

J. B. Haynes

1975-

MINUTES
of the
Ninety-Seventh Annual Session
of the
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists
Convened with
New Pleasant Grove Church
Friday, September 19, 1975

**The next Association will convene with New Home Church
on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1976
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Churches	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School	Average Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church Value	Amount Paid Pastors	For pastoral Help	Given Children's Homes	Minute Fund	Home Mission	Meeting Days
Adamsville	3							59	60	40	1	5		\$20,000.00	\$1,035.00	\$150.00		\$20.00	\$25.00	
Antioch							1	25	38	33				10,000.00	860.70	171.25		16.00		
Burns Creek		1			3			84	50	50	1			12,000.00	968.50	150.00		16.00	25.00	Every Sun., 1st & 3rd Sun. nights
Fairview								72	65	52	2	2		9,500.00	755.40	150.00		26.05	25.00	Every Sun., 2nd & 4th Sun. nights
Meeks Grove	3	1	1	18			1	112	112	62	1			9,000.00	1,705.00	110.00	75.00	18.25	25.00	Every Sunday
Midway	1							88	60	45	3			18,000.00	2,070.00	280.00		20.00	25.00	Every Sun., 2nd & 4th Sun. nights
Mt. Olive	1						1	30	20	15				3,000.00	90.00	93.00		7.00		1st & 3rd Sunday
Murphys Chapel	3	1				1		120	60	49	6	3		50,000.00	1,800.00	925.00		31.55	25.00	Every Sunday
New Chapel	4	2		1				24	42	30	1			5,000.00	445.00	85.00		9.41		
New Home				18				67	57	45	2			5,500.00	949.26	200.00		18.40		
New Pleasant Grove								53	50	45	4	2	1	10,000.00	2,500.00	100.00		15.00	25.00	Every Sun. and Sun. night
Piney Grove	7	1	3				1	164	100	67	3	1	1	12,000.00	1,122.76	112.00		22.00	25.00	
Poplar Spring	2	2	1					99	115	74	1	1		20,000.00	5,200.00	200.00	100.00	9.00	25.00	
Rosey Chapel								22	20	15	1	1		11,000.00	872.90	150.00		16.00	25.00	
Tabbom Chapel								25	16	12	2			1,500.00	319.10	48.10	20.00	5.00		
Scotus Chapel	5	1	7	1			1	190	136	108	6	4		15,000.00	2,181.34	133.37		32.30	25.00	Every Sunday
Shady Grove	14							94	55	37	3			15,000.00	474.00	135.00		6.00		Every Sun. & Sun. Night, Prayer Service Thurs.
Solitude	1	6					1	77	34	34	1	1		4,000.00	990.00	146.35		10.65	25.00	Every 2nd & 4th Sun. and Sun. night
Whites Creek							2	72	55	50	2	1		6,000.00	918.41	187.75		15.10	25.00	2nd & 4th Sun. and Sun. night

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

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

HOME MISSION BOARD

Secretary-Treasurer Rev. Ted Simmons, Rt. 3, Box 110, Cherokee, Ala.
Rev. Vernon Creasy Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala. Serves on Mission Board
Bro. Carl Harper Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn. Serves on Mission Board

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

Rev. V. H. Gean Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala.

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Moderator Rev. Ted Simmons, Cherokee, Ala.
Assistant Moderator. Rev. Vernon Gober, Adamsville, Tenn.
Clerk. Bro. Stencil Robbins, Box 2402, Muscle Shoals, Ala. 35660

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Benton Brown Savannah, Tenn.
Rev. Nick White Savannah, Tenn.
Bro. Carl Harper Iron City, 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.

PLACING OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

November 1975-Whites Creek
May 1976-Shady Grove

February 1976-Adamsville
August 1976-Solitude

CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

Adamsville—Sis. Maxine Smith, Stantonville, Tenn.
Antioch—Sis. Lina Montgomery, Cloverdale, Ala. 35617
Bumpas Creek—Sis. Sue Curry, Rt. 1, Waterloo, Ala.
Fairview—Sis. Deane Butler, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tenn.
Meeks Grove—Sis. Glenda Hurley, Rt. 1, Stantonville, 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. Marcia Carson, 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—925-3881
 Thurman Stults, Rt. 1, Box 20, Cypress Inn, Tenn. phone-724-9848
 Nick White, Rt. 1, Savannah, Tenn., phone—901-925-5273
 L. L. Wilson, 5058 Bryndale, Memphis, Tenn. 38118, phone—362-6079

LICENSED MINISTERS

Bro. Marvin Morrow
 Bro. Ronnie Carlson

Bro. Clarence Harris
 Bro. Leo Potete

CHURCH PASTORS

Adamsville—Rev. Edward Smith
 Antioch—Rev. Lige Dickey
 Bumpas Creek—Rev. J. B. Harper
 Fairview—Rev. Vernon Gober
 Meeks Grove—Rev. Virgil Moore
 Midway—Rev. Gerald Montgomery

Mt. Olive—

Murphy's Chapel—Rev. Vernon Creasy

New Chapel—Rev. Nick White

New Home—Rev. Benton Brown

New Pleasant Grove—Rev. L. L. Wilson

Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White

Poplar Springs—Rev. Malcolm Garrett

Posey Chapel—

Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Marvin Morrow

Scotts Chapel—Rev. Thurman Stults

Shady Grove—Rev. Ted Simmons

Solitude—Rev. Elton Cotner

Whites Creek—Rev. Everett Rich

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning, September 19, 1975

The Tennessee River Association met at New Pleasant Grove Church at 11:00 a.m. with congregational singing. The opening prayer was by Bro. Lige Dickey. Rev. Everett Rich read Psalm 133. The morning message was delivered by Rev. Edward Smith, on the subject "Arise, Go Over Jordan" reading from Joshua 3:1-11 and Joshua 1:2.

The morning session was dismissed with a fellowship handshake, then prayer by Rev. J.B. Harper to be called back to session after lunch.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with singing. The Scripture reading was by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from 1 Corinthians 12:22. Prayer was led by Rev. J.B. Harper.

APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

READING CLERKS—Brothers Carl Harper and Marvin Morrow.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Brothers Jim Berry, Kenneth Stults, Dee Patterson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE—Brothers Frank Pigg, Lige Dickey, John Banks, and Jimmy Pigg.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE—Brothers L.C. Harris, Elton Cotner, and Cecil Burns.

CALLED FOR CHURCH LETTERS AND RECOGNIZED THE DELEGATES

+ Adamsville—Bros. Douglas Scott and Virgil Nixon

+ Antioch—Sis. Hattie Hayes, Bro. and Sis. Lawrence Strait, Bro. and Sis. Howard Whitten, and Bro. Vernon Gilchrist.

+ Bumpas Creek—Bro Homer Scott

+ Fairview—Bros. Cecil Burns, Carl Harper, and Kenneth Stults.

+ Meeks Grove—Bro. Paul Hurley, Sis. Ruthie Ekers and Sis. Jessie Killingsworth.

+ Midway—Sis. Susie Hall, Grace Pace, Lela Hall

+ Mt. Olive—Sis. Vylona Jones and Frankie Austin

- + Murphy's Chapel—Bros. Arnold White and Robert Wylie
 - + New Chapel—Bros. Bill Mayhall and Billy Mayhall
 - + New Home—Represented by letter only.
 - + New Pleasant Grove—Bros. Jim Dinton and Millard White
 - + Piney Grove—Bros. Arch Horton, John Banks, Larry Toungette, and Donnie Rich.
 - + Poplar Springs—Represented by letter only.
 - + Posey's Chapel—Bros. Willie Posey and Charles McCaig
 - + Rayborn Chapel—Represented by letter only
 - + Scott's Chapel—Bros. Jimmy Pigg, Jim Berry, Jimmy Stults
 - + Shady Grove—Bros. Jack Franks, Robert Franks, Jodie Melson, Jr.
 - + Solitude—Represented by letter only.
 - + Whites Creek—Bros. Dee Patterson and Barry Robberson.
- Moderator asked for any petitionary letters. There were none.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES

PROGRAM—Rev. Vernon Creasy, Bro. L.C. Harris, and Earby White. Rev. L.L. Wilson.

GENERAL BUSINESS—Rev. J.B. Harper, Rev. Ted Simmons, Bro. Stancil Robbins, Rev. V.H. Gean and Rev. Edward Smith.

EDUCATIONAL—Bros. Charles McCaig, Arch Horton, Robert Wylie, and Jimmy Stults.

TEMPERANCE—Bros. Willie Posey, Donnie Rich and Arnold White.

BENEVOLENCE—Bros. Millard White, Vernon Gilchrist, Homer Scott, and Lawrence Strait.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS—Sis. Lela Hall, Frankie Austin, Grace Pace, and Susie Hall.

Dismissed by Reverend Vernon Creasy to meet at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The service began with singing and prayer led by Rev. Elton Cotner. Bro James Raper, Superintendent of Greeneville Children's Home, gave an interesting talk and information about the Children's Home.

Rev. Lige Dickey gave first message on "Confidence and Steadfastness" reading from Hebrews 3:5-14. Rev. V.H. Gean delivered the second message from Acts 20:19-34, with closing thoughts on repentance. Closed with Altar prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

The morning session met according to previous adjournment with singing. The Scripture reading was by Rev. Everett Rich. He read from Matthew 5:27-48. Prayer was led by Dennis Clayton.

The Business reports were as follows:

GENERAL BUSINESS REPORT

We your committee on general business recommend that each church send

\$40.00 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 licensee shall at the end of 1 year go before examining committee before ordination.

The examination for license (or ordination) 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 the associational clerk \$50.00, per year, to be paid from 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, to

be paid from Home Missionary Treasury.

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.

Ted Simmons, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We your committee on Sunday school wish to submit the following: We have 19 churches with Sunday school with a present enrolment of 1,135. The average attendance of churches are 863.

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 someone of the church if possible to show our appreciation of their visit.

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

Jimmy N. Pigg, Chairman

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We your committee wish to submit the following: We exort 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.

Robert Wylie, 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."

Donnie Rich, Chairman

This report was adopted by the association.

OBITUARY REPORT

We your committee on obituaries in sorrow report that death has taken 8 of our members since our last association. They are as follows: Sis. Minnie Mae Parrott, Meeks Grove; Sis. Ida White, Mt. Olive; Bro. Homer Pigg, Scotts Chapel; Bro. William Shephard, Shady Grove; Bro. Authur Cossey and Bro. Leroy Thompson, Whites Creek; Bro. Gary Wright, Antioch; Sis. Susan Gillis, Piney Grove.

We trust that our loss is Heaven's gain.

L.C. Harris, Chairman

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.

Millard White, Chairman

CLERK'S REPORT

September, 1975

Total received from churches for minute fund 1974.	\$276.90
Collection taken for minute fund at association.	<u>101.20</u>
Total Minute Fund	378.10
Clerk Fee.	<u>50.00</u>
Balance	328.10
Cost of printing 1,000 minutes.	<u>295.00</u>
Minute Fund Balance.	33.10
Minutes were printed by:	
National Printing Service	
National Association of Free Will Baptists	
P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, Tenn. Phone No. 615-242-2624	
This report was adopted by association.	

J.W. Stooksberry, Clerk

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Adamsville.	\$20.00
Antioch.	16.00
Bumpas Creek.	16.00
Fairview	26.05
Meeks Grove.	18.25
Midway	20.00
Mt. Olive	7.00
Murphy's Chapel.	31.55
New Chapel	9.41
New Home.	18.40
New Pleasant Grove	15.00
Piney Grove	22.00
Poplar Springs.	9.00
Posey's Chapel	16.00
Rayborn Chapel	5.00
Scotts Chapel	32.30
Shady Grove.	6.00
Solitude.	10.65
Whites Creek	<u>15.10</u>
Total.	313.71
Collection	<u>59.09</u>
Total Minute Fund	372.80
Balance from 1975	<u>33.10</u>
Total.	\$405.90

This report was adopted by association.

HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

Amount received for Children's Home from association and fifth Sunday Meetings	\$978.96
Amount received from Ministers Tithing	755.83
Collection for Building Fund	117.00

Church Contributions:

Solitude	25.00
Piney Grove	25.00
Scotts Chapel	25.00
Adamsville	25.00
Poplar Springs.	25.00
Mt. Olive	25.00
Midway	25.00
Whites Creek	25.00
Fairview	25.00
Bumpas Creek.	25.00
Murphy's Chapel	25.00
Posey's Chapel	25.00
TOTAL RECEIVED 1974-1975.	<u>\$2,151.79</u>

All Expenses itemized:

Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Ala.)	\$489.48
Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Tenn.)	489.48
Bond Premium	13.00
Rev. J.B. Harper, Associational Pastor	200.00
J. W. Stooksberry, (reimburse for Minute Fund)	10.56
Treasure Fee.	35.00
Fifth Sunday meeting clerk fee	50.00
Shady Grove building fund	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES.	<u>\$1,587.52</u>
Balance Forward 1973-1974	\$1,589.53
Total Received 1974-1975	2,151.79
Total in Treasure.	3,741.32
Total Expenses 1974-1975	<u>1,587.52</u>
TOTAL NOW IN TREASURY	<u>\$2,153.80</u>

Minister's tithes and offerings listed:

Rev. Benton Brown	\$22.50
Rev. Nick White	60.00
Rev. J.B. Harper	125.00
Rev. Edward Smith	150.00
Rev. Vernon Gober	25.00
Rev. Earl Dixon	75.00
Rev. Vernon Creasy	20.00
Rev. V.H. Geans	253.33
Rev. Ted Simmons.	<u>25.00</u>
TOTAL.	<u>\$755.83</u>

Ted Simmons, Secretary and Treasurer

This report was adopted by association.

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTORS REPORT

Pastored 1 church full-time, held 3 revivals, conducted 2 conferences, conducted 3 funerals, visited several churches. Money received \$1,227.40, received from treasurer \$200.00, total \$1,427.40. Miles traveled approximately 4,578 made one trip to Walnut, Mississippi checking on putting up a tent. Associational Pastor, Rev. J.B. Harper

ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

The moderator asked for petitionary letters and there were none.

A vote was taken to place the association for coming year. The churches which asked in their letters for the association were: Bumpas Creek, Midway, New Home, Piney Grove, Scotts Chapel. Bumpas withdrew because they had had it latter than some of the others.

New Home Church received the most votes.

The association will convene with New Home Church, Henderson, Tenn. on Friday before third Sunday in September 1976, at 11:00 a.m.

Officers were elected last year to serve a 2 year term for the association.

Moderator asked for nominations of associational secretary and treasurer. Motion made and seconded to retain same Rev. Ted Simmons.

Moderator asked for nomination of someone to serve on the Board of Trustees. Rev. Benton Brown was elected to serve replacing the oldest member serving, Rev. Edward Smith.

Moderator asked for discussion on Resolution Committee. A motion made to retain same committee.

Moderator asked for old business. There was no old business and no new business. Mt. Olive Church letter asked association to appoint them a pastor, discussion of matter. Motion made for association and associational pastor work together to help find a pastor.

Moderator asked for nominations of associational pastor. Rev. V.H. Gean was elected.

Statements by Rev. Ted Simmons about Children's Home, encouraging people to remember collection on Sunday.

Discussion on Minutes, voted to order 1,000, letter read giving price list. Collection taken to add to Minute Fund of \$59.09.

Statements by Rev. J.B. Harper, encouraging new associational pastor and asked associational preachers to invite him places and help find places for tent.

Statements made by Rev. V.H. Gean on his appreciation of the confidence of the association in his election as association pastor and his desire to help in any way.

Motion made to Adjourn.

Dismissed by Rev. Elton Cotner.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Service began with singing and prayer led by Rev. Emerald Bailey. First message was by Rev. Elton Cotner on "The Faith of Apostle Paul" and getting ready. Reading from Ephesians 4:1-15. Second message by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from Ezekiel chapter 4. His subject "Have you a Burden or a Vision." Dismissed with song and altar call and prayer by Bro. Baxter Humphrey.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The session was gathered back by singing. Scripture reading by Rev. Virgil Moore from Psalm 121 and Psalm 142 with some good comments on "God As My Refuge." Prayer by Bro. Paul Hurley.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESBYTERY SESSION

September 20, 1975

The Moderator, Rev. V. H. Gean, called the session to order. Number of churches represented 18, number of ordained ministers present 15, number of ordained deacons present 11. The Minutes of the last Presbytery session were read and approved.

The moderator asked the ministers to give their reports:

ORDAINED MINISTERS REPORTS

Emerald Bailey—Reported, pastored 1 church every Sunday, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 1, held 1 communion service, conducted six funerals, assisted in 2, witnessed 4 professions, money received \$755.40. Card granted.
Benton Brown—Reported Sermons preached 43, churches pastored 2 part-time churches. Assisted in 1 revival, professions witnessed 1, number baptized 1 additions to the church 1 held 1 conference, Money received \$126.00. Card granted.

Elton Cotner—Reported Pastored 1 church full-time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 1 revival, married 1 couple, conducted 1 funeral, assisted in 1 funeral, held 1 communion service, baptized 1, received 7 into the church, Money received \$1,150.00. Card granted.

Vernon Creasy—Reported pastored 1 church full-time, conducted 1 revival, witnessed 1 profession, baptized 1 received into the church 1, solemnized 1 marriage, conducted 1 conference, Money received \$931.26, money gave to Antioch Church \$354.30, given to home mission \$20.00. Card granted.

Lige Dickey—Reported, Pastored 1 church full-time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 2 revivals, witnessed 2 professions conducted 1 funeral, assisted in others, married 2 couples, Money received \$1,153.90. Card granted.

Earl Dixon—Absent, sent in letter, served as assistant pastor at home church, Murphys Chapel. Visited 18 churches, preached in 14 of those visited, assisted in 1 revival, Money received approximately \$810.00. Card granted.

V.H. Gean—Reported, Pastored 1 church full-time, conducted radio program each Sunday morning, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 7, witnessed 24 professions, received 3 into the church, baptized 5, conducted 1 communion service, conducted 1 conference, conducted 14 funerals, married 1 couple, Money received \$2,533.29. Card granted.

Vernon Gober—Reported, Pastored 1 church part-time, sermons preached 74, assisted in 1 revival, witnessed 3 professions, married 1 couple, conducted radio program every Sunday morning at 8:15 WORM station, Savannah, Tenn. Received \$319.10 from church and \$200.00 for radio broadcast. Card granted.

J.B. Harper—Present, Reported as the associational pastor. Card granted.

Gerald Montgomery—Reported, pastored 1 church full-time, sermons preached 92, worked in 4 revivals, professions witnessed 11, baptized 2, additions to the church 1, conferences and communions held 1, marriages conducted 1, miles

traveled approximately 18,000, Money received \$2,445.00, paid tenth to the church. Card granted.

Virgil L. Moore—Reported, pastored 2 churches part-time each, sermons preached 100, helped in 2 revivals, witnessed 62 professions and rededications, baptized 3, received into church 4, visited 5 churches, Money received and gave to churches and charity \$628.70, held 4 funerals, 2 conferences, and 1 communion service, gave tenth to churches and children's home, miles traveled approximately 6,048, expenses approximately \$725.76, Card granted.

Clay Mullens—Absent, Sent in letter, messages preached 20, taught Sunday school 1 year, funerals held 3, tithed to the church, money received for preaching about \$20.00. Card granted.

Everett Rich—Reported, pastored 1 church part-time, assisted in 1 weekend revival, held 1 communion service, assisted in 2 funerals, received \$918.41 in money. Card granted.

Ted Simmons—Reported, sermons preached approximately 45, pastored a church one-third of the year. Revivals held 1, professions witnessed 3, number baptized 18, additions to the church 15, miles traveled approximately 3,000, Money received \$200.00. Card granted.

Edward Smith—Reported churches pastored 1, revivals held 1, assisted in 1 revival, professions witnessed 5, number baptized 3, additions to the church 4, funerals preached 1, conducted 1 marriage, Money received \$1,194.00. Communion service 1, conference 1. Card granted.

Elias Stephens—Absent, sent letter. Pastored Shady Grove Church until last of March 1975. Held 18 services, witnessed 1 profession, married 3 couples, Money received \$115.00. Card granted.

Thurmon Stults—Reported, pastored 1 church, revivals held 1, professions witnessed 13, baptized 8, additions to church 13, funerals preached 1, married 4 couples, Money received \$2,181.34. Card granted.

Nick White—Absent, sent letter. Pastored 2 churches part-time each, conducted 7 funerals, married 6 couples, held 3 revivals, witnessed 11 conversions, baptized 9, received 14 into the church, held 2 communion services and 2 conferences, Money received \$1,724.76. Card granted.

L.L. Wilson—Reported, sermons preached 96, pastored 1 church, conducted 1 revival, communion services 1, conferences 2, funerals 1, married 1 couple, miles traveled 13,500, Money received \$2,500.00. Card granted.

The moderator asked for letters from churches to the Presbytery. One letter from Solitude asking that Bro. Ronnie Carson be licensed to preach 1 year. Letter from Scotts Chapel asking that Bro. Leo Potete be licensed for 1 year to preach. Letter from Meeks Grove Church reporting Bro. Paul Hurley is under the watchcare of the church for deacon for 1 year. Letter from Piney Grove Church reporting Bro. Robert Wright is under the watchcare of the church for 1 year as a deacon. Letter from Whites Creek asking that Bro. Dee Patterson be ordained as a deacon. Letter from New Home Church asking that Bro. Billy Holmes be ordained as deacon.

Rev. Gean appointed Bro. Ira Gillis to serve on the examining committee with Rev. Ted Simmons and Rev. Edward Smith. The committee after examining the candidates recommended Bro. Dee Patterson and Bro. Billy Holmes be ordained as deacons.

The committee recommended Bro. Ronnie Carlson and Bro. Leo Potete to be licensed to preach for 1 year. Rev. L.L. Wilson was asked to read the qualifications of a deacon followed by an altar prayer and the laying on of hands

in an ordination service of Bro. Patterson and Bro. Holmes as deacons.

A move made and seconded to close the Presbytery session and turn service over to the Associational Moderator, Rev. Edward Smith.

S.G. Robbins, Clerk

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The congregation began singing, prayer was led by Rev. L.L. Wilson. First message was by Rev. Vernon Gober, reading from Galatians 6:5; 1 Chronicles 7:14; Revelation 3:13. His subject was "Bear Your Burden to Receive a Blessing." Rev. Gerald Montgomery delivered second message from Genesis 3:1-13. The subject of "Man Who Rebels and Chooses His Own Way."

Dismissed by Bro. Odell Harper.

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 Rev. Edward Smith

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Service began with singing, prayer was led by Bro. Ray Scott.

An offering was taken for the children's homes with Bro. Ronnie Carlson reading Scripture from Matthew 19:13-15. The total amount of the offering was \$386.28 to be divided between the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, P. O. Box 8, Eldridge, Ala. 35554 and the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Rt. 9, Greeneville, Tenn. 37743.

The first message was by Bro. Marvin Morrow, reading from Ephesians 6:1-11 with the subject "Get Dressed for the Battle."

Rev. Everett Rich gave second message reading Acts 17:15-30 and John 16:22, with thoughts on the inscription "To the Unknown God." Dismissed by Bro. Carl Harper.

Fifth Sunday Meeting at Meeks Grove Church
September 28 and 29, 1974

Saturday Morning Service

In the absence of the moderator and the Assistant Moderator, Brother Virgil Moore was asked to serve as acting moderator. Services was opened by singing and altar of prayer. Opening message was by Rev. J.B. Harper, reading from II Samuel 18 "Obey the Lord and Love." Followed by Rev. Lige Dickey reading from Matthew 5:12. Dismissed for lunch by Brother Earl Dixon.

Opened by singing and prayer by Sister Naomi Gober. Message by Rev. Vernon Creasy reading from I Timothy 1:12 and Luke 15:11, "Be faithful to the Lord."

Business Session

Brother Ted Simmons, Assistant Moderator, called the business session to order and appointed Brother Virgil Moore to assist him. Number churches represented 11, number of ordained ministers present 8, number of visiting ministers present 1, ordained deacons present 5. Minutes of the last Presbytery session read and approved. The moderator asked for any unfinished business. There was none. He then asked for letters from churches, one letter from New Pleasant Grove requesting that Brother L.C. Harris be ordained as a deacon, stating that he had been under the watchcare of the church for one year. A letter from Brother William Cagle asking for his ordination papers that were turned over to the association to be returned to him. A move was made and seconded to return his papers to him if we had them.

Brother Simmons asked that an examining committee be appointed to examine Brother L.C. Harris. Brothers Earl Dixon, J.B. Harper, Ted Simmons, Grady Tacker were appointed and met with Brother Harris to examine him. After meeting with Brother Harris the committee stated that there was a question as to whether the one year requirement had been up. So they recommended that the Presbytery wait until the next session to ordain Brother Harris.

Brother Simmons appointed a program committee for the next fifth Sunday at Murphys Chapel Church in December, Rev. Lige Dickey and Brother Robert Garrett was appointed.

Session was closed and dismissed by Rev. William Cagle.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Elton Cotner, special singing by Meeks Grove group, prayer by Brother Earl Dixon. Message by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from Psalm 103 and from Isaiah 37, followed by Rev. Benton Brown reading from Isaiah 38, "Set Your House in Order."

Dismissed by Brother Edward Smith.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing by Brother Rex Milford, prayer by Brother Bill Benson, and offering was taken of \$100.00 to be divided between the Eldridge Free Will Baptist Children's Home and the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Greeneville, Tenn.

The first message was by Rev. Edward Smith reading from Romans 10 and from Philipians 3, "Looking Forth Unto the Future." The second message was by Rev. Nick White reading from I Corinthians 11 and from John 15, "Be Ye Followers." Dismissed by Rev. Elton Cotner.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing by Bro. Paul Hurley and prayer by Sister Effie

Killingworth. Message by Rev. Everett Rich reading from James 2 and Nehemiah 4, "Having a Mind to Work."

Dismissed by Brother Bishop.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING MURPHY CHAPEL CHURCH

December 28 and 29, 1974

Saturday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Ealis Stephens, opening message by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from Jeremiah 5:31, "How Far Back Have We Gone." Rev. Nick White read from Jeremiah 5:26, 27 and I John 2 and 3. Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing prayer by Brother Bill Benson, message by Rev. Ealis Stephens reading from Ephesians 6:10.

Business Session

The Business session was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. V. H. Gean. Churches represented 12, ordained ministers present 12, ordained deacons present, 5. The Minutes of the last Presbytery session was read and approved. The moderator called for letters from churches, one letter was read from New Pleasant Grove asking that Brother L.C. Harris be ordained as a deacon. Also a letter was received from the West Tennessee Association of Free Will Baptists requesting a letter of recommendation from the Tennessee River Association for Rev. Riley Morrissett while he was in our association. It was moved and seconded to give Rev. Morrissett a letter of recommendation for the time that he was in our association so that he would be able to join West Tennessee Association. Brother Ted Simmons was asked to appoint a program committee for the next fifth Sunday at Poseys Chapel in March 1975. Brother Lige Dickey, Brother Frank Pigg, and Brother Bill Benson was appointed to the committee.

Rev. Ealis Stephens reported that they were building a new building at Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church and need some help for the top. Motion was made and seconded to give \$300.00 for the Home Mission Fund and to put the offering taken on Sunday back into the Home Mission Fund.

Rev. J.B. Harper read qualifications of a deacon from Acts 5. Brother L.C. Harris was ordained by prayer and laying on of hands of the Presbytery members. Motion made and seconded to close business session and dismissed by Brother Vernon Creasy.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Tom Richardson and message by Rev. Earl Dixon, reading from Acts 4. Dismissed by Brother S.G. Robbins.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Edward Smith, and by Brother Ray Scott. Rev. Ted Simmons made a talk and took up offering of \$104.00.

First message was by Rev. Vernon Gober reading John 8:36 and from Romans 8. Followed by Rev. Virgil Moore reading from Jeremiah chapter 2 and chapter 6.

It was decided not to have an afternoon service. Dismissed by Rev. Lige Dickey.

S.G. Robbins, Clerk

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT POSEY'S CHAPEL

March 28, 1975

Saturday morning session opened by singing, prayer by Brother L.L. Wilson, a hearty welcome by Rev. Lige Dickey, prayers by Rev. Earl Dixon and Bro. L. Freshour, Moderator of session, Rev. Virgil Gean. Opening message by Rev. Vernon Creasy, reading from Luke 12:30 and from Isaiah chapter 40. Followed by Rev. Edward Smith reading from Ephesians 5 and Hebrews 11:13. Dismissed by Rev. Vernon Gober.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Began with singing and prayer by Rev. Ealis Stephens, message by Rev. L.L. Wilson reading from II Chronicles 7:14 and from Galatians. Followed by business session.

Rev. Ted Simmons, Assistant Moderator, called session to order in the absence of Rev. Gean, Moderator. Rev. Simmons asked Rev. J.B. Harper to assist him. Churches represented 11, ordained ministers present 10, ordained deacons present 5, Minutes of last session were read and approved. Unfinished business, none, new business, none. Bro. Ted Simmons stated that a check for \$300.00 had been presented to Shady Grove Church, which was \$104.00 from collection at December fifth Sunday meeting and \$196.00 from the Home Mission Fund. The program committee for next fifth Sunday at Scotts Chapel was appointed.

Bro. J.B. Harper was appointed in the absence of the pastor of the church. Bro. J.W. Stooksberry and Bro. Clyde Hubbard were appointed to assist.

Rev. Ealis Stephens made a statement that he had resigned from Shady Grove Church because in his opinion they were not carrying on service according to Free Will Baptist doctrine. He stated because of sickness in his family he had not been able to attend service everytime the church was using preachers that were not preaching according to Free Will Baptist doctrine.

Bro. Melson from the church stated the church wanted to stay in the Tennessee River Association. After much discussion a motion was made and passed to appoint a committee to investigate and talk to the people and report back to the Presbytery. The committee appointed were: Bro. Vernon Gober, Bro. Ted Simmons, Bro. Elton Cotner, Bro. Edward Smith and Bro. Virgil Gean.

A letter received from New Pleasant Grove Church stating Bro. Clarence Harris had been called to preach and the church recommended the association license him for one year to preach the gospel.

An examining committee was set up as follows: Bro. V.H. Gean, Bro. J.B. Harper, and Bro. Edward Smith. After examination they recommended Bro. Harris be licensed for one year. Motion made to close session. Dismissed by Bro. Clarence Harris.

S.G. Robbins, Clerk

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing, prayer by Bro. Carl Harper. Opening message by Rev. Benton Brown, thought "Judge Not That You Be Not Judged" followed by Rev. Everett Rich, reading from Hebrews 3:3. Dismissed by Rev. J.B. Harper.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

March 29, 1975

Service began with singing and prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey and Rev. Earl Dixon. An offering was taken for the children's homes in Tennessee and in Alabama of \$85.22.

Opening message was by Rev. Gerald Montgomery, reading from Hebrews 9 and John chapter 2. Dismissed by Bro. Carl Harper.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Opened by singing, prayer by Bro. Everett Rich. First message by Rev. J.B. Harper reading from John 2 and Luke 6. Dismissed by Bro. Granvill Harper.

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT SCOTTS CHAPEL

June 28, 29, 1975

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE

Rev. Virgil Gean, Moderator. Service began with singing by Bro. J.B. Harper, prayer by Bro. Nick White, opening message by Vernon Grober, reading Psalm 23, Isaiah 55 and Luke 14 on "Fullness of the Holy Spirit."

Second message by Rev. Carson Whiteaker, reading from II Corinthians and Philippians chapter 11, Hebrews chapter 12 on "Purpose of Life." Dismissed by Bro. Earl Dixon.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with singing, prayer by Rev. Thurman Stults and Bro. Homer Scott. Message by Rev. Earl Dixon reading from Ephesians 9 and Hebrews chapter 12.

Business Session called to order by Rev. V.H.Gean, Moderator. Churches represented 10, ordained ministers present 10, ordained deacons present 4, moderator called for reading of Minutes of last Presbytery session. Minutes read and approved. Other business: Bro. Ted Simmons reported the committee which was appointed to visit Shady Grove Church had gone there and talked with some of the people. They found there had been some trouble but thought it would resolve itself. A motion made to leave the matter open for time being.

The moderator appointed the program committee for fifth Sunday in August at Piney Grove Church. Appointed were Bro. Nick White, Bro. Joel Pigg, and Bro. Bill Benson.

Bro. Simmons, Assistant Moderator, reminded everyone that the session in August would be the time for election of new officers and also the time to place fifth Sunday meetings for the year. He stated the Home Mission money should be sent in by the first of the year. Motion made and seconded to close business session. Dismissed by Bro. Stencil Robbins.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by prayer and singing. First part of service was testimony service, followed by a message by Rev. Nick White, reading Matthew 4. Dismissed by Bro. Ray Scott.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened by singing and prayer by Rev. Elton Cotner and Rev. J.B. Harper, Rev. V.H. Gean stated it had been suggested that the collection taken be sent to the Wayne County Organization for retarded children. An offering of \$207.18 was given. The first message was by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from II Timothy 4 and from Hebrews 11 entitled "Sound Doctrine." Followed by Rev. Edward Smith reading from Hebrews 12 and singing "On the Way Home." Dismissed by Bro. Odell Harper.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Opened with singing, prayer by Bro. Everett Rich, message by Rev. Lige Dickey. Dismissed by Bro. J.W. Stooksberry.

S.G.Robbins, Clerk

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT PINEY GROVE

August 30, 31, 1975

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Cotner, first message by Rev. Everett Rich, reading from Ezekiel 13 and Matthew 25. Dismissed by altar of prayer.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Edward Smith and Rev. Dewey Stults. Message by Rev. Dewey Stults reading from John 19:4. Followed by business session.

The business session was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Virgil Gean. Churches present 13, ordained ministers present 12, ordained deacons present 6. The moderator called for reading of the Minutes of the last Presbytery session. Minutes read and approved. Called for unfinished business, none, new business, none. The moderator called for letters from churches, Piney Grove sent a letter recommending that Bro. Marvin Morrow be licensed to preach for one year. Midway sent letter notifying Presbytery that beginning August 20, 1975, Bro. Lonnie Grissom and Bro. Clayton C. Hall will be under the watchcare of the church for deacons for 1 year.

Rev. Gean appointed Rev. Cotner to serve on the examining committee to examine Bro. Marvin Morrow. The committee consist of Rev. Ted Simmons, Rev. Edward Smith and Rev. Elton Cotner, and they approved Bro. Morrow to be licensed for one year.

Rev. Ted Simmons, the Assistant Moderator, Bro. Jodie Melson, Bro. Brady Tacker, and Bro. Ira Gillis were appointed on the committee to place the fifth Sunday meetings for coming year. They were placed as follows: November 1975—Whites Creek, February 1976—Adamsville, May 1976—Shady Grove,

August 1976—Solitude.

Next new business consist of election of new officers for fifth Sunday meetings.

Those elected were: Fifth Sunday meeting Clerk—Bro. Stencil G. Robbins, Moderator for fifth Sunday meetings—Rev. Ted Simmons, Assistant Moderator—Rev. Vernon Gober. A move was made to elect the associational pastor at the associational meeting in September.

The moderator appointed Rev. Everett Rich, Bro. Bill Benson and Bro. Bradly Tacker on the program committee for the next fifth Sunday in November at Whites Creek.

Rev. Ted Simmons stated that the home mission treasury had \$1,648. He suggested that if any one had any bills that were to be paid from the treasury to get them before the association met, motion made and seconded to close. Dismissed by prayer by Rev. Ted Simmons.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened with singing, prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey, first message by Rev. Gearld Montgomery reading from Revelation 5 and followed by Rev. Vernon Creasy reading from John 1 and some verses of Revelation chapters 1, 3, and 4.

Dismissed by Bro. Odell Harper.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

August 31, 1975

Opened with singing and prayer led by Brother Odell Harper, Brother Marvin Morrow read from I Corinthians 13 and took an offering for the children's homes in Tennessee and Alabama. The amount given was \$272.23.

The messages were given by Rev. L.L. Wilson reading from Romans, I Corinthians 11 and Timothy followed by Rev. Thurman Stults reading from Ephesians 6 and from Lamentations. Dismissed after a handshake with prayer by Rev. J.B. Harper.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Singing began led by Brother Ira Gillis. The message was delivered by Rev. Lige Dickey and dismissed with prayer by Rev. J.B. Harper.

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

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 _____

