

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SALEM FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
GAP POND CHURCH
October 4, 5, 1945

OFFICERS

REV. RUFUS HYMAN.....Moderator, Altha, Fla.
C. L. COOK,.....Secretary and Treasurer, Altha, Fla.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Troy Haddock, Chm., J. M. Barnes, C. L. Cook, Arthur Finch
and H. N. Holley.

MISSION BOARD

C. E. Day, Florence Cook, Jimmie Hichcock and C. B. Land.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

J. C. Eldridge, C. E. Morris and A. W. Cook

The next session will convene with Salem Church, Kinesville,
Fla., Thursday and Friday before the first Sunday, Oct. 1945.

PROCEEDINGS

The Salem Association met with Gap Pond Church on Oct. 4th, 1945. After a short song service, the stand was ably filled by Rev. J. E. Nichols, scripture reading 18th Chapter of St. Mathew Prayer by Rev. J. C. Eldridge. Song, "Oh How I Love Jesus." The message was a real inspiration, subject, "Christ in the Midst." Adjourned until 1;30.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

At the appointed time the body was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Rufus Hyman. Bro. Earnest Owens led devotional service. Prayer by A. W. Cook. Scripture reading by Rev. J. W. Roberts, reading 5th Chapter of St. Mathew.

A call was made for corresponding letters.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

Salem Church—J. R. Barnes, Wesley Vickory, S. A. Jackson and Jewel Kent.

Damascus Church—W. L. Cloud, Floyd Badgette.

Holly Grove Church—J. E. Hewette, N. R. Jones and Franklin Chafin.

Love Wood Church—Willie Vinson, J. C. Johnson, P. E. Gilbert and W. L. Nixon.

Travelers Rest Church—Edd Hitchcock, W. M. Shivers, E. G. Suggs and J. E. Hitchcock.

Christian Home—Brd. and Sister O. F. Bracewell, Mary Spears and Annie Kerce.

Midway Church—Sister Rufus Hyman and Sister Margarette Roberts.

Gap Pond Church—Brown Finch, Jack Hicks and W. G. Grantham.

Cypress Creek Church—C. B. Land, Troy Haddock, Perlin Vickory, Eula Vickory and Marie Wright.

New Hope Church—Bro. and Sister R. B. Jackson.

Oak Grove Church—W. M. Hewette, J. B. Scott, Carmal Smith and David Smith.

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Called for visitors from other Associations.

Liberty Association—Bro. Earnest Owens, who gave a very interesting talk on Tithing.

State Line Association—Bro. Daniel Guy.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED

Committee on Divine Services—S. A. Jackson, Brown Finch, J. E. Hewette.

Committee on Nominatoin—E. G. Suggs, Jack Hicks, J. R. Barnes, Floyd Badgette, and G. B. Scott.

Committee on Education—Earnest Owens, J. W. Roberts and O. F. Bracewell.

Committee on Obituaries—Sister O. F. Bracewell, C. B. Land and I. O. Cook.

Committee on Standing of Churches and Ministers—W. M. Shivers, Troy Haddock, Edd Hitchcock, W. G. Grantham and Jewel Kent.

Committee on Temperance—Wesley Vickory, J. F. Sullavant, J. E. Nichols and W. L. Cloud.

Committee on Finance—Perlin Vickory, N. R. Jones, Willie Hewette and Jimmie Hitchcock.

Committee on Resolutions—Rufus Hyman, C. L. Cook, W. T. Justice and Sister Marie Wright.

Committee on Sabbath School—Bro. George Cloud, Sister C. E. Day, Sister Ruth Nichols, David Smith and H. C. Gause.

Committee on Auxiliary Work—Florence Cook, Addie Mae Hyman, Margaret Roberts and Evelyn Hitchcock.

PREACHERS PRESENT

J. C. Eldridge, G. L. Shutes, A. W. Cook, H. C. Mercer, Daniel Walters, Rufus Hyman, J. E. Nichols, I. O. Cook, Earnest Clark, Daniel Guy and J. W. Roberts.

At this time a collection was taken to assist Bro. W. E. Holly in establishing a Free Will Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla. The collection amounted to \$42.00.

SALEM FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Report on Divine Services, that G. L. Shutes and J. C. Eldridge preach Friday at eleven o'clock, Brown Finch Chairman.

A motion was made and carried to seat delegates from Ladies District Auxiliary Convention, Sister Florence Cook and Sister Evelyn Hitchcock.

A move was made that this Association go on record that we disapprove the sale of strong drinks. Adjourned to meet Friday morning at 9:30.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

After song service, led by O. F. Bracewell, the Moderator gave a very interesting talk, Scripture reading 2nd. Chapter of Heb. Prayer by Rev. Hyman.

Renew call for Corresponding Letters Marvin Chapel Church.

Delegates—Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Day, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Gause and D. L. Basford.

Renew call for visitors.

Bro. G. W. Cloud, of South Georgia Association.

Called off business until 1:30.

At 11:00 o'clock the stand was filled by G. L. Shutes, reading the first chapter of Rev. Closed by Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by Moderator. Rev. D. E. Clark led devotional services, reading 2nd chapter of Mark. Prayer by Rev. A. W. Cook.

Renewed the call for Corresponding Letters. Allen Chapel Church.

Delegates—Lynn Allen, Emma Pittman.

Renewed the call for Petitionary Letters. Received Abe Springs Church.

Delegates—Bro. J. A. Sumner and Rev. D. E. Clark.

Appointed delegates to State Association of Florida—Bro.

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and Sister C. L. Cook, C. E. Day, S. A. Jackson and Floyd Padgette.

Delegates to Liberty Association—J. W. Roberts, J. C. Eldridge and Rufus Hyman.

Delegates to State Line Association—F. O. Cook, J. E. Nichols, C. L. Cook and Franklin Chafin.

At this time Troy Haddock and H. N. Holly were elected as members of Executive Committee to serve for two years.

There was a move, seconded and carried that the minutes of the District's Auxiliary Convention of Salem Association be printed in this minute. Moved and seconded that the Association give Brothers J. E. Hewette, Floyd Padgette and C. E. Day authority to sell the old church property at Union Church, south of Thomas' mill, Jackson County, Fla.

Moved and seconded that a fee of \$10.00 be sent to State Association. Also a move and second that \$17.50 be taken out of Association funds and added to the Orphan funds.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Report on Resolutions offer the following report! That our order of Church Conference be changed to the following:

- 1—Devine Service.
- 2—Invite visitors.
- 3—Unfinished business.
- 4—Miscellaneous business.

Respectfully submitteed by the Committee.

RUFUS HYMAN, Chairman.

Report from Mission Board—We, your committee, make the following report: Find that we have \$16.75 in the Treasury. We your committee suggest that the money remain in the treasury for time being or until committee sees fit to use it. We ask each church of our Association to set aside a certain percentage of their offerings for Missions.

C. E. DAY, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION

Recommend that the next Association convene with Salem Church, six miles south of Cottondale, Fla., and Bro. J. W. Roberts preach the introductory sermon.

E. G. SUGGS, Chairman.

OBITUARY OF E. S. HADDOCK

It has pleased our Heavenly Father in His infinite wisdom to call our loving husband and father, Mr. E. S. Haddock on September 21, 1945 to come up higher and dwell eternally in His presence.

In the passing of our husband and father we have lost a loving and consecrated companion and father, the church and community a true and proven friend, a loyal citizen, a spiritual leader and a faithful hardworker for the higher and nobler things in life, and a supporter of his denomination. His life will ever be a guiding light to his loved ones. His passing leaves a vacancy in our hearts, our homes, and our church and we shall greatly miss his fine spirit and wise counsel.

While we miss the gentle presence, the gracious personality the ever ready spirit of helpfulness of this dear one whom we have "loved and lost awhile," we know that in our loss Heaven has gained another spirit of love and light and is richer because of his presence.

He was born October 15, 1872, making his stay on earth near 73 years. He was married to Bulah Emma Land, December 19, 1894, and we lived a peaceful and happy life together for near 51 years.

He joined Salem Free Will Baptist Church in the summer of 1895 and for fifty years he was a faithful and loyal servant of his church, being a deacon for _____ years, and Secretary and Treasurer of the Salem Association for many years.

MRS. EMMA HADDOCK AND FAMILY'

OBITUARY OF CHARLEY RUDD

Form Cypress Creek Church. The Lord saw fit to take away our beloved father and husband, a true and faithful father and husband, greatly missed by his family and friends, a true and loyal member of his church for about 45 years of his life.

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He was a member of the Free Baptist Church. He died at the age of 74. Died Oct 1st, 1944. He will be long, long remembered by his family, by his daughter, Lillie Park, wife Sarah Rudd.

TRAVELERS REST CHURCH

Sister Caroline Sewell. Born May 31, 1885, Died July the 30, 1945. Age 60 yeears.

TRAVELERS REST CHURCH.

Bro. James P. Laramore. Born April 25, 1910. Was killed November 16, 1944 in World War No. 2. Age 34.

SALEM CHURCH

Annie Arleen Land, Nov. 20, 1913, Sept. 22, 1945. She was devoted to her family and a faithful Church member. We miss her but God knows best.

MARVIN CHAPEL OBITUARY

We the members of Marvin Chapel Church wish to express our heartfelt sympathy in the death of our loved one, Sister and Friend, Mrs. Evelyn Gause Mescer, who the Lord in all His Wisdom saw fit to call unexpectedly from our midst Sept. 9, 1945.

"To know her was to love her". These words express our exact feeling toward this faithful Disciple of Christ.

She united with the Free Will Baptist Church when she was young at Marvin Chapel Church where she remained a faithful member until death.

Her life will ever be a guiding light to her loved ones and friends. Her passing leaves a vacancy in our hearts, Church and Sunday School, and we shall greatly miss her fine spirit and smiling face.

But while we miss her gentle presence, the ever ready helpfulness of this dear friend whom we have lost for awhile, we know that in our loss Heaven has gained another spirit of Love and light and is richer because of its presence.

We humbly bow in submission to Him who doeth all things

well, and express to the family our sympathy in this their great sorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. AUDREY DAY EILAND, Clerk.

DAMASCUS OBITUARY

The Lord in His infinite wisdom has called from our church our beloved brother, Aldean Lafayette Gilbert. He was born Sept. 13, 1922 and died January 13, 1945 near Pensacola as a result of an auto accident.

It was a shock to the whole vicinity. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him. We trust that we shall meet him in the sweet by and by.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARD CHURCHES AND MINISTERS

We your Committee find all Churches in fair condition, and recommend that all our churches commemorate and wash feet at least once a year. And if they fail to do so hereafter, they will not be seated in the association. So far as we know all our ministers are in good standing.

W. M. SHIVER, Chm.

COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARY

We your Committee on Auxiliary work. We only find four Ladies Aids represented in our District Convention. We especially ask each pastor of the Salem Association that Churches that doesn't have an aid, to insist that they organize one.

2. We also ask that each Local Aid appoint two committees to collect Mission money, to be kept in local treasury until the Salem Association meets with Salem Church, after which to be turned over to the Mission Board.

3. We ask that each local aid send as many as one or more delegates to the District Convention, which convenes with the Traveler Rest Church Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in September 1946. Anyone that desires to correspond with the field worker, write— Mrs. Addie Mae Hyman, P. O. Route 1 Altha, Fla.

MRS. CHESTER COOK, Chm.

SALEM FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Present the following report:

1. We ask that our people acquaint themselves more with the Christian literature of our denomination instead of reading the cheap debased things of our worldly amusements. Each pastor insist that our people devote more time to the study of our F.W.B. paper and the Bible.

2. We also ask that we educates ourselves more on tithing and the promises that our Bible offers us.

3. Also that our pastor's tithing more often and practice it themselves.

EARNEST OWEN, Chm.

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOL

We make the following report: We suggest that each church in our association cooperative of all ministers and Christian leaders urge all our young people to attend Sunday School and league. And all affiliate with our Sunday School Convention. That we may better understand our mutual problems and help each other in advancing the Cause of Christ.

G. W. CLOUD, Chm.

MRS. C. E. DAY

H. C. GAUSE

DAVID SMITH

MRS. RUTH NICHOLS

TREASURERS REPORT

Amount in Treasury, Sept. 28, 1944	\$ 52.91
Received from Finance Committee Sept. 29, 1944 for	
Associational Purposes	65.50
For General Association	8.50
For Education	6.00

Total Amount \$132.91

Received from Bro. C. E. Day for Missions brought	
over from 1943	10.00

Total \$142.91

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Disbursements —

Minutes	\$35.00
Postage	2.08
Foreign Mission	10.00
Home Mission	16.53
Education	6.00
General Association	5.00

Total Amount Paid Out	\$89.61
Balance in Treasury October 4th, 1945	\$53.30

C. L. COOK, Sec.-Treas.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We find that, we as Churches of this body, are too slack concerning strong drink. We do ask that all members of our churches abstain from the use of strong drink and be temperate in all things. Let us read the Bible more and get what God has to say about this item.

Rev G. O. Cook Rt 2 Altha, Fla
" J. C. Eldridge Cottondale, Fla
 W. W. VICKORY, Chm.
 LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. H. C. Mercer

Rev. J. W. Roberts Rt. 1, Altha, Fla.

Rev. J. E. Nichols Rt. 2, Altha, Fla.

Rev. D. E. Clark Rt., Blountstown, Fla.

Rev. Rufus Hyman Rt. 2, Altha, Fla.

Rev. C. E. Morris Blountstown Fla
" J. C. Watson MARIANNA Fla
" A. W. Cook Rt 2 Altha, Fla
 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

We make the following report—

Received for Associational purposes.....	\$80.00
Orphan Home	\$ 7.00
Foreign Mission	\$7.50
Home Mission	7.50
We find in Treasury	53.30

Total \$158.30

PERLIN VICKORY, Chm.

Moved and Seconded that the body give a rising vote of

SALEM FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Thanks to Gap Pond Church and Community, for their kindness shown the body during the session.

Moved and Carried that we adjourn to meet with Salem Church on Thursday before the 1st Sunday in October, 1946.

REV. RUFUS HYMAN, Moderator
Altha, Fla., Route 1

C. L. COOK, Clerk
Altha, Fla., Route 2

SEPTEMBER 22, 1945

The Woman Auxiliary Convention of Salem Association, met with Mid-Way Church, Cypress, Fla. Sister Louis Linton, President, presiding, with Sister Florence Cook, Secretary, officiating. After a short song service, the President asked for a move and second that delegates be seated, which was carried.

AIDS AND DELEGATES

Mid-Way Church—Sister Margaret Roberts, Sister G. G. Wimberly.

Holly Grove Church—Sister Allie Watson, Sister W. F. Chafin.

Travelers Rest Church—Sister Lillie Mae Tew, Sister Annie Newson, Sister Ella Grantham, Sister Evelyn Hitchcock.

Christian Home Church—Represented by letter with a wonderful report.

There was a move and second that the letter of last Convention be read, which was read and adopted.

The President appointed the following committees:

Compiling Committee—Sister Ellis Crutchfield, Sister Cora Linton, Sister Wimberly and Sister Jusice.

Resolution Committee—Sister Evelyn Hitchcock, Sister Cora Chafin and Sister Rufus Hyman.

Nominating Committee—Sister Lillie Mae Tew, Sister Annie Newsome and Sister J. W. Roberts.

Finance Committee—Sister Ella Grantham, Sister Henry Crutchfield and Sister Margaret Roberts.

After which Rev. J. W. Roberts preached us a wonderful sermon on Works. Adjourned one hour for lunch.

The afternoon session met and after singing a few songs, the President asked for report of committees.

REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your committe on Suggestions ask to make the following report. That we as an Auxiliary should take a stand against the filthy magazines and novels which are so dangerous to the character of our young people, because they're going to be the men and women of tomorrow.

Second, That all pastors urge the need of Auxiliary work in the churches, and that we pray more earnestly that we will strive harder to do more for the Master's cause, and pray for more active members in our work.

Third, That a full minute of our District meeting be printed in our Association Minutes, instead of a letter. Pray much for our Auxiliary work.

MRS. RUFUS HYMAN Chairman

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We, your committee make the following report. That Sister Louise Linton be our President for ensuing year. Sister Ella Grantham, Vice president, Sister Florence Cook be our Secretary-Treasurer, Sister Rufus Hyman, Field Worker. There was a move that the District Convention pay the field worker's traveling expenses.

MRS ANNIE NEWSOME, Chairman.

COMPILING COMMITTEE REPORT

We make the following report. We find churches represented in our District Convention. Membership.

Christian Home	15
Travelers Rest Church	10
Mid Way Church	8
Holly Grove Church	6
Total members	39

MRS. CORA LINTON, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We your committee make the following report.

Dues collected from Local Aid's.

Christian Home Church	\$28.35
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Travelers Rest Church	9.00
Mid-Way Church	15.30
Holly Grove Church	9.20
Total	\$61.85

Home Mission from Local Aid.....	44.51
Report of District Treasury brought over from 1944.....	36.90
Dues sent to District Convention.	
Christian Home Church	2.00
Travelers Rest Church	2.00
Midway Church	1.50
Holly Grove Church	1.40
Making a total of.....	43.80

Disbursements, by Local Aids.

Christian Home Church	\$142.30
Mid-Way Church	232.00
Holly Grove Church	52.44
Travelers Rest Church	79.87
Total amount	326.61

Personal Service, by Local Aids.

Trays sent to the sick.....	67
Visits made to the sick.....	221
Chapters read	6722
Bouquets of Flowers	78
Garments given the needy.....	26

MRS. MARGARET ROBERTS, Chairman

There was a move and second that Sister Florence Cook and Sister Martha Roberts be sent to Salem Association as delegates from District Convention with Auxiliary report.

Also moved and carried that Sister Louise Linton, Sister Evelyn Hitchcock and Sister Florence Cook be delegates to State Convention. The Convention gave Mid-Way Auxiliary Society a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality and nice dinner.

The next session to meet with Travelers Rest Church Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in 1946. We sang "God Be With You." The session was closed by every one present repeating the Auxiliary Creed.

LOUISE LINTON, President

FLORENCE COOK, Secy. Treas.

ITEMS OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Divine Service.
2. Inviting visiting brothers to seats with us.
3. Unfinished business.
4. Miscellaneous business.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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.

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,

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 believe 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 punishmen 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 letter 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 ordi-

nation 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 elec' as many boards or standing committees as may be necessary in car-

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rying 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.

ASSOCIATION LETTER

Greetings from _____ Church

To the Salem Association at _____

Dear Brethren—The time is at hand for us to meet you by delegation at another Association. We send to represent us in your honorable body:

We hand you our Statistics—Received by letter _____

by Baptish _____ by confession of faith _____ by Res-

toration _____ Dismissed by letter _____ Expelled _____

Dead—Male members _____ Female members _____

Total membership _____ We have called for ensuing

year, Elder _____

Amount of money to Association—For Home Mission _____

Foreign Mission _____ For Education _____ For

Superannuation _____ To Dnified Program _____

To Orphanage _____ Amount paid pastor _____

Amount paid visiting preachers _____ Other expenses _____

Have communed and washed feet _____ this year.

Moderator _____ Address _____

Clerk _____ Address _____

CHURCH AUXILIARY REPORT

Sunday School's membership _____ Average attend-

ance _____ Sunday School offerings _____ Total

paid out _____

Superintendent's name and address _____

Laidies Aid membership _____ Average attendance _____

Bible readers _____ Total collected _____ Total

paid out _____ President's name and address _____

_____ number

on roll _____ Average attendance _____ Number

daily bible readers _____

President's name _____

and address _____

CHURCHES	PASTORS AND ADDRESSES	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	Church Meeting Day	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
Love Wood	J. W. Roberts, Altha, Florida, Rt. 1	W. T. Justice, Cottondale, Fla., Rt. 1	2nd Sun	1	2			3		2	52	108	160	\$ 5.00	\$ 71.59
Gap Pond	J. C. Watson, Marianna, Florida	Brown Finch, Wausau, Fla., Rt. 1 B-18									45	74	119	5.00	68.00
Christian Home	J. E. Nichols, Altha, Florida	Annie Belle Taylor, Blountstown, Fla.	1st Sun			1				1	31	90	121	5.00	198.00
Cypress Creek	J. E. Nichols, Altha, Florida	F. E. Locke, Marianna, Fla. Rt. 4	3rd Sun	1	8					1	31	47	81	5.25	129.00
Allen Chapel		Mrs. Katie Mae Hart, Bascom, Fla.	2nd Sun								25	21	46	4.25	40.00
Marvin Chapel	Rev. D. F. Pelt, Altha, Fla., Rt. 1	Mrs. Audrey Eiland, P. O. Box 7, Marianna		2	12			2		1	26	42	68	8.00	237.26
Midway	J. E. Nichols, Altha, Florida	Mrs. Rufus Hyman, Altha, Fla. Rt. 1	2nd Sun		4	1					20	28	48	5.00	132.35
Damascus	Rev. I. O. Cook, Altha, Fla. Rt. 2	W. L. Cloud, Rt. 1 Box 167, Marianna, Fla.	3rd Sun		2			1		1	45	93	148	4.00	140.94
Holley Grove	J. W. Roberts, Altha, Florida, Rt. 1	A. H. Linton, Marianna, Fla., Rt. 4	1st Sun		4		2				22	35	57	4.00	147.39
Salem	Rev. I. O. Cook, Altha, Fla. Rt. 2	J. R. Barnes, Cottondale, Fla.	1st Sun			3			7	4	95	149	244	5.00	176.49
Oak Grove	Rev. I. O. Cook, Altha, Fla. Rt. 2	Mrs. D. L. Hewett, Rt A, Box 79, Sneads	2nd Sun								20	31	51	5.00	118.38
Travelers Rest	Rev. J. W. Roberts, Altha, Fla., Rt. 1	J. W. Parham, Altha, Fla., Rt. 2	4th Sun	1	4		1	1		2	33	85	118	10.00	332.55
New Hope	Rev. Dan Guy, Bascom, Fla.	Mrs. Mildridge Mears, Rt. 1 Bascom, Fla.		1	1						4	10	14	2.00	22.00
Abes Springs	Rev. D. E. Clark, Blountstown, Fla.	Mittie C. Wood, Rt. 1, Blountstown, Fla.	4th Sun								4	7	11	10.00	50.00
TOTAL—1b				6	37	5	3	7	7	12	456	820	1276	\$77.50	\$1,863.95