sister Tobe. Also sang "Living by Faith, Victory in Jesus." Special singing by the Tobe Childer and Linda Holman.

Introductory Message by Rev. Calvert Morgan. Visiting Ministers recognized. Scripture read from 13th Chapter, 12th verse of Genesis. Text: "THE HELL BOUND TRAIN." After a wonderful message, floor was turned over to Moderator. Song director asked to get a song, and Altar call given. After Altar call and singing, dismissed in prayer by Brother Wilson.

Business session to convene on Saturday Morning at 9:30 A.M.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION - 9:30 a.m.

Services opened with singing "Amazing Grace," led by Brother O. L. Arrowood, also sang "Precious Memories." Altar of Prayer led by Brother E. J. Ramey. Scripture read by Brother Moderator from 58th Psalms. Rules of Decorum read.

Call for Tardy letters to which The Free Will Baptist Chapel responded. Delegates roll call given for said church and right hand of fellowship given by Moderator.

Petitionary letters called for; none at this time.

Appointment of committee on Divine Service by Moderator. Brother Kenneth Hicks, Brother Halley Hatfield and Brother Curtis Leach.

Obituary Committee appointed by Moderator, Brother O. L. Arrowood, Brother Temple Johnson and Brother Robert Leslie.

Call for unfinished business; none at this time.

Report from Ministerial Board made by Brother James D. Addison.

Resolution No. 1 – For Clerk and Moderator to prepare and make forms and mail such forms to each Minister two weeks before each Annual setting of Conference. Motion made and carried to authorize said officers.

Resolution No. 2 – Liberty Association to elect Delegates at this Session to send to National Association. Motion made that this Association letter in to the National Association this setting. Motion made and sustained. Delegates as follows: Brother C. E. Riggs, Brother James D. Addison, Brother J. T. Holman. Alternates: Brother Calvert Morgan, and Brother Bill Gates.

Motion made and sustained that the Liberty Association put Monroe Free Will Baptist Church on a special Prayer List that God's glory will prevail.

Ministers' reports called for at this time. Motion made and sustained that Clerk and Assistant Clerk read said reports. Letters read and accepted.

Recommendations from various churches read by Clerk.

Moderator asked the audience how many of the delegates would stay for Communion and feet washing. Very few responded. Motion made to strike from minutes the resolution of having Communion and feet washing at the Annual Association. Amendment to motion on floor to move feet washing and Communion services to Good Friday night before Annual Session of Association. Motion made that we have Communion and Feet Washing, and that the Association sponsor and back up such a service; each church really help out and come. Tabled question as to where such a service would take place until afternoon session.

Motion made to adjourn business session to afternoon session.

Song Leader asked to get song before 11:00 message. After singing, floor was turned over to speaker Rev. E. J. Ramey to bring the message. Brother Ramey asked Brother Reynolds to testify. Visiting Ministers recognized. Brother Hall from Arkansas testified. Scripture read from Mark 16:15. After a wonderful message on Missionary work, congregation asked to stand and sing "Victory in Jesus," and "Old Fashioned Hand Shake." Floor was turned over to Moderator. Presbytery Board asked to meet with Moderator and Brother Temple Johnson. Dismissed in Prayer by Brother Arrowood.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch was enjoyed by all at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Holman. Lunch was prepared by the Ladies of the host church, Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church.

Came together by singing "Some Day" led by Brother Clouse, accompanied at piano by Sister Tobe. Prayer by Brother Calvert Morgan.

Presbytery Board and Candidates to be Ordained or Licensed.

Floor turned over to Young People's Leader, Brother Leonard Anderson of host church, to give their program. Prayer by Brother Barker. Scripture reading by Brother Anderson from 53rd Chapter of Isaiah. Program interrupted for Ordination Service. Ordained were Brother Roy Plemmons as Deacon, Brother Robert Cottingin as Minister and Brother John Norris as Minister. Charge read by Brother C. E. Riggs from 1st Timothy, 3rd Chapter. Brother Temple Johnson accepted by board, and given papers for Deacon. Brother Addison to start prayer. Brother Hatfield to take up second lead, and Brother Riggs to conclude prayer. Hand shake and sang "Amazing Grace." The spirit of the Lord was with us. Young People continued their program. There were several groups of special singers. Recitation of Psalms 100, several short talks and testimonies by young people. A good program was enjoyed by all.

Financial report given by Treasurer Sister Ruth Johnson, at request of Moderator. Report accepted as read.

Next annual setting of conference will be at the Seventh Street Free Will Baptist Church.

Introductory Service by Brother C. E. Riggs; Alternate – Brother J. T. Holman.

Mission Message by Brother W. L. Howell; Alternate – Brother Bill Childers.

Communion and Feet Washing on Good Friday night before next Annual Setting to be at Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m.

Offering taken for Orphanage at Greeneville, Tennessee, amount received, \$27.35.

Standing vote of thanks to Host Church. Minutes read and accepted as read.

Obituary report: We wish to express our sympathy to the Seventh Street Church in their loss of their beloved Sister in Christ.

Motion made to adjourn. Dismissed in Prayer by Brother Donald Harrison.

ENROLLMENT OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Seventh Street Free Will Baptist Church: Sister Earline Reynolds, Brother Willard Reynolds, Brother Hubert Payne, Sister Vernie Payne and Brother Lester Coffman. Alternates: Sister Ruby Coffman, Sister Ressie Wallace, and Sister Finnie Fortner.

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church: Brother Carroll Tobe, Brother Wayne Lankford, Brother Ed Morris Tucker, Brother Bob Dudley, and Brother

Kenneth Hicks. Alternates: Brother L. Anderson, Brother R. Maxwell, and Brother M. Carr.

Welcome Home Free Will Baptist Church: Brother Clarence Dockery, Brother Robert Leslie, and Sister Phyliss Dockery.

East Side Free Will Baptist Church: Brother Curtis Leach, Brother Garland Pierson, Sister Elizabeth Pierson, Sister Wilma Williams, and Sister Pauline Leach. Alternates: Brother Tom Ford and Sister Mary Stanley.

Free Will Baptist Chapel: Brother O. L. Arrowood, Sister Avon Rose, Brother Cecil Penley. Alternates: Sister Edna Viers, Sister Mary Rose, and Brother Raymond Ramsey.

Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church: Brother Samuel Belcher, Sister Mammie Belcher, Brother Roy Freeman, and Sister Mary Thomas.

MINISTERS ENROLLMENT

Rev. Donald E. Harrison	5174 Iroquois, Detroit
Rev. Calvert Morgan	18881 St. Aubin, Detroit
Rev. Lonzo Edwards	899 E. Rowland, Madison Heights
Rev. Cecil Penley	1569 E. Otis, Madison Heights
Rev. Wesley Thomas	7145 Dudley, Taylor Center
Rev. W. S. Lilly	19198 Stanley, Melvindale
Rev. W. L. Howell	9331 W. Fort St., Detroit
Rev. E. J. Ramey	2804 6th St., Wyandotte
Rev. J. D. Addison	1934 London, Lincoln Park
Rev. Halley Hatfield	19366 Huntington Rd., Detroit
Rev. C. E. Riggs	935 E. Coy, Hazel Park
Rev. Henry Howard	1337 E. Jarvis, Hazel Park
Rev. Claude Wright	375 W. Evelyn, Hazel Park
Rev. James T. Holman	726 E. George, Hazel Park
Rev. John Norris	980 Carmel St., Detroit

DEACONS ENROLLMENT

East Side Free Will Baptist Church

Hurshel Stanley	161 W. Evelyn St., Hazel Park
Charles Cooper	1584 University, Roseville
Carson Slagle	22836 Sharron, East Detroit
Temple Johnson	690 Glover St., Detroit

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church

William E. Gates 404 W. Bernhard, Hazel Park
James O. Butcher 1244 E. Jarvis, Hazel Park
Charles E. Miller 417 W. 10 Mile Rd., Hazel Park
Enden C. Ellis 425 W. Roberts, Hazel Park
Edward L. York 337 W. Lincoln, Madison Heights
Rabe H. Pearce 1561 Gravel Ridge, Rochester
Charles C. Smith 2329 Kenneth, Royal Oak

Welcome Home Free Will Baptist Church

William Crisp 2587 Trumbull Ave., Detroit
Earl Hinkle 2537 Trumbull Ave., Detroit

Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church

J. B. Spradlin 60 W. Westfield, Ecorse

Seventh Street Free Will Baptist Church

Ralph Eskew 16818 Helen St., Wyandotte
R. L. Steward 17123 Quarry Road, Wyandotte
Jack Sammons 113 Poplar St., Wyandotte
Roy Plemmons 93 East James St., River Rouge
Alta Morrison 6550 Wagner St., Detroit

CLERKS ENROLLMENT

East Side Free Will Baptist Church

Beatrice Leach 1217 Hart Ave., Detroit

Free Will Baptist Chapel

Geneva Viers 23714 Vassar, Hazel Park

Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church

Mammie Lou Belcher 16133 Ziegler St., Wyandotte

Welcome Home Free Will Baptist Church

Louise Hinkle 8400 Epworth, Detroit

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church

Elsie E. Anderson 6536 Guthrie St., Madison Heights

Seventh Street Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. James D. Addison 1934 London St., Lincoln Park

PRESBYTERY BOARD

Rev. Claude Wright	1 Yr.
Rev. Lonzo Edwards	2 Yrs.
Rev. C. E. Riggs.	3 Yrs.
Rev. James D. Addison	4 Yrs.
Rev. Halley Hatfield	5 Yrs.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Brother Charles Smith	1 Yr.
Rev. Henry Howard	2 Yrs.
Rev. James D. Addison	3 Yrs.
Rev. Calvert R. Morgan	4 Yrs.
Brother Willard Reynolds	5 Yrs.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Sister Margaret Cottingin	1 Yr.
Brother Robert Cottingin	2 Yrs.
Brother Calvert R. Morgan	3 Yrs.
Sister Catherine Sargent	4 Yrs.
Brother Hubert Sayler	5 Yrs.
Brother John Norris	6 Yrs.
Brother Donald Harrison	7 Yrs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Divine Service Committee: Having performed their duties, in the appointment for services, to wit: Rev. W. L. Howell to bring 11 a.m. message with Rev. Bill Childers, alternate.

Committee: Brother Halley Hatfield
Brother Curtis Leach
Brother Kenneth Hicks

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 beloved Sister Faitha Ratcliff's 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.

Sister Faitha Ratcliff passed on to a greater life on February 1, 1957.

Our heart-felt love and sympathy goes out to her beloved companion and family, Alex Ratcliff.

Committee: Brother Temple Johnson
 Brother O. L. Arrowood
 Brother Robert Leslie

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Minute Fund
Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church	\$65.48
East Side Free Will Baptist Church	46.89
Monroe Free Will Baptist Church	10.00
Seventh Street Free Will Baptist Church	30.00
Free Will Baptist Chapel	30.00
Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church	10.00
Welcome Home Free Will Baptist Church	10.00
Total	\$202.37

	Emergency Fund
Balance on Hand	\$185.54
Paid Rev. C. E. Riggs for corporating Association	35.00
Paid Rev. C. E. Riggs for supplies	5.84
Paid for typewriter, stand, and letter file	61.49
Paid to National Association	5.00
Final Balance.....	\$78.21
Paid to Orphanage in Greenville, Tennessee	\$59.91
Balance in Bank.....	\$280.58

CHURCH REPORTS

Seventh Street Free Will Baptist Church

State of Religion	Spiritual Services
Members Received	19
Conversion Past Year	64
Baptised	7
Dismissed	7
Died	1
Total Membership	96
Condition of Prayer Meetings	Spiritual Services
Condition of Sunday School	Growing
Average Number of Pupils for year	215
Number of Sunday School Officers	4
Number of Sunday School Teachers	7
Number of Sunday School Substitute Teachers	7
Enclosed for Minutes	\$ 5.00
Paid Pastor	5,200.00
Paid Evangelists	800.00
Building and Repairs	6,000.00
Foreign Missions	33.60
Publication of Minutes per year	20.00

Welcome Home Free Will Baptist Church

State of Religion	Good
Members Received	3
Baptized	3
Dismissed	3
Total Membership	32
Condition of Prayer Meeting	Fair
Condition of Sunday School	Good
Average Number of Pupils	50
Number of Officers	2
Number of Teachers	3
Building and Repairs	\$100.00
Enclosed for Minutes	10.00

Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church

State of Religion	Good
Members Received	37
Baptized	31
Dismissed	18
Total Membership	334
Condition of Prayer Meeting	Good
Condition of Sunday School	Good
Average Number of Pupils	250
Number of Officers	4
Number of Teachers	21
Paid Caretaker	\$ 2,600.00
Paid Pastor	5,580.00
Paid Evangelist	826.50
Home Mission	202.44
Foreign Mission	650.80
Building and Repairs	12,815.35
For Education	917.25
For Publication	0
Enclosed for Minutes	7.15
Free Will Baptist Orphanages	202.44

2,3801.93

Free Will Baptist Chapel

State of Religion	Good
Members Received	3
Total Membership	56
Condition of Prayer Meeting	Good
Condition of Sunday School	Good
Average Number of Pupils	58
Number of Officers	9
Number of Teachers	5
Paid Pastor	\$ 720.00
Paid Evangelist	260.00
Home Mission	24.51
Building and Repairs	1,600.00
Enclosed for Minutes	4.00

East Side Free Will Baptist Church

State of Religion	Good
Members Received	26
Baptized	18
Total Membership	113
Condition of Prayer Meeting	Good
Condition of Sunday School	Growing
Average Number of Pupils	147
Number of Officers	6
Number of Teachers	7
Paid Pastor (Weekly)	\$50.00
Enclosed for Minutes	5.00

Lincoln Park Free Will Baptist Church

State of Religion	Good
Members Received	2
Baptized	1
Total Membership ..	65
Condition of Prayer Meeting	Fair
Condition of Sunday School	Good
Average Number of Pupils	60
Number of Officers	2
Number of Teachers	4
Paid Pastor	\$90.00
Enclosed for Minutes	5.00

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, and Obituary

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 55:22.

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 backslide 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

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 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 footwashing 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.