

MINUTES
OF THE
Sixty-Third Annual Session
OF THE
LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION
OF
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

Convened With

FRIENDSHIP FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Waresboro, Georgia

Saturday, October 18, 1969

* * * * *

(Minutes of the Quarterly Sessions also included)

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OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, BOARDS—1969-70

Moderator.....	Rev. Larry Williams, Tifton, Ga.
Ass't. Moderator.....	Rev. Clarence McMillian, Folkston, Ga.
Clerk-Treasurer.....	Mr. John Ackerman, Valdosta, Ga.
Ass't Clerk-Treas.....	Mr. C. M. Chafin, Jr., Norman Park, Ga.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Buddy Hartsfield.....	1970
Micky Rouse.....	1971
J. C. Arnold.....	1972
C. M. Chafin, Jr.	1973
H. A. Coody.....	1974

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Larry Williams.....	1970
Rev. J. B. Mercer.....	1971
Rev. W. J. Barksdale.....	1972
Rev. R. S. Hayes.....	1973
Rev. Joe Esther.....	1974

MISSIONS BOARD

J. C. Arnold.....	1970
John Ackerman.....	1971
J. W. Franks.....	1972
C. M. Chafin, Jr.	1973
L. F. Ogletree.....	1974

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

N. C. Brannen.....	1970
J. C. Arnold.....	1971
John Ackerman.....	1972
F. B. Dean.....	1973
M. M. Franks.....	1974

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Audie Williams, Chairman.....	Route 1, Pearson, Ga. 31642
Fred Baker	
Mickey Rouse	

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

J. W. Franks.....	1970
Buddy Hartsfield.....	1971
J. W. Selph.....	1972
Everett Williams.....	1973
Damon C. Dodd.....	1974

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SESSION

Saturday, October 18, 1969, Friendship Church, Waresboro, Georgia

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A. M. by the Moderator, Damon D. Dodd. Song service was led by L. D. Wynn with prayer by Rev. Joe Esther, Valdosta pastor. The devotional message was brought by Rev. Virgil Melton, Jr., from the program theme, "In Times Like These", using II Timothy 3:1-5 as his scripture.

The Moderator then seated the standing delegates and instructed them in their privileges and duties. The report of the Credentials Committee was given by John Cook. (See report section). The delegates were seated and the session was declared properly organized to transact the business of the day. Visitors were recognized and invited to seats of council in this session.

The following committees were appointed by the Moderator:

RESOLUTIONS

J. B. Mercer, Chairman *Virgil Melton, Jr.*
C. M. Chafin, Jr. *Riley Giddens*

FINANCE

Frank B. Dean, Chairman *Frank Dean*
R. S. Hayes *Annette Mercer*
J. C. Arnold ✓

OBITUARY

Mrs. Damon C. Dodd, Chairman *Benny*
Mrs. John Ackerman *Ogletree*
Mrs. Fred Baker *John Ackerman*

NOMINATING

Larry Williams, Chairman *Everett Williams*
Audie Williams *L. F. Ogletree*
John Ackerman

(NOTE: This committee was elected by the Body as per custom)

Rev. W. H. Daughtery requested that his Ordination Credentials which were destroyed in a fire which swept his home sometime ago be reissued to him with as many of the original signatures as possible affixed thereto. MSC that this request be granted and that the Ordaining Council be charged with this responsibility.

C. M. Chafin, Jr., spoke to the meeting regarding the upcoming Harvest Day Drive for the Alabama Children's Home. He gave instructions as to when and where to deliver produce and commodities to be delivered to the Home.

The report of the District Women's Auxiliary Convention was given by Mrs. Damon C. Dodd. MSC to adopt the report as information.

Report of the Teach and Train Rally was given by J. W. Selph. MSC to adopt this report as information.

Report of the Ministers and Deacons conference was given by John Cook. MSC that the report be adopted as information.

The following people volunteered to serve as delegates to the Georgia State Association from Little River Association:

Mrs. J. C. Arnold, Mrs. J. W. Franks, Mrs. Joe Esther, Mrs. Mamie Bunch, Mrs. John Ackerman. MSC that these people be duly elected as official delegates.

At this time the Moderator declared a recess for fifteen minutes.

The congregation reassembled for the morning worship hour and was led in singing by L. D. Wynn. Prayer was offered by Rev. A. C. Truluck. Special music was rendered by a trio from Zion Hill Church. The message of the morning was delivered by Rev. J. B. Mercer from the subject, "In Times Like These", II Timothy 3:1-5. Following the sermon an invitation was extended to those desiring to make decisions for Christ.

Mr. Randall Steedly made the announcements concerning the dinner. Benediction was given by Rev. Sammy Wilkinson.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was opened by congregational singing with prayer led by Rev. Dewey Quinn.

The devotional message was presented by Annette Mercer on the program theme for the day.

The Moderator called for the reports of committees.

Finance Committee report was given by Frank B. Dean. MSC to adopt the report. (See report section)

Obituary report given by Mrs. Damon C. Dodd. MSC to adopt the report. The congregation stood for a moment of silent meditation in memory of our departed brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rev. Sammy Wilkinson, Missionary to Brazil, brought a most inspiring message at this time, using Luke 5:1-6 as a scriptural basis.

Resolutions Committee report was given by C. M. Chafin, Jr. MSC to receive the report and dispose of it item by item.

- Item No. 1--MSC to adopt
- Item No. 2--MSC to adopt
- Item No. 3--MSC to adopt
- Item No. 4--MSC to adopt

(See report section for these items)

A special offering was received at this time for one of our superannuated ministers, Rev. M. T. Goff, who had suffered an automobile accident. The amount of the offering was \$134.32. To this was added \$50.00 from the Associational treasury as per the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.

The report of the Special Committee on rewriting the Church Decorum was presented by Rev. Joe Esther. After due discussion the report was adopted on motion and second with a unanimous vote.

The report of the state Missions Board was given by C. M. Chafin, Jr. MSC to adopt the report. (See report section)

Due to the fact that Oak Grove Church would not be able to entertain the January session of the Association's Quarterly meeting, it was MSC that we meet with Ozias Church for that time.

The Nominating Committee report was given by Rev. Larry Williams. All officers and Board members were elected by acclamation. (See report section).

After announcements, it was MSC to adjourn. Instead of a benediction by prayer, we were dismissed by a fellowship handshake as we sang an appropriate hymn.

Damon C. Dodd, Moderator

Frank B. Dean, Clerk

REPORTS SECTION

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee prayerfully submits the following report:

NAME OF CHURCH	DELEGATES	FEES PAID
Bemis.....	Mrs. Riley Giddens..... Mr. and Mrs. James Harpe Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bennett	\$6.00 Minutes 3.00 Missions

NAME OF CHURCH	DELEGATES	FEES PAID
Bemis.....	Mrs. Riley Giddens..... Mr. & Mrs. James Harpe Mr. & Mrs. Ray Bennett	\$6.00 Minutes 3.00 Missions

Cool Springs	Billy E. Ross.....	\$25.00
	Mrs. W. J. Barksdale	
	N. C. Brannen	
	Mrs. A. R. Chafin	
	O. L. Roberts	
	Mrs. J. E. Harrod	
	Mrs. R. V. McInvale	
	Rooks Stewart	
	Kathleen Hamm	

Corinth.....	Mrs. M. M. Franks.....	\$30.75
	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Wisham	
	Marnie Franks	

Forest Hill.....	George Crowley.....	\$12.50
	Maudella Crowley	
	Irene Bostic	
	Frank Hayes	
	Levilla Hayes	

Friendship.....	Clem Giddens.....	\$6.50
	Ronald Steedley	

Hahira.....	Ronald Cooper.....	\$15.00
	L. D. Wynn	

Homerville.....	Mrs. Virgil Melton, Sr.....	\$10.00
	Jimmie Melton	
	Mrs. F. B. Dean	
	Mrs. F. B. Dean	
	Edman L. Douglas	
	Mrs. Damon C. Dodd	

Oak Grove.....	No Delegates.....	No Fees
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Homerville.....Mrs. Virgil Melton, Sr.....\$10.00
 Jimmie Melton
 Mrs. F. B. Dean
 Edman L. Douglas
 Mrs. Damon C. Dodd

Oak Grove.....No Delegates.....No Fees

Ozias.....Mrs. Fred Baker.....\$10.00
 Mrs. Timalee Smith

Pine Level.....Velma Walker.....\$20.00
 Brenda Hartsfield
 Don P

Sunnyside.....Lorraine McGovern.....\$20.00
 Martha Long
 Leona Williams
 Annie Douglas
 Thelma Hulbert

First Tifton.....Leota Cook.....\$9.75 Minutes
 Paula Cook 5.00 Missions
 Faye Ogletree
 Etta Mae Franks

First Valdosta.....Mrs. Berniece Ackerman.....\$20.00
 Mrs. Ollie Cooper
 Mrs. H. W. Selph
 Mrs. Joe Esther

White Hall.....Leona McMillan.....\$20.00
 Eula Taylor
 Benny Lairsey
 Charles Gill
 Archie Gill
 Mary Bunch

Zion Hill.....Sam Barlow.....\$12.00
 Oneida Arnold
 Annette Mercer

Committee:

M. M. Franks
 John T. Cook
 Marvin Luke

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Finance Committee, submit the following report:

Balance in Treasury October 18, 1969.....\$498.51
 Received from Churches October 18, 1969..... 217.50
 Balance in Treasury, October 20, 1969..... 716.01

The Committee:

Frank B. Dean
 J. C. Arnold
 R. S. Hayes

MISSIONS BOARD

Balance in Treasury September 9, 1969.....\$298.25
 Received from the Treasurer..... 59.00
 Balance in Treasury October 20, 1969..... 357.25

C. M. Chafin, Jr., Treasurer

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

It is with deepest sorrow that we report the death of our beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord as follows:

White Hall ChurchMr. and Mrs. Noel Davis
 Corinth ChurchMrs. Annie Maude Cook, W. B. O'Neal
 Forest Hill ChurchMr. J. M. Sangster
 Zion Hill ChurchMr. Johnnie B. Kinon, Mr. Alfred Sweat, Dolly Beatrice Harrell
 Homerville ChurchMr. H. C. Pittman
 Cool Springs ChurchJ. B. Allman, Vergie Newsome, Jack Easters

We suggest that we have a moment of silent meditation in memory of these departed one.

The Committee:
Mrs. Damon C. Dodd
Mrs. Fred Baker
Mrs. John Ackerman

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee prayerfully submits the following recommendations:

1. Be it resolved that special expenditures from the General Fund of this Association be first approved by the Executive Committee of the Association and upon meeting their approval, be presented to the Body in any regular session.

2. Be it resolved that the Masters Men of Little River Association meet at Valdosta First Freewill Baptist Church, Saturday, November 8, 1969, for the purpose of organizing a District Masters Men Convention.

3. Be it resolved that we have a special offering for Rev. M. T. Goff who has incurred unusual expenses from an automobile accident, and that we add \$50.00 to this offering from the General fund.

4. Be it resolved that we extend to Friendship Church our thanks for the hospitality shown us throughout the day, and that this expression be in the form of a rising vote.

The Committee:
J. B. Mercer
C. M. Chafin, Jr.
Joe Esther
Riley Giddens

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee submits the following nominees for the offices indicated:

Moderator Rev. Larry Williams
Assistant Moderator Rev. Clarence McMillan
Clerk - Treasurer John Ackerman
Assistant Clerk - Treasurer C. M. Chafin, Jr.
Executive Committee, 5 year term H. A. Coody
Ordaining Council, 5-year term Rev. Joe Esther
Ordaining Council, unexpired term of Rev. J. B. Rice
 Rev. W. J. Barksdale
Missions Board, 5-year term L. F. Ogletree
Board of Trustees, 5-year term M. M. Franks
Credentials Committee: Audie Williams, Chairman, Fred Baker,
Mickey Rouse.
Board of Christian Education, 5-year term Damon C. Dodd
Board of Christian Education, 4-year term Everett Williams

The Committee:
Larry Williams
Leonard Ogletree
John Ackerman
Everett Williams
Audie Williams

MINUTES - T&T RALLY - LITTLE RIVER ASSN.

CORNTH CHURCH

May 17, 1969 9:30 A.M. to 3:15 P.M.

THEME REASONING TOGETHER - SCRIPTURES - Isaiah 1:8, Come let us reason together, Saith the Lord. Presiding officer - J. B. Rice.

9:30 A.M., Song and prayer - J. W. Franks
9:40 A.M. Recognition and welcome of churches
10:00 A.M. - Devotion - Rev. Joe Ester
10:15 A.M. - Special Music led by Robert Vickers
10:20 A.M. - Reasoning Together by John Ackerman
10:40 A.M. - Sing and Pray
10:45 A.M. - Youth Reasoning Together in CTS by Virgil Melton, Jr.
10:55 A.M. - Youth Reasoning Together in Sunday School by Annette Mercer.
11:05 A.M. - Recess
11:10 A.M. - Special Singing - Homerville Group
10:15 A.M. - Sword Drill by Mrs. J. W. Franks
11:30 A.M. - Rally Message - Reasoning Together - Rev. Larry Williams
12:00 A.M. - Adjourn for lunch
1:15 P.M. - Sing and pray
1:20 P.M. - Announcements
1:25 P.M. We want to Know - questions from youth - answered by a panel of ministers - Rev. Damon Dodd, Rev. Joe Ester, and Rev. Larry Williams.
1:55 P.M. - Declamations and Essays
2:15 P.M. - Bible Tic Tac Toe - led by Mrs. John Akerman
2:45 P.M. - Bible Bowl - directed by Mrs. Ayers
3:10 P.M. - Report from Committee of Appreciation
3:15 P.M. - Adjourn.

Sponsors of Rally -- Little River Assn. Christain Education baord-members are J. B. Rice, J. W. Selph, J. W. Franks, Buddy Hartsfield, and Mickey Rouse.

STATISTICS: Number of churches represented - 7; ministers present - 6; total present - 56; Money received \$25.00.

Sword Drill Participants: Tim Akerman, Vicky Rice, Darrell Robinson, Phillip Ogletree, Ronnie Franks, and Joan Chambers, Winner was - Darrell Robinson and White Hall.

Bible Tic Tac Toe Participants: Team from Valdosta - Van Whiddon, Vicky Whiddon, David Selph, Debbie Bumbridge, and team from Corinth, Randy Franks and Derrell Williams - Winners were - team from Valdosta Church.

Declamation - Given by Joey Nail from Homerville. Essey Entered by Patsy Chambless - Corinth.

Acting Secretary,
Jo Anne Rice

REPORT OF THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON REWRITING THE CHURCH DECORUM

SUGGESTED CHURCH DECORUM

Local Freewill Baptist Churches are autonomous as relates to government and the regulation of internal affairs, being free from any jurisdictional or legislative authority of any higher ecclesiastical body. Therefore the following suggestions are nothing more than guidelines, inasmuch as the Little River Association of Freewill Baptist has nor desires no final powers to enforce any rule or regulation in the local Churches.

It is strongly recommended that each local Church adopt a Constitution by which it shall be governed and under which the program shall be operated.

1. Churches may choose their pastors at any time and in any manner that they see fit, provided that they do not violate ordinary Baptist principles and usages. The duties and responsibilities of pastors shall be determined and assigned by the Church in conference with the pastor-elect.

2. The Churches may elect deacons in a manner deemed advisable by the local situation. Their tenure of office and their duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the Church which they shall serve.

3. The Churches may elect as many officers as they deem necessary to properly conduct their affairs. Tenure of office and responsibilities and duties of all officers shall be determined by the local Church.

4. Church Conferences may be held at the discretion of the local Churches as to frequency and agenda.

5. Churches may discipline their members according to regulations and rules adopted by the local Churches as long as they are not in conflict with those rules and regulations adopted by the National Association of Freewill Baptists and those of the Little River Association of Freewill Baptists. Any member who has been disciplined has the right of appeal to the next higher body of the Freewill Baptist organization. Churches deliberately violating the rights of members shall be subject to the action of the Little River Association in withdrawing fellowship from them.

6. The manner of receiving members into the local Churches shall be determined by each local congregation. It is understood in this connection that prospective members shall give proper evidence of

having been born again and shall be baptised by immersion in the Name of the Holy Trinity.

7. Local Churches are advised to observe the basic parliamentary rules and usages when conducting Church conferences.

8. The frequency of the observance of the Gospel Ordinances shall be determined by the local Churches.

9. It is understood that the Churches are not to adopt rules or regulations repugnant or contrary to the Constitution and By-laws of the Little River Association nor to engage in any practices nor preach any doctrines in violation of the Treatise of Faith and Practices of the National Association of Freewill Baptists. Local Churches not conforming to this article are liable to reprimand and/or the action of the Association withdrawing fellowship from them.

SUGGESTED FORM FOR A CONSTITUTION FOR A LOCAL CHURCH

This is a simple basic outline for a constitution for a local Church. Specific statements and provisions are to be determined by the needs and wishes of the local Church.

Preamble

I. Name

II. Purpose

III. Membership

Section 1. Members received on profession of faith and mode of baptism

Section 2. Reception of members coming from other churches

Section 3. Dismissal or transfer of members in good standing

Section 4. Exclusion or expulsion of members

IV. Officers, Tenure, Duties

Section 1. Pastor

Section 2. Clerk

Section 3. Treasurer

Section 4. Board of Deacons

Section 5. Board of Trustees

Other sections may be added for additional officers as needed

V. Auxiliaries of the Church

Section 1. Sunday School

Section 2. Church Training Service.

Section 3. Woman's Auxiliary

Section 4. Master's Men

VI. Finance

Section 1. Tithes and offerings

Section 2. Special Offerings

VII. Meetings of the Church

Section 1. Regular services of worship

- Section 2. Church Conferences
- Section 3. Observing the Ordinances of the gospel
- Section 4. Annual Homecoming or Anniversary service
- Section 5. Revival meetings
- Section 6. Special Services
- IX. Committees and Boards (if needed)
- X. Election of Officers
- XI. Alterations or Amendments

ROSTER OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

W. J. Barksdale	Norman Park, Ga.
Jesse Castleberry, Route 1	Lenox, Ga.
Damon C. Dodd, Box 345, Phone 487-5840	Homerville, Ga.
Ralph Chafin, Route 1	Norman Park, Ga.
Dewey Fraley	Ypsilanta, Michigan
Donald Franks	Bainbridge, Ga.
Riley Giddens, Route 3	Ray City, Ga.
A. D. Green, Phone 382-5264	Tifton, Ga.
M. T. Goff, 411 Hull Ave.	Nashville, Ga.
Marvin Hartsfield	Norman Park, Ga.
T. G. Hamilton, Phone 487-2217	Homerville, Ga.
R. S. Hayes, Route 2, Phone 896-3332	Adel, Ga.
W. R. Hullett	Norman Park, Ga.
Charles Lasseter	Albany, Ga.
Clarence McMillan	Folkston, Ga.
J. B. Mercer, Route 1, Phone 769-3907	Norman Park, Ga.
M. C. Nail, Phone 487-5845	Homerville, Ga.
Dewey Quinn, Phone 375-2982	Hazelhurst, Ga.
Everett Williams, Phone 422-3609	Pearson, Ga.
Larry Williams, Route 5, Phone 382-7769	Tifton, Ga.
Joe Esther	Valdosta, Ga.
Huwel Walker	Tifton, Ga.
L. J. Chambless	Tifton, Ga.

LICENSED MINISTERS

James Stringer	Valdosta, Ga.
Virgil Melton, Jr.	Homerville, Ga.
Ronald Wallace	3809 Elkins Ave., Nashville, Tennessee
Paul Verhine	Norman Park, Ga.
Julian Robert Vickers	Rt. 2 Hahira, Ga.

MINUTES OF THE MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The 20th session of the Ministers and Deacons Conference of the Little River Association met at Corinth Church, Brookfield, Ga., March 8, 1969. Rev. Larry Williams, host pastor, led in congregational singing. Prayer was offered by Rev. Joe Esther.

Assistant Moderator, Rev. Everett Williams, had charge of the meeting. He presented Rev. M. T. Goff, who read and spoke from Matthew 28. His subject was "What Jesus Says, Do!"

The roll call was responded to by 10 ministers: Revs. Larry Williams, R. S. Hayes, A. D. Greene, J. R. Vickers, M. T. Goff, J. B. Mercer, Huwell Walker, Joe Esther, J. B. Rice, Jr., Everett Williams. In addition to the Ministers, there were 22 deacons and 7 visitors, for a total of 39.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved by vote.

There was no unfinished business and no new business.

A letter of recommendation was read from the South Georgia Association concerning Rev. Joe Esther, the new Pastor of First Valdosta Church.

The Moderator called for reports from the Churches and the following responded:

Pine Level	Buddy Hartsfield
Corinth	Rev. Larry Williams
Zion Hill	Rev. J. B. Rice
Sunnyside	Rev. Everett Williams
Cool Springs	Visiting Brother
Friendship	Rev. J. B. Rice
Valdosta	John Ackerman
Hahira	Carson Parrish
Oak Grove	Rev. M. T. Goff
Tifton	John T. Cook
Forest Hill	Selmon Bostic
Bemiss	John Ackerman

John Ackerman made an informal report from the Board of Trustees of Little River Association on the transaction which had been completed regarding the Shady Grove Church property.

L. F. Ogletree invited the conference to meet with Tifton Church in September. MSC to accept the invitation.

The host Pastor invited everyone to remain and partake of the refreshments which had been prepared.

An offering was received prior to the benediction. MSC to adjourn.

Everett Williams, Moderator
J. B. Rice, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Brought Forward	\$1.31
Offering Received at this Meeting	\$30.05
Balance in Treasury March 8, 1969	\$31.36
J. B. Rice, Jr., Treasurer	

The 21st session of the Ministers and Deacons Conference of the Little River Association met at Tifton, September 13, 1969.

The song service was led by L. F. Ogletree after which Rev. L. J. Chambless led in prayer. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. J. B. Mercer. Bro. Mercer in turn presented the speaker, Rev. Larry Williams, who brought a message from I Timothy 4, using the subject, "Responsibilities of Preachers and Deacons."

Minutes of the previous session were read and approved by vote. MSC that one man from each Church be responsible for the Harvest Day Drive for the Alabama Children's Home. Those appointed were:

Cool Springs	Bro. Powell
Corinth	J. W. Franks
Forest Hill	Selmon Bostic
Hahira	Carson Parrish
Valdosta	John Ackerman
Pine Level	Buddy Hartsfield
Tifton	John T. Cook
Zion Hill	J. C. Arnold

The secretary was instructed to forward this information to Curtis Gay, Hartsfield, Ga. who is the State Director for the Drive.

There was no unfinished business nor any new business to come before the Body.

The Moderator asked the Secretary to write the absent Churches reminding them of the Harvest Day Drive and letting them know that they were missed from the meeting.

Reports were called from the Churches. The following responded:

Cool Springs	W. J. Barksdale
Zion Hill	L. T. Chambless
Forest Hill	R. S. Hayes
Pine Level	Johnny Sexton
Hahira	A. D. Greene
Corinth	M. M. Franks
Tifton	Huwel Walker
Valdosta	John Ackerman

Suggestions was made that the Pastors encourage their Churches to assist Friendship Church in entertaining the coming session of the Little River Association.

John T. Cook reminded the Churches to send their Annual reports to M. M. Franks at least two weeks before the Associational meeting.

Hahira and Forest Hill Churches issued invitations for the next session of the Conference. The Body voted to accept the invitation of Hahira to meet there March 14, 1970.

The election of officers for ensuing year resulted in the following:

Moderator	J. B. Mercer
Assistant Moderator	R. S. Hayes
Secretary - Treasurer	John T. Cook
Assistant Secretary - Treasurer	John Ackerman

An offering was received at this time in the amount of \$32.75. Rev.

Huwel Walker, host Pastor, invited everyone to remain for refreshments. MSC to adjourn.

There were 8 ministers and 23 deacons present.

TREASURERS REPORT

Balance Brought Forward	\$31.36
Received September 13, 1969	32.75
Balance on Hand September 13, 1969.	64.11

John T. Cook, Treasurer

MINUTES OF LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

in

QUARTERLY MEETING

WHITE HALL CHURCH, WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

January 18, 1969

The little River Association of Freewill Baptists met at White Hall Church, Waycross, Georgia, in Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, January 18, 1969.

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk, Frank B. Dean. The song service was led by Charles Gill, of Waycross. Rev. Clarence McMillan gave the devotional. Prayer was led by Rev. Lamar Parrish. In the absence of the Moderator the Assistant Moderator, Rev. J. B. Mercer, presided.

The following Ministers were recognized: Riley Giddens, Everett Williams, Clarence McMillan, R. S. Hayes, T. G. Hamilton, J. B. Rice, Joe Esther, Lamar Parrish, Larry Williams.

The letters were received from the various Churches and the delegates were seated. The list of delegates is:

COOL SPRINGS--N. C. Brannen, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Passmore, Mrs. W. J. Barksdale.

CORINTH--Mrs. J. W. Franks, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Franks, Mrs. C. K. Causey, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wishman, Mrs. R. D. Chambless, Patsy Chambless, Jean Chambless.

FORREST HILL--Selmon Bostic, Irene Bostic, George Crowley, Maudella Crowley, Frank Hayes, Savellia Hayes.

HAHIRA--No Delegates.

VALDOSTA--Mr. and Mrs. John Ackerman, Mrs. Harlo Selph, Mrs. Mamie Whiddon, Mrs. Joe Esther.

HOMERVILLE--Mrs. Frank Dean, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Wilson, Mrs. Mary Allison.

WHITE HALL--Archie Gill, Charles Gill, Bennie Laircy, John Griffin,

Mrs. Willie Williams.
OAK GROVE—Clennon Browning, Jessie Castleberry, Carey Landcaster, Johnny Rogers.
ZION HILL—Jo Ann Rice, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Arnold.
OZIAS—Mrs. Fannie Kent, Mrs. Elva Baker.

PINE LEVEL—Mr. and Mrs. Leon Powell, Larry Spires, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Powell, Brenda Hartsfield.

SUNNYSIDE—Annie Douglas, Betty Bazamore, Leona McMillan, Willie Mae Clement, Martha Long.

TIFTON—Linda Harrell, Nancy Walker, Lawrence Branch.

FRIENDSHIP—Mrs. J. R. Steedly.

BEMISS—Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bennett, Mrs. Riley Giddens,
The following committees were appointed by the Moderator:

RESOLUTIONS	CARD OF THANKS
W. N. Wilson	Mrs. Fannie Kent
Selmon Bostic	
N. C. Brannen	

The Moderator called for unfinished business and there was none. The call for new business was given by the Moderator and the following item was adopted on motion and second and unanimous vote:

"That the Association authorize the sale of the Shady Grove Church property by authorizing the Board of Trustees to put a price on the property."

MSC to reelect the original Board of Trustees of five members. They are:

Frank B. Dean
John Ackerman
Chester Hunter
N. C. Brannen
Audie J. Williams.

Due to the fact that Chester Hunter has joined the Methodist Church it was necessary to elect someone in his place. J. C. Arnold was elected.

MSC to receive Rev. Joe Esther into the Association pending a letter of recommendation from the South Georgia Association.

MSC that the Church entertaining the Association in any of its sessions prepare the program outline, and that the Clerk of the Association have the programs printed and mail to the Clerk and Pastor of each Church.

Moderator charged the Clerk of his responsibility to mail Church letter forms to each Church Clerk at least three weeks prior to the meetings of the Association.

Following a brief recess the body reassembled for the morning worship hour. The song service was led by Charles Gill with Rev. Esther at the piano. Special music was given by Charles and Everett Gill. Rev. J. B. Mercer, Pastor of Pine Level Church, brought the message from Luke 21: 8-38, on the "Second Coming of the Lord."

Following the Service, Rev. Everett Williams, host Pastor, gave words of welcome and made announcements concerning the noon meal. The prayer of dismissal was given by Rev. Dewey Fraley.

The afternoon session was opened by singing "Come Unto Me" and prayer by Rev. Riley Giddens. The devotional was given by Rev. J. B. Rice from John 14: 1-3 and Matthew 24: 31.

Committee reports were presented as follows:

Resolutions: "We, your committee on Resolutions, do not have any resolutions to offer at this time as everything seems to be in order." MSC to adopt the report.

ORDAINING COUNCIL: "Rev. Joe Esther comes to our Association as pastor of Valdosta Freewill Baptist Church. We recommend that he be accepted into our Association pending a letter of recommendation from South Georgia Association."

MSC to adopt the report.

CARD OF THANKS: "I move that we give White Hall Church a standing vote of thanks in appreciation of the Christlike welcome and hospitality and the wonderful dinner we all enjoyed."

MSC to adopt the report.

Announcements were made at this time and included the following:

"Woman's Auxiliary Convention Workshop at Bemiss Church February 7, 1969, at 7:30 P.M. Study Course on Missions with Rev. Damon C. Dodd teaching."

"Bible Institute at Camp Mt. Bethel January 27-31, Friday, January 31, will feature a Sunday School and CTS Workshop with Rev. Roger Reeds and Samuel Johnson.

Rev. Lamar Parrish stated that he was not pastoring any Church at this time and was available for service.

An offering was received for the Cooperative Plan in the amount of \$34.16.

MSC to adjourn to meet with Pine Level Church April 19, 1969. Benediction was pronounced by Rev. R. S. Hayes.

J. B. Mercer, Moderator
Frank B. Dean, Clerk

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY MEETING APRIL 19, 1969

The Quarterly Meeting was held at Pine Level Freewill Baptist Church Saturday, April 19, 1969.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by the Moderator, Rev. Damon C. Dodd. The congregation sang "Tell It To Jesus" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms". Rev. Dewey Fraley led in prayer after which Rev. Riley Giddens brought the devotional message from John 11: 25, 26.

Ministers and Deacons were recognized and directed in their responsibility as standing delegates. Visiting brethren and Corresponding Messengers were recognized.

Bro. M. M. Franks, Chairman of the Credentials Committee gave the partial report of his committee, stating that reports had been received from 12 churches with an oral report from Hahira Church with a promise

to submit a written report.

MSC that the letters be received and the delegates seated. Churches and delegates were listed as follows:

PINE LEVEL - Tom Carlton, Len Powell, Larry Spires, Curtis Powell, Dutch Paulk, Don Perry.

TIFTON - Etta Mae Franks, Leatha Cook, Debbie Cook.

HOMERVILLE - Iona Dean, Mary Lou Melton, Virgil Melton, Jr.

OZIAS -- Fannie Kent, Elva Baker, Eva Cowart.

SUNNY SIDE - Audie Williams, Loraine McGovern, Mamie Mancil, Leona Williams.

WHITE HALL - Benny Lairsey, Charles Gill, Betty Stewart, Mamie Bunch, Margaret Williams, Willie Williams.

VALDOSTA - Inez Esther, Mrs. John Ackerman, Mrs. H. A. Coody, Mrs. W. W. Selph, Rosa Selph, Ollie Cooper.

COOL SPRINGS - Mrs. J. W. Barksdale, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Brannen, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Weeks, Mrs. A. R. Chafin, Billie Jean Ross, Wilma Ross, Cardie McIrvine.

FORREST HILL - Bobby Wiard, Linda Wiard, J. M. Sangster, Nellie Sangster, Selmon Bostic, Irene Bostic.

BEMISS - Mrs. Dewey Fraley, Mrs. Riley Giddens.

CORINTH - Mrs. Jane Sumner, Lorene Causey, Patsy Chambless, Mrs. M. M. Franks.

ZION HILL - Mrs. J. B. Rice, Mrs. Ibsen Mercer, Annette Mercer.

HAHIRA - Mrs. D. F. Anderson, Mrs. A. D. Green, L. D. Wynn, Troy Wynn, Mrs. W. A. Addison.

The Moderator made a few appropriate remarks after which he appointed these committees:

RESOLUTIONS: C. M. Chafin, Jr., Benny Lairsey, Virgil Melton, Jr., Mrs. Riley Giddens, Mrs. Frank Dean.

FINANCE: F. B. Dean, Bobby Joe Ward, Audie J. Williams.

Moderator ruled that all reports must be submitted in writing.

MSC to receive and adopt the report from the Board of Trustees in which they gave details of the sale of the Shady Grove Church property for the price of \$800.00. (See report section)

At this time a recess was declared and the congregation was asked to reassemble for the morning worship at 11:00 A.M.

The worship service opened with the singing of "I'm Going That Way." Prayer by Rev. J. B. Rice. A group from Pine Level Church gave 2 most enjoyable special numbers. The Moderator introduced Rev. Joe Esther, Valdosta pastor, who brought a very touching message on the Resurrection.

Following announcements, we were dismissed for the noon hour by Rev. Hubert Henderson.

The afternoon session was called to order at 1:30 P.M. with song and prayer. Rev. Larry Williams brought the devotional message.

Moderator called for the various reports. (See report section for these reports.)

MSC to adopt the report of the Ordaining Council.

MSC to adopt the report of the Christian Education Committee.
MSC to adopt the report of the Resolutions Committee item by item.
Rev. E. E. Kelly represented the State Office in the absence of Rev. Mance Cason. Report received as information.

Announcements of coming revivals were made at this time, following which an offering was received for the National Foreign Mission Board's "Callathon."

MSC to adjourn. Benediction by Rev. J. B. Mercer.

Damon C. Dodd, Moderator,
Frank B. Dean, Clerk

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee prayerfully presents the following recommendations for action by the Body in session today:

1. WHEREAS, several months ago a committee reported on the official Articles of Faith for the Association and their report was adopted by this Body, and

WHEREAS, that report has been lost or misplaced and is not available, for which reason the Articles of Faith were not included in the 1968 Minutes, be it therefore RESOLVED,

That this Association officially adopt the Articles of Faith of the National Association of Freewill Baptists as set forth in the 1962 edition of the Treatise of Faith and Practice of the Original Freewill Baptists, with Article 3 to be revised as follows:

Christ: Christ is God manifest in the flesh, in His Divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary. The Mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever-present Saviour and Lord.

2. We recommend that the Moderator appoint a committee of three (3) to study and rewrite the Church Decorum as found in the Minutes of the Little River Association of 1968, and that this Committee submit its report as the annual session in October, 1969.

3. We recommend that we extend to Pine Level Church our thanks for the hospitality shown to us during this day, by a standing vote of appreciation.

SIGNED:

C. M. Chafin, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Riley Giddens
Mrs. Frank Dean
Virgil G. Melton, Jr.
Benny Lairsey

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

We, the Finance Committee, submit the following report:

Received from the Churches \$154.00
Of this amount \$67.00 was for Associational purposes and \$87.00 was for Associational Missions.

A special Foreign Missions offering for "Call-A-Thon" was received in the amount of \$54.69.

We recommend that the Association contribute \$45.31 to bring out Associational gift up to \$100.00.

SIGNED:

Frank Dean, Chairman
Bobby Joe Wiard
Audie J. Williams

ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT:

The Ordaining Council of Little River Association of Freewill Baptists recommends that the name of Herman E. Brooks be stricken from the list of ordained ministers in good standing with said Association until such time as his case is cleared by the Ordaining Council of said Association.

SIGNED:

SIGNED:

J. B. Rice, Jr.
Larry E. Williams
R. S. Hayes
J. B. Mercer
Everett Williams, Chairman

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of Little River Association of Freewill Baptists met at the Church property known as Shady Grove Freewill Baptist Church February 14, 1969. Rev. M. T. Goff met with the Board. A price of \$800.00 was agreed on by all present. Mr. Gene Burke agreed to buy said property within ten days or two weeks. Mr. Burke failed to communicate further regarding the purchase. Two weeks later the secretary received a letter from Robert Lindsey stating that he wanted to buy the property and that Mr. Burke had backed out. Board Chairman, Frank Dean and Secretary, John Ackerman met Mr. Lindsey in Nashville, Georgia, on March 8, 1969. Agreement was made regarding the sale and Attorney Fred L. Belcher drew up the deed. The fee was \$10.00 which was paid from funds the Association had made available to the Board. The remaining Board members were notified of the transaction and all agreed to it.

The transaction was officially closed on March 14, 1969, at which time Frank Dean, Associational Treasurer, received the check for \$800.00. This is considered closing action.

The Board of Trustees wishes to express appreciation to Rev. Goff for his assistance in this transaction.

SIGNED:

John Ackerman,
Secretary - Treasurer
Board of Trustees

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Board of Christian Education met March 8, 1969 with all the members of the Board present. Rev. J. B. Rice, Jr., was elected chairman and Buddy Hartsfield was named secretary - treasurer. MSC that J.B. Rice, Jr., and J.W. Selph plan the program for the Teach and Train Rally. MSC to accept the invitation of Corinth Church to be the hostess Church. MSC to hold the Rally on May 17, 1969, beginning at 9:30 A.M.

SIGNED:

J. B. Rice, Chairman
Buddy Hartsfield, Secretary

MINUTES OF LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION OF
FREWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

QUARTERLY MEETING

JULY 26, 1969

The Quarterly Meeting of Little River Association met Saturday, July 26, 1969, at Corinth Church, Brookfield, Georgia. The program theme was "What Manner of Persons Ought We to Be?" with the scripture taken from II Peter 3:11.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Damon C. Dodd. After congregational singing, prayer was offered by Rev. R. S. Hayes.

Rev. Huwel Walker brought the devotional message from the program theme, using as a subject, "What Manner of Persons Ought We to be in the Home?"

The Moderator declared the session in order for the transaction of business. The standing delegates were reminded of their duties by the reading of that portion of the Constitution pertaining to the composition of this Association.

The Credentials Committee Report was given as follows:

TIFTON: Mrs. Jane Walker, Nancy Walker, John S. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Branch.

VALDOSTA: No delegates listed in the letter

COOL SPRINGS: Mrs. W. J. Barksdale, N. C. Brannen, Vallie Chafin, Vera Chafin, Mrs. V. R. McInvale, Yvonne Weeks, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Watkins, J. C. Weeks, Grover Newsome.

CORINTH: Dianne Wisham, Jerry Wisham, Rennie Sumner, Frances Williams, Betty Chambless, Patsy Chambless, Mrs. M. M. Franks, Mrs. Maxine Franks, Joan Chambless, Pattie Cooper, Marvin Luke, Rosa Lee Luke.

BEMISS: Mrs. Ray Bennett, Mrs. Riley Giddens.

FRIENDSHIP: Mrs. J. T. Ross, Mrs. Billy Gene Ross.

HAHIRA: L. D. Wynn, Ronald Coppage, Mary Alice Thomason, Dorothy Greene, Roger Spillars, Mandy Coppage, Faye Spillars, Sue Anderson, Jewell Parish, Mrs. D. A. Adison.

HOMERVILLE: Mrs. Virgil Melton, Sr., Virgil Melton, Jr., Ronald Wallace, Mrs. Damon C. Dodd, Mrs. Thursie Wood, Mrs. Frank Dean.

FOREST HILL: Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Sangster, Mr. and Mrs. Selmon Bostic, Mr. and Mrs. George Crowley.

OZIAS: Mrs. Eva Cowart, Mrs. Fannie Kent, Mrs. Shirley Matthews.

SUNNYSIDE: Mrs. Annie Douglas, Mrs. Thelma Hulburt, Mrs. Deliah Flancher, Mrs. Leona Williams, Mrs. Willie Mae Clement.

WHITE HALL: No delegates listed in the letter.

ZION HILL: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Arnold, Annette Mercer, Nella Bess Arnold.

MSC that the Credentials Committee report be adopted and the delegates seated.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

RESOLUTIONS—Rev. J. B. Mercer, Chairman, Rev. R. S. Hayes, Rev.

Ronald Wallace, John Ackerman, Rev. Everett Williams.

FINANCE—Frank B. Dean, Rev. W. J. Barksdale, J. C. Arnold.

The Crusaders Quartette from the Freewill Baptist College, Nashville, Tennessee, was present and rendered four number in song. Following this the Moderator emphasized the importance of the College and urged all-out support by all the Churches in the Association. Dave Chamberlain, representing the Public Relations Department of the College, spoke further along these lines, following which the Quartette sang several more numbers and gave personal testimonies.

The morning worship service was in charge of the Assistant Moderator, Rev. J. B. Mercer. Following a congregational song, a special offering was received for the College in the amount of \$72.27. Prayer was offered by Rev. Riley Giddens.

The message was delivered by Rev. Damon C. Dodd, from the subject, "What Manner of Persons Ought We to be in our Churches?" He closed with prayer for the spiritual needs of God's people everywhere.

Rev. Larry Williams led in the closing hymn and made announcements concerning the noon meal. John Ackerman gave the benediction.

The afternoon session was opened with congregational singing led by L. D. Wynn. Rev. L. J. Chambliss gave the devotional message on "What Manner of Persons Ought We to be in our Social Lives?"

Committee reports were called for. (See reports section for each of these reports.)

Final report of the Credentials Committee. MSC to adopt.

Finance Committee. MSC to adopt.

Resolutions Committee. MSC to adopt.

Since the Rev. J. B. Rice family was moving to Lockhart, S. C., to take up full-time work, the Moderator suggested a farewell handshake for them from all present. Bro. Wynn led in singing as we gave this farewell to the Rice family.

Announcements were called for and several were given. MSC to adjourn. Benediction was given by Rev. Everett Williams.

Damon C. Dodd, Moderator
Frank B. Dean, Clerk

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

1. We recommend that this Association give \$500.00 to the Development Fund of Freewill Baptist College.

2. We recommend that a plaque be purchased and sent to the J. B. Rice family with the following inscription: "The Rice Family: In appreciation for time, devotion, and untiring energy spent in promoting the District and State Associations." Little River Association of Freewill Baptists.

3. We recommend that available funds in the Association treasury be used for financial relief of local churches as justified before this Body.

4. We recommend that we express our appreciation to Corinth Church for their Christian hospitality to this Body shown here today, by a standing vote of thanks.

SIGNED:

J. B. Mercer

R. S. Hayes

Ronald Wallace

John Ackerman

Everett Williams

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Balance in Treasury	\$977.21
Special Offering for College	72.27
Quarterly Meeting Fund	83.00
Associational Missions	51.00
TOTAL	\$1,183.48

PAID OUT

Freewill Baptist College	\$500.00
Associational Missions	51.00
Freewill Baptist College (Offering)	72.27
TOTAL	\$623.27
BALANCE IN TREASURY TODAY	\$560.21

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

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

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptized believers of 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 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.

SUGGESTED CHURCH DECORUM

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, are 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 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 consciences of men in any manner whatsoever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel; faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite for 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 elder 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 or 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 licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

Local Freewill Baptist Churches are autonomous as relates to government and the regulation of internal affairs, being free from any jurisdictional or legislative authority of any higher ecclesiastical body. Therefore, the following suggestions are noting more than guidelines, inasmuch as the Little River Association of Freewill Baptists has nor desires no final powers to enforce any rule or regulation in the local Churches.

It is strongly recommended that each local Church adopt a Constitution by which it shall be governed and under which the program shall be operated.

1. Churches may choose their pastors at any time and in any manner that they see fit, provided that they do not violate ordinary Baptist principles and usages. The duties and responsibilities of pastors shall be determined and assigned by the Church in conference with the pastor elect.

2. The churches may elect deacons in a manner deemed advisable by the local situation. Their tenure of office and their duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the Church which they shall serve.

3. The Churches may elect as many officers as they deem necessary to properly conduct their affairs. Tenure of office and responsibilities and duties of all officers shall be determined by the local Church.

4. Church Conferences may be held at the discretion of the local Churches as to frequency and agenda.

4. Churches may discipline their members according to regulations and rules adopted by the local Churches as long as they are not in conflict with those rules and regulations adopted by the National Association of Freewill Baptists and those of the Little River Association of Freewill Baptists. Any member who has been disciplined has the right to appeal to the next higher body of the Freewill Baptist organization. Churches deliberately violating the rights of members shall be subject to the action of the Little River Association in withdrawing fellowship from them.

6. The manner of receiving members into the local Churches shall be determined by each local congregation. It is understood in this connection that prospective members shall give proper evidence of having been born again and shall be baptized by immersion in the Name of the Holy Trinity.

7. Local Churches are advised to observe the basic parliamentary rules and usages when conducting Church conferences.

8. The frequency of the observances of the Gospel Ordinances shall be determined by the local Churches.

9. It is understood that the Churches are not to adopt rules or regulations repugnant or contrary to the Constitution and By-laws of the Little River Association nor to engage in any practices nor preach any doctrines in violation of the Treatise of Faith and Practices of the National Association of Freewill Baptist. Local Churches not conforming to this article are liable to reprimand and/or the action of the Association withdrawing fellowship from them.

SUGGESTED FORM FOR A CONSTITUTION FOR A LOCAL CHURCH

This is a simple basic outline for a constitution for a local Church. Specific statements and provisions are to be determined by the needs and wishes of the local Church.

PREAMBLE

I. Name

II. Purpose

III. Membership

Section 1. Members received on profession of faith and mode of baptism.

Section 2. Reception of members coming from other churches

Section 3. Dismissal or transfer of members in good standing

Section 4. Exclusion or expulsion of members

IV. Officers, Tenure, Duties

Section 1. Pastor

Section 2. Clerk

Section 3. Treasurer

Section 4. Board of Deacons

Section 5. Board of Trustees

Other sections may be added for additional officers as needed

V. Auxiliaries of the Church

Section 1. Sunday School

Section 2. Church Training Service

Section 3. Woman's Auxiliary

Section 4. Master's Men

VI. Finance

Section 1. Tithes and Offerings

Section 2. Special Offerings

VII. Meetings of the Church

Section 1. Regular services of worship

Section 2. Church Conferences

Section 3. Observing the Ordinances of the gospel

Section 4. Annual Homecoming or Anniversary service

Section 5. Revival meetings

Section 6. Special Services

IX. Committees and Boards (If needed)

X. Election of Officers

XL. Alterations or Amendments.

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 in reference 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 the 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 principles 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 the 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."

ASSOCIATIONAL 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.

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 licensee shall be answerable to the church granting him his authority and shall be subject to the discipline and actions of said body in relation to his standing as a licensed minister. It is understood that the church shall in no wise interfere with the licensee unless it 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 where feasible.

It is earnestly requested that no church ask for the ordination to 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 Baptists. 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 have proved themselves, 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 Minister. 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 Freewill Baptist ministers who are in good standing with another Association affiliated with the National Association of Freewill Baptists, desiring to become a member of the Little River Association shall first affiliate with a Church in good standing with Little River Association. They shall then submit a letter of recommendation from the Association to which they formerly belonged to the Ordaining Council of this Association. Their acceptance into Little River Association shall be contingent upon the approval of the Or-

dainin Council's recommendation to the Little River Association in regular session.

13-F. We finally recommend that each and every former action taken by Little River Association bearing on licensed and ordained ministers, be, and hereby is abrogated, and that these foregoing rules and regulations comprise the rules and regulations 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:13-21)

2. GOD. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey. (Deuteronomy 6:4; I Corinthians 8:4)

3. CHRIST. Christ is God manifest in the flesh, and His divine nature truly in God, in His human nature truly man. The only begotten Son of God, He was born of the Virgin Mary, The Mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever-present Saviour and Lord (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:1-14, I Timothy 2:5)

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and as such the scriptures assign to Him all the attributes of God. (John 16: 7-15, I John 5-7)

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires. (Acts 17:28; Matthew 10:30; Ephesians 1:11; Psalm 22:28).

6. THE SINFULNESS OF MEN. Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God. (Genesis 1:26, 27; Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 5:12)

7. THE WORKS OF CHRIST. The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death, and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free, and is the ground of salvation by faith. (John 1:14; I John 2:2; John 3:16; Romans 3:25, 26)

8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION. The conditions of salvation are:

CONSTITUTION

(a) Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. (Acts 2:38; Ephesians 2:8,9) (b) Faith or the unreserved commitment of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. (Romans 12:1,2) In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), freed from the dominion of sin (Romans 6:1-11), and becomes a child of God (Romans 8:14-17) (C) Continuance in faith and obedience until death. (Revelation 2:10.)

9. ELECTION. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect. (Ephesians 1:3-5; Romans 9:11)

10. FREEDOM OF THE WILL. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish (Joshua 24:15; Mark 16:15, 16)

11. SALVATION FREE. God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely. (Isaiah 45:22; I Timothy 2:4; Ezekiel 33:11; Revelation 22:17)

12. PERSEVERANCE. All believers in Christ who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation. (Romans 8:38,39; I Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 6:4-6)

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES. Baptism or the immersion of believers in water in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19) and the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:27-29) are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel.

Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility of universal obligation, is to be ministered to all true believers. (John 13: 5-17)

14. TITHING. God commands tithes and offerings in the Old Testament. (Malachi 3: 8-10) Jesus Christ endorsed them in the Gospel (Matthew 23:23) and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." (I Corinthians 16:2)

15. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God. (Acts 2:1; 20:7; Luke 24: 1-6; Exodus 20:8-11)

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION. The scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they have done evil to the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28-29) then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (Matthew 25:46)

ARTICLE I. NAME

This Association shall be called the Little River Association of Freewill Baptists and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well disciplined churches as may embody themselves under this constitution.

ARTICLE II. COMPOSITION AND DELEGATES

Section 1. This Association shall be composed of the general officers of the Association, duly elected delegates from the churches comprising the Association, all ordained and licensed ministers, all ordained deacons, and missionaries who are in good standing with a church belonging to this Association.

Section 2. Local churches shall be allowed one (1) delegate for each ten (10) members of fraction thereof.

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS

The sessions of this Association shall be held quarterly in January, April, July, and October, on Saturday following the second Sunday of these months, the place of meeting to be determined by vote of the Association, at which times it shall be the duty of the churches of which the Association is composed to represent by letter and delegates and report their condition and statistics, using the Uniform Report Forms as provided by the Association. The October meeting shall be considered the Annual Session of the Association.

ARTICLE IV. INDEPENDENCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Each church in this Association shall be considered an independent body and shall control its own internal affairs, having unrestricted rights to administer its own government without interference from a higher body, being under Christ essentially free and independent.

ARTICLE V. ASSOCIATIONAL RELATIONSHIP TO LOCAL CHURCHES

The Little River Association shall be considered as advisory body whose duty is to meet quarterly at such places as may be determined according to Article III of this constitution, and not to adjourn formally until all pertinent matters are disposed of. While in session its function shall be to examine all questions of interest to the Association and to use its best influence to promote Christian and benevolent means and institutions such as Sunday Schools, Church Training Service, Woman's Auxiliaries, Master's Men, and Missions.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected at the close of the October session annually. Individuals may not be elected to any of these offices for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURE FOR JOINING THE ASSOCIATION

Churches desiring to become member of this Association shall submit a petitionary letter to the Association at any of its sessions, containing the date and place of organization, the name of the pastor and a list of all elected officers, number of members, and time and place of regular meetings. They must conform to the doctrines and practices of the Denomination as set forth in the Treatise of Faith and Practice of the National Association of Freewill Baptists.

The Association reserves the right to send its Executive Committee to investigate any applicant for membership if it deems necessary and to subsequently act on the report of said Executive Committee before approval for membership becomes final.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCE

It is suggested that each church comprising this Association send an amount equal to twenty-five cents (25¢) per member for Associational expenses. The churches are further urged to support Associational missions, church extension, and other local and Denominational ministries with offerings over and above their regular gifts for Associational expenses.

Special offerings may be received at any of the sessions of the Association as the need arises.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES, BOARDS, COUNCILS

Section 1. Committees may be chosen for any particular function at any session of the Association as the need arises. Unless otherwise specified, these committees shall be appointed by the Moderator.

Section 2. Standing committees may be set up by the Association as the need arises and unless otherwise specified these committees shall be appointed by the Moderator.

Section 3. Standing Boards of the Association shall be the Missions Board, Recreation Board, Board of Trustees, and The Christian Education Board. These Boards shall consist of five (5) members each. Membership on these Boards shall be for a term of five (5) years, with election annually for the five-year term. Vacancies occurring on any of these Boards may be filled at any regular session of the Association for the unexpired term/terms.

Section 4. This Association shall maintain an Ordaining Council composed of five (5) ordained ministers who are in good standing with the Association. Members shall serve for a five (5) year term with election annually for the five year term. Vacancies occurring on this Council may be filled at any regular session of the Association for the unexpired term/terms.

It shall be the duty of the Ordaining Council to examine each person for whom ordination to the Gospel Ministry is requested in the proper manner by the church of which he is a member, as to his moral, doctrinal, and educational qualifications, and his willingness to cooperate with the functions and programs of this Association.

After having examined the candidate the Council shall report its

findings to the Association, along with an appropriate recommendation in each case, to be voted on by the Association.

ARTICLE X. ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be altered or amended by the Association at any of its regular sessions by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, provided that notice of intended alterations or amendments be presented in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Association at a previous regular session.

BY-LAWS

SECTION I. Duties of Officer

MODERATOR ...The duties of the Moderator shall include presiding at all the meetings of the Association, appointing such committees as are created without provision for their selection, serve as ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, and in general to fulfill whatever responsibilities may be commensurate with his office or are delegated to him by the body.

Assistant Moderator ...The duties of the Assistant Moderator shall include presiding at the meetings in the absence of the Moderator or at his request, and assisting him in such ways as may be necessary.

CLERK-TREASURER ...The duties of the Clerk - Treasurer shall include preparation of the minutes of all meetings of this Association and the handling of such official correspondence for the Association as he may be directed, and to serve as Ex-Officio member of the Executive Committee.

He shall receive and record all funds of the Association and expend the same under the direction of the Association.

Assistant Clerk - Treasurer ...The duties of the Assistant Clerk-Treasurer shall be to assist the Clerk - Treasurer.

SECTION 2. Standing Committees, Boards, and Councils.

The Executive Committee shall consist of five (5) members, each of whom shall be elected for a term of five years. Election shall be for the five year term. In addition to these five, the Moderator and the Clerk-Treasurer shall, by virtue of their offices, be members of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3.

The Executive Committee shall act for the Association on the matters pertaining to its interests which may arise between regular sessions

of the Association and which by their nature require immediate attention. Such actions shall be subject to the final approval of the Association at its next regular session, and consequently must be reported in full to the Association in regular session.

SECTION 4.

The Credentials Committee shall consist of three (3) members elected annually by the Association. This Committee shall receive all church letters at the opening session of each Associational meeting and shall immediately submit to the Association a complete list of elected delegates from the churches in good standing with the Association.

The Committee shall submit a digest of the statistics reported in the church letters at the final business session of each annual session of the Association.

Matters regarding the ineligibility of any church shall be reported by the Committee to the Association and final action shall be taken by the Association in regular session.

SECTION 5.

The Missions Board shall consist of five (5) members as stipulated in Article IX, Section 3 of the Constitution. This Board shall receive monies designated for Associational missions, maintain an accurate record of all gifts, and pay out funds under the direction of the Association.

This Board shall encourage Church Extension and give help and assistance to the weaker churches in this Association. It shall also seek to keep the people informed on the programs and plans in these areas of operation.

section 6.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of five (5) members as set forth in Article IX, Section 3 of this constitution.

This Board of Trustees shall, in the name and in behalf of, the Little River Association of Freewill Baptists, receive and hold title to any and all Real property of said Association.

This Board shall also have the power to receive by grant, gift, bequest or otherwise, property real or otherwise, for and in the name of Little River Association of Freewill Baptists.

This Board shall have no authority to buy, sell, rent, lease, mortgage, or in any other wise, encumber the property or properties of said Association without the official consent of the Association.

This Board shall represent Little River Association of Freewill Baptists in all legal transactions involving properties of this Association and shall act in strict observance of the wishes and demands of the Association as expressed by majority vote of the Association in regular or officially called session.

SECTION 7.

The Recreation Board shall consist of five (5) members as set forth in Article IX, Section 3 of the constitution.

This Board shall be responsible for planning and scheduling the Associationally sponsored events to be held at the Association's Recreation area. The Board shall also serve as a clearing committee for events to be held at the area by the local churches or their Auxiliaries.

The Board of Recreation shall set up rules governing the use of the Area and a code of conduct to be observed by those using the Area.

SECTION 8.

The Board of Christian Education shall consist of five (5) members as set forth in Article IX, Section 3 of the constitution.

This Board shall be, and hereby is, authorized to plan and promote annually within the bounds of the Little River Association a Teach and Train Rally, incorporating into said Rally the interests and programs of the Sunday Schools and Church Training Services within the Association. They shall designate one or more of their number to preside at the Rallies and shall be responsible for arranging the programs, the place and date of the Rallies, and the method of financing.

They shall submit an annual report of their work at the October session of the Association.

SECTION 9.

The Ordaining Council's composition, functions, and authority shall be those set forth under Article IX, Section 4, of the constitution.

SECTION 10.

The District Woman's Auxiliary Convention and the Teach and Train Rally shall be recognized as subsidiary organizations of the Little River Association.

The Woman's Auxiliary Convention shall organize at its discretion and have power to adopt its own constitution and by laws and maintain complete management of the work for which it is constituted. The Woman's Auxiliary Convention shall report its accomplishments and financial operation to the Association annually at the October session.

The Teach and Train Rally shall be under the control of the Board of Christian Education and as such shall have the power to adopt its own constitution and by laws. Reports of this Teach and Train Rally shall be according to section 8 of these by laws.

SECTION 11.

Two - fifths (2/5) of the churches comprising this Association shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of this body or its Auxiliaries.

SECTION 12.

The Moderator shall receive an honorarium of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) and the Clerk shall receive an honorarium of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) annually.

SECTION 13.

The meetings of Little River Association shall be governed by the rules of parliamentary law as set forth in Roberts Rules of Order, except in the case of those rules which are superseded by some rule or rules of this body.

SECTION 14.

The by-laws may be amended at any regular session by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present and voting, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing and filed with the Clerk at a previous regular meeting of the Association.

CHURCH	MEMBERSHIP	PASTOR	CLERK	Mtg. Days	Memb. Recd.	Paid Pastor	Paid Evang.	Minutes	Value of Prop.	Bldg. & Repairs	Coop Plan
BEMISS	25	Rilly Gladdens Rt. 1 Box 146 Ray City, Ga.	Mrs. L. R. Bennett 793 E. Brookwood Valdosta, Ga.	Full		\$105.10	\$100.00	\$6.00	\$22,000.00		
COOL SPRINGS	132	W. J. Barkdale Rt. 1 Norman Park, Ga.	C. M. Chafin, Jr. Rt. 1 Norman Park, Ga.	Full	19	3,439.71	393.20	25.00	15,000.00	\$2,679.89	\$300.07
CORINTH	123	Larry Williams Rt. 5 Tifton, Ga.	Mrs. J. W. Franks Rt. 4 Box 137 Tifton, Ga.	Full	7	3,183.73	260.00	30.75	30,000.00	599.85	157.12
FOREST HILL	52	R. S. Hayes Rt. 2 Adel, Ga.	Selmon Bostick Rt. 1 Adel, Ga.	2 & 4 Sundays	1	433.12	125.00	12.50	5,844.00	32.46	15.00
HAHIRA	120	A. D. Greene 2205 Prince Tifton, Ga.	Mandy Coppage Rt. 1 Box 87 Hahira, Ga.	Full	16	750.00	100.00	15.00			186.33
HOMERVILLE	165	Damon C. Dodd Box 354 Homerville, Ga.	Beulah Nettles Homerville, Ga.	Full	13	6,500.00	450.00	10.00	70,000.00	2,500.00	
OAK GROVE											
OZIAS	33	M. C. Nail Homerville, Ga.	Riley Cowart Rt. 1 Pearson, Ga.	Full	2	1,890.00	75.00	10.00	5,000.00		
PINE LEVEL	101	Johnny Sexton Rt. 2 Norman Park, Ga.	Don Perry Rt. 2 Norman Park, Ga.	Full	2	1,901.27	225.00	20.00	15,150.00		300.57
SUNNYSIDE	48	Dewey Quinn Hazelhurst, Ga.	Mamie Mancil Rt. 1 Pearson, Ga.	2 & 4 Sundays	1	1,284.60	215.00	20.00	7,500.00	275.68	157.50
TIFTON	39	Hewell Walker 414 W. 14th Tifton, Ga.	John T. Cook 2213 O'Neal Tifton, Ga.	Full	17	2,155.89	209.00	5.00	7,500.00	268.75	189.77
VALDOSTA	73	Joe Esther 1303 Pine View Dr. Valdosta, Ga.	Eugene Crews 700 Randolph Valdosta, Ga.	Full	14	3,855.00	100.00	20.00	43,000.00	1,672.80	120.00
WHITE HALL	55	Clarence McMillan Folkston, Ga.	Linda Rouse Rt. 4 Waycross, Ga.	Full	3	1,985.20	150.00	20.00	13,000.00	32.96	120.00
ZION HILL	40	L. J. Chambliss Brookfield, Ga.	Raymond Mercer Folkston, Ga.	1 & 3 Sundays	7	1,005.00	194.00	12.00	15,000.00	306.24	102.72
FRIENDSHIP	25	James Stringer Valdosta, Ga.	Fay Ross Rt. 4 Waycross, Ga.	2 & 4 Sundays		460.34		6.50	3,000.00	50.00	