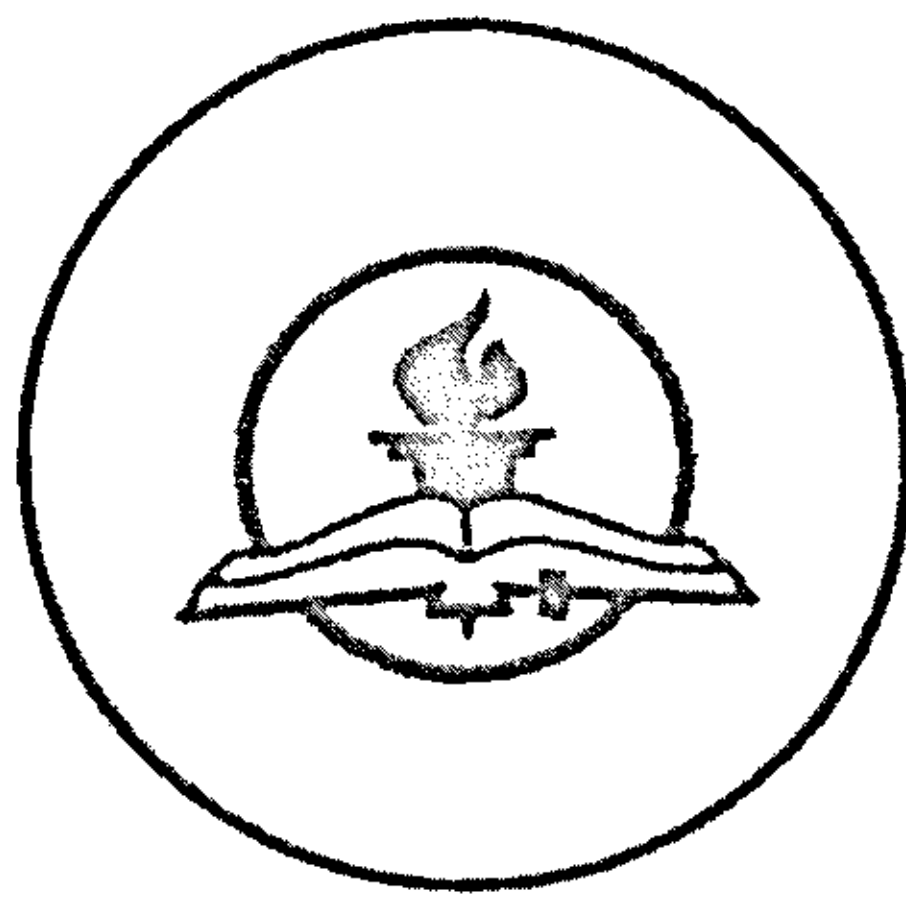


2014
Quarterly Sessions
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS



Free Will
Free Grace
Free Salvation

Martin Association
Free Will Baptists of Georgia

2014 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
2014-2015**

GENERAL OFFICERS

ModeratorBro. Cecil Griner
Assistant ModeratorRev. Kent Barwick
TreasurerSister Annie Laura Middleton
Assistant TreasurerBro. Bobby Tiner
Clerk.....Sister Becky Harrell
Assistant ClerkBro. 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 - 2017
Rev. Kent Barwick - 2016
Rev. Bobby Whitaker - 2017

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Andy Merritt - 2017
Bro. Randy Adams - 2016

REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE BOARD

Board of Trustees - Bro. Wendell Cox, 2017
Board of Christian Education - Rev. Kent Barwick, 2017
Board of Missions - Bro. Gerald Thompson, 2019
Board of Camping - Rev. James Judkins, 2019

MARTIN ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETINGS

FIRST SESSION

New Home (MC) FWBC - January 18, 2015

Fellowship MeetingSunday, 6:00 p.m.

SECOND SESSION

Mother's Home FWBC - April 12, 2015

Fellowship MeetingSunday, 6:00 p.m.

THIRD SESSION

Mt. Gilead - July 12, 2015

Fellowship MeetingSunday, 6:00 p.m.

FOURTH SESSION

New Home (DC) FWBC - October 10, 2015

Business MeetingSaturday, 10:00 a.m.

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

January 12, 2014

New Salem FWB Church, Colquitt, GA

Fellowship Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at New Salem Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt, GA on Sunday, January 12, 2014. The meeting began with the congregation singing, "In my Heart there Rings a Melody." Rev. Jimmy Harris welcomed everyone to New Salem church. Rev. William Smith, state promotional secretary, led in prayer.

Bro. Cecil Griner introduced himself as the new moderator and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

M/S/C to open business meeting. M/S/C for executive board to appoint delegates for Martin Association at the state meeting on March 20,21 at Bethlehem church, Cordele.

Bro. Kent Barwick announced revival at Colquitt FWB Church on January 26-29. Bro. William Smith announced the state meeting and reminded everyone that the schedule of retreats is in the promotional bulletin.

Clerk, Becky Harrell, announced that the 2013 minute books are available for each church, also a sheet of corrections for minute books. She also announced that the letters mailed to each church had the wrong information about national dues. This will be corrected when letters are sent out for April meeting. Bro. Cecil encouraged everyone to use the meeting as a time to fellowship and get to know other members of churches. Business meeting was dismissed.

After two more congregational songs, we received an offering of \$327.00.

The New Salem choir then sang a special, entitled, "The Great I Am Still Is." A quartet from the host church sang, "Too Much to Gain to Lose."

Pastor, Rev. Jimmy Harris brought an inspiring message from Numbers 10:29, "Come With Us." Like former slaves of Egypt headed for the promised land, we as Christians, former slaves of sin are headed toward Heaven. We need to share the invitation to "come with us" with everyone.

We were then dismissed to the fellowship hall to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the host church.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk

Becky Harrell, Clerk

Cecil Griner, Moderator

Cecil Griner Moderator

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

April 13, 2014

Thompson FWB Church, Colquitt, GA
Fellowship Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at Thompson Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt, GA on Sunday, April 13, 2014. Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Thompson church for hosting the meeting. He then introduced Bro. Danny Williams from the Children's Home in Eldridge, AL who gave a report on the work there and gave several requests for the children as well as the board and houseparents who are there. Becky Harrell then announced that we will be collecting things for the home at the state meeting in 2015.

Bro. Cecil then announced that Cornerstone will present a program on estate planning at the July meeting at Colquitt FWB church. Since Bro. Durwood Morris from the Corinth Church had contacted the clerk and stated they will not be able to host the October meeting, it will be held at Hebrew church.

The 2014 national directories are here for each church. Also there are copies of the Martin 2013 minutes left if anyone needs them.

We received an offering of \$257.00.

Bro. Cecil then turned the program over to the host church. The congregation sang "I Would not be Denied," "I know Who Holds Tomorrow," and "He Hideth my soul." The Thompson choir sang a song written by Pastor, Rev. Bobby Whitaker, entitled, "I Have the Victory." We then enjoyed a beautiful solo, "Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone." Bro. Bobby Whitaker brought an inspiring message which he titled, "Follow Jesus." The most important decision we can make and pass on to our children and grandchildren is to follow Jesus. He took us on a journey to Galilee, Gethsemane, Gabatha, Golgotha and the Garden where Jesus was buried. The empty tomb spells VICTORY.

Several announcements were made by different pastors.

Bro. William Smith gave prayer of dismissal and blessing on food. We then enjoyed a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk

Becky Harrell, Clerk
Cecil Griner, Moderator

Cecil Griner *Moderator*

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

July 13, 2014

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, GA on Sunday, July 13, 2014. Bro. William Smith led the congregation singing, "When We All Get to Heaven." Bro. Andy Merritt led in prayer.

Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Colquitt church for hosting the meeting. He encouraged everyone to fellowship with each other.

Bro. William introduced Bro. David Brown from the Free Will Baptist Foundation in Nashville. He gave information about the Foundation and also let everyone know that he and representatives from Cornerstone are available to do 50 minute seminars at churches about estate planning. Bro. Mike Wooten, president of Cornerstone was introduced. He encouraged all to prepare for the future. He introduced Chris and Troy who also work at Cornerstone. They have kits available for anyone interested as well as DVD's for each pastor.

The 2014 national directories are here for each church. Also there are copies of the Martin 2013 minutes left if anyone needs them.

We received an offering of \$392.00.

Bro. Kent Barwick announced that the Colquitt Church was having VBS through Wednesday night. Bro. Cecil then announced that the next quarterly meeting will be held at Hebrew FWB Church on October 11. This will be a business meeting. Bro. Scott Roberts introduced Bro. Kevin Hill, new pastor at New Home FWB Church, Miller County.

The congregation sang "At the Cross."

Bro. Kent Barwick brought an inspiring message from Matthew 6:31-34, 9:35-38, and 16:17-19 which he titled, "What's right with the Church?" Jesus will build the church, will staff the church, will supply the needs of the church, protect the church, and will honor the church.

Bro. Kent gave prayer of dismissal and blessing on food. We then enjoyed a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk

Becky Harrell, Clerk

Cecil Griner, Moderator

Cecil Griner Moderator

August 28, 2014

On August 28, 2014, the Executive Committee of the Martin Association of Free Will Baptists met at the Moby Dick restaurant in Colquitt with Cecil Griner, Rod Brewer, Kent Barwick, Annie Laura Middleton and Becky Harrell in attendance. Also attending the meeting was Bro. William Smith, state executive secretary.

We discussed the location for the meetings of the association for 2015.

The following dates and locations were approved, pending acceptance from each church:

January 11, 2015 (Fellowship meeting) - Highway FWB Church, 6:00pm

April 12, 2015 (Fellowship meeting) - Mother's Home FWB Church, 6:00pm

July 12, 2015 (Fellowship meeting) - Mt. Gilead FWB Church, 6:00pm

October 10, 2015 (Business meeting) - New Home, Decatur County FWB Church, 10:00 am

The Martin Association officers at present are:

Moderator - Bro. Cecil Griner, Asst. Moderator - Rev. Kent Barwick

Treasurer - Sister Annie Laura Middleton, Asst. Treasurer - Bro. Bobby Tiner

Clerk - Sister Becky Harrell, Asst. Clerk - Bro. Rod Brewer (All of these make up the Executive Committee.

Ordaining Council: Rev. Andy Merritt (2014), Rev. Bobby Whitaker (2014), Rev. Kent Barwick (2016). We recommend that Bro. Andy Merritt and Bro. Bobby Whitkaer replace themselves.

Investigating Committee: Rev. Andy Merritt (2014), Bro. Randy Adams (2016). We recommend that Bro. Andy replace himself on this committee.

Representatives to State Boards: Board of Trustees - Bro. Wendell Cox (2017), Board of Christian Education - Rev. Kent Barwick, Board of Missions - Bro. Gerald Thompson (2015) and Board of Camping - Rev. James Judkins (2015)

We will take nominations from the floor at our October meeting for officers. 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.

Cecil Griner, Moderator 

Becky Harrell, Clerk 

Added note: Due to the fact that Highway church cannot host the January 2015 meeting, New Home, Miller County will host this meeting. The meeting will be held January 18 (which is a change). The speaker will be Marc Nepl, missionary to Portsmouth, Va.

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
October 11, 2014, Hebrew Free Will Baptist Church
Business Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their annual business meeting at Hebrew Free Will Baptist Church on Saturday, October 11, 2014. The meeting opened with young people from the host church singing several songs, including, "There is Power in the Name of Jesus", "God is so Good", "If you love Jesus, clap your hands" and "How Great is our God." Bro. Billy Adams gave the opening prayer. Pastor, Bro. Andy Merritt welcomed everyone and gave a short devotion from Psalm 30:5. The Hebrew choir then sang, "Joy Comes in the Morning."

Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner called the meeting to order. Bro. Kent Barwick lead in prayer. There were 6 ministers and 6 deacons present. Standing delegates were recognized and m/s/c to seat the elected delegates.

The roll call of churches was taken with 9 churches represented with a total present of 43. Bro. Cecil appointed Bro. Charles Harrell, Bro. Howard Scarborough and Sister Betty Hooks to the resolution committee. Bro. Billy Adams, Sis. Veda Bellflower and Sis. Annie Laura Middleton made up the credentials committee. We received an offering of \$196.85. A 15 minute recess was called for the committees to meet.

We reconvened with the congregation singing, "When the Roll is Called up Yonder." Bro. Kent Barwick lead in prayer

M/S/C by body to adopt the minutes from the last meetings as printed. Bro. Billy Adams gave the report of the credentials committee. There were 12 churches reporting a membership of 1249. A total of \$2545.50 was received for fees and the benevolent fund. Only 43 were present at the meeting today. Hebrew church won the attendance banner and the percentage banner was awarded to Highway church. The treasurer's report was given by Sis. Annie Laura Middleton who made motion to accept. Motion seconded and carried by body

Christian Education Board - Bro. Kent Barwick reminded us about the upcoming senior retreat to be held in November. The schedule for other retreats is printed in the state promotional bulletin.

Bro. Andy Merritt from the ordaining council reported that he had received a letter of good standing from the Florida State Line Association for Bro. Kevin Hill, pastor of New Home Church, Miller County. M/S/C to accept him into the Martin Association.

Mission Board -No report

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

GWAC - Sis. Becky Harrell gave a report on the prayer retreat held in April at Norman Park and encouraged more ladies to attend. She also offered information on filling shoeboxes to be taken to Mexico by Bro. Ricky and Sis. Theresa Carroll. Their ministry is called Handfull of Purpose.

Bro. Howard Scarborough gave the following report of the resolutions committee. Be it resolved that we :

1. Do more witnessing
2. Grow our Sunday Schools
3. Encourage more participation at association meetings
4. Pray more
5. Ask God to send us more preachers

6. Have more Christian involvement in our culture (voting, speaking out against immorality and ungodly actions)

7.

Give Hebrew church a rising vote of thanks for hosting the meeting and for their fine hospitality
This report was accepted.

The obituary report was read by Sis. Becky Harrell. Bro. Bobby Whittaker lead in a prayer of comfort and remembrance.

Bro. Andy Merritt and Bro. Bobby Whittaker were re-elected to the Ordaining Council. Bro. Andy was also re-elected to the Investigating Committee. Bro. Gerald Thompson will continue to serve on the State Mission Board and Bro. James Judkins will continue to serve on the Board of Camping.

Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner encouraged everyone to go back to their churches and invite more participation in our meetings. We need to stay in the Word and pray to grow. Requests were made for prison ministries. We need to encourage our young people to be more involved. M/S/C to dismiss business session and go into the worship service.


The worship service began with the Hebrew choir singing, "I Will Sing of my Redeemer." Bro. Andy Merritt then brought the message from Matthew 5:6, entitled "Desire for a blessing." We are clothed in Christ's righteousness and we need to live righteous lives. We need to grow more righteous every day and become more like Christ. We need to hunger and thirst after righteousness. When we do this, we will be filled or satisfied.

We were then dismissed to the fellowship hall to enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by the host church. The next meeting will be January 18, 2015. It will be a fellowship meeting to be held at the New Home FWB in Miller County.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk
Cecil Griner, Moderator

Moderator: 

Clerk: 

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Annual Treasurer’s Report
October 1, 2013 – September 31 , 2014

Deposits

Date	Purpose	Amount
10-12-13	Offering	\$141.00
10-13-13	Church Fees	\$2798.00
1-12-14	Offering	\$327.00
1-12-14	Church Fees	\$2147.00
4-13-14	Offering	\$277.00
4-13-14	Church Fees	\$2348.00
7-14-14	Offering	\$392.00
7-14-14	Church Fees	\$2121.00
Total Deposits		\$10551.00

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Annual Treasurer's Report continued
October 1, 2013 – September 31 , 2014

Disbursements				
Date	Chk #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
10/12/13	1417	Wendell Cox	Moderator	\$50.00
10/12/13	1418	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
10/12/13	1419	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
10/17/13	1420	Mrs. J.J. Scott	Benevolent	\$381.58
10/17/13	1421	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$381.58
10/17/13	1422	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$381.58
10/17/13	1423	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$381.58
10/17/13	1424	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$142.45
1/05/14	1425	Houston Printing Co.	2013 Qtr. Session	\$458.89
1/12/14	1426	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
1/12/14	1427	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
1/12/14	1428	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
1/18/14	1429	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$453.74
1/18/14	1430	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$453.74
1/18/14	1431	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$453.74
1/18/14	1432	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	St: \$75, Ntl: \$1950	\$2025.00
1/18/14	1433	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$242.90
4/13/14	1434	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
4/13/14	1435	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
4/13/14	1436	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
4/15/14	1437	Becky Harrell	Postage	\$19.60
4/15/14	1438	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$247.75
4/15/14	1439	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$549.27
4/15/14	1440	Mrs.Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$549.27

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
Annual Treasurer's Report continued
October 1, 2013 – September 31 , 2014

Disbursements				
Date	Chk #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
4/15/14	1441	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$579.27
7/14/14	1442	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
7/14/14	1443	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
7/14/14	1444	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
7/14/14	1445	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$536.08
7/14/14	1446	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$536.08
7/14/14	1447	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$536.08
7/14/14	1448	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$328.65
8/28/14	1449	Cecil Griner	Moderator, Ex. Mtg.	\$50.00
8/28/14	1450	Becky Harrell	Clerk, Ex. Mtg.	\$50.00
8/28/14	1451	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer, Ex. Mtg.	\$50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES				\$10,358.53

Opening Balance as of 9/31/13	\$2,793.81
Deposits 10/13 thru 9/14	\$10,551.00
Subtotal	\$13,344.81
Expenditures 10/13 thru 9/14	\$10,358.53
Closing Balance as of 9/14	\$2,986.28

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OBITUARY REPORT AS REPORTED

Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church

Ms. Cleo Mock: d. November 19, 2013

Ms. Trudee Candee: d. September 10, 2014

Mr. Theo Raegan: d. November 24, 2013

Ms. Jean Tully: d. September 27, 2014

Corinth Free Will Baptist Church

Ms. Jewel Cunningham: d. June 21, 2014

Highway Free Will Baptist Church

Ms. Scarborough Lee Scott: b. July 30, 1931 - d. December 9, 2013

New Home Free Will Baptist Church (M.C.)

Ms. Calista Gilbert: d. September 19, 2014

Thompson Free Will Baptist Church

Mr. Donald Middleton: b. July 21, 1937 - d. February 9, 2014

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
COLQUITT 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
CORINTH P.O. Box 447 Iron City, GA 39859		Sis. Pam Driggers 2543 Ash Crossing Rd. Iron City, GA 39859 229-254-9893
DONALSONVILLE P.O. Box 4504 Donalsonville, GA 39845	Rev. Rollin Rathel 5876 Hwy. 39 South P.O. Box 326 Donalsonville, GA 39845 524-8917	Sis. LaVerne Holman 2456 Cannington Rd. Iron City, GA 39859 774-2581
FATHERS HOME	Rev. Woodrow Wisham 1182 Church Rd. Camilla, GA 31730 294-3141	
HEBREW 6776 Hebrew Rd. Donalsonville, GA 39845	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 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
MOTHERS HOME 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

MT. GILEAD

2932 Spring Creek Rd.
Brinson, GA 39825

Rev. Johnny Lewis, Sr. (Int)
187 Old Blackshear Rd.
Cordele, GA 31015
229-513-3265

Sis. Veda Bellflower
254 Hales Landing Rd.
Bainbridge, GA 39817
229-220-8405

MT. GLORY

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

NEW HOME (M.C.)

80 Lane Rd.
Colquitt, GA 39837

Rev. Kevin Hill
84 Lane Rd.
Colquitt, GA 39837
205-533-0776

Sis. Pam Roberts
265 Grimsley Rd.
Colquitt, GA 39837
254-6905

NEW HOME (D.C.)

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

NEW SALEM

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

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. 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.

AMENDMENT #2

MEETINGS:

Meeting sessions of the association shall be classified in 2 categories as follows. In January, April and July of each year there shall be held a Fellowship Meeting only. In October of each year there shall be held the annual Business Meeting as in the past.

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.