

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

CONVENED WITH
C O R I N T H
TIFT COUNTY, GEORGIA

October 13 and 14, 1955

REV. RILEY GIDDENS, Moderator _____ Ray City, Ga.
REV. J. B. LOVERING, Assistant Moderator _____ Valdosta, Ga.
W. N. WILSON, Clerk _____ Pearson, Ga.
C. M. CHAFIN, JR., Assistant Clerk _____ Norman Park, Ga.

Next Session to convene with Zion Hill Church, Ware County,
Georgia, Thursday and Friday before the
Third Sunday in October, 1956

CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Prayer (unless divine service has been concluded and generally then.
2. Invite visiting bretheren 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 micellaneous 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 bretheren to seats with us.
6. Call for corresponding messengers.
7. Appoint Committees: (a) Preaching; (b) Resolution; (c) Finance; (d) Card of Thanks; For this Session; Appoint Churches to bring report on (a) Auxiliaries and literature; (b) Temperance; (c) Christian Education; (d) Misions; For next Session.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Report of committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CARSON E. PARRISH, Valdosta, Ga. _____	Exp. 1956
H. R. DOUGLAS, Pearson, Ga. _____	Exp. 1957
C. M. CHAFIN, SR., Norman Park, Ga _____	Exp. 1958
M. M. FRANKS, Tifton, Ga. _____	Exp. 1959
W. N. WILSON, Pearson, Ga. _____	Exp. 1960

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. J. B. Lovering, Rev. Riley Giddens, Rev. M. T. Goff and
Rev. Everett Williams

P R O C E E D I N G S

The Forty-Ninth Annual Session of the Little River Association of the Free Will Baptist convened with Corinth Church in Tift County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in October, 1955.

Opened by singing "Kneel at the Cross", prayer by Rev. J. B. Harris.
Welcome by Rev. Mance Cason.

Devotional by Rev. E. W. Patillo. Scripture: Haggai, 1:7. Text: "Consider Your Ways."

Introductory Sermon by Rev. L. G. Baldwin, Scripture St. Mark. 8:15; 7:7-22, St. Matthew 9:27-29; Subject, "According to Your Faith Be it Unto You."

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. T. G. Hamilton.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

After a nice spread, the body was called to order by singing a song, prayer and Scripture by Rev. Riley Giddens, Genesis 13 chapter.

Called for Church letters; appointed Rev. H. L. Knighton and Rev. J. B. Lovering to read the letters.

Moved and second to receive letters and seat delegation.

Moved and second to elect Moderator and Clerk by secret ballot.

Rev. Riley Giddens elected Moderator, Rev. J. B. Lovering, Assistant Moderator, W. N. Wilson, Clerk, C. M. Chafin, Jr., Assistant Clerk.

Called for petitionary letters. Invited visiting Brethren to seats with us.

New Jerusalem Church asked for her letter, by a move and second and vote by body it was granted.

Called for Corresponding Messengers, Welcome by body, Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship.

South Georgia — Rev. T. G. Hamilton.

Midway — Rev. C. H. Harvey, Rev. H. L. Knighton.

Georgia Union — Rev. Mance Cason.

State — Rev. E. C. Morris.

Moved and second for Moderator to appoint committee.

Moved and second to adjourn until 9 o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING

Song: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Prayer by Rev. Evrett Williams.

Scripture: 23 Psalm by Rev. Riley Giddens.

Moved and second that we take up miscellaneous business.

Moved we have 400 minutes printed.

Moved to give Clerk \$20.00, Moderator \$10.00.

Moved and second to reelect W. N. Wilson to executive committee.

Rev. J. D. Little stated to the body his physical condition and asked to be reviewed of the duties of ordaining council.

Rev. J. B. Lovering was elected as a member to serve on Ordaining Council by vote of body.

Moved we send \$10.00 to State Association.

State Association — Bro. J. W. Franks and wife.

Chattahoochee — Rev. L. G. Baldwin to convene with White Oak Church in Macon Friday and Saturday before 1st Sunday in October.

Georgia Union — Bro. M. M. Franks convenes with Pleasant Hill in Dooly County Thursday and Friday before 2nd Sunday in October.

South Georgia — Bro. M. M. Franks convenes with New Hope, Odom, Friday and Saturday before 4th Sunday in October.

Rev. J. B. Lovering was elected to serve as assistant promotional worker with Bro. Morris.

FRIDAY MORNING

The committee reports were read and accepted.

The committee on Resolutions recommended we appoint four churches at this session to bring their report at next session, as follow:

AUXILIARYS AND LITERATURE — Oak Grove

TEMPERANCE — SunnySide

MISSIONS — Ozias

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Orange Grove.

PREACHING COMMITTEE

We, your committee, recommend Rev. Paul Long preach Thursday night, and Rev. Mance Cason preach Friday at eleven o'clock.

Rev. J. W. Franks, Chairman

RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee, recommend the session of 1956 of the Little River Association begin at ten o'clock on the first day of association, that we begin with the transaction of business after a short devotional service; that the letters be read and delegates seated and organization of the body be completed before morning message; appoint committees immediately afternoon, and giving them time to get their report.

Be it resolved that no church in the Little River Association use a pastor who does not belong to a church in good fellowship with the Association.

Resolved that we change our associational year to begin September 1st, instead of October 1st, so pastors can get children in school.

Be it resolved we appoint committees as follows, at this session to report in the session of 1956: (1) Auxiliarys and Literature (2) Temperance (3) Missions (4) Christian Education; that these committees be composed of the various churches and pastors as appointed by Moderator.

Rev. Carson E. Parrish, Chairman

EDUCATION

We, your committee recommend that we impress upon our young people and ministers the need of getting a Christian education through our Free Will Baptist Bible College. 2 Tim: 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God" applies to all of us.

Rev. Paul Long, Chairman

CHURCHES AND DESTITUTION

We, your committee, find all churches are supplied with pastors and in good condition.

Bro. William Moore, Chairman

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE

We, your committee, recommend that Free Will Baptist literature be used in our Churches' Sunday School's League and Auxiliaries, also more Christian literature be used in the home, and parents urge their children in daily Bible reading, we also recommend that Rev. Paul Long preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session with Rev. Everett Williams alternate.

Mrs. J. W. Selph, Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LITERATURE

We, your committee, recommend all our Churches have a Sunday School and League, the Sunday School presents a fruitful field of service, and means of reaching the unsaved, we also recommend Free Will Baptist Literature be used.

Bro. V. R. Franks, Chairman

MINISTERS

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

Bro. Eddie Williams, Chairman

TEMPERANCE

We your committee recommend that the members of our churches be temperate in all things, and attend church regularly, and help promote the kingdom of God.

Mrs. Jewel Ross, Chairman

FINANCE

Pine Level	\$ 13.00
Corinth	8.00
Zion Hill	10.00
Sunny Side	14.00
Cool Springs	20.00
Friendship	6.50
Ozias	15.00
Orange Grove	15.00
Valdosta	10.00
Oak Grove	8.00
Shady Grove	8.00

New Jerusalem	5.00
White Hall	10.00
TOTAL FROM CHURCHES	\$142.50
Balance in Treasury	38.33
Womens Auxiliary	5.00
TOTAL	\$185.83

CARD OF THANKS

We, the members of the Little River Association wish to express a rising vote of thanks for the kindness Corinth Church has shown us while in their midst. May God bless you.

Rev. E. W. Pattillo

Moved, we adjourn business for eleven o'clock service Rev. Mance Cason brought a very inspiring message, dismissed for lunch by Rev. L. G. Baldwin.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE RIVER DISTRICT

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION OCTOBER 14, 1955

The Little River District Woman's Auxiliary Convention met October 14, 1955, at Corinth Church. The President, Mrs. E. C. Morris called the meeting to order after which the congregation sang, "Jesus Saves."

Mrs. Morris, then introduced Mrs. Daisy Boatwright, who gave a wonderful devotional as follows: Scripture, 2 Peter 3:18 and Hebrews 10:22-24. Comments. Special song "I Surrender All," by Ladies quartet from Waycross Auxiliary.

Mrs. Morris thanked the Little River Association for so graciously letting us have the entire afternoon.

We entered into business with the president calling for minutes of the last meeting to be read. They were adopted as read. Unfinished business called for. There was none. New business was as follows: The nominating committee was appointed as follows: Mrs. Lora Corbitt, Mrs. Rosa Selph, Mrs. Martha Franks, Mrs. Annie Davis, Mrs. Riley Cowart.

Reports from committees were heard as follows: Study Course — Mrs. L. F. Ogletree, Chairman.

The Little River District Convention has had all four of the required workshops for the year, with the first being at Ozias in January on, "Methods of the Auxiliary", the second at Valdosta in April on "Consecration", the third at Waycross in July on "Study Courses in Local Work", and fourth at Corinth, our District Convention, with the theme being "The Growing Christian."

Average number present at workshops — 30.

Number of letters written — 25

Study Course Chairman — Mrs. L. F. Ogletree.

There were four Auxiliaries represented with delegates and dues as follows:

Corinth — Mrs. C. K. Causey, Mrs. V. R. Franks, delegates; dues \$3.00

First Valdosta — Mrs. Rosa Selph, Mrs. J. B. Lovering, Mrs. Nellie Selph; dues \$5.50

Ozias — Mrs. Lora Corbitt, Mrs. Ella Corbitt, Mrs. Mary Wilson; dues \$7.00.

Whitehall — Mrs. Daisy Boatwright, Mrs. Annie Davis; dues \$5.00

Report from recording secretary, Mrs. J. W. Franks.

ENLISTMENT DEPARTMENT

Enrollment at beginning of convention year — 44.

Present Enrollment — 41

Number New Members — 3

Number lost — 6

Average Attendance — 29

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Number of youth organizations — 1 YPA

Total membership — 7

Number Mission Declamation Contests held — 1

Number Vacation Bible Schools Assisted in — 1

Number Active Church Libraries — 1

Number Bible College Students Assisted — 3

Other Activities — 3 churches had quartet from our Free Will Baptist Bible College.

STUDY COURSE DEPARTMENT

Courses Conducted	Average Attendance
Missions — 2	20
Stewardship — 2	12
Number of Daily Bible Readers	22

PROGRAM PRAYER DEPARTMENT

Number Weeks of Prayer Conducted — 6

Total Amount Offerings Resulting from Weeks of Prayer — \$51.42

Total Number Family Altars — 14

Total Members Observing Prayer Fellowship — 8

PERSONAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Number making Soul-winning efforts — 17

Number active in Community Missions — 22

Total Value of all contributions to children's homes — \$29.00

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

Number subscribers to Free Will Baptist papers — 14

Number articles written for publication — 4

Other publicity work done — 1 Auxiliary used radio.

PERSONAL GIFTS

Special Offerings Through Other Channels:

Missions	\$ 4.76
Free Will Baptist Bible College	13.50
Children's Homes	1.25
Superannuation	5.25

Mrs. J. W. Franks, Recording Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT
STEWARDSHIP OF POSSESSIONS

Number of Auxiliary members contributing to missions — 7
 Number of tithers on roll at beginning of convention year — 17
 Number of new tithers this convention year — 1
 Present number of tithers — 18

FINANCIAL REPORT

Amount of offering sent to W. N. A. C. Co-Laborer Fund	\$51.95
Amount of Easter offering for Foreign Missions	34.75
Amount of Thanksgiving Offering for State Home Missions	6.67
Amount of Christmas offering for National Home Missions	18.00
Cash gifts to Orphanage	6.50
Value of Boxes to Orphanages	23.00
Cash Gifts to Free Will Baptist Bible College	13.50
Total per capita representation fee sent to W. N. A. C.	
Treasurer this Convention year	4.10
Total Amount spent for Auxiliary Literature	33.45
Total Amount spent for local church activities	45.00

The District Auxiliary also gave \$29.00 for Home Mission during our workshops and \$6.63 to the Unified Program.

(Mrs. J. W. Franks, Treasurer)

Since there were no other reports, Mrs. Morris then explained why we contribute 50 cents dues in the State of Georgia.

A report from the nominating committee was as follows: They reported that they wished the same officers to serve another year. This was passed on and officers were elected as follows:

President — Mrs. E. C. Morris, 606 Belmont Ave., Tifton, Ga.
 VicePresident — (Enlistment Ch.) Mrs. Pauline Wilson, Homerville
 Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer — Mrs. J. W. Franks, Route 4, Tifton, Ga.

Assistant Recording Secretary — Mrs. J. B. Lovering, Valdosta, Ga.
 Youth Auxiliary Chairman — Mrs. G. L. Selph, East Hill Ave., Valdosta
 Study Course Chairman — Mrs. L. F. Ogletree, 619 Chestnut Ave, Tifton
 Prayer-Stewardship — Mrs. Riley Cowart, Pearson, Ga.
 Personel Service Ch. — Mrs. Annie Davis, 1033 Albany Ave, Waycross.

Delegates to the State Woman's Auxillary Convention were appointed as follows: Mrs. William Corbitt, Mrs. J. W. Franks, Mrs. Martin Corbett, Mrs. J. B. Lovering, Mrs. Riley Giddens.

It was announced that Thursday after the 3rd Sunday in January our next District workshop will meet at Ozias Church, Pearson.

Song — "Victory In Jesus" was sung while offering was taken. Amount received — \$23.16.

Moved and seconded to give Little River Association \$5.00 on minutes. This move was carried.

Bro. Morris explained about the equipment Bro. Cronk will carry back with him to India. Each Auxiliary then contributed to this cause and \$8.50 was given. Moved and seconded to give \$5.00 to Unified Program. This move was carried.

Moved and seconded to give Mrs. Morris money for her expense in printing programs, etc., for the convention. This move was carried and her expense was \$3.50. Moved to adjourn business.

Program: Theme — "The Growing Christian".

Topic I — "Growing Through Bible Study", Mrs. L. F. Ogletree.

Topic II — "Growing Through Prayer" — Mrs. J. W. Selph

Topic III — "Growing Through Christian Giving" — Mrs. Riley Giddens.

Topic IV — "Growing Through Christian Service", Mrs. J. H. Ivey.

Topic V — "Growing Through Christian Love", Mrs. W. M. Corbett

Song — "Ready" — Mrs. Morris asked each one who was willing to go back home and do more than ever before, to come shake hands with her. This was quite an impressive service.

The Missions Declamation Contest was then given, with only one contestant. This was Carlene Thompson from Corinth Church. She will go to the State to represent our District. Her topic was "Let Us Be Missionaries."

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. E. C. Morris, President

Mrs. J. W. Franks, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance	\$ 3.60
Total Dues	20.50
Offering	23.16
TOTAL	\$47.26
Sent State and National Dues	16.40
Balance	30.86
Little River Minutes	5.00
Balance	25.86
Unified Program	5.00
Balance	20.86
Mrs. Morris, expense	3.50
Balance to date	\$17.36

MINISTERS PRESENT

Rev. J. D. Little, Rev. J. B. Lovering, Rev. L. G. Baldwin, Rev. E. W. Patillo, Rev. M. T. Goff, Rev. Riley Giddens, Rev. Everett Williams, Rev. Paul Long, Rev. Mance Cason.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

WHITE HALL, Morton Ave. — Sister Annie Davis, Sister Janet Strickland.

FRIENDSHIP — Sister Levo Steedly, Sister Jewel Ross, Sister Fannie Davis.

SHADY GROVE — Herman Eason, Sister Mildred Purvis, A. D. Goff.

OZIAS — Sister Paul Long, Sister Riley Cowart, Sister B. F. Guest, Sister W. N. Wilson.

SUNNYSIDE — Sister J. D. Little, Sister Audie Williams, Sister Jessie Smith, Sister Mammie Mancil, H. R. Douglas, Eddie Williams, Harvey Balance, E. C. Fancher and wife.

CORINTH — J. W. Franks, E. D. Franks, Raymond Mason and wife, Roger Dorden, Sister Fay Ogletree, V. R. Franks and wife.

COOL SPRINGS — Sister Louise Ivey, Elton Harrold, Donald Harrold, Sister James Whisonant, Sister Margaret Mercer, Sister Virgie Newsome, J. W. Coley, Sister Jim Weeks, C. M. Chafin and wife.

FIRST VALDOSTA, 112 3rd Ave. — H. F. Parr and wife, E. W. Gaskins, Sister G. L. Selph, Sister John W. Selph, G. C. Jones.

ZION HILL — J. C. Arnold and wife, Sister Viola Walden, Sister Ruby Bennett.

NEW JERUSALEM — Floyd Dalton, Howard Smith, Claude Gofle.

PINE LEVEL — A. P. O'Kelley, J. P. Perry and wife, Sister Dora Carlton, Sister Bessie Carlton, J. M. Hartsfield.

ORANGE GROVE — Grady Flipo and wife, William Moore and daughter, Carson Parrish.

OAK GROVE — Dewey Giddens, Sister Gladys Giddens, Sister Wilene Hunter, Sister Olif Durrance, Sister Odessa Bradford.

UNION MEETINGS

Liberty

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

Ruth Kinnon

Sunny Side	1st 5th Sunday 1956
Friendship	2nd 5th Sunday 1956
Oak Grove	3rd 5th Sunday 1956
Ozias	4th 5th Sunday 1956
Zion Hill	5th 5th Sunday 1956
White Hall	1st 5th Sunday 1957
Orange Grove	2nd 5th Sunday 1957
First Valdosta	3rd 5th Sunday 1957

ASSOCIATIONS

Zion Hill _____	1956	White Hall _____	1962
Sunny Side _____	1957	Orange Grove _____	1963
Oak Grove _____	1958	Shady Grove _____	1964
Cool Springs _____	1959	Ozias _____	1965
Friendship _____	1960	Pine Level _____	1966
Valdosta _____	1961	Corinth _____	1967

DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. Tharpe 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	Rev. Loucien Cowart _____	1911

MINISTERS AND POSTOFFICES

Rev. Riley Giddens _____	Ray City, Georgia
Rev. M. T. Goff _____	Lennox, Georgia
Rev. L. G. Baldwin _____	Pavo, Georgia
Rev. J. B. Lovering, 1003 E. Gordon St. _____	Valdosta, Georgia
Rev. J. D. Little _____	Pearson, Georgia
Rev. Everett Williams _____	Pearson, Georgia
Rev. Seborn Bowen _____	Willacoochee, Georgia
Rev. W. A. Pope _____	Bainbridge, Georgia
Rev. F. S. Jones, 905 Lewis St. _____	Waycross, Georgia
Rev. W. R. Hullett _____	Ty-Ty, Georgia

LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. E. W. Pattillo _____	Valdosta, Georgia
---------------------------	-------------------

DISBURSEMENT

Clerk _____	\$ 20.00
Moderator _____	10.00
State Association _____	10.00
Postage _____	4.00
Printer _____	100.00

TOTAL _____ \$144.00

BALANCE IN TREASURY _____ \$ 41.83

Ladies

Churches	In Sunday School	In League	Auxiliary
Corinth _____	50	50	6
Valdosta _____	72	0	9
Orange Grove _____	67	0	0
Pine Level _____	65	61	0
Sunny Side _____	40	0	0
White Hall _____	73	25	13
Cool Springs _____	60	60	0
Ozias _____	52	39	14
Zion Hill _____	31	0	0

OBITUARIES

We, Shady Grove, regret the death of Bro. Elvin Purvis, who departed this life March 11, 1955. He was a member of Shady Grove Church, may God bless us to the end that we will meet him in Heaven!

Sister Mildred Purvis, Clerk

It is with the very deepest of sorrow that we report the death of Bro. Ben Baker on October 30, 1954. It was a shock and great sorrow to all concerned. We trust that he is at home with Jesus.

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

It is with sorrow that we report the passing of Sister Emma Cason, although she lived out of this community, she attended services as often as it was possible. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

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

We regret to report the death of Bro. Leonard Douglas. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

Sister Fay Ross, Clerk, Friendship

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Bro. Sam Leverett, who departed this life April, 1955. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Bro. O. M. Miller, who departed this life May, 1955. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

[Sister Annie Davis, Clerk, White Hall

To our regret we report the death of Bro. Edd Brown, December 4, 1954. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

Johnnie Taft, Clerk, Sunnyside

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Bro. J. R. (Bob) Franks, who passed away June 16, 1955. Being 81 years old, he was a member of Corinth Church and we truly believe he is resting with our Saviour and we will meet him again some day.

J. W. Franks, Clerk, Corinth

We regret very much to report the death of Sister Fannie Dukes, who departed this life May 23, 1955. She was a loyal member and a devoted Christian of Ozias Church and was loved by all who knew her.

W. M. Wilson, Clerk, Ozias

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 bretheren 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 isentiate 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 thi schurch 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 concent 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 sucessive 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 anwer 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

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 delt 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 delt with for encouraging heresy.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall hereafter be known as the Little River Free Will Baptist Association.

2. It shall be composed of: (1) The ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto; (2) Legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirement of churches. Each church shall be required to send up an annual report to the Association in which they shall make a brief statement of the pastor, report the character and usefulness of the minister whose membership is with them, give name and post-office of the Church Clerk, give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded, and died, the number of members, and the amount paid for Associational purposes.

4. Each church in the Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs having the unrestricted right to administer its own government without suspension or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.

5. This body shall be considered an advisory council whose duty is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled and while there it shall be 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 my 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERK AND POSTOFFICE	Sunday of Meeting	Received by Letter	Rec'd by Conf of Faith	Restored	Received by Baptism	Dismissed by Letter	Paid Pastor	Paid for Minutes	Value of Church Building	Improvements	Paid For Evangelistic	Total Members
Pine Level	H. W. Giddens	J. P. Perry, Norman Park, Ga.	2-4						\$ 334.20	\$13.00	\$3,000	\$	\$ 70.50	67
Corrinth	Manse Cason	J. W. Franks, Tifton, Ga.	2-4	1		1	2	7	771.06	8.00	3,000	244.78	132.27	66
Zion Hill	Riley Giddens	Mrs. Mamie Mercer, Millwood, Ga.	3						298.50	10.00	2,000			31
Sunnyside	Riley Giddens	Johnnie Taft, Pearson, Ga.	1					3	291.80	14.00	3,000	20.60	63.00	81
Cool Springs	Lamar Parrish	C. M. Chaffin, Jr., Norman Park, Ga.	2-4	2			3		398.32	20.00	6,000	256.16	107.00	144
Friendship	M. T. Goff	Mrs. Fay Ross, Waycross, Ga.	2-4	1			2	1	198.95	6.50	4,300		40.00	33
Ozias	Paul Long	W. M. Wilson, Sr., Pearson, Ga.	Full	5		1	7	4	1,015.00	15.00	10,000	3,542.00	286.14	105
Valdosta	J. B. Lovering	John W. Selph, Valdosta, Ga.	Full	1		3	2		1,280.46	10.00	3,500	532.47	60.00	69
Whitehall	F. S. Jones	Mrs. Annie Davis, Waycross, Ga.	1-3	2					248.72	10.00	4,000	5.00		30
Orange Grove	L. G. Baldwin	R. T. Eunice, Valdosta, Ga.	2-4			1	11		320.00	15.00	3,500	135.00	85.00	55
Shady Grove	M. T. Goff	Mrs. Mildred Purvis, Lenox, Ga.	1	5	2				51.50	8.00	1,000			11
Oak Grove	Riley Giddens	Chester Hunter, Stockton, Ga.	2-4					1	153.50	8.00	2,000		40.68	29

**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.