

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
NORTHEAST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

CONVENED WITH
First Free Will Baptist Church

Saturday, October 19, 1957



The Next Session Will Be Held With
FRIENDSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
at MANDARIN, FLORIDA
Saturday, October 18, 1958

PRESIDING OFFICERS

Rev. W. A. Hansley Jacksonville, Florida
2830 Edison Avenue

Argent Steedly Jacksonville, Florida
1611 Perry Street

OFFICERS: 1957-1958

Rev. W. A. Hansley, Moderator
2830 Edison Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida

Rev. J. C. Jamison, Assistant Moderator
2110 Forest Hill Road, Jacksonville, Florida

Argent Steedly, Clerk
1611 Perry Street, Jacksonville, Florida

Rev. Q. Hansley, Treasurer
5856 Timuquana Road, Jacksonville, Florida

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. W. A. Hansley Jacksonville, Florida
Rev. J. C. Jamison Jacksonville, Florida
Argent Steedly Jacksonville, Florida
Clifford H. Andreu Jacksonville, Florida
D. L. Salyers Jacksonville, Florida

ORDAINING COUNCIL AND CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Rev. D. E. Bias Jacksonville, Florida
Rev. Q. Hansley Jacksonville, Florida
Rev. J. C. Jamison Jacksonville, Florida

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

F. W. McCann Jacksonville, Florida

MINISTERIAL ROLL

Rev. D. E. Bias, 3480 Commonwealth Ave., Jacksonville, Fla.
Rev. C. N. Burroughs 514 Nixon St., Jacksonville, Fla.
Rev. G. W. Burkett 1617 E. 12th St., Jacksonville, Fla.
Rev. W. A. Hansley 2830 Edison Ave., Jacksonville, Fla.
Rev. Q. Hansley 5856 Timuquana Rd., Jacksonville, Fla.
Rev. J. C. Jamison, 2110 Forest Hills Rd., Jacksonville, Fla.
Rev. J. O. Morgan 2285 Orchard St., Jacksonville, Fla.
Rev. W. G. Turner 5856 110th St., Jacksonville, Fla.

Church	Pastor	Clerk & Address	Members Received	Dismissed	Died	Total Membership	Paid Pastor	Funds to Ass'n	Meeting Days
First of Jacksonville	D. E. Bias	Bithey M. Wilcox 2947 Thomas St., Jacksonville, Fla.	8	1	2	70	\$2310.00	5.00	Full Time
Friendship	J. C. Jamison	Elizabeth Steel Rt. 6, Box 293 Mandarin, Fla.	4	0	0	27	.00	10.00	Full Time
Liberty	Geo. W. Burkett	Mamie Anderson 2372 Orchard St. Jacksonville, Fla.	0	0	0	0	.00	.00	Full Time
Unity	W. A. Hansley	W. L. Collins 218 Shortreed St. Jacksonville, Fla.	31	5	1	253	3850.00	10.00	Full Time
110th St. Mission	W. G. Turner	Mrs. Q. Hansley 5856 Timuquana Rd. Jacksonville, Fla.	5	0	0	22	.00	3.00	Full Time

PROCEEDINGS

The Third Annual session of the Northeast Florida Association of Free Will Baptist met at First Free Will Baptist Church, 3480 Commonwealth Avenue, at ten o'clock Saturday morning, October 19, 1957.

Morning Session

The session was opened by singing Hymn No. 50, "The Old Rugged Cross," conducted by Rev. J. C. Jamison. Opening prayer by Bro. F. W. McCann. The meeting was called to order by the Clerk. Introducing the Moderator Rev. W. A. Hansley, who in the message emphasized the theme for the day, "Pressing Forward," found in Phill. 3rd Ch., 14th verse. After the moderator's message, Rev. J. C. Jamison brought the morning devotion, basing his talk from the 9th Ch. of Luke, Verses 51 & 52, which was very interesting. The welcome address was given by Rev. D. E. Bias, pastor of host church.

The response was given by Rev. Q. Hansley, Associational Treasurer. The letters were called for and delegates enrolled as follows: (Moted and carried that each pastor appoint delegates in place of those that were absent.)

First Free Will Baptist Church: Sis. Morgan, Sis. Hunt, Sis. Bias, Sis. Vreeland, Sis. Devers; Friendship Free Will Baptist: Sis. Pearl Chase (Sub. Lovey Andreu), Sis. Steele, Sis. Carolyn Chase, Sis. Mamie Andreu, Sis. Lila Jones; Unity F. W. B. Church: Sis. E. Hansley, Bro. Virgil Crosby, Sis. K. Collins, Sis. Ann Salyers, Sis. Eula McCann; 101st St. F. W. B. Church: Sis. J. E. Colclasure.

The Delegates from the Quarterly Meeting: Unity: Bro. Geo. Nukirk (Substitution Sis. Mullis); Friendship: James Chase; 110 St. F. W. B. Church: Bro. J. E. Colclasure; First Church: Sis. T. O. Morgan; Liberty: Sis. Mamie Anderson. Motion made and carried to seat delegates.

Ministers and Deacons recognized at this time. Ministers: Rev. D. E. Bias, Rev. C. N. Burroughs, Rev. O. Hansley, Rev. W. A. Hansley, Rev. J. C. Jamison, and Rev. T. O. Morgan. Also Rev. W. G. Turner, who recently came from Union Association, Georgia. Deacons: Bro. J. L. Alligood, Bro. W. M. Andreu, Bro. W. L. Collins, Bro. F. W. McCann.

At this time the Executive Board minutes were read M. S. C. to adopt minutes as read. M. S. C. to adopt program as outlined. At this time visiting members were called and recognized: Bro. C. E. Devers, Cumberland Association, Tenn.; Sis. Coffman, Jacksonville, Fla.; Rev. W. G. Turner, Union Association, Ga.; Bro. M. M. Franks, Little River Association, Ga.

Call for Corresponding Messengers. None reported.

M. S. C. that the Moderator, Rev. W. A. Hansley, appoint the necessary committees:

Finance Committee: Bro. J. E. Colclasure, Bro. Virgil Crosby, Rev. Q. Hansley; Digest Committee: Bro. W. L. Collins, Sis. Genevieve Freeland, Sis. T. O. Morgan, Committee on Committees: Rev. T. O. Morgan, Sis. Elizabeth Steele, Sis. Ann

Salyers.

Since the congregation had been sitting for awhile, the Moderator suggested that Bro. Fortner lead in a congregational hymn. Song No. 57 selected, "When Morning Comes," followed by a couple of songs sang by a special group consisting of L. W. Fortner, M. M. Franks, W. M. Andreu, Maggie Bias, C. H. Andreu, with Sis. Godwin at the piano. Then another congregational hymn No. 85, "All Alone." The Moderator then turned the meeting over to Rev. W. G. Turner for the noon day message. Using "Pressing Forward" as his text, found in Phill. 3rd Ch. 13 & 14 verses. After a very wonderful message, the Moderator asked that the music director sing No. 221, "Ready to Suffer." Dismissed in prayer by Rev. J. C. Jamison.

Announcement

It has been requested that information concerning the time and location of our Quarterly Meeting (or Quarterly Conference), the following is scheduled "alphabetically":

Dec. 28, 1957, (Past), Liberty Free Will Baptist Church; March 29, 1958, Unity Free Will Baptist Church; June 28, 1958, First Church of Jacksonville Free Will Baptist Church; August 30, 1958, Friendship Free Will Baptist Church; November 29, 1958, 110th Street Free Will Baptist Church.

Evening Session

The Moderator, Rev. W. A. Hansley, called the meeting to order and asked Bro. Fortner to lead the congregation in a song. No. 18 was selected, "Home of the Soul." Opening prayer by the Rev. D. E. Bias. After the prayer, Sis. Edith Hansley and Sis. Jewel Hansley sang a duet entitled "Others," that was very beautiful. Rev. C. N. Burroughs brought the devotion from Matt. 6th Ch., 3rd through 9th verses, using as his topic, "What are we praying for?" which was sincerely and earnestly spoken.

M. S. C. to receive an offering for the benefit of the Association. Rev. J. C. Jamison and Bro. D. L. Salyers collecting. After which the special group of singers sang two very fine numbers.

The report of the committees were at this time called for.

Digest Committee: M. S. C. to adopt. See Report.

Finance Committee: M. S. C. to adopt. See Report.

Christian Education: M. S. C. to adopt. See Report.

Support of Ministry and Sunday Schools: M. S. C. to adopt. See Reports.

Obituary and Destitution: M. S. C. to report. See Report.

Superannuation and Denominational Literature: Apology by Rev. D. E. Bias.

Treasurer's Report: M. S. C. to adopt. See Report.

Ordaining Council. No Report.

Credential Committee's Report: M. S. C. to adopt. See Report. To adopt as information.

Board of Education. No Report.

M. S. C. to appoint Rev. C. N. Burroughs to act in place of Rev. S. H. Caudill, deceased.

M. S. C. that the board of education be given the responsibility of compiling this report and reporting same to the State Association when it convenes. The chairman, Rev. J. C. Jamison, asked the Board to meet him at 7:30, Thursday evening, Oct. 24th, 1957.

M. S. C. to take Rev. G. W. Burkett's motion off the table, which was, "That all ministers coming from other Associations go before the Credential Committee, and that this ruling be written into our Constitution and By-Laws. M. S. C. to adopt.

The Credential Committee being absent, Bro. Fortner was asked to lead the congregation in song, No. 178, "Wonderful Jesus" being selected.

M. S. C. to put 5 on Ordaining and Credential Committee. Motion lost.

At this time the election of officers was called for. The Moderator then declared the floor open for nomination of Moderator. Those nominated: Rev. W. A. Hansley, Rev. J. C. Jamison. M. S. C. that nominations be closed. Rev. Hansley excused himself. Bro. W. L. Collins acting as Moderator. Rev. W. A. Hansley elected by majority vote.

Nominations for Assistant Moderator declared open. Rev. J. C. Jamison nominated. M. S. C. that nominations cease. Rev. Jamison elected by acclamation.

Nominations for Clerk: Sis. Argent Steedley, Sis. Jewel Hansley. M. S. C. that nominations cease. Sis. Argent Steedley elected. Majority vote.

Nominations for Treasurer. Bro. W. L. Collins, Rev. Q. Hansley. M. S. C. to cease nominating. Bro. Collins stated that press of business demanded that he decline the nomination. Rev. Q. Hansley elected.

Nominations for Two Lay Members for the Executive Committee. Those nominated: Bro. D. L. Salyers, Bro. J. L. Alligood and Bro. C. H. Andreu. M. S. C. that nominations cease. Bro. Salyers, Bro. Andreu elected.

M. S. C. that Ordaining and Credential Committee be the same for coming year. Director of Music: M. S. C. to let the Host Church furnish the music and the director. Publicity director, Bro. F. W. McCann elected by acclamation.

The moderator asked that all announcements be made at this time.

M. S. C. to adjourn. Song: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." Dismissed with prayer by Rev. T. O. Morgan.

Rev. W. A. Hansley, Mod.
Clifford H. Andreu, Clerk

REPORT ON COMMITTEES

August 16, 1957

We, members of the 5658 110th Street Free Will Baptist Mission, met in business session and decided to ask the Executive Committee of the Northeast Florida Association of the

Free Will Baptist to be present August 24, 1957. Purpose: To set in order 5658 110th Street Free Will Baptist Mission as a church.

Rev. Q. Hansley, Moderator
Mrs. Q. Hansley, Clerk

August 24, 1957

The Executive Committee was called into a special meeting to sit with the Mission Board and members of the 110th St. Mission to transact two items of business. There were some ladies present who were welcomed to the meeting. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Mission Board, Rev. Q. Hansley. Led in an opening prayer by Rev. J. C. Jamison. After a general discussion as to ways and means of persuading people to come to Church. The meeting was turned over to the Executive Committee Chairman, who offered up a prayer in behalf of the business that we were about to enter into.

All the board members were present except Bro. J. L. Harvey. The first item of business was the Board of Education which was delegated to the N. E. Fla. Association by the State Association, moved and carried that the Chairman appoint a board of five. Those appointed: Unity, Bro. W. L. Collins; First, Rev. D. E. Bias; Friendship, Rev. J. C. Jamison; Liberty, Rev. C. N. Burroughs; 110th St. Mission, Rev. Q. Hansley. Rev. J. C. Jamison to act as temporary Chairman.

The second item of business, changing the status of the mission into that of a Church. The Chairman then read a letter from the Mission, "while in regular conference" requesting the Executive Committee to effect this change. The board was then invited to examine the members present. Rev. J. C. Jamison began the questioning followed by B. S. Craven. It was brought out that the Mission was sponsored by Unity F. W. B. Church, who would lend Deacons or whatever help was necessary. Moved and carried to uphold the F. W. B. Treatise. Motion by Bro. B. S. Craven, seconded by Rev. J. C. Jamison that the committee go ahead and set up the organization as requested. Rev. J. C. Jamison was asked to read the Church Covenant, which was moved and carried to accept. Bro. C. H. Andreu was asked to present the Bible to Rev. Q. Hansley as our only Rule of Faith and practice, after which Bro. B. S. Craven led us in a prayer of Consecration. The Chairman Rev. W. A. Hansley then read Acts 1, 8 and Matt. 28, 19-20, charging the membership as to their duty. The Committee at this time extended the hand of fellowship to each member present. Moved and carried that the name of the Church would be "5658 110th St. Free Will Baptist Church." Moved and carried to adjourn. Song, "Bless Be The Tie That Binds." Dismissed by prayer by Rev. Q. Hansley.

Rev. W. A. Hansley, Chairman
Clifford H. Andreu, Clerk

October 15, 1957

The Executive Committee was again called into session by

the Moderator, Rev. W. A. Hansley, for the purpose of outlining a Program for the Association. Opening prayer by Rev. J. C. Jamison. Those present: Rev. Hansley, Rev. Jamison, Bro. Craven, Bro. Andreu. After some discussion, the program was outlined. The Moderator being so kind as to volunteer to print them. Was decided to use as a theme for the day, "Pressing Forward." After some discussion of correspondence from Charles Brown of Elizabeth City, N. C., was decided to give him a letter from the Northeast Florida Association. No further business motioned and carried to adjourn. Dismissed in prayer by Bro. Craven.

Rev. W. A. Hansley, Mod.
Clifford H. Andreu, Clerk

Committee on Committees

We your Committee on Committees recommend the following: Christian Education & Missions; First Church of Jax.; Support of Ministry & Sunday Schools; 110th Street Church; Obituary & Destitution; Unity F. W. B. Church; Resolutions & Temperance; Friendship F. W. B. Church; Superannuation & Denominational Literature; Liberty F. W. B. Church.

We recommend that each church appoint a committee of three (3) to report to the next Associational Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
(Mrs.) Elizabeth Steele
(Mrs. Ann Salyers

Ordaining Council and Credential Committee

We, your Credential Committee, having examined Rev. W. G. Turner and finding his ordination papers in order, do hereby recommend that he be received under the watch care of the Northeast Florida Association, pending his letter from his local church and Association. When notified that his letter has been placed in one of the local churches, into full fellowship with the association.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. D. E. Bias
Rev. Q. Hansley
Rev. J. C. Jamison

Treasury Report of Northeast Florida Association

Balance brought forward Oct. 30, 1956	\$ 92.56
Special offering Home Missions, May 15, 1957	9.49
Received, October, 1957	54.46
Total	\$156.51
Disbursements:	
January 9, 1957 Minutes	\$ 83.14
November 2, 1957	\$10.00
May 15, 1957 National Home Mission Board	9.49
Total	\$102.63

Balance in Treasury: \$53.88

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Q. Hansley, Treasurer

Christian Education and Missions Committee

We, your Committee on Christian Education and Missions, wish to report as follows: The Churches, and Quarterly Meeting of this Association has for the past year conducted two Bible Schools costing approximately \$146.00. There were about twenty-five (25) young people that attended the Florida Youth Camp. The Churches have supported Mission to the following extent: Foreign Missions, \$29.94; Home Missions, \$19.00. Also the Quarterly Meeting sent \$40.00 to the Florida State Unified Budget; \$10.00 to National Cooperative Program. We commend them for their effort, and pray that each will put forth a greater effort in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

(Mrs.) J. E. Cloclasure

(Miss) Jewel Hansley

Finance Committee

We, your Finance Committee, find from previous records a balance of \$.58 with a collection of \$54.46, making a balance of \$53.88 for associational purposes. We recommend that Northeast Florida Association send \$10.00 to the Florida State Association and that cost of printing the minutes be deducted from this amount and that the balance be held in treasury for other associational purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. J. E. Colclasure

Mr. Virgil Crosby

Rev. Q. Hansley

Digest Committee

We, your Digest Committee, find of the four churches reporting the following: Total Membership (372). Received by Baptism (23). By Letter (18). Restored (1). By Profession of Faith (6). Members Lost (9). By Letter (6). Expelled (0). Died (3).

Condition of Sunday School, total enrollment (301). No. of Officers (11). No. of Teachers (27). Average Attendance (186). Total Offerings for Year \$3247.34. Amount spent for Literature \$601.02. Paid Pastors \$6160.00. Paid Evangelist \$450.30. Home Missions \$19.00. Foreign Missions \$29.94. Building and Repairs \$2248.65. Misc. \$2545.10. Bible College \$6.00. Literature \$731.50. Mortgages \$995.34. Total Paid Out \$13,336.64. Value of Church Property \$48,000.00. Two Leagues Reporting a Membership of (116). Average Attendance (84). Offerings \$514.99. Paid for Literature \$154.10. Two Woman's Auxiliaries Total Membership (39). One YPA Membership (12). Total Collection \$868.96. Total Paid Out \$217.07. Condition of Prayer Meeting: Good.

Respectfully submitted,

(Mr.) W. L. Collins

(Mrs.) Genevieve Vreeland

(Mrs.) T. O. Morgan

Ministry and Sunday Schools Committee

We, your committee, find all churches have pastors, except one (Liberty) and we mourn with them, at the loss of their pastor, Rev. S. H. Caudill. We stand ready to aid them in securing a pastor. Our thanks to Rev. C. N. Burroughs for his labor at Liberty. All the Churches have Sunday Schools. We commend them for their efforts. The Sunday Schools seems to be the strong arm of our churches.

W. L. Collins, Clerk
Unity F. W. B. Church

Resolutions & Temperance

No Report.

Superannuation & Denominational Literature

No Report.

Obituary Committee

We, your Obituary Committee, find the following members have expired during the past year.

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Lander Mercer

Jasper F. Williams

Feb. 16, 1957

Nov. 15, 1957

UNITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. C. J. Pitts

Jan. 3, 1957

LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. S. H. Caudill

Sept. 20, 1957

We recommend that the Congregation stand for a moment of silent Prayer in memorial to them.

Respectfully submitted,

(Mrs.) Elizabeth Steele

(Mrs.) Pearl Chase

(Mrs.) Mamie Andreu

FAITH and PRACTICES OF THE FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Articles of Faith

1. **The Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the true Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. **The Government of God.** God Exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **The Sinfulness of man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature, of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin, and become guilty before God.

7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. **Freedom of the Will.** The human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. **Perseverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere on holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. **Gospel Ordinances.** BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." (1 Cor. 16:2).

15. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. **Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away unto eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn Covenant.

We promise, by His Grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all 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 the study of the scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling ourselves together for Church Conferences, public worship, and the 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 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, 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 in society,

constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, 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.

THE CHURCH AND ITS ORGANIZATION

Organization

When several believers wish to be organized into a Church, they request a Council of a quarterly meeting or Association, which examines into the Christian character, doctrine, and fellowship of the applicants, and their ability to sustain a Church. If the examination is satisfactory, the organization proceeds as follows:

1. The Bible is presented as the only Rule of faith and practice.
2. A Church Covenant is adopted.
3. A Prayer of Consecration is offered.
4. The hand of fellowship is given by the Chairman of the Council.

When a Church already organized, or a Church from another denomination, wishes to unite with the Free Will Baptist denomination, a council is called the same as for the organization of a Church.

Officers of the Church

The Church then proceeds to elect its officers, which are a Clerk, a Treasurer, a Pastor who acts as moderator in all Church meetings, and a Board of Deacons, who, with the Pastor, Clerk and Treasurer, constitute a committee to promote order, activity, attendance on the means of Grace, and efficient discipline of the Church. Deacons should possess sound piety, good business capacity, and large benevolence; they should be ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands by the Presbytery; they hold office at the pleasure of the Church during the maintainance of Christian Character, faithful service, and sound doctrine; they assist at baptism and the Lord's Supper, have care of the poor, and conduct religious meetings in the absence of the Pastor.

Meetings of the Church

1. Public worship upon the Lord's Day is to be faithfully observed and punctually attended.
2. A monthly Church conference, or covenant meeting is established, at which every member, or so far as practicable, should report personally or by letter.
3. Weekly meetings appointed for prayer and conference should be regularly attended by the Church; in these meetings all are at liberty to participate, regardless of office, age, sex or condition.
4. Meetings for business are held once in three months, generally two weeks before each session of the quarterly meeting, but items of business may be introduced and attended to at any regular meeting.

of the Church.

(a) In these meetings, if the Pastor is not present, a Moderator is elected; and if the Clerk is absent, a Clerk Pro Tem is elected.

(b) No conversation or discussion is proper upon any subject distinctly before the meeting by a regular motion, properly sustained.

(c) If members are to be tried for misconduct, written notices of the charges and specifications of the same should be furnished to those accused, at least one week before the trial.

(d) If the charges are not confessed, the trial proceeds in regular order by the presentation of testimony, without personal disputation, or remarks from those not Church members.

(e) Questions of fellowship, expulsion and all other items of business of the Church shall be settled by a vote of the majority present, and this action shall be final provided public announcement of the intended action is made at the last regular meeting, and the quarterly meeting has no power to reverse it, but may, if deemed necessary, withdraw the hand of fellowship from a Church as a whole when its action is inconsistent with sound doctrine of Christian policy.

Duties of the Church

1. The Ordinances of the Gospel are administered by ordained ministers, baptism as soon as practicable after conversion, and the Lord's Supper and feet washing at stated times, as fixed by a vote of the Church.

Every Church should sustain a Sunday School, the officer and teachers of which should be acceptable to the Church and generally members of it. (Note—For standard Sunday School, information can be obtained through the National Sunday School Secretary)

3. Churches should recognize and arrange, as far as possible, to do all kinds of work for Christ that are possible in all communities. To this end, every church member should be designated for some department of the Church work, and should accept such department as his special assignment.

4. Congregational singing is to be preferred and encouraged under the efficient direction of a choir or a leader.

5. Every Church should provide for the support of its Pastor and other expenses, each member contributing thereto, tithes and offerings.

Government of the Church

1. The local Church is an independent body, so far as relates to its own government, the transaction of its business, the choice of its officers, and the discipline of its members.

2. Persons who believe the Truth as it is in Christ, and give evidence of true Piety, are, upon examination or recommendation, received into membership according to regular methods of the local Church and upon condition of Baptism.

3. Persons expelled from sister Churches for any cause or from

any Church for immorality, should not be received to fellowship without first giving satisfaction to the Church from which they are expelled.

4. The hand of fellowship is given by the Pastor, or other minister, to all persons on their reception by the Church, but it is not essential to Church membership.

5. Christians not eligible to membership in the Church, be recognized as in Christian fellowship and invited to participate in social and public worship, Sunday School work, missionary enterprise, and evangelistic work.

6. Letters of commendation are granted to members in good standing, who wish to change their Church relationship.

7. Ministers are received and dismissed by letter as other members, except when they come from, or go to another denomination, in which case a council of ministers should be called to advise respecting the action contemplated.

8. It is the duty of the Church to unite with some quarterly meeting or Association, and to report regularly by delegates and letter in form given in the Treatise. Such reports should definitely answer the following questions:

(a) What is the attendance and degree of interest in public worship, and in prayer meetings?

(b) How many are connected with the Sunday School?

(c) What provision is made for books and papers in the Sunday School?

(d) What is the average annual amount per resident member paid for home missions, foreign missions, superannuation, and the cause of education?

(e) Have you a stated Pastor who has the Certificate of Ministerial Standing from the yearly meeting or annual Association? What is the amount paid for the support of the Pastor, and expenses for public worship?

(f) Are there any special demands or encouragements for Church work?

(g) After the first session of the Quarterly Meeting after the first day of January of each year, the report should give the exact statement of the statistics as required for the records of the preceding year.

(h) Churches, or other bodies, are expected to elect as delegates members of the respective bodies represented.

Discipline of the Church

1. Public offences and trials are to be settled according to Matthew 18:15-17. Public offences are to be considered as against the Church, which by its officers, is to pursue the same course as required in the case of individuals.

2. When a minority of a Church is aggrieved, a Council may be called by mutual agreement, or requested of the Quarterly Meeting. Such Council may be called simply for advice, or as a board of arbitration, whose decision shall be final.

3. When a member without providential reasons, absents himself from the meetings of the Church, or refuses its support for one year,

it is considered a violation of the Covenant, and sufficient reason for dismissal.

4. Ministers who are subjects of discipline for unchristian conduct or for doctrine contrary to the Articles of Faith as set forth and believed by Free Will Baptists shall be tried according to Matthew 18:15-17, providing charges are made for public or private offenses, by any ordained Minister, who is in good standing in his respective Church and Association. When such charges are presented in writing, properly signed, or by the Church through it's official board, in which the Minister holds membership or by a Church which the said Minister is Pastor, providing all charges are duly signed by the presenter, or prosecutor.

(a) If the accused is dissatisfied with the decision of the Board or Committee who tries his case, he shall have the privilege to appeal to the Annual Conference or Association for consideration of the charges as preferred, and in case the higher body sustains the decision of the Committee or Council, the case is settled accordingly.

THE MINISTRY

Relation to the Church

1. Every Pastor is expected to be a member of a Church under his care, and no person is recognized as a member or minister of the denomination who is not a member of some Church in regular standing in the denomination.

2. When a Church desires that one of it's members should be licensed or ordained to preach the gospel, it requests the Quarterly Meeting or Association of which it is a member to examine, by Council, such member. The examination for License should refer to the piety and doctrines, the convictions and purposes respecting the work of the ministry, and the reputation for character and ability of the candidate, and his present and prospective educational and professional qualifications. The examination for ordination should include all that is required for License, and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate, and his attainments of English education, Doctrinal and Pastoral Theology, and Homiletics.

3. A Minister from another denomination wishing to unite with the Free Will Baptist denomination must make application to a Church which requests action of the Quarterly Meeting or Association the same as for License or Ordination.

ASSOCIATION'S CONSTITUTION

Article I.

This Association shall be called the Northeast Florida Association of Free Will Baptist, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well disciplined Free Will Baptist Churches and Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this Constitution.

Article II.

The conference of this Association shall consist of five delegates from each Quarterly Meeting and five delegates from each Church.

Article III.

The officers of this Association shall be a standing Clerk and Treasurer, and a Moderator who shall be chosen at every session of the Association, with assistants as may be found necessary.

Article IV.

Any well organized and well regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting composed of such Churches as conform to the practices, and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination, as published in the Treatise of their faith, and in the minutes of the National Association, and are in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time on application by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

Article V.

The Association shall have power to discipline the Quarterly Meeting of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walk if labor proves unsuccessful, but in no case to reverse their decisions, nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

Article VI.

The sessions of this Association shall be held the Saturday before the third Sunday in October at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings and the Churches of which this Association is composed to represent themselves by letter, and delegates and report their standing, prospects and statistics; at which time the Association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to it by it's respective Quarterly Meeting and Churches, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor to the practices of the denomination, as in it's judgement may promote the cause of Christ and the interests of the Churches and Quarterly Meetings within the limits of this Association.

Article VII.

This Association shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-laws, by two-thirds of the majority of the body present, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of it's session.

Article VIII.

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the body present at any regular session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing and recording at the previous session.

Article IX

Any Minister coming from another Denomination, or other Free Will Baptist Association, shall go before the Credential Committee and be examined as to their respective association, their doctrinal beliefs and their ability to carry on in the work.