

# MINUTES

of

The Liberty Association

of

Free Will Baptist

# 1973

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*Thirty-Seventh Annual Session*

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**Convened with Niangua Youth Camp**

**At Niangua, Missouri**

**BEGINNING AUGUST 4, 1973**



**MINUTES of the 37th**  
**LIBERTY ASSOCIATION**  
**of**  
**FREE WILL BAPTIST**  
**August 4, 1973**

**OFFICERS**

Moderator ----- Rev. Roger Harwell  
Assistant Moderator ----- Rev. Willie Bennett  
Clerk ----- Mrs. Mickey Cummins

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Rev. Wayne Wagner ----- 5 years  
Rev. Roger Harwell ----- 4 years  
Rev. Henry Long ----- 3 years  
Rev. Bill Eden ----- 2 years  
Rev. Marion Allsman ----- 1 year

The next annual session of this Association will be with the Free Will Baptist Youth Camp at Niangua, Mo. beginning on Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock a.m., before the first Sunday in August 1974. The introductory message will be preached by Rev. John Hodges, alternate Rev. Roger Harwell. Proceedings of the Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists when convened at 9:00 a.m. with the Youth Camp at Niangua, Mo., August 4, 1973.

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. The clerk calls the session to order.
2. 9:00 a.m. — Devotional Exercises.
3. Calling for letters and enrolling delegates.
4. Call for corresponding letters.
5. Inviting visiting brethren and sisters to seat in council.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Appointment of Committees.
8. Preaching Services — 11:00 a.m.
9. Reports of Ministers.
10. Reports of Treasurer, Committees, Board, etc.
11. Appointing delegates to State and other Associations.
12. Unfinished business.
13. New business.
14. Adjournment.

## MINUTES OF LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### Saturday Morning

The day began its activities by Rev. Henry Long calling the meeting to order by singing "Take the Name of Jesus With You" and "Sweet Hour of Prayer," with Rev. Marion Allsman leading the singing and Sis. Carolyn Layman at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Herbert Boggs. Another hymn, "Amazing Grace." Rev. Henry Long read some of the church covenant and made some good remarks about the covenant.

Letters were read, approved and delegates seated from the following churches: Liberty (near Lebanon), Second Church (Lebanon), Macedonia, South Fremont, Amity, Springfield First Church, Old Liberty, Buffalo, Northside, Niangua, Gardner, Marshfield, Fordland, Waynesville First Church, Black Oak, Calvary, Little Vine, Mt. Zion (Cuba), and Lebanon First Church. Motion made, seconded and carried to receive the letter as read.

At this time the Ex-Moderator, Rev. Willie Bennett, came forward and Rev. Roger Harwell was elected Moderator for this association, Assistant Moderator Rev. Willie Bennett. Our Moderator, Rev. Roger Harwell asked Rev. Wayne Wagner to come forward and have a short devotional service. Rev. Wagner read Romans chapter 8 and said many good words. Prayer by Rev. Wagner. The Moderator, Rev. Harwell, and Assistant Moderator, Rev. Bennett, appointed the following committees:

Pulpit Committee — Sis. Ethel Bennett, Sis. Lola Long, and Sis. Stella Dennis.

Obituary Committee — Sis. Aleta Climer, Sis. Dorothy Moiser, and Sis. Lauretta Caffey.

Business Committee — Rev. Herbert Boggs, Rev. Henry Long, and Rev. James Crawford.

Rev. Wayne Wagner was elected to serve on the executive board for a term of 5 years.

### Saturday 11 o'clock

The opening hymn for the 11:00 o'clock service was "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," led by Rev. Walter Eyman with Sis. Carolyn Layman at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Robert Chapman. Hymns "When We All Get To Heaven," and "Love Lifted Me."

Rev. Harwell asked for an altar prayer, Rev. Herbert Boggs leading the prayer. Special song "There's A Fountain That Flows From God," by Sis. Diana Crawford, with Sis. Diana at the piano. Rev. Ted Matthews brought the message at this time. He read Romans 14th chapter and led in prayer. Rev. Matthews used for a subject "They Are Weighed In The Balance and Found Wanting" and delivered a wonderful message.

Rev. Matthews asked for an invitation hymn "Lord I'm Coming Home," prayer by Rev. Matthews. The meeting was closed for the noon hour. Rev. Henry Long led the dismissal prayer and also asked the blessing on the food.

### Saturday Afternoon

Afternoon services were called to order by congregational singing "At The Cross"! Rev. Walter Eyman leading the singing, with Sis. Diana Anderson at the piano. The Moderator Rev. Harwell read Revelation, chapter 5, using the 12th verse for his thoughts. Hymn "There Shall Be Showers Of Blessings." Joy Bennett sang as a special "Had It Not Been," with her father, Rev. Willie Bennett, playing the guitar.



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At this time Rev. Wayne Wagner filled the pulpit. Prayer by Rev. Wagner. For his scripture lesson he read I Peter, chapter 5. His subject was "Satan The Adversaries Of God And Man." At the close of his wonderful message he had prayer and asked for any one to come to the altar that felt they needed or wanted to.

Obituary report read and received and this body stood in memory of those who have gone on the past year. While Rev. Eddie Pearce led the prayer.

Rev. John Hodges is to bring the introductory message at the next Liberty Association, Alternate Rev. Roger Harwell. It was announced that Rev. James Crawford would be bringing the evening message.

Motion made, seconded and carried that the Liberty Association Executive Board and the Liberty Quarterly Meeting Executive Board meet in conjunction concerning the questionnaires coming back into the association.

The following delegates were elected to the state association to be at the Monett church in Monett, Mo., beginning August 21, 1973: Sis. Ance Alexander, Sis. Dorothy Moiser, Sis. Freda Sell, Sis. Gladys Montgomery, Sis. Margurite Hill, and Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Viola Watkins.

Motion made, seconded and carried to accept these delegates and grant the Moderator the power to supply delegates if needed. Motion made, seconded and carried to send \$35.00 to the State Association for Minute Fund secretary and treasurer expense.

Motion made, seconded and carried to pay the Askrens \$12.50 per church for preparing food for this association. Motion made, seconded and carried for each church to send \$17.00 for food next year. Motion made, seconded and carried to amend this motion and that the Liberty Association be empowered to hire a cook, get a price and notify the churches of their financial responsibility.

Motion made, seconded and carried that the clerk have 200 minutes printed and that Rev. Marion Allsman see that the minutes are printed. The cost around \$100.00.

Motion made, seconded and carried to grant Rev. Pinkney Askren the privilege to get what he needs to repair the boys cabin. Motion made, seconded and carried that we give the Askrens \$15.00 for the use of the camp.

Temperance report read and received. Minutes read and approved. Treasurer's statement read and received. Business meeting adjourned until the evening services, with Rev. Jack Day giving the dismissal prayer.

### Saturday Evening, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday evening services was called to order by Rev. Henry Long, with the congregation singing "He Hideth My Soul," led by Rev. Walter Eyman with Sis. Carolyn Layman at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Pinkney Askren. Hymn "Are You Washed In The Blood." Special singing at this time "The King Is Coming" and "I Know A Man Who Can," by the Rev. Willie Bennett family and Sis. Dyann Cordry, with Sis. Diana Crawford at the piano. The Carl Layman family sang "How Glad I Will Be There," and "On The Hill Side Of Glory," with Sis Carolyn Layman at the piano. Another special "Thanks To Calvary" by Rev. James Crawford.

Rev. Henry Long called Rev. James Crawford to the pulpit at this time to bring the evening message. Rev. Crawford read II Corinthians, chapter 1 for his scripture lesson, using for his subject "What God Has Put In Our Trust." At the close of a wonderful message Rev. Crawford asked for an invitation hymn "Have Thy Own Way Lord," he also asked for an altar call, Rev. Henry Long dismissing the services in prayer.

Moderator — Rev. Roger Harwell  
Clerk — Mrs. Mickey Cummins

## **MINUTES OF LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

### **ASSOCIATION ENROLLMENT**

#### **MINISTERS AND WIVES**

Rev. Henry Long and Mrs. Long, Rev. James Crawford and Mrs. Crawford, Rev. Ted Matthews and Mrs. Matthews, Rev. Jack Day and Mrs. Day, Rev. Willie Bennett and Mrs. Bennett, Rev. Robert Chapman and Mrs. Chapman, Rev. Wayne Wagner and Mrs. Wagner, Rev. Jimmie Ragsdale and Mrs. Ragsdale, Rev. John Hodges and Mrs. Hodges, Rev. Lyle A. Wright and Mrs. Wright, Rev. Herbert Boggs and Mrs. Boggs, Rev. J. D. Caffey and Mrs. Caffey, Rev. James Bench and Mrs. Bench, Rev. Howard Anderson and Mrs. Anderson, Rev. Marion Allsman and Mrs. Allsman, Rev. George Deckard and Mrs. Deckard, Rev. Pinkney Askren and Mrs. Askren, Rev. Edward Climer and Mrs. Climer, Rev. Walter Eyman and Mrs. Eyman, Rev. Eddie Pearce and Mrs. Pearce, Sis. Gary McFarland, Rev. Bill Ragsdale, Rev. Eugene Brake, Rev. Dale Broyles, Rev. Roger Harwell, Rev. Raymond Askren, Rev. Bill Eden.

#### **DELEGATES**

Sis. Irene Dennis and Sis. Betty Hayes from Fordland Church; Sis. Jane Dinwiddie and Sis. Helen Wahl from Calvary Church; Sis. Dyann Cordy and Sis. Margarite Hill from Waynesville Church; Sis. Ruth McPhail from South Fremont Church; Sis. Stella Dennis from Lebanon First Church; Sis. Diane Chapman and Sis. Jane Boyce from Marshfield Church; Sis. Carolyn Layman and Sis. Carla Layman from Black Oak Church; Bro. Clyde Gower and Bro. L. D. Skinner from Buffalo Church; Bro. Jimmie Watkins and Sis. Viola Watkins from Springfield First Church; Bro. Darrel Rue and Sis. Darleen Rue from Gardner Church; Bro. Ronald Jones and Sis. Loretta Jones from Little Vine Church; Sis. Mary Fletcher and Sis. Helen Helton from Liberty Church; Bro. Bob Howell and Sis. Beverly McFarland from Old Liberty Church; Sis. Mary Jemes from Mt. Zion (Cuba) Church; Bro. Vester Napper from North Side Church; Sis. Kay Anderson from Second Church; Sis. Opal Hyde from Amity Church; and Sis. Freda Sell and Sis. Myrtle Smith from Niangua Church.

#### **DEACONS AND WIVES**

Bro. and Sis. Homer Moiser, Bro. and Sis. Carl Layman, Bro. and Sis. Calvin Price, Bro. and Sis. Donald Anderson, Bro. and Sis. Dale Anderson, Bro. and Sis. Ernie Holiday, Bro. and Sis. Emmett Cummins, Sis. Ancel Alexander, Sis. Stella Walton, Bro. Lloyd Clift, Bro. Dwight Cunningham.

#### **CHURCH CLERKS**

Sis. Mildred Layman, Sis. Minnie Price, Sis. Margaret Wantland, Sis. Carol Anderson, Sis. Faith Holiday, Sis. Mickey Cummins, Bro. Dwight Cunningham, and Bro. Bill McPhail.

### **REPORTS**

#### **OBITUARY REPORT**

We, the Obituary Committee find as the scripture teaches in Revelation 14: 13. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea saith the spirit that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.

Mt. Zion (Cuba) Church — Sis. Lillie Moore and Bro. W. C. (Willie) Jemes.

Lebanon First Church — Sis. Media Stevens, Sis. Francis Starnes, Bro. Elvis Braboy, Bro. Lee Kissinger, Bro. Lester Cook; Bro. Lon Hawkins, Bro. Basil Degraffenried, Bro. William Towe, Bro. Alfred Crisp, Bro. Hershafel Griffin, Sr., and Bro. Cecil Reid.

Liberty Church — Bro. Ace Ivey.



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Old Liberty Church — Sis. Margie Gardner, Sis. Eunice Wilson, and Bro. Bill Wilson.

Black Oak Church — Sis. Lucy Layman and Bro. Fred Crawford.

Springfield First Church — Sis. Hattie Mace, Sis. Alta Leigh, Bro. Harold Willis, and Bro. Floyd Fielder.

Niangua Church — Bro. Wallace Sell.

Northside Church — Sis. Karen Kyger.

Buffalo Church — Sis. Alice Ammerman, Sis. Nancy Irene Price, Sis. Myrtle Strickland, Bro. Acel Stidham, and Bro. Jim Arnold.

I Thessalonians 5:9-10: For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us that, whether we wake or sleep we should live together with him.

### Committee:

Sis. Aleta Climer

Sis. Dorothy Moiser

Sis. Lauretta Caffey

## TEMPERANCE REPORT

We, the Temperance Committee, recommend:

That all Free Will Baptists endeavor to be obedient to the teachings of the Apostle Paul, when he admonishes us in I Corinthians 3:16-17, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you. If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are;" and again in I Corinthians 6:19-20, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's."

Therefore, we recommend that all Free Will Baptists set the example before other denominations, our young people, and our fellow men to abstain from all use in any form that would defile the temple of God and or cause our brother to stumble.

### Committee:

Sis. Lettie Moore

Sis. Aleta Climer

Sis. Lola Long

## Treasurer's Report

Balance in Treasury from last session -----	\$ 18.50
Money received from churches for food and minute fund -----	417.50
Money received from Liberty quarterly meeting -----	25.00
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	\$461.00

### DISBURSEMENTS

The Askrens for preparing food -----	\$237.50
Clerk Fees -----	20.00
To State Association for minute fund -----	35.00
Secretary and Treasurer's expense, Amount for using youth camp -----	5.00
Rev. Pinkny Askren and Mrs. Askren -----	10.00
Amount for having 200 minutes printed -----	112.00
Amount for postage -----	15.00
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Total Disbursements -----	\$434.50
Leaving in Treasury at this time -----	\$ 26.50

# MINUTES OF LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## STATISTICAL REPORT

	Marshfield Church	Lebanon First Church	Buffalo Church	Fordland Church	Lebanon Second Church	South Freemont Church	Liberty Church	Little Vine Church
State of Religion of Churches -----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Good
Members received this year -----	5	45	14	15	3	18	8	7
Number Baptized -----	3	24	6	6		5	19	5
Number Deceased -----		11	5				1	
Total Membership -----	50	406	131	29	42	74	139	64
Condition of S.S. -----	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	very Good	Good
Average of S.S. Attendance -----								
Condition of Prayer Meeting --	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Good
Amount Paid Pastors -----	\$3,080.00	\$7,150.50	\$4,004.15	\$2,065.00	\$3,385.00	\$7,784.00	\$3,210.00	\$754.31
Amount Paid Evangelists -----	95.07	\$226.95	\$161.60	\$250.00	\$150.00		\$235.00	\$182.35
Amount for Home Missions -----	\$375.20	\$2,862.50		\$25.00	\$75.00	\$2,302.32		
Amount for Foreign Missions -----			\$147.28					
Amount for Cooperative Fund -----	\$542.68	\$2,575.65						\$174.43
Amount to Youth Camp -----								
Amount for Special Offerings -----					\$250.00			
Amount of Building and Repairs -----	\$370.83	\$925.04	\$2,200.00	\$4,658.50	\$2,350.00	\$3,443.71	\$113.41	\$1,985.07
Amount for Incidentals -----								
Amount for Food and Minutes -----	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50



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## LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Amity Church	Gardner Church	Macedonia Church	Black Oak Church	Calvary Church	Springfield First Church	Northside Church	Waynesville Church	Mt. Zion (Cuba) Church	Old Liberty Church	Niangua Church
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
	7	2	11		38	10	41	4	11	14
			1	7	11	4	20	5	6	7
			2		4	1		2	3	1
55	117	10	134	32	573	58	148	154	82	121
	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
					200					
		Fair		Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
22.00	\$726.73	\$169.00	\$1,805.06	\$2,210.00	\$7,941.00	\$1,365.00	\$5,720	\$419.89	\$995.00	\$2,021.01
	\$135.00		\$135.11	\$112.50	\$200.00	\$192.31		\$278.75	\$150.00	\$130.00
	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$118.85	\$190.00	\$2,437.63	\$192.00	\$305.25		\$36.00	\$186.18
			\$10.00							\$5.00
		\$6.84	\$120.00				\$1,405.22			
			\$40.00							
	\$100.00					\$164.20		\$68.01	\$25.00	\$223.75
	\$1,000	\$175.00	\$2,482.93	\$557.83	\$19,398.00	\$550.23	\$134.67	\$782.87	\$1,556.92	\$759.33
			\$645.80							\$661.54
10.00	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50

## MINUTES OF LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### MINISTERS' REPORT

**Rev. Selph Jones**—Churches pastored, 2; sermons preached, 30; funerals preached, 8; money received, \$359.00; miles traveled, 843.

**Rev. Henry Long**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 160; professions witnessed, 50; funerals preached, 19; marriages performed, 11; money received, \$9,000.

**Rev. Roger Harwell**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 170; professions witnessed, 36; additions to church, 45; number baptized, 24; funerals preached, 17; marriages performed, 21; money received, \$7,150.50.

**Rev. Bill Ragsdale**—Sermons preached, 40; professions witnessed, 1; revivals held, 1; money received, \$50.00; miles traveled, 3,000.

**Rev. Gary McFarland**—Sermons preached, 26; professions witnessed, 3; money received, \$49.57; miles traveled, 3,000.

**Rev. Willie Bennett**—Sermons preached, 102; professions witnessed, 39; revivals held, 1; money received, \$5,830.00; miles traveled, 22,516.

**Rev. Pinkney Askren**—Sermons preached, 15.

**Rev. Jimmie Ragsdale**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 91; professions witnessed, 5; number baptized, 6; funerals preached, 1; money received, \$1,206.20; miles traveled, 9,000.

**Rev. Ted Matthews**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 104; professions witnessed, 2; additions to church, 4; number baptized, 5; marriages performed, 3; money received, \$754.31; miles traveled, 8,000.

**Rev. James Crawford**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 140; professions witnessed, 9; number baptized, 7; revivals held, 4; money received, \$2,622.65; miles traveled, 12,000.

**Rev. James Bench**—Churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 20; sermons preached, 116; marriages performed, 2; money received, \$1,200.00; miles traveled, 4,680.

**Rev. Eddie Pearce**—Sermons preached, 12; miles traveled, 100.

**Rev. Herbert Boggs**—Churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 33; number baptized, 25; revivals held, 2; funerals held, 4; marriages performed, 2; money received, \$6,383.00; miles traveled, 26,000.

**Rev. Howard Anderson**—churches pastored, 1; decisions witnessed, 40; number baptized, 1; funerals preached, 1; money received, \$950.00; miles traveled, 30,000.

**Rev. Robert Chapman**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 95; professions witnessed, 3; number baptized, 3; funerals preached, 1; marriages performed, 1; money received, \$3,080.00; miles traveled, 1,500.

**Rev. Raymond E. Askren**—Sermons preached, 21; professions witnessed, 6; revivals held, 1; miles traveled, 706.

**Rev. Samuel D. Biggers**—Sermons preached, 40; professions witnessed, 4; revivals held, 3; marriages performed, 1; money received, \$313.00.

**Rev. Dale Broyles**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 112; professions witnessed, 21; number baptized, 19; funerals preached, 2; marriages performed, 6; money received, \$3,210.00; churches pastored, 1.

**Rev. Jack Day**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 70; professions witnessed, 6; additions to church, 11; number baptized, 1; revivals held, 1; funerals preached, 5; marriages performed, 3; money received, \$1,805.06; miles traveled, 8,000.

**Rev. Lyle A. Wright**—Sermons preached, 30; professions witnessed, 3; miles traveled, 6,000.

**Rev. J. D. Caffey**—Sermons preached, 96; professions witnessed, 3; number baptized, 7; marriages performed, 1; miles traveled, 2,000; money received, \$2,210.00.

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**Rev. Wayne Wagner**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 90; professions witnessed, 7; number baptized, 2; expense to National Association, \$220.00; revivals held, 1; money received, \$5,450.00; miles traveled, 14,000.

**Rev. Bill Eden**—Churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 1; sermons preached, 114; revivals held, 1; funerals preached, 2; money received, \$3,800.00; miles traveled, 2,000.

**Rev. George Teubner**—Professions witnessed, 12; number baptized, 9; revivals held, 2; money received, \$332.09; miles traveled, 1,050.

**Rev. Raymon Leigh**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 120; professions witnessed, 12; additions to church, 7; number baptized, 10; funerals preached, 6; marriages performed, 4; money received, \$2,021.01; miles traveled, 18,920.

**Rev. Eugene Brake**—Churches pastored, 1; sermons preached, 106; professions witnessed, 11; number baptized, 4; funerals preached, 2; money received, \$1,365.00; miles traveled, 7,300.

**Rev. Charles Chamberlain**—Sermons preached, 45; professions witnessed, 3; number baptized, 3; revivals held, 1; money received, \$75.00; miles traveled, 1,578.

## BY-LAWS

1. All business meetings shall be opened by singing, reading a portion of God's word and prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

2. The Clerk or Assistant Clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years, shall call the Association into conference. And in the absence of the Moderator or assistant, the senior minister shall act as Moderator.

3. Any ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

4. This Association may correspond by Messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

5. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into committee as a whole.

6. Any member of this body may appeal from the decision of the Moderator to the Association, and by a two-thirds vote.

7. The Moderator shall stop all discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit.

8. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission of the Moderator.

9. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.

10. All business, except routine, shall be brought before the body by committees, but should any committee refuse or fail to present to this body any business given to it by any member of this Association, then such business may be presented to the body by any member, but cannot be discussed unless by a vote of this body.



## MINUTES OF LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

11. No one shall leave the Association without consent of the Moderator.

12. All officers of this Association shall be nominated from the floor and elected by majority vote.

13. All committees shall be appointed by the Moderator, but any appointment may be changed by a two-thirds vote of this body.

14. A majority of all votes cast shall be final upon all subjects except to amend the Constitution or By-Laws, then it shall require a two-thirds majority.

15. Licensed ministers shall carry their licenses for one year.

16. Each ordained minister in good standing shall be given a yearly certificate.

17. These By-Laws may be amended or changed at any regular session of this Association.

## CONSTITUTION

From long experience we, the Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings and Churches, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of Quarterly Meetings and Churches, to perpetuate our union and communion among us and preserve and maintain a correspondence among each other in our union; therefore, we propose to maintain and keep the orders and rules of our Association according to the following plan and form of government.

1. This Association shall be called the Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists and shall be composed of such well regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings and churches, as may embody themselves under this Constitution.

2. The acting members of the conference of this Association shall be two (2) delegates from each church, chosen by the members of their respective churches while in conference, together with all ordained ministers and their companions, deacons and their companions, and church clerks belonging to any church composing this body; also three (3) members from each quarterly meeting under the Association, two (2) to be chosen by the quarterly meeting with the clerk of the said quarterly meeting.

3. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator and an Assistant Moderator who shall be elected; a permanent Clerk and Treasurer, who shall superintend the printing of the minutes; an Executive Board of five members whose duty it shall be to transact all business of this Association when this body is not in session, and whose term of office shall be as follows: One for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for five years, and at the expiration of each of these terms, one is to be elected for a term of five years, and who shall hold their office until their successors are elected. And further, if any vacancies occur between sessions of the Association, the board shall fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next session of the Association; all of whom shall perform such duties as usually devolve upon such officers.



## MINUTES OF LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

4. Any regularly organized Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting or church maintaining Gospel order, agreeing with this denomination in doctrine and practices, in favor of the benevolent enterprises, as Sabbath Schools, missions, temperance and education, may be received into this Association by presenting a petition asking to be received; and ministers and deacons desiring to become members, must be recommended by the church to which they belong, appear in person, and then by a vote of this Association, when such vote shall be decided by a majority of all votes cast.

5. This Association shall have power to discipline its Quarterly Meetings and churches, exclude them for disorderly walk, if labor proves unsuccessful; to ordain deacons, to license and ordain ministers, such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of the church to which such persons belong; to settle such questions of discipline and doctrine as the Quarterly Meetings or churches may refer to it; to make any rules or By-Laws necessary to its regulation and not inconsistent with its Constitution; but in no case shall this Association reverse a decision of its Quarterly Meetings or in any way interfere with its internal regulations, nor hold any ecclesiastical power over the Quarterly Meetings or churches composing this Association.

6. The sessions of this Association shall be held with the Youth Camp. The Youth Camp will be a permanent place for the Association session.

7. The sessions of the Association shall convene annually at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on Saturday and Saturday evening before the first Sunday in August, at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings and churches composing this Association to represent themselves by delegates, and send written reports. The Quarterly Meetings are to report their spiritual standing, benevolent work, ministers licensed or ordained, and appeals if any have been taken. The churches are to report their spiritual standing, benevolent work, names and addresses of their ministers and clerks, the names of their deacons, meeting days and statistics; at which time the Association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to them through their committees; and transact such other business, not repugnant to this Constitution nor to the denomination, as in their judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interest of the Quarterly Meetings and churches within the limits of this Association.

8. It is the duty of this Association to provide for the general union of the churches, to point out their interests and aid them in securing pastors, to put out evangelists and other ministers in places where the Gospel is most needed, and require a written annual report of each minister belonging to this body.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds majority of all members voting at any regular session of this Association, when written notice setting forth the exact intended alterations or amendments shall have been given at the previous regular session.

## MINUTES OF LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### 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 all 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 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 Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

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 our society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of 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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