MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-NINETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Roberts McGee Association

of

FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

Pocahontas Church, beginning on Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1939

OFFICERS

Moderator	Eld. D. O. Scroggins
Ass't Moderator	Eld. W. Dorey
Člerk	Bro, Andrew Dugan
'Ass't Clerk	Sister Bertha Dorey

The next Annual Session of this Association will be held with Salonia Church, three miles north of Leflore, Oklahoma, beginning on Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1940

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

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 been 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.
- 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 before the close of the Association, if necessary.
- 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. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

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Form of Church Letter

Post Office
Date
We, the Church of God (denominated Free Will Bap-
tist), worshipping at
met in conference and elected the following delegates to
represent us in Hopewell Association when convened
with Church,
whom we pray you to seat to aid you in all your delib-
erations, to-wit:
Statistics:
State of Religion
Sunday School
Prayer Meeting
Meeting Days
We paid our pastor, Elder
Called Elder as our
pastor for the ensuing year
Ordained Deacons
Resident Members
Non-Resident Members
Total Membership
Received into the Church; by
Confession of Faith
We ask for the next session Fifth
Sunday meeting. We ask for the next session of the
Association.
We send \$minute money.
Elder
Church Clerk.
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PROCEEDINGS

The Roberts McGee Association of the church of God (denominated Free Will Baptist) met with the Pocahontas Church near Summerfield, Oklahoma, on Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1939, in its Thirty-Ninth Annual Session.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

House called to order by Moderator, Eld. J. C. Nuby. Song by the congregation.

Prayer by Bro. T. E. Conyer.

Devotional service conducted by Bro. T. E. Conyer. Introductory sermon was preached by Eld. J. C. Nuby. Text: St. John 4.

Motion carried to adjourn until 8:00 Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opening song by congregation. Prayer by Bro. Glenn Dipboye.

House called to order by Ass't. Moderator, Eld. J.C.

Nuby.

Letters from various churches were called for and the following churches responded: Pocahontas, First Free Will Church of Poteau, Norris, Brazil, Pleasant Valley, Sugar Loaf, Green Hill, Salonia and Fanshawe.

Letters read; motion carried to receive the letters, seat the delegates and give them the right hand of

fellowship.

Election of Officers

Moderator Eld. D. O. Scroggins
Ass't Moderator Eld. W. Dorey
Clerk Bro. Andrew Dugan
Ass't Clerk Sister Bertha Dorey

Rules of Order read by Ass't Moderator.

Call for corresponding delegates: Eld. Glenn Dipboye, Eld. T. J. Robertson and Eld. T. E. Conyer from Zion Hope Association; and Bro. and Sister Bud Mc-Cormick and Bro. and Sister D. J. Rowlett from the Eureka Association.

Visiting delegates seated and extended right hand

of fellowship.

Appointment of Committees

Divine Service - Bro. C. A. Scroggins, Sister Bell Strange and Sister O. D. Wickham.

Bill of Arrangement - Bro. J. R. Rash, Eld. C. M.

Church and Eld. "Happy" Crabb.

Obituary—Sister Edna Doyle, Sister J. D. Chester and Bro. Dave Woodard.

Sunday Schools - Bro. M. O. Moore, Sister Sarah

Gibson and Sister Louise Walker.

Temperance — Bro. Herman Cole, Bro. James (Happy) Crabb and Bro. Frank Lyons.

Finance — Bro. F. D. Smith, Bro. Jim Dawson and

Bro. Ray Hood.

Character and Credentials - (of ministers and deacons) Bro. Elbert Wilson, Sister Erna Brewer, Sister Molly Jane Hayes, Sister Lula Muse and Bro. Glenn Dipbove.

Query and Quest—Bro.T. E. Conver, Bro Jim

Worley and Bro. C. E. Edwards.

Ordaining Council—Bro. J. C. Nuby, Bro. W. Dorey, Bro. J. E. Yandell, Bro. Lonie Dugan and Bro. C. M, Church.

Divine Service Committee reported Eld. Gleen Dipboye to preach; followed by Eld. Jim Dawson.

Adjourned to meet at 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Song, "Standing On The Promises."

Prayer by Bro. Church.

Congregation sang "I Want My Light to Shine." Sermon by Eld. Glenn Dipboye. Text: "Abraham believed God." Followed by Eld. Jim Dawson; fine messages to the church members.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met at 1:30 p. m. House called to order by Mod.

Prayer by Bro. M. O. Moore.

Songs, "I'll Fly Away," and "Sweet After While." Scripture lesson, Hebrews 2, by Eld. D. O. Scroggins. Report by the Sunday School Committee received. Report of Committee on Query & Quest received. Report of Obituary Committee received

Report of Temperance Committee received.

Meeting adjourned by Moderator.

FRIDAY THREE O'CLOCK SERVICE

House called to order by congregation singing, "I Want My Light To Shine."
Prayer by Bro. C. M. Church.

Bro. Hinton preached the introductory sermon. Text: Mark 7:14. Bro. Lonie Dugan concluded Scripture from Romans 8:1.

Meeting adjourned until 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Meeting called to order by congregation singing,

"I'll Meet You In The Morning."

Devotional service led by Bro. Dave Woodard. Preaching by Bro. Happy Crabb; concluded by Bro. C. M. Church.

Meeting adjourned until 8:00 Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

House called to order by Moderator; congregation singing, "When I See The Blood."

Prayer by Bro. T. E. Conyer.

Moderator read as scripture lesson 1 Peter 5.

Committees asked to report on various branches of business. (See reports)

Adjourned by the Moderator till 1:30 p. m.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by song by the congregation.

Prayer.

Opening sermon by Bro. R. T. Shed; followed by Bro. T. E. Conyer.

Adjourned until 1:00 o'clock.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order as per adjournment by Moderator.

Song by congregation.

Praver.

Report of Bill of Arrangement Committee.

Appointment of Delegates to Other Associations

To State Association — Bro. and Sister O. D. Wickham and Bro. and Sister W. Dorey.

To Eureka Association—Bro. W. Dorey, Bro. Bob Shed and Bro. Boss Didway.

To Zion Hope No. 2 Association — Bro. James (Happy) Crabb, Bro. J. R. Rash and Bro. Jim Dawson.

Motion carried to elect an evangelist. Bro. W Dorev was called for the ensueing year.

Motion carried to appoint a committee to co-operate with the evangelist in field work and financial affairs. All churches were instructed to send their contributions to the committee, and where the services of the evangelist is needed to communicate with one of the committee. The committee appointed is Bro. John Smith, Poteau, Okla.; Bro. Boss Didway, Cameron, Okla.; and Bro. Andrew Dugan, Poteau, Okla.

Motion carried to adjourn to convene with Salonia church north of Leflare, Okla., beginning on Thursday night before the second Sunday in September, 1940.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Message brought by Bro. W. Dorey; concluded by Bro. D. O. Scroggins.

After preaching service 50 persons partook of the Sacrament and washed the Saint's feet.

Dismissed by singing and shakeing hands; wishing all God's richest blessings.

Eld. Delmar A. Scroggins, Moderator, Eld. W. Dorey, Ass't Moderator, Bro. Andrew Dugan, Clerk, Sister Bertha Dorey, Ass't Clerk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bill of Arrangement — We, your Committee on Bill of Arrangements, beg leave to report as follows:

Taking under consideration the present condition of our Association, and feeling the need of the attendance of its ministers, deacons and delegates,

Be it Resolved. That the members of the Association be present unless providentially hindered, and its ministers, if possible, might bring their revivals to a close before the time of the Association, or a revival beginning on the day set for the Association, shall be postpened until after the Association. In so doing, they will have no legal excuse for their absence.

Futhermore, Be it Resolved, That any ministers, deacons, or delegation failing to attend the Association, shall be asked for their excuses for not being present.

Be it Resolved, That we forbid any of our ministers of this Association preaching Sanctification or Holiuess as a Second Work of Grace, separate and apart from Regeneration—1 Cor. 1:30; 6:9-11; Eph. 4:24. Be it Resolved, That we recommend that our min-

Be it Resolved, That we recommend that our ministers do not vary from the regular customs of the Free Will Baptist in regard to receiving or dismissing members.

Furthermore, we advise moderators of the churches to impress upon the church the great necessity of observing all the rulings of the Association.

Be it Resolved, That every member of the respective churches composing the Roberts McGee Association be requested to obey the Commandments of God as set forth in 1 Cor. 16:2 and 2 Cor. 8:9: To lay in store, as God has prospered them, upon the first day of the week, in their homes or churches, so as to be prepared to aid the ministers in publishing the Gospel, to help the widows and the worthy poor, and that the compulsitory in every respect may be disannuled.

Be it Resolved, That we recommend each pastor to appoint a committee of three members of the church and this committee is to instruct the church to contribute to the church as the Lord has prospered them, and this committee is to collect each month and pay into the treasury of the church.

We further request that this committee shall instruct the members of the necessity of their loyalty to the church.

Be it Resolved, That we each pay to the Lord ten per cent (10%) of all as God hath prospered us.

Be it Resolved, That the ministers of this Association shall make written report of their year's work at each annual session of this Association; and that all who make such written report shall receive Annual Certificates of Ministerial Standing from the Association.

Be it Resolved, That we feel the weight of responsibility of preaching one or more sermons each year on TITHING, and further teach the reason and importance of TITHING.

And be it Resolved, That this body forbid its ministers co-working with ministers of the Unknown Tongue type of holiness.

Sunday School — We, your Committee on Sunday School, beg leave to report as follows:

We believe that Sunday school is a divine service, and that each church should maintain a Sunday school, and use their own members for teachers and their own literature as much as possible. We think parents should take their children to Sunday school instead of sending them.

Committee Mrs. Garvis Walker, Mrs. Sarah Gibson, Mr. M. O. Moore.

Ministers' and Deacons' Characters — We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows:

The Roberts McGee Association has 15 ordained ministers. (See Ministers' Enrollment). These are in good standing. And there are 27 deacons (see Deacons'Enrollment).

We request that Felix Gullick's name be ommitted from the list of deacons as he is not a member of the Association. We also ask that the name of Ira Smedley be dropped from the list of ministers because he has ben found guilty of heresy.

Bro. Glenn Dipboye,
Sister Erma Brewer,
Sister Lulu Muse,
Sister Molly Jane Hays,
Bro. E. L. Wilson.

Query & Quest — We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows:

We feel the need of a greater co-operation of all parents and ministers in warning our young people of the dangers involved in the attending of worldly affairs. And we furthur feel the need of better financial support for our ministers, enabling them to spend more time in the ministerial work.

Committee $\begin{cases} C. E. Edwards, \\ J. H. Worley, \\ T. E. Conyer. \end{cases}$

Obituary— We, your Committee on Obituary, beg to report as follows:

We find that a number of our members have departed this life since our last Association. The departed are:

Sugar Loaf Church—Bro. J. C. Vaughn.

Pocahontas Church—Sam R. Looper.

Panama Church-Bro. Tobe Bious.

Brazil Church—Bro. L. H. Horne.

First Free Will Church Poteau — Bro. Henry Bellew.

Pleasant Valley -- Sister Maude Midgley.

Greenhill Church - Sister E. A. Moore,

We sorrow greatly for those who have lost loved ones, but we know our loss is Heaven's gain.

Committee Sister J. D. Chester, Sister Edna Doyle.

Temperance — We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report as follows:

Any member of our churches found guilty of drinking intoxicating drinks of any kind shall make their confession and works meet for repentance, or shall be excluded from fellowship, and have their names erased from the rolls.

Committee {Herman Cole, Frank Lyons, James (Happy) Crabb.

Finance—We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report the following churches have contributed to the expense of printing the minutes.

Norris	•••••	\$2.00
Green Hill		
Sugar Loaf		1.7
Pocahontas		
Salonia	the state of the s	
Pleasant Valley		
Brazil		
Fanshawe		1.00
First Free Will Baptist of		

Committee Bro. Finis Smith, Bro. Roy Hood, Bro. Jim Dawson.

Divine Service Committee — We, your Committee on Divine Service, wish to report the following Brethren to preach as follows:

Friday Eleven O'clock Service—Bro. Glenn Dipboye; concluded by Bro. Jim Dawson.

Friday Three O'clock Service—Bro. Hinton; concuded by Bro. Lonie Dugan.

Friay Night Service — Devotional service, Bro. Dave Woodard; Sermons, Blo. J. (Happy) Crabb; concluded by Bro. C. M. Church.

Saturday Eleven O'clock Service—Bro. Robert Shed, introductory; Bro. T. E. Conyer, Conclusion,

Saturday Three O'clock Service—Bro. C. M. Church;

followed by Bro. Glenn Dipboye.

Saturday Night Service — Devotional Service by Bro. Wright. Sermon by Bro. W. Dorey; followed by Bro. D. O. Scroggins.

Committee Sister Bell Strange, Sister O. D. Wickham.

ASSOCIATIONAL ENROLLMENT

Ordained Ministers

Eld. J. E. Yandell	Red Oak, Okla.
'' J. C. Nuby	Fanshawe, Okla.
" W. Dorey	Poteau, Okla.
" W. Dorey Delmar Scroggins :	Poteau, Okla.
" J. H. Dawson	R. 2, Poteau, Okla.
" W. M. Easton	Cameron, Okla
" J. C. Loyd " Lonie Dugan	Shady Point, Okla.
" Lonie Dugan	Poteau, Okla.
" James (Happy) Crabb	Red Oak, Okla.
" Robert Shed	Bengal, Okla.
" C. M. Church	Ft. Smith, Ark.
" O. D. Wickham	R. I, Poteau, Okla
" Jack Shipman " W. C. McNabb	Red Oak, Okla.
" E. F. Hunter	Red Oak, Oklaz
" Hinton (Licensed)	Clayton, Okla.

Ordained Deacons

Bro.	C. McCann	Star Route,	Red Oak,	Okla.
"	J. A. Hart		Poteau,	Okla.
"	George Copeland	**	Poteau.	Okla.
**	Frank Lyon	R. 1.	Red Oak.	Okla.
"	L. A. Ray		Poteau.	Okla.
,,	J. P. Brewer		Red Oak.	Okla.
"	T. E. Woodruff	R 1	Red Oak	Okla

Bro.	J. R. Rash	Fanshawe,	Okla.
"	J. R. Rash	Cameron,	Okla.
,,,	Arch Hamilton	Red Oak,	Okla.
, ,,	L. P. Palmer	Bengal,	Okla.
,,,	Finis Smith	R. 2, Poteau,	Okla.
"	C. A. Scroggins	Wister,	Okla.
> ,,	M. O. Moore	Pocahontas,	Okla.
,,,	H. L. Scroggins	Pocahontas,	Okla.
199 /	H. W. Didway	Cameron,	Okla.
"	Hurley Farrar	Cameron,	Okla.
"	Jim Underwood	Cameron,	Okla.
• • • •	H. A. Lunsford	. Star Rt., Red Oak.	Okla.
,,	J. A. Peppers	Wilburton,	Okla.
"	Cecil Underwood	Salisaw,	Okla.
"	A. D. Eastern	Williams,	Okla.
* **	Ed Dunn	R. 2, Monroe,	Okla.
"	Ola Cooper		
,,	Ed. Crouch	vionroe.	ORD.
"	James M. Dennis	Poteau,	Okla.
, ,,	James M. Dennis Jim Worley	Poteau,	Okla.

Church Clerk Enrollment

Clerk	Church	Address
Esper Easton	Green Hill	Cameron, Okla.
Carrie Baird	Sugar Loaf F	R. 2, Poteau, Okla.
Lorena Morris	Pocahontas	Wister, Okla.
Dave Woodard	Salonia	Red Oak, Okla.
Herman Cole	Norris	Red Oak, Okla.
John Smith	Pleasant Valley	Poteau, Okla.
Opal Dugan	First F. W. B.	Poteau, Okla.
Nora Didway	Peachland	Bengal, Okla.
Bessie Gass	Fanshawe	Fanshawe, Okla.
	Brazil	 ,

ARTICLES OF FAITH

- 1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are equal in Divine essence, power and glory.—Romans 1:20; 1st John 1:7; John 17:21.
- 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written and revealed Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—Mat. 5:18: 2 Tim. 3:16
- 3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same whereby all mankind are sinners; not by constraint, but by choice; being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall, and that man is unable to save himself with his own power, but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory, that He, by the Grace of God should taste death for every man.—Gen. 3:7. 17: Heb. 2:9.
- 4. We believe that Christ, by His death, purial and resurrection, purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon the principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent, therefore He saith: "Look unto me and be saved all ye ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else."—Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Acts 20:20, 21; Acts 17:30
- 5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the Spirit of God if they inherit eternal life.—John 3:3; Romans 5:1-13.
- 6. We believe that infants and idiots are saved by the merits of the Son of God.—Jon. 4:11; Deut. 1:39; Mk. 10:14; Lk. 18:16.
- 7. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life: for blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the city.—Matt. 24:13; Rev. 22:14.
- 8. We believe that Baptism by immersion is the Apostolic mode, even the burial of the believer in water: and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children, and bids us walk therein.—John 3:22; Matt. 3:16; Rom. 6:2-5; Matt. 28:19-20.
- 9. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost, and by the instructions of His blessed Word, to go forth and proclaim life and salvation. He bids us freely to come, and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come—1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 3:7; Rev. 2217; Isaiah 55:1.
- 10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's supper and Washing the Saints' feet are Divine ordinances and should be observed by all His children.—Mark 14:22; John 13:4-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Tim. 5:10.

- 11. We believe that none have a right to Baptism only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have the right to administer the same only those who are called of God and have come under the hands of the Presbytery of Elders; and each church ought to have a Pastor, Deacons and Clerk, chosen by the church and continue in office during the good pleasure of the same; and in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other Scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, which shall be unanimous.—Tit 1:5; Acts 14:23; 2 Cor. 6:6.
- 12. We believe it to be the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month, and that it is the duty of the Pastor of the church when setting forth the Lord's Supper to "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat."—1 Cor. 11:28; John 13:14; Heb. 10:25.
- 13. We believe that Sanctification and Holiness is a Bible doctrine, that immortality is God dwelling in the light so when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." That It is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God—Gal. 6:10; 1 John 2:9.
- 14. We believe in the resurrection of the dead of both the just and the unjust. The resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God, the unjust, to everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God.—Matt. 25:31-34; 1 Cor. 15:42-45; 2 Thess. 1:4-11; Rev. 20:12-15.

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 different churches 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 Robert

McGee 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 ecclesias-tical 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. The Association to have a Moderator, a Clerk, and a Treasurer, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
- 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.

Resolved, That we earnestly request all of our ministers and deacons and churches composing this Association to cooperate with each other and to assist in every way they can to help further the Gospel, and that each church shall help their pastor and, if an evangelist should visit any destitute place and organize churches, that we urge the people to assist the evangelist so he can go and preach the Word

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and having obtained justification by faith in His name, we, as members of the several churches that constitute the Eureka and Roberts McGee Association of Free Will Baptist, adopt the following as our Church Covenant.

- 1. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common faith, striving to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.
- 2. We will not speak evil of each other nor will we persecute or expose the faults of the weak members of our church; but will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instructions to Timothy, "That we will reprove, rebuke and exhort" each other as members of a common brotherhood.
- 3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith. But we should remember that our relations to each other are closer and the obligations more binding than that of a common band of Christian Charity. In adopting this Covenant, we become as a family and assume in a Christian sense the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.
- 4. We will attend the stated meetings of our church, unless we are providentially hindered, or uncontrollable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church. And we will prefer the services of our own church to that of any other and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the Word of God to us.
- 5. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners; but will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the natural powers which the Lord has given us to praise His holy name. We will sing with those who sing and pray with those who pray.
- 6. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking by making visits to our neighbors, which is a double sin against the Law of God, for in so doing we fail to attend the house of the Lord and hinder those who might wish to do so. Let us remember the Law of Moses which condemned Sabbath breaking, and the words of the inspired Apostle, which says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is."
- 7. We will not neglect secret and public prayers and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death, we will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord, and say, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

PREAMBLE OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Song and prayer.

2. Call church into conference.

- 3. Invite visiting brothers and sisters to seats in council,
- 4. Read minutes of last conference.
- 5. Call for peace of church, answering by giving the right hand of fellowship.
- 6. Invitation for members.
- 7. New business.
- 8. Motion to adjourn.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Read letters from the churches.
- 2. Election of officers.
- 3. Reception of new members.
- 4. Invite visiting brethren to seats in council.
- 5. Call for correspondence.
- 6. Appointment of committees.
- 7. Call for reports of committees.
- 8. Miscellaneous business.
- 9. Appointment of correspondents.
- 10. Time and place of holding next session.
- 11. Election of minister to preach the introduction.
- 12. Adjournment of Association.