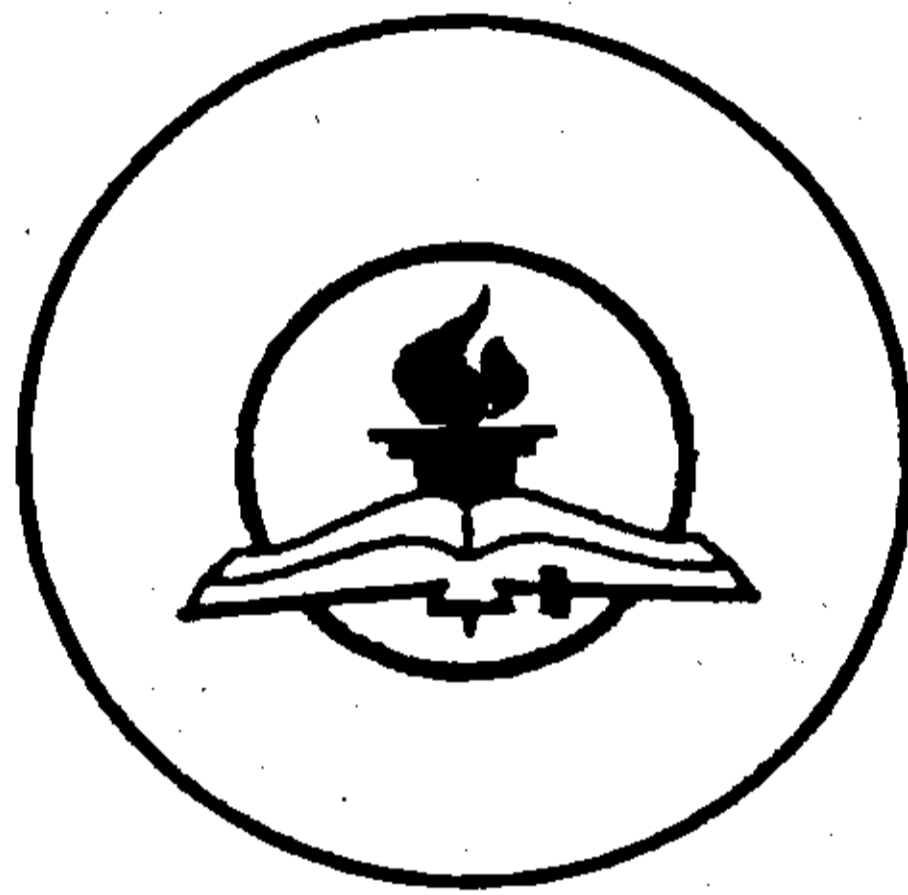


2016 Quarterly Sessions

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY YEARS



Free Will
Free Grace
Free Salvation

Martin Association
Free Will Baptists of Georgia

2016 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
2016-2017**

GENERAL OFFICERS

ModeratorRev. Ron Wallace
Assistant ModeratorRev. Kent Barwick
TreasurerSister Annie Laura Middleton
Clerk.....Sister Becky Harrell
Assistant ClerkBro. Rod Brewer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Ron Wallace
Rev. Kent Barwick
Sister Becky Harrell
Sis. Annie Laura Middleton
Bro. Rod Brewer

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Andy Merritt - 2017
Rev. Kent Barwick - 2019
Rev. Bobby Whitaker - 2017

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Andy Merritt - 2017
Bro. Randy Adams - 2019

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

Mother's Home FWBC - January 8, 2017

Fellowship MeetingSunday, 6:00 p.m.

SECOND SESSION

Mt. Gilead FWBC - April 9, 2017

Fellowship MeetingSunday, 6:00 p.m.

THIRD SESSION

New Home FWBC (MC) - July 9, 2017

Fellowship MeetingSunday, 6:00 p.m.

FOURTH SESSION

New Home (DC) FWBC - October 14, 2017

Business MeetingSaturday, 10:00 a.m.

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

January 10, 2016

Corinth FWB Church, Iron City, GA

Fellowship Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at Corinth Free Will Baptist Church in Iron City, GA on Sunday, January 10, 2016. There were approximately 47 people in attendance. In the absence of moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner, Rev. Talmadge Worsley welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with prayer. Bro. Talmadge expressed appreciation to Corinth church for hosting the meeting.

Bro. Herbert Golden prayed the offeratory prayer. We received an offering of \$144.00.

Rev. Kevin Hill said he had spoken with Sis. Debbie Griffin about promoting the World Mission Offering to be taken on April 24. He encouraged each church to pray for this offering and if possible, to give as well. Each church received a packet of materials concerning this.

Sis. Becky Harrell announced that the state WAC meeting will be held at Colquitt FWB church on March 17. We will be collecting items to go to the Hope Center in Greenville, TN.

The 2015 minutes are here to be picked up by each church.

The next Martin fellowship meeting will be held on April 10, 2016 at 6:00pm at Highway FWB Church.

Bro. Talmadge turned the program over to the host church. Sis. Pam Driggers played the piano and led the congregation in singing "To God be the Glory," "When we all Get to Heaven," and "Something about that Name."

Before bringing the message, Rev. James Miller gave his testimony about being led to the Lord by Rev. Larry Powell. He then gave a challenging message from Galatians 6 about bearing in our bodies the marks of Christ. This will be our badge of honor. We must be in His will, doing His will at all times. People are watching us. We must be faithful.

Bro. James then gave a prayer of dismissal and blessing on food.

We then enjoyed a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk

Rev. Talmadge Worsley, Acting Moderator

Clerk Becky Harrell
Acting Moderator Talmadge Worsley

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

April 10, 2016

Highway FWB Church, Brinson, GA
Fellowship Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their fellowship meeting at Highway Free Will Baptist Church in Brinson, GA on Sunday, April 10, 2016. There were 52 people in attendance. The meeting opened with the congregation singing, "The Family of God" led by Sis. Brenda Bailey and accompanied on piano by Becky Harrell. Pastor Kim Whitehead lead in prayer and welcomed everyone to Highway church. Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner, welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed appreciation to Highway church for hosting the meeting. Bro. Cecil announced that the national directories are here to be picked up, one per church. The next Martin fellowship meeting will be held July 10, 2016 at New Salem FWB Church in Colquitt.

Bro. Alvin Bailey prayed the offeratory prayer. We received an offering of \$282.00. Bro. Cecil then turned the program over to the host church. Sis. Brenda Bailey lead the congregation in singing "He Set me Free" and "Victory in Jesus."

Sis. Debbie Griffin then beautifully sang "Hill Called Mount Calvary." Sis. Debbie then reminded everyone and encouraged them to pray for the World Mission Offering to be taken on April 24. She then introduced the speaker, Sis. Shannon Little, missionary to Japan.

Shannon stated that the IM board has changed back to designated giving for missionaries which means each missionary is responsible for raising 100% of their support. Shannon has to have \$8266.31 monthly support and \$15419.57 cash before she can return to Japan. She has \$3084.79 as of March 2, 2016. She shared from Psalm 105 to give thanks to the Lord and to make known His deeds among the people. She asked that we pray for friends that she has made in Japan that they will come to know Christ. Isaiah 55:8-11 God's ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts. Pray for the missionaries that are in Japan - that they will have a close walk with the Lord - that they will be bold - and they will have strength to do what God has called them to do. Also she emphasized the need to pray for kids of the missionaries.

We then took an offering for Shannon which was \$338.00. Bro. William Smith, GA Executive director encouraged everyone to pray about supporting Shannon on a monthly basis.

Sis. Janice Whitehead gave a prayer of dismissal and blessing on food.

We then enjoyed a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk
Bro. Cecil Griner, Moderator

Clerk Becky Harrell

Moderator Cecil Griner

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

July 10, 2016

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, July 10, 2016. There were 59 people in attendance. Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner, welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed appreciation to New Salem church for hosting the meeting. Rev. Bobby Whitaker opened the meeting with prayer.

The next Martin meeting will be held October 8, 2016 at Thompson FWB Church in Colquitt. This will be our annual business meeting.

We received an offering of \$272.00. Announcements - New Home church, Miller County will have homecoming on July 24. Bro. Bobby Whitaker welcomed Rev.. Larry Powell back home to the Thompson church.

Bro. Cecil then turned the program over to the host church. Bro. Billy Roland lead the congregation in singing "Victory in Jesus", "Set My Soul Afire" and "What a Day That Will be." The New Salem choir then blessed everyone by singing "That Ole Country Church" and "Goodbye, World Goodbye."

Rev. Jimmy Harris gave an inspiring message from Acts 2:41-47. He said that we need a New Testament church. This includes being diligent in evangelizing and being faithful in studying God's Word. We also need to have wonderful worship and fantastic fellowship. As a church, we need to hold together for each other.

The congregation sang "Bond of Love." The meeting ended with prayer and blessing on the food.

We then enjoyed a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk
Bro. Cecil Griner, Moderator

Clerk Becky Harrell

Moderator Cecil Griner

August 18, 2016

On August 8, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Martin Association of Free Will Baptists met at the Moby Dick restaurant in Colquitt with Cecial Griner, Rod Brewer, Annie Laura Middleton and Becky Harrell in attendance.

Assistant Clerk, Rod Brewer 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 :

January 8, 2017 (Fellowship meeting) - Mother's Home FWB Church, 6:00pm

April 9, 2017 (Fellowship meeting) - Mt. Gilead FWB Church, 6:00pm

July 9, 2017 (Fellowship meeting) - New Home FWB Church (MC), 6:00pm

October 14, 2017 (Business meeting) - New Home FWB Church (DC), 10:00 am

The Martin Association officers at present are:

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

Treasurer - Sister Annie Laura Middleton, No Asst. Treasurer

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)

We will need to elect a new moderator and an assistant treasurer in October.

We will take nominations from the floor for moderator and for assistant treasurer at our October meeting. We recommend that Rev. Kent Barwick replace himself on the ordaining council and Bro. Randy Adams replace himself on the investigating committee.

With no further business, we were dismissed.

Cecil Griner, Moderator



Becky Harrell, Clerk



MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

October 8, 2016

Thompson Free Will Baptist Church
Business Meeting

The Martin Association of Georgia Free Will Baptists held their annual business meeting at Thompson Free Will Baptist Church, on Saturday, October 8, 2016. Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner, called the meeting to order. He thanked Thompson church for hosting the meeting. Rev. Bobby Whitaker, pastor, welcomed everyone to Thompson Church. Rev. William Smith gave the response to the welcome.

The congregation sang "Victory in Jesus." The devotion from I John 5:11,12 was given by Bro. Gerald Thompson. He reminded everyone that we can have assurance of salvation. We can know we are saved. Bro. Bobby Whitaker opened the meeting with prayer.

The business session began. There were 6 ministers and 8 deacons present. Standing delegates were recognized. M/S/C to seat elected delegates.

The roll call of churches was taken with 9 churches represented with a total present of 45. Bro. Cecil appointed Bro. Billy Adams and Bro. Charles Harrell to the resolution committee. Bro. Charles Grimes and Sis. Annie Laura Middleton made up the credentials committee. We received an offering of \$162.00. A 15 minute recess was called for the committees to meet.

We then reconvened the business session. M,S,C to adopt 2015 minutes as printed. The treasurer's report was given by Sis. Annie Laura Middleton. M,S,C to accept report as given. Sis. Annie Laura also gave the credentials committee report. There were 12 churches reporting with a total active membership of 624. We received regular fees of \$359.00, \$1510.00 for the benevolent fund, and \$750.00 for national dues. Thompson Church won the attendance banner. Mt. Gilead FWB Church won the banner for highest percentage present.

The ordaining council made the following report: Having received a letter of good standing from the Cumberland Association of Tennessee for Rev. Larry Powell, we recommend that Bro. Larry be accepted into the Martin Association. We also recommend that we accept Rev. Ronald Wallace, pastor of Mt. Gilead FWB Church into the Martin Association, pending a letter of good standing from the North Georgia Association. M/S/C to accept each of these recommendations. We will offer Bro. Larry the right-hand of fellowship at the close of this meeting.

Mission Board - Bro. Gerald Thompson stated that the mission board will have information to report in January, 2017.

Camp Board - Bro. William Smith stated there were good teen and junior camps this year. Teen camp in 2017 will begin on June 4. Junior camp will begin May 18, 2017.

GWAC - Sis. Becky Harrell gave information about the wonderful prayer retreat that was held in April, 2016. Also, we will be collecting funds at our state GWAC meeting in March for "Rosa" a bus that was purchased to be used by our missionaries in Japan for various purposes.

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

Bro. Billy Adams gave the following report of the resolutions committee: 1. That we be more committed to support the association. 2. That we encourage young people to get involved in church and Sunday school. 3. That we pray for America and pray that God will bring forth the right person to lead our country. 4. That we give a rising vote of thanks to Thompson for their warm hospitality. This report was accepted.

Moderator, Bro. Cecil Griner then announced the meeting places and times for 2017: January 8, 2017 (fellowship meeting) Mother's Home FWB Church, 6:00PM

April 9, 2017 (fellowship meeting) Mt. Gilead FWB Church, 6:00PM
July 9, 2017 (fellowship meeting) New Home (MC) FWB Church, 6:00PM
October 14, 2017 (business meeting) New Home (DC) Church, 10:00AM.

No old business

New business - Father's Home Church has requested that they be dropped from the roll of the Martin Association due to the fact that they are unable to pay the dues. Motion and second to grant this request. There was much discussion on this matter. It was carried.

The following officers were elected by the body: Moderator: Rev. Ronald Wallace, Asst. Moderator: Rev. Kent Barwick, Clerk: Sis. Becky Harrell, Treasurer: Sis. Annie Laura Middleton

Sis. Pam Roberts was nominated to be Asst. Treasurer. She asked to be allowed to have time to pray about this and give her response at the next meeting. Rev. Kent Barwick will replace himself on the Ordaining Council and Bro. Randy Adams will replace himself on the Investigating Committee.

The worship service began with the congregation singing "Where the Soul Never Dies." The Thompson Choir then sang a medley, "I'm on the Rock" and "Living by Faith." We then enjoyed a beautiful solo rendition of "Redeemed" sung by Sis. Dana Newsome.

Rev. Bobby Whitaker then introduced our speaker, Rev. Larry Powell. Bro. Larry brought a challenging message entitled, "God's Hall of Fame" from I Corinthians 1:26-29. God takes the foolish and the weak and uses them for His glory. It takes ALL that a man is, to be the best he can be for God.


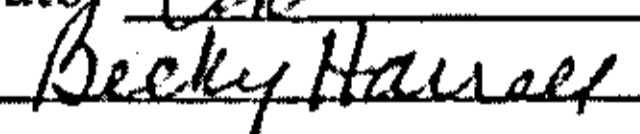
Bro. Charles Harrell prayer of dismissal and blessing on the food. After offering Bro. Larry the right hand of fellowship, we enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the host church.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Harrell, Clerk
Cecil Griner, Moderator

Moderator

Clerk

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Annual Treasurer's Report

October 1, 2015 – September 31 , 2016

Deposits

Date	Purpose	Amount
10/13/15	Offering	\$239.00
10/13/15	Church Fees	\$2640.00
1/19/16	Offering	\$144.00
1/19/16	Church Fees	\$2007.00
1/19/16	Church Fees	\$446.00
4/24/16	Offering	\$282.00
4/24/16	Church Fees	\$2121.00
7/20/16	Offering	\$272.00
7/20/16	Church Fees	\$1990.00
9/30/16	Cash	\$400.00
Total Deposits		\$10541.00

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

Disbursements				
Date	Chk #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
10/10/15	1486	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
10/10/15	1487	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
10/10/15	1488	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
10/13/15	1489	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$587.67
10/13/15	1490	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$587.67
10/13/15	1491	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$587.67
10/13/15	1492	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$1812.00
1/02/16	1493	Houston Printing Co.	2015 Qtr. Session	\$478.51
1/10/16	1494	VOID		
1/10/16	1495	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
1/10/16	1496	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
1/15/16	1497	Becky Harrell	Postage	\$19.60
1/19/16	1498	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$150.50
1/19/16	1499	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$518.83
1/19/16	1500	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$518.83
1/19/16	1501	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$518.83
1/26/16	1502	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	St: \$75, Ntl: \$1950.10	\$2025.00
4/24/16	1503	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
4/24/16	1504	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
4/24/16	1505	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
4/24/16	1506	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$499.70
4/24/16	1507	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$499.70
4/24/16	1508	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$499.70
4/24/16	1509	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$241.85

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

Disbursements				
Date	Chk #	Payee	Purpose	Amount
7/20/16	1510	Cecil Griner	Moderator	\$50.00
7/20/16	1511	Becky Harrell	Clerk	\$50.00
7/20/16	1512	Annie L. Middleton	Treasurer	\$50.00
7/20/16	1513	Ga. St. Assoc. FWB	Co-Op	\$238.00
7/20/16	1514	Mrs. J.L. Williams	Benevolent	\$528.00
7/20/16	1515	Mrs. Helen Robinson	Benevolent	\$528.00
7/20/16	1516	Mrs. Mattie McAlister	Benevolent	\$528.00
		Bank Service Charge	Fees	\$6.00
TOTAL EXPENSES				\$11,924.06

Balance on hand 9/31/15	\$2,872.32
Deposits	\$10,541.00
Subtotal	\$13,413.32
Expenditures	\$11,924.06
Closing Balance	\$1,489.26

MARTIN ASSOCIATION OBITUARY REPORT AS REPORTED

Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church

Charles Jordan: b. 11/20/33 d. 12/07/15

Renee Pullen: b. 10/06/55 d. 3/16/16

Walter Swearingain: b. 6/21/38 d. 6/13/16

Corinth Free Will Baptist Church

Anna Rosa Burke: b. 1/25/32 d. 4/01/16

Lucille Lane: b. 12/19/17 d. 3/04/16

Donalsonville Free Will Baptist Church

Bennie Cauble, Sr.: b. 10/29/30 d. 4/07/16

Mt. Glory Free Will Baptist Church (M.C.)

Ethel Newberry: b. 10/22/27 d. 11/28/15

Ethel Brock: b. 7/07/31 d. 9/30/16

New Home Free Will Baptist Church

Beatrice Burke: b. 9/22/36 d. 6/26/16

New Salem Free Will Baptist Church

Daisy Louise Richardson: b. 3/20/15 d. 10/30/15

Caroline Gay: b. — d. 3/06/2016

Hiram Gregory "Gregg" Houston: b. 12/10/50 d. 7/12/16

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
COLQUITT 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
CORINTH 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
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
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 62 Mothers Home Church Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837	Rev. Talmadge Worsley 505 S. 3rd St. Colquitt, GA 39837 229-726-9552	Sis. Willine Musgrove 310 Adams Powell Rd. Colquitt, GA 39837 246-7735
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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH

PASTOR

CLERK

MT. GLORY

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

NEW HOME (M.C.)

80 Lane Rd.
Colquitt, GA 39837

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
229-416-7224

NEW SALEM

75 New Salem Church Rd.
Colquitt, GA 39837

Rev. Jimmy Harris
16047 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:

Rev. Ronald Wallace
2930 Spring Creek Rd.
Brinson, GA 39825
706-994-4371
revwallace48@gmail.com

Clerk:

Sis. Becky Harrell
132 Croley Rd.
Bainbridge, GA 39817
246-6547

Treasurer:

Annie Laura Middleton
640 Thompson Town Rd.
Colquitt, GA 39837
254-3004

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.