

MINUTES
OF THE
Forty Fifth Annual Session
OF THE
Little River Association
OF THE
UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS
CONVENED WITH
OAK GROVE
LANIER COUNTY, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 18 and 19, 1951

REV. RILEY GIDDENS, Moderator Ray City, Ga.
M. T. GOFF, Assistant Moderator Lenox, Ga.
C. M. CHAFIN, JR., Clerk Norman Park, Ga.

Next Session to convene with Sunnyside Church, Atkinson
County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday before
Third Sunday in October, 1952

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.

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-fifth (45) annual session of the Little River Association of the United Free Will Baptist met with Oak Grove Church, Thursday and Friday, October 18 and 19, 1951.

The meeting was called to order by singing "Whosoever Leadeth Me," after which song and prayer services led by Bro. Riley Giddens was very much enjoyed.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. E. C. Morris, who was alternate. Bro. Morris' text was taken from Acts 20:17-29.

Dismissed for lunch by prayer by Bro. M. T. Goff. After a very nice lunch was spread, and enjoyed, the meeting was called back to order. Scripture lesson by Moderator, Psalms 122.

CALLED FOR CORRESPONDING LETTERS

Appointed Bros. E. C. Morris and H. J. Kelly to read letters to Association.

Took roll of delegates and struck all names of those not present.

Moved that we accept the letters as read and seat the delegation.

Moved that we elect Clerk and Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

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

CALLED FOR PETITIONARY LETTERS

Invited visiting brothers to seats with us.

Called for corresponding messengers from sister Associations.

CHATTAHOOCHEE—Bros. G. C. King and H. J. Kelly.

SOUTH GEORGIA—E. C. Morris also from State.

UNION—Bro. Gussie Sellars.

GEORGIA UNION—M. R. Cason.

All corresponding messengers stated that their Association was at peace and making progress.

Moved that we accept the representative by the right hand of the Moderator.

Dismissed for the committees to be appointed by the Clerk and Moderator.

On motion service was omitted because of a death in the community.

Placed the people that were staying in the community to their places.

Called the committees and gave them their listing.

Appointed committees as follows:

Preaching—M. M. Franks, W. M. Wilson, J. M. Hartsfield.

Denominational Literature—Mrs. M. M. Franks, Ida Lancaster and Mary Wilson.

Temperance—Mrs. Hugh Pardon, Annie Belle Graddy.

Churches and Destitution—R. S. Hayes, Johnnie Taft and Chester Hunter.

Education—Mrs. N. H. Parrish, J. B. Kinnon and C. K. Causey.

Ministers—H. R. Douglas, J. J. Gray, J. W. Miles, J. B. Kinnon and Carey Lancaster.

Sunday School and Literature—Mrs. J. J. Gray.

Resolutions—M. M. Franks, H. W. Selph, Chester Hunter, Mrs. N. H. Parrish, Mrs. John Kinnon, Lizzie Douglas, Mrs. Annie Belle Graddy, Ed. Stone and J. M. Hartsfield.

Finance—K. C. Franks, Ed Stone and M. I. Hartsfield.

Card of Thanks—M. T. Goff, and Lizzie Douglas.

Moved that we take up miscellaneous business.

Moved and passed that we print 400 minutes.

Moved and passed that we place Rev. N. H. Parrish on the Ordaining Council in place of Rev. T. M. Giddens.

Moved and passed that we retain the same executive committee.

Moved and passed that we pay Clerk and Moderator the same as last year.

Delegation from Sunnyside reported that they received more minutes than was needed.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

FRIDAY MORNING

Meeting Friday morning called to order by singing "Take It To The Lord In Prayer." Scripture lesson by Moderator, Psalm 37:1-9.

Under the head of Miscellaneous Business, a call was made for volunteers to sister associations.

Chattahoochee—Riley Giddens, Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1952.

South Georgia—Rev. and Mrs. N. H. Parrish, Friday and Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1952.

Moved and passed that all other Associations be corresponded with by sending them minutes of our sessions.

Talk by Bro. J. D. Little, as to why the Ruth Kinnon Union Meeting wanted to discontinue the joint meeting. General discussion by the body at large on this move.

The joint meeting is to be left off, except for corresponding messengers from one to another at any time they wish to come.

Moved and passed that we adjourn for the committees to meet.

Called back after the committees were finished by singing "More About Jesus."

Appointed one committeeman from each church to help on the Resolution Committee, because of a mix-up on the vote count of last year's report of going into the State Association.

Singing by the congregation while the committee met.

Moved and passed that we adjourn for preaching and for lunch.

Text for morning service, Rev. K. V. Shutes, Luke 1:1-2.

Rev. H. J. Kelly, Daniel 8:18-19.

Dismissed for lunch with prayer by Rev. Seaborn Boling.

Called to order after very nice spread of lunch by singing "Call the Prodigal."

Called for report of committees, and received reports and as released committees as follows:

PREACHING

We your committee on preaching recommend that Bro. K. V. Shutes preach Friday at the noon services followed by Bro. H. J. Kelly.

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 Schools.

We recommend that Rev. H. J. Kelly preach the Introductory sermon at the next session and Rev. Riley Giddens as alternate.

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

IDA LANCASTER, 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. HUGH PARDAN, Chairman.

CHURCH AND DESTITUTION

We your committee on Churches and Destitution from the reports of different churches find that all churches in fair condition except Orange Grove without services.

R. S. HAYES, Chairman.

EDUCATION

We your committee recommend that our ministers, deacons, and Sunday School superintendents urge that all churches and auxiliaries give a stronger support to our Bible college at Nashville and to our youth camp in order to meet the growing need for church leaders as well as ministers. We also recommend that parents encourage their children to attend the youth camp.

MRS. N. H. PARRISH, Chairman.

MINISTERS

We your committee on ministers find all our ministers in good standing as far as we are able to learn.

We heartily endorse the action of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Waycross in expelling J. L. Bradley from their church as a minister of our faith.

We recommend that hereafter none of our churches receive ministers from other denominations without a thorough investigation.

Also that our ordaining council ordain no preachers without first knowing they are firm in our faith, and stand strongly for every feature of our denominational life.

Also we recommend that no minister be accepted without being kept under the watchcare of the church for one year.

H. R. DOUGLAS, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND LITERATURE

We your committee recommend that all Free Will Baptist Churches have a good Sunday School and not only send your children, but fathers and mothers go with your children to Sunday School. Jesus said "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."

We also recommend that Free Will Baptist Literature be used.

MRS. J. GRAY, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

We your committee recommend that this body take the vote again, as to where the body belongs to State Association or not.

HARVEY BALANCE, Chairman.

FINANCE

New Jerusalem	\$ 5.00
Friendship	10.00
Zion Hill	7.00
Corinth	8.00
Cool Springs	20.00
Ozias	10.00
Forest Hill	7.00
Oak Grove	8.00
Pine Level	13.00
Orange Grove
Sunny Side	14.00
Shady Grove
1st Free Will Baptist Valdosta	10.00
1st Free Will Baptist Waycross	5.00

TOTAL\$117.00

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

K. C. FRANKS, Chairman.

CARD OF THANKS

We the members and messengers of the Little River Association desire to express to Oak Grove Church and community by a rising vote our appreciation for the courtesy we have enjoyed while in their midst. May the Lord bless them and add to them his many blessings.

M. T. GOFF, Chairman.

General Discussions by the body on the report of the ministers committee before it was accepted, and was voted on by rising vote. It was accepted by a vote of 25 to 11.

The vote brought back by the resolution committee was almost unanimous, with only 4 votes against membership with the State Association.

Short talk by M. M. Franks on the camp at Mt. Bethel, as to the good that seemed to be coming from it.

He also stated that they had had a very glorious revival at Corinth Church.

The body voted a rising vote to show appreciation to Bro. N. H. Parrish for the work he has done as an evangelist for the Free Will Baptist, and to support his work as an evangelist in the coming year.

Collection for Rev. K. V. Shutes radio evangelist work, \$18.00.

Moved and passed that we adjourn to meet with Sunnyside Church a year from now.

Sang "God Be With You" and took the parting hand.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF WAYCROSS—J. W. Miles, Mrs. J. W. Miles, Mrs. N. H. Parrish.

PINE LEVEL—J. W. Hartsfield, M. L. Hartsfield, Grover Touchton and Mrs. Grover Touchton.

CORINTH—M. M. Franks, Mrs. M. M. Franks, Julifay Ogletree, K. C. Franks, Temmie Sumner, May Speer, Raymond Mason, Lorene Causey, and O. E. Arnold.

FOREST HILL—R. S. Hayes, Iris Pittman, Annabell Graddy and Carrey Parrish.

FIRST FREE WILL CHURCH OF VALDOSTA—J. J. Gray, Mrs. J. J. Gray, H. W. Selph and Mrs. H. W. Selph.

OAK GROVE—J. B. Clements, Chester Hunter, Carey Lancaster and Mrs. Carey Lancaster.

NEW JERUSALEM—Will Wierd, Mrs. Will Wierd and Howard Smith.

ZION HILL—J. B. Kinnon, Mrs. J. B. Kinnon and Mrs. Ruby Turner.

FRIENDSHIP—Lizzie Douglas.

COOL SPRINGS—Mrs. Lovie Weeks, Mrs. Hugh Pardon, Hugh Pardon, Ed Stone and J. S. Jordan.

SUNNY SIDE—Annie Douglas, Mrs. J. D. Little, Harvey Bal-

ance, Mrs. Veedie Goodwin, Aubry Williams, Jonnie Taft, E. C. Fancher and Mrs. E. C. Fancher.

OSIAS—W. M. Wilson, W. N. Wilson, Mrs. W. N. Wilson and Mrs. W. M. Corbett.

UNION MEETING

(Liberty)

New Jerusalem	1st, 4th, 5th Sundays in 1952
Corinth	2nd, 5th Sundays in 1952
Forrest Hill	3rd, 5th Sundays in 1952
Pine Level	4th, 5th Sundays in 1952
Shady Grove	1st, 5th Sundays in 1953

(Ruth Kennon)

1st Free Will Church Waycross	4th Sundays in 1951
1st Free Will Church Valdosta	1st Sundays in 1951
Sunny Side	2nd Sundays in 1952
Friendship	3rd Sundays in 1952
Oak Grove	4th Sundays in 1952
Osias	1st Sundays in 1953
Zion Hill	2nd Sundays in 1953

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	1928
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. Seaborn Bowen	Willachoochee, Ga.
Rev. J. D. Little	Kirkland, Ga.
Rev. Everett Williams	Kirkland, Ga.

Rev. J. C. Weathers Cordele, Ga.
M. T. Goff Lenox, Ga.

TREASURERS REPORT

Received from Churches	\$117.00
Received During Session	18.04
Total in Treasure	135.04
Paid Moderator	5.00
Paid Clerk	20.00
Printing Minutes	97.00
Paid Deficit	11.00
Total Paid Out	133.00
Balance in Treasure	2.04

OBITUARIES

Corinth Church

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of our beloved Brother, Arnold David Pope. Bro. Pope was killed in a truck wreck Friday, April 13, 1951. He was born Feb. 9, 1928. Bro. Pope was 23 years old, and had been a member of Corinth Church for eight years.

We all miss his presence at church very much, for he was loved by all who knew him.

We sincerely believe our loss is Heaven's gain, and that all who will walk in his footsteps and trust the Lord as he did, will meet him in Heaven.

K. C. FRANKS, Clerk.

Corinth Church

Sister Kate Stone passed away on the 20th of July, 1951. She was 75 years old. She was a member of long standing in our church.

We trust she is at rest with her Savior.

K. C. FRANKS, Clerk.

Sunny Side Church

We regret to report the death of Sisiter Vinnie Hutchinson, who died in June, 1951. She was a member of Sunny Side Church and was loved by all who knew her. We believe our loss is Heaven's gain.

CLEON CLEMENT, Clerk.

Zion Hill Church

It was very sad to each one who knew Sister Thelma Hutche-

son to hear of her death which occurred August 11, 1951.

She had joined Zion Hill Church in 1925, while young, and had been a devoted Christian for these years. She was a good wife and mother. We feel that all who knew her has lost a devoted friend.

She leaves to mourn her loss, a husband, three daughters and a son.

We feel that she sweetly sleeps in Heaven and that our Heavenly Father has called her higher to receive the crown of life.

MRS. MAMIE MERCER, Clerk.

Ozias Church

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of the following members of Ozias Church:

Brother Rowan Cowart.

Sister Fannie Corbett.

Sister Birdie Corbett.

Sister Vive Cowart.

We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

W. M. WILSON, Clerk.

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, N. H. Parrish,
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 baptizer 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 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 two conferences before the end of the 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 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 pastor 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 services 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 acknowledgments. (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 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, 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 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 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 Tongues 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 postoffice 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 his 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 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 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 Faather, 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 cwn damnation, for willfully rejecting the offers of soverign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45. 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 2; 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 laciviousnesss, 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 3:36, 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.—Rom. 22:14, 15; Isa. 1:19, 20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34, 35.

13. We believe that none has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, power of 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, to 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.

CHCRCH 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 satisfactory, (B) The minister shall then read the Articles of Faith, and finding they have obeyed and adopted the same, (C) He shall then read the Church Covenant, while the congregation joins in singing a suitable hymn. (D) He shall have the members to extend to each other the right hand of fellowship. (E) He shall then offer a prayer of consecration. (F) He shall then declare the body organized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

