

MINUTES
OF THE
Forty Third Annual Session
OF THE
LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION
OF THE
UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS
CONVENED WITH
Corinth

TIFT COUNTY, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 13 and 14, 1949

REV. T. M. GIDDENS, Moderator _____ Pearson, Ga.
REV. RILEY GIDDENS, Ass. Mod. _____ Ray City, Ga.
C. M. Chafin, Jr., Clerk _____ Norman Park, Ga.

Next Session to convene with Friendship Church, Ware
County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday before
Third Sunday in October, 1950.

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 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.

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

PROCEEDINGS

The forty third (43) annual session of the Little River Association of the United Free Will Baptist, convened with Corinth Church, Tift County Ga.

The session was called to order by singing "Oh I Want To See Him."

Introductory sermon by Rev. J. D. Little, followed by Rev. Thomas H. Willey giving a very interesting talk on his mission work in Cuba.

Dismissed for lunch by Bro. W. M. Wilson. Meeting called to order after lunch, and had prayer by Rev. Thomas H. Willey, and the Scripture Lesson by Mod. Rev. Riley Giddens.

CALLED FOR CHURCH LETTERS

Appointed Bros. W. M. Wilson and W. N. Wilson to read letters to the Association.

Move and second that we receive the letters and seat the delegates.

Move and second that we elect a Moderator and Clerk.

Elected by ballot Rev. T. M. Giddens Moderator, and C. M. Chafin, Jr., Clerk. Rev. Riley Giddens Assistant Moderator.

Called for petitionary letters, none received.

Invite visiting Brethren to seats with us, and call for Corresponding Messengers.

Received Bro. J. B. Harris from the South Ga., Association; Bro's B. D. Lawson, G. C. King, Authur Little, and Daniel Harris, from the Chattahoochee Association, Rev. Neal H. Parrish, from the Georgia Union Association, Rev. E. C. Morris from the State Association, Rev. C. J. Harvey from the Midway Association, Rev. Thomas H. Willey as a Missionary from Cuba.

Rev. Thomas H. Willey,
APARTADO, 27.
PINAR DEL RIO, CUBA.

Appointed committees as follows.

PREACHING—W. N. Wilson, M. M. Franks, and Ed. Wilson.

DENOMINATIOAL LITERATURE — Annie Bell Grady, Willene Hunter, and Willie Cowart.

TEMPERANCE—T. C. Goble, W. M. Wilson, and J. L. Franks.

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CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION—H. R. Douglas, Ben Baker, Tom Carlton.

EDUCATION—Mrs. Lizzie Douglas, Mrs. N. H. Parrish, and Carey Lancaster.

MINISTERS—J. C. Arnold, R. S. Hayes and G. G. Law

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND LITERATURE—Mrs. Riley Giddens, Mrs. Annie Douglas, Mrs. James Whisnet.

RESOLUTIONS—Macon Paulk, Mrs. Jewel Ross, and N. C. Brannan.

FINANCE—John Henry Ivey, Eddie Williams and J. P.

CARD OF THANKS—Rev. Eddie Williams.

SHORT TALK—by Bro. G. C. King on the Baptist young peoples camp. The camp has entertained well over one hundred young people, since it opened in June, and the results have been very favorable, the people definitely show that the training they get in the camp is making church leaders out of them.

Bro. King's statement was endorsed by Rev. C. J. Harvey.

Move that we adjourn by Ed. Stone until Friday morning at nine o'clock. Dismissed by Rev. J. B. Harris.

Service Thursday night by Rev. T. M. Giddens.

TEXT. ACTS. Chapter 16. 30-31.

"Sirs what shall I do to be saved? And they said, believe on Me, and thou shall be saved".

Move that each church bring a report next year of the number of active members, in the church.

Move that we settle on changing the church decorum, as to the time the preacher will be called.

No all the churches had took up the resolution, so it was dropped for this session.

The church at New Jeresulem was received into full fellowship of the Association by reading their letter and seating the delegates.

Moved and passed that we pay Clerk and Moderator the same as last year and give the Clerk authority to correct minutes if necessary.

We have Friendship Church asking for the Association from last year and this year.

We have Oak Grove asking for the Association in their letter this year.

The body of delegates voted to convene with Friendship Church in Ware County, Waycross, Rt. 4, near Waresboro.

Directions—Turn left four miles north of Millwood, about one half mile off the highway.

Move that we adjourn for twenty minutes for the committees to meet.

After intermission, received the Committee reports as follows:

FRIDAY MORNING

Meeting called to order by singing "The Royal Telephone".

Prayer by Rev. Mack Goff.

Scripture lesson by the Moderator—Isiah 12th Chapter.

Called for corresponding messengers from churches that were not represented yesterday. Received letters and seated delegates from Friendship and Orange Grove.

Move that we dispense with regular order of business and take up miscellaneous business.

Move that we appoint delegates to sister association—Bro. Ben Baker and M. M. Franks to South Ga., Association at Philadelphia Church, Folkston, Ga.

Rev. T. M. Giddens, Everett Williams and Ben Baker to Chattahoochee, at Columbus, Friday and Saturday before 1st Sunday in October, 1950.

Riley Giddens and J. D. Little to Union at Tallahassee, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, fourth week in October, 1949.

Move that we correspond with the Midway, Martin and Georgia Union, by sending them a Minute.

Moved and passed that we appoint Bro. Macon Paulk as a member of the Executive Committee, in place of Bro. Hartsfield.

Moved and passed that we have 500 minutes printed.

PREACHING FINAL REPORT

We your committee on preaching recommend that Bro. T. M. Giddens preach Thursday night.

We also recommend that Rev. Lawson preach Friday, at eleven o'clock followed by Rev. J. C. Weathers. We further recommend that Bro. Coy Watson preach after the business is finished Friday followed by Rev. Seaborn Boeing.

M. M. Franks, Chairman

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE

We your committee on Denominational Literature recommend that all our churches use Free Will Baptist literature in their Sunday school.

We recommend that Rev. Seaborn Boeing preach the Introductory sermon at the next session, and Rev. M. T. Goff as alternate.

We recommend the Body decide where the next session will convene.

Annie Belle Graddy, Chairman

TEMPERANCE

We your committee on Temperance recommend that all members of our churches attend church and Sunday school and also, all our promotional meetings. Also all members be Temperate in all things and let our light shine, that others might see our good works, and Glorify our Father which is in Heaven. May we all Pray more concerning these things.

T. C. GLOBE, Chairman

CHURCHES IN DESTITUTION

From the reports of different churches, we your committee find all churches in good condition and supplied with pastors except New Jeresulem, who do not have a pastor so far.

H. R. DOUGLAS, Chairman

EDUCATION

We your committee seeing the rising need of education, recommend our ministers strive to get a better education, so they may better explain to a more educated people our belief as Free Will Baptist and Christians.

Mrs. RILEY GIDDENS, Chairman

MINISTERS

We your committee find all ministers in the Little River Association in good standing as far as we know.

J. C. ARNOLD, Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND LITERATURE

We our committee recommend we use Proverbs 21:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it."

We also recommend that churches who don't have Sunday schools, organize them, using Free Will Baptist Literature.

MRS. RILEY GIDDENS, Chairman

RESOLUTIONS

We your committee on resolutions recommend that the first paragraph one (1) of the Church Decorum be changed to August Conference.

Also that all churches be diligent in sending funds for Associational purposes.

We move the resolution be taken back to each church and taken up in conference as required in the church decorum to change the decorum, and report it in their letter to the Association next year.

MACON PAULK, Chairman

FINANCE

Balance from last year	\$.56
Received after printing	4.00
Received from churches	79.00
Total	\$83.56

CARD OF THANKS

We the members and messengers of the Little River Association desire to express to Corinth Church and community by a rising vote, our appreciation for their courtesy and hospitality we have enjoyed while in their midst, may the Lord bless them a hundred fold.

EVERRETT WILLIAMS, Chairman

Meeting called to order by singing "I'll Have A New Body." Prayer by Rev. Riley Giddens.

Service at 11:30 Friday by Rev. B. D. Lawson, followed by Rev. J. C. Weathers.

Text Rev. Lawson, Proverbs 18th Chapter, 18th Verse. Text Rev. Weathers, Psalm 15th Chapter, 1-3 Verse.

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. J. B. Harris.

Another very nice spread of lunch was enjoyed by all.

Friday afternoon session called to order by singing, "I Like The Old Time Religion". Prayer by Rev. Seaborn Boeing.

Reports of the committees that had not already reported. Moved and passed by the body, to receive New Jeresulem into Full Fellowship of the Association.

Letters of Orange Grove and Friendship that came in late read by W. M. Wilson. Moved and passed that we receive the letters.

Rev. T. M. Giddens volunteered to go to the State Association.

Voted for Bro. Giddens to represent our Association at the State Association.

Moved and passed that we adjourn for preaching and closing of the Associational Year.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

OZIAS—W. M. Wilson, W. N. Wilson, Willie Cowart, W. M. Corbett, Mrs. W. M. Corbett and Sister Riley Giddens.

FRIENDSHIP—Mrs. Lizzie Douglas, Mrs. Fannie Davis and Mrs. Jewel Ross.

COOL SPRINGS—Ben Baker, Mrs. Ben Baker, Sam Jordan, N. C. Brannan, John Henry Ivey, James Whisnet, Ed Stone, Ed Wilson, A. R. Chafin, Mrs. A. R. Chafin, Louise Ivey and Mrs. James Whisnet.

SUNNYSIDE—H. R. Douglas, Annie Douglas, Eddie Williams, Leona Williams, Jonnie Taft, Etta Little, Willie Williams, Ruth Mets and Jondie Johnson.

PINE LEVEL—Tom Carlton, Mrs. Tom Carlton, Albert Graham, Mrs. Albert Graham, Macon Paulk, Mrs. Macon Paulk, George Davis, J. P. Perry and Mrs. J. P. Perry.

ORANGE GROVE—Ray Parrish and Mrs. N. H. Parrish.

OAK GROVE—Carey Lancaster, Ida Lancaster, Kizzie Fort, Willene Hunter and Ruth Griner.

ZION HILL—Lorain Arnold, J. C. Arnold and Annie Davis.

FORREST HILL—B. F. Rice, R. S. Hays, Mrs. Annie Bell Grady and Mrs. Walter Gibbs.

NEW JERESULEM—T. C. Goble, Remer Browning and G. G. Law.

CORINTH—J. L. Franks, V. R. Franks, M. M. Franks, R. F. Mason, A. J. Mason and G. G. Parr.

SHADY GROVE—Jonie Hamilton, Mrs. Jonie Hamilton and Elvin Purvis.

UNION MEETINGS

(J. D. Little)

Pine Level	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1949
Shady Grove	First 5th Sunday in 1950
New Jeresulem	Second 5th Sunday in 1950
Friendship—Joint Union	Third 5th Sunday in 1950
Cool Springs	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1950
Corinth	First 5th Sunday in 1951
Forrest Hill	Second 5th Sunday in 1951

(Ruth Kennon)

Ozias	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1949
Zion Hill	First 5th Sunday in 1950
Sunnyside	Second 5th Sunday in 1950
Friendship—Joint Union	Third 5th Sunday in 1950
Orange Grove	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1950
Ozias	First 5th Sunday in 1951

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
Rev. John R. Weeks	1947

MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES

Rev. J. F. Smith	Moultrie, Ga.
Rev. M. T. Goff	Lenox, Ga.
Rev. T. W. Giddens	Pearson, Ga.
Rev. Seaborn Bowen	Willacoochee, Ga.
Rev. J. D. Little	Kirkland, Ga.
Rev. T. G. Hamilton	Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. Riley Giddens	Ray City, Ga.
Rev. Everett Williams	Pearson, Ga.
Rev. W. A. Pope	Bainbridge, Ga.
Rev. J. C. Weathers	Cordele, Ga.
Rev. T. A. Pannell	Moultrie, Ga.
Rev. J. H. Williams, Jr.	Moultrie, Ga.
Rev. G. G. Law	Moultrie, Ga.
Rev. A. H. O'Kelly	Moultrie, Ga.

OBITUARIES

Sister Ollie Flower passed away Nov. 17, 1948. We sincerely believe that our loss was Heavens gain, and that all who will walk in her footsteps and love the Lord as she did will meet her in Heaven.

W. H. WILLIAMS, JR.
Clerk, New Jerusalem Church.

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of our Sister Mary Davis, whom we all learned to love many years ago. We feel that she was well acquainted with the Lord and his Goodness. All who knew her learned to love her very much. We sincerely believe she has gone to rest and trust all her friends and loved ones will meet her in the sweet by and by.

MRS. MAMIE MERCER,
Clerk, Zion Hill Church

With much regrets we record the death of Sister Rhoda Crews, who was a member of Oak Grove Church since the Constitution. She was blessed to a ripe old age. We feel that our loss is her eternal gain.

IDA LANCASTER,
Clerk, Oak Grove Church

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of our beloved Brother J. L. Hartsfield, who departed this life August 28th, 1949. Bro. Hartsfield was a charter member of Pine Level Church. He was a Faithful and loyal member to his church. We miss his presence at church very much. He was loved by all that knew him. We sincerely believe that our loss will be Heavens gain and that all who will love the Lord as he did will meet him in Heaven.

J. P. PERRY
Clerk, Pine Level Church

Our Dear Brother L. W. Chafin died Jan. 22, 1949 of gunshot wounds, suffered on a hunting trip. He was one of the oldest and most loved members of our church.

We all miss his presence at church so very much, because he was a great leader in any church work. We trust that his life here will be rewarded with a home in the City on high with his God whom he loved so very much.

C. M. Chafin, Jr.,
Clerk, Cool Springs Church

Sister Betty Flowers died Dec. 29th, 1948. She was a member of long standing in our church. We trust she is at rest with her Savior.

C. M. CHAFIN, JR.,
Clerk, Cool Springs Church

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total in Treasure	\$ 83.58
Paid Moderator	5.00
Paid Clerk	20.00
Printing Minutes	75.00
Postage	1.00
Total Paid Out	101.00
Treasure Deficit	\$ 17.44

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

C. M. Chafin	Norman Park, Ga.
Macon Paulk	Tifton, Ga.
H. R. Douglas	Kirkland, Ga.
L. S. Davis	Wareboro, Ga.
Martin Corbett	Pearson, Ga.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

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

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 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 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. That 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 delegates or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.
6. That 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 thereupon, their only power being to transact business which does fort; and to give that advice to churches which might equal not prelain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity; to promote natural intercourses, and a concentration of voluntary effort an association has no authority over churches or individual 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 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. An 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 or 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 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, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

25. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep 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 let them be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

7. We believe the worldly dance and drinking ardent spirits with the 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 a 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. The 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, 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 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 this Association by a majority of votes.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

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

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this 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 quick and dead.—I Tim. 2:5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 3:1; Eph. 4:4, 6.

3rd. 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 16:7, 8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 3:1; Eph. 4:4, 6.

4th. We believe 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.

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

6th. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of Christ, who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that brought them; because they believed not in the name of 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 argument that all men, at one time or other, are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; I. John 5:10.

7th. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II. Tim. 3:16, 17.

8th. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe in the Gospel.—Luke 14:16, 20; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3, 5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9th. 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 teachings; whereas, such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation, for willfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45, 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 22:29.

10th. We believe that men, not considered, simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought 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 of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God—Jude 1:4; II. Peter 2:1; II. Thes. 2:11, 12; Rom. 2:9, 11.

11th. 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 them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any of them dying in that state, shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the kingdom of God."—I. Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:25; Mark 9:36, 37; Matt. 18:25. Matt. 19:13.

12th. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace, and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14, 15; Isa. 1:19, 20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34, 35.

13th. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, power or ability, which he has in and of 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 cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting death or everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice, further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly, who die in sin unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22, 31; Matt. 25:31, 46.

15th. We believe, as touching gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saint's feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, 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.—Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19, 20; John 13:5, 17; Jas. 5:14.

16th. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that the believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 3:19, 21; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17th. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgement at the last day.—John 5:28, 29; II. Cor. 5:10.

18th. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt 25:46.

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., 19____
Signed _____ Moderator

_____ Ordaining Council

CHURCH LETTER

_____ Free Will Baptist Church of Christ
This the _____ day of _____, A. D., 19____
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

**PETITIONARY LETTER FROM A CHURCH
TO AN ASSOCIATION**

----- Free Will Baptist Church of Christ
This the ----- day of -----, A. D., 19----

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 call-
ed 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

HOW TO ORGANIZE A CHURCH

When any member or 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. (G) 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.

Statistical Table

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERK and POSTOFFICE	Sunday of Meeting	Received by Letter	Received by Conf. of Faith	Restored	Excluded	Received by Baptism	Dismissed by Letter	Paid for Minutes	Gave Pastors	Value of Church Building	Improvements	Gospel Mission	Total Members	Sunday School	No. In Sunday School
New Jerusalem	Unknown	W. H. Williams, Moultrie	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	\$ 4.00	103.25	\$1000.00	\$ 15.00	0	88	No	24
Zion Hill	Riley Giddens	Mamie Mercer, Millwood	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	5.00	103.25	3500.00	115.95	52.25	27	Yes	35
Coermish	Coy Watson	K. C. Franks, Tifton, Rt. 5	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	7.50	285.36	2000.00	50.00	76.50	146	Yes	40
Cool Springs	Coy Watson	C. M. Chafin, Norman Park	2	3	0	1	0	0	3	15.00	325.00	2000.00	325.00	146.03	85	Yes	30
Ordas	J. B. Lovering	W. M. Wilson, Pearson, Ga.	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	7.50	1119.68	2000.00	325.00	75.10	34	Yes	35
Forest Hall	T. M. Giddens	Mrs. Walter Gibbs, Adel	4	2	0	0	0	0	2	5.00	122.75	1000.00	82.50	0	34	Yes	35
Oak Grove	Riley Giddens	Ida Lancaster, Stockton,	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	3.00	75.00	1000.00	487.65	0	78	Yes	35
Pine Level	J. B. Lumpkin	J. P. Perry, Norman Park	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	5.00	246.75	2000.00	40.00	49.20	51	Yes	35
Friendship	Neal H. Parrish	Mrs. Tom Ross, Millwood	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	6.00	100.10	2000.00	117.00	117.00	35	Yes	34
Orange Grove	Neal H. Parrish	Rosa B. Self, Valdosta, Ga.	2	4	0	0	0	0	2	7.00	85.00	1500.00	295.00	155.91	93	Yes	94
Sunnyside	T. M. Giddens	Leon Williams, Kirkland,	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	10.00	85.00	1500.00	125.00	18.00	93	Yes	94
Shady Grove	Lonnie Lovitte	A. D. Goff, Lenox, Ga.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.00	85.00	1500.00	125.00	18.00	93	Yes	94