

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

Seventieth Annual Session

—OF THE—

South Georgia Association Of  
Original Free Will Baptists

CONVENED WITH

Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church

NORTH OF ALMA, GEORGIA

ON

October 24th, and 25th, 1947

---

## PRESIDING OFFICERS

ELDER E. B. JOYNER ..... Alma, Georgia  
ELDER F. B. CHERRY ..... Glenville, Georgia  
BRO. R. F. CONNELL ..... Hazlehurst, Georgia

The next session will convene with Corinth Free Will Baptist Church, near Alma, Georgia, on Friday before the Fourth Sunday in October, 1948. The Elder Linton Johnson to preach the Introductory Sermon Friday at 11:30 A. M.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Introductory.
2. Moderator calls the body to order.
3. Call for election of officers.
4. Call for corresponding letters and enroll delegates.
5. Appointing Committee on Divine Service.
6. Call for Petitionary Letters.
7. Call for Corresponding Letters from Sister Associations.
8. Appointment of Committees.
10. Miscellaneous Business.
9. Call for report of Committees.
11. Adjournment.

### MINISTERS HOLDING MEMBERSHIP

ELDER E. B. JOYNER ..... Alma, Ga.  
ELDER J. B. HARRIS ..... Odum, Ga.  
ELDER A. L. THORNTON ..... Hazlehurst, Ga.  
ELDER W. C. COLEMAN ..... Route 3, Baxley, Ga.  
ELDER T. O. MORGAN ..... 2248 Orchard St., Jax. Fla.  
ELDER C. J. PITTS ..... 540 James St., Jax. Fla.  
ELDER W. L. MILLS ..... 430 Hermes St., Jax, Fla.  
ELDER B. A. ALTMAN ..... Folkston, Ga.  
ELDER J. R. GRAHAM ..... Surrency, Ga.  
ELDER A. B. ADAMS ..... Hazlehurst, Ga.  
ELDER E. B. DUCKWORTH ..... Lyons, Ga.  
ELDER THEO. M. CARTER ..... Surrency, Ga.  
ELDER E. C. MORRIS ..... Tifton, Ga.  
ELDER F. B. CHERRY ..... Glenville, Ga.  
ELDER E. L. PAULK ..... Alma, Ga.  
ELDER G. W. BURKETT ..... 1617 East 12th St., Jax. Fla.  
SISTER BESSIE ALLEN ..... Route 1, Thomaston, Ga.  
ELDER I. J. BLACKWELDER ..... Alma, Ga.

### LICENSEE

Brother S. H. Caudell ..... Sunshine and James St., Jax. Fla.

### OFFICERS AND ADDRESSES

Elder E. B. Joyner, Moderator ..... Alma, Ga.  
Elder F. B. Cherry, Asst. Moderator ..... Glenville, Ga.  
R. F. Connell, Clerk ..... Hazlehurst, Ga.  
A. B. Brannen ..... Route No. 1, Jesup, Ga.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elder E. B. Joyner, Elder F. B. Cherry, R. F. Connell, Elder C. J.  
Pitts and Britt Brigman

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Elders F. B. Cherry, C. J. Pitts and J. R. Graham

# PROCEEDINGS

The seventieth session of the South Georgia Association met with Pine Level Church near Alma, Georgia, on October 24, 1947.

The body was called to order by the moderator at 10:30 a. m. After a song "Sweet Hour of Prayer," Rev. L. C. Johnson led in a fervent prayer.

The moderator at this time gave a very brief review of our progress as an associational body since our organization. He also led in a short devotional based upon the 8th Psalm, and then closed with prayer.

Call for corresponding letters. The letters were received at this time. After the letters were placed on the table the following reading clerks were appointed: Elder L. C. Johnson and Bro. P. J. Jarrard. After reading a part of the letters the time for the morning worshipful hour came on, and we were dismissed from the morning session.

Elder I. J. Blackwelder led us in a wonderful song service. Elder Everett Hellard of the Bible College led in a very touching and heartfelt prayer. The service was then turned over to Elder F. B. Cherry to bring the introductory sermon. Of which he very reverently proclaimed the Gospel of Christ, using as the Scripture lesson the 20th verse of the 16th chapter of Mark. His text "Advancing With Christ."

After the great spiritual feast we were dismissed by prayer and invited to the church yard where the people of Pine Level Church spread a bountiful table. All that were present enjoyed the feast immensely.

## FRIDAY P. M.—TWO O'CLOCK

On reconvening the body was called to order by the Moderator, the congregation singing "Sweeping Through the Gate." We were favored with a duet by Elders Everett Hellard and Reford Wilson of the Free Will Baptist Bible College. After the duet each gave a short testimony of their love for Christ. The Elder W. C. Colman led the body in prayer.

The reading clerks read the remaining letters. Motion was now in order to receive and seat the delegates, motion carried by vote of the body.

The Moderator called for visitors from sister Associations, the following stood and were recognized, Elder H. L. Knighton and son of the Chattahoochee Asso., Bros. J. H. Turner and Grubbs from North Fla. Conference, Elder Reford Wilson of the First Association of Oklahoma, Elder Everett Hellard, First Mission of Oklahoma, and Bro. Talley of the Cumberlin of Tenn. Motion carried that they be given seats for this session.

## CHURCHES AND DELEGATES REPRESENTING

Satilla—Represented by Bros. David Burns and wife, Kennis Quinn, Oscar Davis, R. F. Connell, T. E. Harrison, Geo. Hutto and

wife, Hollis Lynn and wife and Vergil McCrary.

Stony Hill—Represented by Bros. Billy G. Jernigan and Talmadge Anderson.

Philadelphia—Represented by Bros. S. M. Altman, Harry Chessser and wife, and Sis. Letha Harden.

Glennville—Represented by Bros. H. N. Baxter and wife, J. O. Harrell, E. C. Davidson and Sister R. J. Lewis.

Memorial—Represented by Bros. G. C. Crowder, Sr., G. C. Carter, Jr., David Mann, Charlie Mann, J. W. Blanton, James Blanton, Sister Bertie Blanton, Sister Pearl Carter and Sister G. C. Carter.

Ebenezer—Represented by Bro. C. C. Wilkerson, Sister C. C. Wilkerson, R. B. Baxter, W. B. Baxter and Ida Baxter.

Liberty—Represented by Bros. Nat Winters and O. V. Taylor.

Marietta—Represented by Bros. J. V. Lewis, Troy McLain, I. V. Branch, Edd Lewis, Lester McLain and Silas McLain.

Corinth—Represented by Bros. J. M. Moore, Marvin Johnson, John Boyles, P. J. Jarrard, Sisters J. M. Moore and Marvin Jordan.

Spring Grove—Represented by Bros. J. L. Dukes, Lawton Odum and wife.

Piney Grove—Represented by Sisters Mary Lightsey, Irene Lightsey, Ruth Lightsey, Naomi Bryson, Inez Brannen and Bro. Robbie Bell.

Alabaha—Represented by Bros. J. B. Thornton, S. B. Allen and wife and Sister Lavern Harrison.

First of Jax.—Represented by Sisters Mamie Anderson and Sarah Morgan.

Unity—Represented by Bro. J. R. Sauls and wife and Sister E. H. Harris.

Oak Grove—Represented by Bro. William King and Sister Lucile Eason.

New Hope—Represented by Sisters Pearl Brannen, Gussie Anderson, Bros. M. H. Westberry and R. P. Anderson.

Oak Hill—Represented by Bros. J. E. Shaw, Ellis Williams and W. M. Steedley.

Pine Level—Represented by Bros. H. M. Taylor, J. N. Johnson, J. A. Douglas, T. L. Rigdon, L. W. Nelson and G. C. Johnson.

Harmony—Represented by Bro. and Sister C. L. Hilton and Bro. A. E. Crawford.

Zion—Represented by Letter.

At this time we began the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Motion lost that we elect by secret ballot. Motion that we elect by acclamation carried, and we proceeded with the election.

Nominations for Moderator were called for, Elders E. B. Joyner, F. B. Cherry and I. J. Blackwelder. The vote called for



and Elder I. J. Blackwelder dropped. The vote again called for resulting in the election of Elder E. B. Joyner. Assistant Moderator nominations resulting in the election of Elder F. B. Cherry by unanimous vote. Nominations for clerk, Bros. G. W. Cloud and R. F. Connell. Motion that nominations close and carried by vote, the vote called for resulting in the election of Bro. R. F. Connell. Nominations for treasurer, Bro. A. B. Brannen the only nominee, being duly elected by the body.

Motion carried that the Moderator appoint a committee to draft necessary articles for, and amend the Constitution. The following were appointed Elder C. J. Pitts, Bro. Hurder Baxter and Elder I. J. Blackwelder.

Motion carried that we retain the same Ordaining Council.

Motion carried that the committee look into the section about the election of the Ordaining Council.

Motion carried that the drafting committee to provide at what time the Association is legally in session.

At this time we were favored with a solo rendered by Elder Everett Hellard, "Have Faith In God."

Moderator appointed Bros. Britt Brigman, N. C. Wheeler and S. M. Altman as the Devotional Committee.

We were again privileged to hear a duet rendered by Elders Reford Wilson and Everett Hellard of our College. Elder L. C. Johnson President of the Free Will Baptist College, brought us a brief report of the College. After the report, a love offering was made to the amount of \$102.30.

Motion carried that the delegates present have the right to make any necessary changes in their delegation present.

The Devotional Committee reported that Elder Hellard bring the evening message. Motion carried that we adjourn until Saturday A. M. 9:30.

We sang "Standing On The Promises" and were dismissed with prayer by Elder L. C. Johnson.

After the supper hour and the fellowship one with the other, we again assembled for the evening worshipful hour, at 7:30 p.m. Elder W. L. Mills led in a wonderful song service and the Marietta Quartet rendered several numbers. Bro. Wilson a student of the College led in a very fervent prayer. The service was turned over to Elder Everett Hellard to bring the message of which he used as his Scripture text Proverbs 22:6, his subject "What Youth Needs Most Is Christ." He proclaimed the message with great power, and it was a wonderful message for all. After Bro. Hellard, Bro. L. C. Johnson brought us a very heart-touching message on the existing conditions of the world and Christianity. Two of the Pine Level girls brought us a wonderful message in song. Benediction by Elder B. F. Bracker.

## **SATURDAY MORNING—9:30**

According to schedule the body again assembled together singing "Standing on the Promises" and was called to order by the Moderator. Brother L. W. Nelson leading us in prayer. The Moderator Elder E. B. Joyner again gave a brief outline on what we wanted to do the remaining part of this session.

Motion carried that the chair appoint a Committee on Committees. The following were appointed to serve on this committee: Elder F. B. Cherry, Bro. L. W. Nelson and Bro. J. V. Lewis.

Moved and carried that Elder C. J. Pitts be granted his wishes that ordination of deacons be at this session.

The Moderator and pastor of Oak Hill Church, the Elder E. B. Joyner brought us good news, that Oak Hill was going to build a new church and at this time there was an opportunity for all to contribute to the building of this church. The total offering amounted to \$33.00 and pledges to the amount of \$20.00.

The Devotional Committee reports that Elder E. C. Morris would bring the morning message, and Elder W. L. Mills would bring the evening message.

The Committee on Adopting and Amending the Constitution, makes their report. Motion carried that we vote on each revision made by the committee. Number 8 of the Associational Decorum was amended. Motion carried we accept the revision. Motion that the amendment to the 5th Constitution be accepted. Motion carried. Motion carried that we adopt the 6th paragraph. Motion carried that we adopt the 7th paragraph. Motion carried that we adopt the 8th paragraph. Motion carried that we adopt the 9th paragraph.

At this time the Finance Committee made their report. Motion made to accept the report, but after discussion a move was made to table the report until after the morning message. Motion carried, and we were dismissed from our business session for the morning by Bro. G. W. Cloud.

We now entered into the morning devotion, being led in a wonderful song service by Elder Blackwelder. Elder E. C. Morris the State Promotional Worker brought the message. Used Esther 4:14-15 as his text. After the wonderful message there was an offering for the state promotional work to the amount of \$35.50. We were now dismissed by the messenger with prayer, until 2 o'clock p. m.

## **SATURDAY EVENING**

After a bountiful feast we were again assembled to finish the business of this session, using as our song "When All of God's Singers Get Home." Bro. John Howard leading in prayer.

Moderator called for the report to be brought from the table that we might dispose of same. Motion carried that we amend the finance report by withdrawing \$15.00 disbursed to the unified program, be used for the printing of the minutes.

Motion that we accept the Finance Report with the foregoing amendment. Motion carried.

Motion carried that we make a special offering to be disbursed to Sister Coursey and for printing more minutes. The offering amounted to \$21.00, Sister Coursey to get \$10.00 and \$11.00 for minutes.

At this time we were favored by having Bro. Don Wheeler bring us a splendid message, stating that people would have to get back to God.

Motion carried that we accept the Nomination Committee's report.

Motion carried that we accept Sister Ruth Lightsey's report on Superannuation.

At this time the Ordaining Council announced that they would leave off the ordination of deacons.

At this time the election of two members of the Executive Board, Elder C. J. Pitts and Bro. Britt Brigman, the only nominees, being duly elected by the body. Nominations for Assistant Clerk were now called for. Bros. G. W. Cloud and T. E. Harrison being nominated. Bro. Cloud declined. Bro. Harrison elected without opposition.

Bros. S. M. Altman, G. W. Cloud, J. R. Sauls and Sister Ruth Lightsey elected by the body to represent us at the State Association.

Elder W. C. Colman reports visiting the Ga. Union and reports a wonderful session.

Elder E. C. Morris stated that he had visited several of the Associations and that they were cooperative in the State work.

Motion carried that we give Pine Level Church and community a rising vote of thanks for the fellowship and hospitality shown for the home of this a lovely session.

Bro. G. W. Cloud brings us a brief report from Salem Association.

Motion carried that we stand adjourned until Friday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1948.

We stood adjourned singing "God Be With You Until We Meet Again." So ended a lovely Seventieth Session.

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

We your Committee on Committees submit the following report:

Ilabaha—Nominations. Bethel—Support of Ministry. Marietta—Obituaries. Memorial—Christian Education. Oak Grove—Sunday Schools. Oak Hill—Resolutions. Spring Grove—Temperance. Stony Hill—State of Churches. Unity—Destitution. Zion—Denominational Literature, and New Hope—Finance.

F. B. CHERRY, Chairman



## **NOMINATION**

We the Committee on Nominations submit the following:  
We accept the invitation of Corinth Church for the next session of our Association for 1948.

We recommend that Elder L. C. Johnson preach the Introductory Sermon Friday 11:30 a. m.

Signed by  
**PINE LEVEL DELEGATES**

## **TEMPERANCE**

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following report: We recommend that we as Christians should be temperate in all things; such as our conversation and in our every day life, and total abstainers from all strong drinks.

The saloon bar is—

A bar to manliness and wealth,  
A door to want and broken health,  
A bar to honor, pride and shame,  
A door to sin, and grief and pain,  
A bar to hope, a bar to prayer,  
A door to darkness and despair,  
A bar to joy that home imparts,  
A door to tears and aching hearts,  
A bar to Heaven, a door to Hell;  
Whoever named it, named it well.

May we all pray more concerning these things.

Respectfully submitted,  
**PHILADELPHIA CHURCH**

## **DESTITUTION**

We, your Committee on Destitution, make this our report:

We observe from reading of the letters that a part of the churches are not supplied with pastors for the ensuing year. We urge that each church try to secure their pastor before the convening of this body.

We find that part of our churches have no Sunday Schools. Only a small per cent reported as having Leagues and Ladies' Aids. We urge all churches to try to have all the corner stones under the church that they might hold up Jesus Christ in a more Christ-like manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
**SATILLA CHURCH**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOLS**

We, the Committee on Sunday Schools, beg to submit the following report:

We see by the reading of the letters that some of the

churches have no Sunday Schools, and that some are not as progressive as they should be.

We recommend that each church that has no Sunday School try to put forth a greater effort to organize a School. The ones that have a school try to improve it, as we believe that our young folks, as well as the old, receive a lot of their training through the Sunday School.

We also urge that the Sunday School be represented in the Sunday School Convention.

We urge that we bind ourselves together in prayer for the uplifting of our Schools, and that each teacher and officer examine themselves and live holy and acceptable unto God.

Respectfully submitted,  
CORINTH CHURCH

### **SUPPORT OF MINISTRY**

Your Committee on Support of Ministry submits the following report:

We feel that every God called minister should be supported by the work that he serves so that he can put his full time into the service of Him who called. After carefully studying the conditions and methods of raising money within the bounds of our Association, we feel that great improvement can be made in the amount and method of supporting pastors. We offer the following suggestions for your consideration:

1. All churches should have a regular Sunday morning offering. This should be made a part of the worship service. This offering is scriptural and no worship service is complete without it.

2. Pastors and lay leaders should teach the doctrine of tithing. It is a part of our Articles of Faith; therefore, it should be accepted as part of our belief.

3. Churches will find it to the mutual advantage of all if they operate on a budget. Every member of the church should be given an opportunity to contribute toward the church budget.

According to God's Word, every individual and every church should have a definite financial system. God does not save and sustain men by chance, but by a definite plan. Let us have a definite plan for the support of His Work.

Respectfully submitted,  
GLENNVILLE CHURCH

### **STATE OF CHURCHES**

We, your Committee on State of Churches, submit the following report:

We find that all our churches were supplied with pastors for last year, and that all churches except one are supplied with pastors for the ensuing year. The spiritual life in all our

churches seems to be at least fair. It is our belief that the prayer meetings, Sunday Schools, Leagues, and Ladies Auxiliaries help to greatly improve and keep up the spiritual condition of our churches; consequently, we recommend that the pastors do their utmost in trying to encourage these organizations. We further recommend that the churches commune and wash the Saints' feet quarterly.

Prayerfully submitted,  
PINEY GROVE CHURCH

#### DENOMINATION LITERATURE

We, your Committee on Denominational Literature, of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, recommend that loyalty be our watch word this year.

Loyal to God.

Loyal to our denomination by buying, studying, and teaching our Free Will Baptist Literature.

Loyal to ourselves by keeping abreast with the progress of our denomination by subscribing and reading our denominational papers.

By practicing loyalty, we will be better Christian workers in our churches.

Prayerfully submitted,  
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

#### EDUCATIONAL REPORT TO THE SOUTH GEORGIA ASSOCIATION

The church at Ebenezer, having been asked to draft a report on education, do herewith submit our ideas and recommendations:

1. We should recognize the fact that there is power in education, and as a denomination we need to put forth every effort possible to acquire an education in order to cope with the age in which we live.

2. We not only need education, but that which is more important, Christian education. Therefore, we should support every effort put forth for the purpose of giving our young people a Christian education.

3. We should use every means possible to make our Sunday Schools a more potent factor in Christian education. This may be done by using the very best literature available and securing the best talent in the church for the teaching of the Word. We further recommend that training classes be held in our churches for the purpose of training better qualified teachers.

4. We should demand a higher educational standard for our ministry. All young ministers should be encouraged to avail themselves of every opportunity possible to increase their educational status.

5. We recommend the full support and co-operation of our Association in the raising of the \$3000 for the Free Will Baptist Bible College for the next year from the state of Georgia.

6. We are suggesting a simple budget for our churches to follow in raising our share of the expansion funds for the college. This budget will not be burdensome to any.

Alabaha .....	\$ 75.00
Bethel .....	50.00
Corinth .....	100.00
Ebenezer .....	150.00
1st Jax .....	50.00
Glennville .....	150.00
Harmony .....	150.00
Liberty .....	25.00
Marietta .....	100.00
Memorial .....	150.00
New Hope .....	50.00
Philadelphia .....	100.00
Pine Grove .....	75.00
Pine Level .....	100.00
Oak Grove .....	15.00
Oak Hill .....	25.00
Satilla .....	200.00
Spring Grove .....	25.00
Stoney Hill .....	25.00
Unity .....	75.00
Zion .....	10.00

---

Total .....\$1600.00

Finally, that we work and pray co-operating for the general promotion of Christian education.

EBENEZER CHURCH AND PASTOR



## FINANCE REPORT

We, your Committee on Finance, beg to make the following report.

We have received from all sources this session

the following amount .....	\$168.00
On hand from last session .....	21.76
By special offering .....	21.00
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$210.76

We approve for disbursement as follows:

For Minutes .....	\$ 91.00
Moderator .....	10.00
Clerk .....	15.00
Treasurer .....	5.00
Elder J. B. Harris .....	25.00
Sister J. A. Blanton .....	10.00
Local Superannuation Board .....	15.00
Bro. G. W. Cloud, for expenditures .....	10.58
National Association Fees .....	5.00
State Association .....	10.00
Sister C. C. Coursey .....	10.00
<hr/>	

Total Disbursements .....

\$206.58

Balance on hand .....

4.18

Respectfully submitted,

NEW HOPE CHURCH

(Clerk's Note—You will note that all the report was placed together after the amendment)

# Obituaries

We, the Committee on Obituaries, appointed at last session of the South Georgia Association, beg to submit this, our report.

We here and now invite this entire body to rise to their feet with bowed heads in humble submission to the will of the Father in His marvelous power and mysterious works as we commit them into His hands, and we recommend that one page of our minutes be dedicated to their memory.

We further recommend that this body, while in session form a resolution whereby the next committee appointed will be able to secure the names of the deceased in order that copies can be kept through the minutes.

Satilla Church lost Sister Rebecca Foskey and Bro. Ernest Holten.

Unity Church—Sister Sarah Kirkland, Bro. Alvia Rhoden and Bro. J. H. Maddox.

Corinth Church—Sister McCarthy.

Marietta Church—Bro. Ervin McLain.

Oak Grove Church—Rev. C. C. Coursey.

Memorial Church—Bro. Willie Page.

Piney Grove Church—Sister Pansey Padgett and Sister Phillip Beare.

Zion Church—Bro. Charley Easterly.

Pine Level Church—Sister Pope and Sister Mixon.

Prayerfully submitted by

LIBERTY CHURCH AND PASTOR

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. God. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. Christ. Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature, truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. The Holy Spirit. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. The Government of God. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. The Sinfulness of Man. Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation, his posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. The Work of Christ. The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. The Terms of Salvation. The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance, or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him always. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. Election. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. Freedom of the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. Salvation Free. God desires the salvation of all, the

Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. Perseverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances. Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. Tithing. God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23: 23), and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (Cor. 16:2).

15. The Christian Sabbath. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

### 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.

1. We promise by His Grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all 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."

2. 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."

3. We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and 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.



4. 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.

5. We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprise 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.

6. 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 the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **CHURCH DECORUM**

1. The Church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in Association year, or if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor, may be chosen at any other time, but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as Moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all collections by the church, for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable members shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor. Also it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastor to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes

8. The church shall hold a two day's monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

9. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

10. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever of the church according to the Covenant (Article 5) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect; but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

11. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless divine service has just been conducted, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches shall speak and make motions or seconds, but are not allowed to vote.

13. Any orderly member of the Baptist church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall be valid unless withdrawn, the members who make them shall be liable to be taken under deal with the church.

15. When the Moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend the trial, providing his residence be known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined till the question has been put to the church, "Will you hear the testimony of the witness?"

18. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly, or continue to hold their letters without good

reason, shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

23. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided, but a member upon request, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conferences without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

25. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling, those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep to the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

27. When the Moderator speaks he must delegate some brother to act in his stead.

28. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is to call the speaker to order.

29. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Saint's feet at least once a year.

30. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

31. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

32. No licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two successive monthly conferences.

### ASSOCIATIONAL DECORUM

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceeding session shall preside until their successors shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.



3. At the close of each session the entire proceeding shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made only by those who are eligible to vote in the Association.

9. After motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move a reconsideration.

10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave of absence without permission from the body.

11. This Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

12. This decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

13. No church shall liberate any minister who comes from any other denomination until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and has received credentials bearing the approval of the council.

## CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be known as the South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association, whose duty it is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn finally until all business is settled and while interest to the Association and to their best influence to promote all moral benevolent means and institutions, such as education, Sunday Schools, Missionary work, etc.

2. It shall be composed of the Ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto, and of legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirements of the churches: Each church shall be required to send up annual report to the Association in which they shall make a brief statement of the pastor, report the character and usefulness of the minister whose membership is with them. Give name and post office of the church clerk. Give the number baptised, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded and dead; also the number of members and the amount paid Association purposes.



4. This Association shall be considered as an ecclesiastical body and shall control all the various churches composing the same, so far as Gospel order extends. Also, no house or lands shall be sold or disposed of without its consent.

5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, a Treasurer. Also, there shall be an Executive Committee of five members, three of whom shall be the Moderator, the Assistant Moderator, the Clerk, and two other members elected annually.

6. There shall be an Ordaining Council of three ordained ministers who shall be elected annually.

7. This Association shall be considered in order and ready for legal business whenever and wherever a quorum of the officers and churches may be assembled for the purpose of transacting the business of the Association.

8. The officers of the Association shall be elected at the beginning of each session of the Association by secret ballot.

9. Only the officers of the Association, both ordained and licensed, and the delegates of the churches of the Association shall be eligible to vote in the Association.

10. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

11. Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate for each twenty members or fraction thereof.

12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority vote.

# STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	COUNTY	PASTOR 1948	CLERKS AND ADDRESS	Baptised	Rec. by Letter	Prof. of Faith	Restored	Dis. by Letter	Expelled	Died	Female	Male	Total	Asso. Purposes	Paid Pastor	Value of Church Property	Times of Meeting
Alabaha .....	Pierce .....		S. D. Harrison, Rt. Blackshear, Ga.....	1				3			34	49	83		\$ 690.00	\$2000.00	2nd & 4th
Bethel .....	Appling .....	W. C. Coleman....	Beatrice Orvin, Baxley, Ga. ....					2					42	\$ 8.00	280.00	2000.00	1st & 3rd
Corinth .....	Bacon .....	E. L. Paulk .....	P. J. Jarrard, Rt. 1, Waycross, Ga.....				1	1		1	81	61	142	5.00	251.20	3500.00	
Ebenezer .....	Tatnall .....	F. B. Cherry .....	F. W. Purcell, Glenville, Ga. ....	11	3			2			105	76	181	10.00	1050.00	4000.00	2nd & 4th
First of Jax....	Duval .....	G. W. Burkett....	G. W. Cloud, Bx 6111, Jax, Fla. ....	1	1		2	2	4		23	8	31	15.00	380.00	3000.00	Full time
Glenville .....	Tatnall .....	F. B. Cherry .....	E. C. Davidson, Glenville, Ga.....	1				6			110	45	155	10.00	995.00	5000.00	1st & 3rd
Harmony .....	Union .....	J. O. Fort .....	C. L. Brown, Lake Butler, Fla.....	4				1					115	10.00	889.00	3500.00	1st & 3rd
Liberty .....	Coffee .....	W. L. Mills .....	O. V. Taylor, West Green, Ga.....	1				1	19		11	9	20	5.00	128.00	2500.00	1st
Marietta .....	Toombs .....	E. C. Morris .....	Mrs. A. L. McLain, Lyons, Ga.....					1		1	59	40	99	10.00	388.00	2000.00	3rd
Memorial .....	Appling .....	E. L. Paulk .....	S. M. Blanton, Surrency, Ga.....	3					2	1	110	69	179	8.00	355.00	1500.00	1st
New Hope ....	Wayne .....	A. B. Adams .....	B. H. Anderson, Rt. 2, Jesup, Ga.....								53	22	75	5.00	161.77	1500.00	2nd
Philadelphia ..	Charlton ..	J. R. Graham.....	Mrs. O. F. Harden, Folkston, Ga.....	3		2		1			68	36	104	10.00	489.75	2000.00	1st & 3rd
Piney Grove....	Appling .....	E. L. Paulk .....	Mary Lightsey, Bristol, Ga.....							2	76	44	120	8.00	356.01	3500.00	3rd
Pine Level ....	Bacon .....	I. J. Blacnwelder	Mrs. L. W. Taylor, Rt. 4, Alma, Ga....							2	81	56	137	10.00	373.00	5500.00	1st & 3rd
Oak Grove ....	Appling .....	W. C. Colman .....	Ruby McLain, Alma, Ga.....	6	1					2			30	2.00	170.32		
Oak Hill .....	Bacon .....	E. B. Joyner .....	W. M. Steedley, Alma, Ga.....		2								45	5.00	156.85		
Satilla .....	Jeff Davis..	J. R. Graham .....	T. E. Harrison, Hazlehurst, Ga.....	12	8			6		2	196	76	284	10.00	781.56	7500.00	2nd & 4th
Spring Grove ..	Wayne .....	G. W. Burkett....	R. L. Stewart, Rt. 2, Jesup, Ga.....	5	2	2			1		32	20	52	5.00	161.22	1500.00	2nd
Stony Hill .....	Tatnall .....	F. B. Cherry .....	W. W. Rogers, Reidsville, Ga.....	2							23	18	41		157.92	1400.00	1st
Unity .....	Duval .....	C. J. Pitts .....	A. Rhoden, 2751 Lenox Ave, Jax, Fla	5	3	7		14	24	3	39	21	60	15.00	480.00	4431.14	Full time
Zion .....	Long .....	J. R. Graham .....	Wilene Eason, Ludowici, Ga.....								11	9	20	2.00	46.65	150.00	2nd Sat