

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**Forty-Fourth Annual Session**  
**OF THE**  
**Little River Association**  
**OF THE**  
**United Free Will Baptists**  
**CONVENED WITH**  
**Friendship**  
**WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**OCTOBER 12 and 13, 1950**

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REV. T. M. GIDDENS, Moderator, \_\_\_\_\_ Pearson, Ga.  
REV. RILEY GIDDENS, Asst. Mod. \_\_\_\_\_ Ray City, Ga.  
C. M. CHAFIN, JR., Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Norman Park, Ga.

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Next Session to convene with Oak Grove Church, Lanier  
County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday before  
Third Sunday in October, 1951

## **CHURCH CONFERENCE**

1. Prayer (unless divine service has just been concluded and generally then).
2. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
3. Open the doors 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.

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

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## **PROCEEDINGS**

The forty-fourth (44) annual session of the Little River Association of the United Free Will Baptist met Thursday, October 12, 1950, with the Friendship Church in Ware County, Georgia.

The morning session was called to order by singing "Love Lifted Me."

In the absence of Bro. Seaborn Boeing, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. D. Little. After the message a short talk was made by Moderator Bro. T. M. Giddens. (Text: John 14:1-10.)

Dismissed for lunch. A very bountiful spread of lunch was enjoyed by all.

Afternoon session called to order by singing "Trust and Obey". Prayer by Bro. W. M. Wilson. Text read by Moderator, Bro. T. M. Giddens. (Psalms 15:1-5)

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## **CALLED FOR CHURCH LETTERS**

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

Move and second we accept the letters and seat the delegates.

Call roll of Delegates and marked off all that were absent.  
Move that we elect a Clerk, Moderator and Assistant Moderator.  
Appointed Bros. G. C. King, J. C. Weathers and E. C. Morris to count the ballots for Clerk and Moderators.

Singing by the Delegation at large while the votes were being counted.

Report of election of Clerk and Moderator by E. C. Morris.  
Elected T. M. Giddens, Moderator; Riley Giddens, Assistant Moderator; C. M. Chafin, Jr., Clerk.

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

Received Bro. G. C. King from Chattahoochee Association.

Bro. E. C. Morris from the State Association and South Georgia.

Moved the Moderator welcome the Corresponding Messengers by a welcome hand.

Called for petitionary letters. Two letters received from churches at Valdosta and Waycross. Accepted and read by Bros. Johnnie Taft and W. M. Wilson. Request from Church at Waycross asking the Ordaining Council to look into the status of Bro. J. L. Bradley. Statement by Bro. J. D. Little that he would get the ordaining council together and meet Bro. Bradley at Pearson soon.

Dismissed for intermission while clerk and moderator appoint committees.

The following committees were appointed:

PREACHING—M. M. Franks, Audie Williams and Ed Wilson.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE—Ruth Griner, Mrs. J. C. Arnold and Ruth Meets.

TEMPERANCE—Mrs. Riley Giddens, Estell Davis, Mrs. J. J. Gray.

CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION—H. W. Selph, Johnnie Taft, N. C. Brannan.

EDUCATION—L. W. Steedley, Dan Graham and Jewel Ross.

MINISTERS—R. S. Hayes, N. T. Brooks and Ira Pittman.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND LITERATURE—Willie Mae Brooks, Lola Bowen and Thelma Bradley.

RESOLUTIONS—Cleon Clementt, W. N. Wilson and J. A. Pope.

FINANCE—K. C. Franks, E. C. Fancher and J. J. Gray.

CARD OF THANKS—J. B. Kennon, Eddie Williams and Chester Hunter.

Called back to order by singing "I'll Live for Him". Called the committees.

People staying in the community were placed. Move that we adjourn until Friday morning at nine o'clock.

Dismissed by Bro. N. H. Parrish.

Service Thursday night by Bro. Everett Williams. Text: Psalms 11:3. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do."

**FRIDAY MORNING**

Meeting called to order by singing "More About Thee."

Prayer by Bro. Riley Giddens.

Scripture lesson, Psalm 54:1-44.

Called for letters from churches not yet reported. Received one from New Jerusalem which was read by W. N. Wilson.

Called for corresponding messengers.



Called for report of Committees: Ministers, R. S. Hayes; Churches and Destitution, H. W. Selph; Temperance, Mrs. Riley Giddens; Preaching, M. M. Franks; Finance, K. C. Franks; Sunday Schools and Literature, Willie Mae Brooks; Education, L. W. Steedly; Denominational Literature, Ruth Griner; Resolutions, Cleon Clemmett; Card of Thanks, J. B. Kennon.

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

Move and second that we have 400 minutes printed.

Move and second that we pay clerk \$20.00.

Move and second that we pay Moderator \$5.00.

Move and second that we retain the same Executive Committee.

Move and second that we retain the same Ordaining Council with the privilege of adding more if necessary.

Move and second that Oak Grove be given 5th 5th Sunday meeting in 1950 and be placed back in the Union meeting order.

Appoint corresponding messengers: 1. Chattahoochee, J. D. Little, T. Riley, Giddens. (Friday and Saturday before 1st in October). 2. Martin Midway—by sending them a minute of our Association. 3. Union, Rev. T. A. Pannell (Wednesday and Thursday before 4th in October). 4. South Georgia, Fannie Davis and Estell Davis. (Friday and Saturday before 4th in October).

Move and second we adjourn for thirty (30) minutes for the committees to meet.

Called back to order by singing "Call the Prodigal".

Called for report of Committees.

Moved and passed that the Delegates go back and take up the matter of the shortage of money, and send it in before the Minutes are printed.

Morning message by Bro. Sellars, his text being Luke 10:25.

Dismissed for lunch by Bro. E. C. Morris.

### PREACHING FINAL REPORT

We your committee on Preaching recommend that Bro. Everett Williams preach Thursday night. We also recommend that Bro. Weather follow.

We further recommend that Bro. Gussie Sellers preach Friday at 11:30 o'clock. We also recommend that Bro. Riley Giddens preach after the business is over if the body wants to have further service.

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. Riley Giddens preach the Introductory sermon at the next session and Rev. E. C. Morris as alternate.

We recommend to the body that they send next Association to Oak Grove Church.

RUTH GRINER, Chairman.

## **TEMPERANCE**

We your committee on Temperance recommend that members of our churches attend Church and Sunday School, also all our Promotional meetings; also all members be temperate in all things and let our lights shine that others might see our good works and Glorify our Father which is in Heaven.

May we all pray more concerning these things.

**MRS. RILEY GIDDENS, Chairman.**

## **CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION**

We your committee on Churches and Destitutions from the reports of different churches find that all churches in good condition except Shady Grove without services.

We recommend that this body appoint a committee to investigate, and then each Union meeting help bear the burden of paying the expense of a Pastor for them.

**H. W. SELPH, Chairman.**

## **EDUCATION**

We your committee, seeing the rising generation are more educated, recommend that young ministers strive to get a better education. This will enable them to better explain our beliefs as Free Will Baptists.

**L. W. STEEDLEY, Chairman.**

## **MINISTERS**

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

**R. S. HAYES, Chairman.**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND LITERATURE**

We your committee recommend that all Free Will Baptist Churches have a good Sunday School, and not only send the children but go with them, bringing them up in a way they should go and when they're old they will not depart from it. We also recommend that Free Will Baptist Literature be used.

**WILLIE MAE BROOKS, Chairman**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

We your committee on Resolutions recommend that each church call its Pastor two conference days before the association convenes.

We also recommend that this Association be reunited with the State Association.

**CLEONE CLEMMETTS, Chairman**

## FINANCE

New Jerusalem	\$9.00
Friendship	\$6.00
Zion Hill	\$5.00
Corinth	\$10.00
Cool Springs	\$17.50
Ozias	\$7.50
Forest Hill	\$5.00
Oak Grove	\$5.00
Pine Level	\$9.50
Orange Grove	\$7.45
Sunny Side	\$12.00
Shady Grove	
1st Free Will Baptist Valdosta	\$5.00
1st Free Will Baptist Waycross	\$6.00

TOTAL \$102.95

We report the above from the various churches for minutes and Associational purpose.

K. C. FRANKS, Chairman.

## CARD OF THANKS

We, the members and messengers of the Little River Association desire to express to Friendship 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 hundredfold.

J. B. Kinnon, Chairman.

After lunch a song session was enjoyed and then called to order with prayer: Neal H. Parrish.

Received letter from Orange Grove and read by W. M. Wilson. The letter was accepted.

Received the Report of the Resolutions Committee, voted on and accepted the first part to change the Church Decorum.

Talk by Bro. E. C. Morris on the Advantages of the State Association. Bro. Morris' talk was requested by a vote of the delegates.

Voted on last part for membership with the State Association. 38 for, 13 against making this body a member of the State Association. Entrance fee had already been paid by one man.

Committee appointed to Shady Grove to see if they desire help from the Association in acquiring a pastor.—J. D. Little, J. L. Hartsfield, H. R. Douglas, Buddy Wilson.

If the church cannot be built up, the Association will have to take the church property and dispose of it.

Appoint delegates to State Association: W. N. Wilson, E. C. Fancher.

Move that we accept the deed from Orange Grove Church to the Little River Association. Paid Bro. Parrish for Deed Fee.

Donation for the purpose of paying for a piano for the church at Valdosta taken by Bro. J. D. Little, \$13.00.

Collection was made to pay for deed for Orange Grove Church. More than enough money was received. \$1.75 was given on minute money.

Dismissed by prayer.



## LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

OAK GROVE—Ruth Griner, Chester Hunter, Mrs. Chester Hunter, Mrs. Effie Smith, Ollif Durrance.

CORINTH—K. C. Franks, M. M. Franks, Mrs. M. M. Franks.

ZION HILL—L. S. Davis, J. B. Kennon, Ruby Bennett.

NEW JERUSALEM—Will Wiard, Mrs. Will Wiard.

SUNNYSIDE—Eddie Williams, Ella Little, Audie Williams, E. C. Fancher.

OZIAS—Mrs. W. N. Wilson, Mrs. B. L. Guest, Mrs. Martin Kirby, Mrs. Lillian Ryon.

FOREST HILL—

COOL SPRINGS—Dan Graham, Ed Wilson, Lois Wilson, N. C. Brannan, J. A. Pope.

FRIENDSHIP—Maron Herndon, Jeff Giddens, Fannie Davis, Jewel Ross, Mrs. O. E. Giddens.

PINE LEVEL—

VALDOSTA 1ST FREE WILL BAPTIST—Mrs. H. W. Selph, J. E. Jacobs.

WAYCROSS 1ST FREE WILL BAPTIST—Annie Davis.

ORANGE GROVE—Neal C. Parrish.

### UNION MEETING

(Liberty)

Cool Springs	-----	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1950
Corinth	-----	Fifth 5th Sunday in 1951
Forrest Hill	-----	First 5th Sunday in 1951
Pine Level	Joint -----	Second 5th Sunday in 1951
Shady Grove	-----	Third 5th Sunday in 1951
New Jerusalem	-----	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1951
Cool Springs	-----	First 5th Sunday in 1952

(Ruth Kennon)

Oak Grove	-----	Fifth 5th Sunday in 1950
Osias	-----	First 5th Sunday in 1951
Pine Level—Joint Union	-----	Second 5th Sunday in 1951
Zion Hill	-----	Third 5th Sunday in 1951
First Free Will Baptist of Waycross	-----	Fourth 5th Sunday in 1951
First Free Will Baptist of Valdosta	-----	First 5th Sunday in 1952
Sunnyside	-----	Second 5th Sunday in 1952
Friendship	-----	Third 5th Sunday in 1952

The J. D. Little Union Meeting thought it best to change its name because it was named after a living man, and should be named after the dead, or some other good name.

Passed by the Liberty Union Meeting Body.

## DECEASED MINISTERS TO TELL

Rev. Tharp Bailey	1911
Rev. J. J. Davis	1913
Rev. C. Leon Starling	1919
Rev. B. J. Griffin	1926
Rev. H. J. Cowart	1926
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 POSTOFFICES

Rev. Riley Giddens	Ray City, Ga.
Rev. J. F. Smith	Moultrie, Ga.
Rev. T. A. Pannell	Moultrie, Ga.
Rev. J. H. Williams, Jr.	Calhoun, Ga.
Rev. W. A. Pope	Bainbridge, Ga.
Rev. T. M. Giddens	Kirkland, Ga.
Rev. Seaborn Bowen	Willacoochee, Ga.
Rev. J. D. Little	Kirkland, Ga.
Rev. Everett Williams	Kirkland, Ga.
Rev. J. C. Weathers	Cordele, Ga.
Rev. T. G. Hamilton	Nashville, Tenn.
M. T. Goff	Lenox, Ga.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Received from Churches	\$102.95
Received During Session	1.75
Total in Treasure	104.70
Paid Moderator	5.00
Paid Clerk	20.00
Printing Minutes	97.50
Postage	1.00
Total Paid Out	123.50
Treasure Deficit	18.50

## OBITUARIES

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of five of our members of Oziás Church, viz:

Sarah Ann McGahee died Dec. 29, 1949, age 67.

T. L. Wilson died Jan. 15, 1950, age 83.

B. F. Guest died Feb. 21, 1950, age 65.

Tommie Vining died March 16, 1950, age 84.

Candacy Corbett died May 14, 1950, age 84.

We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

W. M. WILSON, Clerk



## IN MEMORIAM

Of Sister Candacy Starling Corbett of Pearson, Georgia. Born October, 30, 1866, died May 14, 1950. She was married to Bro. J. Newsome Corbett, May 22, 1882. Bro. Corbett died March 17, 1921. She having lived in widowhood more than 29 years. She leaves three sons and five daughters, namely, Martin C., William N., and Hosea C. Corbett, and Mrs. J. O. White, Mrs. Clayton Morris, Mrs. W. M. Wilson, Mrs. Matthew Mizelle and Mrs. George Kirkland, all of Pearson, Georgia.

Sister Corbett united with the church early in life and became a charter member in the organization of Ozias Free Will Baptist Church along with her husband. She was ever a loyal and faithful member of her church and by her fine christian spirit demonstrated toward all who were in need of such kindnesses as she was able to render, had endeared herself to practically all who knew her. She was most kind and considerate toward the sick and those who suffered otherwise, always demonstrating the fine quality of benevolence toward those who needed her help.

Her sweet christian life was truly a light to others along life's way, a life lifting the fallen and cheering the sorrowing. She was a member of Ozias Church for more than fifty years. It is true that Ozias Church has lost a faithful member. Her children have lost an unstinting, loving and sacrificial mother and the others who knew her have lost a devoted friend. However, let us all bow with humble submission to our Father in Heaven in His having called her up higher to receive the crown which surely, she won through faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the following be the sentiment of her children and grandchildren

"Sleep on mother, take thy rest.

God called thee home, He knew 'twas best."

Written by Neal H. Parish, a former pastor of Ozias Church.

We regret very much to report the death of Sister Estell Collins, who departed this life Sept. 15, 1950. She was a member of Pine Level Church, and loved by all who knew her. We sincerely believe that our loss will be Heaven's gain.

J. P. PERRY, Clerk, Pine Level Church.

Bro. Kelly Franks and Bro. Dan Graham spoke of Bro. J. C. Weathers and his mother's sickness and suggested that the people that wanted to help them hand it to Bro. Weathers. \$55.50 was handed him, which was highly appreciated, and may the Lord ever bless the givers.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

C. M. Chafin	Norman Park, Ga.
Macon Paulk	Tifton, 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,  
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 baptised 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 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 equal authority 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 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 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 Savior 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.

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### DECORUM

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceeding 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.

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### 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 postoffice of the Church Clerk, give the number baptised, 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.

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

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16, 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 in the Gospel.—Luke 14:16, 20; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3, 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 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.

10. 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.

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 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

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

18. 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 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

**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 satis-  
factory, (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.

## 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
Pine Level -----	Forest Sellars -----	J. P. Perry, Norman Park -	4							\$9.50	\$197.50	\$2000	\$ 12.00	\$ 67.50	77		
Corrinth -----	Coy Watson -----	K. C. Franks, Rt. 4 Tifton -	4	3				1	3	9.00	229.90	2000	158.00	53.09	92	Yes	37
Zion Hill -----	Riley Giddens -----	Mamie Mercer R1 Millwood -	3							5.00	174.13	3000		25.00	26	Yes	35
Sunnyside -----	T. M. Giddens -----	Leona Williams, Kirkland -	1							10.00	193.67	1500		127.77	93	Yes	92
Oak Grove -----	Riley Giddens -----	Ida Lancaster, Stockton -----	4		3			1		5.00	108.20	1500	248.20	2.00	30		
Forest Hill -----	T. M. Giddens -----	Mrs. Walter Gibbs R2 Adel -----	4					3		5.00	159.25	1000		100.00	37		
Cool Springs -----	Coy Watson -----	C. M. Chafin Jr Norman Pk -----	2		2			2	1	17.50	352.43	2000	27.65	162.84	148	Yes	60
Friendship -----	Riley Giddens -----	Mrs. T. J. Ross, Millwood -----	1&3		3			1	6	6.00	149.18	2000		10.00	49		
Ozias -----	E. C. Morris -----	W. M. Wilson, Pearson -----	2&4					8	3	7.50	600.00	1000		85.00	85	Yes	30
First Valdosta -----	Elder Riley Giddens -----	J. W. Selph -----								5.00					22		
First Waycross -----	N. H. Parrish -----	Annie C. Parish -----	2&4							6.00					14		
New Jerusalem -----	Obie Cone -----	T. C. Goble, Moultrie -----	2&4					9		4.00	30.00	1000			97	Yes	30
Orange Grove -----	-----	Annie C. Parish (Act.) -----	4						11	7.45	120.00	3000			23	No	