

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Thirty-Ninth Annual Session

—OF THE—

**North Florida Free Will
Baptist Conference**

Which Convened With

Saint Johns Church

TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

OCTOBER 11th and 12th, A. D. 1940



Next Session will be held with Pierce Chapel Church,
Gilchrist County, Florida, 11 o'clock a.m. before
the Second Sunday in October, 1941.

Introductory Services by Rev. B. F. Guinn

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OFFICIALS

M. B. HARRIS, Moderator -----Baldwin, Fla.
HERMAN A. GRUBBS, Clerk -----Perry, Fla.
W. R. DORMAN, Treasurer -----Perry, Fla.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. B. LEE -----Bell, Fla.
ALBERT HARTSFIELD-----Tallahassee, Fla.
W. H. EVANS, Chairman -----Bell, Fla.
H. A. TOUCHTON-----Perry, Fla.
J. T. DIXON, SR.-----Perry, Fla.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

J. F. GUINN-----Plant City, Fla.
J. H. CRUCE-----Perry, Fla.
H. G. CRUSE-----Bell, Fla.
J. A. BRUMBY-----Tallahassee, Fla.
R. W. WILSON-----Salem, Fla.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1.—This body shall open after each adjournment with prayer.
- 2.—Call for letters, read and enroll names of delegates and ministers present.
- 3.—Call for Petitionary letters.
- 4.—On election years, elect Clerk, Treasurer, Moderator, etc.
- 5.—Invite visiting Brethren to seats with us.
- 6.—Call for Corresponding Messengers.
- 7.—Appoint Committees as follows: On Preaching, Temperance, Finance, Nominations, Education and Sunday School, Obituaries.
- 8.—Unfinished business.
- 9.—Miscellaneous business.
- 10.—Executive and appointed committee Reports.
- 11.—Treasurer and Ordaining Council reports.

PROCEEDINGS

Of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Session of the North Florida Free Will Baptist Conference, which met with Saint Johns Church, October 11, 1940.

INTRODUCTORY

By Rev. J. H. Cruce. Lesson: Eph. 6:10. Song: Free Waters. Song: Farther Along. Prayer by Brother C. A. Martin. Adjourned for dinner at 1:45 o'clock.

CONFERENCE OPENED

At 2:30 o'clock by ex-moderator, B. M. Brown. Song: Are you Washed in the Blood. Prayers by Brothers W. H. Evans, B. M. Brown and R. W. Wilson. Ex-clerk read Matt. 12:35-37. Letters called for and the following churches responded:

Saint Johns: Delegates: J. W. Courtney, J. D. Clark, Sister Rosa Dorman, Ministers, J. H. Cruce, B. W. Carlton, M. B. Harris, J. G. Mathis (licensed).

Mt. Carmel: Delegates: Wilburn Grubbs, O. A. Simmons, Sister Velma Grubbs, Ministers, J. W. Wilson, R. W. Wilson, Herman A. Grubbs (licensed).

Pierce Chapel: Delegates: B. M. Brown, Perry Oder, W. S. Cruse, Ministers, J. F. Guinn, H. G. Cruse, Z. T. Thomas, Dewey Jones, John Harris and C. H. Rawlins (both licensed).

Petitionary letters called for: Midway Church responded as follows: Delegates: J. T. Dixon, Jr., J. T. Dixon, Sr., Sister M. J. Davis.

Moved and carried that we have 15 minutes recess. Invite visiting brethren. No response. Moved and carried that committee appointing be postponed with the exception of Preaching Committee until Saturday morning. Call for corresponding messengers. No response. Unfinished business, none.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Moved and carried that Ordaining Council be elected as follows: From Pierce Chapel, H. G. Cruse and J. F. Guinn (chairman). Saint Johns, J. H. Cruce; Lake Bradford, J. A. Brumby; Midway, R. W. Wilson.

Moved and carried that each church selects the Executive member she desires. Body elects.

Moved and carried that we give clerk \$7.00 for services.

Moved and carried that we postpone decision of minute printing.

Moved and carried that we discontinue the communion and feet-washing services as a conference rule, but let the hostess church provide for it if she desires.

Brothers W. J. Williams and Grover Touchton accept seats with us in Conference.

Conference adjourned until 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning. Prayer by clerk.

PREACHING FRIDAY NIGHT

Song 38. Prayer by Brother J. H. Cruce. Song 32. Prayer by J. G. Mathis. Preaching by Z. T. Thomas. Lesson: Valuation of Christ. Song: Prepare to Meet Thy God. Prayer by speaker, W. J. Williams. Preaching, Rev. W. J. Williams. Lesson: Ten Virgins. Song: 68. Dismissed through prayer by Brother J. R. Mathis.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Body called to order by Moderator. Song, Just As I Am. Prayer by Brother J. F. Guinn.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Moved and carried that we have 200 copies of the minutes printed.

Ladies Aid Society of Mt. Carmel presented a letter which was accepted and entered in the minutes.

Executive members selected by churches and elected by this body.

Moved and carried that we have 10 minutes for recess.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICES

Song: I Live On. Prayer by Brother B. W. Carlton. Song: Farther Along. Prayers by Moderator and Brother J. H. Cruce. Preaching by Rev. R. W. Wilson. Lesson: Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ. Preaching by Rev. John Harris. Lesson: 1st. chapter of St. John. Song: Holy Manna. Prayer by Brother H. G. Cruse. Dismissed for dinner.

EVENING SESSION

Body called to order by Moderator at 1:30 o'clock. Song: A Wonderful Time. Prayer by Brother John Harris. Moved and carried that we adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That this body ask the churches of the North Florida Conference to consider, and make a special contribution to be kept in our treasury for the purpose of assisting in the expense of organizing and constituting new churches in the territorial boundaries of the North Florida Conference. This fund is to be kept by the treasurer under special account form and to be paid out by order of this body through report of the Finance committee. At the end of a five year period, or over, if there are any accounts to the credit of the churches, and none of the funds been paid out, the amount of account shall be returned, or repaid as aforestated to each church. The five-year period is to begin with the session of 1941.

Moved and carried that we receive and retain Brother W. J. Williams as an ordained minister of this conference.

Moved and carried that we have 15 minutes for recess.

Song: I'll be Satisfied. Prayer by Brother Z. T. Thomas. Reports of committees read and approved as follows: Preaching, Temperance, Finance, Nominations, Education and Sunday School, Obituaries, Executive, Ordaining Council, Treasurer's Report.

Moved and carried that we advise the clerk to prepare a Card of Thanks from this body to the Saint Johns Church.

Moved and carried that we take the parting hand tonight.

Minutes read and accepted.

Moved and carried that we adjourn to meet with Pierce Chapel Church Friday, at eleven o'clock a.m., before the second Sunday in October, 1941.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Song: I'll Be List'ing. Song: Where the Soul Never Dies. Prayer by Brother H. A. Touchton. Song: Holy Manna. Prayer by Brother D. D. Poppell. Preaching by Rev. J. F. Guinn. Lesson: Thou Shalt Not Muzzle the Ox that Treadeth the Corn. Preaching by Rev. B. W. Carlton. Lesson: Humiliation. Prayer by Brother M. B. Harris.

Moved and carried we postpone the commemoration of The Lord's Supper and Feet-Washing. Body takes parting hand and is dismissed through prayer by Brother J. F. Guinn.

SUNDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICES

Songs: His Way With Thee, Let Him In. Prayer by Brother R. W. Wilson. Songs: Who at the Door is Standing; Ready. Prayer by Brother John Harris. Song: Take the Name of Jesus With You. Preaching by Rev. M. B. Harris. Lesson: For We Know That All Things Work Together for Good to Them That Love the Lord. Prayer and then preaching by Rev. H. G. Cruse. Lesson: Everything is to the Best for Them that Love God. Song: Jesus Paid it all. Dismissed, to eat a delicious and bountiful dinner, through prayer by clerk. No afternoon service to be held at the church.

CARD OF THANKS

To the members and friends, especially the Sisters of Saint Johns Church, we do not find words for the expression of our gratitude to you for the Christ-like love and wonderful care you have shown us throughout the session of Conference. We pray God's blessings and richest rewards of Heaven may come to you for this love and kindness shown us.

NORTH FLORIDA FREE WILL BAPTIST CONFERENCE

By Herman Grubbs, Clerk.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

PREACHING—Friday night, Z. T. Thomas and W. J. Williams; Saturday morning, R. W. Wilson and John Harris; Saturday night, J. F. Guinn and B. W. Carlton; Sunday morning, M. B. Harris and H. G. Cruse.

Perry Oder, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE—We your committee report: Temperance has manyfold meanings—Temperate in all our actions; temperate in eating, talking and all earthly conduct of life. Drinking of intoxicating beverages is forbidden to all.

H. G. Cruse, Chairman.

FINANCE—Pierce Chapel, \$3.00; Mt. Carmel: \$5.00, Ladies Aid \$2.00, total \$7.00; St. Johns, \$7.00; Midway, \$3.00. Total sent in, \$20.00.

J. W. Courtney, chairman.

NOMINATIONS—Next session will convene with Pierce Chapel on Friday at eleven o'clock, before the second Sunday in October, 1941. Introductory to be preached by Rev. J. F. Guinn, Plant City.

B. W. Carlton, Chairman.

EDUCATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL—We your committee ask all our members to look well into the interest of literal education and Sunday School activities in our churches.

Z. T. Thomas, chairman.

OBITUARIES—Brethren, the Lord has seen fit to take from our midst Brothers J. V. Harrell, of St. Johns and J. W. Jernigan of Lake Bradford, and Sisters Ada Bonnell and Anne Mae Touchton of Pierce Chapel. We bow our heads in submission to the will of God.

J. G. Mathis, chairman.

EXECUTIVE—There has been no business presented this year.

W. H. Evans, chairman

ORDAINING COUNCIL—We have examined Brother Z. T. Thomas as a minister and have found him orthodox and have issued him a lawful credential letter as an ordained minister of the Free Will Baptist Denomination this day of our Lord, October 12, 1940.

J. F. Guinn, chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in Treasury, Oct. 6, 1939	\$8.50
Received from Conference	\$26.50
Paid Clerk	\$7.00
Paid for Minutes	\$20.00
Total Paid out	\$27.00
Balance in Treasury, Oct. 6, 1940	\$8.00
W. R. Dorman, Treasurer	

Report of Ladies Aid Society of Mt. Carmel from October 6th., 1939 to October 11th., 1940: Present enrollment, 17; Receipts—dues, \$10.86; Funds from suppers, \$54.50; Miscellaneous (donations), \$10.09; Total—\$75.45.

Disbursements: Supper expenses, \$9.94; Church equipment, \$2.94; Paid on piano, \$53.35; Gift, \$1.15; Donation to Conference, \$2.00 Total—\$69.38; balance in treasury, \$6.07.

ACTIVITIES—Bought 1 piano, 1 communion set, 1 note book, 2 lamp chimneys, one gift, sponsored 1 chicken supper, 1 fish supper, 1 cake walk, and 1 ice cream supper. Donated two dollars to the church for conference purposes.

We desire the prayers of all christians, that we may continue this work for the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,
Hazel Graham, President.
Mae Davis, Secretary.

MINISTERS AND POSTOFFICES

J. A. BRUMBY, West Gain St., Market 517	Tallahassee
B. W. CARLTON, Route 1, Box 91	Perry
J. H. CRUCE, Route 1	Perry
H. G. CRUSE, Route 1, Box 55	Bell
J. W. GRIFFIN	Perry
J. F. GUINN, Route 2, Box 245B	Plant City
M. B. HARRIS	Baldwin
DEWEY JONES, Route 2, Box 245B	Plant City
WALTER ROOKS	Tallahassee
M. H. TOUCHTON, Route 4, Box 160	Live Oak
Z. T. THOMAS	Trenton
W. J. WILLIAMS, Route 5	Live Oak
R. W. WILSON, Carbur P. O.	Salem

LICENSED MINISTERS

HERMAN A. GRUBBS	Perry
JOHN HARRIS	Gainesville
J. G. MATHIS	Perry
C. H. RAWLINS	Bell

FINANCE REPORT OF CHURCHES

Church	Paid Pastor	Repairs	Benevolent Funds	TOTAL
St. Johns	\$107.06		\$10.00	\$117.06
Mt. Carmel	\$157.59		\$7.00	\$164.59
Pierce Chapel			\$3.00	\$3.00
Midway			\$3.00	\$3.00

M. B. Harris, Moderator

Herman Grubbs, Clerk

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe, by divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk together in brotherly love.

We, therefore, enter into covenant as members of this Church and as Christians, that we will watch over each other in love, sharing together each other's joys and sorrows; that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor omit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; that in all things we will strive to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice, to abstain from all sinful conformity to the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in all our deportments; that we will abstain from the use and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; that we will sustain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine of this Church; that we will contribute cheerfully, according to our ability, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the general spread of the Gospel.

RULES OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Revised and Amended

The rules for the government of the Church of God are contained in the Holy Scriptures. But as many of them appear to be comprehended in general directions, it is necessary for the better regulations of the Church that certain fixed rules and principles of practice should be adopted, provided those rules are in accordance with the Scriptures of truth, for it is manifest that every religious society or community should make such local and temporary regulations as may secure obedience to the perfect laws by which they are governed.

The Church, therefore, of Jesus Christ being of the Free Will Baptist order, do covenant and agree that four times a year (ev-

ery three months) to assemble for the purpose of holding a godly conference, the members being all present with convenience, then and there the business of the church should be done.

PRACTICES

The Organization of a Church

1. When any number of believers desire to be organized into a Free Will Baptist Church, they are examined by one or more regular Free Will Baptist ministers in reference to their Christian character, doctrines, and ability to sustain a Church. If the examination is satisfactory the applicants are organized into a church as follows: The Bible is presented as the only rule of faith and practice. The Church Covenant recorded in this discipline is adopted. A prayer of consecration is offered, the hand of fellowship is given, then officers are elected.

2. There shall be male members enough to fill the public offices in the Church, in order that a regular discipline may be kept up.

3. After being thus constituted, they shall be at liberty out of the number of regularly ordained ministers to choose a pastor who shall preside over them.

OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

The officers of a church are a board of trustees, clerk, treasurer, deacons and deaconesses, finance Committee, ruling elders, and pastors.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—The duty of the trustees shall be to hold title to all property, either in fee or gift, and to maintain all rights to same, to convey said property in the discretion of a four-fifth majority of those present at a regular quarterly meeting, being previously announced at said church three months prior to said meeting.

CLERK—It is the duty of the clerk to keep a church book and in it record the church Covenant, the names of the members, and all the proceedings of the Church, in the exercise of its discipline and management of its temporal affairs. He also signs all letters and other communications made by authority of the church.

TREASURER—The treasurer shall be entrusted with the funds of the church, and it shall be his duty to keep a regular account of all the money received, and from whom, and make report of the same annually to the church, or oftener if necessary, which funds shall be drawn on the treasurer only by order of Conference.

DEACONS—The deacons are elected for life or during good behavior. They should be men distinguished among their brethren for piety and benevolence. Before entering upon the duties of their office they are ordained by the pastor or other regular ministers. Ordination consisting of charge, laying on of hands and prayer. It

is their duty to serve at the Lord's table, to distribute of the bounty of the Church among its needy members, to visit the sick, to assist pastor in promoting order in attendance upon the means of grace, to see that an efficient scriptural discipline be enforced in the Church, and to conduct religious meetings in the absence of the pastor.

—DEACONESSES—They assist the deacon and finance committee in visiting the sick, in collecting funds and distributing among the needy members, and enforcing proper discipline among the female members.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—These have the general management of the finance of the Church, subject to the Church's control.

RULING ELDERS—The business of the ruling elders, after their qualifications, shall be to settle controverted points between their brethren, if they are informed of any such business, then they shall issue their order and appoint a time and place to meet the parties, and it shall be legal for them to take such testimonies, both in and out of the church, as shall to them seem just and as shall enable them to pass a true and right judgment. They shall be qualified for this office in like manner as the deacons are, and shall serve the Church according to their appointment.

2. When the elders have full information of any matter respecting controversy between their brethren, should they find a fraud intended they shall be at liberty to give the injured party right of common law, and make report thereof to the next Conference, at which time the offending party may be set aside from the Communion till the controversy is settled.

3. If any member shall fly from the judgment of the elders, it shall be open excommunication and it shall be the duty of the pastor to make known such excommunication by declaration of the same before the church.

4. If unable to settle same it shall be returned to the Church for final disposition.

PASTOR—Each Church elects its own pastor out of the regularly ordained ministers, upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the parties themselves. It is the pastor's duty faithfully to preach the Word, to have the general superintendence of the Church, to be himself an example to the flock, to visit the members, especially the sick, as he has opportunity, and to do all within his power to promote the religious interest of the church which he serves, and to advance the cause of Christ among men.

GOVERNMENT

Reception of Members

Any person who gives evidence of a change of heart, professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and has been immersed by a proper administrator, Church covenant read, explained and accepted, is received to membership by a vote of the Church.

From other churches immersed persons are received by letter. No one against whom any valid objection is made is received to membership. When any member objects to the reception of an applicant, the matter is deferred until the Church can ascertain the nature of the objection. If, in the opinion of the Church, the objection is not a valid one, the applicant may be received. Excluded members are received again only when they confess their errors and give evidence of repentance. Persons excluded from other churches are not received, unless it be made evident that they were excluded upon unjustifiable grounds. The hand of fellowship is extended to all who are received into membership of the Church.

DISMISSION OF MEMBERS

Only members in good standing are dismissed from the church and these for no other reason than to unite with some other church. Such members receive letters of honorable dismission and commendation, but are under the watchcare of the same church until they are received into some other. A withdrawal without such letter of commendation is equivalent to excommunication, and treated as such by the church.

PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE

1. Offenses that may require the exercise of discipline are either private or public. Private are such as are from their nature known to very few persons; public offenses include all others. In the case of private individual transgressions the offender is admonished privately by ruling elders and if satisfaction is given the case is carried no further, but if satisfaction is not given, the case is reported to the Church for final action. In case of private grievance in which two or more members are concerned, the aggrieving and aggrieved parties should be brought together by the ruling elders and the matter settled privately if possible. No such case is allowed to come before the Church except as directed in Matthew 18:15-17.

When two or more members are openly at variance, or when a member is walking in a disorderly manner by general report, the Church, through a committee or otherwise, calls the offender or offenders to account, and in the presence of such offenders,

unless they refuse to be present, then in their absence the church examines into the nature of the offense or the character of the general reports; if the parties are found guilty and do not give satisfactory evidence of penitence, after a suitable discipline, they are excluded from the church.

If a member habitually absents himself from the meetings of the church, refuses to bear his proportionate part of the church expenses, or cast his influence against the church, he is admonished by the ruling elders, and if he still persists, his case is brought before the church as one for discipline.

2. If any member by disorderly walk shall be liable to excommunication, yet no church shall be at liberty in the absence of their pastor to declare an unfellowship with any member; yet by the church they may be set aside from the Communion until further satisfaction shall be given.

3. If any member shall be found frequenting the race ground, the ball room, the card table, shooting matches, or any place of disorder without lawful business, such member may be censured by the church, and in such case said member shall make the church satisfaction, or be dealt with as the Conference may think proper.

4 No testimony shall be taken out of the society against members in the society, only in controverted points.

5. If any member shall absent himself from the church on the days of Conference, or times of Communion, he shall be liable to the censure of the Church.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

Each Church meets as often as practicable for the public worship of God. The times of celebrating the Lord's Supper, washing feet, and of business meetings are arranged by each local Church to suit its own convenience.

Generally these meetings are monthly or quarterly, business meetings preceding the Lord's Supper. Each Church is required to observe the ordinances. Feet washing follows the Lord's Supper. Conference or business meetings are opened and closed with suitable devotional exercises. The pastor acts as moderator of the business meetings of the Church. In the absence of the pastor the Church may meet when necessary and attend to ordinary Church business, but no member is excluded in the absence of the pastor. All business meetings are conducted according to certain rules of order.

THE MINISTRY

1. No member of our connection shall be at liberty to take upon himself the public ministry of the Word unless he feels divinely called, and make report of the same to the Church, and if the Church shall be satisfied with qualifications and call of such person, they may grant him license to preach the Gospel, signed by the pastor and clerk. But if the Church should doubt the qualifications of such persons to preach the Gospel, then she may grant him liberty to exercise his gifts by exhortation, each for twelve months.

2. After which, if either of those persons (licentiate or the exhorter) is found useful, the Church may recommend said person to the Ordaining Council, consisting of either three or five members, appointed or elected by each Conference, said recommendation shall be signed by the pastor and clerk of the Church where the applicant holds membership.

3. It shall be the duty of said council to examine such applicant's as may come before them for ordination on the principles and doctrines of the Bible and practices of the original Free Will Baptist Church as set forth in this discipline, and his ability. If he is found worthy, said council shall furnish him with a certificate of ordination, after they have ordained him by fasting, laying on of hands, prayer, a charge, the hand of fellowship, and a sermon. Among his brethren he bears the title of elder.

4. When a minister of another denomination desires to unite with the original Free Will Baptist, he first becomes a member of some Free Will Baptist Church, then, in his case, the proceedings are the same as those in ordaining a licentiate.

5. The minister or elder, for disorder or transgression, shall be dealt with by the Church where his name is enrolled, or by any Church over which he presides as pastor. And it shall be the duty of the Church to call to its assistance two or more elders, at least one, to be a member of the ordaining council and appoint three of her own members, who, with two of the elders, shall form a committee for the purpose of trying the offenders, and if satisfaction is given by the delinquent, the committee may restore him to fellowship and office, but if sufficient satisfaction is not given, the committee shall silence the offender until the next General Conference, and they shall report the case with all the attending circumstances to the General Conference, and the Conference shall appoint a committee of five or more members belonging to their body, and a final decision shall be made.

6. The Church against a minister or elder, shall not receive an accusation but at the mouth of two or three witnesses.—Matthew 18:16.

7. No pastor having the care of any Church or Churches may withdraw from them, neither the Church withdraw from their pastor, without sufficient cause, tried by the Church in general.

8. The pastor shall have liberty to commend any member under his care at any time but in the time of Conference, and shall have the right also to cite any member or members, to the next Conference, when the offense is committed between Conferences.

9. The pastor of a Church or Churches shall have power at any time to call a private conference, and the Church in conference may appoint a committee, if the nature of the case shall require it, and they shall proceed as in all other cases and conferences.

10. Any regularly ordained minister of the original Free Will Baptist shall serve in the Church in the absence of the pastor, in every gospel order required of him by the Church.

11. Elders, ministers and preachers shall be considered members, and their names continue with the Church where they first became members, until regularly dismissed.

INDEPENDENCE OF CHURCHES

Each local Church is a distinct and independent organization, with full authority to manage its own internal affairs, elect its officers, receive, dismiss, discipline and exclude members. But this principle of the independence of each Church is not held as a law of isolation; on the contrary, Churches conveniently situated associate and co-operate in all things which tend to advance the common cause. Councils are, therefore, called in the organization of a Church and the settlement of serious difficulties. On the same principle the Churches meet by delegation in the annual conferences, etc. The annual Conference being the highest tribunal shall have final judgment over the local churches. This discipline can be changed or amended by a four-fifths vote of the members present at all the conferences in their regular sessions.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This shall be the Constitution of the Conferences of the original Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina, viz: Cape Fear, Western, Central and Eastern, or others that may adopt this discipline.

Article 2. The object of the Annual Conference shall be to promote Christ's Kingdom among men by means in strict conformity to the Holy Scriptures.

Article 3. These Conferences shall be composed of the ministers who are members of churches belonging to the body, and of delegates from these churches, each church being entitled to as many delegates as each conference shall think proper.

Article 4. The delegates from each Church shall bear to the Conference a letter certifying their appointment, showing the condition and statistics of the Church and giving a statement of all funds raised during the year for denominational or other benevolent purposes.

Article 5. The officers of this body shall be a moderator, a treasurer, corresponding and recording secretary, who shall be elected for a term of two years, and said election to take place one year prior to their entering upon the duties of said office.

Article 6. This Conference may at each regular meeting, elect as many boards or standing committees as may be necessary in carrying out its benevolent purposes. These shall keep a record of their proceedings and make a report at each regular meeting of the Conference.

Article 7. Any Church desiring to become a member of this body shall present her petition at a regular session of the conference, through delegates appointed for that purpose. If she be received, the moderator shall extend to her delegates the hand of fellowship.

Article 8. The Conference may extend to visiting brethren all the privileges of the body, save that of voting.

Article 9. This Constitution may be amended at any regular session by vote of four-fifths of the members present of the Conference in session.

BY-LAWS

Article 1. A general conference shall be annually held.

Article 2. Every elder, minister and preacher, in good standing, and delegate shall attend.

Article 3. If any member, in the judgment of the conference, shall show anger in his discussion on any subject, he shall forfeit his seat in that conference.

Article 4. No member of the general conference shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the moderator.

Article 5. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.

Article 6. There shall annually be a committee of finance chosen to settle with the treasurer and report to conference.

Article 7. The officers and standing committees shall be entitled to seats in the annual conference.

Article 8. No elder, minister, preacher or delegate shall, during the sitting of the general conference, be at liberty to fill any place, as to preaching or hearing at the stage, only as liberty shall be granted by the conference.

Article 9. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and praise of God.

Article 10. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the moderator and clerk.

RULES OF ORDER

Motions

A motion must be made by one member, seconded by another, and afterwards stated by the Moderator, before it is debated. A motion shall be reduced to writing by the mover at the demand of any one member.

All resolutions shall be submitted in writing.

A motion or resolution may be withdrawn at any time before a decision or amendment by the conference.

Any motion or resolution containing more than one distinct proposition shall be divided, provided the call for a division be sustained by a majority.

No motion to amend shall be in order beyond a motion to amend an amendment.

No amendment relating to a different subject shall be in order.

A motion lost shall not be recorded except so ordered at the time.

Speaking

When a member speaks or offers a motion he shall rise and respectfully address the Moderator, confine himself to the question under consideration, and avoid all personality or unkind and disrespectful language.

When two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the Moderator shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

While a member is speaking no one shall interrupt him except to call him to order, ask leave to explain, or make explanation.

The one allowed to explain shall confine himself strictly to an actual misunderstanding of language which may need explanation. If the speaker yields the floor to another he cannot claim it again.

No member shall speak more than twice, or longer than fifteen minutes at each time, on any question, without leave of the Conference, which leave shall be granted without debate.

All conversation, by whispering or otherwise, which is calculated to disturb the speaker or hinder the transaction of business and passing between the speaker and the chair, shall be out of order.

Committees

Committees shall be nominated by Conference (no member being allowed to nominate more than one on the same Committee), and the nomination then confirmed by vote; or the Committee may be named by the Moderator by request of the Conference.

The member first named on a Committee shall be its chairman to call the Committee together, but after it is convened the Committee may elect its own chairman and secretary.

Any subject under debate, or any matter of business may be referred to a Committee, with or without instructions.

All reports of Committees shall be made in writing, signed by a majority. When a majority report is followed by a minority report from the same Committee the former, after being read, shall lie on the table until the latter is presented, after which it may be considered.

A report of a Committee may be recommitted when necessary for further investigation, or to present it in some more acceptable form. All reports when read shall be considered as properly before the body without a motion to accept.

Voting

Voting shall be done by "AYE" and "NAY," by standing up when a vote is close, or when it becomes necessary to count the affirmative and negative, and in special cases by ballot.

The Moderator, in case of a tie, may cast the deciding vote.

All members should vote on one side or the other unless excused.

No motion, discussion, or other business, shall be admitted while the vote is being taken.

Laying on the Table

Immediate action upon any question may be deferred by laying on the table to special time or indefinitely; in the same way questions may be postponed.

Privilege Questions

When a motion or resolution is before the body the only motions in order shall be: 1st, to adjourn; 2nd, previous question; 3rd, to lay on the table; 4th, to postpone indefinitely; 5th, to postpone to a definite time; 6th, to refer; 7th, to divide if division is admissable; 8th, to amend, to take precedence as herein arranged.

Motions to adjourn, when to adjourn simply, to take the previous questions, and to lay on the table, must be decided without debate.

Filling Blanks

Names suggested for filling blanks shall be voted on in order of their nomination; when different numbers and times are proposed, the greatest number and longest time shall be voted on first.

Reconsideration

A motion to reconsider a motion previously passed must be made by one who voted in the affirmative when the motion passed, and if a vote to reconsider is lost it cannot be renewed during this session.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the father of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes.—1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 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 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; 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; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

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.—Gen. 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 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; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; 1 Tim. 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 contradiction that all men, at one time or other, are found in such a capacity as that through the Grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1 John 5:10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II Tim. 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; Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24:47; 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 the human family, so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teaching; whereas such who do 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 wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:44, 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon them swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved; Therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:4; II. Peter 2:1; Thes. 2:11, 12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any one of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for of such is the kingdom of God.—I Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36, 37; Matt. 19:14.

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.—Rev. 22:14, 15; Isa. 1:19-20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 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 works, 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.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20, 21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting death or 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.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, 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 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22: 19, 20; John 13:5, 17; Jas. 5:14.

16. We believe the gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 2:16; Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 2:38, 39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28, 29; II. Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.

Church	Pastor								Church Sunday (Sat. night before)
St. Johns	M. B. Harris	82							
Mt. Carmel	M. B. Harris	52	8	13					
Pierce Chapel	Z. T. Thomas	53	0	0	0	1	5		
Midway	R. W. Wilson	9							
		Members enrolled							
		No. Baptised							
		No. restored							
		No. by letter (rec.)							
		No. by statement (rec.)							
		No. Dismissed							
		No. Excluded							
		No. Deceased							
		Grand Total	9	47	64	104			

Church	Clerk	Address
St. Johns	W. R. Dorman	Perry, Fla.
Mt. Carmel	Leonard Grubbs	Perry, Fla.
Pierce Chapel	W. M. Conner	Bell, Fla.
Midway	J. T. Dixon, Jr.	Perry, Fla.

Churches Not Represented:

Mt. Willing
Pine Level
Knights Chapel
Lake Bradford