

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

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Convened with
MT. ZION CHURCH
Town Creek, Alabama

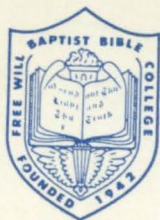
Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1957

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OFFICERS

Rev. V. H. Gean, Moderator Waterloo, Alabama
Rev. W. M. Briley, Assistant Moderator Hillsboro, Alabama
Bro. W. W. Berry, Clerk Cypress Inn, Tennessee

The next association will convene with Scott's Chapel Church,
Wayne County, Tennessee, on Friday the third Sunday in Sep-
tember, 1958, at 11 o'clock a. m.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Mr. W. W. Berry

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The next association will convene with Scott's Chapel Church, Wayne
County, Tennessee, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1958,
at 11 o'clock a. m.

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. V. H. Gean, Moderator Waterloo, Alabama
Rev. W. M. Briley, Assistant Moderator Hillsboro, Alabama
Brother 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. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama; Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee; Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Rev. J. B. Harper, Moderator Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Rev. Lige Dickey, Assistant Moderator Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Rev. Emerald Bailey, Clerk Iron City, Tennessee

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama
Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, 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
 Maple Grove—Miss Fleta Lowery, Madison, Alabama, Route 3
 McGlamery—Mrs. Arlie Hanback, Collinwood, Tennessee
 Meeks' Grove—Brother Austin Kemp, Stantonville, Tennessee
 Midway—Lela Hall, Leighton, Alabama, Route 2
 Mt. Olivet—Absent
 Mt. Zion—Lucille Frost, Town Creek, Alabama, Route 1
 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—Gwen Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
 Pincy Grove—Brother Frank Wright, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 1
 Pleasant Hill—Mrs. Minnie Bell Lamb, Cherokee, Alabama
 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. Rosalee Clay, Savannah, 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, Tennessee
Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee	
Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee	Dewey Stults, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Earl Dixon, Waterloo, Alabama	L. J. Vandiver, Leighton, Alabama
V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama	Nick, White, Savannah, Tennessee
J. M. Harbin, Cherokee, Alabama,	
Route 1	L. L. Wilson, 1852 Hampton St.,
J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee	Memphis, Tennessee
Burlon Jones, Florence, Alabama,	Ernest Wood, Iuka, Mississippi
Route 6	
J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama, Route 4	Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tennessee

LICENSED MINISTERS

Jamie Wicker, Adamsville, Tennessee Emerald Bailey, Iron City, Tennessee

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. H. C. Killen, Florence, Alabama
 Liberty—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee, Route 1
 Maple Grove—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
 McGlamery—Rev. J. D. Jackson, Memphis, Tennessee
 Meeks' 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. V. H. Gean, Waterloo, Alabama
 New Chapel—Rev. Burlon Jones, Florence, Alabama, Route 6
 New Home—Rev. Jamie Wicker, Adamsville, Tennessee
 New Pleasant Grove—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
 Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
 Pleasant Hill—Rev. Grady Johnson, Iuka, Mississippi, Route 4
 Rayborn Chapel—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
 Scott's Chapel—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
 Second Creek—Rev. Jamie Wicker, Adamsville, Tennessee
 Shady Grove—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tennessee
 Solitude—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
 White's Creek—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

Proceedings

Introduction sermon was delivered by Rev. B. H. Southerland, reading the third chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, subject: "Look on Us." Adjourned to meet at one o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with singing and Scripture reading by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians. Prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson.

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

Motion made and second that the assistant moderator appoint reading clerks.

Rev. L. L. Wilson and Rev. Edward Smith were appointed reading clerks.

The assistant moderator, Rev. J. B. Harper, appointed two committees.

The finance committee composed of Brother Jake Craig, Brother William Kendrick, and Brother Jimmy Gillis.

The Sunday school committee composed of Rev. Earl Dixon, Rev. L. L. Moore and Rev. Jamie Wicker.

Called for letters from various churches.

A motion was made and seconded that the delegation from each church stand as their letter was being read, and remain standing until the letter is accepted.

Bumpas Creek—By letter and delegates: Brother Hamp Tune, Brother Rayford Word and Brother Homer Scott.

Fairview—By letter and delegates: Brother Joe Bailey and Brother Hardin Stults.

Harmony—By letter and delegates: Brother and Sister Garvin Posey and Brother Alex Seahorn.

Liberty—By letter and delegates: Brother Buddie Warren and Brother Mack Franks.

Maple Grove—By letter and delegates: Sister Edna Earl Haygood, Brother Herman Haygood, Brother Alvin Craig and Sister Mable Lowery.

McGlamery—By letter and delegate: Brother Edgar Robertson.

Meeks' Grove—By letter and delegate: Brother Austin Kemp.

Midway—By letter and delegates: Sister Aslee Robbins and Brother Commodore Vandiver.

Mt. Olivet—Absent.

Mt. Zion—By letter and delegates: Sister Mildred Berryman, Brother Dudley Parker and Brother Connie Frost.

Murphy's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Tom McClanahan and Brother Larry Dixon.

New Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother George McKinney and Sister Irene Robinson.

New Home—By letter and delegates: Brother Joe Garner and Brother J. G. Crouse.

New Pleasant Grove—By letter and delegates: Sister Yvonne Berry and Sister Ruby Southerland.

Piney Grove—By letter and delegates: Brother Eargen Warren, Brother Jimmy Gillis, Brother Lonzo Wright and Brother Ira Gillis.

Pleasant Hill—By letter and delegate: Brother Nix.

Rayborn Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Thomas Reatherford, Sister Clara Nell Reatherford and Sister Myrtle Bratcher.

Scott's Chapel—By letter and delegates: Brother Tom Victory and Brother Turner Smith.

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

Shady Grove—By letter and delegates: Brother Carl McLin and Brother Elmer Hubbard.

Solitude—By letter and delegates: Brother Oddie Hanna and Sister Myrtle Cotner.

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

A motion was made and seconded that we mark Mt. Olivet absent for the time being, since a movement is underway to reorganize the church.

It was further moved that we drop Popular Springs and Lutts from the list, since they have been absent for two consecutive years.

APPOINTING OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

By Assistant Moderator, Rev. J. B. Harper

General Business—Rev. V. H. Gean, Brother Hamp Tune, Brother A. C. Layton, Rev. J. C. McClanahan and Rev. Emerald Bailey.

Educational—Rev. Burlon Jones, Rev. Lige Dickey, Brother Austin Kemp, Brother John Martin and Rev. J. M. Harbin.

Temperance—Rev. Nick White, Rev. Elton Cotner, Brother Mack Franks, Brother Oddie Hanna and Rev. Edward Smith.

Obituary—Brother Clay Sherrill, Brother George McKinney, Brother Carl McLin, Brother Tom McClanahan and Brother Homer Scott.

Resolution of Thanks—Brother Elmer Hubbard, Brother Thomas Banks, Brother W. C. Vandiver and Brother Joe Bailey.

Benevolence—Brother D. H. Parker, Brother Tom Victory and Brother Edgar Robertson.

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

A short message was delivered by Rev. J. D. Jackson and dismissed by Rev. Jamie Wicker.

FRIDAY EVENING

Friday night's service opened with singing and prayer by Rev. L. L. Moore and Rev. J. C. McClanahan. Preaching by Rev. Burlon Jones and Rev. Nick White.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Met according to previous adournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. Earl Dixon, reading fifth chapter of 1 Thessalonians. Prayer by Rev. Eargen Warren and Rev. Lidge Dickey.

GENERAL BUSINESS REPORT

We, your committee on general business, recommend that each church send \$25.00 or more to the home mission board. We also recommend that it be sent in by the first of January. 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 association 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 be qualified, then 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 be selected at the last fifth Sunday meeting prior to the association.

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

We also recommend that each church call their pastor thirty days before the association.

Rev. V. H. Gean, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

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

We have 20 churches present with enrollment of 1,005 and with regular attendance of 730, which is an average attendance of 36 for each church.

We are glad to report that each church has a Sunday school, although we regret to have to report that we find a decrease in enrollment and the average attendance.

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

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

We recommend that all leaders of the Sunday school be Christians, inviting everyone to attend and encourage the young people.

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

Rev. J. L. Wicker, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

EDUCATIONAL REPORT

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

We suggest that parents and leaders in churches, teach the children in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from it.

As parents we should be Christians and be able to start the training at home while they are young.

Let us study the Bible and Christian literature to impress upon their minds that we should put the Lord first in everything.

We recommend that the parents of children cooperate with the teachers in school as long as it is not against the teaching of the Bible, and stand against that which is evil; for Proverbs 22:15 says that foolishness is bound in the heart of a child but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Rev. Burlon Jones, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

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 adds to the things that are unto Godliness. In 2 Peter 1:5, 6, we find: "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."

Rev. Edward Smith, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

OBITUARY REPORT

We, your committee on obituaries, beg leave to report with sadness that death has taken eight of our members since the last association. Liberty—1, Brother Dock Staggs; Maple Grove—1, Sister Bertha Craig; Midway—1, Brother Sidney Hooper; Mt. Zion—1, Sister Ila Mae Grissom; Murphy's Chapel—2, Brother Tom Murphy and Brother Kenneth Ford; New Home—1, Sister Lou Weaver; Second Creek—1, Brother Bart Haynes; Meeks' Grove—1, Brother Pink Barnes.

We pray our loss is heaven's gain.

Brother George McKinney, *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 Edgar Robertson, *Chairman*

Report Adopted.

CLERK'S REPORT

<i>Received</i>	
Amount Paid in by Churches	\$125.27
<i>Disbursed</i>	
Printing Minutes	\$98.00
Paid Clerk	\$25.00
Mailing Expense	\$.70
 Total Paid Out	 \$123.70
 Balance in Treasury	 \$ 1.57

W. W. Berry, *Clerk*

Report accepted.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

September 1, 1956, to September 1, 1957

Amount Brought Forward	\$ 27.81
A Freewill Offering at Association for Children's Home	176.00
New Chapel Church	25.00
Meeks' Grove	25.00
Midway	15.00
New Home	25.30
Piney Grove	31.00
Mt. Zion	17.55
Scott's Chapel	25.00

New Pleasant Grove	50.00
Bumpas Creek	50.00
Second Creek	40.00
Solitude	50.00
Shady Grove	14.00
McGlamery	25.00
Fairview	25.00
Maple Grove	25.00
Rev. W. G. Harwell, Rent on Tent	25.00
	\$671.66

Tithing

Rev. L. L. Wilson	\$ 47.50
Rev. J. B. Harper	68.13
Rev. Lige Dickey	20.00
Rev. V. H. Gean	90.57
Rev. B. H. Southerland	142.06
Rev. Nick White	15.00
Rev. L. L. Moore	3.32
Rev. Edward Smith	50.00
Rev. Earl Dixon	31.90
Rev. J. C. McClanahan	41.01
Bro. Emerald Baily	12.50
	521.99
Total Paid In	\$1,193.65

Amount Paid Out

Paid to Children's Home	\$176.00
Paid Associational Pastor	350.00
Paid Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk	25.00
Paid for 100 Ministers' Cards	3.50
Paid for 12 License Blanks	.60
Paid Treasurer Fee	10.00
Total Paid Out	565.10
Balance in Treasury	\$628.56

Roy L. Harper, Treasurer

Report accepted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bumpas Creek	\$ 9.10
Fairview	5.00
Harmony	7.50
Liberty	4.00

Maple Grove	5.00
McGlamery	8.10
Meeks' Grove	5.00
Midway	6.00
Mt. Olivet	
Mt. Zion	8.00
Murphy's Chapel	8.50
New Chapel	9.00
New Home	8.08
New Pleasant Grove	7.73
Piney Grove	5.20
Pleasant Hill	2.50
Rayborn Chapel	4.00
Scott's Chapel	9.36
Second Creek	4.40
Shady Grove	3.00
Solitude	8.00
White's Creek	4.00

Total

\$131.47

Brother J. T. Gillis, *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 2 revivals, held 2 communion services, held 1 conference, conducted 5 funerals, received 13 in church, baptized 9, preached 119 sermons, money received \$654.52, mileage unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. Elton Cotner—Pastored 3 churches, conducted 4 revivals, conducted 3 communion services, conducted 3 conferences, conducted 6 funerals, assisted in 1 funeral, received in church 1, baptized 8, preached 103 sermons, money received \$345.55, miles traveled and expenses unknown.

Rev. Lige Dickey—Verbal.

Rev. Earl Dixon—Pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 revivals, received 4 in church, baptized 4, held 2 communion services, conducted 2 conferences, conducted 1 funeral, money received \$463.04.

Rev. V. H. Gean—Pastor of 1 church half time, conducted 3 revivals and assisted in 2, received in church 10, baptized 8, held 1 communion service, held 5 funerals, money received \$990.72.

Rev. J. M. Harbin—Absent.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Pastored 2 churches, 1 church half time, conducted 2 revivals, helped in 3 revivals, visited 2 revivals, baptized 16, communion services 2, conference 1, conducted funerals 1, assisted in 2, money received \$658.07, expenses unknown.

Rev. Burlon Jones—Pastored 2 churches half time each, conducted 3 revivals, assisted in 1, held 1 conference, held 2 communion services, received 14 into church, baptized 12, preached 108 sermons, received \$857.39 for service, traveled 4,563 miles, expense unknown.

Rev. J. C. McClanahan—Absent.

Rev. L. L. Moore—Verbal.

Rev. R. P. Owen—Absent.

Rev. B. H. Southerland—Pastored 4 churches, conducted 3 conferences, conducted 4 revivals, assisted in 3, received in the church 28, baptized 19, married 1 couple, conducted 2 funerals, assisted in 1, money received \$1,498.84, expenses unknown.

Rev. Dewey Stults—Absent.

Rev. L. J. Vandiver—Verbal.

Rev. Nick White—Pastored 2 churches, held 2 revivals, assisted in 4 revivals, held 2 communion services, held 2 conferences, held 6 funerals, witnessed 8 conversions, baptized 10, received into church 10, money received \$251.05.

Rev. L. L. Wilson—Pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 revivals, helped in 1 revival, held 2 conferences, conducted 2 communion services, money received \$619.80, preached 114 sermons, traveled 6,443 miles to and from services, expenses unknown.

Rev. Ernest Wood—Absent.

Rev. Edward Smith—Assistant pastor of 2 churches, assisted in 3 revivals, held 1 conference, conducted 1 funeral, assisted in 2 funerals, money received \$182.81, assisted in 4 baptisms, preached approximately 65 sermons, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

LICENSED MINISTER'S REPORT

Rev. J. L. Wicker—Assisted in 5 revivals, preached approximately 75 sermons, assisted in 1 baptismal service, received \$121.62, expenses unknown.

Rev. Emerald Bailey—Verbal.

Minutes of the fifth Sunday meeting were read by the clerk, Rev. Emerald Bailey, and turned in to go in the minutes of the association.

Moved and seconded to retain the same home mission board.

Moved and seconded to elect a new member for the board of trustees to fill the vacancy of Rev. L. L. Wilson. Rev. Lige Dickey was elected.

Moved to elect a moderator and assistant moderator for the association. Elected Rev. V. H. Gean as moderator and Rev. W. M. Briley, assistant moderator.

Moved to retain the same clerk of the association.

Adjourned the session for a few minutes rest.

Rev. L. L. Wilson and Rev. Jamie Wicker brought the Saturday morning messages at the 11 o'clock hour.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading, 3rd chapter of 1 Timothy, read by Rev. Edward Smith and prayer by Brother John Martin.

Moderator of fifth Sunday meeting, Rev. J. B. Harper, took charge of the presbyterial session.

New Pleasant Grove Church recommended Brother William Kendrick as deacon to the ordaining council. The qualification were read by Rev. L. L. Moore. Brother Kendrick was ordained after being passed on by the examining committee.

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, Edward Smith, B. H. Southerland, Dewey Stults, L. J. Vandiver, Nick White, L. L. Wilson and Ernest Wood.

Adjourned the business session.

Short messages were brought by Rev. Curtis Briley, Rev. Edward Smith, Rev. Lige Dickey, Rev. L. J. Vandiver and Rev. Eargen Warren. Dismissed by Rev. W. M. Briley.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

- 1—Piney Grove—September, 1957
- 2—Harmony—December, 1957
- 3—Solitude—March, 1958
- 4—New Pleasant Grove—June, 1958
- 5—Mecks' Grove—August, 1958

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Earl Dixon and Rev. Elton Cotner. Devotional by Rev. Emerald Bailey, preaching by Rev. V. H. Gean. A very spiritual service throughout.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, your committee on resolution of thanks, beg leave to report to this body as assembled together with Mt. Zion 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 setting 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 W. T. Banks, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Earl Dixon and Rev. V. H. Gean.

Offering for Free Will Baptist Children's Home taken, received \$185.66.

Preaching by Rev. J. B. Harper and Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

The association closed with an old-time hand shake and everybody happy.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

RAYBORN CHAPEL CHURCH, SEPTEMBER, 1956

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother Wayford Berry and Rev. Edward Smith. The opening message was delivered by Rev. J. C. McClanahan, reading Timothy, second chapter, followed by an old-time hand shake. Dismissed by Rev. L. L. Wilson.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. Burlon Jones. Preaching by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading Luke, fourth chapter.

Going into the business session, Rev. L. L. Wilson served as assistant moderator in the absence of the moderator and assistant moderator. The Articles of Faith and Church Covenant were read by Rev. L. L. Wilson. There was 10 churches represented with 5 deacons and 5 preachers present. 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 committee: Rev. Earl Dixon, Brother Roy L. Harper and Brother W. T. Banks. Nothing more came before the body so the business closed by a move and second. Dismissed by Sister Exie Smith.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. Burlon Jones and Rev. Clovis Brewer. Preaching by Rev. Edward Smith, reading in Luke and using as his subject, "Why Take a Chance on Missing Heaven." He brought a wonderful message. This was followed by a good message by Rev. J. B. Harper, reading Matthew, second chapter. Dismissed by Rev. Lige Dickey.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother John Martin and Rev. J. C. McClanahan. Devotional by Rev. Hollis Southerland, reading

Deuteronomy, first chapter. Following this Rev. Burlon Jones brought a good message, reading Psalms, twenty-second chapter, using as his subject, "Trusting God."

Dismissed by Rev. Jackson.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. Henry Davis and Rev. Craig. Preaching by Rev. L. L. Wilson, reading Hosea, thirteenth chapter. Closed with an old-time hand shake. Dismissed by Rev. Lonnie Bishop.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

MIDWAY CHAPEL CHURCH, DECEMBER 29, 1956

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Upton and Rev. J. C. McClanahan. The opening message was delivered by Rev. J. B. Harper, reading Acts, seventh chapter, with a subject of "Brotherly Love." Followed by a visiting preacher, Rev. Wicker.

Dismissed by Rev. Hollis Southerland.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson and Rev. G. W. Arnold. Preaching by Rev. V. H. Gean, reading Psalms, eighty sixth chapter.

Going into the business session we had 8 churches represented with 3 deacons and 10 preachers present; and 2 visiting preachers. There was no unfinished business.

New Business: A committee was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting, with the following being put on the committee: Rev. Hollis Southerland, Brother Wayford Berry and Brother Clarence Jeffreys. Nothing more came before the body, so the business closed by a move and second.

Short talks were made by Brother Edward Smith and Brother Emerald Bailey.

Dismissed by Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Wayford Berry and Sister Craig. Preaching by Rev. L. L. Wilson, reading Matthew, sixteenth chapter, with the subject of "Self-Denying." This was followed by a message by Rev. W. M. Briley, reading 1 Timothy, second chapter.

Dismissed by Brother Ernest Vandiver.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

Devotional by Rev. G. W. Arnold. Preaching by Rev. Hollis Southerland, reading Luke, seventeenth chapter. Dismissed by Brother Emerald Bailey.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. L. B. Bishop. Preaching by Rev. Lige Dickey, His subject was, "Plow the Last Row." He brought a wonderful message. Dismissed by Rev. J. B. Harper.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

McGLAMERY CHURCH, MARCH, 1957

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother Earnes Wood and Brother J. C. McClanahan. The opening message was delivered by Brother Edward Smith, reading Acts, third chapter. Followed by Brother Lige Dickey. Dismissed by Brother Earl Dixon.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother L. L. Wilson. Preaching by Brother Emerald Bailey, reading Luke. Followed by Brother Burlon Jones.

Going into business session, we had 10 churches represented with 4 deacons and 10 preachers. There was no unfinished business to come before the body.

New business: A committee was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting, with the following put on the committee: Brother Dalton Brathcer, Brother A. C. Laton and Brother Curtis Briley. Rev. Edward Smith was recommended by a letter from Meeks' Grove Church, to be ordained. The examining committee which consists of Brother J. C. McClanahan, Brother Lige Dickey and Brother Elton Cotner. Brother Hollis Southerland served in the absence of Brother Elton Cotner. Brother Smith was examined and found well qualified for the ministry. Brother L. L. Wilson read the qualifications and duties of a minister. There was nothing more to come before the body so the business closed by a move and second.

Dismissed by Brother Jimmy Wilson.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. Nick White. Preaching by Rev. Curtis Briley, reading Hebrews, third chapter. Followed by Rev. L. L. Wilson.

Dismissed by Rev. V. H. Gean.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Sister Ida McClanahan, Brother Roy L. Harper and Brother John Henry Wright. Devotional by

Rev. Earl Dixon, reading Isaiah, twelfth chapter. Followed by Rev. J. C. McClanahan reading 1 Corinthians, thirteenth chapter. Dismissed by Brother Lonnie Bishop.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Rev. Edward Smith and Sister Thelma Mae Dixon, preaching by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading 1 Corinthians, 10th chapter, subject, "Better Life." Followed by Brother Lonnie Bishop and Brother V. H. Gean.

Dismissed by Brother Emerald Bailey.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

MT. ZION CHURCH, JUNE, 1957

Saturday Morning Service

Opened with singing and prayer by Brother Elton Cotner and Brother Edward Smith.

The opening message was delivered by Brother L. J. Vandiver, reading Matthew 25, bringing a wonderful message. Dismissed for lunch hour by Brother L. L. Wilson.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Jamie Wicker. Preaching by Brother Nick White, leaving many good thoughts with the people.

The business session opened with the moderator presiding. There were 12 churches represented with 9 deacons and 13 preachers present. The minutes of the last fifth Sunday meeting were read and adopted.

There was no unfinished business to come before the body.

New business was called for. A committee consisting of Brother Nick White, Brother G. J. Farrell and Brother Clarence Jeffreys was appointed to arrange a program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. The fifth Sunday meetings for the next year were placed by a committee composed of Brother Nick White, Brother Wayford Berry and Brother Earl Dixon. They are as follows: First—Piney Grove, September, 1957; second—Harmony, December, 1957; third—Solitude, March, 1958; fourth—New Pleasant Grove, June, 1958; and fifth—Meeks' Grove, August, 1958.

Officers for the new year were re-elected as follows: Brother J. B. Harper, moderator; Brother Lige Dickey, assistant moderator; and Brother Emerald Bailey, clerk.

Brother V. H. Gean was re-elected associational pastor.

A letter was received from Solitude Church recommending that Brother Jamie Wicker be licensed for twelve months to preach the gospel. Also a letter was sent from Fairview Church recommending Brother Emerald Bailey to be licensed for twelve months to preach the gospel. Brother J. C. McClan-

ahan and Brother Lige Dickey, two of the examining committee being absent; Brother W. M. Briley and Brother Hollis Southerland were appointed to serve in their place, with Brother Elton Cotner. The committee found the two well qualified for the ministry work.

There was nothing more to come before the body. The business session adjourned.

Short messages were delivered by Brother L. L. Wilson, Brother Edward Smith, Brother Emerald Bailey and Brother Jamie Wicker. Dismissed by Brother W. M. Briley.

Saturday Night Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother V. H. Gean. Preaching by Brother Earl Dixon, reading in Chronicles. Followed by Brother Hollis Southerland reading Malachi 7, with a wonderful subject, "Hear Me." Dismissed by Brother L. L. Wilson.

Sunday Morning Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Hollis Southerland. The moderator also called for a united prayer. Devotional by Brother Burlan Jones, reading Job, fourteenth chapter. There were many good testimonies by the congregation. Followed by Brother J. B. Harper bringing a good message. Dismissed by Brother V. H. Gean.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Called together with singing and prayer by Brother Emerald Bailey. Preaching by Brother J. M. Harbin, reading in Jeremiah. Followed by Brother V. H. Gean, reading Psalm 83. Closed with an old-time hand shake. Dismissed by Brother W. M. Briley.

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, 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 become guilty before God.

7. *The Work of Christ*—The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection affected for all redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. *The Terms of Salvation*—The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance, or sincere sorrow for sin, and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith, or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord, with the purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is unrenewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance of faith and obedience until death.

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

10. *Freedom of the Will*—The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. *Salvation Free*—God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

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

13. *Gospel Ordinances*—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel; feet washing 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	CHURCHES													Meeting Days							
	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 Mission Funds
Bumpas Creek	94	1	1	1	2		13					45	432	\$2,000.00	\$272.08	\$102.00	\$	\$9.10	\$25.00	1st & 3rd Sundays	
Fairview	107	1	1	1	1		2					65	45	3,500.00	252.00	48.25		5.00	25.00		
Harmony	130	3	1	1			2					62	40	5,000.00	214.00	68.88		7.50			
Liberty	35	1	1	1							1	22	18	1,000.00	78.71	22.00		4.00			
Maple Grove	115	4	1	1								1	65	30	7,000.00	285.45	135.41		5.00	25.00	
McClamery	25	1	1	1			1					30	30	3,000.00	177.80	48.32		5.00	25.00		
McClamery's Grove	43	1	1	1			1					1	40	26	1,000.00	252.62	58.02		8.10	25.00	
Midway	82	1	1	1			1					52	40	1,500.00	211.04	90.62		6.00	15.00		
Mt. Zion	138	1	1	1			1					1	69	40	5,000.00	188.47	74.00		8.00	17.55	
Murphy's Chapel	60	1	1	1			13					2	44	40	1,500.00	192.61	21.02	24.00	8.50	25.00	2nd & 4th Sundays
New Chapel	59	2	1	1			13					69	55	2,000.00	353.00	103.00		9.00	25.00	3rd Sunday	
New Home	59	1	1	1			2					1	45	30	3,000.00	393.46	38.82		8.08	25.30	
New Pleasant Grove	131	1	1	1			4					47	35	2,400.00	343.36	33.82		7.73	25.00		
Piney Grove	131	1	1	1			4					39	39	800.00	172.34	45.00		5.20	31.00		
Pleasant Hill	6	1	1	1			4					7	41		7.41	25.39		2.50			
Rayborn Chapel	15	1	1	1			4					33	25	1,000.00	161.00	23.50		4.00			
Scott's Chapel	110	3	3	3			4				1	70	53	1,250.00	171.50	23.35		9.36	25.00	1st & 4th Sundays	
Second Creek	24	1	1	1						3		38	34	900.00	162.49	34.22		4.40	22.00	4th Sunday	
Shady Grove	81	3	3	3			1					66	25	1,000.00	88.70	30.82		3.00	12.00		
Solitude	146	1	1	1			6					85	53	2,500.00	390.82	30.82		8.00	25.00		
White's Creek	33	2	1	1			3					58	40	1,000.00	85.85	30.82		4.00			

