

MINUTES

of the

Ninety-Sixth Annual Session

of the

TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION

of

Free Will Baptists

Convened with

Murphys Chapel Church

Friday, September 13, 1974



The next Association will convene with New Pleasant Grove Church
on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1975
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Churches	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School	Average Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church Value	Amt. Paid Pastor	Pastoral Help	Given Childrens Home	Minute fund	Home Mission	Meeting Days
Adamsville	4				2			52	40	30	1	5		17,000	760.00	100.00		13.30	25.00	
Antioch		Came back to association by Petitionary letter						88	50	25	1			9,000	632.94	157.00		12.00	25.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night
Bumpas Creek	1	1	3		6			72	80	64	2	2		9,500	664.75	200.00	70.00	16.00	25.00	Every Sun & 1st and 3rd Sun. night
Fairview	9	1	6	28				109	112	63	1							26.25		Every Sun. & 2nd and 4th Sun. night
Meeks Grove	4	1						90	60	40	3			18,000	910.00	225.00		21.50		2nd & 4th Sun. and Sun. night
Midway	1	1	2					25	20	20				3,000	215.00	54.90	36.00	6.00	25.00	2nd & 4th Sun. and Sun. night
Mt. Olivet	1	2	0					114	60	56	6	3		40,000	1,760.00	425.00		21.25	25.00	Preaching—1st & 3rd, Sunday School every Sun.
Murphys Chapel								18	12	12				5,000	323.00	53.00		5.00		Every Sunday
New Chapel	3				2	1		68	56	45	2			5,500	867.23	100.00		15.00		
New Home	1							30	25		1			10,000	2,237.00	427.00		20.00		1st & 3rd Sunday
New Pleasant Grove	7	1						154	100	68	3	1		12,000	581.82	112.14		12.00	25.00	
Piney Grove								95	95	72	1	1		20,000	5,000.00	250.00	25.00	9.00	25.00	
Poplar Springs		2	8	1	2	1		21	34	22	1	2		11,000	420.00	150.00	142.00	15.00	25.00	
Possey Chapel								25	15	12	2			1,500	235.00	52.00	20.00	6.00		
Rayborn Chapel								178	178	93	2	3	1	15,000	2,310.00	370.00		35.00	25.00	Every Sunday
Scots Chapel	16	3	5		3			80	40	35	3				233.00	33.00		6.00		2nd & 4th Sunday
Stady Grove	5				1			77	41	1	1			4,000	844.00	100.00		10.00	25.00	
Soiltude	3	3	3	1				74	65	60	1	1		6,000	566.45	111.00		12.60		2nd & 4th Sun. & Sun. nights
Whites Creek	8	5	5																	

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

ModeratorRev. Edward Smith, Stantonville, Tenn.
Assistant Moderator Rev. Everette Rich, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.
Clerk Bro. J. W. Stooksberry, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Secretary-TreasurerRev. Ted Simmons, Rt. 3, Box 110, Cherokee, Ala.
Rev. Vernon Creasy Serve on Mission Board, Cloverdale, Ala.
Bro. Carl HarperServe on Home Mission Board, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.

EVANGELIST

Rev. J. B. Harper Cypress Inn, Tenn., phone—724-4594

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

ModeratorRev. V. H. Gean, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.
Assistant Moderator Rev. Ted Simmons, Rt. 3, Cherokee, Ala.
Clerk Brother Stancil Robbins, Box 2402, Muscle Shoals, Ala 35660

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Nick WhiteRt. 1, Savannah, Tenn.
Bro. Carl Harper Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.
Rev. Edward SmithStantonville, Tenn.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Examining committee will consist of the assistant moderator of Presbytery and the moderator of the association. The moderator of the Presbytery should appoint one other member from the floor each time as needed, as recommended in the General Business Report.

CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

Adamsville—Sis. Maxine Smith, Stantonville, Tenn.
Antioch—Sis. Lina Montgomery, Cloverdale, Ala. 35617
Bumpas Creek—Sis. Clara Benson, Rt. 20, Florence, Ala.

Fairview—Sis. Deane Butler, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.
 Meeks Grove—Sis. Shirley Moore, Rt. 1, Morris Chapel, Tenn.
 Midway—Sis. Lela Hall, Rt. 2, Leighton, Ala.
 Mt. Olive—Sis. Pauline Jones, Rt. 1, Waterloo, Ala.
 Murphys Chapel—Bro. Randall Gray, 1336 James St., Florence, Ala.
 New Chapel—Sis. Irene Robinson, Rt. 1, Counce, Tenn.
 New Home—Sis. Ethel Davidson, Rt. 2, Henderson, Tenn.
 New Pleasant Grove—Sis. Mary Lou Hubbard, 2209 Vine St., Savannah, Tenn.
 Piney Grove—Bro. John E. Bank, Cypress Inn, Tenn.
 Poplar Springs—Sis. Wanda S. McKee, Rt. 1, Tishomingo, Miss. 38873
 Posey Chapel—Bro. Willie Posey, Rt. 3, Cherokee, Ala.
 Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Edgar Melson, Box 102, Rt. 2, Collinwood, Tenn.
 Scotts Chapel—Sis. Mearle Harper, Cypress Inn, Tenn.
 Shady Grove—Sis. Alma Franks, Rt. 1, Olive Hill, Tenn.
 Solitude—Sis. Virginia Finley, Rt. 2, Adamsville, Tenn.
 White Creek—Sis. Ora Stricklin, Savannah, Tenn.

ORDAINED MINISTERS, THEIR ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emerald Bailey, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn., phone—Collinwood 724-4378
 Benton Brown, 2406 Pinhook Rd., Savannah, Tenn., phone—925-3080
 Elton Cotner, Rt. 2, Adamsville, Tenn., phone—632-4205
 Vernon Creasy, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala., phone—766-1666
 Lige Dickey, Collinwood, Tenn., phone—724-9132
 Earl Dixon, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala., phone—Florence 764-0558
 V. H. Gean, Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala., phone—766-3896
 Vernon Gober, Adamsville, Tenn., phone—632-4228
 J. B. Harper, Rt. 1, Cypress Inn, Tenn., phone—724-4594 Collinwood
 Gerald Montgomery, Rt. 10, Florence, Ala. Box 53A, phone—205-764-3158
 Virgil L. Moore, Rt. 1, Morris Chapel, Tenn., phone—901-632-3256
 Clay Mullins, Rt. 1, Box 293A Cloverdale, Ala., phone—764-0211
 Everett Rich, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn., phone—724-4568
 Ted Simmons, Rt. 3, Box 110, Cherokee, Ala., 35616, phone—359-6849
 Edward Smith, Rt. 1, Box 163, Stantonville, Tenn., phone—901-632-4413
 Ealis Stephens, Rt. 4, Savannah, Tenn., phone—925-3381
 Thurman Stults, Rt. 1, Box 20, Cypress Inn, Tenn.
 Nick White, Rt. 1, Savannah, Tenn., phone—901-925-5273
 L. L. Wilson, 5058 Bryndale, Memphis, Tenn. 38118, phone—362-6079

LICENSED MINISTERS

None

CHURCH PASTORS

Adamsville—Rev. Edward Smith
 Antioch—Rev. Vernon Creasy

Bumpas Creek—Rev. J. B. Harper
Fairview—Rev. Emerald Bailey
Meeks Grove—Rev. Virgil Moore
Midway—Rev. Gerald Montgomery
Mt. Olive—Rev. Benton Brown
Murphy's Chapel—Rev. V. H. Gean and Rev. Earl Dixon as Assistant Pastor.
New Chapel—Rev. Nick White
New Home—Rev. Virgil Moore
New Pleasant Grove—Rev. L. L. Wilson
Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White
Poplar Springs—Rev. Malcolm Garrett
Posey Chapel—Rev. Lige Dickey
Rayborn Chapel—
Scotts Chapel—Rev. Thurman Stults
Shady Grove—Rev. Ealis Stephens
Solitude—Rev. Elton Cotner
Whites Creek—Rev. Everett Rich

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning, September 13, 1974

The Tennessee River Association met at 11:00 a.m. with congregational singing. The opening prayer was by Bro. Homer Scott. Rev. V. H. Gean, Pastor of the church, gave some welcoming statements to the congregation.

The morning messages were delivered by Rev. Edward Smith, on the subject of "Charity" reading from 1 Corinthians 13, and Rev. J. B. Harper reading from Isaiah 35 and Luke 2:12. His subject was "Signs on the Highway."

The morning session was dismissed with a fellowship handshake and prayer by Rev. Edward Smith to be called back to session after lunch.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with singing. The Scripture reading was by Rev. Vernon Gober, reading from the 3rd chapter of James 1-18. Prayer was led by Rev. Earl Dixon.

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. Baxter Humphrey and Rev. Vernon Gober

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Bros. Willie Posey, Larry Dixon and Edd Horton.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE—Bro. Brady Tacker, Joel Pigg, Carl Harper, and Rev. Earl Dixon.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE—Rev. Elton Cotner and Bros. Edgar Melson and Carl Harvell

Called for the letters of churches and recognized the delegates.

Adamsville—Sis. Marie Phillips

Bumpas Creek—Bro. Homer Scott

Fairview—Bros. Carl Harper, Clarence Linville, Kenneth Stults and Benny Wayland

Meeks Grove—Bro. Baxter Humphrey, Sis. Ruthie Ekers, Bro. Ray Barnes and Sis. Bonnie Barnes.

Midway—represented by letter only

Mt. Olive—Sis. Geneva Goode and Sis. Vylona Jones

Murphys Chapel—Bros. Tom Sego and Larry Dixon

New Chapel—Bro. Erbie White

New Home—Bros. Geney Clayton and Earl Clayton

New Pleasant Grove—Bros. Millard White and Clarence Harris

Piney Grove—Bros. Edd Horton and Dalton Skaggs

Poplar Springs—represented by letter only

Posey Chapel—Bros. Willie Posey and Charles McCaig

Rayborn Chapel—Bros. Edgar Melson

Scotts Chapel—Bro. Granville Harper, Lonzo Harper, and Jim Berry

Shady Grove—Bros. Edward Franks and Paul Franks

Shelby Church—no longer with association, went to another group of churches in Memphis.

Solitude—Sis. Mary Ruth Tacker, Bro. Carl Harvell and Sis. Willodean Harvell and Sis. Marcia Carson

Whites Creek—Bros. Earl Morris, Hershel White and Tommy Cossey

Assistant Moderator, Rev. Edward Smith asked for any petitionary letters.

Antioch Church sent a petitionary letter and was accepted in the association. No delegates were present on Friday. Their delegates were present Saturday, they were Bros. Howard Whitten and Vernon Gilchrist.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES

PROGRAM—Committee consist of pastor and deacons of the church. They were Rev. V. H. Gean, Rev. Earl Dixon, Asst. Pastor and Bro. Randall Gray and Bro. Ben Brown.

GENERAL BUSINESS—Rev. Everett Rich, Bro. Stancil Robbins, Rev. Lige Dickey, Rev. Earl Dixon, and Rev. Edward Smith

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE—Bro. Jim Berry, Bro. Clarence Linville, Bro. Earl Clayton and Bro. Lonzo Harper

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE—Bro. Granville Harper, Bro. Kenneth Stults, Bro. Randall Gray, and Bro. Alvin Gilchrist.

BENEVOLENCE—Bro. Charles McCaig, Bro. Geney Clayton, Bro. Benny Wayland, and Bro. Riley Little

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS—Sis. Marie Phillips, Sis. Willodean Harvell, Sis. Mary Ruth Tacker, and Sis. Marcia Carlson

The Business meeting adjourned to meet on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. We had congregational singing and then dismissed with prayer by Bro. Charles McCaig.

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The Friday night service began with singing and the first prayer was led by Rev. Emerald Bailey. Rev. Lige Dickey gave the first message on the subject of "What do you think of Christ?" reading from Matthew 23:1-10 and also Matthew 22:41, 42.

Rev. Everett Rich delivered the second message, reading from Isaiah 53:1-12 with the thoughts of "Jesus Way Was a Humble Way," taken from verse 7.

The service was dismissed with prayer by Bro. Larry Dixon.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

The morning session met according to previous adjournment with singing. The scripture reading was by Rev. Clay Mullins and was taken from Acts 4:24, 25. Rev. Lige Dickey led in prayer.

The business reports were 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 assistant moderator of the Presbytery and the moderator of the association serve as 2 members of the examining committee and that the moderator of the Presbytery appoint one other member each time one is needed to serve.

We recommend that the men who desire the office of a deacon and can qualify according to the Scripture be appointed under the watchcare 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 gets 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 meeting place be selected at the last Fifth Sunday meeting prior to the association.

We recommend that we pay our Fifth Sunday meeting clerk \$50.00 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 \$35.00, per year.

We recommend that we pay the associational clerk \$50.00, per year.

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.

Stancil Robbins, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We your committee on Sunday schools wish to submit the following: We have 18 churches with Sunday schools with a present enrolment of 1124. The average attendance of the churches are 783.

We recommend that each church have 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.

Carl Harper, Chairman

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We your committee wish to submit the following: We exhort all Christians,

parents and children to reverence the Scriptures; Ephesians 6:14. Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right; Honour thy Father and Mother; which is the first commandment with promise, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We also recommend our churches to use Free Will Baptist literature.

We also recommend that all churches have Bible study and Prayer meeting one night through the week.

Jim Berry, 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 1 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." 1 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, wherein 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 1 Corinthians 9:25, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." We also find in 2 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."

Randall Gray, Chairman

Read by—Kenneth Stults

This report was adopted by the association.

OBITUARY REPORT

We your committee on obituaries in sorrow report that death has taken 16 of our members since our last association. They are as follows:

Bro. Lester Qullin, Bro. Ronald Rich, Sis. Belle Wilson, from Fairview; Bro. Preston Pace and Sis. Virgie Wright from Midway; Sis. Cherry Jones from Murphy's Chapel, Bro. John Henry Wright from Piney Grove. Bro. Andy Phillips from Poplar Springs; Sis. Effie Sherrill from Rayborn Chapel; Bro. Ray Harper,

Bro. John Richard Berry, Bro. Roy Brewer from Scotts Chapel; Sis. Franks, Bro. Floyd Brown from Shady Grove; Bro. G. J. Farriel from Solitude; Bro. Clarence Stricklin, from Whites Creek.

We trust that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Rev. Elton Cotner, Chairman

Correction of last years obituary report, the name from Scotts Chapel listed as Noah Berry should have been Noah Shepherd.

REPORT OF BENEVOLENCE

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

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." Also Romans 12:10 says, Be kindly affectioned one to another with Brotherly Love; in honour preferring one another.

This report was adopted by the association.

Charles McCaig, Chairman

CLERKS REPORT

Total received from churches for minute fund 1973	\$235.67
Offering taken to add to minute fund	108.21
Total in minute fund	<u>\$343.88</u>
Expenses, Clerk fee	\$50.00
Ordered 1000 minutes, number voted on by association	295.00
Postage to bring from Nashville	6.64
Postage to mail out to churches	2.80
Total Expenses	354.44
Total in minute fund	<u>343.88</u>
Shortage of	<u>\$10.56</u>

Minutes were Printed by:

National Printing Service

National Association of Free Will Baptists

P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, Tenn. /phone no. 615-242-2624

Clerk, J. W. Stooksberry

This report was adopted by association.

A motion was made to reimburse the shortage of \$10.56 to the clerk from the Home Mission fund.

A collection was taken to add to next years minute fund. The amount of the collection was \$101.20

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTE FUND

Adamsville	\$13.30	Piney Grove	12.00
Antioch	12.00	Poplar Springs	9.00
Bumpas Creek	16.00	Posey Chapel	15.00
Fairview	26.25	Rayborn Chapel	6.00
Meeks Grove	21.50	Scotts Chapel	35.00
Midway	15.00	Shady Grove	6.00
Mt. Olive	6.00	Solitude	10.00
Murphys Chapel	21.25	Whites Creek	12.60
New Chapel	5.00	Total	\$276.90
New Home	15.00	Collection	101.20
New Pleasant Grove	20.00	Total minute fund	\$378.10

HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

Amount received for childrens homes	\$958.28
from association and 5th Sunday meetings	
Amount received for Ministers tithing	511.40
Poplar Springs	25.00
Piney Grove	25.00
Solitude	25.00
Adamsville	25.00
Midway	25.00
Fairview	25.00
Bumpas Creek	25.00
Scotts Chapel	25.00
Murphys Chapel	25.00
Posey Chapel	25.00
Total took in 1973-1974	\$1,719.68

All Expenses itemized:

Free Will Baptist Home (Childrens home in Ala.)	\$479.14
Free Will Baptist Home for Children (Tenn.)	479.14
Bond Premium 1972-1973-1974	26.00
Rev. V. H. Gean (1973 Associational Pastor)	44.00
J. W. Stooksberry (minute fund reimbursment)	26.85
Treasure fee	35.00
Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk	50.00

Rev. J. B. Harper, Associational Pastor	350.00
Total Paid out	1,490.13

Balance brought forward 1972-1973	1,359.98
Total took in 1973-1974	1,719.68

Total Treasure	\$3,079.66
Total Expenses	1,490.13
Balance in Treasure	\$1,589.53

Ministers Tithings

Rev. Edward Smith	\$50.00
Rev. Ealis Stephens	35.00
Rev. Benton Brown	26.40
Rev. Virgil Moore	20.00
Rev. Vernon Gober	5.00
Rev. J. B. Harper	145.00
Rev. Earl Dixon	20.00
Rev. Nick White	10.00
Rev. V. H. Gean	200.00
Total	\$511.40

Ted Simmons, Secretary, Treasurer
Report adopted by association.

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTORS REPORT

Pastored 2 churches, part time each. Conducted 3 revivals and assisted in 1 revival. Held 2 communion services and 2 conferences. Baptized 4 and held 5 funeral services and assisted in 3. Money received \$1,525.14. Made one trip down in Mississippi, two other preachers went with me. Went to Memphis, checking on Shelby Church. The Trustees went with me.

Associational Pastor, Rev. J. B. Harper

Bro. Harper also gave an oral report on the situation of the Shelby Church and its finances. It was reported that Shelby Church had been taken over by a larger church in Memphis, which was going to help the church with its financial burdens. It was reported that they were having church there and had a pastor.

ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

The moderator asked for petitionary letters. There were no more. Antioch had sent their petitionary letter to Fridays business session.

A vote was taken for placing the association for the coming year. The churches which ask for the association in their letters were New Pleasant Grove, Piney Grove and Scotts Chapel. New Pleasant Grove received the most votes.

The association will convene with New Pleasant Grove on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in Sept. of 1975 at 11:00 a.m.

The moderator called for the nomination of officers of the association.

They were elected as follows:

Moderator—Rev. Edward Smith

Assistant Moderator—Rev. Everett Rich

Clerk—Bro. J. W. Stooksberry

Board of Trustees—Rev. Nick White was elected to serve in Rev. Ealis Stephens place, who was oldest member serving on committee. Bro. Carl Harper and Rev. Edward Smith will continue to serve.

The Resolutions Committee was retained. The purpose of the committee is to deal with problems that might arise and decide if they should be brought to the body. They serve the association and the Fifth Sunday meetings. Those serving on the committee are Rev. Earl Dixon, Rev. Edward Smith, Rev. Everett Rich, Rev. Elton Cotner, and Rev. L. L. Wilson.

The Business session adjourned with prayer by Rev. Vernon Creasy.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Saturday morning worship service began with congregational singing and special singing by Bro. Ronnie Carlson. Prayer was led by Bro. Dean Hurley. There was a fellowship handshake with visitors, Rev. Willie Daniels and Sis. Toye McFalls.

First message was given by Rev. Nick White reading from the 3rd chapter of Ezekiel with the subject of "Warning the People." Second message was by Rev. Elton Cotner reading from the 16th chapter of St. John. Bringing some good thoughts to us on "What a great leader we have," taken from 13th verse.

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The service began with a few songs by the congregation and a fellowship handshake for the delegates of Antioch to welcome them back into the association. The delegates were Bros. Howard Whitten and Vernon Gilchrist.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESBYTERY SESSION

September 14, 1974

Session called to order by Moderator, Bro. V. H. Gean. Song by Bro. Larry Dixon. Prayer By Bro. Virgil Moore. Bro. Benton Brown read scripture from 2 Chronicles and made talk.

Churches present-15

Licensed Ministers present-1

Ordained Deacons present-7

Ordained Ministers present-16

Visiting Ministers-2

Unfinished Business—None

New business

ORDAINED MINISTERS REPORTS

Emerald Bailey—Reported, Pastored 1 church full-time, conducted 1 revival assisted in 1, baptized 9, received 2 into the church. Conducted 8 funerals, assisted in 2, conducted 1 communion service, conducted 1 conference. Money received \$764.75, card granted.

Kenneth L. Booker—Shelby church of which he was a member left association.

Benton Brown—Reported, sermons preached 35 churches pastored, 2 revivals assisted in 1, professions witnessed 2, marriages solemnized 1, money received

\$225.00, card granted.

Gemes Brewer—Reported, ask for letter of recommendation to go to another association. Sermons preached 38, Churches pastored 1, number baptized 3, additions to church 8, marriages solemnized 2, miles traveled approx. 20,000, money received \$1,110.47. Pastored Collinwood Free Will Baptist Church. Association gave letter of recommendation.

Elton Cotner—Reported, pastored 1 church full-time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 2, conducted 5 funerals, one communion service, married 3 couples, baptized 6, received 7 into the church, professions witnessed 17, conducted radio program every Sunday morning at 8:15 a.m. WORM Savannah, Tenn. Money received \$1,234.00, card granted.

Vernon Creasy—Reported, pastored 1 church part-time, revivals held 2, professions witnessed 4, number baptized 2, funerals preached 1. Money received \$318.85, card granted.

Lige Dickey—Reported, assisted on one revival, organized one Sunday school, Married 3 couples, Conducted 1 funeral, assisted in others, money received \$138.00, card granted.

Earl Dixon—Reported, served as assistant pastor at home church, witnessed 2 professions, baptized 1, conducted 1 funeral, assisted in 1 funeral. Received approx. \$200.00 money, card granted.

V. H. Gean—Reported, pastored 1 church full-time, conducted radio program each Sunday morning. Conducted 1 revival, assisted in 2, Witnessed 10 professions. Received 3 into the church. Baptized 3, conducted 1 communion service, conducted 1 conference, conducted 13 funerals, assisted in 2, money received \$2,025.00, card granted.

Vernon Gober—Reported, sermons preached 30, churches pastored 1 part-time, revivals held 1 assisted in 1, professions witnessed 5, number baptized 6, additions to the church 7, funerals preached 2, assisted in 1, money received \$300.00, gave all back to Shady Grove church to help on Building, card granted.

J.B. Harper, Reported as the Associational Pastor, card granted.

Gerald Montgomery—To report later, Sent written report, Pastored 2 churches, sermons preached 85, revivals held 3, professions witnessed 12, baptized 4, received into church 5, conducted 3 funerals, 1 communion service, money received approx. \$1,800.00 paid tenth to church, miles traveled approx. 21,000, card granted.

Riley T. Morrisett—Shelby church of which he was a member left the association.

Virgil L. Moore—Reported, pastored 2 churches part-time each, sermons preached 150, held 1 revival, helped in 3, witnessed 129 professions and rededications, baptized 13, received in church 19, held 4 funerals, married 3 couples, conducted 3 conferences, conducted 2 communion services, visited 12 churches, money received \$2,422.37, gave to church and charity \$839.05, miles traveled approx. 7,813, expenses approx. \$937.56, gave tenth to church and home mission, card granted.

Clay Mullens—Reported as a licensed minister, preached several times, held 1 funeral and baptized 1, held 2 communion services. Card granted after going before examining committee and the ordination service to be ordained.

Everett Rich—Reported, pastored 2 churches part-time, held 2 revivals, helped

in 1, witnessed 8 professions, baptized 8, helped hold 3 funerals, received \$1,255.35, card granted.

Grover See—Shelby Church of which he was a member left association.

Ted Simmons—Reported, sermons preached approximately 30, Assistant pastor of one church, third time, married 2 couples, money received approximately \$380.00 card granted.

Ned Simmons—Moved to another location, turned in his credentials.

Edward Smith—Reported, churches pastored 1, revivals held 1, assisted in 1, professions witnessed 4, number baptized 4, additions to the church 4, money received \$910.00, card granted.

Thurman Stults—Reported, churches pastored 1, revivals held 1, assisted in 1 revival, professions witnessed 37, number baptized 20, additions to the church 24, funerals preached 2, married 3 couples, money received \$2,310.00, card granted.

Ealis Stephens—Reported, pastored 2 churches part-time, helped in one revival, baptized 5, held 66 services, witnessed 1 profession, married 1 couple, money received from Bumpas Creek \$358.00 money received from Cross Roads Church \$645.00 makes a total of \$1,003.00, card granted.

Nick White—Reported, pastored 2 churches part-time for one, and once a month, revivals held 3, assisted in 2, funerals 5, married 4 couples, conducted 2 conferences and 2 communions money received \$952.82, witnessed 6 conversions, baptized 3, received 9 into the church, card granted.

L. L. Wilson—Reported by letter. Pastored 1 church, sermons preached 84, additions to the church 2, baptized 1, revivals conducted 1, communion services 1, conferences 2, miles traveled 10,800 money received \$2,137.00, card granted.

Rev. James Brewer asked the association for letter of recommendation as he had joined another association; move made and second to have clerk write letter of recommendation.

Rev. Gean, moderator asked for letters from churches that wanted ministers or deacons ordained. Scotts Chapel sent letter asking that Bro. Clay Mullins be ordained as a minister to preach and that Brothers Joel Pigg, Robert Berry, Aaron Stults and Alvin Gilchrist be ordained as deacons.

The examining committee was nominated from the floor by members of the Presbytery. Bros. Virgil Moore, Nick White, Elton Cotner, Edward Smith, and Ted Simmons were elected.

Bro. Gean, ask for reading of the minutes of last Presbytery session. Minutes were read and approved. It was learned that one more 5th Sunday (in Aug. 75) needed to be placed. Piney Grove agreed to host it.

The examining committee went to meet with ones to be ordained.

During this time special singing by Bro. Ronnie Carlson, Bro. Dean Hurley and Sis. Cindy Mullins was enjoyed by congregation. Bro. Willie Daniels, visiting minister, gave testimony and talk, other testimonies were enjoyed.

After the examining committee met with and questioned the ones to be ordained, they reported that Bro. Clay Mullins was worthy to be ordained to preach, and that Brothers Joel Pigg, Robert Berry, Aaron Stults, and Alvin Gilchrist be ordained as deacons.

Rev. Vernon Gober read scripture from 1 Timothy, followed by altar prayer and laying on of hands in ordination service.

Moved and seconded to close business session. Dismissed by Bro. Ted Simmons. Clerk, S. G. Robbins

The churches that reported deacons been appointed and under the watchcare of the church for one year are as follows:

New Home Church—Reports Bro. Billy Holmes and Bro. Earl Clayton under the watchcare of church for deacon, as of Aug. 18, 1974.

New Pleasant Grove—Reports Bro. Freddie Bowen is under the watchcare of the church for deacon.

Solitude Church—Reports Bro. Ronnie Carlson and Bro. Jim Reeves under the watchcare of church for deacons.

Whites Creek—Reports Bro. Dee Patterson under the watchcare of church for deacon.

New Chapel—Reports they have appointed Bro. Erby White to serve as deacon.

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The congregation began service with singing. Prayer was led by Bro. Bill Benson. Special singing by the Traveling Echos.

Bro. Dewey Stults delivered the first message from St. Mark 4:36-41. His subject "What matter of man was He."

Bro. Virgil Moore brought the next message with some wonderful thought on Daniel and the Great God we are serving.

Dismissed by Bro. Ronnie Brown.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS WAS READ

We, your committee of resolutions of thanks, report to the body and assembly together to give the people of Murphys Chapel Church and surrounding churches our sincere thanks for their kindness and hospitality shown during the association.

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

May the Lord Bless each one of you till we convene in another association.

Read by Bro. Stancil Robbins

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Began service with singing, then prayer by Bro. J. W. Stooksberry. An offering taken for the childrens home with Bro. Earl Dixon in charge. Bro. Dixon read from the 18th chapter of St. Luke. The children present went forward with their offering of \$81.46 and the adults followed with \$540.15 in offering. A total of \$621.61 will be divided between the following: Free Will Baptist Childrens Home, P. O. Box 8, Eldridge, Ala. 35554 and the Free Will Baptist Childrens Home, Rt. 9, Greeneville, Tenn. 37743.

The first message was by Bro. Vernon Creasy, with the thought, "Try to strengthen thy brother," reading from 22nd chapter of St. Luke and 10th chapter of St. John. Second message was by Bro. Edward Smith with the subject "Stand by." Bro. J. B. Harper gave invitation followed by fellowship handshake. Dismissed by Bro. Nard.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT MIDWAY

September 29 and 30, 1973

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

The service began with singing and prayer was led by Bro. Joe L. McCoy. The opening message was by Rev. Edward Smith. His subject was "Count the Cost" with reading from St. Luke 26-35. The second message given by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from 2nd chapter of 1st John verses 1-17. The thought he brought was "Be strong in the Lord." The dismissal prayer was by Bro. J. W. Stooksberry.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The congregation met after lunch with singing and with the first prayer being led by Rev. Earl Dixon. The message for the afternoon service was given by Rev. J. B. Harper reading from 8th chapter of St. Luke verses 9-18 on the subject of "Being Honest."

The Moderator, Rev. Virgil Gean, called business session to order. There were 9 churches present, 7 ordained ministers, and 5 ordained deacons.

The moderator called for reading of the minutes, Bro. J. W. Stooksberry read them in the absence of Bro. Roy Harper. Motion made to accept minutes as read.

The moderator called for any old business. There was none.

Moderator ask for new business. New Pleasant Grove sent letter stating that Bro. L. C. Harris had been put under the watchcare of the church for 1 year as deacon.

A program committee for the next fifth Sunday meetings was appointed by the assistant moderator, Rev. Ted Simmons. The fifth Sunday meeting will be Poseys Chapel. The committee consisted of Rev. J. B. Harper, Bro. Randall Gray and Bro. Clyde Hubbard.

Bro. J. W. Stooksberry gave new price list he had received for printing minutes for coming year.

Motion made to adjourn business session.

A song service of congregational singing was then enjoyed. Dismissed by Bro. Frost.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The service with singing and prayer by Bro. L. H. Vandiver. The first message was given by Rev. Everett Rich, reading the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes. The second message given by Rev. Vernon Creasy reading in Galatians. Bringing two good messages. The dismissal prayer was given by Rev. Gerald Montgomery.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The service began with singing and prayer by Rev. J. B. Harper and Rev.

Earl Dixon. An offering was taken up for the childrens home by Rev. Ted Simmons receiving \$147.83.

The first message was given by Rev. Benton Brown reading part of John 13. Rev. V. H. Gean followed this message by reading the 18th verse of the same chapter, and part of the 27th chapter of Acts. Rev. Earl Dixon followed by reading part of the 5th chapter of James beginning at the 10th verse and requested a service of anointing of oil and prayer. Then they dismissed for lunch and no service in the afternoon.

Bro. Roy Harper, Clerk

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT POSEYS CHAPEL

December 29 and 30, 1973

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

The service began with singing and prayer by Rev. Earl Dixon. The opening message was given by Rev. Gerald Montgomery reading John 14th chapter beginning with the 15th verse through the 27th, using for his subject Disobedience. The second message given by Rev. Elton Cotner reading from the 16th chapter of John. Dismissal prayer was by Rev. Vernon Creasy.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The services began with singing and prayer by Bro. J. W. Stooksberry. Rev. Edward Smith gave the message reading the 40th chapter of Isaiah 9 through the 17th verses, bringing a wonderful message.

The business session was called to order by the moderator, Rev. V. H. Gean. There were 9 churches present, 12 ministers and 5 deacons present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted by the body. Bro. J. W. Stooksberry gave a report on the cost of the minutes. Rev. Ted Simmons appointed a program committee for the next fifth Sunday meeting consisting of Rev. Elton Cotner, Bro. Brady Tacker and Bro. Stancil Robbins, which will be held at Solitude Church in March.

A report was made by Rev. J. B. Harper that Shelby Church had left the association.

Nothing more came before the body and a motion and second was made to close the business session.

A song service followed that afternoon. Dismissed by Rev. Vernon Gober.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The Saturday night service was called together by singing and prayer by Bro. Junior Cagle and Rev. Ned Simmons. Devotional service was held. The first message was given by Rev. Nick White reading 1 Thessalonians. Rev. Everett Rich gave the next message reading the 6th chapter of 1 Corinthians beginning with the first verse reading the entire chapter. Received two good messages.

Dismissal prayer by Bro. Junior Cagle.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The service was called together with singing having an altar prayer lead by Rev. Virgil Moore. Ted Simmons took up an offering for the childrens home receiving \$60.00.

The first message was given by Rev. Vernon Creasy reading the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians beginning with 11th through the 21 verses. Rev. Virgil Moore followed next reading in Matthew and Revelation, having a wonderful service.

Dismissal prayer by Rev. Ned Simmons.

No afternoon service.

Bro. Roy Harper, Clerk

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT SOLITUDE CHURCH

March 30, and 31, 1974

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The meeting was opened with a prayer and then singing by Bro. Ronnie Carlson. Then prayer again led by Rev. Virgil Moore.

Opening message was delivered by Rev. Vernon Gober beginning with prayer, then reading from 2 Chronicles 7th chapter 14th verse and all of the 58th chapter of Isaiah, with the thought on Christian people. Rev. Virgil Moore followed this with reading from 2 Chronicles 15th chapter and 24th chapter in parts. Received two wonderful messages. Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Nick White.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After a delicious meal, service began with singing by Rev. V. H. Gean, prayer by Rev. Vernon Creasy. The message was given by Rev. Benton Brown reading from St. Matthew 24th chapter. It was an inspiring message.

The moderator, Rev. V. H. Gean, called the business session to order, asking Rev. Ted Simmons to assist. There were 12 churches, 11 ordained ministers, and 5 ordained deacons present.

The reading of the minutes were called for by the moderator. Sisters Mearle Harper and Carolyn Harper carried this on due to the death of Bro. Roy Harper. The minutes of the last meeting was accepted by the body.

The moderator called for unfinished business. There was none.

Moderator asked for new business. Rev. J. B. Harper reported Rev. Ned Simmons had moved to another location and had turned in his credentials. Motion was made and second to accept them and they were given to Sis. Mearle Harper, Clerk. Rev. Ted Simmons gave report on the treasury. Bro. Jody Milson gave a report on the rebuilding of Shady Grove Church. Rev. Gober was appointed to read the deed to ground given for the church by one Mrs. Russell. The body declined the deed pending better wording.

A program committee was appointed by the assistant moderator, Rev. Ted Simmons, consisting of Rev. J. B. Harper, Bro. Brady Tacker and Bro. J. W. Stooksberry, for the next fifth Sunday meeting at Bumpas Creek Church in June.

Bro. Virgil Moore made a motion and it was seconded by Revs. Creasy and

Brown to let Sis. Meral Harper hold the office of clerk for the rest of the year due to the death of her husband Bro. Roy Harper. Motion was accepted by the body.

Nothing more came before the body and motion and seconds were made and accepted to dismiss the business session. A song service followed and was dismissed by Rev. Simmons.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The service was opened with singing by Bro. Ronnie Carlson. Prayer was led by Rev. Edward Smith. Rev. V. H. Gean held the devotional service followed with singing led by Rev. Vernon Gober. Rev. Edward Smith gave the first message reading Ecclesiastes 12th chapter, then prayer by Rev. Smith and delivering a good message. The second message was given by Rev. Earl Dixon reading in Psalms 40 and 10th chapters, and 2 Corinthians 10th chapter, preaching a good message. An invitation was given with one coming to accept Christ. Dismissed by Rev. Ted Simmons.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The service began with group singing led by Bro. Ronnie Carlson. Prayer was led by Rev. Virgil Moore.

A freewill offering was taken up for Sis. Linda Booth in the Solitude community needed for a kidney transplant. Receiving \$126.08.

The first message was brought by Rev. J. B. Harper asking to sing "I'll be Satisfied." Then reading the 1st chapter of Psalms 1 through 16th verses. Using for his thought "DELIGHT," bringing a wonderful message. The next message was given by Rev. V. H. Gean following in the same reading using the same thought. After another wonderful message by Rev. Gean an altar invitation was given with several coming. A wonderful testimony service started throughout the church.

It was decided there would be no afternoon service.

Dismissal prayer was led by Bro. Garner.

Sis. Mearle Harper, Clerk

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT BUMPAS CREEK

June 29 and 30, 1974

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

The service began with singing by Rev. Ted Simmons; prayer by Bro. Ben Brown, using more singing and having an altar prayer. The message was given by Rev. Earl Dixon reading Mark 1:32-39. Then reverently bowing his head with his own prayer and reading other scriptures and Luke 4th chapter, bringing a wonderful message. Dismissal prayer by Rev. Everette Rich.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Opening singing by Bro. Odell Harper, prayer by Bro. Bill Benson. The first message was given by Rev. Ealis Stephens reading 1 Peter 5th chapter using for a text, "Feeding the Flock," bringing a wonderful message.

The Moderator, Rev. V. H. Gean, called the business meeting to order. There were present 12 churches, 11 ordained ministers, 3 ordained deacons, 1 appointed deacon, and 1 visiting minister. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Old business was called for and discussion of ministers credentials was tabled over to the association.

The moderator called for new business. A motion to examine Bro. Clyde Hubbard for deacon was accepted. Rev. Ted Simmons appointed a committee of Rev. Earl Dixon, Rev. Elton Cotner and Bro. Stancil Robbins. Bro. Hubbard was found worthy of a deacon by the committee. The ordination text was read and Bro. Hubbard received the laying on of hands.

Election of officers for the next term are: Moderator, Rev. V. H. Gean; Asst. Moderator, Rev. Ted Simmons; Clerk, Bro. Stancil Robbins; and Association Pastor, Rev. J. B. Harper.

Places for the next Fifth Sunday Meetings year of 74-75 were Meeks Grove, September 1974; Murphys Chapel, December 1974; Posey Chapel March 1975; Scotts Chapel, June 1975, Piney Grove, August 1975.

Program committee was chosen to prepare the program for Meeks Grove. They are Rev. Virgil Moore, Bro. J. W. Stooksberry and Bro. Stancil Robbins.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The opening singing was led by Bro. Odell Harper, prayer by Rev. Elton Cotner. Rev. V. H. Gean held a joyous testimony service. The first message being given by Rev. Ted Simmons giving a wonderful message with prayer by Bro. Homer Scott. Rev. Simmons then reading 1 Peter with subject, "The Devil Is Your Adversary." Rev. Elton Cotner followed with a message of "Love" reading from 1 Corinthians, Romans, and 1 Peter, bringing a wonderful message. An altar call was given. No response. Dismissed by Bro. Ronnie Brown.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

The service opened with singing by Bro. Bill Benson, prayer by Bro. Ray Scott, another song by Bro. Odell Harper and others directing.

Rev. Ted Simmons gave a message, "Jesus Died For Your Sins And Mine," taking up an offering for the childrens home, receiving \$135.47.

Rev. Everette Rich gave the message reading 1 Peter 4:10-11 verses and some other scripture in James; subject being, "Ask of Wisdom." Rev. Virgil Moore gave the next message of "Living Your Life For Jesus," reading 1 John 2nd chapter. He asked for an invitation song with no response to the altar. Both ministers giving a wonderful message. Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Rev. V. H. Gean opened the service with singing and Rev. Ledford Stults from Indiana led the prayer. Rev. Dewey Stults gave the message reading 2 Timothy 4:16. Bringing a good thought of Paul's last message and of encouragement we could be to others.

A song with the fellowship handshake was given and dismissed by Rev. Nick White.

Sis. Mearle Harper, Clerk

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 are 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

This certifies that _____, 19____
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 _____

