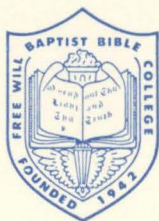


X

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**Ninety-Third Annual Session**  
**of the**  
**TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**of**  
**Free Will Baptists**  
  
**Convened with**  
**Bumpas Creek Church**  
**Friday, September 17, 1971**

The next Association will convene with Scotts Chapel Church  
on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1972  
at 11:00 A. M.



# FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

*Presented By*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Burlon Jones  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**Ninety-Third Annual Session**  
**of the**  
**TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**of**  
**Free Will Baptists**  
  
**Convened with**  
**Bumpas Creek Church**  
**Friday, September 17, 1971**

**The next Association will convene with Scotts Chapel Church  
on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1972,  
at 11:00 A. M.**



## ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. J. B. Harper, Moderator ..... Rt. 1, Cypress Inn, Tenn.  
Rev. Edward Smith, Assistant Moderator ..... Stantonville, Tenn.  
Bro. J. W. Stooksberry, Clerk ..... Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.

## HOME MISSION BOARD

Bro. Ted Simmons, Secretary-Treasurer ..... Rt. II Box 77A, Cherokee, Ala. 35616  
Bro. David Montgomery ..... Cloverdale, Ala.  
Rev. Vernon Creasy ..... Cloverdale, Ala.

## EVANGELIST

Rev. V. H. Geans ..... Route 1, Cloverdale, Ala.  
(Phone 766-3896)

## EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Examining committee will be appointed from the floor, one each session as needed.

## OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Rev. Virgil Moore, Moderator ..... Morris Chapel, Tenn.  
Rev. Earl Dixon, Assistant Moderator ..... Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.  
Bro. Joe L. McCoy, Clerk ..... Memphis, Tenn., 3972 Pikes Peak Ave.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Ealis Stephens ..... Savannah, Tenn.  
Rev. Thurman Stults ..... Collinwood, Tenn.  
Rev. Earl Dixon ..... Cloverdale, Ala.

## CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Adamsville — Bro. Douglas Scott, Rt. 1, Adamsville, Tenn.  
Antioch — Sis. Lina Montgomery, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.  
Bumpas Creek — Sis. Clara Benson, Rt. 20, Florence, Ala.  
Fairview — Sis. Deane Butler, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.  
McGlamery — Sis. Bethel Robertson, Rt. 2, Collinwood, Tenn.  
Meeks Grove — Sis. Nina Jarrett, Box 93, Adamsville, Tenn.  
Huntsville — Sis. Shirley J. Harper, 2448 Mt. Vernon Rd., Huntsville, Ala.  
Midway — Sis. Carrie Jean Saint, Rt. 1, Russeville, Ala.  
Mt. Olivet — Bro. W.C. Jones, Waterloo, Ala.  
Mt. Zion — Sis. Inos Lowery, Rt. 1, Town Creek, Ala.  
Murphy's Chapel — Bro. Randal Gray, 1336 James St., Florence, Ala.  
New Chapel — Sis. Irene Robinson, Rt. 1, Counce, Tenn.  
New Home — Sis. Ethel Davidson, Rt. 4, Henderson, Tenn.  
New Pleasant Grove — Sis. Mary Lou Hubbard, 1510 Hickory St., Savannah, Tenn.  
Piney Grove — John E. Banks, Collinwood, Tenn.  
Poplar Springs — Sis. Wanda Sue McKee, Tishomingo, Miss.  
Posey Chapel — Bro. Willie Posey, Rt. 3, Cherokee, Ala.  
Rayborn Chapel — Bro. Edgar Melson, Lutts, Tenn.  
Scotts Chapel — Sis. Mearle Harper, Cypress Inn, Tenn.  
Second Creek — Sis. Alma Scott, Box 35, Waterloo, Ala.  
Shady Grove — Sis. Alma Franks, Rt. 1, Olive Hill, Tenn.  
Shelby — Bro. Grover L. See, 2592 Dakar Ave., Memphis, Tenn.  
Solitude — Sis. Virginia Finley, Rt. 2, Adamsville, Tenn.  
Whites Creek — Sis. Ora Stricklin, Savannah, Tenn.

## PROCEEDINGS

### FRIDAY MORNING

The Tennessee River Association met at 11:00 a.m. with congregational singing. The opening prayer was given by Rev. Everett Rich.

The morning message was delivered by Rev. J.B. Harper, Moderator. His subject was "Together at the Hour of Prayer", reading from the 3rd chapter of Acts.

The morning session was dismissed with a hand shake and prayer led by Bro. Ed Keal, to meet back at 1:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with singing. The scripture reading was by Bro. Ted Simmons reading from the 2nd chapter of Ezekiel.

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

### APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

READING CLERKS — Bro. Joel Pigg and Bro. Colman Daniels.

FINANCE COMMITTEE — Bro. Willie Posey, Bro. Gerald Montgomery, and Bro. Robert McGee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Bro. Ed Keal, Bro. Ira Gillis and Bro. Everett Rich.

OBITUARY — Bro. L.L. Wilson, Bro. Ted Simmons, and Bro. Frank Pigg.

Called for letters from the churches and recognized the delegates.

Adamsville—Represented by letter.

Antioch—Bros. Vernon Gilchrist and Walter Dial

Bumpas Creek—Bros. R.E. Patton and Homer Scott.

Fairview—Bro. Jimmy Wilson

Harmony—No letter, gone to another association.

McGlamery—No letter.

Meeks Grove—Sisters Effie Killingsworth, Jessie Killingsworth, and Adeliade Flatt

Huntsville—was reinstated at this Associational Meeting.

Midway—Sisters Marie Hall, Aslee Robbins and Lela Hall

Mt. Olivet—Sis. Mae Scott

Mt. Zion—Sisters Mildred Berryman and Inos Lowery

Murphy's Chapel—Represented by letter.

New Chapel—Bros. Bill Mayhole, and George McKinney

New Home—Represented by letter.

New Pleasant Grove—Bro. Millard White, Bro. Clyde Hubbard and Sis. Mary Lou Hubbard.

Piney Grove—Bros. Roger Stults and Larry Toungett

Poplar Springs—Bro. Earnest Dill and Herbert Johnson

Posey Chapel—Bro. Willie Posey

Rayborn Chapel—Represented by letter.

Scotts Chapel—Bros. Coleman Daniels and Joel Pigg

Second Creek—Bro. Virgil Hinton

Shady Grove—Bros. Buddy Lee Melson and Paul Franks

Shelby—Sis. McCoy

Solitude—Sisters Mary Ruth Tacker and Etta Farriel

Whites Creek—Bros. Hershell White and Earl Morris

## 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 Cottner, Route 2, Adamsville, Tennessee, Phone 632-4205  
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  
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 901-632-3256  
Everette 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, Collinwood, Tenn. Phone 724-9149  
Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tennessee  
John H. Sneed, 1922 Morris Avenue, Columbia, Tennessee  
Nick White, Route 1, Savannah, Tennessee, Phone 925-4504  
L. L. Wilson, 271 N. Watkins St., Memphis, Tennessee, Phone 276-9392  
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 Blve., Sheffield, Alabama, Phone 383-0141  
W. C. Jones, Waterloo, Ala. (retired)  
Riley T. Morrisett, Memphis, Tenn.  
Gerald Montgomery, Wildwood Terrace Apt. C-8, Florence, Ala.

## LICENSED MINISTERS

Ted Simmons ..... Rt. 2 Box 77A, Cherokee, Ala.

## CHURCH PASTORS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Adamsville—Rev. Benton Brown, 2406 Pinhook Rd., Savannah, Tenn.  
Antioch—Rev. Emerald Bailey, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.  
Bumpas Creek—Rev. Virgil Geans, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.  
Fairview—Rev. Earl Dixon, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.  
McGlamery—  
Meeks Grove—Rev. Virgil Moore, Morris Chapel, Tenn.  
Huntsville—Rev. Ralph Tucker, 3203 Brook Manor, Huntsville, Ala.  
Midway—Rev. Earl Dixon, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.  
Mt. Olivet—  
Mt. Zion—Rev. Robert McGee, Rt. 5, Russeville, Ala.  
Murphy's Chapel—Rev. Vernon Creasy, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.  
New Chapel—Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, Tenn.  
New Home—Rev. Virgil Moore, Morris Chapel, Tenn.  
New Pleasant Grove—Rev. Elton Cottner, Adamsville, Tenn.  
Piney Grove—Rev. Thurman Stults, Collinwood, Tenn.  
Poplar Springs—  
Posey Chapel—Rev. Ealis Stephens, Rt. 4, Savannah, Tenn.  
Rayborn Chapel—Rev. Vernon Gober, Adamsville, Tenn.  
Scotts Chapel—Rev. Thurman Stults, Collinwood, Tenn.

Second Creek—

Shady Grove—Rev. Everett Rich, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.

Shelby—Rev. L. L. Wilson, 217 N. Watkins St., Memphis, Tenn.

Solitude—Rev. Berlin Jones, 1235 Gleen Ave., Florence, Ala.

Whites Creek—Rev. Nick White, Savannah, Tenn.

## **APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

PROGRAM—Bros. Everett Rich, Homer Scott, and Ira Gillis

GENERAL BUSINESS—Bros. Thurman Stults, Earl Dixon, and Riley Morrisett.

EDUCATIONAL—Bros. Roger Stults, Larry Toungett, and Nola Banks.

TEMPERANCE—Bros. Brady Tacker, Jimmy Wilson and Earnest Jeffreys.

BENEVOLENCE—Bros. Joel Pigg, Coleman Daniels, and Frank Pigg.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS—Bros. Gerald Montgomery, L.L. Wilson and Ted Simmons.

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. Dismissed by Bro. Jimmy Wilson.

## **FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Friday night service opened with singing and prayer by Rev. Dewey Stults. Then following there was a testimony service. The first message was by Rev. Robert McGee, reading from the 2nd book of Peter, 3rd Chapter. The second message was by Rev. L.L. Wilson. The service was dismissed with prayer by Rev. Riley Morrisett.

## **SATURDAY MORNING**

The morning session met according to previous adjournment with singing and prayer. Rev. Riley Morrisett read the scripture reading from the 23 chapter of Matthew.

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 recommend that it be sent by the first of January.

We recommend that Deacons remind the churches, because of Acts 6:3 we feel it their duty to take care of the financial part of the church.

We recommend that the preacher pay the tenth more or less of the money he receives for ministerial work to the Home Mission Board.

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 when the church desires that such a one of its members to be licensed to preach the gospel for one year, it request the presbytery or the Association of which it is a member to examine by council or otherwise such a member.

The examination for license should refer to the piety and doctrines, the convictions and purposes, respecting the work of the ministry and reputation for character and ability of the candidate.

We recommend that the men who desire the office of a 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 they back the Free Will Baptist Doctrine and practice its ordinances.

We recommend that any ordained minister coming from other bodies to this association, that brings good recommendation from the body which he is from, also bringing a good recommendation from the church of which he is a member, go before the examining committee and if he believes and practices Free Will Baptist Doctrine, that we grant him a card.

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 Fifth Sunday meetings selected at the last Fifth Sunday meeting prior to the association.

We recommend that we pay our Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk \$25.00 for services 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.

This report was adopted by the association.

Rev. Earl Dixon - Chairman

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

WE your committee on Sunday schools wish to submit the following:

We have 20 churches with Sunday schools with a present enrollment of 1006 and an average attendance of 731. The average attendance of the 20 churches is 36.5, just a small increase from last year, which we thank God for.

We recommend that each church have a Sunday School regularly. We also recommend that all leaders and teachers 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 by their teacher or some one of the church if possible to show our appreciation for their visit.

We should pray more and show our love for one another more. This report was adopted by the association.

Ira Gillis, Chairman

## EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We your committee wish to recommend the following:

We exhort all Christian parents to teach their children to remember their creator in the days of their youth. Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, Because thou has rejected knowledge I will also reject thee. That thou shall be no priest to me seeing thou has forgotten the law of thy God. I will also forget thy children.

We recommend that the Free Will Baptist continue to use the King James Bible, because we are living in a time when different forms of the word are presented.

We also recommend that all churches have Bible Study or Prayer Meeting one night through the week.

This report was adopted by the association.

Larry Toungette, Chairman

### 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." Ephesians 5:17, 18 "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." "And be not drunk with wine, where in is excess: but be filled with the Spirit."

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 I 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, Brady Tacker

This report was adopted by the Association.

### OBITUARY REPORT

We your committee on obituaries in sorrow report that death has taken 17 of our members since last Association. They are as follows: Adamsville—Bro. Lanny Moore, Bumpas Creek—Bro. Sam Faulkner, Meeks Grove—Bro. Henry Killingsworth, Midway—Bro. George Arnold, Bro. Richard Poston, Sis. Mable Logan and Sis. Felinda Pace. Mt. Zion—Bro. Henry Halbrooks and Sis. Ella Halbrooks, Murphy's Chapel—Bro. Monser South, New Chapel—Bro. Dewey Barnes, Poplar Springs—Bro. Bert Smith and Bro. Frank Smith, Rayborn Chapel—Sis. Effie Shirril, Second Creek—Sis. Dora Hinton, Shady Grove—Bro. Luther Franks, Whites Creek—Bro. Maud Stricklin.

We hope that our loss is heaven's gain.

Rev. L.L. Wilson, 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 orphan's 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."

This report was adopted by the Association.

Bro. Coleman Daniel, Chairman

### CLERKS REPORT

|                                          |                     |                 |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Balance in treasury from 1969 .....      | \$ 9.59             |                 |
| Amount received from churches 1970 ..... | 249.23              |                 |
|                                          | Total               | 258.82          |
| Clerks fee .....                         | 35.00               |                 |
|                                          | Balance             | 223.82          |
| Printing 1000 minutes .....              | \$190.28            |                 |
| Postage for mailing to churches .....    | 3.18                | Expenses 193.46 |
|                                          | Balance in Treasury | \$ 30.36        |

Minutes were printed by:  
National Printing Service  
National Association of Free Will Baptists  
P.O. Box 1088, Nashville, Tenn.

This report was adopted by the association.

Bro. J.W. Stooksberry, Clerk

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

|                       |         |                          |          |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|----------|
| Adamsville .....      | \$11.26 | New Pleasant Grove ..... | 15.00    |
| Antioch .....         | 12.00   | Piney Grove .....        | 17.50    |
| Bumpas Creek .....    | 12.00   | Poplar Springs .....     | 5.00     |
| Fairview .....        | 15.39   | Posey Chapel .....       | 10.00    |
| Huntsville .....      | 5.00    | Rayborn Chapel .....     | 5.45     |
| Meeks Grove .....     | 14.00   | Scotts Chapel .....      | 16.87    |
| Midway .....          | 10.00   | Second Creek .....       | 4.50     |
| Mt. Olivet .....      | 4.00    | Shady Grove .....        | 5.00     |
| Mt. Zion .....        | 12.00   | Shelby .....             | 10.00    |
| Murphy's Chapel ..... | 19.32   | Solitude .....           | 10.00    |
| New Chapel .....      | 7.35    | Whites Creek .....       | 6.60     |
| New Home .....        | 10.00   | Total amount .....       | \$238.54 |

Rev. Gerald Montgomery, Chairman

### HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

September 17, 1971

|                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Amount brought forward, 1971 .....        | \$1411.98 |
| Amount received for Children's Home ..... | 250.12    |
| Adamsville .....                          | 25.00     |
| Fairview .....                            | 25.00     |

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Midway .....             | 25.00  |
| Murphy's Chapel .....    | 25.00  |
| New Chapel .....         | 50.00  |
| New Home .....           | 25.00  |
| New Pleasant Grove ..... | 25.00  |
| Piney Grove .....        | 25.00  |
| Poplar Springs .....     | 10.00  |
| Posey Chapel .....       | 25.00  |
| Shelby .....             | 25.00  |
| Mt. Zion .....           | 25.00  |
| Ministers Tithing .....  | 443.00 |

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Total Paid In  | 1003.12 |
| Total Paid Out | 600.12  |

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Balance In Treasury ..... | \$1814.98 |
|---------------------------|-----------|

#### All Expenses Itemized

|                                                     |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Tennessee) ..... | 125.06 |
| Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Alabama) .....   | 125.06 |
| Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk .....                    | 25.00  |
| Home Mission Treasurer .....                        | 25.00  |
| Associational Pastor .....                          | 50.00  |
| Tent Repair .....                                   | 50.00  |
| Total Expenses                                      | 600.12 |

#### Ministers Tithes

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Bro. J.B. Harper .....    | 130.00   |
| Bro. Earl Dixon .....     | 100.00   |
| Bro. V.H. Gean .....      | 110.00   |
| Bro. Virgil Moore .....   | 30.00    |
| Bro. Grover See .....     | 10.00    |
| Bro. Ealis Stephens ..... | 63.00    |
| Total Tithes              | \$443.00 |

Treasurer—Ted Simmons

### ASSOCIATIONAL PASTORS REPORT

Held one tent meeting near Cloverdale, Ala., also held one weekend revival at Bumpas Creek Church.

Placed Bro. Gerald Montgomery at New Chapel Church at Counce, Tenn. when Bro. Johnson resigned. Held 30 services, witnessed 8 professions, visited 15 churches, money received from churches \$379.35, money received from Home Mission Board \$250.00, making a total of \$629.35. Paid a tenth to Home Mission Board.

Associational Pastor, Ealis Stephens

### GENERAL BUSINESS

The Moderator asked for petitionary letters. There were none until later. A vote was taken for the placement of the Association for the coming year, from the churches that ask for it in their letters. The Association will convene with Scotts Chapel on Friday, before the third Sunday in September of 1972, at 11:00 a.m.

Moderator called for the nomination of the member of the rotating board of trustees which had served the longest period of time. Rev. Ealis Stephens was elected to serve with Rev. Earl Dixon and Rev. Thurman Stults.

Motion was put before the body and passed on to elect Moderator, Assistant Moderator every two years.

Officers of the Association now serving their second year are as follows: Moderator—Rev. J. B. Harper, Assistant Moderator—Rev. Edward Smith, Clerk—Bro. J. W. Stooksberry.

Home Mission Board Members: Bro. Ted Simmons, Sec.-Treas. and Bro. David Montgomery and Rev. Vernon Creasy.

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

The business session adjourned. Dismissed by prayer by Rev. L.L. Wilson.

### **SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Saturday morning worship service began at 10:30 with singing and prayer by Rev. Emerald Bailey. The first message was by Bro. Ted Simmons, reading from 1 Timothy 2nd Chapter. His subject was "Being mindful of the Lord's business." Rev. Edward Smith delivered the second message reading from the 13th chapter of Genesis. His subject was "Make up your mind to come out of Egypt and go back to the altar of Bethel." Dismissed by Rev. Nick White.

### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON ASSOCIATION**

Scripture reading was given by Rev. Ralph Tucker, reading from Psalm 133, and prayer by Rev. Thurman Stults.

Moderator again asked for any petitionary letters. First Free Will Baptist Church of Huntsville, sent a letter asking to be reinstated to the Association. A motion was made to accept the letter and reinstate the Huntsville Church. They were welcomed with a fellowship hand shake. The delegates which represented the Huntsville Church were Bro. Jake Craig, Sister Minnie Craig, and Bro. Arthur Boyd and the pastor of the church, Rev. Ralph Tucker.

### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESBYTERY SESSION**

**Bumpas Creek Church**

**September 18, 1971**

The Moderator asked for the Presbytery to meet as a closed session.

The Presbytery session of the Tennessee River Association met with Bumpas Creek Free Will Baptist Church, Sept. 18, 1971.

The Moderator, Rev. Virgil Moore and the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Everett Rich presided over the meeting. Most of the Churches were present, with 17 ordained ministers and 1 licensed minister, and 12 ordained deacons present.

The minutes of the last session were read and approved.

Moderator asked for any unfinished business. Motion was made to elect Rev. Earl Dixon as Assistant Moderator for Fifth Sunday Meetings.

Moderator asked for New Business.

Moderator called for Ministers Reports.

### **ORDAINED MINISTERS REPORTS**

Rev. George Arnold—Deceased.

**Rev. Emerald Bailey**—reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 3, witnessed 18 professions, conducted 1 conference, married 1 couple, conducted 1 communion service, conducted 6 funerals, assisted in 2, received \$935.63 for church work paid tithe back to the church. Card granted.

**Rev. Carrol C. Barnes**—absent, moved to another association.

**Rev. Glenn Bobo**—Reported, sermons preached 49, churches pastored 2, revivals held 2, professions witnessed 10, number baptized 5, additions to the church 7, marriages solemnized 1, money received \$1,013.66, card granted.

**Rev. Benton Brown**—Reported, pastored 1 church full time, preached 96 sermons, married 1 couple, held 1 funeral, assisted in 1 funeral, received 8 into the church, assisted in 1 revival, held 1 communion service, did chaplain work at Adamsville Rest Home, money received \$755.00, paid into the church \$180.00, card granted.

**Rev. Elton Cottner**—absent, letter read, pastored 1 church full time, conducted radio program each Sunday morning at 8:15, Savannah, Tenn., W.O.R.M. Station, conducted 1 revival and assisted in 1, conducted 2 communion services, baptized 1, received into church 3, conducted 4 funerals and assisted in 2, married 2 couples, money received \$1,051.00. Card granted.

**Rev. Vernon Creasy**—Reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 2 revivals and 1 tent revival, baptized 7, received 13 into church, assisted in 2 funerals, married 1 couple, conducted 1 communion service, money received \$1595.00, paid to church \$480.00, paid home mission board \$20.00, received in revivals \$150.00, card granted.

**Rev. Lidge Dickey**—absent, card held until report.

**Rev. Earl Dixon**—Reported, pastored 2 churches, half time each, conducted 3 funerals, assisted in 1, conducted 2 revivals and assisted in 1, held 1 conference, 2 communion services, baptized 3, received 2 into church, married 1 couple, money received \$1356.94. Card granted.

**Rev. V.H. Geans**—Reported, pastored 1 church, held 1 revival and assisted in 3, witnessed 7 professions, received 5 into church, conducted radio program each morning on Sunday. Conducted 9 funerals, assisted in 2 funerals, money received, \$1255.00. Card granted.

**Rev. Vernon H. Gober**—reported, sermons preached 38, pastored 1 church full time, professions witnessed 1, miles traveled approx. 2,000, money received \$495.00. Paid 1/3 back to the church. Card granted.

**Rev. J.B. Harper**—Reported, pastored 1 church half time, held 1 revival, baptized 1, married 1 couple, conducted 9 funerals, assisted in 3 funerals, money received \$802.84. Card Granted.

**Rev. J.C. McClannahan**—absent, card held until report.

**Rev. Riley T. Morrisett**—reported, sermons preached 6, money received \$140.00. Card granted.

**Rev. Robert McGee**—Absent, report read, sermons preached 56, pastored 1 church full time, revivals held 2, professions witnessed 11, number baptized 2, marriages solemnized 1, money received \$2016.36 paid a tenth to the church. Card granted.

**Rev. Gerald Montgomery**—Reported, sermons preached 101, pastored 2 churches, conducted a radio program on W.S.H.F. part time. Conducted 3 revivals, witnessed 25 professions, baptized 2, held 2 communion services, church conferences 2, funerals 1, miles traveled approx. 14,750, money received approx. \$1523.00, paid a tenth to the church. Card granted.

**Rev. John Sneed**—absent, Card granted.

**Rev. Virgil Moore**—Reported, Pastored 2 churches, half time each, sermons preached 77, assisted in 2 revivals, witnessed 13 professions and 14 rededications, baptized 2, received 3 into church, conducted 1 funeral, 2 communion services, 2 conferences, married 1 couple, visited 12 churches, money received \$1230.95, expenses approx. \$954.00, miles traveled approx. 6,000, amount paid Home Mission \$30.00, amount paid churches and charity \$328.50. Card granted.

**Rev. Everett Rich**—Reported, pastored 1 church full time, held 1 revival, assisted in 5 revivals, witnessed 3 professions, helped with 2 funerals, married 1 couple,

money received \$952.25, Card granted.

Rev. Grover See—Absent, held card.

Rev. Edward Smith—Reported, churches pastored 1, revivals held 1, number baptized 3, funerals preached 1, marriages solemnized 1, money received \$168.89, communion services 1, Card granted.

Rev. Ealis Stephens—Reported, gave full report as Associational Pastor. Card granted.

Rev. Thurman Stults—Reported, pastored 2 churches half time each, held 2 revivals and assisted in 1, witnessed 8 professions, baptized 6, received into the church 9, funerals preached 1, marriages 2, money received \$1364.81, held 3 communion services. Card granted.

Rev. Nick White—Reported, pastored 1 church half time and 1 church fourth time, held 4 revivals, witnessed 7 conversions, held 2 communion services, funerals 10, married 1 couple, money received approx. \$315.00, Card granted.

Rev. L.L. Wilson—Reported, sermons preached 110, churches pastored 1, revivals held 1, professions witnessed 3, baptized 1, additions to the church 5, funerals preached 2, marriages 1, miles traveled 8,000, money received \$494.58. Card granted.

Rev. J.T. Wright—Reported, pastored 1 church full time, held 1 revival and assisted in 1, professions witnessed 9, baptized 1, additions to the church 2, married 3 couples, money received \$370.00. Conducted radio program WSHF Sheff. Ala. at 3:15 to 3:30 each Sun. Card granted.

Rev. W.C. Jones—Absent, retired, Card granted.

## LICENSED MINISTERS REPORT

Bro. Ted Simmons—present, no report.

## THE MODERATOR CALLED FOR LETTERS OF ORDINATION

Scotts Chapel sent a letter asking that Bro. Frank Pigg be ordained as deacon.

Midway sent letter stating that Bro. Lonnie Grissom and Bro. Clayton Hall have been placed under the watch care of the church as deacons.

Solitude sent letter asking that Bro. Jamie Wicker and Bro. Troy Massengill be licensed to preach the full gospel for 1 year.

Body asked Bro. Wicker and Bro. Massengill be questioned by the Presbytery body. The body ruled to drop the request for these men to be licensed.

Rev. Rich, Rev. Wilson and Rev. Geans were placed on the examining committee. The committee reported Bro. Frank Pigg to qualify to be ordained as deacon. The qualifications of a deacon were read by Rev. Gerald Montgomery, from 1 Timothy, chapter 3; and an ordination service was held, followed by a hand shake. Meeting adjourned. Dismissed by prayer by Bro. Frank Pigg.

## SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The Saturday night service opened with singing and prayer by Bro. Ray Scott. The first message was by Rev. Virgil Moore, reading from the 8th chapter of Ecclesiastes. The second part of the service was a message by Rev. Nick White reading from the 13th chapter of Kings. Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Roy Harper.

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Service was opened with singing, the opening prayer was by Rev. Elton

Cottner. The moderator asked for reading of Resolution of Thanks.

### **RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

We, your committee on the resolution of thanks report to the people of Bumpas Creek Church and surrounding churches our sincere thanks for the wonderful hospitality, friendliness, and kindness shown the entire association as a whole.

We feel, speaking for the entire group, that every one will leave here greatly enriched in their hearts, as we walk with the Lord in our daily lives.

Thanks again for a wonderful time and especially the good spiritual feeling we receive from the Lord as we associate with his people.

May the Lord Bless and keep each of us as we travel the uneven journey of life.

Chairman—Rev. Gerald Montgomery

An offering was taken for the children's homes. Rev. Earl Dixon was in charge, reading from the 25th chapter of Matthew. Marla Stooksberry sang a special, "May the Lord Bless You Real Good".

The children went first to give their offerings, followed by the adults. The amount of \$343.00 was received. This will be divided between the Free Will Baptist Childrens Home, P.O. Box 8, Eldridge, Ala. 35554 and the Free Will Baptist Home for Children at Rt. 9, Greenville, Tenn. 37743.

The first message was by Rev. Gerald Montgomery reading from 2nd Chronicles the 15th chapter. Rev. V. H. Gean delivered the second message.

The service was dismissed with a handshake and prayer by Rev. Vernon Gober.

### **FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT POSEY CHAPEL CHURCH November 28 and 29**

#### **SATURDAY MORNING SESSION**

The service was opened with singing led by Rev. V. H. Geans. Prayer was offered by Rev. L. L. Wilson. The opening message was by Rev. Troy Massengill. His subject was "Love And Judgment". The message was followed by an old fashioned hand-shake. The dismissal prayer was by Rev. Everett Rich.

#### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

The congregation was called to order with singing led by Rev. J. B. Harper. Prayer was by Rev. Troy Massengill. The afternoon message was brought by Rev. Gerald Montgomery reading from the 8th chapter of Romans.

The moderator called the business session to order. There were 11 churches present, 16 ordained ministers, 1 licensed minister, 3 ordained deacons, and 2 appointed deacons. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The moderator asked for old business. The resolution committee reported that Rev. Jerry House and Rev. Jimmy Montgomery had joined another association. Their report was accepted by the body. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the association grant Rev. Lidge Dickey and Rev. J. C.

McClannahan a card.

The call was made for new business. Shelby Church sent a letter asking that Bro. Joe L. McCoy be ordained as deacon. An examining committee was appointed to meet with Bro. McCoy. Those appointed were Rev. J. B. Harper, Rev. Benton Brown, and Rev. J. T. Wright. After their meeting the examining committee reported they felt Bro. Joe L. McCoy worthy of ordination. An ordination service was held with the qualifications of a deacon being read from 1 Timothy chapter 3, by Rev. Edward Smith.

A committee was appointed to arrange the program for the next meeting, which is to be held at Murphy's Chapel Jan. 30 and 31. Rev. Vernon Creasy, Bro. J. W. Stooksberry, and Bro. Ted Simmons were placed on this committee.

A motion passed to adjourn. Dismissed by prayer by Rev. Glenn Bobo.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE**

Service called to order by singing led by Bro. Ted Simmons and prayer by Bro. J. W. Stooksberry. The first message was delivered by Rev. Vernon Creasy, his subject, "Continuing in the faith", followed by another message by Rev. Elton Cottner. He used as his subject "The fruit of the Spirit." Service was dismissed with prayer by Sister Abilene Geans.

### **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

Opened with singing by Rev. V. H. Geans, and prayer by Rev. Vernon Gober. The first message was brought by Rev. Everett Rich, reading from James, chapter 1. Followed by a message by Rev. Nick White reading from James chapter 5, verses 13-16. Service was dismissed with an altar of prayer led by Bro. Roy Harper.

### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

Service opened with singing led by Bro. Carthil Shields and prayer by Bro. Clarence Berryman. The message was delivered by Rev. J. T. Wright bringing a heartfelt thought—"Do You Know Him?" Followed by an old-fashioned spiritual testimony service blended with shouting and singing praises to the Lord. The benediction was offered by Bro. Ed Keel.

### **FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT MURPHY'S CHAPEL CHURCH January 30 and 31, 1971**

### **SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE**

The service was opened with singing led by Bro. Carthil Shields. Prayer was offered by Rev. Ralph Tucker. The opening message was delivered by Rev. Benton Brown. His subject was "Bearing Fruit".

He was followed by Rev. Thurman Stults who took his text from portions of Joshua, chapters 23 & 24. The service was dismissed with prayer by Rev. Ealis Stephens.

### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

The service was called to order with singing by Bro. Carthil Shields and

prayer by Rev. Emerald Bailey. The message was brought by Rev. Ralph Tucker, his subject "Prayer the Master Key".

The business session was called to order by the moderator Rev. Virgil Moore. There were 14 churches present, 13 ordained ministers, 1 licensed minister, 6 ordained deacons, 2 appointed deacons, 2 visiting ordained ministers, and 1 visiting ordained deacon.

Under unfinished business, the previous request by Mt. Zion for Bro. Quinton Fay Simmons to be ordained as deacon was brought to the floor. Bro. Simmons was asked to go before the examining committee before ordination.

Under new business, Shelby Church sent a letter recommending Rev. Riley Thomas Morrisett to this Association as an ordained minister coming from the West Tennessee Association of Free Will Baptists. An examining committee was appointed to meet with Bro. Simmons and Rev. Morrisett. Those appointed were: Rev. Robert McGee, Rev. Earl Dixon, and Rev. Everett Rich. After their meeting, the committee recommended Bro. Quinton Fay Simmons for ordination, and recommended that Rev. Riley Thomas Morrisett be granted a card. The motion passed to accept their recommendation.

An ordination service was held with Rev. L. L. Wilson reading the qualifications of a Bishop and a deacon from 1 Timothy chapter 3.

Rev. Ealis Stephens, Bro. Roy Harper, and Bro. Stancil Robbins were placed on the committee to arrange the program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. A motion passed to adjourn. Dismissal prayer was by Rev. Edward Smith.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE**

The service was called to order with singing by Bro. Ronnie Brown, and prayer by Bro. Jade Farriel. There was an old fashioned testimony service followed with a message by Rev. Dewey Stults. The service was dismissed with a special prayer for Rev. Lidge Dickey, who was recovering from a heart attack.

### **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

We were brought together with singing led by Bro. Carl Creasy and prayer by Rev. Nick White. The first message was delivered by Rev. Nick White, and followed with another message by Rev. Earl Dixon. He used as his subject, "Examine Me". The service was dismissed with prayer by Rev. Gerald Montgomery.

### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

Service was opened with singing by Bro. Ronnie Brown and prayer by Sis. Thelma Mae Dixon. The afternoon message was brought by Rev. Edward Smith on the subject of "Make Your Choice". The benediction was prayed by Sis. Grethel White.

### **FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT NEW PLEASANT GROVE**

May 29 and 30, 1971

### **SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE**

The service was called to order with singing by Bro. Edgar Keel followed by prayer by Rev. Emerald Bailey. A message was delivered by Rev. Everett Rich

reading from Ephesians chapter 5. This was followed by another message by Rev. Gerald Montgomery reading from Isaiah chapter 30. The service was dismissed by prayer by Sister Mary Lou Hubbard.

### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

The opening song was led by Sis. Mary Lou Hubbard, followed by prayer by Rev. Elton Cottner. The afternoon message was brought by Rev. Vernon Creasy reading 1 Timothy chapter 3.

The Moderator called the business session to order. A motion was made and passed to give the moderator authority to appoint a clerk in the absence of Bro. Troy Massengill. Bro. Ted Simmons was appointed.

The roll was called, there were 13 churches present, 11 ordained ministers, 1 licensed minister, 1 visiting minister, 5 ordained deacons and 1 visiting deacon.

The minutes of the last session were read and accepted. A letter of recommendation of Rev. R. T. Morrisett from the West Tennessee Association of Free Will Baptists was read. The moderator called for any letters from the churches and the Poplar Springs Church sent a letter which stated that Bro. H. O. Johnson was under the watch care of the church as an appointed deacon.

Rev. L. L. Wilson, Rev. Gerald Montgomery and Bro. Joe L. McCoy were placed on the committee to arrange the program for the next fifth Sunday meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn. Dismissed by prayer by Rev. Ealis Stephens.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE**

The service was called to order with singing led by Rev. Vernon Creasy, and prayer was by Rev. L. L. Wilson. The first message was delivered by Rev. J. B. Harper—"The Mission of the Lord". Another message was brought by Rev. L. L. Wilson. Service was dismissed by Rev. Vernon Gober.

### **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

The service was opened with singing by Bro. James Michael and prayer by Rev. Ealis Stephens. A message entitled "God's Love" was delivered by Rev. R. T. Morrisett; following was a message by Rev. V. H. Gean—"Be Still and Know That I Am God". Service was dismissed by prayer by Rev. Edward Smith.

### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

Service was opened with special singing by "The Singing Massengills" and prayer by Mrs. Richard E. White. The message was presented by Rev. Edward Smith reading from St. Mark chapter 4. The service was dismissed by Bro. J. W. Stooksberry.

### **FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT SHELBY CHURCH AT MEMPHIS August 28 and 29, 1971**

### **SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE**

The service was called to order with singing by Bro. Ted Simmons and

prayer by Rev. Emerald Bailey. Rev. Elton Cottner brought the first message, "The Fruits of the Spirit". Followed by a message by Rev. Earl Dixon: "Is There Not A Cause?" The service was dismissed by Rev. R. T. Morrisett.

### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

The service was opened with a song by Rev. Vernon Creasy and prayer by Rev. Everett Rich. The message was by Rev. Glenn Bobo, reading from Ezekiel chapters 33 and 34.

The business session was called to order by the moderator. There were 10 churches present, 15 ordained ministers, 1 licensed minister, 4 ordained deacons and 1 visiting minister.

The moderator called for letters from the churches: Posey's Chapel Church sent letter asking that Bro. Ted Simmons be licensed to preach the Gospel for 1 year. Antioch Church sent letter asking that Bro. Gerald Montgomery be ordained to preach the Gospel. Shelby Church sent a letter asking that Bro. Eulice Bryant be licensed to preach the Gospel for 1 year. An examining committee was appointed to meet with Bro. Gerald Montgomery. Rev. L. L. Wilson, Rev. Elton Cottner, and Rev. Earl Dixon were placed on this committee.

A committee was appointed to place the fifth Sunday meetings for the coming year, those on the committee were: Bro. J. W. Stooksberry, Bro. Ted Simmons and Rev. Ealis Stephens. The meetings were placed as follows: October '71—Midway, Jan. '72—Fairview, April '72—Shelby and July '72—Adamsville.

Officers of the Fifth Sunday Meeting were elected as follows: Moderator—Rev. Virgil Moore, Assistant Moderator—Rev. Vernon Gober and Clerk—Bro. Joe L. McCoy. Motion made and passed to reimburse Rev. Gerald Montgomery for expenses of repairing the tent.

The examining committee reported after meeting with Bro. Gerald Montgomery and recommended him for ordination. Rev. Emerald Bailey read the qualifications of a Bishop from 1 Timothy chapter 3 and an ordination service was held.

A committee was appointed to arrange the program for the next fifth Sunday meeting. Rev. Earl Dixon, Bro. Jade Farriel, and Rev. Ealis Stephens were placed on the committee.

Rev. Vernon Gober resigned as assistant moderator for the next year and his resignation was accepted. The election of an assistant moderator was set forth to the next Presbytery meeting.

Motion was passed to adjourn. Benediction was by Bro. Jade Farriel.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE**

Service opened with singing by Rev. Glenn Bobo, and prayer by Bro. Joe L. McCoy. Rev. Vernon Gober brought the first message "Seeking The Lord", followed by Rev. Emerald Bailey—"Seek The Old Paths and Walk Therein." Dismissed by Bro. Franklin Taylor.

### **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

The service was called to order with singing by Rev. Virgil Moore, and prayer by Rev. Earl Dixon. Rev. Edward Smith brought a message "Bound", followed by another message by Rev. J. B. Harper. Dismissed by prayer by Bro. Eulice Bryant.

### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE**

Opened with a song by Bro. Troy Massengill, the message was brought by Rev. Vernon Creasy "Strive To Enter In At The Straight Gate". Dismissed by Rev. R. T. Morrisett.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

| Churches           | By Baptism | By Letter | By Experience | Restored | Dismissed By Letter | Withdrawn | Deceased | Membership                   | Sunday School | Average Attendance | Deacons | Ordained Ministers | Licensed Ministers | Church Value | Amt. Paid Pastor | Pastoral Help | Given Children Home | Minute Fund | Meeting Days                  |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Adamsville         | 3          | 1         | 1             | 8        | 3                   | 1         | 1        | 56                           | 43            | 25                 | 2       | 5                  |                    | 17,000.      | 755.00           | 160.          | 25.                 | 11.26       | Every Sun. & Nite             |
| Antioch            | 6          |           |               |          |                     | 1         |          | 44                           | 56            | 43                 | 3       | 3                  |                    | 6,500.       | 935.63           | 150.          |                     | 12.00       | Every Sun.                    |
| Bumpas Creek       |            |           |               |          | 1                   | 3         | 1        | 96                           | 50            | 30                 | 1       |                    |                    | 8,000.       | 409.75           | 102.50        |                     | 12.00       | Every Sun. & 1st & 3rd nights |
| Fairview           | 1          |           |               |          |                     |           |          | 65                           | 80            | 60                 | 2       | 2                  |                    | 9,500.       | 503.00           | 100.          | 25.                 | 15.39       | 2nd & 4th Sun. & nite         |
| Harmony            |            |           |               |          |                     |           |          | Gone to another Association. |               |                    |         |                    |                    |              |                  |               |                     |             |                               |
| McGlamery          |            |           |               |          |                     |           |          | Not represented.             |               |                    |         |                    |                    |              |                  |               |                     |             |                               |
| Meeks Grove        | 1          | 1         |               |          |                     |           | 1        | 58                           | 55            | 28                 | 1       |                    |                    | 3,500.       | 415.49           | 86.           |                     | 14.00       | 2nd & 4th Sun.                |
| Huntsville         | 26         | 16        | 13            | 29       | 3                   |           | 4        | 185                          | 190           | 5                  | 1       | 1                  |                    | 125,000.     | 8,000.00         | 125.          |                     | 5.00        | Every Sun.                    |
| Midway             | 1          |           |               |          |                     |           |          | 92                           | 60            | 40                 | 3       |                    |                    | 12,000.      | 850.00           | 160.          | 10.                 | 10.00       | 1st & 3rd                     |
| Mt. Olivet         |            |           |               | 2        |                     |           |          | 25                           | 16            | 15                 |         |                    |                    | 3,000.       | 140.00           | 35.           |                     | 4.00        |                               |
| Mt. Zion           | 2          |           | 1             | 1        |                     |           | 2        | 115                          | 36            | 30                 | 5       | 1                  |                    | 14,450.      | 2,116.36         | 282.50        |                     | 12.00       |                               |
| Murphys Chapel     | 11         | 2         | 2             |          |                     |           | 1        | 100                          | 60            | 57                 | 4       | 4                  |                    | 28,000.      | 1,595.00         | 150.          | 25.                 | 19.32       |                               |
| New Chapel         |            |           |               |          | 6                   | 8         | 1        | 55                           | 22            | 17                 | 1       |                    |                    | 7,000.       | 740.00           | 50.           | 25.                 | 7.35        |                               |
| New Home           | 1          | 1         |               | 2        |                     |           |          | 62                           | 45            | 30                 | 2       |                    |                    | 3,500.       | 767.66           | 90.           | 25.                 | 10.00       | 1st & 3rd Sun.                |
| New Pleasant Grove | 1          |           |               |          |                     |           |          | 51                           | 40            | 33                 | 3       | 1                  |                    | 5,000.       | 960.00           | 143.          | 25.                 | 15.00       | Every Sun. & Night            |
| Piney Grove        | 4          |           | 2             |          |                     |           |          | 145                          |               | 72                 | 3       | 1                  |                    | 10,000.      | 504.29           | 87.58         | 25.                 | 17.50       |                               |
| Poplar Spring      | 1          | 2         | 6             | 1        |                     |           | 3        | 73                           | 83            | 53                 | 1       | 1                  |                    | 12,000.      | 1,211.18         | 100.          | 10.                 | 5.00        |                               |
| Posey's Chapel     | 5          |           |               |          |                     |           |          | 21                           | 34            | 25                 | 2       | 1                  |                    | 11,000.      | 800.00           | 100.          | 25.                 | 10.00       |                               |
| Rayborn Chapel     |            |           |               |          |                     |           | 1        | 25                           | 25            | 19                 | 2       |                    |                    | 1,500.       | 168.89           | 28.50         |                     | 5.45        |                               |
| Scotts Chapel      | 2          |           | 5             | 1        | 1                   |           |          | 138                          | 85            | 55                 | 2       | 3                  |                    |              | 860.46           | 118.93        |                     | 16.87       |                               |
| Second Creek       |            |           |               |          |                     |           | 1        | 28                           |               |                    |         |                    |                    | 3,500.       | 308.60           | 57.35         |                     | 4.50        | 2nd & 4th Sun. & night        |
| Shady Grove        |            |           | 2             |          |                     |           | 1        | 73                           |               |                    | 3       |                    |                    | 3,500.       | 326.53           | 72.           |                     | 5.00        |                               |
| Shelby             | 1          | 4         |               |          | 3                   |           |          | 26                           | 17            | 13                 | 1       | 2                  | 1                  | 15,000.      | 494.58           | 85.           | 25.                 | 10.00       |                               |
| Solitude           |            |           |               | 4        |                     |           |          | 187                          | 77            | 36                 | 2       | 1                  |                    | 4,000.       | 825.00           | 100.          | 25.                 | 10.00       | 2nd & 4th Sun. & night        |
| Whites Creek       |            |           |               |          |                     |           | 1        | 62                           | 50            | 45                 | 1       | 1                  |                    | 5,000.       | 178.00           | 105.          |                     | 6.60        |                               |

