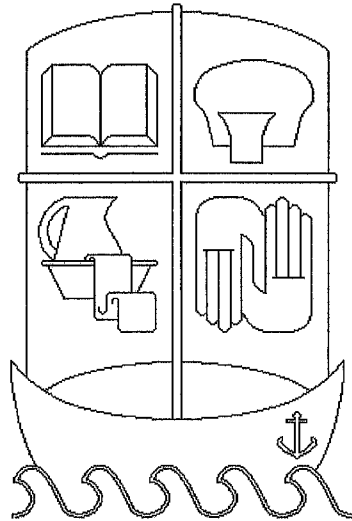


LITTLE RIVER ASSOCIATION of FREE WILL BAPTISTS, INC.



Minutes of the 116th Annual Session

When convened at
Corinth FWB Church
Brookfield, Georgia
Saturday, January 20, 2024

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:
2023 Minutes, Statistical Report, & Obituary Report;
2024 Officers, Board & Committee Members;
2024 Directory of Churches, Pastors & Clerks.

2024 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:

Mission:		Camp:	
Rev. Nick Johnson	2025	Rev. Edward Mathews	2027
Trustee:		C.E.:	
Rev. Larry Johnson	2025	Rev. Shane Suggs	2027

2024 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
Jeggs6@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

2024 Church Directory

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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.

2023 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	\$ 1.3 million
Number of Ordained Ministers.....	14
Number of Licensed Ministers.....	4
Number of Ordained Deacons	26
Total Combined Membership of all Churches	733
Total Number of Baptisms.....	23
Total Members Added	28
Total Members Lost.....	15
Total Combined Sunday School Enrollment	375
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>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 – 1/15 Zion Hill – 7/29	<u>2029</u> Homerville – 1/20 Corinth – 7/28

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.

2023 Obituary Report

Devin Estes

October 2023

Member of the Awaken FWB Church in Tifton, GA

Joe Roberts

January 2, 1938 – August 2, 2023

Member of the Cool Springs FWB Church in Norman Park, GA

Sis. Karen (Kay) Hicks Ogletree

January 11, 1956 – March 5, 2022

Member of the Corinth FWB Church in Brookfield, GA

Sis. Latrelle Barksdale

August 28, 1935 – June 7, 2023

Member of the Corinth FWB Church in Brookfield, GA

Mr. Earl R. Blanchard

January 22, 1937 – December 26, 2023

Member of the Corinth FWB Church in Brookfield, GA

Rosie Stone

January 12, 1939 – February 10, 2023

Member of the Sunnyside FWB Church in Kirkland, GA

Curtis Roberson

November 28, 1937 – July 23, 2023

Member of the Sunnyside FWB Church in Kirkland, GA

Little River Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

Annual Session: Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9:30 am

Host Church: Corinth FWB Church
3216 Chula-Brookfield Rd
Tifton, GA 31794

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**
- ❖ **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**
 -
 -
- ❖ **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:

Ozias FWB Church, Pearson, GA, Saturday, July 27, 2024, 9:30 am

Little River Association of Free Will Baptists

Minutes of the Annual Session

Convening at: Corinth FWB Church, Brookfield

Date: January 20, 2024, 9:30 am

PRELIMINARIES:

- Host Pastor Marshall Kennedy welcomed the Association, followed by the congregation singing, "To God Be the Glory", and Evan Goforth leading in an opening prayer.
- Moderator Josh Bennett called the meeting to order and read a Scripture selection from Acts 2:41-47.
- The Clerk gave the Credentials Report as follows: 10 churches reported with 5 pastors, 2 other ministers, 3 deacons, and 9 delegates present. All elected delegates were seated by a vote from the standing delegates. The total voting delegation was 19.
- 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 Ordaining Council:

- Awaken Church has requested that licensed ministry Caleb Franks be examined for ordination by the LRA as a Minister of the Gospel.

Camp Boards:

- Josh Bennett reported that a 2024 GAFWB Teen Camp would be held at Copper Hill, TN on May 28 through June 1. Early registration is \$225/camper and \$275/camper after that.
- Nick Johnson reported that the LRA would be joining with several other district associations for 2024 Junior Camp on June 24-27 at Lake Seminole State Park. Registration is \$100/camper.
 - A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the LRA donate \$500 to the Junior Camp Canteen Fund.

Mission Boards:

- Josh Bennett & Shane Suggs gave updates on Awaken Church. They had 15 baptisms in 2023 and a 41% growth in attendance.

Christian Education Boards:

- Shane Suggs reported on Welch College scholarships and upcoming youth competition schedules.

Clerk Keith Lloyd gave information regarding the upcoming GAFWB Annual Session and the election of a new Executive Secretary to replace William Smith, who submitted his retirement notice with an effective date of July 31, 2024.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made to appoint Shane Suggs to another term on the GAFWB CE Board and Edward Mathews to another term on the GAFWB Camp Board. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Josh Bennett presented a proposal for handling Camp Scholarships from the interest earnings of the CELF investment, which includes the following:
 - Requests for scholarships must be made prior to 5/15/2025;
 - Requests must be made through an eligible LRA church;
 - Camps must be sponsored by FWB entities/ministries;
 - Scholarship amounts will be calculated based on 80% of the available interest and the number of requests, retaining 20% of the interest until the investment grows to \$100,000;
 - Students from churches who opted to receive their share of the Camp Little River sale proceeds instead of investing them will not be eligible for scholarships;
 - Scholarships will be offered for camping programs only;
 - Scholarship applications and awards will be overseen by the LRA Camp Board members.
 - A motion was made, seconded, and carried to receive a special offering at the next Annual Session for the Camp Scholarship fund, in an effort to reach the \$100k mark.

LRA Finance Committee:

- A partial report from the Finance Committee was given. The complete report is as follows: *Balance Brought Forward* - \$4,182.83; *Total Receipts* - \$2,910.00; *Balance on Hand* - \$7,092.83. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to receive this report.

Clerk Keith Lloyd read the Annual Obituary Report and, after a moment of silence in honor of the deceased, Ronnie Lieupo led in prayer.

After announcements, a rising vote of thanks was given to the Homerville Church for hosting the Association and a motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the business session. The Association recessed briefly to enjoy refreshments provided by the host church. Edward Mathews closed in prayer.

MORNING WORSHIP SESSION:

- The congregation sang, "Victory In Jesus", which was followed by special music from Wanda Cofield. Rev. Marshall Kennedy, pastor of the Corinth Church, shared a message from Matthew 20:15 with a personal testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Lloyd, Clerk

Little River Association Treasurer's Report

Reporting Period: July 29, 2023 thru December 31, 2023

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balances</u>
<u>General Fund:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 4,494.55
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	450.00		
Expenditures:			
MODERATOR HONORARIUM		(30.00)	
CLERK HONORARIUM		(100.00)	
Bank Service Charge (\$4/month, May-December)		(32.00)	
Transfer to Camp Fund		(4,500.00)	
Balance on Hand:			\$ 282.55
<u>LRA Mission Board:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 4,299.84
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	450.00		
OFFERING (from individuals)	25.00		
Expenditures:			
		(0.00)	
Balance on Hand:			\$ 4,774.84
<u>LRA Camp Board:</u>			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 79,889.44
Income:			
LRA BI-ANNUAL DUES	450.00		
OFFERING (from individuals)	25.00		
Transfer from General Fund	4,500.00		
Expenditures:			
Church Mutual (Final Insurance payment)		(239.00)	
Union Association (Junior Camp Canteen)		(500.00)	
Church Extension Loan Fund Investment		(85,000.00)	
Balance on Hand			\$ (874.56)
Total Balance on Hand (12/31/23):			\$ 4,182.83

Little River Association

Finance Committee Report

Meeting at: Corinth FWB Church, Brookfield
Date: January 20, 2024

Church Name:	Association Fees:	Association Ministries:	NAFWB Rep Fees:
Awaken	\$ 150.00		\$ 175.00
Cool Springs	50.00		175.00
Corinth	42.00		175.00
Forest Hill	50.00		175.00
Friendship			
Hahira First	20.00		175.00
Homerville	168.00		175.00
Open Door Fellowship	44.00		175.00
Ozias	72.00		175.00
Sunnyside	76.00		175.00
<u>Zion Hill</u>	<u>488.00</u>		<u>175.00</u>
Totals	\$ 1,160.00		\$ 1,750.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM THIS SESSION:

Association Fees Total:	\$ 1,160.00
Association Ministries Total:	0.00
<u>NAFWB Rep Fees Total:</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>
Total Receipts:	\$ 2,910.00
<u>Balance Brought Forward:</u>	<u>4,182.83</u>
Balance On Hand to Date:	\$ 7,092.83

Finance Committee: Keith Lloyd, Clerk

Little River Association

Credentials Report

Meeting at: Corinth FWB Church, Brookfield
Date: January 20, 2024

Church Name	Reporting (Yes/No)	Pastor Present	Other Ministers	Deacons Present	Delegates Present	Total Voting Delegation
Awaken	Yes	Yes	1			2
Cool Springs	Yes	Yes				1
Corinth	Yes	Yes		1	3	5
Forest Hill	Yes	Yes			1	2
Friendship						
Hahira 1 st	Yes				1	1
Homerville	Yes			1	1	2
Open Door Fellowship	Yes			1	3	4
Ozias	Yes					
Sunnyside	Yes					
Zion Hill	Yes	Yes	1			2
Totals	10	5	2	3	9	19

Credentials Chairperson: Keith Lloyd, Clerk