

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

Convened With

**HAHIRA FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Hahira, Georgia

Saturday, October 17, 1970

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(Minutes of the Quarterly Sessions also included.)

# OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, BOARDS – 1970-71

Moderator . . . . . Reverend J. B. Mercer, Norman Park, Georgia  
Ass't Moderator . . . . . Reverend Riley Giddens, Ray City, Georgia  
Clerk-Treasurer . . . . . Don Perry, Norman Park, Georgia  
Ass't Clerk-Treasurer . . . . . Mr. C. M. Chafin, Jr., Norman Park, Georgia

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Micky Rouse . . . . . 1971  
J. C. Arnold . . . . . 1972  
C. M. Chafin, Jr. . . . . 1973  
H. A. Coody . . . . . 1974  
L. D. Wynn . . . . . 1975  
Buddy Hartsfield . . . . . 1976

## ORDAINING COMMITTEE

Reverend J. B. Mercer . . . . . 1971  
Reverend W. J. Barksdale . . . . . 1972  
Reverend R. S. Hayes . . . . . 1973  
Reverend Robert Hesselmeyer . . . . . 1974  
Reverend Riley Giddens . . . . . 1975

## MISSIONS BOARD

Reverend Leslie Carney . . . . . 1971  
J. W. Franks . . . . . 1972  
C. M. Chafin, Jr. . . . . 1973  
L. F. Ogletree . . . . . 1974  
J. W. Selph . . . . . 1975

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

J. C. Arnold . . . . . 1971  
W. J. Sumner . . . . . 1972  
F. B. Dean . . . . . 1973  
M. M. Franks . . . . . 1974  
James Harpe . . . . . 1975

## CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Coy Miller . . . . . 1003 Pineview, Tifton, Georgia 31794  
Ethridge Coppage  
Audie Williams

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Buddy Hartsfield . . . . .	1971
J. W. Selph . . . . .	1972
Everett Williams . . . . .	1973
Damon C. Dodd . . . . .	1974
J. M. Franks . . . . .	1975

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SESSION

Little River Association of Freewill Baptist Church convened at 9:30 A. M. at the First Hahira Church, Hahira, Georgia. In absence of the moderator the meeting was called to order by Reverend Everett Williams.

Song "Have Thine Own Way" and prayer by Reverend Riley Giddens. Song "Home of The Soul" devotion brought by Reverend James Stinger, Neh. 4-6. Welcome by Pastor Reverend Green. Partial report of credentials committee given by Brother Audie Williams. MSC to seat delegates. Move to elect moderator, Reverend J. B. Mercer elected.

First order of business was to receive Reverend Robert Hesselmeyer and Reverend Leslie C. Carney and give them full fellowship, MSC. MSC that moderator extend right hand of fellowship on behalf of associational body.

Recognizing corresponding messenger and visitors. Brother Buddy Morris welcomed.

Appointment of committees and Election of Nominating Committee.

### RESOLUTIONS

Reverend Damon Dodd, Brother J. P. Perry, Sister Louise Ivey.

### OBITUARY

Brother Bennie Lairsey, Lenard Ogletree, Sister William Barksdale

### FINANCE

J. C. Arnold, Frank Dean, Annett Mercer

### NOMINATIONS

Marvin Franks, C. M. Chaffin, James Harpe, Carson Parrish, Reverend Bob Hesselmeyer

Miscellaneous - Harvest drive for childrens home encouraged by Brother C. M. Chaffin, Jr. Report of State work by Reverend A. C. Truluck. State theme will be "Contending for the Faith."

Award of certificates. Honor Roll to Beniss, Cool Springs, Corinth, First Hahira, Pine Level, Sunnyside, First Valdosta, White Hall, Zion Hill. Given for cooperative giving. Grand Honor Roll to Ozias. Churches were encouraged to support cooperative plan. If your church doesn't participate

please receive at least one offering per year for expenses. Reverend Buddy Morris will be the state missionary this year at Statesboro, Georgia.

Recess at 11:00 to 11:10. Opened with song "We'll Work." Prayer led by Reverend Damon Dodd. Special song by Hahira group. "I Want to See Jesus" and "Jesus is Coming Soon."

Morning message by Reverend William Barksdale. A very moving message on work for God. Morning session dismissed by Reverend Barksdale. Afternoon session began at 1:20 P. M. with congregational singing. Prayer led by Brother Lenard Ogletree.

Devotion was given by Brother Robert Vickers. Text from Acts 8-25.

#### Report of Committees:

Finance - See Report

Resolutions - See Report

1. MSC

2. MSC - Layed on table until January.

3. MSC

4. MSC

5. MSC

Committee: Bob Hesselmeyer, Buddy Hartsfield, Reverend Bill Barksdale, Lenard Ogletree, Reverend Damon Dodd

Obituary - See Report

Report of Womans Auxilliary - Mrs. John Ackerman

Report of T & T Rally - Mr. John Ackerman

Board of Christian Education changed to study time change for T & T Rally

Report of preachers and Deacons meetings - Brother Buddy Hartsfield

Election of delegates to State Association - Sister J. C. Arnold and

Sister J. W. Franks — Alternates: Sister William Barksdale and Sister Diane Wishum

Report of Nomination Committee

MSC to receive each member separately.

Financial Report of Missions Board - MSC

Words on State Mission Work given by Reverend Buddy Morris. Prayers were requested for his work in Statesboro. He will be on itenerrate 11 - 15 January in Little River Association.

Brother Carson Parish encouraged promotion of local mission in Little River Association.

\$47.05 designated to mission fund of association given by First Hahira Church. Collection received for cooperative plan \$73.00. Freewill Baptist Literature and available books stressed by Brother Truluck.

Repairs and paint for camp requested by Brother Marvin Franks. MSC to adjourn. Dismissed by Brother C. M. Chafin, Jr.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: We give the following partial report.

Number of Churches Represented . . . . .	12
Number of Delegates . . . . .	54
Number of Ordained Ministers on Roll . . . . .	15
Number of Licensed Ministers . . . . .	3
Number of Deacons on Roll . . . . .	47
Church Membership - Total . . . . .	857
Members Received . . . . .	82
Total Members Dismissed . . . . .	16
Number Deceased . . . . .	6
Number of Sunday Schools . . . . .	11
Number of CTS . . . . .	4
Number of Women Auxiliary . . . . .	6
Number of Masters Men . . . . .	3
Number of Prayer Meetings . . . . .	10
Number of Vacation Bible Schools . . . . .	4
Total Offerings Received . . . . .	\$63,292.56
Total Spent for Local Causes . . . . .	\$46,675.06
Total Spent for Outside Causes . . . . .	\$12,532.19
Total Expenditures . . . . .	\$63,469.00
Value of Church Property . . . . .	\$209,456.00
Value of Parsonage Property . . . . .	\$45,000.00
Total Spent for Minutes . . . . .	\$191.75

Committee: Audie J. Williams, Fred Baker, Mickey Rouse

Report by Audie Williams

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: We make the following nominations:

Moderator . . . . .	J. B. Mercer
Assistant Moderator . . . . .	Riley Giddens
Clerk . . . . .	Don Perry
Assistant Clerk . . . . .	C. M. Chafin, Jr.
Executive Committee . . . . .	L. D. Wynn, Buddy Hartsfield
Ordaining Council . . .	Robert Hesselmeyer - 1974, Riley Giddens - 1975
Mission Board . . . . .	Leslie Carney - 1971, J. W. Selph - 1975
Trustees . . . . .	William J. Sumner - 1972, James Harpe - 1975

Credentials Committee: Coy Miller, Ethridge Coppage, Audie Williams

Chairman: Coy Miller, 1003 Pineview, Tifton, Georgia 31794

Board of Christian Education

Retain same members with top moving to bottom

Committee: C. M. Chafin, Jr., Chairman

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1. We recommend that section 12 of the by laws of this association be ammended to read as follows: "The moderator shall receive an Honora-  
rium of \$30 and the clerk shall receive an Honorarium of \$40 annually, to

be paid quarterly.”

2. We recommend that article 8 of the constitution of this association be ammended to read as follows: “Finance: That each church comprising this association send to the association quarterly, their fees as stipulated herein. Churches up and not exceeding 50 members \$10.00; 51 to 100 members \$15.00; 101 to 200 members \$20.00. The remainder of article 8 shall stand as it now appears in the constitution.

3. We recommend that a committee of 5 members be appointed by the moderator, in this session today, to study the feasibility of our setting up and operating a bible institute in the Little River Association. This committee shall be instructed to give its first report at the January 1971 associational meeting.

4. We recommend that each church be sent 3 annual report forms by the association, one to be filled out and returned to the associational clerk, one to be filled out and mailed to the State office in Moultrie, one to be retained in the local church records.

5. We recommend that we extend a rising vote of thanks to the Hahira Church for her hospitality in entertaining this session of the association. We further recommend that we express our thanks and appreciation to the out going officers of the association for a Job well done.

Respectfully Submitted: ..... Damon C. Dodd  
J. P. Perry, Mrs. Louise Duey

REPORT OF THE LITTLE RIVER MISSION FUND

Balance in Treasury October 1970 ..... \$480.25  
Treasurer - C. M. Chafin, Jr.

1970 OBITUARY REPORT

Forest Hill  
Mrs. Mary Lee Hayes

Cool Springs  
Mrs. Margaret Mercer

White Hall  
Mrs. Alice Baker  
Mrs. Lucille Steedley

Corinth  
Mrs. Rosie Green

Corinth  
Mrs. Monroe Wynn

First Tifton  
Mr. E. F. Cook

Pine Level  
Mrs. Hattie Booth

Sunny Side  
Mrs. Malisse Barven



## REPORT OF WOMANS AUXILIARY

Bemiss .....	7 members
Corinth .....	9 members
Homerville .....	23 members
Tifton .....	6 members
Valdosta .....	10 members
Whithall .....	9 members
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>64 members</b>

Raised \$766.99 for various causes. Next Convention to be held at Homer-ville. New president, Mrs. L. F. Ogletree, Tifton, Georgia.

**WE YOUR COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FIND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALL REPORTING CHURCHES.**

\$306.87 Balance  
241.55 Received  
 \$548.37 Total

Committee: J. C. Arnold, Chairman; Frank Dean; Annette Mercer

## MINUTES – T & T RALLY – LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

### First Freewill Baptist Church of Valdosta

May 16, 1970 – 10:00 A. M. to 2:30 P. M.

- 10:00 A. M. Song and Prayer
- 10:05 A. M. Devotional Thought - "I'll Go Anywhere" – Lt. Wayne Pearson
- 10:15 A. M. Special music, Zion Hill Youth
- 10:20 A. M. Recognition & Welcome of Churches
- 10:30 A. M. Special Music, Zion Hill Youth
- 10:40 A. M. Song and Prayer
- 11:15 A. M. Recess
- 11:30 A. M. Song and Prayer
- 11:35 A. M. "What Is Christian Education?" Reverend Joe Esther  
 "Where Can I Get It?" Reverend Damon C. Dodd
- 12:15 P. M. Adjourn for Lunch
- 1:15 P. M. Song and Prayer
- 1:20 P. M. Devotional Thought - "If Jesus Goes With Me" - Mrs. Judy Pearson
- 1:30 P. M. Tic-Tac-Toe Contest – John Ackerman
- 1:50 P. M. Special Music, Corinth Church
- 2:00 P. M. Youth Give The Answers
- 2:20 P. M. Announcements
- 2:30 P. M. Adjourn

Statistics: Number of Churches Represented - 7: Total Present - 32:  
 Money Received - \$27.00

Sword Drill Participants: Tim Ackerman - Winner - Awarded \$5.00  
Acting Secretary: Albert Van Whiddon

## ROSTER OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

W. J. Barksdale . . . . . Tifton, Georgia  
Jesse Castleberry, Route One . . . . . Lenox, Georgia  
Damon C. Dodd, Box 345, Phone 487-5840 . . . . . Homerville, Georgia  
Ralph Chafin, Route One . . . . . Norman Park, Georgia  
Dewey Fraley . . . . . Ypsilanta, Michigan  
Riley Giddens, Route Three . . . . . Ray City, Georgia  
A. D. Green, Phone 382-5264 . . . . . Tifton, Georgia  
M. T. Goff, 411 Hull Avenue . . . . . Nashville, Georgia  
T. G. Hamilton, Phone 487-2217 . . . . . Homerville, Georgia  
R. S. Hayes, Route Two, Phone 869-3332 . . . . . Adel, Georgia  
W. R. Hullett . . . . . Norman Park, Georgia  
Clarence McMillian . . . . . Folkstop, Georgia  
J. B. Mercer, Route One, Phone 769-3907 . . . . . Norman Park, Georgia  
M. C. Nail, Phone 487-5845 . . . . . Homerville, Georgia  
Dewey Quinn, Phone 375-2982 . . . . . Hazelhurst, Georgia  
Everett Williams, Phone 422-3609 . . . . . Pearson, Georgia  
Huwel Walker . . . . . Tifton, Georgia  
L. J. Chambless . . . . . Tifton, Georgia  
J. Sexton . . . . . Bemiss, Georgia  
R. Hesselmeyer . . . . . Norman Park, Georgia  
L. Carney . . . . . Valdosta, Georgia

## LICENSED MINISTERS

James Stringer . . . . . Valdosta, Georgia  
Virgil Melton, Jr. . . . . Homerville, Georgia  
Ronald Wallace, 3809 Elkins Avenue . . . . . Nashville, Tennessee  
Lenard Ogletree . . . . . Tifton, Georgia  
Julian Robert Vickers, Route Two . . . . . Hahira, Georgia

## MINISTERS AND DEACONS MEETINGS

The 22nd session of the Preachers and Deacons of the Little River Association met at Hahira Church, March 14, 1970.

The opening prayer was given by Brother Williams. Brother Riley Giddens brought the message which was taken from Romans - 12th chapter - 1st and 2nd verses. Prayer by Brother Joe Esther followed the message. Roll Call was made, five churches were not represented.

Minutes were then read and approved. Unfinished business was first,



being done, we moved on to new business. Brother Allen asked to speak later in the session.

Moderator encouraged body to examine mind and pray and put some effort and set something in motion in this meeting that would be beneficial to the Glory of God and his Kingdom.

Brother Esther made statement about getting someone to have a Church Evangelist Conference on evangelism and soul winning in this area. He gave Brother Lonny Graves and Brother Shockey as experienced men in this field. It was suggested this be worked through the Mission Board. Brother Sexton then made a motion to look into and put into effect and also to appoint a committee. Seconded, voted and approved. Brothers Barksdale, Sexton and Vickers were appointed along with Mission Board members.

Brother Larry Williams then made a motion to send \$50.00 to F. W. B. Bible College, the motion was seconded by Brother Barksdale. Motion was amended to send it to the Building Fund. It was then voted and approved.

Brother Ackerman made a move to appoint someone to promote our next meeting at Forest Hill. Seconded, voted and approved. Brother Esther suggested they appoint Brother Ackerman. Moderator did so appoint. Brother Ogletree then made a suggestion to plan something to help our State Mission work. He said Brother Henderson was having a struggle. It was recommended for us to go back to our churchs and recommend to send an offering to Brother Henderson.

Brother Allen then made a statement to the body about getting the Master Men started in all churchs. He said anyone wishing to get started could contact him and he would come and help get it started. Moderator asked Brother Vicker to lead prayer then offering was taken. Move made and seconded that next session be at Forest Hill, second Saturday night in September 1970. Move made and seconded to adjourn. Brother Greene then invited body to stay and have refreshments.

Prayer by Brother J. B. Mercer.

MODERATOR: Reverend J. B. Mercer

CLERK: John T. Cook

TREASURER: John T. Cook

OFFERING	\$23.33
BROUGHT FORWARD	64.11
PAID OUT	50.00
BALANCE	\$37.44

The 23rd session of the Little River Association of Preachers and Deacons met September 12, 1970, at Forrest Hill Church. Opening prayer was presented by Brother Johnny Sexton. Brother Everett Williams brought the message from second Timothy, fourth chapter, verses 1-8.

Moderator open for business, none at this time. Roll call was made. Brother Johnny Sexton reported for Bemiss. Cool Springs—no report. Corinth—no report. Forrest Hill—Brother R. S. Hayes reported. Friendship reported. Hahira—Brother Parrish reported, asked for prayer. Homerville—no report. Ozias—no report. Pine Level—Brother Hartsfield reported. Sunnyside—Brother Hayes reported, asked body to pray for church's continuous growth. Tifton—John T. Cook reported, asked for prayer for church.

Valdosta—Brother Carney reported. White Hall—no report. Zion Hill—Brother Everett Williams reported and asked to remember church in prayer.

Moderator noted many churches were not represented and asked to remind them they were missed and were due in these meetings.

Minutes read and approved, moved and seconded. Unfinished business, next was report from committees. Brother Sexton reported for Evangelist Committee. He stated that Brother Esther was supposed to get in touch. Brother Carney said he had discussed this with Brother Esther and Brother Esther was going to follow through. Brother Carney said he would get in touch with Brother Esther again. Moderator said we would have to receive this as a partial report and would hold the same one on this committee. Brother Ackerman said he reminded churches to attend Preacher and Deacons meeting at the last Association meeting.

New business next, Brother Parrish made a suggestion to get two churches to host next years meeting. Brother Parrish then made motion to this, seconded, voted and approved. Friendship volunteered for March and Pine Level volunteered for September. Brother Ackerman made a motion to send \$25.00 to Brother Tommy Willey's family for sickness. Seconded, voted and approved. It was suggested we send an offering to FWB Childrens Home in Alabama. Offering was taken then Brother Parrish made a motion to send \$43.49. Seconded, voted and approved.

Moderator then opened for nominations for Officers for next year. Brother Hayes made a motion to keep same officers. John Cook declined his office and Brother Ackerman declined also. Brother Mercer was nominated as Moderator—voted and approved. Brother Sexton was nominated for Assistant Moderator—seconded, voted and approved. Brother Sexton nominated Brother Spires for Clerk—he declined. Brother Parrish nominated Brother Hartsfield. Move and seconded nominations cease, voted and approved. Moved and seconded to adjourn. Brother Bostick asked body to stay for refreshments.

Prayer by Brother Harvey Giddens.

OFFERING	\$39.05
BROUGHT FORWARD	37.44
PAID OUT	<u>68.49</u>
BALANCE	\$ 8.00

## MINUTES OF THE LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING JANUARY 17, 1970

The quarterly meeting was held at the Ozias Freewill Baptist Church on Saturday, January 17, 1970. The meeting was called to order at 9:20 by moderator, Reverend Larry Williams. Reverend Riley Giddens led the congregation in "Precious Name." Reverend Damon C. Dodd led in prayer. The morning devotion from Joshua, chapter 9, verse 1, was given by Reverend Johnny Sexton. Ministers and deacons were recognized as standing delegates. It was moved and carried to seat delegates after the credentials committee report was given by Brother Audie Williams. Churches reporting and delegates are:

BEMISS FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Mr. and Mrs. James Harpe  
COOL SPRINGS, Mrs. W. J. Barksdale, Mrs. N. C. Brannon, Mrs. McInvale  
CORINTH, Wanda Franks, Dunward Williams, Roy Cooper

FIRST HAHIRA

FIRST TIFTON

FIRST VALDOSTA, Mrs. John Ackerman, Mrs. H. W. Selph, Mrs. Manie Whiddon, Mrs. Ollie Cooper

FORREST HILL, Mrs. Savallia Hayes, Mrs. Irene Bostick, Mrs. Mandella Crowley, Mrs. Nellie Soingster, Mrs. Bertha Dunn

FRIENDSHIP, No letter of delegation

HOMERVILLE, Mrs. W. N. Wilson, Mrs. Mary Lou Melton, Mrs. Damon C. Dodd, Mrs. Thursie Wood, Mrs. Vera Musgrove, Vivian Musgrove, Robert Hendrix, Mrs. Robert Hendrix, Mrs. Frank Dean

OAK GROVE, Brother Lemon-Browning, Sister Betty F. Sirmans  
OZIAS, W. M. Smith, Henry Matthews

PINE LEVEL, Sister Brenda Hartsfield, Sister Bernice Perry, Sister Peggy  
SUNNY SIDE, Sister Leona Williams, Sister Annie Douglas, Sister Minnie Hulbert, Sister Margaret Hulbert

WHITE HALL, Brother John Griffin, Brother Archil Gill

ZION HILL, Mrs. J. C. Arnold, Mrs. L. J. Chambless, Miss Annette Mercer

Visiting ministers were welcomed and Reverend Truluck and Reverend Rentz were recognized. The moderator appointed the following committees: RESOLUTIONS: James Harpe, Mrs. William Barksdale, Roy Cooper, Mrs. Irene Bostick and Clayton Flippo. FINANCE: W. N. Wilson, Riley Coward, Mrs. Glenda Hartsfield. It was moved and carried to appoint a committee to select meeting sites for the next two years. The committee appointed was H. A. Coody, Leon Harrin, and Mrs. Audie Williams.

Call for miscellaneous business: None

Song: "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder," led by Reverend Riley Giddens. Greeting by the moderator to the new promotional secretary, Reverend Truluck. He stated his goals in his new job were to enlarge the book store and printing service. He also stated he was available for revival and ETTA courses. He encouraged giving through the cooperative plan; also to send in new items. He announced plans for mission and college promotional meetings.

Wanda Franks gave her testimony and experiences of a recent revival at the Bible College which was uplifting and encouraging during this age of youthful rebellion.

Dismissed for recess at 10:45 by Brother C. M. Chafin.

Morning worship service began with a song; "Trust and Obey" and "Glory for Me" led by Reverend Riley Giddens. Special singing by host church "Inside The Gates."

The morning message from Joshua 3:4-6 was brought by Reverend Clarence McMillan. He challenged everyone to trust the Lord and do more for him in the coming decade.

Morning offering of \$50.18 was received.

An invitation for lunch was given to the congregation by the host church, and the congregation was dismissed by Reverend Rentz.

Afternoon session: Congregational singing led by Reverend Riley Giddens. Prayer led by Reverend Tom Hamilton. Special song by host church. Devotion from Joshua 1:8 by Reverend L. J. Chambless.

Report of Committees: SEE REPORTS

- MSC to accept report on meeting places

- MSC to accept report of finance committee

- MSC to accept report of resolution committee

- MSC to send offering to state promotional work

- MSC to revoke resolution of last association requiring expenditures to be approved by executive committee before being presented to body

- MSC to send \$100.00 from general fund to Marietta mission.

- MSC to accept recommendations of ordaining council accepting Reverend Johnny Sexton into association pending letter from previous association, and to ordain and accept Reverend L. J. Chambless into the association.

Miscellaneous business: MSC to give host church expression of thanks by standing.



Announcements on ladies auxiliaries by Mrs. John Ackerman, Masters of Men by John Ackerman and study course at Cool Springs by Reverend William Barksdale.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

January 17, 1970

"We the Resolutions Committee make the Following Resolutions:"

1. Be it resolved the Little River Association of Freewill Baptists instruct its associational treasurer to, set up a bank account for and in the name said association into which all receipts shall be deposited and from which all accounts shall be paid. It is understood that the Treasurers signature shall be the only one required for a valid check drawn on this Little River Association account. Moved and Carried.

2. Be it resolved that the moderator appoint at this session of the Little River Association, a study committee to rewrite the associations Government and Ordinances and the Associational Decorum and submit an official report of their work at the annual session in October 1970. Moved and Carried. C. M. Chafin, Damon C. Dodd, and Frank Dean.

3. Be it resolved that the association now in session instruct its board of Christian Education to draw up a plan or plans for some continuing training classes and submit such plans to the Association at its April, 1970 meeting. Moved and Carried.

4. Be it resolved that the association help Brother Hubert Henderson of Marietta, Georgia with his financial needs for the mission he has started. Moved and Carried.

The Resolutions Committee: James S. Harpe, Mrs. W. J. Barksdale,  
Irene Bastic, Roy Cooper, Clayton Flippo

## ORDAINING COUNCIL

January 17, 1970

Having examined Brother Johnny Sexton to our satisfaction, we recommend that we receive Brother Sexton into the Little River Association, pending a letter of recommendation from his association.

The Ordaining Council: R. S. Hayes, J. B. Mercer, William J. Barksdale,  
Larry Williams



## **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

January 17, 1970

We your credentials committee give the following report:

Delegates	41
Association	\$75.00
Missions	\$49.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$124.00</b>

Credentials Committee: Audie J. Williams, Fred Baker

## **MEETING LOCATIONS COMMITTEE**

January 17, 1970

Forest Hill	April 1970
Sunny Side	July 1970
Hahira	October 1970
Bemiss	January 1971
Valdosta	April 1971
White Hall	July 1971
Cool Springs	October 1971
First Tifton	January 1972

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

January 17, 1970

Balance in Treasury	\$574.87
Received from Churches	124.00
<b>TOTAL IN TREASURY</b>	<b>\$698.87</b>
Offering Today	50.18

Finance Committee: W. N. Wilson, H. M. Hamilton, Brenda Hartsfield

## **MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION OF FREEWILL BAPTISTS**

**Forrest Hill Church, April 18, 1970**

Quarterly meeting convened at 9:30 A. M. on April 18, 1970 at Forrest Hill Freewill Baptist Church in Adel, Georgia. Congregational song, "Just Over In Glory Lan" was led by Brother Wynn. Prayer led by Brother Joe Esther. Welcome by the moderator, Brother Larry Millions. Morning Devotional by Reverend Damon C. Dodd. Theme, "Be Ye Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only." Sister Audie Williams, Brother John Cools, and Reverend Everett Williams were appointed to serve as credentials committee. Ministers and ordained deacons recognized as delegates.

Recognition of visitors, Reverend Truluck and Brother Everson.

Promotional work by Reverend Truluck, state promotional secretary.

Items Covered:

1. Need of proper reporting.
2. Report of cooperative plan by June for credit this year.
3. Send mailing list for promotional bulleting.
4. Camp has a great need for improved facilities, definate plans needed.
5. Book store, books available, printing services available.

Report from credentials committee and seating of delegates.

Appointing of Committees:

1. Resolutions Committee:

- a. Reverend Riley Giddens
- b. Brother Billy Ross
- c. Sister Coy Miller
- d. Brother Charlie Dunn
- e. Brother Wynn

2. Finance Committee:

- a. Brother Musgrave
- b. Sister Timerly Smith
- c. Sister Faye Powell

Miscellaneous business, send letters to Brother Audie Williams, Pearson Georgia.

Congregational song led by Brother Wynn, "I Just Steal Away and Pray."

Recess at 10:40 A. M.

Reconveined for morning worship service at 11:10 A. M. Congregational song "Will You Meet Me Over Yonder" led by Reverend R. S. Hayes. Prayer led by Reverend Johnny Sexton. Morning offering for unified program. Prayer for offering by Reverend Chambless.

T & T Rally will be at Valdosta Church on May 16. Congregational song led by Reverend Hayes, "I Cannot Find My Way Alone."

Morning message by Reverend Barksdale. Text James 1:22. Invited to lunch by Brother Hayes host pastor. Dismissed by Brother Charles Hill. Adjourned for lunch at 12:20 P. M.

Afternoon session began at 1:25 P. M. with song "Lets Have A Little Talk With Jesus" led by Brother Wynn, also "I'm In The Way." Prayer by Brother Coy Miller. Special song by Mrs. Ham "Give Up." Devotional by Brother Hayes.

Report by Resolutions Committee - MSC.  
To receive report (SEE REPORTS)

Encouragement to attend preachers and deacons meeting by Brother John Ackerman. Report on womens auxiliary by Mrs. John Ackerman.

Encouragement to participate in "Dollars From A Scholar" by Reverend Raymond Dodd.

Encouragement to support missions by Reverend Truluck; also a proposed Childrens home at Metter, Georgia. Meeting adjourned after song "Take The Name of Jesus With You" led by Brother Wynn and prayer.

### REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The resolutions committee submits the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that all members of standing committee be listed in the programs and also have appointed committees listed by numbers with space left for the names to be placed by the delegates if they so desire.
2. We recommend that each church promote our state promotional work.
3. We recommend that each Sunday School encourage their students to participate in the "Dollar for Scholar" building program for the Freewill Baptist Bible College.
4. Be it resolved that we extend to Forrest Hill Church our thanks for the hospitality shown us throughout the day and that this expression be in the form of a rising vote.

### REPORT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Board of Christian Education reports to Little River Association in session at Forrest Hill Church, April 18, 1970 as follows:

1. The annual Teach and Train Rally will be held at First Freewill Baptist Church, Valdosta, Georgia, on Saturday, May 16 beginning at 10:00 A. M.
2. An ETTA course will be held at Cool Springs Freewill Baptist Church, Norman Park, June 22-26, with sessions from 7:30 - 9:30 P. M. New Testament introduction will be the course taught.

### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We the finance committee, submit the following report.

1. Received from the Churches \$110.00.
  - a. Of this amount \$39.00 was for home missions, and \$71.00 for associational purposes.

CHURCH	MEMBERSHIP	PASTOR and ADDRESS	CLERK
BEMISS	25	JOHNNY SEXTON Rt. 5 Box 351 Valdosta, Ga.	HENRY MATHIS 717 Langdale Rd. Valdosta, Ga.
COOL SPRINGS	143	ROBERT HESSELMAYER Norman Park, Ga.	C. M. CHAFIN, JR. Rt. 1 Norman Park, Ga.
CORINTH	119	W. J. BARKSDALE Rt. 4 Tifton, Ga.	MRS. J. W. FRANKS Rt. 4 Tifton, Ga.
FOREST HILL	48	HARVEY GIDDENS Rt. 1 Omega, Ga.	SELMON BOSTICK Rt. 1 Adel, Ga.
HAHIRA	50	A. D. GREEN 2205 Prince Ave. Tifton, Ga.	MANDY COPPAGE Rt. 1 Hahira, Ga.
HOMERVILLE	165	DAMON C. DODD Box 354 Homerville, Ga.	BEULAH NETTLES Homerville, Ga.
OAK GROVE	NO REPORT		
OZIAS	48	M. C. NAIL Homerville, Ga.	RILEY COWART Pearson, Ga.
PINE LEVEL	101	J. B. MERCER Rt. 1 Norman Park, Ga.	DON PERRY Rt. 2 Norman Park, Ga.
SUNNYSIDE	52	R. S. HAYES Rt. 2 Adel, Ga.	MAMIE MANCIL Rt. 1 Pearson, Ga.
TIFTON	55	HEWEL WALKER 414 W. 14th St. Tifton, Ga.	JOANN SNYDER 805 Belmonte Tifton, Ga.
VALDOSTA	78	LESLIE CARNEY 1302 Pineview Dr. Valdosta, Ga.	EUGENE CREWS 700 Randolph St. Valdosta, Ga.
WHITE HALL	56	CLARENCE MCMILLIAN Folkston, Ga.	LINDA ROUSE Rt. 4 Waycross, Ga.
ZION HILL	43	EVERETT WILLIAMS Pearson, Ga.	JOHNNY BENNETT Rt. 2 Waycross, Ga.
FRIENDSHIP	43	JAMES STRINGER 618 W. Gordon	FAY ROSS Rt. 4 Waycross, Ga.

Meeting Days	Members Received	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Minutes	Value of Property	Building & Repairs	Coop Plan
FULL TIME	2	\$ 780.00	200.00	6.00	20,000.00	241.63	
FULL TIME	15	4,186.00	443.40	25.00	20,000.00	1,979.32	275.64
FULL TIME	4	4,147.39	280.00	29.75	30,000.00	239.14	478.14
2nd & 4th Sunday	1	363.83	127.00	15.00	5,800.00	191.88	
FULL TIME	3	1,300.00	200.00	20.00			
FULL TIME	12	7,000.00	450.00	20.00	100,000.00	3,000.00	
FULL TIME	13	1,910.00	275.00	12.00	9,000.00	2,748.52	
FULL TIME	2	2,735.84	260.00	20.00	15,150.00	587.85	486.98
2nd & 4th Sunday	6	1,114.04	235.00	20.00	7,500.00		120.00
FULL TIME	16	1,828.91	150.00	13.75	9,000.00	475.51	15.00
FULL TIME	8	4,760.00	130.00	20.00	50,000.00	12,927.93	120.00
FULL TIME	2	2,080.00	213.00	20.00	13,000.00	510.56	120.00
1st & 3rd Sundays	4	880.00	235.00	12.00	15,000.00	357.53	
2nd & 4th Sunday	1	522.47		8.00	3,000.00		10.00



## MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH - JULY 18, 1970

Meeting called to order by moderator Larry Williams at 9:30 A. M.  
Congregational songs and prayer.

Devotional by Joe Esther at 9:45 A. M. Subject: "What Is Sin?"  
Due to absence of entire credentials committee, the standing delegates  
moved and passed that moderator appoint a credentials committee for  
this days session.

Moderator appointed committee as follows: Leonard Ogletree, D. C. Dodd,  
and L. J. Chambless.

Brother L. J. Chambless asked that his address as printed in minutes be  
changed to Route Four, Tifton, Georgia.

Report of credentials committee by D. C. Dodd. MSC that report be  
and delegates as listed by committee be seated.

Call for corresponding messengers: None

Call for visitors: Brother and Sister J. B. Rice were received as visitors.

Call for standing committee members to see if a quorum was present.  
All have sufficient members here except the credentials committee, and  
one has been secured for today.

Resolutions Committee: Timalle Smith, J. C. Arnold, Bennie Larsey.

Finance Committee: Jim Franks, Mamie Manson, Irwin Willis

Call for report of standing committee. Report of promotional secretary  
by A. C. Truluck.

Brother Truluck asked that he be sent a copy of the program for each  
meeting.

Brother Trulucks report was a report of the National Association, which  
had met this week. After Brother Trulucks report body was dismissed  
for a 10 minute recess.

Called back to order by singing and prayer.

Moderator asked for regular offering for Unified Program, this was  
received and was \$71.01.

Morning message was brought by Reverend J. B. Mercer. A very challeng-  
ing message on the nature of sin.

Dismissed for lunch by Brother L. J. Chambless.

After a very generous serving of lunch the meeting was called back to order at 1:15 P. M. by moderator. Song by congregation and prayer by Brother A. D. Greene. Devotion by Brother Dewey Quinn. Subject: "Sin and its Nature." Test: Numbers 30:22-23

Report of Committees:

Resolutions - Bennie Lairsey

MSC to accept report and vote on resolutions as offered one by one

MSC to accept Item 1

MSC to accept Item 2

MSC to accept Item 3

MSC that resolution committees at each annual session retain those resolutions that apply to the individual churches and are of vital importance to carrying on our regular business so that these resolutions will be part of the permanent record.

MSC to adopt Item 4

MSC to adopt Item 5

MSC to adopt Item 6

Voted by rising vote. Thanks, our appreciation for the hospitality shown us today.

Finance - Jim Franks

MSC to accept this report

No report from Standing Committees. Announcements from body. Voted by rising vote to extend to Larry Williams our thanks for his services as moderator. MSC to adjourn. Larry Williams - Moderator

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE  
July 18, 1970

Churches Reporting . . . . .	14
Delegates . . . . .	51
Amount Received	
Associations . . . . .	\$77.00
Missions . . . . .	\$43.00
TOTAL . . . . .	\$120.00

Credentials Committee: Lenord Ogletree, D. C. Dodd, L. J. Chambless

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE  
July 18, 1970

The resolutions committee prayerfully presents the following recommendations for action by the body in session today.

1. We recommend that we ask our mission board to do some survey work within our association to determine the possibilities of starting a mission in the most desirable location as soon as possible.

2. We recommend that we pledge our prayerful support to the board in their undertaking with hopes of something being accomplished through these effects in the near future.

3. We recommend that all resolutions adopted by the association be made a matter of permanent record in our minutes.

4. We recommend that these two resolutions which have been adopted be made part of the permanent record in our minutes.

a. Offering of each quarterly meeting be sent to the promotional department for cooperative plan.

b. That each church letter and dues be sent to credentials committee two weeks in advance.

5. We recommend that the association get our promotional secretary to print the form letters for our association.

6. We recommend that we extend to Sunny Side Church our thanks for the hospitality shown to us during this day by a standing vote of thanks.

Resolutions Committee: J.C. Arnold, Mrs. Timalee Smith, Benny Lairsey

## REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

July 18, 1970

Balance in Treasury . . . . .	\$221.81
Received from Churches . . . . .	77.00
BALANCE . . . . .	\$318.81

Finance Committee: J. M. Franks, Mamie Manson, Irwin Willis

## GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

L. We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid sown 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 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 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, 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.



## 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 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

XI. 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-



daining 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 1:18-21)

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:

(a) Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. (Acts 2:38; Ephesians 2:8,9) (b) Faith or the unreserved com-  
mital 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 obliga-  
tion, 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 com-  
munion 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)



# CONSTITUTION

## 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 a 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 VII - FINANCE

It is suggested that each church comprising this Association send the Association, quarterly, their fees as stipulated herein. Churches up to and not exceeding 50 members \$10; 51 to 100 members \$15; 101 to 200 members \$20. 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 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 thirty dollars (\$30.00) and the Clerk shall receive an honorarium of forty dollars (\$40.00) to be paid quarterly.



### **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.