

MINUTES
of the
Seventy-Eighth Annual Session
of
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists

Convened with
MURPHY'S CHAPEL CHURCH
LAUDERDALE COUNTY, ALABAMA
Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1956

OFFICERS

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

The next association will convene with Mt. Zion Church on Friday
before the third Sunday in September, 1957, at 11 o'clock a. m.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mr. W. W. Berry

MINUTES

of the

TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION

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ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. B. H. Southerland, ModeratorSavannah, Tennessee
Rev. J. B. Harper, Assistant ModeratorCypress Inn, Tennessee
Brother W. W. Berry, ClerkCypress Inn, Tennessee

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Bro. G. J. Farrell, ChairmanAdamsville, Tennessee
Bro. Anderson Jones, SecretaryStantonsville, Tennessee
Bro. Roy L. Harper, TreasurerCypress Inn, Tennessee

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

Rev. V. H. GeanWaterloo, Alabama

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama; Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress
Inn, Tennessee; Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Rev. J. B. Harper, ModeratorCypress Inn, Tennessee
Rev. Lige Dickey, Assistant ModeratorCypress Inn, Tennessee
Bro. Emerald Bailey, ClerkIron City, Tennessee

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Bumpas Creek—Mrs. Robert Benson, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 1
 Fairview—Sister Thelma M. Dixon, Iron City, Tennessee, Route 1
 Harmony—Claude T. Lowery, Leighton, Alabama, Route 1
 Liberty—Mrs. W. E. Horton, Waynesboro, Tennessee, Route 4
~~Lutts~~—Unknown
 Maple Grove—Miss Fleta Lowery, Madison, Alabama, Route 3
 McGlamery—Mrs. Arlie Hanback, Collinwood, Tennessee
 Meek's Grove—Brother Austin Kemp, Stantonville, Tennessee
 Midway—Lela Hall, Leighton, Alabama, Route 2
 Mt. Olivet—Unknown
 Mt. Zion—Mrs. Gladys Jeffreys, Town Creek, Alabama, Route 1, Box 40
 Murphy's Chapel—Sister Vernetta Ford, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 2
 New Chapel—Sister Irene Robinson, Counce, Tennessee
 New Home—Mrs. Ethel Davidson, Henderson, Tennessee, Route 4
 New Pleasant Grove—Yvonne Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee
 Piney Grove—Brother Frank Wright, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 1
 Pleasant Hill—Mrs. Minnie Bell Lamb, Cherokee, Alabama
 Popular Springs—Unknown
 Rayborn Chapel—Mrs. Effie Sherrill, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 2
 Scott's Chapel—Brother Roy L. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
 Second Creek—Mrs. Vernon Scott, Waterloo, Alabama, P. O. Box 35
 Shady Grove—Mrs. Clairce Franks, Olive Hill, Tennessee, Route 2
 Solitude—Mrs. Mary Finley, Adamsville, Tennessee, Route 2
 White's Creek—Mrs. Ora Stricklin, Lutts, Tennessee

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

G. W. Arnold, Address Unknown	L. L. Moore, Adamsville, Tennessee,
Curtis Briley, Leighton, Alabama,	Route 2
Route 2	R. P. Owen, Adamsville, Tennessee
W. M. Briley, Hillsboro, Alabama	B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Ten-
Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee	nessee
Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee	Dewey Stults, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Earl Dixon, Waterloo, Alabama	L. J. Vandivar, Leighton, Alabama
V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama	Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
J. M. Harbin, Cherokee, Alabama,	L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee
Route 1	Ernest Wood, Iuka, Mississippi
J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee	J. W. Phillips, Deceased.
Burlon Jones, Florence, Alabama,	
Route 6	
J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama,	Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tennes-
Route 4	see

LICENSED MINISTERS

PASTOR AND ASSISTANT PASTOR OF EACH CHURCH AND THEIR ADDRESS

Bumpas Creek—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Fairview—Rev. Earl Dixon, Waterloo, Alabama

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

Liberty—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee, Route 1

Lutts—

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

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

Meck's Grove—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Midway—Rev. Earl Dixon, Waterloo, Alabama

Mt. Olivet—

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

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

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

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

New Pleasant Grove—Rev. L. L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee

Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee

Pleasant Hill—Rev. Marvin Harbin, Cherokee, Alabama, Route 1

Popular Springs—

Rayborn Chapel—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

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

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

Shady Grove—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

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

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

Proceedings

Introduction sermon was delivered by the moderator, Rev. B. H. Southerland, reading ninth chapter of 2 Corinthians, subject: "Have a Zeal of God." Adjourned to meet at one o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with singing and Scripture, First Psalm, read by Rev. Curtis Briley and prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson.

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

The moderator, Rev. B. H. Southerland, appointed Brother Clemeth Dixon and Rev. L. L. Wilson as reading clerks.

The assistant moderator, Rev. J. B. Harper, appointed Brother William Kendrick. Brother Frank Wright and Brother Tom O'Bryant as finance committee.

A Sunday school committee composed of Rev. Earl Dixon, Brother Hardin Stults, Sister Ferrell and Sister Cotner was appointed by the moderator.

Called for letters from various churches:

Bumpas Creek—By letter and delegates: Brother Marvin Michael and Brother Sam Faulkner.

Fairview—By letter and delegates: Brother Tom O'Bryant and Brother Hardin Stults.

Harmony—By letter and delegates: Sisters Mattie Posey, Estelle McCormack and Betty Jo Lowery.

Liberty—By letter and delegate: Brother W. E. Horton.

Lutts—Absent

Maple Grove—By letter and delegates: Sister Carolyn Lowery, Sister Barbara Lowery, Sister Rachel Craig and Brother Alvin Craig.

McGlamery—By letter and delegate: Brother Edgar Robertson.

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

Midway—By letter and delegates: Sister Lutie Kidd, Sister Dorothy Staggs and Sister Louise Pace.

Mt. Olivet—Absent

Mt. Zion—By letter and delegates: Brother Connie Frost, Sister Lucille Frost and Sister L. C. Parker.

Murphy's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Elbert Smith and Brother Ernest Morrow.

New Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother and Sister Bill Mayhall and Sister Ben Hammock.

New Home—By letter and delegates: Brother J. G. Crouse and Brother Paul Weaver.

New Pleasant Grove—By letter and delegates: Brother William Dendrick and Brother Ancil Hinton.

Piney Grove—By letter and delegates: Brother Jimmie Gillis, Brother Mat Horton and Brother Frank Wright.

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

Popular Springs—Absent

Rayborn Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Thomas Reathiford and Brother Lonzo Sherrill.

Scott's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Frank Pigg and Brother Roy Brewer.

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

Shady Grove—By letter and delegates: Sister Norma Franks, Sister Bessie Franks and Sister Artemae Hubbard.

Solitude—By letter and delegates: Sister Etta Farrell, Sister Myrtle Cotner and Sister Lillian Weeks.

White's Creek—By letter and delegates: Brother Earl Morris and Brother Leroy Thompson.

APPOINTING OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

By Assistant Moderator, Rev. J. B. Harper

General Business—Rev. V. H. Gean, Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Rev. Burlon Jones, Rev. B. H. Southerland and Brother Garner.

Educational—Rev. L. L. Wilson, Rev. W. M. Briley, Rev. Edward Smith, Rev. Nick White and Brother Paul Weaver.

Temperance—Rev. Curtis Briley, Rev. L. L. Moore, Rev. Lige Dickey, Rev. Elton Cotner and Brother Bill Mahawl.

Obituary—Brother John Martin, Brother G. J. R. Farrell, Brother Jake Crouse, Brother Jimmie Gillis and Brother Edgar Robertson.

Resolution of Thanks—Brother Frank Pigg, Brother Doyle Michael and Brother Alfred Auston.

Benevolence—Brother Anderson Jones, Brother Billie Hinton, Brother Ernest Morrow and Brother Roy Brewer.

A discussion was held on active and inactive members that go to make up the grand total of our church membership. No further action was taken other than discussion and the matter was tabled for the time being.

Business adjourned until Saturday morning at 8:30 o'clock.

FRIDAY EVENING

Friday night's service opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey and Rev. Nick White. Preaching by Rev. Curtis Briley and Rev. Elton Cotner.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. L. L. Wilson, reading Romans, twelfth chapter. Prayer by Brother Emerald Bailey.

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. Burlon Jones, Chairman

* Report adopted.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

We have 20 churches with an enrollment of 1,060 and the average of 38 regular attendance. We have one church without a Sunday school.

We recommend this church 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.

Rev. Earl Dixon, Chairman

Report adopted.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

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

We suggest that parents and leaders in churches, homes and schools teach the children that we need to train up our children in the way they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it.

As parents we should be Christians, to be able to start the training before school age.

Let us study the Bible and Christian literature to impress upon their minds that each one should put the Lord first in all things.

We recommend that the parents cooperate with teachers in school as long as it is not against the teaching of the Bible and stand against that which is wrong.

We recommend that we encourage the children to educate themselves to be able to "Study to show themselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Rev. L. L. Wilson, 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.~~

Edward Smith
Rev. Elton Cotner, Chairman

Report adopted.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your committee on obituaries, beg leave to report with sadness that death has taken ten of our members since the last association. Harmony—2, Brother Andrew J. Landers and Sister Morean Landers Lawery; Murphy's Chapel—1, Brother Bob Kilbern; White's Creek—1, Brother Frank Rainey; Scott's Chapel—1, Sister Ellen McFall; Piney Grove—4, Sister Ida Lockard, Sister Nannie Gillis, Brother Lon Horton and Sister Sis Henson; New Chapel—1, Brother J. W. Phillips.

We pray our loss is heaven's gain.

Brother G. J. Farrell, 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 windows and orphans in their afflictions, and keep yourself unspotted from the world. This is undefiled religion before God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother Ernest L. Morrow, Chairman

Report adopted.

CLERK'S REPORT

Received

Amount Paid in by Churches\$127.71

Disbursed

Printing Minutes\$100.00

Paid Clerk 25.00

Mailing Expenses 3.10

Total Paid Out\$128.10

Balance in Treasury 0

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Clerk

Report accepted.

REPORT OF HOME MISSIONS BOARD

September 1, 1956

Amount Brought Forward	\$ 8.93
New Chapel	25.00
Meek's Grove	25.00
Midway	15.00
New Home	25.00
Murphy's Chapel	25.00
Piney Grove	25.00
Mt. Zion	25.00
Scott's Chapel	25.00

Tithing

Rev. V. H. Geans	\$109.76
Rev. J. B. Harper	40.00
Rev. Earl Dixon	27.70
Rev. Nick White	15.00
Rev. B. H. Southerland	120.81
Rev. L. L. Wilson	39.50
Rev. J. C. McClanahan	30.47

Rev. Edward Smith	2.35
Freewill Offering for Children's Home	166.00
Total Paid In	<u>\$742.52</u>

Disbursed	
Paid Balance on Piano	\$ 30.00
Paid Freight on Piano Cover	1.55
Paid Service on Piano	10.00
Paid Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk	25.00
Paid Treasurer Fee	10.00
Paid Associational Pastor	472.16
Sent to Children's Home	<u>166.00</u>

Total Paid Out \$714.71

Balance in Treasury \$ 27.81

Brother Roy L. Harper, Treasurer

Report adopted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bumpas Creek	\$ 6.50
Fairview	4.05
Harmony	5.60
Liberty	3.11
Lutts	
Maple Grove	5.01
McGlamery	5.00
Meek's Grove	5.25
Midway	6.00
Mt. Olivet	
Mt. Zion	7.21
Murphy's Chapel	7.41
New Chapel	11.50
New Home	7.75
New Pleasant Grove	9.13
Piney Grove	4.90
Pleasant Hill	5.00
Poplar Springs	
Rayborn Chapel	4.30
Scott's Chapel	8.45
Second Creek	3.10
Shady Grove	4.00
Solitude	7.50
White's Creek	<u>4.50</u>

Total \$125.27

Brother William Kendrick, Chairman

Report adopted.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR REPORTS

Rev. G. W. Arnold—Absent.

Rev. Curtis Briley—Verbal.

Rev. W. M. Briley—Pastored 2 churches, held 2 revivals, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 2 communion services, conducted 5 funerals, received in church 6, baptized 4, preached 91 sermons, money received \$797.26, expense unknown, mileage unknown.

Rev. Elton Cotner—Pastored 3 churches, held 3 revivals, assisted in 2 revivals, held 3 communion services, held 3 conferences, conducted 4 funerals, preached 110 sermons, baptized 9, money received \$541.69, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. Lige Dickey—Pastored 2 churches, received 2 in church, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 2 communion services, assisted in 1 funeral, money received \$512.85, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. Earl Dixon—Pastored 1 church, assistant pastor of 1 church, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 2 revivals, received 2 in church, conducted 1 communion service, assisted in 1, conducted 1 conference, money received \$336.92, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. V. H. Gean—Pastor of 1 church half time, conducted 5 revivals and assisted in 2, received in church 11, baptized 11, held 1 communion service, held 6 funerals, money received \$1,240.83.

Rev. J. M. Harbin—Preached 57 sermons, conducted 1 revival, baptized 2, offering unknown.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Pastored 1 church half time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 3 revivals, held 1 conference, conducted 1 funeral, assisted in 3 funerals, money received \$581.29, expenses unknown.

Rev. Burlon Jones—Pastored 3 churches, conducted 3 revivals, preached 98 sermons, received 5 in church, baptized 5, conducted 2 communion services, held 3 conferences, conducted 1 funeral, money received from pastoral work \$638.64, traveled to and from service 6,836 miles, expenses unknown.

Rev. J. C. McClanahan—Pastored 1 church, assistant pastor of 1 church, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 5 revivals, conducted 1 communion service, conducted 2 conferences, conducted 2 funerals and assisted in 2, money received \$445.47.

Rev. L. L. Moore—Assisted in 2 revivals, assisted in 3 funerals, preached 37 sermons, money received \$32.15, expense unknown.

Rev. R. P. Owen—Absent.

Rev. B. H. Southerland—Pastored 4 churches, 2 of them half time, conducted 5 revivals, helped in three, received 11 in church, baptized 10, conducted 2 funerals and assisted in 2, conducted 2 conferences, conducted 4 communion services, married 1 couple, money received \$1,520.56, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. Dewey Stults—Absent.

Rev. L. J. Vandivar—Absent.

Rev. Nick White—Verbal.

Rev. L. L. Wilson—Pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 revivals, held 2 conferences, conducted 2 communion services, conducted 3 funerals, received in church 18, baptized 5, money received \$569.66, preached 98 sermons, traveled 5,965 miles to and from services, expenses unknown.

Rev. Ernest Wood—Absent.

LICENSED MINISTER'S REPORT

Rev. Edward Smith—Verbal.

Moved to elect associational pastor. Re-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. J. B. Harper, moderator; Rev. Lige Dickey, assistant moderator; Brother Emerald Bailey, clerk.

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

Moved to elect home missions board. Moved and seconded to retain the same home missions board.

Moved to elect board of trustees. Elected Rev. L. L. Wilson, re-elected Rev. V. H. Gean and Rev. B. H. Southerland.

A motion was made and seconded that the associational pastor be elected at the last fifth Sunday meeting before the association. Motion carried.

Adjourned the business session for a few minutes rest.

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture, Psalm 59, read by Rev. Lige Dickey, and prayer by Brother William Kendrick.

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

The delegation from Mt. Zion church recommended Brother Clarence Jeffreys to the ordaining council. The qualifications were read by Rev. W. M. Briley. Brother Jeffreys was ordained after being passed on by the examining committee.

Moved and seconded that Rev. Lige Dickey and Rev. Elton Cotner be retained as examining committee, and elected Rev. J. C. McClanahan in addition.

Ministers' cards granted: Revs. G. W. Arnold, Curtis Briley, W. M. Briley, Elton Cotner, Lige Dickey, Earl Dixon, V. H. Gean, J. M. Harbin, J. B. Harper, Burlon Jones, J. C. McClanahan, L. L. Moore, R. P. Owen, B. H. Southerland, Dewey Stults, L. J. Vandivar, Nick White, L. L. Wilson and Ernest Wood.

Adjourned the business session.

Short messages were brought by Rev. Edward Smith, Rev. Grady Harwell and Rev. Stephens.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The committee appointed to place fifth Sunday meetings were: Rev. Edward Smith, Rev. B. H. Southerland and Brother Jake Craig.

Their Decisions are as follows:

1—September, 1956	Rayborn Chapel
2—December, 1956	Midway Chapel
3—March, 1957	McGlamery
4—June, 1957	Mt. Zion

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother Ira Gillis and Brother D. A. Lindsey. Preaching by Rev. L. L. Wilson, reading 1 Corinthians 10:15, followed by Rev. W. M. Briley, reading Numbers 1:6, bringing some good messages.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, your committee on resolution of thanks, beg leave to report to this body as assembled together with Murphy's Chapel Church. We realize it has been one great gathering together which words cannot express our heart-felt thanks. Too, we realize it has been through the love of God that you have shown your hospitality during the settling of this association. Let brotherly love continue throughout the year as you have shown to us during this association.

We are not able to express our many thanks to you for the great sacrifice you have made for us, but let us remind you, the greatest sacrifice that was ever made, was made by Jesus. He hung between heaven and earth and made it possible that you and I could be in one eternal gathering together where the great association will never come to an end.

May the grace of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit abide with us forever.

Brother F. J. [unclear] Chairman

Report adopted.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Theodore Nard and Rev. Lige Dickey. Preaching by Rev. J. B. Harper and Rev. V. H. Gean, reading the sixteenth chapter of Job. The association closed with an old-time hand shake and everybody happy.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT MEEK'S GROVE CHURCH, OCTOBER, 1955

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing "Love Lifted Me," followed with prayer by Brothers Pink Barnes, L. L. Moore and Austin Kemp. The opening message was delivered by Brother J. B. Harper, reading a part of Isaiah 35, followed with another message by Brother Edwin Smith.

Dismissed by Brother W. M. Briley.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together by singing and prayer by Brother Earl Dixon. Preaching by Brother James H. Vandivar, reading John 6:27 and bringing a short message. Brother L. L. Moore brought another message, reading Hebrews 10, having a good service.

The business session was called to order by the moderator, Rev. L. L. Wilson, with 9 churches represented. There were 10 preachers, 1 visitor and 4 deacons present.

Unfinished business was called for and the board of trustees reported it had not purchased the property it was to see about near Dyerboro, Tennessee. The committee was released. An offer was taken to pay Brother Gean's expenses on this trip which was \$9.10. The examining committee reported that it had not been able to contact Brother W. C. Jones, but it would contact him in person or by mail by the next fifth Sunday meeting.

During new business a committee consisting of Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Brother Anderson Jones and Brother Wayford Berry was appointed by the assistant moderator, Brother Lige Dickey, to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. A letter was received from Meek's Grove Church recommending that Brother James H. Vandivar be licensed for twelve months to preach the gospel. Brother Cotner, one of the examining committee, being absent, Brother L. L. Moore was appointed to serve in his place. The committee made its report that it found Brother Vandivar duly qualified and he was granted license.

Nothing more came before the body so the session closed with prayer by Brother V. H. Gean.

Saturday Evening Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Lige Dickey and Brother Meeks. Preaching by Brother W. M. Briley, reading Hebrews 9:8 and a part of the tenth chapter of Hebrews. This followed with another message by Brother Nick White, having a good service.

Dismissed by Brother L. D. Evans.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brothers J. C. McClanahan and L. L. Moore. Devotional conducted by Brother Earl Dixon, reading

Thessalonians 5, followed with a rich testimony service. Preaching by Brother B. H. Southerland, reading Genesis 11:1-9, bringing a wonderful message.

Dismissed by Brother W. M. Briley.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and Prayer by Brother G. W. Arnold. Preaching by Brother Lige Dickey, reading Matthew 16:13-18, and bringing a good message. Brother L. L. Wilson made a short talk, followed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother V. H. Gean.

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, Adamsville, Tennessee

Roy L. Harper, Clerk, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT SCOTT'S CHAPEL CHURCH, JANUARY, 1956

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother J. C. McClanahan. Opening message was delivered by Brother V. H. Gean, reading Psalm 19, using as a subject "Fulfillment of the Scripture."

Dismissed by Brother G. W. Arnold.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Sister Ida McClanahan. Preaching by Brother Edwin Smith, reading 2 Timothy 3. This was followed with a message by Brother G. W. Arnold, each bringing a good message.

The business session was called to order by the moderator, Brother L. L. Wilson. There were 10 churches, 11 preachers and 4 deacons present. The minutes were read and adopted of the last fifth Sunday meeting.

Unfinished business was called for. The examining committee reported it had not contacted Brother W. C. Jones. This committee still holds until it contacts him.

New business was called for. A committee consisting of Rev. B. H. Southerland, Brother G. T. Farrell and Brother Roy L. Harper, was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. A letter was received from Meek's Grove Church recommending that Brother Edwin Smith be licensed to preach the gospel. Also a letter from Murphy's Chapel Church recommending that Brother Earl Dixon be ordained to preach. The examining committee examined Brother Smith and reported that they find him qualified, thus granted him license for 12 months. Brother Earl Dixon was ordained into ministerial work.

Nothing more came before the body so the session closed with prayer by Brother Ira Gilles.

Saturday Evening Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Sister Thelma Dixon and Brother J. B. Harper. Preaching by Brother Curtis Briley, reading Ezekiel 37:1-11, followed with a message by Brother Burlon Jones, reading Judges 11:34, each bringing a good message.

Dismissed by Brother Ira Gilles.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother B. H. Southerland. Devotional conducted by Brother J. B. Harper, reading a part of Psalm 51. Preaching by Brother L. L. Wilson, reading Luke 7:14, having a good service. Closed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother Haygood.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Austin Kemp. Preaching by Brother Elton Cotner, reading Hebrews 13:7. Followed with a good message by Brother Earl Dixon.

Dismissed by Brother Emerald Bailey.

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, Adamsville, Tennessee

Rev. Lige Dickey, Assistant Moderator, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Roy L. Harper, Clerk, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT NEW CHAPEL CHURCH, APRIL, 1956

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother I. D. Howard, Brother J. C. McClanahan and Brother Ritch. The opening message was delivered by Brother J. B. Harper, reading John 3:14, 15, bringing a wonderful message. A short talk by Brother Howard.

Dismissed by Brother Ben Berry.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Sister Ida McClanahan. Preaching by Brother Edwin Smith, bringing a good message. Followed by Brother J. M. Harbin, reading a part of Matthew 11, using the subject, "God the Father and the Son."

The business session opened with the moderator presiding. There were 9 churches represented with 9 preachers, 2 visitors and 5 deacons present. The minutes of the last fifth Sunday meeting were read and adopted.

Unfinished business was called for. The examining committee reported it had seen Brother W. C. Jones, and he did not deny any charges placed upon him. He stated he did not feel condemned and the body could do whatever they wanted to. We, the Tennessee River Association, as we see

and understand the Scriptures, he has disqualified himself as an ordained minister. A motion was made by Rev. J. M. Harbin, and seconded by Rev. James H. Vandivar, to withhold his card and withdraw his name from the list of ordained ministers.

New business was called for. A committee consisting of Brothers Lige Dickey, A. C. Leighton and Wayford Berry was appointed to arrange the program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. Nothing more came before the body so the session came to a close with prayer by Brother W. T. Banks.

Saturday Evening Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Edwin Smith and Brother Austin Kemp. Preaching by Brother I. D. Howard, a Methodist minister, using for a subject, "Is God Dependable." This was followed with a message by Brother Ritch from another association, each bringing a good message.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother James H. Vandivar. Devotional conducted by Brother G. W. Arnold, followed with a rich testimony service. Preaching by Brother J. C. McClanahan, reading from Hebrews 6. Closing with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother Edd Keel.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Doyle Michael. Preaching by Brother V. H. Gean, reading a part of Revelation 3 and using for a thought, "The Spirit."

Dismissed by Brother Lonnie Bishop.

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, Adamsville, Tennessee
Roy L. Harper, Clerk, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT FAIRVIEW CHURCH, JULY, 1956

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brothers W. M. Briley and L. J. Vandivar. Opening message was delivered by Brother L. L. Moore, reading a part of Hebrews 11, using as a subject, "Faith."

Dismissed by Brother Edwin Smith.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Jake Craig. Preaching by Brother Nick White, reading Ephesians 3:17, and using for a thought, "Rooted and Grounded in Love."

The business session was opened by the moderator, Rev. L. L. Wilson. There were 14 churches represented with 12 preachers and 5 deacons pre-

sent. Officers for the fifth Sunday meetings were elected as follows: Rev. J. B. Harper, moderator; Rev. Lige Dickey, assistant moderator; and Brother Emerald Bailey, clerk. The fifth Sunday meetings for the next year were placed by a committee composed of Rev. Edwin Smith, Rev. B. H. Southerland and Brother Jake Craig. They are as follows: First—Rayborn Chapel, September, 1956; second—Midway, December, 1956; third—McGlamery, March, 1957; fourth—Mt. Zion, June, 1957. A committee composed of Brothers Clay Sherrills, Jake Craig and Wayford Berry was selected to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. There being no other business to come before the body this session came to a close with prayer by Brother W. M. Briley.

Saturday Evening Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brothers Edwin Smith and Earl Dixon. Preaching by Brother W. M. Briley, reading Joshua 3:5. This was followed with a message by Brother L. J. Vandivar from the first chapter of Job, using as his subject, "A Great Man of God." Each brought a wonderful message. Closed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother J. C. McClanahan.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother G. W. Arnold. Devotional conducted by Brother Earl Dixon, reading Psalm 63, having a wonderful devotional service. Preaching by Brother B. H. Southerland, reading Roman 12:5, bringing a good message.

Dismissed by Brother J. B. Harper.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Sister Evelyn Dickey. Preaching by two visiting ministers, Brother George Mewborn and Brother Lonnie Bishop. Closed with an old-time hand shake.

Dismissed by Brother J. C. McClanahan.

✓ Rev. L. L. Wilson, Moderator, Adamsville, Tennessee
Rev. Lige Dickey, Assistant Moderator, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Roy L. Harper, Clerk, Cypress Inn, Tennessee

FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

- Reprint* {
- 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, providing 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 became 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. *Preseverance*—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 principles 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

	Membership	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Received by Letter	By Restoration	By Experience	By Baptism	Withdrawals	Expelled	Dismissed by Letter	Deceased	S. S. Enrollment	Average Attendance	Church Value	Amount Paid Pastor	Pastoral Help	Amount Given Children's Home	Minute Funds	Home Missions Funds	Meeting Days
Bumpas Creek	98	1									2	50	28	\$2,000.00	\$81.00	\$79.50	\$	\$6.50	\$25.00		
Fairview	30	1									2	64	42	5,000.00	295.35	45.00	30.00	4.05			
Harmony	104	2					1	5	4		2	28	30	7,200.00	70.15	15.00		5.60			
Liberty	140	1										28	50	3,000.00	939.38	144.86		3.01	25.00		
Made Grove	112	4					13					30	59	3,000.00	374.50	97.85		3.01			
McClamery	117	1					4		1			43	59	1,000.00	210.50	37.50		3.25	25.00		
McK's Grove	46	1										43	59	1,000.00	216.92	83.73	6.07	9.00	25.00		
Midway	81	1						4			1	79	45	1,700.00	350.00	40.00		7.21	25.00		
Mt. Zion	136	4										155	45	1,500.00	415.51	100.77	12.00	7.21	25.00		
Murphy's Chapel		3										1	69	50	2,000.00	324.00		11.50	25.00		
New Home	50	1										45	30	3,000.00	472.48	40.45		7.75	25.00		
New Pleasant Grove	58	1										47	35	2,200.00	388.16	37.00		9.13	25.00		
Pleasant Hill	128	2					2					38	28	800.00	147.50	40.00		4.90	20.00		
Pleasant Hill	6	1						2			2	38	28	1,000.00	158.00	21.00	10.00	5.00			
Rayborn Chapel	15	1										20	20	1,250.00	144.50	23.50		4.30			
Scott's Chapel	106	3									3	180	54	1,250.00	181.50	44.00		8.15	25.00		
Second Creek	28	1						1				66	25	1,000.00	119.19	30.00		3.10	18.00		
Shady Grove	80	3										66	25	2,500.00	380.00	50.00		4.00	14.00		
Solitude	140	4									1	160	45	1,000.00	90.61	24.67		7.50	25.00		
White's Creek	32	2						3				1	60	45	1,000.00	90.61	24.67	4.50	25.00		

