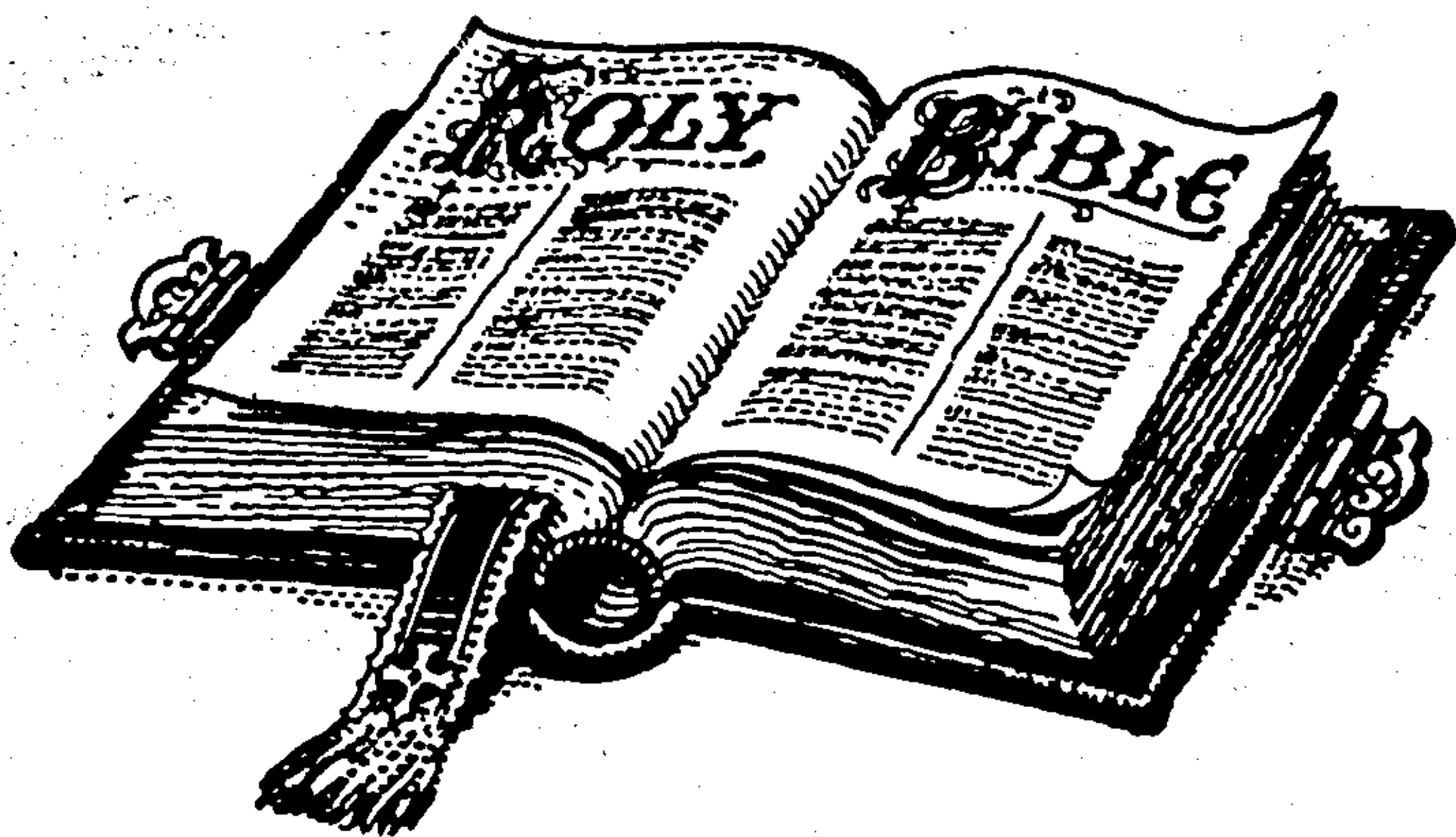


# **THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**1991-92**

**Minutes of the Year  
and Annual Session**



**When convened with**

**Trinity Free Will Baptist Church  
410 Oregon Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

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410 Oregon Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

**Minutes of the Forty Second Annual  
Session of the Liberty Association of  
Free Will Baptist**

Moderator ..... Rev. George Johnson  
(313) 268-8993  
Assistant Moderator ..... Rev. Jim Robinson  
(313) 241-3162  
Clerk ..... Rev. Ralph Dingus, Jr.  
(313) 549-4522  
Treasurer ..... Rev. Rick Locklear  
(313) 675-5113

**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. Rick Locklear ..... 4 years  
Rev. Ralph Nix ..... 3 years  
Rev. Loyd Locklear ..... 1 year

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Rev. Charles Cooper ..... 5 years  
Rev. Terry Lester ..... 2 years  
Rev. Larry Murphy ..... 1 year

\*The Presbytery Board and Executive was voted to be temporarily combined until a later date.

**YOUTH CAMP BOARD MEMBER**

Rev. Rick Locklear

**STATE HOME MISSIONS**

Rev. George Johnson

**Minutes of the Liberty Association of  
Free will Baptist when convened at the  
First Free Will Baptist of Adrian Church  
August 2 & 3, 1991**

**FRIDAY NIGHT**

Sister Mary Wiley led the congregation in "He Keeps Me Singing". Rev. Darrell Hyder welcomed everyone to this setting of the Liberty Association and Rev. Charles Cooper prayed the opening prayer and called this setting of the Liberty Association to order.

Rev. Cooper excused the boards and appointed a Budget Committee consisting of Bro. Glen Strouse, Bro. Vernon Garrett, Rev. Jack Hughes and Rev. Cooper

Sister Mary Wiley, Sister Trula Fredricks, Bro. Clyde Fredricks and Rev. Darrell Hyder sang for the singing "Let's Meet By the River" and "Heaven Won't Always Be Someday".

Rev. Eddie Harris preached the evening message reading from I John Chapter 4, entitled "Love".

An offering was received, announcements made and Rev. Jack Hughes prayed the benediction.

**SATURDAY MORNING**

Sister Mary Wiley led the congregation in "Twill Be Glory By and By" and Rev. Walker Harris read from Acts 17 for the devotion and prayed the opening prayer.

Rev. Charles Cooper called the Association to order and Bro. Louis Tolbert read the letters from each church. Rev. Cooper seated the delegates and excused the boards. Rev. Cooper read the rules of Decorum and Bro. Louis Tolbert read the minutes from the last setting of the Association. Bro. Vernon Garrett gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept . Motion carried.

**Placement:** Motion made to leave the annual setting as previously voted. Trinity FWB. We will begin a rotation of churches for the Association. The next setting will be held at the First FWB of Flint, November 1 & 2, 1991.

**Introductory Speaker:** Rev. Louis Tolbert with Rev. Jack Hughes as alternate.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Constitutional Committee:** No report ready due to inability to meet. Permission to give report at next setting in November. Permission granted.

**Executive Board:** No Report

**Presbytery Board:** No Report

**Budget Committee:** We recommend that each church set a goal of sending 10% of its income to the Liberty Association. If a particular church can't send 10%, it should set a percentage that is realistic according to its ability, keeping in mind that 10% is the goal.

The 10% should include undesignated giving and any money that is designated for a specific individual project. The undesignated money received by the Liberty Association will be divided according to the following: 15% to the Liberty Association 35% to the Michigan State Association and 50% to the National Association.

Motion made to accept report.

Motion made to accept recommendation. Motion carried.

Motion made to give Treasurer \$200.00 annually for his work. Motion carried

**Home Mission:** Rev. Ollie Lafferty reported that we as churches should support our State Mission works.

**Youth Camp:** Mentioned Junior Camp in progress at this time and Senior Camp begins Sunday.

**Ladies Auxiliary:** Sister Pearl McKinney. Ladies Retreat for 1991 will be held in Toledo, Ohio, October 4 - 5, 1991. This is the 20th Anniversary. District meets October 12 at the Trinity FWB with registration beginning at 9:30. Pray for all the needs for our hospital in the Ivory Coast. If you don't have an auxiliary in your church you can still help with the needs in the field and by your prayers. total for the Provision Closet was over \$16,000.00.

Motion made to accept as information. Motion carried.

**Master's Men:** Bro. Glen Strouse. The dinner for the Youth Camp was a success.

Motion made to receive as information. Motion carried.

Rev. Charles Cooper asked for permission to get rid of the old papers on the Lewiston Mission.

Permission granted.

Motion made to give host church standing vote of thanks and to adjourn for a short break. Motion carried.

BREAK

**Worship Service:**

An offering was taken while the pianist played. Rev. Charles Cooper prayed for the offering.

Sister Mary Wiley led the congregation in "Deeper, Deeper". Rev. Walker Harris, Rev. Eddie Harris and Sister Stella Harris sang "Sheltered in the Arms of God" and "I want to Stroll over heaven with you for the special singing.

Rev. Leon Gibson gave report on Tecumseh Mission doing well and needs more monetary support. He read from Psalms 106:1-15 for the message entitled "Getting what you want and losing what you have."

Sister Wiley led "Are you washed in the Blood" for the invitation. Announcements were made and Rev. Hyder gave directions for the noon meal and prayed the benediction and blessing on the noon meal.

**Minutes of the Liberty Association of  
Free Will Baptist when convened at the  
First Free Will Baptist Church of Flint  
November 1 & 2, 1991**

**FRIDAY NIGHT**

Services began with Rev. Larry Murphy welcoming everyone to this setting of the Liberty Association. The congregation sang "Joy Unspeakable" and the congregation gathered at the Altar for Prayer with Rev. Ralph Nix leading in prayer. Rev. Larry Murphy read from Matt. Chapter 16 for the Devotion entitled "Personal Relationship with God" and prayed for this setting of the Association and on God's Word.

Rev. Charles Cooper, Moderator, welcomed everyone and called this setting of the Liberty Association to order. The congregation sang "Praise Him, Praise Him", as the offering was received. Rev. Cooper dismissed the Boards.

Bro. and Sis. Murphy sang "Your Tears Are Touching God When You Cry Them From The Heart". Rev. Louis Tolbert read from Genesis Chapter 4 for the message entitled "Am I My Brother's Keeper". The congregation sang "Is Thy Heart Right With God" as the invitation was given. Rev. Ollie Lafferty prayed the benediction.

## **SATURDAY MORNING**

The local song leader led the congregation in "Are You Washed In The Blood" Bro. Glen Strouse read from Matt. chapter 21 for the Devotion entitled "Ye Must Have A Vision", and prayed for this setting of the Association and on God's Word.

Rev. Charles Cooper, Moderator, called this setting to order. Bro. Louis Tolbert the letters from the churches lettering into this setting of the Liberty Association. Rev. Cooper seated the delegates. Bro. Vernon Garrett gave the treasurer's report. Motion made to accept report. Motion carried. Rev. Cooper excused the boards and asked if there was any visitor's. Rev. Cooper read the Rules of Decorum and Bro. Louis Tolbert read the minutes of the last setting of the Association. Motion made to accept as read.

## **BUSINESS**

**Placement:** Monroe First Free Will, January 31 and February 1, 1992. Introductory Speaker - Rev. Jack Hughes and Bro. Glen Strouse as alternate.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Presbytery Board:** Rev. Ollie Lafferty read a letter outlining the guidelines for licensed ministers to be ordained into the Liberty Association. Motion made to receive as information. Motion carried.

**Home Missions:** Rev. Cooper gave report that Rev. Ray Wilson was filling in as interim pastor of the Tecumseh Mission until such time that another pastor was chosen from the Mission Field. Motion made to receive as information. Motion carried.

**Youth Camp:** Bro. Steve Connors gave report on naming the Youth Camp. Motion to receive as information. Motion carried.

**Ladies Auxiliary:** Sis. Connie Dean gave report that the Plymouth FWB ladies had joined the Auxiliary and that they would be putting out a paper called the Liberty Light. Motion to receive as information. Motion carried.

**Executive Board:** Bro. George Johnson. We owe the National Retirement Board \$308.56 on the Lewistson Mission. We recommend we make the payment plus \$2,000.00.



We recommend we give \$500.00 to Foreign Missions to be applied to the Tom and Patty McCollough Account.

We recomend we give \$500.00 to Home Missions on behalf of the Benjamin Randall Memorial Account. We recommend the approval of the Constitutional revision committee report and that it be tabled to be acted upon at the next annual setting.

We recommend we give this church a standing vote of thanks.

Motion made to receive report. Motion carried.

**Item #1:** We recomend we make payment of \$308.56 on the Lewiston Mission to the National Retirement Board plus an additional \$2,000.00. Motion carried.

**Item #2:** We recommend we give \$500.00 to Foreign Missions to be applied to the Tom and Patty McCollough Account. Motion carried.

**Item #3:** We recommend we give \$500.00 to Home Missions on behalf of the Benjamin Randall Memorial Account. Motion carried.

**Item #4:** We recommend the approval of the Constitutional Revision Committee Report and that it be tabled to be acted upon at the next annual setting. Motion carried.

**Item #5:** We recommend we give this church a standing vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**BREAK**

The congregation sang "Jesus Saves". Special singing with Sister Dorothy Brooks and Sister Evelyn Thompson. An offering was received as the pianist played.

Rev. J.D. Tolbert preached the morning message reading from Proverbs Chapter 3 entitled "Our Barns Being Filled".

The congregation sang "All to Jesus I Surrender" as the invitation was given.

Announcements were made. Bro. Glen Strouse prayed the benediction and blessing on noon meal.

**Minutes of the Liberty Association of  
Free Will Baptist when convened at the  
First Free Will Baptist Church of Monroe  
January 31 & February 1, 1992**

**FRIDAY NIGHT**

Rev. George Johnson led the congregation in "There shall be Showers of Blessing" and "Just a little talk with Jesus". Rev. Jim Robinson pastor of the First FWB of Monroe welcomed everyone to this setting of the Liberty Association. Rev. Austin Begley read from Psalms 78. Rev. Jim Robinson called this setting of the Liberty Association to order. The congregation sang "Amazing Grace" as the offering was received.

Rev. Robinson excused the boards. Special Singing by Sis. Ruth Dingas "There's going to be a Payday, Someday".

Rev. Jack Hughes, pastor from the First FWB of Plymouth brought the evening message reading from Isaiah 5:18-25 entitled "Consider two Words, Woe & Euphenism.

The congregation sang "Wonderful Words of Life" as the invitation was given. Announcements were made and the benediction was prayed.

**SATURDAY MORNING**

Rev. Jim Robinson, Assistant Moderator welcomed everyone to this setting. Rev. George Johnson led the congregation in "My Sins are Gone". Rev. Ollie Lafferty prayed the opening prayer. Rev. Darrel Hyder held the Devotion reading from Matt. 16 entitled "A Church with true devotion, church built on Jesus Christ". Rev. Jim Robinson, Asst. Moderator, called the conference to order. Rev. Louis Tolbert read the letters from the churches lettering into the Association. Motion made to accept reading of letters. Motion carried. Rev. Eddie Harris prayed. The delegates were seated, boards excused and visitors recognized. Bro. Clark Trowbridge and Rev. Tom McCollough.

Rev. Jim Robinson read the Rules of Decorum, Rev. Louis Tolbert read the minutes from the last setting. Motion made to accept reading of minutes. Bro. Vernon Garrett gave Treasurers report. Motion made to accept treasurers report. Motions carried.

**Placement:** Motion made to table until annual setting. Motion carried. Introductory speaker and alternate. Motion made to table until annual setting. Motion carried.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Board Report:** Discussion held on budget form.

**Item #1:** We recommend we give host church standing vote of thanks. Motion made to accept report. Motion carried with everyone standing.

**Presbytery Board:** None

**Home Missions:** Bro. Ollie gave report Tecumseh Missions doing well. Bro. Wilson still pastoring Mission. Motion made to accept report. Motion carried.

**Youth Camp:** Bro. Connor gave report of still trying to get name for the new Youth Camp. Gave information upon upcoming events for Teen Scene. Motion made to accept report. Motion carried.

**Ladies Auxilliary:** District meeting March 14, 1992 at Woodhaven FWB. State Auxiliary meeting April 25, 1992 at Garden City FWB. Motion made to accept as information. Motion carried. There is a new district ladies auxiliary newspaper called the Liberty Light.

BREAK

### Morning Worship

Service began with Rev. George Johnson leading the congregation in "I Never shall forget the day" and offering was received as the pianoist played.

Rev. Tom McCollough, Missionary to France read from Matt. 9:35-38 and entitled his message "The Master had a Dilemma". The congregation sang "Is your all on the Altar" as the invitation was given. Announcements were made. Benediction and blessing on food was prayed.

**Minutes of the Liberty Association of  
Free Will Baptist when convened with the  
Trinity Free Will Baptist Church of Ypsilanti  
May 1 and May 2, 1992**

### FRIDAY NIGHT

Bro. Vernon Garrett led the congregation in "How Great Thou Art". Rev. Ollie Lafferty, host pastor, welcomed everyone to this setting of the Liberty Association. Rev. Robert Moran read from Psalms 1:1 for the devotion entitled "Beware where we Walk, Stand and Set".

Rev. Charles Cooper, Moderator, called this setting of

the Liberty Association to order and welcomed everyone to this setting of the association. Rev. Cooper welcomed visitors, Rev. and Mrs. Mike Tomlin, Ten Mile FWB and Bro. Frank Ashcraft from Community FWB. Rev. Cooper appointed the Obituary Committee Chairman; Sis. Peggy Lafferty, Sis. Mary Johnson and Sis. Cuba Goins and the Budget Committee Bro. Vernon Garrett, Bro. Jack Hughes, Bro. Jim Robinson and Bro. Wilmoth to meet in the A.M. Rev. Cooper dismissed the boards that needed to meet. An offering was received while Sis. Endicott played the piano.

Bro. Vernon Garrett led the congregation in "Amazing Grace". Special Singing was by Rev. Loyd Locklear, Rev. Charles Cooper, Rev. George Johnson, Bro. Vernon Garrett and Bro. Danny Wilson. Rev. Louis Tolbert brought the evening message entitled, "What Have You Done for the Lord Lately?" Bro. Garrett led the congregation in "Kneel at the Cross" as the invitation was given. Bro. Jim Robinson dismissed in prayer.

## **SATURDAY MORNING**

Bro. Vernon Garrett led the congregation in "Living By Faith" Rev. George Johnson read from John 21:1 for devotion entitled "Do You Recognize the Lord in the Crisis of your Life?"

Rev. Cooper called the conference to order. Rev. Louis Tolbert, Clerk read the letters from the churches, Rev. Cooper seated the delegates, excused the boards, appointing Bro. Glen Strouse to serve on the Executive Board. Rev. Cooper recognized the visitors Rev. and Mrs. Mike Tomlin. Rev. Cooper read the rules of decorum. Rev. Tolbert, Clerk read the minutes from the last setting. Motion made to receive as read. Motion carried. Bro. Vernon Garrett gave the Treasurers report. Motion made to receive as read. Motion carried.

**Placement:** Quarterly Setting: August 7-8, 1992 at North Warren FWB with Rev. Jim Robinson as the introductory speaker and Rev. Rick Locklear as alternate.

**Next Setting:** Troy FWB, Nov. 6 & 7, 1992 with Rev. Loyd Locklear as introductory speaker and Rev. Brian Tolliver as alternate.

## **REPORTS**

## **Obituary Report:**

Given by Sis. Peggy Lafferty.

### Trinity FWB

Bro. Otto Endicott  
Bro. Charles Seratt  
Bro. Paul Wallen

### Faith FWB

Bro. Andrew Fleury

### North Warren FWB

Sis. Bonnie Roberts

### Woodhaven FWB

Sis. Mae Foster  
Sis. Ruby Goins  
Sis. White  
Bro. Tim Goforth  
Bro. Andrew Raburn  
Bro. Petty  
Bro. Harold Preston  
Bro. Frank Deak

### First FWB of Flint

Bro. Otis Burchett  
Bro. Roger Smith

### Memorial FWB

Sis. Joyce McBain

### East Side FWB

Sis. Coleman

The congregation stood for a moment of silent prayer and Rev. George Johnson prayed for those that has gone to meet the Lord.

**Auxiliary Report:** State Meeting was held at Garden City FWB with 113 in attendance. The provision closed was down a lot this year. If you would like to send something to Sis. Lucille please do. Liberty District Auxiliary will be June 13, 1992 at the Ten Mile FWB, State Retreat will be in Toledo, Ohio on Oct. 2,3, 1992. Pray for the new family that is going to Madison, Wis. to start a FWB Church. Rev. Carlie Loyd and family they need our prayers.

**Presbytery Board:** We recommend Rev. Charles Cooper to the Executive Board for the Five Year term. We recommend that Bro. Clark Trowbridge serve six months in the Monroe Church and then return to the Presbytery Board for examination. We recommend that Bro. Ralph Dingus, Jr. serve six months in the North Warren Church and return to the Presbytery Board for examination. We recommend that Bro. Louis Tolbert be ordained this setting as he has served under the Whittaker Church for one year. Motion made to accept report and act on one by one. We recommend Rev. Charles Cooper to the Executive Board for the five year term. Motion made to accept recommendation. Motion carred. We recommend that Bro.

Clark Trowbridge serve six months in the Monroe church and then return to the Presbytery Board for examination. Motion made to accept recommendation. Motion carried. We recommend that Bro. Ralph Dingus, Jr. serve six months in the North Warren church and return to the Presbytery Board for examination. Motion made to accept recommendation. Motion carried. We recommend that Bro. Louis Tolbert be ordained this setting. Motion to accept recommendation. Motion carried.

Motion made we to remove constitution from the table to be acted upon. Motion carried. Motion made to adopt constitution as presented by Constitution Committee. Motion carried.

Bro. Louis Tolbert read the letters from the churches withdrawing from the Libery to unite with the newly formed Fellowship Association, Whittaker FWB, First FWB of Plymouth, Trinity FWB and First FWB of Adrian, a motion was made and carried after each letter to grant request. Bro. Louis Tolbert read his letter of resignation. Bro. Charles Cooper made motion to accept resignation and give a standing vote of thanks. Motion carried.

**Budget Report:** Bro. Jach Hughes. We recommend we continue system of report adopted by State Association. Motion made to accept report and adopt recommendation. Motion carried.

**Executive Board:** We recommend the following: Moderator: Rev. George Johnson, Asst. Moderator: Rev. Jim Robinson, Treasurer: Rev. Rick Locklear, Clerk: Ralph Dingus, Jr. Motion made to accept by acclamation. Motion carried.

Motion made to give outgoing clerk and treasurer an additional \$100.00 honorarium. Motion carried. We recommend that the outgoing clerk and treasurer help close out the books and prepare the minutes with the incoming officers. Motion made and carried. Motion made to reimburse for any expenditures. Motion carried.

We recommend any member of the association going to the National Association be considered delegates. Motion made to accept recommendation. Motion carried. We recommend that the churches call the clerk with delegates to the State Association. Motion made to accept recommendation. Motion carried.

We recommend that at this time we combine the Presbytery Board and Executive Board. Motion made to accept recommendation. Motion carried. (This is a temporary move).

We recommed that we give church standing vote of thanks. Motion carried.

Bro. Vernon Garrett thanked conference for being able to serve. Standing vote of thanks was given to Bro. Louis Tolbert and Bro. Vernon Garrett.

Motion made to give Bro. Charles Cooper a standing vote of thanks for his service as Moderator. Motion carried.

BREAK

Bro. Vernon Garrett led the congregation in "Amazing Grace" with Sis. Dingus at the piano. Special Singing by Bro. Vernon Garrett, Bro. Charles Cooper, Bro. George Johnson, Bro. Loyd Locklear and Bro. Eddie Harris. Rev. Curtis Lilley brought the message reading from I Kings 17:1-7 "Elijah His life was a dried up brook, We're dried up brooks". Bro. Lilley prayed for the morning message.

Sis. Tamera Tolbert sang "God on the Mountain" before the Ordination service. Bro. Ollie Lafferty called Bro. Louis and Sis. Doretta Tolbert up front for the ordination service. Bro. Ollie read from I Timothy Chapter 2, and spoke on those verses. Bro. J.D. Tolbert and Bro. Jimmie Tolbert were asked to pray the prayers for the ordination. Bro. Louis's children were asked to come up front for the ordination service. Bro. Vernon Garrett lead "Amazing Grace" everyone shook hands with Bro. Louis and his family.

Everyone was asked to stay for the noon meal. We were dismissed by Bro. Walker Harris and asked the blessing on the meal.

# TREASURERS REPORT 1991-1992

Starting Balance	\$ 3,423.86
Take In	24,455.65
Total	27,879.51
Pay Outs	25,247.26
Ending Balance	\$ 2,632.25

## INCOME:

Special Offering	450.00
Lewiston Property	2,782.00
East Side FWB	120.00
First FWB Adrian	75.00
First FWB Flint	1,734.34
First FWB Monroe	1,217.90
First FWB Plymouth	740.00
First FWB Ray Township	400.00
Memorial FWB	70.00
North Warren FWB	4,449.00
Ten Mile FWB	830.00
Trinity FWB	1,360.00
Troy FWB	1,313.00
Whittaker FWB	2,895.00
Woodhaven FWB	5,200.00
Michigan State Association	819.00
Total Income	\$ 24,455.65

## EXPENSES

National Board Retirement	6,444.78
Michigan State Association	14,244.74
National Home Mission	1,368.08
National Coop	280.50
Dept. Foreign Mission	813.09
Bank Service Fee	72.66
Speedy Printing	34.37
Postage & Supplies	130.54
Standard Printing	396.00
Hall Rental	400.00
Louis Tolbert - Clerk Fee	100.00
Gratuity - Louis Tolbert	200.00
Gratuity - Leon Gibson	50.00
Gratuity - JD Tolbert	100.00
Gratuity - Charles Cooper	100.00
Gratuity - Vernon Garrett	200.00
Gratuity - Curtis Lilley	50.00
Randall House	82.50
Bible College Students	180.00
Total	\$ 25,247.26



# **CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

## **PREAMBLE**

The object of this organization shall be to unify and strengthen the work of Free Will Baptist Churches, composing this Association, as set forth in the Free Will Baptist Covenant, and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the kingdom of God among it's members.

## **ARTICLE ONE**

### **NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists.

## **ARTICLE TWO**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION**

#### **Section One (Membership)**

The membership of this Association shall consist of Free Will Baptist Churches found to be sound in doctrine and practices of The Free Will Baptist Denomination as set forth in the Free Will Baptist Treatise.

#### **Section Two (Petition For Membership)**

A church may be admitted into this Association by a petitionary letter, which shall include the name of the pastor and their elected delegates and deacons, who shall appear befor the examining board. If this board finds them to be sound in doctrin and approves them; they shall be reccommended to the body for approval, after which, they shall be given the right hand of fellowship by the moderator.

#### **Section Three (Representation)**

##### **Elected Delegates:**

Each church shall be entitled to five elected delegates and three alternates. The alternates shall serve only in the absence or instead of elected delegates.

##### **Standing Delegates:**

Ordained ministers, ordained deacons and the church clerk shall serve as standing delegates.

All business shall be decided by standing and elected delegates.

## ARTICLE THREE

### OFFICERS

#### Section One (Officers)

The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, assistant Moderator; Clerk and Treasurer. The clerk shall be the assistant to the treasurer and the treasurer shall be the assistant to the clerk.

#### Section Two (Election of Officers)

The officers shall be elected at the annual conference for a term of one year. The Moderator shall be limited to three terms in succession.

#### Section Three (Duties of Officers)

**Moderator:** The duty of the Moderator shall be to keep order in the Association; state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have no vote unless the vote is tied, in which case he shall have the deciding vote.

**Clerk:** The duty of the Clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association; and perform other duties assigned to him by the Association concerning the records.

**Treasurer:** The duty of the Treasurer shall be to take care of the finances of the Association, and maintain correct records of the income and expenditures, and shall give a report at each setting of the conference.

**Assistants:** The duties of the Assistant to each office shall be to assist, and to occupy the respective seats when vacant or otherwise necessary.

**Duties:** The duties of each officer may be altered by a vote of the Association.

## ARTICLE FOUR

### BOARDS

#### Presbytery

This Association shall maintain a Presbytery Board, five in number, with terms ranging from one to five years, with one term expiring each year. He shall not succeed himself for one year. The Executive Board shall nominate qualified men to serve on this board.

**Qualifications:** The qualifications to serve on this board shall include; being a seasoned ordained minister with at least five years of pastoral experience, whom the Executive Board believes to be of good report and good judgement in such duties as examining men to be licensed or ordained to preach.

**Duties:** The Presbytery Board shall be the official Credentials Committee; whose duty it shall be to decide the qualifications of those coming before this body to be licensed to preach or to be ordained to preach or to be ordained to preach the Gospel. It shall also be the duty of this board to examine ministers whose qualifications are in question, whether licensed or ordained ministers of this association. Charges brought to this board against any minister must be in writing and signed by the accuser before the board can investigate.

Ordained and Licensed ministers of this association shall be good men of good report, within and without, of honest integrity and full of the Holy Ghost, meeting the qualifications of I Tim. 3; coming under the hands, or approval of the ordaining council. Those being ordained shall be required to answer to the satisfaction of the board the written questions presented them. The board shall be given ample time to examine a man before being expected to ordain him.

A licensed minister cannot be ordained until he has been under the watch care of his church for at least one year; and may not be ordained then, unless he has a work that requires he be ordained; such as pastoring, full time evangelism etc. He is to report to the conference each year to continue in good standing.

Good standing cards for ministers shall be issued subject to the approval of the presbytery board. Ministers are required to attend the Liberty Association on a regular basis, and when not able to attend, should notify the presbytery in writing in order to maintain a good standing.

#### Executive

This board shall consist of five members, with terms ranging from one to five years, with one term expiring each year. He shall not succeed himself for one year. The Presbytery Board shall nominate qualified men to serve on this board.

**Duties:** This Board shall serve as a business committee; of business given to them shall be presented to the floor in an intelligent manner for consideration. This board shall serve as nominating committee in the election of officers.

**Limitations:** No man shall serve on the Presbytery Board and the Executive Board at the same time.

## ARTICLE FIVE

### BUSINESS

All meetings of this Association shall be governed by parliamentary law as set forth in Roberts Rules of Order (Revised).

## ARTICLE SIX

### DISCIPLINE

The Liberty Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline doctrine or practice that may properly come before it from any churches composing this association; or act on any appeal that may be made by any church belonging to this association. Said appeal shall have been written and properly signed by the constituent body or bodies, and its decision shall be final.

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 council 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 which they are members. This association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all matters concerning the ministers of this association, as touching their qualification, character, and his general conduct; strict adherence of the principles of doctrine of faith and practice.

## ARTICLE SEVEN

### BUDGET

The financing of this Association shall be by means of a budget, with each church sharing in their responsibility to support it. The budget committee shall recommend a budget at each annual setting, to be approved by the body. This committee shall be appointed by the moderator.

## **CONSTITUTION**

(Changes or Amendments to)

Changes or Amendments to this Constitution can only be made at the regular annual session of the Association, and then only by a two-thirds majority of the members present.

## **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.

## LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Rev. George Johnson  
3061 Chicago Road  
Warren, MI 48092  
313-268-8993

### CHURCH

East Side FWB  
13781 E. 9 Mile Rd.  
Warren, MI 48093  
313-773-4370

Faith FWB  
64395 Romeo-Plank Rd.  
Romeo, MI 48065  
313-752-7002

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

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

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

First FWB of Plymouth  
41233 Ann Arbor Trail  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
313-455-5860

Memorial FWB  
1326 EF. Lincoln  
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## 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; Matthew 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. God 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 or adoption into the Kingdom of heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified kingdom above. — Heb. 8:12; 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; Revelation 22:17.

9. **BAPTISM.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and the 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 Peter 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 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 the 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. 19:28.

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. — II 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.