

MINUTES
OF THE
TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
Benton Branch Church, in Dallas
County, Missouri, October
7, 8, 9 and 10, 1925.

*The next session of this Association will convene
with Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church
about 3 miles northeast of Purdy,
and about 8 miles southeast of Monett, Barry
County, Mo., at 7:30 P. M., on
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1926.*

PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY EVENING

At 7:30 o'clock P. M. on Wednesday, October 7, 1925, the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists met with Benton Branch Church, near Buffalo, Dallas County, Missouri, in its twelfth Annual Session.

Praise by congregation. The Clerk being absent, the Assistant Clerk, Eld. Ira Waterman, read the first Psalm and offered prayer. After prayer he called the Association into conference.

The Moderator and Assistant Moderator being absent, the oldest minister in age was called for to preside as Moderator. Eld. J. H. Claxton, of Seymour, Mo., being the oldest minister present, was called to the chair.

As G. W. Scott, Sr. who had been chosen to preach the introductory sermon was absent, Eld. Ira Waterman was chosen to take his place. The text used was St. John, 15:5, "I am the vine and ye are the branches."

After the introductory Sermon, motion carried to adjourn until Thursday, 8:30 A. M. Adjourned with prayer by Eld. J. J. Hicks, minister of the General Baptist, Theodosha, Mo.

THURSDAY MORNING

Praise by congregation. For a lesson, Eld. Ira Waterman read the 8th chapter of Romans and offered prayer.

Called for Enrollment. All ministers and deacons present enrolled.

Moderator declared a quorum present, and conference ready to transact business.

As a Committee on Credentials, the following were appointed: Elders E. T. House, W. F. Millard and Dea. W. S. Mosby.

Called for letters from Associations belonging to this body. The following responded: Union, Niangua, Laclede County, Indian Creek, Southeast Missouri and Central Western Missouri and Southeast Kansas; some with delegates and letters, and some with letters.

Called for petitionary letters: The following responded: Northeast Missouri Association and Cave Spring Association.

All letters were examined by the Credential Committee. After examination by the Committee, it reported favorably. Report read and adopted. After adopting the report, the letters were read, received and delegates seated.

Eld. N. J. Breshears, was elected Moderator and Eld. Ira Waterman, assistant.

Eld. Ira Waterman was elected clerk and Dea. John S. Hickman, assistant.

Motion carried that the pastor and deacons of Benton Branch, shall compose the Committee on Divine Service.

The Committee on Divine Service chose Elders C. A. Phillips and N. J. Breshears to preach at 11:00 o'clock A. M.

Motion carried to adjourn until 1:30 o'clock P. M.

Adjourned with prayer by Dea. A. C. Lawson

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Praise by congregation. For a lesson, the 14th chapter of St. Jno. was read by Moderator, prayer by Eld. Lizzie McAdams.

Called the roll. Moderator declared a quorum present, and conference ready for business.

For a Business Committee, the following were appointed: Elders W. F. Millard, L. J. Gearing and Dea. H. F. Frey.

For Education and Publication Committee, the following were appointed: Elders, H. M. McAdams, Wm. Johnson and C. A. Phillips.

For a Temperance Committee, the following were appointed: Elder Lizzie McAdams, Dea. W. S. Mosby and Del. Martha Hickman.

For a Committee on Sunday School, the following were appointed: Elders J. J. Hicks, G. W. Sturdevant and R. F. Claxton.

Called for the report of the Executive Board. Reported no calls. Report adopted.

Called for Treasurer's report. Eld. Selph Jones, Clerk and Treasurer being absent, his assistant, Eld. Ira Waterman made the following report: Money in the hands of Eld. B. F. Brown, former Clerk and Treasurer, \$12.01. Amount received at the last Association, \$24.20. Total, \$36.21.

Money paid out. Clerks Salary, \$5.00; expenses, \$1.00; total, \$6.00; paid to Eld. B. F. Brown for printing the minutes for the year 1924, \$30.01. Balance on hand, nothing. Report adopted.

Called for report of Evangelists: Eld. G. W. Scott reported: Sermons, 88; conversions witnessed, 28; funerals preached, 1; assisted in ordaining ministers, 6; miles traveled, 1508; money received, \$79.11.

Eld. T. C. Ferguson's report. Sermons, 250; conversions witnessed, 100; taken into the church, 60; baptised, 40; assisted in ordaining deacons, 4; miles traveled, 1600.

Eld. Willie Rush's report: Sermons, 51; organized churches, 1; assisted in ordaining deacons, 1; miles traveled, 1064.

Report adopted.

No report from evangelist Eld. W. C. Hill.

Eld. Ira Waterman's time as a member of the Executive Board, expired at this Session, and was reelected for a term of five years.

Committee on Divine Service chose Elders J. J. Hicks and J. H. Claxton to preach at 7:30 o'clock, P. M.

Motion carried to adjourn until Friday, 8:30 o'clock A. M.

Adjourned with prayer by Eld. C. A. Phillips.

FRIDAY MORNING

Praise by congregation. For a lesson, the moderator read the 23rd Psalm, prayer by Eld. L. J. Gearing.

Called the roll. The moderator declared a quorum present, and conference ready for business.

Called for report of the Education and Publication Committee. The following is the report: We, your committee on Education and Publication, beg to report as follows:

We call the peoples' attention to the Free Will Baptist publishing house at Tecumseh Okla. This house publishes the New Morning Star, the official organ of our denomination west of the Mississippi river. We recommend that all job work be submitted to this house for prices before going elsewhere.

We recommend that all of our pastors urge their congregation to subscribe for the Star, as publicity is one of our great needs at present.

We further recommend that our people take immediate steps to reprint all of our denominational books, and especially "Butler and Dunn's Systematic Theology." This being the greatest work on theology that has ever been printed, we feel the need of it, not only being placed in the hands of all our ministers, but in the hands of every Bible Student. We also urge the reprint of the first history of the Free Will Baptists containing the life of Benjamin Randalls.

We heartily recommend Tecumseh College, at Tecumseh, Okla., as a choice place to educate the boys and girls. It is the only college west of the Mississippi river, owned, controlled and managed by the Free Will Baptist.

This School had a splendid opening this year and is in the best financial condition that it has ever been since we have owned it.

We feel that it is the school where, not only our young ministers should attend, but all our children so their minds may not be poisoned by the doctrine of evolution, higher criticism, and all forms of modernisms.

With the hearty support of the Free Will Baptists of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Kansas and Missouri, we can make this School one of the best in the United States.

(Signed), H. M. McADAMS, Chairman
CHAS. C. PHILLIPS
WM. JOHNSON

Report adopted

Committee on Resolution reported as follows:

Be it resolved that this association will not employ, support or even fellowship any person or persons, who teach, preach or uphold the doctrine known as "Evolution, Darwinism" and "Modernism"

This doctrine denies the creation of man as recorded in the

first chapter of Genesis; therefore we hold that all who preach, teach or believe this doctrine, are enemies of Christianity, and should not be allowed to teach in our colleges, public schools, edit our papers or preach in our pulpits.

We believe the theory of evolution is the greatest and most powerful enemy that confronts Christianity today; because it is preached from so many pulpits and taught in most of our schools.

We favor laws being enacted prohibiting the use of books in our schools that teach this doctrine; and we hereby pledge our vote, offer our labor, and promise to do all we can to elect men to office who will pledge to do all they can to take from our schools all books that teach this doctrine.

We favor a law being enacted demanding the Bible be read daily in every public school in this State, so that the children may be instructed in our schools in Bible principles.

We ask the earnest prayers of all Christians, and the co-operation of everybody to assist us in this matter.

(Signed) ELD. W. F. MILLER, Chairman
ELD. L. J. GEARING
DEA. H. T. FREY

Report adopted.

Committee on Divine Service chose Elders Wm. Johnson and L. J. Gearing to preach at 11:00 o'clock, A. M.

Motion carried to adjourn until 1:30 o'clock, P. M..

Adjourned with prayer by Eld. W. F. Millard.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Praise by congregation. For a lesson, the 5th. chapter of Matthew was read by Moderator, prayer by Sister Lora Auberry.

Called the roll. Moderator declared a quorum present and conference ready for business.

Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:

We recommend that the Association elect a Corresponding Secretary, whose duty shall be to correspond with each Association belonging to this body, calling for a full delegation to attend this Association, a liberal contribution to meet the necessary expenses, and giving full information as to how to reach the place where the next session is to be held, by both railroad and highway.

(Signed) W. F. MILLARD, Chairman
L. J. GEARING
H. T. FREY

Report adopted.

Eld. Ira Waterman was elected Corresponding Secretary.

Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:

Resolved, that hereafter, we shall demand an annual written report from all of our Evangelists, and the report shall contain the following items:—Sermons preached, the number taken into

the Church, number baptized, number of ministers assisted in ordaining, number of churches organized, and the number of miles travelled.

(Signed) W. F. MILLARD
L. J. GEARING
H. F. FREY

Report adopted.

Committee on Divine Service chose Elders H. M. and Lizzie McAdams to preach at 7:30 o'clock, P. M.

Motion carried to adjourn until Saturday at 8:30 o'clock, A. M. Adjourned with prayer by Bro. James Engle.

SATURDAY MORNING

Praise by congregation. For a lesson, the Moderator read the 12th. chapter of 1st. Cor. Prayer by Dea. Allen Edenfield.

Called the roll. The Moderator declared a quorum present, and Conference ready for business.

Called for report of Committee on Sunday School. This committee reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Sunday School, beg to submit the following report:

We find that most all of our Sunday Schools are in good condition, maintaining Evergreen Sunday Schools; yet we find some are run only during the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. In view of this condition, we find plenty of room for improvement.

Realizing the great need of Christian teaching and training among the rising generation, we therefore pledge ourselves to put forth greater efforts than ever before, to organize and maintain more Sunday Schools, and make all we now have to become Evergreen in all of our churches.

We urge our pastors to make every possible effort to see that there is a Sunday School in every community in reach of them, and especially in all of our churches, and do all they can to keep them Evergreen Sunday Schools.

We also urge our pastors to recommend and encourage the use of Free Will Baptist literature, printed at Ayden, North Carolina.

(Signed) ELD. J. J. HICKS, Chairman
ELD. G. W. STURDEVANT
R. F. CLAXTON

Committee on Temperance reported as follows:—We, your Committee on Temperance, beg to submit the following report:

We reaffirm our position on the liquor question. The Free Will Baptists are, and have always been, strongly against the use of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage. We stand four square for the strict enforcement of the 18th. Amendment of the Federal Constitution and all laws enacted relative to it. We also stand for the strict enforcement of the "Harrison Narcotic Act," as we believe narcotics are doing a great injury to our people when not used by the hand of a skillful physician.

We condemn the use of tobacco in all its forms, and urge our preachers to discourage its use among the laity, as it is very injurious to the human body, as well as expensive. We further advise our preachers to teach our people on these lines rather than abuse them.

(Signed) ELD. LIZZIE McADAMS, Chairman
W. S. MOSBY
MARTHA HICKMAN

Committee on Divine Service chose Eld. Ira Waterman to preach at 11:00 o'clock, A. M.

Motion carried to adjourn until 1:30 o'clock, P. M. Adjourned with prayer by Eld. G. W. Sturdevant.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Praise by congregation. For a lesson, the Moderator read the 91st. Psalm. Prayer by Eld. E. T. House.

Called the roll. The Moderator declared a quorum present, and Conference ready for business.

Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg to report as follows: We recommend and urge, that every minister belonging to this Association, call, at least once a year, for a free will offering to pay the necessary expenses of this body; and that after all expenses are paid, the remainder, if any, shall go into the publication fund to reprint "Butler and Dunn's Systematic Theology."

This money is to be collected by the preachers, and turned over to the treasurer of the church. The treasurer of the church shall make a record of all money received, and forward the amount to Eld. Ira Waterman, Eldridge, Mo., who is State Clerk and Treasurer for this Association.

(Signed) W. L. MILLARD
L. J. GEARING
H. T. FREY

Report adopted.

Motion carried to elect Elders G. W. Scott, Sr., Manes, Mo., and T. C. Ferguson, Springfield, Mo., as our State Evangelists.

Motion carried to have 500 copies of these minutes printed, and the Clerk is to call upon all Associations who haven't sent any Minute contribution, to send in a liberal offering at an early date.

The General Baptists sent Rev. J. J. Hicks as a corresponding messenger from their State Association, and he proved to be a powerful man in the Lord, and of much service to this body; so we beg our beloved brethren to continue their correspondence both by letter and messengers.

Motion carried that Elders E. T. House and J. H. Claxton be corresponding delegates to the Co-operative General Association of General Baptists.

Motion carried that the following deacons be elected as delegates to the Co-operative General Association:—John S. Hickman, R. F. Claxton, Hartville, Mo., and A. D. Elsea, Stahl, Mo., Route 2.

Motion carried that the Executive Board may meet and organize at any time during the Sessions of this Association after the new member has been elected, but shall have no power to transact any business, only pertaining to its own government.

Motion carried to refer to the Executive Board the matter of pensioning aged dependent ministers of the Gospel, which was authorized by this Association when it was organized.

A standing vote of thanks was extended to the people of Benton Branch community for the kindness and hospitality shown to the delegation during this Association.

A standing vote of thanks was extended to the Moderator and Assistant Moderator for their wise and impartial rulings during the session.

Motion carried that the next session be held with Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church, and that Eld. Ira Waterman preach the introductory sermon.

Motion carried that Eld. H. M. McAdams deliver the farè-well address.

Committee on Divine Service chose Eld. C. A. Phillips to preach at 7:30 o'clock, P. M., and Elders H. M. and Lizzie McAdams to preach at 11:00 o'clock on Sunday.

Motion carried that all outstanding committees be discharged.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet with Macedonia Church, about 3 miles northeast of Purdy, and about 8 miles southeast of Monett, Barry County, Mo., at 7:30 o'clock, P. M., on Wednesday, October 13, 1926.

Money received at the Association.....\$17.90

Money received since the Association.....\$ 9.50

Total.....\$27.40

Clerk's Salary \$5.00 Expenses \$2.00

Paid to Nevatt Printing Co., Springfield, Mo., for printing these Minutes \$22.00

Balance due Clerk on going to press on this, Nov. 17, 1925, \$1.60.

(Signed) IRA WATERMAN,
Clerk and Treasurer.

OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION

Elder N. J. Breshears, Moderator, Lindsay, California.
Elder Ira Waterman, Assistant Moderator, Eldridge, Missouri.
Elder Ira Waterman, Clerk and Treasurer, Eldridge, Missouri.
Deacon John S. Hickman, Assistant Clerk, Hartville, Missouri.
Elder Ira Waterman, Corresponding Secretary, Eldridge, Missouri.

EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION BOARD

Elder Ira Waterman, Eldridge, Missouri. Term expires 1930.
 Elder T. C. Ferguson, Springfield, Missouri. Term expires 1929.
 Elder E. T. House, Goodson, Missouri. Term expires 1928.
 Deacon John S. Hickman, Hartville, Missouri. Term expires 1927.
 Elder Selph Jones, Hartville, Missouri. Term expires 1926.

STATE EVANGELISTS

Eld. G. W. Scott, Sr., Manes, Mo. Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Springfield

ENROLLMENT OF ASSOCIATION

MINISTERS	DEACONS	DELEGATES
E. T. House	E. C. Lawson	Lina Claxton
W. F. Millard	W. A. Edinfield	Martha Hickman
H. S. Lee	J. S. Hickman	Floyd Warren
N. J. Breshears	H. T. Frey	T. N. Aubrey
Ira Waterman	Roy Shaw	J. S. Hollandsworth
L. J. Gearing	W. S. Mosby	J. T. Terry
J. H. Claxton	J. E. Claxton	H. S. Williams
Wm. Johnson	R. F. Claxton	H. Loudermilk
C. A. Phillips	J. A. Wheeler	Pauline Gaunt
Arthur Bailey	H. F. Gaunt	Laeta Scott
	O. R. Kahler	Muriel Gearing

VISITING MINISTERS

J. J. Hicks H. M. McAdams Lizzie McAdams

ASSOCIATIONS AND MINISTERS BELONGING TO THIS ASSOCIATION

UNION ASSOCIATION

M. H. Williams, Hartville, Mo.	G. W. Scott, Jr., Graff, Mo.
A. J. Barnett, Norwood, "	J. G. Koch, Huggins, "
W. N. Coffman, Norwood, "	A. J. Kelsey, Hartville, "
Clarence Ussery, Norwood, "	L. E. Barnett, Norwood, "
A. M. Holford, Brushy Knob "	J. W. Housley, Norwood, "
H. M. Cope, Springfield, "	E. Carpenter, Seymour, "
Ed Delcour, Grovesprings, "	John Claxton, Seymour, "
M. B. Clift, Niangua, "	J. T. Holcom, Niangua, "
Elias Matney, Cedar Gap, "	Z. Williams, Cabcol, "
Roy Preston, Norwood, "	Ben Owens, Norwood, "
G. W. Scott. Sr., Manes, "	L. M. Marler, Ava, "
L. J. Gearing, Springfield, "	Ora Keller, Denlow, "
J. W. Silvey, Seymour, "	N. E. Snider, Huggins, "
J. H. Plunk, Mt. Grove, "	B. S. Moody, Norwood, "
F. Burtram, Competition, "	Selph Jones, Hartville, "
A. J. Jinks, Grovesprings, "	G. W. Towe, Springfield, "
John Pilkenton, Seymour, "	J. Moore, Grovesprings, "
O. Claxton, Competition, "	D. R. Royster, Hartville, "
C. W. Edwards, Competition "	S. C. Cartwright, Norwood, "
J. T. Cole, Locust Grove, Okla.	J. F. McCall, Locust Grove, Ok.
Tennie Scott, Clerk, Manes, Mo.	

INDIAN CREEK ASSOCIATION

L. E. Nutting, Stella, Mo.	E. C. Whitehead, Baxter Sp. Kan.
Ira Marbut, Purdy, "	A. M. Walgamot, Purdy, Mo.
C. W. Mayfield, Chaetopa, "	P. E. Roland, Baxter Sp., Kan.
J. A. Posey, Treece, Kans.	E. Hendrickson, Granby, Mo.
George Foust, Cardin, Okla.	R. L. Nutting, Motor Route,
Joe Wheat, Treece, Kans.	Box 26, Joplin, Mo.
B. Clark, Monett, Mo.	S. P. Mayfield, Webb C'y, Mo.
Myrtle McAlvaine, Springfield	C. Thomas Rocky Comfort, Mo.
Truman Allred, " Mo.	Floyd Inman, Purdy, Mo.
Eld. R. L. Nutting, Clerk, Motor Route, Box 26, Joplin, Mo.	

NIANGUA ASSOCIATION

E. T. House, Urbana, Mo.	W. M. Phillips, Lebanon, Mo.
Willie Rush, Goodson, "	J. W. Potete, Phillipsburg, "
W. F. Millard, Buffalo, "	Willie Jones, Conway, "
W. N. Sutton, Long Lane, "	Lee Spain, Springfield, "
G. W. Sturdevant, " " "	H. S. Lee, Long Lane, "
J. H. Robinson, Lebanon, "	C. A. Hefton, Phillipsburg, "
Emeel Burton, Long Lane, "	Elmer Parmer, Branch, "
Theodore Clark, Buffalo, "	Arthur Medley, Plad, "
O. B. Lane, Tulsa, Okla.	J. P. Highfill, Fresno, Calif.
N. J. Brashears, Box 775, Lindsay, Calif.	
Eld. W. F. Millard, Clerk, Buffalo, Mo.	

LACLEDE COUNTY ASSOCIATION

W. T. James, Sage, Mo.	C. E. Cornelison, Lebanon, Mo.
Lem Waterman, Eldridge, "	William Scheets, Agnes, "
Ira Waterman, Eldridge, "	L. H. Jones, Falcon, "
Chas. Waterman, Des Moines, Ia.	R. W. Bingham, Dry Knob, "
Wm. Bingham, R1, Tulsa, Okla.	T. J. Peterson, Oakland, "
Jasper Lewis, Grace, Mo.	M. T. Lomenick, Lebanon, "
M. E. Brasher, Abo, "	A. J. Chambers, Agnes, "
A. L. Broyles, Lyons, "	L. Milligan, Competition, "
C. A. McAllister, Dry Knob, "	W. W. Butts, Crittenden, "
J. R. Reid, Abo, "	C. M. Rector, Des Moines, Ia.
S. N. Reid, Abo, "	Melvin Bingham, Tulsa, Okla.
W. R. Agee, South Tulsa, Okla.	Glen Jones, Lebanon, Mo.
William Fincher, Lebanon, Mo.	Bland Massie, Guion Ark.
C. T. Neece, Racket, "	
Ira Waterman, Clerk, Eldridge, Mo.	

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI YEARLY MEETING

J. D. Flanery, Farmington, Mo.	J. M. Hinderson, Flat River, Mo.
J. J. Wood, " "	John Conley, River Mines, "
Ves. Simmons, Buckhorn, "	W. C. Hill, 1026 S. 8th. St. Louis
F. A. Simino, Elvins, "	Chas. Canterbury, Knoblick, Mo.
F. J. Brotherton, Mine	John Maze, Mill Creek, "
La Motte, "	J. L. Yancy, Fredericktown, "

T. J. Mann, Esther,	Mo.	S. M. Ferguson, Flat River,	Mo.
L. N. Beard, Bismark,	"	F. M. Robinson, Esther,	"
S. M. King, Faro,	"	G. L. Robinson, Flat River,	"
P. B. Hilderbrand, Flat River, Mo.			
O. B. Womack, Clerk, Farmington, Mo.			

CENTRAL W. MO. & S. E. KANSAS ASSOCIATION

T. C. Ferguson, Springfield, Mo.	Thomas L. York, Hannon, Mo.
J. T. Williams, Greenfield, "	W. H. York, Hannon, "
W. M. Bybee, Eldorado Spgs "	Bascom Cassatt, Liberal, "
G. W. Powell, " " "	I. N. Grimesly, Stockton, "
B. F. Brown, Tecumseh, Okla.	Wm. McGovern, Eldorado S."
J. B. Sparks, Chanute, Kans.	Rosa Sparks, Chanute, Kans.
W. H. York, Clerk, Hannon, Mo.	

NORTHWEST MISSOURI ASSOCIATION

C. E. Mann, Kirksville, Mo.	Cora Mann, Kirksville, Mo.
P. L. Price, Jamesport, "	G. S. Latimer, Pattonsburg, "
W. H. McKown, Carlow, "	S. B. Lewis, " "
W. B. Fadley, Weatherby, "	J. A. Bethel, St. Joseph, "
G. W. Hensley, G. City, "	J. W. Stephenson, " "

NORTHEAST MISSOURI ASSOCIATION

Charles Phillips, Stahl, Mo.	J. F. Miller, Novinger, Mo.
W. D. McFarland, Livonia, "	J. F. Duckworth, Detroit, Mich.
Bessie Fowler, Clerk, Greentop, Mo.	

CAVE SPRING ASSOCIATION

U. G. Colvin, Thayer, Mo.	W. C. Norman, Alton, Mo.
Naith Combs, Couch, "	Billie Rogers, Myrtle, "
Milo Standley, Alton, "	Elmer Hodges, Alton, "
J. M. McGehee, Myrtle, "	T. J. Rutledge, Myrtle, "
W. P. Stogsdill, Alton, "	C. H. Williams, " "
Wm. Johnson, Alton, "	T. J. Dunkin, Elemstore, Ark.
H. T. Frey, Clerk, Alton, Mo.	

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 to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to 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. 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 bond of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and to seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sabbath 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallable 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 Spirit, 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. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitutions and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN. Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore inherited 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 sufferings, 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, our Savior and Lord, with purpose to love and obey him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion 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 and live, or 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 the water of life freely.

12. **PERSEVERENCE.** All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in 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 administered to all true believers.

14. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.** The Divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusements for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

15. **RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT, 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 ill to the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be called the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

2. The object of this Association shall be for the bringing together the Free Will Baptists of the State of Missouri in one great annual gathering, so they can get better acquainted with each other and for the upbuilding of the Free Will Baptist churches of Missouri and the salvation of souls.

3. This Association shall be composed of duly elected delegates from the Quarterly Meetings, Yearly Meetings, and Associations. Each body shall be entitled to one delegate for every fifty members or major fraction thereof, with the deacons, licensed and ordained ministers.

4. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, who shall also be Treasurer and shall superintend the printing of the minutes at \$5.00 per annum and hold their office until their successors shall be elected; a Board of trustees of five members whose terms of office shall be as follows: One for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, one for five years, and at the expiration of each of these terms, one is to be elected for a term of five years, and who shall hold their office until their successors are elected; and further, if any vacancy occur between sessions of the Association, the Board shall fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next session of the Association, who shall perform the following duties. First—Shall be the legal corporation of the Association with the corporate name of the Board of Trustees of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists; to be a Board of Missions and Church Extension, to secure, hold, use, and convey funds in money, homes or lands for the propagation of the gospel in connection with the Free Will Baptist Denomination. Second—To receive, hold, manage, use, control or convey any property intrusted to the Association for and in accordance with the donors' purpose. Said Board of Trustees shall also compose the Home Mission Board. They may be chosen from ministers, deacons or delegates.

5. This Association shall not usurp any authority over the Quarterly Meetings, Yearly Meetings, and Associations that shall be under its supervision, but shall be an advisory body to help them.

6. Seven or more ordained ministers or deacons from two or more bodies belonging to this Association shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

7. The Clerk or Assistant Clerk, and in their absence the senior minister in age, shall call the association to order for business and call the Moderator or his assistant to the chair, and if neither Moderator nor his assistant are present, then the senior minister in age shall act as Moderator. On taking the chair the Moderator shall call for the reading of the letters from the different bodies composing this Association and after the letters are read he shall seat the delegates. After the delegates are seated the election of new officers shall be in order.

8. An organized Quarterly Meeting, Yearly Meeting or Association of Free Will Baptists may unite with this body at any regular session through a letter or delegate and by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

9. This Constitution may be added to, amended or changed at any regular session of this body by a two-thirds vote of all members present after a written notice of the contemplated change has been published in the New Morning Star three months previous to the session at which such change is to take place.

BY-LAWS

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

2. All business, except routine, shall be brought before this 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.

3. No one shall speak more than five minutes nor more than twice on the same subject without the consent of the Moderator.

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

5. No one shall leave the Association without the consent of the Moderator.

6. Anyone desiring to speak shall arise and say, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until he or she is recognized by the Moderator.

7. The Moderator shall stop all discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit, or when he thinks it is likely to lead to discord and division.

8. The officers of this body shall submit, at every annual session a written report of the work done for this Association.

9. Each body holding membership in this Association, is requested to pay to the treasurer of this Association, at least one dollar each year for each active church; the money to be used for printing minutes, and other expenses of the Association.

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

11. All officers of this Association shall be nominated from the floor and elected by ballot, except when the rules are suspended, then election shall be by acclamation.

12. All resolutions and reports shall bear the names of all the members of the committee who favor them; and if the names be not a majority of all members of such committee, then the clerk shall not read the resolution or report.

13. All committees shall be appointed by the Moderator, but any appointment may be changed by a two-thirds vote of this body.

14. This Association shall not be held with any church except upon invitation from the church.

15. All business coming before this Association shall be decided by secret ballot when there is any opposition or objection.

16. A majority of all votes cast shall be final upon all subjects, except to amend the Constitution, receive Quarterly Meetings, Yearly Meetings, Associations, and the changing of the members of the committees appointed by the Moderator, then it shall require a two-thirds majority.

17. These By-Laws may be amended, or changed, at any regular session of this Association.

