

*2000*

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**Fifty-Eighth Annual Session**  
**OF THE**  
**LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**OF**  
**THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**CONVENED WITH**  
**ZION HILL CHURCH**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1964**

**AND**  
**SUNNY SIDE CHURCH**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1964**

Rev. J. B. Mercer, Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Norman Park, Ga.  
Rev. Everett Williams, Ass't. Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ Pearson, Ga.  
Sister Fannie Mizell, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Pearson, Ga.  
J. W. Franks, Ass't. Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Tifton, Ga.

*SUNNYSIDE*  
Next session to convene with ~~Oak Grove~~ Church on Friday and  
Cool Spring Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in  
October, 1965.

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

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

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The body of 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 Churches to Bring Report on (a) Auxiliaries and Literature; (b) Temperance; (c) Christian Education; (d) Missions.
7. Unfinished business.
8. Report of Committees.
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
11. Adjournment.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. M. Franks, Ashburn, Ga. ....	Exp. 1969
J. B. Rice, Valdosta, Ga. ....	Exp. 1966
J. C. Arnold, Rt. 2, Waycross, Ga. ....	Exp. 1967
C. M. Chafin, Jr., Norman Park, Ga. ....	Exp. 1968
Tom Carlton, Norman Park, Ga., Rt. 2 .....	Exp. 1965

## ORDAINING COUNCIL

W. L. Purvis—1968; Rev. Riley Giddens—1965; Rev. M. T. Goff—1966  
Everett Williams—1969; Donald Franks—1967

## PROCEEDINGS

The fifty-eighth session of the Little River Association of the Original Free Will Baptist convened with Zion Hill Church in Ware County, Georgia on October 16, and Sunny Side Church in Atkinson County on October 17, 1964.

Meeting called to order by Moderator, congregational song. At this time it was brought to the attention of Association that the Clerk, Bro. W. N. Wilson had moved to another Association and that this session was without a clerk. Moderator asked that the body elect a temporary clerk to serve at this session. J. B. Mercer was elected. Prayer by Bro. Marvin Hartsfield. An inspiring devotional was brought by Bro. Hubert Henderson. Scripture was taken from Acts, chapter 2, verses 41 through 47. Moderator called for ministers to stand and be recognized. Called for Church letters. Sister J. W. Franks and Sister J. C. Arnold was appointed to read letters, moved and carried to receive letters as read and seat delegates present and those who came in later. Called for petitionary letters, received none. Called for corresponding messengers: Rev. Marvin Hartsfield, Union Assoc. Bro. Jack Faison was present from Midway Association and were welcomed by moderator.

Appointed Committees: State of Churches and Character of Minutes, Bro. Tom Carlton, Bro. J. C. Arnold, and Bro. C. M. Chafin; Resolutions Committee, Bro. J. W. Franks, Bro. J. B. Rice and Bro. W. H. Daughtry; Finance Committee, Sister Fannie Mizell, Sister Annie Davis and Sister Myrtis Giddens; Card of Thanks, Bro. M. T. Goff; Nominating Committee, Sister J. W. Franks, Sister Audrey Porter, Bro. Chester Hunter, Sister Ouida Arnold and Bro. L. E. Wynn.

Churches appointed to bring reports to the 1965 session were: Auxiliary and Literature, Sunny Side; Temperance, Cool Springs; Christian Education, Oak Grove; Missions, Ozias.

Congregational song, prayer by Bro. C. M. Chafin Sr. The morning message was brought by Bro. M. L. Goff. Scripture was taken from St. John, chapter 4, verses 31 through 54; and St. Luke 21st chapter, verses 31 through 38. Welcome by Bro. Donald Franks. All were invited to stay for lunch. Dismissed for lunch.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Meeting called to order by Moderator. Congregational song, special song by Sister Edgar Hamm, Title "Without Him." Prayer by Sister J. W. Franks. Devotional was brought by Rev. J. C. Carter. Scripture was taken from Isaiah 54th chepter, verse 2.

The moderator then welcomed Rev. Mance Cason, our promotional secretary, to give report on what our churches had done in the past year. It was reported that the Little River Association gave a total to Unified Program of \$1,299.49 and that this is an increase over the last year of \$224.49. Churches receiving the grand honor roll which was awarded to churches on the merits of having given the per-capita quota in support to a world wide ministry through the Unified Program were: Corinth and Ozias. Churches receiving honor roll which was the award for having given regular monthly offering in some amount, Cool Springs. Churches receiving Jr. honor roll certificates which was the award for having given more this year than last year were: Friendship, Oak Grove, Shady Grove, Sunny Side, 1st Tifton, 1st Valdosta, White Hall, Zion Hill.

Moved and carried to have 400 minutes printed.

Move and second for chair to appoint committee to bring to the body what the Ordaining Council will do in case of a divorcee requesting ordination. Carried. Bro. M. M. Franks, Bro. J. C. Arnold and Bro. C. M. Chafin Jr were appointed Report returned read and tabled.

Moved and carried that we adjourn until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning to meet with Sunny Side Church near Pearson, Ga.

## SATURDAY MORNING

Meeting called to order by moderator. Congregational song, prayer by Bro. J. B. Rice. Devotional was brought by Rev. Everett Williams. Scripture taken from 10th chapter St. Luke, 29th verse.

Moved and carried to place 5 ministers on Ordaining Council instead of 3. Rev. Everett Williams, Rev. Donald Franks, and Rev. W. L. Purvis were elected.

Moved and caaared that Clerk and Moderator receive same pay as last year. Clerk \$25.00, Moderator \$10.00, and that all expenses of the Association be taken out of general treasury.

Moved and carried to adopt resolution No. 1, 2, 3 and 4. (See Reports).

Moved and carried that these appear in minutes.

Moved and carried to accept nominating committee's recommendation of officers and release them.

Moved and carried to give clerk authority to send dues to State and National Association.

Moved and carried to receive report of committee of card of thanks and release him.

Moderator appointed one from each church to get supplies for

Camp Mt. Bethel. Bro. M. M. Franks stated he would be on hand to receive supplies.

Moved and carried to receive report of resolutions committee and release them.

Morning message was brought by Rev. Dewey Quinn. Scripture taken from St. Luke, 10th chapter, 25th verse through 37th.

Welcome was given by Rev. Charles Williams. All were invited to stay for lunch.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Moderator called meeting to order, song and prayer. At this time the session was turned over to the Women's Auxiliary, and a very interesting program was brought by them.

Moved and carried that we give churches a rising vote of thanks for their very fine hospitality during this session of the Little River Association.

Moved and carried to adjourn this session of the Little River Association.

Rev. Everett Williams, Moderator

J. B. Mercer, Temporary Clerk

## CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

SHADY GROVE—Rev. Mack Goff.

TIFTON—Mrs. J. T. Graham, Mrs. R. W. Porter.

SUNNYSIDE—Bro. Audie Williams, Sister Regina Williams, Annie Douglas and Margaret Williams.

COOL SPRINGS—N. C. Brannan, C. M. Chafin, Sr., Elton Harrod, Myrtice Harrod, Kathleen Hamm and Lula Belle Whisnant.

CORRINTH—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Franks, Bro. and Sis. L. F. Ogletree, Bro. L. E. Wynn, Bro. Frank Allen.

ZION HILL—Mrs. J. C. Arnold, Mrs. Doll Harrell, J. C. Arnold.

FRIENDSHIP—Sis. Jewel Ross, Iva Jean Ross, Freda Herndon, Betty Daughtry.

PINE LEVEL—Tom Carlton, J. M. Hartsfield.

HAHIRA—Carson E. Parrish, James Stringer, Edward Crowley, Lola Crowley, Wilma Jean Crowley, Wanda Harris.

WHITEHALL—Noel Davis, Mrs. Annie Davis, Mrs. Edith Herrin, Mr. Alfonso Moore, Patricia Laircy.

OZIAS—Sis. Elva Baker, Fannie Mizell, Sister Louise Hamilton.

VALDOSTA—Mrs. Riley Giddens, Mrs. Cloy Jones, Mrs. Lula Tomilson.

OAK GROVE—Chester Hunter, Evelyn Hunter.



## LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. E. W. Patillo, 1610 Boone Drive \_\_\_\_\_ Valdosta, Ga.  
Rev. Ralph Chaffin \_\_\_\_\_ Norman Park, Ga.  
James Stringer \_\_\_\_\_ Valdosta, Ga.  
Rev. J. B. Rice, Jr. \_\_\_\_\_ 1506 Iola Drive, Valdosta, Ga.

## COMMITTEE REPORT ON ARTICLE 10

Bro. C. M. Chafin Sr.  
Bro. Jessie Hartsfield  
Bro. Ira Pittman

## MISSIONS

You and I as members of our homes, as members of our church, schools and community, have a great mission to do, by helping others at all times, as the Good Samaritan did: St. Luke 10, 34th verse. Is there someone that you and I have passed by, not had time to help? If we are too busy in our everyday life, and we don't have time for God, in the day of judgment he will say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels": Matt. 25-41. Let us take time to pray, for ourself and others, that there will be a great mission work done here in our nation.

Zion Hill Church

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Christian Education, wish to submit the following report:

Realizing that our work for Jesus Christ is limited without Christian Education and real Christian training, we feel that not only ministers, but everyone who desires to live for and serve Christ and the Church should further their learning. The need is rapidly growing for trained leaders in our churches. Since we are aware that our leaders can serve more efficiently when blessed with the privilege of attaining knowledge through Christian Education, we recommend that the churches and pastors in our Association do all they can to persuade the leaders and teachers of our churches to prepare themselves for the work assigned to them.

We truly thank God for His blessings upon our Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. The college is owned and operated by us as Free Will Baptist, and the great help that it has had on our mission program can be seen through the work that is being done on the foreign fields, as well as here at home. Students are taught to live separated lives, prayer-filled lives, and to be real students of the Word. The Bible is the major subject.

We recommend that all of us do all we can to encourage our young people to seek college training and to select a Christian Institution, namely our own Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tenn.

Corinth Church

## TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on Temperance, offer the following:

To strive for a clean mind, a healthy body, and love one for the other. To abstain from evil. To help our fellow. To do a good deed each day, and to always do God's will.

May God bless and keep us safe.

First Church, Tifton

## AUXILIARY AND LITERATURE

We recommend that all our Sunday School League, Woman Auxiliary and other organizations use our Free Will Baptist Literature. We feel that we have good Christian men and women working hard, preparing this literature for us and let us Christian men and women pray for our Sunday Schools and Auxiliary.

White Hall Church

## COMMITTEE ON CHURCHES AND MINISTERS

We, your committee on churches and ministers, find all ministers in good report, so far as we know. We also find all churches supplied with pastors except for Shady Grove, who is at this time closed, and not holding any services.

C. M. Chafin, Jr., Chairman

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

We, your Resolutions Committee, offer the following report:

1. That a minister or layman can serve or hold office in this Association, providing he is a member of the Association.

2. We recommend that a parliamentarian be elected to assist moderator on rules.

3. We recommend that chapter 2 section 1 of National Treatise part 2, pertaining to licensing or ordaining ministers be adopted.

4. We recommend that Ruth Kinnon and Liberty Union meeting be joined together and hold quarterly meetings being the Little River Association quarterly meetings also that annual meetings be maintained.

J. W. Franks, Chairman

## ASSOCIATION

Zion Hill .....	1964	Hahira .....	1968
Sunny Side .....	1964	Shady Grove .....	1968
Oak Grove .....	1965	Ozias .....	1969
Cool Spring. ....	1965	Pine Level .....	1969
Friendship .....	1966	Corinth .....	1970
White Hall .....	1966	Zion Hill .....	1970
Valdosta .....	1967	Sunny Side .....	1971
Tifton .....	1967	Oak Grove .....	1971

## CARD OF THANKS

I, the committee on report of appreciation, recommend that we the members and messengers of the Little River Association, express by rising vote our appreciation to Zion Hill and Sunny Side Churches of their hospitality and the fine way they have provided for this session of the Association during this session.

M. T. Goff

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We, your Nominating Committee, nominate as follows:

Moderator — Bro. J. B. Mercer

Ass't. Moderator — Bro. Everett Williams

Clerk — Mrs. Fannie Mizell

Ass't. Clerk — J. W. Franks

Executive Committee:

Time to Expire 1969 — M. M. Franks

Time to Expire 1965 — Tom Carlton

Ordaining Council:

Time to Expire 1968 — W. L. Pervis

Time to Expire 1969 — Everette Williams

Time to Expire 1967 — Donald Franks

We recommend M. M. Franks to serve on the State Superannuation Board.

Parliamentarian—Bro. W. L. Purvis.

Nominating Committee—Mrs. J. C. Arnold, Mrs. Audrey Porter, Mrs. Chester Hunter.

## APPOINTED TO GET CAMP SUPPLIES

Pine Level .....	Sister Tom Carlton
Corinth .....	Sister C. K. Causey
Zion Hill .....	Sister Harrel
Sunny Side .....	Sister Annie Douglas
Cool Spring .....	Sister J. C. Weeks
Friendship .....	Sister W. H. Daughtry
Ozias .....	Louise Hamilton
First Valdosta .....	Brother J. B. Rice
First Hahira .....	Sister Grady Flippo
Oak Grove .....	Sister Evelyn Sirmons
First Tifton .....	Sister A. D. Green
White Hall .....	Sister Annie Davis
Shady Grove .....	Brother M. T. Goff



## QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Quarterly meetings on Saturday before the Fifth Sundays:

Sunny Side	4th in 1964
Cool Springs	1st in 1965
Friendship	2nd in 1965
Tifton	3rd in 1965
Oak Grove	4th in 1965
Corinth	1st in 1966
Zion Hill	2nd in 1966
Pine Level	3rd in 1966
Ozias	4th in 1966
Hahira	1st in 1967
White Hall	2nd in 1967
Valdosta	3rd in 1967

## CHURCHES AND AUXILIARIES

Churches	Sunday School	League	Women's Auxiliary
Pine Level	57	0	0
Corinth	45	41	10
Zion Hill	55	0	0
Sunny Side	48	18	0
Cool Springs	60	40	0
Friendship	20	0	0
Ozias	23	17	11
First Valdosta	55	37	15
First Hahira	50	49	0
Oak Grove	28	0	0
First Tifton	25	0	0
White Hall	74	0	15
Shady Grove	0	0	0

## 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. Loucian Cowart	1917
Rev. A. Eunice	1928	Rev. J. D. Little	1958
Rev. B. O. Brown	1928	Rev. W. A. Pope	1959
Rev. Seaborn Bowen	1960		

## MINISTERS

Rev. W. L. Purvis, Phone 985-5269, Rt. 6	Moultrie, Ga.
Rev. W. H. Daughtry, Rt. 4, Phone 283-1400	Waycross, Ga.
Rev. Donald Franks	Tifton, Ga.
Rev. Riley Giddens, 407 Floyd St.	Valdosta, Ga.
Rev. Charles Williams, Rt. 1	Pearson, Ga.
Rev. A. D. Greene, Phone 2205, Prince Avenue	Tifton, Ga.
Rev. M. T. Goff, 411 Hull Avenue	Nashville, Ga.
Rev. Lamar Parrish	Baconton, Ga.
Rev. John B. Wheeler	Metter, Ga.
Rev. Dewey Quinn, Phone FR 5-2982	Hazlehurst, Ga.
Rev. Everett Williams, Phone 422-3690	Pearson, Ga.
Rev. F. S. Jones, Rt. 2	Waycross, Ga.
Rev. W. R. Hullet	Norman Park, Ga.
Rev. J. B. Mercer	Norman Park, Ga.
Rev. J. C. H. Carter	Rt. 4, Tifton, Ga.
Rev. J. C. Castleberry, 423 Boykin St.	Nashville, Ga.

## OBITUARIES

With sorrow we report the death of Bro. J. A. Pope, one of our oldest members. We trust that our loss shall be for his gain in heaven.

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

We regret to report the death of Bro. J. W. Allman, one of our older male members. We trust he has gone to be with God.

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

With sorrow we report the death of Sister Julia Brannan. We trust that our loss is for heaven's gain and her eternal peace.

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

It is with deep sorrow and regret we report the death of our beloved daughter and sister in Christ, who died October 5, 1964. She loved the Lord very dearly and was a mighty faithful worker as long as she was able to go. Her membership was still here at White Hall, but she lived in Jacksonville, Fla. and attended Immanuel Free Will Baptist Church, where Bro. Irwin Byman was pastor. She taught the little folks Sunday School class. She was loved by everyone who knew her. We feel our loss is heaven's gain.

Mrs. Annie Davis, Clerk  
White Hall Church

With deep sorrow we of Pine Level report the death of our Brother Ferrell Carlton, who departed this life May 5, 1964. He was 17 years old and one whom we all loved. We feel our loss is heaven's gain.

J. P. Perry, Clerk  
Pine Level Church

With regret and sorrow we report the death of our sister in Christ, Sister Martha Cowart, who departed this life November 22, 1963.

When we think of her it brings back many memories of her devoted life, and faith in God she exercised in her everyday walk.

She was loved by all who knew her. We feel she has gone to be with the Lord forever, and our loss is heaven's gain.

Riley Cowart, Clerk  
Ozias Church

It is with deep sorrow that Brother Curtis Delp departed this life July 8, 1964. He was a beloved brother and we hope he has gone to be with the Lord forever where there will be no more sickness or sorrow.

Riley Cowart, Clerk  
Ozias Church

It is with deep sorrow and regret we report the passing of our brother in Christ, Houston R. Douglas. Brother Douglas was a man truly loved by all and a man who was always willing to carry his share of the burdens of the church. He was always willing to give of his time and money to further the cause of the Free Will Baptist. His life was his testimony. We truly feel, that God has called him home.

Martha Long, Clerk  
Sunny Side Church

## MINISTERS PRESENT

Donald Franks, Riley Giddens, M. T. Goff, Marvin Hartsfield, J. C. H. Carter, Dewey Quinn, Everett Williams, J. B. Mercer, Mance Cason, A. D. Greene, W. H. Daughtry, W. L. Purvis, Jessie Castleberry, Hubert Henderson.

## FINANCE REPORT

We, your Committee on Finance, find contributions from all churches except Shady Grove.

Balance in Treasury .....	\$ 45.25
Received from Churches .....	179.75
Total .....	\$225.00

**RECEIPTS**

Balance in Treasury .....	\$ 45.25
Received from Churches .....	179.75
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$225.00

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Fee for State and National Association .....	\$ 30.00
Clerk .....	25.00
Moderator .....	14.00
Minutes .....	103.00
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Total .....	\$172.00
Balance .....	\$ 53.00

**GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES**

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

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of 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 attached to the visible church according to gospel rules.

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

5. That gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; and that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially, independent and absolute, and if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction by delegates or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.

6. That churches may, nevertheless, we suppose, meet by delegates, form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up the correspondence; but that the right and authority of churches being inalienable, or in no way compromised or hindered by entering into an association, and therefore an association has no authority over churches or individuals, their only power being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity, to promote natural intercourses, and a concentration of voluntary effort; and to give that advice to churches which might equal authority given by an individual.

7. That the authority of the churches is designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel, and 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 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 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 acknowledgments. (6) Reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches, shall speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

13. An orderly member of the Baptist church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or by baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, unless withdrawn, the members who made them shall be liable to be taken under dealings with the church.

15. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend the trial, provided his residence be known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced he shall be examined until the question has been put to the church. Will you hear the testimony of the witness?

18. The evidence in every case or dealing and acknowledgment shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who 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 preceding 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 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 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 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 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 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 fothe 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 whole Scriptures are infallible true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—11Tim. 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 ofefrs 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 soveieign 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 Godo 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 yife, 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 Testa-

ment.—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5; 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.



## 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  
 conference. This letter will be void after six months.

\_\_\_\_\_ Moderator

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



## PETITIONARY LETTER FROM A CHURCH TO AN ASSOCIATION

\_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Church of Christ  
This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A. D., 19\_\_\_\_\_

To the \_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Association  
sendeth greetings: We constitute a Free Will Baptist Church by 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 consti-  
tute 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 adopt-  
ed the same, (C) He shall then read the Church Covenant, while the con-  
gregation joins in singing a suitable hymn. (D) He shall have the mem-  
bers 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.

[illegible]