

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

Convened with
NEW PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH
HARDIN COUNTY, TENNESSEE
Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1955



OFFICERS

Rev. B. H. Southerland, Moderator Savannah, Tennessee
Rev. J. W. Phillips, Assistant Moderator Corinth, Mississippi
Rev. L. L. Wilson, Clerk Adamsville, Tennessee

The next association will convene with Murphy's Chapel Church on
Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1956, at 11 o'clock a. m.

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Associational Officers and Their Addresses

Rev. B. H. Southerland, Moderator Savannah, Tennessee
Rev. J. B. Harper, Assistant Moderator Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Bro. W. W. Berry, Clerk Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Home Mission Board

Bro. G. J. Farrell, Chairman Adamsville, Tennessee
Bro. Anderson Jones, Secretary Stantonville, Tennessee
Bro. Roy L. Harper, Treasurer Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Associational Pastor

Rev. V. H. Gean Waterloo, Alabama

Examining Committee

Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee; Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn,
Tennessee; Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

Officers of Fifth Sunday Meetings

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator Adamsville, Tennessee
Rev. Lige Dickey, Assistant Moderator Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Bro. R. L. Harper, Clerk Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Board of Trustees

Rev. V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama
Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee

Church Clerks and Their Addresses

Harmony—Claude T. Lowery, Leighton, Alabama, Route 1
Mt. Zion—Mrs. Gladys Jeffreys, Town Creek, Alabama, Route 1, Box 40
Midway—Lela Hall, Leighton, Alabama, Route 2
Murphey's Chapel—Sister Vernetta Ford, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 2
Second Creek—Mrs. Vernon Scott, Waterloo, Alabama, P. O. Box 35
Bumpas Creek—Mrs. Robert Benson, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 1
Piney Grove—Bro. Frank Wright, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 1
Mt. Olivet—Sister Artie Jones
New Chapel—Sister Irene Robinson, Counce, Tennessee
Solitude—Mrs. Mary Finley, Adamsville, Tennessee, Route 4
Meek's Grove—Bro. Austin Kemp, Stantonville, Tennessee
Shady Grove—Mrs. Clairce Franks, Olive Hill, Route 2
Scott's Chapel—Bro. Roy L. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Fairview—Sister Thelma M. Dixon, Iron City, Tennessee, Route 1
Maple Grove—Miss Fleta Lowery, Madison, Alabama, Route 3
White's Creek—Mrs. Ora Stricklin, Lutts, Tennessee
Lutts—Bro. Grady Sinclair, Lutts, Tennessee
Rayborn Chapel—Mrs. Effie Sherrill, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 2
Liberty—Mrs. W. E. Horton, Waynesboro, Tennessee, Route 4

Popular Springs—Unknown

New Pleasant Grove Church, at Savannah—Yvonne Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee

New Home Church—Mrs. Ethel Davidson, Henderson, Tennessee, Route 4

Pleasant Hill—Mrs. Minnie Bell Lamb, Cherokee, Alabama

McGlamery—Mrs. Arlie Hanback, Collinwood, Tennessee

Ordained Ministers and Addresses

J. W. Phillips, Corinth, Mississippi

Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee

W. C. Jones, Waterloo, Alabama

G. W. Arnold, Unknown

J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

L. J. Vandiver, Leighton, Alabama

V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama

Curtis Briley, Town Creek, Alabama,

L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee

Rt. 1

Dewey Stults, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

L. L. Moore, Morris Chapel, Tennessee

J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama

Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

Rt. 4

R. P. Owen, Adamsville, Tennessee

J. M. Harbin, Cherokee, Alabama, Rt. 1

B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee

Burlon Jones, Florence, Alabama

W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Alabama

Licensed Ministers

Earnest Wood, Iuka, Mississippi

Earl Dickson, Waterloo, Alabama

Pastor and Assistant Pastor of Each Church and Their Addresses

Harmony—Rev. C. C. Kimbrough, Phil Campbell, Alabama, Route 1

Mt. Zion—Rev. W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Alabama

Midway—Rev. Earl Dickson, Waterloo, Alabama

Maple Grove—Rev. C. C. Kimbrough, Phil Campbell, Alabama, Route 1

Second Creek—Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee

Murphey's Chapel—Rev. Hollis Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee, and Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama, Route 4, assistant pastor.

Bumpas Creek—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee, and Rev. Earl Dickson, Waterloo, Alabama, assistant pastor.

Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee

Mt. Olivet—Unknown

Popular Springs—Unknown

New Chapel—Rev. Hollis Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee

Solitude—Rev. W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Alabama

Meek's Grove—Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Shady Grove—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

Scott's Chapel—Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama, Route 4

Fairview—Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

White's Creek—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

Lutts—

Rayborn Chapel—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

Liberty—

New Pleasant Grove at Savannah—Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee, and Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee, assistant pastor.

New Home—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee

Pleasant Hill—Rev. J. M. Harbin, Cherokee, Alabama

McGlamery—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee

PROCEEDINGS

Introduction sermon was delivered by the moderator, Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee. 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 Psalm 119, and prayer by Rev. V. H. Gean.

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

Reading clerks appointed: Brother Wayford Berry and Brother Emerald Bailey.

Finance committee appointed by moderator, Rev. B. H. Southerland: Brother George Geans, Brother U. G. Lowery and Rev. Elton Cotner.

Called for letters from various churches:

Harmony—By letter and delegates: Brother Hoyt Fretwell, Sister Rachel Fretwell and Brother John H. Lowery.

Mt. Zion—By letter and delegates: Brother Clarence Jeffreys, Brother Connie Frost and Brother Frank Winningham.

Maple Grove—By letter and delegates: Brother U. G. Lowery and Brother Jake Craig.

Midway Chapel—By letter and delegates: Sister Anna George, Brother Richard Poston and Sister Lela Hall.

Solitude—By letter and delegates: Sister Mary Weeks, Brother Shannon Weeks and Brother Oddie Hanna.

Second Creek—By letter and delegates: Brother Billie Hinton and Brother Virgil Hinton.

Murphey's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Clifford Ford and Brother Tommie McClannahan.

Bumpas Creek—By letter and delegates: Brother Jess Scott and Brother Hamp Tune.

Piney Grove—By letter and delegates: Brother Nolie Banks, Brother Ira Gillis and Brother Lonzo Wright.

Mt. Olivet—By letter and delegates: Brother Dallas Jones and Sister Cloteel Jones.

New Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother George McKinney, Sister Grace McKinney and Sister Ruth Phillips.

Scott's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Thurman Stults and Brother Roy Brewer.

Shady Grove—By letter and delegates: Brother Bud Hubbard, Sister Sarah Sheppard and Sister Rosalee Clay.

Meek's Grove—By letter and delegates: Brother Austin Kemp and Brother Vandiver.

White's Creek—By letter and delegates: Brother Eldredge Weatherford and Brother Leroy Thompson.

Popular Springs—By letter and delegates: Brother E. B. Smith and Brother Bob Jaslin.

Fairview—By letter and delegate: Brother Emerald Bailey.

Lutts—By letter and delegate: Brother John C. Warrington.

Rayborn's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Thomas Earl Reathiford and Sister Myrtle Bratcher.

Liberty—By letter and delegate: Brother Bill Horton.

New Pleasant Grove at Savannah—By letter and delegate: Brother Henry Scott.

New Home—By letter and delegates: Brother Joe Garner and Brother Brooks Burkhead.

Pleasant Hill—By letter and delegate: Brother J. M. Harbin.

McGlamery—By letter and delegates: Brother Edgar Robertson and Brother Arnett Butler. Petitionary letter.

Appointing of Various Committees

General Business—Rev. W. M. Briley, Rev. J. B. Harper, Rev. Nick White, Rev. J. C. McClanahan and Rev. V. H. Gean. Appointed by Rev. B. H. Southerland, moderator.

Sunday School—Brother George McKinney, Sister Grace McKinney and Sister Matie Ruth Phillips. Appointed by Rev. J. W. Phillips.

Educational—Brother Edgar Robinson, Brother Ira Gillis, Brother John H. Lowrey, Brother J. C. Frost and Brother Lonzo Wright. Appointed by Rev. B. H. Southerland.

Temperance—Rev. Earl Dickson, Brother Doyle Michael, Reverend J. M. Harbin, Brother John Warrington and Brother G. J. Farrell.

Obituary—Brother Oddie Hanna, Brother Brooks Burkhead, Brother Virgil Hinton, Brother Frank Winningham and Brother Jess Scott.

Resolution of Thanks—Brother Jake Craig, Brother James H. Vandiver and Brother Anderson Jones.

Benevolence—Brother Alf Layton, Brother Herbert Clay, Brother Clarence Strickland, Brother Alfred Austin and Brother Arlis Garner.

Business adjourned until Saturday morning at eight-thirty o'clock.

Friday Evening

Friday night's service opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Dewey Stults and Rev. L. L. Moore. Preaching by Rev. W. M. Briley and Rev. V. H. Gean.

Saturday Morning Session

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. Curtis Briley, reading 1 Corinthians, 8th chapter, followed with prayer by Rev. J. B. Harper and Rev. James H. Vandiver.

General Business Report

We, your committee on general business, recommend that each church send \$25.00 or more to the home missions board. We also recommend that it be

sent in by the first of the year. We recommend that each preacher pay the tenth out of money he receives for ministerial work to home missions board. We also recommend that it be paid quarterly. 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 to preach, be licensed for twelve months, then if his church further recommends him to the ordaining council at the end of twelve months, and if he is qualified, that he 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 a quorum organize churches as he sees fit by the authority of the Tennessee River Association.

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

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

We also recommend that we pay our fifth Sunday meeting clerk \$25.00 for service and pay him out of the home mission treasury.

Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Chairman

Report adopted.

Sunday School Committee

We, your committee on Sunday schools, beg to submit the following:

We have 19 churches with an enrollment of 1,048 and the average of 55 regular attendance. We have 4 churches without Sunday schools.

We recommend these churches to organize a Sunday school, if possible.

We recommend that pastors and deacons of each church encourage the Sunday school.

We recommend that the parents go to Sunday school and carry their children that they might be more attentive to the Word of God.

We recommend that leaders of the Sunday school be true Christians, inviting everyone 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.

Brother George McKinney, Chairman

Report adopted.

Educational Committee

We, your committee on education, wish to recommend the following:

We suggest that parents and leaders in our churches and homes study the Bible and Christian literature more, so they will be more prepared to teach in our Sunday schools and Christian worship.

We recommend that parents visit our schools more often and co-operate with the teachers as long as it is not against the teaching of the Bible and stand against that which is wrong.

We find the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Brother John H. Lowery, Chairman

Report adopted.

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 in 1 Corinthians 9:25, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." We find temperance, added to the things that are unto godliness, in 2 Peter 1:5, 6: "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness."

Let us be willing to study the many other Scriptures which teach temperance.

Rev. Earl Dixon, Chairman

Report adopted.

Obituary Committee

We, your committee on obituaries, beg leave to report with sadness that death has taken eight of our members since the last association. White's Creek-1, Oveda Strickland; Popular Springs-1, Brother John Arnold; New Home-2, Brother Ben Coupples and Sister M. E. Crouse; Midway Church-1, Brother Lilbern Kidd; New Chapel-1, Mrs. Fannie Pyron; Piney Grove-1, Mrs. Sarah Jane Horton; Rayborn Chapel-1, Brother Tom Stricklin.

We pray our loss is heaven's gain.

Brother Frank Winningham, Chairman

Report adopted.

Report of Benevolence

We, your committee on benevolence, recommend that each church give liberally to the support of each church, according to ability, and also, to the support of orphans. According to Scripture, visit widows and orphans in their afflictions, and keep yourself unspotted from the world. This is undefiled religion before God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother Alfred Austin, Chairman

Report adopted.

Clerk's Report

Received

Amount Paid in by Churches	\$111.84
Turned in by Clerk Last Year	1.30

Total Received	\$113.14
Disbursed	
Printing Minutes	\$ 82.00
Paid Clerk	25.00
Mailing Expenses	2.46
Total Paid Out	109.46
Balance in Treasury	\$ 3.68

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Clerk
 Adamsville, Tennessee

Report accepted.

Report of Home Mission Board

Amount Brought Forward	\$ 98.75
Harmony	None
Mt. Zion	25.00
Midway	10.25
Murphey's Chapel	35.00
Second Creek	32.00
Bumpas Creek	None
Piney Grove	25.65
Mt. Olivet	None
New Chapel	35.00
Solitude	35.00
Meek's Chapel	35.00
Shady Grove	21.15
Scott's Chapel	35.00
Fairview	35.00
Maple Grove	25.00
White's Creek	None
Lutts	25.00
Rayborn Chapel	11.00
Liberty	None
Poplar Springs	None
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah	35.00
New Home	16.78
Pleasant Hill	None
McGlamery	None
Freewill Offering for Children's Home	10.00
Total Paid In	\$545.58
Total Paid Out	536.65
Balance	\$ 8.93
With Agreement with the Associational Pastor, Paid on Tent	\$315.20
Amount Paid Associational Pastor	160.00

Amount Paid Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk	25.00
Amount Sent to Children's Home	10.00
Amount Paid for Piano Covering	16.45
Amount Paid for Treasurer Fee	10.00
Total Paid Out	\$536.65

Roy L. Harper, Treasurer
Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Report adopted.

Finance Committee Report

Harmony	\$ 5.00
Mt. Zion	7.25
Midway Chapel	4.00
Scitudo	7.00
Second Creek	4.00
Maple Grove	5.25
Murphey's Chapel	6.00
Bumpas Creek	6.50
Piney Grove	4.85
New Chapel	15.15
Scott's Chapel	8.55
Shady Grove	4.00
Meek's Grove	5.05
White's Creek	4.00
Poplar Springs	5.00
Fairview	3.00
Lutts	3.00
Rayborn Chapel	3.60
Liberty	3.00
New Pleasant Grove at Savannah	7.81
New Home	6.00
Pleasant Hill	2.00
McGlamery	4.20
Mt. Olivet	3.50
Total	\$127.71

Rev. Elton Cotner, Chairman

Report adopted.

Ordained Ministers and Their Reports

Rev. W. M. Briley—Pastored 2 churches, held 2 revivals, received in church 4, held 2 communion services, held 1 conference, held 3 funerals, preached 100 sermons, received \$696.40, expenses unknown, mileage unknown, assisted in 2 revivals.

Rev. J. W. Phillips—Verbal.

Rev. L. J. Vandiver—Absent.

Rev. V. H. Gean—Pastored 1 church half-time, received in church 1, baptized 1, held 1 communion service, held 1 conference, conducted 2 revivals and assisted in 1, conducted 4 funerals and assisted in 2, money received \$319.04.

Rev. W. C. Jones—Absent.

Rev. Elton Cotner—Pastored 3 churches, held 3 revivals and assisted in 1, held 3 communion services, held 4 conferences, conducted 2 funerals, preached 81 sermons, money received \$463.56, expense unknown, miles traveled unknown.

Rev. L. L. Moore—Verbal.

Rev. J. C. McClanahan—Organized 1 church, pastored 1 church, conducted 5 revivals, received in church 2, baptized 2, conducted 1 communion service and 1 conference, offering, \$113.67, received from home mission board \$160.00, for pastoral work \$98.16, total received \$371.83.

Rev. G. W. Arnold—Absent.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Pastored 3 churches, conducted 3 revivals and assisted in two revivals, held 2 communion services, held 2 conferences, money received \$1,255.03, expenses unknown, paid to church which pastored \$145.31, paid home church and other causes \$50.60.

Rev. Dewey Stults—Verbal.

Rev. Ernest Wood—Verbal.

Rev. R. P. Owen—Absent.

Rev. L. L. Wilson—Pastored 3 churches, conducted 3 revivals, held 4 conferences, conducted 3 communion services, assisted in 2 communion services, conducted 2 funerals, received in church 8, baptized 1, money received \$641.78, preached 118 sermons, traveled 6,711 miles to and from services, expenses unknown.

Rev. B. H. Southerland—Pastored 3 churches, pastored 1 church half-time, conducted 3 revivals, assisted in 6 revivals, received 29 in church, baptized 15, conducted 3 communion services, conducted 2 conferences, conducted 3 funerals, assisted in 1 funeral, money received \$1,543.47, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. Curtis Briley—Verbal.

Rev. Nick White—Pastored 3 churches, held 4 revivals, assisted in 1 revival, witnessed 3 conversions, baptized 1, received in church 7, held 1 funeral, held 3 communion services, money received \$394.57.

Rev. Lige Dickey—Verbal.

Rev. Burlon Jones—Pastored 1 church, held 1 revival, held 1 conference, held 1 communion service, preached 37 sermons, miles traveled 2,521, money received \$71.80, expenses unknown.

Rev. J. M. Harbin—Verbal.

Licensed Minister's Report

Rev. Earl Dixon—Assistant pastor of 1 church, assisted in 2 revivals, baptized 8, money received \$126.23, expense unknown.

Moved to elect associational pastor. Elected Rev. V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama.

Officers of the fifth Sunday meeting were elected at the last fifth Sunday meeting before the association. They are as follows: Rev. L. L. Wilson, moderator; Rev. Lige Dickey, assistant moderator; Brother Roy L. Harper, clerk.

Re-elected Rev. B. H. Southerland, moderator; Rev. J. B. Harper, assistant moderator; elected Brother W. W. Berry, clerk. They hold office for two years.

Minutes of fifth Sunday meetings were read by clerk, Brother Roy L. Harper, and turned in to go in the minute of the association.

Elected home mission board: Brother J. G. Farrell, re-elected Brother Anderson Jones and Brother Roy L. Harper.

It was passed by the body for the trustees to investigate some property near Dyersburg, Tennessee, to see if it legally belongs to the Tennessee River Association.

Adjourned the business session for a few minutes rest.

Rev. Burlon Jones and Rev. L. L. Moore brought the Saturday morning messages at the 11 o'clock hour.

Saturday Afternoon Session

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. J. C. McClanahan, reading 1 Corinthians, 13th chapter, and prayer by Rev. M. D. Seago.

Moderator of fifth Sunday meeting, Rev. L. L. Wilson, took charge of the presbyterial session.

Move and second to retain the same examining committee. In the absence of Rev. Lige Dickey, Rev. V. H. Gean was appointed to serve in his place. They examined one man to be ordained for a deacon. The committee made their report. They found Brother Daulton Bratcher to be qualified for a deacon. Rev. J. C. McClanahan read the qualifications and duties of a deacon.

Ministers' Cards Granted: Revs. J. W. Phillips, W. C. Jones (card held), J. B. Harper, B. H. Southerland, L. L. Wilson, Dewey Stults, L. L. Moore, Elton Cotner, R. P. Owen, V. H. Gean, W. M. Briley, Curtis Briley, Nick White, J. C. McClanahan, Lige Dickey, J. M. Harbin, Burlon Jones, L. J. Vandiver, George Arnold and Ernest Wood.

The next association will convene with Murphey's Chapel Church, about one-half mile east of highway 69, North Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1956, at 11 o'clock.

Fifth Sunday Meetings for the Ensuing Year

The committee appointed to place fifth Sunday meetings were: Rev. L. L. Moore, Brother Ben Brown, Brother Anderson Jones, Brother Wayford Berry and Brother Roy L. Harper.

Their Decisions are as follows:

1-October, 1955 Meek's Grove
2-January, 1956 Scott's Chapel

3-April, 1956 _____ New Chapel
4-July, 1956 _____ Fairview

Adjourned until Saturday night.

Saturday Night Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey. Rev. Elton Cotner conducted a devotional service, then the service was turned over to Rev. Dewey Stults, followed by Rev. J. C. McClanahan, bringing some good messages.

Resolution of Thanks

We, your committee, beg leave to report to this body as assembled together, and to express our heartfelt thanks for your hospitality and your love for God that has taught you to sacrifice for our comfort.

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.

Brother James H. Vandiver, Chairman

Sunday Morning Session

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother Clifford Ford, preaching by Rev. J. B. Harper and Rev. Earl Dixon, reading 2nd chapter of 1 Corinthians. The association closed with an old-time hand shake and everybody happy.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT BUMPAS CREEK CHURCH, OCTOBER, 1954

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brothers Edwin Smith, B. H. Southerland and J. M. Harbin. The opening message was delivered by Brother Nick White, reading Deuteronomy 8, followed by Brother Lige Dickey, taking up the subject "Chastising." Services were closed with an old-fashioned hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother Floyd Michael.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Brother Edwin and Brother Ben Brown. Preaching by Brother L. L. Moore, reading a part of the 4th chapter of Timothy, bring a wonderful message.

Going into the business session we had 11 churches represented with 6 deacons and 9 preachers present.

Called for unfinished business: A committee was appointed at the association to visit Brother Earnest Wood and report at the fifth Sunday meeting. The committee recommended that he be granted a card. A move was made by Brother J. M. Harbin and seconded by Brother B. H. Southerland, to grant him a card. The committee was released.

New business: A committee was appointed as follows to arrange a program for the fifth Sunday meetings: Rev. B. H. Southerland, Brother A. C. Layton, and

Brother Ben Brown. Nothing more came before the body so the business session closed by a move and second.

Dismissed by Brother J. M. Harbin.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Elton Cotner and Brother J. C. McClanahan. Preaching by Brother J. B. Harper, reading Luke 6:21-31 and using the subject, "Hungry to Walk Side by Side." This was followed with a message by Brother L. L. Wilson, reading Isaiah 55 and bringing a wonderful message.

Dismissed by Brother G. J. Farrell.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Charlie Robbins and Brother V. H. Gean. Preaching by Brother B. H. Southerland, reading Revelation 21:7-27 and bringing a wonderful message. Closing with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother G. J. Farrell.

Sunday-Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Wayford Berry. Some short talks were made by the remaining preachers present: Brother J. C. McClanahan and four visiting ministers: Brother Edwin Smith, Brother Hill, Brother Lonnie Bishop and Brother Evans. Brother J. M. Harbin then announced Brother Earl Dixon, who announced himself as a young minister and gave a good talk.

Dismissed by Brother Lonnie Bishop.

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, Adamsville, Tenn.

Rev. V. H. Gean, Assistant Moderator, Waterloo, Ala.

Roy L. Harper, Clerk, Cypress Inn, Tenn.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT NEW HOME CHURCH, JANUARY, 1955

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother L. L. Moore. The opening message was delivered by Brother L. L. Wilson, reading Psalm 50:14-23, followed with a message by Brother Earl Dixon, reading Ezekiel 7.

Dismissed by Brother Elton Cotner.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Robbins. Scripture reading by Brother L. L. Moore, reading Ezekiel 33:1-9. Preaching by Brother Lige Dickey, bringing a short message, followed with a message by Brother Elton Cotner.

The business session was called to order by the moderator with 9 churches

represented and 7 preachers and 3 deacons present. The minutes of the last meeting were read. There was no unfinished business.

New business: A committee was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting with the following put on the program: Rev. L. L. Wilson, Brother G. J. Ferrall and Roy L. Harper. A letter from Murphy's Chapel Church recommended that Brother Earl Dixon be licensed to preach. A letter from New Home Church requesting that Brother W. E. Smith be granted credentials to preach. Brother Smith not being present, action was delayed to a later hour. The examining committee examined Brother Earl Dixon and made their report that they found him qualified. He was granted license for 12 months. Brother B. N. Southerland made a statement that Brother Eargon Warren requested that the body drop his name from its list. A committee was appointed to contact Brother Warren, in person or by mail, and report at the next fifth Sunday meeting. The committee was composed of the following: Brother V. H. Gean, Brother Elton Cotner and Brother J. B. Harper. Nothing more came before the body so the business closed by a move and second.

Dismissed by Brother Anderson Jones.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Lonnie Bishop. Preaching by Brother L. L. Moore and Brother V. H. Geans, Scripture taken from Matthew 16:13-21.

The business session was called together again on Saturday night to deal with Brother W. E. Smith. The examining committee examined Brother Smith and reported that it would not recommend him to the body. A move was made by Brother V. H. Gean, and seconded by Brother Brooks Burkhead, that the body drop this discussion at this time. The business session closed by a move and second.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Roy L. Harper. Devotions were conducted by Brother Nick White, followed with preaching by Brother J. B. Harper, reading a part of Matthew 19, beginning with the 16th verse and using the thought "A Great God."

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Fry. Preaching was by Brother B. N. Southerland, reading John 19:1-15 and using for a thought "Behold the Man," bringing a wonderful message. Short talks were made by Brother Wilson and Brother Edwin Smith; closing with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother Lonnie Bishop.

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, Adamsville, Tenn.

Rev. V. H. Gean, Assistant Moderator, Waterloo, Ala.

Roy L. Harper, Clerk, Cypress Inn, Tenn.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, MAY, 1955

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother Floyd Michael. Opening message was delivered by Brother L. L. Moore, reading a part of the 3rd chapter of Genesis, bringing a good message. Brother Floyd Michael also gave a short talk.

Dismissed by Brother Anderson Jones.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Emerald Bailey. Scripture reading by Brother Burlon Jones, taken from Galatians 3, followed with preaching by Brother Earnest Wood and Brother Edwin Smith, using as their subject "Prayer" and bringing wonderful messages.

Business session was called to order by the moderator, Brother L. L. Wilson, with 12 churches represented, also 4 deacons, 10 preachers and 2 visiting preachers present.

Unfinished business: The committee that was to contact Brother Eargon Warren, not being present, this was put off until a later date.

New business: A committee as follows was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting: Rev. L. L. Wilson, Brother Anderson Jones and Brother Wayford Berry. The business session closed with a move and second.

A freewill offering was taken on Sunday for the tent top, receiving \$48.00, which was appreciated.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Hill and Sister Maxine Smith. Preaching by Brother Earl Dixon and Brother J. C. McClanahan, having a good service.

Dismissed by Brother George McKinney.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother Curtis Briley and Brother Earl Dixon. Preaching by Brother B. H. Southerland, reading Philippians 2:1-15 and using the subject "Reverence God." Following this Brother Lige Dickey brought a message, using as his subject "Obedience." Closed with an old-time hand shake; having a wonderful service.

Dismissed by Brother L. D. Evens.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Sister Ida McClanahan. Devotions were conducted by Brother J. W. Phillips. Short talks were made by the following: Brother Massengill, Brother L. D. Evens, Brother Lonnie Bishop, Broth-

er Ages and Brother Hill, all being visiting preachers. Closed with an old-time hand shake.

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, Adamsville, Tenn.

Rev. V. H. Gean, Assistant Moderator, Waterloo, Ala.

Roy L. Harper, Clerk, Cypress Inn, Tenn.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT SECOND CREEK CHURCH, JULY, 1955

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother Emerald Bailey. Opening message was delivered by Brother Burlon Jones, reading Romans 5:16-21 and using for a subject "Sin." This was followed with a short talk by Brother J. W. Phillips.

Dismissed by Brother Lige Dickey.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother J. C. McClanahan. Preaching by Brother J. M. Harbin, reading Genesis 4:3 and a part of Revelation 20, using the subject "Rejection of God."

The business session was called to order by the moderator with 12 churches represented and 9 preachers and 5 deacons present. The minutes of the last meeting were read.

Unfinished business: The committee reported they had contacted Brother Eargon Warren by mail but didn't think anything could be done until the association met. A move was made by Brother B. H. Southerland, and seconded by Brother J. M. Harbin, that this be taken care of at the association.

New business: A committee was appointed as follows to place the fifth Sunday meetings for the next year: Rev. L. L. Moore, Brother Ben Brown, Brother Anderson Jones, Brother Wayford Berry and Brother Roy L. Harper. The fifth Sunday meetings will meet as follows: October, 1955, Meek's Grove Church; January, 1956, Scott's Chapel Church; April, 1956, New Chapel Church; July, 1956, Fair View Church.

A committee was appointed as follows to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting: Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Brother Ben Brown and Roy L. Harper.

Officers were elected for the new year as follows: Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee, moderator; Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee, assistant moderator; Roy L. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee, clerk.

The business session closed with a move and second.

Dismissed by Brother Ben Brown.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Earl Dixon and Brother L. L. Moore. Preaching by Brother V. H. Gean, reading Exodus 20 and using for

a text "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28). He brought a wonderful message.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Sister Ida McClanahan and Brother Homer Scott. Preaching by Brother J. C. McClanahan, reading Hebrews 11 and using as his subject "Using Faith." He brought a wonderful message. Closed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother Messengill.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Edwin Smith. Preaching by Brother Earl Dixon, reading Romans 6, followed by Brother L. L. Wilson; having a good service. Closed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother James Price.

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, Adamsville, Tenn.

Rev. V. H. Gean, Assistant Moderator, Waterloo, Ala.

Roy L. Harper, Clerk, Cypress Inn, Tenn.

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 bylaws 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.

Bylaws

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 bylaws 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 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 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 bylaws 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 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 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 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 is an ordinance teaching humility or 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 to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into 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 and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of 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
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 _____

CHURCHES

[illegible]

