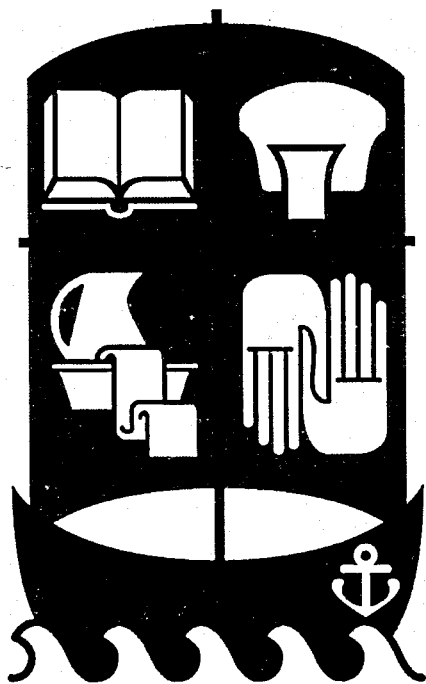


**NORTH ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL
BAPTISTS**



MINUTES 2017

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GENERAL OFFICERS

2017

Moderator

Rev Henry Shellman
5102 Frankford Dr
Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763
(256) 337-5492
hwshellman@gmail.com

Assistant Moderator

Dr. Paul Harrison
120 Pearl Cove Rd
Huntsville, AL 35801
(615) 506-7913
Paulvh57@gmail.com

Clerk

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

Assistant Clerk

Patsy Shellman
5102 Frankford Drive SE
Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763
(256) 337-8397

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
210 Co Rd 1219
Falkville AL 35622
(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
210 Co Rd 1219
Falkville AL 35622
(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 st FWB-Decatur
2008	April 19	Madison FWB
	October 18	Soul's Harbor FWB
2009	April 18	Ebenezer FWB
	October 17	1 st 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 st FWB-Decatur
	October 20	Soul's Harbor FWB
2013	April 20	Madison FWB
	October 19	1 st FWB-Decatur
2014	April 19	Laodicea FWB
	October 19	Cedar Creek FWB
2015	April 18	First FWB Decatur
	October 17	First FWB Huntsville
2016	April 16	Madison FWB
	October 15	Soul's Harbor FWB
2017	April 15	Laodicea FWB
	October 21	First FWB Decatur

ASSOCIATIONAL DIRECTORY

CHURCH

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

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

New Day FWB
13741 431/231 Hwy
Hazel Green, AL 35750

Laodicea FWB Church
276 Co Rd 522
Hanceville AL 35077
(256) 734-8333

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

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

PASTOR

Rev. Cliff Tomlinson
1301 Cedar Creek Church Rd
Hartselle AL 35640
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Rev. Henry Shellman
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Rev Dana Booth
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Rev Dennis Reeves
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Dr. Paul V. Harrison
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Rev. Kenneth Terry
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CLERK

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Harry Pounds
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Patty Dean
504 Forest Dr. NW
Hanceville AL 35077
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Betty Ragsdale
25870 Camden Ct
Athens AL 35613
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Marie Terry
210 Co Rd 1219
Falkville AL 35622
(256) 739-6739
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

Rogers, Michael
202 Patricia Road
Madison, Al 35758
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(256) 508-6482
Michael.rogers5472@gmail.com

McCarley, Craig
609 Corsbie St SW, Apt A3
Hartselle, AL 35640
Cobra.craigmcc@yahoo.com

ORDAINED DEACONS

Cedar Creek

Jerald Wiley
1369 Thompson Rd
Hartselle AL 35640
(256) 773-4608
DJ398@aol.com

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

Bud Hill
3401 Hwy 31 SW
Hartselle AL 35640
(256) 751-9080

Soul's Harbor

Bud Cagle
1939 Co. Rd 1282
Falkville AL 35622
(256) 775-2681

First FWB Decatur

Paul Jones
1306 Benfield Ave
New Bern, NC 28562
(256) 656-0299

Ron McCraney
2304 Warwick Av SW
Decatur AL 35603
(256) 351-1615/
(256) 318-1615
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

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. They 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.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 28TH BI-ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL
BAPTISTS

APRIL 15, 2017

LAODICEA FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Hanceville Alabama

The meeting opened with song, “He Lives”, led by Br Rodney Yerby. Welcome given by Br Dennis Reeves, pastor of Laodicea. Br Reeves asked for all to remember Br Benny and Sis Faye Moore today. Response given by Br Ron McCraney, who led the congregation in prayer.

Br Henry Shellman, moderator, introduced the devotion speaker, Dr. Paul Harrison of Madison FWB, who spoke on Matt. 4:23. “Gospel means-Good news”. Preachers and speakers should speak of the Good news. Why is the message of Christ Good News?

1. God is good
2. God’s Laws are good
3. God’s son, Jesus is good
4. God’s salvation is good
5. God’s will is good

The meeting was called to order by Br Shellman. Only 4 letters from churches were read by the Credentials committee. Others are on the way to clerk.

Break

Song, “Christ Arose”, opened the remainder of meeting, led by Br Rodney Yerby.

Minutes and Treasurer’s reports read. MMS&C to approve.

Delegates seated and offering taken. Offering today was \$140.00 which was suggested to be rounded up to \$200 and given to our speaker for today. Approved by all. 29 present today with 6 churches represented.

Reports:

Br Rodney Yerby gave the State Report and Children's Home Report for Br Danny Williams. 19 children are currently at the home. No dependence or contract with DHR. There are limits to what can be done, by the home tries to help as much as possible. Average length of stay is 5-6 mos. The ministry is an extension of local FWB churches. Home is in solid financial shape at this time. The home is on FB and currently working on a website. 70th anniversary is June 17th. Father to the Fatherless campaign is in June. The annual Toy Run raised over \$100,000 in 2016.

AL State news: April 1, the Bay City FWB went self-supporting. April 2nd saw 123 in attendance! Eastside FWB in Dothan, who is partnered with the Revitalization program, lost their pastor, Br Billy Bevans, who passed away. Board is trying to decide what to do there. Also, the AL Mission Board is trying to decide where to go next with a new work.

A discussion was held on the possibility of changing annual and bi-annual meeting dates of the N AL Association but this discussion ended as this item is addressed in the N AL Constitution.

Br Kenneth Terry reported on the Souls Harbor ministries. He also reported on the Child Safety Act law in the AL State legislature which would require all day cares to be licensed. Br Terry strongly advocated against this and went to the Legislature to present opposition to the bill HB277.

Worship:

Br Thomas Lovett, a senior at Welch College, brought the morning message from Luke and Matthew. The Bible is a prescription for the same people then and now. He brought to mind how Jesus dealt with Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod. They all 3 knew, but did not want this man, Jesus, to be the Messiah.

They all gave in to sin through power, lack of responsibility and desires of the people. Jesus knows it is not easy for us to follow God's word because of our sinful nature. All 3 of these men chose personal gain. Br Thomas challenged us to do our personal best to be different and follow Christ's example.

Closed in prayer

Motion made, Second and carried to adjourn.

**North Alabama Association Treasurer's Report
April 15, 2017**

Balance October 1, 2016 **\$ 2,649.24**

Income:

Representation Fees \$ 1,295.00

Offering 101.50

Total 1,396.50

\$4,045.74

Expenses:

Master's Men Flood Relief 500.00

Refund to Huntsville First 85.00

(Over payment of dues)

Alabama State Assoc. of FWB Dues 1,110.00

Total Expenses \$1,695.00

Balance March 31, 2017 *** \$ 2,350.74**

Youth Fund

Balance October 1, 2016 \$149.05

Balance March 31, 2017 **\$149.05**

***Total includes Youth Fund Balance**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 52nd ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

October 21, 2017

The meeting was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Decatur AL on October 21, 2017. Meeting opened with singing "Are You Washed in the Blood?" led by Br Durvan Clark. Pastor, Henry W Shellman gave the welcome and Rev Dennis Reeves led in Prayer after giving the response.

Dr. Richard Hendrix gave the morning devotion using Luke 18 for the text. "How to Pray for Yourself" and gave the following guidelines:

- 1) For God's Mercy
- 2) For God's Help
- 3) For God's Strength
- 4) For God's Blessings
- 5) For God's Will

Br Shellman called the meeting to order. The Credentials report was given and the delegates were seated.

BREAK

Meeting resumed with singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name". Rev Cliff Tomlinson led in prayer.

Minutes and Treasurer's report was given by the clerk and assistant clerk. MMS&C to receive.

Presbytery Committee Report: Dr. Paul Harrison, Chairman, made a motion to recommend Br Thomas Lovett for Ordination. MMS&C. A round of applause was given by all to encourage Br Thomas.

Motion was also made to adopt the National Association of FWB policy on Marriage, as that between 1 man and 1 woman, according to God's Word. MMS&C

The attendance today was 45 with Cedar Creek receiving the plaque.

Rev Kenneth Terry reported on HB277 in the AL Legislature. The proposal failed. Please continue to pray regarding the concerns put forth in this bill.

Children's Home report was also given by Br Terry. Over 1000 children have been ministered to since 1947 at the home. 22 currently living there now. DHR children are accepted now and the home receives benefits of kids receiving Soc Sec benefits under DHR. Toy Run will be on Dec 2. Director Mandy Mitchell would like to have another residence building built. Skip Sutton has been hired as a Promotional director for the home.

Alabama State Report given by Br Shellman, for Br Danny Williams. Mission projects going through changes. Br Jerry Smith of Northport will assume the pastorate at Eastside in Dothan as part of the Revitalization program. The Athens Project needs our support and encouragement. These are funded through Acts 1:8. This budget is \$570,000. Every church is encouraged to fund 1 day each of \$1,600. Budget is behind by \$27,500 for 2017. Dr. Matt Pinson and Br Jeff Jones are to be speakers for the AL State Association meeting. \$10,000 has been received to assist in Hurricane relief for victims in St Croix Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The Executive Comm made a recommendation to send \$200 to the Virgin Islands to help with the school and church there.

Thanksgiving Supper will be held at Cedar Creek on
Nov 21.

2018 Meetings:

April 21 Madison FWB

Oct 22 First FWB Decatur

Offering of \$132.00 was received and rounded up to \$200.00; designated to go to the Athens Project.

Athens Project:

Sis Melanie Franks was our musician for the meeting today.

Br BJ Eaton reported on the project. Exciting that a deaf interpreter and a hospitality director have already agreed to help with the project due to their burden to see the Lord work in this area. Acts 26:16-18 is the mission statement. Minister and witness and bringing folks to Christ. Br Eaton challenged all churches and individuals to give monthly to Acts 1:8 and to pray for the project.

Bro and Sis Terry gave the special music: "The Old Ship of Zion"

Message:

Rev Joel Franks, of the Athens Project brought the message from Acts 10:9-21, 34, 43&44.

"We don't like Change". We are comfortable in the way things are because we are creatures of habit. We need to move out of our comfort zones. We need to Change! God wants to change us! In these scriptures we see:

- 1) A profound correction -God says "do it" and corrects Peter because even though he had never preached to the Gentiles, He should have known they needed to be preached too.
- 2) A plain command- "Go" and tell the people about Jesus
- 3) A phenomenal conversion-When God changes anyone it is phenomenal, but we all have to change to become what God wants us to be. "Go and Tell someone about Jesus"! It is sin if we do not do this.

Br Dana Booth announced a Launch service at New Day, the former First FWB of Huntsville.

Br Dennis Reeves thanked all for their prayers for Sis Dot and son, Terry Reeves.

MMS&C to Adjourn....Dismissed in prayer by Br Paul Harrison

**North Alabama Association Treasurer's Report
October 21, 2017**

Balance April 1, 2017 **\$ 2,350.74**

Income:

Representation Fees \$600.00

Offering 140.00

Total 740.00
\$3,090.74

Expenses:

Thomas Lovett 200.00

Post Office 15.60

Total Expenses \$215.60

Balance September 30, 2017 *** \$ 2,875.14**

Youth Fund

Balance April 1, 2017 \$149.05

Balance September 30, 2017 **\$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.
