

Minutes

of the

Little Missouri River Association

of

Free Will Baptists Proceedings

of the

1998-1999 Quarterly Meetings

and the

121st Annual Session

Kenny Fant, Moderator

HC 71, Box 57 , New Hope, AR 71959

Eddie Ary, Clerk

45 Central Road, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Minutes

of the

Little Missouri River Association

of

Free Will Baptists Proceedings

of the

1998-1999 Quarterly Meetings

and the

121st Annual Session

Kenny Fant, Moderator

HC 71, Box 57 , New Hope, AR 71959

Eddie Ary, Clerk

45 Central Road, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR THE 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR

Credentials Board

Joe Ray Short.	5 years
Terrell Holland.	4 years
Kevin Jewell (Chairman).	3 years
David Taylor	2 years
Kevin Smead.	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/Tammy Davis 2868 Hwy 70 N New Hope, AR 71959 870-398-4370
Glenwood	Reverend Terrell Holland P. O. Box 54 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2375	Diana Plyler P. O. Box 560 Glenwood, AR 71943 870-356-2695
Hatfield	No Pastor	Sharon Walston P. O. Box 214 Hatfield, AR 71945 870-389-6713
Lake Hills	Reverend David Taylor 103 Chisholm Trail Hot Springs, AR 71913 501-760-4824	Sandra Dunn P. O. Box 2480 Hot Springs, AR 71914 501-520-4544
Lodi	Reverend Roger Beshears 415 Birch Street Mt. Ida, AR 71957 870-867-3643	Vennis Parker 1144 Hwy 84 W 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 10, 1998

QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE DAISY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten O'Clock Service

Brother Kevin Jewell led the congregation in the singing of "O How I Love Jesus;" Sister Sherri Jewell played the piano.

Brother Kenny Fant, our moderator, welcomed everyone. Brother Eddie Ary led in prayer. A congregational hymn, "Surely Goodness and Mercy," was then sung.

Brother Eddie read the church letters. All of our churches were represented except the Hatfield Church due to the sickness of Brother Larry Denton's daughter. (A few days after the meeting, a letter was received from the Hatfield Church.) The Daisy Church requested that Brother Kevin Smead be examined and seated in full fellowship with the Little Missouri River Association.

After concluding the reading of the church letters, Brother Eddie read a card from Anthony and Lea Edgmon, missionaries to Spain, thanking the Association for its participation in the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan. He also read a letter from Shane Davison thanking the Association for the financial support provided him.

A motion was made and seconded to seat the delegates; the motion carried. Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "That Glad Reunion Day" was sung.

Brother Kenny asked Sister Charlotte Jones to serve as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee; Sister Carolyn Reid and Sister Terri Frost were also asked to serve on the committee.

Brother Ron Parker, Missionary to Shreveport, Louisiana, thanked the Association for its support. He asked the Association to continue supporting him financially and in prayer. He indicated that in a short period of time the Shreveport Church should be self supporting.

Brother Ron asked special prayer for the marriage of the Morgans, a family in his church. He asked that the Association remember the day care ministry in prayer. Brother Ron indicated that the church had a strong youth ministry on Wednesday nights, and requested prayer that the Mom of one young lady will allow her to be baptized. He asked that the Association pray that people will be added to the Shreveport Church; he also requested that we pray for the few Free Will Baptist churches in Louisiana.

Brother David Taylor and his wife, Debe, who have been pastoring the Lake Hills Free Will Baptist Church for about three weeks, were then introduced.

Brother Kevin Smead dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

Eleven O'Clock Service

Brother Kevin Jewell asked prayer for our new moderator, Brother Kenny. He expressed confidence that Brother Kenny would do a good job.

Brother Kevin led in the singing of "Standing on the Promises" and "There Is Power in the Blood;" Sister Sherri Jewell played the piano. There were approximately 45 present for the service.

Three specials were sung. Sister Nancy Shelton sang "Midnight Cry" with a tape accompaniment. Sister Terri Frost and Sister Tina Shaw sang "Come Morning" as Sister Terri played the piano. Brother Larry Ledbetter sang "Thinking About Home" with a tape accompaniment.

In the absence of our scheduled speaker, Brother Travis Garner, Brother Ron Parker brought a message entitled "Don't Jump Ship." Brother Ron read his scripture text, Matthew 14:22-33, and then led in prayer. Jesus had just fed 15,000 or more people, counting women and children. Jesus asked his disciples to board a ship and head for the other shore while he sent the multitudes away so that he could go to a mountain and spend some time in prayer. Later in the night a storm came up and Jesus came unto the disciples walking on the sea. Upon Peter's request, Jesus bade Peter to come to Him; Peter walked on the water, but seeing the strong wind became afraid and began to sink. Jesus stretched forth a hand and caught Peter.

Brother Ron emphasized that God does not call us into His work on a temporary basis. We will face storms in the church and within our marriages. These may be storms of correction or storms of perfection. When these storms come, we must not jump ship. We must stay in the ship and Jesus will pray for us and come just in time. The Old Ship of Zion will never be capsized by the waves and storms of life. Instead of doubting, we must have faith. Faith does not say "if," faith says "because."

Brother Ron ended his message with prayer. Other scriptures cited during the message were John 6:14-15, Mark 6:48, Romans 8:34, and Luke 22:31-33.

Brother Sonny Dunn invited us to come to the Lake Hills Church to join in worship with the church family and the Taylors. It was announced that the Credentials Board and the General Board would meet during the lunch hour.

Brother Sonny dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on our meal.

Saturday Afternoon

The service began with the singing of "Amazing Grace," led by Brother Kevin Jewell; Sister Debe Taylor played the piano.

Brother Kevin Smead brought the afternoon devotion. He read I Corinthians 15:10, and then led in prayer. Brother Kevin stressed that the grace of God can change a person. Paul persecuted the church; he was "the chief of sinners." Later he "labored more abundantly than they all." The grace of God has changed us too. We have a lot for which to thank God. Brother Kevin attributed his wonderful life--a wonderful wife, a job that pays the bills, and friends in all the Associational churches--to the grace of God. As a result of God's grace, we should dedicate every day to God. We owe God our love, our service, and our life.

Business Session

Before Brother Kenny declared us in conference for the transaction of business, Brother Hursel Parker led in a prayer of blessing on the session.

Sister Charlotte Jones, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, encouraged everyone to try to get more of their church members to attend the quarterly meetings. She asked that the host church be given a rising vote of thanks for the good noon meal.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Resolutions Committee and dismiss the committee. Those in favor stood to their feet, and the motion carried.

Brother Kevin Jewell, Chairperson of the Credentials Board, indicated that the Board recommended that Brother Kevin Smead be accepted as an ordained minister in full fellowship with the Association upon his ordination in October. It also recommended that Brother David Taylor be accepted as an ordained minister in full fellowship with the Association upon receipt of a letter of recommendation from his former association, the First Arizona District Association. Finally, the Board recommended that a letter of recommendation be granted to the East Texas Association on behalf of Brother John High.

A motion was made to accept the report of the Credentials Board and act on the recommendations of the Board item by item. The motion was seconded and carried. Each item was voted separately and carried.

Brother Eddie gave the report of the General Board. The Board recommended that Brother David Taylor serve out the three year term of Brother John High on the Credentials Board and that Brother Kevin Smead finish the two year term of Brother Kenny Fant. Shane Davison was recommended for a tuition scholarship for the fall,

1998 semester. The Board also recommended that the churches of the Association raise money for missionaries to be chosen at the January quarterly meeting, and that the money be brought to the April quarterly meeting. Everyone was asked to begin thinking about missionaries in need. Brother David Taylor was named as the speaker at the January quarterly meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report of the General Board and act on the recommendations item by item. The motion carried; each recommendation was voted separately and carried.

Brother Kevin Jewell invited everyone to Brother Kevin Smead's ordination on Sunday, October 18, at 6:00 p.m.

Sister Charlotte Jones reported that during the Ladies Auxiliary retreat on October 2-3 over \$500 was raised for Norman and Bessie Richards from a craft auction. She requested prayer for Ed and LaRhonda Bowerman.

The ladies were given a round of applause for their good work.

Brother Kenny thanked everyone for their patience and support. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Those in favor stood to their feet; Brother David Taylor dismissed us in prayer.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 1999

QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE ARKADELPHIA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten O'Clock Service

Our moderator, Brother Kenny Fant, welcomed everyone. Prayer requests were then taken. Prayer was requested for Michael, the son of Carolyn Reid's sister. Michael has cancer. Prayer was also asked for Joy Turner, Bonnie Jean Whisenhunt, and Ruth Plyler. The Arkadelphia Church asked everyone to pray that it would find a pastor. Brother Kevin Jewell brought the requests before God in prayer.

Brother Kevin then led in the singing of "There Is Power in the Blood" and "Love Lifted Me;" Sister Leah Kirkpatrick played the piano.

Brother Eddie Ary read the church letters. All eight of our churches were represented. 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 "Victory in Jesus" was sung.

Brother Kenny asked Sister Janice Mack, Sister Loretta Reid, and Sister Charlotte Jones to serve on the Resolutions Committee.

Brother Lew Reid explained how a miracle had been worked in the life of Michael, the young man for whom prayer had been requested earlier. Michael had brain surgery to remove a tumor the size of an apple. The surgery could have resulted in blindness, but Michael has no visual side effects. He had the surgery on a Wednesday and went home on a Sunday. The tumor was malignant so Michael is currently undergoing radiation treatments. Others who have had a similar surgery have lived a maximum of three years. Brother Lew asked that we pray that God will continue to work miracles in the lives of Michael and his parents who do not go to church.

Prayer was also requested for Glen Sirmon and his wife. Brother Joe Ray Short led in prayer prior to a brief recess before the morning worship service.

Eleven O'Clock Service

Sister Phyllis Ary led in the singing of "Dwelling in Beulah Land" while Sister Leah Kirkpatrick played the piano. There were approximately 50 present for our service.

Sister Sharon Pounds sang a special, "Right on Time," as she played the piano. Sister Phyllis Ary sang "Freely, Freely;" she was accompanied on the piano by Sister Leah Kirkpatrick.

Brother David Taylor, pastor of the Lake Hills Church, brought the morning message based on Ezekiel 22:30. Verse 30 indicates that God was hunting someone to stand in the gap. It paints a picture of a city surrounded by a wall with a break in it. The people of Jerusalem truly fit this word picture. The politicians, priests, princes (the royal house of Israel), prophets, and the people had all sinned and strayed from God. God's judgment had fallen on the people. Someone was needed to stand in the gap and lead the people back to God.

Brother David indicated that God is still seeking men and women to stand in the gap. People are needed to stand in the gap for our Redeemer Jesus Christ. People are needed to stand in the gap for man's repentance, to lead people to a genuine life changing experience. Lastly, people are needed to stand in the gap for God's righteousness, to practice what they are taught.

Brother David cited examples of those who had stood in the gap and reaped positive results for their willingness to stand; among them were Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and Paul. Before closing in prayer, he asked the question, "Will we stand in the gap?".

Other scriptures cited during the message were Ezekiel 22:1-29 and Matthew 10:32-33.

It was announced that the Credentials Board and the General Board would meet during the lunch hour. Brother Hursel Parker asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

Sister Phyllis Ary led in the singing of "Mansion Over the Hilltop;" Sister Leah Kirkpatrick played the piano. Brother Larry Ledbetter sang "Feel the Nails" with a taped accompaniment.

Brother Kevin Smead brought the afternoon devotion. He read Acts 9:1-6. Brother Kevin indicated that Saul was on the road to Damascus, and stressed that before we were saved we were on our road to destruction. Like Paul, when we were living in sin we were hurting God, ourselves, and others. We were servants of Satan. But where sin abounded, Christ did much more abound. Brother Kevin thanked and praised God for His deliverance from sin and emphasized that it's amazing what Christ has done for us. He closed by citing I John 2:25.

Business Session

Brother Kenny declared us in conference for the transaction of business, and reminded everyone of who could vote.

Sister Charlotte Jones presented the following two resolutions on behalf of the Resolutions Committee.

Be it resolved that each church pray for the other churches of the Association and especially for churches that do not have a pastor. (The Arkadelphia, Lodi, and Hatfield churches are without pastors.)

Be it resolved that the host church be given a rising vote of thanks for the noon meal.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the two resolutions and dismiss the committee; the motion carried as those in favor stood to their feet.

Brother Kevin Jewell, Chairman of the Credentials Board, indicated that Brother Travis Garner, who was serving the one year term on the Board, had joined the New Hope Free Will Baptist Church. The Board recommended that Brother Joe Ray Short take the remainder of Brother Travis' term.

A motion was made to receive the report of the Credentials Board; the motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made and seconded to accept the nomination of the Board for the one year term. The motion carried.

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, reported that the Board recommended that our churches raise money for the Maumelle Mission and bring it to the April quarterly meeting. She indicated that the Board had also discussed the nomination of Brother Joe Ray Short to complete the remainder of Brother Travis Garner's term on the Credentials Board. Finally, Sister Phyllis indicated that Brother Kenny Fant would be the speaker at the April quarterly meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the General Board; the motion carried. A motion was then made to support the Maumelle Mission. The motion was seconded and carried.

Brother Kenny announced that the April quarterly meeting would be at Lodi. He asked prayer that a man in his community whose family attends the Lodi Church would feel his need of a Savior. The man has had surgery for lung cancer and now there is no sign of cancer. The man attended a church service two weeks before Christmas, and Brother Kenny has visited him twice.

Brother Terrell Holland pointed out that God had answered the prayers for a pastor of the Lake Hills Church. He asked prayer for Brother David Taylor and the Lake Hills Church.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn; those in favor stood to their feet and Brother Lew Reid dismissed us in prayer.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 1999

QUARTERLY MEETING AT THE LODI FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten O'Clock Service

Brother Kenny, our moderator, welcomed everyone. Prayer was asked for Mary Kay Joslin who has cancer. Prayer was also requested for Katrina Brown who was injured in an auto accident, and Bonnie Jean Whisenhunt who has cancer. Prayer was also asked for John and Ruth Plyler, Connie Mack, and the men and women in war, as well as prisoners and refugees. Brother David Taylor brought the requests before the Lord in prayer.

Brother Kenny indicated that his Dad, Brother Cecil Fant, was in the hospital and asked that he be remembered by the congregation.

Sister Phyllis Ary led in the singing of "In My Heart There Rings a Melody," and "Won't It Be Wonderful There?"; Sister Karen Kirkpatrick played the piano.

Brother Eddie Ary read the church letters; all of our churches were represented by letter. A motion was made to receive the letters and seat the delegates. The motion was seconded and carried.

Brother Kenny reminded the congregation of those who had a standing vote--ordained ministers and their wives, ordained deacons and their wives, church clerks, the Association clerk, and General Board members.

Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "Send the Light" was sung.

Brother Kenny asked Sister Vennis Parker to serve as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee; he asked Sister Michelle Smead and Sister Carolyn Reid to assist Sister Vennis on the committee.

Brother Kerry Gandy reported on the mission church at Maumelle. He indicated that eleven were present the first Sunday he preached; after the first Sunday two quit, leaving nine. Brother Kerry stated that the church is now averaging 70 in morning worship, and that he would be baptizing four tomorrow. Brother Kerry indicated that he hoped the church could be self supporting by the time his contract expires in one and a half years. He thanked the Association for its support.

Brother Bob Thompson, State Youth Director, announced several upcoming events--a Teen Retreat near the end of April, state youth competition, and youth camp (June 6). He indicated that restrooms had been added to the tabernacle at Youth Camp. The shower facilities will be rebuilt or repaired prior to start of Youth Camp. The cost of Youth Camp is \$50 a person. The Junior Camp has

been shortened to three days.

Brother Bob stressed that Camp Beaverfork is

1. a heritage we share. Many young people are saved at camp or accept the call to preach.
2. a hope we share. Many of the young people saved and those called to preach will wind up in our churches and associations.
3. a help we share. The camp need counselors and other workers who will take advantage of opportunities to touch the lives of young people.

Brother Terrell Holland announced that the Ministerial Alliance of Glenwood was sponsoring a revival next week and that Brother David Taylor would be preaching at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13. He invited and encouraged everyone to attend.

Brother Lew Reid dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess become the morning worship service.

Eleven O'Clock Service

Sister Phyllis Ary led in the singing of "Standing on the Promises" and "He Set Me Free" while Sister Karen Kirkpatrick played the piano. There were approximately 45 present for the service.

Brother Kevin Jewell and Sister Sherri Jewell sang "Sweet Beulah Land;" Sister Sherri played the piano.

Sister Phyllis Ary sang "Where the Roses Never Fade" as Sister Karen Kirkpatrick played the piano for her.

Brother Kenny Fant brought the morning message based on John 17:12-17. He emphasized that Christ wants us to be different, to live a separated life. A poll by George Gallup found little difference between those who were Christians and those who were not. Gallup found many could not tell who preached the Sermon on the Mount or name any of the Ten Commandments. II Corinthians 6:17 commands us to "come out" and "be separate." As Christians we should be an example at home and at work. We must leave the world because the world will not leave us. To be protected from the world around us, we must study God's Word and use it to defeat Satan. Brother Kenny challenged us to walk with the Lord and be obedient to Him. He ended his message with a silent invitation.

It was announced that the General Board and Ladies' Auxiliary would meet during the lunch hour.

Brother Terrell Holland announced that the Oklahoma State Ministers Quartet would be holding a revival at the Glenwood Church on April 18-21 beginning at 7:30 each night.

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

Saturday Afternoon

Sister Phyllis Ary led the congregation in the singing of "Stand Up for Jesus." Sister Sherri Jewell played the organ while Sister Karen Kirkpatrick played the piano.

Brother Kerry Gandy brought a devotion based on Luke 16:1-8. He asked why Jesus commended the unjust steward who was a thief. Brother Kerry explained that Jesus was not commending the steward for his ethics, but for his ingenuity. The modern church has become lazy. What if the church was run with the efficiency of McDonalds or AT&T? Brother Kerry challenged us to do something and do it quickly. People are dying and going to Hell. He closed in prayer.

Business Session

Brother Kenny declared us in conference for the transaction of business.

Sister Vennis Parker, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented one resolution: "Be it resolved that the host church be given a rising vote of thanks for the good noon meal."

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

Brother Kevin Jewell, Chairperson of the Credentials Board, indicated that a letter of good standing on behalf of Brother David Taylor had been received from the First Arizona District Association.

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

Sister Phyllis Ary, Secretary of the General Board, reported that the money given by our churches to the Maumelle Mission totalled \$2,474 (\$474 of this amount was sent directly to the state office). The General Board recommends that \$526 be given from the Missions Fund to make the amount contributed an even \$3,000. Sister Phyllis indicated that Brother Joe Ray would be the speaker at the July annual meeting.

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

Brother Kenny announced that the annual meeting of the Association would be on July 10 at the Lake Hills Church.

The following revivals were announced:

Glenwood, April 18-21, Oklahoma State Ministers Quartet

Hatfield, April 19-23, Reverend Jeremy Howe

New Hope, April 12-16, A different preacher every night; four of the five speakers will be Free Will Baptists--Reverend Kenny Fant, Reverend Travis Garner, Reverend Kevin Jewell, and Reverend Kevin Smead

Pleasant Grove, May 31-June 4, Reverend Kevin Smead

Daisy, May 3-7, Reverend Lonnie Burks

Brother Kenny displayed a certificate presented at the state meeting last year honoring the Association for 119 years of service.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried. Brother Kevin Smead dismissed us in prayer.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 10, 1999

ANNUAL MEETING AT THE LAKE HILLS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Our moderator, Brother Kenny Fant, welcomed everyone. Numerous prayer requests were mentioned; Brother Lew Reid took the requests to the Lord in prayer.

Brother Allen Michau led us in the singing of "A New Name Written Down in Heaven," and "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story;" Sister Elwen Guthrie McLean played the piano.

Our clerk, Brother Eddie Ary, read a thank you card from Brother Kerry Gandy, Pastor of the Maumelle Mission, thanking the Association for the offering taken at the April quarterly meeting. He also read a letter from Brother Bradley Taylor requesting consideration for the Association's tuition scholarship. Brother Bradley plans to attend Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College this fall.

Brother Eddie then read the church letters; all eight of our churches were represented. A motion was made to receive the letters and seat the delegates. The motion was seconded and carried. Delegates were given the right hand of fellowship as "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" was sung.

Brother Kenny appointed the following individuals to the committee indicated.

Resolutions Committee:

Sister Charlotte Jones, Chairperson
Sister Catherine Smiley
Sister Lisa Miller

Obituary Committee:

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson
Sister Tina Shaw
Brother Lew Reid

Sunday School Committee:

Sister Brenda Fant, Chairperson
Sister Judy Short
Sister Carolyn Reid

Temperance Committee:

Brother Sonny Dunn, Chairperson
Brother Rod Woodard
Brother Cliff Turner

Digest Committee:

Sister Linda Denton, Chairperson
Sister Vennis Parker
Sister Loretta Reid

Brother Sidney Sawrie, a field worker for the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan, cited John 6:9 and encouraged us and the members of our churches to give at least \$1 a week to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan. As an example, he indicated that there are approximately 200 Free Will Baptist churches in Arkansas. If 10,000 of the 20,000 members of these churches gave \$1 per week, \$520,000 would be given over the course of a year. Brother Sawrie stressed that every penny given will help win souls around the world. He asked us to take the leaflets and brochures concerning A.C.T.S. 1:8 back to our churches.

Brother Kevin Jewell dismissed us in prayer for a brief recess before the morning worship service.

Eleven O'Clock Service

Our worship service began with the singing of "Let's Talk About Jesus," led by Brother Allen Michau; Sister Elwen Guthrie McLean played the piano. There were approximately 50 in attendance.

Brother Allen Michau and Sister Nancy Shelton sang a special, "My House is Full," with a tape accompaniment. Sister Nancy Shelton then sang "Surely the Lord Is in This Place" with a tape accompaniment.

Brother David Joslin, State Promotional Director, reported that coop tithes were up 12 percent in 1999, but help was needed with the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan. He indicated that eleven other states have copied the Arkansas A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.

Brother David expressed appreciation for the prayers for his wife. She is undergoing six months of chemotherapy treatments. He asked that we continue to remember her in prayer.

Brother David reminded us that the state annual meeting would be August 4-5 at the Cavanaugh Church in Fort Smith. He stressed the importance of working together in the state as well as nationally. He thanked the Association for all that it has done in the past, and for what it will do in the future.

He closed by indicating that he had edited a book, History of Arkansas Free Will Baptists, and that he had copies of the book for sale for \$5.

Brother Joe Ray Short brought the morning message. He read Luke 16:19-31, and emphasized that there were two characters in this passage. One was a beggar named Lazarus who was in dire need--he

was destitute and sick. The other character was a rich man who could have anything he desired.

Brother Joe Ray stressed that we are just like the rich man. Often we don't help those in need even though we have the means to do so. We don't take advantage of the opportunity at hand. He told of a single man who lived in a two room house with no electricity and no indoor plumbing; this man had given over \$250,000 to missionaries during his lifetime. Brother Joe Ray related how another woman had only \$8 and needed \$3 of that for her children's lunches the following week. She put \$5 in the church offering knowing that she would have nothing between Sunday and her payday on Friday. On Monday her boss called her in and told her she would be earning five cents more per hour.

Brother Joe Ray asked us if we were going to use the means with which God has so richly blessed us to take advantage of the opportunity to help, or were we, like the rich man, going to use our means for our own selfish desires. He closed with prayer.

It was announced that the General Board would meet during the noon hour. Brother Doyle Hammock dismissed us in prayer and asked the blessing on the noon meal.

Saturday Afternoon

Brother Allen Michau lead us in the singing of "Victory in Jesus" while Sister Debe Taylor played the piano.

Brother Cliff Turner brought a devotion entitled, "Blood of the Covenant." He emphasized that we all have sinned, but the blood of Christ covers our sin. Sin imprisons us, but the blood pardons and justifies us. The blood enables us to draw nigh to God. Brother Cliff encouraged us to go out and boldly proclaim the resurrection power of the blood. He closed his devotion with prayer. Scriptures cited during the devotion were the following: Genesis 3:15, Exodus 24:8, Deuteronomy 12:23, I Peter 1:18-19, Ephesians 1:7 and 2:13, Hebrews 9:14-22, Hebrews 13:12, Romans 5:8-9 and 6:23, and I John 1:8.

Business Session

Brother Kenny declared us in conference for the transaction of business.

Resolutions Committee--

Sister Charlotte Jones, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented the following two resolutions.

1. "Be it resolved that we go back to our churches and

encourage everyone to give more to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan."

2. "Be it resolved that we give the host church a rising vote of thanks for the good noon meal."

A motion was made and seconded to receive the report, vote on it item by item, and dismiss the committee. Resolution 1 was voted and carried. Resolution 2 carried as those in favor stood to their feet and applauded the Lake Hills Church for the noon meal.

Obituary Committee--

Sister Emogene Reid, Chairperson of the Obituary Committee, reported the following deaths of church members in the Association: Herman Greenwood of the Daisy Church; Oscar Tabor of the Glenwood Church; Opal Nichols, Evelyn Fruen Metcalf, and Goldie Mae Latch of the Hatfield Church; R. T. Simmons of the Mt. Joy Church; and Ethel Johnson of the Pleasant Grove Church. No deaths were reported by Arkadelphia, Lodi, and Lake Hills.

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

Sunday School Committee--

Sister Brenda Fant, Chairperson of the Sunday School Committee, indicated that the eight churches of the Association had a Sunday School enrollment of 409 compared to 394 last year, a 4 percent increase.

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

Temperance Committee--

Brother Sonny Dunn, 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, 1998 to June 30, 1999 fiscal year.

Churches	8
Church Membership.	755
Sunday School Enrollment	409

C.T.S. Enrollment.	118
Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment	73
Master's Men Enrollment.	0
Ordained Ministers	8
Licensed Ministers	1
Value of Property.	\$1,975,000
Total Members Added.	45
Total Members Lost	18
Total Members Baptized	36
Full-Time Pastors.	3
Part-Time Pastors.	3
Churches Without a Pastor.	2
Churches--City	4
Churches--Rural.	4
Total Income	\$355,937.78
Number of Ordained Deacons	26
Number of Churches with Parsonages	6
Number of Churches without Parsonages.	2

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, presented the following recommendations of the Board.

1. Recommended member of the Credentials Board: Brother Joe Ray Short--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, Maumelle Mission--5 percent, Norman Richards--5 percent, Missions Fund--2 1/2 percent.
4. Recommended donation of \$1,000 to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College from the General Fund.
5. Recommended disbursement from the Christian Education--Education Fund: Provide a tuition scholarship to Bradley Taylor in an amount equal to \$75 per semester hour completed at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.
6. Recommended donation of \$1,000 from the Missions Fund to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.

7. Recommended that Brother Roger Beshears, the new pastor of the Lodi Church, be the speaker at the October quarterly meeting.

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

Item 1 Brother Kenny gave the congregation the opportunity to make nominations for the position on the Credentials Board. 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 Brother Larry Denton handled the election of the moderator; Brother Kenny conducted the elections for the other three positions. As the election of each officer took place, 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 of a \$1,000 donation to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. The motion carried.

Item 5 A motion was made to amend the Board's recommendation to \$100 per hour. The amended motion was seconded and carried.

Item 6 A motion was made to adopt the Board's recommendation of a \$1,000 donation from the Mission Fund to the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.

Item 7 A motion was made and seconded to accept the Boards' recommendation of Roger Beshears as the speaker for the October quarterly meeting. The motion carried.

The scheduling of the quarterly meetings during the new fiscal year was the next item of business. The Pleasant Grove Church had requested the October quarterly meeting in its letter to the Association. A motion was made to have the October quarterly meeting at Pleasant Grove. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Glenwood Church asked for the January quarterly meeting. A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be held at Glenwood. 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 Daisy Church asked for the July quarterly meeting. A motion was made and seconded to have the meeting at Daisy. The motion carried.

Below is a summary of the dates and locations of the quarterly meetings during the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

October 9	Pleasant Grove
January 8	Glenwood
April 8	Lodi
July 8	Daisy

Sister Carolyn Reid, Sister Tina Shaw, Sister Vennis Parker, Sister Billie Ruth Fant, and Sister Debe Taylor were nominated as the Association's delegates to the state meeting on August 4-5 at the Cavanaugh Church in Fort Smith.

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

The following announcements were then made:

An "Around the World in a Day" Children's Mission Conference will be held at the Lake Hills Church on August 21.

The Daisy Church will have its Bible School on July 26-30 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The Glenwood Church Bible School will be all day on July 17.

The National Association will have its annual meeting in a couple of weeks.

The drama, "Heaven's Gates, Hell's Flames," was presented at the Nazarene Church in Glenwood; many who saw the drama accepted Christ as their Savior.

Prayer was requested for the Daisy Church youth who will be leaving soon on a missions trip to the church in Shreveport, Louisiana pastored by Brother Ron Parker. Prayer was also asked for Sister Michelle Smead who has been very sick during her pregnancy, and for the family of Connie Mack who passed away recently. Prayer was requested for Sister Debe Taylor as she presides over the Woman's Auxiliary on July 20 at the National Association.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Those in favor stood to their feet and the motion carried. Brother David Taylor dismissed us in prayer.

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
 RECEIPTS (OF ALL FUNDS) BY TYPE
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

Coop Tithes.\$19,158.59
State Missions	2,305.00
Home Missions.	4,163.91
Foreign Missions	4,057.53
Free Will Baptist Bible College.	1,260.69
Fees	880.00
Offerings--Quarterly Meetings.	254.20
Interest Earned.	<u>286.57</u>
Total Receipts	<u>.\$32,366.49</u>
Total Receipts, July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998.	<u>.\$27,888.73</u>
Percentage Increase.	<u>16.06%</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS BY CHURCHES

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

	<u>Coop</u>	<u>FM</u>	<u>HM</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>FWBBC</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Total</u>
Arkadelphia	\$ 2,115.00	\$ 420.00	\$1,020.00	\$ 620.00	\$ 120.00	\$110.00	\$ 4,405.00
Daisy	8,802.31	1,879.00	1,170.00	670.00		110.00	12,631.31
Glenwood	5,078.30	1,158.53	236.06		1,140.69	110.00	7,723.58
Hatfield	1,641.17			200.00		110.00	1,951.17
Lake Hills						110.00	110.00
Lodi	865.03		683.00	215.00		110.00	1,873.03
Mt. Joy			1,054.85			110.00	1,164.85
Pleasant Grove	<u>656.78</u>	<u>600.00</u>		<u>600.00</u>		<u>110.00</u>	<u>1,966.78</u>
Totals	<u>\$19,158.59</u>	<u>\$4,057.53</u>	<u>\$4,163.91</u>	<u>\$2,305.00</u>	<u>\$1,260.69</u>	<u>\$880.00</u>	<u>\$31,825.72</u>
Receipts from Churches, July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998							<u>\$27,371.45</u>
Percentage Increase							<u>16.27%</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, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.	\$2,973.00
Nichols.	509.53
J. Combs	325.00
Midgett.	120.00
Deeds.	120.00
J. Banks	<u>10.00</u>
Total.	<u>\$4,057.53</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
 BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH HOME MISSIONS GIVING
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

Parker	\$ 1,916.49
Parker (Church Debt)	120.00
N. Richards.	927.42
Doggett.	240.00
Harvey	240.00
Reynolds	120.00
Crosby	60.00
Mertz.	60.00
Benjamin Randall Offering.	<u>480.00</u>
Total.	<u>\$4,163.91</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
 BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH STATE MISSIONS GIVING
 FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

Maumelle Mission	\$2,000.00
Maumelle Payoff Project.	120.00
Lake Hills Mission	<u>185.00</u>
Total.	<u>\$2,305.00</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
DISBURSEMENTS (FROM ALL FUNDS)
FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

<u>Disbursement</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Coop	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (40% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$19,158.59)	\$ 7,663.44
State Missions	State Missions	3,788.93
Home Missions	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	6,079.77
Foreign Missions	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	9,494.42
Bible College	Arkansas Free Will Baptists (10% of Coop Tithe Receipts of \$19,158.59 plus \$1,260.69 offering from churches)	3,176.55
Trust Fund for Sarah and Phillip Guthrie	Lakes Hills Church	4,000.00
State Dues	Arkansas Free Will Baptists	440.00
Clerk Services	Eddie Ary	900.00
Printing of Minutes	S & H Printing	180.77
Tuition Scholarship-- Shane Davison	Free Will Baptist Bible College	510.00
Tuition Scholarship-- Shane Davison	Thomas Shane Davison	<u>360.00</u>
Total Disbursements		<u>\$36,593.88</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
COMPARISON OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS (OF ALL FUNDS)
FOR FISCAL YEARS 1990-91 TO 1998-99

	<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	27,888.73	25,837.73	2,051.00
1998-99	<u>32,366.49</u>	<u>36,593.88</u>	<u>(4,227.39)</u>
Totals	<u>\$209,701.72</u>	<u>\$203,805.24</u>	<u>\$ 5,896.48</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

General Fund Balance, July 1, 1998 \$ 6,291.01

Receipts:

Coop Tithes	\$19,158.59
State Missions.	2,305.00
Home Missions	4,163.91
Foreign Missions.	4,057.53
Free Will Baptist Bible College	1,260.69
Fees.	880.00
Interest Earned	<u>286.57</u>

Total Receipts 32,112.29

Subtotal 38,403.30

Disbursements:

Coop--State	\$7,663.44
State Missions (Receipts from Churches)	2,305.00
State Missions--Lake Hills Mission (Monthly Allocations equal to 5% of Coop Tithes of \$19,158.59).	957.93
Home Missions (Receipts from Churches).	4,163.91
Home Missions (Monthly Allocations to Norman Richards equal to 5% of Coop Tithes of \$19,158.59)	957.93
Home Missions (Monthly Allocations to Ron Parker equal to 5% of Coop Tithes of \$19,158.59).	957.93
Foreign Missions	5,494.42
Trust Fund for Sarah and Phillip Guthrie	4,000.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College (Receipts from Churches)	1,260.69
Free Will Baptist Bible College (Monthly Allocations equal to 10% of Coop Tithes of (\$19,158.59)	1,915.86
State Dues.	440.00
Clerk Services--Eddie Ary	900.00
Printing of Minutes	<u>180.77</u>

SUMMARY OF GENERAL FUND (CONTINUED)

Total Disbursements.	<u>31,197.88</u>
Subtotal	7,205.42
Transfers to Other Funds:	
Missions Fund (2.5% of Coop Tithes of \$19,158.59)	\$ 478.96
Christian Education--Education Fund (10% of Coop Tithes of \$19,158.59).	<u>1,915.86</u>
Total Transfers.	<u>2,394.82</u>
General Fund Balance, June 30, 1999.	<u>\$4,810.60</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF MISSIONS FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

Missions Fund Balance, July 1, 1998	\$5,916.97
Transfer from General Fund (2.5% of Coop Tithes of \$19,158.59).	<u>478.96</u>
Subtotal.	6,395.93
Disbursements:	
A.C.T.S. 1:8 Plan.	\$4,000.00
Maumelle Mission	<u>526.00</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>4,526.00</u>
Missions Fund Balance, June 30, 1999.	<u>\$1,869.93</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--EDUCATION FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

Education Fund Balance, July 1, 1998.	\$5,004.71
Transfer from General Fund (10% of Coop Tithes of \$19,158.59).	<u>1,915.86</u>
Subtotal.	6,920.57
Disbursements:	
Tuition Scholarship for Thomas Shane Davison for the Fall Semester of 1998 and Spring Semester of 1999 at Free Will Baptist Bible College	<u>870.00</u>
Education Fund Balance, June 30, 1999	<u>\$6,050.57</u>

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--GENERAL FUND
FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 1998 TO JUNE 30, 1999

Christian Education--General Fund Balance, July 1, 1998. . \$ 886.35

Receipts:

Offerings--Quarterly Meetings 254.20

Christian Education--General Fund Balance, June 30, 1999 . \$1,140.55

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER ASSOCIATION

FUND BALANCES

JUNE 30, 1999

General Fund	\$ 4,810.60
Missions Fund.	1,869.93
Christian Education--Education Fund.	6,050.57
Christian Education--General Fund.	<u>1,140.55</u>
Total Fund Balances, June 30, 1999	<u>\$13,871.65</u>
Decrease in Fund Balances During the Fiscal Year	<u>\$ 4,227.39</u>

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.