

*MINUTES*  
*of the*  
*Seventy Sixth Annual Session*  
*of the*  
**STATE LINE FREE WILL**  
**BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
*of*  
**MISSISSIPPI — ALABAMA**

Held With  
Splunge Church  
Friday October 10, 1980  
and  
Mt. Hope Church  
Saturday October 11, 1980

**OFFICERS**

Rev. E.T. Sargent..... Moderator  
Rev. Dale Ford..... Assistant Moderator  
Bro. J.C. Hood..... Clerk and Treasurer  
Rev. Harlon Johnson..... Trustee to Children's Home  
Rev. Oscar Gardner..... Associational Pastor

\*\*\*\*\*

The next session will be held with Rocky Top Church, Friday and Friday night, and with Barnesville on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1981.

## PROCEEDINGS

Session opened with song led by Bro. G.O. Karr. Prayer by Bro. E.T. Sargent.

### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Reading of Rules of Decorum by Moderator. Scripture read Phil. 2:14.

### APPOINTING DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE

Bro. J.M. Howell, Bro. J.R. Kerr, Bro. Royce Cooper.

### CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT (PARTIAL)

We your Credential Committee have examined all church letters except Mt. Calvary and Liberty and found them in order except Union Ridge has too many delegates and Southside is not signed.

We recommend the letters be read and delegates seated when these 2 letters are in order.

Move in order to accept as read and proceed with reading. Carried.

### READING OF CHURCH LETTERS

#### AND

### SEATING OF DELEGATES

ANTIOCH - Sis. Jessie Howell, Bro. Taylor Peoples, Bro. Dank Winsett, Alt. Sis. Olie Whitworth.

BALLARD - Bro. Victor Ballard, Sis. Lillie Thompson, Sis. Bobbie Kerr, Alt. Bro. Dick Gilliland.

BARNESVILLE - Bro. Ivon Boyett, Bro. G.O. Karr, Sis. Bonnie Karr, Bro. James Ward, Alt. Sis. Manella Brown, Bro. Bub Taylor.

BEAR CREEK - Sis. Monell Gann, Sis. Susie McCarley, Sis. Lenar Engle, Sis. Maudie Grissom.

COBB TOWN - Johnnie Mays, Glenda Head, Tince May.

FAIRVIEW - Bro. Alfred Ballard, Sis. Wanda Skinner, Sis. Kathy Stone, Sis. Alice Carter.

LOVE JOY - Bro. Dave Britt, Sis. Britt.

MT. HOPE - Bro. James McCarley, Bro. Don Collier, Bro. Billy Yeilding, Bro. Johnny Reid, Alt. Bro. Lowell Yeilding.

NEW CENTER POINT - Bro. Ray Blaylock, Bro. Ted Borrelli, Alt. Bro. Donald Puckett.

NEW HOPE - Sis. Betty Carter, Sis. Ovaleen Avery, Sis. Reta Cheek, Alt. Sis. Bessie Wiginton.

NEW SALEM - Sis. Virginia Carter, Sis. Vida Gilliland, Sis. Ellie Lindsey, Alt. Sis. Jewel Stone.

PLEASANT RIDGE - Bro. Steven Harris, Bro. Dwight Childers, Sis. Beatrice Harris, Sis. Faye Avery, Alt.

PLEASANT SITE - Bro. Verlon Watson, Sis. Martha Roberts, Sis. Evelyn Mills, Alt. Sis. Eva Lou Watson.

ROCKY GROVE - Sis. Redus McKay, Sis. Ottis Parmer, Sis. Charlotte Hall, Alt. Sis. Travis D. Hall.

ROCKY TOP - Sis. Bonnie Cooper, Bro. Allen Davis, Sis. Lydia Howell, Sis. Christeen Hood, Alt. Sis. Leola Cantrell.

SOUTHSIDE - Sis. Bonnie Sargent, Sis. Maggie Lawrence, Bro. Cecil May, Sis. Hazel Rye.

SPLUNGE - Sis. Faye Blaylock, Sis. Linda Shields, Sis. Carloyn Vann, Alt. Sis. Gail Taylor.

UNION RIDGE - Sis. Grace Rushing, Wynette Knight, Alice Kennedy, Alt. Sis. Dorothy Truman.

Move to accept letters as read and seat the delegates. Carried.

SEATING VISITING MINISTERS - Bro. Haney, Vernon - Bro. Roy Barnes, Vernon - Bro. Pace - Bro Randall Tice, Bear Creek - Bro. Elmer Lee Stewart.

#### CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE PARTIAL REPORT

We have examined Mt. Calvary and Liberty Church letters and find them in order and recommend they be read and delegates seated.

We have examined Bethel FWB application for membership and recommend they be accepted into this association. Carried.

LIBERTY - Alt. Bro. Odis Childers, Sis. Lillian Childers, Sis. Bobbie Wilson, Sis. Bertha Childers, Alt.

MT. CALVARY - Bro. David Lemons, Bro. Arthur Reese, Sis. Maimie Lemons, Alt. Sis. Virginia Housh.

BETHEL - Sis. Mary Frances Gibbs, Sis. Tessie Smith, Bro. Mack Sexton, Alt. Sis. Nettie Beuchamp.

Move to accept and seat delegates. Carried.

#### CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined Bethel FWB letter and recommend the letter be read and delegates seated. Move to accept as read. Carried.

#### DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Friday Morning Devotional Bro. W.C. Rayburn, Friday Morning Message, Moderator, Friday night devotional Bro. George Page. Friday night message, Asst. Moderator. Saturday morning devotional Bro. David Sexton, Saturday morning message Bro. Conrad Whitson, Deceased members message, Bro. Clay Shotts.

Move to accept as read. Carried.

#### APPOINTING OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Bro. W.C. Rayburn, Bro. Burton Frederick, Bro. Clovis Blaylock.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE - Bro. Alfred Ballard, Bro. Allen Davis, Sis. Bonnie Cooper

DECEASED MEMBERS - Bro. Ivon Boyett, Bro. Redus McKay, Sis. Faye Blaylock, Sis. Susie McCarley, Bro. W.W. Gilliland.

TEMPERANCE - Sis. Ellie Lindsey, Bro. Larry Davis, Bro. Verlon Watson, Bro. Billy Yeilding, Sis. Wanda Skinner.

APPRECIATION - Sis. Bonnie Sargent, Sis. Grace Rushing, Bro. Dave Britt, Sis. Betty Carter, Sis. Wanda Blaylock.

BUSINESS - Bro. Fred Stidham, Bro. Hubert Gardner, Moderator, Clerk, Bro. Jack Harder.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES - Bro. Golden Harris, Bro. Marvin Winsett, Bro. Dewey Crowe.

### RECESS

Song led by Bro. Dale Ford and Bro. G.O. Karr, prayer by Bro. Duane Taylor. Right hand of Fellowship given to Bethal delegates.

VISITING MINISTERS - Bro. Charles Hamilton, Bro. Edward Puckett, Bro. Jim Dupont.  
Short talk by Bro. Charles Hamilton.

### TRUSTEE TO CHILDREN'S HOME

I would like to thank each church in the State Line Association for the contributions; in which they made. This year it was approximately \$2,645.00 plus other gifts.

I hope each church that is contributing to the Children's Home will continue, and those who are not will start showing an interest. Thank you for allowing me to be your trustee this past year. Bro. James McCarley.

Move to accept as read. Carried.

### CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the letter of request for Elmer Lee Stewart for membership into the State Line Association and find it in order. We recommend he go before the Ordaining Council.

We have examined the letter of request for membership of Bro. Randall Tice and recommend he go before the Ordaining Council.

We have examined the letter of request for membership of Bro. Charlie McGee and recommend he go before the Ordaining Council.

We have examined the request for membership for Quinneth Haney and recommend he go before the Ordaining Council.

We have examined the request for Ordination for Randy Bonds and recommend he go before the Ordaining Council.

Move to accept as read. Carried.

Friday Morning devotional by Bro. W.C. Rayburn, scripture Revelations. Song led by Bro. Conrad Whitson. Friday morning message by Bro. Gurley Roberts Gal. 2:20 "Crucified with Christ".

Dismissed for lunch by Bro. Larry Davis.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Session opened with song by Bro. Conrad Whitson and Bro. William Atkins. Prayer by Bro. Elmer Lee Stewart.

### ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR REPORT

I, your associational pastor, would like to thank the association for the great privilege to be your associational pastor. It has been a great honor to visit the churches again. I have been to all the churches and some of them more than one time. I filled in at Ballard Church 5 months. All the churches and Pastors have welcomed us. I thank you and praise God for his Blessings above all. I have received \$1,165.17 this year. Thank you for the opportunity to preach and worship God with you all.

Bro. Oscar Gardner

Move to accept. Carried.

### ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT

We have examined Rev. Charlie McGee's letter and find him in good standing. We recommend that he be received into this association in full fellowship. Carried.

We have examined Rev. Randall Tice's letter and find him in good standing. We recommend that he be received into this association in full fellowship. Carried.

We have examined Rev. Elmer Stewart's letter and find him in good standing. We recommend that he be received into this association in full fellowship. Carried.

We have examined Rev. Quinneth Haney's letter and find him in good standing. We recommend that he be received into this association in full fellowship. Carried.

### APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We are thankful for the fellowship of the Christian people and the great interest of the Splunge and Mt. Hope Churches. We are also thankful for the warm welcome and good food. We ask that this be read at Mt. Hope tomorrow.

Move to accept. Carried.

### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We the committee on temperance realizing that the end time is near find it necessary that every Christian stress the importance of temperance as found in Gal. 5:22-23 and 2 Peter 1:5-7.

Move to accept and discharge-committee. Carried.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Sunday School Committee have checked all 21 churches and have found them all active in Sunday School. We urge all churches to continue to make a special effort to encourage more people to get involved in Sunday School activity.

Move to accept and discharge committee. Carried.



## DECEASED MEMBERS REPORT

We your Committee on Deceased Members have checked the records and find that 17 members from our association have gone on to be with the Lord. They are missed so much, but we look forward to meeting them in the great beyond.

Move to accept and discharge committee. Carried.

Special song by Bro. David Sexton.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Finance Committee have checked association minute fund of the churches and find - Balance from 1979 \$110.25

Minute fund	\$601.55
-------------	----------

Total	\$711.80
-------	----------

Move to accept as read and discharge committee. Carried.

Special song by Sis. Brown.

Short message by Bro. Clay Shotts in honor of Deceased members.

Song by Congregation "I'll Meet You In The Morning".

## FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Song led by Bro. William Atkins. Special song by Bro. David Sexton, prayer by Bro. McGee. Devotional Bro. George Page - Matt. 11:28-30.

Message Bro. Sargent 1Cor. 11:23-30, St. John 13:1-17. 35 took part in feet washing.

## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Song led by Bro. G.O. Karr, prayer by Bro. Duane Taylor. Special song by Bro. Randy Brooks. Short talk by Bro. David Sexton.

## BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

We your Committee on Documents and Order of Business recommend we adopt Items 1 thru 15 as laid down in minutes. We recommend we add the word "new" business to Item 16. Item 17 add "appointed by the Moderator."

Items 18 & 19 as laid down in our minutes. We recommend we add Item 20 to read "Any Minister whose name has been dropped from the roll of ministers if he wishes to be reinstated to make his request to the Ordaining Council. We recommend we read report, reread and adopt Item by Item. Carried.

- ITEM 1: We recommend that the clerk be paid \$35 plus expensed for printing of minutes and postage for Association mailing; the Moderator \$15; Asst. Moderator \$10; the Treasurer \$5; Asst. Clerk \$30 for their services. The clerk to superintend the printing of the minutes and distribute them.
- ITEM 2. We recommend that the Moderator preach the introductory sermon, the asst. moderator preach the Friday Night sermon and Holy Communion service with "Feet Washing".
- ITEM 3. We recommend that the body decide where the next association shall convene.
- ITEM 4. We recommend that our Friday and Saturday sessions begin at 9 o'clock.
- ITEM 5. We recommend that no money be paid out of any fund except by order of the association.
- ITEM 6. We recommend that all pastors explain the value of tithing to various churches.
- ITEM 7. We recommend we go on record opposing all drug and liquor traffic and legalizing of intoxicating beverages, the ERA, Abortion on Demand, and Homosexuality.
- ITEM 8. We recommend that our pastors preach one doctrinal sermon a year in each church.
- ITEM 9. We recommend that the association grant each ordained minister a card of good standing each year.
- ITEM 10. We recommend that we do not ordain any minister with two living wives nor his wife with two living husbands.
- ITEM 11. We recommend that any minister for two years failing to represent himself in person or by letter to the association, his name be dropped from the roll of ministers in the minutes and he not receive a card of standing.
- ITEM 12. We recommend that each church letter to the association remain the same as was adopted in church conference.
- ITEM 13. We recommend that our Friday and Friday night association service convene at one church of our association and the Saturday service convene at another church of our association.
- ITEM 14. We recommend we abide by the National Treaties.
- ITEM 15. We recommend we adopt the Roberts Rule's of Order as parliamentary procedure of this association.

- ITEM 16. We recommend that any new business coming before this body must come through the Business Committee. All request to be submitted in writing.
- ITEM 17. We recommend we have a standing Ordaining Council to be appointed by the Moderator at the close of each session.
- ITEM 18. We recommend that a youth director be appointed to establish a young peoples program in our association.
- ITEM 19. We recommend we close our church year the 1st Sunday in September and that all church letters be received by the association at least 15 days before the association convenes.
- ITEM 20. Any minister whose name has been dropped from the roll of ministers, if he wishes to be reinstated, to make his request to the Ordaining Council.

Seating Visiting Ministers - Bro. Ambers Aldridge, Vernon Asso. Bro. Eulon Prewitt, Itawamba County Association.

### INTERMISSION

Morning Devotional - Bro. David Sexton, Psalm 116. Morning message, Bro. Conrad Whitson, Scripture Ezekial.

Dismissed for lunch by Bro. Oscar Gardner.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song led by Bro. Duane Taylor, Bro. E.T. Sargent, Bro. Dale Ford.

Rereading of Appreciation Committee Report.

### ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT

We the Ordaining Council have examined Bro. Randy Bonds and have found him worthy to be ordained before this body. We recommend Bro. William Atkins to preach the message. Carried.

Bro. Flura Shotts to replace Bro. O.C. Mitchell on Credential Committee.

### STANDING CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Bro. Truman Scott, Bro. C.L. Scott, Bro. Flura Shotts



## ORDAINING COUNCIL

Bro. Duane Taylor, Bro. Jack Harder, Bro. Hubert Gardner.

Associational Pastor - Bro. Oscar Gardner

Move to empower clerk to have minister's card's printed. Carried.

Offering taken for minute fund. \$142.81

Move in order to empower clerk to write all necessary checks for the expenses of the association. Carried.

Move in order that the Youth Director be selected by the youth of the churches who participate in the rally at their meeting. Carried.

Trustee to Children's Home - Bro. Harlan Johnson

## ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT (FINAL)

We the Ordaining Council have examined the list of ministers in this association and recommend that they be given a card of good standing. Not present this year - Bro. Billy Mac Compton, Bro. Billy Robbins, Bro. Oscar Smith, Bro. Charles Yeilding.

Delegates to Vernon Association - Bro. Dale Ford, Bro. W.C. Rayburn.

Delegates to Jasper Association - Bro. E.T. Sargent, Bro. W.C. Rayburn

Delegates to State Association - Bro. James McCarley, Sis. Linda Ford.

Move in order to grant Sis. Sue Collier a card of standing. Carried.

Next Association to be held with Rocky Top on Friday and Friday night and with Barnesville on Saturday.

## OFFICERS

Moderator..... Bro. E.T. Sargent  
Asst. Moderator..... Bro. Dale Ford  
Clerk & Treasurer..... Bro. J.C. Hood  
Asst. Clerk & Treasurer..... Clerk to select one  
Trustee to Children's Home..... Bro. Harlan Johnson  
Associational Pastor..... Bro. Oscar Gardner

The Association Ordained Bro. Randy Bonds. Charge given by Bro. William Atkins, prayer by Bro. Gurley Roberts.

Move in order to adjourn until Friday before the second Sunday in October 1981.

## CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Paid Moderator	\$15.00
paid Asst. Moderator	10.00
Paid Clerk	40.00
Paid Asst. Clerk	30.00
State Fee	210.00
Expense	50.00
Printing of Minutes	(est.) 400.00

Total disbursements	755.00
Amount in Treasure	854.61
Less disbursements	755.00

Balance	\$99.61
---------	---------

## NAMES OF DEACONS

ANTIOCH - Bro. J.M. Howell

BALLARD - Bro. J.R. Kerr, Bro. Iris Mills, Bro. Wendell Giddy

BARNESVILLE - Bro. Gus Ferguson, Bro. Fred Stidham, Bro. Exel Brown, Bro. Dwayne Rye, Bro. Hansel Taylor, Bro. Wayne Williams.

BEAR CREEK - Bro. Truman Scott, Bro. Henry Grissom, Bro. Lon Gunnin, Bro. Clarence Engle

BETHEL -Bro. Earl Smith, Bro. Maxwell Gibbs.

COBBTOWN -

FAIRVIEW — Bro. Jack Lindsey, Bro. Bernice Shotts, Bro. Flura Shotts, Bro. Hugh L. Carter, Bro. Harold Shotts, Bro. Talmadge Shotts, Bro. Denver Shotts.

LIBERTY — Bro. Odis Childers

LOVE JOY - Bro. Henry Pearce.

MT. CALVARY - Bro. Luard Kizzire

MT. HOPE - Bro. J. Kelly, Bro. O.C. Mitchell, Bro. Gary Yeilding

NEW CENTER POINT - Bro. C.L. Scott, Bro. D.L. Brown, Bro. Wayne Puckett, Bro. Lester Ford

NEW HOPE - Bro. Robert Avery

NEW SALEM - Bro. W.W. Gilliland, Bro. W.D. Walton, Bro. D.E. Brown.

PLEASANT RIDGE - Bro. Elma Hugh Taylor, Bro. Golden Harris, Bro. Dewey Crowe, Bro. Jimmy Avery, Bro. Alfred Jones.

PLEASANT SITE - Bro. Sam Nix, Bro. Archie Satterwhite, Bro. Vester Watson, Bro. Don Nix, Bro. Marshall Watson, Bro. Orville Scogin

ROCKY GROVE - Bro. Robert Burleson, Bro. Travis Hall, Bro. Redus McKay

ROCKY TOP - Bro. Royce Cooper, Bro. Burton Frederick, Bro. Leonard Howell

SOUTHSIDE - Bro. Joe Rye, Bro. Ray Weeks

[illegible]

SPLUNGE - Bro. J.W. Vann, Bro. Clovis Blaylock, Bro. J.C. Palmer  
 UNION RIDGE - Bro. Lynn Knight, Bro. Archie Turman, Bro. Troy Clifton

### CLERKS

ANTIOCH - Ray Howell, Rt. 3, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 BALLARD - J.R.Kerr, Detroit, Al. 35552  
 BARNESVILLE - Jean Brown, Rt. 4, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 BEAR CREEK - Alma Lou Bowen, Hackleburg, Al. 35564  
 BETHEL - Gracie Franks, Rt. 1, Box 171A, Brilliant, Al. 35548  
 COBB TOWN - Ola Mae Norris, Guin, Al. 35563  
 FAIRVIEW - Jeanette Carter, Rt. 5, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 LIBERTY - Lillian Childers, Rt. 1, Vina, Al. 35593  
 LOVE JOY - Henry Pearce, Rt. 3, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 MT. CALVARY - Wanda Galbreath, Rt. 1, Box 244, Guin, Al. 35563  
 MT. HOPE - Billy Yeilding, Rt. 2, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 NEW CENTER POINT - Ruth Vann, Rt. 2, Box 12, Sulligent, Al. 35586  
 NEW HOPE - Gary Carter, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 NEW SALEM - Ethelene Brown, Rt. 5, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 PLEASANT RIDGE - Dewey Crowe, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 PLEASANT SITE - Shirley Millican, Rt. 2, Box 32, Detroit, Al. 35552  
 ROCKY GROVE - Charlotte Hall, Box 583, Hamilton, Al. 35570  
 ROCKY TOP - Bobbie King, Hodges, Al. 35571  
 SOUTHSIDE - Wayne Miles, Rt. 2, Box 203, Winfield, Al. 35594  
 SPLUNGE - Faye Northington, Greenwood Springs, Miss. 38848  
 UNION RIDGE - Grace Ray, Rt.1, Box 280, Sulligent, Al. 35586

### MINISTERS NAMES & ADDRESSES

William Atkins	468-2423	Rt. 2, Guin, Al. 35563
C.C. Berryhill	601-256-8225	Rt. 1, Greenwood Springs, Ms. 38848
Randy Bonds	487-2525	Rt. 1, Winfield, Al. 35594
Doyle Chandler		Hamilton, Al. 35570
J.E. Cheek	993-4350	Rt. 3, Phil Campbell, Al. 35581
Jimmy Mac Compton	921-2925	Claremont Dr. S.W., Hamilton, Al. 35570
Larry Davis		Rt. 5, Hamilton, Al. 35570
Dale Ford	698-9620	Sulligent, Al. 35586
Hubert Gardner	921-2008	Rt. 4, Hamilton, Al. 35570
Oscar Gardner		Rt. 2, Hackleburg, Al. 35564
Quineth Haney	468-3917	Rt. 1, Guin, Al. 35563
Jack Harder	921-3711	Hamilton, Al. 35570
Jimmy Howell		Box 214, Hackleburg, Al. 35564
Harlon Johnson		Hamilton, Al. 35570
E.C. Kelton	601-475-8617	Box 382, Escataupa, Ms.



Charlie McGee	332-0091	Rt. 5, Russellville, Al.
Ottis Parmér		Rt. 2, Guin, Al. 35563
Gillie Parrish	356-2130	Box 155, Red Bay, Al. 35582
W.C. Rayburn		Rt. 2, Hamilton, Al. 35570
Jimmy Reese	468-2971	Box 248, Guin, Al. 35563
Billy Robbins		7140 Hobgood Rd., Fairburn, Ga. 30213
Gurlie Roberts	935-3789	Rt. 1, Hackleburg, Al. 35564
E.T. Sargent	483-7962	Rt. 1, Box 36, Cordova, Al. 35550
David Sexton		Brilliant, Al. 35548
Clay Shotts		Hamilton, Al. 35570
Oscar Smith		Rt. 2, Hamilton, Al. 35570
Elmer Lee Stewart		Rt. 3, Phil Campbell, Al.
Duane Taylor	921-2602	Rt. 4, Box 271, Hamilton, Al. 35570
Randall Tice		Rt. 2, Hamilton, Al. 35570
Williard Westbrooks	797-1348	438 49th St. Moline, Ill. 61265
Marvin Winsett	921-3705	Rt. 1, Hamilton, Al. 35570
Conrad Whitson	932-6077	Fayette, Al. 35555
Charles Yeilding	921-4428	Rt. 2, Hamilton, Al. 35570

#### DECEASED MEMBERS

Bro. Erie Pearce, Sis. Callie Carter, Sis. Martha Palmer, Bro. Dwight Davis, Sis. Huey Webb, Sis. Fannie Clifton, Sis. Glow Ballard, Sis. Bergania Crapo, Bro. Johnny Moore, Sis. Harriet Arthur, Sis. Mae Dyer Stone, Sis. Hazel Satterwhite, Sis. Ora Pearce.

#### DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. Noah Robertson, Rev. J. C. Dove, Rev. W. G. Howell, Rev. C. R. Puckett, Rev. J. B. Watts, Rev. I. K. Boyette, Rev. M. L. Nichols, Rev. U. G. Howell, Rev. Walter Colburn, Rev. L. V. Collier, Rev. Herdis Sullins, Rev. G. C. Lawrence, Rev. Bobby Jeffreys.

#### 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 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."



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 forsake 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.

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.

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.

#### FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

1. Call the church to order by the Moderator.
2. Call for the peace of the church.
3. Opportunity for members.
4. Inviting Brothers and Sisters to seat with us.
5. Reading of the minutes of the last conference.
6. Is there any reference?
7. Appointing of committees.
8. Any acknowledgements?
9. Report of committee.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New Business.
12. Distressed members.
13. Adjournment.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one true Eternal God, The Father of whom are all things, from everlasting, glorious and immutable to all his attributes. I Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.
2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things, the only begotten son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into the world because of the great love wherewith he loved the world. Christ as freely gave himself as ransom for all tasting death for every man, who was buried and rose again the third day and ascended into heaven, from where we look for him the second time in the clouds of Heaven at the last day to judge the quick and the dead. I Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2; John 3:16; Rev. 1-7; Acts 24:15; I John 2:2.
3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through his dear son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God. St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 2:1; 4:4-6.
4. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily, by transgression fell and by that means brought on himself a miserable and moral state subject to death. Gen. 2:17; 3:10.
5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved, for which end Christ has commanded the gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature. Mark 16:15; John 3:15-17; Tim. 2:4.
6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ, who died for him, but as the scripture has said, for denying the Lord that brought them, because they believe not in the name of the Holy Begotten Son of God, unbelief, therefore, being the use why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men, it follow against all contradictions that all men at one time or another, are found in such a capacity, as that through the grace of God they may be saved. Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; I John 5:10.
7. We believe the whole scripture is infallibly true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice. II Tim. 3:16-17.
8. We believe in the doctrine of general provisions made by God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind who repent and believe the gospel. Luke 14:16:20; Matt. 28:19:20; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ, his son and that the Holy Ghost offers his divine aid to all the human family, so as they might be happy would they give place to his divine teaching, whereas such as do not receive the divine impressions of his Holy Spirit shall at a future day owe their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation for willfully rejecting the offers of sov'reign grace. Matt: 11:27; St. John 6:44,65; Psalms 1:1; Tit. 2:11-12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but Ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God, Jesus Christ, who brought them and therefore shall bring up on themselves swift destruction but we observe that they are and such the Apostles sayeth because they receive not the love of the truth. That they might be saved herefore, the indignation and wrath of God is upon every son of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein, for there is no respect of person with God. Judge 1:4; II Peter 2:1-2; II Thess. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy having not actually transgressed against the law of God in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of Adam and not that any one of them dying in the state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin for such is the Kingdom of God. I Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2,5; Mark 9:36-37; Matt. 19:26.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of saving faith and that in the use of the means of the grace and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men. Rev. 22:14-15; Isa. 1:19-20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scripture for justification before God through his own works, power or ability which he has in and of himself, only by the grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ, believing the Righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God. Rom.4:24; Acts 8:20-21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God so that God knoweth whatever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions, but not having decreed any person to everlasting life out of respect or mere choice, rather that he hath appointed the godly unto life and the ungodly who died in sin unto death. Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22,31; Matt. 25:31,46.

15. We believe as touching gospel ordinances, in believers, baptism, laying on the hands, receiving of the sacrament, in bread and fruit of the vine, washing the Saint's feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting prayer, singing praise to God and the public ministry of the word with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38-39; Luke 22:19; John 13:5; James 5:14.

16. We believe the gospel mode of water baptism is by immersion and that believers are the only subjects for baptism. Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-10; Acts 2:38-39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgement at the last day. John 5:28-29; II Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless. Matt. 25:46.

### RULES FOR THE PREACHERS

1. All ministers wishing to become a member of the Association will be required to go before the Ordaining Council with a recommendation from the church of which they are a member also be called upon to present their credentials for examination and answer satisfactorily such questions as they may ask of them.

2. All preachers shall attend all business meeting unless providentially hindered.

3. Any minister who behaves himself unbecomingly to his high and exalted calling shall be reported by the Ordaining Council to the Association, who shall deal with him.

4. All ministers will be required to strictly adhere to the teaching of the Free Will Baptist, according to the Articles of Faith.

5. All ministers shall be required to support and stand by boards and committees appointed by this association and do their utmost to make them a success.

6. No minister shall speak slanderously or cast personal reflections upon another minister that will hurt his influence or ministerial standing.

7. Any minister who draws his letter from the church to which he belongs automatically cancels his credentials until he joins some other church of the same faith and order and he is not allowed to minister any rights that is allowed the minister of the gospel to perform.

### RULES OF DECORUM

1. This Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.



2. The officers elected at the previous session shall begin their administration at the opening of each regular session.
3. Only one person shall speak at a time. He shall arise and address the Moderator and when recognized he shall proceed.
4. No person shall be interrupted while speaking by anyone except by the Moderator and not by the Moderator unless he breaks the rules of order.
5. The person speaking must adhere to the subject in question and shall not use words of personal reflection.
6. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the association and not more than five minutes each time.
7. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speaking.
8. No person shall address another except by the appellation of brother or sister.
9. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.
10. The names of all ministers, deacons and delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk and called as often as deemed necessary by the Moderator.
11. Every member of this body shall vote for or against every move that comes before it. Those failing to do so shall be reprimanded by the Moderator.
12. Any person who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reprov'd by the Moderator according to directions of the Association.

## CHURCH RULES

1. We agree as members of the State Line Association of the Free Will Baptist to cooperate in every move for the betterment of our denomination and the extension of God's Kingdom throughout the world.
2. We agree to meet in conference as often as necessary to transact the business of the Church.
3. The Moderator shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church in the absence of the Pastor. The moderator shall observe good order and explain all questions before he takes the voice of the church on them and shall have the liberty of speech as any other, but not vote unless there is a tie, when he shall give the deciding vote.
4. It shall be the duty of all members to fill their seats in conference and bear their part of the expense.
5. No member shall leave their seat during conference without



permission from the Moderator.

6. No member shall arraign another before the Church for any grievance without taking gospel steps. Matt. 18:15-17.
7. All business brought before the church by motion and second and in gospel-like order shall be attended to by the church, unless withdrawn by mover.
8. Any person wishing to speak shall arise and address the Moderator and if two arise at the same time the Moderator shall decide who shall speak first and no member while speaking shall cast any reflection on any person, but shall adhere strictly to the subject under consideration.
9. No member shall speak twice on any subject without permission from the church and not more than five minutes at the time.
10. It shall be the duty of all churches' members to be present at all church meetings, to vote on all questions that come before the church when called on by the Moderator or any member of the church who desires the mind of the whole church.
11. If any member shall remain silent during the transaction of any business of the church and afterward complain of what was done, the same shall be deemed disorderly and the member so offering shall be dealt with accordingly.
12. The members of the church shall not talk about one another slanderously, nor shall give report of circulation that may arise again at any church meeting, but shall make it known to the one the report is against and to no one else and any member doing otherwise shall be dealt with accordingly.
13. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present at any regular or called conference, providing a quorum is present, said quorum being seven (7) members or more.
14. Any member or minister of the church who talks about his brother or sister slanderously shall be dealt with according as the church sees fit.
15. We recommend that each church in this Association have as many as two Sunday services each month.
16. These rules shall be read at the opening of each conference and strictly enforced by the Moderator.

## CONSTITUTION

1. The Association shall be known as the State Line Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama and Mississippi.
2. The Association shall be composed of ministers, deacons, and delegates of different churches forming the same.

3. All ministers and churches wishing to become members of this body must willingly submit to the Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of the same.
4. Each church in this Association shall be entitled to three delegates for the first hundred members or fraction thereof and one delegate for every additional fifty members.
5. This Association shall have a standing Credentials Committee composed of three members, which shall be composed of deacons. The oldest member shall be dropped each year and a new one appointed by the Moderator. Their duty shall be to examine all church letters and applications for membership, both churches and ministers and make report of same to the body.
6. Officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, Assistant Clerk and Treasurer who shall be elected by ballot at each regular session.
7. This Association shall meet on Friday and Saturday before the second Sunday in October of each year and shall not adjourn until all business is transacted.
8. The Association shall vote on where the next Association shall be held until one church gets the majority vote.
9. The Constitution, By-Laws, may be altered or amended at any regular session of this Association by a majority vote of the members present.
10. No minister, deacon or delegate shall be seated in this body unless they agree to stay throughout the session unless they are providentially hindered.
11. Each church represented in the Association shall be required to bring annually 5 per cent per capita as an Association Fund for the purpose of printing the minutes and associational expense.
12. All ministers pastoring the Churches in the Alabama-Mississippi Association shall abide by rules of the same.