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# **MINUTES**

OF

**Twenty-Seventh Annual Session**

OF

**Mission Association**

OF

**Free Will Baptists**

**1975**

Held With the

**Rock Chapel Church**

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# MNIUTES

— OF —

## TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

— OF —

### MISSION ASSOCIATION

— OF —

### FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH THE

### ROCK CHAPEL CHURCH

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#### OFFICERS

Rev. Howard Bowers ..... Moderator  
Rev. Lynn Wood ..... Assistant Moderator  
Rev. Bud Hill *REV. ARNOLD* ..... Clerk-Treasurer  
Rev. Gary Dedmon ..... Assistant Clerk

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#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

~~D~~eacon Austa Reeves ..... ~~1976~~  
Rev. Bud Hill ..... 1977  
Rev. Max Courtney ..... 1978  
Rev. Elmer Turnbough ~~REV. HILLMAN~~ *FATHER PALLARD* ..... 1979  
Bro. Lee Evans ..... 1980  
*REV. KEN ROGERS* ..... 1981

✓ ✓

#### CHURCH TRAINING SERVICE BOARD

~~E~~ddie Altis ..... ~~1976~~  
Shelby Housley ..... 1977  
Stanley Jones ..... 1978  
Jack Keesling ..... 1979  
Gary Fry ..... 1980  
*STEVE STIDHAM* ..... 1981

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NEXT ASSOCIATION 1976 — NEW LIFE CHURCH, LICKING, MO.

## PROCEEDINGS

### FRIDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 1975

The services were opened by the Moderator: Rev. R. E. Helsley. Prayer by Rev. Carl Postlewait.

Congregational singing led by Bro. Lynn Wood with Sis. Glenda Moore at the piano. Songs used were "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and "When We All Get To Heaven."

Devotion by Rev. R. E. Helsley using Psalms 46:1-5: "That God is Our Helper."

Clerk and assistant Moderator was needed for the evening service. Motion made, seconded that Sis. Ruth Hickman be appointed for the evening service. Carried.

Nominations for Assistant Moderator: Rev. Elmer Turnbough was nominated. Motion made, seconded to elect Rev. Turnbough. Carried. Registration of standing delegates.

Appointment of Committees:

Credential Committee: Rev. Lynn Wood, chairman; Rev. Carl Postlewait and Bro. Otis Hickman.

Pulpit Committee: Bro. Chester Bennett, chairman; Bro. Ralph Cummings and Bro. Nolan Neal.

Committee on Committees: Bro. Shelby Housley, chairman; Rev. Tom Owens and Bro. Roy Dennis.

Letter read from the Cave Springs Quarterly meeting recommending Rev. Howard Bowers as a member in good standing and as a man of God. With this letter a request from the Rock Chapel Church that their pastor, Rev. Howard Bowers be received in full fellowship of the Mission Association. Request referred to the Credential Committee.

Quartet singing by the Rock Chapel Church entitled: "One Day at a Time."

Partial report of the Credential Committee: We recommend the accepting of the letter from the Cave Springs Quarterly meeting and accept Rev. Howard Bowers into the Mission Association.

Motion made, seconded to receive this report. Carried.

Bro. Bowers then gave a personal testimony.

Reading of the Constitution and By-Laws by Rev. Elmer Turnbough.

The quartet from Rock Chapel sang: "I've Come too Far to Look Back" and "When I Look Up to Sleep No More."

Prayer by Rev. Howard Bowers.

Services then turned over to the keynote speaker: Rev. Tom Owens, pastor of the New Life Free Will Baptist Church, Licking, Mo.

Scripture: John 5:35. Message based on the subject that Love in the heart gives compassion, purpose, determination to work for the Lord. A very fine message enjoyed by all. Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Gary Dedmon.

### SATURDAY MORNING

Moderator calls the service to order.

Prayer by Rev. R. McDarris.

Congregational singing led by Rev. Lynn Wood. Carol Mowry at the piano. Songs used were: "At the Cross" and "His Way With



Thee."

Devotional given by Rev Clyde Montgomery using Psalms 23. He stressed that if God is leading us, we are safe.

Welcome to visiting ministers, and letter from the Missouri General Baptist Association was read. Motion made and seconded to receive the letter as information. Carried. (See reports).

Motion made, seconded to send delegates to the next Missouri General Baptist Association. Carried.

Report of the Pulpit Committee: Afternoon devotion: Rev. Lynn Wood, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Mtn. Grove; 2:00 p. m. message: Rev. Howard Bowers, pastor of the Rock Chapel Church.

Treasurer's report given. (See reports). Motion made, seconded to accept the report. Carried.

Statistical report given. (See reports). Motion made, seconded to receive the report. Carried.

Moderator called for reports from:

State Sunday School and Church Training Board. They reported concerning the State Youth Rally to be held during the Missouri State Association and the Sunday School Seminar to be held in Springfield in September. The next state competition to be held at the Grant Avenue Church in Springfield.

State Home Mission Board. They reported concerning the church in Jefferson City, Union area and the Rolla area. These are areas that need help.

Partial report of the Credential Committee: (See reports). Motion made, seconded to receive Item No. 2. Carried.

Motion made, seconded to receive Item No. 3 and table it until next year. The motion was carried.

Motion made, seconded to receive Item No. 4. Carried.

Motion made, seconded to receive Item No. 5. Carried.

The Moderator then appointed an Examining Committee: Rev. Carl Postlewaite, chairman; Rev. Herbert Vandivort, Rev. Gene Terry, Bro. Otis Hickman and Bro. Phillip Fry.

Moderator calls for continuing reports from State and National Boards.

Report of Missouri Bible Institute. The Institute will continue the coming year at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Mtn. Grove. All are urged to attend.

Report of the Youth Camp Board. There will be new dates for Youth Camp next year due to the State Association now meeting in June. The dates will be set up for the first two weeks to be held in July and their third week in August. There were over 100 enrolled in Youth Camp this year.

Report of the Committee on Committees. Motion made, seconded to accept the report and give the Moderator power to fill the vacancies found on the committees. Carried.

Temperance Committee Rev. Gary Dedmon, chairman, Rev. Herbert Vandivort and Rev. Russell McDarris.

Church Training Service Sis. Dora Fry, Chairperson; Sis. Karen Neher and Bro. Wayne Dixon.

Obituary Committee: Sis. Vandivort, Chairperson; Sis. Delpha Young and Bro. C. Bennett.

Sunday School: Bro. Robert Keith, Chairman; Sis. Cindy Fry and Bro. Bill Hicks.

Observances of the Sabbath Committee: Bro. Austa Reeves, Bro. Clyde Montgomery and Bro. Bert Austin.

Nomination for delegates to the State Association were then called for by the Moderator. Nominations were: Ralph Cummings, Bro. and Sis. Remel, Bro. and Sis. Hickman, Sis. Dora Fry, and Sis. Janet Vandivort. Motion made, seconded to elect these delegates. Carried.

Dismissed for the 11:00 Service. Prayer by Bro. Phillip Fry.

### 11:00 O'CLOCK SERVICE

The service was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. R. E. Helsley.

Singing led by Bro. Lynn Wood with Sis. C. Mowry at the piano. Singing "Power in the Blood." Prayer by Bro. Lee Evans.

Song: "To God Be the Glory."

Special singing by Bro. and Sis. Bob Keith: "Touching Jesus."

Duet by Sis. Brenda and Twana Postlewaite, "Thank You for the Valley."

Solo by Bro. David Latimer, "One Day I Will See Jesus."

Message: Rev. Bud Hill, pastor of the Willow Springs Free Will Baptist Church. Scripture: I Peter 5:8 and Luke 19:10. Text: "If I were Satan." He listed the things that he would do to tear down the Church of God and the remedy to face these problems.

Altar call given as the congregation sang "Just As I Am." Prayer of dedication by Bro. Hill.

Since Bro. Lynn Wood could not be in attendance for the afternoon session, the pulpit committee selected Rev. Gene Terry, pastor of the Kings Way Church for the 1:00 o'clock devotion.

Rev. Howard Bowers gave directions for lunch time.

Prayer by Bro. Lee Evans, deacon at the Grant Avenue F.W.B. Church, Springfield.

### 1:00 O'CLOCK SERVICE

Moderator, Rev. Helsley, called the service to order by asking Bro. Howard Bowers to lead in prayer.

Congregational singing led by Bro. B. Keith with his wife at the piano. Song: "Will Jesus Find Us Watching?"

Devotion by Rev. Gene Terry which was enjoyed by all. Bro. Terry, for his text, used Acts 1:18 and encouraged each of us to be witnesses for Christ.

Foreign Mission report given by Rev. Rolla Smith, pastor of the Grant Avenue Church in Springfield. Bro. Smith told about the various missionaries and their areas of work.

Moderator then appointed Rev. Russell McDaris to take the place of Bro. Lynn Wood on the Credential Committee.

Election of the Church Training Service Board member: Nominations were called for and Bro. Gary Fry was nominated. Motion made, seconded that nominations cease and we proceed to elect by acclamation. Carried.

Election of the Executive Board member: Bro. Lee Evans was nominated. Motion made, seconded that nominations cease and we proceed to elect by acclamation. Motion carried.

Election of the introductory messenger for next Association. Bro.



Gene Terry was nominated and the motion made, seconded that nominations cease and we proceed to elect by acclamation. Carried.

Motion made, seconded that Bro. Elmer Turnbough, pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Houston, be elected as alternate. Carried.

Motion made, seconded that Rev. R. E. Helsley attend the General Baptist Association and that he contact the Clerk to give him a letter stating that he is our representative. Carried.

Report of the Temperance Committee. (See reports). Motion made, seconded that this report be accepted. Carried.

Report of the Obituary Committee. (See reports). Motion made, seconded that this report be accepted. Carried. Bro. Ira Bennett led in prayer.

Report of the Church Training Service Committee. (See reports). Motion made, seconded that this report be accepted. Carried.

Report of the Observance of the Sabbath Day Committee. (See reports). Motion made, seconded that this report be accepted. Carried.

Report of the Sunday School Committee. (See reports). Motion made, seconded that we accept this report. Carried.

Final report of the Credential Committee. (See reports). Motion made, seconded to receive the report and dispose of the items one by one. Carried.

Item No. 6. Motion made, seconded to accept this item and place it in the hands of the Executive Committee. Carried.

Item No. 7. Motion made, seconded to accept this item of the report. Carried.

Report of the Examining Committee. (See reports). Motion made, seconded that we receive this report and grant the request. Carried.

Motion made, seconded that all ministers that are to be granted a card of good standing be recommended by the church of which they are a member. Any minister whose name is not on a church letter will not be granted this card of good standing. Carried.

Moderator states that it is now time for the afternoon message. Bro. B. Keith leads the congregation in singing "Draw Me Near Blessed Lord."

Prayer by Rev. Herbert Vandivort.

Congregational singing: "More About Jesus." Special music by the Keith's as they sang "What a Beautiful Day." Sis. Keith then sings: "The Eyes of God Are Upon You."

Rev. Howard Bowers then brings the message using as his text: II Tim. 2:2. Theme: "The Saving of the Saved." He stated that there are three things for the church member to have in order to be a witness for Christ. First: Be saved. Secondly: Be saved and know it. Thirdly: Be saved and live like it. A very inspiring message enjoyed by all.

At the end of the message the Moderator calls for the election of the officers.

Moderator: Rev. Howard Bowers was elected by acclamation.

Asst. Moderator: Rev. Lynn Wood was elected by acclamation.

Clerk: Rev. Bud Hill was elected by acclamation.

Assistant Clerk: Rev. Gary Dedmon was elected by acclamation.

Place of the next Association: An invitation was extended by the New Life Free Will Baptist Church, Licking. Motion made, second-

ed that we accept this invitation. Carried.

Motion made, seconded to send \$400.00 to the account of Rev. Tom Owens and the mission work at Union, Missouri.

Motion made, seconded to send the regular amount to the State Association for minutes.

Motion made, seconded to give a standing vote of thanks for the hospitality. Carried.

Motion made, seconded that we adjourn until the time and place of the next Association. Carried.

Closing prayer by Rev. Gene Terry.

## REPORTS

**TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE:** We, the Temperance Committee, recommend that each Pastor and Church aggressively oppose both by precept and by example the following: 1. Alcoholic beverages, either the use or sanction of the sale thereof. 2. Drugs that are harmful to the body which is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. We further recommend that temperance be the watchword, even in things that are inherently good.

SIGNED:

Rev. Gary Dedmon, Chairman

Rev. Herbert Vandivort

Rev. Russell McDaris

**OBITUARY COMMITTEE:** We, the Obituary Committee submit the following report: whereas it has pleased our Heavenly Father to call from labor to reward the following since our last Association the following persons: Pleasant Hill Church: Ora Boyer, and Arthur Williams, Hartville: Andy Browett. Union Church: Leabon Coffee. Willow Springs: Noble Smith. First Church, Mtn. Grove: Will Elliot, Maude Hicks, Henry Cooper and Rev. Fred Wynn. New Home: Dorothy Hemmenger, Wolf Creek: Bill Massey. Number One: Will Athertown.

Let us stand for a moment of silence prayer in memory of our loved ones and in reverence to them and their loved ones.

In as much as this may not be a full report, we ask that other names be added as received from the floor, or turned into the Clerk.

SIGNED:

Chester Bennett, Chairman

Delpha Young

**CHURCH TRAINING SERVICE COMMITTEE:** Whereas many false doctrines are being taught in our land, and whereas the only way we can combat these false doctrines, is by a knowledge of God's Word, and whereas the Church Training Service program of the National Association has an effective program for motivating our youth to study God's Word, we, the Church Training Service Committee, recommend that the churches in our Association become more interested in promoting and becoming involved in the Church Training Service.

SIGNED:

Dora Fry

Wayne Dixon

Karen Neher

## SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We, the Sunday School Committee, recommend the use of the



King James version of the Bible as their basic Bible study and the use of Free Will Baptist literature purchased from the Missouri State Book Store in Lebanon, Missouri.

We further recommend that all teachers be members in good standing of a Free Will Baptist Church.

We sincerely urge that all parents take seriously the admonition of Proverbs 22:6 to "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

SIGNED:

Robert Keith

Cindy Fry

Billie Hicks

**OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH COMMITTEE:** We, the Committee On the Observance of the Sabbath Day, recommend that we as Christians place more emphasis upon the importance of the "assembling of ourselves together" to observe the Lord's Day. This is the day ALL Christians everywhere should worship God. Also to refrain from all labor that is not absolutely needful.

SIGNED:

Austa Reeves

Rev. Clyde Montgomery

Bert Austin

**CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE:** We, the Credential Committee, recommend the following items:

Item No. 1: The adopting of the letter from the Cave Springs Association and the accepting of Rev. Howard Bowers into our Association. Letter from the Cave Springs Association is as follows: To those interested in the standing and Christian conduct of Rev. Howard Bowers. We, the Cave Springs quarterly meeting of Free Will Baptist, in session this fifth day of July, recommend him as being in good standing with this body and as a man of God. We earnestly pray that he may have a fruitful ministry in your area.

SIGNED:

Rev. James Lee Reed, Moderator

Rev. J. W. King, Clerk

Item No. 2: We recommend the following churches as reporting to this Association: Pleasant Hil, Union, Mtn. Grove, Houston, Harmony, Trinity, Rock Chapel, Pea Ridge, Pleasant Home, Willow Springs, Salem, New Rock Springs, Grant Avenue, Mt. Zion No. 2, New Home, Wolf Creek, Kingsway, Mtn. Valley, Faith and Hope, Cabool, Lead Hill, Union Grove, Lone Star, New Life, Hartville, Mt. Pisgah, Number One, Pleasant Grove, Union Chapel and First Quarterly Meeting and Harmony Quarterly Meeting.

Item No. 3: The Changing of the Association from August, to begin on the Friday night before the 2nd Sunday in May.

Item No. 4: That Ira Bennett be examined for license to preach the Gospel.

Item No. 5: That the churches turn in to the Credential Committee the names of the ministers to be given card of Good Standing.

Item No. 6: That new questions to be used for the licensing and ordaining of minister be revised.

Item No. 7: That the following ministers be granted a Card of Good Standing:

New Rock Springs Church

Herbert Vandivort  
Mark Vandivort  
Leon Bressler

New Home Church

Guy Hutsell

Wolf Creek Church

R. E. Helsley

Lead Hill Church

Gary Dedmon

Pleasant Home Church

Gene Crewse

Mountain Grove Church

Lynn Wood

Gary Fry

E. T. Stout

Union Church

Bill Price

New Life Church

Tom Owens

Willow Springs Church

Bud Hill

Cabool Church

Max Courtney

Clyde Montgomery

Glen Murray

Woodrow McCall

Pleasant Grove Church

Lester Lawler

W. M. Austin

Number One Church

Ezra Butts

Gary Massey

Carl Postlewaite

Hartville Church

Stanley Jones

Mt. Pisgah

Morris Akers

Trinity Church

Ray Middleton

Kings Way

Seth Draper

Gene Terry

Derl Hicks

George Connors

Rock Chapel Church

Howard Bowers

Eddie Altis

Grant Avenue Church

Rolla D. Smith

Houston Church

Elmer Turnbough

Eldon Tate

Faith and Hope Church

A. A. Hogue

Donnie Morris

Melvin Greuter

SIGNED:

Rev. Lynn Wood, Chairman

Rev. Carl Postlewaite

Bro. Otis Hickman

Rev. Russel McDaris

EXAMINING COMMITTEE:

We, the Examining Committee, have met with Bro. Ira Bennett and find him worthy to be granted licenses to preach the Gospel.

SIGNED:

Rev. Carl Postlewaite, Chairman

Rev. Herbert Vandivort

Rev. Gene Terry

Bro. Otis Hickman

Bro. Phillip Fry

STATISTICAL REPORT

Members Added .....	127
Members lost .....	86
Members lost to non Free Will Baptist Churches .....	11
Number Baptized .....	85
Resident Members .....	1589

Non-resident Members .. .. .	572
Total Membership .. .. .	2161
<b>STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION:</b>	
Tithers .. .. .	159
Churches with Budgets .. .. .	2
Churches on Co-Op Plan .. .. .	9
<b>BUILDING INFORMATION:</b>	
Value of Parsonages .. .. .	\$51,500.00
Value of all Church Property .. .. .	\$777,000.00
Indebtedness .. .. .	\$120,785.00
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION:</b>	
Ordained Ministers .. .. .	58
Licensed Ministers .. .. .	6
Students attending Free Will Baptist Colleges .. .. .	8
Students attending Other Colleges .. .. .	20
Churches Paying Pastor's Social Security .. .. .	3
Churches Paying Pastor's Retirement .. .. .	1
Churches Paying Pastor's Hospitalization Insurance .. .. .	1
Churches with Visitation Programs .. .. .	12
Revivals Held in Churches .. .. .	21
Other Type Services .. .. .	3
Vacation Bible Schools .. .. .	18
Enrollment of Vacation Bible Schools .. .. .	494
Average Attendance .. .. .	55
Churches Having Prayer Meetings .. .. .	16
Average Attendance of Prayer Meetings .. .. .	28
Church Library .. .. .	2
Churches Reporting Sunday Schools .. .. .	25
Average Attendance .. .. .	57
Enrollment of Sunday Schools .. .. .	1452
Churches with Church Training Service .. .. .	11
Enrollment of Church Training Service .. .. .	377
Average Attendance of Church Training Service .. .. .	28
Churches Reporting Woman's Auxiliary .. .. .	6
Enrollment of Woman's Auxiliary .. .. .	101
Average Attendance of Woman's Auxiliary .. .. .	8
Churches Reporting Master's Men .. .. .	3
Enrollment of Master's Men .. .. .	35
Average Attendance of Master's Men .. .. .	9
<b>CHURCH FINANCES:</b>	
Total Receipts .. .. .	\$207,781.06
Total Amount Borrowed .. .. .	\$68,000.00
Total all Other Receipts .. .. .	\$1,475.00
Total Income .. .. .	\$224,340.53
Pastor's Salary .. .. .	\$87,504.89
Other Church Staff Salaries .. .. .	\$9,967.00
Money Paid Out for Remodeling, new Construction, etc. .. .. .	\$61,338.95
Paid on Debt Retirement .. .. .	\$13,890.00
All Other Local Expenditures .. .. .	\$71,100.19
Grand Total Local Expenditures .. .. .	\$230,763.98
<b>WORLD MISSIONS:</b>	
Co-operative Plan .. .. .	\$14,022.72



**Designated: National Ministries:**

Church Training Service .....	\$60.00
Executive Office .....	\$00.00
Foreign Missions .....	\$6,552.88
Free Will Baptist Bible College and Hillsdale .....	\$3,928.00
Home Missions and Church Extension .....	\$5,419.86
Other National Ministries .....	\$362.41
Designated: District or State .. ..	\$1,760.46
Other District and State .....	\$165.00

Total Spent for Outside Causes .. ..... \$32,630.72

The Missouri Association of General Baptist send Christian Greetings unto The Mission Association of Free Will Baptist. Grace, Mercy and Peace be unto you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We send with this letter anyone who might be present from our Association and whom we request you receive as brethren beloved.

Our statistical and financial report follows: Number of Churches 22. Number of Ministers 26. Conversions 34. Baptisms 28. Dismissed 12. Died 19. Members Received 55. Total Membership 1071. Total Expenditures \$34,152.04. We solicit a return of letter and messenger if possible to afford us encouragement and strength in the Lord. God be with you and prosper is our prayers.

Rev. Tom Johnson, Moderator  
Nuel Thomas, Clerk  
Box 309 Wassola, Mo. 65773

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance as of August 17, 1974 .....	420.60
Deposited August 17, 1974 .. .....	\$285.50      \$706.10

**PAID OUT:**

October 10: Clerk .....	\$40.00
October 15: Lebanon Book Store .....	6.60
June 26: Post Office .. .....	10.00
August 1: Discount Mart .....	1.47
August 8: Mtn. Grove Journal .....	90.00
August 8: L. Walker .....	15.00

**TOTAL PAID OUT .....** \$163.07

Balance as of August 1, 1975 .....	\$543.03
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**CHURCH OFFICIALS PRESENT AT ASSOCIATION****MINISTERS:**

Lynn Wood  
R. E. Helsley  
Tom Owens  
Carl Postlewaite  
Herbert Vandivort  
Bud Hill  
Rolla Smith  
Gene Crewse

Gary Dedmon  
Elmer Turnbough  
Russel McDaris  
Clyde Montgomery  
Woody McCall  
Gene Terry  
Gary Fry  
Max Courtney

**VISITING MINISTERS:**

Lester Lemons  
Terry Wood

Howard Bowers  
Jim Ragsdale

**MINISTER'S WIVES:**

Mrs. R. E. Helsley  
Mrs. Carl Postlewaite  
Mrs. Russel McDaris

Mrs. Elmer Turnbough  
Mrs. Gary Dedmon  
Mrs. Clyde Montgomery

Mrs. Herbert Vandivort  
 Mrs. Bud Hill  
 DEACONS:  
 Chester Bennett  
 Bill Shelton  
 Shelby Housley  
 Tom White  
 C. Franklin  
 E. Millsap  
 Lee Evans

Mrs. Jim Ragsdale  
 Otis Hickman  
 Edwin Freeman  
 Roy Dennis  
 Austa Reeves  
 O. Yeager  
 Phillip Fry  
 Bill Willaby

DEACON'S WIVES:

Mrs. C. Bennett  
 Mrs. E. Freeman  
 Mrs. R. Dennis  
 Mrs. O. Yeager  
 Mrs. E. Millsap  
 Mrs. Pauline White

Mrs. O. Hickman  
 Mrs. S. Housley  
 Mrs. T. White  
 Mrs. P. Fry  
 Mrs. Pearl Reeves

QUARTERLY MEETING CLERKS:

Ruth Hickman

CHURCH CLERKS:

Nolan Neal  
 Delpha Young  
 D. Millsap

B. Hutsell  
 Dora Fry

**ELECTED DELEGATES**

Amos Curtis .. . . .	Pleasant Grove
Mrs. Amos Curtis .. . . .	Pleasant Grove
Mary Jane Bennett .. . . .	Pleasant Hill
Celecia Hill .. . . .	Willow Springs
Cindy Fry .. . . .	Willow Springs
Russell Wiyrick .. . . .	New Rock Springs
Pauline Adams .. . . .	New Home Church
Lucille Keith .. . . .	New Home Church
Karen Neher .. . . .	Mtn. Valley Church
David Latimer .. . . .	Kings Way Church
Paul Latimer .. . . .	Kings Way Church
Carol Mowery .. . . .	Cabool Church
Verl Rimel .. . . .	Cabool Church
Virginia Dedmon .. . . .	Lead Hill Church
Sondra Jean Willhite .. . . .	Mt. Zion No. 2
Nova Baney .. . . .	Mt. Zion No. 2
Bill Peterson .. . . .	Lead Hill Church
Bill Shaw .. . . .	Union Grove Church
Sheral Hicks .. . . .	Union Grove Church
Chester DeArmond .. . . .	Lone Star Church
Agnes DeArmond .. . . .	Lone Star Church
Wayne Dixon .. . . .	Hartville Church
Ima Cope .. . . .	Hartville Church
Desma Frey .. . . .	Number One Church
Vickie Liley .. . . .	Number One Church
Delia Neal .. . . .	Union Church
Edna Carder .. . . .	Mtn. Grove Church
Bonnie Prock .. . . .	Mtn. Grove Church
Ethel Cummins .. . . .	Houston Church

Glenda Moore .....	Rock Chapel Church
Ruth Owens ..	Rock Chapel Church
Curtis Calhoun .....	Wolf Creek Church
Robert Keith ..	Wolf Creek Church
Bro. Sansousa .....	New Life Church
Sis. Sansousa ..	New Life Church
Charlotte Crowe .....	Mt. Pisgah Church
Mike Crowe ..	Mt. Pisgah Church
Lewell Wagner .....	Faith and Hope Church
Lura Cash ..	Faith and Hope Church
Ralph Cummins .....	First Quarterly Meeting

## 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 many 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, Church Training Service and Woman's 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, and assistant moderator, a clerk-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 Forty (\$40.00) 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 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. The



Moderator and Clerk shall also serve on this board, as they hold these offices in the 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 the power to discipline its churches, exclude them for disorderly conduct, if labor proves unsuccessful, ordain deacons, to license or ordain ministers, such as given evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of the Church to which 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 any way 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 Friday at 7:00 p. m., before the 2nd Sunday in August, 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-third vote, after notice of contemplated change has been read and placed on the table one day previous to the time the vote was 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 it by any member of this association, then such business may be presented to the body by any members 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. All applicants for license or ordination shall be examined by an examining committee composed of five members, at least three of whom shall be ordained ministers, the committee to be appointed by the moderator. The examining committee shall interview all applicants in private and shall use the standard of examination formerly approved as resolution, to be printed in separate form and distributed to all ministers and churches in the association.

17. No member of this body shall serve on the Executive Board of both this annual meeting and the quarterly meeting at the same time.

18. All churches that compose this body shall prepare a statistical report in the form supplied by the clerk, who is the statistician, of the association, as soon as possible after receipt of the form at the end of June each year.

19. These By-Laws may be amended or changed at any regular 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 Savior 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 Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith and souls 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 would comply with the conditions of salvations. 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. Perseverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere 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 endorsed 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 communion 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 to 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 references 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 forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinance



