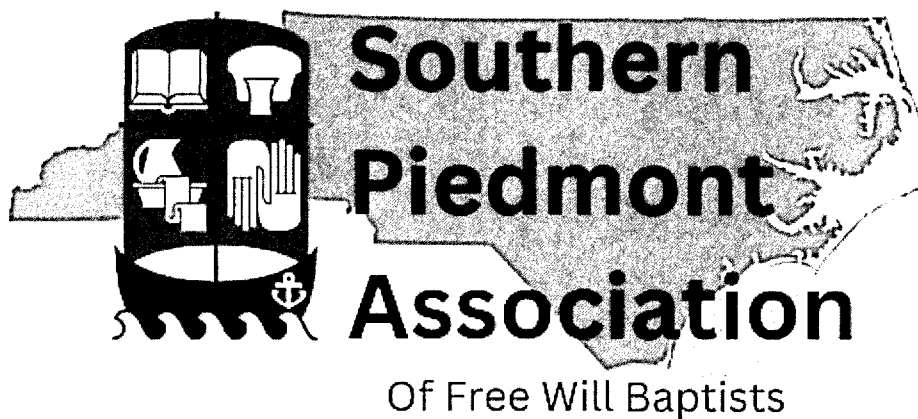


NC



2023 Annual Report

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTHERN PIEDMONT ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

PREAMBLE

As members of the National Association of Free Will Baptists denomination, and members of the Body of Christ by profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and being baptized by immersion in testimony of that faith, and realizing the necessity for a bond of union and fellowship with churches of like precious faith, we do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution and By-Laws for our mutual edification and inspiration.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Southern Piedmont Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. This Association shall be composed of Free Will Baptist churches which maintain Gospel order and agree with denominational doctrines and practices as expressed in "*A Treatise of Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists*" as adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

SECTION 2. Churches desiring membership in this Association shall present a letter of petition. They shall then be examined by the Executive Board to determine whether they are in compliance with Article II, Section 1. Upon recommendation of the Executive Board, they shall be received by a majority vote of the Association.

SECTION 3. Member churches are requested to participate in all the meetings of the Association and to report by letter to the Association at its annual business meeting.

ARTICLE III. REPRESENTATION

SECTION 1. Voting representation at any session shall be by standing delegates of the Association, and lay delegates who are elected representatives of the various churches comprising this Association.

SECTION 2. Standing delegates shall be ordained ministers and deacons who are members in good standing with their respective local churches and with this Association.

SECTION 3. Each church shall be entitled to representation at any session of this Association with five lay delegates who are in good standing in their respective churches.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Ordained ministers and deacons of this association shall hold regular quarterly meetings at an agreed upon location. An Annual Association meeting shall be held on the first Saturday of February at a member church to be determined by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V. GENERAL OFFICERS

The general officers of this Association shall consist of a moderator, and assistant moderator, a clerk, and a treasurer, each of whom shall be elected for a term of two years beginning at the close of the session at which they were elected.

ARTICLE VI. BOARDS

SECTION 1. *The Executive Board* shall consist of the general officers of the Association.

The Executive Board shall have the power to act in behalf of this Association when not in session only as provided for in this Constitution and By-Laws, or as specifically directed by the Association.

This Board shall have the responsibility for the program of each session of this Association and the planning of special joint services and/or Bible Conferences for the edification of our people.

SECTION 2. *The Credentials Board* shall consist of ordained ministers in good standing from member churches. The Credentials Board shall have the responsibility of examining any licensed minister who, as a member of one of the member churches of the Southern Piedmont Association is presented by said church as a candidate for acceptance as a minister in good standing with this Association. This Board shall also examine incoming pastors from other associations and other ordained ministers who desire membership in this Association as to their standing with the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTERIAL STANDING

SECTION 1. Ministerial members in good standing with this Association shall be comprised of ordained ministers in good standing with the local churches of this Association.

SECTION 2. In order to attain ministerial standing in this Association, a minister must be approved and recommended by the Credentials Board and accepted by a majority vote of this Association at any of its regular meetings.

SECTION 3. Ministers are expected to attend all meetings of this Association.

ARTICLE VIII. DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. Ministerial Discipline. The Southern Piedmont Association chooses follow the practices as set forth in the *Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association Free Will Baptist*, Part IV, Chapter II, Section II which reads as follows:

Section II A. As in the case of ordination, the authority to discipline a minister has its source in the authority of the local church. Again, however, this is delegated to the association along with the authorities to ordain.

Section II B. In most cases, any accusation against a minister that is offered concerning his conduct, character, profession, or doctrine (and which should be considered against his good standing), should be brought to the association by the local church. The only exception that should be made arises when an offense involves a

fellow minister (as object or witness) in a situation unknown to the local church. In this case, charges should be preferred by three ministers jointly, with the local church fully appraised of the fact.

Section II C. *As with all other matters of church discipline, the minister accused should first be dealt with privately according to the practices outlined in Matthew 18:15-17*

Section II D. *If a "formal trial" becomes necessary, it should proceed in the same way as that described for members of a local church described in Chapter I, Section VIII, except that here the moderator of the Association presides (rather than the local pastor) and the delegates to the association hear the trial (rather than local members). All steps in part H of the Section just referred to should be followed.*

Section II E. *The association's disciplinary action against the minister can deal solely with his ordination and fellowship in the association as a minister.*

- 1. If an intermediate and temporary act of discipline is needed, the minister may be retained on the roll of ministers but listed as not in full fellowship and denied the right to vote as a standing delegate.*
- 2. The final act of discipline, if labors are not fruitful in bringing satisfactory resolution of the problem, consists in the revoking of the minister's ordination and withdrawal of fellowship from him as a minister in good standing in the association.*
- 3. The association's discipline cannot deal with the minister's relationship to the local church, either as pastor or member. It can make recommendations concerning this to the local church, and the church's fellowship in the association might be endangered if those recommendations were not followed, but no force can be applied.*

Section II F. *The minister is expected to submit to the decision of the association and relinquish his "credentials" of ordination if they are called for. Civil action is not recommended, however, if he should refuse.*

Section II G. *The minister who feels he has not been justly treated may, in union with at least one other sustaining minister, appeal to the next broader organization of which his district association is a member (such as the state association) for a hearing among the sister associations. The nature of the broader association's powers in such a case is described in Chapter III. Association of Churches.*

SECTION 2. Church Discipline.

- A. If a member church encounters a situation of discipline, doctrine, or practice from within its membership where assistance in procedure and policy is deemed helpful, it may appeal to the Southern Piedmont Association. Such appeals must be in writing from official representatives of the church to the Executive Board which shall act in representation of the Association.

Upon receiving the appeal, the Executive Board shall meet with official representatives of the church to hear the circumstances of the appeal. The Executive Board may render counsel and recommendations to the representatives of the church as to appropriate actions and procedures they deem wise. Any recommendations to the church by the Executive Board are to be understood only as hortatory and advisory in capacity.

- B. Any action which the Association may take cannot reverse the action of any member church, although it may act in hortatory and advisory capacity toward that end. Actual disciplinary action upon a member church or minister can deal only with their rights as a member of the Association. In this vein, the

Association may refuse to seat delegates from a member church for a session of the Association or may ultimately withdraw fellowship from the church.

- C. Failure to report for a period of two years may forfeit that church's membership in this Association. Churches who have absented themselves for up to two years but wishing to remain in good standing in the Association will be expected to pay all dues in arrears.
- D. For any further considerations see the *Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association Free Will Baptist*, Chapter 3, Section IV.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of this Association, any assets of the organization then remaining shall be conveyed to such denominational agencies then existing which are dedicated to similar objectives to those of this organization. Said agency shall be selected by the Association at the time of dissolution.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present.

BY-LAWS REPRESENTATION

SECTION 1. To maintain membership in the Southern Piedmont Association it is required that each church pay annual dues in the amount determined by the Association.

OFFICERS

SECTION 2. The duties of the Moderator shall include presiding at the meetings of the Southern Piedmont Association and the Executive Board; calling special meeting of the Executive Board when they may be necessary to the carrying out of the duties given to that Board under the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws; appointing such committees as are created without provision for their selection; and in general, to fulfill whatever responsibilities may be commensurate with his office or delegated to him by the body.

SECTION 3. The duties of the Assistant Moderator shall include presiding at the request of, or in the absence of the Moderator and assisting him in such ways as may be necessary.

SECTION 4. The duties of the Clerk shall include recording the proceedings of all sessions of the Association and the Executive Board and preserving an accurate record of said proceedings; preparing and causing to be published minutes of the sessions of the Association; handling such official correspondence for the Association as he may be directed; and holding in trust all documents not otherwise preserved, and surrendering the same at the direction of the Association.

SECTION 5. The duties of the Treasurer shall include the holding in trust of all monies belonging to the Association and the paying out of the same as he is directed by the Association.

COMMITTEES

SECTION 6. When the Association deems it necessary, committees may be formed for a definite period of time for a specified need. The number of members of any such committee shall be determined by the assembly. Committee members shall be appointed by the Moderator unless otherwise provided by the action creating the committee; and they shall hold office for the length of time provided, or until their work is completed, or until they are released , or until a successor is chosen.

HONORARIA

SECTION 7. The clerk shall receive an honorarium of \$200.00 annually.

DECORUM & AMMENDMENTS

SECTION 8. The meetings of the Southern Piedmont Association shall be governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure as set forth in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

SECTION 9. These By-Lays may be amended at any regular session of the association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present.

Adopted November 2011, Updated February 2021

**MINISTER LISTING FOR SOUTHERN PIEDMONT ASSOCIATION CHURCHES PASTOR STAFF and
ORDAINED/LICENSED MINISTERS**

Cramerton FWB

Church website www.cramertonchurch.org

Ordained Ministers:

Josh Baer, 2809 Wimbledon Dr., Gastonia, NC 28056 (704-718-3850)

Aaron Pendergraft, 311 Forest Bay Court, Belmont, NC 28012 (704-214-2949)

Danny Baer, 108 Harmony Trail, Gastonia, NC 28056 (919-539-9094)

Marcos Osuna, 221 Ingonish Drive Gastonia, North Carolina 28056 (661-319-3173)

Tim Young, 4021 Mountainview St., Gastonia, NC 28056 (704-830-4441)

Jim Marcum, 243 Ingonish Drive Gastonia, NC 28056 (919) 920-8453

Licensed Minister:

Jonathon Cribb, 4520 Poinsettia Ave., Gastonia, NC 28056 (704-860-2284)

Emmanuel FWB (704-922-9756)

Goshen FWB

Steve Crank, 5014 Wicklow Drive, Gastonia, N.C. 28054 (919-995-4719)

pastorcrank@gmail.com

Sherman Branch, 1214 Abernathy Drive, Stanley, NC 28164 (704-813-5557)

sbranch77@hotmail.com

Highland Drive FWB (Lincolnton)

Luke Johnson, 1106 Bethel Church Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092 (704-215-0041)

Cole Sours, 2437 Myra Lane, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092 (704-240-0782)

cole.sours@yahoo.com

Church website www.highlanddrivechurch.org

Legacy Church

Darin Gibbs, 2409 Crestview Drive, Gastonia, N.C. 28054 (704-616-9818)

dgibbs@firstchurchgastonia.com

Lowell FWB

Richard Sigmon, 1244 Salem Church Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092 (704-616-9513)

rwsigmon@bellsouth.net

Mount Holly FWB

Randy Arrowood, 130 Cody Lane, Belmont, N.C. 28012 (Home:704-827-9789, Cell:704-860-5626)
arrowood@carolina.rr.com

Anthony Perkins, 811 Cathedral Drive, Belmont, N.C. 28012 (704-460-8777)
aperkins0809@yahoo.com

Shelby FWB

Mike Carper, 1968 Kendrick Road, Shelby, N.C. 28152 (704-473-3902)
mjc4316@yahoo.com

ADDITIONAL ORDAINED MINISTERS

William Calvert, 6007-B Cloninger Court, Lowell, N.C. 28098 (704-824-2914 or 704-678-4998)



NORTH CAROLINA

ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Minutes for 2022 Annual Meeting of the Southern Piedmont Association Convening at First FWB Church Gastonia on February 7, 2023

Attendees:

Josh Baer, Cramerton FWB
(Moderator)

Luke Johnson, Highland Drive FWB
(Vice Moderator)

Randy Arrowood, Mount Holly FWB
(Treasurer)

Anthony Perkins, Mount Holly FWB
(Secretary/Clerk)

Darin Gibbs, Gastonia FWB
(Host for the meeting)

Marcos Osuna, Cramerton FWB

Cole Sours, Highland Drive FWB

Richard Sigmon, Lowell FWB

Steve Crank, Goshen FWB

Sherman Branch, Emmanuel FWB

Mike Carper, Shelby FWB

Meeting called to order by Josh Baer

Opening Prayer given by Luke Johnson

* M/S/C to accept minutes of previous meetings as presented by Anthony Perkins

* M/S/C to accept annual "Treasurers Report" as presented by Randy Arrowood

* Upcoming Schedule for 2023

- a. March 23-24 NCFWB Marriage Retreat in Gatlinburg (free lodging/conference)
- b. May 9 SPA Quarterly Meeting (First Mt. Holly)
- c. June 5-6 NCFWB State Meeting in Greensboro
- d. July 16-19 NAFWB Meeting in Raleigh
- e. August 8 SPA Quarterly Meeting (Goshen)
- f. November 14 SPA Quarterly Meeting (Highland Drive)
- g. *Monthly on the Second Tuesday: Pastor's Fellowship at Highland Drive*

* Old Business

- a. Credential update on Ministers who have transferred in

* New Business

- a. Report from State Promotional Director, Reuben Cason, presented by Josh Baer
- b. NCFWB Marriage Retreat in March 2023

c. Officer Election – M/S/C

Luke Johnson for Moderator

Darin Gibbs for Asst. Moderator

Steve Crank for Clerk

Randy Arrowood for Treasurer

* Luke Johnson gave a devotion from Genesis 1:1-2

* Darin Gibbs closed in prayer.

* Lunch and Fellowship at Topgolf generously provided by First FWB of Gastonia



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Minutes for 2023 Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Piedmont Association Convening at First FWB Church, Mt. Holly on May 9, 2023

Attendees:

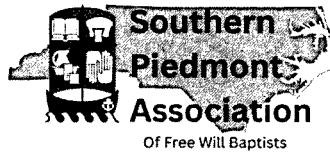
Luke Johnson, Highland Drive FWB
(Moderator)
Darin Gibbs, Gastonia FWB
(Asst. Moderator)
Steve Crank, Goshen FWB
(Secretary/Clerk)
Cole Sours, Highland Drive FWB

Josh Baer, Cramerton FWB
Dr. Danny Baer, Cramerton FWB
Richard Sigmon, Lowell FWB
Anthony Perkins, Mount Holly FWB
Sherman Branch, Emmanuel FWB
Mike Carper, Shelby FWB
Guest - Jonathan Huff, Equip Church

Meeting called to order by Luke Johnson

Opening Prayer given by Dr. Danny Baer

- * M/S/C to accept minutes of previous meetings as presented by Steve Crank
- * M/S/C to accept "Treasurers Report" as given by Randy Arrowood presented by Luke Johnson
- * Upcoming Schedule for 2023
 - a. June 5-6 NCFWB State Meeting in Greensboro
 - b. July 16-19 NAFWB Meeting in Raleigh
 - c. August 8 SPA Quarterly Meeting (Goshen)
 - d. November 14 SPA Quarterly Meeting (Highland Drive)
 - e. *Monthly on the Second Tuesday: Pastor's Fellowship at Highland Drive*
- * News from Bro. Reuben Cason; State Promotional Director
- * Old Business
 - a. Marcos Osuna and Jim Marcum's credentials have been received.
- * New Business
 - a. M/S/C to receive Marcos Osuna Sr. into the association pending Credential transfer.
 - b. Fresh new ideas to utilize the association to be a blessing...
 - 1. M/S/C to pay one night hotel room for any pastor in our association to be able to attend the NC state meeting.
 - 2. Yearly association service for all churches to worship together.
- * Updates/Reports from Guests
 - a. Update from Equip church in Hickory, NC given by Jonathan Huff.
 - b. Praise in the Park Sponsored by Emmanuel FWB Church, Dallas NC May 20, 2023
 - c. Landen's Story Foundation Benefit Concert with Jason Crabb November 4, 2023
 - d. Sherman Branch is starting a new ministry called Songs in the Night
- * Steve Crank gave a devotion from Jeremiah 20 "It's Too Early to Quit"
- * Discussion
- * Josh Baer closed in prayer.
- * Lunch and Fellowship followed at Billy's BBQ



**Minutes for 2023 Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Piedmont Association
Convening at Goshen FWB Church, Mt. Holly on August 08, 2023**

Attendees:

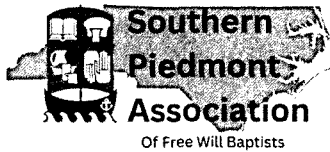
Luke Johnson, Highland Drive FWB
(Moderator)
Darin Gibbs, Gastonia FWB
(Asst. Moderator)
Steve Crank, Goshen FWB
(Secretary/Clerk)
Josh Baer, Cramerton FWB
Richard Sigmon, Lowell FWB

Anthony Perkins, Mount Holly FWB
Randy Arrowwood, Mt. Holly FWB
Sherman Branch, Emmanuel FWB
Guests - Reuben Cason
(State Promotional Director);
Mike Davis
(Pastor of Real Life Church)

Meeting called to order by Luke Johnson

Opening Prayer

- * M/S/C to accept minutes of previous meetings as presented by Steve Crank
- * M/S/C to accept "Treasurers Report" as given by Randy Arrowood
- * Upcoming Schedule for 2023
 - a. World Mission Offering | August 27
 - b. Minister's Retreat | September 25-26 @Homewood Suites. Greensboro, NC.
 - c. SPA Worship Service @ Cramerton | November 12 PM Service
 - d. SPA Quarterly Meeting (Highland Drive) | November 14
 - e. *Pastor's Fellowship at Highland Drive | Monthly on the Second Tuesday*
- * Old Business
 - a. Marcos Osuna Sr. credentials are on the way.
- * New Business
 - a. M/S/C For Southern Piedmont Association executive committee to decide on speaker for the November 12 joint service
 - b. Fresh new ideas to utilize the association to be a blessing...
 - 1. Discussed having pastor and wife fellowships again.
- * Updates/Reports from Guests
 - a. Update from State Promotional Director, Reuben Cason. National was a great success, best attendance since 2012. Equip church is launching September 17.
 - b. Landen's Story Foundation Benefit Concert with Jason Crabb November 4, 2023
- * Mike Davis gave a talk on longevity in the ministry
- * Discussion
- * Steve Crank closed in prayer.
- * Lunch and Fellowship followed at Goshen



**Minutes for 2023 Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Piedmont Association
Convening at Highland Drive FWB Church, Lincolnton on November 14, 2023**

Attendees:

Luke Johnson, Highland Drive FWB
(Moderator)
Steve Crank, Goshen FWB
(Secretary/Clerk)
Cole Sours, Highland Drive FWB

Josh Baer, Cramerton FWB
Richard Sigmon, Lowell FWB
Randy Arrowwood, Mt. Holly FWB
Guests - Steve Torrison IM Center for
Intercultural Training

Meeting called to order by Luke Johnson

Opening Prayer by Richard Sigmon

* M/S/C to accept minutes of previous meetings as presented by Steve Crank

* M/S/C to accept "Financial Report" as given by Randy Arrowwood

* Upcoming Schedule for 2023

- a. Mission North America Offering, Sunday, November 19th
- b. Leadership Conference, December 4-5. All info is available at NAFWB.org
- c. Annual SPA meeting, Tuesday February 13th @ 10:30 AM at Lowell Church.
- d. *Pastor's Fellowship at Highland Drive | Monthly on the Second Tuesday*

* Old Business

- a. Marcos Osuna Sr. credentials are turned in.

* New Business

- a. The combined worship service was discussed and viewed as a success. We are looking at moving the date next year tentatively to November 24 to accommodate churches. There were 198 in attendance.
- b. Speaker suggestion for annual meeting in February, Reuben Cason
- c. Suggested that we go bowling for our next association meeting.

* Updates/Reports from Guests

- a. Letter of greeting read from promotional director, Reuben Cason.
- b. Christmas Eve candlelight service @ 5:00 at Cramerton
- c. Women's night of worship at Cramerton November 30 7-8 Heather Brackeen speaking
- d. Marriage retreat sponsored by Cramerton and Evergreen Eddie Moody speaking February 2-3

* Steve Torrison gave his testimony and talked about Center for Intercultural Training. CIT trains and equips missionaries individually and as teams.

* Luke Johnson closed in prayer.

* Lunch and Fellowship followed at Saigon Vietnamese

**Southern Piedmont Association
Financial Report-January-August 2023**

Cash on Hand January 1, 2023	\$2,353.16
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Deposit - Eight Churches Dues	
400.00 Per Church	3,200.00

Total to Account For	\$5,553.16
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Less Expenses

5/23/23	State Dues	2,230.00
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Less Expenses	\$2,230.00
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Balance in Checking 08/08/23	\$3,323.16
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EXAMINATION COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIR

To be received in the fellowship of the Southern Piedmont Association of Free Will Baptists of North Carolina

1. Please fill out this form completely.
2. Present the completed form to the Chairman of the Examining Committee.
3. Would you consent to the Examining Committee questioning you to determine its recommendation to the Association? (Yes No)

Date_____

Name_____

Address_____

Zip Code_____

Date of Birth_____; Age_____

Telephone(s)_____

Marital Status_____; How would you interpret "the husband of one wife"?
Traditionally and historically the Southern Piedmont Association does not accept divorced and remarried ministers.

Children's Names_____; _____; _____; _____

Education: Grade School_____; Years_____

High School_____; Years_____

College_____; Years_____

Graduate School_____; Years_____

Member of what Church _____; How long?_____

Present Employment_____; How long employed_____

Testimony of Salvation

Testimony of call to Ministry

Doctrinal Questions

Write a brief statement about your definition and position on the following:

1. Explain your views of the Genesis account of Creation.
2. Fall of man/origin of sin.
3. God.
4. Inspiration of Bible.
5. Virgin Birth of Christ.
6. Death of Christ.
7. Resurrection of Christ.
8. The Holy Ghost (Spirit).
9. Salvation.

10. When does a believer receive the Holy Spirit?
11. Second-coming of Christ.
12. The Church.
13. The Lord's Supper.
14. The washing of the saints' feet.
15. Hell.
16. Heaven.

Please submit a brief statement explaining why you feel the need for license/ordination.

This questionnaire is submitted as a matter of information and subject to approval by the Southern Piedmont Association. Upon approval it will be formatted in a form allowing proper space for the answers to appear immediately after each question.