

Minutes
of the
Little Missouri River Association
of
Free Will Baptist Proceedings
of the
2024 Quarterly Meetings
and the
147th Annual Session

Joe Ray Short, Moderator
200 Rock Creek Rd, Glenwood, AR 71943

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 2024 Fiscal Year

Daisy:

Nancy Flemens

Grace Fellowship:

Lake Hills:

Lodi:

Wanda Dean Logan

Little Missouri River Association

Board Members and Officers for the 2025 Fiscal Year

Credentials Board

Bro. Johathan McEntire, Secretary	5 Year
Bro. John Clift	4 Year
	3 Year
Bro. Ronnie White	2 Year
Bro. Ron Parker	1 Year

General Board

Carolyn Monroe	Daisy
Bonnie Clift, Secretary	Grace Fellowship
Elwin Guthrie-McLean	Lake Hills
Gail Parker	Lodi

Officers

Bro. Joe Short	Moderator
Bro. Ron Parker	Assistant Moderator
Deshe Ledbetter	Clerk
Judy Short	Assistant Clerk

Little Missouri River Association
Churches, Pastors, and Clerks
December 31, 2022

Church

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

Grace Fellowship
469 Red Hill Rd.
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

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

Lodi
1144 Hwy 84 W
Glenwood, AR 71943

Pastor

Bro. Ronnie White
149 Bar Two Rd
Kirby, AR 71950
(870) 828-1627
wild_policeman@yahoo.com

Bro. John Clift
2994 Hwy. 51 N
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(501) 844-9092
cliftfamily@juno.com

Bro. Jonathan McEntire
2344 Airport Rd
Hot Springs, AR 71913
(870) 209-2206
jmcentire2001@gmail.com

Bro. Ron Parker
1144 Hwy 84 West
Glenwood, AR 71943
(870) 356-2209
ron868@gmail.com

Clerk

Betsy Mack
PO Box 88
Newhope, AR 71959
(870) 223-1471
btsymack@yahoo.com

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

Rita Michau
140 Monah Way
Hot Springs, AR 71913
(501) 617-2894
ritamichau@yahoo.com

Judy Short
200 Rock Creek Rd
Glenwood, AR 71943
(870) 356-9016
jrjshort1969@gmail.com

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, January 13, 2024

The annual service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Grace Fellowship Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with Bro. Joe Short welcoming everyone.

Sis Linetta Jackson led the congregation in singing "Victory In Jesus".

Bro. Joe Short read from Psalms 37:5. He thanked the association for helping send him and Sis. Judy to Puerto Rico. Prayer led by Bro. Joe.

Church letters were read by Clerk Deshe Ledbetter. There was no church letter from Daisy. Motion was made to let Daisy appoint delegates without church letter. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. Delegates were giving the right hand of fellowship while singing "Let Me Tell You About My Jesus".

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Karen Kirkpatrick, Chairman, Diane Kelley, and Elaine Parker.

Recess with prayer led by Bro. Dwight Kirkpatrick.

Morning Business Session

Sis. Judy presented a slide show of her and Bro. Joe's trip to Puerto Rico.

Moderator, Bro. Joe Short, declared the congregation into business followed by the reading of the Rules of Order.

Treasurers report was read.

General Fund	\$9,155.96
Scholarship Fund	\$6,977.17
Youth Fund	\$2,325.86
Total of Funds	\$18,458.99

Resolution Committee reported that we give a rising vote of thanks to the host church for their hospitality and the noon meal. Motion carried.

General Board reported the following:

1) Officers for 2024:

Moderator- Bro. Joe Ray Short,
Assistant Moderator – Bro. Ron Parker,
Clerk-Deshe Ledbetter,
Assistant Clerk-Judy Short

2)Bro. John Clift assume the 5-year position on the Credentials Board

3)2021 Budget:

Co-Op 42.5%,
General Fund 12.5%,
A.C.T.S. 1:8 15%,
Scholarship Fund 5%,
Welch College 5%,
Randall College 5%,
Florence Crittenton 5%,
Maggie's House 5%,
Youngs Home 5%.

4)Scholarship: Spring Semester Only: Elisabella Alveraz- Welch College and Diana Korea – Randall College.

5)Application for funding in the minutes that the date be changed to date to be due the meeting before the activity takes place.

6)Speakers for the upcoming meeting:

April – Bro. Win Scott
July – Bro. Steven Shopman
Oct. –
Jan. – Bro. John Clift

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

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

Motion was carried to accept the following meeting schedule for 2024-2025

April 13, 2024	Daisy
July 13, 2024	Lake Hills
October 12, 2024	Lodi
January 11, 2025	Grace Fellowship

Motion for the moderator to appoint delegates that attend the State meeting.

Motion was carried to accept the Digest Report as follows:

City/Town	0	Rural	3
Full-Time Pastors	1	Part-Time Pastors	2
Baptisms	1	Members Added	4
Members Lost	2	Total Membership	82

Churches with Budget	1	Total Tithe	\$144,141.00
Churches with Parsonage	0	Value of Property	\$1,699,000.00
Ordained Ministers	4	Ordained Deacons	2
Sunday School	30		

Obituary Report:

Lake Hills: Roy Smith
Lodi: EC Logan

Bro. Joe Short prayed to remember to who had passed. Prayer by Bro. Ronnie White.

Motion carried to Adjourn.

Morning Worship Session

Morning services opened singing "Oh Love of God", "The Blood that Give Me Strength" and "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus". Piano was played by Sis. Linetta Jackson.

A special was sang by Charlie Porter," Let's Go Down to the River".

Bro. Brian Kesterson brought the message preaching from Revelations :1-6. The title of his message was "We need to pull back the covers".

Dismissal prayer and blessing on the noon meal was led by Bro. Jonathan McEntire.

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, April 13, 2024

The Little Missouri River Association met at the Daisy Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with singing "My Saviors Love" and "Amazing Grace" with Sis. Diane Kelley playing the piano and Sis. Jennifer Pedron leading singing.

Bro. Joe Short read from Acts 28:23-27. Prayer was led by Bro. Joe Short.

Church letters were read by Clerk Deshe Ledbetter. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates while singing "I'll Sing the Wonderous Story".

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Ronnie White, Chairman, Jonathan McEntire, and Judy Short.

Recess with prayer led by Bro. Dwight Kirkpatrick.

Morning Business Session

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

Treasurers report was read.

General Fund	\$8,255.96
Scholarship Fund	\$6,977.17
Youth Fund	\$2,325.86
Total of Funds	\$17,558.99

Resolution Committee recommended the following:

- 1) Whereas the Lodi Free Will Baptist Church has given \$5,000 for air conditioning to the Genesis Academy in Puerto Rico and challenges the Little Missouri River Association to match the gift. Be it resolved that we accept the challenge and match of \$5,000 with \$2,000 to come from the inactive but replenishing youth fund and \$3,000 to come from the general fund.
- 2) Recommend a give the host church a standing vote of thanks for noon meal.

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

- 1)Carried
- 2)Carried

General Board reported the following:

- 1) Motion to give Will Collins \$250 from the General Fund for his ETeam trip to the Virgin Islands.
- 2) Motion to give Lynn Scott \$500 from the General Fund for Jamaica.
- 3) Motion to give the moderator \$250 from the General Fund for the state meeting.
- 4) Bro. Ronnie White be the speaker in July.

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

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

Motion carried to Adjourn.

Morning Worship Session

Morning services opened singing "We Have Come into His House" and "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" with Sis. Diane Kelley playing the piano and Sis. Jennifer Pedron leading singing.

Special music by Charlie Porter playing "Oh How I Love Jesus" on the piano.

Bro. Lynn Scott brought the message preaching from Matthew 9:35-36 and Exodus 6:9.

Dismissal prayer was led by Bro. John Clift.

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, July 13, 2024

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Lake Hills Free Will Baptist church with Bro. Joe Ray Short read from 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Church letters were read by Sis Judy Short. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. The delegates were given the right hand of fellowship.

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Ron Parker, Chairman, Diane Kelley, and Farah McEntire.

Prayer led by Bro. John Clift.

Morning Business Session

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

Treasures report was read:

General Fund: \$5,327.06

Norman and Bessie Richards Scholarship Fund: \$6,113.32

Youth Fund: \$504.86

Total of all Funds: \$11,945.24

Resolution Committee:

1. We give a rising vote of thanks to the host church. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Contacted Welch College and Isabella Alvarez has graduated and does not have a Balance. Angie from Welch College said do not mail a check because there is nothing to apply the payment to.

Motion to not mail a check to Welch College. Carried.

General Board report:

1. Give \$250/child for the 4 children competing at the National from the General Fund.
Motion carried.
2. Bro. David Taylor be the speaker in October.

Motion to adjourn was carried.

Morning Worship Session

The song service opened with Charlie Porter singing "Amazing Grace".

Bro. Ronnie White brought the message from Acts 20:28-31, 1 Timothy 1:3-7, 4:12-16, 2 Timothy 4:1-3, 6-8, and Titus 1:10-11, 2:1, 1:9, 2:7-8 and 3:8.

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

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PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, October 12, 2024

The quarterly service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Lodi Free Will Baptist church with services being opened by Bro. Joe Ray Short reading from Psalms 90:10 and Malachi 3:6. Prayer led by Bro. Joe Ray Short.

Church letters were read. Motion adopted to accept report and seat the delegates. Right hand of fellowship was given to the delegates.

Resolution Committee was appointed as follows: Karen Kirkpatrick, Chairman, Charlette Jones and Elaine Parker.

Bro. David Taylor gave a report on the finances, Camp Beaverfork, shortage of pastors and the state office. Bro. Travis Alexander gave a report on the missionaries and thanked the association for giving to missions. Bro. Dennis Craig from Harvest Children Ministries gave a report on the homes in Mexico.

Recess prayer led by Bro. Dwight Kirkpatrick.

Business Session

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

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

General Fund	\$5,438.29
Scholarship Fund	\$6,518.83
Youth Fund	\$615.86
Total of all	\$12,572.98

The Resolution Committee

Motion carried to thank the host church for hosting and the hospitality.

The General Board:

Bro. John Clift be the speaker in January.

Motion carried to adjourn from business.

Morning Worship Service

Services opened with Sis. Elaine Parker playing the piano and Sis. Judy Short leading while singing "Mansion Over the Hilltop" and "On the Jericho Road".

The message was given by Bro. David Taylor. The scripture was taken from Matthew 28:5-8.

His topic was "Life in the midst of Death."

Dismissal prayer by Bro. Ron Parker.

PROCEEDINGS
Saturday Morning, January 25, 2025

The annual service for the Little Missouri River Association met at the Grace Fellowship Free Will Baptist church with services being opened with Bro. Joe Short welcoming everyone.

Bro. Joe Short read from 1 Corinthians 16:15. Prayer led by Bro. Joe.

Church letters were read by Clerk Deshe Ledbetter. Delegates were giving the right hand of fellowship while singing "I Saw the Light".

The Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows: Jonathan McEntrie, Chairman, Diane Kelley, and Karen Kirkpatrick.

Recess with prayer led by Bro. Dwight Kirkpatrick.

Morning Business Session

Bro. John Clift opened the business with prayer.

Moderator, Bro. Joe Short, declared the congregation into business followed by the reading of the Rules of Order.

Treasurers report was read.

General Fund	\$5,429.53
Scholarship Fund	\$6,832.39
Youth Fund	\$2655.86
Total of Funds	\$12,917.78

Resolution Committee reported that we give a rising vote of thanks to the host church for their hospitality and the noon meal. Motion carried.

General Board reported the following:

1)Officers for 2025:

Moderator- Bro. Joe Ray Short,
Assistant Moderator – Bro. Ron Parker,
Clerk-Deshe Ledbetter,
Assistant Clerk-Judy Short

2)Bro. Johnathan McEntire assume the 5-year position on the Credentials Board

3)2021 Budget:

Co-Op 43.5%,
General Fund 17.5%,
A.C.T.S. 1:8 15%,
Scholarship Fund 5%,
Welch College 5%,
Randall College 5%,
Maggie's House 7%,
Youngs Home 7%.

4)Scholarship: Fall of 2024 and Spring of 2025: Dayana Correa – Randall College
\$100/hour completed. Motion Carried.

5)Speakers for the upcoming meeting:

April – Bro. Travis Alexander
July – Bro. Ron Parker
Oct. – Bro. David Taylor
Jan. – Bro. Andy Haskins

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

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

Motion was carried to accept the following meeting schedule for 2024-2025

April 12, 2025	Daisy
July 12, 2025	Lodi
October 11, 2025	Lake Hills
January 10, 2026	Grace Fellowship

Motion for the moderator to appoint delegates that attend the State meeting.

Motion was carried to accept the Digest Report as follows:

City/Town	1	Rural	3
Full-Time Pastors	2	Part-Time Pastors	2
Baptisms	2	Members Added	6
Members Lost	3	Total Membership	210
Churches with Budget	1	Total Tithe	\$199,999.50
Churches with Parsonage	0	Value of Property	\$682,000
Ordained Ministers	5	Ordained Deacons	4
Sunday School	41		

Obituary Report:

Daisy: Nancy Flemens
Lodi: Wanda Dean Logan

Bro. Ron Parker prayed to remember to who had passed.

Motion carried to Adjourn.

Morning Worship Session

Morning services opened singing "Blessed Assurance", "I Love You Lord" and "Oh How He Loves You and Me". Piano was played by Sis. Linetta Jackson and singing lead by Hannah Wright.

Bro. John Clift brought the message preaching from Psalms 91:1-4 and Jude 1:3-4.

Dismissal prayer and blessing on the noon meal was led by Bro. Jonathan McEntire.

Little Missouri River Association
Comparison of Receipts and Disbursements

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
2016	\$35,624.73	\$34,149.67	\$1,475.06
2017	\$31,592.88	\$33,679.51	(\$2,086.63)
2018	\$30,790.42	\$34,197.85	(\$3,407.43)
2019	\$29,272.48	\$33,840.32	(\$4,567.84)
2020	\$31,397.13	\$30,158.43	\$1,238.70
2021	\$32,797.39	\$30,435.66	\$2,361.73
2022	\$30,991.17	\$36,914.76	(\$5,923.59)
2023	\$37,629.59	\$38,104.08	(\$474.49)
2024	\$43,343.00	\$47,984.21	(\$4,641.21)
Totals	<u>\$1,315,079.17</u>	<u>\$1,314,618.71</u>	<u>\$460.46</u>

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

October 2002	\$3,677.50	October 2016	\$5,785.00
October 2003	\$5,568.50	October 2017	\$6,335.00
October 2004	\$6,706.86	October 2018	\$7,570.00
October 2005	\$7,074.00	October 2019	\$7,310.00
October 2006	\$8,800.00	October 2020	\$7,700.00
October 2007	\$10,532.50	October 2021	\$10,200.00
October 2008	\$9,100.00	October 2022	\$11,350.00
October 2009	\$8,587.50	October 2023	\$11,500.00
October 2010	\$9,190.00	October 2024	\$11,000.00
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>\$185,835.36</u>
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Little Missouri River Association
Receipts by Church
January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

	Coop	Missions FM/HM/SM	ACTS 1:8	Florence Crittenton	Family Ministries	Fees	Total
Daisy	\$12,917.25	\$673.00	\$3,320.00	\$900.00		\$415.00	\$18,225.25
Grace Fellowship	\$1,200.00		\$1,330.00			\$420.00	\$2,950.00
Lake Hills	\$2,968.89		\$500.00			\$415.00	\$3,883.89
Lodi	\$4,018.40	\$5,000.00	\$8,400.00			\$415.00	\$17,833.40
Other			\$250.00				\$250.00
Totals	<u>\$21,104.54</u>	<u>\$5,673.00</u>	<u>\$13,800.00</u>	<u>\$900.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,665.00</u>	<u>\$43,142.54</u>

Receipts from Churches: January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

\$37,480.51

Increase/Decrease in Receipts by Church for this Year

15.11%

Puerto Rico
A.C.T.S. 1:8 Auction

\$5,673.00
\$11,000.00

\$5,673.00 \$11,000.00

Little Missouri River Association
Receipts by Type
January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Coop Tithes	\$21,104.54
Missions	\$5,673.00
A.C.T.S. 1:8	\$13,800.00
Florence Crittenton	\$900.00
Fees	\$1,665.00
Offerings - Quarterly Meetings	\$170.00
Interest Earned	\$30.46
Total Receipts	<u>\$43,343.00</u>
Total Receipts - January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	<u>\$37,629.59</u>
Percentage of Increase/Decrease	<u>15.18%</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Disbursements from All Funds
January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Disbursements		Amount
Coop	Arkansas Free Will Baptist	\$8,969.44
State Missions		
	Crittendon Children's Home - Churches	\$900.00
	Crittendon Children's Home - 5% Co-Op	\$1,055.22
	Young's Home - 5% Co-Op	\$1,055.22
	Maggie's House - 5%Co-Op	\$1,055.22
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - Churches	\$2,800.00
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - 15% Co-Op	\$3,165.67
	A.C.T.S. 1:8 - Auction	<u>\$11,000.00</u>
		\$21,031.33
Home Missions		
	Welch College - 5% Co-Op	\$1,055.22
	Randall College - 5% Co-Op	<u>\$1,055.22</u>
		\$2,110.44
Foreign Missions		
	Jamacia - Lynn Scott - LMRA	\$500.00
	Pureto Rico - LMRA	\$5,000.00
	Puerto Rico - Daisy	\$673.00
	Puerto Rico - Lodi	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
		\$11,173.00
Youth Funding		
	Daisy Youth - Nationals	\$500.00
	Lake Hills - Nationals	\$500.00
	Will Collins - Eteams	\$250.00
		<u>\$1,250.00</u>
Randall College	Dayanna Correa	\$1,200.00
Yearly Meeting	Joe Short	\$250.00
Clerk Services	Deshe Ledbetter	\$900.00
State Dues	Arkansas Free Will Baptist	<u>\$1,100.00</u>
		<u><u>\$47,984.21</u></u>

Little Missouri River Association
Summary of General Fund
For Period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

General Fund Balance - January 1, 2024		\$8,255.96
Receipts		
Coop Tithes	\$21,104.54	
Foreign and Home Missions	\$6,573.00	
ACTS 1:8	\$13,800.00	
Fees	\$1,665.00	
Interest Earned	<u>\$30.46</u>	
Total Receipts		\$43,173.00
Disbursements		
Coop Paid to State Office	\$8,969.44	
State Missions	\$21,031.33	
Home Missions	\$2,110.44	
Foreign Missions	\$9,173.00	
State Dues	\$1,100.00	
Youth Funding	\$1,250.00	
Clerk Services - Deshe Ledbetter	\$900.00	
Yearly Meeting - Joe Short	<u>\$250.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		\$44,784.21
Transfer to Other Funds:		
Youth Fund \$10/Per Church/Qtr		\$160.00
Christian Education Fund (5% of Coop Tithes)		<u>\$1,055.22</u>
General Fund Balance - Decembr 31, 2024		<u>\$5,429.53</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Summary of Norman and Bessie Richards Scholarship Fund
For Period January 1, 2024 to December, 2024

Scholarship Fund Balance - January 1, 2024	\$6,977.17
Transfers from the General Fund	\$1,055.22
Randall College, Dayanna Correa	(\$1,200.00)
Scholarship Fund Balance - December 31, 2024	<u>\$6,832.39</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Summary of the Youth Fund
For Period January 1, 2024 to December, 2024

Youth Fund Balance - January 1, 2024	\$2,325.86
\$10/Church/Qtr	\$160.00
Offerings - Meetings	\$170.00
Pureto Rico - Air Conditions	(\$2,000.00)
Youth Fund Balance - December 31, 2024	<u>\$655.86</u>

Little Missouri River Association
Summary of All Funds
As of December 31, 2024

General Fund	\$5,429.53
Christian Education Fund	\$6,832.39
Youth Fund	<u>\$655.86</u>
Total of All Funds as of December 31, 2024	<u>\$12,917.78</u>

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. 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.
6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.
7. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission of the Moderator.
8. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present with exception to the constitutional change.
9. No member shall absent himself/herself without permission of the Moderator.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.

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 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 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 Welch College or Randall University 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, January 12, 2013 and January 12, 2019.

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.

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 the quarterly meeting before the activity takes place for it to be considered.

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

Email: cliftfamily@juno.com

