

MINUTES of the

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OF

TENNESSEE

SEPTEMBER 23-24, 1977

When convening with Cookeville Free
Will Baptist Church located at
833 S. Willow Avenue, Cookeville, TN

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

GENERAL OFFICERS

MODERATOR

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

ASSISTANT MODERATOR

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

CLERK

Winona Riggs
Same as Moderator

ASSISTANT CLERK

Shirley Phipps
Rt. #8 Box 282
Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone. . . 526-1991

TREASURER

Harold Bilbrey
441 Ellis Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38501

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Joe Mullins
1515 Benni Drive
Cookeville, TN 38501

PRESBYTERY BOARD MEMBERS

Reverend James Lee		.1982
Reverend Jack Taylor		.1981
Reverend Raymond Riggs		.1980
Dallas Stults		.1979
Gilbert Essex		.1978

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Elmer Lollar. . .Chairman--Cookeville
Gilbert Essex--Cookeville
U.L. Smith--Cookeville
Orville Simcox--Monterey
Dallas Stults--Monterey
Don Winningham--Monterey
Harold Poynter--Albany
Lanny Bowlin--Albany

YOUTH CAMP BOARD

Reverend Raymond Riggs, Director--1982
Reverend Jack Taylor, Assistant Director--1981
Reverend James Lee--1980
Harold Bilbrey--1979
Wanda Selby--1978

MINUTES OF
LIBERTY ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 23, 1977

THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF TENNESSEE convened for their second annual session at the Cookeville Free Will Baptist church, located at 833 S. Willow Avenue on Friday evening, September 23, 1977.

The service was opened by congregational singing led by Elmer Lollar, "Tell Me The Story of Jesus." Diane Phipps served as pianist and Winona Riggs as organist.

In the absence of the appointed speaker, Reverend Jack Taylor brought the devotional from Psalms 116 and then led in prayer.

Welcome was given by the host pastor, Reverend Raymond Riggs.

Recognition was given to all churches represented as follows:

Albany-----16	Cookeville---41
Monterey-----20	Others----- 3

The Moderator appointed the nominating committee:

Reverend Jack Taylor---Chairman
Reverend James Lee
Fred Haney

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

Special music was presented by the Cookeville Youth Choir entitled: "I Asked The Lord", "There's Joy In The Camp", and "He Touched Me."

Brother Elmer Lollar then led the congregation in singing, "Amazing Grace."

The evening message was brought by Dr. Robert Picirilli. The topic of his sermon was, "The word about the Word" based on II Timothy 3:14-17 and II Peter 1:20, 21.

After the message, Brother Lollar led the congregation in singing "Throw Out The Lifeline."

Service was dismissed in prayer by Reverend Howell Davis.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION September 24, 1977

The service was opened at 9.00 A.M. by singing, "I'll Be A Friend To Jesus" led by Orville Simcox.

The devotional was brought by Reverend James Lee using Hebrews 4. He then led in prayer.

The business session was called to order by the Moderator.

Moderator appointed the placement committee:
Archie Jeter, Chairman
Harold Poynter
Faye Burgess

The delegates were seated: 16 standing
11 elected
7 visitors

Prayer of consecration was led by Dr. Robert Picirilli.

Moderator read the Rules of Decorum.

Minutes of previous session were read and approved as read.

Letters of churches were received as information.

MSC to receive annual report.

Reverend Jack Taylor gave a report on Upper Cumberland Bible Institute.

Report on Youth Camp was given by Reverend Jack Taylor.

Financial report on Youth Camp was given by Reverend Jack Taylor.

MSC to receive youth camp financial report.

MSC to take from the table, Article VII.

MSC to adopt Article VII, changed from 10% to 5%.

Five (5) delegates were elected to represent the LIBERTY ASSOCIATION at the State Association, convening in Elizabethton, November 7-9.

Tom Apple--Bonnie Jeter--Winona Riggs
Alva McCormack--Sallie Stout

Report was given by the placement Committee. MSC to have next meeting at Albany, KY.

Report of the finance committee was given by Orville Simcox.

MSC to receive report as given.

MSC to let finance committee decide on the salary of Treasurer and Clerk, now that the two have been divided.

Report of the nominating committee was given by Reverend Jack Taylor.

Those elected were: Reverend Raymond Riggs, Moderator.

Reverend Jack Taylor, Assistant Moderator
Winona Riggs, Clerk

Shirley Phipps, Assistant Clerk

Harold Bilbrey, Treasurer

Joe Mullins, Assistant Treasurer

Reverend Raymond Riggs, Youth Camp Director

Reverend Jack Taylor, Assistant Youth Camp Director

Reverend James Lee, Youth Camp Board Member for five (5) years.

The Finance Committee is composed of: Elmer Lollar, Chairman; Gilbert Essex, U.L. Smith, Orville Simcox, Dallas Stults, Don Winningham, Harold Poynter and Lanny Bowlin.

Presbytery Board Member: Reverend James Lee. Dallas Stults to fill the unexpired term of Reverend Claudie Richardson which expires in 1979.

Dr. Picirilli gave a report on the Free Will Baptist Bible College. 562 are enrolled this year--542 last year.

MSC to adjourn the business session.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

The morning worship service was opened by congregational singing led by Orville Simcox. Songs were "Sunlight," "I Need the Love of God," and "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder."

The offering was received.

The morning message was delivered by Dr. Robert Picirilli. His sermon was based on Numbers 13:17-20 and Numbers 14:6-9. The theme was the "Faith of Caleb."

- I. The Testing of Caleb's Faith
- II. Temerity of Caleb's Faith
- III. The Triumph of Caleb's Faith.

Reverend Riggs then led the congregation in "Trust and Obey" and we were dismissed for lunch served by the host church.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Bilbrey,
Assistant Clerk

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 rise 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 they 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 Five percent (5%) 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, and is complying with the financial policy of the 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.

