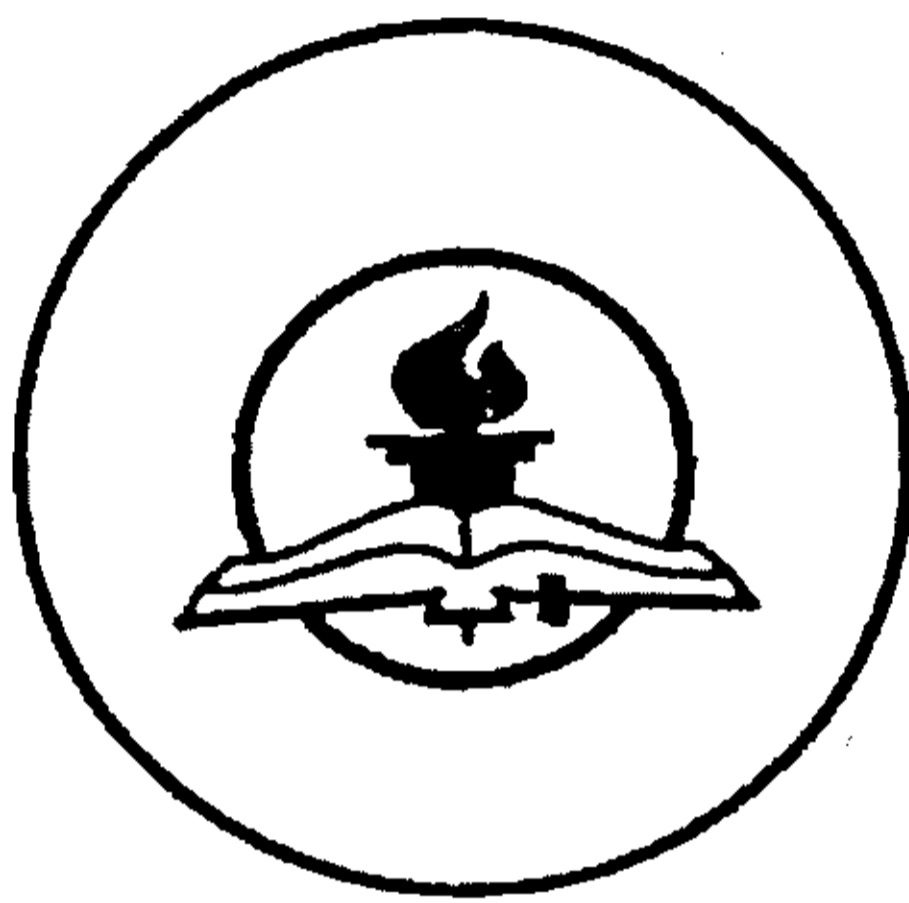


# 2012

# Quarterly Sessions

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX YEARS



*Free Will*  
*Free Grace*  
*Free Salvation*

**Martin Association**  
**Free Will Baptists of Georgia**

# **2012 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  
2012-2013**

**GENERAL OFFICERS**

Moderator .....Bro. Wendell Cox  
Assistant Moderator .....Rev. Kent Barwick  
Treasurer .....Sister Annie Laura Middleton  
Assistant Treasurer .....Bro. Bobby Tiner  
Clerk.....Sister Becky Harrell  
Assistant Clerk .....Bro. Rod Brewer

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Bro. Wendell Cox  
Rev. Kent Barwick  
Sister Becky Harrell  
Sis. Annie Laura Middleton  
Bro. Rod Brewer  
Bro. Bobby Tiner

**ORDAINING COUNCIL**

Rev. Andy Merritt - 2014  
Rev. Kent Barwick - 2013  
Rev. Bobby Whitaker - 2014

**INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE**

Rev. Andy Merritt - 2014  
Bro Randy Adams - 2013

**REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE BOARD**

Board of Trustees - Bro. Wendell Cox, 2015  
Board of Christian Education - Rev. Kent Barwick, 2013  
Board of Missions - Bro. Gerald Thompson, 2015  
Board of Camping - Rev. James Judkins, 2013

# **MARTIN ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETINGS**

## **FIRST SESSION**

Mother's Home Free Will Baptist Church - January 13, 2013  
Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 p.m.  
Host Church in Charge of Program

## **SECOND SESSION**

Mt. Gilead Free Will Baptist Church - April 14, 2013  
Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 P.M.  
Host Church In Charge Of Program

## **THIRD SESSION**

New Home, Miller County Free Will Baptist Church - July 14, 2013  
Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 p.m.  
Host Church In Charge of Program  
Fellowship Meeting

## **FOURTH SESSION**

New Home, Decatur County Free Will Baptist Church - October 12, 2013  
Business Meeting .....Saturday, 10:00 a.m.  
Host Church In Charge of Program  
Business Meeting

January 5, 2012

On January 5, 2012, the Executive Committee met at the Pirate's Cove in Colquitt with Wendell Cox, Becky Harrell, Annie Laura Middleton and Rod Brewer in attendance.

After a delicious meal, we discussed the location for the meetings of the Martin Association for 2012. The following dates and locations were approved:

January 8, 2012 (Fellowship meeting) – Colquitt FWB Church, 6:30pm

April 7, 2012 (Business meeting) – Corinth FWB Church

July 8, 2012 (Fellowship meeting) – Hebrew FWB church, 6:00PM

October 13, 2012 (Annual business meeting) – Highway FWB Church

On January 13, 2013 the Fellowship meeting will be held at Mother's Home FWB Church in Colquitt at 6:00pm.

Becky asked about the expiration dates for board members. Wendell will check with William Smith to get this information. Becky also asked about the annual treasurer's report for 2011. Since we changed treasurer's during the year, this has not been done. Annie Laura Middleton will work on this and get this to Becky for the minutes as soon as possible.

With no further business, Rod Brewer dismissed our meeting with prayer.

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

January 8, 2012

Colquitt FWB Church, Colquitt, GA

Fellowship Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt on Sunday, January 8, 2012. The meeting began by Bro. Buddy Johnson leading the congregation in song followed by special music.

Bro. Kent Barwick then introduced moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox who gave everyone a warm word of welcome followed by prayer. Bro. Wendell recognized the pastors who were in attendance. He then introduced our Executive Secretary, Bro. William Smith.

Bro. Wendell then announced the following schedule for association meetings this year: April 7, 2012 @ 10:00 am, business meeting at Corinth FWB church, July 8, 2012 @ 6:00 pm, fellowship meeting at Hebrew FWB church, October 13, 2012 @ 10:00am, annual business meeting at Highway FWB church. Also the fellowship meeting for January 13, 2013 @ 6:00pm will be held at Mother's Home FWB church.

Bro. Wendell then introduced the officers for the Martin Association for this year.

Bro. Cory Thompson, pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church was welcomed.

After prayer, the choir from the host church presented special music, after which we received an offering. We then had a time of meeting and greeting followed by congregational singing and special music.

Bro. Kent then introduced the speaker, Bro. William Smith who brought a message from John 13:1-5, entitled "The Basin and the Towel." Jesus taught us to be a servant. Leaders should be the greatest servants. Jesus offers salvation to all and in return, asks for a life of devotion and service.

Following the invitation hymn, we were dismissed to the fellowship hall to enjoy soup and sandwiches and a time of fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Wendell Cox, Moderator

# MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

April 7, 2012

Corinth FWB Church, Iron City, GA

Business Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their business meeting at Corinth Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, April 7, 2012. Moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order, Bro. Golden from the host church gave a warm welcome. Response and prayer were given by Bro. Kent Barwick..

Congregational singing was led by Bro. Brian Driggers. We then had time of fellowship. Bro. Brian announced that on the last Saturday night of the month at Corinth, they would be having a gospel sing. He invited all to come and take part and bring finger foods with them.

Following more singing, Bro. Brian Driggers brought a devotion from I Corinthians 3:1-7, entitled "Foundations for Living."

The business session began with the roll call of ordained and licensed ministers with a total of 7 present. There were 8 deacons present and 17 delegates were seated. The roll call of churches was taken with 10 churches represented.

Bro. Wendell appointed Bros. Talmadge Worsley, Charles Grimes, and Bobby Whitaker to the resolution committee. Bro. Kent Barwick, Sister Jewel Worsley and Sister Grier Tyner made up the credentials committee. A 15 minute recess was then called for these committees to meet.

After the recess, Bro. Wendell asked if there were any obituaries that needed to be reported. Bro. Floyd Cox from Thompson FWB church passed away in December, 2011. Bro. Bobby Whitaker offered prayer for the bereaved and the offeratory. We received the offering.

Sister Becky Harrell read the minutes from the October 2011 meeting and the January, 2012 meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Bro. Jimmy Hooks, new pastor at New Home Church, Decatur County was welcomed to the meeting. Georgia Executive Secretary, Bro. William Smith was also welcomed.

Sister Annie Laura Middleton gave the financial report. She thanked Sister Jewel Worsley and Bro. William Smith for their help during her first months as treasurer.

There was no report from the ordaining council.

Bro. William Smith gave a report on the State Mission Board. Giving is good in GA. The Bishops and Snobs are available for services. The work in Cartersville is doing better. The work in Valdosta is full time now. Pray for Bro. Bill Lewis whose wife passed away recently. Bro. William said that he will be glad to come and talk with any church about giving and situation with missions.

Christian Education Board- Schedule for retreats and camps are in state promotional bulletin.

Trustee Board-Bro. William Smith reported that the state office needs a new dead bolt lock.

GWAC- Sister Becky Harrell reported that the Women's prayer retreat will be held this month. She encouraged churches to form their own auxiliaries.

There was no old business.

New business – Motion was made, seconded and carried for Bro. Kent Barwick to meet with the executive board to discuss the possibility of having three fellowship meetings and 1 business session per year. The business session will be held in October and any necessary business will be conducted at the fellowship meetings. The executive board will report to the October conference. This will be voted on in January, 2013.

Bro. William said he was glad to have Bro. Talmadge Worsley and his wife back in the Martin Association.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to send letter of good standing for Bro. Shane Suggs, pending request from receiving association.

Bro. Talmadge Worsley gave the following report of the resolution committee: 1. That we embrace II Chronicles 7:14 as our rule and guide. 2. That there be a renewed interest in the Gospel ministry of our denomination. 3. That we give Corinth church a rising vote of appreciation for their hospitality. This report was accepted.

The credentials report was given and accepted. There were 13 churches reporting with a total of 41 in attendance. Corinth church received the attendance and the percentage banners.

The worship service began with congregational singing. This was followed by a special, “We shall See Jesus” by Brian and Pam Driggers.

Bro. Kent Barwick brought a message from Luke 24:1-8, entitled “They Remembered His Words.” We do not want to forget what God says.

Bro. Wendell gave prayer of dismissal and blessing on the food we were about to enjoy. The next meeting will be on Sunday July 8 @ 6:00 at Hebrew FWB Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Wendell Cox, Moderator

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

July 8, 2012

Hebrew FWB Church, Donalsonville, GA

Fellowship Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at Hebrew Free Will Baptist Church in Donalsonville on Sunday, July 8, 2012. The meeting began with a welcome and prayer by moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox. Several churches made announcements. We received an offering of \$289.55.

National directories were then given to a representative for each church represented.

Bro. Wendell then turned the service over to Pastor Andy Merritt. The host church welcomed everyone. After prayer, the choir from the host church presented special music, featuring Bro. Andy and Sister Patsy Merritt. We then had a time of singing by the congregation and the Hebrew church choir followed by time of meeting and greeting.

Bro. Wendell announced that there will be an executive committee meeting on August 6, at 6:30 at Helen's in Colquitt. The next quarterly meeting will be held at Highway Free Will Baptist Church on October 13, 2012, 10:00am.

Bro. Andy Merritt then delivered a message from Phillipians 3:10 on Christian Joy which comes when we empty ourselves, become intimate with Christ and expect to do great things for God.

Following the invitation hymn, Bro. Wendell thanked the Hebrew folks for their hospitality and the meal we were about to enjoy. Bro. James Aycock gave the prayer of dismissal and blessing on food

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk

Wendell Cox, Moderator

August 6, 2012

On August 6, 2012, the Executive Committee of the Martin Association of Free Will Baptists met at the Pirate's Cove in Colquitt with Wendell Cox, Becky Harrell, Annie Laura Middleton, Kent Barwick and Rod Brewer in attendance.

After a delicious meal, we discussed the dates for the meetings of the Martin Association for 2013. The following dates and locations were approved:

January 13 2013 (Fellowship meeting) – Mother's Home FWB Church, 6:00pm  
April 13 or 14, 2013 (Date and type of meeting pending) – Mt. Gilcad FWB Church  
July 14, 2013 (Fellowship meeting) – New Home FWB Church, Miller County, 6:00pm  
October 12, 2013 (Annual business meeting) – New Home FWB Church, Decatur County, 10:00am

We also discussed the meeting format for the Martin Association quarterly meetings with regard to the proposal that was made at the April 2012 business meeting. The executive committee recommends that instead of having 2 business sessions and 2 fellowship sessions per year that we change to 3 fellowship sessions and 1 business session annually. The business session would be held in October. If any business matters need attention, they could be brought up at the fellowship meetings. This will be voted on at the January 2013 meeting.

With no further business, Rod Brewer dismissed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk,  
Martin Association

# MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

October 13, 2012

Highway FWB Church, Brinson, GA

## Business Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their business meeting at Highway Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, October 13, 2012. Moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The congregation sang "When we all get to Heaven" led by Sis. Brenda Bailey. Bro. Earl Daniels from the host church gave a warm welcome. Response and prayer were given by Bro. Kent Barwick..

Following more singing, Sis. Janice Whitehead brought an encouraging devotion from II Corinthians 5:17,18.

The business session began with the roll call of ordained and licensed ministers with a total of 5 present. There were 5 deacons present and 17 delegates were seated. The roll call of churches was taken with 10 churches represented.

Bro. Wendell appointed Bros. Kent Barwick, Jimmy Hooks, and Bobby Whitaker to the resolution committee. Bros. Charles Harrell, Billy Adams, and Sister Darlene Cox made up the credentials committee. We received an offering of \$126.35. A 15 minute recess was then called for the committees to meet.

We reconvened with the congregation singing "At His Coming."

Sister Becky Harrell read the minutes from the April 2012 meeting, the July, 2012 meeting and the executive committee meeting on August 6, 2012. The minutes were approved as read.

The obituary report was read by Bro. Wendell Cox. Bro. Andy Merritt said a prayer in remembrance of those.

Sister Annie Laura Middleton gave the financial report which was approved by the body.

There was no report from the ordaining council.

Bro. Kent Barwick gave the report from the Christian Education Board- Schedule for retreats and camps are in state promotional bulletin. The senior retreat will be coming up in November. Also he encouraged pastors to attend the Minister's retreat in April.

Trustee Board-Bro. Wendell Cox stated that giving is up in the state. Bro. Gerald Thompson gave the state mission board report. Bro. Bill Crank's contract has been extended until June 2013. Bro. Crank would like to come and speak to any church or association that is interested about the work in Cartersville.

There was no report from the camping board.

GWAC- No report

There was no old business.

New business – The executive board recommends that we change from having 2 business and 2 fellowship meetings per year to having three fellowship meetings and 1 business session per year. The business session will be held in October and any necessary business will be conducted at the fellowship meetings. This will be voted on in January, 2013.

Bro. Kent Barwick gave the following report of the resolution committee: 1. That we be in serious prayer for the upcoming presidential election. 2. That we, the church, be

very mindful of all the hurting and struggling people in our area, especially as to how we might meet their needs. 3. That we give Highway church a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality. This report was accepted.

The credentials report was given and accepted. There were 13 churches reporting with a total of 41 in attendance. Highway church received the attendance banner and Hebrew church, the percentage banner.

There was more congregational singing, followed by a special song, "Do you know my Jesus?" by Sis. Brenda Bailey and Eloise Daniels from Highway church.

Bro. Kim Whitehead brought a message from John 4:31-38. We need to wake up and do the Lord's work, labor together to reap and sow.

Bro. Kim gave prayer of dismissal and blessing on the food we were about to enjoy. The next meeting will be on Sunday January 13 @ 6:00 at Mother's Home FWB Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Wendell Cox, Moderator

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**Annual Treasurer's Report**  
**January 1, 2012 – August 31 , 2012**

<b>Deposits</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Sequence</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1/22/12	1	Offering	11/18/11	\$582.10
	2	Regular Fees	1/22/12	\$2137.00
1/23/12	3	Regular Fees		\$1072.00
4/08/12	4	Offering	4/07/12	\$109.00
4/08/12	5	Regular Fees	4/07/12	\$2177.00
7/18/12	6	Offering	7/08/12	\$289.55
7/18/12	7	Regular Fees	7/08/12	\$2033.50
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>				<b>\$8400.15</b>

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**Annual Treasurer's Report continued**  
**January 1, 2012 – August 31, 2012**

<b>Disbursements</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Chk #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1/22/12	1350	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
1/22/12	1351	Becky W. Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
1/22/12	1352	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
1/23/12	1353	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$282.65
1/23/12	1354	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$282.65
1/23/12	1355	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$282.65
1/23/12	1356	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$282.65
1/23/12	1357	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$381.22
1/23/12	1358	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	National Fees	\$1950.00
2/02/12	1359	Postmaster	Stamps	\$9.00
2/02/12	1360	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	State Fees	75.00
2/02/12	1361	Becky W. Harrell	Postage	\$18.00
4/08/12	1362	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
4/08/12	1363	Becky W. Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
4/08/12	1364	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
4/08/12	1365	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$382.52
4/08/12	1366	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$382.52
4/08/12	1367	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$382.52
4/08/12	1368	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$382.52
4/14/12	1369	Houston Printing Co.	2011 Quarterly Minutes	\$393.12
4/14/12	1370	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$358.40
7/18/12	1371	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$381.36
7/18/12	1372	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$381.36
7/18/12	1373	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$381.36

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**Annual Treasurer's Report continued**  
**January 1, 2012 – August 31, 2012**

<b>Disbursements</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Chk #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
7/18/12	1374	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$381.36
7/18/12	1375	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
7/18/12	1376	Becky W. Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
7/18/12	1377	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
7/18/12	1378	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$246.80
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>				<b>\$8067.66</b>

**Beginning Balance - Jan. 22, 2012 .....\$2696.61**  
                     **Deposits .....\$8400.15**  
                     **SUBTOTAL ....\$11,096.76**  
                     **Expenditures .....\$8067.66**  
**Closing Balance - Aug. 31, 2012.....\$3029.10**

# **MARTIN ASSOCIATION OBITUARY REPORT AS REPORTED**

## **Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church**

Mr. Frank Heard

Date of Death: July 28, 2012

Mr. Buren Whitaker

Date of Death: June 1, 2011

## **First Free Will Baptist Church, Donalsonville**

Ms. Cindy Phelps

Born: March 31, 1957 - Died: October 3, 2011

## **Hebrew Free Will Baptist Church**

Mr. Jimmy Ted Smith

Born: September 18, 1947 - Died: November 13, 2011

## **New Home Free Will Baptist Church, Miller County**

Mr. Harvey D. Cox

Born: September 2, 1926 - Died: April 27, 2012

Mr. Eldredge Don Roberts

Born: May 23, 1934 - Died: May 1, 2012

## **New Salem Free Will Baptist Church**

Ms. Eva Davis Middleton

Born: June 30, 1915 - Died: May 20, 2012

## **Thompson Free Will Baptist Church**

Mr. Willie Floyd Cox

Born: April 7, 1945 - Died: December 26, 2011

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
<b>COLQUITT</b> P.O. Box 5 Colquitt, GA 39837	Rev. Kent Barwick 1077 Enterprise Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 758-6221	Sis. Donna Kay Lovering 511 Hwy. 45 South Colquitt, GA 39837 400-3391
<b>CORINTH</b> P.O. Box 447 Iron City, GA 39859	Rev. Brian Driggers 2543 Ash Crossing Rd. Iron City, GA 39859 615-636-3173	Sis. Gloria Frazier 811 Rose Circle Bainbridge, GA 39819 246-4078
<b>DONALSONVILLE</b> P.O. Box 4504 Donalsonville, GA 39845	Rev. Rollin Rathel 5876 Hwy. 39 South Donalsonville, GA 39845 524-8917	Sis. LaVerne Holman 2456 Cannington Rd. Iron City, GA 39859 774-2581
<b>FATHERS HOME</b>	Rev. Woodrow Wisham 1182 Church Rd. Camilla, GA 31730 294-3141	Jackie Batchelor 1770 Colonial Rd. Camilla, GA 31730 294-9359
<b>HEBREW</b> 6776 Hebrew Rd. Donalsonville, GA 39845	Rev. Andy Merritt 63 Old Airport Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 758-2451	Sis. Doretha Stewart 2970 Croom-Webb Rd. Donalsonville, GA 39845 861-3171
<b>HIGHWAY</b> 3376 Dothan Rd. Brinson, GA 39825	Rev. Kim Whitehead 276 Black Jack Rd. Bainbridge, GA 39817 246-1558	Sis. Eva Phillips 165 Carters Mill Rd. Brinson, GA 39825 246-5740
<b>MOTHERS HOME</b> 60 Mothers Home Church Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837	Rev. Talmadge Worsley 505 S. 3rd St. Colquitt, GA 39837 229-400-3292	Sis. Willine Musgrove 310 Adams Powell Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 246-7735

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
<b>MT. GILEAD</b>	Bro Charles Taylor 8164 Spring Creek Dr. Donalsonville, GA 39845 861-2357	Bro. Timmy Bellflower 156 Bethany Church Rd. Brinson, GA 39825 254-2851
<b>MT. GLORY</b>	Rev. James Lemieux P.O. Box 181 Greensboro, FL 32330 850-442-4379	Sis. Ethel Newberry 670 Spires Rd. Quincy, FL 32352 850-856-5134
<b>NEW HOME (M.C.)</b> 80 Lane Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837	Rev. James Aycock, Int. Hwy. 91 N. Colquitt, GA 39837 726-5398	Sis. Pam Roberts 265 Grimsley Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 254-6905
<b>NEW HOME (D.C.)</b> 496 Cumbie Rd. Climax, GA 39834	Rev. Jimmy Hooks	Sis. Beverly Cumbie 496 Cumbie Rd. Climax, GA 39834
<b>NEW SALEM</b> 75 New Salem Church Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 229-758-2559	Rev. Jimmy Harris 16047 Hwy. 39 Blakely, GA 39823 723-8373	Sis. Arlene Worsley 980 Hwy. 91 N. Colquitt, GA 39837 758-2180
<b>THOMPSON</b>	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

# **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 befor 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.**