

MINUTES
of the
Seventy-Fifth Annual Session
of
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



CONVENED WITH
BUMPAS CREEK CHURCH
LAUDERDALE COUNTY, ALABAMA
Friday before the Third Sunday in September, 1953

MINUTES
of the
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

CONVENED WITH
BUMPAS CREEK CHURCH
LAUDERDALE COUNTY, ALABAMA
Friday before the Third Sunday in September, 1953

The next Association will convene with Piney Grove Church
on Friday before the Third Sunday in September, 1954,
at 11 o'clock a. m.

Associational Officers and Their Addresses

REV. B. H. SOUTHERLAND, <i>Moderator</i>	Lutts, Tennessee
REV. J. W. PHILLIPS, <i>Assistant Moderator</i>	Corinth, Mississippi
REV. L. L. WILSON, <i>Clerk</i>	Adamsville, Tennessee

Home Mission Board

BRO. FRANCE MASSENGILL, <i>Chairman</i>	Stantonville, Tennessee
BRO. ANDERSON JONES, <i>Secretary</i>	Stantonville, Tennessee
BRO. ROY L. HARPER, <i>Treasurer</i>	Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Associational Pastor

REV. J. C. McCLANAHAN	Florence, Alabama
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Examining Committee

REV. B. H. SOUTHERLAND	Lutts, Tennessee
REV. V. H. GEAN	Waterloo, Alabama
REV. W. M. BRILEY	Hillsboro, Alabama

Moderator of Fifth Sunday Meetings

REV. L. L. WILSON, <i>Moderator</i>	Adamsville, Tennessee
REV. L. R. CRAIG, <i>Assistant Moderator</i>	Leighton, Alabama
BRO. R. L. HARPER, <i>Clerk</i>	Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Board of Trustees

REV. W. C. JONES	Waterloo, Alabama
REV. V. H. GEAN	Waterloo, Alabama

Church Clerks and Their Addresses

Harmony—Claude A. Lowery, Leighton, Alabama

Mt. Zion—Joyce Jeffreys, Town Creek, Alabama

Midway—Miss Lela Mason, Leighton, Alabama, Route 2

Murphey's Chapel—Sister Vernett Ford, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 2

Second Creek—Mrs. Vernon Scott, Waterloo, Alabama, P. O. Box 35

Bumpas Creek—Bro. Marvin Michael, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 1

Piney Grove—Bro. Frank Wright, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 1

Mt. Olivet—Mrs. Clotel Jones, Florence, Alabama, Route 2

New Chapel—Sister Irene Robinson, Counce, Tennessee

Community—Bro. Raymond Horton, 421 Duncan Avenue, Florence, Alabama

Solitude—Sister Mary Finley, Adamsville, Tennessee, Route 4

Meek's Grove—Bro. Francis Massengill, Stantonville, Tennessee

Shady Grove—Mrs. Clairce Franks, Olive Hill, Tennessee, Route 2

Scott's Chapel—Bro. Roy L. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Fairview—Unknown

Maple Grove—Mrs. Herman L. Hagood, Madison, Alabama, Route 3

White's Creek—Mrs. Clarence Stricklin, Lutts, Tennessee

Lutts—Bro. John C. Warrington, Lutts, Tennessee

McFalls Chapel—Unknown

Raborn Chapel—Mrs. Clay Sherrill, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 2

Liberty—Mrs. W. E. Horton, Waynesboro, Tennessee, Route 4

Popular Springs—Mrs. Frank Smith, Iuka, Mississippi

New Pleasant Grove Church at Savannah—Sister Sue Webb, Savannah, Tennessee

New Home Church—Mrs. Cleo Lambert, Silerton, Tennessee

Pleasant Hill—Dr. C. C. Gaisser, Cherokee, Alabama, Route 1

Ordained Ministers and Addresses

Rev. L. R. Craig, Leighton, Alabama
Rev. J. W. Phillips, Corinth, Mississippi
Rev. W. C. Jones, Waterloo, Alabama
Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Rev. V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama
Rev. Eargen Warren, Lutts, Tennessee
Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee
Rev. Dewey Stults, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Rev. L. L. Moore, Morris Chapel, Tennessee
Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Rev. R. P. Owen, Adamsville, Tennessee
Rev. Floyd Michael, Waterloo, Alabama
Rev. B. H. Southerland, Lutts, Tennessee
Rev. W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Alabama
Rev. B. G. Gibson, Moulton, Alabama, Route 4
Rev. Earnest Wood, Iuka, Mississippi
Rev. Raphael Parker, Leighton, Alabama, Route 2
Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
Rev. G. W. Arnold, Unknown
Rev. L. J. Vandiver, Leighton, Alabama
Rev. Curtis Briley, Leighton, Alabama
Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama, Route 4
Rev. J. M. Harbin, Cherokee, Alabama, Route 1
Rev. Berlan Jones, Florence, Alabama

Licensed Ministers

Rev. Charlie Robbins, Waynesboro, Tennessee

Pastor and Assistant Pastor of Each Church and Their Addresses

Harmony—Rev. Clifford Kimbrough
Mt. Zion—Rev. W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Alabama
Midway—Rev. J. M. Pace, Phil Campbell, Alabama
Maple Grove—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Second Creek—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Lutts, Tennessee
Murphey's Chapel—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Lutts, Tennessee
Bumpas Creek—Rev. V. H. Gean and Lige Dickey
Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
Mt. Olivet—Rev. Burlon Jones, Florence, Alabama
Popular Springs—Rev. J. S. Whitehead, Paden, Mississippi
New Chapel—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Community—Rev. Theodore Norred, Florence, Alabama
Solitude—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Meek's Grove—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Lutts, Tennessee
Shady Grove—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Scott's Chapel—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
Fairview—Rev. V. H. Gean and Lige Dickey
Whites Creek—Rev. V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama
McFalls Chapel—Unknown
Lutts Church—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Lutts, Tennessee
Rayborn Chapel—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Liberty—Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah—Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee
New Home—Rev. V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama
Pleasant Hill—Rev. W. C. Jones, Waterloo, Alabama

PROCEEDINGS

Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. W. M. Briley. Adjourned to meet at one o'clock.

Friday Afternoon Session

Met according to previous adjournment with singing and Scripture reading by Rev. J. B. Harper, reading 34th Psalms and prayer by Bro. I. L. Stanley.

After reading of names of the Associational Officers, visitors were invited to sit with us.

Reading clerks appointed: Bro. Clarence Jeffreys and Bro. L. M. Gober.

Finance Committee: Bro. Anderson Jones, Bro. Alfred Austin, and Bro. Jake Craig.

Called for letters from various churches.

Harmony—By letters and delegates: Bro. Andrew McCaig, Bro. Lonnie Briley, and Bro. Clarence Berryman.

Mt. Zion—By letter and delegates: Bro. Clarence Jeffreys and Bro. Connie Frost.

Maple Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. Walter Lowery, Bro. Jake Craig, and Bro. Herman Hagood.

Midway Chapel—By letter and delegates: Sister Grace Pace, Bro. Lonnie Pace, and Sister Lorine Pace.

Solitude—By letter and delegates: Brother and Sister Fate Massengill and Brother Hallie Finley.

Second Creek—By letter and delegates: Bro. Virgil Hinton and Bro. Ansel Hinton.

Murphey's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Earl Dixon.

Bumpas Creek—By letter and delegates: Bro. Fred Lewis and Bro. James Smith.

Piney Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. Frank Wright, Bro. Jimmy Gillis, and Bro. Roscoe Brown.

Mt. Olivet—By letter and delegates: Sister Bula Hairrell.

New Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. George McKinney, Sister Grace McKinney, and Bro. Ben Hammock.

Community—By letter and delegates: Bro. L. M. Gober, Bro. Frank Valentine, and Bro. Raymond Horton.

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

Shady Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. William Sheppard and Bro. Clairce Franks.

Meek's Grove—By letter and delegates: Bro. Austin Kemp and Bro. Gib Barnes.

White's Creek—By letter and delegate: Bro. John Cox.

Popular Springs—By letter and delegate: Bro. E. B. Smith.

Fairview—No letter but delegate: Bro. A. J. Wilson.

McFalls Chapel—No letter.

Lutts—By letter and delegate: Sister Ruby Crowder.

Rayborn's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Bro. Lonzo Sherrill and Bro. Grady Phillips.

Liberty—By letter and delegate: Bro. Bill Horton.

New Pleasant Grove at Savannah: By letter and delegate: Bro. Bill White.

New Home—By letter and delegates: Bro. Frank Rankians and Bro. Ocie Patterson.

Petitionary Letter from Pleasant Hill and delegates: Bro. J. M. Harbin and Bro. Horace Stanfield.

The appointing of various committees:

General Business—Bro. Alvin Craig, Bro. J. A. Wilson, Bro. Clarence Berryman, Bro. Andrew McCaig, Bro. Fred Lewis, and Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

Sunday School—Bro. Walter Lowery, Bro. Massengill, and Bro. John Martin.

Educational—Rev. Elton Cotner, Rev. L. L. Moore, Bro. Lonzo Harper, and Rev. Nick White.

Temperance—Rev. Lige Dickey, Bro. Johnnie Cox, and Bro. Grady Phillips.

Obituary—Bro. Connie Frost, Bro. J. T. Gillis, and Bro. Herman Hagood.

Resolution of Thanks—Bro. Frank Wright, Bro. Frank Pigg, and Bro. Lonnie Pace.

Benevolence—Bro. Thomas Banks, Bro. Ocie Patterson, Bro. Gib Barnes, and Bro. Oscar Posey.

Business adjourned until Saturday morning at eight o'clock.

Friday night's service opened with prayer by Rev. L. L. Moore. Devotions were conducted by Rev. Nick White, with Preaching by Rev. Eargen Warren and Rev. J. B. Harper.

Saturday Morning Session

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. Raphael Parker, and prayer by Bro. J. G. Farrell.

General Business Report

We, your Committee on General Business, recommend that each church send \$35.00 or more to the Home Mission Board. The reason why raising the amount, on account of higher cost of living and expenses.

We also recommend that it be sent in by the first of the year.

We recommend that we continue the election of an associational pastor each year and that we get behind him with our finance and with our prayers. We recommend that any that is recommended by his church be licensed for twelve months, 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 recommend that deacons to be ordained be appointed for one year then be recommended to the ordaining council for ordination. We also recommend that they be granted a certificate of ordination when ordained.

We recommend that we retain an Examining Committee and place their names in the minutes.

We also recommend that any ordained minister with the quorum to organize churches as he sees fit by the authority of the Tennessee River Association.

We recommend that each church get its letter in to the association on Friday.

We, also recommend officers of the fifth Sunday meeting to be elected and place each fifth Sunday meeting at the last fifth Sunday meeting before the association.

Report adopted.

CLARENCE BERRYMAN, *Chairman*

Sunday School Committee

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg to submit the following: We have 15 churches with an average of 38 regular attendance, and we have 2 churches with Sunday schools but did not give any average attendance. We also have five churches without Sunday schools.

We recommend that these churches organize Sunday schools as soon as possible.

We recommend that the pastor and deacons of each church recommend and encourage Sunday schools.

We recommend that the parents go to Sunday school and carry the children that they might be more attentive to the Word of God, and invite every one to attend.

We also recommend that leaders of the Sunday school be true Christians, inviting every one to attend and encourage the young people.

We should pray earnestly for the upbuilding of our churches and Sunday schools and encourage the uplifting of God's kingdom while in this world.

Report adopted.

WALTER LOWERY, *Chairman*

Educational Committee

We, your Committee on Education, wish to submit the following: That each one of us devote more of our time to the study of the Bible and to educational enterprise, such as Sunday school work and constant prayer as there are many deceptions being worked in this day in which we now live to confuse and do away with our organized churches of various denominations. We should take a stand against some things that are being taught in our public schools of today that is not decent.

Report adopted.

L. L. MOORE, *Chairman*

Temperance Committee

We submit the following: We find the word *Temperance* in regard to such things as beer, wine, and whiskey to mean total abstinence. We should be temperate at home, at church, and at business. We find the Bible says be temperate in all things as our Lord is the light of the world, as we should be the light of the church.

Report adopted.

LIGE DICKEY, *Chairman*

Obituary Committee

We, your Committee on Obituary, beg leave to report with sadness that death has taken fifteen of our beloved members since our last association. Harmony, 3: Mrs. Emma Grissom, Mr. Ruff Landers, and Mr. Austin Utley; Mid-way Chapel, 1: Sister Maryan Channey; Solitude, 1: Sister Belle Martin; Second Creek, 1: Bro. Ben Butler; Bumpas Creek, 2: Sister Lucille White and Sister Lillie Austin; Piney Grove, 1: Bro. Leonard Vickrey; Mt. Olivet, 1: Bro. W. D. Vandvill; New Chapel, 1: Sister Maggie Fields; Community, 1: Sister Martha Ervin; Scotts Chapel, 1:

Sister Jennie Harper; Meeks Grove, 2: Bro. John Flatt and Sister Eliza Boleyn.
We pray our lost is heaven's gain.

Report adopted.

J. T. GILLIS, *Chairman*

Report of Benevolence

We, the Committee on Benevolence, recommend that each church give liberally to the support of orphan children everywhere, the Scriptures say pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

The Scripture says, not be a hearer only, but a doer also. If a man knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin.

We recommend that each pastor and deacons of each church ask for donations to send to the Orphan's Home.

Report adopted.

OCIE PATTERSON, *Chairman*

Report of Home Mission Board

Amount brought forward	\$ 45.66
Meek's Grove	25.00
Lutts	25.00
Bumpas Creek	25.00
Second Creek	25.00
Piney Grove	25.00
Scotts Chapel	25.00
Fairview	25.00
Mt. Zion	25.00
Maple Grove	25.00
Mid Way Chapel	25.00
Murphey's Chapel	25.00
New Chapel	25.02
Solitude	25.00
Harmony	25.00
Community	14.00
White's Creek	6.00
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah	13.00
Total	\$428.68
Amount Paid Associational Pastor	\$370.00
Amount Paid Treasurer	10.00

Amount Paid Associational Pastor at Association	30.00	
Amount Paid Out	\$410.00	410.00
Amount in Treasury		\$ 18.68

BRO. ROY L. HARPER, *Treasurer*
Address: Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Clerk's Report

Printing of Minutes	\$ 90.00
Paid Clerk	25.00
Mailing Expenses	3.94
Total Paid Out	\$118.94
Amount Paid In by Churches	\$117.84
Amount Turned In by Clerk Last Year	2.92
Total	\$120.76
Total Paid Out	\$118.94
Balance Left Over	\$ 1.82

REV. L. L. WILSON, *Clerk*
Address: Adamsville, Tennessee

Finance Committee Report

Mt. Zion	\$ 5.50
Harmony	5.00
Maple Grove	7.40
Solitude	7.07
Midway Chapel	4.00
Murphey's Chapel	6.05
Second Creek	5.85
Bumpas Creek	9.00
Piney Grove	4.50
Mt. Olivet	5.35
New Chapel	9.26
Community	5.50
Scott's Chapel	5.20
Shady Grove	3.50
Meek's Grove	6.95
White's Creek	3.00
Popular Springs	3.00

Fairview	3.70
Liberty	3.00
Raborn's Chapel	3.02
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah	4.50
New Home	5.45
Pleasant Hill	4.12
C. A. Freshour	.50
Left Over from Last Year	1.84
Total	\$123.26

Ordained Ministers and Their Reports

Rev. W. M. Briley—Pastored one church, received seven in church, baptized six, held one revival, assisted in two revivals, held one communion service, held one conference, conducted three funerals, 66 sermons, received \$608.98, mileage unknown, and expenses unknown.

Rev. J. W. Phillips—Verbal.

Rev. L. J. Vandiver—Absent.

Rev. V. H. Gean—Pastored two churches, conducted six revivals, assisted in one revival, conducted two communion services, held three conferences, conducted seven funerals, received 17 in church, baptized eleven, money received for pastor and revival work \$617.22, from Home Mission Board \$400.00, total \$1,017.22.

Rev. W. C. Jones—Verbal.

Rev. Elton Cotner—Pastored two churches, preached 74 sermons, conducted five revivals, held three conferences, held two communion services, conducted two funerals, baptized seven, money received \$340.82, expense unknown.

Rev. L. R. Craig—Verbal.

Rev. L. L. Moore—Verbal.

Rev. J. C. McClanahan—Verbal.

Rev. G. W. Arnold—Absent.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Pastored three churches, one half-time, held three revivals, assisted in three revivals, three communion services, conducted three funerals, assisted in three funerals, received seven in church, baptized four, held one conference, money received, \$1,473.96, miles and expenses unknown.

Rev. Eargen Warren—Verbal.

Rev. Dewey Stults—Absent.

Rev. Floyd Michael—Verbal.

Rev. Ernest Wood—Absent.

Rev. R. P. Owen—Absent.

Rev. L. L. Wilson—Pastored one church, two part time, and assisted in one, preached 70 sermons, conducted one funeral, conducted one communion service, conducted one revival, assisted in one revival, held two conferences, received eight in church, baptized two, money received \$311.04, traveled 7,650 miles to and from service.

Rev. B. H. Southerland—Pastored four churches, preached once each month at another church, conducted five revivals, assisted in three revivals, held three conferences, four communion services, conducted four funerals, assisted in two funerals, received eight in church, and baptized seven, money received \$900.32, expense unknown, mileage unknown.

Rev. Curtis Briley—Absent.

Rev. Boss Gipson—Absent.

Rev. Raphael Parker—Verbal.

Rev. Nick White—Verbal.

Rev. Lige Dickey—Assistant pastor of three churches, received in church one, assisted in five revivals, assisted in one communion service, money received \$342.70, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. Burlon Jones—Verbal.

Rev. J. M. Harbin—Verbal.

Moved to elect Associational Pastor. Elected Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Ala.

Moved to elect Moderator of Fifth Sunday Meetings. Elected Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, and L. R. Craig, Assistant Moderator.

Re-elected Bro. R. L. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee, Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk.

Re-elected Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee, Clerk of the Association.

Moved to elect Moderator and Assistant Moderator for the Association.

Elected Rev. B. H. Southerland, Moderator, Lutts, Tennessee.

Elected Rev. J. W. Phillips, Assistant Moderator, Corinth, Mississippi.

Minutes of Fifth Sunday Meetings read by clerk, Roy L. Harper, and turned in to go in the minute of the Association.

Adjourned the business session and turned the service over to Rev. J. M. Harbin, he bringing a short message.

Offering for Children's Homes to be divided equally was \$102.42.

Adjourned for a few minutes rest.

Rev. L. L. Moore and Rev. Elton Cotner brought the Saturday Morning messages for the 11 o'clock hour.

Saturday Afternoon Session

Presbyteria Session

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. L. R. Craig and prayer by Bro. Anderson Jones.

The Examining Committee consists of Rev. B. H. Southerland, Rev. V. H. Gean, and Rev. W. M. Briley, which were retained.

Assistant Moderator appointed a committee to arrange a program for the 1st fifth Sunday meeting. The committee appointed consists of Rev. Nick White, Bro. J. G. Farrell, Bro. Walter Lowery, and Bro. John Parvin.

In the absence of two of the Examining Committee, the Assistant Moderator appointed Rev. J. C. McClanahan and Rev. L. L. Wilson to work with Rev. W. M. Briley. The ones examined were Rev. J. M. Harbin, Rev. Lige Dickey, Rev. Burlon Jones, and Rev. Charlie Robbins, as preachers; Bro. M. C. Erwin and J. L. Reathford, as deacons. They were found worthy. Rev. J. C. McClanahan, read the qualifications and the ordination and licensing were taken care of.

Ministers' Cards Granted: Rev. L. R. Craig, Rev. J. W. Phillips, Rev. W. C. Jones, Rev. J. B. Harper, Rev. V. H. Gean, Rev. Eargen Warren, Rev. L. L. Wilson, Rev. Dewey Stults, Rev. L. L. Moore, Rev. Elton Cotner, Rev. R. P. Owen, Rev. Floyd Michael, Rev. Hollis Southerland, Rev. W. M. Briley, Rev. Curtis Briley, Rev. B. G. Gipson, Rev. Ernest Wood, Rev. Raphael Parker, Rev. Nick White, Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Rev. Lige Dickey, Rev. J. M. Harbin, and Rev. Burlon Jones.

A committee appointed to visit some other ministers that have been absent for some time. Their cards were held until the committee reports at the fifth Sunday meeting in November, 1953, at Scott's Chapel Church.

Resolution of Thanks

We, your committee, beg leave to report to this body as assembled together to give the people of Bumpas Creek Church and surrounding communities our sincere thanks for their kindness and hospitality shown us during the sitting of this association.

May the Grace of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit abide with us forever. If we never meet again on earth may we meet in heaven in one eternal gathering together.

BRO. FRANK WRIGHT, *Chairman*

Fifth Sunday Meetings for the Ensuing Year

The committee appointed to place fifth Sunday meetings were Bro. Jimmy Gillis, Bro. Raymond Horton, and Bro. Ocie Patterson. Their decisions are as follows:

1—November, 1953 Scott's Chapel

2—January, 1954 New Chapel at Pickwick

3—May, 1954 Solitude

4—August, 1954 Bumpas Creek

The next Association will convene with Piney Grove Church on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1954, at 11 a. m.

Adjourned until Saturday night service with Rev. Lige Dickey, Rev. L. L. Wilson, and Rev. W. H. Ryland bringing the messages, We were happy to have six of the children from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Eldridge, Alabama, visit us.

Sunday Morning Session

Opened by singing and prayer, Rev. Burlon Jones and Rev. J. W. Phillips bringing the closing messages at 11 o'clock.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting At Second Creek Church

NOVEMBER, 1952

Saturday Morning Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Lige Dickey and Bro. J. C. McClanahan.

Opening message delivered by Bro. J. D. Jackson, a Free Will Baptist minister from Oklahoma. Reading 1st chapter of I Peter, and bringing a good message.

Dismissed by Bro. L. R. Craig.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by V. H. Gean. Scripture reading and a short talk by Bro. L. R. Craig, followed with talks by Bro. Eargen Warren, Bro. Floyd Michael, Bro. Lige Dickey, and Bro. V. H. Gean; having a good service.

Then going into the business session with 10 churches represented; 7 deacons and 7 ministers present. First reading a letter from Bro. W. E. Smith, wanting to exchange his Free Will Baptist Credentials for the Missionary Baptist; papers that he turned in to us. A move and second was made and passed on by the body that Bro. Wilson send his old papers to Missionary Baptist Ass'n., and Bro. Gean talk to him and see if he would turn in the ones that he now holds.

A committee was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting, the three appointed were: Rev. V. H. Gean, Bro. Frances Massengill, and Bro. Roy L. Harper.

Nothing more to come before the body the business session was closed with a move and second.

Dismissed by Bro. J. D. Jackson.

Saturday Night Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Raphael Parker and Bro. Eargen Warren.

Devotional conducted by Bro. J. C. McClanahan, reading a part of 7th Chapter of Romans, beginning at the 14th verse.

Preaching by Bro. B. H. Southerland, Reading Luke 16:1-8; closing with an old time hand shake.

Dismissed by Bro. Alfred Austin.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. J. B. Harper. Preaching by Bro. Raphael Parker, reading a part of the 25th Chapter of Matthew, using the subject "The Open Door."

Followed by Bro. Nick White, reading Psalms 1:1; bringing a good message.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. J. C. McClanahan, a mighty good song service. A short message by Bro. B. H. Southerland, followed by Bro. J. B. Harper, having a good and glorious service. Closing with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Bro. B. H. Southerland.

REV. B. H. SOUTHERLAND, *Moderator*

BRO. ROY L. HARPER, *Clerk*

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting At New Home Church

MARCH, 1953

Saturday Morning Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. J. B. Harper.

Opening message was delivered by Bro. B. H. Southerland, reading Luke 5:17-27, bringing a wonderful message.

Dismissed by Bro. L. L. Wilson.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. V. H. Gean. Preaching by Bro. L. L. Moore, reading Matt. 24 and bringing a good message. A short message by Bro. Elton Cotner, reading Cor. 13.

Some good talks by Bro. Floyd Michael, Bro. Nick White, and Bro. V. H. Gean, followed by singing a song.

Then going into the business part with 12 churches represented, 5 deacons, and 10 preachers. First reading the minutes of the last 5th Sunday meeting. The body being satisfied of Bro. W. E. Smith's credentials already turned in to the Clerk, Bro. Gean, was released. Bro. L. L. Wilson asked the body what for him

to do about his ordination papers being lost. The Clerk was granted authority to fix him some credentials dating them back like his old ones.

A committee was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. They were: Rev. Nick White, Bro. G. J. Farrell, and Bro. Charley Robins. Nothing more came before the body. The business part was closed by move and second.

Dismissed by Bro. L. L. Moore.

Saturday Night Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. L. L. Wilson. Devotional conducted by Bro. Lige Dickey, with preaching by Bro. L. L. Wilson, followed by Bro. J. B. Harper, having a mighty good service.

Dismissed by Bro. G. J. Farrell.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. J. W. Phillips and Bro. J. C. McClanahan.

Message was delivered by Bro. J. C. McClanahan, reading Heb. 13:7-21, having a wonderful service with one conversion, Bro. Gean's daughter, Yevonne.

Closing with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Bro. Nick White.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Bishop. Message by Bro. J. W. Phillips, using the subject "My Weeping Christ," having a good service. Closing with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Bro. R. P. Owen.

REV. B. H. SOUTHERLAND, *Moderator*

BRO. ROY L. HARPER, *Clerk*

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting At Piney Grove Church

MAY, 1953

Saturday Morning Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. W. M. Briley. Opening message was delivered by Bro. V. H. Gean, reading 2 Timothy 2:1-12, bringing a good message.

Dismissed by Bro. Theodore Norred.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Linard Vickery and Bro. Lige Dickey. Preaching by Bro. J. B. Harper, reading Eph. 6:1-20. Using the subject "Put On the Hold Armour of God." A short talk by Bro. Norred.

The business session was called to order by the Moderator, Bro. B. H. Southerland, with 10 churches represented, 5 preachers and 1 visiting preacher, and 4 deacons.

Reading the minutes of the last fifth Sunday meeting.

A committee was appointed by the Moderator to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting, they were: Bro. V. H. Gean, Bro. L. L. Wilson, Bro. Alford Auston, and Roy L. Harper.

The business session was closed by move and second.

Dismissed by Bro. Charlie Robins.

Saturday Night Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. L. R. Craig and Bro. Wayford Beery. A special song by Bro. Craig and girls.

Devotional conducted by Bro. Nick White. Preaching by Bro. Lige Dickey, reading Matt. 22:35-40, bringing a wonderful message.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Curtis Briley. A short talk by Bro. L. L. Wilson, the assistant moderator.

Preaching by Bro. W. M. Briley, using for his text "The Foundation, Christ Jesus," having a good service.

Dismissed by Bro. Wayford Berry.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Ira Gillis. Preaching by Bro. J. W. Phillips, followed by Bro. J. C. McClanahan.

REV. B. H. SOUTHERLAND, *Moderator*

BRO. ROY L. HARPER, *Clerk*

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting At New Pleasant Grove Church

AUGUST, 1953

Saturday Morning Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. L. L. Moore, Bro. Lige Dickey, and Bro. J. C. McClanahan. Opening message was delivered by Bro. B. H. Southerland, reading Is. 55:1-13, bringing a wonderful message. They still owed some on the church building, so a free will offering was taken, receiving \$26.94.

Dismissed by Bro. L. R. Craig.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. L. R. Craig. Preaching by Bro. Nick White, reading a part of Matt. 3, having a good service. Then into the business part with 17 churches represented, 10 preachers with 1 visitor, and 10 deacons. Reading the minutes of the last fifth Sunday meeting, finding no unfinished business.

Calling for new business. A move and second from the body to take up a Free will offering for the clerk of the fifth Sunday meeting, receiving \$16.00 for the year. The business session was closed with a move and second.

A message by Bro. Eargen Warren, reading John 13:32-35. A short talk by Bro. Webb. Church Covenant read by Bro. B. H. Southerland.

Dismissed by Bro. V. H. Gean.

Saturday Night Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Elton Cotner, and Bro. Doyal Michael. Devotional conducted by Bro. L. L. Moore, reading 1st chapter of St. John. Preaching by Bro. J. C. McClannahan, bringing a good message.

Dismissed by Bro. V. H. Gean.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. J. W. Phillips and Bro. Henderson. Preaching by Bro. J. B. Harper, reading Matt. 2:1-9, using for a thought "Where Is He," having a good service. Another offering for the church, receiving \$26.64.

Dismissed by Bro. L. R. Craig.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Bro. G. J. Farrell. A program by the remaining preachers. Short talks by Bro. J. W. Phillips, Bro. L. R. Craig, Bro. Elton Cotner, Bro. Lige Dickey, Bro. Gean, Bro. Floyd Michael, Bro. L. L. Wilson, and four visiting preachers, Bro. Smith, Bro. Borden, Bro. Henderson, and Bro. McGee. Closing with an old-time hand shake, having a good service.

Donation to the little afflicted Freshair girl, receiving \$39.35.

Dismissed by Bro. B. H. Southerland.

REV. B. H. SOUTHERLAND, *Moderator*
BRO. ROY L. HARPER, *Clerk*

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 to reception of members.
- 5—Reading minutes of previous conferences.
- 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 Baptists*, 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 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 the compact, and expel 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 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 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.

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

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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 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 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 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, suffering, death and resurrection affected 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 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 believes in Christ, who through grace preserve 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, JUDGEMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION—

The scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the Last Day. 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 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

_____, 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 greetings to the ministers and messengers composing the Tennessee River
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 elect-
ed 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 _____

CHURCHES

Churches	Deacons	Licensed Ministers	Ordained Ministers	By Restoration	Received by Letter	Withdrawals	Expelled	Dismissed by Letter	Deaths	About Given	Children's Home	Minute Fund	Membership	Pastoral Help	Amount Paid	Ass't Pastor	Amount Paid Pastor	Church Value	Average Attendance	S. S. Enrollment	Experience	Baptisms	Home Mission Funds	Meeting Days
Harmony	1	3	3						3	\$		\$5.00	101	\$			\$246.00	\$1,500.00	32.48				\$25.00	
Mt. Zion	1	3	3						1			5.50	131	52.00			104.50	1,500.00	45.56				27	25.00
Midway	1	3	3						1			4.00	78	52.00			158.64	1,500.00	40.73				27	25.00
Second Creek	1	3	3						1			5.80	31	24.65			132.15	1,500.00	29.25				13	25.00
Murphey's Chapel	1	3	3						1	8.10		6.05	43	33.00			110.80	1,500.00	30.50				3	25.00
Bumpas Creek	1	3	3						1			9.00	100	32.30			110.80	1,500.00	30.50				3	25.00
Piney Grove	1	3	3						1			4.50	128	32.30			110.80	1,500.00	30.50				3	25.00
Mt. Olivet	1	3	3						1			5.35	75	15.50			45.75	800.00	35				3	25.00
New Chapel	1	3	3						1			9.26	57	125.00			393.00	1,500.00	45.53				4	25.00 3rd
Community	1	3	3						1			5.50	82	96.87			269.70	1,500.00	50.90				4	14.00
Solitude	1	3	3						1			121.83	139	136.00			436.00	1,000.00	55.75				6	25.00 1st
Meek's Grove	1	3	3						1			7.07	139	136.00			436.00	1,000.00	55.75				1	25.00 1st
Shady Grove	1	3	3						1			137.04	139	136.00			436.00	1,000.00	55.75				1	25.00 4th
Scott's Chapel	1	3	3						1			6.95	52	66.57			138.67	1,000.00	42.66				1	25.00 1st
Fairview	1	3	3						1			3.50	80	18.79			164.17	1,250.00	73.97				1	25.00 1st
Maple Grove	1	3	3						1			5.20	101	21.00			139.55	1,250.00	40.60				1	25.00
White's Creek	1	3	3						1			7.40	91	106.26			350.07	1,000.00	40.60				1	25.00
Latts	1	3	3						1			3.00	22	40.00			260.00	1,000.00	40.60				1	25.00
McFalls	1	3	3						1			3.00	14	72.00			128.15	1,000.00	15.20				3	25.00
Rayborn	1	3	3						1			3.00	49	11.00			106.95	1,000.00	30.38				3	25.00
Liberty	1	3	3						1			3.00	49	11.00			106.95	1,000.00	30.38				3	25.00
Poplar Springs	1	3	3						1			3.00	49	11.00			106.95	1,000.00	30.38				3	25.00
New Home	1	3	3						1			5.45	45	50.90			264.93	2,000.00	25.42				4	13.00 1st & 3rd
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah	1	3	3						1			4.50	23	52.00			123.34	2,000.00	25.42				4	13.00 1st & 3rd
Pleasant Hill	1	3	3						1			4.12	23	52.00			123.34	2,000.00	25.42				4	13.00 1st & 3rd

