

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**Thirty-Ninth Annual Session**  
**OF THE**  
**LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**OF THE**  
**UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**CONVENED WITH**  
**ZION HILL CHURCH**  
**Ware County, Georgia,**  
**October 18-19, 1945**

**REV. T. M. GIDDENS, Moderator, Pearson, Ga.**  
**B. BAKER, Clerk, Ellenton, Ga.**

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Next Session to Convene with Forest Hill Church,  
Cook County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday  
before Third Sunday in October, 1946.

## 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. 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 and Literature; (h) Resolution; (i) Finance (j) Cards of Thanks.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Report of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

## PROCEEDINGS

### THURSDAY MORNING, OCT. 18, 1945

The Thirty Ninth Session of the Little River Association of the United Free Will Baptist convened with Zion Hill church Ware County, Georgia.

Prayer by B. Baker.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. T. G. Hamilton. Text: Mark 10 chapter 38-39-40-41 and 42 verses.

Dismissed and plenty of good dinner furnished by the church and community.

In the absence of the Moderator, appointed Bro. C. M. Chafin Moderator until the election.

Scripture lesson presented by the Moderator, 10th chapter of John.

Prayer by Rev. Neil H. Parrish.

Called for letter from the churches.

Read by Bros. T. G. Hamilton and Riley Giddens and the letters received and delegates seated.

Elected Rev. T. M. Giddens, Moderator.

Bro. C. M. Chafin, Assistant Moderator.

B. Baker, Clerk and Treasurer.

Called for Petitionary letters.

Called for Corresponding Messengers from sister associations.

South Georgia, Rev. J. B. Harris and E. C. Morris

Chattahoochee, Rev. L. S. Anthony, Rev. J. B. Lumpkin.

Georgia Union, Rev. N. H. Parrish.

On motion, received them by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to them.

Appointed Committees as follows:

PREACHING—Wm. Wilson, Audie Williams, Tom Carlton.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE—Eddie Williams, M. M. Franks, N. C. Brannon.

TEMPERANCE—Sister Walter Gibbs, Sister Lois Wilson, Mrs. N. H. Parrish, Sister Ida Lancaster, Sister Kizzie Fort.

CHURCHES AND DESTITUTIONS—J. M. Hartsfield, H. S. Hayes, Clayton Bowen.

EDUCATION—Everett Williams, V. R. Franks, Ed Wilson.

MINISTERS—R. M. Douglas, E. C. Fancher, Sister Corda McInvale.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—Sisters Fannie Davis, Lillie Davis, Leno Studly.

RESOLUTIONS—J. B. Kennon, W. M. Wilson, N. C. Brannon.

FINANCE—Jeff Giddens, Sister Annie Bell Grady.

CARD OF THANKS—Sister J. M. Hartsfield, Sister Tom Carlton.

By a move and second, adjourned to meet at 9:30 in the morning.

REV. T. M. GIDDENS, Moderator.  
B. BAKER, Clerk.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 19, 1945

Called to order at 9:30 a. m. by the Moderator.

Prayer by Rev. J. B. Harris.

Called for Corresponding Messengers from sister associations and received in the usual way from the Union association, Rev. J. C. Weathers and Rev. R. M. Massey.

Invited visiting Brethren and Sisters to seats with us.

Called for report of the Committee and received and released Committees as follows:

#### PREACHING

Thursday night—Rev. J. B. Lumpkin, Rev. L. S. Anthony.

Friday, 11:00 a. m.—Rev. R. M. Massey, Rev. J. C. Weathers.

Friday afternoon—Rev. J. B. Lumpkin.

Saturday, 11:00 a. m.—Bro. Everett Williams.

W. M. WILSON, Chairman.

#### DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE

We recommend Free Will Baptist Literature be used in all Sunday Schools.

We recommend Rev. T. M. Giddens preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session. Rev. M. T. Goff, alternate.

We also recommend the next session convene with Forest Hill church, in Cook County, Thursday and Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October 1946.

EDDIE WILLIAMS, Chairman.

#### TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee recommend that all Brethren and Sisters attend church more regularly, and live lives in all places and times, doing things to please God, would be a light for the younger generation to take example from.

We recommend that no church member partake of strong drink.

SISTER WALTER GIBBS, Chairman.

#### CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION

We, your Committee, submit the following report:

We find all churches supplied with pastors as far as we know. If there is one that does not, we recommend that this association arrange for the church to have a pastor if possible.

J. M. HARTSFIELD, Chairman.

### EDUCATION

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

EVERETT WILLIAMS, Chairman.

### MINISTERS.

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

R. M. DOUGLAS, Chairman.

### SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee, find all Ministers in the Little River functioning as they should, and we feel that the older ones are to blame, our children are not being brought up in Sunday School as they should. We recommend that we parents take more interest and do not send the children alone, but take them and carry them. We believe if we train them in the way they should go, when they grow old they will not wander and go astray.

SISTER FANNIE DAVIS, Chairman.

### RESOLUTIONS.

We recommend that we pay the Corresponding Messengers expenses from the sister associations and that all the churches be diligent in sending funds for the expenses of our body. We also recommend the Clerk's pay be raised.

J. B. KENNON, Chairman.

### FINANCE.

We received from the Churches	\$72.26
Balance in Treasury	26.61
Total	\$98.87

JEFF GIDDENS, Chairman.

### CARD OF THANKS.

To The Church of Zion Hill and Community:

We the body of the Little River Association wish to thank each and every one for their friendship and kindness while in your community and homes. Also, we wish to thank the Officers for their faithful services.

SISTER MOZELL HARTSFIELD, Chairman.

Discussed at length the state, association and national as-

sociation. By a move and second, voted by ballot to withdraw from the 2 organizations.

16 to withdraw.

14 not to withdraw.

Bro. L. W. Chafin suggested for it not to be mentioned in the Little River Association any more, and Rev. N. H. Parrish spoke on the suggestion and the body showed expression of pleasantness. Adjourned for preaching. Prayer by Bro. Joe Harris.

Preaching at 11:00 a. m. Dismissed and Dinner served.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Called to order according to adjournment by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. C. M. Chafin.

Heard report of Committee of last session on Mt. Willing church and received report and released committee.

Dropped Mt. Willing from the church roll.

On motion paid clerk \$20.00.

On motion paid Moderator \$5.00.

On motion have 300 minutes printed.

On motion give clerk authority to correct mistakes and have minutes printed and pay for same.

Returned correspondence to sister associations as follows:

Union—B. Baker, Wednesday and Thursday before 4th Sunday in October, 1945.

New Hope Church, Murphy, Ga.

Chattahoochee, New Prospect. Thursday before 1st. Sunday in October, 1946. Riley Giddens.

Georgia Union—Rev. T. M. Giddens. Thursday and Friday before 2nd Sunday in October, 1946.

South Georgia—Bro. Eddie Williams, Rev. T. M. Giddens. Piney Grove Church, Friday and Saturday before 4th Sunday in October, 1946.

By a move and second, adjourned to meet with Forest Hill Church, Thursday and Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1946.

REV. T. M. GIDDENS, Moderator.

B. BAKER, Clerk

### LIST OF DELEGATES.

OZIAS—B. F. Guest, W. M. Wilson.

SUNNY SIDE—Leon Bowen, Clayton Bowen, Everett Williams, Audie Williams, Eddie Williams, E. C. Fancher.

FOREST HILL—Sister Annie Bell Grady, Sister Walter Gibbs, R. S. Hayes.

ZION HILL—J. B. Kennon, Sister Florence Davis.

CORINTH—L. D. Wynn, M. M. Franks, V. R. Franks, Sister L. E. Wynn.

COOL SPRINGS—L. W. Chafin, H. E. Willis, N. C. Brannon. Sister Lois Wilson, Ed Wilson, Sister Corda McInvale.

FRIENDSHIP—Sisters Fannie Davis, Lillie Davis, Leno Studly, R. M. Douglas, Jeff Giddens.

PINE LEVEL—J. M. Hartsfield, Tom Carlton, Sister J. M. Hartsfield, Sister Tom Carlton.

ORANGE GROVE—Sister N. H. Parrish.

OAK GROVE—Sister Ida Lancaster, Sister Kizzie Fort.

### JAMES D. LITTLE UNION MEETINGS

Shady Grove	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1945
Cool Springs	First 5th Sunday in 1946
Corinth	Second 5th Sunday in 1946
Ozias, Joint-Union	Third 5th Sunday in 1946
Forest Hill	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1946
Pine Level	First 5th Sunday in 1947

### RUTH KENNON UNION MEETING

Orange Grove	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1945
Sunny Side	First 5th Sunday in 1946
Friendship	Second 5th Sunday in 1946
Ozias, Joint Union	Third 5th Sunday in 1946
Oak Grove	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1946
Zion Hill	First 5th Sunday in 1947

### 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. Griffis	1939
Rev. W. R. Cato	1941
Rev. J. C. Arnold	1942

### 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.
Rev. T. G. Hamilton	3609 Richland Ave. Nashville, Tenn.

### LICENTIATES

Charley Balance	Pearson, Ga.
Riley Giddens,	Pearson, Ga.

Voted and sent Committees to see Rev. J. D. Little and Bro. L. S. Davis Thursday night to express our regret and sympathy for them in their sickness.

By request we list the offering given Rev. J. B. Harris of the South Georgia Association in 1945 by our membership.

Sunny Side Church	\$109.50
Corinth Church	66.25
Cool Springs Church	28.57
Zion Hill Church	10.00
Ruth Kennon Union	25.00
Ozias	23.00
Association offering	28.87

Treasurer report in hand	\$ 98.57
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Paid out to Clerk	\$20.00
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Paid Moderator	5.00
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#### Traveling Expense of Delegates:

Rev. L. S. Anthony	3.50	
Rev. J. B. Lumpkin	3.50	
Rev. J. B. Harris	2.60	
Rev. R. M. Massey	2.50	
Rev. J. C. Weathers	4.00	
Minutes	40.00	
Postage	1.68	82.78
	\$82.78	115.79

### 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.

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. J. D. Little, Rev. M. T. Goff, Rev. T. M. Giddens.

## OBITUARIES

### In Memory of Sister N. R. Arnold

Mrs. N. R. Arnold:

We are sorry to report the missing of our old beloved Sister N. R. Arnold, who died December 27, and who had been a faithful member of this church since 1907, the year in which our church was organized. She was well-known throughout Ware County. We all enjoyed visiting Grandma, as we all called her. She was the mother of six children, and the wife of Joseph Joe Arnold. We know our loss is Heaven's gain.

OVEDA ARNOLD, Clerk,

Millwood, Ga.

We regret to report the death of Sister Roxey Williams who was a very faithful member of Sunny Side church. Very patient and bore her trouble patiently. Her death came in her home July 1945. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

E. C. FANCHER.

### Friendship Church.

We regret very much to report the death of Sister Mamie Davis. She was a loving mother and will be missed so much by her many friends. We feel that our loss is her eternal gain.

MRS. NELL DOUGLAS, Clerk.

### Friendship Church.

We regret very much to report the death of Brother Marvin Hulett, who became a member of our church only a year ago. His death came early this year. We feel that our loss is his eternal gain.

MRS. NELL DOUGLAS, Clerk.

## 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, 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.

### 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 Association.

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. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer unless divine service has just been concluded, 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 which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

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

13. Any orderly members 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 intro-

duced, 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 acknowledgment 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 exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, no 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 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. Members 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 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 influences, 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 them be unto thee as an heathen man and a 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 quarterly.



## DECORUM

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

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names 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 Association 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 received 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. Requirement 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, given 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 institutions 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 this Association by a majority of votes.

## 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 24:15; 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; Act 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 14:16-20; 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 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 saith, 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 goldly 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 the 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 1:15-20; Acts 3:38-39; Rom. 6:5; Col. 2:12.

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

### FORMS 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.

..... Church Clerk.

## CHURCH LETTER

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

This is to certify that.....  
is a member of the above named church in good standing and  
is hereby at his or her request dismissed from us. Done by order  
of the church in conference. This letter will be void after six  
months.

..... Moderator.

..... Church Clerk.

### 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 fellow-  
ship. (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.

