

# **Minutes**

of the

## **Little Missouri River Association**

of

### **Free Will Baptists Proceedings**

of the

#### **1997-1998 Quarterly Meetings**

and the

### **120th Annual Session**

Joe Ray Short, Moderator  
Box 1586, Glenwood, AR 71943

Eddie Ary, Clerk  
45 Central Road, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

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**LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR THE 1998-1999 FISCAL YEAR**

**Credentials Board**

Terrell Holland. . . . .	5 years
Kevin Jewell (Chairman). . . . .	4 years
John High. . . . .	3 years
Kenny Fant . . . . .	2 years
Travis Garner. . . . .	1 year

**General Board**

Larry Denton (Chairman). . . . .	Hatfield
Phyllis Ary (Secretary). . . . .	Arkadelphia
Cecil Fant . . . . .	Daisy
Darrell Waldo. . . . .	Glenwood
Sonny Dunn . . . . .	Lake Hills
Hursel Parker. . . . .	Lodi
Judy Short . . . . .	Mt. Joy
Doyle Hammock. . . . .	Pleasant Grove

**Officers**

Kenny Fant . . . . .	Moderator
Larry Denton . . . . .	Assistant Moderator
Eddie Ary. . . . .	Clerk
Judy Short . . . . .	Assistant Clerk



# LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

## CHURCHES, PASTORS, AND CLERKS

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Clerk</u>
Arkadelphia	No pastor	Phyllis Ary 45 Central Road Arkadelphia, AR 71923 870-246-3305
Daisy	Reverend Kevin Jewell HC 71, Box 41A Kirby, AR 71950 870-398-4355	Pearline McCauley HC 71, Box 155 Kirby, AR 71950 870-398-5438
Glenwood	Reverend Terrell Holland P. O. Box 54 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2375	Diana Plyler P. O. Box 31 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2695
Hatfield	Reverend John M. High P. O. Box 126 Hatfield, AR 71945 870-389-6932	Linda Denton 123 South Tilley Road Hatfield, AR 71945 870-389-6676
Lake Hills	No Pastor	Sandra Dunn P. O. Box 2480 Hot Springs, AR 71914 501-767-9762
Lodi	Reverend Travis Garner HC 71, Box 130 Kirby, AR 71950 870-398-4418	Vennis Parker HC 72, Box 190 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2209
Mt. Joy	Reverend Joe Ray Short Box 1586 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2374	Carolyn Golden P. O. Box 172 Kirby, AR 71950 870-398-4209
Pleasant Grove	Reverend Kenny Fant HC 71, Box 57 New Hope, AR 71959 870-398-4698	Ethel Pinkerton 710 Parsons Road New Hope, AR 71959 870-583-2044

## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 1997

### QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE PLEASANT GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

#### Ten O'Clock Service

After a welcome to the Pleasant Grove Church by Brother Kenny Fant, Brother John High began our services with prayer.

Brother Doyle Hammock led the congregation in the singing of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "Jesus Saves." Sister Beverly Fox played the piano.

Brother Joe Ray asked the clerk to read the church letters. Letters from all eight of our churches were read. The Hot Springs Church requested that Brother Sonny Dunn, Brother Rodney Woodard, Brother Cliff Turner, and Brother Ed Kaufmann be examined as deacons. (Of the four men, Brother Ed Kaufmann and Brother Cliff Turner were present.)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the letters and seat the delegates. The motion carried and delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "When We All Get to Heaven" was sung.

Brother Joe Ray reminded everyone that ordained ministers and their wives, deacons and their wives, and church clerks have a standing vote.

Brother John High was asked to serve as chairman of the Resolutions Committee with Brother Doyle Hammock and Sister Emogene Reid as members.

Brother Kevin Jewell introduced Brother Kevin Smead and his wife Michelle. He indicated that Brother Smead had answered the call to the ministry and had recently preached his first sermon. Brother Kevin requested that our churches give Brother Smead an opportunity to preach.

Brother Kevin asked Brother and Sister Smead to come to the front of the auditorium. Brother Smead thanked Brother Kevin and asked for the prayers of the Association. The congregation gave the young couple a round of applause.

Brother Bill Brewer dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

#### Eleven O'Clock Service

Brother Doyle Hammock led in the singing of "Just Over in the Gloryland" and "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" while Sister Beverly Fox played the piano.

Brother Kevin Jewell and his wife Sherri sang "Beulah Land" as Sister Sherri played the piano.

Brother Kenny Fant announced that Brother Smead would be preaching during the Sunday night service at the Pleasant Grove Church on October 19. Brother Kenny then read Job 2:4 and prayed. His message was entitled "Would You Like to Live Your Life Over Again?".

The following were given by Brother Kenny as reasons we wouldn't want to live our life over again. First, we would have to face the same temptations again, and we might yield to them. Second, we would have to face the same heartaches. Third, we might make bigger mistakes than we did the first time.

Brother Kenny stressed that we don't need to look at the past, but need to look forward; he cited Philippians 3:13. We should get on fire for God so that we can see people saved and rededicated, and Satan defeated. God will give us a second chance just as he did Jonah, Peter, and the prodigal son. We cannot live our life over again, but we have a chance to go forward for God today.

Brother Joe Ray expressed appreciation for the message and the challenge. He commended Brother Kenny for being faithful to God from an early age, and stressed that as an Association we need to pursue a more active role for our young people.

Brother Kevin Jewell announced that the Credentials Board would meet during the noon hour, and Brother Joe Ray indicated that the General Board also needed to meet.

Brother Terrell Holland dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

#### Saturday Afternoon

The afternoon service began with the singing of "What a Friend," led by Brother Jerry Fox; Sister Beverly Fox played the piano.

Brother Coy Davis led us in prayer, and then "Shelter From the Storms" was sung.

Brother Doyle Hammock brought a devotion on love. He read I Corinthians 13. Brother Doyle stressed that Christ loved us so much that He died for us. We must have faith, hope, and charity, but when we get to Heaven, we won't have need of faith and hope. Of the three, only love will endure forever. At the close of his devotion, Brother Doyle asked us to pray for the Pleasant Grove Church.

Brother Don Guthrie gave an update on the Hot Springs Church. He indicated that the church is trying to break the 100 in attendance barrier. There were 35 present at the first communion and feet



washing held at the church last Sunday night. The church will be in revival tonight and tomorrow.

Brother Don then gave reports on behalf of Brother Carl Chesier, Brother Dave Joslin, the State Missions Board, and Brother Bob Thompson.

1. He conveyed Brother Carl's thanks for the donation by the Association to Hillsdale. The college has 160 full time students enrolled this fall. Brother Don invited the pastors of the Association to a supper with Brother Carl on November 10.
2. The Free Will Baptist Bookstore will be relocating in the near future. It will have much more store space and parking.
3. Brother Levan Hubbard has moved to Bryan, Texas, and Brother Kerry Gandy is the new mission pastor of the Rolling Oaks Free Will Baptist Church in Maumelle. Brother Gandy had his first service last Sunday with 38 present. Prayer for Brother Gandy and his wife Janet was encouraged.
4. Camp Beaverfork is in the black, and renovation work has begun.

Because the doctrines of Russian churches are so similar to that of Free Will Baptists, we are being invited into Russian more than any other group. Brother Don indicated that he would be going to Russia next spring to teach a two week series on church planning. His church will be giving \$1,000 to the pastor of a Russian church.

### Business Session

Brother Joe Ray declared us in conference for the transaction of business. He asked if any of those present were at a quarterly meeting for the first time. Several raised their hands. Brother Joe Ray invited them to participate and emphasized that we are working together to accomplish things that we could not achieve as individual churches.

Brother John High, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented a resolution that we give the members of the Pleasant Grove Church a rising vote of thanks for the noon meal and their hospitality.

A motion was made to receive the report of the Resolutions Committee. The motion was seconded and those in favor stood to their feet. The motion carried.

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, presented the following report.

1. The Board encourages those who were supporting Brother Levan Hubbard to continue sending their funds, but designate them to Brother Kerry Gandy.

2. The Board recommends that youth in our churches be encouraged to make contacts with young people at the Children's Home. The name TACT (Teens and Christ Together) is suggested for the program. We should pray about the possibility of reviving the youth rally. Taking the youth of the Association to a mission work to help with Vacation Bible School or some other activity should be considered.
3. The Board recommends that the constitution be revised since the adoption of the General Board has resulted in the elimination of several boards provided for in the existing constitution.
4. Brother John High will be our speaker at the next quarterly meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to receive and adopt the report of the General Board. The motion carried.

Brother Don Guthrie announced that there would be a Youth Rally at the Hot Springs Church on November 9. Bob Thompson's two sons will be preaching.

Brother Joe Ray suggested that the General Board and pastors have a meeting to discuss activities for the youth of our Association.

Brother Kenny Fant reported that the Credentials Board had examined Brother Ed Kaufmann and Brother Cliff Turner and recommended that they be accepted as deacons of the Lake Hills Free Will Baptist Church in full fellowship with the Association, and that Brother Sonny Dunn and Brother Rodney Woodard be accepted as deacons in full fellowship pending an interview.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations of the Credentials Board. The motion was seconded and carried.

Sister Karen Kirkpatrick encouraged pastors to nominate outstanding young people for Truth and Peace. Truth and Peace is a leadership forum for 36 young men and 36 young women selected from all over the United States. Those chosen will be spending two weeks at Hillsdale and one week working at the National Convention.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

Brother John High announced that the Brashears Family would be singing at the Hatfield Church at 7:00 p.m. on October 24.

Brother Terrell Holland announced that Brother Kevin Smead would be preaching during the evening service on October 26 at the Glenwood Church.

It was announced that Brother Bob Mantooth had passed away.

Brother Danny Jenkins dismissed us in prayer.



## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 1998

### QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE DAISY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

#### Ten O'Clock Service

Our services began with the singing of "To God Be the Glory" and "Standing on the Promises." Sister Leslie Sirmon led the singing, and Sister Sherri Jewell played the piano.

After the singing, Brother Hursel Parker led us in prayer.

Brother Joe Ray Short called for the reading of the church letters. All our churches were represented by letter except Mt. Joy, but its letter was received in the mail after the dismissal of the quarterly meeting. The Lodi Church requested that Brother Dean Mack be examined by the Credentials Board and be accepted in full fellowship as a deacon.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the letters and seat the delegates. The motion carried; delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "I Heard an Old, Old Story" was sung.

Brother Don Guthrie reported that the Lake Hills Church was two years old last Sunday. He indicated that the church hopes to be self supporting in one and a half to two years. Four deacons have been ordained. Brother Don expressed appreciation for the Association's support.

Brother Don also shared information from Brother Dave Joslin and Brother Keith Johnson. He conveyed thanks on behalf of Brother Dave to the Association, especially the ladies group, for support of the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan. Also, Brother Dave had indicated that cooperative receipts were up. The bookstore, managed by Brother Keith, had a 40 percent increase in sales in 1997.

Brother Don closed his remarks by reminding everyone that CTS competition would be coming up soon.

Brother Toby Youngblood, Director of Development at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, presented a report on the college. (Brother Toby was a youth pastor for ten years before assuming his position at Hillsdale.) He indicated that there were 150 students enrolled; of these, 34 were training to be preachers and 20 were preparing to be missionaries. Brother Toby invited us to visit the campus, and encouraged us to take the materials concerning the college, available on the table in the church foyer. He stressed that Hillsdale does not receive any money from the National Association. Also, Hillsdale is fully accredited.

Brother Toby indicated that his job description was "money and students." He asked us to send our students and asked for our prayer and financial support.

The goal of the college is to develop young men and women to have a testimony for Jesus Christ. Brother Toby stressed that Pharaoh had a title, but Moses had a testimony. Hillsdale is teaching students that like Moses they need to be different for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother Joe Ray asked Sister Emogene Reid to serve as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee. Sister Charlotte Jones and Sister Linda Denton were asked to serve on the committee.

Brother Kenny Fant dismissed us in prayer for a short recess before the morning worship service.

### Eleven O'Clock Service

Sister Leslie Sirmon led the congregation in the singing of "Where He Leads, I'll Follow" and "This World Is Not My Home." Sister Sherri Jewell played the organ, while Sister Janna Ray played the piano. There were approximately 50 present for the service.

Brother Cecil Fant led us in prayer.

Sister Lisa Miller brought a special, "Where I Met Jesus," with a tape accompaniment.

Brother John High, our speaker, read Acts 6:1-4, 7, and brought a message emphasizing verse 4--"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word." Brother John stressed that we often neglect reading the Word; we tend to want to do things our way. We often read between the lines, rather than reading the lines. Since God is not the author of confusion, we need to stop and investigate when we have a question about a verse. Children need to be taught sound doctrine rather than stories. We not only need to read God's Word, we should apply it to our lives. Our churches and the Association need to stay founded on God's Word. II Timothy 2:15, I Corinthians 14:33, Titus 1:9, and II Timothy 4:3 were cited during the message.

Brother John challenged us to get busy reading, studying, and applying God's Word to our lives. He closed his message with prayer.

The service was concluded with prayer and a blessing on the noon meal by Brother Kevin Jewell.

### Saturday Afternoon

Our services began with the singing of "Mansion Over the Hilltop" and "Where the Soul Never Dies," led by Sister Leslie Sirmon as Sister Sherri Jewell played the piano.

Brother Larry Ledbetter then sang a special, "Spirit of Brokenness," with a tape accompaniment.

Brother Kevin Smead requested prayer for Brother Casey Bennett, a twenty year old from Mineral Springs who needs a heart transplant. He then began his devotion on "Obedience" by reading John 2:1-5. Brother Kevin stressed that our obedience to Jesus must be prepared (though study and prayer), perfect (by hearing and obeying), and prompt. He indicated that we should be obedient because it's an honor to serve Christ, Christ is all wise, and He is our Master and Lord.

### Business Session

Brother Joe Ray Short declared us in conference for the transaction of business.

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented two resolutions.

Resolutions #1 Give the members of the host church a rising vote of thanks for the good meal and their hospitality, and commend them for the beautiful building.

Resolution #2 Donate \$1,000 from the General Fund to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College for its "Have a Heart for Hillsdale Campaign."

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report of the Resolutions Committee, act on it item by item, and dismiss the committee.

Resolution #1 Approved by giving a rising vote of thanks.

Resolution #2 After Brother Toby Youngblood presented an explanation of the "Have a Heart for Hillsdale Campaign," the resolution was approved.

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, reported that the Board has looked at a proposed revision of the constitution prepared by Brother Eddie Ary in an attempt to make the constitution conform to what we actually do in associational meetings. Each board member will present the proposed constitution to his church for comments and suggestions, with the goal of having it ready for the July meeting.

Sister Phyllis reported that Brother Don Guthrie had asked that the Board consider recommending that Hillsdale be put in the budget and be given funding equal to that of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The balances in the various funds of the Association were as



follows on December 31, 1997: Missions Fund, \$4,956.75; Christian Education--Education Fund, \$5,124.26; Christian Education--General Fund, \$804.40; General Fund, \$5,884.54. The balances of the funds altogether totalled \$16,770.15.

Sister Phyllis indicated that the Board recommended that a tuition scholarship be given to Thomas Shane Davidson, an Arkansas senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College, for hours completed during the fall, 1997 semester.

Brother Kevin Smead was selected to be our speaker at the April quarterly meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the General Board and adopt the recommendation concerning the tuition scholarship. The motion carried.

Brother Kenny Fant reported that the Credentials Board had examined Brother Rodney Woodard (from the Lake Hills Church), who had been accepted as a deacon in the Association at the October quarterly meeting pending examination. The board also examined Brother Dean Mack and recommended that he be accepted as a deacon from the Lodi Church in full fellowship with the Association.

A motion was made to accept and adopt the report of the Credentials Board. The motion was seconded and carried.

Brother Toby thanked the association for the \$1,000 gift.

Brother Don Guthrie invited the men of the Association to a Joshua Men's Program to be held Saturday night, January 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake Hills Church. The purpose of the program is to teach men how to be better husbands and fathers.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Those in favor stood to their feet, and the motion carried.

Brother Don dismissed us in prayer.

## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 1998

### QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE HATFIELD FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

#### Ten O'Clock Service

Our services began with the congregational singing of "He Set Me Free" and "Mansion Over the Hilltop," led by Sister Phyllis Ary while Sister Judy Short played the piano.

Brother Joe Ray Short, our moderator, welcomed everyone, and reminded us that ordained ministers and their wives, ordained deacons and their wives, and church clerks have a standing vote.

The letters were read by Brother Eddie Ary; all eight of our churches were represented.

Brother Eddie read a letter from Brother Toby Youngblood, Director of Development at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, thanking the Association for its support. Brother Toby indicated that the college had a student lead revival in February, and another was being planned for the end of March. Enrollment for the spring semester is 162.

A letter from Brother David Joslin, State Promotional Director, was also read. When the Arkansas State Association convenes August 5-7, 1998 in Conway, Arkansas, it will be celebrating its centennial. All ministers or deacons who have been ordained for 40 years or more will be honored. The oldest minister and deacon, in terms of the number of years ordained, present at the meeting will be honored in a special manner.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the church letters and seat the delegates. The motion carried. Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "Victory in Jesus" was sung.

Brother Joe Ray asked Sister Emogene Reid to serve as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee; Brother Allen Michau and Sister Michelle Smead were also asked to serve on the committee.

A letter from the Lake Hills Church was read by Brother Joe Ray. The church thanked the Association for the cards, flowers, and prayers following the death of Brother Don Guthrie. The church asked for prayer as a pastor is sought.

Brother Joe Ray announced that on May 16, 1998, a charity auction would be held to raise money for a scholarship for Brother Don's son, Philip. The money will be put into a trust fund and given to Philip on his eighteenth birthday. Between now and then, the interest on the money will be used to award a scholarship to a Lake Hamilton student who is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and who has demonstrated Christian leadership qualities and character.

Brother Hursel Parker dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

### Eleven O'Clock Service

Sister Phyllis Ary led in the singing of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" and "I Love to Tell the Story." Sister Judy Short played the piano; Sister Dorothy Moore played the autoharp. There were approximately 45 present for the service.

To commemorate the death of Brother Don, Sister Phyllis Ary read a poem, "I'm Free," which had been given to her by Brother Sonny Dunn.

A group from the Hatfield Church consisting of Brother John High, Sister Danita High, Brother Larry Denton, Sister Linda Denton, Brother J. C. Moore, Sister Dorothy Moore, Sister Debbie Fox, and Brother Oren Rhoades, sang two specials: "I'm Standing on the Solid Rock" and "This Is Just What Heaven Means to Me." The group was led by Brother Jerry Jeffcoat; Sister Danita High played the piano.

Brother Kevin Smead, the speaker for the morning worship service, read Matthew 14:14-21, and then prayed. Brother Kevin emphasized that compassion would sum up Jesus' life. Jesus came to minister; He was a servant to people. He wants us to minister to the needs of people. Like the disciples, He commands us to "Give ye them to eat." If we bring our time, energy, and what little talents we have and consecrate them to God, Christ will be glorified and the multitudes will be fed. Brother Kevin closed his message with prayer. Other scriptures cited during the message were James 5:20, Acts 16:9-10, Matthew 28:19-20, Judges 7, Malachi 3:10, and Ecclesiastes 11:1.

Sister Charlotte Jones announced that the Woman's Auxiliary would meet May 1-2 in Conway. It was also announced that the General Board and Credentials Board would meet during the lunch hour.

Brother Larry Denton dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

### Saturday Afternoon

Our service began with the singing of "Amazing Grace," led by Sister Phyllis Ary. Sister Carolyn Golden played the piano, and Sister Dorothy Moore played the autoharp.

Brother Larry Ledbetter sang "All the Way," with a tape accompaniment.

Brother Travis Garner sang "Something Got Hold of Me" as he played the guitar.



Brother John High brought a devotion based on Acts 16:16-17. He stressed that we need to be showing people "the way of salvation." We need to be proud of our church, and our brothers and sisters in Christ. People are watching us, and they need to know that we are proud to be Christians. Brother John closed with prayer.

### Business Session

Brother Joe Ray declared us in conference for the transaction of business.

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented two resolutions. First, "Be it resolved that the Little Missouri River Association make a contribution to the trust fund for Sarah and Philip Guthrie;" second, "Be it resolved that we give the host church a rising vote of thanks for the good noon meal, and commend the members of the church for the remodeling which has been completed."

A motion was made and seconded that the first resolution be tabled until the annual meeting in July. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the second resolution. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, reported that at the July annual meeting the board would be making recommendations for the spending of some of the excess funds of the Association. She indicated that as of March 31, 1998, the fund balances were as follows: General Fund, \$5,572.09; Missions Fund, \$5,430.67; Christian Education--Education Fund, \$5,118.36; and Christian Education--General Fund, \$856.35. The total cash balance of the Association was \$16,957.47 as of March 31. Brother Travis Garner will be the speaker for the July meeting.

A motion was made to accept the report of the General Board. The motion was seconded and carried.

Brother Kevin Jewell, Chairman of the Credentials Board, reported that the board had met with Brother Sonny Dunn during the noon hour. Brother Kevin expressed thankfulness to God for sending the men of the Lake Hills Church our way.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report of the Credentials Board; the motion carried.

Brother Larry Denton reminded everyone that the newly revised constitution will be adopted or rejected at the July meeting. He asked each church to look at the constitution and suggest changes.

A revival at the Hatfield Church was announced by Brother John High. The revival will begin at 7:00 p.m. April 13-16; Brother Jim Richardson will be the evangelist.

Brother Kevin Jewell indicated that the Daisy Church would be in revival April 26, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and continuing nightly at 7:30 through April 30.

Brother Terrell Holland announced that the Ministerial Alliance of Glenwood would be sponsoring a revival April 26-29. Lay speakers will be bringing the messages.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

Brother Cecil Fant dismissed us in prayer.

## MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 1998

### ANNUAL MEETING AT THE DAISY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

#### Ten O'Clock Service

Our moderator, Brother Joe Ray Short, was present but due to a problem with his leg, Brother Larry Denton, our assistant moderator, conducted the service.

Brother Larry welcomed everyone, and then asked for the reading of the church letters.

The clerk, Brother Eddie Ary, read the church letters. All our churches were represented by letter, except the Lake Hills Church; however, the Lake Hills Church was represented by the following delegates: Brother Sonny Dunn, Brother Chuck Lindsey, Brother John Buenan, Sister Pam Buenan, and Brother Ed Kaufmann. (The Lake Hills letter was received the week following the quarterly meeting. All yearly statistics given later thus reflect the totals for all eight Associational churches.)

After reading the church letters, Brother Eddie read a letter from Free Will Baptist Bible College thanking the Association for its support through the Cooperative Plan, and requesting prayer for God's wisdom and guidance as the college make plans to relocate to its new campus. Brother Eddie also read a letter from the Bible College concerning the campus and ministry activities of Shane Davison, the student awarded two tuition scholarships by the Association.

Sister Phyllis Ary led the congregation in the singing of "Bring Them In." A piano player was not present.

Delegates were seated and given the right hand of fellowship as "Victory in Jesus" was sung.

Brother Larry then appointed the following individuals to the committee indicated.

#### **Resolutions Committee:**

Brother Bill Brewer, Chairperson  
Brother Paul Young  
Sister Charlotte Jones

#### **Obituary Committee:**

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson  
Brother Kevin Miller  
Sister Lisa Miller



### **Sunday School Committee:**

Sister Tina Shaw, Chairperson  
Sister Rachel Moore  
Brother Ed Kaufmann

### **Temperance Committee:**

Brother Tony Davis, Chairperson  
Sister Pam Davis  
Brother Chuck Lindsey

### **Digest Committee:**

Sister Linda Denton, Chairperson  
Sister Wanda Logan  
Brother Eddie Ary

Brother Sonny Dunn invited everyone to a Dean Stone Children's Workshop and Children's Rally on August 1, 1998 at the Lake Hills Church. The Lake Hills Church also requested prayer for Mrs. Betty Bromley who is having a liver transplant.

Brother Kenny Fant dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

### **Eleven O'Clock Service**

Sister Phyllis Ary led the congregation in the singing of "O How I Love Jesus" and "He Keeps Me Singing." There were approximately 50 present for the service.

Brother Larry announced that the General Board would need to meet during the lunch hour. Sister Linda Denton indicated that the Woman's Auxiliary also needed to meet.

Brother Travis Garner, our scheduled speaker, was unable to be in attendance due to the death of his brother. Brother Kevin Jewell brought a message based on Hebrews 3:12-15. After reading his text and leading in prayer, Brother Kevin emphasized that this passage contains a warning to those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. The warning is not to depart from God in unbelief as the children of Israel did as they were heading for the land of Canaan. Brother Kevin indicated that to avoid departing from God in unbelief we need to grow in the grace of Christ Jesus; we must not love this present world as Demas did, and wound up forsaking Paul. A church should be a family in which if one member suffers, all the other members suffer with him. We should encourage and exhort one another. Satan can knock us down, but as long as we get back up, he can't beat us. Brother Kevin closed his message with prayer.

Other Scriptures cited during the message were II Peter 3:17-18, Colossians 1:21-23, and Titus 3:3.

Brother Terrell Holland asked that we pray concerning the gambling issue to be voted on in November, and for the children's workshop at the Lake Hills Church.

Sister Charlotte Jones asked the ladies of the Association to support Sister Linda Denton who is District President of the Woman's Auxiliary. The auxiliary will be making crafts to be auctioned off at the fall retreat.

Brother Joe Ray dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

### Saturday Afternoon

Sister Phyllis Ary led in the singing of "Stand Up for Jesus." She then sang a special, "Jesus Led Me All the Way."

Brother Kenny Fant brought our devotion using II Timothy 2:4 as his theme. He stressed that everyone has a job to do; we all need to be "instant in season, out of season" in our witnessing and sharing of the good news. Brother Kenny indicated that a testimony involves telling others what Jesus did for us, whereas witnessing is telling people what Jesus can do for them.

### Business Session

Brother Larry called the business session to order, and asked Brother Cecil Fant to lead in prayer.

Committee and Board reports were given as follows:

#### Resolutions Committee--

Brother Bill Brewer, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented a resolution that we give the host church a rising vote of thanks for the good meal provided us today.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report and dismiss the committee. Those in favor stood to their feet; the resolution carried.

#### Obituary Committee--

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Obituary Committee, reported the following deaths of church members in the Association, Willie O'Neal of the Daisy Church, Ruth (Plyler) Tabor of the Glenwood Church, Lannie Richardson of the Hatfield Church, Don Guthrie of the Lake Hills Church, and Inez White of the Mt. Joy Church. No deaths were reported by Arkadelphia, Lodi, and Pleasant Grove.

Brother Kevin Jewell asked that Sherry Cook also be remembered; she

had attended the Daisy Church in the past.

A motion to receive the report and dismiss the committee was made. The motion was seconded and carried. Brother Hursel Parker led us in a prayer of remembrance for the deceased.

#### **Sunday School Committee--**

Sister Tina Shaw, Chairperson of the Sunday School Committee, indicated that the eight churches of the Association had a Sunday School enrollment of 394 compared to 419 last year. This represents a 6 percent decrease.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report and dismiss the committee. The motion carried.

#### **Temperance Committee--**

Brother Tony Davis, Chairperson of the Temperance Committee, presented the report of the committee: "We recommend that all our churches continue to encourage the teaching and practice of temperance as set forth by the Scriptures."

A motion was made to receive the report and dismiss the committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Digest Committee--**

Sister Linda Denton, Chairperson of the Digest Committee, reported the following statistics for the July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998 fiscal year.

Churches . . . . .	8
Church Membership. . . . .	755
Sunday School Enrollment . . . . .	394
C.T.S. Enrollment. . . . .	108
Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment . . . . .	75
Master's Men Enrollment. . . . .	0
Ordained Ministers . . . . .	9
Licensed Ministers . . . . .	1
Value of Property. . . . .	\$1,825,000
Total Members Added. . . . .	50
Total Members Lost . . . . .	10
Total Members Baptized . . . . .	27
Full-Time Pastors. . . . .	4
Part-Time Pastors. . . . .	2
Churches Without a Pastor. . . . .	2
Churches--City . . . . .	4
Churches--Rural. . . . .	4
Total Income . . . . .	\$330,040.99
Number of Ordained Deacons . . . . .	28
Number of Churches with Parsonages . . . . .	6

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report and dismiss



the committee. The motion carried.

#### General Board--

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, began her report by indicating the members of the board: Brother Larry Denton, Chairperson, Brother Sonny Dunn, Brother Cecil Fant, Brother Doyle Hammock, Brother Hursel Parker, Sister Judy Short, and Brother Daryl Waldo.

Sister Phyllis then presented the following recommendations of the General Board.

1. Recommended members of the Credentials Board: Brother John High--3 year position, Brother Terrell Holland--5 year position.
2. Recommended officers for the coming fiscal year: Brother Kenny Fant--Moderator, Brother Larry Denton--Assistant Moderator, Brother Eddie Ary--Clerk, and Sister Judy Short--Assistant Clerk.
3. Recommended allocation of the budget: Coop--40 percent, General Board--15 percent, Educational fund--10 percent, Free Will Baptist Bible College--10 percent, A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan--7 1/2 percent, Ron Parker--5 percent, Lake Hills Church--5 percent, Norman Richards--5 percent, Missions Fund--2 1/2 percent.
4. Recommended lump sum contribution from the General Fund to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College at the April quarterly meeting.
5. Recommended disbursement from the Christian Education--Education Fund: Since the Board knows of no teens in the Association attending either Free Will Baptist Bible College or Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, seek out a needy student (giving preference to an Arkansas student) and provide a scholarship in an amount equal to \$30 per semester hour completed.
6. Recommended donation of \$4,000 from the Missions Fund to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.

Sister Phyllis announced that Brother Travis Garner would be the speaker at the October quarterly meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report of the General Board and act on it item by item. The motion was seconded and carried.

- Item 1 Brother Larry gave the congregation the opportunity to make nominations for the two positions. After no nominations were made, a motion was made and seconded

to receive the Board's recommendation and elect by acclamation. The motion carried.

- Item 2 As the election of each officer took place, nominations were requested from the floor. In all four cases, there were no other nominations so a motion was made and seconded to accept the Board's recommendation; in each case the motion carried.
- Item 3 A motion was made to adopt the budget as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Item 4 A motion was made and seconded to accept the Board's recommendation on the Hillsdale contribution. The motion carried.
- Item 5 A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the Board. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Item 6 A motion was made to receive the recommendation of the General Board. The motion carried.

After voting on the recommendations of the General Board, a motion was made and seconded to accept the newly revised constitution. The motion carried.

The scheduling of the quarterly meetings during the new fiscal year was the next item of business. The Arkadelphia Church in its letter had requested the January, 1999 meeting. A motion was made to have the January quarterly meeting at Arkadelphia. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Daisy Church asked for the October quarterly meeting. A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be held at Daisy. The motion carried.

The Lodi Church requested the April quarterly meeting. A motion was made to have the meeting at Lodi. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Lake Hills Church asked for the July quarterly meeting. A motion was made and seconded to have the meeting at Lake Hills. The motion carried.

Below is a summary of the dates and locations of the quarterly meetings during the 1998-1999 fiscal year.

October 10	Daisy
January 9	Arkadelphia
April 10	Lodi
July 10	Lake Hills

Sister Ruth Plyler, Sister Sherri Jewell, Sister Jo Ann Holland, Sister Vennis Parker, and Sister Charlotte Jones were nominated as

the Association's delegates to the state meeting on August 5-7 at the Conway High School Auditorium. (It was later pointed out that Sister Ruth Plyler could not serve as a delegate since she had already been designated as the delegate for the Glenwood Church.)

A motion was made and seconded that nominations cease, and that we elect by acclamation. The motion carried.

At the April quarterly meeting a resolution to make a contribution to the trust fund for Sarah and Philip Guthrie had been tabled. A motion was made that the resolution be removed from the table and amended as follows: "\$4,000 be taken from the General Fund and placed in the trust fund for Sarah and Phillip Guthrie." The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried.

After adjournment the following announcements and prayer requests were made.

A garage sale for the new youth group at the Lodi Church is scheduled for July 23-24.

Vacation Bible School will be held at the Daisy Church on July 20, 22, 23, and 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On July 21 at 7:00 p.m., the youth group from the Airport Free Will Baptist Church will be performing.

The Glenwood Church will be in revival September 27-30. Reverend Jack Richey will be preaching and singing.

Pray for Sister Connie Mack.

Pray for the Lake Hills Church as it seeks a pastor.

Our meeting was closed with prayer lead by Brother Bill Brewer.



LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION  
 RECEIPTS (OF ALL FUNDS) BY TYPE  
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

Coop Tithes. . . . .	\$17,868.21
State Missions . . . . .	2,935.03
Home Missions. . . . .	3,782.16
Foreign Missions . . . . .	1,540.91
Free Will Baptist Bible College. . . . .	365.14
Fees . . . . .	880.00
Offerings--Quarterly Meetings. . . . .	163.82
Interest Earned. . . . .	<u>353.46</u>
Total Receipts . . . . .	<u>\$27,888.73</u>
Total Receipts, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997. . . . .	<u>\$23,183.26</u>
Percentage Increase. . . . .	<u>20.30%</u>

# LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

## RECEIPTS BY CHURCHES

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

	<u>Coop</u>	<u>FM</u>	<u>HM</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>FWBBC</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Total</u>
Arkadelphia	\$ 1,787.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 880.00	\$ 620.00	\$120.00	\$110.00	\$ 3,997.00
Daisy	6,626.79	700.41	885.00	1,265.00		110.00	9,587.20
Glenwood	5,492.31	310.50	204.75	350.03	245.14	110.00	6,712.73
Hatfield	2,044.64					110.00	2,154.64
Lake Hills						110.00	110.00
Lodi	1,297.59	50.00	881.11	300.00		110.00	2,638.70
Mt. Joy			931.30			110.00	1,041.30
Pleasant Grove	<u>619.88</u>			<u>400.00</u>		<u>110.00</u>	<u>1,129.88</u>
Totals	<u>\$17,868.21</u>	<u>\$1,540.91</u>	<u>\$3,782.16</u>	<u>\$2,935.03</u>	<u>\$365.14</u>	<u>\$880.00</u>	<u>\$27,371.45</u>
Receipts from Churches, July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997							<u>\$22,658.27</u>
Percentage Increase							<u>20.80%</u>

FM = Foreign Missions

HM = Home Missions

SM = State Missions

FWBBC = Free Will Baptist Bible College

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION  
 BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH FOREIGN MISSIONS GIVING  
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

Nichols. . . . .	\$425.50
A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan. . . . .	350.00
J. Combs . . . . .	300.00
Midgett. . . . .	120.00
Deeds. . . . .	120.00
Crosby . . . . .	60.00
General Fund . . . . .	<u>165.41</u>
Total. . . . .	<u>\$1,540.91</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION  
 BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH HOME MISSIONS GIVING  
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

Parker . . . . .	\$ 1,976.51
Parker (Church Debt) . . . . .	120.00
N. Richards. . . . .	890.65
Harvey . . . . .	250.00
Doggett. . . . .	215.00
Reynolds . . . . .	120.00
Mertz. . . . .	60.00
Benjamin Randall Offering. . . . .	100.00
General Fund . . . . .	<u>50.00</u>
Total. . . . .	<u>\$3,782.16</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION  
 BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH STATE MISSIONS GIVING  
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

Hot Springs Missions . . . . .	\$2,740.03
Maumelle Mission . . . . .	75.00
Maumelle Payoff Project. . . . .	<u>120.00</u>
Total. . . . .	<u>\$2,935.03</u>



LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION  
DISBURSEMENTS (FROM ALL FUNDS)  
FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

<u>Disbursement</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Coop	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (40% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$17,868.21)	\$ 7,147.28
State Missions	State Missions	3,828.44
Home Missions	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	6,568.98
Foreign Missions	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	1,540.91
Bible College	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (10% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$17,868.21 plus \$365.14 offering from churches)	2,151.96
Hillsdale	Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College	2,000.00
State Dues	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	440.00
Clerk Services	Eddie Ary	900.00
Printing of Minutes	S & H Printing	169.54
Tuition Scholarship-- Shane Davison	Thomas Shane Davison	480.00
Tuition Scholarship-- Shane Davison	Free Will Baptist Bible College	600.00
Postage	Ouachita Baptist University Post Office	6.40
Office Supplies	Wal-Mart	<u>4.22</u>
Total Disbursements		<u>\$25,837.73</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION  
COMPARISON OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS (OF ALL FUNDS)  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 1990-91 TO 1997-98

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balances</u>
1990-91	\$ 18,467.65	\$ 18,474.70	(\$ 7.05)
1991-92	17,685.05	19,457.40	( 1,772.35)
1992-93	21,354.36	20,694.57	659.79
1993-94	22,775.39	23,001.88	( 226.49)
1994-95	23,280.44	20,535.08	2,745.36
1995-96	22,700.35	19,400.01	3,300.34
1996-97	23,183.26	19,809.99	3,373.27
1997-98	<u>27,888.73</u>	<u>25,837.73</u>	<u>2,051.00</u>
Totals	<u>\$177,335.23</u>	<u>\$167,211.36</u>	<u>\$10,123.87</u>

# LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

## SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

General Fund Balance, July 1, 1997 . . . . . \$ 5,897.47

### Receipts:

Coop Tithes . . . . .	\$17,868.21
State Missions. . . . .	2,935.03
Home Missions . . . . .	3,782.16
Foreign Missions. . . . .	1,540.91
Free Will Baptist Bible College . . . . .	365.14
Fees. . . . .	880.00
Interest Earned . . . . .	<u>353.46</u>

Total Receipts . . . . . 27,724.91

Subtotal . . . . . 33,622.38

### Disbursements:

Coop--State . . . . .	\$7,147.28
State Missions. . . . .	2,935.03
Home Missions . . . . .	3,782.16
Foreign Missions . . . . .	1,540.91
Free Will Baptist Bible College . . . . .	2,151.96
Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College . . . . .	2,000.00
State Dues. . . . .	440.00
Clerk Services--Eddie Ary . . . . .	900.00
Postage . . . . .	6.40
Office Supplies . . . . .	4.22
Printing of Minutes . . . . .	<u>169.54</u>

Total Disbursements. . . . . 21,077.50

Subtotal . . . . . 12,544.88

### Transfers to Other Funds:

Missions Fund (25% of Coop Tithes of \$17,868.21) . . . . .	\$4,467.05
Christian Education--Education Fund (10% of Coop Tithes of \$17,868.21). . . . .	<u>1,786.82</u>

Total Transfers. . . . . 6,253.87

General Fund Balance, June 30, 1998. . . . . \$6,291.01



**LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION**

**SUMMARY OF MISSIONS FUND**

**FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998**

Missions Fund Balance, July 1, 1997 . . . . .	\$5,130.15
Transfer from General Fund (25% of Coop Tithes of \$17,868.21). . . . .	<u>4,467.05</u>
Subtotal. . . . .	9,597.20
Disbursements:	
Richards (1/5 of \$4,467.05). . . . .	\$ 893.41
Vanhook (1/5 of \$4,467.05). . . . .	893.41
Lake Hills Church (1/5 of \$4,467.05 plus donation of \$1,000) . . . . .	<u>1,893.41</u>
Total Disbursements . . . . .	<u>3,680.23</u>
Missions Fund Balance, June 30, 1998. . . . .	<u>\$5,916.97</u>

**LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION**

**SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--EDUCATION FUND**

**FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998**

Education Fund Balance, July 1, 1997. . . . .	\$4,297.89
Transfer from General Fund (10% of Coop Tithes of \$17,868.21). . . . .	<u>1,786.82</u>
Subtotal. . . . .	6,084.71
Disbursements:	
Tuition Scholarship for Thomas Shane Davison for the Fall Semester of 1997 and Spring Semester of 1998 at Free Will Baptist Bible College . . . . .	<u>1,080.00</u>
Education Fund Balance, June 30, 1998 . . . . .	<u>\$5,004.71</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION  
SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--GENERAL FUND  
FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1997 TO JUNE 30, 1998

Christian Education--General Fund Balance, July 1, 1997. . \$722.53

Receipts:

Offerings--Quarterly Meetings . . . . . 163.82

Christian Education--General Fund Balance, June 30, 1998 .\$886.35

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

FUND BALANCES

JUNE 30, 1998

General Fund . . . . . \$ 6,291.01

Missions Fund. . . . . 5,916.97

Christian Education--Education Fund. . . . . 5,004.71

Christian Education--General Fund. . . . . 886.35

Total Fund Balances, June 30, 1998 . . . . . \$18,099.04

Increase in Fund Balances During the Fiscal Year . . . . . \$ 2,051.00

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **Preamble**

From long experience, we the members of the Church of God denominated Free Will Baptist, having been baptized upon profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convicted of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve our denominational distinction and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better church government.

## **Article I--Name**

The organization shall be known as the Little Missouri River Association of Free Will Baptists, affiliated with the Arkansas Association of Free Will Baptists.

## **Article II--Purpose**

The purpose of the Association shall be to unify the work of the churches composing this association so that they might accomplish what they cannot do individually, and to edify and inspire the membership of this union.

## **Article III--Membership**

The Association shall be composed of such well regulated Free Will Baptist churches and missions maintaining gospel order, agreeing with the denominational doctrine and practices, and favoring the enterprises that have been endorsed by this Association.

## **Article IV--Representation**

**Section 1.** The standing delegates of this body shall consist of all ordained ministers and ordained deacons, examined and accepted by the Association and holding membership in a church in good standing with the Association, the wives of ordained ministers and ordained deacons, church clerks, the Association clerk, and General Board members.

**Section 2.** Each church is entitled to five (5) delegates.

**Section 3.** This Association will recognize the vote of the pastor and one (1) lay delegate from all mission churches holding membership in this Association.

**Section 4.** The Association shall meet the second Saturday of



October, January, April, and July. The General Board shall be the program committee.

### Article V--Officers

This Association is to have a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, and assistant clerk. Officers are to be elected at each annual meeting. The moderator and clerk of this Association shall both serve as ex-officio members of all boards. The moderator may be paid a stipend to help cover his expenses in attending the meeting of the state association, or any other meeting deemed appropriate by the Association. If the moderator is unable to attend such meetings, the assistant moderator will be paid the stipend if he attends. The Clerk will be compensated on a monthly basis.

### Article VI--Boards

This Association shall have a Credentials Board and a General Board. Each board member shall hold membership in a church in this Association.

**Section 1.** The Credentials Board shall be composed of five ordained ministers. It shall be the duty of the Credentials Board to examine all ministers to be licensed or ordained, or petitioning the Association for membership. It shall also examine all ordained deacons petitioning for standing vote in this Association. With the assistance of the General Board, the Credentials Board shall examine churches requesting membership in the Association. At the annual meeting each July, a minister shall be elected to serve for five years on the Credentials Board.

**A. Licensing of Ministers.** Any layman of a church who feels divinely called to the ministry and makes a report of same to his church shall be examined by the Credentials Board upon request of the local church. The Credentials Board shall ascertain whether he is qualified, according to the Scriptures, namely, I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and the following position interpretations:

1. That Paul's statements in I Timothy 3:2-12 and Titus 1:6, namely, "The husband of one wife," be looked upon as making ineligible for ministers or deacons anyone who has been divorced and remarried or who has married a divorcee, regardless of the cause of the divorce or the guilt or innocence of the other partner. That said person, whose marital status disqualifies them to be elders or deacons, not be discouraged in their Christian service or Christian lives, but that they be encouraged to live faithfully for Christ and serve Him in education, music, youth or any other department or activity of the local church.

2. Glossalgia--"Speaking in Tongues." Free Will Baptists

understand the Bible teaches the following facts: On the day of Pentecost, believers spoke in different foreign languages which were readily understood by the nationalists present. Tongues were given as a special gift to the early church as only one sign which confirmed the witness of the Gospel to unbelievers.

While tongues were bestowed by the sovereign will of God on some believers, all did not speak with tongues. When this gift was abused, it became a source of disturbance in the congregational meetings. To eliminate confusion and correct the error, Paul set particular guidelines for the Christian church to follow. The gift of tongues was neither an evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit nor does it bring about sanctification.

We believe that speaking in tongues as a visible sign of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an erroneous doctrine to be rejected. Any implication of a "Second Work of Grace" has never been tolerated or permitted in our fellowship of churches.

We teach and preach the fullness of the Holy Spirit and heed the Scriptural admonition, "Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in Psalms, and Hymns, and Spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 2:5, 8, 11; I Corinthians 14:1-40; Hebrews 2:4; I Corinthians 12:19-30; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:18-20.

The Board, after examining the candidate, will then recommend that the church issue him a one year license signed by the pastor and church clerk. The license should not be renewed more than three (3) consecutive years.

**B. Ordaining.** When a licensee has proven himself to be worthy and called to a definite work in the service of the Lord, his church will then request by letter that he be examined for ordination by the Credentials Board of the Association. The examination will consist of questions taken from the National Association of Free Will Baptists Treatise concerning Free Will Baptist history, doctrine, practices, and church administration. If upon examination the applicant is found to be qualified to be an ordained Free Will Baptist minister, the Board will recommend that his home church conduct an ordination service at its convenience with at least one member of the Credentials Board participating.

**C.** We believe that in accordance with the teaching as found in the Scriptures that only men (males) will be licensed or ordained to the ministry of the church. I Timothy 2:12; I Timothy 3:1-2; Titus 1:6.

**D.** A minister from another denomination wishing to unite with this Association must first unite with a local church, and will be subject to the same examination procedures as required for ordination. He can expect to be examined closely on Free Will Baptist Doctrinal Beliefs and Practices as found in the National



## Association of Free Will Baptists Treatise.

E. A minister moving into our union of churches from another Free Will Baptist Association belonging to the National Association of Free Will Baptists must be recommended by a letter of good standing from his former association. The church of which he has become a member and is pastoring must request by letter that he be examined by the Credentials Board. When the Association approves a recommendation from the Credentials Board that the brother be accepted in full fellowship as an ordained minister pending receipt of a letter of good standing from his former association, the clerk of the Association will request the letter.

F. From an ethical viewpoint, a licensed or ordained minister leaving the denomination to pastor a church in another denomination or an independent church must immediately surrender his Free Will Baptist papers to the Free Will Baptist Church of which he is a member. This is not to say that he cannot preach in another church of another faith while retaining his Free Will Baptist papers but he cannot be a pastor or hold membership in a church of another denomination and remain a Free Will Baptist Minister. If he fails to surrender his papers to the local church, then the Credentials Board will ask for his papers.

G. **Reporting.** All licensed or ordained ministers and deacons must be active members of a church in our union and have their names reported in the annual church letter to the Association at its July meeting. Ministers or deacons who are members of our churches but no longer active should also be reported in this letter.

H. **Training and Preparation.** It is recommended that ministers avail themselves of the best training possible to improve their natural abilities.

**Section 2.** The General Board shall be composed of a representative from each church which is a member of the Association. Each church shall appoint its representative; the representative can be a layperson or pastor. The name of the church representative shall be included in the annual church letter. Each representative shall serve for at least one year. The General Board shall choose its chairman and secretary.

The responsibilities of the General Board include the following:

A. Promoting peace and harmony among the ministers and churches belonging to the Association.

B. Carrying out the program of the Association between meetings.

C. Assisting the Credentials Board in examining churches requesting membership in the Association.



D. Selecting a speaker for each meeting of the Association.

E. Promoting an active missions program within the Association and working with the state board to promote state, national, and foreign missions.

F. Promoting Sunday School and C.T.S. through the Association.

H. Planning and promoting activities to actively involve youth at the local church, Association, state, and national levels.

I. Encouraging youth of the Association to seek God's guidance in selecting a vocation and promoting Free Will Baptist colleges as institutions of higher education.

J. Recommending Free Will Baptist Bible College or Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College students to receive tuition scholarships when there are no students from our Association attending those institutions.

K. Preparing and making recommendations at the annual meeting concerning appointments to the Credentials Board, officers of the Association, and budget allocation.

**Section 3.** Each board shall meet at least once each quarter. Any member absenting himself from all meetings for one year, except he be providentially hindered, shall be replaced at the annual meeting.

### **Article VII--New Churches**

Newly constituted churches or missions wishing to be admitted to the Association should send delegates to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Association and petition by letter. If upon examination by the Credentials and General Boards the church or mission is found to be orthodox and orderly, the Boards will make a recommendation that it be received into the Association. Upon approval of the recommendation by those present at the meeting having the power to vote, the pastor and delegates of the church or mission will be welcomed into the Association by the right hand of fellowship.

### **Article VIII--Questions**

No questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered by the church itself. The Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserves the right to withdraw from any church becoming disorderly.

### **Article IX--Motions**

Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

### **Article X--Minutes**

The Clerk shall record minutes of the October, January, April, and July meetings, prepare annual financial statements covering the fiscal year of the Association (July 1 of one year to June 30 of the following year), and have these and other relevant information printed and bound in a booklet to be distributed to the churches at the October quarterly meeting. Any corrections or additions found in the minutes should be reported to the Clerk who will then be responsible for promptly reporting them to the Association.

### **Article XI--Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds majority of those entitled to vote, providing proposed amendment is presented one quarterly meeting in advance.

(This constitution was adopted by the Little Missouri River Association on July 11, 1998.)

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **God.** We believe in one true and living God, Triune God, composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, Purpose, Power and Glory.--John 1:1; I Corinthians 8:6; John 10:30.

2. **Christ.** We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home.--Isaiah 9:6; John 1:14; Luke 1:26-27; Matthew 14:15; Mark 19:9-16; Luke 24:53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

3. **Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the Son back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up his Office work among all nations of the people as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide.--Judges 6:34; 11-29; John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17; Ezekiel 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. **The Bible.** We believe the Bible which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, was given by inspiration of God, is our way bill from earth to Heaven and the one infallible rule of faith and practice.--II Peter 1:19-21; II Timothy 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matthew 21:42.

5. **The Fall of Man.** We believe that God created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of God, fell, with the posterity, under the penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming of Christ.--Genesis 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:3; Genesis 6:5; Romans 5:17-19; John 3:6; Ephesians 2:3.

6. **Redemption, Salvation, Adoption.** We believe that Jesus Christ, by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come upon Gospel terms and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above.--Hebrews 9:12; Galatians 3:12: 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 1:14; John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22.



7. **Conditions of Salvation.** We believe that all persons dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by atoning merits of the Son of God without any act on their part, that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the laws of God, must upon their part, exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ.--John 3; Matthew 19:13; I Corinthians 7:10; Luke 18:16; John 4:16; Psalm 96:3.

8. **Salvation Free.** We believe that God desires the Salvation of all; Christ died for all, the Gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all; and whoever will, may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel.--I Peter 1:9-25; Revelation 22:17.

9. **Baptism.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in Water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ. Also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same.--Matthew 3:14-16; 3:5-6; I Peter 3:21; John 2:23; Acts 10:47; Matthew 28:19.

10. **Communion and Feet Washing.** We believe that the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ. The Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited. "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming.--Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:20-29; John 13:1-17; Matthew 26:26-29.

11. **The Sabbath.** We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest for the worship of God, that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employment, works of mercy and piety excepted.--Exodus 20:11; 21:12-18; Deuteronomy 5:12; Ezekiel 20:12; Matthew 23:1; Luke 25:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. **Call to the Ministry.** We believe in a divine call of the ministry that God in His goodness and power and grace, impresses his Ministers with the burden of lost souls to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the Scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him, He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose.--Jonah 1:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:2-26; Matthew 28:19.

13. **The Invisible Church.** We believe that the invisible or spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred nation, tongue and people.--Ephesians 3:16-21; Hebrews 12:12-23; I Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 2:47; Matthew 16:18.

14. **The Visible Church.** We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel.--II Thessalonians 1:1; Acts 1:11; John 7:10; Matthew 18:17; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:4-20.

15. **Perseverance.** We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth, and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life, and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and hell (or in His eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who side-step and willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty would backslide, if persistently continued, would be eternally lost.--II Peter 1:2; I Corinthians 9:12; II Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 9:12; II Peter 1:4-8; II Peter 2:2; Romans 9:35-39; Apostasy--II Peter 1:8-9; I Corinthians 10; Hebrews 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Hebrews 6:1-6; I Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 3:12; John 15:1-7; Matthew 12:31-32.

16. **Christ, the Head of the Church.** We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the local is with the body.--Colossians 1:18-19; Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:23; Matthew 21:51; Ephesians 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. **Sanctification.** Sanctification is a work of God's grace by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.--I Corinthians 6:11; II Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 12:14; Philippians 3:21; II Thessalonians 5:19-23; John 17:17-19; II Timothy 2:20-21.

18. **The Resurrection.** We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be united, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.--Matthew 28:6; John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15:51-58.

19. **The Soul.** The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body; but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed.--Philippians 1:23; Luke 24:23; Revelation 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matthew 10:28.



20. **Judgment.** We believe that there will be a greater universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment and the righteous into eternal happiness.--II Thessalonians 1:4-9; Revelation 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Revelation 2:8; II Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 12:36-37; Revelation 20:13; Acts 17:31.

#### **FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT**

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus 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 faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to 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 in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will not forget 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 of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business of 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.

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.



## RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomever he may request.

2. Ministers and their wives, deacons and their wives, church clerks, the Association clerk, and General Board members present are invited to seat, allowed to take part in debate on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. When a motion has been made and seconded, and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?". If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present with exception to the Constitutional change.

10. No member shall absent himself without permission of the Moderator.

11. Before the end of each session of the Association, the General Board shall announce the speaker for the morning worship service of the next meeting. The host church shall be responsible for selecting an individual to give a devotion during the afternoon service of the meeting.

12. At any session of the Association during which a vote is to be taken on an amendment to the constitution, a count of all those present entitled to vote shall be taken in order to determine the number needed for a two-thirds majority.

13. The Moderator may read these Rules of Order before the business session at any regularly scheduled meeting, but should always read them before conducting business at the annual meeting held in July.