

MINUTES
OF THE
Sixty-First Annual Session
OF THE
LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION
OF
THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CONVENED WITH

FIRST VALDOSTA CHURCH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1967

Damon C. Dodd, Moderator.Homerville, Ga.
Frank Dean, Clerk.Homerville, Ga.
Everett Williams, Assistant Moderator.Pearson, Ga.
J. W. Franks, Assistant Clerk.Tifton, Georgia

Next session to convene with Homerville Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1968.

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 read, and names of ministers and delegates enrolled.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seat with us.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Call for corresponding messengers.
6. Appointed Committees; (a) Program; (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 on Committees.
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
11. Adjournment.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

M. M. Franks, Ashburn, Ga.....	Exp. 1969
C. M. Chafin, Jr., Norman Park, Ga.	Exp. 1968
Buddy Hartsfield	Exp. 1970
Mickey Rouse	Exp. 1971
J. C. Arnold, Route 2, Waycross, Ga.	Exp. 1972

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Damon C. Dodd	1968
Rev. E. E. Kelley	1970
Rev. Everett Williams	1969
Rev. J. B. Rice	1972
Rev. J. B. Mercer	1971

PROCEEDINGS

The sixty-first session of the Little River Association of the original Free Will Baptist Church in Lowndes County, Georgia Saturday October 14, 1967.

Services were opened with songs. By congregation. Prayer by Rev. L. J. Kent.

Inspiration devotional was brought by Rev. Harold Harrison using Psalm 10-3.

The congregation heard Moderators remarks. Moderator called for church letters. Sister J. C. Arnold and Brother J. B. Rice were appointed to read letters.

Move, seconded, and carried to receive the letters as read and seat delegates.

Visitors were recognized and welcomed. Ten Ministers were recognized and welcomed. Called for petitionary letters. Received one from Forrest Hill Church — read by Rev. J. B. Rice. Move, seconded, carried to receive this church into our Association. Bro. Everett Williams, Moderator shook hands with Bro. Hayes, pastor of Forrest Hill Church, welcoming them into our Association.

Corresponding Messengers called for. None. Move, seconded, carried for Moderator to appoint Committees.

Program Committee — Bro. Buddy Hartsfield, Bro. Leon Herrin, Sister Oveda Arnold, Sister Frank Dean, Bro. C. M. Chaffin, Jr.

Resolutions Committee — Bro. D. C. Dodd, Sister Clifford Kent, Bro. Jeff Giddens.

Finance Committee — Bro. L. F. Ogeltree, Bro. Eugene Crews, Sister Everett Williams.

Card of Thanks — Sister Everett Williams.

Nominating Committee — Bro. Cason Parrish, Bro. Crowley, Sister Annie Douglas.

Churches appointed to bring reports to the 1968 session were:

Oak Grove — Temperance

Friendship — Christian Education

Cool Springs — Missions

Tifton — Auxiliary and Literature

Moderator welcomed two new Ministers into our Association, Rev. Herman Brooks and Rev. McMillian.

Called for reports from churches as follows: Ozias— Auxiliary and Literature— move to amend the report to insert Free Will Baptist as published by National Association of Free Will Baptist from Nashville, Tennessee. Carried. Move, seconded to accept report. Carried. (See Reports). Homerville— Temperance. Move that this report be received and adopted and we have Prayer as stipulated in report. Carried. Led in prayer by Bro. Damon C. Dodd. White Hall— Missions. Move, seconded, carried to accept this report. (See Reports).

Move, seconded, carried to adjourn business until after lunch. Congregational hymn.

A very inspirational message was brought by Rev. E. E. Kelly, Prayer led by Rev. Mance Cason.

Welcome— Bro. Herman Brooks.

Dismissed for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Hymn led by Bro. L. D. Wynn. Prayer led by Bro. L. J. Kent. Devotional by Bro. Slaton Hayes.

Report from Cornith Church on Christian Education. Move, seconded, carried to receive report. (see reports).

Report from Program Committee. Move, seconded, carried to receive report. (see report).

Report from Finance Committee. Move, seconded, carried to receive this report. (see reports).

Report from Card of Thanks. Move, seconded, carried to receive report by a rising vote of thanks.

Missions Treasurer gave report of about \$250.00 in Missions Treasure.

Delegates to State Association were appointed as follows: Bro. Don Pury and Bro. L. F. Ogletree.

Resolutions Committee gave report. Move seconded, carried to adopt both items of this committee. (see reports).

Report of Nominating Committee. Move, seconded, carried to receive report of Nominating committee and release committee. (see reports).

Talk from Bro. Harold Harrison representing National Sunday School Board of Free Will Baptist.

Talk from Bro. Curtis Gay from Union Association on representing Free Will Baptist Children's Home, in Eldridge, Alabama.

Talk from Bro. Hubert Henderson, State Missionary.

Talk from Rev. Mance Cason, State Promotional Secretary.

Report from C. M. Chaffin, Chairman of Harvest Drive for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. He announced loading day would be October 19, 1968.

Hymn time — While ordaining council met. Several songs were sung by congregation. Special Solo— Mrs. Frank Dean— "He Whispers Sweet Peace To Me."

Move, seconded, carried that we run the names of the Mission board members in the minutes every year.

Move, seconded, carried that we start all our Association meetings, Quarterly and Annually, at 9:30.

Move, seconded to elect officers. (see reports).

Move, seconded, carried to recommend the following to the State Nominating Committee:

Christ and Education.....	J. B. Rice
Mission Board	J. B. Mercer
Trustee	Buddy Hartsfield

Move, seconded, carried to elect five members to the District Mission Board. (see reports).

Move, seconded, carried to adjourn this session of the Little River Association.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

CORINTH—Mrs. W. J. Barksdale, Mrs. J. W. Franks, Diane Franks, Ruth Coarsey, Sister C. K. Causey, Bro. Marvin Luke, Mrs. Rosa Lee Luke, L. E. Wynn, Mrs. Helen Coarsey, Mrs. Paul Verkine, L. J. Chambliss, Mrs. Gene O'Neal.

OAK GROVE—Mrs. Evelyn Sirmans, Mrs. Evelyn Browning, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kent, Johnny Rogers.

FIRST VALDOSTA—Church at Large.

COOL SPRINGS—Gary Hamn, Glen Hamn, Corda McInvale, Kim Kelly, N. C. Brannen, Mrs. N. C. Brannen, Belle Chafin, Ronnie Hamn.

FIRST TIFTON—Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Ogletree, Mr. and Mrs. Franks.

WHITE HALL—Mrs. Willie Williams, Mrs. Jeneva Parker, Mrs. Lola Jowers, Mr. Leon Herrin, Mr. Archie Hill, Mr. John Griffen.

SUNNY SIDE—Mrs. Leona Williams, Mrs. Annie Douglas, Bro. Eddie Williams, Mrs. Thelma Hulbert.

OZIAS—Sister Elva Baker, Sister Eva Cowart, Sister Fannie Kent.

HOMMERVILLE—Mrs. W. N. Wilson, Mrs. Damon Dodd, Miss Barbara Dodd, Mrs. Marilyn Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dean.

FRIENDSHIP—Brother Jeff Giddens.

ZION HILL—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Arnold, Joanne Rice, Isbon Mercer, Mamie Mercer.

PINE LEVEL—J. C. Hartsfield, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Hartsfield, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Carlton, Cheryle Mercer, Patricia Ann Holton, Sherry Willis.

HAHIRA—L. D. Wynn, Carson Parrish, Ray Parrish, Fannie Patterson, Troy Wynn, Grady Flippo, H. S. Joiner.

FORREST HILL—Bro. J. M. Sangster, Bro. George Crowley, Sister Leatha Wise.

MINISTERS PRESENT

Rev. E. E. Kelly, Rev. Harold Harrison, Rev. Herman Brooks, Rev. Clifford Kent, Rev. J. B. Mercer, Rev. D. C. Dodd, Rev. Ralph Chafin, Rev. J. B. Rice, Rev. Mance Cason, Rev. Slaton Hayes.

CHURCHES AND AUXILIARIES

CHURCHES	S.S.	C.T.S.	Women's Aux.
Corinth	63	58	14
Cool Springs	60	0	0
First Valdosta	55	50	12
First Tifton	30	20	0
Friendship	19	0	0
First Hahira	58	58	10
Homerville	148	67	16
Ozias	24	0	0
Oak Grove	20	0	0
Pine Level	57	0	0
Sunny Side	53	0	0
White Hall	72	0	12
Zion Hill	35	10	0
Forrest Hill	0	0	0

ORDAINED MINISTERS ON ROLL

Rev. W. J. Barksdale, Phone 382-1769, P. O. Box 125.....Brookfield, Ga.
 Rev. D. C. Dodd, Phone 487-5840, P. O. Box 354.....Homerville, Ga.
 T. G. Hamilton, Phone 7-2217.....Homerville, Ga.
 Rev. M. C. Nail, Phone HU7-5845.....Homerville, Ga.
 Rev. Everett Williams, Phone 422-3609.....Pearson, Ga.
 Rev. R. S. Hayes, Phone 896-3334, Route 2.....Adel, Ga.
 Rev. J. B. Rice, Phone 283-2781, 1506 Iola Dr.....Valdosta, Ga.
 Rev. E. E. Kelly, Route 1.....Norman Park, Ga.
 Rev. J. B. Mercer, Phone 769-3907, Route 1.....Norman Park, Ga.
 Rev. Marvin Hartsfield, Phone 776-3247, Route 2.....Norman Park, Ga.
 Rev. Charles Lasseter, Jr., Lot #4 Keys Trailer Park.....Albany, Ga.
 Rev. A. D. Greene, Phone 382-5264, 2205 Prince Ave.....Tifton, Ga.
 Rev. Herman E. Brooks, Phone 242-1330, 407 Floyd St.....Valdosta, Ga.
 Rev. W. E. Brown, Cranford Street.....Valdosta, Ga.
 Rev. Dewey Quinn, Phone FR5-2982.....Hazelhurst, Ga.
 Rev. W. A. Addison, Route 2.....Hahira, Ga.
 Rev. W. R. Hullett.....Norman Park, Ga.
 Rev. Clarence McMillan, Phone H6-6398.....Folkston, Ga.
 Rev. M. T. Goff, 411 Hull Ave.....Nashville, Ga.
 Rev. Jesse Castleberry, Phone 686-7403, Route 1.....Lenox, Ga.
 Rev. Donald Franks.....Valdosta, Ga.

LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. Ralph Chafin, Route 1.....Norman Park, Ga.
 Rev. Clifford A. Kent, Route 1.....Stockton, Ga.
 Rev. James Stringer, Phone 794-2154, Brown Street.....Valdosta, Ga.
 Rev. Huwel Walker, Phone 382-5301, 2004 N. Ridge Ave.....Tifton, Ga.
 Rev. Paul Verkine, Phone 382-4015, Route 1.....Enigma, Ga.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MISSIONS

The church had a glorious Mission. "Go ye therefore and teach all Nations." The church has a glorious promise also for Christ said "And lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world." I'm sure all of us want the promise. But do we want to move as the Lord directs with a smile and a happy heart to that "Go ye." Where it is to carry the Gospel at home to other countries or to support the one that has a special calling of God. With our financial support and prayers. Everyone that has been born of the Holy Spirit of God wants others to have the same experience. We should want to do our best for God, because we love Him and not just because it's our duty. But we should let love move us to do service for our Lord. "Only one life, it will soon be past. Only whats done for Christ will last. Go — Give — Pray —.

WHITE HALL CHURCH

AUXILIARY AND LITERATURE

We recommend that all our churches use Free Will Baptist literature as published by the National Association of Free Will Baptist in Nashville, Tennessee, in our C T S, Sunday School, Woman's Auxiliary, Master's men and all other phases of the church.

OZIAS CHURCH

TEMPERANCE

Homerville Freewill Baptist Church, acting as the Temperance Committee of the Little River Association of Freewill Baptist in session October 14, 1967, submits the following report:

The Apostle Paul in writing to the Philippian Church states in Phil. 4:5 "Let your moderation be known to all men, the Lord is at hand." This admonition is given in view of the fact that men know us more from what we are than from what we say we are.

We would like to call attention to three things in this report:

FIRST – OUR PRACTICES.

Living as we are in a day of wholesale compromise it is easy to fall prey to the so-called "no harm" sins and thereby compromise our Christian testimony. It is still true that "what you are speaks so loudly I can't hear what you say." Christians should be easily identified by the places to which they go (or do not go), the language they use, the manner in which they dress, and the attitudes which they display. For a complete list of things to "put off." We refer you to Galatians 5:19–21 and Ephesians 4:22. We also call your attention to the virtues to add to your Christian life found in Galatians 5:22–24 and II Peter 1:5–8.

SECOND – OUR PRINCIPLES.

As born-again believers we accept the Word of God as our only rule of faith and practice. We should constantly heed the words of Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering." In our day there is tremendous pressure being brought to bear upon the Church to water down the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and much to our alarm and chargin much of this clamor is from Church members and certain ministers. Let us resolve as Freewill Baptist Church members and Ministers that we shall never consent to compromise preaching or teaching to placate or accommodate any individual or group.

We must also be on guard against the encroachments and preachments of the Roman Catholic Church as she seeks to appease the Protestant Church and woo her into her embraces. The recent Vatican Councils have made broad and sweeping changes in their relationships to our Protestant Churches and many of them have gullibly swallowed these maneuvers as genuine overtures of affection. Beware of this temptation. It can be fatal to our glorious heritage of freedom of worship. We must further be on guard against the trend toward uniting all Churches into one great "Super-Church." This is commonly known as the Encumenical Movement and promises to increase the effectiveness of the Church by uniting her voice and powers into one giant ecciesiastical body that will enforce her will through the sheer power of numbers. This program is the favorite child of the World Council of Churches, an organization

which all fundamental groups should fear and shun as they would fear and shun Satan himself.

We hold that the local Church is the highest authority in our Denomination. Let us keep it that way by refusing to become entangled or enmeshed in any movement which either by declaration or implication suggests otherwise.

The third and final thing which we shall mention is our PURSUITS. Our scriptural admonition for this phase comes from Colossians 3:1-2. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." The things of Christ are those things which glorify the Father. These are high and heavenly ideals and include:

- Fervent, regular prayer
- Holy living in dedication to the Father
- Clean and pure minds through regular reading and study of the Bible.
- Selectivity of other reading materials. This means dispensing with lurid sex magazines and pulpy books, erotic love and romance magazines, trashy comic books and the like.
- Witnessing to the lost with a view to winning them to Christ.
- Faithfulness in attending regularly every service of your Church and giving of yourself in her programs.
- Supporting the Cause of Christ with your tithes and offerings, your talents and personality.
- Praying for all men everywhere.
- And seeking by all means to make Christ known to all men.

To these ends Homerville Freewill Baptist Church moves that this report be received and adopted, and that this Association here assembled be called into session of prayer for the purpose of rededicating herself and her constituent members to Almighty God and His great Commission.

Respectfully submitted:

Homerville Freewill Baptist Church

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We Corinth Freewill Baptist Church, acting as committee on Christian Education, submit the following report prayerfully:

We believe that Christian Education must begin in the homes of our people. Then in our churches using the best qualified teachers we have to teach our children. Only those who have been born again - this being the first qualification - and then those with the highest Biblical training and Education.

No education is complete without a knowledge of His word.

Prayerfully submitted:
Corinth Church

CARD OF THANKS

I suggest that we give Valdosta Freewill Baptist Church a standing vote of Thanks in appreciation for a Christ like welcome and hospitality and the wonderful food we have enjoyed here today.

Sister Willie Williams

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee of the Little River Association Session October 14, 1967, presents the following report respectfully and prayerfully:

1. Inasmuch as the Sunday School Convention and the CTS Convention of our Association meet at different times during the year, and inasmuch, especially in the case of the CTS Convention, as the time of meeting makes it almost impossible to designate teams of young people to represent our Association in the various areas of competition, such as Sword Drill, Bible Tic-Tac-Toe, or Bible Bowl.

Inasmuch as the Sunday School and CTS complement and implement each other as the teaching and training arms of our churches, therefore,

Be it resolved, that we despend with the Sunday School Convention and CTS Convention as such, and authorize the two groups to come together in an annual meeting on Saturday following the first Sunday in May, and that this meeting be known officially as Teach and Train Rally of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptist. This action becomes effective immediately following the CTS Convention in November 1967.

Be it further resolved in this connection that any and all funds now in the treasuries of either of the disbanding Conventions be combined to constitute the treasury of the Teach and Train Rally and that any fees to the State Sunday School Convention and State CTS Convention be paid by the Treasurer of the proposed Teach and Train Rally.

2. Be it resolved that the Association take under study the possibility and advisability of giving more time in our Quarterly Meeting Sessions to worship, teaching, and preaching, and that the lengthy statistical reports be eliminated from all meetings except the Annual meeting in October — that reports to the Quarterly meetings consist of a list of elected delegates and the offerings to the Association treasury; and that business at the Quarterly sessions be kept to a minimum.

Be it further resolved that this item be studied until next January, at which time some definitive action shall be taken.

Mrs. Clifford Kent
Jeff Giddens
Damon C. Dodd

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We, the Nominating Committee nominate the following:

Moderator.....Rev. Damon C. Dodd
Assistant Moderator.....Rev. Everett Williams
Clerk.....Brother Frank Dean
Assistant Clerk.....Brother J. W. Franks
Ordaining Council.....Brother J. B. Rice and Brother E. E. Kelly
Executive Committee.....Brother J. C. Arnold

LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION MISSION BOARD

C. M. Chafin, Jr.1968
Audie Williams1969
J. C. Arnold.....1970
John Ackerman1971
J. W. Franks1972

We recommend the following to serve on the following State Boards:

Christian Education.....J. B. Rice
Mission Board.....J. B. Mercer
Trustee.....Buddy Hartsfield

Carson E. Parrish, Chairman
Brother Crowley
Sister Annie Douglas

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Balance brought forward.....\$ 51.37
Received from Churches..... 185.67
Total..... \$237.04

DISBURSEMENTS

State and National Association.....\$ 25.00
Clerk 25.00
Moderator 15.00
Co-operative Plan 25.00
Minutes 100.00
Total\$190.00
Balance\$ 47.04

We recommend that if the minutes are more than designated the Clerk be authorized to pay the rest out of the balance.

Respectfully Submitted
Eugene Crews
Mrs. Elva Baker

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Meets Saturday before third Sunday in January, April, July and October.

Cool SpringsJanuary 1968
TiftonApril 1968
Zion HillJuly 1968
HomervilleOctober 1968
White HallJanuary 1969
Pine LevelApril 1969
CorinthJuly 1969
FriendshipOctober 1969
Oak GroveJanuary 1970
OziasApril 1970
HahiraJuly 1971
Sunny SideOctober 1972
ValdostaJanuary 1973

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED

LONNIE GRIFFIN — *With deep sorrow we report the death of our Brother Lonnie Griffin, who passed away April 28, 1967. We trust our loss is heavens gain.*

MARVIN BROOME — *It's with much sorrow and regret that we had to give up our dearly beloved Marvin Broome, who Passed away May 25, 1967. We feel like he has gone to be at rest.*

White Hall Church

JULA ANN CREWS — *It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of our dear Sister Julia Ann Crews who passed away September 27, 1967. She was faithful to come to church as long as she was able and she loved the Lord very dearly. We trust our loss is heavens gain.*

White Hall Church

J. M. HARTSFIELD — *It is with great sorrow that we report the death of Brother J. M. Hartsfield, who departed this life on November 28, 1966. We feel that our loss will be Heavens gain and his Eternal Peace.*

Pine Level Church

JOHN B. CLEMENTS — *With great sorrow we lose our beloved Brother John B. Clements whom departed from us this 12th day of January, 1967 to join his Eternal Father.*

Oak Grove Church

WILLIAM CORBITT — *It is with sorrow that we report the death of Brother William Corbitt, who departed this life March 22, 1967. We trust that our loss will be Heavens gain and his Eternal Peace.*

Ozias Church

MARTIN CORBITT — *It is with sorrow that we report the death of Brother Martin Corbitt who departed this life March 23, 1967. We turst that our loss will be heavens gain and his eternal peace.*

Ozias Church

E. C. FANCHER— *With sorrow we report the death of Brother Fancher, a member of Sunny Side Church. We feel our loss is his eternal gain.*

Sunny Side Church

CHARLIE BALANCE – We regret to report the death of Brother Charlie Balance. We must trust our loss is for Heaven's gain and His Eternal Peace.

Sunny Side Church

GEORGE McDANIEL – It is with deep sorrow we report the passing of our dear Brother George McDaniel in May, 1967. He was a deacon of our church for many years. Always faithful and true to the end. We trust that his Eternal Home is with the Heavenly Father.

Corinth Church

JOHN B. WHEELER – It is with deep sorrow we report the death of Brother John B. Wheeler. He passed from this life in March, 1967 to go to be with the Heavenly Father. We expect to meet him again one day.

Corinth Church

DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. Tharpe Bailey.....	1911	Rev. M. F. Cason.....	1929
Rev. J. J. Davis.....	1913	Rev. H. J. Griffis.....	1939
Rev. Lucion Cowart.....	1917	Rev. W. R. Cato.....	1941
Rev. Leon Starling.....	1919	Rev. J. C. Arnold.....	1942
Rev. J. B. Griffin.....	1926	Rev. J. R. Weeks.....	1947
Rev. H. J. Cowart.....		Rev. J. D. Little.....	1958
Rev. Morgan Cannon.....	1926	Rev. W. A. Pope.....	1959
Rev. A. Eunice.....	1928	Rev. Seborn Bowen.....	1960
Rev. B. O. Brown.....	1928	Rev. J. B. Wheeler.....	1967

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 earthy 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 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 offices.

14. No liseniate 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 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 dealing 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 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-A. In the matter of licensing ministers, the local church of which the individual is a member and before, whom he relates his experience of a divine call to the ministry. Shall be, and hereby is authorized to grant a license to said individual to preach the Gospel for one year. Each church shall report to the association on the letter to the annual session the names of all licensed ministers holding membership in said church.
- 13-B. The license shall be answer-able to the church granting him his authority and shall be subject to the discipline and actions of said body in relations to his standing as a licensed minister. It is understood that the church shall in no wise interfere with the license unless he has good and sound reason for so doing. In case of disciplinary action the procedure shall be the same as that used dealing with an individual in the church who is found walking in a disorderly manner.
- 13-C. Churches desiring the ordination of a minister shall request of the ordaining council of the association that the individual be examined by the council according to the procedure of the council. If found qualified, his ordination shall be authorized. It is understood in this connection

that the wishes of the individual regarding the time and place of his actual ordination service be honored and where feasible and possible be granted.

It is earnestly requested that no church ask for the ordination of the ministry of any man who has been divorced and remarried and in the process has more than one living companion with whom he has ever contracted marriage.

13-D. Ordained ministers coming from another Denomination to the Little River Association of Free Will Baptist shall appear before the ordaining council for examination concerning the doctrines and practices of Free Will Baptist. If found qualified, they shall be granted a license to preach under the watch-care of the association for one year. At the end of a year, if the ordaining council feels that they proved themselves, then they shall be issued ordination credentials by the Little River Association and shall have all the rights and privileges which pertain to any regularly ordained Free Will Baptist Ministers. Licensed ministers coming from another denomination to this association shall come under the same requirements for license as any other minister and shall request their licenses from the Local Free Will Baptist Church of which they are a member.

13-E. Ordained Free Will Baptist Ministers who are in good standing with another Free Will Baptist Association affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptist, desiring to become a member of the Little River Association, shall first affiliate with a church in good standing with the Little River Association. They then, by virtue of membership in said church shall be enrolled the association roster of ministers at the next annual session of the Little River Association.

13-F. We finally recommend in this connection that each and every former action taken by the Little River Association bearing on the matter of ministers as stated in the foregoing regulations comprise the rulings and practices of the Little River Association in these regards.

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.

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; Mat. 1:23, 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.
St. John 1:1-3

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. 2:1-5

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 whole Scriptures are infallible true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—1 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.—Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15

ment—Mark 16:15-16; 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. Rev. 14:11; Prov. 14:32.

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 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.

CHURCHES	PASTORS	Clerks and Post Offices	Sunday of Meeting	Received by Letter	Rec'd by Con. of Faith	Dismissed by Letter	Received by Baptism	Paid Pastor	Paid for Minutes	Value of Church Property	Improvements	Paid for Evangelistic	Total Members	Paid to Cooperation Plan
Pine Level	J. B. Mercer	Don Perry Rt. 2 Norman Park, Ga. 31771	Full	5	2	3	12	\$1,296.23	\$20.00	\$15,150.	\$.00	\$182.00	107	\$.00
Corinth	W. J. Barksdale	Mrs. J. W. Franks Rt. 4, Box 137 Tifton, Georgia 31794	Full	16	27	0	27	3,429.11	29.00	30,000.	5,681.50	125.15	116	447.79
Zion Hill	J. B. Rice, Jr.	Mrs. W. A. Sowell 811 N. Augusta Ave. Waycross, Ga. 31501	1-3	0	1	1	1	890.00	12.00	15,000	76.53	115.00	36	94.16
Sunny Side	Clarence McMillan	Betty M. Bazemore Route 1 Pearson, Ga. 31642	1-3	7	0	1	0	924.43	20.00	5,000.	.00	173.36	50	10.00
Cool Cool Springs	E. E. Kelly	C. M. Chafin, Jr. Route 1 Norman Park, Ga. 31771	Full	2	4	3	4	1,860.00	25.00	8,000.	.00	241.50	110	142.35
Friendship	Charles Lassefer, Jr.	Mrs. Mary Dyson Route 1 Millwood, Georgia	2-4	0	0	2	0	276.20	5.00	3,000	.00	60.00	43	.00
Ozias	M. C. Nail	Riley Cowart Pearson, Ga.	Full	0	1	0	0	1,820.06	18.65	5,000	.00	150.00	73	428.54
Valdosta	Herman Brooks	Eugene Crews 700 Randolph St. Valdosta, Ga. 31601	Full	5	3	4	3	2,690.00	20.00	25,000.	1,754.26	256.00	85	120.00
Hahira	Marion Hartsfield	Mrs. Fannie Patterson Route 1 Hahira, Ga.	Full	6	7	6	7	827.10	15.00	25,000.	210.25	225.00	92	.00
Oak Grove	Ralph Chafin	Clifford Kent Route 1 Stockton, Ga.	Full	3	0	1	8	213.75	15.00	5,000	.00	54.98	25	.00
Tifton	A. D. Green	Audrey Porter Rt. 6, Box 35 Tifton, Ga. 31794	Full	7	0	0	0	580.15	5.00	7,500	228.38	90.00	39	55.60
White Hall	Everret Williams	Annie Davis 1033 Albany, Ave. Waycross, Ga. 31634	Full	3	2	0	3	1,351.09	15.00	5,000	75.98	150.00	54	60.00
Homerville	Damon C. Dodd	Mrs. Iewin Nattles Homerville, Ga. 31634	Full	14	70	0	70	4,400.00	10.00	67,000	19,000.00	275.00	148	.00
Forrest Hill	R. S. Hayes	Bobby Joe Wiard Rt. 2, Moultrie, Ga.	2-4	0	0	0	0	318.41	12.00	6,500	.00		54	.00