

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**Forty-Eighth Annual Session**  
**OF THE**  
**Little River Association**  
**OF THE**  
**UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**CONVENED WITH**  
**PINE LEVEL**  
**WORTH COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**October 14 and 15, 1954**

REV. RILEY GIDDENS, Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Ray City, Ga.  
REV. M. T. GOPP, Assistant Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Lenox, Ga.  
W. N. WILSON, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Pearson, Ga.  
C. M. CHAPIN, JR., Assistant Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Norman Park, Ga.

Next Session to convene with Corinth Church, Tift County, Georgia,  
Thursday and Friday before Third  
Sunday in October, 1955

**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) Card of Thanks.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Report of committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

W. N. WILSON, Pearson, Ga. _____	Exp. 1955
CARSON E. PARRISH, Valdosta, Ga. _____	Exp. 1956
H. R. DOUGLAS, Pearson, Ga. _____	Exp. 1957
C. M. CHAFIN, Norman Park, Ga. _____	Exp. 1958
M. M. FRANKS, Tifton, Ga. _____	Exp. 1959

**ORDAINING COUNCIL**

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

## PROCEEDINGS

The Forty-Eighth Annual Session of the Little River Association of the Free Will Baptist convened with Pine Level Church in Worth County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1954.

Opened by singing "To the Work", prayer by Rev. M. T. Goff.

Welcome address by Rev. W. R. Hullet.

Introductory sermon by Rev. Mance Cason. Scripture taken from Genesis 4:9. Text "Am I My Brother's Keeper".

The Body was dismissed for lunch by Rev. J. B. Lovering.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON

After a nice spread, the body was called to order by singing "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be", prayer by Rev. H. W. Giddens.

Scripture Reading by Rev. Riley Giddens, Romans 13.

Called for church letters. Appointed Rev. J. B. Lovering and Rev. E. C. Morris to read the letters.

Moved that we receive the letters and seat the delegation.

Moved and second that we elect Moderator and Clerk by secret ballot.

Rev. Riley Giddens, Moderator; Rev. M. T. Goff, Assistant Moderator; W. N. Wilson, Clerk.

Called for Petitionary Letters. Invited visiting Brethren to seats with us.

Called for Corresponding Messengers and gave them the right hand of fellowship by Moderator.

Union — Brother J. H. Jones, Rev. A. L. Sellers.

Chattahoochee — Brother G. C. King.

South Georgia — Rev. E. C. Morris.

State — Rev. E. C. Morris.

Moved that the committee be appointed. Moved to Adjourn until Friday.

## FRIDAY MORNING

Business called to order by singing "Amazing Grace", Prayer by Rev. J. D. Little, Scripture by Rev. Riley Giddens, 67 Psalm.

Moved and second that we take up miscellaneous business.

Moved that we have 400 minutes printed.

Moved and second that Shady Grove Church house repairs be estimated by Liberty Union Meeting, and Ruth Kinnion Union Meeting pay half the cost.

Moved that we pay Clerk \$20.00 and the Moderator \$10.00.

Moved and second that we grant Forrest Hill a letter of dismissal. Called for delegates to Sister Associations.

CHATTAAHOOCHEE meets with little Bethel Church, Ideal, Ga., Friday and Saturday before 1st Sunday in October. Rev. L. G. Baldwin in October. No delegate.

GEORGIA UNION meets Thursday and Friday before 2nd Sunday UNION meets Wednesday and Thursday before 4th Sunday in October at Greenwood Church near Camilla, Ga. Mrs. H. W. Giddens.

SOUTH GEORGIA meets Friday and Saturday before 4th Sunday in October near Jesup. Bro. M. M. Banks and wife.

MARTIN meets Friday and Saturday before 4th Sunday in October.

MIDWAY meets Wednesday and Thursday before 1st Sunday in November.

STATE meets at Midway Church near Moultrie, Ga. Bro. M. M. Franks and Bro. Wallace Franks and wife.

Moved to send \$10.00 to the State Association.

Motion carried that Bro. Carson Parrish take Bro. Macom Paulk's place on the Executive Committee.

Motion carried that Bro. M. M. Franks be re-elected.

Bro. Lemon Franks volunteered to go to the National Association.

The committee reports were read and accepted.

Rev. J. B. Lovering brought a very inspiring message.

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Byron Davis.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Women's Auxiliary had charge of the afternoon service, their program was very interesting. They elected officers for the ensuing year. They have Friday afternoon of the next Association.

Gave \$19.61 to the Assistant Promotional Director, Rev. M. T. Goff.

Gave \$36.22 to the Unified Program.

Moved and second to adjourn by singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

## PREACHING COMMITTEE

We your Committee recommend that Rev. E. C. Morris preach Thursday night. We recommend that Rev. J. B. Lovering preach Friday at eleven o'clock.

Bro. L. E. Wynn, Chairman

## RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee, recommend that our Association be called the Little River Association of United Free Will Baptists; we recommend that our churches use Ministers of our faith; we recommend that our churches contribute monthly to the Unified Program and each Church place signs pointing to their church.

Bro. M. M. Franks, Chairman

## EDUCATION

We, your committee, recommend more stress be placed on our young people's activities, including Sunday School, League, Youth Camp, to train our young people in Christian Education, to better fill their places as Deacons, Teachers and in any Christian place.

Mrs. Elva Baker, Chairman

**CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION**

We, your committee, find that all Churches are in good condition and supplied with Pastors as far as we know.

Bro. Eddie Williams, 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 Auxiliaries.

We also recommend that parents encourage the children more in going to Sunday School and also go with them more.

We recommend that Rev. Luther Baldwin preach the Introductory sermon at the next session with Rev. E. W. Patillo as alternate.

Mrs. Annie Davis, Chairman

**MINISTERS**

We, your committee on Ministers, find all our ministers in good standing as far as we know.

Mr. Harvey Ballance, Chairman

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LITERATURE**

We, your committee, recommend that all Free Will Baptist churches have a good Sunday School and League.

The Sunday School presents one of the most fruitful fields of service in the entire program of the church and gives one of the most effective means of reaching the unchurch people.

We also recommend that Free Will Baptist literature be used.

Mrs. V. R. Franks, Chairman

**TEMPERANCE**

We, your committee, recommend that the members of our churches be temperate in all things, and attend services of their church and help promote the Kingdom of God in their community and also be a shining light to others that they may see the good works of a Christian worker.

Bro. J. W. Franks, Chairman

**FINANCE**

Pine Level	\$ 13.09
Corinth	10.00
Zion Hill	8.00
Sunny Side	14.00
Cool Springs	20.00
Friendship	6.00
Ozias	15.00
First Valdosta	15.00
White Hall	5.00
New Jerusalem	5.00
Orange Grove	15.00
<b>TOTAL FROM CHURCHES</b>	<b>\$126.09</b>
Balance in Treasury	45.74
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 171.83</b>

Mrs. W. N. Wilson, Chairman

**CARD OF THANKS**

We, the members of the Little River Association, wish to express by a rising vote our appreciation for the kindness and hospitality, Pine Level Church has shown us while in their midst. May the Lord add his many blessings to them.

Rev. M. T. Goff, Chairman

**LIST OF MINISTERS PRESENT**

Rev. J. D. Little, Rev. J. B. Lovering, Rev. L. G. Baldwin, Rev. E. W. Pattillo, Rev. W. R. Hullet, Rev. M. T. Goff, Rev. R. S. Hays, Rev. Riley Giddens.

**LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES**

WHITEHALL -- Sister Annie Davis.  
 FRIENDSHIP -- Clem Giddens  
 SHADY GROVE -- Herman Eason.  
 OZIAS -- Riley Cowart and wife, Junior Cowart, Elva Baker, Mary Wilson, Pauline Wilson.  
 SUNNY SIDE -- Sister J. D. Little, Harvey Balance, Eddie Williams, Sister Annie Douglas.  
 CORINTH -- J. W. Franks and wife, L. E. Wynn, Monroe Wynn, Le-man Franks, Mrs. M. M. Franks, Mrs. V. R. Franks.  
 COOL SPRINGS -- Hugh Pardon and wife, Ed Stone, N. C. Brannon and wife, Billie Jean Ross, James Whisonant and wife.  
 FIRST VALDOSTA -- E. W. Pattillo, J. J. Grey and wife, H. F. Paar and wife, Mrs. H. W. Selph.  
 ZION HILL -- J. C. Arnold, Viola Walden.  
 NEW JERUSALEM -- Floyd Dalton, Howard Smith, Ira Pittman, Bur-lie Purvis, Sister H. W. Giddens, Joe Wirad.  
 PINE LEVEL -- N. T. Brooks and wife, A. P. Kelly, J. M. Hartsfield, Marvin Hartsfield.  
 ORANGE GROVE -- Carson E. Parrish.  
 OAK GROVE -- Not Represented.

**UNION MEETINGS****Liberty**

New Jerusalem	1st 5th Sunday 1955
Corinth	2nd 5th Sunday 1955
Pine Level	3rd 5th Sunday 1955
Shady Grove	4th 5th Sunday 1955
Cool Springs	1st 5th Sunday 1956

**ASSOCIATIONS**

Corinth	1955	White Hall	1962
Zion Hill	1956	New Jerusalem	1963
Sunnyside	1957	Craige Grove	1964
Oak Grove	1958	Shady Grove	1965
Cool Springs	1959	Ozias	1966
Friendship	1960	Pine Level	1967
Valdosta	1961		



**Ruth Kinnon**

Zion Hill	1st 5th Sunday 1955
White Hall	2nd 5th Sunday 1955
Orange Grove	3rd 5th Sunday 1955
First Valdosta	4th 5th Sunday 1955
Sunny Side	1st 5th Sunday 1956
Friendship	2nd 5th Sunday 1956
Oak Grove	3rd 5th Sunday 1956
Ozias	4th 5th Sunday 1956

**DECEASED MINISTERS**

Rev. Tharp Bailey	1911	Rev. B. O. Brown	1928
Rev. J. J. Davis	1913	Rev. M. F. Cason	1929
Rev. C. Leon Starling	1919	Rev. H. J. Griffis	1939
Rev. J. B. Griffin	1926	Rev. W. R. Cato	1941
Rev. H. J. Cowart		Rev. J. C. Arnold	1942
Rev. Morgan Cannon	1926	Rev. J. R. Weeks	1947
Rev. A. Eunice	1928		

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Received from Churches	\$126.09
In Treasury	45.74
Total	\$171.83
Paid Clerk	\$ 20.00
Paid Moderator	10.00
State Association	10.00
Postage	5.00
Printer	88.50
Total	\$133.50
Balance in Treasury	\$38.33

**MINISTERS AND POSTOFFICES**

Rev. Riley Giddens	Ray City, Georgia
Rev. J. C. Weathers	Cordele, Georgia
Rev. M. T. Goff	Lennox, Georgia
Rev. L. G. Baldwin	Pavo, Georgia
Rev. J. B. Lovering	Pearson, Georgia
Rev. J. D. Little	Pearson, Georgia
Rev. Everett Williams	Pearson, Georgia
Rev. Seborn Bowen	Willacoochee, Georgia
Rev. W. A. Pope	Bainbridge, Georgia
Rev. J. H. Williams, Jr.	Adairsville, Georgia
Rev. J. F. Smith	Atlanta, Georgia
Rev. T. A. Pannel	Moultrie, Georgia
Rev. G. G. Law	Moultrie, Georgia
Rev. F. S. Jones	Lewis Street, Waycross, Georgia
Rev. W. R. Hullett	Ty-Ty, Georgia

**LICENSED MINISTERS**

Rev. D. L. Lindquist	Valdosta, Georgia
Rev. E. W. Pattillo	Valdosta, Georgia

**OBITUARIES**

It is with sorrow that we report the death of Sister Zonnie Hartsfield, who died June 16, 1954. She was a member of Pine Level Church, and loved by all that knew her. We trust that our loss is Heaven's gain.

We regret very much to report the death of Brother J. L. Hartsfield who departed this life June 26, 1954. He was an active member of Pine Level and united with the church in early manhood. He was loved by all; we sincerely believe that our loss is Heaven's gain.

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Bro. Macom Paulk, who departed this life September 28, 1954. Bro. Paulk was a man who loved his church very much, and helped carry on the up-building of his church until his health failed. He was a Deacon, and member of the Executive Committee. We feel all who trust the Lord as he did will meet him in Heaven.

J. P. Perry, Clerk of Pine Level Church

With deep sorrow we report the death of Bro. Abner Baker. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

With deep sorrow we report the death of Mrs. Lois Wellis. She was a good mother. We trust our loss is the will of God, and is for Heaven's gain.

C. M. Chafin, Clerk, Cool Springs

It is with deep sorrow we report the death of Bro. Mark Joiner who departed this life January 2, 1954. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

Sister Lallie Hutchison who departed this life May 24, 1954. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

Johnnie Taft, Clerk, Sunny Side

**SUNDAY SCHOOL — LEAGUES — AUXILIARY**

Orange Grove, New Jerusalem, White Hall, Valdosta, Ozias, Cool Springs, Sunny Side, Zion Hill, Corinth, Pine Level churches all have a good Sunday School. Three churches without a Sunday School.

**LEAGUE**

Pine Level, Corinth, Cool Springs, Ozias churches have a good League.

**AUXILIARY**

Corinth, Valdosta, Ozias, White Hall have a Women's Auxiliary.

## GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in heaven and such Christians on earth as are not attached to the visible church according to gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition, repugnant to the Word of God, subservient to the churches and dangerous to the liberty of man.

5. That gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; and that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially, independent and absolute, and 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, properly 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 pastor 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 bretheren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (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 bretheren, 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 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 dealings 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, not 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 to 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 employment 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 will 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 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 proceedings 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 post-office of the Church Clerk, give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded, and died, the number of members, and the amount paid for Associational purposes.

4. Each church in the Association shall be considered and 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 of 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; Mat. 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, 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 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 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 jurisdiction 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 judgement 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.



**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, Bretheren \_\_\_\_\_

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.