

MINUTES
OF THE
Thirty-Third Annual Session
OF THE
Muscle Shoals State Line
Free Will Baptist Association

MET WITH
CROSS ROADS CHURCH

September 24, 25, 26, 1953

OFFICERS

REV. MACK BURNS	Moderator
REV. WILLIE DANIELS	Assistant Moderator
REV. ARLO PEPPERS	Clerk

The next session of the Association will convene with Collinwood Church, Collinwood, Tennessee, on Thursday night before the 4th Sunday in September, 1954, with Rev. Willie Daniels as Moderator and Arlo Peppers, Clerk.

CHURCHES — CLERKS — ADDRESSES

Fellowship—Madgie Daniels, Iron City, Tenn.
 Friendship State Line—Arnnie Jackson, Huntsville, Ala., Rt. 3.
 Butler's Grove—Lorene Robertson, Iron City, Tenn.
 Collinwood—Betty J. Smith, Collinwood, Tenn.
 Cypress Oak Grove—No name given.
 Grasse Creek—Mary Morris, Lutts, Tenn.
 New Home—Elsie Beuis, Florence, Ala., Rt. 4.
 Oak Grove No. 2—Elizabeth Bryant, West Point, Tenn., Rt. 2.
 William's Chapel—Mrs. Callie Adams, Iron City, Tenn.
 Mill Rock—Mrs. Uda Bryson, Collinwood, Tenn., Rt. 1.
 Hickory Flatt—Lillie Smitherman, Killen, Ala., Rt. 1.
 Iron City—Nadine Adams, Iron City, Tenn.
 Rose Hill—Dorothy Myers, Wales, Tenn., Rt. 1.
 Cave Springs—Elmer Fretwell, Towncreek, Ala.
 State Line Grove—Andrew Killen, Lexington, Ala., Rt. 2.
 48 Bridge—Sarah Martin, Waynesboro, Tenn., Rt. 4.
 Johnson School—Mrs. Dona Morris, Lutts, Tenn., Rt. 3.
 Burns Chapel—Jossie Martin, Iron City, Tenn., Rt. 3.
 Royal Avenue, Florence—C. D. Kimbrell, 116 Alton St., Florence, Ala.
 Cross Roads—Julia Hester, Leoma, Tenn., Rt. 3.
 Wayland Springs—Emmanola McIntoah, Iron City, Tenn., Rt. 2.
 Hohenwald—Fred Creekmore, Hohenwald, Tenn., Rt. 2.
 Miller's Chapel—No name given.
 Flatwoods—Dewey Griffin, Ethridge, Tenn., Rt. 2.
 New Community—Fannie Pipkens, Florence, Ala., Rt. 2.
 Gray's Chapel—Mrs. Eugene Jones, St. Joseph, Tenn., Rt. 1.
 Canaan—No name given.
 Jones Chapel—Pauline Fowlkes, Florence, Ala., Rt. 2.

CHURCHES — PASTORS — ADDRESSES

Gray's Chapel—D. A. Lindsey, Florence, Ala.
 Canaan—J. O. Dixon, Collinwood, Tenn., Rt. 1.
 New Community—Paul Story, West Point, Tenn.
 Flatwoods—Willie Daniels, Collinwood, Tenn.
 Miller's Chapel—H. D. Stutts.
 Hohenwald—Clovis Brewer.
 Wayland Springs—H. D. Stutts.
 Cross Roads—J. B. Harper.
 Royal Avenue, Florence—Paul H. Sanderson, Florence, Ala.
 Burns Chapel—L. O. Cook, Iron City, Tenn.
 Johnson School—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Rt. 2.
 48 Bridge—L. O. Cook, Iron City, Tenn., Rt. 3.
 State Line Grove—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Rt. 2.
 Cave Springs—Willie Daniels, Collinwood, Tenn.
 Rose Hill—J. O. Dixon, Collinwood, Tenn.
 Iron City—D. A. Lindsey, Florence, Ala.

Hickory Flat—J. O. Dixon, Collinwood, Tenn., Rt. 1.
 Mill Rock—Cllice Daniels, Collinwood, Tenn.
 Williams Chapel—L. O. Cook, Iron City, Tenn.
 Oak Grove No. 2—H. D. Stutts.
 New Home—Ed Caperton, Iron City, Tenn.
 Grasse Creek—Geo. Kelley, Iron City, Tenn., Rt. 2.
 Cypress Oak Grove—Dewey Haygood.
 Collinwood—Willie Daniels, Collinwood, Tenn.
 Butlers Grove—Clovis Brewer.
 Friendship State Line—A. S. Jones.
 Fellowship—Cllice Daniels, Collinwood, Tenn., Rt. 1.
 Jones Chapel—Dewey Haygood.

DECEASED MINISTERS NAMES RETAINED

Rev. J. S. Dillard—Alabama City
 Rev. R. E. Freemon—Cordova, Alabama
 Rev. Tom Arnold—Union Hill
 Rev. T. H. Martin—Macedonia
 Rev. D. D. Serrett—Flatwoods
 Rev. John Norred—Cypress Oak Grove

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 references.
8. Report of committees.
9. Unfinished business.
10. New business.
11. Adjourn.

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened with song by Bro. M. A. Peppers, prayer by Rev. Theodore Norred. In absence of Moderator, Rev. H. D. Stutts preached the opening sermon, Scripture St. John 14:15. Dismissed by Rev. A. S. Jones.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Called to order by Moderator, Rev. J. M. Burns. Song, "I Feel Like Traveling Home," by choir.

Prayer by Rev. Geo. Kelley followed with another song, "I Know I Have Religion." Scripture reading by Moderator, reading Psalms 23.

Rules of order were read by Moderator.

Intelligence of churches were called for and delegates were seated as following:

Cypress Oak Grove—Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Bates. Minute funds \$6.42.

Collinwood—Bro. Ishmael Thompson and Sis. Walsie Thompson. Funds \$10.55.

Fellowship—Bro. Virgil Powers, Sis. Effie Powers, and Sis. Marie Daniels. Minute funds \$10.00.

Butlers Grove—Bros. Leo Jackson, Roy, and Billy Robertson. Funds \$5.00.

Friendship State Line—Bros. Herman Reyers, Loyd Smith, and J. E. Taylor. Minute funds \$7.00.

Grays Chapel—Bro. W. B. Wilson and Sis. Lizzie Hamn. Funds \$5.00.

Canaan—Bro. Leonard Ray, Sisters Magdlean Ray, and Anna Lynn Ray. Minute funds \$4.25.

Grasse Creek—By letter. Minute funds \$2.00.

Oak Grove No. 2—By letter. Minute funds \$2.00.

Royal Avenue—Sisters Scott, Fisher, and Wilburn Parrish. Funds \$4.20.

New Home—Sis. Maudie Young. Minute funds \$2.25.

Mill Rock—Sisters Reba Butler, Rachael Butler, and Bro. Hershel Rowden. Minute funds \$7.00.

Williams Chapel—Sis. Clara Mae Stooksberry. Minute funds \$9.16.

Hickory Flat—Bro. Delbert Burbank, Sisters Chestena, and Lillie Smitherman. Minute funds \$10.64.

Flatwoods—Bros. Henry Hines, Ed. Stutts, and Marvin Daniel. Funds \$10.00.

Iron City—Sisters Myrtle Odem, Marie Odem, and Evelyne Bromley. Funds \$8.00.

Rose Hill—Sis. Alta Mae Beets, Bro. Billy Beets, and Sis. Myrtle Norman. Minute funds \$5.00.

Cave Springs—Sis. Avon Hallmark, Bros. W. T. Hallmark, and Travis Hallmark. Minute funds \$12.12.

State Line Grove—Bros. W. E. Wiley, O. S. Mashburn, and J. W. Wright. Minute funds \$10.00.

48 Bridge—Bro. J. E. Lake, Sis. Alice Martin, and Sis. India Mae Staggs. Minute funds \$4.00.

Johnson School—Bros. Earl Morris and Cormack Franks. Minute funds \$1.75.

Millers Chapel—Bro. R. L. Blackwood, Sis. Ada Blackwood, and Sis. Bertha Gilbreth. Minute funds \$5.00.

New Community—Bro. Bill Kelley, Sis. Elizabeth Fowler and Brother Paul Story. Minute funds \$3.00.

Burns Chapel—Sisters Berdie Brewer, Elsie Berry, and Josie Martin. Funds \$3.00.

Cross Roads—Bros. Aaron Hooper, Milton Beard, and John Fox. Funds \$10.00.

Moved and seconded that we re-instate Wayland Springs Church by letter. Minute funds \$2.00.

Petitionary letters were called for and received as follows:

Jones Chapel—Bro. Walter Noble. Minute funds \$3.00.

Hohenwald—Bro. Arnold Gay. Minute funds \$4.65.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

General Business—Chairman, Rev. Geo. Kelley, Bros. Delbert Burbank, O. S. Mashburn, with Moderator and Clerk.

Sunday School—Chairman, Rev. Paul Sanderson, Bro. W. B. Wilson, and Bro. R. L. Griffin.

Temperance—Chairman, Rev. Theodore Norred, Rev. H. D. Stutts, and Bro. Staggs.

Finance—Chairman, Bro. D. F. Peppers, Rev. L. O. Cook, and Bro. W. E. Wiley.

Education—Chairman, Rev. Willie Daniels, Bro. Wilburn Parrish, and Bro. A. R. Brewer.

Obituary—Chairman, Rev. Ed Caperton, Rev. Clovis Brewer, and Bro. Aaron Hooper.

Miscellaneous—Chairman, E. R. Fretwell, Bro. M. B. Beuis, and Rev. Charlie McGee.

Resolution—Chairman, I. W. Thompson, Bro. James Hamn, and Bro. T. A. Bates.

A talk made by Rev. Theodore Norred on our Childrens' Home.

An offering was taken for minute funds, received \$15.10.

Next moved and seconded to adjourn the Association to meet back at 11 a. m. for preaching services by Rev. Paul Sanderson, followed by Rev. Geo. Kelley.

Bro. Paul Sanderson read Jeremiah 6:16, followed by Bro. Geo. Kelley reading from the same text; subject, "The Old Way." Song, "Amazing Grace," with old-time hand shake; many rejoicing in the Saviour's love.

Dismissed for dinner by Rev. Ed Caperton.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association met back in session at 1 p. m. with the Moderator presiding. Song, "My Lord is Real," followed with prayer by Rev. H. C. Killen.

The roll was called with 16 ordained ministers, 13 ordained deacons, and 64 delegates present.

Vote was taken where the next Association would convene. Friendship State Line and Collinwood asked for next Association. Collinwood received majority votes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rev. Geo. Kelley was elected Assistant Moderator and Rev. Arlo Peppers elected as Clerk.

Next assignments to homes by the pastor, Willie Daniels. Moved and seconded to adjourn for Presbytery to meet.

MINISTERS PRESENT

Ordained ministers: Revs. Geo. Kelley, Willie Daniels, L. O. Cook, J. M. Burns, Paul Sanderson, Ed Caperton, Arlo Peppers, Theodore Norred, Clovis Brewer, Doyle Wallace, A. S. Jones, and J. L. Arnold.

Licensed ministers: Rev. W. C. Brewer.

Visiting minister: Rev. J. B. Harper.

DEACONS PRESENT

Bros. T. G. Stegall, A. R. Brewer, J. H. Hamn, L. T. Jones, D. F. Peppers, Walter Daniels, R. J. Mashburn, and E. O. Davis.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened with song, "I'll be Satisfied." Prayer by Rev. Theodore Norred. An offering was taken for the Orphanage amounting to \$42.95.

Devotional Services were conducted by Rev. Ed Caperton. Lots of fine testimonies were given. Preaching by Rev. H. C. Killen. Scripture reading, Galatians 5:1. Dismissed by Rev. Odell Tucker.

Bro. L. T. Jones was appointed treasurer of Home Mission Board. Ed Caperton, O. S. Mashburn and Rev. Geo. Kelley were appointed on the Home Mission Board.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The body was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. J. M. Burns. Song, "When the Saints Are Gathered In." Prayer by Ed Caperton. Roll called by Clerk with 10 ministers, 14 delegates, and 1 visiting minister present. Report from committees were read and adopted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

First, we recommend that we receive all members by the right hand of fellowship and that we elect the Assistant Moderator each year, he automatically becoming Moderator the following year. We are to elect or re-elect the Clerk each year. The Clerk to be paid \$15.00 for seeing that the minutes are printed. Also we are to pay the Clerk of the Presbytery \$8.00 for his service, and that he see to the printing of the Fifth Sunday Meeting programs.

Second, we recommend that this article be adopted to the constitution of the Association.

Third, we recommend that we retain a Home Mission Board and that each church take an offering for Home Missions.

Fourth, we recommend that our churches approve their deacons for twelve months before being recommended to be ordained. Also all ministers wishing to be ordained have a written recommendation from the church of which he belongs before being ordained.

Fifth, we recommend that no article of our Association on Presbytery be

changed without first being recommended by the body and laid on the table twelve months before being passed on.

Sixth, we recommend that each pastor, if possible, hold his own conference and that election of pastor be done by ballot vote.

Seventh, we recommend that each church take offering quarterly for the Childrens' Home.

Eighth, we recommend that our Association convene on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September.

Ninth, we recommend that any of our preachers failing to either come in person or send report for two years in succession be dropped from our minute. Also our ministers leaving our Association or Presbytery get a letter of recommendation from the Presbytery or return his credentials. We recommend that this article be adopted to the Constitution of the Presbytery.

Rev. Geo. Kelley, Chairman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sunday School

We, your Committee on Sunday School, beg leave to report the following: We regard the Sunday school as one of the greatest helps to the church as it is the best place to train children, except at home. We find in God's Word, Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

We recommend that each church, with pastor and all members, strive to teach the Bible in its purity for the Bible is the waybill for all men, and it is the promise of eternal life.

We recommend that each pastor and deacon urge that each church have a Sunday school, and that they use Free Will Baptist literature.

We urge that parents carry their children to Sunday school and assist in every way possible to carry the Sunday school on. We also recommend that the children stay for preaching services and that we use only Christian teachers.

We urge that each Sunday school be present in our Sunday School Convention which convenes with The North Royal Church, Florence, Alabama.

We urge and double urge all preachers to attend Sunday school each and every Sunday, somewhere.

Education

We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to report the following: We are living in a time when education is being stressed, but we read in the Word of God, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). One may read the whole Bible so as to quote it by memory, yet not be able to get the spiritual meaning. For the wisdom of men is foolishness with God.

We do endorse education, but we need to work for our people to have an old-time experience of the grace of God in their soul that they will not be ashamed of the Word of God. For God is able to supply all our needs. We need to urge our people to teach their children at home about the Word of God. "And

that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15).

Rev. Willie Daniel, Chairman

Wilburn Paris

A. R. Brewer

Temperance

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report the following: That we, as Free Will Baptists, should abstain from all intoxicating drink and should keep ourselves unspotted from the world. We should be temperate in all things. "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which was against the soul" (I Peter 2:11). "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).

Rev. Theodore Norred

Obituary

We, your Committee on Obituary, beg leave to report the following: Whereas God has seen fit to send His death angel to visit our churches and call from our midst the following loved ones: Millers Chapel—Jim Staggs and S. J. Staggs; Hohenwald—William C. Garrison; Royal Avenue—Sister Willie McGee; Burns Chapel—Sister Ada West; Forty-Eight Bridge—P. J. Woodall; Iron City—Brother Will Brewer and Brother John Purser; Hickory Flatt—Sister Velma Burbank; Friendship State Line—Brother G. B. Wooten; therefore, we bow in humble submission to His will and exclaim, "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 the vacancies. We extend our sympathy for we feel that our loss is heaven's gain.

Brother Ed Caperton, Chairman

Finance

We, your Committee on Finance, report the following: Minute funds, received \$166.58; offering, \$15.10; total \$181.68. We also recommend that each pastor see that his church pay minute funds.

D. F. Peppers, Chairman

Miscellaneous

We, your Committee on Miscellaneous, first recommend that each of our churches call their pastor from our Association if possible to do so. We also recommend that this Association elect an evangelist to work in the bounds of this Association to strengthen the weak churches and teach the doctrine of the Free Will Baptists. We recommend that any church or member of this association failing to abide by the rules that are adopted by this Association, shall be dealt with accordingly. We also recommend that each church pay our evangelist \$5.00 for the help of bearing expenses.

E. R. Fretwell, Chairman

M. B. Beuis

Ellie McGee

Resolution

We, the Committee on Resolution, beg leave to report the following: We, as the entire body, wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the people of Cross Roads Church, neighboring churches, and surrounding community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay. May God richly bless you all for everything you have done to make this Association a success; hoping to meet you all in our eternal Association.

Clerks Report

Minute Funds Last Association	\$177.39
Other Offerings	14.00
Total	\$191.39
Paid Clerk	15.00
Paid Assistant Clerk	10.00
Printing Minutes	150.00
Postage	6.00
Paid Typing for Two Years	10.00
Total Paid Out	\$191.00
Balance	\$.39

Rev. D. A. Lindsey, Clerk

Report of Home Mission Board

Amount in treasury last year, \$216.65; money received for the past year, none; returned to Royal Avenue Church, \$45.00; leaving a balance of \$171.65 in treasury.

I. W. Thompson, Chairman

Bro. L. T. Jones was appointed treasurer of Home Mission Board. Also Bros. Ed Caperton, O. S. Mashburn, and Geo. Kelley were appointed as members of Home Mission Board.

Moved and seconded to adjourn the Association for preaching services.

Song, "My Lord Is Real." Preaching by Rev. J. B. Harper, reading St. Matthew 2:2; subject, "Where is He?" Followed by Rev. J. M. Burns, reading as Scripture, 2 Timothy 3. His subject, "The Last Days." Song, "The Home-Coming Week."

Dismissed for dinner by Bro. Hooper.

PRESBYTERY MEETING 1952-53

Met with Royal Avenue Church, November 29, 1952, with 11 ordained ministers and 8 ordained deacons present. There was no new business. An offering for Association minutes was taken amounting to \$14.00.

Ed Caperton, Moderator
H. C. Killen, Clerk

Met with Burns Chapel Church, March 29, 1953, with 16 ordained ministers and 18 ordained deacons present. New business: Bro. Delbert Gray of Collin-

wood Church was ordained as deacon. Bro. Doyle Wallace of Iron City was granted credentials to preach having been ordained by Missionary Baptist Church. A collection of \$7.50 was received for printing of minutes. Paid L. T. Jones \$5.60 for printing the minutes for Fifth Sunday meeting. Balance in treasury \$1.90.

Ed Caperton, Moderator
H. C. Killen, Clerk

Met with Friendship State Line Church, May 31, 1953, with 10 ordained ministers and 5 ordained deacons present. New business: Bro. Malcolm Lewis of Friendship State Line Church was ordained as deacon.

Ed Caperton, Moderator
H. C. Killen, Clerk

Met with Cypress Oak Grove Church, August 30, 1953, with 17 ordained ministers and 14 ordained deacons present. New business: Bro. Otis Staggs of Oak Grove Church and Bro. Ernest Young of New Home Church were ordained as deacons. Bro. Geo. Kelley was elected for the Association evangelist.

Ed Caperton, Moderator
H. C. Killen, Clerk

Met with Association at Cross Roads Church, September 25, 1953. Reading of Ministers' Reports and cards granted. Appointed committee to see Bro. Luther Butler. Collection for Presbytery, \$13.05. Paid Clerk, \$8.00. Balance in treasury, \$6.95. Opened again with the balance of Ministers' Reports read. Moved and seconded to adjourn the Presbytery to meet with the Iron City Free Will Baptist Church.

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 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 Saviour?

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 saints' feet, according to St. John 13?

A. I do.

9. Q. Have you been baptized by immersion?

Answer.....

CHURCH RULES

The following rules were adopted:

1. We agree to meet in conference quarterly or oftener if necessary 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 conference and bear their part of the church 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 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 rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and if two arise at the same time the Moderator 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 without 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 offending 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 otherwise 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 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 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 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 Saviour Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling together for church conference, public worship and the ordinance of the gospel nor fail to pay according to our ability for support of the church, of its poor, and 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 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 soul 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 Saviour 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 any 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 reflection 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 re-proved by the Moderator according to the direction of the association.

12. 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 F. W. B. Church of Christ being in the states 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 1. We believe that churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other; that a congregational form of church government 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, excluded and 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 case 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 this 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 letters 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 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 confirm to the rules and decorum and shall report his or her conduct to the church for which they are delegates.

Article 13. This constitution may be altered or amended by a majority vote at any regular meeting. 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.

CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERY

1. Be it known that the ordained minister 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 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.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one true and eternal God, the Father, of whom are all things everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes. I Corinthians 8:6; Isaiah 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world, and Christ as freely gave himself a ransom for all; tasting death for every man, who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into 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 the dead, I Timothy 2:5, 6; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:17; Acts 24:15; I John 2:2.

3. We believe that 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: 7, 8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:4-6; Eph. 2:1.

4. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of Glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily, by transgression fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and moral state subject to death, Genesis 2:17; 3:19.

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

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him but as the Scripture has said for denying the Lord that bought them because they believe 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 contradictions that all men at one time or other are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be saved, Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Hebrews 3:10; John 5:10.

7. We believe the whole Scripture is infallibly true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice, II Timothy 3:16, 17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind who repent and believe the gospel, Luke 14:16-20; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24:27; Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all human family, so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His Divine teaching whereas such who would not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit shall at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation for willfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace, Matthew 11:27; St. John 6:44-65; Psalms 1:1; Titus 2:11; Jeremiah 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considering such who turn the grace of God in lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God, Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction but we observe that they might be saved, therefore, the indignation and wrath of God is upon every son of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein for there is no respect of person with God, Jude 1:4; Peter 2:1, 2; Thessalonians 2:11, 12; Romans 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own person are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam and not that any of them dying in that state suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for such is the kingdom of God. I Corinthians 15:22; Matthew 1:2-5; Mark 9:36, 37; Matthew 14:14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith and that in the use of the means of grace, and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men, Rev. 22:14, 15; Isaiah 2:19, 20; Matthew 7:8; Jeremiah 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 works, 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, Romans 4:24; Acts 8:20, 21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions, yet not having decreed any person to everlasting life out of respect of more choice, farther than He hath appointed the Godly unto life and the ungodly who die in sin unto death. Hebrews 4:13; Proverbs 8:22; Matthew 25:21-24.

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers baptism, laying on the hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing of the Saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, praying, 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 16:15, 16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19, 20; John 13:5-17; James 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of water baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism, Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day, John 5:28, 29; II Corinthians 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless, Matthew 25:46.

REPORT OF CHURCHES	Received by Experience	Received by Letter	Received by Confession	Received by Restoration	Number Expelled	Dismissed by Letter	Deceased Members	Active Members	Inactive Members	Contribution	Number Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Value Church Property	Amount Paid Pastors	Paid Helper	Paid Home Mission	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	Other Expenses	Meeting Days
Gray's Chapel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	48	33	\$ 5.00	2	2	0	\$6,000.00	\$223.33	\$ 28.26	\$	\$ 26.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 26.15	All Sundays
Canaan Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	43	30	4.25	3	0	0	1,000.00	197.00	35.00				56.35	4th Sunday
New Community	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	16	32	3.00	1	0	0	1,200.00	12.00	13.70					All Sundays
Flat Woods	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	65	22	10.00	3	0	0	3,500.00	590.00	59.06			40.00	361.77	2nd & 4th
Miller's Chapel	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	14	24	5.00	2	2	0		58.40	18.00	15.00			50.00	2nd Sunday
Hohenwald Church	0	0	2	3	6	0	1	11	2	4.65	0	1	0			21.65					1st Sat.&Sun.
Wayland Springs	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	8	0	2.00	1	0	0	150.00	46.18	18.00				25.00	4th Sunday
Cross Roads	1	4	0	0	0	4	0	65	30	10.00	3	2	0	3,000.00	406.00	50.00		11.00			2nd Sunday
Royal Avenue	7	1	1	0	2	0	1	31	30	4.20	3	3	0	1,000.00	89.61			206.24	96.30	462.54	All Sundays
Burns Chapel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	60	3.00	1	4	0	1,600.00	70.11	10.00				25.00	3rd Sunday
Johnson School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	1.75	0	1	0		16.65	5.85					1st Sunday
Forty Eight Bridge	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	18	38	4.00	5	1	0	1,580.00	136.17	20.65		8.40	15.93	43.62	2nd Sunday
State Line Grove	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	86	45	10.00	6	3	0	6,000.00	346.00	56.00			21.75	300.00	2nd & 4th
Cave Springs	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	150	12.12	5	0	0	3,000.00	280.80	48.19			26.00	48.00	1st Sunday
Rose Hill	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	37	43	5.00	2	0	0	1,000.00	170.62	34.30				30.00	1st Sunday
Iron City	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	34	53	8.00	3	4	0	3,000.00	88.13	25.00				140.48	4th Sunday
Hickory Flat	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	40	38	10.64	4	0	1	2,500.00	163.01	34.09			3.00	34.43	3rd Sunday
Mill Rock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	86	7.00	2	1	0	2,000.00	141.34	40.05			10.00	23.50	1st Sunday
William's Chapel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	9.16	0	0	0		88.45	19.19				37.05	1st Sunday
Oak Grove No. 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	2.00	1	0	0		55.86					12.00	2nd Sunday
New Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	45	2.25	2	0	0	1,500.00	123.47	16.90				58.04	2nd Sunday
Grassey Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	2.00	1	0	0		69.34						1st Sunday
Cypress Oak Grove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	8	6.42	2	0	0	1,500.00	66.00	16.50		21.50			1st Sunday
Collinwood	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	45	70	10.55	3	1	0	3,000.00	262.25	60.00			38.81	442.88	1st & 3rd
Butler's Grove	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	30	59	5.00	1	2	0	1,750.00	51.65	41.50					3rd Sunday
Friendship State Line	13	2	26	2	0	0	1	70	65	7.00	4	1	0	1,595.00	157.24	53.76				48.40	2nd & 4th
Fellowship	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	44	39	10.00	3	1	3	1,000.00	48.69	18.25				28.00	3rd Sunday
Jones Chapel	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	3.00	1	1	0	150.00						34.50	All Sundays

$$\begin{array}{r} 50 \\ 30 \\ \hline 150 \\ 75 \\ \hline 1050 \\ 525 \\ \hline 5250 \end{array}$$

MINISTERS REPORTING	Sermons Preached	Public Prayers	Received in Church	Baptized	Visited Sick Homes	Funerals Preached	Ordained Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Pastored Churches	Communion Services	Prayer Services	Attended Sunday School	Held Revivals	Miles Traveled	Money Received	Traveling Expenses	Married Couples	Organized Churches	Organized Sun. Schools
Ed Caperton	55	115	0	0	25	4	4	0	1	1	12	25	1	2,125	\$105.00	\$ 25.00	0	0	0
Clice Daniels	101	132	3	1	28	0	0	0	4	4	0	34	5	3,856	393.32	205.50	0	0	0
J. O. Dixon	66	82	0	0	24	2	3	1	3	3	17	24	4	2,796	605.73	146.50	0	0	0
L. B. Royal	41	62	0	0	36	0	3	2	0	0	21	50	0	—	74.81	20.00	0	1	0
Clovis Brewer	165	175	0	0	60	2	0	0	0	0	48	47	5	6,000	155.75	—	1	0	0
H. C. Killen	74	70	0	0	26	2	4	0	1	2	10	46	2	4,000	346.00	204.00	0	0	0
T. E. Roper	6	7	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	4	20	0	—	8.25	—	0	0	0
D. C. Wallace	10	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	607	5.25	13.00	0	0	0
Geo. Kelley	90	118	0	0	27	8	0	0	2	0	8	16	4	2,743	411.71	208.00	0	0	0
Paul H. Sanderson	122	197	9	2	69	4	0	0	1	1	17	52	4	2,100	89.61	168.00	0	0	0
Willie Daniels	81	84	10	6	12	11	0	0	3	3	0	42	4	2,726	906.22	111.00	2	0	0
H. D. Stutts	96	116	5	4	72	0	0	0	2	2	40	50	9	2,498	153.67	120.00	0	1	2
Ellie McGee	20	50	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	7	60	0	300	40.00	18.75	0	0	1
Arlo Peppers	100	150	7	6	20	8	0	0	1	0	10	50	1	6,000	960.00	300.00	5	0	0
Eddie Staggs	80	35	5	1	15	0	0	0	2	4	45	52	2	1,000	128.00	—	0	0	1
D. A. Lindsay	150	200	6	0	24	3	0	0	1	2	21	48	5	2,100	500.50	100.00	0	0	0
A. S. Jones	54	58	44	13	43	0	4	0	1	2	35	48	2	4,134	241.63	125.75	0	0	0
Paul C. Story	45	50	0	0	5	0	2	0	1	0	20	45	0	300	22.00	10.00	0	0	0
Theodore Norred	76	99	7	4	71	2	0	0	2	2	0	41	2	1,272	321.69	48.50	0	0	0
Willie Brewer	12	16	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	300	—	25.00	0	0	0
C. C. Martin	8	61	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	264	—	—	0	0	0
Dewey W. Haygood	32	97	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	1	5	30	1	1,000	137.00	25.00	0	0	0
L. O. Cook	116	163	11	11	22	3	0	0	3	3	55	40	5	3,265	470.75	162.50	0	0	0
Fred A. Creekmore	92	94	5	2	36	0	0	0	1	0	12	35	1	3,731	63.65	88.75	0	0	0
J. M. Burns	61	79	0	0	24	4	2	1	1	1	10	15	4	2,280	216.53	55.95	0	0	0
Doyle G. Wallace	63	117	0	0	32	1	0	0	1	0	18	37	8	800	68.74	54.00	0	0	0
Floyd C. Quillen	60	72	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	90	30	2	700	32.50	44.50	0	0	0
C. L. Reyer	76	92	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	11	34	0	3,480	176.00	97.50	0	0	0
J. L. Arnold (Oral Report)																			

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

Date _____, 195_____

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. Statistics of our church are as follows:

Received by experience _____, by letter _____, by confession _____,
by restoration _____, dismissed by letter _____, expelled _____, dead _____,
total membership _____, active _____, inactive _____, 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 Missions \$ _____, amount
given Orphanage \$ _____, other expenses \$ _____.

Clerk's address _____

Moderator's address _____

Our Meeting days _____, Pastor _____

Remarks: _____
