

MINUTES
of the
100th Annual Session
of the
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists
Convened with
Scotts Chapel
Friday, September 15, 1978

The next association will convene with
Shady Grove Church
on Friday before the third Sunday in
September, 1979 at 10:30 a.m.

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Churches	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School	Average Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church Value	Amount paid Pastor	For Pastoral Help	Given Children's Home	Minute Fund	Home Missions	Meeting Days
Adamsville	1	5			2			68	68	26	2	3		\$30,000.00	\$1,300.00	\$150.00		\$40.00	\$22.59	Every Sun. & Sun. Night
Antioch								93	50	50	1			20,000.00	1,134.00	200.00		40.00	23.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night Except 5th Sun.
Bumpus Creek	3	2			4	1		65	40	32	1	2	1	9,500.00	822.00	225.00			7.50	Every Sun.—2nd & 4th Sun. Night
Fairview	1				5	1	101	101	55	1	1			9,500.00	1,987.00	200.00			22.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night
Meeks Grove	2	4			1		85	55	40	3				20,000.00	2,305.00	395.00		40.00	20.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night
Midway	1				2	1	45	30	20		1	1		3,000.00	626.75	134.00	61.70	27.55	5.00	1st & 3rd Sun.
Mt. Olive	1				4	3	4	51	35	31	5	2		50,000.00	2,325.00	375.00		40.00	31.22	Every Sun.
Murphy's Chapel	2				1	1	30	35	26	1				5,000.00	790.00	168.00			10.76	Every Sun.
New Chapel	4	1			5	4	68	57	35	2				10,000.00	1,200.00	215.00		40.00	20.00	Every Sun.—1st & 3rd Sun. Night
New Home					2	3	2	1	52	25	40	4		25,000.00	2,350.00	150.00		25.00	25.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night except 2nd Sun. night.
New Pleasant Grove	2	3			1	2	180	89	59	3	5	1		15,000.00	1,855.11	211.40		40.00	27.00	Every Sun.
Piney Grove	2	7	1																	
Poplar Springs																				
Posveys Chapel	1	2			1	1	22	24	25			1		20,000.00	1,480.00			25.00	25.00	
Rayborn Chapel							24	16	12	2				1,500.00	250.00	60.00	20.00		7.01	
Scotts Chapel					3	3	1	2	236	110	96	6	3	19,000.00	4,372.16			40.00	50.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night
Shady Grove	2				2	1	99	55	41	3				17,000.00	2,200.00	367.60	100.00	50.00	30.00	Every Sun. & Sun. Night
Solitude	2				1	77	30	30	2	1				5,000.00	1,200.00	184.37		40.00	19.85	Every Sun.—2nd & 4th Sun. Night
Whites Creek	2	2	5	1		74	70	67	2	1				12,500.00	1,204.00	214.00			22.35	Every Sun.

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Moderator Rev. J. B. Harper, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Assistant Moderator Rev. John E. Banks, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Clerk Bro. 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 35630, Phone—766-6297
Bro. Carl Harper, Rt. 1, Iron City serves on Mission Board.
Rev. Edward Smith, Rt. 1, Box 163, Stantonville, TN .. serves on Mission Board

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Benton Brown Rt. 2, Savannah, TN
Phone—901-925-9313

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Moderator Rev. Earl Dixon, Rt. 10, Box 303, Florence, AL
Assistant Moderator Rev. Vernon Gober, Rt. 2, Box 374, Adamsville, TN
Clerk Bro. Stancil Robbins, Box 2402, Muscle Shoals, AL 35660

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marvin Morrow Cypress Inn, TN
J. B. Harper Cypress Inn, TN
Joel Pigg Cypress Inn, TN

EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

The Examination Committee will be selected by name drawing at each session as needed by those present, 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. Ted Simmons
Rev. Nick White
Rev. Vernon Gober
Rev. V. H. Gean, (Chairman)
Rev. John E. Banks

PLACING OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

October 1978—New Chapel December 1978—Adamsville First Free Will
 April 1979—Midway Church July 1979—Piney Grove Church

CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Adamsville—Bro. Robert Jarrett, Adamsville, TN
 Antioch—no letter sent
 Bumpus Creek—Sis. Sue Curry, Rt. 1 Box 287, Waterloo, AL 35677
 Fairview—Sis. Annie Wilson, Rt. 1, Iron City, TN 38463
 Meeks Grove—Sis. Beverly Sowell, Rt. 1, Stantonville, TN
 Midway—Sis. Opal Poston, Rt. 2, Leighton, AL 35646
 Mt. Olive—Sis. Janice Franks, Rt. 1, Box 308, Waterloo, AL 35677
 Murphys Chapel—Bro. Jimmy Shields, Rt. 4, Florence, AL 35630
 New Chapel—Sis. Betty Glissen, Counce, TN
 New Home—Sis. Ethel Davidson, 1862 Silverton Rd., Henderson, TN 38340
 New Pleasant Grove—Sis. Sue Franks, Rt. 2, Box 77D, Savannah, TN 38372
 Piney Grove—Bro. Roger Stults, Cypress Inn, TN
 Poplar Springs—withdrew
 Posey Chapel—Sis. Diannah Holcombe, R.R. 2, Waterloo, AL 35677
 Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Edgar Melson, Rt. 2, Box 102, Collinwood, TN
 Scotts Chapel—Sis. Carolyn Harper, Rt. 3, Box 120, Hale Dr. Florence, AL
 Shady Grove—Bro. Jody Melson, Rt. 1, 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 901-925-9313
 Robert Brown—Rt. 2, Box 96B, Savannah Tn. 38372, phone 901-925-8293
 Ron Carlson—withdrew from Association.
 Elton Cotner—Rt. 2, Adamsville, Tn., 38110, phone 901-632-4205
 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 In, 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—Box 238, Cherokee, Al., phone 205-359-4216
 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

Eargin Warren—Rt. 1, Collinwood, Tn., phone 615-724-4540
Nick White—2015 Northcutt, Savannah, Tn. 38372, phone 901-925-4544
L. L. Wilson—5058 Bryndale, Memphis, Tn. 38118, phone 901-362-6079

LICENSED MINISTERS

Earl Rich—Cypress Inn, TN

CHURCH PASTORS

Adamsville—Vernon Gober
Antioch—no letter
Bumpus Creek—V. H. Gean
Fairview—Emerald Bailey
Meeks Grove—Robert Brown
Midway—Danny Tackett
Mt. Olive—Eargin Warren
Murphys Chapel—Earl Dixon
New Chapel—Virgil Moore
New Home—Benton Brown will fill in until pastor is elected.
New Pleasant Grove—Ted Simmons
Piney Grove—Nick White
Poseys Chapel—Clay Mullins
Rayborn Chapel—Earl Rich
Scotts Chapel—Gerald Montgomery
Shady Grove—John E. Banks
Solitude—Elton Cotner
Whites Creek—Marvin Morrow

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning, September 15, 1978

The Tennessee River Association met with Scotts Chapel Church at 10:30 o'clock, a.m. with congregational singing. The opening song was led by Bro. Leyonne Harper. Prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore.

Welcoming by moderator, Rev. Everett Rich.

The first message was by Rev. Robert Crawford, Assistant Director of Public Relations, from the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn. His subject was on "Rebuilding the Wall" scripture was taken from Nehemiah 1st chapter, verses 4-11.

Dismissed by Rev. Emerald Bailey, to be called back to session after lunch with singing.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met according to previous adjournment with Bro. L. C. Harris leading the first song. Prayer was led by Rev. Eargin Warren.

Scripture reading was by Rev. Jackie Bowers of the Muscle Shoals Association, reading and commenting on the 23rd Psalm.

APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

READING CLERKS—Bro. Leyonne Harper and Bro. Jimmy Shields
FINANCE COMMITTEE—Bros. Granville Harper, Virgil Nixon and Lem Handback
SUNDAY SCHOOL—Committee—Bros. Donnie Joe Rich, Clay Mullins, Edgar Melson, and L. C. Harris
OBITUARY—Bros. Frank Pigg, Colon Potete, and Brady Tacker.
PROGRAM—Bros. Gerald Montgomery, Jimmy Morris, Jerry Scott, Ira Gillis, and Frank Pigg

CALLED FOR LETTERS FROM CHURCHES AND RECOGNIZED THE DELEGATES

Adamsville—Bros. Jerry Scott and Virgil Nixon.
Antioch—No letter sent, absent.
Bumpus Creek—Bro. Greene Winston.
Fairview—Absent, Represented by letter.
Meeks Grove—Bro. Baxter Humphrey.
Midway—Sis. Carrie Saint, and Sis. Lela Hall.
Mt. Olive—Absent on Friday, Represented by Bro. Earl Reed on Sat.
Murphys Chapel—Bros. Jimmy Shields and Ricky Fielder.
New Chapel—Bros. Sherman Mayhall and Erby White.
New Home—Absent, Represented by letter.
New Pleasant Grove—Bro. L. C. Harris, and Jim Denton.
Piney Grove—Bros. Donnie Joe Rich, Lem Hanback and Arch Horton.
Poplar Springs—Absent, Sent letter asking for resignation from Tennessee River Association. Move made to accept letter.
Poseys Chapel—Absent, Represented by letter.
Rayborn Chapel—Bro. Edgar Melson.
Scotts Chapel—Bros. Bobby Wilson, Granville Harper, and Leyonne Harper.
Shady Grove—Bros. Buddy Lee Melson, Colen Potete, and Jay Copeland.
Solitude—Sis. Helen Tacker, and Sis. Mary Ruth Tacker.
Whites Creek—Bros. Jimmy Morris and Hershel White.
Ask for Petitionary letters, there were none.

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES

GENERAL BUSINESS—Bros. Lige Dickey, Dee Paterson, V. H. Gean, Nick White and Ted Simmons.
EDUCATIONAL—Bros. Bobby Wilson, Benton Brown, Baxter Humphrey, and John E. Banks.
TEMPERANCE—Bros. Emerald Bailey, Vernon Gober and Edward Smith.
BENEVOLENCE—Bros. Earl Dixon, Stancil Robbins and Elton Cotner.
RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS—Sis. Lela Hall and Sis. Mary Ruth Tacker.
Motion made to adjourn business session until 9:00 o'clock a.m. Saturday morning. Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Nick White.
Rev. Charles Floyd, a visiting minister gave a talk.

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Song service began with Bro. Leyonne Harper leading, and prayer by Bro. Robert D. Wright. There was special singing by Cindy and Marsha Berry, and a group from church, who said they might be called "The Friendly Four" consisting of Bro. Gerald Montgomery, Judy Montgomery, Leyonne Harper and Carolyn Harper.

First message was by Rev. Lige Dickey, on the subject of "The Grace of God."

The second message was by Rev. Vernon Gober, reading from Joshua 24th chapter, verses 11-14 on the subject of "Fear the Lord, and serve Him in Sincerity." Dismissed by Rev. Everett Rich.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

The morning session began with a song by Bro. Carl Harper and prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore. The scripture reading was by Rev. Gerald Montgomery, reading Romans 10th chapter, verses 1-9.

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 the examining committee be selected by name drawing at each session as needed by those present.

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 characters and ability of the candidate.

We recommend those desiring the office of a minister or deacon obtain from strong drink, beer, whiskey, or anything harmful to our body and influence of the office we hold.

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 its 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.

Ted Simmons, chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We, your Committee on Sunday School, wish to submit the following: We have 18 churches with Sunday school with a present enrolment of 890. The average attendance of churches are 692.

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 your appreciation of their visit.

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

Donnie Joe Rich, 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.

Baxter 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 or any drug harmful to our body to mean total abstinence from these things.

We, as Christians, should remember foremost that being temperate is not only moderation but it is also abstinence 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.

Finding that the Bible tells us in Romans 13:13, Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, and 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 like; of the which I tell you before, as I have told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." But the fruits of the Spirit is love, joy, peace faith, meekness, temperance,; against such things there is no law.

Vernon Gober, chairman

OBITUARY REPORT

We, the Committee of Obituaries, in sorrow report that death has taken 19 members since our last association.

They are as follows: From Fairview, 1, Bro. Jimmy Wilson, From Meeks Grove, 1, Bro. Verge Barnes, From Murphys Chapel, 4, Bro. Emmett Brown, Bro. Clifford Ford; Bro. Lee Dowdy, Bro. Arnold White. From New Chapel, 1, Sis. Callie Massey. New Home, 4, Sis. Katherine Smith, Sis. Ali Patterson, Bro. Odell Clayton, Bro. Arlis Garner. From New Pleasant Grove, 1, Bro. Bill White. From Piney Grove, 2, Bro. Nolie Banks, Bro. Elmer Dodd. From Posey Chapel, 1, Bro. Lucian Brown. From Scotts Chapel, 2, Bro. Earnest Berry, Bro. Ervin Berry. From Shady Grove, 1, Sis. Margie Wilkerson. From Mt. Olive, 1, Sis. Pearl Goode. We trust our loss is Heavens gain.

Colin Potete, 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.

S. G. Robbins, chairman

CLERK'S REPORT

Balance from treasury 1976	\$125.90
Total recieved from churches 1977	<u>404.62</u>
Total treasury	\$530.52
Ordered 1000 minutes	\$337.07
Postage	<u>.90</u>
Total Expenses	\$337.97
Total Treasury	\$530.52
Total Expenses	<u>\$337.97</u>
Balance in Treasury	\$192.55

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	\$ 22.59
Antioch	
Bumpus Creek	23.00
Fairview	7.50
Meeks Grove	22.00
Midway	20.00
Mt. Olive	5.00
Murphys Chapel	31.22
New Chapel	10.76
New Home	20.00
New Pleasant Grove	25.00
Piney Grove	27.00
Posey Chapel	25.00
Rayborn Chapel	7.01
Scotts Chapel	50.00
Shady Grove	30.00
Solitude	19.85
Whites Creek	<u>22.35</u>
Total Received	<u>\$368.28</u>

This report was adopted by association.

Lem Hanback, chairman

HOME MISSIONS BOARD REPORT ASSOCIATION AT SCOTTS CHAPEL CHURCH Set. 15, 16, 17, 1978

1977-78 TOTAL RECEIVED ITEMIZED:	
5th Sunday offerings for children's home	\$1,286.00
5th Sunday offering for Bro. Nolie Banks	411.48
MINISTERS TITHES OR OFFERINGS:	
Rev. V. H. Gean	\$ 113.40
Rev. Ted Simmons	150.00
Rev. Vernon Gober	100.00
Rev. Earl Dixon	100.00
Rev. J. B. Harper	40.00
HOME MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Bumpus Creek	40.00
Murphys Chapel	40.00
Piney Grove	40.00
Poseys Chapel	25.00
Scotts Chapel	40.00
77-78 Total Received	<u>\$2,385.88</u>
76-77 Balance received from former Treasurer	<u>\$2,319.50</u>
TOTAL TREASURY	<u>\$4,705.38</u>

1977-78 Expenses Itemized:

Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Al.)	\$643.00
Free Will Baptist Children's Home (Tn.)	643.00
5th Sun. offering for Bro. Nolie Banks	411.48
Associational Pastor, (Rev. Ted Simmons)	\$1,200.00
Associational Clerk (J. W. Stooksberry)	75.00
5th Sunday Clerk (Stancil Robbins)	75.00
Sec./Treas. (Royce L. Harper)	50.00
77-78 TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,097.48
BALANCE FORWARD 1978-79	\$1,607.90

Royce L. Harper, Sec./Treas.

This report was adopted by association.

Home Mission Books will be closed by Sept. 1st, for that year. Please get in contributions before this time.

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTORS' REPORT

Held one camp meeting with associational equipment. Assisted in one revival. Visited all the churches at least once during the associational year. Witnessed 4 professions, preformed 1 wedding ceremony, preached approx. 60 sermons, money received \$1,792.00.

Ted Simmons, Associational Pastor

ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

Moderator, Rev. Everett Rich, ask for any petitionary letters, there were none.

A vote was taken to place the association for the coming year. The churches that ask for the association in their letters were Bumpus Creek, Murphys Chapel, New Home, Whites Creek and Shady Grove.

Shady Grove Church received the most votes. The Association will convene with Shady Grove Church, on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1979 at 10:30 a.m.

Moderator, ask for nominations of moderator of association. Rev. J. B. Harper was nominated and elected.

Ask for nomination of Assistant Moderator, Rev. John E. Banks was nominated and elected.

Ask for nomination of Associational Clerk. Motion made to retain the same, J. W. Stooksberry.

Ask for nomination of Sec./Treas. of Home Missions Board. Motion made to retain same, Bro. Royce Leyonne Harper.

Motion made to retain Bro. Carl Harper and Rev. Edward Smith to serve on the Home Missions Board with the Sec./Treas.

Moderator, ask for nomination to replace oldest serving man on the Board of Trustees. Nominated and elected Rev. Marvin Morrow. He will serve with Rev. J. B. Harper and Bro. Joel Pigg.

Motion made to order 1,000 minutes.

Ask for nominations to replace the last 2 names listed in Resolutions Committee, which would be the two longest serving members on the committee. Nominated and elected were Rev. Ted Simmons, and Rev. Nick White, with their names to be placed at the top of the committee.

Motion made to pay for the treatise, which had been ordered, from the Home Missions Treasury.

Motion made to print in the minute that these Treatise are part of the Tenn. River Association. They were adopted by the Association in 1937. Motion made to table the discussion of where it should be put in the minute until another session.

Moderator, ask for new Business. There were none.

Motion made to adjourn the 100th session of the Tennessee River Association.

Dismissed by Rev. Elton Cotner.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sept. 16, 1978

Song service began with Bro. Odell Harper. Prayer was led by Rev. Edward Smith. The message for the hour was given by Rev. Virgil Gean reading from the 2nd chapter of Jeremiah 8-13 verses, and also from 4th chapter of St. John on the subject of "The Living Water." The message was followed by a fellowship handshake. Dismissed by Rev. Charles Floyd.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song service began with Rev. Gerald Montgomery. The Scripture reading was by Rev. John E. Banks, reading the entire chapter of Psalm 61, verses 1-8.

Rev. Robert Crawford, from the Free Will Baptist College, gave a talk and gave away pamphlets about the school, and other material to help teachers and leaders. Also Sis. Crawford gave testimony and told of her help in the college. Prayer was by Rev. Bobby Brown.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESBYTERY SESSION

Sept. 16, 1978

The Moderator, Rev. Vernon Gober, called session to order. He asked the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Earl Dixon to come forward to help. Churches represented 14, ordained ministers present 19, licensed ministers 1, ordained deacons 7, Brother Gober called for the reading of the minutes of the last Presbytery session. Minutes read and approved. Unfinished business, none, New Business, ministers were asked to give their reports, also was suggested to put their names and addresses and phone numbers on their reports. Reports were given and cards granted as follows:

ORDAINED MINISTERS REPORTS

John E. Banks—Present, reported, pastored one church full time, held 1 revival, assisted in 3 revivals, held 1 conference, 1 communion service, baptized 2, added 2 to the church, money received \$2,442.00. Card granted.

Emerald Bailey—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted one conference, held one communion service, conducted 12 funerals, held one revival, assisted in 3, baptized 7, money received \$2,980.00. Paid tenth to the church and charity. Card granted.

Benton Brown—Present, reported, sermons preached 80, pastored 1 church full time, assisted in 1 revival, and 1 weekend revival, witnessed 4 confessions, and 6 rededications, assisted in 2 funerals, miles traveled 8,097, money received \$1,205.40, gave \$300.00 back to the church. Held 1 communion and 1 conference. Card granted.

Robert Brown—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival, assisted in 1 revival, witnessed 14 conversions and witnessed 8 rededications, baptized 6, married 1 couple, assisted in 1 funeral, held 1 conference, and 1 communion service, received \$1,987.00. Card granted.

Elton Cotner—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 6 funerals, conducted 1 revival, married 1 couple, held 1 communion service, received 2 into the church, money received \$1,200.00. Card granted.

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

Earl Dixon—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival, professions witnessed 2, 4 rededications, received 2 into church, baptized 3, conducted 4 funerals, assisted in 3, held 1 communion service, and 1 church conference, married 1 couple, money received \$2,325.00. Card granted.

V. H. Gean—Present reported, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival, witnessed 5 professions of faith, baptized 4, received 5 into the church, held 1 conference, conducted radio program every Sunday morning, conducted 23 funerals, married 1 couple, conducted 1 communion service, money received \$1,134.00. Card granted.

Vernon Gober—Present, reported, sermons preached 105, pastored 1 church full time, conducted 1 revival, held 1 communion service, witnessed 2 professions, baptized 1, conducted a radio program every Sunday morning at 8:15 WORM station, Savannah, Tn., money received from church \$1,300.00, money received from radio broadcast \$283.00, total of \$1,583.00. Card granted.

J. B. Harper—Present, reported, I had the privilege to visit 13 churches that I had pastored down through the years and visited several other churches, some of them prospects for missionary churches. Held 1 funeral, assisted in 2, visited hospital and other elderly people; miles approx. 2,771, money received \$286.50. Card granted.

Clarence Harris—Absent, no report, Card granted.

Marvin Morrow—Present, reported, pastored 1 church, 2nd and 4th Sunday and Sunday nights, held 1 revival, worked in 5 revivals, witnessed 2 conversions, 7 rededications, received 2 into church baptized 2, held 1 communion, 1 conference, miles traveled approx. 4,520, money received approx. \$2,020.11. Card granted.

Virgil Moore—Present reported, pastored 1 church full time when able, sermons preached 54, assisted in 1 revival, witnessed 12 rededications, received into church 5, visited 2 churches, held 1 funeral, held 1 conference, 1 communion, married 1 couple, money received \$771.37, paid 10th to church, paid to

childrens home \$11.00, to church and charity \$349.000, miles traveled visiting sick and shutins approx. 3,754, expenses approx. \$563.10. Card granted.

Gerald Montgomery—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, sermons preached 126, revivals 6, professions witnessed 14, rededications 9, additions to the church 3, marriages solemnized 4, funerals, 5, communion services 1, money received \$5,115.00 expenses unknown, miles traveled approx. 12,500. Card granted.

Clay Mullins—Absent, report sent and read, pastored church full time, 3 services a week, professions witnessed 1, baptized 3, funerals 3, marriages solemnized 2, miles traveled unknown, money received \$1,480.00. Card granted.

Everett Rich—Present, reported; held 2 revivals, witnessed 1 conversion, received approx. \$400.00, preached several sermons in different churches. Card granted.

Edward Smith—Present, gave oral report, Card granted.

Ted Simmons—Present, gave report as Associational Pastor. Card granted.

Ealis Stephens—Absent, letter received by clerk in mail Sept. 19, 1978. Pastored Oak Grove Union Church from Sept. 25, 1977 until Sept. 10, 1978 twice a month and began at Old Union July 16, 1978, at present am going twice a month to each church. Held 30 services, miles traveled unknown, money received \$363.19.

Thurman Stults—Absent, no report sent. Card granted.

Nick White—Present, reported, pastored 1 church half time, 4 united with the church, witnessed 6 rededications, conferences held 1 communion services 1, conducted 1 wedding, 5 funerals, money received \$1,845.00. Card granted.

L. L. Wilson—Absent, no report sent, Card granted.

Dalton Skaggs—Present, reported, pastored 1 church, sermons preached 45, revivals held 1, professions witnessed 3, baptized 2, miles traveled 200, money received \$1,493.75. Card granted.

Eargin Warren—Present, reported, pastored 1 church full time, held 1 revival, professions witnessed 3, number baptized 1, additions to the church 2, funerals preached 2, money received \$703.85. Card granted.

LICENSED MINISTERS REPORTS

Earl Rich—Present, gave oral report as a licensed minister.

Moderator, Bro. Gober, asked if there were any letters from churches for licenses for ordination, there were none.

There were two church letters stating they had deacons who are now under the watchcare of the church for one year. They were Meeks Grove, stated they have Bro. Jamie Smith and Bro. Baxter Humphrey under the watchcare for deacon for 1 year. Piney Grove has Bro. Donnie Joe Rich under watchcare for deacon for 1 year. Motion made to adjourn. Dismissed by Bro. Frank Pigg.

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Service began with a song led by Bro. Carl Harper, there was special singing by Bro. J. B. Harpers group, and Cathy Toungette, Carol Warren, and the Berry Sisters. Prayer by Bro. Earl Dixon. A united altar prayer led by Bro. Earnest Rich.

The first message was by Bro. Edward Smith, quoting scriptures of Paul's experience of shaking of the vikor.

Second message was by Bro. Marvin Morrow, reading scripture from St.

John 8th chapter 28th verse, his subject was on things Jesus said in the Sermon on the mount, "If you continue in these things, ye shall be my Disciples indeed."

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS

We, your Committee of the Resolutions of Thanks, report to the people of Scotts Chapel Church and surrounding churches our sincere thanks for the wonderful hospitality, friendliness and kindness shown the entire Association as a whole.

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

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

Lela Hall

Read by Moderator, Everett Rich. Dismissed by Bro. Jessie J. Melson.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

September 17, 1978

Song service began with Bro. Odell Harper leading. Prayer by Bro. John E. Banks. Bro. Robert Crawford thanked people for their contributions to the Free Will Baptist Bible College.

An offering was taken by Bro. Emerald Bailey, reading from Proverbs and verses from Samuel on "Train up a Child" there was an altar prayer by the young Christians.

This offering will be divided between the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 8, Eldrige, Al. 35554 and Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Rt. 9, Greeneville, Tn. 37743.

The children came forward with their offering of \$94.70.

The adults offerings were in the amount of \$635.75. Total Childrens Home offering \$730.45.

First message was by Bro. Virgil Moore, reading from Ezekiel, 12th chapter and Isaiah 6 chapter 12th verse on the subject of "A Troublesome People in a Troublesome World."

Second message was by Bro. Earl Dixon, he requested the song "Faith of Our Fathers," Led by Bro. Robert Crawford, in memory of our forefathers for 100th anniversary of the Association. His scripture was on Legion, who dwelt among the tombs. His subject "Return to thine own House and show what Great thing God has done for you."

Moderator, asked for Shady Grove to be relieved of the fifth Sunday meeting in July as they had been voted to host the Association in September. Piney Grove will host the fifth Sunday meeting in July.

Dismissed by Bro. Ted Allen Simmons.

**Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting At New Chapel Church
October 29 and 30, 1977**

Saturday Morning Session

Opened by singing prayer by Rev. Virgil Moore, and altar of prayer. Opening message by Rev. Marvin Morrow reading from 1st John 3rd chapter, verse 13. Followed by Rev. L. L. Wilson quoting from John 3-16 and Revelation. Dismissed by Rev. J. B. Harper.

Saturday Afternoon Session

Opened by singing. Prayer by Brother Edgar Melson, message by Rev. John Bank, reading from 1st Thessalonians 3rd chapter. Followed by presbytery session.

Business Session

The presbytery session was called to order by Rev. Vernon Gober, the Moderator and Rev. Earl Dixon the assistant moderator, prayer by Rev. V. H. Gean. Churches represented 15; ordained ministers present 15; licensed ministers 2, ordained deacons present 8; Brother Gober ask for the reading of the minutes of the last presbytery session, the minutes were read and approved by the clerk, he then ask if there were any letters from churches to the presbytery. Meeks Grove sent a letter to the presbytery recommending Brother Robert Brown to be ordained to preach, Piney Grove sent a letter recommending that Brother Earl Rich be licensed to preach for one year, a motion was made to let Brother Eargin Warren go before the examining committee to be ordained to preach.

Rev. Vernon Gober the moderator appointed Rev. L. L. Wilson to serve on the examining committee with Rev. Earl Dixon and Rev. Everett Rich.

The examining committee met with Rev. Eargin Warren, Rev. Robert Brown and Brother Earl Rich, they recommended Brother Brown to be ordained to preach, but they called for the members of the presbytery to meet with them and to vote on whether to ordain Brother Warren and to license Brother Earl Rich to preach for one year. A majority of the presbytery voted to ordain Brother Eargin Warren and to license Brother Earl Rich to preach for one year.

Brother J. B. Harper was asked to read the qualifications of a Bishop, followed by an altar of prayer and the laying on of the hands of members of the presbytery in the ordination service. Rev. Vernon Gober the appointed the program committee for the next fifth Sunday meeting at Murphys Chapel in Jan. 1978, appointed was Rev. Earl Dixon, Brother Paul Hurley, Brother Erbie White, Bro. Nolie Banks, motion made to adjourn.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by altar of prayer, first message was by Rev. J. B. Harper, reading from St. John the 5th chapter 1st through 9 verse. Followed by Rev. Everett Rich reading from the 14th chapter of Proverbs and the 34th verse. Dismissed by Rev. Elton Cotner.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Nick White, Brother Earl Rich took charge of the service of taking an offering for the orphans homes, He read from the 25th chapter of St. Matthew verse 34, the amount collected was \$476.69.

The opening message was by Rev. Earl Dixon, reading from St. John the 2nd chapter 1st through 14th verses. Followed by Rev. Ted Simmons reading from St. John 2nd chapter and Daniel the 4th chapter. Dismissed by Rev. Robert Brown.

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting at Murphys Chapel Church January 28 and 29, 1978

Saturday Morning Service

The service was opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Theodore Nard, Rev. Edward Smith, and Rev. Nick White. Rev. Vernon Gober as the moderator. The first message was by Rev. Theodore Nard reading from 1st John, 3rd chapter. Followed by Rev. Robert Brown, reading from St. Matthew 21st chapter.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Ted Simmons, message by Rev. Dan Tackett reading from 2nd Corinthians and 1st John, followed by business session.

Business Session

Rev. Vernon Gober, the moderator called the session to order churches represented 9; ordained ministers present 11; licensed ministers present 1; ordained deacons present 6.

Rev. Vernon Gober appointed a program committee for the next fifth Sunday meeting at Whites Creek in April. Rev. Marvin Morrow, Brother D. E. Patterson and Brother Bill Benson was appointed to the committee, a motion was made and 2nd to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Everett Rich.

The moderator called for the reading of the last minutes of the last presbytery session, minutes read and approved. Called for unfinished business, none; new business—Brother Ronnie Carlson state that he was turning in his credentials since he didn't approve of some of the things the Association were doing. Brother Ted Simmons stated that he thought the solution was humbleness and prayer. A motion was made and 2nd to let the resolution committee select a

time and place for the presbytery to meet and try to work out the problems. There was no letters from churches to the presbytery.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing by Brother Ronnie Brown, prayer by Brother Ben Brown, first message was by Rev. Nick White, reading from St. Luke 15th chapter, followed by Rev. J. B. Harper. Dismissed.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Homer Scott and Rev. V. H. Gean. Brother Vernon Gober ask Rev. Edward Smith to take charge of the Orphans Home offering, collected was \$302.00. First message was by Rev. Emerald Bailey, reading from St. John and Galatians 5th chapter. Followed by Rev. Dalton Skaggs reading from St. Matthew the 28th chapter. Dismissed by Brother Dewey Stults.

Minutes of the Special Called Session of the Presbytery

March 14, 1978 at Whites Creek

The session called to order by Rev. Vernon Gober the Moderator, opened by singing by Brother D. E. Patterson, an altar of prayer, Rev. Gober ask Rev. Ted Simmons to take the minutes in the absence of the clerk. Brother Gober then turned over to the resolution committee chairman, Brother Gerald Montgomery to give the committee's recommendation.

The Committee submitted the following to be voted on. We recommend that since these things listed in the Temperance Report pertain mainly to the ministers and deacons that it be placed in the General Business report in the form of a recommendation to read as follows:

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 the ability of the candidate. We recommend that those desiring the office of a minister or deacon abstain from strong drink, beer, whiskey, tobacco or anything harmful to our body and influence of the office we hold. We also recommend that the examining committee be selected by names drawing at each session as needed by those present.

Those present voted 14 to 10 in favor of the recommendation of the committee. Motion made to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Gerald Montgomery.

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting at Whites Creek

April 30, 1978

Saturday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Earl Dixon and Brother Bill Benson. First message by Rev. Elton Cotner, reading from James the 5th chapter verse 10

through 17 followed by Rev. John E. Banks, reading from 1st Corinthians the 4th chapter, and 2nd Corinthians the 4th chapter. Dismissed by Brother Percy White.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Ted Simmons and Brother Herbert Clay, message by Rev. Everett Rich, reading from 1st Corinthians and James 13th chapter followed by business session.

Business Session

The presbytery session was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Vernon Gober, and the Assistant Moderator, Bro. Earl Dixon. Churches represented 9; ordained ministers present 8; ordained deacons present 6; licensed ministers present 1. Brother Gober then called for reading of the minutes of the last two presbytery sessions. The minutes were read and approved. He then called for letters from churches to the presbytery, none received. Brother Gober then asked Brother Earl Dixon to appoint the program committee for the next 5th Sunday meeting at Solitude in July 1978. Those appointed were Rev. Elton Cotner, Brother Herbert Clay, and Brother Bill Benson. A motion was made and 2nd to adjourn. Dismissed by altar of prayer.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Elton Cotner, first message by Rev. J. B. Harper, reading Acts the 1st chapter 1 through 14 verses, followed by Rev. Everett Rich reading from Ecclesiastes the 3rd chapter and 12th verse and from Proverbs the 1st chapter. Dismissed by Brother Luke White.

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Rev. Nick White and Rev. Marvin Morrow. Brother J. W. Stooksberry took charge of collection for the orphans homes the amount collected was \$507.31. The first message Rev. Eargin Warren reading from 1st Samuel the 15th chapter, and 2nd Kings the 5th chapter, followed by Rev. Gerald Montgomery reading from Genesis the 12th chapter and Exodus the 1st chapter, prayer by Rev. Everett Rich. Dismissed by Rev. Ted Simmons.

Clerk S. G. Robbins

Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Meeting at Solitude Church July 29 and 30, 1978

Saturday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Charles Floyd and Rev. Elton Cotner. Opening message by Rev. Benton Brown reading from Genesis 6th

chapter and Matthew the 24th chapter, followed by Rev. Vernon Gober reading from St. John the 6th chapter and Hebrews the 9th chapter, and Genesis the 12th chapter. Dismissed by prayer.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Opened by singing prayer by Rev. V. H. Gean, message by Rev. Virgil Moore, reading from Romans the 14th chapter followed by business session.

Business Session

The business session was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Vernon Gober, and Rev. Earl Dixon the Assistant Moderator. Churches represented 10; ordained ministers present 10; ordained deacons present 5; visiting ministers present 2. Rev. Gober called for the reading of the minutes of the last Presbytery session, the minutes were read and approved. He then called for letters from churches to the presbytery—none received, new business electing officers for the new associational year for the fifth Sunday Meeting those elected were as follows: Stancil Robbins Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk, Rev. Earl Dixon, Moderator, Rev. Vernon Gober as the Assistant Moderator, Rev. Benton Brown was elected as associational pastor. The next business was that of placing the 5th Sunday Meeting for the next year, they were placed as follows:

October 1978—New Chapel; December 1978 Adamsville 1st Free Will; April 1979 Midway Church; July 1979 Shady Grove Church. Next business was appointing the program committee for the next Fifth Sunday Meeting in October at New Chapel Church, Rev. Virgil Moore, Brother D. E. Patterson, Stancil Robbins and Brother Herbert Clay, were appointed.

Rev. Virgil Moore stated that he thought the Presbytery should vote to adapt the Treaty of Doctrine and that the clerk should order several copies to give to deacons and ministers. Brother Nick White made the suggestion that the collection on Sunday be given to the Nolie Banks family as they were in the hospital at that time. Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Dismissed by prayer.

Saturday Night Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Ronnie Carlson, Rev. Edward Smith made a talk and read Matthew 18th chapter, 17, 18, and 19 verses and asked that the Presbytery anoint him with oil and prayer for his back ailment, Brother Earl Dixon anointed him with oil and had an altar of prayer.

Message by Rev. Ted Simmons, reading from 1st Timothy 2nd chapter, and 1st John 1st chapter. Dismissed by Brother Stancil Robbins

Sunday Morning Service

Opened by singing, prayer by Brother Paul Hurley and altar of prayer. Rev. Elton Cotner took charge of the collection of the offering to be given to the Nolie Banks family, the amount collected was \$411.45. Opening message was by Rev. Marvin Morrow reading from 1st Corinthians 3rd chapter 10 verse. Followed by Rev. Everett Rich reading from Luke the 16th chapter 13 verse and Mark the 1st chapter. Dismissed by Rev. Nick White.

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 _____

