

MINUTES
OF THE
ONE HUNDRED & EIGHTH
SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION
OF
STATE LINE

FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION
OF
MISSISSIPPI - ALABAMA

HELD WITH:
GOOD SPRINGS - APRIL 14, 2012
AND
MT. HOPE - OCTOBER 13, 2012

OFFICERS

Moderator	Bro. Edwin Brewer
Assistant Moderator	Bro. Terry Parrish
Clerk and Treasurer	Bro. Jason Hammontree
Assistant Clerk and Treasurer	Sis. Kelly Hammontree
Trustee to Children's Home	Bro. David Carter
Associational Pastor	Bro. Craig McCarley

The next session will be held with Poplar Log on April 13, 2013 and with Rocky Grove on October 12, 2013.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. This Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time. He shall arise and address the Moderator and when recognized he shall proceed.
3. 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.
4. The person speaking must adhere to the subject in question, shall not use words of personal reflection.
5. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the association and not more than five minutes each time.
6. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speaking.
7. No person shall address another except by the appellation of brother or sister.
8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator. The names of all ministers, deacons, and delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk and called as often as deemed necessary by the Moderator.
9. 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.
10. Any person who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reprovved by the Moderator according to directions of the Association.

CONSTITUTION

1. The Association shall be known as the State Line Free Will Baptist Association of Mississippi and Alabama.
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 the 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 the second Saturday in April and 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 ministers, deacon or delegates shall be seated in this body unless they agree to stay throughout the session unless they are providentially hindered.
11. All ministers pastoring the Churches in the Mississippi-Alabama Association shall abide by rules of the same.

SPRING 2012

The spring session of the 108th Semi-Annual Mississippi-Alabama State Line Association was held on April, 14th, 2012 at Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church. The session was opened with a class song led by Bro. James McCarley. Opening prayer was folled by song led by Bro. Rick Cash.

Reading of Rules of Decorum by Moderator Bro. Edwin Brewer,
Roll Call of Delegates by Clerk, Bro. Jason Hammontree

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Credentials Committee make a motion to seat all Delegates.

Bro. James McCarley
Bro. Billy Compton
Bro. David Knight

The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Welcome by Bro. Tim Farley, Pastor Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church

Class song led by Bro. James McCarley

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Appreciation Committee: Sis. Carolyn Norris, Sis. Regina Shotts, Sis. Wynette Knight

Devotion Committee: Bro. Tim Farley, Bro. Odean Mills, Bro. Hershel Emerson

Class song led by Bro. James McCarley

Special song by Bro. Terry Parrish

Children's Home report by Bro. Danny Williams

DEVOTION COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Devotion Committee move that Bro. Rick Cash bring the morning devotion.

Bro. Odean Mills
Bro. Hershel Emerson
Bro. Tim Farley

The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Appreciation Committee would like to thank Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church for hosting this Association. We would also like to thank Bro. Tim Farley and his church family for all the hard work and dedication they have put into this wonderful day. Thanks for the great food and may God bless each and every one of you.

Sis. Carolyn Norris
SIs. Wynette Knight
Sis. Regina Shotts

The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

AM Break

Class song led by Bro. James McCarley.

Morning devotion by Bro. Rick Cash, Text Romans 1:13-16, Acts 1:8 report by Rick Cash

Special song by Bro. Craig McCarley and Bro. Terry Parrish

Special song by Bro. Craig McCarley and Bro. James McCarley

ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT

We the members of the Ordaining Council according to the Rules for the Preachers (item #8) decline the request of Good Springs Free Will Baptist for the ordination of Bro. Tim Humphries.

Bro. Jeff Fleming
Bro. Randall Tice
Bro. Terry Parrish

The motion seconded. Motion carried.

Special song by Bro. Edwin and Sis. Candy Brewer

Morning message by Assistant Moderator, Bro. Terry Parrish, text taken from 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Titus 2:11-15, Titus 3:1-9

Session dismissed in prayer.

FALL SESSION 2012

The fall session of the 108th Semi-Annual Mississippi - Alabama State Line Association was held on October 13, 2012, at Mt. Hope Free Will Baptist Church. The session was opened with a class song led by Bro. Gary Don Yielding, followed by the opening prayer led by Bro. Bobby Duncan.

Reading of Rules of Decorum by Moderator Bro. Edwin Brewer.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Credential Committee find all church letters to be in order. We make a motion that all delegates are seated.

Bro. James McCarley
Bro. David Knight
Bro. Billy Compton

The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Sis. Diane Peacock, Bro. Jeff Fleming, Sis. Candy Brewer

DECEASED MEMERS COMMITTEE: Sis. Betty Carter, Sis. Patricia Knight, Sis. Jane Williams

DEVOTION COMMITTEE: Bro. Jamie Jeffreys, Bro. Talmadge Shotts, Bro. Hershel Emerson

Class song led by Bro. Gary Don Yielding

Special song by Bro. David Carter

Special song by Bro. Terry Parrish

DEVOTION COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Devotion Committee move that Bro. Jamie Jeffreys bring the morning devotion.

Bro. Jamie Jeffreys
Bro. Talmadge Shotts
Bro. Hershel Emerson

The motion seconded. Motion carried.

DECEASED MEMBERS COMMITTEE

We the Deceased Members Committee have examined the Deceased members list and know that all those on this list were an asset to their

families, community, and church, and will be greatly missed. It is our hope that one day after while we will be able to join thim in that land where no death will ever be known, no tear will ever dim our eyes, and we will forever be with the Lord.

Sis. Patricia Knight
Sis. Betty Carter
Sis. Jane Williams

The motion seconded. Motion carried.

DECEASED MEMBERS

BARNESVILLE: Sis. Margie Boyett, Bro. Woodrow Matthews, Bro. Dewey Allen

BETHEL: Sis. Carolyn Rushing

MT. HOPE: Bro. Herman Warren, Bro. Daniel Cochran

PLEASANT RIDGE: Bro. Charles Cole

UNION RIDGE: Sis. Dora Bell Hulsey

FAIRVIEW: Sis. Willie Mae Williams

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Finance Committee report as of October 8, 2011, a balance of \$7,849.66 and expenditures of \$2,904.50. The balance on hand as of October 13, 2013, is \$4,945.16.

Sis. Candy Brewer
Sis. Diane Peacock
Bro. Jeff Fleming

The motion seconded. Motion carried.

Acts 1:8 Report by Bro. Rick Cash

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Credentials Committee make a motion to honor the request of Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church to withdraw from the Association and drop their name from the Roll of Churches.

Bro. James McCarley
Bro. David Knight
Bro. Billy Compton

The motion seconded. Motion carried.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Business Committee make a motion to add Rule #9 to the Rules for the Preachers, stating, "Any man who becomes convinced that the Lord has called him to preach the Gospel shall be licensed by the church of which he is a member for a period of one year prior to the request for ordination.

Bro. Edwin Brewer
Bro. Terry Parrish
Bro. Jason Hammontree
Bro. Larry Ingle

The motion seconded. Motion carried.

AM Devotion by Bro. Jamie Jeffreys, text taken from Matthew 7:7-8

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Appreciation Committee want to thank Bro. Terry Parrish and the members of Mt. Hope for welcoming us and the use of their church for the service of God. Thank you for your great hospitality and wonderful food.

Bro. Robert Peacock
Sis. Wynette Knight
Sis. Regina Shotts

The motion seconded. Motion carried.

ORDAINING COUNCIL REPORT

We the Ordaining Council make a motion to issue a card of good standing to all ordered ministers found in good standing with the Association.

Bro. Jeff Fleming
Bro. Terry Parrish
Bro. Randall Tice

The motion seconded. Motion carried.

AM Break

Re-opened with Class song

Special song by Bro. Billy Robbins

Deceased members message by Bro. Randall Tice, text taken from Rev. 19:7-9, Rev. 21:1-4

Special song by Bro. Steve and Sis. Regina Shottss

NEW OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 2012

Moderator: Bro. Terry Parrish
Asst. Moderator: Bro. Jeff Fleming
Clerk: Sis. Gail Parrish
Asst. Clerk: Bro. Terry Parrish
Assoc. Pastor: Bro. David Carter
Trustee to Children's Home: Bro. Jason Hammontree

Sunday School Committee

Sis. Gracie Franks (Chair)
Bro. Joe Roberts
Bro. Robert Peacock

Ordaining Council

Bro. Terry Parrish (Chair)
Bro. Randall Tice
Bro. Bill Duncan

Credentials Committee

Bro. David Knight (Chair)
Bro. Billy Compton
Bro. Hershel Emerson

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Moderator
Asst. Moderator
Clerk
Bro. Steve Shotts
Bro. Gary Don Yielding

Children's Home report given by Bro. David Carter

Special song by Bro. Edwin and Sis. Candy Brewer

Message by Moderator Bro. Edwin Brewer, text taken from Rev. 1:20, John 15:16, Rev. 3:1

Placement of Association
Spring 2013 - Poplar Log
Fall 2013 - Rocky Grove

Session dismissed in prayer by Bro. Terry Parrish

DELEGATES

ANTIOCH: Sis. Sue Williams

BARNESVILLE: Sis. Joyce Jones, Sis. Jane Williams, Bro. Cecil Norris, Sis. Carolyn Norris

BETHEL: Sis. Brenda Benson, Sis. Gracie Franks, Sis. Dara Williams

FAIRVIEW: Bro. Steve Shotts, Sis. Regina Shotts, Sis. Betty Shotts

MT. HOPE: Bro. Dalton Holt, Bro. Robert Peacock, Sis. Betty Carter, Sis. Diane Peacock, Alt.

PLEASANT RIDGE: Bro. Coy Tucker, Sis. Dawn Hornsby, Sis. Gail Wilkerson

POPLAR LOG: Bro. Larry Ingle, Sis. Wanda McCarley, Sis. Kelly Hammontree

ROCKY GROVE: Sis. Candy Brewer, Sis. Mandy Brewer, Bro. Randy Brewer, Sis. Annette Blaker, Alt.

UNION RIDGE: Sis. Grace Rushing, Sis. Cathy Woodham, Sis. Cynthia Myers, Sis. Patricia Knight, Alt.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on hand October 8, 2011	\$7,849.66
Balance on hand October 31, 2011	\$7,849.66
Balance on hand November 30, 2011.....	\$7,849.66
State/National Dues	(-\$1850.00)
Balance on hand December 31, 2012	\$5,999.66
Balance on hand January 31, 2012	\$5,999.66
Balance on hand February 29, 2012.....	\$5,999.66
Flowers (Bro. Woodrow Matthews)	(-\$54.50)
Balance on hand March 31, 2012.....	\$5,945.16
Children's Home Donation	(-1,000.00)
Balance on hand April 30, 2012	\$4,945.16
Balance on hand May 31, 2012	\$4,945.16
Balance on hand June 30, 2012.....	\$4,945.16
Balance on hand July 31, 2012.....	\$4,945.16
Balance on hand August 31, 2012	\$4,945.16
Balance on hand September 30, 2012.....	\$4,945.16
Balance on hand October 2012	\$4,945.16

DEACONS

ANTIOCH: Bro. R.B. Barnes, Bro. Bill Williams, Bro. Charles Spence, Sr.
BARNESVILLE: Bro. Odean Mills, Bro. Hershel Emerson, Bro. Wayne Williams, Bro. Hansel Taylor
BETHEL: Bro. Henry H. Franks, Bro. Wendell J. Franks, Bro. Bobbie Benson, Bro. Donnie Franks
FAIRVIEW: Bro. Talmadge Shotts, Bro. Hugh L. Carter, Bro. Terry Lundy, Bro. Jeff Warren, Bro. Keith Gann
MT. HOPE: Bro. Gary Don Yielding
PLEASANT RIDGE: Bro. Dewey Crow, Bro. Billy Compton, Bro. Elma Hue Taylor, Bro. Hershel Rye
POPLAR LOG: Bro. James McCarley, Bro. Frankie Kerr, Bro. Chris Cayson
ROCKY GROVE: Bro. Robert Burleson
UNION RIDGE: Bro. Grady L. Knight, Bro. David L. Knight, Bro. Tony Woodham

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Addresses and Date of Ordination

Antioch:

Rev. Anthony Robbins

11644 St. Hwy 253, Brilliant, AL 35548, 205-412-0297 1996

Rev. Otis Parmer

6953 Hwy. 36, Guin, AL 35563, 205-487-3128 1957

Barnesville:

Rev. Jeff Fleming

1123 Regency Place, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-7969 1985

Rev. Woodrow Matthews

403 3rd St. N., Guin, AL 35563, 205-468-3264 1941

Bethel:

Rev. David Sexton

3691 Co. Rd. 63, Brilliant, AL 35548, 205-465-9289 1975

Rev. Josh Williams

652 Williams Road, Hamilton, AL 35570 2009

Fairview:

Rev. Jamie Jeffreys

122 Woods Creek Rd., Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-495-6003

Mt. Hope:

Rev. Randall Tice

787 2nd Ave. SW, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-4034 1973

Rev. David Carter

P.O. Box 202, Sheffield, AL 35660, 205-495-4114 2003

Rev. Terry Parrish

P.O. Box 917, Red Bay, AL 35582, 256-356-2202 2010

Pleasant Ridge:

Rev. Bobby Duncan

515 Rideout Falls Rd., Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-4985. 1974

Poplar Log:

Rev. Jason Hammontree

746 3rd Ave. SW, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-412-9500. 2004

Rev. J.H. Sullins

706 2nd Ave SW, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-2851 1972

Rocky Grove:

Rev. Edwin Brewer

10912 Co. Hwy. 13, Vina, AL 35593, 205-921-2967 2000

Union Ridge:

Rev. Bill Duncan

226 Co Hwy 104, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-4325 1969

CHURCH CLERKS

Antioch:

Sis. Donna Lawrence

P.O. Box 2274, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-412-6503

Barnesville:

Sis. Carole Williams

1146 Sentry Road, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-9202

Bethel:

Sis. Gracie Franks

13766 St. Hwy. 129, Brilliant, AL 35548, 205-465-2321

Fairview:

Bro. Steven Shotts

1555 Co. Hwy. 81, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-2043

Mount Hope:

Sis. Dianne Peacock

2011 Hwy. 103, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-1499

Pleasant Ridge:

Sis. Linda Crowe

4001 Co. Hwy. 29, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-3730

Poplar Log:

Sis. Betty Ingle

223 Sage Lane, Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-4527

Rocky Grove:

Sis. Sandra Burleson

360 Hut Rd., Hamilton, AL 35570, 205-921-3729

Union Ridge:

Sis. Patricia Knight

198 Pope Rd., Sulligent, AL 35586, 205-712-0659

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 written 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) 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.
- (3) All ministers will be required to strictly adhere to the teaching of the Free Will Baptist, according to the Articles of Faith.
- (4) 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.
- (5) No minister shall speak slanderously or cast personal reflections upon another minister that will hurt his influence or ministerial standing.
- (6) 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.
- (7) It shall be required that all ordained ministers of the Association shall sign a statement that if they are proven guilty of walking disorderly they shall willingly surrender their Card of Standing and Certificate of Ordination.
- (8) This association will not accept for ordination or membership any minister who has remarried after having been divorced or whose wife has been previously married or divorced.
- (9) Any man who becomes convinced that the Lord has called him to preach the Gospel shall be licensed by the church of which he is a member for a period of one year prior to the request for ordination.

CHURCH RULES

- (1) We agree, as members of the State Line Association of Free Will Baptists, to cooperate in every move for the extension of God's Kingdom throughout the world and for the betterment of our denomination.
- (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. Matthew 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 arises at the same time the Moderator shall decide who shall speak first and no member while speaking shall cast reflection on any person, but shall adhere strictly to the subject under consideration.
- (9) No member shall speak twice on the same 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 offending 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 vote 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 accordingly as the church sees fit.
- (15) We recommend that each church in this Association have as many as two Sunday services each month.

[illegible]

[illegible]

(16) These rules shall be read at the opening of each conference and strictly enforced by the Moderator.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

(1) **THE BIBLE:** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament 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 Saviour and Lord.

(4) **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

(5) **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD:** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men 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 a 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 Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God. (3) Continuance in faith and obedience unto 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 perse-

vere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

(13) GOSPEL ORDINANCES. BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water and the LORD'S SUPPER, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, is of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true believers.

(14) TITHING: God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed 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" (I Cor. 16:2a).

(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 and the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

ITEM 1: That the Clerk be paid \$35.00 plus expenses for printing of the minutes and postage for association mailing; the Moderator \$15.00; Assistant Moderator \$10.00; the Treasurer \$5.00; Assistant Clerk \$30.00; for their services. The Clerk to superintend the printing of the minutes and distribute them.

ITEM 2: That the Moderator preach the October session sermon, the Assistant Moderator preach the April Session sermon.

ITEM 3: That the body decide where the next association shall convene.

ITEM 4: That our Saturday sessions begin at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM 5: That no money be paid out of any fund except by order of the Association.

ITEM 6: That all pastors explain the value of tithing to various churches.

ITEM 7: We go on record opposing all drugs and liquor traffic and legalization of intoxicating beverages, the ERA, Abortion on Demand and homosexuality.

ITEM 8: That our pastors adhere strictly to Biblical doctrine and Free Will Baptist belief and practices as set forth in our National Treatise.

ITEM 9. That the Association grant each ordained minister a card of good standing each year.

ITEM 10. This Association will not accept for ordination or membership, any minister who has remarried after having been divorced or whose wife has been previously married or divorced.

ITEM 11: That any minister for two years failing to represent himself in person, by letter, or when providentially hindered, by verbal report, his name be dropped from the roll of ministers and he not receive a Card of

Standing.

ITEM 12: That each church letter to the association remain the same as was adopted in church conference.

ITEM 13: That our April session and October session convene at another church of our association.

ITEM 14: We abide by the National Treaties.

ITEM 15: We adopt the Roberts' Rules of Order as parliamentary procedure of this association.

ITEM 16: (Deleted Spring 1996)

ITEM 17: 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 18: Each church send \$1.50 per member for the minute fund and associational expense. This total to be re-evaluated and/or adjusted on even years.

ITEM 19: That the Article of Faith read verbatim to the National Treaties Articles of Faith.

ITEM 20: That the Business Committee be retained throughout the entire year for the purpose of preparing any business to come before the association.

ITEM 21: We recommend that all churches call no minister for a pastor that is not in full fellowship with some Free Will Baptist Associational body.

ITEM 22: That each church send a list of delegates to the clerk 10 days prior to each session.

ITEM 23: That the reading of the church letters before the associational body be omitted and a roll call of delegates, by the clerk, be made at each session.

ITEM 24: That all ministers provide the clerk with current addresses and phone numbers at each session.

ITEM 25: That the Credentials Committee, the Ordaining Council and the Business Committee meet with the Associational Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk at the designated place on Thursday Night prior to each session.

ITEM 26: That this association have a standing ordaining council of three members composed of ministers of this body, with the oldest member to be dropped each year at the fall session and a new member to be

ITEM 27: That the Association meet semi-annually with the first session to meet on the second (2nd) Saturday in April and the second session to meet on the second (2nd) Saturday in October, with the morning session to begin at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM 28: That all requests for ordination and membership into this Association be made at least 60 days prior to a session of the Association in order to provide time for examination.

ITEM 29: That all officers and standing committees of the association shall assume their duties at the end of the October session during which they

were elected or appointed and serve until the end of the next October session.

ITEM 30: That the clerk be empowered to purchase materials and supplies for the various committees, such as the Sunday School Committee and the Deceased Members Committee, etc.

ITEM 31: That any church changing pastors and/or clerks, please notify the clerk in writing by August 1st each year.

ITEM 32: That the Moderator be given the power to appoint members to all standing committees if someone is unable to serve. Credential Committee, Ordaining Council, Business Committee and Sunday School Committee.

ITEM 33: The Moderator be given the power to appoint someone to serve if for some reason the Associational Pastor or the Trustee to the Children's Home can't perform their duties. This to be done anytime during their term.

ITEM 34: All officers and committees elected and appointed to serve the following year meet within 30 days after the Fall Session at the designated place per the moderator, to review the duties of each member and to prepare for that associational year.

ITEM 35: Any church wishing to become a member of this Association must petition in writing to the clerk 60 days before said associational meeting.

ITEM 36: That all ministers found to be disabled to attend the association continue in full fellowship and receive a card of good standing.

ITEM 37: We, the Business Committee, do hereby make a motion to send a \$50.00 flower arrangement in the event of the death of a pastor, preacher or wife of either that are in good standing in the MS/AL State Line Association. In the event of the death of any of the above, the church in which they are a member is to notify the association clerk.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE STATE LINE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS OFFICERS

The officers of the State Line Free Will Baptist Association of Mississippi-Alabama shall be:

MODERATOR

The moderator shall be elected by the body of the Association during each October session. He shall be elected from among those ordained ministers in good standing with the Association for (2) years. He shall assume office at the end of the October session during which he is elected and serve until the end of the next October session.

The duties of the moderator shall be as follows:

- (1) Be knowledgeable of Roberts' Rules of Order.
- (2) Call the Association to order at the appointed time.
- (3) Preside over Associational meetings.
- (4) Announce the business before the Association in its proper order.

- (5) To state and put all questions properly brought before the Association.
- (6) To preserve order and decorum.
- (7) Decide all questions of order (subject to an appeal)
- (8) To inform the Association, when necessary or when referred to for the purpose, on a point of order or practice.
- (9) Other duties as outlined in Roberts' Rules of Order.
- (10) To preach the Saturday morning message during the October session.

ASSISTANT MODERATOR

The assistant moderator shall be elected by the body of the Association during each October session. He shall be elected from among the ordained ministers in good standing with the Association. He shall assume office at the end of the October session during which he is elected and serve until the end of the next October session.

The duties of the assistant moderator shall be as follows:

- (1) To assume the duties of the moderator, in the absence of the moderator.
- (2) To preach the morning message of the April session.
- (3) Be in good standing with the association for (2) years.

CLERK

The clerk shall be elected by the body of the Association, from members of the Association in good standing with their church, during each October session. The clerk shall assume office at the end of the October session during which he/she is elected and serve until the end of the next October session. The duties of the clerk shall be as follows:

- (1) Keep a written record of the proceedings of the Association.
- (2) To cause the proceedings of the Association to be published and to distribute the published record to the various churches of the Association within a reasonable time after the October session.
- (3) To retain custody of all papers, reports, requests, items presented to committees belonging to the Association.
- (4) To deposit all monies delivered to him/her by the Association in the bank of his/her choice.
- (5) To make payment, from Association funds, for the standard expenses of the Association such as printing minutes, payment of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk and assistant clerk, clerical supplies and committee expenses.
- (6) To maintain complete, accurate records of all receipts and disbursements.
- (7) To give the report of all committees to the Associational body.
- (8) To develop and provide forms for all ministers, deacons, delegates and visiting delegates to sign in to each session of the Association

- (9) To conduct correspondence as needed.
- (10) To assist the moderator with the order of business.
- (11) To provide the Devotion Committee with a list of ministers used during previous sessions of the Association.
- (12) To sit in on all special meetings of committees and councils for the purpose of keeping a record of the proceedings.
- (13) To make purchases of items on an emergency basis, not to exceed \$250.00 in any one Associational year.
- (14) Other duties as delegated by the Association.

ASSISTANT CLERK

The assistant clerk shall be selected by the clerk, from members of the association in good standing with their church, during the October session. The assistant clerk shall assume office at the end of the October session during which he/she is selected and serve until the end of the next October session.

The duties of the assistant clerk shall be as follows:

- (1) To assume the duties of the clerk, in the absence of the clerk.
- (2) To assist the clerk in his/her duties.

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

The Associational Pastor shall be elected during each October session by the body of the Association from those ministers in good standing with the Association. He shall serve until the end of the next October session.

The duties of the Associational Pastor shall be as follows:

- (1) Fill in for pastors, as needed.
- (2) Visit each of the churches of the Association and report to the body concerning these visits.
- (3) Serve as pastor to the pastors.
- (4) Promote support for the pastors.
- (5) Organize and coordinate a "Church Day" or similar activity in the churches. The "Church Day" shall be an effort to unite the churches of the Association in a concerted effort to get more people involved in church.
- (6) Work to organize Associational support and recognition for churches that have shown significant growth, a new building, etc.

TRUSTEE TO CHILDREN'S HOME

The trustee to the Children's Home shall be elected during each October session from members of the Association in good standing with their church. He shall assume office at the end of the October session during which he is elected and serve until the end of the next October session.

The duties of the Trustee to the Children's Home shall be as follows:

- (1) Represent the Association on the Children's Home Board.
- (2) Promote the interests of the Children's Home among the churches

and communities of this Association.

- (3) Solicit support for the home for any and all needs.
- (4) Establish a contact person in each church with whom to communicate concerning the needs of the home.
- (5) Report to the body of the Association on the needs and progress of the home.

COMMITTEES

The State Line Free Will Baptist Association of Mississippi-Alabama shall have the following committees:

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee shall be a standing committee. It shall be composed of three deacons. The members shall serve a 3 year rotating term with the oldest member leaving the committee at the end of each October session and a new member being appointed by the Moderator during each October session.

The duties of the Credentials Committee shall be as follows:

- (1) To examine all church letters, written applications for membership into the association by churches or ministers, and credentials to see that they are in proper order.
- (2) To investigate and resolve, if possible, problems with the church letters.
- (3) To make appropriate recommendations to the body of the Association concerning church letters.
- (4) To make appropriate recommendations to the Ordaining Council concerning written applications for membership in the Association by churches or ministers.
- (5) To make its reports to the Association in the form of a motion.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

The Ordaining Council shall be a standing committee. It shall be composed of three ordained ministers who have been in good standing with the Association for a minimum of 3 years. The members shall serve 3 year rotating terms with the oldest member leaving the council at the end of each October session and a new member being appointed by the moderator during each October session.

The duties of the Ordaining Council shall be as follows:

- (1) To examine delegates from each church that has made written application to the Association for membership.
- (2) To examine each minister who has made written application to the Association for membership.
- (3) To examine all ministers who have been recommended, in writing, by their respective churches to be ordained. This examination shall include, but not limited to:

- a. The applicants willingness to adhere to the Free Will Baptist's Articles of Faith.
 - b. The applicants beliefs concerning Free Will Baptist's teachings on baptism, the Lord's Supper, feet washing, alcohol, drugs, or any other item regarding Free Will Baptist's doctrine and beliefs.
 - c. The willingness of the applicant to surrender his card of standing and his certificate of ordination if he is guilty of walking disorderly.
 - d. To examine the written responses to the Guideline Questionnaire as adopted by the Association when returned by a candidate for ordination, or for a minister coming in from another association, prior to his examination per the Ordaining Council.
- (4) To investigate any charges that a minister of the Association is walking disorderly or in a manner unbecoming to his high calling.
 - (5) To investigate, when requested, grievances within a church.
 - (6) To examine ministers, who, having been dropped from the Association's list of ministers, which to be reinstated.
 - (7) To make appropriate reports to the Association about all examinations and investigations conducted by the council.
 - (8) To distribute cards of standing to those ministers who are granted the cards.
 - (9) To require that all ordained ministers and candidates for ordination sign a statement that if they are ever guilty of walking disorderly or of misconduct they will voluntarily surrender their card of standing and their certificate of ordination.
 - (10) To provide the clerk with a list of ministers not reporting to the Association each year.
 - (11) To make its report to the Association in the form of a motion.
 - (12) It shall be the responsibility of the ordaining council to investigate any minister who is absent for the Spring and Fall Consecutive Sessions and to report their findings at the next scheduled session and to include a list of all disabled ministers of the association.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Committee shall be a standing committee. The committee shall be composed of the moderator, the assistant moderator, the clerk, and two members appointed by the moderator during each October session. The duties of the Business Committee shall be as follows:

- (1) To examine all business items coming before the Association. All items must be submitted to the clerk in writing and signed at least ten days prior to the Associational session.
- (2) The committee shall represent those items of business that merit consideration by the Associational body, to the body for

consideration.

- (3) To make its report to the Association in the form of a motion.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall be composed of ministers, delegates, and deacons appointed by the moderator. The committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the October session of the Association and complete its function during that session.

The duties of the Finance Committee shall be as follows:

- (1) To examine all letters to the Association and determine the amount of money sent by churches of the Association for Associational funds.
- (2) To examine the clerk's records of receipts and expenditures and report to the Association their findings.
- (3) To report to the Association the balance in the treasury as of October 1, each year.
- (4) To make its report to the Association in the form of a motion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Sunday School Committee shall be composed of 3 members appointed by the moderator to serve on a rotating basis with the oldest member to be dropped at the end of each October session and a new member appointed. Each member will serve 3 year terms.

The duties of the Sunday School Committee shall be as follows:

- (1) To examine letters from the churches having Sunday School.
- (2) To conduct and coordinate activities among the churches to promote Sunday School, such as Sunday School Day, recognition of outstanding Sunday Schools, etc.
- (3) To designate a member of the committee to coordinate the activities sponsored by the committee.
- (4) To report to the Association during each October session concerning its findings and activities.
- (5) To make its reports to the Association in the form of a motion.

DECEASED MEMBERS COMMITTEE

The Deceased Members Committee shall be composed of members appointed by the moderator during each October session. The committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each October session and complete its function during that session.

The duties of the Deceased Members Committee shall be as follows:

- (1) To examine letters to the Association for the names of deceased members.
- (2) To cause the list of deceased members to be read to the Associational body.
- (3) To select a minister to bring the message on deceased members.

- (4) To send greetings to the family of each deceased member.
- (5) To report to the Association prior to the message on deceased members.
- (6) To make its report to the Association in the form of a motion.

DEVOTION COMMITTEE

The Devotion Committee shall be composed of one minister and two deacons appointed by the moderator. The committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the April session and function for both the April and October sessions.

The duties of the Devotion Committee shall be as follows:

- (1) For the April session: To select a minister for the morning devotion.
- (2) For the October session: to select a minister for the morning devotion. The moderator shall preach the Saturday Morning message.
- (3) The committee shall consider a list of ministers used on previous occasions for the purpose of using as many of the ministers in good standing as possible.
- (4) To make its report to the Association in the form of a motion.

APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

The Appreciation Committee shall be composed of three delegates appointed by the moderator. The committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the April session and serve during both the April and October sessions.

The duties of the Appreciation Committee shall be as follows:

- (1) To express appreciation to the churches that host the Association for food and hospitality they have provided.
- (2) To recognize any ministers, churches, individuals or committees who through devoted service to the Association or to the ministry of Christ, deserve special recognition.
 - a. Each minister of the Association shall be recognized for every 10 years of continuous service to the ministry of Christ. (Years in other associations may count as long as they are continuous). The recognition shall include a pin and an appropriate certificate.

GUIDELINES TO BE USED FOR ANY MINISTER PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE INTO THIS ASSOCIATION

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE FOLLOWING?

1. Eternal Security?
2. The Trinity?
3. The Virgin Birth?
4. Saved, Sanctified and Filled with the Holy Ghost?

5. Speaking in Tongues?
6. Heaven and Hell?
7. Liquor and Drugs?
8. ERA?
9. Tithing?
10. Baptism?
11. The Lord's Supper?
12. Fruit of the Vine?
13. Footwashing?
14. Abortion?
15. Homosexuality?
16. Women Preacher?
17. Support of the Association?
18. Articles of Faith?
19. How long have you been licensed by a church to preach the Gospel?
20. Have you ever been Ordained before?
21. Have you been married more than once

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 self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour 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.



CLERK

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