

MINUTES

OF THE
64TH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE
MARTIN FREEWILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

HELD AT
MOTHER'S HOME CHURCH
COLQUITT, MILLER COUNTY, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 20TH AND 21ST, 1950



OFFICERS

REV. H. L. CATRETT, Moderator Colquitt, Ga.
W. E. LANT, Secretary-Treasurer Iron City, Ga.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. H. ELLIS Colquitt, Ga.
G. W. CHAMBERS Colquitt, Ga.
T. I. CRAWFORD Colquitt, Ga.
H. E. WILLIAMS Donaldsonville, La.
W. J. SELLERS Newton, Ga.
C. ROBERTS, Exordius Iron City, Ga.
W. W. COBBELL, Exordius Iron City, Ga.

Next Session to convene at New Salem Church, Colquitt, Miller
County, Georgia, on Friday and Saturday before the 6th Sunday
in October, 1951. Rev. J. E. Wilham to preach introductory
sermon. Rev. Edward Sheffield, Alternate.

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W. J. HILBURN Newton, Ga.
J. C. ROBERTS, Emeritus Iron City, Ga.
F. W. CORDELL, Emeritus Iron City, Ga.

Next Session to Convene at New Salem Church, Colquitt, Miller County, Georgia, on Friday and Saturday Before The 4th Sunday in October, 1951. Rev. J. E. Wisham to Preach Introductory Sermon. Rev. Edward Sheffield, Alternate.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Chairman (2 years) ----- Rev. A. B. Ard, Emeritus
 Rev. L. D. Scott (3 years) ----- Rev. Drew Floyd (1 year)

MISSION BOARD

O. F. Everson ----- Mrs. Inez Brunson ----- R. R. Williams

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

W. H. Ellis ----- C. T. Turner ----- W. J. Hilburn

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

T. L. Crawford ----- Billie Wilson
 R. T. Middleton ----- W. C. Ivey

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Rev. H. L. Catrett ----- Mrs. Gladys Chapman ----- Mrs. Drew Floyd

PROMOTIONAL BOARD

T. I. Crawford (3 years) ----- W. R. Barber (2 years)
 Mrs. R. R. Williams (1 year)

DISBURSEMENT COMMITTEE

O. F. Everson (3 years) ----- W. R. Barber (2 years)
 Mrs. Drew Floyd (1 year)

ORDAINED MINISTERS

J. E. Wisham, Jr. ----- Camilla, Ga.
 B. W. Clenny ----- Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.
 W. H. Edwards ----- Punta Gorda, Fla.
 E. M. Brockett ----- Iron City, Ga.
 W. H. Horn ----- Rt. 2, Donalsonville, Ga.
 A. B. Ard ----- Bainbridge, Ga.
 A. J. Tomlinson ----- Climax, Ga.
 H. L. Catrett ----- Colquitt, Ga.
 W. K. Wilson ----- Unknown
 D. Floyd ----- Colquitt, Ga.
 L. D. Scott ----- Brinson, Ga.
 Tom Henry ----- Colquitt, Ga.
 C. A. Gilbert ----- Darr Homes, Albany, Ga.
 C. C. Cato ----- Colquitt, Ga.
 F. W. Sellers ----- Rt. 3, Box 22, Bainbridge, Ga.
 W. A. Addison ----- Rt. 1, Brinson, Ga.
 R. W. Holmes ----- Rt. 2, Camilla, Ga.

LICENSED MINISTERS

Della McAlpin ----- Snead, Fla.
 Lewis Batchelor ----- Dolansville, Ga.
 C. P. Rump ----- Camilla, Ga.
 Mrs. Jessie Wisham ----- Whigham, Ga.
 L. L. Lowe ----- Rt. 2, Colquitt, Ga.
 Edward Sheffield ----- Donalsonville, Ga.
 Grady Weathers ----- Donalsonville, Ga.
 George West ----- Rt. 3, Camilla, Ga.

PROCEEDINGS

The 64th Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association convened with Mothers Home Church, Colquitt, Miller County, Georgia, on Friday, October 20, 1950.

After song service and prayer, the session was opened with devotional led by Rev. L. D. Scott, subject taken from John 3:16

Welcome Address by Bro. T. I. Crawford.

Response by Sister Minnie Boyd.

Appointed Credential Committee as follows: D. J. Roland, C. T. Turner, B. O. Brunson.

Moderator's Message by Rev. B. W. Clenny. Subject: "God and Man Working Together," Isaiah 6:5-8.

11:00 Sermon by Rev. Drew Floyd. "Subject: "Why Sit We Here Until We Die," II Kings 7:3.

Dismissed for noon hour by Rev. H. L. Catrett.

Reassembled at 1:30, and devotional by Rev. Edward Sheffield. Subject taken from Matthew 24:7-13.

Report of Credential Committee: 20 churches representing, with a total of \$364.00. Said report received, and delegates seated.

Mrs. Maurice Swanner and Clifton Powell were appointed to read the letters which were as follows:

Corinth: Mrs. C. A. Lane and Jeff Dawson.

Friendship: Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Norris.

New Salem: Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Barber, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Long, Eugene Barber, J. T. Roland, Mrs. W. R. Davis

New Home No. 1: Mrs. Ruby Sheffield, John West, R. T. Middleton.

Springfield: T. J. Hill, Bob Helms, C. F. Helms.

Bellview: Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Brunson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Brown, Mrs. J. C. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mason, Mrs. Doris Grant.

Hammock Springs: W. C. Ivey, Robert Deese, B. Jones, Mrs. Z. R. Jones.

Thompson: Billie Wilson, Clifton Powell, W. T. Tabb, Eugene Middleton, Henry Miller.

New Home No. 2: Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Knight, Wilma Day, Mrs. Edd Avery.

Hebrew: Mrs. Claude Johnson, Mrs. Edd Hill, Miss Jean Shelly, Miss Voleta Harp.

Mothers Home: J. B. Adams, T. I. Crawford, W. F. Kirksey, Dock Gibson.

Mt. Gilead: Fred Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wilson, Mrs. Minnie Boyd.

Highway: Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Mills.

Pilgrim Home: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hilburn, Mrs. Gussie Touchton, H. E. McNeal.

Mt. Glory: Riley Taylor, Ethel Newberry, Elmer Newberry.
Cool Springs: Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Blount.

Fathers Home: D. J. Shivers, Ellis Wisham, Alton Holton.

Colquitt: Mrs. Ada Lee Phillips, Mrs. Trellis Grimes, Mrs. Lucy Tully.

Polar Branch: By letter.

Evergreen: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Holt, Laura Barnett.

Call for petitionary letters. None.

Called for correspondence from other associations:

From the Midway Association, Rev. E. C. Williams, Rev. and Mrs. C. J. Harvey, Rev. J. B. Lovering, Rev. J. L. Tedder, Alvin Day.

Next session to convene with New Enterprise Church, three miles southeast of Iron City, Georgia, on November 1st and 2nd, 1951.

From the State Line Association of Alabama: O. Z. Henderson, H. H. Drinkwater, Hughie Knight, Rev. W. P. Merritt; next session to convene near Black, Alabama, Thursday and Friday before 2nd Sunday in October, 1951.

From Salem Association of Florida: Rev. and Mrs. I. O. Cook; next session to convene at Malone, Florida, Friday and Saturday before 1st Sunday in October, 1951.

From Union Association; Rev. A. L. Sellers, Rev. K. V. Shutes, Rev. Willie Sellers.

Moved and carried that the moderator give all correspondents the right hand of Christian fellowship.

Called for reports of all boards and standing committees. (See reports.)

APPOINT COMMITTEES

Appointed committees as follows:

Arrangements Committee: Pastor and deacons of Mother Home Church.

Committee on Sabbath Schools: Mrs. W. E. Lane, Mrs. W. R. Davis, Mrs. P. I. Kirkland, C. T. Turner.

Committee on Sabbath Observance: Mrs. Ada Lee Phillips, W. F. Norris, Mrs. Jo Powell.

Committee on Resolutions: Rev. D. Floyd, W. R. Barber, W. J. Hilburn.

Committee on Nominations: R. T. Middleton, Mrs. W. R. Barber, Mrs. Mary Brown, Mrs. Ellis Stewart.

Committee on Obituaries: Rev. L. D. Scott, Rev. W. H. Horn, Rev. Edward Sheffield.

Committee on Temperance: Mrs. Ruby Sheffield, Mrs. C. A. Lane, Mrs. Bill Mason, Rev. L. L. Lowe, Clifton Powell.

Committee on Suggestions: G. O. Mills, T. C. Cox, R. R. Williams.

Report of Ladies Auxiliary by Mrs. Ellis Stewart.

Rev. C. J. Harvey made a talk on Mt. Bethel, the State Youth Camp, near Ashburn, Georgia. An offering of \$39.86 was taken for the camp.

The Friday evening service at 7:30 was sponsored by the Promotional Board. Mrs. R. R. Williams, Secretary of the Board, brought the message, and the Silver Tone Quartet furnished the music. All was very educational and inspiring.

An offering was made of \$24.07 for promotional work.

SATURAY A. M. SESSION

The Saturday morning devotional was led by Rev. F. W. Sellers.

Renewed call for correspondence. Received Rev. Hardin Pearson from the East Liberty Association, Lanett, Alabama.

Called roll of ministers.

Received Ministerial Reports from H. L. Gatrett, W. A. Addison, B. W. Clenney, W. H. Horn, L. D. Scott, and F. W. Sellers.

11:00 sermon by Rev. I. O. Cook. Text: "Awake Thou That Sleepeth Arise from the Dead and Christ shall Give Thee Light, Ephesians 5:14.

SATURDAY P. M. SESSION

Afternoon devotional by Rev. J. B. Lovering. Subject: Luke 29:49.

Resumed business.

Appointed delegates to corresponding associations as follows:

State Line Association of Alabama: Rev. B. W. Clenney.

Salem Association of Florida: Rev. H. L. Catrett, C. F. Helms.

Union Association: Rev. D. Floyd, Rev. B. W. Clenney.

Chattahoochee Association: W. R. Barber.

Georgia Union Association: Rev. H. L. Catrett.

Midway Association: Rev. L. D. Scott, G. O. Mills.

State Association: R. T. Middleton, T. I. Crawford, W. E. Lane.

Clerk was authorized to have 500 minutes printed.

Bro. W. R. Barber was appointed as field worker for Mt. Bethel Youth Encampment.

Rev. H. L. Catrett was elected as Moderator.

W. E. Lane was elected as Secretary and Treasurer.

The body extended a rising vote of thanks to Mothers Home Church and community for their kindness and hospitality during this session of association.

Adjourned to meet with New Salem Church, four miles west of Colquitt, on Friday and Saturday before 4th Sunday in October, 1951.

REV. B. W. CLENNEY, Moderator,
W. E. LANE, Secy.-Treas.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Executive—oral report.

Disbursement Committee:

We suggest the following disbursements:

Moderator	\$10.00
Secretary-Treasurer	15.00
State Association	10.00
National Association	5.00
For Minutes and emergencies	110.00
Balance be pro-rated as follows:	
Promotional State Secretary	25%
Local Superannuation Board	35%
Christian Education Board	35%
F.W.B. Orphanage, Eldridge, Alabama	5%

Respectfully,
MRS. D. FLOYD,
W. R. BARBER,
O. F. EVERSON.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bal. on hand from 1949	\$ 15.12
Received from Credential Committee	364.00
Total	\$379.12
Disbursements:	
Promotional State Secretary	57.28
Local Superannuation Board	80.19
Christian Education Board	80.19
F.W.B. Orphanage, Eldridge, Alabama	11.46
Secretary-Treasurer	15.00
Moderator	10.00
State and National dues	15.00
Minutes	
Balance in Treasurer	

PROMOTIONAL EDUCATION BOARD

We, the members of your Promotional Board, very grievously state that we have not been able to accomplish what we had hoped to this year, as we have not received the cooperation needed. Without cooperation on your part, and some financial aid, we cannot achieve advancement. We have a broad field of opportunity for promotional work before us. Can we not hear that still small voice saying, "The fields are white and ready for harvest", will you not go and work for me today? Let us be up and doing. "The night cometh when no man can work." Our hearts and our minds should be centered on our youth. To promote is to advance, to advance is to grow, to progress, to expand, to go forward. The challenge faces us today, what will we do about it? Are we willing to put forth an effort and cooperate in true christian love and fellowship of service together? We need to advance with Christ, through our Sunday Schools, Auxiliary, League, and in every phase of work to reach our youth, for they will be our church of tomorrow. The Promotional Board suggests that each church hold a week's youth revival the week before the regular summer revival.

We feel that each church should sponsor a Daily Vacation Bible School.

As a denomination we have largely failed along these lines in the past, but there is no reason to continue to fail. Why should we sit idly and let other denominations do things for our youth that we refuse to do ourselves?

As no funds have been appropriated, or turned over to the Promotional Board we are still \$30.00 short from last year.

W. R. BARBER, Chairman,
MRS. R. R. WILLIAMS, Sec.-Treas.

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

We have investigated most all the churches and ministers, and we find all our churches and most all of our ministers in good standing.

We recommend that all ministers stay away from beer joints and other worldly places.

We also recommend that Edward Sheffield be ordained.

R. T. MIDDLETON,
MRS. D. J. ROLAND,
J. W. DANIELS.

SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE

Brought forward	\$18.45
Received from Sec.-Treas.	82.37
Received from Sec.-Treas.	20.00
Received from Union Meeting	\$30.24
Received from Union Meeting	28.00
Received from Union Meeting	31.70
Received from Union Meeting	33.50
Total	\$244.26
Disbursements:	
Rev. A. J. Tomlinson	\$61.00
Mrs. F. A. Norris	61.00
Mrs. D. R. Braswell	61.00
State Superannuation Board	61.00
Total	\$244.00
Balance in Treasury	\$ 0.26

W. H. ELLIS, Chairman.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

1. That each church not having a Sunday School and/or League endeavor to organize one.
2. Resolve that a new Ordaining Council be formed of three to serve one, two, and three years, respectively.
3. Resolve that a rising vote of thanks be extended to Mothers Home Church and community for their splendid hospitality shown during this session.

DREW FLOYD,
W. R. BARBER.

SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

We suggest that the deacons be entitled to seats in this association the same as ministers.

T. C. COX,
G. O. MILLS,
R. R. WILLIAMS.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE

We, the committee on Sabbath Observance, submit as follows: That each church should have a Sunday School and League, and other services that would glorify God and keep His day holy, for God said, "Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it Holy". We believe that it should be kept holy.

JO POWELL,
ADA LEE PHILLIPS,
W. F. NORRIS.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

We ask that the next association convene with New Salem Church on Friday and Saturday before 4th Sunday in October, 1951, Rev. J. E. Wisham, Jr., to preach the introductory sermon, with Rev. Edward Sheffield his alternate.

We recommend Rev. H. L. Catrett Moderator and Bro. W. E. Lane Secretary and Treasurer.

R. T. MIDDLETON.
MRS. MARY BROWN,
MRS. ELLIS STEWART,
MRS. W. R. BARBER.

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Sunday School must stand in America's first line of defense to protect and teach many neglected boys and girls who are engaged in criminal activities. The tragedy of America is that those who believe that the Bible lies as the very foundation of national stability have so woefully neglected to teach it in the home and church. Every church should be fortified with a good Sunday School. Every home should be garrisoned with teaching parents.

MRS. W. E. LANE,
MRS. P. I. KIRKLAND,
MRS. W. R. DAVIS,
C. T. TURNER.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We urge that each member of our church be temperate in all things. Wine and strong drink is a great robber of health, wealth, and virtue. We should earnestly pray that all our church members be temperate always.

MRS. RUBY SHEFFIELD,
MRS. C. A. LANE,
MRS. BILL MASON,
REV. L. L. LOWE,
CLIFTON POWELL.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

We regret very much to learn that since our last association 12 of our beloved members have been claimed by death. They are as follows:

Sister Lucy Day	-----	New Home No. 2
Sister W. R. Calhoun	-----	Bellview
Sister Lizzie Donley	-----	Bellview
Bro. W. T. Brown	-----	Bellview
Bro. Hilton Haire	-----	Bellview
Sister Kate Spooner	-----	Cool Springs
Bro. W. H. Dunn	-----	Mother Home
Sister Gerlean Rannels	-----	Colquitt
Bro. J. W. Swanner	-----	Corinth
Sister Glenn Martin	-----	Corinth

EDWARD SHEFFIELD,
L. D. SCOTT,
W. H. HORN.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organize.
2. Call for letters from various churches.
3. Call for correspondence from sister associations.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Appoint committees.
7. Roll call and read decorum.
8. Appoint correspondents to sister associations.
9. Call for report of committees.
10. Elect Officers for next session.
11. Appoint time and place for next session.
12. Adjournment.

DOCTRINAL VIEWS

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a treasure of Heavenly instruction that has a God for its author, salvation for its end and truth without mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore, it shall remain with us to the end of time, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard to which all human conduct and opinion should conform.

2. That there is but one true God, whose name is Jehovah the maker and ruler of Heaven and earth, inexpressively glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed in the personal distinction of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. That man was created in a state of holiness under the laws of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and their sinful passions and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4. That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediation of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature; yet without sin honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for sin by His death; being risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven and uniting in His Wonderful person the tender sympathies with divine perfection, in every way qualified to be a suitable compassionate and all sufficient Savior.

5. That the great gospel blessings which Christ of His fullness bestows on such as believe on Him is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life upon principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of anything which we have done, but solely through His own righteousness and atonement, and that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God.

6. That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to receive them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ which results will subject him to aggravated condemnation.

7. That in order to be saved we must be regenerated or born again. That regeneration consists of giving a holy disposition to the

mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit producing a voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruits which we bring forth to God.

8. That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners. That being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all means with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. That the preserving attachment of true believers to Christ the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. That the law of God is the eternal, unchangeable rule of His government; that it is holy, just and good, that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfill the precepts arise entirely from their love of sin to deliver them from which and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy law is one design of the Gospel and the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

11. That the first day of the week is the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath; that it should be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation by the direct observance of all means of grace, both public and private, and prepare for the rest which remains for the people of God.

12. That civil government is of divine appointment for the interest of order of human society; that the magistrates are to be prayed for conscientiously; honored and obeyed in all things not contrary to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

13. That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and wicked, and that such only are justified by faith in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and is sanctified by the spirit of God as are truly righteous in His esteem while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are, in His sight, wicked and under the curse and this distinction holds good among men, both in and after death.

14. That the end of this world is approaching when Christ will

descend from the Heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution, that solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and his judgment will forever fix the final state of men in Heaven or Hell on principles of righteousness.—John 5:25; Matt. 25:31; 41:46.

ASSOCIATIONAL DECORUM

1. This Association shall be called to order by the former moderator, who presided at the last session, if present; if not present, then the clerk, if he should be absent, then by some other brother.

2. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3. The moderator and clerk of the preceeding session shall officiate until the body is organized by electing a moderator and clerk in any way the body may direct.

4. It shall be the duty of the moderator to call the meeting to order, to see that order is preserved, receive and submit all questions to the body. He shall have the privilege of speaking but must call upon some other brother to preside in his place while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless the body is equally divided, when he may cast the deciding vote.

5. The members present shall be enrolled and their names called as often as necessary.

6. The majority of the members present shall rule in cases, except upon admission of new churches, which shall require a unanimous vote.

7. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the moderator, and no member shall leave the association without the consent of the body.

8. All business shall be brought before the body by a move and second and shall be disposed of according to good usage.

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than three times on the same subject nor more than fifteen minutes each time without permission from the body.

10. No person shall be disturbed while speaking unless he departs from the subject and it will be necessary to call him to order.

11. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the moderator and must not use abusive language or personal reflection on any one without being subject to a call to order by the moderator.

12. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a minute of the proceedings and read the same when called upon, to be corrected at the discretion of the body, and shall prepare the minutes for publication, unless the association shall appoint someone for that purpose. He shall keep all books and papers belonging to the association and read the same when ordered to do so, and shall have such compensation for his services as the association may prescribe.

13. It shall be the duty of the corresponding secretary to carry on correspondence by writing to persons belonging to other associations of like faith in any way that would be likely to create interest in this association for its promotion and well being.

14. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to keep all money committed to him by the association, and to keep an account of receipts and expenditures, make a report at every association if called upon, pay out money when ordered to do so by the association, and shall receive such compensation as the association may prescribe.

15. These rules of decorum may be amended at the discretion of the association.

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in association year; or if they prefer it may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as they deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at another time; but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be the moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of the contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the minutes of the association.

Draw File

7. When a new clerk is appointed all the books, etc belonging to the clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

8. When a church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealings and etc.

9. The church shall hold two days meetings monthly, embracing Saturday and the Lord's day following the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.

11. Any male member, who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church according to the covenant (Article 10), shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect, but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

12. Conference, after prayer or divine service shall be opened as follows: (1) Inviting visiting brethren to seat. (2) Opening the door of the church for the reception of members. (3) Calling for the reading of the minutes of the last conference. (4) Calling for absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) For references or deferred business. (7) For new matters of dealings, which are to come before the body. (8) For miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren, as help called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions and seconds, but not allowed to vote.

14. Any orderly member of the Baptist Church may be received into the church without letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.

15. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid and unless withdrawn the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealings by the church.

16. When the moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing, to attend his trial; provided his residence be known to the church.

18. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined till the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be minuted in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who becomes disorderly or continue to hold their letters without a good reason, shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil conduct.

22. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a move and a second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon his request, may be exempted from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.

26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks in debate he must nominate some brethren moderator in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

30. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's supper and foot washing at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

31. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

33. It shall be the duty of the pastor to take up collections quarterly for the support of the home mission work.

34. It shall be the duty of each church to appoint a committee to revise the church book once a year.

35. This decorum may be altered or amended by the vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE SCRIPTURE.** The Scripture of the old and the New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are binding on all as or only rule of faith and practice. There is only one living and true God, infinite in all of His attributes; the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the Universe, revealed to us in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Spirit.

2. **CHRIST.** He is God manifest in the flesh, being in His divine nature true, God, in His human nature true man, united in the person of Messiah as the mediator for the redemption of the world.

3. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** He possesses all personal divine attributes belonging to the Reformer, Comforter and Sanctifier of men.

4. **DIVINE PURPOSE AND PROVIDENCE.** The purposes of God are eternal and immutable, and His Wise and Holy Providence is over all things to secure His only glory and the highest welfare of all creatures.

5. **ORIGINAL STATE AND FALL OF MAN.** Man was created upright, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. All his posterity inherits his fallen nature, which is cherished by indulgence so all who come to years of moral accountability, sin and come short of the glory of God.

6. **THE ATONEMENT.** Christ in His great compassion offered Himself as a sacrifice in our stead, and those by His life, suffering and death, made an atonement which is full and free to all, and opens the only way to salvation.

7. **GRACE.** No one can by his own work merit, obtain salvation

which is wholly of the grace of God, and through which all spiritual blessings are bestowed upon us.

8. **CONDITION OF SALVATION.** These are repentances implying Godly sorrow for open concessions and other renunciations of sin, faith or the unreserved committal of the mind and heart to receive, obey and trust in Christ, regeneration by the Holy Spirit, whereby the soul is freed from the dominion of sin and brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

9. **ELECTION.** God has not fixed the future state of man by any unconditional decree, but determined from the beginning to save all who could comply with the conditions of salvation.

10. **PERSERVANCE.** None will be finally saved but those who, through grace, preserve in holiness.

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.

12. **THE FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is not controlled by any fatal necessity or external force, but is free and self-determined, having power to yield to gracious influences or resist them and perish.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.** Baptism or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel or universal obligation and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **THE SABBATH.** The Christian Sabbath is a divine institution binding on all, and should be observed by abstaining from all secular business, amusements and consecrated to the worship of God and to spiritual improvement.

15. **THE RESURRECTION.** Final judgment and final retribution—Christ will make His second appearance at the end of the world, when the dead will be raised, the judgment will set, the righteous will be received to eternal blessedness, and the wicked banished to endless suffering.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

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

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of gov-

ernment and ordinances of the first Christian churches, and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of Gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in Heaven; and of such Christians now on earth as are not attached to the visible; according to the Gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central or Catholic government over the visible church or any part thereof is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the word of God and subversive to the churches and dangerous to the liberties of men.

5. That the Gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scripture; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute and that if this right is surrendered to a superintending jurisdiction by delegation or otherwise the assembly ceases to be a gospel church.

6. That churches may nevertheless, meet by delegates, form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up a friendly correspondence but that the rights and authority of the churches being inalienable are in no wise compromised by or hindered by entering into an association, therefore associations have no shadow of authority over churches or individuals, their only powers being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity, or to promote mutual intercourse and concentration of voluntary effort, and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by an individual.

7. That the authority of churches are designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel and for the preservation of a pure and orderly body of Christians on earth, that is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but it does not extend to the person's property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel, that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and to prescribe any other requisites of church membership is an assumption on the part of the church and a departure from the plan of the Gospel.

9. That the officers of the church are elders and deacons; that elders are also called bishops or pastors; that all elders are equal in rank; though they may perform different functions since some may be

bishops or pastors of a particular church, while others may be simply 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 can not perform any act which belongs to the authority of the church, such as the reception of members into the church compact, of the expulsion of offenders, that as member of the church he is no 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 and proper 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 a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's upper is an ordinance to be observed in the church till the Lord comes.

13. The elders and deacons must be set apart to their office by 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 respective offices.

ASSOCIATIONAL CONSTITUTION

1. A church proper in its lowest sense is a body of Christians united and congregated together for the purpose of worshiping God and promoting His cause, and in which the Gospel is regularly preached; the ordinances duly administered and the principles of holiness encouraged and practiced. Each church or body thus formed is a separate part thereof and independent in itself; possessing the right to direct its own affairs in its own way, subject only in certain difficult cases to arbitrate by sister churches. Such churches may, however, unite in associational capacity for purposes of more thorough organization, efficient work and for general and mutual good of all without surrendering any of their individual rights. Therefore, the churches here in-after mentioned resolve themselves into a body ecclesiastic to be known as the Martin Association of Free Will Baptist which shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the body at its annual meeting.

2. The association, when assembled, shall be composed of all

ministers of the association, both ordained and licentiates, and the delegates or messengers chosen by the several churches from time to time for that purpose.

3. The number of delegates to be determined by the membership of the respective churches. To simplify this we will state that any church is entitled to two delegates, it matters not how few members it may have. That after it has attained fifty members it shall then be entitled to one more delegate to every twenty-five members or fractional part thereof, until it has reached one hundred; then for every fifty, or fractional part thereof, and go on increasing in its ratio to any number.

4. The officers of the association shall consist of a moderator, clerk and treasurer, to be chosen annually from the members present; moderator and clerk to be elected by ballot or as the Association deems proper.

5. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside over the body during the session for which he is elected, call the session to order, enforce the rules of the decorum, decide all questions of discipline, and in case of a tie, to cast the deciding vote.

6. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep an accurate record of the business transactions of the association, superintend the printing of the minutes and draw on the treasurer for the funds to discharge the expense of the same: He shall hold office until his successor is elected and installed, and shall receive such compensation for his services as the association may deem proper to allow.

7. There shall be an executive committee of discreet brethren appointed annually by the moderator, or elected by the body who shall properly be the association in recess, and whose duty may be more fully defined from time to time by the association. The treasurer shall be one of the number.

8. When the association is assembled a majority of all the members enrolled shall be required to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

9. All debates shall be conducted in a Christian like and brotherly spirit. All shall be allowed the privilege of speaking on any question which is submitted to the consideration of the body.

10. Every speaker shall rise to his feet, address the moderator, and keep to the question in debate, and shall avoid all unpleasant reflections and personalities.

11. No brother shall be allowed to consume more than fifteen minutes in one speech, or speak more than twice on the same subject except by permission of the moderator or body.

12. All questions shall be submitted by move and second the first motion taking precedence in point of order. Every motion seconded must be acted upon, unless withdrawn by the mover.

13. The business shall be taken up in order according to the sub-joined plan, unless it becomes necessary to suspend the regular rules for a time for purposes which appear proper.

14 The moderator shall, at each session, invite corresponding delegates from other bodies of our own order, and also ministers from other denominations to seats, when thus seated shall be entitled to the friendship of honorary members.

ASSOCIATIONAL COVENANT

Having been, we trust, brought together to organize an association; by divine grace to embrace our Lord Jesus Christ, to give ourselves up wholly to Him, with all humility and brotherly love; to watch over each other for good, and stir up each other to love and good work, and not forsaking the frequent assembling of ourselves together with our neighbors to worship God according to His revealed will, as occasion may require; to warn, rebuke and admonish each other according to the rules of the Gospel, that the knowledge may be thereby promoted to the end. We will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His house, and hold constant communion with each other therein; and we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the maintenance of a faithful minister of the Gospel among us and for the extension of the blessed Redeemer's kingdom among us universally. We will not omit family and close religion at home nor allow ourselves in the too common neglect of the great and important duty of religiously training our children for the service of God and the enjoyment of heaven. We will also sympathize with each other in seasons of temptation and affliction and be ready to distribute to the necessities of the saints. We will especially pray for and with each other for the churches un-

iversally, for the promised effusion of the Holy Spirit, for the prosperity of Zion, and the ingathering of the elect and may the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, that we may not only enjoy a name and place in the church on earth but finally with His glorious church of the first born of Heaven in ascribing blessings, honor, might, majesty to Him who sitteth on the throne and the Lamb forever.

