

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**Thirty-Eighth Annual Session**  
**OF THE**  
**LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE**  
**UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**CONVENED WITH**  
**PINE LEVEL CHURCH**

**Worth County, Ga., October 12-13, 1944,**

**REV. J. D. LITTLE, Moderator, Kirkland, Ga.**

**B. BAKER, Clerk, Ellenton, Ga.**

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**Next Session to Convene with Zion Hill Church,  
Ware County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday  
before Third Sunday in October, 1945**

## Church Conference

1. Prayer (unless Divine service has just been concluded and generally then.)
2. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
3. Open the door for the reception of members and read over Minutes of last Conference.
4. Call for Absentees.
5. Call for acknowledgements.
6. For reference of deferred business.
7. For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church.
8. For miscellaneous business.

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## Order of Business

1. The body at each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. Call for church letters and have them read, and names of ministers and delegates enrolled.
3. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
6. Call for Corresponding Messengers.
7. Appoint Committees: (a) Preaching; (b) Denominational Literature; (c) Temperance; (d) Churches and Destitution; (e) Education; (f) Ministers; (g) Sunday Schools; (h) Resolutions; (i) Finance; (j) Card of Thanks.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Report of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

## Proceedings

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12-13, 1944

The Thirty Eighth Session of the Little River Association of the United Free Will Baptists convened with Pine Level Church, Worth County, Georgia.

Prayer by Bro. M. M. Franks.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. N. H. Parrish. Text: Nehemiah, 2nd. chapter, 18th verse.

Dismissed and plenty of good dinner served for all.

Called to order at 2:00 p. m. by the Moderator.

Prayer by Bro. T. G. Hamilton.

Invite visiting Brethren and Sisters to seats with us. Called for letters from the churches. Ten handed in and read by T. G. Hamilton and K. C. Franks. And by a move and second, delegates seated.

Elected officers by ballot.

Rev. J. D. Little, Moderator.

Rev. M. T. Goff, Assistant Moderator.

B. Baker, Clerk.

Received letter from Oak Hill church asking to be dismissed from our body. Granted them a letter.

Also had a letter from Mt. Willing Church asking to be dropped from our body. Letter tabled.

Appointed as Committee to investigate, C. M. Chafin, J. S. Jordan, B. Baker.

Called for Corresponding Messengers from sister associations.

SOUTH GEORGIA—Rev. Joe Harris and E. C. Morris.

GEORGIA UNION—Rev. N. H. Parrish.

UNION—Rev. J. C. Weathers and W. L. Harrell.

By the Moderator extending right hand of Fellowship to them.

Appointed Committees as follows:

PREACHING—H. M. Hamilton, Audie Williams, J. S. Jordan.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE—Wm. Wilson, H. R. Douglas, Joe Giddens.

TEMPERANCE—Sisters Linnie Mae Giddens, Mamie Mercer, Verta Davis.

CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION—Elton Harrod, Ed. Wilson, Ed. Stone.

EDUCATION—M. M. Franks, L. E. Wynn, C. M. Chafin, Jr.

MINISTERS—Jeff Giddens, Johnnie Taft, J. L. Franks.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND LITERATURE—Sisters M. T. Goff, Myrtice Harrod, Maxie Brannon, Golie Jordan, Lillie Stone, Lois Wilson.

RESOLUTION—E. C. Fancher, L. S. Davis, N. C. Brannon, K. C. Franks.

(TWO)

FINANCE—Hilton Goff, K. C. Franks, V. R. Franks.

CARD OF THANKS—John R. Franks.

Returned Correspondence to sister associations.

UNION—Rev. M. T. Goff.

GEORGIA UNION—M. M. Franks.

SOUTH GEORGIA—Jeff Giddens and Rev. T. M. Giddens.

CHATTAHOOCHEE—T. G. Hamilton and J. D. Little.

Adjourned until Friday morning.

REV. J. D. LITTLE, Moderator.

B. B. BAKER, Clerk.

FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 13, 10 A. M.

Called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer by C. M. Chafin.

Called to order by the Moderator.

### PREACHING

Thursday night—Rev. Joe Harris, Bro. T. G. Hamilton.

Friday 11 A. M.—Rev. E. C. Morris, Rev. W. L. Harrell.

H. M. HAMILTON, Chairman.

### DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE

We your Committee recommend that Free Will Baptist literature be used in our Sunday Schools and Leagues. We also recommend that Bro. T. G. Hamilton, Jr., preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session and Rev. J. D. Little, alternate.

We recommend that the next session be held at Zion Hill Church in Ware County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1945.

Wm. WILSON, Chairman.

### TEMPERANCE

We your Committee recommend the following report:

God would be more pleased with all our Brethren and Sisters if we would live lives each day to please Him. Then the growing generations could follow in our footsteps and they would be light in God's Kingdom and our Church work.

We recommend that no member of our church indulge in intoxicating drinks.

MRS. MAMIE MERCER, Chairman.

### CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION

We your Committee submit the following report:

We find all the sister churches in our bounds are supplied with preachers so far as we know.

If there is one that does not we recommend that this session

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arrange for those churches to have Pastors if possible.

ELTON HARROD, Chairman.

### EDUCATION

We your Committee recommend that the parents read and discuss the Bible more often with their children and give them all the schooling possible so that they may understand the Bible more fully.

M. M. FRANKS, Chairman.

### MINISTERS

We, your Committee, find all Ministers in the Little River Association in good standing so far as we know.

JEFF GIDDENS, Chairma.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, your Committee, find our pastors are failing to encourage the Sunday School work by failing to stress the importance of it in our pulpits and through individuals. We also encourage the lay members to take more interest by organizing Sunday Schools in their churches and by attending with their children.

MRS. M. T. GOFF, Chairman.

### RESOLUTIONS

First. Be it resolved by this body that all Pastors shall carry out the eighth paragraph in our Church Covenant and ask that the churches change the 8th paragraph to read quarterly instead of each church meeting.

Second. That our preachers who may have spare Sundays take steps to establish preaching points once per month with hopes of organizing churches. This body to pay expenses of such appointments.

Third. That a Mission Board of four laymen and our Moderator be organized at this session. The duty of said Board shall be to investigate all Mission points and decide whether it is a real prospect of new church.

Fourth. Be it resolved that a Doctrinal Sermon be preached at each association and at each joint union meeting.

E. C. FANCHER, Chairman.

### FINANCE

We, your Committee, submit the following:

Balance in Treasury .....	\$33.55
Collections .....	\$66.69
	<hr/>
	\$100.24

K. C. FRANKS,  
V. R. FRANKS, Committee.

(FOUR)

### CARD OF THANKS

To the church of Pine Level and community: We the body of the Little River Association thank each and every one for their kindness and hospitality toward us while in your midst. Also we thank the officers for their faithful service rendered while in session.

JOHN R. FRANKS.

By a move and second the next joint union meeting will be held at Corinth.

On motion put Rev. M. T. Goff on the Ordaining Council.

Moved and carried to join the state and national association. 17 votes for. 15 votes against.

Dismissed and good dinner served for all present.

Called to order after noon.

Prayer by Sister Maxie Brannon.

Had favorable report by Rev. N. H. Parrish on Oak Grove church and paid \$15.00 on his expenses.

Resolution Committee: Jeff Giddens, E. C. Fancher, N. C. Brannon M. M. Franks and Rev. J. D. Little.

~~Jeff Giddens, E. C. Fancher, N. C. Brannon and Rev. J. D. Little.~~

Delegates to the State Association, C. M. Chafin, J. D. Little.

Took up free will offering for Rev. Joe Harris who is old and unable to earn a living. \$24.62.

Took up miscellaneous business. Moved to have 300 minutes printed and to give Clerk authority to correct mistakes and pay bills.

Pay Clerk .....	\$10.00
Pay Moderator .....	\$ 5.00
Rev. N. H. Parrish .....	\$15.00
Pay Corresponding Messengers expense .....	\$ 2.00

REV. J. C. WEATHERS.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in Treasurer .....	\$100.24
Paid out for Minutes .....	\$40.00
Clerk .....	10.00
Moderator .....	5.00
Rev. Neil H. Parrish .....	15.00
Corresponding Messenger .....	2.00
Postage .....	1.63
	73.63
Balance .....	\$26.61

On motion adjourned to meet with Zion Hill Church, Ware County Georgia.

REV. J. D. LITTLE, Moderator.  
B. BAKER, Clerk.

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## Roll Call of Delegates

FRIENDSHIP—Jeff Giddens, Linnie Mae Giddens, Verta Davis.  
 FOREST HILL—By Proxy.  
 OZIAS—Wm. Wilson, H. M. Hamilton, T. G. Hamilton.  
 PINE LEVEL—Macom Paulk, M. J. Hartsfield, J. L. Hartsfield, A. P. O'Kelly and Tom Carlton.  
 SHADY GROVE—Johnnie Rutherford, Hilton Goff, Frank Hamilton, Mrs. M. T. Goff.  
 SUNNY SIDE—H. R. Douglas, Johnnie Taft, Joe Giddens, E. C. Fancher, Audie Williams.  
 CORINTH—J. L. Franks, K. C. Franks, V. R. Franks, L. E. Wynn, M. M. Franks.  
 ZION HILL—L. S. Davis, Sister Mamie Mercer.  
 COOL SPRINGS—Elton Harrod and wife, N. C. Brannon and wife, J. S. Jordan and wife, Ed. Stones and wife, Ed Wilson and wife, C. M. Chafin, Jr.  
 OAK GROVE—By Proxy.

### DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. Tharp Bailey .....	1911
Rev. J. J. Davis .....	1913
Rev. C. Leon Starling .....	1919
Rev. B. J. Griffin .....	1926
Rev. H. J. Cowart .....	
Rev. Morgan Cannon .....	1926
Rev. A. Eunice .....	1928
Rev. B. O. Brown .....	1935
Rev. M. F. Cason .....	1939
Rev. H. J. Griffiths .....	1939
Rev. W. R. Cato .....	1941
Rev. J. C. Arnold .....	1943

## Ministers and Their Post Offices

Rev. J. D. Little .....	Kirkland, Ga.
Rev. John R. Weeks .....	Norman Park, Ga.
Rev. Byron C. Davis, 709 Washington Ave. ....	Waycross, Ga.
Rev. T. M. Giddens .....	Pearson, Ga.
Rev. M. T. Goff .....	Lenox, Ga.
Rev. Seaborn Bowen, .....	Douglas, Ga.

## Licentiates

Bro. T. G. Hamilton, Jr. ....	Pearson, Ga.
Bro. Charley Balance .....	Willacoochee, Ga.

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## James D. Little Union Meetings

Cool Springs .....	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1944
Corinth .....	Fifth 5th Sunday in 1944
Forest Hill .....	First 5th Sunday in 1945
Pine Level .....	Second 5th Sunday in 1945
Corinth Joint Union .....	Third 5th Sunday in 1945
Shady Grove .....	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1945

## Ruth Kennon Union Meetings

Oak Grove .....	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1944
Friendship .....	Fifth 5th Sunday in 1944
Ozias .....	First 5th Sunday in 1945
Zion Hill .....	Second 5th Sunday in 1945
Corinth Joint Union .....	Third 5th Sunday in 1945
Orange Grove .....	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1945
Sunny Side .....	First 5th Sunday in 1946

## Obituaries

### BRO. W. E. GODWIN DIED AUGUST 27, 1944

Bro. Godwin moved to this section from North Carolina, and joined us. He left and helped establish two other churches and came back to us. While old age kept him from attending church we held him in highest esteem. May we meet him in Heaven to part no more.

C. M. CHAFIN, Clerk.

### PINE LEVEL CHURCH

It is with sorrow that we have to report the death of our beloved sister, Katie Hartsfield, who departed this life September 7, 1944. She was 66 years of age.

She was a faithful member, loyal to her church, a loving wife and mother, one who was loved by all who knew her. She leaves a vacancy no one can fill.

Our hearts are grieved deeply by the passing of Sister Hartsfield. We humbly bow to the will of God who doeth all things well, knowing that our earthly loss is Heaven's gain.

Written by,

MACON PAULK.

### KINNON

In memorium of Brother Swinson Kinnon.

We are sorry to report the death of our beloved one, who departed this life October 28, 1943. Brother Kinnon was born in September 24, 1856. He became a member of our church at Zion Hill in his late years. We are glad to say that he was a good friend

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in the neighborhood, and an outstanding citizen in his county. We humbly bow to the will of God who doeth all things well, knowing that our earthly loss is his Heavenly gain.

SISTER OUIDA ARNOLD, Clerk.

#### WALTER GIBBS

We regret very much to report the death of our beloved Brother Walter Gibbs who departed this life, March 13, 1944. We feel assured that he was a true child of God. We feel our loss is Heaven's Gain.

R. S. HAYES, Clerk.

### Ordaining Council

Rev. J. D. Little,

M. T. Goff,

Rev. T. M. Giddens

### Executive Committee

C. M. Chafin	Norman Park, Ga.
J. L. Hartsfield	Ty Ty, Ga.
H. R. Douglas	Kirkland, Ga.
L. S. Davis	Waresboro, Ga.
Martin Corbett	Pearson, Ga.

### Government and Ordinances

1. We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in heaven and of such Christians on earth as are not attached to the visible church according to gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition, repugnant to the Word of God, subservient to the churches and dangerous to the liberty of man.

5. The gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; and that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute, and that if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction by delegation or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.

6 The churches may, nevertheless, we suppose, meet by delegates

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form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up the correspondence; but that the right and authority of churches being inalienable, or in no way compromised or hindered by entering into an association, and therefore an association has no authority over churches or individuals, their only power being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity; to promote natural intercourses, and a concentration of voluntary effort; and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by an individual.

7. That the authority of the churches is designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel, and for the preservation of true and orderly bodies of Christians on earth; that is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but that does not extend to persons, property or the conscience of men in any manner whatsoever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel, that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of such membership is an assumption of authority on the part of the church and a departure from the Gospel plan.

9 That the officers of a church are elders and deacons; that the elders are called bishops or pastors, and all of the elders are equal in rank though they may perform different functions— since some may be bishops or pastors of particular churches, while others may be simple elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any acts that belong to the authority of the church— such as the reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church, he is not more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person; yet we think it prudent to call in advisory help especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That Christian Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saint's feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes.

13. That elders and deacons must be set apart to their office or ordination, by the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective offices.

14. No Licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

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## Church Decorum

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in Association year; or if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time; but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The Deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference, if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Church.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor. Also, it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastors to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes.

8. The church shall hold a two day's monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

9. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

10. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever of the church according to the Covenant (Article 5) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect; but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

11. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless Divine service has just been conducted, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing

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which are in order to come before the church, (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as before called in from sister churches, shall speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

13. Any orderly member of the Baptist Church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present but unreasonable objections shall not be valid unless withdrawn, the members who make them shall be liable to be taken under dealing with the church.

15. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend the trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church. Will you hear the testimony of the witness?

18. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their misconduct.

20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

23. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon receipt, may be exempt by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

25. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address

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the moderator, and keep to the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

27. When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

28. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it can be to call the speaker to order.

29. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saint's feet at least once a year.

30. Member not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

31. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

32. No Licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two consecutive monthly conferences.

### Church Covenant

1. Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by Divine Grace into the knowledge of our Divine Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to devote our time and talents to the interest of pure and undefiled religion, we do solemnly covenant with each other to walk together in love and brotherly kindness and to glorify God through life as the only hope in death.

2. We agree to exercise Christian love and affection for each other as members of the household of faith, that the knowledge of truth may be glorified in us and by us, to the end that we may be perfect in the will of God through Christ Jesus concerning us.

3. We endeavor to uphold the public worship of Almighty God and ordinances of His church, not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of the means with which we are blessed for the ministry among us and other necessary expenses of the church.

4. We will not neglect the devotional exercises of secret prayer and the duties of family worship, and the training up of our children and those under our care with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven.

5. We agree to neglect our secular, or worldly avocation to attend the stated meetings of the church and to labor for its prosperity in the most holy faith, believing that if we do this we let our light shine; if

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we fail to attend to the sacred duties we prove to be a stumbling block to the world and a reproach to the church.

6. We believe that all Christians are endowed with certain talents and influence for the improvement of which they will be accountable to the Great Head of the church; that if there are unruly members in the church, it is our duty to approach such in the spirit of love and to admonish them to forsake their evil doings, if they will not hear thee, take one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses admonish them to forsake their evil doings, if they will not hear thee then let be unto thee as an heathen man or publican.

7. We believe the worldly dance and drinking ardent spirits with and co-mingling with drunkards are sins which should be condemned by the church.

8. It shall be the duty of all pastors to read or have read this Covenant and to explain every part and clause thereof to the church on the openings of all church meetings.

### Decorum

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceding session shall preside until their successors shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the name of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceedings shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in the order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

9. After motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move a reconsideration.

10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave of absence without permission from the body.

11. This Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Asso-

(THIRTEEN)



ciation by a majority vote.

13. No church shall liberate any minister coming from any other denomination until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and receive credentials bearing their approval.

14. Any church that shall tolerate Unknown Tongue in their church shall be regarded as encouraging heresy, and shall be dealt with for such. Also any church, or pastor allowing preaching of such that is sinless perfection, as a second work of grace, to occupy their pulpit, shall be dealt with for encouraging heresy.

## Constitution

1. This Association shall hereafter be known as the Little River Free Will Baptist Association.

2. It shall be composed of: (1). The ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto; (2). Legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirements of churches: Each church shall be required to send up an annual report to the Association in which they shall make a brief statement of the pastor, report the character and usefulness of the minister whose membership is with them, give name and post office of the Church Clerk, give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded, and died, the number of members and the amount paid for Associational purposes.

4. Each church in the Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs having the unrestricted right to administer its own government without suspension or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.

5. This body shall be considered an advisory council whose duty it is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled and while there it shall be its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the Association and to use their best influence to promote a moral and benevolent means and institution such as education, Sabbath Schools, missionary work, etc.

6. The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

8. Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate for each ten members or fraction thereof.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of the Association by a majority of votes.

(FOURTEEN)

## Articles of Faith

1. We believe that there is but one living, true, eternal God; the Father, of whom are all things, from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes.—1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ from whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, Son of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into the world because of the great love wherewith He loved the world, and Christ as freely gave himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man, who was buried and rose again the third day and ascended into Heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of Heaven, at the last day to judge both the quick and the dead.—1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:8; John 2:2; Rev. 1-7; Acts 25:15; John 2:16.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father, through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 19:7-9; Acts 4:4; 5-6; Eph. 4:4; 5:6.

4. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright; and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily by transgression fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, and the knowledge of the truth that they might be saved, for which end Christ hath commanded the gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:12-17; Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them, because they believed not in the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all contradiction that all men at one time or another, are found in such capacity as that through the Grace of God, they may be eternally saved.—Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1 John 5:10.

7. We believe that whole Scriptures are infallibly true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:6-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of general provision made of God in Christ for the benefit of all mankind who repent and believe the Gospel—Luke 15:16-20; Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 13:2-5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family, so as they all might be happy

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would they give place to His divine teaching; whereas such who do not receive the divine impression of Holy Spirit shall at a future day own their condemnation just and charge themselves with their own damnation for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:44-65; Psalms 1:1; 2-11-12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation; considered such who turn the Grace of God to lasciviousness; denying the Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore shall bring upon themselves swift destruction, but we observe that they, and such the apostle said, because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved; therefore, the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul that doeth evil, living and dying therein, for there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:4; 2nd. Peter 2:1; Thess. 2:11-12; Romans 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God in their own person are only subject to the first death; which was brought on by the fall of Adam, and not that any of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell the guilt of Adam's sin, of such is the kingdom of God.—1st. Cor. 15:32; Matt. 19:2-5; Mark 9:26-27; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace and not out of the use of these means eternal life is promised men.—Rev. 22:14-15; Isaiah 1:19-20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 13:24-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scripture for justification before God through his work, power or ability, which he has in and for himself only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ, believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20-21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or can not come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person everlasting death or everlasting life, out of respect of mere choice, farther than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who die in sin unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-23; Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believer's baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament of bread and wine, washing of saint's feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting and prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Luke 22:19-20; John 13:4-7; James 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of Baptism is by immersion and that believers are the only objects for baptism.—Matt. 3:15; Mark 1:15-26; Acts 3:38-39; Rom. 6:5; Col. 2:12.

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17. We believe in the general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28-29; 11:5-6.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 2:9.

## Forms

### FORM FOR LICENSE

This is to certify that the bearer, Brother.....

..... of the County of.....  
State of..... is a regular member of the Free Will Baptist church, in the said county of....., State of..... is hereby licensed to preach the gospel for one year. Done by order of the church in Conference.

This..... day of..... A. D., 194.....  
Signed..... Moderator.

Ordaining Council.

## Petitionary Letter From A Church To An Association

..... Free Will Baptist Church of Christ  
This the..... day of..... A. D., 194.....

To the..... Free Will Baptist Association  
sendeth greetings: We constitute a Free Will Baptist Church by Elder..... with..... members

We have adopted the Articles of Faith, Covenant and Decorum of the Free Will Baptist Church. We are at peace. We have called as pastor, Elder..... We

send as our Delegates, Brethren.....  
We do humbly petition..... Free Will Baptist Association for membership in the same. We send for minutes \$..... Hoping our humble petition will be granted we are.

Your brethren in Christ,

..... Moderator.

## How To Organize A Church

When any number of converts, not less than five, desire to constitute a church, the following order should be observed: (A) The officiating minister shall inquire into the Christian character and ability of the members to sustain the church. This being satisfactory, (B) The minister shall then read the Articles of Faith, and finding they have obeyed and adopted the same, (C) He shall then read the Church Covenant, while the congregation joins in singing a suitable hymn. (D) He shall have the members to extend to each other the right hand of fellowship. (E) He shall then offer a prayer of consecration. (F) He shall then declare the body organized.

### Order of Business

The order of business shall be as follows: (1) The election of a Clerk. (2) The election of Deacons. (3) The election of a Treasurer. (4) The election of a Pastor. (5) The selection of a name. (6) The selection of a day of worship. (7) Adjournment.

nath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who die in sin unto death.— Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-23; Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believer's baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament of bread and wine, washing of saint's feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting and prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.— Luke 22:19-20; John 13-4-7; James 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of Baptism is by immersion and that believers are the only objects for baptism.—Matt. 3:15; Mark 1:15-26; Acts 3:38-39; Rom. 6:5; Col. 2:12.

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## STATISTICAL TABLE

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