

# MINUTES

OF THE

## Forty-Third Annual Session

OF THE

## Salem Free Will Baptist Association

HELD WITH

## SALEM CHURCH

## September 29 and 30, 1938

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### OFFICERS

REV. J. C. ELDRIDGE ..... Moderator  
E. S. HADDOCK, ..... Sec. & Treas.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

E. S. Haddock, Chm.; P. F. Holley, W. D. Finch, J. W. Barnes,  
C. L. Cook

The next session will convene with Traveler's Rest Church,  
two miles north of Clarkesville, Fla., Thursday and Friday before  
the First Sunday in October, 1939.

# PROCEEDINGS

The Forty-Third Annual Session of the Salem Free Will Baptist Association of Florida met with Salem Church, Alford, Florida, September 29, 1938.

After song and prayer service, Rev. J. W. Roberts delivered the Introductory sermon. Text, Ecclesiastes 12-1. Prayer by T. E. Parish. Adjourned until 1:30 p.m. for refreshments.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON

At 1:30 p.m. the body was called to order by the Moderator. Song by Rev. G. W. Nobles, prayer by Rev. A. W. Cook. Scripture reading by Moderator, 1st. Cor. 13th chapter.

The Association being in order, the Corresponding Letters were called for, the same being received and read by Rev. G. W. Nobles, and Rev. Floyd Cherry. The letters were adopted and the delegates seated.

## CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

Midway—Mrs. Dorothy Summars, and Mrs. Roxie Nichols.

Cypress Creek—W. J. Melvin.

Traveler's Rest—C. L. Cook.

Christian Home—P. F. Holley, Mrs. P. F. Holley, Mrs. O. F. Braswell.

Love Wood—J. F. Fillingim, J. R. Hayes, W. T. Justice, J. W. Johnson, Lillie M. Hayes, Lollie B. Jackson.

Damascus—W. J. Cloud, A. R. Padgett.

Gap Pond—A. R. Finch, W. D. Finch, A. A. Finch, Enoch Walters.

Oak Grove—W. C. Cloud, D. S. Basford, Mrs. D. S. Basford, G. B. Scott.

First Free Will Baptist Church of Blountstown—T. E. Parish.

Salem—J. R. Barnes, Jim Barnes, Wesley Vickory, Sallie Barnes, Louise Mashburn.

Marvin Chapel—H. W. Taylor, J. G. Lamb, Mrs. Floyd Cherry, Audrey Day, J. E. Pelt.

Called for Petitionary Letters—None.

Called for Correspondence from Sister Associations, received as follows—

State Line Association of Alabama—Rev. G. W. Nobles, Mrs. G. W. Nobles, Rev. Floyd Cherry, Joe Nowell, and Mrs. Joe Nowell.

At this time officers were elected: Rev. J. C. Eldridge, moderator; E. S. Haddock, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Finance—T. E. Parrish, chm.; W. D. Finch, J. R. Hayes, J. R. Porter, Jim Barnes, G. B. Scott.

Suggestions—J. C. Watson, chm.; G. W. Nobles, C. B. Davis, P. F. Holley, J. E. Hewett, J. F. Fillingim.

Resolutions—Floyd Cherry, chm.; A. W. Cook, J. L. Nichols, J. G. Lamb, W. J. Melvin.

Sabbath School—Mary Holley, chm.; Minnie Lee Sexton, J. R. Barnes, Ruby Nobles, Florence Cook.

Education and Publication—C. L. Cook, chm.; J. W. Roberts, Arthur Finch, W. T. Justice, Wesley Vickory, A. S. Hart, Sidney Mathis.

Obituaries—L. J. Sexton, chm.; A. R. Padgett, D. L. Basford, Sallie Barnes, J. E. Pelt.

Nominations—W. J. Cloud, chm.; J. W. Johnson, I. O. Cook, Enoch Walters, Louise Mashburn, Mrs. O. L. Bracewell.

Standing of Churches and Ministers—Mrs. J. R. Hayes, chm.; D. L. Basford, Audrey Day, P. F. Holley.

Temperance—Lollie B. Jackson, chm.; Mrs. O. L. Bracewell, Minnie Lee Sexton, Daniel Walters.

League and Ladies Aid Society—Ruby Nobles, chm.; Edith Cherry, Joe Nowell, Mrs. Joe Nowell.

Delegates appointed to Sister Associations as follows:

State Line—J. F. Fillingim, J. C. Eldridge, J. R. Barnes, E. S. Haddock, Minnie Lee Sexton.

Adjourned untill 9:00 o'clock, Friday A.M.

Thursday night the message was delivered by Rev. Sam Wheat

**FRIDAY MORNING**

The Association assembled according to adjournment. Song by C. L. Cook. Devotions by Rev. J. C. Watson, scripture Gal. 5.

Renewed the call for corresponding letters and received the following:

Allen Chapel—A. S. Hart, Sidney Mathis.

New Union—J. E. Hewett, C. B. Davis.

Renewed the call for Petitionary letters—None

Renewed the call for Correspondence from Sister Associations—None.

Song by choir and adjourned until 1:30 for refreshments.

At 11:00 o'clock the stand was ably filled by Rev. J. C. Eldridge from Jude 11.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

At 1:30 o'clock the body was called to order by the Moderator. Devotion by Rev. H. G. Keels.

Report of the the committees called for, the same being read and adopted as follows:

**REPORT OF TREASURER**

Amount in Treasury October 1, 1937 .....	\$ 6.28
Received from Finance Committee .....	51.35
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Total .....	\$57.63

**DISBURSEMENTS—**

Paid for Minutes .....	\$27.00
Paid Clerk .....	15.00
Postage .....	1.05
Paid Eastern General Association .....	10.00
Paid for P. O. Money-order and postage .....	.21
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Total .....	\$53.26

Balance in Treasury October 1, 1938 .....	\$ 4.37
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### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & PUBLICATION

Seeing the need of education, we ask that our people support "Zion Bible School", with their cooperation and finance as well as their prayers.

We also ask that we as christian people furnish our children with good reading literature. We recommend the "Gospel Herald" and the "Free Will Baptist".

We ask that a collection be taken at this time for "Zion Bible School", and we ask that the delegates present see that a collection be taken at least once a year in their church, for Zion Bible School.

C. L. COOK, Chm.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

We beg of this body that we adhere to the suggestions of a year ago, because it pleads for harmony and fellowship between church and minister, and we do prayerfully suggest and plead for a more stricter observance of our church discipline. We also suggest that this together with the report of last year be combined and printed.

J. C. WATSON, Chm.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Your committee on Resolutions submit the following for your consideration:

Be it Resolved—

1. That this organization go on record as favoring local, national and International peace, and that we favor war only as the last resort to protect the peace, liberty and happiness of the American people.

FLOYD CHERRY, Chm.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STANDING OF CHURCHES AND MINISTERS

We your committee on standing of churches and ministers find all our churches and ministers in good spiritual condition as far as we know. We also recommend that if we have any idle preachers that they get out and get busy, and make a report at the next session of this association.

MRS. J. R. HAYES, Chm.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON F.W.B. LEAGUE AND LADIES AID SOCIETY

We your committee beg leave to make the following report, to-wit: We find Traveler's Rest, Christian Home, First Free Will Baptist Church of Blountstown, and Salem, all have Ladies Aids and Marvin Chapel has Aid and League.

We suggest that ministers serving churches having no Ladies Aid and League, urge them to organize an Aid and a League.

We ask each church having a Ladies Aid and League to send a report to the Association of their year's work.

MRS. G. W. NOBLES, Chm.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

We your committee beg to make the following report: We ask that Traveler's Rest Church have the next session of this Association.

We also ask that Bro. J. C. Watson preach the Introductory Sermon.

W. J. CLOUD, Chm.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

Your committee on Sabbath Schools report as follows: We find that there are a few churches that do not have Sunday School. We insist that each church and each member make a greater effort in getting a good Sunday School in each church, as we think Sunday School is a stepping stone to a higher Christian life. Prov. 22-6, says, train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

We recommend and advise that each local pastor of this Association recommend and urge that their churches organize a Sunday School for the purpose of training a child in the way he should go. May the Lord help each father and mother to raise the child in the way it should go.

MRS. P. F. HOLLEY, Chm.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We your committee on Temperance suggest that all our members live a strictly temperate life in all things and shun the very appearance of evil and live morally in the sight of God and the world. Woe unto them that tarry at the wine cup. Wine is a

mockery, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Prov. 20-1. May the Lord help us to live close to the Lord.

MRS. J. ED. JACKSON, Chm.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

We your committee on obituaries beg leave to make the following report:

We find that the Lord has called from our midst the following:

Allen Chapel Church—Bro. J. D. Brogden, born March 28, 1865 died May 1, 1938. Age 73.

Love Wood Church—Bro. John Edgar Jackson, born Nov. 11, 1875, died Nov. 6, 1937. Age 62. Bro. Charley B. Gates, born April 12, 1876, died March 10, 1938. Age 62.

Gap Pond Church—Sister Vera Mae Reeder, age unknown.

Salem Church—Sister Martha Davis, born 1866, died, October 10, 1937, age 71. Sister Havaner Swaingan, born 1864, died Aug. 20, 1938, age 74. Sister Maslen Seay, died Dec. 23, 1937, age 59. Sister Eula Corbin, died October 17, 1937 age unknown. Rev. J. A. Skinner, dates unknown.

Cypress Creek Church—Bro. Willard Ramsey, born May 23, 1921, died September 22, 1938, age 17.

First Free Will Baptist Church of Blountstown—Sister Peters, age unknown.

Christian Home Church—Sister W. E. Fercel, born October 20, 1892, died May 25, 1938.

We recommend that each church send obituaries with birth date and death date with their letters to appear in the minutes.

L. J. SEXTON, Chm.

### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amount in Treasury, October 1, 1938 .....	\$ 4.37
Amount sent in for Associational purposes .....	40.85
Amount sent in for General Association .....	8.00
For Zion Bible School .....	1.00
Total .....	\$54.22

Motion carried to retain the same Executive committee.

Motion carried to pay the clerk \$15.00.

Motion carried to correspond with the Eastern General Association by letter, and the clerk to pay the dues of \$10.00, out of the Associational Treasury.

#### REPORT OF THE LADIES AID SOCIETY OF TRAVELER'S REST CHURCH

The Ladies Aid of Traveler's Rest Church sends greetings to the Salem Association: We have an Aid Society of 15 members, since last association we have paid to the church building

committee .....	\$31.00
Paid on Lamp .....	5.00
Paid on Painting Church inside .....	6.00
Paid to District Convention .....	1.00

Total .....	\$43.00
Balance in Treasury .....	\$1.10

We meet every first Saturday in each month. We ask for your prayers for the church and Aid Society. This done in order of the Aid.

MRS. C. L. COOK, Chm.  
EVELYN POWELL, Sec.

At this time a collection was made for Zion Bible School, and received \$5.95 which was paid to Rev. Floyd Cherry.

Motion carried to place Rev. J. L. Robinson's name back on the minister's list.

Motion carried to tender thanks to Salem church and community for the hospitality shown us while in their midst.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet again at Traveler's Rest Church, Thursday at 11:00 o'clock before the first Sunday in October, 1939.

REV. J. C. ELDRIDGE, Moderator  
Cottdale, Fla.

E. S. HADDOCK, Sec. & Treas.  
Alford, Fla.



### LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. Chester Pelt .....	Greenville, N. C.
Rev. J. C. Eldridge .....	Cottondale, Fla.
Rev. C. E. Morris .....	Blountstown, Fla.
Rev. J. S. Wachob .....	Kynesville, Fla.
Rev. L. A. Daniels .....	Sneads, Fla.
Rev. A. W. Cook .....	Altha, Fla.
Rev. J. A. Brumby .....	Tallahassee, Fla.
Rev. E. W. Bruce .....	Mount Pleasant, Fla.
Rev. Daniel Walter .....	Wausau, Fla.
Rev. J. W. Roberts .....	Cypress, Fla.
Rev. J. C. Watson .....	Marianna, Fla.
Rev. A. J. Carr .....	Marianna, Fla.
Rev. J. S. Nichols .....	Cypress, Fla.
Rev. J. L. Robinson .....	Cottondale, Fla.

### LICENTIATES

I. O. Cook, Altha, Fla.; Thomas Cox, James W. Hursey; Hershel McCall; J. B. Melton, Blountstown, Fla.

### ITEMS OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Divine Service.
2. Inviting visiting brothers to seats with us.
3. Doors of the church opened for membership.
4. Call for absentees.
5. Acknowledgments.
6. Reference or deferred business.
7. New matters of dealings.
8. Miscellaneous.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory.
2. Moderator calls the body to order.
3. Call for corresponding letters and enroll delegates.
4. Roll call of ministers.
5. Appointing committees on Divine Services.
6. Call for Petitionary letters.
7. Call for corresponding letters from sister associations.
8. Call for election of new officers.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. Appoint delegates to sister associations.
11. Call for report of committees.
12. Miscellaneous Business.
13. Adjournment.

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### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes—1 Cor. 8-6, Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of heaven at the last day to judge both the quick and the dead—1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1-7; Acts. 24-15; I John 2-2.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God—St. John 16:7-8; Acts. 2:4; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in state of Glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily, by transgression, fell and by that means brough on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish; but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of the truth, that they might be saved; for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature—Mark 16-15; Luke 24-47; John 3:15-17; I Tim. 2-4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believe not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, herefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all contradictions that all men at one time or other are found in such a capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved—Act. 17:30; Mark 6; Hebrew 3:10; I John 5-10.

7. We believe the whole scriptures are infalibly true and they are the only rules of faith and practice—II Tim. 3:16-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provisions made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind who repent and be-

lieve the Gospel—Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 13: 3-5; Luke 24-47; Acts 3-19; Mark 1-15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family so as they might be happy, would they give place to His divine teaching; whereas such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit shall at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation, for wilfully, rejecting the offers of sovereign grace—Matt. 11-27; St. John 6-44, 65; Pr. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation; considered such who turn the grace of God into lavishness, denying the only Lord, God, and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them and therefore shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved; therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living—Jude 1-14; II Peter 2-1; II Thes. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-11.

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

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith and that in the use of the means of grace and not out of the use of those meant, eternal life is promised to men—Rev. 22:14-15; Isa. 1:19-20; Matt. 7-8; Jer. 6-16; Luke 13:34-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works. power or ability which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God, through Jesus Christ; believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God—Rom. 4:24; Acs 8:20-21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting death or everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice, farther than He hath appointed the godly unto life and the ungodly, who die in sin unto death—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31;

Matt. 31:46.

15. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers baptism, laying on of the hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saints feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise to God and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5-17; Jas. 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-10; Acts 2:38-39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

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

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

### CHURCH COVENANT

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

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



## **RULES OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

### **Revised and Amended**

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

The church therefore of Jesus Christ being of the Free Will Baptist order, do covenant and agree that four times a year (every three months) to assemble for the purpose of holding a godly conference, the members being all present with convenience, then and there the business of the church should be done.

## **PRACTICES**

### **The Organization of a Church**

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

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

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

## **OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

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

Board of Trustees—The duty of the trustees shall be to hold title to all property, either in fee or in gift, and to maintain all

rights to same, to convey said property in discretion of a four-fifths majority of those present at a regular quarterly meeting, being previously announced at said church three months prior to said meeting.

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

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

**Deacons**—The deacons are elected for life or during good behaviour. They should be men distinguished among their brethren of piety and benevolence. Before entering upon the duties of their office they are ordained by the pastor or other regular ministers. Ordination consists of charge, laying on of hands and prayer. It is their duty to serve at the Lord's table, to distribute of the bounty of the church among its needy members, to visit the sick, to assist the pastor in promoting order in attendance upon the means of grace, to see that an efficient Scriptural discipline be enforced in the church and to conduct religious meetings in the absence of the pastor.

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

**Finance Committee**—These have the general management of the finance of the church, subject to the churches control.

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

2. When the elders have full information of any matter respecting controversy between their brethren, should they find a

fraud intended, they shall be at liberty to give the injured party, right of the common law, and make report thereof to the next conference, at which time the offending party may be set aside from the Communion until the controversy is settled.

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

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

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

## GOVERNMENT

### Reception of Members

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

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

## DISMISSION OF MEMBERS

Only members in good standing are dismissed from the church and these for no other reason than to unite with some other church. Such members receive letters of honorable dismission and commendation, but are under the watch care of the same church until they are received into some other. A withdrawal without such let-

ter of commendation is equivalent to excommunication and is treated as such by the church.

### PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE

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

When two or more members are openly at variance or when a member is walking in a disorderly manner by a general report to the church, through a committee or otherwise, calls the offender or offenders to account; and in the presence of such offenders—unless they refuse to be present, then in their absence, the church examines into the nature of the offence or the character of the general reports; if the parties are found guilty and do not give satisfactory evidence of penitence, after a suitable discipline they are excluded from the church.

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

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

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

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

5. If any member shall absent himself from the church on the



days of Conference, or times of Communion, he shall be liable to the censure of the church.

### MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

Each church meets as often as practicable for the public worship of God.

The time of celebrating the Lord's Supper, washing feet, and of business meetings are arranged by each local church to suit its own convenience. Generally these meetings are monthly or quarterly, business meetings preceding the Lord's Supper.

Each church is required to observe the ordinances. Feet washing follows the Lord's Supper.

Conference or business meetings are opened and closed with suitable devotionable exercises. The pastor acts as moderator of the business meetings of the church. In the absence of the pastor the church may meet when necessary and attend to ordinary church business, but no member is excluded in the absence of the pastor. All business meetings are conducted according to certain rules of order.

### THE MINISTRY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a Gospel church, or church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according

to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches, and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of Gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in heaven and of such Christians now on earth as are not attached to the visible according to the Gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central or catholic government over the visible church or any part thereof is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the word of God, subversive to the churches and dangerous to the liberties of men.

5. That the Gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute and that if this right be surrendered to a superintending jurisdiction, by delegation or otherwise, the assembly then ceases to be a Gospel church.

6. That churches may nevertheless, we suppose, meet by delegates, form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up the correspondence, but that the rights and authority of churches being inalienable, are in no wise compromised or hindered by entering into an association, and therefore an association has no authority over churches or individuals, their only powers being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity, to promote mutual intercourse and a concentration of voluntary effort, and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by any individual.

7. That the authority of churches is designed for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel and for the preservation of a pure and orderly body of Christians on earth, that it is fully sufficient for the purposes intended, but that it does not extend to the person's property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel; that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of church membership is an assumption of authority on the part of the church and a departure from the Gospel plan.

9. That the officers of the church are elders and deacons; that elders are also called bishops or pastors; that all elders are equal in rank, though they may perform different functions, since some may be the bishops or pastors of particular churches, while others may be simply elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further, that he cannot perform any acts that belong to the authority of the church, such as the reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church he is no more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he was a private person; yet we think it prudent to call in advisory help, especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's Supper and washing the saints' feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes.

13. The elders and deacons must be set apart to thier office by ordination by the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective office.

## CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This shall be the Constitution of the Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist church of North Carolina, viz., Cape Fear, Western, Central, and Eastern, or any others that may adopt this discipline.

Art. 2. The object of the Annual Conferences shall be to promote Christ's Kingdom among men by means in strict conformity to the holy Scriptures.

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

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



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

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

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

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

Art. 9. This constitution may be amended at any regular session by a vote of four-fifths of the members present of the conference session.

#### BY-LAWS

Art. 1. A general conference shall be annually held.

Art. 2. Every elder, minister and preacher in good standing and delegates shall duly attend.

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

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

Art. 5. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.

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

Art. 7. The officers and standing committees shall be entitled to a seat in the annual conference.

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

Art. 9. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and praise to God.

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

## RULES OF ORDER

### Motions

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

All resolutions shall be submitted in writing.

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

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

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

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

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

### Speaking

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

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

While a member is speaking no one shall interrupt him except to call him to order, ask leave to explain or make an explanation. The one allowed to explain shall confine himself strictly to an actual misunderstanding of language which may need explanation.

If the speaker yield the floor to another he cannot claim it again.

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

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

### **Committees**

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

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

Any subjects under debate or any matter of business may be referred to a committee with or without instructions.

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

A report of a committee may be recommitted when necessary for further investigation, or to present it in some more acceptable form.

All reports when read shall be considered as properly before the body without a motion to accept.

### **Voting**

Voting shall be done by "yea" and "nay", by standing up affirmative and negative, and in special cases by ballot.

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

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

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

### **Laying On The Table**

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

**Privilege Question**

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

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

**Filling Blanks**

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

**Reconsidering**

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



CHURCHES	PASTORS AND ADDRESSES	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	Received by Letter By Baptism	Conf. of Faith By Restoration	Dismissed by Letter Expelled	Dead	Male Members	Female Members	Total Membership	Amt. to Association	Amt. Paid Pastor			
Gap Pond -----	Rev. Daniel Walters, Wausau, Fla. ....	Arthur Finch, Wausau, Fla. ....	1			1	45	72	117	\$ 4.00	\$ 15.72			
Love Wood -----	Rev. T. B. Ross, Bonifay, Fla. ....	J. R. Hayes, Cottondale, Fla. ....	5	3	1	2	69	135	204	3.10	50.30			
Salem -----	Rev. A. H. Godfrey, Ashford, Ala. -	J. R. Barnes, Cottondale, Fla. ....			1	4	110	158	268	3.25	85.00			
Marvin Chapel -	Rev. M. B. Woodlief -----	Miss Audrey Day, Marianna, Fla. Rt .1	3	1	2	1	33	54	87	5.00	90.00			
Damascus -----	Rev. J. C. Eldridge, Cottondale, Fla..	W. L. Cloud, Marianna, Fla., Rt. 1, ..	1	1		3	45	76	121	5.00	30.10			
Oak Grove -----	Rev. Rufus Hyman -----	J. S. Conrad, Bascom, Fla. ....					5	36	41	3.00				
Christian Home	Rev. Daniel F. Pelt, Altha, Fla. R.F.D.	O. F. Bracewell, Blountstown, Fla. ....		6	2	2	1	32	84	116	6.00	121.15		
Cypress Creek --	Rev. Daniel Walters, Wausau, Fla. ..	F. E. Locke, Cottondale, Fla., Rt. 2 ..		1			1	13	24	37	2.00	15.00		
Midway -----	Rev. J. C. Watson, Marianna, Fla. ....	Mrs. Dorothy Summars, Cypress, Fla. ....		1	1		7	20	27	2.50	16.75			
1st. F.W.B. church of Blountstown	Rev. G. W. Nobles, Cottonwood, Ala	Roy, Willis, Blountstown, Fla. ....			2	6	4	1	35	52	87	6.00	74.60	
Allen Chapel ---	Rev. J. C. Watson, Marianna, Fla. ....	T. B. Horne, Bascom, Fla. ....					1	24	23	47	3.00	31.65		
New Union -----	Rev. A. J. Carr, Marianna, Fla. ....	Mrs. C. B. Davis -----								3.00				
Traveler's Rest	Rev. J. C. Eldridge, Cottondale, Fla.	J. W. Parham, Altha, Fla. Rt. 2 ..	11	3	1	1	24	66	90	4.00	58.57			
Total—13		Total .....	9	25	8	8	13	4	11	442	800	1242	\$49.85	\$588.84