

MINUTES
of the
Ninety-Eighth Annual Session
of the
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists
Convened with
New Home Church
Friday, September 17, 1976

The next association will convene with Piney Grove Church
on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1977
at 11:00 a.m.

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	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed by letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School	Average attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church value	Amount paid pastor	For pastoral help	Given Children Homes	Minute fund	Home Mission	Meeting Days
Adamsville	4	2			1	2		62	50	32	1	4		\$30,000.00	\$1,175.00	\$150.00		\$15.00	\$40.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night
Antioch							1	24	28	24				10,000.00	657.12	125.00		14.00	40.00	
Bumpus Creek	1	1	2					90	50	50	1			12,000.00	951.36	200.00		15.00	35.00	Every Sun.-1st & 3rd Sun. nights
Fairview				1				72	65	45	2	2		9,500.00	1,060.00	150.00		17.50	40.00	Every Sun.-2nd & 4th Sun. nights
Meeks Grove	7	6	1	15	15	1	2	102	112	62		1		19,000.00	1,626.70	125.00		27.10	25.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night
Midway	3	3	0	1		3	1	86	60	40	2			18,000.00	2,010.00	510.00		20.00	25.00	Every Sun.-2nd & 4th Sun. nights
Mt. Olive	1			1				27	20	15				3,000.00	110.00	103.00		7.05		1st & 3rd Sun.
Murphy Chapel	4	1			4	4		117	50	47	5	3		50,000.00	1,900.00	700.00		30.64	25.00	Every Sunday
New Chapel	5	2	1				2	33	45	30	1	1		5,000.00	419.00	174.00		10.00		
New Home	6	1	8					72	57	48	3			10,000.00	875.43	125.00		20.00		Every Sun.-1st & 3rd Sun. nights
New Pleasant Grove				1				50	50	42	1	2		10,000.00	1,750.00	720.00		25.00	25.00	Every Sun. & Sun. nights
Pinney Grove	1		3			1		167	92	65	3	2	3	13,500.00	1,286.40	100.67		29.00	25.00	1st & 3rd Sun. & Sat. night before 3rd Sun.
Poplar Springs					1			98	115	73	1	1		20,000.00	8,575.00	500.00	\$333.37	9.00		
Posey Chapel		3	3					31	26	15	1	3		11,000.00	920.05	46.50		20.00	25.00	
Raybom Chapel						1		24	16	10	2			1,500.00	314.00		20.00	6.10		Every Sunday
Scott Chapel	1		6		6	2	4	190	124	97	5	3		19,000.00	2,389.16	394.51		26.00	40.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night
Shady Grove								93	54	37	3			15,000.00	966.00	169.04		30.00	40.00	Every Sun. & 2nd & 4th Sun. nights
Soilude	5				1			77	36	36	1	1		4,000.00	1,200.00	119.22		14.00	40.00	Every Sun. & 2nd & 4th Sun. nights
Whites Creek	2	2	10				1	74	53	50	2	1		6,000.00	747.50	130.50		20.00	40.00	2nd & 4th Sun. & Sun. nights

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Moderator Rev. Everett Rich, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn. 38463
Assistant Moderator ... Rev. Marvin Morrow, Box 71A, Cypress Inn, Tn. 38452
Clerk Bro. J. W. Stooksberry, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn. 38463

HOME MISSION BOARD

Secretary-Treasurer Bro. Odell Harper, Rt. 1, Cypress Inn, Tn.
Rev. Vernon Creasy Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Ala. Serves on Mission Board
Bro. Carl Harper Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn. Serves on Mission Board

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

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

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING

Moderator Rev. Ted Simmons, Rt. 3, Box 115, Winfield, Al. 35594
Assistant Moderator Vernon Gober, Rt. 2, Box 374, Adamsville, Tn.
Clerk Bro. Stancil Robbins, Box 2402, Muscle Shoals, Ala. 35660

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bro. Joel Pigg Cypress Inn, Tn.
Rev. Benton Brown Savannah, Tn.
Rev. Nick White Savannah, Tn.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Examining Committee will consist of assistant moderator of Presbytery and the moderator of association. The moderator of Presbytery should appoint one other member from the floor each time as needed, as recommended in the general business report.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Purpose of committee, to meet with churches when needed to deal with any problems that might arise. If needed contact chairman, which will be the longest experienced minister in Tennessee River Association serving on the committee.

Bro. John E. Banks Rt. 1, Box 77B, Cypress Inn, Tn. 38452
Rev. Gerald Montgomery 3805 Avalon Ave., Florence, Ala. 35630
Rev. Earl Dixon Rt. 1, Cloverdale, Al. (chairman) phone 205-764-0558

Rev. Edward Smith Rt. 1, Box 163, Stantonville, Tn.
Rev. Everett Rich Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn.

PLACING OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

October 1976—Midway
May 1977—Antioch

January 1977—Adamsville
July 1977—Bumpas Creek

CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

Adamsville—Sis. Ruthie Gober, Rt. 2, Box 374, Adamsville, Tn. 38310
Antioch—Sis. Lina Montgomery, Rt. 1, Box 437, Cloverdale, Al.
Bumpas Creek—Sis. Sue Curry, Rt. 1, Waterloo, Ala. 35677
Fairview—Sis. Judy Harper, Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn. 38463
Meeks Grove—Sis. Glenda Hurly, Stantonville, Tn.
Midway—Sis. Lela Hall, Rt. 2, Leighton, Al.
Mt. Olive—Bro. Earl Reed, Waterloo, Al.
Murphys Chapel—Bro. Randal Gray, 2044 Alpine Dr., Florence, Al. 35630
New Chapel—Sis. Irene Robinson, Counce, Tenn. 38326
New Home—Sis. Ethel Davidson, Rt. 2, Henderson, Tn.
New Pleasant Grove—Sis. Mary Lou Hubbard, 2209 Vine St., Savannah, Tn.
Piney Grove—Bro. John E. Banks, Rt. 1, Cypress Inn, Tn.
Poplar Springs—Bro. Tommy J. Tucker, Rt. 2, Box 210-0, Iuka, Miss. 38852
Posey Chapel—Bro. Willie Posey, Rt. 3, Cherokee, Al.
Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Edgar Melson, Rt. 2, Box 102, Collinwood, Tn. 38450
Scotts Chapel—Sis. Carolyn Harper, Rt. 3, Box 120, Florence, Ala.
Shady Grove—Sis. Alma Franks, Olive Hill, Tn.
Solitude—Bro. Robert Mitchell, Rt. 2, Adamsville, Tn.
Whites Creek—Sis. Ora Stricklin, Savannah, Tn.

ORDAINED MINISTERS, THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Emerald Bailey—Rt. 1, Iron City Tn., phone 615-724-4378
Benton Brown—2406 Pinhook Rd., Savannah, Tn., phone 901-925-3080
Ron Carlson—
Elton Cotner—Rt. 2, Adamsville, Tn., 38110, phone 901-632-4205
Vernon Creasy—Rt. 1, Box 411, Cloverdale, Al., phone 205-766-1666
Lige Dickey—Collinwood, Tn., phone 615-724-9132
Earl Dixon—Rt. 10, Box 303, Cloverdale, Al., phone 205-764-0558
V. H. Gean—Rt. 10, Box 323, Florence, Al. 35630, phone 205-766-3896
Vernon Gober—Rt. 2, Box 374, Adamsville, Tn. 38310, phone 901-632-4228
J. B. Harper—Cypress Inn, Tn., phone 615-724-4594
Clarence Harris—210 N. Deberry St., Savannah, Tn. 38372
Marvin Morrow—Box 71A, Cypress Inn, Tn. 38452
Gerald Montgomery—3805 Avelon Ave., Florence, Al., phone 205-764-3158
Virgil L. Moore—Rt. 1, Morris Chapel, Tn., phone 901-632-3256
Clay Mullins—Rt. 1, Box 378, Cloverdale, Al., phone 205-764-0211
Everett Rich—Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn. 38463, phone 615-724-4568

Ted Simmons—Rt. 3, Box 115, Winfield, Al. 35594, phone 205-465-2868
Edward Smith—Rt. 1, Box 163, Stantonville, Tn., phone 901-632-4413
Ealis Stephens—Rt. 4, Savannah, Tn., phone 925-3881
Thurman Stults—Rt. 1, Box 20, Cypress Inn, Tn., phone 615-724-9848
Nick White—Rt. 1, Box 116, Lutts, Tn. 38471, phone 615-724-4236
L. L. Wilson—5058 Bryndale, Memphis, Tn. 38118, phone 901-362-6079

LICENSED MINISTERS

Bro. Dalton Skaggs
Bro. Eargin Warren

Bro. Robert Brown
Bro. John E. Brown
Rt. 1, Box 778, Cypress Inn, Tn. 38452

CHURCH PASTORS

Adamsville—Rev. Edward Smith
Antioch—Rev. Vernon Creasy
Bumpas Creek—Rev. J. B. Harper
Fairview—Rev. Vernon Gober
Meeks Grove—Rev. Virgil Moore
Midway—Rev. Everett Rich
Mt. Olive—Rev. Ronnie Carlson
Murphy's Chapel—Rev. Earl Dixon
New Chapel—Bro. Bobby Brown
New Home—Rev. Benton Brown
New Pleasant Grove—Rev. Emerald Bailey
Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White
Poplar Springs—Rev. John T. Prince, Boonville, Miss.
Posey Chapel—Rev. Clay Mullins
Rayborn—
Scotts Chapel—Rev. Gerald Montgomery
Shady Grove—Rev. Ted Simmons
Solitude—Rev. Elton Cotner
Whites Creek—Rev. Marvin Morrow

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning, September 17, 1976

The Tennessee River Association met at New Home Church at 11:00 a.m. with congregational singing. The opening prayer was by Bro. Arlis Garner. The morning message was delivered by Rev. Everett Rich. His Scripture reading was from Philippians 3:1-11, with the good thought of "Worshiping in the Spirit." Bro. Rich asked for prayer requests and altar prayer.

The morning service was dismissed with a fellowship handshake and 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 given by Rev. Ronnie Carlson reading from James 1:26, 27. Prayer was led by Rev. Ted Simmons.

APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

READING CLERKS—Brothers Berry Robertson and Ronnie Carlson.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Brothers Jimmy Stults, John E. Banks and Roger Stults.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE—Brothers Bradie Tacker, Donnie Rich, Dee Patterson and Kenneth Stults.

OBITUARY—Brothers Robert Brown, Earl Dixon and Charles Realiford.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE—Brothers V. H. Gean, Stancil Robbins, Herbert Clay and Arlis Garner.

CALLED FOR LETTERS OF CHURCHES AND RECOGNIZED THE DELEGATES

Adamsville—Brothers Jerry Scott and Wayne Helton.

Antioch—Bro. and Sis. Lawrence Strait, Bro. and Sis. Howard Whitten.

Bumpus Creek—Absent represented by letter.

Fairview—Brothers Kenneth Stults and Clarence Linville.

Meeks Grove—Bro. Baxter Humphrey and Sis. Jewel Humphrey.

Midway—Bro. John W. Kidd.

Mt. Olive—Absent represented by letter on Saturday.

Murphys Chapel—Brothers Ronald Creasy, Jimmy Shield and Carthel Shield.

New Chapel—Brothers Bill Mayhall and Billy Mayhall.

New Home—Brothers Michael Clayton, Ray Cook and Paul Clayton.

New Pleasant Grove—Brothers Charles Realiford, and Jim Denton.

Piney Grove—Brothers Donnie Rich, Roger Stults, Lemual Hanback, and Orvil Rich.

Poplar Springs—Bro. Edd Keele.

Posey Chapel—Bro. Keith Barrier.

Rayborn Chapel—Absent represented by letter.

Scott Chapel—Brothers Leyonne Harper, Odell Harper, and Jimmy Stults.

Shady Grove—Brothers Edward Franks, Robert Franks, and Paul Franks.

Solitude—Absent represented by letter.

Whites Creek—Bro. Berry Robertson.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES

GENERAL BUSINESS—Brothers Vernon Gober, Elton Cotner, J. B. Harper, Clyde Hubbard and J. W. Stooksberry.

EDUCATIONAL—Brothers Baxter Humphrey, Lemual Hanback, Odell Harper, and Clarence Linville.

TEMPERANCE—Brothers Leyonne Harper, J. W. Kidd, and Ted Simmons.

BENEVOLENCE—Keith Barrier, Jimmy Shields, Carthel Shields, and Michael Clayton.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS—Brothers Ronald Creasy, Kenneth Stults, and John E. Banks.

Dismissed by Bro. Baxter Humphrey to meet at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning for reports.

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP REPORT

The service began with singing and prayer led by Rev. Paul Weaver. Special singing was enjoyed, a special singing group of the church.

The first message was by Rev. Ted Simmons. The Scripture reading was from Matthew 24 and John 1, with the subject of "Talking Privately with God."

Rev. J. B. Harper delivered the second message with the subject of "Weeping last for the night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Dismissed by Bro. Leyonne Harper.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

The morning session began with singing and prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson. The Scripture reading was by Rev. Marvin Morrow reading from Psalm 67:1-7.

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 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 preachers 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 be paid from the Home Mission Fund for his ministerial work as the Home Mission Board sees fit.

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 requests the Presbytery of the association of which it is a member to examine by council or otherwise such a member. The license shall at the end of one year go before the 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 two 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 one year and that the association be notified of such appointing. Then at the end of one year they go before the examining committee before ordination. We also recommend that they be granted a certificate of ordination when ordained and if he resigns or leaves the denomination he turns in his credentials. 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 each church call its pastor thirty days before the association if possible.

We recommend that if any church has a problem they can't work out ask the resolution committee to meet with them and if the committee can't work it out, they have a called Presbytery at their church and not bring it 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 \$75.00 per year, to be paid from Home Mission treasury.

We recommend that we pay the Home Mission treasurer \$50.00 per year.

We recommend that we pay the fifth Sunday meeting clerk \$75.00 per year, to be paid from Home Mission treasury.

This report was adopted by the association.

Vernon H. Gober, 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 1,083. The average attendance of churches are 793.

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.

Bradie Tacker, Chairman

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your Committee on Education, wish to recommend the following. We recommend that Christians study to show themselves approval unto God a workman that needeth not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15, also from II Timothy 3:15, "and that from a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

We also recommend that parents cooperate with schools as long as it is not against the teaching of the Bible, stand against that which is evil. We also recommend our churches to use the King James Bible.

We also recommend our churches to use Free Will Baptist literature. We also recommend our churches have Bible study and prayer meeting one night through the week.

This report was adopted by the association.

Baxter T. Humphrey, Chairman

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following:

We find the word temperance in regard to strong drink, beer, wine, whiskey, nicotine or any drug harmful to our body. In 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."

J. W. Kidd, Chairman

This report was adopted by the association.

OBITUARY REPORT

We, your Committee on Obituaries, in sorrow report that death has taken thirteen of our members since our last association. They are as follows: Sis. Linda Darby, Antioch; Sis. Artie Jones, Sis. Hazel Killingsworth, Meeks Grove; Sis. Libby Logan, Miday; Sis. Daisey Childers, Sis. Annie Cole, New Chapel; Bro.

Buddy Combs, New Home; Bro. Walter Henson, Rayburns Chapel; Sis. Lilly Harper, Polk; Sis. Alma Berry, Sis. Becky Hanback, Bro. Willard J. Martin, Scotts Chapel; Bro. Hardie Cossey, Whites Creek.

We trust that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Earl Dixon, Chairman

REPORT OF BENEVOLENCE

We, the Committee on Benevolence, finding the definition of that word to mean a willingness to do good, promote brotherly love, and to be kind to others. We feel a need to instill the following verses into the heart of all those who read, believe and obey God's Word.

In Matthew 5:16 the Bible says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Hebrews 13:1 tells us, "Let brotherly love continue," concerning our thoughts toward one another.

As Christians, we find in Colossians 3:13 the following, "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Then for our homes I Corinthians 7:3 says, "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband."

This report was adopted by the association.

Keith Barrier, Chairman

CLERK'S REPORT
September, 1976

Total received from churches for minute fund in 1975	\$313.71
Collection taken at association	59.09
Balance from 1974 minute fund	<u>33.10</u>
Total in minute fund	405.90
Total cost of printing 1,000 minutes	<u>317.06</u>
Balance in minute fund	88.84

Minutes were printed by:
National Printing Service
National Association of Free Will Baptists
P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN, phone 615-361-1221

This report was adopted by the association

J. W. Stooksberry, Clerk

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

CHURCHES	Minute Fund
Adamsville	\$15.00
Antioch	14.00
Bumpus Creek	15.00
Fairview	17.50
Meeks Grove	27.10
Midway	20.00
Mt. Olive	7.05
Murphy's Chapel	30.64
New Chapel	10.00
New Home	20.00
New Pleasant Grove	25.00
Piney Grove	29.00
Poplar Springs	9.00
Posey Chapel	20.00
Rayborn Chapel	6.10
Scotts Chapel	26.00
Shady Grove	30.00
Solitude	14.00
Whites Creek	20.00
Total	<u>\$355.39</u>

This report was adopted by the association.

John E. Banks, Chairman

HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

Amount received for children's home from association	
and fifth Sunday meetings	\$885.88
Amount received from ministers tithing	641.70

Church Contributions:

Adamsville	\$25.00
Bumpus Creek	35.00
Fairview	40.00
Meeks Grove	50.00
Antioch	40.00
Murphy's Chapel	25.00
New Chapel	25.00
New Pleasant Grove	25.00
Poplar Springs	25.00
Piney Grove	25.00
Hardin Graveyard	40.00
Scotts Chapel	25.00
Whites Creek	40.00
Fifth Sunday collection for Rev. L. L. Wilson	364.00
Fifth Sunday collection for Rev. Elton Cotner and Rev. Virgil Moore ..	<u>444.52</u>
Total received 1975-76	<u>\$2,756.10</u>

All expenses itemized:

Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Ala.)	\$442.94
Free Will Baptist Home for Children (Tenn.)	442.94
Bond Premium	13.00
Secretary and Treasurer fee	35.00
Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk	50.00
Rev. V. H. Gean (associational pastor)	950.00
Offering for Rev. L. L. Wilson	364.00
Offering for Rev. Virgil Moore	222.26
Offering for Rev. Elton Cotner	222.26
Total expense paid out 1975-76	2,743.40
Balance Forward 1974-75	2,153.80
Total received 1975-76	2,756.10
Total in treasury	4,909.90
Total expenses 1975-76	2,743.40
Total now in treasury	2,166.50

Ministers tithes and offerings

Rev. Vernon Gober	\$35.00
Rev. Earl Dixon	86.70
Rev. J. B. Harper	110.00
Rev. Nick White	10.00
Rev. Vernon Creasy	50.00
Rev. Edward Smith	75.00
Rev. V. H. Gean	200.00
Rev. Ted Simmons	75.00
Total	\$641.70

This report was adopted by the association.

Ted Simmons, Secretary and Treasurer

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTORS REPORT

Held 2 tent revivals, assisted in 5 revivals, witnessed 19 professions, received 5 into the church, baptized 3, held 1 conference, conducted radio program every Sunday morning, conducted 13 funerals, money received \$1,978.25.

V. H. Gean, Associational Pastor

ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

Moderator, Rev. Edward Smith, asked for petitionary letters and there were none.

A vote was taken to place the association for coming year. The churches that asked for the association in their letters were Murphys Chapel, Scotts Chapel, Piney Grove, Bumpus Creek.

Piney Grove received most votes.

The association will convene with Piney Grove Church, Cypress Inn, Tenn., on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1977, at 11:00 a.m.

Called for nomination for associational officers.

Those nominated and elected were as follows: Moderator, Rev. Everett Rich; Assistant Moderator, Rev. Marvin Morrow; Clerk, Bro. J. W. Stooksberry.

Discussion on Home Mission Board election, Rev. Ted Simmons was renominated, but asked to be relieved of the Secretary-Treasurer because of his many other jobs.

Bro. Odell Harper, nominated and elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

Moderator asked for nomination of other Home Mission Board members. They were voted to remain the same, Rev. Vernon Creasy and Bro. Carl Harper.

Discussed ordering of minutes, move made to order 1,000.

Asked for nomination of a Board of Trustee member to relieve the oldest serving man now on committee. Bro. Joel Pigg was elected to relieve Bro. Carl Harper.

Moderator asked for discussion of resolutions committee.

Motion was made to change way of election of the committee. Motion made to let rotate with the election of two new men each year to replace the 2 longest serving men on list.

Motion made to leave off last two names now existing on the committee as listed in 1974 minutes and nominate two men to take their place. Bro. John E. Banks and Rev. Gerald Montgomery were elected to serve on the resolutions committee, with those already serving as listed in front of minutes.

Discussion on committee, motion made to have the longest experienced minister of the Tennessee River Association serving on this committee to serve as the chairman. (Rev. Earl Dixon, this year's chairman)

If this committee be needed, the pastor of the church where it is needed should contact the chairman, then the committee should with prayer and great consideration work out any problems with the church.

Motion was made to change Article 2 on page 22 of this year's minutes to put in assistant moderator as part of officers of the association.

Moderator asked for any late letters, Mt. Olives letter was read. Motion made to give clerk permission to add contents of their letter to any necessary reports.

Motion made to adjourn associational business until meeting with Piney Grove in 1977.

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Emerald Bailey.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Service opened with singing and prayer by Bro. Joel Pigg. Moderator recognized and welcomed a visiting minister, Rev. Dan Tacket, of Muscle Shoals, Ala.

The first message was given by Bro. John E. Banks, his Scripture reading was taken from Acts 10: 34-43. Prayer was led by Rev. Dan Tacket. The second message given by Rev. Vernon Creasy, with the subject "Fear Not Little Flock," reading from Luke 12:27-32, also from Ephesians 6. Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Bradie Tacker.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The session was gathered back after lunch with singing. The Scripture

reading was by Rev. Dan Tacket, visiting minister. He read from Acts 16:19. Prayer led by Rev. V. H. Gean.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESBYTERY SESSION September 18, 1976

The Moderator, Rev. Ted Simmons, called session to order. Churches represented 14 and ordained ministers present 17, ordained deacons present 6, licensed ministers present 3, visiting ministers 1.

Bro. Simmons then called for reading of the minutes of last Presbytery session, the minutes were read by the Clerk, Bro. Stancil Robbins, and approved. The new business was called for that of the ministers giving their reports and granting of the cards.

ORDAINED MINISTERS REPORTS

Emerald Bailey— Assisted at New Pleasant Grove while pastor was sick. Conducted 6 funerals, assisted in 2 revivals, conducted 2 revivals, money received \$682.22. Card granted.

Benton Brown— Sermons preached 75, pastored 2 churches part time each until June 1. Then pastored full time at New Home, assisted in 1 revival, witnessed 22 professions, 8 rededications, baptized 6, received 6 into church, held 2 funerals, assisted in 1, married 2 couples, traveled 8,000 miles, money received \$875.81, paid 214.00 back to the church. Card granted.

Ron Carlson—Reported, pastored 1 church, sermons preached 90, helped in 3 revivals, witnessed 6 professions, baptized 6, received 2 into church, money received and gave to church and charity \$250.00 miles traveled 6,000. Card granted.

Elton Cotner— Reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival assisted in 1 revival, married 1 couple, conducted 6 funerals held 1 communion service, baptized 7, received 5 into church, money received \$1,427.10. Card granted.

Vernon Creasy— Reported, pastored church full time, conducted 1 revival assisted in 1 tent revival, conducted 1 communion service, 1 conference baptized 1, received 5 into church, money received from church \$1,900.00, money from tent revival \$49.00, paid to church \$480.00, paid Home Mission Board \$50.00, conducted 2 funerals. Card granted.

Lige Dickey— Absent, sent report, pastored 1 church, held 1 revival, money received \$661.18. Card granted.

Earl Dixon— Reported, visited 14 churches preached in 11 of those, assisted in 1 revival, baptized 3, solemnized 1 marriage, conducted 1 funeral, assisted in 1 funeral, money received \$965.00. Card granted.

Vernon Gober— Reported, sermons preached 124, pastored 1 church full time, conducted radio program every Sunday morning at 8:15, WORM station Savannah, Tn., conducted 1 revival, witnessed 5 professions, baptized 1, held 1 conference, 1 communion service, and assisted in 1, money received from church \$1,060.00 received for radio broadcast \$314.00, total of \$1,374.00. Card granted.

V. H. Gean— Reported as associational pastor. Card granted.

J. B. Harper— Pastored 1 church full time, held 1 revival, assisted in 1 revival, received 4 into the church, baptized 2, held 3 funerals, held 1 conference, miles traveled 6,195 approximately, money received approximately \$1,096.36. Card granted.

Clarence Harris— Absent, Report read. Sick in bed all time since being ordained, talked to people as they came in and out of my home. May God bless each of you. Card granted.

Marvin Morrow— Reported, sermons preached 43, churches pastored 1 on 2nd and 4th Sundays, revivals held 1, assisted in 2, professions witnessed 7, and 14 rededications, number baptized 3, miles traveled approximately 2,000, money received \$744.00. Card granted.

Gerald Montgomery— Reported, pastored 1 church full time, sermons preached 82, worked in 2 revivals, professions witnessed 9, baptized 4, additions to church 6, held 1 communion service, marriages conducted 4, approximately miles traveled 2,100, paid tenth to the church. Card granted.

Virgil L. Moore— Reported, pastored 1 church when able, helped in 1 revival, witnessed 72 professions, and rededications, baptized 7, received into church 15, visited 4 churches, married 1 couple, held 6 funerals, 1 conference, 1 communion service, money received approximately \$1,626.71, gave tenth to church and childrens homes, miles traveled approximately 10,000, expenses approximately \$1,500.00. Card granted.

Clay Mullins— Reported, pastored Posey Chapel Church since Dec. 14, 1975 until present time, witnessed 1 profession, baptized 1, additions to the church 7, held 1 funeral, money received approximately \$500.00. Card granted.

Everett Rich— Reported, pastored 1 church part time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 2, witnessed 15 conversions and rededications, helped in 2 funerals, baptized 2, held 1 communion service, money received \$1,068.75. Card granted.

Edward Smith— Reported, pastored 1 church, held 1 revival, professions witnessed 4, number baptized 4, additions to church 6, communion services 1, funerals held 1, marriage solemnized 2, money received \$1,175.00. Card granted.

Ted Simmons— Reported, sermons preached approximately 86, churches pastored 1, revivals held 1, professions witnessed 3, number baptized 1, marriages solemnized 1, money received approximately \$900.00. Card granted.

Ealis Stephens— Absent, report read, pastored 1 church since May 1, held 1 revival, held 24 services, witnessed 4 professions, money received \$339.19. Card granted.

Thurman Stults— Absent, Card granted.

Nick White— Reported, pastored 2 churches part time each, conducted 2 revivals, conversions witnessed 7, baptized 4, united with the church 11, rededications 10, held 2 communion services, 2 conferences, married 3 couples, held 1 funeral, money received \$1,742.11. Card granted.

L. L. Wilson— Reported, pastored 1 church, sermons preached 74, additions to the church 1, conducted 1 funeral, held 1 revival, 1 communion service, 2 church business sessions, miles traveled more than 15,000, money received \$1,750.00. Card granted.

Moderator asked for any other reports from licensed ministers, Ron Carlson gave his report. Later in the ordination service he was ordained and granted a card. Moderator asked for other letters.

Scotts chapel sent a letter stating that Brother Leo Potete had moved to another association so his name was removed from our list.

Rev. Ted Simmons, the moderator asked for petitionary letters from the member churches, *Piney Grove* sent a letter stating that Brother Robert D. Wright had been under the watch care of the church for one year and requested that he be ordained as a deacon.

Solitude Church sent a letter stating that Brother Jim Reaves had been under the watch care of the church for one year and requested that he be ordained as a deacon, and that Brother Robert Mitchell had been planed under the watch care of the church for one year to be ordained as a deacon, and also asked that Rev. Ronnie Carlson be ordained as minister to preach.

New Home Church sent a letter stating that Brother Dennos Clayton has been placed under the watch care of the church for one year as a deacon.

Meeks Grove sent a letter stating that Brother Paul Hurley had been under the watch care of the church for one year and was to be ordained as a deacon. *New Chapel* sent a letter stating that Brother Bill Mayhall and Brother Sherman Mayhall had been placed under the watch care of the church for one year to be a deacon. Brother Ted Simmons asked Rev. L. L. Wilson to serve on the examining committee. The examining committee met with the ones to be ordained as deacons and ministers and reported back that they recommended them all to be ordained as followers, Brother Ronnie Carlson to be ordained as a minister, and Brothers Robert D. Wright, Paul Hurley, and Jim Reaves to be ordained as deacons. Rev. Virgil Moore read the qualification of a bishop from I Timothy 3, followed by an altar of prayer and laying on the hands in the ordination service, after a handshake a motion was made and passed to adjourn, dismissed by Brother J. W. Stooksberry.

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The congregation began singing, prayer was given by Bro. Paul Weaver and Bro. L. L. Wilson. The first message was by Rev. Marvin Morrow, with the subject "Take Up Your Cross," reading from John 5:1-8 and Matthew, verse 24.

The second message was preached by Rev. Edward Smith on the subject of "Counting the Cost." His Scripture was taken from 2 Peter 1. Moderator asked for reading of resolutions of thanks. Dismissed by Bro. Geany Clayton.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS

We, your Committee of Resolutions of thanks, report to the body and assembly together to give the people of New Home Free Will Baptist 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 until we convene in another association.

The report was adopted.

Bro. John E. Banks, Chairman

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Service began with congregational singing and then special singing. Prayer was by Rev. Earl Dixon.

An offering was taken for the children's home with Rev. Vernon Gober reading the Scripture from Psalm 127 and Luke 18. The children came forward first with an offering of 35.25 and the adults finishing out the offering of a total of \$510.40. This will be divided between the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, P. O. Box 8, Eldridge, Ala. 35554 and the Free Will Baptist Home, Rt. 9, Greeneville, Tenn. 37743.

The first message was by Rev. Elton Cotner on "Where There's Unity There's Power," with Scripture from Ephesians 4:1-13. The second message was by Rev. Virgil Gean, reading from Hebrews 13. Dismissed with handshake and prayer led by Rev. Ted Simmons.

Fifth Sunday Meeting at White's Creek Church November 29 and 30, 1975

Saturday Morning Service

The service was opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Emerald Bailey, Rev. Ted Simmons, the moderator read Psalm 133, prayer by Rev. V. H. Gean. The first message was by Rev. Edward Smith reading from II Timothy 3, and Proverbs 12. The second message was by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading from Ephesians 4, dismissed by Brother Carl Harper.

Saturday Afternoon Service

The service opened by singing and prayer by Brother Jackie Bower and an altar of prayer. The message was preached by Rev. Emerald Bailey, reading from Timothy 4, followed by business session.

Minutes of the Business Session

The session was called to order by Rev. Ted Simmons, the moderator. Number of churches represented 11, number of ordained ministers present 13, number of visiting ministers present 1, number of ordained deacons present 5. The moderator asked for the reading of the minutes of the last presbytery session, minutes read by the clerk and approved. Rev. Vernon Gober, the assistant moderator appointed the program committee for the Fifth Sunday Meeting at Adamsville, Tn., in Feb. The committee was as follows: Rev. Edward Smith, Brother Herbert Clay, and Brother Ira Gillis. Brother Ted Simmons called for letters from the churches, none was presented. Brother Simmons also reminded the churches that the Home Mission fund had been raised to \$40 or more instead of the \$25 that it had been. A motion was made and passed to give the Sunday offering to Rev. L. L. Wilson, who had been in the hospital following a fall. Motion made and seconded to close business session, closed by an altar of prayer.

Saturday Night Service

The service opened by singing, prayer by Brother Homer Scott, special singing by the Harper Singers. The first message was by Rev. Marvin Morrow reading from 1 Thessalonians 2 and from 2 John 2. Followed by Rev. J. B. Harper reading from Hebrews 2.

Sunday Morning Service

The service opened by singing and prayer by Rev. Nick White. Brother Odel Harper conducted the first part of the service reading from James 1, and after making a good talk took up an offering for Rev. L. L. Wilson who had been in the hospital, amount of collection was \$363.00.

First message was by Rev. V. H. Gean, reading from Nehemiah 8 and from Hebrews 10. Followed by Rev. Vernon Gober, reading from Matthew 6:19, dismissed by prayer.

S. G. Robbins, Clerk

Fifth Sunday Meeting at Adamsville First Free Will Baptist Church February 28, 29, 1976

Saturday Morning Service

The service opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore and altar of prayer. Rev. Ted Simmons, moderator. The first message was by Rev. Ealis Stephens, reading from 2 Timothy 2 and 3. Followed by Rev. Lige Dickey reading from Hebrews 3 and 1 Corinthians 3. Dismissed by Rev. L. L. Wilson.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore, message by Rev. Earl Dixon, reading from St. John 6, followed by business session.

Business Session

The business session was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Ted Simmons, prayer by Rev. Vernon Gober. Churches represented 12, ordained ministers present 12, ordained deacons present 5, appointed deacons present 1. The moderator asked the clerk to read the minutes from the last presbytery session, the minutes were read and approved.

The Assistant Moderator, Rev. Vernon Gober, was asked to appoint the program committee for the next fifth Sunday meeting in May at Shady Grove Church, Rev. Ted Simmons, Bro. Robert Jarrett and Bro. Monroe Herbert was appointed to the committee. Rev. Ted Simmons asked for unfinished business-none, new business-none, letters from churches-none. Brother Simmons made the statement that the Home Mission had about \$2,000 in the treasury, motion made and seconded to adjourn, dismissed by prayer.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Nick White, Rev. Vernon Gober conducted a devotional and testimony service. First message by Rev. Ronnie Carlson reading from Romans 13, followed by Rev. Nick White reading from Mark 12, Romans 7 and 1 Corinthians 11. Dismissed by Rev. Virgil Gean.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. J. B. Harper. Rev. Ted Simmons stated that the morning offering was to be divided between Rev. Virgil Moore and Rev. Elton Cotner. Rev. Earl Dixon made a talk before taking up the offering, the amount taken up was \$404.67.

The first message was by Rev. Virgil Moore reading from Philippians 2, followed by Rev. Everett Rich reading from Hosea 4, dismissed by Brother J. W. Stooksberry.

S. G. Robbins, Clerk

Fifth Sunday Meeting at Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church May, 1976

Saturday Morning Session

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Everett Rich, first message by Rev. Edward Smith, reading from Matthew 15:13. Followed by a song and prayer by Rev. Ealis Stephens. Second message by Rev. Vernon Creasy, reading from Daniel 3 and Romans 8, dismissed by Rev. Elton Cotner.

Saturday Afternoon Session

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Nick White, message by Rev. Vernon Gober reading from Hebrews 2:3 and John 3:14. Followed by business session.

Business Session

The business session was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Ted Simmons, prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson, churches represented 12, ordained ministers present 12, ordained deacons present 8. The moderator asked for reading of the minutes of the last presbytery session at the First Free Will Church at Adamsville, Tn. The minutes were read by the clerk and approved by the body.

The moderator asked for unfinished business-none, new business-none, he then called for letters from churches to the presbytery, a letter was presented by the New Pleasant Grove Church asking that Brother Clarence Harris be ordained to preach, Rev. L. L. Wilson read the letter from New Pleasant Grove stating that Brother Harris was not able to attend the presbytery session at church because of bad health, but that he would like to be ordained to preach. A motion was

made and passed for members of the presbytery to go to Brother Clarence Harris' home in Savannah and perform the ordination service there. Rev. Ted Simmons the moderator appointed Rev. Vernon Creasy to serve on the examining committee with the other two members. Brother Simmons then asked the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Vernon Gober to appoint the program committee for the next fifth Sunday meeting at Solitude in August 76. The program committee appointed was Rev. Elton Cotner, Brother Jodie Melson, and Brother Grady Tacker. A motion was made and passed to dismiss the session at the church and go to Brother Clarence Harris' home to perform the ordination service. The examining committee recommended that Brother Harris be ordained to preach, Rev. L. L. Wilson read the qualification of a bishop from 1 Timothy 3 after which the ordination was carried out by altar of prayer and the laying on of hands by members of the presbytery. The service was dismissed by Rev. Harris' home to reconvene and adjourn at church Saturday night.

Saturday Night Service

Rev. Simmons called the session to order, a motion was made and passed to close the business session and go into the night service. Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson. The first message was by Rev. Everett Rich, reading from Job 19:25-27. The second message was delivered by Rev. V. H. Gean, dismissed until Sunday morning.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother L. C. Harris. Rev. Elton Cotner made a talk and took up the offering for the orphans' homes, the amount was \$181.76. The first message was by Rev. L. L. Wilson reading from 2 Peter 1. Followed by Rev. Emerald Bailey after an altar of prayer, reading from Isaiah 62, "Hold up a standard for the people." Dismissed by Brother Ed Keal.

Fifth Sunday Meeting at Solitude Church August 28, 1976

Saturday Morning Service

The service was opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Elton Cotner. The first message was by Rev. Benton Brown, reading from 1 Peter 5 and Genesis 3, and Matthew 4. Followed by Rev. Nick White entitled, "There's rest for God's people," followed by handshake, dismissed by Rev. Virgil Moore.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. V. H. Gean, message by Rev. Marvin Morrow, reading from Romans 13:11.

Business Session

Rev. Ted Simmons, the moderator called the session to order. Churches

represented 14, ordained ministers present 13, licensed ministers 1, ordained deacons present 7, appointed deacons 1. The moderator called for the reading of the minutes of the last session. The minutes were read and approved. He then asked for letters from churches to the presbytery, one letter was presented from New Chapel asking that Brother E. Brown be licensed to preach for one year. One letter was presented from Piney Grove Church asking that Brother Dalton Skaggs, Brother Eargin Warren, and Brother John Banks be licensed to preach for one year, and also asked that Rev. Marvin Morrow be ordained to preach. One letter was presented from the Fairview Church informing the presbytery that Brother Kenneth Stults had been placed under the watch care of the church for one year to be ordained as a deacon, date of church conference August 7, 1976.

Brother Ted Simmons asked Rev. V. H. Gean to serve on the examining committee. New business, the election of the fifth Sunday officers, Brother Stancil Robbins was reelected as clerk, Rev. Ted Simmons was reelected as moderator, and Rev. Vernon Gober was reelected as assistant moderator, Rev. V. H. Gean was reelected as associational pastor, the next business was that of placing the fifth Sunday meetings for the next year, they placed as follows: October, 1976 at Midway; January, 1977 at Adamsville First Free Will Baptist; May, 1977 at Antioch and July, 1977 at Bumpus Creek.

Rev. Ted Simmons asked Rev. Vernon Gober, the assistant moderator, to appoint the program committee for the next fifth Sunday at Midway, appointed was Rev. Everett Rich, Brother Stancil Robbins, and Brother D. E. Patterson. Brother Simmons reminded everyone that anyone having money to turn in to the Home Mission treasurer, or bills to be paid from that fund to do so before the association in September. The examining committee met with the ones to be ordained and licensed and reported back that they recommended them all as requested, so Brothers John Banks, Dalton Skaggs, Eargin Warren and Robert E. Brown were issued licenses to preach for one year and Brother Marvin Morrow to be ordained to preach. Rev. L. L. Wilson was asked to read the qualifications of a bishop from 1 Timothy 3 and after an altar of prayer was ordained by the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Motion made to adjourn, dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Vernon Gober and Rev. Edward Smith. First message was by Rev. Earl Dixon, reading from Isaiah 49, Matthew 15:21. Followed by prayer by Rev. Everett Rich and the second message by Rev. Gerald Montgomery, reading from Matthew 12:31 and Proverbs 29, dismissed by Brother Stancil G. Robbins.

Sunday morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore and Rev. Vernon Creasy, Brother L. C. Harris was in charge of the taking up the offering for the orphans homes, after reading from Matthew 18 and commenting on it an offering of \$169.30 was given. The first message was by Rev. Everett Rich reading from Isaiah 28 and Matthew 11:21, 25. Prayer by Rev. J. B. Harper and second message was by Rev. Virgil Moore, reading from 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8 and Revelation 20:4-6. Dismissed by Brother J. W. Stooksberry.

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, and assistant 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 renewed 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*—

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

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

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

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of education and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Form Letter of Dismission

_____ , 19____
This certifies that _____ is a regular member of the Free Will Baptist church _____, 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 set 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 _____

