MINUTES

of the

Thirty-Sixth Annual Session of the

MUSCLE SHOALS STATE LINE Free Will Baptist Association

Met with
COMMUNITY CHURCH
September 20, 21, 22, 1956

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Officers

REV. PAUL SANDERS	Moderator
REV. CLICE DANIEL	Assistant Moderator
REV. ARLO PEPPERS	Clerk

The next session of the association will convene with Burns' Chapel Church, six miles south of Collinwood, Tennessee, on Chisholm Highway, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1957, with the Rev. Clice Daniel as moderator and Lillie Smitherman as clerk.

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 acknowledgements
- 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

Ministers' Names and Addresses

Arnold, J. L., Route 1, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee Adams, Theodore, Route 3, Leoma, Tennessee × Adams, Wren, Route 2, Box 268, Iron City, Tennessee > Brewer, Clovis, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee > Burns, J. M., Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee Caperton, Ed, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee Cook; L. O., Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee Creekmore, Fred, Route 2, Hohenwald, Tennessee Daniel, Clice, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee Daniel, Willie, Route 2, Collinwood, Tennessce Dixon, J. O., Route 1, Collinwood, Tennessee Haygood, Dewey, 803 North Royal Avenue, Florence, Alabama V Jones, A. S., Route 1, Box 263A, Florence, Alabama / Flones, Loyd, Route 2, Lexington, Alabama Kelley, George, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee Kelley, Raymond, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee X Killen, H. C., Sr., 936 N. Royal Avenue, Florence, Alabama -Lindsay, D. A., 311 Highland Avenue, Florence, Alabama Malone, Marvin, Iron City, Tennessee X McGee, Ellie, Lutts, Tennessee Norred, Theodore, Route 5, Florence, Alabama Peppers, Arlo, Route 5, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee ×Prince, Dick, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee > Quillen, Floyd C., Route 2, Killen, Alabamax Roper, T. E., Route 2, Loretto, Tennessee Rowden, E. P., 1216 E. Alabama Street, Florence, Alabama Noyal, L. B., 423 Strinton Avenue, Florence, Alabama Sanderson, Paul H., 1313 Sunnyside Street, Florence, Alabama Reyer, C. L., Ardmore, Tennessee Staggs, Eddie, 1517 Stevenson Street, Florence, Alabama 🗶 Stutts, H. D., Iron City, Tennessee X Wallace, D. C., Route 6, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee x Wallace, Doyle, Iron City, Tennessee y Honea, O. A., Taft, Tennessee ×

Churches — Clerks — Addresses

Burns'-Chapel—Elsie Berry, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Butler's Grove—Lorene Robertson, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee

Canaan—Dolph Crews, Route 6, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

Cave-Springs—Clyde Cameron, Route 2, Mt. Hope, Alabama

Collinwood—Mrs. Lisba Bryant, Collinwood, Tennessee

Community—Mrs. Raymond Horton, 241 Duncan Avenue, Florence, Alabama

Cross Roads—M. A. Peppers, Route 5, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

Cypress Oak Grove—Rosie Whitten, Iron City, Tennessee

Fellowship—Gennette Prince, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee Flatwood—J. M. Doss, Route 3, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

Friendship State Line—Irene Jackson, Route 2, Madison, Alabama Gray's Chapel—Mrs. Alvin Wallace, Route 1, Florence, Alabama Hickory Flat—Lillie Smitherman, Route 1, Box 262, Killen, Alabama

Hohenwald—Lois Laxton, Route 5, Hohenwald, Tennessee

*Iron City—Virgie Lumpkins, Iron City, Tennessee

X Jones Chapel—Colteel Jones, Route 6, Florence, Alabama

Johnson's School—Myrtle Frank, Lutts, Tennessee

*Miller's Chapel—Joyce Blackwood, Route 1, Summertown, Tennessee

Mill Rock—Anna Ruth Dixon, Route 1, Collinwood, Tennessee New Community—Pauline Fowlkes, Route 2, Florence, Alabama

New Home—Edith Ann Young, Route 4, Florence, Alabama

Noak Grove No. 2-Elizabeth Mitchell, Route 4, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

Rose Hill—Dorothy Myers, Route 1, Wales, Tennessee

Royal Avenue—Pearl Cassel, 1025 Piedmont Street., Florence, Alabama

State Line Grove—Andrew Killen, Route 2, Lexington, Alabama St. Joseph—Rob Hammonds, Route 3, St. Joseph, Tennessee

>Wayland Springs—Emma Nolan McIntyre, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee

William's Chapel—Ruby Cheeks, Iron City, Tennessee

Forty-Eight Bridge—Mrs. Sarah Martin, Route 4, Waynesboro, Tennessee

Deceased Ministers' Names Retained

Rev. J. S. Dillard, Alabama City

Rev. R. E. Freeman, Cordova, Alabama

Rev. Tom Arnold-Union Hill

Rev. T. H. Martin-Macedonia

Rev. D. D. Serrett-Flatwood

Rev. John Norred-Cypress Oak Grove

Churches — Pastors — Addresses

Burns' Chapel—L. O. Cook, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee Butler's Grove— Canaan—Clice Daniel, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee

Cave Springs—J. O. Dixon, Route 1, Collinwood, Tennessee Collinwood—J. O. Dixon, Route 1, Collinwood, Tennessee

Community—Paul H. Sanderson, 1313 Sunnyside Street, Florence, Alabama Cross Roads—E. P. Rowden, 1216 E. Alabama Street, Florence, Alabama

Cypress Oak Grove-Loyd Jones, Route 2, Lexington, Alabama

Fellowship—Clovis Brewer, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee

Flatwood-V. H. Gean, Route 2, Waterloo, Alabama

Friendship State Line-Floyd C. Quillen, Route 2, Killen, Alabama

Gray's Chapel—Theodore Norred, Route 5, Florence, Alabama

Hickory Flat—Clice Daniel, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee

Hohenwald—Fred Creekmore, Route 2, Hohenwald, Tennessee

Iron City—D. A. Lindsey, 311 Highland Avenue, Florence, Alabama

Jones Chapel—W. M. Briley, Route 1, Hillsboro, Alabama
Johnson's School—Marvin Malone, Iron City, Tennessee
Miller's Chapel—L. O. Cook, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee
Mill Rock—E. P. Rowden, 1216 E. Alabama Street, Florence, Alabama
New Community—Eddie Staggs, 1517 Stevenson Street, Florence, Alabama
New Home—Dick Prince, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee
Oak Grove No. 2—H. D. Stutts, Iron City, Tennessee
Rose Hill—Clice Daniel, Route 2, Iron City, Tennessee
Royal Avenue—O. L. Fields
State Line Grove—Willie Daniel, Route 2, Collinwood, Tennessee
St. Joseph—Theodore Adams, Route 3, Leoma, Tennessee
Wayland Springs—H. D. Stutts, Iron City, Tennessee
William's Chapel—L. O. Cook, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee
Forty-Eight Bridge—L. O. Cook, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee

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PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION

The association was called to order by the moderator, the Rev. Paul H. Sanderson, followed with the song, "Oh, How I Love Jesus!" Prayer was offered by the Rev. L. O. Cook.

Devotional service was conducted by the Rev. H. C. Kellen, followed with preaching by the Rev. Arlo Peppers. His text was taken from Amos 4:12. An Altar call was given with no one responding.

There was an old-fashioned hand shake with the singing of "Amazing Grace."

Assignment to home by the pastor, the Rev. Paul H. Sanderson.

Dismissed by the Rev. Theodore Norred.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The association was called to order at nine o'clock by the moderator, the Rev. Paul H. Sanderson. The congregation sang "He's Walking and Talking with Me," followed with prayer by the Rev. Ed Caperton. Scripture reading was the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians by the moderator.

The Rules of Order were read by the moderator.

In the absence of the assistant moderator, the Rev. Clice Daniel, the Rev. H. C. Killen was appointed to serve as assistant moderator.

Visiting ministers were recognized as follows: Revs. J. B. Harper, L. A. Hatfield and Rev. Clark.

Intelligence of churches were called for and delegates seated as follows: Burns' Chapel—Brothers S. W. Pierce, J. P. Risiner and Nola Berry. Minute fund \$5.00.

Butler's Grove—Brothers Amos Wallace, Roy Robertson and Leonard Thompson. Minute fund \$6.00.

Canaan-Brother Leonard Ray, Sisters Thelma and Lucile Ray. Minute fund \$7.00.

Cave Springs—Brothers Milton Nesmith, Lewis Anderton and Sister Louise Burks. Minute fund \$10.00.

Collinwood—Brother Elmer Daniel and Sister Jessie Daniel. Minute Fund \$9.00.

Cross Roads—Brothers M. F. Peppers, Charlie Price and Sister Ila Peppers. Minute fund \$10.00.

Cypress Oak Grove—Brother and Sister T. A. Bates and Brother Henry Keeton. Minute fund \$7.00.

Fellowship—Sisters Laura Gray, Christine Kelley and Maggie Kimbrell. Minute Fund \$7.00.

Flatwood—Brothers A. B. McFall, Will Smith and J. M. Doss. Minute fund \$10.00.

Friendship State Line—Brother and Sister Virgil Cothren and Brother Kenneth Reyer. Minute fund \$9.08.

Grassy Creek-Retained.

Gray's Chapel—Brother and Sister Robert Gable and Sister Lizzie Ham. Minute fund \$5.00.

Hickory Flat—Brother Delbert Burbank. Minute fund \$10.00.

Hohenwald—Sisters Winnie Creekmore, Dena Brewer and Cass James. Minute fund \$3.00.

Iron City—Sisters Madgie and Marie Daniel and Brother Partee Goolsley. Minute fund \$10.00.

Jones Chapel—Brother W. R. Seaton. Minute fund \$3.00.

Johnson's School-Brother Cormack Franks. Minute fund \$1.50.

Miller's Chapel—Sisters Violet Henson, Mae Bowers and Joyce Blackwood. Minute fund \$5.68.

Mill Rock—By letter. Minute fund \$10.00.

New Community—Sisters Jannie Davis, Clare and Dixie Staggs. Minute fund \$3.00.

New Home—Sisters Maudie and Hazel Young and Lizzie Lanease. Minute fund \$2.25.

Oak Grove No. 2-By letter. Minute fund \$3.00.

Rose Hill—Sisters Herbert Toster, Jo Ann Beets and Mary Grace Whibby. Minute fund \$5.25.

Royal Avenue—Brother Oliver, Sisters Glasscock and Dona Trammel. Minute fund \$5.00.

State Line Grove—Brother Will Wiley, Brother and Sister Dee Michael. Minute fund \$10.00.

St. Joseph—Brothers W. C. Smith and R. W. Hammond. Minute fund \$2.50.

Wayland Springs—Sisters Betty and Wanda Franklin and Emma Nolan McIntyre. Minute fund \$4.35.

William's Chapel—Brother Migle Russ, Sisters Clura Stooksberry and Pauline Williams. Minute fund \$5.85.

Forty-Eight Bridge—Brother A. J. Ricketts, Sisters Sarah and Lou Locke. Minute fund \$5.00.

Called for petitionary letter. Jones Chapel represented with Brother W. R. Seaton as the delegate which was given the right hand of fellowship by the moderator, Rev. Paul H. Sanderson.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

General Business—Chairman, Rev. Theodore Norred, Brother L. T. Jones, Rev. L. O. Cook, with moderator and clerk.

Sunday School—Chairman, Rev. H. C. Killen, Brothers J. L. Reathford and E. E. Young.

Temperance—Chairman, Rev. E. P. Rowden, Rev. Eddie Staggs and Brother Raymon Horton.

Finance—Chairman, Rev. Willie Daniel, Brothers W. R. Seaton and James Ham.

Education—Chairman, Rev. Ed Caperton, Rev. Clovis Brewer and Rev. Loyd Jones.

Obituary—Chairman, Lillie Smitherman, Sisters Dora Trammel and Madgie Daniel.

Miscellaneous—Chairman, Rev. H. D. Stutts, Brother Alfred Brewer and Brother Olive.

Resolution—Chairman, Rev. J. L. Arnold, Brother Bowers and Brother Will Wiley.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn for preaching.

Song, "Amazing Grace."

Preaching by Rev. H. C. Killen, text Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: . . ." This was followed with the reading of the Church Covenant by Rev. George Kelley, who also used Rev. Killen's text as a starting point.

After the preaching we had an old-fashioned hand shake with many rejoicing in the Lord.

This was followed with a talk by Rev. Hatfield.

Dismissed for dinner by Rev. J. B. Harper.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The association was called back to order at one o'clock by the moderator, Rev. Paul H. Sanderson.

The roll was called with 14 ordained ministers, 15 ordained deacons and 39 delegates present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rev. H. C. Killen was elected as assistant moderator and Lillie Smitherman was elected as clerk.

Next voted on was where the next association would convene. Burns' Chapel Church received the majority votes. The church is located six miles south of Collinwood, on the Chisholm Highway.

The association begins on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1957.

The next Sunday school convention convenes with Iron City Church. Moved and seconded that we retain the same home missions board.

Report of the evangelist, Rev. Eddie Staggs.

With the singing of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," an offering was taken for the Children's Home at Eldridge, Alabama. Amount received, \$50.00.

Moved and seconded to adjourn the association for the presbytery to meet.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened with the singing of "I'm Facing the Cross," followed with prayer by Rev. J. M. Burns.

Special singing by the Harper Children.

Devotional service conducted by Rev. J. B. Harper with many fine testimonies given.

Preaching by Rev. Willie Daniel, reading for his Scripture, Matthew 26, beginning with the 39th verse. His text was, "And he went a little farther." This was followed with a message by Rev. J. O. Dixon, reading the 5th chapter of Hebrews.

Closed with the singing of "Lord, I'm Coming Home," and an altar call with no one responding.

Assigned to homes by the pastor, Rev. Paul H. Sanderson.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Association was called to order by the moderator. Song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," followed with prayer by Brother Elmer Fretwell. Roll call with 11 ordained ministers, 9 ordained deacons and 15 delegates present.

The following reports were read and adopted:

GENERAL BUSINESS

First, we recommend that we receive all members by right hand of fellowship and that we elect the assistant moderator each year, he automatically becomes the moderator the following year. We also are to elect the clerk each year. The clerk is 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 we retain a home missions board and that each church take up an offering of not less than \$10.00 to \$25.00 for home missions. This money to be used by the board to help build new churches and finish churches already started. The home missions board first investigating before spending money.

Third, we recommend that our churches approve their deacons for twelve months before being recommended to be ordained. Also ministers desiring to be licensed or ordained have a written recommendation from the church of which he is a member before he is licensed or ordained.

Fourth, we recommend that no article of our association of presbytery be changed without first being recommended by the body and laid on the table for twelve months before being passed on.

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

Sixth, we recommend that each church take an offering quarterly for the children's home.

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

Eighth, we recommend that any of our preachers failing to either come in person or send report for two years in succession be dropped from the minutes. Also our ministers leaving our association or presbytery get a letter of recommendation from the presbytery or return his credentials.

Ninth, we recommend that all of our churches be more careful in selecting deacons or preachers before being recommended to presbytery, and not recommend them without first proving themselves worthy of recommendation.

Rev. Theodore Norred, Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, your committee on Sunday schools, 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 the home. We find in God's Word, Proverbs 22:5, "Train up a child in the way it should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

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

We recommend that each pastor and deacons see that they have a Sunday school, and that they use only 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 represented at our Sunday school convention which convenes with Iron City Church.

We urge that our preachers take more interest in Sunday school.

Rev. H. C. Killen, Chairman

TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on temperance, beg leave to report the following: That we, as Free Will Baptists, must abstain from all intoxicating drinks and must keep ourselves unspotted from the world. We must be temperate in all things. "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11). "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).

Rev. E. P. Rowden, Chairman

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 in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Rev. Ed Caperton, Chairman

FINANCE

We, your committee on finance, report the follow Money Received, Minute Fund	wing: \$180.46
Balance in Treasury from Last Association	
Total	\$237.03

Rev. Willie Daniel, Chairman

OBITUARY

We, your committee on obituaries, 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:

Butler's Grove-Sister Alta Robins.

Canaan-Brother Ben Wilson.

Cave Springs-Brothers Grady Bishop and Jim Edgar.

Community-Sister Wille Mae Erwin.

Cypress Oak Grove-Brothers Acy Miller and Willie Wallace.

Flatwood-Brother Zeb Fincher and Sister Jinnie Griggs.

Friendship State Line—Brother and Sister William Laster, Sister Mary Ellner Salters and Brother Loyd Smith.

Iron City-Sister Minnie Gibson.

Forty-Eight Bridge—Brother Carl Carmack.

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 them to Christ who alone can give you comfort and fill the vacancies. We extend our sympathy for we feel our loss is heaven's gain.

Lillie Smitherman, 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 each church pay our evangelist \$5.00 for the help of bearing his expenses.

We recommend that if any officer of the church or Sunday school should decide to resign to notify the church or Sunday school at least 30 days ahead of time.

Rev. H. D. Stults, Chairman

RESOLUTION

We, your committee on resolutions, beg leave to report the following: We, as the entire body, wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the people of Community Church and surrounding communities for their wonderful Christian fellowship and hospitality shown us during our stay. May God richly bless all of you for every thing you have done to make this association a success; hoping to meet you all in an eternal association where the supreme Architect of the universe presides.

Rev. J. L. Arnold, Chairman

REPORT OF HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Money Received Since Last Association Balance in Treasury	\$ 11.00 188.25
Amount in the Treasury	\$199.25
Brother L. T. Jones, Treass	urer
(Other members of the board: Brother O. S. Mashburn, Kelley and Rev. Ed Caperton.)	Rev. George

CLERK'S REPO	RT
Total in Treasury from Last Association	\$230.82
Disbursements	
Paid Clerk	\$ 15.00
Paid Printing Minutes	
Postage	
Paid Helper	
Paid for Ministers' Reports	
Paper, Twine and Material	5.00
Ministers' Report Printed	5.00
Total Disbursements	174.75
Balance in Treasury	\$ 56.57
Rev. Arlo	Peppers, Clerk

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The moderator called the association to order. Song, "I'll Be Satisfied," followed with prayer by Brother Raymon Horton. During the singing of "Amazing Grace" an offering was taken for the Children's Home at Eldridge, Alabama, receiving \$13.52.

Moved and seconded to adjourn the association to meet with Burns' Chapel Church, six miles south of Collinwood, Tennessee, on the Chisholm Highway, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September.

Rev. Paul H. Sanderson, Moderator Rev. Arlo Peppers, Clerk

Presbytery Meetings, 1955-1956

The presbytery met with Burns' Chapel Church, October 30, 1955. Called to order by the moderator, Rev. J. O. Dixon, with 24 ordained ministers and 15 ordained deacons present.

Prayer by Brother L. T. Jones.

Offering for the presbytery received, \$16.26.

Offering for St. Joseph Church received, \$15.02.

Moved and seconded to adjourn to meet with State Line Grove Church the fifth Sunday in January, 1956.

Rev. J. O. Dixon, Moderator Rev. Willie Daniel, Clerk Brother L. T. Jones, Treasurer

The presbytery met with State Line Grove Church January 29, 1956. Called to order by the moderator, Rev. J. O. Dixon. Prayer by Rev. George Kelley. There were 18 ordained ministers and 11 ordained deacons present.

Offering for Wayland Springs Church received, \$24.02.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Moved and seconded to adjourn to meet with Hickory Flat Church the fifth Sunday in April, 1956.

Rev. J. O. Dixon, Moderator Rev. Willie Daniel, Clerk Brother L. T. Jones, Treasurer

The presbytery met with Hickory Flat Church the fifth Sunday in April, 1956. Called to order by the moderator, Rev. J. O. Dixon, with 20 ordained ministers and 6 ordained deacons present. Visiting ministers were Revs. Ab Slaton, B. C. White and Quincey Morrison.

Rev. Wren Adams was recommended by William's Chapel Church to be ordained. He was examined and found worthy to be ordained to the full work of the gospel.

Offering for Rev. A. S. Jones and Brother Alfred Brewer received, \$32.72. Amount in the treasury, \$58.99.

Moved and seconded to adjourn to meet with Collinwood Church the fifth Sunday in July, 1956.

Rev. J. O. Dixon, Moderator Rev. Willie Daniel, Clerk Brother L. T. Jones, Treasurer

The presbytery met with Collinwood Church the fifth Sunday in July, 1956. Called to order by the moderator, Rev. J. O. Dixon. Prayer by Rev. H. C. Killen. There were 21 ordained ministers and 14 ordained deacons present.

Community Church recommended Brother Raymon Horton to the presbytery to be ordained as a deacon. Following an examination he was ordained. The examining committee was Rev. George Kelley, chairman, Rev. J. M. Burns and Brother L. T. Jones.

Rev. George Kelley was elected as the evangelist for 1956-57.

The presbytery voted to give \$25.00 of the \$58.99 in the treasury to St. Joseph Church.

Moved and seconded to adjourn to meet with the association at the Community Church in September, 1956.

Rev. J. O. Dixon, Moderator Rev. Willie Daniel, Clerk Brother L. T. Jones, Treasurer

The presbytery met at the association which convened with Community Church September 21, 22, 1956, with 16 ordained ministers and 16 ordained deacons present.

Ministers' reports were read and adopted with cards granted.

Rose Hill Church recommended Brother Herbert Foster to be ordained as deacon. After examination he was ordained.

Royal Avenue Church recommended Brother Louis Fisher to be licensed to preach the gospel. After the examination Brother Fisher was granted a certificate of license to preach.

Officers were elected as follows: moderator, Rev. Ed Caperton; clerk, Rev. J. O. Dixon; treasurer, Brother L. T. Jones.

An offering for the presbytery work was received, \$8.11.

Hickory Flat Church recommended Brother Almon Gray to be ordained as deacon. Following examination he was ordained.

Moves and seconded to meet with Friendship State Line Church the fifth Sunday in September, 1956.

Rev. J. O. Dixon, Moderator Rev. Willie Daniel, Clerk Brother L. T. Jones, Treasurer Inasmuch as you present yourself for admission into the church of the Free Will Baptists 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 Baptists 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 1 Corinthians 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?

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Answer	

Church Rules

The following rules were adopted:

- 1. We agree to meet in conference quarterly or more often if necessary to transact the business of the church.
- 2. The moderator shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church and 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 strickly 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 ask 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 meckness 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, and 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

- 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 reproved 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 Free Will Baptist 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 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.
- 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, bylaws 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. We recommend that any of our preachers failing to either come in person or send a report for two years in succession be dropped from our ministers. Also our ministers leaving our association or presbytery get a letter of recommendation from the presbytery or return his credentials.
- 10. 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 (1 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 (1 Timothy 2:5, 6; St. John 3:16; Revelation 1:17; Acts 24:15; 1 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; Ephesians 4:4-6; Ephesians 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; 1 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 (2 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; Psalm 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 persons with God (Jude 1:4; Peter 2:1, 2; 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 (1 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 (Revelation 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 words, 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; 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 (1 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 judg-

ment at the last day (John 5:28, 29; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

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

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 Baptists
when convened with
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
Remarks:
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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 Sunday Schools
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Report of Churches	Received by Experience	Received by Letter	Received by Confession	H	Dismissed by Letter	1 -		Active Members	Inactive Members	Contribution	Number Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Value of Church Property	Amount Paid Pastor	Amount Paid Evangelist	Amount Paid Helper	Paid Home Mission	Paid Orphanage	Other Expenses	Meeting Days
Burns' Chapel Butler's Grove Canaan Cave Springs Collinwood Community Cross Roads Cypress Oak Grove Fellowship Flatwood Friendship State Line Gray's Chapel Hickory Flat Hohenwald Iron City Jones Chapel Johnson's School Miller's Chapel Mill Rock New Community New Home Oak Grove No. 2 Rose Hill Royal Avenue State Line Grove St. Joseph Wayland Springs William's Chapel Forty-Eight Bridge	0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	4 2 1 0 1 0 13 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	120010000000000000000000000000000000000	89 73 207 123 80 84 20 81 84 182 114 84 11 97 11 9 40 161 38 68 16 80 61	35 41 67 12 35 56 35 28 53 11 53 11 9 12 76 8	59 43 136 78 39 7 86 28 147 86 31 0 44 0 0 28 85 30 59 0 45 20 48 0 0 3	7.00	11343331226230430221212250115	0 6 4 0	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	\$ 3,000.00 1,700.00 1,000.00 5,000.00 3,000.00 6,000.00 1,500.00 1,500.00 1,670.00 5,000.00 2,500.00 475.00 3,700.00 6,000.00 2,400.00 2,400.00 2,500.00 1,500.00 1,500.00 1,500.00 1,500.00 1,500.00 1,000.00	85.00 170.15 530.00 404.24 510.00 422.37 50.00 35.57 438.35 202.36 158.00 163.50 42.00 243.22 0 39.30 194.75 642.70 38.10 68.25 165.25 150.00 541.50 263.70 0 0 249.10	7.20 0 5.25 0 7.00 5.20 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	\$ 37.40 62.11 37.75 57.50 91.81 76.00 50.00 19.30 19.00 50.00 122.26 52.00 74.00 2.50 59.53 175.00 4.75 17.00 40.00 50.00 24.00 50.00 24.00 50.00 24.00 50.00 31.50 33.20	\$ 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	40.06 0 0 40.00 0 7.00 0 0 0 0 0 5.00 0 0 66.00 0	60.00 105.00 133.69 144.62 12.67 1,200.07 82.65 322.72 181.66 77.23 75.00 175.00 206.10 3,000.00 25.00 304.56 239.00 14.25 0 100.00 1,849.50 300.00 0 426.83 92.00	3rd Sunday 3rd Sunday 4th Sunday 1st & 3rd 2nd & 4th All Sundays 2nd & 4th 1st Sunday 3rd Sunday 2nd & 4th 2nd & 4th All Sundays 3rd Sunday All Sundays All Sundays All Sundays 2nd & 4th 1st Sunday 4th Sunday 1st & 3rd All Sundays 2nd Sunday 1st & 3rd All Sundays 2nd Sunday 1st & 3rd All Sundays 2nd Sunday 1st & 3rd 3rd Sunday All Sundays 2nd Sunday All Sundays 2nd & 4th 1st & 3rd 3rd Sunday 1st & 3rd 3rd Sunday 1st & 3rd 3rd Sunday