

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**Forty Sixth Annual Session**  
OF THE  
**Little River Association**  
OF THE  
**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
CONVENED WITH  
**SUNNYSIDE**  
ATKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA  
OCTOBER 16 and 17, 1952

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REV. RILEY GIDDENS, Moderator ..... Ray City, Ga.

EVERETT WILLIAMS, Assistant Moderator ..... Pearson, Ga.

C. M. CHAFIN, JR., Clerk ..... Norman Park, Ga.

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Next Session to convene with Ozias Church, Atkinson County,  
Georgia, Thursday and Friday before  
Third Sunday in October, 1953.

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Prayer (unless divine service has 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.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

C. M. CHAFIN, Norman Park, Ga.	Exp. 1953
M. M. FRANKS, Tifton, Ga.	Exp. 1954
W. N. WILSON, Pearson, Ga.	Exp. 1955
MACON PAULK, Tifton, Ga.	Exp. 1956
H. R. DOUGLAS, Kirkland, Ga.	Exp. 1957

## Ordaining Council

J. D. Little, Riley Giddens, M. T. Goff and Everett Williams.

## PROCEEDINGS

The 46th annual session of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptist convened with Sunnyside Church in Atkinson County Ga., Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in Oct. 1952.

The session was opened by singing "There is a Fountain." The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. H. J. Kelly, with his Text taken from Jeremiah 31:1-7. Bro. Kelly was followed by E. C. Morris.

Bro. Coy Watson made a few remarks and the body was dismissed by the Rev. H. L. Catrett for lunch.

After having greatly enjoyed the spread put before us, again called to order by singing "I feel like traveling on."

Prayer by N. H. Parrish, and a scripture lesson by the Moderator, Rev. Riley Giddens taken from the 47th Psalm.

Called for Corresponding Letters, and appointed W. N. Wilson and Jonnie Taft to read the Letters.

Moved that we receive the letters and seat the delegation.

Moved and passed that we receive Whitehall Church into full fellowship of the Association.

Suspended with regular order of the Constitution and elected clerk and moderator by rising vote instead of by secret ballot.

Riley Giddens elected Moderator, Everett Williams Assistant Moderator, C. M. Chafin, Jr., Clerk.

Received Bro. Chas. Balance as a Licentee.

Called for Petitionary Letters.

Invited all visiting bro. to seat with us.

Called for Corresponding Messengers, and received them by the right hand of the Moderator as follows.

South Ga.—J. B. Harris, E. C. Morris

State—E. C. Morris.

Chattahoochee—G. C. King, Coy Watson, and H. J. Kelly.

Union—A. L. Sellars, and K. V. Shutes.

Martin—H. L. Catrett and B. D. Wills.

Ga. Union—N. H. Parrish.

Bro. G. C. King asked for a delegation to the Chattahoochee for next year, and stated they were doing fine.

H. L. Catrett asked for delegation tot the Martin.

Bro. E. C. Morris asked for a delegation and for visitors to the State Meeting.

Bro. K. V. Shutes asked for a delegation to the Union, and stated they had organized two new churches.

Bro. K. V. Shutes spoke to the delegation on the money raising campaign of the Free Will Baptist College, while the Clerk and Moderator appointed the committees.

Collection for K. V. Shutes radio work was \$18.00.

J. B. Harris received \$16.00 from Ozias Church.

Called the committee and gave them their listing and their task.

All the delegates staying for the night were asked to stand so they could be placed for the night. This placing was done by a committee already selected.

Moved to adjourn until Friday morning, and was dismissed by J. D. Little.

## FRIDAY MORNING

Friday morning called to order by singing "I Come to Thee." Prayer by Rev. Riley Giddens and Scripture lesson, Psalm 98.

Moved that we take up miscellaneous business.

Report by N. H. Parrish on his work as an Evangelist. He reports a church in north Florida, that has been dead but he is making progress toward bringing back to life as a Free Will Baptist.

Appoint delegates to sister Associations as follows.

Chattahoochee in Pheonix City, Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in October, M. M. Franks.

Ga. Union in Macon, Thursday and Friday before the second Sunday in October, Riley Giddens, and R. S. Hayes.

Union at Spring Hill, Thursday and Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, T. C. Goble and H. L. Barfield.

South Ga., Jacksonville, Fla., Friday and Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October, W. N. Wilson and Mrs. W. N. Wilson.

Martin, Corrinth, Iron City, Ga.

Midway, Hammock Springs Donalsonville, Ga.

State, Blakely, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after second Sunday in November.

Lonnie Wynn, Audie Williams and Jonnie Taft.

Moved that we print 400 Minutes.

Moved we pay Clerk \$20.00 and Moderator \$5.00 the same as last year.

Moved that we replace N. H. Parrish on the Ordaining Council. Everett Williams elected in his position.

Moved that we elect a new Executive Committee, in such a manner that one will be to replace each year and they were elected in the following manner.

C. M. Chaffin—until—1953.

M. M. Franks—until—1954.

W. N. Wilson—until—1955.

Macon Paulk—until—1956.

H. R. Douglas—until—1957.

General discussion by the body as to where the Union Meeting will continue to help pay pastor for Shady Grove. This was tabled until quarterly conference.

Bro. Everett Williams called for the Ordaining Council to Ordain R. S. Hayes during this session. Moved that we accept Bro. Williams statement and Ordain Bro. Hayes at this meeting.

Bro. E. C. Morris asked that the letter form for the association be printed by the state body for us. This was referred to the Resolution Committee.

Moved that we hear the report of the Preaching Committee.

Morning services by Rev. J. B. Harris, followed by R. S. Hayes.

Dismissed for lunch, by Rev. M. T. Goff.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

After a very nice spread was enjoyed by all present the meeting was called to order by singing "In Canans Happy Land." Prayer by Rev. J. C. Weathers.

First few minutes after lunch was turned over to E. C. Morris during which time he gave the history of the bible college, also of the foreign missions.

Called for corresponding letters that came in late, received letters from Orange Grove and Shady Grove. These were read and accepted.

#### CALLED FOR THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

The reports were read and accepted as they are recorded in this Minute.

Moved that it be inserted in this Minute that Rev. Seaborn Boeing is in good standing with this Association. In order that his service may be accepted by the State Association, and he may be cleared of any doubt as to his standing.

Moved that we recess with business for Bro. R. S. Hayes to be ordained into the Ministry. Bro. Hayes was Ordained with three members of the Council present. These were Riley Giddens, M. T. Goff and Everett Williams.

Moved and passed to adjourn. We sang "God Be With You," and took the parting hand, and gave Bro. Hayes the Right Hand of Fellowship.

#### PREACHING COMMITTEE

We your Preaching Committee recommend that Bro. A. L. Sellars preach Thursday night.

We further recommend that Bro. J. B. Harris preach Friday at Eleven o'clock followed by Bro. R. S. Hayes.

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, Leagues, and Auxiliary's.

We recommend that Rev. H. L. Catrett preach the Introductory sermon at the next session, with Rev. Mance Cason as Alterate.

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

MARY WILSON, 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

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LITERATURE

We your Committee recommend that all Free Will Baptist Churches, have a good Sunday School. The Sunday school presents one of the most fruitful fields of service in the entire program of the church and gives the most effective means of reaching the unchurched people.

Study to show thyself approved unto God.

We also recommend that Free Will Baptist Literature be used.

MRS. J. J. GRAY, Chairman

#### RESOLUTIONS

We your Committee on Resolutions recommend that the Clerk be given the right to correct part six of the church covenant.

Resolved that this Association request the State Association to furnish unified report blank with which each church may report to the district Association.

We recommend the word United be dropped from our Minute, and "Original" added instead.

We also recommend that the Association be sent to the different churches as comes their time.

MRS. ROSA SELPH, Chairman

## CHURCHES AND CONDITIONS

From the report of different churches, we your committee find all churches in good condition and supplied with pastors as far as we can find out.

IRA F. PITTMAN, Chairman

## EDUCATION

We your Committee recommend that our ministers, Deacons and Teachers, urge that all churches and leagues, Sunday schools and homes take more interest in our Bible school and youth camp, to meet the growing needs for Christian service.

ANNIE DOUGLAS, Chairman

## MINISTERS

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

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

H. R. DOUGLAS, Chairman

## FINANCE

New Jeresulem	\$ 5.00
Friendship	6.00
Zion Hill	8.00
Corrinth	11.00
Cool Springs	20.00
Ozias	10.00
Forest Hill	7.00
Oak Grove	8.00
Pine Level	13.00
Orange Grove	10.00
Sunnyside	14.00
Shady Grove	1.00
Valdosta	15.00
Whitehall	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$133.00</b>

We report the above from the various churches.

ED. STONE, Chairman

## CARD OF THANKS

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

R. S. HAYS, Chairman

## LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

WHITEHALL—Matthew Strickland, J. W. Miles and Sisters Matthew Strickland, J. W. Miles and S. P. Jones.

FRIENDSHIP—Sisters, Lizzie Douglas, Jewel Ross, Fredda Herndon, and Fannie Davis.

OAK GROVE—Chester Hupter and Sisters Effie Smith, Ollif Durance and Chester Hunter.

SHADY GROVE—A. D. Goff and Sister Mildred Purvis.

ORANGE GROVE—Carson E. Parrish.

## LIST OF MINISTERS PRESENT

J. D. Little, Riley Giddens, Everett Williams, W. R. Hullett, Seaborn Boeing, R. S. Hayes and J. C. Weathers.

Charles Balance present as a Licentee.

## LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

FOREST HILL—Perry Rice, Ira Pittman, Sister Annabell Graddy and Sister Carrie Parrish.

OZIAS—W. N. Wilson and Sisters George Cowart, W. C. Cowart, Fannie Dukes, B. F. Guest and Tim Mizell.

SUNNYSIDE—Harvy Balance, E. C. Fancher, Audie Williams and Sister Leona Williams, E. C. Fancher, Ruth Metts, Beady Goodman and Annie Douglas.

CORRINTH—M. M. Franks, Josie Franks, Mary Speer and Julifay Ogletree.

COOL SPRINGS—N. C. Brannan, Ed. Stone and Sisters M. L. Brown, W. C. Coley, Virgie Newsome and N. C. Brannan.

VALDOSTA FREE WILL BAPTIST—Sisters Rosa Selph, J. W. Selph, J. J. Gray, Riley Giddens.

ZION HILL—Sisters Ruby Bennett, Lois Arnold, Deloyce Mercer and Lucille Turner.

NEW JERESULEM—Claude Goble and Howard Barfield.

PINE LEVEL—Macon Paulk and Mrs. Macon Paulk.



## UNION MEETINGS

### Liberty

Pine Level	4th 5th Sun. 1952
Shady Grove	1st 5th Sun. 1953
Cool Springs	2nd 5th Sun. 1953
New Jeresulem	3rd 5th Sun. 1953
Corrinth	4th 5th Sun. 1953
Forest Hill	1st 5th Sun. 1954

### Ruth Kinnon

Oak Grove	4th 5th Sun. 1952
Ozias	1st 5th Sun. 1953
Zion Hill	2nd 5th Sun. 1953
Whitehall	3rd 5th Sun. 1953
Valdosta Church	4th 5th Sun. 1953
Sunnyside	1st 5th Sun. 1954
Friendship	2nd 5th Sun. 1954

## ASSOCIATIONS

Cool Springs	1960	Ozias	1953
Friendship	1961	Pine Level	1954
Valdosta	1962	Corrinth	1955
Whitehall	1963	Zion Hill	1956
New Jeresulem	1964	Sunnyside	1957
Orange Grove	1965	Oak Grove	1958
Shady Grove	1966	Forrest Hill	1959

Passed by resolution committee for this tot be set up and inserted in this Minute.

## TREASURES REPORT

Received from Churches	\$133.00
Received after Association	10.00
In Treasure	2.04
	\$145.04
Paid Clerk	20.00
Paid Moderator	5.00
Pastage	1.50
Printer	92.50
State Association	10.00
Balance in Treasure	\$ 15.04

## DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. Tharp Bailey	1911
Rev. J. J. Davis	1913
Rev. C. Leon Starling	1919
Rev. J. B. 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. Everett Williams	Pearson, Ga.
J. D. Little	Kirkland, Ga.
M. T. Goff	Lenox, Ga.
J. C. Weathers	Cordele, Ga.
R. S. Hays	Adel, Ga.

## OBITUARIES

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Sister Lou Leverett, who died the fourth day of February, 1952. She had served as a member of our church for many years. We trust that our loss is heavens gain.

MRS. W. M. STRICKLAND, Clerk  
Whitehall Church

It is with sorrow that report the death of Sister Lora Davis and Bro. Staten Thornton. We trust our loss is heaven gain.

Friendship Church

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Bro. Richmond Royals and Sister Stella Brannan, during the last year. We trust our loss is Heavens gain.

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

We regret very much to report the death of Bro. W. H. Williams who departed this life March 8, 1952. He was a member and a deacon of this church and was loved by all who knew him. We sincerely believe our loss is Heavens gain.

MINNIE WIARD, Clerk  
New Jeresulem Church

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Sister Sallie R. Evans who died August 22, 1952.

She was a faithful member of Pine Level Church and loved by all who knew her. We believe our loss will be Heavens gain.

J. P. PERRY, Clerk  
Pine Level Church

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of the following members of Ozias Church. Sister Millior Starling age 92, and Sister Minnie Balance. We feel our loss is Heavens gain.

W. M. WILSON, Clerk  
Ozias Church

### 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 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 intercourse, 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 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 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) 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 made 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 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 any 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 improvements 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 them 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 these witnesses they will hear thee. Then if they will not hear thee take them before the church, if they will not hear the church, then let them be unto thee as a 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 license 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 wil 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 dam-

### 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 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	No. Teachers	No. In Sunday School
Pine Level	W. R. Hullet	J. P. Perry, Norman Park	2-4					7	7	\$13.00	\$190.25	\$2000	\$12.36	\$17.75	69		
Corrinth	Coy Watson	K. C. Franks, Tifton, Rt. 1	2-4	9				37	3	11.00	332.09	4000	800.00	105.91	141	85	5
Zion Hill	M. T. Goff	Mamie Mercer, Millwood, Ga.	3					3	1	8.00	194.05	2000		132.28	34	40	3
Sunnyside	Coy Watson	Jonnie Taft, Kirkland, Ga.	1					1	1	14.00	479.24	2500	50.00	110.92	93	60	4
Oak Grove	Everett Williams	Chester Hunter, Stockton, Ga.	2					3		8.00	116.67	2000	62.24	62.91	34	32	3
Forrest Hill	Everett Williams	Ira Pittman, Barney, Rt. 1	4	1				1		7.00	189.25	1500	50.00	61.87	44		
Cool Springs	R. S. Hayes	C. M. Chafin, Jr., Norman Park	2	1				5	3	20.00	488.00	4000	1,470.40	115.06	152	60	4
Friendship	Mance Cason	Elizabeth Gidden, Millwood Ga.	1-3					2		6.00	196.10	1000		5.00	32		
Ozias	K. V. Shutes	W. M. Wilson, Pearson, Ga.	1-3					6	6	10.00	960.00	3000	320.00	1440.00	79	22	4
First Valdosta	Riley Giddens	J. W. Self Valdosta, Ga.	Full		2	7		10		15.00	365.00	3500	344.60	80.00	53	60	5
Whitehall	E. C. Morris	Mrs. W. M. Strickland Waycross								5.00	60.00	700	3.00	5.00	31		
New Jerusalem	H. W. Giddens	Minnie Wiard, Moultrie, Rt. 2	2-4	7	2			6		5.00	162.43	2000	173.00	111.42	81	42	4
Orange Grove		Dorothy Jean Purvis, Valdosta	4					2		10.00	75.00	2000	25.00	20.00			
Shady Grove	R. H. Hayes	A. D. Goff, Lenox, Ga.	1							1.00	30.00						