# MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

OF

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CONVENED WITH

OAK GROVE

LANIER COUNTY, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 17, 18, 1958

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REV. RILEY GIDDENS, Moderator Valdosta, Ga.
REV. M. T. GOFF, Assistant Moderator Lenox, Ga.
REV. MANCE R. CASON, Clerk Moultrie, Ga.
MR. LAMAR FERGUSON, Assit. Clerk Norman Park, Ga.

Next Session to convene with Cool Springs Church, Colquitt
County, Georgie, Friday and Saturday before the
Third Sunday in October, 1959.

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

- Prayer (unless divine service has been concluded and generally then).
- 2. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
- Open the doors for reception of members, and read over minutes of last conference.
- Call for absentees.
- 5. For acknowledgements.
- 6. For reference of deferred business.
- 7. For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church.
- 8. For miscellaneous business.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. The body at each session shall be opened & closed with prayer.
- Call for church letters and have them read, and names of ministers and delegates enrolled.
- 3. Call for petitionary letters.
- 4. Invite vititing brethren to seats with us.
- 5. Call for corresponding messengers.
- Appoint Committees: (a) Preaching; (b) Resolution; (c) Finance;
   (d) Card ofThanks; For ths 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.
- Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
- 11. Adjournment.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

M. M. FRANKS, Tifton, Ga	Exp.	1959
W. N. WILSON, Pearson, Ga.		1960
CARSON E. PARRISH, Valdosta, Ga.		1961
H. R. DOUGLAS, Pearson, Ga.		1962
C. M. CHAFIN, Sr., Norman Park, Ga		1963

## **ORDAINING COUNCIL**

Rev. Riley Giddens, Rev. M. T. Goff and Rev. Everett Williams

## PROCEEDINGS

The Fifty-second Annual Session of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptist convened with Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Lanier County near Lakeland, Ga., Oct. 17 and 18, 1958.

Services were opened by congregational singing and prayer offered by Mr. C. M. Chafin. The Rev. Harvey Balance conducted the Devotion Service, reading Proverbs 18:24, 25 and I John 3:1, emphasizing the great need of brotherly love among church people in our day. The Devotion service was concluded with prayer by Rev. E. C. Morris. This session of the Association was given a very warm welcome by the host church, and Mr. J. W. Franks of Corinth Free Will Baptist Church gave response to the welcome. The moderator called the session to order by reading Psalms 122:1 and very humbly asking the entire delegation to be co-operative during this session. Moderator called the roll so the various churches could turn in their church letter. Rev. E. C. Morris and Mr. J. W. Franks were appointed by the moderator to read the church leters. Moved, seconded and carried to seat the delegates pesent and other delegates that probably would come in later. Motion carried to accept the program as arranged by the Executive Committee giving the Moderator the right to make any changes necessary. Moved, seconded and carried that we adjourn the business session until after the lunch hour and that we go into the Morning Worship Service. The Associational Message was brought by Rev. Mance Cason. The Associational Theme "Lifting Up Christ," was used as the subject for the message. Announcements were made by the host church concerning the lunch hour, and we were dismissed with Prayer by Rev. Coy Watson.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Services were begun by congregational singing and prayer was offered by Rev. J. B. Wheeler. Devotion was given by Rev. J. E. Wood using for his text I John 3:11. Recognition was given to visitors. There were several and the Moderator extended to them the right hand of Christian fellowship as he welcomed them to worship with us.Mr. Walter Sloan was received as a messenger from the Union Association and Rev. Coy Watson from the Midway Association. Each of these brethren spoke on the progress of their respective Associations and asked for a messenger from our Association to attend theirs in its next session. Moved, seconded and carried for Moderator to appoint the various committees. Committees appointed were (EDUCATION) First Tifton Church, (AUXILIARY AND LITERA-TURE) Oak Grove Church, (TEMPERANCE) Zion Hill Church and (MISSIONS) Friendship Church. The State Promotional Secretary (Rev. E. C. Morris) was recognized by the Moderator and given place on program to give the report of activities from the State Promotional Department for the year of 1958. Churches receiving certificates as being on the Junior Honor Roll were: First Valdosta, and White Hall Church. The Grand Honor Roll Churches were: Oak Grove, Ozias,

and First Tifton. First Tifton Church was the top church in the association giving to the Unified program, based on the per capita membership of the church. Moved, seconded and carried that we have an intermission so as to enable the moderator and clerk to appoint the various committees. Committees appointed were: Finance, Resolution, and Card of Thanks. Finance Committee, Mr. Lamar Ferguson, Mrs. Ruby Bennett and Mr. Eddie Williams, Resolutions, Mr. J. W. Franks, Mr. Clayton Flippo and Mr. G. C. Jones, and Card of Thanks, Rev. M. T. Goff. The session was called back to order by Moderator, and he called for the various committee reports from the churches who were appointed on committees at last session of the association. Committees reporting were AUXIL-IARY AND LITERATURE, Sunny Side Church, report accepted and committee released. TEMPERANCE, Pine Level Church, report accepted and committee released. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, Ozias Church, report accepted and Committee released. Missions report same as last year's report. (See Committee Reports). Moved, seconded and carried after general discussion on having identification cards for Ministers belonging to this Association printed, that we would not have any cards printed at the present time. Moderator called for volunteers for corresponding messengers to other Associations. Those volunteering were: Mr. M. M. Franks, South Georgia Association and Rev. E. C. Morris for the other six associations. Mrs. Riley Giddens and Mr. M. M. Franks were appointed delegates to the State Association. Moved, seconded and carried that we have four hundred minutes printed. Moved, seconded and carried that we table for an indefinite time article ten of the revised constitution. This article was voted down, therefore it does not appear in the constitution. Moved, seconded and carried that we adjourn our business session until 9 o'clock Saturday Morning. The Body was dismissed by prayer by Rev. J. E. Wood.

#### SATURDAY MORNING

The Association was called back into session by congregational singing and prayer was offered by Rev. Everett Williams. A very inspiring Devotion was led by Rev. Riley Giddens. He read Proverbs 11:30 and chalenged us to be fruit bearers by winning lost souls to Christ. Motion carried to retain Mr. C. M. Chafin, Sr., on the Executive Committee. Moderator called for churches present, who were not present yesterday to bring their church letter forward. One church responded which was White Hall Church of Waycross. The above said church brought a letter asking to be dismissed from this association, so as to become a member of the South Georgia Association. Motion carried to give them a letter of good standing. The Moderator called for Committee reports. The resolution's committee report was read and received to be voted upon by one article at a time. Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 were all carried by motions from the body. Moved, seconded and carried that aticle 7 be tabled for an indefinite time. A church letter from Orange Grove was read

by Rev. J. E. Wood. Moved, seconded and carried to accept letter and seat delegation. Moderator called for report from the committee on Card of Thanks. Motion carried to accept report. The report of The Finance committee was given. Moved, seconded and carried that we accept report. (See Reports). Moved, seconded and carried that we receive an offering so as to be able to comply with the report of the Finance Committee. An offering of \$32.19 was received. Moved, seconded and carried that we elect Associational officers by nominations from the floor. Rev. Riley Giddens was nominated as Moderator, motion carried to close nominations. Rev. Riley Giddens elected. Rev. M. T. Goff was nominated as Assistant Moderator, motion carried to close nominations. Rev. M. T. Goff elected Assistant Moderator, Rev. Mance Cason was nominated clerk and Mr. Lamar Ferguson, Assistant Clerk, Motion carried for nominations to close. Rev. Mance Cason elected clerk and Mr. Lamar Ferguson assistant clerk. Moved, seconded and carried that Rev. J. D. Little and Sister Annie Arnold's obituaries be given a page in our minutes and a black margin around same. Motion carried that we reverently stand and have a Memorial prayer in honor of Rev. J. D. Little and Sister Annie Arnold for their faithfulness to God and our Association for several years. Moved, seconded and carried that we adjourn to meet with Cool Springs Church on Friday and Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1959.

## CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

- PINE LEVEL— Mr. A.P.O. Kelly, Mr. J. C. Hartsfield, Mrs. Orma Willis, Mrs. Flora Conger and Mrs. J. C. Hartsfield.
- CORINTH— Mr. Lonnie Wynn, Mr. J. W. Franks, Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Sumner, Mrs. Annie Woods and Mr. A. C. Woods.
- ZION HILL— Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Arnold, Mrs. Ruby Bennett, Mrs. Ruby Turner.
- SUNNY SIDE— Mrs. J. D. Little, Mrs. Annie Douglas, Mr. Archie Williams, Mr. Eddie Williams and Mrs. Mammie Mancil.
- COOL SPRINGS— Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Ferguson, Mr. N. C. Brannan, Mr. Elton Harrod and Mr. J. B. Macer.
- FRIENDSHIP- Mr. Clem Giddens and Mr. Jeff Giddens.
- OZIAS- Mrs. Fannie Mizell, Mrs. Peonlie Guest and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Arnold.
- VALDOSTA— Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Jones, Mrs. Ruby Tomlinson, Mrs. J. J. Gray and Mrs. Rosa Selph.
- OAK GROVE— Mrs. Bessie Moncrief, Mrs. Willene Hunter and Mr. Carey Lancaster.
- TIFTON- Mr. Clayton Flippo, Mrs. Bessie Flippo and Mrs. Annie Franks.
- ORANGE GROVE- Mr. Carson E. Parish.

CHURCHES	In Sunday School	In League	Ladies Auxiliary
Pine Level		0	0
Corinth	35	28	6
Zion Hill	0	0	0
Sunny Side	64	0	0
Cool Springs	45	30	. 0 .
Friendship	0		0
Ozias	60	51	
Valdosta		0	8
Tifton	39	34	6
Orange Grove	20	0	0
Shady Grove	0	0	0
Oak Grove	45	0	0

#### MINISTERS PRESENT

Rev. Riley Giddens, Rev. J. E. Woods, Rev. J. B. Wheeler, Rev. Harvey Balance, Rev. E. C. Morris, Rev. Everett Williams, Rev. M. T. Goff and Rev. Mance Cason.

#### VISITORS PRESENT

Rev. Jack Brantly		North	Florida	Association
Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Carter		North	Florida	Association
Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Stewart	Tables III	North	Florida	Association

## CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS

Mr. Walter Sloan	Union	Association
Rev. Coy Watson	Midway	Association

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

That the newly elected officers of this association be held responsible for drawing up a program for the 1958 session of this association.

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

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

We recommend that the association and the churches adopt the National Treatist.

We recommend that our Union Meeting have their business session on Saturday.

7. We your committee recommend that the Ordaining Council issue to Ministers of the Little River Association each year, cards stating their standing, in fellowship or out of fellowship with the association.

We your Committee recommend that each resolution that is adopted be printed in the minutes for two years.

#### FINANCE REPORT

We your Finance Committee find that contributions from all churches amount to \$168.75 with \$2.63 balance, giving a total in treasure of \$171.38. We your committee recommend that our clerk be paid \$25.00 and Moderator \$10.00. We recommend that an offering be taken to finish paying the clerk and send the balance to the State and National Association.

Lamar	Ferguson, Chairman
	\$168.75
Offering received	\$171.38 32.19
Offering received	32.17
Total amount of monies received for Assoc DISBURSEMENTS	iational Purposes \$203.57
Clerk	\$25.00
Moderator	10.00
State and National Association	25.00
Postage	
Printer	135.00
	4.05
TÓTAL	\$203.05
Balance on Hand AUXILIARY AND LITER	

We your committee on Auxiliary and Literature recommend Sunday Schools, Leagues and Auxiliaries use Free Will Baptist Literature, we recommend Daily Bible Reading, and do all we can to bring up our youth in the fear, nuturion and admonition of the Lord. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love which ye have shewed toward his name." Hebrew 6:10. This committee recommends that the Preaching Committee recommend those who would conduct the Introductory Sermon at the next session.

## SUNNY SIDE CHURCH

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We your committee on Christian Education submit the following report; In view of the growing need of trained leadership in our churches and that our leaders can serve more efficiently when blessed with the privilege of attaining knowledge through the source of Christian Education. We recommend that our churches and pastor do their utmost in persuading the leaders of our churches to prepare themselves for the work assigned to them. We feel that not only Ministers should seek higher Christian learning, but all that are desiring to live for and serve Christ. Therefore, we recommend that Teacher's Training Courses, League Training Courses, and Soul Winning Classes be made available for our people. We also recommend that each Church do its utmost in persuading Ministerial Candidates to prepare themselves for the Ministry in our own Bible College, or some preferable Christian Institute.

**OZIAS CHURCH** 

#### TEMPERANCE

We your committee on Temperance wish to submit this report: Let us abstain from the use of all forms of intoxicating beverrages, for the Bible teaches us, who is overcomed there by is not wise. Also let us bridle our tongues that our conversations be as becometh Saints, for Paul tells us in Roman 12:1 to present our Bodies à Living Sacrifice, Wholly acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service, that our life will be a living witness for Christ to those that we come in contact with and love our neighbors as ourselves.

PINE LEVEL CHURCH

#### MISSIONS

The Little River Association has in the past year helped in supporting the new church in Tifton, which we pray that it will soon be finished and that it will be a sacred place where Christian people will work and pray together for lost souls that they may come into the fold. We are happy to say that the Ruth Kinnon Union Home Mission Fund has donated two hundred and fifty dollars on the new Tifton Church and also the Ruth Kinnon Home Mission Fund has donated twenty five dollars to the Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church. We thank God for the Free Will Baptist People who are willing to help support this fund. So let's all work and pray and let the Lord use us for his Glory.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH

## CARD OF THANKS

We your Committee on Card of Thanks recommend that this association and friends express by a rising vote their appreciation to Oak Grove Church for their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.

REV. M. T. GOFF, Chairman

## **ASSOCIATIONS**

Cool Springs	1959	Ozias	1965
Friendship	1960	Pine Level	1966
Valdosta	1961	Corinth	1967
Tifton	1962	Zion Hill	1968
Orange Grove	1963	Sunny Side	1969
Shady Grove	1964	Oak Grove	1970

#### DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. Tharpe Bailey 1911	Rev. M. F. Cason	1929
Rev. J. J. Davis 1913	Rev. H. J. Griffis	1939
Rev. C. Leon Starling 1919	Rev. W. R. Cato	1941
Rev. J. B. Griffin 1926	Rev. J. C. Arnold	1942
Rev. H. J. Cowart	Rev. J. R. Weeks	1947
Rev. Morgan Cannon 1926	Rev. Loucien Cowart	1911
Rev. A. Eunice 1928	Rev. J. D. Little	1958
Rev. B. O. Brown 1928		

## MINISTERS AND POST OFFICE

Rev. J. B. Wheeler	Box 143 - Metter, Ga
Rev. Riley Giddens	407 Floyd Street - Valdosta, Ga.
Rev. M. T. Goff	Sparks, Ga
Rev. Everett Williams	Pearson, Ga
Rev. Seborn Bowen	Willacoochee, Ga
Rev. W. A. Pope	Bainbridge, Ga
Rev. F. S. Jones	Route 2 — Waycross, Ga.
Rev. W. R. Hullett	Route 1 — Sumner, Ga
Rev. E. D. Franks	Alma, Ga.
Rev. E. C. Morris	Box 553 — Tifton, Ga.
Rev. J. E. Wood	Pearson, Ga
Rev., Paul Long	Tupelo, Miss.
Rev. Mance R. Cason	Route 4 - Moultrie, Ga.
Rev. A. C. Truluck	427 W. 11th St Tifton, Ga.

## UNION MEETINGS

## Liberty

Tifton	. 1st	5th	Sunday	1959
Corinth			Sunday	
Pine Level			Sunday	
Shady Grove			Sunday	
Cool Springs			Sunday	
				- 2

### Ruth Kinnon

Orange Grove	1st	5th	Sunday	1959
First Valdosta			Sunday	
Sunny Side	3rd	5th	Sunday	1959
Friendship	4th	5th	Sunday	1959
Oak Grove			Sunday	
Ozias	2nd	5th	Sunday	1960
Zion Hill	3rd	5th	Sunday	1960

## LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. Harvey Balance		Homerville,	Ga.
Rev. E. W. Pattillo	1610 Boone Drive	- Valdosta,	Ga.

## **OBITUARIES**

We regret very much to report the passing of a dear saint of God; Mrs. Dee Nile Ford. She went to be with her Lord on August 1958. Sister Ford was loved and appreciated by all and was an active member of the church. We feel she has reached the goal she longed for.

CORINTH CHURCH

In April, 1958, God saw fit to take Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Franks. She was a devoted wife, loving mother and was active in the Church, but in her last years her health greatly handicapped her work. Sister Franks was loved and respected by all who knew her. We feel assured she is at rest with her Lord.

CORINTH CHURCH

Our Loving Heavenly Father in His Infinite Wisdom saw fit to call from this earth our beloved Bro. J. B. Woods. Bro. Woods passed from this life in October, 1957, he was a faithful and loyal member of the church. He was loved and appreciated by those who knew him, and we feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

CORINTH CHURCH

Our dear Sister Cindy Corbitt departed this life May 31, 1958. She was a faithful member of Sunny Side Church. She was 72 years of age and was blind since she was 12 years old. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. We feel that she will ever be with the Lord and has gone to fill one of those mansions, that Jesus has prepared for those that love him.

SUNNY SIDE CHURCH

Our dear Bro. Tharpe Roberts passed away after extended illness, we hope his suffering will be repaid with a home in Heaven.

W. M. WILSON, SR., Clerk

It is sad to report the death of our beloved Sister Gertrude Kirby. She was a faithful Christian and we miss her so much, but we feel assured she has reached the place all Christians want to go. W. M. WILSON, SR., Clerk

It was with the deepest of sorrow that Sister Kizzie Fort departed this life on March 7, 1958. We do trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

OAK GROVE CHURCH

With sorrow we report the death of Bro. W. T. Ethridge, we trust he is with his maker. COOL SPRINGS CHURCH

We the Church at Friendship regret very much to have to report the death of Sister Leila Lynch who was a faithful member and clerk of our Church. She was faithful to her church and her God, we feel that our loss is Heaven's gain. FRIENDSHIP CHURCH

## ANNIE ARNOLD

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of our beloved Sister Annie Arnold, who passed away February 4, 1958. She was born May 5, 1886. Sister Arnold was the widow of the late Rev. J. C. Arnold, Sr. She was loved by all who knew her. She was a devoted member and Mother to our Church, and has been a Church worker and Sunday School leader practically all her life. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.

ZION HILL CHURCH

## REVEREND J. D. LITTLE

The Reverend J. D. Little, departed from this earthly life August 16, 1958. Although he is gone from our presence, we know that he still lives through his influence as a minister in the hearts of many people. He pastored several churches during his life time here, and served as Moderator of the Little River Association for a good many years. He held church membership with Sunny Side Church, the church as well as all who knew him, loved and appreciated him as a rue servant of God and to his church. His last Testimony was that he was ready to go. So we know that he has reached the goal he longed for. May God bless us to the end that we will meet him in Heaven.

SUNNY SIDE CHURCH

# COMPILED REPORT OF THE DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

We the District Woman's Auxiliary of the Little River Association are very happy to report the following. We have had a good year in spite of the opposition and hardships we have had.

Number of Members contributing to Missions	
Number of Tithers	17
Number of Auxiliaries reporting	3
Present enrollment	24
Average Atendance	19
Youth Department	
Number of Youth Organizations	3
Total Membership	23
Total Membership Number of Vacation Bible Schools	
Number of Church Libraries	1
Study Course Department	
COLIDER CONDUCTED	Atendance
Missions 2	38
Stewardship 1	12
Manual 2	14
Evangelism 1	10
Number of Daily Bible Readers	17
Program Prayer Department	
Number Special Programs held	2
Number Weeks of Prayer held	
Total amount Self-Denial Offering	\$10.10
Total Number of Family Altars	JF.10
Total Members observing Prayer fellowship	10
	10
Personal Service Department	-
Number Making Soul-Winning Efforts	20
Number Active in Community Missions	16
Publicity Department	
Number Subscribers to Free Will Baptist Papers	12
Number Articles written for Publications	3
Financial Report	
Amount of Offering sent to W.N.A.C. Co-Labor Fund	\$26.50
Amount of Easter offering for Foreign Missions	9.45
Amount of Thanksgiving offering for State Home Mission	ns '3.00
Amount of Christmas offering for National Home Mission	ons 6.65
Total gifts to Missions	
Total amount spent for Auxiliary Literature	
Total amount spent for Local Church Activities	24 10
Total amount sent for Dot Harvey Loan Fund	3.00
Total amount sent for State Workshop	20.00
Total amount of offering given through other channels	107.74
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We are very happy to say that we raised our quota on the African Mission Station which was \$50.00. We were the first to raise our quota.

## **GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES**

- We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregations of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.
- That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptised 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 atached to the visble 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, repungent 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 supervison 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 the preservation of true and orderly bodies of Christians on earth, that is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but that does not extend to persons, property or the conscience of men in any manner whatsoever.
- 8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel, that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of such membership is an assumption of authority on the part of the church and a departure from the Gospel plan.

- 9. That the officers of a church are elders and deacons; that the elders are called bishops or pastors and all of the elders are equal in rank though they may perform different functions— since some may be bishops or pastor of particular churches, while others may be simple elders, having no pastorial 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 or heresy.
- 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 in 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 lisentiate 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 Associational 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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 the rule if necessary.
- 11. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer unless divine services has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) Reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.
- Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches, shall speak and made 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 acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church book.
- 19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their misconduct.
- 20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.
- 21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.
- 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 anyone be unreasonably long.
- When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.
- 28. No one shall be interupted 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.
- No Licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.
- 33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a twothirds vote of the membership present at any two consecutive monthly conferences.

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men.."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations to reverence to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assemblying of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of it's poor, and all it's benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's hapiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and, as far as we are able, promote the success of the Church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdon of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### DECORUM

- At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceding session shall preside until the successors shall be known.
- At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.
- At the close of each session the entire proceedings shall be read for correction and approval.
- Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.
- 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.
- Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.
- After a motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move for a reconsideration.
- 10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave.
- The Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.
- 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

Article 1. This Association shall be called the Little River Association of Original Free Will Baptist and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Free Will Baptist quarterly meetings and churches as may embody themselves under this constitution.

Article 2. Section 1. This yearly meeting or association shall be composed of: (1) the general officers of this association; (2) delegates from each quarterly meeting; (3) the ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto; (4) legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

Section 2. Churches sending delegates to this association shall be allowed one delegate for each ten members or fraction thereof and each quarterly meeting shall be allowed one delegate for each 300 members or fraction thereof.

Article 3. The sessions of this association shall be held on the stated date agreed and voted upon by the association, at which time it shall be the duty of the quarterly meeting and churches of which this association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates, and report their standing and statistics using the uniform report blank as required by this association.

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

Article 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 its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the association and to use their best influence to promote a christian and benevolent means and institutions such as education, Sabbath Schools, Leagues, Missionary Work, etc.

Article 6 The officers of this association shall be Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk-Treasurer, and an Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the close of each regular session.

Article 7. Churches wishing to become members of this association must conform to the practices and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination, as published in the Treatise of their faith.

Article 8. This association shall have power to adopt any regulations or by-laws, not inconsistant with this constituton, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

Article 9. Each church composing this association should send 25c per capita member and each quarterly meeting 5c per capita member for associational expenses.

Article 10. This association shall maintain an ordaining council whose functions shall be governed as follows: (1) It shall be the duty of this council to examine each person for whom ordination is requested as to his moral, spiritual, educational qualifications, and his willingness to cooperate with the functions of this assoc.

Article 11. This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the association at any regular session; notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing, and recorded at a previous business session.

## 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.—1 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 burried 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—1 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; Epn. 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 repentence 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; 1 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; 1 John 5:10.

- 7. We believe the while Scriptures are infallible 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 man, 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 Apostie 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; Il Peter 2:1; Il Thes: 2:1112; 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."—1 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 be 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 the hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saint's feet, annointing 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.
- We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.

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EVERETT WILLIAMS

J. P. PERRY, NORMAN PARK,

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J. W. FRANKS, TIFTON, GA.

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VALUE OF CHURCH BUILDING

PAID FOR EVANGELISTIC

**IMPROVEMENTS** 

TOTAL MEMBERS

RESTORED

Rec'd by Con. of Faith

ZION HILL

EVERETT WILLIAMS E. J. COLEMAN

COY WATSON

OZIAS

FRIENDSHIP COOL SPRINGS SUNNY SIDE

FIRST TIFTON OAK GROVE SHADY GROVE ORANGE GROVE VALDOSTA

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T. GOFF COLEMAN TRULUCK

MRS. ODESSA BRADFORD, Stockton, Ga.

MRS. RALPH PURVIS, LENOX, GA. MRS. JEWEL PARISH, VALDOSTA, GA.

KELLY FRANKS, TIFTON, GA.

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> JOHN W. SELPH, VALDOSTA, GA. W. M. WILSON, SR., PEARSON, GA. MRS. ELIZABETH GIDDENS, Millwood, Ga. C. M. CHAFIN, JR., Norman Park, Ga. JOHNNIE TAFT, PEARSON, GA. MRS. MAMIE MERCER, MILLWOOD, GA.

FULL FULL

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## **FORMS**

## FORMS FOR LICENSE

State of	is a regular	member of the Free Will
Baptist Church, in	the said county of	State
	is hereby licen by order of the chur	nsed to preach the gospel rch in conference.
This	day of	, A.D., 19
Signed		Moderator
*****	Ord	laining Council
3	-	
	CHURCH LETTER	
	CHORCH LETTER	
	Free W	ill Baptist Church of Christ
This the	day of	, A.D., 19
This is to certify	y that	
hereby at his or her	request dismissed for	h in good standing and is rom us. Done by order of be void after six months.
me choich in comer		
Step 12 12 Step Step Delivery	**************************************	Moderator

## PETITIONARY LETTER FROM A CHURCH TO AN ASSOCIATION

	Free Will Baptist Church of Christ
This the day of	, A.D., 19
	Free Will Baptist Association
sendeth greetings: We constitute	a Free Will Baptist Church by El- with members.
We have adopted the Articles of the Free Will Baptist Church. We	f Faith, Covenant and Decorum of e are at peace. We have called as 
	Free Will
Baptist Association for membersh	ip in the same. We send for min- or humble petition will be grant-
***************************************	
***************************************	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.