

# STANDING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

## ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. H. L. Catrett , Chairman (3 years) ..... Colquitt, Ga.  
Rev. L. D. Scott (2 years) ..... Brinson, Ga.  
Rev. W. H. Horn (1 year) ..... Donalsonville, Ga.  
Rev. A. B. Ard (Emeritus) ..... Bainbridge, Ga.

## MISSION BOARD

Sister C. A. Lane, Secty. & Treas. .... (3 years)  
Bro. J. L. Hilburn ..... (2 years)  
Bro. O. F. Everson, Chairman ..... (1 year)

## SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Bro. Edgar Smith, Chairman (3 years) ..... Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.  
Bro. C. L. Turner (2 years) ..... Brinson, Ga.  
Sister John Bailey, Secty. & Treas. (1 year) ..... Colquitt, Ga.

## INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

(1 year each) Bro. I. M. Ard, Iron City, Ga.; Bro. A. R. Smith,  
Brinson, Ga.; Bro. Z. T. Calhoun, Colquitt, Ga.

## DISBURSEMENT COMMITTEE

Bro. O. F. Everson ..... Bro. W. R. Barber ..... Rev. L. D. Scott

## STATE PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY & TREASURER

Rev. E. C. Morris, P. O. Box 553 — Tifton, Ga.

## OFFICERS

Bro. T. A. Drake, Moderator ..... Iron City, Ga.  
Bro. Willis L. Heard, Secretary-Treasurer ..... Rt. 3, Bainbridge, Ga.

## PROCEEDINGS

The 70th Annual Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association convened with Thompson Church, Colquitt, Ga. at ten o'clock on Friday morning, October 26, 1956.

The session was opened with a song service led by Rev. B. W. Clenney. Rev. Drew Floyd led in prayer.

Rev. Leroy Knighton gave the devotional taken from the 17th chapter of John. The devotional was closed with prayer by Rev. Lonie Sparks.

Sister B. W. Clenney gave the welcome address and Sister J. R. McNease gave the response.

At 10:30 A. M. the Moderator gave his message. He talked of the 70th birthday of our Association.

Credential Committee was appointed, which consisted of Bro. W. E. Lane, Rev. C. A. Gilbert and Bro. G. R. Grimes.

The 11:00 o'clock sermon was given by Rev. H. L. Catrett, using Ephesians 4:3 as his text.

At 11:30 Rev. and Sister Lonie Sparks gave a talk on their calling into Foreign Mission work. After the message an offering was taken for Rev. and Sister Sparks and \$47.51 was donated.

Dismissed for noon hour by Bro. C. R. Houston.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Friday Afternoon Session opened at 1:30 o'clock with Rev. B. W. Clenney leading the song service. Rev. Edward Sheffield led in prayer.

Rev. C. A. Gilbert gave the devotional and talked from the 21st chapter of Revelation.

Bro. Leroy Knighton invited the Martin Association to go in with the Midway Association in getting Brother Mitchley to teach a class on Sunday School. In doing so Bro. Mitchley would teach three days in the Martin Association.

The Credential Committee made a partial report and reported 14 churches represented with a total of \$280.75. The report was received. Rev. Leroy Knighton and Sister C. A. Lane were appointed to read the Church letters (and delegates which were read are as listed below):

Thompson: Bro. Eugene Middleton, Bro. G. R. Grimes, Bro. John Richardson and Wife, Bro. Jonnie Wilson and Wife.

Bellview: Bro. T. D. Carter and Wife, Bro. L. C. Chapman and Wife, Bro. Donald Brown and Wife, Sister Eva Clenney and Wife, Sister Eva Clenney.

Pilgrims Home: Bro. J. L. Hilburns, Virginia Matthews, Donnie Hilburn.

Corinth: Bro. and Sister Turvin, Bro. and Sister T. A. Drake, Bro. and Sister Jack Burke, Bro. and Sister C. C. Bell.

Hebrew: Bro. Leroy Johnson, Bro. J. C. Riddlehoover.

River Turn: Sister Charlotte Parker, Bro. and Sister Jackie Kirk-

land and Sister P. I. Kirkland.

New Home No. 1: Bro. O. F. Everson and Wife, Sister Carl Middleton, Sister Shellie Cox, Sister Ike Ard, Bro. Cecil Roberts.

Colquitt: Mrs. Alma McDonald, Mrs. Leona Roland, Mrs. Ada Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Emory Tully.

Mothers Home: Bro. and Sister John Bailey, J. B. Adams and Mrs. J. R. McNease.

Highway: Bro. and Sister Roy Barber, Bro. and Sister Thomas Scott, Bro. and Sister J. J. Scott.

Mt. Gilead: Bro. Fred Kelly, Bro. Herbert Boyd, Bro. T. J. Heard.

Mt. Glory: Bro. G. J. Owens, Sister George Ray, Sister A. W. Wade.

Poley Branch: Bro. Ozie Morris and Wife.

New Home No. 2: W. D. Brock and Wife, Ed Avery and Wife.

New Salem: Bro. and Sister E. D. Bush, Bro. and Sister W. R. Barber, Sister C. A. Gilbert.

Proctor Chapel: Bro. William L. Jonier, Sister Broadway.

Spring Field: Represented by mail.

It was moved and seconded that these delegates be seated with the body.

The call was made for petitionary letters. One was received from Proctor Chapel Church of the Union Association. A move and second was made to receive Proctor Chapel Church under the watch care of the Association for one year. The move was carried.

Correspondence from other Associations was called for and given as follows:

Midway Association: Bro. Alvin Day, Bro. C. J. Harvey, Bro. Leroy Knighton, Bro. Roy Roberts.

State Association: Bro. E. C. Morris.

A move and second was made that we accept Bro. Knighton's invitation as previously mentioned, and have Bro. Michley in the Martin Association to teach classes on Sunday School for three days. These days being May 29th, 30th and 31st 1957. The move was carried.

A move and second was made that the Moderator and Clerk designate three different churches for the classes to be held. Move was carried.

We selected the following churches: Colquitt Church, May 29th; Bellview Church, May 30th and Mt. Gilead May 31st.

Reports of Boards and Committees were called for and given; see Reports.

The Nominating Committee was appointed which consisted of Bro. W. R. Barber, Bro. A. R. Smith and Sister Mary Brown.

The Program Committee was appointed which consisted of Bro. W. E. Lane, Sister B. W. Clenney and Sister W. R. Barber.

A Rising vote of thanks was extended Thompson Church and Community for their hospitality during the first day of this session.

A move and second was made to adjourn and meet with Mothers Home Church Saturday Morning, October 27, 1956.

Rev. L. D. Scott led the closing prayer.

## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The Saturday Morning Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association met at Mothers Home Church October 27, 1956.

The session was opened at 9:45 A. M. with a song service led by Rev. H. L. Catrett, and Rev. E. C. Morris led in prayer.

The welcome address was given by Sister John Bailey.

Sister Lucile Stewart gave the devotional and talked from the 19th Psalm.

The call for Church letters was renewed. Two were received with a total of \$19.00 (See Churches and delegates) Rev. H. L. Catrett and Rev. E. C. Morris were appointed to read these letters.

A move and second was made to seat these delegates with the body. Move was carried.

Request for reports was renewed and same was given; see reports.

The call for Petitionary letters was renewed. None Received.

The call for correspondence was renewed and given as follows: Rev. E. D. Franks from Little River Association; Rev. E. C. Williams from the Midway Association; Rev. J. B. Lumpkin from the Chattahoochee Association.

Call for the reading of the Minutes of Friday Session. Same was read by Clerk.

Roll Call Of Ministers As Given Below:

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. Drew Floyd	Colquitt, Ga.
Rev. Tom Henry	Colquitt, Ga.
Rev. H. L. Catrett	Colquitt, Ga.
Rev. J. E. Wisham, Jr.	Camilla, Ga.
Rev. Lewis Batchelor	Rt. 2, Camilla, Ga.
Rev. W. H. Horn	Rt. 2, Donalsonville, Ga.
Rev. L. D. Scott	Brinson, Ga.
Rev. A. B. Ard	Bainbridge, Ga.
Rev. C. A. Gilbert	Colquitt, Ga.
Rev. B. W. Clenney	Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.
Rev. F. W. Sellers	Rt. 3, Bainbridge, Ga.
Rev. R. W. Holmes	2601 4th Ave., Columbus Ga.
Rev. Edward Sheffield	P. O. Box 302, Donalsonville, Ga.
Rev. Willie Sellers	Rt. 1, Camilla, Ga.



## LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. J. J. Scott	Brinson, Ga.
Rev. C. P. Rump	Camilla, Ga.
Rev. J. A. Ivey	Donalsonville, Ga.
Sister Jessie Wisham	Camilla, Ga.
Sister Della McAlpin	Sneads, Fla.
Rev. G. W. West	Pelham, Ga.

Call was made for report of State and National Associations. Bro. I. M. Ard, Rev. and Sister Drew Floyd, Sister John Bailey and Rev. H. L. Catrett reported for the State Association. No report for the National Association.

Report of all Boards was called for. None given.

The eleven o'clock message was given by Rev. E. C. Morris using First Corinthians 3:9 as his text.

An offering was taken and turned over to Rev. E. C. Morris to be applied on the indebtedness of the Freewill Baptist Headquarters Building. \$31.81 was donated.

Rev. J. J. Scott dismissed the association for the noon hour.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Saturday Afternoon Session opened at 1:30 with a song service was led by Rev. H. L. Catrett. Rev. McDuffie led in prayer.

Rev. C. J. Harvey gave the devotional and talked on Bringing up of the Children in a way you would have them go. (Proverbs 22:6) Devotion was closed with prayer.

Rev. C. J. Harvey made a talk on the purpose and accomplishments of Camp Mt. Bethel.

Call for reports of Boards and Committees was received. Same was given: See Reports.

Renewed call for Credential Committee report, No Report. A move and second was made that the Credential Committee be relieved. Move carried.

Bro. Counce Sheffield was nominated for Moderator by the Nominating Committee and Bro. T. A. Drake was nominated from the floor by Rev. B. W. Clenney. Bro. T. A. Drake was elected Moderator by a vote of 27 to 23.

A move and second was made to extend a rising vote of thanks to Bro. W. J. Hilburn for his services as Moderator. (move carried)

Churches on Committees were given as follows:

Obituaries: New Salem

Sunday School: Corinth

Temperance: Bellview

Suggestions: Hebrew

Resolutions: Highway

Sabbath Observance: Mothers Home

Delegates listed below were appointed for the Association as

noted:

Midway Association: Rev. H. L. Catrett, Bro. W. J. Hilburn.

Union Association: Rev. and Sister Drew Floyd.

Chattahoochee Association: Rev. Edward Sheffield, Rev. B. W. Clenney.

Georgia Union Association: Rev. C. A. Gilbert.

Little River Association: Rev. H. L. Catrett, Bro. I. M. Ard and Rev. J. J. Scott.

Salem Association: Rev. H. L. Catrett, Rev. L. D. Scott, Rev. Edward Sheffield

State Line Association: Rev. and Sister B. W. Clenney.

Delegates appointed to attend the State and National Association were as follows:

State Association: Bro. W. E. Lane, Bro. W. J. Hilburn.

National Association: Sister B. W. Clenney, Sister Effie Kimble.

The Disbursement Committee was appointed which consisted of Bro. W. R. Barber, Bro. O. F. Everson and Rev. L. D. Scott.

The Executive Committee was nominated and elected. Members of the Executive Committee are as follows:

Bro. Willis L. Heard (Chairman) ..... Rt. 3, Bainbridge, Ga.

Bro. Phillip Hines ..... Rt. 2, Colquitt, Ga.

Bro. W. E. Lane ..... Iron City, Ga.

Bro. Robert Boyd ..... Brinson, Ga.

Bro. John Bailey ..... Rt. 2 Box 305, Colquitt, Ga.

A move and second was made that the minutes of the Ministers Conference be printed in the Association Minutes. The same to be paid for by the Ministers Conference. Move was carried.

Sister B. W. Clenney made a report on the Ladies Auxiliary. A move was made to accept her report. Move was carried.

Bro. W. E. Lane was reappointed as key-man to collect food and money for Camp Mt. Bethel. He is to appoint a member from each church to work as his key-man.

A move and second was made that the Executive Board work with the Investigation Committee in the investigation of Proctor Chapel Church. The move was carried.

Call was made for the report of the Disbursement Committee: Same was read by Bro. W. R. Barber. See Reports.

A move and second was made that we extend a rising vote of thanks to Mothers Home Church for their hospitality during this second day of the 70th Annual Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association. Move was carried.

A move and second was made to adjourn and meet with Mt. Gilead Church, Friday October 25, 1957 and River Turn Church, Saturday, October 26, 1957. Move was carried.

While singing the closing song everyone participated in a hand shaking service.

Rev. H. L. Catrett led the closing prayer.

Bro. W. J. Hilburn ..... Moderator

Bro. Willis L. Heard ..... Secretary and Treasurer

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### DISBURSEMENT COMMITTEE

We your Committee on Disbursement recommend the same as last year which will be found on page 5 of 1956 Minutes.

W. R. Barber, Chairman

O. F. Everson

L. D. Scott

The Disbursements found on page 5 of the 1956 minutes are as follows:

Clerk .....	\$25.00
Moderator .....	15.00
State Association .....	10.00
National Association .....	5.00
Retain in Treasury .....	50.00

Minutes to be paid for and remainder to be allocated as follows:

State Secretary .....	20%
Local Superannuation Board .....	35%
Local Promotional Board .....	17½%
Mission Board .....	17½%
F.W.B. Orphanage Home, Eldridge, Ala. ....	10%

### "SABBATH OBSERVANCE"

We believe that the only way to correctly observe the Sabbath day, is to refrain from ALL secular labor, sports and worldly amusements; Attend religious services of some kind centering our minds and hearts on holy living, on God, the Bible and things pertaining to the Holy Spirit.

The mind is the ruling power of the body, and unless the mind be centered on holy activities, the body will be led into places and actions that does not become a christian, either in following Christ or setting examples for others;

We know it is not right to operate our places of business on Sunday, neither is it right to operate our minds in sinful thoughts and habits; For where your treasure is there will be the heart also, "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Sincerely, Mt. Gilead Church and Pastor

### SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To establish the Sunday School as a firm, functional member of the Church Family, recognizing it as the Department of Education of the Church, the place for practical training for life service, the place for the development of Bible Teachers, the normal place of Evangelizing and also striving to maintain and strengthen its purposes of worship, instruction, soul-winning and training of service in winning the lost to Christ.

Pilgrim Home Church and Pastor

## **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

We the Committee on Resolutions resolve to make the following recommendations:

Resolve that the constitution of this association not be changed as was suggested.

Resolve that the executive board of this association be composed of five brethren, the treasurer, to be the chairman of this Board and the other four to be nominated and elected by the body.

Resolve that no one be allowed to serve on more than one board or committee. Since we have plenty of good talent from the various churches who are faithful workers we feel that this will be helpful to the association and bring about more unity.

Resolve that the Moderator be paid \$15.00 for his services and the Clerk be paid \$25.00 for his services.

Thompson Church and Pastor

## **TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE**

We your Committee on Temperance, composed of New Home Church No. 2 and Pastor, beg to submit the following report.

The word Temperance meaning self-control does not apply only to strong drink but in all things just as the Bible teaches.

We may not indulge in strong drink and yet we may speak or act in a way that may prove us to be intemperate. We your committee ask all members of our body to ask of God and he will direct our lives Temperately. Signed.

New Home Church and Pastor

## **SUGGESTION COMMITTEE**

We the Committee on Suggestions suggest that all Pastors of Churches in this association preach sermons on Church Doctrine once every three months.

Done in order and signed by this church who was appointed to make suggestions to this association.

New Home Church No. I

W. E. Lane, Clerk

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

We your Committee beg to submit the following:

Nomination for Moderator — Bro. Counce Sheffield

Bro. Willis L. Heard for Clerk

We also recommend the Association convene with Mt. Gilead Church on Friday, October 25th, 1957 and River Turn Saturday, October 26th, 1957.

W. R. Barber, Chairman; A. R. Smith, Mary Brown



## OBITUARIES COMMITTEE

We regret very much to learn that since our last Association 14 of our members have been called from labor to refreshments, and though we will miss their presence and service here, we trust they are at home with the Lord.

They are as follows:

New Home Church No. I .....	Sister Raymond Horne
Colquitt Church .....	Sister Fannie Everett
Bellview Church .....	Bro. Bronnie Brunson, Sister Jammie Haire, Bro. W. D. Haire
Mothers Home Church .....	Bro. Connie Lane
Highway Church .....	Sister Lizzie Yawn
Proctor Chapel Church .....	Bro. Wright, Bro. Hasty
Hebrew Church ....	Sister Calvin Barber, Bro W. R. D. Shelly
Corinth Church .....	Bro. George Lynn, Bro. F. W. Cordell
River Turn Church .....	Sister B. F. Gause
Friendship Church .....	Bro. W. F. Norris

Sincerely, Colquitt Church and Pastor

## INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

We the Investigation Committee find that some of our churches need more brotherly love, and cooperation. We also find that some of our ministers are not in as good standing as they ought to be.

Respectfully, I. M. Ard

A. R. Smith

Z. T. Calhoun

## SESSION I

The Ministers Conference will be held on Friday night before 5th Sunday in December at Mt. Gilead Church.

Devotional .....	Bro. J. C. Ridlehoover
Welcome Address .....	Robert Byrd
Response .....	John Bailey
Business .....	
Message .....	Rev. W. S. Driggers
Refreshments .....	C. A. Gilbert B. W. Clenney

## SESSION II

The Ministers Conference will be held on Friday night before 5th Sunday in March at New Home No. 1 Church.

Devotional .....	Rev. H. L. Catrett
Welcome Address .....	W. E. Lane
Response .....	Doc Kelley
Business .....	
Message .....	O. F. Everson

Refreshments ..... C. A. Gilbert  
 B. W. Clenney

### SESSION III

The Ministers Conference will be held on Friday night before 5th Sunday in June at Riverturn Church.

Devotional ..... Bro. T. D. Carter  
 Welcome Address ..... Bonnie Barber  
 Response ..... Rev. Chester Gilbert  
 Business  
 Message ..... Rev. Drew Floyd  
 Refreshments ..... C. A. Gilbert  
 B. W. Clenney

### SESSION IV

The Ministers Conference will be held on Friday night before 5th Sunday in September at Corinth Church.

Devotional ..... Rev. B. W. Clenney  
 Welcome Address ..... C. C. Bell  
 Response ..... Rev. Edward Sheffield  
 Business  
 Message ..... Bro. Edgar Smith  
 Refreshments ..... C. A. Gilbert  
 B. W. Clenney  
 Moderator ..... Rev. L. D. Scott, Brinson, Ga.  
 Clerk ..... Edgar Smith, Colquitt, Ga.  
 Joseph J. Scott  
 Emmett Houston  
 J. T. Heard

### LEAGUE RALLY

The Free Will Baptist League Rally met at the Mothers Home Church on July 29, 1956. The Rally was opened with songs and a prayer by Bro. Idus Goocher. The service was then turned over to Bro. Clenney for the Juniors' song service. Miss Shirley Clenney read the devotional and Sister Eugene Middleton offered a prayer. Miss Mildred Adams gave the welcome. The response was given by Sister Eugene Middleton.

The minutes were read and then approved. The reports were then given by the two committees by Bro. John Bailey and Sister Emory Tully.

The congregation then elected the officers as follows:

President ..... Louie Grimes  
 Vice President ..... Larry Powell  
 Secretary ..... Marth Jo Bailey  
 Assistant Secretary ..... Christine Lane  
 Bible Quiz Leader ..... Sister Effie Kimbrel  
 Assistant Bible Quiz Leader ..... Sister Emory Tully  
 Three Field Workers ..... Bro. Pete Davis,  
 Bro. John Bailey,  
 Bro. Emmett Houston

Program Committee -----	Sister Emmett Houston Sister J. R. McNease, Miss Patricia Middleton
Nominating Committee ----	Sister Linda Floyd Sister Emory Tully Bro. Idus Goocher

The Bible Quiz was then presented in which Thompson Church won. Larry Powell will represent the Martin Association in the State Bible Quiz.

Bro. Idus Goocher gave a very good talk. The group was then dismissed for lunch by Bro. Clifton Powell.

After lunch the meeting was opened with a song and prayer. The devotional was then read by Miss Sara Goocher. We then had the report from the two committees. Bro. Floyd then gave away a prize which was a cedar chest to Brenda Brooks. Programs were then presented by Thompson, New Salem, Bellview, and Mothers Home.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to Mothers Home for the hospitality shown during the day. The meeting was dismissed with a prayer by Bro. Phillip Hines.

The nominating committee decided to carry the league rally to Colquitt Church first and to New Home No. 1 second.

### **PROGRAM FOR COLQUITT CHURCH ON 31ST MARCH, 1957**

Morning devotional: Martha Bailey  
Welcome address: Shirley Williams  
Response: Gene McNease  
Business Period  
Talk: Pete Davis  
Noon hour  
Afternoon devotional: Janice Donley  
Business period  
Programs

### **PROGRAM FOR NEW HOME NO. 1 ON 29 SEPT., 1957**

Morning devotional: Janet Middleton  
Welcome Address: Christine Lane  
Response: Sara Goocher  
Business Period  
Talk: Mrs. Linda Floyd  
Noon hour  
Afternoon devotional: Yvonne Roberts  
Business Period  
Programs

By Secretary, Martha Jo Bailey

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

The Free Will Baptist Sunday School Convention met at new Salem Church September 30, 1956, and the meeting was opened by a song and prayer service. Mrs. B. W. Clenney read the devotional, Mrs. B. D. Wells gave the welcome address, and Mrs. Drew Floyd gave the response.

Next the business session was held. New officers were elected as follows:

President .....	W. R. Davis
Vice President .....	I. J. Goocher
Secretary .....	Sue Nix
Assistant Secretary .....	Shirley Clenney
Corresponding Secretary ..	Sadie Mae Holt
Field Workers .....	Bro. Edward Sheffield Bro. Chester Gilbert
Arranging Committee .....	J. W. Nix T. D. Carter Martha Bailey Mrs. Drew Floyd
Nominating Committee .....	Tennella Cleveland Mrs. Emmett Houston Edgar Smith Floyd Lane

New Salem next presented their program.

Rev. Drew Floyd gave a talk and a prize, a lovely cedar chest. Sammy Bailey was the winner of the prize. The group was dismissed for lunch.

After lunch, the meeting opened with song and prayer. Rev. Edward Sheffield gave the devotional.

Bellview, Mothers Home, Thompson, and River Turn presented programs.

Moved and seconded that names and addresses of officers be included in minutes. They are as follows:

W. R. Davis .....	Rt. 5, Colquitt, Ga.
I. J. Goocher .....	Rt. 5, Colquitt, Ga.
Sue Nix .....	Rt. 1, Colquitt, Ga.
Shirley Clenney .....	Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.
Edward Sheffield .....	P. O. Box 301, Donalsonville
Chester Gilbert .....	Colquitt, Ga.
J. W. Nix .....	Rt. 1, Colquitt, Ga.
T. D. Carter .....	Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.
Martha Bailey .....	Rt. 2, Colquitt, Ga.
Mrs. Drew Floyd .....	Rt. 5, Colquitt, Ga.
Tennella Cleveland .....	Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.
Mrs. Emmett Houston .....	Rt. 5, Colquitt, Ga.
Edgar Smith .....	Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.
Loyd Lane, .....	Colquitt, Ga.

Louie Grimes and Shirley Clenney were elected to be our representatives at the State Sunday School Convention.

An offering was taken in which we received \$13.53. A rising vote



of thanks was given New Salem for the hospitality shown during the day. The meeting was dismissed with prayer by Tennella Cleveland.

The Nominating Committee decided to carry the Sunday School Convention to 1st, Bellview Church and 2nd, Hebrew Church.

### **PROGRAM FOR BELLVIEW CHURCH, MARCH 31, 1957**

Morning Devotional, Sammy Bailey  
Welcome Address, Mrs. J. H. Freedman  
Response, Larry Powell  
Business Session  
11:00 Message, Rev. McDuffie  
Noon Hour  
Afternoon Devotional, Mrs. J. M. Bryan  
Programs

### **PROGRAM FOR HEBREW CHURCH, JUNE 30, 1957**

Morning Devotional, Sara Goocher  
Welcome Address, Mrs. Leroy Johnson  
Response, Mildred Adams  
Business Session  
11:00 o'clock Message, Rev. Edward Sheffield  
Noon Hour  
Afternoon Devotional, Shirley Clenney  
Programs

Sue Nix, Secretary

### **SUPERANNUATION BOARD REPORT**

Balance in bank from last year .....	\$ 3.72
Received from Bro. Newberry Nov. 9 .....	17.32
Received from Bro. Powell Dec. 15th .....	43.34
Received from Bro Newberry Feb. 10 .....	23.45
Received from Bro. Newberry - May .....	24.50
Received from Bro. Newberry - July .....	24.50

Total ..... \$136.84

Paid Bro. Tom Henry .....	\$ 30.00
Mrs. F. A. Norris .....	30.00
Rev. Bruce Ard .....	30.00
Mrs. Parry Braswell .....	30.00

Total Paid ..... 120.00

Balance In Bank ..... \$16.84

Mrs. T. I. Crawford

I received a check from the Union Meeting in September from	
C. T. Turner .....	\$ 18.20
Edgar Smith .....	16.84

.....  
\$ 35.04

## PROMOTIONAL BOARD REPORTS FOR 1956

### ASSETS:

Cash on hand .....	\$135.35
Martin Association .....	21.61
Union Meetings .....	46.27

Total Received ..... \$67.88

### DISBURSEMENTS:

NONE

Total Amount in Treasury ..... \$203.23

Brother W. R. Barber

Brother Counce Sheffield Jr.

Sister Mary Brown, Treasurer

## MISSION BOARD TREASURY REPORT FOR 1955 - 56

### ASSETS:

Cash on hand .....	\$164.63
Union Meeting Funds, Oct. 29, 1955 .....	7.43
Martin Association Funds, Dec. 15, 1955 .....	21.68
Union Meeting Funds, Jan. 28, 1956 .....	10.05
Union Meeting Funds, April 28, 1956 .....	10.50
Union Meeting Funds, July 28, 1956 .....	10.50
Union Meeting Funds, Sept. 29, 1956 .....	7.80

Total Received ..... \$232.59

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Cool Springs Building Funds .....	\$ 50.00
VBS Literature by Mrs. B. A. Middleton .....	2.95
Bellview VBS Literature .....	15.00
New Salem VBS Literature .....	15.00
Mother's Home VBS Literature .....	17.35

Total Paid ..... \$100.30

Balance in Treasury ..... \$132.29

Brother O. F. Everson, Chairman

Brother Bronnie Brunson

Sister C. A. Lane, Sec'y & Treas.

## UNION MEETING TREASURY REPORT

### ASSETS:

Union Meeting at Mt. Glory .....	\$ 81.14
Union Meeting at Pilgrim Home .....	67.25
Union Meeting at New Home No. 2 .....	89.44
Union Meeting at Colquitt .....	127.70
Union Meeting at Bellview .....	84.12

Total Received ..... \$449.65

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Oct. 29, 1955, Rev. E. C. Morris .....	17.33
Mrs. T. I. Crawford .....	17.33
Mrs. C. A. Lane .....	7.42
Mrs. Mary Brown .....	7.42
Rev. Morris, Special Offering .....	26.14
State Association .....	5.00
Postage .....	.50
Jan. 28, 1956, Rev. E. C. Morris .....	23.45
Mrs. T. I. Crawford .....	23.45
Mrs. C. A. Lane .....	10.05
Mrs. Mary Brown .....	10.05
Postage .....	.25
April 28, 1956, Rev. E. C. Morris .....	24.50
Mrs. T. I. Crawford .....	24.50
Mrs. C. A. Lane .....	10.50
Mrs. Mary Brown .....	10.50
Rev. C. J. Harvey, Camp Offering ..	19.44
July 28, 1956, Rev. E. C. Morris .....	24.50
Mrs. T. I. Crawford .....	24.50
Mrs. C. A. Lane .....	10.50
Mrs. Mary Brown .....	10.50
Rev. Raymond, Foreign Mission ....	52.70
Mrs. Clifton Powell, Assoc. Letter ...	5.00
Sept. 29, 1956, Rev. E. C. Morris .....	18.20
Mr. Edgar Smith .....	18.20
Mrs. C. A. Lane .....	7.80
Mrs. Mary Brown .....	7.80
Printing of Minutes .....	10.00
State Assoc. ....	5.00
Rev. C. J. Harvey, State Assoc. ....	17.12
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Total Paid Out .....	\$449.65
Balance in Treasury .....	\$0.00

## UNION MEETING PROGRAM FOR 1957

We, the Nominating Committee, recommend that the Union Meeting Convene with the following: 1st session at Mt. Gilead; 2nd session at New Home No. 1; 3rd session at River Turn; 4th session at Corinth.

We further recommend that Bro. Drew Floyd serve as Moderator for the next year and Bro. Richard McNease as Clerk.

Bro. C. C. Kimbrel

Bro. E. L. Houston

Bro. Phillip Hines

1st Session: Mt. Gilead

Devotional ..... Rev. C. A. Gilbert

Welcome Address ..... Bro. Fred Kelley

Response ..... Bro. Phillip Hines

Business	
11 o'clock Message .....	Rev. L. D. Scott
Lunch	
Afternoon Devotional .....	Sister C. C. Bell
Talk .....	Rev. Edward Sheffield
Adjourn	
2nd Session: New Home No. 1	
Devotional .....	Sister P. E. Middleton
Welcome Address .....	Sister Ike Ard
Response .....	Sister Linda Floyd
Business	
11 o'clock Message .....	Rev. B. W. Clenney
Lunch	
Afternoon Devotional .....	Bro. Larry Powell
Talk .....	Bro. Idus Goocher
Adjourn	
3rd Session: River Turn	
Devotional .....	Rev. T. C. Carter
Welcome Address .....	Sister B. B. Barber
Response .....	Sister W. E. Lane
Business	
11 o'clock Message .....	Rev. Drew Floyd
Lunch	
Afternoon Devotional .....	Sister Emmett Houston
Talk .....	Rev. H. L. Catrett
Adjourn	
4th Session: Corinth	
Devotional .....	Bro. C. C. Bell
Welcome Address .....	Sister C. A. Lane
Response .....	Sister John Bailey
Business:	
11 o'clock Message .....	Rev. S. D. Driggers
Lunch	
Afternoon Devotional .....	Sister A. R. Smith
Talk .....	Bro. J. J. Scott
Adjourn	

### WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

The District Woman's Auxiliary Convention of the Martin Association met with New Salem Church, September 27, 1956.

The Convention opened with the congregation singing "Saviour Like A Shepherd Lead Us" followed with prayer by Rev. Scottie Driggers.

The devotional was given by Mrs. Richard McNease, the scripture was taken from Matt. 25:14-30.

The welcome was given by Mrs. Alma Houston.

Response — Mrs. Tennella Cleveland.



The Theme for the day was "Christian Stewardship."

The President, Mrs. B. W. Clenney gave a very timely talk on "The Eyes Of The Whole World Are On America" Romans 10:13-14, John 3:16.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by the convention.

Moved and seconded that the delegates from the various Auxiliaries registering with their presidents and the District Officers compose the body. The Delegates being seated.

The following ministers were welcomed, Rev. Drew Floyd, Rev. Scottie Drigger, Rev. Chester A. Gilbert and Rev. Leo Curtiss.

Committees were appointed by the President as follows:

Credentials — Mrs. Edd Hill, Mrs. Lloyd Lane, Mrs. Richard McNease.

Finance — Mrs. Herbert Riddlehoover, Mrs. Troup Grimes and Mrs. Tennella Cleveland.

Resolutions — Mrs. Eugene Middleton, Mrs. W. S. Driggers, Mrs. B. D. Wells.

Registrations — Mrs. Drew Floyd, Mrs. Troupe Grimes.

Nominations — Mrs. Drew Floyd, Mrs. C. A. Gilbert and Mrs. Alma McDonald.

Congregational Singing and the Rev. Leo Curtiss, Pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Blakely brought a very inspirational Message Matt. 20-8, Subject being "Christian Stewardship."

The congregation sang — "Throw Out The Life Line" and we were dismissed for lunch with prayer by Rev. C. A. Gilbert.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

Hymn — "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."

Devotional — Mrs. Alma McDonald. Romans 12-1-2, followed with prayer by Mrs. Tennella Cleveland.

Delegates to the State Auxiliary Convention were as follows: Mrs. Effie Kimbrel, Mrs. Alma Houston, Mrs. John Bailey, Mrs. Alma McDonald and Mrs. Eugene Middleton.

Mrs. Clenney gave a talk on the workshop for Auxiliaries. The Workshop will be held quarterly. The 1st session met with New Salem on Tuesday after second Sunday in October, the second session will meet with Mothers Home on Tuesday after second Sunday in January 1957. The 3rd and 4th sessions being announced from the January Session.

Committees reported as follows:

Finance — We your Finance Committee submit the following

report:

Balance brought forward .....	\$ 5.87
Total dues received from Convention .....	27.00
Special Offering .....	13.45

Total ..... \$46.32

We recommend the following disbursements

State And National Dues .....	\$21.50
Rev. Leo Curtiss .....	7.00
Unified Program .....	5.00
Dot Harvey Loan Fund .....	6.45
Secretary And Treasurer .....	2.50

Total ..... \$42.45

Balance in Treasury ..... \$ 3.87

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs. Herbert Riddlehoover

Mrs. Troupe Grimes

Mrs. Tennella Cleveland

Credentials — We, the Credentials Committee, submit the following report.

Upon examination we find the following Auxiliaries acceptable to this Convention. New Salem, Bellview, Colquitt, Thompson, Mothers Home and Hebrew, represented in person with reports.

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs. Edd Hill

Mrs. Lloyd Lane

Mrs. Richard McNease

Resolutions — We, your resolutions committee, submit the following report

We resolve to try to give our Auxiliary work more publicity and acquaint all members of our Denomination with its aim and purpose. We request that all officers please attend our Woman's Auxiliary Institute at Camp Mt. Bethel each year.

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs. Eugene Middleton

Mrs. W. S. Driggers

Mrs. B. D. Wells.

Nominations — We, the Nominating Committee, submit the following:

President — Mrs. B. D. Wells.

Vice President — Mrs. D. Floyd.

Recording Secretary and Treasurer — Mrs. Herbert Riddlehoover.

Assistant Secretary — Mrs. Edd Hill.

Field Secretary — Mrs. B. W. Clenney

Youth Chairman — Mrs. Alma Houston.

Study Course Chairman — Mrs. Alma McDonald.

Stewardship — Prayer Chairman — Mrs. Effie Kimbrel.

Corresponding Secretary — Mrs. John Bailey.

The next Convention will convene with Colquitt Church on  
Tuesday after 4th Sunday in September, 1957.

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs. Alma McDonald

Mrs. Drew Floyd

Mrs. Chester Gilbert.

Enlistment and Promotional work done.

Number of Auxiliaries 6, total membership 54, members making  
soul winning efforts 21, members engaged in community personal  
service 35, number of converts resulting from efforts 7, members dis-  
tributing bibles 3, members distributing baskets and garments to  
needy 40, Subscribers to Auxiliary Manual 25, Subscribers to Auliliary  
Year Book 54, Articles published in Denominational papers 14, In-  
listment leaflets, papers and tracts given 125, Tithers 5, New tithers 2,  
Amount of offering sent to —

W. N. A. C. Co-laborer Fund .....	\$30.00
Gifts to Aged Ministers .....	8.53
Money sent for clothing to orphans .....	20.00
Amount of Easter Offering - Foreign Missions .....	70.00
Thanksgiving Offering - State Home Mission .....	29.00
Value of boxes to orphanage .....	80.64
Cash gifts to F. W. B. Bible College .....	68.21
Gifts to Missions sent to W. N. A. C. Treasurer .....	10.00
Representation fees sent to W. N. A. C. ....	21.40
Total spent for Auxiliary Literature .....	55.00
Total spent for local church activities .....	13.00
Total .....	\$405.78

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs. Herbert Riddlehoover, Secretary & Treausrer.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### ASSETS:

Balance on Hand .....	\$16.28
Received From Association .....	299.78
Union Meeting .....	10.00
Ministers Conference .....	5.00
League .....	5.00
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TOTAL .....	\$335.96

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Moderator .....	\$15.00
Clerk .....	25.00
National And State Association .....	15.00
State Secretary —	
Local Superannuation Board .....	
Local Promotional Board —	
Mission Board	
F. W. B. Orphanage, Eldridge, Ala. —	
Minutes .....	\$247.20
Retain in Treasury .....	\$ 33.76

## PLANNED 71ST ANNUAL SESSION

### FOR MARTIN FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The program plans given below are proposed for the 71st Annual Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association to be held with Mt. Gilead Church on the 4th Friday, October 25, 1957 and held with River Turn Church on the 4th Saturday, October 26, 1957.

#### FRIDAY SESSION, October 25, 1957:

10:00 A. M. - Assembly of body for worship by the Moderator  
Devotional — Brother Jake Scott.  
Song Service conducted by Rev. H. L. Catrett.  
Welcome Address — Bro. Herbert Boyd.  
Response — Sister Alma McDonald.

10.30 A. M. - Moderator's Message.  
Appointment of credential committee.  
Call for letters from churches composing this body.

11:00 A. M. - Message — Rev. Edward Sheffield.  
Noon hour.



1.30 P. M. - Reassemble.

Devotional —Louie Grimes.

Report of credential committee.

Reading and adoption of letters and seating of  
Delegates

Call for Petitionary Letters.

Call for correspondents from other associations.

Report of State and National Association.

Report of Womans Auxiliary.

Roll Call of Ministers.

Report of all boards — Promotional, Superannuation, Ordination, Investigational, Executive.

Appointment of Delegates to various association.

Appointment of sessional committees.

Arrangements and adjournment.

Services Friday Night with the speaker named  
by the program committee.

#### (SATURDAY SESSION, October 27, 1957.

9:30 A. M. - Song Services Lead by Bro P. I. Kirkland.

Devotional — Mrs. Alma Houston.

Welcome — Mrs. Burrell Parker.

Renewing all calls for committee reports.

Reading and adoptions of first day's minutes.

Renewal of call for correspondence and visitors.

11:00 A. M. - Message — To be supplied.

Noon hour.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 P. M. - Devotional — Mrs. Carl Lane.

Renewing of calls for committee Report.

Report of nominating committee whose duty it is  
to make selection of place of next session of  
Association and Introductory Message.

Miscellaneous Business.

Election of officers including the Executive  
Committee and etc.

Completion of all Business.

Adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted

W. E. Lane, Mrs. W. R. Barber  
Mrs. B. W. Clenney.

## 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 defense 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 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 Scripture 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 judgement 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. The Association shall be called to order by the moderator elected last session.
2. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
3. The moderator and clerk shall officiate until their successors are elected.
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 publica-



tion, 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. No Church shall liberate any member to preach the Gospel unless he has held membership in the Church for at least twelve months; and no minister who comes from another denomination be liberated until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and received Credentials bearing their approval.

16. 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.

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. If a minister be guilty of unchristian conduct, he may be dealt with just as any other member, by his church, and must be reported to the Ordaining Council and they may silence him for a period of time or indefinitely, as they see fit.

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 acknowledgement 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 our 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. PRESERVANCE. 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 government 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 ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scripture; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supersision 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, from 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 supper 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 organi-

zation, efficient work and for general and mutual good of all without surrendering any of their individual rights. Therefore, the churches hereinafter 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 for the next year and to be elected by ballot or anyway 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 subjoined 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 universally, 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.



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