

**MINUTES**  
**Of The**  
**TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION**  
**Of The**  
**MUSCLE SHOALS STATE LINE FREE WILL**  
**BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**Held With**  
**EAST FLORENCE CHURCH**  
**FLORENCE, ALABAMA**  
**Sept. 19, 20, 21, 1940.**

**Officers:**

**REV. GEO. KELLEY, Moderator**

**REV. J. H. DANIEL, Assistant Moderator**

**REV. ARLO PEPPERS, Clerk**

**REV. W. S. KELLEY, Assistant Clerk**

The next session of this Association will convene with Burn's Chapel Church on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September, with J. H. Daniel, Moderator and Geo. Kelley, Clerk.



## PROCEEDINGS

The twentieth annual meeting of the Muscle Shoals State Line Free Will Baptist Association met with East Florence Church, on Thursday night September 19, 1940, at 7:30 with Rev. Geo. Kelley, Moderator, calling the Association to order. Song: "I'm A Millionaire". Prayer by Rev. L. N. Butler. Song, "It Must Be Love". Prayer by Bro. Ricketts. Devotional by Rev. L. B. Royal. Song No. 119. Preaching by Rev. Geo. Kelley. Subject "Love". Scripture: 4th chapter of I John.

Dismissed by Rev. Geo. Kelley until Friday morning.

## FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

House was called to order by Moderator, Rev. Geo. Kelley. Song No. 65. Scripture by moderator, 34th Psalm. Prayer by Rev. Belle McGee.

Next reading the rules of order by moderator.

Enrollment of ministers, Deacons and Delegates with 15 ministers, 42 delegates and 16 deacons.

Intelligence of churches was called for and delegates were seated as follows:

FLATWOODS—G. C. Griffin and Mrs. G. C. Griffin. Minute fund \$2.00.

BUTLER'S GROVE—Bro. Wallace and wife. Minute fund \$2.50.

DOOD'S CHAPEL—Clyde Morris, J. M. Holt and Opal Handback. Minute fund \$1.50.

GRASSEY CREEK—Ellie McGee, Charlie McGee, Bid Kilburn and Clatie McGee. Minute fund \$2.00.

JOHNSON SCHOOL—Bro. Lawson Hinton and Mason McFatt. Minute fund \$1.50.

STATE LINE GROVE—Hollis Jones, L. M. Lyons and Bro. Will Willie. Minute fund \$3.50.

CYPRESS OAK GROVE—Mrs. Warhurst and Verle Wallace. Minute fund \$1.00.

MARS HILL—Retained.

MILL ROCK—By letter. Minute fund \$3.00.

OAK GROVE—Retained.

IRON CITY—Mrs. Ida Newman, Dora Brewer. Minute fund \$2.00.

HICKORY FLATT—Bro. Lonza Joiner, Tessie Smitherman and Lillie Smitherman. Minute fund \$2.75.

NEW HOME—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Couch and Annie McGee. Minute fund \$3.00.

ROSE HILL—Christian Champman, Annie Mae Helton and Reba Beet. Minute fund \$1.50.

FELLOWSHIP—By letter. Minute fund \$1.50.

GRAY'S CHAPEL—Preston Danley. Minute fund \$2.00.

FRIENDSHIP STATE LINE—C. L. Reyer and Bro. J. D. Peek. Minute fund \$2.06.

CROSS ROADS—M. A. Peppers and J. M. Doss. Minute fund \$3.00.

## REPORT OF PREACHERS

Preachers	Conducted Prayer Meeting	Ordained Ministers	Organized Sunday School	Organized Churches	Married Couples	Traveling Expenses	Money Received	Miles Traveled	Held Revivals	Attended Sunday School	Held Communion Service	Pastored Churches	Ordained Deacons	Funerals Preached	Visited Sick Homes	Baptized	Received in Church	Public Prayers	Sermons Preached
J. L. Arnold	15	0	1	0	1	26.00	\$19.83	520	3	45	1	1	0	1	10	1	2	36	38
Cllice Daniels	0	0	0	0	0	1.40	11.30	610	3	16	0	0	2	1	45	0	0	59	27
H. C. Killen	5	0	0	0	2	21.50	82.16	2,150	2	15	1	1	0	3	4	1	3	107	34
J. M. Burns	0	0	0	0	1	58.00	160.31	1,919	4	19	2	2	1	5	31	11	28	123	78
Edd Caperton	0	0	0	0	0	11.50	35.00	1,435	3	30	0	1	4	0	15	0	3	65	45
Luther N. Butler	10	1	0	1	3	4.40	9.50	337	1	25	0	0	0	0	15	0	9	97	40
H. M. Boswell	15	0	0	0	0	0	200	200	0	39	0	0	0	0	51	22	0	30	30
D. P. Henson	15	1	0	0	0	15.00	130.00	1,737	5	43	5	5	0	2	18	1	28	131	137
Arlo Peppers	5	0	0	0	0	26.25	75.50	2,664	2	35	2	4	0	2	26	14	75	75	60
J. H. Daniel	0	0	0	0	3	48.75	305.59	1,830	8	19	4	4	0	15	22	14	122	122	117
Geo. Kelley	0	1	1	0	0	93.85	347.98	3,064	10	23	3	3	1	5	22	10	156	142	142
L. B. Royal	45	1	0	0	1	5.00	160.08	215	2	52	2	1	3	3	62	7	11	132	107
J. B. McGee	0	0	0	0	0	12.10	82.89	106.36	7	0	2	2	0	4	19	3	8	87	45
E. P. Rowden	0	0	0	0	0	1.00	1.50	175	1	47	0	1	0	3	19	2	2	87	82
J. O. Dixon	0	0	0	0	0	2.15	9.31	543	6	30	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	35	16
D. C. Wallace	10	0	0	0	0	2.95	6.07	326	0	12	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	57	28
Theodore Narred	3	0	0	0	0	3.00	8.00	150	0	20	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	62	24
Mack Pinkelton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	25	0	0	28	32



CAVE SPRINGS—N. M. Landers, J. W. Pace and Emmett Ruth-  
erford. Minute fund \$2.50.

CANAAN—Sister Rebecca Clay. Minute fund \$2.05.

EAST FLORENCE—Bro. Lewis Fisher, Sister Inez Wright and  
Letha Staggs. Minute fund \$2.00.

BURN'S CHAPEL—Sister Betty Burns, Hobart Risner and Sister  
Bethel Lee. Minute fund \$2.00.

Adjourned for preaching hour.

Prayer by J. M. Burns. Preaching by Rev. Ed Caperton. Sub-  
ject, "The Devils Influence." Followed by Rev. W. S. Kelley.

Dismissed for dinner by Rev. Arlo Peppers.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House was called to order by moderator. Song, "I Feel Like  
Traveling On". Prayer by Bro. Reyer, reading John 14-1-6. Roll  
called. Prayer by Rev. H. C. Killen.

### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

**General Business**—Bro. J. L. Arnold, Chairman, Bro. Caperton and  
Bro. Royal.

**Sunday School**—Bro. R. L. Griffin, Chairman, Hollis Jones and  
Bro. Reyer.

**Education**—Bro. H. C. Killen, Chairman, Bro. Daniels, and Bro.  
Belle McGee.

**Temperance**—Bro. J. M. Burns, Chairman, Bro. Shelton, and Bro.  
Boswell.

**Finance**—Bro. Bob Wright, Chairman, Bro. J. J. Gray, and M. A.  
Peppers.

**Obituary**—Sister Lillie Smitherman, Chairman, Sister Lee and  
Laurine Griffin.

**Miscellaneous**—Bro. Rowden, Chairman, Bro. Luther Butler and  
Bro. Jess Wright.

**Resolution**—Bro. J. M. Doss, Chairman, Bro. Henry Lee and Bro.  
D. P. Henson.

### FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Bro. H. C. Killen was elected assistant moderator.

Bro. Geo. Kelley was elected clerk.

Bro. W. S. Kelley was elected assistant clerk.

Next assignment to homes.

Moved and seconded to adjourn for Presbytery to meet.

### FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened with song No. 62. Prayer by ..... Devotional  
by Rev. D. P. Henson. Prayer by J. L. Arnold. Song, "Give Me Jesus."  
Prayer by L. T. Jones. Prayer by Geo. Kelley. Preaching by Rev. J.  
H. Daniels, text: 4th Chapter of Acts, 32-37. Acts 5:1-11, followed by  
Rev. Arlo Peppers. Dismissed by Moderator.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called to order by Moderator, Rev. J. H.  
Daniels. Song, No. 65, "I Feel Like Traveling On." Prayer by Rev.  
J. T. Quick. Scripture reading 2nd Corinthians 6th chapter.

Next roll called with 12 ministers, 10 deacons and 21 delegates  
present.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEES

**General Business**—We, your committee on General Business beg  
leave to report the following:

First. We recommend that we receive members by the right  
hand of fellowship, and that the ministers report be read before the  
Presbytery and adopted or rejected. That the clerk of the associa-  
tion begin his administration at the beginning of each session. That  
we elect or re-elect the clerk each year. That we allow the clerk of  
the Presbytery \$2.00 for his service and clerk of the association \$10.00  
for his service. That the clerk see to the printing and distributing of  
the minutes, that we have 600 minutes printed.

Second. We recommend that we retain a Home Mission Board. That  
this body put an evangelist in the field, that he take offerings where  
he goes for Home Mission, for purpose of buying a tent. That he take  
free will offerings for his own expense.

Third. We recommend any minister coming to this body for  
license or ordination must be a member of a Free Will Baptist Church  
in this association six months before licensed or ordained. That they  
preach under license until they are called as pastor or assistant pastor  
of a church. Then they shall come before this body and if found  
sound in faith and doctrine of the Free Will Baptist, ordain them to  
the full work of the ministry. That we will not license or ordain  
any woman to preach.

Rev. J. L. Arnold, Chairman.

Report adopted and committee dismissed.

**Sunday School**—We, your committee on Sunday School beg leave  
to report the following: We regard the Sunday School as one of  
the greatest benefits to the church as it is the best place to train  
the children, except at home. And that each pastor and entire mem-  
bership of the church strive to teach the Bible in its purity, for the  
Bible is the word of God to man, and is the promise of eternal life. We  
recommend that the pastor urge that we use Free Will Baptist litera-  
ture. We urge the parents to take the children to Sunday School and  
assist in selecting a teacher that will strive to elevate the children's  
minds to a higher standard in life, and that God's love is far supreme  
to anything in this world. That we teach the children to stay for  
preaching service each Sunday that there is preaching at the church.  
And we further recommend that each superintendent and teacher  
study and teach James 7:5-6, Matt. 13-54.

Bro. R. L. Griffin, Chairman.

Report adopted and committee dismissed.

**Education**—We, your committee on education beg leave to report  
the following: This crisis the like of which has never been met by  
any preceding generation. We recommend that all our ministers strive  
to read intelligently and if possible to learn the part of speech, and



then take the Bible alone as his text book. Has God not seen the Holy Bible with all its truths which is the basis of all visible knowledge, and the students which will have for his teacher the Holy Gospel. He certainly would have provided something else. It is this that will build up and maintain the church against which the gates of hell will never prevail.

Rev. H. C. Killen, Chairman.

Report adopted and committee dismissed.

**Temperance**—We, your committee on temperance submit the following: That we, as Free Will Baptists, should abstain from all intoxicating drinks, and should keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and not be partakers of anything that is intemperate. Keep our bodies clean and our souls free from sin. We also recommend that our ministers preach against all evil and stand four-square against all manner of sin.

Rev. J. M. Burns, Chairman.

Report adopted and committee dismissed.

**Obituary**—We, your committee on obituary, beg leave to submit the following: Whereas the death angel has visited our churches and called from our midst first of our loved ones. State Line Grove, Bro. Andrew Johns and Sister Mae Bell Smith; Butler's Grove, Bro. Cleo Jackson; Mill Rock, Bro. Santford Adams and Sister Bertha Lopp; Rose Hill, Bro. W. C. Norman and Sister Norman; New Home, Bro. Claude Palmer; Hickory Flatt, Sister Ruby Holden; Cross Roads, Bro. Morgan Peppers; Cave Springs, Bro. Nelson Fleming; Burns Chapel, Sister, Ethel Wright; Gray's Chapel, Bro. John Leavelle; Cypress Oak Grove, Bro. D. G. Dodd.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. To the bereaved ones we point you to Christ, Who alone can give you comfort and fill these vacancies. We extend our sympathy for we feel that our loss is heaven's gain, for precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Lillie Smitherman, Chairman.

**Finance**—We, your committee of finance report the following:

Amount on hand before association.....\$22.34

Received minute funds ..... 43.11

Total in treasury .....\$65.45

We recommend that all churches up to 25 active members pay \$1.50 on minute fund; up to 35 active members pay \$2.00 on minute fund; up to 50 active members pay \$3.00 on minute fund; up to 75 active members pay \$3.50 on minute fund; up to 100 active members pay \$4.00 and 5 cents for each additional member. We recommend that each pastor see that his churches pay their minute fund. We recommend that each church have as many as two finance committees to see after the church and pastor.

R. L. Wright, Chairman.

Report adopted and committee dismissed.

**Miscellaneous**—We, the committee, suggest that the fifth article in the Church or of Conference be changed to the third article of the form and the other articles follow in order. We also recommend that

the last clause of the first article in General Business be retained which reads like this: That we will not license or ordain any woman to preach.

We recommend that churches call their pastor thirty days before the association convenes.

Rev. E. S. Rowden, Chairman.

**Resolution**—We, the committee on resolutions, beg leave to report the following:

We, as the body, wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the people of East Florence Church for their hospitality shown during our stay. May God bless you all in all your work is our prayer. We, the committee, ask that the word resolution be changed to appreciation.

#### Report of Home Mission Board

Amount in treasury .....\$77.70

#### Report of Clerk

Paid the clerk of Presbytery.....\$ 2.00

Paid for printing 600 minutes..... 36.50

Paid for printing 100 credentials..... 2.00

Paid clerk for service..... 10.00

Paid for mailing minutes ..... .60

Total paid out.....\$51.10

Amount in treasury .....\$73.44

Paid out ..... 51.10

Balance on hand .....\$22.34

#### MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

Proceedings of the Presbytery were as follows: Fifth Sunday in October, 1939, at Canaan Church. Presbytery called to order by Moderator, Rev. E. D. Caperton. Ordained ministers present H. C. Killen, L. B. Royal, W. S. Kelley, Arlo Peppers, J. H. Daniel, Clive Daniels, H. M. Boswell, Mack Burns, George Kelley. Deacons present, L. T. Jones, D. F. Peppers, M. S. Peppers, R. L. Griffin, J. W. Ackert. Report on W. A. Cummings, recommend to the body to advertise Bro. Cummings in the county and church papers, as he has left this body and fails to come before the Presbytery and make acknowledgment for something he has done. Next, Bro. Henry Lee was ordained for Deacon of Burns Chapel Church; Bro. D. C. Wallace from Butler's Grove Church was licensed to preach for 12 months. Motion and seconded to adjourn to meet with State Line Grove Church fifth Sunday in December, 1939. Offering \$1.00.

E. D. CAPERTON, Moderator.

GEO. KELLEY, Clerk.

L. T. JONES, Treasurer.

Presbytery met with State Line Grove Church fifth Sunday in December, 1939. Preachers present H. C. Killen, J. H. Daniels, Mack Burns, L. N. Butler, J. B. McGee, Geo. Kelley, Ed Caperton. Deacons present, L. T. Jones, S. L. Shelton, R. S. Griffin, R. L. Wright, Henry Lee, W. J. Wright. Call for reading of the minutes. Read and adopt-



ed, called for the business. Bro. Ottis Dixon was recommended for ordination. After coming under the hand of the examining committee, Presbytery proceeded to ordain him. Next motion and seconded to restore J. H. Daniels credentials as his was lost. Offering was taken for Burns Chapel church building. Received \$1.45. Motion and seconded to adjourn to meet with Friendship State Line Church the fifth Sunday in March, 1940.

E. D. CAPERTON, Moderator.  
GEO. KELLEY, Clerk.  
L. T. JONES, Treasurer.

Presbytery met with Friendship State Line Grove. Preachers G. B. Wooten, E. P. Rowden, J. H. Daniels, J. L. Arnold, D. P. Henson, H. C. Killen, L. B. Royal, W. S. Kelley, Arlo Peppers, Mack Burns, Mack Pinkleton, E. D. Caperton, Geo. Kelley. Deacons present: L. T. Jones, Henry Lee, E. O. Camp, J. S. Posey, R. L. Griffin. Called for reading of the minutes. Read and adopted. Called for the business. Rose Hill Church recommended Bro. Mack Pinkleton for ordination as he has been called as an assistant pastor of Rose Hill Church. After coming under the Presbytery and examined was ordained to the full work of the ministry. Next motion and seconded to give E. P. Rowder credentials as he came from the Missionary Baptist Church. Motion and seconded to adjourn.

E. D. CAPERTON, Moderator.  
GEO. KELLEY, Clerk.  
L. T. JONES, Treasurer.

The fifth Sunday in June, 1940, Presbytery met with Gray's Chapel Church. Preachers present: H. C. Killen, L. B. Royal, L. N. Butler, H. M. Boswell, D. P. Henson, E. D. Caperton, Geo. Kelley. Deacons: L. T. Jones, R. S. Wright, J. J. Gray, Jerry Gibson, R. L. Griffin, A. R. Brewer, S. L. Shelton, R. E. Whitten, Henry Lee, Ace Coker. Called for new business. Burns Chapel recommended Theodore Narred for license to preach. After being examined he was granted license for 12 months. Motion to adjourn.

E. D. CAPERTON, Moderator.  
GEO. KELLEY, Clerk.  
L. T. JONES, Treasurer.

Presbytery met at Association with a good number of preachers and deacons present. Minutes of the Presbytery for the past year were read and adopted. Next called for new business. Bro. Preston Danley was recommended by Gray's Chapel Church for Deacon. After examination he was ordained. Next, Bro. D. C. Wallace from Butler's Grove and Bro. Theradora Narred from Burn's Chapel was recommended for ordination as they both had been called as assistant pastor. After examination and coming under hand of the Presbytery they were ordained. Next, Bro. Reyer, Bro. Dewey Stults and Bro. Ellis McGee were recommended for license to preach. After examination they were granted license to preach for twelve months.

Next Rev. Ed Caperton was re-elected Moderator; Rev. Geo. Kelley was re-elected Clerk; Bro. L. T. Jones was re-elected Treasurer. Amount in treasury \$4.40.

Moved and seconded to give Bro. Joel Ricketts his credentials back to him which he had wilfully gave up three years ago.

Next the Church at East Florence recommended Bro. J O. Brown

and Bro. E. A. Lowe to the Presbytery for Deaconship. After examination they were ordained as Deacons.

Moved and seconded that the Deacons bring a report to the Association.

Next New Home Church recommended Bro. W. E. Parish to the Presbytery for Deaconship. After the Presbytery examined him he was ordained.

Moved and seconded to meet with Iron City Church the 5th Sunday in December, 1940. Moved and seconded to adjourn.

REV. ED CAPERTON, Moderator.  
REV. GEO. KELLEY, Clerk.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called to order by Moderator, Rev. J. H. Daniels. Song, "Pray The Clouds Away." Prayer by Rev. E. P. Rowden. Next a five minute talk was given by each preacher present.

The obituary list was read and talks were made on the lives of the deceased.

Moved and seconded to adjourn until next year. It was voted to meet with Burn's Chapel Church on Thursday night before the 4th Sunday in September of 1941.

Burn's Chapel Church is located between Collinwood, Tenn., and Florence, Ala.

Dismissed by Moderator.

REV. J. H. DANIELS, Moderator.  
REV. H. C. KILLEN, Ass't Moderator.  
Rev. ARLO PEPPERS, Clerk.  
REV. W. S. KELLEY, Ass't Clerk.

#### CHURCHES, PASTORS AND ADDRESSES

STATE LINE GROVE—J. H. Daniels, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
GRASSY CREEK—D. P. Henson, Iron City, Tenn., R. 3.  
DODD'S CHAPEL—D. P. Henson, Iron City, Tenn., R. 3.  
JOHNSON SCHOOL—D. P. Henson, Iron City, Tenn., R. 3.  
BUTLER'S GROVE—J. H. Daniels, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
FLATWOODS—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
CYPRESS OAK GROVE—J. M. Burns, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
MILL ROCK CHURCH—J. H. Daniels, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
IRON CITY—J. M. Burns, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
HICKORY FLATT—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
NEW HOME—J. M. McGee, Florence, Ala., R. 4.  
ROSE HILL—J. L. Arnold, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., R. 1.  
GRAY'S CHAPEL—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
FRIENDSHIP STATE LINE—J. L. Arnold, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., R. 1.  
FELLOWSHIP—D. P. Henson, Iron City, Tenn., R. 3.  
CROSS ROADS—J. H. Daniel, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
CAVE SPRINGS—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
CANAN—E. P. Rowden, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
EAST FLORENCE—E. P. Rowden, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
BURNS CHAPEL—J. M. Burns, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.



**DECEASED MINISTERS NAMES RETAINED**

REV. J. S. DILLARD, Alabama City.  
 REV. R. E. FREEMAN, Cordova.  
 REV. TOM ARNOLD, Union Hill.  
 REV. S. H. MARTIN, Macedonia.  
 REV. J. J. WARREN, Oak Grove.  
 REV. D. D. SERRETTE, Flatwoods.

**CLERKS, NAMES AND ADDRESSES**

STATE LINE GROVE—Hollis Jones, Lexington, Ala., R. 2.  
 GRASSY CREEK—Dorsey Kilborn, Lutts, Tenn.  
 DODD'S CHAPEL—Mable Holt Reavis, Savannah, Tenn.  
 JOHNSON SCHOOL—Mason McFall, Waterloo, Ala.  
 BURLER'S GROVE—Leo Jackson, Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
 FLATWOODS—S. C. Griffin, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., R. 3.  
 CYPRESS OAK GROVE—Mrs. Waymon Burgess, Iron City, Tenn., R. 3.  
 MILL ROCK—Ellord Horton, Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
 HICKORY FLATT—Lillie Smitherman, Killen, Ala., R. 1.  
 NEW HOME—Mrs. Goldie Palmer, Florence, Ala., R. 4.  
 IRON CITY—Virgie Lumpkins, Iron City, Tenn.  
 ROSE HILL—Mack Pinkelton, Pulaski, Tenn., R. 3.  
 GRAY'S CHAPEL—Beatrice Coker, Florence, Ala., R. 1.  
 FRIENDSHIP STATE LINE—J. D. Peek, Ardmore, Tenn., R. 2.  
 FELLOWSHIP—Lawrence Kimbrel, Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
 CROSS ROADS—M. J. Peppers, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., R. 5.  
 CAVE SPRINGS—I. C. Fretwell, Landersville, Ala., R. 1.  
 CANAAN—Dolph Crews, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., R. 6.  
 BURNS CHAPEL—Evelyn Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tenn.  
 EAST FLORENCE—Wynema Barnett, 501 Sweetwater Ave., Florence

**ORDAINED AND LICENSED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES**

H. C. KILLEN—Florence, Ala.  
 GEO. KELLEY—Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
 ARLO PEPPERS—Lawrenceburg, Tenn., East Gaines St.  
 J. B. McGEE—Florence, Ala., R. 4.  
 W. S. KELLEY—Lawrenceburg, Tenn.  
 L. B. ROYAL—Florence, Ala.  
 J. L. ARNOLD—Lawrenceburg, Tenn., R. 1.  
 J. H. DANIEL—Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
 ED CAPERTON—Iron City, Tenn.  
 CLICE DANIEL—Iron City, Tenn.  
 G. B. WOOTEN—Huntsville, Ala.  
 J. M. BURNS—Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
 H. M. BOSWELL—Summertown, Tenn.  
 LUTHER BUTLER—Iron City, Tenn.  
 D. P. HENSON—Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
 MACK PINKELTON—Pulaski, Tenn., R. 3.  
 J. O. DIXON—Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
 E. P. ROWDEN—Collinwood, Tenn., R. 1.  
 D. C. WALLACE—Iron City, Tenn., R. 2.  
 THEODORE NARRED—  
 BRO. E. L. REYER—  
 DEWEY STULTS—  
 ELLIS McGEE—

**FORM OF RECEIVING MEMBERS IN CHURCH**

Inasmuch as you present yourself for admission into the church of the Free Will Baptist in Christ. We rejoice with you that through the grace of God you have been brought to a knowledge of the truth and have been made partakers of the great salvation. The privileges you seek are above price and the duties enjoined are so solemn it is proper that you publicly confess your faith and avow your purpose by answering the following questions:

1. Q. Did you find yourself a sinner in the sight of God?  
A. I did.
2. Q. And you now believe that God has for Christ's sake pardoned and forgiven all your sins?  
A. I do.
3. Q. And your desire is now to become a member of the Free Will Baptist at this place?  
A. Yes sir.
4. Q. Are you willing to be governed by our church rules?  
A. Yes sir.
5. Q. Are you willing to contribute to the support of the Gospel as God prospers you?  
A. I am.
6. Q. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and do you accept Him as your personal Savior?  
A. I do.
7. Q. Do you believe the whole Bible is infallibly true, and are you willing to take it as your guide?  
A. Yes sir.
8. Q. Do you believe in free and open communion. Let a man examine himself according to I Cor. 11-28. Also in washing of the saint's feet, according to St. John 13?  
A. I do.
9. Q. Have you been baptized by immersion?

Answer.....

**FORM OF CHURCH LETTER**

Date....., 194\_\_

We, the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, at.....

.....do hereby certify that.....  
 ....., is a member of our  
 church in good standing and is dismissed and commended to any  
 church of his choice.

.....Moderator.

.....Clerk.



**FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION**

We, the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ at \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, send greetings to the Ministers and Messengers  
 composing the Muscle Shoals State Line Association of the Free Will  
 Baptist when convened with \_\_\_\_\_ Church.  
 We send our beloved, to-wit \_\_\_\_\_

to sit with you in your deliberations and help to transact any legal  
 business that may come before your Honorable Body. The statistics  
 of our church are as follows:

Received by experience \_\_\_\_\_, by letter \_\_\_\_\_, by confession  
 \_\_\_\_\_, by restoration \_\_\_\_\_, dismissed by letter \_\_\_\_\_, expelled  
 \_\_\_\_\_, dead \_\_\_\_\_, total membership \_\_\_\_\_, active \_\_\_\_\_, in-  
 active \_\_\_\_\_, contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

We have elected Elder \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
 pastoral care of our church for the ensuing year. No. of Deacons  
 \_\_\_\_\_, No. of ordained Ministers \_\_\_\_\_, No. of Licentiates \_\_\_\_\_,  
 church property \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount given Pastor \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount  
 given Evangelist \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount given Helper \$ \_\_\_\_\_,  
 amount given Home Mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount given Orphanage  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_, other expense \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Clerk's address \_\_\_\_\_, Modera-  
 tor's address \_\_\_\_\_, our meeting  
 days \_\_\_\_\_, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Clerk \_\_\_\_\_, Remarks;

**FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE**

1. Call the Church to order.
2. Call for peace of the Church.
3. Invite Brothers and Sisters to seats in the Council.
4. Call for acknowledgments.
5. Opportunity for members.
6. Reading of Minutes.
7. Is there any reference?
8. Report of committees.
9. Unfinished business.
10. New business.
11. Adjourn.

**CHURCH RULES**

The following rules were adopted:

1. We agree to meet in conference quarterly or oftener if neces-  
 sary to transact the business of the church.
2. The Moderator shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church  
 in the absence of the pastor. The Moderator shall observe good  
 order and explain all questions before he takes the voice of the

church on them, and shall have the liberty of speech at any other,  
 but no vote unless there be a tie, when he shall have the casting vote.

3. It shall be the duty of all members to fill their seats in con-  
 ference and bear their part of the churches expenses.

4. No member shall leave their seat during conference without  
 permission from the Moderator.

5. No member shall arraign another before the church for any  
 grievance without first taking gospel steps.

6. All the business brought before the church by motion and  
 second in gospel-like order shall be attended to by the church unless  
 withdrawn by the mover.

7. Any person wishing to speak shall arise from his seat and  
 address the Moderator, and if two arise at the same time the Modera-  
 tor shall decide who shall speak first, and no member while speaking  
 shall cast any reflection on any person, but shall adhere strictly to  
 the subject under consideration.

8. No member shall speak more than twice on any subject with-  
 out permission from the church.

9. It shall be the duty of all church members to be present  
 at any church meeting to vote on all questions before the church,  
 called on by the moderator or any member of the church who may  
 desire to obtain the mind of the whole church.

10. If any member shall remain silent during the transaction  
 of any business of the church and afterward complain of what was  
 done, the same shall be deemed disorderly and the member so offend-  
 ing shall be dealt with accordingly.

11. The members of the church shall not talk about one another  
 slanderously, and shall not give any report or circulation that may  
 arise against any church member, but shall make it known to the one  
 the report is against and to no one else, and any member doing other-  
 wise shall be dealt with accordingly.

12. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members  
 present at any time.

13. We have but one mode of baptism and that is by immersion,  
 and will not accept any other as baptism.

**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 cove-  
 nant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things;  
 to avoid all appearance of evil; to abstain from all sinful amuse-  
 ments and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanctions 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 together for church con-  
 ference, public worship and the observance of the ordinance 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 watch over one  
 another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the spirit in the



bonds of peace"; to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and, as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. We will, everywhere, hold the Christian principles sacred and Christian obligation 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, support of missions, the success of the Sabbath Schools and evangelistic efforts for salvation of souls and conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### RULES OF ORDER OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The Association when met shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the Moderator.
3. No person shall be interrupted by anyone except the Moderator until he is through speaking, nor shall the Moderator, unless he break the order.
4. The person speaking shall adhere to the subject in question and shall not cast any personal reflections on him who has spoken before.
5. No person shall speak more than three times on any subject without leave of the Association.
6. No member shall laugh or whisper in the time of public speech.
7. No member shall address each other except by the appellation of brother or brothers.
8. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave.
9. The names of the members of this Association shall be enrolled and called over as often as the Association may think is necessary.
10. No person shall speak more than five minutes at any time without leave from the Association.
11. Any person who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reprov'd by the Moderator according to the direction of the association.
13. Every member of this body shall vote for or against every move that comes before it. When they fail to do this they shall be reprimanded by the Moderator.

### CONSTITUTION

Be it known that we, the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ being in the state of Alabama and Tennessee, do believe in the doctrine of the general atonement, we have been baptized on a profession and we are desirous of bringing about a reciprocal union. We propose to maintain the Order and Rules of our Association according to the following plan:

Article 2. We believe that churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other; that a congregational form of church govern-

ment should be invariably preserved, yet we being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious council on principles of union advantage and Christian love hold it a duty of the churches to pay respect to principles with regard to the duty of the Association.

Article 2. The Association shall be composed of all ministers and ordained deacons and not more than three delegates chosen by the different churches in our union, who producing letters from respective churches, certifying their appointments, shall be entitled to seats.

Article 3. The letters so produced shall express the condition of these churches respectively—that is the number of members in fellowship, the number received, excluded and are only subject to the first death, brought to them by the fall, died since the last association.

Article 4. The body shall have no conceived power to lord it over God's heritage or infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights by the churches in our union, but shall only be considered an advisory council on all things pertaining to the internal concerns of the church.

Article 5. The Association is to give the best advice it can in all matters of difficulty. If the union be broken between any of the churches, said association shall inquire into the cause of the breach and use its best endeavor to remove the difficulty, but if the breach cannot be removed, to withdraw from the churches which they may look upon as unsound in principle or disorderly in conduct or practice until they be reclaimed.

Article 6. To take up no case of any kind in the Union without the consent of a majority of the churches and then only to give advice.

Article 7. Any church may be admitted into the Association by letter and delegate, and if upon examination it is found orthodox and orderly, such admission shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegate thereof.

Article 8. The Association when properly organized for business, shall consist of a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present, and the duty of the Moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the minds thereon, to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided in which he shall have the deciding vote. The duty of the Clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association.

Article 9. No query shall be received by the Association from any church unless it shall have been acted upon in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the Association shall take up same and act upon it.

Article 10. Every motion and second shall be attended to unless withdrawn by the mover.

Article 11. We agree to settle all our business by a majority of the members present.

Article 12. The Association shall have the power to sit as an advisory council, give the churches all the necessary advice in matters of difficulty, to inquire into the cause of churches neglecting to represent themselves in the Association, to appoint any member or members with their consent, to transact any business they judge necessary, to invite any visiting brethren in the ministry to a seat in the Association, to adjourn the Association at any place that may be deemed necessary, to exclude from his seat any member who will



not conform to the rules and decorum and shall report his or her conduct to the church for which they were delegates.

Article 13. This constitution may be altered or amended by a majority vote at any regular meeting of the proposed amendment shall have been presented at the last preceding regular meeting and approved by that body and published in the minutes with notice that it will be acted upon at the next regular meeting.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is but one living true eternal God, the Father of whom all things from everlasting to everlasting glorious and immaculate in all His attributes—1st Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40-28.

2. We believe there is but one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born to the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world because of the great love wherewith He loved the world, and Christ has freely given Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man, who was buried and rose again the third day and ascended into the Heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of Heaven at the last day to judge both the quick and dead.—1st Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:9, St. John 3:16, Rev. 1:77, Acts 24:15, I John 20:2.

3. We believe there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:78, Acts 2:4, Eph. 4:4-6; 2:1.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved, for which end God hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature. Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, John 3:15-17, I Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for the want of Christ who died for him but as the scripture has said, for denying the Lord that brought them, because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men, it follows against all argument that, all men, at one time or other, are found in such capacity as that through grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30, Mark 6:6, Heb. 3:10, I John 5:10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rule of faith and practice. 2nd Tim. 3:16-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ for the benefit of mankind, who repent and believe the Gospel. Luke 24:27, Matt. 28:19-20, Luke 13:3-5, Acts 3:19, Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ, and the Holy Spirit offers His divine aid to all the human family, so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings, whereas, such who do not receive divine impression of His Holy Spirit, shall at a future day own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation for wilfully rejecting offer of sovereign grace. Matt. 11:27, St. John 6:44, Ps. 1:1.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply men, but ungodly men were of old ordained condemnation, considered who turn the grace of God to lasciviousness; denying the only Lord God, our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore shall bring upon

themselves swift destruction, but we observe that they, and such, the Apostle faith because they receive not the love of truth that they might be saved therefore, the indignation and wrath of God upon every soul of man that doeth evil living and dying therein, for there is no respect of persons with God. Jude 1:14-2, Peter 22:2, Thes. 2:11-2, Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy having not actually transgressed the law of God, in their own persons of the first Adam and not that any of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, "for such is the kingdom of God." I Cor. 15-22, Matt. 18:2-5, Marks 9:36; Matt. 19-14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of saving faith and that in the use of the means of grace and not of those means as eternal life is promised to men. Rev. 22:14, Isa. 1:19-20, Matt. 7-8, Jer. 6:16, Luke 13-34-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own work, power or ability, which he has in and of himself only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God. Rom. 4:24, Acts 8:20-21.

14. We believe all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God so that God knoweth whatever come or cannot come to pass upon shall supposed conditions; yet not having decreed to any person to everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice, further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly, who die in sin, unto death. Heb. 4:13, Prov. 88:22-31, Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe as touching Gospel ordinances in believers baptism, laying on hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing of saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament. Mark 16:16, Acts 8:17, 19-6, Luke 22:19-29, John 13:5-17, James 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that the believers are the only subjects for baptism. Matt. 3:16, Mark 1:9-19, Acts 2:38-39, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12..

17. We believe in general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day. John 3:28; 2nd Cor. 4:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless. Matt. 25-46.

### CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERY

1. Be it known that the ordained ministers of the Muscle Shoals Association, together with the deacons of the same, are the presbytery of this Association, all of whom are ex-officio members.

2. The object of the Presbytery is the mutual improvement of the ministry, their protection against hostile influences, and their purification by casting out unworthy members.

3. The Presbytery has exclusive jurisdiction and control over the official character and standing of all ordained and licensed preachers under its control.

4. The Presbytery adopts a constitution, by-laws and regulations, by the majority vote not inconsistent with Baptist principles and usages.



5. When a church desires the license of a preacher or an ordination of a minister, it requests the Presbytery to examine the candidate and if it thinks proper, license and ordain him.

6. Before license or ordination the candidate is examined as to the gifts, grace and usefulness, including his personal piety, his call to the ministry, his adoption and devotion to the work, doctrinal sentiments and his general acceptance with the public.

7. In ordination there is a presentation of the Bible, a prayer of consecration, charge and a hand of fellowship given.

8. A minister from another denomination, having first been received by a local church and recommended by it, is examined in the same way though with special care as to his doctrinal sentiments. Be it known any minister coming under the hands of this Presbytery walks disorderly or commits an offense must come before this body and make restitution or willingly give up such rights of license or ordination papers or card given him by this body or they agree to be published in any or all newspapers as this body deems necessary.

9. Be it known that any minister desiring license or ordination, must be a member of a Free Will Baptist Church in this Association six months before licensed or ordained. That they shall preach under license until they are called to the pastoral care of a church or called as an assistant pastor. Then if the Presbytery finds them worthy, ordain them. All ministers' reports shall be read before the Presbytery and adopted or rejected.



## REPORT OF CHURCHES

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Meeting Days	Other Expenses	Paid Home Mission Board	Paid Helper	Paid Pastor	Value of Church Property	Licensed Ministers	Ordained Ministers	Number Deacons	Contribution	Inactive Members	Active Members	Total Membership	Deceased Members	Number Expelled	Received by Restoration	Received by Confession	Received by Letter	Received by Experience
Burns Chapel	3rd Sun.		\$14.70	\$ 37.93	\$ 500	1	1	1	\$2.00	8	36	44	1	0	0	4	2	38
Dodd's Chapel	4th Sun.	0	6.75	25.00		0	0	1	1.50	12	16	28	0	0	0	6	0	4
Johnson Chapel	4th Sun.	0		23.78		0	0	1	1.50	3	18	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grassy Creek	2nd Sun.	0	3.67	36.90		0	0	1	2.00			31	0	0	0	5	2	0
State Line Grove	4th Sun.	0		76.21	1,500	0	1	5		45	17	62	2	0	0	3	0	3
Butler's Grove	3rd Sun.	0		36.20	400	0	2	2	2.50	60	34	94	1	0	0	6	1	0
Hickory Flat	3rd Sun.	\$1.	15.00	51.20	750	0	0	2	2.75	8	44	52	1	0	0	0	0	2
Flatwoods	4th Sun.	0	5.35	51.06		0	0	2	2.00		21			0	0	2	0	0
Mill Rock	1st Sun.	0	7.00	34.53	500	0	3	3	3.00	35	51	86	2	0	2	3	0	0
New Home	2nd Sun.	0	4.41	58.36	800	0	1	2	3.00	20	41	61	1	0	2	1	0	2
Iron City	4th Sun.	0	31.85	78.13	2,000				2.00	10	28	38	0	0	0	6	0	0
Rose Hill	2nd Sun.	0	1.50	26.33	1,100	0	1	4	1.50		25		2	0	0	1	0	0
Friendship State Line	2nd Sun.	0	9.75	28.70	500	0	0	3	2.06	15	32	47	0	0	2	1	0	0
Gray's Chapel	1st Sun.	0	18.00	65.10	1,000	0	1	3	2.00	15	25	40	0	0	0	3	0	0
East Florence Church	All Sun.	0	37.80	147.68	4,000	0	0	3	2.00		36			0	0	6	0	4
Fellowship	1st Sun.	0	46	24.16	600	0	1	3	1.50	4	46	50	1	0	0	3	0	1
Cross Roads	2nd Sun.	0	40.00	120.47	1,000	0	2	3	3.00	14	59	73	1	0	0	3	0	0
Cave Springs	2nd Sun.	0	10.00	64.85	1,000	0	0	6	2.50		40		1	0	0	0	0	1
Cypress Oak Grove	1st Sun.	0		41.00	500	0	0	1	1.00	40	15	55	1	1	0	0	0	0
Canaan	3rd Sun.	0	2.00	42.09	750	0	0	3	2.05	32	30	62	0	0	0	0	0	2