

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**OF**  
**THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**CONVENED WITH**  
**COOL SPRINGS**

COLQUITT COUNTY, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 16, 17, <sup>1959</sup> 1960

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REV. RILEY GIDDENS, Moderator	_____	Valdosta, Georgia
REV. L. E. SHEFFIELD, Assistant Moderator	_____	Pearson, Georgia
MR. WALLACE FRANKS, Clerk	_____	Tifton, Georgia
MR. W. N. WILSON, Assistant Clerk	_____	Pearson, Georgia

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Next Session to convene with Friendship Church, Ware County,  
Georgia, Friday and Saturday before the  
Third Sunday in October, 1960

## OUR DEAD 1959

Bro. Tommy Fort	Oak Grove
Sister Emma Summerlin	Sunnyside

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

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

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## 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 the 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.

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. N. WILSON, Pearson, Ga. ....	Exp. 1960
CARSON E. PARRISH, Valdosta, Ga. ....	Exp. 1961
H. R. DOUGLAS, Pearson, Ga. ....	Exp. 1962
C. M. CHAFIN, Sr., Norman Park, Ga. ....	Exp. 1963
M. M. FRANKS, Tifton, Ga. ....	Exp. 1964

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## ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. M. T. Goff,  
1960

Rev. Everett Williams,  
1961

Rev. L. E. Sheffield  
1962

## PROCEEDINGS

The Fifty-third Annual Session of the Little River Association of the Original Freewill Baptist convened with Cool Springs Freewill Baptist Church in Colquitt County near Norman Park, Georgia on October 16-17, 1959.

Services were opened with congregational singing and prayer offered by Rev. L. G. Baldwin. The Rev. Lamar S. Parrish conducted the Devotion Service, reading Exodus 24:3-8, emphasising Obediant doers of the Word. The session was then opened for business by the moderator, Rev. Riley Giddens. The moderator called the roll so the various churches could turn in their church letters. Rev. E. C. Morris and Rev. Mance Cason were appointed by the moderator to read the church letters. Moved, seconded and carried to receive the letters and seat the delegates and those that would come in later. Moved, seconded and carried to accept the program as arranged by the Executive Committee, giving the moderator the right to make any necessary changes.

The Moderator called for petitionary letters and also recognized the visitors at this time. Rev. L. G. Baldwin came from The Union Association. Rev. Larry Williams was welcomed into our midst. Bro. and Sister Davidson were welcomed from our work in Atlanta. Bro. G. C. King from the Midway Association. Bro. and Sister Tom McGee from Weeks Chapel Methodist Church. Committees appointed were (AUXILIARY AND LITERATURE) Corinth Church, (EDUCATION) Cool Springs Church, (TEMPERANE Pine Level Church, (MISSIONS) Valdosta Church. Moved, seconded and carried to have a ten minute intermission before the morning message. Services were opened with song and prayer by Rev. Larry Williams. The message was brought by Rev. E. C. Morris. The Associational Theme "Obediant doers of the Word" 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. Everett Williams.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Services were opened by congregational singing and prayer by Bro. Davidson. Devotion was given by Rev. L. E. Sheffield, reading St. John 14:21. At this time Rev. E. C. Morris brought the report of the State Promotional Office. The churches from the Little River Association on the Junior Honor Roll were: Zion Hill, First Valdosta and Oak Grove. Churches on the Grand Honor Roll were: Ozias and First Tifton. First Tifton was .01 per cent ahead of Ozias in giving per member. At this time the Moderator recognized Rev. C. J. Harvey and he spoke about what we owe our youth. We received a special offering for the youth camp in the amount of \$17.56. There was a prayer at this time by Rev. Mance Cason. We then heard a report by Bro. Davidson concerning our mission work in Atlanta. Appointment of committees were: Finance committee, J. H. Ivey, Wallace Franks, W. M. Wilson, Resolutions Committee, J. B. Mercer, Sister Ruby A. Bennett, A. P. O'Kelly, H. M. Hamilton, Rev. L. E. Sheffield. Card of Thanks, Rev. Larry Williams.

Committees reporting were Auxiliary and Literature, Oak Grove Church, report accepted and committee released. Education, First Tifton Church, report accepted and committee released. Temperance, Zion Hill Church, report accepted and committee released. (See Committee Reports). Moved, seconded and carried to appoint a committee on state churches and character of Ministers. Committee appointed as a standing committee, Brothers H. M. Hamilton, Wallace Franks and N. C. Brannon. Moved, seconded and carried to elect a Nominating Committee. Appointed Brothers M. M. Franks, W. N. Wilson, Johnny Taft. Moved, seconded and carried that we adjourn our business session until 9 o'clock Saturday morning. The Body was dismissed by prayer by Rev. Davidson.

### SATURDAY MORNING

The Association was called back into session by congregational singing and prayer was offered by Rev. E. C. Morris. The Devotional was brought by Rev. Riley Giddens, reading Psalms 133 and challenged us to come together in unity. The letter from Valdosta Church was read and accepted. Moved, seconded and carried to give the Ladies Auxiliary time on our program for their business. Moved, seconded and carried to retain Bro. M. M. Franks on the Executive Committee. Moved, seconded and carried for the Moderator to appoint one from each church to help on Camp Committee. The Nominations Committee brought forward their report. Moved, seconded and carried to receive report and release committee. Moved, seconded and carried to accept the Finance Committee's report and release the committee. Moved, seconded and carried to receive an offering to help finance the minutes. The sum of \$31.22 was taken up. Moved, seconded and carried to accept Resolutions Committee report and release the committee. Moved, seconded and carried to adopt each item of resolution. The Card of Thanks committee made their report. The report was accepted and the committee released. The visitors were recognized at this time. They were, Rev. and Mrs. Coy Watson, Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Wood. The corresponding messengers can be found elsewhere in the minutes. Moved, seconded and carried to vote for associational officers by acclamation instead of ballot. Moved, seconded and carried for Moderator to appoint a standing committee for Destitution of Churches and Ministers. Bro. H. M. Hamilton, Bro. Wallace Franks and Bro. N. C. Brannon were appointed. Moved, seconded and carried to replace one of ordaining council each year. Rev. L. E. Sheffield was elected in place of Rev. Riley Giddens. The officers for ensuing year are; Moderator, Rev. Riley Giddens, Assistant Moderator, Rev. L. E. Sheffield, Clerk, Bro. Wallace Franks, Assistant Clerk, Bro. W. N. Wilson. Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn and meet with Friendship on Friday and Saturday before third Sunday in October, 1960.

### CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

TIFTON—Mrs. Clayton Flippo, Mrs. Dortha McGee, Mrs. Clark Miller and Mrs. E. C. Morris.

ZION HILL—Mrs. Ruby Bennett and Mrs. Dollie Harrell.

COOL SPRINGS—Mr. J. B. Mercer, Mr. Ed Stone, Mr. N. C. Brannon, Mr. Dan Graham, Mr. J. H. Ivey, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Parten, Mr. O. L. Roberts, Mr. Byron Roberts, Mr. James Whisnant.

VALDOSTA—

OZIAS—Mr. W. N. Wilson, Mr. H. M. Hamilton, Mrs. Mary Wilson, Mrs. Eva Cowart and Mr. Winifred Sheffield.

FRIENDSHIP—Bro. Jeff Giddens, Mrs. Jewel Ross and Mrs. Freda Herndon.

OAK GROVE—Mrs. Willene Hunter, Mrs. Irene Sirmans, Mr. Corey Lancaster, Sister Betty Sirmans and Sister Bessie Moncrief.

SUNNYSIDE—Mr. Eddie Williams, Mrs. J. D. Little, Sister Annie Douglas and Mr. Johnnie Taft.

CORINTH—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Franks, Mr. L. E. Wynn, Mr. C. K. Causey, Mrs. L. E. Wynn and Mrs. M. M. Franks.

PINE LEVEL—Mr. and Mrs. A. P. O' Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hartsfield, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Brooks and Tom Carlton.

### CHURCHES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

CHURCHES	In Sunday School	In League	In Auxiliary
Zion Hill .....	66 .....	0 .....	0 .....
First Tifton .....	40 .....	20 .....	8 .....
Cool Springs .....	61 .....	40 .....	8 .....
First Valdosta .....	40 .....	25 .....	10 .....
Ozias .....	52 .....	50 .....	12 .....
Pine Level .....	40 .....	0 .....	0 .....
Corinth .....	30 .....	30 .....	6 .....
Sunnyside .....	64 .....	0 .....	0 .....
Oak Grove .....	35 .....	0 .....	0 .....
Friendship .....	0 .....	0 .....	0 .....

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS: 1. Be it resolved that all churches have reports in the hands of the clerk so he may have the minutes printed and back to the churches by January 15 of each year. If it is impossible for him to do so he will notify the churches as to why and when to expect same.

2. That the Moderator open Association on time and stay on time as outlined by our program.

J. B. Mercer, Chairman

**AUXILIARY AND LITERATURE:** We, your committee on Auxiliary and Literature recommend Sunday Schools, Leagues and Auxiliaries and use Free Will Baptist literature. We recommend daily Bible reading and do all we can to bring up our youth in the fear 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

Oak Grove Church

**TEMPERANCE:** We, your committee of Temperance offer the following report. Every man that is striving for the Mastery to be temperate in all things and abstain from all appearances of evil. We recommend that we commit ourselves to temperance:

1. In Body.
2. In Mental Activities.
3. In Social Activities.

We further recommend that each Christian use his influence to promote temperance in the lives of others, for the devil is as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour. "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:34, 35

Zion Hill Church

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** In looking through the minutes of this association for the past few years, and especially reading the various educational reports, we want to commend the committees of former years for the splendid reports which were offered by them and adopted. These reports are so commendable that we the First Tifton Church beg to recommend that these reports be preserved and frequently referred to for renewed suggestions. We heartily re-offer them and about the only addition we see that might be made is that we caution our young people who seek college training to be careful and prayerful in selecting the institution to attend for their collegiate work. Since the Free Will Baptists have two well founded Christian colleges, we would urge that these colleges be given first consideration. They are; The Mount Olive Junior College located in Mount Olive, N. C. and the Free Will Baptist Bible College located in Nashville, Tennessee. The Junior College is and accredited institution with liberal art colleges and the Bible College is a four year college accredited with similar institutions and is especially recommended for those who plan to do part or whole time work. The Mount Olive Junior College is under the management of the North Carolina State Convention, but have members of the Board of Trustees from other states. The Bible College is controlled by a board of trustees elected by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. It is Bible centered and evangelical in spirit. We humbly offer this report for your consideration and if favorable may it be adopted.

The First Tifton Church

MISSIONS: Report not received.

CARD OF THANKS: We, your committee on Card of Thanks would like to recommend that this body give Cool Springs Church a rising vote of thanks for their splendid hospitality shown us while in their midst.

Rev. Larry Williams

FINANCE COMMITTEE: We, your Finance Committee find that contributions from all Churches to be \$143.75 with .52c balance giving a total of \$144.27 in treasury. We recommend that our clerk be paid \$25.00 and the Moderator be paid \$10.00. We recommend that an offering be taken to help out with finance.

Contribution from Churches .....	\$143.75
Balance brought forward .....	.52
	\$144.27
Offering received .....	31.22
Total amount received .....	\$175.49

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Clerk .....	\$ 25.00
Moderator .....	10.00
State and National Association .....	25.00

#### ASSOCIATIONS

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
Ozias .....	1965	Cool Springs .....	1971

#### 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	Rev. W. A. Pope .....	1959



## CORRESPONDING MESSENGERS

Rev. L. G. Baldwin .....	Union Association
Rev. Mance Cason .....	Union Association
Mr. G. C. King .....	Midway Association
Rev. Coy Watson .....	Midway Association
Rev. J. E. Wood .....	Midway Association

## MINISTERS AND POST OFFICE

Rev. Everett Williams .....	Pearson, Georgia
Rev. E. C. Morris .....	Box 553 — Tifton, Georgia
Rev. W. R. Hullett .....	Route 1 — Sumner, Georgia
Rev. Lamar S. Parrish .....	Route 1 — Norman Park, Georgia
Rev. Riley Giddens .....	407 Floyd Street — Valdosta, Georgia
Rev. L. E. Sheffield .....	P. O. Box 86 — Pearson, Georgia
Rev. J. E. Wood .....	Blakley, Georgia
Rev. J. B. Wheeler .....	Box 143 — Metter, Georgia
Rev. Larry Williams .....	1444 Tift Avenue — Tifton, Georgia
Rev. Seborn Bowen .....	Willacoochee, Georgia
Rev. M. T. Coff .....	Sparks, Georgia

## UNION MEETINGS

## Liberty

Cool Springs .....	1st 5th Sunday 1960
Tifton .....	2nd 5th Sunday 1960
Corinth .....	3rd 5th Sunday 1960
Pine Level .....	4th 5th Sunday 1960
Shady Grove .....	1st 5th Sunday 1961

## Ruth Kinnon

Oak Grove .....	1st 5th Sunday 1960
Ozias .....	2nd 5th Sunday 1960
Zion Hill .....	3rd 5th Sunday 1960
Orange Grove .....	4th 5th Sunday 1960
First Valdosta .....	1st 5th Sunday 1961
Sunnyside .....	2nd 5th Sunday 1961
Friendship .....	3rd 5th Sunday 1961

## LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. Harvey Balance .....	Homerville, Georgia
Rev. E. W. Pattillo .....	1610 Boone Drive — Valdosta, Georgia

**MINISTERS PRESENT**

Rev. Riley Giddens, Rev. E. C. Morris, Rev. Everett Williams, Rev. M. T. Goff, Rev. Larry Williams, Rev. L. E. Sheffield, Rev. Lamar Parrish.

**VISITORS PRESENT**

Rev. and Mrs. Davidson ..... Atlanta Church  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom McGee ..... Weeks Chapel Methodist Church  
 Mrs. Coy Watson ..... Midway Association  
 Mrs. J. E. Wood ..... Midway Association

**GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES**

1. 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.

2. 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 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, 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 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 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 pastors of particular churches, while others may be simple elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further, that he cannot perform any acts that belong to the authority of the Church such as the reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders, that as a member of the church, he is not more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person, yet we think it prudent to call in advisory help especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That Christian Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saint's feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes.

13. That Elders and Deacons must be set apart 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 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 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.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time; but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be Moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the Church for the pastor etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The Deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor. Also, it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastor to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes.

8. The church shall hold a two-day's monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of 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.

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 acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church book.

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

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

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

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

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

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, not engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called by the Moderator.

25. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator nor shall the remarks of 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

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 assembling 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 its poor, and all its 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 happiness 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 Kingdom 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

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceeding session shall preside until the successors shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceedings shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in the order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

9. After a motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move for 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

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 as 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 inconsistent with this constitution, 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 maintained 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 association.

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 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—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; 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 preaching 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.—11 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. 2:11-12; 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 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; 11 Peter 2:1; 11 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."—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, 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; 11 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	REC'D BY BAPTISM	DISMISSED BY LETTER	PAID PASTOR	PAID FOR MUTES	VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY	IMPROVEMENTS	PAID FOR EVANGELISTIC	TOTAL MEMBERS
PINE LEVEL		J. P. Perry, Norman Park, Ga.	2-4	0	0	0	0	0	365.75	12.00	4,000	411.92	43.30	58
CORINTH	Larry Williams	J. W. Franks, Tifton, Ga.	Full	4	0	0	1	14	462.00	14.00	8,000	151.84	98.18	56
ZION HILL	Everett Williams	Mrs. Mamie Mercer, Millwood, Ga.	3	0	0	0	1	0	240.00	12.00	1,000	38.25	67.00	36
SUNNY SIDE	Coy Watson	Audie Williams, Pearson, Ga.	4	0	0	0	0	0	450.62	17.00	5,000	850.00	184.41	55
COOL SPRINGS	L. S. Parrish	C. M. Chafin, Jr., Norman Park, Ga.	2-4	4	2	0	0	0	741.31	20.00	6,000	188.28	174.92	99
FRIENDSHIP	M. T. Goff	Elizabeth Giddens, Millwood, Ga.	1-3	0	0	0	6	0	250.00	6.00	3,000	22.00	65.00	30
OZIAS	L. E. Sheffield	W. M. Wilson, Sr., Pearson, Ga.	Full	4	1	0	4	2	2,939.37	27.95	5,000	844.05	200.00	111
VALDOSTA	Riley Giddens	John W. Selph, Valdosta, Ga.	Full	2	0	0	6	0	1,790.38	20.00	5,000	480.05	75.00	62
ORANGE GROVE		NO REPORT												
SHADY GROVE		NO REPORT												
OAK GROVE	M. T. Goff	Odessa Bradford, Stockton, Ga.	2-4	0	1	0	1	3	324.05	10.00	5,000	0	60.00	37
FIRST TIFTON	E. C. Morris	Kelly Franks, Route 4, Tifton, Ga.	Full	5	0	0	0	3	397.16	5.00	5,000	195.80	76.68	34

## FORMS

## FORMS FOR LICENSE

This is to certify that the bearer, Brother \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the County \_\_\_\_\_  
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 con-  
federation. 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 Elder  
 \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ members.  
 We have adopted the Articles of Faith, Covenant and Decorum of the Free  
 Will Baptist Church. We are at peace. We have called as pastor, Elder  
 \_\_\_\_\_. We  
 send as our delegates, Brethren \_\_\_\_\_  
 We do humbly petition \_\_\_\_\_ Free Will  
 Baptist Association for membership in the same. We send for minutes  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Hoping our humble petition will be 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 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.