

MINUTES
OF THE
NINETY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
OLD MOUNT ZION ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

Cottage Hill Church, August 9th and 10th, 1940.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Eld. W. E. Bland,	La Rue, Ark.
Clerk,	H. R. Neely,	La Rue, Ark.

The next Annual Session of this Association will be held with Mt. Zion Church, beginning at ten o'clock a. m. on Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1941.

Eld. W. E. Bland to preach the Introductory Sermon; Eld. Bill Oxford, alternate.

Free Will Baptist Gem Print, 211 Bond St., Monett, Mo.

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PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Ninety-Ninth Annual Session of Old Mount Zion Association of Free Will Baptists, held with Cottage Hill Church, August 9 and 10, 1940.

Association was called to order by the Moderator, Eld. W. E. Bland.

Scripture reading, Psalms 37:1-11.

Song, "Amazing Grace."

Prayer by Eld. J. W. Allred.

Introductory sermon by Eld. George Been; Scripture reading Psalms 133. Text: 2nd Corinthians.

Letters were then called for, and all churches responded as follows:

Mt. Zion — Charley Bagwell, Floyd Ingram, and Robert Puryear.

New Hope — Dow Boydstun, Kenneth R. Bland, and Kenneth O. Bland.

Hickory Grove — Lou Stafford, Alvin Cook, and Isaac T. Lynch.

Clifty — Maggie Vanhook, Lester Vanhook, and Fannie Prickett.

Antioch — By letter.

Pilgrim's Rest — Burel True, Bruce Graham, and Jack Cogar.

Clear Creek — Albert Todd, Eula Todd, and Ruby Vanhook.

Shady Grove — Frances Clark, Fern Clark, and Delbert Bland.

Rose Hill — Sister Jack Hobbs, Viola Meek, and A. L. Howard.

Cottage Hill — Pon Brodrick, Grace Ray, and Mary G. Samuels.

Christian Home — Hugh Becker, Earl Davis, and Mary Gosvener.

Rock — Lum Lynch, James Kirk, and Geo. Lynch.

Corresponding Associations

Old Union — Cliff Sugg, Ollie Sugg, and Clyde Sugg.

Indian Creek — O. T. Allred and John Rollins.

The right hand of Christian fellowship was offered and delegates invited to seats in council.

Visitors from Old Union Association were J. D. Holt, R. J. Sugg, and Henry Sugg.

Election of Officers

Moderator, Eld. W. E. Bland, La Rue, Ark.
Clerk, H. R. Neely, La Rue, Ark.

Appointment of Committees

Divine Service — Eld. H. M. Knox, W. E. Lynch, and Loy Archer.

Resolutions — Eld. Geo. Been, J. B. Rollins, and Clyde Sugg.

Finance — Dow Boydston, Lester Vanhook, and Geo. Lynch.

Temperance — Lou Stafford, Ruth Hobbs, and Mary Gosvener.

Sunday School — O. T. Allred, Pierce Kirk, and Bruce Phillips.

Obituaries — Cecil O. Garrison, Willie Capps, and J. D. Holt.

Union of Churches — Sammie Lane, Cliff Sugg, and Jack Hobbs.

Elders Cecil O. Garrison and Jack Hobbs were elected to preach Friday night.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2:30 p. m.

Prayer by J. W. Holt.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Scripture reading, Phillipians 3:8-14.

Prayer by Eld. Bill Oxford.

Report of District Evangelist, Cecil O. Garrison.

Motion carried to retain Bro. Garrison as district evangelist for another year.

Motion carried to receive report of Executive Board. Eld. Geo. Been was elected to serve for three years.

Report of the following ministers were made: Elders Geo. Bland, W. E. Bland, Bill Oxford, Geo. Been, J. W. Allred, Bruce Phillips, H. M. Knox, Jack Hobbs, Elmer Lawson, Willie Capps and Sammy Lane. Visiting ministers were: O. T. Allred, J. B. Rollins, J. D. Holt and Kenneth Autry.

Motion carried to adjourn until 9:00 a. m. Saturday.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Service was concluded with the Lord's Supper and 59 washing feet.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Scripture reading, Revelation 22:12-21.

Prayer by Eld. Kenneth Autry.

Motion carried to receive report of Committee on Union of Churches and discharge committee.

Motion carried to receive report of Temperance Committee and discharge committee.

Motion to adopt report of Committee on Resolutions carried and committee was discharged.

Motion carried to receive report of Obituary Committee and discharge committee.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Sermon by Eld. Bruce Phillips. Text, John 2:25; followed by Eld. W. E. Bland who read the Obituaries and delivered a fine sermon.

Motion carried to adjourn until 2:00 o'clock p. m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Scripture reading, 1 Peter 1:1-7.

Prayer by Bro. Loy Archer.

Motion carried to receive report of Finance Committee and discharge the committee.

Motion carried to receive and adopt report of Sunday School Committee and discharge the committee.

Delegates appointed to attend the Old Union Association are W. E. Lynch, Pearl Garrison and I. T. Lynch; Sister Clara Capps, alternate.

Delegates to Indian Creek Association are Robert Puryear, Loy Archer and Fred Archer; Bruce Phillips, alternate.

Elders Bill Oxford and Willie Capps were elected to preach Saturday night.

The next session of the Old Mt. Zion Association will be held with Mt. Zion church. Eld. W. E. Bland will preach the introductory sermon; Eld. Bill Oxford will be his alternate.

Motion carried to adjourn until Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1941 at 10:00 a. m.

Dismissed in prayer by Moderator, Eld. W. E. Bland.

Be it Resolved, That we extend our heart-felt thanks to Cottage Hill church and community for their kindness shown us during our stay among them. And, especially do we thank Sister Mary Gladys Samuel for her kindness and thoughtfulness for making preparations for the Communion service.

Eld. W. E. Bland, Moderator,
H. R. Neely, Clerk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TEMPERANCE — We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following:

Realizing the sin and evils brought by drinking, in Proverbs 23:29, "Who hath woe, who hath sorrow, who hath contention, who hath babbling, who hath wounds without cause, who hath redness of eyes; they that tarry long at the wine."

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colors in the cup, when it moveth itself aright, at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

We feel it the duty of every child of God to stand firm against liquor. As long as there is liquor, there will be crime, murder, stealing, and gambling. As long as these things continue, there will be broken homes, separated families, grief ridden hearts, sorrowing parents, prodigal boys and disgraced daughters.

The cup looks bright, inviting, and cheerful, but it is filled with woe and sorrow, it runs over with regret. The most foolish, conceited, and humiliating thing a man may do are done under the influence of drink: He will curse his Maker, he will abuse his mother, he will browbeat his wife, he will humiliate his children, he will squander his wages and embarrass everyone. The only absolute safe way to deal with this woeful cup is to let it alone. Avoid it as you would a posion reptile — stay away from it. Do as Daniel did who purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat nor with the wine which he drank. Look at the prodigal son coming up the road in tattered rags, barefooted and hungry; his money all gone. That is a picture of wine. It deceives the mind of those who drink it, it leads from right to wrong, from good to evil, from righteousness to sin.

Wine is truly one of the oldest roads men know, and every step of it is paved with jagged rocks of regret, it is overshadowed with shame, vice disgrace and all the imps of lust. It is curbed with the bleaching bones and grinning skulls of its pilgrim victims. It is cemented with the blood of heart-broken mothers and grief-stricken fathers, it is drenched with the tears of widows, orphans, and innocent babies. It is traveled by harlots, adulterers, outlaws, kidnappers, robbers and murderers.

Anyone who leads over that road is a blind leader of the blind, and all who travel it to the end will fall in the bottomless pit. If you have started on that road, turn back now. God says be temperate in all things.

Committee { Lula Stafford,
Ruth Hobbs,
Mary Gosvener.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — We, your Committee on Sunday School, submit the following:

"Train a child up in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" Prov. 22:6.

We can't think of any way better than taking our boys and girls to a good Sunday school. How pleasing it must be to God, when a father and mother accompany their children to a Sunday school. Fathers and mothers are to be an example to their children and if they do not bring up their children in the way they should go; God will surely hold them responsible.

We believe each church should maintain a Sunday school, and we believe the pastor of each church should preach at least one sermon each year on Sunday school work. We believe if there is unity and co-operation in the Sunday school, there also must be unity and co-operation in the church and community.

We believe that each Christian ought to advise each child in every community to attend Sunday school.

Committee { O. T. Allred,
Bruce Phillips,
Pearce Kirk.

UNION OF CHURCHES — We, your Committee on Union of Churches, submit the following:

We find there is a union among the churches of this Association. We feel that we should strive for a closer union

among the children of God. Therefore, we feel we should take a more firm stand against unsound doctrines in our churches, which has a tendency to cause discord among the laity of our churches and God's faithful children everywhere.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables" Tim. 4:3-4.

Committee { Sammy Lane,
 { Cliff Sugg,
 { Jack Hobbs.

FINANCE — We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following:

Pilgrim's Rest	\$3.50
Mt. Zion	4.25
New Hope	3.60
Hickory Grove	1.25
Christian Home	1.55
Clifty	1.95
Cottage Hill	1.70
Rose Hill	1.50
Clear Creek	1.25
Rock	1.25
Antioch .....	.85
Shady Grove	2.00

Total Amount Received \$24.65

Committee { Geo. Lynch,
 { Dow Boydston,
 { Lester Vanhook.

RESOLUTIONS — Be it Resolved, That we, the Old Mt. Zion Association of Free Will Baptists, realizing our next session will be the 100th session, dedicate it as our centennial session, and appoint a program committee to work out a centennial program, and to make it a Home Coming Session.

Second. Be it Resolved, That we as ministers, deacons, and lay members, seeing the great need of a greater co-operation among us and our churches in the Home Mission field work, put on an earnest plea for larger mission contribution. We hope to be able, by the help of God, to reach new communities where the Free Will Baptist doctrine is not

preached, thereby helping to *rescue the perishing*.

Third. Be it Resolved, That we read and give earnest consideration to the resolutions passed by the last session of the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Fourth. Be it Resolved, that since this meeting has been so harmonious that the spirit of love has led in all the business transactions, and seemed to have full control of all ministers in all their deliberations to the extent that it was overflowing. The good songs rendered by the choir were so spirited that they were soul stirring. The homes of Cottage Hill community were so comfortable and entertaining that we have not words to express our gratitude for all those who in any way helped to make this meeting so business like and enjoyable. We can only pray that God will continue to bless these homes and this people for their kind hospitality during our stay with them.

Committee { Geo. Been
 and
 Clyde Sugg

OBITUARIES — We, your Commiteee on Obituaries, find that eight of our beloved brothers and sisters have passed from labor to reward, as follows: Joshua W. Harrison, Lucy Wooley Lane, Martha Yarbrough Gosvenor, Jennie K. Morris, Edna Bohanna Jones, Attie Means, Margaret E. Butler, Mat Miles, and William Clarence Foster.

Committee { Cecil O. Garrison
 and
 J. D. Holt.

OBITUARIES

FOSTER — William Clarence Foster was born in Dry Fork, Arkansas, near Antioch church, May 5, 1897, and spent about all his life in this community.

He professed a hope in Christ at the age of 17 years, and joined the Free Will Baptist church at Antioch.

In 1916, he was united in Marriage to Mary Rosson, and to this union six children were born, five of whom still survive.

He departed this life February 6, 1940, at the age of 42 years 9 months and 1 day.

Bro. Foster talked often of going home before the heavenly Father called him to that heavenly home, where we expect to

meet him when our life on earth is done.

GOSVENER — Martha (Yarbrough) Gosvener was born Nov. 21, 1875. God called her to rest July 20, 1940.

She was married to Gordon L. Gosvener in the autumn of 1896. To this union was born 7 children; four of whom died in infancy and three are still living, which are Bruce, Silva and Roy.

She was a member of Christian Home Church and was faithful until death. She leaves her children, husband, 12 grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her departure. We feel our loss is heaven's gain.

A precious one from us is gone

A voice we loved is still;

A place made vacant in our home

Which never can be filled.

MOSSIS — Jennie K. Morris was born in Washington County, Arkansas, July 25, 1874. She departed this life at her home July 1, 1940, at the age of 65 years, 11 months, and 6 days.

She was married to James R. Morris, May 5, 1894, who preceeded her in death about three years ago. To this union, twelve children were born; eleven of whom are still living: G. E. Morris, G. W. Morris, Levi Morris, Woodrow and Vanda. Mrs. Oliva Danley, Mrs. Hazel Deems, Mrs. Jewell Doty, Mrs. Laurel Vires, Mrs. Grace Evans and Mrs. Beulah Studivan. She professed a hope in Christ in 1912, and united with the Free Will Baptist church at Mt. Zion. She was a kind loving wife, mother and sister, and loved by all who knew her. She leaves her children, 33 grandchildren, two brothers, and a host of other relatives and friends.

BUTLER — Margaret Elizabeth Butler, daughter of Warren and Sarah Christopher, was born June 2, 1861, at Marriionville, Missouri. She passed away May 21, 1940, at the home of her daughter near Peculiar, Missouri.

She was united in marriage to Powitan Butler, November 13, 1878. To this union was born nine children. Her husband and two children preceded her in death. She leaves seven children, 39 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and a host of friends. After her marriage she spent her life near La Rue, Arkansas, except the last five years which she spent with her daughter near Peculiar, Missouri. She united with the Free Will Baptist church at an early age and lived a devoted life until the end. She was a loving wife and mother.

JONES — Edna Bohannan Jones, daughter of Lewis and Lena Bohannan, was born April 2, 1891 and died April 24, 1940, at the age of 49 years and 22 days.

She was married to Speed Jones, November, 1910. To this union eight children were born; six of whom survive her. She leaves her husband and six children to mourn her going.

Sister Jones was converted early in life, and united with the Free Will Baptist church at Clear Creek church. She was a loving wife and mother, and is sadly missed in her community.

God called her in the morning

While her day was fair and bright

But 'twas not total darkness

That hid her from our sight.

For the valley of death was brighter

Than the hills of life she trod,

And the peace that fell on her spirit

Was the calm, deep peace of God.

She knew in whom she trusted,

She counted earthly things loss,

And clung with arms of faith

To Christ and to His cross.

And from that cross a radiance

Fell with a softening beam,

That shines through the shadowy vale

And brightens deaths narrow stream.

Her life went away in the morning

And it so fair and bright;

But she shines today on the other side.

In the land of pure delight.

HARRISON — Joshua William Harrison was born in Fulton, Illinois, October 1, 1861. He came to Arkansas when a boy and spent the remainder of his life in Carroll County, Arkansas.

He was united in marriage to Jane Bowin. To this union five children were born, all of whom still survive. His wife preceded him in death several years ago. He was later united in marriage to Effie Lee. To this union was born four children; three of whom still survive.

Bro. Harrison professed faith in Christ about seven years ago and united with the Free Will Baptist church at Antioch. He has lived a devoted life. God called him home December

16, 1939 at the age of 78 years, 2 months and 15 days. He left a wife, eight children, 44 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren to mourn his departure. His presence will be greatly missed in the church.

LANE — Lucy Wooley Lane was born December 25, 1866 at Hyatville, Kansas and departed this life October 29, 1939, at the age of 72 years, 10 months and 4 days. She professed a hope in Christ in 1881 and lived a devoted life until death.

She was united in marriage December 25, 1882, to Joseph L. Lane. To this union was born nine children; four boys and five girls. She also leaves to mourn her departure 46 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. We feel our loss is heaven's gain.

"A precious one from us is gone;

A vacant place that can't be filled."

God picks His flowers where He thinks best, and we know this flower will make a bright and shining one for God's bouquet. We hope someday we will meet this dear one where we'll part no more and where no more tears will be shed.

She was a kind wife and a loving mother. We wish to thank everyone for their kindness and help during her sickness and death.

ROBERTS — Martha L. Roberts was born October 28, 1862 and died March 23, 1940. She was united in marriage to Lewis P. Miles June 29, 1884. To this union was born four children, Lum, John, Neacy and Mollie. The sons still survive. She leaves 17 grandchildren and four great grandchildren to mourn her departure.

MEANS — Attie Means was born September 23, 1866 and died August 11, 1939. She was united in marriage to James Means May 1, 1886. To this union was born three children; Effie, who died in infancy, Isom and Tom. She is survived also, by her husband, two sisters, two brothers, and one grandchild.

She united with the Free Will Baptist church, then known as the Hickory Flat church. Sister Means continued in her faith until death. Burial was at the Burk's Shed cemetery. Funeral services were conducted by Eld. Geo. Been.

OXFORD — Willa Mae Oxford was born August 12, 1937 and died April 27, 1940; being 2 years, 8 months, and 15 days of age.

"A jewell from us is taken,
A voice we loved is stilled;
A place in our home is vacant,
Which never can be filled."

She leaves to mourn her departure, her parents, Bro. and Sister Bill Oxford, and three brothers; also a host of relatives and friends.

KNOX — An infant son of Bro. and Sister H. M. Knox, leaves a sister and two brothers, and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn its passing.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.

2. Ministers and deacons present are invited to seats, allowed to take part in debates on all subjects, and to vote.

3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.

4. No motion shall be discussed without a second.

5. When a motion has made and seconded, and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative, the question shall be dismissed.

6. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken separately.

7. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.

8. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present.

10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.

11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected if necessary before the close of the Association.

12. At all future sessions of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two sermons, or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto, during each day of the session, and the chair shall announce just before adjournment who shall fill the stand at the next meeting.

13. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after organization of the Association.

14. Alternations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. GOD. We believe in one true and living, Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, Purpose, Power and Glory.—St. John 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:6; St. John 10:30.

2. CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home.—Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24; 50:53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-41.

3. HOLY SPIRIT. We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up His office work among all nations of people, as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide.—Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17-20.

4. THE BIBLE. We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by Inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. THE FALL OF MAN. We believe that GOD created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell, with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming CHRIST.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Romans 11:11-35; Psalms 37:23-24; 5:18.

6. REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION. We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above.—Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Heb. 1:4; St. John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22.

7. CONDITIONS OF SALVATION. We believe that all persons, dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning

merits of the Son of God without any act on their part; that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part, exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ.—John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; I Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. SALVATION FREE. We believe that God desires the salvation of all; Christ died for all; the Gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all; and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel.—1 Peter 1:9-25; 2:9-25; Revelation 22:17.

9. BAPTISM. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same.—Matt. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; 1 Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19.

10. COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING. We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming.—Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-18; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. THE SABBATH. We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted.—Exodus 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. CALL TO THE MINISTRY. We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impresses His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the Scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him, He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose.—Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matt. 28:19.

13. THE INVISIBLE CHURCH. We believe that the Invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the

family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people.—Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; I Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18.

14. **THE VISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel.—2 Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; 3 John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:4-20.

15. **PERSEVERANCE.** We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth, and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life, and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued, would be eternally lost.—2 Pet. 1:12; 2 Cor 9:10; 2 Peter 1:4-8; 2 Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy: 2 Peter 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32.

16. **CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH.** We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body.—Col. 1:18-19; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Eph. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. **SANCTIFICATION.** Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—I Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

18. **THE RESURRECTION.** We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be united, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God for ever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.—Matt. 28:6; John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:51-58.

19. **THE SOUL.** The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed.—Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

20. **JUDGEMENT.** We believe that there will be a general universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness.—2 Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience, we, the members of the Church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist), being regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union among us, and to preserve and maintain correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this Constitution for our better Church government.

Art. 1. MEMBERSHIP. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches or quarterly meetings of our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and upon producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats. All ordained ministers and deacons of said union shall be regular members, when present, by virtue of their office.

Art. 2. NAME. The members thus chosen and assembled with the ministers and deacons, to be denominated the Old Mount Zion Association of Free Will Baptist, being composed of the several churches of our union, the Association having no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor having any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

Art. 3. LETTERS. Letters from the different churches representing are to express their number in fellowship, including the names and addresses of ordained and licensed ministers, the number of members received upon profession of faith, by letter or recommendation, by restoration or denominational choice; the number dismissed by letter, excluded, and those having died since last Association. Churches, in sending their letters, may send obituaries of any who died during the year, that we may keep up the memorial of our dead.

Art. 4. OFFICERS. Sec. 1. The Association shall have a Moderator, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and an Executive Board of three members who shall be elected at each annual session of the Association by the suffrage of the members present.

Sec. 2. The Executive Board provided for in Sec. 1 of Art. 4, shall be elected from the ministers, deacons or laity belonging to Old Mount Zion Association: One for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and after the first election, one shall be elected each year for a term of three years. This board shall have power and authority to transact any associational business which may arise between annual sessions of the Association, and shall report to the Association annually.

Art. 5. NEW CHURCHES. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association, which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if upon examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 6. QUESTIONS. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been first considered in its own church.

Art. 7. MOTIONS. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be

withdrawn by the member who made it.

Art. 8. MINUTES. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the amount paid by each church, the distribution to be at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 9. CLERK. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association in a book to be kept by the Association for that purpose.

Art. 10. SIGNATURES. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

Art. 11. AMENDMENTS. Amendments to this Constitution may be made, when necessary, by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular session.

12. NON-ATTENDANCE. The Association in case of the failure of any church to attend, shall enquire into the case.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior 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 others joys and sorrows; that we will not forsake the assembling of 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 deportment; that we will abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage; that we will sustain the worship, ordinance, discipline and the doctrine of this church; that we will contribute cheerfully, according to our ability, to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor and the general spread of the Gospel.

In keeping this solemn Covenant, may we ever enjoy the blessings and presence of the Great Head of the church, which is Jesus Christ the Savior.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Association called to order by the Moderator, and in his absence, by the Clerk.
2. Introductory Sermon.
3. Letters from churches composing the Association called for, read, and messengers invited to seats.
4. Corresponding Associations.
5. Right hand of fellowship.
6. Call for letters from newly organized churches.
7. Election of permanent officers.
8. Reading the Constitution and Rules of Order by the Moderator or Clerk.
9. Appointment of the following committees:
(a) Resolutions, (b) Finance, (c) Arrangements for preaching, (d) Temperance, (e) Sunday Schools, (f) Obituary, (g) Condition of Non-represented Churches, (h) Union of Churches.
10. Reports of committees appointed at last Association and other unfinished business.
11. Reports of new committees.
12. New Business.
13. Choosing place for our next Association.
14. Who shall preach the Introductory Sermon?
15. Reading and adopting the minutes.
16. Adjournment.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE ASSOCIATION

CHURCH	Organ- ized	Retir. Pastor	Pastor Elect	Church Clerk	Postoffice	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mt. Zion	1866	B. Phillips	B Bhillips	B. Puryear	Sp'g. Valley, Ark.	9	..	..	..	..	1	122
New Hope	1886	W. E. Bland	W. E. Bland	E. P. McGinnis ..	La Rue, Ark.....	4	..	..	..	..	2	109
Hickory Grove	1886	W. E. Bland	W. E. Bland	I. T. Lynch	Clifty, Ark. ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	45
Christian Home	1892	Willie Capps	Willie Capps	Mary Gosvener	Hindsville, Ark.	..	..	..	..	..	2	24
Clifty	1892	W. E. Bland	W. E. Bland	George Vanhook ..	Mundelle, Ark.	19	..	..	..	..	..	94
Antioch	1910	R. A. Smith	R. A. Smith	J. A. Smith	Marble, Ark. ....	..	..	..	..	..	2	28
Pilgrim's Rest	1911	B. Phillips	B. Phillips	Jewel Everett	Sp'g. Valley, Ark.	15	5	2	..	..	..	173
Clear Creek		Sammy Lane	Sammy Lane	Thomas Igmire ..	Hindsville, Ark.	3	..	..	..	..	..	19
Shady Grove	1936	H. M. Knox	H. M. Knox	Edna Blackburn ..	La Rue, Ark.....	7	..	..	..	..	..	24
Rose Hill	1937	Jack Hobbs	Jack Hobbs	Ray Jennings	Marble, Ark. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Cottage Hill	1938	H. M. Knox	H. M. Knox	Mary G. Samuel....	Clifty, Ark.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Rock	1938	Elmer Lawson	Bill Oxford	Francis Bowman ..	Clifty, Ark.	16	2	2	..	..	..	56

1. Experience and Baptism

2. Recommendation

3. Received by Letter

4. Dismissed by Letter

5. Excluded

6. Number Died

7. Total Membership 728