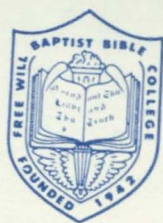


MINUTES
OF THE
Seventy-First Annual Session
OF THE
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
Of The Free Will Baptists
CONVENED WITH
New Chapel Church, Counce, Tenn.
ON FRIDAY BEFORE THE THIRD SUNDAY
IN SEPTEMBER, 1949

Officers

REV. J. W. PHILLIPS Moderator
REV. W. M. BRILEY Assistant Moderator
MRS. TALMADGE RANDOLPH Clerk

The next Association will convene with Murphey's Chapel Church,
Lauderdale County, Alabama, on Friday before the third
Sunday in September, 1950, at 11 o'clock a. m.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mr. W. W. Berry

MINUTES
OF THE
Seventy-First Annual Session
OF THE
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
Of The Free Will Baptist

CONVENED WITH

New Chapel Church, Hardin Co., Tenn.,
On Friday before the Third Sunday in Sept.,
1949, at 11 o'clock A. M.

The next association will convene with Murphy Chapel Church
on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1950, at 11 o'clock
A. M.

Associational Officers and Their Addresses

Rev. J. C. McClannahan, Moderator ----- Florence, Ala.
Rev. J. B. Harper, Assistant Moderator ----- Cypress Inn, Tenn.
Rev. L. L. Wilson, Clerk ----- Stantonville, Tenn.

Home Mission Board

Rev. L. R. Craig, Chairman ----- Lutts, Tenn.
Brother Anderson Jones, Secretary ----- Stantonville, Tenn.
Rev. L. L. Moore, Treasurer ----- Morris Chapel, Tenn.

Associational Pastor

Rev. Elton Cotner ----- Adamsville, Tenn.

Ordaining Council

Rev. J. W. Phillips ----- Corinth, Miss.
Rev. W. C. Jones ----- Waterloo, Ala.
Rev. J. B. Harper ----- Cypress Inn, Tenn.
Rev. V. H. Gean ----- Waterloo, Ala.
Rev. J. C. McClannahan ----- Florence, Ala.

Moderators of Fifth Sunday Meetings

Rev. L. R. Craig ----- Moderator
Rev. J. B. Harper ----- Assistant Moderator

Board of Trustees

Rev. W. C. Jones ----- Waterloo, Ala.
Rev. V. H. Gean ----- Waterloo, Ala.

Church Clerks and Their Addresses

Harmony—Bro. Lonnie Grissom; Leighton, Ala.
Mt. Zion—Bro. Horace Jeffreys, Towni Creek, Ala.
Midway—Mrs. Stancil Robbins, Leighton, Ala.
Maple Grove—Mrs. Herman Hagood, Madison, Ala.
Second Creek—Mrs. Alma Scott, Waterloo, Ala.
Bumpus Creek—Mrs. Robert Benson, Waterloo, Ala.
Murphy's Chapel—Mrs. Vernett Ford, Waterloo, Ala.
Piney Grove—Bro. Frank Wright, Lutts, Tenn.
Mt. Olivet—Bro. W. C. Jones, Waterloo, Ala.
New Chapel—Mrs. Irene Robinson, Counce, Tenn.
Community—Bro. J. W. Hall, Florence, Ala.
Solitude—Mrs. Elnora Martin, Adamsville, Tenn.
Meeks Grove—Bro. L. L. Wilson, Stantonville, Tenn.
Shady Grove—Mrs. Berl Shepard, Olive Hill, Tenn.
Scotts Chapel—Bro. Roy Harper, Cypress Inn, Tenn.
Fairview—Mrs. Thelma Dixon, Iron City, Tenn.
Blowing Springs—Bro. Taft Staggs, Lawrence, Tenn.
White's Creek—Bro. Clifford Goodman, Lutts, Tenn.
McFalls Chapel—Bro. Charlie McFalls, Lutts, Tenn.
Lutts Church—Brother J. W. Berry, Lutts, Tenn.
Popular Springs—Bro. Bert Smith, Payden, Miss.
No Petitionary Letters.

Pastors of Each Church and Their Addresses

Harmony—Rev. W. M. Briley—Hillsboro, Ala.
Mt. Zion—Rev. W. M. Briley—Hillsboro, Ala.
Midway—Rev. John M. Pace—Russellville, Ala.
Maple Grove—Rev. W. M. Briley—Hillsboro, Ala.
Second Creek—Rev. L. R. Craig—Lutts, Tenn.
Murphy's Chapel—Rev. Theodore Norred—Florence, Ala.
Bumpus Creek—Rev. J. B. Harper—Cypress Inn, Tenn.
Piney Grove—Rev. Dewey Stults—Cypress Inn, Tenn.
Mt. Olivet—Rev. V. H. Gean—Waterloo, Ala.
Popular Springs—Rev. Rufus Armstrong—
New Chapel—Rev. J. B. Harper—Cypress Inn, Tenn.
Community—Rev. J. C. McClannahan—Florence, Ala.
Solitude—Rev. W. M. Briley—Hillsboro, Ala.
Meeks Grove—Rev. V. H. Gean—Waterloo, Ala.
Shady Grove—Rev. Elton Cotner—Adamsville, Tenn.
Scotts Chapel—Rev. J. B. Harper—Cypress Inn, Tenn.
Fairview—Rev. J. C. McClannahan—Florence, Ala.
Blowing Springs—Rev. Eargen Warren—Lutts, Tenn.
Whites Creek—Rev. Hollis Southerland—Lutts, Tenn.
McFalls Chapel—Rev. V. H. Gean—Waterloo, Ala.
Lutts Church—Rev. J. B. Harper—Cypress Inn, Tenn.

Licensed Ministers

Rev. Hollis Southerland, Rev. Curtis Briley, Rev. Freshour, Rev. Goodman.

PROCEEDINGS

Introductory Sermon was delivered by Rev. H. A. Pitts. Adjourned to meet at one o'clock.

Friday Afternoon Session

Met according to previous adjournment, with singing and Scripture reading by Rev. J. W. Phillips and prayer by Rev. Johnson.

After reading of names of the associational officers, visitors were invited to sit with us.

Assistant Moderator appointed reading clerks: Brother L. L. Moore and Bro. W. C. Jones.

Finance Committee: Brother W. T. Martin, Bro. L. R. Craig, Rev. J. C. McClannahan.

Called for letters from various churches.

Harmony—By letter and delegates: Bro. Jake Collier, Bro. Andrew McCaig, Sister Alma Campbell.

Mt. Zion—By letter and delegates: Bro. Horace Jeffreys, Bro. Connie Frost, Bro. R. E. Parvin.

Maple Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. V. H. Lowery, Bro. Walter Lowery, Bro. Alvin Craig, and Bro. Jake Craig.

Midway Chapel—By letter and delegates: Sister Gladys Mason, Sister Marie George.

Solitude—By letter and delegates: Bro. Wilson Jamerson, Bro. R. E. Martin, Bro. Hollie Finley, Bro. Gilbert Finley, Bro. Welbert Weeks,

Second Creek—By letter and delegates: Bro. Aucil Hinton, Bro. Billie Hinton.

Murphys Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Ben Brown, Bro. Elbert Smith.

Bumpus Creek—By letter and delegates: Bro. Fred Louis, Bro. Jess Scott, Bro. Hamp Tune.

Piney Grove—By letter and delegate: Bro. Jimmie Gillis, Bro. Willard Reaves, Bro. Willard Rich.

Mt. Olivet—By letter and delegates: Bro. Dallas Jones, Sister Clotel Jones.

New Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Alf Layton, Bro. I. F. Stockton.

Community—By letter and delegates: Bro. Jim Hall, Bro. J. W. Hall, Bro. M. C. Erwin.

Scotts Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Frank Pigg, Bro. Roy Harper.

Shady Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. Berl Shepard, Clarice Franks, Monroe Hubbard.

Meeks Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. James Killingsworth, Bro. Warren Mays, Bro. Austin Kemp

Whites Creek—By letter and delegates: Bro. Hartie Cassey, Bro. Johnnie Cox.

Blowing Springs—By letter and delegates: Bro. Jasper Brewer and Sister Franks.

Popular Springs—By letter and delegates: Bro. E. B. Smith, Bro. Frank Smith.

Fairview—By letter and delegates: Bro. J. A. Wilson, Bro. Hardin Stults.

McFalls—Bro. Walker Johnson, Bro. Charlie McFalls.

Lutts—By letter and delegate: Bro. Bid Kilburn.

The appointing of various committees by assistant moderator, Rev. W. M. Briley.

General Business—Rev. R. A. Johnson, Rev. Elton Cotner, Rev. W. C. Jones, Bro. G. J. Ferrell, Bro. Jake Craig.

Sunday School—Bro. Alvin Craig, Bro. Jake Collier, Bro. Horace Jeffreys.

Educational—Bro. Ed Martin, Bro. H. B. Craig, Rev. V. H. Geans.

Temperance—Bro. Andrew McCaig, Rev. Curtis Briley, Rev. J. C. McClannahan, Bro. Anderson Jones.

Obituary—Bro. Roy Harper, Bro. Hamp Tune, Bro. C. I. Dixon, Bro. E. J. Scott.

Resolution of Thanks—Bro. Welbert Weeks, Bro. R. A. Martin, Bro. Hallie Finley.

Moved to take clerk's pay out and print minutes from what is left and send out minutes according to what the church sent in.

Rev. Ryland spoke on condition of orphanage and the association raised \$128.00 for the Home.

Business adjourned until Saturday morning at 8 o'clock.

Friday night's messages were delivered by Rev. Hollis Southerland and Rev. V. H. Gean.

Saturday Morning Session

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and prayer by Bro. R. L. Harper. Scripture by Rev. W. M. Briley.

REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

General Business Report

We, your committee on General business, recommend that each church send \$15.00 or more to the Home Mission Board.

We recommend that we elect or re-elect an associational pastor for the ensuing year and get behind him with our prayers and help him for the betterment of our country and getting God's message to the world. We

recommend anyone that is recommended by his church be licensed for twelve months and then if his church further recommends him to the ordaining council at the end of twelve months and is qualified, for him to be ordained as a minister.

We also recommend that each church elect the licensed ministers and young ordained ministers as assistant pastors in each church.

We also recommend that pastors of each church put before the people the orphan children and help support them as if they were their own. Be it resolved that we allow each church with its pastor to ordain its own Deacons and that they be men of good standing, men who qualify with 1st Timothy, 3rd chapter.

We also recommend that things to be discussed in the Presbyteria to be action and not talk because the world is looking on.

We also recommend that the ordaining council remain as it is.

We recommend that we retain our examining committee.

We also recommend that we send delegates to our sister associations.
Report adopted.

Chairman, W. C. Jones

Sunday School Committee

We, your committee on Sunday School, beg to submit the following. We find 11 Sunday Schools with an average of 58 members.

We recommend that the pastors and deacons of each church recommend and encourage a Sunday School with Bible Class.

We recommend that the parents go to Sunday School and carry the children, that they might be more attentive to the word of God.

We also recommend that all leaders of the Sunday School be true Christians.

We should pray earnestly for the upbuilding of our churches and Sunday Schools and encourage the uplift of God's Kingdom while here in this world.

Educational Committee

We, your committee, wish to submit the following: That each one of us study the Bible prayerfully and get all the education possible, and especially young ministers, as the Lord won't do for us what we can do for ourselves, and that we as Free Will Baptist preachers and deacons encourage education as much as possible, as we are commanded to study to show ourselves approved unto God.

Report adopted.

Chairman, V. H. Gean

Temperance Committee

We submit the following: We find the word Temperance to mean total abstinence. Therefore, we recommend that our people take the Bible as a rule of faith and practice in regard to beer, wine and whiskey.

Report adopted.

Chairman, Curtis Briley

Obituary Committee

We, your committee, beg leave to report with sadness that death has taken six of our beloved members since our last association; Scotts Chapel, 2, Bro. L. F. Harper and Sister Emma Wright; New Chapel, 1, Bro. Joe Price; Bumpus Creek, 1, Sister Tennie Fielder; Solitude, 1, Bro. G. W. Martin; McFalls Chapel, 1, name unknown.

We wish to extend our heart felt sympathy to the bereaved. We realize our loss is Heaven's gain.

Report adopted.

Chairman, R. L. Harper

Report of Home Mission Board

Fairview	\$ 14.00
Mt. Zion	15.00
Midway	15.00
Scotts Chapel	15.00
Harmony	15.00
Maple Grove	15.00
Meeks Grove	13.00
Solitude	15.00
Bumpus Creek	15.00
New Chapel	10.00
Second Creek	5.75
Piney Grove	10.50
McFalls Chapel	1.00
Lutts Church	4.00
Community	10.00
Murpheys Chapel	2.65

Total paid in	\$175.90
Balance from last year	174.62

Total amount	\$350.52
Disbursements	\$150.00
Paid Treasurer	10.00
Balance in Treasury	\$190.52

Treasurer, L. L. Moore,
Address, Morris Chapel, Tenn.

Clerk's Report

Printing of Minutes	\$ 70.32
Paid Clerk	25.00
Mailing of Minutes	4.83
Transportation	2.50

Total Paid Out	\$102.65
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Amount paid in by churches -----	\$104.61
Amount paid out by clerk -----	102.65
Total left over from last year -----	\$ 2.00

Clerk, Mrs. Thomas E. Lowery

Finance Committee Report

Left Over -----	\$2.00
Harmony -----	5.00
Mt. Zion -----	6.00
Midway -----	5.00
Maple Grove -----	4.00
Second Creek -----	2.00
Murphys Chapel -----	3.00
Bumpus Creek -----	6.51
Mt. Olivet -----	1.10
New Chapel -----	4.50
Community -----	5.25
Solitude -----	6.33
Meeks Grove -----	4.00
Shady Grove -----	2.15
Scotts Chapel -----	3.50
Fairview -----	5.15
Blowing Springs -----	3.00
Whites Creek -----	2.00
Popular Springs -----	3.01
Lutts Church -----	3.00
McFalls Chapel -----	4.00
Piney Grove -----	3.40
Total -----	\$83.90

Ordained Ministers and Their Reports

Rev. W. M. Briley—Pastored 4 churches, preached 72 sermons, held 4 communion services, 2 Funeral services, married none, received in churches 16, baptized 16, held 5 revivals, assisted in one, money received, \$810.64, expenses unknown, mileage unknown.

Rev. J. W. Phillips—Verbal.

Rev. L. J. Vandiver—Absent.

Rev. V. H. Gean—Verbal.

Rev. W. C. Jones—Verbal.

Rev. R. A. Johnson—Verbal.

Rev. J. C. McClannahan—Verbal.

Rev. Elton Cotner—Pastored one church, conducted 2 revivals, helped in 2 revivals, funerals preached, 1, preaching services unknown, visited sick unknown, conference held 1, money received \$135.49.

Rev. L. R. Craig—Verbal.

Rev. L. L. Moore—Verbal.

Rev. G. W. Arnold—Absent.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Pastored 4 churches, communion 4, funeral services, 7, received in church 23, baptized 17, revivals 4, money received \$590.59, expenses unknown.

Rev. Eargen Warren— Verbal.

Rev. L. L. Wilson—Verbal.

Licensed Ministers and Their Report

Rev. Curtis Briley—Verbal.

Moved to elect associational pastor. Elected Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tenn.

Moved to retain present moderators of 5th Sunday Meetings.

Rev. L. R. Craig, Moderator

Rev. J. B. Harper, Ass't. Moderator

Report of Fifth Sunday Meetings

October 30, 1948—The Fifth Sunday Meeting convened with Scott's Chapel Church. Saturday morning session called together by singing and prayed. Devotional by Rev. L. R. Craig. Message by Rev. C. B. Thomas, from Nashville, Tenn. Dismissed by Rev. J. B. Harper.

Saturday afternoon session called together by singing and prayer by Brother Anderson Jones. A short talk by Rev. C. B. Thomas on foreign missions. A talk by Rev. W. M. Briley. Dismissed by Rev. Jessie Mowyer.

Saturday night session called together by singing and prayer by Rev. Leland Cook and Rev. Mack Burns. Devotional by Rev. Jessie Mowyer. Messages by Rev. W. M. Briley and Rev. Edgar Davis. Dismissed by Rev. Eargen Warren.

Sunday morning called together by singing and prayer, short message by Bro. Lidge Dickey. Message by Rev. V. H. Gean. Dismissed by H. B. Southerland.

Sunday Afternoon session called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Ethridge Brown and Rev. L. R. Craig. Devotional by Rev. H. B. Southerland.

Sunday Afternoon session called together by singing and prayer by Brother Ethridge Brown and Rev. L. R. Craig. Devotional by Rev. H. B. Southerland. Message by Rev. Eargen Warren. Dismissed by Bro. Lidge Dickey.

Moderator, Rev. L. R. Craig

Clerk, R. L. Harper

January 29, 1949, convened with Lutts Church, Lutts, Tenn. Saturday morning session opened by singing and prayers by Rev. V. H. Gean and Rev. H. B. Southerland, Rev. L. R. Craig and Rev. J. B. Harper. The stand was filled by Rev. J. B. Harper and Rev. L. R. Craig.

Saturday afternoon opened by singing and prayer by Bro. Jake Craig, short talks by Rev. L. R. Craig, Rev. V. H. Gean and Rev. Hollis Southerland, and a devotional service reading of Church Covenant by Rev. L. R. Craig.

Saturday night opened by singing and prayer by Rev. Bradford John-

son and Rev. Nick White, Bro. Bill Gobbell and Rev. Chris Martin. Message by Rev. Eargen Warren. Bro. Bill Gobbell was ordained as deacon.

Sunday Morning opened by singing and prayer by Rev. Cope, message by Rev. W. M. Briley and Rev. L. J. Vandiver.

No Sunday afternoon services.

Clerk, J. W. Berry

May, 1949 Fifth Sunday Meeting convened with Hardin's Grave Yard Church. Saturday Morning opened by singing and prayer by Bro. Southerland and Bro. J. B. Harper. Message by moderator L. R. Craig. Subject: The Women at the Tomb, Mark 16:1-13. Preachers present: Revs. R. P. Owens, L. L. Moore, L. R. Craig, Hollis Southerland, Elton Cotner, L. L. Wilson was here for the afternoon session. Deacons present: Bro. Jodie Ferrell, Brother Anderson Jones, Bro. Herbert Clay.

Dismissed by Brother Moore.

Saturday Afternoon opened by singing and prayer by Bro. Cotner. Devotional by Brother Wilson. Message by Rev. Hollis Southerland. After which the body was called into business. The body accepted a letter to license Bro. Hollis Southerland which was done by 100% vote. Dismissed by Bro. Wilson.

Saturday night session. Message by Bro. Floyd Micheal and Rev. V. H. Geans.

Sunday morning session opened by singing. Devotional by Brother Phillips. After which the Moderator, Rev. L. R. Craig, made a very impressive talk and was followed by a wonderful sermon by Rev. J. B. Harper, a hand shake and great rejoicing. Dismissed by Rev. Jones.

Sunday Afternoon. After a wonderful song service we were led in prayer by Rev. Wilson. Message by Rev. Jones and Rev. Owens, Rev. L. L. Moore, Rev. Warren and Rev. Cotner. Dismissed by Rev. Craig.

July Fifth Sunday Meeting convened with Maple Grove Church. Saturday morning session opened by the moderator with singing and prayer by Brother J. W. Phillips. Devotional by Rev. L. R. Craig. Message by Rev. V. H. Gean. Seven Pastors present and 5 deacons. Dismissed by W. M. Briley.

Saturday evening session opened by singing and prayer by Rev. Jones. Called to business for the purpose of receiving Rev. Emmett Grissom's credentials who had gone to the Missionary Baptist. It was also decided on by the body to fill out the blanks they had and send them to Bro. Freshour and Bro. Goodman giving license to preach. The message was brought by Rev. Vandiver. Dismissed by Rev. Floyd Micheal.

Saturday night session opened by singing and prayer by Rev. Killen. Devotionals by Rev. Briley, message by Rev. W. C. Jones. Dismissed by Rev. Briley.

Sunday Morning opened by singing and prayer by Bro. Briley. Message by Rev. J. W. Phillips.

Sunday Afternoon opened by singing. Testimony by the young preacher, Bro. Jones. Message by Bro. Killen. Dismissed by Bro. L. R. Craig.

Saturday afternoon session met according to previous adjournment with singing and Scripture reading by Bro. Phillips. Prayer by Rev. Owens. Moved to retain present Home Mission Board.

The committee to examine ministers to be ordained to the ministry: Rev. V. H. Gean, Rev. L. L. Moore, Rev. J. C. McClannahan.

Elected Clerk: Rev. L. L. Wilson.

Presbyteria Session

Ministers Cards Granted:

Rev. L. R. Craig, Card granted; Rev. J. W. Phillips, Card granted; Rev. W. C. Jones, Card granted; Rev. R. A. Johnson, Life time Card granted; Rev. J. C. McClannahan, Card granted; Rev. J. B. Harper, Card granted; Rev. V. H. Geans, Card granted; Rev. Eargen Warren, Card granted; Rev. L. L. Wilson, Card granted; Rev. L. J. Vandiver, Card granted; Rev. G. W. Arnold, Card granted; Rev. L. L. Moore, Card granted; Rev. Elton Cotner, Card granted; Rev. Dewey Stults, Card granted; Rev. R. P. Owens, Card granted; Rev. Floyd Micheal, Card granted.

Recommendations from McFalls Church for Bro. Joe Holt, Bro. Dougal McFalls and Bro. Ed Martin to be ordained for Deacons. Deacons were ordained.

The next association will convene with Murphy's Chapel Church.

Resolutions of Thanks

We, your committee, beg leave to resolve this body as assembled give to the people of New Chapel church and community a rising vote of thanks for their love and hospitality shown us during the sitting of this association.

May God's richest blessings rest upon them until we meet in heaven.

Chairman, Bro. R. E. Martin

Fifth Sunday Meetings

October, 1949—Piney Grove

January, 1950—Bumpus Creek

April, 1950—Meeks Grove

July, 1950—Fairview

Form of Church Conference

- 1—Call church to order.
- 2—Call for peace of the church.
- 3—Invite visiting brethren and sisters to take 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 Free Will Baptist, and shall be composed to 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 doctrine and practices, and in favor of the benevolent enterprise, 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 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 by-laws necessary to its regulations 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 presence, 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 member 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 by prayer.

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

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 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.

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

15. No member 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-thirds 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, 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 manifest in the flesh, in his divine nature truly God, in him 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 performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. The Sinfulness of Man—

Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into 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 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 the purposes 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 it, 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 they 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 Last Day. They that have done good will come forth 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 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 Saviour Jesus Christ."

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

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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 greetings to the ministers and messengers composings the Tennessee Rive Association, 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 membership -----. Number of students enrolled in Sunday School -----; average attendance -----; number of Deacons -----; number of Ordained Ministers -----; number of Licensed Ministers -----. We have elected Rev. ----- Address ----- to pastor our church for the ensuing year. Valuation of church house and property \$----- Contribution paid pastor \$-----; pastoral help \$-----; given to Home Missions \$-----; Minute funds \$-----.

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

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

[illegible]

