

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**MISSION ASSOCIATION**  
**OF**  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

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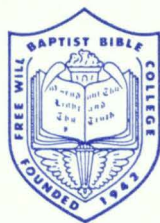
**-1956-**

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**PROCEEDING OF THE**  
**EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION**

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**CONVENED WITH**  
**LONE STAR CHURCH**



# FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

*Presented By*

Rev. Glen Lewis

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# MINUTES OF EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION OF MISSION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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HELD WITH THE  
LONE STAR CHURCH NEAR SEYMOUR, MISSOURI.  
BEGINNING ON THURSDAY MORNING,  
AUGUST 9, 1956.

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## OFFICERS

Rev. Homer Smith .....	Moderator
Rev. Charley Findley .....	Assistant Moderator
Lloyd Walls .....	Clerk-Treasurer
Margaret Walls .....	Assistant-Clerk

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. H. G. Barr .....	1957
Rev. Homer Smith .....	1958
Rev. John W. Silvey .....	1959
Deacon Ray Hutsell .....	1960
Deacon Charley Franklin .....	1961

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The next session of this Association will be held with Lead Hill Church, 4 miles west of Mansfield, Mo., on Highway 60, beginning on Thursday, 9:00 A. M. before the second Sunday in August, 1957.

Rev. O. L. Claxton to bring the Associational Message.  
Rev. Homer Smith, Alternate.

## PROCEEDINGS

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Thursday—9:00 A. M.

The Mission Association met in its eighth annual session at the Lone Star Church near Seymour, Missouri.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Homer Smith.

Congregational song, "Kingdom Coming."

Singing led by Rev. O. L. Claxton, with Mrs. Fanny Foxworthy at the piano.

A portion of Deuteronomy 28 was read by the Moderator for a scripture reading.

Prayer by Rev. E. E. Winfree.

Short talk and welcome by Deacon Jesse Cameron.

Mrs. Margaret Walls appointed assistant Clerk.

Registration of standing delegates.

The Moderator appointed the following as a committee on committees to work with him: Rev. Leonard Keys, Rev. O. L. Claxton and Deacon James Odom.

The congregation sang, "Some Day," led by Rev. A. A. Hogue.

Praise service led by Rev. E. E. Winfree.

Committees appointed as follows:

Business—Rev. Lee Maxwell, Rev. John W. Silvey and Deacon John S. Hickman.

League—Rev. O. T. Dixon, Mrs. Nola Yeager and Mrs. Ruth Hickman.

Sunday School—Mrs. Margaret Dixon, Mrs. Bessie Hogue and Mrs. Bertha Findley.

Observance of Sabbath—Rev. Lester Lawler, Deacon W. F. Kempt and Rev. A. M. Halford.

Temperance—Deacon John Adamson, Rev. Ezra Butts and Deacon James Odom.

Pulpit—Deacon Jesse Cameron, Deacon Elmer Ellington, and Mrs. Fannie Foxworthy.

Obituary—Mrs. Margaret Walls, Deacon Harry B. Vierkant and Rev. Mary Wester.

Call for Church Letters.

Constitution read by the Clerk.

By-Laws read by the Assistant Clerk.



Registration of standing delegates.

Special song, "Rock of Ages" was sung by Mrs. Margaret Dixon and Deacon H. B. Vierkant. Mr. Vierkant sang in the German language.

Statistical report read by the statistician, Rev. Herbert Vandivort. Motion carried to accept the report.

Friendly welcome by host pastor, Rev. Allen Ledbetter. Motion carried to adjourn.

Benediction by Deacon Jess Young.

### 11:00 A. M. Service

Congregational song, "Joy Unspeakable" led by Mrs. Margaret Dixon.

Prayer by host pastor, Rev. Allen Ledbetter.

Trio, "I Have a Friend" by Mr. and Mrs. Jake Ivy and Mrs. Ruth Hickman.

The Moderator presented Rev. O. T. Dixon, speaker of the hour. Scripture used Ezekiel 37:1-12. Subject, "Come Out of the Valley of Dry Bones."

Benediction by Rev. John W. Silvey.

### Thursday Afternoon

Congregational singing led by Mrs. Margaret Dixon.

Assistant Moderator, Rev. Charley Findley, read Psalms 23, as a scripture lesson.

Prayer by Rev. John W. Silvey.

Congregational song, "A Wonderful Time," led by Mr. Jake Ivy.

Call for report of business committee.

Committee reported favorable on the following churches:

Rock Chapel	Pleasant Home No. 1
Mt. Valley	New Rock Springs
Faith and Hope	Happy Ridge No. 1
Mt. Pisgah	Trinity
Pleasant Grove	Dutch Chapel
Wolf Creek	Mountain Grove
Pleasant Hill	Hartville
Union Chapel	Union Grove
Number One	Lone Star
Harmony	Mt. Zion No. 2
New Home	

Motion carried to accept report and seat the delegates.

Registration of delegates.

Special songs, "Home Coming Week," "Home Up In Heaven" and "I've Heard From Heaven" by Mr. and Mrs. Everett Morris.

Call for ministers reports.

Ministers yearly certificates handed out.

Corresponding letter from Little Vine Association of General Baptists read. Motion carried to receive letter and seat the delegates, also to send letter and delegates to their Association.

Corresponding letter from Cave Springs Association read and motion carried to receive the letter and seat the delegates, also to send letter and delegates to their Association.

Report on Little Vine Association of General Baptists given by Rev. A. A. Hogue.

Report on Cave Springs Association given by Rev. O. T. Dixon.

Report on Missouri Association of General Baptist given by Rev. Homer Smith.

Election of delegates as follows:

Little Vine Association—Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Hogue and Rev. Ernest Light.

Cave Springs Association—Rev. O. T. Dixon and Mr. Theodore McCarty.

Missouri Association of General Baptists—Rev. Homer Smith and Deacon Charley Franklin.

Liberty—Rev. O. L. Claxton, Rev. Charley Findley and Rev. John W. Silvey.

Congregational song, "Some Day," led by Mr. Ivey.

Benediction of business session by Rev. A. W. Brook.

### 2:30 P. M. Service

Congregational song, "Lord Send Me."

The Moderator introduced Rev. Russell B. Spurgeon, a delegate from Cave Springs Association, to bring the message. His sermon was based on 2 Chronicles 33:1-2.

Congregational song, "Glory To His Name."

Benediction by Mrs. Martha Coffman.

### Thursday Evening

Congregational songs, "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow" and "Onward Christian Soldiers."

Prayer by Rev. Leonard Keys.



Rev. Ernest Light brought the evening message, reading James 2:26. Subject, "Faith Without Works is Dead."

Benediction by Deacon Scott Kasterke.

### Friday 9:00 A. M.

Congregational song, "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms," led by Mrs. Wilma Walls with Mrs. Fannie Foxworthy at the piano.

Assistant Moderator read 1 Corinthians 13, for a scripture lesson.

Prayer led by Deacon R. E. Helsley.

Registration of standing delegates.

Call for church letters.

Rev. A. W. Brook appointed to serve on the business committee in the absence of Rev. Lee Maxwell.

Report of Home Mission Board by Rev. A. A. Hogue.

Report of Executive Board by Rev. Homer Smith.

The pulpit committee reported that they had selected Rev. Geo. W. Scott to bring the eleven o'clock message and Rev. A. W. Brook to bring the afternoon message.

Financial report read by the clerk. Motion carried to accept the report.

Call for report of business committee.

The committee reported favorable on the following churches: New Prospect, Lead Hill and Liberty. Motion carried to receive the report and seat the delegates.

Registration of delegates.

Motion carried to have the minutes printed wherever the clerk thought best.

Letter from the First Quarterly Meeting read. Motion carried to receive the letter and seat the delegates.

Received \$15.00 from the First Quarterly Meeting.

Received \$15.00 from the Harmony Quarterly Meeting.

Motion carried to send \$50.00 for the entertainment fund of the State Association.

A request to extend the license of Bro. Leonard Means was discussed. Motion carried to table the matter until afternoon.

Call for report of business committee.

Discussion of Articles 13 and 16 of the Constitution.

Item of business No. 1 was read and discussed. Motion carried to adopt item No. 1.

Motion carried that we adjourn.

Benediction by Mrs. Wilma Walls.

## 11:00 A. M. Service

Congregational songs, "I Would Not Be Denied," and "There Is Power In The Blood," led by Mrs. Margaret Dixon. Prayer led by Rev. Willis Brown.

The Moderator presented one of our oldest ministers, Rev. Geo. W. Scott to bring the morning message. Scripture read, Revelations 22:1-7. Prayer led by Rev. O. L. Claxton.

Song, "Hold To God's Unchanging Hand." The theme of Bro. Scott's message was to help us to get a vision of the place called Heaven that Jesus went to prepare.

Song, "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be," was sung as an invitational hymn. One soul was saved.

Benediction by Rev. Charles Chamberlain.

## Friday Afternoon

Services opened by congregational song led by Mrs. Wilma Walls.

Isaiah 12:1-6 was read by the Moderator.

Prayer by Deacon John S. Hickman.

Talk on our Bible College by Miss Hazel Hutsell, who is a student there.

Call for report of business committee.

Item of business No. 2 was read and discussed. Motion carried to adopt item No. 2.

Item of business No. 3 was read and discussed. Motion carried to adopt item No. 3.

Call for requests.

The Faith and Hope church requested the Association to extend the license of Bro. Leonard Means for one year. Motion carried to grant their request.

The Lead Hill church and Mtn. Grove church requested the next session of Mission Association. Lead Hill was granted their request.

Call for committee reports.

Motion carried to adopt report of Sunday School Committee.

Motion carried to adopt report of the League committee.

Motion carried to adopt report of the Temperance committee.

Motion carried to adopt the report of the Observance of Sabbath committee.

Motion carried to receive the report of the Obituary



committee. All stood for a moment of silent prayer in remembrance of the ones passed on to their reward. Prayer continued by Rev. Geo. W. Scott.

Delegates to the State Association were elected as follows: Mrs. Velma Elliott, Mrs. Gillie Reeves, Mrs. Wilma Walls, Mrs. Martha Hickman, Mrs. Emma Peterson, Mr. Chester DeArmond, Mrs. Agnes DeArmond, Mr. Theodore McCarty, Mrs. Bertie Stilley, Mr. Raymond Helsley, Florine Silvey and Charley Silvey.

Election of officers for the coming year as follows:

Rev. O. T. Dixon .....	Moderator
Rev. John W. Silvey .....	Assistant Moderator
Lloyd Walls .....	Clerk-Treasurer
Rev. H. S. Vandivort .....	Statistician
Rev. O. L. Claxton .....	To bring Associational Message
Rev. Homer Smith .....	Alternate

Deacon-Charley Franklin elected as member of the Executive Board for a period of 5 years.

Rev. John W. Silvey elected as a member of the Executive Board to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Raymond Smith.

Standing vote of thanks to the Lone Star church for their hospitality.

Standing vote of thanks to the Moderator and all officers of the Association.

Benediction of business session by Miss Hazel Hutsell.

Congregational singing led by Rev. O. L. Claxton.

Solo, "I Know Who Holds My Hand," by Mrs. R. J. Gosard, a visitor from the Little Vine Association of General Baptists.

The Moderator presented Rev. A. W. Brook who brought the closing message. He read a portion of Phillipians 7. The main thought was for all to hold fast to God's hand and not neglect to pray.

Services concluded with a Christian handshake.

Benediction by the clerk, Lloyd Walls.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUSINESS — Item No. 1.

Resolved that Article 16 of the By-Laws shall be changed to read as follows.

These By-Laws may be amended or changed at any regular or adjourned session of this association by a two-thirds vote of the Association.



## ITEM NO. 2:

Resolved that the Executive Board of Mission Association set up a standard for examining men for license and ordination, based upon the Fundamentals of Scripture and the belief and practices of the Free Will Baptist denomination, adhering strictly to the requirements laid down in the treatise. The examining council shall be composed of 5 members of which at least 3 shall be ordained ministers, appointed by the Moderator and said examination by examining council be done in private.

Resolved that this Association provide treatise and each one granted a license shall be presented a treatise by Quarterly Meeting or Association and request to study same.

## ITEM NO. 3:

Resolved that Article 15 of By-Laws to read as follows: Each ordained minister in good standing shall be given a yearly certificate. Each licensed minister, upon receiving a call for pastoral work or the administering of the Gospel ordinances shall upon request of the church of which he is a member, be examined for ordination.

Committee

Rev. John W. Silvey  
Deacon John S. Hickman  
Rev. A. W. Brook

## SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We, your committee on Sunday Schools recommend the use of Free Will Baptist literature and the King James version of the Bible. We urge all ministers, deacons and church workers to encourage the growth of our Sunday Schools and vacation Bible schools, as it is a strong arm of the church.

We further recommend that parents take their children to Sunday School rather than just send as we never outgrow our spiritual need.

Inasmuch as J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has said that few boys and girls who are regular Sunday school students are brought into the courts of our lands, we further recommend that a revival of Sunday School interest be worked for by all our churches.

Committee

Mrs. Margaret Dixon  
Mrs. Bessie Hogue  
Mrs. Bertha Findley

## LEAGUE:

We, your committee on League are glad to report that new interest is being enjoyed in leagues throughout our Association. It is strongly urged that each pastor with his official boards work diligently with their people to promote the League work in their respective churches.

We also recommend that our Leagues order the National League paper from Free Will Baptist headquarters, Nashville 5, Tenn.

Committee

Rev. O. T. Dixon  
Mrs. Nola Yeager  
Mrs. Ruth Hickman

## TEMPERANCE:

We, your committee on Temperance submit the following report. That we do all we can to discourage the sale and use of all intoxicating beverages. That we protest the advertising of intoxicating beverages in newspapers that come into our homes. Also that we be temperate in all things and abstain from all appearance of evil in our lives.

Committee

Deacon John Adamson  
Rev. Ezra Butts  
Deacon James Odom

## OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH:

We, your committee on the Observance of the Sabbath recommend that all Christians remember the Sabbath day and keep it Holy, by abstaining from all worldly amusements and by taking our families to church services. If it was necessary for Jesus to go to the place of worship and read and take part it is more necessary for His children to do so today. Christians are the light of the world and if we let our light shine, the world will see it and they will glorify Him also.

Committee

Rev. Lester Lawler  
Deacon W. F. Kempt  
Rev. A. M. Halford

## OBITUARY:

We, your committee on obituary submit to the will of God who through His wisdom has called from labor to reward since our last Association the following members:

Bro. Henry Smith and Sis. Minerva Roseman Mtn. Valley  
Deacon Horace Bowden ..... Pleasant Home No. 1  
Sis. Ora Coday ..... Wolf Creek



Sis. Myrtle Daisy McCarty .....	Mtn. Grove
Bro. Roy Bass .....	Pleasant Hill
Bro. Tom Butts .....	Number One
Bro. Floyd Matney .....	Lone Star
Bro. Harry Smith .....	Faith and Hope
Bro. Tom Cantrell, Sis. Mollie Claxton and Bro. O. B. Conley .....	Liberty
Sis. Julia Miller .....	Mt. Pisgah
Committee	Mrs. Margaret Walls Deacon Harry B. Vierkant Rev. Mary Wester

### CHURCHES AND CHURCH CLERKS.

Lead Hill—Emma Peterson .....	Mansfield
New Prospect—Kathleen Chamberlain .....	Mansfield
Liberty—Marjorie Gardner .....	Seymour
Trinity—Mrs. Herbert Hamilton .....	Cabool
Union Grove—Elizabeth Kempt .....	Norwood
Mtn. Grove—Artha Hutsell .....	Mtn. Grove
Pleasant Hill—Ruth Hickman .....	Hartville
Hartville—Daisy Morton .....	Hartville
Union Chapel—Florence Maxville .....	Graff
Pleasant Grove—Amy Emmerson .....	Hartville
Harmony—Florine Silvey .....	Seymour
Lone Star—Fannie Foxworthy .....	Seymour
New Rock Springs—June Freeman .....	Maness
Wolf Creek—Dorothy Millsap .....	Mansfield
Number One—Pearl Reed .....	Huggins
New Home—Addie Long .....	Hartville
Dutch Chapel—Ivy McCoy .....	Embree
Mt. Zion No. 2—Troy McCleary .....	Hartville
Mt. Pisgah—Lloyd Walls .....	Cabool
Happy Ridge No. 1—Pansy Skinner .....	Norwood
Faith and Hope—Gillie Reeves .....	Cabool
Rock Chapel—Delpha Young .....	Norwood
Mtn. Valley—Clobell Deeds .....	Mtn. Grove
Pleasant Home No. 1—Mary Bittick .....	Cabool
Union—Nolan Neal .....	Success
Brushy Knob—Lula Gray .....	Cold Springs
Fairview—Mabel Smith .....	Ava

### MINISTERS AND MINISTERS WIVES PRESENT.

Geo. W. Scott, Oma Scott .....	Mtn. Grove
E. E. Winfree .....	Seymour





# STATISTICAL REPORT OF MISSION ASSOCIATION

Wm. Grove .....

Pleasant Hill .....

HAINVILLE .....

Resident Members .....	218	93	53
Non-Resident Members .....	54	33	16
Total Membership .....	272	126	69
Members Received .....	51	1	
Number Baptised .....	18	0	
Number Dismissed by Letter .....	9	3	1
Number Deceased .....	1	1	
Number of Tithers .....			
Number of Prayer Meetings .....	1	0	1
Number of Leagues .....	1	0	0
League Membership .....	75		
Number of Sunday Schools .....	1	1	1
Average Attendance .....	180	18	48
Officers and Teachers .....	24	4	
Number of Ordained Ministers .....	5	1	2
Number of Licensed Ministers .....	0	0	0
Number of Ordained Deacons ....	8	3	4
Amount Paid Pastors .....	\$ 3,480.00	\$ 357.23	\$ 480.00
Amount for Evangelistic Work .....		88.35	
Amount for Building & Repair .....	3,064.50	25.00	584.00
Amount for Incidentals .....	1,523.80	24.00	
Value of Church Property .....	50,000.00	1,000.00	
Amount for Foreign Mission .....			
Amount for Home Missions .....			
Amount for Education .....	60.22		
Amount for Publications .....	479.82	8.50	
Co-operative Fund .....	439.39		
Amount for Minutes .....	5.00	3.60	3.00
Auxiliary Membership .....	.29		









A. A. Hogue, Bessie Hogue .....	Cabool
Lee Maxwell .....	Bendavis
Leonard Keys, Bessie Keys .....	Norwood
O. L. Claxton .....	Seymour
John W. Silvey .....	Ava
A. W. Brook .....	Mtn. Grove
O. T. Dixon, Margaret Dixon .....	Mtn. Grove
Homer Smith, Verba Smith .....	Mtn. Grove
Charley Findley, Bertha Findley .....	Hartville
Lester Lawler .....	Hartville
Ernest Light .....	Cabool
Ezra Butts, Mildred Butts .....	Huggins
Herbert Vandivort .....	Cabool
A. M. Halford .....	Norwood
Charles Chamberlain, Kathleen Chamberlain .....	Mansfield
Harry S. Johns .....	1223 W. Florida, Springfield
Willis Brown .....	Seymour
Don McCoy .....	Embree
Leonard Means .....	Willow Springs
..... Katie Means .....	Willow Springs
Mary Wester .....	Marshfield
Clellia Duckworth .....	Seymour

### DEACONS AND DEACONS WIVES PRESENT

J. A. Odom	
Jesse Cameron	
Frank Spencer	
Sonford Boring	Mrs. Sanford Boring
Elmer Ellington	Sadie Ellington
Oscar Yeager	Nola Yeager
Charley Franklin	
Troy McCleary	Venice McCleary
Hobert Crewse	Dollie Crewse
John S. Hickman	Martha Hickman
Floyd Walls	Wilma Walls
Austa Reeves	Gillie Reeves
	Mrs. Herbert Hamilton
John Adamson	Bertha Adamson
J. A. Young	Ava Young
Clifford Moles	Hassie Moles
Harry B. Vierkant	



Bill Campbell  
Charley Skinner  
Luther Cooper  
Scott Kasterke  
Walter Duckworth  
Phillip Hosiner  
Will Elliott  
Ernest Cantrell

Dola Cooper

Mrs. Phillip Hosiner  
Mrs. Velma Elliott

### DELEGATES PRESENTS

Eve Helsley  
Jake Ivy  
Lula Ivy  
Harry B. Vierkant  
Chester DeArmond  
Raymond Helsley  
Martha Coffman  
Ollie McCarty  
Arlyene Rippee  
Billie Cooper  
Sharon Means  
Cecil Thompson  
Everett Moore  
Fern Doms  
Mrs. Herbert Hamilton  
Velma Elliott

Agnes DeArmond  
Retha Shull  
Dorothy Hemminger  
Ivan Kelsay  
Grace Kelsay  
Charlene Chamberlain  
Stella Raney  
Alva Raney  
Edna Walls  
Carolyn Walls  
Hardin Doms  
Edwin Freeman  
Larry Maxwell  
Vivian McCoy  
Helen Raney

### VISITING MINISTERS AND DELEGATES

Rev. and Mrs. Russell B. Spurgeon of Myrtle, Mo., delegates from Cave Springs Association.

Bro. Ben Woodring, Rev. H. G. Montgomery and Bro. and Sis. R. J. Gossard, delegates from Little Vine Association of General Baptists.

Rev. and Mrs. Marvin Cravens from Springfield.

Rev. Guy Hutsell from Mtn. Grove.

Rev. Allen Ledbetter from Gainesville.

### CHURCH CLERKS PRESENT

Fannie Foxworthy  
Mary Bittick  
Gillie Reeves  
Mrs. Herbert Hamilton  
Troy McCleary

Lloyd Walls  
Ruth Hickman  
Florine Silvey  
Kathleen Chamberlain



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Balance brought forward .....	\$ 63.38
Received from churches .....	72.60
Received from Quarterly Meetings .....	30.00

Total .....\$165.98

### Expenditures

Sent to entertainment fund of State Ass'n. ....	\$ 50.00
Printing of 500 minutes .....	75.00
Paid clerk .....	20.00

Total .....\$145.00

Balance in Treasury ..... \$20.00

## MINISTERS REPORT

	Funerals	Revivals	Churches Pastored	Sermons	Received into Church	Professions	Baptised	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Lester Lawler .....	3	3	1	125	0	1	0	3,500	\$1,315.80
C. D. Findley .....	0	7	2	108	2	23	5	2,500	1,642.00
Homer Smith .....	18	1	1	86		1	1		912.50
O. T. Dixon .....	14	7	1	154	51	62	18	2,600	4,102.00
Ezra Butts .....	2	1	1	100	1	4	1		1,106.17
A. W. Brook .....	3	1	1	45		3	2		220.00
Lee Maxwell .....		1	1	111				4,096	802.60
A. A. Hogue .....	2	3	1	113			2	4,041	1,615.75
Herbert Vandivort .....		1	1	61		2	1	1,554	541.00
Mary Wester .....			2	75				800	300.00
M. F. Allsman .....	0	2	2	104	0	4	0	7,179	994.50
Ernest Light .....		3	1	78	7	58	6	1,700	400.00
O. L. Claxton .....									
Charlie Chamberlain .....		2	2	105				3,350	254.00
A. M. Halford .....	4		3	112	6	10	6	3,617	1,296.55
Lechard Means .....				37				2,115	22.94
Clellia Duckworth .....	1	1		35		6		300	121.00
Benny E. Watson, Jr. ....					18		1	2,454	13.68

## Ministers Not Turning In Annual Report.

Willie Atherton, H. G. Barr, Willis Brown, Walter Cardwell, Grover Cravens, Ellis Cravens, H. J. Freeman, Harold Helsley, Emmett Hutsell, Harry Johns, Leonard Keys, Clifford Klingensmith, Virgil Mathis, Otho Means, Don McCoy, Jeff Postlewaite, Floyd Roberts, G. W. Scott, Sr., Geo. W. Scott, Jr., J. W. Silvey, Raymond Smith and E. E. Winfree.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. This Association shall open at 9:00 o'clock, Thursday before the Second Sunday in August.
2. Moderator calls Association together.
3. Registration of standing delegates.
4. Appointment of Credentials Committee.
5. Call for report of Credentials Committee.
6. Seating of delegates.
7. Invite all Christians to sit in council.
8. Call for corresponding letters and registration of visiting ministers.
9. Call for report of Executive Board.
10. Elect one member on Executive Board.
11. Call for minister's written report.
12. Miscellaneous business.
13. Call for report of corresponding delegates.
14. Call for report of all committees.
15. Select place for next annual session.
16. Elect officers.
17. Adjourn with prayer.

## CONSTITUTION

**PREAMBLE:** From experience, we the Free Will Baptist Churches, in order to form a more perfect union and that we may affiliate ourselves with other Free Will Baptist bodies, have come together and organized into an Association.

1. This association shall be called Mission Association of Free Will Baptist and shall be composed of such well regulated Quarterly Meetings and Churches as may embody themselves under this constitution.



2. It shall be the purpose of this organization to co-operate with the Missouri State and National Associations in their efforts to combine and direct the energies of the Free Will Baptist Church, for the promotion of Home and Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Sunday School Free Will Baptist League, and Ladies Auxiliary, and for the extension of the Kingdom of God in general.

3. The acting members of this association shall be two delegates from each church, chosen by the members while in conference, together with all ministers, minister's wives, deacons, deacon's wives and church and associational clerks belonging to any church composing this body; also three members from each Quarterly Meeting under the Association, two to be chosen by each Quarterly Meeting, and the other shall be the Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting.

4. The officers of this association shall consist of a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk and Treasurer, (who shall superintend the printing of the minutes) each of whom shall be elected at the closing of each regular session and shall hold their offices until their successors are elected. The Clerk shall receive Twenty (\$20.00) for his or her services.

5. An Executive Board composed of five members, consisting of three ministers and two deacons, whose duty shall be to transact the business of this association when this Body is not in session, whose term of office shall be as follows: One for 1 year, one for 2 years, one for 3 years, one for 4 years and one for 5 years and at the expiration of each of these terms one shall be elected for a term of 5 years, who shall hold office until his successor is elected, further: if any vacancies occur between sessions of this Association the Board shall fill such vacancies until the next session of this Association.

6. Any regularly organized Free Will Baptist Church or Quarterly Meeting, maintaining Gospel order, agreeing with the denomination in doctrine, in favor of benevolent enterprises, such as Sunday Schools, Missions, Temperance and Education, may be received into this association by presenting

a petition asking to be received, and by a majority vote of this Association.

7. This Association shall have power to discipline its churches, exclude them for disorderly conduct, if labor proves unsuccessful, ordain deacons, to license or ordain ministers, such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of the church to which such members belong; to settle questions of discipline and doctrine as the Churches or Quarterly Meetings may refer to it; to make any rules and by-laws necessary to its regulations and not inconsistent with its constitution, but in no case shall this Association reverse a decision of one of its churches or Quarterly Meetings, nor in anyway interfere with its internal regulations, nor hold any ecclesiastical authority over the Churches or Quarterly Meetings composing the Association.

8. Each session of this Association shall convene annually beginning on Thursday at 9:00 A. M. before the 2nd Sunday in August and adjourn at 4:00 P. M. on Friday, and shall be held with only such churches as call for it by vote of the church while in conference, and this shall be decided by a majority of all votes cast.

9. The Moderator or Assistant Moderator shall call the Association in session, and in their absence the chairman of the Executive Board shall take charge, and in his absence any member of the Executive Board shall take charge until a Moderator is elected.

10. This Constitution may be amended or changed at any regular session of this body, by a two-thirds vote, after notice of contemplated change has been read and placed on the table one day previous to time the vote is taken.

### BY-LAWS

1. All business meetings shall be opened by singing, reading a portion of God's word and prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

2. Seven members from three or more churches shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

3. Any ruling of the Moderator may be over-ruled by a



majority vote of the members present.

4. This Association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

5. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into committee as a whole.

6. Any member of this body may appeal from the decision of the Moderator to the Association and by a majority vote therein, the objection shall be sustained or rejected.

7. The Moderator shall stop all discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit.

8. No member of this Association will be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor more than twice on the same subject without permission of the Moderator.

9. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator." but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.

10. All business, except routine, shall be brought before the body by committees, but should any committee refuse or fail to present to this body any business given to it by any member of this Association, then such business may be presented to the body by any member but cannot be discussed unless by a vote of this body.

11. All officers of this Association shall be nominated from the floor and elected by a vote.

12. All committees shall be appointed by the Moderator, but any appointment may be changed by a majority vote of this body.

13. A majority of all votes cast shall be final upon all subjects except the Constitution and By-Laws, then it shall require a two-thirds majority.

14. Churches of the Mission Association shall not call a pastor who does not have a yearly certificate.

15. Each ordained minister in good standing shall be given a yearly certificate. Each licensed minister, upon receiving a call for pastoral work or the administering of the Gospel ordinances shall upon request from the church of which he is a member, be examined for ordination.

16. These By-Laws may be amended or changed at any regular or adjourned session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of the Association.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. God. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good; whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. Christ. Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. The Holy Spirit. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. The Government of God. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.

6. The Sinfulness of Man. Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. The Work of Christ. The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering; death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. The Terms of Salvation. The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love



and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith and soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the domination of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. Election. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. Freedom of the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit or to resist them and perish.

11. Salvation Free. God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the waters of life freely.

12. Preserverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace perservere holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances. BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water, and the LORD'S SUPPER, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; FEET WASHING an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. Tithing. God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed it in the Gospel. Matt-23:23 and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (1 Cor. 16-2.)

15. The Christian Sabbath. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments, and amusements, for rest, worship; holy works and activities and for personal communica with God.

16. Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## 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 his solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearances 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 obligation 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 Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake 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.

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, 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.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday Schools, the 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.











