

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**FIFTIETH ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**CONVENED WITH**  
**ZION HILL**  
**WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**OCTOBER 18 AND 19, 1956**

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REV. J. B. LOVERING, Moderator ----- Valdosta, Ga.

REV. MANCE R. CASON, Clerk ----- Tifton, Ga.

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Next Session to convene with Sunny Side Church, Atkinson  
County, Georgia, Friday and Saturday before the  
Third Sunday in October, 1957

### 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 acknowledgments.
6. For reference of deferred business.
7. For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church.
8. For miscellaneous business.

### 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. Call for petitionary letters.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
5. Call for corresponding messengers.
6. Appoint Committees: (a) Preaching; (b) Resolution; (c) Finance; (d) Card of Thanks; For this Session; Appoint Church to bring report on (a) Auxiliaries and literature; (b) Temperance; (c) Christian Education; (d) Missions; For next Session.
7. Unfinished business.
8. Report of committees.
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
11. Adjournment.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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
CARSON E. PARRISH, Valdosta, Ga. ....	Exp. 1961

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

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

## PROCEEDINGS

The Fiftieth Annual Session of the Little River Association of the Free Will Baptist convened with Zion Hill Church in Ware County, Georgia, Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in October 1956.

Opened by singing "There is a Fountain", Prayer by Rev. L. G. Baldwin and the devotional thoughts were given by Rev. J. B. Lovering. The moderator being absent, the Association was called to order by the assistant moderator, Rev. J. B. Lovering. Called for church letters, letters were read by Mrs. W. N. Wilson and Mrs. Paul Long. Motion carried to receive letters and seat the delegation. See list of Churches and Delegates. Moderator asked the ministers of the Little River Association to stand so he could recognize them. See list of ministers present at this session. The visitors were then asked to stand and be recognized by the moderator. The body voted for the moderator to extend to them the right hand of Christian fellowship and welcome. See list of visitors. Motion carried to elect moderator and clerk by ballot. Rev. J. B. Lovering elected moderator. Mance R. Cason elected clerk. Mrs. Anita Sparks, a candidate to the Mission Field in Africa was introduced and given place on program to tell of the needs in Africa. An offering was received for Mrs. Sparks, and the needs in Africa, amounting to \$42.80. Rev. Paul Long brought the Introductory Message on "I Believe God." The text was Acts 27:25. Motion carried to adjourn for lunch. Benediction was by Rev. Evereth Williams.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON

After lunch the body was called to order by moderator. Prayer was offered by Rev. Luker. Devotional by Rev. Emmett McDuffie. Church letters from Zion Hill, White Hall and Friendship were read. Letters accepted and delegates seated. Called for petitionary letters. No petitionary letters received. By motion for moderator to appoint committees. Preaching committee, Zion Hill Church and Pastor. Resolutions Committee, Rev. E. D. Franks, Mrs. Riley Giddens and Mr. W. N. Wilson. Finance Committee, Rev. Paul Long, Bro. J. C. Arnold and Bro. H. R. Douglas. Card of Thanks, Bro. Eddie Williams. See committee reports. Rev. C. J. Harvey was introduced to speak on behalf of Mount Metnel Camp and the State Association. Delegates from the churches promise to go back to their churches and take an offering to help finance the State Association. Delegates from the churches promise to go back to their churches and take an offering to help finance the State Association at Mount Bethel Camp. The state promotional secretary spoke on the work of the promotional department of Georgia, and awarded certificates for systematic regular giving to the Unified Program. Motion carried to adjourn until 9:00 o'clock Friday morning.

## FRIDAY MORNING

The session was opened with singing of "Near The Cross." Prayer was offered by Rev. J. B. Harris. Devotional thoughts were

given by Rev. M. T. Goff, reading Mark 16:15-20. Moderator called for corresponding messengers from other associations and visitors. Messengers were Mr. G. C. King, from the Chattahoochee, and Rev. J. B. Harris from South Georgia, moderator welcomed and gave them the right hand of Christian fellowship. Orange Grove Church offered the same report on Christian Education as last year. By motion the report was accepted. Motion carried to accept the report on Card of Thanks. See reports. Moderator called for miscellaneous business.

By motion that Mr. Carson E. Parrish be re-elected on the Executive Committee. Report of the Resolutions Committee was called for. Motion carried to accept the report. See report. The Resolutions were read and voted on one at the time. Resolution No. 1 by motion was accepted. Resolution No. 2 by motion was accepted. Resolution No. 3 by motion was accepted. Resolution No. 4 by motion was accepted, the vote being 20 favoring and 6 against. Resolution No. 5 motion was carried that this resolution be tabled until the next session of this Association. Resolution No. 6 by motion this resolution was defeated. Motion carried to accept finance report. Moderator appointed committees, Auxiliaries and Literature—Cool Springs, Temperance — White Hall. Christian Education—Corinth, Mission—Friendship. Motion carried for moderator to appoint a committee to revise the Constitution and make plans for a systematic way of financing this association. Rev. Paul Long, Rev. E. D. Franks and Mance R. Cason were appointed. By motion that this association entertain the State Sunday School Convention in June. Motion carried for the Little River Association to invite the 1957 Session of the State Association. Motion carried for moderator to appoint a placement committee for the State Association. Mr. W. N. Wilson, Rev. L. G. Baldwin and Mance R. Cason appointed. Motion carried to accept report of Ordaining Council, granting ordination papers to Rev. J. B. Wheeler, and to ordain Bro. E. D. Franks at this session. An impressive service followed. Motion carried to adjourn to meet with Sunny Side Church Friday and Saturday before the third Sunday in October 1957.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**RESOLUTIONS:** 1. That each church of this association support the Unified Program by sending the tithes of its income to the Promotional Secretary.

2. That the newly elected officers of this association be held responsible for drawing up a program for the 1957 session of this association.

3. That we elect the officers of this association at the close of each session to serve at the following session.

4. It has been recommended to have our association convening on Friday and Saturday instead of Thursday and Friday.

5. We recommend that the association and the churches adopt the National Treatise.

6. We recommend that our Union Meetings have their business sessions on Saturday.

REV. E. D. FRANKS, Chairman

**CHRISTIAN 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 College. II Tim. 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God" applies to all of us.

ORANGE GROVE CHURCH

**AUXILIARY AND LITERATURE**

We your committee recommend that Free Will Baptist Literature be used in our Churches, Sunday Schools, Leagues and Auxiliaries. Also more Christian literature be used in the home. Parents urge their children in daily Bible reading and each Pastor and Sunday School Teacher urge the members in daily Bible reading. We also recommend that members read the association minutes more carefully. We recommend the Rev. Lovering preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session with Rev. Riley Giddens as alternate.

OAK GROVE CHURCH

**TEMPERANCE**

We your committee on temperance report the Scripture teaches us to be temperate in all things as Christians. We should practice the principles pertaining to every day life, drink, dress and speech, and live above reproach. Fight against intoxication in every form. That our lives will be a living witness for Christ. Our love be with you all in Christ Jesus.

SUNNY SIDE CHURCH

**MISSIONS**

The Little River Association has done absolutely nothing the past year that has been directly responsible for the organization of any new work within the Association. This should shame us and yet challenge us to do something for the coming year. However, the State Home Mission Board has helped in organizing a new church in the city of Brunswick. Believing this could become a very strong church, we suggest that each church support this work by sending a free will offering to the church. The Ruth Kinnon Union Meeting has voted to do everything possible to help in organizing a new church in Tifton. However, we suggest that this association take some definite steps toward the organization of a church in Tifton. This step could be taken by a resolution from the resolution committee. Since the State Home Mission Board depends almost entirely upon the offerings that come through the State Unified Program, we highly commend the churches of our association which have been supporting the Unified Program with monthly offerings.

OZIAS CHURCH

**CARD OF THANKS**

We the members of the Little River Association wish to express a rising vote of thanks for the kindness and hospitality Zion Hill Church has shown us while in their midst. May God bless everyone.

BRO. EDDIE WILLIAMS

**FINANCE**

Oak Grove	\$ 8.00
Cool Springs	11.70
Shady Grove	5.00
Pine Level	13.00
Valdosta	10.00
Corinth	10.00
Sunnyside	14.00
Ozias	15.00
White Hall	5.00
Friendship	6.00
Zion Hill	10.00
Orange Grove	15.00

TOTAL FROM CHURCHES	\$122.70
Balance in Treasury	41.83
Women's Auxiliary	10.00

TOTAL	\$174.53
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**DISBURSEMENTS**

Clerk	\$ 20.00
Moderator	10.00
State and National Association	25.00
Postage	4.00
Printer	120.00

TOTAL	\$179.00
Balance Owing	4.47

**MINISTERS PRESENT**

Rev. Paul Long, Rev. M. T. Goff, Rev. Everett Williams, Rev. J. D. Little, Rev. Mance R. Cason, Rev. E. D. Franks, Rev. J. B. Lovering, and Rev. L. G. Baldwin.

**VISITORS PRESENT**

Rev. and Mrs. C. J. Harvey	Midway Association
Rev. Emmett McDuffie	Georgia Union Association
Rev. E. C. Morris	State Association
Rev. Luker	Church of God, Pearson, Georgia
Rev. J. B. Harris	South Georgia Association
Mr. D. L. Harris	Chattahoochee Association
Mr. G. C. King	Chattahoochee Association
Mrs. Anita Sparks	Africa, Missionary Candidate
Rev. and Mrs. K. V. Shutes	Chattahoochee Association
Mrs. E. C. Morris	South Georgia Association

## CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

- WHITE HALL — Mrs. Annie Davis.
- FRIENDSHIP — Mrs. Fannie Davis, Mrs. Levo Steedley, Mrs. Lizzie Douglas, and Mr. Jeff Giddens.
- SHADY GROVE — No delegates listed.
- OZIAS — Mrs. Paul Long, Mrs. Mary Wilson, and Mrs. Eva Cowart.
- SUNNYSIDE — Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Fancher, Mr. Eddie Williams, Mrs. J. D. Little and Mrs. H. R. Douglas.
- CORINTH — Mrs. J. W. Franks, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Franks, Mrs. L. F. Ogletree, Mrs. C. K. Causey and Mr. Monroe Wynn.
- COOL SPRINGS — Elton Harrold, Donald Harrold, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Chafin, Mrs. C. M. Chafin, Mrs. Louise Ivery, Mr. and Mrs. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Roberts, Mrs. Lulabell Whisnant and Mrs. N. C. Brannon.
- FIRST VALDOSTA — Mr. J. W. Selph, and Mr. M. B. O'Quinn.
- ZION HILL — Mr. J. C. Arnold, Mrs. Ruby Bennett and J. B. Kinon.
- PINE LEVEL — Mr. J. M. Hartsfield, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hartsfield, Mrs. Orma Willis and Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Perry.
- ORANGE GROVE — Mr. Carson E. Parrish.
- OAK GROVE — Mr. Carey Lancaster, Mrs. Ida Lancaster and Mrs. Willene Hunter.

## OBITUARIES

It was with the deepest of sorrow that our dear Sister Syney Jones departed this life in January, 1956. We do trust and pray that our loss is Heaven's gain. **SISTER ANNIE DAVIS**

We the Church at Shady Grove regret very much to report the death of Brother Henry Phillips, who departed this life about November 5, 1955. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

**MRS. RALPH PURVIS, Clerk**

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Brother R. G. Brannon on May 24, 1956. He was one of the oldest members of our Church. We trust that our loss is the will of God, and for Heaven's gain. **MR. C. M. CHAFIN, Clerk**

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Sister Dora Carlton, who departed this life December 7, 1955. Sister Carlton loved her Church very much, and did everything she could for the upbuilding of it. We miss her presence very much. We sincerely believe that all who trust the Lord as she did will meet her in Heaven. **PINE LEVEL CHURCH**

We regret very much to report the death of Brother J. L. McCarty. He was a member of Pine Level Church, and loved by all that knew him. We trust that our loss will be Heaven's gain.

**PINE LEVEL CHURCH**

## OBITUARIES

We, Oak Grove, with much regret record the death of Sister Effie Smith, who departed this life October 22, 1955. Sister Smith united with the Church early in life and was a faithful member to her organization. She was kind and considerate toward those who needed her help. Our Father in Heaven knew best by calling her up higher to receive the crown which surely she won through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**SISTER WILLENE HUNTER, Clerk**

It is with deepest of sorrow that we report the death of our beloved Brother John Dobb Sermans the 26th day of November, 1955. He was a faithful member. We all miss his presence at Church. We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

**SISTER WILLENE HUNTER, Clerk**

## UNION MEETINGS

## Liberty

Corinth	1st 5th Sunday 1957
Pine Level	2nd Fifth Sunday 1957
Shady Grove	3rd Fifth Sunday 1957
Cool Springs	4th 5th Sunday 1957
Corinth	1st 5th Sunday 1958

## Ruth Kinnon

White Hall	1st 5th Sunday 1957
Orange Grove	2nd 5th Sunday 1957
First Valdosta	3rd 5th Sunday 1957
Sunny Side	4th 5th Sunday 1957
Friendship	1st 5th Sunday 1958
Oak Grove	2nd 5th Sunday 1958
Ozias	3rd 5th Sunday 1958
Zion Hill	4th 5th Sunday 1958

Churches	In Sunday School	In League	Ladies Auxiliary
Corinth	50	50	8
Valdosta	72	32	8
Orange Grove	67	0	0
Pine Level	34	61	0
Sunny Side	40	0	0
White Hall	73	0	12
Cool Springs	60	60	0
Ozias	45	30	10
Zion Hill	35	0	0
Friendship	0	0	0
Shady Grove	0	0	0
Oak Grove	0	0	0

## ASSOCIATIONS

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
White Hall	1962	Zion Hill	1968

## 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. Griffiths	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. Louclen Cowart	1911

## MINISTERS AND POSTOFFICES

Rev. J. B. Wheeler	Twin City, Georgia
Rev. Riley Giddens	Ray City, Georgia
Rev. M. T. Goff	Lenox, 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
Rev. Mance R. Cason, 711 — 6½ St.,	Tifton, Georgia
Rev. E. D. Franks	Tifton, Georgia

## LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. E. W. Pattillo	Valdosta, Georgia
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## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

## MINUTES OF THE LITTLE RIVER DISTRICT

## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION, OCTOBER, 19, 1956

The Little River District Woman's Auxiliary Convention met October 19, 1956 at Zion Hill Church, Millwood, Ga. The president, Mrs. E. C. Morris, called the meeting to order after which the congregation sang one song.

Rev. Mance Cason gave a very interesting and inspiring devotional.

We then entered into business with reading of minutes being first. These were adopted as read. The secretary then read an annual report of local auxiliaries as follows:

## STEWARDSHIP OF POSSESSIONS

Number of Auxiliary members contributing to Missions	19
Number of Tithers on roll at beginning of Convention year	12
Number of new Tithers	1
Present Number of Tithers	13

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Amount of offering sent to W.N.A.C. for Co-Laborer Fund	\$33.50
Amount of Easter offering for Foreign Missions	8.00
Amount of State Home Missions offering at Thanksgiving	8.58
Amount of Christmas offering for National Home Missions	7.00
Value of boxes sent to orphanage	17.00
Cash gifts to Free Will Baptist Bible College	18.00
Total gifts to Missions sent to W.N.A.C. Treasurer this convention year by Women's Auxiliary	20.10
Cash gifts to aged Ministers	5.00
Total per capita representation fee sent to W.N.A.C. Treasurer this convention year by Woman's Auxiliary	18.00
By Y. P. A.	3.00
Total Amount spent for Auxiliary Literature	30.00
Total Amount spent for local church activities	201.36
Other added items are:	
Unified Program	3.00
Dot Harvey Loan Fund	6.00
Woman's Day at Camp	10.00
Gifts for Miss Barnard	10.00
Groceries and clothes showers	3.00

One church had workday and canned 42 quarts for pastor.  
MRS. J. W. FRANKS, Treasurer

Number of Auxiliaries reporting are four.

Delegates and dues are as follows: Corinth — Mrs. C. K. Causey, Mrs. M. M. Franks with \$4.00 dues. Corinth Y. P. A. also sent \$3.00 dues. White Hall — Mrs. Annie Davis with \$4.00 dues. First Valdosta — No delegates — \$6.00 dues. Ozias — Mrs. Paul Long, Mrs. W. N. Wilson, dues \$5.50.

MRS. J. W. FRANKS, Recording Secretary

## ENLISTMENT DEPARTMENT

Enrollment at beginning of convention year	— 47
Present Enrollment	— 40.
Number of New Members	— 3.
Number lost	— 10.
Average Attendance	— 27.

## YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Number of Youth Organizations	— 2 Y.P.A.
Total Membership	— 23.
Number Stewardship Declamation Contests held	— 1.
Number of Active church libraries	— 1.
Other Activities	— Visited and had devotionals in homes of shutins.

**STUDY COURSE DEPARTMENT**

Courses Conducted	Average Attendance
Mission — 2	10
Manual — 1	8
Reading Circles — 1	
Number Daily Bible Readers — 32.	

**PROGRAM - PRAYER DEPARTMENT**

Number special programs held — 1.
Number weeks of prayer conducted — 7.
Total amount of Self-Denial offerings resulting from Weeks of Prayer — \$18.58.
Total Number Family Altars — 12.

**PERSONAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

Number making soul-winning efforts — 26.
Number active in Community Missions — 19.
Total value of all contributions to Children Homes — \$20.00.

**PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT**

Number Subscribers to Free Will Baptist Papers — 9.
Number of Articles written for publication — 2.

**PERSONAL GIFTS**

Special offerings through other channels:
Missions — \$98.43.
Free Will Baptist College — \$12.00.
Superannuation — \$5.00.
Other Causes — 81.71.

Mrs. Morris then announced the Woman's National Convention is working on. This was a quota of \$120.00 to be used on a Home Missions Gospel Text for Bro. Dodd. There was a move and second for each local auxiliary to send \$3.00 each.

The delegates to the State Woman's Auxiliary Convention were appointed as follows: Mrs. Annie Davis, Mrs. Paul Long, Mrs. Riley Giddens, Mrs. C. K. Causey, and Mrs. W. N. Wilson.

There was a move and second that we pay \$10.00 for minutes this year instead of \$5.00.

The Study Course Chairman gave her personal report as follows:

I planned and worked up programs for four workshops excluding this session. One on the manual of methods, one on missions and one on stewardship. There was good attendance at each. About an average of 35. I wrote 15 letters.

MRS. L. F. OGLETREE, Study Course Chmn.

We then had the report from the nominating committee that had been previously appointed:

We, your nominating committee submit the following:

President — Mrs. Riley Giddens, Ray City, Georgia; Vice President — Mrs. Paul Long, Box 86, Pearson, Ga.; Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer — Mrs. J. W. Franks, Route 4, Tifton, Ga.

Assistant Recording Secretary—Mrs. J. B. Lovering, Valdosta, Georgia; Youth Auxiliary Chairman — Mrs. G. L. Selph, East Hill Avenue, Valdosta; Study Course Chairman — Mrs. Daisey Boatwright, Waycross, Ga.; Prayer - Stewardship — Mrs. Eva Cowart, Pearson, Ga.; Personal Service Chairman — Ms. Annie Davis, 1033 Albany Ave., Waycross, Ga.

Mrs. Mary Wilson, Mrs. Annie Davis, Mrs. M. M. Franks

These officers were voted in with no other nominations.

The Declamation Contest was then held with two contestants. Helen Hamilton, 17 years old, was the Y. P. A. winner and Sandra Dean, 11 years old, the junior winner. Each received gifts and each was supposed to go to state. Then Harlene Robertson, 15 years old, read her essay on "The Worth of A Family Altar." She also was a winner since there was no one else competing with her. She received a gift also and her essay will go to the State.

As there was no other business we adjourned to hear two wonderful speakers, Mrs. Anita Sparks, a candidate for the foreign fields of Africa, and Mrs. K. V. Shutes, a well-known and well-loved Christian to us all.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. E. C. MORRIS, President.

MRS. J. W. FRANKS, Secretary.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance	\$17.36
Total Dues	22.50
Offering	21.21
TOTAL	61.07
State and National Dues	18.00
BALANCE	43.07
Unified Program	21.21
BALANCE	21.86
Expenses for program etc for convention	5.15
BALANCE	16.71
Gifts for Contestants	4.64
BALANCE	12.07
Mrs. Shutes expense	10.00
BALANCE	2.07
Little River Minutes	10.00
BALANCE (in red)	7.93

## 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 ascer-

tain 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 meetin, 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 be 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 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 by 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 acknowledgment shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their misconduct.

20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

23. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon receipt, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, 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 with permission from the Moderator nor shall the remarks of anyone 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 undecayed 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 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 preceding 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 dealt with for such. Also any church, or pastor allowing preaching of such that is, sinless perfection, as a second work of grace, to occupy their pulpit, shall be dealt with for encouraging heresy.

## CONSTITUTION

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

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

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

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

5. This body shall be considered an advisory council whose duty is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled and while there it shall be his duty to examine all questions of general interest to the Association and to use their best influence to promote a moral and benevolent means and institution such as education, Sabbath Schools, Missionary work, etc.

6. The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer to be chosen by ballot.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our articles of faith and conform to its usages.

8. Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate for each ten members or fraction thereof.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority of votes.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

First, we believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father, of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes.—I Cor. 8:6, Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into the world, because of the great love wherewith He Loved the world; and Christ as freely gave Himself

a ransom for all, tasting death for every man, who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into Heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of Heaven at the last day to judge both quick and dead.—I Tim. 2:5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 3:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 3:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe in the Beginning God made man upright; and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily by transgression, fell and by that means, brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish; but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which in Christ hath commanded the gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15, 17; I Tim 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of Christ, who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that brought them, because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all argument that all men, at one time or other are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; I John 5:10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16, 17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe in the gospel.—Luke 14:16, 20; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3, 5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the 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 judgment at the last day.—John 5:28, 29; II Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERK AND POSTOFFICE	Sundays of Meeting	Received by Letter	Rec'd by Con 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	W. G. Boyd	J. P. Perry, Norman Park, Ga.	2-4	10			8	2	\$ 403.00	\$13.00	\$ 3,000	\$ 15.00	\$ 60.40	63
Corinth	Mance R. Cason	J. W. Franks, Tifton, Ga.	Full				3	3	825.07	10.00	4,000		196.50	81
Zion Hill	L. G. Baldwin	Mrs. Mamie Mercer, Millwood, Ga.	3						275.00	10.00	3,000	18.50		34
Sunny Side	Coy Watson	Johnnie Taft, Pearson, Ga.	1			1	2	2	230.46	14.00	3,000	223.00	90.13	80
Cool Springs	Lamar Parrish	C. M. Chafin, Jr., Norman Park, Ga.	2-4						528.31	11.70	6,000		100.00	142
Friendship	E. D. Franks	Mrs. Leila Lynch, Alma, Ga.	1-3						239.45	6.00	4,000		32.00	33
Ozias	Paul Long	W. N. Wilson, Sr., Pearson, Ga.	Full						2,013.26	15.00	10,000		270.00	82
Valdosta	J. B. Lovering	J. W. Selph, Valdosta, Ga.	Full	4			6	2	2,125.94	10.00	10,000	1,713.45	75.00	81
White Hall	L. G. Baldwin	Mrs. Annie Davis, Waycross, Ga.	Full	1			2			5.00	5,000	65.00	91.80	30
Orange Grove	J. D. Barfield	R. T. Eunice, Valdosta, Ga.	2-4						222.94	15.00	3,500		45.00	54
Shady Grove	M. T. Goff	Mrs. Ralph Purvis, Lenox, Ga.	1	1			1	1		5.00	1,000			11
Oak Grove	Riley Giddens	Mrs. Willene Hunter, Stockton, Ga.	2-4	4			4	2	219.00	8.00	3,000		38.00	24

## FORMS

### FORMS FOR LICENSE

This is to certify that the bearer, Brother \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the County of \_\_\_\_\_  
State of \_\_\_\_\_ is a regular member of the Free Will  
Baptist Church, in the said county of \_\_\_\_\_ State  
of \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby licensed to preach the gospel  
for one year. Done by order of the church in conference.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. D., 19\_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ordaining Council

### CHURCH LETTER

\_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Church of Christ

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. D., 19\_\_\_\_.

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
is a member of the above named church in good standing and is  
hereby at his or her request dismissed from us. Done by order of  
the church in conference. This letter will be void after six months.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Clerk

### PETITIONARY LETTER FROM A CHURCH TO AN ASSOCIATION

Free Will Baptist Church of Christ.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. D., 19\_\_\_\_.

To the \_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Association  
sendeth greetings: We constitute a Free Will Baptist Church by El-  
der \_\_\_\_\_ 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 min-  
utes \$\_\_\_\_\_. Hoping our humble petition will be grant-  
ed, we are your brethren in Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Clerk

### HOW TO ORGANIZE A CHURCH

When any number of converts, not less than five, desire to  
constitute a church, the following order should be observed: (A) The  
officiating minister shall inquire into the Christian character  
and ability of the members to sustain the church. This being satis-  
factory. (B) The minister shall then read 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.