

**2013**  
**Quarterly Sessions**  
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS



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

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

# **2013 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  
2013-2014**

**GENERAL OFFICERS**

Moderator .....Bro. Cecil Griner  
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. Cecil Griner  
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 - 2016  
Rev. Bobby Whitaker - 2014

**INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE**

Rev. Andy Merritt - 2014  
Bro. Randy Adams - 2016

**REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE BOARD**

Board of Trustees - Bro. Wendell Cox, ~~2015~~ 2017  
Board of Christian Education - Rev. Kent Barwick, ~~2016~~ 2017  
Board of Missions - Bro. Gerald Thompson, 2015  
Board of Camping - Rev. James Judkins, ~~2016~~ 2015

# **MARTIN ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETINGS**

## **FIRST SESSION**

New Salem Free Will Baptist Church - January 12, 2014  
Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

## **SECOND SESSION**

Thompson Free Will Baptist Church - April 13, 2014  
Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

## **THIRD SESSION**

Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church - July 13, 2014  
Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

## **FOURTH SESSION**

Corinth Free Will Baptist Church - October 11, 2014  
Business Meeting .....Saturday, October 11, 2014

# **MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**January 13, 2013**

**Mother's Home FWB Church, Colquitt, GA**

**Fellowship Meeting**

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at Mother's Home Free Will Baptist Church on Sunday, January 13, 2013. The service began with Bro. Rod Brewer leading the congregation in singing "O Say, But I'm Glad." Moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox, welcomed everyone and thanked Mother's Home for hosting the meeting. Rev Bobby Whitaker led in prayer.

A short business session began with the clerk reading an excerpt from the October minutes concerning changing our meeting schedule. The vote was unanimous to change from having 2 business and 2 fellowship meetings per year to having 3 fellowship meetings and 1 business session per year. The next meeting will be held on April 14 @ 6:00 at Mt. Gilead FWB Church.

Bro. Wendell reminded everyone about the state meeting to be held in Jesup on March 21 & 22. We need delegates to represent the Martin Association. He also urged everyone to pray as we elect a new moderator in October of this year. He then turned the program over to the host church.

Bro. Rod led the congregation in singing several hymns. We then received an offering of \$199.00. Mother's Home choir then sang three special songs.

Rev. Talmadge Worsley brought a message from Matthew 16:18,19. The church is Christ's. He is the builder and protector of the church. The gates of hell will not prevail against it.

Bro. Rod Brewer gave the prayer of dismissal and blessing on food. Bro. Wendell again thanked Mother's Home for hosting the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Wendell Cox, Moderator

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**April 14, 2013**

**Mt. Gilead FWB Church, Bainbridge, GA**

**Fellowship Meeting**

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at Mt. Gilead Free Will Baptist Church on Sunday, April 14, 2013. The service began with Sis. Veda Bellflower leading the congregation in singing "Are You Washed in the Blood?" Bro. Kent Barwick led in prayer. Moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox, welcomed everyone and thanked Mt. Gilead church for hosting the meeting. He then opened the floor for announcements.

Bro. William Smith announced that anyone wishing to work at youth camp must undergo a criminal background check. The forms are available through the state office and must be completed by May 6, 2013.

Bro. Kent Barwick asked if the executive board needed to meet about officers to be elected in October. Bro. Wendell said we will meet at the next meeting, which will be July 14 at New Home Church, Miller County. Bro. Wendell shared a reading "Directions for a Devoted Life." He announced the World Mission offering and encouraged each church to participate in this on Sunday, April 28. He then turned the program over to the host church.

Sis. Veda led the congregation in singing several hymns. Mt. Gilead choir then sang two special songs.

Rev. Charles Taylor brought a message from Isaiah 9 about God's judgment on Israel and stated that God is certainly going to judge America because of unconfessed sin and for sacrificing Israel.

Bro. Charles gave the prayer of dismissal and blessing on food. We received an offering of \$150.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Wendell Cox, Moderator

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**July 14, 2013**

**New Home FWB Church, Colquitt, GA**

**Fellowship Meeting**

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at New Home Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt, GA on Sunday, July 14, 2013. Moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting. The congregation sang, "The Gloryland Way." This was followed by announcements from various churches. Bro. Wendell recognized Bro. William Smith, the Georgia Executive Secretary.

There will be an executive board meeting on August 8 at 6:00pm at the Pirate's Cove in Colquitt.

The annual business meeting will be held on October 12, 2013 at the New Home Church in Decatur County.

A time of worship and praise was enjoyed by all singing several hymns. Bro. James Aycock then brought an inspiring message from II Timothy 4:6. We are called not to be successful, but faithful.

We received an offering of \$213.00. We were then dismissed to the fellowship hall to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the host church.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Wendell Cox, Moderator

August 15, 2013

On August 15, 2013, the Executive Committee of the Martin Association of Free Will Baptists met at the Pirate's Cove in Colquitt with Wendell Cox, Rod Brewer, Kent Barwick, Annie Laura Middleton and Becky Harrell in attendance. The meeting was opened with prayer by Bro. Wendell Cox.

We discussed the location for the meetings of the association for 2014. The following dates and locations were approved:

January 12, 2014 (Fellowship meeting) - New Salem FWB Church, 6:00pm

April 13, 2014 (Fellowship meeting) - Thompson FWB Church, 6:00pm

July 13, 2014 (Fellowship meeting) - Colquitt FWB Church, 6:00pm

October 11, 2014 (Business meeting) - Corinth FWB Church, 10:00 am

We will take nominations from the floor at our October meeting for moderator. We will also ask for recommendations for committees/ boards.

The executive committee recommends that the state boards remain the same as they are now. We then enjoyed a delicious meal.

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

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**October 12, 2013**  
**New Home (Decatur County) Free Will Baptist Church**  
**Business Meeting**

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their annual business meeting at New Home Free Will Baptist Church in Decatur County on Saturday, October 12, 2013.

Moderator, Bro. Wendell Cox, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Bro Wendell lead in prayer. The meeting began with an inspiring puppet show presented by Sis. Betty Hooks and others from the host church. There were seven ministers and 8 deacons present. Standing delegates were recognized and other delegates were seated.

The congregation sang, "Glory to His Name." Bro. Howard Scarborough then welcomed everyone to New Home Church. Response to the welcome was given by Rev. Bobby Whitaker. The devotion from Mark 16:14-20 was given by Bro. Wayne Scott. He encouraged everyone to stay faithful until the end.

The roll call of churches was taken with 9 churches represented with a total present of 48. Bro. Wendell appointed Rev. Talmadge Worsley and Bro. Charles Harrell to the resolution committee. Bro. Howard Scarborough and Sis. Annie Laura Middleton made up the credentials committee. We received an offering of \$140.00. A 15 minute recess was called for the committees to meet.

We reconvened with the congregation singing, "Won't it be Wonderful There?" The obituaries report was read by Bro. Wendell Cox.

Sis. Becky Harrell read the minutes from the past meetings and made motion to accept as read. Motion was seconded and carried by body. The treasurer's report was given by Sis. Annie Laura Middleton who made motion to accept. Motion seconded and carried by body. Sis. Annie Laura also stated she had received a thank you note from Mrs. Helen Robinson for the benevolence offerings she receives from the Martin Assoc.

Christian Education Board - Bro. Kent Barwick reminded us about the upcoming senior retreat to be held in November.

No report from ordaining council

Mission Board - Bro. Gerald Thompson stated that Bro. Crank has resigned from the church at Cartersville. The church at Valdosta is self-supporting but has no pastor at this time. Bro. Ron Wallace is considering possibly helping out at the Valdosta church.

Camp Board - Bro. Kent stated there were good teen and junior camps this year.

Trustee Board - Bro. Wendell stated giving is down and encouraged everyone to pray for needs.

GWAC - Sis. Becky encouraged ladies to start auxiliaries in their churches. She also gave report on the wonderful prayer retreat held in April.

Motion made, seconded and carried by body to elect Bro. Cecil Griner as the new moderator for the Martin Assoc. All other officers will remain the same.

The credentials report was given and accepted. There were 13 churches reporting. New Home, Decatur County won the attendance banner. Highway FWB Church won the banner for highest percentage present.

Rev. Talmadge Worsley gave the following report of the resolutions committee: 1. That we worship God and God alone. 2. That we promote the youth as well as the elderly in our churches. 3. That we commit ourselves to fervent prayer and Bible reading. 4. That we give a rising vote of thanks to New Home Church for their warm hospitality. This report was accepted.

The worship service began with the congregation singing, "When the Roll is Called up Yonder." Bro. Andy Merritt lead in prayer. Bro. Howard Scarborough sang, "Take my Hand, Precious Lord." Announcements were made from various churches. Several prayer requests were given. Pastors and deacons came forward to have special prayer for Bro. Wendell Cox's physical need.

Rev. Jimmy Hooks then brought the message from Isaiah 1:1-20, entitled "Time to Sound the Alarm." America needs to turn back to God. We all need to walk as close to God as we can.

Bro. Eddie Roberts gave prayer of dismissal and blessing on the food.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Wendell Cox, Moderator

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Annual Treasurer’s Report

October 13, 2012 – September 31 , 2013

Deposits

Date	Purpose	Amount
10-13-12	Offering	\$126.35
10-13-12	Church Fees	\$1946.00
10-18-12	Church Fees	\$706.50
1-15-13	Church Fees	\$2355.00
1-15-13	Offering	\$199.00
4-14-13	Offering	\$150.00
4-14-13	Church Fees	\$2007.50
7-16-13	Church Fees	\$185.00
7-16-13	Offering	\$213.00
7-16-13	Church Fees	\$2040.50
Total Deposits		\$9928.85

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**Annual Treasurer's Report continued**  
**October 13, 2012 – September 31 , 2013**

<b>Disbursements</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Chk #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
10/13/12	1379	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
10/13/12	1380	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
10/13/12	1381	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
10/18/12	1382	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$380.44
10/18/12	1383	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$380.44
10/18/12	1384	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$380.44
10/18/12	1385	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$380.44
10/18/12	1386	Becky Harrell	Postage	\$18.00
1/18/13	1387	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$382.59
1/18/13	1388	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$382.59
1/18/13	1389	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$382.59
1/18/13	1390	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$382.59
1/18/13	1391	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
1/18/13	1392	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
1/18/13	1393	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
1/18/13	1394	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op, St, Ntl	\$2214.35
1/22/13	1395	Ga. St. Assoc	State Fee	\$25.00
1/23/13	1396	Postmaster	Postage	\$18.00
1/23/13	-	Ameris	Checks	\$106.72
4/02/13	1397	Houston Printing	2012 Qtr. Session	\$433.82
4/22/13	1398	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
4/22/13	1399	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
4/22/13	1400	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
4/22/13	1401	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$350.58

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**Annual Treasurer's Report continued**  
**October 13, 2012 – September 31 , 2013**

<b>Disbursements</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Chk #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
4/22/13	1402	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$350.58
4/22/13	1403	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$350.58
4/22/13	1404	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$350.58
7/16/13	1405	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
7/16/13	1406	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
7/16/13	1407	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
7/16/13	1408	Becky Harrell	Postage	\$18.40
7/16/13	1409	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$412.29
7/16/13	1410	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$412.29
7/16/13	1411	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$412.29
7/16/13	1412	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$412.29
8/15/13	1413	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
8/15/13	1414	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
8/15/13	1415	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
9/31/13	1416	Ga. St. Assoc FWB	Co-Op	\$476.25
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>				<b>\$10164.14</b>

<b>Opening Balance.....</b>	<b>\$3029.10</b>
<b>Income.....</b>	<b>\$9928.85</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>\$12957.95</b>
<b>Disbursements.....</b>	<b>\$10164.14</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Ending Balance.....</b>	<b>\$2793.81</b>

# **MARTIN ASSOCIATION OBITUARY REPORT AS REPORTED**

## **Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church**

Ms. Margie Whitaker: b. April 3, 1935 - d. December 6, 2012  
Mr. Ishmoud Roland, Jr.: b. October 15, 1933 - d. April 25, 2012  
Ms. Carol Smith: b. December 24, 1924 - d. February 21, 2013  
Ms. Thelma Lovering: b. August 5, 1927 - d. May 30, 2013  
Mr. Jimmy Miller: b. April 11, 1960 - d. June 28, 2013  
Mr. Clifton Jones: b. April 10, 1925 - d. August 23, 2013

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

Ms. Agnes Cauble: b. September 1, 1936 - d. November 24, 2012  
Ms. Louise Alday: b. February 1, 1919 - d. March 3, 2012

## **Hebrew Free Will Baptist Church**

Ms. Kathryn Faircloth-Smith: b. March 9, 1942 - d. March 26, 2013  
Mr. Jackson Wade Croom: b. March 3, 1941 - d. August 13, 2013

## **Mother's Home Free Will Baptist Church**

Mr. W. C. Calhoun: b. August 29, 1931 - d. February 10, 2013

## **Mt. Gilead Free Will Baptist Church**

Mr. Timmy Bellflower: b. April 19, 1948 - d. July 2, 2013

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

Ms. Dorothy Hudson: d. October 8, 2012  
Ms. Helen Floyd: d. March 28, 2013  
Mr. Vernon Pickren: d. May 29, 2013  
Ms. Irma McKenney: d. June 5, 2013  
Ms. Elsie Williams Barringer: d. July 23, 2013

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
<b>COLQUITT</b> P.O. Box 5 Colquitt, GA 39837	Rev. Kent Barwick 1077 Enterprise Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 726-5866	Sis. Mary Nell Cox 460 Thompsonstown Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 758-2893
<b>CORINTH</b> P.O. Box 447 Iron City, GA 39859		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	
<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> 2932 Spring Creek Rd. Brinson, GA 39825	Bro Charles Taylor 8164 Spring Creek Dr. Donalsonville, GA 39845 861-2357	Sis. Veda Bellflower 254 Hales Landing Rd. Bainbridge, GA 39817 229-220-8405
<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 149 Chapman Hall Rd. Bainbridge, GA 39817 229-254-4665	Sis. Beverly Cumbie 496 Cumbie Rd. Climax, GA 39834
<b>NEW SALEM</b> 75 New Salem Church Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 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. Cecil Griner  
1894 Yates Spring Rd.  
Brinson, GA 39825  
229-254-0337

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 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.**