

**NORTH ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL
BAPTISTS**



MINUTES 2018



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GENERAL OFFICERS

2018

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

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

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
2018	April 21	Madison FWB
	October 22	1 st 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

Cultivate Church
100 Highway 31S
Suite K
Athens, AL 35611
(Mission Project)

PASTOR

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

Rev. Henry Shellman
5102 Frankford Dr
Owens Crossroads AL 35763
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Rev Dana Booth
28400 Ferguson Ln
Toney, AL 35773-5413
(256) 929-3453
Dbooth6@mediacom66.net

Rev Dennis Reeves
35 Co Rd 1323
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Dr. Paul V. Harrison
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Huntsville, AL 35806
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Rev. Kenneth Terry
210 Co Rd 1219
Falkville AL 35622
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soulsharborpastor@att.net

Franks, Joel
17455 Parker Rd
Athens, AL 35611
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CLERK

Charlotte Wiley
1369 Thompson Rd
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(256) 616-1987
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Jean McCraney
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Harry Pounds
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Patty Dean
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Betty Ragsdale
25870 Camden Ct
Athens AL 35613
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Bragdsdale2002@yahoo.com

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

Hendrix, Richard (inactive)
128 Lewis Lane
Madison, AL 35758
(256) 337-1981

BJ Eaton
18202 Red Tail Street
Athens, AL 35613
Bjeaton500@gmail.com
(256) 777-8662

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?

MINISTERIAL 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 21, 2018

The meeting was held at the Madison Free Will Baptist Church on April 21, 2018. Rodney Yerby led the congregation in singing, "There's a New Name Written Down in Glory" and the "Family of God" with Carolyn Michael playing the piano. Bro. Paul Harrison, Pastor of Madison, gave the Welcome and Bro. Kenneth Terry, the Response. Bro. Henry Shellman led in prayer.

The devotion was given by Bro. Cliff Tomlinson using the text Proverbs 25:28. "The Spirit Within Us" was his topic. We are to

1. Guard your heart or take care of the spirit inside.
2. Have the right spirit.
3. Have a spirit of obedience.
4. Have a teachable spirit.

Bro. Shellman called the Association to order. The Credentials report was given with six churches reporting along with their dues sent in. The delegates were seated.

BREAK

The meeting was resumed with Rodney Yerby leading "We Will Know We Are Christians" and "Oh, Happy Day".

The minutes were read and accepted with no corrections and the Treasurer's Report was given. MMS&C to receive.

Presbytery Committee Report was given by Bro. Paul Harrison, Chairman. The committee examined Bro. Joel Franks and Bro. B. J. Eaton and made recommendation to ratify their credentials. They could not be here today due to other commitments.
MMS&C

Attendance today was 28 with Cedar Creek winning the plaque. They had 9 of their group in attendance.

Bro. Henry appointed the Nominating Committee for next year. It consists of Ken Michael, Chairman, Bro. Dana Booth, and Bro. Kenneth Terry.

The offering today was \$126.21 and it was decided to send to the WMO. Bro. Paul led in prayer.

Bro. Danny Williams gave the Children's Home Report stating that there are 23 children on campus, 3 staff members' children, and 7 sibling groups out of the 23. Pray for the House Parents and the Camp Schedules for the summer. They will have an Open House on July 14 for an old renovated house on campus. Everyone is invited to attend. They have hired a full-time counselor to be on campus starting May 1.

Bro. Danny then gave the Promotional Office Report.

- 1.) WMO is the last Sunday in April. This is given to different projects around the world. There are envelopes available for this.
- 2.) Bro. Jerry Smith who is the Pastor at Eastside, Dothan for the Revitalization Project is doing a great job. The numbers are good, having new people join the church, having baptisms, and a new WAC group formed. We are thankful for this work.
- 3.) The Athens Project plans to have a launch service in August or September. They have located a building at 100 31 North with a 3 year lease. Pray for an introductory service maybe in June or July.
- 4.) The Mid-South Bible Conference is scheduled for April 25, 26, 27 at the Hamilton Free Will Baptist church.
- 5.) ACTS 1:8 started 20 years ago to help fund our missionaries and state work in Alabama. North Alabama gave \$9,713 to ACTS 1:8 this past year. For the first two months of this year, our Association has given \$4,800.
- 6.) A prayer request was given asking God to strengthen churches. There were some training sessions entitled "Ministry Excellency Training" given last August and last April. The speakers were from Alabama Free Will Baptists. They would like to have more of these for maybe the Birmingham area and the Dothan area.

BUSINESS:

Suggestions made by Bro. Henry:

- 1.) Rotate our churches for Association Meetings
- 2.) Minutes printed and passed out each meeting instead of reading
- 3.) Minutes should be printed and handed out each year at Annual Meeting

These can be discussed the next meeting.

Bro. Henry thanked Madison church and Bro. Rodney for doing the music.

The special music was given by Bro. Rodney. He sang "Oh, Mighty God" before the message by Bro. Dana Booth. He used the text Matthew 25:14-30 with his subject, "Faithfulness". We are to use the Bible as the guide for all times. We expect faithfulness from certain areas in life. God expects faithfulness in many areas. The characteristics of a faithful man or woman.

- 1.) Recognizes God's ownership – time, money, talents
- 2.) Willing to trade – courage to take everything and give it to God
- 3.) Be patient – Jesus will return
- 4.) God give authority – Faithfulness precedes authority
- 5.) Heaven awaits those who are faithful

The meeting was dismissed in prayer.

North Alabama Association Treasurer's Report
April 21, 2018

Balance October 1, 2017 **\$ 2,875.14**

Income:

Representation Fees	\$ 1,110.00
Offering	<u>132.00</u>

Total	<u>1,242.00</u>
	<u>\$4,117.14</u>

Expenses:

State Office (Hurricane Relief)	200.00
Athens Project (Acts 1:8)	200.00
State Association Dues	1,110.00

Total Expenses	<u>\$1,510.00</u>
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Balance March 31, 2018 *** \$ 2,607.14**

Youth Fund

Balance October 1, 2017 \$149.05

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

***Total includes Youth Fund Balance**

MINUTES OF THE 53rd ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FWB

Meeting at the First FWB of Decatur AL

Oct 20, 2018

Meeting opened with the song "I'll Fly Away" led by Pastor, Henry W Shellman, who also gave the welcome. Br Kenneth Terry gave the response.

Devotion given by Br Paul Harrison of Madison FWB from Psalm 91

Subject-He that dwells in the secret place of the most High are in the presence of God

Promise-Will rest in the presence of God and experience a real experience with God

Call to order by Moderator Br Henry Shellman. Roll call by the clerk and delegates were seated. Laodicea was not represented by delegates.

"Surely Goodness and Mercy" led by Br Rodney Yerby.

New Business

Nominating report given by Br Ken Michael, chair:

Br Kenneth Terry-Moderator

Br Paul Harrison-Asst Moderator

Jean McCraney-Clerk

Patsy Shellman-Asst Clerk

Br Shellman asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. MMS&C to elect these

Br Paul Harrison asked for a show of Appreciation be given to Br Henry Shellman for his 4 years of service as Moderator.

Br Ron McCraney made a motion to send \$500 to the Master's Men for disaster relief. MMS&C

Br Kenneth Terry re-elected to serve as North AL member to the Advisory Board of Children's Home. He proceeded to give the report from the home. Home is in sound financial shape. 32 children currently. There is also a full-time counselor now available on campus. Several decisions made for Christ this year. The Thurgood Home has now been updated and open. Toy Run will be 1st of Dec. the last run brought over \$100, 000 into the home. Some discussion held on the interference of government. Br Rodney Yerby explained the State and Fed regulations regarding the home.

Madison volunteered to host the annual Thanksgiving Supper.

Suggestion made to rotate the meetings per Alphabetical order again. Next meeting will be held at Laodicea on April 20. October meeting will be held on Oct 19 at Madison

Br Joel Franks gave a report on Cultivate Church at Athens. 66 in Attendance for the launch service.

Offering taken of \$100. Rounded up to give \$500 to the Athens Project—Cultivate FWB

32 present today, with Cedar Creek getting to take the plaque home (15). This is the 3rd time, so they get to keep this plaque.

Message

Br BJ Eaton of Athens, brought the morning message using Philippians 1:1-18, 19-30

We must be Missional and Intentional. We are all called to share what God has done for us, with others. The apostle Paul is our example. Is it our call to magnify Christ in all we do? In everything we do, are we

being Missional and Intentional to exalt Christ? Others are encouraged by the way we live, when we live our lives as an example of Christ.

**North Alabama Association Treasurer's Report
October 20, 2018**

Balance April 1, 2018 **\$ 2,607.14**

Income:

Representation Fees \$600.00
Offering 126.21

Total 726.21
\$3,333.35

Expenses:

International Missions WMO 126.21

Total Expenses \$126.21

Balance September 30, 2018 *** \$ 3,207.14**

Youth Fund

Balance April 1, 2018 \$149.05

Balance September 30, 2018 **\$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.

NOTES





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.
