

THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1984-85

**Minutes of the Year
and Annual Session**



When convened with

**Troy FWB Church
2300 John R
Troy, MI
48083**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL
SESSION OF THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**Moderator Rev. Rudolph Shankle
313/767-4688**
**Assistant Moderator..... Rev. John Pruitt
313/374-0121**
**Clerk Louis Tolbert
313/461-6435**
**Treasurer and Assistant Clerk Clinton V. Garrett
313/482-4605**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order by Moderator
Call for letters from churches
Election of Officers
Rules of Decorum
Corresponding Letters
Board Reports
Unfinished Business
New Business

BOARD MEMBERS
PRESBYTERY BOARD

Rev. Dan Ballard 5 years
Rev. Ralph Nix 4 years
Rev. Loyd Locklear 3 years
Rev. Oscar Cummings 2 years
Rev. George Johnson 1 year

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Gary Hill 5 years
Rev. Rick Locklear..... 4 years
Rev. Wm. Ford 3 years
Rev. Ollie Lafferty 2 years
Rev. John Pruitt 1 year

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Rev. Rick Locklear..... 3 years
Rev. George Johnson 2 years
Rev. Rudolph Shankle 1 year

YOUTH CAMP BOARD MEMBER

Rev. Curtis Lilly

**The Quarterly meeting of the
Liberty Association of FWB
When convened on August 3 & 4, 1984
at the Whittaker FWB Church.**

The host pastor, Rev. Ollie Lafferty, welcomed the Liberty Association to the Whittaker FWB Church.

The congregation sang "His Love Lights the Way" and "I Have Found the Way", led by Bro. Louis Tolbert.

The Moderator, Bro. Rudy Shankle called the conference to order by reading from I Thessalonians 5:9-23.

The congregation sang "Let My Life Be A Light" as they gathered around the altar for prayer. Prayer was led by Bro. Tom Ford. A Brother from the congregation asked to be anointed. Bro. Lafferty anointed Him with oil and the ordained authority prayed. The congregation sang "I'll Meet You By The River" as an offering was received. Bro. G. W. McFry prayed for the offering.

Special singing was by Bro. Louis Tolbert and Tammy Tolbert. They sang, "Standing on the Solid Rock". Nancy Tolbert also sang, "Thank You Lord for Saving Me." And Bro. Ike Livingston and Sis. Von Tolbert sang, "Where could I go but to the Lord."

The congregation gathered for an altar of prayer for Bro. Shankles' father-in-law who was very ill in Alabama.

Bro. Shankle then introduced Bro. Ballard to bring the evening message. Bro. Ballard read from Acts 2:1-5.

The congregation sang "Kneel at the Cross" as an invitation was given.

Bro. Snead from Lenawee prayed the benediction.

The morning service began with the local director, Bro. Louis Tolbert leading the congregation in "Heaven's Jubilee."

Bro. J. D. Tolbert brought the morning devotion from Galations 1:6.

The Moderator, Bro. Rudy Shankle called the conference to order.

The Clerk, Bro. Louis Tolbert read the letters from the churches.

The Moderator gave the Right Hand of Fellowship to the delegates as the congregation sang "Hand in Hand with Jesus."

Bro. and Sis. Reagan were recognized by the Moderator as visitors.

The Rules of Decorum were read by the Moderator.

The Clerk read the minutes of the last setting of the conference. Motion to accept. Motion carried.

The treasurer, Bro. Vernon Garrett, gave the Treasurers report. Motion to accept. Motion carried.

The Crusaders FWB Church was selected to host the November setting. Bro. Winfred French was selected to bring the introductory message. Bro. Rick Locklear was selected as alternate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY..... given by Connie Dean

The National Auxiliary Retreat is to be held in Ridgecrest, North Carolina, September 6th through the 8th.

The State Retreat is to be held in Sarnia, Canada, October 12th through the 13th.

The Liberty District Auxiliary is to be held at the Old Fashion FWB Church, October 6th, at 9:30 A.M.

TEENSPIRATION given by Rudy Shankle

The next Teenspiration meeting will be Saturday, September 15th at the Seventh St. FWB Church with Rev. Ernie Ross preaching.

The Teenspiration Rally at Cedar Point was a great success with 650 at the rally. 450 were registered, four were saved and four rededicated.

YOUTH CAMP

Bro. Rudy Shankle reported that Youth Camp is ready for workers and campers.

EXECUTIVE BOARD given by Rev. J. D. Tolbert

We the executive board recommend that we send \$89.00 to the co-op plan instead of \$139.00.

We recommend that we give the other \$50.00, out of the \$139.00 to the Lewiston Mission debt, until the Lewiston Mission is disposed of. All recommendations passed.

PRESBYTERY BOARD given by Bro. Winfred French

We the Presbytery Board have examined Bro. Bill Lucas and

Bro. Howard Triplett and have found them sound in the faith. We recommend that we license them to preach the gospel.

We recommend that we accept the credentials of Bro. Joe Wilson from the Wolverine Association.

HOME MISSION BOARD given by Bro. George Johnson

Bro. Johnson gave a report concerning the Lewiston Mission.

Bro. Louis Tolbert gave the Obituary report. The following were deceased in the last three months.

Bro. Wesley Hendrickson

07-20-84

Bro. Edward York

05-09-84

After a short break the congregation sang "Near the Cross" led by the local director. Bro. Rick Locklear prayed the opening prayer.

An offering was received as the congregation sang "It's a Grand and Glorious Feeling." Bro. Shankle prayed for the offering.

Special singing was by Bro. Lucas. He sang, "What Will Your Answer Be" and "When He Reached Down His Hand For Me." Bro. Rick Locklear accompanied on the piano.

Rev. Bill Reagan brought the morning message reading from several scripture passages.

Bro. Ollie Lafferty prayed the benediction and the blessing on the noon meal.

**The Quarterly meeting of the
Liberty Association of FWB
When convened on
November 2 and 3, 1984
at the Crusaders FWB Church**

Bro. Gary Hill welcomed everyone to this setting of the Liberty Association. The host song leader, Sis. Hill, led the congregation in "I'd Rather Be an Old Time Christian." Bro. Tackett prayed the opening prayer.

Bro. Rudolph Shankle, the moderator, called the conference to order and read from the scriptures in I Corinthians 9:19-22 and made comment of the fact that "We should be as Christ-like as possible."

The pianist played while everyone that wanted to, gathered at the altar for prayer. Rev. Ollie Lafferty led the prayer.

The pianist then played while the offering was taken. Bro. Rudolph Shankle appointed Bro. Charles Cooper, Bro. Curtis Lilly, and Bro. J. D. Tolbert to the Presbytery Board to conduct business. Then the Committees were dismissed.

The congregation then sang "Amazing Grace." Bro. Gary Hill's son came to sing for Special Singing. He sang "Mary's Little Lamb." Sis. Hill then sang "You are Nearing that Shore" and "He Touched Me."

Bro. Shankle introduced Bro. French from Trinity FWB Church, to bring the evening message. He read from Luke 4:27-30 and titled his message "Would This Man Jesus Be Welcome in Our Town?"

The service was then turned over to Bro. Shankle. He asked the song leader to come lead "Hand in Hand With Jesus" as the invitation was given.

Bro. Shankle reminded everyone to be back tomorrow. Announcements were made. Bro. Louis Tolbert dismissed in prayer.

Bro. Hill welcomed everyone to the Saturday morning service. Sis. Hill led "When We All Get To Heaven." Bro. John Pruitt came to give Devotions which he titled "Last Message to the Church," reading from II Peter 3:11, 14, 17. He prayed in closing.

Brother Shankle welcomed everyone and called the conference to order.

The clerk read the Letters from the churches. A motion was made to receive the letters as read, motion carried.

The song leader led "Victory In Jesus" while the delegates received the Right Hand of Fellowship and everyone that wanted to, came to the altar for prayer. Bro. Ralph Nix led in prayer.

Bro. Shankle recognized the visitors: Bro. Thigpen and Bro. Muelcher.

Bro. Shankle read the Rules of Decorum.

The clerk then read the minutes of the last setting of the Association. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read, motion carried.

Bro. Vernon Garrett, the treasurer, gave the treasurers report. A motion was made to accept the report, motion carried.

The placement of the next conference was set at the First FWB of Adrian on February 1 and 2, 1985. Bro. John Pruitt was chosen to bring the introductory message with Bro. Charles Cooper chosen as the Alternate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESBYTERY BOARD

The Presbytery Board has examined Bro. Mark Tackett (A licensed minister from the New Hope Association) and have approved the validating of his license upon reply of a letter from the Liberty Association to the New Hope Association- We request the clerk write a letter to the New Hope clerk. A motion was made to accept the report, motion carried.

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

The loan payments are five months behind and the insurance of \$300.00 is due on the Lewiston Mission. We recommend that we pay up the interest and begin making payments to meet our obligation.

November 18 is to be set aside for all churches to give a special offering for the Home Missionaries. A motion was made to accept the report, motion carried.

Bro. Muelcher gave a report of the Mission in Lansing. A motion was made to accept the report, motion carried.

YOUTH CAMP

Bro. Shankle said that the Youth Camp was a big success. Next year we will need more experienced people to be leaders at camp. Next years camp is set to be held on the first and second weeks in August 1985. Motion was made to accept the report, motion carried.

LADIES AUXILIARY

The state meeting for the Provision closet is set for April 27, 1985. The National Retreat in North Carolina registered 1,400 women from 21 states and five countries. The theme was "To Know Him and Make Him Known." The 1986 retreat is to be in Illinois if accommodations can be made. The State Retreat registered 233 women in Sarnia Canada. The theme there was "Enriched with Knowledge." We would ask that pastors

encourage their ladies to work in the Auxiliary. The Liberty District Auxiliary is set for February 9, 1985 at 9:30 at Trinity FWB Church. The theme will be "Participation and Prayer." A motion was made to accept the report, motion carried.

TEENSPIRATION

Going very well. The November meeting will be at the Romulus FWB Church and the December meeting will be at the Kirby FWB Church. A motion was made to accept the report, motion carried.

STATE PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY

There is a change in time of the Ministers Retreat from the first Tuesday to the First Monday in February through noon Wednesday. Fred Hansen is to be the speaker. The State meeting date is changed from June to May - The Friday and Saturday Before the third Sunday. A new Annual letter will be sent out this year. A motion was made to accept the report, motion carried.

At this time we were dismissed for a short break.

When the service reconvened, Sis. Hill led the congregation in "I'll Fly Away." The ushers came forward to take up the offering. Bro. Jeff Hill prayed for the offering.

The Pruitt family came forward for the Special Singing. They sang "Step Into the Water" and "Look For Me I'll Be There."

Dr. Charles Thigpen came to bring the morning message. He took his message from John 13:34 & 35 and John 15:12 and 17 and titled his message "We're to Love One Another" and "Be Good to All Men Especially the Brethren."

The Service was then turned over to Bro. Shankle. Sis. Hill led "Search Me" while the congregation sang for the invitation.

Announcements:

Ministers Luncheon - set to be held Monday on Van Born Rd. in Allen Park at Bonanza Steak House.

A motion was made to give the Host church a vote of thanks, motion carried.

A revival is scheduled for the Bethal FWB Church in Monroe starting November 25th.

Bro. Hill gave directions for lunch and prayed for the food and the benediction.

The Quarterly meeting of the
Liberty Association of FWB
When convened on
February 1 & 2, 1985 at the
First FWB Church of Adrian

Bro. Ballard welcomed everyone to the conference and said what a privilege it was to host the conference.

The song leader, Bro. Leon Cook, sang "What a Gathering That Will Be." Bro. Ralph prayed the opening prayer.

The Moderator, Bro. Shankle, welcomed everyone and called the conference to order. He then read the scriptures from St. John 13:34-35 and commented on us being "Genuine Christians." Then Everyone that wanted was asked to meet at the altar for prayer. Bro. Ballard was asked to lead in prayer. Ushers came forward to take up the offering.

At this time committees were excused.

The Song leader came and lead the congregation in "Living By Faith."

The Singers from the host church came forward for the special singing. They sang "The Prettiest Flowers Will Be Blooming" and "When I Traveled the Last Mile."

Bro. John Pruitt then came forward for the evening message. He read Acts 2: 41-47 and 1: 4-8 and commented on God's Word. Then He called the song leader and pianist for the invitational song. They sang "O Why Not Tonight." Then Bro. Shankle came forward to remind everyone to be back tomorrow for the Saturday service at 9:30.

Announcements were made and Bro. Sneed, a visiting minister, dismissed in prayer.

The morning service began with the local song leader leading in "I've Never Been Sorry."

Devotion and prayer were given at this time by Rev. Reagan from Canada. He brought his message from Hebrews.

The Moderator came forward to call the meeting to order. He also recognized the visitors: Bro. Reagan and Bro. Hansen from Canada. He then read the Rules of Decorum.

The past minutes were read by the Clerk, Louis Tolbert. Then, the Treasurers report was given by the treasurer, Bro. Vernon Garrett.

The clerk then read the church letters.

Next the local song leader led the congregation in singing "I'll Be A Friend To Jesus" while the Moderator gave the Right-Hand of Fellowship to the delegates and remain at the altar for prayer. Bro. Rick Locklear led the prayer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LADIES AUXILLIARY

The State meeting is scheduled for April 27 at Kirby Church. The Provision Closet items for the National was over 31,000 with over 10,000 from the Michigan Ladies. The Retreat for this year will be in Sarnia Canada on September 27 and 28. Last year they had over 200 applications.

The District meeting will be on February 9 at the Trinity FWB Church in Ypsilanti. The State Project will go for teaching aides for the missionaries. The ladies request that we pray for them. A motion was made to accept the report. Carried.

YOUTH CAMP

Applications will be forthcoming. Junior camp is August 5-9 With Bro. Calvin Brown from West Wayne. Senior Camp is August 12-16 With Bro. Loyd Locklear and Bro. Ford being the Friday night speaker and alternate, respectively.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

We the executive Board recommend that the Liberty Association give \$100.00 to the ministers retreat. This has been asked by the State of all associations. Some are doing this already. We recommend we give the host church a standing vote of thanks. Moton made to accept. Carried.

J. D. Tolbert reported that the Lansing Mission closed as of the First of the year.

At this time everyone was dismissed for a short break.

The service began again with congregational singing of "I Rejoice in the Lord." Sis. Marywell Wiley came forward to sing "Landing Lights are Shining Just For Me." Then the singers from the host church came forward to sing "Stormy Waters" and "Tarry Here."

Bro. Fred Hansen came forward for the morning message. He brought his message from Philip 3:12-14 speaking of the thought that it's never been this late before. He used reference scripture from Psalms 126:3, Matthew 21:42, Matthew 20: 6-7, Joel 2:21, and Luke 10:2. He also brought out three other points: (1) View the future for sinners, year of obligation for saint, (2) View the field of harvest, and (3) View the fruit, with reference scripture from Matthew 28:19 and 20, Acts 1:8, Romans 3:23, and Isaiah 53:6.

Bro. Moderator came forward and gave the invitation while the song leader led in "There's a Great Day Coming."

Bro. Johnson came to give the Presbytery report. In request from the Woodhaven FWB Church, we the Presbytery Board of the Liberty Association of FWB do hereby recommend Bro. Herb Adams as Lay speaker and exorter to any one who may call him to speak. We also recognize Bro. Adams as a man of character and godly conduct. Memorial FWB requested that Bro. Larry Murphy's credentials be ratified after examination the request was approved. Motion made to accept the report. Carried.

Everyone stood as the announcements were made:

Ken Eagleton will be at the May meeting.

March 16, the Bible College Choir will be at Woodhaven.

The state association will be May 17 and 18 at the Old Fashion FWB in Warren.

The National Association will be in Nashville.

Bro. Ballard gave directions to lunch and Bro. Johnson prayed benediction and the blessing on the food.

The Annual meeting of the
Liberty Association of FWB
When convened on
May 3 & 4, 1985 at the
Troy FWB Church

The service was opened with a welcome from Bro. Cooper, the pastor of the host church. Then the congregation sang "He set Me Free" led by the local song director.

The Moderator, Bro. Rudolph Shankle, came to call the conference to order. In doing so he read from Phillipians 3:13-21. Then the congregation was led in an altar of prayer by Bro.

G.W. McFry.

After the prayer the committees were excused.

Sis. Brenda French played a piano solo while an offering was taken. Then Bro. and Sis. Pruitt came and sang for the special singing.

Bro. Ed Hollis then came to give the evening message. He brought his message from Titus 2:11-15 and titled his message "Free & Gracious Salvation." After the message an invitation was given.

A Business Budget Committee was appointed, Bro. Cooper, Bro. Ballard and Bro. Garrett.

A Benediction was prayed and the congregation was dismissed.

The Morning service was opened with Congregational singing led by Bro. Johnson.

Devotion and Prayer were given by Rev. Dan Ballard. He brought his message from Luke 9:51-53.

Bro. Dan Ballard and Ollie Lafferty were approved to serve on the Executive Committee for this setting.

The Moderator came forward to call the meeting to order. The clerk then read the church letters. The Moderator then gave the Right hand of Fellowship to the delegates as Bro. Vernon led "Amazing Grace." Bro. Riggs led in prayer.

Bro. Shankle then recognized the visitors: Bro. Riggs and Bro. Eagleton. Then he read the Rules of Decorum.

The clerk then read the minutes of the last meeting. The treasurer also read the treasurers report.

At this time the clerk read a letter addressed to the association from Rev. J. D. Tolbert.

The placement for the next Annual meeting is at the FWB Chapel with Bro. Ballard to preach the evening message and Bro. Shankle as alternate. The placement for the next Quarterly meeting is at Trinity FWB Church with Bro. Roger Haley to preach the evening message and Bro. Shankle as alternate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

We recommend that the following people fill the following positions.

Rudolph Shankle – Moderator
John Pruitt – Assistant Moderator
Louis Tolbert – Clerk
Vernon Garrett – Treasurer and Assistant Clerk
Dan Ballard – Presbytery Board (5 year term)
Rick Locklear – Home Mission Board (3 year term)
Curtis Lilly – Youth Camp Representative

We also recommend that we give \$100.00 each to the Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and the Ministers Retreat.

We further recommend that we give a standing vote of thanks to the host church.

Each recommendation was voted on seperately and carried.

PRESBYTERY BOARD

We the Presbytery Board have examined Bro. Roger Haley and recommend that his credentials be ratified. Motion made and carried.

Bro. Tim Steel's license is still in force. We recommend that his pastor instruct him to report quarterly by letter to our conference. Motion made and carried.

We also recommend that Bro. Lafferty fill the position of Bro. J. D. Tolbert on the Executive Board. Motion made and carried.

Finally Bro. Gary Hill was nominated from the floor to fill the 5 year term on the Executive Board. Motion made and carried.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Bro. Bob Trimble gave a report. Motion made and carried.

YOUTH CAMP

Bro. Shankle said that we need the backing of all and gave a small report. Motion made and carried.

LADIES AUXILLIARY

The State meeting was April 27, 1985. 163 were in attendance. The speaker was Sis. Cleo Purcell, the WAAC secretary.

The Provision Closet has brought in \$24,600.00.

The Liberty District meeting is set for the FWB Chapel on June 8, 1985. Registration is at 9:30 and the meeting will start at 10:00.

The Fall Retreat is set for Sept. 27-28 in Sarnia Canada. The

theme will be "Exercise your gifts." The speaker will be Amy Robinson. The cost will be \$36.00 and applications are available. Motion made and carried.

OBITUARY REPORT

Sis. Hazel Porter passed March 19, 1985, she was a member of the Memorial FWB Church.

Bro. Wesley Hendrickson passed in July, 1984 at age 57. He was a member of the First FWB Church of Flint.

Bro. Happy Brooks passed in May, 1985 at age 67.

Bro. Ellis Adams passed April 30, 1985.

Bro. Emmit Tackett passed. He was a member of the Woodhaven FWB Church.

Sis. Estell Landrum passed. She was a member of the Old Fashion FWB Church.

Bro. Charles Testiment.

Sis. Riggs. She was the wife of Bro. Raymond Riggs of Tennessee.

There was a moment of silent prayer and then Bro. Johnson prayed in memory of the deceased.

At this time Bro. Riggs addressed the conference. Then Bro. Eagleton came forward and also addressed the conference.

At this time the congregation was given a small break.

The morning worship service began with Bro. Johnson leading the congregation in a song while Sis. French played the piano.

Announcements were made at this time.

The ushers came forward to receive the offering. Bro. Joe Wilson prayed for the offering. Bro. Johnson led another song.

The special singing was given by Bro. John Gibbs from the Home Mission Dept. He sang "Follow Me."

Bro Gibbs then brought the morning message, taking it from Genesis 39:1-6. He brought out several major points.

1. Persistancy
 - a. Standards and convictions
 - b. Getting people saved
2. Purity
3. The power of prayer
4. The power of preaching (Pointed)

5. The power of the purse (Giving)
6. The power of passion (Broken heart)

He then prayed in closing.

Bro. Johnson led a song as an invitation was given.

Bro. Charles Cooper prayed the benediction and the blessing on the noon meal

TREASURERS REPORT

INCOME:

Special Offerings.....	453.20
Beginning Balance	593.52
Crusaders FWB	785.40
East Side FWB	375.00
Faith FWB of Ray Township	50.00
Fifteen Mile Rd. FWB.....	560.00
First FWB of Adrian	125.00
First FWB of Flint	1,454.69
First FWB of Monroe	970.00
First FWB of South Haven.....	795.00
FWB Chapel	225.00
Grace FWB	754.00
Memorial FWB	95.00
Old Fashion FWB	760.00
Ten Mile FWB.....	220.00
Trinity FWB.....	200.00
Troy FWB.....	550.00
Whittaker FWB.....	505.00
Woodhaven FWB	650.00
Total Churches.....	9,074.09
Total Income.....	10,120.81

EXPENSES:

Standard Printing	311.00
Michigan State Association.....	2,198.00
Postage	41.00
Liberty Home Missions	3,669.85
Dept. of Foreign Missions.....	648.97
Depart. of Home Missions	135.72
Clerks Fee	100.00
Supplies	36.90
Programs	42.00
Bank Service charge and checks.....	38.16

Dr. Charles A. Thegpen (Honorarium).....	100.00
Rev. Fred Hanson (Honorarium).....	50.00
Rev. Rudolph Shankle (Honorarium).....	100.00
Rev. Bill Regan (Honorarium).....	35.00
Louis Tolbert (Honorarium).....	100.00
Clinton V. Garrett (Honorarium).....	100.00
National Co-op.....	307.40
Hall Rental	400.00
Ministers Retreat.....	100.00
National Representation Fee.....	85.00
State Corporation Fee.....	25.00
Bible College Students:	
Mike Locklear	90.00
Linda Wilson	90.00
Kenneth Wood.....	30.00
Total.....	210.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,834.00
Total Income.....	10,120.81
Total Expenses	8,834.00
New Balance.....	1,286.81

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 and not proceed until recognized by 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 member 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 it necessary.**
- 10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any time without leave of the Moderator.**

CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1. This Association, when properly convened, shall consist of a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, whom 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 or 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, who 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 1 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 Association.

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 or 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 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 eternal rights of any. Maintaining the rights and privileges, and relationships to each church to that of individual members; that is to say, if a church trespass 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 the means for defraying 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 many 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 bounds 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. 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.
15. This Association shall possess the rights to repel, or exclude anyone coming unto us preaching, or advocating any other doctrine then that set forth in the original Articles of Faith of Free Will Baptists.
16. 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.

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

MODERATOR

Rudolph Shankle
G-5480 Fenton
Flint, MI. 48507
313/767-4688

CLERK

Louis G. Tolbert
9660 Willis Road
Willis, MI. 48191
313/461-6435

CHURCH

Crusaders FWB
1555 Butternut
Detroit, MI. 48216
313/964-3467

PASTOR

Rev. Gary Hill
25537 Greenlawn Rd.
Taylor, MI. 48180
313/295-2551

CLERK

Flora Manning
5917 Ogden
Detroit, MI. 48210
313/842-4738

East Side FWB
13781 E. 9 Mile Rd.
Warren, MI. 48089
313/773-4370

Rev. Wm. Ford
20182 Coleman Rd.
Mt. Clemens, MI. 48043
313/791-5368

Kay Nichols
23524 Lauren
Warren, MI. 48089
313/771-7627

Faith FWB
64395 Romeo-Plank Rd.
Romeo, MI. 48084
313/752-7002

Rev. Roger Cooper
1023 E. Windemere
Royal Oak, MI. 48073
313/588-8165

Teresa Romzek
28785 29 Mile Rd.
Richmond, MI. 48062
313/749-5864

Fifteen Mile FWB
2020 E. 15 Mile Rd.
Sterling Hgts., MI. 48077
313/268-1670

Rev. Fred Norris
4456 E. 11 Mile Rd.
Warren, MI. 48091
313/758-3207

Pauline Vaught
28350 Lorenz
Madison Hgts., MI. 48071
313/541-6670

First FWB of Adrian
3240 Sharp Rd.
Adrian, MI. 49221
517/263-7620

Rev. Dan Ballard
624 Clinton
Adrian, MI. 49221
517/263-8259

Velma Foster
435 S. Main
Adrian, MI. 49221
517/263-8403

First FWB of Flint
G-5458 Fenton Rd.
Flint, MI. 48507
313/239-2391

Rev. Rudolph Shankle
G-5480 Fenton
Flint, MI. 48507
313/767-4688

Susie Anderson
11222 Jennings
Fenton, MI. 48430
313/629-5510

First FWB of Monroe
6248 Dunbar Rd.
Monroe, MI. 48161
313/243-0025

Rev. James Robinson
2949 2nd Street
LaSalle, MI. 48145
313/241-3162

Mary Sharpe
224 Cranbrook
Monroe, MI. 48161
313/241-3172

First FWB of South Haven
1045 E. Wilson
South Haven, MI. 49090
616/637-2967

Rev. J.D. Tolbert
1035 E. Wilson
South Haven MI. 49090
616/637-2967

Von Tolbert
1035 E. Wilson
South Haven MI. 49090
616/637-2967

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LIBERTY ASSOCIATION ORDAINED MINISTERS

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Rev. Bill Alcorn
6865 Hitchingham
Ypsilanti, MI. 48197
483-0216

Rev. Wm. Ford
21082 Coleman
Mt. Clemens, MI. 48403
791-5368

Rev. Loyd Locklear
26191 Allen Rd.
Woodhaven, MI. 48183
671-6242

Rev. Dan Ballard
624 Clinton
Adrian, MI. 49221
517/263-8259

Rev. Winfred French
395 Oregon St.
Ypsilanti, MI. 48197
313/483-1046

Rev. Rick Locklear
508 Mapledale
Hazel Park, MI. 48030
398-4731

Rev. Austin Begley
5560 Central Dr.
Monroe, MI. 48161
243-0600

Rev. Gary Hill
25537 Greenlawn
Taylor, MI. 48180
295-2551

Rev. E. J. Marine
23290 Geneva
Oak Park, MI. 48237
541-8618

Rev. James Bostic
23757 Melville
Hazel Park, MI. 48030
542-7609

Rev. George Johnson
3061 Chicago
Warren, MI. 48092
268-8993

Rev. Wayne Miracle
15377 S. Telegraph
Monroe, MI. 48161
241-7948

Rev. Charles Cooper
654 Bywood
Clawson, MI. 48017
435-5932

Rev. Ollie Lafferty
1188 Wendell
Ypsilanti, MI. 48197
483-1700

Rev. Glen Monday
520 E. Sixth St.
Monroe, MI. 48161
241-3809

Rev. Larry Murphy
22419 Saxony
E. Detroit, MI. 48021
773-3684

Rev. Sam Sargeant
6257 Denton Hill Rd.
Fenton, MI. 48430
629-9008

Rev. Arnold Syke
2741 Longmeadow
Trenton, MI. 48183
676-3917

Rev. Ralph Nix
1326 E. Lincoln
Royal Oak, MI. 48068
398-9749

Rev. Rudolph Shankle
G-5480 Fenton
Flint, MI. 48507
767-4688

Rev. J.D. Tolbert
1035 E. Wilson
South Haven, MI. 49090
616/637-2967

Rev. Fred Norris
4456 E. Eleven Mile
Warren MI. 48091
758-3207

Rev. Quenton Shown
3709 Brown St.
Flint, MI. 48504
239-6932

Rev. Joe Wilson
11720 Polk
Taylor, MI. 48180
287-8959

Rev. John Pruitt
12700 Pardee
Taylor, MI. 48180
374-0121

Rev. Carson Slagle
22836 Sharrow
Warren, MI. 48091
778-1948

Rev. Oscar Withrow
Lulu Rd.
Petersburg, MI. 49270
279-1837

Rev. James Robinson
2949 2nd Street
LaSalle, MI. 48145
241-3162

Rev. Robert Sorenson
13483 Jublin
Southgate, MI. 48195
284-7825

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION LICENSED MINISTERS

Jeff Hill
Crusaders FWB

Tim Steele
East Side FWB

Howard Triplett Jr.
East Side FWB

Bill Lucas
Woodhaven FWB