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MINUTES

of the

Ninety-Ninth Annual Session

of the

TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION

of

Free Will Baptists

Convened with

Piney Grove Church

Friday, September 16, 1977

The next association will convene with
Scotts Chapel Church
on Friday before the third Sunday in
September, 1978 at 10:30 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	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School	Average Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church Value	Amount Paid Pastor	For Pastoral Help	Given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 Missions	Meeting Days
Adamsville								62	40	33	1	3		\$30,000.00	\$1,300.00	\$5150.00		\$20.75	\$25.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night.
Antioch		1						25	36	28				10,000.00	611.79	152.52		15.00	20.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night except 5th Sun.
Burns Creek				1				88	50	50	1			12,000.00	1,071.75	230.00		18.00	35.00	Every Sun.—1st & 3rd Sun nights
Fairview				2				69	65	40	2	2		9,500.00	1,287.00	250.00		16.85	40.00	Every Sun.—2nd & 4th Sun. nights
Meeks Grove		8	43	3				102	112	47	1	1		9,500.00		200.00		29.72	25.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night
Midway								84	55	35	3			20,000.00	2,000.00	420.00		20.00	40.00	Every Sun.
Mt. Olive				1	2			23	20	20				3,000.00	500.00	172.00		5.00		1st and 3rd Sun.
Murphys Chapel	1			2				123	45	37	5	2		50,000.00	2,375.00	525.00		31.00	40.00	Every Sun.
New Chapel	2							31	45	30	1			5,000.00	971.25	91.25		7.00	40.00	2nd and 4th Sun.
New Home	2			8				74	57	45	3			10,000.00	788.07	200.00		20.00		Every Sun.—1st & 3rd Sun. nights
New Pleasant Grove	2					2		50	35	45	1	3		25,000.00	2,561.90	150.00		25.00	25.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night except 2nd Sun. night
Piney Grove	2	1						170	101	65	4	2	3	13,500.00	1,763.99	136.00		25.55	40.00	1st & 3rd Sun & Sat. night before 3rd Sun.
Poplar Springs	3	16						117	115	75	1	1		60,000.00	9,450.00	453.00	\$100.00	10.00	25.00	
Posy Chapel	4		3					24		22				20,000.00	1,280.00	120.00		25.00	25.00	
Rayborn Ch.								19	16	10	2			1,500.00	287.66	65.80	20.00	6.00		
Scotts Chapel	12	2	1	15	1	1	1	236	125	95	5	3		19,000.00	4,003.06	648.11		50.00	40.00	Every Sunday
Shady Grove	1	4	2					100	70	41	3	1		15,000.00	2,300.00	208.00		45.00	50.00	Every Sun. & Sun. night
Soilude								77	26	26	2	2		5,000.00	1,200.00	148.90		12.00	40.00	Every Sun.—2nd & 4th Sun. night
Whites Creek								73		60	2	1		12,500.00	1,035.26	147.00		22.75	40.00	2nd & 4th Sun. & Sun. nights

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

ModeratorRev. Everett Rich, Rt. 1, Iron City, TN 38463
Assistant Moderator Rev. Marvin Morrow, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
ClerkBro. J. W. Stooksberry, Rt. 1, Iron City, TN 38463

HOME MISSION BOARD

Secretary-Treasurer Bro. Leyonne Harper, Rt. 3, Box 120, Hale Dr.
Florence, AL Phone—766-6297
Bro. Carl Harper, Rt. 1, Iron City, TN serves on Mission Board
Rev. Edward Smith, Rt. 1, Box 163, Stantonville, TN .. serves on Mission Board

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Ted SimmonsRt. 1, Box 103, Lynn, AL 35575
Phone—205-893-5837

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

ModeratorRev. Vernon Gober, Rt. 2, Box 374, Adamsville, TN
Assistant ModeratorRev. Earl Dixon, Rt. 10, Box 303, Flo., AL
ClerkBro. Stancil Robbins, Box 2402, Muscle Shoals, AL 35660

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. J. B. HarperCypress Inn, TN
Bro. Joel PiggCypress Inn, TN
Rev. Benton BrownSavannah, TN

EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

EXAMINATION COMMITTEE shall consist of assistant moderator of presbytery and moderator of association. The moderator of presbytery should appoint one other member from the floor each time as needed, as recommended in General Business report.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The purpose of the committee is 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. The committee is as follows:

Rev. Vernon Gober Rt. 2, Box 374, Adamsville, TN

Rev. V. H. Gean, (chairman) Rt. 10, Box 323, Florence, AL
 Phone, 205-766-3896
 Rev. John E. Banks Rt. 1, Box 77B, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
 Rev. Gerald Montgomery 3805 Avelon Ave., Florence, AL 35630
 Rev. Earl Dixon Rt. 1, Cloverdale, AL

PLACING OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

October 1977—New Chapel
 April 1978—Whites Creek
 January 1978—Murphys Chapel
 July 1978—Solitude

CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Adamsville—Sis. Audrey Smith, Selmer, TN
 Antioch—Sis. Lina Montgomery, Rt. 12, Box 437, Florence, AL 35630
 Bumpus Creek—Sis. Sue Curry, Rt. 1, Waterloo, AL 35677
 Fairview—Sis. Judy Harper, Rt. 1, Iron City, TN 38463
 Meeks Grove—Sis. Glenda Hurley, Stantonville, TN 38379
 Midway—Sis. Opal Poston, Rt. 2, Leighton, AL 35646
 Murphys Chapel—Bro. Jimmy Shields, Rt. 4, Box 115-5, Florence, AL
 New Chapel—Sis. Linda Brown, Savannah, TN
 Mt. Olive—Bro. Donald Goode, Florence, AL
 New Home—Sis. Ethel Davidson, 1862 Silerton Rd., Henderson, TN
 New Pleasant Grove—Sis. Mary Lou Hubbard, 2209 Vine St., Savannah, TN
 Piney Grove—Bro. John E. Banks, Cypress Inn, TN
 Poplar Springs—Bro. Tommy J. Tucker, Rt. 2, Box 210-D Iuka, MS 38852
 Posey Chapel—Sis. Diannah Holcombe, Rt. 2, Waterloo, AL 35677
 Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Edgar Melson, Rt. 2, Box 102, Collinwood, TN 38450
 Scotts Chapel—Bro. Joel Pigg, Rt. 1, Cypress Inn, TN
 Shady Grove—Bro. Jody Melson, Olive Hill, TN 38475
 Solitude—Sis. Betty Harville, Rt. 2, Adamsville, TN
 Whites Creek—Sis. Ora Stricklin, Savannah, TN

ORDAINED MINISTERS, THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

John E. Banks—Rt. 1, Box 77B, Cypress Inn, Tn., phone 615-724-4251
 Emerald Bailey—Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn., phone 615-724-4378
 Benton Brown—Rt. 2, Savannah, Tn., phone 901-925-3080
 Ron Carlson—Rt. 2, Box 454A, Adamsville, Tn., phone 901-632-4031
 Elton Cotner—Rt. 2, Adamsville, Tn., 38110, phone 901-632-4205
 Vernon Creasy—Deceased
 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, phone 901-925-8230
 Marvin Morrow—Box 71A, Cypress Inn, Tn. 38452, phone 615-724-9663

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. 12, Florence, Ala., phone 205-764-0211
Everett Rich—Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn. 38463, phone 615-724-4568
Dalton Scaggs—Rt. 1, Box 13A, Collinwood, Tn. 38450 phone 615-724-9622
Ted Simmons—Rt. 1, Box 103, Lynn, Al. 35575, phone 205-893-5837
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

Eargin Warren—Rt. 1, Collinwood, Tn., phone 615-724-4540
Kenneth Stults—Rt. 1, Iron City, Tn., phone, 615-724-9966

CHURCH PASTORS

Adamsville—Rev. Vernon Gober
Antioch—Rev. Thurman Stults
Bumpus Creek—Rev. V. H. Gean
Fairview—Rev. Ron Carlson
Meeks Grove—Rev. Bobby Brown, Savannah, TN.
Midway—Rev. Dan Tackett, Muscle Shoals, AL
Mt. Olive—Rev. Eargin Warren
Murphys Chapel—Rev. Earl Dixon
New Chapel—Rev. Nick White
New Home—Rev. Benton Brown
New Pleasant Grove—Rev. Emerald Bailey
Piney Grove—Rev. Nick White
Poplar Springs—Rev. J. T. Prince, Rt. 2, Tishomingo, MS
Poseys Chapel—Rev. Clay Mullins
Rayborn Chapel
Scotts Chapel—Rev. Gerald Montgomery
Shady Grove—Rev. John E. Banks
Solitude—Rev. Elton Cotner
Whites Creek—Rev. Marvin Morrow

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning, September 16, 1977

The Tennessee River Association met at Piney Grove Church at 11:00 o'clock a.m. with congregational singing. The opening song was led by Bro. Donnie Rich. Prayer was led by Bro. Carl Harper. An altar prayer was led by Rev. Lige Dickey.

The first message of this session was given by the Moderator, Rev. Everett Rich, reading from Luke 6:39-49 with the subject of "Letting the Holy Spirit Examine Us."

Dismissed by Rev. V. H. Gean, to be called back to session after lunch with singing.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with Bro. Donnie Rich leading the singing. Sis. Cindy Barrier sang a special song.

Scripture reading was by Rev. Elton Cotner taken from Psalm 92:1-15.

APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

READING CLERKS—Bros. L. C. Harris and Jerry Scott

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Bros. Ira Gillis, John E. Banks, Carthel Shields

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE—Bros. Edd Keele, Kenneth Stults, Robert D. Wright and Earl Dixon.

OBITUARY—Bros. Roger Stults, Leyonne Harper, and Stancil Robbins

PROGRAM COMMITTEE—Bros. Nick White, Brady Tacker, Dee Patterson, and John E. Banks

CALLED FOR CHURCH LETTERS AND RECOGNIZED THE DELEGATES

Adamsville—Bro. Jerry Scott

Antioch—Bros. Lawrence Strait and Howard Whitten.

Bumpus Creek—Absent, represented by letter.

Fairview—Bros. Carl Harper, and Kenneth Stults.

Meeks Grove—Bros. Baxter Humphrey and Richard Sowell.

Midway—Absent, represented by letter.

Mt. Olive—Absent, represented by letter.

Murphys Chapel—Bro. Carthel Shields

New Chapel—Bros. Billy Mayhall and Troy Duncanto.

New Home—Absent, represented by letter.

New Pleasant Grove—Bros. L. C. Harris, and Jim Denton.

Piney Grove—Bros. Donnie Rich, Roger Stults, Larry Toungette, and Lemual Hanback.

Poplar Springs—Bro. Edd Keele

Posey Chapel—Bros. Steve Holcombe, and Keith Barrier.

Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Edgar Melson.

Scotts Chapel—Bros. Leyonne Harper, Jim Berry, Bobby Wilson, Elzo Smith.

Shady Grove—Bros. Colin Potete, and Buddy Lee Melson.

Solitude—Sis. Mary Ruth Tacker, Willodean Harville and Betty Harville.

Whites Creek—Bro. Jimmy Morris.

Asked for any petitionary letters; there were none.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES

GENERAL BUSINESS—Bros. Elton Cotner, Edward Smith, Jim Berry, Carl Harper, and Jimmy Morris.

EDUCATIONAL—Bros. Elzo Smith, Lemual Hanback, Colin Potete, and Eargin Warren.

TEMPERANCE—Bros. Steve Holcombe, Edgar Melson and Keith Barrier.

BENEVOLENCE—Bros. Bobby Wilson, Donnie Rich and Billy Mayhall.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS—Bro. Jody Melson and Sis. Mary Ruth Tacker.

Motion made to adjourn business session until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Earl Dixon.

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Song service began with Bro. Donnie Rich and prayer was led by Rev. Dewey Stults and Bro. Theadore Nard.

The first message was by Rev. John Banks. His scripture reading was from John 3:5-21 and John 12:35 with the subject "Discerning the Spiritual from Earthly."

The second message was by Rev. Eargin Warren with the subject of "Go" reading from Acts 1 also a few verses from Matthew and Mark.

Dismissed by Bro. Bobby Wilson.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

The morning session began with a song led by Bro. Carl Harper and prayer by Bro. Nola Banks. The scripture reading was by Rev. Dalton Scaggs reading from Luke 20.

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 the deacons remind the churches, because of Acts 6:3 we feel it is their duty to take care of the financial part of the church.

We recommend that preachers pay a tenth more or less of their money received from ministerial work to the Home Missions 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 Missions Board sees fit.

We recommend each church invite the associational pastor for at least one service each year.

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 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 licensee shall at the end of one year go before the examining committee before ordination.

We recommend that each member back the association of which he is a member.

The examination for license (or ordination) should refer to the piety and doctrines, the convictions and purposes, respecting 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 as 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 given 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 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 and brings good recommendations from the church of which he is a member, go before the examining committee and if he believes and practices Free Will 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 it letter to the association on Friday, and that the letter be read to the church and approved by it before sending it 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, they call the resolutions committee to meet with them and if the committee can't work it out, they have a called presbytery session at their church and not bring it to the association.

We recommend that the officers of the fifth Sunday meetings be elected and the fifth Sunday meeting places be selected at the last fifth Sunday meeting prior to the association.

We recommend that we pay the associational clerk \$75.00 per year and to be paid from Home Mission treasury.

We recommend that we pay the Home Mission treasurer \$50.00 per year to be paid from Home Mission treasury.

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

We recommend that the association start at 10:30 on Friday instead of 11:00.

This report was adopted by the association.

Edward Smith, 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 1,126. The average attendance of churches are 798.

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.

Robert D. Wright, chairman

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your Committee on Education, wish to recommend the following. We recommend that Christian's study to show themselves approved unto God a workman that needeth not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth, 2 Timothy 2:15, also from 2 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 Christian families have a daily Bible study and prayer with children. Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

We also recommend that parents cooperate with schools as long as it is not against the teachings of the Bible. Stand against that which is evil. We also recommend our churches to use the King James Bible. We recommend our churches to use Free Will Baptist literature. We recommend our churches have Bible study and prayer meeting one night through the week.

This report was adopted by the association.

Colin Potete, 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.

Finding that the Bible tells us in Romans 13:13, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." Also we find that in Galatians 5:21-23 that, "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such lik; of the which I tell you before, as I have told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,

peace, . . . faith, meekness, temperance; against such things there is no law."

We, as Christians, should remember foremost that being temperate is not only moderation but it is also the obstinence from things that are displeasing to our Lord. We find that the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 9:25, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." Therefore to please God we must be temperate in all walks of life.

This report was adopted by association.

Keith G. Barrier, chairman

OBITUARY REPORT

We, the Committee on Obituaries, in sorrow report that death has taken 20 members since our last association.

They are as follows: Brother Ollie White from Bumpus Creek; Bro. Hardin Stults from Fairview; Sister Ader Moffett, Brother Frank Flatt, Brother John H. Brown, Brother Eldridge Flatt from Meeks Grove; Sis. Irene Pace from Midway; Brother Vernon Creasy from Murphy's Chapel; Sis Irene Robinson, Sister Dewey Barns from New Chapel; Sister Myrtle Crouse, Brother Ocie Patterson from New Home; Brother Charles Realiford from New Pleasant Grove; Brother R. E. White, from Poplar Springs; Sister Viola Hayes from Posey's Chapel; Sister Linnie S. Pigg from Scotts Chapel; Sister Dorothy McLin from Shady Grove; Sister Pearl Plunk and Sister Adelaide Evans from Solitude; Sister Becky Wright from Whites Creek.

We trust our loss is Heaven's gain.

Leyonne Harper, 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 1 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.

Donnie Joe Rich, chairman

CLERK'S REPORT
September, 1977

Received from churches 1976	\$355.39
Balance from minute fund 1976	88.84
Total in minute fund	<u>\$444.23</u>
Cost of printing 1,000 minutes	<u>316.77</u>
Balance	127.46
Cost of mailing minutes to churches	<u>1.56</u>
Balance in minute fund	<u>\$125.90</u>

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 association.

J. W. Stooksberry, clerk

FINANCE REPORT

Adamsville	\$ 20.75
Antioch	15.00
Bumpus Creek	18.00
Fairview	16.85
Meeks Grove	29.72
Midway	20.00
Mt. Olive	5.00
Murphys Chapel	31.00
New Chapel	7.00
New Home	20.00
New Pleasant Grove	25.00
Piney Grove	25.55
Poplar Springs	10.00
Posey Chapel	25.00
Rayborn Chapel	6.00
Scotts Chapel	50.00
Shady Grove	45.00
Solitude	12.00
Whites Creek	22.75
Total	<u>\$404.62</u>

This report was adopted by association.

John E. Banks, chairman

HOME MISSION BOARD REPORT

Amount received for children's homes from association and fifth Sunday meetings	\$ 749.96
Amount received from ministers	768.00
Church Contributions:	
Adamsville	25.00
Antioch	20.00
Bumpus Creek	35.00
Fairview	40.00
Solitude	40.00
Meeks Grove	25.00
Midway	40.00
Murphys Chapel	40.00
New Chapel	40.00
New Pleasant Grove	25.00
Piney Grove	40.00
Poplar Springs	25.00
Posey Chapel	25.00
Scotts Chapel	40.00
Shady Grove	50.00
Whites Creek	40.00
	<u>\$ 550.00</u>
Fifth Sunday collection for Bro. Lige Dickey	\$1,068.00
Total received 1976-77	<u>\$3,135.96</u>
All Expenses itemized:	
Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Ala.)	374.99
Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Tenn.)	374.97
Secretary-Treasurer fee	50.00
Fifth Sunday meeting clerk	75.00
Associational clerk	75.00
Associational pastor	1,000.00
Offering for Bro. Lige Dickey	<u>1,068.00</u>
Total Expenses 1976-77	<u>3,017.96</u>
Balance forward 1975-76	2,161.50
Total received 1976-77	<u>3,135.96</u>
Total in treasury	<u>5,297.46</u>
1976-77 Total expenses	<u>3,017.96</u>
Total now in treasury	<u>\$2,279.50</u>
Minister's tithes and offerings	
Rev. Vernon Gober	\$100.00
Rev. Earl Dixon	100.00
Rev. J. B. Harper	112.00
Rev. James Edward Smith	100.00
Rev. Ted Simmons	200.00
Rev. V. H. Geans	156.00
Total	<u>\$768.00</u>

Motion made and seconded that Home Mission Board books be closed by Sept. 1 for that year.

This report was adopted by association.

Odell Harper, secretary-treasurer
(read by Ted Simmons)

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR'S REPORT

Held one tent revival, assisted in two revivals, witnessed 4 professions, held one conference, conducted radio program every Sunday morning, conducted 7 funerals, money received \$1,550.54.

V. H. Gean, associational pastor

ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

Moderator, Rev. Everett Rich, asked for petitionary letters and there were none.

A vote was taken to place the association for the coming year. The churches that asked for the association in their letters were Murphys Chapel and Scotts Chapel. Scotts Chapel received the most votes.

The association will convene with Scotts Chapel, Cypress Inn, TN on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1978 at 10:30 a.m.

Associational officers were elected in 1976 to serve 2 year term.

Asked for nomination of secretary-treasurer of Home Mission Board. Bro. Odell Harper asked to be relieved as secretary-treasurer.

Motion made and seconded to elect Bro. Leyonne Harper as secretary-treasurer. Motion made and seconded to elect Bro. Edward Smith to replace Bro. Vernon Creasy (deceased). Motion made to retain Bro. Carl Harper, to serve on the board.

Motion made to order 1,000 minutes.

Asked for nomination of Board of Trustees of oldest acting member. Oldest man to be relieved was Bro. Nick White. Bro. J. B. Harper was elected to replace him.

Opened nomination for oldest 2 men serving on resolutions committee. Those elected were Bro. Vernon Gober and Bro. V. H. Gean to relieve Bro. Edward Smith and Bro. Everett Rich. Bro. Gean being the oldest experience minister in association will act as chairman.

Discussed steps for using the resolutions committee. Contact chairman, and he will contact committee and the committee prayfully check on the situation. Then if it can't be resolved contact the presbytery moderator.

Moderator asked for any late letters; there were none.

Moderator asked for any other business to come before the body; there were none.

Motion made to adjourn associational business to meet with Scotts Chapel in 1978.

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Ira Gillis.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

September 17, 1977

Song service began with Bro. Carl Harper leading first song. Prayer was led

by Bro. Nick White. Some special songs were enjoyed by Sis. Cindy Barrier.

The first message given by Rev. Elton Cotner, with some good thoughts of love in your heart. His scripture was taken from Isaiah 53:1-12.

Had a fellowship handshake following message. Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Danny Tackett.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song service began with Bro. Robert D. Wright. Prayer was led by Bro. Benton Brown.

Scripture reading by Rev. Lige Dickey, reading Ephesians 6. Gerald Montgomery closed in prayer.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESBYTERY SESSION

September 17, 1977

The business session was called to order by, Rev. Ted Simmons, moderator. Rev. Vernon Gober was the assistant moderator.

Churches represented 15, ordained ministers 18, licensed ministers present 4, ordained deacons present 10. Rev. Ted Simmons asked for reading of the minutes of last presbytery session. The minutes were read and approved. He then called for new business, that of the ministers giving their reports for the year and the granting of cards.

Rev. Emerald Bailey,—absent, report sent in letter and read, Pastored New Pleasant Grove full time, conducted one conference, one communion, conducted 12 funerals, married 6 couples, conducted 2 revivals and assisted in 2, money received \$2,820.95. Card granted.

Rev. Benton Brown—Present, reported, sermons preached 75, pastored one church full time, assisted in one revival, witnessed 3 professions, baptized 2, took 3 into the church, witnessed 8 rededications, assisted in one funeral, held one conference, held 2 communion services, traveled approx. 6,000 miles, received \$779.50 paid tenth back to the church. Card granted.

Rev. Ron Carlson—Present reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted one revival, assisted in 2 revivals, held 1 funeral, married 2 couples, baptized 3, money received approx. \$1,062.06. Card granted.

Rev. Elton Cotner—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival, married 2 couples, conducted 5 funerals, conducted 1 communion service, received one into the church, money received \$1,250.00. Card granted.

Rev. Vernon Creasy—Deceased

Rev. Lige Dickey—Present, gave oral report. Card granted.

Rev. Earl Dixon—Present, reported, pastored one church full time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in one revival, professions witnessed one, baptized one, rededications 2, received one into the church, assisted in 2 funerals, held 1 communion service, money received \$2,477.00, married 1 couple. Card granted.

Rev. V. H. Gean—Present, gave report as associational report. Card granted.

Rev. Vernon Gober—Present, reported, sermons preached 115, Pastored 1 church full time, conducted radio program every Sunday morning, at 8:15 WORM station Savannah, TN, conducted 1 revival, held 1 conference, 1 communion service, and assisted in 1 communion service, money received from church \$1,287.00, money received from radio broadcast \$363.00 a total of

\$1,650.00. Card granted.

Rev. J. B. Harper—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, held 1 revival, held 5 funerals, assisted in 2 funerals, held 1 conference, miles traveled 6,798, money received \$1,221.75. Card granted.

Rev. Clarence Harris—absent reported by letter, preached 2 sermons, traveled 22 miles, received \$50.00 which I gave to New Pleasant Grove for bricking of church. Sick in bed most of the time, talk to people as they come in and out of my home. May God Bless each of you. Card granted.

Rev. Marvin Morrow—Present, reported, sermons preached 45, churches pastored one, revivals held 3, marriages solemnized 2, miles traveled approx. 4,000, money received \$1,035.26. Card granted.

Rev. Gerald Montgomery—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, sermons preached 86, revivals worked in 5, professions witnessed 34, rededications 15, baptized 14, additions to the church 15, marriages solemnized 5, communion services 1, money received \$4,368.85 paid tenth to the church, miles traveled approx. 7,200. Card granted.

Rev. Virgil Moore—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, when able, preached 98 sermons, helped in 1 revival, witnessed 13 professions and 43 rededications received into church 8, visited 6 churches, held 4 funerals, and 2 conferences, money received from friends approx. \$1,186.00 gave to Meeks Grove Church \$238.50 and to children's home and charity \$125.00, miles traveled approx. 1,955 expenses approx. \$1,285.00. Card granted.

Rev. Clay Mullins—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time professions witnessed 4, number baptized 4, additions to the church 7, funerals preached 1, rededications 4, marriages solemnized 2, money received \$1,280.00, held 3 services per week. Card granted.

Rev. Everett Rich—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, helped with 3 funerals, married 1 couple, held 1 revival, helped in 1 revival, money received \$2,150. Card granted.

Rev. Edward Smith—Present, reported, pastored 1 church, held 1 conference, 1 communion, married 1 couple, money received \$1,300.00. Card granted.

Rev. Ted Simmons—Present, reported, sermons preached approx. 100, pastored 1 church, baptized 7, assisted in 1 revival, held 4 revivals, professions witnessed 5, money received approx. \$3,000, held 2 communion services, and 2 business meetings. Card granted.

Rev. Ealis Stephens—Absent, no report sent. Card granted.

Rev. Thurman Stults—Present, gave oral report. Card granted.

Rev. Nick White—Present, reported, pastored 1 church part time, conducted 1 revival, witnessed 2 conversions, baptized 2 and united 2 with the church, held 1 communion, 1 conference and married 4 couples, held 5 funerals, money received approx. \$1,743.99. Card granted.

Rev. L. L. Wilson—present, gave report, sermons preached 12, funerals held 2. Card granted.

Rev. Dalton Skaggs—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, married 2 couples, witnessed 1 conversion, helped in 1 revival, amount received \$1,492.00. Card granted after he was ordained.

Rev. John E. Banks—Present, reported, pastored 1 church part time since January, held 1 revival, held 1 conference, money received \$438.66. Card granted after ordination.

Rev. Robert Brown—Present, gave oral report.

Rev. Eargin Warren—Present, gave oral report.

Rev. Ted Simmons called for petitionary letters from churches to the presbytery; One received from *New Home Church* asking that Bro. Dinno Clayton be ordained as a deacon. A letter from *Fairview* asking that Bro. Kenneth Stults be licensed for one year to preach. A letter from *Piney Grove* requesting that Bro. Dalton Scaggs, Bro. John E. Banks, and Bro. Eargin Warren to be ordained to preach as they had been licensed for 1 year. Rev. Simmons asked Rev. J.B. Harper, to serve on the examining committee with Rev. Vernon Gober and Rev. Everett Rich.

Brother Keith Barrier, a member of Posey's Chapel Church appeared before the presbytery stating that the members of Posey's Chapel had voted to change the name of their church to First Free Will of Cherokee, and that the church deed was made to the Tenn. River Association Trustees so they would need permission from the association to change it. After discussing it a motion was made to table the matter until later for more study.

Rev. Ted Simmons, moderator asked for the examining committee to meet with the ones to be ordained and licensed. After meeting with them, the committee reported back stating they recommended Bro. Kenneth Stults to be licensed to preach for 1 year, and Bro. Dalton Scaggs and Bro. John E. Banks be ordained to preach.

They stated that Bro. Dinno Clayton and Bro. Eargin Warren wanted to wait until the next fifth Sunday meeting in October to be ordained. Bro. Warren's license would be extended for another year. Rev. Edward Smith was asked to read the qualifications of a deacon, he read from 1 Timothy 3, followed by an altar of prayer and the laying on of hands by the presbytery in the ordination service, followed by a handshake, dismissed by Bro. J. W. Stooksberry.

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Service began with a song led by Rev. Marvin Morrow and then some special singing. Prayer was given by Rev. Emerald Bailey.

The first message was by Rev. Thurman Stults reading from John 14:10-12 and Acts 22:1 with the subject of "Greater Works Than These Shall the Believer Do," taken from John 14:12.

Second message was by Rev. Gerald Montgomery reading from Daniel 5:1-6 and Daniel 8:17-22 on the subject of "A People Who Know What to Do and Don't Do It."

One lady rededicated her life. Dismissed by Bro. Hershell White.

THE RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS

We, your Committee of Resolutions of Thanks, report to the body and assembly together to give the people of Piney Grove 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.

Jody Melson, chairman

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

September 18, 1977

Song service began with Bro. Donnie Rich leading. Prayer by Rev. J. B. Harper and Bro. Ray Scott.

An offering was taken for the Children's Homes with Rev. Benton Brown reading from Matthew 18:1-6. The children came forward with an offering of \$77.08 with the adults finishing out the offering of a total of \$767.08. This will be divided between the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 8, Eldridge, AL 35554 and the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Rt. 9, Greeneville, TN 37743.

The first message was by Rev. Edward Smith reading Proverbs 3:1-12. His subject "God's Plan."

The second message was by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from Ecclesiastes 10. His subject was, "Fear God and Keep His Commandments."

Dismissed with prayer by Bro. Odell Harper.

Fifth Sunday Meeting at Midway

October 30, 31, 1976

Saturday Morning Session

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Vernon Gober, Rev. Vernon Creasy and an altar of prayer. Opening message was by Rev. Robert Brown, reading from Ephesians 2:1-10.

The second message was by Rev. V. H. Gean reading from the first chapter of Nahum, and from the first chapter of Romans.

Dismissed by Rev. J. B. Harper.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Nick White, message by Rev. Dalton Skaggs reading from John 11, and from Matthew 24, followed by business session.

Business Session

Rev. Ted Simmons, moderator called the business session to order and invited everyone to stay for the session. Prayer by Rev. Edward Smith, churches represented 9, ordained ministers present 11, licensed ministers present 2, ordained deacons present 4. Brother Simmons then called for the reading of the minutes of the last presbytery session at New Home Church, the minutes were read by the clerk and approved by the body. Called for unfinished business—none; new business a letter from Midway Church asking that Brother Lonnie Grissom, Jr. and Brother Claude C. Hall, Jr. be ordained as deacons, stating that they had been under the watchcare of the church for one year.

Brother Simmons then asked Brother Nick White to serve on the examining committee with the two other members and asked Brother Vernon

Gober, the assistant moderator to appoint the program committee for the next fifth Sunday meeting at Adamsville in January 1977. Brother Gober appointed Rev. Edward Smith, Brother Herbert Clay and Brother D. E. Patterson to serve on the committee. The examining committee met with Brother Lonnie Grissom, Jr. and Brother Claude C. Hall, Jr., and reported back that they recommended them to be ordained as deacons.

Rev. J. B. Harper read the qualifications of a deacon from Timothy 3 followed by an altar of prayer and laying on of hands by the members of the presbytery in the ordination service. A motion was made to dismiss the presbytery session, dismissed by Rev. John Banks.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Lonnie Grissom, Jr., first message was by Rev. J. B. Harper reading from Romans 12, entitled "Dedicate Your Life To Christ." The second message was by Rev. Clay Mullins reading from Romans 6 and John 3. Dismissed by Rev. Earl Dixon.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Homer Scott and Rev. Dan Tackett. Brother J. W. Stooksberry took charge of the offering for the orphans homes. The amount collected was \$245.72 Prayer by Rev. Everett Rich, first message was by Rev. Ronnie Carlson, reading from Romans 6, followed by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from 1 Corinthians 12 and Revelations 21. Dismissed by Rev. Gerald Montgomery.

Fifth Sunday Meeting at First Free Will Baptist Adamsville, TN, January 29, 30, 1977

Saturday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson and an altar of prayer. Opening message by Rev. John Banks, reading from 2 Corinthians 5 followed by Rev. J. B. Harper, reading from Philippians 3, "Meeting the Obstacles of Life." Dismissed by Rev. Earl Dixon.

Saturday Afternoon Session

Opened by singing prayer by Brother Jones, message by Rev. Emerald Bailey, reading from 1 Peter 1:13-24, followed by business session.

Business Session

Rev. Ted Simmons, moderator called the meeting to order. Prayer by Bro. Keele. Churches represented 11, ordained ministers present 10; ordained deacons

present 6; Brother Simmons called for the reading of minutes of the last presbytery session at Midway in October. The minutes were read by the clerk and approved. The moderator called for letters from churches; there were none, for unfinished business; none. New business—Brother Simmons asked Brother Vernon Gober to appoint the program committee for the next fifth Sunday in May at Antioch Church, Rev. Vernon Creasy, Brother Paul Hurley, and Brother J. W. Stooksberry were appointed to the committee, motion made and seconded to close business session. Dismissed by Rev. Elton Cotner.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing prayer by Brother Paul Hurley and Rev. Edward Smith. Opening message by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading from 2 Corinthians 9, followed by Rev. Eargin Warren, reading from Acts 16; and Romans 10. Dismissed by Rev. Vernon Creasy.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Everett Rich and Rev. Ronnie Carlson. Brother Paul Hurley had charge of the collection for the orphan's home, reading from Psalms 12 and Psalms 8. The collection was \$269.14.

Opening message by Rev. Gerald Montgomery, reading from Genesis 19 and Acts 24. Followed by Rev. L. L. Wilson entitled "The Goodness of God." Dismissed by Rev. V. H. Gean.

Clerk, S. G. Robbins
Muscle Shoals, AL 35660

Fifth Sunday Meeting At Antioch Church May 28, 29, 1977

Saturday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Vernon Creasy and an altar of prayer. Opening message was by Rev. Marvin Marrow, reading from Luke 12, entitled "Fear." Followed by Rev. Edward Smith, reading from Hebrews 11:23. Dismissed by Rev. John Prince.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. L. L. Wilson, message by Rev. Everett Rich, reading from Luke 16:16-17. Followed by business session.

The business session was called to order by Rev. Ted. Simmons, moderator, and Rev. Vernon Gober, assistant moderator. Churches represented 12, ordained ministers present 12; ordained deacons present 6; licensed ministers present 1; visiting ministers present 1; Brother Ted Simmons asked that the minutes of the last presbytery session be read. The minutes were read and approved, he then asked if there were any letters from churches to the presbytery; there were none, new business, appointing the program committee

for the next fifth Sunday meeting at Bumpus Creek in July. Rev. J. B. Harper, Brother Ed Keele, and Brother Ira Gillis was appointed to the committee by Rev. Vernon Gober, assistant moderator. Rev. V. H. Gean stated that a tent revival would be held the second week in June at Second Creek. Rev. Ted Simmons would be doing the preaching. Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Vernon Gober.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Lige Dickey, opening message by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from Acts 5, and Galatians 3, and Romans 9. Followed by Rev. John Prince reading from Luke 14. Prayer by Rev. J. B. Harper. Dismissed by Rev. Nick White.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Homer Scott, Rev. John Banks took charge of the collecting for the orphan's homes prayer by Rev. Everett Rich. The amount of the collection was \$222.07. Opening message was by Rev. Benton Brown, reading from Psalms 119, John 1 and 2 Timothy 4. Followed by Rev. Earl Dixon, reading from 1 Timothy 4th verse. Dismissed by Brother Ray Scott. Clerk, S. G. Robbin

Fifth Sunday Meeting At Bumpus Creek July 30, 31, 1977

Saturday Morning Service

Opened by Singing, prayer by Rev. Marvin Morrow and Rev. Vernon Gober, opening message by Rev. Dalton Skaggs, reading from Job 30 and from Luke. Followed by song and second message by Rev. Edward Smith reading from Esther 2 and testimony service. Dismissed by Rev. L. L. Wilson.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Elton Cotner, message by Rev. L. L. Wilson, reading from Romans 1:8, followed by business session.

Business Session

Rev. Ted Simmons, moderator called the business session to order. Rev. Vernon Gober served as assistant moderator. Churches represented 15; ordained ministers present 11; ordained deacons present 9; licensed ministers present 3; Rev. Simmons asked for the reading of the minutes of the last presbytery session at Antioch, the minutes were read and approved. He then asked for letters from churches to the presbytery; none. New business was election of the officers for the coming year, motion made and seconded to retain Stancil Robbins as clerk

for the coming year. Rev. Vernon Gober was elected as moderator and Rev. Earl Dixon was elected as assistant moderator, Rev. Ted Simmons was elected as associational pastor.

The moderator then asked for churches that would host the fifth Sunday meetings for the next year. New Chapel took the meeting for the fifth Sunday in October '77, Murphys Chapel took the fifth Sunday meeting in January '78, Whites Creek took the fifth Sunday meeting in April '78, and Solitude took the one for July '78.

Rev. Gober appointed the program committee for the fifth Sunday in October at New Chapel Church, Brother Paul Hurley, Brother Herbert Clay, Brother Bill Mayhall and Rev. V. H. Gean were appointed. Rev. Ted Simmons stated that we needed to appoint someone to fill out the vacancy on the Home Mission Board left by the death of Rev. Vernon Creasy. Rev. Edward Smith was appointed to that board. Rev. J. B. Harper suggested that we give the offering taken on Sunday morning to Rev. Lige Dickey who was recuperating from a heart operation. Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Dismissed by Brother Ira Gillis.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Benton Brown, first message by Rev. Clay Mullins, reading from Romans 6:23, followed by Rev. V. H. Gean, reading from Luke 12:43. Dismissed by Brother Luther White.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing prayer by Rev. Everett Rich, Rev. Vernon Gober took charge of the service to take up collection for Rev. Lige Dickey. Brother Gober read from 1 John 3:11. Prayer by Rev. Everett Rich and Brother Homer Scott. Amount of collection was \$1,067.75.

First message was by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading from 1 Corinthians 13 and Galatians 5, followed by Rev. Nick White, reading from 1 Kings 13 and Romans 7:3. Dismissed by Stancil Robbins.

Sunday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. J. B. Harper. Message by Rev. Gerald Montgomery, reading from John 9. Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

Clerk, S. G. Robbins

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 _____

