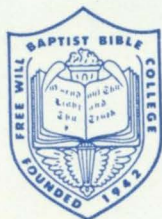


MINUTES of ORGANIZATION

AND
FIRST SESSION
OF
LIBERTY ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
OF
TENNESSEE

Held in Monterey Free Will Baptist Church,
Monterey, Tennessee, September 24-25, 1976.

The next annual meeting to convene with
Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church, 833
S. Willow, September 23-24, 1977.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Thurmon Murphy

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

GENERAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR

Rev. Raymond Riggs
646 Fairground Lane
Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone:
Home - 526-5831
Church - 526-8418

ASSISTANT MODERATOR

Rev. Jack Taylor
Route #2, Box 96
Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone:
Home - 526-7925
Church - 839-3433

CLERK-TREASURER

Rev. Claudie Richardson
181 E. Wall Street
Algood, TN 38501
Phone: 537-9239

MINUTES OF ORGANIZATION OF
LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Friday, September 24, 1976

The LIBERTY ASSOCIATION of Free Will Baptists of Tennessee convened for their initial meeting at the Monterey Free Will Baptist Church on Friday evening, September 24, 1976.

The service was opened by congregational singing led by Orville Simcox and Elmer Lollar. June Walker served as the pianist and Winona Riggs as organist.

Rev. Claudie Richardson led in prayer and brought the devotional from John 6:66.

The welcome was given by the host pastor, Rev. Jack Taylor.

Announcements and order of business were given by the Moderator-Pro-Tem, Rev. Raymond Riggs.

Recognition was given to all churches represented as follows:

Cookeville, Monterey, and Livingston

All delegates were recognized.

The Moderator-Pro-Tem appointed the following committees:

NOMINATING: Rev. Jack Taylor, Chairman
Brother Fred Haney
Brother Harold Bilbrey

FINANCE: Brother Elmer Lollar, Chairman
Brother U. L. Smith
Brother Gilbert Essex
Brother Orville Simcox
Brother Dallas Stults
Brother Donald Winningham

Brother Simcox then led the congregation in singing.

The Cookeville Youth Choir sang, "Christ is All I Need" and "Born to Be Crucified."

An offering was received to meet the Associational expenses. The offering amounted to \$51.06.

The Youth Ensemble of the Cookeville Church then sang, "In the Arms of Sweet Deliverance" and "In the Valley He Restoreth My Soul." The Cookeville Youth Choir then presented another song.

The evening message was brought by Dr. Joe Ange; entitled, "The Church." Dr. Ange's scripture was Matthew 16:13-18. A challenging and informative sermon showing:

1. The Calling Out of the Church
2. The Commission of the Church
3. The Characteristics of the Church
4. The Consummation of the Church

After the sermon, Brother Simcox led the congregation in singing "Jesus Saves."

The service was dismissed in prayer by Rev. Oral Tinch.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

The service opened at 9:00 A. M. by singing "Showers of Blessing," led by Orville Simcox.

The devotional was brought by Rev. Jack Taylor using the 116th Psalm. He then led in prayer.

The business session was called to order by the Moderator-Pro-Tem, Rev. Raymond Riggs.

The Rules of Decorum were read by the Moderator-Pro-Tem.

Standing delegates of the member churches were seated.

The Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church and the Monterey Free Will Baptist Church letters were read and the delegates from said churches were seated. Each of the churches submitted a check in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100).

The motion was made that the recommendation of the churches to organize the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION of Free Will Baptists be adopted and the Constitution ratified. The motion carried without opposition.

Motion made, seconded, and carried that the Executive Committee compile the reports of the member churches and send along with the petitionary letter to Rev. John Gibbs, State Promotional Secretary of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists.

The Finance Committee made their report to the body. Motion made, seconded, and carried that the report be adopted. (Copy of report is attached.)

The Youth Camp report was given by Rev. Raymond Riggs. Several testimonies were given by those who attended camp.

Motion made, seconded, and carried that the next session of the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION be held at the Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church on Friday and Saturday, January 28-29, 1977.

Motion made, seconded, and carried to have 500 copies of the minutes of this meeting, along with the Constitution and Bylaws, printed in booklet form.

The Nominating Committee report was given.

Motion made, seconded, and carried that the report be accepted and acted upon, item by item.

The following were elected:

Moderator	- Rev. Raymond Riggs
Assistant Moderator	- Rev. Jack Taylor
Clerk-Treasurer	- Rev. Claudie Richardson

PRESBYTERY BOARD:

Rev. Jack Taylor
Rev. Raymond Riggs
Rev. Claudie Richardson
Gilbert Essex, Deacon
Dallas Stults, Deacon

YOUTH CAMP BOARD:

Director - Rev. Raymond Riggs
Assistant - Rev. Jack Taylor
Harold Bilbrey
Wanda Selby
Archie Jeter

Motion made, seconded, and carried to give the host church a rising vote of thanks.

Several stirring testimonies were given.

The Assembly dismissed for a brief intermission prior to the morning worship service.

The morning worship service convened with congregational singing led by Brother Simcox, "I'm in the Glory Land Way."

Brother Shirley Phipps led in prayer.

A special song was rendered by the Simcox family, "In the Name of Jesus."

The morning offering was received in the amount of \$65.93.

Sister Padgett blessed all present by singing "Safe in Beulah Land" and "Inside the Gate."

The morning message was brought by Rev. John Gibbs, State Promotional Secretary of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists. His sermon was based on Genesis 39:1-6 and was built around the theme of letting God bless others through us. The following points were emphasized:

1. The Power of Persistency
2. The Power of Purity
3. The Power of Prayer
4. The Power of Pointed Preaching
5. The Power of Purse
6. The Power of Compassion

All present were blessed, inspired, and challenged by the message.

The following delegates were elected to the Tennessee State Association for 1976:

Brother Alva McCormick
Brother Tom Apple
Sister Gladys Whiteaker
Sister Bonnie Jeter
Sister Sallie Stout

Motion made, seconded, and carried to adjourn.

Dismissed for lunch by altar prayer, especially remembering Brother John Gibbs' physical condition.

The meeting was climaxed by a wonderful meal prepared and served by the ladies of the host church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Claudie Richardson, Clerk-Treasurer

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association, when convened, shall be opened by singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise to his feet and address the Moderator.
3. Each person, thus speaking, shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the Moderator, until he gets through, nor shall the Moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.
4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question and shall in no way cast reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.
5. No person shall speak more than three (3) 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 said 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 15 minutes at any time without leave of the Moderator.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

OF THE

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF TENNESSEE

Adopted September 24, 1976

(Preamble)

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify and strengthen the work of various churches composing the Association and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the Kingdom of God in connection with the various churches in the Association or that may be hereafter represented therein.

ARTICLE I

NAME - This organization shall be known as the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF TENNESSEE.

ARTICLE II

CHURCH INDEPENDENCE - This Association recognizes the autonomy of the local church and by Scriptural right and authority, the local church is both free and independent, and as such is self-governing; therefore, any attempt to impose upon or invade the congregational privilege of any local assembly shall be unwarranted and illegal.

ARTICLE III

COMPOSITION - The LIBERTY ASSOCIATION shall be composed of its general officers, the members of all boards and committees, and any duly appointed delegates, chosen by the churches belonging to said Association.

ARTICLE IV

REPRESENTATION - Representation in the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION is to be by churches which are affiliated with this body.

1. STANDING DELEGATES

All ordained ministers, deacons, licensed ministers, pastor's wife, church clerk, music director, general Sunday School superintendent, CTS director, and the president of the Woman's Auxiliary, provided they are members in good standing of the local church they represent.

2. ELECTED DELEGATES

In addition, each church shall be entitled to six (6) delegates elected from the laity.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. OFFICERS - The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk-Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the close of each annual session.

Section 2. BOARDS - The boards of the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION shall be the following: Presbytery Board and Youth Camp

Board. The personnel of each of the aforementioned shall be elected as follows: The first named for a term of one year, the second for a term of two years, the third for a period of three years, and the fourth for a period of four years, and the fifth for a term of five years. Succession to office thereafter shall be for a period of five years. Other boards may be formed at the discretion of the Association.

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE BOARD - The Executive Board shall consist of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk-Treasurer of the Liberty Association, and the chairman of each of the boards of the Association.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE - We recommend that each church pay ten percent (10%) of its regular, undesignated income into the treasury of the Association to be used in the various phases of the denominational work at the discretion of the Association. (Compliance with this recommendation is not compulsory for affiliation, but the plan has proven successful in other areas.)

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1. DISCIPLINE - This Association shall have power to act ONLY as an advisory council to give churches advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire as to why churches neglect to represent in

this Association; to exclude from the body any member who does not conform to the Rules of Decorum and shall report their conduct to the church from which they were sent.

Section 2. DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES - All matters involving disciplinary action shall be handled according to the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS - The meetings of the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION shall be held every four months and shall begin Friday, September 24, 1976, at 7:30 P. M. and be held on the fourth Friday and Saturday in January, May, and September. The September session shall be the annual meeting.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY - The District Woman's Auxiliary shall be recognized as a subordinate organization to the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION. It shall organize at its own discretion and have power to create and adopt a Constitution and Bylaws, and maintain complete management of the work for which it is constituted. An annual report shall be submitted to the Association.

ARTICLE X

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Association, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the proposed amendment or alteration

be presented to the body in writing, one conference (four months) in advance.

BYLAWS

1. The Moderator shall receive an honorarium of \$50 annually. The Clerk-Treasurer shall receive an honorarium of \$25 per session.

2. The standing boards shall be composed of five members each and may be elected either from the ordained authority or other standing or elected delegates. The Presbytery Board shall consist of ordained pastors and/or deacons. The members of the standing boards shall be elected for a term of five years, with their term of office to expire alternately.

3. The duties of the various standing boards shall be to plan a program and supervise its operation in their respective fields. They shall organize themselves and regulate their work as may become necessary and as may be found in harmony with the principles and tenets of the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION. Each board shall draft bylaws to govern their work. These bylaws shall be subject to the approval of the Association.

4. Any duly ordained minister or deacon, who is in good standing with this body, has the privilege of sitting in council with the

Presbytery at any time, but will not be permitted to vote unless he is appointed to serve by proxy by an absentee member, or selected by a majority present.

5. The purpose of the Presbytery Board shall be for the mutual improvement of the ministry, their protection against hostile influences, for the maintaining of a clean and pure character among those of the ordained authority. It shall also become the duty of the Presbytery to examine all candidates for license to preach the gospel or to ordain the same at the request of the local church. The Presbytery shall also serve as a screening committee to review petitionary letters from churches desiring to affiliate with this Association.

6. Before granting license or endorsing credentials of any minister from another denomination to preach the gospel, the candidate must have been a member of a church in this Association at least six (6) months. Any minister from another Free Will Baptist church or Free Will Baptist association desiring his credentials ratified by this Association, must be a member of some local church in this Association, and have a letter of recommendation from his former Association.

7. The local church must first request by letter the licensing or ordination of all candidates before the Presbytery can act.

8. Before license or ordination, the candidate is examined as to his gifts, personal

piety, and doctrine, his call to the ministry, his adaptability and devotion to the work, his reputation, character, ability, and his present and prospective educational and professional qualifications. A list of questions should be prepared by the Presbytery Board, and the candidate should be required to make a grade of not less than 70% before license is granted.

The examination for ordination should include all that is required for license, and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate and his attainments, at least in the departments of English education, doctrinal and pastoral theology, and homiletics.

9. No minister having more than one living wife, or his wife having more than one living husband, shall be considered for licensing or ordination in this body.

10. No minister shall be accepted, except that he teaches and practices tithing as God's financial plan for the church.

11. The examination of deacons should be according to 1 Timothy 3.

12. A minister shall be licensed for a period of one year, after which his local church may request another examination and the Presbytery shall decide whether or not the license be extended or the candidate be ordained. If an offense is made during the year, and the candidate repents, the license

will be forfeited and he will be forced to begin anew.

13. A minister from another denomination wishing to unite with this Association must first make application to a church which requests action of the Presbytery, the same as for a license or ordination.

APPROVED FINANCIAL POLICY
OF THE
LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF TENNESSEE

Recognizing the great opportunity that our Association has of promoting unity and fellowship among our churches, training and challenging our young people, supporting the various phases of denominational work, both state and national, yet at the same time, realizing that much benevolent and missionary work needs to be done in our own local communities; and also being keenly aware that God loves and blesses a cheerful giver, and that in our stewardship we are required to be faithful; also, knowing the importance of a sound financial program in the very beginning of our Association that would command the respect and support of our churches and communities at large, therefore, we recommend the following:

1. That each church composing this Association give prayerful consideration to complying with the suggested financial method of giving to the Association as stated in Article VII of the Constitution.
2. That a free will offering be received at each of the worship services and

that the monies received go into the general fund of the Association to be allocated as per authorization of the body.

3. That 50% of the funds received from the various sources of the Association be retained to be used in the local Association for its various approved projects.
4. That beginning with February 1, 1977, ten dollars (\$10) per week be allocated to the retirement fund of each of our full time pastors whose church is affiliated with the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION. This money to be sent to the Board of Retirement of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, credited to the ACCOUNT OF EACH FULL TIME pastor.
5. We recommend that 50% of the funds that come into our Association be sent to outside causes as follows:

Tennessee State Promotional Office .	5%
Tennessee Children's Home	5%
Tennessee State Home Missions . . .	10%
National Home Missions	10%
National Foreign Missions	10%
Free Will Baptist Bible College . .	10%

6. We recommend that the allocation of funds for outside causes be reviewed at each annual meeting of the Association for any recommended change.

