

The
Social Band Association
of
Free Will Baptists

1942

Proceedings of the
68th Annual Session

Convened at
Pocahontas Church

MINUTES

OF THE
SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE
SOCIAL BAND ASSOCIATION

OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH

Pocahontas Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas
Beginning Thursday Evening, September 17, 1942.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Eld. Ralph Staten,	Pocahontas, Ark.
Ass't. Mod.,	Eld. Ira Gates,	Peach Orchard, Ark.
Clerk,	Eld. Charles Staten,	Pocahontas, Ark.
Evangelist,	Eld. D. C. Jones,	Portia, Ark.

The next annual session of this association will convene with the O'kean Church, Randolph County, Ark., beginning Thursday evening before the third Sunday in September, 1943.

The introductory sermon will be delivered by the pastor of the church of O'Kean, Eld. Ralph Staten.

Free Will Baptist Gem. 211 Bond St., Monett, Missouri

PROCEEDINGS

The ministers, deacons, and messengers composing that part of the Church of God commonly known as Free Will Baptist met in its sixty-eighth annual session with the Pocahontas church, Pocahontas, Ark., September 17, 1942.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing, "When We All Get To Heaven," directed by Eld. Ralph Staten; accompanist, Beulah Faye Hopper.

Prayer by Eld. George Anthony.

Devotional by Eld. W. S. Tyler.

Introductory sermon by Eld. Ralph Staten. Scripture lesson, Acts 26; text, Acts 26:19 and Cor. 16:9; theme, "The Open Door."

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The session was opened by singing, "Won't It Be Wonderful There?" directed by Eld. D. C. Jones.

Scripture lesson read by Eld. W. C. Forsyth, 1 Thess. 3:1-13.

Prayer by Eld. Ira Gates.

The welcome address was given by Bro. Will S. White.

Response given by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Committees appointed. (See committee reports.)

Rules of Decorum read.

Call for church letters. The following churches were represented by letter: New Bethel, Grandview, New Cocenant, Pruett Chapel, Pocahontas, Sugar Tree Rrove, Pirtle, O'Kean, Hopewell, Rickey Chapel and New Harmony. Delegates of these churches were received and seated.

Brother George Anthony was received into counsel.

Election of officers as follows: Moderator, Eld. Ralph Staten, Pocahontas, Ark.; Ass't. Moderator, Eld. Ira Gates, Peach Orchard, Ark.; Clerk, Eld. Charles Staten, Pocahontas, Ark.; Evangelist, Eld. D. C. Jones, Portia, Arkansas.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing "Heavenly Sunlight," directed by Ralph Staten.

Sermon by Eld. D. C. Jones. Scripture lesson, Rom. 3:1-23; text, Isa. 53:6; theme, "Need, Act and Trust."

Servies continued by Eld. W. C. Forsyth; theme, "Saints of God." Text, 1 Cor. 1:3.

Eld. E. W. Tucker dismissed the services.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing, "Standing On The Promises," directed by Eld. D. C. Jones.

Prayer by Bro. Jasper Gates.

Petitionary letter from Bryants Chapel church received.

Resolution No. 1 and No. 2 adopted. (see resolutions)

Carson Lake church presented a peationary letter that was received. Delegates were seated.

Sermon by Eld. Charles Staten; text, Rev. 1:8; theme, "Our Creator".

Eld. D. C. Jones was chosen to preach the memorial sermon for the session in the absence of Eld. Raymond Riggs.

Eld. A. L. Campbell received into counsel.

Eld. A. L. Campbell gave the benediction.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Bro. A. F. Million directed the opening song.

Prayer by Eld. Williams.

Eld. Ira Gates filled the stand using, "Babes in Christ" as a theme; scripture lesson, 1 Cor. 3:1-8; text, 1. Cor. 3:1.

Prayer by Eld. Ralph Staten.

Service beneficial to all present.

Benediction by Eld. Thurman Johnson.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing. Songs directed by Ralph Staten.

Scripture lesson read by Sister Ruth Goodrum.

Bro. Dan Kirk lead the opening prayer.

Call for tardy letters. Stony point received.

Call for ministerial reports. See reports of ministers.

Statistical report accepted and committee discharged.

Committee report on enrollment of messengers. Clerk given power to add the name of any messenger that may come.

O'kean was chosen as the place for the next session.

Finance committee's report accepted and committee discharged.

Eld. D. C. Jones preached the memorial sermon using Phillipians 1:21 as text; scripture lesson, Rom. 8:1-24.

Memorial prayer by Eld. Ralph Staten.
Bro. Eugene Davis gave the benediction.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Bro. Dan Kirk directed the opening song.

Prayer by Bro. Elie Haynes.

Call for tardy letters. Alice Brooks reported and delegates received.

Eld. D. C. Jones elected to be evangelist for the year.

Marion Clark, Tom Kirk, Eugene Davis, Birdie Kirk and Mattie Hopper were selected as delegates to the state association. Everett Teel, Verland Martin, Nora Murrell, Alta Lee Miller and Gladys Smith were selected as alternates.

Eld. E. W. Tucker was chosen to preach the next memorial sermon.

Motion and second that a league program be sponsored by the O'kean church at the next session.

Motion and second that the Articles of Faith be published in the minutes.

Motion and second that each church pay \$12 to the evangelist fund.

Sister Mattie Hopper and Nora Murrell were elected to represent the association in the Fairdealing Association next year.

Eld. N. Y. Gray was seated in counsel as corresponding minister of the Fairdealing Association.

The stand was filled at the three o'clock hour by Eld. A. L. Campbell. Scripture lesson, 1 Peter 3:15; theme, "Why I am a Free Will Baptist." The sermon was preached to an appreciative audience.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opening song directed by Bro. A. F. Million.

Eld. Thurman Johnson gave the opening prayer.

Preaching service with Eld. Ralph Staten as speaker. Scripture lesson, John 6; text, John 6:27; theme, "Will Ye Also Go Away?"

Eld. N. Y. Gray dismissed the service.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Service opened by singing "Let Me Live Close to Thee."

Bro. Will S. White led the opening prayer.

A Free Will Baptist League program was rendered:

1. "Why We Should Have a League" by Ralph Staten.
2. "What Should Be the Motive of the League" by Will S. White.
3. "The Law and the Penalty" by Tom Kirk.
4. "Death" by Ila Fowler.
5. "Redemption" by Mrs. Will S. White.
6. Quartet number by Gladys, Pauline and Ambrose Million and Charles Staten.
7. "The Death of Christ" by Ruth Goodrum.
8. "The Blood" by Clara Jo Gates.

For the eleven o'clock service Eld. E. W. Tucker preached on the theme—"The Way of Life." Text, Jer. 6:16; Scripture lesson, Isa. 35:1.

Prayer by Bro. H. T. Brown.

Eld. R. S. Shelton gave the benediction.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Service opened by singing, "He Did It All For Me," directed by Ambrose Million.

Prayer by Eld. Ira Gates.

The stand was filled at 2:00 o'clock p. m. by Eld. Ralph Staten. His theme was, "Feetwashing." Scripture lesson, 1 Cor. 11.

The concluding service as is the custom of the association was the washing of the Saint's feet. About 80 participated in this service that concluded another harmonious session.

Broadcast at 4:30 p. m., opened by Million Quartet.

Congregational songs, "The Sweetest Song I Know", "I'm Ready," "Just Over In the Glory Land."

Prayer by Eld. W. C. Forsyth.

Sermon by Eld. Ira Gates. Text, Malaci 3:8. Theme, "Will A Man Rob God?"

The congregation contributed liberally to the continuation of the program another year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ABSENT CHURCHES — We, your committee on absent churches submit the following report:

We have found by investigation the following churches failed to report by letter or by delegation: Pleasant View, Constant Chapel, Warm Springs, Clear Lake, and White Oak.

Committee: { F. M. Clark, Chairman,
Mary Melton,
Harry A. Wheeler.

RESOLUTIONS —

No. 1 — Be it Resolved, That the common practice of electing officers and pastors of the association by acclamation without the members or delegates having a chance of nominating others be prohibited.

No. 2 — Be it Resolved, That we license only those brethren who hold membership in a church of the Social Band Association and who can meet the moral requirements of a deacon or minister, and after one year, if he proves worthy of the avocation wherein he is called or authorized, then ordain him to the full force of the ministry, if the church has set him apart for ordination. All such licenseing and ordaining resolutions contrary to the above shall be null and void.

No. 3. — Resolution of Thanks: We, the resolution committee, extend to the Pocahontas church and community our sincere thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and kindness they manifested during our stay with them. We bid them God's speed in their labor for the cause of Christ and His kingdom.

Committee { E. W. Tucker, Chairman,
 { Will S. White,
 { Birdie Kirk.

OBITUARY — We, the obituary committee, find that our kind Father in heaven has seen fit to call from our midst the following: Sister E. W. Tucker, Anna Lee Fender, and Josie Myarse; one brother, John Casinger.

Committee { W. C. Forsyth, Chairman,
 { Lois Tiner,
 { Walter Cox.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LEAGUE — We, the Sunday School and League committee, give the following report:

By investigation we have found that all churches are using Free Will Baptist literature with the exception of one. Three churches have leagues. We urge our pastors to use their influence toward getting more churches to organize leagues.

Committee { Alta Lee Miller, Chairman,
 { Rosa Martin,
 { Delana Barks.

TEMPERANCE — We, your temperance committee, submit the following report: Realizing, since the repeal of the eighteenth amendment, that the Devil is putting up a strong fight with intoxicating drinks to seduce Christians, we urge all Christians

to stand for temperance. We urge our pastors and lay members to abstain from places that endorse the liquor traffic by selling intoxicating beverages. We urge all to use their influence and votes to subdue the enemy of our morale standards.

Committee { Eld. Ira Gates, Chairman,
Eld. D. C. Jones,
Everett Tell.

FINANCE — We, your finance committee, wish to submit the following report:

Church	Local Minutes	State Minutes	Clerk Hire
Pocahontas	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$.50
Sugar Tree Grove	2.50	1.00 .....	.50
Grandview	2.00	1.00 .....	.50
Pirtle	1.50	1.50 .....	.50
Pruet Chapel	2.00	1.00 .....	.50
Rickey Chapel	1.50	1.00 .....	.50
O'kean	2.00	1.00 .....	.50
New Covenant	2.00	1.00 .....	.50
New Bethel	2.00	1.00 .....	.50
New Harmony	2.00 .....	.....	.50
Hopewell	3.00	2.00	1.50
Stony Point	2.00	1.00 .....	.50
Bryants Chapel	2.00	1.00 .....	.50
Alice Brooks	2.00	1.00 .....	.50
	\$28.50	\$14.50	\$8.00

Alice Brooks and O'kean sent the required \$1.00 to the church that entertained the State Association.

Balance left from last year's minute fund, \$18.00

— Charles Staten, Clerk.

Committee { Will S. White, Chairman,
Gladys Smith,
H. E. Carter.

MINISTER'S REPORTS

IRA GATES — Preached at Moran, New Harmony, Pirtle, and Hopewell a total of 62 sermons, receiving \$127.10; baptized, 6; assisted in one meeting; and married four couples.

RALPH STATEN — Preached at Alice Brooks, Pocahontas, Hopewell, Pirtle, Archer Store and Mountain Grove, Mo., a

total of 204 sermons, receiving \$372.11. Gave 45 radio addresses; witnessed 55 conversions; held 2 discussions; and assisted in meetings at Alice Brooks, Pocahontas, Hopewell, Pirtle, Bryants Store and Mountain Grove, Missouri.

W. C. FORSYTH—Preached at Pleasant View, Constants Chapel, Sutton, New Bethel, Water Valley, Alice Brooks, Bluff Springs, Johnson, and New Covenant a total of 117 sermons. Received eight members into fellowship, preached one funeral, and officiated one marriage ceremony. Received, \$187.91.

THURMAN JOHNSON—Preached 65 sermons, witnessed one conversion, conducted one funeral, helped in three revivals, receiving \$55. Preached at Rickey Chapel, Sugar Tree Grove, Sharum, and Pruett Chapel. (Incomplete)

E. W. TUCKER—Preached at New Hope, Johnson Chapel, Peach Orchard, Union, and Bryants Chapel. Preached 77 sermons, received \$36.60, married one couple, preached eight funerals, and traveled 675 miles. Organized two churches, assisted in two revivals, and witnessed 34 conversions.

D. C. JONES—Preached 104 sermons, traveled 1634 miles, witnessed 34 conversions, held two revivals, conducted four funerals, and performed five marriage ceremonies. Received \$141.30 from evangelist fund and received \$82.20 from other churches.

MINISTER'S ENROLLMENT

D. C. Jones	Portia, Arkansas
Ira Gates	Peach Orchard, Arkansas
E. W. Tucker	Peach Orchard, Arkansas
W. F. Vickery	Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
W. C. Forsyth	Hoxie, Arkansas
R. S. Shelton	O'Kean, Arkansas
Ralph Staten	Pocahontas, Arkansas
B. F. Forrester	Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
W. T. Shoffit	Delaplaine, Arkansas
Charles Staten	Pocahontas, Arkansas
G. W. Million	Pocahontas, Arkansas
Thurman Johnson	Success, Arkansas
A. L. Campbell	Pocahontas, Arkansas

DEACON'S ENROLLMENT

Alice Brooks — Marvin Riggs and I. C. Staten.
New Harmony — E. W. Cox and W. H. Clay.
Grandview — H. C. Jolly and E. L. Jones.
Warm Springs — J. C. King.
Rickey Chapel — E. Swift, H. Martin, and Henry Russel.
Pirtle — Wiley Ricker and Irvin Clark.
Pruett Chapel — G. W. Dale and Orville Cox.
Union — J. O. Martin.
Hopewell — C. F. Jones and Zmbrose Cavenar.
Moran — D. W. McNutt, C. M. Holder, and Elvin McGhee.
New Bethel — Ben Seamens and Hiram White.
New Hope — Horace Bates.
Stony Point — Dan Kirk and A. G. Pendergrass.
Pleasant View — Sular Camp.
White Oak — Will Manus, Tom Bennett and J. D. McKinney.
Pocahontas — Will S. White and Luther Crays.
Constants Chapel — Henry Pailey and Hire Mitchell.

DELEGATES TO THE ASSOCIATION

Pirtle — F. N. Clark and Sister Ira Gates.
Rickey Chapel — Verland Martin.
Hopewell — Effie Whitehead and Birdie Kirk.
Fruet Chapel — Gladys Smith and Eunice Hazelwood.
Grandview — C. R. Crawford, Ila Fowler, and Veral Jones.
New Covenant — H. E. Carter, Mrs. H. E. Carter, Alpha Holder.
New Harmony — Bob Pickett, Luther Clay, and E. W. Cox.
O'kean — Rosa Martin and Elic Haynes.
Sugar Tree Grove — Mattie Hopper, Nora Murrell, and Deianey Barks.
Pocahontas — Alta Lee Miller, Mrs. Robert Tiner, Mrs. Ruth Goodrum, and Mrs. Virginia Hogan.
Stony Point — Everett Teel, Tom Kirk, and Mary Melton.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

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

2. CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home.—Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50:53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

3. HOLY SPIRIT. We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up His office work among all nations of people, as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide.—Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

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

5. THE FALL OF MAN. We believe that GOD created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell, with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming CHRIST.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:5, Gen. 3; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming.—Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator and a clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, providing his seat to be filled; to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association.

2. The Association shall be composed of ordained ministers, deacons and licentiates, together with the messengers duly chosen by the several churches in our union and sent to represent them in this Association, said messengers being members of some church within this Association, whom the members judge best qualified for the purpose, who, on producing letters certifying to their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded or died since the last sitting of the Association, and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by the Association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the Association shall take up same and act upon it.

5. Every church in the Association shall be entitled to a representation of messengers not exceeding three.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted upon unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The Association shall not have the power to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless, we agree that the churches composing the Association shall stand in the same relationship to each other in this Association that individuals do to each other in the church; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church the church injured shall try to reclaim them by Gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed, they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of all the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this Association by letter and messengers. If upon examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly, such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the messengers thereof.

10. This Association shall have power to sit as an advisory council, to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this Association; to appoint any members, by and with his or her consent to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite brethren in the ministry to a seat with the

Association; to adjourn the Association at any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who does not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the churches from which he or they were messengers.

11. The Association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all case of difficulty that may arise in the churches.

12. The Lord's Supper shall be administered at each annual session of the Association.

13. Each Annual Association shall be held on the third Sunday in August.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded with a prayer.

2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided.

3. All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be shut off at any time by a majority of the members or the Association.

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

5. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the Minutes, unless so ordered at the time.

6. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the body.

7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

9. Arrangements shall be made so as to insure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto in addition to the business session each day, and the Moderator announce at the adjournment of each business session who is to have charge of said service.

10. Alternations may be made in these rules at any regular meetings of the Association.

A LETTER FORM TO BE USED AS A GUIDE FOR LOCAL CHURCH AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

To the Association of Free Will Baptists:
We, the Church of Free Will Baptists met on
....., 19....., and selected
..... to represent us in your
honorable body which convenes with
church, on 19..... Bidding you God's speed in
all your labor for the advancement of the cause of Christ and His
Kingdom. Our church is composed of.... deacons, ministers,
membership: males, females, total Members
received during the year: baptism, recommendation,
by letter The churches' loss in membership: dismissed
by letter, excluded....., died..... Name and ad-
dress of ministers
Name of deacons
Sunday School, yes no, kind of literature used
....., condition, average attendance
....., total membership League: yes,
no, president, secretary
..... total membership Families
taking church paper Pastor
sermons preached, salary \$..... Own church
building, value of church property \$....., when
organized, by who.....
Moderator
Clerk

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Received Into Fellowship	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Number of Ministers	Sunday Schools	Leagues	Taking Church Paper	Members
Alice Brooks	R. S. Shelton	Porter Huckabee .....	..	1	..	..	3	1	1	10	175
Grandview	G. W. Million	Esta Fowler	6	..	..	..	..	1	1	7	82
Hopewell	Ira Gates	Woodrow Hedge .....	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	38
New Covenant	R. S. Shelton	J. T. Holland	11	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	73
New Bethel	Henry Obarts	Ethel Brown	3	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	14
New Harmony	G. W. Million	Zemru Osterkamp .....	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	38
O'kean	Ralph Staten	Naomi Denton .....	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	3	33
Pirtle	Ralph Staten	Carl High	3	2	..	1	3	1	..	10	109
Pruett Chapel	Thurman Johnson	Lillie Dennis .....	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	45
Rickey Chapel .....	..	Laura Russell .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	55
Stony Point	Billy Rogers	Robert Counts .....	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	108
Sugar Tree Grove	E. W. Tucker	W. P. Wheeler	2	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	54
Pocahontas	Ralph Staten	H. H. Million	3	..	..	..	1	1	1	20	80
Bryant's Chapel	E. W. Tucker	Opal Gates	19	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	19
		Total	46	6	1	4	14	14	3	64	987