

Annual Communion



MINUTES
OF THE
METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

26TH ANNUAL SESSION
MAY 8TH & 9TH
1981

WAYNE, MICHIGAN

MINUTES
OF
METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST
WHEN CONVENED IN THEIR 26TH ANNUAL SESSION WITH THE
WAYNE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
MAY 8th & 9th, 1981
OFFICERS - 1980

Rev. J. B. Varney	Moderator
Rev. George Webb	Ass't Moderator
Bro. Williams Scott	Clerk
Bro. James Cagle	Ass't Clerk
Bro. Walter Hatfield	Treasurer

OFFICERS - 1981

Rev. J. B. Varney	Moderator
Rev. George Webb	Ass't Moderator
Bro. Williams Scott	Clerk
Bro. James Cagle	Ass't Clerk
Bro. Walter Hatfield	Treasurer

PRESBYTERY BOARD

Rev. William Eversole.	(5 Years)	Kirby F.W.B. Church
Rev. John Burkhart.	(4 Years)	Romulus F.W.B. Church
Rev. George Webb	(3 Years)	Trinity F.W.B. Church
Rev. Billy Brown	(2 Years)	Shiloh F.W.B. Church
Rev. Curtis Beculhimer.	(1 Year)	First F.W.B. Church

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bro. Alton Scutchfield	(5 Years)	First F.W.B. Church
Rev. Jessie Wilson.	(4 Years)	Belleville F.W.B. Church
Bro. James Cagle	(3 Years)	Kirby F.W.B. Church
Bro. Ray Hunt.	(2 Years)	Kirby F.W.B. Church
Bro. Robert Herron.	(1 Year)	Shiloh F.W.B. Church

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTOR

Bro. Robert Goldsmith.	Romulus F.W.B. Church
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YOUTH CAMP BOARD MEMBER

Rev. Billy Brown	Shiloh F.W.B. Church
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STATE ASSOCIATION HOME MISSION BOARD MEMBER

Rev. Curtis Beculhimer.	First F.W.B. Church
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FRIDAY NIGHT — 7:00 P.M. — MAY 8, 1981

Annual Minutes of the Metropolitan Association of Free Will Baptist, convening with the Wayne Free Will Baptist Church, 34507 Sims Street, Wayne, Michigan 48184.

Opening Song: "I'll Live In Glory." (Directed by local director, Rev. Elbert Heathscott).

Opening Prayer: Rev. Rick Locklear, Pastor of the Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church.

Conference was called to order by the Pastor of the host church Rev. James Bostic, who welcomed everyone present and presented the moderator, Rev. J. B. Varney.

The Moderator's address was delivered in a spirit of Love. Scriptures from Romans Chapter 8, verses 1-14. The thought left with us: If we be in Christ we are dead to sin and we no longer have the Condemnation of sin.

The Moderator extended a welcome to all visitors, and Bro. Bill Galusha of Greenville, South Carolina. Rev. Rick Locklear and his wife, guest speaker for the evening was recognized and made welcomed.

Belleville F.W.B. Church:

Appointed Delegates Present — 5; Alternates Present — 0

Money to the General Fund \$50.00

Money to the State Fee 15.00

Total \$65.00

First F.W.B. Church:

Appointed Delegates Present — 2; Alternates Present — 0

Money to the General Fund \$50.00

Money to the State Fee 15.00

Total \$65.00

Kirby F.W.B. Church:

Appointed Delegates Present — 4; Alternates Present — 3

Money to the General Fund \$250.00

Money to the State Fee 15.00

Total \$265.00

Romulus F.W.B. Church:

Appointed Delegates Present — 3; Alternates Present — 0

Money to the General Fund \$100.00

Money to the State Fee 15.00

Total \$115.00

Shiloh F.W.B. Church:

Appointed Delegates Present — 4; Alternates Present — 2

Money to the General Fund \$30.00

Money to the State Fee 15.00

Total \$45.00

Trinity F.W.B. Church:

Appointed Delegates Present — 5; Alternates Present — 1

Money to the General Fund \$30.00

Money to the State Fee 15.00

Total \$45.00

Wayne F.W.B. Church:

Appointed Delegates Present — 3; Alternates Present — 3

Money to the General Fund \$30.00

Money to the State Fee 15.00

Total \$45.00

The motion was made and seconded that we receive the Church letters as read Bro. James Cagle. Motion carried.

The Moderator asked for the delegates, both standing and appointed, to come forward for the right hand of fellowship and prayer of consecration led by Rev. George Webb.

The following committees were appointed:

Obituary Committee:

Sis. Earlene Tackett Kirby Church

Sis. Flora Bostic Wayne Church

Sis. Mary Burkhardt Romulus Church

Nominating Committee:

Bro. Randle Lamb First Church

Bro. Walter Hatfield Trinity Church

Bro. Elbert Barker Belleville Church

The attendance count was taken by the Clerk, and the roll call of the Ordained Authority present was taken by the Assistant Clerk, Bro. James Cagle.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn from business until our Saturday morning (9:30 A.M.) session. Motion carried.

FRIDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE — MAY 8, 1981

With the emphasis placed on our youth the service was turned over to

Bro. Gary Fields, Teenspiration Director of the Michigan State Association, who gave the various Teenspiration Activity announcements and introduced the Special Singers.

Bro. Gerald McFarland of the host Church sang, "Lord Help Me Climb Another Mountain." Sis. Locklear sang, "He Gave Me Something Worth Living For."

Bro. Fields introduced the speaker of the evening, Rev. Rick Locklear, Pastor of the Ten Mile Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Locklear delivered an inspiring message challenging us to work for GOD. He used Scriptures from II Kings chapter 3, verses 16 through 18 for his text. The topic taken was, "Digging Ditches."

As the Prophet Elisha spoke for God when he told King Jehoshaphat to make the valley full of ditches, we sometimes as Christians need to dig our ditch and pray until we have the assurance that we have found God's will for our lives. That we will with God's help do the will of God and finish the job that God has entrusted us to do.

We as the Association need to work together in unity and love that we will be successful for Christ. Our hearts have been challenged to be content in our place of work, counting it our joy to serve God.

The invitation was extended, with the congregation singing, "I Surrender All."

Benediction: By Bro. Randle Lamb.

SATURDAY MORNING 9:30 A.M. — MAY 9, 1981

The Conference was called to order by the Pastor of the host church, Rev. James Bostic, asking, the song director to lead the congregation in singing "Fill My Way With Love."

Opening Prayer: Rev. Danny Tackett (Kirby F.W.B. Church)

Morning Devotion: Rev. J. B. Varney, Moderator, using Scriptures from Romans Chapter 8, verses 18-28.

The Moderator recognized Sis. Deb Heathscott as our visitor at the Saturday session.

The reading of the church letters including the statistical information and the Ordained Authority from each church was read by Bro. James Cagle, Assistant Clerk.

The motion was made and seconded to receive the letters as read and seat the delegates — motion carried.

The delegates were seated, and the right hand of fellowship was ex-

tended to those delegates that were not present at the Friday night session.

The Rules of Decorum were read by the Moderator.

The attendance count (Trophy) was taken by the Clerk, with the point standings announced after the calculations had been completed, they were:

		Fri. & Sat.		Total		
Churches	Members	Attendance	Attendance	Percent	Points	
Belleville	50	17-11	28	28	56	
First	126	11-4	15	5	20	
Kirby	220	19-22	41	9	50	
Romulus	74	31-31	62	41	103*	
Shiloh	99	16-14	30	15	45	
Trinity	44	13-8	21	23	44	
Wayne	60	14-16	30	25	55	
Attendance		121-106	227			
Visitors		3-1	4			
Total Attendants		124-107	231			

The winner of the "Trophy" for this quarter is the Romulus Church with 103 points. Congratulations to the Romulus Church with 41 percent of your membership attending the Conference "a challenge to other Pastors."

The February Quarterly Minutes were read by the Clerk.

The motion was made and seconded to receive the minutes as read — motion carried.

There was no old business.

The Moderator asked for the following reports:

The Treasurer's report was given by Bro. Walter Hatfield:

Balance (2-14-81)	\$4,294.33
Receipts	664.79
New Balance	4,959.12
Paid Out	427.36
Present Balance	\$4,531.76

The motion was made and seconded to receive the Treasurer's Report: Motion carried.

The Obituary Committee Report was given by Sis. Earlene Tackett:

Sister Ruby Pinkerton
Died: August 8, 1980
Age: 69

Brother Allen Rasnick
Died: July 22, 1980
Age: 64

Sister Lola Phillips
Died: June 24, 1980
Age: 53

We the Obituary Committee request a moment of silent prayer in reverence of our Brother & Sisters who have gone on to be with our Lord.

A moment of silent prayer was observed in honor of Brother Rasnick, Sister Phillips and Sister Pinkerton, after which Rev. J. B. Varney concluded in prayer.

The Executive Committee Report was given by Bro. Ray Hunt.

The Executive Committee had two (2) proposals to come before it,
(1) We elect a Home Mission board for our Conference and the Chairman to serve as a member of the State Home Mission Board.
(2) We send \$100.00 to the Youth Camp to help pay the expenses. The Executive Committee recommends that we adopt these two (2) proposals.

The motion was made and seconded that we receive the report and vote item by item — motion carried.

The motion was made and seconded that we adopt resolution one (1). Suggesting that each pastor make up the board and they elect from among themselves the chairman who will represent us at the State Association — motion carried.

The motion was made and seconded that we adopt resolution two (2). Metropolitan Association send \$100.00 to the 1981 Youth Camp to help with the expenses this year — motion carried.

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Bro. Elbert Barker.

The following were recommended by the Committee:

Moderator Rev. J. B. Varney
Assistant Moderator Rev. George Webb
Clerk Bro. William Scott
Assistant Clerk Bro. James Cagle
Treasurer Bro. Walter Hatfield

Presbytery Board Rev. William Eversole
 Executive Board. Bro. Alton Scutchfield
 Young People's Director OPEN
 Youth Camp Board Member. Rev. Billy Brown

Election of Officers:

Moderator: Rev. J. B. Varney, reelected by acclamation.
 Assistant Moderator: Rev. George Webb, reelected by acclamation.
 Clerk: Bro. William Scott, reelected by acclamation.
 Assistant Clerk: Bro. James Cagle, reelected by acclamation.
 Presbytery Board: Rev. William Eversole, reelected by acclamation,
 for five (5) years.
 Executive Board: Bro. Alton Scutchfield, reelected by acclamation,
 for five (5) years.
 Young Peoples Director: Bro. Robert Goldsmith, elected by accla-
 mation, replacing Bro. Gary Fields.
 Youth Camp Board Member: Rev. Billy Brown, reelected by accla-
 mation.

Delegates to the State Association:

Sis. Sue Barker	Belleville Church
Bro. Randle Lamb	First Church
Bro. Robert Kindrick	First Church
Bro. Gary Fields	Kirby Church
Sis. Cathy Fields	Kirby Church
Bro. Jim Coats	Kirby Church
Bro. Chuck Rowe	Romulus Church
Bro. Robert Kitchen	Shiloh Church
Sis. Evelyn Kitchen	Shiloh Church
Sis. Wilma White	Trinity Church
Bro. Gerald McFarland	Wayne Church

Suggested delegate to the National Association in Louisville, Kentucky:

Sis. Etta Varney Kirby Church

Youth Camp Report, was given by Rev. Billy Brown.

The need for workers is crucial at this time especially a Water Safety Instructor (WSI) and Life Guard for each camp. Junior camp is August 3rd thru 8th with Rev. George Johnson as the Director and Senior Camp will be August 10th thru 15 th with Rev. Charles Cooper as the Director. Applications must be sent to these Directors as soon as possible because they are filled on a first come basis and once the maximum number has been received, other applications received will be returned.

Parents who have children going to camp may go as a worker and the

Conference will pay half the cost for your children attending camp. We need 50 workers for each week, Counselors, Teachers and Kitchen help, "EVERYONE CAN WORK."

The Presbytery Board Report was given by Rev. John Burkhart. We the Presbytery Board have examined Bro. Danny Tackett and Bro. Elbert Heathscott and have found them worthy to be ordained to preach the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We recommend they be ordained at this setting of the Conference.

The motion was made and seconded to receive the recommendation — motion carried.

The Ordination Service began with Bro. Danny Tackett, his wife, Earlene Tackett, Bro. Elbert Heathscott, his wife, Sis. Nellie Heathscott coming forward for the laying on of the Hands of the Presbytery Board.

Rev. Billy Brown read the Ordaining Charge to Bro. Tackett and Bro. Heathscott using Scriptures from 1st Timothy Chapter 3, verses 1 thru 6. Rev. Curtis Beculhimer led the prayer of consecration with Rev. George Webb closing the prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE — 11: A.M.

The congregation sang, "Amazing Grace" as the Conference came around shaking hands one with another and with Rev. Tackett, Rev. Heathscott and their wives.

Opening Prayer: Bro. Gary Fields (Kirby Church)

The morning offering received was \$62.94.

The Moderator introduced the speaker of the hour — Rev. Curtis Beculhimer, Pastor of the First F.W.B. Church, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Rev. Beculhimer, delivered a challenging message on the need of revival and God's people living a life of personal Holiness.

The invitation was extended by Rev. Varney, with the congregation singing, "Just As I Am."

The Conference was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Alton Scutchfield.

DELEGATES (Appointed)

Belleville Free Will Baptist Church

Sis. Mary Kennedy

Bro. Joseph Kennedy

ALTERNATES

Sis. Ethel Wilson
Sis. Lahoma Marcum
Bro. James Marcum

First Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Randle Lamb
Bro. Robert Kendrick

Kirby Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Jim Coats
Bro. Lee Caudill
Sis. Ethel Caudill
Bro. Danny Tackett
Bro. Dave Meadows

Bro. Adrian Davidson
Bro. Elmer Ferrell
Bro. Mike Duncan
Sis. Earlene Tackett
Sis. Odell Davidson

Romulus Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Ron Bowen
Bro. Chuck Rowe
Bro. Lloyd Salmon
Sis. Dolly Salmon

Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church

Sis. Kathy Ellis
Bro. Bill Church
Sis. Faye Preece
Sis. Margaret Baber
Sis. Wanda Schram

Bro. Robert Kitchen
Sis. Evelyn Kitchen
Sis. Fran Albergo
Bro. Sonny Hensley
Sis. Irma Hensley

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Bonny Harper
Sis. Linda Harper
Bro. William McCully
Sis. Minnie Coleman
Sis. Clarice Hopper

Sis. Judy Finley
Sis. Ella White

Wayne Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Gerald McFarland
Bro. Paul Story, Sr.
Bro. Elbert Heathscott
Bro. Glen Stringer
Bro. Sam Music

Bro. Edward Humphries
Bro. Silas Worley
Sis. Fannie Story
Sis. Gladys Ferrell
Sis. Nellie Heathscott

MINISTER BELONGING TO THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION

Belleville Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. Jessie Wilson (Pastor)
20402 N. Crown
Westland, Michigan 48185

Rev. Ronald Keeton
745 E. Huron River Drive
Belleville, Michigan 48111

Rev. Kenneth Jones
4053 Columbus, Apt. 4
Wayne, Michigan 48184

Rev. Ward Wilson
3980 John Hix Road
Wayne, Michigan 48184

First Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. Curtis Beculhimer (Pastor)
1254 Holmes Road
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Rev. Ollie Lafferty
1188 Wendell Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Kirby Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. J. B. Varney (Pastor)
25590 Wick Road
Taylor, Michigan 48180

Rev. William Eversole
6225 Wilkie Street
Taylor, Michigan 48180

Rev. Danny F. Tackett
26042 Beverly Street
Taylor, Michigan 48180

Romulus Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. John Burkhart (Pastor)
4512 Treadwell Street
Wayne, Michigan 48184

Rev. James Hogston
5180 Mildred Street
Wayne, Michigan 48184

Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. Billy E. Brown (Pastor)
50333 Willis Road
Belleville, Michigan 48111

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. George Webb (Pastor)
69 E. Harwood Street
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071

Wayne Free Will Baptist Church

Rev. James Bostic (Pastor)
23757 Melville Street
Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

Rev. Elbert Heathscott
35037 Harroum Street
Wayne, Michigan 48184

DEACONS BELONGING TO THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION

Belleville Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Elbert Barker
107 Chaney Street
Belleville, Michigan 48111

Bro. Carl Montgomery
1754 Smith Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Bro. David Jackson
47064 Ayres Street
Belleville, Michigan 48111

First Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Alton Scutchfield
1320 Red Leaf Lane
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Bro. Huey McFry
543 Kansas Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Kirby Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. James Cagle
6613 Buck Street
Taylor, Michigan 48180

Bro. Bill Smith
24056 Thomas Court
Taylor, Michigan 48180

Bro. Ray Hunt
29669 Judith Street
Inkster, Michigan 48141

Bro. Corbit Wilson
13776 Tuttle Hill Road
Willis, Michigan 48191

Bro. Lowell Mullins
13788 Tuttle Hill Road
Willis, Michigan 48191

Romulus Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. David Matheny
14112 Cogswell Street
Romulus, Michigan 48174

Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Robert Herron
8110 Cahalan Street
Detroit, Michigan

Bro. Coleman Fields
1715 Vinewood Street
Detroit, Michigan

Trinity Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Walter Hatfield
59 E. Harwood Street
Madison Heights, Michigan

Bro. Scott White
1637 E. Evelyn Street
Hazel Park, Michigan

Wayne Free Will Baptist Church

Bro. Bennie Ferrell
24393 LeHigh Street
Dearborn, Michigan 48125

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. GOD. We believe in one true and living, Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, purpose, Power and Glory. — St. John 1:1, 1 Cor. 8:6; St. John 10:30.

2. CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity; sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home. — Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

3. HOLY SPIRIT. We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and HIS coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up His office work among all nations of people, as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide. — Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. THE BIBLE. We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. — 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. THE FALL OF MAN. We believe that God created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell, with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming of CHRIST. — Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:5; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3.

6. REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION. We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension, paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified

Kingdom above. — Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13, 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; St. John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22.

7. **CONDITIONS OF SALVATION.** We believe that all persons, dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any act on their part that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part, exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ. — John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; 1 Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. **SALVATION FREE.** We believe that God desires the salvation of all Christ died for all; and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel. — Peter 1:9-25; 2:9-25; Revelation 22:17.

9. **BAPTISM.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same. — Matt. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; 1 Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19.

10. **COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING.** We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat".

The washing of the feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming. — Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. **THE SABBATH.** We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted. — Exodus 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. **CALL TO THE MINISTRY.** We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impress His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him, He accompanies them in person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose. — Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matt. 28:19.

13. **THE INVISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that the Invisible or

Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate; is the family of God, is composed of all the Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people. — Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18.

14. THE VISIBLE CHURCH. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel. — 2 Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:15; 3 John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:4-20.

15. PERSEVERANCE. We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace and in the knowledge of the truth, and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life, and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued, would be eternally lost. — 2 Pet. 1:12; 2 Cor. 9:10; 2 Pet. 1:4-8; 2 Pet. 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy; 2 Pet. 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32.

16. CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH. We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body. — Col. 1:1-9; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Eph. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. SANCTIFICATION. Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. — 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

18. THE RESURRECTION. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be united, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment. — Matt. 28:6; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:51-58.

19. THE SOUL. The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed. — Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

20. JUDGMENT. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness. — 2 Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.

CONSTITUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

This Association, when properly convened, shall consist of a Moderator, and Assistant Moderator; Clerk, and Assistant Clerk who shall be chosen from among the brethren. The duty of the Moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote.

The duty of the Clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association. The assistants to the Moderator and Clerk shall be to assist, or occupy their respective seats when vacant, or otherwise necessary.

2. This Association shall be composed of ordained Ministers, Deacons and Licentiates, together with messengers duly chosen by the church of their membership in our union, whom the members judge best qualified to represent them. Said messengers bearing letters certifying to their appointment.

b. Said Ministers and Licentiates shall be men of good report, within, and without, of honest integrity and full of the Holy Ghost, meeting the qualifications to that of 1 Tim. 3. Coming under the hands, or approval of the Ordaining Council. Pastors shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church, or churches they serve; whose tenure of service shall be faithfully maintained until terminated, and that effected only by a 60 days' notice of said intention, and the selection of an active Minister within the bounds of this Association to succeed him. It is agreed, however, one may be selected from other sources, being approved by the Ordaining Council of this Association.

3. In the letters from the churches shall be expressed their respective number of fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded or died since the last setting of the Association, a day of church meeting, Pastor and Clerk. (A Statistical, and Financial Report for the entire year should be given, only to the Annual Session).

4. No query shall be received by this Association from any church until it has been acted upon by said church and referred to the Association. In which case the Association shall take up the matter, acting as an advisory counsel to promote peace and harmony according to true discipline of Divine grace.

5. Every church in this Association shall be entitled to a representation of Messengers not exceeding five; together with Ordained Ministers, and their wives; Deacons; and their wives, and the Official Staff.

6. This Association shall maintain a Presbytery Board selected from the ordained authority, preferably Ministers; five in number; also an Executive Board consisting of five, selected from the body, whose tenure of office

shall be ranging from one to five years. The Association shall select, annually, to supply the vacancies as they occur;

7. Every motion, when in order and properly sustained, shall be acted upon unless withdrawn by the mover; that is to say, to present matters for discussion, trying the merits of the same, and, if found worthy and orthodox, to adopt it.

8. This Association shall not exercise power so as to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on the internal rights of any. Maintaining the rights and privileges, and relationship to each church to that of individual members; that is to say, if a church trespasses against a sister church, the church injured shall try to reclaim them by Gospel steps; whereupon, if a reconciliation cannot be effected, the said church in default shall be dropped from our counsel.

9. We agree to do all regular business by a majority of members present.

10. Any church may be admitted into this Association by a petitionary letter and messengers, if however, said church is found to be orthodox and orderly. Such admission shall be manifested by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to said messengers;

11. This Association shall sit as an advisory council; to advise, if prudent, in all matters of difficulty; to ascertain the cause of non-representation, to select from this body such committees deemed necessary to the functioning of the body; to invite and entertain counsel with all brother ministers commensurate with safety; to exclude, or disannul any member not conforming to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his, or their conduct to the church of which they hold membership.

12. This Association shall not, at any time, engage in what may seem to be of a commercial nature. However, it shall be the duty of each member to provide means to defray current expenses of the Association.

13. This Association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all matters concerning the Ministers of the council, as touching their qualification, of his manly character and general conduct; strict adherence to the principles and doctrine of faith and practice, not deviating from that set forth in the Articles of Faith of Free Will Baptist. Particularly that of the plan of redemption, of the Christian fellowship in the unity of Spirit and the bonds of peace; or failing to keep the Ordinances, and the perseverance in faith, ready to be revealed in glory at the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ; when both saints, and the wicked dead shall be resurrected the saints to everlasting life, and the wicked to eternal damnation.

14. This Association shall advise, or recommend the support of denominational enterprises according to the ability, or means otherwise provided, and under the jurisdiction of the local church.

15. This Association shall possess the rights to repel, or exclude anyone coming unto us preaching, or advocating any other doctrine than that

set forth in the original Articles of Faith of Free Will Baptist:

16. This constitution shall not be changed, or amended, only by a three-fourths majority of Ministers, as also the Deacons, and likewise the duly elected representatives at the regular annual setting of the Association.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in 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 of love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the 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 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 in earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the 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 the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ". We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion to educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise to his feet and address the moderator.

3. Each person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.

4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question and shall in no wise cast reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

6. No person shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

7. Members shall address each other by the appellation of brother or brethren, or sisters.

8. No members of this Association shall absent himself when the association is sitting in conference without leave of the moderator.

9. The names of the members of this association shall be enrolled and called as often as the association thinks is necessary.

10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the moderator.

STATISTICAL REPORT — MAY 1980 — 1981

Church & Address	Members Received	Baptized	Dismissed	Deceased	Total Members	Average No. Sunday Sch. Pupils	Number of Teachers	Number of Officers	Paid Pastor	Church Staff	Paid Evangelist	Foreign Mission	Home Mission	Building & Repairs	Education & Publications	Co-Op Bible College Children's Home, Misc. ETC
Belleville F.W.B. 750 E. Huron River Dr. Belleville, MI 48111	9	4	4	0	50	59	6	1	\$2,342.36	\$520.00	\$225.00	—0—	\$285.94	\$16,042.35	\$518.90	\$1,404.55
First F.W.B. 1244 Holmes Rd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197	11	8	0	1	126	140	17	3	13,095.60	2,080.00	—0—	6,615.71	438.00	8,823.57	1,556.16	11,175.70
Kirby F.W.B. 25528 Wick Rd. Taylor, MI 48180	26	23	17	1	220	236	14	5	16,080.00	22,430.00	400.00	6,166.09	2,025.00	8,049.00	1,798.00	16,232.00
Romulus F.W.B. 9900 Tobine Rd. Romulus, MI 48174	23	23	6	0	74	71	3	1	1,278.80	—0—	300.00	300.00	300.00	33,691.38	597.80	867.20
Shiloh F.W.B. 2004 Scotten Ave. Detroit, MI 48209	20	10	7	2	99	122	9	7	13,730.00	2,400.00	490.00	2,137.00	308.41	5,704.14	741.61	12,939.26
Trinity F.W.B. 25220 Mound Rd. Warren, MI 48091	0	0	15	1	44	60	10	8	4,313.68	420.00	—0—	600.00	4,576.63	9,038.74	290.78	513.63
Wayne F.W.B. 34507 Sims St. Wayne, MI 48184	7	14	0	0	60	50	4	1	900.00	—0—	600.00	—0—	—0—	5,200.00	927.50	4,585.00
TOTALS	96	82	49	5	673	738	63	26	\$51,740.44	\$27,850.00	\$2,015.00	\$15,818.80	\$7,933.98	\$86,549.18	\$6,430.75	\$47,717.34