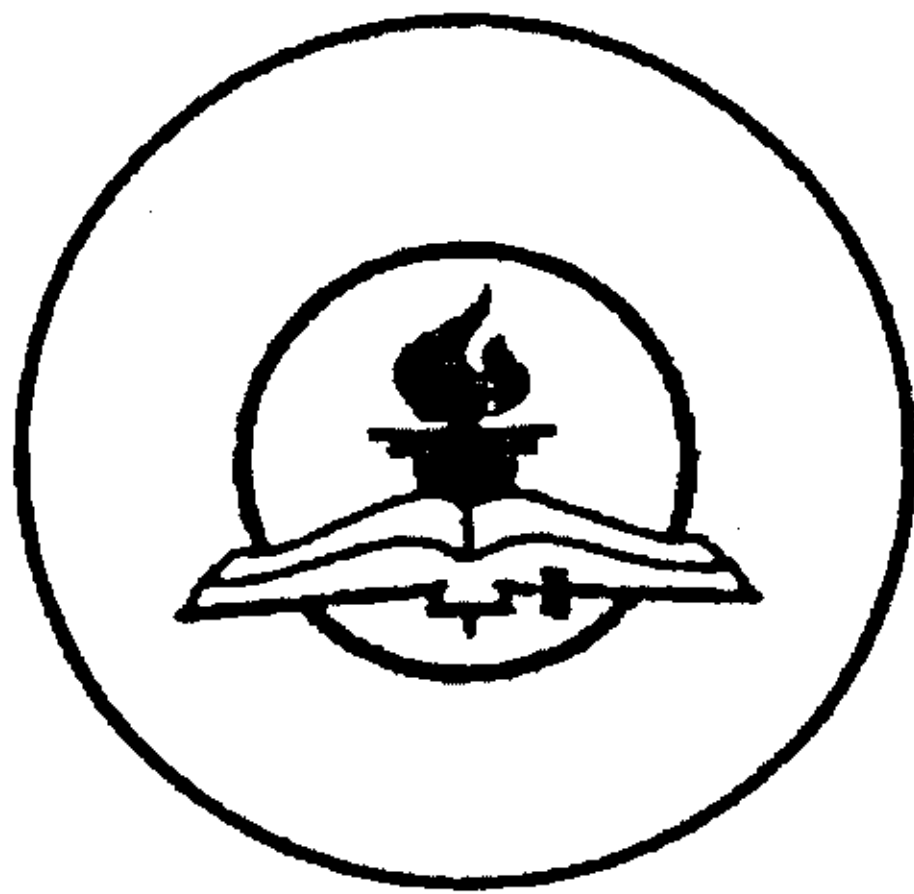


2011
Quarterly Sessions
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS



Free Will
Free Grace
Free Salvation

Martin Association
Free Will Baptists of Georgia

2011 MINUTES

Published by
The Martin Association
Free Will Baptists of Georgia

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**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST
OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS
2011-2012**

GENERAL OFFICERS

ModeratorBro. Wendell Cox
Assistant ModeratorRev. Kent Barwick
TreasurerSister Annie Laura Middleton
Assistant TreasurerBro. Bobby Tiner
ClerkSister Becky Woods
Assistant ClerkBro. Rod Brewer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bro. Wendell Cox
Rev. Benjamin Miller
Sister Becky Woods
Rev. Kent Barwick
Bro. Charles Grimes
Bro. Bobby Richardson

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Benjamin Miller - 2012
Rev. Andy Merritt - 2014
Rev. Kent Barwick - 2013
Rev. Bobby Whitaker - 2014

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

Bro. Timmy Bellflower - 2012
Rev. Andy Merritt - 2014
Bro Randy Adams - 2013

REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE BOARD

Board of Trustees - Bro. Wendell Cox, 2013
Board of Christian Education - Rev. Kent Barwick, 2013
Board of Missions - Bro. Gerald Thompson, 2013
Board of Camping - Rev. James Judkins, 2013

PROGRAMS

FOR

MARTIN ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

FIRST SESSION

Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church - January 8, 2012

Fellowship MeetingSunday, 6:00 p.m.

Host Church in Charge of Program

Fellowship Meeting

SECOND SESSION

Corinth Free Will Baptist Church - April 7, 2012

Business MeetingSaturday, 10:00 A.M.

Host Church In Charge Of Program

Business Meeting

THIRD SESSION

Hebrew Free Will Baptist Church - July 8, 2012

Fellowship MeetingSunday, 6:00 p.m.

Host Church In Charge of Program

Fellowship Meeting

FOURTH SESSION

Highway Free Will Baptist Church - October 13, 2012

Business MeetingSaturday, 10:00 a.m.

Host Church In Charge of Program

Business Meeting

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

October 8, 2011

Thompson FWB Church, Colquitt, GA

Business Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists convened at Thompson Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt on Saturday, October 8, 2011. Moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox, called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was given by Rev. Charles Taylor. The congregation sang, "When We All Get to Heaven."

Bro. Jerry Tolbert gave the welcome followed by a response from Bro. Billy Adams. Bro. Gerald Thompson gave the devotional from Psalms 100. He stated the believer's theme should be thanksgiving, to worship God for who He is.

The business session began with a roll call of ordained and licensed ministers with a total of 4 present. There were 12 ordained deacons present and 17 delegates were seated. The roll call of churches was taken with 9 churches represented.

Bro. Wendell appointed Sisters Veda Bellflower, Patsy Merritt and Pam Roberts to the Resolution Committee. Bro. Rod Brewer and Bro. Gerald Thompson made up the Credentials Committee. Rev. Bobby Walker was asked to assist on the Ordaining Council for the day. A 15 minute recess was then called for these committees to meet.

The meeting reconvened with the congregation singing "Where the Soul Never Dies." Bro. Wendell Cox read the obituary report for 2011 as reported by the churches. A copy of these names will be attached to these minutes. Bro. Andy Merritt led in prayer.

Bro. Andy Merritt gave the report of the Ordaining Council. He made motion that a letter of good standing with the Martin Association be sent to the North Georgia Association on behalf of Rev. Benjamin Miller. This was carried.

Bro. Gerald Thompson gave the report from the State Mission Board. Bro. Bill Crank's salary paid by the mission board has been decreased to \$3000. The church is responsible for the balance. The land and the building is for sale. The church will meet in rental building, if sold.

Bro. Jay Hollis has resigned from the work in Harris County. We need to pray for a new church planter. This report was accepted as information.

We then received an offering. Sister Becky Harrell read the minutes from the previous business and fellowship meetings. They were approved as read.

Bro. Wendell Cox, representing the state Board of Trustees, said that giving is up a little across the state. He encouraged everyone to pray for Bro. Ron Wallace in Alaska. There are 20 churches without pastors. This report was accepted as information. Bro. Wendell also gave the report of the camping board. Teen camp

will be June 6-8, 2012. This was also accepted as information.

New business: Sister Annie Laura Middleton was unanimously elected as treasurer. Bro. Bobby Whitaker was elected to serve on the Ordaining Council. A motion was made and seconded that those on the Ordaining Council, Investigation Committee and Representatives to State Boards who were to be replaced in 2011 will be replaced themselves. This was carried.

The credentials report was given by Bro. Gerald Thompson with 12 churches reporting. There was a total present of 47. The attendance banner was presented to Thompson Church, Mt. Gilead church received the banner for the highest percent present. This report was accepted as given.

Sister Pam Roberts then gave the report of the resolution committee. The resolutions were as follows: that the Martin Association churches be in diligent prayer that God will send pastors to churches without pastors; that we, as the body of Christ, that we pray for Godly leaders in America that will take a stand for what is right and true, and hold fast; and that we give a rising vote of thanks to Thompson Church for hosting this annual meeting and for their gracious hospitality. This was approved as given.

Bro. Wendell turned the worship service over to Bro. Bobby Whittaker who brought an inspiring message on the importance of greeting in the church. He said if there is not much greeting, there will not be much meeting. Bro. Wendell Cox gave the prayer of dismissal and blessing of the food.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk
Wendell Cox, Moderator

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

April 9, 2011

New Home FWB Church, Decatur County, GA

Business Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists convened at New Home Free Will Baptist Church in Decatur County on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Moderator, Bob Wendell Cox, called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was given by Bro. Bobby Whitaker. The congregation sang "Stand Up for Jesus."

Bro. Howard Scarborough gave the welcome followed by a response from Bro. Rod Brewer. He urged everyone to pray for more interest and better attendance at the association business meetings. Bro. Randall Forrester gave the devotional from Romans 12:1.

The business session began with a roll call of ordained and licensed ministers with a total of 7 present. There were 8 ordained deacons present and 13 delegates were seated. The roll call of churches was taken with 9 churches represented.

Bro. Wendell appointed Bro. Darrell Newberry and Bro. Scott Roberts to the Resolution Committee. Bro. Howard Scarborough and Bro. Billy Adams made up the Credentials Committee. A 15 minute recess was then called for these committees to meet.

The meeting reconvened with a report from the Ordaining Council. Bro. Andy Merritt presented a letter of good standing from the Twin Cities Association for Bro. Shane Suggs to be received into the Martin Association. Bro. Shane was given the right hand of fellowship.

Bro. Darrell Newberry began the resolution committee report by reading John 14:1, 2. He stated we need to be more encouraging and ask others to be more active. It was resolved also to give a rising vote of thanks to the New Home Church for their hospitality. This report was accepted.

We then received an offering. Bro. Charles Taylor led the offertory prayer.

Sister Becky Woods then read the minutes from the October, 2010 business meeting and the January, 2011 fellowship meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Bro. Benjamin Miller gave the treasurer's report which was approved as given. Bro. Benjamin reminded everyone that the National Association dues have increased to \$150.00 per year. These can be paid annually or can be divided to pay \$37.50 quarterly. He stated that each church needs to pay these dues as the Martin Association is liable to pay dues for the 13 churches. Churches that don't pay will be contacted at the end of year to pay.

Because of excess in treasury at this time, Bro. Benjamin made a motion that

we send \$250.00 to the benevolent fund and \$250.00 to Japan relief fund. This was carried. Bro. Benjamin made a motion to maintain \$75.00 per quarter instead of \$150.00 for printing fees. This was carried.

The 2010 minutes were available for each church.

Bro. Benjamin stated that the Executive Committee will meet at a later date to select a nomination committee.

Bro. Gerald Thompson gave the report from the State Mission Board. Bro. Bill Crank has resigned from the Cartersville church but will stay until the end of the year. He will be paid by the mission board through May, 2011. Bro. S.E. Newberry added that we need to pray for that church and pray and encourage the Cranks.

We also need to pray for the work in Harris County. This report was accepted as information.

Bro. Wendell Cox, representing the State Board of Trustees, said that giving is down across the state. He encouraged everyone to give more. This report was accepted as information.

The credentials report was given by Bro. Billy Adams with 12 churches reporting. This report was accepted as given. The attendance banner was presented to New Home Church, Decatur County with 13 present. Highway Church received the banner for the highest percent present.

Bro. Wendell turned the worship service over to Bro. S.E. Newberry who brought an inspiring message from Psalms 92 and Psalms 150. He stated that man has more reasons to praise than any of God's creation.

Bro. Wendell Cox gave the prayer of dismissal and blessing of the food.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Woods, Clerk
Wendell Cox, Moderator

Martin Association of Free Will Baptists
January 9, 2011
New Home Free Will Baptist Church, Miller County
Fellowship Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists convened at New Home Free Will Baptist Church. This was a fellowship meeting.

Bro. Scott Roberts led the congregation in singing “He Set Me Free.” Pastor Benjamin Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting. The congregation sang “Blessed Assurance” and “Living By Faith.”

An offering was then received with prayer by Rev. Benjamin Miller. The congregation then sang “I’ve a Home Beyond the River.” The New Home church choir gave a beautiful rendition of “Love Has a Heartbeat.”

New moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox, then gave a hearty welcome to everyone. He thanked past moderator Bro. Kent Barwick and past clerk. Bro. Bobby Tyner for the faithful service. He also introduced new clerk, Sis. Becky Woods.

He then asked everyone to join hands and form a prayer chain. Bro. Wendell led in prayer.

Bro. Wendell encouraged everyone to attend the association business meetings, especially pastors, deacons and trustees. He read Acts 20:28 and reminded us that everyone needs to spread God’s Word. He then introduced the speaker, Rev. Benjamin Miller who read Luke 15:11-19. The message was entitled “Why Not Now?” We do not need to procrastinate but do what God wants us to do NOW. The New Home Church choir sang the invitations song.

Bro. Wendell thanked the host church for the meal we were about to enjoy. Rev. Bobby Whitaker gave the prayer of dismissal and blessing on food.

Respectfully submitted

Wendell Cox, Moderator
Becky Woods, Clerk

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
July 10, 2011
New Salem FWB Church, Colquitt, GA
Fellowship Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists convened at New Salem Free Will Baptist Church on Sunday night, July 10, 2011. Moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox gave a hearty welcome to everyone and thanked New Salem for hosting the meeting.

Bro. Wendell then made the following announcements: Bro. Benjamin Miller will be leaving our association. He will be vacating the position of treasurer of the Martin Association as well as being a member of the Ordaining Council and the Executive committee. We will need to fill these positions at the October Association meeting.

Also, due to the death of Bro. Lynn Frazier, we need to elect an assistant moderator. Bro. Kent Barwick was elected to this position.

The National Association year books were made available - one copy to each church.

The churches were reminded that the National Association annual fees have increased to \$150.00 per year per church. The quarterly reporting letters have been changed to reflect the new fees.

After the announcements, the congregation sang "In My Heart There Rings a Melody." Bro. Benjamin Miller led in prayer.

The congregation then sang several songs from a song sheet prepared by the host church.

A trio from New Salem presented special music, "When He was on The Cross," "I Was on His Mind" and "Jesus Built a Bridge."

Pastor of New Salem, Bro. Jimmy Harris, then brought a very inspiring message from Isaiah 40-28-31. He reminded us that we need to fly like eagles, run and don't get weary, walk and not faint. God's grace is sufficient. It is remarkable that he presents this message from a wheel chair.

After the message, Bro. Benjamin Miller stated that it had been his privilege to serve the Martin Association and asked that we pray for him and his family as they go to a new place of ministry.

Bro. William Smith, Georgia Executive Secretary, then dismissed in prayer and asked God's blessing on the delicious meal we were about to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Woods, Clerk
Wendell Cox, Moderator

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Annual Treasurer’s Report
January 1, 2011 – December 31 , 2011

Deposits				
Date	Sequence	Purpose	Meeting Date	Amount
1/09/11	1	Regular Fees	1/09/11	\$1618.00
1/09/11	2	Offering	1/09/11	\$246.00
4/09/11	3	Regular Fees	4/09/11	\$1751.00
4/09/11	4	Offering	4/09/11	\$113.00
7/10/11	5	Regular Fees	7/10/11	\$1717.00
7/10/11	6	Offering	7/10/11	\$275.00
10/08/11	7	Regular Fees	10/08/11	\$1712.00
10/08/11	8	Offering	10/08/11	\$188.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS				\$7620.00

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Annual Treasurer's Report continued
January 1, 2011 – December 13, 2011

Disbursements				
Date	Chk #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1/05/11	1313	Automatic Printers	2010 Minutes	\$283.55
1/09/11	1314	Bro. Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
1/09/11	1315	Sis. Becky Woods	Clerk	\$50.00
1/09/11	1316	Bro. Benjamin Miller	Treasurer	\$50.00
1/13/11	1317	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$334.33
1/13/11	1318	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$334.33
1/13/11	1319	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$334.33
1/13/11	1320	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$334.33
1/13/11	1321	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$161.70
3/04/11	1322	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	St./Ntl. Dues	\$1375.00
4/08/11	1323	Bro. Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
4/08/11	1324	Sis. Becky Woods	Clerk	\$50.00
4/08/11	1325	Bro. Benjamin Miller	Treasurer	\$50.00
4/09/11	1326	Sis. Becky Woods	Postage	\$8.80
4/11/11	1327	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$130.00
4/11/11	1328	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Japan Relief	\$250.00
4/11/11	1329	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$423.45
4/11/11	1330	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$423.45
4/11/11	1331	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$423.45
4/11/11	1332	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$423.45
7/09/11	1333	Bro. Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
7/09/11	1334	Sis. Becky Woods	Clerk	\$50.00
7/09/11	1335	Bro. Benjamin Miller	Treasurer	\$50.00
7/10/11	1336	Sis. Becky Woods	Postage	\$17.60

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Annual Treasurer’s Report continued
January 1, 2011 – December 13, 2011

Disbursements				
Date	Chk #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
7/22/11	1337	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$221.20
7/22/11	1338	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$370.20
7/22/11	1339	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$370.20
7/22/11	1340	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$370.20
7/22/11	1341	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$370.20
11/09/11	1342	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$359.60
11/09/11	1343	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$359.60
11/09/11	1344	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$359.60
11/09/11	1345	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$359.60
11/09/11	1346	Bro. Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
11/09/11	1347	Sis. Becky Woods	Clerk	\$50.00
11/09/11	1348	Sis. Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
12/15/11	1349	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$159.60
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS				\$9157.77

Beginning Balance - Jan. 1, 2011\$2622.08
Additions\$7620.00
Subtractions\$9145.77
Closing Balance - Dec. 31, 2011\$1096.31

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OBITUARY REPORT AS REPORTED

Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church

Mrs. June Williams

Born June 17, 1939 - Died June 24, 2011

Mr. Bronnie Henry

Born: January 4, 1928 - Died June 1, 2011

Corinth Free Will Baptist Church

Mr. Ernest Lynn Frazier

Born: February 14, 1934 - Died January 18, 2011

First Free Will Baptist Church, Donalsonville

Mrs. Beulah Frasier Baker

Born: January 17, 1934 - Died September 8, 2011

Hebrew Free Will Baptist Church

Ms. Myrtle Elizebeth Robinson Young

Born: July 30, 1944 - Died January 17, 2011

Mother's Home Free Will Baptist Church

Martha Bailey Williams

Born: February 27, 1940 - Died June 26, 2011

Mt. Gilead Free Will Baptist Church

Mrs. Eudene V. Boyd

Born: September 30, 1928 - Died September 22, 2010

Mrs. Ramona B. Harrell

Born: March 21, 1957 - Died December 23, 2010

New Salem Free Will Baptist Church

Sarah Elizabeth Newberry

Born: April 7, 1923 - Died May 13, 2011

Brewton A. Middleton

Born: August 31, 1913 - Died July 9, 2011

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
COLQUITT	Rev. Kent Barwick 1077 Enterprise Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 758-6221	Sis. Donna Kay Lovering 511 Hwy. 45 South Colquitt, GA 39837 400-3391
CORINTH		Sis. Gloria Frazier 811 Rose Circle Bainbridge, GA 39819 246-4078
DONALSONVILLE	Rev. Rollin Rathel 5876 Hwy. 39 South Donalsonville, GA 39845 524-8917	Sis. Debbie Whitaker 2247 Whites Dairy Rd. Iron City, GA 39859 774-2647
FATHERS HOME	Rev. Woodrow Wisham 1182 Church Rd. Camilla, GA 31730 294-3141	Jackie Batchelor 1770 Colonial Rd. Camilla, GA 31730 294-9359
HEBREW	Rev. Andy Merritt 63 Old Airport Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 758-2451	Sis. Doretha Stewart 2971 Croom-Webb Rd. Donalsonville, GA 39845 861-3171
HIGHWAY		Sis. Scarborough Scott 3334 Dothan Rd. Brinson, GA 39825 246-1978
MOTHERS HOME		Sis. Willine Musgrove 310 Adams Powell Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 246-7735

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
MT. GILEAD	Bro Charles Taylor 8164 Spring Creek Dr. Donalsonville, GA 39845 861-2357	Bro. Timmy Bellflower 156 Bethany Church Rd. Brinson, GA 39825 254-2851
MT. GLORY	Rev. James Lemieux P.O. Box 181 Greensboro, FL 32330 850-442-4379	Sis. Ethel Newberry 2157 Hutchinson Ferry Rd. Quincy, FL 32352 850-856-5134
NEW HOME (M.C.)		Sis. Pam Roberts 265 Grimsley Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 254-6905
NEW HOME (D.C.)	Rev. Benny Cumbie 125 Church Rd. Climax, GA 39834 246-2046	Bro. Larry Miles 211 Open Pond Rd. Bainbridge, GA 39817 246-1323
NEW SALEM	Rev. Jimmy Harris 16047 Hwy. 39 Blakely, GA 39823 723-8373	Bro. Bobby Richardson 1256 Mayhaw Rd. Blakely, GA 39823 758-2659
THOMPSON	Dr. Robert L. Whittaker 70 Thompson West Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 758-8839	Bro. Louie Grimes 233 Bush Grimes Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 758-2102

MARTIN ASSOC

Moderator: Bro. Wendell Cox 1027 Hwy. 45 South Colquitt, GA 39837 758-3370 221-3891 cell	Clerk: Sis. Becky Harrell 132 Croley Rd. Bainbridge, GA 39817 246-6547	Treasurer: Annie Laura Middleton 640 Thompson Town Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 220-5800 758-2104
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BY-LAWS

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1. It is recommended that each church close its books on September 1st and mail the quarterly and annual reports to the clerk two weeks before each session of the Association.

2. It is suggested that the Pastoral year begin September first.

3. All business of this Body shall be conducted according to established parliamentary procedures as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

4. 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.

5. The Woman's Auxiliary, and any other Auxiliary of this Association shall give an annual written report at the October meeting.

6. Obituary reports from each church should give name, date of birth, and date of death of deceased members in the annual report to the Association. This information will be given to the Resolutions Committee.

7. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to call the meeting to order and to maintain order and harmony.

8. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Moderator to assume the duties of the Moderator in his/her absence or upon the request of the Moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep accurate financial records in terms of receipts, expenditures, and balance of funds to be reported to the Association quarterly and prepared for yearly publication.

10. The Assistant Treasurer shall perform such duties as are incumbent on the Treasurer in his/her absence or upon the request of the Treasurer.

11. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a minute of the proceedings and to prepare the Minutes for publication, including all items of business, committee reports, and all other matters which effect the program of this Association.

12. The Assistant Clerk shall perform such duties as are incumbent on the Clerk in his/her absence or upon request of the Clerk.

13. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any regular session.

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the Martin Association of Free Will Baptists of Georgia, do establish and ordain this Constitution for the purpose of advocating, promoting, and increasing our fellowship with one another as fellow members of the Church of Jesus Christ, and for the extension of the Kingdom of God through the preaching of the Gospel of the divine Son of God.

ARTICLE I

NAME:

This Association shall be called the Martin Association of Free Will Baptists, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined churches as may embody themselves under this constitution.

ARTICLE II

COMPOSITION AND DELEGATES:

Section 1. This Martin Association shall be composed of its general officers, all ordained and licensed ministers of Gospel, all ordained deacons who are in good standing with the churches of which they are members, duly elected delegates from the local churches comprising the Association, and all Home and Foreign Missionaries who are members in good standing with a church belonging to this Association.

Section 2. Local churches shall be allowed two (2) delegates for the first fifty members or fraction thereof, and one (1) delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS:

The Sessions of this Association shall be held quarterly in January, April, July, and October on Saturday following the first Sunday of these months. The place of meeting to be determined by vote of the Association. It shall be the duty of the member churches to represent by letter and delegates at these meetings and report their condition and statistics on forms provided by the Association. The October session shall be considered the annual session of this Association.

AMENDMENT #1

MEETINGS:

Meeting Sessions of the Association shall be classified in 2 categories as follows. On January and July of each year there shall be held a Fellowship Meeting only. On April and October of each year there shall be held the regular Business Meetings as in the past. The By-Laws shall only apply to the April and October Meetings as specified.

ARTICLE IV

INDEPENDENCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCHES:

Every church in this Association shall be considered an independent body and shall control its own internal affairs, having unrestricted right to administer its own government without interference from any higher body, being under Christ free and independent.

ARTICLE V

ASSOCIATIONAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE LOCAL CHURCHES:

The Martin Association shall be considered an advisory board whose function is to meet quarterly at such places as may be determined according to Article III of this Constitution, and not to adjourn formally until all pertinent matters are disposed of. While in session its duty shall be to examine all questions of interest to this Association and to use its best influence to promote Christian, denominational, and benevolent programs and institutions, such as Sunday Schools, Church Training Service, Woman's Auxiliary, Masters Men, Home and Foreign Missions, and child-care institutions. The only punitive power this Association has in relation to the member churches is the right to withdraw fellowship from such churches who are in open violation of the rules and regulations of said Association or who become unsound in the doctrines and practices of the Free Will Baptist Denomination.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS:

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, each of whom shall be elected at the close of the October session and assume the duties of their offices the next day following their election.

Section 2. No individual shall be elected to more than one office at a time.

Section 3. The Moderator may not serve more than (3) terms in succession. The Clerk and Treasurer may serve for an indefinite period of time.

ARTICLE VII

PROCEDURES FOR JOINING THE ASSOCIATION:

A church desiring to become a member of Martin Association shall submit a petitionary letter to the Association at any of its regular quarterly sessions, stating the date and place of organization, the Pastor's name and address, list of all elected officers, number of members, and time and place of regular meetings. The church must conform to the doctrines, and practices of the Free Will Baptist Denomination as set forth in the Treatise of Faith and Practice of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

This Association reserves the right to send its Executive Committee to investigate any applicant for membership in this Association if it deems necessary and to subsequently act on the report of said Executive Committee before approval for membership becomes final.

ARTICLE VIII

FINANCE:

Section 1. It is suggested that each church comprising this Association send to the Association on a quarterly basis fifty cents (.50) per member to be determined on a total membership basis. However, at the discretion of the churches, inactive members need not be in the per-capita figure, but it is hoped that the churches will elect to include all members, active and inactive, in determining their total fee.

Section 2. Regular funds to the Associational treasury shall be disbursed on a quarterly basis as follows:

- A. Retain in the treasury fifty (50) dollars.
- B. State Association, fifteen (15) dollars.
- C. For printing minutes, one hundred fifty (150) dollars.
- D. Moderator's honorarium, fifty (50) dollars; Clerk's honorarium, fifty (50) dollars; Treasurer's honorarium fifty (50) dollars.
- E. The remaining funds will be allocated as follows: State Cooperative Program, 70% - Benevolent Fund, 30%.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES, BOARD, COUNCIL

Section 1. Committees may be chosen for any particular function at any session of the Association as the need arises. Unless otherwise specified, the Moderator shall appoint these committees.

Section 2. Standing committees may be set up by the Association as the need arises and unless otherwise specified, the Moderator shall appoint these committees.

Section 3. The Standing Committees of this Association shall be the Executive Committee and the Investigating Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and three (3) members to be elected annually by the Association. The Executive Committee shall act for and in behalf of the Martin Association on matters pertaining to its interests which may arise between sessions and which by their nature require immediate action. Such actions shall, however, be subject to final approval by this Association at its next regular session and consequently must be reported in full to the Association at its regular meeting.

The Investigating Committee shall consist of three (3) members who shall be elected as follows: one for a three (3) year term; one for a two (2) year term; and one for a one (1) year term. Election thereafter shall be for the three (3) year term. This committee shall act on instruction from the Association in investigating any irregularities among the churches which threaten the harmony and well being of the Association. It shall have no legislative or jurisdictional powers within itself, but must report all its findings to the Association for official action.

Section 4. There shall be an Ordaining Council consisting of three (3) ordained ministers in good standing with Martin Association. They shall be elected as follows: one for a three (3) year term; one for a two (2) year term; and one for a one (1) year term. Election thereafter shall be for the three (3) year term.

The Ordaing Council shall examine candidates for ordination to the Gospel ministry under the procedures adopted by this Association .* (Guidelines adopted by the State Association.)

ARTICLE X

ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS:

This Constitution may be altered or amended by the Martin Association at any of its regular sessions by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed alteration or amendment be presented in writing, filed with the Clerk of the Association, and read publicly before the Body at least two (2) times at a previous regular meeting.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship, and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of ordinances of the holy gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to “keep the unity of the Spirit” in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another’s happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world.

And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.