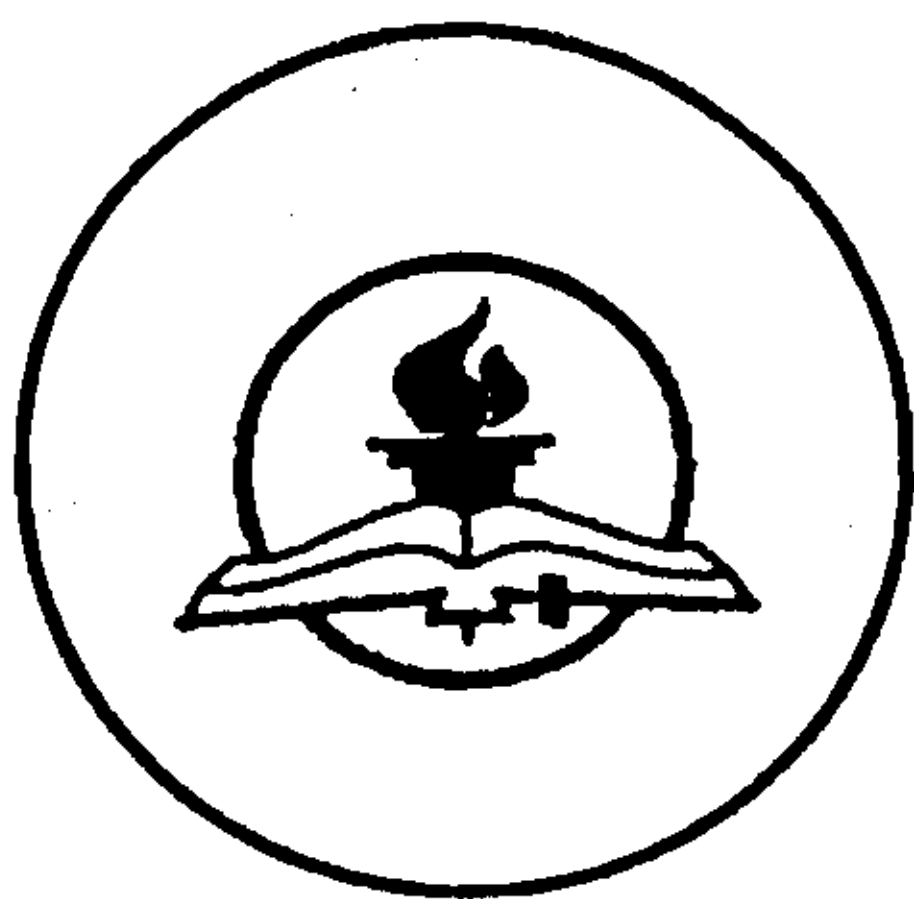


# 2015

# Quarterly Sessions

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE YEARS



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

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

# **2015 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  
2015-2016**

**GENERAL OFFICERS**

Moderator .....Bro. Cecil Griner  
Assistant Moderator .....Rev. Kent Barwick  
Treasurer .....Sister Annie Laura Middleton  
Assistant Treasurer .....Rev. Kevin Hill  
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  
Rev. Kevin Hill

**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 - Rev. Talmadge Worsley, 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

Corinth FWBC - January 10, 2016

Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

## SECOND SESSION

Highway FWBC - April 10, 2016

Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

## THIRD SESSION

New Salem FWBC - July 10, 2016

Fellowship Meeting .....Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

## FOURTH SESSION

Thompson FWBC - October 8, 2016

Business Meeting .....Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

January 18, 2015

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, January 18, 2015. Bro. Kevin Hill welcomed everyone to New Home and led in prayer, remembering former Martin moderator, Bro Wendell Cox who is battling cancer.

Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner, again welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked New Home church for hosting the meeting. He announced that the 2014 Martin minutes books are ready and each church can take the copies they need. Three delegates are needed to represent the Martin Assoc. at the state meeting to be held March 19, 20, 2015 at the Albany church. Charles Harrell volunteered to be a delegate. Bro. Talmadge Worsley made motion for Bro. Cecil Griner to appoint delegates from those that attend the meeting. 2nd by Bro. Billy Adams, carried by body.

Bro. Cecil announced that the next Martin fellowship meeting will be on April 12, 2015 at 6pm at Mother's Home church.

Bro. Scott Roberts led the congregation in singing, "I Will Sing of the Mercies," "This is the Day," and "We Will Glorify the King of Kings." We received an offering of \$219.00. Bro. Chris Sargeant, missionary appointee to Spain, gave the offeratory prayer.

Bro. Scott then led the congregation in singing several hymns. The ladies trio from New Home church gave a beautiful rendition of "My House is Full."

Bro. Kevin then introduced our speaker, Bro. Marc Neppel and his wife, Casie who are missionaries to Portsmouth, VA. They shared their burden to establish a church there. He gave an inspiring message from Acts 3 and 4 about the lame man who was a beggar. (1) We are surrounded by broken stories. (2) God's timing in our broken stories is better than ours. (3) Every broken story finds its purpose in the Kingdom. (4) We need to shift from caring about our story to His story. We then received a love offering for the Neppels.

Bro. Chris Sargeant shared briefly that he and his family hope to be in Spain by this summer. They are available for services if any churches are interested.

Bro. Cecil asked Bro. Kevin Hill and his wife to stand at door of the church to receive the right hand of fellowship since he was unable to attend the October meeting where he was voted into the association.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Becky Harrell*

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Cecil Griner, Moderator

*Cecil Griner*

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

April 12, 2015

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 in Colquitt, GA on Sunday, April 12, 2015. Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bro. Charles Harrell opened the meeting with prayer.

Bro. William Smith made motion that Bro. Talmadge Worsley be elected to serve the unfinished term of Bro. Wendell Cox on the state trustee board. Second by Charles Harrell, carried by body. Bro. Cecil reminded everyone about the WMO on April 26, 2015. All churches were encouraged to give and to pray for all of our missionaries.

The next Martin fellowship meeting will be on July 12, 2015 at Mt. Gilead FWB Church at 6:00pm.

We received an offering of \$166.00.

After thanking Mother's Home church for hosting the meeting, Bro. Cecil turned the program over to the host church.

Bro. Rod Brewer then led the congregation in singing several hymns. The Mother's Home church choir provided special music. They sang "Come, Holy Spirit" and "I'll See You in the Rapture."

Bro. Talmadge Worsley brought an inspiring message on the importance of worship from Revelation 1. All meetings, business and fellowship, should be worship services. The angel's message to John was to worship God. True worship does not come without preparation. We need to come expecting something. We need to prepare for worship by knowing Who we worship. We worship Who we trust. The closing hymn was "Just as I am."

Bro. Bobby Whittaker gave prayer of dismissal and blessing on food.

We then enjoyed a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Cecil Griner, Moderator

Clerk Becky Harrell

Moderator Cecil Griner

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

July 12, 2015

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 in Bainbridge, GA on Sunday, July 12, 2015. There were forty people in attendance. Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bro. Ron Wallace opened the meeting with prayer. Bro. Cecil thanked everyone for coming and expressed appreciation to Mt. Gilead church for hosting the meeting.

The next Martin district meeting will be held on October 10, 2015 at New Home FWB Church in Decatur County at 10:00AM. This will be the annual business meeting.

We received an offering of \$153.50.

Bro. Cecil turned the program over to the host church. Sis. Veda Bellflower led the congregation in singing several praise songs and hymns.

Before bringing the message, Pastor Ron Wallace gave an update on the FWB church in Alaska. He stated that the work is doing well. He also encouraged everyone to continue to pray for the pastor and all of the folks there.

Bro. Ron then brought a message from Daniel 6:1-10, entitled "It's Dark in America" or "Darkness Descends upon the Land." When Daniel faced adversity, he went to his room and prayed. Worship of God and prayer was the pattern of Daniel's life.

God's laws always trump man's laws. We are living in the age of the Laodicean church. Jesus is outside of the church (individuals) knocking to come in. We must do what is right.

Bro. Ron then gave prayer of dismissal and blessing on food.

We then enjoyed a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Cecil Griner, Moderator

Clerk Becky Harrell

Moderator Cecil Griner



September 3, 2015

On September 3, 2015, the Executive Committee of the Martin Association of Free Will Baptists met at the Moby Dick restaurant in Colquitt with Rod Brewer, Kent Barwick, Annie Laura Middleton and Becky Harrell in attendance. Also attending the meeting was Bro. William Smith, state executive secretary.

Assistant Moderator, Bro. Kent Barwick, thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He asked a blessing on our meal. We then enjoyed a delicious meal before taking care of the necessary business.

We discussed the location for the meetings of the association for 2016. The following dates and locations were approved, pending acceptance from each church:  
January 10, 2016 (Fellowship meeting) - Corinth FWB Church, 6:00pm  
April 10, 2016 (Fellowship meeting) - Highway FWB Church, 6:00pm  
July 10, 2016 (Fellowship meeting) - New Salem FWB Church, 6:00pm  
October 8, 2016 (Business meeting) - Thompson 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 (2017), Rev. Bobby Whitaker (2017),  
Rev. Kent Barwick (2016).

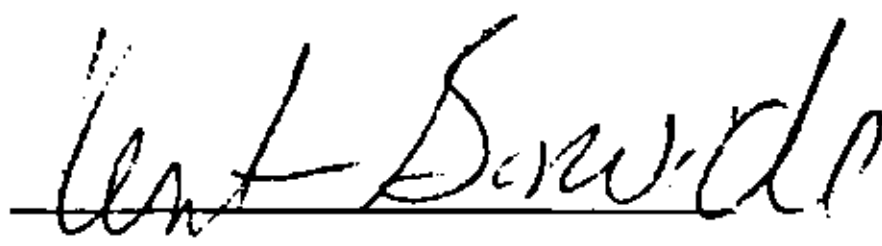
Investigating Committee: Rev. Andy Merritt (2017), Bro. Randy Adams (2016).

Representatives to State Boards: Board of Trustees - Rev. Talmadge Worsley (who is serving the unfinished term of the late Bro. Wendell Cox) (2017), Board of Christian Education - Rev. Kent Barwick (2017), Board of Missions - Bro. Gerald Thompson (2019) and Board of Camping - Rev. James Judkins (2019)

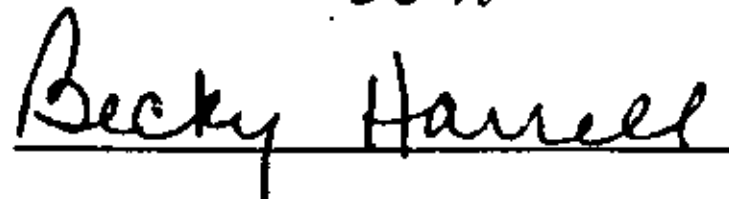
Sis. Becky Harrell stated that Bro. Bobby Tiner has requested that we elect a new assistant treasurer. The board recommends Rev. Kevin Hill for this position. We will take other nominations from the floor at our October meeting

With no further business, Bro. William Smith dismissed our meeting with prayer.

Kent Barwick, Assistant Moderator



Becky Harrell, Clerk



# **MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**October 10, 2015**

**New Home Free Will Baptist Church (D.C.)**

**Business Meeting**

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their annual business meeting at New Home Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur County on Saturday, October 10, 2015.

Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner, called the meeting to order. Bro. Charles Harrell opened the meeting with prayer. There were 7 ministers and 8 deacons present. Standing delegates were recognized and other delegates were seated.

Bro. Howard Scarborough lead the congregation in singing, "Down at the Cross." then welcomed everyone to New Home Church. Response to the welcome was given by Rev. Kent Barwick. The devotion from Job 1 was given by Bro. Wayne Scott. He encouraged everyone to thank the Lord in good times and bad times..

The roll call of churches was taken with 9 churches represented with a total present of 46. Bro. Cecil appointed Rev. Talmadge Worsley, Bro. Charles Harrell, and Bro. Howard Scarborough to the resolution committee. Sis. Jewell Worsley and Sis. Annie Laura Middleton made up the credentials committee. We received an offering of \$239.00. A 15 minute recess was called for the committees to meet.

We then reconvened the business session. M, S, C to adopt 2014 minutes as printed. The treasurer's report was given by Sis. Annie Laura Middleton. M, S, C to accept report as given.

Christian Education Board - Bro. Kent Barwick reminded us about the upcoming senior retreat to be held in November. Bro. Van Dale Hudson, who was scheduled to speak at the sr. retreat will not be able to do so due to critical illness of his wife. The CE board will fill the speaking slots on the program. Bro. Kent also encouraged everyone to attend the different retreats that are put together by the CE board.

No report from ordaining council

Mission Board - Bro. Gerald Thompson stated that the mission board has met in Milledgeville, GA and decided that much research needs to be done before making a decision about where to plant a church. The state has been divided into 4 areas with a group of 3 different people studying each area.

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

GWAC - Sis. Becky Harrell gave information about the wonderful prayer retreat that was held in April, 2015. She also announced that Sis. Laverne Miley and her daughter, Sis. Lynette Morgan will be the speakers at the GWAC state meeting at the Colquitt FWB Church on March 17, 2016. Also, we will be collecting items at the state meeting for the Hope Center, a home for unwed mothers, in Tennessee. She encouraged everyone to make plans to attend. Also, Sis. Debbie Griffin and Sis. Judy Lytle will be speaking at The GWAC prayer retreat in April 2016.

Sis. Becky Harrell then read the obituaries which were reported. Rev.. Bobby Whittaker prayed in memory of those who had passed away and remembered their families.

New business - Bro. Kent Barwick reminded all that the Martin Association continues to support the wives of deceased ministers through our benevolent fund. At this time, there are three widows who receive an average of about \$500 per quarter.

Since Bro. Bobby Tiner requested that he be replaced on the Martin executive board, Motion made, seconded and carried by body to elect Rev. Kevin Hill as assistant treasurer. All other officers will remain the same.

The credentials report was given by Sis. Jewell Worsley and accepted. There were 13 churches reporting. We received regular fees of \$354.00, \$1430.00 for the benevolent fund, and \$750.00 for national dues. New Home, Decatur County won the attendance banner. Mt. Gilead FWB Church won the banner for highest percentage present.

Rev. Talmadge Worsley gave the following report of the resolutions committee: 1. That we reach out to the lost with a caring heart. 2. That we be careful as we labor, that we keep our hearts true to God's Word. 3. That we continue to reach out and be an example for our young people. 4. That we stand against same sex marriages and abortion. 5. That we give a rising vote of thanks to New Home Church for their warm hospitality. This report was accepted.

Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner then announced the meeting places and times for 2016:  
January 10, 2016 (fellowship meeting) Corinth FWB Church, 6:00PM  
April 10, 2016 (fellowship meeting) Highway FWB Church, 6:00PM  
July 10, 2016 (fellowship meeting) New Salem FWB Church, 6:00PM  
October 8, 2016 (business meeting) Thompson FWB Church, 10:00AM.

Rev. Kevin Hill announced that New Home Church, MC is having special revival type services each Sunday evening during the month of October with a different speaker each week. He invited all to attend.


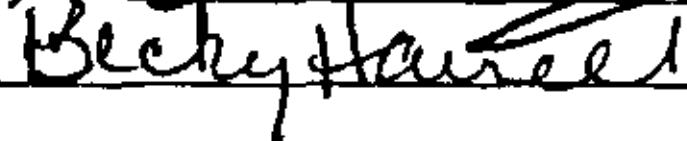
The worship service began with a performance of the puppets from New Home church. This was a blessing to everyone. The congregation then sang, "Come Morning." Sis. Betty Hooks lead in prayer.

Rev. Jimmy Hooks then brought the message from Luke 2:41-52, entitled "Where is Our Faith?" Just as Jesus was "about His Father's business", we need to be concerned about what's going on in God's house. Like Daniel and the three Hebrew children, our faith needs to be strong. We need to stand up for Christ.

Our closing hymn was "Jesus Paid it all." Bro. Charles Harrell gave prayer of dismissal and blessing on the food.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk  
Cecil Griner, Moderator

Moderator   
Clerk 

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

**Annual Treasurer’s Report**

**October 1, 2014 – September 30 , 2015**

**Deposits**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
10-11-14	Offering	\$197.85
10-11-14	Church Fees	\$2652.50
1-23-15	Offering	\$219.00
1-23-15	Church Fees	\$2174.00
4-24-15	Offering	\$166.00
4-24-15	Church Fees	\$2214.50
6-03-15	Church Fees - Late Filing	\$92.00
7-12-15	Offering	\$153.50
7-12-15	Church Fees	\$1999.50
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$9868.85</b>

**MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**Annual Treasurer's Report continued**  
**October 1, 2014 – September 30 , 2015**

<b>Disbursements</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Chk #</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
10/11/14	1452	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
10/11/14	1453	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
10/11/14	1454	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
10/20/14	1455	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$513.04
10/20/14	1456	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$513.04
10/20/14	1457	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$513.04
10/20/14	1458	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$179.80
1/23/15	1459	Houston Printing Co.	2014 Qtr. Fees	\$476.33
1/23/15	1460	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
1/23/15	1461	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
1/23/15	1462	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
1/23/15	1463	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$473.65
1/23/15	1464	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$473.65
1/23/15	1465	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$473.65
1/23/15	1466	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$178.50
1/23/15	1467	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	National Fees	\$1950.00
4/24/15	1468	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
4/24/15	1469	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
4/24/15	1470	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
4/24/15	1471	Becky Harrell	Postage	\$19.60
4/24/15	1472	Bobby Richarston, Postmaster	Postage	\$19.60
4/24/15	1473	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$511.74
4/24/15	1474	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$511.74
4/24/15	1475	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$511.74



# MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## Annual Treasurer's Report continued

October 1, 2014 – September 30 , 2015

Disbursements				
Date	Chk #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
4/24/15	1476	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	St: \$75, Ntl: \$167.30	\$242.30
7/12/15	1477	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
7/12/15	1478	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
7/12/15	1479	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
7/12/15	1480	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$522.58
7/12/15	1481	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$522.58
7/12/15	1482	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$522.58
7/12/15	1483	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$153.65
9/03/15	1484	Becky Harrell	Ex. Board Meeting	\$50.00
9/03/15	1485	Annie L. Middleton	Ex. Board Meeting	\$50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES				\$9,982.81

Opening Balance as of 9/30/14	\$2,986.28
Deposits	\$9,868.85
Subtotal	\$12,855.13
Expenditures	\$9,982.81
Closing Balance as of 9/30/15	\$2,872.32

# **MARTIN ASSOCIATION OBITUARY REPORT AS REPORTED**

## **Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church**

Raymond S. Inlow: b. 3/27/31 d. 6/09/15

Tal Cooper: b. 7/10/31 d. 3/18/15

## **Hebrew Free Will Baptist Church**

Mr. Marvin Earl Tucker: b. 5/06/32 d. 2/09/15

Mr. Leslie Croom: b. 8/24/35 d. 8/04/15

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

Charles LeDon McVay: b. 7/14/42 d. 7/08/15

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

Wendell Cox: b. 2/03/52 d. 2/11/15

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

Cecil C. McLendon: b. 7/16/23 d. 1/05/15

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
<b>COLQUITT</b> P.O. Box 5 Colquitt, GA 39837 229-758-5070	Rev. Kent Barwick 1077 Enterprise Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 726-5866 kentbarwick@aol.com	Sis. Jeannie Lee c/o FWBC P.O. Box 5 Colquitt, GA 39837 jeannielee9620@gmail.com
<b>CORINTH</b> P.O. Box 447 Iron City, GA 39859	Interim Bro. James Miller	Sis. Pam Driggers 2543 Ash Crossing Rd. Iron City, GA 39859 229-254-9893
<b>DONALSONVILLE</b> 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
<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 2971 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> 62 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. Ronald Wallace  
2930 Spring Creek Rd.  
Brinson, GA 39825  
706-994-4371  
revwallace48@gmail.com

Sis. Veda Bellflower  
254 Hales Landing Rd.  
Bainbridge, GA 39817  
229-246-3414

### MT. GLORY

Sis. Luvern Newberry  
63 Newberry Rd.  
Quincy, FL 32352  
850-856-5154

### 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.)

Rev. Jimmy Hooks  
149 Chapman Hall Rd.  
Bainbridge, GA 39817  
229-254-4665

Bro. Wayne Scott  
1034 Salem Church Rd.  
Climax, GA 39834  
229-246-8685

### NEW SALEM

75 New Salem Church Rd.  
Colquitt, GA 39837

Rev. Jimmy Harris  
6047 Hwy. 39  
Blakely, GA 39823  
723-8373

Sis. Arlene Worsley  
980 Hwy. 91 N.  
Colquitt, GA 39837  
758-2180  
taworsley@gmail.com

### THOMPSON

Corner of Thompson Town  
Rd. & Thompson-West Rd.  
Colquitt, GA 39837

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  
~~229-5800~~ 254-3004  
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 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.**