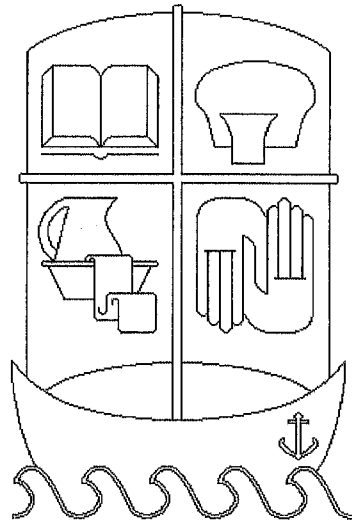


LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS, INC.



Minutes of the 115th Annual Session

When convened at
Zion Hill Church
Millwood, Georgia
Saturday, January 14, 2023

In affiliation with the
Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.
And the
National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

This publication includes the following documents:
2022 Minutes, Statistical Report, & Obituary Report;
2023 Officers, Board & Committee Members;
2023 Directory of Churches, Pastors & Clerks.

2023 LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

Officers, Committee & Board Members

LRA Association Officers (terms expire 2025)

Moderator: Rev. Josh Bennett
Asst. Moderator: Rev. Nick Johnson
Clerk/Treasurer: Rev. Keith Lloyd
Asst. Clerk: Rev. Jeremy Buhro
Camp Treasurer: Rev. Keith Lloyd

<u>Term Expires:</u>		<u>Term Expires:</u>	
<u>Executive Committee:</u>		<u>Ordaining Council:</u>	
Rev. Josh Bennett *	2025	Rev. Nick Johnson	2025 *
Rev. Nick Johnson	2025	Rev. Keith Lloyd	2025
Rev. Keith Lloyd	2025	Rev. Jeremy Buhro	2025
Rev. Jeremy Buhro *	2025	Rev. Larry Johnson	2025
Bro. Corey Hayes *		Rev. Edward Mathews	2025
<u>Mission Board:</u>		<u>Camp Board:</u>	
Sis. Melonie Brown	2025	Rev. Edward Mathews	2025
Bro. Michael Chafin	2025	Bro. Ronnie Lieupo	2025
Rev. Jeremy Buhro	2025 *	Rev. Chris Walker	2025
Rev. Edward Mathews	2025	Bro. James Corbitt	2025
Rev. Sean Mercer	2025	Bro. Corey Hayes	2025 *
<u>Finance Committee:</u>		<u>Nominating Committee</u>	
Sis. Joyce Johnson	2025	<i>Moderator appoints in July.</i>	
Sis. Millie Knight	2025		
Sis. Melonie Brown	2025		

* Denotes board / committee chairperson

Georgia State Association Boards:

<u>Mission:</u>		<u>Camp:</u>	
Rev. Nick Johnson	2025	Rev. Edward Mathews	2023
<u>Trustee:</u>		<u>C.E.:</u>	
Rev. Larry Johnson	2025	Rev. Shane Suggs	2023

2023 Church Directory

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Church:

Pastor:

Clerk:

Awaken

3690 US 82 West
Tifton, GA 31793

Rev. Josh Bennett
62 Cayde Circle
Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 520-1111

Rev. Shane Suggs
306 Donaldson St.
Tifton, GA 31794
(706) 662-0545
Jegs6@yahoo.com

Cool Springs

211 Cool Springs Ch. Rd.
Norman Park, GA 31771
(229) 769-3525

Bro. Evan Goforth *
118 Smith Ln.
Sparks, GA 31647

Sis. Lajuana Chafin
358 C.M. Chafin Rd.
Norman Park, GA 31771
(229) 769-3249
ljchafin@yahoo.com

Corinth

3216 Chula-Brookfield Rd.
(M) P.O. Box 7313
Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 382-0060

Rev. Marshall Kennedy
122 Golden Way
Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 454-9250

Sis. Wanda Cofield
651 US Hwy 319 N
Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 402-1818
wandafranks651@yahoo.com

Forest Hill

11297 Hwy 37
Adel, GA 31620
(M) Clerk or Pastor

Rev. Carl Morrison
241 Easter's Rd.
Enigma, GA 31749
(229) 533-5225

Bro. Billy Crowley
4255 S. Coffee Rd.
Nashville, GA 31639
(229) 237-3393

Friendship

Hwy 158
Waycross, GA 31503
(M) Clerk or Pastor

(*) Rev. Alvin Baldwin
2004 Hilliard Ave.
Waycross, GA 31503
(912) 281-6607
eabaldwin1955@gmail.com

Sis. Sherrie Baldwin
2004 Hilliard Ave.
Waycross, GA 31503
(912) 281-6085
cherrylbaldwin1956@gmail.com

Hahira 1st

402 Francis St.
Hahira, GA 31632
(M) Clerk or Pastor

(*) Rev. Larry Hagen
355 Strawder Rd.
Ray City, GA 31645
(229) 686-9653
larry@larryhagen.com

Sis. Shanna Arden
511 E. Stanfill St.
Hahira, GA 31632
(229) 412-7578

Homerville

North Church St. (US 441)
(M) P.O. Box 354
Homerville, GA 31634
(912) 487-5336

Rev. Nick Johnson
104 Hunter St.
Homerville, GA 31634
(918) 691-2978
hfwbc@hotmail.com

Bro. Michael Railey
131 West Plant Ave.
Homerville, GA 31634
(229) 326-2326
agdawg.railey@gmail.com

Open Door Fellowship

4525 Inner Perimeter Rd.
Valdosta, GA 31601
(229) 412-4663
info@odffwb.org

Rev. Jeremy Buhro
4872 Stonewall Cr.
Valdosta, GA 31605
(615) 775-4345
jbuhro@welch.org

Sis. Melonie Brown
84 Lightsey St.
Dupont, GA 31630
(912) 470-9618
melonie15@hotmail.com

Ozias

2477 U.S. Hwy. 441 N.
(M) P.O. Box 965
Pearson, GA 31642
(912) 422-3286

Rev. Larry Johnson
1254 Hwy. 64 East
Pearson, GA 31642
(912) 422-3650

Sis. Bonnie Corbitt
353 George Cowart Rd.
Pearson, GA 31642
(912) 422-6040
littleredridinghood71@gmail.com

(*) Licensed Minister or credentials not yet recognized by the Little River Association.

(M) Mailing Address, if different from Physical Address

2023 Church Directory

Page 2 of 2

Church:

Sunnyside
17 Crossroads Ch. Rd.
Pearson, GA 31642
(M) Clerk or Pastor

Zion Hill
3064 Zion Hill Rd.
Millwood, GA 31552
(912) 283-1225
www.zionhillchurch.com

Pastor:

Rev. Teddy Burch
7168 Old Douglas Hwy.
Pearson, GA 31642
(912) 422-7909

Rev. Keith Lloyd
3063 Zion Hill Rd.
Millwood, GA 31552
(912) 281-3650
pastor@zionhillchurch.com

Clerk:

Sis. Gwyn Kirkland
892 Basswood Rd.
Douglas, GA 31535
(912) 383-8088

Sis. Jeanie Monk
562 Emmett Dr.
Waycross, GA 31503
(912) 281-7008
9340monk.nj@gmail.com

(*) Licensed Minister or credentials not yet recognized by the Little River Association.

(M) Mailing Address, if different from Physical Address

Other Ordained Ministers:

Rev. Edward Mathews
P.O. Box 968
Pearson, GA 31642
(912) 422-7792
(Zion Hill, Children's Pastor)

Rev. Dale Bishop
13007 SW 3rd Street
Atkins, AR 72823
(615) 506-3958
(Corinth)

Rev. Chris Walker
3907 Dukes Road
Waycross, GA 31503
(912) 816-8079
(Zion Hill, Youth Pastor)

Rev. Sean Mercer
75 Deerfield Dr.
Homerville, GA 31634
(912) 487-5336
(Homerville, Associate Pastor)

Rev. Jonathan Lieupo
132 Deerfield Dr.
Homerville, GA 31634
(912) 487-6494
(Homerville, Associate Pastor)

Other Licensed Ministers:

Bro. Dennis Paulk
361 Fleetwood Ave.
Willacoochee, GA 31650
(229) 339-0079
(Ozias, Associate Pastor)

(*) Credentials not yet recognized by the Little River Association.

2022 Statistical Report

Number of Churches in Association.....	11
Number of Churches Reporting.....	11
Number of City Churches	5
Number of Rural Churches.....	6
Number of Churches with Full-time Pastors	6
Number of Churches with Part-time Pastors	5
Number of Churches with Parsonages	5
Combined Value of all Church Property.....	\$ 5,000,000
Number of Churches with Budgets	5
Total Combined Income of all Churches	\$ 1.2 million
Number of Ordained Ministers.....	14
Number of Licensed Ministers.....	4
Number of Ordained Deacons	26
Total Combined Membership of all Churches	695
Total Number of Baptisms.....	34
Total Members Added	27
Total Members Lost.....	11
Total Combined Sunday School Enrollment	350
Number of Churches without a Pastor	0

Please note that even though all of our churches reported, the reports were incomplete and inaccurate. We do not have an accurate reflection in the areas of Church Finances, Membership, and Sunday School Enrollment. It is impossible to make sense of the numbers from year to year without complete and accurate reports. --Clerk Keith Lloyd

Schedule of District Association Meetings:

<u>2023</u> Zion Hill – 1/14 Homerville – 7/29	<u>2024</u> Corinth – 1/20 Ozias – 7/27	<u>2025</u> Sunnyside – 1/18 Friendship – 7/26
<u>2026</u> Forest Hill – 1/17 Open Door – 7/25	<u>2027</u> Hahira – 1/16 Awaken – 7/31	<u>2028</u> Cool Springs

Special Notes:

- Annual Sessions of the Little River Association will be held in January each year.
- Annual Sessions of the Little River Association will consist of reports and statistical information from the previous year, January 1st through December 31st.

2022 Obituary Report

Robert (Bob) Naslund

November 1, 1953 – January 13, 2022
Member of the Corinth FWB Church in Brookfield, GA

Julia Faye Ogletree

November 20, 1929 – August 7, 2022
Member of the Corinth FWB Church in Brookfield, GA

Sis. Bonnie Jilcott

March 27, 1949 – August 25, 2022
Member of the Forest Hill FWB Church in Adel, GA

Bro. Mike Jilcott

September 27, 1946 – September 26, 2022
Member of the Forest Hill FWB Church in Adel, GA

Joyce Calvin (J.C. / Buck) Plair

August 29, 1939 – April 27, 2022
Member of the First FWB Church in Hahira, GA

Eli Ellis

April 26, 1996 – September 5, 2022
Member of the Homerville FWB Church in Homerville, GA

Julian Anderson

August 15, 1950 – September 19, 2022
Member of the Homerville FWB Church in Homerville, GA

Paul (Pat) Allen Tindall

February 1, 1947 – April 23, 2022
Member of the Ozias FWB Church in Pearson, GA

Henry Hulbert

Member of the Sunnyside FWB Church in Kirkland, GA

Mary Ina Eversole

November 16, 1938 – January 20, 2022
Member of the Zion Hill FWB Church in Millwood, GA

Eugene Bennett

August 3, 1936 – March 29, 2022
Member of the Zion Hill FWB Church in Millwood, GA

Little River Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

Annual Session: Saturday, January 14, 2023, 9:30 am

Host Church: Zion Hill FWB Church
3064 Zion Hill Road
Millwood, GA 31552

Service Schedule:

9:30 – 9:40 am: Congregational Singing & Prayer

9:40 – 9:45 am: Welcome

9:45 – 10:30 am: Business Session Begins

- ❖ **Call to Order by the Moderator**
- ❖ **Camp & Mission Board Offering**
- ❖ **Credentials Report**
- ❖ **Reading of Previous Minutes & Treasurer's Report**
- ❖ **Reports of Boards & Committees**
 - Executive Committee:
 - Ordaining Council:
 - LRA Camp Board:
 - LRA Mission Board:
 - Nominating Committee:
 - Finance Committee Report
- ❖ **GAFWB State Board Reports**
 - GA State Camp Board:
 - GA State Mission Board:
 - GA State CE Board:
 - GA State Trustee Board:

10:30 – 10:45 am Recess

10:45 – 11:15 am Business Session Resumes

- ❖ **Old Business**
 -
 -
- ❖ **New Business**
 - *Recommendation of Committee regarding Camp Little River proceeds disbursement.*
 -
- ❖ **Announcements**
- ❖ **Resolutions**
- ❖ **Motion to Adjourn**

11:15 – 12:00 Worship Service

- ❖ **Congregational Singing & Prayer**
- ❖ **Special Music**
- ❖ **Morning Message:**
- ❖ **Closing Prayer**

Next Session:

Bi-Annual Session:

Homerville FWB Church, Homerville, GA, Saturday, July 29, 2023, 9:30 am

Little River Association of Free Will Baptists

Minutes of the Annual Session

Convening at: Zion Hill FWB Church, Millwood

Date: January 14, 2023, 9:30 am

PRELIMINARIES:

- The congregation sang "This Is The Day" and Carl Morrison led in prayer.
- Assistant Moderator Nick Johnson welcomed the Association and called the meeting to order.
- The LRA Mission Board and Camp Board was received and totaled \$130.
- The Clerk gave the Credentials Report as follows: 10 churches reported with 7 pastors, 3 other ministers, 6 deacons, and 11 delegates present. All elected delegates were seated by a vote from the standing delegates. The total voting delegation was 27.
- The minutes of the last meeting were read, and Clerk Keith Lloyd gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made, seconded and carried to receive each report as given.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

LRA Camp Board:

- Nick Johnson reported that the 2023 Junior Camp Session will be held again at Camp Tygart, with the Little River joining several other district associations, on June 26-29.
- Nick Johnson recommended that the Little River Association contribute an additional \$500 to the Junior Camp Canteen Fund (thru the Union Assn.) to help cover those expenses.

LRA Mission Board:

- Nick Johnson gave brief information on the NAFWB E-Teams and the Truth & Peace ministry, noting that the LRA has funds that can assist youth who are interested in applying for participation.

GAFWB Camp Board:

- State Teen Camp has been canceled indefinitely due to a lack of interest. Local churches and district associations are being encouraged to work together to organize their own Teen Camp ministry.

GAFWB Mission Board:

- Nick Johnson reported that the Mission Board held their most recent meeting at the Awaken Church, which is doing exceptionally well.
- The Board created a "hospitality group", which will consistently check on, meet with, and encourage our Georgia missionaries.
- Future church plants and revitalization efforts were discussed.

GAFWB Christian Education Board:

- Shane Suggs reported that 2023 retreats had to be cancelled due to the sudden and unexpected closure of the Lake Blackshear Resort.

- Annual Charles Clark and GA Endowment Scholarships are available to Georgia students who are enrolled at Welch College.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to receive all of the previous Board & Committee reports as information.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve a payment of \$500 to the Junior Camp Canteen Fund, payable to the Union Association, from Camp Board funds.
- Two of eleven LRA churches requested their portion of the Camp Little River sale proceeds. The other nine churches asked for their portion of the proceeds to be invested, with interest earned being used in future youth ministries of the LRA, and for their own church's youth ministry through an annual "grant request" process. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize the Executive Committee to explore investment strategies for the remainder of the proceeds left from the sale of Camp Little River, and to begin the process of organizing a "grant" system. The Committee will report to the LRA at the January 2024 Annual Session.
- The Clerk read the Annual Obituary Report. Following a moment of silence in memory of those who had passed in 2022, Jeremy Buhro offered a prayer of thanksgiving for their faithfulness to our Lord, with a request for the comfort and peace of their family and friends.

LRA Finance Committee:

- A partial report from the Finance Committee was given. The complete report is as follows: *Balance Brought Forward* - \$102,264.67; *Total Receipts* - \$3,254.00; *Balance on Hand* - \$105,518.67. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to receive this report.

After announcements, a rising vote of thanks was given to the Zion Hill Church for hosting the Association and a motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the business session. The Association then recessed briefly to enjoy refreshments provided by our hosts.

MORNING WORSHIP SESSION:

- The congregation sang, "He Keeps Me Singing", followed by Christy Hurst playing the piano and singing, "Sheltered in the Arms of God".
- Rev. Larry Hagen, pastor of the Hahira Church, preached a message from Luke 16:19-31 concerning the importance of setting spiritual goals for the New Year and emphasizing the necessity of recognizing the authority of Scripture in our personal lives and in our churches.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Lloyd, Clerk

Little River Association Treasurer's Report

Reporting Period: July 30, 2022 thru January 14, 2023

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balances</u>
<u>General Fund:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 4,183.31
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	\$ 466.01		
For NAFWB (Ozias & Friendship)	350.00		
Expenditures:			
MODERATOR HONORARIUM		(30.00)	
CLERK HONORARIUM		(100.00)	
Office Expense/Minutes		(150.00)	
Checks		(134.29)	
Balance on Hand:			\$ 4,585.03
<u>LRA Mission Board:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 3,293.34
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	\$ 466.00		
OFFERING (from individuals)	17.50		
Expenditures:			
		(0.00)	
Balance on Hand:			\$ 3,776.84
<u>LRA Camp Board:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 82,741.12
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	\$ 465.99		
OFFERING (from individuals)	17.50		
Offering from Open Door	250.00		
Camp Account (Balance Transfer)	10,809.56		
Satilla REMC Refund	118.63		
Expenditures:			
Union Assn for Jr. Camp		(500.00)	
Balance on Hand			\$ 93,902.80
Total Balance on Hand (1/14/23):			\$ 102,264.67

Little River Association

Finance Committee Report

Meeting at: Zion Hill Church, Millwood
Date: January 14, 2023

Church Name:	Association Fees:	Association Ministries:	NAFWB Rep Fees:
Awaken	\$ 150.00		\$ 175.00
Cool Springs	40.00		175.00
Corinth	64.00		175.00
Forest Hill	50.00		175.00
Friendship			
Hahira First	40.00		175.00
Homerville	160.00		175.00
Open Door Fellowship	44.00		175.00
Ozias	108.00		175.00
Sunnyside	78.00		175.00
Zion Hill	640.00		175.00
Totals	\$ 1,374.00		\$ 1,750.00

Camp & Mission Board Offering

Received from individuals \$ 130.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM THIS SESSION:

Association Fees Total: \$ 1,374.00
Association Ministries Total: 0.00
Camp & Mission Board Offering Total: 130.00
NAFWB Rep Fees Total: 1,750.00
Total Receipts: \$ 3,254.00
Balance Brought Forward: 102,264.67
Balance On Hand to Date: \$ 105,518.67

Finance Committee: Keith Lloyd, Clerk

Little River Association

Credentials Report

Meeting at: Zion Hill FWB Church, Millwood
Date: January 14, 2023

Church Name	Reporting (Yes/No)	Pastor Present	Other Ministers	Deacons Present	Delegates Present	Total Voting Delegation
Awaken	Yes		1			1
Cool Springs	Yes	Yes				1
Corinth	Yes				1	1
Forest Hill	Yes	Yes			1	2
Friendship	No					
Hahira 1 st	Yes	Yes			1	2
Homerville	Yes	Yes		2		3
Open Door Fellowship	Yes	Yes		2	1	4
Ozias	Yes	Yes		2	3	6
Sunnyside	Yes					
Zion Hill	Yes	Yes	2		4	7
Totals	10	7	3	6	11	27

Credentials Chairperson: Keith Lloyd, Clerk

Little River Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

Bi-Annual Session: Saturday, July 30, 2022, 9:30 am

Host Church: Cool Springs FWB Church
211 Cool Springs Ch. Rd.
Norman Park, GA 31771

Service Schedule:

9:30 – 9:40 am: Congregational Singing & Prayer

9:40 – 9:45 am: Welcome

9:45 – 10:30 am: **Business Session Begins**

- ❖ **Call to Order by the Moderator**
- ❖ **Camp & Mission Board Offering**
- ❖ **Credentials Report**
- ❖ **Reading of Previous Minutes & Treasurer's Report**
- ❖ **Reports of Boards & Committees**
 - **Executive Committee:**
 - **Ordaining Council:**
 - **LRA Camp Board:**
 - *Financial Report*
 - *Junior Camp Report*
 - **LRA Mission Board:**
 - **Nominating Committee:**
 - *Moderator Appoints for Annual Meeting in January*
 - **Finance Committee Report**
- ❖ **GAFWB State Board Reports**
 - **GA State Camp Board:**
 - **GA State Mission Board:**
 - **GA State CE Board:**
 - **GA State Trustee Board:**

10:30 – 10:45 am Recess

10:45 – 11:15 am **Business Session Resumes**

- ❖ **Old Business**
 -
 -
- ❖ **New Business**
 - *Formation of Committee to explore options for funds from the sale of Camp LR.*
 -
- ❖ **Announcements**
- ❖ **Resolutions**
- ❖ **Motion to Adjourn**

11:15 – 12:00 **Worship Service**

- ❖ **Congregational Singing & Prayer**
- ❖ **Special Music**
- ❖ **Morning Message:**
- ❖ **Closing Prayer**

Next Session:

Annual Session:

Zion Hill FWB Church, Millwood, GA, Saturday, January 14, 2023, 9:30 am

Little River Association of Free Will Baptists

Minutes of the Bi-Annual Session

Convening at: Cool Springs FWB Church, Norman Park

Date: July 30, 2022, 9:30 am

PRELIMINARIES:

- The congregation sang "Higher Ground" and Michael Chafin led in prayer.
- Moderator Josh Bennett welcomed the Association and called the meeting to order.
- The LRA Mission Board and Camp Board was received and totaled \$ 35.
- The Clerk gave the Credentials Report as follows: 11 churches reported with 7 pastors, no other ministers, 2 deacons, and 5 delegates present. All elected delegates were seated by a vote from the standing delegates. The total voting delegation was 14.
- The minutes of the last meeting were read, and Clerk Keith Lloyd gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made, seconded and carried to receive each report as given.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

LRA Camp Board:

- Nick Johnson reported that the 2022 Junior Camp Session, held at Camp Tygart with the Little River and several other district associations, had about 60 campers with 2 reported professions of faith.
- Nick Johnson recommended that the Little River Association contribute an additional \$500 to the Junior Camp Canteen Fund (thru the Union Assn.) to help cover those expenses.
- Camp Board Treasurer Keith Lloyd recommended that the Little River Camp Account be closed and the balance transferred into the Little River Association Account under the designation of the Camp Board funds.

GAFWB Camp Board:

- State Teen Camp has been cancelled due to a lack of interest.

GAFWB Mission Board:

- Josh Bennett reported on the progress of the Awaken Church in Tifton.
- The Board is looking at the possibility of a new church plant in 2024/25.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to receive all of the previous Board & Committee reports as information.

LRA Finance Committee:

- A partial report from the Finance Committee was given. The complete report is as follows: *Balance Brought Forward:* \$90,217.77; *Total Receipts:* \$12,961.19; *Balance On Hand:* \$103,178.96.
- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to receive this report.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve a payment of \$500 to the Junior Camp Canteen Fund, payable to the Union Association, from Camp Board funds.
- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to close the Camp Little River Checking Account and to transfer the balance of funds to the Little River Association Checking Account under Camp Board funds category.
- A motion was made, seconded, and carried for the Moderator to appoint a Camp Proceeds Committee, to research options for the disbursement of funds from the sale of Camp Little River, and to bring recommendations back to the Association for approval at the 2023 Annual Session.
 - The Moderator appointed the Camp Proceeds Committee as follows: Josh Bennett (Moderator), Keith Lloyd (Clerk), Michael Chafin, Nick Johnson, and David Taylor.
- After announcements, a rising vote of thanks was given to the Cool Springs Church for hosting the Association and a motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn from the business session. Michael Railey closed in prayer and thanksgiving for the refreshments.

The Association recessed briefly to enjoy refreshments provided by our hosts.

MORNING WORSHIP SESSION:

- The congregation sang, "Love Lifted Me" and "Living By Faith", followed by Michael Chafin singing, "Ask the Blind Man, He Saw It All".
- Rev. Evan Goforth preached a message from Ephesians 4:1-6 on the importance of unity in the Body of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Lloyd, Clerk

Little River Association Treasurer's Report

Reporting Period: January 15, 2022 – February 1, 2022

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balances</u>
<u>General Fund:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 3,675.31
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	\$ 438.00		
For NAFWB	1,575.00		
Sale of Camp Little River	79,950.00		
Expenditures:			
MODERATOR HONORARIUM		(30.00)	
CLERK HONORARIUM		(100.00)	
GAFWB Rep Fees		(75.00)	
NAFWB Reb Fees		(1,750.00)	
Balance on Hand:			\$ 83,683.31
<u>LRA Mission Board:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 2,728.34
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	\$ 438.00		
OFFERING (from individuals)	127.00		
Expenditures:			
		(0.00)	
Balance on Hand:			\$ 3,293.34
<u>LRA Camp Board:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 2,676.12
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	\$ 438.00		
OFFERING (from individuals)	127.00		
Expenditures:			
		(0.00)	
Balance on Hand			\$ 3,241.12
Total Balance on Hand (7/30/22):			\$ 90,217.77

Camp Board Treasurer's Report

Reporting Period: January 15, 2022 thru July 30, 2022

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Beginning Balance:			\$ 11,726.37
Income:			
Thru LRA:			
Thru GAFWB:			
(Receipts Total)	(0.00)		
Balance after Receipts:			\$ 11,726.37
Outlay:			
SREMC (Electric Utilities):			
January		\$ 197.76	
February		214.04	
March		208.15	
April		296.86	
(Disbursements Total)		(916.81)	
Balance on Hand (7/30/22):			\$ 10,809.56

Little River Association

Finance Committee Report

Meeting at: Cool Springs Church, Norman Park
Date: July 30, 2022

Church Name:	Association Fees:	Association Ministries:	NAFWB Rep Fees:
Awaken	\$ 150.00		
Cool Springs	40.00		
Corinth	68.00		
Forest Hill	54.00		
Friendship	20.00		175.00 (for 2021)
Hahira First	40.00		
Homerville	176.00		
Open Door Fellowship	44.00	250.00 (Camp)	
Ozias	114.00		175.00 (for 2023)
Sunnyside	80.00		
Zion Hill	612.00		
Totals	\$ 1,398.00	250.00	\$ 350.00

Camp & Mission Board Offering

Received from individuals **\$ 35.00**

TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM THIS SESSION:

Association Fees Total:	\$ 1,398.00
Association Ministries Total:	250.00
Camp & Mission Board Offering Total:	35.00
Satilla REMC Refund	118.63
Camp Account Balance Transfer	10,809.56
NAFWB Rep Fees Total:	350.00
Total Receipts:	\$ 12,961.19
Balance Brought Forward:	90,217.77
Balance On Hand to Date:	\$ 103,178.96

Finance Committee: Keith Lloyd, Clerk

Little River Association

Credentials Report

Meeting at: Cool Springs FWB Church, Norman Park
Date: July 30, 2022

Church Name	Reporting (Yes/No)	Pastor Present	Other Ministers	Deacons Present	Delegates Present	Total Voting Delegation
Awaken	Yes	Yes				1
Cool Springs	Yes	Yes		1	1	3
Corinth	Yes					
Forest Hill	Yes					
Friendship	Yes					
Hahira 1 st	Yes	Yes			1	2
Homerville	Yes	Yes			2	3
Open Door Fellowship	Yes	Yes		1		2
Ozias	Yes	Yes			1	2
Sunnyside	Yes					
Zion Hill	Yes	Yes				1
Totals	11	7	0	2	5	14

Credentials Chairperson: Keith Lloyd, Clerk

LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL CALLED CONFERENCE MINUTES

Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 PM
Assembled at Ozias FWB Church, Pearson

Moderator Josh Bennett called the meeting to order, and Bro. Michael Chafin led in an opening prayer.

Clerk Keith Lloyd gave the Credentials Report as follows: 9 of 11 churches were represented, with 7 pastors, 6 deacons, and 5 church delegates present. There were a total number of 18 standing and elected delegates.

A motion was made from the floor to seat all standing and elected delegates who were sent to represent our Associational churches at this Conference. The motion was seconded and carried without discussion or opposition.

A motion was made from the floor to sell all Camp Little River properties to James Corbitt, who is a member of the Ozias FWB Church and the current owner of the property adjacent to the Camp, for the sum of \$80,000. The motion was seconded and carried without discussion or opposition.

A motion was made from the floor to authorize Moderator Josh Bennett and Clerk Keith Lloyd to act on behalf of the Little River Association with regard to the signing of legal documents pertaining to the sale of Camp Little River properties. The motion was seconded and carried without discussion or opposition.

Bro. Nick Johnson gave information regarding summer camp plans. The Little River Association will be joining six (6) other district associations at Camp Tygart for Junior Camp on July 11-14, 2022. Cost per camper will be \$100. State Teen Camp dates are tentatively set for July 7-10, 2022, but plans are not yet complete.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn. Bro. Larry Johnson led in a benedictory prayer.

I submit these minutes as a clear and accurate representation of the business of the Little River Association as conducted at this Special Called Conference.

Keith Lloyd, Clerk/Treasurer

Signed, 3/16/2022:



Little River Association
SPECIAL CALLED CONFERENCE
Credentials Report

Meeting at: Ozias Church, Pearson
Date: March 15, 2022

Church Name	Reporting (Yes/No)	Pastor Present	Other Ministers	Deacons Present	Delegates Present	Total Voting Delegation
Awaken	Yes	Yes				1
Cool Springs	Yes			1		1
Corinth	Yes				2	2
Forest Hill						
Friendship						
Hahira 1 st	Yes	Yes			1	2
Homerville	Yes	Yes		2		3
Open Door Fellowship	Yes	Yes				1
Ozias	Yes	Yes		1		2
Sunnyside	Yes	Yes		2	2	5
Zion Hill	Yes	Yes				1
Totals	9	7		6	5	18

Credentials Chairperson: Keith Lloyd, Clerk

Constitution
By-Laws
Statement of Beliefs
of the
Little River Association
of
Free Will Baptists

**Passed in the Regular Session of the
Little River Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.
Meeting at Corinth Free Will Baptist Church
Brookfield, Georgia
On July 26th, 2008**

THIS REVISION UP-TO-DATE AS OF JANUARY 18, 2025.

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CONSTITUTION
of the
LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptists being each members of churches who hold to the faith and practices of Free Will Baptists as defined in *The Treatise of Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.* and as set forth in the *Statement of Beliefs of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptists* realizing a need to bond together to promote and carry out the causes of God and of Free Will Baptists, do therefore ordain this Constitution as our guiding document.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This association of churches shall be known as The Little River Association of Free Will Baptists and is known from this point forward in this document as The Association.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS

Section A: Associational Membership. The Association shall be composed of organized, well-disciplined, like-minded churches that have voluntarily chosen to bond themselves together and submit to this constitution.

Paragraph 1: The Relationship Between the Association and Member Churches. The Association is an outreach of the local Church and exists to enhance the local Churches efforts to serve God. Local Churches are congregationally governed; therefore, in matters of grievance within a local church, the Association shall only provide council to the local church when requested by the local church.

Paragraph 2: Letter of Petition. A Church desiring to unite with the Association shall submit a letter of petition to the Association during any regular session containing the name of the church, the date and place of its organization, the name(s) of its pastor, the name(s) of its deacons, the name(s) of all elected officers, the number of members, the time and place of regular meetings, and a copy of the minutes where the Church voted on its desire to unite with the Association. The minutes shall reflect a motion approved by the body that includes a statement of the Church's adherence to *The Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.* and to the *Statement of Beliefs of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptists*.

Paragraph 3: Associational Action in Respect to the Local Church. The Association reserves the right to investigate any applicant for membership to determine if the local church meets the standards for membership in the Association. Churches must be organized, well-disciplined, like-minded churches that adhere to *The Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.* and to the *Statement of Beliefs of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptists*. The investigation shall be conducted by the Executive Committee of the Association.

Paragraph 4: Full Membership. Once a letter of petition is submitted, an investigation by the Executive Committee is performed, membership is recommended to the voting body of the Association by the executive committee, and the Association seats the delegates of the petitioning Church, the Church has full rights and privileges as a member of the Association.

Paragraph 5: Discipline of Member Churches. Should it be determined that a local Church that is a member of the Association no longer qualifies as an organized, well-disciplined, like-minded church that adheres to *The Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.* and to the *Statement of Beliefs of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptists*, the Association may by vote refuse to seat the Church's delegates (standing or appointed) thereby revoking any rights and privileges the Church has held as a member of the Association. The Executive Committee is charged with initiating such action as outlined in this paragraph.

Paragraph 6: Reinstatement of a Church's Rights and Privileges as a Member of the Association. Should the Association fail to seat a Church's delegates, the local Church can regain its full rights and privileges as a member of the Association by remedying any problems that resulted in the Association refusing to seat the local Church's delegates and by petitioning the Association for membership following procedures outlined in Article II Section A Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4.

Section B: Affiliation With Other Associations. The Association shall be affiliated with the Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. and the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

ARTICLE III: VOTING DELEGATION

Section A: Standing Delegates. Standing delegates when the Association is in session shall be all ordained ministers in good standing with the Association as determined by the ordaining council and deacons who are members of local churches in good standing with the Association. Licensed ministers and full-time missionaries who are members of local churches in good standing with the Association are also standing delegates.

Paragraph 1: Attendance and Participation of Standing Delegates. All qualified standing delegates of the Association are expected to attend and participate when the Association is in session. The Clerk of the Association is charged with a roll call of Standing Delegates at the annual session and providing a listing in the annual minutes of qualified Standing Delegates as provided by each church.

Paragraph 2: Discipline of Standing Delegates. The Association may choose to not seat a Standing Delegate who is determined not to be in compliance with the Associations guidelines for ordination or licensing of ministers and deacons or to be in conflict with *The Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.* and the *Statement of Beliefs of the Little River Association of Free Will Baptists*. The Ordaining Council is the associational board charged with making such a determination in the case of a Standing Delegate.

Paragraph 3: Restrictions on Voting of Standing Delegates. Standing delegates of local churches are restricted from voting in votes to determine not to seat themselves as delegates.

Paragraph 4: Reinstatement of Standing Delegates. If a Standing Delegate lost delegate status for action taken under Article III Section A Paragraph 2, the Standing Delegate shall remedy the problem and have the local Church requests the Standing Delegates reinstatement through the Ordaining Council who shall make a recommendation to the body of the Association in session.

Section B: Elected or Appointed Delegates. In addition to Standing Delegates, each local Church can send at least two delegates to each session of the Association. In addition to these two delegates, a local Church can send an additional delegate for each 10 active members above 20 active members (i.e., a local Church with 45 active members may send its Standing Delegates plus a total of 4 elected or appointed delegates).

Paragraph 1: Age and Affiliation of Delegates. Elected and Appointed Delegates must be active members in good standing of the sending Church.

Paragraph 2: Seating of Elected/Appointed Delegates. Standing Delegates shall vote to seat Elected/Appointed Delegates at the beginning of each session. The Association may refuse to seat delegates who do not meet the standard outlined in Article III Section B Paragraph 1 or should the Association choose to discipline a local Church as outlined in Article II Section A Paragraph 5.

Section C: Delegates Voting Power. Each seated delegate whether a Standing Delegate or an Elected/Appointed Delegate is granted one vote on matters presented during the session in which the delegate has been seated.

ARTICLE IV: ASSOCIATIONAL SESSIONS

Section A: Frequency of Sessions. The Association shall meet Annually on the Saturday following the second Sunday in January.

Section B: Location of Sessions. The location of the Annual Session shall be determined by a vote of the Association in session. In special situations when the session is hindered from meeting in the approved location, the executive committee can secure a place for the session to be held. Pastors and clerks of individual member churches are to be notified of any such change as quickly as is possible.

Section C: Time of Sessions. All regular sessions of the Association shall begin at 9:30 AM and shall not end until the voting delegation votes to close all business and adjourn.

ARTICLE V: ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS

Section A: Names of Officers. The officers of the Association shall be moderator, assistant moderator, clerk/treasurer, and assistant clerk/treasurer.

Section B: Election of Officers. The officers of the Association shall be elected every three years in the Annual Session by a majority vote of all seated delegates.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Section A: Standing Committee. The Executive Committee comprised of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk/treasurer, assistant clerk/treasurer, the chair person of each standing board, and the chair of the ordaining council is a standing committee of the Association. The Executive Committee is charged with acting on behalf of the Association when the Association is not in session.

Section B: Functional Committees. Committees to handle various functions of the Association are to be appointed as needed by the moderator or individual standing in for the moderator during any session of the Association. Functional committees may be the Credentials Committee, Resolutions Committee, Nominating Committee, Finance Committee, or any other committee the moderator or the Association deem necessary.

Section C: Standing Boards. Standing Boards of the Association shall be the Mission Board and the Camp Board.

Paragraph 1: Membership. Each Board shall have five members serving three-year terms, with elections occurring every three years at the Annual Session. Members of the various boards must meet the criteria to be a delegate outlined in Article III: Sections A and Article III: Section B: Paragraph 1.

Paragraph 2: Reports to the Association. Each of the Standing Boards is required to meet (in person or by video conference) at least once per year between the Annual Sessions and report to the body of the Association in the Annual Session and at any time the body of the Association deems it necessary.

Section D. Ordaining Council. The Ordaining Council shall have five members serving three-year terms with elections occurring every three years at the Annual Session.

Paragraph 1: Membership. Members on the Ordaining Council must be ordained ministers in good standing with their local Church and the Association.

Paragraph 2: Responsibilities to the Association. The Ordaining Council is responsible to the Association for:

- a. Providing guidelines for the ordaining of ministers and deacons.
- b. Providing procedures for the ordaining of ministers.
- c. Providing guidelines and procedures for the licensing of ministers.
- d. Providing a list at each session of ordained and licensed ministers who are in good standing with the Association.
- e. Providing a recommendation based on investigation should the need arise to discipline a Standing Delegate as outlined in Article III Section A Paragraph 2.

Section E. Elections and Appointments. Elections to fill expired seats on the standing boards, committees, or councils of the Association shall be held at the Annual Session.

Paragraph 1: Nominations of Candidates. At the semiannual business session the moderator shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three (3) members who will then be charged with the responsibility of presenting at the annual session nominees to fill the expired seats. At the annual session nominations shall

also be taken from the voting delegation. Following the opportunity for the voting delegation to nominate a person to fill an expired seat, the moderator shall call for a vote. The nominating committee is automatically dissolved following the elections at the annual session.

Paragraph 2: Filling Unexpired Vacancies. When a vacancy occurs in any standing board, committee, or council and is not the result of a scheduled expiration of term, the Moderator at the earliest convenience in any session of the Association following the occurrence of vacancy shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy. The appointed individual will serve the balance of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VII: ASSOCIATIONAL FINANCES

Section A. Representation Fees. Each member church shall submit to the Association at each Annual Session a district representation fee of four dollars (\$4.00) per member and a national association representation fee of one-hundred-seventy-five dollars (\$175.00) per church. The membership count shall include active and inactive roles.

Section B. Ministries Support. Churches are also encouraged to support Associational and Denominational ministries with regular gifts over and above their representation fees defined in Article VII Section A.

Section C. Offerings. The Association by a majority vote in a regular session can authorize special offerings for any worthy purpose.

ARTICLE VIII: QUORUMS AND AMENDMENTS

Section A. Quorum. One half (½) of the total churches holding membership in the Association shall present representatives at any session to constitute a quorum of members authorized to carry out business.

Section B. Amendments. This constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the seated voting delegation at any session provided a quorum of churches exists in the session.

Paragraph 1. Presentation of an Amendment. Any proposed amendment to this constitution shall be presented in writing to the Associational clerk prior to the convening of the business session.

Paragraph 2. Application of an Amendment. Any amendment passed at the business session shall become effective immediately when passed.

BY-LAWS
of the
LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Section 1. Rules of Order. The meetings of the Little River Association shall be governed by proper rules of parliamentary law as determined by the Association.

Section 2. Records of Sessions. Complete minutes for each session are to be kept and at least three copies provided every three years to each member church, coinciding with the election of officers and board members every three years. In addition to the minutes for each session, these records should also include: a directory of church, pastor, clerk, and other ordained and licensed minister addresses; officers and board members, both district and state level; all associational financial and credential reports; annual statistical reports; Annual Session hosts and dates; and, the annual listing of obituaries.

Section 3. Auxiliary Organizations. The Association recognizes as subsidiary organizations the Women Active for Christ (WAC) and Master's Men auxiliaries. The Women Active for Christ (WAC) and Master's Men organizations shall exist at their discretion and have power to adopt their own constitution and by-laws and maintain the oversight of the works for which they have been constituted.

Paragraph 1. Reports to the Association. Auxiliary organizations recognized by the Association are asked to report their achievements and finances at the annual session of the Association.

Paragraph 2. Continued Recognition of an Auxiliary Organization. The Association reserves the right to stop recognizing a subsidiary organization. Any such action requires a majority vote of the voting delegation at any regularly convened meeting of the Association.

Section 4. Honorariums. The moderator shall receive an honorarium of thirty dollars per regular session of the Association and the clerk shall receive an honorarium of one hundred dollars per regular session of the Association.

Section 5. Amendments or Additions. These By-laws may be added to, altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the seated voting delegation at the business sessions provided a quorum of churches exists in the session.

Paragraph 1. Presentation of an Amendment. Any proposed changes to these By-laws shall be presented in writing to the Associational clerk prior to the convening of the business sessions.

Paragraph 2. Application of an Amendment. Any changes passed at the business sessions shall become effective immediately when passed.

**THIS CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS HAS BEEN AMENDED
SINCE IT'S ORIGINAL ADOPTION AS FOLLOWS:**

ARTICLE IV. SECTION A. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/15/2011.

ARTICLE VII. SECTION A. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/15/2011.

ARTICLE VII. SECTION C. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/15/2011.

ARTICLE V. SECTION B. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/15/2022.

ARTICLE VI. SECTION C. PARAGRAPH 1. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/15/2022.

BY-LAWS. SECTION 2. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/15/2022.

ARTICLE IV. SECTION A. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/18/2025.

ARTICLE IV. SECTION B. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/18/2025.

ARTICLE VI. SECTION C. Paragraphs 1 and 2. were amended in the Annual Session on 1/18/2025.

ARTICLE VI. SECTION D. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/18/2025.

ARTICLE VII. SECTION A. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/18/2025.

ARTICLE VII. SECTION C. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/18/2025.

BY-LAWS. SECTION 2. was amended in the Annual Session on 1/18/2025.

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS
of the
LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Section 1: The Holy Scriptures.

We believe both the Old and New Testaments to be the plenary, verbally inspired Word of God. By "plenary" we mean "full and complete." We hold that all parts of the Bible are inspired and that inspiration extends to all its subjects. By "verbal" we mean that inspiration extends to the very words of the Scriptures, not just to the thoughts and ideas expressed by human authors. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to Mankind, written by holy men of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore they stand as the final authority for faith and practice. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21)

Section 2: God.

We believe that God is the Creator, Sustainer and Righteous Ruler of the universe. In addition to revealing Himself in nature, He has also revealed Himself in the Scriptures of the Holy Bible as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet being One God. Each member of the Trinity is co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, and co-equal in power and glory; and has the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 14:10, 26)

Section 3: Jesus Christ.

(1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinners. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; II Corinthians 5:19-21; Philippians 2:5-8)

(2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the Cross of Calvary as a vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Jesus Christ is the ONE and ONLY WAY by which we can be saved from our sins. (Acts 2:18-36, 4:12; Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 1:3-5, 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; John 14:6)

(3) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Mediator, Intercessor and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25, 9:24; I John 2:1-2)

Section 4: The Holy Spirit.

(1) We Believe the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts and convinces people of their sins, of what is right, and that a final day of judgment will come. He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, and indwelling each believer at the time of conversion. (John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:13-14)

(2) We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers in understanding the Scriptures and leads them into the truth of God's Word. It is the privilege and duty of every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:17-18, 5:18; I John 2:20, 27)

(3) We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip believers in the church in

order for them to do the work of the ministry. (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; Ephesians 4:7-12)

(4) Although the gift of speaking in tongues was bestowed on some believers in the New Testament, not all believers spoke in tongues. We believe that the speaking in tongues as a visible sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an erroneous doctrine. Any implication of a "second work of grace" will not be tolerated. Concerning the gift of healing, we believe that the ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness and death will come in our resurrection to eternal life, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (Acts 2:1-11; I Corinthians 12:4-11, 13:8, 14:1-40)

Section 5: The Total Depravity of Mankind.

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell from its perfect state, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. We believe that mankind is totally depraved, and is, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-19)

Section 6: Salvation.

We believe that salvation is the gift of God to man by grace (undeserved, unmerited favor), and is made possible through the sacrificial death of Christ, who shed His precious blood on the Cross of Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The conditions for salvation are:

(1) *Repentance of sin.* Repentance is absolutely necessary in order for us to be forgiven of our sins. (Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 2:38)

(2) *Faith in Christ.* We must believe in the work of Christ on the Cross, and love and obey Him as our Lord and Savior. We are saved by faith alone, not by any works that we may do ourselves. (Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; I Peter 1:3-9, 18-19)

(3) *Continuance in faith and obedience unto death.* After being saved by faith, we must continue to live by faith and be obedient to God until death, after which we will receive the goal of our faith – the salvation of our souls. (John 8:31; Acts 14:22; Colossians 1:23; I Peter 1:5, 9)

Section 7: Assurance of Salvation.

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that everyone who has been saved can, and should, have full assurance of salvation. This assurance is based on the promise of God that He will save anyone who will call upon Him and ask Him for salvation. God wants us to know that, without a doubt, we are saved! (John 1:12, 3:16-18, 5:24; Romans 10:13; I John 5:12-13)

Section 8: Freedom of the Will.

We believe that the human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Holy Spirit, or to resist them and perish. This free will continues to be in effect even after we have been saved; we still have the *choice* as to how we will live our lives. (Romans 10:13; Colossians 1:23; Hebrews 10:26-29)

Section 9: Perseverance of the Saints.

We believe that all believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

(1) We believe that salvation is a present possession by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and that a person's eternal destiny depends on whether he has this possession. This we hold in distinction from those who teach that salvation depends on human works or merit.

(2) We believe that any individual living in the continual practice of sin (whether called a "backslider" or "sinner") must be judged by that evidence to be lost, should that person die in his sins. This we hold in distinction from those who suggest in any way that a person may live in sin as he pleases and still claim heaven as his eternal home.

(3) We believe that any regenerate (saved) person who has sinned (again, whether called a "backslider" or "sinner"), and in whose heart a desire arises to repent, may do so, and be restored to favor and fellowship with God.

(4) We believe that a saved individual may, in freedom of will, cease to trust in Christ for salvation and commit the sin of apostasy. This we hold in distinction from those who teach the doctrine of unconditional eternal security. (II Chronicles 15:2; Ezekiel 33:18; John 15:6; I Corinthians 10:12; I Timothy 1:18-19; Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-29; II Peter 1:10; 2:20-21)

Section 10: The Church.

(1) We believe that the local church, which is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is made up of born-again believers. (John 3:7; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27)

(2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

(3) We believe in the autonomy (self-governing) of the local church free from any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; I Corinthians 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13; I Peter 5:1-4)

(4) We believe that the God's Church is made up of the whole body of born-again believers throughout the whole world, and all are members of the body of Christ. (Acts 2:41, 8:12, 14:27, 15:8-9; Romans 2:11)

Section 11: Separation.

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate themselves from all religious apostasy, from all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations, and to refrain from all immodest appearances. (Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11)

Section 12: Gospel Ordinances.

We believe the Bible teaches three ordinances for the church to practice: (1) *Baptism* in water by immersion, (2) the *Lord's Supper*, to be perpetuated until His return, and (3) the *Washing of the Saints' Feet*, an ordinance teaching humility. (Matthew 3:16, 26:26-28, 28:19-20; John 13:1-15; Acts 2:41, 8:36-39, 16:32-34; I Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12)

Section 13: The Second Coming of Christ.

We believe the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ, who ascended on high after His bodily resurrection, who now sits at the right hand of God, will come again in bodily form to

close the Gospel Age, glorify His saints, and judge the world. (Matthew 24:42-44, 25:31; Acts 1:11; I Corinthians 15:24-28; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; II Peter 3:3-13)

Section 14: The Eternal State.

(1) We believe that, as a result of sin, all humanity is subject to the death of the body.

(Romans 5:12, 6:23; I Corinthians 15:22; Hebrews 9:27)

(2) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:22-23, 42-44; Philippians 3:21)

(3) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when they, with spirit, soul and body reunited, shall stand before the Lord in judgment, and receive their eternal reward in heaven. (Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8, 10; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:14-17; I Corinthians 15:50-58)

(4) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when they, with spirit, soul and body reunited, shall stand before God in judgment, and be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matthew 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15)

Section 15: Creation.

We believe that God created the universe in *six literal, 24-hour days*. We reject Evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, Theistic Evolution, etc., as unscriptural theories of origin. (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11)

Section 16: Missions.

We believe God has given the Church the Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means, at home and to the uttermost parts of the earth, to take the Gospel to the lost and dying of this world. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8)

Section 17: Giving.

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the *tithe* (a tenth) as a basis for giving in support of the local church, but that every Christian should also give other *offerings* sacrificially and cheerfully to the relief of those in need, and to the spread of the Gospel, etc. Unless the offering is designated when given (to building fund, missions, a specific project, etc.), we believe that a Christian relinquishes all individual rights to the church body to direct the use of the offering. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:8-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; I Timothy 5:17-18; I John 3:17)

Section 18: Civil Government.

(1) We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home; (2) the church; and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and

governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14)

(2) We believe that the Church should respect and uphold the laws of the land. Therefore, it is the policy of this Church to fully abide with the stated laws, UNLESS those laws are in direct conflict with Biblical commands and principles. (Romans 13:1-7)

Section 19: Love.

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-10, 17-21, 13:8-10; Philippians 2:2-4; II Timothy 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; I John 3:17-18)

Section 20: Lawsuits Between Believers.

We believe that Christians are admonished by the Word of God not to bring civil lawsuits against other Christians, or the Church, in order to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32)

Section 21: Family Relationships.

(1) We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual function for men and women in the home and in the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; I Timothy 2:8-15, 3:2-5, 12)

(2) We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the Church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; I Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33, 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; Hebrews 13:4; I Peter 3:1-7)

(3) We believe that God hates divorce, and intends marriage to last until the death of a spouse. Divorce and remarriage is permitted only on the grounds of fornication, or the desertion of a believing spouse by an unbelieving spouse. Although divorced persons, and divorced and remarried persons, may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of

pastor or deacon. (Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Corinthians 7:10-15; I Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

Section 22: Human Sexuality.

(1) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, pornography, etc., are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

(Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13, 32-36, 26:8-9; Exodus 22:19; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; Galatians 5:19-21; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

(2) We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10, Ephesians 5:22-23)

(3) We believe that each individual on church property, or attending any and all services on church property, should conduct themselves in a Biblically appropriate manner in regards to intimate physical contact (I Corinthians 6:9-10, 19-20; 7:1-5; Galatians 5:16-21). Moreover, if any individuals display inappropriate intimate physical contact on church property or in any services, those individuals shall be asked to immediately cease and/or leave the property. Upon refusal to cease and/or leave, and as a last resort, Law Enforcement could be called and/or reasonable force by Church Security could be used to remove dissidents ("dissident" – a person who opposes or who is in opposition to official church policy).

Section 23: Abortion.

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We *reject* any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

Section 24: Satan and the Occult.

We believe that Satan is a person, a spirit being, who is referred to in Scripture as the Devil, Satan, and Lucifer, as well as other names and titles. He is the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Genesis 3:1-7; Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; John 12:31; II Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:10, 20:10) We believe that *all* forms of the occult – witchcraft, sorcery, séances, voodoo, black magic, white magic, fortune-telling, psychics, astrology, charms, etc., and games that draw upon the powers of darkness (board games, video games, etc.) – all are of the Devil, and are condemned in God's Word. (Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 19:26; Deuteronomy 18:10-12; II Kings 17:17, 21:6; Micah 5:12; Acts 8:10-12, 19:19; Revelation 21:8, 22:15)

Section 25: Gambling.

We believe that *all* forms of gambling – lotteries, bingo, casinos, betting on horses, dogs, ball games, cards, etc., – all are sinful forms of amusements, and should be avoided by

Christians. Gambling is immoral in that it exploits people and their desire and/or need for money. It is fueled by greed, and seeks to take advantage of others. Gambling is destructive, deceptive, addictive, and a door to other vices. These "games of chance" are not in accord with God's established plan of order, and they are poor stewardship of God's blessings. (Exodus 20:3; Proverbs 1:19, 15:27, 21:25-26; Matthew 6:24; Romans 8:28, 13:8; I Corinthians 4:2; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 1:16-17, 3:17-19; I Thessalonians 4:11-12; I Timothy 6:9)

Section 26: Alcohol.

(1) We believe that the Bible always condemns the sin of drunkenness! (Deuteronomy 21:20-21; Proverbs 20:1, 23:31-32; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21)

(2) We believe that although the Bible does make allowance for the use of wine/alcohol (Deuteronomy 14:26; I Timothy 3:3, 8, 5:23; Ephesians 5:18), and that although Jesus spoke of wine, and turned water into wine (Luke 5:37-38, 7:33-34; John 2; Acts 2:13, 15), that in light of the addictive properties of alcohol today, and the problems resulting in homes and in society from the use of alcohol, we believe in and teach abstinence from alcohol for the following reasons:

(a) We believe that we ourselves are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, not by alcohol. If we are under the influence of alcohol, the Holy Spirit cannot be in control of our lives. Therefore, we believe in abstinence from alcohol. (Ephesians 5:18)

(b) We believe that we are to have a positive Christian influence on the lives of others, and that we are to do nothing to hurt others or lead them astray. Therefore, out of love for others, and for the sake of our Christian testimony, we believe in abstinence from alcohol. (Romans 14:21)

Section 27: Drugs.

We believe that the use of illegal drugs and/or the abuse of prescription drugs are sins before God. We believe that we are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and His influence, *not* controlled by drugs and their influence. We believe that we are to have a positive Christian testimony before others, and that we are to do *nothing* to hurt others or cause them to stumble. We also believe that drug abuse/addiction has detrimental effects in our homes and in our society today, and is to be avoided by God's people. (Ephesians 5:18; Romans 14:21)

Section 28: Authority of Statement of Faith.

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.