

Maudy Harlow

MINUTES

Of The

Sixty-first Annual Session

Of The

TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

Convened With

Mt. Zion Church

Lawrence County, Alabama on Thursday, before
the Third Sunday in September, 1939 at 11 A. M.

OFFICERS

Rev. B. A. Hale ----- Moderator

Miss Sula Hale ----- Clerk

The next Association convenes with Mt. Olivet church, Laud-
erdale County, Alabama on Thursday before the Third Sunday in
September 1940 at 11:00 a. m.



AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS
1939

HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. B. A. Hale, *Moderator*-----Leighton, Alabama
Mrs. Earl Grissom, *Secretary*-----Leighton, Alabama
Mr. Edgar McCormack, *Treasurer*-----Leighton, Alabama

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

Rev. J. A. Staggs-----Stantonville, Tennessee

ORDAINING COUNCIL

B. A. Hale, *Moderator*-----Leighton, Alabama
Rev. J. C. McClannahan-----Florence, Alabama
Rev. J. A. Staggs-----Stantonville, Tennessee
Rev. W. C. Jones-----Waterloo, Alabama
Rev. J. A. Moyer-----Town Creek, Alabama

MODERATORS OF THE FIFTH MEETINGS

Rev. B. A. Hale-----Moderator of East District
Rev. J. A. Staggs-----Moderator of West District

CHURCH, CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Harmony—Mrs. C. G. Keenum-----Leighton, Alabama
Mt. Zion—H. C. Jeffreys-----Town Creek, Alabama
Whites Creek—Flora Weatherford-----Gillis Mills, Tennessee
Maple Grove—Margie Lowery-----Madison, Alabama
Second Creek—Dora Hinton-----Waterloo, Alabama
Morpheys Chapel—Maudie Young-----Cloverdale, Alabama
Bumpas Creek—Mary Scott-----Waterloo, Alabama
Midway Chapel—John Logan-----Leighton, Alabama
Piney Grove—B. H. Sutherland-----Lutts, Tennessee
Popular Springs—Lawrence Honeycutt-----Iuka, Mississippi
Mount Olivet—W. C. Jones-----Waterloo, Alabama
New Chapel—Irene Robinson-----Counce, Tennessee
Community—J. W. Hall-----Florence, Alabama
48 Church—Georgia Risner-----Waynesboro, Tennessee
Solitude—Grady Jackson-----Adamsville, Tennessee
Meeks Grove—Mrs. Effie Massengill.
Owen's Chapel—Lorena Thomas.
Shady Grove—

CHURCH PASTORS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Harmony—B. A. Hale.....	Leighton, Alabama
Mt. Zion—W. C. Jones.....	Waterloo, Alabama
Whites Creek—Dolphas Henson.	
Maple Grove—L. R. Craig.....	Leighton, Alabama
Seecord Creek—J. B. Harper.....	Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Scott's Chapel—J. B. McGee.....	Florence, Alabama
Murphey's Chapel—	
Piney Grove—J. B. Harper.....	Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Bumpas Creek—J. C. McClannahan.....	Florence, Alabama
Midway Chapel—J. A. Moyer.....	Town Creek, Alabama
Popular Springs—R. A. Johnson.....	Tishomingo, Mississippi
Mount Olivet—W. C. Jones.....	Waterloo, Alabama
New Chapel—J. W. Jones.	
Community—J. C. McClannahan.....	Florence, Alabama
Solitude—J. B. Harper.....	Cypress Inn, Tennessee
48 Church—J. A. Moyer.....	Town Creek, Alabama
Meeks Grove—J. A. Staggs.....	Stantonville, Tennessee
Owen's Chapel—J. A. Staggs.....	Stantonville, Tennessee
Shady Grove—J. A. Staggs.....	Stantonville, Tennessee

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

W. C. Jones.....	Waterloo, Alabama
B. A. Hale.....	Leighton, Alabama
J. W. Philips.....	Corinth, Mississippi
H. L. Smith.....	Iuka, Mississippi
Mrs. Georgia Lowery.....	Leighton, Alabama
L. M. Mansell.....	Waterloo, Alabama
R. A. Johnson.....	Tishomingo, Mississippi
H. M. Richardson.....	Cloverdale, Alabama
J. A. Moyer.....	Town Creek, Alabama
L. T. Tillman.....	Stantonville, Tennessee
J. M. Kellsey.....	Waterloo, Alabama
J. C. McClannahan.....	Florence, Alabama
J. B. Harper.....	Cypress Inn, Tennessee
J. A. Staggs.....	Stantonville, Tennessee
L. R. Craig.....	Leighton, Alabama
C. L. Montgomery.....	Sheffield, Alabama
J. H. Sweeny.....	Canaan, Mississippi
George Arnold.....	Russellville, Alabama
W. Baggett.....	Florence, Alabama
R. P. Owens.....	Stantonville, Tennessee

LICENSED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

R. T. Berry.....	Cypress Inn, Tennessee
J. P. Lowry.....	Leighton, Alabama
V. H. Geons.....	Waterloo, Alabama
D. L. Murdough.....	Stantonville, Tennessee

Proceedings

The Sixty-first Annual Session of the Tennessee River Association of the Free Will Baptist Church convened with Mt. Zion Church in Lawrence County, Alabama, on Thursday before the Third Sunday in September 1939, at 11:00 o'clock a. m.

The Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. J. A. Moyer.

Adjourned to meet at 2:00 o'clock.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to adjournment with singing, scripture reading and prayer by Rev. J. A. Moyer.

Moved and carried to perpetuate the Union. This was done by old-fashioned hand shaking.

Visiting brethren and sisters from other Denominations and Associations were invited to seats with us. Sister Marie Webb and Sister John Parvin were appointed reading clerks.

Called for letters from various churches.

Harmony—By letter and delegates, Brother Zebbie Balentine, Brother Claude Cameron and Brother Guy Grissom.

Mt. Zion—By letter and delegates, Brother H. C. Jeffreys, Brother Earnest Jeffreys and Brother Edward Jeffreys.

Whites Creek—Letter mailed in. No delegates.

Maple Grove—By letter and substituted Mrs. Fannie Craig as delegate.

Second Creek—By letter and delegates, Sister Ethel Fowler and Brother Virgil Geons.

ScottsChapel—By letter and delegates, Brother Roy Harper and Brother Wayford Berry.

Murpheys Chapel—By Delegates, Ben Brown and Elbert Smith.

Piney Grove—By letter and delegates, Brother J. H. Wright, Brother J. W. Sherril, Sister Southerland and Brother B. H. Southerland.

Bumpas Creek—By letter and delegates, Sister Marie Webb and Brother Billy Hinton.

Midway Chapeel—By letter and delegates, Brother John Logan and Brother Percy Hallmark.

Popular Springs—Represented by Rev. J. W. Phillips, Rev. R. A. Johnson, Brother Hubert Johnson and Brother Allen House. Letter coming later.

Mount Olivet—By letter and delegate, Brother Odell Jones.

New Chapel—Letter sent by mail. Received later.

Community—By letter and delegates, Brother Will Hall, Jim Hall, Walter Horton and Brother Harve Vickory.

Flat Rock—Not represented.

Solitude—By letter and delegates, Brother J. E. Martin, Brother Brady Tucker, Brother Jodie Ferrell and Brother Cotner.

48 Church—By letter and delegates, Sister Idella King and Sister Matie Frank.

Called for petitionary letters.

Meeks Grove—By letter and delegates, Brother and Sister Boylen.

Owens Chapel—By letter and delegate, Brother D. L. Murdough.

Shady Grove—By letter and delegates. The church letter failed to give the names of the delegates.

Moved to adjourn until 8:00 o'clock a. m. Friday.

The stand was filled Thursday night by Rev. J. B. Harper and Rev. L. R. Craig.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The body met according to adjournment by singing, scripture reading and prayer by Rev. J. A. Moyer.

We gave the petitionary churches the right hand of church fellowship.

Moved and carried that the moderator, Rev. B. A. Hale appoint various committees.

Committees appointed.

General Business—Rev. J. A. Staggs, Brother George Geons, Brother J. E. Martin, Rev. J. C. McClannahan, Brother J. H. Wright and Rev. R. A. Johnson.

Sunday School—Rev. L. R. Craig, Rev. J. B. Harper, Rev. J. A. Moyer, Rev. H. C. Jeffreys and Brother Billy Hinton.

Educational Committee—Brother J. H. Gillis, Brother W. E. Jeffreys, Brother G. J. Ferrell, Rev. J. W. Phillips and Brother D. L. Murdough.

Temperance Committee—Brother Oscar Posey, Brother Percy Hallmark and Mrs. Georgia Lowry.

Obituary Committee—Brother W. T. Banks, Brother Edgar McCormack and Brother Elbert Smith.

Finance Committee—Brother Ray Harper and Brother W. L. Horton.

Thanks Committee—Sister J. A. Staggs, Sister Marie Webb and Sister Hazel Parker.

Devotional Committee—Brother J. N. Parvin, Brother Crowder, Brother John Jeffreys, and Rev. J. A. Staggs.

Poem read by Rev. L. R. Craig on Temperance.

We proceeded with business by retiring for committee work. Preaching at 11:00 a. m. The stand was filled Friday Morning by Rev. J. A. Moyer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

We met according to adjournment by singing and prayer by Rev. George Arnold.

We proceeded with the business.

Various Committees' Reports

Report of Home Mission Board—We are glad to report the fine co-operative and progressive spirit with which our Associational Pastor has been working. There has been one new church organized and a great deal of re-instatement work done. However, we have not been able to formulate and execute any definite plan that would begin to take care of the necessity of our cause, for the lack of funds.

Rev. B. A. Hale, *Chairman*

Move carried to adopt the report.

Report of Associational Pastor—Number received in churches, 33; revivals held, 5; homes visited for prayer, 15; number of sick homes, 8; street services, 1; churches organized, 1; re-organized, 1; restored, 1; number of members withdrawn, 1; building of 1 church; visited 2 churches; baptized, 27; conversions, 30; reclaimed, 7; amount received from revival services, \$14.00; amount received for pastoral care, \$73.00; amount received from Home Mission Board, \$30.00; total for year, \$117.00. Organized 1 Sunday School; organized 1 prayer meeting. Number of miles driven, 3200. Pastored 3 churches, attended 5 conferences.

Rev. J. A. Staggs.

Move carried to adopt the reeport.

Treasurer's Report—In September 1938 the balance in Treasury for Home Mission funds was \$31.05. The amount collected for the past year for Home Mission funds:

Community -----	\$ 5.70
Piney Grove -----	1.25
Harmony -----	6.00
Mt. Zion -----	5.00
Shady Grove -----	5.00
Solitude -----	5.00
Maple Grove -----	3.00
48 Church -----	3.50
Scotts Chapel -----	2.50

Total for past year ----- \$36.95

Balance ----- \$31.05

Grand total ----- \$68.00

Disbursements:

Rev. J. A. Staggs, February 1, 1939 ----- \$20.00

Rev. J. A. Staggs, July ----- 10.00

Total paid out ----- \$30.00

Balance left in Treasury ----- \$38.00

Bro. Edgar McCormack, Leighton, Ala., Rt. 1

Moved and carried to adopt report.

Ordaining Council Report—Being convened with Community Church, December 31, 1938, Lauderdale County, Alabama. We did set apart, and authorize by Ordination in regular order Bro. Harve Vickory to the full function of Deacon-ship of Community Church.

Being convened with Midway Chapel Church April 30th, 1939 with recommendation in hand from Midway Chapel Church that Bro. George Arnold be ordained to the full right and priviledges of the Gospel ministry. It was done accordingly.

Being convened with Harmony Church June 11th, 1939, Bro. Ely Grissom and Bro. Edgar McCormack were set apart to the full function of Deacon-ship by prayer and laying on of hands in behalf of Harmony Church.

Rev. B. A. Hale, Chm.

General Business committee—We recommend that we retain in our minute the present resolution of Finance.

We also recommend that the Devotional committee consult the Moderator before placing anyone on program from outside of the Tennessee River Association.

As the need of Finance grows more urgent every day and our ministers apparently overlook the importance of the duty of financing the Church: Be it resolved that we request all of our pastors to preach at least one message a year to each of their churches on the duty of Finance, and urge the adoption of some system, preferably the budget system, as a base on which to work.

Be it resolved that each church be requested to raise an Associational fund or budget of \$10.00 to be paid into the Treasury to take care of such incidental expenses as may be legally incurred, with such Home Mission work as may be directed by the Board.

We recommend the election of an Associational pastor again to take care of the Churches of our Association which are without pastors. To work with and under the Home Mission Board, and we further recommend that we retain our present Home Mission Board.

Be it resolved that we allow each local church with its pastor the right and authority to ordain its own Deacons. Also be it resolved that we allow our Associational Pastor full right and authority to organize and re-organize churches wherever he may go, by the authority of the Tennessee River Association. We recommend that he may have the right and authority to ordain Deacons that are elected by such newly organized churches.

Rev. R. A. Johnson, Chm.

Moved and carried to adopt the report.

Sunday School Committee: We your committee on Sunday School submit the report that we find 7 schools with enrollment of 390 members, a decrease of 246 from last year. We recommend that the Deacon together with the Pastor insist strongly upon organizing a Sunday School in their churches. We recommend that the Secretary keep a report of the increase and decrease for the ensuing year and report in the church letter to the Association.

We recommend the election of teachers and officers of good influence. We also recommend that the fathers and mothers encourage the children to go to Sunday School and go with them.

Rev. J. A. Moyer, Chm.

Moved and carried to adopt the report.

Temperance committee—We the committee on Temperance submit the following: We find the great need of temperance work in our churches. Each member should take a firm stand against the liquor traffic in every form. We find that the United States in general is turning against legalized liquor and beer. We need to get on our knees before God and get our boys and girls on our hearts and try to teach them against the great evil. We find a bill L-517 is before Senate to prohibit the advertising of liquor and beer over the radio.

We request that every member of the Temperance Cause write the Senate urging the bill to pass. We also request that our people secure all

the temperance literature we can for the sake of the homes. We urge people to give encouragement to the young converts and show an interest in the sinner friend.

Bro. Peircy Hallmark, Chm.

Moved and carried to adopt the report.

Educational Report—We submit the following, we recommend that the entire membership read the Bible daily and have a Bible class in each Church and home; so we can make a complete study of the Books of Daniel and Revelations that we may understand from a moral standpoint that the Bible is true. Be sure that the literature you read is not misleading, for much of it seems to compare with the Bible, but when carefully studied it is misleading.

We urge that our ministers speak boldly against false literature that is spreading over our land and country, poisoning the minds of our young boys and girls, men and women.

Rev. J. W. Phillips, Chm.

Moved and carried to adopt the report.

Obituary Committee—We beg to submit with sadness the following: We find that death has taken six of our beloved members since our last Association. Owens Grove—Fenely Cupples, Scotts Chapel—L. F. Rich, Mt. Zion—Martha Coeburn, Shady Grove—James Doyles, Solitude—Mrs. Mollie Williams, Meeks Grove—Names unknown. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Job. 1:21.

Bro. Edgar McCormack, Chm.

Moved and carried to adopt the report.

Finance Committee—We the committee on Finance find the amount paid in from each Church for minute funds as follows:

Harmony -----	\$ 5.00	Community -----	2.50
Mt. Zion -----	3.25	Solitude -----	2.25
Maple Grove -----	1.25	Meeks Grove -----	1.15
Second Creek -----	2.05	Shady Grove -----	1.25
Scotts Chapel -----	2.35	Murphys Chapel -----	1.50
Piney Grove -----	3.30	New Chapel -----	2.40
Bumpas Creek -----	3.61	Owens Chapel -----	1.10
Whites Creek -----	2.00	Poplar Spring -----	1.25
Midway Chapel -----	1.75	48 Church -----	.75
Mt. Olivet -----	2.00	Free will offering -----	5.00
Total -----			\$45.91

We the committee on finance recommend that the Clerk send minutes to each church according to the contribution paid by each.

Bro. Ray Harper, Chm.

Moved and carried to adopt report.

Resolution of Thanks—We, the committee on Thanks wish to submit our heart-felt thanks to the people of Mt. Zion Church and its surroundings for their kindness and hospitality shown us during this Association. May God's richest blessings rest and abide with these people until we meet in Heaven.

Sister Marie Webb, Chm.

Moved and carried to adopt report.

Moved and carried to take up a free-will offering. \$5.00 was received.

Moved and carried to divide the 5th Sunday meeting into 2 divisions, allowing the moderator to draw the dividing line.

The East Divisions Committee—Bro. Edgar McCormack, Rev. J. A. McClannahan and Bro. Earl Grissom.

The East Divisions 5th Sunday meeting will convene with Maple Grove Church on October 29th, 1939.

The west Division's Committee. Moved and carried to give Rev. J. A. Staggs authority to appoint the committee. Bro. Ed Martin, Bro. Guy Stone and Bro. J. D. Ferrell were appointed.

Election of Moderator for East District. Moved and carried to retain moderator, Rev. B. A. Hale.

Moved and carried to elect moderator for the West District. Rev. J. A. Staggs was elected.

West District 5th Sunday meeting will convene with Meeks Grove Church on October 29th, 1939.

Moved and carried to retain present Home Mission Board. Moderator—Rev. B. A. Hale, Secretary—Bro. Earl Grissom, Treasurer—Bro. Edgar McCormack.

Moved and carried to retain the present officers in Association. Moderator—Rev. B. A. Hale, Asst. Moderator—Rev. J. A. Moyer, Clerk—Sula Hale, Asst. Clerk—Bro. Edgar McCormack.

Moved and carried to retain present Associational pastor, Rev. J. A. Staggs.

Moved to adjourn until 8:00 o'clock Saturday A. M.

The stand was filled Friday night by Rev. J. W. Phillips.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Met according to adjournment by singing, scripture reading by Rev. J. A. Staggs. Prayer by Rev. R. A. Johnson.

Proceed to Business.

Moved and carried for Moderator to appoint a Devotional Committee. Revs. J. W. Phillips, W. C. Jones and J. B. Harper were appointed.

Minister's Report

Rev. J. A. Moyer—Sermons preached 72, public prayers 78, miles travelled unknown, married couples 7, burial services 4, Sunday Schools 1, received into church unknown, money received \$64.43, paid out \$23.20, pastor of 2 churches, communions 2, conferences 2.

Rev. J. M. Kellsey—Absent because of disability.

Rev. B. A. Hale—Verbal report.

Rev. W. C. Jones—Sermons 51, public prayers 85, burial services 1, received into church 4, baptized 4, married couples 5, miles traveled 1,150 received for services \$45.75, paid out \$18.90.

Rev. W. Baggett—Absent.

Mrs. Georgia Lowry—Report later.

Rev. J. W. Phillips—Verbal report.

Rev. Geo. Arnold—No report.

Rev. R. A. Johnson—Miles travelled 812, sermons preached 25, cash received \$16.30, paid out \$10.75, married couples 5, burial services 5, helped in 3 revivals, souls saved 13, received into church none.

Rev. L. T. Tillman—Absent.

Rev. J. C. McClannahan—No report.

Rev. J. H. Sweeney—Absent.

Rev. L. R. Craig—Verbal report.

Rev. J. A. Staggs—Same as Associational pastors report.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Pastor of 1 church, Asst. pastor of 1 church, sermons preached 75, public prayers no record, communion services 2, held one conference, funeral services 4, received in church 6, baptized 7, held 2 revivals, assisted in 3 revivals, expense no record, money received \$98.30.

Rev. H. M. Richardson—Absent because of disability.

Rev. R. P. Owens—Report by letter.

Rev. C. L. Montgomery—Report by letter.

Rev. L. M. Mansel—Absent.

Rev. J. E. Hueitt—Dead.

Rev. E. L. Peebles—Credentials surrendered.

Rev. H. L. Smith—Absent because of disability.

Moved to adjourn until 2:00 o'clock P. M. Saturday.

The stand was filled Saturday at 11:00 o'clock by Rev. R. A. Johnson.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to adjournment. Singing and prayer by Bro. V. H. Geons.

The next Association will convene with Mt. Olivet Church, Lauderdale County, Alabama on Thursday before the 3rd Sunday in September 1940 at 11:00 o'clock A. M.

Moved to adjourn for Presbyteria Session.

PRESBYTERIA SESSION

Moved and carried to retain present ordaining council. Rev. J. C. McClannahan, Rev. J. A. Staggs, Rev. B. A. Hale, Rev. W. C. Jones and Rev. J. A. Moyer.

Moved and carried to retain present Moderator, Rev. B. A. Hale.

MINISTER'S CARDS

J. B. Harper	card granted
L. R. Craig	card granted
J. W. Phillips	card granted
J. C. McClannahan	card granted
B. A. Hale	card granted
J. H. Sweeney	card granted
J. M. Kellsey	card granted
L. T. Tillman	card granted
J. A. Moyer	card granted
R. A. Johnson	card granted
J. A. Staggs	card granted
C. L. Montgomery	card granted

W. Baggett	card held until report
R. P. Owens	card granted
W. C. Jones	card granted
Geo. Arnold	card granted
L. M. Mansell	life time card
H. M. Richardson	life time card
W. L. Smith	life time card
Mrs. Georgia Lowery	life time card
J. E. Hueitt	dead

New Business

Recommendation from Harmony Church for the Presbyteria to give Bro. Jim Lowry license to the ministry for one year.

Recommendation from Harmony Church to the Presbyteria for Bro. Leonard Walker and Bro. Oscar Posey to be ordained for Deacons.

Recommendations from Owen's Chapel Church to the Presbyteria that Bro. D. L. Murdough be given license to the ministry for one year.

Recommendation from Meeks Grove to the Presbyteria for Bro. A. R. Bowling to be ordained for a Deacon.

Recommendation from Shady Grove Church to the Presbyteria for Bro. W. D. McIn to be ordained as a Deacon.

Recommendation from Second Creek Church to the Presbyteria for Bro. V. H. Geons to be given license to the ministry for one year.

Moved carried and adopted.

Moved and carried to accept White's Creek letter and show them represented by letter.

Moved to adjourn until the next Association with Mt. Olivet Church at Waterloo, Ala.

The stand was filled Saturday night by Rev. B. A. Hale.

The stand was filled at 11:00 o'clock A. M. Sunday by Rev. B. A. Hale.

FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1.—Call church to order.
- 2.—Call for the peace of the church.
- 3.—Invite visiting brethren and sisters to seats with us.
- 4.—An opportunity for reception of members.
- 5.—Reading minutes of previous conference.
- 6.—Call for unfinished business.
- 7.—Call for new business.

THE CONSTITUTION

Article 1.—This Association shall be called the Tennessee River Association of the Free Will Baptist, and shall be composed of such consistent, well-regulated Free Will Baptist churches as shall unite in this compact, and agree to this constitution.

Article 2.—The acting members of this Association shall be such as are chosen by several churches of which the Association is composed, to represent them in this Association, every church being entitled to one

delegate, every church containing fifty members to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional twenty-five members.

Article 3.—The officers of this Body shall be a moderator, a treasurer, corresponding and recording secretary, who shall be elected for a term of two years, and said election to take place one year prior to their entering upon the duties of said office.

Article 4.—Any regular organized Free Will Baptist Church, maintaining Gospel order, agreeing with the denomination in doctrines and practices, and in favor of the benevolent enterprises, as Sunday schools, missions, temperance and education, may be received into their Association on application, by the vote of the Association to which such application is made or referred.

Article 5.—This Association shall have power to discipline its churches for unchristian conduct, a want of conformity to Gospel order, or a violation of the conditions of this compact, and expell them in case of unsuccessful labor; to license and ordain ministers such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of churches to which such persons belong; to settle such questions of discipline and doctrine as the churches may refer to them, and transact such other business as may be necessary for the benefit of religion, consistent with the liberty and independence of the churches, according to the usage of the Free Will Baptist denomination, and not repugnant to the regulations of the yearly meeting, with which this Association may be connected; and to make any by-laws necessary to its regulation not repugnant to this constitution.

Article 6.—The session of this Association shall be on the-----, when it shall be the duty of all churches of which it is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates.

Article 7.—This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of any session of this Association, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing at the next previous session of Association.

BY-LAWS

1. The clerk and assistant clerk, or in their absence the senior minister in years, should call the Association into conference, and if a quorum is present the moderator, or in his absence the assistant moderator, shall take charge; and if neither of them is present the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2. All persons declared by a committee on credentials to be duly entitled to a seat in this Association are hereby made constituted members of this Body, and are authorized to act in all respects according to the provisions of constitution and by-laws under which this Association is organized.

3. It shall be the duty of every Body belonging to this Association to send a letter to the annual session of this Association, reporting to the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any Body which

belongs to this Association, which fails to report for two successive sessions may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and by prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present, a ruling of the moderator can be overruled.

6. This Association may correspond by messengers or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. The Association shall sit with open doors, except when it shall go into committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission from the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of all the members of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by appellation, "Bro. Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "Yeas" and "Nays" may be taken on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15. No members of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, nor twice on the same subject without permission of the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat the delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this Association by a two-third's vote of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible—

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

2. God—

There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as a Creator, Pre-

server, 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

4. The Holy Spirit—

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

5. The Government of God—

God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performed special Acts of Grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. The Sinfulness of Man—

Man was created innocent, but disobedience fell into the 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, suffering, 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 of faith and obedience until death.

9. Election—

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

10. Freedom of the Will—

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

11. Salvation Free—

God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take the Water of Life freely.

12. Perseverance—

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

13. Gospel Ordinances—

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

14. 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.

15. Resurrection, Judgment, and Final Retribution—

The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the same time. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation: then the wicked will "go away into the eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this seldom 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 Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

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 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 LETTER OF DISMISSION

-----19-----

This certifies that-----is a regular member
of the Free Will Baptist Church at-----, in good standing as
such. We recommend-----to the fellowship of God's
people, and when we are informed that-----has united
with some other evangelical church, we shall consider -----
regularly dismissed from this church. In behalf of the Free Will Baptist
Church at-----.

----- Pastor.

----- Clerk.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION

We, the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, at-----send greet-
ings to the ministers and messengers composing the Tennessee River Associ-
ation, when convened with -----church. We send our beloved
to wit-----to sit with you in your deliberations and to
help transact any legal business that may come before your honorable body.
The statistics of our church are as follows:

Received by profession of faith and baptism-----; by letter-----;
by experience-----; restored by confession-----; dismissed by letter
-----; withdrawn-----; expelled-----; dead-----; total mem-
bership-----; number of students to enroll in Sunday School-----;
average attendance-----; number of Deacons-----; Number of Or-
dained Ministers-----; number of Licensed Ministers-----: We have
elected Rev.-----Address-----

to pastor our Church for the ensuing year. Valuation of Church house and
property \$----- Contributions paid Pastor \$-----; pastoral help
\$-----; given to Home Missions \$-----; minute funds \$-----

Moderator-----Address-----

Clerk-----Address-----

THE TENN. RIVER ASSOCIATION OF F. W. B.—TABLE OF STATISTICS

Churches	Meeting Days	Church Value	Deaths	Dismissed by Letter	Expelled	Withdrawals	Rec'd. by Baptism	Rec'd. by Experience	By Letter	By Restoration	Total Membership	S. S. Enrollment	Average Attendance	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Deacons	Amount Paid Pastor	Home Missions	Pastoral Helps	Minute Funds
Harmony	1-3	\$1,000	0	0	1	8	5	1	2	-	266	95	75	3	-	3	\$	\$6.00	\$14.00	\$5.00
Mount Zion	2	500	1	6	1	1	1	1	-	-	82	16	-	-	-	3	45.75	5.00	-	3.25
Whites Creek	-	-	0	0	1	-	1	-	-	-	56	30	-	-	-	2	22.43	-	-	2.00
Maple Grove	1	-	0	0	1	-	7	-	1	-	29	64	-	-	-	2	18.86	3.00	-	1.25
Second Creek	4	800	0	0	1	1	1	-	-	-	27	-	-	1	1	1	24.04	-	-	2.05
Scotts Chapel	4	750	1	0	1	-	-	-	1	-	194	-	-	1	5	5	36.16	2.50	-	2.35
Murpheys Chapel	-	-	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Piney Grove	3	500	0	0	1	-	-	1	-	-	104	62	-	-	-	4	41.19	1.25	-	3.30
Bumpas Creek	2	1,000	0	0	1	17	-	-	-	-	73	-	-	-	-	3	58.14	-	-	3.61
Midway Chapel	2	850	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	-	-	-	3	20.78	-	-	1.75
Mount Olivet	3	500	0	0	1	2	-	-	-	-	109	75	-	-	-	4	40.00	-	-	2.20
Popular Springs	1	500	0	0	1	1	1	1	-	-	85	-	-	-	-	2	10.01	-	-	1.25
New Chapel	1	600	3	0	1	5	2	-	-	-	35	75	-	-	-	2	32.00	-	-	2.40
Community	1	800	0	0	1	9	1	2	-	-	65	45	-	-	-	2	40.19	5.70	-	2.50
Solitude	2	500	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	-	77	103	-	-	-	2	75.00	5.00	-	2.25
48 Church	-	-	0	0	1	1	1	-	-	-	25	62	-	-	-	4	18.76	3.50	-	.75
Meeks Grove	-	-	2	0	1	1	1	-	-	-	35	70	-	-	-	4	18.00	-	-	1.15
Owens Chapel	-	-	1	0	1	1	1	-	1	-	29	25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1.10
Shady Grove	2	-	1	0	1	13	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	5	32.31	5.00	-	1.25

