

Minutes
of the
Little Missouri River Association
of
Free Will Baptist Proceedings
of the
2015 Quarterly Meetings
and the
138th Annual Session

David Taylor, Moderator
103 Chisholm Trail, Hot Springs, AR 71913

Deshe Ledbetter, Clerk
230 Rock Creek Rd., 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 2015 Fiscal Year

Daisy:	Sybal Davis Cecil Fant Danny Smead
Hatfield:	Dexter Kreiner
Lodi:	Rachel Moore Derry Parker

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Little Missouri River Association

Board Members and Officers for the 2016 Fiscal Year

Credentials Board

Bro. Kevin Lewis	5 Years
Bro. John Clift, Secretary	4 Years
Bro. Ron Parker	3 Years
Bro. Kevin Jewell, Chariman	2 Years
	1 Year

General Board

Carolyn Monroe	Daisy
Bonnie Clift, Chairman	Grace Fellowship
Larry Denton	Hatfield
	Lake Hills
Judy Short, Secretary	Lodi

Officers

Joe Short	Moderator
John Clift	Assistant Moderator
Deshe Ledbetter	Clerk
Judy Short	Assistant Clerk

Little Missouri River Association
Churches, Pastors, and Clerks
December 31, 2014

Church

Daisy
3809 Hwy. 70 W
Kirby, AR 71950
(870) 398-6265

Grace Fellowship
469 Red Hill Rd.
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(870) 246-5609

Hatfield
P.O. Box 126
Hatfield, AR 71945
(870) 389-6712

Lake Hills
2344 Airport Rd.
Hot Springs, AR 71913
(501) 767-2180

Lodi
1144 Hwy. 84 W
Glenwood, AR 71943

Pastor

Bro. Kevin Jewell
P.O. Box 33
Kirby, AR 71950
(870) 703-1765
kisi@windstream.net

Bro. John Clift
2994 Hwy. 51 N
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(501) 844-0169
clifffamily@juno.com

Bro. Kevin Lewis
161 Hwy 246
Hatfield, AR 71945
(479) 234-3801
kevbufemm@yahoo.com

Bro. Ron Parker
1144 Hwy 84 West
Glenwood, AR 71943
(318) 688-2332
ron868@gmail.com

Clerk

Jill Collins
139 Fishers Nook
DeQueen, AR 71832
(870) 223-2138
jandicollins@windstream.net

Bonnie Clift
2994 Hwy. 51 N
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(501) 844-9092
clifffamily@juno.com

Linda Denton
123 South Tilly Rd.
Hatfield, AR 71945
(870) 389-6676
ladynred@windstream.net

Sharon Smith
107 Scotch Court
Hot Springs, AR 71901
(501) 262-1400
ssmith@garlandcounty.org

Deshe Ledbetter
230 Rock Creek Rd
Glenwood, AR 71943
(870) 356-9478
rodsha0712@windstream.net

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, January 10, 2015

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Grace Fellowship Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with prayer by Bro. Dwight Kirkpatrick.

Church letters were read by Assistant Clerk, Judy Short. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. The right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates. Cross Pointe church letter was read. Motion to accept report.

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Emogene Scott, Diana Kelley, and Doris Wiltfong.

The Digest Committee was appointed as follows: Karen Kirkpatrick, Carolyn Monroe, and Michael Birmingham.

Break for Recess with prayer led by Bro. Kevin Jewell.

Morning Worship Session

Morning services opened with singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms", and "He Keeps Me Singing". Piano was played by Diana Kelley with singing being led by Bro. Michael Birmingham.

Bro. John Clift brought the message preaching from 2 Peter 1:1-4 and Psalms 65:11-13.

Prayer request: Derry and Gail Parker, David Taylor, Sybal Davis, and Lodi FWB Church as they look for a pastor.

The morning worship service was dismissed and prayer on the noon meal was led by Bro. Norvel Scott.

Afternoon Business Session

The afternoon service stated with Bro. Greg McCuin singing "Beulah Land".

Afternoon devotion was given by Bro. Dwight Kirkpatrick. The message was taken from Luke 15:1-7.

Assistant Moderator, Bro. Joe Short, declared the congregation into business.

Clerk and treasurer report was given. Motion adopted to accept the reports.

The Resolutions Committee recommended that we give the host church a rising vote of thanks for the noon meal. Motion was carried.

The Digest report was given. Motion was carried. A moment of silence and pray led by Bro. Michael Birmingham.

Credential report to accept Bro. Greg McCuin and Bro. Kevin Lewis upon receiving a letter from former Association. Motion Carried.

Motion was carried to accept the following meeting schedule for 2015-2016

April 2015	Daisy
July 2015	Lodi
October 2015	Hatfield
January 2016	Lake Hills

General Board reported the following:

- 1)2015 Budget: Co-Op 45%, General Fund 15%, A.C.T.S. 1:8 15%, Education Fund 5%, Welch College 5%, and Florence Crittenton 7.5%, Maggie's House 7.5%.
- 2) Officers for 2015: Moderator- Bro. David Taylor, Assistant Moderator – Bro. Joe Short, Clerk-Deshe Ledbetter, Assistant Clerk-Judy Short
- 3)Bro. John Clift assume the 5 year position on the Credentials Board
- 4)The speaker for the April meeting be Bro. Kevin Lewis.

Motion was carried to accept the report and act item by item.

- 1)Carried
- 2)Carried
- 3)Carried
- 4)Carried

Motion carried to give Bro. David Taylor \$250 to attend the State Meeting in May.

Motion was carried to accept the following delegates to the state meeting and let the moderator appoint at the state meeting: Sherry Jewell, Judy Short, Tina Wilkes, and Michael Birmingham.

Motion carried to Adjourn.

Dismissal prayer led by Bro. Tom Dubose.

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, April 11, 2015

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Daisy Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with singing "Oh I Want to See Him" led by Bro. Simon Mack and playing piano Sis. Jana Ray. Bro. David Taylor read from Matthew 21:12-20 and Matthew 7:15-20. Prayer was led by Bro. Kevin Jewell.

Church letters were read by Clerk, Deshe Ledbetter. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given while singing "When We All Get to Heaven".

The Resolution Committee was appointed as follows: Charlotte, Jones, Carolyn Dudley, and Mary Dycus.

Break for recess.

Morning Worship Session

The song service opened with singing "What a Day That Will Be". Special music from the youth at Daisy.

Message was given by Bro. Kevin Lewis. He read from 1 Timothy 6:9-14.

Prayer on the noon meal was led by Bro. Norvel Scott.

Afternoon Worship Session

The service opened with singing "This World Is Not My Home" with Sis. Debe Taylor playing the piano and Bro. Simon Mack leading.

The devotion was presented by Bro. Kevin Jewell. He read from 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.

Afternoon Business Session

Moderator, Bro. David Taylor, 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.

The General Board requested that Bro. Kevin Jewell be the speaker at the July meeting.

Motion carried to adjourn.

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, July 11, 2015

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Lodi Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with singing "Just over in the Glory Land" with Sis. Elaine Parker playing the piano and Bro. Greg McCuin leading. Bro. David Taylor reading from Colossians 3:12-17. Prayer was led by Bro. Ron Parker.

Church letters, except 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 "Won't It Be Wonderful There".

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Linda Denton, Tonya White, and Jannette Harvey.

Bro. Berry Simpson from the FWB Foundation talked about Money Management, Plan Giving and Estate Planning.

Break for recess.

Morning Worship Session

The song service opened with the congregation singing "When the Roll is called up yonder", "Love Lifted Me", and "Mansion over the Hilltop" with Sis. Elaine Parker playing the piano and Bro. Greg McCuin leading singing.

A special was presented by Bro. Greg McCuin singing "Royal Descendent".

Bro. Kevin Jewell delivered the message from Matthew 6:33, Luke 21:34, 2 Timothy 2:4, Colossians 3:2, and 2 Chronicles 6. His topic was on "Beware of the World".

Dismissal prayer and prayer on the noon meal were led by Bro. David Taylor.

Afternoon Worship Session

The service opened with singing "The Old Rugged Cross".

The devotion was presented by Bro. Ron Parker. He read from Mark 8:34-38.

Afternoon Business Session

Moderator, Bro. David Taylor declared the congregation into business.

The treasurer's report was read. Motion adopted to accept the report.

Resolution Committee recommended the following:

That the host church be given a standing vote of thank for the noon meal. Motion carried to accept.

General Board report was read and a motion carried to accept giving the Daisy Youth Group \$750 for those going to the National. The General Board recommends that Bro. Greg McCuin speak at the January meeting.

Credential Board met with Bro. Tommy Jenkins and will wait on the paperwork from the Glenwood Church on recognizing him as a deacon.

Motion to adjourn was carried.

Prayer led by Bro. Kevin Lewis.

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, October 10, 2015

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Hatfield Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with Bro. David Taylor reading from Psalms 8:1-9. Prayer was led by Bro. David Taylor.

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 "Just over in the Glory Land" with Sis. Elaine Parker playing the piano and Bro. Kevin Lewis leading the singing.

Resolution Committee was appointed as follows: Tina Wilkes, Charlotte Jones, and Buffy Lewis

Bro. David reported for Bro. Matchett that he will be setting up a text based for Missions.

Morning Business and Worship Session

Morning worship was opened with singing "When We All Get to Heaven".

Moderator, Bro. David Taylor, declared the congregation into business.

The treasurer's report was read. Motion adopted to accept the report.

The Resolution Committee:

- 1) Give the host church a rising vote of thanks for the noon meal.
- 2) Charlotte Jones would like more donuts during the morning recess.

Motion to accept the report was carried.

New Business was for the General Board to find a college student to sponsor and report at the January Meeting.

Motion adopted to adjourn from Business.

The worship service opened with singing "Sweet By and By". A special was sung by the Daisy Youth, "I Shall Not Be Moved".

Devotion was given by Bro. Kevin Lewis. His topic was "We Have one Greater than the President". The scripture was taken from Isaiah 1:18.

Dismissal prayer and prayer on the noon meal by Bro. Ron Parker.

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, January 9, 2016

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Lake Hills Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with Bro. David Taylor reading the Rules of Order. Then he read from Matthew 18:15-20. Prayer was led by Bro. David Taylor.

Church letters were read by Assistant Clerk, Judy Short. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. The right hand of fellowship was given while singing "The Family of God".

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Karen Kirkpatrick, Lisa Miller, and Gail Parker.

Bro. David Taylor asked that the Association remember him and Sis. Debe as they transition to the State Office.

Break for Recess.

Morning Worship Session

Morning services opened with singing "I Am Thine O Lord". Piano was played by Elwin McLean with singing being led by Bro. Allen Micheau.

Bro. Joe Short brought the message preaching from Joshua 7:1-5. His message was titled "How Does our actions affect others".

The morning worship service was dismissed and prayer on the noon meal was led by Bro. Kevin Jewell.

Afternoon Business Session

The afternoon service stated with singing "Make Me a Blessing".

Afternoon devotion was given by Bro. Shane Young. The message was taken from Genesis 3:17, Luke 22:41-42, 2 Timothy 2:14-15, 3:16-17.

Moderator, Bro. David Taylor, declared the congregation into business.

Clerk and treasurer report was given. Motion adopted to accept the reports.

The Resolutions Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Recommended that there be a 2 year limit for Officers on the General Board. Motion to

- table until next meeting. Motion was carried.
- 2) Give the host church a rising vote of thanks for the noon meal. Motion was carried.
 - 3) Recommend that we have a State Officer to speak at the October meeting. Motion was carried.

General Board reported the following:

- 1) Officers for 2016: Moderator- Bro. Joe Short, Assistant Moderator – Bro. John Clift, Clerk-Deshe Ledbetter, Assistant Clerk-Judy Short
- 2) 2016 Budget: Co-Op 45%, General Fund 15%, A.C.T.S. 1:8 15%, Education Fund 5%, Welch College 5%, Florence Crittenton 7.5%, and Maggie's House 7.5%.
- 3) Bro. Kevin Lewis assume the 5 year position on the Credentials Board
- 4) The 1 Year position on the Credentials Board be declared vacant.
- 5) Karen DeCotdo be the college student for the Spring Semester at Welch College.
- 6) Deshe to get prices on a laptop.

Motion was carried to accept the report and act item by item.

- 1) Carried
- 2) Carried
- 3) Carried
- 4) Carried
- 5) Carried

Credentials Board reported that Glenwood has sent a letter and requested to withdraw fellowship from the Association.

Motion was carried to accept the following meeting schedule for 2014-2015

April 9, 2016	Daisy
July 9, 2016	Lodi
October 8, 2016	Hatfield
January 14, 2017	Arkadelphia

Motion was carried to accept the following delegates to the state meeting: Judy Short, Gail Parker, Karen Kirkpatrick, Sherry Jewel, and Carolyn Monroe.

Motion was carried to accept the Digest Report as follows:

City/Town	2	Rual	3
Baptisms	11	Members Added	5
Members Lost	6	Total Membership	339
Churches With Budget	1	Total Tithes	\$332,861.19
Churches With Parsonage	2	Value of Property	\$2,640,000.00
Ordained Ministers	7	Licensed Minister	0
Ordained Deacons	8	Daycare	0
Kindergarten	0	CTS	45
Sunday School	133		

Motion was carried.

Obituary Report:

Daisy: Sybal Davis, Cecil Fant

Hatfield: Dexter Kreiner

Lodi: Rachel Moore, Derry Parker

Motion carried to Adjourn.

Dismissal prayer led by Bro. Ron Parker.

Little Missouri River Association
Comparison of Receipts and Disbursements
For Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Year	Receipts	Disbursements	Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance
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)
2010-11	\$50,801.03	\$48,979.39	\$1,821.64
2011-12	\$54,758.02	\$57,107.77	(\$2,349.75)
2012	\$52,713.66	\$56,048.80	(\$3,335.14)
2013	\$41,654.91	\$38,215.58	\$3,439.33
2014	\$38,813.63	\$39,908.61	(\$1,094.98)
2015	\$34,368.19	\$31,489.93	\$2,878.26
Totals	<u>\$1,011,640.38</u>	<u>\$995,154.22</u>	<u>\$16,486.16</u>

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
October 2010	\$9,190.00
October 2011	\$8,165.00
October 2012	\$9,102.50
October 2013	\$7,472.50
October 2014	\$6,585.00
October 2015	\$6,523.50
Total	<u>\$107,085.36</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Receipts by Church
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

	Coop	Missions FM/HM/SM	ACTS 1:8	Welch College	Florence Crittenton	Fees	Total
Cross Pointe						\$320.00	\$320.00
Daisy	\$10,863.83		\$2,530.00	\$1,700.00		\$320.00	\$15,413.83
Glenwood	\$402.45		\$506.00	\$26.00	\$38.15	\$320.00	\$1,292.60
Grace Fellowship	\$2,000.00		\$695.00			\$320.00	\$3,015.00
Hatfield	\$2,083.58		\$500.00	\$250.00		\$320.00	\$3,153.58
Lake Hills			\$40.00			\$320.00	\$360.00
Lodi	\$3,226.27	\$436.03	\$6,419.50	\$166.00		\$320.00	\$10,567.80
Totals	<u>\$18,576.13</u>	<u>\$436.03</u>	<u>\$10,690.50</u>	<u>\$2,142.00</u>	<u>\$38.15</u>	<u>\$2,240.00</u>	<u>\$34,122.81</u>

Receipts from Churches: January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 \$38,651.60

Increase/Decrease in Receipts by Church for this Year -11.72%

World Missions Offering	\$336.03	
A.C.T.S. 1:8 Auction		\$6,523.50
North American	\$100.00	
Totals	<u>\$436.03</u>	<u>\$6,523.50</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Receipts by Type
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Coop Tithes	\$18,576.13
Foreign and Home Missions	\$436.03
A.C.T.S. 1:8	\$10,690.50
Florence Crittenton	\$2,142.00
Welch College	\$38.15
Fees	\$2,240.00
Offerings - Quarterly Meetings	\$218.87
Interest Earned	\$26.51
Total Receipts	<u>\$34,368.19</u>
Total Receipts - January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014	<u>\$38,813.63</u>
Percentage of Increase/Decrease	<u>-11.45%</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Disbursements from All Funds
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Disbursements		Amount
Coop	Arkansas Free Will Baptist	\$8,359.26
State Missions		
	Crittendon Children's Home - Churches	\$2,142.00
	Crittendon Children's Home - 7.5% Co-Op	\$1,393.20
	Maggies House - 7.5% Co-Op	\$1,393.20
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - Churches	\$4,167.00
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - 15% Co-Op	\$2,786.43
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - Auction	<u>\$6,523.50</u>
		\$18,405.33
Home Missions		
	Welch College - 5% Co-Op	\$928.81
	Welch College - Churches	\$38.15
	North American	<u>\$100.00</u>
		\$1,066.96
Foreign Missions		
	World Mission Offering	\$336.03
Clerk Services	Deshe Ledbetter	\$900.00
Youth Activities	Daisy Youth National Competition	\$750.00
Expenses	Bro. David Taylor State Meeting	\$250.00
State Dues	Arkansas Free Will Baptist	\$1,260.00
ACTS 1:8 Auction	Ron Stevens	<u>\$162.35</u>
		<u><u>\$31,489.93</u></u>

Little Missouri River Association
Summary of General Fund
For Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

General Fund Balance - January 1, 2015		\$10,036.97
Receipts		
Coop Tithes	\$18,576.13	
State Missions	\$2,142.00	
Foreign/Home Missions	\$436.03	
ACTS 1:8	\$10,690.50	
Welch College	\$38.15	
Fees	\$2,240.00	
Interest Earned	<u>\$26.51</u>	
Total Receipts		\$34,149.32
Disbursements		
Coop Paid to State Office	\$8,359.26	
State Missions	\$18,405.33	
Home Missions	\$1,066.96	
Foreign Missions	\$336.03	
State Dues	\$1,260.00	
Clerk Services - Deshe Ledbetter	\$900.00	
State Meeting - Bro. David Taylor	\$250.00	
Youth Activities	\$750.00	
Ron Stevens	<u>\$162.35</u>	
Total Disbursements		\$31,489.93
Transfer to Other Funds:		
Youth Fund \$10/Per Church/Qtr		\$280.00
Christian Education Fund (15% of Coop Tithes)		\$928.81
General Fund Balance - Decembr 31, 2015		<u>\$11,487.55</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Summary of Norman and Bessie Richards Scholarship Fund
For Period January 1, 2015 to December, 2015

Scholarship Fund Balance - January 1, 2015	\$11,967.23
Transfers from the General Fund	\$928.81
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Scholarship Fund Balance - December 31, 2015	<u>\$12,896.04</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Summary of the Youth Fund
For Period January 1, 2015 to December, 2015

Youth Fund Balance - January 1, 2015	\$2,081.82
\$10/Church/Qtr	\$280.00
Offerings - Meetings	<u>\$219.87</u>
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Youth Fund Balance - December 31, 2015	<u>\$2,581.69</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Summary of All Funds
As of December 31, 2015

General Fund	\$11,487.55
Christian Education Fund	\$12,896.04
Youth Fund	<u>\$2,581.69</u>
	<hr/>
Total of All Funds as of December 31, 2015	<u>\$26,965.28</u>

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.

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 April, July, October, and January. 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 January, 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 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 January 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 April, July, October, and January meetings, prepare annual financial statements covering the fiscal year of the Association (January 1 to December 31), and have these and other relevant information printed and bound in a booklet to be distributed to the churches at the April 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, October 8, 2005, and January 12, 2013.

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/herself 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 before conducting business at the annual meeting held in January.

Little Missouri River Association

Application for Activity Funding

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Pastor _____ Phone Number _____

Activity (check one)

CTS Competition _____ Mission Trip _____ Other _____

Date of Activity _____

Brief Description of Activity

Pastor's Signature _____ Date _____

All applications must be received by April 1st for it to be considered.

Mail Applications to: Bonnie Clift, 2994 Hwy 51 N, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Email: cliftfamily@juno.com

