

Minutes  
of the  
Little Missouri River Association  
of  
Free Will Baptist Proceedings  
of the  
2009 – 2010 Quarterly Meetings  
and the  
132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session

Joe Ray Short, Moderator  
PO Box 1586, Glenwood, AR 71959

Deshe Ledbetter, Clerk  
PO Box 1374, Glenwood, AR 71943





This Annual Report is Dedicated  
to the Memory of Those in Our Member  
Churches Who Went to be with Our Lord  
During the 2009 - 2010 Fiscal Year

Cross Pointe: Perry Posey

Daisy: Glen Monroe  
Hayes Davis  
Irma Jones  
Rex Smith

Glenwood: Willie Pearl Plyler

Lodi: Hershell Parker





# Little Missouri River Association

## Board Members and Officers for the 2010 - 2011 Fiscal Year

### Credentials Board

Bro. Joe Short	5 Years
Bro. John Clift, Secretary	4 Years
Bro. Ron Parker, Chairman	3 Years
Bro. Kevin Jewell	2 Years
Bro. Tom Dubose	1 Year

### General Board

Pierre Davis	Daisy
	Glenwood
Bonnie Clift, Chairman	Grace Fellowship
Jake Cartwright	Hatfield
Mike Birmingham	Heritage
	Lake Hills
Judy Short	Lodi

### Officers

David Taylor	Moderator
Joe Short	Assistant Moderator
Deshe Ledbetter	Clerk
Judy Short	Assistant Clerk





Little Missouri River Association  
Churches, Pastors, and Clerks  
June 30, 2010

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Clerk</u>
Cross Pointe 2665 Williamson Way Shreveport, LA 71118 (318) 688-5270	Bro. Ron Parker 868 Melba Drive Shreveport, LA 71118 (318) 688-2332	Michael Birmingham 2129 Betty St. Shreveport, LA 71108 (318) 686-2077
Daisy 3809 Hwy. 70 W Kirby, AR 71950 (870) 398-6265	Bro. Kevin Jewell P.O. Box 33 Kirby, AR 71950 (870) 398-4150	Tammy Davis 2868 Hwy. 70 N New Hope, AR 71959 (870) 398-4370
Glenwood P.O. Box 54 Glenwood, AR 71943 (870) 356-2375	Bro. Tom Dubose P.O. Box 54 Glenwood, AR 71943 (870) 356-2375	Diana Plyler P.O. Box 560 Glenwood, AR 71943 (870) 356-2695
Grace Fellowship 469 Red Hill Rd. Arkadelphia, AR 71923 (870) 246-5609	Bro. John Clift 2994 Hwy. 51 N Arkadelphia, AR 71923 (501) 844-9092	Bonnie Clift 2994 Hwy. 51 N Arkadelphia, AR 71923 (501) 844-9092
Hatfield P.O. Box 126 Hatfield, AR 71945 (870) 389-6712	Bro. Jake Cartwright 161 Hwy 246 Hatfield, AR 71945 (870) 389-6626	Linda Denton 123 South Tilly Rd. Hatfield, AR 71945 (870) 389-6676
Lake Hills 2344 Airport Rd. Hot Springs, AR 71913 (501) 767-2180	Bro. David Taylor 103 Chisholm Trail Hot Springs, AR 71913 (501) 760-4824	Vivian Nicholson 388 Mtn. Meadow Rd. Hot Springs, AR 71913 (501) 276-6715
Lodi 1144 Hwy. 84 W Glenwood, AR 71943	Bro. Joe Ray Short P.O. Box 1586 Glenwood, AR 71943 (870) 356-2374	Deshe Ledbetter P.O. Box 1374 Glenwood, AR 71943 (870) 356-5517





**PROCEEDINGS**  
**Saturday Morning, October 10, 2009**

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Hatfield Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with singing "When We All Get to Heaven".

Church letters, except Lake Hills and Cross Pointe, were read by Clerk, Deshe Ledbetter. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. The right hand of fellowship was given while singing "I'll Live In Glory".

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Karen Kirkpatrick, Chairman, Jana Ray, and Crystal Pannell.

Bro. Don Matchett gave a presentation on A.C.T.S. 1:8.

Lake Hills and Cross Pointe church letters were read. Motion adopted to accept the letters.

Break for 10 minutes to let the General Board met.

Prayer was led by Bro. Cecil Fant before a break for recess.

**Morning Business Session**

Moderator, Joe Ray Short, declared the congregation into business.

The General Board reported the following:

- 1)Bro. Kenny Fant speak at the January meeting
- 2)Add \$10 to the Quarterly Fees and designate it for the Youth Fund
- 3)Reminder that the April project is for the Crittenton Home
- 4)Youth Retreat will always be the last Saturday of September.

Motion adopted to accept the report and act item by item. Motion adopted to accept item #2.

The Resolutions Committee reported the following:

- 1)Standing ovation for Pastor Appreciation Month for all their had work and service
- 2)Thank host church for the meal with a rising vote of thanks.

Motion adopted to accept the report.

Motion adopted to adjourn from Business.

### **Morning Worship Session**

The worship session began with singing “Everybody Will Be Happy Over There” and “Just A Little Talk With Jesus”. Special song “I Call It Home” was sang by Bro. Travis Garner.

The devotion was given by Bro. Jake Cartwright. He spoke from Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 8:26-40. He spoke on God’s Strategy for the Church.

Bro. Bob Blake handed out forms for a Commitment to Pledge for the Crittenton Home.

Dismissal prayer and prayer on the noon meal was led by Bro. Dave Campbell.



**PROCEEDINGS**  
**Saturday Morning, January 9, 2010**

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Glenwood Free Will Baptist church with services being opened by singing "We Have Come Into His House" led by Sis. Loretta Reid. Sis. Becky Turner played the piano. Prayer led by Bro. Darrell Waldo followed by singing "At The Cross".

Church letters, except Hatfield and Cross Pointe, were read by Clerk, Deshe Ledbetter. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. The right hand of fellowship was given while singing "Amazing Grace".

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Bonnie Clift, Chairman, Jana Ray, and Becky Turner.

Bro. Bob Blake gave a report on the Florence Crittenton Home. There will be a golf tournament on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the War Memorial Golf Course.

Bro. Kevin Jewell encouraged everyone to keep giving to A.C.T.S. 1:8.

Prayer led by Bro. John Clift to break for recess.

**Morning Worship Session**

Specials were sang by Justin and Jackson Pannell singing "Sanctuary" and Loretta Reid singing "In The Garden".

Bro. Kenny Fant message was taken from Psalms 23:5. His message was titled "We Need the Power of God". Service ended with singing "Victory In Jesus".

The morning worship service and prayer on the noon meal was led by Bro. Dwight Kirkpatrick.

**Afternoon Business Session**

The afternoon service stated with singing "The Family of God".

Afternoon devotion was given by Bro. Tom Dubose. The message was taken from Phillipians 3:12-14. The topic was "It's Not About Us, It's All About Him".

Moderator, Joe Ray Short, declared the congregation into business.

The Credential Board recommended the following:

- 1) Recommended that David Sirmon from Daisy be approved as a deacon in good standing with the LMRA.
- 2) Recommended that the following ministers receive the Annual Ministerial Certificate for 2010: John Clift, Tom Dubose, Kenny Fant, Terrell Holland, Kevin Jewell, Ron Parker, Joe Ray Short, and David Taylor.

Motion to accept the report and act item by item.

- 1) Motion Adopted
- 2) Motion Adopted

Resolution Committee report as that we give the host church a standing vote of thanks for the noon meal and fellowship. Motion to accept the report.

General Board recommended the following:

- 1) A standard \$300 be given to any youth that attends a FWB mission trip.
- 2) Reminded the body that the April fund raiser was going to support the Crittendon House.
- 3) Bro. Tom Dubose be the speaker for the April meeting.
- 4) Youth Retreat will be the last Saturday of September

Motion adopted to accept report and act item by item.

- 1) Motion adopted.

Motion was accepted to go in alphabetical order of the churches to rotate the plaque that was given to the LMRA for Co-op giving in the past.

Motion adopted to adjourn.

Dismissal prayer led by Bro. Simon Mack.

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**Saturday Morning, April 10, 2010**

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Cross Pointe Free Will Baptist church with services being opened by singing "Are You Washed In The Blood". Prayer was led by Bro. John Clift.

Church letters, expect Hatfield, were read by Clerk, Deshe Ledbetter. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. The right hand of fellowship was given while singing "Heaven's Jubilee".

The Resolution Committee was appointed as follows: Emogene Scott, Chairman, Debra Birmingham, and Gail Parker.

A thank you letter was read from Tim and Madline McDaniel for the money the Association sent to support the church they are pastoring.

Break for recess with prayer by Bro. Kevin Jewell.

**Morning Worship Session**

The song service opened with singing "I'll Fly Away" and "Just A Little Talk With Jesus". Specials by Michael Birmingham, "I Call Him Lord", Amy Newman and Lanna Newman, "Except For Grace" and "This Is Just What Heaven Means To Me". Prayer was led by Bro. Joe Short.

Bro. David Taylor's message was taken from John 4:19-26 . His topic was "Why do we worship?"

Prayer on the noon meal was led by Bro. David Sirmon.

**Afternoon Worship Session**

The afternoon session opened with the congregation singing "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms" and "Oh How I Love Jesus". "Stroll Over Heaven" was sang by Elaine Parker, Michael Birmingham, and Lanna Newman.

The devotion was given by Bro. Ron Parker taken from Luke 24:6. The topic was "Jesus is the



center of it all”.

### **Afternoon Business Session**

Moderator, Joe Ray Short, declared the congregation into business.

The financial report read. Motion adopted to accept reports.

Resolution Committee thanked the host church for the meal. Motion carried to accept report.

General Board reported the following:

- 1)Bro. Ron Parker be the speaker at the next meeting
- 2)April Project money due for the Florence Crittenton Home
- 3)Youth Retreat will be Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at the Clark County Fairgrounds

Motion carried to adjourn.

Dismissal prayer led by Bro. Norvel Scott.

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**Saturday Morning, July 10, 2010**

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Lake Hills Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with the congregation singing "I Am Resolved" and "A New Name Written Down In Glory". Bro. Alan Micheau led the singing with Sis. Elwin McLean playing the piano. Prayer was led by Bro. Ron Parker.

Church letters were read by Clerk, Deshe Ledbetter. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. The right hand of fellowship was given while singing "Welcome To The Family".

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Emogene Scott, Chairman, Linda Denton, and Bradley Taylor.

George and Judy Heinzes from the Family ministries gave a report on the Mexico location. They told the Association they really appreciate the support they have received.

Prayer led by Bro. John Clift to break for recess.

**Morning Worship Session**

The song service opened with the congregation singing "Nothing But The Blood" and "Amazing Grace".

Bro. Ron Parker's message was taken from Ephesians 3:14-19. His topic was on "Transforming truth that God loves you".

Prayer on the noon meal was led by Bro. Cecil Fant.

**Afternoon Worship Session**

Services opened with the congregation singing "Higher Ground", "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus" and "Blessed Assurance".

The devotion was given by Bradley Taylor from Psalms 71:1-5. His topic was "God is our rock and foundation".

## **Afternoon Business Session**

Moderator, Joe Ray Short, read the rules of order and declared the congregation into business.

Prayer was led by Bro. Bob Blake.

Resolution Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Thanked the host church for the meal
- 2) Recognize that there are 5 generations present.

Motion adopted to accept both items.

General Board report was read and a motion carried to accept the report and act item by item.

1) Offices recommended were as follows:

Moderator: Bro. David Taylor

Assistant Moderator: Bro. Joe Short

Clerk: Deshe Ledbetter

Assistant Clerk: Judy Short

Credentials Board: Bro. Joe Short - 5 year and Bro. Tom Dubose - 1 Year

Motion carried to accept all officers as recommended.

2) Budget:

Co-Op	45%
General Fund	10%
A.C.T.S. 1:8	15%
Education Fund	10%
FWB Bible College	10%
Florence Crittenton	10%

Motion carried to accept the budget as recommended.

3) We have District CTS Competition on the first Saturday in March each year. Deadline to register will be by each January Quarterly meeting. The list of participants must be turned in to the General Board on or before the day of the meeting.

A) No one will advance to State Competition unless they have competed in District Competition and won.

B) Each entry will pay their entry fee to the District and the District will pay the State entry fee for those participants who win and advance.

Motion carried to accept.

4) Funding for State and National Competition and Mission Trips be limited to no more



than 10% of the General Fund Balance at the beginning of each fiscal year.

A)Application will have to be submitted to the General Board for approval a minimum of 60 days prior to scheduled activity.

B)Any applications submitted after the 60 day deadline will not be considered.

Motion carried to accept recommendation.

5)Speaker for the October meeting to be appointed by the host church.

Motion carried to accept recommendation.

6)Donate \$500 to the Mexico Harvest Children's Home

Motion carried to accept recommendation.

7)September 26 at 10:00 will be the Youth Retreat at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

Churches appointed to host upcoming meeting for the year:

October: Lodi  
January: Grace Fellowship  
April: Cross Pointe  
July: Daisy

Delegates appointed for the state meeting are as follows: Michael Birmingham, Gail Parker, Karen Kirkpatrick, Tina Wilkes, Carey Birmingham with Jana Ray and Kaylee Ray as alternates.

The Digest and Obituary Reports were as follows:

Total Churches	8	City/Town Location	4
Rural Location	4	Total Baptisms	27
Members Added	20	Members Lost	11
Total Membership	669	Total Ordained Ministers	10
Total Licensed Ministers	0	Ordained Deacons	19
Churches w/Budget	2	Churches w/Parsonage	3
Total Tithes and Offerings	\$436,263.29	Value of all Property	\$2,940,000.00
Day Care	1	Sunday School Enrollment	274
Kindergarten	1	CTS Enrollment	57
WAC Enrollment	63		

Obituary Report:

Glen Monroe, Hayes Davis, Irma Jones, and Rex Short from Daisy, Perry Posey from Cross

Pointe, Willie Pearl Plyler for Glenwood, and Hershell Parker from Lodi. A moment of silence was given for those who passed away.

Motion to accept the Digest and Obituary Report as read.

Motion accepted to pay the Moderator \$250.00 to help with expenses to State Meeting.

Kaylee Ray gave a presentation of her trip to Panama.

Motion accepted for the Credential Board to met with Pleasant Grove about their withdrawal letter from the Association and report back at the next meeting.

Motion carried to adjourn followed by alter prayer for the National Association Meeting in Oklahoma City. Prayer led by Bro. David Taylor.

Little Missouri River Association  
Comparison of Receipts and Disbursements  
For Period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

<u>Year</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance</u>
1990-91	\$18,457.65	\$18,474.70	(\$17.05)
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	\$32,366.49	\$36,593.88	(\$4,227.39)
1999-00	\$36,607.17	\$38,886.68	(\$2,279.51)
2000-01	\$39,752.02	\$42,312.34	(\$2,560.32)
2001-02	\$45,416.74	\$42,592.17	\$2,824.57
2002-03	\$41,309.92	\$39,443.94	\$1,865.98
2003-04	\$54,446.07	\$52,340.94	\$2,105.13
2004-05	\$49,102.12	\$44,845.65	\$4,256.47
2005-06	\$55,534.37	\$52,709.42	\$2,824.95
2006-07	\$54,023.47	\$52,093.87	\$1,929.60
2007-08	\$50,375.14	\$49,667.81	\$707.33
2008-09	\$53,195.93	\$54,914.91	(\$1,718.98)
2009-10	\$49,076.27	\$49,791.17	(\$714.90)
Totals	\$738,530.94	\$723,404.14	\$15,126.80

Little Missouri River Association  
A.C.T.S. 1:8 Auctions

October 2002	\$3,677.50
October 2003	\$5,568.50
October 2004	\$6,706.86
October 2005	\$7,074.00
October 2006	\$8,800.00
October 2007	\$10,532.50
October 2008	\$9,100.00
October 2009	\$8,587.50
Total	\$60,046.86



Little Missouri River Association  
Receipts by Church  
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

	Coop	FM	HM	SM	ACTS 1:8	FWBBC	Fees	Total
Cross Pointe	\$349.94				\$1,900.00		\$250.00	\$2,499.94
Daisy	\$8,664.34		\$160.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,435.00		\$250.00	\$14,509.34
Glenwood	\$6,060.06			\$602.00	\$1,159.78	\$361.52	\$250.00	\$8,433.36
Grace Fellowship	\$2,450.00	\$30.00		\$100.00	\$990.00		\$250.00	\$3,820.00
Hatfield	\$2,336.13				\$755.00		\$250.00	\$3,341.13
Lake Hills	\$0.00				\$150.00		\$250.00	\$400.00
Lodi	\$3,727.90	\$50.00		\$430.32	\$6,455.50		\$250.00	\$10,913.72
Pleasant Grove	\$3,200.50			\$300.00	\$1,200.00		\$250.00	\$4,950.50
Totals	\$26,788.87	\$80.00	\$160.00	\$2,432.32	\$17,045.28	\$361.52	\$2,000.00	\$48,867.99

Receipts from Churches: July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 \$52,980.77

Increase/Decrease in Receipts by Church for this Year -7.76%

P. Vanhook	\$30.00							
World Missions Offering	\$50.00							
G. Lemlin			\$160.00					
Cabot				\$98.20				
Arkansas Crittenton Home				\$2,334.12				
A.C.T.S 1:8 Auction					\$8,587.50			
Totals		\$80.00	\$160.00	\$2,432.32				

Little Missouri River Association  
Recepts by Type  
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

Coop Tithes	\$26,788.87
Foreign Missions	\$80.00
Home Missions	\$160.00
State Missions	\$2,432.32
A.C.T.S. 1:8	\$17,045.28
Free Will Baptist Bible College	\$361.52
Fees	\$2,000.00
Offerings - Quarterly Meetings	\$170.85
Interest Earned	<u>\$37.43</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$49,076.27</u>
Total Receipts - July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009	<u>\$53,195.93</u>
Percentage of Increase/Decrease	<u>-7.74%</u>

Little Missouri River Association  
Disbursements from All Funds  
July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

<u>Disbursements</u>		<u>Amount</u>
Coop	Arkansas Free Will Baptist	\$12,055.00
State Missions		
	Cabot	\$98.20
	Crittendon Children's Home - Churches	\$2,334.12
	Crittendon Children's Home - 10% Co-Op	\$2,678.88
	Crittendon Children's Home - Window Project	\$500.00
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - Churches	\$8,396.85
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - 15% Co-Op	\$4,018.34
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - Auction	<u>\$8,587.50</u>
		\$26,613.89
Home Missions		
	Geroge Lemlin	\$160.00
Foreign Missions		
	Patsy Vanhook	\$30.00
	World Mission Offering	\$50.00
	Harvest FWB Childrens Home - Mexico	<u>\$500.00</u>
		\$580.00
Free Will Baptist College		
	10% of Coop Tithes	\$2,678.88
	Amber Dubose	\$3,000.00
	Church Offerings	<u>\$361.52</u>
		\$6,040.40
Clerk Services	Deshe Ledbetter	\$900.00
Youth Retreat	Karen Kirkpatrick	\$391.38
National Competition	Daisy Youth Group	\$700.00
Check Order	Diamond Bank	\$15.90
State Dues	Arkansas Free Will Baptist	\$1,040.00
State Meeting	Joe Ray Short	\$200.00
Mission Trip	Kaylee Ray, Caitlin Sirmon, Alex Anderson	\$900.00
ACTS 1:8 Auction	Ron Stevens	<u>\$194.60</u>
		<u>\$49,791.17</u>



Little Missouri River Association  
Summary of General Fund  
For Period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

General Fund Balance - July 1, 2009 \$13,491.78

Receipts

Coop Tithes	\$26,788.87
State Missions	\$2,432.32
Foreign Missions	\$80.00
Home Missions	\$160.00
ACTS 1:8	\$17,045.28
FWBBC	\$361.52
Fees	\$2,000.00
Interest Earned	\$37.43

Total Receipts \$48,905.42

Disbursements

Coop Paid to State Office	\$12,055.00
State Missions	\$26,613.89
Home Missions	\$160.00
Foreign Missions	\$580.00
FWBBC	\$3,040.40
State Dues	\$1,040.00
Clerk Services - Deshe Ledbetter	\$900.00
Check Order	\$15.90
Daisy Youth Group - National Fee	\$700.00
Joe Ray Short	\$200.00
Mission Trip	\$900.00
Ron Stevens	\$194.60

Total Disbursements \$46,399.79

Transfer to Other Funds:

Youth Fund \$10/Per Church/Qtr	\$160.00	
Christian Education Fund (10% of Coop Tithes)	\$2,678.88	\$2,838.88

General Fund Balance - June 30, 2010 \$13,158.53

Little Missouri River Association  
Summary of Christian Education Fund  
For Period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

Christian Education Fund Balance - July 1, 2009	\$8,833.16
Transfers from the General Fund	\$2,678.88
Amber Dubose	<u>(\$3,000.00)</u>
Christian Education Fund Balance - June 30, 2010	<u>\$8,512.04</u>

Little Missouri River Association  
Summary of the Youth Fund  
For Period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

Youth Fund Balance - July 1, 2009	\$1,502.00
Karen Kirkpatrick	(\$391.38)
\$10/Church/Qtr	\$160.00
Offerings - Meetings	<u>\$170.85</u>
Youth Fund Balance - June 30, 2010	<u>\$1,441.47</u>

Little Missouri River Association  
Summary of All Funds  
As of June 30, 2010

General Fund	\$13,158.53
Christian Education Fund	\$8,512.04
Youth Fund	<u>\$1,441.47</u>
Total of All Funds as of June 30, 2010	<u>\$23,112.04</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 Baptist.

### **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**

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, wives of deceased ordained ministers and ordained deacons that remain unmarried, church clerks, the Association clerk, and General Board members.

Each church is entitled to five (5) delegates.

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

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 server 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.

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 held 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, 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and the following position interpretations:

1. That Paul's statements in 1 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 the God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 2:5, 8, 11; 1 Corinthians 14:1-40; Hebrews 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:19-30; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:19-20.

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 Baptist 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) shall be licensed or ordained to the ministry of the church. 1 Timothy 2:12; 1 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 Baptist 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 the 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.

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. Also, to promote the A.C.T.S. 1:8 cake and pie auction to be held at each October meeting to help raise money for missions.

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

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

**H.** 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.

**I.** 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.

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

- 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 present on quarterly meeting in advance.

This constitution was adopted by the Little Missouri River Association on July 11, 1998 and revised January 8, 2005 and October 8, 2005.



## 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.



Rules and Regulations adopted for CTS competition and Extra Curricular Activities  
Adopted on July 10, 2010

1) We have District CTS Competition on the first Saturday in March each year. Deadline to register will be by each January Quarterly meeting. The list of participants must be turned in to the General Board on or before the day of the meeting.

A) No one will advance to State Competition unless they have competed in District Competition and won.

B) Each entry will pay their entry fee to the District and the District will pay the State entry fee for those participants who win and advance.

2) Funding for State and National Competition and Mission Trips be limited to no more than 10% of the General Fund Balance at the beginning of each fiscal year.

A) Application will have to be submitted to the General Board for approval a minimum of 60 days prior to scheduled activity.

B) Any applications submitted after the 60 day deadline will not be considered.

Application is found on the next page.





LMRA Application  
for  
Activity Funding

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Home Church\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor\_\_\_\_\_

Activity (check one)

CTS\_\_\_\_\_ Mission Trip\_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Activity\_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Activity

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

All applications must be received a minimum of 60 days prior to activity for it to be considered.

Mail applications to:

Bonnie Clift

2994 HWY 51 N

Arkadelphia, AR 71923

(501) 844-9092 e-mail: cliftfamily@juno.com







