

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL  
SESSION**

of the  
**Muscle Shoals State Line  
Free Will Baptist Association**



met with  
**GRAY'S CHAPEL CHURCH**  
**September 23, 24, 25, 1976**



## 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 appearances 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 obligation 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 obligations 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 souls and conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## 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 the minutes.
7. Is there any reference.
8. Report of committees.
9. Unfinished business.
10. New business.
11. Adjourn.

## MINUTES

### OF THE

### FIFTY—SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

### OF THE

### MUSCLE SHOALS STATE LINE

### FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### MET WITH

### GRAYS' CHAPEL CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25, 1976

### OFFICERS

Rev. Preston West  
Rev. Ernest Rich  
Sister Lillie Smitherman

Moderator  
Assistant Moderator  
Clerk

The next session of the Association will convene with State Line Grove Church, located three miles northeast of Lexington, Alabama, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1977, with Rev. Preston West as Moderator, Rev. Ernest Rich as Assistant Moderator, and Sister Lillie Smitherman as Clerk, and Rev. Ronald L. Mashburn as Assistant Clerk.



## ORDAINED MINISTERS, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Adams, Theodore, Leoma, Tenn. 38468, Ph. 615-852-2489  
 Adams, Wren, 121 W. Taylor St., Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-4862  
 Austin, James, Route 4, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-2042  
 Beckman, Leo, Rte. 1, Box 118, Athens, Alabama 35611  
 Brewer, Clovis, Rte. 1, Box 268, Iron City, Tennessee 38463  
 Brewer, James H., Rte. 1, Box 175, Waynesboro, Tenn. 38485, Ph. 615-722-3137  
 Brown, J. O. Jr., 105 Graves Dr., Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-5168  
 Burns, J. M. Sr., Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9648  
 Caperton, Ed, Rte. 2, Loretto, Tenn. 38469, Ph. 615-853-6821  
 Clanton, Elzo, Rte. 5 Florence, Alabama 35630, Ph. 205-766-9749  
 Coker, Jerry, Rte. 1, Box 338-A, Florence, Alabama, 35630, Ph. 205-757-3789  
 Cook, L. O., Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-4754  
 Creecy, Dennis, Rte. 1, West Point, Tenn. 38486  
 Creekmore, Fred A., Rte. 2, Hohenwald, Tenn. 38462, Ph. 615-796-5488  
 Daniel Clice, Rte. 3, Box 180, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-4067  
 Daniel, Nigle E., Rte. 2, Box 21, Collinwood, Tn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-9333  
 Daniel, Willie, Rte. 2, Box 20, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-4742  
 Davis, Johnnie R., Rte. 5, Box 183, Florence, Ala. 35630, Ph. 205-766-8756  
 Dixon, J. O., Rte. 1, Box 190 Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-4341  
 Fields, Herman, 420 2nd. St., Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464  
 Glover, Dee Jr., 501 W. Grand Ave., Muscle Shoals City, Ala. Ph. 205-381-2321  
 Glover, Kenneth E., 803 Austin Ave., Sheffield, Ala. 35660  
 Glover, Wm. Earl, 809 Austin Ave., Sheffield, Ala. 35660 Ph. 205-383-7679  
 Gobbell, Carmack, Rte. 1, Box 192, Collinwood, Tenn. 38550  
 Gulley, Roy, Rte. 3, Huntsville, Ala. 35804 Ph. 205-837-7080  
 Hollander, Willie E., Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9698  
 Hollman, Cleve, P. O. Box 81, Saint Joesph, Tenn. 38481, Ph. 615-845-4328  
 Hooper, Aaron, Rte. 2, Box 380, Leoma, Tenn. 38468, Ph. 615-852-2131  
 Hovis, Jerry, Rte. 2, Toney, Alabama, 35773, Ph. 205-828-0617  
 Hunt, Dennis, Rte. 1, Box 402, Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Jones, Loyd, Rte. 2, Loretto, Tenn. 38469, Ph. 615-853-6636  
 Kelley, George, Wayne County Nursing Home, Waynesboro, Tenn. 38485  
 Kelley, Raymond, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Killen, H. C. Sr., 402 W. Tenn. St., Florence, Ala. 35630, Ph. 205-764-0777  
 Lanier, Jessee, Rte. 11, Box 181, Florence, Ala., 35630, Ph. 205-764-9265  
 Lindsey, D. A., 238 Roosevelt Ave., Florence, Ala. 35630, Ph. 205-764-8289  
 Lopp, Charles, Rte. 2 West Point, Tenn. 38486, Ph. 615-762-2062  
 Malone, M. J., Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-845-4188  
 Marable, Charles O., Rte. 3, Box 102, Toney, Ala. 35773, Ph. 205-828-0336  
 Mashburn, Ronald L., Rte. 2, Leoma, Tenn. 38468, Ph. 615-852-2749  
 McConnell, Danny W., Napier Drive, Columbia, Tenn 38401, Ph. 615-388-8753  
 McConnell, Richard, Rte. 1, Box 66, Ethridge, Tenn. 38456  
 Oliver, Johnnie  
 Prince, Dick, 110 Jackson St., Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-3517  
 Prince, Leslie, Rte. 2, Box 157, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Quillen, Floyd Sr., Rte. 3, Toney, Alabama 35773, Ph. 205-828-3546  
 Rich, Ernest, Rte. 2, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-4516  
 Roden, Howard, 2609 - 14th. Ave., Sheffield, Ala. 35660, Ph. 205-381-4767

Roper, T. E. Sr., Rte. 2, Loretto, Tenn. 38469 Ph. 615-853-6558  
 Rowden, Frederick, 416 Industry St., Florence, Ala. 35630, Ph. 205-767-1447  
 Sanderson, Paul H., 1313 Sunnyside St., Florence, Ala. 35630, Ph. 205-764-6934  
 Scott, Billy, 808 Virginia Ave., Tuscumbia, Ala. 35674  
 Speegle, Jessie L., 114 Colorado Ave., Rte. 4, Tuscumbia, Ala., 35674 Ph. 205-381-2888  
 Stooksberry, M. A., Rte. 1, Box 260, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9508  
 Story, Paul C., Rte. 3, Leoma, Tenn. 38468, Ph. 615-762-4806  
 Turnbow, James T., Rte. 1, Box 247, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-9266  
 West, Preston, Rte. 9, Florence, Ala. 35630, Ph. 205-764-9679

## ORDAINED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES WITH LIFE TIME CARDS

Brewer, Clovis, Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Burns, J. M. Sr., Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Caperton, Ed, Rte. 2, Loretto, Tenn. 38469  
 Cook, L. O. Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Creekmore, Fred A., Rte. 2, Hohenwald, Tenn. 38462  
 Daniel, Clice, Rte. 3, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464  
 Daniel, Willie, Rte. 2, Box 20, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450  
 Dixon, J. O., Rte. 1, Box 190, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450  
 Kelley, George, Wayne County Nursing Home, Waynesboro, Tenn. 38485  
 Killen, H. C. Sr., 403 W. Tenn. St., Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Roper, T. E. Sr., Rte. 2, Loretto, Tenn. 38469  
 Sanderson, Paul H., 1313 Sunnyside St., Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Story, Paul C., Rte. 3, Leoma, Tenn. 38468

## LICENSED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

Bowers, Jack Jr., Rte. 2, Box 254-A, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9931  
 Dickey, Harold D., Rte. 7, Pulaski, Tenn. 38478, Ph. 615-363-2897  
 Holt, Sammy Robert, Rte. 1, Cypress Inn, Tenn. 38452  
 Riddle, Ralph, Rte. 1, Taft, Tenn. 38488  
 Strait, Alfred, Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Woods, J. C., Rte. 4, Florence, Ala. 35630

## DECEASED MINISTERS NAMES RETAINED

Arnold, J. L., Cross Roads Church  
 Arnold, Tom, Union Hill Church  
 Berryman, Charles, Friendship of Sheffield Church  
 Boswell, H. M., Columbia Church  
 Dillard, J. S., Alabama City Church  
 Dotson, J. M., Saint Joseph Church  
 Fisher, Louis, Royal Avenue Church  
 Freeman, R. F., Cardova Church  
 Garren, William H., Iron City Church



Lewis, John T., Friendship State Line Church  
 Martin, Christopher C., Forty-Eight Bridge Church  
 Martin, Thomas H., Macedonia Church  
 Mashburn Roy, Iron City Church  
 McGee, Ellie, Johnson Chapel Church  
 Norred, John, Cypress Oak Grove Church  
 Paul, Wallace, Columbia Church  
 Reyer, C. L., Friendship State Line Church  
 Rowden, E. P., Royal Avenue Church  
 Royal, L. B., Royal Avenue Church  
 Serrett, D. D., Flatwoods Church  
 Staggs, Eddie, Royal Avenue Church

#### CHURCHES, PASTORS, AND ADDRESSES

Burns' Chapel - Ernest Rich, Rte. 2, Collinwood, Tennessee 38450  
 Butler's Grove - Jessie L. Speegle, 114 Colorado Ave., Route 4, Tuscumbia Ala. 35674  
 Canaan - Carmack Gobbell, Rte. 1, Box 192, Collinwood, Tennessee 38450  
 Collinwood - James Brewer, Rte 1, Box 175, Waynesboro, Tennessee 38485  
 Columbia  
 Community - Dennis Hunt, Rte 1, Box 261-A-1 Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Cross Roads - M. A. Stookesberry, Rte 1, Box 260, Iron City, Tennessee 38463  
 Cypress Oak Grove - James T. Turnbow, Rte. 1, Box 247 Collinwood Tennessee 38450  
 Fellowship - Leslie Prince, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tennessee 38463  
 Flatwoods - Preston West, Rte 3, Florence Ala. 35630  
 Forty-Eight Bridge - Charles Lopp, Rte 1, West Point, Tennessee 34886  
 Friendship of Sheffield - Johnny R. Davis, Rte 5, Box 183, Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Friendship State Line - Jerry Hovis, Rte. 2, Toney, Ala. 35773  
 Grays' Chapel - Ronald I. Mashburn, Rte. 2, Leoma, Tennessee 38468  
 Hickory Flat - Jesse Lanier, Route 11, Box 181, Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Hohenwald - Fred Creekmore, Rte. 2, Hohenwald, Tennessee 38462  
 Iron City - Paul C. Story, Rte 3, Leoma, Tennessee 38468  
 Johnson Chapel - Leslie Prince, Rte 2, Iron City, Tennessee 38463  
 Millrock - Jerry Coker  
 New Community - Cleve Hollman, P. O. Box 81, Saint Joseph, Tennessee 38481  
 Oak Grove No. 2 - Jack Bowers, Rte 1, Iron City, Tennessee 38463  
 Rose Hill - Clice Daniel, Rte 3, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee 38464  
 Royal Avenue - D. A. Lindsey, 238 Roosevelt Ave. Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Saint Joseph - Paul Sanderson, 1313 Sunnyside Street, Florence, Ala. 35630  
 State Line Grove - Charles O. Mamable, Rte 3, Box 103, Toney Ala. 35773  
 Williams Chapel - Loyd Jones, Rte 4, Loretto, Tennessee 38469

#### CHURCHES, CLERKS, AND ADDRESSES

Burns' Chapel - Mae Brewer, Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Butler's Grove - Bobby Ray Daniel, Rte. 2, Box 199, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450  
 Canaan - Elaine McDonald, Rte. 6, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464  
 Collinwood - Iva Jean Berry, P. O. Box 65, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450  
 Columbia - James Parr, 218 Davis Ave., Columbia, Tenn. 38401  
 Community - Eunice Creasy, Rte. 5, Box 314, Florence, Ala. 35630

Cross Roads - Joe Mattox, P. O. Box 381, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464  
 Cypress Oak Grove - Roy Butler, Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Fellowship - Blanche Lester, Rte. 2, Box 146, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Flatwoods - Dewey Griffin, 317 Second St., Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464  
 Forty - Eight Bridge - Sarah E. Martin, Rte. 4, Box 169, Waynesboro, Tenn. 38485  
 Friendship of Sheffield - Shannon Liles, 1215 E. Limestone St., Florence Ala. 35630  
 Friendship State Line - Merle Cross, Rte 1, Box 394, Taft, Tenn. 38488  
 Grays' Chapel - Lela Mae Curbow, Rte. 3, Box 266 Killen, Ala. 35645  
 Hickory Flat - Lillie Smitherman, Rte. 1, Box 442, Killen, Ala. 35645  
 Hohenwald - Lois McClain, Rte. 2, Hohenwald, Tenn. 38462  
 Iron City - Virgie Lumpkins, Rte. 2, Box A-1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Johnson Chapel - Janice Balentine, Rte. 1, Lutts, Tenn. 38471  
 Hill Rock - Yvonne Dixon, Rte. 1, Box 190, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450  
 New Community - Sandra S. Burns, 714 High St., Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Oak Grove No. 2 - Lora Lopp, Rte. 1, Box 94-A, West Point, Tenn. 38486  
 Rose Hill - Dorothy Myers, Rte. 7, Box 286, Pulaski, Tenn. 38478  
 Royal Avenue - Willie T. Weems, 2009 Saint Peter, St., Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Saint Joseph - June Flatt, General Delivery, Saint Joseph, Tenn. 38481  
 State Line Grove - Andrew Killen, Rte. 2, Lexington, Ala. 35648  
 Williams Chapel - Patsy Russ, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463

#### CHURCHES, DEACONS, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

BURNS' CHAPEL - Nola Berry, Rte. 1, Cypress Inn, Tenn. 38452, Ph. 615-724-9675  
 J. M. Burns Jr., Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9695  
 Gene Cook, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-9695  
 Danny Roberson, Rte. 1, Box 250, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9489  
 BUTLER'S GROVE - Leonard Thompson, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Willie Ray Thompson, Rte. 2, Box 223, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 CANAAN - Joe Eckert, Rte. 4, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-9878  
 Garnett Kelley, Rte. 4, Waynesboro, Tenn. 38485  
 Floyd Ray, Rte. 6, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-6484  
 COLLINWOOD - Floyd Bryant, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-4734  
 Martin Gann, P. O. Box 144, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-4383  
 Delbert Gray, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-9419  
 W. C. Smith, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-4732  
 Jay Wright, P. O. Box 36, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-4797  
 COLUMBIA - Howard Jones, 322 E. Highland Dr., Columbia, Tenn. 38401  
 Donald Paul, 101 Pleasant Dr., Columbia, Tenn. 38401, Ph. 615-388-2995  
 Douglas Paul, 304 Pleasant Dr., Columbia, Tn. 38401, Ph. 615-388-7896  
 Elton Potts, 200 E. 15th. St., Columbia, Tenn. 38401, Ph. 615-388-5445  
 Frank Whitehead, 1717 Hill View Hts., Columbia, Tenn. 38401, Ph. 615-388-0377  
 James Yant, 324 E. Highland Dr., Columbia, Tenn. 38401, Ph. 615-388  
 COMMUNITY - Elvin Butler, Rte. 3, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 J. L. Reatherford, Rte. 3, Florence, Ala 35630



CROSS ROADS - Clarence Belew, Rte. 1, Box 111, Loretto, Tenn. 38469  
 Bonnie Hardiman, Rte. 3, Leoma, Tenn. 38468  
 Alfred L. Mashburn, Rte. 2, Leoma, Tenn. 38468, Ph. 615-852-2819  
 D. F. Peppers, Rte. 3, Leoma, Tenn. 38468, Ph. 615-852-2221  
 Hubert Townsend, Rte. 5, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-2898

CYPRESS OAK GROVE - Roy C. Butler, Rte. 1, Box 76, Iron City, Tn. 38463,  
 Ph. 615-724-9762  
 Lewis Marks, Rte. 3, Florence, Ala. 35630

FELLOWSHIP - Frank Kelley, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9260  
 Gene Kelley, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9179

FLATWOODS - Odell Weems, Rte. 1, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-2735  
 Everett Griggs, 306 May St., Lawrenceburg, Tenn. 38464, Ph. 615-762-2150

FORTY-EIGHT BRIDGE - Elmer Hubbard, 111 Vine St., Hohenwald, Tenn. 38462  
 J. O. Martin Sr., Rte. 4, Box 169, Waynesboro, Tenn. 38485, Ph. 615-722-3565

FRIENDSHIP OF SHEFFIELD - James Paul Liles, Rte. 4, Box 395-A, Tuscumbia, Ala.  
 35674

FRIENDSHIP STATE LINE - Troy Butler, Toney Ala, 35773  
 John Cross, Rte. 1, Taft, Tenn. 38488  
 Garland Hale, Rte. 2, Ardmore, Tenn. 38449  
 Delmer Ray Jones, 3109 Dyas Dr., Huntsville, Ala. 35801  
 Albert Malone, Rte. 1, Hazel Green, Ala. 35750  
 Cecil Pigo, Rte. 2, Box 127, Toney, Ala. 35773  
 Carlton Poole, Rte. 1, Taft, Tn. 38488

GRAY'S CHAPEL - Bill Curbow, Rte. 3, Box 266, Killen, Ala. 35645  
 James L. Hamm, Rte. 1, Florence, Ala. 35630, Ph. 205-757-2826  
 Edward Hunt, Rte. 1, Box 173-A, Florence, Ala. 35630

HICKORY FLAT - Almon Gray, Rte. 3, Lexington, Ala. 35648  
 Jessee Gray, Rte. 1, Rogersville, Ala.  
 Solon Gray, Rte. 3, Lexington, Ala. 35648

HOHENWALD - Finis Barber, Rte. 1, Summertown, Tenn. 38483

IRON CITY - Walter Daniel, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Beaumont Goobsey, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 Houston Johnston, Rte. 1, Saint Joseph, Tenn. 38481, Ph. 615-845-4261  
 W. B. Lumpkins, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-845-4255  
 Howard Perry Sr., Iron City, Tn. 38463, Ph. 615-845-4383

JOHNSON CHAPEL - Edwin Balentine, Rte. 1, Box 35, Lutts, Tn. 38471  
 Johnny Johnson, Rte. 1, Box 36, Lutts, Tenn. 38471

MILL ROCK - Buford Ayers, Rte. 1, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-9530  
 Joe Butler, P. O. Box 94, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-4524  
 Harlon Ray Daniel, Rte. 1, Collinwood Tenn. 38450  
 James Calvin Daniel, Rte. 1, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-9659  
 Billy Holt, Rte. 1, Cypress Inn, Tenn. 38452  
 Ollie Holt, Rte. 1, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Ph. 615-724-9358

NEW COMMUNITY - E. J. Crider, Rte. 4, Box 231, Florence, Ala. 35630  
 George Fowlkes, Rte. 2, Florence Ala. 35630  
 Leonard Fowlkes, Rte. 2, Florence, Alabama 35630  
 Roland Parrish, Rte. 4, Box 228-D, Florence, Ala. 35630

OAK GROVE NO. 2 - Mitchell Lopp, Rte. 1, West Point, Tenn. 38486

ROSE HILL - Billy Beets, Rte. 7, Box 290-A, Pulaski, Tenn. 38478, Ph. 615-363-1035  
 Milas Myers, Rte. 7, Box 286, Pulaski, Tenn. 38478, Ph. 615-363-3913

ROYAL AVENUE - W. S. Benefield, Rte. 10, Box 72, Florence, Ala. 35630,  
 Ph. 205-764-5880  
 Grady Doyle, 213 N. Richard St., Florence Ala. 35630  
 Markham Hayes, 39 Auburn St., Florence, Ala. 35630  
 Ishmal Thompson, 1406 Chisholm Rd., Florence, Ala. 35630

SAINT JOSEPH - Henry Hollman, Rte. 1, Loretto, Tenn. 38469, Ph. 615-853-6161  
 Doyce Springer, Rte. 1, Saint Joseph, Tenn. 38481, Ph. 615-853-6503  
 W. B. Wilson, Saint Joseph, Tenn. 38481, Ph. 615-845-4595

STATE LINE GROVE - Elvin C. Garrison, Rte. 1, Lexington, Ala. 35648  
 Andrew Killen, Rte. 2, Lexington, Ala. 35648  
 Theo Mashburn, Rte. 2, Lexington Ala. 35648  
 Clarence Wisdom, Loretto, Tenn. 38469, Ph. 615-853-4952

WILLIAMS CHAPEL - Alfred Butler, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463  
 J. D. Butler, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9461  
 Dell Moore, Rte. 2, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, Ph. 615-724-9381

## PROCEEDINGS

### THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION

The fifty-sixth annual session of the Muscle Shoals State Line Free Will Baptist Association met with Gray's Chapel Church at 7:00 P. M. Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1976.

The session opened with the song "O I Want To See Him", prayer by Rev. James Brewer, welcome address was given by the Pastor, Rev. Jerry Coker. In the absence of the Moderator, Rev. Willie Daniel who was in the Hospital, Rev. Ernest Rich was appointed to assist Rev. Preston West the Assistant Moderator who became Moderator for this session. Rev. Lonnie Ricketts of the Cumberland Association and Rev. Stults of the Tennessee River Association was our guests.



The devotional service was conducted by the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Ernest Rich, scripture used 5th chapter of 1st. Peter. Many wonderful testimonies were given, followed with a song "Amazing Grace".

The evening message was delivered by the Moderator, Rev. Preston West. His scriptures St. John 7:46, subject "Never A Man Spoke Like This", The song "Just As I Am" with an invitation to sinners. Song "How Firm A Foundation", with an old time hand shake. Assignments to homes by the Pastor, Rev. Jerry Coker and dismissed by Rev. Ed Capertown.

#### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The association was called to order at 9:30 A. M. by the Moderator, Rev. Preston West. The congregation sang "Amazing Grace", followed with prayer by Rev. Clovis Brewer. The Moderator read the 23rd. Psalm and the rules of the Order of the Association. Rev. J. B. Harper, and Rev. Virgil Gean of the Tennessee River Association and Rev. Lonnie Ricketts of the Cumberland Association visiting ministers were invited to sit with the body. Followed with receiving Church letters and seating the delegates as follows:

BURNS' CHAPEL - Sisters Elsie Berry, Earlene Rich, and Mae Brewer. Minute fund \$31.00.

BUTLER'S GROVE - Bros. Roy Robertson, Kenneth Thompson and Sister Betty Sue Butler. Minute fund \$15.00.

CANAAN - Sisters Earlene Ray, Lucille Ray, and Bro. Ted Ray. Minute fund \$20.00.

COLLINWOOD - Bro. Tom Vickery and Sister Virginia Creecy. Minute fund \$20.00.

COLUMBIA - By Letter. Minute fund \$15.00.

COMMUNITY - Sisters Freida Weaver, Nellie Cagle, and Betty Burns. Minute fund \$10.00.

CROSS ROADS - Bros. Joe Mattox, Neal Weaver, and Eual Hooper. Minute fund \$31.45.

CYPRESS OAK GROVE - Sisters Nola Carr, Shelby Butler and Bro. Jack Bowers Jr. Minute fund \$10.00.

FELLOWSHIP - Sisters Peggy Kelley, Lois Kelley, and Bro. A. C. Kelley, Minute fund \$15.00.

FLATWOODS - Bros. Mannon Doss, Joe Olive, and Ed Stutts. Minute fund \$45.00.

FORTY—EIGHT BRIDGE - Sisters Sarah E. Martin and Alicia Martin. Minute fund \$40.00

FRIENDSHIP OF SHEFFIELD - Sisters Shannon Liles, and Laura Glover. Minute fund \$20.00.

FRIENDSHIP STATE LINE - Sisters Delores Marable, Katherine Cross, and Dot Jackson. Minute fund \$25.00.

GRAY'S CHAPEL - Sisters Betty Ruth Hunt, Reatha Hunt, and Lizzie Hamm. Minute fund \$30.00.

HICKORY FLAT - Bro. Houston Burbank, Sisters Leona Gran and Aigazeile Oliver. Minute fund \$25.00.

HOHENWALD - By letter. Minute fund \$6.00.

IRON CITY - Sisters Virgie Lumpkins, and Evelene Stooksberry. Minute fund \$15.00.

JOHNSON CHAPEL - Bro. Ed Balentine and Sister Betty Johnson. Minute fund \$10.00.

MILL ROCK - Bros. Sammy Robert Holt and Theadus Stooksberry. Minute fund \$75.00.

NEW COMMUNITY - Bros. J. C. Woods, E. J. Crider, and Roland Parrish. Minute fund \$15.00.

OAK GROVE NO. 2 - Sisters irene Lopp and Vera Lopp. Minute fund \$15.00.

ROSE HILL - Sisters Dorothy Myers, Myrtle Norman and Grace White. Minute fund \$15.00.

ROYAL AVENUE - Sisters Annie Staggs and Rachael Hammock. Minute fund \$20.00.

SAINT JOSEPH - Sisters Barbara Langsford, Ethel Wilson, and Bro. Mack Langsford. Minute fund \$10.00.

STATE LINE GROVE - Sisters Wanda Jones, Margie Pettus and Bro. Dave Johnson. Minute fund \$20.00.

WILLIAMS CHAPEL - Sisters Lucy Gambrell and Lucille Moore. Minute fund \$15.00.

Called for Petitionary letters, there were none. The enrollment of ordained ministers, deacons, and delegates was as follows: 26 ministers. 24 deacons. and 57 delegates.

The Collinwood and State Line Grove Churches ask for the next Association State Line Grove Church received the majority vote. Motion, seconded, and carried to adjourn the Association for preaching services to meet back at 1:00 P. M.



The congregation sang "Everybody Will Be Happy", prayer by Rev. H. C. Killen Sr., A testimony was given by Rev. Ed Caperton and preaching by Rev. James T. Turnbow, scriptures Romans Chapter 10 subject "A Willing Mind". Followed by Rev. J. M. Burns Sr., scriptures 1st. John chapter 3 and 2nd. Cor. 5:17, song "Calling Today" with an invitation to sinners. Song "Jesus Saves", with perpetuation of the Union. Dismissed for dinner by Rev. Virgil Gean to meet back at 1:00 P. M.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Preston West at 1:00 P. M. Song "Praise Him", with prayer by Rev. Sammy Robert Holt.

#### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

**GENERAL BUSINESS** - Rev. Charles Lopp, Chairman, Brother J. L. Reatherford, and Bro. Hubert Townsend, with the Moderator and Clerk.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Rev. Clovis Brewer, Chairman, Bro. Alfred Mashburn, and Rev. Sammy Robert Holt.

**TEMPERANCE** — Rev. Ronald Mashburn, Chairman, Bro. W. B. Wilson, and Bro. Aaron Hooper.

**EDUCATION** - Rev. Jerry Hovis, Chairman, Rev. D. A. Lindsey, and Rev. Loyd Jones.

**FINANCE** - Rev. Paul C. Stov, Chairman, Rev. Jack Bowers Jr., and Bro. Buford Avers

**OBITUARY** - Sister Lillie Smitherman, Chairman, Sister Elsie Berry, and sister Mae Brewer.

**MISCELLANEOUS** - Rev. Jerry Coker, Chairman, Bro. Nola Berry, and Bro. Willie Ray Thompson.

**RESOLUTIONS** - Rev. J. M. Burns Sr., Chairman, Bro. Beaumont Goobsey, and Rev. Dennis Hunt.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Rev. Ernest Rich was elected Assistant Moderator, Sister Lillie Smitherman was re-elected Clerk and on proper motion, seconded and carried creating the position of Assistant Clerk, Rev. Ronald L. Mashburn was elected Assistant Clerk. Prayer by Rev. Theodore Norred, and offering was taken for the following ministers: Rev. George Kelley, Rev. Willie Daniel, Rev. Edward Roper, Rev. Raymond Kelley, Rev. James Austin, and Rev. Johnny Davis, amount received \$215.72. Motion, seconded, and carried to adjourn the Association for the Presbytery to meet.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

The session was opened with singing "Living By Faith" followed with prayer by Rev. Carmack Gobbell, song "Oh I Want To See Him". Devotional service conducted by Bro. J. L. Reatherford, scripture chapter 24 of St. Luke. Many wonderful testimonies were given.

Song "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus", with preaching by Rev. Ronald L. Mashburn, scriptures Ecclesiastes 11:9 and 12:1,12,13, and 14. Song, "Is Your Heart Right With God", with an invitation to sinners. Assignment to homes by the Pastor, Rev. Jerry Coker and dismissed by Rev. Cleve Hollman.

#### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association was called to order at 9:30 A. M. by the Moderator, Rev. Preston West. The congregation sang "He Abides". Prayer by Rev. Leslie Prince. The Moderator read Romans 12:1, and the roll was called with 22 ministers, 13 deacons, and 14 delegates present.

#### REPORTS

The following committee reports were read, adopted, and the committees released:

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

We your committee on general business, beg leave to report as follows:

1. We recommend that we retain a home mission board and that each Church send \$10.00; however stronger Churches give according to their ability. The money used within the bounds of our Association to help organize and to build new Churches in areas where there is no Free Will Baptist Church.
2. We recommend that each Church take an offering quarterly for the Children's Home. Churches located in Alabama support the Home at Eldridge, Alabama and Churches in Tennessee support the Home at Greeneville, Tennessee.
3. We recommend that the Moderator preach Thursday night at the beginning of the Association and the Assistant Moderator conduct the devotional service.
4. We recommend that the Moderator of conferences in our Churches see that the Majority of the members present vote for or against each move made, or it will be illegal.

Rev. Charles Lopp, Chairman.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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



We recommend that the Pastors and Deacons see that each Church has a Sunday school and uses only Free Will Baptist literature.

We urge that parents carry their children to Sunday school and assist in every way possible to help carry on the school. We also recommend that the children stay for preaching services, and that we use only Christian leaders. We urge that our Sunday schools be represented at our Sunday school convention each year. The next convention convenes with Royal Avenue Church, July 31, 1977.

Rev. Clovis Brewer, Chairman

### TEMPERANCE

We, your committee on temperance, beg leave to report as follows: That we as Free Will Baptist must abstain from all intoxicating drinks and that we must keep ourselves unspotted from the world. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

We must be temperate in all things: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). "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" (Eph. 5:11)

Rev. Ronald L. Mashburn, Chairman

### EDUCATION

We, your committee on education, beg leave to report as follows: 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), for God is able to supply all our needs.

One may be able to memorize the whole Bible, yet not be able to get the spiritual meaning. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. . . ." (1 Corinthians 3:19).

We urge our people to teach their children at home about the Word of God, "And that from a child thou hast known...Faith which is in Christ Jesus" (Timothy 3:15). We urge the head of each family of our people, to set aside ample time during each day, to get the family together and read a portion of the Word of God, equivalent to at least one chapter, and have family prayer. We recommend that the members of the Presbytery study the articles of our constitution and teach them to all the members of our Churches.

Rev. Jerry Hovis, Chairman

We Your committee on finance, beg leave to report the following:

Balance in treasury from 1975	\$108.00
Money received for minute fund	\$568.45
Total in treasury September 25, 1976	\$676.45

Rev. Paul C. Story, Chairman

### MISCELLANEOUS

We, your committee on miscellaneous, beg leave to report as follows:

1. That all our Churches give as much as possible to the support of our Evangelist.
2. We recommend that our Evangelist work in new fields, organizing Churches as well as visiting old Churches.
3. We recommend that our Evangelist not accept any Church as Pastor, and fill; in no longer than 30 days while new Pastor is called.
4. We recommend that if any of our Sunday school officials or Pastors should decide to resign, that they notify the Sunday school or Church 30 days ahead of time.
5. We recommend that all Sunday school officials be Christians and study the Bible to show themselves approved unto God, that they be able to rightly divide the Word of Truth.
6. We recommend that the Churches in our Association have the Church Covenant printed and posted in the Church that all members may know the Covenant.
7. We recommend that all our Churches have the Articles of Faith printed and posted inside the Church.
8. We recommend that all our Churches call their Pastor from our Association if possible.
9. We recommend that each Church Pastor and its Deacons encourage their Church to contribute more generously to the minute fund.

Rev. Jerry Coker, Chairman

### OBITUARY

We, your committee on obituaries, beg leave to report that GOD has seen fit to send His death angel to visit our Churches and call from our midst the following loved ones:

COLUMBIA - Rev. Wallace Paul

COLLINWOOD - Bro. Ola Nelson, Deacon, and Bro Floyd Staggs.



COMMUNITY - Bro. Jim Hall, Sister Lila Hall, and Sister Frances Erwin.  
 IRON CITY - Bro. Marshall (Chick) Gambrell.  
 JOHNSON CHAPEL - Sister Lillian McFall.  
 MILL ROCK - Bro. Donald Fay Daniel.  
 ROSE HILL - Sister Alta Mae Beets.  
 ROYAL AVENUE - Bro. W. R. Risner, and Bro. Ben Hannonch.  
 SAINT JOSEPH - Sister Mary Lou Hollman.  
 WILLIAMS CHAPEL - Bro Rayford Moore, Deacon, and Sister Flora Caperton.

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" (Job 1:21). "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" (Psalms 116:15.)

To the bereaved ones we point you to Christ who alone can give you comfort and fill the vacancies. We extend our sympathy to you for we feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

Sister Lillie Smitherman, Chairman.

Every one was invited to the Altar and Prayer was offered in behalf of the bereaved ones who had lost loved ones during the past year.

#### HOME MISSION BOARD

Amount in Treasury July 1, 1975.....	\$1,195.75
Interest received thru June 30, 1976.....	\$ 61.45
Received at Association from Williams Chapel Church.....	\$ 10.00
Amount in Treasury July 1, 1976.....	\$1,267.29

Rev. Ernest Rich, Treasurer.

Motion, seconded, and carried that we accept the Treasurers report and retain the present members of the Home Mission Board. Rev. Ernest Rich, Treasurer, Rte. 2, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450, Rev. J. M. Burns Sr., Rte. 1, Iron City, Tenn. 38463, and Rev. Nigle E. Daniel, Rte. 2, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450.

#### CLERK'S REPORT

Balance in Treasury September 26, 1975.....	\$ None
Received for minute fund at the Association.....	\$ 481.00
Offering taken for minute fund.....	\$ 112.00
Total to account for.....	\$ 593.00

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Printing 750 Minutes.....	\$ 450.00
Postage, paper, and tape for mailing.....	\$ 5.00
Paid Clerk.....	\$ 30.00
Total disbursements.....	\$ 485.00
Balance in Treasury September 24, 1976.....	\$ 108.00

Sister Lillie Smitherman, Clerk.

#### RESOLUTIONS

We, your committee on resolutions, beg leave to report as follows:

We, as the entire body, wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the people of Gray's Chapel Church and the surrounding community for their wonderful Christian fellowship and hospitality shown us during our stay. May God richly bless each of you for everything you have done to make this Association a success.

Rev. J. M. Burns Sr., Chairman.

Motion, seconded, and carried to adjourn the Association to meet with State Line Grove Church on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1977, beginning at 7:00 P. M. followed with prayer by Rev. Jack Bowers, Jr.

The congregation sang, "I'm Living In Canaan Now", prayer by Bro. Danny Roberson, preaching by Rev. Ed. Caperton, subject "Lost Opportunities"; followed by Rev. Loyd Jones, scripture St. Matthew Chapter 25. Dismissed for dinner by Rev. Donnie Tacjett, a visiting minister from Pine Creek Association.

Rev. Preston West,  
 Rev. Ernest Rich,  
 Sister Lillie Smitherman,

Moderator.  
 Assistant Moderator  
 Clerk



Churches Reporting	Received By Experience	Received by Letter	Received By Confession	Received Restoration	Dismissed By Letter	Expelled	Dead	Total Membership	Active	Inactive	Contribution	No. of Ordained Ministers	No. of Ordained Deacons	No. Licensed Ministers	Value of Church Property	Amount Given Pastor	Amount Given Asst. Pastor	Amount Given Evangelist	Amount Given Revial Helper	Amount Given Foreign Mission	Amount Given Home Mission	Amount Given Children Home	Other Expenses	Our Meeting Days
Burns' Chapel	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	80	47	33	\$31.00	7	4	0	\$15,000.00	\$1,344.50	0	\$12.00	\$100.00	0	0	\$40.00	\$1,200.00	All Sundays
Butler's Grove	0	0	5	1	5	0	0	76	30	46	15.00	0	2	0	9,000.00	697.00	0	19.76	84.00	0	0	0	312.61	All Sundays
Canaan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	50	38	20.00	0	3	0	20,000.00	1,734.00	0	30.00	210.00	0	0	40.00	1,917.77	All Sundays
Collinwood	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	170	97	73	20.00	3	5	0	25,000.00	1,886.61	0	0	225.00	0	0	0	5,150.29	All Sundays
Columbia	7	2	11	1	5	0	1	131	100	31	15.00	0	6	1	25,000.00	7,200.00	80.00	165.00	0	0	0	35.00	9,353.46	All Sundays
Community	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	94	45	49	10.00	2	2	0	12,500.00	1,561.50	0	0	150.00	0	0	240.00	1,637.04	All Sundays
Cross Roads	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	73	65	8	31.45	2	5	0	15,500.00	836.48	0	15.00	100.00	0	0	0	1,149.44	All Sundays
Cypress Oak Grove	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	107	28	79	10.00	4	2	2	0	0	614.34	230.00	0	0	0	0	2,106.63	All Sundays
Fellowship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	47	30	15.00	2	2	2	3,372.91	500.00	0	0	100.00	0	0	0	414.24	All Sundays
Flatwoods	3	0	16	1	0	0	1	149	104	45	45.00	2	2	0	35,000.00	1,867.07	0	28.73	125.00	80.00	0	120.00	2,250.00	All Sundays
Forty-Eight Bridge	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	66	26	40	40.00	0	2	0	19,500.00	1,514.78	0	0	134.10	0	0	131.70	1,640.19	All Sundays
Friendship State Line	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	191	1	1	25.00	3	7	0	45,000.00	1,909.55	0	50.00	600.00	0	0	100.00	4,851.85	All Sundays
Friendship of Sheffield	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	80	45	35	20.00	3	2	1	20,000.00	1,800.20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	All Sundays
Gray's Chapel	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	60	60	30.00	2	4	0	20,000.00	1,325.00	0	100.00	150.00	0	100.00	2,354.24	All Sundays	
Hickory Flat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	34	34	25.00	0	3	0	35,000.00	205.00	300.00	100.00	73.00	0	20.00	1,278.87	All Sundays	
Hohenwald	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	6	17	6.00	1	0	0	2,000.00	67.43	40.18	0	0	0	0	0	45.26	All Sundays
Iron City	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	109	63	46	15.00	2	5	0	18,000.00	1,359.26	0	15.00	100.00	0	0	0	1,589.39	All Sundays
Johnson Chapel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	8	20	10.00	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	20.00	0	0	0	222.84	All Sundays
Mill Rock	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	169	81	88	75.00	4	6	0	40,000.00	4,138.70	0	0	248.65	0	0	900.00	2,626.72	All Sundays
New Community	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	86	40	46	15.00	1	0	1	9,000.00	483.00	0	0	24.00	0	0	0	350.00	All Sundays
Oak Grove No. 2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	43	14	29	15.00	1	1	0	5,296.97	623.66	0	10.00	150.00	0	0	0	796.97	All Sundays
Rose Hill	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	87	35	52	15.00	1	2	1	8,000.00	512.37	0	0	100.00	0	0	0	243.32	2nd and 4th Sundays
Royal Avenue	1	0	1	0	3	0	2	81	49	32	20.00	3	3	0	35,000.00	1,645.00	122.50	0	0	0	120.00	1,484.29	All Sundays	
Saint Joseph	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	61	39	22	10.00	3	3	0	4,000.00	1,040.00	0	18.50	120.00	0	0	150.00	583.90	All Sundays
State Line Grove	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	104	65	39	20.00	3	4	0	30,000.00	1,310.00	0	25.00	150.00	0	0	0	17,148.18	All Sundays
Williams Chapel	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	61	36	25	15.00	2	2	0	7,500.00	925.21	0	0	132.00	0	10.00	30.00	2,963.59	All Sundays



# PROCEEDINGS OF THE PRESBYTERY FOR 1975 - 1976

Ministers Reports	Sermons Preached	Public Prayers	Received In Church	Baptized	Visited Sick Homes, Hospital	Funerals Preached	Ordained Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Pastored Churches	Held Communion Services	Conducted Prayer Meetings	Attended Sunday School	Held Revivals	Miles Traveled	Money Received	Travel Expenses	Married Couples	Organized Churches	Organized Sun. Schools
Adams, Theodore	4	25	0	0	41	1	3	3	0	0	46	0	0	0	15.65	0	0	0	0
Adams, Wren	5	25	0	0	15	0	3	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austin, James	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	215	0	25.00	0	0	0
Beckman, Leo	106	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	30	50	0	15,582	1,151.00	819.00	0	0	0
Brewer, Clovis	50	40	5	6	30	6	12	5	1	2	5	50	1	1,000	697.00	697.00	3	0	0
Brewer, James	50	100	7	10	7	11	2	0	1	1	0	50	2	10,000	1,200.00	600.00	4	0	0
Brown, James O. Jr.	22	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	43	28	0	0	20.00	0	0	0	0
Burns, J. M. Sr.	4	48	0	0	51	2	4	1	0	0	0	45	0	1,629	22.00	0	0	0	0
Clanton, Elzo	75	60	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	3	6	50	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Coker, Jerry	80	18	3	4	39	1	12	5	1	2	1	37	5	3,174	1,756.26	429.00	1	0	0
Creekmore, Fred A.	49	82	1	0	31	0	0	0	1	0	27	27	0	0	65.43	0	0	0	0
Daniel, Clice	28	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	23	1	1,680	587.37	252.00	0	0	0
Daniel, Nigle E.	7	20	0	0	12	0	10	2	0	0	0	22	0	0	100.00	0	1	0	0
Daniel, Willie	15	17	0	0	0	10	8	2	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Davis, Johnnie R.	120	130	3	7	60	0	10	2	1	4	40	45	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dixon, J. O.	14	46	0	0	38	1	8	3	0	1	0	46	0	490	226.00	0	0	0	0
Glover, Dee Jr.	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glover, Kenneth E.	100	4	0	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glover, Wm. Earl	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gobbell, Carmack	43	46	0	1	35	0	10	2	1	1	0	46	0	2,260	1,734.50	300.00	0	0	0
Hollander, Willie	30	42	0	0	23	0	8	4	0	1	0	40	2	0	302.14	0	0	0	0
Hollman, Cleve	40	193	0	0	190	0	8	2	0	1	0	46	0	9,833	328.05	571.00	0	0	0
Hooper, Aaron	64	95	6	3	117	2	2	0	1	1	1	51	0	0	910.48	0	1	0	0
Hovis, Jerry	55	0	0	2	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	51	2	0	75.00	0	0	0	0
Hunt, Dennis R.	54	79	2	0	55	0	4	1	1	5	0	47	0	4,224	569.18	166.98	0	0	0
Jones Loyd	65	0	4	5	0	4	12	4	1	1	0	48	4	0	1,094.31	0	2	0	0
Kelley, Raymond	25	55	0	0	50	0	6	1	0	0	9	24	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killen, H.C. Sr.	60	50	1	1	40	2	10	2	1	0	0	50	0	3,000	1,440.00	450.00	0	0	0
Lanier, Jesse	73	45	0	0	35	1	8	2	0	2	0	50	3	0	1,333.00	0	2	0	0
Lindsey, D. A.	104	61	2	3	43	7	4	1	1	2	3	52	3	0	1,928.50	0	4	0	0
Lopp, Charles	40	52	0	0	27	1	4	1	0	0	0	45	1	0	138.23	138.23	0	0	0
Malone, M. J.	71	145	4	3	25	0	0	0	1	1	55	52	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marable, Charles O.	106	273	4	4	178	3	12	4	1	4	50	50	2	12,228	2,133.58	0	2	0	0
Mashburn, Ronald L.	60	0	4	3	0	1	12	2	1	4	0	44	3	8,976	4,551.72	0	0	0	0
McConnell, Danny W.	178	0	9	10	0	2	8	2	1	4	50	52	1	0	142.00	0	1	0	0
McConnell, Richard	10	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	50	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prince, Dick	6	42	0	0	50	0	2	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	20.00	0	0	0	0
Prince, Leslie	31	45	0	0	78	0	10	3	1	1	4	37	1	1,650	95.71	50.00	0	0	0
Rich, Ernest	49	29	4	6	72	3	12	5	1	1	0	45	2	0	1,420.82	0	1	0	0
Roper, T. E. Sr.	25	35	0	0	30	0	6	1	1	1	0	22	1	1,500	500.00	200.00	0	0	0
Rowden, Frederick	7	104	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sanderson, Paul H.	21	45	0	0	53	1	4	1	1	1	7	49	1	0	440.00	0	0	0	0
Speegle, Jessie L.	105	156	11	3	97	0	10	1	1	1	64	47	1	8,506	1,514.78	1,120.72	1	0	0
Stooksberry, M.A.	89	180	1	1	165	0	12	5	1	2	0	47	1	6,283	1,290.00	0	0	0	0
Story, Paul C.	47	75	1	0	80	2	6	4	1	1	0	48	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turnbow, James T.	79	110	0	1	90	2	10	4	1	3	15	43	2	7,844	711.00	0	0	0	0
West, Preston	80	105	19	16	95	1	12	3	1	4	0	48	3	13,530	2,220.42	1,150.00	0	0	0
Bowers, Jack Jr. (Lic.)	40	100	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	3,571	456.75	155.55	0	0	0

The Presbytery met at Oak Grove No. 2 Church Saturday November 29, 1975. The Moderator, Bro. Odell Weems called the Presbytery to order with the following members present: 16 ministers, Bros. Jerry Coker, Clovis Brewer, M. A. Stooksberry, Loyd Jones, Charles O. Marable, Ernest Rich, Willie Daniel, Preston West, Cleve Hollman, Ronald Mashburn, Wm. Earl Glover, James T. Turnbow, Johnnie Davis, Kenneth Glover, Paul Story, and Leslie Prince. 16 Deacons, Bros. Odell Weems, Alfred Mashburn, Clarence Wisdom, Willie R. Thompson, Danny Roberson, Andrew Killen, Edward Hunt, Hubert Townsend, W. C. Smith, Jay Wright, Buford Ayers, Willie Hollander, Howard Roden, Bill Curbow, Fay Dickerson, and Joel Martin Sr., 4 Lic. ministers, Bros. Dennis Hunt, Howard Roden, Bill Hollander, and Charles Lopp.

Unfinished Business: Committee to contact ministers not reporting, ask for and was granted until Presbytery meeting at Mill Rock to report. The Clerk has obtained ministers card from Bro. Elbert Creecy as ordered.

New Business: Cypress Oak Grove recommended Bro. Alfred Strait and Bro. Jack Bowers Jr. to be licensed. Oak Grove No. 2 recommended Bro. Mitchell Lopp be ordained deacons, and Friendship of Sheffield recommended Bro. James Paul Liles to be ordained deacon. The examining committee was Rev. Loyd Jones, Chairman, Rev. Paul C. Story, and Bro. Danny Roberson. After ample examination being found worthy, they were licensed and ordained. Bro. Willard Rich turned in his deacon certificate and on motion, seconded, and carried his name was ordered removed from the Presbytery rolls. An offering taken for Presbytery \$46.30. Motion, seconded, and carried to adjourn to meet at Mill Rock Church Saturday February 28, 1976.

Bro. Odell Weems, Moderator  
Bro. Joel O. Martin Sr., Clerk

The Presbytery met at Mill Rock February 28, 1976, The Moderator, Bro. Odell Weems, called the Presbytery to order with the following members present: 18 ministers, Bros. D. A. Lindsey, Willie Daniel, Clovis Brewer, Preston West, Charles O. Marable, Paul C. Story, Theodore Adams, James T. Turnbow, H. C. Killen Sr., Ernest Rich, Carmack Gobbell, Jessie Lanier, Ronald Mashburn, M. A. Stooksberry, Johnnie Davis, Jerry Coker, Loyd Jones, and Leslie Prince. 17 deacons, Bros. Odell Weems, Beaumont Goobsey, J. D. Butler, Buford Ayers, Willie R. Thompson, Danny Roberson, Bill Hollander, Howard Roden, Solon Gray, Mitchell Lopp, Andrew Killen, Fay Dickerson, Edward Hunt, Bill Curbow, George Fowlkes, Cecil Pigg, and Joel Martin Sr., 1 visiting deacon J. L. Reatherford from Community Church. 6 Licensed ministers, Bros. Jerry Hovis, Howard Roden, Bill Hollander, Charles Lopp, Jack Bowers Jr., and Dennis Hunt. 1 visiting minister Rev. J. B. Harper, of the Tennessee River Association.

Unfinished Business: Bro. Ronald Mashburn, Chairman, committee to contact ministers not reporting and Bro. Theodore Norred, reported all ministers contacted except one and that Bro. Norred refused to turn in his credentials. Motion, seconded, and carried to accept the report and release the committee.



New Business: Motion, seconded, carried to meet in special closed meeting at Gray's Chapel Saturday March 20, 1976 at 7:00 P. M. to deal with Bro. Theodore Norred and revise the Presbytery Constitution. Friendship State Line recommended Bro. Jerry Hovis be ordained minister. The examining committee was Bro. Ernest Rich, Chairman, Bro. Theodore Adams, and Bro. Edward Hunt. After ample examination finding Bro. Hovis worthy he was ordained. An offering was taken for the Presbytery \$60.29. Motion, seconded and carried to adjourn to meet with State Line Grove Church May 29, 1976.

Bro Odell Weems,  
Bro. Joel O. Martin Sr., Clerk

The Presbytery met at Gray's Chapel in special closed session March 20, 1976 at 7 P. M. The meeting opened with song "Amazing Grace" directed by Bro. Jerry Hovis, prayer by Bro. H. C. Killen Sr., The Moderator Bro. Odell Weems, took his scripture reading from 1st Cor. calling special attention to Chapter 14 verse 40, with prayer by Bro. Dick Prince and called the Presbytery to order with the following members present: 29 Ministers, Bros. Loyd Jones, Johnnie Davis, Kenneth Glover, Earl Glover, Jesse Lanier, Coleman Quillen, T. E. Roper Sr., Paul Story, Jerry Hovis, Danny McConnell, Richard McConnell, James T. Turnbow, Nigle E. Daniel, Clovis Brewer, Wren Adams, Willie Daniel, Dick Prince, Cleve Hollman, Ronald Mashburn, Theodore Adams, Leo Beckman, Frederick Rowden, Ernest Rich, Aaron Hooper, D. A. Lindsey, Charles O. Marable, H. C. Killen Sr., Jerry Coker, and Elzo Clanton. 23 deacons, Bros. Hubert Townsend, Odell Weems, Paul Liles, Willie R. Thompson, Leonard Thompson, Almon Gray, Solon Gray, Jesse Gray, Dell Moore, Cecil Pigg, Buford Ayers, Beaumont Goobsey, Alfred Butler, Carlton Poole, Danny Roberson, Bill Curbow, Willie Hollander, Fay Dickerson, Andrew Killen, Grady Doyle, George Fowlkes, W. S. Benefield, and Joel O. Martin Sr.

Purpose of meeting read from Presbytery minutes of February 28th, "To deal with Bro. Theodore Norred and revise Presbytery Constitution". The discussion concerning Bro. Norred and Community Church led to a Motion, seconded and carried allowing Bro. Norred to keep his credentials until the Association to be held September, 1976 and should Community Church come back into the Association at that time. Bro Norred would be allowed to keep his credentials in good standing. The motion carried 50 for and 1 against after it was stated there were no charges against Bro. Norred, and that he ceased to be a member of the Presbytery when Community Church failed to be in good standing. Motion, seconded and carried that Bro. H. C. Killen Sr., hold a weekend revival at Community Church if invited.

On proper motions and seconded which carried the following amendments were made in the Presbytery Constitution: Article 7, to read as follows: In ordination there is presentation of the Bible, a prayer of consecration, charge, and the laying on of hands.

Article 9, after the work minutes, in the second line add: (for 12 months, then if no report is received the next 12 months they will be automatically dropped from the Presbytery), the rest of the article unchanged. Article 11, six months in line 2 changed to 12 months. Between the word "them" and "Licensed" in line 4 insert, (their credentials being valid so long as they maintain Christian conduct and remain a member of a Church of this Association. Article 12 change \$15.00 to \$25.00. Article 15 after the word "Gospel" in the 4th line change to read as follows: This card to be in force so long as they make a report each 12 months and their Christian conduct is in good standing with this body. An offering taken for the Presbytery \$45.51.

The Moderator, Bro. Odell Weems, ask the question, "How many of you brethren present would be willing to go to Community Church to a called meeting and make appologies to the Church if we were invited. No one was heard to oppose. Motion, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Bro. Odell Weems, Moderator  
Bro. Joel O. Martin Sr., Clerk

The Presbytery met at State Line Grove May 28, 1976 at 8:35 P. M. The Moderator, Bro. Odell Weems called the Presbytery to order with the following members present: 26 ministers, Bros. Theodore Adams, Preston West, Ed Caperton, H. C. Killen Sr., Ernest Rich, T. E. Roper Sr., Jessie Speegle, M. A. Stooksberry, J. O. Dixon, Theodore Norred, Loyd Jones, Cleve Hollman, Danny McConnell, Carmack Gobbell, Nigle E. Daniel, Willie Daniel, Clovis Brewer, Charles O. Marable, Johnnie Davis, Jesse Lanier, Leslie Prince, Raymond Kelley, Jerry Coker, James T. Turnbow, Ronald L. Mashburn, and D. A. Lindsey. 22 deacons, Bros. Odell Weems, Andrew Killen, Danny Roberson, Beaumont Goobsey, Willie R. Thompson, Leonard Thompson, Edward Hunt, Buford Ayers, Solon Gray, Bill Hollander, Clarence Wisdom, Mitchell Lopp, W. B. Wilson, W. S. Benefield, Alfred Mashburn, Grady Doyle, J. L. Reatherford, Fay Dickerson, Doyce Springer, Gene Kelley, Elvin Garrison, and Joel O. Martin Sr. 5 licensed ministers, Bros. Charles Lopp, Jack Bowers Jr., Dennis Hunt, Bill Hollander, and Morris Hooper.

The minutes of the last regular and called meetings were read and adopted with no unfinished business. New Business: Burns' Chapel recommended Bro. Willie Hollander be ordained minister, Royal Avenue recommended Bro. Ishmal Thompson and Mill Rock recommended Bros. James Calvin Daniel, Harlon Ray Daniel, Billy Holt, Ollie Holt, and Joe Butler be ordained deacons. Bro. Ronald Mashburn, Pastor, Mill Rock Church, ask and granted that the minutes show he did not sign letter recommending two of the candidates, nor did he know who signed his name as Moderator on the letters. The examining committee was Bro. Loyd Jones, Chairman, Bro. Nigle Daniel, and Bro Clarence Wisdom, after ampl examination, finding the candidates worthy, they were ordained. Bro Morris Hooper not able to be ordained without a letter of recommendation. Turned in his license.



Bro. Ronald Mashburn stated that Bro. Doyle Wallace requested him to ask the Presbytery to return his letter concerning lost credentials and he would get it notarized and return it to the Clerk. On Proper motion seconded and carried the request was granted. Offering taken for the Presbytery \$69.45. Motion, seconded and carried to adjourn to meet at Friendship State Line Saturday night August 28, 1976.

Brother Odell Weems, Moderator  
Brother Joel O. Martin Sr., Clerk

The Presbytery met at Friendship State Line August 28, 1976, with Altar prayer. The Moderator, Bro. Odell Weems called the Presbytery to order with the following members present: 18 ministers, Bros. James T. Turnbow, Cleve Hollman, Bill Hollander, Loyd Jones, Theodore Norred, Leo Beckman, Charles O. Marable, Willie Daniel, Paul Story, M. A. Stooksberry, Clovis Brewer, D. A. Lindsey, Ernest Rich, Jerry Hovis, Danny McConnell, J. O. Dixon, Nigle Daniel, and Jerry Coker. 23 deacons, Bros. Buford Ayers, Willie R. Thompson, Hubert Townsend, Alfred Mashburn, Danny Roberson, Clarence Wisdom, Theo Mashburn, Andrew Killen, Cecil Pigg, Edward Hunt, Leonard Thompson, James C. Daniel, Joe Butler, W. C. Smith, Carlton Poole, Jay Wright, John Cross, Fay Dickerson, Mitchell Lopp, Delmer R. Jones, Garlon Hale, Odell Weems, and J. O. Martin Sr. 3 licensed ministers, Bros. Charles Lopp, Jack Bowers Jr., and Dennis Hunt. 2 visiting ministers, Bros. John Darnell and Roy Hammond.

Unfinished business: Bro. Doyle Wallace granted a letter of recommendation. New Business: Gray's Chapel recommended Bro. Dennis Hunt and Oak Grove No. 2 recommended Bro. Charles Lopp be ordained ministers. The examining committee was Bro. Ernest Rich, Chairman, Bro. Jerry Hovis, and Bro. Theo Mashburn, after ample examination, finding them worthy, they were ordained. Bro. Nigle E. Daniel was elected Evangelist for 1976-1977 and Bro. Willie Daniel was elected Assistant Evangelist. Motion, seconded and carried not to require a Pastor of a Church to sign a letter of recommendation from a Church to the Presbytery. An offering taken for the Presbytery \$44.87. Motion, seconded and carried to adjourn to meet with the Association when convened with Gray's Chapel September 24, 25, 1976.

Bro. Odell Weems, Moderator  
Bro. Joel O. Martin Sr., Clerk

The Presbytery met at the Association when convened with Gray's Chapel September 24, 25, 1976. The Moderator, Bro. Odell Weems, called the Presbytery to order with the following members present: 26 ministers, Bros. Clovis Brewer, J. M. Burns Sr., Ed Caperton, Jerry Coker, Nigle E. Daniel, J. O. Dixon, Carmack Gobbell, Loyd Jones, H. C. Killen Sr., D. A. Lindsey, Charles O. Marable, Ronald Mashburn, Danny McConnell, Richard McConnell, M. A. Stooksberry, Ernest Rich, Paul H. Sanderson, Paul C. Story, Preston H. West, Theodore Norred, Dennis Hunt, Charles Lopp, Jerry Hovis, Elzo Clanton, Aaron Hooper, and James T. Turnbow.

18 deacons, Bros. D. F. Peppers, Hubert Townsend, Nola Berry, Willie R. Thompson W. S. Benefield, Solon Gray, Clarence Wisdom, Cecil Pigg, W. B. Wilson, J. L. Reatherford, Beaumont Goobsey, Clarence Belew, Gene Kelley, Joe Butler, John Cross, Alfred Mashburn, Odell Weems, and J. O. Martin Sr., 2 licensed ministers, Bros. Jack Bowers Jr. and Harold D. Dickey. 3 visiting ministers, Bros. J. B. Harper and V. H. Gean, Tenn. River Association and J. A. Ricketts Cumberland Association. Minutes of the last meeting read and adopted with no unfinished business.

New Business: Mill Rock recommended Bro. Sammy Robert Holt, and New Community recommended Bro. J. C. Woods be licensed. New Community recommended Bro. E. J. Crider and Bro. Roland Parrish be ordained deacons. The examining committee was Bro. J. O. Dixon, Chairman, Bro. Charles Lopp, Bro. Joe Butler. After ample examination finding the candidates worthy they were licensed and ordained. Bro. Fay Dickerson turned in his deacon certificate and the Clerk was ordered to drop his name from the Presbytery. Preachers reports were read, adopted, and cards granted. Oral reports were made for Bros. Ed Caperton, George Kelley, Roy Gulley, Floyd C. Quillen Sr., and Herman Fields. Preachers not reporting this year were Bros. L. O. Cook, Dennis Creecy, and Billy Scott. Motion, seconded and carried to allow the Clerk to up date ministers reports with deacons and preachers ordained. The following ministers contributed to the Presbytery Treasury with their reports: Bros. J. O. Brown Jr., \$5.00, Wren Adams \$2.00, Dick Prince \$4.00, Jessie Speegle \$5.00, and Floyd Quillen Sr. \$10.00.

Presbytery left open, called to order by Moderator, Bro. Odell Weems, Sept. 25th. Friendship of Sheffield recommended Bro. Howard Roden to be ordained minister. Johnson Chapel recommended Bros. Johnny Johnson and Edwin Balentine be ordained deacons. The examining committee was Bro. J. O. Brown Jr., Chairman, Bro. Bill Hollander, and Bro. J. L. Reatherford. After ample examination the brethren were ordained and Bro. J. O. Brown Jr. gave the charge of Ordination. Finished reading minister reports and granting cards. Motion, seconded, and carried 22 for and 7 against not to adopt Bro. Talmage Handbacks' report and to pull his card and credentials and drop him from the Presbytery rolls. Motion, seconded to adjourn until 1 P. M. failed. Business to continue until finished.

Election of officers: Bro. Joel O. Martin Sr. re-elected Clerk, Bro. Jerry Coker re-elected Assistant Clerk. Bro. Odell Weems re-elected Moderator, Bro. Paul C. Story elected Assistant Moderator. Treasurers report read and adopted. Offering taken for Presbytery \$58.58. Minutes of this session were adopted as written without being read, on a motion, seconded and carried unanimously. Motion, seconded and carried to adjourn to meet at Flatwoods Church Saturday October 30, 1976.

Bro. Odell Weems, Moderator.  
Bro. Joel O. Martin Sr. Clerk-Treas.  
Bro. Jerry Coker, Assistant Clerk-Treas.



## CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERY

ARTICLE 1. Be it known that the ordained ministers, together with the deacons of the Muscle Shoals State Line Association, are the Presbytery of this Association, all of whom are of ex-official members.

ARTICLE 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.

ARTICLE 3. The Presbytery has exclusive jurisdiction and control over the official character and standing of all ordained members and Licensed ministers under its control.

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

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

ARTICLE 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.

ARTICLE 7. In ordination there is presentation of the Bible, a prayer of consecration, charge and the laying on of hands.

ARTICLE 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. Any minister coming under the hands of this Presbytery who walks disorderly or commits an offense, must come before this body and make restitutions 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.

ARTICLE 9. Any of our ministers failing to come in person or send a report will not receive a card, but their name will be retained in our minutes for twelve months, then if no report is received at the end of the next twelve months, they will automatically be dropped from the Presbytery. Any minister in good standing leaving this Presbytery is to get a letter of recommendation and turn in his credentials.

ARTICLE 10. Any person or persons desiring to bring a charge against another brother demanding a trial or the mind of this Presbytery, shall not bring the charges to the Association or any regular fifth Sunday meeting; but shall request the Moderator shall instruct the Clerk to notify each ordained member of the Presbytery of the time and place of such meeting.

ARTICLE 11. Any minister desiring license or ordination must be a member of a Free Will Baptist Church in this Association twelve months before being licensed or ordained, and shall preach under license twelve months before being ordained. Then if the Presbytery finds them worthy ordain them, their credentials being valid so long as they maintain Christian conduct and remain a member of a Church in this Association. Licensed ministers under the control of this Presbytery shall not baptize anyone, nor shall they perform a marriage ceremony. All ministers' reports shall be read before the Presbytery and adopted or rejected.

ARTICLE 12. The Clerk of the Presbytery shall be paid \$25.00 for his services and shall see to the printing and mailing of the fifth Sunday meeting Programs.

ARTICLE 13. The Churches shall approve their deacons for twelve months before being recommended to be ordained. Also ministers desiring to be licensed or ordained, shall have a written recommendation from the Church of which he is a member before he is licensed or ordained.

ARTICLE 14. Any deacon moving his membership from one Church to another in this Association, or from a Church of another Association, or Denomination, must be accepted to membership in one of our Churches, and in a special called conference of that Church be accepted as a deacon, before being accepted to membership in the Presbytery.

ARTICLE 15. A lifetime card shall be issued all ministers of this Presbytery with thirty (30) years continuous service, or ten (10) years continuous service at age sixty (60) or at any age should they become physically disabled to carry the Gospel. This card to be valid so long as they make a report each twelve (12) months to this Presbytery and their Christian conduct is in good standing with this body.

ARTICLE 16. No alterations can be made in this constitution, nor any new rule, or regulation be adopted, except in a "CLOSED" special called meeting, with only ordained members of this Presbytery present.



## 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 as 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 his 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 seconded 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 speaking shall cast any reflections 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 speak 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 immersion, and will not accept any other baptism.
14. That each Pastor if possible hold his own conference and that election of Pastor be done by ballot.

15. That any of our Churches calling a Pastor, see that he is a member of a Free Will Baptist Church and had ordination papers and card, and that he is in good standing in a Free Will Baptist Association.

## RULES OF ORDER OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The Association when convened 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 members 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 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 reprovved 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.



## ASSOCIATION 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 congregation form of Church government should be invariably preserved, yet we being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious council of 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, when, producing letter 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 advise 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 advise.

ARTICLE 7. Any Church may be admitted into the Association by letters and delegates, 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 file 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 seconded 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 cases of Churches neglecting to represent themselves in the Association, to appoint any member or members with their consent, to transact any business they judge necessary, to invite any visiting brethren in the Ministry to a seat in the Association, to adjourn the Association at any place that may be deemed necessary, to exclude from his seat any member who will not conform to the rules and decorum and shall report his or her conduct to the Church for which they are delegates.

ARTICLE 13. This constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds majority vote of members present, providing the proposed amendment be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

ARTICLE 14. That we receive all members by the right hand of fellowship and that we elect the Assistant Moderator each year, he automatically becomes the Moderator the following year. We are also to elect the Clerk each year. The Clerk is to be paid \$30.00 for seeing that the minutes are printed.

ARTICLE 15. That our Association convene on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September each year.



## 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; Revelations 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 may be saved (Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Hebrews 3:10; John 5:10).

7. We believe the Scriptures are 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 teachings 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 into 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 4, 2 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 (Revelations 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 or mere 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; 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; 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

We send our beloved, to wit: \_\_\_\_\_

to sit with you in your deliberations and help transact any legal business that  
 may come before your honorable body. The statistics of our church are as  
 follows: Received by experience \_\_\_\_\_, by letter \_\_\_\_\_, by confession  
 \_\_\_\_\_, by restoration \_\_\_\_\_, dismissed by letter \_\_\_\_\_, expelled \_\_\_\_\_,  
 dead \_\_\_\_\_, total membership \_\_\_\_\_, active \_\_\_\_\_, 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 licensed ministers \_\_\_\_\_, church  
 property \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount given pastor \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount  
 given assistant pastor \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount given revival helper \$ \_\_\_\_\_,  
 amount given foreign mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount given home missions  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount given orphanage \$ \_\_\_\_\_, amount given  
 evangelist \$ \_\_\_\_\_, other expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_, deceased members  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk's address \_\_\_\_\_

Moderator's address \_\_\_\_\_

Our meeting days \_\_\_\_\_, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_, Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## FORM OF RECEIVING MEMBERS IN THE CHURCH

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 vow  
 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?

ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_