# CYPRESS CREEK CHURCH Oct. 1st, and 2nd, 1948

# SALEM FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCICATION

HELD WITH

OF THE

JUNCUL

# FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

MINUTES of the

## **OFFICERS**

REV. I. O. COOK, Moderator \_\_\_\_\_\_Rt. 2, Altha, Fla. C. L. COOK, Secretary & Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_Rt. 2, Altha, Fla.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Arthur Finch, Chm., H. A. Hicks, J. T. Sullivan, C. E. Day, and O. F. Bracewell **MONDANDINANDIN** 

### MISSION BOARD

Mrs. Florence Cook, Chm., C. B. Land, Jimmie Hitchcock, and C. E. Day, Treasurer

ORDAINING COUNCIL

J. W. Roberts, J. E. Nichols, A. W. Cook

The next session will convene with Travelers Rest Church, Thursday and Friday, before the 1st Sunday in October, 1949, one mile north of Clarkesville, Fla. The Ladies' Auxiliary District Convention of Salem Association convenes with Holly Grove Church, Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September of 1949.

NOUSTON PRINTING CO., DOTHAN, ALA

# PROCEEDINGS

The Salem Association met with Cypress Creek Church, Oct. 1st, 1948. After a short song service the house was called to order by the Moderator I. O. Cook. Bro. H. W. Keel preached the Introductory Sermon, Scripture reading 27th chapter of Psalms.

Dismissed one hour for lunch.

At 1:00 o'clock the body was called to order. Scripture 17th chapter of Matthew. It is good for us to be here. Prayer by Rev. A. W. Cook. At this time a call was made for corresponding letters. Bro. J. E. Nichols and Bro. George Cloud were appointed to read the association letters.

#### CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

CHRISTIAN HOME CHURCH—Bro. O. F. Bracewell and Sister Lovie Burkett.

ABES SPRINGS CHURCH—Represented by letter.

MARVIN CHAPEL CHURCH-Bro. C. E. Day and Bro. H. C. Gause.

LOVEWOOD CHURCH—Bro. W. T. Justice, P. E. Gilbert, and Bro. J. D. Mears.

OAK GROVE CHURCH—Sister Willie Hewette and Bro. Charlie Cox.

SALEM CHURCH—Bro. Jewel Kent and Sister Sallie Barnes.

GAP POND CHURCH—Bro. Douglas Finch, J. B. Pettigo, and Bro. Charlie Johns.

DAMASCUS CHURCH—Bro. W. L. Cloud, Bro. Robert Cloud, and Bro. Emmett Lipford.

NEW HOPE CHURCH—Bro. White Fowler and Sister H. W. Keel.

TRAVELERS REST CHURCH—Bro. J. W. Parham, W. M. Shiver, Sister Evelyn Hitchcock, and Sister Florence Cook.

PINE GROVE CHURCH—Represented by Letter.

Committee appointed on Divine Services—Bro. J. W. Parham, Bro. C. E. Day and Bro. Jessie Ramsey. Called for Petitionary Letters.

Received Cedar Grove Church, with delegates—Bro. and Sis. H. A. Hicks, and Sis. Malvin Ditty.

Also received Green Head Church, Delegates—Bro. D. C. Finch, Sis. Essie Taylor, L. H. Fackler, and Olis Hammack.

Correspondence from other associtions: Liberty Association— Bro. and Sister A. B. Cook and Bro. Daniel Walters and Bro. Oliver Relford. South Georgia Association—Bro. G. W. Cloud. Martin Association—Bro. W. H. Horn.

At this time the Ladies' Auxiliary District Convention of Salem Association, was represented by delegtaion — Sister J. T. Sullivan, and Sister Wynell Chafin.

#### **COMMITTEES APPOINTED**

Committee on Auxiliary—Sister Lovie Burkett, Sister H. A. Hicks, Bro. C. E. Day, and Sis. Florence Cook, Sister J. T. Sullivan.

Committee on Education-Bro. W. M. Shiver, Bro. G. W.

Cloud, Sis. Willie Hewett, Bro. O. F. Bracewell, and Bro. Douglas Finch.

Committee on Obituaries—Bro. J. E. Nichols, Bro. F. E. Dykes, Bro. Emmett Lipford, Bro. J. B. Pettice and Bro. G. G. Wimberly.

Committee on Standing of Churches and Ministers — Bro. Arthur Finch, Bro. J. W. Parham, J. T. Sullivan, Bro. G. B. Scott, and Bro. W. F. Chafin.

Committee on Finance—Bro. W. L. Cloud, Bro. J. C. Watson, Bro. D. C. Finch, F. E. Lock.

Committee on Suggestions—Bro. J. W. Roberts, Bro. H. C. Gause, Bro. Whit Fowler, Bro. A. W. Cook, Bro. H. W. Keel, and J. R. Barnes.

Committee on Nominations—Bro. Joe Tharpe, L. H. Fackler, Sis. Ditty, Sis. Evelyn Hitchcock, J. W. Barnes, Bro. Joe Spears.

Committee on Temperance—H. W. Keel, Trim Finch, Robert Cloud, Jewel Kent and Martie Broom.

The Ordaining Council was asked to meet at 10:30 o'clock, for the purpose of ordaining Bro. Trim Finch.

Executive Committee—H. A. Hicks, for one year; Arthur Finch, two years; J. T. Sullivan, for two years; C. E. Day, for one year; O. F. Bracewell, two years.

Bro. J. W. Robert was elected to serve on the ordaining council.

The body adjourned to meet back Saturday at 9:00 o'clock.

At the appointed time the body assembled together. Rev. J. W. Roberts read the 2nd chapter of 1st Peter. The body renewed he call for corresponding letters.

Received Midway Church, with G. G. Wimberly, Delegate.

Received Holly Grove Church. Delegates-J. E. Hewett, J. T. Sullivan, F. E. Dykes, and Willie Hewette.

Cypress Creek Church and Delegates—Joe Tharp, J. D. Ramsey. There was a move and second, that Sis. Ada Holly, Sis. Audrey Eiland, Sis. O. F. Bracewell, and Sis. Mary Spears, be added to the Auxiliary Committee.

Report of Committee on Divine Service—That Bro. Trim Finch, preach the 11:00 o'clock sermon and Bro. Horn close.

At 11:00 o'clock the stand was filled by Bro. Trim Finch. Scripture reading, 15th chapter of St. Luke. Closed by Bro. W. H. Horn. Adjourned one hour for lunch.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by Moderator. Bro. Chester Pelt leading devotional service by reading 3rd chapter of Romans from 19th t o28th verse.

The Moderator called for visitors from other associations:

Southeastern Association—Rev. Daniel Pelt.

Western Association of N. C.—Rev. Chester Pelt.

Union Hill Association—Rev. John Carr.

Appointed Delegates to other associations:

Martin Association—Bro. I. O. Cook, Bro. W. M. Shiver, Bro. G. B. Scott, Bro. J. E. Nichols, and Bro. J. C. Watson.

State Line Association—Sister Melvin Ditty, Bro. and Sister H. A. Hicks, Bro. J. W. Roberts.

Liberty Association—Bro. J. D. Mears, Bro. J. W. Roberts, and Bro. C. E. Day.

Florida State Association—O. F. Bracewell, W. M. Shiver, Joe Tharp, Martin Broom, and C. L. Cook.

Committee on Committees Appointed—Bro. C. E. Day. Bro. H. A. Hicks, and Bro. W. M. Shiver.

Report of Committee on Committees— Travelers Rest Church—Divine Service Cypress Creek Church—Standing of Churches and Ministers Love Wood Church—Education Holly Grove Church—Nominations Damascus Church—Nominations Marvin Chapel Church—Finance Christian Home Church—Auxiliary Salem Church—Temperance

#### Gap Pond Church—Obituaries

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEES

We your Committee on Education, wish to submit the following: 1st, we recognize the fact that there is power in education, and as a denomination we need to put forth every effort to acquire an education in order to cooperate with the age in which we live. 2nd, we not only need education, but that which is more important is Christian education. Therefore we should put forth every effort for the purpose of giving our young people a Christian education.

We ask that our Sunday School teachers and superintendents study ways and means to create interest in our young people for Sunday School.

Prayerfully submitted.

Your committee — G. W. Cloud.

The Committee on Suggestions make the following report: That our people of the Freewill Baptist Denomination bind ourselves together more closely in reading our Christian literature, as we feel it will help us to understand what our denomination

stands for.

We suggest that the association give the Moderator right to appoint each church to work our their reports through the year, to make the same report for the next session. We furthermore suggest that the members of each church in the Salem Association strive to keep their church and church property in good condition, such as painting and repairing church, cleaning cemetery and church yard. This will make each church more attractive for its own church members, and also those on the outside, and will be inclined to build up for everyone concerned, also the Denomination.

Signed—The Committee on Suggestions,

#### J. W. Roberts.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS—We your Committee on Nominations, suggest the next session of the Salem Association be held with Travelers Rest Church, two miles north of Clarkesville, Fla., and that Bro. I. O. Cook preach the introductory sermon.

#### L. H. Fackler, Chm.

#### COMMITTEES ON STANDING ON CHURCHES AND MIN-

ISTERS. We your Committee on Churches and Ministers, make the following report: That we're glad to report all churches and ministers in good standing as far as we know. And we recommend that each church commune and wash feet quarterly and at the close of the revival meeting.

#### Arthur Finch, Chm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT. We your committee make the following report: We're glad to report no unfinished business in the past year. We have elected Bro. Arthur Finch Chairman of the Executive Committee.

J. T. Sullivan, Chairman.

#### REPORT OF MISSION BOARD

Money in Treasury Oct. 2nd, 1947	\$318.91
Paid out for Foreign Mission	18.55
Paid to Church Building at Tallahassee	50.00
- Total Amount Paid Out	\$ 68.55
Balance in Treasury Oct. 2, 1948	•

The Mission Board recommends that \$200.00 be paid to treasury of Florida State Association for the purpose of building an Auxiliary Training Camp. Report was adopted.

Florence Cook, Chairman.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in Treasury, Oct. 2, 1947	\$ 38.33
Received for Mission	69.60
Foreign Mission	 15.20
Orphan Home	5.00
Superannuation	5.00
Miscellaneous	64.34

Balance in Treasurer Oct. 3, 1947 \_\_\_\_\_ \$197.47

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Paid Mission Board (Home Mission)	\$ 69.60
Paid Mission Board (Foreign Mission)	• •
Paid Orphan Home, at Eldridge, Ala.	5.00
Paid Fee to State Association	10.00
Paid for Minutes	40.00

Fala 1	0r 10.	mutes	_ ### == _ = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =	40.00
Paid C	Clerk	Z Z		20.00
Postage	е		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2.97

Total Paid \_\_\_\_\_\_ \$162.77 Balance in Treasury Oct. 2nd, 1948 \_\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 34.70

C. L. Cook, Treasurer. Adopted.

#### OBITUARY OF MRS. DOVIE PELT

We, the members of Marvin Chapel Church, wish to express our heartfelt sympathy in the death of our loved one, Sister and friend, Mrs. Dovie Pelt, whom the Lord in all His wisdom saw fit to call from our midst, Feb. 11, 1948, to come up higher and dwell eternally in His Presence.

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

Sister Pelt was born Dec. 14, 1905, making her stay on this earth a little over 42 years. She was a member of Marvin Chapel Church for several years before her death.

Her life will ever be a guiding light of her loved ones and friends. Her passing leaves a vacancy in our hearts and church

and we shall greatly miss her fine spirit.

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 humble submission to His will, Who doeth all things well, and hereby express to the family our heartfelt sympathy in this their great sorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Audrey Eiland, Church Clerk.

IN MEMORY OF J. A. (UNCLE JACK) FOWLER

On May 10, 1948 God in his infinite wisdom saw fit to call Uncle Jack, age 66 years, home to his heavenly reward. He was loved by all that knew him. He was a member of the Abes Spring Freewill Baptist Church and was most loyal and faithful to his church.

How we miss him from our midst and especially that vacant seat in the home and church. But if we are as faithful as he was

we know we shall meet again where we shall part no more.

He left to mourn, their loss but heaven's gain, a wife, one son, six daughters, several grandchildren, many other relatives and a great host of friends.

Let's all meet Uncle Jack in Heaven.

Written by-

Mrs. Emma Clark, Church Clerk.

#### SISTER MAYMEE CLEWIS

On Aug. 5, 1948 God saw fit to call Sister Maymee (age 61) home to be with Him and to rest from her labors. She had been a member of Abes Spring Freewill Baptist Church for many years, and was a faithful worker in the church. Due to bad health and living too far from the church she had not been able to attend services lately but was still loyal to the church in her heart.

May God's richest blessings rest with her family, loved ones and many friends. May we all strive to meet her in Heaven where none has to suffer any more and never have to part again.

Written by—

Mrs. Emma Clark, Church Clerk.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE make the following report: That we urge all of our churches to take a firm stand against intoxication of any strong drink. We suggest that any member that be overtaken in strong drink be dealt with according to the Scripture—Matthew 18h, 15 to 17th verse.

> C. E. John, Chm., Jewel Kent, Robert Cloud, Bro. W. H. Kell, Trim Finch.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES—We your committee find that death has called from the following churches:

Damascus—Sister Delia Watson, age 73. Bro. Sherman Kent, age 86.

Abes Springs Church—Sister Mamie Clews, age 61. Bro. J. A. Fowler, age 66.

Oak Grove Church— Bro. H. C. Mercer.

Love Wood — Bro. J. R. Hayes

Gap Pond Church — Bro. Jim Walters.

Marvin Chapel Church — Sister Dovie Pelt.

Christian Home Church — Bro. C. E. Morris.

#### Signed, F. E. Dykes, Chm.

The Ladies' Auxiliary District Convention met with Travelers Rest Freewill Baptist Church Saturday, Sept. 25, 1948.

After song and prayer service, Bro. J. E. Nichols gave us a talk on "The Right a Woman Has to Work in the Church." After which lunch was spread for all.

After lunch the body was called to order by President. Song, "Are You Washed in the Blood?" Scripture reading omitted. Prayer by president. At this time Sis. Evelyn Hitchcock was elected Secretary and Treasurer pro tem. A call was made for letters from sister auxiliaries. Received two—Holley Grove and Christian Home. Letters read and adopted. A move and second made that we elect officers from the floor. They were elected as follows:

Sis.	Flornce Cook .	** = = = = + + + = = = = = = = = = = = =	President
Sis.	J. T. Sullivan	Vice	President
Sis.	W. F. Chafin	Sec. a	and Treas.

.... A move and second that president nominate other officers and notify them. Move and second made that the Ladies Aids collect clothes and other surplus needs and send to the Alabama Orphanage. A move and second that \$10.00 be sent to Bro. Ernest Owens, treasurer of the State Association, for the purpose of the Young Peoples Camp.

Next session will convene with Holley Grove Church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in Sept., 1949.

We send to represent us in your honorable body Sister J. T. Sullivan and Sis. W. F. Chafin.

#### FINANCE

Christian Home Church	\$ 2.00
Holley Grove Church	2.00
Holley Grove Home Mission	2.00

Total \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 6.00

ACTIVE MEMBEERS ON ROLL

Christian Home	20
Holley Grove	
Total	28

### PERSONAL SERVICE

#### CHRISTIAN HOME:

Bible Chapters read Garments Given to Needy Donation to Needy Sick Visits Made Trays Flowers

#### HOLLEY GROVE:

Bible Chapters read — 1000 Garments Given to Needy Donation to Needy Sick Visits Made — 115 Trays

# Flowers Total Bible Chapters read Total Garments Given to Needy Total Donation to Needy Total Sick Visits Made

Total Trays

Total Flowers

P.S.—Travelers Rest Woman's Auxiliary had no delegates present but was voted and carried by the convention to receive them into the convention with a letter from them brought to the association.

Dues from them	\$	2.00
Makes a total	ው	

#### HOLLEY GROVE CHURCH AUG. 29, 1948

Preachers and Deacons of Salem Freewill Baptist Association met with Holley Grove Church for the purpose of organizing a Preachers' and Deacons' meeting.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Bro. J. C. Watson at 11:00 a.m. After benediction at the noon hour a bountiful lunch was spread which everyone enjoyed very much. After the noon hour the body was called to order by Bro. I. O. Cook who acted as Moderator through the meeting until a moderator and clerk could be elected.

BUSINESS—First item of business for the ensuing year: Elected moderator.

Bro. C. E. Day \_\_\_\_\_\_ Moderator Bro. J. T. Sullivan '\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

Travelers Rest Church—Bro. W. M. Shiver, Deacon; Bro. I. O. Cook, Preacher.

Damascus Church—Bro. L. L. Hill, Deacon; Bro. L. J. Sexton, Deacon.

New Hope Church—Bro. A. D. Hart, Deacon; Bro. H. W. Keel, Preacher.

Marvin Chapel Church—Bro. C. E. Day, Deacon.

Gap Pond Church—Bro. Arthur Finch, Deacon; Bro. Charley Johns, Deacon.

Oak Grove Church—Bro. G. B. Scott, Deacon.

Midway Church—Bro. J. W. Roberts, Preacher.

Holley Grove Church—Bro. J. E. Hewette, Deacon; Bro. Willie Hewette, Deacon; Bro. W. F. Chafin, Deacon; Bro. J. T. Sullivan, Deacon; Bro. J. C. Watson, Preacher.

It was voted and carried that the next session meet with New Hope Church, the 5th Sunday in Jan., 1949 and to meet with Marvin Chapel Church the 5th Sunday in July, 1949.

After which we had a song and were dismissed in prayer by Bro. I. O. Cook.

Submitted by Clerk,

#### Bro. J. T. Sullivan.

We your Committee on Auxiliary, make the following report: We find that only four churches in Salem Association have a Ladies' Auxiliary. We ask that the executive committee of the convention work as a committee for organizing new auxiliaries in the churches who have none. We urge the Ladies' Auxiliary be represented in the Salem Association Ladies' Auxiliary Convention. We see by the reading of the letters that only a few churches have Sunday School. We recommend that each church that has no Sunday School try to put forth a greater effort to organize a school and that the ones that have a school try to improve it. We urge that the Sunday School be represented in the Sunday School Convention that convenes with Salem Church 5th Sunday in October. We find only two churches in Salem Association that have a League. We recommend that each church that has no League try to put forth an effort to organize a League, the ones that have a League try to improve them. We believe that our young folks receive a lot of training through the League. We urge that every League be represented at the League Convention. We urge that we bind ourselves together in prayer for the uplifting of church auxiliaries and that each teacher and officer examine themselves and live holy and acceptable unto God.

#### Respectfully submitted,

#### Mrs. O. F. Bracewell.

#### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

We find in the treasury: For Superannuation \$ 5.00 For Miscellaneous 29.70 Received at this Session:

For Miscellaneous	\$	79.40
For Home Mission		63.54
For Foreign Mission		5.50
For Superannuation		3.00
For Orphan Home		4.00
For Education		4.00
Balance in Treasury	\$1	168.14

#### J. C. Watson

- MINISTERS PRESENT-A. W. Cook, H. W. Keels, J. W. Roberts, J. E. Nichols, Daniel Walters, Chester Pelt, I. O. Cook, John Carr, Trim Finch, W. H. Horn, Oliver Reliford.

LISTT OF ORDAINED MINISTERS-A. W. Cook, J. E. Nichols, D. E. Clarw, J. W. Roberts, I. O. Cook, J. C. Watson, Trim Finch, H. W. Keels.

There was a motion that the clerk be paid \$20.00 (twenty dollars) for his services. Also the assembly took a rising vote of thanks to Cypress Creek Church and community for the hospitality shown them while in their community.

So ends the Fifty-Third Session of the Salem Association.

C. L. COOK, Altha, Fla. I. O. COOK, Altha, Fla.



#### 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

1.

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.

2

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, annointing 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 togethers 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 corersponding 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 fourfifths 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 Con-

ference.

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 at 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 admon ished 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 aggrieving 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 as variance or when a member is walking in a disorderly manner by a general report 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 modrator 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 hm 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 untl 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 contnue 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 songregation 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 adminster 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 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.

## **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:

Minister's Holding Membership
We hand you our Statistics—Received by letter
by Baptism by cofession of faithby Res-
toration Dismissed by letter Expelled
Dead—Male membersFemale 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 Unified Program
To Orphanage

Amount paid visiting preachers	Other expenses
Have communed and washed feet	this year.
Moderator Add	lress
Clerk	lress
Our Church day	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
CHURCH AUXILIA	RY REPORT
Sunday School's membership	Average attend-
ance Sunday School	offerings Total
paid out	
Superintendent's name and address	
Ladies Aid membership	
Bible readers Total c	ollected Total
paid out President's r	
League membership	number on roll
Average attendance Number	er daily Bible readers
President's name	
and address	L = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =
and address	

CHURCHES	PASTORS AND ADDRESSES	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	Church Meeting Day	By Baptism By Restoration Dismissed by Letter Expelled Total Membership Amt. Paid Pastor	
Oak Grove	Rev. D. E. Clark, Blountstown, Fla.    J. E. Nichols, Altha, Florida    Rev. D. E. Clark, Blountstown, Fla.    Rev. I. O. Cook, Altha, Fla. Rt. 2    J. E. Nichols, Altha, Fla.    Trim Finch, Wausau, Fla.    J. E. Nichols, Altha, Florida    Daniel Walters, Wausau, Fla.    Daniel Walters, Dothan, Ala.    Rev. D. F. Pelt, Altha, Fla., Rt. 1    C. A. Huckaby, Pheonix City, Ala.    Daniel Walters, Wausau, Fla.    Daniel Walters, Wausau, Fla.	Charlie Cox, Bascom, Fla. Myrtle Adams, Blountstown, Fla. J. R. Barnes, Marianna, Fla. H. H. Keel, Marianna, Fla. L. J. Sexton, Marianna, Fla. Mrs. Audrey Eiland, P. O. Box 7, Marianna Mrs. Mildridge Mears, Rt. 1 Bascom, Fla. F. E. Locke, Marianna, Fla. Rt. 4 W. T. Justice, Cottondale, Fla., Rt. 1 J. W. Parham, Altha, Fla., Rt. 2 Annie Belle Taylor, Blountstown, Fla.	2nd & 4th Sunday4th Sunday3rd & 5th Sunday1st Sunday1st Sunday4th Sunday3rd Sunday3rd Sunday2nd Sunday2nd Sunday2nd Sunday3rd Sunday3rd Sunday2nd Sunday3rd Sunday	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	

.

.

.

.

1

-----

•