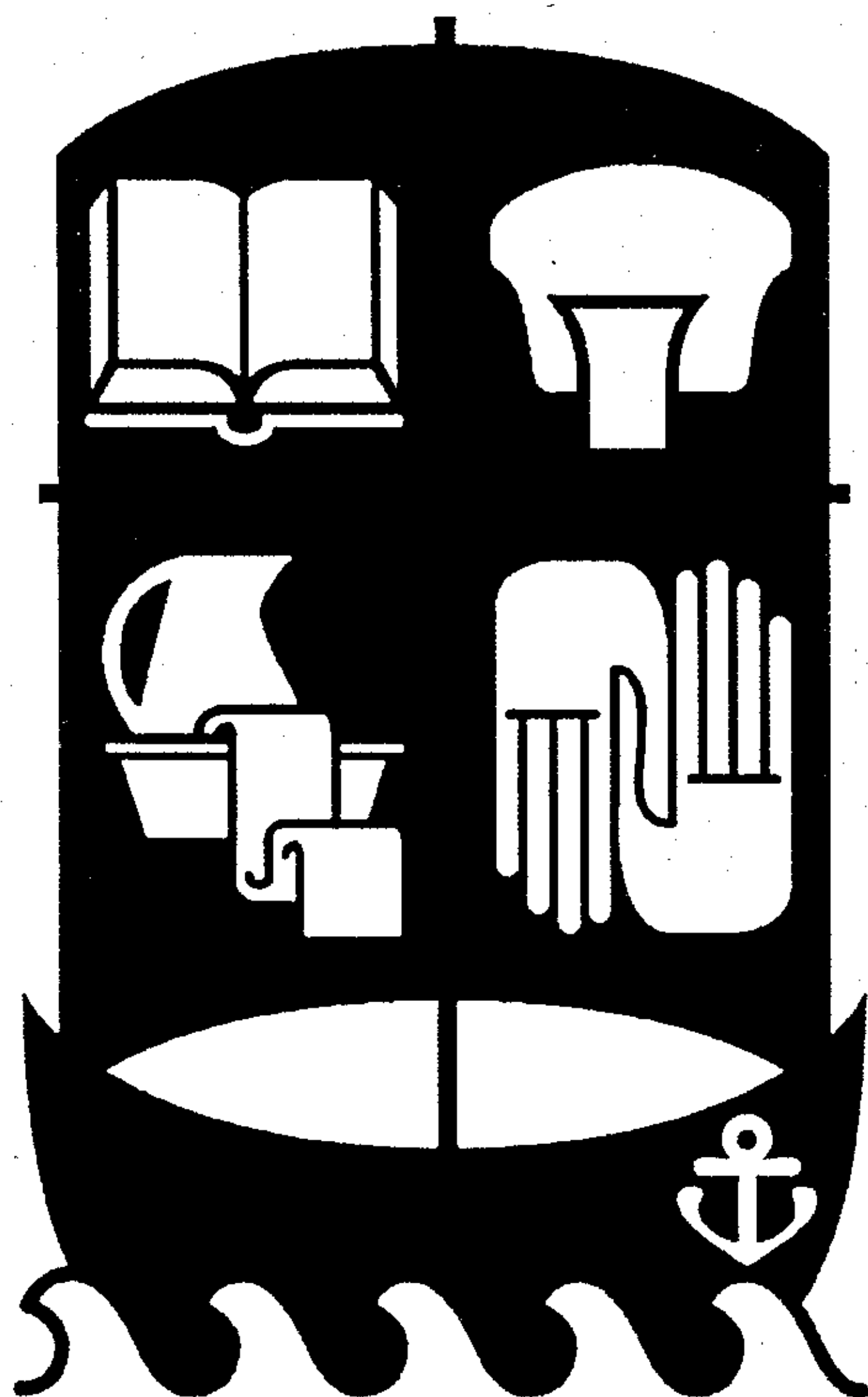


# **NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**



**MINUTES 2015**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Officers.....	2
Associational Meetings.....	3
Associational Directory.....	4
Ordained Ministers.....	5
Ordained Deacons.....	6
By-Laws .....	7
Guidelines For Ordination .....	8
Questions For Licensing & Ordaining a Minister .....	9
Ministerial Discipline .....	10
Guidelines for CEB.....	11
25 <sup>rd</sup> Semi-Annual Meeting .....	12
Treasurer's Report April 2015.....	15
50 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.....	16
Treasurer's Report October 2015 .....	19
NALFWB Constitution.....	20

## GENERAL OFFICERS

2015

### Moderator

Rev Henry Shellman  
5102 Frankford Dr  
Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763  
(256) 337-3921  
[hwshellman@gmail.com](mailto:hwshellman@gmail.com)

### Assistant Moderator

Rev Craig McCarley  
1000 Mitwede St Apt 7  
Hartselle AL 35640  
(205) 412-4189  
[cobra.craigmcc@yahoo.com](mailto:cobra.craigmcc@yahoo.com)

### Clerk

Jean McCraney  
2304 Warwick Av SW  
Decatur AL 35603  
(256) 351-1615  
[Rmccraney2304@charter.net](mailto:Rmccraney2304@charter.net)

### Assistant Clerk

Amy Beck  
2600 Reabok Cir SW  
Huntsville AL 35803  
(256) 883-1439

## Christian Education Board

Rev Jeremy Cox  
211 CR 1291  
Cullman AL 35058  
(256) 734-4716

## Presbytery Committee

Rev Henry Shellman  
5102 Frankford Dr  
Owens Cross Roads AL 35763  
(256) 337-5492

Rev Kenneth Terry  
177 Company Rd 1285  
Vinemont AL 35179  
(256) 739-6739

Ron McCraney (Chair)  
2304 Warwick Av SW  
Decatur AL 35603

Rev Dennis Reeves  
35 Co Rd 1323  
Vinemont AL 35179

## Children's Home Representative

Rev Kenneth Terry  
177 Company Rd 1285  
Vinemont AL 35179  
(256) 739-6739

## State General Board

Rev Henry Shellman  
5102 Frankford Dr  
Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763  
(256) 337-3921

**NORTH ALABAMA  
ASSOCIATIONAL MEETINGS**

2006	April 15	Madison FWB
	October 21	Soul’s Harbor FWB
2007	April 21	Ebenezer FWB
	October 20	1 <sup>st</sup> FWB-Decatur
2008	April 19	Madison FWB
	October 18	Soul’s Harbor FWB
2009	April 18	Ebenezer FWB
	October 17	1 <sup>st</sup> FWB-Decatur
2010	April 17	Cedar Creek FWB
	October 16	Soul’s Harbor FWB
2011	April 16	Ebenezer FWB
	October 15	Madison FWB
2012	April 20	1 <sup>st</sup> FWB-Decatur
	October 20	Soul’s Harbor FWB
2013	April 20	Madison FWB
	October 19	1 <sup>st</sup> FWB-Decatur
2014	April 19	Laodicea FWB
	October 19	Cedar Creek FWB
2015	April 18	First FWB Decatur
	October 17	First FWB Huntsville
2016	16 April	Madison FWB
	15 October	Soul’s Harbor FWB

# ASSOCIATIONAL DIRECTORY

## CHURCH

## PASTOR

## CLERK

Cedar Creek FWB  
701 Byrd Rd SE  
Hartselle AL 35640  
(256) 773-2603

Rev. Cliff Tomlinson  
1301 Cedar Creek Church Rd  
Hartselle AL 35640  
(256) 898-4198  
[preacherctomlinson@yahoo.com](mailto:preacherctomlinson@yahoo.com)

Gerald Wiley  
1369 Thompson Rd  
Hartselle AL 35640  
(256) 773-4608  
[DJ398@aol.com](mailto:DJ398@aol.com)

First FWB  
1306 Danville Rd SW  
Decatur AL 35603  
(256) 350-2412  
Website: [decaturfwb.com](http://decaturfwb.com)

Rev. Henry Shellman  
5102 Frankford Dr  
Owens Crossroads AL 35763  
(256) 532-3921  
[hshellman@bellsouth.net](mailto:hshellman@bellsouth.net)

Jean McCraney  
2304 Warwick Av SW  
Decatur AL 35603  
(256) 351-1615  
[rmccraney2304@charter.net](mailto:rmccraney2304@charter.net)

First FWB  
3610 Pulaski Pike  
Huntsville AL 35816

Rev Dana Booth  
112 Thunderbird  
Harvest AL 35749  
(256) 929-1941  
[Dbooth6@mediacom66.net](mailto:Dbooth6@mediacom66.net)

Harry Pounds  
3813 8<sup>th</sup> Av SW  
Huntsville AL 35805  
(256) 535-6365

Laodicea FWB Church  
276 Co Rd 522  
Hanceville AL 35077

Rev Dennis Reeves  
35 Co Rd 1323  
Vinemont AL 35179  
(256) 734-8333

Patty Dean  
5036 Co Rd 601  
Hanceville AL 35077  
(256) 352-4872  
[pattydean@hotmail.com](mailto:pattydean@hotmail.com)

Madison FWB  
PO Box 517  
Madison AL 35758  
(256) 430-3087

Dr. Paul V. Harrison  
120 Pearle Dove Dr  
Huntsville, AL 35806  
(615) 506-7913  
[paulvh57@gmail.com](mailto:paulvh57@gmail.com)

Betty Ragsdale  
25870 Camden Ct  
Athens AL 3561  
(256) 233-211  
[Bragdsdale2002@yahoo.com](mailto:Bragdsdale2002@yahoo.com)

Soul's Harbor FWB  
21325 US Hwy 31  
Vinemont AL 35179  
(256) 734-2882

Rev. Kenneth Terry  
210 Co Rd 1219  
Falkville AL 35622  
(256) 739-6739  
[soulsharborpastor@att.net](mailto:soulsharborpastor@att.net)

Marie Terry  
210 Co Rd 1219  
Falkville AL 35622  
(256) 739-6739  
[vcaoffice@att.net](mailto:vcaoffice@att.net)

# **North Alabama Quarterly Association**

## **Directory of Other Ordained Ministers**

Cox, Jeremy  
211 Co Rd 1291  
Cullman Al 35058  
(256) 347-3900  
[Jeremy@2911ministries.org](mailto:Jeremy@2911ministries.org)

Rogers, Michael  
202 Patricia Road  
Madison, Al 35758  
(256) 971-0877  
(256) 508-6482  
[Michael.rogers5472@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.rogers5472@gmail.com)

# ORDAINED DEACONS

## Cedar Creek

Jerald Wiley  
1369 Thompson Rd  
Hartselle Al 35640  
(256) 773-4608  
[DJ398@aol.com](mailto:DJ398@aol.com)

Glenn H. Stover  
303 Longhorn Pass NW  
Hartselle Al 35640  
(256) 773-5813

## Soul's Harbor

Robert Partain  
120 Co Rd 1247  
Vinemont Al 35179-5081  
(256) 775-2681

## First FWB Decatur

Paul Jones  
311 Robin Rd SW  
Decatur Al 35601  
(256) 350-8583

Ron McCraney  
2304 Warwick Av SW  
Decatur Al 35603  
(256) 351-1615/  
(256) 318-1615  
[rmccraney2304@charter.net](mailto:rmccraney2304@charter.net)

## Madison FWB

Ken Michael  
100 Spenser Green Lane  
Madison Al 35758  
(256) 837-5209

Rodney Yerby  
115 Maximillion Dr  
Madison Al 35758  
(256) 721-0402

Jamie Beck  
2600 Reabok Circle SW  
Huntsville Al 35803  
(256) 883-1439

## First FWB Huntsville

# **BY-LAWS OF THE NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

- Section 1. The Moderator, Assistant Moderator, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association to order.
- Section 2. No person shall be allowed to speak more than two (2) times on any one subject, or more than (5) five minutes without the permission of the moderator.
- Section 3. A Credentials committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session who shall receive and examine the letters and list the delegates and turn them over to the Clerk with any recommendation they may wish to make, and omit the public reading of the letter.
- Section 4. The Moderator shall have the right to appoint all committees.
- Section 5. No person shall be ordained to the ministry nor shall the credentials of any minister be ratified until he is qualified to meet the conditions stated in the third chapter of I Timothy, "The husband of one wife." He must satisfactorily answer to the oral and/or written questions put to him by the ordaining council.
- Section 6. The business of this Association shall be governed by Robert's Rules or Order.
- Section 7. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at one time and he shall arise and address the Moderator. In case two arise at the same time, the first seen by the Moderator shall be allowed to speak.
- Section 8. No person shall absent himself from the association without permission of the Moderator.
- Section 9. This Association shall issue annually, cards of good standing to its ministers and deacons, whose church requests them.
- Section 10. This Association shall in all cases in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of all delegates present. Any church or delegate failing or refusing to vote is and shall be considered a party to the enforcement of same.
- Section 11. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of this Association by two-thirds vote of the members present.



## GUIDELINES FOR ORDINATION

- I. This Association ordains no man that has more than one living wife; nor a man whose wife has more than one living husband.
- II. This Association ordains no one to preach the gospel until he carries a license for one year unless he is called to a pastorate.
- III. This Association ordains no one that does not believe fully the faith and practice of the Free Will Baptist Treatise.
- IV. This Association ordains no one that does not believe and practice tithing.
- V. This Association ordains no one that does not believe in the verbal inspiration of the Word of God.
- VI. This Association will not ordain a woman to preach the gospel.
- VII. This Association will not ordain or accept the ordination of anyone who is a homosexual.
- VIII. This Association will not ordain anyone with a bad character with them that are without.
- IX. This Association will not ordain anyone that does not believe and practice the ordinances of the church.
  - A. Baptism by immersion
  - B. Communion (open)
  - C. Feet Washing
- X. This Association will not ordain anyone that does not believe a person can apostatize and be lost.

**NOTE:** If any church has a minister or deacon that needs to be questioned by the Presbytery Committee for licensing, ratification, or ordination, contact the Chairman of the Presbytery Committee at least one month before the Association meets. This will enable the committee and the candidate to be better prepared at the Association meeting. It will also eliminate a lot of wasted time at the Association by the people that are having to wait for the committee to finish their report.

# **NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS QUESTIONS FOR LICENSING AND ORDAINING OF A MINISTER**

**(Please give Scripture references to as many questions as possible.)**

1. Give your full name, address, and phone number.
2. What church are you currently a member?
3. Give a short account of your call to preach.
4. Do you feel that you meet the qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7?
5. Have you or your wife ever been divorced?
6. What is the extent of your education?
7. List three character references, not including your family. Give their address and phone number.
8. Is your wife a born again Christian?
9. What is your attitude toward intoxicating beverages, tobacco, drugs and worldly amusements?
10. Do you believe without reservation that the Bible is the verbally inspired, infallible Word of God, and that it is the only rule of faith and practice for a minister?
11. What do you believe about evolution and the Genesis account of Creation?
12. What is the Scriptural mode of Baptism?
13. What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?
14. What is salvation and how would you explain it to a lost soul?
15. What do you believe about apostasy and the perseverance of the saints?
16. What are the three ordinances of the Gospel that Free Will Baptists observe
17. What is your belief about speaking tongues?
18. Have you read the Free Will Baptist Treatise, and is there anything in it that you do not agree with, believe, or would not teach?
19. If you changed your views on any of these doctrines, what would you do?

## MINISTERAL DISCIPLINE

Whereas,

The Bible teaches the manner in which a minister should be Disciplined; and

Whereas,

The Free Will Baptist Treatise clearly outlines the procedure for disciplinary action concerning one of our minister; and

Whereas,

Our churches and district associations tend to be lax in following the Biblical principles and the guidelines set forth in the Treatise in properly disciplining ministers whose character is called into question; and

Whereas,

This brings reproach on the name of Christ and our denomination,

Be it resolved:

That our churches be requested to follow the Scriptures and the Treatise when any need for discipline arises.

That churches exercise wisdom in calling a pastor by properly investigating him.

That the Associations carefully check the credentials of ministers who transfer from another Association before receiving a minister into fellowship.

That each District Association be requested to publish in the State Association paper the names of any ministers whose Credentials have been revoked.

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD**

1. The Christian Education Board shall consist of three men with at least one Pastor: the other two members could be ministers or laymen but at least one must be a Pastor. The committee shall be nominated and elected by the body of the Association during the annual meeting and would be elected on a three year term; one term expiring each year. The senior member serving as chairman. Each Pastor is to select a young person from his church to serve as youth representative to the Christian Education Board.
2. The Christian Education Board along with the youth representatives from each church and the host Pastor shall plan the program of the Youth Rally each month. Youth rallies are suggested to be held each month from September until May on the last Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The Christian Education Board will work with the individual pastors to select sites for the monthly Youth Rallies.
3. The Associational Treasurer will serve as Treasurer for this board.
4. This board shall have approval to spend its monies without prior approval from the Associational body.
5. The Christian Education Board shall report to the Association during the Annual meeting as a matter of accounting and information.

NOTE: This Board should bear in mind that the role of Pastors of our churches is the success of any program they undertake. Their advice should be considered. The local Pastor should be the point of contact on any plans this board may conceive. All correspondence (by letter or phone) should be made to the Pastor in order to seek his wisdom as well as to honor this office. The youth representatives from each church should seek the advice of the Pastor on any plans made and should inform him on any decisions made by the board as a second line of communication.

Minutes for the North AL Association Bi-Annual Meeting  
First FWB Church, Decatur, AL  
April 18, 2015

The 25<sup>th</sup> Bi-annual meeting of the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists opened at First FWB Church, Decatur, with Bro. Clark leading the congregation in singing "Victory in Jesus". Rev. Henry Shellman, pastor, welcomed everyone and Bro. Reeves opened in prayer. Bro. Kenneth Terry presented the morning devotion from John 20 on the importance of "Being There".

Rev. Shellman called the meeting to order and asked for the delegates to be seated. The clerk called the roll. All churches letters received except from Hackleburg. MMS&C to seat the delegates. Blessing on food given by Bro. Russell Detherage.

BREAK

Bro. Clark led the congregation in singing "The Gloryland Way". Bro. Ken Michael opened in prayer.

Minutes and Treasurer's report presented by the assistant clerk. MMS&C to accept as read. Attendance plaque awarded to Madison FWB Church with seven in attendance. Total attendance was 28.

New Business:

Bro. Dennis Reeves made a motion that the following statement be added to the minutes: "Our stand on marriage is that is one man plus one woman, and we will not perform same-sex marriages."

Bro. Richard Hendrix offered a copy of ALCAP documentation for churches to adopt. Bro. Kenneth Terry would like to use this document for the NALFWB Association also. Bro. Henry Shellman suggested to present a constitutional change about the subject at the next meeting.

MMS&C unanimous to accept Bro. Reeves statement into the minutes.

Offering prayer led by Bro. Mike Rogers. Offering received of \$122.00.

Informational reports:

Home Missions: Rev. Hendrix reported on the Revitalization Program. There is an agreement to place a pastor at Eastside Baptist in Dothan. Bro. Billy Bevins will be the Pastor/Missionary there. Bro. Hendrix



also thanked association for prayers on his behalf; he is almost pain free after last surgery.

Children's Home: Bro. Kenneth Terry reported that 39 children were helped last year. There are currently 19 children, 11 girls and 8 boys. They have one Senior currently. Bro. Mike Corley recently resigned. He and Sis. Cathy will be moving to help with the work in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Pray as they make this transition. Bro. Danny Williams will be the acting director. There were 3 salvation decisions made just last month. Lynn Davis has returned to the staff. The Toy Run, held December 6, 2014 raised \$86,000 for the Children's Home.

State Executive Office: Bro. Rodney Yerby gave the report that the Alabama Executive Office is searching for a new Executive Director. Bro. Rick Cash has resigned and will be leaving June 1<sup>st</sup> for a new ministry opportunity. Please be in prayer for this matter and for Bro. Cash.

International Missions: Bro. Rodney Yerby announced the World Missions Offering to take place on April 26<sup>th</sup>. A WMO coin box was passed around to generate excitement about the upcoming WMO. Joshua and Jennifer Detherage: Phyllis Detherage gave report that they will return to the US on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Pray for Mongolia, the doors they may be closing. The school is having major changes as the government is getting involved. ELI-M is having major changes as well. Pray for unity in the ministry there, and safety for the Detherages as they return home.

Castle Rock, CO: Bro. Henry Shellman reported that they are doing well. The membership is increasing and God has opened a door for a better piece of property. Keep Mark and Danielle McCraney in your prayers, as well as Mrs. Walden, Danielle's Grandmother.

Amy Beck, Assistant Clerk, made a motion to give offering to WMO and round it to \$200. MMS&C FWB Historical Commission: Sis. Amy Beck summarized the letter submitted by Dr. Robert Picirilli of the FWB Historical Commission requesting help collecting minutes of all our associational meetings. Information gathered is to be sent through the Associational Clerk or directly to Dr. Picirilli. MMS&C to accept these reports for information.

Special song presented by Sis. Phyllis Detherage "God Wants To Hear You Sing".

Morning message presented by Rev. Dana Booth. Bro. Clark led congregation in singing "Amazing Grace". The text of the message was from Mark 10:17, "Is It worth It?" Every Christian will have to carry a cross.

A standing vote of thanks was given to the host church for their warm hospitality. MMS&C to dismiss. The meeting was closed in prayer by Bro. Dwight Higdon.

Jean McCraney, Clerk

Amy Beck, Asst Clerk

**North Alabama Association Treasurer's Report**  
**April 18, 2015**

**Balance October 1, 2014** **\$ 1,812.52**

Income:

Representation Fees    1,295.00

Offering                      163.00

Total 1,458.00

**\$3,270.52**

Expenses:

Alabama State Assoc.                      1,295.00

US Postal Serv.(Stamps/mailing)                      25.48

AL FWB Children Home                      250.00

Total Expenses \$1,570.48

**Balance March 31, 2015** **\* \$ 1,700.04**

Youth Fund

Balance March 31, 2015                      149.05

**September 30, 2015** **\$149.05**

\*Total includes Youth Fund Balance



PROCEEDINGS OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

October 17, 2015

First FWB Huntsville AL

The 50th annual meeting of the North AL Assoc of FWB convened at the First FWB of Huntsville on October 17, 2015. Meeting began with the song “Victory in Jesus”.

Welcome-given by Rev Dana Booth, pastor of First FWB Huntsville

Response-given by Br Craig McCarley, who also led in prayer.

Devotion was given by Dr Paul Harrison of Madison FWB, from Psalm 27. “No matter our circumstances, the Lord is My God, My Light, My Salvation; so there is no need to be afraid”.

Rev Henry Shellman, Moderator, called the meeting to order.  
Credentials report given by the Clerk. All letters found in order.

Break

Resumed with singing of “Standing on the Promises”.

**Minutes** read by Amy Beck, asst. clerk

**Treas Report** given by clerk, Jean McCraney MMS&C to approve as read.

**Presbytery Comm** Report-given by Br Ron McCraney, chair. The committee has rec’d Dr Paul Harrison’s letter of good standing from the Cumberland Association of TN. Br Cliff Tomlinson’s letter should be received soon. The Comm recommends to accept Dr Harrison and Br Tomlinson into the N AL Assoc, pending reception of Br Tomlinson’s letter from former Association. They also recommended Thomas Lovette be licensed to preach the gospel. All 3 recommendations were dealt with at one vote and a vote of encouragement was given to all 3.

Motion was made to accept or recognize the withdrawal of the Hackleburg FWB from the North Al Assoc. S&C.

A recommendation was read by Rev Dana Booth, that the AL State Exec Director meet the requirement for ordained minister, to meet the qualifications as outlined in I Tim 3:17. After much discussion a

vote was taken and a motion passed (15 for-8 against) to send the following resolution to the State Resolutions Comm:

“Requirements for the qualification of the Executive Director of the State to be established that the Executive Director meets the requirements of I Timothy 3:17”. This is based on the fact that the Executive Director is the “face of Alabama Free Will Baptists” and overseer of pastors; and that he regularly preaches or fills the pulpits in the churches across the state. Meeting these requirements will eliminate unnecessary divisiveness among the brethren.

The attendance plaque was accepted for Madison FWB by Br Harrison. Total of 40 in attendance today.

**AL Executive Comm report** given by Br Ken Michael, who stated the new Al Exec Director, is Br Danny Williams.

**International Missions Report** given by Bro Craig McCarley.

**Children’s Home Report** given by Rev Kenneth Terry. 2 salvation decisions made recently. Mandy Mitchell will be acting director until the board has chosen a new director. 16 children currently on campus.

MMS&C to accept reports.

**Future meeting locations:**

Madison	April 16, 2016
Soul’s Harbor	October 15, 2016
Madison	Nov 24 @6:30 Thanksgiving supper

**Committees for 2016**

**Presbytery**—Rev Paul Harrison, Chair; Rev Dennis Reeves; Rev Kenneth Terry

**Nominating**—Ron McCraney, Chair; Ken Michael, Jerald Wiley

Offering was \$176.00....MMS&C to round up to \$200 and send to International Missions

Congregation was blessed by the Apostles 2 of First FWB Huntsville singing “He Went a Little Farther”, “I Searched for Home”, and “I was born to serve the Lord”.

Speaker: Rev Cliff Tomlinson of Cedar Creek FWB, brought the message for today. Taken from Proverbs 3:5-6 and Daniel 1:1-8, "Are you ready, are you prepared for the changing culture"? God does not change. We, as Christians, cannot be like the world and win the world for Christ.

A rising vote of thanks was given the host church for the wonderful hospitality they have shared.

Closed in prayer by Br Ron McCraney of the First FWB Decatur.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean McCraney, Clerk

Amy Beck, Assistant Clerk

**North Alabama Association Treasurer's Report  
October 17, 2015**

**Balance April 1, 2015** **\$ 1,700.04**

**Income:**

Representation Fees   \$ 600.00

Offering                   122.00

Total 722.00  
**\$2,422.04**

**Expenses:**

International Missions   200.00

Total Expenses           \$200.00

**Balance September 30, 2015** **\* \$ 2,222.04**

**Youth Fund**

Balance March 31, 2015           149.05

**September 30, 2015** **\$149.05**

**\*Total includes Youth Fund Balance**

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH ALABAMA FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

## **ARTICLE I**

This body shall be known as the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists

## **ARTICLE II**

This Association shall be composed of Ministers, Deacons, Clerks, and Delegates from the different churches forming the same. All having full power to vote on all questions which come before the Association. Each church being entitled to (5) delegates, with an appropriate representation fee as specified.

## **ARTICLE III**

This body adopts the Treatise of Faith and Practice of the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

## **ARTICLE IV**

This body shall be composed of churches of the above named Association, together with like bodies of same faith and practice which may be hereafter admitted.

## **ARTICLE V**

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk-Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the nomination and majority of votes by-annually (every two years). Officers thus elected shall hold their positions until their successors are elected. The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

## **ARTICLE VI**

Section 1. It is understood that the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists have no judicial authority over any local church.

## **ARTICLE VI**

Section 2. The North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists and its member local churches do not grant any judicial authority to any representative body to which they may belong.

## **ARTICLE VII**

There shall be an ordaining council elected by the Association to inquire into and examine each applicant for ordination to preach the Gospel of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and make recommendation to the Association for the ordination of said applicant. This council shall be composed of five (5) ordained men.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

The Association shall meet on the third Saturday in April and October.

## **ARTICLE IX**

Section 1. When a church desires that one of its members should be licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel, it requests the Association to examine, by council, such member. The examination for license should refer to the piety, doctrine and convictions respecting the work of the ministry, and the reputation for character and ability of the candidate.

Section 2. The examination for ordination should include all that is required for license and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate.

Section 3. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this Association as a preacher who has more than one living wife.

Section 4. No one shall be ordained as a deacon until he is put on trial by his church for one (1) year.

## **ARTICLE X**

This constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing and tabled in the morning session and voted on during the afternoon session.



\*\*\*\*\*

# **CHURCH COVENANT**

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus 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 live and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to 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 in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and observance of the ordinances of the gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end, we agree to labor for the promotion of education and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*\*\*\*\*