



MINUTES
of the
Twentieth Annual Session
of the
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists

Convened with
Piney Grove Church
Friday, September 19, 1969

The next Association will convene with Adamsville Church
on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1970,
at 11:00 A. M.

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Churches	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School Enrollment	Average Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church Value	Amount Paid Pastor	Pastorial Help	Given Children's Home	Home Missions	Minute Fund	Meeting Days
Adamsville		2						47	55	30	3	5		\$15,000	\$ 735.00	\$ 75.00		\$25.00	\$14.05	Every Sunday
Antioch	1	4						23	57	36			2	3,500	815.15	236.55			10.00	Every Sunday
Bumpas Creek				3				100	40	30	1			8,000	456.66	89.66		25.00	12.00	Every Sunday
Fairview	1				1			66	80	64	2	3	1	8,850	\$39.50	100.00	25.00	25.00	20.01	2nd & 4th Sunday & night
Harmony	6	2	4		1	3	149	94	80	4	2	2	2	19,000	2085.00	100.00	124.70		10.35	
Jones Chapel	No Letter																			
McGlavery	1	1				1	20	22			1			4,500	70.00	56.00			4.15	Every Sunday
Meeks Grove	10	2		1	3		49	55	40	1				1,500	332.00	70.00			11.02	2nd & 4th Sunday
Midway						1	95	55	40	3	1			12,000	846.48	115.00		10.00	10.00	2nd & 4th Sunday
Mt. Olivet	1						1	28						2,500		71.00			7.00	
Mt. Zion		1	3	1	2	3	114	43	38	5	1			14,450	1,681.28	260.00		25.00	12.00	
Murphy's Chapel				1			92	65	50	3	4	1		25,000	1,475.00	164.31		110.00	14.55	
New Chapel	10			1		1	69	66	55	2				7,000	559.13	119.13	40.00		9.60	1st & 3rd Sunday
New Home	4	3					62	45	25	2				3,000	748.87	100.00		25.00	14.32	1st & 3rd Sunday
New Pleasant Grove	1	2	1				50	35	30	3	1			5,000	920.00	94.00			10.00	Every Sunday & night
Piney Grove	3	2	3		3	1	3	135	60	2				3,500	239.53	44.72	25.00	25.00	10.00	
Poplar Springs	2	7		3	1	1	69	45	30	2	1			6,000	1,250.00		25.00	6.00		
Posey Chapel	4						20	34	30	2	2			11,000	911.00	136.00		25.00	8.25	Every Sunday
Rayborn Chapel	4	1				1	28	27	22	1				15,000	unknown	23.73			7.35	
Scotts Chapel					1	132	70	51	2	3				3,000	434.63	71.50		27.00	14.00	1st and 3rd Sunday
Second Creek							30	20	18					3,500	318.78	53.70			7.50	
Shady Grove							65	37	30	2				3,500	253.03	32.00			4.00	1st and 3rd Sunday
Shelby	4						20	10	20	1	2			10,000	145.00	10.00		10.00	5.00	
Solitude	4	1	3			1	183	75	47	2	1			4,000	550.00	116.00	25.00	25.00	12.00	2nd & 4th Sunday & night
Whites Creek	5			3		1	60	50	45	1	1	1		5,000	274.00	100.00			14.00	

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. Earl Dixon, Moderator Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Rev. Emerald Bailey, Assistant Moderator Iron City, Tennessee
Bro. J.W. Stooksberry, Clerk Iron City, Tennessee

HOME MISSION BOARD

Bro. John Bobo, Secretary-Treasurer Central Heights, Florence, Alabama
(Phone 766-0153)
Bro. Stancil Robbins 707 Candler, Muscle Shoals, Ala.
Bro. Don Hanback Route One, Iron City, Tennessee

EVANGELIST

Rev. Emerald Bailey Route One, Iron City, Tennessee

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tenn.; Rev. Elias Stephens, Savannah, Tenn.; Rev. Emerald Bailey, Iron City, Tenn.

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Rev. L.L. Wilson, Moderator Adamsville, Tennessee
Rev. Everett Rich, Asst. Moderator Iron City, Tennessee
Rev. Vernon Gober, Clerk Adamsville, Tennessee

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Thurman Stults Iron City, Tennessee
Rev. Vernon Gober Adamsville, Tennessee
Rev. Earl Dixon Route One, Cloverdale, Alabama

CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Adamsville—Bro. Douglas Scott, Adamsville, Tennessee
Antioch—Sister Lina Montgomery, Route 1, Cloverdale, Alabama
Bumpas—Sister Robert Benson, Star Route 10, Florence, Alabama
Fairview—Sister Deane Butler, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee
Harmony—Sister Betty L. Jeffreys, Route 2, Leighton, Alabama
McGlamery—Sister Bethel Robertson, Route 2, Collinwood, Tennessee
Meeks Grove—Sister Betty Sue Milford, Route 1, Box 183A, Statonville, Tennessee
Midway—Sister Lela Hall, Route 2, Leighton, Alabama
Mt. Olivet—Bro. W.C. Jones, Route 1, Waterloo, Alabama
Mt. Zion—Sister Inos Lowery, Route 1, Town Creek, Alabama
Murphy's Chapel—Bro. Randal Gray, 1336 James St., Florence, Alabama
New Chapel—Sister Irene Robinson, Counce, Tennessee
New Homes—Sister Ethel Davidson, Route 4, Henderson, Tennessee
New Pleasant Grove—Sister Mary Lou Hubbard, 1510 Hickory St., Savannah, Tennessee
Piney Grove—Bro. Johnny Banks, Route 1, Cypress Inn, Tennessee
Poplar Springs—Sister Wanda McKee, Route 1, Tishomingo, Mississippi
Posey Chapel—Sister Laura Mae Posey, Route 3, Cherokee, Alabama
Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Edgar Melson, Lutts, Tennessee
Scotts Chapel—Bro. Allen Berry, Route 2, Oakwood, Athens, Alabama
Second Creek—Sister Alma Scott, P.O. Box 35, Waterloo, Alabama
Shady Grove—Sister Alama Franks, Olive Hill, Tennessee
Shelby—Rev. Grover L. See, 2592 Dakar Ave. Memphis, Tennessee.
Solitude—Sister Virginia Finley, Adamsville, Tennessee
Whites Creek—Sister Ora Stricklin, Savannah, Tennessee

PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Tennessee River Association met at 11:00 A.M. with congregational singing. The opening prayer was by Bro. Homer Scott.

The morning message was delivered by Bro. Earl Dixon, Moderator. His subject was wisdom, reading from the fourth chapter of Proverbs.

The morning session was dismissed with prayer by Bro. Edward Smith to meet back at 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with singing and prayer by Bro. Ned Simmons.

The body was then assembled in order of ministers, deacons, and delegates. All visitors were also invited to sit with us.

APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

READING CLERKS — Bro. Glenn Bobo and Bro. Randal Gray

FINANCE COMMITTEE — Bro. Jimmy Wilson, Bro. Hershel White, and Bro. Willie Posey.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Bro. Green Winston, Bro. Jimmy Montgomery, Bro. Lannie Moore.

OBITUARY — Bro. C.I. Dixon, Bro. Grady Tacker, Bro. Edward Smith.

Called for letters from churches and recognized delegates.

Adamsville — Bro. Lannie Moore and Sis. Moore

Antioch — Bro. Jimmy Montgomery

Bumpas — Bro. Green Winston

Fairview — Bro. Jimmy Wilson, and Bro. Clarence Linville.

Harmony — Represented by letter.

McGlamery — Bro. Edgar Roberson

Jones Chapel — No letter

Meeks Grove — Represented by letter.

Midway — Sis. Grace Pace

Mt. Olivet — Sis. Mae Scott and Sis. Vilona Jones.

Mt. Zion — Sis. Minnie Bell McGee and Sis. Byrdia Landers

Murphy's Chapel — Bro. Larry Dixon and Bro. Randal Gray.

New Chapel — Bro. Erby White and Bro. George McKinney.

New Home — Sis. Mary Dell Gilchrist and Bro. Frank Rankins.

New Pleasant Grove — Sis. Mary Lou Hubbard, Sis. Sussie Hubbard, and Sis. Charity Hubbard.

Piney Grove — Bro. Dalton Staggs, Bro. Edd Horton, Bro. Johnnie Banks.

Poplar Springs — Bro. Junior Johnson and Bro. Ernest Dill.

Posey Chapel — Bro. Willie Posey and Bro. Ned Simmons.

Rayborn Chapel — Bro. Kenneth W. Melson

Scotts Chapel — Bro. Mark Berry and Bro. Frank Pigg.

Second Creek — Bro. Virgil Hinton

Shady Grove — Bro. Jody Melson.

ORDAINED MINISTERS, THEIR ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emerald Bailey, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee, Phone Collinwood 724-4378
 Carroll C. Barnes, 706 Stage Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, Phone 358-9577
 Elton Cotner, Route 2, Adamsville, Tennessee, Phone 632-6065
 Lige Dickey, Route 1, Cypress Inn, Tennessee, Phone Collinwood 724-9332
 Earl Dixon, Route 1, Cloverdale, Alabama, Phone Florence 764-0558
 V.H. Gean, Route 1, Cloverdale, Alabama, Phone Florence 766-3896
 Vernon Gober, Adamsville, Tennessee, Phone 632-4228
 J.B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tennessee, Phone 724-4594
 Jerry House, Route 2, Box 31-A, Iuka, Mississippi
 Burlon Jones,
 J.C. McClanahan, Route 2, Florence, Alabama, Phone 764-8210
 Robert McGee, Route 5, Russellville, Alabama
 Vernon Creasy, Route 1, Cloverdale, Alabama, Phone 766-1666
 Virgil Moore, Morris Chapel, Tennessee, Phone 632-6888
 Everett Rich, Route 1, Iron City, Tennessee, Phone Collinwood 724-4568
 Grover See, 2592 Dakar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee
 Elias Stephens, Route 4, Savannah, Tennessee, Phone 925-3881
 Thurman Stults, Iron City, Tennessee
 Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tennessee
 John H. Sneed, 508 Sixth Avenue, Riverside, Columbia, Tennessee
 Nick White, Route 1, Savannah, Tennessee, Phone 925-4504
 L.L. Wilson, Adamsville, Tennessee
 Benton Brown, 2406 Pinhook Road, Savannah, Tennessee, Phone 901-925-3080
 J.T. Wright, 427 Stanton Avenue, Florence, Alabama, Phone 766-4508
 Glenn Bobo, 1602 Pineherst Blvd., Sheffield, Alabama, Phone 383-0141

LICENSED MINISTERS

Bro. William Jr. Cagle, Cloverdale, Ala.
 Bro. Jimmy Montgomery, Cloverdale, Ala.
 Bro. Carl Creasy
 Bro. Troy Massingill
 Bro. Don Hanback, Iron City, Tennessee.

CHURCH PASTORS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Adamsville - Rev. Benton Brown, 2406 Pinhook Road, Savannah, Tenn.
 Antioch - Rev. E.N. Bailey, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.
 Bumpas - Rev. Evrette Rich, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.
 Fairview - Rev. Earl Dixon, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.
 Harmony - Rev. Joe Henderson, Moulton, Ala.
 McGlamery - Rev. Jimmy Montgomery, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.
 Meeks Grove - Rev. V.L. Moore, Morris Chapel, Tenn.
 Midway - Rev. J.B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tenn.
 Mt. Olivet - Rev. Nick White, Rt. 1, Savannah, Tenn.
 Mt. Zion - Rev. Robert McGee, Rt. 5, Russellville, Ala.
 Murphy's Chapel - Rev. Vernon Creasy, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.
 New Chapel - Rev. Travis Johnson, Memphis, Tenn.
 New Home - Rev. V.L. Moore, Morris Chapel, Tenn.
 New Pleasant Grove - Rev. Elton Cottner, Adamsville, Tenn.
 Piney Grove - Rev. Thurman Stults, Iron City, Tenn.
 Poplar Springs - Rev. Travis Johnson, Memphis, Tenn.
 Posey Chapel - Rev. V.H. Gean, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.
 Rayborn Chapel - Rev. Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tenn.
 Scott's Chapel - Rev. Lige Dickey, Cypress Inn, Tenn.
 Second Creek - Rev. Nick White, Rt. 1, Savannah, Tenn.
 Shady Grove - Rev. J.T. Wright, Florence, Ala.
 Shelby - No Pastor as yet.
 Solitude - Rev. Glenn Bobo, Sheffield, Ala.
 White's Creek - Rev. Thurman Stults, Iron City, Tenn.

Solitude — Bro. Jammie Wicker, Sis. Mable Wicker, Sis. Etta Farriel and Sis. Mary Tacker.
White's Creek — Bro. Hershel White, and Bro. Frank Ward.
Shelby — Represented by letter.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES

PROGRAM — Bro. Thurman Stults, Bro. Garner, Bro. Farriel and Bro. Bill Benson.
GENERAL BUSINESS — Bro. J.B. Harper, Bro. Evrette Rich, Bro. Stancil Robbins, Bro. Frank Pigg, and Bro. Homer Scott.
EDUCATIONAL — Bro. Dalton Skaggs, Bro. Elton Cottner, and Bro. Lige Dickey.
TEMPERANCE — Bro. Clarence Linville, Bro. Ed Horton, and Bro. Larry Dixon.
BENEVOLENCE — Bro. Johnnie Brewer, Bro. Frank Ward, Bro. J.C. McClanahan
REVOLUTIONS OF THANKS — Bro. Vernon Gober, Bro. Benton Brown, and Bro. L.L. Wilson.

The Moderator asked all ministers, deacons and delegates to sign for a roll call. The business session adjourned to meet on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The Friday night service opened with singing and prayer by Bro. Elton Cotner. The first message was by Rev. Ledford Stults, his subject was "bridging the gap," reading from Ezekiel, 22nd chapter, 30th verse. The second part of the service was by Bro. J.B. Harper. "Go Forward" was the subject he used. The service was closed by prayer by Bro. Emerald Bailey.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Saturday morning session met according to previous adjournment with singing and prayer by Bro. Edward Smith. The scripture reading was by Bro. Gerald Montgomery, reading from 6th ch. of Ephesians., Bro. Montgomery spoke briefly about his missionary work in the Armed Forces.

The roll call was made and business reports were given as follows:

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 by the first of January. We recommend that preachers and deacons remind the churches. We recommend that the preachers pay the tenth out of the money he receives for ministerial work to the 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 he work with the home mission board.

We recommend that any man that acknowledges that he is called of God to preach and his home church esteems him to qualify with the scripture found in 2nd Timothy, Chapter 3, and any other scripture which pertains to the qualifications of a man holding this office in the church, that he be licensed for 12 months, then if his home church further recommends him, that he go before the examining committee before ordination.

We recommend that men who desire the office of deacon and can qualify according to the Scripture be appointed under the watch care of their church for 1 year and that the association be notified of such appointing. Then at the end of 1 year they go before the examining committee before ordination. We also recommend that they be granted a certificate of ordination when ordained.

We recommend that any ordained minister coming from another body to this association go before examining committee, then if the committee find him to comply to the doctrine of this body, then let him futher be under the watch care of the association

for 1 year after which he will go before the examining committee again before being issued any credentials from this association.

We recommend that we retain an examining committee.

We 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, and 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 meetings be elected and the meeting place of each Fifth Sunday meeting 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 its pastor thirty days before the association if possible.

We recommend that we pay the Home Mission treasurer \$25.00.

We recommend that we pay the associational clerk \$35.00.

We also recommend that the home mission board pay the associational pastor for his ministerial work, plus the amount of \$100.00 for each tent revival.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, wish to submit the following: We have 23 churches with Sunday schools (2 without Sunday schools), with a present enrollment of 1239 and a regular attendance of 882. The average attendance is 38.35. This shows a small decrease in average attendance from last year.

We recommend that each church have a Sunday school regularly. We also recommend that all leaders and teachers in Sunday schools be devout Christians; sound in faith and 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 recommend that all visitors who visit our churches be followed up by a visit of the teacher, or by a card to show our appreciation for their visit.

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

Bro. Jimmy Montgomery, Chairman

This report was adopted by the association.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

We, your committee, wish to recommend the following:

That the Free Will Baptists urge the continued use of the King James Bible, because we are living in a time when different forms of the word are presented.

Elton Cottner, Chairman.

This report was adopted by the association.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We, your committee on temperance, submit the following:

We find the word temperance in regard to strong drink, beer, wine, whiskey, nicotine or any drug harmful to our body. In 1st Corinthians 6:19-20, the Bible says: "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." First Corinthians 3:17 says, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

We should be temperate in all walks of life, in church, at home, in school, and in business. We find that the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 9:25, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." We also find in II Peter 1:5-8, that temperance adds to things that are unto Godliness; "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, and to Godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Chairman, Larry Dixon

This report was adopted by the Association.

OBITUARY REPORT

We your committee on obituaries, in sorrow report that death has taken 20 of our members since our last association. They are as follows: Adamsville—Bro. Dewey Nixon and Sis. Vallie Nixon; Harmony—Bro. Robert Quinn, Sis. Mary Harrison and Bro. W.L. Summers; McGlamery—Sis. Nancy Robertson; Midway—Sis. Myrtle Pace; Mt. Olivet—Bro. Charlie Releford; Mt. Zion Bro. John Pate, Bro. John Jeffreys and Bro. Tom Beavers; New Chapel—Bro. Alford Layton; Piney Grove—Sis. Emmaline Robbins, Sis. Icy Balentine and Bro. G.O. Southerland; Poplar Springs—Bro. Luther Bullard; Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Billy Stricklin; Scott's Chapel—Bro. Orbie Moore; Solitude—Sis. Lillian Weeks; White's Creek—Sis. Minnie Henson.

We hope and trust our loss is heaven's gain.

Bro. Edward Smith, Chairman

REPORT OF BENEVOLENCE

We your committee on benevolence find that the word benevolence means disposition to do good, act of kindness, good will.

We feel that we should support all the benevolence of our churches.

We recommend that each church support their pastor financially for we see the need of him being in the field.

We also recommend that our churches send an offering to the orphans' home monthly or quarterly and the support of our missions both at home and abroad, wherever we find people in need.

We find in Proverbs 3:27-28 "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbor go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give: When thou hast it by thee."

Johnnie Brewer, Chairman

This report was adopted by the Association.

CLERKS REPORT

Amount received from churches 1968	\$241.68
Balance from churches in 1967	<u>11.87</u>
Total	253.55
Clerk fee	\$35.00
Printing of 600 minutes	\$201.40
Postage	<u>3.78</u>
Total paid out	<u>\$240.18</u>
Balance in treasure	\$ 13.37

Bro. J.W. Stooksberry, Clerk

This report was adopted by the association.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Adamsville	\$14.05	New Chapel	9.60
Antioch	10.00	New Home	14.32
Bumpas Creek	12.00	New Pleasant Grove	10.00
Fairview	20.01	Piney grove	10.00
Harmony	10.35	Poplar Springs	6.00
McGlamery	4.15	Posey Chapel	8.25
Meeks Grove	11.02	Rayborn Chapel	7.35
Midway	10.00	Scott's Chapel	14.00
Mt. Olivet	7.00	Second Creek	7.50
Mt. Zion	12.00	Shady Grove	4.00
Murphys Chapel	14.55	Solitude	12.00
		Shelby	5.00
		Whites Creek	<u>14.00</u>
		Total	\$247.15

HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

August 31, 1969

Amount brought forward, 1968	\$937.93
Amount received at the association for Children's Homes	291.80
New Home Church	25.00
Shelby Church at Memphis	10.00
Posey Chapel	25.00
Dec. 1969 Freewill offering for childrens homes	16.00
Midway Church	10.00
Antioch Church	25.00
Fairview Church	25.00
Piny Grove Church	25.00
Bumpas Creek Church	25.00
Harden Grove Yard Church	<u>25.00</u>

\$1,440.73

Name of Ministers who paid to the Home Mission Board

Rev. Emeral Bailey	\$206.00
Rev. Glenn Bobo	20.35
Rev. Grover See	20.00
Rev. V.H. Gean	100.00
Rev. J.C. McClanahan	13.50
Rev. Earl Dixon	40.00
Rev. Elias Stephens	60.00
Rev. Evrette Rich	40.00
Rev. J.T. Wright	25.00
Rev. J.R. Cagle	15.00
Rev. Vernon Gober	5.00
Rev. Benton Brown	<u>11.10</u>

Total Paid in \$1,996.68

Amount Paid out in 1969:

Children's Home	\$307.80
Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk	25.00
Associational Pastor	500.00
Treasurer Fee	<u>25.00</u>

Total Paid out \$ 857.80

Balance in the Treasury \$1,138.88

Treasurer — John B. Bobo

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Emerald Bailey

Pastored 1 church full time, received 6 into the church, conducted 1 communion service conducted 1 conference, baptised 5, witnessed 43 professions, conducted 4 funerals, married 1 couple, conducted 2 church revivals assisted in 4 church revivals, conducted 5 tent revivals, visited 19 churches. Money received for pastoral work \$794.40 money received for associational work \$998.73, money received from other church revivals \$273.00, Paid tent revival helpers \$300.00. Total amount received \$1,767.13.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The moderator asked for petitionary letters. There were none.

A vote was taken for the placement of the Association for the coming year. The Association will convene with Adamsville Church on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1970, at 11:00 a.m., since they received the largest number of votes.

The moderator called for the nomination of the Associational Pastor Nomination made and second to retain the same one, Bro. Emerald Bailey.

Moderator called for the nomination of the member of the rotating board of trustees which had served the longest period of time. Those retained on the board of trustees were Rev. Earl Dixon and Rev. Vernon Gober. Rev. Thurman Stults was elected to serve with them.

The resolution committee was retained to serve both the Association and Fifth Sunday meetings were as follows: Bro. Earl Dixon, Bro. Edward Smith, Bro. Everett Rich, Bro. Emerald Bailey, Bro. Elton Cottner. The purpose of this committee is to deal with problems that might arise and decide if they should be brought before the body of the association.

The business session adjourned.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Saturday morning service began at 10:30 with singing and prayer by Bro. Robert McGee. Messages were delivered by Rev. Jimmy Montgomery and Rev. Nick White. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Jr. Cagle.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESBYTERY SESSION

Piney Grove Church
September 20, 1969

The presbytery session of Tennessee River Association met in session with Piney Grove Church September 20, 1969. The Rev. L.L. Wilson, Moderator, and the Rev. Evrette Rich; assistant moderator, presided. There were 20 churches present, 21 ordained ministers, 3 licensed ministers, 8 deacons.

The minutes of the last session were read and approved. The moderator then called for unfinished business there was none. The new business, none arised.

Moderator called for ministers reports.

ORDAINED MINISTERS REPORTS

Rev. George Arnold - Absent, card granted.

Rev. Emerald Bailey - Gave his complete report for associational pastor. Card granted.

Rev. Carroll C. Barnes - Absent, report read, filled in at 2 churches part time, professions witnessed 2, preached at 3 other churches, money received none. Card granted.

Rev. Glenn Bobo - Reported, preached 59 sermons, conducted radio program each Sunday morning (WRCK, Tusculmbia), conducted 1 conference, married 1 couple, conducted 1 revival, witnessed 2 professions, money received \$123.50. Card granted.

Rev. Benton Brown — Reported, pastored one church, assisted in one church, preached 59 sermons, held 1 revival, witnessed 8 confessions, baptised 4, married 3 couples, received 5 into church, held 1 communion service, held 1 conference, money received \$159.99. Card granted.

Rev. Elton Cottner — Reported, pastored 1 church full time conducted radio program each Sunday morning 8:15 (Savannah station WORM), conducted 1 revival, assisted in 1, baptised 1, received 4 into the church, conducted 6 funerals, married 3 couples, money received \$1,115.00. Card granted.

Rev. Lige Dickey — Gave oral report, Card granted.

Rev. Earl Dixon — Reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 1 communion service, conducted 3 funerals, and assisted in 1. Money received \$461.66. Card granted.

Rev. V.H. Gean — Reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted radio program each Sunday, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 3, witnessed 3 professions, held 1 communion service, held 1 conference, conducted 11 funerals, married 1 couple, money received \$1,580.00. Card granted.

Rev. Vernon Gober — Reported, preached 12 sermons held 1 conference, assisted in 1 revival, money received \$56.10. Card granted.

Rev. J.B. Harper — Reported, pastored 1 church half time, conducted 1 revival, assisted 4 revivals, conducted 1 communion service, conducted 4 funerals, assisted in 2 funerals money received \$1,207.41. Card granted.

Rev. Jerry House — Absent card granted.

Rev. J.C. McClanahan — Gave oral report, card granted.

Rev. Robert L. McGee — Reported, preached 55 sermons, professions witnessed 12, received 3 into church, baptised 1, conducted 2 funerals, attended Sunday school 50, held 2 revivals, married 3 couples, money received \$1,681.28. Payed Tithes \$320.00, gave charity \$60.00, pastored 1 church full time. Card granted.

Rev. Vernon Creasy — Reported, pastored church half time, conducted 1 conference, helped in 1 revival, helped in 1 week end revival, money received \$318.78, visited 5 churches, paid in tenth to Sunday school. Card granted.

Rev. Virgil Moore — Reported, preached 108 sermons, pastored 2 churches, half time each, assisted in 2 revivals, witnessed 18 professions, baptised 14, received 18 in the church, conducted 4 funerals, held 2 communion services, conducted 3 conferences, miles traveled approximately 6373, expenses unknown, money received \$1,095.87, payed tenth to building fund at Meeks Grove Church. Card granted.

Rev. Evrette Rich — Reported, pastored 2 churches half time each, held 2 revivals, held 2 conferences, assisted in 3 revivals, baptised 3, addition to church 1, married 2 couples, received \$1,057.73, miles traveled unknown, expense unknown. Card granted.

Rev. Grover L. See — Reported, pastored one church full time, delivered 85 messages, traveled 6,000 miles, conducted 1 funeral, received 4 into church, baptised 2, conducted 1 marriage, received from the church for pastoral services \$120.00, \$25.00 for Christmas offering. Total received \$145.00. Amount received for services outside the church pastored \$70.00. Total received for the past year \$220.00. Amount paid home mission board \$20.00. Card granted.

Rev. Elais Stephen — Report, pastored 1 church full time, preached 94 sermons, helped in one revival, held 3 conferences, witnessed 1 profession, took 3 into church, miles traveled unknown. Money received \$911.00. Card granted.

Rev. Thurman Stults — Reported, pastored 2 churches half time each, revivals held 3, professions witnessed 8, number baptised 7, addition to church 10, funerals preached 4, marriages solemnized 3, miles traveled unknown, money received \$545.60. Card granted.

Rev. Nick White — Reported, pastored 1 church half time, conversions 6, baptised 5, united with church 4, funerals held 5, married 1 couple, communion held 1, conference held 1, restored 3, money received approximately \$640.51. Card granted.

Rev. L.L. Wilson — Reported, sermons preached 80, churches pastored 1, revivals held 1 assisted in 1 revival, professions witnessed 4, additions to church 2, funerals preached 2, miles traveled 11,750, money received \$898.34. Card granted.

Rev. Edward Smith — Gave an oral report. Card granted.

Rev. W. C. Jones — Retired, absent, Card granted.

LICENSED MINISTERS REPORTS

Rev. Jr. Cagle — Reported, number of sermons unknown, married 1 couple, assisted in 1 tent revival, held 1 church revival, conducted 1 conference, pastored 1 church part time, money received \$414.53 approximately, witnessed 15 conversions,

Rev. Don E. Hanback — Gave oral report

Rev. J.T. Wright — Reported, conducted 1 revival, witnessed 7 conversions, assisted in 1 tent revival, baptised 3, conducted radio program every Sunday, money received approximately \$325.00. Card granted after ordination.

The moderator called for letters of ordination.

Antioch church sent a letter asking Rev. Jr. Cagle and Rev. J.T. Wright be ordained to preach the gospel, also Bro. Jimmy Montgomery be licensed to preach the gospel for one year.

Rayborn Chapel sent a letter asking Bro. Jessie Melson be ordained as deacon.

Midway church sent a letter asking Bro. Lonnie Brisson and Bro. Dewey Pace be ordained as deacons.

Shady Grove Church sent a letter asking Bro. Jody Melson be ordained as deacon.

New Chapel Church sent a letter asking that Bro. Erby White and Bro. Tommy Tucker be ordained as deacons.

Solitude sent a letter asking that Bro. Troy Massengill be licensed to preach the gospel for 1 year.

It was also brought before the body that the following men be under the watch and card of the church for one year: Bro. Larry Dixon, Bro. David Montgomery, Bro. Johnny Brewer, and Bro. Earnest Jeffery.

The men to be ordained went before the examining committee.

The examining committee reported that Bro. Jr. Cagle desired to wait awhile. Also Bros. Lonnie Grissom and Tommy Tucker desired to wait a while. The rest were recommended for ordination.

Rev. V.H. Gean read the qualifications of a bishop from the 1st chapter of Titus and 3rd chapter of Timothy. This was followed by an altar prayer and an ordination service was held.

Moderator called for the nomination of examining committee. Motion made and second to retain the same examining committee.

Motion made and second that the meeting be adjourned. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Vernon Gober.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The Saturday night service opened with singing and prayer by Elton Cotner. The message was delivered by Rev. Robert McGee reading from 2nd chapter of Titus. Subject— "Grace of God." Followed by Elais Stephen reading from 3rd chapter of Proverbs. Subject—"Truth". Dismissed by Rev. J.B. Harper.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, your committee on resolutions of thanks, report to this body as assembled together to give the people of Piney Grove Church and surrounding churches our sincere thanks for their kindness and hospitality shown during this association.

May the Lord bless each one of you, and the communion of the Holy Spirit abide with us forever.

Bro. Vernon Gober

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Service was opened with congregational singing. The opening prayer was offered by

Rev. Nick White. An offering was taken for the children home of \$441.00 with Rev. Emerald Bailey in charge. This money will be divided between Free Will Baptist Children Home, P.O. Box 8, Eldridge, Alabama, 35554, and Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Route 9, Greenville, Tennessee. 37743.

The message was brought by Rev. Virgil Moore reading from 6th chapter of Genesis Subject Final Call. Followed by Rev. Everett Rich reading from 2nd chapter of Hebrews. Subject—"What is Man?" Dismissed by Bro. Theodore Nard.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT MURPHY'S CHAPEL

September 28, 1968

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The service opened with congregational singing led by Rev. Carl Creasey. Prayer was led by the Rev. Elias Stephens. The opening message was delivered by Rev. Emerald Bailey reading from the book of Job. Followed with another message by Rev. Elton Cotner, also reading from Job. After the sermons there was an old time hand shake. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. John Sneed.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The congregation was called together with singing led by Bro. Larry Dixon. The message was delivered by Rev. J.T. Wright. Followed with another message by the Rev. Elias Stephens. Reading from Revelation.

The moderator called the business session to order. There were 13 churches present, 15 ordained ministers, 2 visiting ministers, 4 licensed ministers, and 4 ordained deacons present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Under old business Rev. Earnest Hopkins gave a statement as to why he wished to withdraw from the association. It was moved and seconded that Rev. Hopkins go before the examining committee, and the body abide by their decision on this request. There was a letter from Shady Grove recommending Bro. Jodie Melson to serve as deacon for their church. The examining committee recommended that the association return to Rev. Hopkins his old ordination papers and dismiss him from the association.

Under new business Bro. Carl Creasey was licensed to preach the gospel for one year. Rev. Burlon Jones sent in his ordination papers. A motion was made and seconded that the resolution committee go see Bro. Jones. A letter was received from the children homes thanking us for the offering. Bros. Evert Rich, C.I. Dixon, and Roy Harper were appointed as a program committee for the next session. Motion moved and seconded to adjourn. Dismissed by Bro. Carl Creasey.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened with singing led by Bro. Larry Dixon. Prayer was offered by Bro. Glen Bobob. Opening message was brought by Rev. Vernon Gober reading from the tenth chapter of Proverbs. Followed with another message delivered by Rev. Evert Rich, reading from first Corinthians tenth chapter. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. James Pauley.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

The Sunday morning session opened with congregational singing led by Bro. Larry Dixon. Prayer was offered by Rev. J.B. Harper. The opening message was delivered by the Rev. Edward Smith, reading from St. John the eighth chapter. Followed with another message delivered by the Rev. Nick White. Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Don Hanback.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The congregation was called together with singing. The afternoon message was delivered by Rev. Glenn Bobo, reading from first Corinthians the third chapter. Prayer was offered by Rev. Vernon Creasey. Dismissed with prayer.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT FAIRVIEW CHURCH

December 28, and 29, 1968

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The Saturday morning session opened with singing led by Rev. Emerald Bailey. Prayer was offered by Rev. Earl Dixon. The opening message was by Rev. Junior Cagle reading from the 30th chapter of Isaiah. This was followed with another message by Rev. J.T. Wright reading from St. John the third chapter. Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Ted Simmons.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together with singing led by Rev. Junior Cagle. Prayer was offered by Rev. Elias Stephens. The afternoon message was delivered by Rev. Carl Creasey reading from the second chapter of Hebrews.

The moderator called the business session to order. There were 11 churches present, 13 ordained ministers, 5 licensed ministers, 5 ordained deacons and 1 appointed deacon. The minutes of the last session were read and approved. Letters were called for, there were none. Under old business the resolution committee was asked to report as to why Rev. Burlon Jones turned in his ordination papers. Rev. Earl Dixon stated that the committee did not see him together but he saw Bro. Jones personally, and feels that we should return Bro. Jones papers to him. Rev. Burlon Jones stated the reason he turned in his papers was because he belonged at Huntsville Church and they withdrew from the Association. Then he organized a new church in Huntsville, with the intention of it uniting with this association but it resolved, leaving him without a home church. He also asked that we return his papers to him if the association sees fit. A motion was made and seconded that we return his ordination papers to him, but withhold his card until he has united with a church. This motion was voted on and passed by a majority. His papers were returned.

The assistant moderator, Rev. Everett Rich appointed the program committee for the next session at Adamsville Church in March. Rev. L.L. Wilson, Bro. Jade Ferrel and Bro. J.W. Stooksberry, were appointed.

A discussion was brought up on the fact that an ordained minister coming from another association having to be licensed for one year before being accepted in our association, as an ordained minister. No action was taken on this matter. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Nick White.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Called together with congregational singing led by Rev. Glen Bobo. Prayer was offered by Rev. J.C. McClanahan. The first message of the evening was brought by Rev. L.L. Wilson reading from Jeremiah. This was followed with a message by Rev. J.B. Harper. Dismissed by Rev. Glen Bobo.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The morning service was opened with congregational singing. Prayer was delivered by Bro. Buddy Bailey. The opening message was brought by Rev. Nick White, followed with another message delivered by Rev. Lidge Dickey reading from the 23rd Psalms. Dismissed with prayer led by Rev. Jerry House.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

The service opened with congregational singing, followed with prayer by Bro. J.W. Stooksberry. The afternoon message was delivered by Rev. Vernon Creasey, reading from the 18th chapter of Matthew. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Everett Rich.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT ADAMSVILLE CHURCH March 30 and 31, 1969

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

The morning session opened with singing led by Bro. Earl Dixon. Prayer was offered by Bro. Garner. The opening message was delivered by Rev. Benton Brown reading from Timothy the fourth chapter. This was followed with another message by Rev. J.C. McClanahan reading from the fourth chapter of Hebrews. Dismissed by Bro. J.W. Stooksberry.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was called together with singing led by Rev. Junior Cagle. Prayer was offered by Rev. V.H. Gean. Rev. Thurmon Stults brought the afternoon message.

The moderator called the business to order. Rev. V.H. Gean was appointed to assist for this session in the absence of Rev. Everett Rich. There was 14 churches present, 15 ordained ministers, 7 ordained deacons, 2 visiting deacons and 3 licensed ministers. The minutes of the last session was read and approved. Under New business a committee was appointed for the next fifth Sunday meeting program. Rev. Emerald Bailey, Bro. Bradie Tacker and Bro. Arlis Garner were appointed. Letters were received from Posey's Chapel recommending Bro. Glenn Bobo to be ordained for the ministry, and Bro. Ted Simmons to be ordained as Deacon. Also from Meeks Grove recommending Bro. Robert Jarrett to be ordained as deacon. Also from New Home recommending that Bro. Alvin Knipper be reinstated to Deaconship.

These men went before the examining committee. The examining committee reported they find all the brothers worthy, but in the case of Bro. Robert deacon, that he wait and come back a year from now. Rev. Earl Dixon read the qualifications of a deacon from First Timothy. Bro. Glenn Bobo and Bro. Ted Simmons were ordained. A motion was made and approved that the business session adjourn. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Junior Cagle.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Called together with singing led by Bro. John Bobo. Prayer was offered by Rev. Emerald Bailey. The opening message was brought by Rev. Junior Cagle, reading from Hosea chapter seven. Followed with another message by Rev. Earl Dixon reading from Psalms two. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. J.B. Harper.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened with congregational singing led by Bro. John Bobo. Prayer was delivered by Rev. Vergil Moore. Opening Message was delivered by Rev. William Kendrick. Followed with another message by Rev. Lidge Dickey reading from the eighth chapter of Romans. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Edward Smith.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together with singing led by Rev. Benton Brown. Prayer was offered by Rev.

Bishop. The message was delivered by Rev. V.H. Gean reading from First Samuel. Dismissed by Rev. Dave Massingill.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT POPLAR SPRINGS CHURCH

June 29 and 30, 1969

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with congregational singing led by Rev. Emerald Bailey. Prayer was offered by Bro. Lannie Moore and Rev. Everett Rich. The opening message was delivered by Rev. Virgil Moore reading from the fifth chapter of Isaiah. This was followed with another message by Rev. Elias Stephens reading from first Peter the first chapter. Dismissed by Rev. V.H. Gean.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The session opened with singing led by Bro. Edgar Keele. Prayer was offered by Rev. J.C. McClanahan. The message was delivered by Rev. Junior Cagle reading from Judges the sixteenth chapter.

BUSINESS SESSION:

The Moderator called the business session to order, and asked for any letters. There were 14 churches represented, 14 ordained ministers, 1 licensed minister, 8 ordained deacons and 1 visiting minister present. All visitors were invited to sit with us.

The minutes of the last session were read and approved. There was a letter from Jones Chapel church recommending that Bro. James Pauley be accepted in the Tennessee River Association as an ordained minister and granted a card. Bro. Pauley met with the examining committee. The committee reported that Bro. Pauley should be licensed for twelve month first then accepted as an ordained minister. Bro. Pauley did not see fit to do this.

A program committee was appointed for the next fifth Sunday meeting at Scotts Chapel church in August. Rev. Everet Rich, Bro. John Bobo and Bro. Lannie Moore, was appointed.

Rev. Edward Smith stated that the property formerly bought for Adamsville Church establishment and deeded to the Association had been sold. It was voted to give the money from this sale to the Adamsville Church as they raised the money to buy it. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Lidge Dickey.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened with congregational singing, and prayer led by Rev. Jerry House. The first message was delivered by Rev. Glen Bobo reading from second Corinthians the sixth chapter. This was followed with another message by Rev. L.L. Wilson. Dismissed by Rev. Nick White.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with singing led by Bro. Ted Simmons. Prayer was led by Rev. Earl Dixon. Opening message was delivered by Rev. Edward Smith reading from Ephesians chapter six. This was followed by Rev. J.B. Harper Reading from Deuteronomy. Dismissed by Bro. Ted Simmons.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together with singing led by Rev. Vernon Gober. Prayer was offered by Rev.

Glen Bobo. The afternoon message was delivered by Rev. J.T. Wright reading from Romans. This was followed with another message by Rev. Nick White. Dismissed by Bro. Smith.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT SCOTT'S CHAPEL CHURCH

August 30, and 31, 1969

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The morning session opened with singing led by Rev. Lidge Dickey. The moderator called for a united alter prayer. The opening message was brought by Rev. Lidge Dickey, reading from Galatians. This was followed with another message by Rev. Elton Cotner reading from second Peter chapter one. Dismissed by Bro. Bill Benson.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together with singing led by Rev. Evert Rich. Prayer was offered by Rev. Junior Cagle. The message was delivered by Rev. Benton Brown, reading from second Peter.

BUSINESS SESSION:

The moderator, Rev. L.L. Wilson called the business session to order. The moderator read the church covenant. There were 13 churches present, 16 ordained ministers 2 licensed ministers, 8 ordained deacons, and 2 visiting ministers, Rev. James Pauley and Rev. Weldon Key. The moderator called for reading of minutes of the last session. The minutes were read and approved. The moderator asked for any unfinished business there was none. Rev. Wilson asked for new business, and letters from churches. There was a letter from Fairview asking that Bro. Don Hanback be licensed to preach the gospel. Bro. Hanback and the letter of Rev. Kendrick met with the examining committee and Rev. Wilson and Rev. Cotner. The letter from Rev. Kendrick contained his credentials which was accepted by the association. Bro. Don Hanback was recommended to be licensed to preach the gospel for one year. The assistant moderator Rev. Rich after asking for churches that would host fifth Sunday meetings for another year, appointed Rev. V.H. Gean, Rev. Junior Cagle and Bro. Bill Benson as a committee to place the next years meetings. They were placed as follows; Nov. 1969 Posey's Chapel, March 1970 Fairview, May 1970 Antioch, and August 1970 Piney Grove. The program committee appointed for next session is Bro. Roy Harper, Bro. Jade Farrell and Rev. Elias Stephens. The associational pastor was elected. Rev. Emerald Bailey was retained. The officers was elected for the presbytery as follows; Moderator Rev. L.L. Wilson retained, Assistant Moderator Rev. Evert Rich retained. Clerk Rev. Vernon Gober retained. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Dismissed by Bro. J.W. Stooksberry.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Opened with singing led by Sister Merl Harper. Prayer by Rev. Edward Smith. The first message was by Rev. J.C. McClanahan reading from St. Luke. Followed with another message by Rev. Emerald Bailey reading from second Peter. Dismissed by Bro. Elton Rich.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The morning service opened with singing led by Rev. Evert Rich. Prayer was offered by Rev. Nick White. The opening message was by Rev. L.L. Wilson. Followed with another message by Rev. V.H. Gean. Dismissed by Rev. Vernon Creasey.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Called together with congregational singing led by Sister Merl Harper. Prayer was offered by Bro. J.W. Stooksberry. The afternoon sermon was delivered by the Rev. Earl Dixon reading from Daniel. Dismissed by Bro. Ted Simmions.

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. The 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 the 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 the 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, 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 preserve in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. *Gospel Ordinances*—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel; feet washing is an ordinance teaching humility or universal obligation, and they be administered to all true believers.

14. *The Christian Sabbath*—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities and for personal communion with God.

15. *Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution*—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation, then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His Grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of ordinances of the gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace. To be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting in 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 _____, 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 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 _____, withdraw _____, expelled _____, dead _____, total membership _____, number of students enrolled in Sunday school _____, average attendance _____, number of deacons _____, number 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 _____

