

**The**  
**Liberty Association**  
**--Of--**  
**Free Will Baptist**

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**1946**

**Proceedings of the**  
**13th Annual Session**

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**Convened At**  
**Friendship Church**  
**Pell City, Ala.**



# Minutes Of The Liberty Association

--Of--

## Free Will Baptist

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Through the extended mercies of God, The Liberty Association of Freewill Baptists met in its 13th Annual session with Friendship Freewill Baptist Church at Pell City, Ala., September 20th-21st, 1946.

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### OFFICERS

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Rev. H. A. O'Donnell..... | Moderator           |
| Rev. G. N. Benefield..... | Assistant Moderator |
| Rev. C. L. Carlisle.....  | Clerk               |
| Rev. D. J. O'Donnell..... | Assistant Clerk     |

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The next Session of this Association will convene with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Alexander City, Ala., on Friday morning before the 4th Sunday in September, 1947.

## PROCEEDINGS

### FRIDAY MORNING

After song services, those present assembled in the altar and went to God in united prayer for His favor and guidance during this session.

The clerk then called the House to order asking the former Moderator, Rev. R. P. Ritch, to take charge during organization. Scripture reading 127th Psalm. Rev. Ritch made a short talk, then asked Bro. D. J. O'Donnell to lead in prayer. After prayer, he declared the body in order for business.

Motion carried to elect officers for this term and Rev. H. A. O'Donnell was elected Moderator, Rev. G. N. Benefield, Assistant Moderator, Rev. C. L. Carlisle, Clerk, Bro. D. J. O'Donnell, Assistant Clerk.

The Church letters was then called for and the following churches represented by Letter and Delegation—Guiding Light—Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1. The First Freewill Baptist Church of Alabama City, Ala.; Friendship—Pell City, Ala.; Pleasant Grove—Ashville, Ala., Rt. 1. Malone—Alabama City, Ala.

Motion carried to adopt the letters and seat the delegates. Report of the Tent Committee adopted, (see reports.) The Moderator here appointed the working committees as follows—

DEVOTIONAL—Bro's. Ben Howard, James E. Self, W. W. Callahan.

BUSINESS—Rev's R. P. Ritch, G. L. Ramsey, Leroy Smith.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—Bro's. G. I. Riley, Johnnie Burnham, Rev. A. J. Burgess.

FAMILY RELIGION—Rev's R. S. Pennington, C. A. O'Donnell, Bro. Robert Burnham.

TEMPERANCE—Rev's W. C. Patterson, J. T. Windsor, Bro. D. J. O'Donnell.

EDUCATION—Rev's T. J. Finch, G. N. Benefield, Bro. Floyd Portwood.

DECEASED MEMBERS—Rev. W. B. Hollis, Bro's G. I. Riley, W. W. Callahan.

MINISTERIAL STANDING—Bro's R. F. Jones, Ben Howard, D. J. O'Donnell.

AUDITING—Bro. P. R. Davis, Rev's W. C. Patterson, G. N. Benefield.



**LITERATURE**—Rev's A. A. Edge, C. A. O'Donnell, J. B. Ledlow.

**RESOLUTIONS**—Rev's C. R. Allen, W. C. Patterson, G. N. Benefield.

Motion carried that Barrett's Chapel letter be turned over to the Business Committee. Motion carried to adopt partial report of Business Committee and retain the Committee, and dispense with the suggested business in order.

Motion carried that the Moderator appoint the Council to Ordain Rev. J. B. Ledlow. Rev's R. P. Ritch, G. N. Benefield, R. S. Pennington, was appointed. Motion carried that each church representing in this body, beginning with this session pay an entrance fee of \$5.00. Devotional report adopted (see reports). Tent fund report adopted (see reports). Business recessed by motion until 1:30 P. M.

#### **ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE**

After song service and prayer, Rev. R. S. Pennington delivered the message, text: Rev. 1:11. "I am Alpha and Omega the first and the last." A real good message that we all should well heed..

Dismissed for noon hour with prayer by Rev. W. C. Patterson.

#### **NOON HOUR**

Dinner was served on the grounds by the good Sisters of Friendship Church, and was heartily enjoyed by all partakers.

#### **FRIDAY EVENING**

The clerk called the house to order at 1:30 P. M., asking the Moderator to take charge. Scripture reading—1st. John, 3rd., Chapter. Prayer was offered by Rev. R. P. Ritch.

The Ordaining Council called in question, Rev. J. B. Ledlow, and after due examination, recommended him for Ordination. Motion carried to adopt their report, and Rev. J. B. Ledlow was duly ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry by prayer and laying on of hands. The Standing Councils and committees was then appointed by Moderator. (See councils, committees.) Business recessed by motion until 9 A. M. Saturday.

#### **FRIDAY NIGHT MINISTER'S CONFERENCE**

The 11th Annual session of the Minister's Conference of the Liberty Association of FreeWill Baptists, convened with Friendship Church at Pell City, Ala., Sept. 20th, 1946.

Scripture reading by former Moderator, Rev. J. T. Windsor 115th Psalm. Motion carried to elect officers for this term. Rev. C. A. O'Donnell duly elected Moderator, Bro. D. J. O'Donnell re-elected clerk. A rising vote of thanks was rendered Rev. J. T. Windsor for his past services.

Invitation for membership given and the following responded: Rev. C. R. Allen, Rev. A. A. Edge and Rev. Gordon McColum. Motion carried that these brethren be accepted in full fellowship.

Motion carried to request the Association to grant Rev. H. T. Perkins a Certificate of Standing for this term. Motion carried to drop the names of Rev. O. B. Hamilton and Rev. G. I. Taylor from our roll on their failure to report to this body in two (2) consecutive years. Motion carried to adopt ministers reports and request the Association to grant each reporting ministers proper credentials for this term. Motion carried to adopt minutes as read. Donation taken to buy pans and towels for Associational use. \$14.70. Motion carried to adjourn to reconvene with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City, Ala., on Friday night before the 4th Sunday in September, 1947.

Following the Minister's Conference, Rev. W. C. Patterson delivered a good message. May we all give earnest heed, and not let slip, the good things God has given unto us.

#### **SATURDAY MORNING**

The Clerk called the House to order at 9 A. M., asking the Moderator to take charge. Scripture reading, Romans, 8th Chapter. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Windsor. Motion carried to adopt and record quarterly meeting report. (see reports.) Motion carried to render balance of funds in the Home Missions treasury to Rev. R. P. Ritch for his past services as Field Evangelist. Recessed by motion until 1:30 P. M.

#### **ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE**

After song service, Bro. Ben Howard conducted devotional services, reading St. John, 3-16; 4-14. The Spirit of God truly filled the house and many warm testimonies was rendered, with much shouting and praising the Great Name of Jesus Christ. May God grant unto us many, many more such wonderful services as this one. Rev. R. P. Ritch, who was to bring the message of the hour, only took time to render a



good testimony and talk on the one word "WONDERFUL." An offering was taken for Rev. H. T. Perkins to assist him in the bulding of his home. \$29.60 was rendered to him.

### NOON HOUR

Dinner was again served on the grounds by the good Sisters of Friendship Church, and was heartily enjoyed by all partakers. We take this means of expressing our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for their splendid cooperation and warm hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

### SATURDAY EVENING

Motion carried that the Field Evangelist be free to pastor churches if he so chooses. Motion carried to elect Field Evangelist for this term, when Rev. R. P. Ritch was re-elected. Committee appointed to see Rev. W. G. Rogers, made report and was duly accepted and the committee released.

Motion carried that the Clerk have 200 minutes printed. Final report of business committee adopted and the committee released. Motion carried to elect delegates to the State Association, when Bro. D. J. O'Donnell was duly elected and \$14.00 was rendered him for entrance fee and expenses.

Motion carried to adjourn to reconvene with the First Freewill Baptist Church of Alabama City, Ala., on Friday morning before the fourth (4th) Sunday in Sept. 1947.

### REPORTS

DEVOTIONAL—We, your committee on devotions, suggest the following for your consideration. Rev. R. S. Pennington for the 11 o'clock message, Friday morning. Rev. W. C. Patterson for the Friday night message. Rev. R. P. Ritch for the 11 o'clock message Saturday morning. Grandmother Ledlow to conduct devotions Saturday night. Rev. H. A. O'Donnell to conduct Communion and Feet Washing services Saturday night.

Bro. Ben Howard, Chr.

BUSINESS—We, your business committee, submit the following for your consideration. This body grant th request of Friendship Church, and call in question Rev. J. B. Ledlow, and if found worthy, ordain him to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. That each Church, beginning with this term, pay an entrance fee of \$5.00, same to be used for the expense of the Association. That the Minister's Conference convene on Friday night instead of Friday evening as here-

tofore practiced. That the Clerk be paid \$10.00 each term for his services. That the next setting of this Association be held with the First Freewill Baptist Church of Alabama City, Ala.

Rev. R. P. Ritch, Chr.

SABBATH SCHOOL—We urge all Churches of this Association to support a Sabbath School, and see that all their officers and Teachers are regenerated followers of God. That the Word of God be taught in our homes. That we encourage the use of Freewill Baptist literature in our schools and homes. That all parents co-operate with the officials of the Sabbath Schools in keeping the children in order, and to encourage them to remain for the preaching services.

Rev. G. I. Riley, Chr.

FAMILY RELIGION—We urge our people to read and study the Word of God, and pray daily. Be careful how they walk and talk at home and abroad. To bring their children up to respect the children of God, and reverence the House of God. That we be always ready to help the needy.

Rev. W. C. Patterson, Chr.

TEMPERANCE—We, your committee on Temperance, urge that we give more earnest heed to this great principle of the Christian faith, and live and practice it each day of our life.

Rev. W. C. Patterson, Chr.

EDUCATION—We urge that the word of God be taught in our homes and our children be taught to love its truths. Parents to furnish good wholesome literature in their homes. Sabbath Schools to carefully select the literature used by them. That each home have and use a family altar and pray with and for their children, that they might do the will of God, growing to be better men and women. That the adult classes use the Bible in Sabbath Schools and the younger classes the literature.

Rev. T. J. Finch, Chr.

DECEASED MEMBERS—We are grieved to report the death of three (3) of our beloved fellow-workers since the last session of this body. Bro. J. W. Callahan of Guiding Light Church; Sister Betty Riley of the First Freewill Baptist Church of Alabama City, Ala.; Bro. George Corelius of Pleasant Grove Church, Ashville, Ala., Rt. 1. We extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families.

Rev. W. B. Hollis, Chr.

AUDITING—We find the records in splendid condition, church letters in order and all monies correct. The Home Mission treasury also in splendid condition, with a balance of \$221.60 on hand.

Bro. P. R. Davis, Chr.



**MINISTERIAL STANDING**—We recommend that all Ministers reporting to this session be granted proper credentials for this term.

Bro. D. J. O'Donnell, Chr.

**LITERATURE**—We urge parents to closely examine literature that come into their homes, and encourage their children to read wholesome literature based on the word of God. Heb. 4:13 reads, "For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of Soul and Spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Rev. A. A. Edge, Chr.

**RESOLUTIONS**—Be it resolved that—Each Church pay a \$5.00 entrance fee. Each Church pay 15% of all income into Home Missions Treasury for support of the Field work, instead of 25% of all tithes as heretofore practiced.

Rev. C. R. Allen, Chr.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE**—We, your committee appointed last session to revoke the papers of Rev. W. G. Rogers, found him willing to make amends, and the Ministers Conference was called into special session and he was duly reinstated.

Rev. W. C. Patterson, Chr.

**TENT COMMITTEE**—We report the sum of \$557.36 now on hand.

Rev. J. B. Ledlow, Chr.

## CHURCH REPORT

**PLEASANT GROVE**—Ashville, Ala., Rt. No. 1. Rev. Clarence O'Donnell, pastor. Bro. Roy O'Donnell, clerk. Delegates: Bro's. Oliver O'Donnell, Clyde Bishop, Sister Rhondler O'Donnell. State of Religion—Good. Members received this year, by baptism, 1; by letter, 3. Total received, 4. Loss, by letter, 3; deaths, 1. Total loss, 4. Present membership, 48. Prayer meeting, good. Sabbath School, good. Average number pupils, 25. Number officers, 2; teachers, 4. Paid out for—pastor, \$120.00; Evangelist, \$81.00. Education, \$15.00. Publications, \$15.00. Orphanage, \$58.60. Total expended, \$289.60. Inclosed for, minutes, \$5.00; entrance fee, \$5.00. Total inclosed, \$10.00. We have called Rev. C. L. Carlisle of Pell City, Ala., for our pastor for this term. We ask that this body grant our ministers proper credentials for this term.

**GUIDING LIGHT**—Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1. Rev. W. C. Patterson, pastor. Bro. W. W. Callahan, Clerk. Delegates, Bro's. W. G. Jackson, Norman Fisher, Rev. G. L. Ramsey. State of religion, good. Members received this year, by baptism, 4; by recommendation, 12. Total received, 16. Deaths, 1. Pre-

sent membership, 46. Prayer meeting, fair. Sabbath School, good. Average number pupils, 35. Officers, 2. Teachers, 3. Paid out for—pastor, \$14.00. Evangelist, \$80.00. Orphanage, \$3.00. Total expended, \$97.00. Inclosed for—minutes, \$2.50. Entrance fee, \$5.00. Total \$7.50. We have called Rev. R. P. Ritch, of Pell City, Ala., for our pastor for this term. We ask that our ministers receive proper credentials for this term.

**MALONE**—Alabama City, Ala. Rev. LeRoy Smith, pastor. Sister Wilodean Gibson, clerk. Delegates—Bro's. R. F. Jones, Clebe Speakman, Rev. Gordon McColum. State of religion, good. Members received this year, by baptism, 2; by letter, 4; by restoration, 1; by recommendation, 3. Total, 10. Loss, by letter, 7. Present membership, 63. Prayer meeting, good. Sabbath School, good. Average number pupils, 60. Officers, 2. Teachers, 4. Paid out for—pastor, \$537.50. Evangelist, \$148.00. Publications, \$38.78. Building and repairs, \$182.75. Orphanage, \$35.00. Total, \$942.00. Inclosed for—Home Missions, \$10.55. Entrance fee, \$5.00. Orphanage, \$15.00. Total, \$33.12. We have called Rev. W. C. Patterson of Pell City, Ala., for our pastor for this term. We ask that our ministers receive proper credentials for this term.

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City, Ala. Rev. G. N. Benefield, pastor. Bro. Floyd Portwood, clerk. Delegates—Bro's. Floyd Portwood, G. I. Riley, Lloyd Robinson. State of religion, good. Members received this year, by baptism, 8; by letter, 15, by statement, 2. Total, 25. Loss, by exclusion, 1; deaths, 1. Total, 2. Present membership, 64. Prayer meeting, fair. Sabbath School, fair. Average number pupils, 50. Number officers, 3. Teachers, 4. Paid out for pastor, \$892.40. Evangelist, \$140.00. Building and repairs, \$82.76. Unified program, \$50.93. Publications, \$28.22. Orphanage, \$23.00. Total, \$1,524.72. Inclosed for, Home Missions, \$11.00. Entrance fee, \$5.00. Minutes, \$7.50. Total, \$28.50. We ask that the next session of this association be held with us. We ask that our ministers receive proper credentials for this term. We have called Rev. H. A. O'Donnell of Ashville, Ala., Rt. 1 for our pastor for this term.

**FRIENDSHIP**—Pell City, Ala. Rev. W. C. Patterson, pastor. Bro. Carlis Hollis, clerk. Delegates, Bro's. Robert Burnham, P. R. Davis, Rev. Alfred Ledlow. State of religion, good. Members received this year by baptism, 15, by recommendation, 11. Total, 26. Loss by letter, 8; deaths, 1. Total, 9. Present membership, 109. Prayer meetings, good. Sabbath School, good. Average number pupils, 100. Number officers, 2. Teachers, 4. Paid out for, pastor, \$270.00; Evangelist, \$308.98. Building and repairs, \$728.00. Orphanage, \$75.00. Total, \$1,381.97. Inclosed for minutes, \$10.00. Entrance fee, \$5.00. Total, \$15.00. We ask that our ministers receive proper credentials for this term. We ask that this body call in question, Rev. J. B. Ledlow, and if found worthy, ordain him to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. We have called



Rev. J. T. Windsor for our pastor for this term.

**QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT**—28th session held with Malone Church of Alabama City, Ala., December 30th., 1945. Granted Rev. W. G. Rogers Certificate of Standing. Ordained Bro. Duvall as deacon for the First Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City, Ala.

29th session held with Barretts Chappel Church of James Town, Ala., March 30th., 1946. Ordained Bro. Fate Gossett as deacon for Friendship Church of Pell City, Ala.

30th session held with Pleasant Grove Church of Ashville, Ala., Rt. 1, June 29th., 1946. Ordained Rev. Alfred Ledlow, Rev. J. D. O'Donnell to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. Granted license to preach the gospel for one (1) year to Rev. Gordon Smith, Rev. Gordon McColum and Rev. C. L. Finch.

**HOME MISSIONS TREASURY REPORT**—Received this year, \$436.80. paid out, \$351.34. Balance \$85.46.

Bro. D. J. O'Donnell, treas.

### MINISTERS REPORT

Rev. Gordon Smith, No. 21 Forrest Ave., Alabama City, Ala. Traveled 100 miles; expended, \$10.00; received, \$7.50; preached 60 sermons; assisted in 4 revivals.

Rev. Gordon McColum, No. 4 Morton St., Alabama City, Ala. Traveled 90 miles; preached 7 sermons.

Rev. C. L. Finch, Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1, Box 32. Traveled 396 miles; expended \$41.30; received, \$17.63; preached 10 sermons; assisted in 3 revivals.

Rev. A. A. Edge, Watts ville, Ala. Box 71. Traveled 475 miles; expended \$23.75; received \$24.75; preached 21 sermons; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. Hubert Bishop, Ashville, Ala., Rt. 1. Traveled 243 miles; expended \$3.00; preached 18 sermons; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. C. R. Allen, 6404 1st., Ct. N. Birmingham, Ala. preached 2 sermons.

Rev. A. J. Burgess, 975 Sudie Ave., Alabama City, Ala. Traveled 2,886 miles; expended \$66.58; received \$46.85; preached 68 sermons; pastored 1 church; baptised 3; performed 2 wedding ceremonies; conducted 1 funeral; conducted 2 revivals; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. W. G. Rogers, No. 23, 13th St., Alabama City, Ala. Traveled 355 miles; expended \$13.00; received \$35.00; preached 105 sermons; performed 7 wedding ceremonies; conducted 4 funerals; assisted in 4 revivals.

Rev. A. G. Robershaw, Alabama City, Ala., Rt. 1. Traveled 100 miles; expended \$200.00; received \$300.00; preached 6 sermons.

Rev. G. N. Benefield, 407 South 15th St., Gadsden, Ala. Traveled 1,525 miles; expended \$437.50; received \$892.40;

preached 90 sermons; pastored 1 church; baptised 8; performed 2 wedding ceremonies; conducted 3 funerals; assisted in 7 revivals.

Rev. W. B. Hollis, Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1. Preached 8 sermons.

Rev. Alfred Ledlow, Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1. Preached 24 sermons.

Rev. J. B. Ledlow, Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1. Traveled 864 miles; expended \$20.63; received \$9.50; preached 30 sermons; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. J. D. O'Donnell, 246 Memorial Hall, Bob Jones College, expended \$19.30; received \$174.87; preached 71 sermons; pastored 1 church; baptised 5; assisted in 1 funeral; conducted 2 revivals; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. T. J. Finch, Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1. Box 32. Traveled 445 miles; received \$18.00; performed 4 wedding ceremonies; preached 6 sermons; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. Clarence O'Donnell, Pell City, Ala. Traveled 660 miles; expended \$15.50; received \$119.34; preached 19 sermons; pastored 1 church; baptised 1; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. R. S. Pennington, Eden, Ala., Rt. 1. Traveled 550 miles; expended \$5.00; received \$20.00; preached 18 sermons; performed 3 wedding ceremonies; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. C. L. Carlisle, Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1 Box 91. Traveled 1,000 miles; expended \$260.00; received \$34.75; preached 18 sermons; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. LeRoy Smith, Ragland, Ala., Rt. 1 Box 66. Traveled 3,960 miles; expended \$350.82; received \$537.54; preached 106 sermons; pastored 1 church; baptised 4; performed 2 wedding ceremonies; conducted 1 revival; assisted in 1 revival.

Rev. J. D. O'Donnell, 246 Memorial Hall, Bib Jones College, Cleveland, Tenn. Traveled 388 miles; expended \$6.35; received \$25.01; preached 17 sermons.

Rev. W. C. Patterson, Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1 Box 56. Traveled 1,335 miles; expended \$124.30; received \$644.44; preached 79 sermons; pastored 2 churches; baptised 19; performed 4 wedding ceremonies; conducted 2 funerals; conducted 3 revivals; assisted in 3 revivals.

Rev. C. A. O'Donnell, Ashville, Ala., Rt. 1. Traveled 8,563 miles; expended \$465.90; received \$417.23; preached 67 sermons; pastored 2 churches; baptised 1; conducted 1 revival; assisted in 2 revivals.

Rev. H. A. O'Donnell, Ashville, Ala., Rt. 1. Traveled 250 miles; expended \$3.00; received \$10.00; preached 20 sermons.

### STANDING COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

**ORGANIZING COUNCIL**—Rev. J. T. Windsor, Pell City, Ala.; Rev. G. N. Benefield 407 South 15th St., Gadsden, Ala.; Rev. R. P. Ritch, Pell City, Ala.; Rev. LeRoy Smith, Ragland, Ala., Rt 1 Box 66; Rev. A. A. Edge, Watts ville, Ala., Box 71.

**ORDAINING COUNCIL**—Rev. R. P. Ritch, Pell City, Ala.; Rev. G. N. Benefield, 407 South 15th St, Gadsden, Ala.;



Rev. R. S. Pennington, Eden, Ala., Rt. 1.

HOME MISSION BOARD—Bro. James E. Self, (1 year term); Bro. Johnnie Burnham, (2 year term); Bro. W. W. Callahan, (3 year term).

EXECUTIVE BOARD—Bro. D. J. O'Donnell, (1 year term); Bro. Ben Howard, (2 year term); Bro. Robert Burnham, (3 year term).

FIELD EVANGELIST—Rev. R. P. Ritch, Pell City, Ala. Assistant, Rev. J. B. Ledlow, Pell City, Ala., Rt. 1.

### RULINGS

1 Each minister, ordained or licensed, must make written report to each term of this association to receive credentials for the following term.

2 Each minister, ordained or licensed of Churches belonging to this association, is expected to affiliate with the Ministers Conference, and cannot be recognized as a minister, nor pastor churches of this association except they comply with this ruling.

3 Each ordained minister must bear yearly Certificates of Standing to be eligible to pastor churches of this association. License of all licensed minister must be renewed.

4. Ministers coming to us from another denomination, must hold membership in some church of this association for one (1) year before being eligible to pastor churches of this association.

5. Licensed ministers must bear license for one (1 year) before being eligible of ordination.

6 Churches must use letter form sent them each year by the clerk to be recognized by this association.

### FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE—The Scripture of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice

2 Timothy 3:16.

2. GOD—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey

1 Cor. 8:6; Matt. 28:19.

3. CHRIST—Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

St. John 1:1-12.

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:46.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD—God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

Psalm 22:28; 97:2.

6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN—Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

7. THE WORK OF CHRIST—The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

1 John 2:2.

8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION—The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord, with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

2 Cor. 7:10; Pro. 28:13.

9. ELECTION—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

1 Tim. 2:4.

10. FREEDOM OF WILL—The human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

Joshua 24:15.

11. SALVATION FREE—God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of Life freely.

Rev. 22:17.

12. PRESERVANCE—All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.

St. John 16:6; 2 Peter 2:20-22.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel: Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation and to be administered to all true believers.

Mark 16:15; 2 Cor. 4:5; St. John 13:14.



14. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

Gen. 2:3; Exod. 20:8-11.

15. RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked shall "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

John 5:29; Matt. 25:46.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

(For Church Conference)

1. Call to order.
2. Call for peace and fellowship.
3. Opportunity for membership.
4. Invite visiting brothers and sisters to seat.
5. Reading of previous minutes.
6. Unfinished business.
7. Appointing of committees.
8. Acknowledgements.
9. Committee reports.
10. New business.
11. Adjournment.

### 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 conference, 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 donominational 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.

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If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us; then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us; our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken and we are escaped. Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psa. 124:3-7-8.

*James G. Smith*