

MINUTES

OF THE
THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF
LIBERTY ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
OF
TENNESSEE

SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 1978

When convening with Monterey Free Will Baptist Church
located at Monterey, Tennessee

**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

U. L. Smith	1983
Rev. James Lee	1982
Rev. Jack Taylor	1981
Rev. Raymond Riggs	1980
Dallas Stults	1979

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Elmer Lollar, Chairman	Cookeville
Gilbert Essex	Cookeville
U. L. Smith	Cookeville
Dallas Stults	Monterey
Don Winningham	Monterey
Harold Poynter	Albany
Lanny Bowlin	Albany
Archie Jeter	Cookeville

YOUTH CAMP BOARD

Gene Stanze	1983
Rev. Raymond Riggs, Director	1982
Rev. Jack Taylor, Assistant Director	1981
Rev. James Lee	1980
Harold Bilbrey	1979

MINUTES OF LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF FWB

convening with Monterey Church on

September 22, 23, 1978

THIRD ANNUAL ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

Opening with singing "Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus" led by Ray Riddle. June Walker, pianist, Kim Taylor, organist.

Opening prayer by Rev. James Lee, of Albany, Ky. church.

Welcome was given by Rev. Jack Taylor, host pastor. He also gave the devotional, using the Scripture, Psalms 34:1-10. Prayer by Bro. Taylor.

Special music was presented by Kim Taylor and Sandra Brown of the host church. "I've Come Too Far To Turn Back," and "Jesus God a Hold of My Life."

Assistant Moderator, Bro. Jack Taylor then introduced the Moderator, Rev. Raymond Riggs.

Visitors were recognized. Rev. Harvey Garrison of the Stone Association of Free Will Baptists, and Steve Blanton of the Free Will Baptist Bible College gave greetings.

Moderator appointed the Nominating Committee: James Lee, Chairman, Dillard Anderson, Cookeville, and Harold Bilbrey, of Monterey.

Placement Committee: Dallas Stults, Chairman, Jeanine Lee, and Tom Apple. Next meeting to be January 26, 27, 1979.

Announcements were made reminding everyone that Upper Cumberland Bigle Institute will begin September 25, at the Monterey church. Offertory prayer was by Rev. Harvey Garrison after which the musicians played, "Each Step I Take."

The offering amounted to \$35.26.

Bro. Riggs then introduced Bro. Don Robirds, our speaker of the hour. Bro. Robirds is a former missionary, having spent 6 years in Brazil, editor of *Heartbeat*, and Communication Director of Foreign Missions Department.

He used Romans 1:14-32 as his Scripture and his topic was "I Am Debtor."

Moderator then led in the song, "Where He Leads Me" and we were dismissed in prayer by Steve Blanton, of Decatur, Ga. now a student of the Bible College.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song "Standing On The Promises" led by Ray Riddle. organist, Kim Taylor, pianist, Winona Riggs.

Devotional thought was given by Dallas Stults using Psalm 50:1-16. Welcome was also given by Bro. Stults who then led in prayer.

Assistant moderator, Rev. Taylor then introduced the Moderator, Rev. Riggs, who then delivered the moderator's message.

Reading of church letters, was represented by all 3 churches.

Delegates were seated after prayer of consecration by Rev. Don Robirds. Moderator then read Rules of Decorum, and recognized the visitors.

Treasurer's Annual report was read and MSC to approve as read. (See Report)

UCBI oral report was given by Rev. Jack Taylor.

Youth Camp financial report was given by Winona Riggs, Treas. MSC to approve. (See Report)

Placement Committee report given and recommended that the next session be at Cookeville. MSC.

Report of Nominating Committee was given and the following officers elected: SAME EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Presbytery Board member, U. L. Smith, term to expire 1983. Archie Jeter, to the Finance Committee, to replace Orville Simcox. Youth Committee Gene Stanze to replace Wanda Selby, his term to expire in 1983. MSC to elect by acclamation.

Finance report was given by Dallas Stults, in the absence of Elmer Lollar, Chairman. Recommendations to be voted on, item by item.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1: To give Albuquerque N.M. (a new mission) \$100.00. MSC

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: To have annual minutes printed. (300) MSC.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read.

Rev. Riggs was elected as Camp Director, Rev. Taylor, Asst., and Winona Riggs, Treasurer.

MSC to adjourn business session. Dismissed in prayer by the moderator.

Recess of 15 minutes.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Ray Riddle led, "There Shall Be Showers Of Blessings" and then we were led in prayer by Harold Poynter.

Moderator called us back into business session for special item, to elect delegates to State Association. Moderator was given the authority to appoint 5 delegates.

MSC to give the host church a rising vote of thanks. MSC to adjourn the business session.

Offertory prayer was given by Archie Jeter, after which the offertory music was presented by Kim Taylor and Winona Riggs.

Special music by Kim Taylor and Sandy Brown. Special music also by Cindy Essex, "Thank You Jesus."

Moderator introduced the speaker of the hour, Rev. Don Robirds. His topic was Colossians 1:17-29.

Host pastor then commented on the message and announced the noon meal.

We were dismissed in prayer by Harold Bilbrey.

Respectfully submitted,
Winona Riggs, Clerk

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

of

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF TENNESSEE

From September 24, 1977—September 15, 1978

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$1,685.55
Receipts		
Association Offerings		189.89
Monterey Church		1,358.87
Cookeville Church		2,636.60
Albany Church		50.00
UCBI Tuition & offering		908.83
TOTAL		\$5,135.19
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR		\$6,820.74
Disbursements		
FWB Home Missions	\$410.42	
FWB Bible College	410.42	
FWB Foreign Missions	410.42	
FWB Tn. St. Home Missions	410.42	
Tn. St. Promotional Office	205.22	
FWB Children's Home	205.22	
Board of Retirement	1,040.00	
FWB College Students	300.00	
Speakers (honorariums)	225.00	
Moderator	50.00	
Supplies & stamps	87.84	
State Association Fee	25.00	
Four Miss. (25.00 each)	100.00	
UCBI	1,150.21	
Youth Camp Deposit	100.00	
Home Missions (Hayes Acct.)	25.00	
Treasurer	37.50	
Clerk	37.50	
Rev. Raymond Riggs (teaching)	100.00	
CTS	36.25	
TOTAL	\$5,366.41	
BALANCE IN TREASURY		\$1,454.33

Respectfully submitted,
Harold D. Bilbrey, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT
UPPER CUMBERLAND YOUTH CAMP
June 18, 1978

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD **\$55.31**

Receipts:

Campers 78 @20.00	\$1,560.00
Camp Offering	110.85
Canteen	<u>474.58</u>
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR	2,200.74

Disbursements:

Insurance (Wilmoth)	105.00
K-Mart (trash bags, etc.)	52.04
Jim Walker, Camp Evangelist	300.00
Camp (Fall Creek Falls Park)	408.50
Rev. Riggs, Misc. (oleo,)	29.15
Shelton Wholesale (Canteen)	252.20
Whitson Dyer (meats)	138.16
Bunny Bread	63.84
Foodtown (chickens, staples)	142.83
Wholesale Inst.	312.14
Southern Belle (milk)	77.50
Postmaster (stamps)	11.85
Pepsi Cola Co.	126.50
Gaw Produce Co.	70.85
Rose's (materials for craft and paper towels)	29.86
Misc. (at camp, for milk, soap, etc.)	<u>28.66</u>
TOTAL	\$2,149.08
BALANCE AS OF September 12, 1978	\$51.66

Respectfully submitted,
Winona Riggs, Camp Treasurer

NOTE: We had 78 paid campers, 25 helpers, and our Camp Evangelist, and his son. Making a total of 105.

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 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 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.

