

MINUTES
of the
Eighty-Second Annual Session
of
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists

† † †

Convened with
NEW CHAPEL CHURCH
Counce, Tennessee
Friday Before the Third Sunday in September, 1960

† † †

OFFICERS

Rev. V. H. Gean, Moderator.....Clovendale, Alabama
Rev. Edward Smith, Assistant Moderator.....Stantonville, Tennessee
W. W. Berry, Clerk...409 W. Clark Blvd., Murfreesboro, Tenn.

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The next association will convene with McGlamery Church, Collinwood, Tennessee, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1961, at 11 o'clock a. m.

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. V. H. Gean, ModeratorCloverdale, Alabama
Rev. Edward Smith, Assistant ModeratorStantonville, Tennessee
Bro. W. W. Berry, Clerk409 W. Clark Blvd., Murfreesboro, Tennessee

HOME MISSION BOARD

Bro. Roy L. Harper, Secretary and TreasurerCypress Inn, Tennessee
Bro. Ira GillisCypress Inn, Tennessee
Bro. Joe BaileyIron City, Tennessee

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

Rev. J. C. McClanahanFlorence, Alabama

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama; Rev. B. H. Southerland,
Savannah, Tennessee; Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Rev. J. B. Harper, ModeratorCypress Inn, Tennessee
Rev. Earl Dixon, Assistant ModeratorWaterloo, Alabama
Bro. Paul Weaver, ClerkHighway 64 East, Savannah, Tennessee

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. V. H. Gean, Cloverdale, 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—Mrs. Thelma M. Dixon, Collinwood, Tennessee
Harmony—Miss Betty Jo Lowery, Leighton, Alabama, Route 2
Jones Chapel—Mrs. Artie Jones, Florence, Alabama, Route 6
Liberty—Sister Stella Warren, Waynesboro, Tennessee
Maple Grove—Mrs. Herman Hagood, Madison, Alabama, Route 3
McGlamery—Mrs. Arlie Hanback, Collinwood, Tennessee
Meeks' Grove—Bro. Austin Kemp, Savannah, Tennessee
Midway—Bro. Douglas Robbins, Muscle Shoals, Alabama
Mt. Olivet—Bro. W. C. Jones, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 1
Mt. Zion—Sister Melba Willis, Town Creek, Alabama, Route 1
Murphy's Chapel—Mrs. Nora Vaughn, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 2
New Chapel—Mrs. Irene Robinson, Counce, Tennessee
New Home—Mrs. Ethel Davidson, Henderson, Tennessee, Route 4
New Pleasant Grove—Mrs. Gwen Weaver, Savannah, Tennessee, Highway
64 East
Piney Grove—Bro. Frank Wright, Cypress Inn, Tennessee, Route 1
Pleasant Hill—Bro. G. C. Bobo, Cherokee, Alabama, Route 1
Popular Springs—Mrs. Ethel Smith, Iuka, Mississippi, Route 2
Rayborn Chapel—Mrs. Myrtle Bratcher, Waynesboro, Tennessee, Route 2
Scott's Chapel—Bro. Roy L. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Second Creek—Mrs. Vernon Scott, Waterloo, Alabama, Box 35
Shady Grove—Mrs. Clairce Franks, Olive Hill, Tennessee, Route 2
Solitude—Mrs. Martha Massengill, Adamsville, Tennessee
White's Creek—Mrs. Ora Stricklin, Savannah, Tennessee
Huntsville—Sister Wilma Rodgers, 2248 Atkins Drive, Huntsville, Alabama

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES

G. W. Arnold, Address Unknown
Emerald Bailey, Iron City, Tennessee
W. M. Briley, Leighton, Alabama, Route 2, Box 313
Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Earl Dixon, Waterloo, Alabama
V. H. Gean, Cloverdale, Alabama, Route 1
J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Burlon Jones, Florence, Alabama, Route 6
William Kendrick, Lexington Street, Route 4, Trenton, Tennessee
T. B. Lee, 303 E. 17th Street, Columbia, Tennessee
L. L. Moore, Adamsville, Tennessee, Route 2
J. C. McClanahan, Florence, Alabama, Route 4
Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tennessee
B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
Ralph Tucker, 3302 9th Ave. West, Huntsville, Alabama
Nick White, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 3
Jamie Wicker, Adamsville, Tennessee

Travis Johnson, Tishamingo, Mississippi, Route 1
J. M. Harbin, Cherobee, Alabama, Route 1

PASTORS OF EACH CHURCH AND THEIR ADDRESS

Bumpas Creek—Rev. Emerald Bailey, Iron City, Tennessee
Fairview—Rev. Earl Dixon, Waterloo, Alabama
Harmony—Rev. Thomas Lee, 303 E. 17th St., Columbia, Tennessee
Huntsville—Rev. Ralph Tucker, 3302 9th Ave. W., Huntsville, Alabama
Jones Chapel—Rev. W. M. Briley, Route 2, Leighton, Alabama
Liberty—Absent
Maple Grove—
McGlamery—Rev. Emerald Bailey, Iron City, Tennessee
Meeks' Grove—Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Midway—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Mt. Olivet—Rev. W. C. Jones, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 1
Mt. Zion—Rev. V. H. Gean, Cloverdale, Alabama, Route 1
Murphy's Chapel—Rev. Earl Dixon, Waterloo, Alabama, Route 2
New Chapel—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
New Home—Rev. V. H. Gean, Cloverdale, Alabama, Route 1
New Pleasant Grove—Rev. B. H. Southerland, Savannah, Tennessee
Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White, Lutts, Tennessee, Route 3
Pleasant Hill—Absent
Poplar Springs—Rev. Travis Johnson, Tishamingo, Mississippi
Rayborn Chapel—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Scott's Chapel—Rev. Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tennessee
Second Creek—Rev. Jamie Wicker, Adamsville, Tennessee
Shady Grove—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee
Solitude—Rev. Jamie Wicker, Adamsville, Tennessee
White's Creek—Rev. Elton Cotner, Adamsville, Tennessee

PROCEEDINGS

Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. V. H. Gean, reading from the fifth Chapter of 1 Thessalonians. Prayer by Rev. J. C. McClanahan. Adjourned to meet at one o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with singing and prayer by Bro. Jake Craig and Scripture reading by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading thirty-fourth Psalm.

The body was assembled in order of preachers, deacons and the delegation by the assistant moderator, Rev. Edward Smith.

Reading the names of the associational officers.

Rev. B. H. Southerland was elected as assistant to Rev. Smith for this session in the absence of the moderator.

Bro. Harry Bradshaw and Rev. Lige Dickey were appointed as reading clerks.

The finance committee was composed of Bro. Austin Kemp, Bro. Nola Banks and Bro. Buddie Jeffereys.

The Sunday school committee was composed of Bro. Hallie Finley, Bro. Ernest Morrow and Bro. Ira Gillis.

Visitors were invited to sit with us.

Called for letters from various churches.

The delegation from each church was asked to stand as their letter was read and remain standing until the letter was accepted.

CHURCHES BY LETTER AND DELEGATES

Bumpas Creek—Bro. Hubert Lewis, Bro. Jack Benson, Bro. Homer Scott and Bro. Rayford Word.

Fairview—Bro. Jimmie Wilson and Bro. Elvie Handback.

Harmony—Sister T. B. Lee, Bro. and Sister William Briley.

Huntsville—Bro. Harry Bradshaw, Sister Alma Bradshaw. Alternates, Sister Norma Tucker and Sister Minnie Crag.

Jones Chapel—Bro. J. T. Jones and Bro. W. R. Seaton.

Liberty—Absent.

Maple Grove—Bro. Eugene Lowery, Sister Mary Lowery and Sister Mable Lowery.

McGlamery—Bro. Clyde Robertson.

Meeks' Grove—Bro. George Nixon and Bro. Austin Kemp.

Midway—Bro. Clyde Pace and Bro. Douglas D. Robbins.

Mt. Olivet—Bro. W. C. Jones.

Mt. Zion—Bro. Charles Berryman, Bro. Buddy Jefferys and Bro. Wheeler Crowden.

Murphy's Chapel—Bro. Ernest Morrow and Bro. Carthel Shields.

New Chapel—Bro. Bill Mayhall and Bro. Alf Layton.

New Home—Bro. Joel Davidson, Sister Ethel Davidson and Sister Willa Dean Clement.

New Pleasant Grove—Bro. Paul Weaver, Bro. Odell Franks and Sister Sue Franks.

Piney Grove—Bro. Orval Rich, Bro. Nolie Banks and Bro. Ira Gillis.

Pleasant Hill—Absent.

Popular Springs—Bro. Edd Kill and Brother Herman Chrisap.

Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Thomas Earl Reathiford.

Scott's Chapel—Bro. Ernest Berry and Bro. Lonzo Harper.

Second Creek—Bro. Virgil Hinton.

Shady Grove—Bro. Herbert Clay, Bro. Elmer Hubbard and Bro. Lloyd Franks.

Solitude—Bro. H. B. Finley, Sister Mable Wicker and Sister Mary Weeks.

White's Creek—Bro. Earl Morris.

Called for petitionary letters.

APPOINTING OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

General Business—Rev. W. M. Briley, Rev. J. C. McClanahan, Rev. Earl Dixon, Rev. J. B. Harper and Rev. Ralph Tucker.

Educational—Bro. U. G. Lowry, Bro. Herbert Clay, Bro. Frank Smith and Bro. A. C. Layton.

Temperance—Rev. Elton Cotner, Rev. Jamie Wicker, Bro. Jimmie Wilson and Bro. Ernest Berry.

Obituary—Bro. John Martin, G. J. Ferrell, Bro. Lenard Walker and Bro. John Jones.

Resolution of Thanks—Bro. Carthel Shields, Bro. Clyde Pace, Bro. Clyde Robertson and Bro. Lonzo Harper.

Benevolence—Bro. Geo. Nixon, Charles Berryman, Rev. Emerald Bailey and Rev. Travis Johnson.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Met with singing and united prayer. Preaching by Rev. Travis Johnson, followed by Rev. Ralph Tucker.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. Earl Dixon, reading Psalm 139, prayer by Rev. W. M. Briley.

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 mission 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 finances and our prayers. We also recommend that he make an effort to visit each church in the association during the year for which he is elected.

We recommend that any that is recommended by his home church to preach, be licensed for twelve months, then if his home 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 get its letter to the association on Friday.

We also recommend that delegates who are not present when the church letter is read be marked absent in the minute.

We also recommend that the letter be read to the church and approved by it before being sent to the association.

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

Rev. Earl Dixon, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

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

We have 24 churches present, 22 of which has a Sunday school.

The total enrollment in Sunday school is 1,138, with regular attendance of 830, which is an average attendance of 38 for each church.

We recommend that each church have Sunday school regularly. We also recommend that all leaders and teachers in Sunday school be devout Christians, sound in faith, apt to teach.

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

We should pray earnestly for the uplifting of God's Kingdom while in this world.

Bro. Ira Gillis, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

EDUCATIONAL REPORT

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

We recommend that Christians "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). "And that from a child thou hast known the

holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

We also recommend that the parents co-operate with the teachers in school as long as it is not against the teachings of the Bible and stand against that which is evil; for Proverbs 22:15 says, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

Bro. Herbert Clay, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We submit the following report:

We find the word, *temperance*, in regard to beer, wine and whiskey, to mean total abstinence from the use or sale of it.

We should be temperate at home, in church, and at business. We find the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 9:25, "And every man that striveth for mastery is temperate in all things. . . ."

We find temperance adds to the things that are unto Godliness in 2 Peter 1:5, 6: "And besides 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."

We also recommend that each pastor use temperance in his sermon at least twice a year.

Bro. J. A. Wilson, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

OBITUARY REPORT

We, your committee on obituaries, beg leave to report with sadness that death has taken 11 of our members since the last association: New Home, Sister Lessie Hurst; Meeks' Grove, Bro. Charlie Brown; Piney Grove, Sister Leoner Wright, Bro. F. L. Wright, Bro. Rosco Brown, Sister Ester Brewer; Mt. Zion, Sister Emma Dowson, Bro. Albert Beavers, Bro. Thomas Crowder; Second Creek, Bro. Billie Hinton; White's Creek, Bro. Luther Henson.

We hope they have laid down the cross to receive the crown for the Scripture teaches in Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

Bro. G. J. Farrell, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

REPORT OF BENEVOLENCE

We, your committee on benevolence, recommend that each Christian give liberally to the support of the church according to his ability, and also to all people in need. According to Scripture do good to everyone. Visit the sick and afflicted and keep yourself unspotted from the world. This is pure and undefiled religion before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. The pure in heart shall see God.

Rev. Emerald Bailey, *Chairman*

Report adopted.

CLERK'S REPORT

Received

Amount Paid in by Churches	\$150.66
Total to Account For	\$150.66

Disbursed

Printing Minutes	\$120.00
Clerk's Fee	25.00
Mailing Expenses	5.66
Total Accounted For	\$150.66

Received 510 minutes October 21, 1969, mailed out same week.

Bro. W. W. Berry, Clerk

Report adopted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bumpas Creek	\$ 7.00
Fairview	8.30
Harmony	9.70
Jones Chapel	5.25
Maple Grove	6.18
McGlamery	4.25
Meeks' Grove	4.00
Midway	5.00
Mt. Olivet	2.00
Mt. Zion	9.00
Murphy's Chapel	9.10
New Chapel	7.00
New Home	6.30
New Pleasant Grove	9.15
Piney Grove	4.75
Pleasant Hill	
Poplar Springs	5.50
Rayborn Chapel	4.51
Scott's Chapel	8.58
Second Creek	5.00
Shady Grove	4.00
Solitude	9.00
Huntsville	10.00
White's Creek	4.50
Total	\$148.07

Bro. Austin Kemp

Bro. Nolie Banks

Bro. Earnest Jeffreys

Report adopted.

HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

September 1, 1959—September 1, 1960

Amount Brought Forward	\$1,332.89
Freewill Offering at Association for Children's Home	212.00
Solitude Church	25.00
Meeks' Grove	21.00
New Chapel	25.00
Fairview	27.50
Midway	15.00
McGlamery	18.00
New Home	25.00
Murphy's Chapel	25.00
Bumpas Creek	25.00
Second Creek	25.00
Mt. Zion	5.35
Piney Grove	21.00
New Pleasant Grove	25.00
Scott's Chapel	25.00

Total	\$1,852.74
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Names of ministers who paid the tenth of what they received for ministerial work:

Rev. J. B. Harper	\$ 42.00
Rev. Earl Dixon	58.55
Rev. V. H. Gean	66.04
Rev. J. C. McClanahan	45.13
Rev. B. H. Southerland	84.50
Rev. Emerald Bailey	47.00
Rev. Edward Smith	37.00

Total	380.22
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Total Paid In	\$2,232.96
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Amount Paid Out

Paid to Children's Home	\$ 212.00
Paid Associational Pastor	430.00
Paid Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk	25.00
Paid Rev. Nick White on Sounding System	88.80
Paid for Tent Wire	12.82
Paid Treasurer Fee	10.00

Total Paid Out	778.62
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Balance in Treasury	\$1,454.34
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Roy L. Harper, Secretary and Treasurer

Report Adopted.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR REPORTS

Rev. G. W. Arnold—Absent.

Rev. Curtis Briley—Moved to Free Will Baptist Association in Florida.

Rev. W. M. Briley—Churches pastored none, preached 83 sermons, assisted in 4 revivals, conducted 6 funerals, married 3 couples, baptized 1, money received \$486.90, mileage unknown, expenses unknown.

Rev. Emerald Bailey—Pastored 3 churches, 1 half time, conducted 3 revivals, assisted in 1, witnessed 15 conversions, baptized 4, received 5 into the church, conducted 3 conferences, conducted 4 funerals, married 3 couples, money received \$500.00, expenses unknown.

Rev. Elton Cotner—Pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 2, baptized 4, received in the church 4, conducted 1 conference, conducted 2 communion services, conducted 4, funerals, money received \$457.07, expenses unknown, miles traveled unknown.

Rev. Lige Dickey—Verbal.

Rev. Earl Dixon—Pastored 2 churches half time, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 3 revivals, received 2 in church, baptized 1, married 1 couple, conducted 2 funerals, conducted 2 conferences, held 2 communion services, money received \$855.47.

Rev. V. H. Gean—Pastored 2 churches half time, held 2 revivals, assisted in 1, received in church 10, baptized 9, conducted 2 communion services, 1 conference, conducted 3 funerals, money received \$1,065.40.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 3 revivals, received in church 5, baptized 5, communion services 2, conference 1, funerals 7, assisted in 2 funerals, money received \$914.19, expense unknown.

Rev. Travis Johnson—Pastored 3 churches, one half time, assistant pastor of two quarter time, assisted in 5 revivals, conducted 3 revivals, assisted in 1 funeral, preached 115 times, baptized 2, received \$501.70.

Rev. Burdon Jones—Pastored 1 church full time, held 1 revival, assisted in 4 revivals, held 1 communion service, conducted 2 funerals, married 1 couple, received 3 into church, baptized 2, money received \$710.60, sermons preached 103, miles traveled 3,268, expenses unknown.

Rev. J. C. McClanahan—Conducted 4 revivals, visited 24 churches, conducted 1 funeral, assisted in 1 funeral, married 1 couple, money received from home mission board \$430.00, offerings received \$304.64, total \$734.64.

Rev. L. L. Moore—Absent.

Rev. Edward Smith—Pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 2 conferences, 2 communion services, received in church and baptized 4, money received \$370.00, miles traveled and expenses unknown.

Rev. B. H. Southerland—Pastored 2 churches, conducted 3 revivals, helped in 4, witnessed 13 professions, conducted 1 communion service, conducted 6 funerals, assisted in 1 funeral, married 5 couples, conducted 1 conference, money received \$1,180.91, miles and expenses unknown.

Rev. Ralph Tucker—Pastored 1 church, conducted 3 revivals, assisted in 4 revivals, held 2 communion services, conducted 3 funerals, baptized 8,

money received approximately \$3,200.00, married 2 couples, witnessed approximately 50 conversions, preached approximately 140 sermons, expenses unknown, travel unknown.

Rev. L. J. Vandiver—Moved to Free Will Baptist Association in Florida.
Rev. Nick White—Verbal.

Rev. Jamie Wicker—Pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 2 revivals, conducted 2 conferences, conducted 1 communion service, received 2 into church, baptized 2, conducted 1 funeral, money received \$562.33, expenses unknown.

LICENSED MINISTER AND HIS REPORT

Rev. William Kendrick—Number sermons preached approximately 35, amount received \$73.40, miles traveled unknown, expenses unknown.

Minutes of the fifth Sunday meeting were read by Mrs. Paul Weaver and turned in to go in the minutes of the association.

Moved to retain the same home mission board.

Moved to retain the same examining committee.

Votes were taken and the association was placed for 1961.

Moved and second to adjourn the session until Saturday afternoon.

Rev. Lige Dickey and Rev. Earl Dixon brought the Saturday morning messages at the 11 o'clock hour.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment by singing and Scripture reading by Rev. W. M. Briley. Prayer by Rev. Burlon Jones.

Bro. Burgess from the Children's Home at Greeneville, Tennessee, made a short talk in behalf of the Children's Home, aided by Bro. Tutteroe.

Going into Presbytery session. We had 19 ministers present, 1 licensed minister, and 12 deacons.

Cards granted to ministers: Revs. G. W. Arnold, W. M. Briley, Emerald Bailey, Elton Cotner, Lige Dickey, Earl Dixon, V. H. Gean, J. B. Harper, J. C. McClanahan, Burlon Jones, L. L. Moore, Edward Smith, B. H. Southerland, Nick White, J. L. Wicker, Travis Johnson, Ralph Tucker, J. M. Harbin.

Bro. Ernest Wood stated that he had not preached any in two years, and that he would turn in his credentials. The Presbytery accepted his credentials.

Letters of Recommendation: Received from New Pleasant Grove Church recommending that Bro. William Kendrick be ordained as a minister and that Bro. Benton Brown be ordained as a deacon.

Harmony Church recommended that Rev. T. B. Lee be received into the Presbytery.

These three went before the examining committee and all were found well qualified for the positions for which they were recommended. Bro. Kendrick and Bro. Brown were ordained and Bro. Lee received. Bro. Geans read the qualifications of a preacher and deacon from 1 Timothy 3. Prayer led by Rev. Nick White.

Rev. T. B. Lee reported: Pastored 1 church full time, assisted in 1 re-

vival, witnessed 12 conversions, baptized 9, received in church 15, held 1 communion service, conducted 2 funerals, money received \$1,237.00.

Business session adjourned. Dismissed by Rev. Elton Cotner.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

First—Mt. Olivet—October, 1960

Second—New Home—January, 1961

Third—Meeks' Grove—April, 1961

Fourth—Poplar Springs—July, 1961

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Jamie Wicker. Preaching by Rev. Burlan Jones and Rev. J. C. McClanahan.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened with singing and prayer. Devotional by Rev. W. M. Briley, followed by Rev. B. H. Southerland delivering a wonderful message. Dismissed by Rev. L. L. Moore.

Offering for Free Will Baptist Childrens' Home taken, received \$200.00.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, your committee on resolution of thanks, beg leave to report to this body assembled together with New Chapel Church:

We realize it has been one great gathering together. We wish to express our thanks for the hospitality shown us while we have been here.

It is hard to find words to express the thanks due the good people of New Chapel Church and its community. We wish to thank everyone who has had a part in this great gathering. We thank everyone for the good cooperation which we have had.

We thank God for the privilege of gathering here and praising the Lord with the children of God.

We pray God's blessings upon your church, your community and all the other churches of our association.

Carthel Shields, *Chairman*

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT MIDWAY CHAPEL, NOVEMBER, 1959

Rev. J. B. Harper, moderator, was in charge of business session. There was no unfinished business.

There were 16 churches, 11 preachers, 1 licensed minister and 3 visiting ministers present.

New Business:

The association decided to buy a sound system from Rev. Nick White to go with the tent for \$125.00. A freewill offering was taken for the purpose and received \$36.80. Decided to take the balance out of the home mission treasury.

A petitionary letter received from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama. The letter was read before the body and the church was accepted into the association.

A committee was appointed to arrange the program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. The committee consists of Rev. Nick White, Bro. Roy Harper, Brother S. G. Robbins and J. M. Craig.

No further business to come before the body. Move and second to close session.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

AT PINEY GROVE CHURCH, JANUARY, 1960

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened with singing directed by Bro. Ira Gillis. Prayers by Rev. William Kendrick, Rev. J. C. McClanahan and Rev. Burlon Jones.

Rev. Earl Dixon, assistant moderator, was in charge of service in the absence of the moderator, Rev. J. B. Harper.

Opening message delivered by Rev. V. H. Gean, reading Mark 1:1-20. Dismissed by Rev. Elton Cotner.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together by singing directed by Bro. Jimmy Gillis.

Message by Rev. Earl Dixon reading, Micah 6. Followed by Rev. Ralph Tucker reading John 4:12 and 2 Kings 3:16, using the subjects of "Pure Water" and "The Ditchdigger."

Going into business session, we have 11 churches represented, 9 ordained ministers, 1 licensed minister and 4 deacons.

The minutes of the last business session were read and approved.

No unfinished business.

Call for new business:

A committee was appointed to arrange program for next fifth Sunday meeting. Committee consisted of Bro. Thomas Banks, Bro. Jake Craig and Rev. Burlon Jones.

Received a letter of greetings from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Huntsville, enclosing \$5.00 for minute funds. The body agreed that the letter would be entered in the minutes.

Received letter of recommendation from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Huntsville recommending Rev. Ralph Tucker to the Presbytery. Bro. Tucker went before the examining committee and was found well qualified. He was granted a card.

Received a letter from Pleasant Hill Church recommending that Rev. J. M. Harbin be received back into the association as an ordained minister. Move and second that Bro. Harbin go before the examining committee. The committee recommended that Bro. Harbin be received and also give him a card and a copy of his credentials.

No further business to come before the body. Move and second to close the session.

Dismissed by Bro. Benton Brown.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Called together by singing. Prayers by Rev. Nick White and Sister

McClanahan. Devotional conducted by Rev. Lige Dickey, having a wonderful service. Followed with a message by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading John 1:1, 2, bringing a wonderful message.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Called together by singing. Prayers by Rev. L. L. Moore and Rev. V. H. Gean. Special singing by the trio of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Message delivered by Rev. W. M. Briley, reading Galatians 6:1-3; 1:3-6; 2:1, 2, 7-11.

Followed by a message by Rev. McDonald of the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, reading Romans 1:14-17, using the text, "I Am Not Ashamed."

Dismissed by Bro. McClanahan.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together by singing. Prayer by Rev. G. W. Arnold.

Message brought by Rev. Travis Johnson, reading John 6:64-68; Matthew 23:33; Revelation 3:15, 16.

Song and Christian handshake.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

JONES CHAPEL CHURCH, MAY 28 AND 29, 1960

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened with singing directed by Rev. Emerald Bailey and Mrs. Mearle Harper. Prayers by Rev. Jones and Rev. Emerald Bailey.

Opening message was delivered by Rev. Hollis Southerland, reading Matthew 27:29-50, using the text, "And sitting down they watched him there." Prayer by Rev. J. C. McClanahan. Song and handshake. Dismissed by Rev. J. M. Harbin.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together by singing directed by Mrs. Mearle Harper. Prayers by Rev. V. H. Gean and Rev. L. L. Wilson.

Message delivered by Rev. Edward Smith, reading Scriptures from Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Going into business session, we had 12 churches represented, 14 ministers present, 1 visiting minister and 7 deacons.

No unfinished business.

Committee appointed to arrange a program for next fifth Sunday meeting: Bro. John Martin, Bro. Earl Dixon and Bro. Walker.

No further business to come before the body. Moved and second to close session.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Called together with singing directed by Rev. V. H. Gean. Prayers by Bro. Martin and Rev. Killen.

Devotional conducted by Rev. Nick White.

Message delivered by Rev. Dewey Stults reading a portion of Genesis 3, using the subject, "The Devil."

Dismissed by Rev. W. M. Briley.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened with singing directed by Bro. V. H. Gean and Bro. Lige Dickey. Prayer by Rev. V. H. Gean.

Message delivered by Rev. Jamie Wicker reading entire chapter of Romans 12 and Philippians 4:6. Followed by Rev. J. C. McClanahan reading from the second chapter of 1 Corinthians.

Dismissed by Rev. B. H. Southerland.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together by singing. Message delivered by Rev. Emerald Bailey.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting

FAIRVIEW CHURCH, JULY, 1960

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened with singing directed by Rev. Emerald Bailey. Prayers by Rev. W. M. Briley and Rev. B. H. Southerland. Opening message by Rev. V. H. Gean, reading from Acts, Chapters 18, and Matthew, Chapter 22, bringing a wonderful message about Jesus being the Son of God.

Dismissed by Rev. Ernest Rich.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together by singing directed by Bro. Wayford Berry. Prayer by Rev. Travis Johnson. Message by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading Matthew 16:13-21.

Going into business session, we have 14 churches represented, 14 ministers present, 1 visiting minister and 5 deacons.

Committee appointed to place fifth Sunday meetings for next associational year. Those appointed were: Rev. Hollis Southerland, Bro. Roy Harper and Bro. Wayford Berry.

The fifth Sunday meetings were placed as follows:

First, Mt. Olivet, October, 1960

Second, New Home, January, 1961

Third, Meeks' Grove, April, 1961

Fourth, Poplar Springs, July, 1961

Election of officers:

Re-elected Rev. J. B. Harper as moderator, re-elected Rev. Earl Dixon as assistant moderator, re-elected Bro. Paul E. Weaver as clerk, re-elected Rev. J. C. McClanahan as associational pastor.

Committee appointed to arrange program for next fifth Sunday meeting which meets at Mt. Olivet. Committee consisted of Rev. Burlon Jones, Bro. Clarence Stricklin and Bro. Wayford Berry.

No further business to come before the body. Move and second to close session.

After the business session, Rev. Ernest Rich brought a message reading from St. Luke, Chapter 5. Followed by a short message by Rev. Travis Johnson.

Dismissed by Bro. Benton Brown.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Called together with singing directed by Bro. Buddy Bailey and Bro. Wayford Berry; also, some special singing. Prayers by Rev. L. L. Wilson and Rev. Lige Dickey. Devotional conducted by Rev. Emerald Bailey, reading verses from St. John and Isaiah.

Message delivered by Rev. Burlon Jones, reading Revelation 3:14 and the remaining part of the chapter; text, St. John 15:22.

Song and Christian handshake. Dismissed by Rev. L. L. Wilson.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened with singing directed by Bro. Larry Dixon, Bro. Paul Weaver and Bro. Jim Denton. Prayers by Rev. J. C. McClanahan and Bro. Kendrick. Message delivered by Rev. W. M. Briley, using the subject, "The Blood of Christ." Followed with a message by Rev. J. M. Harbin, reading a portion of the third chapter of Ephesians, bringing a wonderful message on "The Love of God."

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together by singing directed by Rev. J. M. Harbin. Prayer by Rev. Edward Smith.

Message delivered by Rev. William Kendrick, reading 1 John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, . . ."

Dismissed by Bro. Doyle Wallace.

FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1—Call church to order.
- 2—Call for peace of 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 Friday before the third Sunday in September when it shall be the duty of all churches of which it is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegate.

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 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 condition 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 humiliay 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	Received by Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Deceased	Total Membership	Sunday School Enrollment	Average Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church Value	Amount Paid Pastor	Pastoral Help	Given Children's Home	Foreign Mission	Home Mission	Minute Fund	Meeting Days
Lumpas Creek	1	1						93	47	35	1	1	1	\$2,000.00	\$215.64	\$45.73	\$	\$25.00	\$7.00	1st & 3rd Sundays	
Fairview	1	6						40	60	50	1	1	1	5,000.00	442.08	75.00	107.49	27.50	8.30	2nd & 4th Sunday	
Harmony	9		9			1		120	64	60	3	3	3	7,500.00	1,235.00	208.00			9.70		
Huntsville	15	8						45	74	55	2	2	2	10,000.00	2,825.00	250.00	25.00	21.65	10.00		
Jones Chapel	5	2	3					21	35	20	3	1	1	6,000.00	468.00	91.25	25.00		5.45		
Mt. Olivet								82	70	35	3	1	1	10,000.00	1,404.11	68.00		25.00	2.00	3rd Sunday Evening	
Maple Grove	5	3						26	50	35	1	1	1	3,500.00	137.03	39.91		18.00	6.18		
McGlamery	3	1						56	30	18	1	1	1	1,000.00	94.00	26.00		20.00	4.25		
Meeks' Grove	5	1						90	50	40	1	1	1	8,000.00	340.00	82.00		15.00	5.00		
Midway	6							142	71	40	1	1	1	5,000.00	312.60	75.00		5.35	9.00		
Mt. Zion	1							71	48	35	1	1	1	10,000.00	236.31	47.25	37.00	25.00	9.10	1st & 3rd Sunday	
Murphy's Chapel	1							56	69	50	1	1	1	2,000.00	277.50	215.29		25.00	7.00		
New Chapel	1							56	35	25	1	1	1	3,000.00	460.17	65.55		25.00	6.30		
New Home	1							73	54	45	3	1	1	3,000.00	560.00	213.04		25.00	9.15	Every Sunday	
New Pleasant Grove	1							41	50	27	1	1	1	800.00	175.40	50.40		21.00	4.75		
Piney Grove								10	20	20	1	1	1	2,500.00	137.08	57.60		7.00	5.50		
Lo Van Springs	1	6						17	25	20	1	1	1	1,500.00	200.00	57.60		25.00	4.51		
Warren Chapel					1			17	25	20	1	1	1	1,500.00	296.00	55.25		25.00	8.58	1st & 3rd Sunday	
Woot's Chapel				1	1			104	22	54	3	3	3	2,000.00	237.65	43.00		25.00	5.00		
Second Creek								22	30	25	3	3	3	1,000.00	90.45	14.00			4.00		
Shady Grove								185	75	46	3	3	3	2,500.00	360.00	60.00			4.50		
St. Jude	1							149	75	46	2	1	1	1,000.00	138.42	36.34		25.00	9.00	1st & 3rd Sunday	
St. John's Creek	3		1		2			35	50	45	2	1	1	1,000.00							

